

Let's Steal the Crown Jewels!

An action-thriller-musical-comedy

by Cameron Alsop and Ben Kybett

Scene List

Act One

Scene 1- This time, nothing can possibly go wrong

In which we introduce our McGuffin and those tasked with protecting it

Scene 2 - Scouting for girls

In which some unlikely criminal geniuses are revealed

Scene 3 - Vicuio's villainy (and that's not even a typo)

In which our villains make their plans, and discuss poorly thought-out acronyms

Scene 4 - Meanwhile, in the pub

In which poor decisions are made under the influence of alcohol

Scene 5 - The Quite Tricky Missions Executive

In which we observe a Tom Cruise- inspired inferiority complex

Scene 6 - All the detectives!

In which detectives, some famous, some... less so, go to work

Scene 7 - The Heist! Part the First

In which our characters begin to lose all control of the situation

Scene 8 - We now present a malevolent interlude

In which we take a time-out for some villain related character development

Scene 9 - The Heist! Part the Second

In which things start to fall apart a little

Act Two

Scene 1 - "Right" said Fred

In which the police contemplate the troublesome issues the first Act has left them with.

Scene 2 - The 3rd Upper Poppleton Girl Guides

In which a new set of unlikely protagonists is introduced

Scene 3 - Clash of the Egos

In which Sherlock meets Lily

Scene 4 - To the Villainous Dressing-Up Box!

In which the bad guys come up with a highly original plan

Scene 5 - Meanwhile, in the pub 2: Electric Boogaloo

In which the Lamb & Greyhound Gang come up with a highly original plan

Scene 6 - To The Secret Agent Dressing-Up Box!

In which the QTME come up with a highly original plan

Scene 7 - Scouts Everywhere!

In which the 3rd Upper Poppletons get some entirely non-suspicious new recruits.

Scene 8 - Meanwhile, in the pub 3: Return of the Pint

In which the Jewels change hands. Again. I do hope you're keeping up.

Scene 9 - Plot Twist!

In which an 'unexpected' betrayal takes place

Scene 10 - Hot Fuzz

In which the police actually get somewhere

Scene 11 - Yay Teamwork

In which everyone gets together to defeat the Big Bad.

Scene 12 - The Showdown

In which the plot is satisfactorily resolved

Dramatis Personae

The Metropolitan Police:

Fred - The Sergeant

Tim - nervy and kind of useless

Susan - gung-ho and kind of useless

Becky - newly transferred to the unit. And kind of useless.

The 3rd Upper Poppleton Scout Troop:

Lily - Patrol leader of the 3rd Upper Poppleton Scout Troop

Lucy - Lily's loyal second in command

Jamie - Lily's little brother, a cub, who is being allowed along for the ride

Alfie- "Why are girls even allowed in the Scouts?"

The Quite Tricky Missions Executive

Tom Fuse - the one who is definitely not Tom Cruise

Scotty McGeek - the one who is definitely not Simon Pegg

Jane Pistol - the one is definitely not the one who is a woman

Ryan Bungee - The one who is definitely not the one who is not Tom Cruise

Franklin R. Double-Agent - "it's pronounced Dooble-Arjont"

The Lamb & Greyhound Gang

Zoe - The leader

Alan - A shy guy who is actually good, but let everything get out of hand

Kate - Surprisingly brutal, a little psychotic

Gary - Incompetent, but owns the van so the others keep him along

Assorted Detectives

Flick Ranger - Private Detective who thinks he's in a Film Noir. He really isn't

Sherlock Holmes - I imagine you're familiar

John Watson - Sherlock's non-assistant

**Villainous International Criminal Undetectable Infiltration Operations Society -
what do you mean that doesn't spell Vicious!**

Dr Diabolical - A supervillain with a spectacularly unlikely sounding malevolent plan

Alpha - Lead Henchmen

Theta - Cook The Demolitions "Expert"

Epsilon - The one that holds the duffel bags

The 3rd Upper Poppleton Girl Guides

Felicity - Leader of the Guides

Mike - A new recruit

Jim - A new recruit

Nigel - A new recruit

Bar Staff

Sam the Barkeep - Landlord of the Lamb and Greyhound Pub

Character/Scene Guide

Character	Act 1 Scenes	Act 2 Scenes
Fred	1, 7, 9	1, 10, 11, 12
Tim	1, 7, 9	1, 7, 10, 11, 12
Susan	1, 7, 9	1, 10, 11, 12
Becky	1, 7, 9	1, 10, 11, 12
Lily	2, 7, 9	2, 7, 11, 12
Lucy	2, 7, 9	2, 7, 11, 12
Jamie	2, 7, 9	2, 7, 11, 12
Alfie	2, 7, 9	2, 7, 11, 12
Tom Fuse	5, 7, 9	5, 8, 9, 11, 12
Scotty McGeek	5, 7, 9	5, 8, 9, 11, 12
Jane Pistol	5, 7, 9	5, 8, 9, 11, 12
Ryan Bungee	5, 7, 9	5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12
Franklin R. Double-Agent	5, 8	9, 12
Zoe	2, 4, 7, 9	4, 8, 10, 11, 12
Alan	2, 4, 7, 9	4, 8, 10, 11, 12
Kate	2, 4, 7, 9	4, 8, 10, 11, 12
Gary	2, 4, 7, 9	4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12
Dr. Diabolical	3, 8	3, 12
Alpha	3, 7, 9	3, 12
Epsilon	3, 7, 9	3, 7, 12
Theta	3, 7, 9	3, 12
Sherlock Holmes	4, 6, 7, 9	2, 10, 11, 12
John Watson	6, 7, 9	2, 7, 10, 11, 12
Flick Ranger	6, 7, 9	7, 11, 12
Felicity	-	2, 7, 8

Mike	-	2, 7, 8
Nigel	-	2, 7, 8
Jim	-	2, 7, 8
Sam, the Barkeeper	4	4, 8, 10

Song list:

"Name"	Scene	Characters
I'm the Greatest Scout The World has Ever Seen	1.2	Lily
Sherlock & Watson bickering song	1.6	Sherlock/Watson
Diabolical Backstory	1.8	Diabolical, Franklin
Why not work together	1.9	Full cast; solos for Lily, possibly another Scout
How to be a Scout	2.6	Scouts, Tim, Epsilon, Ryan, Watson, Gary
Betrayal Blues	2.8	QTME
I'm the Greatest Scout the World has Ever Seen reprise	2.11	Lily
Why Not Work Together Reprise	2.11	Full cast, short solo for Ryan
Finale	2.12	Full Cast

SCRIPT GOES HERE v

Act the First

Scene 1: This time, nothing can possibly go wrong!

Lights up as Becky and Susan move in a big box marked 'HIGHLY VALUABLE', as Tim hovers nervously and Fred supervises officiously

Fred Carefully does it, now carefully does it! Up a bit at your end Becky. Try to keep it steady there Susan. Tim, can you find something to do other than hover.

Tim Sorry sarge. It's this assignment, it's making me a bit jumpy.

Susan Oh calm down, won't you, everything's going to be fine.

Fred No, no, Susan, the lad's got the right to be a bit nervous. Especially after what happened last time!

Becky Why, what happened last time, sarge?

Fred Oh, yes. I'd forgotten you hadn't joined the force back then.

Becky and Susan place the box down on a plinth (realistically, probably a table or a chair) and gather behind Fred.

Fred A couple of years back, we were assigned to guard a high security vault much like this one. I'd just gone off to do a perimeter patrol. When I came back, Tim and Susan had been knocked out and the vault was empty.

Becky Blimey sir! Had they been overwhelmed by assailants and tortured into opening the vault?

Fred Well, you two... had you?

Tim and Susan mumble something indistinct

Fred Had you?!

Tim Not really, sir, no.

Fred No, you hadn't. Firstly, the vault was only accessible through a 9 digit combination code, which the thief managed to find on the back of Tim's hand, where he'd written it down because he couldn't be bothered to remember it.

Tim I did tell you I was rubbish at remembering stuff...

Fred And then, the thief managed to overwhelm two highly trained police officers because they were distracted having a thumb war!

Susan Hey! That was Tim's fault. He'd bet me a whole jam sandwich I couldn't beat

him...

Fred Oh yes, a jam sandwich a fine reason to put million of pounds worth of the public's property at risk.

Tim In fairness sir, it was made with my mum's homemade jam...

Fred The niceness of the jam is irrelevant! We all ended up on traffic duty for a year! Do you know how long we spend playing 'yellow car'? The score reached about 7000 points each!

Susan Don't worry, sir, I'm sure nothing like that's going to happen again. One easy week of guard duty and then we can all go back to the station.

Becky What are we going to be guarding, sir?

Fred That's a good question. They haven't told me yet - they put the orders in a sealed envelope and told me only to open it when we got here. Might as well do it now, actually. Go and shut the door would you Tim. I don't want anyone overhearing this.

Tim Righto, sarge

Tim goes round the back of the flats/ offstage in someway. There's a pause as Fred waits for him to return. He does not.

Fred I meant shut it from this side!

Tim *(o/s, slightly muffled)* Oh right. Sorry sarge.

He returns. Fred reads the orders on the outside of the envelope which he takes from his pocket

Fred "Sealed orders only to be read in the presence of other officers of the Metropolitan Police. Eat after reading."

Becky Eat after reading? Urgggghhh!

Fred Hang on, there's a P.S. "Goes nicely with a white cheese sauce and a bottle of chilled Sauvignon Blanc."

Tim That's a thoughtful touch.

Fred opens the envelope and pulls out the paper inside

Fred Ah, here we go. "Inside the box you have placed within the vault are contained the Crown Jewels of Great Britain. No we're not joking. Seriously. The actual Crown Jewels. The Tower of London is being spring cleaned this week so the Queen's asked for them to be moved here so that Prince Phillip can get around with a feather duster. Your task is to prevent them being stolen until they can be safely returned, 7 days from now."

Susan The actual Crown Jewels! Wow! That's awesome.

Fred Hang on, there's another P.S. "We may have accidentally allowed details of the location of the Jewels and the security measures around them fall into the hands of several criminal gangs. I wouldn't worry though. It'll probably be fine."

Tim Oh dear... Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear.

Becky That's not the best news, is it sir?

Fred is clearly worried, but tries to hold it together for his team

Fred Oh we'll be alright. We won't let her Majesty down, or my name's not Frederick Leslie Peterson!

There's a heroic pause

Becky Is your name Frederick Leslie Peterson, sarge?

Fred Yes of course it is! What I'm trying to say is, this time nothing can possibly go wrong!

Oh, the dramatic irony.

Scene 2 - Scouting for Girls

Lily *(From O/S)* Left, right, left, right, left—

On march the 3rd Upper Poppleton Scout Troop, with Lily at its head, followed Lucy and Alfie, marching in good order. Jamie skips along at the back, clutching his rabbit

Lily Halt!

They stop and Lucy and Alfie snap to attention. Jamie, rather less so.

Lily 3rd Upper Poppleton Scout Troop, prepare roll-call. Lucy?

Lucy Present, patrol leader!

Lily Alfie?

Alfie Present, patrol leader!

Lucy Jamie?

Jamie You know I'm here Lily, I was just marching with you...

Lily Jamie! You're supposed to answer 'present'. It's more proper that way.

Jamie Fine. Present, Lily.

Lily And you're supposed to call me Patrol Leader. Really Jamie, if you can't join in right, I'll send you home.

Jamie You can't do that! Mummy made you promise to pick me up after Cubs and that I could stay with you until tea-time. Mummy said...

Lily I know what Mummy said! For goodness' sake, fine! If you must be here, then keep quiet and listen. Now, Lucy, run and get the board will you...

Lucy Yes, patrol leader!

She runs off and returns with a flip-chart, on the first page of which is written 'My Brilliant Plan'. Lily pulls out laser-pointer/pointy stick and starts gesticulating at it...

Lily Thank you Lucy. Now, as you know, I am one badge away from owning ALL OF THE BADGES. There is only one left to obtain...

Alfie The 'Mountaineering' badge?

Lily The Mountaineering badge? Please, I could have got that in my sleep! In fact I literally did that. Turns out I sleep climb as well as sleep walk...

Lucy The Ultra-Advanced Camping badge, where you have to construct a tent in

a Force 8 Gale, out of nothing but the rotting carcass of a dead hamster...

Lily No, got that as well.

Jamie The 'being a really mean big sister' badge?

Lily No, shut up... that isn't even a badge!

Lucy What then?

Lily There is one badge... only whispered of in legend... a story told by the trees... The Heist Badge!

She dramatically flips over the page of the flip-chart, to reveal the words 'Heist Badge', perhaps with a nice drawing of said badge.

All Gasp!

Lily That's right. The Heist Badge. Awarded to brave Scouts who can steal an object worth more than a million pounds. Only four Scouts have ever been awarded it. And I shall be the first girl.

Alfie *(Half to himself)* Oh yeah, I remember when girls weren't allowed in the Scouts. That was great.

Lily What did you say!

Alfie N..n.nothing, patrol leader

Lily You'd better not have. Now, all we need is a target. And I know exactly what it should be. Last week, when I was earning my Police Bribery badge, I got my hands on some secret documents, and I found out something that nobody else knows... Something that will allow us to steal... The Crown Jewels

She flips another page on the chart, revealing a picture of the Crown Jewels, underneath the words 'the Crown Jewels'. You get the idea.

All Double gasp!

Lily You see, the Jewels are being held in a bank vault in London. All we have to do is break in, and steal them.

Alfie What do you mean "all we have to do"?

Lily There's only half a dozen layers of next-gen security to get through, and just the four guards. Piece of cake.

Alfie You're completely mental.

Lucy Shut up Alfie! With Patrol Leader Lily leading us, we can't possibly fail.

Lily Thanks, Lucy. Here, have the Sycophancy badge. *(She hands her a badge)*

Lucy Thanks Lily!

Jamie has his hand in the air

Lily What is it now Jamie?

Jamie Can I come along, Patrol Leader Lily? It sounds really fun.

Lily Actually, Jamie, this time you can. You're the only one of us who's small enough to crawl through the ventilation shaft.

Jamie Do what?

Lily You get to go into a cool mazy thing and press some really important buttons...

Jamie Wow....

Lucy What will the rest of us be doing, patrol leader?

Lily I'm glad you asked, Lucy, because it gives me the chance to show you all my Masterplan!

She flips up another page on the flip-chart to reveal an extremely complicated diagram, with lots of squiggles and everything, underneath the words 'masterplan'

All Triple gasp!

Lily That's right! First, we will need a distraction so that we can steal a key-card off the police people guarding the Jewels. Alfie, that's your job.

