

# OBLIVITY

A scripted comedy podcast series

Written by Rob Stringer/Produced by Joe Carr

## BONUS EPISODE

### PERFECT PARTNERS

**POPPY :** RELATIONSHIP COUNSELLOR. CALM, REASSURING AND CONTROLLED (UNTIL THE END). (JEN SUGDEN)

**REGINALD :** AN INTERROGATOR (ALISTAIR NUNN)

**HORACE :** AN INTERROGATOR (RALPH WATSON)

1    **SCENE ONE:           INT. OFFICE.**

2    **FX:**            **A PHONE RINGS; IS PICKED UP (JOE: THERE COULD**  
3                    **BE CARTOONISH VOICE ON OTHER SIDE OF PHONE TO**  
4                    **REPRESENT MAYHEW... UNLESS THAT'S TOO SILLY...)**

5    POPPY:            You're through to Poppy at *Poppy's Perfect*  
6                    *Partners Relationship Counselling:*

7                    'You won't find anyone better, so you may as  
8                    well settle for us.'

9                    **BEAT**

10                   Field Marshall Mayhew! What an honour!

11                   **BEAT**

12                   As you yourself know, I *pride* myself on my  
13                   discretion!

14                   (NOT-REALLY-WHIPERING WHISPERING) Is this about  
15                   your husband and the *mar-gar-ine*?

16                   **BEAT**

17                   New clients? I'd be thrilled!

18                   **BEAT**

19                   Senior ranking officials?

20                   **BEAT**

21                   Nothing I can't cancel. Understood. Thank you,  
22                   Field Marshall Mayhew.

23                   And do give me a call if your husband moves  
24                   onto anything less *savoury*.

25                   (NOT-REALLY-WHISPERING) *Like marmalade.*

26    **FX:**            **PUTS PHONE DOWN**

27

28

29    **MUSIC:**           **BRIEF INTRO MUSIC**

30    ROB/JOE:           Perfect Partners: An *Oblivity* mini-episode  
31                    starring Alistair Nunn, Ralph Watson and  
32                    special guest Jen Sugden.

33

34

1 **SCENE TWO:           INT. OFFICE.**

2 **FX:                   KNOCK KNOCK**

3 POPPY:               Come in!

4 **FX:                   THE DOOR OPENS - STANDARD DOOR, RATHER THAN**  
5 **FUTURISTIC (BECAUSE WE'RE BACK ON MARS) .**

6                       PAUSE

7 POPPY:               (WARMLY) Well? Do come in!

8 REGINALD:           After you, Honeybear.

9 HORACE:              (ACCUSINGLY) Oh don't even think about it...

10 REGINALD:           I don't know what you mean.

11 HORACE:              You're putting on a show; he's putting on a  
12 show.

13 REGINALD:           I would *really* like you to go through the door  
14 first.

15 HORACE:              And what if I don't want to? How about that?

16 REGINALD:           We can't fit through the door together!

17 HORACE:              No. I don't suppose we can.

18 REGINALD:           Right. Well if you won't go in first, then I  
19 will.

20 HORACE:              *Typical.*

21 **FX:                   TWO PAIRS FOOTSTEPS**

22 POPPY:               Poppy. Pleased to meet you. And it's... Reginald?

23 REGINALD:           That's me.

24 POPPY:               And Horace.

25 HORACE:              Hello!

26 REGINALD:           Will this take long?

27 POPPY:               It'll take as long as it takes, Reginald. If  
28 you'd like to shut the door behind you, and  
29 take a - oh!

30 **FX:                   ONE PAIR FOOTSTEPS**

31 REGINALD:           Ah, this is our security detail, Fernando. You  
32 don't mind do you?

33 POPPY:               (TACTFULLY) Personally, I don't mind at all -  
34 and it is entirely your call - however it does

1                   tend to enable more effective communication  
2                   when the conversation is *just between us*.

