

## **Trailing the Dead**

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Childhood friends Mike, Paul and David find themselves at a dead end, literally! Only one man can follow the trail of clues they left behind, Scout Mckee, ghost-buster extraordinaire!

INT. RESTAURANT FREEZER - NIGHT

MIKE 38, runs in. Worried. Takes off graduation ring and wraps it in newspaper. He puts it hastily in a tupperware and hides it in the ice box. Enter MOB BOSS 50, GOON ONE 30, and GOON TWO 35.

GOON ONE

No where t' run now, cook. (CACKLE)

MOB BOSS nods, Goon Two aims gun at Mike.  
FADE OUT (GUN SHOT).

EXT. LAKE - NIGHT

15 YEARS LATER. Ghosts Mike, PAUL 38 and DAVID 40, sit on an old pier fishing. David is tying his hook to the fishing line.

MIKE

Well, there hasn't been anyone in the freezer for weeks.

DAVID

Huh. It broke down or something?

David swings his fishing rod and throws the line into the lake.

MIKE

Nah, I'm just so good at this haunting thing, that the cooks refuse to go in now.

They all laugh.

DAVID

Ha! Show off... (smiles and shakes his head)

MIKE

They bought a series of ice boxes and they keep them in the hall!

PAUL

What? Like, large fridges?

MIKE

Yeah!

PAUL

In that skimpy little hall you had there!?

MIKE

Aha, they fit five there and two next to the bathrooms.

DAVID

No way!

MIKE

Seriously. -Last night, there was a drunk customer who mistook one for a bathroom and took a leak on the meat!

DAVID

Ah, dude! (disgusted)

MIKE

What? It's true. And it's not like we served it to anyone... Although there was this one guy - Here, hold this.

Mike gives his fishing rod to David and gets up.

PAUL

They served the soiled meat???

MIKE

Well, no, but they should've.

MIKE

This guy, big guy, gargantuan, - huge.

Mike acts out an imitation of the big guy.

MIKE

He walks in like he owns the place. Real pushy, you know? -He's screaming at the waitress just cause she didn't ask if he wanted decaf.

DAVID

Jesus Christ!

PAUL

Watch it! (hits David on the shoulder)

DAVID

Sorry.

MIKE

Anyway, (rolls his eyes) he ordered the tri-tip. And, he sent it back twice too. (continues imitation of fat guy) "Not raw enough", he says... (cackles) I just couldn't resist.

PAUL

Oh geez, what did you do now?

MIKE

Hey, he asked for it! And you would have done the same. So don't give me the-

DAVID

Guys! (interrupts)

MIKE AND PAUL

What? Huh?

DAVID

So what happened next?

MIKE

Ah. (acts out the part of the waitress) So, here comes the waitress carrying a big chunk of cold, red meat, right? -It takes the guy ten minutes to prepare himself to eat. (acts out the part of the fat guy) Takes off his tie, stretches his shirt, rolls up his sleeves, turns the plate around three times, and he moves his glass a little to the left. -He is about to poke the meat with his fork, when I move his steak.

DAVID AND PAUL

(laugh)

MIKE

He freaked! (stops acting to laugh)

DAVID

You just moved it?

MIKE

At first. (acts out part of fat guy again) I ended up chasing him all over the restaurant slapping his butt with the meat. -He screamed like a little girl! (imitates girl screaming). "The meat is chasing me!" (stops acting to laugh) -He ended up hiding inside one of the bathroom stalls-

All laugh, Mike wipes away tears. Suddenly Mike starts fading.

PAUL

Mike?

DAVID

(stops laughing) Mike!

MIKE

That's not all, you should have seen what I did to him IN the-

Mike starts to hover over the pier.

MIKE

Woah!

DAVID

(points at Mike and stutters) Er-ag- et- ug...

Paul grabs on to Mike's leg and tries to pull Mike down but the force is too strong. Paul holds on to Mike and they both hover above the pier.

DAVID

You're - fading!

Mike freaks out.

MIKE

I'm fading? Guys...? Guys, help me!

Mike is dragged up and fades away. Paul falls and freezes in place pointing at the sky.

DAVID

Oh my god! Someone must have solved his mystery... come on Paul, lets go!

PAUL  
But no one had been in the freezer  
for months.

David drags Paul away.

PAUL  
-Mike! MIKE!!!

INT. RESTAURANT FREEZER - DAY

SCOUT MCKEE 19, surrounded by cops and reporters with cameras. He is holding a tupperware with a ring and a newspaper clipping inside.

