SCOOBY-DOO AND GUESS WHO?

"ASCOT RED-HANDED"

Hold the phone! It's Aubrey Plaza!

Written by

Bradford N. Smith

DISCLAIMER: This material is non-commercial fan fiction, born out of a lifelong love for the Scooby-Doo franchise, and is available for the public enjoyment of fans only. Any and all characters, settings or other references to the franchise in these scripts belong to WarnerMedia, Hanna-Barbera and any other relevant copyright holders.

COLD OPEN

INT. EAST COOLSVILLE VALLEY MALL - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Abuzz with activity, in the not-too-distant past, SHOPPERS trot around with bags, TEENS gossip and the ELDERLY power walk. It's the mall's heyday, with a very 80s aesthetic.

A pre-A Pup Named Scooby-Doo RED HERRING happily skips along with a balloon in hand. As he stops to tie his shoe, it slips from his grasp.

RED Oh no! My balloon!

Tracking it up with his eyes, he's terrified when it bumps into the NEON DEMON, a gargoyle-ish creature with an 80s neon color scheme. Hanging from the ceiling, it lets out an earpiercing screech. The mall's patrons look up and scream.

The Demon leaps down as they scatter.

END COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

EXT. CITY STREETS - DAY (PRESENT)

The Mystery Machine swerves through traffic at high speed.

DAPHNE (O.S.)

Fred, slow down!

INT. MYSTERY MACHINE - DRIVING - SAME

The gang clutch for life as G-forces push them into the seats.

FRED

No can do, Daph. This is a code orange emergency situation.

VELMA

It's just an ascot.

REVEAL: Fred's not wearing his trademark ascot.

Fred slams the brakes, lurching everyone forward and sending Shaggy and Scooby crashing into the front windshield.

FRED

Velma, this was not <u>just</u> an ascot. It's a symbol of leadership. It signifies my care, respect and bravery as a professional mystery solver. You can't get the same results with an open collar. The ascot ties it all together.

VELMA

Fine. Where can you get a new one?

FRED

We're already here.

EXT. PARKING LOT - EAST COOLSVILLE VALLEY MALL - SAME

REVEAL: The Mystery Machine is parked haphazardly.

INT. MYSTERY MACHINE - CONTINUOUS

Daphne's face lights up.

DAPHNE

Is this for real? Are we actually at a mall?

FRED

Not any mall. The East Coolsville Valley Mall. Home of the one and only --

CUT TO:

INT. ASCOTOPOLIS STOREFRONT - MOMENTS LATER

It's out of business. Fred drops to his knees, letting out a Captain Kirk level skyward yell.

FRED

No!

SHAGGY

It's okay, Fred. Like, even without the ascot, you're still a leader to me.

Scooby gives Fred a salute.

SCOOBY

Oh Captain, my Captain.

FRED

I don't understand.

DAPHNE

This mall seems nearly abandoned.

VELMA

It probably has to do with the rise of online shopping.

FRED

That's not important. I want to understand what happened here. Ascotopolis was the number one retailer of men's neck wear. It was beloved. How could it go out of business?

AUBREY (O.S.)

You guys looking for that neck scarf place?

REVEAL: AUBREY PLAZA, sitting at a novelty kite kiosk.

It got like no business. People actively avoided it.

EVERYBODY

Actress, comedian and producer Aubrey Plaza?

SHAGGY

What are you doing at a mall kiosk?

AUBREY

Selling snow globes.

SCOOBY

Those are kites.

AUBREY

[CHECKS] Yes.

The gang share confused glances.

DAPHNE

Do you know why this mall's so empty?

FRED

But more importantly, did Ascotopolis leave behind any boxes of ascots in a size sixteen and a half, preferably buggy orange?

AUBREY

I'm gonna guess a hard no. And to the first question, I think it mostly has to do with that thing.

She points to the approaching Neon Demon, looking identical to its flashback appearance. It lets out the same earpiercing screech.

SHAGGY

Zoinks!

DAPHNE

What is that?

AUBREY

[UNIMPRESSED] The Neon Demon.

VELMA

It's coming straight towards us!

They run into a Gambercrombie & Finch store, Demon right behind them.

