

Night of the Living Flat Packs Episode 2 Shahid Iqbal Khan as TX

Night of the Living Flat Packs

EPISODE TWO

By

Shahid Iqbal Khan

SC 1. INT. WAREHOUSE FLOOR

FX LIFT GATES OPEN.

STELLA AND ALI GASP/ SCREAM IN FEAR.

FX ERICA STEPS OUT OF THE LIFT

ERICA Well, did you find a toilet!?

STELLA Oh, it's you!

ALI (SHOCKED/SNAPS) What the? What do you think you're doing? Scaring the living fudging fudge nuggets / out of us

ERICA (OVER) I can't believe that you came all the way up here, just for the toilet. It's like a graveyard. Although I did once have to go in a graveyard. But it was night-time and no-one was looking.

STELLA Erica. What are you doing?

ALI The shop's closed. So, she's trespassing. Technically.

ERICA I'm sorry to impose on you but it's Greg... I had to get away.

ALI Greg?

ERIC Oh don't get me wrong. I love him. But you must know what it's like - whatever your name is - you must know.

ALI I have a name badge.

ERICA Er... Nice to meet you Ali. You must know what it's like when couples go shopping.

ALI True. I've seen couples break up after arguing over which bathmats to buy.

ERICA Oh we're nowhere near break-upl. I only came here really to speak to Stella again. How many years has it been?

STELLA (TO SELF) Not long enough.

ERICA I'm sorry but I'm so excited! You have such a positive twinkly presence. I can't help but be captivated by it.

STELLA And now you're trapped with me forever.

ALI You might as well join us this evening

ERICA What, you like, stay here?

ALI You could say that.. Yes.

ERICA In-ter-est-ing!

STELLA Home is where the heart is.

ALI I wouldn't say my heart is here. But it'll do for now.

ERICA Oh that is just.. (TEARY) marvelous.

STELLA What's wrong?

ERICA Look at you both. What wonderful human beings. I want a hug. From both of you.

ALI Why don't we sit down to tea first?

STELLA That sounds like a plan.

SC. 2 INT. STAFF KITCHEN

FX KETTLE BOILS

ERICA What's it called again?

ALI Water 'n Go

STELLA Sounds like a pack of flower seeds

ERICA I'm intrigued

ALI You add boiling water and voila your pasta is ready. What flavour do you fancy?

ERICA What have you got?

FX RUSTLING OF PACKETS

ALI These! Take your pick

Night of the Living Flat Packs Episode 2 Shahid Iqbal Khan as TX

STELLA Chicken and Mushroom. Classic. I feel like Bear Grylls.

ALI It's a ready meal, hardly Wild Boar is it?

ERICA I thought you said it was wash and go.

ALI No. Water and go.

ERICA But maybe you should wash it first though?

ALI No, it's dried.

STELLA It doesn't need it. There's probably nothing natural in there anyway.

ERICA I'll have the same as you then, Stella.

ALI Coming right up

ERICA It's not too shabby this you know.

STELLA Up to your usual standards I hope

ERICA I'm getting a very "living in the moment" feel

STELLA OK.

ERICA I'm into self-help. Spent a fortune.

ALI Any good?

ERICA Oh yeah! Er.. cutlery?

ALI Sorry. Here. (HANDS ERICA A FORK)

ERICA Actually, can I have a spoon instead? Sorry to be a pain.

ALI Er, yes...

ERICA I don't like forks. They're too stabby.

Night of the Living Flat Packs Episode 2 Shahid Iqbal Khan as TX

ALI It's okay, you don't need to explain.

ERICA (EMOTIONAL) You see, that right there, that's what I call...

ALI You okay?

ERICA The self-help books tell you to love yourself. It's not easy. Only works if people around you love you as well. I appreciate that you don't judge me for eating pasta with a spoon.

ALI It's no biggie.

ERICA I wish more people were like you. I want to be accepted for who I am.

