

Strange Hill High

"The Curse of the Were-Teacher"

SHH-S2E03

SHOOTING SCRIPT

by

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12 STEPHANIE  
12 Ew, that sounds like, awful! 12

Stephanie looks at hers.

13 STEPHANIE  
13 A critic?!? That's the worst  
career assessment I've ever seen!  
No stars. A real disappointment. 13

Matthews looks at his.

14 MATTHEWS  
14 A psycho! A psycho! Oh wait... 14  
(reads it more carefully)

15 A psycho-logist! A psychologist! 15

The twins get theirs:

16 MIKI  
16 Toffee maker. 16

17 MIKIKO  
17 Dentist. We get to work together! 17

18 MIKI/MIKIKO  
18 Yay! 18

They high five each other. Then other kids open theirs.

19 LUCAS  
19 Prime minister. Nice. 19

20 CROYDONIA  
20 Disgraced pop star. 20

Mitchell looks around.

21 MITCHELL  
21 Looks like everyone's future suits  
their personalities. What'd you  
get, Templeton? 21

He opens his.

22 TEMPLETON  
22 Camponologist. I don't know what  
that means, though it rings a bell. 22

The **CLASS BELL RINGS.**

23 BECKY  
23 Don't you want to see what you'll  
be, Mitchell? 23

24 MITCHELL  
24 (turning over paper)  
C'mon, astronaut rapper!  
(MORE) 24

MITCHELL (cont'd)

Though I'll accept breakdancing  
fighter pilot.

He looks. Then looks horrified.

MITCHELL

25 Teacher?!?

25

**HORROR STING.**

MITCHELL

26 I can't be a teacher! That's the  
worst job in the world!

26

He looks up to see Mr. Garden standing right there.

MR. GARDEN

(cheery)

27 No worries. My dreams were crushed  
long ago.

27

**INT. HALLWAY WITH LOCKERS - MOMENTS LATER**

3

As they stand at their lockers, Mitchell is still upset.

MITCHELL

28 It must be a mistake! Yes, that's  
it. A horrible mistake.

28

He **BANGS** his head against the locker door.

MISS GRIMSHAW (OVER TANNOY)

29 No lamenting your sorry future!

29

Mitchell holds up his career test.

MITCHELL

30 They issued this somewhere in the  
school, right? We just need to  
figure out where and by who. And  
then go there and bug them.

30

BECKY

(points at Tannoy)

31 What about Miss Grimshaw? She  
hates to be bugged.

31

MITCHELL

32 Grimshaw! School secretary!  
Keeper of all records! C'mon!

32

Just then, the **CLASS BELL** rings and students head to class.

**INT. HALLWAY WITH SECRETARY'S WINDOW - MOMENTS LATER**

4

The three walk up to Grimshaw's window. It's empty.

33 BECKY  
Strange. She's not here. As if  
she vanished into thin air, gone to  
the mists of time, never to be seen  
again. 33

34 MITCHELL  
That, or she went to the staff room  
'cause there's no kids to yell at. 34

35 BECKY  
(still with air of  
mystery)  
Or that. 35

5 **INT. ANOTHER HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER** 5

Another empty hallway. Templeton points.

36 TEMPLETON  
There it is! Ye Olde Staff Room! 36

We see a pub-like sign hanging by the door that reads "The King's Mimeograph - Staff Room." A "Teachers Only" plaque is on the door. Mitchell reaches toward the door.

37 BECKY  
Mitchell, I don't know if we  
should! Pupils aren't allowed! 37

38 MITCHELL  
Too late. Knob turning. 38

He pushes the door open.

6 **INT. STAFF ROOM - THAT MOMENT** 6

There's a **LIVELY DIN** as staff (including LIBRARIAN, MISS GRACKLE, MISS GRIMSHAW and Abercrombie) sip tea, laugh and socialize. It looks like a nice pub with fireplace, old portraits of teachers, etc. COOK stands behind a bar, serving tea and cakes. Mitchell, Becky and Templeton enter.

39 MITCHELL  
Hi! So who's in charge of career  
testing around here? 39

The entire room goes **TOTALLY QUIET** as all heads pivot toward them (a la the pub scene in "American Werewolf in London".) A dart just misses a dart board (with a picture of Mitchell pinned to it.) We see Abercrombie has thrown the dart.

40 ABERCROMBIE  
Tanner! Pupils may not enter the  
staff room! 40

41	MITCHELL Too late. We just did.	41
42	ABERCROMBIE And I'm not allowed to tell you who's in charge of career testing.	42
43	We dare not speak his name.	43
44	GRIMSHAW Quiet, you fool! You've said too much already!	44
45	LIBRARIAN Yes, maybe we should send you away just like--oops now I said too much!	45
46	MISS GRACKLE Oh, I'd like to say too much, too! The person you're looking for, who's in charge of all testing is... The Deputy Head!	46
47	OTHER FACULTY (HORRIFIED GASP)	47
48	<b>LIGHTNING FLASH AND THUNDERCLAP!</b> After the flash, even the portraits on the wall have expressions of shock and horror.	48
49	MISS GRACKLE Brian Dougherty!	49
50	<b>LIGHTNING FLASH AND THUNDERCLAP!</b>	50
51	MISS GRACKLE Oh, I quite like saying too much.	51
52	MITCHELL So where is this Dougherty--	52
53	<b>VERY SHORT LIGHTNING FLASH AND THUNDERCLAP!</b>	53
54	MITCHELL -guy?	54
55	COOK Some people say he went mad from all the paperwork.	55
56	ABERCROMBIE Most people, actually.	56
57	GRIMSHAW You'll never find him. We put him away where he can't harm anyone. But can still process all the school's paperwork.	57

55 MITCHELL  
55 So he's in the school somewhere.

56 GRIMSHAW  
56 Yes. I mean, no! Uch, now I've  
said too much!

57 ABERCROMBIE  
57 Now get out, Tanner. And never set  
foot here again!

The trio start to leave. As Mitchell exits...

