

"THE BIG SNOOZE"
A Dick Shamus Mystery

Written by

Bruce Kane

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"THE BIG SNOOZE - A Dick Shamus Mystery" is a script in hand, live on stage recreation of an old time radio broadcast or a brand new comedy mystery podcast. The play is written to be performed by actors at microphones in modern dress reading from scripts.

The set may be as minimal as a row of chairs for the actors and two or three microphones for them to speak into. It can also be as elaborate as a full recreation of a recording studio or anything in between.

The cast can be a full compliment of actors or a minimal number playing all the parts and changing their vocal characteristics to represent the characters they are playing.

Because the actors will be reading from scripts rehearsal times can be reduced although performances should be honed before going on stage.

Sound effects and music can be performed live on stage or recorded and played back electronically. The latter may provide you with more variety and flexibility.

However you choose to mount your production of "Murder At Dunsinane," it is a comedy, so hopefully you will have as much fun performing it as the audience will have watching you.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

DICK SHAMUS - Hardboiled private eye

EFFIE - Shamus's secretary

MACDOUGAL - Local constable

RAPUNZEL - Sexy saloon singer

JOHNSON - An elf

B.B. WOLFE - Local underworld kingpin

VERONICA VIRAGO - Sexy villainess

SLEEPING BEAUTY - Self centered and vacuous when she's awake

PRINCE CHARMING - The self proclaimed answer to everyone woman's dream.

ACT ONE

(The cast enters, scripts in hand, and take seats behind stand up microphones. The actors playing the Stage Manager and Shamus approach the microphones. The rest of the cast will approach the mikes when it is their time.)

STAGE MANAGER

We go in five... four... three... two...

(Stage Manager points to cue:

*MUSIC: Bluesy film noir
saxophone up and under)*

SHAMUS

A place that wasn't what it seemed to be. A missing dame who may or may not be missing. A murder that may or may not have been a murder. Suspects who may or may not have committed a murder that may or not have been a murder. Solving a murder is hard. Solving a murder that may not have been a murder is even harder.

(Saxophone out.)

SHAMUS

The name's Shamus. Dick Shamus. I work for the F.B.I. The Fictional Bureau of Investigation. I handle to toughest, dirtiest cases in English literature. That's right. I'm a fictional detective.

(MUSIC: Upbeat, stirring)

ANNOUNCER

It's the Adventures of Dick Shamus, Fictional Detective, starring Jason Tindal as Dick Shamus, Fictional Detective. Tonight's episode "Murder At Peppermint Bay."

(Transitional Music)

SHAMUS

It was raining that Monday I got back to the office. Effie, my overdeveloped secretary with the underdeveloped typing skills was waiting for me. She told me I had call.

EFFIE

You had a call.

SHAMUS

Who from? I asked. A guy who called himself Dumpty, she said.

EFFIE

A guy who called himself Dumpty.

SHAMUS

William Jefferson Dumpty? I asked. He didn't leave a full name, she said.

EFFIE

He didn't leave a full name.

SHAMUS

Know him? she asked.

EFFIE

Know him?

SHAMUS

Yeah. I know him. He helped me out on a case a few years back. She said he needed...

EFFIE

How long are you going to keep doing that?

SHAMUS

Sorry... Force of habit.

EFFIE

Whatever... This Dumpty guy said he needed your help?

SHAMUS

Say what about?

EFFIE

He said he couldn't talk about it on the phone.

SHAMUS

How'd he sound?

EFFIE

Scared. Said for you to grab the next boat to Peppermint Bay.

(Dramatic music sting)

SHAMUS

(dramatically)

Did you say Peppermint Bay?

(Dramatic music sting)

EFFIE

Yeah, that's what I said, Peppermint Bay.

SHAMUS

That's what I thought you said.

EFFIE

Then why'd you make me repeat it.

SHAMUS

Dramatic emphasis.

EFFIE

Peppermint Bay? Isn't that where bon bons play on the sunny beach?

SHAMUS

Don't let the brochures fool ya. Take away the cotton candy clouds, the gingerbread houses, the little furry woodland creatures singing pop tunes in high squeaky voices and Peppermint Bay is just like any other burg. Corrupt. Depraved. Debauched. In short, it's my kinda town. Dumpty say where I could find him?

EFFIE

Said he'd be sittin' on the dock of the bay.

SHAMUS

Say what he'd be doing?

EFFIE

Watchin' the tide roll away.

SHAMUS

Looks like I'm headed for Peppermint Bay. Effie, my sweet, book me a one way ticket on the Good Ship Lollipop.

(Transitional Music)

SHAMUS

Way back when, Dumpty helped me out on a case. I told him I owed him a favor. Of course, I never expected him to take me up on it. Leave it to Dumpty not to recognize an empty gesture when he heard one. It was no wonder nobody liked him. So here I was in Peppermint Bay looking for one William Jefferson Dumpty. When I finally found him, he wasn't exactly sittin' on the dock of the bay. More like he was all over it.

MACDOUGAL

(Irish accent)

Move it along... Move it along. This is an accident scene not a pop up book.

SHAMUS

Lemme guess. The omelette is Dumpty.

MACDOUGAL

That's right, laddie. Humpty Dumpty.

SHAMUS

He hated that name. His mother hung it on him when he was a kid. She thought it was funny.

MACDOUGAL

And you wonder why some people turn out the way they do.

SHAMUS

How'd he buy it?

MACDOUGAL

Sat on the wall. Had a great fall.

SHAMUS

Tough way to go.

MACDOUGAL

We did everything we could for him.

SHAMUS

What about all the king's horses and all the king's men?

MACDOUGAL

Budget cuts.

SHAMUS

When did it happen?

MACDOUGAL

Sometime before one o'clock.

SHAMUS

Who found him?

MACDOUGAL

Hickory Dickory Dock.

SHAMUS

Who's Hickory Dickory Dock?

