

Welcome to Spooktown – Evelyn Mok

[Spooky music]

ED EASTON: Fucking hell, it's a real life ghost!

[Music stops]

[Wind and footsteps]

ED: Hello Kath.

KATH HUGHES: Hey Ed, you okay?

ED: Yeah I'm good, thank you.

KATH: Brilliant.

ED: Got everything all written up, sent off to the Spooktown Bugle. Said they're going to run a story on James Acaster, I think tomorrow.

KATH: Oh, amazing! That's brilliant.

ED: Yeah.

KATH: I uploaded the digital stuff to the archive, so it's official: James Acaster and the computer is part of Spooktown lore.

ED: Amazing, that's so good. I think we'll have a lot of visitors to that computer.

KATH: Yeah, hopefully. That's the dream, innit? Who are we meeting today?

ED: Evelyn Mok. You know your accountant's shut down?

KATH: Yeah, yeah I was annoyed about that.

ED: Gonna meet her there because she used to work there.

KATH: Did she? Okay.

ED: So she's got a story about that.

KATH: Great!

ED: Any nightmares this week?

KATH: Uh yeah, quite a few. I had six.

ED: Six in a week?

KATH: Six in a week, yeah.

ED: Why – how come you didn't have seven?

KATH: The one night I was sleeping in a place where there was a clock tower and it went off every hour. So I didn't quite reach REM.

ED: Right. So the reason you didn't have a nightmare that night is because you just didn't sleep.

KATH: Yeah.

ED: Okay. So it's a 100% record in regards to sleep, the nightmares.

KATH: Yeah.

ED: Okay. Do you want to rattle off? Just give us a top line of the nightmares?

KATH: Top line? Um... okay, someone broke into my house and shot my cat in the face and shot his tail off.

ED: Oh no, oh god.

KATH: And they left a dead body and they were like, 'you have to deal with that.' But then Rhys Evans turned up and he didn't help with the body but he was there. Yeah, proper top lines.

ED: Great.

KATH: How about you, any nightmares?

ED: Yeah, I genuinely think I've cracked a tooth. It's a molar. It's a bottom molar and it's got a crack on it, I think. I'm tonguing it the whole time.

KATH: Huh.

ED: So if I'm distracted, it's because I'm tonguing my tooth.

KATH: Ah, well then.

ED: Great, here we are! There's Evelyn.

KATH: Oh, great!

[Spooky music]

EVELYN MOK: Hi Ed!

ED: Hello Evelyn.

EVELYN: You're already here!

ED: Yeah, just sort of came upon you here at this um... it's supposed to be a sort of almost abandoned office block.

EVELYN: Yes, this is the office block that I used to work at for a day job here in Spooktown.

KATH: Oh, okay.

EVELYN: It was back when I needed to um... make some money before comedy went well.

[Ed and Evelyn laugh]

EVELYN: And I worked here as an accountant. Um, yes. But I will say I wasn't trained because um... I'm not a trained accountant. But I – they needed somebody because the last person passed away really suddenly.

KATH: Oh!

ED: Shit, that.

EVELYN: So they just needed somebody.

KATH: So they just got... they got an untrained accountant in to cover –

EVELYN: Exactly, yeah, [laughs] yes, yes. They were desperate and I was there at the right time.

[Kath and Ed laugh]

ED: You were the only one with a calculator?

KATH: Or just a phone?

EVELYN: Exactly, yeah. Maybe because I'm Asian as well, it kind of like gave them some um... comfort.

KATH: Ah, so they were like... right.

EVELYN: Yeah.

KATH: Right, okay.

EVELYN: Because we're supposed to be good at maths. But I didn't tell them that I failed maths in school.

ED: [laughs] Why would you?

EVELYN: No, yeah. I needed a job as an accountant.

ED: Well I was going to ask how your journey was here, but if you worked in Spooktown... do you commute to Spooktown for the job, or?

EVELYN: I did. I did commute to Spooktown from London.

ED: Wow!

EVELYN: So it took quite a while.

KATH: God!

EVELYN: Yeah.

ED: Did you come from there today?

EVELYN: Um, I've actually come from further afar. I've come from Sweden today.

KATH: Thank you!

EVELYN: Yeah, to show you guys around, yeah. It was quite difficult. Well, I'm here before the second lockdown begins. So that's uh, pretty good. That made it easier. But I don't know if I'll be able to go back because I think we're going to be here a little while. So we'll see if I make it back to Sweden after.

ED: What's this second lock – second lockdown? What's that about?

EVELYN: Oh yeah, oh well... oh, I forgot. Spooktown is in a different universe, isn't it? It's in a parallel universe where you guys don't have...