58 MITCHELL  
(quickly)  
58 Brian Dougherty!

**LIGHTNING FLASH AND THUNDERCLAP!**

59 MITCHELL  
59 Cool.

7 **INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER** 7

Still holding his test results, Mitchell looks around.

60 MITCHELL  
60 The Deputy Head is *somewhere* in  
this school, someplace the teachers  
don't want us going to, a place so  
scary, no one would ever dare go.

61 TEMPLETON  
61 The boys' changing room! 61

62 MITCHELL  
(eyes him, then)  
62 I'm going to ask a normal person. 62

Matthews is walking by. Mitchell stops him.

63 MITCHELL  
63 Matthews, you're easily terrified,  
right? 63

64 MATTHEWS  
(chipper)  
64 I certainly am! 64

65 MITCHELL  
65 What's the one place in the school  
that's so terrifying, you'd never  
ever go there? 65

66 MATTHEWS  
66 The fourth floor! The fourth  
floor! 66

Matthews waves his arms wildly and goes running off.

67 MITCHELL  
Fourth floor it is. 67

68 BECKY  
There's only one problem... 68

8 **EXT. SCHOOL - MOMENTS LATER** 8

69 BECKY (V.O.)  
The school only has three floors. 69

9 **INT. STAIRWELL - A FEW MINUTES LATER** 9

They come to a landing with "Third Floor" painted on the wall and a door leading to the third floor.

70 BECKY  
See, "Third Floor," we can only go  
yay high. 70

71 MITCHELL  
What about that door inside the  
door? 71

He points to the door. They were blocking it from our view before, but there is, in fact, a smaller door - with 4 written on - within the bigger door.

72 BECKY  
Oh, such a cute little door! Where  
do you lead to, widdle doory? 72

73 TEMPLETON  
(Snorty chuckle)  
That's ridiculous. A door inside a  
door can only lead to what the  
bigger door leads to-- 73

Mitchell and Becky have already OPENED the little door and are crouching through it.

74 TEMPLETON  
Hey, wait for me! I have just as  
much a right to go through  
illogical doors as anyone else! 74

He hurries through after them.

10 **INT. FOURTH FLOOR - CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS** 10

They come out into the hallway of... the fourth floor. A sign reads "Fourth Floor" in drippy, creepy writing.

Though it's the afternoon, the corridor is dark and ominous. They hear an **EERIE HUMMING SOUND**.

75 BECKY  
What's that spooky sound?! 75

As they walk, they suddenly come upon... Murdoch.

77 MITCHELL  
Uh, why? 77

We see the odd sound has been coming from his floor polisher.

79 BECKY  
Murdoch, how can you be waxing the  
floor of a storey of the school  
that doesn't supposedly exist? 79

82 MITCHELL 82  
So if you're up here - do you know  
anything about... *Brian Dougherty?*

The **LIGHTNING FLASH AND THUNDER** illuminates Murdoch's face.

83 MURDOCH  
83 You mean... the *Deputy Head*?

## LIGHTNING, FLASH AND THUNDER! Murdoch CHUCKLES

84 MURDOCH 84  
I like when it does that

85 BECKY 85  
Hs... too!

Murdoch leans in, conspiratorially.

86 MURDOCH 86  
I kinna tell ye much. But they say  
when the time is right, he roams  
this very floor, in search of new  
victims to give tests to.

As the kids start down the hall, Templeton starts to slip OS.

TEMPLETON

11 INT. FOURTH FLOOR - ANOTHER CORRIDOR 11

As Mitchell and Becky enter, Templeton goes sliding by.

90 TEMPLETON  
It's very slippery! 90

He slides off-frame. Mitchell and Becky keep walking.

92 MITCHELL  
Get him to change my destiny, duh.  
No way am I gonna become a teacher! 92

Then Templeton slides by again in the same direction.

He slides off-frame then a beat later, slides past again in the opposite direction.

94 TEMPLETON You best go on without meeeee! 94

## 12 EXT. SCHOOL - A LITTLE LATER 12

It's getting dark. A burst of **LIGHTNING** illuminates the school and for a brief moment, a shimmering fourth storey!

13 INT. ANOTHER CORRIDOR - FOURTH STOREY 13

An extra creepy corridor. Now it's just Becky and Mitchell. As they walk down the corridor, they start to notice every item, the clock, the water fountain, a pipe, etc. - each has a letter painted on it, in drippy "horror movie" style paint.

## ANGLE ON

A door at the end of the hall. It's been hastily boarded up.

## BACK TO SCENE

Mitchell and Becky rush to the door. A brass plaque reads "Brian Dougherty, Deputy Head - Please say for lightning."

