

Sunday Players

Drama Resources

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The Mystery of the Missing Mummy Muffins

by Bob Rictor

Overview:

To get the full story, a detective must interview various people with various perspectives on the same event.

Estimated Time: Approximately 4:30

Characters:

Detective Marlow: Hard boiled detective

Detective Monday: Slightly slow Rookie

Muffy Mullins: Museum Curator

Manuel: Witness

Misty: Witness

Costumes: 1940's era clothing for a Film Noir feel. The detectives should have fedoras and trench coats.

Props: The detectives should carry police badges and notebooks.

Additional Audio: The theme song to the old TV show *Dagnet*. Also, the opening line for detective Marlow is to be prerecorded and played as Marlow and Monday approach the museum.

Note: To be performed in an old *Dagnet* style – deadpanned, fast-paced, to the point. Open and close with the old *Dagnet* theme song.

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The scene begins with a prerecorded voice-over from Detective Marlow. As the v/o plays, Marlow and Monday approach Muffy.

Marlow (*voice over*): There are a million stories in the city. I thought I'd heard `em all. But then came the mystery at the museum.

Marlow: (*Displaying Badge*) Ma'am, I'm detective Marlow. This is my partner, Detective Monday. What seems to be the problem?

Muffy: Oh, Thank goodness you're here. I'm Muffy Mullins, museum curator. Someone has stolen one of our treasures from the pyramid of King Hu-Tahn-Anhi.

Marlow: Your mummy is missing, ma'am?

Muffy: No. His muffins.

Marlow: Come again?

Muffy: Ancient Egyptians often buried food with the dead so they could have a little nosh in the afterlife. Someone took the muffins from King Hoot's brunch collection.

Marlow: Tell me what you saw.

Muffy: Well, a man marched up to the display. I looked away for a second. The next thing I knew, he was gone and so were the muffins.

Marlow: Did he have any distinguishing features?

Muffy: A mustache. It was kind of mangy.

Marlow: So you're saying a man with a mangy mustache marched in and the mummy muffins were missing.

Muffy: That's all I know.

Marlow: Thank you. That will be all for now.

(Muffy exits)

Monday: OK. Let's go.

Marlow: Where?

Monday: We've got her story. Let's find our man.

(Manuel enters)

Marlow: Just because it's your first day doesn't mean you have to act like a rookie. Whaddya want to do? Put out an A.P.B. for a mangy mustached man moving mummified muffins? I don't think so. Look, there's always more to the story than one person's perspective. Let's ask this man here.

You, sir, what's your name?

Manuel: Manuel.

Marlow: What do you do here?

Manuel: Marketing

Marlow: What can you tell me about the missing muffins?

Manuel: Musty, but worth millions.

Marlow: Millions?

Manuel: Mucho millions.

Monday: That's a lot of moolah.

Marlow: Did you see anything?

Manuel: A man marched in

Monday: With a mustache?

Manuel: No. Alone.

Marlow: No. Did he have a mustache?

Manuel: I didn't see his face. But he marched up to the mangos

Marlow: Mangos? What mangos?

Manuel: Over there. On the display. But they're all mangled now.

Marlow: What were the mangled mangos doing with the musty mummy muffins?

Manuel: Mingling mainly.

Marlow: So, the mangled mangos mingled mainly among the musty mummy muffins.

Manuel: Mostly.

Marlow: Did the mangy mustached man mangle the mangos?

Manuel: Might have. I don't know. I didn't see. But they were mangled when he left.

Marlow: OK. Well, thank you, sir. You can go now.

(Manuel exits)

Monday: Can we go now?

Marlow: Not `til we've talked to all of the witnesses.

(Misty enters)

Marlow: What is your name, Miss?

Misty: I'm Misty.

Monday: I'm getting a little farklempt myself.

Marlow: What can you tell me about the missing mummy muffins, Misty?

Misty: They got the muffins? Oh, no. Did they get anything else? The gold? The jewels?

Marlow: Just the snacks, Ma'am.

Misty: That's a relief.

Marlow: You said "They". Tell me what you saw.

Misty: Well, a mustached man walked in with his dog

Marlow: What dog?

Misty: A mutt. Anyway, the dog kept nipping at something on the display table.

Marlow: The mangled mangos?

Misty: Maybe. I don't know for sure. But the dog ran out and the man followed him.

Marlow: I think I'm starting to get it now.

Monday: I think I'm starting to get a headache.

Misty: Poor Muffy.

Marlow: Why poor Muffy?

Misty: They were her muffins. Well, her mother discovered them years ago and named them after her.

Marlow: So, the missing mummy muffins are Muffy Mullins' mommy's?

Misty: Most definitely.

Marlow: Thank you ma'am. You can go now.

(Misty exits)

Marlow: OK, Monday, let's go.

Monday: How? All you have are three different stories.

Marlow: Not different stories. Different perspectives.

Monday: I don't get it.

Marlow: Didn't they teach you anything at the academy? They were all in the same room at the same time, but they weren't in the same spot so they didn't see the same thing. Muffy Mullins only saw the man with the mangy mustache.

Monday: *(finally understanding)* While Manuel from marketing missed the man's mug, but saw the musty muffins mingled among the mangled mangos.

Marlow: And Miss Misty missed the mangos, but made the mutt.

Monday: Amazing.

Marlow: Putting the three together you find that the mangy mustached man was a moment's misdirection while that mooching mutt mangled the mangos and munched Muffy Mullins' mommy's musty mummy muffins.

Monday: Magnificent. Now all we have to do is find a moaning mutt.

Marlow: How's that?

Monday: Well, those mucho million moolah mango-mingled muffins that mutt munched were mummified.

(They begin to exit)

Marlow: I think you're gonna make it, kid.

Monday: Can we stop by the doctor's on the way back? I have to get my tongue fixed.

(They exit. The end.)