

## Podcast Episode 5 - A Lukewarm Reception

### Chalk on chalkboard noises

Scientist:     Alright, distinguished guests! I am Professor Ackintosh, colloquially known as the Scientist, and I would like to cordially invite you to... Ponerology 101! That's the study of evil, for those that don't know. Any questions?

Brian:        Why am I not the one giving this lecture? I have access to a database of over 12,00-

Scientist:     Any other questions that we haven't all heard a thousand times?

Gremlin:      Well actually Brian... you did say that I was the one who was the most evil in the group... So I think I should be the one teaching...

Scientist:     Right, the next person to interrupt me, saying how they should be the one teaching the demon how to be evil will be sent to the corner!

Demon:        Is this the start of the lesson? Should I be taking notes?

### **(Theme Tune)**

#### **[Vocal:**

***What will you find through the attic door?***

***Genius minds, and so much more***

#### **Scientist singing:**

***But nobody must know that we're here***

#### **Brian singing:**

***Everybody knows you've been up here for years***

#### **Scientist:**

***My name's Albert and I'm the Scientist***

#### **Brian:**

***I'm Brian the Robot***

#### **Gremlin singing:**

***And I'm the friendly Technical Gremlin***

#### **Demon singing:**

***I suppose that makes me the Demon***

#### **Scientist, Brian, Gremlin & Demon Chanting:**

***Attic Gang, Attic Gang, Attic Gang, Attic Gang!]***

Gremlin: And that's why I should be teaching the evil lessons.

Scientist: Right, that's it. Gremlin, corner.

Gremlin: But.

Scientist: Corner. Now.

*Sad Gremlin noise*

Scientist: Okay now that's dealt with. Let's really get into it. What is Evil? E-V-I-L. Evil. We are going to really get our teeth into what we mean by Evil today. Evil is more than a word, of course. Evil is a way of life. Evil is. Well. Evil is... Evil. Eeeevil. So uh. Let's all write that down. Anyone have anything to add at this early stage? Brian, perchance?

*Static ringing*

Brian: You want me to add something? After you were so adamant that you were the only person allowed to teach evil lessons. Well... I'm not sure I am qualified enough to teach, after all it's not as though I am the most knowledgeable being in this room with over 800 hours of ponerology theories downloaded into my database-

Scientist: Alright alright! You've made your point! Can somebody turn down the radio static? It's incredibly loud and I can't concentrate. I've never heard it do that before.

Gremlin: Sir, I know what it is!

Scientist: Gremlin, quiet! You're in the corner.

Gremlin: But that's the sound of an incoming call!

Scientist: That's the sound of a... what?

Gremlin: Well me and Brian thou-

Brian: Quiet now young master Gremlin

Scientist: Carry on young master Gremlin

Gremlin: Oh. Well, uh.

Brain: Don't do it.

Gremlin: Me and Brian tinkered with the radio when you weren't looking because Brain saw there was a loose wire and now we can use it as a two way communications system.

Brian: Brilliant.

Scientist: You did what?

*Sound of picking up phone*

Demon: Hello there! This is your worst nightmare! I will enslave your soul to eternal darkness. Uh. Okay. Right. That was quite rude. Yes I'll be quiet. Okay. Yes he is here. Scientist, it's for you.

Scientist: Brian, Gremlin, we are going to talk about this. Hello this is Albert Ackintosh.

Brian: Put it on speakerphone.

Scientist: There's a speakerphone? For shame. Hello, this is Albert Ackintosh... and company.

Receptionist: Yes, Hello. I'm the Hotel's receptionist. I'm just popping out to go and get some milk, and we need someone to look after the desk while I'm out. You lot don't seem to be doing anything, and you've been here for so long now without paying rent for that attic room that you're actually technically staff. Keys and uniforms are behind the desk.

Scientist: Actually, we are sort of in the mi-

Receptionist: If you're not down in five minutes you're going to be evicted.

Scientist: What, they can't do that. It's against our rights as citizens of the Hotel.  
Brian, they can't do that. Can they do that?

Brian: Yes.

Scientist: Right you are. Come on guys. We can continue the lesson later. For now we are needed for a noble cause, and we shall be the best receptionists this Hotel has ever seen because I can't afford rent anywhere else.