Alfie Awwwww, why am I always the distraction?

Lily Because I say so. Now, once we've got hold of that, we use it to break Jamie into the ventilation shaft and he disables the first five layers of security. Then, all we have to do then is crack the code on the vault-door.

Lucy Oooh, ooh, I can do that. I got my Advanced Safe-Cracking badge last summer.

Lily Perfect. Then it's just a matter of nabbing the Jewels, and making a quick get-away.

Jamie Can we do it in a really fast car, like in the movies?

Lily No, because we're 12 and none of us can drive. We'll get away on scooters. They'll never see that coming.

Alfie To be honest, I think we may already have them surprised when a group of Scouts try to break into a vault to steal the Crown Jewels.

Lily Well, exactly - it can't fail. It's going to be fine.

Lucy It's going to be awesome...

Alfie It's going to be bizarre...

Jamie Can Mr. Cuddles come as well?

Lily Yes, fine, Mr. Cuddles can come as well. Now come on - let's go steal the Crown Jewels!

SONG - I'm the greatest Scout in the world

Exit Lucy, Alfie, Jamie, Lilly

Zoe *(O/S)* That's it Gary, just back the van up to this door here

Enter Zoe, Alan, Kate and Gary, carrying various bags of loot.

Kate Just chuck the stuff in the corner.

Alan Remind me why we're storing our ill gotten gains in a Scout Hut of all places?

Zoe It's an abandoned Scout Hut. No one will think to check here.

Alan But it's not abandoned! We just saw a group of kids heading off as we arrived.

Gary Don't worry Alan, they were probably just teenagers hanging around an empty building.

Alan Oh yeah Gary? Why were they wearing Scout uniforms then?

Gary It's probably a cunning disguise. If they're dressed like Scouts, then people will think they're supposed to be hanging around a Scout Hut.

Alan *(Sarcastically)* Yeah, I'm sure that's why they're wearing Scout uniforms.

Zoe Quit arguing you two.

Alan and Gary *(In unison)* Sorry Zoe.

Zoe Thank you. Right, let's get out of here. Kate, can you check no one was following us?

Kate Yes, boss.

Kate heads to the side of the stage and looks off stage

Kate All clear.

Gary spots the plans for the Crown Jewels, and wanders over to them

Zoe Right, you two, let's move.

Alan and Zoe go to leave, but spot Gary staring at something.

Zoe Come on, Gary.

Alan What are you even looking at?

Alan goes over to inspect

Alan Why are the details of the security measures protecting the Crown Jewels on a flip chart in an abandoned Scout Hut?

Zoe Who cares? I've got a plan. Gary, grab the plans.

Gary grabs the flipchart

Zoe Let's get out of here.

Exeunt

Scene 3 - Vicuios Villainy. And that's not even a typo

Lights up on Dr Diabolical, probably sitting in some sort of chair, stroking a white cat - Mr Bombardier? I mean it's been 2 years since 007...

Enter henchmen, looking sheepish

Diabolical Aha, my minions, you're back. I trust you got the Jewels?

Alpha *(Awkward chuckle)* Aha... well... you see...

Diabolical Explain!

Alpha Well, we got there, zip-wired over the moat broke through 15 different layers of high-tech security, crawled through the sewage pipe, broke through another 12 layers of security, took down the guards, climbed into the ventilation system, stopped to have a bite of Kendal mint-cake, because the whole thing had been exhausting, bungeed into the hall, dodged the lasers, cracked the safe code and... it was empty. Apparently the Tower was being cleaned or something.

Diabolical Incompetent Fools! When I ask my minions to steal the Crown Jewels, I expect them to at least know where to find them. You're an embarrassment to Vicious.

Epsilon Sorry, stupid question, but... Vicious? I'm new, you see.

Diabolical My network of master-criminals - The Villainous International Criminal Undetectable Infiltration Operations Society!

Epsilon *(Counting on fingers)* But that doesn't even spell-

Diabolical I know! I know it spells Vicuios, not Vicious. By the time I'd noticed I'd already had the uniforms printed. And the business cards. And the evil mugs.

Epsilon But...

Diabolical Enough! *(To Alpha)* Alpha, which of the henchmen even are these?

Alpha Theta and Epsilon, Dr Diabolical.

Diabolical Theta and Epsilon? You're rather scraping the barrel here. Couldn't you have gotten Beta or Gamma?

Alpha Sorry; Beta's on her annual leave, and Gamma's off sick.

Diabolical Hmmm, very well. I guess they'll have to do. What are their skills?

Epsilon I carry the duffel bags.

Theta And I'm the cook!

Diabolical The cook?!

Theta *(Enthusiastically)* Three years training at the Rue de Seine School of Fine Dining, Paris.

Alpha As you said, we're rather scraping the barrel. But they're not just the cook.

Theta Oh yes! I've also started training to be the demolitions expert!

Epsilon *(Knowingly)* Part of a new 'skills in the workplace' policy. Everyone has to learn a second specialisation. I'm thinking of learning how to clean the bathrooms.

Diabolical Oh, very well. If this is the best we've got to work with, I suppose they'll have to do. Tell me you at least know where the Jewels are now?

Alpha Yes, we've tracked them down to a bank vault in the City of London.

Theta Fortunately, someone accidentally allowed details of the location of the Jewels and the security measures around them fall into the hands of our criminal organisation.

Epsilon *(Nodding)* It was all very convenient.

Diabolical *(Steepling fingers)* Excellent. All is not lost. You three, go, get the Jewels. Soon my plan shall be complete. MUAHAHAHAHAHAHA! *(Evil laugh)*

Alpha Boss... ummm... what is the plan?

Diabolical That, my dear Alpha, I shall only reveal when you bring me the Jewels!

Diabolical sweeps out

Theta Talk about building needless tension

Exeunt

Scene 4 - Meanwhile, in the pub

Lights up in... um... I mean, a pub would be nice, but I suppose there's only so many backdrops and bits of sets we can get away with. The Barkeeper is polishing a glass.

Enter Sherlock

Barkeep Afternoon Sherlock. What can I get you?

Sherlock Just the usual, John.

Barkeep *(Looks around briefly)* ...My name's not John.

Sherlock John, Jane, Jamie, whatever it is.

Barkeep It's Sam! Do you call everyone John?

Sherlock Yes, it saves time. Where is John?

Barkeep How should I know?!

Sherlock Well he never shuts up about it. "Sherlock, I'm just popping to the shops, do you want anything?" "Sherlock, I'm just going to see Ms. Hudson." "Sherlock, I'm going to that appointment with the Prime Minister, are you sure you wouldn't prefer to be there in person?" I tend not to listen.

Barkeep ...Right. What can I get you?

Sherlock <what does the Benedict Sherlock even drink? I feel I should know this>. Oh, and a food menu.

The barkeeper hands Sherlock a menu and the drink. Sherlock takes both, and sits down at a table to one side of the stage.

Enter Alan, Kate, Zoe, and Gary

Kate *(To the barkeep)* Four of the usual

Kate pays for the drinks, then Kate, Alan, Zoe and Gary sit down at a table centre stage, and the barkeep brings over 4 drinks. For the rest of this scene the barkeep continues pottering around, and at some point will go to Sherlock and mime taking his order, before heading off stage

Zoe Right, I've carefully studied the plans we found in the Scout Hut, and I've found a key weakness.

Alan Wait, you're actually thinking of trying to steal the Crown Jewels?

Zoe Of course. Why wouldn't we?

Alan Well I didn't really expected we'd actually be daft enough to go after the

Crown Jewels, even with the plans.

Kate *(Glaring at Alan)* Have you got a problem with the Boss's plan, Alan?

Alan *(Uneasily)* No Kate, it's just Zoe hasn't actually given a plan. It's not our usual schemes of mugging pedestrians or robbing corner shops.

Zoe We've robbed that corner shop every Wednesday evening for the past 3 months! If Joshua doesn't have the good sense to get more security for his shop, then that's his lookout.

Alan That's not the point! We've never robbed anywhere that has any form of security before. The Crown Jewels are way out of our league.

Gary What if we put Joshua in charge of protecting the Jewels? We already know how to get past him.

Alan What?! How on earth do you propose we do that?

Gary I don't know. I'm not the ideas man...

Zoe Look none of this matters, for I do, in fact, have a cunning plan.

Gary What's that Zoe?

Zoe There is a pipe going from the roof of the vault to the outside, which is used for regulating the moisture levels in the room. We can easily sneak in through there undetected.

Alan *(Studying the plans)* According to the plans that pipe is 1cm wide. Even if we could get someone or something in there, the Jewels would be far too big to fit back through...

Zoe Well it's a work in progress, I'm still hammering out the finer details. I don't suppose you have any better ideas?

Alan Well if we are going to attempt this, the only obvious way in is walking through the front door. But we still have to get past multiple layers of high-tech secu-

Zoe Excellent idea. They'll never suspect that.

Alan Plus there'll probably be a bunch of guards.

Gary Kate can knock them out.

Kate cracks knuckles threateningly

Alan There's probably going to be hundreds of them. Not even Kate *(at this point Kate starts slowly advancing on Alan)* could take... out... that... many...

At this point Kate is looming threateningly over Alan - actually, given actor heights, probably at Alan. Sort of in his general direction.

Kate You were saying?

Alan *(Hastily)* Never mind she probably can.

Kate Better.

Zoe That's settled, does everyone know the plan?

Alan We still don't have a past the layers of high-tech security...

Zoe We'll improvise when we get there

Gary Shall I bring the van?

Zoe Good idea, we'll need to make a quick getaway.

Alan Is the van the only reason we bring Gary along?

Zoe Well it's not like we know anyone else with one. Basically, yes.

Gary Hey! I'm not just the van guy.

Alan What else do you bring to the team then?

Gary I... lift heavy objects sometimes. As long as there not too heavy. I've got a bit of a dodgy back, see.

Alan I rest my case.

Gary I can probably carry that - what's it got in it?
Alan gets exasperated at Gary

Zoe Come on, guys. If we're going to do this, we're going to have to work together.
The pianist excitedly plays the opening chord to a song

Alan Alright fine. But I am not singing a song about it.
The Pianist looks disappointed

Zoe Excellent! We'll meet back here 3 o'clock Tomorrow.
The L & G gang exit

Sherlock So, the legendary Lamb and Greyhound Gang are going after the Crown Jewels.
Sherlock pulls out a phone

Sherlock *(Into phone)* John, if convenient, meet me in 10 minutes. If inconvenient, come anyway.

Sherlock starts to exit as Barkeep enters with plate of food.

Barkeep Here's your food- Hey! Get back here, you've not paid your tab.

Sherlock The painting behind your bar is not, as you have assumed, a cheap knock-off acquired, if I am not mistaken, in the Ardennes, but is in fact a genuine Renoir, worth around half a million at today's prices.

Barkeep Wow! Thanks... but what's that got to do with your tab?

Sherlock I imagine you can take the price of my meal from my agent's fee. Can't hang around. I have a case!

Exeunt

Scene 5 - The Quite Tricky Missions Executive

Lights up on Scotty, Jane and Ryan, all doing their secret agent-y stuff. Scotty is fiddling away at a laptop, Jane is reloading her various guns and Ryan is doing press-ups. We give them a few seconds for this to make an impression on the audience, when in runs Tom.

Tom Team, I've got good news and bad news.

Scotty and Jane attend, Ryan continues doing press-ups.

Tom Ryan, do you mind, I said I've got good news and bad news.

Ryan Hang on a minute, chief. *(Counting press-ups)* 998... 999... 1000.

He leaps to his feet.

Ryan All ears boss.

Tom Finally. Well, which do you want first, the good news or the bad news?

Jane Good news, please.

Tom Sure thing. It's about our team name!

Scotty At last! You mean we're not going to be known as the Extremely Easy Missions Squad anymore!

Tom Yes!

Ryan Well at last. That'll stop those smug bastards at the Impossible Missions Force sniggering every time we walk into the room

Jane All those office Christmas parties "Oooh look everyone, we've run out of beer. Sounds like a job for the Extremely Easy Missions Squad."

Scotty Finally, I'll be able to not tell my family about my job because it's secret, rather than just an embarrassment!

Tom Exactly

Ryan So, what are we going to be called instead?

Tom Well, me and the Section Commander had a really long talk about it.

Jane And...

Tom At first I wanted to go for the "Insanely Difficult Missions Team"...

Jane Cool...

Tom ...but he shot that down straight off.

Scotty So?

Tom In the end we settled on... on... the "Quite Tricky Missions Executive."

Ryan Oh...

Tom I can tell you're disappointed.

Ryan No, it's just...

Scotty We know you did your best, boss.

There's a few quiet beats as the team's enthusiasm sags

Jane So what's the bad news, boss?

Tom Oh yeah. We've got a new team co-ordinator. Just transferred from the CIA on short notice. He's coming in today...

Ryan Well, who is he?

Tom *(Checking a file)* Says here his name is Franklin R. Double-Agent...

Scotty Double-Agent?

Enter Franklin

Franklin Actually, it's pronounced 'Dooble-Arjont'

Tom Excuse me?

Franklin Dooble-Arjont. Not 'Double-Agent'. It's French. My grandmother lived in Paris before the war. Franklin R. Dooble-Arjont, pleased to meet you. Now, if you'd just introduce me to your team, we can get started.

Tom Of course, sir.

This next bit should be done fast and slick, like it's been rehearsed (yes, yes, this is OULES and so on...). Classic 'team introduction' scene. If this was a film, silver letters with the names would appear next to a headshot as they're announced. Actually...

Scotty McGeek, technical consultant. The best hacker and programmer in the western hemisphere. Graduated Oxford with first class triple honours in Computer Science, Engineering and English Literature

Franklin Wait, English Literature?

Scotty What, just because I'm a geek I can't enjoy the Romantic poets?

Tom Too right, Scotty.

Moving along the line

Jane Pistol, weapons expert. Former assassin and gun for hire. Has an intimate knowledge of every firearm currently in production and can hit a 5cm target at a range of 2 miles.

Moving along the line

Ryan Bungee, former Navy SEAL, saw active duty in Bosnia, Afghanistan, Iraq and Belgium

Franklin Was there a war in Belgium?

Ryan No... Just a really wild stag do.

Tom *(Trying to reassert some control)* Proficient in 253 forms of martial art and silver-medallist in Greco-Roman wrestling at the Beijing Olympics.

And then there's me. Tom Fuse, all round nigh-invincible action hero!

Franklin Well, Mr Fuse, I just hope your team are as impressive as you seem to think they are. We're going to need all your skills on the mission I'm sending you on...

