



Spoilercast Episode 5: Get Me to the Church on Time

April 27, 2013

(Intro music)

Qui: (sighs) My god, #setlock today. It's oh, her dress. And Martin, he is so gorgeous in his suit and - (screams) Sherlock! Oh my god! Benedict! Oh my god! Ah, his crotch! Oh god!

Dixie: What are you doing?

Qui: Um, nothing. Nothing.

Dixie: I heard "Benedict's crotch." Oh, come on, let me see. What are you doing? What are you doing?

Qui: No, no, no, don't look, don't look. Don't look, I have #setlock up. New pictures. Oh my god, no, don't look! Believe me!

Dixie: Oh, yes, yes, come on! Move, move! I want to see. I want to see!

Qui: No, you really don't want to see these, Dixie. You really don't.

Dixie: Yeah, I do. Yeah. Why? What's wrong?

Qui: No, you'll be sorry. Just, just trust me, Don't look at this #setlock.

Dixie: Okay, I'm scared now. Why, why don't you want me to see it?

Qui: Oh fuck! Just don't, don't say I didn't try to warn you!

Dixie: Oh! What the fuck is... Oh my god! That's Amanda, she's... Oh god no. Noooo. She's in a wedding dress. Oh noooo!

Qui: I'm afraid so. Shit! I'm so sorry, Dix!

Dixie: (whimpers) Noooo. But John is supposed to be with Sherlock! Oh god. No! (crying)

Qui: You know this was going to happen, Dixie. It's ok. Breathe!

Dixie: It's not supposed to be like this. No!

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Qui: Breathe! Breathe! It's okay. I mean, it's canon. It's, it's canon.

Dixie: I know it's canon! Okay? But this is Moffat and Gatiss. I thought they'd change it or something. But not this, I mean, I was invested, you know. I mean, Sherlock died for John!

Qui: Well, he's not actually dead, Dixie.

Dixie: I know that, okay? But he was willing to do it for John, and then he's supposed to come back and they're going to solve crimes together, and eat take-out, and have sex or, or suck each other's cocks in alleyways and Mary doesn't have a cock. (crying) Who is going to wear the red pants now?

Qui: I promise, Dixie, just because he's married doesn't mean people are gonna quit writing fanfiction. I mean, oh god, there will always be Red Pants Monday, always, always, always! I mean, it just means that all the John/Mary shippers will be so happy and we can all get along and, and like dance in rainbows and unicorns and shit, until she dies, of course! Don't forget that! That's canon, too!

Dixie: That's right! She does die. Okay, that's good. I hope she dies soon.

Qui: Just, just think of all the awesome hurt/comfort fic you will get from that.

Dixie: Yeah, that's true. Okay, are you sure they're gonna write, are they still gonna write Johnlock, you think?

Qui: Oh god, hell yes. There's gonna be so much new Johnlock from series three. So much, I promise!

Dixie: Okay.

Qui: So, you're feeling better?

Dixie: Yeah, I suppose so.

Qui: Do you wanna see the picture of Lestrade and Molly at the wedding? It's super cute!

Dixie: MOLLY? Lestrade's supposed to be with Mycroft! No! God!

Qui: OH, FOR FUCK'S SAKE!

Dixie: God, no! (cries)

(music: Going to the Chapel by The Dixie Cups)

Shannon: And hi everyone. This is Spoilercast Episode 5 and this is Shannon.

Emma: This is Emma.

Drinkingcocoa: This is Drinkingcocoa.

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Katie: And this is Katie.

Shannon: Katie is kind of new on board here, but she is filling in for Dixie who's still in recovery, I think, after the shock of this week.

Drinkingcocoa: (laughs) Poor Dixie!

Shannon: Yes, yes, but we're going to get around to that in just a moment. Emma, why don't you take us away with the first bit of spoilers?

Emma: Alright, so this week started off with a tweet from Sue Vertue who tweeted a picture of a – what was obviously like a place setting at a wedding. A little card that said Sherlock Holmes. Everybody kind of freaked out. What could it mean? What could it mean? And then we had some location tweets. We learned that there was an email that was sent - we mentioned this, actually, in our last episode – but there was an email that was sent out to the students at Bristol, Bristol College I believe, telling them that Sherlock was going to be filming there for about ten days. And the location that they were going to be filming in is a place that is frequently used for weddings. So, of course everyone thought 'aaaah, we have rat, wedding, bow, this is the wedding episode'. So there was lots of speculation about who is getting married. Was it, you know, there were some great gifs that were going around that were Sherlock and John, they are still going around. There's Sherlock and John and like John is in the wedding dress, which kind of cracks me up, but anyway, I have yet to see it how it works the other way around, right now it's John with the veil.

Shannon: Yeah.

Emma: There's a lot of that going on. And so there was some speculation about what was happening and whether Sherlock was actually there or not. But then when some more pictures started to come out we had a confirmation. We had Amanda in a wedding dress, we had Sherlock standing next to John looking like he is the best man, so he is actually there. And then we have a picture of the kiss between the bride and groom.

Shannon: Yes! I was so happy. I was - I set out like my dream came true while Dixie was sobbing. (laughing)

Emma: (*joins laughing*)

Drinkingcocoa: We've got death notes from Dixie.

Shannon: Poor Dixie.

Emma: So, the first, I guess the first that's the big thing everybody is talking about is the wedding. So John and Mary getting hitched.

Shannon: Or still not confirmed Mary but pretty much this is telling us that it's Mary, right, at this point...

Emma: There's so much evidence that points to Mary that I think, you know, I feel like, we're like that proverbial TV reporter. It's like the "alleged," you know, perpetrator of the crime.

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Drinkingcocoa: Yeah.

Emma: It's like, ok look. There is so much evidence. I mean, especially even, we'll get into some casting spoilers a little bit later, but yeah.

Shannon: There's been a rumour about this now whether – I think this is kinda interesting – are Martin and Amanda actually getting married on set.

Emma: Right. Well there, I think there were -- this is coming from that -- there was a kind of a tongue-in-cheek tweet from Amanda about how it didn't even feel like work today. Now you can take that a lot of different ways, right? But some fans were like 'Did they really get married?', because we all know that they are not, as far as we know, actually married. So...

