

SCENE 1

PENELOPE MONTAGUE PODCAST

DAY

FX: RAINFALL

**FX: A STABBING, SLICING INTO FLESH, THEN
WAILING.**

FX: SOUND OF CHOPPING, WHICH SUDDENLY STOPS.

AMY: Ow, ow. myself on the cucumber.

BEN: Are you alright?

AMY: Yeah, fine. T ll just be
more vinegar, y

FX: CHOPPING, CUTTING, COOKING CONTINUES THROUGHOUT.

BEN: What time is it?...God why is my agent
always late?!

AMY:

AMY: I know but take a breath. What did your therapist tell you to do in moments of high anxiety?

BEN: Call and book a double session, she needs a new kitchen.

AMY: Channel something creative. do some writing? Like that Penelope Montague script you wrote.

BEN: Ugh, doing a hundred different projects and scraping a living. I want *actual* money, so we both doing jobs we hate, and I can act and you can write.

AMY: *And* I want that, but , and you have to

AMY: (SHOCK, BEAT:) Oh, okay. Sure.
what are you thinking? How much less?

**FX: DIFFERENT PHONE RINGS TO END OF
SCENE**

BEN: Oh God, my agent!

AMY: Whatever about to say- I love you.

BEN: I love you too. (ANSWERING PHONE:) Hello?

FX: CALL CENTRE AMBIANCE.

AMY: (ANSWERING PHONE:) Good morning, Sutherbridge council, Amy speaking, how can I help?

PATRICK L: (FLUSTERED:) I want to contest a parking fine, please. I was only

AMY: Okay. Can we start at the beginning? Who calling?

PATRICK L: Patrick Lewis, registration: B-1-G B-0-Y.

AMY: , Mr. Lewis. If you could give me a moment.

FX: KEYBOARD TAPPING

PATRICK L: I pay my taxes, take my bins out, recycle when I can be bothered, and *this* is the thanks you get.

AMY: found the claim. Yes, your car was left unattended.

PATRICK L: I was barely gone. I went to get a coffee.

AMY: My file says you were gone for more than two minutes.

PATRICK L: No

AMY: training and staff Christmas party purposes.

PATRICK L: I mean, fractionally, *maybe*. Seconds longer at most not paying £65 for the privilege.

AMY: that you were gone four hours.

PATRICK L: Four hours?! - No, hours (NERVOUSLY:) Why, do you have any proof?

AMY: Eight eyewitnesses and CCTV of the whole period.

PATRICK L: (BEAT:) Alright, that changes things.

AMY: It was also that an ambulance bay, which caused particular upset at the A&E.

PATRICK L: wide berth.

AMY: How do you want to pay, Sir?

PATRICK: Card .

AMY: our payment system.

FX: PHONE CALL ENDING

AMY: Oh, *Janey*, hi, can I borrow you for a moment?

JANEY: Course, petal, walk with me, just doing laps of the office to get my steps in. lunch.

**FX: FOOTSTEPS MARCHING THROUGH AN
OFFICE.**

AMY: Well, I was wondering--

JANEY: Sorry to interrupt, petal you look exhausted.
round your eyes, no offence meant.

AMY: Well, it a difficult weekend. Dad got made
redundant and

JANEY: Oh, sorry, love. Send kisses.

AMY: So, uh, on that, do you think there any more shifts
going?
paying for everything.

JANEY: at our SLT meeting we
said no extra shifts. New protocol. To do with greater
council transparency.

AMY: What does that mean?

JANEY: But anything
changes . Not that I was
a scout, but I always admired their motto: Never
Surrender.

AMY: (CERTAIN:) the scouts.

JANEY: Really? Well, whatever the case
shift changes.

FX: RESTAURANT AMBIANCE.

AMY: Gardener. D

BEN: Hmm

AMY: Pays £9.50 an hour.

BEN: Your hair looks great.

AMY: what I asked. Are you listening to me?

BEN: And your teeth too.

AMY: trained.

Turns out our sert. Or
the coolers for the dessert.

BEN: So, -extra if
you want it cold? I mean, hearing that, do you not just
want to elope?

AMY: I suggested that. Remember? / said that. After your

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a good time to take on non-creative work. I can already feel the 9-5 impacting my self-tape performances.

AMY: (UNCERTAIN:) Right, sure. Your spec script.

BEN:

of Thrones and, like, a dash of The One Show. *You* can write the adaption for the podcast, while I play myself. An artistic gig for us both.

AMY:

BEN: Yeah, like every gig we do. Who gets paid?

AMY: We need money, Ben.

BEN: Well, just it. Look at my phone, look at the number of sponsors and subscribers they get.

