

Strange Hill High

"The Curse of the Were-Teacher"

SHH-S2E03

SHOOTING SCRIPT

by

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FADE IN:

1 EXT. STRANGE HILL HIGH - FRONT ENTRANCE - MORNING 1

MURDOCH is hanging a "CAREER DAY" banner over the entrance. Just then, ABERCROMBIE jauntily walks out, knocking into the ladder, sending Murdoch plummeting down on top of him.

MURDOCH/ABERCROMBIE

(moan)

1 I need a new career. 1

2 INT. MR. GARDEN'S CLASS - LATER 2

MR. GARDEN is holding a stack of official looking print-outs.

MR. GARDEN

2 Okay class, test time. 2

MITCHELL

3 We have a test today?! 3

MR. GARDEN

4 No, these are test results. 4

MITCHELL

5 We had a test yesterday?! 5

MR. GARDEN

6 No, this is a test the school did. 6

MITCHELL

7 Ha! Take that, school! 7

MR. GARDEN

8 A test to determine your future careers. Using scientific methods, they're able to determine what job you're most suited for and where you'll be working in 10-20 years. 8

MITCHELL

9 I have to work in 10-20 years? Why 9
 didn't anyone tell me? I'd have
 left this planet long ago. C'mon,
 astronaut...

Mr. Garden walks down the aisles handing out the papers.
Becky gets her results.

BECKY

10 Oh boy, I'm going to be a voice- 10
over actress for kids' tv shows!

(actual Stephanie voice)

11 And now, I'm like, the mean girl? 11

12 STEPHANIE 12
 Ew, that sounds like, awful!

Stephanie looks at hers.

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

Matthews looks at his.

14 MATTHEWS 14
 A psycho! A psycho! Oh wait...
 (reads it more carefully)
15 A psycho-logist! A psychologist! 15

The twins get theirs:

16 MIKI 16
 Toffee maker.

17 MIKIKO 17
 Dentist. We get to work together!

18 MIKI/MIKIKO 18
 Yay!

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

19 LUCAS 19
 Prime minister. Nice.

20 CROYDONIA 20
 Disgraced pop star.

Mitchell looks around.

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

He opens his.

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

The **CLASS BELL RINGS.**

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

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

MITCHELL (cont'd)
Though I'll accept breakdancing
fighter pilot.

He looks. Then looks horrified.

25 MITCHELL
Teacher?! 25

HORROR STING.

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

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

27 MR. GARDEN
(cheery)
No worries. My dreams were crushed 27
long ago.

3 **INT. HALLWAY WITH LOCKERS - MOMENTS LATER** 3

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

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

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

29 MISS GRIMSHAW (OVER TANNOY)
No lamenting your sorry future! 29

Mitchell holds up his career test.

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

31 BECKY
(points at Tannoy)
What about Miss Grimshaw? She 31
hates to be bugged.

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

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

4 **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 33
she vanished into thin air, gone to
the mists of time, never to be seen
again.

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

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 37
should! Pupils aren't allowed!

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 39
testing around here?

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 40
staff room!

41 MITCHELL 41
Too late. We just did.

42 ABERCROMBIE 42
And I'm not allowed to tell you
43 who's in charge of career testing. 43
We dare not speak his name.

44 GRIMSHAW 44
Quiet, you fool! You've said too
much already!

45 LIBRARIAN 45
Yes, maybe we should send you away
just like-oops now I said too much!

46 MISS GRACKLE 46
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!

47 OTHER FACULTY 47
(HORRIFIED GASP)

LIGHTNING FLASH AND THUNDERCLAP! After the flash, even the
portraits on the wall have expressions of shock and horror.

48 MISS GRACKLE 48
Brian Dougherty!

LIGHTNING FLASH AND THUNDERCLAP!

49 MISS GRACKLE 49
Oh, I quite like saying too much.

50 MITCHELL 50
So where is this Dougherty--

VERY SHORT LIGHTNING FLASH AND THUNDERCLAP!

51 MITCHELL 51
-guy?

52 COOK 52
Some people say he went mad from
all the paperwork.

53 ABERCROMBIE 53
Most people, actually.

54 GRIMSHAW 54
You'll never find him. We put him
away where he can't harm anyone.
But can still process all the
school's paperwork.

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 58
(quickly)
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!

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

Matthews is walking by. Mitchell stops him.

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

64 MATTHEWS 64
(chipper)
I certainly am!

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

66 MATTHEWS 66
The fourth floor! The fourth
floor!

87 BECKY 87
They sure say a lot, these people
who say things.

88 MURDOCH 88
Aye. Even I am afraid to roam too
far on this floor. So be careful!
And be warned: it's slippery!

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

89 TEMPLETON 89
Whoop!

11 **INT. FOURTH FLOOR - ANOTHER CORRIDOR** 11

As Mitchell and Becky enter, Templeton goes sliding by.