ED: Which is why it took you so long to get here.

EVELYN: It took me so long to get here. I had to go through a forest, and there was this like gate. And, you know, you think that travelling between parallel universes would be easy, but there's still a security check. There's still like... you still have to take off all your shoes and put your liquids in a plastic bag just to go through the portal. So –

KATH: To go through the woods.

EVELYN: It's quite the hassle. Yeah, yeah. But um... there's... a lockdown is something that's happening in my universe. You guys don't need to think about that.

KATH: Okay.

ED: That sounds awful.

KATH: Yeah, it sounds rough.

EVELYN: Yeah, well it's been pretty okay I guess. If you uh... I'm a homebody, so I quite enjoyed it. But uh, it's been tough to watch all my friends feel sad.

ED: Yeah. [laughs]

EVELYN: Yeah, but it's been okay. [laughs]

ED: Um, great, so you... you got here through the... the vortex.

EVELYN: I did, yes yes yes. Yeah.

ED: So just straight in at the deep end: how many ghosts have you seen this week?

EVELYN: [gasps] Well, I had a chat with my grandmother the other day. Um, she's still with us, but...

[All laugh]

KATH: I didn't know how that was going to go!

ED: A real respectful silence from Kath and I there.

EVELYN: But then my other grandmother joined us, and she's not with us.

ED: [laughs] Right.

EVELYN: So I had a chat with both my grandmothers. [laughs] Just had a cup of tea. So I've seen... I've seen one ghost and one alive person this week, yes.

ED: Great!

KATH: Okay.

ED: That's nice. And do they get on?

KATH: They do get on actually! They're quite respectful because it's kind of this like, you know, very surface kind of level of respect. So we don't chat about much. We just kind of chat about the weather and how nice the tea is that we're drinking. But I think they just enjoy each other's company.

ED: Do you know what? That sounds so... when you said that there, like talking about the weather and how nice the tea is, it

was like, 'fucking hell, that sounds so nice.' Just to have a talk about nothing. Like, 'oh, I heard it's going to rain', rather than, 'oh my god it's so bad, everything's so bad and on fire.' Sounds so nice to just be like, 'ooh, ooh this tea's good, isn't it?'

KATH: It's nice tea.

ED: Nice tea.

EVELYN: [laughs] This is my favourite tea I think. Yes, yes, very nice.

ED: [laughs] Yes yes. Yes yes, it is a good tea. Mhm.

EVELYN: It's a very good tea.

ED: That sounds so nice.

EVELYN: Yeah. [laughs]

KATH: Yeah, I wondered how much conversation you'd get out of that, but it turns out quite a bit.

ED: Yeah!

EVELYN: Yes yes, I think so. Because they're both kind of old, so they keep repeating everything they say. Um –

[Evelyn and Ed laugh]

EVELYN: Because they tend to not remember. Oh dear, what am I...

ED: It's respectful of both of them to not mention that one of them's dead as well?

EVELYN: No, it's good that she doesn't mention it because I think, uh, with spirits I think, isn't it that a lot of them aren't aware that they're gone?

ED: Oh shit, right.

EVELYN: To begin with. So you don't want to startle them.

ED: Right.

EVELYN: Yeah, because if you startle them, um, they might get angry. And that's when they become malevolent spirits, maybe.

KATH: So it would be rude to point it out.

EVELYN: Yeah.

ED: Smashing the tea.

EVELYN: Yeah, that they're dead, I think.

KATH: God. What, even if they were like nice in life, they just become really cross as the ghosts?

ED: Well how would you feel, Kath?

KATH: Actually yeah, I'd be pretty cross.

ED: Yeah, fucking livid! Especially when you've just exclusively been talking about tea.

EVELYN: Yeah, yeah.

ED: And then your granddaughter's like, 'oh, you're dead by the way.' [imitates grandmother] 'Oh, fuck off!'

KATH: Yeah, I know right. Yeah, I get that.

EVELYN: 'You keep saying this. You keep saying this and it's not funny anymore,' is how they would react.

[Kath and Ed laugh]

EVELYN: They think that I'm trolling them or something like that. Uh... [imitates grandmother] 'you just want to get my inheritance.'

ED: [imitates grandmother] 'You just want to get my inheritance!' Fucking hell.

[Spooky music]

ED: What's the scariest thing that's ever happened?

EVELYN: That's ever happened in the whole entire world? Ooh. Uh, racism I think is scary. [laughs] Am I right?

[Ed and Kath laugh]

ED: Yeah.

KATH: No, yeah that's a really good one.