98 BECKY  
(Reading) Brian Dougherty, Deputy Head. 98

Flash of lightning.

99 BECKY It's been boarded up. Like they  
99 don't want us to get in there.

100 MITCHELL  
Or they don't want whatever's in  
there to get out. 100

101 BECKY  
(hopeful) Option A, option A, option A. 101

Mitchell **KNOCKS** on the door. Nothing. But then... a **MUFFLED RATTLE OF CHAINS FROM WITHIN!**

BECKY  
(gasps)  
The dreaded Option B!

103 MITCHELL  
Here, Becks, help me get these  
boards off. 103

104 BECKY I'd've gone for "more boards on,"  
but okay. 104

With an abandoned broom handle, they **PRY** the boards off. Mitchell **KNOCKS** again.

105 MITCHELL  
Hello? 105

No reply. He turns the knob and the door **SWINGS EERILY OPEN**, revealing a darkened office.

106 MITCHELL  
I'm going to go in. You stay here and scream like crazy if anything happens. 106

107 BECKY  
Can do. 107

14 **INT. DARKENED OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER** 14

Mitchell tiptoes in, things visible only in shadow.

108 MITCHELL  
Hello? I'm here about my careers test? 108

Mitchell walks past a wall of dated career advice posters: "So you want to be a professional disco dancer?", "Be the best - Be a Chimney Sweep!", and "Ask me about a career in hat blocking". Again, a **CHAIN RATTLES**.

109 MITCHELL  
Hello chainy-chains? 109  
(no reply)  
110 Mr. Dougherty? 110

**LIGHTNING FLASH AND THUNDERCLAP!** As the lightning flashes, it illuminates a shadow of someone - or something - crouched behind the desk. It moves! Mitchell tentatively approaches.

111 MITCHELL  
Hi, my name is Mitchell Tanner? 111  
(no reply)  
112 I have a simple request: to change my career destiny? It doesn't have to be something big... maybe just "movie star"? "Hot-rod racer"? "Cool guy who does what he wants?" 112

Now there's nothing behind the desk! There's a **RATTLING OF CHAINS** behind him and Mitchell whips around to see... **A VERY HAIRY FANGED "MAN"** in a nice jumper over an untucked shirt and khaki trousers! He's looming right over Mitchell!

113 MITCHELL  
Mr. Dougherty, I presume? 113

**LIGHTNING FLASH AND THUNDER!**

114 BRIAN DOUGHERTY  
You don't have an appointment! 114

Mr. Dougherty leaps right at Mitchell (towards camera)! We hear a **BITING SOUND**.

115 BRIAN DOUGHERTY 115  
(ferocious growl and biting sound)

116 MITCHELL 116  
AAAAGGGH!

15 **EXT. OFFICE - HALLWAY - THAT MOMENT** 15

Becky hears Mitchell's **SCREAM**.

117 BECKY 117  
That's my cue!

Becky runs off.

118 BECKY 118  
(LONG SCREAM)

**END OF ACT ONE**

**ACT TWO**

16 **INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE DEPUTY HEAD'S OFFICE - SECONDS LATER** 16

Mitchell runs from the office. Mr. Dougherty charges after him, but is still attached to his chain, which leads back into the office and is **YOINKED** back.

119 BRIAN DOUGHERTY 119  
(growly disappointed sound)

17 **INT. LANDING - STAIRWELL - MOMENTS LATER** 17

Mitchell runs into the landing, catching his breath. That's when he notices it. Looking down at his hand, he sees...

**MITCHELL'S POV**

A bitemark! On the back of his hand!

**BACK TO SCENE**

120 MITCHELL 120  
I've been bitten! By a rabid teacher!

**HORROR STING!** Mitchell rubs his hand, shocked. Then he hears the **CLASS BELL** ring. As he holds his hand up to better look at it...

**MITCHELL'S POV**

His hand starts to throb. And grow hair (note: like an adult hand's hair, not a werewolf super-hairy hand.) His whole arm seems to be growing. As it extends out of his receding jacket sleeve, a nice watch appears!

121 MITCHELL (O.S.)  
What's going on?! 121

His POV shifts down to his feet. His feet are growing! His sneakers break apart, revealing a pair of sensible shoes!

122 MITCHELL (O.S.)  
No! No! It can't be-- 122  
(Distorted, deeper)  
123 Happeninnnnnnng.... 123

His eyes shut. All goes black. We hear a THUD.

DISSOLVE TO:

18 INT. GROUND FLOOR HALLWAY - A LITTLE LATER 18

The hallway's empty. Mitchell POPS UP into frame from below, rubbing his head. He looks at himself - totally normal (NOTE: whenever he transforms back, he's back to his regular, undamaged clothes.)

124 MITCHELL  
That was weird. And why am I 124  
holding a coffee mug?  
(disgusted sound)

He tosses the mug aside and walks into the nearby classroom.

19 INT. CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS 19

He enters to find all the students staring straight ahead, silent. Becky sees him and is greatly relieved.

125 BECKY  
125 Mitchell, you're all right!  
(then quickly)  
126 I went to get help but ran into 126  
this awful new substitute teacher  
who made me go straight into class  
and then he yelled at us for being  
unruly and made us sit silently and  
think about what we've done and I  
thought about how I went to get  
help but ran into this awful new  
substitute--

127 MITCHELL  
127 Where is he now (quickly) someone 127  
besides Becky?

There's no teacher in the classroom.

