

# DO NOT PASS GO, DO NOT COLLECT \$200

## A Murder Mystery

Written by Deep Creek Middle School's Young Playwrights Fall 2019

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## SCENE 1: MYKELLE'S BEDROOM

*Two best friends, Mykelle & Bethany, are hanging out in Mykelle's room, playing Monopoly. In the middle of that "best friends" type of conversation.*

MYKELLE

No, but she really stole my boyfriend. And sure, it's Michael B. Jordan, and sure, he doesn't know we're technically dating. But I heard her talking about him the other day, and I was like, "Is my man cheating on me? Girl, we are in the sixth grade, we're not supposed to be going through all this for like at least another year."

BETHANY

You really don't need a boyfriend to be happy. Embrace your independence! Focus on yourself! Instead of *some boy*.

MYKELLE

Girl, that's why I got you. You're my best friend, you know that?

*Mykelle & Bethany smile at one another and giggle through a sentimental moment. They do their best friend handshake. A knock at the door, Carlita enters.*

CARLITA

Hey Bethany, what are y'all doing?

MYKELLE & BETHANY

Playing Monopoly.

CARLITA

Who's winning?

MYKELLE

Me.

CARLITA

Can I play with y'all?

BETHANY

Well, I mean we'd have to start over. I'm not sure...

MYKELLE

Of course, we'll deal you in. Bethany, you're the banker.

CARLITA

Hey Mykelle, you know what I'm craving right now: Hot Pockets, cookies, and lemonade.

MYKELLE

You know I was just thinking the exact same thing. Be right back.

*Mykelle exits. As soon as Mykelle leaves the room, the mood shifts and we know that Bethany & Carlita have a history with each other and do not get along.*

CARLITA

So did you handle the problem?

*Bethany nods.*

CARLITA

...

BETHANY

Yes. I handled the problem.

CARLITA

So the dog is gone?

BETHANY

He went out for a walk.

CARLITA

A long walk off a short pier?

BETHANY

Mmhmm.

CARLITA

... So how's the boss going to feel about this whole dog/you situation that got us into that mess in the first place?

BETHANY

Maybe he doesn't know about the dog.

CARLITA

But what if he finds out.

BETHANY

He won't.

CARLITA

I wouldn't be so sure. He has eyes everywhere. Someone might tell him about the dog.

BETHANY

You seem awfully sure about that. How about you tell me who that someone is?

*Mykelle re-enters with glasses of water.*

MYKELLE

Okay, so I burned the Hot Pockets and we're out of cookies and, I'm going to be honest here, I dropped the lemonade on the ground. So here's some water. Bethany, what were you doing this whole time, you didn't even count out Carlita's money to get her started?

BETHANY

Silly me.

*Bethany counts out the money as Carlita selects a piece, and Mykelle resets the pieces to "Start."*

MYKELLE

Speaking of boyfriends, you remember that guy I was trying to set you up on a blind date with? He's about it. So I'm thinking tomorrow afternoon near the swings. Obviously I'm going to come for (1) moral support, and (2) to make the introductions, but /

CARLITA

/ Which park?

MYKELLE

Sims Square Park. The one by the mall. Why you asking? You ain't invited.

BETHANY

Okay. Ready to go.

CARLITA

My turn. Youngest goes first.

*Carlita rolls the dice. She counts out the spaces her piece moves.*

CARLITA

Pick a chance card.

*Carlita pulls one and reads it.*

MYKELLE

Well, what does it say?

CARLITA

“Go to jail. Go directly to jail. Do not pass ‘Go.’ Do not collect \$200.”

*A fire alarm goes off downstairs.*

MYKELLE

Oh my god, I must have left one of the Hot Pockets in. Bethany, come help me, girl.

*As soon as Mykelle & Bethany have exited, Carlita stands up and pulls fingerprints from Mykelle’s glass of water, and puts them into an evidence bag. She slyly hides them somewhere on her person.*

## **SCENE 2: SIMS SQUARE PARK, THE PLAYGROUND**

*Bethany enters the playground, a masked Henchman enters and attacks Bethany. It is apparent that Bethany is trained in martial arts – like Charlie’s Angels. The fight is close until the Henchman shoots a poison-tipped dart into Bethany’s neck. The Henchman escapes. Mykelle enters. Bethany lies amongst the playground, dying.*

MYKELLE

Bethany? Bethany, where are you at? *(She spots her.)* Bethany! Bethany, are you alright?! What happened to you?

