

Ghosted
Episode 5
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Music and Sound Design by Laurence Owen

INT. KEIRA'S UNI BEDROOM

SCRATCH of CHALK on board as Keira draws up the ouija board.

Because it's late, their voices are low, intimate.

Beth CRACKS her neck.

BETH
Ugh, did you hear that? Neck.

More CRACKS.

BETH (cont'd)
Back!

CRACK. CRACK.

BETH (cont'd)
Shoulders. Uhhh. Five hour shift and
I'm like a set of maracas.

KEIRA
I'm almost done. One sec.

BETH
God, I'm so tired.

SCRATCH of CHALK.

KEIRA
M N O P...

BETH
Should we do this with just two? I
heard less than three can be
dangerous.

KEIRA
Yeah, well, Wez is busy.

BETH
We could wait until he's free.

KEIRA
No, he... (sighs) he just doesn't
wanna do it, Beth. Any of it. Tarot,
runes, ouija.

BETH

Oh. He hasn't said anything to me.

KEIRA

He wouldn't. He told me that
you're... (sighs) Uh. Never mind.

BETH

I'm what?

KEIRA

Forget it.

BETH

No, tell me.

KEIRA

(big sigh) Fine. He said... he's a
bit annoyed with...

BETH

With me?? Why?

KEIRA

He felt pressured. To join in.

BETH

What? But I never forced him. I never
insisted, I was always like, 'only if
you want to'.

KEIRA

Yeah, but you know how obliging he
is.

BETH

Oh God. I'll talk to him.

KEIRA

Mate. He really doesn't want you to.
Just, just leave it. Trust me.
OK. Let's form a connection. Come
closer.

They SHUFFLE CLOSER.

BETH

OK.
(mutter) Ohhh! Wez is annoyed with
me.

KEIRA

Closer. So our knees touch.

BETH

There's salsa on my trousers. Should I change?

KEIRA

No no no. It's almost midnight, we should do it now.
Do you wanna do the invocation?

BETH

Umm. Yeah. Sure.

KEIRA

Here. Bell.

Keira grabs a small bell off the floor. It resonates as she passes it over.

BETH

Thanks.
Ready?

Beth RINGS the bell between each sentence.

BETH (cont'd)

(deep breath) We open ourselves up to the realm beyond. We entreat those with good intentions to speak with us. We ask for honest council. With the ringing of this bell, we invite you into this room.

They BREATHE softly for a few beats.

Suddenly, Keira SUCKS AIR in. She GASPS.

KEIRA

Did you feel that?

MUSIC (a hum at first)

BETH

What?

KEIRA

A rush of energy. Like a wave. Did you feel it?

BETH

Maybe! I don't know! Yes, yes I think so. Shall I ask a question?

KEIRA

No, I'll do it. I'll do it.
(MORE)

KEIRA (cont'd)
How many of you are in the room?

Pause. SCRAPE of glass.

BETH
It's moving. Oh my God, it's actually working.

Both are excited, giddy, GASPing and LAUGHing.

KEIRA
I knew it would! I knew it!

SCRAPE.

KEIRA (cont'd)
'One'.

BETH
One spirit. Oh my God. Oh my God, oh my God. Erm, I can't think! Ask another.

KEIRA
Are you always with me?

SCRAPE.

KEIRA (cont'd)
'No.'
Beth. Ask the same thing.

BETH
'Are you always with me?'

SCRAPE.

BETH (cont'd)
(gasp) 'Yes.'

Their BREATH is ragged.

BETH (cont'd)
I don't believe it.

KEIRA
Another. Ask another.

BETH
Did... did I know you while you were living?

Beat.

BETH (cont'd)
It's not moving.

KEIRA
It stayed on yes.

BETH
Ohhh.

KEIRA
Do you think it's... Gabby? She's the
only one that's ever come through.

Beat.

BETH
Gabby? Is that you?

KEIRA
Didn't move. 'Yes'. It's Gabby.

BETH
Ohhhh! Where have you been? Why did
you stop talking to me, was it you
the first time?

KEIRA
Too much, you're asking too much.
Something simpler. Like... 'how are
you?'

BETH
'How are you?' Isn't that a bit
casual?

SCRAAAAPE.

