

## **The God-awful Ghost Gang**

### Characters:

-Nancy Columbo, early twenties, book smart and super attractive. She has nearly everything going for her, apart from her extreme social awkwardness and overt cluelessness to reality. A social recluse, she engrosses herself into the fantasy worlds of detective novels and films, fixated on solving the unsolvable. The self-appointed leader of the Ghost Gang Detectives, it is her passion for mystery solving that causes her to manipulate her friends into every next investigation, regardless the danger. Her primary goal is to unearth true paranormal encounters.

-Chet Baker, late twenties, stoner high school dropout working a sweet gig for city pet control. The dedicated chauffeur of the detective gang, Chet borrows the company vehicle for their investigations, often consequently being accompanied by an animal sidekick named Lanky. Lanky is Chet's best friend, despite Lanky being multiple strays over the Ghost Gang Detectives' investigations. Chet is seemingly unaware that Lanky is a different stray whenever Lanky is replaced, no matter how drastically distinct the breed/species is. By all accounts and purposes, Chet is dumber than dirt, but his pure heart and intentions make up for the excessive stupidity.

-Lanky, is the stray dog mascot of the detective gang, whose role is fulfilled by the many strays that Chet picks up working for city pet control. Because the detective gang encounter many dangerous mysteries, Lanky often meets a gory demise, necessitating the need for replacement. The one unifying feature of Lanky is that they are able to speak with Chet, but unfortunately not always in English. The only member of the group who acknowledges Lanky is a different dog is the typically naive Nancy, who has long since stop trying to argue with her clueless companions over Lanky not being the same Lanky.

-Hank Laid, early twenties, super straight jock hyper fixated with his appearance. Some have even gone as far as to label his skin care routine and fashionable choices as effeminate. The only thing he loves more than his appearance is girls. He joined the gang of amateur detectives purely with the intention to get laid with Nancy, who very much believes he's gay because he takes care of himself and dresses well. Whenever the gang splits up, Hank always is paired with idiot Chet. A direct contrast to the athletic Hank, Chet is often lazy and unproductive, which irritates Hank when he finds himself always stuck with the pothead instead of with one of the girls.

-Bella Dark, super goth obsessed with the occult and paranormal phenomena. Her dream is to one day find a real vampire to bite her so she gets turned and can live out her fantasies as the truest form of goth. The only "religious" member of the group, Bella always carries a bible on her in the event they need to perform a quick exorcism. When she isn't obsessing over the occult, ghosts, ghouls and what-have-you, her next concern is the salvation of every soul on the planet.

-Dave is super annoying. He's that guy that's part of the friend group that everybody hates but out of pure pity they keep him in the group. During their first investigation, the gang encountered a very much real zombie. The group unanimously used Dave as bait to capture it, but Dave inevitably was bitten in the process. Dave became a zombie, but his oblivious love for his friends and resolve to protect them stopped him from eating them next. His spirit regained control of his zombified body and he resolved it was a gift from god so he could stay with his friends forever. Out of pure pity again, the group accept Dave back into detective gang, despite him ironically being the only member of the group that cares about his friends. If Nancy is the glue that holds the group together, Dave is the superglue because he sees the ulterior motives that each of his friends possess and forgives their shortcomings.

### The Setup:

This three camera sitcom is imagined for cable television, animated or live action. It follows a ragtag group of self-certified detectives as they solve outrageous mysteries often encountering real and dangerous paranormal events. The investigations they encounter vary in complexity, but rarely do the investigations end in success as the friends often fail to work together to uncover the truth behind the mysteries. The discovery of real paranormal events is the driving force for them to continue searching for more genuine encounters since they always miserably fail to obtain real evidence due to their inability as detectives. Often their investigations lead to life-threatening locations, encounters with delirious masked killers, real ghosts, ghouls with a taste for human flesh, and best of all, aliens, and eldritch horrors. Architects of their own downfall, they dig themselves into increasingly dangerous mysteries, generating comedy as they are forced to poorly work together to escape their self-inflicted hell. Set in the fictional city of Deviltown, the story follows the group of mostly college-aged friends as they stumble through life overcoming each of their own shortcomings, traveling from a variety of locations to the next, obsessively searching for real paranormal events. Often, even if the evidence is insurmountably against the existence of real paranormal activity, the detective gang go out of their way to prove the connection between the paranormal and the mysteries, often times even discarding real evidence to fit their ideal investigation. One of the ways the series will generate comedy is through placing the horribly ill-equipped detective gang in situations that directly cater to their shortcomings. As an example, socially awkward Nancy, being the self-appointed leader of the group, often is forced into social situations that she is clueless on how to deal with. Being incredibly attractive, she finds herself often the object of attention from guy friends, which goes completely over her head due to her cluelessness. Hank, the jock, is often paired with the lazy stoner Chet and Lanky, which generates comedy juxtaposing their personalities. Comedy is generated by removing Hank from his goal of being around the girls, as well as putting Hank's obsessiveness over his appearance in the spotlight via his typical narcissism and the need to stop every five seconds to check his hair. Lanky, the