ALI It's hard not to like you.

ERICA Aww

ALI You have a very striking aura.

ERICA Aren't you lovely?

STELLA (IRRITATED) Is it really too late to leave?

ALI There's no way out.

STELLA There's always a plan B in situations like this..

ALI Is there?

STELLA Well, they'll be a fire escape somewhere.

ALI It's rickety, rusty steps .

ERICA Where?

ALI Over there.

STELLA Fidgeting crickets, that's the fire escape?

Night of the Living Flat Packs Episode 2 Shahid Iqbal Khan as TX

ERICA A Spiral staircase, how gothic!

STELLA Don't you get claustrophobic up here?

ALI I've got the whole of Sharewoods for my leisure. Where do you think I sleep?

STELLA Not the bed department?

ALI Indeed.

ERICA Show us around.

ALI Don't worry, I will. Finish your tea first.

SC. 3 INT. SHAREWOODS GROUND FLOOR

FX LIFT GRINDING DOWN TO THE GROUND FLOOR AS SPOOKY MUSIC PLAYS.

ALI So, I've treated you to dinner, now I'm going to show you round the rest of my place. Obviously you have your kitchen and your bedroom. But you can't have a house without a sofa.

STELLA Why not?

ALI Well, cos a bed is not a sofa.

ERICA And a sofa is not a bed

ALI Indeed. A sofa has its own place in the world. It's a place to destress, unwind, entertain, seduce.

ERICA Tell me more

ALI A true lover never divulges their secrets.

STELLA I really like this one. Looks very comfy.

ALI (POINTING AT ANOTHER SOFA) This is my favourite sofa.

ERICA Purple, the colour of seduction.

STELLA What do you like about it?

ALI It's just right, not too firm, not too soft. There, I've saved you the job of being Goldilocks.

STELLA What makes you think it's right for me though?

ALI It's a comfy sofa.

STELLA Comfy for *you*.

FX SOUNDS OF SOFA PATTING AND SITTING.

ERICA There's an indent in the sofa. It has Ali written all over it.

STELLA I prefer firm sofas actually. What might be right for you, might not be right for me.

ALI Oh of course! I didn't think.

STELLA Duhh

ERICA I'm sinking! Can you help me up?

ALI Here, take my hands

FX ALI HELPING ERICA UP.

STELLA Let's go. I'm bored of sofas.

FX STELLA WHEELS AWAY AS UPBEAT TWINKLING MUSIC PLAYS

ALI (SHOUTS) Let's head to the beds. Carry on going through the bath and showers area.

FX SOUND OF WHEELING AND WALKING.

ERICA We can't go through without trying a shower.

FX ERICA CLAMBERING INTO THE SHOWER

ALI ERICA!

FX STELLA WHEELS BACK TO THE OTHER TWO

STELLA What's she doing?

ALI Who knows

FX SWITCHING BUTTONS AND FLIPPING DIALS.

ERICA There's no water.

STELLA They're not gonna be plumbed up are they? Did that sofa. swallow your brain or something?

ERICA Well how do you have a shower then, Ali?

ALI I use the work shower.

ERICA I bet it's not as nice as this one.

ALI No. Sometimes I borrow that showerhead to replace the one in the work shower.

ERICA Why? It's still the same water.

ALI Yes. But the pressure feels different.

ERICA For what?

STELLA (GUFFAWS)

FX ERICA ABRUPTLY DROPS SHOWER HEAD.

ERICA Urgh! I hope you're not saying what I think you're saying.

STELLA Oh dear, ahem, moving swiftly on... Where are the beds!?

ALI Follow me

FX WALKING AND WHEELING

ALI I have everything here. So I don't really need to find a home.

STELLA Alright, stop bragging about it will ya.

ERICA That's not strictly true. I mean yeah, you're making use of the facilities and that's great! But these things aren't yours. It's technically theft.

