

EPIC EPIC #1
The Effective Detective
A RADIO PLAY
By J. B Fury

CastAnnouncer

ANNOUNCER – Professional Sounding Voice – but with an over-sensitive side – if presenting on stage in front of audience announcer is a voice over only and not on stage

RON FRANKLY – Ambitious, Enthusiastic, Full of himself and possessing a child-like faith in dubious mail order products. Has the intelligence of a toilet-brush.

WALLY WITTLESS – Ron’s loyal, but stupid mate, takes whatever Ron says as gospel. Fact is he is marginally smarter than Ron, but not quite.

LADY BURRINGTON-BURRINGTON-BURRINGTON) – Your typical upper class society woman – over reacts to everything.

MELISSA BURRINGTON-BURRINGTON-BURRINGTON-BURRINGTON – Lady BBB’s adult daughter who married Roger Burrington, spoilt, selfish, oblivious to things outside her own agenda.

ROGER BURRINGTON – A young intelligent gentleman, married to Melissa which is probably the dumbest thing he ever did.

BERTRAM – The Butler, a genuine gentleman’s gentleman

DELIVERY BOY – One line only..

FX *Footsteps along footpath... with spooky ambience...as they continue the announcer begins...*

Announcer Hello everyone. It’s time for an EPIC EPIC. This is EPIC EPIC number 1. Yes, this is the first ever EPIC EPIC! In this particular Epic we join Wally Wittless as he is about to enter a rather dodgy looking apartment building on the dark side of the city. Its 9:30am.... he has a large priority paid parcel....that’s him walking along now. Ahh Wally.... Wally

Wally Oh...err....you’re talking to me...?

Announcer Yes, Wally.... Just wondering what you’re doing with that large parcel and why you’re on the dark side of town about to enter a pretty dodgy looking building...

Wally Yeah... well to be honest I'm not sure myself...Ron told me to pick up this package from the post office and meet him at um...where is it?
[FX: *ruffles note paper*] ah... here it is..... 221B Butcher Street

Announcer Well that's 221B Butcher St right there where you are....

Wally Yes... it is...I know...

Announcer Well why don't you go in?

Wally Because I'm too busy talking to you, you twat!

Announcer [*Offended*] Oh well...never mind the announcer trying to put everyone in the picture, I mean don't let me and the audience hold you up – you can just go right in and pretend we're not even here.....

Wally Ok... I'll go in then.... There's no need to get snotty....

Announcer [*more offended*] I'm not being snotty! How dare you? Yeah OK then... go on.... Go in, let's see how you get on in this Epic without an announcer

Wally Now there's no need to be like that....

Announcer Oh sure...it's alright for you! You get to be part of the adventure and stuff and I just do the explaining. I never get any of the gags....or the adventures – well, we'll just see how you get on this time. As of now I'm on strike!

Wally Oh well if you're going to be like that....I'll just go in....

Announcer So Wally climbed the steps to the door of 221B Butcher St carrying a large priority paid – oops....no cancel that – I'm on strike....

FX *Knock on door*

Announcer Wally knocked on the..... Damn force of habit! ...Not another word...

Ron (*From behind a door*) Who's that?

Wally It's me...

Ron Wally? How do I know it's you? Is not like you to turn up unannounced....

Wally I know, the announcer's on strike

Ron Why?

Wally I dunno , he's got his knickers in a knot about being on the sidelines and not getting to do any of the gags

Ron What gags?

Wally *(Pause)* Yeah that's what I reckon...

Ron So what's he complaining about?

Wally I dunno...me probably.....look I've got the package you wanted me to pick up from the Post Office.

Ron Oh good....

Wally Yeah...*(pause a bit)*

FX *Knock on door*

Ron Who's that?

Wally It's me....Wally

Ron Oh Wally? Did you remember to pick up my package?

Wally Yes I just told you that....

Ron Great so why don't you come in?

Wally Because the door's locked....

Ron Haven't you got a key?

Wally No

Ron So you want me to let you in?

Wally It'd help – this package is heavy

Ron Ok so what's the password?

Wally Password? I don't know any password

Ron Why not?

Wally I didn't know there was one

Ron Oh there most certainly is....I made it up this morning the password is "cornucopia" and it's a secret

Wally Ok.

Ron So?

Wallyso can I come in now?

Ron Password first....

Wally Cornucopia....

FX *Door unlocking and opening*

Ron Wally! You're late!