EVELYN: It's very scary. Well actually I heard um... I watched a documentary on Netflix about this town in Japan that experienced a tsunami and it was quite devastating. And I think they lost like, uff, how many people. I think like tens of thousands of people. And then all of a sudden after the tsunami and as they were rebuilding, um, people would experience meeting the people that were lost. So they would experience meeting spirits that were like in the town. And one thing that these spirits would do would be they would get into... they would hail a taxi cab, get into the taxi, and ask the taxi driver to drive them to a specific address. And when they got there, the taxi driver would look back and the ghost is gone. Or the spirit is gone. So that's like... that's pretty spooky. That's kinda like Spooktown. Yeah.

ED: That's really spooky. I'd say that's the second scariest thing after racism.

EVELYN: That's right. [laughs]

KATH: Hmm.

ED: That's... I love that the scary thing isn't, what was it, 11,000 people dying in the tsunami.

KATH: And they didn't pay the taxi fare.

ED: The taxi driver lost his fare! Ooh!

KATH: Disgusting.

ED: Capitalism took a hit! Ooh!

KATH: That's dark, man.

[Spooky music]

ED: Kath, do you have any questions?

KATH: Oh yeah sure, okay. So Frankenstein –

EVELYN: [gasps]

KATH: Frankenstein's monster, bride of Frankenstein: shag, marry, kill.

EVELYN: Oh! I mean... I think I'd kill Frankenstein because he seems like an evil... or, he's a scientist who's gone mad, kind of. He's trying to play god. So it feels like he would need to be killed before it gets too far.

KATH: Okay, yeah.

EVELYN: Because he's successfully created Frankenstein. Well, successfully – successfully? So it feels like he would have hubris. Did his monster kill him?

ED: I think it ends with Frankenstein's monster chasing him through the ice in the arctic.

EVELYN: Ahh.

ED: And I think that's sort of the end of it.

EVELYN: So you don't know? Hmm. Then I'll finish the job for him, uh, and I will kill his creator.

[All laugh]

ED: Well I can see who you're going to marry.

KATH: Yeah, yeah.

EVELYN: Exactly, because he's just a victim of somebody else's hubris!

KATH: Yeah, you're absolutely right.

ED: I also love the logic of being like, 'well, kill Frankenstein so I can get to Frankenstein's monster and be like, "look what I've done for you – love me back."' That's good.

EVELYN: Yeah.

ED: There's a like a narrative to the idea.

EVELYN: Exactly, and then he'll be indebted to me forever, so I'll be the new Frankenstein –

KATH: Oh yeah, what a mess.

EVELYN: Which is an interesting turn. And then I will, you know, we will be married but then I will definitely have an affair with his bride. And it'll be like a love triangle. And then, at the end of it, I will realise that power corrupts people.

KATH: Oh god, man.

EVELYN: Because that's what Frankenstein didn't realise. But I will realise that because I killed him, married the monster, but then had an affair with the monster's wife. So I'm actually the evil one.

KATH: That was really... a really good answer.

EVELYN: Yeah, thank you, thank you.

ED: I also love that as soon as Kath said Frankenstein, you went, 'uh!'

[All laugh]

EVELYN: It's scary. Frankenstein is scary.

ED: It's very scary. It's very scary. You know we're interested experts so why would we... of course we'd be scared of the same things.

EVELYN: Yeah.

ED: Frankenstein, uh!

KATH: Uh!

EVELYN: It's because I think I mistook Frankenstein for Frankenstein's monster...

ED: Sure.

EVELYN: And so when you did say that I got a bit scared. But then you said Frankenstein's monster, and I was like, 'oh yeah! Okay, no no no, that's fine.' That's what happened. [laughs]

KATH: I do... I like that you talk us through your... your process.

EVELYN: Thank you.

KATH: Sort of every time, every reaction is like, 'okay, this is what just happened to me.'

ED: Surely it should've been: 'Frankenstein!' 'Uh!' 'Frankenstein's monster!' 'Uh uh uh!'

EVELYN: [laughs] I thought it was over!

[All laugh]

EVELYN: Now this! 'Frankenstein's bride!' 'Uhhh.'

[Spooky music]

ED: This office block looks very interesting.

EVELYN: Mhm. Yes.

ED: I'm really excited to hear what happened here.

EVELYN: [gasps]

ED: Or what you say happened here.

EVELYN: [laughs]

KATH: Yeah.

ED: Never trust an accountant, as they always say.

KATH: An untrained accountant.

ED: Especially an untrained one. But I'm genuinely really excited to hear a ghost story. Because...

EVELYN: Okay.