AMY: (WITH A SIGH:) a lot of people.

BEN: Scroll through . This is how I get famous and bring in work. Think of what would happen if it took off?

AMY: Hang on, hang on. This you wrote this script on our flight to Bali.

BEN: based on historical events. our cover-all. Where fiction marries fact, but everyone

BEN: No. Yes. Ish. Well, everybody
the way of our careers. Quite the opposite, in fact! So
long as we keep it believable. Nothing *too* outrageous,
what?

AMY:

was, where she from, what she wanted, and her connection to your family.

BEN: Great. You can pull all that together through made-up newspaper clippings, fake headlines, nonsense quotes.

BEN

PODCAST: (CLEARS THROAT, FINDING VOICE:)

My -

Montague, and a few weeks ago, when clearing out some old family heirlooms, I discovered a cardboard box.

FX: SUSPENCEFUL MUSIC STUTTERS AND STARTS

AMY: (CALLING ON:) Does that help?!

BEN: Yeah, yeah, perfect.

BEN

PODCAST: Discovered a cardboard box. Inside, pressed between the pages of a book, was a newspaper cutting. The story read: Shoreditch Slaughterer found Penelope Montague What was this doing here? Who was this woman? And why did she share my name?
me, where understanding my past would shape my

BEN: (DELIGHTED:) Oh Amy, this is fantastic!
You Think You Are? With serial killers. gonna be rich!

FX: RECORD ENDING BEEP.

MARK: See you in there. (BEAT.)
knows her daughter You can see it in her face.

BEN: getting projects off the
ground

MARK: You have your podcast. It sounds great.

BEN: one episode, which Amy
doing another *Plus*, she wants me
doing extra shifts at the café to help pay for the wedding.

MARK: -task!

BEN: . have to lie and say I
shifts. Because, you know, you take your eye off the ball
and in the cold
gone, and Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are dead.

MARK: Well, *that* over there is Mary Arwin, the casting director.
And I heard she was doing something at Regents Park.

BEN: Oh, really? Okay. introduce myself after the show.

INTERCOM: Three-minute warning for Othello on Ice. Time to get
your skates on to Venice.

MARK: Right, brace for a horror-show.

BEN: So, what, five?

AMY: *twenty.*

BEN: Twenty?! We
only work the grey areas, in the doubt.

AMY: se other podcasts,
butchers, stalkers, *mutilators*
to rise above every Tom, Dick and Harry Shipman, we
need *more*.

BEN: Meet me at ten.

AMY: *Eleven* and we have a deal.

BEN: Fine, kill eleven people. But .

AMY:

BEN: So, more episodes, then?

AMY: A couple more, , but i Come
on, quick, et this done before we meet Helen. But

FX: HORROR SCREAM

BEN: (NOT LISTENING:)

AMY: (DEFLATED, DISSAPOINTED:) Ben, really? Ben!

FX: FOOTSTEPS RUNNING AWAY

HELEN:

FX: SINISTER MUSIC

BEN

PODCAST: By this point, historical documents, place my ancestor working for a cobbler in Chance Street. With

AMY:

-I did have some thoughts

BEN: , Dr. Frankenstein?

AMY: We create the movement to carry the podcast. You and I spend a few evenings, couple of weekends, making hundreds of fake Twitter accounts to shout about the podcast. That way creating non-stop conversation

BEN: *plotting*. Rasputin would think of that

AMY: agree?

BEN: I worry that--

AMY: Oh, , only the next more *creation*. And we need more drama, sound effects, *sensationalism*. Our tongue looks like under it.

BEN: Who said that? Dominic Cummings?

AMY: / did. Now, We can make this podcast solve our problems; we just need more nerve, Mr. Macbeth!

MARK: Errr, commitment, I think. And shock. I really believe
Simon stabbed me in the stomach.

FX: THUNDER STRIKE

BEN

PODCAST: The police had received a tip-off. Their first since these killings began.

FX: RAIN AND THUNDER

BEN

PODCAST: Michael Smith, one night returning home from work, heard a commotion up on the first floor of Charrington brewery. Running to the police station, he spoke to detective Benjamin Willet. Where upon, four officers were dispatched and arrived at the brewery within twelve minutes.

FX: FOOTSTEPS RUNNING

BEN

PODCAST: Inside was fifth victim: Ronald Peck.

FX: HORROR

BEN

PODCAST: A piece of evidence was found that changed the course of the investigation: a earring. And a this time.

FX: MUSIC BUILDS TO CRESCENDO.