MACDOUGAL

A mouse.

SHAMUS

A mouse?

MACDOUGAL

That's right. A mouse. Runs up and down the clock

SHAMUS

Why?

MACDOUGAL

He's a mouse. What else is he gonna do? Dumpty a friend of yours, bucko?

SHAMUS

You could say that.

MACDOUGAL

I just did.

SHAMUS

He helped me out on a coupla cases sometimes back

MACDOUGAL

You a cop or something?

SHAMUS

Or something. The name's Shamus.

MACDOUGAL

Dick Shamus?

SHAMUS

That's right.

MACDOUGAL

The fictional detective

SHAMUS

Guilty as charged.

MACDOUGAL

I heard of you. You broke the Cinderella caper. Nice to meet you. The name's MacDougal.

SHAMUS

I just said it's Shamus.

MACDOUGAL

No my name's MacDougal. Constable MacDougal.

SHAMUS

Right. Any suspects, Constable?

MACDOUGAL

You think it wasn't an accident?

SHAMUS

Maybe.

MACDOUGAL

Think you can figure it out.

SHAMUS

Maybe.

MACDOUGAL

It won't be easy.

SHAMUS

Maybe it will and maybe it won't. Or maybe I'll just end up singin' the blues. But nevertheless...

MACDOUGAL

Yeah?

SHAMUS

I'd still like to look around. See what I can learn. In cases like this there are things you can learn and there are things you can't learn. Sometimes the things you can't learn are more important than the things you can learn. The only problem is... you can't learn them.

MACDOUGAL

Makes sense to me.

SHAMUS

Did you know Dumpty?

MACDOUGAL

We had a few brushes. Dumpty was always a little hard boiled for my taste. Always playing the angles. Looking for a quick buck. Sometimes people got hurt. Sometimes people complained.

SHAMUS

Any of the good citizens of Peppermint Bay angry enough to want to use the sidewalk for a frying pan?

MACDOUGAL

It'd be easier to make a list of everyone who didn't want to poach Dumpty.

SHAMUS

He have any next of kin around here?

MACDOUGAL

Not that I know of. Although, last I hear he was hooked up with a singer over in Happy Valley.

SHAMUS

I might want to look her up.

MACDOUGAL

Hear she's a real looker.

SHAMUS

Then I'll definitely want to look her up. What's the canary's name?

MACDOUGAL

Rapunzel.

(Dramatic music sting)

SHAMUS

(dramatically)

Did you say Rapunzel?

(Dramatic music sting)

MACDOUGAL

That's what I said. Rapunzel.

SHAMUS

That's what I thought you said.

MACDOUGAL

Then why'd you make me repeat it?

SHAMUS

Dramatic emphasis.

SHAMUS

Where I can find this thrush?

MACDOUGAL

Works at a dive called Jack Spratt's

SHAMUS

How do I get there?

MACDOUGAL

Just take Happy Valley Turnpike out to Happy Valley Boulevard. Turn right to get to Happy Valley Drive. Go two miles, take a left on Happy Valley Way. Go three blocks then hang a right onto Happy Valley Avenue. You can't miss the place, it's on...

SHAMUS

I know...

SHAMUS

(dramatically)

The outskirts of town.

(normal delivery)

I figured I'd start with the songbird. In my experience, nine times outta ten, a guy gets scrambled, it's usually a dame handlin' the whisk.

(Background noise of people talking)

RAPUNZEL

(breathy, sultry)

For my next song I'd like to sing a little tune made popular by Ole King Cole and his Fiddlers Three. It's a little ditty I like to call "The Spider Song."

(sings)

Little Miss Muffet... She sat on her...tuffet...eating her curds and whey. When, along came the big, bad spider. Well, you what he did, that big bad spider? He sat down beside her and frightened poor, little Miss Muffet away.

(Applause)

RAPUNZEL

Thank you. Thank you. Please, stick around. I'll be back in five..

SHAMUS

Rapunzel.

RAPUNZEL

Well, well, well. If isn't Dick Shamus, fictional dick. It's been a long time, Shamus.

SHAMUS

Too long.

RAPUNZEL

Is that a gun in your pocket or are you just glad to see me?

SHAMUS

It's a gun.

RAPUNZEL

(disappointed)

Oh...

SHAMUS

Rapunzel was one of those dames who always had lousy luck with men. When I first knew her she was hooked up with an ugly little half-pint named Rumpelstilskin. Nobody could ever figure out what she saw in the creep. But, then again,

(MORE)

SHAMUS (cont'd)
trying to figure out a dame was like trying to unwrap quantum physics while banging your head on a brick wall. Either way, all you end up with is a bunch of formulas and a headache.

RAPUNZEL
You done with the metaphors?

SHAMUS
For now.

RAPUNZEL
What brings you all the way out here, Shamus?

SHAMUS
I gave it to her straight, because I knew from experience that's how she liked it. Dumpty's dead.

RAPUNZEL
Too bad. How the little ovum buy it?

SHAMUS
Fell off a wall. Had a great fall.

RAPUNZEL
Doesn't make sense.

SHAMUS
Why's that?

RAPUNZEL
Dumpty was afraid of heights.

SHAMUS
How come?

RAPUNZEL
He was an egg. You do the math.

SHAMUS
You don't seem very broken up.

RAPUNZEL
Dumpty and me weren't exactly sunny side up.

SHAMUS
Another frail?

RAPUNZEL
I told him to beat it.

SHAMUS
How come? Another dame?

RAPUNZEL
Doctor's orders.

SHAMUS
What was the problem?

RAPUNZEL
My cholesterol was outta sight.

SHAMUS
Did Dumpty seem different lately?

RAPUNZEL
How different could he be? He was an egg. They're two ninety eight a dozen.

SHAMUS
Where were you around one o'clock?

RAPUNZEL
Yeah, sure. Stick it to old Rapunzel. Right, Shamus? Just like the old days.

