

## Welcome To Spooktown – Isy Suttie

[Spooky music]

ED EASTON: [screams] Ah! A real ghost!

[Waves crashing]

ED: Thanks for letting us come to the beach before we meet Isy.

KATH HUGHES: Oh, that's fine. Nice sort of detour, isn't it?

ED: Yeah.

KATH: Well it is on the way as well, so...

ED: You're watching?

KATH: Yeah, okay.

ED: It's not funny if no one's watching.

KATH: Okay, I'm watching.

ED: Okay. Look at this one first. Nice and smooth.

KATH: Okay.

ED: Nice and –

KATH: Yeah, it is quite flat, that.

ED: [grunts]

[Rock skips]

KATH: Oh!

ED: A – an eight-er on his first go! That’s genuinely impressive. That’s incredible.

KATH: That’s – no, yeah, that’s good. I’m more a fan of just a one-er. You know? Like get a – a big one. Just lob it. So, um, that’s a good one. Nice, big, round. Okay. Oh my goodness me. Okay.  
[grunts]

[Rock splashes]

KATH: See?

ED: That was better, yeah. Yeah, that was nice, that.

KATH: That was nice, right? It’s quite nice as well when sometimes it just goes like [clunk] into the sand. It doesn’t even reach.

ED: Yeah. [laughs] I’m impressed you managed to do that with your hernia.

KATH: Thank you. Thank you, I did try.

ED: Should we head to the uh, to the well?

KATH: Yes.

[Footsteps]

ED: I'm quite excited. I've never been here before.

KATH: Yeah, same. I don't know why.

ED: You just sort of don't visit places where you live, do you?

KATH: True, yeah. If it's like the top of the TripAdvisor you ain't going to go there, are you? Because you live there.

ED: No. No. For the more sort of secret spots like my bedroom.

KATH: Mhm.

ED: My own bedroom. Places in my house that I'm sure –

KATH: It's not that secret, though, because everyone knows they're there. I know they're there.

ED: I don't think everyone knows. There's seven billion people in the world. I don't think they all know that I've got a bathroom.

KATH: Not everyone, but I think all of Spooktown knows. It's not really a secret. Soz.

ED: Fine, yeah. Fine. Fine. I don't care. I don't care. Let's stop talking about it. I don't want to talk about it.

KATH: Okay, okay. Sorry.

ED: Had any, uh, had any nightmares this week?

KATH: This week, um...

ED: [laughs] Yeah.

KATH: Yeah. Yeah, I uh... weird one. Uh, well, not that weird. Just really struggling to park in Real. But like for ages. And I mean ages. And my thing is, Real's not that bad for parking. So I don't know what I was dreaming up.

ED: [laughs]

KATH: Really peculiar. And then the sea came in and then it flooded everywhere. So that – it got a bit darker then. But yeah, very frustrating. More frustrating dream as opposed to a nightmare.

ED: I think the fact that you're in Real pushes it into nightmare.

KATH: No, no. I'm, uh, it feels familiar, Real.

ED: Okay, yeah.

KATH: A lot of family days in the Real. With uh, with my nana inside.

ED: Is that the one with the big fun golf course on the seafront?

KATH: Fun golf course? Uh, there is stuff at the seaside.

ED: Okay.

KATH: Yeah, how about you? Any nightmares?

ED: Uh, I woke up with somebody else's hair in my mouth.

KATH: Oh, that's upsetting.

ED: You know when it's – you pull it and you're like, 'oh, what's that?' And then you pull it and it's – you realise it's in your throat.

KATH: And then you start choking because you realise how long it is, yeah.

ED: And then it's like, 'uh!' Yeah, so you pull it and, 'uh!' There's like a really long red hair. 'Oh, it's something in my teeth, uh!'

KATH: Did the hair wake you up or were you waking up and then you were like, 'oh, there's something coating my neck'?

ED: I was – I was, yeah, I was awake. And then I was like, 'what's that in my tea? Oh, it's that thing that starts in my stomach. Ugh.'

KATH: Yeah, that's rough. That's not nice at all.

[Spooky music]

ED: Hello Isy!

ISY SUTTIE: Hey!

KATH: Hi!

ED: How's it going? Thank you so much for inviting us to this well.

ISY: You're welcome, you're welcome. Would you like a strawberry bonbon?

ED: Ah, I thought you'd never ask. I'd love a strawberry bonbon.

KATH: Yes please, thank you.

ED: Thank you very much.

ISY: That's alright.

ED: Mhm. So, um [chewing], this is going to make it difficult. Um, I'm just going to finish this before asking. Oh, I ate that fast. How are you? How was your journey here to Spooktown?

ISY: It was fine. Yeah, I – I've been driving around town just having a look everywhere, and um... I'm really pleased that we've come to the well. Because, um, I think it's the best place in Spooktown. I mean, they've got like a pound shop – well, you'll know.

KATH: Yeah, yeah.

ISY: You two but, you know –

KATH: Yeah, everyone knows the pound shop.

ISY: Pound shop's good. Yeah, I mean, it's good. And it's haunted. Um, but of course they've got a post office, school...

ED: Mhm, mhm. The classics.

ISY: Yeah. But I – I think the well is the place to be.

ED: Yeah. Yeah, I agree. I think on the TripAdvisor as well. I think number one attraction is the well, number two is – is the pound shop.