FX: LIGHT-HEARTED JINGLE

BECKY

PODCAST: (UPBEAT:) There has never been a better time to visit Bavaria. With its exceptional beer, long country walks and picturesque scenery, Bavaria really is the jewel of why not?

BECKY: (BEAT:) Is that the sort of thing you wanted, Amy?

FX: UPBEAT MONTAGE MUSIC BEGINS

AMY: I love it. Are you free next Thursday for another one?

SCENE 13 PENELOPE MONTAGUE PODCAST/ MONTAGE DAY

FX: UPBEAT MONTAGE MUSIC CONTINUES

FX: SOUND OF RIPPING PAPER

BEN

PODCAST: Photographs of the discovered earring were published

FX: FLASHBULBS SOUNDS

BEN

PODCAST: They appeared alongside an address to which members of the public could visit and report having recognised the earrings in a bid to help the investigation.

FX: DOOR BANGING; VOCAL MURMURS

BEN

PODCAST: An address which soon had to be 0 595.2 82eW*nBT/F413 Tf1 0 0 1 16

FX: LIGHT-HEARTED JINGLE

BECKY ON

PODCAST:

The fastest, easiest way to get into skiing this Winter.

(FASTER:) Half price for kids under five. Two years and 2eW*nBT/F413

SCENE 14 PENELOPE MONTAGUE PODCAST/ MONTAGE DAY

FX: UPBEAT MONTAGE MUSIC SOFTENS

AMY: Okay, w doing something different this week. No murder narrative, w going to do a Q&A with the fans.

BEN: *Fans?* We have fans?

AMY: Well, *fan*. We got one question the other day to our inbox ll make-up the others. But it shows the Twitter is working. People are hearing about it.

BECKY: .

AMY: Writer, liar, tomato, potato. Let me go and print the questions.

FX: FOOTSTEPS WALKING AWAY, DOOR CLOSING

BECKY: Ben, can I ask, are you worried about all this on your career?

BEN: How do you mean?

BECKY: Just, being the face of a big lie?

BEN: And besides, me audition for her and she knows about the podcast.

BECKY: Cool, totally. I get it. Only, re getting questions,
maybe some people ? Just something

**FX: DOOR SLAMS, FOOTSTEPS BACK IN;
PAPERS HANDED OVER**

AMY: acting as normal.

BEN: Can you relate to Penelope

AMY: Most of it stolen from a *Guardian* Q&A with the My Dad
Wrote a Porno lot.

BEN:

AMY: the real question. Sent in via Twitter.

BEN: used my family the answer?

SCENE 15 PENELOPE MONTAGUE PODCAST/ MONTAGE DAY

FX: UPBEAT MONTAGE MUSIC CONTINUES

PODCAST:

Gibraltar, with their sensitive arm bands--

FX: PHONE RINGS

AMY: Phones

BEN: me _____ !
(ON PHONE:)

FX: PUB AMBIANCE

AMY: *Toasts!* Toasts before the quiz. Raise your glasses.
Firstly, to my *incredible* fiancée on landing the role of
a lifetime at Regents Open Air in King Lear!

FX: CHEERS, CLAPPING.

BEN: Dream summer ahead looking for a hillside hovel with
Roger Allam.

BECKY:

MARK: I listened to his Desert Island Discs, h
resourceful man.

AMY: *And* another bit of good news
Penelope Montague, Shoreditch Slaughterer after six
months - has had three *thousand* downloads as of this
morning.

FX: GLASSES CLINKING, CHEERS

FX: PHONE RINGING, BEFORE STOPPING

AMY

VOICEMAIL: Hey Why are you not voice-noting
me, who leaves voicemails?
this.

**FX: VOICEMAIL BEEP, FOLLOWED BY PUB
AMBIANCE**

BEN:

for
brunch. King Lear comren0 G 0.079 Tc[BEN)]T.

**FX: VOICEMAIL BEEP, FOLLOWED BY BUS
TRAVELLING**

BEN:

to what are we
Friday, or start of
next week. Then we can maybe - get back to it.

FX: SOUND OF BUS HORN

FX: FOOTSEPS RUNNING AND SITTING DOWN

HELEN: (TO AMY:) Apologies, Amy.
someone to pawn the baby off to. But ,
about your wedding.

AMY: Great, thank you.

HELEN: *Right*, can I just say,
Everything starts to get tense six months out
To bring about calm, peace, and
reassurance that everything Did you and
Brian have any questions before we start?

AMY: (CORRECTING:) Ben.

HELEN: Uh-huh.

AMY:
on pretty much everything now.

HELEN: Oh, w

AMY: in rehearsals for a play. Has been for the last
few weeks and everything and everyone else has fallen
by the wayside, sadly Even this.