Shannon: Yeah, there's been a lot of trolling coming from members of the cast, and family, and associates and yeah... Even Sue, I mean, starting off the week with that teaser, oh, they really wanted to whip us into a frenzy.

Emma: They did. You know, there, there's been a lot of discussion since a few weeks ago when Sue said you know, please don't tweet spoilers or whatever and that the fandom got into a bit in a frenzy about that. But I think the cast and crew seem to have just accepted the fact that this is, this is the way it's gonna be. They haven't made any other requests. I think even some of the fandom frenzy around that seems to have died down a bit, especially since more of the cast and crew have been tweeting things. So, it's kind of, maybe that 'if you can't beat them join them' kind of a thing. I don't know, but...

Drinkingcocoa: I feel like we are watching them learn how to negotiate the current Twitter / tumblr relationship between them and us. I feel like they learned since even that tweet that Sue sent out. Also, they are in a safer location. We see them actually putting on a performance for us. I feel like, as Shannon was saying in the last episode, it's like they have this whole other production that, if you follow #setlock, you can watch along with them.

Shannon: Yeah, we can. We are, you know, experiencing theatre within theatre in a sense here. It's the performance of the production before the actual final production. It's the masturbating and then the sex. That's what we're getting.

(laughing)

Emma: There you go. That's what it's like. There you go.

Shannon: But you know what, I kinda wanna bring this around to that again. This all started off by another tweet by Sue. I mean it's a teaser tweet but that led to a lot of speculation. And again, there are people who were treating that as a spoiler, so they're staying away from it, but it's really what appears to be the place card setting and that has led to a lot of discussion because now people are looking at the significance of the symbolism.

Emma: This has led to a lot of analysis of the place cards. Whether if they are in fact place cards, but also what are the symbols supposed to be. What is it supposed to represent, you know, beyond is it just a wedding? Is it something else? So, people have been looking carefully at the birds and

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then trying to see, are these indeed related to the magpie that we saw in the end of the Reichenbach episode? You know, the symbol that was on all the notes that Jim was leaving. So was this in fact in some way a warning or are we just being a bit ridiculous? It's a little bit of a joke, but then Amanda tweeted something along this early on: Is this just a game of Cluedo? And we are actually watching a mystery unfold or a joke.

Drinkingcocoa: I love that tweet from Sue, that twit pic, because it looks like a presentation for us, the fans, to deduce. It's such a package of clues. First of all the whole, you know, in this show we've seen it, even, before: the present gift-wrapped with the bow. It's like 'okay, you have to open this up and figure out what's going on'. It's so rich with symbolism. The colour of the bow, I know people were saying purple, that's also sort of a mourning colour. The calla lilies. You know, lilies, is that wedding or is that funeral? Is it remembrance? What's in the box? Is it chocolates, is it something else? Are those magpies? They look like magpies. Is this really what is on everyone's place setting? Is that something that's in Sherlock's memory? Is his the only place setting that looks like this? There were so much richness in the photo. And it was the first thing, wasn't it the first thing that hit #setlock on that Monday morning?

Emma: It seems like it.

Shannon: Yeah.

Drinkingcocoa: Yeah, it was Sue kind of taking control of this conversation like 'Here you go, have at it. Be like Sherlock. Deduce.'

Emma: Which is fantastic because that's, that's exactly why we're all here, right? I mean this is why we are doing this podcast. It's...

Shannon: It is.

Emma: It is. And it was - I think that a lot of us who have been continuing to talk about spoilers and we've all gotten some anon, anon-hate let's say, from people like 'you are not supposed to be doing this' and I think that was, it was a little bit of a moment of hehehe, you know? Look there, they, they're helping us.

Shannon: Yeah.

Emma: So it was kind of cool. Yeah, and so there was something else I saw we're talking about the place cards. I've seen people do things like morph to show how the birds on the card look like a J and an M. So it could be John and Mary, could be James Moriarty, right? So there's lot of interesting, there's been lots of interesting speculation. So fantastic, fantastic fun for everybody.

Shannon: But I think we have seen, and I think that has been lot of fun, and we have seen it's not the only place setting. In fact, there been other members, members of the production have place settings. That's been really cute, too, seeing those come out.

Emma: Right. Exactly, so is that – it raises the question: is that real? Is this really part of the episode or is it something else altogether?

Shannon: I think it is. I think it is.

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Drinkingcocoa: Well, we haven't seen any other character get a new place setting, right?

Shannon: No.

Drinkingcocoa: It's... So they just could be having fun with us. What we have seen is that the colour, the purple ribbon, does reoccur in the bridesmaid's dresses. So the colour is not a variable.

Katie: Speaking of colour, I noticed the day that the place card with Sherlock's name came out, another crew member tweeted a picture of his, of his card with his name on it. But I noticed, I don't know if anyone else did but the birds were different colours than the one on Sherlock's card. So it was like...

Emma: Oh.

Drinkingcocoa: Yes, which might be just a printing thing.

Emma: Or just a trick of the light. When you take a photo with your phone, I wonder. That's interesting. But I think also for me, it kind of brings me back around to this rumour that Martin and Amanda actually got married. Because, I mean ok, say why would they have Sherlock Holmes on a card except that could just be sort of a funny thing, but you have all this cast and crew, so it's like hmmm...

?: Yeah.

Emma: I think that would be fantastic if the entire thing - it would be fantastic on the one hand, if you know, if that really, if they really were getting married as part of this but it would also be kind of sad because of all the wank that kind of happened and...

Drinkingcocoa: Yeah.

Emma: ...the amount of alleged fandom hate. I stopped following the #setlock tag. I didn't actually follow but the amount of alleged hate that was directed at Amanda Abbington as a result of this, which is... yeah.

Katie: Uuuuh.