SCOUT MCKEE  
There, there's where I found it  
(points to ice box).

Crowd MURMURS. Camera flashes go off.

SCOUT MCKEE  
Yes, I, Scout Mckee, future ghost  
buster champion of the world, have  
found irrefutable proof of the  
existence of spirits AND the  
supernatural! (shows ring to crowd)

REPORTER ONE  
Mr. Mckee, irrefutable?

SCOUT MCKEE  
Ah, you do not understand and I do  
not have time to explain it to  
you... Stand back!

Scout Mckee takes out a strange stick with a rubber chicken tied to it. The crowd GASPS. Scout Mckee paces around the room randomly. He stops, shakes the stick, chicken drops.

SCOUT MCKEE  
Aha! Here, dig here! The chicken  
has spoken!

COP ONE  
Huh?

SCOUT MCKEE  
Hurry, hurry, the spirits demand  
satisfaction!

Scout Mckee pushes the cop towards the chicken. The cop waves and a construction crew enters. Digging starts.

REPORTER TWO

(facing a camera) Behind me, may be the discovery of the most important piece in a puzzle that humanity has been trying to solve for centuries. Is there life after death? Do ghosts really exist? And can a select few communicate with the dead? If the authorities find a body, as Scout Mckee has predicted, then there will be substantial proof of the existence of the afterlife. This is Sarah Constance reporting for Channel 4 News.

FADE OUT.

EXT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Cops are carrying Scout Mckee, over their heads, towards the street. Scout Mckee struggles to get free.

SCOUT MCKEE

Wait! Just a little deeper! Keep digging!!! The chicken is never wrong!

Scout Mckee sees Paul, standing next to the bathroom door.

SCOUT MCKEE

There! Don't you see? Next to the bathroom! A ghost!!! Waaaait!!!

Cops ignore him and toss him out on to the street. Paul, startled, stares back at Scout Mckee.

INT. RESTAURANT FREEZER - DAY

Cops laughing and talking. Special effect: X-Ray of the ground reveals a body buried next to the hole made by the construction crew.

FADE OUT.

INT. ROOM - NIGHT

Scout Mckee dials the phone. On the Desk lays the Ring and newspaper clipping. There is a wall of trophies for catching ghosts.

SCOUT MCKEE

(to the phone) I got another one today, ha! I'm beating you Pepe le Boo. I'll win the ghost buster award this year, you'll see!  
(stops) What? You got two? So fast? Oh yeah... Well... Stop calling me!!!

Scout Mckee SLAMS phone down, he then picks up the ring and newspaper. Newspaper story reads of a bank robbery where millions of dollars were stolen. The money was never recovered.

SCOUT MCKEE

(looks closely at ring) Roadside High, class of 1987. Hmmmm...  
(stops) What kind of a name is Pepe le Boo anyway? (scoffs)

INT. ROADSIDE HIGH OFFICE - DAY

Scout Mckee gets a yearbook from a clerk. He opens it and finds a picture of Mike, Paul and David together. Scout Mckee recognizes Paul from the restaurant.

SCOUT MCKEE

(points at Paul and whispers)  
That's him... (reads notation on picture) Paul Mega- Mug- MAGALOTE.

INT. LIBRARY - DUSK

Scout Mckee sits at a computer, there are several old newspaper images on screen. A picture shows Mike inaugurating the restaurant where the tupperware was found. Another image shows an investigation of the disappearance of Mike. Next page shows Paul was missing too. Another image of a church with a new bell tower and Paul, a priest, smiling.

FADE OUT.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - NIGHT

Paul, with silent tears, is digging a man-sized hole. David stands next to the hole, tapping his foot.

DAVID  
What are you doing?

PAUL  
I'm digging.

DAVID  
Why?

PAUL  
I'm giving Mike a proper burial, if you don't want to be a part of this-

DAVID  
Paul, Mike was already dead. What exactly are you putting in the hole?

PAUL  
David, it's the principal of the thing, he was our friend. The least we can do is-

DAVID  
(interrupts) What? Dig a hole in the middle of the night and then fill it up again? Yes, I see how his memory will be preserved... Seriously, Paul-

PAUL  
(interrupts) Look, this is important, OK!? This might help him.

DAVID  
What? To get into Heaven?

PAUL  
Yes. Out of the three of us, he was the most likely to get into Heaven.

DAVID  
What?? You are a priest! If there is anyone going to Heaven, it's you!