ISY: Yes, yeah. It's always that way around.

ED: And then it just goes in the order that you said, really. Yeah.  
Um...

ISY: Yeah. If the pound shop ever goes above the well, I go on TripAdvisor and give the pound shop lots of one star reviews. And give the well lots of five stars.

KATH: Great.

ISY: Yeah. Yeah.

[All laugh]

ED: Um, it's very creepy here.

ISY: I know it is.

ED: I like it.

ISY: Do you?

ED: Yeah.

KATH: Yeah.

ISY: Because you can hear the sea, um, and that's what I like. And it's kind of – you could be anywhere when you hear – I mean, you are obviously in a well. But if you...

KATH: But it could be anywhere.

ISY: It could be anywhere. It could be anywhere.

KATH: Yeah.

ED: But just to clarify: it's definitely a well.

ISY: It's definitely a well. But if you close your eyes, it could be anywhere. And that's what I put on TripAdvisor every time I have to push it up to the top. 'Open your eyes and you're in a well. Close your eyes and it could be anywhere.'

ED: Yeah. That's the issue with the Poundland. It's the Poundland, but if you close your eyes, it's still a Poundland.

ISY: Absolutely. Yeah, that's true. Because if you're at the well, you know, if you close your eyes you can hear the wind howling, you can hear the sea. You can hear the – the grass, the wind riffing through the grass. But if you close your eyes at the pound shop, you can just hear people discussing what good value things are.

KATH: Yeah. Some shuffling feet.

ISY: Shuffling feet, screaming kids, people knocking things over, off shelves with their bags as they turn to look at another bargain. Yeah. I do like the pound shop, as you might be able to tell, but there's nothing like the well.

ED: So you think it deserves the second place? You don't want it to go down to third, but –

ISY: Well, yeah. I don't know. Because I do like the post office as well.

ED: Mhm.

KATH: Yeah, different sounds in there.

ISY: It's a bit – it's a bit one-note the post office, isn't it? If you don't want to send anything, it's like, 'what am I doing here?'

KATH: Yeah.

ISY: The pound shop's got a wide array of stuff. It's even got milk, raisins, did you know that?

ED: Yeah. It's weird, isn't it?

KATH: I didn't know they had raisins.

ISY: You've got raisins. They've got raisins in big packets and in little boxes.

KATH: Really?

ISY: Yeah.

KATH: So you can put them in a lunchbox.

ED: Very strange when – when they have, uh, fresh produce. I don't like it.

ISY: Yeah, it doesn't seem – it doesn't seem quite right.

ED: No.

ISY: But that's the pound shop.

ED: That's a pound shop. That's a fair point.

[All laugh]

KATH: Is that their slogan? 'Hey, that's the pound shop.'

ISY: 'Hey, that's the pound shop.'

ED: What can I say?

KATH: That's the pound shop.

[Spooky music]

ED: Before we get into your – the story that you have about this – this very amazing well, um, how many ghosts have you seen this week?

ISY: Um, I've seen 53.

ED: Wow!

ISY: I know. I'd only seen one, but – until this morning. Then I saw 52 this morning all in one go.

KATH: Bloody hell, where were you?

ISY: I was walking up the stairs. And we've got, um, a cupboard under the stairs. And it's got the hoover and everything like that in it. And as I walked past, the door to it flew open. And 52 heads

of ghosts popped their heads out and said, 'you've got to clean house,' and then popped back in. It was really weird.

KATH: Under the mantle as well. All – all 52?

ISY: Yeah, 52. I counted them really quickly. Yeah, the one I saw earlier in the week wasn't – it wasn't to do with cleaning.

KATH: Oh, okay. Keep them separate.

ISY: Yeah. That was a proper one. That was a classic ghost. The kind of ghost they sell in the pound shop, if you know what I mean. Like it – it's a straightforward ghost. You know what you're getting.

ED: Yeah yeah yeah.

ISY: The 52 were like –

KATH: Yeah, this is – this is a quid. And you – that's right.

ISY: Yeah, it's got no head. It's carrying its head. It's got a long gown on.

ED: Mhm, mhm.

ISY: It's saying, 'ooh! Ooh, I'm a ghost,' you know? 'You're going to die one day.' And stuff like that. Um...

KATH: Classic.

ISY: The 52 – yeah, just classic ghost.

ED: Yeah yeah yeah.

ISY: But it was – you know I was actually a bit like, ‘god, do something – do something different. You’re so run of the mill.’

KATH: Yeah, boring.

ISY: I know. And in a way, maybe that’s what made the 52 ghosts pop out of the bottom of the stairs. The ‘kutch down sta’, as they say in Wales. But, you know, I – I don’t need to do the cleaning. The house is clean. So that’s the really spooky thing about it.

ED: Oh, that’s creepy.

KATH: Wow!

ISY: I know! I did all the hoovering yesterday, so I don’t know why they’re saying that. It’s a mystery that needs to be solved.

KATH: But did you Hoover under the stairs? Maybe they’re like, ‘please, just clean in here.’

KATH: We’re all – there’s 52 of us crowded –

ISY: Yeah, no, I didn’t. You’re right! You’re right. But I’m scared to open it now in case – because it was just 52 heads with no bodies.