INT. GAMBERCROMBIE & FINCH - CONTINUOUS

Nobody is visible. Confused, the Demon looks around. As it searches, Aubrey and the gang are revealed to be hiding in clothing racks.

The Demon nears a large carousel clothing rack and swipes it open, only to reveal it's empty. Behind the Demon, Aubrey and the gang sneak by, still inside the racks, into a dressing room.

When the dressing room door shuts, the Demon rushes over and violently bangs on it.

SHAGGY (O.S.)

Occupied!

INT. DRESSING ROOM - SAME

They're all crammed into the tiny space.

DAPHNE

What now?

Aubrey notices the clothes hanging on a hook.

AUBREY

I've got an idea.

INT. GAMBERCROMBIE & FINCH - CONTINUOUS

The Demon bangs again and suddenly they all burst out. Aubrey screams like a banshee as they throw several shirts over the Demon's head and exit.

The Demon rips out of the shirts and screeches in anger.

INT. ESCALATOR LANDING - MOMENTS LATER

Aubrey and the gang catch their breath.

AUBREY

So yeah, that's been creeping around a lot lately.

Velma browses on her tablet.

FRED

Looks like we have a --

He feels for the ascot that isn't there and loses momentum.

FRED

-- it doesn't matter.

VELMA

Jinkies!

SHAGGY

What is it, Velma?

VELMA

An article about the Neon Demon.

SHAGGY

Like, what's so interesting about that? We've already met that horrendous horror.

VELMA

It says they caught him over a decade ago.

SHAGGY

Then who was that?

VELMA

That's what we need to figure out.

SHAGGY

Oh yeah. [LAUGHS] Right.

INT. OFFICES - MOMENTS LATER

Aubrey and the gang approach a door labelled "MANAGEMENT". Velma knocks.

RED (O.S.)

Come in.

INT. RED'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

They enter, coming face-to-face with present day Red Herring.

GANG AUBREY

Red Herring?

Red some-something? [TRAILS
OFF]

RED

What do you want, Jones?

Fred grabs Red by the collar.

FRED

What did you do to Ascotopolis? What. Did. You. Do!

RED

Knock it off, buzzbrain. I didn't do anything to that crummy store.

Velma pulls Fred off.

VELMA

We came to ask about the Neon Demon.

RED

All I can tell you is it's driving away customers.

FRED

Which is exactly what the Neon Demon would want us to believe.

Daphne shakes her head.

DAPHNE

Fred...

RED

Actually, if I don't get more people in here soon, my parents will have to sell this place for a lot of money so developers can put in condos.

FRED

Sounds like a motive to me.

Velma grabs a framed photo of young Red and his PARENTS.

VELMA

Were you here a lot as a kid?

RED

My parents built this mall. It's where I spend my free time, eat my meals, take my dates and work all summer. It's a second home. A massive, incredibly valuable, second home.

VELMA

You were around when the last Neon Demon was caught?

RED

Yeah. It turned out to be our lame, old janitor, Milton Boyles.

DAPHNE

What happened to him?

RED

He's in jail. [BEAT] Now get lost so I can call some real detectives.

The gang is insulted. Aubrey gets in Red's face.

AUBREY

[WHISPERED] I suddenly want something very bad to happen to you.

INT. OFFICES - CONTINUOUS

Red pushes everyone out and slams the door.

AUBREY

He did it. Blondie, you with me? [NUDGES FRED] Want me to plant some evidence?

INT. EAST COOLSVILLE VALLEY MALL - MOMENTS LATER

Aubrey and the gang walk past multiple empty storefronts.

DAPHNE

This isn't at all what I pictured when I used to wish for the mall all to myself.

SHAGGY

[NERVOUS LAUGH] Weird. This is exactly what I pictured... in my nightmares.

AUBREY

Dark. I like it.

SHAGGY

[GULPS] Thanks.

EVELYN (O.S.)

On your left!

They move aside as EVELYN, a gray-haired, sweatsuit wearing mall walker, catches up.

EVELYN

What's a group of teenagers doing in here?

FRED

We're looking for a store with ascots, preferably buggy orange, size sixteen and a half.

VELMA

We're also investigating a mystery.

EVELYN

Oh my, if you're talking about that Neon Demon, you'd better be careful. He's scared a lot of people out of this mall.