Wally Ah yeah... sorry... where do you want this package....hey what is this place?

Ron This is my new office....

Announcer This is an announcement on behalf of the federated announcer's union just to notify you that normally at this point the announcer would cut in with a rather pithy description of Ron's recently acquired dingy old office and in doing so would have described the items on the desk. Regrettably due to industrial action this announcement will not take place at this point in this epic.

Wally What's this on your desk? "Ron Frankly – Private Eye"?

Ron Yep, I've decided to become a Private Detective and Wally, you're going to be my medically qualified assistant

Wally But Ron, you know nothing about being a Private Eye....

Ron That's why I got you to pick up that package – Come on help me open it.....

FX *Sounds of large package being opened*

Wally Oh wow! It's an effective detective kit!

Ron That's right Wally I saved up!

Wally What's it say here on the box? "*Become a Private Detective instantly with the Acme Effective Detective kit. Kit contains: one private detective certificate in authentic cracked frame, magnifying glass, pipe, an imitation Stradivarius violin, strange looking hat and The Official Effective Detective manual which will guide you step by step towards becoming an Effective Detective. - Start solving cases today! Caution: Kit may contain traces of peanut or be purchased by same - no liability accepted*"

- Ron** Oh and this booklet is for you Wally.....
- Wally** Wow, it's an instant medical degree booklet – *“read this booklet through and instantly qualify as a Doctor of medicine and thereby become fully equipped to assist any effective detective anywhere!”*
- Ron** There you go...
- Wally** But I don't understand....
- Ron** But it's..... *elementary*... my dear Wally...read the book and you become Doctor Wally....
- Wally** Uh huh... so why does someone who is a qualified doctor end up being an assistant to a somewhat dubious private eye?
- Ron** Look never mind that just read the booklet
- Wally** Oh...Okgive me a moment to read it..... Let's see (*mumbles as though reading for about 25 seconds- FX: pages turning.... as Wally speed reads booklet*) Aha! I'm qualified! Ron you can call me Doctor Wally
- Ron** Elementary....My dear Dr Wally. Now Let's get started... where's that effective detective manual...
- Wally** Here it is...
- Ron** Great...ok...Let's see..... “Becoming an effective detective. The Effective Detective team would like to congratulate you on being gullible enough to purchase the Effective Detective Mark #1 edition....Wally what's gullible mean?
- Wally** I think it's got to do with sea gulls.... You know....like Jonathon Livingston Seagull....
- Ron** You mean like having a more heightened awareness than most....
- Wally** Yeah sorta like having a birdbrain I suppose....
- Ron** Yeah makes sense! See? Your medical qualification is beginning to kick in already! Now let's see here, step one: Place tobacco in pipe then pipe in mouth and sit at desk placing feet on desk and lean back in chair...Ok....
- Wally** Here's the pipe Ron...
- Ron** Step 2: Use magnifying glass to catch sun's rays through a dirty window and ignite tobacco in pipe and puff....

Wally I always wondered what the magnifying glass was for....

Ron Aha! Its lit! [Cough splutter] I wonder why I need to smoke a pipe.....what's next? Ah, step 3: You should get a phone call within the next few minutes with your first case... ..gee this is easy....

Wally Ummm... Ron where's the phone?

Ron It's getting put in on Tuesday....

Wally Then we have to wait till Tuesday for a case.....

Ron Ahhh...a timely observation Dr Wally.....I'll refer again to the manual....Ah! Here we are – *“What to do if the phone hasn't been put on yet.....consult your medical assistant...”* ahhh its elementary see?...Ok...so it's over to you doctor Wally

Wally Oh yes...I do remember doing this bit in my course just before. Apparently it's a good idea if you start to narrate things as you go, stating the time and your general state of well-being as you go...

Ron Oh ok.... So like.... 9:54am: it was a dreary Thursday morning, I had a feeling in my gut like yesterday's potatoes.... we discovered the phone won't be connected till Tuesday....

Wally Yeah... that's the way...and just sort of pre-empt things a bit....

Ron Like err....9:55am there was a knock on the door....

FX *Knock Knock*

Wally Gees! It worked!

Ron Who is it?

Lady BBB My name is Lady Burrington-Burrington-Burrington and the password is cornucopia

Ron Let her in Dr Wally....

FX *Door opening*

Lady BBB Good morning, which one of you is Ron Frankly, Private Eye?

Ron That's me!

