

Sleeping Sweetie

Entrance of Baron to Star Wars death march music. He is wearing a star-wars-like helmet that he can't see out of. As he marches on he bumps into the scenery/trips over something, then struggles to remove his helmet. He calls for help and his assistant rushes on to help take it off. Assistant to be played by Kernel or Sweetie actor.

Baron: Ah, that's better. "Come on as a star wars villain", they said. "Make a grand entrance", they said. It doesn't really work when you make it so dark I can't see where I'm going! *(Lights go bright)* Ah, too bright, too bright.

Assistant: It was meant to be atmospheric sir.

Baron: Well I could have really hurt myself.

Assistant tries to encourage an "aaah"

Baron: Don't you pity me. Do you not know who I am? I am Baron Von Percy, the scariest thing since Theresa May took power of the independent state of Britain, and I'm back yet again. Yes, York Maze are regretting giving me that 5-year contract now. It may be that you have seen me thwarted in my plans for Maze domination in previous years, but let me tell you today your worst nightmares have been realized....

Assistant: What they're stopping the reruns of Friends on telly?

Baron: No, worse, far far worse. You see this is the day that I finally triumph in my mission to destroy my uncannily identical twin brother, Farmer Tom, and to rid the Maze of these irksome visitors once and for all.

Assistant encourages a boo

Baron: Pathetic. I've never been put off by that kind of boo.

Assistant: What about this kind of boo?

Baron: What kind of...

Assistant: BOO!

Baron jumps and shrieks.

Baron: Do you mind? That really scared me.

Assistant: So what exactly is your plan this year?

Baron: I'm glad you asked my nameless friend....

Assistant: It's Jason actually.

Baron:I don't care. You see the work is already done, the victory already mine (*big laugh*)... but to explain thoroughly we need to go back in time precisely eighteen years - that's right, we actually have a vague attempt at a storyline this year. I have therefore transformed this barn into a time machine that will take us back to one miserable Halloween night when the infernal Maze mascot, Sweetie Corn, was born. Now I won't confuse you with the science behind the birth of a baby corn and I'm quite aware that these crops don't usually grow in October but rest assured it was a bizarrely late Indian Summer.

Indian Summers soundtrack and assistant starts to do some Bollywood dancing

Baron: What are you doing?

Assistant: You said Indian Summers

Baron: No you buffoon, an Indian summer as in a period of unusually dry, warm weather occurring in late autumn.

Assistant: Oh!

Baron: Never mind that, begin the time travel.

Lighting, sound, they Bollywood dance off stage.

Jackie: Hello Dums and Mads, Daddies Girls and Mummies Boys, welcome to York Maze Castle. I'm just getting ready for the biggest party in town to celebrate the birth of Sweetie Corn. My name's Jackie Lantern and I take care of all things "Halloween" for Farmer Tom. This year he has asked me to arrange the biggest party ever and to set up a future award winning fright night event in honour of Sweetie's birth. Shouldn't be too tricky, so long as the grumpy fairy Tracy from accounts says we have enough money to do so. Oh look out, here she comes now.

Enter Fairy Tracy

Tracy: Howdo. This year I am fairy! I am also the extremely charismatic and engaging Tracy from accounts.

Jackie: Are you good with figures?!

Tracy: Yes I am actually.

Jackie: Are you good at paying.....attention?!

Tracy: Reasonably good yes.

Jackie: Well if you need to spend a penny Tracy, the toilets are just out there.

Tracy: There's nothing funny about finance Jackie. Besides these people haven't come here to be entertained.

Jackie: Oh yes they have.

Tracy: Oh no they haven't....etc

There's no need to shout. In that case I'll have to try to make money more funny.

Jackie: Now Tracy, I have been given a budget by Farmer Tom for this party but I am worried about overspending. Could you check my balance for me?

Tracy: Certainly (*pushes Jackie over*). Not looking good I'm afraid.

Jackie: Well I guess it doesn't matter how much it costs, only the best to celebrate the birth of Sweetie. I've invited everybody on Farmer Tom's list, this party is going to be huge. Oh look, here comes farmer Tom now...

Enter the Baron as Farmer Tom, carrying a baby corn in a blanket singing "Tonight I'm gonna party like it's 1999"

Tom: Ay up lads and lasses, I'm a genuine bona fide Yorkshire farmer, doesn't tha know.

Tracy: If you're from Yorkhire I'm a fairy!

Jackie: But you are a fairy.

Tracy: Oh yes, I forgot that for a moment.

Tom: Now listen up. This party has to be perfect for my little baby corn, hasn't it Sweetie.

Tracy: If you say so darling.

Tom: Not you, the corn. And we don't want anybody spoiling it do we Sweetie?

Tracy: No we don't sugarplum.