KEIRA / BETH
Ohhh!

KEIRA / BETH (cont'd)
S. A. D.

KEIRA
Sad.

BETH
Oh no, not this again.
Why are you sad?

SCRAPE SCRAPE

KEIRA / BETH
Y.O.U.H.U.R.T.

KEIRA
(gasp) You hurt...

SCRAPE

KEIRA / BETH
M.E.

KEIRA
You hurt me.

BETH
You hurt me?

KEIRA
Do you mean, Beth? Beth hurt you?

SCRAPE.

KEIRA / BETH
'Yes.'

BETH
I don't understand. What, what did I do? I never hurt Gabby.

KEIRA
'What did Beth do to you?'

They wait. Nothing.

BETH
Why isn't it moving?
What did I do? Tell me.

KEIRA
It's stopped working. I think you're too anxious. It's broken the connection.

BETH
That didn't matter the first time!

KEIRA
There were three of us then. There's only two now, we're weaker.

BETH
Gabby. Are you there? Gabby, please answer.

Pause. Nothing.

BETH (cont'd)

Shit!

KEIRA

Deep breaths, Beth. Calm down, then we'll try again.

BETH

What did it mean, I 'hurt' her?

KEIRA

Sssh, just try and relax.

BETH

But what did she mean?

KEIRA

I don't know! Before the accident, did you have an argument?

BETH

No! We never argued!

KEIRA

You said something unkind? You criticised her or...

BETH

No! No, I don't think so?

KEIRA

Calm, Beth. In. Yeah. Out. In.

Beth BREATHES as instructed.

KEIRA (cont'd)

Maybe you said something, didn't realise how it came across? How you were making her feel. You can be like that sometimes.

BETH

What do you mean? What am I like sometimes?

KEIRA

Y'know. Cold? Closed off. Passive aggressive.

BETH

I, I don't... I'm not like that!

KEIRA

You can be. I'm sorry, Beth, I'm just saying. I thought you knew. When you give me the silent treatment, I feel awful. Maybe you did the same to Gabby.

BETH

I don't give you the silent treatment!

KEIRA

Errr, yes you do. You go cold and you won't speak and I'm like, 'what have I done wrong now? She's angry at me, again.'

BETH

Keira, when have I ever done that?

KEIRA

(loud) I'm not imagining it, Beth!
(quieter) I always say, 'are you OK?
You're a bit quiet,' and you're
always like, 'I'm just tired' but
with this cold, hard stare like you
don't even like me.

BETH

No nonono! No! When I say I'm tired,
I am tired. I'm always tired.
Sometimes I'm so tired I can't think,
let alone speak, but I'm not being,
I'm not trying... it's not personal!

KEIRA

Right. OK. Yeah, if you say so.
I think you need to be more careful,
then. Because you've made me feel
really small sometimes.

BETH

No, that's that's not--

KEIRA

And it's not just me who thinks it,
Beth, I've told others and they're
like, 'sounds like she doesn't
respect you'...

BETH

I don't think like that. That's not
who I am.

KEIRA
Well Gabby thinks it is.

A short SILENCE.

Beth STANDS UP.

BETH
(small) I think I need to go bed.

Keira gives a COLD LAUGH.

KEIRA
You're doing it again, do you
realise?

BETH
Doing what?

KEIRA
You're closing me out.

BETH
No, no, I'm not, I just, I can't
think straight and I'm so tired...

KEIRA
'Oh tired'! What about Gabby? She's
still here, you just gonna walk out
on us?

BETH
No, I...
Thank you Gabby. I'm sorry you're
sad. I love you.

Another COLD LAUGH.

KEIRA
First contact we've made in ages, and
you cut it short.

BETH
I need to be somewhere quiet.

KEIRA
Go on then.

Beth WALKS to the door, OPENS it.

BETH
Keira. I didn't realise I'd hurt you.
I didn't realise I'd hurt anyone.

KEIRA

Well, now you know.

BETH

(muttering) God. I shouldn't be around people.

KEIRA

Maybe not. Goodnight Beth.

BETH

Goodnight Keira.

Time WHOOSH

INT. LANTERN ROOM

The two women face each other.

Distant THUNDER.

BETH

You pushed the glass. Both times.
Are you lying? Is this another story?