SHAMUS
Rapunzel and me had what you might call of love-hate relationship. She loved hating me and I hated... But that's another story for another time in another place during another episode about another...

(SFX: A very loud slap)

SHAMUS
Hey, what was that for?

RAPUNZEL
You were running on.

SHAMUS
You liked slapping me, didn't you?

RAPUNZEL
Almost as much as you like me doing it.

SHAMUS
Rapunzel was right. I did like it. There was just something about getting socked in the jaw by a gorgeous dame that made you feel alive. I didn't come here to reminisce about the old days, apple knees. Dumpty called. Said he needed my help. You wouldn't know what with.

RAPUNZEL
Beats me.

SHAMUS

I wasn't sure if Rapunzel was shooting straight from the hip or not. That would take a closer inspection of her hips. But this wasn't the time or the place. I told her it was good seein' her again. It was good seein' you again. She said...

RAPUNZEL

Are you still doing that?

SHAMUS

It was good seeing Rapunzel again. She was looking good. Very good. Maybe when I'd wrapped things up here in Peppermint Bay, I'd drop in, buy her a drink. Catch up on old times. Rekindle the spark. Light a fire. That is, if she wasn't the one who pushed Dumpty off the wall. If that was the case, I might have to rethink my priorities. I was on my way to Peppermint Bay when...

JOHNSON

Psssst.

SHAMUS

You psssting me?

JOHNSON

There's only two of us. Who else would I be pssssting, Judy Garland?

SHAMUS

He stood about three feet high. He was wearing a red tunic, blue tights and a yellow cloth hat the came to a point and hung over to one side. What do you want?

JOHNSON

You Shamus, the fictional dick?

SHAMUS

I'm shamus. What's it to ya?

JOHNSON

Dumpty talked about you. He talked about you a lot.

SHAMUS

You a friend of Dumpty's.

JOHNSON

We was friends. I liked him. You could say he was a good egg.

SHAMUS

You could. I wouldn't.

JOHNSON
Poor guy. He got a rough deal.

SHAMUS
How so?

JOHNSON
Didn't deserve to get pushed off that wall.

SHAMUS
You think he was pushed?

JOHNSON
Bound to happen, if you knew Dumpty.

SHAMUS
You think he stuck his nose in where it didn't belong?

JOHNSON
Except for one thing.

SHAMUS
What's that?

JOHNSON
He didn't have a nose.

SHAMUS
I was speaking metaphorically.

JOHNSON
Next time send up a flare.

SHAMUS
What makes you think Dumpty's swan dive was an accident?

JOHNSON
All I know is that Dumpty and Wolfe got into it big time.

SHAMUS
Wolfe?

JOHNSON
Yeah, B.B. Wolfe.

SHAMUS
The blues singer?

JOHNSON
No, that's B.B. King.

SHAMUS
Who's Wolfe?

JOHNSON

Runs everything worth running in Peppermint Bay. Not a good idea to get on his bad side and he doesn't have a good side.

SHAMUS

Sounds like a rough customer, alright. When did Dumpty and this Wolfe character have their set to.

JOHNSON

A couple of days before Dumpty cracked his shell.

SHAMUS

Just before he bought it, Dumpty dropped a dime. Said he needed my help. Any idea what he was working on? What angle he was playing?

JOHNSON

He did say something about working on a big score. Said he was about to hit the jackpot with some rich guy.

SHAMUS

This rich guy have a name?

JOHNSON

I'm sure. He's rich.

SHAMUS

By the way.

JOHNSON

Yeah?

SHAMUS

Know what Dumpty and this Wolfe guy were arguing about?

JOHNSON

No. Couldn't hear over all the whistling.

SHAMUS

Whistling?

JOHNSON

We whistle while we work. Company regulations. We took it to the union, but so far nothing.

(SFX: Phone ringing)

EFFIE

Fictional Bureau Of Investigation. Effie, the incredibly attractive secretary speaking.

SHAMUS

He tangerine ears, it's me.

EFFIE

Oh, his boss.

SHAMUS

I need you to check something out for me.

EFFIE

Like what?

SHAMUS

Like a list of all the rich guys in Peppermint Bay.

EFFIE

Rich guys, huh? Want me to bring it over personally?

SHAMUS

Not necessary.

EFFIE

It wouldn't be any bother.

SHAMUS

Just get me the info.

EFFIE

Killjoy.

SHAMUS

I was back on the road back to Peppermint Bay when...

(Bluesy saxophone)

SHAMUS

She sauntered in.

BO

Well, hello there tall, dark and three dimensional.

SHAMUS

She was the kinda dame that made a man glad she was that kind of dame.

(Saxophone out)

SHAMUS

And who might you be?

BO

The name's Peep.

SHAMUS

Peep?

BO

Bo Peep. It's short for Bodacious.

SHAMUS

The dame had two of everything including a name that was both a noun and an adjective. So tell me Bodacious, what's a girl like you doing out here all by your lonesome?

BO

Looking for my sheep.

SHAMUS

Your sheep?

BO

I lost my sheep and I just don't where to find them?

SHAMUS

How many are there?

BO

I don't know. Every time I try to count them, I fall asleep.

SHAMUS

You want to know what I'm thinking?

BO

I know what you're thinking.

SHAMUS

About your sheep.

BO

Oh. In that case, lay it on me.

SHAMUS

We still talking sheep?

BO

It's your dime.

SHAMUS

Leave them alone.

BO

Leave them alone?

SHAMUS

That's it? Leave them alone.

BO

That's the best you can come up with? Leave them alone.

SHAMUS

That's it. Leave them alone and they'll come home. And, one more thing.

BO

What's that?

SHAMUS

They'll be wagging their tails behind them.

BO

Master of the obvious, aren't you?

SHAMUS

I do my best.

BO

I'll be the judge of that.

