

Monster Radio, Interview 6: Melanie and Mike

Content Warnings:

- ❖ Mentions of: ghosts, homicide, disease, blood writing, feline flatulence, dying while sleeping, haunted objects, damnation and final judgment
- ❖ Loud noises
- ❖ Match lighting
- ❖ Flatulence
- ❖ Choking/gagging sounds
- ❖ Latin
- ❖ Haunted objects falling
- ❖ Explicit language
- ❖ Stella
- ❖ Death
- ❖ Puns

MONSTER RADIO

EPISODE 6

“Melanie and Mike”

HOST

Welcome back to 66.6, Monster Radio! I'm your Host. Today, my dear creepy crawlies, we are going to be interviewing not one, but TWO guests! I'll reveal their details in a moment, but first! To speak with our dearly departed participants, I must perform a little ceremony. Bear with me for a moment while I light a few candles and...

[MATCH LIGHTS, RADIO TUNING]

HOST

Let's see... Just need to get the right frequency here... Hello, can you hear me?

[SHORT PAUSE]

HOST

Hello? Hmm, not getting anything yet... *(starting to sweat)* Uhh, one moment, dear creepy crawlies!

[BUTTON CLICKS]

HOST

STELLA!

[DOOR OPENS]

STELLA

Yeah?

HOST

The frequency you gave me isn't working! Are you sure this is the right one?

STELLA

It's written in blood isn't it? That means it has to be right. Anything written in blood is true.

HOST

That doesn't... even... make any...

STELLA

Did you put the numbers backwards? Sometimes it's made to be read in a mirror. You know, for jumpscare.

HOST

That makes *even less* sense!

[TUNING]

[GHOSTLY VOICE EMANATES FROM THE RADIO]

MELANIE

Hello? Is anyone there? Where am I?!

HOST

Why did that work?!

STELLA

You're still on air. Knock 'em dead.

[DOOR CLOSSES]

HOST

But I thought I hit the mute!... *(clears throat, composes instantly)*
Thank you for your patience. It seems we've located our guest!
Melanie? Can you hear me?

MELANIE

Who's there? Hello? Where are you? Where am I?!

HOST

I'm with Monster Radio! And your name is Melanie, correct?

MELANIE

Yes, I'm Melanie... What's happened to me?

HOST

Don't panic! I'm sorry to be the one to deliver some terrible news to you Melanie... You might want to make sure you're seated for this. Actually, wait no!...

MELANIE

Oh no! I don't have any legs! What's become of my legs!? Where's my... Where's my whole body! It's gone!

HOST

Yes, Melanie, I'm trying to tell you! You've joined the spirit realm!

MELANIE

The spirit realm?

HOST

You're a ghost, my dear. Your earthly body has passed on, and you are now incorporeal.

MELANIE

I DIED!?

HOST

It happens to the worst of us, sadly.

MELANIE

But... but, but but, how!?

HOST

I may have some more answers for you. Let's see here...

[PAGES FLIPPING]

HOST

Are you still with me, Melanie?

MELANIE

Yeah, I'm still here.

HOST

Ahh, good, so it says here in the Total Nincompoop's Guide to Hosting Cryptid Radio Shows, that ghosts can sometimes get an idea of how they passed on from their life into death by thinking *really hard* about their final hours. What are the last things you remember?

MELANIE

I was... I got ready for bed. I laid down and... and the next thing I know, I woke up here, in this weird sound booth.

HOST

Do you think you died in your sleep, then?

MELANIE

Maybe?

HOST

Did you have anyone who hated your guts? Maybe they found a way inside your house and stabbed you in your sleep?

MELANIE

I don't think so... I did swap my boyfriend's coffee out for decaf recently by accident. You don't think?!...

HOST

It may have been justified, but no, it doesn't look like homicide is the likely answer. Did you have a medical condition? Were you dying of some wasting disease?

MELANIE

I *knew* I should've gotten that mole checked – my mom even told me to...

HOST

Another dead end, I think. Hmm, let's read a little further... Ahh! The manner of death may be conjured by the following words. Melanie! Are you ready to repeat after me?

MELANIE

I guess... This isn't going to bind my soul or anything? Wait, is this going to be in latin? I failed that class... Should I even be repeating after you? Am I being tricked? Are you the devil? You look different than I thought...

HOST

No, Yes, Yes, No, and I don't know.

MELANIE

Huh.

HOST

It's a little late to be suspicious, don't you think? I'm trying to help you out here. If you repeat these words, you should be shown a vision of how you died. Then maybe we can help you on your journey to an eventful afterlife!