Lady BBB *[distressed]* I'm sorry to call unannounced....but the announcer's on strike and there's been a murder.....

Ron Oh great! Um.....err....no....how terrible!

Lady BBB I tried to ring you but

Wally But we haven't got a phone.....

Lady BBB Yes that made it difficult....and then I find out the silly announcer's on strike

Wally Yes most inconsiderate.

Ron So what's this about a murder?

Lady BBB Oh it was terrible, he was dead....*[breaking into tears]*

Wally So he was alive before.....

Lady BBB Before what?

Wally Well..... before he was murdered....

Lady BBB Who is this silly man? *(Emotional now - almost in tears)*I need a proper detective...

Ron Quite. Quite. And you shall have one, Doctor Wally could you make some tea and allow me to enquire of the details – my apologies Lady Burington Burrington Burrington. Dr Wally is only recently qualified.

Wally Make the tea? A fully qualified medical physician and you want me to make the tea?

Ron Yes...

Wally Yes...well I'd better make the tea

Ron Now Lady Burrington-Burrington- Burrington who exactly was murdered?

Lady BBB My husband Lord Cyril Burrington- Burrington-Burrington

Ron And was he alive before he was murdered ?

Lady BBB Well parts of him were..... yes mostly he was alive.....and then....then he was dead.....*[bursting into tears]*

Ron I see so....

- Wally** *(Cheerily)* Tea...*[Clatter of cups on tray]* So how did you know it was murder?
- Ron** *[Sternly]* Wally! I will ask the questions here.... How did you know it was murder?
- Lady BBB** He left this note.....it's written in his own blood.....
- Ron** Let me see that..... *[paper ruffles]*I was murdered by arrrrghhhhh!
- Wally** Ron, it's a clue! Your first clue!
- Ron** Yes and what a fine clue it is....it proves he must have been alive before he was murdered....we need to find someone with the initials arrrrghhhhh!
- Wally** We need to get to the scene of this ghastly crime forthwith
- Lady BBB** I found him the conservatory of the manor
- Ron** Then we shall make our way there post haste to continue the investigation
- Announcer** Ah now you're up shit creek without your announcer....
- Wally** Why?
- Announcer** Well right about here you need to have an announcement along the lines ofAnd so.... Ron and Wally made their way to the Burrington-Burrington-Burrington Manor....but you're not getting any announcements like that at all coz I'm on strike. See? So instead you'll just get total silence as you make your way to the Burrington-Burrington-Burrington Manor – see how you go with that....
- Ron** We're here!
- Announcer** Oh bugger!
- FX** *Knock on Door / Oak door opening*
- Bertram** Welcome to Burrington-Burrington-Burrington Manor, I am Bertram the Butler whom shall I say is calling...
- Lady BBB** It's me Bertram....this is the Effective detective I told you about and Dr Wally

Bertram Oh I am sorry madam I didn't see you there.... (announcing) Lady Burrington-Burrington-Burrington, an effective detective and his medically qualified offsider....

Melissa Hello Gentleman, Hello mother.

Bertram I shall resume my duties in the kitchen madam, I've been dealing with the one of the cupboards....

Lady BBB Very Good Bertam, Oh err, this is my daughter Melissa Burrington-Burrington-Burrington

Wally Four Burringtons....?

Melissa Yes, I'm married....

Roger Yes she is married to me....
I'm Roger BurringtonExcuse me but what exactly is going on?

Ron There's been a murder....

Roger Another one?

Ron What?

Roger That's 15 since the beginning of the year....

Wally 15?

Melissa Who was murdered?

Lady BBB It was Lord Cyril my husband, your father Melissa...

Melissa That would explain the glazed expression on his face when I served him his breakfast just before.

Wally Aren't you upset?

Melissa I'm devastated....waste of a damn good breakfast! I just hope I don't have to cancel our grand cocktail dinner and ball tonight....

Lady BBB Of course not my dear...

Rogerso which one of you two is the effective detective....?

Ron That's me –

RogerUhuh....and that would make you his medically qualified assistant....right?