BISHOP  
(insulted)

128 He left. Said he had other classes  
to take care of, like I wasn't  
trouble enough, yo! 128

TYSON  
129 He made me sit in the corner and  
wear this ridiculous hat. 129

PULL BACK TO REVEAL Tyson's in the corner wearing a pointy cap that reads "DUNCE".

TYSON  
130 Good thing I can't read or I'd be  
130 considerably more insulted.

20 INT. HALLWAY - LOCKERS - MOMENTS LATER 20

At their lockers, Mitchell ponders all this with Becky.

131 BECKY  
I don't know what's worse,  
Mitchell. Your destiny to become a  
teacher or this new  
substitute...teacher. 131

Templeton slides by, across frame.

132 I'm still having a problem with  
TEMPLETON floorwax, if anyone cares. 132

133 BECKY  
Maybe later, bye! 133

A big stack of books wheels up, Samia's screen next to it.  
SAMIA (O.S./NOT O.S.)  
134 The new substitute teacher assigned 134

us five hours of homework.  
(leans out)  
In PE

136 STEPHANIE 136  
He said my attitude was, like,  
totally unacceptable which is,  
like, totally unacceptable.

137 LUCAS  
He told me if I wanted to be a  
bully, I'd have to do it somewhere  
outside of school, which totally  
defeats the purpose! 137

Gazza holds up a spray can with flowers on it.

BISHOP

138           He confiscated Gazza's spraypaint           138  
          and replaced it with air freshener.

Gazza **SPRAYS** the flowery can in the air.

The kids all sniff the lovely smell and **SIGH**. Then Mitchell pounds his fist into his other hand.

140 MITCHELL  
This guy is exactly why I hate  
teachers and never want to be one.  
What's his name, anyway? 140

141 BECKY  
Mr. Tanner. 141

## HORROR STING!

142 BECKY Hey, your last name is Tanner, too! 142  
Maybe you know him?

143 MITCHELL  
No, but if I ever see him, I'll let  
him know who's who. 143

The **CLASS BELL** rings. Mitchell's hand starts to **THROB**. Puzzled - and not sure what's happening but with an inkling it's bad - he hides it behind his back.

144 MITCHELL Uh, you go on to class. I'm going to the boys' room so I can be fashionably late. 144

Mitchell hurries to the boys' toilets.

21 INT BOYS' TOILETS - MOMENTS LATER 21

Mitchell rushes in, the transformation underway - his feet and hands are now adult size, but not yet the rest of him.

145 MITCHELL  
I always said I deserve a big hand,  
but this is ridiculous. 145

He goes up to the mirror.

146 MITCHELL  
What the heck? 146

**DRAMATIC B MOVIE TRANSFORMATION MUSIC**

**MITCHELL'S POV**

His face is ballooning up in size and he's getting a five o'clock shadow. He holds his big hands up to his big face in shock. His eyes look up to the top of his head.

**ANGLE ON THE TOP OF HIS HEAD**

His hairline's **RECEDING!** The dreads come undone and become more of a regular close-cut, receding afro.

MITCHELL

147 I'm losing my-- 147  
(voice suddenly deepens)  
148 Style! 148

He looks down.

**MITCHELL'S POV DOWN**

His stomach **EXPANDS** into a pot belly!

MITCHELL

149 No, belly, no! 149

**ON THE MIRROR**

Mitchell lurches down out of frame.

MITCHELL

150 Nooooooooo! 150

He pops up a beat later but is no longer young Mitchell. He's a stern looking middle-aged version of himself (complete with half-glasses) - **MR. TANNER!** Mr. Tanner admires himself in the mirror.

MR. TANNER

151 (deep voice)  
Who's the baddest teacher in all 151  
the land?

Matthews comes out of the bathroom stall.

MATTHEWS

152 Y-you are, sir! 152

MR. TANNER

153 Darn straight! 153

He **SNAPS** his fingers and whirls around, pointing at Matthews.

MR. TANNER

154 And you're late for class. 154  
Detention!

22 INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE TOILETS - MOMENTS LATER 22

As Mr. Tanner exits the restroom, Templeton comes sliding by.

155 MR. TANNER  
No sliding! Detention! 155

23 INT. MR. BALDING'S CLASSROOM - THE NEXT DAY 23

It's Greek history class and Mr. Tanner's subbing for Mr. Balding, writing "the Peloponnesian war" on the blackboard.

156 MR. TANNER  
The Peloponnesian war. It's  
capitalized - named after a place -  
so I want to see everyone make a  
big "P" on their paper. 156

CLASS  
(snickers)

Mr. Tanner whirls around with an incredibly angry expression.

157 MR. TANNER  
What's so funny?! 157

158 TYSON  
It sounded like you were telling us  
to relieve ourselves on our papers. 158

Tyson jitters and titters as he tries to contain his **SWEET INNOCENT CHUCKLES**. The rest of the class starts **GIGGLING**. Mr. Tanner **THROWS DOWN** his chalk in a pique.

