

SCENE 6**Inside The Peach**#26 - *Insect-roductions*

JAMES hears scurrying in the darkness as creatures move towards him from all directions.

JAMES

Hello?

(a beat)

Hello?

SPIDER

Why, 'ello.

JAMES

Who said that?

SPIDER

Aren't you the delicious little bite!

JAMES

Keep away from me!

GRASSHOPPER

Who are you talking to, Spider?

SPIDER

I'm not quite sure, Grasshopper.

CENTIPEDE

Hey! Is anyone hungry?

LADYBUG

I could go for a nibble, Centipede.

EARTHWORM

I'm feeling rather peckish myself, Ladybug.

GRASSHOPPER

Glowworm, a little light, if you please?

An unseen GLOWWORM lights the room from above emitting the sound of a neon tube warming up. The strange light reveals JAMES standing face-to-face with human sized insects, dressed in appropriately pithy British finery. It's quite a startling sight to behold.

The INSECTS stare at JAMES in silence.

LADYBUG

Look who's here!

GRASSHOPPER

My good boy, we've been waiting for you!

CENTIPEDE

The only thing I'm waitin' for is dinner. I'm starving—

SPIDER

But, whatever are we to eat?

The INSECTS all look to JAMES for advice. JAMES misinterprets their gaze thinking they mean to eat him.

JAMES

You're NOT going to eat ME!

JAMES goes into attack mode, flinging himself onto EARTHWORM!

Ahhhhhhh!

EARTHWORM

(JAMES wallops EARTHWORM)

Ahhh! Help! I'm being attacked! Help!

The INSECTS pull JAMES off of EARTHWORM.

GRASSHOPPER

Hold on everyone, calm down, calm down. I'm afraid there's been a bit of a misunderstanding.

EARTHWORM

(covering his eyes in fear)

What was that? Is it gone? Is it gone?!

SPIDER

Nothing to be afraid of, it's just a little boy.

CENTIPEDE

Little boys are the worst of his kind!

EARTHWORM

He does have a point.

CENTIPEDE

I'm eatin' him!

SPIDER

Take one step and I'll separate your head from your torso—

CENTIPEDE

Backin' off...

SPIDER

Proper introductions are in order.

LADYBUG

I will go first, I am royalty after all.

CENTIPEDE

Says who?

LADYBUG

I am a Lady. The Lady. Bug of the Order of the Nine-Spotters. You know, the more spots one has, the more respectable and intelligent one is.

(to JAMES)

And who might you be?

JAMES

I'm James. James Henry Trotter.

CENTIPEDE

Daft name.

GRASSHOPPER

I think it's a fine name. I'm Grasshopper.

SPIDER

And I'm Spider.

(looking into JAMES' eyes)

Look at them eyes. You're clever like a spider aren't you, James!

JAMES

I wouldn't know.

EARTHWORM

(his back to JAMES since he can't see very well)

I'm Earthworm. You gave me quite a scare, but I'm prone to irrational fits of fear.

(JAMES shakes EARTHWORMS hand)

Ah! What was that? What was that!

JAMES

It was just me, shaking your hand.

LADYBUG

I'm afraid he can't see very well... and well... he has

(whispering)

no spots.

EARTHWORM

(reacting to Ladybug's insult)

I may not see very well, but my hearing is impeccable, Ladybug.

CENTIPEDE

And I'm Centipede. Think of me as the guy who's gonna eat you while you're sleeping.

JAMES

GRASSHOPPER

SPIDER

LADYBUG

GRASSHOPPER

RA

CENTIPEDE climbs to the top of the peach and begins to cut the stem of the peach.