Demon: Laaaaame.

Scientist: Shut up. Come on gang.

*Walking noises, elevator noises.*

Scientist: Lovely weather we're having, isn't it?

Demon: I prefer the weather found on the 14th layer of the underworld... a never ending blizzard of ice, pain and torment.

Brian: And I cannot feel temperature. I don't know how many times I have to tell you that.

Scientist: This is going to be a great day. Hang in there Albert, you'll get tenure soon.

*Ding.*

Demon: We have arrived, foolish mortals! Look upon our monstrous forms and despair! We will man your Hotel Lobby desk, and in doing so bring about a new age. An age of torment and misery that will forever change the course of hi-

Scientist: There's nobody here.

Demon: Yes. Better safe than sorry though, right? Gotta admit that was pretty evil.

Brian: Where's the Gremlin?

Scientist: He's still going to be in the corner isn't he?

Brian:            Shall we go up and fetch him?

Scientist:        No, I brought the portable transmitter, we can just give him a call on the radio. Y'know, now that you've meddled with it.

*Staticy noise*

Scientist:        Gremlin, you can come out of the corner now. We're in reception, and there's a lot of work to be done, so don't be too long, oh and bring the spare transmitter with you!

Gremlin:         Okay sirs! I shall be there soon. I will run like the wind!

Demon:           Look at me! I am in uniform! The blood red fabric, the rich golden tassels, the fetching hat! Yes, this is a uniform fit for a legendary demon such as myself.

Brian:            Marvelous. Well, it looks like the receptionist left us a note at least. "Look after the desk. Do not open doors 1 or 2, across the lobby. Fulfill any request made from Hotel guests using the carrier toucan system."

Scientist:        Oh Demon, The carrier toucan messenger service is one of the most effective systems used within this hotel. I'm very excited to see the toucans in action, oh! And here comes one now, hello little fella, do you have a message for me? [*Pecking noise*] And it's pecking my head. Brilliant. Ow etc.

Demon:           Would you like me to consume it's soul and convert it into pure malice?

Brian:            Why don't we just see what the message is.

Demon:           Toucan! What ill tidings do you carry upon your shadowy wings?

Toucan:           Caw! Hilda and Gertrude in room 623 would like some digestive biscuits to accompany their tea when you get a chance mate. Caw!

Demon:           This entire place is tragically underwhelming.

Gremlin:         I have made it Sirs! I am here. I'm sorry it took so long. There was a very intense game of the floor is lava happening on floor 1782. There was real lava! Anyway,

is there anything I can do for you?

Brian:        Actually Master Gremlin, I think now is the perfect opportunity to assign roles!

Demon:        Dibs being the doordemon!

Brian:        Gremlin, how do you feel about being the bellhop? I know you enjoy meeting new people.

Gremlin:      I am adept at hopping on bells!

Scientist:     The bellhop carries things up to the rooms, Gremlin.

Gremlin:      Oh, well, I can. But I wanted to stay in the lobby with my friends.

Brian:        You get to wear this cool hat.

Gremlin:      Well, colour me purple and deposit me in a tree, because I am sold!

Scientist:     What?

Brian:        Could you fetch some digestives from the kitchen and take them up to room 623?

Gremlin:      This is Gremlin 1 to Brian. Mission received, over and out.

Brian:        I will be in charge of course, which leaves the Scientist on housekeeping duty.

Scientist:     Excuse me? If anyone is going to be in charge, it is clearly me!

Demon:        Greetings Traveller! Welcome to the underworld!

Brian:        Oh no.

Scientist:     Oh no.

*[Demon Door Song- Sung]*

*Welcome to the hotel, won't you come inside  
It's a super scary place  
Where ghosts and ghouls reside  
I can see in your eyes that you are petrified  
And there ain't no way you'll make it out alive  
Cause I'm the door demon  
I'm evil to the core  
But can you wipe your feet  
And could you close the door  
We don't want a breeze...*

*Royal Horn?*

Footman 1&2: Greetings reception desk for the Hotel Elsewhere! We are here to announce the soon to be arriving King Dilanus, 4th of his name. Ruler of the 6th realm. Owner of the world's only pink unicycle with two wheels. 2nd place at the annual interdimensional fun run. Winner of the children only tug of war competition.

