

## **Who, When, Wow! Mystery Edition**

### **The Haunted Hotel**

**Carly.** It's your favorite secret host here, from your favorite secret podcast. My adventure today took me to one of the finest cities on the Great Lakes. But it wasn't all sausages and cheese curds. No, this was a Midwest Mystery that scared me silly! Stick around for the spooky details -- I'm Carly Q, and this is Who When Wow, Mystery Edition!

(THEME SONG)

**Carly.** I came into the office today with a real pep in my step.

**Carly in the background.** Hey Linda!

**Linda.** Morning Carly Q!

**Carly.** Things have been going well, looking good, and feeling great. Lewis and I have been solving the pants off our time-sealed mysteries, I've been doing a good job at my *actual* job here at BUTTHED, and I've had some good bonding time with my main buddies Nibbles and Odie.

**Carly in the background.** Alright last look at the windows, last look at the light, before I go down to the basement, where there is neither, but I still feel good about it.

(Soundbite of basement door closing.)

**Carly.** Unfortunately it all came crashing down when I got into the basement this morning.

**Carly in the background.** Hmm what's this on my desk? A letter with no return address?

(Soundbite of Carly opening the envelope and unfolding the letter.)

**Carly.** "Dear Carly Q" (gasps) Oh no. It was everything I had feared. "I know what you're up to Carly. I know you've been investigating time-sealed files and secretly using the time elevator on your lunch breaks! Your secret isn't as safe as you think it is."

**Carly in the background.** Ahh! My worst nightmare was coming true! Someone's onto us! NOOOO! NOOOO! NOOO!

**Carly.** Nibbles popped up from the potted plant on my desk, just as Lewis came down from upstairs.

(Soundbite of Lewis walking in.)

**Lewis.** Carly Q, we've been getting complaints about someone in the basement yelling Noo! Was that you?

**Carly.** They know, they know, somebody knows! LOOK! I showed Lewis and Nibbles the letter.

**Lewis.** Nooooo.

**Carly.** That's what I said! See? I had a feeling we were being watched!

(Soundbite of rat squeaking.)

**Carly.** Good question Nibbles, I have no idea who it's from. It's signed Anonymous!

**Lewis.** Joey Anonymous? I know him. He works in IT on the 6th floor. Big computer whiz, but he causes more problems than he fixes if you ask me.

(Soundbite of rat squeaking.)

**Carly.** Uh, yeah. I agree with Nibbles. I think this is a different anonymous. This person obviously didn't want to sign their real name.

**Lewis.** But why do they want us to know that they know? Couldn't they have just sent this to the BUTTHED bosses instead?

**Carly.** You don't think they have? You don't think they will?

**Lewis.** I don't know!

**Carly.** But before I could respond.

(Soundbite of thumb drives comes down the vacuum tube.)

**Carly and Lewis.** A new time-sealed file!

**Audio File.** Event: 1893 (BEEP) Milwaukee, Wisconsin (BEEP) Rumors (BEEP) It's Haunted.

**Carly.** Something haunted in Wisconsin's most popular city? That's almost exciting enough to make me forget about this letter!

**Lewis.** What do you think it's about?

**Carly.** Maybe a Milwaukee Museum Monster? A Brutal Brewery Beast?

**Lewis.** A Spooky Summerfest Scarecrow?

**Carly.** A frozen custard Kraken?

**Lewis.** Say what now?

**Carly.** Milwaukee is the frozen custard capitol of the world, Lewis. The typewriter was also invented there!

**Lewis.** I will never understand how your brain works.

**Carly.** I pulled out my handheld digital assistance device.

**H-dad.** Go for H-dad.

**Carly.** And plugged in the clues from the file.

**Carly.** 1893, Milwaukee Wisconsin, haunted.

(Soundbite of typing.)

**H-dad.** This most likely refers to the Pfister, a luxury hotel in Milwaukee built in 1893 that's known for ghost sightings and other paranormal occurrences.

**Carly.** INCREDIBLE! The only thing better than a haunted house, is a haunted hotel!

**H-dad.** Visiting baseball teams typically stay at this hotel when they come to play the local Milwaukee Brewers, but some players ask for alternate accommodations, fearing the haunted hotel may affect their performance on the field. Baseball emoji! Ghost emoji.

**Carly.** I am feeling very curious about what's behind it! And I would very much love to go investigate, but hmmm, maybe it's not such a great idea. You know, after getting this letter and knowing that someone's onto us?

**Lewis.** That's fair, like that's like definitely fair but then again, you really wanna turn down a juicy mystery about a *haunted hotel*?!?

(Soundbite of rat squeaking.)

**Lewis.** The rat is talking isn't she?

**Carly.** Nibbles says that you make a good point, plus being spooked by this hotel might be a nice distraction from being spooked by this letter.