(MORE)

DAVID (cont'd)

Paul, you think that Mike wants us to dig a hole and whine over it? This is not what Mike wants! For Pete's sake, Paul, we should be laughing and scaring. Not spending the night moving dirt from one side to another. Mike had fun, that's what he did and that's what he'd want us to do! -(he is interrupted by Paul grabbing his arm)

PAUL

Hey, (smiles) I'm gonna miss him too.

David sighs and thinks for a moment. He sighs again and jumps into the hole with Paul, he falls to his knees and starts digging.

HOURS PASS. David and Paul are sitting next to a mound of dirt.

PAUL

Hey, Dave, has anyone ever seen you?

DAVID

You see me right now, don't you?

PAUL

No, I mean, like, non dead people.

DAVID

What are you talking about?

PAUL

I think that strange detective guy saw me today.

DAVID

What?? You were visible?

PAUL

No, but I think he saw me anyway.

DAVID

The man who made Mike fade saw you and you are telling me this now?? WHAT ARE YOU, DENSE?? (he jumps up) -He is a ghost buster, Paul, and he is now after YOU!

PAUL

M-me?

FADE OUT.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Mob Boss now 65, with goons.

GOON ONE

That was a close call, boss, if only that MCKEE guy wasn't such a moron. You want me to ice him, boss?

MOB BOSS

Don't kill him yet, follow him. We never did find out what happened to that one third of the money.

GOON TWO

So you think he'll lead us to it?

MOB BOSS

If he does, its our lucky day, boys. If he doesn't, well... We could procure a little accident.

GOON ONE

Sure thing, boss. Sure thing. (rubs hands together)

EXT. CHURCH - NIGHT

Old stone church with a relatively newer bell tower. There is a bus stop across the street. A large bus slows down and stops. Scout Mckee gets off the bus and sprints towards the church. Paul and David see him from the church window.

INT. CHURCH - NIGHT

Paul and David stand next to a window.

PAUL

We gotta stop him, Dave! He's coming after me. You know what that means? I'M GOING TO HELL!!!

DAVID

Dude, you're not going to hell.

PAUL

Yes I am, I used the dirty money,  
the blood is on my hands! It's on  
your hands... it's on everybody's  
hands!!!

DAVID

What blood? You didn't kill anyone.  
THEY killed you.

PAUL

David, you should know the Ten  
Commandments: "Thou shalt not  
steal". What is that: the third,  
fourth one? It could be the first!  
Ah! I'm going to hell!!!

DAVID

Paul! Shut up! No one is going to  
hell. We are stopping him, OK?

PAUL

OK, OK...

DAVID

I need you to become visible?

PAUL

What?

DAVID

Become visible, NOW!

David pushes him into the wall.

INT. NUN'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

Several nuns asleep in individual beds in a small stone hall.  
Paul stumbles into the room through the wall, David follows  
walking behind, they are surrounded by a halo of light.

DAVID

Sisters. Sisters! AWAKE!

PAUL

(whispers) What are you doing?

DAVID

(whispers) Shh! Follow my lead.

NUN ONE

Father MAGALOTE? Is that you?

The nuns begin to stir.

NUN TWO  
Are you an angel?

DAVID  
(interrupts before Paul) We are  
BOTH angels, and we- er- God needs  
your help.

INT. CHURCH - NIGHT

Scout Mckee opens door and enters.

SCOUT MCKEE  
Anyone here? Hellooo... (he walks  
down the isle).

NUN THREE 78, enters holding a long candelabra. Candle is lit.

SCOUT MCKEE  
Sister? Sorry for disturbing you  
this late-

NUN THREE  
(points at Scout Mckee) There is  
the heretic! Get him!

An army of nuns in pajamas charges Scout Mckee. The nuns attack with brooms and buckets. Trying not to hurt the old nuns, Scout Mckee manages to reach the bell tower stairs. He runs up the stairs and the nuns chase after him. He reaches a heavy door and SLAMS it behind him. He then barricades it with a large bolt.

EXT. BELL TOWER - NIGHT

Small opening onto a balcony with stone columns and arcs holding several massive bells. Under the bells there is a pit, a rope hangs down from the center bell. Scout Mckee walks away from the door towards the bells. The door is being pounded feebly by the NUN army.

SCOUT MCKEE  
(sighs in relief) That settles it,  
this has got to be the right  
church.

Scout Mckee wipes off the dust from his pants.

SCOUT MCKEE  
 And now, lets see what you're  
 hiding, FATHER Magalote...

