

GHOSTED

Episode 101: "A Hot Mess"

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INT. GRIFFINS' HOME - MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

Morning sunlight streams in as a COUPLE sleeps. A dog, GROVER, sleeps, spread out, across their feet.

CASS GRIFFINS (40) Asian, exudes "mum" energy as she wipes her hair and drool from her mouth. She reaches for her phone.

YANNICK GRIFFINS (42) Pakeha, rolls over in a "best Dad ever" shirt and moans as he covers his face with his pillow.

YANNICK

Time?

CASS

Quarter til.

Yannick grins as he peeks out from under the pillow.

YANNICK

We have fifteen minutes...

They stare at each other. In unison, Cass and Yannick yank off their pjs. Grover doesn't move, they maneuver around him. As Yannick leans in to kiss Cass, her phone RINGS. They freeze...

YANNICK

You have to look --

CASS

I have to look. Sorry...

Cass grabs her phone and holds it up over Yannick's shoulder.

CASS

The Gold Coast?

(into phone)

Hello, this is Cass... Yes... I understand... Thank you for calling.

She drops the phone to her chest as she looks at Yannick.

CASS

My dad carked it.

A hint of joy spreads across her face.

END TEASER

ACT 1

INT. GRIFFINS' HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Cass and Yannick go through the motions of the typical morning chaos in a house with three kids. Yannick packs three lunches as Cass flips pancakes.

DANA (8) uncomfortably intelligent, stomps in.

DANA

You realize that you're making my path to becoming Prime Minister excruciatingly more difficult.

YANNICK

Your mother and I did just fine in the public school system.

She stops, shoots them a look of disgust.

DANA

And thus, my closing argument. Mum, I'll be forced to file for emancipation.

Cass stares at the pancakes - smoke fills the pan.

DANA

Mum? Mum!

Cass snaps out of it and notices the pancakes burning.

CASS

Shit!

JASPER (12) skateboard in one hand, backpack in the other struts into the room.

JASPER

Dollar in the swear jar.

DANA

(to Cass)

Did you even hear a word I said?

YANNICK

Guys, come on. Back off. Mum's had a difficult morning.

DANA

A difficult morning?

(MORE)

DANA (CONT'D)
 You're chucking our educations in
 the bin. And literally destroying
 our futures. You get that, right?

OLIVE (10) dressed in neon colors and at least one too many
 bows, slides into her seat at the table.

OLIVE
 Did she get sacked?

JASPER
 How can she get sacked when she
 doesn't even have a job yet?

Dana takes her seat next to Olive.

DANA
 It's peri-menopause. I've been
 noticing the symptoms lately.

Cass drops plates of burnt pancakes in front of each of them.

CASS
 It's not menopause, thank you very
 much. My dad died this morning.
 Okay? No big deal.

JASPER
 You have a dad?

OLIVE
 How come we never met him?

YANNICK
 You could say that he and Mum
 didn't really get on.

CASS
 Because he was a prick.

JASPER
 Dollar!

Cass stuffs a five into the jar labeled "swears."

CASS
 I'm good for three more.

YANNICK
 Cass, I'm not sure that's --

Cass' phone DINGS. She reads the text as she places the raw
 package of bacon on the table and the frying pan in the fridge.

CASS

Oh, my God! Mystic Dog wants to meet me this afternoon to review my portfolio.

YANNICK

The American bloke? Today? Any possibility of pushing him a day or two?

CASS

Are you mad? Why would I do that?

YANNICK

Your dad...I know you didn't get along but he was still your father. It has to affect you.

CASS

No, it doesn't. I'm fine.

He pulls the frying pan of cooked bacon out of the fridge.

YANNICK

You sure?

She grabs the frying pan from him.

CASS

Anyone could have done that.

Yannick watches her, unconvinced, as she serves the bacon.

END ACT ONE

ACT 2**INT. MYSTIC DOG OFFICE - DAY**

Cass chews on her nail as WINSTON (31) an American hipster turned executive, flips through her concept art, unimpressed.

WINSTON

Dragons, over-done. Aliens, predictable. Wizards, unicorns, baby unicorns, oh look, baby wizards. Yeah, we're really looking for a fresh voice.

CASS

Right, gotcha. These are just my old and stale concepts. My voice is so fresh.

She breathes out and laughs at her own joke.

Winston grimaces.

Does she have bad breath? Cass casually covers her mouth and breathes into her hand, checking. Cass looks up at Winston as he frowns at her.

EXT. PATIO - VERNE'S HOME - DAY (FLASHBACK)

YOUNG CASS (9) grins from ear to ear, a drawing in hand as she skips over to...

VERNE (41), Pakeha, his face rests in a frown as he pokes the fire in the pit before him.

YOUNG CASS

Daddy! Daddy, look what I made!

Young Cass hands him the drawing. He stares at it, unimpressed.

VERNE

What's this supposed to be?

YOUNG CASS

It's us. We're playing tag together.

VERNE

I don't see us. I just see a bunch of scribbles.

YOUNG CASS
That's because we're running
really fast.

VERNE
Don't quit your day job, kid.

Verne crumples up the drawing and tosses it into the fire pit.

Cass stares at her drawing, engulfed in flames.

