

THE GHOST OF ROAST HOG

Written by

Jamie Robinson

Based on, If Any

Address  
Phone Number

EXT. LOWER STRANGLING- DAY

The church of St Gerald the Damned sits proudly on a hill, surrounded by graves.

The birds chirp. A gentle breeze blows through the trees.

All in all, a quintessential English village scene.

A young woman in her late thirties, ADELE GRANGER, lets herself through the gate and approaches the church amongst the tombstones. She carries a satchel over her shoulder.

She arrives at the front door. She pushes it open. She is in.

INT. ST GERALD THE DAMNED- DAY

The church is empty, except for Adele.

She wanders down the nave, towards the organ.

She sits herself down, removing her satchel.

Out of it, she takes a music book.

She places it on the organ.

Crack go her knuckles, before she touches the keys.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. THE PETERSON'S MANOR- GARDEN- DAY

A knife slices through a roast hog, and some slices of meat land into a serving dish.

Elsewhere in the immaculate garden, ROBERT SHERMAN (late 40's), prepares his beer kiosk.

He measures the distance of the bottles with a ruler. Two of them are a little too far apart.

He brings them closer. Perfect.

Next to him, PAUL STILLER (late 50's, English) plonks some wine bottles onto a table, not really caring how they look.

Outside their immaculate 16th Century Manor, DAVE PETERSON (early 60's, English) and his wife SARAH (late 50's, English) observe the scene.

DAVE

Well, everything seems to be in order.

SARAH

Yes, but did we really need to line the pockets of Patrick O'Brien? His criminal record isn't particularly good, is it?

DAVE

No. But on the plus side he's cheap. Cheap and good quality.

BEAT.

SARAH

We don't exactly live under the poverty line, Dave. We can afford to splash out occasionally.

DAVE

Yeah. But it's always a good thing to scrimp and save, that's what my-

SARAH

You don't need to keep following your mother's advice long after she's dead, Dave. It's your life, not hers.

BEAT.

DAVE

True, true. But it's good advice.

Sarah notices the distant sound of the organ.

BEAT.

SARAH

Is someone playing the theme from Babe on the organ?

Dave listens to the music.

DAVE

Yeah. It could sound like that, couldn't it? Probably Simon treating us to some pre hog entertainment.

Sarah and Dave continue to listen to the music.

EXT. LOWER STRANGLING- DAY

The sun begins to set. The sky is pink. The cottages are burning, the music still playing.

The REV. SIMON ABERNATHY (mid 50's, English) briskly strolls towards the manor, smiling to himself.

JOHN GRANGER, (early 60's, English), slowly lumbers on behind him.

Just behind the vicar, HANS HOGGUNHOFFER (mid 50's, German), stomps towards the hog roast.

Last but not least, BRUCE RICHARDSON (mid 50's, Australian), swaggers along at a leisurely pace.

EXT. THE PETERSON'S MANOR- EVENING

Dave, Sarah, and their two children WILL (18, English), and ELEANOR (15, English), greet their guests as they enter the garden.

Will politely shakes everyone's hands. Eleanor curtsies.

DAVE

Adele not joining us, John?

JOHN

No, no. She'll be here, if she knows what's best for her. She's just running a bit late.

DAVE

Ok.

Dave walks into his manor.

John walks over to the meat kiosk.

GEORGE WILLIAMS (mid 30's, English) prepares John's lunch before handing it over to him.

GEORGE

There you are, sir. Enjoy your meal.

JOHN

I'm sure I will, thank you.

With that, John walks over to Simon and Sarah.

Dave emerges from the manor, clutching two wine glasses. He hands one to his wife.

JOHN

Thanks for putting this together,  
Dave. It was a nice idea.

DAVE

Well, I just got a pay rise and was  
in a generally good mood so I  
thought, why not literally go the  
whole hog and invite the village  
round for a hog roast?

Just then, Adele jogs up to the gate and lets herself in.

John notices her.

JOHN

Here she is, late as usual.

Adele jogs over to John. She examines the scene around her.

ADELE

It would have been better if you  
did something that didn't involve  
murder, but whatever.

John turns to Adele.

JOHN

Could you go one moment without  
mentioning your vegan terrorist  
agenda?

Adele sighs.

ADELE

For the last time! Pagus isn't  
terrorism, dad, it's the future.  
With all the greenhouse gasses it  
emits, meat production is one of  
the biggest contributors to climate  
change. Going vegan saves the  
planet!

JOHN

There are sustainable ways to make  
meat, Adele.

ADELE

Even so, all life on this planet is  
an important part of Mother Nature.

(MORE)

ADELE (CONT'D)

We had no right to take that pig's life to sustain our own. It makes me sick seeing you all eat it like it's nothing.

Adele sulks.

BEAT.

DAVE

Well, on that note, I'm off to get some hog.

Dave walks over to the food kiosk.

ADELE

Uggh!

SIMON

I agree that we should perhaps consider being less reliant on meat, hence why I've tried going vegan for lent.

Simon holds up his hogless plate.

JOHN

How's it going, Si? I know you've always been fond of pork scratchings.

Adele sighs, then walks off.

SIMON

Not as bad as I feared, fortunately. But I doubt I could be as committed to the cause as your daughter is.

