

**NIGHT OF THE LIVING FLAT PACKS**

**Episode Five**

**By**

**Leanne Allen**

**SC. 1. WAREHOUSE. (CONTINUOUS)**

ERICA: I need another cigarette.

ALI: No, you need to go back down to the shop floor and get Stella's wheelchair.

ERICA Can I take some of your ciggies, Ali? I'll trade you for **SHE EMPTIES HER POCKETS – SPILLING THE CONTENTS ON THE BED** erm (BEAT) this lipstick? Or **SIFTING THROUGH THE POCKET RUBBLE** (BEAT) or rescue remedy?

ALI Well that is a madly tempting offer, but I'll have to decline. Pick all that up, come on. Seriously, *seriously* now, you need to go, now.

ERICA: I won't be able to move it. That's why we left it there.

STELLA: She's right... Oh, what's that?

ALI: Where

STELLA; Over there.

ERICA: It's the ghosts congregating up on the ceiling.

ALI: What?

ERICA: Don't worry. I'll try and commune with them.

**FX THE SMOKE ALARM STARTS TO BEEP.**

ALI: Never mind that. Where did you put the cigarette butt?

ERICA: Over there!

ALI Well go and put it out properly!

**FX ALI'S PHONE RINGS- SHE LOOKS**

ALI: Great! Great! It's Marcus. (SHE ANSWERS THE PHONE) Marcus! No, no everything is fine. I just (BEAT) I just used some hairspray. Yeah, it set the thing off. (BEAT) Well, no I don't use it often- I just happened to be having a bad hair day. (BEAT) I'm sure it'll stop in a second. In fact if you let me go, I'll go and waft at it some more. Yep. Fine. Alright then Marcus. Bye!

**ERICA SHRIEKS**

ERICA Fire!!!

STELLA                   What?!

**FX                           FIRE CRACKLES**

ERICA                    Fire! There's a fire! There's no smoke without fire.

ALI:                      For goodness sake. You have *got* to be kidding me!

STELLA                   I mean there is *literally* a fire happening right there. That can't be good can it!

ERICA                    Do NOT panic!! Don't panic. There's a fire and it's happening right now but what we're not going to do is panic.

ALI                        And how's that working for you? Erica? What are you doing?

**FX                           ERICA HAS TAKEN OFF HER JACKET AND TEARING IT.**

ERICA                    I saw a documentary about a family who were trapped in a burning house and in the absence of running water the woman peed on a jacket and wrapped it round her face to try and avoid the smoke inhalation.

ALI                        *Please* do not do that!

STELLA                   That's jellyfish stings.

ALI                        What?

STELLA                   She's getting confused. You pee on stings, not jackets.

ERICA                    No, no it was definitely a jacket. Well actually I think it was a very nice button through blouse.

ALI                        \HELLO! There is a fire!

**FX                           ALI FLINGS OPEN TO THE DOOR TO THE FIRE ESCAPE.  
ERICA PEERS AT IT**

ERICA                    \How's Stella going to get down that rusty mediaeval staircase.

ALI                        \

ERIC                      I'll turn the throne into an evacuation chair.

**FX                           SHE'S ALREADY ON IT- SCRABBLING WITH PILES OF  
CARDBOARD**

STELLA                   What?! No! Evac chairs are terrifying at the best of times, let alone one made out of cardboard!

ALI                        \Nobody is getting winched out on a pile of cardboard.

ALI (CONT. TO STELLA GENTLY) Right. You managed some steps earlier didn't you? If I help you, do you think you could do these too?

STELLA I can't see from here.

ALI Erica, put that box down and give me a hand getting Stella to the door, so she can see.

ERICA Okey dokey.

**FX ERICA THROWS THE BOX DOWN IN EXCITEMENT**

ALI **GENTLY TAKING STELLA'S ARM** On three?

**ERICA TAKES STELLA'S OTHER ARM**

STELLA On three.

ALI Three.

**FX STELLA GETS TO HER FEET AND THE THREE OF THEM MOVE TOWARDS THE FIRE ESCAPE**

STELLA They are really steep.

ERICA And narrow. And probably really slippy actually. And the rail looks rusted through.

ALI Thanks Erica...

ERICA Only in some places. I'm sure the flatpack people could help. They look very capable!

A/S No!

ERICA No. So what do we do now?

ALI I'll carry her down.

STELLA What?

ALI I'll carry you down.

STELLA You can't!

ERICA She's right, I'm not sure you can!

ALI I can. What other choice is there?!

ERICA Oh good grief! I'd kill for another ciggie now!

STELLA Don't you dare!

ERICA So controlling.

ALI Erica, why don't you go first.

ERICA I can't leave you! A good man never leaves anyone behind!

ALI You're not leaving us, you're just (SCRABBLES) forging the way.

STELLA And you're not a man.

ERICA Okey dokey.

