

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 most amusing 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, I'll give you that.

LAWRENCE: 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 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 stopping a large area of grass from getting too long.

**FIX: LAWRENCE STARTS UNLOCKING THE SHED.**

KATRINA:                      Lawrence! No –

**FIX:                      AND HE OPENS THE SHED DOOR.**

LAWRENCE:                  Good lord!

MINION:                      (ALIEN PATHETIC HELP)

LUCY:                          This isn't what it looks like.

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.

MINION:                      (ALIEN WHINE)

LAWRENCE:                  I'm reporting this to their leader.

KATRINA:                      No, don't do that.

**FIX:                      LAWRENCE STRIDES AWAY.**

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

KATRINA:                      Yes, I'll be there.

LUCY:                          Right, since this has all gone tits up I'm taking the ride-on  
mower.

KATRINA: What? Why?

LUCY: Mum and Dad are on at me about mowing the lawn.

KATRINA: You never mow the lawn.

LUCY: I know, I think that's why they get cross with me for not doing it. I'm supposed to do a load of jobs in the garden. Weed the flower beds, clean that statue of a cherub that looks weirdly like your dad.

KATRINA: You can't mow your garden with the ride-on mower. It won't go round the rose bushes.

LUCY: Well, I've also got to prune the rose bushes, so I thought it might kill two birds with one stone. If those magpies are hanging around on the lawn again, it might literally kill two birds.

KATRINA: OK, you are not taking the ride-on lawnmower.

LUCY: Can we at least have a ride round the park on the ride-on lawnmower?

KATRINA: (BEAT) All right, but I'm driving.

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' water supply have had the opposite effect.

COMPUTER: Noted.

MARGARET: What chemicals?

ULJABAAN: So, she's pregnant, what am I supposed to do?

COMPUTER: Would you like me to knit her some booties?

MARGARET: If you like, but more pressingly, she needs someone to do her three-week scan. Can you 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.

**FIX: BLEEP: HOLOGRAM APPEARS.**

HOLOGRAM DOCTOR: What seems to be the problem?

MARGARET: Ooh, that's good.

ULJABAAN: Thank you Computer, that's enough.

**FIX: HOLOGRAM IS SWITCHED OFF.**

ULJABAAN: Next issue, please.

MARGARET: The lock on Andrew Milway's back door has broken, it's permanently locked and he can't get into his garden.

ULJABAAN: How is this my problem?

MARGARET: He'd like you to make and fit a new back door.

ULJABAAN: I'm the commander of an invasion force, not a double-glazing salesman.

MARGARET: I know, but with the barrier in place, he can't get it repaired himself.

ULJABAAN: I suspect this is just a ruse to get a new back door.

MARGARET: It might be, yes. The old one is very draughty.

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

COMPUTER: And what if he does?

ULJABAAN: Inform me immediately, and I shall go round there and say 'Aha!'

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: Do you know why we didn't win Best Kept Village In Buckinghamshire in 2007?

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

MARGARET: Because of that tree. There's a long branch that overhangs the pavement, and they never pick the pears so every autumn they fall on the path and everyone treads them in. And whilst everyone else was pulling together, painting the benches, repointing the brickwork, creating a floral centrepiece on the village green in the shape of Tim Henman, they just sat on their bottoms and the net result was one of the judges slipped over on a slick of rotten pear mulch and broke her pelvis.

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

MARGARET: No but the branch remains a hazard. I've asked them to saw it down as a compromise, twenty-seven times.

ULJABAAN: Why would they need to to saw down the branch twenty-seven times?

MARGARET: No, I asked them twenty-seven times.

ULJABAAN: I see, sorry. As I say, I do tend to tune out.

MARGARET: And so I think they should lose the whole tree.

**FIX:** **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: Katrina did this, didn't she?

LAWRENCE: Er, yes.

MARGARET: I'm so sorry.

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'm afraid I'd rather not get involved, on the grounds that I find the entire business tedious and baffling.

MARGARET: (BEAT) Right. As long as you've given it fair consideration.