KEIRA

No.

BETH

But why would you do that.
(beat)
(loud) Come on! Speak!

KEIRA

I don't know! First time, it was just spur of the moment! I was a kid, it was a prank. Then you went fucking nuts, I didn't expect that, I wouldn't have done it if I'd known.

BETH

And yet you did it again.

KEIRA

Does it matter! It wasn't real!

But *this*...

...*this place*...

You can stay here and chat to the fucking ghost if you like, but I'm leaving.

Keira WALKS to the window.

BETH

Wait. How did you know about Gabby?
How did you know?

KEIRA

Uhhh! Your mum told me.

BETH

Mum?

Time WHOOSH.

INT. UNI HALLS

Distant HUBBUB of students moving in.

THERESA

--you need to get some TCP on that.

KEIRA

Oh OK.

THERESA

You don't want your nose to fall off,
do you.

KEIRA

Right. OK.

Beth calls from inside her new uni room.

BETH

(calls) Muuum!

THERESA

(calls) Yes, coming! Give me a
moment!
Sorry, did you say your name was...
'Keira'?

KEIRA

Yeah.

THERESA

Keira, could you do me a little
favour? Could you... keep an eye on
Beth for me? She lost a friend
recently.

KEIRA

Oh geez. OK.

BETH'S MUM

Gabby. Road accident. Awful. Beth's very upset, as you could imagine. She needs a bit of distraction, I think, some fun. Don't tell her I said anything. She'd be so embarrassed, her mum asking people to be friends with her, God. And I'm not asking that, I'm just saying could you... show her a little kindness?

KEIRA

Yeah. Course.

Time WHOOSH.

INT. LANTERN ROOM

BETH

Mum??

KEIRA

Beth! Get out of the way!

BETH

No. You're not going anywhere. Not until I know.

KEIRA

Know what?? I have told you!

BETH

What about the last time? The night I left, why'd you do it then? Another 'prank'?

KEIRA

Move, please.

BETH

After you tell me.

KEIRA

You think you're in a position to demand answers? You left! With no explanation! Do you know how that made me feel? It was like grief. Except worse, because you tossed me aside like it was nothing. You! As if you had any right to reject me!

BETH

I left because I thought I was poison! Because Gabby... YOU... told me I was hurting people!

KEIRA

(angry, disbelieving laugh) *That's the reason? Wow. How noble. How fucking noble. Shame you couldn't spare two minutes to tell me that.*

BETH

I left you a note.

KEIRA

'Dear Keira, I've gone. Not coming back. Paid this month's rent. I'm sorry. Apologise to Wez for me. Love Beth.' No kisses!

BETH

Is that all it said?

KEIRA

You don't even remember.

BETH

I wasn't thinking straight.

KEIRA

You could've picked up the phone up anytime. Or texted. But no. You left me wondering, all this time. You left me feeling fucking worthless. You did that.

BETH

I left because of YOU.

Half beat

KEIRA

Ohhhh! Just get out of the way!

Keira PUSHES Beth with a GRUNT of effort. Beth gives a small CRY.

Keira GRUNTS again as she OPENS the window.

The weather makes itself known. A GUST of wind. RAIN.

Keira pauses on the threshold, reconsidering.

KEIRA (cont'd)
Oh Jesus. Fuck.

BETH
You can't go out there. It's raining
too hard. You'll slip.

KEIRA
Stop pretending that you care.

BETH
I care about my insurance. And the
publicity. If you're going to die,
I'd rather you did it off my
property. Just take the stairs.

A RUMBLE of THUNDER.

Beat.

KEIRA
Fine. Fine. I will.

She SLAMS the window shut. The weather retreats.

KEIRA (cont'd)
I'm not staying here with you.

BETH
Good! I don't want you here.

KEIRA
Key. Hand it over.

Beth throws the KEYS on the floor.

BETH
Take them and get the fuck out of my
light house.

A terrifying explosion of paranormal activity - a KNOCK
KNOCK on the door to the stairs.

Music.

BETH (cont'd)
Oh my God.

KEIRA
(gasp) Oh.

BETH
Oh my God.

KEIRA
Fuck this. I'll take my chances on
the scaffold.