DAPHNE

Have you seen it?

EVELYN

I was one of the first. And he's no different now than he was then. Bright, neon colors. Horrible, earcrushing screams. But with that poor man in jail, I think this time it might be the real thing.

DAPHNE

There are no real things when it comes to monsters. Right, Fred?

Fred wistfully caresses his bare neck.

FRED

So alone...

EVELYN

I warn you. Be careful. I'd hate to see a bunch of young, meddling kids like yourselves get hurt.

SHAGGY

Like, so would I. Especially if those kids are me.

SCOOBY

Or me.

EVELYN

Enough scary talk. I've got a thousand steps left to do. Enjoy the mall. See you on my next lap!

She hurries off.

AUBREY

I like her.

VELMA

Look at this.

Velma ushers them to a mall directory.

DAPHNE

Haven't you been to a mall before? That's a directory. They all have those.

VELMA

I know, but take a closer look...
Based on the closed stores, the
Neon Demon seems to be targeting
the same ones it robbed years ago.

DAPHNE

Do you think that custodian's back for revenge?

SHAGGY

Maybe they're just closest to where it parked. [LAUGHS]

The Neon Demon screeches at them, revealing itself on the opposite side of the directory. Shaggy holds out a map.

SHAGGY

Map?

It screeches again and they run. After a brief chase, they appear to have lost it.

AUBREY

There!

They run up to a new car on display. Everyone pulls on a door, but they're locked.

DAPHNE

It's locked!

You know what, that makes sense.

The Demon catches up and they run off.

INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

Aubrey and the gang cram inside. Shaggy and Scooby frantically hit buttons as the Demon nears. At the last second, the door closes in the Demon's face. They let out a collective sigh of relief.

EXT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

The Demon pushes the elevator button.

INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

The doors open again. They scream as the Demon screeches, then run past it, spinning the Demon in a circle.

EXT. CLOTHING STORE - CONTINUOUS

The Demon comes to a stop in front of a store window where Aubrey and the gang are dressed in new clothes and posed like mannequins. It looks around before running off.

AUBREY

How long do we wait before --

The Demon returns and screeches at them.

AUBREY

Not long enough. Got it.

They run out of the clothes and away from the Demon.

INT. FOUNTAIN - CONTINUOUS

The Demon runs past the fountain. After a beat, Aubrey and the gang pop out of the water, catching their breath.

SCOOBY

A nickel!

Scooby picks up a nickel.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. FOUNTAIN - DAY

The gang wrings out their clothes, drying off. Aubrey swims around in the fountain.

AUBREY

Come on... do we have to leave now? When will we ever get this chance again?

VELMA

No time. We've got a mystery to solve.

AUBREY

Right. The curse.

SHAGGY

I don't think it's a curse.

AUBREY

[WINKS] Right...

Velma points.

VELMA

Are those ...?

DAPHNE

Roller skate tracks!

A trail of roller skate tracks lead away.

VELMA

What kind of demon rides roller skates?

INT. EMPLOYEE HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Aubrey and the gang approach a door labelled "JANITOR".

VELMA

The tracks end here.

AUBREY

Wait. I work here. Let me check...

She opens the door and peeks in.

Yep, just as I thought. Storage. Let's go. Everybody in.

INT. JANITOR'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

They look around at stacks of boxes.

FRED

Hold the phone!

He runs off.

SHAGGY

What is it, Fred?

FRED

Ascots!

He pops out from a pile, holding a box overflowing with ascots.

FRED

Falcon blue, pitstop pink, bear hat green... look at them all!

AUBREY

You've got an unhealthy obsession with neck wear.

Fred rummages deeper into the box.

FRED

Wait. Where's buggy orange?

VELMA

What's a box from Ascotopolis doing in a janitorial storage room?

DAPHNE

These are from all over the mall. Pingree's Department Store, Hy Pryce's Universe of Toys, Forks Plus.

SHAGGY

Here's one from Uncle Earl's Umbrellas.

The box tips over, spilling umbrellas. One opens under Scooby, launching him into the air.

This one's full of headless baby dolls, or whatever.

Fred peeks in her box.

FRED

Those are toasters.

AUBREY

Way to ruin the illusion.

