

Night of The Living Flat Packs

Episode One

**By
Michael Southan**

SC. 1. EXT. SHAREWOODS CARPARK.

SPOOKY, FOREBODING MUSIC, THEN:

FX THE BUSTLE OF PEOPLE, FAMILIES, VOICES OF CHILDREN LAUGHING, SECURITY GATE BEEPS

STELLA Excuse me. Can I get through please? I can't get my wheelchair through...Urgh! Why won't people move?

FX: A BLAST OF STELLA WHEELCHAIR HORN.

STELLA This is NOT how I wanted to start my evening!

FX STELLA'S PHONE RINGS.

STELLA What?!

CLIFFORD **ON PHONE** Is err...is everything alright Stella? It's Clifford.

STELLA I know who you are Clifford, you're in my phone. We always have this conversation.

CLIFFORD **ON PHONE** Ah yes, I do forget. How funny are we? Listen, the reason I'm phoning is there's been a package on your doorstep for about –ooh - fifteen, twenty minutes or so. Pulled up about ten to the gentleman did. I wondered if you might not have heard the bell go.

STELLA Okay, well thanks for letting me know. I'll collect it in a bit.

CLIFFORD **ON THE PHONE** Do you want me to fetch it in and I'll nip round with it? I wouldn't want someone to make off with it.

STELLA I'm not actually home at the moment.

CLIFFORD **ON THE PHONE** Where are you?

STELLA I've gone to the shop, to pick up a couple of things.

CLIFFORD **ON THE PHONE** Can I ask where?

STELLA Only Sharewoods.

CLIFFORD **ON THE PHONE** Ooh, that's quite big isn't it? Anyone with you?

STELLA I am allowed to do things on my own y'know.

CLIFFORD **ON THE PHONE** No, that's fine I know you're capable. I'm just checking. Maybe I'll call your parents.

STELLA I'm twenty- six! I'll be fine. –

CLIFFORD **ON THE PHONE** Just to be on the safe side.

STELLA You wouldn't want to get in the way of the first day of their holiday would you?

PAUSE.

CLIFFORD **ON THE PHONE** Ah, no. I suppose there is that.

STELLA Thanks for letting me know about the post. I'll collect it when I'm back.

CLIFFORD **ON THE PHONE** Right you are. I'll see you soon, eh?

SHE PUTS THE PHONE DOWN.

SC.2 INT. SHAREWOODS SHOPFLOOR. – CONTINUOUS.

FX AUTOMATIC DOORS GLIDE SHUT.

BORED MALE TANNOY VOICE A white fiat is blocking the back entrance. Please would the owner remove it immediately

GREG There's something special about Sharewoods, don't you think? It's just so big, and there's a smell too. You can almost smell the flat-pack.

ERICA It's really busy.

GREG Sorry babe, I just can't help it. It almost makes me laugh, there's no consistency in what they sell. There's lamps next to hotdogs. Brilliant!

ERICA Can we get what we need and go? I hate it here.

GREG It was your idea to come at the end of the day. We're just going to have a quick look. We won't be long –

ERICA I can't. People are too loud and it's all echoey!

GREG It's good that we're here, Erica. We're finding our –

ERICA Forever home.

GREG Exactly.

ERICA What if we can't find the drawers we picked online?

GREG Look, I printed out the information. There's the serial number. Mountain grey.

ERICA What colour does Mountain grey look like?

PAUSE.

GREG Sorry, I know I'm a lot. I want to make sure we've got it all ready for when Mum's here. I want her to be impressed.

ERICA I think your Mum will be really impressed that someone's agreed to marry her son, don't you Greg?

GREG I think she'll be extremely impressed that you've given up smoking. Oh, I'm gonna buy a *Live. Laugh. Love* sign to celebrate! Come on, it's this way!

PAUSE.

ERICA Greg! There's no need to go overboard now. Wait, Greg! Wait for me!