Shannon: But you know what? This has actually been an interesting phenomenon because I think it led to, well, I know people are frustrated to see the #setlock tag be taken over by opinion and not spoilers, but it's led to a lot of discussion. I think this goes back to what Drinkingcocoa was saying about it's almost as if they're learning as they go about how to navigate fandom and how to respond in such a public social media space and I thought that was... the comments that are coming out. I know, we're trying to represent here and I find it even in ourselves, different takes on how we responded to finding out about this wedding. So, you know Dixie was obviously having a bit of fun in the intro, Qui talking her down. And she's okay, because she's, she took her - I don't know if it was disappointment but you could hear how her position was responding to a certain [...] She had certain expectations about what would happen and how that might affect fanfiction or how that would affect - and this has been really great -- the relationship, whether it's romantic or not, between John and Sherlock. So, there's been a lot of talk around that, so now we introduced a third person so there's been really great meta around that. But then there's also been maybe an angrier

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side that has been disappointed but on a deeper level, not because they're not getting two hot white guys together but because of other things they were looking for.

Katie: I'm a stickler for books. Like when movies come out based on books, I will get mad if there's something missing and I know that in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's books, John's due to get married. So when those wedding photos came out I was just sort of indifferent: oh okay, you know.

Emma: It's interesting because if you read *The Sign of Four* they get engaged at the end of it but there's not a wedding, like in the story, per se, and I'm not familiar enough with the canon to know if there is actually a story in which there is a wedding. I kind of doubt it because that's not what the stories are about, right? They are about solving mysteries and things. So I did see some people on #setlock saying 'there was a wedding that was in the book' and I was like, but it wasn't in that book. I don't know what book they are talking about. So maybe someone who knows the canon better can actually correct me on that.

Katie: I haven't got to that far yet.

Emma: Feel free. Right.

Shannon: There been other responses and I know Cocoa had some meta takes on the responses to not just the spoiling but the tweets coming from Ian Hallard and Amanda Abbington.

Drinkingcocoa: Yeah. Yes, Ian Hallard's tweet, oy, that set off a storm when he just said 'nobody really actually thought that Johnlock was going to happen on the show, did they?' and I know a lot of people were really upset about that and I'm glad that I heard from them because I was really – I completely agreed with him. I didn't even notice that that could be taken as condescending or hurtful. My take on it was so much from the point of view of reading not Arthur Conan Doyle canon but the BBC Sherlock canon because they've been saying from the beginning, you know, this is about the relationship between John and Sherlock and how it grows through every circumstance, every extreme that they can think of to put these two through, and they were looking forward to covering John being married and moving out for a while. You know, this is something that they said I think shortly after Series 2 aired. So I had been paying attention to that, I knew that was coming, and I also knew that every single time they played with possible sexual or romantic interest between John and Sherlock it's always almost been alongside something else. What I felt, especially as a queer viewer, what they've been showing is 'we have to show that these two men are completely not homophobic and completely comfortable with each other to prove that they really are actually platonic friends and it's not that they're afraid of being in love with each other, it's not that there is unresolved sexual tension.' There isn't any. They are completely not homophobic. They are not together because they actually don't want each other that way. That's what I was reading when I was paying close attention to the show. So I was trying to figure out where the show creators were gonna go next with it and I was really following along with what Ian Hallard said was, you know like yeah, it would be a really big change in direction for them to go back on that and suddenly have John and Sherlock make out and get married on screen. And then when I saw how passionate people were, how incredibly genuinely upset they were, saying yes, actually we were holding out for that, I thought, okay. It's not logic; it's some passion. This is a story, there's a storytelling thing happening that's really important to people, whether or not it seems logical to me or to people writing the show or the people acting it. Whatever it is, it's important.

Emma: You know, it's very interesting to me as someone who – I think there are a lot of people in this fandom who came in, this is their first fandom or it's their first slash fandom – and that is really

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not the case for me. I've been in this, in slash fandom, for more than a decade. So when I came into the show, it was the slash factor that brought me in, but because I've been doing this for a long time, I kind of have a bit of an old fashioned slash attitude towards it, where it is completely separate from the canon for me and I'm fine with that. You know, every fandom I've been in, the slash ships have been things that were sort of intentionally taking hints from canon and twisting the stories around and making them into something else. It's been a transgressive act. It's been a transformative act. And so, I still see *Sherlock* that way, so I, I do really understand the fans who are looking at it and they saw these moments and they're now saying: so it's a big queer-baiting all along? It's that what you've been doing? You know, that you, you're saying that you can't possibly, you just can't possibly have it. I mean, I understand that perspective. It's not my perspective because for me the canon and the fandom are completely on different tracks. They, like, run parallel to each other, you know? There has also been a lot of really fantastic discussion about should the fans respond to this? Ivyblossom made a fantastic post, professorfangirl made a fantastic post and they are kind of getting at this idea that you know, if fandom, if being in fandom and being a slasher and enjoying the idea of having this relationship between John and Sherlock, if that makes you happy then go with it. And don't let anybody make feel you bad about that, so don't let anybody of the anti-slash sentiment that happens on #setlock, don't let that make you feel bad, don't let any of the tweets coming from the production staff saying all this was never gonna happen. No one said, no one used the word delusional – delusional is a loaded word, right?

Drinkingcocoa: Right.

Emma: You come from the Harry Potter fandom.

Drinkingcocoa: Yes.

Emma: No one has actually said that, but there's been, that sentiment has been there, right? And, so it's probably an over-simplification for a situation for people who are old-times slashers like me – I even had a conversation with Madlori about this recently, where she was like: yeah, you know whatever, it's not gonna change what I write cause I just write whatever the hell I wanna write. And I'm in that camp too. But on the other hand when I look at what was happening on the #setlock tag this week and all the people who are like 'our ship is sinking, I'm crying, oh it's horrible, I don't know if I'm even wanna watch series 3' then I start to wonder how this is going to affect the fandom. I know it's not going to affect the way I participate in fandom but I think for a lot of people it might and I'm still waiting to see how that's gonna play out.