multiple strays, of course will generate comedy through gross-out comedy with over-the-top graphic deaths. Bella will evangelize to people everywhere they go, especially in the most inopportune of moments to generate comedy. Dave himself, being the loveable clueless zombie he is, will be an abundant source of slapstick humor and zombie quips. Much like Lanky, Dave will also be subject to gross-out humor, with the potential for numerous violent situations he could easily be thrown into without compromising his life. Finally, some other way the series will generate comedy is through parodying tropes from series like Scooby Doo, The Hardy Boys, and Nancy Drew, chiefly focusing on monster mysteries, satirizing the unmasking of villains, and aiming the jokes towards self-awareness on how ridiculous or sometimes stupid these mysteries can get.

#### Future Episodes:

The storytelling of the first season will cover the earliest investigations for the Ghost Gang Detectives, as narrated by Nancy. The season will follow a “dear diary” format, with each episode representing an entry in Nancy’s diary about the various mysteries the group encounters. The first episode will detail how the group ends up as a group to begin with, despite their lack of chemistry, establishing the prevalent theme of putting aside differences to work together. At the center of the narrative, it is about friends overcoming their shortcomings and differences to help each other stand tall and achieve their goals, no matter how inappropriate those goals are. Likewise, characters will each experience their own story arcs. Starting with Nancy, she eventually learns to view her friends as friends and not simply as pawns to be used to help her solve mysteries, developing a side of empathy in her social skillset. Slowly we see Nancy transition from an extreme socially awkward character to an extreme socially awkward character who now at least tries not to be as socially awkward. Chet and Lanky remain arguably the same but depending on how much the sitcom leads into dark comedy, Chet may at some point admit he realizes Lanky is always a different dog, taking responsibility for all the strays that have died, vowing to never again let a Lanky die. Hank eventually nearly gets with Nancy at the end of the season after episodes of being cockblocked by Chet. However, things get a little too kinky for him when he realizes that Nancy has a ton of weird non-sexy fetishes being a hermit raised on the internet. Bella’s primary arc will focus on her relationship with Dave, as him being a zombie challenges her belief of heaven and hell, in which she believes. She is desperate to convert him to her religion before he “truly” dies and “goes to Hell”. Her story arc follows her obsession with converting Dave, and then into falling in love with Dave, despite her being pretty sure sleeping with a zombie probably goes against her religion.

Because the series is meant to parody the standard mysteries in popular media, I want to give a quick summary of some of some episodes/mysteries the Ghost Gang Detectives encounter in the first season. The first mystery involves a bayou zombie sighting, during which Dave

becomes a zombie due to the gangs' collective stupidity. This is the episode where the gang realizes the existence of the supernatural, which becomes the driving force for them to continue "solving" mysteries. Because Dave is their friend, they agree not to turn him in as evidence of the supernatural, resolving to save him as a backup if their investigations fail to ever turn up evidence. Another episode, The "Mystery of the Hollywood Vampire" episode follows the group as they work to prove TV celebrity Conan O'Brien is in fact a vampire. A subplot of the vampire episode follows Bella, both a fanatical fan of Conan O'Brien and bloodsucking vampires, forcing the group to stalk Conan so she can be bitten by him and/or convert him. The episode "Night of the Werewolf" follows Chet as he catches a stray that seems a little too big for to be a dog. Being dumb as bricks, Chet does not realize it is a werewolf until it is too late, leaving the gang to hunt it down as it runs loose in Deviltown. Additionally, an episode focusing on aliens follows Hank as he is beamed aboard an alien ship before being taken to Area 51 by government officials, who mistake the exceptionally handsome jock as the alien. Hank's friends are forced to break him out, while also trying to prove his real alien abductee(s) are still in Area 51. Essentially each episode showcases the flaws of the group, pairing it together with the satire of monster mysteries. The progression of episodes will highlight their poor collaboration skills and interpersonal skills, while they slowly adapt to working together and to respect each other.