VELMA

These are all the stores that are out of business.

Tying on a yellow ascot, Fred's confidence is partially restored.

FRED

I think it's time we split up, gang. Daphne, Velma and I will check this level. Shaggy, you and Scooby go upstairs to the food court.

SHAGGY

For once, I'm totally on board with your plan.

SCOOBY

Genius.

FRED

Aubrey, do you -- hang on, this doesn't feel right...

He removes the ascot and rifles around the box again.

AUBREY

I'll go with the -- [RE: SCOOBY] Hey, does this dog got a name?

SCOOBY

Scooby-Doo.

Fred ties on a red ascot.

FRED

Are you sure? They can get wacky.

AUBREY

I'm fun.

INT. EAST COOLSVILLE VALLEY MALL - MOMENTS LATER

Shaggy, Scooby and Aubrey walk, eating large cookies, in a heated debate.

SHAGGY

Like, no way, Scoob. The cookie stand isn't part of the food court.

SCOOBY

Yes it is.

SHAGGY

The food court is upstairs. The cookie stand is downstairs. It's not like we're talking fancy Velma science here.

AUBREY

Isn't the cookie stand an eatery?

SCOOBY

Thank you.

SHAGGY

Eateries that operate within the designated square upstairs count as food court. Anything outside of said designated square counts as an autonomous unit for mid-mall snacking. Now, if you're going to --

AUBREY

What's that?

They look behind themselves and see a Demon-shaped shadow.

SHAGGY

Let's not find out.

They hop on an escalator heading upstairs.

REVEAL: The shadow belongs to a cardboard cutout for a Demonthemed video game.

INT. FOOD COURT - CONTINUOUS

The trio walk into the designated area.

SHAGGY

See? This is a food court.

SCOOBY

Whatever.

SHAGGY

Looks like we've got the place to ourselves.

SCOOBY

Pizza?

SHAGGY

Like, sure, Scoob. Let's find some.

AUBREY

I'm hitting the vending machines.

Aubrey rounds a corner, only to come speed walking back.

AUBREY

You do not want to go that way.

SCOOBY

What's that way?

The Neon Demon comes screeching around the corner.

SHAGGY

Zoinks!

Along with the Demon, the trio run back and forth across the floor, between stores, a take on the classic *Scooby-Doo*, *Where Are You!* "Hallway Chase". Upon each store entered, there's a crash, and upon each exit, they've got additional store-related items on their body.

The last store sells shoes. Shaggy exits in a pair of high heels.

INT. DOWNSTAIRS - SAME

Daphne reviews a directory as Fred wanders, uncomfortably tugging on his red ascot. Velma looks at them both.

VELMA

We're supposed to be searching for clues.

DAPHNE

Who cares! Let's go shopping!

She excitedly points on the directory.

DAPHNE

Watches! Watches!

FRED

When did you say the mall closes, Daph?

DAPHNE

I don't know. Why?

INT. MALL DOOR - MOMENTS LATER

Fred tugs on the door, but it's chained shut.

DAPHNE

We're locked in with that Neon Demon?

VELMA

What are we gonna tell Shaggy and Scooby?

FRED

I'm not gonna tell 'em how bad it is. I won't worry 'em. It's -- it's gonna be okay.

He slides against the wall to the floor, pulling off his ascot.

FRED

I think I'm just gonna rest here a minute. This ascot is throwing me off.

Shaggy and Scooby scream in the distance.

INT. UPSTAIRS - SAME

Storefronts pass by Shaggy.

SHAGGY

You've got to drive faster, man!

REVEAL: Scooby's driving a Mall Security Segway with Shaggy on his back. Aubrey's on one ahead of them. The Neon Demon is on one just behind.

SCOOBY

Don't like it? You drive.

SHAGGY

Okay, I will.

They awkwardly climb over one another to swap places.

AUBREY

Hurry up!

Shaggy speeds up and heads down an escalator. He's working really hard to go fast, but makes little progress. Aubrey passes by, with little effort on the other escalator.

AUBREY

Hey, Sherlock, in America we drive on the right side of the road.

REVEAL: Shaggy and Scooby trying to descend the up escalator.

SHAGGY

I am! You try driving in heels!