Tom A mission, sir? That is good news. What is it?

Franklin Your mission, should you choose to accept it...

Scotty Hang on, do you mind if I don't accept this one? It's my mum's birthday on Thursday, and I really ought to fly home to see her....

He quivers under the force of Franklin's glare.

Franklin Your mission, WHETHER OR NOT you choose to accept it, is as follows. *(Opens his file)* We have received a tip-off that the group known as Vicuios...

Jane Vicu who now?

Franklin Yes, I know it sounds odd. Apparently it's some sort of ludicrously contrived acronym. Anyway, a bunch of bad guys are attempting to infiltrate a bank vault in London and steal the Crown Jewels. They are headed by a man referring to himself as Dr Diabolical... though we suspect that may not be his real name.

Jane You don't say?

Franklin Your job is to intercept his henchmen before they can make off with the Jewels.

Scotty A bank robbery, even one involving the Crown Jewels, seems a little low level for an organisation like that.

Franklin We believe there may be more to the scheme than simply larceny. Dr

Diabolical is a world-expert in laser physics, and its possible that he wants to use the Jewels somehow. It is vital that we stop him. If it was up to me, we'd be sending the Impossible Missions Force on this one, but they are currently in Russia trying to prevent a nuclear apocalypse. It seems like the supervillains of the world are no longer polite enough to carry out their nefarious plots one at a time.

Tom Don't worry, sir. You can count on us.

Franklin I certainly hope so.

He sweeps out

Tom Quite Tricky Missions Executive! Assemble!

The others slightly reluctantly fall into a hero pose behind him. The ~~pianist~~ music monkey plays the Mission Impossible theme tune.

Tom Oi! None of that! I want our own theme tune by the end of the show, OK?

~~Pianist~~ *Music monkey shrugs*

Scene 6 - All the detectives!

Lights up on Flick Ranger. Well, like in a Film Noir, so like still half in shadow. Smoking a cigar, probably. [Smooth Jazz](#) is playing in the background. Throughout this scene when Flick monologues everyone else is frozen. You know what, monologuing will now be abbreviated to M/L

Flick *(M/L to the audience)* I'd been on this case for three months. I didn't know much about them, but I knew they were good. Too good. The trail had gone cold. My names Flick Ranger, P.I. I've been in this game for a long time now. Ever since I got chunked out of the NYPD for being too dark and brooding. After that, I ran my little operation from an office in a dingy back alley. The only company I've needed in all my years are my trusty revolver and a bottle of whisky. I've seen some things in my time - oh yes. But never before had I come across a group as audacious, criminal minds so complex as this gang. Even their name is enough to send shivers down my spine. The 3rd Upper Poppleton Scout Troop. That's right. Just about the most dangerous suckers still breathing free air. I needed to get one step ahead of them. But how? Fortunately, my luck was about to change.

Enter Sherlock and Watson

Watson Why have you brought be to this dive, Sherlock

Flick *(M/L)* That's Dr John Watson. A genius in his own right, but nothing compared to the man he was meeting with.

Sherlock Come on John, think about it. Why else would I call you? What do you think? We have a case!

Flick *(M/L)* Who knew I'd run into the famous Sherlock Holmes in an old run down joint like this. A true genius, unparalleled, and, fortunately for us all on the right side of the law. Our paths had crossed a few times, but we'd never worked together.

Watson Thank heavens. What is it?

Flick *(M/L)* Watson, always the inquisitive fellow. Little does he know what he's about to get wrapped up in.

Sherlock Keep up John, aren't you paying attention? It's The Lamb and Greyhound gang.

Flick *(M/L)* I'd not run into the Lamb and Greyhound gang, but yeah, I knew who they were.

Watson A lead! What is it this time? Another corner shop?

Watson and Sherlock wait a moment, as though they're expecting Flick to say something. When they realise he isn't, they continue.

Sherlock Honestly John, are you even listening? I've given you all the clues. They're

up to something bigger, and I know where they'll strike next. I need my assistant by my side.

Watson I've told you a hundred times, Sherlock; I'm not your assistant!

Sherlock You assist me in solving crimes. By any reasonable definition of the word that does not do brutal violence to the English language, you are my assistant.

Watson I do not assist you! I just... happen to be nearby when you're solving crimes quite often. Sometimes I stop you from you getting yourself killed.

Sherlock Fine. Can we now concentrate of the fact that I have managed to deduce the next target of the Lamb and Greyhound gang.

Watson And how did you manage that? A stray cigarette butt left in an unexpected location, perhaps? Or maybe one of them was unusually late in paying their gas bill? Well, come on, what was it? I know you're dying to show off.

Sherlock I overheard them talking about it in the pub.

Watson Is that it?

Sherlock Come now, John. Surely even you can see that it takes a great intellect to realise that the name of their gang was not an elusive literary reference, or even an audacious double bluff, but was in fact simply the name of the pub in which they meet to make their plans. I simply went into the bar at noon, ordered myself their rather excellent rack of lamb and waited. Brilliant, though I say myself.

Watson Some people would call it brilliant, some people would say you just went for lunch and got lucky.

Sherlock With an intellect such as mine, room can scarcely be made for luck Really John...

Watson Fine, have it your way. Now what is their target?

Sherlock Oh John, haven't you realised yet? Isn't it obvious? They're going after the Crown Jewels.

Watson There is literally no way I could have guessed that.

Sherlock While they were stashing their loot in a Scout Hut, they came across a document detailing the exact location of the Crown Jewels, and of the security measures surrounding them. Boom! Our pathetic gang of criminal wannabes in their 'my first robbery' van have their vision expanded, and start planning the Theft of the Century. It's just perfect!

Watson Perfect? What...

Sherlock We can catch them red-handed and turn them over to Scotland Yard. Knighthoods all round and Mycroft off my back about 'doing my bit for Queen and Country'!

Watson We could just alert the police now...

Sherlock What, and watch Lestrade and his crew bungle the whole affair? I don't think so.

Watson Not to mention you don't get to be nearly such a drama queen.

Sherlock My dear Watson...

Song - The Sherlock and Watson Bickering Song

Sherlock Now come on, Watson. The game's afoot!

Watson *(As they leave)* I've told you a thousand times, no one talks like that anymore!

Watson and Sherlock exit. Back into Flick M/L mode

Flick *(M/L)* And there it was! The clue I've been looking for! It was just a pity I had to sit through that musical number in order to get it! The secret plans for a vault containing the Crown Jewels, discovered in a Scout Hut! It could mean only one thing. The 3rd Upper Poppleton Scout Troop! I had to get going.

He goes to leave, but then turns back to the audience, offering an explanation for his urgency.

Flick *(M/L)* I mean I've got to get going... I really need to work out what tense I'm using for these monologue things.

Scene 7 - The Heist! Part the First

Lights up on the Security Room. Tim and Susan are enjoying a game of chess at a table. Becky and Fred are standing up, possibly drinking from mugs or something. Fred glances at his watch. Saddle up team. This is going to be a bumpy ride.

Fred 2300 hours, as of now. All quiet, wouldn't you say?

Tim Yes, sarge.

Becky Maybe too quiet, sarge.

Fred You do know remarks like that are entirely unhelpful, don't you Becky.

Becky Sorry, sarge.

Fred I mean, how are we supposed to tell the difference between the sort of quiet that means everything's fine, and the sort of quiet that means that the proverbial excrement is about to hit the equally proverbial fan?

Becky I don't know, sarge. Maybe we need some sort of quietness measuring device...

Fred Well, in the absence of that, why don't we just follow the book, and you and I go and do our rounds. Susan, you're in charge.

Susan Get in there!

Tim Oh but sir...

Fred Don't 'oh but sir' me. A man who thinks it's acceptable to write vital security information on the back of his hand is not fit to be put in charge of a two-year old's birthday party, let alone a complex and sensitive operation such as this. Right, come on, Becky.

Susan By the way sir, what shall we do if something starts to go wrong?

Fred Use your initiative...

Susan *(A little too enthusiastically)* Cool!

Fred Not too much initiative though. Try to leave the building standing.

They go to leave

Fred We'll only be back in a few minutes. *(Big ham please)* I'm sure in that time nothing can go wrong...

Susan and Tim settle back down to their game of chess and start playing thoughtfully, obviously intensely concentrating

Susan Knight to E4

Tim Hmmm... queenside rook to F2.

Susan Ah, a cunning move! But what about pawn to D5.

Tim Hmmm... yes, interesting... interesting... *(Give it a few beats.)* By the way, do you know how to play this game?

Susan Me? I assumed you knew. I've been copying you.

Tim Nope, I haven't got a clue. I just like moving the little horsey around.

Susan Right, well, we should probably find something else to do then.

At this point, the action transfers to the Scouts who should be poking their heads round the side of the flats/ just about on stage.

Lucy Look, there's the security team, patrol leader!

Lily Yes, and there're only two of them? I wonder where the other two might be... Never mind, their access cards are on the table. Alfie, it's time for your distraction!

Alfie Do I have to?

Lily Yes. Now get going.

Lily pushes Alfie out on the stage properly. Tim and Susan do not react.

Alfie *(Running across the stage, yelling loudly)* I'm a distraction! I'm a distraction! I'm a distraction!

He disappears off the other side of the stage/round the back of the flats. Tim and Susan still fail to notice this, until a few beats later

Tim *(Curiously, looking in the direction Alfie has gone)* What was that?

Susan I think it might have been a distraction...

Suddenly both are all action, leaping up and running after Alfie. The remaining Scouts sneak onto the now empty stage

Lily Excellent. Everything is going exactly as I planned!

Lucy I take it you already have the 'Sounding Like An Evil Genius' badge, patrol leader.

Lily Of course. If we get a moment, I'll show you my maniacal laugh. Now, grab that access card, and let's go shove Jamie into the ventilation shaft!

Jamie Yay!

They grab said card and exeunt at speed. Wait a few beats (as you're

probably getting to realise, timing is everything with this scene) and then enter Sherlock and Watson

Watson This is the security desk... but where is everybody?

Sherlock There should be at least two officers of duty here at any one time. See, John, I told you you can't rely on the police for anything.

Watson Good thing for us though. Let's get going before they come back!

He goes to leave, but Sherlock is distracted by the chess set.

Sherlock Wait John, look at this.

Watson Sherlock, come on we don't have time for this.

Sherlock This chess board, don't you see it!

Watson What is it now?

Sherlock This game has been played out over precisely 73 moves.

Watson Well that's just grand...

Sherlock Come on John, look at the positioning of that knight!

Watson I don't see...

Sherlock You do see, you just don't observe!

Watson Oh, here we go again!

Sherlock That knight clearly indicates that white is trying to employ Lamb's Gambit. But look, see what black is doing with his centre pawns. It's the Greyhound Ambush...

Watson The Lamb and Greyhound Gang!

Sherlock Of course. They must have been through this way earlier!

Watson But why would they stop to set up elaborate clues to their presence on a chessboard?

Sherlock Who can fathom the workings of the criminal mind? Come on John, they must nearly be at the vault by now. We haven't a moment to lose!

He sprints off

Watson All seems a bit unlikely to me, Sher... Oh, he's gone. Bloody hell! Sherlock!

He follows, knocking over the chessboard as he goes. Wait a few beats, then enter Fred and Becky

Fred Oh for goodness' sake, where have those two got to... I swear, if they've

both gone to play skittles or something equally ludicrous, I'll have both their badges!

Becky has notices the overturned chessboard

Becky Look at this, sir. Someone's knocked over this chessboard. The chessboard they were both playing with...

Fred What's so unusual about that? They're both very clumsy...

Becky Perhaps, sir, but what if it's more than clumsiness. What if there was a struggle? That would explain why they're not here...

Fred By jove, you're right. But there's no one in the building, apart from us...

Enter the agents of Vicuios, looking menacing. Alpha and Theta are armed, while Epsilon carries the duffle-bags.

Alpha Stand down, puny agents of good!

Fred Who?

Becky I think he means us, sir.

Fred Oh, right. No, you stand down... whoever you are. I'm arresting you for trespass on private property, for conspiracy to commit burglary, and for assaulting a police officer.

Theta Assaulting a police officer? But we haven't attacked you yet...

Fred Don't play funny with me, lad. Are you denying assaulting two of my constables in the last five minutes?

Epsilon Wasn't us, mate. We only just got here.

Becky He's probably lying, sir.

Fred I know that Becky. Look, all this is irrelevant. You are all under arrest.

Alpha Under arrest? Don't make me laugh! *(He guffaws loudly)*

Fred Becky, cuff this one

Becky Yes sir!

Becky moves to cuff Alpha, but Alpha moves their hands around, so Becky is unable to reach them

Becky Help sir! He's moving his hands, I can't get the cuffs on.

Becky inadvertently cuffs her own hands

Becky Sir! I appear have cuffed myself.

Fred Oh come here.

Becky moves to Fred, who begins trying to untangle her. Alpha motions to Epsilon and Theta to move, and the three of them sneak by while they're distracted.

Fred *(Noticing the three of them heading off stage)* Oi! You! Get back here!

Fred and Becky give chase, Becky still handcuffed. Enter Flick.

Flick *(M/L)* So this was where the Jewels were being kept. I had slipped into the bank undetected, using years of hard-earned experience to evade security. Or I would have done, had there actually been any security... I entered the the nerve centre and found it completely deserted. But looking at the scene I could tell I wasn't the first to arrive.

Enter Tim and Susan

Susan Drat, we lost them.

Tim *(Noticing Flick)* Wait, who's that? And what is he doing?!

Flick *(M/L)* There was only one clue that others had been here before me. Fortunately a trained eye like mine can read a crime scene like a \$2 paperback. A chess set, upended on the floor, another calling card of the Scouts, probably for another one of their so called "badges", a mark of their work used to show off to rival gangs, a demonstration of their contempt for order and justice.

Susan I'm not sure, but he appears to be monologuing.

Flick *(M/L)* Ah, the police. Contaminating another crime scene. They were doing their best, but they just get in the way of justice. It reminded me of a time back in Vegas, when I'd been investigating a double homicide...

Tim What do we do?

Susan I don't know. You stay here and keep an eye on him, I'll go and get the sergeant.

Flick Do you mind, I'm trying to do some character exposition here... *(M/L)* Anyway the boys in blue were crawling all over the apartment like rats over the last shred of food in the gutter.

Susan runs off stage

Tim But-

Enter the Lamb and Greyhound Gang

Gary *(Holding a sheet from the flipchart)* The map say it's this way.

Alan Why does Gary have the map?

Tim Oi! Who are you?

