

WELCOME TO OUR VILLAGE, PLEASE INVADE CAREFULLY

Episode 2.1 – ‘Questioning Loyalties’

by

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EXT. PARK

F/X: LAWRENCE, THE PARK KEEPER (40s), JANGLES HIS KEYS AS HE PREPARES TO UNLOCK A SHED.

KATRINA: Don't open that shed!

LAWRENCE: Hello Katrina. How's your mum and dad?

KATRINA: Oh, you know, they're normal. Completely normal. Why wouldn't they be?

LAWRENCE: Must be a bit funny, living with them again, staying in your old bedroom, now you're 34!

KATRINA: Yes, it's hilarious. In fact it's one of the very funniest things about being trapped in a village that's been invaded by aliens and cut off from the outside world.

LAWRENCE: Isn't it strange how life turns out.

KATRINA: It's stranger than I expected, Lawrence, yes, I'll give you that.

LAWRENCE: Anyway, I need to get on and mow this grass.

KATRINA: No you don't! Put your feet up. I'll do it.

LAWRENCE: But you don't know how to drive the ride-on mower.

KATRINA: Yes I do.

LAWRENCE: Really?

KATRINA: Yes. When I lived in London I drove a ride-on mower every day.

LAWRENCE: I thought you worked for an educational charity.

KATRINA: I did.

LAWRENCE: So why were you driving a ride-on mower every day?

KATRINA: (BEAT) Because... they're... exempt from the Congestion Charge.

LAWRENCE: I'll have to remember that next time I'm down.

KATRINA: Yes, you will. Although by then the entire planet will probably have been invaded by aliens, seeing as how Lucy and I are the only ones trying to stop them.

LAWRENCE: Oh, I expect it'll all blow over.

KATRINA: Yes, probably, I'm sure it's nothing to worry about. So if you want to pop along, I'll get on and mow this grass for you.

LAWRENCE: No, you're all right, I want to do it. Until this alien invasion business, I hadn't realised just how much of my sense of identity was bound up with keeping this park looking tidy.

F/X: LAWRENCE STARTS UNLOCKING THE SHED.

KATRINA: Lawrence! No –

F/X: AND HE OPENS THE SHED DOOR.

LAWRENCE: Good lord!

LUCY: This isn't what it looks like.

MINION: (ALIEN PATHETIC HELP)

LAWRENCE: It looks like you're holding one of the lower-ranking aliens hostage.

LUCY: Oh! That's alright then. I was afraid it looked like we were doing some kind of bondage game.

LAWRENCE: That never entered my mind.

LUCY: Phew. Yeah, we are holding him hostage.

MINION: (ALIEN WHINE)

LAWRENCE: I'm reporting this to their leader.

KATRINA: No, don't do that.

LAWRENCE: I just don't want to get involved.

F/X: LAWRENCE STRIDES AWAY.

KATRINA: You can't opt out of being invaded!

LAWRENCE: (OFF) Sorry Katrina. See you at the pub quiz tonight?

KATRINA: Yes, I'll be there. (TO LUCY) Great. What do we do now?

LUCY: Go for a ride on the lawnmower?

KATRINA: (BEAT) May as well.

MINION: (ALIEN ME TOO?)

KATRINA: No, not you too.

INT. ULJABAAN'S HOUSE

F/X: USUAL AMBIANCE.

MARGARET: Now, Mr Uljabaan, I wondered if I might raise some of the residents' issues with you.

ULJABAAN: Fine, Margaret, but I'm not promising to do anything about them. In fact, I can't promise I'll listen. When I hear anything about the problems of lesser life forms I tend to tune out.

MARGARET: (BEAT) Right.

ULJABAAN: No offence.

MARGARET: If you say so. Now. Linda Morgan is pregnant.

ULJABAAN: Really?

MARGARET: I know, it's such good news. They've been trying for years.

ULJABAAN: Computer?

COMPUTER: Yes?

ULJABAAN: Make a note – it seems those chemicals we put in the humans' tap water have had the opposite effect.

COMPUTER: Noted.

MARGARET: What chemicals?

ULJABAAN: So, she's pregnant, what am I supposed to do, send her some amateurishly-made infant's clothing?

MARGARET: Er, no – she just needs a medical check-up. Can your Computer do that?

COMPUTER: Yes, I can. I can also project a hologram of a man in a white coat with a soothing manner and nice eyes.

ULJABAAN: Next issue, please.

MARGARET: Yes – item two, everyone in the village has run out of salt and would like you to get some more in.

ULJABAAN: There's enough salt in the food you already eat, you know. There's no need to add more.

MARGARET: We know. But we like it.

ULJABAAN: I'll consider the matter. Anything else?