BETHANY

*(gasping)* Somebody jumped me. Somebody...

MYKELLE

How?! Who?! It can’t be. This is more than that, what’s happening? Don’t lie to me.

BETHANY

P-p-poison. There’s so much I’ve had to keep from you.

MYKELLE

Don’t go out on me. Come on! Please! I’m dialing 9-1-1.

BETHANY

There’s no use. Go find them.

MYKELLE

Go find who?

BETHANY

Bill.

MYKELLE

Bill?

BETHANY

Find. Bill. James.

*Bethany dies.*

*Mykelle sees a woman across the park spot her standing over Bethany's body. The woman panics and we see her call 9-1-1. Mykelle panics and runs away.*

### **SCENE 3: A COUPLE BLOCKS AWAY**

*Mykelle finally stops running, and wipes away her tears. She frantically takes out her phone and begins typing things into it.*

MYKELLE

Bill James. Bill James. Bill James... Facebook! Let me check Facebook. 2700 Bill Jameses. There's like 50 Bill Jameses just in Baltimore. How do I narrow this down? Bethany's mutual friends! Nope, no mutual friends. Wait, this one. Works at Greenhill Factory. Bethany mentioned a Greenhill once. There's a phone number.

*Mykelle calls it.*

MYKELLE

No answer. Wait, their profile picture, there's a name on the building in the background. "Greenhill Apartments. 4700." I guess we're going to Greenhill.

### **SCENE 4: GREENHILL APARTMENTS**

*Mykelle searches the listing of apartments to buzz and sees a James next to 2B. Mykelle follows a neighbor in and goes to 2B. She knocks. Loudly. Finally, she kicks in the door.*

REUBEN

What the! Who are you?! Why did you kick down my door? It didn't do anything to you.

MYKELLE

Why did you kill my friend?

REUBEN  
What? I didn't...

MYKELLE  
Why did you kill her?!

REUBEN  
Who are you? I didn't kill your friend.

MYKELLE  
She didn't do anything!

REUBEN  
Maam, you need to calm down.

MYKELLE  
She was a good person. Amazing, even, she was an amazing friend. And you...

REUBEN  
Maam, you NEED TO CALM DOWN! I think I have some information that might help you out.

MYKELLE  
No, why did you kill my friend.

REUBEN  
I didn't kill your friend!

MYKELLE  
She told me to find Bill James, those were her dying words.

REUBEN  
I'm not Bill James. That was my father, I'm his son.

MYKELLE  
You're lying.

REUBEN  
Here's proof.

*Reuben shows Mykelle a picture of him and his dad in a uniform with the last name James embroidered on it.*

REUBEN

Would you like to have a seat?

MYKELLE

I don't want to have a seat with you. Where's your dad?

REUBEN

Your guess is as good as mine. Gone. I haven't seen him since I was a kid.

MYKELLE

Why would your dad have killed my friend?

REUBEN

Well, I've actually been digging a little deeper myself. You're going to want to sit down for this. One second please.

*Reuben lifts the door which Mykelle kicked down and hangs it back on the hinges. Then he sits down.*

REUBEN

I think he worked for a secret organization – from my research I think some refer to it as the Big Bad. My dad worked there. Used to work there, that is. He told me one day he was going to have to “retire” for us. He left pretty soon after that. But they... I'm pretty sure their job was to... Well... They were assassins. I'm sorry to be the one to have to tell you, but your friend? She's not who you thought she was.

*There is a knock at the door. They look towards it, and abruptly, it is kicked down, again. The Henchman stands in the doorway.*

REUBEN

Again with the door!?

*The Henchman runs at them, a fight ensues. They trick them in some way and are able to knock them out temporarily. They jump out the window and run across the plaza to the parking lot.*

REUBEN

Here! Get in my car. Let's go.

## **SCENE 5: REUBEN'S CAR**

*As they are driving, the radio is at full volume. After they are a few blocks away, Reuben turns down the volume.*

MYKELLE



No wait! What was that? Turn it back up.

*He does.*

RADIO ANNOUNCER

Breaking news! Mykelle Carter is the primary suspect in the murder of Bethany Lastname. She is wanted and potentially dangerous. Whoever finds her will get an award of \$5000 to \$10,000.

REUBEN

Are you Michael?

MYKELLE

Umm. Who's Mykelle?