Night of the Living Flat Packs Episode 2 Shahid Iqbal Khan as TX

ALI It's not thieving, it's called "borrowing".

ERICA Do you have e-e-e-everything here? What about tampons?

ALI There are natural sponges in bathroom accessories.

FX ERICA WANDERS OFF TALKING IN THE BACKGROUND, WHILE STELLA AND ALI TALK TO EACH OTHER.

ERICA Aha! I can see the beds area! Follow me. Ali, you have an answer for everything. Don't get me wrong. All of this is great as a temporary measure. But you couldn't live here forever. This reminds me of that story of the Sleeping Beauty. Had the palace to herself but wasn't happy. Stuck in that bed, poor thing, which reminds me...

STELLA Eats your ready meal and then calls you a thief

ALI Was she always this.. Quirky?

STELLA Afraid so.

Scene 3A - INT - Sharewoods ground floor - Knick Knacks area

ALI Erica, put that down!

ERICA It's beautiful! A work of art....

STELLA It's a neon pink dolphin.

ALI It's fragile - put it down.

ERICA (PUTTING ORNAMENT DOWN, PICKING UP ANOTHER) Oo this is deep!

STELLA Really? (READING, IN A SARKY TONE) When bad things happen you never forget who was good to you.

ALI I suppose it's quite swee -

STELLA Is that the title of self- help book?

ERICA It's a lot more than that!

STELLA (SCOFFING) It's a mass produced slogan badly printed on a pastel shade heart shaped board.

ERICA It's why I remember you. From school.

STELLA Yeah?

ERICA That boy Edison in year 9 ?

STELLA Who?

ERICA Used to call me a Loopy Lucy and make everyone laugh.

ALI That's horrible.

ERICA You stuck up for me, Stella.

STELLA Did I?

ERICA Yes. You told him to shut his mouth and give one of his other orifices a chance.

ALI Class!

STELLA Are you sure you're not confusing me with someone else?

ERICA No, because then he said he was very open-minded and if you changed your mind about boys, he'd sleep with you.

STELLA What did I say?

ERICA You said, obviously you're so open minded your brain's fallen out. And then you ran over his foot.

STELLA That vaguely rings a bell.....Was he the one who -

ALI All right you two, let's keep moving away from the ornaments.

Scene 3B SHAREWOODS BEDDING AREA

ALI Ta dah! Take a bed, any bed!

STELLA Bet you say that to all the boys!

ALI No!

STELLA Oh...Girls?...I mean – women?

ALI Actually -

ERICA Hang on! I need a pea.

STELLA (V ANNOYED) Erica, your timing!

ALI (PANICKED) Don't go back to the bathroom area! Nothing is plumbed in.

ERICA Not a pee, pee. .A pea, pea. So we can pile the mattresses on top of each other and see if we can feel the pea. **(STARTS PULLING A MATTRESS OFF A BED)** We need 20 mattresses and oh, 20 Eiderdowns. Ei- der-down? I know. It'll be Danish for Duvet.

ALI Excuse me? What are you doing?

ERICA Arranging the princess test for us.

STELLA Erica??

ERICA You know, see if you can feel the pea under the mattress.

ALI We haven't got a pea.

ERICA I expect it would work with a lentil or a piece of dried pasta.

ALI Don't bother on my account. I never wanted to be a princess.

STELLA Me neither.

ERICA'S PHONE RINGS.

ERICA I should get that.

ALI You do that. And I'll put the mattress back.

ERICA **(ANSWERS PHONE)** Hi Greg, yeh, yeh, I won't be long. Sounds good. See you. **(TO OTHERS)** Bless. He's ordering take away. Oh what am I like, I've forgotten I've just had a pot of Water and Go..

ALI And you also seem to have forgotten you're locked in a shop overnight.

ERICA No, I didn't want him to worry.

STELLA You lied to him?

ERICA No worse than you did to Clifford.

STELLA Clifford isn't my partner. He's just a nosy neighbour.