Tom: Not you, the corn. So I have decided not to invite my evil twin brother, Baron von Pearcy. Alright Sweetie?

Tracy: That's fine snugglebum.

Tom&Jackie:Not you, the corn!!

Tom: Now I must be off.

Jackie: I thought I could smell something.

Tom: Afterall, somebody's got to progress this storyline a little. Tara for now.

Jackie: So you've got that Tracy? We're not to invite Baron Von Pearcy to this party, so no mentioning it to him, alright?

Tracy: Quite right too. It's about time Farmer Tom started to crack down on freeloaders coming to the Maze for nothing.

Jackie: Look out here comes the Baron now

Baron enters

Baron: What's going on here?

Jackie: They really are uncannily identical aren't they?

Tracy: So much so it's hard to imagine them together in the same room. It's probably just as well he isn't invited to the party.

Baron: Party? What party?

Jackie: Tracy!!

Baron: So, Farmer Tom is having a party and not inviting me is he. Time for me to exact some terrifying revenge.

Tracy: It's alright, you've no time because here comes Farmer Tom now.

Baron: Really? Curses, I must hide.

Tracy: Why?

Baron: Because otherwise he may miss his entrance.

Baron exits

Jackie: Oh you're useless Tracy from accounts. That'll cost you dearly.

Tracy: Only if it's an authorized payment. What is it Farmer Tom?

Farmer Tom enters

Tom: *(in Baron's voice)* There's something I forgot, fairy Tracy.

Tracy: What, your accent?

Tom: Oh aye, reet sorry 'bout that. But another thing, what gift is thee gonna give t' corn?

Tracy: Oh well, I thought I would grant her a special fairy promise to always get paid promptly.

Jackie: That would be a first for any York Maze staff member.

Tracy: so long as she returns her uniform, washed and ironed, at the end of each season.

Tom: That sounds grand. I'll be off then. Here, hold this *(passing corn to Tracy and going to exit)*

Tracy: Why?

Tom: Cos it's playin' havoc with my quick changes.

Exits

Jackie: But Farmer Tom, the Baron knows about the party and he's here now.....

Tracy: Or at least he should be.

Baron enters, out of breath

Baron: Give me chance. So it's a party for this wretched corn on the cob is it. And I'm not invited you say? Very well then, I shall give my Sweetie gift now.

Tracy: Oh yummy, I love Sweeties!

Jackie: I'm not sure that's what he means.

Baron: My gift shall be a curse, that on her 18th birthday she will prick her finger on a particularly prickly thicket

Jackie: A what?

Baron: A particularly prickly thicket....

Tracy: Any particularly prickly thicket in particular?

Baron: No, no particularly prickly thicket in particular, just a regular particularly prickly thicket.

Tracy: Easy for you to say.

Baron: She will then, along with the rest of the crop at York Maze, fall into a deep sleep and fail to grow for a hundred years! (*Sings Michael Jackson song*) Oh yes I'm bad, I'm bad, you know, you know etc!

Jackie: Quick Tracy, go and get Farmer Tom, he'll know what to do.

Baron: Something tells me he won't be there.

Tracy: In that case I, Fairy Tracy from accounts, will do all I can.

Tracy produces a wand

Tracy: Ooh wand-erful! I wand-ered where that had gone. It's a wand-rous thing to behold...

Jackie: Just get on with it.

Tracy: Ok, here goes;

My powers cannot now reverse
The impact of this deadly curse
But with the use of clever verse
I'll make a change....

Jackie: You'll make it worse

Tracy: As keeper of the Farmer's purse
I'll do my best to reimburse
By bringing to this universe
Another special corn who'll nurse

And kiss our Sweetie to inverse
This dreadful present so adverse.

And with that I will now disperse
For I have more scenes to rehearse!

Tracy exits

Jackie: Just you wait Baron, we'll make sure no harm comes to Sweetie or to York Maze. Just you wait, 18 years from now you won't be so smug. Just you wait.

Baron: Have you finished?

Jackie: Yes, I just thought it was about time the York Maze audiences saw some proper acting.

Jackie Exits

Baron: Well as it happens we don't have to wait. Time to return to the present day, 18 years from now. Activate the Time Machine.

Time machine sounds and music

Jackie enters

Jackie: Hello Girls and Boys, welcome to York Maze Castle. I'm just getting ready for the biggest party in town to celebrate Sweetie's 18th birthday. You know, it seems no time at all since I was planning a party to celebrate her birth. Now where's Tracy gone. Tracy?

Tracy: Here I am. I know what you're all thinking; she's aged well in 18 years hasn't she!

Jackie: What about me?

Tracy: I'd say you look a million dollars.

Jackie: Really?

Tracy: Yes, all green and wrinkled. Now then what are we up to?