MARGARET: Andrew Milway has lost his back door key.

ULJABAAN: He doesn't need to lock it. If anyone breaks into his house, there's a limited list of suspects.

MARGARET: But that's the problem – it's locked. He can only get into his back garden by going round the side.

ULJABAAN: So what does he want me to do?

MARGARET: He wants you to make and fit a new back door.

ULJABAAN: (BEAT) Is this a ruse to get me to double-glaze his house for him?

MARGARET: He showed me the door, it is definitely locked.

ULJABAAN: Computer, put his house under surveillance for two weeks. See if he opens the back door.

COMPUTER: Noted.

MARGARET: There is one other very minor concern – you know the pear tree Leonard and Beth Alexander have in their front garden?

ULJABAAN: No.

MARGARET: Could you order them to cut it down please?

ULJABAAN: Why?

MARGARET: Because I loathe it.

ULJABAAN: Interesting. Do you loathe all pear trees, or just this one?

MARGARET: There are two branches that overhang the pavement, and they never pick the pears so every autumn they fall on the path and everyone treads them in. It's a hazard.

ULJABAAN: Have to say, it doesn't sound like that much of an issue.

MARGARET: Do you know why we didn't win Best Kept Village In Buckinghamshire in 2003?

ULJABAAN: Because there was at least one village in Buckinghamshire that was better kept than this one?

MARGARET: Because of those pears. I told them to clean them up but oh no. Honestly, what is the point of creating a floral centrepiece on the village green in the shape of Tim Henman if there's a slick of rotten pear mulch two streets away?

ULJABAAN: I sympathise, but as you're not going to be entering Best Kept Village In Buckinghamshire any time soon, it seems –

MARGARET: But don't you see?

ULJABAAN: Still not as yet.

MARGARET: They wilfully ignored what was best for the village and went on pleasing themselves. That tree is an affront to our way of life. I've asked them to saw down the overhanging branches as a

compromise, twenty-seven times. And have they?

ULJABAAN: I assume not, or we wouldn't be discussing the matter.

MARGARET: No. And that is why the tree should be gone. It's –

F/X: MINION ENTERS.

MINION: (ALIEN STATEMENT)

ULJABAAN: Why does Lawrence the Park Keeper want to see me?

MINION: (ALIEN DUNNO)

ULJABAAN: Very well, send him in.

F/X: LAWRENCE ENTERS.

LAWRENCE: Mr Uljabaan, sir, I've just found one of your troops locked in my shed.

ULJABAAN: Oh! I thought I was one short. But then I thought no, I probably just counted wrong.

MARGARET: It was Katrina, wasn't it.

LAWRENCE: Er, yes.

MARGARET: I'm sorry about this.

ULJABAAN: It isn't your fault. (BEAT) Well, it is in the sense that if you

hadn't chosen to breed, she wouldn't exist and this wouldn't have happened. But apart from that.

MARGARET: So, about this pear tree –

ULJABAAN: I'd rather not get involved, Margaret. Sorry – I should deal with this.

MARGARET: Yes. Of course. I'll go and... speak to Katrina.

F/X: MARGARET LEAVES.

ULJABAAN: Thank you for this information, Park Keeper.

LAWRENCE: I thought it best to report it, sir, as I didn't wish to be implicated in any subversive shenanigans.

ULJABAAN: You will be rewarded for this. Gravis – go and release your comrade. And then, both of you look for my missing socks. I'm down to my last pair.

MINION: (ALIEN OK)

F/X: MINION LEAVES.

ULJABAAN: Computer, it's very important that we ensure this doesn't happen again.

COMPUTER: What action do you want me to take?

ULJABAAN: Install tracking devices in all of my socks.

COMPUTER: Right. I thought we were talking about preventing your men from getting kidnapped again.

ULJABAAN: As I won't get the chance to do a wash today, you'd better make some new socks for me using the matter manipulator.

COMPUTER: Generating socks now.

F/X: MATTER REPLICATOR NOISE.

ULJABAAN: Oh, those are nice.

LAWRENCE: Yes, I like the pattern.

COMPUTER: You mean the 'clock'.

ULJABAAN: Clock?

COMPUTER: The proper word for the ornamental pattern on the ankle of a sock or stocking is 'clock'.

LAWRENCE: Blimey. Your Computer certainly does know a lot of obscure facts.

COMPUTER: Yes. That's because I know all facts.

ULJABAAN: So! Park Keeper. Is there anything you'd like for a reward?

LAWRENCE: Actually yes, there is something.

INT. LYONS HOUSE

F/X:

KATRINA ENTERS.

KATRINA: Hi Dad.

RICHARD: Hello love. What have you been up to?

