

Crime at Rayville Manor

By Charlie Graham

Act 1

Scene 1

The Police Station

Rayville is a calm village with old buildings. The people living in Rayville have lived there their whole entire life and know the village inside out. They are a good community, and everyone trusts everyone. The Policeman, Bob Jenner is standing centre stage. There is one small desk with a small computer and a pocket-size notebook. Bob Jenner seems to be inspecting his fingernails.

Bob: And I have just solved the case. The person who took the notebook was me and where it was put was in my pocket. (Sigh) Nothing ever happens in Rayville.

(The Police's assistant enters.)

Police Assistant: New files sir, reports of one too many potatoes in the corner shop. 10 pence extra change given to the butcher; Mr Green is very upset, and the biggest crime, someone stole your notebook sir.

Bob Jennings: Ah yes, turns out it was in my pocket. The biggest case around here is me forgetting your name. What's your name again.

Police Assistant: Sir, you really should know my name, we're a crime fighting duo...

Bob Jennings: You mean I am a crime fighting solo and you help file my work.

Police Assistant: But sir...

Bob Jennings: (Interrupting his assistant) The name's Jennings. Bob Jennings. Licence... (Pausing for effect) (Pulls out his driving licence) to drive.

Police Assistant: But sir, sorry, Bob, can I please come on a case just for once.

Bob Jennings: Sorry assistant person, but I don't think we will have a crime for the next 100 years at this rate. I just wanted to be part of the last case. But I was only a little boy. From the moment I heard about the missing Baker, I knew I wanted to be a policeman. I wanted to solve crimes and be the village hero, but now look at it, there hasn't been a crime since. Why did I become a policeman? Nothing ever happens here.

(The Mayors assistant, Roy, runs in stage right. He has urgent news.)

Roy: Bob Jennings. We need you. The mayors prize best mayor award has been stolen. The mayor is lost without it, come quick.

(Roy runs off the way stage right)

Bob Jennings: (Excited) Assistant. Looks like we have a crime. And I am appointing you as Chief Inspector's Assistant. I'm Chief Inspector as I am head of The Police Force.

(The assistant looks happy and sad) (They both run after Roy exiting stage right.)

(Blackout)

Scene 2

Rayville Manor – The Home of the Mayor

The mayor is sitting anxiously in his chair. He is cradling a picture of him holding the prize happily. Roy is standing next to the mayor comforting him.

Roy: There there. Don't worry sir. I have brought Bob Jennings and his assistant person. I don't know his name though...

Police's assistant: Honestly, does no one know my name.

Roy: No. (Quickly) Anyway, Mr Mayor, (Back to normal speed) they're here to find the trophy for you. Is that alright.

Mayor: Well they better find it and I want it quick. And if the perpetrator isn't found soon, they might start stealing more things. Then I will have to close Rayville for good.

Bob Jennings: Now, we don't want that, we will find your prize. May we have a look around?

Mayor: Certainly.

Bob Jennings and his assistant: Thank You.

(Bob Jennings and his assistant exit stage right)

Mayor: (Stops crying) Well that went well, our plan is working.

Roy: Yes, sooner or later that Police Chief will be...

Bob Jennings: (Off stage) We found a clue! A footprint!

Mayor: This wasn't part of the plan. (Looking at Roy angrily) Did you put it there.

Roy: I'm sorry sir but I know nothing of a footprint. The only thing I know about a shoe is that my one thousand pound pair of shoes went missing only yesterday.

Mayor: (Angrily) And you didn't tell me!

Roy: I was only worrying about you sir. I didn't want to mess up your plan.

Mayor: (Calmly) Well that's kind of you. I appreciate that. We better find you some new shoes.

Roy: Thank you sir, that would be great.

(They walk off stage right)

(A villager dressed all in black enters stage left. We can't see their face, but we can see they are holding a trophy and a pair of golden shoes.)

Masked Villager: Mwa ha ha. Soon Rayville will be shut down for ever. Next stop, Lord Omelette's manor. I can almost smell the painting I'm going to steal or is that the shoes. (Smells the shoes and then gags) Definitely the shoes.

(The masked villager runs off stage left)

(Blackout)

Scene 3

The dining room – In Rayville Manor

Roy, The Mayor, Bob Jennings and the Police's Assistant are standing peering over the floor. There is something black on the floor in the shape of a footprint. It is average size. There is a big table on stage left with 4 chairs either side of the long edge. A big throne-like chair is behind the table. A goblet sits in front of the throne-like chair. A painting of the mayor is up against the wall and a window is in the wall. There is no glass and just a square hole in the wall for the window. Behind the window is a hill leading up to a big house. This is painted on a canvas.