3 REGINALD:       Nevertheless, Fernando is with us wherever we  
4                   go.

5 HORACE:           (BITTERLY) Yes, he really is.

6 REGINALD:       Exactly.

7 HORACE:           Sometimes it's hard to go *anywhere* without  
8                   Fernando being there.

9 REGINALD:       Yes...

10 HORACE:          In fact, sometimes it feels like Fernando is  
11                   there even when he's *not* there.

12 REGINALD:       Perhaps you *should* wait outside, thank you  
13                   Fernando.

14 HORACE:          (SARCASTIC) Yes. Thank you *so much* Fernando.

15 **FX:**           **FERNANDO WALKS OUT, AND DOOR CLOSSES**

16 POPPY:           Good. Now. First, I'd like to reassure you that  
17                   here at *Poppy's Perfect Partners* we pride  
18                   ourselves on-

19 REGINALD:       We can skip the fluff, thank you.

20 HORACE:          Don't mind him, he's always like this.

21 REGINALD:       I just want to get things moving and solve this  
22                   problem. Not that we have a problem!

23 POPPY:           And I can reassure you that you're in a safe  
24                   space. You can say anything you like within  
25                   these four walls.

26 REGINALD:       Then may I start by saying: "I don't want to be  
27                   within these four walls."

28 POPPY:           That's a *great* start, Reginald. Honesty is the  
29                   first step of the ladder.

30 REGINALD:       Hear that Horace? We're on the ladder! All  
31                   better now. Shall we?

32 HORACE:          You stay right where you are, mister.

33 POPPY:           I sense discomfort, Reginald.

34 REGINALD:       Discomfort with our private matters being held  
35                   up for appraisal by a complete stranger? Yes  
36                   maybe a little.

1 POPPY: I can assure you I'm fully qualified.

2 HORACE: See? She's fully qualified.

3 REGINALD: In what? Veterinary science? Carpentry?  
4 Quilting?

5 POPPY: (FIRMLY) My counselling certificate is right  
6 here on the wall behind me.

7 (LESS FIRMLY) No, next to the quilting one.

8 HORACE: Look, mister, Mayhew said 'no more assignments  
9 until we settle our differences', so we're  
10 doing this whether you like it or not.

11 REGINALD: *Hmph.*

12 POPPY: I understand you work together. May I ask your  
13 profession?

14 REGINALD: Why do you ask?

15 HORACE: What is your reason?

16 POPPY: I'd like to know-

17 REGINALD: Oh she wants to know.

18 HORACE: She wants to know.

19 POPPY: Yes I want to-

20 REGINALD: Why do you want to know?

21 HORACE: What will knowing achieve?

22 REGINALD: What's knowing ever done for you?

23 HORACE: Shouldn't you leave knowing to the grown-ups?

24 POPPY: Well - I...

25 REGINALD

26 & HORACE: [BOTH LAUGH SMUGLY]

27 REGINALD: A little demonstration.

28 HORACE: (PROUDLY) We're *interrogators!*

29 REGINALD: No Horace, we're Enhanced Human Intelligence  
30 Auditors. Remember the training.

31 HORACE: How could I forget the training! He denied me  
32 any of my favourite French pastries until I'd  
33 finished my thesis.

34 Now *that's* psychological torture.

1 POPPY: That's very helpful thank you. Now I'd like to  
2 ask a few more questions, so that I can see the  
3 bigger picture. Think of it as filling in the  
4 details on... Oh I don't know - a quilt for  
5 instance.

6 So. What brought you here today?

7 HORACE: (ACCUSINGLY) *Fernando* did.

8 REGINALD: *Horace*...

9 HORACE: I just mean he's our driver!

10 REGINALD: Fine.

11 HORACE: (SULKY) Driving a big wedge between us...

12 REGINALD: In truth it all started with a... *challenging*  
13 assignment we were given recently. We needed to  
14 elicit some information from a suspected  
15 Defector at a research station out at the edge  
16 of the- well, you don't need to know all that.