The Demon descends on the correct escalator and swipes at Shaggy and Scooby.

INT. MASSAGE AREA - MOMENTS LATER

The Demon arrives on its Segway, looking for the trio. They pop up and grab it, dressed like spiritual healers.

SHAGGY

Like, I'm not digging the vibes I'm getting from you, man.

Aubrey waves a hand over the Demon.

AUBREY

Yikes. Tons of negative energy.

SCOOBY

Lay down.

They put the Demon face down on a massage table.

AUBREY

We're gonna pound all the bad stuff right out. Guru Scoobicus?

Scooby cracks his knuckles and readies over the Demon. Aubrey whispers in its ear.

AUBREY

This is going to hurt a little.

Scooby begins an intense "chopping method" hand massage.

AUBREY

[WHISPERED] Deep breaths.

SHAGGY

And now, we can, like, pinpoint those pesky problem areas.

Shaggy pokes a needle into the bottom of the Demon's foot, it yelps. Aubrey holds it down.

AUBREY

Please sit still.

The trio continue the acupuncture.

SHAGGY

Now, hold for a couple minutes.

SCOOBY

Relax.

They run off. After a few calming breaths, the Demon realizes what has happened and bursts from the massage table in a rage, sending needles everywhere.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. CENTER OF MALL - NIGHT

Aubrey and the gang are together, sitting around, stumped. Fred's wearing a blue ascot.

VELMA

I don't get it. Who would bring the Neon Demon back to this mall?

DAPHNE

Especially with the old one still in jail.

AUBREY

It's the curse.

VELMA

There's no curse.

AUBREY

Then it sounds like we've got a killer on the loose.

VELMA

That's not it either.

AUBREY

You know how many movies there are where you think you know who the bad guy is, but then it's like his mom and she's a secret murderer...

VELMA

That's it!

AUBREY

A curse!

VELMA

No. It's still not a curse.

INT. ASCOTOPOLIS STOREFRONT - LATER

Fred has Aubrey and the gang gathered around him, a bunch of trap supplies laid out on the ground in front of him.

FRED

Aubrey, now's the point in the mystery where we set a trap.

Aubrey wields a pick axe.

AUBREY

How do we kill what's already dead?

FRED

We're not gonna kill it!

She tosses the axe aside.

AUBREY

Fine. Phase one. First you take a run at him with a sock full of quarters. I'd do it, but I pulled my back out at laser tag last night. Okay, you clock him on his headpiece and knock him out cold. That's when Phase Two kicks in.

FRED

No! No phases. This ascot has me thrown off, and our supplies are limited, but we're using my plan.

AUBREY

How about this? We tie you to the roof and you jump off and sail --

Fred covers his ears and walks away.

FRED

La! La! I can't hear you!

INT. DOWNSTAIRS - LATER

Aubrey and Scooby walk together.

AUBREY

This is lame. I should be kicking that demon in the face, not bait.

SCOOBY

Hey!

AUBREY

Sorry. You're not lame. [BEAT] What do you wanna talk about?

SCOOBY

Tell me about yourself.

Let's see... I know a lot about occults.

SCOOBY

I'll stop you right there.

The Neon Demon jumps out.

SCOOBY

Yikes!

The Demon chases them into an "Employees Only" door. Opening it reveals the duo standing beside a wall of toasters.

AUBREY

Get malled.

With a smile, Aubrey pushes a button, sending forks shooting from the toasters. The Demon stumbles back, into the open. From the second floor, Daphne and Velma drop a large novelty hat, which engulfs the Demon's head, causing it to fall onto an umbrella that opens and launches it into a net fashioned from ascots on the second floor.

Aubrey and Scooby run out and look up.

AUBREY

How you like that, curse?

SCOOBY

No curse.

INT. ELEVATOR - SAME

Shaggy watches through the glass.

SHAGGY

Wait. What am I in here for?

INT. UPSTAIRS - CONTINUOUS

The Demon breaks free. Fred grabs the nearest weapon. A churro. The Demon does the same and they sword fight.

AUBREY

Hit him with the saw!

Fred looks down at her.

FRED

The what?

The Demon uses the distraction to knock the churro from Fred's hand and grabs him by the ascot.

FRED

My ascot!