Shannon: Yes, I think a lot of this started off - was it [yulabee? \(19:39\)](#) What's her name? There was a tumblr post that, I think, kind of dissected some of the disappointment that was coming from yet another place which Drinkingcocoa alluded to here. You know, people were, they were reading a different story or looking for something. Like for them, they saw that *Sherlock* had or has a place in the media space right now, a place to make a difference to represent and that would have been a possibility that's now been negated through setting up this heterosexual relationship in kind of confirmed, very established, perhaps heterosexual relationship now, between John and Mary, that they wanna take it to marriage. And this was something that a lot of people were expressing dismay in towards the tweet because they saw, and I can see this coming through with what Emma is saying as well. There's been a history of dismissing shipping. Those who looked at like, for example, and I still see this, people who look down on Twimoms or Twilight fans as having some weird fixation with an unhealthy relationship or they're silly. You see that a lot in a lot of fandoms. And a lot of this discourse was about -- actually are responses beyond what you'd think it is. It's actually much more meaningful. It's talking about representation, it's talking about counter-cultural

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spaces and I'm not doing any justice to representing this here. And then you had other people speaking as well, saying you know, we're not here for the sex, we're here for the dynamic, we're here for the possibility and the potential and that dynamic has now been changed by adding a third person. That's what made Sherlock really meaningful to us and now that is irrevocably changed. So this goes back to what Emma is saying, how is that affecting that part of the fandom, because a lot of people saw this canon emerging and telling different stories. It reminds me a little of people who were responding to the Harry Potter books when they were coming out. You know, was Snape good or evil? And they were getting very invested in certain stories that could branch off in different directions based on very different readings and I really appreciated Ian's response to it. He had a longer tweet where you could see that the response was edifying him to some degree about what fandom encapsulates. It's more than what we see in the media where people will mock Johnlock shippers who draw funny fan art and share it with cast members on *The Graham Norton Show* or something like that. You know, that's maybe an external view of fandom but an internal view is much more complicated, there's a lot more going on here.

Drinkingcocoa: This is a completely different angle that I objected to. Also about the possibility of this marriage between a man and a woman ruining the dynamic between John and Sherlock. And it rather upset me. It's not a binary world where you're either homosexual or heterosexual. You know, getting married is one thing you can do. It doesn't preclude any sort of love that is romantic or not romantic between the three of them. In the canon you know we do get from Arthur Conan Doyle both that there is some difficulty because being married to a woman gets in the way of the John/Sherlock bromance/adventure/mystery thing, but it also comes from Arthur Conan Doyle that Sherlock really likes Mary. That he grudgingly admits that she has a mind that's not unsuited to the work or sometimes even more of a compliment than he pays John. We also know that even though the writers of the Sherlock series – they have, I think, a fairly healthy attitude about not being able to please everybody, but I think the criticisms from season 2 that they don't write feminist enough women, I think that actually stung, I think that was something that I thought they would probably try to address. I really see the potential here for Sherlock and Mary to have a very powerful bond. I think some of the spoiler photos we saw from the first episode of series 3 suggested that. I'm not sure that this wedding between John and Mary is actually going to come between Sherlock and John. I predict that it is going to strengthen their relationship.

Emma: Honestly, I can't wait to see how, how it plays out in canon. But one thing that I wanna add to all this discussion is – and I'm not like trying to put myself on the same level as any of these people who are creating the show by any stretch of the imagination – but in my own little fandom experience, having had the experience of posting a work-in-progress and having people in the middle of it kind of come in and say 'I don't like the way this is going, I don't like what these characters are doing, I don't like this anymore' and my reaction at that time was, you don't even know where I'm going with this. You don't know, you, you're guessing how this is gonna end and then you're getting mad at me based on your guess but that's not where this is going and you don't even know and can you just trust me enough to wait and see how it plays out? Like if you don't wanna read the whole thing that's fine, you don't have to, but please, just trust me on this. I think you're gonna like it. And so when I see people freaking out about what they're seeing, it's like they are not even seeing like chapter eight of a WIP, right? They are seeing like the outline or some words, I mean they are not going to get the whole picture. So, I think, I trust these people, they have done great work in the past, they continue to do great work, I trust that when this comes out it's going to be so much better than anything that we've been able to discuss on this podcast or that anyone on the #setlock tag is expecting. I think that in the end, people are going to be really happy with what happens. I have no idea what it's gonna be, but that's my prediction.

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Katie: Let's look back and laugh.

Emma: Yeah, exactly!

Drinkingcocoa: We have plenty of time later to be upset about what they are actually doing.

Emma: (*laughs*) Right.

Shannon: So just to follow up on what we're saying here about fan reaction or Emma's statement about a work-in-progress, this makes me think back to what Fox Estacado and the other members of the Three-patch-podcast who don't want to be spoiled and other members of the fandom also feel the same way. They are worried about fan reaction affecting the integrity of the product. So, we see only, like you were saying Emma, an outline or a paragraph, a tiny bit and already now it's leading to a lot of anger or glee or expectation that is setting things up and maybe is not entirely founded on understanding the whole picture. And, you know, now that's making more work for those who are managing the public image of this product. So they, they have to respond to tweets or they maybe have to tell people not to make comments or, and again, the response that has been elicited for Amanda Abbington's respond Ian has been taken to extreme where, you know, she's directly involved in the performance and now she's getting people apparently who are making threatening tweets about her because they so didn't like her response and how does that affect what she brings to the production now? What, I'm sure she's a professional, she should be able to divide it, but it's probably requiring her to do some extra work, extra managing of emotion when she encounters people who are talking about *Sherlock*.

Katie: I was reading reaction posts on Ian Hallard's tweet a few days ago. Here she was kind of really, really harsh but she said, she was saying something that struck a bell with me. She was saying, you know you have these characters make so much insinuations about John and Sherlock on the show that you can't expect people to not want them together, if you actually purposely write this stuff between them.

Emma: Right, I think that a lot a people are calling queer-baiting on this.

Katie: Yes. Sure.

Emma: In a way that they weren't before. I mean before, it was still a possibility or because it was still so open there was this idea, there would maybe like, like in many other cases where they sort of to continue to leave it out there, you know. But the fact that they went ahead and said okay, we're – let's assuming at least that this is a real wedding, that all of this is real and it's not for a case - which is something we will get to in a moment - assuming that all of this is actually a real wedding and John Watson is actually getting married to Mary Morstan then that's, that's kind of closing off a door, it's almost like, and again there is an assumption of gay vs. straight here as Drinkingcocoa was putting out before, I think when people are making that assumption saying 'oh, they're saying John is straight and he's getting married to a woman' well, there's a lot of grey area in between which will be explored in fanfiction, I'm sure.