Scout Mckee takes out an egg and spins it on the floor while pouring strange liquid over it. Egg moves across the floor and falls into the pit. Scout Mckee peeks down.

SCOUT MCKEE  
 Oh, man... There goes the egg.  
 (sniffs confused)

Scout Mckee turns his head upwards and sees under a large bell. He finds the remains of Paul tied upside down from the bell clapper.

SCOUT MCKEE  
 Hibijesus! (coils in fear and  
 shudders)

Scout Mckee gets under bell. Enter David and Paul without halo.

PAUL  
 He's found me!

DAVID  
 C'mon lets push him off the tower!

PAUL  
 (holds David back) You know, I...  
 That would cross the line.

DAVID  
 But, you're gonna fade! C'mon!  
 There has to be a way!

PAUL  
 I am a man of God, Dave, I can't  
 keep on running away from Him.

DAVID  
 Yes you can! Lets just scare him,  
 maybe he falls off on his own...?

PAUL  
 Dave, Dave, slow down. I... We...  
 It's our time to go. We had our  
 fun, but... It's over. It should be  
 over. (starts fading)

DAVID  
 No, Paul... (sighs)

PAUL

Good bye my friend. I hope there is forgiveness for our sins. (fades away)

DAVID

No!! No, no, no, no, no, no, no.  
(turns to face horizon)

Scout Mckee comes out from under the bell, he is holding a small black book.

SCOUT MCKEE

Uh... Thanks for not pushing me off the tower -Dave, is it? What is this book? (flips the book open)

David paces frustrated, he looks at Scout Mckee in anger.

DAVID

(whispers) No...

David paces some more. Scout Mckee reads book.

SCOUT MCKEE

This was his accounting book.  
(flips pages) It's all here, the charity money, the collection of tithes, even this tower's building expenses... (stops) Oh! I get it, Mike bought the restaurant, Paul got the tower, and you... what did you get with the stolen money? A yacht? A bronze statue? Arabian monkeys?

DAVID

NO!

SCOUT MCKEE

No? Golden bust of Mozart?

DAVID

(yells) NO!

SCOUT MCKEE

No what?

DAVID

No, we didn't steal the money!

SCOUT MCKEE

But it's the money that was stolen  
from the bank, you had it.

DAVID

We found it.

SCOUT MCKEE

Oh... you foound it... And the  
little fairies told you to spend it  
on little dresses, didn't they?

DAVID

We DID find it. In a case, floating  
in a river.

SCOUT MCKEE

Yeah... and I got a money tree in  
my back yard, writes checks in my  
name too!

DAVID

(ghostly choleric yell with  
supernatural echo) WE DID NOT STEAL  
IT. (Scout Mckee surprised, David  
lowers his voice) But, we did pay  
with our lives. We did not know it  
then, but the money belonged to the  
mafia. Mike and Paul had spent  
their share when they came knocking  
at their doors...

SCOUT MCKEE

What about YOUR door? No one came  
knocking?

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

FLASH BACK of David, Paul and Mike arguing.

DAVID

(off screen) The money separated  
us. We argued about it, we fought  
and we went our own ways.

Mike and Paul leave angry in separate directions. David hits  
the table.

EXT. BELL TOWER - NIGHT

Scout Mckee and David talk.

DAVID

Anyway, I was frustrated that something like money would break our friendship apart, so I never spent it. When the mob showed up with a claim, they gave Paul and Mike two days to come up with the cash... They both called me, they were desperate. I could have given my share to either one of them. Would have saved at least one, but I couldn't choose between them.

SCOUT MCKEE

So the mafia killed them both...?

INT. ROOM - DAY

Lonely room with small window. There is an open case containing a large amount of money on the floor. David looks at the case. He closes it violently and throws the case across the room. David storms out of the room.

DAVID

(off screen) I was left holding a case of tainted money.

SCOUT MCKEE

(off screen) So when did the mafia find you?

DAVID

(off screen)(scoffs) They didn't.

David enters the room grabs the case. He takes a pair of handcuffs out of his pocket and handcuffs the case to his right arm. He leaves the room.

EXT. BELL TOWER - NIGHT

Scout Mckee and David talk.

SCOUT MCKEE

But...

DAVID

I couldn't take it. I had watched while my friends were killed and did nothing. I went back home and ah...

SCOUT MCKEE  
Suicide?

DAVID  
(nods) In my living room.

SCOUT MCKEE  
Woah... So the money?

DAVID  
It's still there, in my living  
room.