Flick *(M/L)* Excellent, a distraction. Well timed, and exactly what I needed. The perfect chance for me to sneak past. Once again, I was ahead of the heavy-handed arm of the law...

Heavy-handed arm of the law? I needed to stop mixing my metaphors.

He scarpers

Tim Oh look. Now you let him slip by. Shoo, or I'll have to arrest you.

Zoe I don't think so. Kate, get him.

Kate headbutts Tim and knocks him out

Alan *(Shocked)* Kate! You knocked him out!

Kate shrugs

Kate So?

Alan That's so violent! Shouldn't we call an ambulance or something?

Zoe Just stuff his body under the table, we've got to get to the vault.

They do so and exeunt

Susan *(O/S)* Yeah, he was just standing there talking to himself.

Enter Susan, Fred and Becky (still handcuffed)

Susan I left Tim to keep an eye on- Tim? Where's he got to now?

Fred You're sure he was here?

Susan Yes, we decided one of us should wait with the guy, while the other went to fetch you.

Fred And who was this fellow?

Susan I don't know. Some guy, <description of Actor portraying Flick>, pinstripe suit, cigar, spurious accent. Really odd guy.

Fred Hmm, very curious. I wonder if this is somehow connected.

Susan Becky, I must ask, why are you currently handcuffed?

Becky *(Looking at her hands.)* Oh, yeah. I had a little accident. Sarge, what's this? Under the table...

Fred Bloody hell, it's Tim. And he **has** been knocked out this time! Who could

have done that?

Enter the Quite Tricky Missions Executive

Tom Come on team, Vicuios have given us the slip! We've got to get to the vault before they do!

Fred Oi! Who the hell are you?

Tom Don't panic, citizen. We are agents of the US government. You have no reason to fear us.

Becky Do those two things really go together?

Fred And what makes you think it's okay for agents of the US government to go around knocking out British police officers? I take it this was your work?

Tom Sorry?

Fred Oh, don't deny it! The body of my constable is right there, and you have been found near the crime scene!

Tom This has nothing to do with us, citizen! We seek only the minions of Doctor Diabolical!

Fred Doctor Diabolical? A likely story. The most ridiculous thing I've heard in my life.

Ryan Wait! We can talk this out. We represent the Quite Tricky Missions Executive, an organization devoted to vanquishing evil and creating peace and justice for all!

Fred Never heard of you. I'm taking you all in for questioning! Becky, Susan, arrest them!

Susan How, sir, Becky is wearing the only pair of handcuffs.

Fred Fine, restrain them then!

Susan Righto, sir!

She leaps forward. Ryan steps out to meet her.

Ryan Please ma'am! We do not want to use force on you, but we will if necessary.

Susan Well if you don't cooperate, maybe we'll have to use force on you!

Susan punches Ryan in his "abs of steel" (Ben's words)

Fred Susan! Did you learn nothing from our seminar on avoiding confrontational behaviour?

Susan Sorry sir, they started it.

Fred We are officers of the Metropolitan Police Force. We do not work on a system of 'who started it'.

Ryan Tom, permission to neutralise potential hostiles?

Tom Right. Let's do it.

Jane, Ryan and Tom leap forward and quickly bring down the police, who all end up unconscious. Scotty hangs back a bit.

Scotty When did we start beating up the police? I'm pretty sure that makes us the bad guys...

Tom Save it for the post-mission tribunal, Scotty. Now, can you hack their system?

Scotty Already on it, sir.

He pulls out a laptop or some-such from a bag and starts tapping away.

Scotty Tom, the whole security system has been shut down already... the vault door's opening, there's nothing I can do to stop it.

Tom Right, then we'll need to resort to direct force. Come on team!

They skedaddle. Give it a few beats, then...

Fred *(From the floor)* Owwwwwww.....

Susan *(Similarly recumbent)* I thought you said nothing could go wrong this time, sir...

Fade to black

Scene 8 - We now present a malevolent interlude

Lights up on Diabolical, in a chair, stroking the cat. Enter Franklin

Diabolical Ah, Franklin. You're late.

Franklin Apologies, Doctor. I was at the wrong volcano lair.

Diabolical What do you mean the wrong volcano lair? How many volcano lairs are there?

Franklin Approximately 43 at the last count, Doctor.

Diabolical What?!

Franklin Pretty much every criminal with pretensions to super-villain status sets up a volcano lair as a matter of course. There are 6 in this mountain range alone. In fact, you may want to rethink the whole thing. When the world's law-enforcement agencies start searching for you, they're almost certain to start with the dormant volcanoes.

Diabolical Curses... maybe the hollowed-out volcano is a bit unoriginal... but where else has the same drama, the same mystique?

Franklin Ermm... I don't know? A moon base or something?

Diabolical No, no. It's far too expensive. Do you know how hard it is to get planning permission? Not to mention the wifi is dreadful up there.

Franklin While we're at it, you might want to ditch the cat as well... it's been done before. A bit cliché.

Diabolical Enough! Who are you to question my trappings of power, minion? I trust you have set the plan in motion?

Franklin Alright, keep your <insert unlikely piece of supervillain costume here> on. Yes, the Quite Tricky Missions Executive have played right into our hands. They don't suspect a thing. By the way, can I have your Wifi password? I need to check up on the team's progress while I'm here.

Diabolical Certainly, it's V1llainsRule123. Villains is spelt with a 1, and capital V, capital R.

Franklin Original.

Diabolical It was on the bottom of the router. Now, whilst the Impossible Missions Force stand a chance of thwarting our plans, even my most incompetent minions are capable of outsmarting the Quite Tricky Missions Executive. What sort of a name is the Quite Tricky Missions Executive anyway? It

doesn't even have a nice acronym.

Franklin You're hardly one to complain about acronyms!

Diabolical Quiet you, or I shall drop you into the piranha pool. (*A prop button would be nice here, as I suspect an actual trapdoor is a little out of scope, but one can dream...*) Now, do those fools at the Quite Tricky Mission Executive suspect that you are in fact in my employ?

Franklin Of course not. I'm a spy, I know how to invent a cover-story.

Diabolical Even though your name is literally Double-Agent?

Franklin It's pronounced Dooble-Arjont! I hate it that everyone assumes that I'm a double agent just because of my name! Why does everyone think that an accident of birth makes me any more likely to commit acts of treachery?

Diabolical I mean, you are committing acts of treachery...

Franklin That's entirely down to my personality, not my name! It just so happens that I'm a sly, conniving bastard. I could be called Franklin B. Lovely-Person and I'd still act exactly the same. Nominative determinism is not a thing! Any way you're hardly one to talk, "Dr Diabolical". How did you even get that name?

Diabolical Well...

Song: Diabolical Backstory song

Diabolical Alright, point taken! Now, are you ready to receive your malevolent orders or not?

Franklin (*Slightly sulky*) Alright...

Diabolical Now, as you know, even now my minions are in London endeavouring to steal the Crown Jewels. There is however, every chance they will fail, even if it is only the QTME there to stop them. Unfortunately, securing actually competent minions appears to be impossible.

Franklin You might if you actually offered payment for their services...

Diabolical Don't interrupt me! Now, if they should fail, and some other organisation makes it off with the Jewels, you shall do everything to ensure that the QTME are able to recover them, and bring them back to base. Then you shall bring them to me.

Franklin What do you want to do with them?

Diabolical Well, Mr Double-Agent

Franklin Doodle-Arjont...

Diabolical Well, Mr Dooble-Arjont. I wouldn't want to ruin the surprise. Suffice to say that it involves lasers. Massive lasers. *(He starts to laugh maniacally)*

Franklin *(Aside)* Drama queen.

Exeunt to maniacal laughter.

DOOBLES
Oxford University Light Entertainment Society

Scene 9 - The Heist! Part the Second

Lights up on The Vault. The Crown Jewels are to be placed on a plinth, with a spot on it if we have the tech. (This will inevitably mean lots of headaches for the LSSM, but then, that'll inevitably end up being me anyway - BGK). Give them a few seconds to glitter impressively at the audience. Oh come on. There must be some way to make them glitter. Anyway, enter the Scouts.

Lucy There they are! The Crown Jewels!

Jamie Oooh... shiny.

Alfie Never mind how shiny they are! Let's just grab them and get out of here.

Lily goes up to the plinth, reaching for the Jewels. She halts suddenly, centimetres away.

Lily Jamie, are you sure you disabled the invisible force-field of electrified death?

Jamie Ummm.... I think so, sis.

Lily Good.

Jamie I pressed lots of pretty buttons, anyway!

Lily is, perhaps understandably not entirely reassured by this. She approaches the plinth regardless, the tension building unbearably. She takes out a bag of sand, eyeing up the weight of the Jewels, and pours a little out (yes this is Indiana Jones). She quickly picks up the Jewels and puts the bag of sand in their place.

Lily Yes!

Lucy No alarms! No ray-guns. No massive, out of control rolling stones. We've done it!

Alfie We haven't actually got out yet! Let's get moving!

Lily Hold on a sec., we've got time. Those police people didn't look like they were going to get themselves organised any time soon. Maybe there's time for me to, I don't know, try them on...

Alfie Someday, we really ought to have a talk about your power complex...

Enter Sherlock and Watson, not really looking at what's going on.

Sherlock Come on John! The Jewels are through here, and the Lamb and Greyhound gang will be too! Oh...

Watson They're not the Lamb and Greyhound Gang. That's a bunch of Guides.

Lily *(Indignantly)* We're Scouts!

Sherlock Don't let your guard down John! It might be a cunning disguise!

Watson How exactly have they managed to disguise themselves as 25 years younger. And much shorter...

Sherlock First rule of the Great Game, John! Never underestimate your opponents! Now, you four, don't move anywhere!

Enter Alpha, Theta and Epsilon

Epsilon Look! The Jewels!

Sherlock and Watson notice Vicuios

Watson *(Sarcastically)* Are you sure it's not them Sherlock; they're at least adults.

Sherlock Don't be ridiculous John, there're only three of them. The Lamb and Greyhound gang has four people. Even they're not that good at disguises.

Watson facepalms

Alpha *(To Theta and Epsilon)* Don't just stand there you two, grab them!

Theta Right away boss!

Epsilon grabs Sherlock, while Theta attempts to subdue Watson by putting a Duffel Bag over his head

Alpha *(Exasperated)* I meant the jewe-

Enter Flick, Monologuing

Flick *(M/L)* Little did I expect to see the sight that met me as I entered the vault. There was Sherlock and Watson, being apprehended by some odd people wearing ridiculous <description of the costume Vicuios Minions are wearing>

Theta Hey, Diabolical had these custom made!

Flick *(Still M/L)* But they weren't what caught my eye. There they were, the 3rd Upper Poppleton Scout Troop, still that innocent facade, hiding their true colours. A few more badges on their uniforms since last time we'd met, they had been keeping themselves busy. And clutched in their hands; the Crown Jewels.

Lucy Oh crap, it's that weird detective guy that keeps following us around.

Sherlock *(Indignantly)* I'm not weird, I'm a high functioning sociopath!

Watson *(Pulling off the duffel bag)* I think she means that guy, Sherlock.

Sherlock But she said Detective. He's a private investigator.

Watson Is there a difference?

Sherlock It's a question of style.

Alfie We'll just wait for him to start talking to himself again and then sneak away, like we usually do.

Alpha *(To Epsilon and Theta)* Oi! Idiots. What are you waiting for? Go and get the Jewels.

Jamie Hmm?

Lily Not you Jamie.

Jamie Sorry, when I hear idiot it's usually you talking about me.

Sherlock Not you either John,

Watson I didn't think they were talking to me.

Sherlock Oh. Well you are an idiot.

Watson Really Sherlock?

Sherlock Don't take it personally. To me everyone is an idiot.

Flick Oh you find that to? Normal people are just so tedious. Um. I mean *(M/L)* A like minded individual. We had so much in common, I would have loved to discuss it with him. But I knew that that would have to wait, I had business to deal with.

Lily, Lucy, Alfie and Jamie have begun tiptoeing off stage while Flick was talking. Enter the L&G Gang, blocking the exit for the Scouts

Sherlock John, look, the Lamb and Greyhound Gang!

Watson Thank you Sherlock, I had noticed.

Zoe Stop right there. Hand us over those Jewels, or I'll have Kate here sort you out.

Alan Come on Zoe, they're just kids.

Gary Hey, aren't those the kids who we saw by the Scout Hut where we were storing our stash?

Lily Oh, so that's where all that money came from.

Alfie I thought you said that was your pocket money.

Jamie I thought it was more than Mummy and Daddy usually give us.

Lily Quiet Jamie.

Alan Even so, I don't think we can ask Kate to beat up a bunch of Girl Guides.

Lily We're not Guides!

Alpha Do I have to do everything myself?

Alpha walks over to Lily and plucks the Jewels out of her hand.

Kate *(To Alpha)* Hey, you.

Alpha turns around and Kate headbutts him in the nose. Alpha cries out in pain, dropping the Jewels and clutching his nose. Sherlock picks them up and passes them to Watson. Kate turns to Sherlock and Watson and begins to walk towards them menacingly

Sherlock Here John, hold these.

Watson *(Uneasily)* Erm Sherlock, I was all for taking down the Lamb and Greyhound gang, but now we're here, do you not think we should, you know, perhaps wait for the police?

Sherlock I've said this before John, they'll just get in the way.

Watson That's rather what I'm hoping.

Kate Grrrrrr

Watson holds the Jewels out to her.

Watson Here, take them.

Theta comes from behind, and grabs the Jewels.

Theta Thank you very much!

Enter QTME

Tom Vicuios. Drop the Jewels and put your hands in the air.

Everyone turns to look at QTME

Scotty Vicuios and friends, it seems.

Gary Sorry, who are you?

Ryan *(Proudly)* The Quite Tricky Mission Executive. I'm Ryan Bungee, and this is-

Jane Ryan, what is the point in being secret agents if we're just going to tell everyone who we are?

As Jane and Ryan begin to squabble, Vicuio begins to sneak past QTME when Tom spots them and points a gun at them

Tom Hold it right there. Jewels. Now.

Zoe I think you'll find we're taking them.

Sherlock Think again. You'll be walking out of here in handcuffs.

Everyone but the Scouts begin to bicker about the Jewels (not too loudly so the other lines are heard)

Alfie Urgh, we'll never earn our Heist badges now

Lily Don't worry Alfie, we can still make this work. (*Whispering to the Scouts*)
Follow my lead, and be prepared to sneak out when I give the cue.

Lily walks over to the pianist music monkey and whispers something to him, and then walks towards centre stage. A piano chord is played, and everyone shuts up and looks at Lily. Probably an arpeggiated Dominant 7th, that's usually a good lead in.