Drinkingcocoa: Yes.

Shannon: Yes.

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Emma: Yeah, that's gonna get explored greatly, but, so I don't think that door is closed quite as firmly, I think, as many people are asserting, but at the same time there have been a lot of accusations of queer-baiting again, I think that's one of the things that people are really reacting strongly to.

Shannon: Definitely. So shall we move on to the next one, because this is also kind of related to something we had ongoing here. We've been doing ring watch before the whole wedding stuff started happening. We're trying to figure out, well, had John and Mary already gotten married and can we see evidence of that in the costuming? But now we've noticed there have been pictures coming from the wedding production and we've noticed someone else wearing a ring.

Katie: Oh yes, that's right, we have.

Shannon: Yeah.

Emma: Yes, I was actually really kind of excited about this one. So, we have seen pictures of Molly with a gold band on the third finger of her left hand. And so there's been a lot of speculation...

Drinkingcocoa: I thought I was going to be able to not cry, but I'm starting to do some Dixie-like sobbing.

Shannon: Oh no.

Emma: Oh no.

(laughing)

Drinkingcocoa: Sorry! Carry on.

Katie: Dixie 2.0.

Shannon: That's right.

Emma: So, there's some really interesting stuff going on. So, there's been a lot of question who would she be married to? And because she, because Loo and Rupert were like clowning around the set a lot together, there was lots of speculation that maybe this meant that Molly and Greg Lestrade are married. Because they were, they were hanging out a lot together and there was this whole thing about all the monkeys. And there's some cute little pictures of them dancing on set and there's some great things like that going on. So that's one but another theory that's popped up that I got actually really excited about is that Molly actually is married to Sherlock.

Shannon: What?!

Katie: Oooooooh!

Emma: Because Molly helps Sherlock that in order to legally, like, protect him, because she had to forge some massive documents about his death.

Drinkingcocoa: Oh that's so exciting.

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Emma: That perhaps, and I think that this is farfetched but I still love it. That perhaps they actually married.

Drinkingcocoa: No, that makes total sense.

Emma: I mean not for any romantic reason, just for convenience or for legal reasons, so that she would be protected from being prosecuted because if she's his wife then she is protected. Maybe.

Shannon: Hmmh.

Drinkingcocoa: That's brilliant! And that would torture Molly so much, which is a goal for the show.

Emma: Oh absolutely. She's married to Sherlock but she can't. Poor Molly!

Drinkingcocoa: It's brilliant.

Shannon: That'd be great.

Katie: The shippers will go crazy.

Emma: So I don't know what you guys think? Do you think that Molly is actually married?

Drinkingcocoa: Wow.

Emma: Do you think she's married to Greg? Do you think she is married to Sherlock? Or do you think she is married to some other dude that we haven't met yet?

Katie: I think Molly and Sherlock is more plausible than Molly and Lestrade cause on the show we haven't seen much interaction between Molly and Lestrade on the show as nearly as much as we've had Molly and Sherlock.

Drinkingcocoa: I'm thinking that Molly and Lestrade, I do think actually it's possible that they could be romantically involved because Molly is their OFC, you know, Moffat and Gatiss and Thompson made her up out of whole cloth based on, I think on Loo Brealey's brilliant performance. And Lestrade's attraction to her was improvised by Rupert Graves and they loved it and they kept it in. So I can really see just the way that these people create the show that they thought 'okay, this is gold, let's just keep going with it' but I can't imagine that they would have just skipped over all of that fun to make them married, you know, off-screen. If they're gonna go that way they're gonna show it. So I don't know that they would be married already. But I love the whole thought of Molly and Sherlock having some sort of legal arrangement. And I can also imagine that she spent so much time with him, she might be actually pretty fed up with him by this point.

(laughing)

Shannon: I have several thoughts on this. So I'm thinking, okay one, if she is married to Greg, we need to look for his ring because when he was still on the outs doing whatever with his wife in the prior episodes, his first wife, he was, he is a guy who wears a wedding band, so he would have a corresponding band on as well. So we need to look for that. And I don't -

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Drinkingcocoa: He took it off for Hounds.

Shannon: But he had it on still..

Drinkingcocoa: ... for Scandal.

Shannon: Yeah, for Scandal. But I'm saying if he and Molly are married and not on the outs which they don't appear to be on the outs in the photos...

Drinkingcocoa: Right.

Shannon: ...he would be wearing a ring with her, I'd imagine. That's the type of guy he is.

Drinkingcocoa: Yes.

Shannon: So if we see a ring on his finger, I think that would be confirmation, if we don't, to me, that would be confirmation that he's not married to Molly, cause I think he would definitely be wearing that ring. That's also not, well, the opposite is true for Sherlock. Sherlock doesn't strike me as a ring wearing guy. So, I've noticed there are no rings on Sherlock's fingers. But that, that's not evidence to me. Like, I don't know. He's...

Drinkingcocoa: Right.

Shannon: He's a little bit non-traditional.

Drinkingcocoa: It doesn't mean anything.

Shannon: Right, but I'm also thinking Molly strikes me as someone who is a romantic person, you know, like she's got kittens, she's got pink on her blog, she's got a bit of whimsy about her. I can't imagine that she – like if she was married to Sherlock, just to help out, I don't think she would be wearing a ring unless it was expedient for some reason. So, like she needed evidence of that when they did something together, to show her commitment to him, but, a bit of theatre in other words. I think that she would wear a ring that was meaningful to her and if this was a sham marriage, I don't think she would feel comfortable wearing that ring around. Unless she was performing theatre. So yeah, maybe some theatre at the wedding and that, you know, is all about Mary so she appears to be, you know, in her marriage stage but then why isn't she maybe better partnered with Sherlock? I, I feel like we need to see more filming. We see her with Lestrade, it's like he's her escort and if she were married to Sherlock, I don't think she would come in with an escort.

Emma: Yeah, true. I still like it though. *(laughs)* I want a fic with that.

Drinkingcocoa: I love it.

Katie: Yeah, it's cute to think about.

Drinkingcocoa: She's not dressed like a married woman there, that wild yellow Luna Lovegood yellow, it doesn't go with a guy. It's very much a single woman's get-up.