159 MR. TANNER  
You won't find it so "funny" when  
I'm giving you a surprise quiz!  
Everyone take out a sheet of paper! 159

CLASS  
(moans)

160 MR. TANNER  
Question one: according to ancient  
Greek astrology, when was Uranus at  
its fullest? 160

161 TYSON  
(pained sounds of laughter  
suppression) 161

24 INT. ABERCROMBIE'S OFFICE - LATER 24

Abercrombie's relaxing behind his desk, enjoying a good chinwag with Mr. Tanner.



173	ABERCROMBIE	173
	Your name's not Abercrombie! Don't try to confuse me, Tanner. You're up to your old tricks, but with Mr. Tanner about, you won't be getting away with much more, Tanner!	
174	MITCHELL	174
	Am I punished or can I go?	
175	ABERCROMBIE	175
	Go! Go!	
176	(as Mitchell goes, sighs)	176
	Sometimes I think I'm seeing things. Horrible Tanner related things.	
25	<b><u>EXT. SCHOOL - PLAYGROUND - LATER</u></b>	25
	Breaktime. Mitchell, Becky and Templeton play on a domed jungle gym (climbing frame.) Mitchell's sat on top of it.	
177	MITCHELL	177
	It pains me that I can't get to the one teacher who's causing everyone such agony. It's like he runs off whenever I come.	
178	BECKY	178
	Oo, maybe he's scared of you!	
179	TEMPLETON	179
	Unlikely. He's a very scary guy. Scared the wax right off the floor. That's what stopped me from sliding.	
180	BECKY	180
	Oh, hi Templeton. I didn't notice.	
181	TEMPLETON	181
	(hurt, sarcastic)	
	Yes, my adventure's not important. A boy slides about the entire school for two days straight but that's not half as interesting as a very mean teacher or a boy who doesn't want to become a teacher!	
182	MITCHELL	182
	How'd you go to the toilet?	
183	TEMPLETON	183
	Oh, now you're interested.	

The **CLASS BELL** rings, signaling an end to breaktime. The other students run inside. Mitchell loses his balance and tumbles into the jungle gym, dangling by his giant hand.

184 MITCHELL 184  
Help! Whatever this is is  
whatevering again!

Becky and Templeton stop and turn around, coming face-to-face with Mitchell's horrible transformation (all the other students are already inside.) As Mitchell dangles from the bar, his entire body grows and transforms.

185 BECKY Eyow! What's happening to you?! 185

186 MITCHELL (gurgly transformation sounds) 186

BECKY  
187 Could you be a little clearer with  
any of those words? 187

And then, the transformation is complete. Mr. Tanner is now standing there, inside the jungle gym.

BECKY  
(gasps)  
189 Mitchell is Mr. Tanner! Mr. Tanner  
is Mitchell! Tanner, Mitchell!  
Mitchell, Tanner!  
189

At that moment, Mr. Tanner realizes he's trapped inside the jungle gym.

191 TEMPLETON 191

Becky and Templeton run off as Mr. Tanner frantically **RATTLES** the bars but can't get out.

192 BECKY  
Sorry, Mr. T - now you've got  
detention! 192

193 MR. TANNER  
Nobody calls me Mr. T! I pity the fool who disrespects me! 193

Mr. Tanner **GROWLS MADLY** as Becky and Templeton run off.

DISSOLVE TO:

26

**EXT. PLAYGROUND - A LITTLE LATER**

26

We hear the **BELL** ringing. ANGLE ON a bush. Becky and Templeton's heads rise into view from behind the bush.

**THEIR POV**

Mitchell sits inside the jungle gym, looking puzzled.

194

BECKY (O.S.)

He's turned back into Mitchell! So when the class bell rings, he turns into Mr. Tanner and when the end-of-period bells ring, he turns back to Mitchell!

194

**BACK ON BECKY AND TEMPLETON**

195

TEMPLETON

Yet, he has no idea any of this has been happening.

195

196

BECKY

We've got to confront him with the horrible truth.

196

**ON MITCHELL IN THE CLIMBING FRAME**

Becky and Templeton walk toward Mitchell.

197

BECKY

(to Templeton, discreetly)  
Remember, let's put this to him gently.

197

198

BECKY

Mitchell, you know that awful substitute teacher who's been tormenting us and is the worst person we've ever met?

198

199

MITCHELL

Yeah?

199

200

TEMPLETON

(points, ultra blunt)  
You're him.

200

201

MITCHELL

I'm Mr. Tanner?

201

202

(putting it together)

That bite from Mr. Dougherty--

202

**LIGHTNING FLASH AND THUNDER!**

203 MITCHELL  
(gasps)  
I'm a were-teacher! 203

**HORROR STING!**

204 MITCHELL  
This could not be more awful. 204

Just then Abercrombie walks out.

205 ABERCROMBIE  
Where is that delightful Mr. 205  
Tanner? He's my best friend in the  
whole world.

206 MITCHELL  
Nooooooooo! 206

**DOUBLE HORROR STING!**

**END OF ACT TWO**

**ACT THREE**

27 **INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER** 27

The trio are horrified as they walk down the hall.

207 MITCHELL  
Of all the monsters, I have to be a 207  
were-teacher. Ugh!

208 BECKY  
It's pretty much the lamest of all 208  
monsters. Even Thankenstein.

209 TEMPLETON  
You mean that monster who always 209  
says "Thank you"?  
(shivers)

They pass Grimshaw's window, where she chats with Miss Grackle.