Song - Why not work Together?

Lily *Spoken* We all want the same thing,
we all want the Jewels
No, we don't have to fight,
no massacres, no duels,

So put aside your differences,
and work in harmony
And if you're not yet yet convinced,
I hope you soon will see...

Sung Why not work together,
Use our quirks together,
Drop your irks whatever
they may be

Lucy Share our plans together,
Work out demands together,
If we band together
Just wait and see!

All the Scouts We all want the same thing,
we all want the Jewels
No, we don't have to fight,
no massacres, no duels,

So put aside our differences,
and work in harmony

As teamwork is the better way,
I hope you will agree

The rest of the song here

Enter the police, Becky still handcuffed. They have a few seconds to survey the scene, empty of both intruders and Crown Jewels.

Fred

Balls.

End of Act 1

Act the Second

Scene 1 - "Right" said Fred

The police are once more gathered around the security desk, looking somewhat despondent.

Fred Right. We've made a right pig's ear of this and no mistake. I believe this is what is referred to as a crisis. Has anyone got any bright ideas?

Tim To do what, sir?

Fred To get back the Jewels of course. If we don't have them back before the end of the week, the Chief Superintendent is going to have us working in the typing pool for the next 40 years.

Susan I didn't think the police had a typing pool anymore, sarge.

Fred Well, they'll probably set one up just so that they can send us to it. We're going to get those Jewels back, or my name's not Frederick Leslie Peterson.

Becky Well, it isn't any more, is it sir?

Fred I beg your pardon?

Becky Earlier you said "We're not going to let her Majesty down, or my name's not Frederick Leslie Peterson". And we sort of have let her down by failing to keep the Jewels safe...

Fred Shut up Becky. I refuse to take insubordination from an officer of the constabulary who has still failed to find her way out of her own handcuffs.

Becky ad-libs sulking. Handcuffed sulking.

Fred So, I ask again, what the hell are we going to do now? The Jewels are in the hands of a lunatic Scout Troop who have already proven themselves capable of outwitting us with our hands tied.

Tim Isn't the phrase 'with their hands tied'?

Fred I refer you once again to Becky's current predicament.

Susan *(With her hand waving excitedly in the air.)* Ooooh, ooh, I've got something, sir.

Fred Yes, Susan?

Susan Well, sir, have you ever seen the film *Hot Fuzz*?

Fred Yeeess....

Susan Well, sir, in that Simon Pegg and Nick Frost play these ordinary cops who

have to take down this shadowy cabal. And they find all these massive machine guns and go and...

Fred Hold it right there, Susan. Are you by any chance about to suggest a full-scale, unauthorised armed attack? On a Scout Hut?

Susan Exactly, sarge. We go in, blow them to kingdom come, grab the Jewels, back before tea.

Tim Don't be stupid Susan. That's ridiculous.

Fred Thank you Tim...

Tim Yeah, we've only got Level Three weapons training, we could never use machine guns. Now, if we stuck to semi-automatics...

Fred facepalms. Repeatedly if it seems appropriate.

Fred Can we work on a plan that does not involve the merciless slaughter of children. This really isn't that kind of a show.

Everyone has a good think for a bit

Becky Hang on sir! I've got something!

Fred Don't tell us you're going to call in sick at a time like this.

Becky No, sir, not an illness, an idea. Why don't we infiltrate the Scout group, gain their trust, and then steal back the Jewels.

Susan Infiltrate... how do you mean infiltrate?

Becky Well... one of us could dress up like a Scout.

That may need a couple of moments to sink in...

Fred That's... that's... actually not a bad idea...

Becky Really, sir?

Fred Well, it is at least a bit less kill-y than Susan's. Now, we'll need a volunteer to dress up as a Scout. Tim, you're volunteering.

Tim What!? Why me?

Fred Because I don't want to do it, Becky is too hand-cuffed to do it and out of you and Susan I trust you slightly more not to cause an incidental blood-bath.

Tim Oh... thanks.

Fred It's hardly the compliment of the century. Now come on, to the Police Dressing-Up Box!

Scene 2 - The 3rd Upper Poppleton Girl Guides

Lights up on the 3rd Upper Poppleton Guide Hut (Writer's query: is this what these are called). Anyway, notwithstanding a massive inflation of our budget, it probably looks exactly like the Scout Hut.

Felicity Left, right, left, right, left, right. Halt! 3rd Upper Poppleton Girl Guides, prepare for roll-call!

They all spring smartly to attention

Felicity Mike?

Mike Present, Patrol Leader

Felicity Jim?

Jim Present, patrol leader!

Felicity Nigel?

Nigel Present, patrol leader!

Felicity Excellent. Lily's patrol never got the roll-call right. Just another way in which I am far better than her.

Mike Has it ever occurred to you that your obsession with being better than Lily is a little weird and creepy?

Felicity What did you think the purpose of the Girl Guides was?

Jim To make friends and have fun in an exciting yet safe context?

Felicity Don't talk rubbish. It's to prove once and for all that we're better than the Scouts. And especially traitors like Lily.

Mike When you say traitor...?

Felicity *(Bringing the melodrama. Actually, can we get some melodramatic music/lighting for this bit? Maybe the minor version of Lily's song)* Many moons ago, Lily was in this very Guide Troop. They were great times. We were the best of friends, completely inseparable. We won countless badges together. But then, out of nowhere she told me she was joining the Scouts. And now we have to beat them, to prove that she was wrong.

Jim I didn't join Guides for this sort of thing...

Felicity Why did you join then?

Jim Well, to be honest, in these days of mixed-gender adventuring and moral improvement for young people, it basically came down to the uniform. This

colour suits me better than the one the Scouts wear.

Felicity Oh for goodness sake. If you're not prepared to join me in this feud, you are very welcome to leave. Does anybody want to leave? ANYBODY?

They have a bit of a mumble

Felicity Well?

Mike We'll stay, Patrol Leader.

Felicity Excellent. That brings us on to the true purpose of our meeting.

Nigel What's that patrol leader?

Felicity Well Nigel, if you had done your research, you would have heard the news that the Crown Jewels were stolen from a London vault earlier this week. There's only one person audacious enough to pull off such a crime: *(dramatically)* Lily.

Mike Definitely obsessed.

Nigel Why would Lily want the Crown Jewels?

Felicity It is clear she is after her last scout badge, spoken only of in legends; the heist badge. If she gets this badge, she'll be insufferable. We'll never hear the end of it. We've got to stop her.

Nigel So what are we going to do?

Felicity We have a short window of opportunity before Lily can present the Jewels to the Heist Badge Awarding Committee.

Mike The Heist Badge Awarding Committee?

Felicity Yes. It's a thing. Do try to keep up. Until then no doubt she's stashed the Jewels away in that Scout Hut. We'll make a fake version, sneak in, and make the switch. Without the real Jewels to prove it, she'll never be awarded the Heist badge.

Jim This all seems a little bit mean and against our community-spirited ethos.

Felicity Who cares, loser? Now come on. Let's re-steal the Crown Jewels!

Exeunt

Scene 3 - Clash of the Egos

Lights up on the Scout Hut

Watson Sherlock, can you put a sock in the whole 'mysterious detective genius' thing and tell me why the hell we're in the this Scout Hut?

Sherlock To talk to some Scouts.

Watson Which Scouts?

Sherlock The Scouts of the 3rd Upper Poppleton Scout Troup, the very Scouts whom we encountered in the vault. They were wearing identifying insignia.

Watson Oh, so those were real Scouts?

Sherlock Beyond any doubt. I can identify a fake Scout uniform at a hundred paces, and those were not. You see, there is a particular way of tying the knot of the 'kerchief which...

Watson Yes, yes, fine, but I just don't see how this will help us in catching the Lamb and Greyhound gang. I mean, I know they got away with the Jewels, but they're hardly likely to give them to us. And even if we did get them, I don't see what we do then.

Sherlock We're going to get them to make a copy of the Jewels, and keep it in the Scout Hut. As the Lamb & Greyhound gang know the Scouts made off with the Jewels, they'll be coming here to get them. Then we come back and find them, with the police, and have them arrested with the incriminating, albeit fake, evidence. It's so simple, I'm surprised I actually needed to explain it to you. If you can't work out the simple stuff by yourself I don't know why I bother having you around.

Watson *(To himself)* Probably because no-one else can stand to hang around you. *(To Sherlock)* And why are we getting the Scouts to make the copy? Even the Lamb and Greyhound Gang could tell if it was made out of card and glue.

Sherlock Please John, those Scouts are probably the most skilled forgers in this part of the country. Did you not observe that all of them were wearing their 'Forgery of Valuable Artefacts' badges? It means they've been on a course of the most rigorous training. It will take an expert of some standing to tell the difference, and I suspect the Lamb and Greyhound Gang will struggle to find one of those. *(Pauses, listening to something)* Here they come. Now, quick, hide!

Watson Where? There's nowhere to hide!

Sherlock Just blend in with your surroundings.

They both assume slightly absurd 'hide-y' poses. Enter the Scouts.

Lily Quick, we'll stash the Jewels in here until we can find somewhere better...

Alfie Surely the first place people will look will be in our Hut?

Lily Relax, it'd take a genius to find us in the first place...

Sherlock 'unfreezes', as does John

Sherlock Good evening. Did someone ask for a genius?

Lily Who are you?

Sherlock The name's Sherlock Holmes, this is my assistant John Watson.

Watson Not your assistant, Sherlock.

Alfie And...can we help you?

Sherlock Yes

Lucy How?

Sherlock Isn't it obvious?

Lucy ... No?

Homes John, can you explain to them. They're idiots. Like you.

Watson This. This is why people hate us.

Sherlock I don't have time to explain the obvious to every single person who we encounter.

Watson *(Increasingly frustrated)* Sherlock, you... you know what, I can't be bothered with this right now. *(To the Scouts)* We would like you to create a copy of the Crown Jewels so the Lamb and Greyhound can take them, and we can catch them with the evidence in order to be able to put them on trial.

Lily Sure. Easy enough to do. What's in it for us?

Watson *(To Sherlock)* Um... do we have any money?

Sherlock These are Scouts, John. They trade in badges, not in money...

Watson Of course, stupid of me *(To the Scouts)* You'll get your Arts and Crafts badge for doing it.

Alfie There's no such thing as the Arts and Crafts badge.

Sherlock John, please, your ignorance of Scout badges is becoming embarrassing.

Watson Oh and you know all about them do you?

Sherlock Of course.

Watson You don't know that the Earth orbits around the Sun, but you know which Scout badges there are?!

Sherlock I only remember important information. *(To the Scouts)* It'll count for your 'Assisting a Detective' badge.

Lucy Oooh, I do need that one. Please can we do it, Lily?

Lily Very well, we'll do it.

Sherlock Pleasure doing business with you. One more thing. To ensure the theft of the fakes goes smoothly, I'm going to need to keep an eye on matters.

Lily Let me stop you right there. I've already got my weird little brother hanging around my troop...

Jamie Hey!

Lily Don't worry, I'm just making a rhetorical point.

Jamie Oh. That's okay then.

Lily As I was saying, I've already got my weird little brother hanging around my troop, the last thing I need is a mad detective.

Sherlock Oh, I didn't say it was me. I have more important things to be doing. I will be leaving my associate, Dr Watson.

Watson What! Why me! Can't do it anyway, the Lamb and Greyhound gang will recognise me.

Sherlock Hmmm... that is a difficulty.

Jamie We could dress him up like a Scout...

Watson Oh don't be ridiculous!

Sherlock Actually, the tiny half-wit has a point...

Watson No! Absolutely not!

Sherlock Please John, don't be difficult.

Lily Who says I'm any happier about having him around than you?

Sherlock Sorry, that's an absolute condition of our arrangement.

Lucy Please Patrol Leader? I really need that 'Assisting a Detective' badge.

Lily Oh fine. *(To John)* Now, if you're going to be in my troop, you're going to

play by my rules.

Watson Oh great. From one deranged egotist to another.

Sherlock Wonderful! Now I must be going. The chase is on!

Watson *(As Sherlock leaves)* Again! Nobody talks like that!

Exeunt

Scene 4 - Quick! To the Villainous Dressing-Up Box

Lights up on Theta, Alpha and Epsilon

Alpha Well that was a disaster.

Enter Diabolical

Diabolical Aha, my minions, you're back. I trust you got the Jewels?

Alpha *(Awkward chuckle)* Aha... well... you see...

Epsilon Haven't we already done this scene before?

Diabolical That's it! That was your last chance! Into the shark pool with you! Now where's my remote?

Diabolical begins looking down the back of the chair for the remote, while the others protest.

Alpha No! You can't kill us, it wasn't our fault *(etc.)*

Theta notices the remote and picks it up

Theta *(Quietly)* Is this it?

Alpha Don't hand it over!

Alpha snatches the remote

Alpha Dr. Diabolical. I know you'd like nothing more than to drop the three of us in the Piranha pool.

Diabolical Shark pool.

Alpha I thought you had a Piranha pool?

Diabolical Obviously I have both.

Alpha The point is we can really do it this time. I promise we can get those Jewels for you, just give us a chance.

Diabolical You're running very short of chances, Alpha. By my calculation this is the 27th time you have screwed up my schemes, and therefore the question arises why on earth I would entrust my schemes to you?

Alpha Well, you have literally no-one else in this organisation who's available to go after the Jewels, and if we screw it up the situation's no worse for you?

Diabolical Fair enough. But if you fail me again, you will be dropped into the shark and piranha pools!

Epsilon Could I just clarify something? Do you mean some of us will go in one pool, and some in the other? Or that we'll all be dropped into one pool and then the other. Or that you'll chop us up and put some bits in one pool...

Diabolical I shall leave that to your imagination, puny minion. Now, I must go. After the day you've given me, I'm going to relax in an evil bubble bath. I might even put on some Malevolent Netflix.

Exit Diabolical

Theta Great. Do we actually have a plan?

Epsilon *(Excitedly)* WE COULD DO A HEIST.

Beat

Epsilon Another HEIST!

Beat

Epsilon A cunning and watertight heist?

Alpha No. Heists appear not to be our thing. We need to be smarter. No mistakes. No screw ups.

Theta That doesn't really sound like us...

Alpha Not quite. But I have an idea that might just work. We'll dress up as Scouts and infiltrate their patrol.

Epsilon That's an incredibly brilliant and original plan. I bet nobody else has thought of anything like this!

Alpha I'm glad you like the plan, you're the one who's doing it. Quick, to the Villainous Dressing-Up Box!