KATRINA: Oh, kidnapped one of Uljabaan's minions. Questioned him. Couldn't understand a word he was saying. Got found out. Had to let him go.

RICHARD: Better luck next time. But on the bright side, you can make it to the pub quiz tonight, yes?

KATRINA: Yes, got nothing else on now the hostage has gone.

RICHARD: Good. See if we can make it five wins on the bounce.

KATRINA: We've been doing rather well, haven't we?

RICHARD: We've smashed it. I thought I'd have to give up doing the quiz after the invasion started, what with Terry and Paul living outside the village –

KATRINA: You could have joined one of the other teams.

RICHARD: What, Lawrence's team? Or Bill Howells' lot? Couldn't do that. Too much history. You can't just wave away years of animosity in a marriage of convenience. But you fill in the gaps in my knowledge better than Terry did. And Paul was just riding our coat-tails really, Terry and I had been talking about cutting him loose for months.

KATRINA: It's nice to have something we can do together, anyway.

F/X: MARGARET ENTERS.

MARGARET: Oh, Katrina.

KATRINA: What are you Oh, Katrinaing me for now?

MARGARET: You tried to kidnap one of Mr Uljabaan's troops, didn't you.

KATRINA: I didn't try to, Mum, I did. You have this way of belittling any success I might have.

MARGARET: It was spectacularly ill-timed.

RICHARD: Why?

MARGARET: I was trying to convince Uljabaan to cut down the Alexanders' pear tree.

KATRINA: Why?

RICHARD: (KNOWS THIS BY ROTE) Because there are two branches that overhang the pavement, and they never pick the pears so every autumn they fall on the path and everyone treads them in. It's a hazard.

MARGARET: (TALKING IN STEP WITH RICHARD) It's a hazard. Someone will break a leg.

KATRINA: Gosh, Mum. It almost sounds like you're showing a concern for

health and safety.

MARGARET: No. It's common sense.

KATRINA: Common sense about health and safety.

MARGARET: Health and safety is only a problem when it goes too far.

KATRINA: So what level of illness and danger do you feel is appropriate?
Tonsillitis and mild electrocution? Glandular fever and
avalanches perhaps?

MARGARET: Less of your sarcasm, young lady. With Mr Uljabaan's authority
behind me I finally had a chance to do something about that
tree. Ruined now. Thanks to you.

RICHARD: Let it go, Margaret.

KATRINA: Yeah, it's not worth it. Just leaf it.

F/X: RICHARD AND KATRINA LAUGH.

MARGARET: Oh, you two!

F/X: MARGARET STORMS AWAY.

INT. PUB

F/X: LIVELY ATMOSPHERE.

RON: Are we ready to start the quiz?

LAWRENCE: No, Ron – we're still waiting for one of our team to get here.

RON: All right, five minutes. Get on with the picture round while you're waiting.

RICHARD: Easy picture round this week.

KATRINA: I know who they all are, but what's the connection?

RICHARD: They all played Bond girls.

KATRINA: What about Kim Basinger?

RICHARD: She was in Never Say Never Again.

KATRINA: Never Say Never Again doesn't count.

RICHARD: Ron thinks it does.

KATRINA: Nobody thinks Never Say Never Again counts. Are you sure this isn't a trick question?

RICHARD: What else would the connection be?

KATRINA: (BEAT) That they're all actresses Ron fancies?

RICHARD: No, that can't be it because I remember him saying he'd really gone off Teri Hatcher.

KATRINA: I'm sure Teri will be devastated to hear that.

F/X: DOOR OPENS, MINION ENTERS.

MINION: (ALIEN GREETING)

LAWRENCE: Great, here he is – Ron, we can start.

KATRINA: One of Uljabaan's troops is joining your team?

LAWRENCE: No, not him. What he's carrying is joining our team.

COMPUTER: Hello.

MINION: (ALIEN QUESTION?)

LAWRENCE: Yeah, just put him on the table.

F/X: ULJABAAN PUTS IT DOWN ON THE TABLE.

RICHARD: Uljabaan's Computer?

LAWRENCE: Yep.

KATRINA: But that's not fair.

COMPUTER: Why not?

RICHARD: We're not allowed phones, or anything with access to the internet.

COMPUTER: All right, I'll shut down my internet connection for the duration of the quiz.

KATRINA: But you've still got a comprehensive database of facts about planet Earth.

RICHARD: Ron – this can't be right. It's in the rules, isn't it? No technology of any kind.

RON: Er... I've never actually got around to writing up the rules as such...

COMPUTER: And Uljabaan did say that if I wasn't allowed to take part, then he would make pub quizzes illegal, to be punishable by death.

RON: (BEAT) OK, it's not against the rules.