210 GRIMSHAW  
He's the manliest teacher I've ever 210  
laid my beady eyes on. Mr.  
Tanner's a real hottie!

The ladies **GIGGLE**. Becky, Templeton and Mitchell's faces go from horrified to truly aghast.

211 MITCHELL/BECKY/TEMPLETON  
(gagging repulsed sounds) 211

212 MITCHELL  
This just went from highly annoying to a matter of extreme urgency. 212

213 BECKY  
Yes, we must do something before the bell rings ag--- 213

The **CLASS BELL** rings, we do a CLOCK MOVING FORWARD 45 MINUTES TRANSITION and we hear the **END-OF-PERIOD BELLS**. We are...

28 **INT. CLASSROOM - 45 MINUTES LATER** 28

Mitchell rubs his head and rises up from behind the desk to see Becky and Templeton, wearing dunce caps, glaring at him.

214 MITCHELL  
Uh-oh. Did I -er, Mr. Tanner, give you detention? 214

215 BECKY  
Uh-huh, but worse - you gave yourself doublesuperhorrible detention for always missing class! 215

216 TEMPLETON  
And you said if you showed up, we should tell you what you said you'd do to you if you ever saw you. 216

217 MITCHELL  
I did, did I? Well, I'm a big jerk and I've got to stop me before my reign of terror goes too far. 217

218 BECKY  
Yes, before you end up like Mr. Dougherty! 218

**THUNDERCLAP AND LIGHTNING!** Mitchell **SNAPS** his fingers.

219 MITCHELL  
That's it - Mr. D! 219

**VERY SMALL THUNDERCLAP AND LIGHTNING.**

220 MITCHELL  
We'll talk to him! He must know a way out of this. 220

221 BECKY  
Okay, but let's stop saying his name. I have a headache. 221

They head to a stairwell.



232 ABERCROMBIE (OVER TANNOY) 232  
Attention. I'd like to invite Mr.  
Tanner to my office at 3:30 for a  
very special secret ceremony, er, I  
mean "normal meeting", and I'd like  
to tell the rest of the school that  
they had better be on their best  
behaviour. Change is afoot!

Becky and Mitchell look alarmed.

233 BECKY 233  
Mitchell, Abercrombie's going to  
have you sign a permanent teacher's  
contract!

234 TEMPLETON 234  
Or, change one of his feet!

235 MITCHELL 235  
I've got to get rid of the curse  
now! It's the only way to defeat  
Mr. Tanner.

236 TEMPLETON 236  
And Abercrombie's smelly feet.

237 MITCHELL 237  
Mr. Dougherty-

238 BRIAN DOUGHERTY 238  
(matter of fact)  
Aroo?

239 MITCHELL 239  
Is there any way?

240 BRIAN DOUGHERTY 240  
There is, but you must do it before  
the were-teacher signs that  
contract. When pen touches paper,  
you're doomed forever! I'll tell  
you how... if you release me.

241 BECKY 241  
Unchain you?

242 BRIAN DOUGHERTY 242  
Yeah. Yeah yeah yeah. Yes.

Excited, Mr. Dougherty furiously **SCRATCHES** his head with his  
hind leg. The trio exchange glances.

243 BECKY 243  
I don't know. We've done a lot of  
things these last few months that  
aren't very good ideas--

Mitchell is already wielding a giant Mallet. He brings it down... We hear a mighty **METALLIC CRACK!** The chains break. Dougherty smiles.

And then he leaps off his desk and out an open window. We hear Mr. Dougherty's **WOLF HOWL** recede into the distance.

MITCHELL

He picks up a nearby skeletal hand and scratches his head with it.

247 MITCHELL 247  
I've got it! If we can trick Mr.  
Tanner into looking really bad,  
Abercrombie will fire him on the  
spot and he-I can never become a  
permanent teacher!

248 BECKY Brilliant! Stop pointing that  
skeleton hand at me, but brilliant! 248

249 MITCHELL  
We'll set it up for the special 249  
meeting in 'Crombie's office.

Becky suddenly looks concerned.

250 BECKY  
250 But wait... how can you trick  
250 yourself?

251 MITCHELL  
Easy. I'm not so smart. 251

Mitchell looks determined.

252 MITCHELL 252  
But I'm going to need your help.  
Now the last class bell of the day  
rings at three-thirty, right?  
That's when the meeting begins....

CUT TO:

It's 3:27. PULL OUT TO REVEAL we are...

31

INT. ABERCROMBIE'S OFFICE - THAT MOMENT

31

It's darkened, creepy. Abercrombie has just lit a candle.

253

ABERCROMBIE  
(evil laugh)

253

PULL FURTHER OUT to see he's just lit a candle on a nice tableclothed table that contains an old parchment, old-fashioned quill in an inkstand and two wine glasses. And a plate of chocolate-dipped strawberries. He admires it all. Grimshaw is also there.

254

GRIMSHAW  
Is this a contract signing ceremony  
or a romantic get-together?

254

255

ABERCROMBIE  
I don't see why it can't be a  
little of both. We're all very  
fond of Mr. Tanner, aren't we?

255

256

GRIMSHAW  
I'm not here to look at you, that's  
for sure.

256

The **BELL RINGS**.

257

ABERCROMBIE  
(giddy)  
Oo, I'm so excited! He'll be here  
any minute! I'll finally have a  
full-time friend!

