

UNSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

by

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*The Scene opens in a shabby dining room. An oddly dressed loner Adrian Petersen sits nervously behind a table covered in candles, feathers and other instruments of the arcane. Off to one side, a smartly dressed presenter Alex Gronkowski is pacing up and down practising their lines from a sheet of paper. In front, while a frazzled camera person Gene applies makeup to a second presenter Sam Bradford who is not happy with their lack of star treatment. After a moment Gene is waved off by Sam, and the two presenters come together to start filming*

**GENE:** Action!

*A jazzy daytime TV jingle plays, and the two presenters look up and smile.*

**SAM:** Hello and welcome to another exciting episode of Unforeseen Circumstances: Uncut! I'm your host...

**GENE:** **<Exasperated>** Cut!

*Gene rubs the bridge of their nose and looks irritated. Apparently, this happens a lot.*

**SAM:** What are you cutting for? I was doing some of my best work there.

**GENE:** You got the name of the show wrong...

**ALEX:** Again.

**SAM:** Really? That doesn't sound like something I'd do. Are you sure it wasn't Alex? They are always messing up their lines

**ALEX:** **<Shocked and angry>** I don't know what show you've been watching, but I've not been able to get a word in edgeways-

**SAM:** **<Talking over Alex>** Are you sure the name of the show isn't Unforeseen Circumstances?

**GENE:** Sam. We've been doing this show for four-

**SAM:** **<Talking over Gene>** If it's not Unforeseen Circumstances what is the show called?

**ADRIAN:** Unseen Circumstances: Uncut. First aired 9<sup>th</sup> July 2014 on Channel Four. The first show was set in Leicester at the famous Y Theatre and was about-

**SAM:** **<Talking over Adrain>** Unseen Circumstance? Really? Who came up with that rubbish?

**ADRIAN:** The show was created by-

**SAM:** **<Talking over Adrain>** Whatever, who cares. This is just a small part of my career you know.

*Alex laughs, and Sam shoots them a look.*

**GENE:** <Urgently trying to stop a fight before it starts> Places!  
Annnnnnd ACTION!

**SAM:** Hello and welcome to another exciting episode of Unseen  
Circumstances: Uncut! I'm your host Sam Bradford.

**ALEX:** And I'm your co-host Alex Gronkowski, and we're here today in rural  
Wisbech at what is reported to be one of England's most haunted  
homes. Isn't that right Adrian?

*Alex and Sam turn to Adrian who looks at the camera stunned.*

**ALEX:** Adrian!

*Adrian looks terrified and doesn't say anything. Sam walks over and quite unsubtly kicks him  
in the shins.*

**ADRIAN:** <In a rush, words tumbling over one another> - That's right Alex.  
Haunted, super haunted, the most haunted place ever I'd say in fact.  
Like bigly haunted. Yesiree. That's right.

**SAM:** And what can you tell us about this ghost Adrian?

**ADRIAN:** <Stammering to start with but getting more confident> Well, I  
mean it's big. And Ghostly. Like you know, a ghost. Oh, and it's scary.  
Like super scary. If I had a pound for the number of people that have  
run out of here screaming I'd have well... You know a fiver... but we're  
only very new. Haven't been around long you know it's why we're on  
the show. Drum up some business...

**ALEX:** A new ghost you say? Fascinating...

**SAM:** You heard it here first folks a real honest, to goodness ghost and  
you're going to see it right here on Unforeseen Circumstances:  
Uncut...

**GENE:** Cut!

**SAM:** What now?

**GENE:** You did it again... You said unforeseen not unseen... Oh, screw it lets  
get set up for the séance scene. I don't know why I bother honestly.

*Alex and Sam join Adrian at the table, the lights have dimmed the candles lit, and a general  
spooky atmosphere created.*

**ALEX:** So here we are ready to call out the spirit. Right here, right now, on  
national television.

**SAM:** That's right Alex this will be the first time a real ghost is caught on camera. Exciting isn't it!

**ALEX:** Exciting indeed, Sam. OK, shall we get started, Adrian?

**ADRIAN:** **<With some trepidation>** OK, I mean I've never called them out specifically before they usually just appear but...

