

Night of the Living Flat Packs

Episode Four

By

Anita Karla Kelly

SCENE ONE. INT. WAREHOUSE. CONTINUOUS FROM EP 3

FX THE LIFT DOORS OPEN

STELLA That was close.

ERICA (PANICKY) I thought we were going to get caught -

STELLA And breathe.

ALI Easy for you to say. On the count of three.

STELLA Ooo, are you going to carry me over the threshold?

ERICA I'll try and find something with wheels up here.

ALI/STELLA NO!

ERICA Alright, but we better get you out before the lift doors close again. One two three.

ALI AND ERICA LIFT STELLA OUT OF THE LIFT.

ALI He's going to know somethings up, Marcus always checks the CCTV first thing.

STELLA I'm sure you'll think of something.

ALI He doesn't like it when there are changes.

STELLA Erica will help us, all the self help books she's read.

ERICA And I've been on loads of courses. Don't you worry.

ALI Well if that handmade throne is anything to go by there's not much hope.

ERICA That throne was just the beginning. I'm going to cast a spell of protection.

ALI What?

ERICA I need a circle, some bread, and a piece of wax.

STELLA Ali, get some candles.

ERICA I'm saving your home Ali, make an effort.

STELLA You can do it Ali.

ALI Fine.

FX CLATTER OF CANDLE HOLDERS

ERICA I'm calling on the witches and women of myth, come join us in the circle of power and protection. I will wake sleeping beauty and wear the lost slipper of Cinderella. There was once seven brothers and seven wives, no I mean, the three spirits, one on earth and one... we are gathered together to eat bread and save Ali's head from and also her bed and what else does she have to...

ALI (OVER ERICA) Look, I've got some smelly candles!

STELLA (OVER ERICA) Ali that's brilliant. We need to put them in a circle.

ERICA ...No, I mean no give and take. Blessed are the spell weavers and magic bearers. No. Cursed are the witches. I'm not a witch. I'm just being a decent person. Saving your home Ali. We don't want Marcus up here. Home stealer, thief, secret stealer, revealer. And...

ERICA STARTS PACING AROUND

STELLA Ali? What are you doing?

ALI Looking for my lighter so I can light the candles.

ERICA'S NEXT SPEECH IS PUNCTUATED BY THE SOUND OF ALI LIGHTING THE CANDLES WITH HER CIGARETTE LIGHTER.

ERICA We don't want Greg here. No. He's always going on about something, going home, milk in tea, don't put the milk in first Erica it's not right way to do things, makes it harder for the water, I DON'T CARE, I like the milk in first, it's comforting. Not like his face, sweaty it is, how can sweat gather on a person's eyebrows? Urgh! It can. Clings there on a hair, scared to make the jump onto his perfect face, in case it messes up his perfect....

ALI (OVER ERICA) Erica your shoulders look like they need some attention.

STELLA (OVER ERICA) Come and sit down with us. By the candles.

ERICA Fire, fire everywhere, blow it out, the smell is making my head spin.

STELLA It's Jasmine I think.

ALI And sandalwood

ERICA There's the smell of perfect houses and perfect people, I'm not perfect. Out, out toxic candles.

ERICA STARTS BLOWING CANDLES OUT

ALI Come here, I'll give you a massage.

ERICA SITS BY ALI

STELLA No, I'll do it. Save your strength Ali, for blowing the candles out.

FX ALI CONTINUES BLOWING CANDLES OUT

PLINKY PLONKY MUSIC PLAYS

FX STELLA GIVES ERICA A MASSAGE

ERICA Oh you're strong/

STELLA Yeah, not everyone/

ERICA sees that?

STELLA Yeah.

ERICA I do.

STELLA You always have.

ERICA What do you want Stella?

STELLA How do you mean?

ERICA At school you were glittery, what would make you sparkle now?

STELLA I need to get out without my mum and dad watching everything I do all the time. I want adventures, I want a lover.

ERICA What's stopping you?

STELLA Everything is done on looks, no-one wants to swipe me.

ERICA If anyone swipes you, I'll deck them.

STELLA No, dating sites, like Tinder, it's all photos. You swipe right if you like someone. But all anyone sees is the chair.