17 POPPY: I can assure you that everything you tell me is  
18 treated with the utmost confidentiality.

19 REGINALD: The upshot is: Mayhew believed we could have  
20 had more... *focus*.

21 POPPY: I see. And this 'suspected Defector'?

22 HORACE: Oh she was a peach!

23 POPPY: Innocent?

24 REGINALD: We have a 'watching brief' of sorts, just in  
25 case she - Hold on, why do you ask?

26 HORACE: Reggie...

27 POPPY: Oh - I'm sorry, it's just the details can often  
28 help to shed light on-

29 HORACE: No need to apologise. You see, this is one of  
30 our issues. He's always 'on'.

31 REGINALD: 'On'?

32 HORACE: Take last weekend. At the independent Belgian  
33 cinema, he's on. At the craft gin distillery,  
34 he's on. At the independent artisanal bakery,  
35 he's on.

36 REGINALD: Yes, I think -

1 HORACE: The raw food tapas bar, he's on.

2 REGINALD: I think she-

3 HORACE: And at every other exhibit at the municipal  
4 museum of gentrification -

5 REGINALD: I think she gets it!

6 **EXTENDED PAUSE**

7 HORACE: He's on.

8 REGINALD: Ugh...

9 POPPY: Sometimes when you work with your significant  
10 other, it can be difficult to separate work  
11 from life. Boundaries *blur*.

12 HORACE: I found him interrogating our Pomeranian last  
13 week.

14 REGINALD: I wasn't interrogating our-

15 HORACE: I caught it on my tape recorder. Look, I  
16 brought it to show you:

17 **FX: CLICK OF TAPE RECORDER**

18 REGINALD: (D) Where have you been playing, little  
19 Estragon? Hmm? What's all this mud in our  
20 kitchen? Oh no, those eyes won't work on me...

21 **FX: TAPE RECORDER CLICKS OFF**

22 REGINALD: Well I needed to solve the mystery of the muddy  
23 paw-prints.

24 HORACE: *Mystery?*

25 POPPY: Would you say you're both active listeners?

26 HORACE: I would say I'm an active listener.

27 REGINALD: You see there's the most horrid mog next door  
28 that I swear sometimes strays in through our  
29 doggy-flap, and I didn't want to jump to  
30 conclusions, but- What are you looking at?

31 POPPY: Let's try a different tack. If you don't mind  
32 me asking; how are things - *in the bedroom?*

33 HORACE: Oh, wonderful!

34 REGINALD: Yes, now *that* we can agree on.

35 POPPY: Really? That's excellent!

1 HORACE: I have pictures - look!

2 POPPY: Oh... gosh... well I don't think that's necessa-

3 HORACE: A marvellous bespoke cedar bed, and pine  
4 floorboards;

5 REGINALD: It's a rustic look-

6 HORACE: Light moulded panels-

7 REGINALD: Floor-to-ceiling wood beams-

8 HORACE: Velvet chocolate furnishing;

9 REGINALD: And our rust cashmere-effect carpet really  
10 brings a sense of cabin-cosiness to the space.

11 HORACE: My heart's *racing* just *thinking* about the Roman  
12 shades and mid-century style dressing table.

13 POPPY: A shared passion! Progress!

14 Let's take that lovely feeling, hold it firmly  
15 but delicately - like a quilting needle - and  
16 go back to the beginning. What made you fall in  
17 love?

18 HORACE: I know that one. It was when I first came to  
19 the academy. He was lecturing and I was in the  
20 audience. He cut a fine figure in his  
21 herringbone tweed suit.

22 POPPY: Ah! Love at first sight?

23 HORACE: Indeed it was - wasn't it Reggie.

24 **PAUSE**

25 Reggie?

26 REGINALD: Hmm?

27 HORACE: It was love at first sight, wasn't it.

28 REGGIE: Yes, yes I'm sure it was.

29 HORACE: It was! You said we locked eyes when you saw me  
30 in the front row.

31 REGGIE: Well, I mean I saw a lot of people, of which  
32 you were probably one.

33 HORACE: You said I stood out from the crowd when I  
34 asked a question which demonstrated my  
35 startling insight!



