

AFTER HOURS

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EXT. WONDER WORLD THEME PARK - MAIN ROAD - NIGHT

MATTHEW, 19, theme park worker, and CHARLES, 19, photographer, run down the middle of the street and look behind them.

The street is empty. At the end stands Magic Mansion, the centerpiece of the park.

Closed shops line the street. The only light comes from the lampposts scattered every few feet. \*

They turn a corner and Matthew dives behind a popcorn cart and pulls Charles in. Matthew peeks around.

Nothing there. For now. He hides again next to his friend.

They catch their breath.

MATTHEW (V.O.)

You're probably wondering how we got into this mess. Well, it's kind of a long story and it goes something like this.

INT. THEME PARK - BREAK ROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Charles groans as he listens to Matthew.

MATTHEW

This week has been amazing. I still can't believe I'm working here.

Charles rolls his eyes.

CHARLES

Matty, you're my best and oldest friend, but you have a problem.

Matthew adjusts his name tag and smiles.

MATTHEW

This is my dream job, Charlie. \*

CHARLES

Dude, it's a part time job. I just don't want you to be Jimmy Olsen when you can be Clark Kent.

Matthew shakes his head.

MATTHEW

Always the journalism metaphors.  
Look, you know I've wanted to do  
this since I was a kid.

\*  
\*

Charles stands and grabs his camera.

CHARLES

I know, Matty, but you've done a  
lot for me. I don't want you to be  
stuck. Remember, this is only  
temporary while we're in college.

\*

Matthew smiles. They exit.

\*

INT. WONDER WORLD THEME PARK - GUEST SERVICES - DAY

Matthew hands a map to a TOURIST. He smiles.

\*

MATTHEW

Those are just rumors, sir. Wonder  
World is amazing. I love working  
here. Have a wonderful day.

The Tourist smiles and leaves. Matthew organizes his desk.  
Another TOURIST enters.

\*

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

Can I help you with something?

The tourist nods.

TOURIST #2

My daughter, Susan, lost her  
stuffed Socko and we can't find it  
anywhere. It has her initials  
stitched in it. Could you please  
help?

Matthew nods and hands the tourist a new Socko plush.

MATTHEW

Here's a new stuffed animal. I hope  
your daughter enjoys it.

TOURIST #2

Thank you so much. This will cheer  
her up.

The tourist leaves.

Charles enters.

\*

MATTHEW  
How can I help you?

He looks up.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)  
Oh, Charlie. Are you done?

CHARLES  
Yeah, finally. Don't forget they're  
doing that systems upgrade tonight.  
I'll wait for you.

Matthew nods.

MATTHEW  
I know. The boss keeps saying that  
everything will be shut down. See  
you in a bit. Bye.

CHARLES  
Bye.

Charles leaves. Matthew returns to work.

INT. WONDER WORLD THEME PARK - GUEST SERVICES - NIGHT

The office is quiet as Matthew finishes his work. He looks up  
and notices that there is no one else there.

Matthew sees Charles asleep on a bench. He wakes him up.

CHARLES  
Took you long enough.

Matthew chuckles.

MATTHEW  
I must've worked so much that I  
didn't notice the time.

They grab their things and walk to the employee exit. The  
door is locked.

Charles tries the other door, which is also locked. He shakes  
his head.

Matthew picks up the phone to call security, but there is no  
response.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)  
Nothing. I forgot about the system  
upgrade.

CHARLES

Let's go to see if anyone is there.

They walk to the front of Guest Services. The door is open. They head out on their way to the security office.

EXT. WONDER WORLD THEME PARK - MAIN ROAD - NIGHT

They look at the end of the street. Matthew grins.

MATTHEW

I always wondered what it was like after the park closes.

He takes out his phone and takes a picture of Magic Mountain at the end of the empty street.

Charles groans.

CHARLES

You do realize that we're stuck here, right? Everything's locked down.