Exeunt

Scene 5 - Quick! To the Criminal Dressing-Up Box

Lights up in the Lamb and Greyhound Pub, the Barkeeper is behind the bar, doing barkeeper-y things. Enter Kate, Zoe, Alan and Gary

Kate *(To the barkeep)* Four of the usual.

Alan Well that was a disaster.

Zoe Now Alan, all is not lost. We can still make this work.

Alan I really think we need to accept that stealing the Crown Jewels is beyond us.

Zoe Have a little more faith, the task has become a lot easier. Maybe you were right, maybe infiltrating a high-security vault was beyond us, but surely those four kids are no match for the four of us.

Alan I suppose yes, we could “deal with” four children, but it’s a bit evil isn’t it?

Gary Well they did steal from us, so they’ve not exactly got the moral high ground.

Alan *(Increasingly agitated)* No, they stole from the high security vault. We were merely bystanders way out of our depth. In fact the more I think about it, the less I’m sure going up against them is sensible. These Scouts are far more capable than we’ve been assuming, and this time they’re on home ground. It’s suicide!

Gary *(Nervous)* I don’t want to die.

Alan Well not actual suicide, I don’t think the Scouts get badges for killing.

Zoe Please Alan, I wish you’d have a little more faith.

Kate Yeah, show Zoe some respect. You don’t give her enough credit.

Alan *(Cowering)* Sorry Zoe. *(Reluctantly)* I suppose you do have some good ideas. I mean somehow we actually made it into the vault and out again without being arrested. In fact come to think of it if the rest of those people hadn’t been there, this whole thing may have actually worked.

Zoe Apology accepted.

Alan So how are we going to get the Jewels back?

Zoe We’ll dress up as Scouts and infiltrate their patrol.

Gary That’s an incredibly brilliant and original plan. I bet nobody else has thought of anything like this.

Zoe I’m glad you like the plan, you’re the one who’s doing it. Quick, to the

Criminal Dressing-Up Box!

Exeunt

OUTLES
Oxford University Light Entertainment Society

Scene 6 - Quick! To the Secret Agent Dressing-Up Box

Lights up on the QTME, looking despondent. They have a white board, for reasons that are about to become apparent.

Tom Well, that was a total disaster.

Jane At least the agents of Vicuios didn't get hold of the Jewels.

Tom No, but there'll be on the trail of whoever did. If we can't get to them before they do, then Vicuios will be able to do... whatever it is they're planning on doing.

Ryan Who were those punks anyway?

Scotty Ah, yes! While they were doing that big song and dance number, I was able to run an ID check based on mugshots and vocal patterns. Turns out they were the 3rd Upper Poppleton Scout Troop

Ryan What? They're real Scouts?!

Scotty Oh yes. I checked their files on Interpol, and this is what I found.

He pulls out three mug-shots and goes over to the whiteboard

Scotty They're led by this one *(He sticks up the picture of Lily)* She goes by the name 'Lily', though we suspect that may be a pseudonym of some sort. 12 years old and a known criminal mastermind on the watchlists of several major intelligence agencies. There there's Lucy *(Sticks up picture of Lucy)* 11 years old. Badges include Lock-Picking, Vault-Cracking and Advanced Weapons Training. The last one is Alfie *(You get the idea)* Also 12 years old and the muscle of the group... well, relatively speaking. Tends to get lumped with the dirty work.

Tom Who was the other one... the short one with the the rabbit?

Scotty Impossible to say, he's got no file. Probably some kind of new recruit.

Tom And the rabbit?

Scotty Could be some kind of highly advanced weaponry or tech... or it could just be a rabbit. They are kids, after all.

Ryan Great. Imagine how smug those bastards at the Impossible Mission Force are going to be if they find out we got beaten by a bunch of snotty-nosed kids.

Jane So... how do we get the Jewels back?

Scotty I was thinking an infiltration op.

Tom Good idea Scotty. Can you get us some tearable face masks for disguises?

Scotty No can do, boss. Our budget doesn't stretch to those. In any case, the Impossible Missions Force have commandeered all the available tearable face mask making machines.

Jane Typical. Those guys can't do a single mission without at least a dozen of those things.

Tom I know! We'll dress up as Scouts and infiltrate their patrol.

Ryan That's an incredibly brilliant and original plan. I bet nobody else has thought of anything like this.

Tom I'm glad you like the plan, you're the one who's doing it. Quick, to the Secret Agent Dressing-Up Box!

Exeunt

Scene 7 - Scouts Everywhere!

So, this is the set-up. There are two sets of Jewels , placed on either side of the stage. One is fake, one is real. It'd be good if we could try and keep track of which is which, even if the audience can't. Anyway, enter the Guides

Felicity Come on the coast is clear. We need to be in and out before Lily and her gang get here.

Mike *(Pointing at one set of Jewels)* Look, there they are!

Felicity Excellent! Let's swap them and go.

Nigel Hang on though. What are those. *(He indicates the other set of Jewels)*

Felicity Oh. That complicates things. Damn it, they must have made a fake set to confuse us.

Jim So, which set do we take?

Felicity Lily was always a good forger. We're not going to be able to tell them apart. We're just going to have to take a 50-50 shot, and hope they're the real ones.

Mike Shall we flip a coin?

Jim OK then.

Mike pulls out a coin and flips it.

Mike It's heads. What does that mean?

Nigel Well, we take this one, because crowns go on heads. Obviously.

Felicity facepalms

Nigel Oh, but wait a minute though...

Felicity Idiots! We need to assign heads and tails. Or we could just take the nearest ones.

She grabs the nearest Jewels, and swaps them for the Guides' fake set. Just for the sake of plot clarity, I should say that the Guides have the real ones now. Got that? The Guides have the real ones.

Felicity Right, let's get out of here, quick.

Enter Jamie

Felicity Oh bugger.

Jamie Hey... you're that mean Guide girl Lily doesn't like. You're not supposed to be here. *(Shouting)* Lily!.... Lily!.... Lily!

Felicity Quick, grab him and shut him up.

Jim and Felicity, grab Jamie. There's a brief struggle. Then, enter Lily and the rest of the scouts.

Lily (*Mrs. Weasley-ing*) Not my little brother, you bitch.

Jim Ah... oh dear.

He releases Jamie, who runs over to the other Scout and hides behind Lily

Felicity So, Lily, we meet again.

Lily You're going to regret coming here, Felicity.

Felicity Oh, I don't think so. I've waited a long time for this moment. You always were a traitor, Lily. I should seen that from the beginning. How could you leave, and join the Scouts of all people? I trusted you!

Lily I'm never going back, Felicity. I'm done with the Guides, and I'm done with you.

Alfie Can I just interrupt all this melodrama and ask what the hell is going on?

Lily This is my old Guide Patrol Leader, Felicity. I left the Guides and joined the Scouts in order to escape her tyrannical rule.

Alfie You think she's tyrannical. Blimey.

Lily I see you've got yourselves some new members.

Felicity I had to recruit boys to replace you. Do you know how much I hate myself for that?

Mike That's us. Hi.

Lily Enough! I take it you're here to steal the Crown Jewels, and my badge with it.

Felicity You're too late, Lily. I've already taken the Jewels and replaced them with fakes. And you'll never know which pair.

Lily And how could you tell which ones were the real ones?

Nigel (*Helpfully*) We flipped a coin!

Felicity Sure, Nigel, just tell her we don't know if we have the real Jewels. Boys really are idiots.

Nigel Sorry.

Felicity We may not know which set of Jewels we have, but neither do you. For all you know we may have the real ones and you're sitting with two fakes like

the losers you are.

Lucy So, to sum up: There are three sets of Jewels, two of which are fake, and one of which is real. You lot have one set, which you know has a 50/50 chance of being real. We have two sets, one of which is definitely fake. We know where the real set were kept but we won't tell you which, and you won't tell us where you got your set from.

Alfie Did you get that, audience?

Look, you're just going to have to trust us that this is all going to make sense by the end. Well, I say sense...

Lily So it's stalemate. No one knows where the real Jewels are.

Felicity It would seem so.

There's an awkward pause

Jim Why don't we all just join together and be friends?

**Felicity
& Lily** No!

Felicity I say we just take our chances. Come on gang!

Exit the Girl Guides

Lucy What do we do now Lily?

Lily All we can do is follow the plan, and hope that Felicity and her crew haven't made off with the real Jewels. Come on, we've got preparations to make.

The Scouts start fussing around the Jewels, miming preparations .Enter Flick.

Flick (M/L) I'd been staking out the Scout Hut from the moment I got out of the vault. I'd seen the Girl Guides go in and out, but they weren't my concern. All I was interested in was bringing the Scouts to justice. Sweet, delicious justice. Little could I imagine what was about to happen next. Suddenly, like something out of a nightmare there were Scouts, Scouts everywhere! It happened like this.

Flick creeps off to the side of the stage. Enter Watson, wearing an (ideally) ill-fitting Scout's uniform

Watson How do I look?

Lucy It's a little small on you, but it will have to do. Now all we need to wait for is the-

Enter Tim, dressed as a Scout

Tim Hi, is this the 3rd Upper Poppleton Scout Troop?

Alfie *(Suspiciously)* Yes...

Tim Great! I'm here to... ummm... become a Scout?

Lily Sure thing! We were just about to get started.

Watson *(Whispering)* Um, Lily, that's not one of the gang...

Lily *(Whispering)* But that's clearly a grown man wearing a Scout uniform. How many of them are going to show up?

Enter Epsilon

Epsilon Hi, is this the 3rd Upper Propellertown Scout Troop?

Lucy Upper Poppleton. And yes. Can we help you?

Lily *(To Watson)* Is that one of them?

Watson Also no. I'm starting to think this plan may not have been the best idea in the world...

Lily As long as we know who should be getting the fakes, everything *should* be manageable.

Enter Gary

Watson Wait, that's him. He's definitely from the gang.

Gary Hi, is this the 4th Upton Poptart Scout Troop?

Alfie Close enough. Let me guess - you're here to join the Scouts?

Gary No I'm here to steal the- I mean yes. I'm here to be a Scout.

Lily Quick, let's get this done before we get anyone else trying to join.

Enter Ryan

Ryan Sorry I'm late, I was having a little trouble getting the shirt on. Is this the-

He pauses and inspects a piece of paper

Ryan The... oh I can't deal with these English town names. You're the Scouts right? I want to become a Scout.

Alfie Sure, whatever.

Lucy *(To Lily)* So we're just going to ignore that all 4 of these "new and eager" Scouts are all people who were in the vault when we got the Jewels?

Lily We may have to improvise a little on Sherlock's plan. As long as we can keep an eye on them, we'll be fine. Make sure the others stay alert.

Lucy takes Jamie and Alfie aside to have a word, as Lily addresses the other "Scouts".

Lily Ahem. It's lovely to see so many new faces here today. How many of you have been to Scouts before?

Gary eagerly raises his hand.

Lily Well that's one of you. Not to worry, we can catch the rest of you up on the way things work. It may seem like a lot to take in, but I have this little song which I use to help me remember everything.

Song: How to be a Scout

Lily *(To Lucy)* Hmm, they don't seem to be going for it. Go and drop them some subtle hints.

Lily starts showing Watson, Alfie and Jamie some other Scout-y thing. Lucy goes over to where Epsilon and Gary are sitting

Lucy Soooooo.... do you want to see something cool?

Gary Sure

Lucy points to the Jewels

Lucy You see those? Do you know what they are?

Gary A fancy hat?

Epsilon It's the Crown Jewels!

Lucy Absolutely right. It would be terrible if someone were to steal them. Now I am going to turn my back and not pay attention. I sure hope those Jewels don't get taken in the meantime.

Lucy turns dramatically away

Epsilon *(Whispering)* Ahem, I'm just going to wander over in this direction for perfectly innocent reasons.

Gary Sure.

Epsilon gets up and sneaks over to the Jewels

Gary *(To himself)* Hmmm, wasn't I supposed to be doing something with some Jewels?

Epsilon grabs the Jewels and runs off stage

Gary Oh well, too late I suppose...

Tim *(To Ryan)* So, have you been here long?

Ryan No, just joined. I've heard this lot are a really talented.

Tim Yeah, me too. Apparently they went after the Crown Jewels

Ryan Really?! I don't believe it. Have you seen them?

Tim No, I was rather hoping you had.

Ryan *(Suspiciously)* Why are you so interested in the Jewels?

Tim Oh, no reason... Why are you so interested in them?

Ryan No reason either....

Ryan spots Jamie nearby

Ryan Hey, you - why are you so small?

Jamie I'm not a real Scout.

Ryan Wait, what? What are you, an agent of Vicuios?

Jamie No, I'm a Cub. Lily's letting me hang around because I'm "integral to the success of the operation".

Gary What does that mean?

Jamie I don't know. Lily wouldn't explain. She just said I'm supposed to make sure someone gets some Jewels... or something. I don't know. It's really complicated. You see, there's that set of Jewels over there.

Jamie notices the Jewels have gone

Jamie Oh, or at least there were... And then there are these ones over here.

He points to the other set of Jewels

Ryan What! Another set! So one of them is fake?

Jamie Umm... I think so?

Tim But which set is real?

Jamie I don't know. I wasn't really listening. Lily started talking about how it was really important that someone got them.

Gary I'm confused.

Tim So am I.

Ryan I'm not. I know exactly what is going on!

Tim Really?

Ryan No, I haven't got a clue.

Jamie Well, someone needs to have these. Would you like them?

He proffers them to Gary

Gary Oh thanks! Alan would have been mad if I hadn't got them.

Jamie No worries. Mum says I should help other people more often.

Gary Awww, you're doing a great job. I better get going. See you!

Gary waves, grabs the Jewels and runs off stage. Watson, who has been watching this entire sequence with increasing dismay, approaches Lily and Lucy.

Watson You do realise that your little brother has just entirely cocked up the plan.

Lily What do you mean?

Watson See for yourself.

Lily, Lucy and Alfie approach Jamie.

Lily Jamie, what are you doing?

Jamie Ummm... I don't know.

Alfie Who's got the Jewels?

Jamie Ummm... I don't know.

Lucy Where have they gone?

Jamie Umm... I don't know.

Lily Is there anything you do know?

Jamie Yes. I'm hungry.

The action switches over to Tim and Ryan, who are conversing.

Ryan So, which set do you think was real?

Tim Probably the ones that went that way *(He indicates)* They were more sparkly.

Ryan Really?

Tim Then again, it could have been the ones that went that way. *(Indicating the*

other direction) They had more of a gleam.

Ryan Oh, this is hopeless. Right. I'm going this way. *He sets off in the direction Gary went.*

Tim Why that way?