SC. 3 SHAREWOODS SHOP FLOOR. – CONTINUOUS

TANNOY A reminder to all customers; Sharewoods shuts within the hour, 6pm. Thank you for your cooperation.

FX ALI STACKS SHELVES. UNPACKING OF BOXES, CLINKING OF JARS.

STELLA Excuse me, could you pass me a packet of Jelly Chews please? Can't quite reach them.

ALI Of course. Any special reason?

STELLA Just your classic Friday night in alone. Actually, can we make that two? I've had a tough week.

ALI Ugh, yes! I feel seen!

FX STELLA'S PHONE RINGS.

STELLA Hello Clifford.

CLIFFORD: **ON THE PHONE** Hello Stella, is it okay if I meet with you at Sharewoods?

STELLA How many times? There's no need, I'm fine!

CLIFFORD **ON THE PHONE** Please just for my peace of mind.

STELLA I'm an adult. I can manage on my own –

CLIFFORD **ON THE PHONE** To make sure you're safe –

STELLA Clifford, you need to stop. You're being ridiculous.

CLIFFORD **ON THE PHONE** I don't mean to be –

STELLA Well take it for granted that you are, okay? I've got a friend with me now anyway!

CLIFFORD **ON THE PHONE** Oh, really?

STELLA Yes, Ali from school, I've just bumped into her... known her years.

CLIFFORD **ON THE PHONE** Oh well, if you're sure.

STELLA Trust me, I'll be home when I'm home.

FX STELLA PUTS HER PHONE DOWN.

STELLA (to ALI) I'm so sorry you had to be dragged into that.

ALI **(Laughing)** How did you know my name?

STELLA Er...your name tag...

ALI Oh yeah, silly me, sorry, I'm all over the place today. Excuse me, I've got to go and sort some mugs.

STELLA That's no way to talk about the customers!

WE HEAR THE VOICES OF GREG AND ERICA APPROACHING.

GREG I just feel like we need something to give it that arty feel.

ERICA Yeah, but *Live, Laugh, Love?*

GREG It's my treat.

FX STELLA DROPS THE SWEETS FROM HER LAP.

STELLA Oh my life. What a nightmare!

GREG It's okay, let me get those.

STELLA Thank you! My fault, not looking where I'm going. –

ERICA Stella??

STELLA Oh yeah, hi. Oh hi Erica, how are you?

ERICA Yeah, really good thank you. This is my fiancé Greg. This is Stella. We knew each other from school. She was always dead clever –

STELLA Ah, I don't know about that.

ERICA What are you doing now?

STELLA Just finished a psychology degree. Warwick.

ERICA See, I've never done anything like that, much better creatively. I have my own Etsy store. I could take you through it sometime.

STELLA Oh, erm...yeah –

GREG She's made her own jewellery for our wedding. You should come Stella, we can make room –

ERICA Yes –

GREG I don't mean for your – not the wheelchair, your personality – not that your wheelchair isn't important oh...

STELLA Thanks, I should go –

ERICA Are you up to much the weekend?

STELLA No, I'll just chill -

ERICA Ooh, what have you got? Jelly Chews? Two packets?

STELLA No! **(Laughs nervously)** They're for me. - I probably won't eat them all. I'll probably put them in a fruit bowl or something, ornamental sweets...very big in Oslo apparently.

ERICA Great. – that sound's like....

STELLA It's so nice to see you. Good to meet you Greg.

STELLA LEAVES

TANNOY Would Chloe's mum please make themselves known to customer services? And then would she please tell Chloe what her surname is for future reference.

SC. 4 SHAREWOODS SHOP FLOOR. BABYWARE – 5:15pm

GREG Whereabouts is the exit, could you just point us at it? There? Okay, thank you. It's funny how life turns out isn't it? I think people always find their way eventually, your friend with her degree, your flourishing

business; us.. I can't wait to spend the rest of our lives together. Look at all these cots. We might be back to pick up our own one day.

ERICA Oh erm...

GREG I thought you wanted –

ERICA No, I do – actually, we need some glass tumblers. Go and find some for me?