As they walk, MUSIC turns on. They stop and look around.

MATTHEW

That's weird.

Charles shrugs and they continue to explore.

A screen turns on in one of the shop windows. A cartoon plays.

CHARLES

This isn't even supposed to be on. I guess someone forgot to turn it off earlier.

Matthew grins.

MATTHEW

I remember this episode. It's where we find out that Socko doesn't like bright flashing lights.

On a window display sits a plush of SOCKO THE SOCK MONKEY, mascot. Matthew looks at it.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

So cute.

Charles rolls his eyes and they walk off. Socko's eyes follow them as they walk past the display.

They turn a corner and enter the backstage area.

EXT. WONDER WORLD THEME PARK - BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

The backstage area is a maze of different doors and alleyways that lead into various parts of the park.

MATTHEW

The security office has to be here  
somewhere.

They check some of the doors, but they are locked.

A shadow passes and they hear FOOTSTEPS.

They go in that direction.

CHARLES

Matty, I don't think this is a good  
idea.

MATTHEW

Hello? Anyone there?

No response.

They shiver, walk faster, and turn a corner. Matthew jumps when he and Charles see a poster of Socko on the wall.

CHARLES

It's just a poster, man.

Matthew sighs.

They see the security office door and walk in.

INT. WONDER WORLD THEME PARK - SECURITY OFFICE - NIGHT

Monitors line two of the walls of a medium-size room. They show different areas of the park. The third side has an organized desk with phones and computers on it.

MATTHEW

Hello? Anyone here?

No response.

Matthew walks to the phone and tries to call, but there's still no signal.

The computers run a script. Charles looks at them.

CHARLES

I guess the upgrade is still going.

The monitors change to show Socko eating intestines of his lifeless victim.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

Oh god. Matty, I think you should see this.

Matthew goes over and moves back.

MATTHEW

Ew, what is this? I don't remember this episode at all.

Then, it shows Socko using the intestines in some sort of cake, but it is hard to tell with the low quality of the footage.

CHARLES

What the hell?

Matthew gasps and they run out.

EXT. WONDER WORLD THEME PARK - BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

They scramble into an unfamiliar area.

MATTHEW

Come on, come on, come on.

He tries a door that opens. They run in.

INT. WONDER WORLD THEME PARK - COSTUME ROOM - NIGHT

Matthew turns on the light and sees the decapitated heads of different mascot suits.

CHARLES

This is so freaky.

Arms, legs, and torsos adorn the place in different positions.

They cough when the smell of sweat and mold hits them.

They hear SCRATCHES coming from a pile of limbs in the corner.

A Socko mascot suit rises from the collection of parts. Charles takes a picture of it and it lets out a SCREECH once the flash hits him.

CHARLES (CONT'D)  
Alright, that's weird. I don't  
think it's supposed to do that.

Socko stares at them.

SOCKO  
Hi there.

MATTHEW  
Socko?

Socko takes his head off as Matthew and Charles back up to the door.

SOCKO  
Give me your souls.

They scream and dash out of the costume room.

Socko stalks after them.

EXT. WONDER WORLD THEME PARK - BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

Matthew and Charles hurry down the alley and look for a way out. Socko follows them.

MATTHEW  
No, no, no, no, no.

They see the security office and dart in.

CHARLES  
Oh god, finally.

He locks the door behind them.

INT. WONDER WORLD THEME PARK - SECURITY OFFICE - NIGHT

Matthew runs to the monitors as Socko BANGS on the door.

Charles rummages through the desk and looks for a set of keys.

The monitor screen turns on and shows Socko playing hide and seek with several kids.

He snaps the necks of each of his victims when he finds them.



MATTHEW  
No, this can't be right.

CHARLES  
I know, Matty, I can hear it all  
from here.

The screen shows the last victims getting cut in half with  
two bear traps.

Matthew gags as blood sprays all over the screen.

MATTHEW  
Ugh, gross.