90 TEMPLETON 90
It's very slippery!

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

91 BECKY 91
What are you going to do if you
find this guy?

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

Then Templeton slides by again in the same direction.

93 TEMPLETON 93
This is a bit of a predicament.

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

94 TEMPLETON 94
You best go on without meeeee!

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.

95 BECKY 95
Why does the clock have a "D" on
it? And this wall - "C+"? And the
water fountain "NO WATER F minus
See me."

96 (gasps) 96
Everything's been graded!

97 MITCHELL 97
We must be getting close. There!

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 98
(Reading)
Brian Dougherty, Deputy Head.

Flash of lightning.

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

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

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

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

102 BECKY 102
(gasps)
The dreaded Option B!

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

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

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

105 MITCHELL 105
Hello?

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

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

107 BECKY 107
Can do.

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

Mitchell tiptoes in, things visible only in shadow.

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

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 109
Hello chainy-chains?
(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 111
Hi, my name is Mitchell Tanner?
(no reply)
112 I have a simple request: to change 112
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?"

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 113
Mr. Dougherty, I presume?

LIGHTNING FLASH AND THUNDER!

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

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

115 BRIAN DOUGHERTY
(ferocious growl and biting sound) 115

116 MITCHELL
AAAAGGGH! 116

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

Becky hears Mitchell's **SCREAM**.

117 BECKY
That's my cue! 117

Becky runs off.

118 BECKY
(LONG SCREAM) 118

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
(growly disappointed sound) 119

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

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!

MITCHELL (O.S.)
121 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!

	MITCHELL (O.S.)	
122	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.)

MITCHELL
124 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.

BECKY
125 Mitchell, you're all right! 125
(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--

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 128
to take care of, like I wasn't
trouble enough, yo!

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

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.

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

Templeton slides by, across frame.

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

BECKY
133 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)
135 In PE. 135

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

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

Gazza holds up a spray can with flowers on it.

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

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

139 BISHOP 139
Nobody wants gra-frutti, yo!

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

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

141 BECKY 141
Mr. Tanner.

HORROR STING!

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

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

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

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

He goes up to the mirror.

146 MITCHELL 146
What the heck?!

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

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. Detention!	154

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 156
 capitalized - named after a place -
 so I want to see everyone make a
 big "P" on their paper.

 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 158
 to relieve ourselves on our papers.

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 159
 I'm giving you a surprise quiz!
 Everyone take out a sheet of paper!

 CLASS
 (moans)

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

161 TYSON
 (pained sounds of laughter 161
 suppression)

24 **INT. ABERCROMBIE'S OFFICE - LATER** 24

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

162 ABERCROMBIE 162
I tell you, everything's getting
into ship-shape since you appeared.

163 MR. TANNER 163
I'm just pleased to see the
children so fearful.

164 ABERCROMBIE 164
A man after my own heart. Can I
get you a drink? We have... apple
juice.

165 MR. TANNER 165
Water. Luke warm.

Abercrombie turns away from Mr. Tanner to pour him a drink
from a pitcher on a cabinet. Outside, the **END OF PERIOD
BELLS RING.**

166 ABERCROMBIE 166
You know, I could really use
someone I trust around here,
fulltime. There are certain
students I feel like if I turn my
back on them for one second--

He turns back...

167 ABERCROMBIE 167
 (then looks down, shocked)
Tanner?!

Mitchell's now sitting in the chair where Mr. Tanner sat.

168 MITCHELL 168
 (confused)
What the devil am I doing here?

169 ABERCROMBIE 169
That's what I'm supposed to say!
And what have you done with my
friend Mr. Tanner, Tanner?!

170 MITCHELL 170
Mr. Tanner was here?

171 ABERCROMBIE 171
Yes, Mr. Tanner, Tanner! I don't
know any other Mr. Tanner, do you,
Tanner? Tanner?

172 MITCHELL 172
Does it strike you as odd that we
have the same last name?

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!
 (as Mitchell goes, sighs)
176 Sometimes I think I'm seeing 176
things. Horrible Tanner related
things.

25 **EXT. SCHOOL - PLAYGROUND - LATER** 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
Help! Whatever this is is 184
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

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

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

188 MR. TANNER
Hey, what are you kids doing?! 188
Breaktime is over!

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

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

190 MR. TANNER
Hey, let me out of here! 190
(extra-angry growls)

191 TEMPLETON
Run! 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 192
detention!

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

LIGHTNING FLASH AND THUNDER!

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

HORROR STING!

MITCHELL
204 This could not be more awful. 204
Just then Abercrombie walks out.