Bob Jennings: (Pointing down at the footprint) There. A footprint. Medium sized. No heels. Pointed end. This was made by a man's business shoe.

Mayor: How did you get all that from a footprint.

Bob Jennings: Well, I am a professional. And if I look at everyone's shoes, I can tell you that, Mr Mayor, you have medium sized shoes. You have no heels. The shoes you are wearing have a pointed end. And you are a businessman. Anything you would like to say Mr Mayor.

Mayor: What are you saying?

Bob Jennings: I don't know, maybe that you snuck into this room, stole the trophy and made a run for it.

Mayor: Why would I steal my own trophy?

Bob Jennings: Oh, I didn't think of that.

(The mayor, Roy, Bob Jennings and The polices assistant are talking to each other but we can't make out what they say. The masked villager walks in front of the window. Then quickly ducks down. He

slowly peers over the ledge and then ducks down again. He looks straight through the window.)

Masked Villager: Well. Looks like they are distracted. This feels like the perfect time to steal one more item.

(He runs off stage right and comes back on in front of the wall and goes up against the wall. He walks slowly to the table, picks up the goblet and runs off stage left.)

(The Mayor turns around)

Mayor: My goblet. It's gone!

(Blackout)

Scene 4

The Masked Villagers Lair

The masked villager is standing centre stage. He seems to be standing in a cave. There are the shoes, the goblet, the trophy, a painting, a sweet jar, a piece of meat and a money box sitting on a table. He is thinking hardly.

Masked Villager: Well that was a good raid at the mayor's house.

(The mayor and Roy run across the stage)

Mayor: (Whilst running) Where's my trophy!

Roy: (Whilst running) Where's my shoes!

Masked Villager: Lord Omelettes manor.

(Lord Omelette runs across the stage)

Lord Omelette: (In a French accent) (Whilst running) Where is my self-portrait. Although I have another five, I need six. One for every ten years I've been alive.

Masked Villager: Mrs. Dons' sweet shop.

(Mrs. Don runs across stage)

Mrs Don: (Whilst running) (Panting) Where...is...my...sweet...jar.
(Stops running) Wow...this is some work for my...back. (Continues to run across stage)

Masked Villager: Mr. Green's prize piece of meat.

(Mr. Green runs across stage)

Mr. Green: (Whilst Running) Where's my meat. I want my meat.
(Stops. Stomps his foot on the floor with every word.) I want my meat. (Starts running again and stops stomping his foot.)

Masked Villager: Gary Dudders money box was a great steal. Never leave your bus open when you're on your lunch break Mr Dudders.

(Gary Dudders runs across stage.)

Gary Dudders: (Whilst Running) My money box has been stolen. That had twenty-five pounds in it. That's a lot of money.

Masked Villager: And also Cameron Sennar's best bun.

(Cameron Sennar runs across stage.)

Cameron Sennar: I'm a baker, not a detective. I can't find my bun. It's been stolen. I was going to be on Bakers Bake Buns whilst they Barbeque Bananas. I would have won the tv programme!

Masked Villager: Where should I go next? Tom Smith's coffee shop or Mark Rendo's electric parlour. How about both. I believe Mr. Rendo is doing Tom Smith's lighting system.

(Blackout)

(Interval)

Act 2

Scene 1

Tom Smith's Coffee shop.

There is a counter centre stage which Tom Smith is standing behind. A muffin is sitting on top of the counter. Mark Rendo is up on a step ladder stage left, fixing a light (He is actually just screwing the air). His toolbox is on the floor. Dr Man and Tom the milkman are sitting at a table, talking to each other. The masked villager creeps on stage right.

Tom Smith: Mr. Rendo. How's the light coming long.

Mark Rendo: Really good actually.

Dr Man: (Calling to Tom Smith.) You do know you've got to be careful.

Tom the milkman: Yes, there is a thief going around.

Dr Man: There have been multiple reports of missing items. Bob Jennings is very happy, but the Mayor is not.

Tom the milkman: He says he will have to shut down Rayville.

Mark Rendo: What was that? Did someone say the mayor will have to shut down Rayville?

Dr Man: Yes, there is a thief going around stealing things and if he's not caught, the mayor will have to shut down Rayville.

Mark Rendo: No. he can't do that. Bob Jennings will solve this.