*Gene is waving at Adrian to get on with it.*

**ADRIAN:** Ok here goes...

*The summoning ceremony is completed with some hand-waving, mumbled chanting and tossing of magic powder. After a pause, there is a thump, and the lights go out. The lights come back up, and Adrian is looking around nervously while Sam is sat on Alex's knee hugging them. Sam looks embarrassed, and they disentangle themselves and look around.*

**SAM:** So... the ghost...

**ADRIAN:** Well, I mean that's it really. You know the thud and the lights going out. Scary stuff. Terrifies the locals that one.

**SAM:** That's it? A thump and a power cut?!? Where's the ghost?

**ADRIAN:** I did say I've never summoned it before! I mean, the show is called Unseen Circumstances not seen circumstances right? Isn't that enough?

**SAM:** Gene can you believe this crap?

**GENE:** **<Exasperated>** Cut!

**ALEX:** This is a disaster. Again.

**ADRIAN:** Did you not hear the thump and the whoosh and the darkness and...

**ALEX:** What else have we got Gene? This is going nowhere...

**GENE:** Well, I mean we have that old boy in the woods...

**SAM:** The nutter who saw Big Foot? No way am I tramping through the woods again, you know what that does to my hair.

**GENE:** What about the tin foil hat girl out in Derby, the one who was abducted by aliens?

**ALEX:** We did aliens last episode, you can't go back to back aliens any presenter worth their salt knows that.

*Alex tips Sam a knowing look. Sam folds their arms and stands to one side while Gene flips through some papers. On the side of the stage, a ghost flits in and out which only Adrian sees.*

**ADRIAN:** <Quietly> Uh, guys?

**ALEX:** It's no use we will just have to save this one there must be something we can do. Think unseen...

**ADRIAN:** <Louder> Guys?

**GENE:** Unseen, unseen what is unseen...

**ALEX:** Ninjas?

**GENE:** No something with more... substance.

**ALEX:** Submarines?

*The ghost comes on stage and moves menacingly towards Adrian.*

**ADRIAN:** <Squeaked> Guys...

**GENE:** No something more threatening.

**ALEX:** The patriarchal society in which we live that makes it impossible for talented women to reach the top without clinging to a man or otherwise debasing herself.

**SAM:** Ugh! You guys are so boring. Call me when this is done, I'm going for a smoke.

*Sam goes off to one side of the stage to smoke while Alex and Gene continue to talk animatedly. In the background the ghost stalks Adrian. There is a scuffle, the lights flash again, there's a thump, and a body sits at the side of the stage, head out of shot.*

**ALEX:** I've got it!

**GENE:** We tried the whole lights go out a bit already. We need something with more pizzazz. You know what we're up against this week? Strictly Come-chuffing Dancing that's what! If we don't have something A-grade, we'll have fewer viewers than that show about local government tax accountants!

**ALEX:** No, it's not that. I've got the answer. It's perfect!

*Alex leans in and whispers to Gene.*

**GENE:** You're right that will work! Right, let's get this in the can and get home. Places everyone!

*Gene claps their hands while Alex runs over and drags Sam back. They take their places in front of the table. Gene puts the camera on a tripod and waves to the presenters.*

**GENE:** Action!

**ALEX:** You saw it here first. Chilling scenes as homeowner Adrian Petersen summoned the ghost of their dead grandfather, navy submarine pilot and possibly feudal Japanese warrior Pappy Petersen. You witnessed the terror as he appeared and doused the lights and now we know he is here we can find him with our special ghost hunting equipment. Isn't that right Adrian? Adrian?