Footman 1: There are a lot of these, you get the point!

Footman 2: You can't say that! Our job is to read all of the titles! We'll be beheaded if we don't.

Footman 1: Well at this point, you can just behead me. I'm only supposed to be here for work experience. I don't want to be a footman... I want to do bahley

Footman 2: What in the name of your mother's mines is the Bahley?

Demon: Do you mean Ballet?

Footman 1: Yeah! That's the fella

Demon: We have Ballet in the underworld.

Brian: Really?

Demon: Yeah! We heat up iron shoes over the ever blazing inferno and force the souls of the damned to wear them. They always do a funny little dance, it's so good. I loved watching the ballet.

*Pause*

Scientist: That's not what ballet is!!!

Footman 2: Right, on that note... We're off, you'll see us again later with the King, hopefully. See ya.

*Sound of door*

Brian: Okay, maybe we need to rethink the roles. I'm not sure that the demon being on the door is the best idea. It could be dangerous.

Scientist: Well I think what's even more dangerous is you being in charge, Brian! Do we really want the Robot to have complete unfiltered control to the whole hotel! Besides! You're not even qualified, where are your credentials Brian?

Brian: Are you trying to tell me that you've worked at a hotel before?

Scientist: No. But I've stayed in one.

Brian: We LIVE IN ONE!

Scientist: I live in on! You exist in one! I created you! Technically according to principles of biology in order to be alive you need to evolve, grow, breath, there's a whole thing about it. You need to feel temperature! Homeostasis, Brian, can you adapt to the temperature around you? No. Hooooomeostasis.

Brian: Oh.. I.. well (stumbling over words)

Transmission: Incoming Transmission from the Gremlin, in room 7C, the Ocean.

*Sinking ship noises?*

Gremlin: Sirs, send help! We're going down! I was wrong before, I have seen the ocean now and it's bigger than I ever thought. It's vast and unforgiving! Please save us!

Pirate: Batten down the hatches! First mate Gremlin, what do you think you're doin' talking into that cursed oversized dubloon. The crew needs your full attention! We need someone who can make the hard choices, I've lost faith in myself Mr. Gremlin. I've



stared into the void and screamed for someone to help, and you know what the void said back? It said, 'no'. No! Mr. Gremlin! Can you believe that! Please First Mate, what must we do? You're our last hope! Only you can save us now

Gremlin:       AHHHH!

Pirate:         Say somethin Lad!

[Crying]

Gremlin:       I was wrong! It was SOAP!

Pirate:         I see. We're going down, boys. The cruel sea is claiming our souls. I'll see you miscreants in the locker, take one last swig of rum for the journey. It's been a pleasure.

*Ship going under water sound??? Static.*

Scientist:      Wasn't he supposed to take the biscuits to Hilda and Gertrude in room 623?

Brian:         Yes he was. I don't understand how he ended up in room 7C. You have to walk through rooms 7A and B to get there.

Scientist:      Why did we even make him the bell hop. That really was the worst idea we've ever had.

Demon:         *[Demon Door Song- Sung]*

*Welcome to the hotel, won't you come inside*

*It's a super scary place*

*Where ghosts and ghouls reside*

*I can see in your eyes that you are petrified*

*And there ain't no way you'll make it out alive*

*Cause I'm the door demon*

*I'm evil to the core*

*But can you wipe your feet*

*And could you close the door*

*We don't want a breeze...*

Joey:           Huh, interesting. A singing demon. Amelia, make a note.

Scientist:     I think it's clear that this whole job allocation system we've used is useless. Next time we just listen to me.

Amelia:       Hmm, interesting. Inter-party conflict. Joey, make a note.

Brian:        Hello guests! Welcome to Hotel Elsewhere. I will be checking you in today. May I ask your names?

Joey and Amelia:   Interesting. Robot Receptionist.

Joey:        Amelia, make a note.

Amelia:      Joey, make a note.

Scientist:     Joey! Amelia! Ha, I worked out their names and wrote them down! You haven't written their names down yet!

Demon:        I haven't actually been able to do 'my thing' yet. I need to terrorise them as part of my evil lessons, right?