Emma: Ah, interesting. So what's up with the ring then if she's not married?

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Katie: Yes, yes, promise ring from a stranger? I mean, a character we haven't been introduced to yet?

Emma: Maybe she's just engaged. I mean there are a lot of places where engagement rings are not necessarily monster big honking diamonds. I have to think about this tomorrow.

Shannon: So ring watch.

Emma: Ring watch!

Drinkingcocoa: Ring watch!

Emma: Ring watch part 2.

Katie: Ring watch!

Emma: Awesome!

Shannon: We're moving a little bit beyond or around the wedding. We've gotten some more tweeting going on by the cast and crew that might suggest future filming locations even though they seem to be denying it. We learned not to really trust these people. Arwel recently tweeted a picture of Steve Lawes by a moat. But I think I know what that is. I think we've seen that, so that's been taken care of, but then Sue tweeted a picture of Mark and Steven in a dungeon of some sort. What is this? The grotto?

Emma: Yeah, it's like some kind of some cellar, underground thing. It looks like in a – that they're on the campus of the college and it looks really ominous.

Katie: Crime scene?

Emma: Yeah. And then we also had those, those photos about the deep end of the pool and all of that stuff.

Shannon: Yes, the pool which we didn't talk about last time but we included in our notes.

(laughing)

Shannon: But the moat looks like where they were putting the camera that they had on a tracking device for the wedding. Is that what you guys think you are seeing?

Emma: I think so, yeah. I agree with you. I think that's probably what that one is.

Shannon: And Katie, you think that the dungeon / cave / whatever is a possible crime scene?

Katie: Yeah, I mean, it would be kind of fun to have a crime scene like near a wedding. I mean, you said it was on the campus, same campus as the place where they're filming, right? So, I figure it'd be really fun to have a dead body to turn up. At least for Sherlock it would be fun to have a dead body.

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(laughing)

Katie: They have a dead body turning up in the middle of his best man's wedding, so...

Emma: Sherlock would like that, yeah.

Drinkingcocoa: And I'm expecting him to rush off sometime during the wedding itself. That was my interpretation. If those are magpies, if they are only showing up on his place card, I'm expecting him to go to his seat and see that and like suddenly rush off.

Emma: So this brings us around to another idea that's been floating around on the #setlock tag which I think was back to a tweet that Amanda Abbington sent. That kind of implied that perhaps this whole wedding was actually a big game of Cluedo, she called it. So, that kind of raises the question of is it, is it really a wedding for John and Mary at all? Is it a big staged thing to try to capture a killer? If you read *The Sign of Four* then you know that it is a mystery that involves some murder and some craziness and some vast amount of racism that we all hope they will not include.

Shannon: Cut it out.

Emma: Clearly. But also there is like a treasure. There is the idea that there is this lost treasure that belongs to Mary and they are trying to find it for her.

Katie: Because it is not actually possible for the victim to have done it, Sherlock.

(laughing)

Emma: Alright. So, so there's this fantastic mystery of the missing treasure and they go on this big chase and they go all over London to try and find it, trying to figure out what happened and to catch the culprits and there is murder and things going on. But another thing that has popped up is a casting spoiler - that the role of Major Sholto has been cast and we've actually got pictures of this guy on the set and he's like in a military uniform and his face is all scarred up and Major Sholto was a friend of Mary's father. At the time of *The Sign of Four* Major Sholto is already dead. And so is Mary's father. So clearly he is not dead in this unless it's some kind of flashback. But he's been seen on the set with the wedding, so there is kind of this idea that he's present at the wedding. Maybe he's standing in for Mary's father, something like that. So, I'm starting to wonder too, how much of the story are they gonna bring into this? So, so is there a lot more going on behind the scenes? It's not just, obviously it's not just a wedding, obviously there is a lot going on because they wouldn't have a whole episode just about a wedding. This is not what the show does.

Drinkingcocoa: Yeah.

Emma: But how much of it is going to be based on *The Sign of Four*? Like how much of that murder mystery are we going to see and so is this going on in the background? Or is the wedding a big sort of stage thing to try to capture the killer, whatever?

Katie: That would be fun.

Emma: Yeah.

Shannon: Which was the story where Sherlock got himself engaged?

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Emma: Oh, right!

Shannon: That was...

Emma: What was that one? Oh, my canon is terrible.

Shannon: Was that *The Case of Charles Augustus Milverton*? Was that the one? But in any case like in the ACD series we see a little bit of faking of emotional attachment and marriage, promise of marriage but no actual fake wedding to lure someone in and so again I think that what we are seeing is real, but it does make sense that, you know, we're now getting Mary's story being told here. So it's being folded in around a pretty spectacle. I think this, this is kinda neat, you know, so we've been seeing so much about the relationships side through the filming. I'm hoping what comes out this week now really leads to more of the mystery side of the story, you know, that's the part what Sherlock's best at.

Emma: I'm so excited.

Katie: I really am too.

Emma: Yes.

Shannon: But there have been a few new casting additions coming up.

Emma: Right. So there was this Major Sholto one that I talked about and some of the other ones seem like they are a bit minor. I'm just scrolling through dudefugly's post here. It said there was, looks like Alistair Petrie is playing Major Sholto. They think that they found the woman who was walking down the aisle with Benedict there. Lucky lady that she is. Some sort of a bridesmaid. That will be, looks like Yasmine Akram. And there are a few other people that they found. I think by looking at their imdb pages. I'm looking in there. They're listed as Sherlock series 3. The other one that is possibly really interesting is – there's speculation that there is this actor named Lasco Atkins. He seems like he might be that guy in the knit hat who stabs John in the neck in episode one.

Shannon: Right!

Emma: But he is listed as an undercover police officer in *The Empty Hearse* on imdb.

Shannon: Oh my god.

Katie: That's probably not...

Shannon: Imdb though.

Emma: Exactly. Imdb. We can't necessarily trust anything that's put up there.

Shannon: Yes.

Emma: But it's at least an interesting sort of bit of speculation if that is him. It kind of looks like it, when you look at the pictures. But we don't know who that guy was, the other guy with the knit cap on.