ED: I reckon if you want to clean the house, clean it yourself. There’s 52 of you.

ISY: Exactly. They could’ve been doing something. They could eat all the dirt, couldn’t they? They’re not going to get ill from eating rubbish. Because they’re dead anyway.

KATH: Hm, but will it pass right through? Will it just fall through them?

ISY: Have they got bums?

KATH: I don't know. Maybe they're always wearing gowns because they don't want to –

ISY: Yeah, they don't want you to see. They don't want you to see their bums.

ED: When you're hoovering, is all your – are you just thinking, 'god, I wish I could eat this, but obviously I've got my bum'?

ISY: Yeah, absolutely. I'm like, 'god, this is – yeah, just come out of my bum.' Like it's awful to think – I look down and I think, 'that's such a – a waste of all this stuff.' Like old crisp packets and mouldy food, you know, that's been shoved under the carpet. If I could eat it, I wouldn't have to buy a hoover, the hoover bags...

ED: I've got this bloody bum of mine.

ISY: It could just come out of my bloomin' bum.

[Spooky music]

ED: Isy, what's the scariest thing that's ever happened to you?

ISY: Well, I used to do a lot of Ouija boards. Um, and uh, I used to do them when I came back from school. My mum taught me how to do them. And, um, I used to come home from school and get an A4 piece of paper and just draw out a Ouija board. I didn't have

a permanent one. And I used to do them every single night. And I've talked to hundreds of – of dead people. Spirits.

KATH: And you never asked any of them if they had a bum?

ISY: No! I mean, that should've been my first question. I asked them things like, 'how many boys will I snog? Who will I marry?' And then we – and then – we did one once at a party. And, um, the spirit came and we said, 'if anyone's there, please move to "yes".' And it moved. The coin moved. And then we got bored of what it was saying really quickly, so –

ED: [laughs]

KATH: That's so brutal.

ISY: I know. It was like, 'the plague, the plague.' We were like 17 or 18. We didn't care about the plague. We wanted to talk to Bob Marley. So, no – and John Lennon. So we asked it to get John Lennon. And um, it said, 'okay.' And it went away for like ten minutes. And we were just sat there. And then the coin started moving again. And we said, 'are you John Lennon?' And it said, 'yes.' And then we said, 'can you tell Bob Marley he's a legend?' And it said, 'no.' And it was like really annoyed that we'd like – John Lennon's spirit was really annoyed that we'd got him and all we'd said was, 'go and tell Bob Marley he's a legend.'

ED: Yeah, yeah.

KATH: He was probably jealous, wasn't he?

ISY: Yeah, definitely.

KATH: Imagine being like – coming, being like, ‘oh my god, someone wants to speak to me.’ And then you go, ‘haha, someone else is great. Go and tell him.’

ISY: Exactly. It’s like, ‘god, I’ve come all the way from that cloud, just to talk to you. And you’re just telling me to tell someone – another musician – that he’s great.’

ED: That is really – if you remove the ghost element from that, it’s very rude.

KATH: It is rude.

ISY: Very rude, yeah. Yes it is.

[All laugh]

ISY: Hi, Ed Sheeran. Can you tell Harry Styles that he’s great?

ED: Wow, I can’t believe your mum taught you how to Ouij.

ISY: Oh, I was probably 13. And I used to do them on my own all the time.

KATH: Wow.

ISY: I’d taught people how to do them. I was known as the person who could start Ouija boards. I got so good at it that at one point I said, ‘I’m not doing it anymore. I’m just – I’ve done all the Ouija boards for now. That’s it.’ And then we would be at parties and people would be trying to do Ouija boards. They’d be like, ‘Isy, please just kick off the Ouija board for us, then you can take your finger off.’

[All laugh]

ISY: But then once that started, it was like – it's like Pringles. I just couldn't take my finger off, because –

ED: Of course.

ISY: Yeah.

ED: The old classic Pringles phrase. One you put your finger on, you can't get your finger off.

ISY: I do feel that I've got a sense for – like I sometimes get like a spooky feeling. A bit like tingles on my head. Like a kind of connection to something else that's happening. And I do feel like with the Ouija boards, I kind of – I do feel like I've got a gift. There, I said it. I do.

ED: It definitely sounds like you've got a gift. From everything you've said so far – that's the least shocking revelation I've heard this week, I think. Is that you've got a gift.

ISY: Yeah.

ED: You're the starter. You're the Ouija starter.

ISY: I am. Um, yeah. I feel like I'm open to the spirit world. But I'm just too good at comedy, guys, to – to desert comedy!

[All laugh]

ISY: I could've made millions from being a psychic, but comedy needs me.

KATH: Yeah.

ISY: The only harm the Ouija board thing did me was that I went to do one down near, um, in the woods near my house. And we – I always used to say, 'if anyone's there, please move to "yes"' at the beginning. Sometimes it used to take ages for it to start. But I was very patient because I've got a gift. Um, and um, so it moved to 'yes'. And it – and I said, 'what's your name?' And it spelt out 'Izzy'. But it didn't spell it how I spell it. It spelt it 'Izzy.' And then I was with this boy from down the road. And he said, 'are you Isy's ghost from the future?' And it said, 'yes.' And that was really weird.