Jackie: Farmer Tom has told us to be on the lookout for a prickly thicket so that the Baron's curse doesn't come true.

Tracy: Oh yes, right you are, let's have a look. *(goes into audience)* Ooh I'd say we've got a few thickets around here. I think this one might even be a bit prickly!

Jackie: I think we need to keep searching Tracy.

Baron enters

Baron: You will be searching in vain pathetic mazelings. You see I will shortly reveal my thicket.

Tracy: You'll do no such thing, it's a family show.

Baron: But first, seeing as it's Halloween, I will transform myself into the scariest creature imaginable. Yes, it's time to play my Trump card; behold the might of The Donald!!

Baron puts on a Donald Trump mask

Jackie: Ahhh, help us. Fairy Tracy, what can we do to defeat such a horrific force?

Tracy: Hmm, tricky indeed, especially when it is riding on such an unstoppable wave of ignorance - when pantomime becomes political! However, there's only one thing for it. We need our own hero to try to outTrump Trump. You'll do Sir.

Dad called up onto stage. Given a cloak and stands on the stage above the smoke Machine.

All you have to do is brace yourself and growl at him. Are you ready, after 3, go.

Fart sound heard and smoke emerges from under the Dad

Baron: *(removing mask)* Oh no, I can't cope with that, it's too much. Air, I need air!!

Baron exits

Jackie: You did it, you managed to outTrump Trump. How can we ever thank you. Please give him a huge round of applause. Oh Tracy, if only art really could mirror reality.

Tracy: Ah yes, because of course this is art. With a capital F.

Baron reenters

Baron: You may have thwarted my plans but I still have the upper hand.

Tracy: You're just being sizest now.

Baron: You see what you really need to be scared of in this castle is ghoulies.

Jackie: Ghoulies? What are they?

Tracy: I'm not sure, perhaps we should look it up so that we know what we're dealing with.

They get a dictionary and start to look it up

Baron: I wasn't always bad you know, it's just that I was always treated badly by my brother. As a child he would frequently kick me in the...

Tracy: ...Ghoulies are a derivative of ghouls...

Baron: ...in the classroom whenever I messed around. I remember one time he even grabbed me by the.....

Jackie: Ghoulies are ghostly spirits.....

Baron: ...by the shoulders and told me I needed to grow up when all I was doing was fiddling with my.....

Tracy: Ghoulies should be avoided at all costs....

Baron: ...with my pencil case because I didn't know what I was meant to be doing. It was so unfair. It's only right that now I should destroy everything he has ever held dear.

Jackie: So a ghoulie is basically a ghost?

Tracy: There are no such thing as ghosts. Honestly, you wouldn't know a ghost if it smacked you round the face.

Ghost appears and smacks Jackie round the face. Jackie collapses onto a member of the audience in the front row.

Tracy: See what I mean. Ahh a ghost! A ghoulie! I'm going to stay well away. There's no way it's going to smack me round my beautiful face.

Ghost appears and smacks Tracy round the face. She collapses over another audience member

Baron: Excellent. My plan is working to perfection. Time has come to summon my particularly prickly thicket.

The cornstalk from last year inflates from the wings on its side across the stage.

Baron: It may be that some of you recognize this as the cornstalk from last year. We certainly believe in value for money here at York Maze. Now to summon that stupid Sweetie Corn. Oh Sweetie!

Sweetie enters, waving to the audience, she sees the thicket, slowly touches it and collapses into a deep sleep behind the thicket.

Baron : I've done it! I've actually done it! The Maze is finished! You may as well all go home now. Nothing to see here. The land is now mine, all mine!!!

Baron exits. Jackie wakes up.

Jackie: What's this? I must have been knocked out. What's going on here? Tracy wake up wake up!

Tracy slowly comes round whispering sweet nothings into the ear of the man she has collapsed upon:

Tracy: Of course I'll arrange that pay rise for you Stuart you handsome hunk you. What? Where am I? You're not Stuart! How dare you try to take advantage of my purse strings.

Jackie: Tracy! Wake up! *(Slaps Tracy in the face)*

Tracy: That was a bit harder than usual! What's this?

Jackie: This must be the particularly prickly thicket. We must find Sweetie.

Tracy: Right you are. Now how do we do this.

Jackie easily climbs over the thicket back onto stage. Tracy struggles but finally manages.

Tracy: Now what?

Jackie: It's time to save the day. I, Jackie lantern, will transform into my superhero alter ego, Jack Skellington!

Jackie does a quick change into a Jack Skellington outfit.

Tracy: That reminds me I've got a bone to pick with you! And I, Tracy from accounts, will transform into....erm....Tracy Island! *(Quick change!)* After all this calls for an International Rescue!