Amelia:       Evil lessons. Now that is... intriguing. Joey, we may be here longer than we thought.

Joey:        I should've packed a bigger suitcase. The name's Joey Blakely, I'm a private reporter. This is my associate Amelia Langley.

Brian:        Ha! I have their surnames. Where did my pen go?

Scientist:     I have the pen! I'm the better receptionist!

Brian:        Give that back, it's my pen and I didn't give you permission to use it!

Sci and Bri:   (Squabble)

Joey:        Okay, well while you're doing that we're going to let ourselves into our room.

Demon: No wait, there's spiders in the rooms. All of the rooms. And.. there's clown statues. They'll come to life in the night and steal your socks. Wait don't walk away! There's also snakes and- please be scared!

Brian: I think they're gone, demon.

*Squelching and dripping*

Gremlin: I'm back sirs, I managed to save the crew, but we lost the ship. It was all really traumatic.

Scientist: Ah you're back, right. Well you didn't take the biscuits to the right room. So we're going to need you to head upstairs and actually deliver them.

Gremlin: Oh... Okay.

*Sad squelching and dripping*

Scientist: What do we do when there's no guests? I'm bored. I sort of assumed there would be a constant flow of people.

Brian: Perhaps you could go and do some housekeeping then, as that is the job I assigned you.

Scientist: No, I'm not going to do that, since I am also a receptionist.

Brian: You're not a very good one if you get bored after thirty seconds of nothing.

Scientist: No I don't! I am fine with nothing- I love a bit of nothing! Look at me, I'll do nothing right now!

Brian: As will I!

*Silence - miscellaneous muttering.*

Brian: It is a bit quiet though.

Scientist: Yes, it's too quiet! Far too quiet.

Brian: It almost makes me miss the demon's-

Scientist: Don't say it! If you say it, they will do it. I don't know why, but that's how these things work.

Brian: It makes me miss the demon's song!

*Pause.*

Ah, see, they haven't started singing after al-

Demon: *[Demon Door Song- Sung]*

*Welcome to the hotel, won't you come inside  
It's a super scary place  
Where ghosts and ghouls reside  
I can see in your eyes that you are petrified  
And there ain't no way you'll make it out alive  
Cause I'm the door demon  
I'm evil to the core  
But can you wipe your feet  
And could you close the door  
We don't want a breeze...*

Scientist: No, stop! Two times was enough, but we can't let you do it three times!

Brian: Who are the guests, demon? I'll sign them in!

Demon: Oh... There aren't any.

Brian: I assumed since you were singing that someone had arrived.

Demon: No.. I was just practising.

Scientist: Oh. *Pause.* I really hoped something was happening. Anything... When did that king say he was coming back?

Brian: He didn't specify. Should we roll out a carpet? I don't know the protocol for these events.

Scientist: Yes.. should probably sweep up a little bit, clean the place up. And set out some candles to create an ambiance. If we light the chandelier-

*Sudden radio static*

Thank the Ravens Tallon!

Transmission: Incoming transmission from the Gremlin, floor 19.

*Gremlin humming*

Brian: Good thing you called Mr. Gremlin! How are you getting on?

*Gremlin continues to hum/sing*

Is he singing?

Gremlin: Is the best thing for me to do do do do do

*Knock on door to beat of 'do do do do do'*

*Door open sound?*

Hilda: Hello?

Gremlin: Hello, I am here to deliver the biscuits that you ordered!

Gertrude: Oh wonderful, such a reliably quick service.

Gremlin: Well I do try my best

Hilda: Such a polite young chap. Here's a tip.

Gremlin: Wow! An actual money? For me?

Gertrude: Well who else would it be for? Have a nice day.

*Door close*

*Gremlin continues to sing and hum more enthusiastically*

Brian: Gremlin. Gremlin, do you read us? I think he's somehow managed to call us by mistake.

Scientist: Oy, you little green bundle of snot!

Gremlin: It's not SNOT!

Scientist: Ahha! He heard us!

Gremlin: Who's there?! What is that? [New god?]

Scientist: You've butt dialed us. We can hear everything that you're doing.

Gremlin: Oh, hello sirs. How is everything going down at the desk?