ERICA You should be able to do what you like chair or no chair. People are so rude. You should be able to have have... swipe right and get a match and have sex. Leave it to me.

FX ERICA GATHERS BITS OF WOOD AND THINGS FROM AROUND THE WAREHOUSE

STELLA I don't know. It's just not possible, is it. I mean look at me. I'm locked in a warehouse without my wheels. My chair is on the shop floor, that is if someone hasn't nicked it.

ALI They won't. I just hope Marcus doesn't find it.

STELLA It doesn't even work.

ALI It can get fixed.

STELLA The person who can fix it is my neighbour, Clifford, but I was so horrible to him yesterday.

ALI We can sort it. I'm sure.

STELLA I don't know if I can do things without help. I mean look at me/

ERICA /I KNOW. I'm making you some.

STELLA What?

ERICA Flat pack lovers, hahhaaa, I'm a flatpack version of my former self, no, no more, we'll make you a flat pack selection. Not flat flat, though, if you know what I mean, you need something to play with don't you? **(SHE STARTS TO ASSEMBLE THEM)** We'll start with Sharon who would like to meet someone with a good sense of humour and Bill who needs to chill.

ALI I hope they're better than that throne.

ERICA That was just a prototype.

STELLA It was aesthetically pleasing.

FX RIPPING MATERIAL, STAPLING CARDBOARD

ALI You're good with your hands Erica, good and slow too. I like that attention to detail.

STELLA My hands are strong, they have stamina. Despite being trodden on by you in the lift.

ALI It was an accident.

ERICA Look.

STELLA What's that?

ERICA It's for you Stella.

ALI Aren't you missing an important part?

ERICA I made them for you. They are available for swiping right if you're interested.

ALI His 'Allen key' you know...

ERICA No, this is a female lover woman, that's why the wood I chose is so soft, feel her curves, you'll get no splinters. She'll smooth you away from here...

FX ALI'S PHONE PINGS. A TEXT.

ALI Oh no, Marcus.

STELLA What's he saying?

ALI 'Call me.'

STELLA Ignore it.

ALI He's got to have checked the CCTV by now. What are we going to do? What am I going to do? I'll get the sack. I'll be homeless.

ERICA The body is from the seat of a chair, you can hold her close and she'll make you feel protected and see the screws I put here, I drilled that bit so her hands swivel.

ALI Erica can you/

ERICA She hasn't got any hair though, do you want some hair? She's called Sharon. Do you want some hair Shazza? She likes me calling her Shazza, we're close because I made her.

STELLA Oh, I love her! Maybe pink hair? But, I'd like a bit more choice though, you know?

ALI The store is opening in an hour, people are going to come in.

STELLA Hey, Ali I fancy a change of scene. Let's give Erica some space

ALI We need to get your wheelchair back

ERICA I'll make a man next, there must be some good handles around somewhere.

FX ERICA WANDERS OFF GATHERING MORE MATERIALS

SCENE TWO. INT. WAREHOUSE.

TANNOY You have one hour to make yourselves presentable to the public. You have one hour.

FX ERICA SINGING ' RESPECT ' BY Aretha Franklin AND MAKING FLAT PACK LOVERS IN THE DISTANCE (SHE HAS A GOOD VOICE BUT IS UNAWARE THAT SHE'S SINGING)

ALI Do you think Erica is ok?

STELLA Who is ever ok in this crazy world?

ALI Yeah but, you kind of know her don't you?

STELLA From years ago, but yeah.

ALI She's ok?

STELLA I don't know. It's stressful living isn't it? Aren't you stressed?

ALI Yeah but I'm not making people out of bits of furniture

STELLA Maybe you should

ALI Maybe I don't need to

STELLA Look she' obviously having some major transitions

ALI True, I wish she'd do it a bit more quietly. Making furniture out of cardboard at Greg's suggestion, I mean that's a bit mental isn't it?

STELLA Don't say that.

ALI Well isn't it?

STELLA I think that's offensive Ali. She's having a tough time. I think she just needs us to be real with her.

ALI Real?

STELLA Connect with her, she's probably feeling a bit scared about her relationship with Greg changing. Fear does weird things to people don't you think? Sometimes I get really scared. I am scared now. To be fair that throne chair was a good idea. It just needed a bit more work.