ED: I fucking love them, mate. I fucking love them. Would you like to tell us your spooky story?

EVELYN: Yes, I would love to.

ED: Does your story have a title?

EVELYN: Oh! *Oh!* Um, it's called 'Back to the Office.'

[All laugh]

KATH: Again, very logical.

ED: Uh, and when did you come up with that? When did you come up with that title?

EVELYN: [laughs] Um, yesterday. Uh...

ED: Okay, okay. Back to the Office.

EVELYN: It happened two weeks ago.

KATH: Oh, okay.

EVELYN: A very fresh story.

ED: Fresh? A fresh story?

EVELYN: So the story starts two weeks ago in Spooktown.

[Time travelling sounds]

EVELYN: At this office block that I used to work at. And it's Back to the Office. Um, okay [clears throat]. This is an F... an SFX sound effect: [laughs] *click click click* [glass clinking].

[All laugh]

KATH: Great.

ED: Did you think that we wouldn't know it was an SFX if you hadn't said it?

KATH: Like woah, woah, what is that?

EVELYN: I'll mention... I'll mention that it's an SFX every time that I'm going to make one.

ED: Thank you.

KATH: Great, just so we know. Just in case.

ED: Can anyone else hear a clicking? What was that?

EVELYN: *Click click click* [glass clinking]. *Tick tick tick* [clock ticking]. The incessant typing noise [keyboard sounds] from the keyboard blends in with the slow passing of time, as it usually is in an office

environment. After months of being stuck at home, I can't believe I was back in the office [door opens]. The dreary grey walls, the oppressive, non-ventilated air, and the stale instant coffee all make for an uneventful day. At least I'm alone in the office. That's one positive thing about this pandemic: it's become illegal to interact with work colleagues. What a dream! Now, if I could only get Richard to go back home, I would have the office all by myself. Filling in spreadsheets is so boring [phone rings]. I have to file company expenditures into the correct debit category. But how do I do that? [pen writing] I'm untrained. So basically I just put things randomly and hope it works out. 52 dinners at the Slug & Lettuce is a company expense, but 150 beers isn't, no matter how much you claim it to be a social lubricant, Dave. SFX again: *clank!* [Hitting metal sound] Wait, what was that? It sounds like it came from the break room [printer sounds]. Maybe Richard's here. Hello? Richard? Nothing, hmm. Is someone here? No answer. Hmm, it must just have been something in the ventilation. [laughs] Another SFX: Okay, *clonk!* [low banging sound] That's weird. It's definitely coming from the break room. Has an alarm gone off or something? *Clank! Clonk! Clank! Clonk!* [high and low banging sounds] What the? I better go check what's going on. SFX of me walking to the break room and turning on the lights [footsteps, light turns on]. Hmm, nothing! Everything seems normal in here. Must've been my imagination. Oh well! Back to the desk. And as I turn around, that's when I see him – [gasps] is that... are you... are you a Viking? [horn sound, Viking grunts] Oh my god! Who are you?

GWEN: I'm Gwen. You can see me?

EVELYN: Yeah I can see you, who are you? What are you doing here? And why are you dressed like a Viking?

GWEN: Oh my god, I've been trying to make myself visible to you for over a year! And then this pandemic happened and I've just been here waiting for you to come back!

EVELYN: Again, who are you Gwen?

GWEN: [sighs] Please don't be alarmed. My name is Gwen and I used to work here as an accountant. And I've been trying to communicate with you for such a long time. And I'm so glad that you finally see me.

EVELYN: Uh, okay. Um... but Gwen, why are you dressed as a Viking?

GWEN: Well [sighs] it's because I'm actually not alive, Evelyn.

EVEYLN: What? SFX: *dun dun dun* [dramatic music]. Okay [clears throat]. Oh my god, what? Are you a ghost?

GWEN: [sighs] You could call me a ghost. Uh, I like to call myself a spirit.

EVELYN: Okay, why are you here, Gwen? What do you want?

GWEN: [sighs] Evelyn, I need your help with something. It's really really important. I can't move on until you've helped me file last year's company expenditure.

EVELYN: Uh... are you being serious right now?

GWEN: Yeah. You know, you know ghosts... we're usually around because we have some kind of grudge that we have to resolve before we can move on and go to the afterlife?

EVELYN: [sighs] Yeah, I guess I've heard about that. Um... maybe I should do different voices for Gwen...

[All laugh]

EVELYN: Because now I just sound like I'm talking to myself. Okay, sorry [clears throat]. Oh yeah, I've heard about that. I've seen scary movies. I mean, I've got to be honest – your grudge is that you haven't filed last year's company expenditure? That seems like quite a lame grudge.