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

MITCHELL
206 Noooooooooo! 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.

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

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

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

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

GRIMSHAW
210 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

217 MITCHELL 217
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.

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

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

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

VERY SMALL THUNDERCLAP AND LIGHTNING.

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

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

They head to a stairwell.

29 **INT. FOURTH FLOOR - HALLWAY/DOUGHERTY'S OFFICE - MINUTE LATER**

The trio cautiously approach the Deputy Head's office and enter. It's dark. Becky shines a torch to reveal Mr. Dougherty, still chained, sitting hunched atop his desk, gnawing feverishly on a giant bone.

222 BRIAN DOUGHERTY
Oh, hi, kids. Come in. I'm just 222
doing some work.
 (furious gnawing sounds)

 TEMPLETON
 (points at bone)
223 That's not a-- 223

 BRIAN DOUGHERTY
224 Person? Oh my, no. Just a horse. 224

 MITCHELL
225 Anyhoo... When you bit me, you 225
turned me into a were-teacher. We
need to know if there's a cure.

 BRIAN DOUGHERTY
226 Depends. What type of teacher do 226
you become?

 MITCHELL
227 A substitute. 227

 BRIAN DOUGHERTY
228 Ah, then you're in luck. A 228
substitute were-teacher only has a
temporary curse. According to
legend, and School Board mandated
policy, as long as said teacher
does not sign a *permanent* contract
with the school, the curse will
wear off.

 MITCHELL
229 Great! How long 'til it wears off? 229

 BRIAN DOUGHERTY
230 Not too long. Ten years, max. 230

 MITCHELL
231 Ten years?!! I don't want to be a 231
teacher for ten... is there
anything shorter than a second?

Just then, a cobwebby old Tannoy **CRACKLES TO LIFE**, sending a dazed rat flying out.

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.

244 BRIAN DOUGHERTY 244
Some day, I'll repay you for this.

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

245 BECKY 245
Now how will we defeat Mr. Tanner?!

246 MITCHELL 246
Let me think.

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

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

Becky suddenly looks concerned.

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

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

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:

30 **CLOSE-UP - CLOCK** 30

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 253
 (evil laugh)

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 254
 Is this a contract signing ceremony
 or a romantic get-together?

255 ABERCROMBIE 255
 I don't see why it can't be a
 little of both. We're all very
 fond of Mr. Tanner, aren't we?

256 GRIMSHAW 256
 I'm not here to look at you, that's
 for sure.

The **BELL RINGS**.

257 ABERCROMBIE 257
 (giddy)
 Oo, I'm so excited! He'll be here
 any minute! I'll finally have a
 full-time friend!
 (shoos Grimshaw off)
258 Quick! Get ready for your role! 258

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

259 ABERCROMBIE 259
 Welcome, welcome to the newest
 addition to our faculty!

260 MR. TANNER 260
 Yeah, yeah, let's just sign this
 thing and get it over with. I
 gotta lotta kids to yell at before
 they go home.

261 ABERCROMBIE 261
 But the signing of a teacher's
 contract is a sacred tradition at
 Strange Hill, *plus I hand-dipped*
 strawberries!

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

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

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

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

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

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

267 ABERCROMBIE 267
Introducing, the Misses G!

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

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

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 269
*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.*

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

Abercrombie joins them.

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

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

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

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 274
me to appreciate it.

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 276
Tanner Time!

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 277
was wondering if you'd like to say
a few words?

278 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 280
And those words are--

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

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

282 ABERCROMBIE 282
What the--?!

Mr. Abercrombie squints at Mitchell/Mr. Tanner.

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

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.

284 BECKY (INTO WALKIE-TALKIE) 284
Again! Back to class bell!

ON TEMPLETON

Templeton swings the mallet.

IN ABERCROMBIE'S OFFICE

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

285 ABERCROMBIE 285
Ah, that's better.

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

ON BECKY

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

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

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

35 INT. CORRIDOR - THAT MOMENT 35

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

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

Samia wheels by.

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

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

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

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 302
(horrified scream)

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

[illegible]

STEPHANIE
303 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.

MITCHELL (A LA TANNER)
304 How you like me now, Abercrombie?! 304

ABERCROMBIE
(high-pitched scream then)
305 I don't like what you're doing one 305
bit! It's all so... Mitchelly!
Stop it at once!

MITCHELL (A LA TANNER)
306 I'll never stop tormenting you! 306

ABERCROMBIE

307 Stop it! Stop it! Stop it! 307
You're fired! Forever! Get out!

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...

MITCHELL
308 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.

BECKY

309 We did it! We broke the curse! 309
(even more excited)

310 And we got chocolate-dipped 310
strawberries!

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

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

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 312
Ah, that's nice.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF EPISODE