Brian: Actually, there's not a lot going on here. How is it going up there?

Gremlin: Very well! I just delivered the biscuits, just like you asked me to.

Brian: Brilliant. *Pause*. For such an eventful place, it's quite a dull job isn't it?

Gremlin: Well I've been running up and down doing jobs all day.

Scientist: Ah speaking of jobs, there's a king coming any minute now, so keep an eye out for him will you? The last thing we want him to see upon arrival is a sweaty, salty little gremlin.

Demon: Yeah, you sweaty, salty little goblin! Laaame! See, I'm learning.

Brian: You are getting there.

Gremlin: Right you are sirs! I know exactly what to do!

*Radio static - hanging up*

Brian: Well, I don't trust that.

Demon: Ha, did you hear that? I called him a salty little goblin! Haha, genius. My evil knows no bounds!

Scientist: Well, actually he's a gremlin not a goblin. So if you're going to insult him at least call him the right thing. Secondly, what you said wasn't even very original. You basically copied what I said, and we all know that true evil must come from the... well... what's the opposite of heart? Little finger? Little toe? Big toe? The Lumbar vertebrae? Yeah, I'm going with that. The Lumbar vertebrae.

Brian: There is absolutely no evidence in your claim. Surely it comes from the head.

Scientist: I know there's no evidence, we're not at that stage yet. This is just the hypothesis, the evidence comes later. Once we have done some extensive research and perhaps even... dissection?

Demon: Mwahaha, while you two squabble about the root of all evil, I'm actually practicing EVIL! Breaking a rule, that's got to be pretty evil right? Behold, door number one.

Bri & Sci: (General 'don't open it, we were told not to open it' exclamations)

*Sound of door opening, and clutter spilling out.*

Brian: It's just a storage cupboard.

Demon: Well that was tragically underwhelming.

Scientist: Tragically underwhelming? Look at all this mess! Someone has got to clean all this mess up, and apparently I'm the one who's been given the job of housekeeping... [*Sigh*] Next time consult me first before you do ahead with your evil schemes. It's not even evil really, just a bit inconsiderate.

*Transmitter phone sound*

Transmission: Incoming transmission from the Gremlin, on the roof.

Scientist: Oh what does the Gremlin want now?

Gremlin:      Sirs! I've made a terrible mistake! A horrible series of decisions! Please send help! They're everywhere.

Brian:        What's happened, and why are you on the roof?

Gremlin:      You told me to keep an eye out for the King, while also remaining unseen. So I figured the roof was the best place to go... only I didn't realise that the roof was home to so many pigeons, and they don't like uninvited guests.

Scientist:     Gremlin, why is it that whenever we give you a simple task, you somehow manage to blow everything up out of proportion.

Gremlin:      I was only trying to... ouch, stop it. Ow. ohhh, ahhhhhhhhhhhhh!

*Transmission end sound*

Scientist:     Did he just fall off the roof?

Brian:        Do you think he's going to be alright?

Demon:       Well I don't care if he's going to be alright, because I'm EVIL! And on the topic of my evilness... Let's see what's behind DOOR NUMBER TWOOOOOOOOOOO! Will it be another storage cupboard, perhaps a pantry, or even, bu bu bu bum, something else. I don't know. I'm just going to open it now.

Bri & Sci:     Nooooooo!

*Door open sound*

*Beat*

*Monster roar/sound*

Demon:       Oh... It's a gigantic and horrific looking monster.

*Beat*

This might have been a mistake. Run! Hide! Run and Hide!

*Gremlin screaming getting closer, followed by a thud.*



Brian: That sounded like the Gremlin

Scientist: I think we have more pressing matters right now!

Brian: Well if you hadn't made the gremlin feel bad about getting on the roof, maybe this wouldn't have happened!

Scientist: Well if I had been in charge, none of this chaos would have happened! I had a whole game plan in my head of how to make sure this job went smoothly! It's your fault for not listening to me!

Demon: Right! I get it, evil is not listening to your friends, and then making them jump off a building!

Bri & Sci: NO IT'S NOT!

Gremlin: Right. I'm sorry to say this but I do not want to do another single thing you tell me to! I wanted to stay here in the lobby with my friends but you made me go and do things I didn't want to do. I am putting my foot down and staying right here!