ERICA Maybe I'll text him and say I've already eaten, I'll meet him later on. **(SHE STARTS TO TEXT)**

ALI (TO STELLA) When I said quirky.

STELLA Weird. But she's..... (THINKS AGAIN) No, she's just weird.

SC 4. INT. SHAREWOODS GROUND FLOOR, BEDS DEPARTMENT

ERICA **(FLOPPING ON BED)** Ahhh, bagsy this bed. Nice and comfy.

ALI Do you need a hand Stella?

STELLA No, I'm fine thank you!

ALI Let me help you.

STELLA I don't need help. I'm going to sleep in my chair.

ERICA Oooo the purple sofa?

STELLA My wheelchair.

ALI That doesn't seem very comfy.

STELLA It's okay. It reclines.

ALI I don't mind trying to lift you.

STELLA What if you did your back in?

ALI Nah, my job helps me stay fit. I told you I want to build up my strength.

STELLA You're gonna need stronger stuff than *Water n go*

ALI You weren't complaining when you demolished it a few minutes ago

STELLA *(Laughs)*

FX ALI settling into her bed

ALI Well, I love my bed. *(Sighs contentedly)*

ERICA If we all live together, will our periods start to align?

Night of the Living Flat Packs Episode 2 Shahid Iqbal Khan as TX

STELLA We're not living together, it's a sleepover

ALI Erica, go to sleep.

ERICA Why?

ALI Just because.

ERICA You're fed up of me, aren't you.

ALI No!

ERICA (MOROSE) Everyone gets fed up of me eventually. I'm not thick, I know that people laugh at me

STELLA They don't

ERICA That look when they get to know the real me, they see that I'm nothing. Just a waste of space.

STELLA (SOFTLY) Erica, you're anything but a waste of space. I was dead jealous of you at school.

ERICA Really?

STELLA You were always unafraid to be who you are. When I got nervous or anxious, I'd think "Be more like Erica".

ERICA Oh sweetheart...

ALI Get a room you two

ERICA That school was haunted though.

STELLA Oh yes, the phantom caretaker. According to you.

ERICA I saw him once. Gave me a fright! This place is kind of spooky

ALI Don't start this up again.

Night of the Living Flat Packs Episode 2 Shahid Iqbal Khan as TX

ERICA Just think, only us three, immense building, in the middle of nowhere.

ALI Shut up Erica.

ERICA See - fed up with me.

STELLA I know you didn't mean to Erica, but you've already given us a massive fright this evening.

ERICA I'm just saying. Isolated retail park, miles away from town.

ALI This place is *not* haunted. Stop it.

ERICA Look at the ceiling, look at how far away everything is. All the ghosts congregate up there

STELLA Erica!

ERICA They stand at your bed at 3 in the morning

FX CREEPY DRONING SOUNDS FADE IN AND OUT

ALI You're talking rubbish

STELLA (HEARS A NOISE) Shush

ALI What?

STELLA Did you hear that?

ERICA Hear the sound/

STELLA Quiet. Listen...(PAUSE) There's a strange humming sound

ERICA It might be a sad ghost singing songs...

FX CLANKING. THEY ALL SHRIEK/JUMP OUT OF THEIR SKIN. SOUND OF THE SHUTTERS RATTLING

ALI Who in the fudge nuggets is that?

Night of the Living Flat Packs Episode 2 Shahid Iqbal Khan as TX

FX BANGING INTENSIFIES. THEY ALL GASP. BANGING MUCH LOUDER.

ALI, ERICA, AND STELLA SCREAM

END

SPOOKY DRAMATIC MUSIC PLAYS UNDER CREDITS:

Stella was played by Amy Conachan, Erica by Paislie Reid and Ali by Kirsty Johnson.

The writer was Shahid Iqbal Khan, series advisor was Sarah Daniels, the director was Nickie Wildin, the music was by Oliver Vibrans and the sound designer was Alisdair McGregor.

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