She OPENS the window again (WEATHER gets louder) and climbs through.

BETH
Wait, Keira! It's not safe out there.

KNOCK. KNOCK.

KEIRA
Oh!

BETH
Maybe it's just Wez? Trying to
connect! He wouldn't hurt us!

Keira CALLS behind her as she climbs out.

KEIRA
(calls) Wez isn't dead.

LIGHTNING.

KEIRA (cont'd)
Moron!

She SLAMS the window behind her.

SCRATCHES on the door.

BETH
Wez isn't dead?
(shouts) Keira! Keira!!

EXT. WIDOW'S WALK

Beth OPENS the window with a GRUNT and CLIMBS out.

Rain LASHES her.

BETH
Uhh!
(shouts) Keira!

The WINDOW SLAMS SHUT behind her.

BETH (cont'd)
Wez isn't dead??

KEIRA

Oh go back inside, Beth! I'll do this
on my own!

BETH

Are you mad?? The rain..!

KEIRA

I'm not going back in there!

BETH

Keira! Is Wez alive??

KEIRA

How... how do I get down?

BETH

Why would you say he was dead? Just
to torture me? What about his voice,
on the phone?

KEIRA

Beth! You're going to have to help
me.

BETH

Help you??

KEIRA

I need you to hang onto me while I
lower myself--

OMINOUS GROAN. Scaffolding LURCHES. Keira GASPS.

KEIRA (cont'd)

Ah! It's shifting!

BETH

Keira, come back on the Widow's Walk,
get off the scaffolding!

KEIRA

The lower platform, it looks
sturdier.

Help me down! Hold onto me while I--

BETH

Hold onto you? So we can both fall
over the edge?

KEIRA

OK. Just give me your cardigan.

BETH

My... cardigan?? What?? Why??

KEIRA

I'll tie it the pole. Swing down to
the next platform.
You could use it after me! There.
Happy now? I'm helping both of us.
C'mon. C'mon. Give it to me.

BETH

You can have it after you tell me
about Wez.

KEIRA

We don't have time for a long chat--

BETH

--Better make it pithy, then! So?

KEIRA

Fuck!

BETH

Did you marry Wez?

KEIRA

Jealous?

BETH

God! Why would you think I would be
jealous?? I never thought of him like
that! He was my friend!

KEIRA

No he was MY friend. We stayed in
touch, he didn't disappear.

BETH

But you didn't marry him, did you?
No! I can see it in your eyes.
God, how was I ever sucked in by you.
I always knew you lied, but this!
THIS!
What about your book on grief? Is
that bullshit too? The agent who
booked this place? Real?

KEIRA

(laughs)

BETH

Why do this? Why bother? Just, just
to hurt me?

(MORE)

BETH (cont'd)
Or to get close to me? Is that it?

KEIRA
(derisive) Ah!

BETH
So we could cry on each others' shoulders about poor dead Wez!?
What about the voice on the phone.
That really was him, wasn't it. Did you get Wez to ring me? Is he in on this?

KEIRA
Wez? Hardly.

BETH
How then?

KEIRA
Can't we talk about this later?

BETH
Tell me or no cardigan.

KEIRA
Uhhh.
Voice mails. Cut 'em up. Hung out of the bathroom window, played it down the phone.

BETH
You planned this.
Just to torment me?

KEIRA
To make you show some contrition! You wouldn't take any responsibility on your own, you had to be forced! Now give me your fucking cardigan before I rip it off your skinny--

Keira's voice cuts off on a GASP. She's seen something.

Music.

BETH
You psycho.

KEIRA
(gasp) Beth.

BETH
One last thing.

KEIRA
(small) Behind you.

A HEAVY FOOTSTEP on the metal walkway.

BETH
Did you hurt Margot?

KEIRA
(terror) Uhhh.

FOOTSTEP.

BETH
Well?

FOOTSTEP.

BETH (cont'd)
Did you hurt her?

FOOTSTEP.

BETH (cont'd)
The blood on your hands..!

FOOTSTEP. More GUTTURAL NOISES OF FEAR from Keira.

New BREATHING. Masculine.

MORE FOOTSTEPS. The guttural, masculine breathing comes closer.

BETH (cont'd)
Keira! What did you do to Margot?