ULJABAAN: I haven't, really. That's one of the perks of being in charge.

MARGARET: Thank you for your time.

**F/X: MARGARET LEAVES.**

ULJABAAN: Thank you for bringing me this information, Park Keeper.

LAWRENCE: It's no trouble, sir.

ULJABAAN: Your loyalty is appreciated. Computer! Stamp his loyalty card.

COMPUTER: Hold it out.

**F/X: MECHANICAL STAMPING NOISE.**

LAWRENCE: Thank you.

ULJABAAN: I see you have eight stamps. You may have a reward. What would you like?

LAWRENCE: I can ask for anything?

ULJABAAN: Yes.

LAWRENCE: And I can have it?

ULJABAAN: As long as you don't take the piss, yes.

**INT. LYONS HOUSE**

**F/X: KATRINA ENTERS.**

KATRINA: Hi Dad.

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

KATRINA: Kidnapped one of Uljabaan's minions. Questioned him. Couldn't understand a word he was saying. Got found out. Let him go.

RICHARD: Oh dear. Cheer up, pub quiz tonight. See if we can make it five wins on the bounce.

KATRINA: Yes. Although I suspect the powers that be won't let that happen.

RICHARD: Yes. (BEAT) Sorry, what are you talking about?

KATRINA: Oh come on, you just know that Uljabaan hates that I keep winning the pub quiz.

RICHARD: (BEAT) Does he?

KATRINA: Of course. Probably. I've never talked to him about it, but I'm the figurehead of the resistance. Any success I have reflects badly on him.

RICHARD: I think he's got more important things to do than stop us winning a pub quiz.

KATRINA: I'm not convinced he does. The other day I saw him personally removing a caricature of him Lucy had scratched into the perspex window of the bus shelter.

**FIX:** **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. Why do you always have to belittle my success?

MARGARET: It was spectacularly ill-timed.

RICHARD: Why?

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

KATRINA: Oh not the pear tree again. I thought you gave up on this five years ago?

RICHARD: As far as your mother's concerned, revenge is a dish best served long after everyone thinks it's dead. Then it leaps up off the plate and bites your face off.

MARGARET: That tree is 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?  
Scurvy and electrocution?

MARGARET: Katrina –

KATRINA: Or whooping cough and avalanches?

RICHARD: Dropsy and flying in a snowstorm.

MARGARET: Don't you start.

KATRINA: Shingles and putting a rug on a polished floor.

**FIX: MARGARET STORMS AWAY.**

INT. PUB

**FIX: 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.

**FIX: 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, the thing 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. You've got a database containing every fact and statistic about everything in the known universe.

RICHARD: Ron – this can't be right. It's in the rules, isn't it?

RON: We've never written the rules down. I like to keep it flexible.

RICHARD: But it's an unwritten rule, surely?

RON: No, our only unwritten rule is that we don't write down the rules.

COMPUTER: Can I just add that Uljabaan said 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.

KATRINA: Those bloody loyalty cards.

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

MINION: (ALIEN RIGHTO)

**F/X: MINION LEAVES.**

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: Yeah 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!

**FIX: LUCY RUNS OFF, HYSTERICALLY.**

MINION: (ALIEN IS SHE OK?)

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

INT. PUB

**FIX: QUIZ WRAPPING UP.**

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

RICHARD: Bloody hell. 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!

KATRINA: I told you he'd put a stop to our winning streak somehow. It's not enough to get at me – he has to hurt my family too.

RICHARD: I'm not hurt, love, it's just annoying.

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: What with?

LUCY: I was going to use a normal chain, but I could only find this old bike lock. Can you link it up and then scramble the combination for me please?

LAWRENCE: All right.

**FIX: CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK.**

LAWRENCE: There.

LUCY: Thanks. What was it before you scrambled it?

LAWRENCE: I don't know, I didn't look.

LUCY: What?

LAWRENCE: You didn't ask me to look. It began with a '1'.

LUCY: Well that narrows it down, doesn't it.