- Wally** Yeah right....
- Ron** How did you know that?
- Melissa** You're so clever Roger...
- Roger** Elementary my dear birdbrains.... Every time some Sherlock Holmes wannabe buys one of those effective detective kits we end up having a murder here at the manor.....
- Ron** That's incredible!
- Melissa** No its irritating, especially when you want to host a grand cocktail dinner and ball in the Banquet hall. First it was Mrs White in the library with the candlestick....
- Roger** Then it was Colonel Mustard in the Lounge Room with the Lead pipe, then Mrs Peacock with the rope in the kitchen....
- Melissa** That was horrible that one.... It was the Reverend Green did that one.....then there was Miss Scarlett and Professor Plum both with revolvers in the dining room...of course he had it coming to him – but she wasn't expecting him to shoot back as he fell. It was just bang and then bang.
- Roger** Well I think there'd been a bit of bang bang going on between those two all along in fact. But the thing is after each murder we get a couple of gullible incompetent clowns like you two turn up to try and solve the murder with the aid of their new effective detective kit. It's getting monotonous!
- Lady BBB** Take no notice of Roger – he's far too intelligent
- Roger** And you Lady Burrington-Burrington-Burrington – you're pathetic! Every time there's a murder do you get on the phone and call the police like normal people? Oh.No! Instead you go scurrying down to the dark side of the city to engage the latest hapless, phoneless occupants of 221B Butcher street....
- Lady BBB** (emotional) I know! I know! But it's like I have no choice. It's like it's all been scripted for me
- Melissa** And this time the announcer's on strike!
- Lady BBB** (this is another dagger to the heart for her) Arrrggghhh!

- Roger** Well that just goes without saying.... What hope have we got when there's no one to explain anything?
- Ron** Look I just need everyone to calm down – I suggest we make our way to the conservatory and investigate the scene of the crime
- Wally** Capital idea Ron....but we don't have an announcer to explain what's happening while we make our way to the conservatory...
- Bertram** I've finished with the kitchen cupboard will there be anything else.
- Lady BBB** If you wouldn't mind seeing to the cat and the stable.
- Bertram** Very good Madam – by the way the conservatory is just thru there
- Ron** 10:15am we made our way to the conservatory in my skin was trembling like an over soused brandy trifle.....if only I had the Advanced Effective Detective Kit Mark #2, available for only \$59.90 from the effective detective web site....
- FX** *Multiple footsteps on lino as they cross to the conservatory*
- Wally** There's an advanced Effective Detective kit?
- Ron** Yes apparently, and I think we're going to need it! Order it will you Doctor, I'm pretty damn good at this...
- Wally** Right away Ron....maybe I could end up being a specialist...
- FX** *Multiple footsteps halt with a thud of Wally's toe hitting a dead body*
- Wally** Oooh its dark in here, Ouch – stubbed my toe what's that...
- FX** *Light switch being turned on...*
- Melissa** That's Daddy's body
- Ron** Quick Wally, the effective detective manual....
- Wally** Here it is Ron....
- Ron** Let's see....[flipping thru pages].....bank robberies...no.....assaults....no.....break and enter....that's not it.....ahhh.... here we are murders.... When attending the scene of a murder....it's a good idea a good idea to look for clues....
- Wally** Of course we need clues!

Ron Absolutely....give me that newspaper

Roger This one? What do want with a newspaper?

FX *Newspaper being handed to Ron.... Flipping of pages as Ron tries to find the crossword....*

Ron The crossword of course..... .ahhh here we are.... “*One Across:- Suspicious Seafood*”5 letter word....

Melissa Suspicious seafood? What’s that got to do with anything...

Wally It’s a clue! From the crossword

Roger Oh give me a break....

Ron Fishy! That’s it, five letters.....

Melissa Oh yeah...suspicious seafood....it’s a cryptic clue....fishy!

Lady BBB Oh that’s very clever....

Ron Yes and there’s something very fishy about this case....

Roger You idiots....

Wally By jove Ron, you’re spot on Lord Burrington Burrington Burrington seems to have died by choking on that large red fish he still has in his mouth

Ron Murdered with a fish!

Melissa Aaaarghhhh.....that’s Daddy’s prize pet fish! Sebastian

Ron Sebastian?

Melissa Sebastian the red guppy.....(tears of grief)

Lady BBB He was so proud of his Aquarium....it had been his hobby you see...

Roger That and an assortment of other peculiar pursuits

Melissa Peculiar...? He may have be unusual but he was not peculiar! Well not much anyway!

Roger Well he would spend most of his time in this room...tending to his fish and Sebastian of course, then there was the polishing his pet goose, confining his cat and inventing this...

Wally Wow! It's got wheels and wires and a long rod and it seems to have a sort of gyro mechanism...what is it?