SHAMUS

If I come across some lost sheep, I'll be sure to send them your way.

BO

I'll keep a light on.

SHAMUS

She sauntered out the way she sauntered in on legs that went all the way to floor and then some. Now, you may be asking what's a dame with a body that had its own zip code have to do with my case. The quick answer is "Who cares?" But stick around. She'll be back. And, trust me, she plays a very important part in the story.

MACDOUGAL

Shamus.

SHAMUS

MacDougal, just the man I was looking for.

MACDOUGAL

What do you need, laddie?

SHAMUS

Ever hear of a mug called B.B. Wolfe?

MACDOUGAL

Who hasn't? Had to run him in a while back on a five oh seven.

SHAMUS

What's a five oh seven?

MACDOUGAL

Some kid rolled down a hill and sustained a head injury. The girlfriend pointed the finger at Wolfe.

SHAMUS

Did he do it?

MACDOUGAL

Nah... Had an alibi. He was evicting three porkers from a house he owned. When they wouldn't move out, he huffed and puffed and just blew the place down. Damndest thing you ever saw.

SHAMUS

Sounds like a tough customer. Know where I can find him

MACDOUGAL

Runs an operation called Wolfe's Fine Dining and Mining. It's an unusual combination of exotic cuisine and open hole quarrying. You can enjoy a fine escargot while watching little men with lights on their heads haul heavy rocks out of the ground.

SHAMUS

How do I get there?

MACDOUGAL

Take Happy Valley Highway out to Happy Valley Circle Drive. Go five miles past Happy Valley Estates. Take the second turn off the Happy Valley Roundabout. Then take the on ramp to Happy Valley Skyway. Get off at Happy Valley Ranch Road. Go one mile and you're there. You can't miss the place, it's on...

SHAMUS

I know...

(dramatically)

On the edge town.

MACDOUGAL

Be careful, laddie. Be very careful.

(Musical transition)

WOLFE

The other way. It goes the other way. And he wonders why everyone calls him Dopey.

SHAMUS

You Wolfe?

WOLFE

Who's askin'?

SHAMUS

I flashed my badge. I found it saved a lot of time and needless conversation.

WOLFE

What's that?

SHAMUS

My badge.

WOLFE

Badge? Badge for what?

SHAMUS

For who I am and what I do?

WOLFE

Who are you and what do you do?

SHAMUS

The name's Shamus. I work for the Fictional Bureau Of Investigation.

WOLFE

Why didn't you say so in the first place? We could have save a lot of time and needless conversation.

SHAMUS

I'm lookin' for B.B. Wolfe.

WOLFE

You're talkin' to him.

SHAMUS

You familiar with the name Dumpty?

WOLFE

Should I be?

SHAMUS

Let me tell you how this works. I ask the questions. You give the answers.

WOLFE

What was the question?

SHAMUS

See, you did it again. You asked a question. Let's try it one more time. You ever hear of a guy named Dumpty?

WOLFE

First name or last?

SHAMUS

See, that's not an answer. That's another question. An answer's got a period. A question has a rising inflection followed by a squiggly mark. So I'll you again. What were you and Dumpty arguing about?

WOLFE

What else? A dame.

SHAMUS

What was the beef?

WOLFE

Dumpty didn't like the way I lookin' at his old lady and he didn't like the way she was lookin' at me.

SHAMUS

You talking about Rapunzel?

WOLFE

If you want to give her a name, that's as good as any.

SHAMUS

And how was Rapunzel looking at you.

(Wolfe puts one hand on his hip and the other behind his head to indicate a sexy female come on.)

SHAMUS

And how were you looking at her.

(Wolfe pants)

WOLFE

But I never laid a hand on her. Are we done here?

SHAMUS

For now.

WOLFE

Good, cause I gotta evict some broad from a hush puppy.

SHAMUS

If anyone could push Dumpty off a wall without a second thought it was Wolfe. But then again, he was too obvious. A guy like Wolfe would never do the deed himself. Unless he didn't want anybody to have something to hang over his head. Then he'd do it himself. Unless he didn't have a reason to

(MORE)

SHAMUS (cont'd)

dump Dumpty. Although they did have a dust up over Rapunzel. That'd be a reason. A good reason. Right now I had Wolfe at the top of my list. Unless, of course, he didn't do it. Then I'd have to redo my list.

(SFX: Phone ringing)

EFFIE

Fictional Bureau of Investigation. Effie, the adorable secretary speaking.

SHAMUS

Hey strawberry toes, it's me.

EFFIE

Oh, hi boss.

SHAMUS

You find anything of rich guys in Peppermint Bay?

EFFIE

There's only one who qualifies as rich.

SHAMUS

Only one?

EFFIE

I guess there's not a lot of money in being a story book character. Everyone in Peppermint Bay is as poor as church mice. Especially the church mice.

SHAMUS

What's the name of this Mr. Moneybags?

EFFIE

Midas... Mitchell Midas. The locals just call him "king."

SHAMUS

How'd he make his bundle?

EFFIE

Mufflers.

SHAMUS

Car parts?

EFFIE

No, the kind you wrap around your neck.

SHAMUS

Thanks, sweet cheeks. When I get back, remind to give you a raise.

EFFIE

You better be talking money.

MACDOUGAL

Shamus.

SHAMUS

MacDougall. Just the man I wanted to see.

MACDOUGAL

What can I do for ya, laddie.

SHAMUS

You ever hear of a moneybags named Midas?

MACDOUGAL

Mitchell Midas. Richest man in Peppermint Bay.

SHAMUS

What do you know about him?

MACDOUGAL

Married. One daughter. Ran off about a year ago.

SHAMUS

Midas or the daughter.

MACDOUGAL

The daughter. Midas spent a fortune trying to find her.

SHAMUS

Where can I find this Midas?

MACDOUGAL

Easy. Lives on top of Midas Mountain.

SHAMUS

I was almost afraid to ask. How do I get there?