ALI Stella. I'm going to pick you up now. And Erica is going to go. Okay?

STELLA It is so far away from okay.

ALI Alright. It doesn't need to be okay. It just sort of has to happen anyway. Trust me. I can do this. Okay?

STELLA Okay.

ERICA (FROM A FEW RUNGS DOWN) But be careful. It's worse than it looks. Just saying.

**SC. 3. INT./EXT. FIRE ESCAPE.(CONTINUOUS)**

**ERICA HAS VENTURED TWO STEPS DOWN THE FIRE ESCAPE.**

STELLA                   The thing is Ali, I'm going to level with you here, I haven't really been that careful about what I've been eating, I'm carrying a little extra weight.

ALI                        Where?!

STELLA                   Well, you'll see it when you pick me up.

ERICA                    (SHOUTING) Are you two coming!? It is, as I suspected, very slippery! So, just, don't slip.

ALI                        Right, I'm going to put you over my shoulder.

STELLA                   Over your/

ALI                        \Shoulder.

**ALI PICKS HER UP AND PUTS HER OVER HER SHOULDER**

STELLA                   I'm literally over your shoulder.

ALI                        Are you okay?

STELLA                   I mean, no. But Yes.

ALI                        (SHOUTS) We're coming out Erica!

ERICA                    Great. Great! Totally ready for you.

ALI                        You okay Stella? Moving towards the door now, okay.

STELLA                   Yeah thanks. I'm okay.

ERICA                    This is brilliant! I mean. *You*. You are brilliant. This situation is far from brilliant. Obviously.

STELLA                   I'll say!

ALI                        Erica, move down a bit?! I need some space!

ERICA                    Yes, Yes! Of course. Whatever you need. I'm here to do whatever you need.

**SHE BEGINS TO RETREAT DOWN THE FIRST COUPLE OF STEPS**

ALI                        Why are you going down backwards?!

ERICA                    Well, I just think that if this is a challenge for you, then it should be a challenge for us all!

ALI (BEAT) Stella, I'm going to go down the first step now, okay?

STELLA Okay. No! Wait! (CALLS URGENTLY) Erica!?

**ERICA BOLTS BACK UP**

ERICA Yes!?

STELLA Do you have a hair tie?

ALI A hair tie?!

STELLA A hair bobble! I'm inhaling so (SPITS HAIR OUT) much of my own hair right now and I cannot see a thing.

ERICA Stella, my babe, you can have the one out of my very own hair. Right now. If that is what you need, then that is what you shall get.

**ERICA TAKES HER HAIR DOWN AND HANDS THE HAIR TIE TO STELLA**

STELLA Can you do it for me, Erica?

ERICA You're like Rapunzel, with all her lovely long hair.

ALI Shame we couldn't use that to get down, probably safer than this rickety staircase.

**STELLA LAUGHS**

ERICA Done! I'm done.

STELLA Thank you.

ERICA Can I do anything with your fringe?

ALI Move Erica. I need to concentrate.

**ERICA RETREATS AGAIN**

ERICA Be careful.

ALI Thanks Erica.

ERICA (NOT SENSING THE SARCASM) Not a problem, my friend.

**ALI STARTS TO CARRY STELLA DOWN**

STELLA Is there anything I can do?

ALI (SLIGHTLY OUT OF BREATH) Keeping talking.

STELLA About what?

ALI Anything. I need a distraction. Why don't you tell me what it is that you're trying to prove?

STELLA How do you mean?

ALI Anyone who *chooses* to sleep in Sharewoods must be pretty intent on proving something.

STELLA I just feel like I'm sort of feel like I'm living in toytown.

ALI What?

STELLA Because I'm in a wheelchair and because I live with my parents, nobody takes me seriously. I feel like I'm in limbo, you know? Like nothing's real and I'm sort of just waiting for life to start. Waiting to be noticed. (BEAT) Sorry. Now is really not the time for a pity party.

**BEAT**

ALI I noticed you. (BEAT) I noticed you. In a building full of people I saw you first.

**BEAT**

STELLA You did?

ALI Last step. Here we are back on the ground.

ERICA **RUSHING OVER** You made it!! And Look. I met Marcus.



**SC. 4. EXT. STREET. (CONTINUOUS)**

ALI                                Marcus.

MARCUS                         Ali what on Earth?!

ALI                                 Give me a minute yeah Marcus?

MARCUS                         (ANGRY) Oh I'll give you a minute I'll give you a minute to\

ALI                                 \Where's the wheelchair?

MARCUS                         It's hers?

STELLA                         Don't you remember you showed me where the loo was/

MARCUS                         I didn't recognise you upside down.

ERICA                             She needs to be put down.

STELLA                         What??

ERICA                             Here on this wall. Until we can get the chair.

ALI                                 **SITTING STELLA DOWN** Alright?

STELLA                         Yeah, yeah. I am. (BEAT) Thank you.