MELANIE

But how do I know this won't sell my soul in the process?

HOST

Because, silly, that incantation is on page 268, we're on 174. Here, see?

[BOOK SLAMS]

MELANIE

... OK. I'll give it a try.

HOST

Now that's the... spirit!

[GHOSTLY WAIL]

HOST

(disingenuous laugh) Alright, repeat after me! Vivere, ridere, amare.

MELANIE

Vivere, ridere, amare.

HOST

Mea navis aericumbens anguillis abundant.

MELANIE

Mea navis airy cumbuns angwilly a fondant.

HOST

Quid canis faciendum.

MELANIE

Quid canis fassy hum dum.

[STATIC ROAR]

MELANIE

Oh!

HOST

Melanie? What do you see?!

MELANIE

I see... I see a bed. That's ME in bed! This must be the night I died!

HOST

Is something happening?

MELANIE

I see... Oh, there's my cat! Hi, Terra!

HOST

Your cat jumped on the bed?

MELANIE

Yes... Aww, my little sweetiekins. I wonder what's going to become of you? *(gasp)* *Oh no!* I hope nothing bad happened to her when I died! Oh, Terra, please be safe! She's moving to the head of the bed... Oh she's... she's about to... she's about to sit on my face... and...

[FART SOUND]

MELANIE

She... she farted. She farted on my face.

[CHOKING]

MELANIE

I'm... choking. I'm choking to death. I'm dead. My cat farted on my face and I died.

[COLLAPSING SOUND]

HOST

I'm... so sorry. I guess that wasn't Gabriel's trumpet, after all. It was Terra's.

MELANIE

I... I can't believe that's how I went out... Are you sure that incantation was correct?

HOST

I'm afraid so. Well, this has been a gas, but I think it's time we knew more about the *ghast!* Since you're new to being a ghost, we here at Monster Radio decided to try and cheer you up a bit, and see about getting you connected to a more experienced ghost. Someone who can help ease you into ghost-hood... Melanie? Are you still there?

MELANIE

I can't believe I died from a cat fart...

HOST

Stay focused, my dear! We're going to find you some help! It's time for our second guest! I have here an experienced ghost who has been around quite a while. He's learned a thing or two about the spirit world, and wants to see if he can help *you!* So, with the help of our little spirit radio box, we're going to talk to him *and* you! Does that sound good?

MELANIE

I really... really died to that. Really and truly. All that work... the master's degree... the anime club membership... it's all gone...

HOST

Hello, Mike? Can you hear me?

MIKE

Yeah, I've been listening. I'm sorry about the fart.

MELANIE

AHH! Who said that!?

MIKE

It's me, Mike. I've been waiting around and listening to the whole thing.

MELANIE

Uhh... Hi... Mike.

MIKE

Hey.

[SHORT PAUSE]

MELANIE

So... you're, uhh...

MIKE

I'm a ghost, yeah.

MELANIE

A ghost... Are you friendly?

MIKE

NO. I'm a ghost named Mike. And I DO NOT make friends, I'm just here to help.

MELANIE

I see...

HOST

(whispered, encouraging) Go on! Ask him more questions!

MELANIE

Well, uhh... What do you do? As a ghost?

MIKE

Oh, you know, you just kinda float around and haunt stuff. That's... That's about it.

MELANIE

You haunt stuff?!

MIKE

Yeah.

MELANIE

What's that like?

MIKE

Well, I can't really haunt important stuff. Really strong spirits can make stuff move around, or make instruments play themselves or turn on electronics. Us little guys, we just kinda make people's hair stand on end. I like to watch people streaming movies. I can't use the remote, so I just kinda float around until I find someone who's watching something I like.

MELANIE

How do you become a strong ghost?

MIKE

Depends on the size of the grudge that lets you stick around as a ghost in the first place. If you don't have any regrets, you go on to the next world after this one. The grudges or regrets you have keep you partially anchored to this world, and the deeper and stronger they are, the more powerful the spirit.

MELANIE

Huh... Wait, so why am I still here? I don't think I had a grudge against anybody...

[HEAVENLY TRUMPETS SOUND]

ANGELIC VOICE

HARK! A SOUL IS READY FOR FINAL JUDGMENT!

MIKE

SHH! Quiet!

ANGELIC VOICE

Hello? Is anyone there?

HOST

Sorry, just me.

ANGELIC VOICE

Oh. You again. You know you can't come up here.

HOST

Aw shucks! I thought I'd pull one over on you and make it through the pearly gates this time.

ANGELIC VOICE

YOU SHALL NOT PASS! NOW BEGONE!