And the only thing I could think to ask it was how many times I was going to have sex in my life. Like out of any question that I could've asked it, like it would've even been better to know like, 'will I ever go to like, Spain?' But I chose to ask it... or, 'what am I going to get for my GCSEs?' Like – but no, I chose to ask it, 'how many times am I going to have sex in my life?' And then I wrote down the number it said and put it in my boy box, which was a shoebox full of like locks of hair from boys and stuff. Did you have one, Kath?

KATH: No!

ISY: Oh, okay.

KATH: No.

ED: I also didn't, just for –

ISY: Yeah, you didn't – you didn't have a boy box or a girl box?

ED: I didn't have a boy box, uh, or a girl box, no. No, I had a – I collected key rings. That's about it.

ISY: Oh, okay. Yeah.

ED: No – no boy box. How can – are you going to – do we get to know the number?

ISY: Well, the problem is I can't remember the number. But it was high.

[All laugh]

ISY: It was like 21,850 times or something.

KATH: Wow.

ISY: Like it was definitely over 20,000 times. So then until I was about 25, I kept a tally chart in the back of my diary every time I had sex so I could see if the Ouija board had been right. But then I realised that I'd lost the original bit of paper because the boy box had been thrown away.

ED: Oh.

KATH: Oh no.

ISY: I thought, 'I can stop keeping a tally now.'

ED: Were you close?

ISY: Was I close to it? Well actually, yeah. I'd gone over – I'd gone over 21,000 times by the time I was... yeah.

[All laugh]

ISY: So I'm probably on about like – I don't know. Probably 100,000 times I think, now. Now I'm 42, yeah. So that proves that Ouija boards lie.

ED: Yeah.

KATH: Yeah.

ED: Yeah.

[Spooky music]

ED: Kath, do you have any questions?

KATH: Uh, oh yeah. Okay, so, um, poltergeist, banshee, or the exorcist. Shag, marry, kill.

ISY: What is a banshee? I always hear the term, 'screaming banshee.' Is it an animal?

KATH: I think it's a – it's a ghost lady.

ISY: Right, yeah.

KATH: Uh, that is constantly yelling.

ISY: Okay.

KATH: But you know, that's just – I'll level with you, I didn't look it up. Uhh...

ISY: No, that – well, you always hear, 'screaming banshee,' don't you?

ED: Yeah.

KATH: That's right.

ISY: No, I think you're right. It's probably a bit like the 52 ghosts, isn't it? Kind of like. [High pitched screaming] Yeah, okay.

KATH: Yeah.

ISY: So poltergeist –

KATH: It might not just be a lady, actually. It could be – it might've been really sexist, yeah.

ISY: Yeah, it could've been a man, couldn't it? Okay, so poltergeist, banshee, and what was the third one?

KATH: Uh, the exorcist.

ISY: God.

KATH: And that could be the priest, or – or the DVD.

ISY: Okay. Well, I've never actually – I've never –

KATH: A Bluray, right?

ISY: Yeah, Bluray. Mini-disc? I don't think that was visual, was it? Um, it was just music. I've never seen 'The Exorcist', so I'd actually quite like to see it.

KATH: Okay.

ISY: Um, so I'm going to say marry 'The Exorcist' DVD –

KATH: Okay. That's –

ISY: Because I'd get to watch it.

KATH: Even though you don't – you've never seen it, so you might be going into a horrible marriage.

ISY: That's true, but I certainly don't want to marry a screaming banshee –

KATH: Okay.

ISY: And I wouldn't want to marry a poltergeist because you'd never know where you were with them. Like you'd never know where they were.

ED: Yeah. I agree.

KATH: That's a really good point.

ISY: And so I think it would be a bit too much of a guessing game. So certainly not marry the poltergeist. Maybe not avoid it. Maybe shag it? That might actually be quite weird and fun. It's a bit of a bucket list thing, isn't it?

KATH: Get your numbers up as well.

ISY: Yeah, exactly. Yes, exactly. Okay, so definitely shag the poltergeist.

KATH: Okay.

ED: Great.

ISY: Definitely marry the, um, 'The Exorcist' DVD and avoid the screaming banshee.

KATH: Okay, yeah. Yeah, no, you've talked me through your logic. Yeah, that's good that it makes sense.

ISY: Yeah.

ED: I feel like you haven't really delved into the marrying 'The Exorcist' DVD. And I know that - I know that the poltergeist would be possibly chaotic, but would you want to marry a DVD forever?

ISY: I think marrying a DVD is actually quite a good idea. Because you know those people who marry objects? Like -

ED: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

ISY: There's a woman who's married to the Eiffel tower and stuff like that. I think it's probably ultimately about power, isn't it? You - you think that you're in love with the - the thing, but you've got all the control in the relationship, really.

ED: Yeah.

ISY: The Eiffel tower isn't going to suddenly leave you or – or say that it didn't want that scarf for a birthday present. It wanted a hat. It's just going to be there all the time. And in the same - and I really like to have 100% control in relationships.

ED: Sure.

KATH: That's healthy.

ISY: Um, so yeah. It is, really. Yeah, protects me. I think that is healthy actually, Kath.

[All laugh]

[Spooky music]

ED: You have a spooky story for us about this well.

ISY: I have, yeah. I do.

KATH: Okay.

ED: Could we – could we hear it?

ISY: You could indeed.

ED: Thank you, thanks.