MACDOUGAL

Take Happy Valley Highway out to Happy Valley Glen. Turn right until you get to Happy Valley Trails. Go three miles. Take the fork to Happy Valley Valley. Another right and immediate left to Happy Valley Pines. Follow that until you see the sign to Midas Mountain. You can't miss it. It's on...

SHAMUS

I know. The edge of town. It turned out Midas lived in a cozy little bungalow. If your idea of cozy is the Taj Mahal. I rang the doorbell.

(SFX: Cash register Door opening)

VERONICA

Well, well, well. If it isn't Dick Shamus.

SHAMUS

Veronica? Veronica Virago?

VERONICA

You stick a dick, Shamus.

SHAMUS

That's fictional dick to you.

VERONICA

I was wondering when you'd get around to ringing my bell.

SHAMUS

Veronica and me went back a long way. This wasn't the first time I rang her bell. Metaphorically speaking, of course. What are you doing here Veronica?

VERONICA

For one thing I live here. And for another thing, the name isn't Veronica Virago. It's Midas.

SHAMUS

Midas Virago?

VERONICA

No. Veronica Midas. Mrs. Veronica Midas.

SHAMUS

In that case I'm here to see your husband.

VERONICA

I'm afraid he's not seeing visitors.

SHAMUS

I think he'll want to see me.

VERONICA

My husband won't be seeing you or anyone else.

SHAMUS

You mean he's..?

VERONICA

That's exactly what I mean.

SHAMUS

Away on business.

VERONICA
That's not what I mean.

SHAMUS
He's tied up on the phone.

VERONICA
I don't mean that either.

SHAMUS
Then you mean...?

VERONICA
He's dead.

SHAMUS
I was going to say on the can.

VERONICA
Then you'd've been wrong.

SHAMUS
How'd he go?

VERONICA
Quietly.

SHAMUS
Old age? Heart condition.

VERONICA
Suicide.

SHAMUS
Sleeping pills? Drowning?

VERONICA
Three bullets in the back.

SHAMUS
He must've been a helluva shot. Funny how all your husbands
turn up face down.

VERONICA
What can I tell ya? I just can't catch a break.

SHAMUS
How many does that make? Five? Six?

VERONICA
Seven but who's counting?

SHAMUS

When did he check out?

VERONICA

Last week.

SHAMUS

About the same time Dumpty called.

VERONICA

Who?

SHAMUS

William Jefferson Dumpty. A pal of mine. Maybe you know him.

VERONICA

Can't say I do.

SHAMUS

Funny, I think he might have been working for you husband.

VERONICA

A lot of people worked for my husband. And none of them were funny.

SHAMUS

I think Dumpty was looking for your daughter.

VERONICA

Daughter?? Daughter?? Do I look like a woman who'd actually give birth?

SHAMUS

Okay, stepdaughter.

VERONICA

You're barking up the wrong tree. The kid hated her old man. She was always taking off and he was always bringing her back. Frankly, I never knew why.

SHAMUS

Maybe he loved her.

VERONICA

Love? Love? Listen to yourself. Still the do gooder. Protecting the weak. Defending the innocent. Looking out for the downtrodden.

SHAMUS

What would you know about the weak and innocent except ways to fleece them. You always were self centered, greedy, grasping, rapacious, avaricious and ravenous.

VERONICA

And you were always honest, decent, forthright and my least favorite color... true blue.

SHAMUS

No matter how much you had, it was never enough.

VERONICA

And what did you want? Justice? Honor? Respect? You make me sick.

SHAMUS

You disgust me.

VERONICA

You revolt me.

SHAMUS

You nauseate me.

VERONICA

Well, then, why don't you...

SHAMUS

Why don't I do what?

VERONICA

Why don't you shut that big yap of yours...

SHAMUS

And what?

VERONICA

And kiss me.

(Transitional music)

VERONICA

You never change, do you Shamus.

SHAMUS

Why should I? Nobody does it better.

VERONICA

Or quicker.

SHAMUS

Like Big Bill Shakespeare once put it... If it twere done, when 'tis done, then 'twere well it were done quickly.

VERONICA

This Shakespeare guy must've spent a lot of nights alone. Interested in a propostion?

SHAMUS

Don't you know you're not supposed to end a sentence with a proposition?

VERONICA

What say you and mean team up?

SHAMUS

What do you mean, team up?

VERONICA

Create an alliance. For a partnership... Become...

SHAMUS

I know what team up means.

VERONICA

With Mitchell gone, I could use someone like you. We could run this town, Shamus. Between your brawn and my...

SHAMUS

Brains.

VERONICA

I was gonna go with cleavage, but brains would work.

SHAMUS

Tell you what, cupcake ears, I'll think about it.

VERONICA

You do that, Shamus. You think about it. You think about it real hard. But be careful. We wouldn't want you to hurt anything...important.

SHAMUS

You had to hand it to Veronica. Sure she was evil, corrupted and unprincipled but she still looked good and that had to count for something. Maybe when I'd wrapped things up here in Peppermint Bay, I'd drop in, buy her a drink, catch up on old times, rekindle the spark, light a fire. That is if she wasn't the one who pushed Dumpty off the wall. If that was the case, I'd have to rethink my priorities...Or, not.

(SFX: Phone rings)

EFFIE

Fictional Bureau of Investigation. Effie, the incredibly available secretary speaking.

SHAMUS

Hey, tangelo toes. It's me.

EFFIE

Oh, hi boss.

SHAMUS

I need you to track something down for me.

EFFIE

Like what?

SHAMUS

Like Midas's will. I want to know who gets his geetus.

EFFIE

You mean when he dies.

SHAMUS

He's already done that.

EFFIE

Sorry to hear that.

SHAMUS

Not as sorry as he is.

EFFIE

Boss, before you hang up, there's one more thing.

SHAMUS

What's that?