Ryan Sometimes as a secret agent, you just have to trust your gut. Your highly toned and muscled gut.

Tim You're a secret agent? But I thought you were a Scout?

Ryan Umm... no... umm... *(He waves his hands at Tim)* You have forgotten that I am a secret agent. You have forgotten that you ever saw me.

Tim I'm pretty sure I haven't.

Ryan Oh, yeah. I keep forgetting it's Jedi who can do that, not secret agents. Oh well, never mind.

He legs it. Watson approaches Tim.

Watson You're with the police, right?

Tim Yes... I mean *(Voice climbs a couple of octaves)* No, mister, I'm just a Scout I am.

Watson Save it. Despite what Sherlock may believe, I'm not a complete idiot. If you come with us, I can lead you to the Lamb and Greyhound Gang and the Jewels.

Tim Oh, thanks. That'd be brilliant.

Watson Well someone's got to take control of this ridiculous situation. Now come on. let's get out of these Scout uniforms and go and find our colleagues.

Exit Tim and Watson

Lily So, in the final analysis, we've got no new badges, no Jewels and no idea of how to get either.

Alfie It's not gone terribly well has it.

Flick *(M/L)* So, at last, I had the the 3rd Upper Poppleton Scout Troop at my mercy. But if I wanted to recover the Jewels, I had no time to deal with them. In that moment the dilemma gripped me. What was I to do? Bring these foul enemies of society to justice? Or find the Jewels and so end the endless conflict over these worthless pieces of metal. Suddenly, I knew what I had to do. The Scouts could wait for another day. It was the Jewels that were at the centre of this whole grubby web. I had to pursue them. But mark my words, the day of reckoning for the 3rd Upper Poppleton Scout Troop was coming...

He looks to the Scouts as if expecting a response. They don't react.

Flick Didn't you hear me? I said mark my words...

Lucy Yeah, whatever...

Flick *(Offended)* Well, if you want to take that attitude...

Exeunt

SCOUTS
Oxford University Light Entertainment Society

Scene 8 - Meanwhile, in the pub 3: Return of the Pint

Lights up in the pub. Alan and Zoe are sitting at a table filled with empty glasses, waiting nervously. Kate is at the Bar

Kate *(To the barkeep)* Three of the usual

Barkeep Gary still not back yet?

Kate Nope.

Barkeep You don't really say much, do you Kate?

Kate Nope.

Kate takes the three drinks and sits down between Alan and Zoe

Alan Oh I knew we shouldn't have let Gary go.

Zoe Be patient, everything will work out. Have faith.

Alan And poor Gary. He's probably being carted off to jail as we speak.

Enter the Guides

Felicity Right, this seems like the sort of place to fence some highly valuable Jewels.

Barkeep *(Spotting the guides)* Oi! How old are you lot?

Mike It's ok, we're 18

Mike show the barkeeper some form of ID

Barkeep Fair enough.

Jim Where did you get that, Mike?

Mike I got my Fake ID Making badge last month

Felicity *(Outraged)* You've been getting badges?! Have you been hanging out with the Scouts behind my back?

Mike No... you do know Guides work for badges as well right?

Felicity Of course... Well good job. Carry on.

Enter Gary brandishing a full plastic bag.

Gary I'm back!

Zoe *(To Alan)* See, I told you he'd get them. *(To Gary)* You got the Jewels?

Gary Yep!

Gary empties the bag of Jewels onto the table.

Alan *(Whispers)* Don't just get them out in public!

They quickly stuff the Jewels back into the bag. The pause for a moment to catch their breath, and look around to check no-one noticed. Then they slowly peek into the bag.

Alan My goodness. Gary you actually did it!

Gary I know right!

Alan And we're sure these are the real ones?

Kate picks the crown out of the bag, and spends a few seconds examining it, before placing it back into the bag

Kate They're fake.

Gary What? No! They're real. Totally real. How do you even know how to identify jewels?

Kate shrugs.

Alan Well that's just great Gary. Of course you were outsmarted by a group of Scouts. And to think I thought there was a chance we might actually succeed

Gary Hey! It's not my fault, there were like twice as many sets of Jewels and twice as many scouts as there should have been.

Alan *(Sarcastically)* Sure there were.

Zoe Never mind Alan. We shouldn't give up hope just yet. We can still get those Jewels.

Alan As we have repeatedly proved, we are literally incapable of doing this. Someone could try to sell them to us and we'd still mess it up.

The Guides are talking with Sam

Felicity Do you know where we could sell some Crown Jewels around here?

Barkeep Why don't you and talk to that gang? They're always interested in buying contraband.

Mike Sure thing, punk. Do us a solid and send the balloon up if you see any Rozzers around here on the down low. You get me?

Barkeep Sorry?

Felicity Mike, what are you going on about?

Mike I don't really know. It's just something I heard someone say in a gangster movie once. I thought it might be appropriate.

Felicity facepalms, and they go and join the L&G gang

Nigel Hey mister, wanna buy some Crown Jewels?

Alan What?!

Gary Sure! How much?

Nigel Erm, I'm not sure. Felicity, how much are we selling these for?

Felicity A million pounds!

Alan Wait, you've come in to a pub and expect to sell something for a million pounds? Who has that kind of money just lying around?

Mike That's actually a good point.

Felicity Fine, how much do you suggest?

Zoe £10 each?

Nigel £10?! Ha! How about 9?

Zoe Deal.

Jim And you have to agree that this constitutes our good deed for the day.

Alan Done.

Mike Felicity?

Felicity Oh, what the hell. As long as Lily doesn't have them. Deal.

The gang hand each of the Guides a £10 note . Satisfied, the Guides leave the pub.

Alan You just got super lucky.

Zoe Whatever Alan. Are they the real deal?

Kate inspects the newly acquired jewels

Kate Yep.

Gary Yay!

Alan So what do we do with them now?

Gary Can I try them on?

Alan ...No.

Zoe Well we can't take them back to the Scout Hut.

Alan What about a bank vault?

Zoe No, too expensive. We don't have the money.

Alan We literally have the Crown Jewels here. We can afford it.

Zoe Not until we sell them. And we're not going to be able to do that quickly, so we need to store them somewhere in the meantime.

Alan So where do you suggest?

Enter QTME at high velocity, weapons drawn.

Tom Hold it right there, criminal scum. One wrong move and I will kung-fu kick you into next week.

Ryan And I'll body-slam you...

Jane And I'll shoot your knee-caps.

Scotty And I'll... infect your hard-drives or something.

The Lamb and Greyhound Gang get up with their hands up.

Alan Alright, alright, there's no need to do any of that stuff. We know when we're beaten.

Kate Can't I nut 'em?

Alan Nut 'em, as in beat them? You did notice all the guns, didn't you?

Tom That's right. Now hand over those Jewels.

Gary passes them over. Tom hands them to Scotty.

Tom Can you check these please Scotty. I want to be sure that they're the real ones.

Scotty runs something gadgety looking over them.

Scotty Yep, 100% authentic boss.

Ryan Yes! I knew it. There you go, always go with your gut.

Scotty Either that or it was just a 50-50 chance.

Tom Great, let's get them back to base! Another successful mission for the Quite Tricky Missions Executive.

Jane What do you mean another successful mission? This is literally the first successful mission we've had.

Tom Spoilsport.

Exit QTME

Zoe Bollocks.

Exeunt

BOLLOCKS

Oxford University Light Entertainment Society

Scene 9 - Plot Twist!

Enter QTME. Franklin is sitting reading some papers or something else bureaucrat-y.

Ryan Wow, we actually did it.

Scotty No thanks to you. You shouldn't have let them out of the Scout Hut.

Ryan In my defence it's a lot easier to steal from that gang than the Scouts. They were damn sneaky.

Jane Yeah, the one with the rabbit just exuded cunning, didn't he.

Franklin Ah, team. Welcome back. I take it you were successful?

Tom Yep, right here.

He gets out the Jewels, and Franklin picks them up and eyes them.

Franklin And you're sure these are the real ones?

Scotty Yep, checked them myself!

Franklin Excellent. You've been most helpful.

Tom It's our job to assist international justice, sir.

Franklin Oh, not international justice. I mean you've been most helpful to Doctor Diabolical. Yes, with these Jewels, nothing will stand in the way of Vicuios. Well, I'll be seeing you...

Franklin runs off, Jewels in hand.

Scotty Wait what?

Ryan Did he just?

Tom kicks a table.

Tom Damn it. "Dooble-Arjont". That's not a real name! How could we fall for that?

Jane We weren't to know. How could we expect to get double-crossed here, at Spy HQ?

Scotty In fairness, double-crossing is sort of a hobby round here.

Tom The Impossible Missions Force will have a field day, we'll never hear the end of it.

Song - The Betrayal Blues

In which Tom and the rest of QTME reflect on their ineptitude, the

inevitably of betrayal and the melodrama levels are turned up to 11.

Jane Come on Tom, don't give up.

Scotty We may be down, but we're not out.

Ryan But how do we stand a chance of outsmarting Franklin?

Jane We may not be able to do this alone, but we know people who are far more competent than us.

Ryan Who?

Jane The Scouts of course! They've repeatedly demonstrated their oddly broad skill set is as good as the best of them. They've outwitted everyone. With their help we can do anything.

Tom But we're the Quite Tricky Missions Executive! It's our job to save the world through feats of heroism!

Jane Maybe we have to admit this time that this missions is beyond us. It might even be impossible. And maybe we need to admit to ourselves that we can't do the impossible. But if we got some help, it would stop being impossible, and might be just, you know Quite Tricky.

Tom *(Cheering up a little)* That sounds like the sort of mission for us!

Ryan But even if we had their help, we have no idea where Franklin's gone.

Scotty Actually, we do.

Ryan We do?

Scotty I slipped a tracking chip in with the Jewels when I was scanning them at the pub. After losing them in the vault, I figured it was worth being able to find them in the "highly unlikely" event that we were going to lose them again.

Tom Scotty, I could kiss you! We've no time to waste, let's get moving.

Ryan But where are we going?

Tom Where do you think? We're going back to the place where this all started. We're going to the Scout Hut.

Exeunt

Scene 10 - Hot Fuzz

Lights up on the L & G gang still at the pub.

Kate *(To the barkeep)* Four of the usual.

Barkeep Are you expecting any more unexpected guests?

Kate Don't think so.

Enter Sherlock, Watson and the Police

Sherlock Now, officer, I believe these fellows are in possession of the Jewels. If you'd just care to arrest them, I can close my case.

Alan Blimey, it's the Fuzz!

Susan Hell yes it is!

Fred facepalms. Once he has recovered:

Fred Put your hands in the air and hand over the Jewels.

The Gang put their hands in the air

Becky How are they supposed to hand over the Jewels if their hands are in the air?

Susan Said the handcuffed police officer.

Alan We'd love to, but we don't have them.

Watson What are you talking about? I saw Gary here stealing them from the Scout Hut.

Gary Well I did steal them.

Zoe But then QTME, or whatever their acronym is, came in to steal them.

Alan Do you not feel that perhaps we ought not to confess to crimes we've committed, especially when there is no evidence to prove it?

Sherlock John, why must you insist on wasting my time?

Watson I ensured they took the Jewels. Did you want me to call ahead to check that they had in fact stolen them and to make sure to keep a hold of them while we fetch the police? You were the one who came up this ludicrously complicated plan.

Sherlock Please John, my plan was not ludicrously complicated. It was precisely the most efficient and logical path to our objectives, namely to see the Lamb and Greyhound Gang behind bars.

Watson Didn't work though, did it?

Sherlock That fault lay not in the inadequacy of the plan, but rather the incompetence of the execution.

Watson Oh piss off, you ridiculous know-it-all.

Sherlock Resorting to vulgarity is the mark of a feeble intellect and impresses no one, John. *(To the assembled)* I apologise for my assistant.

Watson I'm not his assistant! If you call me that one more time I'm going to throttle you with your own scarf.

Sherlock Don't you dare touch my scarf.

Watson It's such a pretentious affectation. We're inside. It's not even cold. You only wear it because Mrs. Hudson laughed at your cravat.

Fred Alright gentlemen, can you sort out your personal issues later. We still have the Crown Jewels to recover.

Tim But they're gone, they could be half the world away by now.

Sherlock Then I need to work out where they've gone.

Susan But how can you do that?

Sherlock Shut up! Everybody shut up! There's far too much stupid in this room! I'm thinking.

Enter Flick

Flick *(M/L)* When I walked into this dusty bar, I didn't expect to run into the groups of people currently confronting each other inside. Sherlock was on the verge of connecting a thousand tiny clues together in his mind pointing to the location of the Quite Tricky Missions Executive, and with them the location of the Jewels. Little did they know if they had just looked outside they would have seen the QTME van parked outside the Scout Hut just down the road.

Everyone takes a moment to process this information

Becky They're just down the street?

Sherlock But I was just on the verge of working that out. You all heard him say it.

Watson Yes, yes, Sherlock. We can stroke your ego another time.

Zoe Well we'll just be off...

Fred Oh no you four are coming with us.

Gary What?! We've not done anything wrong

Susan You confessed in front of an officer of the law to the theft of the Crown Jewels.

Tim From children no less!

Becky Though, to be fair they were psycho children.

Zoe But we were just retrieving them after they stole them to return them to the vault and-

Fred Save it for the judge, we've got some Jewels to retrieve!

Everyone charges off stage

Scene 11 - Yay Teamwork

Lights up on the Scout Hut, with the original Scouts moping about

Lucy It's okay, Lily, there are other ways to get the Heist Badge. I hear they're moving the Mona Lisa to the National Gallery next month.

Alfie I'm just hacking the security codes now.

Lily *(Glumly)* Don't bother. Jamie will probably mess it up again.

Jamie *(Hurt)* I said I'm sorry...

Lily Anyway it doesn't really matter. I didn't want to tell you all this, but my mum's making me leave the Scouts at the end of this term.

Lucy What! Why?!

Lily She says it's not good for me. She says it's encouraging my power complex.

Alfie She's not entirely wrong....

Lily And she says that Alfie is a bad influence on me...

Alfie Oh for goodness' sake!

Lily So you see, it was now or never to get the Heist badge... And now it's going to be never!

Song - Reprise: I'm (not) the greatest Scout in the world

Lily slumps despondently. Enter QTME

Ryan *(Pointing to Lily)* That one's in charge.

Alfie Oh come on, you guys aren't even pretending to be Scouts. It was a lot more entertaining when you were.

Scotty We're not here for your entertainment.

Lucy Shame, Lily could do with being cheered up.

Jane Can we get to the point of our visit?