KATH: Thanks.

[Mysterious music]

ISY: There was a woman called Petranga. And she was the most beautiful woman the town had ever seen. Every woman wanted to be her. [low voice: 'I want to be her'] And every man wanted to be a woman so they could want to be her. [low voice: 'I want to be a woman'] But she didn't need anyone. All she needed was her hair. Her long hair. Her long, red hair. You see, as she grew up, her hair grew too. [Stretching sound] And by the time she was 18, it was as long as three of her. And wherever she went, it followed behind her like an annoying sibling or a hard to get rid of Trump.

[farting sound] She washed it now and again in the sea, but there wasn't much point. Because as she walked around the town, it picked up twigs, dirt, socks, empty packets of Frazzles, lumps of porridge, and once even a family of otters. [otter sounds] Her hair was strong and thick, and the fact it smelt terrible didn't detract from her beauty.

As had been the custom in Spooktown over centuries, when criminals were caught committing a crime, as criminals are want to do, they were thrown down this very well [splashing] from where I tell this story, until their cries died out and their bodies were feasted on by vultures. [chirping] The townsfolk had crafted a gap at the bottom of the well, big enough for a skeleton to fit through, but only once it had been picked clean of meat. So that the sea could wash the criminals' bones away.

Nobody would go near the well, because it was full of the criminals' ghosts, which were worse than normal ghosts. [wind sounds] One night after a criminal had been thrown down the well for stepping on a crack in the pavement, the mayor was taking a midnight walk [whistling] when he spied something odd: a boat being waved off from the bay near the well, by a woman with hair. With long hair. With long, red hair. Petranga! Who

could she be waving off? There had only been one visitor to the town in the last 50 years. And he had been caught staring too long at a fountain [water crashing] and thrown down the well.  
[splashing]

The mayor ran to the well, ignoring his instinct to stay away from the criminals' ghosts. He peered over the edge, using his lantern to see through the gloom into the bottom. There sat five skinny, disappointed vultures and no body at all. The criminal had only been thrown in that afternoon. There was no way he could've died, his bones been stripped, and then floated out to sea in that time. Where could he have possibly gone?

The next week, after another throw in, [splashing] the mayor hid behind a low wall which surrounded the well, to see if he could discover what was going on. Night fell, and the cries of the criminals still rang out when he saw a figure approaching the well. A figure with hair. A figure with long hair. A figure with long, red hair. [footsteps]

He heard her soft voice singing, 'climb, climb up my hair. Climb out of your stagnant lair. It's thick, it's long, it's got its own song. Climb, climb up my hair.'

The mayor watched in astonishment as Petranga knelt at the well and slowly lowered her hair down. She winced a little, and then a few minutes later, the criminal emerged having climbed up it.

'My angel!' The criminal said to Petranga, 'thou hast saved me!'

'A devilish Rapunzel!' The mayor said out loud in disbelief.

'Hark!' Called the criminal to Petranga, 'did you hear something?'

‘Oh, twill not be anyone,’ said Petranga, ‘they’re all scared of the ghosts. But there are no ghosts, because no criminals die. I’ve been doing this for years. Ever since my dad was thrown down here for stealing a string of sausages to feed us with. He lives on the mainland with the others, where you’ll be going now.’

They hurried to the bay, where the criminal got into a little boat, still thanking her. [footsteps] And she waved him off. The rower of the boat waved at her too.

‘Bye, Dad!’ She shouted to the rower, ‘I’ve given him some sausages to give you! Cumberlands, your favourites!’

The next morning, the mayor rounded up the townspeople. [crowd noises] And they caught Petranga and marched her to the well. The butcher’s boy hacked off her hair and then they pushed her in as one. [splashing] ‘You won’t be able to climb up now,’ they all shouted, ‘you probably wouldn’t have been able to climb out on your own hair anyway, because you wouldn’t have been able to hook it around anything from down at the bottom of the well. But we still cut it off, hahaha.’

It is said that even now, her ghost haunts Spooktown. Stealing strings of sausages and moving them along the floor, all on their own. Upending mops [clanging] and sending pumpkins toppling off the walls on Halloween night, their carved faces cackling as they knock out trick or treaters. And if you listen carefully at the well on a still night, you can faintly hear Petranga’s song: ‘why why why why all my hair hair hair hair? I’ll haunt haunt you all from my stag-stagnant lair. It was thick, it was long, and it had its own song song. Why why why why all my hair hair hair hair?’

[Spooky music]

ED: Oh my god.

KATH: I loved that. Wow. Yeah, we're meant to pick holes in that. Oh, I've written down Frazzles. There you go. Let's pick a hole in that. She was just picking it up with her hair?

ISY: Yeah, actually yeah. Would hair pick up a family of otters?

KATH: Yeah. Don't know.

ED: Don't know about that.

KATH: That's – a lot of that was believable. But that bit, I mean –

ISY: That bit knocks it down, doesn't it?

KATH: I mean, yeah.

ISY: It – it jars. It brings you out of, um, the reality of it.

ED: So – okay, so, Isy. We're going to dig into it a little bit. So Petranga, the reason she started this was because her dad got busted for stealing sausages?

ISY: Yeah. Mhm. Stealing a string of sausages.