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Shannon: Wouldn't it be funny though if he was in fact a member like an undercover police officer who had gone rogue and was like a plant for Moran or whomever it is that is coming after Sherlock? So, I guess they don't wanna tip the hat and give away everything but I can believe that's the title of his, just like, you know, he's just a thug, he's not necessarily a central character still.

Emma: Right.

Shannon: But there's also been another spoiler coming out from another resource about, I think, a casting call for a landlord?

Emma: Ooooh! Yes, yes! So let's look at that one. Our intrepid dudefugly on tumblr, Geny, has been following the tumblr of someone who's associated with the casting and they, this person did this incredibly infuriating thing of like posting a little bit of like a casting call and says: Landlord. Uptight landlord, late 40's – mid 50's. Has to supervise Sherlock and Watson inspecting one of his tenant's properties for clues but they are both ***, and she deleted a word, and he does not *** and she deleted another word. And I was like: why?

Shannon: What?!

Emma: And the title of this post on tumblr says: OMFG BLOCKED OUT WHY FOR SPOILERS BUT IN TEARS LOL. So, she thought it was such a huge spoiler that she actually cut two words out of it before she posted it and everybody was like: nooooo!!!

Shannon: We could play a game here: What should go in those spaces?

Emma: And Geny actually did that on her, on her tumblr and people had a lot of different fun things that they posted in there. We will link to that and you can check it out. Do you have any ideas? What would you put in those blanks?

Shannon: I know Dixie would be like 'but they're both married and he doesn't cater to gay men' or something, but I...

(laughing)

Katie: Maybe he's the supervisor on the potential crime scene. And they're both...

Emma: And they are both *blank* and he does not *blank*.

Shannon: So do you think, Katie, that this would be episode three that we are looking at here?

Katie: Maybe, maybe not. I don't know. But I think, I definitely think that the landlord, maybe he owns where a crime scene is and he's like I don't know, you people...

Emma: Yeah. Something would what ever it was that she cut out what she thought hilariously funny and spoilerific.

Shannon: I'd love to hear what other people think about this. What possible words that they could put in that would make that spoiler-tastic and also hilarious and need to be blanked out. Or is this just trolling? That's like my thing: is it real or is it trolling?

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Emma: Yeah, but this is the same person who has given us lots of other reliable casting information, so I think that's why...

Shannon: But she hasn't blanked out things before.

Emma: I know! So, like all I can come up with is like porny stuff, you know? I can't like see what actually would really fit. I can go with a bunch of porny ones. But yeah, what could it be? So, we will keep thinking about that and if any of our listeners have your own ideas what you think it could be, please, submit them to our ask. We should compile a big list and we will make a big post of all the ones that we get.

Shannon: Yes, yes, I really wanna hear what, what other people have to say or, or other speculations based on these. And you guys, you know, I'm gonna go to England. I'm leaving tonight. I'm gonna be there and I'm going in search...

Katie: I'm jealous.

Shannon: Yeah, I'm so excited. I'm going in search of Setlockians. So, I've decided on Tuesday that I'm going to take the train from London out to Bristol and see if I can find people who are watching the spoilers, talking about the spoilers. Maybe I can see some, I don't know. Keep your fingers crossed for me. I have to tweet about this. But I'm in search of Setlockians. In Bristol. On Tuesday.

Katie: There aren't many of us here in the Pacific Ocean, I'm afraid, so it's a bit lonely here.

Emma: All right, so, the last few things on our top ten list this week are things that are a little bit more on the fun side. As we mentioned before, the cast and crew have kind of jumped on board with teasing us about things and so there's a fantastic tweet from Arwel Jones where he tweeted 'Today- design that room for the thing with the special thingy. Get loads of watchimibobs made. Oh & fan flames of fandom to foaming frenzy'. *(laughs)*

Shannon: Troll, troll, troll.

Emma: And it's fantastic, because what could it be? So, this sounds like it's maybe something for the third episode. And I'm wondering if this goes back to the casting of the landlord? I'm wondering if those were connected? Cause the room for that thing with the special thingy, that could totally be. It sounds crack-tastic.

Shannon: You think episode three? Because I assume that to mean that's part of episode two.

Emma: Well, he says 'design the room' and so I thought that means it's a bit off from being put together. And isn't it also, don't we also know that they are gonna take a break before they film episode three?

Drinkingcocoa: Yeah.

Emma: Because Ben's gotta go do Star Trek stuff and Martin's gonna go back to, Martin's gonna go back to New Zealand for...

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Shannon: For Hobbit stuff.

Emma: For Hobbit stuff. So, I think episode three is, we will verify this, we'll look for a source, but what I've been told is that episode three is going to be filmed later in the summer. They are not going straight through to film them all.

Shannon: I see, I see. So, 'design' meaning it's still conceptual, not actually being put into place.

Emma: Maybe? That was my take.

Shannon: I interpreted it as episode two because, you know, he's tweeting about it now and there's still a little bit more going on. So, I was thinking it's for this week. Something that they got going like in-door filming, that's what I was thinking.

Emma: Yeah, but...

Drinkingcocoa: Well, it could be.

Emma: Absolutely. We don't know.

Shannon: Yeah.

Emma: So, there was that, which was a lot of fun but also I loved the fact that they are like, they know that they are tormenting us and that they are giving us little tiny clues and that we're eating everything we can and we're trying to be like Sherlock and figure it all out. I think they are enjoying that part of it.

Drinkingcocoa: I found that tweet so reassuring.

Emma: Yeah?

Drinkingcocoa: I found it so reassuring because I was in the middle of worrying about the health and safety of Ian Hallard and Amanda Abbington which, you know, something like this from Arwel, that he was enjoying himself. He was in control. I thought okay, they are grownups. They have to learn, just like the fandom has to learn. It's kind of reset the balance for me like okay, this is supposed to be fun and I'm glad he's enjoying it, cause I am. We are.

Emma: Yes.

Shannon: Yes.

Katie: We very much are.