257

258

(shoos Grimshaw off)  
Quick! Get ready for your role!

258

Grimshaw walks off, clucking her tongue. As she exits, Mr. Tanner enters. Abercrombie **APPLAUDS** him.

259

ABERCROMBIE  
Welcome, welcome to the newest  
addition to our faculty!

259

260

MR. TANNER  
Yeah, yeah, let's just sign this  
thing and get it over with. I  
gotta lotta kids to yell at before  
they go home.

260

261

ABERCROMBIE  
But the signing of a teacher's  
contract is a sacred tradition at  
Strange Hill, plus I hand-dipped  
strawberries!

261

He holds up the strawberries. Mr. Tanner brushes them aside.

262 MR. TANNER  
I don't like things that taste  
good. 262

263 ABERCROMBIE  
Oh... 263  
(quickly)  
264 please can we at least perform the  
song I wrote for you? 264

265 MR. TANNER  
Fine. But it better not be any  
good, I don't like music either. 265

266 ABERCROMBIE  
Oh, you're in luck, then! 266

He raises his hands like a conductor and a movie screen  
unfolds behind him.

267 ABERCROMBIE  
Introducing, the Misses G! 267

Grimshaw and Grackle walk in, dressed like a 50's girl group.

268 ABERCROMBIE  
(to ladies)  
Don't wreck this up! A'one and'a  
two and'a three... 268

As we hear the **OPENING STRAINS OF MUSIC** (a song reminiscent  
of "To Sir, With Love") an image of Mr. Tanner appears on the  
screen. As they sing, we see various photos of Mr. Tanner.

269 MISS GRIMSHAW  
The Strange Hill days of running  
around and acting the clown are  
done. / Because there's now a man  
who knows how to crack down on fun. 269

270 MISS GRACKLE  
How do you thank someone who gives  
detention all afternoon? 270

Abercrombie joins them.

271 ABERCROMBIE/MISS GRIMSHAW/MISS GRACKLE  
It's not easy, but we'll try! 271

272 ABERCROMBIE  
If you run from this guy he'll show  
you why / he's the scariest man  
since Captain Bligh. 272

273 ABERCROMBIE/GRIMSHAW/GRACKLE  
To Mr. Tanner, with loooooooooove! 273

Behind them, we see a lovely photo of Abercrombie with his arm fondly around Mr Tanner. They finish with a flourish. Mr. Tanner **APPLAUDS** stoically.

274 MR. TANNER  
That was just terrible enough for  
me to appreciate it. 274

32 INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE ABERCROMBIE'S OFFICE - THAT MOMENT 32

Becky is listening in, holding a walkie-talkie.

275 BECKY (INTO WALKIE-TALKIE)  
Stand by for Tanner Time! 275

## ANGLE ON TEMPLETON

He's somewhere else, listening to the walkie-talkie.

276 TEMPLETON Ready for Hammer Time with the  
Tanner Time! 276

REVEAL Templeton's standing on a ladder by the class bell in the hallway, holding the mallet from Mr. Dougherty's office.

## BACK IN ABERCROMBIE'S OFFICE

Abercrombie gestures to the document, ink bottle and pen next to the podium. The document is ancient and foreboding.

277 ABERCROMBIE Before you sign this contract, I  
was wondering if you'd like to say  
a few words? 277

MR. TANNER  
(considers)  
Maybe three or four... 278

ON BECKY

She's got the walkie-talkie to her mouth.

279 BECKY Tanner Time! End period bell, go! 279

## IN THE CORRIDOR BELOW THE BELL

Templeton holds the mallet up and taps the bell repeatedly to give it the **END OF PERIOD RINGS**.

## BACK IN ABERCROMBIE'S OFFICE

We hear the **BELL RING**. Mr. Abercrombie looks **OS**, puzzled.

280 MR. TANNER  
And those words are-- 280

Suddenly, Mr. Tanner's head begins to morph to Mitchell's.

281 MITCHELL --wiggity wiggity, beepity bool, 281  
I'm not signing anything, you  
creepity fool!

ABERCROMBIE

Mr. Abercrombie squints at Mitchell/Mr. Tanner.

ABERCROMBIE  
283      Mitchell?! I'm seeing things!      283

He shakes his head rapidly as if to shake it off.

## ON BECKY

She's now peering into Abercrombie's office. She whispers loudly back into the walkie-talkie.

## ON TEMPLETON

Templeton swings the mallet.

## IN ABERCROMBIE'S OFFICE

We hear the **CLASS BELL**. Mitchell's head transforms back to Mr. Tanner.

ABERCROMBIE  
Ah, that's better. 285

286 MR. TANNER 286  
As I was saying, the most important  
thing as a fulltime teacher is--

## ON BECKY

287 BECKY (INTO WALKIE-TALKIE)  
End of period bells! 287

## IN ABERCROMBIE'S OFFICE

The **END OF PERIOD BELLS** ring. Mitchell's head and arms appear on top of Mr. Tanner's body.

288 MITCHELL The most important thing is to  
boogie 'til your body drops! Do  
the funky chicken! Qwaack! 288

He does some funky moves with his hands then walks over and grabs Abercrombie, spinning him around in a dance move.

ABERCROMBIE  
289 Mr. Tanner! I'm your friend, but 289  
this is ridiculous! Stop it at  
once!