Tom Right. Lily - it is Lily isn't it?

Lily *(Tersely)* Yes.

Tom Lily, we need your help. All of you. We were double crossed, and lost the Crown Jewels, and we need to get them back, and well, we're not really cut out for it.

Lily And why should we help you?

Ryan **Short reprise of the song at the end of act one, like a couple of chords at most:**
Half sung We all want the same thing,
we all want the-

Lily (*Cutting him off*) Oh shut it. You know we were the ones who started that song in the first place.

Jane Yeah, but we aren't just using it as a distraction, we actually want to work together.

Lucy Look this is a bad time, with the Jewels gone Lily's not going to get her badge, and we're not really in the mood for helping other people out.

Alfie It's how we lost the Jewels in the first place.

Scotty Hang on what are the requirements for this badge? Surely if we can trace them and you grab them back, that would count?

Jamie I think so...

Lucy Come on Lily, this could be your only chance to get the badge before you have to leave.

Tom Please?
There's a short pause while Lily thinks it over - ACTING

Lily Oh all right. Do you know where we're heading?

Scotty Yes, we're just following this tracking beacon.

Alfie Let's get going then, we've got no time to lose.
They make to leave as Sherlock, Watson, The Police, Flick and the L&G Gang enter

Fred Put your hands in the air and hand over the Jewels and before you say anything Becky I know they can't do both at the same time, but I don't want to risk one of them drawing a weapon.

Becky I was actually going to say that last time we asked this lot to put up their hands we ended up being quite thoroughly beaten up, and I for one still have bruises.

Tom If you've quite finished, I can inform you that we don't have the Jewels.

Gary No, you guys nicked 'em off of us at the pub.

Ryan We did, and then we were double crossed, and now we don't have them.

Lucy They just came here to ask for some help getting them back.

Susan Ha! You had to ask a bunch of kids for help!

Watson To be fair, it was a bunch of kids who I think has at some point outwitted every single one of us at some point.

Everyone but the Scouts and Sherlock look a little sheepish.

Sherlock Of course they didn't outwit me! That's a ludicrous supposition. Actually I intended for them to steal the Jewels all along so we could get-

Watson No you didn't. That wasn't the plan we had going in, and don't pretend that you actually had another secret plan that was what happened because I do not believe it for a second.

Sherlock John, I didn't tell you the plan because-

Watson Shut up. Now. Someone else please talk.

Tim So you don't have the Jewels.

Jane No.

Susan But you're about to go and get them.

Scotty Yes.

Ryan Oh, and we're also stopping an international super-villain.

Tom And if we can somehow find and arrest Vicuios while we're at it all the better.

Becky They do seem to know what they're doing. Shall we give them a hand?

Fred Oh sure, why not?

Song - Why not work together Reprise

Tom So, Scotty, where are the agents of Vicuios hiding?

Scotty *(Flipping open his laptop)* Just co-ordinating the position now. Oh... that's absurd. They're in a hollowed-out volcano in the Andes.

Tom Really? What a cliché. Well, if that's where they are, then that's where we're going to need to take them down.

Exeunt

Scene 12 - The Showdown

*Lights up on Dr Diabolical, blah blah blah. There's a ~~giant death ray~~ some villainous device which will need to have the Jewels put in it. Enter henchmen **not** looking sheepish! And carrying the (fake) Jewels.*

Diabolical Aha, my minions, you're back. I trust you got the Jewels?

Alpha *(Triumphantly)* Yes!

Diabolical Wait really?

Theta Yep.

Diabolical Oh wow. Like, I was hoping you'd do it, but I didn't actually expect you to be able to pull it off.

Epsilon Gee, thanks.

Diabolica Well you've not really had a stellar track record on this one have you? You've already failed to get them twice. Anyway, give them to me.

The Jewels are handed over.

Diabolical Excellent. Now all I need to do is place them into the machine-

Diabolical does so

Diabolical Turn it on-

A switch is flicked, and the machine begins powering up

Diabolical Muahahahahahahahah!

The others Muahahahahahahahah!

The machine begins to power down. Ideally a warning light would be flashing, maybe a lighting cue? Diabolical stops laughing.

The others Muahahahaha? *The drop off, uncertain about what's going wrong*

Diabolical You're certain these are the real Jewels?

Alpha Yes? I mean Yes.

Diabolical Really? Because my control computer says that these Jewels are fakes!

Alpha It's just a computer, it's probably got something wrong...

Epsilon Have you tried turning it off and on again?

Diabolical Where's my remote? You're all going in the piranha pit!

Theta Oh damn it. I was really hoping for the shark pit...

Diabolical picks up the remote, and is about to press the button sending Alpha, Epsilon and Gamma plummeting into the shark tank when Franklin enters, casually holding the real Jewels

Franklin Looking for something?

The others turn to look at him

Epsilon Who on earth are you?

Franklin Dooble-Arjont, Franklin Dooble-Arjont.

Theta How's that spelled?

Franklin None of your business. Anyway, I'm here to do what you three have utterly failed to do; obtain the REAL Crown Jewels. *(He hands them over to Diabolical)*

Diabolical You see, this how a proper henchman acts. No pissing around with fake Scout uniforms, just one suave act of betrayal and here we are.

Franklin My pleasure, Doctor.

Alpha Teacher's pet.

Diabolical Now, at last! I can reveal the purpose of my device and why I have been so desperate to obtain these Jewels. You see, the Crown Jewels house one very particular diamond, completely unique and beyond all price. It has to the power to magnify a laser a thousand fold. So I simply place them inside my super-laser...

Diabolical goes over to the machine, and place the Jewels inside, discarding the fake ones. They flip the switch, and the machine springs to life.

Diabolical And voila, I have created the most powerful long-range ray gun in all of history.

Franklin Though to be fair, it is a pretty small field.

Diabolical Nonetheless... But you see, this laser has a very particular target. With it, I plan to BLOW UP THE MOON!

Franklin Wait, what? Why would you want to do that?

Diabolical In today's world of super villains, you really have to do something to stand out. Just selling dodgy plutonium or hacking intelligence networks won't cut it any more. But if I BLOW UP THE MOON, that'll get

everybody's attention.

Franklin But have you even considered the consequences - the effect on the tides, possible debris colliding with the Earth, all that.

Diabolical Of course not. I'm not running a policy unit here. I just want to BLOW UP THE MOON! What did you think I was going to do with the Crown Jewels apart from using them as the vital component in a super-laser?

Franklin Fence them on the black market? Use them to create a constitutional crisis? I'll confess that this wasn't very high up on my list.

Diabolical That just shows how low your ambitions are. Now if you'll excuse me, it's time to start to BLOW UP THE MOON!

Franklin Can you stop saying that, we get the point.

Diabolical I'm a villain, megalomaniacal gloating is part of the job description.

Enter the rest of the cast. Probably sans the barkeeper, but I'm half tempted to have them in here just for the hell of it.

Tom Hold it right there.

Fred Put your hands in the air and hand over the Jewels.

Becky You've really got to stop saying that.

Fred It makes me feel important.

Diabolical And who on earth are you?

Lily We are the assembled forces of the Quite Tricky Mission Executive, the The Metropolitan Police, The 3rd Upper Poppleton Scout Troop, Sherlock Holmes, John Watson, some weird guy that keeps following us everywhere and monologuing to himself, and, for some reason I don't quite understand, the Lamb and Greyhound Gang.

Lucy Yeah, why is that gang with us?

Watson We'll explain later.

Alfie And who is that weirdo that keeps following us around?

They all turn to look at Flick

Flick (M/L) They had known me for a long time, but had never thought to ask my name. It was wonderful to finally to be recognised, to have some human contact...

Zoe Can you stop with the monologuing. Please.

Flick (Not monologuing, finally) Fine. The name's Flick Ranger, Private

Investigator.

Alan Um, weren't we in the middle of foiling an evil plan?

Tom Right, yes. Diabolical, stop what you're doing and hand over the Crown Jewels!

Diabolical It's too late! Nothing can stop me now. Minions stop them!

Alpha Oh, you want our help again now? I thought we were useless incompetents.

Diabolical Alright, I'm sorry. Now, will you please guard my super-laser.

Alpha Fine. But only because you asked nicely.

The minions place themselves between the laser and the heroes.

Sherlock Face it, you're hopelessly outnumbered.

Watson Oh, did you hear that everyone? Sherlock made an observation. Aren't we all impressed?

Sherlock Alright, you want an observation. That machine is powering up. A laser of that size, firing over that distance will be able to fire in less than a minute.

Diabolical You see! You can't stop it now! It's impossible!

Tom Oh, impossible, is it? That sounds like a job for us.

Diabolical For you? But you are merely the Quite Tricky Missions Executive! You should have sent the Impossible Missions Force!

Tom I didn't mean only for us. I meant all of us together! What should we do Patrol Leader Lily?

Lily Sherlock, Scotty, Flick come and help me disable the laser. The rest of you, keep those minions down.

Action! The team surround the minions, while the above mentioned deal with the laser.

Scotty It's no good, it's encrypted. I can't shut it down unless we can get access.

Lily Can't we break the encryption?

Sherlock Not in 30 seconds.

Flick (M/L) All seemed lost. I, Flick Rider, looked the grim face of failure square in the eye...

Lily Flick, do you mind?

Flick Oh, sorry. Old habits. but there really is nothing we can do.

Franklin Perhaps I could be of assistance.

Lily You?

Franklin Yes. You see, I was able to extract Dr. Diabolical's Wifi password. Now assuming, they are the lazy, hackneyed supervillain I take him for, it may well be that the password for this machine is the same. Try V1llainsRule123. Villains spelt with a 1, and capital V, capital R.

Lily Do it Scotty!

Scotty *(Punching in the numbers)* Access granted.

Lily Now shut it down! Quick!

The machine powers down.

Diabolical Errrrmmmm... This was all part of my evil plan!

Tom Franklin! You were a double agent for us all along!

Franklin No I wasn't.

Tom But your name...

Franklin Oh here we go again! My name has nothing to do with the matter. I betrayed Diabolical because his plan is entirely ridiculous and I wanted nothing more to do with it.

During this, Alpha has snuck away, and now wields the remote.

Alpha None of you move, or I'll send you all to the sharks!

Diabolical I wouldn't bother with that...

But it's too late! Alpha touches the button and.... nothing happens. Everyone looks around expectantly

Epsilon Isn't that supposed to open the trapdoor to the piranha tank?

Theta Yeah... where is the trapdoor anyway?

They look expectantly at Diabolical

Diabolical Well I meant to get them installed... but they're so darned expensive, and the cost of maintaining a tank of piranhas or sharks on top of that, it all adds up...

Alpha So do we have any defences left?

Diabolical *(Hopefully)* Yes? *(beat)* No...

Fred Alright lads, arrest the Doctor.

Susan But Becky's still wearing the only pair of handcuffs...

Ryan Scotty, do you have some sort of gadget for undoing handcuffs?

Scotty I'm afraid not.

Lucy Oh for goodness' sake, come here.

She removes a hairpin and sticks it into the lock on the handcuffs, freeing Becky

Becky *(Massaging her wrists)* Phew, thanks

Lily I mean, five of you infiltrated the Scouts and not one of you was actually listening to my lessons on how to pick locks? My time is wasted on you lot.

Fred Right, now we have our pair of handcuffs back, let's arrest this lot.

Tom Please, allow us.

Ryan A super-villain safely in custody!

Jane Another successful mission for the Quite Tricky Missions Executive.

Scotty Finally our successful missions tally reaches the plural!

Tom And we couldn't have done it without all of you. Thanks everyone.

QTME each grab one of Alpha, Theta, Epsilon and Diabolcial

Diabolical And I would've gotten away with it if it weren't for you meddling kids!

They leave the stage.

Becky There's one thing I still don't understand, sir.

Fred What's that?

Becky Why do we only have the one pair of handcuffs?

Fred We used to carry more pairs, but then policy changed. The time before last, the entire squad managed to handcuff themselves. It was decided that we should only have one pair, so only one officer could accidentally arrest themselves at a time.

Becky Well, I'm police-d to see they're learning from past mistakes!

Fred Oh shut up Becky. Now, quick, grab the real Jewels, and let's get them back to the vault. I only pray that no one's been down to check on them.

Alfie Hang, on, we can't let you just take them. That's been the whole point.

Alan Neither can we!

Fred Well, shall we make a deal. You let us take the Jewels and we won't arrest you...

Alfie *(Quickly)* I'm fine with that...

Alan So am I...

Fred Glad to hear it. Now, come on, we better hurry.
The police grab the real Jewels and leave

Zoe Well guys. I'm whacked. Drinks at the Lamb and Greyhound, anyone?

Sherlock May I suggest, in the future, you conduct your highly secret meetings somewhere other than the pub?

Zoe Well, I'm grateful for the advice, but it just wouldn't be the same. Come on gang, to the pub!

Gang Hooray!
The L&G gang exit.

Jamie Mr Rider, you aren't really going to put us in prison, are you? Only you said before....

Flick No, I don't think so. I think you proved today that you can work on the side of justice and order. But, if I'm not pursuing you young reprobates, I just don't know what I'm going to do.

Watson You could join us if you like?

Flick What?!

Sherlock Yes, what?!

Watson We could do with a new face in our crime-fighting band. Come and move into Baker Street.

Flick A life lived out of the shadows, with friends, and fun and not needing to monologue all the time to feel even the smallest bit of human contact? It's all I've ever wanted.

Sherlock Well, I suppose it would help John to feel a bit less intellectually inferior.

Watson Yes, and on that note, I want you to know that as soon as we get home I'm booking us in for couples' counselling. It's been a stressful case, and we need to work out some of our issues. Starting with your ego. Now come on Sherlock

Sherlock I, I.... what?!

Watson I said come on!

Sherlock Yes, John.

Exit Sherlock, Watson and Flick, leaving only the Scouts on stage (I think!)

Lily Well, that's just great. I'll never get the Heist badge now.

Lucy We did manage to save the world, Lily.

Lily But I already got that badge last year when I brokered that peace deal between America and North Korea.

Alfie Life isn't all badges, Lily. We had fun, didn't we?

Lily I suppose so. But I so wanted that last one for my collection.

Jamie I've got a badge for you Lily.

Lily What do you mean?

Jamie I made it myself. It's the badge for being the bestest, most coolest and awesome big sister and patrol leader ever. *(He proffers said badge to Lily, who takes it in silence.)*

Jamie I know it isn't as good as the Heist badge, but you really earned it.

Lucy You did, Lily.

Alfie Yeah.

Lily You know, what, guys. I think this might be my favourite badge of all.

Final Song

Fin