KATRINA: Did you get this for telling Uljabaan we'd kidnapped one of his troops?

LAWRENCE: Yes. But that wasn't why I did it.

KATRINA: Great! That makes it all better.

LAWRENCE: You're alright mate, you can pick him up after the quiz.

MINION: (ALIEN RIGHTO)

F/X: MINION LEAVES.

RON: OK, we're starting now.

RICHARD: This can't be allowed.

RON: Are we doing this quiz or not?

COMPUTER: Yes. Bring on the test of insignificant information!

RON: Round One. General Knowledge. Question One. What is the chemical symbol for magnesium?

COMPUTER: Big M, little g.

F/X: ALL THE TEAMS WRITE THIS DOWN.

LAWRENCE: Um... great but could you whisper?

COMPUTER: (WHISPERS) Sorry.

EXT. PUB

**F/X: MINION WALKS OUTSIDE. THERE IS A COMMOTION
NEARBY INVOLVING LUCY AND MARGARET.**

LUCY: So you admit it?

MARGARET: I've never made any secret of it. That tree has to go!

LUCY: You can't get Uljabaan to cut that tree down, you just can't!

MINION: (ALIEN STEADY ON LADIES)

LUCY: Get your paws off me!

MINION: (ALIEN SORRY)

LUCY: She wants them to cut the tree down! My tree! You dreadful
witch! Well, I won't let you, you hear me? I won't!

F/X: LUCY RUNS OFF, HYSTERICALLY.

MINION: (ALIEN IS SHE OK?)

MARGARET: No no, she's fine. She's just seventeen, that's all.

INT. PUB

F/X: QUIZ WRAPPING UP.

RON: Runners-up with sixty-nine points are Lyons Bar...

KATRINA: Runners-up?

RICHARD: We won last week with sixty-four.

RON: And the winners with eighty-one points are Lawrence and the
Machine!

F/X: LAWRENCE AND HIS TEAM CHEER. OTHERS MAKE
DISGRUNTLED NOISES.

KATRINA: But there were only eighty questions.

RON: They got a bonus point for having the best team name.

RICHARD: I told you we should have gone with Two Lyons On The Shirt.

KATRINA: It doesn't make any sense, Dad, we're not on a shirt. Whereas we are in a bar.

RICHARD: But the chocolate bar is called a Lion Bar, not a Lions bar.

KATRINA: That's where the pun comes in.

RICHARD: No it doesn't. People don't get it.

RON: So, Lawrence And The Machine, if you'd like to come up and get your winnings – you can have it in cash or beer.

COMPUTER: Beer please.

F/X: TEAM GOES UP.

RICHARD: What a farce.

KATRINA: I know.

RICHARD: One of the silver linings of being cut off from the outside world by an alien invasion was that people couldn't use their phones to cheat on the pub quiz. And now this!

RON: Would the runners-up like to come and collect their winnings?

KATRINA: I'll go.

RICHARD: I'll have mine in crisps. I've been really craving salt, don't know why.

EXT. LUCY'S HOUSE

F/X: NEXT MORNING. CLANK OF CHAINS.

LAWRENCE: Morning Lucy.

LUCY: Morning Lawrence.

F/X: CLANK CLANK.

LAWRENCE: Chaining yourself to that pear tree then, are you?

LUCY: Yeah, could you give me a hand?

LAWRENCE: All right.

F/X: CLINK CLANK CLANK CLINK.

LUCY: Not too tight.

LAWRENCE: Sorry. How's that?

LUCY: Great thanks.

LAWRENCE: So what's this in aid of?

LUCY: Mrs Lyons wants to cut the tree down and I don't want her to do that, so I'm chaining myself to the tree in protest.

LAWRENCE: But she can't cut the tree down unless your mum and dad agree, can she?

LUCY: She's trying to get Uljabaan to make them cut it down. So I'm staying here until he promises not to cut it down.

LAWRENCE: And what if he doesn't?

LUCY: Then I guess I'll be here a long time. (BEAT) I should probably have eaten a bigger breakfast.

LAWRENCE: Why, what did you have?

LUCY: A bag of Revels.

INT. PUB

F/X: KATRINA AND RICHARD ARE MEETING WITH RON.

RON: Look, I know it isn't in the spirit of it –

RICHARD: No, it's not in the spirit of it. It's so far from being in the spirit of it, it can't even see the spirit of it due to it being over the horizon.

RON: It's driving up interest in the quiz though. Even people who are useless at pub quizzes think they might be in with a chance, if they can get the Computer on their team.

KATRINA: But the Computer's on Lawrence's team.

RON: At the moment, yeah. But if someone else gets into Uljabaan's good books –

KATRINA: Oh, good grief. More co-operation and collaboration. Everyone will inform on everything Lucy and I do.

