

"HABEAS PORPOISE"

By

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INT. DOLPHIN LAB - DAY

DETECTIVE JONES and DETECTIVE HARPER stand over the murdered body of PROFESSOR CLAY.

DET. JONES

Okay, Harper. It's your crime scene. What can you tell me?

DET. HARPER

Professor Clay: celebrated scientist and cloner of dolphins. Clay was wealthy, famous, had a lot of enemies-

DET. JONES

Can it, rookie! Look at the scene.

DET. HARPER takes a deep breath and looks around.

DET. HARPER

Somebody had a fun time tearing this place apart: windows smashed, beakers spilled.

DET. JONES

Look harder. Think. What hasn't been damaged?

DET. HARPER

The computer! They must have been after Clay's files!

They walk to the computer and stare at the screen.

DET. HARPER (CONT'D)

Aren't you going to say good job?

DET. JONES

You haven't needed to hear it yet.

DET. HARPER

(reading an email)

"Lab Tech's log: the professor went mad. Started destroying the lab. Someone has to stop them!"

DET. JONES

Clay? If they're responsible, why are they dead on the ground behind us?

They turn around: PROFESSOR CLAY is alive, and holding some strange scientific device!

PROF. CLAY

Not so fast, detectives!

DET. JONES

Don't be foolish, Clay...

PROF. CLAY

Foolish? Ha! You were foolish to fall into my trap. You see: my whole operation is a sham. I can't clone dolphins. But what I CAN do is use this machine to turn people INTO dolphins. Once I destroy this lab and all the evidence it contains, I'll change my identity and sell my dolphins to the highest bidder!

The machine begins to power up. And right before it fires, DET. JONES leaps in the way of the beam to save DET. HARPER.

ZZZZAP

DET. HARPER

No!

PROF. CLAY

Nice knowing you, chumps!

PROF. CLAY runs off. DET. JONES crumples onto the floor, kicking their legs and making dolphin sounds.

DET. JONES

Not long now... I can feel...
Dolphin... Taking over...

DET. HARPER

No! You have to fight it!

DET. JONES

Dolphin noise You're a... Good detective, Harper. U-use your gift... To find... Clay.

DET. JONES turns into a dolphin: ee-ee-eeking and flipping their flippers.

DET. HARPER
Nooo! Whyyy!

DET. HARPER stands up. A freshly-made hero.

DET. HARPER (CONT'D)
Wherever you are Clay, I'm going to
find you. And when I do I'll give
you a taste of your own medicine:
turn the dolphin ray on you!