*Reuben locks the doors.*

REUBEN

I'm sorry but I'm going to have to turn you in. *(Pause.)* Haha, I'm just kidding. We're in this now, I've got your back.

*He unlocks them.*

MYKELLE

Do you see me laughing? That's not funny. So where do we go now? Whoever did kill Bethany knows that we're on to them.

REUBEN

The night before my dad left, when he told me he was going to "retire," I remember him talking about folks disappearing. Folks from his team. I think your friend was on that team. She must have been some crazy child assassin, but she was on it. What if all their disappearances are connected, what if someone is trying to get rid of all the old members of that team?

MYKELLE

Maybe someone betrayed them, someone from the inside?

REUBEN

Well, if your friend is gone. If my dad is gone. I think there's only one member left. And you're not going to like this. I think I know who it is. Elijah Cappuccino.

MYKELLE

Elijah Cappuccino! Of BOB Industries? The millionaire! This is not going to be easy. Let's go. Didn't he just build a new cabin deep in the woods? I think I heard that on the

news the other day. The same person who's after us must have framed me, too. We're going to have to keep a low profile. We're going to need a disguise. By the way, my name is Mykelle.

REUBEN

Hi, my name's Reuben.

## **SCENE 6: ELIJAH CAPPUCCINO'S CABIN IN THE WOODS**

*They are hiding behind trees along the side of the property and scouting it out from the distance with binoculars.*

MYKELLE

Well, what are you waiting for?

REUBEN

I'm not going in there.

MYKELLE

We need to go in. If we don't, I'll be arrested for something I did not do.

REUBEN

I'm not so sure...

MYKELLE

They're framing me for killing my best friend. If you were in this position, what would you do? Look, we're going in whether you like it or not.

*A guard dog is heard barking in Reuben's direction.*

MYKELLE

Go to the car and get the hot dogs!

REUBEN

The what?

MYKELLE

The hot dogs we got on our way over! Grab one! Fast!

*Mykelle climbs and hides in a tree as Reuben runs to grab the hot dogs from the car. He sneaks back up and throws the hot dogs both in the opposite direction of the back door. The dog runs after them, and the two of them race inside the door, barely getting it closed behind them.*

MYKELLE

Where is Elijah Cappuccino? The house looks empty. I don't think anybody's here.

REUBEN

Now tell me why would there be a team of guard dogs for an empty house?

MYKELLE

Wait, that sound! This patch of floor is hollow.

*Mykelle lifts the carpet to reveal a trapdoor, she opens it.*

MYKELLE

Let's go!

REUBEN

Nope. You know I ain't going down there. That's how people die.

*Mykelle gives him a look.*

REUBEN

Fine, I guess we gonna die then. *(like a cheerleader)* Go team! *(under his breath, joking)* You crazy, I shoulda turned you in.

*They descend down the staircase – a laboratory. There is a large swivel chair and someone seated in it, but we can't see it.*

MYKELLE

We know what you've been up to Elijah Cappuccino. You killed my best friend, and now it's time for you to pay for your crimes.

VOICE FROM CHAIR

Hahaha. Oh Mykelle. You've got it all twisted. But nice try.

*The chairs swivels around to reveal...*

REUBEN

Father?!!!

*Bill T. James!*

REUBEN

It's Bill T. James!! What are you doing in this cabin right now?

BILL T. JAMES

There are many things I have not told you, son.

MYKELLE

Are you the one who took out Bethany Lastname? Answer me!

BILL T. JAMES

I did. But it was her own fault. You see, I run a very elaborate corporation here. We take out the bad people, we are the good people. When your friend came to me, it was supposed to be an in-and-out operation. But she got attached. And when you're willing to put the lives of good people on the line to save the bad ones. Well, that's when we have a problem. I'm sorry my Reuben, I didn't want this life for you, but you somehow managed to find it.

REUBEN

You told Mom you were going to get some milk from the grocery store and you never came back.

MYKELLE

Reuben, snap out of it. *(She gives him a hug, and whispers in his ear.)* Back up very slowly, and on the count of five, we run for it.

*They make a run for it, but as soon as they turn around, the Henchman is already behind them. He pushes pressure points on both of them, and they both instantly collapse unconscious.*

## **SCENE 7: DEEPER IN THE UNDERGROUND LAIR**

*Mykelle and Reuben wake up. They are bound to the chairs they are in with ropes or cuffs.*

BILL T. JAMES

You think I was just going to let you leave?

