

"The Cereal Killer"

Horror Audio Log Sample by Patrick Laffoon

CONTEXT: In this first-person horror adventure game, you play as Sean Weaver, a 17-year old boy searching for his younger brother, Will, who went missing after you witnessed a strange encounter with a man dressed like a cereal mascot. Through environmental exploration and puzzle solving, the player locates audio logs that shed light on the disturbing mystery.

Log #1:

DETECTIVE CARLYLE

Robert Carlyle, Spring Creek PD,
March 3rd, 1999. Questioned kids
at the elementary school Manuel
Gutierrez attended. Several kids
remember seeing a man in a dog
costume who came and talked to
Gutierrez at recess. One of the
kids, the boy's friend, says the
dog man took Gutierrez by the
hand, waved, then walked off into
the nearby woods. A box of cereal
was found along the tree line
called, uh, called "Crunchy
Bites." Evidence says it's just
repackaged frosted corn flakes.
On the box is a poorly drawn logo
and cartoon of a dog. The text
"They're doggone good!" and
"Because you're special!" are
printed on the back.

Log #2:

DR. LARKIN

Matthew is Tasty the dog man here
with us right now?

MATTHEW

He told me to keep it a secret...

DR. LARKIN

He's not here, then?

MATTHEW

Um... No.

DR. LARKIN

Good.

MATTHEW

He-he says I'm special. He says I
can do anything.

DR. LARKIN
You are special, Matthew. Very
special, indeed.

Log #3:

DETECTIVE CARLYLE
Clearly some sort of predator was
targeting Matthew, using sugary
cereal as bait. Other recordings
from Larkin have Matthew saying
Tasty the dog wants him to quote
"go on an adventure" and quote
"follow him to a place where he
can eat as much cereal as he
wants." Two days after the last
recording, Matthew went missing.

Log #4:

DR. LARKIN
Matthew, who is your imaginary
friend?

MATTHEW
He's just a friend.

DR. LARKIN
So, it's a he? You're sure?
Note: Matthew is nodding his head
yes. What's his name? Does he
have a name? Your friend doesn't
have a name? Are you not supposed
to say? Matthew?

MATTHEW
It's just pretend.

DR. LARKIN
Mmm, it's fun to play pretend
isn't it?

MATTHEW
Yeah...

Log #5:

DETECTIVE CARLYLE
Detective Robert Carlyle, Spring
Creek PD, March 5th, 1999.
(MORE)

DETECTIVE CARLYLE (CONT'D)

Received a tip email yesterday from a colleague, a friend, at Ridgecrest PD with information that may pertain to our current investigation of the missing Gutierrez kid. Striking similarities: the same imaginary friend, the time frame, almost all of it... We've made no progress over the last three days, so this might be the break we need. Requested the case files, should have 'em by tomorrow morning.

Log #6:

DR. LARKIN

So, you went out to meet Tasty in your back yard. Then what happened?

MATTHEW

He jumped and danced and singed songs. Then he gave me some cereal, and he goes "Ruff Ruff, Tasty Bites! They're doggone good!" Like, like a fun cartoon guy.

DR. LARKIN

Well, that sounds very fun indeed. How often does he come around and give you these... Tasty Bites? Hmm? Don't worry, you're not in trouble.

MATTHEW

A lot...

DR. LARKIN

And do you always eat the cereal? Matthew? Do you?

MATTHEW

Yeah... I hide the bowls in the- in the sand, in my sandbox.

Log #7:

DETECTIVE CARLYLE

Detective Robert Carlyle, SCPD, March, uh... 7th, 1999.

(MORE)

DETECTIVE CARLYLE (CONT'D)

Received the case files this morning and have been pouring over the documents. There are recordings, photos, email transcripts, what have you. Just as I was afraid of, everything lines up. Here are the facts: about ten years ago a boy named Matthew Benson went missing around Ridgecrest in the same manner as our kid. Only lead they had were some audio recordings from Matthew's sessions with this therapist, Doctor, uh, Jerome Larkin. Matthew claimed he was being visited by a "dog man" on a regular basis, and being given sugary cereal -- like in a bowl -- as long as Matthew promised not to tell anyone. Very similar to the Gutierrez case...

Log #8:

DETECTIVE CARLYLE

They found the Gutierrez boy... They think. A shack, out 20 miles off of the old highway on the way to Burnside. Not far from the reservoir. Sign on the door said "The Sugar Castle." Jesus... A body. A lot of blood, lot of urine, and... other fluids on the flooring, everywhere. Cage in the corner of the shack with a dirty bucket, and there were about four pallets worth of generic cereal. Also found fake university diplomas, stacks of child psychology textbooks... Uh, a TV was left on with cartoons playing. And costumes. A few of them. Dog mascot heads. Presumably one is Tasty, one for Crunchy, couple others... Makes me sick... We'll find the bastard. We'll... (sigh)

Log #9:

DR. LARKIN

Good to see you again, Matthew.
(MORE)

DR. LARKIN (CONT'D)

Now, why don't you tell me about your friend once more, the doggy man. What's his name? Matthew? Come on, now. Nobody is in trouble.

MATTHEW

Tasty.

DR. LARKIN

His name is Tasty? Note: Matthew is nodding his head in agreement. And when did you meet Tasty for the first time? Go on, it's okay. I'm sure Tasty won't mind you talking about him. I'm sure of it.

MATTHEW

Um, I watched cartoons and, um, play and I seen him outside, in the back yard.

DR. LARKIN

Mmhmm, and what does Tasty look like?

MATTHEW

He's tall, with a doggy head, and a... one of those, uh, with no arms?

DR. LARKIN

A vest? He wears a vest?

MATTHEW

Yeah. He was out there with cereal and waved at me. He did- he went like this, for me to come here... So I went out there.

Log #10:

DETECTIVE CARLYLE

Detective Carlyle, March 11th. I'll be reaching out to Dr. Larkin, the Benson boy's therapist, to see if he has any more info he was able to get out of Matthew. Hopefully, he has some more recordings or notes we can access.

DETECTIVE CARLYLE

This is Carlyle... Uh, wasn't able to contact Larkin. His contact information is no longer listed anywhere, online or otherwise. In fact, I actually couldn't find any records of a Dr. Jerome Larkin in the system. It's like he never existed... We'll keep looking.

Patrick Laffoon