EFFIE

It seemed Midas owned a bunch of shell companies.

SHAMUS

He was in the sea shell business?

EFFIE

No, shell companies.

SHAMUS

What the heck is a shell company?

EFFIE

Geez boss, everyone knows what a shell company is.

SHAMUS

Enlighten me.

EFFIE

A shell company is a company that has no or nominal operations and no or normal assets consisting solely of cash and cash equivalents or assets consisting of any amount of
(MORE)

EFFIE (cont'd)

cash and cash equivalents and other nominal assets. And does not..

SHAMUS

I get it. What I don't get is why I should care?

EFFIE

One of those companies owns a castle.

SHAMUS

What do you mean a castle?

EFFIE

You know, one of those places with a drawbridge, a moat and a dragon.

SHAMUS

So?

EFFIE

This castle is located just outside Peppermint Bay. According to the records, no one's lived in it for years.

SHAMUS

Interesting. Good work tabasco cheeks. If I need anything else, I'll let you know.

EFFIE

You better be talking information.

SHAMUS

What else?

MACDOUGAL

Shamus.

SHAMUS

MacDougal, just the man I wanted to see. Is there a castle around here?

MACDOUGAL

Are you kidding? This place is lousy with castles. You can't swing a dead cat in the hat without hitting one.

SHAMUS

How about one that's been abandoned? One that people might have forgotten about.

MACDOUGAL

Come to think of it, I have heard something about a place like that. But I forgot where.

SHAMUS

Can you take me to it?

MACDOUGAL

I'm not sure.

SHAMUS

That's good enough for me. Meet me back here in three hours. And bring a large bag of bread crumbs.

MACDOUGAL

Why? You planning on cooking a cutlet.

SHAMUS

And one more thing. I want you to deliver these three envelopes for me.

(Transitional music)

SHAMUS

Are you sure this is the way, MacDougal. Feels like we're goin' around in circles.

MACDOUGAL

I hate to say this laddie, but I think we're lost.

SHAMUS

Don't worry, Mac. When you've been a fictional detective as long as I have, you realize that this what, we in the trade, call a "tension builder." Create suspense, a feeling of danger. It's usually around this time the gumshoe in question has a revelation he's not tellin' anyone about. Unfortunately, I'm not having one of those revelations.

MACDOUGAL

What do we do now?

SHAMUS

MacDougal, it's time for Plan B.

MACDOUGAL

Not Plan B. I hate Plan B.

SHAMUS

Nothing to worry about. Plan B is a clue suddenly showing up out of nowhere. It isn't the most satisfying literary device and usually demonstrates a complete lack of imagination. But, right now, I can't worry what the critics might say.

(SFX: Thunder)

MACDOUGAL
Well, will you look at that.

SHAMUS
What you see?

MACDOUGAL
That sign with the arrow.

SHAMUS
You mean the one reads "Abandoned Castle."

MACDOUGAL
That's the one. Looks like your Plan B worked after all.

SHAMUS
Like I always say. Any plot twist in a storm.

MACDOUGAL
Let me try this door.

(SFX: Door creaking open)

SHAMUS
Man, this place is big.

ECHO
Big... Big... Big.

SHAMUS
If you were hiding someone in this joint where would you do it?

MACDOUGAL
In the keep.

ECHO
Keep... Keep...Keep.

MACDOUGAL
Careful Shamus, these steps are steep.

ECHO
Steep... Steep... Steep.

(SFX: Another door creaking open)

SHAMUS
Just as I suspected.

MACDOUGAL
What is it, laddie?

SHAMUS
The girl. Looks like she's asleep.

ECHO
Asleep... Asleep... Asleep.

MACDOUGAL
Looks kind of sweet.

ECHO
Sweet... Sweet... Sweet.

SHAMUS
Like a young Meryl Streep.

ECHO
Meryl Streep? That's the best you can come up with? Meryl Streep? If you think I'm going to echo that, forget it. I've got my pride.

SHAMUS
Mac... Cover the girl with that blanket.

MACDOUGAL
What do we do now?

SHAMUS
We wait.

ECHO
Wait... Wait...Wait.

MACDOUGAL
For what?

SHAMUS
Not what. For who?

ECHO
Whom...Whom...Whom.

MACDOUGAL
Okay, whom?

SHAMUS
Our prime suspects.

RAPUNZEL
Shamus?

SHAMUS
Rapunzel. Glad you could make it.

RAPUNZEL

So, you're the one who sent the note.

SHAMUS

That's right.

RAPUNZEL

And laid down the trail of bread crumbs.

SHAMUS

Right again.

RAPUNZEL

What was the point of having them go around in circles?

SHAMUS

Never mind.

RAPUNZEL

What am I doing here?

SHAMUS

You'll find out in a minute.

WOLFE

Rapunzel.

RAPUNZEL

Wolfie.

WOLFE

What are you doing here?

RAPUNZEL

What are you doing here?

WOLFE

I gotta note. Said to follow the bread crumbs.

SHAMUS

I sent that note.

WOLFE

I would have been here sooner, but the trail kept going around in circles. What was that all about?

SHAMUS
(annoyed and
defensive)

Never mind that.

WOLFE

What are we going here?

SHAMUS
It won't be long. We're just waiting for...

VERONICA
Shamus.

SHAMUS
Veronica. Right on cue.

WOLFE
What's she doing here?

VERONICA
I gotta note.

WOLFE
You too?

VERONICA
I suppose that was you, Shamus.

WOLFE
That was me.

VERONICA
So, what was the point of having the bread crumbs go around
and around in circle?

SHAMUS
(still annoyed)
Forget the bread crumbs.

WOLFE
What are we doing here?.

SHAMUS
One of you pushed Dumpty off that wall. And we're here to
reveal which one it is.

RAPUNZEL
Well, I didn't do it.

WOLFE
I sure as hell didn't do it.

VERONICA
I didn't even know the guy.