**Lewis.** Also a good point!

**Carly.** (Sigh) Okay fine, I'm convinced, this really is too good a mystery to pass up. But I'll only go on one condition: we don't tell ANYONE about this letter. Not even Odie! We've gotta keep this double extra special EXTREME top secret. Just the three of us.

**Lewis.** And anonymous

**Carly.** Right, the three of us and anonymous agreed?

**Lewis.** Agreed!

(Soundbite of rat squeaking.)

**Lewis.** Okay, I'll see you back here at lunch time, after doubling back a few times to make sure no one follows me. Bye Carly Q. Nibbles.

**Carly.** Good plan, Lewis! Nibbles, you're gonna stay here as our watch dog and keep an eye on things.

(Soundbite of rat squeaking.)

**Carly.** Wow! Not bad!

**Carly.** I spent the next few hours trying to get some work done, but mostly just re-reading the letter over and over in a mild state of terror. And before I knew it,

**P.A. Voice.** Attention, Butthead employees: it's take your lunch to work day! Show it around the office, introduce it to your work friends, let it participate in a team-building activity. And most importantly, have fun!

(Soundbite of footsteps coming down the steps.)

**Lewis.** Lunch time!

**Carly.** Yesss! Nibbles keep an eye on stuff. I grabbed H-dad, said goodbye to Nibbles the "watchrat" and took off for the elevator.

**Carly and Lewis.** Hi Odie!

**Odie.** Hello you two. What mystery do we have today?

**Carly.** Oh, well it certainly is not an anonymous note that showed up on my desk.

**Lewis.** She means time sealed mystery

**Carly.** Oh right. Of Course,that mystery.

**Odie.** What is going on with you,Carly?

**Carly.** Nothing. Anywho today we`ve got a spooky one! It's all about a famous haunted hotel in Milwaukee that's scared off a bunch of baseball players.

**Lewis.** A real curveball if you know what I mean.

**Carly.** Nice,Lewis.

**Odie.** I see what you did there Lewis, and I like it.

**Lewis.** Home run, the crowd goes wild!

**Odie.** Okay don't push it.

**Lewis.** What can I say, first the Curse of the Bambino the other week, now *another* baseball mystery? I'd call that a real *double play*.

**Odie.** Alright, so this hotel: I imagine you might want to speak with the founder, Charles Pfister, back in the 1890's. And let's not forget our time travel rules. No changing the past, and?

**Carly.** Be back by the end of lunch time.

**Odie.** That's right! And since you're going back to the 1890's, I'll program the elevator to update your wardrobe. Okay, I think you two batters are ready to step up to the plate.

**Lewis.** Nice.

**Odie.** Just remember though. The why can make the what less AHHH!

(Soundbite of wind chimes)

**Carly.** Umm?

**Lewis.** Come again?

**Odie.** Okay here you go. Don't be afraid of No Ghost!

(Soundbite of elevator travel noises.)

**Lewis.** I could really use an instant replay on thaaaaaat.

**Carly.** Okay. Looks like we're in some sort of back corridor of the Pfister Hotel.

**Lewis.** I think there's a party. Look at the decor, this place is swanky!

**Carly.** Oh and so are these outfits! Look! I have a sparkly headband!

**Lewis.** And I have a tie!

**Carly.** We walked around the corner and found ourselves in the grand lobby of the hotel. It was beautiful! High ceilings, a gorgeous tiled floor, and well-dressed hotel guests hobnobbing with Milwaukee's rich and famous.

**Lewis.** Ladies in puffy-sleeved dresses? Men in dark tail coats with white bow-ties? Now THIS is my kind of party!

**Carly.** Let's stay focused, Lewis. We're looking for any evidence that this hotel is haunted!

**Woman.** Oh Charles, you've really outdone yourself. This hotel is absolutely stunning!

**Charles.** Thank you, thank you so much.

**Carly.** Hey, did you hear that? I think that guy over there must be the owner Odie mentioned, Charles Pfister.

**Lewis.** Let's go say hi!

**Carly.** Charles was a kind-looking man with a round face and neatly combed white hair. We sidled up to him and said hello.

**Carly.** Hello, good sir!

**Lewis.** Greetings old chap!

**Carly.** Old chap?

**Lewis.** Remember I'm an actor.

**Charles.** Let me guess, you two must be enterprising young reporters from the newspapers?

**Carly.** (pause) Uh...yes! Two newspaper reporters here to report on the opening of your new hotel, that's us!

**Lewis.** I'm Lewis Pulitzer and this is my partner Carly, Prize.

**Carly.** Yes What can you tell us about building this place? Did anything spooky happen while you were under construction?