LAWRENCE: (BEAT) Yes, it means there are only one thousand possible combinations instead of ten thousand.

LUCY: But it doesn't really help, does it?

LAWRENCE: Hang on – I think I might remember it – let me try this...

**FIX: CLICK CLICK, CLICK-CLICK-CLICK, CLICK-CLICK, CLICK.  
KER-CHUNK.**

LUCY: Oh thank god for that. What was the combination?

LAWRENCE: 1, 2, 3, 4.

LUCY: Phew. OK, you can link it back up again.

**FIX: LAWRENCE DOES SO.**

LAWRENCE: Why are you chaining yourself to the tree anyway?

LUCY: Mrs Lyons wants to cut it down and she's trying to get Uljabaan to make my mum and dad cut it down, so I'm staying here until he promises not to.

LAWRENCE: And what if he doesn't?

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

LAWRENCE: Why, what did you have?

LUCY: A bag of Revels and a Mini Babybel.

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 because the spirit of it is 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, I could 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: She's right, Ron. this might pull in a few extra punters at first – but when people realise the result's a foregone conclusion, they'll just drift away.

RON: You think?

KATRINA: 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. You can't take that away from him. A man's misguided belief in his ability to overcome his own sub-mediocrity – that's what makes humanity what it is.

**FIX:** **GRAHAM IS AT THE NEXT TABLE.**

GRAHAM: Are you talking about me?

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

GRAHAM: I'm stuck. I've only got one word to find and I can't see it for the life of me.

RICHARD: What's the word?

GRAHAM: 'Wordsearch'.

KATRINA: Graham, that's not one of the words you have to find, it's the name of the puzzle.

GRAHAM: So does that mean I've finished?

KATRINA: Yes.

GRAHAM: Then I think I deserve the rest of the day off!

**FIX:** **GRAHAM LEAVES THE PUB.**

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? You can't have a pub quiz on a Wednesday!

RICHARD: Why not?

RON: (BEAT) Because it's Wednesday.

KATRINA: I know it seems radical, Ron, but I've had an idea. An idea for a pub quiz 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. (BEAT) Two toes, but you don't miss toes. Trust me, you really don't. Look how well I can balance.

ULJABAAN: I'm not interested in any part of what you've just said, thank you.

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

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

LAWRENCE: Yeah, 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.

**FIX:** **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

**FIX: 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!

**FIX: 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.

**FIX:** **RICHARD WRITES THIS DOWN.**

MARGARET: Are all the questions 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?

**FIX: MUTTERS AND SCRIBBLING.**

RON: And question three, why?

MARGARET: This is much more fun.

INT. PUB

**FIX: 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.

**FIX: 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 I think we've come up with an elegant and effective riposte.

**FIX: 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 – Secrets and Lyons...

KATRINA: What?

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

**FIX: 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.

**FIX: MARGARET STANDS AND WALKS AWAY.**

RICHARD: Can we have your crisps?

**FIX: PUB DOOR SLAMS.**

KATRINA: I think we can have the crisps.

EXT. LUCY'S HOUSE

**FIX: 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: (BEAT) All right, yeah, this one's special.

ULJABAAN: Special how?

LUCY: Because it's always been here. I used to climb it when I was little, and when all its leaves were gone I'd feel excited because 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 make my friend Nicola walk the plank which was one of the branches, and she broke her wrist and wasn't allowed to play with me any more. And I used to pick the pears, and me and my mum would make crumbles with them. And later, 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: (COLLECTING HIMSELF) 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: What are the three main ingredients of a crumble topping?

LUCY: (BEAT) Sugar... rice?

MARGARET: I thought so.

ULJABAAN: The truth please, Miss Alexander. Why are you protecting this tree?

LUCY: 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)

**FIX: MINIONS STEP FORWARD, REMOVE CHAINS.**

INT. PUB

**FIX: 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

**FX: 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.

**FIX: 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.

**FIX: DOOR OPENS, ULJABAAN ENTERS ROOM WHERE LUCY IS BEING INTERROGATED BY A MINION.**

LUCY: ...the second album was really disappointing. Have you heard it?