1 REGINALD: Ah yes, of course. You asked about pre-  
2 supposition-bearing questions.

3 HORACE: No...

4 REGINALD: The Reid technique?

5 HORACE: No!

6 REGINALD: No, you're right - that was the other one-

7 HORACE: Other one?

8 REGINALD: Ah...

9 HORACE: Exactly *how* many students did you... 'compliment  
10 on their startling insight'?!

11 REGINALD: Look, it doesn't matter either way, because I  
12 still fell in love with *you*, didn't I!

13 **PAUSE**

14 HORACE: Bet you'd have remembered Fernando.

15 REGGIE: Oh *stop* it about Fernando! You don't have to  
16 worry about Fernando! I don't care a fig about  
17 stupid, ugly, hairy, smelly *Fernando*!

18 **FX: DOOR OPENS**

19 REGGIE: Oh, no - I mean a *different* Fernando.

20 **FX: DOOR CLOSES**

21 **PAUSE**

22 POPPY: OK. I've drawn some initial conclusions, and  
23 have some thoughts on how we can move forward.  
24 If you agree with my cursory observations, we  
25 can do some focused work over the next few  
26 weeks to fix them.

27 Now: Reginald, we need to work on helping you  
28 understand how to pay more attention to  
29 Horace's needs; while Horace, we can work on  
30 your capacity for trusting Reginald.

31 How does that sound?

32 PAUSE

33 POPPY: Do you... do you agree?

34 PAUSE

1 POPPY: (NERVOUSLY) Why are you looking at me like  
2 that?

3 REGINALD: Do we agree, she asks?

4 HORACE: Yes; do we agree?

5 PAUSE

6 POPPY: I'm sorry - did I say something-

7 REGINALD: Oh we agree exactly.

8 HORACE: Oh we agree entirely.

9 REGINALD: But we don't agree with you.

10 HORACE: No we don't agree with you.

11 POPPY: What?

12 REGINALD: You think this is his fault?

13 POPPY: I didn't say th-

14 HORACE: You think this is *his* fault?

15 POPPY: It's nobody's fault-

16 REGINALD: Who are you anyway?

17 HORACE: What gives you the right?

18 POPPY: As your relationship counsellor - I-

19 REGINALD: A counsellor she says

20 HORACE: A counsellor she says.

21 REGINALD: But who needs the help?

22 HORACE: Yes, who's lost their way?

23 POPPY: I don't-

24 REGINALD: Who's lost the thread?

25 HORACE: Who's lost the plot?

26 REGINALD: Who asked you to speak?

27 HORACE: Who told you to listen?

28 POPPY: Field Marshall Mayhew called and-

29 REGINALD: Then listen to us.

30 HORACE: Then hear what we say.

31 REGINALD: There are things that you *know*.

1 HORACE: And things that you *think*.

2 REGINALD: But the things that you *think*-

3 HORACE: Are the things that *we know*.

4 REGINALD: You want to hear answers.

5 HORACE: But the truth is: you've not been asking the  
6 right questions.

7 R& H: *Have you.*

8 POPPY: I don't know what you're-

9 **EXTENDED PAUSE**

10 POPPY: (GIVING IN. SHE HAS LOST.) OK, how did you  
11 guess?

12 REGINALD: How did we guess what?

13 HORACE: How did we guess what?

14 POPPY: Oh come on, something gave it away. Did you  
15 follow me? Bug my office? What was it?

16 REGINALD: I'm sure we don't know what you're talking  
17 about.

18 POPPY: The sheer amount of *training* I went through,  
19 just to be in a *position* like this, privy to  
20 all your useful little secrets, while gaining  
21 your complete trust - but I missed something.  
22 What did I miss?