**ANGLE ON GRIMSHAW AND GRACKLE**

GRIMSHAW  
(indignant/hurt)  
290 Of all the people in this room, he 290  
chooses *him* to dance with!

**BACK ON ABERCROMBIE AND MR. TANNER**

**CLASS BELL!** Mr. Tanner's head comes back. He notices he's dancing with Abercrombie.

MR. TANNER  
291 What the devil? 291

Tanner unhands Abercrombie. Abercrombie looks embarrassed.

ABERCROMBIE  
292 Er, um, perhaps we should proceed 292  
with the signing of the contract.

MR. TANNER  
293 Uh, yeah? 293

Abercrombie hands Tanner the pen. Looking through the door, Becky's alarmed.

BECKY (INTO WALKIE-TALKIE)  
294 End of period bells, quick! 294

**33 INT. CORRIDOR - THAT MOMENT 33**

Templeton swings the mallet hard, too hard in fact! The swing causes him and the ladder to spin around and **TOPPLE OVER** before ever hitting the bell! As he recovers, Templeton looks at the ladder - it's shattered! He looks up at the bell. It's way beyond his reach!

TEMPLETON  
295 Oh dear. 295

**34 INT. ABERCROMBIE'S OFFICE - THAT MOMENT 34**

Mr. Tanner carefully dips the pen in the inkwell then taps off the excess ink. Looking in, Becky's growing alarmed.

296 BECKY (INTO WALKIE-TALKIE)  
He's about to sign! Mitchell's  
about to become Mr. Tanner forever!  
I need ringy-dingy now! 296

35 INT. CORRIDOR - THAT MOMENT 35

Templeton is hopelessly trying to leap up and reach the bell  
with the mallet. No luck.

297 TEMPLETON  
Oh, I'm a terrible bell ringer. 297  
(slumps on floor)  
298 I may as well just resign myself to  
being, what was it-a camponologist? 298

Samia wheels by.

299 SAMIA  
A camponologist *is* a bell ringer. 299

300 TEMPLETON  
(big like in "Big Mouth"  
dining hall scene)  
Whuuuh? 300

He leaps up with newfound enthusiasm.

36 INT. ABERCROMBIE'S OFFICE - SECONDS LATER 36

Abercrombie and Mr. Tanner are both leaning over the  
parchment intently as Mr. Tanner's about to sign...

301 ABERCROMBIE  
Sign it sign it sign it sign it... 301

But suddenly the **BELL STARTS RINGING LIKE CRAZY**. And Mr.  
Tanner starts MORPHING BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN MITCHELL AND  
MR. TANNER IN A CRAZY FASHION AND IN CRAZY INCARNATIONS -  
Mitchell's head, Tanner's body/Tanner's head, Mitchell's  
body, etc.

**ON ABERCROMBIE, GRIMSHAW & GRACKLE**

They **SCREAM** in horror.

302 ABERCROMBIE/GRIMSHAW/GRACKLE  
(horrified scream) 302

And the bells **KEEP PLAYING LIKE CRAZY**.

37

INT. CORRIDOR - THAT MOMENT

37

With hands a'flyin', Templeton's leaping in the air and playing the **BELL LIKE A MAESTRO**. Other kids have gathered to watch him.

303

STEPHANIE

Those bells are, like, totally tubular.

303

38

INT. ABERCROMBIE'S OFFICE - THAT MOMENT

38

As the **TUBULAR BELLS** continues, crazy morphing Mitchell/Mr. Tanner turns his head all the way around 180 degrees to face Abercrombie, a la "The Exorcist". It's Mitchell's head but with Mr. Tanner's deep voice.

304

MITCHELL (A LA TANNER)

How you like me now, Abercrombie?!

304

305

ABERCROMBIE

(high-pitched scream then)  
I don't like what you're doing one bit! It's all so... Mitchelly!  
Stop it at once!

305

306

MITCHELL (A LA TANNER)

I'll never stop tormenting you!

306

307

ABERCROMBIE

Stop it! Stop it! Stop it!  
You're fired! Forever! Get out!

307

In a pique, Abercrombie **RIPS UP** the contract. As he tears it up, little **SPARKLES** fly off the torn paper and dissipate. As this happens, all the Mr. Tanner parts disappear, leaving Mitchell standing there, smiling up at Abercrombie. Then...

308

MITCHELL

Ooh, chocolate dipped strawberries!

308

Exasperated, Abercrombie points to the door, "Get out!"

39

INT. CORRIDOR - A FEW MINUTES LATER

39

Mitchell and Becky run up to an exhausted Templeton.

309

BECKY

We did it! We broke the curse!

309

310

(even more excited)  
And we got chocolate-dipped strawberries!

310

She holds up the plate of strawberries. They tuck in.

311 MITCHELL  
And we might've driven Abercrombie  
nuts, to boot. That's a plus! 311

40 INT. ABERCROMBIE'S OFFICE - A LITTLE LATER 40

Abercrombie sits at his desk, looking sad. He picks up a framed photo of him with his arm around Mr. Tanner. He **SIGHS**. From under the desk, we see Mr. Dougherty, who curls up at his feet. Absentmindedly, Abercrombie pets him.

312 ABERCROMBIE  
Ah, that's nice. 312

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF EPISODE