MINION: (ALIEN NO)

LUCY: It was alright, you know, but wasn't a patch on the first one. Have you heard that?

MINION: (ALIEN NO)

LUCY: Have you heard any Vampire Weekend albums?

MINION: (ALIEN NO)

LUCY: Have you heard any Earth music at all?

MINION: (ER... QUITE LIKE MUMFORD AND SONS)

LUCY: Mumford and Sons? Get out.

ULJABAAN: Yes, Yartek, get out. I'm taking over.

MINION: (ALIEN FINE)

**FIX: MINION STOMPS AWAY.**

LUCY: Yeah, go and listen to your Mumford and Sons.

**FIX: DOOR CLOSES.**

LUCY: (MUTTERS) Mumford and Sons.

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. Lying's hard.

ULJABAAN: Then tell me the truth.

LUCY: No.

ULJABAAN: Tell me.

LUCY: Never!

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: Then 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 was doing the gardening and 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, the cable goes right underneath that pear tree. That's why I didn't want you to pull it up.

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

LUCY: Oh... yeah, that's true. I didn't think it through.

ULJABAAN: 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.

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

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 an irrational concept.

**FIX: 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

**FIX:** **SOUND OF DIGGING AND UPROOTING.**

LUCY: Still not found it yet?

ULJABAAN: Obviously not, as we're still digging.

LUCY: I'm sure it ran under the tree.

ULJABAAN: We've uprooted the tree and it isn't there. But we will find it. Even if we have to destroy all of these rose bushes.

LUCY: Oh no. I hope you don't have to do that. And if you have to move that creepy cherub statue, please be careful not to break it.

ULJABAAN: (TO MINIONS) Move the statue.

MARGARET: I don't think it looks like Richard at all.

LUCY: Look at it from this angle.

MARGARET: (BEAT) Oh yes. That's actually a little disturbing. I'm not sure I want to look at it any more.

**FIX: THE STATUE IS DROPPED AND SMASHED INTO PIECES.**

LUCY: You don't have to now.

LUCY: It might be somewhere under the flower beds. But you'd have to rip out all those weeds to get at them.

ULJABAAN: You think we can be deterred by a few weeds?

LUCY: No, absolutely not.

**FIX: ULJABAAN TRUDGES AWAY ACROSS THE GARDEN.**

ULJABAAN: (TO MINIONS) Dig up those flower beds.

MARGARET: Thank you for your help with this, Lucy.

LUCY: Oh, no problem. I knew once he got it into his head that I had some plan involving something buried in the garden, he'd dig up the lot until he found it.

MARGARET: You parents look furious.

LUCY: I know. That'll teach them to go on at me about doing the gardening. Maybe after he's finished, I could convince him to just tarmac it over.

MARGARET: That's a shame.

LUCY: No more mowing the lawn, or pruning the bushes, or picking the pears...

MARGARET: (BEAT) You mean picking the pears was your job?

LUCY: Yeah. It's always been my job. That's why I wanted to get rid of the tree so much. I thought you knew.

MARGARET: When did you start doing that?

LUCY: When I was ten, eleven.

MARGARET: Then it was your fault we didn't win the Buckinghamshire Best Kept Village competition in 2007?

LUCY: Was that the year that woman fell on her arse? That was hilarious.

INT. PUB

**FIX: QUIZ ANSWERS BEING GIVEN.**

RON: Answer to question seventy-one – Who would win 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: Does Christmas start earlier every year? Answer is yes. Seventy-seven: Can you ever write off the Germans? Answer is no. 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.

**FIX: ULJABAAN ENTERS.**

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

KATRINA: Good grief.

ULJABAAN: I'm digging for a broadband cable in the Alexanders' front garden, and it's taking a little longer to find than we expected, so if anyone wants to help, I might see my way to letting you have the Computer for the next quiz...

**FIX: 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.