RICHARD: So I'm at a disadvantage because I refuse to inform on my own daughter. (BEAT) On the other hand, there's no reason I couldn't shop Lucy for something.

KATRINA: Dad, no. It's not just about that, is it? It's about the integrity of the pub quiz. It's our pub quiz and we need to reclaim it.

RICHARD: You're right. Ron, this might pull in a few extra punters at first – but when people turn up and realise the result's a foregone conclusion, all the excitement will go out of it. People will just drift away.

RON: You think?

KATRINA: Of course. Who's going to turn up just to play for second place? Graham has been entering every week for eight years. He's not playing for second place, no – he thinks he has a chance of winning.

RON: He doesn't have a chance.

KATRINA: No, I know he doesn't. But he turns up anyway, week after week. You can't take that away from him. It's that mistaken belief in a man's ability to overcome his own sub-mediocrity that makes humanity what it is.

GRAHAM: (OFF) Are you talking about me?

KATRINA: No, Graham. You just go on doing your wordsearch.

GRAHAM: (OFF) I'm a stuck. I've only got one word to find and I can't see it for the life of me. They're all supposed to be types of farm animal – is there one called a 'higemn'?

RICHARD: (BEAT) Yes, it's a sort of goat.

GRAHAM: (OFF) Brilliant, thanks!

RON: All right – I'm in. But how can we get rid of the Computer?

KATRINA: Announce that you're holding a bonus pub quiz tonight.

RON: What? On a Wednesday?

RICHARD: I know it seems radical, Ron, but I've had an idea. An idea for a pub quiz that the Computer can't win.

INT. ULJABAAN'S HOUSE

F/X: LAWRENCE ENTERS.

ULJABAAN: Ah! Park Keeper.

LAWRENCE: There's a bonus quiz night at the Rose and Crown – can I use the Computer again?

ULJABAAN: I don't see why not. It does him good to get out of the house.

LAWRENCE: By the way – are you really going to cut down the pear tree in

the Alexanders' front garden?

ULJABAAN: No.

LAWRENCE: Because if you are –

ULJABAAN: I'm not, it's a matter of no interest to me.

LAWRENCE: I'm your man for the job. I've got experience of removing large plants, and I've never lost a finger to a chainsaw yet.

ULJABAAN: I'll bear in mind that you're my man for a job I don't want doing, thank you.

LAWRENCE: Right. I'll tell Lucy the tree's safe then.

ULJABAAN: Yes, why don't you – (BEAT) Lucy Alexander?

LAWRENCE: Yeah, it was her that told me. She's worried you're going to cut it down so she chained herself to it.

ULJABAAN: Can we be clear on this? Lucy Alexander wants to save a tree?

LAWRENCE: Yes.

ULJABAAN: Computer?

COMPUTER: Yes.

ULJABAAN: Run a personality profile of Lucy Alexander and calculate the probability that she would ever genuinely care about a tree.

F/X: **BLEEP.**

COMPUTER: Probability calculated at three point six four per cent.

ULJABAAN: Exactly as I thought.

COMPUTER: What, right down to the same number?

ULJABAAN: Broadly similar to what I thought. Thank you, Park Keeper. I shall look into this tomorrow.

LAWRENCE: Righto. (BEAT) You do know that Park Keeper isn't my name, don't you?

ULJABAAN: (BEAT) Yes, of course I know that.

INT. PUB

F/X: **PUB ATMOSPHERE. LAWRENCE WALKS PAST, WITH THE COMPUTER.**

LAWRENCE: Evening.

KATRINA: Evening, Lawrence.

RICHARD: Feeling confident?

COMPUTER: Yes. I've checked to make sure I know all of the facts, and I do. I know all of the facts. I've calculated the chances of us winning at ninety-nine point seven six per cent.

LAWRENCE: Why not a hundred?

COMPUTER: I never say a hundred, even if I think it is a hundred, because I don't want to get it in the neck if something funny happens.

LAWRENCE: Good luck!

F/X: LAWRENCE AND THE COMPUTER WALK AWAY.

KATRINA: Ha! If only they knew.

RICHARD: Are you sure this is going to work?

KATRINA: Yes. And we're going to win – because we've got Mum on our side.

MARGARET: I don't understand why you think I'm going to be of any use. I never know the answers in these things unless they're about kings and queens of England or films starring Julie Andrews.

KATRINA: This quiz is going to be a little bit different.

RON: (OFF) Right! Welcome to bonus quiz night at the Rose and Crown. Same form as usual, eighty questions. Question one: why did Graham's wife Shirley threaten to divorce him in summer 2009?

