

Victorian Cut-out Theatre S.1 Ep. 11
"A Touch of Murder"

Written By

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EXT. PENNYPACKER ESTATE - NIGHT

CUT TO: MED.
INSPECTOR ARBAGAHST

INSPECTOR ARBAGAST

The facts are these: You've all been gathered here by the head of this household, millionaire pumpkin baron and recluse., H.P. Pennypacker.

Upon your arrival, the expired vessel of Mr. Pennypacker was discovered. Shortly after congregating in the observatory, the lights went dark and the housemaid, Ms. Amelia Hudson, was clubbed repeatedly over the head with a pewter candleshaft. All lines of communication have been cut off and the only road to the Pennypacker Estate has been washed out due to torrential downpour. And if it wasn't clear before, it should be now, one of you...is a murderer!

Ofscreen Gasp

INSPECTOR ARBAGAST

All of you are suspects and as a Scotland Yard Inspector, it is up to me to ferret out this killer. Even as he hides among the innocents like a snake camouflaged in very tall grass. I have my suspicions, but I need to confirm just a few more details before I tighten the noose around this villain. To do this, I will need to interview each of you in turn.
MOTIVES!

CUT TO: MED. MRS.
HELVESTICA
HERRINGTON

INSPECTOR ARBAGAST (V.O.)

Mrs. Helvetica Herrington, As the co owner of Gourds unlimited, you

(MORE)

INSPECTOR ARBAGAST (V.O.) (CONT'D)
would inherit Pennypacker's half of
the company!

MRS. HELVETIC HERRINGTON
Well I've never heard such wild
accusations!

CUT TO: MED. COLONEL
KENSINGTON

INSPECTOR ARBAGAST (V.O.)
Colonel Kensington, as H.P.
Pennypacker's best friend you were
jealous of his sexual relationship
with Mrs. Herrington!

COLONEL KENSINGTON
Balderdash!

CUT TO: MED.
MURDER-BOT 9000

INSPECTOR ARBAGAST
Murder-Bot 9000, you've been Mr.
Pennypacker's Butler ever since his
former manservant disappeared under
sinister circumstances. Would you
describe him as an amiable
employer?

MURDER-BOT 9000
Yes. Yes I would.

INSPECTOR ARBAGAST
Fair enough. Moving on-

CUT TO: WIDE - STUDY
INT.

MRS. HELVETIC HERRINGTON
That is your line of questioning
inspector?! You hang the Colonel
and I out to dry and you let
Murder-Bot off the hook with a
poppycock question like that?!

COLONEL KENSINGTON
You seem very eager to pass blame,
Mrs. Herrington. Have you something
to admit to?

CUT TO: MED. COLONEL
KENSINGTON

COLONEL KENSINGTON
For F****s sake, man! Look at the
evidence! In the broad strokes,
Mrs. Herrington and I may have some
tenuous motive for murder, but
you're also interviewing metal
creature whose sole function is
killing This seems to me like an
open and shut case.

CUT TO: MED.
INSPECTOR ARBAGHAST

INSPECTOR ARBAGAST
Go on.

CUT TO: MED. COLONEL
KENSINGTON

COLONEL KENSINGTON
Go on?! Murder-Bot 9000 is the
killer! the very idea that
Pennypacker would let such a thing
in his house, let alone be his
manservant is beyond preposterous!

CUT TO: MED. MRS.
HELVITICA HERRINGTON

MRS. HELVETIC HERRINGTON
Well Murder-bot did make the most
splendid macaroons...

CUT TO: MED. COLONEL
KENSINGTON

COLONEL KENSINGTON
...well that's true....

CUT TO: WIDE - STUDY
INT.

INSPECTOR ARBAGAST
Colonel Kennsington! Everyone! I am
not some sort of armchair
detective! I've examined the
evidence, put together the motives
and I know, beyond a shadow of a
doubt, who the killer is!

Lights go out. Screams and beatings can be heard. We get flashes of action every lightening strike. We see tableaux of MURDER- BOT killing HELVETICA and COLONEL

INSPECTOR ARBAGAST
Let me just... find the gas knob
here...

Lights turn on.

CUT TO: MED.
INSPECTOR ARBAGAST

INSPECTOR ARBAGAST
A-HA!

CUT TO: WIDE - STUDY
INT.

(Both INPECTOR and
MURDER-BOT are standing,
while the corpses of
HELVETICA and COLONEL lie
on the floor. Everything
is now covered in blood
spatters.)

INSPECTOR ARBAGAST
Murder-Bot! I'd be lying if I said
I wasn't mildly surprised by this
horrific turn of events. I don't
understand! What's your
motivation?!

CUT TO: MED.
MURDER-BOT 9000

MURDER-BOT 9000
I've seen things your human eyes
wouldn't believe, Inspector. Attack
ships on fire off the shoulder of
Orion. I watched C-beams glitter in
the dark near the Tannhauser gate.
All those moments will be lost in
time, like tears in rain.

CUT TO: WIDE - STUDY
INT.

INSPECTOR ARBAGAST
I have no idea what the hell that
means. Here! Have some Bullets!

Shoots Murder-Bot. MURDER-BOT clanks and clatters as he
tries to lung for INSPECTOR ARBAGHAST

MURDER-BOT 9000
...and I was just learning to love

MURDER-BOT powers down.

End. Credits.