MYKELLE

Why would you do this? How did you do this?

BILL T. JAMES

Listen, your friend told me about you.

MYKELLE

Bethany?

BILL T. JAMES

No, not Bethany. You see there's someone here who I work with who told me all about you. Carlita! CARLITA! Carlita, you're late for your entrance. Yes, Carlita, your sister. You see, your sister has been working for me the whole time.

MYKELLE

How could you do this to me?

CARLITA

Well, it was like I was a third wheel. You weren't even paying attention to me. Bill T. James, he took care of me. While you forgot me altogether. He's my family now.

BILL T. JAMES

And it doesn't hurt that Carlita is the best henchman that an evil villain could ask for.

HENCHMAN

Best henchman?

MYKELLE

So Bill T. James, you're going to kill your own son? Carlita, you're going to kill your own sister?

BILL T. JAMES

I protect the good people. And I can't have you spilling my tea to the world. This is why I didn't want you to get involved, my son. Because an enemy is an enemy, and that's what you've become. I love you. Goodbye. Carlita, prepare! As my prodigy, it's time that you learn what we do with personal cases.

HENCHMAN

*(Henchman raises hand, Bill calls on it.)* Hi. Yeah over here, the other henchman, the one that's literally been doing all of the dirty work, yeah that's me. Hi. Quick question. So you just replaced me with this new girl? What's your name? Carlotta? You just replaced me with New Girl Carlotta? I thought you said I was your best henchman?

BILL T. JAMES

Henchman, not the time. Ugh, this is why you'll never be a Carlita. Guard them.

*Bill & Carlita exit, Henchman is fuming. Henchman takes out a knife. Mykelle starts crying.*

MYKELLE

Sir, please don't hurt us. *(She stops crying, because she realizes the Henchman is crying too. Suddenly it's clear – the Henchman is crying much louder.)*

HENCHMAN

I'm so fed up with my boss!!

REUBEN

Yes, you go girl, go off.

HENCHMAN

And Little Miss She-Thing comes up in here, thinking she take my place. We got five years rapport. We had a good thing going.

MYKELLE / REUBEN

Yes! Yes, girl! Speak your truth!

HENCHMAN

Nope. Sometimes, you just gotta seize the day. Take back your shine. I'm finna help y'all.

*Henchman cuts away the ropes, or unlocks the cuffs. Mykelle gives Henchman a hug.*

MYKELLE

I see you. I see you.

*They begin racing out of the lair. As the team is about to escape through the backdoor, they hear a voice from behind them.*

BILL T. JAMES

It's the end of the road for you kids.

*Reuben steps in for a hug with his father, but as Bill steps closer, Reuben punches him in the face and knocks him out. Carlita runs for the team, but Henchman stops like a brick wall in front of her, and flicks her, which sends her flying back cartoonishly, landing in a pile on top of Bill T. James.*

HENCHMAN

*(whispered to Carlita)* Ain't nobody gonna take my shine. *(to Bill)* And you, you shoulda just gotten the milk.

*Henchman ties them up.*

MYKELLE

Hi 9-1-1? It's Mykelle & Reuben Incorporated, Private Investigation team. We've captured the perpetrators responsible for the death of one Bethany Lastname. And that girl Mykelle – her name better be cleared. You're welcome.

*The team walks out the front door. Henchman joins them.*

## SCENE 8: MONTHS LATER, A POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM

*A guard leads in and seats Carlita in a chair, and uncuffs her. Mykelle enters and sits at the other end of the table.*

GUARD

No sudden movements. Keep your fingers to yourself. There will be no laying hands on the detective, there will be no laying hands on the incarcerated. We don't run that kind of interrogation room here. Do I make myself clear?

*They both nod.*

GUARD

You may proceed. *(She leaves.)*

MYKELLE

Why'd you do it?

CARLITA

You think you understand everything, but you don't. You don't know everything.

MYKELLE

What are you trying to tell me?

CARLITA

Listen, Bill T. James wasn't the top of the food chain. This goes deeper. Much much deeper. The real bad guy is /

*There is a knock at the door. Mykelle grabs a weapon hidden on her body, she turns around to fight the unknown presence sure to walk through that door, but freezes in a fighting stance. The Mykell & Reuben P.I. theme song plays us out.*

**THE END**