

A Reader's Theater Script for
Platypus Police Squad: The Frog Who Croaked
Written by Jarrett J. Krosoczka
Script Adaptation by Betty Potter, TBA Committee Member

Readers:

Narrator 1	Narrator 2	Rick Zengo
Corey O'Malley	Professor Hopkins	Officer Casella
Disembodied Voice		

Narrator 1: This is the city. Kalamazoo City. Population 75,000. By day, it's a bright vibrant metropolis, the kind of city where dreams come true.

Narrator 2: But it's a different city once the sun goes down.

Voice: (quietly) Pssst...you come alone, like we said?

Professor Hopkins: (louder) Y-y-yes.

Voice: (sharply) Keep it down! (quieter) You got the money?

Professor Hopkins: (nodding) Yes.

Voice: Drop it right under the street light. I take the money and leave you the goods. Any sudden moves, the deal is off, got it?

Professor Hopkins: Okay.

Voice: Sweet. (thump of a full bag dropping)

Narrator 2: Before Professor Hopkins could pick up the duffel bag, a car roared out of a nearby warehouse, picking up speed and barrelling straight toward him. The professor got a momentary glimpse of the driver.

Narrator 1: That was the last thing Professor Hopkins saw that night. Welcome to Kalamazoo City.

(pause to indicate scene change)

Zengo: Oh man, I'm really sorry about that.

Narrator 1: Rick Zengo - DETECTIVE Rick Zengo - began his first day at Platypus Police Squad by spilling his entire mug of hot chocolate down the front of Senior Detective Corey O'Malley's shirt.

O'Malley: (teeth gritted) I - am - covered - in - coffee.

Zengo: Nah, man. I drink hot chocolate with extra chocolate sauce and mini-marshmallows. Let me get some paper towels.

O'Malley: Forget the paper towels, junior. I'll take care of it myself.

Narrator 2: It was just Zengo's bad luck that veteran detective Corey O'Malley turned out to be his new partner.

Narrator 1: When the partners caught their first case together - an illegal fish deal gone bad - Zengo could hardly contain his excitement. The unmarked squad car was totally sweet with the most up-to-date equipment.

Narrator 2: He wasn't as excited however, when they arrived at the crime scene.

O'Malley: What we got, Officer Casella?

Casella: One of the fishermen found a duffel bag filled with all sorts of fish, probably synthetic, early this morning. Some guy's jacket and wallet were with it. No money in the wallet, no sign of the guy who owned the jacket, and there are indications things may have gotten violent.

Narrator 2: Yeah, indications like black tire tracks up the back of the jacket...And where's the guy that was wearing it when they were put there?

Narrator 1: That's only the first question in Case #1138, Platypus Police Squad.

O'Malley: What is a respected high school teacher doing involved in the illegal fake fish trade?

Zengo: And is he buying or selling?

O'Malley: What does Blake Cameron, the super foxy Kal East High School quarterback, know about the black market fish trade at the high school--and Professor Hopkins' disappearance?

Zengo: I saw him at the crime scene.

O'Malley: My daughter is dating him! Is Vanessa in danger? Is Vanessa involved?

Zengo: I don't trust Frank Pandini, Jr. I know he's behind this somehow! His father made billions in the illegal fish trade and nearly killed this city. I don't believe he came back here just to make amends for the damage his father did.

O'Malley: Easy rookie. Keep your friends close and your enemies closer...for now.

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