ED: And I get that. I totally get that. I would, you know, well I wouldn't say my father. But I can see why somebody would save their father from drowning in a well. Why then continue to rescue any old criminal?

ISY: Um, yeah. That's – that's a good point. So she's rescued her dad. Um, she's obviously thought of the idea that night. Thought of what – 'how can I rescue him? I've got this long hair. Maybe he could climb up on it.' She knows that if he stayed in Spooktown, everyone would go, 'what are you doing here?' And he couldn't go, 'I'm his twin brother from Australia.' Um, so I think she put him on the boat, sent him to the mainland. Now I think she carries on because she's kind of a social warrior. Like a social justice warrior. Like she just thinks, 'hang on, the mayor's throwing all these people down the well for things like looking at a fountain for too long' –

KATH: Yeah.

ISY: 'Stepping on a crack in the pavement.' They're not actually – she's perhaps been to the mainland and seen what crimes people actually can commit. And thought, 'these aren't proper crimes.' So I think she just thinks, 'actually, I'm the only one that can save people from these laws.'

ED: How long – how long did the criminal look at the well for, though?

ISY: The fountain?

ED: Sorry, the fountain.

ISY: Yeah. Well, the criminal was looking at the fountain for like a year.

ED: Right.

ISY: Yeah. But I mean I think it's a quite small detail.

KATH: I think that's more, uh, I think they were more unwell than uh, than needing to be thrown in a well.

ISY: Yeah, precisely. And, you know, he wouldn't move. So it was like – things were coming out of his bum and it was really –

[All laugh]

ISY: Stuff was coming out of his bum and his willy. Like where he was.

ED: Right, so he's defecating for a year in front of the fountain.

ISY: In front of the fountain. Which was part of the castle. So people having to walk round him and stuff. Um, and uh –

ED: Right.

KATH: Right. How – what was he eating? Or was it – is that where the packet of Frazzles perhaps came from?

ISY: Yeah. He was just eating for a whole year, which Petranga brought to him because she felt, you know, 'this guy is going to get thrown down the well.'

KATH: Yeah.

ISY: 'So he may as well have some Frazzles.'

ED: I think this is – this is quite an important point. It sort of links into, um, you know, like disinformation spreads on Facebook seven times faster than the truth. So you say, you know, 'this guy

got thrown into a well for – for just looking at a fountain for too long.’ And then you go, ‘oh, how long?’ ‘Oh, he’s shitting in someone else’s house for a year.’

ISY: Yeah, I suppose one angle is he looked at the fountain for too long. Another angle is he shat in someone’s house for a year near a fountain.

KATH: What’s just past the fountain then? Was he actually looking at the fountain or was he being a creep?

ISY: Well actually, there were like, yeah, lovely naked ladies behind the fountain all the time.

KATH: Right.

ED: Right.

ISY: He just likes to cavort in its water. Because that fountain is known for its healing properties, as you’ll know from being residents of Spooktown. But you can only cavort in it if you’re a naked lady. Um, and it doesn’t help men. It just helps women.

ED: Yeah, preach. You’re telling me.

KATH: Yeah.

ISY: Um, so yes there’s a chance he was looking at the naked ladies. But he said he liked the architecture of the fountain and the way the water came out.

KATH: Is that what he just kept repeating over?

ISY: Yes, that's what he said for a year. Just again and again.

KATH: Yeah.

ISY: 'I like the architecture of the fountain. I like the way the water comes out. I like the architecture of the fountain. I like the way the water comes out.' And he even said it in his sleep.

KATH: So he did sleep. Did he sleep stood up?

ISY: He slept.

KATH: Like a – like a sort of dolphin?

ISY: No.

KATH: Like a dolphin or a whale sleeps?

ISY: Yeah, he did. He managed to sleep uh, standing up. And at times Petranga would bring him a chair, which was, you know, not – I mean, that was a risk for her. But –

KATH: She dragged it with her hair?

ISY: Yes.

ED: Mhm, mhm. Okay.

KATH: Can I just ask one thing? Why didn't she cut her hair? I mean, at what point – it's like when people have really long nails. Like how do you wipe your ass? How does she live with hair three times the length of her?

ED: How does she wipe her ass, Isy?

ISY: Well, actually she wipes her ass with her hair. Because the thing is it had so much other stuff in it anyway, that it didn't make any difference. It was quite useful in that way. Because she didn't have to use toilet paper. Um, she did used to wash it once a month. So, you know. Why didn't she cut it? Well, it became her – her biggest ally. She was very beautiful. And the longer her hair got, the more beautiful people said she was. And she was a very vain person despite her kindness. Because actually people are very complex, aren't they?

ED: Yeah.

KATH: Yeah.

ISY: They're not just one thing.

KATH: You're right. Yeah. Yeah, okay. Yeah. And I suppose if she was making money from it, then yeah, why would you cut it?

ISY: Well, exactly. You wouldn't. I mean, you could do the same. You've got red hair. It's not too late.

KATH: Yeah, you're right. I'll be honest with you. I don't want to wipe my ass with my hair.

ISY: Okay, okay. Well, you could try cutting a bit of it off and wiping your ass with it. And see how it feels. Don't dismiss it. Don't let that be your reason not to grow it.

ED: Yeah.

KATH: I think that's going to be the – the sole reason I will never grow it.

ISY: Okay, okay.