JOHN

Neither can I, Si, neither can I.

John eats a bit of the snout.

EXT. GARDEN- NIGHT

Dave, Sarah, Will, and Eleanor bid goodnight to their guests as they exit through the gate.

SIMON

Thank you, both, for a wondrous hog roast. I'm sure the parish of St Gerald the Damned is most grateful.

SARAH  
That is our hope, Simon.

Simon smiles, then rubs his hands.

SIMON  
Well, goodnight and god bless.

Simon walks through the gate.

SARAH  
See you tomorrow Simon.

The Petersons are alone. Dave closes the gate.

DAVE  
I would say that was a moderate  
success.

Dave, Sarah, Will, and Eleanor walk up to their manor.

SARAH  
Anything good on the telly tonight?

DAVE  
If we're lucky, there might be an  
update on that terrorist attack  
Pagus did last night.

SARAH  
Yes. Hopefully. I need to pad out  
my article.

The Petersons disappear into their manor.

FADE TO:

INT. HANS' COTTAGE- DAY

A grandfather clock strikes twelve midnight.

Hans reclines in an armchair, sharpening his cleaver.

NEWS REPORTER (O.S.)  
(on TV)  
Leader of Pagan terrorist  
organisation Pagus, Reginald  
Carbstrong, has claimed  
responsibility for the bomb attack  
on the Paddy O'Brien's meat  
processing plant in Guildford.

BEAT.

A pig oinks outside, and breaths heavily.

Hans looks up for a moment.

NEWS REPORTER (O.S.)

(on TV)

He shows no remorse for the attack, stating that he did it in the name of Cernunnos, and that those who dare take the life of an innocent animal, deserve to meet a similar fate.

Hans continues to resume sharpening his cleaver.

BEAT.

The breathing is louder now. It's in the house.

BEAT.

Hans looks up. He hears pots and pans crash to the ground in the next room.

He slowly eases himself up and props the cleaver on the wall.

NEWS REPORTER (O.S.)

(on TV)

Every member of Pagus who was known to be involved in the attack has been arrested, but one member is still at large.

Hans turns the TV off.

He walks into the next room.

Hans' cleaver leans against the wall... within easy reach.

INT. BUTCHER'S- DAY

Hans switches the light on.

The floor is covered in silverware.

He grumbles and he picks every last pot and pan off the ground and puts them in their rightful place.

BEAT.

He hears the breathing once more, followed by an oink.

Hans' takes a tour of the room, looking for the culprit.



It's no use, the only pigs in the room are strung up on the ceiling.

Hans stands in the corner of the room, confused.

The door behind him slowly creaks open. The breathing becomes louder, as if it's approaching him.

A dark shape creeps up behind Hans'.

BEAT.

He turns round.

BEAT.

HANS

Simon?

Hans sees the cleaver raised above his head.

BEAT.

HANS

Agggghhhh!

Thwack!

Splat!

The assailant vacates the premises.

EXT. LOWER STRANGLING- DAY

The birds chirp. The wind gently blows through the trees.

All is pleasant.

EXT. VICARAGE- DAY

Simon exits from his house.

He closes his eyes. He inhales, then exhales.

He walks down towards the village.

SIMON

(singing)

Guide me O, thou great redeemer.  
Pilgrim through this barren land. I  
am weak, but thou art mighty. Guide  
me with thy powerful hand.

Simon walks past St Gerald the Damned.

EXT. STREET- DAY

Simon strolls past a line of cottages.

SIMON

(singing)

Bread of heaven! Bread of heaven!  
Feed me 'till I want some more,  
want some more! Feed me 'till I  
want some...

Simon stops in his tracks.

In front of him, the butcher's shop door is ajar.

BEAT.

Simon slowly approaches it.

SIMON

Hello? Hans?

Simon enters the building.

INT. BUTCHER'S- DAY

Simon walks further into the room.

SIMON

Trialing earlier opening hours as  
we, Hans? Hans?

Simon looks round the room and then... gasp!

His eyes widen, he hyperventilates, horrified by what's in front of him.

He slowly backs away, transfixed by whatever is in front of him.

He rushes out of the shop, the door swinging on its hinges as he does so.

INT. THE PETERSON'S MANOR- DAY

Some cornflakes are poured into a bowl.

Dave pours some milk onto his breakfast before taking a bite.

He listens to classic rock on the radio.

Sarah enters the room, and walks over to the hob.

Some bacon starts to sizzle.

SARAH

Last night's hog roast was good,  
wasn't it?

DAVE

Yeah. It's good to see the village  
community stand strong, no matter  
how hard the Tories try to tear it  
down.

Sarah moves the bacon around the pan.

SARAH

Want some bacon, Dave?

DAVE

No thanks, I'm sticking to cereal  
today. That hog was to die for.

Suddenly... knock! Knock!

Dave and Sarah look up, alert.

There it goes again. Knock! Knock!

SARAH

Who could that be at this hour?

DAVE

Dunno. Sounds urgent though, I'll  
check.

Dave leaps out of his seat.

Sarah looks towards the door, concerned.

INT. HALLWAY- DAY

Knock, knock, continues the person behind the door.

Dave rushes towards it. He opens it.

He squints his eyes in confusion.

DAVE

John?