**Charles.** Spooky?

**Lewis.** You know, scary, odd, sinister, eerie, weird, creepy, uncanny?

**Charles.** Uh?

**Carly.** How about this: know anyone who might be the type to stick around after death and become a ghost?

**Charles.** (offended) Excuse me?

**Carly.** You know, any staff members with unresolved personal issues?

**Charles.** Unhappy staff members? *We just* opened.

**Carly.** Yes yes yes, right of course.

**Charles.** Well, excuse me, I believe I have to go talk with...anyone else.

**Carly.** Charles walked away, but just then a waiter came up to us.

**Waiter.** Psst! Hey! Are you two here about the rumors?

**Carly.** What rumors?

**Waiter.** About the graveyard! That this hotel was built on land that used to be a private burial ground.

**Lewis and Carly.** WHAT!?

**Waiter.** It's true! Maybe. My friend heard it from this fellow who used to live in log cabin near here, long before the city got built up. He said they used to bury people here. At least until the land got sold.

**Carly.** I was desperate to know more, but before we could ask any follow-up questions.

**Woman.** Waiter! Oh waiter!

**Waiter.** Ugh. Excuse me.

**Lewis.** Think maybe we should sneak back to the elevator?

**Carly.** I guess so. Maybe we could use the elevator to fast forward a few years, go talk to the baseball players?

**Lewis.** Like who?

**Carly.** H-dad, can we get a list of baseball players who've reported paranormal stuff here?

**H-dad.** Affirmative! Ghost emoji, screaming face emoji!

**Carly.** Hmm look at this! Each one has a little mini-time-seal covering their stay here. Ooh but this one might work: a player named Billy Stackers, he had a haunting experience here in 2006 but then stayed again in 2009. Maybe we go to the night of his second visit and ask what happened the first time?

**Lewis.** Oh Good idea Carly. Let's do it!

**Carly.** Back in the elevator I punched in the coordinates for 2009, and.

(Soundbite of elevator travel noises then loud thud.)

**Carly.** We stepped back out into the same corridor as before. The hotel looked mostly the same, though a few things had been renovated with more modern furnishings.

**Lewis.** So where to?

**Carly.** The file says this Billy guy is in room 309.

**Lewis.** Let's go!

**Carly.** Five minutes and two flights of stairs later, we were outside Billy the baseball player's door.

(Soundbite of door knocking.)

**Billy.** Hello?

**Carly.** Hi there, Billy? We were hoping to ask you a few questions about the last time you stayed here.

**Billy.** Oh, you mean, like (whisper) about the ghosts?

**Carly.** Yes!

**Billy.** Are you some kind of paranormal investigators then? This some Mulder and Scully situation?

**Lewis.** Uh, what?

**Carly.** SURE IS!

**Lewis.** Uh, right, yeah, I'm Moldy, this is Skull-face.

**Carly.** Oh Lewis please stop, just don't.

**Billy.** OK. Come on in. Here's what happened last time I stayed here. It started when I went to take a shower. I was pretty quick but when I came back out, all of my things had been moved around.

**Carly.** Like what, your clothes and your baseball bats and stuff?

**Billy.** Uh, they don't usually let us take bats with us, but otherwise yes.

**Lewis.** So that was it? What was moved around?

**Billy.** That was just the start. I figured one of my teammates was just playing a prank on me. But after I got dressed I heard these scratchings at the door, like an animal.

**Carly.** Beaver? Raccoon? Koala? Dingo?

**Lewis.** We're in Wisconsin Carly, not Australia.

**Carly.** Hm Fair.

**Billy.** All I know is, when I went into the hallway to look around, it was empty. But just then I saw this...thing.. floating in the air.

**Carly.** Like what?

**Billy.** Like a ghost!

**Carly and Lewis.** Ahh!

**Billy.** Yeah, I was freaked too! I was so scared I ran back into my room and locked the door. I hardly slept that whole night. When they told us we were coming back here for this trip I said I'd only stay if they gave me a different room.

**Lewis.** And nothing's happened this time?

**Billy.** It's been quiet so far.

**Carly.** So about this ghost you saw...what exactly did it look like?

**Billy.** It was sort of blue and hazy, I mean I couldn't really make it out very well. But I did get the distinct impression that it was an older man with white hair. (starts breathing fast) Oh boy. This is bringing back the memories.

**Carly.** You okay, Billy?

**Billy.** Fine! Fine. I just might need to take a warm bath and relax. Maybe do some yoga.

**Carly.** Okay but

**Lewis.** I think that's our cue to go, Carly. Let's let him relax. Bye Billy.

**Carly.** Ow! What is he, the old man ghost?

(Soundbite of Lewis and Carly leaving, door closing.)

**Carly.** Hey wait! Why'd you cut it short like that? I had so many other questions to ask!

**Lewis.** Cause he was clearly getting uncomfortable, we needed to give him some space! Plus, this gives us a chance to do something else.