GWEN: [deeper voice] Well Evelyn, it might seem lame to you, but I was a very proficient accountant and I took my job very seriously. And so I know that that expenditure got lost because of my sudden death.

EVELYN: [sighs] Yeah, it did. And I did come in and I'm untrained so I think I've been making a bunch of mistakes. To be quite honest, it's been a bit difficult because I have no idea what I'm doing. I mean, I'm just filing things left and right here [sighs]. I could use some guidance, really.

GWEN: Well okay, I guess that's good. I could help you with that. But first I think we should find the expenditure that I'm talking about so that I can file that and move on. [laughs]

EVELYN: Okay Gwen, let's see. Let's try and find it. What year was it from?

GWEN: Uh, last year?

EVELYN: Okay. Basically we need to find the expenditure [laughs]. So, okay, SFX: we needed to walk back to my desk [footsteps]. Okay Gwen, we're back at my desk. So let's see here. Where did you file it?

GWEN: Um, basically it's under my name. It's under Gwen. I made a folder specifically with my name on it so I would know where all of my things are. So if you just look for Gwen, you'll be able to find it.

EVELYN: Oh okay, sure. Let's see. Let's just open Finder and I'll just type 'Gwen' into the search box. Uh... [typing] oh, there it is. Okay, I found your folder, Gwen. Which spreadsheet is it?

GWEN: Oh it's uh, it's the one that says, um, 'end of year company expenditure.'

EVELYN: Oh okay. Well here it is. Uh, I guess I'll open it. I think everything looks good to me. So do you just want me to file this for you?

GWEN: Yes, if you could.

EVELYN: Okay sure. So let me just type up an email [laughs] and I'll send it to accounts, which is me I guess. And Lucy as well of course, because she's the person who files it so... and then... uh, let's just open up the mail here and uh... [clicks] okay, let's see here. I'll just type in Lucy.accounts@Spooktownaccountants.com. I'll just attach your spreadsheet here and hit send. Uh, there we go. Uh, Gwen, I think... I think we're done.

GWEN: Yeah, okay. Thank you. Thanks so much. That was really easy. I can't believe it took a year to get that done.

EVELYN: Yeah, so what happens now?

GWEN: Uh, well, I guess I'm supposed to see a light or something?

EVELYN: Yeah, cool. Do you see a light?

GWEN: Uh... no? Uh...

EVELYN: Oh wait! Oh yeah, I see a light over there. SFX: light. *Woo* [choir singing]. Oh my god, I think I hear... I hear it! *Woo!* Is it really bright?

GWEN: Yeah, it's quite bright. And there are a lot of stairs. I guess – I guess I'm supposed to walk up the stairs.

EVELYN: Yeah Gwen, just – just go towards the light and walk up the stairs!

GWEN: Okay, um, thanks so much for your help, Evelyn. Bye!

EVELYN: Uh, bye! [laughs] And then Gwen walked up the stairs and disappeared into the light and I was left all alone again in the office. Now, you may think that that's the end of the story, but it isn't. [sighs] Because, as an untrained accountant, I wouldn't have known this. But Gwen, as a trained accountant, knew this. And that's why he couldn't move on. Cut to a week later [time travelling sounds]. The company expenditure that Gwen had me file showed some discrepancies in the, um, in the spendings of the company. Now I don't know the correct terminology because I'm untrained. [laughs] But basically it revealed embezzlement in the company. Richard had been embezzling money for years! And so the company eventually folded and we had to vacate the office

blocks. And now I'm without a job again. And that was all thanks to Gwen. I don't know if I should thank him or scold him. Because now I'm out of a job, but he did catch a white-collar criminal in the midst of a pandemic. So um, yes [laughs]. And that's the story of how the office got abandoned here in Spooktown.

[Spooky music]

ED: Right... should we unpack that? What does... what does the company do?

EVELYN: The company um... handled... uh, the accounts of, uh, a lot of banks? And schools?

ED: So it's an accountancy firm?

EVELYN: It's an accountancy firm for schools, yes.

ED: Spooktown Accountants.

EVELYN: It was Spooktown Accountants for, uh, all of the schools in the regions that Spooktown is in. And so, because he was embezzling the money, it left no money for the arts.

KATH: Okay.

EVELYN: In the school.

[All laugh]

EVELYN: It's a real shame, yeah.

ED: Real shame.

KATH: I'm going to have to ask real quick, just to get... why was Gwen dressed as a Viking?

ED: Great question.

EVELYN: Oh yes! Oh, I forgot to...