[Spooky music]

ED: Uh, the song. I loved the song.

KATH: Yeah, did she make that up herself? Or was it written for her?

ISY: It was written for her by me, actually.

KATH: Oh okay. Wow.

ISY: I've given her the rights to it. Um, because I'm vain and kind like her. And I like 100% control in relationships. And actually, by giving her the rights to it, it seems like a very nice thing to do. But what I've done is I've retained control. So I've sort of given her something and now, you know, sort of got control over her. But yeah, I wrote it for her. I gave it to her. And she's allowed to change the lyrics but not the melody.

KATH: Right, okay.

ISY: So that's why at the end she could say, 'I'll haunt you all from my stagnant lair.'

KATH: So if we put our ears to the well, would we be able to hear the song?

ISY: Yeah. It's got to be a very still night.

KATH: Okay.

ISY: So there's only a few nights a year, really, in summer, where – because you've got to kind of dismiss the sound of the waves and there can't be any wind. So it's – it's very beautiful, though. And you know some people come from far and wide to hear this song. And they want to give Petranga a gift to say thank you. But they don't know what to give a ghost.

ED: Yeah.

ISY: It's hard to give a ghost a gift.

KATH: Yes, that's a good point.

ED: What do – what do people leave? Do they throw it in the well?

ISY: Yeah, they throw it down the well. Yeah, they leave necklaces –

ED: So that's what all that stuff is down there, yeah.

ISY: Jewellery of all kinds. Broaches, and baguettes, perfumes, it's weird.

ED: Yeah.

KATH: Sausages, presumably.

ISY: Sausages. Loads of sausages. And uh, in summer it's a bit grim.

KATH: Yeah.

ISY: Because the well just gets clogged up with all that stuff.

ED: Gross, yeah.

ISY: Yeah.

ED: Have you ever – have you ever left anything for –

ISY: Well I've given her the song. And I feel like that's the best gift that I could've given her. Um –

ED: Sure.

ISY: But yeah, I have. I've left her some sausages over the years. Um, she'll always have a thing for sausages. So they have to be in strings. They can't be – and in the pound shop, they don't sell them in strings.

KATH: No.

ISY: They only have them, you know, in like side by side.

KATH: Yeah.

ED: Yeah.

ISY: Which I actually think is more practical because you don't have to cut the string. But –

KATH: She likes what she likes.

ISY: Yeah, she does. It reminds her of her dad, obviously. Who she'll never see again because she's dead –

ED: Oh.

ISY: And he's alive on the mainland. So – so I do give her – and I tried to make ghost sausages once, that she could eat.

KATH: How'd that go?

ISY: It didn't go very well. I – I got the real sausages and I tried to kill the sausages so that they turned into ghost sausages.

KATH: Sure sure sure.

ISY: But then I realised that the sausage was already dead, really.

ED: Yeah.

KATH: Yeah.

ISY: So I thought maybe the way to kill it more is just to leave it out so it kind of rots.

ED: Right.

ISY: But that – it just went all wrinkly and yeah, like grey.

ED: Yeah, I suppose –

ISY: I still chuck those down there because it – it was the colour of a ghost at least. But I don't know.

ED: I guess if you stab a sausage – you stab a sausage that’s just what you’re meant to do so they don’t burst, isn’t it?

ISY: I know. So in a sense every time you cook a sausage you’re killing it.

ED: Yeah.

ISY: So it’s like – yeah, it was – it was hard. It was an experiment, but I couldn’t – I couldn’t get it to the place I wanted to. But I still chuck them down there. I think it’s the gesture more than anything. Even if she can’t eat it.

KATH: Yeah, you’re right.

ED: Yeah yeah yeah.

KATH: It’s the thought, isn’t it? That counts.

ED: Yeah.

ISY: Yeah.

[Spooky music]

ED: Here’s the trouble with all this questioning, is it’s so clearly true. None of this – none of this questioning is – is doubting the story whatsoever. Because it’s so – it’s so watertight.

ISY: If anything it’s unearthed more truths.

KATH: Is Petranga still in the well? Like does she haunt just inside the well? Or does she venture out?

ISY: Yes, just inside the well. No, she doesn't come out. Um, no one really knows why. But I mean, I think at least if she's in the well everyone knows where she is. And if they want to bring her gifts they can chuck them down the well. So it's quite a good system for her. Whereas if she came out and started roaming around the island –

ED: Yeah.

KATH: Yeah.

ISY: I mean, presumably as a ghost – I was going to say presumably as a ghost she still has her long hair. But because the butcher's boy cut it off just before she was thrown down there, maybe she's got short hair. I think she wouldn't ever want to risk seeing herself in a mirror or something.

KATH: Right.

ISY: Because her hair was always so important to her that I think it's probably better for her to stay down there. She's quite happy singing. And she doesn't need to walk around.

KATH: Yeah.

ED: Yeah.

KATH: I'm wondering whether it's more that she's trapped down there. Because to us looking in, it's quite clogged with – with gifts.

ISY: Yeah.

KATH: And various rotting things, which presumably were gifts at one point.

ISY: Yeah.

KATH: Is she just stuck underneath all that?

ISY: Yeah, I think she is.

ED: Oh god.

KATH: So everyone's generosity has just trapped her in this well.

ISY: Yeah. Yeah, yeah. And ghosts can't swim, so she can't slither out in that gown.