GREG Okay, I'll meet you by the tills?

ERICA Sure will!

SC 4A

TANNOY Clean up at aisle si... er... five please

STELLA: Oh it's you

ALI: Hi again

STELLA: You remembered me

ALI: It's my job to remember things

AWKWARD PAUSE

ALI: Did you want something?

STELLA: Can I look at one of those mugs? Those ones that say "female boss"?

TANNOY Cleaner to aisle 5 please.

ALI: (LOOKING ACROSS THE SHELF AT MUG) Umm..

STELLA: They're on the top shelf

TANNOY Cleaner to aisle 5 please.

ALI REACHES AND GETS MUG

STELLA: Do you go to Cross Fit?

ALI: I wish. One Female Boss. (GIVES STELLA MUG)

STELLA: Thanks. So would you...?

TANNOY (URGENTLY) Any member of staff who can find a mop and a bucket, to aisle 5 please.

ALI: That's me, got to go! (LEAVES)

SC 4b

ERICA (WHISPERING) Stella. Stella. Pst, Stella.

ERICA TAPS STELLA'S SHOULDER AND MAKES HER JUMP. STELLA JUMPS, ALARMED.

ERICA I'm so sorry! I-I didn't mean to make you jump.

STELLA Oh no, that's alright. I've not dropped anything again have I?

ERICA I just wanted to ask you if you fancied going for a coffee after this. Cheeky catch up?

STELLA Ah, I would but I've got this really important family thing to be at.

ERICA I thought you said you weren't busy this weekend.

STELLA Well no, because it's still Friday – a weekday and not technically the weekend yet.

ERICA Well maybe tomorrow?

STELLA It *really* is so nice to see you Erica but to be honest. I just need the loo.

ERICA Oh. I can wait here for you.

STELLA: No, there's no need, let me follow you on Insta.

ERICA: I'll wait.

FX STELLA'S WHEELCHAIR MOVING. CUSTOMER VOICES.

STELLA Excuse me, I'd like to speak to the manager.

MARCUS You're looking at him. Manager Marcus reporting for duty. How can I help?

STELLA Do you have an accessible toilet at all?

MARCUS (UNCOMFORTABLE) We do, it's on the first floor. I'll get the key and I'll meet you by the lift in a couple of minutes

STELLA Brilliant, thank you.

FX CUSTOMER VOICES, A MOMENT OF SPOOKY MUSIC

SC. 5 INT. LIFT 5:45PM.

MARCUS PULLS THE GATES TO THE LIFT OPEN.

MARCUS Can you wheel yourself in?

STELLA (GOING INTO THE LIFT) Yes.

MARCUS Thank the lord. Keep back from the doors.

STELLA Why? Aren't you coming up?

MARCUS No.

STELLA Who's going to operate the lift?

MARCUS You are.

STELLA The doors look heavy.

MARCUS I can't get in there.

STELLA Why not?

MARCUS I've got phantomphobia.

STELLA [snorts]

MARCUS It's no laughing matter!

STELLA I'm not laughing . I'm just that I'm worried I might not be able to operate-

MARCUS (PANICKED) Right, so when I shut the door if you keep your finger pressed on that green button just there. Then at the top you should just be able to open the gate.

STELLA Okay, thanks so much. (**sarky**) You've been such a help.

FX LIFT HYDRAULICS. THEY STOP. STELLA PUSHES AGAINST THE METAL GATE OF THE LIFT.

STELLA (SURPRISED) Ha! I did it!.....Hello...

FX HER VOICE ECHOES.

STELLA Hello...is anybody there?

PAUSE

ALI Are you following me?

STELLA Don't flatter yourself.

FX THE GATES CREEK AS ALI OPENS THEM.

ALI Toilets over there.

STELLA I don't actually need it, I'm just trying to escape someone I knew from school.

ALI Does this person actually exist, or have you made them up again?

STELLA I don't make a habit of that.