[All laugh]

ED: It's on everyone's lips.

KATH: I mean I've been bursting to ask that.

ED: It's the talk of the town.

[All laugh]

KATH: He was only there a year ago! I was like, 'oh, is he from ages ago? How long has this accountancy been going?' But no, last year!

EVELYN: No, it was last year. Yeah, he... because he was the guy that I had to replace because he died suddenly. And he... he was dressed as a Viking because he died, um... during Halloween. And so he got hit by a garbage truck on Halloween.

KATH: Oh.

ED: Oh, so he's dressed as a Viking on Halloween. It's not just everyone who dies on Halloween –

KATH: Becomes a Viking.

ED: Becomes a Viking. Okay, okay.

EVELYN: No, unfortunately. Because the clothes you die in are the clothes that you go to heaven in. So unfortunately he was dressed as a Viking.

KATH: Right.

EVELYN: Gwen forgot to explain that to me. I had to do some research afterwards to find that out.

ED: I think on the face of this, I'm like, 'yeah, that probably happened here. That probably explains why it's all empty.'

KATH: Mhm.

ED: But then when you... you were very calm when you met a ghost.

KATH: Mhm.

EVELYN: I was, yes.

ED: It seemed like you were less concerned that he was a ghost and more concerned that he knew you were untrained.

[All laugh]

ED: That seemed like your main focus for most of meeting a ghost.

KATH: Yeah.

ED: Was that he went to heaven and was like, 'well, she was untrained as an accountant.'

EVELYN: That's very true because I had kept it so well from everybody at the firm.

ED: [laughs] At that firm of trained accountants.

EVELYN: Exactly. I had managed to blag myself into the company –

ED: Incredible.

EVELYN: And so the fact that he knew made me feel a bit ashamed. And I was afraid – if he could appear in front of me, he could probably appear in front of our boss, Richard.

KATH: Yeah.

EVELYN: And tell Richard. And then I would be fired because a ghost knew my secret. Um, and so that's also why I chose to help him. Because I wanted to keep him sweet.

KATH: Oh, okay.

ED: 'Fired because a ghost knows my secret' sounds like a Daily Sport headline.

[All laugh]

EVELYN: Yes. But then of course Richard was his ultimate target. So maybe I didn't have to worry about that.

ED: Do you know what? So, I don't know whether you can see on my notes here, it says, 'I don't trust Richard.'

EVELYN: [gasps]

ED: I wrote that nearly straight away.

EVELYN: Oh you did!

ED: One of the first things I wrote: 'I don't trust Richard.'

KATH: I've written down, 'really bad accountant.'

EVELYN: To who? To – about Gwen?

KATH: No...

[All laugh]

ED: I'd say Gwen's above and beyond being an accountant.

EVELYN: Yeah yeah yeah.

ED: He's the best accountant I've ever heard of. 'About Gwen?'

[laughs] Is it about Gwen? Or –

KATH: Just checking. No, no. I think it was when you were like, 'oh I was just sort of randomly filing stuff.' Like I was thinking, 'no wonder the company's gone under.'

[Spooky music]

ED: I mean obviously I'm very much leaning towards not believing that this Gwen Viking existed. But one thing that I thought was very spooky, very horrible, is the idea of spending a year trying to become visible.

EVELYN: Oh yeah.

ED: It just seems horrible to me.

EVELYN: It's kind of like Patrick Swayze in Ghost, isn't it? That he had to like learn how to do all these things. So maybe –

ED: I've only seen Road House.

EVELYN: Oh, yeah. It's kind of the same, yeah, but with pottery. Yeah, exactly.

ED: Uh, sorry, I should um... I've only seen Road House as a Patrick Swayze... I've seen loads of other things. That's not the only thing I've seen.

EVELYN: Oh, yeah? [laughs]

KATH: Exclusively seen Road House. [laughs]

ED: I've only ever seen Road House, I'm sorry.

EVELYN: It's okay. That's okay. I've got to say, guys, I feel like I'm being interrogated.

KATH: Good.

EVELYN: Oh no! [laughs]

KATH: You know, you brought us here. We just wanted... we just want to know whether what you're saying happened. So we've got to dig. We've got to dig! That's what we've got to do, you know?

EVELYN: You're the Scully and Mulder of Spooktown.

KATH: Yeah, thank you.

ED: Yeah, that's such a nice thing to say.

EVELYN: And I'm an alien. An untrained accountant alien.

[All laugh]

ED: We'll see so far, I think I believe that you worked here.

EVELYN: [gasps] Yeah?

ED: I certainly believe you're not a trained accountant.