*They look around and can't see Adrian.*

**GENE:** Cut! Where's the weirdo gone? Adrian? Adrian?!?

*They search the stage and eventually find the body. Alex stands aghast while Gene goes in and checks for a pulse. They shake their head. Sam looks from the scene to the camera, and back a couple of times.*

**ALEX:** My God!

**GENE:** We need to call 999.

**SAM:** Oh no! Whatever will we do? The ghost is here! He's going to kill us all.

**GENE:** **<Looking at their phone>** No signal! God damn it we have to get out of here.

**ALEX:** I don't have any signal either. What's going on?

*Gene and Alex split up looking for a way out. Alex tries the door, but it's locked while Gene tries a window at the other end of the stage. Sam practices turning to the camera and looking scared, after a few tries apparently happy they bend down and dip their finger in the blood on the body and taste it.*

**SAM:** Wow! We must have a budget now that tastes pretty real.

*Gene continues to try the window while Alex comes back over to Sam.*

**SAM:** You're doing great down there. Aren't they doing great Alex?

**ALEX:** What are you doing!? We have to get out of here before the ghost comes for us too!

**SAM:** **<Looking back at the camera>** Yes! You're right. We have to get out now while we still can.

*The ghost appears on stage behind Gene who feels something and turns around. The ghost comes forward slowly Gene looks terrified, and before they can run the lights go out, there is a scream and when the lights come back up Gene's body lays on the floor.*

**SAM:** Oh no what has happened now?

**ALEX:** Gene? Where is Gene?!? Gene!

*Alex runs over to the far side of the stage while Sam walks slowly looking around. As Alex finds the body, a haunting laugh echoes around the room.*

**ALEX:**                   <**Panicking**> It got Gene! It got Gene! We have to get out of here. We have to get out of here!

**SAM:**                   <**Shooting a look to the camera**> Oh no whatever will we do?

*Sam shoots the camera a withering look while Alex bolts for the door and unable to open it goes to the opposite side of the stage to Sam. Sam bends down to where Gene is lying and prods them.*

**SAM:**                   Don't be getting any ideas, Gene! You stick to your place behind the camera where that hair belongs, you understand me?

*Sam prods Gene again and starts to look concerned for the first time. Alex continues to look for a way out while the ghost again appears covered in blood and wielding a knife.*

**SAM:**                   Gene? Are you OK?

*Sam bends down to Gene as the lights go out and Alex screams. When the lights come back on Sam is standing, and the lights are dim and flickering. Sam looks genuinely scared now. She walks across the room towards the body of Alex.*

**SAM:**                   Alex? Alex this isn't funny any more get up. GET UP!

*The lights go out plunging the stage into darkness. Sam snatches the camera and uses the light on it to get themselves to the corner of the stage where they huddle down and turn the camera on themselves, Blair Witch style. There are stomping noises and an evil laugh in the background*

**SAM:**                   <**Terrified holding the camera to their face**> - It's awful! At first, I thought it was just another job, but this time it was real. First, it took... took... the weirdo you know the one who owns the place. But it wasn't done there. It came for Gene next and then, then my wonderful co-host Alex. Now, now it's coming for me. I can hear it stalking me in the darkness. Coming closer, ready to kill me. If anyone is watching this don't come here. Leave this place and run as far and as fast as you can. This place is cursed! Cursed...

**SAM:**                   <**Now totally at peace**> And scene! Phew! Great show everyone. Really good show! Wow, I did not see that coming, but you guys really sold it. I mean wow! What a show. Strictly won't know what hit it.

*Sam gets up shakes off the tension.*

**SAM:**                   You guys tossed it up there, and I knocked it down like you knew I would.

*Sam looks around.*

**SAM:** Guys! You can put the lights back on now we got that one in the can and I've got to tell you it was fan-tastic!

*Sam uses the camera to look around and still doesn't see anyone.*

**SAM:** Guys?

*The lights come up, and the ghost is towering over Sam ready to strike. The lights go down again, and there is a thump and an evil laugh.*



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