Roger I don't know, nobody knows, but he invented it...

Melissa Here's another one....

Ron That's got strips of plastic and wings, and a bunch of neatly arranged cogs...

Lady BBB And you can wind it up....

Ron What does it do?

Roger Nothing. You just wind it up and it does nothing...

Wally That could catch on...something like that could come in handy

Ron Here give it to me....*[FX: dull Thudding from inside a cupboard continues thru this dialog]* hang on....whats that thudding I can hear?

Melissa It's coming from that cupboard in the kitchen

Roger Quick open it....

Wally Right!

FX *Wally running to kitchen*

Melissa Be careful...where's daddy's goose?

FX *....cupboard door opening...*

Wally Gees Ron....there's a well-polished wild goose in this cupboard and it wants to get out!

FX *Flapping of wings, honks and quacks from a well-polished goose...*

Ron It's going out the door....don't let it escape Wally.....

FX *Sound of Wally beginning to chase, more flapping of wings and goose honks...*

Wally I'm after it Ron – its heading down the garden path... don't worry I'll chase it....

Roger So the doctor's off on a wild goose chase then?

Lady BBB How long has he had that wild goose in the cupboard?

- Ron** Never mind that, where's the cat?
- Melissa** In this bag.....hey hang on, someone's let the cat out of the bag...
- Lady BBB** Oh No! Look out the window! Someone's put the cart before the horse!
- Roger** What? A wild goose chase...a cat out of the bag and a cart before the horse? There you go Ron, look that up in your effective detective manual
- Ron** Brilliant!
- Roger** You idiot!
- Ron** Let's see.....um....10:26am Confused by a multiplicity of cliché's and with body odour like putrefied porridge I referred to effective detective manual which said....."When overwhelmed with clichés you should take a break"
- Roger** That makes a lot of sense but we haven't got an announcer to announce that we are taking a break and that we'll be back shortly for part 2.... Perhaps you should negotiate with the announcer during the break...
- Ron** Negotiate?
- Roger** Oh, Look it up in your manual goat's lunch. In the meantime folks we're taking a break - back shortly with Part 2

During Break – singer/instrumentalist is introduced and performs 5-7 minutes....

PART 2

- Announcer** Hello audience. I'm pleased to say that as a result of my strike action and subsequent negotiations we have reached an understanding and I am now fully re-instated as your announcer.
- FX** *Crowd boos*
- Announcer** Damn you decenters! And now.... it is with some degree of gratification that I announce that I it is time for Part 2!

....<pause>..... And now.... Part 2.....<pause>.....Part 2 -
<nothing>

FX *More boos....*

Bertram Welcome back everyone.....And now Part 2!

FX *Enthusiastic crowd cheers*

Ron 10:56am Feeling refreshed after the break but with an itchy crotch I –

Announcer Hang on Hang on! Stop a minute What's with the Butler doing the announcing

Bertram I was just announcing that it was time for Part 2

Announcer Yes, but I am the announcer...

Bertram You may be sir, but in Burrington-Burrington-Burrington manner, I am the Butler and I make the announcements.

Announcer Oh really?

Bertram Yes sir, its tradition

Announcer Well we'll see about that.... And now it's time for Part 2.... <pause>
And now <angry>

FX *Boos*

Bertram Err...Part 2... Ron!

FX *Cheers as Ron starts following dialog...*

Ron Oh is it me? Right Um... 10:56am Feeling refreshed after the break I confronted Wally who had returned from his wild goose chase. An aroma of fermented swamp rot radiated from his armpits. He had caught the goose!

Wally I got the goose!

Ron Hmmmm.... I've got a feeling that goose knows something

Wally I'm glad someone does....