Struggling to pull free, Fred gets the Demon off balance. It trips over the edge, gripping the ascot tighter, as it dangles over the first floor. Fred glances down as the ascot slowly unravels.

FRED

Oh no.

INT. FRED'S HOME - DAY (FLASHBACK)

A Pup Named Scooby-Doo Fred gets an orange ascot for Christmas.

FRED'S DAD (O.S.)

It's an ascot, son.

INT. CRYSTAL COVE HIGH SCHOOL - DAY (FLASHBACK)

People gawk at Scooby-Doo! Mystery Incorporated era Fred's orange ascot as he proudly strides through the halls.

DYLAN RYAN

Wow! Fred looks like a true leader with that ascot.

EXT. FIELD - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Modern Fred runs through a field of daisies, his orange ascot in one hand, lovingly watching it wave in the breeze.

FRED

I love you, Orangey.

INT. UPSTAIRS - BACK TO PRESENT

A single tear rolls down Fred's cheek. He unties the ascot and the Demon falls.

INT. DOWNSTAIRS - CONTINUOUS

The Demon gets to its feet and backs Aubrey and Scooby against a wall.

It's mall or nothing!

SCOOBY

I don't know her.

Aubrey kicks a Segway, sending kite string around the Demon's legs. It falls. Aubrey stands over it.

AUBREY

That's right, son of Jor-El! Kneel before Zod! Ha ha ha ha!

INT. UPSTAIRS - SAME

Fred mourns the ascot until realizing the Demon's tangled up.

FRED

Shaggy! Start the elevator!

INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

Shaggy pushes a button.

SHAGGY

Finally.

INT. DOWNSTAIRS - CONTINUOUS

The elevator ascends, a novelty kite tied to the outside, pulling the string around the Demon's legs, hoisting it up.

FRED

Always have a backup trap.

INT. DOWNSTAIRS - MOMENTS LATER

Aubrey and the gang approach the hanging Demon. Daphne reaches for the mask.

DAPHNE

Now let's see who --

FRED

Wait! Nobody's here yet.

DAPHNE

But nobody's going to be here until the mall opens in the morning.

SHAGGY

We're locked in with a demon?

EXT. EAST COOLSVILLE VALLEY MALL - DAY

Coffee in hand, Red unlocks the door.

INT. EAST COOLSVILLE VALLEY MALL - CONTINUOUS

Red's startled by the sight of Aubrey and the gang asleep on the floor, with the Neon Demon sleeping in its hanging position. Fred remains ascotless.

INT. EAST COOLSVILLE VALLEY MALL - LATER

POLICE are there. Aubrey and the gang stand around the Demon. Red waits impatiently.

RED

Hurry this up, Jones.

FRED

All right, \underline{now} we can see who this Neon Demon really is...

He pulls the mask to reveal Evelyn.

EVERYBODY

Evelyn?

AUBREY

Nice.

VELMA

After searching public records, it turns out Aubrey's hunch that this Neon Demon might be a relative was right. Evelyn is actually Mrs. Boyles, wife of the original Neon Demon. That's how she was able to look and sound identical, because it's all the same materials.

AUBREY

I knew it!

VELMA

Seeking revenge on the mall that sent her husband to jail, she targeted the stores that had testified against him. VELMA (CONT'D)

However, even though her mallwalking kept her in shape, she needed roller skates to move fast enough to chase customers out. And since she could only carry so much to her car on any given day, she kept the rest in her husband's old storage room.

EVELYN

And I would have gotten away with it too, if it weren't for you meddling mallrats.

Red stops the cop as he leads Evelyn away.

RED

[RE: GANG] Can you get them out of here too? They're not here to shop. They're not here to work. They're just here.

EXT. PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

The police leave Aubrey and the gang at the Mystery Machine.

VELMA

Sorry about your ascot, Fred.

FRED

It's okay. I'm learning to move on.

AUBREY

Then what do I do with this?

She pulls out an orange ascot, he immediately rips it from her hands and wraps it around his neck.

FRED

Sixteen and a half!

AUBREY

So you don't want it, or --

He gives her a big hug. The others join in.

AUBREY

Gross.

SCOOBY

Scooby-Dooby-Doo!

END OF SHOW