GRAHAM: (OFF) What?

MARGARET: (LOW) Oh! That was because he took out a two thousand pound loan to buy a hot tub for their back garden just after

she'd been made redundant.

RICHARD: (LOW) Excellent.

F/X: RICHARD WRITES THIS DOWN.

MARGARET: Are they all going to be like this?

KATRINA: (LOW) Yes. The Computer might know all recorded human knowledge, but it won't know any of this stuff.

RON: Question two: Who really smashed the windows on Janine's Ford Focus on Christmas Eve 2006?

F/X: MUTTERS AND SCRIBBLING.

RON: And question three, why?

MARGARET: This is much more fun.

INT. PUB

F/X: RON IS READING OUT THE ANSWERS.

RON: ...and the answer to question eighty – because he was having an affair with a member of the House of Lords who can't be named for legal reasons, but we all know who it was. Right, marked answer sheets back to me please.

RICHARD: I'll take ours up.

F/X: RICHARD STANDS, WALKS OVER TO THE BAR.

KATRINA: I saw Uljabaan earlier. Asked me if I knew why Lucy had chained herself to a tree.

MARGARET: And did you?

KATRINA: No. Has she really chained herself to a tree?

MARGARET: Haven't you been to see her?

KATRINA: Mum, I haven't had time. I've been very busy trying to sabotage this pub quiz business and, if I say so myself, I think I've come up with an elegant and effective riposte.

F/X: RICHARD RETURNS.

RICHARD: Cheers everyone – I think this is in the bag.

RON: (OFF) Right, in third place we have Quizzical Expressions with 68 points. In second place, with 77 points – Three Lyons On A Cert...

KATRINA: What?

RON: (OFF) And in first place, with eighty points, The Lawnmower Men.

F/X: CHEERS FROM LAWRENCE'S TEAM.

RICHARD: A perfect score again?

COMPUTER: Yes. My database is not limited to all recorded human knowledge. I've been observing you all for quite some time, and I have comprehensive knowledge of village gossip.

KATRINA: More comprehensive than Mum's?

RICHARD: Good grief. This is like when Kasparov got beaten by Deep Blue at chess.

MARGARET: I told you pub quizzes were silly. I'm going to do something more productive with my time.

F/X: MARGARET STANDS AND LEAVES.

RICHARD: Can we have your crisps?

F/X: NO RESPONSE.

KATRINA: I think we can have the crisps.

EXT. LUCY'S HOUSE

F/X: NEXT MORNING. ULJABAAN AND MARGARET APPROACH.

ULJABAAN: Good morning, Miss Alexander.

LUCY: Morning.

MARGARET: So, you're still chained to this tree?

LUCY: Well spotted.

ULJABAAN: Miss Alexander, why do you want to save this tree?

LUCY: Because trees are important and we shouldn't cut them down.

MARGARET: Oh, really, Lucy –

LUCY: No, it's true, I saw something on TV about it.

ULJABAAN: But I cut down four trees behind the church last week and you didn't chain yourself to any of those.

LUCY: I would have done, but I didn't find out until after you'd done it, and it seemed a bit pointless to chain myself to them after you'd cut them down.

ULJABAAN: I think there's another reason why you're protecting this tree.

MARGARET: Obviously there is.

ULJABAAN: Margaret – I'll deal with this. Lucy?

LUCY: (BEAT) All right, yeah, it's special.

ULJABAAN: Special how?

LUCY: Well... this tree's always been here, all my life. It's the tree I used to climb when I was little, and it's the one I used to tell the seasons by, and when all its leaves were gone I knew it was almost Christmas. I'd play around it, and when a branch fell

down I'd pretend it was a sword and the tree was the mast of a pirate ship. And I used to pick the pears, and me and my mum would make crumbles with them. And when my mum and dad didn't have time for me, this tree was always there, the only constant thing in my life.

ULJABAAN: (BEAT; TOUCHED) I see. Well, if that's –

MARGARET: You're not drawn in by this rubbish are you?

ULJABAAN: No. No.

MARGARET: She's never climbed this tree in her life. Look, it doesn't have enough low branches – you'd need a ladder. And her mother has never made any kind of crumble.

LUCY: We did make pear crumble.

MARGARET: That's the very detail that gives you away. Pears aren't tart enough for a crumble.

LUCY: (BEAT) Damn.

ULJABAAN: How very interesting. Miss Alexander – what's your real motive for trying to protect this tree?

LUCY: Nothing, nothing – I just like the tree.

ULJABAAN: We shall see. Gantac! Gravis!

MINIONS: (ALIEN YES LEADER!)

ULJABAAN: Cut those chains and take Miss Alexander to the cells.

LUCY: But you can't do that!