- Announcer** As Ron contemplated what the goose might know Lady Burrington-Burrington-Burrington, Melissa Burrington-Burrington-Burrington-Burrington and Roger Burrington entered the conservatory
- Bertram** Lady Burrington-Burrington-Burrington, Melissa Burrington-Burrington-Burrington-Burrington and Roger...err... Burrington
- Announcer** There you go again announcing things that I have already announced!
- Bertram** It's my job sir
- Announcer** No it's my job!
- Bertram** That may be sir, but I think you'll find that your function in this manor is somewhat redundant.
- Announcer** Oh is that so?
- Bertram** Yes sir. Now, if you'll excuse me there is the serious matter of Lord Cyril's murder yet to be solved – we shouldn't allow our petty squabbles to interfere.
- Announcer** Oh I agree but you must see that I should do all the announcing....
- Bertram** It is not your place sir, perhaps if you could think of some way of assisting better – after all this is a murder investigation and everyone is a suspect...
- Announcer** Look I don't care what you think, I should do all the announcing and.....(*a thought occurs*) Ah..... yes..... everyone is a suspect.... Hmmm.... (*sounding a little sinister and a knowing chuckle to self now*) perhaps I could be of more assistance....yes....assistance removes resistance.....(*little laugh with hint of the sinister*)
- Lady BBB** Are you two quite done?
- Bertram and Announcer** Yes, Yes..... Quite....
- Lady BBB** Good Now Melissa has got the cat back....
- Melissa** Just putting her back in the bag now...
- FX** *Plaintive meows from cat*
- Melissa** There you go pussy....
- Roger** And I've sorted out the cart and the horse...

- Ron** That's fine – so everything's back to normal – right well, job done we can go then!
- Wally** Ah Ron, there is the little matter of the murder of Lord Cyril
- Ron** Oh of course – aha ha yes – just checking to see if you were paying attention Wally... Now, no-one is to leave this manor... I have consulted my effective detective manual during the break and I can say that without a shadow of a doubt that someone in this house is the murderer!
- ALL** (*Gasping in horror*) Oooh!
- FX** *Clock striking 11...*
- Bertram** Ma' Ladies and Sirs, Morning tea is being served in the drawing room
- Announcer** (In a loud whisper) There he goes again – making the announcements well, I'll fix his little red wagon.... (*clears throat ...*) As the party made its way thru to morning tea in the Drawing room Ron suddenly had a thought about the butler....
- Bertram** What?
- Announcer** Just assisting where I can...the butler went to the kitchen to prepare the morning tea...
- Bertram** I'll be in the kitchen preparing the tea back shortly
- Ron** Hmm... I've just had a thought Wally...
- Wally** Don't worry I'm a doctor, I'm sure there's something you can take...
- Ron** No, I wonder about the butler....
- Wally** I don't know if that really qualifies as a thought Ron...
- Announcer** Soon the others were having thoughts as well....
- Melissa** Look! It's about time I had a line.
- Roger** Me too! And I might mention I'm beginning to wonder about the butler
- Lady BBB** And me as well...Bertram has been acting strange

- Melissa** Let's face it, we're all acting strange....badly in some cases...shhh!
Bertram is coming back.....
- Bertram** If you'd like to be all seated I will serve the tea...
- Announcer** Just then something occurred to Doctor Wally about the butler
- Bertram** Sir I'm beginning to think you have ulterior motives
- Announcer** No, no just trying to be of assistance....after all thoughts will occur to people...even people like Wally.... and you know what they say about butlers...
- Wally** I'm beginning to wonder about the butler myself....
- Roger** Oh, Bertram's alright.....although.....hmmmmm
- Ron** *"11:02am as yesterday's potatoes fermented in my gut with the over soused trifle we waited for morning tea..... I laid out the facts before everyone assembled..."* Now that I have you all assembled here let me layout the facts on the table for you all to see.... Lord Cyril was found dead with his favourite red fish in his mouth in the conservatory.
- Wally** Probably a red herring Ron!
- Ron** Don't interrupt! Now the wild goose was chased and caught, the cat was let out of the bag and put back in the bag and someone put the cart before the horse but now the horse is before the cart....
- Melissa** Yes....we know all that so...?
- Roger** Exactly, we know all that
- Lady BBB** You're supposed to be effective, all you've done here is put a lot of facts on the table while we're trying to have our morning tea!
- Wally** Ahhh Don't worry, it's all part of Ron's strategy
- Ron** Errr, well..... yes exactly – (whispering) Wally there's nothing in the manual about strategy
- Bertram** Tea?
- Lady BBB** Very Good Bertram – can you take all these facts off the table – put them in a vase or something
- Bertram** Very Good M'am
- FX** *Tea being poured*

Bertram One lump or two sir...

FX *Knock on the door*

Announcer **There was a knock on the door...**

Bertram Someone has knocked on the door...I'll get it....

FX *Bertram opening door –*

Bertram Yeeesss?

Delivery Boy Special delivery for Ron Frankly...

Wally That must be the Advanced Effective Detective Mark #2 Kit....

Ron Quick lets open it....maybe it's got something in there about strategy....