[Evelyn laughs]

ED: That's... I'm 100% on board with that. Do I believe about Gwen? I don't know. I don't know yet. You worked here a long time ago?

EVELYN: I did.

ED: Yes?

EVELYN: Yes.

ED: And then you came back relatively recently?

EVELYN: Mhm.

ED: So in that time is when – is when Gwen worked here?

EVELYN: Yes. Gwen... because I do remember that I said that I took over for another person the first time, who had died.

KATH: Yeah...

EVELYN: And there was another person who *did* die that wasn't Gwen. Um... [laughs] that was... that was uh, Thomas. Uh –

ED: Yes.

EVELYN: And funnily enough, he was also, uh, killed on Halloween. And he was also run over by a truck. But he was dressed as a – as a pirate and not as a Viking. So that's how I can distinguish between them.

KATH: Okay.

EVELYN: So...

KATH: Not their names, just their outfits.

EVELYN: Just their outfits, exactly. Exactly. And he hasn't appeared, actually. I don't think he has any unfinished business so he hasn't been around. But uh, Gwen... I remember that we did work together. But we weren't in the same department so he um... we never really communicated with each other.

KATH: Gosh, that's so hard for him, then. Because you were like, 'who are you? Who are you?' And he's like, 'I worked... I sat next to you for six months.'

[All laugh]

EVELYN: Yeah.

KATH: We spoke about tea, we like... that must've been rough for him.

EVELYN: Yeah. [laughs]

[Spooky music]

ED: I think the thing that made me lose confidence in what you were saying then relatively early on... you said that the company closed down.

EVELYN: Yes.

ED: But this happened two weeks ago.

EVELYN: Yes. So I... I was talking in past tense when I said that, uh, that it eventually closed down. And then now that we're standing here, it's closed down. It closed... so from two weeks ago, it eventually closed down. And then now that we're here two weeks after, it has closed – it did close down.

ED: Okay, yes. Okay so it eventually closed down in two weeks. Now.

EVELYN: Yes, which is now.

ED: Okay great. It eventually closed down in two weeks now. I get it.

[All laugh]

EVELYN: Yeah.

ED: That makes sense.

KATH: Perfect.

EVELYN: Exactly, yes.

ED: Thanks for clearing that up, that's perfect. I'm just going to write down, 'it eventually cleared up in two weeks now.'

KATH: Interesting method of – of telling the story. Do you always sort of tell stories in screenplay method? Is that –

ED: True stories, yeah.

KATH: True, yeah.

EVELYN: I do. I do because I feel like I warned you every time I was going to do a sound effect – an SFX – um, because I feel like adding sound effects and stuff adds to the story that I'm telling. But I realise now that maybe announcing them first might take the listener out of the story.

[All laugh]

EVELYN: As I'm doing them. Telling stories in screenplay format is my preferred way of doing it, because I feel like hopefully people can imagine the tale better, as I do.

ED: Hmm.

KATH: Hmm. Yeah, it was an interesting way to, uh, to tell a true story. But um...

EVELYN: It's uh... it's one of my proudest moments because I got to help a spirit cross over. So keep that in mind as you evaluate the truthfulness.

[All laugh]

[Spooky music]

ED: Um, right should we... should we have a chin wag, Kath?

KATH: Yeah, okay.

EVELYN: [gasps]

ED: By the break room?

KATH: Yeah, should we scuttle over there?

ED: Yeah, we're just going to see whether we – we believe you or not.

KATH: Yeah just going to have a little...

EVELYN: Okay. SFX –

KATH: SFX –

EVELYN: Ed and Kath walk towards the break room. [footsteps]

[All laugh]

ED: I also... I do like that you said 'SF... SFX'. That's what you said: 'SFX: Evelyn walks to the break room.' And then you also did the [claps to imitate footsteps]. So it's like a double. Alright Kath, let's go. Let's go to the door of the break room slash heaven. Well...

KATH: What? What are your thoughts?

ED: It's bollocks, isn't it? She's – she's in cahoots with Richard.

KATH: Yeah, I think so. But she did tell it in the screenplay format which does, you know, it means it might be true. Yeah, no, I think she's absolutely in it with Richard.

ED: I don't believe that there was ever a ghost. You can't be that calm whilst incessantly saying, 'I'm an untrained accountant.'

KATH: And just going like, 'yeah, sure. Yeah, I'll send your email. Yeah, no problem.'

ED: Yeah. Yeah, I – I don't believe it. I believe that she's an untrained accountant here at this accountancy firm.

KATH: That's the one – that's the one part that I believe.