ALI Shame it's now a 'Guy named Bill available to chill'. Do you think she needs medication?

STELLA If she needs it I reckon she already has it. Maybe let's join in

ALI Join in?

STELLA What else is there? She'll have to come to us though. On account of my wheelchair being downstairs.

ERICA **(AS SHE WALKS TOWARDS THEM)** What are you two talking about? What are you saying? I can't hear you. Plotting. Planning. Come over here.

STELLA We wanted to give you a bit of space, what have you done?

ERICA What do you mean what have I done? I've been making you a selection of lovers to choose from. What have you done?

ALI We were just talking

ERICA 'Just talking'. What about? Me?

ALI Well you are quite interesting

ERICA I don't trust you/

STELLA Oh come on/

ERICA You need a test

STELLA Ok, I'm up for that.

ALI A test? Like what?

ERICA Ali - you have to do the test or Marcus will know everything

ALI I don't like tests

STELLA Erica's tests are ok, relax

ERICA Right, here are some very special bits and pieces I have gathered, and you will make your best date, lover, potential mate, from these piles of potential. Look. And. If you are very lucky I will cast a special spell and breathe life into them and all your dreams will come true.

TANNOY The shop will be opening to customers in 5 minutes.

ALI There isn't time for tests. No. What about Marcus?

STELLA He'll be opening up, he won't even have time to check the CCTV.

ERICA Here's one I made already. This one likes their women how they like their coffee, no, yes. Strong, hot and first thing in the morning, no. You have too many splinters to be so demanding and frankly quite rude.

TANNOY The shop will be opening to customers in 4 minutes.

ERICA Get another one. Get another one. This one is a-sexual so is only looking for friendship, Stella doesn't just want friendship I'm afraid, you'll have to put your profile face elsewhere, oh you don't have much of a face, where's my lipstick? You can have a little pouty mouth you little potty mouth.

TANNOY The shop will be opening to customers in 3 minutes.

ERICA Here's another one. Line up line up. One, two, three, pick me. Ok. This one is bi-sexual open arms, lipstick large heart, not sure about the hair, too spiky with the nails I think, needs softening, room for improvement.

ALI Thanks Erica,

ERICA I can still smell strong smells, I need to check on the candles. Did you blow them all out Ali?

ALI I did check. Check again if it makes you feel comfortable.

TANNOY The shop will be opening to customers in 2 minutes.

ERICA I can still smell it, the perfect people smell. I need a ciggie.

ALI Here, have one of mine.

ERICA I need. I need to make people out of bits of furniture. It's ok to have needs but it's time for a rest now.

FX ERICA LIGHTS A CIGARETTE

ALI But you can't smoke in here/

ERICA You smoke

ALI Yeah. Outside.

ERICA A warehouse is basically just outside/

STELLA Ali works here

ALI Put it out.

ERICA You're as bad as Greg.

STELLA Please.

ERICA Fine. Where's my little friend. Shazza, come and be my friend. I'm making little eyes for you to see me. Cigarette ash eyes, that sounds like the title of a song. (SINGING) Look at you with you fag ash eyes, look at you with your fag ash eyes, doo doo doo doo look at you with your staple nose, look at you with your staple nose...

FX ERICA STUBS THE CIGARETTE OUT ON THE FLATPACK FACE MAKING 'EYES' AND FLICKS THE CIGARETTE BUTT

TANNOY The shop will be opening to customers in (sighs) on minute.

FX ALI'S PHONE RINGS.

STELLA Who's that?

ALI Marcus. It's okay. He always calls to let me know when he's going to open the doors. (TO PHONE) Hi Marcus, all good up here.

Night of the Living Flatpack Episode 4 by Anita Karla Kelly

MARCUS ON PHONE How good of you to pick up! Ali get down here now and explain to me why there is an empty wheelchair in the bed department

END.

DRAMATIC THEME MUSIC PLAYS UNDER CREDITS:

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

The writer was Anita Karla Kelly, series advisor was Sarah Daniels, the director was Cheryl Martin, the music was by Oliver Vibrans and the sound designer was Alisdair McGregor.

Night of the Living Flatpacks was supported by Audio Content Fund.