FX *Sound of package being frantically unwrapped....*

Announcer **Ron and Wally examined the contents of the new Advanced Effective Detective Mark #2 Kit – the others drank their tea**

FX *Slurping of tea...cups and saucers, spoons stirring*

Bertram Sirs, your tea will be getting cold.....

Wally Never mind that, Aha! The Advanced Effective Detective Mark #2 manual.... maybe it's got something in there about strategy....

Ron Hey Wally this has got a real fancy pipe, a real Stradivarius and a genuine Sherlock Holmes hat! And wow! You can become an instant brain surgeon by reading this Instant Brain Surgeon booklet

Wally Give it here, gees it must have nearly 20 pages! Might have to leave that till tonight....

Bertram Your tea sirs..... it is getting cold....

Ron Yes yes....

Wally Ah yes the tea! Here's looking at you Mr *Advanced* Effective Detective!

Ron And you Dr Wally brain surgeon to be...

FX *Slurping of tea....*

Ron and Wally Errrghhh oooohhh

Ron This tea is cold....

Wally Too right it is!

Bertram Well I told you it was getting cold....

Announcer Taking the Advanced Effective Detective Mark #2 manual Ron flipped through the pages and stopped at the topic of “Manor House Murders”

Ron Aha! Just what we need....”How to solve a manor house murder. - Manor house murders are not always easily solved, suspicion falls usually on all residents of the manor house and usually all have a verifiable motive to have murdered the victim....”

Lady BBB Yes, well, I did just find out that Cyril was having an affair...

Melissa Daddy refused to buy me a new Astin Martin

Roger I didn’t like the old sod

Ron “...however almost always in these situations it is the butler who did it!”

Announcer Suddenly they all realized that the Butler did it

All Of course! The Butler did it!!!

Bertram Of course it was me! You fools!

Announcer Ahhhhh Revenge! It is so sweet!

Bertram Yes but it doesn’t matter now – you have all just drunk my poisoned tea! In 10 minutes you will all be dead and I will inherit Burrington-Burrington-Burrington manor

Melissa Arrghhh the poison is beginning to take a affect....

Roger Bertram you fiend! Arrrghhh....

Lady BBB Bertram, your fired..... Aaargghh

Bertram Revenge of the working class!

Announcer Aren’t you forgetting something....I haven’t had any tea!

Bertram Yes, but you will find that you are now permanently locked, sealed and welded into your announcer’s booth - thanks mainly to my effective Oxy-welding kit available for \$69.90 on-line, and there is now way

out! You will either asphyxiate due to lack of air, or die of thirst due to lack of water or starve to death due to lack of food or, all three!.... You will have the unique experience of announcing your own demise to an audience of nobody! You're right! Revenge is sooooo sweet

Announcer You rotten scumbag!!!

Ron I just found something here in the Advanced Effective Detective Mark #2 manual, but arrrggghh... I'm beginning to feel dizzy – here Wally – see if you can read it....

Wally Oh right... um..... oh yeah.... *“What to do if you solve a manor murder and find that the Butler has poisoned everyone and sealed the announcer in the sound booth....”*

Ron Aargghhh... what's it say.....

Wally It says..... end the show!

Ron Of course! We'll just end the show.... Mr announcer this is your big moment.....

Announcer Yes of course, no-one dies if we just end the show....

Bertram Drat and double drat...

Announcer And so having exposed the butler as the murderer, Ron Frankly vindicates himself as a true Effective Detective and along with his loyal and soon to be qualified brain surgeon assistant looks forward to doing something entirely different in the next Epic Epic!

Bertram Foiled again! (Bertram exits stage)

Announcer In the meantime, we bid you all a fond Goodbye!

Everyone Bye..... /Bye...../ Bye....Cheerio/.....Goodbye...
*Variously
and fading as
they go..*

Roger Bit of a cop out in the end...

Bertram Well what can you expect....

Announcer You've been listening to an EPIC EPIC with.... (Lists players and parts) be tuned next time for EPIC EPIC Number 2 entitled “Scorpions” – For now this is me saying goodbye

- A moment or two silence-

Ahh... can someone come and let me out of here?

FX *Crickets*

Announcer *Someone? I'm locked in this sound booth....*

FX *More crickets....*

Announcer *Aww come on..... let me out....(gets more frantic as audience leaves)....look a joke is a joke.....this is ridiculous!! Let me out of here.... (ad lib a bit fade out....)*