Pepe le Boo is hanging off the side of the tower with a rope.  
He hears everything. He takes out his cell phone.

PEPE LE BOO  
(soft cackle)

EXT. MOUNTAIN HOUSE - NIGHT

Lonely house next to a cliff with a forest surrounding it.  
The house is abandoned and weeds have grown around it almost  
hiding it. At the bottom of the cliff there is a river. David  
leads Scout Mckee into the house. After some time, Pepe le  
Boo tiptoes towards the house.

INT. MOUNTAIN HOUSE - NIGHT

David and Scout Mckee stand looking at the hanging corpse of  
David. The case is handcuffed to David's corpse's right  
wrist.

SCOUT MCKEE  
Dude, you got problems.

Scout Mckee slowly reaches for the case.

DAVID  
Wait.

SCOUT MCKEE  
(he stops) What?

DAVID  
Just a second.

David walks to a window that is overlooking the cliff and  
looks outside.

DAVID  
I'm going to miss this.

SCOUT MCKEE  
Being a ghost?

DAVID  
Yeah. But I couldn't possibly go on  
without my friends... (scoff) the  
story of my life.

David shrugs and turns to face Scout Mckee.

DAVID  
So, tell me, what are you going to  
do with the money?

SCOUT MCKEE  
Four words: Scout Mckee, The Movie.

Scout Mckee reaches for the case again. Pepe le Boo jumps out  
from the doorway and runs towards the hanging case. They both  
grab it at the same time.

PEPE LE BOO  
Get *toi* stinkin' American hands of  
*le* case, it is French territory  
now!

SCOUT MCKEE  
Pepe le Boo?? What are you doing  
here?

PEPE LE BOO  
Winning *le* ghost buster  
championship, zat iz what!

SCOUT MCKEE  
Hey! Get your own ghost!

They both pull on the case. David's corpse swings back and  
forth.

PEPE LE BOO  
*Cet* mine!

SCOUT MCKEE  
No, it's mine!

MOB BOSS  
(calmly) Actually, it's mine.

Mob Boss and GOONS come out behind them with guns in hand. Pepe le Boo and Scout Mckee freeze. Their hands still on the case as the Mob Boss grabs the case too.

COP  
FREEZE, this is the police!

Several cops spill out from the doorway and CRASH through windows with guns pointed at the Mob Boss, his goons and the two ghost busters. David's corpse breaks loose and falls on top of the Mob Boss, Scout Mckee and Pepe le Boo. Cops start shooting. Mob Boss, Scout Mckee and Pepe le Boo fight to get the case. Mob Boss pulls the case extremely hard and accidentally tosses it, pulling David's corps' arm off. The case flies towards David who is still standing by the window. GOONS shoot. COPS shoot back. Scout Mckee and Pepe le Boo run and SCREAM in fear, they take cover. Bullets fly.

A group of reporters walk in from the doorway with cameras, lights and microphones. Everyone stops.

REPORTER TWO  
Is this a bad time?

Mayhem renews and reporters take cover still aiming their cameras at the gun fight.

Mob Boss, David, Pepe le Boo and Scout Mckee see the case balancing on the windowsill. They all crawl to get it.

MOB BOSS  
(yells) That's MY money!

Everyone turns to see the case balancing on the windowsill. They all run for the case. David looks at the case and then turns to see the running crowd. He deliberately nudges the case and he closes his eyes. The case tumbles out the window. Everyone crams themselves into the relatively small window space, trying to see outside. They see the case fall off the cliff and into the river.

FADE OUT.

EXT. MOUNTAIN HOUSE - MORNING

The cops have everyone in cuffs. They all go towards the police cars. There is a swarm of reporters all over the place. David sits on the steps of the front door. Scout Mckee looks back at him. David begins to fade. He smiles.

EXT. RIVER - MORNING

Three kids playing close to the river bank. KID ONE 8, sees the case floating with David'S corpse's arm still handcuffed to the case.

KID ONE

Hey guys... (nods head towards the case)

KID TWO

What is that?

KID THREE

Dunno. Lets get it!

The three kids fish the case out of the river. They open it and see the money.

FADE OUT.

Newspaper front page: Picture of Mob Boss behind bars. "Mob related killings finally solved after fifteen years"

Magazine "Ghost Buster Weekly". front cover: "WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TIED!" Picture of Pepe le Boo and Scout Mckee fighting for the trophy.

Magazine "Heaven Post" front cover: "Three New Residents Open Horror House Attraction" Picture of Mike, Paul and David.

FADE OUT.

THE END.