ULJABAAN: Why not?

LUCY: (BEAT) Because it's mean.

ULJABAAN: No, that's not good enough. Cut the chains!

MINIONS: (ALIEN RIGHT YOU ARE)

F/X: MINIONS STEP FORWARD, REMOVE CHAINS.

INT. PUB

F/X: KATRINA AND RICHARD ENTER.

RON: Oh, not you again.

KATRINA: Ron, you're doing another pub quiz tonight.

RON: We tried it, it didn't work.

RICHARD: We can't give up that easily, Ron. There must be a way – that Computer can't possibly know everything.

RON: It does know everything. From the creation of the universe to which Police Academy movies had Steve Guttenberg in – it's all the same to that thing.

KATRINA: (BEAT) All the same. You're right – to the Computer, it's all the same.

RON: I know, that's what I just said, it's all the same.

KATRINA: But don't you see?

RICHARD: Yes!

RON: Do you?

RICHARD: No.

KATRINA: I know how we can do this.

INT. ULJABAAN'S HOUSE

F/X: COMPUTER RUNNING IN BACKGROUND.

ULJABAAN: How goes the interrogation, Computer? Has she talked yet?

COMPUTER: Yes.

ULJABAAN: Excellent! What is the truth of her determination to protect the pear tree?

COMPUTER: Oh, she hasn't talked about the tree.

ULJABAAN: Then what has she talked about?

COMPUTER: Pop music, mostly.

ULJABAAN: I will speak to her myself.

F/X: ULJABAAN STANDS, WALKS.

COMPUTER: Sure – I need to go soon actually, it's the quiz.

ULJABAAN: Another one?

COMPUTER: Yeah.

ULJABAAN: You are to prioritise interrogating the prisoner over the pub quiz,
Computer.

COMPUTER: All right.

F/X: DOOR OPENS, ULJABAAN ENTERS ROOM WHERE LUCY IS BEING INTERROGATED BY A MINION.

LUCY: ...did find the second album disappointing. Have you heard it?

MINION: (ALIEN NO)

LUCY: It was alright, you know, but a bit half-arsed.

ULJABAAN: What are you talking about?

LUCY: Vampire Weekend.

ULJABAAN: Stand aside, Yartek. I'm taking over.

MINION: (ALIEN FINE)

F/X: MINION STOMPS AWAY.

ULJABAAN: Now, Miss Alexander. Tell me why you want to protect the tree.

LUCY: I'll never tell you in a million years.

ULJABAAN: Ah, so you admit there is something to tell.

LUCY: (BEAT) Oh yeah, you didn't know that. Lying's hard.

ULJABAAN: Then tell me the truth.

LUCY: No.

ULJABAAN: Tell me.

LUCY: No!

ULJABAAN: Then I shall be forced to use... the mind probe.

LUCY: All right, I'll tell you then.

ULJABAAN: Really?

LUCY: Yeah, I don't want you to use the mind probe, I'll just tell you.

ULJABAAN: There. See how it's done? She fears me.

LUCY: It's true, he's so fearsome.

ULJABAAN: Speak, youngling! What is the truth behind this tree?

LUCY: (SIGHS) You know how you disabled all communications with the outside world when you invaded the village?

ULJABAAN: Naturally I remember that.

LUCY: Well you missed one. I found a broadband cable that still works.

ULJABAAN: If it still works, why haven't you used it to summon help yet?

LUCY: Nobody would believe it, would they? We need evidence. We've been trying to put something together. Anyway, it goes right underneath that pear tree. That's why I didn't want you to pull it up – you'd have found the cable.

ULJABAAN: Foolish girl. You've played right into my hands. Instead of protecting the tree, your actions have only drawn attention to it.

LUCY: I didn't think it through, did I.

ULJABAAN: No. Yartek – gather three other troops, a chainsaw, some shovels and a tractor beam, and convene at Miss Alexander's house.

F/X: THEY LEAVE.

LUCY: (CALLS) Can someone let me out of these manacles please?

INT. PUB

F/X: BUSTLING.

KATRINA: Evening Lawrence.

LAWRENCE: Katrina, Richard. Gluttons for punishment, aren't you?

RICHARD: Yes, that's us. Gluttons.

COMPUTER: Is it going to be about village gossip again?

KATRINA: No, otherwise we'd have brought Mum again.

RICHARD: Back to general knowledge. Apparently it's quite easy. Stuff everyone knows.

LAWRENCE: Oh, I see. You're making it so easy that you're hoping there'll be a tie for first place?

KATRINA: No, that isn't what we're hoping.

RON: (OFF) Right! If you're quizzing tonight, please take your seats.

RICHARD: Good luck, chaps.