Emma: And speaking of fun, another fun thing that happened this week was Loo Braeley creating a hashtag #RupertGravesTopFiveMonkeys. And this just went everywhere. And it sounded like they were having some downtime on the set and they were hanging out and they were having fun and they got into a discussion apparently about top 5 monkeys. Anyways, so there were all these monkey pictures that started going around. There was that. And then there was even more silliness. One of dudefugly's last round-up posts kind of captures a lot of it and you see a lot of the fun on set. But there were all kinds of crazy tweets where, I guess, Amanda and Martin were balancing

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umbrellas on their hands and, I mean, all sorts of fun things were going on, so it definitely looks like it was a group of people who are having a lot of fun.

Katie: I saw a tweet where they were apparently playing charades. Oh wow. Okay.

Emma: Yeah. They have a lot of downtime on set apparently.

Drinkingcocoa: But these are also things that photograph well, because they know that there are fans sneaking around, posting stuff to tumblr at the moment it happens. It kind of made me think that they were sitting around thinking what can we give them? You know, "Let's take this away from the toxic toward the fun. They can't hear us talking, they don't know what we're filming, but they can take pictures. Let's, let's give them a show, let's do something. Hey, Rupert! You were in the circus."

Shannon: That's true. Do you think it could possibly be a diversion?

Katie: I wouldn't put it past them.

Drinkingcocoa: Yeah, I think it's more that they try to think what's photogenic, what can we do that can read on tumblr other than, you know, us eating and scratching ourselves.

Shannon: Yeah, that's true. I don't think I've seen anyone scratching themselves on tumblr but definitely eating.

(laughing)

Emma: Yeah, we haven't got any nose picking shots yet, but you know?

Shannon: But you can tell, you know, people do scrutinize, as Qui and Dixie's intro showed.

(more laughing)

Emma: That is true. Oh, and then they're was one, there was one more tweet from Arwel Jones that had a fantastic shot of, looks like it's looking down at the tube. And it's like looking down a corridor.

Shannon: Yes.

Emma: So it looks like perhaps we're gonna be going back down to the tube for episode three.

Shannon: I'm excited about that. Oh, I love the tube.

Katie: Aren't they shooting at a station of some sort for episode one or episode two? Because I remember there being set pictures of a station of some sort.

Emma: Yeah.

Shannon: At Charing Cross station, I think that's where they were, but that was with the tube there? Yeah, I guess that might have been.

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Emma: Yeah, I think so. And we had a little bit of that. And I remember, there was one tweet from someone at the time who said she had a picture of herself with Martin but there was something about his costume that was too much of a spoiler and she didn't want to tweet the picture.

Shannon: Oh.

Emma: Then we never found out anything more as far as I know.

Shannon: Moustache.

Emma: I don't know. I wonder if that was it. If it was the moustache or not. That was one of the first thoughts, oh yeah, the moustache, but she said costume in particular. So, I don't know.

Shannon: Very interesting. Very interesting. I don't know about you guys but I'm so excited because today, wait, they're gonna resume filming. Monday, right? So, they are taking the 28th off, so then it's back to filming and more spoilers and then we're gonna hit a bit of a dead period, right? So we've got one more week of really action packed nonsense coming out, right? So we see what that promises. I'm very excited though.

Emma: Yes, yes, and as long as there are spoilers, Spoilercast is gonna keep going, so we will have to see what happens when filming winds down a little bit, but we, we'll keep going as long as we've got stuff to go on. Let the discussion continue.

Shannon: Okay, so if you have comments or spoilers or theories or if you're going to be in Bristol on Tuesday and you're a Setlockian, please send us an ask or you can send us an email at our email address. And that's bored@three-patch.com and we also ask that you include "spoiler" in the header as per usual so you don't spoil the non-spoiled members of our podcast. And I think that's it until next week.

Emma: Bye.

Shannon: Bye.

Drinkingcocoa: Bye.

Katie: Aloha.

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Consulting Fans: Drinkingcocoa, Emma, Shannon, and Katie (with special appearances by Dixie and Qui)

In this episode: We discuss the past week's top ten spoilers for Sherlock series 3. Click below for details.

1. Sue Vertue's wedding teaser tweet [1]. And Amanda Abbington joins in the teasing [2], and of course, The Daily Mail remains spoilerific. [3]
2. Locations for episode 2 [4] and [5]
3. WEDDING! Amanda spotted in a wedding dress. [6] [7] Sherlock appears to be the best man. [8] [9]. [10]. And we have a smooch between bride and groom. [11]. RUMOR: Did Martin and Amanda really get married? [12]
4. The place cards: Are the magpies supposed to be initials? [13]. Or was the card meant to be a warning? [14]. Or or OR: Is this whole wedding just the backdrop for a giant game of Cluedo? [15] [16]
5. Aaaand angst erupts in the fandom, fueled by a tweet from Ian Hallard, and a response from Amanda Abbington. [17]. Responses to this come from fandom [18] [19] [20] and Ian Hallard responds [21].
6. Molly appears to be wearing a wedding ring at John and Mary's wedding [22]. Whom might she be married to? Some fans are speculating that Loo and Rupert hanging out together on set might imply some Molly/Lestrade romance in S3. [23] Or could she be married to Sherlock? [24]
7. Possible clues about future filming found in tweets and photos (Arwel's tweet of Steve Lawes by some moat [25]); Sue's tweeted picture of Mark and Steven in a... dungeon? [26])
8. Just in case anyone still thinks the Sherlock cast and crew don't want online speculation about Season 3, Arwel's teasing tweet: [27]
9. Fun stuff: Loo's #RupertGravesTopFiveMonkeys tweets [28]. Geny's roundup shows even more cast silliness (and some possible casting spoilers) [29]
10. A new casting addition via [30], and Geny started a little game to see what people come up with.

Other links of interest:

Geny's daily spoiler roundup posts [31]

The #setlock tag on Tumblr [32]

The #setlock hashtag on Twitter [33]

The best most cracktastic analysis of what the wedding photos might portend for John/Sherlock [34]

Contact

Please remember when contacting us concerning spoilers to include SPOILERS in your email header.

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Music

Unless otherwise indicated, all music is available for purchase through online retailers such as amazon.com and iTunes.

- Rockwell, Somebody's Watching Me
- Taps
- Amazing Grace
- The Dixie Cups, Going to the Chapel
- Billy Idol, White Wedding

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