ED: Which, going into this, I would not have thought I would be saying. I think, yeah, I think Richard hired her because she couldn't do the job.

KATH: Yeah.

ED: Which she's admitted to, I'm not being mean.

KATH: Yeah.

ED: I think it's absolute bollocks.

KATH: Yeah, agreed.

ED: Loved it, but bollocks.

KATH: Enjoyed it, but nah.

ED: Okay. Should we go back and let her know that she can head back to the portal?

KATH: Yeah, I guess.

ED: Let's head back over. SFX: us two going back over to Evelyn.
Bonk bonk bonk clink clink clink whoosh whoosh. [footsteps]

KATH: [laughs] There's gravel in here.

ED: *Cuckaw!* [bird sounds]

EVELYN: Hey guys.

KATH: Hey, oh my god, hi.

ED: Oh hello Evelyn. Good news.

EVELYN: Yeah?

ED: We believe that you're an untrained accountant.

EVELYN: Okay, that's good.

ED: Bad news.

EVELYN: [gasps]

ED: We don't believe the ghost elements of your story, I'm sorry.

EVELYN: Oh no!

ED: Yeah, unfortunately it hasn't entered Spooktown lore.

EVELYN: I... well –

KATH: But you as an untrained accountant working here has –

ED: That is lore.

KATH: That is lore.

ED: That is Spooktown lore, weirdly. Official Spooktown lore is that Evelyn Mok worked as an untrained accountant for a number of years. Big break. Two weeks?

[All laugh]

KATH: I believe you made up Gwen to try and get away –

EVELYN: [gasps]

KATH: With working with Richard.

ED: Yeah, you're in cahoots with Richard.

EVELYN: I've got to say guys, I'm so surprised that this is the outcome.

[All laugh]

EVELYN: And um, I – I have a gun. [cocks gun] And I will – I will point it at you –

ED: Okay.

EVELYN: If it is that you guys are – you're threatening –

ED: This is a turn-up for the books.

EVELYN: [laughs] If you're threatening to report me to the Spooktown police.

ED: Oh god! No –

KATH: Oh no!

ED: Not at all.

KATH: We're not going to – no!

EVELYN: No?

ED: Not at all.

EVELYN: Oh!

KATH: We believe that you broke the law but we ain't going to tell anybody.

ED: Yeah, we couldn't give a shit, mate.

KATH: No!

EVELYN: Oh my god! Okay. Oh, thank – I'll put the gun away.

KATH: Put the gun away, we're all friends here.

ED: I thought you were like, 'believe my story or I'll shoot you. Put me in Spooktown lore or you're dead.'

EVELYN: Oh yeah. Oh, I don't care. No, that's okay.

[All laugh]

EVELYN: I just don't want to go to jail.

ED: You're worried about the real-life ramifications. That's – okay, yeah. God no, we're not snitches, mate. What are you talking about? We – we don't want the police to be involved in any of this just as much as you do.

EVELYN: [gasps]

KATH: Yeah, it's in our best interests to just leave them – leave them out.

EVELYN: Okay guys. I – I'm going to take the gun out again. [cocks gun]

KATH: Oh!

EVELYN: And ask you guys why you don't want the police involved.

ED: I'd rather you shot me dead now.

[All laugh]

ED: Than I told you why. Dress me as a Viking and shoot me in the head. You're not getting anything from me.

EVELYN: Well I don't want to complicate things here for myself in Spooktown, so I'm not going to do it. But I'm just going to keep this gun pointed at you guys and I'm just going to back away until I reach the portal.

ED: Okay.

KATH: Okay.

ED: That's such a long way away.

KATH: Yeah, you are going to fall down the stairs backwards. I'm calling it now.

ED: Do you want us to help you out?

EVELYN: Actually, that would be helpful. Yeah, if you helped me out. Because it's really tricky walking backwards.

KATH: Okay, alright.

ED: With a gun pointed.

EVELYN: Thank you so much. Okay. Bye!

[Spooky music]

KATH: That was nice.

ED: It was nice, wasn't it? Yeah. Who have we got coming up?

KATH: Oh, Gordon Ramsay. He says his teeth are haunted but I think it's because of all the coke.

ED: Mhm.

KATH: We're going to meet him outside Sparks. He's lost his ID and he wants a pack of matches.

ED: Fuck's sake, okay.

[Spooky music]

This has been a Little Wander production. Music from Rhodri Viney. Local artwork from Suze Hughes. With special thanks to Beth Forrest, Steve Pickup, Sam Roberts, Henry Widdicombe, and Jo Williams. Other podcasts from Little Wander include I Wish I Was An Only Child and Here to Judge.

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