23 *What did I miss?!*

24 REGINALD: (OVER-THE-TOP INNOCENCE) Our *secrets*?

25 HORACE: You mean to say you're a...

26 REGINALD &

27 HORACE: Defector?

28 POPPY: Well - Of *course* I am!

29 REGINALD: This is serious.

30 HORACE: This is very serious.

31 REGINALD: We can't sit on our hands you know.

32 HORACE: We can't let the grass grow under our feet.

33 REGINALD: Oh *Fernando!*

34 **FX: DOOR OPENS**

1 POPPY: How did you *know*?

2 REGINALD: My dear.

3 HORACE: My darling.

4 REGINALD: You said it yourself.

5 HORACE: You told us yourself.

6 REGINALD: Shouted it from the rooftops.

7 POPPY: Ah! - but you have no evidence!

8 HORACE: That's not *quite* true.

9 POPPY: The tape recorder... Oh no...

10 What are you going to do to me?

11 REGINALD: Rehabilitation, I'm afraid.

12 HORACE: Nasty business.

13 REGINALD: Dreadful business.

14 HORACE: *Excruciating* business.

15 POPPY: Please... No... I'll do anything... what can I do?

16 REGINALD: What could you possibly do?

17 HORACE: What could you possibly give us?

18 REGINALD: All you have is this business.

19 HORACE: All you have are your clients.

20 REGINALD: With interesting lives.

21 HORACE: And interesting secrets...

22 **PAUSE**

23 POPPY: Wait! (NOT ENTIRELY COMFORTABLE WITH THE CORNER  
24 SHE'S TRAPPED IN) I.. I *know* things... About  
25 *people*...

26 **PAUSE**

27 REGINALD: (DISGUSTED) An *informant*?

28 HORACE: (DISGUSTED) A *snitch*?

29 REGINALD: A grass?

30 HORACE: A rat?

31 **PAUSE**

1 POPPY: (UNCERTAIN OF HERSELF) Y... yes...

2 **PAUSE**

3 REGINALD: (EAGERLY) Now that's an idea!

4 HORACE: Now that's thinking outside the box!

5 REGINALD: Take her away, Fernando!

6 POPPY: Get- Get off me you rotter! You two are  
7 monsters! Monsters! You *unstitched* me... *like a*  
8 *quiiiiilt*...

9 REGINALD: Au revoir for now!

10 HORACE: Chat to you later!

11 **FX: DOOR CLOSES**

12 R & H: [BOTH SIGH]

13 REGINALD: Well.

14 HORACE: Well.

15 REGINALD: That was a turn up for the books.

16 HORACE: A revelation and no mistake.

17 REGINALD: When you have Defectors about-

18 HORACE: Reggie and Horace will sniff them out.

19 REGINALD: Well - we'd better report back to Mayhew.

20 HORACE: Absolutely.

21 REGINALD: Should we review the evidence first?

22 HORACE: Ah yes, the evidence!

23 **FX: CLICK OF TAPE RECORDER**

24 REGINALD: (D) Well if it wasn't you, Estragon? Then who  
25 could it have been? Hmm?

26 Oh I can't stay mad at you!

27 **FX: CLICKS OFF**

28 REGINALD: Perhaps I *am* too hard on the poor thing.

29 HORACE: We'll talk to the neighbours about that cat  
30 this afternoon.

31 REGINALD: You know, we really have quite the perfect  
32 partnership.

1 HORACE: We really do.

2 **FX: CHAIRS ARE SHIFTED BACK**

3 REGINALD: Yes, this little *shtick* of ours is really quite  
4 effective.

5 HORACE: Yes it -

6 **PAUSE**

7 -what little *shtick*?

8 REGINALD: This methodology. For rooting out defectors.

9 HORACE: Methodology?

10 REGINALD: Well... Yes.

11 HORACE: You mean to say this was just an enhanced human  
12 intelligence audit to you?

13 REGINALD: Well... wasn't it?

14 HORACE: You weren't here to save our relationship?

15 REGINALD: Well no of course n-  
16 Were you?

17 HORACE: I thought that was why we were here! I thought  
18 we were doing something proactive!

19 REGINALD: We are! We found a Defector!

20 HORACE: And that's all you care about, is it?

21 REGINALD: Look, can we talk about this later? We could go  
22 and share a mille feuille, and-

23 HORACE: You don't get away with it that easily, mister.

24 **FX: DOOR OPENS**

25 HORACE: And don't you even *think* about going through  
26 that door first.

27 **END**