[RUSHING WIND]

[SHORT PAUSE]

MIKE

Is he gone?

HOST

Yes, he's gone for now.

MIKE

Shew! OK, so sometimes there's a clerical error, and you get stuck with a tiny grudge, or maybe, more like an *accidental* grudge. I saw you did the incantation of death finding? And you died to a cat fart?

MELANIE

Yeah... I still really can't believe it...

MIKE

Well, that technically counts as murder, even accidental. And while you *hypothetically would* forgive your cat, DON'T SAY IT! Cuz if you do, that gets rid of the accidental grudge against your cat, and you'd be off for final judgment.

MELANIE

Doesn't that mean I'd get to go to heaven?

MIKE

Some people do! But, I've seen ghosts come and go, and believe me, not a whole lot of people actually pass muster. They're really picky up there. Before you try it, think about... if there's anything you might get in trouble for. Like, did you clean your browser history before you died? If not, you might be in trouble when it comes time to face St. Peter...

MELANIE

Oh... Oh! Oh no... I will *never* forgive my cat.

MIKE

You've got the idea now! Yeah, judgment is scary, and being a ghost isn't bad. It's kinda just... like life, but now you don't need sustenance. The negatives are you can't really get any stronger, so if you have a weak grudge, you're kinda stuck like that.

MELANIE

So... no playing organs dramatically while no one's around?

MIKE

Nope.

MELANIE

What about creepy door openings?

MIKE

We can sometimes make a gust blow through the door. Can't open, though.

MELANIE

What about flickering lights?

MIKE

Only Christmas string lights. And only when no one's watching.
People watching make it a lot harder for some reason.

MELANIE

Man! So it's... this is it?

MIKE

Just about. You're just kinda *here*, now. You get used to it. I've been dead for... I think hundreds of years. I don't really understand much of this new fangled technology, but I listen to their TV and pick up what I can on the computers and stuff like that. Not much else to do, so I've been just keeping up with how the world's changing. And just... wasting time.

MELANIE

Sounds a bit dreary... but I guess it beats other things.

MIKE

Sure does!

MELANIE

Well, thanks Mike.

MIKE

Don't mention it! (*deadly serious*) Really, don't mention it. Well, I'll be going now.

MELANIE

Wait! I don't wanna be alone. I really think we...

MIKE

No!

MELANIE

... We could be friends?

MIKE

F... FR... FRIEND... NO!

[ANGELIC TRUMPETS]

ANGELIC VOICE

HARK! A GRUDGE IS SETTLED! A SOUL IS READY FOR FINAL JUDGMENT!

MIKE

No, I'm not ready! You've got the wrong guy!

ANGELIC VOICE

MICHAEL SMITHSON, YOU HAVE FINALLY MADE A FRIEND AFTER A LIFETIME OF LONELINESS. YOUR GRUDGE HAS BEEN SETTLED. YOUR JUDGMENT AWAITS!

MIKE

(howled) Nooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo!

[SUCKING NOISE, RUSHING WIND]

MELANIE

Holy... What... What just happened?

HOST

I believe Mike has gone to the great beyond. May he rest in peace. I doubt he will, though. I had to promise him to keep a porn tab open just to do the interview...

MELANIE

That's... That's awful! I can't believe I... Who is going to help me now?

HOST

Not me! Well, we might try again another week, but I'm afraid that's all the time we have left for today! Don't forget to file your ghost taxes, Melanie! The Internal Revenant Service is a real monster if you get on their bad side!

MELANIE

File my ghost WHAT... *(cut off)*

[RADIO CLICKS]

HOST

Well! That was enlightening! I do hope you enjoyed our brief seance, and until next time, I'm your Host!

[OUTRO]

HOST

Another day, another damnation. Sorry, Mike, truly. I didn't expect her to be so *friendly*...

[THUMPING]

HOST

Guess I better get ready for the next guest... Oh. Oh, great. Now she's haunting the studio. Why are you doing this?

[THUMP, THUMP, QUACK]

HOST

Look, it's hardly MY fault what happened to Mike. He led a lonely life, and once he made a friend, his grudge was settled. I can *try* to plead his case, next time I get someone from the heavenly courts. Though, my track record with heaven *and* hell is rather piss poor...

[THUMPING INTENSIFIES]

HOST

Alright, alright! I'll do my best, OK?

[THUMPING STOPS]

HOST

Great... a studio ghost. Just what I needed...

FIN, POST OUTRO

MELANIE

I am haunting this studio and I'm gonna make sure you *never* get what you want from the vending machine!