**Carly.** Something else? What?

**Lewis.** Uh Ghostbusting.

**Carly.** Oh YES. Lewis, forget I ever doubted you.

**Lewis.** I won't, but thank you!

**Carly.** We checked around the hallway we were in, but it was pretty quiet, so we went up to the 5th floor to have a look around -- that's where Billy stayed last time, the night he saw the ghost.

**Carly.** Hellowoo? Mister ghost person? Anybody here? Do you hear that?

**Lewis.** Sounds like scratching.

**Carly.** I think it's coming from right here in this.

(Soundbite of scratching sound.)

**Carly.** But it turned out to just be some air conditioning equipment in a maintenance closet. We heard other noises on other floors too. But each one had some kind of mechanical explanation.

**Lewis.** Leaky plumbing? Creaky bed frame!

**Carly.** We DID see a spooky light.

**Lewis.** Ahhh! Oh wait. I left my flashlight app on. My bad.

(Soundbite of H-dad going BEEP BEEP BEEP)

**Carly and Lewis.** AHH!

**Carly.** Oh, it's just H-dad. Watch yourself with those beeps, man!

**H-dad.** Analysis complete!

**Lewis.** What'd you find?

**H-dad.** No one has been able to prove any paranormal occurrences here at the hotel, but reports of supposed hauntings have continued over the years, including strange sounds and ghost sightings.

**Carly.** Wait a minute, remember what Billy said about the ghost he saw? An older man with white hair and a round face? Who does that remind you of?

**Lewis.** Joey Anonymouse from BUTTHED IT?

**Carly.** Uh, NO. Try again. Someone we met on this journey

**Lewis.** (gasps) Charles Pfister!

**Carly.** Yes! The owner, who we talked to earlier, hated our questions about ghosts. NO WONDER!

**Lewis.** Maybe Charles, or at least his ghost, is just a really big baseball fan?

**Carly.** Wait, what?

**Lewis.** If he really loves his hometown team the Brewers, maybe that's why he's spooking the other teams' players. He just wants the Brewers to win!

**Carly.** Wow, good theory. That actually makes a lot of sense! And yet, it's also kind of a let down?

**Lewis.** You think?

**Carly.** Well, hear me out. Being scared can actually be a little fun? But a ghost who only cares about baseball kind of isn't as scary. Ya know?

**H-dad.** Incoming message from BUTTHED HQ.

**P.A. Voice.** Attention Butthead employees, five minutes until the end of "take your lunch to work" lunch break. Finish showing it around, and eat it!

**Carly.** Time to head back?

**Lewis.** Bottom of the ninth. Let's go!

**Carly.** We went back down to the elevator, and moment's later.

(Soundbite of elevator travel noises.)

**Odie.** Welcome back! How was the haunted hotel?

**Lewis.** Well, the decor was amazing. We didn't get to try room service, but.

**Odie.** Yes, yes, the haunted part.

**Lewis.** I was getting to that. It was,

**Carly.** Kinda haunting! We heard from a waiter that the hotel may have been built on an old graveyard, which could be where the haunting rumors first came from. Either way there's not really any hard evidence, but I would say there's something vaguely strange about the place.

**Odie.** Ghosts? Spirits?

**Carly.** We only came up with an interesting theory, that if there is something paranormal there, maybe it's the ghost of the hotel's founder, Charles Pfister, scaring all these out-of-town baseball players cause he wants his own team to win. Which, as far as ghosts go, kinda makes it a little less scary. (gasps) Wait a minute, that's what you meant with your riddle Odie!

(Soundbite of wind chimes.)

**Odie.** The why can make the what less AHHH!

**Carly.** You meant that learning more information, the why, about something that scares you, the what, can make it less threatening, the AHH!

**Odie.** Whenever I find myself scared about something, my first step is always to try and understand it at least a little bit better.

**Carly.** I like it!

**Odie.** As you should Have a pleasant rest of your day basement companion!Y ou too Lewis.

**Carly.** As Lewis walked me back to my desk, I said what I was pretty sure we were both thinking.

**Carly.** Odie's advice applies to this scary letter I got too, doesn't it?

**Lewis.** Sure does! Sounds like the first step might be to try and figure out who wrote it and what they want. If we understand it better, it won't be so scary!

**Carly.** Exactly! Plus it's like you said earlier: whoever wrote it hasn't turned us in, and with these questions they're asking, and the fact that they wanted us to know that they know? It's all a little odd, it's almost a little mystery in itself.

**Lewis.** A mystery wrapped in a mystery!

**Carly.** Oh yeah, add some bacon and we got a mystery burrito! So tune in next time, cause the mystery of the mysterious letter is just getting started. Until then, this is Carly Q, signing off. And remember: you never heard this!Wait what if the letter came from a listener! You didn't write it! Did you?