HELEN: It was the same with my third wife.
No, second wife.

FX: UPBEAT CELEBRATORY FANFARE

AMY: working. Check. Spooky music.

FX: SINISTER MUSIC STARTS AND STOPS

AMY: Check. Thunder.

FX: THUNDER

AMY: put the script in-front of you.

BEN: Sorry.

AMY: No, I thought not. away,
continued work on all our socials.
based this episode around.

BEN: Fan theories ?

AMY:

crossed into something else and honestly;
lying to people.

AMY: (SARCASTICALLY:)

BEN: acting.

AMY: *This* is acting.

BEN:

AMY: patronise them, of course they do. Mythical
unknown killers, hair pin stabbings,
We market it as real, but they know
and to hear.
really been.

BEN: Well, I

AMY: So, screw your courage to the sticking place, or
wherever else you shove it, because
record this episode, and then next week
the Cheltenham Podcast Festival with heads held high.
Alright?... Look at me, yes?

BEN: (BEAT:) What has this done to us, Amy? You were
never like this. We were happy before we started.

AMY: No, Ben. We were sleeping, *I* was sleeping
to just how unequal our relationship is.
woken me up think I was just here until what
you really wanted came along.

BEN:

AMY: how it feels. for weeks. *Months,*
 actually. No, you know what, since our first date
 how it felt. Alright, take one.

FX: PENELOPE MONTAGUE FANFARE**FX: UPBEAT MUSIC**

BEN

PODCAST: (VERY UPBEAT:) Hey everyone, great to be back.
theories, discussing *your* ideas
around *my* ancestor. Also,
Cheltenham next Sunday for our first *live* event, should
some tickets available on the
website. Okay, alright, theory one is from
@ClareWillaims3 and they say Penelope Montague was
actually Penelope Montagues and a whole gang of
women

**FX: DISTANT AUDIENCE AMBIANCE, MURMURS
ETC.**

EVENT

HOST: (THROUGH MIC/LOUDSPEAKER:) Welcome to the
Cheltenham Podcast Festival. For those

JAMES: And yet if you Google
little online.

BEN: Right.

JAMES: What do you make of that?

BEN: (BEAT, PANIC:) In, uhm in what way?

FX: DISTANT AUDIENCE COUGH

JAMES: Well, by the way, the FBI reported that the... BT/F413 Tf1 0 0 1

BEN: Oh, by the way, the FBI reported that the... BT/F413 Tf1 0 0 1

JAMES: And what does your mother think about all this now?

BEN: ndifferent, actually.

JAMES: What about the rest of your family?

BEN: I I rivate people
about it.

JAMES: Well, I have the list here from a Q&A you did: your Auntie Sara, your cousins George and Matilda what do they think? How has this impacted them?

FX: MICROPHONE FEEDBACK AGAIN

BEN: they

FX: AUDIENCE MURMURS

BEN: James, I have to go. This is all too much--

JAMES:

BEN: (AWAY FROM MIC:) a lie.

FX: LOUDER AUDIENCE MURMURS, UPSET

JAMES: *Wrote?* Wrote what? What are you

BEN: (AWAY FROM MIC:) None of any of this is true.

JAMES: (FRUSTRATED:) Okay, This has
been , what this has been.

AMY: Well, personally, ! (TO
AUDIENCE:) Have you all had a lovely time?

FX: AUDIENCE ERUPTS, SHOUTS

FX: PARK NOISES, BIRDS TWEETING

BEN: Excuse me, is this seat taken?

AMY: Ben, hello, (AWKWARDLY:) How - are

BEN:

AMY: (AWKWARDLY:) , uh--

BEN: You look well.

AMY: Do I? *You* look great. you been?

BEN: Oh, you know, bobbing along. I have an audition next week for a musical.

AMY: Oh, wow.

BEN: which is fun. Then a reading for a short film on Friday.

AMY:

FX: DISTANT DOG BARKING

BEN: Yeah, the short ctually a thriller. Since the podcast, I keep getting offered whistle-blower roles.

AMY: Right, sure.

BEN: Because, with everything everyone thinks of you, I want you to know .

AMY: (HEARTFELT:) I know...Of course, I know.

AMY

PODCAST: Hi everyone. Amy Tuffin here. Even with everything we all know, I thought it seemed right that I tell you the end of the story how Penelope died; because I know some of you will care She died aged just thirty-three on the bank of the Mile End canal. Sick with fever and carrying all her earthly possessions, which included a letter confessing to every count of murder and not a word of regret. And that was that, never caught i nice to think she got away with it, in some ways. (BEAT:) Anyway, thanks for listening.

THE END