

THE CURSE OF THE SAMPLE SCRIPT BY OLIVIA WHITE

DAVID - A no-nonsense producer with a heart of gold.

OLIVIA - A strangely murderous assistant to David Cummings.

AUTHOR - An author whose life ambition is to write a script for The NoSleep Podcast.

INT. - LIBRARY - NIGHT

A mysterious, dusty library. Books are stacked on the shelves which are straining under the weight of the tomes. Unusual artefacts cover warped wooden desks. In the corner, a large candle flickers dangerously close to a stack of 16th Century encyclopedias.

DAVID is seated behind a large desk, writing with a quill in a huge book. OLIVIA is standing by one bookshelf, examining the books. David is deeply focused on his work, while Olivia is bored and restless.

OLIVIA

Man, David, I'm bored. You know what would make me less bored?

DAVID

(Distracted)

Hmmm? Did you say something? I really must get this work done.

OLIVIA

What are you even doing, anyway?

David's quill **SCRATCHES** across the paper, coming to a stop. David **SIGHS**.

DAVID

Well, I *was* writing a script. We've not had a good script submission in ages.

OLIVIA

What about that Jimmy Juliano character? I thought he was well into scripts?

DAVID

You set him on fire, remember? You claimed he was looking at Atticus funny. I keep asking that you don't set our collaborators ablaze. Pleading, even.

The sound of a dreamlike CRACKLING FIRE can be heard as Olivia fondly reminisces.

OLIVIA

Oh yeah. Anyway, I was about to say, I'd be less bored if...

The door to the library OPENS, letting in the sound of RAIN from outside. FOOTSTEPS echo across the wooden floor.

AUTHOR

(Hesitantly)

Ahem. Uh, hello?

OLIVIA

Well now, who's this bedraggled mess?

DAVID

(Dryly)

Olivia, please speak kindly to our guest. What can we do for you?

AUTHOR

I, uh, hi, yeah, I hear this is the dungeon of The NoSleep Podcast?

OLIVIA

No, the dungeon's one floor down.

AUTHOR

Anyway. I really want to write a script for you guys, but I've never done a script before. I usually write narrative prose. You did that one story of mine, 'I Licked A Bigfoot', back in Season 18.

David CLOSES his massive book.

DAVID

Ah yes, a particular favorite of ours. So how can we help you, exactly?

AUTHOR

Well, I was hoping you maybe had some advice or tips to get me started with scriptwriting. Something like a sample document, perhaps!

OLIVIA

Well, funny you should ask...

(Olivia clears her
throat)

This document in which you read these words will illustrate the path to success! As you can see, there are audio-heavy scene directions, character directions, dialogue... there's even descriptive text describing elements that the listener won't see, in order to establish goals for the audio producers!

AUTHOR

Well this is very meta.

Author flips through the pages, nodding sagely.

AUTHOR (CONT'D)

Ahh, hmmm, yes, this is very helpful! Perfect. So, yes, here you go.

Author hands the script to David.

DAVID

Why are you giving this to me?

AUTHOR

It's my script. I'm in it, after all. This is my submission to the podcast.

DAVID

(World-weary)

Ah. I, uh, I see. Well, thanks for that, unnamed author. I'll pass it onto Gabby and we'll be in touch.

AUTHOR

Okay, bye now!

Author SQUELCHES out the door, CLOSING it.

OLIVIA

Well, that was unusual.

DAVID

You can say that again. Anyway, we'd better start preparing for next week's show. All hands on deck! Brace yourself! Etcetera.

OLIVIA

You're such a nerd.

EXT. - LIBRARY - NIGHT

AUTHOR

I think that went well. My first script! I'm sure they'll select it.

Behind the author, the library door OPENS and then CLOSES softly.

OLIVIA

I'm afraid you forgot something, my dear author.

AUTHOR

What's that then?

OLIVIA

You forgot that all submitted scripts have to be one thing...

AUTHOR

My own work?

OLIVIA

One other thing... they have to be...

AUTHOR

Horror!

OLIVIA

Horror!

Olivia produces a CHAINSAW from behind her back, which she begins to REV loudly.

AUTHOR

Forsooth! I am to die at the blades of this saw!

(Author chokes and splutters)

I am slain!

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END.