Jackie: And you're certainly a Thunderous Bird. Right, let's get rid of that thicket.

They remove the thicket to reveal Sweetie lying behind it.

Jackie: Oh, poor Sweetie. Look, you can see where she pricked her finger.

Tracy: Yes, a corn torn by a thorn.

Jackie: We need to wake her up. Boys and Girls, will you help us by shouting "Wake Up Sweetie" as loud as you can after three? Ready, one, two three....

It didn't work. One more time, even louder, ready....

Tracy: It's no use, we'll never wake her.

Jackie: Hang on Fairy Tracy, didn't you say a magic rhyme to create another supercorn who could kiss Sweetie back to life.

Tracy: Oh yes, I'd forgotten I was a fairy. The time has come for us to summon Kernel Kernel. Hit it!

Ghostbusters tune:
When there's something strange
Happenin at York Maze
Who ya gonna call?
Kernel Kernel

If it's Halloween
In a couple of days
Who ya Gonna call
Kernel Kernel

Kernel dances onstage

Jackie: Kernel, thank goodness you're here. Do you think you can save the day by kissing Sweetie back to life? What's wrong? Have you not had your Weetabix today?

Kernel seems unsure

Tracy: As I suspected; the corn flakes! Let's try to encourage him; (chanting) Kernel kernel etc.

Jackie: It looks like he's ready to kiss her, well done everyone.

Tracy: Now just to reassure parents that this Kernel is soft to the core so there's no danger of this kiss crossing into hardcore corn!

Jackie: Go for it Kernel.

Kernel kisses Sweetie; big smooch kiss sound

Jackie: It doesn't seem to be working.

Tracy: Well you can't *force* her to wake up.

Jackie: Poor Sweetie.

Tracy: Yes, afterall she is the driving *force* behind York Maze.

Jackie: Why are you stressing the word "force".

Tracy: Because I'm setting up a very clever, almost current, joke.

Jackie: Oh right. Look she's stirring.

Tracy: Yes! The Force Awakens! Thank you, thank you.

Jackie: Bang on the money as ever, Tracy from accounts.

Tracy: It looks as though we've scuppered the Baron's plans afterall.

Baron enters

Baron: Not so fast.

Jackie: Alright then. (Very slowly)It looks like we've scuppered the Baron's plans after all.

Baron: While this is indeed a minor inconvenience I have another ace up my sleeve that will take care of you meddlesome mazelings. You see I do in fact have hundreds of monsters scattered all around this barn that I will release on you if you don't go now!

Jackie: Monsters? Where?

Baron All over the place, can you not see them?

Tracy: I know there are some scary looking folks out there (*indicating the audience*) but I can't see hundreds of monsters.

Baron: Very well I'll prove it to you, I just need my phone. Aha there we are, there's one there, one there, three over there, there's even one on Kernel's shoulder there.

Jackie: Hang on a second, are these Pokemonsters by any chance? We're not going to be scared off by augmented reality!

Baron: Well looking at you all I'd say non-augmented reality is certainly scary enough. No wonder kids are glued to their phones these days.

Tracy: No Baron, you're going to have to admit defeat for another year and so we need to think about your punishment. What shall we do with him boys and girls?

All good suggestions but I think this year we're going to go with a suggestion from a child last year. We're going to "put him down the trap door and make him stay there!

Baron: What? No! There are rats down there!

Jackie: *(opening upstage trap door)* You'll feel quite at home then, down you go.

Baron enters the trap door. As Jackie closes it he pops up from the downstage trapdoor.

Baron: Do I really have to?

Tracy: How did he do that? I tell you what, you can come out if you do the 22 push up challenge.

Baron: Er, what?

Tracy: That's 22 push-ups a day for 22 days.

Baron: What? You'll pay for this Tracy from accounts.

Tracy: Only if you've actually earned it. Now drop and gimme 22

Baron: Oh very well, 1, 2, 3 etc

Tracy watches Baron doing the push-ups under the stage

Jackie: Thank you Kernel for saving the day once again, what are you and Sweetie going to do now?

Tracy: What's that, following on from the Olympics you want to become the next golden couple?

Jackie: Very well then Kernel Kenny and Sweetie hot-to Trott, here's your corn cycle for you to ride off into the distance. Say goodbye everybody.

Kernel and Sweetie cycle off

Tracy: Corn, but not forgotten!

Jackie: Do you think they're going to get married in a secret ceremony in Cheshire?

Tracy: Oh I hope not. After all marriage is very much like a bank account. You put in, you take out, you lose interest!

Jackie: Well Tracy from accounts, I think they're losing interest in us now, so maybe it's time to say goodbye.

Tracy: Yes indeed, thank you so much for watching our rubbish, have a lovely time here at York Maze and bye for now!

©Richard Kay 2016