KATH: Slither out to the city, yeah.

ISY: Yeah. Weirdly, people's generosity and admiration for what she did is trapping her.

KATH: It stinks. Like I'm not going to lie.

ISY: No, I know.

KATH: Like it is lovely, you can hear the sea and that. But it stinks.

ED: Yeah, it – yeah, it's disgusting. I'd hate to be trapped underneath that.

KATH: Yeah.

ISY: Yeah. It doesn't seem like a very fitting end for someone who saved so many lives, does it?

KATH: No.

ED: So many criminals as well.

KATH: Criminals' lives.

ED: Maybe it's some sort of parable about generosity. Her generosity is saving the – the lives of criminals. Her punishment is to be suffocated by generosity.

ISY: Yes, yes.

ED: Generosity isn't always a positive thing.

ISY: Yes! That she – maybe you should be generous, but only now and again. It shouldn't define you.

KATH: And don't lob sausages down a well. Is that the main takeaway?

ISY: I think it must be. Because the jewellery doesn't smell.

ED: No.

ISY: Can you see that? Look in there now. There's like a brooch of a spider with beautiful sapphire body.

KATH: Oh yeah.

ISY: I mean, there's amazing stuff in here.

ED: Yeah.

ISY: But you'd be able to get out – they're light things, aren't they? Whereas rotten meat – people get the wrong idea as well. They think that it's any meat. They throw down like a big leg of lamb or a whole pig. So it's the meat that's the problem. No, she doesn't like it. The sausages were part of her. Like the idea that she'd eat a lamb chop – people don't know Petranga like I did.

ED: Yeah.

ISY: She'd never eat other meat. So I think you're right. I think it's, um, she was too generous.

KATH: Gosh, what a sad end.

ED: What a sad end.

ISY: Yeah.

ED: Um, I think – I can't think of a single issue with this story. And, you know, the – the well is chock full with meat and jewellery. So there's physical proof of – of the story. Maybe it's time to call it, Kath? What do you think?

KATH: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

ED: Yeah? Should we have a very brief chat?

KATH: Yeah, let's go have a quick chat over here.

ED: Great. We're just going to go over here by the great rock.

ISY: Okay.

ED: So um, bear with us.

ISY: No problem.

ED: Bye.

ISY: Bye.

ED: Thoughts, Kath?

KATH: Um, I think it happened.

ED: Yeah.

KATH: Um, because the story was, as you said, very watertight. Um, and it – but as you said, it is – the well is clogged. So there's no other explanation.

ED: I'm so glad it's the well that stunk, because when we turned up I was like –

KATH: I know! Oh my god, I know. I didn't want to say, and then I was like –

ED: No.

KATH: Yeah yeah yeah. Yeah, it happened, didn't it?

ED: Yeah. Oh, 100%. I was – mainly came over here just to be like, 'wow. That was so good.'

KATH: Yeah, and to get away from the smell.

ED: Yeah. Little bit of fresh air next to the great rock. Alright, let's go back. Let's put her out of her misery.

KATH: Okay.

ED: Hello Isy. Thanks for waiting.

ISY: Oh, that's alright.

KATH: Hey.

ED: Um, obviously it happened. We 100% believe it. Welcome to Spooktown, Isy Suttie, and your story. And Petranga.

ISY: Oh my god. Thank you. I'm so pleased. I'm so pleased.

ED: Are you heading back? Are you driving back or are you getting the rowing boat back?

ISY: Um, I'm going to get the rowing boat for old time's sake. It's still there in the bay.

KATH: Oh, yeah.

ED: Yeah.

ISY: So yeah, do you guys want to jump on with me or are you going to stay here?

ED: Oh, we stay here. We live here.

KATH: We're going to stay here, but –

ISY: Oh, right. Yeah, I thought you might want to come across the mainland but – yeah.

ED: No. We've seen 'Jurassic Park', we're fine.

KATH: Yeah.

ISY: Have you seen 'Jurassic Park 2'? Because um...

ED: What?

KATH: Oh.

ISY: Yeah.

KATH: Oh, maybe we should – maybe we should hop over just for a bit then.

ED: I'd watch a second one. 100%. Yeah.

KATH: Okay.

ISY: You know can watch it at my house tonight, if you want. On the mainland.

KATH: Oh, great.

ED: Have you got a VHS?

KATH: Great, thanks.

ED: Great. Well let's – let's all go now, then. Bye Petranga.

ISY: Bye Petranga.

KATH: Bye Petranga.

[Spooky music]

[Water sloshing]

KATH: That was nice.

ED: That was nice. Nice one.

KATH: Yes. Very. Up to anything now?

ED: Right now?

KATH: Right now, yeah.

ED: I don't think so. Let me check my phone. Uh, yeah. Tyson Fury's messaged me.

KATH: Oh.

ED: He wants to meet up at a screening of 'Citizen Kane'. Right, he says it's because one of the frames is haunted. I think he just wants another fight.

KATH: Yeah, he just wants another fight. That has Fury all over it.

ED: I've only seen 'Citizen Kane' once, so I'll pop along. But I don't have to knock him out again.

KATH: No.

ED: Do you want to come watch me fight Tyson?

KATH: Absolutely. Obviously. I can't believe you asked.

[Spooky music]

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