Charles finds the keys and they flee out the backdoor.

EXT. WONDER WORLD THEME PARK - BEHIND MAGIC MANSION - NIGHT

They run to the exit. Charles gives Matthew the keys and  
looks out for Socko.

Matthew selects one of the keys and tries to unlock the door.

MATTHEW  
Please work, please work, please  
work.

He sees Socko coming and drops the keys.

CHARLES  
What are you doing? He's coming.

He attempts to pick them up, but moves away from them as  
Socko closes in.

MATTHEW  
Why are you doing this? You were my  
favorite as a kid.

Socko stops and stares at him.

CHARLES  
Now isn't the time to talk to the  
demonic sock monkey. Grab the keys.

Matthew reaches for the set of keys, but Socko punches him.

CHARLES (CONT'D)  
Matty, no.

Matthew falls to the floor.

Socko kicks the keys away and approaches them.

They dodge him and scramble towards the mansion.

Around a corner, Matthew steps on a broken Socko stuffed animal with an SH stitched in it. It lets out a SQUEAK.

MATTHEW

That's Susan's stuffed Socko that  
she lost.

Charles looks back.

CHARLES

We need to get out of here, Matty.

Matthew gazes at Socko before they rush to the main road.

BACK TO PRESENT DAY

EXT. WONDER WORLD THEME PARK - MAIN ROAD - NIGHT

Matthew and Charles hide behind the popcorn cart as Socko hunts for them.

MATTHEW (V.O.)

And now, we're back to where we  
started. I knew that we had to do  
something although I was fearing  
for our lives and we were being  
chased by what I thought was a  
symbol of good and childhood  
innocence.

Matthew stands at an angle where his reflection can be seen  
on a store window.

CHARLES

Nice idea there.

Socko notices it and runs towards Matthew.

He crashes into the window as they slide from behind the  
cart.

MATTHEW

Socko, you were supposed to be  
good. Why do you want to kill  
someone like me? Someone who was  
your biggest fan?

Socko gets up and makes his way towards them.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)  
Now, Charlie.

Charles takes a picture of Socko.

The mascot stumbles back from the flash and shields his eyes.

They run towards the end of the street where the main entrance to the park is.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)  
I just need you to do this again,  
Charlie.

Charles nods.

Socko catches up and towers over them.

Matthew screams.

CHARLES  
This should be it.

He takes the picture. Socko SCREECHES and the suit collapses.

MATTHEW  
What?

They see that the suit is empty.

Charles kicks the head away and watches it roll down the street.

CHARLES  
Good riddance. It better stay away  
from us.

The gates open as the early shift arrives.

Matthew sighs and kicks at the mascot suit on the ground.

MATTHEW  
I'm thinking about quitting this  
job. You were right about it.

INT. MATTHEW'S APARTMENT - DAY

Matthew sits at his desk and types about the events of that night in his blog.

MATTHEW (V.O.)  
And that's why we quit our jobs at  
Wonder World.  
(MORE)

MATTHEW (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
If you're interested in working  
there, be sure to keep our story in  
mind.

Charles approaches him.

CHARLES  
Ready to go?

Matthew smiles and nods.

MATTHEW  
Ready as I'll ever be.

The two friends leave.

EXT. NEWSPAPER OFFICE - ENTRANCE - DAY

Matthew and Charles walk out of the office together, smiles  
on their faces.

CHARLES  
I'm so glad that we were able to  
quit that stupid theme park job to  
finally do what we're best at.

Matthew nods and smiles.

MATTHEW  
Agreed. My blog's going great and  
everyone loves it. I guess they  
believe that we were chased by a  
crazy sock monkey.

He laughs.

CHARLES  
At least they'll take our words on  
the company to heart.

Matthew nods.

MATTHEW  
I have an idea, Charlie. Why be  
Clark Kent when we could be  
Superman?

Charles smiles at him.

CHARLES  
Nice one, Matty. I think we should  
do just that.