(They start to talk quietly. The masked villager sneaks over to muffin, puts it into his pocket and then walks over to the toolbox, picks that up and then runs to the door.)

Tom the milkman: (Pointing to the door) Look, the thief.

(Everyone looks to the door.)

Mark Rendo: He's got my toolbox!

Tom Smith: And my muffin! Get Him!

(Everyone stands up, but the thief has already run out the door and off stage.)

Scene 2

Police Office

Back at the police office from scene 1. Dr. Man, Tom Smith, Tom the milkman and Mark Rendo are standing talking to Bob Jennings and the police's assistant.

Dr. Man: He was tall and wore a black suit.

Tom the Milkman: we could not see his face!

Mark Rendo: He stole my toolbox.

Tom Smith: And my muffin!

Dr. Man: Please catch this person. We want to stay in Rayville.

Everyone who has already spoken: Please. Please Bob Jennings. Please.

(The mayor storms in.)

Mayor: I am shutting down Rayville. I am shutting down Rayville for good.

Dr. Man: Please sir. Please Mr. Mayor

Mayor: No buts, no pleases, no sirs. Goodbye Rayville. The closing ceremony will be at 4 'o' clock this afternoon.

(The mayor exits the way he came.)

Tom the milkman: Bob Jennings. Please.

Bob Jennings: Do not worry, I have a plan. Assistant. Gather the village and I will explain my plan to everyone.

(Blackout)

Scene 3

The closing ceremony

The mayor is standing on a podium. Bob Jennings and his assistant are standing next to the mayor. All the villagers are standing watching the mayor. Tom Smith and Mark Rendo are off stage left. Dr. Man and Tom the milkman are at the back of the pack. The masked villager is off stage left as well.

Mayor: This lovely village of Rayville. We have lived here for our entire life. We know each other. And because of this, I decided to put on a fake crime for Bob Jennings, but I believe a masked villager has been going around...

Bob Jennings: (Interrupting The mayor) Hang on a minute, so the missing trophy was just a setup?

Mayor: Yes, but now my trophy has been stolen.

Bob Jennings: Well that was nice of you.

Mayor: (Shouting and angry) What! That I lost my trophy!!! You are fired!!!

Bob Jennings: No, sir, I am really sorry about your trophy, I meant it was nice of you to do something nice for me. (To the audience and not to the mayor) For once.

Mayor: What was that?

Bob Jennings: (Uncertain) Umm...you're not a dunce?

Mayor: Oh. Why thank you. You are un-fired, no, you are reinstated.

(The masked villager creeps on stage left)

Bob Jennings: (Pointing to the masked villager) Look, the masked villager! Get Him!

(The masked villager goes to run off stage left but Tom Smith and Mark Rendo come on a block him from escaping. He turns around and Dr. Man and Tom the milkman block him from escaping their way. Then the villagers all create a circle around him. He tries to break through the circle, but he is blocked every direction.)

Masked Villager: (Sad) Busted.

(Bob Jennings walks over to the masked villager and holds him still.)

Bob Jennings: Now, let's see who this really is.

(Bob Jennings takes off the mask and Cameron Sennar, the baker, is revealed.)

Villagers: Cameron Sennar?

Bob Jennings: But why?

Cameron Sennar: I just wanted some money. I wanted to enter that really amazing TV programme. Bakers Bake Buns whilst they Barbeque Bananas. I might have won, then I would be a world known baker. And Rayville would be popular, and we would get more tourists and that means more salary. We could have become rich.

Bob Jennings: Sorry Cameron, you're coming with me.

Mayor: (Stepping into the centre) Hang on Bob. Maybe we are being a bit to hasty. Let him go, I'm sure he will never do it again. And he had good intentions.

Bob Jennings: Alright then. We will let you go.

Cameron Sennar: (Chanting) Bob Jennings and his assistant. Bob Jennings and his assistant.

Villagers, mayor and Roy: Bob Jennings and his assistant. Bob Jennings and his assistant. Bob Jennings and his assistant.

Police's assistant: (Shouting) Hang on. Stop! (Speaking normally) Does no one know my name?

Villagers: No.

Police's assistant: Honestly.

Mayor: What is it then?

Police's assistant: Hank Uff

Villagers: Handcuff?

Police's Assistant: No Hank Uff

Villagers, mayor and Roy: Ok. (Chanting) Bob Jennings and handcuff!
Bob Jennings and handcuff! Bob Jennings and handcuff!

(Police's assistant (Hank Uff) does a facepalm.)

(Blackout)

(End of play)