Brian: Gremlin, you really need to move out of the way!

Gremlin: No. I'm staying right here!

Scientist: Gremlin run!! There is a monster right behind you!

Gremlin: No, I'm not falling for that one! I am staying right heee-AHHH! [Arm swiping sound?]

Scientist: Great. Now under your leadership the Gremlin has been taken by a monster. What are you going to do about it?

Brian: Well you've been trying to prove yourself all day, why don't you save the Gremlin?

*Bickering continues*

Demon: Now this is evil, I've really outdone myself. (*Chuckle*) Go on, save your little friend mortals. Go and rescue him from the clutches of a monster. Go on, he's going to die a painful death if you're not quick. Come on, save him quickly. Stop arguing and save the Gremlin. Save him! He really is going to get eaten if you don't do something right now! Brian? Scientist? I'm not going to save him for you!

*Beat*

Alright, clearly I'm going to have to save him for you. But this is an evil rescue, understand? It's really, very, totally evil. (Abigail, we need you to write a spell here about fire.. Also we love you.)

Fire, I summon you forth from the deepest depths of hell  
from the keeper of the sacred flames,  
To wield as my own  
I seek the glowing forge within to use its power as my own,  
come now to my fingertips,  
Fire, I call you hence

Brian: Right. Well this is almost unfathomably horrible.

Scientist: Oh my Raven's Talon, it's on fire. Oh, the stench. This is so vile.

Brian: If I was capable of vomiting, then I would indeed be vomiting, but as we have previously established I am apparently not even alive.

Scientist: I can tell you what is definitely not alive Brian. That monster. That is so dead. So very, very dead.

Demon: No need to thank me all at once.

Gremlin: I don't feel well. I'd like to go to bed now.

Brian: That was very ... good of you Demon.

Demon: No it wasn't! Take that back! I did it to prove an evil point! And it worked because-

*Door opening.*

Receptionist:       What have you done? What happened? I've only been gone for twenty minutes and you set the place on fire!

Brian:           Well I assigned myself as receptionist, the Gremlin was a bellhop, this Demon we're training was the door demon, and the Scientist was *supposed* to be on housekeeping. Unfortunately this didn't go quite to plan as the Gremlin, almost drowned, fell off the roof and got snatched up by a monster, and then the demon set it on fire.

Receptionist:       I only asked you to look after the desk! We already have 12 bellhops working today, they're stood over there!

Scientist:       Well, I definitely assumed they were statues.

Brian:           They do look a lot like statues.

Gremlin:       Perhaps you should hire less statue-y bellhops next time.

Demon:       I knew they were real, but I thought the gremlin running around was pretty funny.

Receptionist:       Well you have done a terrible job, so please go back to your attic so I can clean up this mess without any of you making it worse.

*Trumpet sound*

Brian:           Oh yes we forgot to mention, there is a king coming to stay at the hotel. That must be him now. Come on everyone, let's go.

Receptionist:       Wait no, don't leave! What do you mean a king! Come back!  
(*distant*)

*Elevator doors open, step in, doors close. Elevator music.*

Gremlin:       Wait, there's an elevator?!

Scientist:       Yes of course, have you been using the stairs all day?

Gremlin: I don't want to talk about it.

*Doors open, step out, close.*

Brian: Finally back in the attic.

Gremlin: Let's never leave again.

Brian: How about a drinks break?

Scientist: Ponerology 101! What is evil?!

Demon: Evil is being a hotel receptionist!

Scientist: Hang in there Albert, you'll get tenure soon.

*End of Transmission*

This broadcast has been brought to you by Hotel Elsewhere, scripted under candlelight. Featuring Eddie Lear as the Scientist, Lu Spicer as Brian the Robot, Matthew Beacham as The Gremlin and Abigail Hackwood as The Demon. All additional voices provided by featured artists. Theme Tune Vocals by Lacey Love-Kent. Audio Engineering and Original Music by Eddie Lear. Artwork by Abigail Hackwood. If you enjoyed this adventure, please consider subscribing to our Patreon at [patreon.com/hotelelsewhere](https://patreon.com/hotelelsewhere). Thank you for listening!