BACK TO SCENE

Cass' eyes grow wide as an irrational anger washes over her. She jumps to her feet and gathers her drawings.

CASS
You know what? Screw you.

WINSTON
Excuse me?

CASS
How dare you sit there and judge
me. You're what? Thirty? Give me a
break. You have your little
American hipster attitude like you
know everything.

Cass leans across the table, practically in Winston's face.

CASS
News flash - you don't! No one
knows anything! We're all faking
it. You think you know shit, but
you don't. Somewhere around
thirty-eight...

She steps back from the table, arms wide then she smacks herself in the chest for emphasis...

CASS
BAM! Like a ton of bricks drop on
you from twelve stories up.

WINSTON
I have no idea what --

Cass' eyes fill with tears.

CASS
My father carked it this morning.

WINSTON

Oh, I'm sorry, I --

CASS

Oh, I'm thrilled! I am. I don't even know why I'm crying. I mean, he was a real wanker. Believe me, I could tell you some doozies.

Cass drops back into the chair opposite Winston, confiding.

CASS

Yet, I still tried to please him because I wanted the fantasy... You know Steve Martin in "Father of the Bride." But then, out of the blue, he ghosts me. The asshole.

She covers her mouth, like she's shocked she swore.

CASS

Fuck, that's another dollar in the jar. He never even bothered to meet his grandkids. And my husband had this whole white picket fence, "Leave it to Beaver" upbringing, and can't understand why the crap that man did still bothers me.

She wipes tears from her cheeks as she catches her breath.

Winston stares at her, mouth agape.

CASS

Honestly, I should be out there celebrating that he's finally dead.

Cass stands again, chin high as she regains her composure.

CASS

Thank you for your consideration. I'm going to go now.

Cass grabs her portfolio and storms out. A stunned Winston stares after her.

END ACT TWO

ACT 3

INT. BLUE BANANA - NIGHT

Local pub. Upscale with just enough seedy to make it comfortable.

Yannick glances around as he enters.

ERNIE (40's), Indian, bartender, spots Yannick and points across the bar.

Yannick follows his gaze to...

Cass stands on a table, whiskey in hand.

She speaks to a trans prostitute, GERTRUDE (23) and a slouchy salesman, HENRY (58).

CASS

It's oppression! And people don't get how hard it is to live a normal life with that kind of damage. But, today, I'm free and I hope that bastard finally gets what he deserves! To freedom!

HENRY

Freedom!

GERTRUDE

Freedom!

Yannick helps Cass down from the table before she falls.

CASS

Yannick! These are my friends... Gertrude and Henry. They get me. They get it.

YANNICK

Nice to meet you. Uh, Cass, babe, we gotta go home now.

CASS

No... not yet.

YANNICK

Sorry, but our children need us.

CASS

Right. Our children. We should take care of them.

(whispers)

I may have blown my interview a little bit or a lot a bit.

YANNICK

Don't worry about it. You're going to have to allow yourself some time to grieve. It's a process.

CASS

I am not grieving, you're grieving. If you'd ever actually met him you would understand. Gertrude and Henry get it, you don't get it.

YANNICK

Explain it to me in the car, okay?

Yannick waves thanks to Ernie as he leads Cass out the door.

INT. GRIFFINS HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Yannick helps a very pissed Cass in through the front door.

Dana, Jasper and Olive sit, glued to the TV, pizza boxes open on the couch and coffee table.

Grover works through a pile of crusts.

Cass' phone RINGS.

CASS

That's me. I'll get it.

She wobbles as she digs through the purse still hung over her shoulder. She retrieves the phone - victorious!

The phone reads: "Mystic Dog"

YANNICK

Let it go to voicemail.

Cass rolls her eyes and steps out of Yannick's reach as she answers, full of attitude.

CASS

(into phone)

Hello, this is Cass... Hey there, Winston... what's up bro?

Yannick covers his eyes, embarrassed by proxy. Cass paces.

CASS

Un huh... yip. Uh, let me check my schedule.

Phone to her shoulder, Cass smirks at Yannick who watches, confused. She grins as she puts the phone back to her ear.

CASS
 (into phone)
 Yeah, I can squeeze that in. Cool.
 See ya.

She tosses the phone into a chair and does a happy dance.

YANNICK
 What'd he say?

CASS
 Mr. Hipster USA wants to meet
 tomorrow to discuss a new project
 he'd like me to take on. Eeeeeee!

YANNICK
 Whoa! That's fantastic.

CASS
 We need champagne!

YANNICK
 Uh, Cass, no, we don't need --

But she's gone into...

INT. GRIFFINS HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Champagne bottle and glasses in hand, Cass closes the cupboard.

VERNE (O.S.)
 Christ! You burn that pan? What am
 I thinking, of course it was you.

Cass frozen by the sound of the voice, turns slowly.

The champagne bottle and glasses SMASH onto the floor.

VERNE'S GHOST (70's) leans against the stove.

VERNE
 What's it been, kid, like ten
 years? Jesus, I thought your
 mother taught you to take better
 care of yourself. You look old.

Cass stares at him, stunned, then vomits onto the floor.

ANIMATION:

Animated characters: Cass, Yannick, Jasper, Olive, and Dana happy and laughing together.

Animated Verne appears and drops a lit bomb in front of them.
BOOM!

END OF EPISODE