SHAMUS
Before we get around to nailing Dumpty's killer, there's one
other piece of business to clear up. Mac, would you remove
the blanket. Thanks. The sleeping frail here is the key to
why Dumpty was killed.

RAPUNZEL

Is she sleeping?

SHAMUS

Drugged. But once she wakes up, she can tell us who drugged and her why.

WOLFE

It doesn't look like she's going to be waking up for a long time.

SHAMUS

Mac, what was it you were telling me when we found the girl?

MACDOUGAL

Legend has it the only way to wake the girl is with a kiss.

SHAMUS

And what did I tell you?

MACDOUGAL

That wakin' gorgeous dames with a kiss wasn't your style. That you preferred to slip out quietly while they were still in dreamland.

SHAMUS

And what did you tell me would happen if I did kiss her?

MACDOUGAL

That she'd wake up, fall in love with you and you'd get married and live happily ever after.

SHAMUS

And what did I say?

MACDOUGAL

Which is it? Married or live happily ever after.

SHAMUS

And, then, what did you say?

MACDOUGAL

Both.

SHAMUS

And, then, what did I say?

MACDOUGAL

That ain't no legend. That's a fairy tale.

SHAMUS

The girl is the key to this case. And to unlock that key I'm going to make the ultimate sacrifice and wake her with a

(MORE)

SHAMUS (cont'd)

kiss. If she falls madly in love with me, so be it. She won't be the first.

RAPUNZEL/WOLFE/VERONICA

Stop.

SHAMUS

That was a close call. So, all you have a reason for this girl to remain comatose. You wanna go first, Rapunzel? I'm guessing Dumpty had something on you. Something you didn't want anyone to know.

RAPUNZEL

Okay. It's true. He knew my secret. Bambi is my daughter.

SHAMUS

Bambi? What's a stripper got to do with this?

RAPUNZEL

That's her name. The girl. Her name is Bambi.

SHAMUS

Oh... For a minute there I was having a flashback. A really incredible flashback. So, before Dumpty could tell the world you had a kid, you lured up onto that wall and pushed him off.

RAPUNZEL

It wasn't like that. Dumpty said he knew where she was but he wouldn't tell me. He said he was going to sell the information to Midas for big bucks.

SHAMUS

So, the girl was Midas's daughter.

WOLFE

No, you got this all wrong. Bambi is my daughter.

SHAMUS

Wait a minute. Rapunzel just said the girl is her daughter. You say the girl is your daughter. Which is it?

WOLFE

Both.

SHAMUS

How is that possible.

WOLFE

Well, you see Shamus, it's like this. When a man loves a woman...

SHAMUS

You and Rapunzel?

WOLFE

I know it's hard to believe. Bambi doesn't look a thing like me.

SHAMUS

Fortunately for her. So how did Midas end up with her?

RAPUNZEL

When me and Wolfie first got together we were kids ourselves. Poorer than church mice.

WOLFE

And that's poor.

SHAMUS

So I hear.

WOLFE

I'd just started the loan sharking business.

RAPUNZEL

And don't forget the illegal gambling.

WOLFE

I forgot about that. So, Midas agreed to look after Bambi until we could get on our feet.

SHAMUS

What happened?

WOLFE

Once I started bribing politicians and the money began rolling in...

RAPUNZEL

Bambi was growing up. She looked so happy

WOLFE

We didn't have the heart to take her away from all that.

SHAMUS

So, why Midas?

WOLFE

Mitchell Midas was my brother.

VERONICA

That's a lie. He never talked about a brother

WOLFE

Mitchell was my brother from another mother. Or, at least, that's what she told everyone.

SHAMUS

So that's why you and Dumpty were arguing that day.

WOLFE

He wouldn't tell us where Bambi was?

SHAMUS

So you lured him onto that wall and pushed him over.

WOLFE

Why would I zotz the only guy who knew where our daughter was?

SHAMUS

You leave me no choice.

MACDOUGAL

Say it ain't so.

SHAMUS

Can't do that.

MACDOUGAL

Please tell us that you're not going to make a long, boring speech summing up who did what, where and when that is so convoluted nobody can follow it.

SHAMUS

That's exactly what I'm going to do.

VERONICA

Oh, shoot me now.

SHAMUS

It all goes back to Midas's will. Everything goes to sleeping beauty here. Unless, for some reason, the girl is still alive but out of commission, then Veronica gets to run the show and spend the dough. Am I going to fast for ya?

RAPUNZEL

Did you say something?

SHAMUS

But, if the girl turns up dead, all the money goes to the Home For Lost Boys and Veronica ends up with the clothes on her back, if she can keep them on her back. So just to be on the safe side, Veronica drugged the girl and stashed her here where no one could find her.

WOLFE

Yesssss!!!!

SHAMUS

I'm not done.

WOLFE

Sorry. I guess I was a little premature.

RAPUNZEL

That's okay, honey. Don't worry about it. It happens to a lot of men.

SHAMUS

When Dumpty contacted Midas to set up a meet to sell him the girl's info, Veronica found out about it. She lured Dumpty to the top of the wall. It wasn't hard to do. Dumpty was always a sucker for a dame with...

RAPUNZEL

Brains.

SHAMUS

I was gonna say cleavage, but it you wanna go with brains. Veronica, here, thought she was in the clear until she heard Dumpty has sent for me. You'd knew I'd figure it out, because I always do. So before I could figure it out, tell Midas and watch him toss you out in the cold, you put three bullets in his back and told everyone it was suicide.

VERONICA

You're just whistling Dixie, Shamus.

SHAMUS

That's where you're wrong, Veronica. I never learned to whistle.

VERONICA

You can't prove any of this.

SHAMUS

I don't have to. All I have to is wake up the girl and she'll tell us everything.

WOLFE

Watch out, Shamus. She's got a magic wand.

SHAMUS

Just put down the wand, Veronica and nobody gets hurt.