ALI Wouldn't stand up in court.

STELLA Neither would I.

ALI (LAUGHING) Sense of humour too. You've got it all -

FX A BIG CRASH OF WOOD AND CARDBOARD FROM THE WAREHOUSE.

ALI Oh no, today is getting worse! –

STELLA What was that?! –

ALI Flat Packs. I thought I'd stacked them properly.

STELLA Let me help.

ALI No, it's okay.

STELLA I can't just leave you here.

ALI You can, I'm used to it. I'll accompany you in the lift.

STELLA I can spare some time, it's not like I have to do anything tonight.

PAUSE

ALI Well you have to share the jelly chews.

STELLA Deal. Right, what do I do?

ALI First open a pack of Jelly chews.

FX STELLA OPENS PACK AND IN DOING SO HER PHONE CRASHES TO THE FLOOR.

ALI Was that your phone?

STELLA Yeah.

ALI Don't worry, I'll get it.

STELLA Is it broken?

ALI **(PICKS UP PHONE)** It's fine. Nice wallpaper.

STELLA I got it from her Instagram, she's great!

ALI You're stalking me and Davina McCall?!

STELLA You've been snide to me since I've been here, I should report you to your boss.

ALI You'd have a job, Marcus never comes up here. He's scared of lifts. He reckons it's haunted.

STELLA That's a bit far fetched.

ALI Tell me about it, it's just an excuse not to do any work I think.

STELLA Pass me a couple of boxes? I could maybe move some of the lighter ones.

ALI No, it's fine.

STELLA The quicker we do it, the quicker we're home.

PAUSE.

ALI The deliveries come in, you shift the boxes around, find space for them, they get moved out to the shop and the whole process starts again.

STELLA How did you end up here?

ALI What's with all the questions?

STELLA Sorry, it's the psychology student in me.

ALI I applied for the Fire Service, but I failed my fitness test.

STELLA I'm sorry.

ALI At least this way I get a free workout.

TANNOY This is a customer announcement. Sharewoods store will close in five minutes. Sharewoods store will close in five minutes.

STELLA We're going to get locked in!

ALI Probably.

STELLA Why are you not panicking? Don't you want to go home?

ALI I am home.

STELLA What?

ALI This is where I live, Stella.

STELLA Up here, all day?

ALI Yep. C'mon, you need to get down.

STELLA What if I stayed with you?

ALI No, absolutely not!

STELLA This is amazing this is. A proper adventure.

ALI I couldn't pay my rent.

TANNOY The store is now closed.

STELLA You want to talk about it?

ALI Not really.

TANNOY The store is now closed.

FX A BEEPING NOISE. EVERYTHING IS CLOSED. THEY'RE LOCKED IN.

STELLA We read this book at school. Skelig. This weird man hid in a garage and was fed takeaways by this girl. But then it turns out he's an angel with wings.

ALI You calling me weird?

STELLA No, but I am calling you an angel.

ALI Ew. Vom.

STELLA (LAUGHING) Sorry, got a bit weird didn't I?

FX LIFT HYDRAULICS. BEAT. STELLA AND ALI LOWER THEIR VOICES TO A FRIGHTENED WHISPER

STELLA Has it done that before?

ALI What?

STELLA The lift. Move on its own.

ALI No, never.

STELLA Maybe it's Marcus.

ALI I told you, he never comes up here.

STELLA Then it must be the ghost.

FX THE LIFT STOPS.

ALI Hide, hide, hide!

FX LIFT GATES OPEN SEEMINGLY ON THEIR OWN

END.

SPOOKY THEME MUSIC PLAYS OUT UNDER CREDITS:

Stella was played by Amy Conachan, Clifford and Marcus by Jonathan Keeble, Erica by Paislie Reid, Greg by Tachia Newall and Ali by Kirsty Johnson.

The writer was Michael Southan, series advisor was Sarah Daniels, the director was Polly Thomas, the music was by Oliver Vibrans and the sound designer was Alisdair McGregor.

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