ALI                                 Don't mention it,

STELLA                         No, Ali. I mean it.

ALI                                 It was my pleasure.

**BEAT**

ERICA                             And mine too!

MARCUS:                         The fire officer has informed me that it was caused by a  
cigarette. A cigarette! Lucky for you it was localised and didn't  
spread – but never the less Ali, you are sacked.

PARAMEDIC                     (APPR) Sir, why don't you give these ladies some space, eh?

MARCUS                         I'm not done talking.

PARAMEDIC                     Well, you're done for now. No doubt the police will be wanting  
to talk to you about how you allowed a young disabled woman  
to be trapped in your building. Step away please.

**A DISGRUNTLED MARCUS DOES AS HE'S TOLD**

MARCUS                         Right...well, I'll just go and check my sand buckets, then.

PARAMEDIC            Hi my love, I think we're going to take you into hospital and get you checked out properly, okay?

STELLA                Surely that's not necessary? Honestly, we're fine.

PARAMEDIC            I'm sure that you are, flower, but you all need to be checked over for smoke inhalation, okay? Let's just get you in the back of the ambulance and we'll take it from there. Alright poppet?

ERICA                 Flower and poppet?

STELLA                I'll pick my own battles thank you Erica. (TO PARAMEDIC) What about my chair?

PARAMEDIC            Sorry flower. We can't get that in, I'm afraid. Safety regs.

STELLA                Because today's been all about what's safe?!

PARAMEDIC            We'll pop you in one of our chairs, alright, poppet? We'll just need to lift you over that's all.

ERICA                 In you pop poppet, Pop you pop poppet. Pop poppety pop poppet...

ALI                    (BY WAY OF EXPLANATION) None of us slept very well last night.

**SC. 5. INT. BACK OF AMBULANCE. (MOMENTS LATER)**

STELLA I'm sure this is pointless.

ALI It is. But maybe they'll give us something to eat at the hospital? So maybe not entirely pointless.

STELLA Mmmm, overly buttered hospital toast!

ERICA Oh no!

A/S What?!

ERICA I left my house keys.

ALI What?

ERICA My keys. I threw them down and I left them in there.

STELLA No you didn't

ERICA I did! I threw/

STELLA \You didn't leave them because I picked them up.

**HANDS ERICA HER KEYS FROM HER POCKET**

ERICA Oh thank you Stella. Oh PHEW! (BEAT) I'm so annoyed with myself?

ALI For starting the fire?

ERICA No. Well, yes but no- for losing my head back there, if I'd have kept calm then I could have done more to help.

STELLA You did plenty. You were great actually.

ERICA No I wasn't!

STELLA Erica, I've never known anyone who can tie up someone's hair whilst they're upside down.

ALI No me neither.

STELLA I could really use someone like you, Erica. As a PA.

ERICA Really?

STELLA Yes. Why don't we give it a try?

ALI Little bit of advice Erica. Telling someone they can't smoke indoors is not controlling. It's actually a strategy for preventing arson.

ERICA I didn't do it on purpose! And you have to admit it was exciting.  
**SHE GETS OUT HER PHONE** Look at these pictures I took of

you on the stairs, Stella over your shoulder, as you carry her to safety with the smoke bellowing behind you.

STELLA You look like a real hero, Ali.

ALI Ha! I do!

STELLA Maybe with those photos, the fire brigade will give you another shot. I think you should reapply.

ERICA You definitely should! They'd be stupid to turn you down!

STELLA And if you need somewhere to sleep, then my sofa is yours, until you get yourself sorted.

ALI Really?

STELLA Really.

**BEAT**

ALI Is it purple?

STELLA No, but I'm sure I could get it re-covered.

ALI I owe you!

STELLA You effectively saved my life today. I don't think you owe me anything! (BEAT) And you saw me first.

ALI I saw you first.

**BEAT**

**STELLA CALLS CLIFFORD.**

ERICA Who are you ringing?

STELLA Hi Clifford, its Stella. I'm sorry I was so bad tempered yesterday. Yes, I know the package is still there. The thing is - my wheelchair stopped working in Sharewoods. I was wondering if you might collect it for me and work your magic on it? That's so kind of you. I'll see you back at my house. No, no, no, I'm fine. I've borrowed one from the NHS .

ERICA See, even irritating people have their uses.

STELLA But Erica - I definitely need an agreement that there will be no smoking indoors.

ALI I think that's probably wise.

ERICA Oh, this is going to be so much fun, the three of us together!

**THEY LAUGH**

END.

Night of the Living Flatpacks Episode 5 by Leanne Allen

**SPOOKY DRAMATIC MUSIC PLAYS UNDER CREDITS:**

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

The writer was Leanne Allen, series advisor was Sarah Daniels, the director was Hannah Quigley, the music was by Oliver Vibrans and the sound designer was Alisdair McGregor.

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