COMPUTER: Thank you. We will not be wishing you good luck because luck is not a rational concept.

F/X: THEY TAKE THEIR SEATS.

RICHARD: (LOW) I hope this works.

KATRINA: (LOW) It will, it will.

RON: All right, eyes down. Question one. What's the best Fleetwood Mac album?

COMPUTER: (BEAT) What?

RON: I've been asked to repeat the question. Question one. What's the best Fleetwood Mac album?

COMPUTER: That's not a question.

RON: Yes it is, it's got a question mark at the end.

COMPUTER: But it's not a factual question. It's entirely subjective.

RON: Yeah, it is. But there is a right answer, and if you say anything else, you're trying too hard to be different.

COMPUTER: But Fleetwood Mac released seventeen albums.

RON: Question two!

EXT. LUCY'S HOUSE

F/X: TREE BEING CHOPPED DOWN. ULJABAAN ORDERING
MINIONS ABOUT IN BACKGROUND. MARGARET AND
LUCY WATCH FROM A DISTANCE.

MARGARET: And he just believed you?

LUCY: Yeah. I think at that point, if he'd made me take a lie detector test he wouldn't have believed that either. He'd got it into his

head that I had some sinister reason for not wanting the tree to be cut down.

MARGARET: You were very convincing when you were chained up and we confronted you.

LUCY: Yeah, actually by then I was sort of delirious with hunger, to the point where I'd forgotten what was true and what wasn't.

F/X: LUCY'S PARENTS HAVE COME OUT OF THE HOUSE AND ARE SHOUTING AT ULJABAAN.

LUCY: Look – Mum and Dad are having a go at him.

MARGARET: This'll teach them to leave pear mulch all over the pavement.

LUCY: Blimey, Mrs L – you really know how to bear a grudge.

MARGARET: Yes, I do. I can teach you how, if you like.

LUCY: Oh – there goes the tree.

F/X: THE TREE IS FELLED. LUCY AND MARGARET CHEER.

MARGARET: Thank you for your help, Lucy. You deserve some sort of reward.

LUCY: Pulling that tree down has really, really, really annoyed my parents. That's its own reward.

INT. PUB

F/X:

QUIZ ANSWERS BEING GIVEN.

RON: Answer to question seventy-one – Who would be in a fight between Superman and Wolverine? Answer is it wouldn't happen, Superman is DC universe and Wolverine is Marvel.

COMPUTER: They're both fictional characters.

RON: Question seventy-two: Which is cooler, knights or pirates? Answer is pirates. Question seventy-three: Which is cooler, planes or helicopters? Answer is helicopters. Question seventy-four: Which is cooler, vampires or zombies? Zombies, obviously. Er, seventy-five: When is it acceptable to have a half? Answer is if you've got less than half a pint left in your glass and you pour the half into it. Seventy-six: Do the shops start selling Christmas stuff earlier every year? Answer is yes. Seventy-seven: Which is the bank holiday everyone always forgets about? It's the May one that isn't May Day. Seventy-eight: Does Pluto still count as a planet?

COMPUTER: No!

RON: Answer is yes, it does really, whatever the scientists say. Question seventy-nine: Who you gonna call?

EVERYONE: Ghost Busters!

RON: Thank you. And question eighty: If Man United are playing Chelsea, who do you support? Which was a trick question, obviously. OK, answer sheets back to me please.

RICHARD: I enjoyed that.

COMPUTER: It was completely illogical.

KATRINA: I know.

COMPUTER: Well I'm not playing again. That was stupid.

RICHARD: We marked your answer sheet. Your team didn't do too badly.

KATRINA: No thanks to you, of course. For the Fleetwood Mac question, you were going to put Tango In The Night.

RICHARD: Ludicrous.

F/X: ULJABAAN ENTERS.

ULJABAAN: Excuse me, everyone – an opportunity has suddenly come up to do some work for me!

KATRINA: Good grief.

ULJABAAN: I'm digging for something in the Alexanders' front garden, and it's turning out to be a bigger job than we expected, so if anyone wants to help, I might see my way to letting you have the Computer for the next quiz...

F/X: EVERYONE IS UNIMPRESSED.

ULJABAAN: Nobody? Not even you, Park Keeper?

LAWRENCE: Nah.

RICHARD: I'm not sure that's such an appealing incentive, all of a sudden.

ULJABAAN: What?

RON: (OFF) They came third.

ULJABAAN: Third?

COMPUTER: Top three isn't bad.

ULJABAAN: You've failed. I will not tolerate failure.

COMPUTER: But if you get rid of me, you won't have a computer any more.

ULJABAAN: (BEAT) I will tolerate some failure, but I don't have to like it.

END OF JOKES.