VERONICA

Back off Shamus or I'll turn you into an adorable little bunny rabbit.

SHAMUS

Let's talk this over Veronica before you do something you'll regret.

VERONICA

We're done talking. Goodbye Shamus. It was nice knowing you. Salagadoola meshungina boola...

MACDOUGAL

Watch out Shamus.

VERONICA

Salagadoola mechika boom boom

SHAMUS

What is it Veronica? Forget the magic words.

VERONICA

Stay back, all of you. Salagadoola mechika boola...

SHAMUS

You were saying Veronica.

VERONICA

Salagadoola... boppity hoppity... Bibbidi...Yibbibi...Damn

SHAMUS

She's on the run. After her Mac.

(SFX: Running footsteps)

WOLFE

Stay with Bambi. I'll be back.

RAPUNZEL

Be careful, Wolfie. Remember what the vet said about getting excited.

VERONICA

Salagadoola chicka chicka boom boom.

*(SFX: Running footsteps
continue)*

MACDOUGAL

Over here, Shamus.

VERONICA

Boola boola... Boola boola.

SHAMUS

Mac, raise the drawbridge.

MACDOUGAL
Shamus, lower the portocullis.

SHAMUS
Yeah... Right...What the hell's a portocullis?

VERONICA
Salagadoola something something.

SHAMUS
She's upstairs.

MACDOUGAL
No laddie, she downstairs.

WOLFE
No, she's in my lady's chamber.

SHAMUS
You might as well give up Veronica.

VERONICA
Back off Shamus.

SHAMUS
It's all over.

VERONICA
I'm warning you.

SHAMUS
Drop the wand.

VERONICA
Salagadoola menchie benchie...

MACDOUGAL
Be careful, laddie, that thing could go off.

VERONICA
Bippidi, boppid zoo...Loo... Moo.

SHAMUS
I'll take the wand Veronica.

WOLFE
Good work Shamus.

SHAMUS
I think the word you're looking for Veronica is...boo.

VERONICA
That's the last time I buy a magic wand on Ebay.

SHAMUS

Take her away, Mac.

MACDOUGAL

You better come with me, lassie.

VERONICA

You haven't heard the last of me Shamus.

SHAMUS

I wouldn't count on it Veronica. There's no plans for a sequel.

VERONICA

Damn.

RAPUNZEL

Wolfie, are you alright?

WOLFE

I'm fine.

RAPUNZEL

You were so brave.

WOLFE

It was nothing.

PRINCE CHARMING

Excuse me. Is this where the sleeping beauty lies... sleeping?

SHAMUS

Who are you?

PRINCE CHARMING

Who am I? Who am I? Why my good man, I am every girl's dream come true. The answer to every woman's prayer.

SHAMUS

Ain't we all? Now, once again, who are you?

PRINCE CHARMING

Why sir, I am Prince Charming.

SHAMUS

Okay, Prince, you wanna tell us how you found this place?

PRINCE CHARMING

I followed the bread crumbs. I would have gotten here sooner but the trail kept going around in circles.

SHAMUS

(annoyed)

Never mind that. What are you doing here?

PRINCE CHARMING

I have come to awaken the sleeping beauty with a kiss.

SHAMUS

Fine with me, but before you lay one on her, you better check with mom and dad.

RAPUNZEL

Are you really a prince?

PRINCE CHARMING

Of course, I am a real prince.

WOLFE

You got some I.D?

PRINCE CHARMING

How about this?

RAPUNZEL

A crown. Look, Wolfie, it's a crown.

WOLFE

In that case, kid, knock yourself out.

PRINCE CHARMING

And now my sleeping beauty, I shall awaken you with a kiss.

WOLFE

Look, she's waking up.

BAMBI

Are you my prince charming?

SHAMUS

Sorry, toots, he's your Prince Charming.

BAMBI

(not thrilled)

Oh...

PRINCE CHARMING

Will you marry me?

BAMBI

I don't know. If I marry you will I live... like... happily ever after?

PRINCE CHARMING
Most definitely.

BAMBI
In a big castle?

PRINCE CHARMING
A very big castle.

BAMBI
With servants and handmaidens and stuff?

PRINCE CHARMING
With dozens of servants and handmaidens and lots of stuff.

BAMBI
And gorgeous designer gowns that will make all the other girls green with envy.

PRINCE CHARMING
With so many gorgeous designer gowns that the other girls will not only be green with envy, they will hate your guts.

BAMBI
In that case, yes, I will marry you.

WOLFE
Like mother, like daughter.

PRINCE CHARMING
You have made me the happiest man in the world.

SHAMUS
Have you got a lot to learn.

WOLFE
This whole episode has taught me that the love of one good woman is worth all the riches in the world.

RAPUNZEL
Oh, Wolfie.

WOLFE
Well, maybe not all the riches in the world, but close.

RAPUNZEL
That's my Wolfie.

WOLFE
Rapunzel, will you marry me?

RAPUNZEL
Oh, I don't know.

SHAMUS

Go on Rapunzel. Don't be such a tight ass. Let down your hair.

RAPUNZEL

Oh, what the heck. Yes, yes, I'll marry you.

(Transitional music)

SHAMUS

It all worked out in the end. Rapunzel married Wolfe. Bambi married her prince. And as for me...

(Bluesy saxophone)

BO

There you are Shamus.

SHAMUS

I lived happily ever after.

BO

I thought you'd gotten lost.

SHAMUS

I told you she'd play an important part in the story.

BO

I've been looking all over for you. I would have gotten here sooner but that trail of...

SHAMUS

Never mind that.

(Bluesy saxophone out)

ANNOUNCER

You've been listening to The Adventures Of Dick Shamus, Fictional Detective, starring Jason Tindal as Dick Shamus, Fictional Detective. Be sure to tune in next week for another story from the case files of Dick Shamus, Fictional Detective.

THE END