KEIRA
(terrified) Beth.

BETH
Speak! C'mon, what's wrong with you?
Answer me!

KEIRA
Beth. The Keeper's behind you.

Beat.

BETH
Oh don't be fucking ridiculous. I can tell when you're lying Keira.

KEIRA
No!

BETH

Finally--

KEIRA

No!

BETH

--how did I not see it? You're not even very good at it!

KEIRA

Get away...

BETH

God, I feel like an idiot. But I'm not going to blame myself for this.

KEIRA

Get away...

BETH

Not this time.

KEIRA

(hysteria) Oh my God! Aaaaa...

Keira SCRABBLES backwards, FALLS.

BETH

Keira, what are you doing! Look where you're going!

KEIRA

He's right there.

BETH

You're too near the edge!

KEIRA

Get away...

BETH

Keira! Keira, get off the scaffolding, get back on the Widow's Walk, now!

KEIRA

He's...

BETH

Take my hand, quickly!

The structure STRAINS against itself; wood fibres CREAKING and SNAPPING, METAL SCRAPING against METAL.

KEIRA
Please. Don't hurt me. Please.

The SPLINTERED CRACK of old wood. The walkway SHIFTS.

BETH
Shit.

Part of the WALKWAY COLLAPSES. Keira SCREAMS and falls.

Keira hits the deck with a THUD, and the wind is pushed out of her. Her CRY CUTS OFF abruptly.

BETH (cont'd)
(calls) Keira? Keira!

She walks to the edge.

Below, a series of COUGHS and GASPS.

BETH (cont'd)
(gasps) Oh thank God.
You didn't fall far.
(calls) Are you hurt?

KEIRA
(small) Help. Help me, Beth.

BETH
I'm not going to leave you there,
Keira!

Heavy masculine BREATHING.

BETH (cont'd)
(calls) Keep very still! Don't move!

KEIRA
He's there...
(keening) I can still see him...

BETH
(mutterts) Oh God, what do I do? What
do I do.

KEIRA
Beth. Turn around.

BETH
(mutterts) My cardigan. Yes.
(calls) I'm going to take my cardigan
off. Use it to tie yourself to the
drainpipe.

Keira WHIMPERS.

BETH (cont'd)
It needs to be tight.
Keira, I'm going to reach down with
the cardigan now.

KEIRA
(childlike) So scared.

GROAN, CREAK OF SCAFFOLDING.

Beth GRUNTS.

KEIRA (cont'd)
I can't... I can't get it.

BETH
You're gonna have to move a bit,
Keira.

KEIRA
(weak) No...

GROAN of metal and wood.

BETH
(keening) The Widow's Walk, it's
shifting! Shit shit shit!

KEIRA
(sobs) He's still there... go away.

BETH
Keira, grab the fucking cardy now!

KEIRA
Go away, go away.

BETH
(mutterts) Oh God, she's not gonna
move.
(calls) I'm sorry, Keira! I'll have
to leave!

KEIRA
No! No!

BETH
(calls) There's nothing I can do.

KEIRA
Beth! Please don't leave me! Please.
Beth.

BETH
The Widow's Walk, it's not safe...

KEIRA
I don't want to be here on my own...
with him.

Frightening GHOST BREATHING intensifies, and then SNAPS off
as Beth says--

BETH
Listen to me, Keira. I'm going to say
one more thing. Just in case
something goes wrong, I need to say
this.

KEIRA
(whimpers) No.

BETH
I'm sorry you've spent the last ten
years wondering why I left. And I'm
sorry I didn't take the time to tell
you to your face that I needed to get
away, to start again. I really wish I
could go back and change that, but I
can't.

A SHIFT of metal and wood.

HEAVY GHOSTLY BREATHING.

BETH (cont'd)
And I'm also really sorry that for
the last ten years, while you've been
obsessing and plotting, I'm sorry
that I've barely spared you a
thought.

HEAVY FOOTSTEPS.

BETH (cont'd)
And to be perfectly honest, I can't
wait to never think about you again.
So I'm going to leave again. I'm
going to drop this cardigan--

KEIRA
(whispers) Beth.

BETH

--which probably isn't even very useful, I'm going to drop it down, and you really, really need to make an effort to catch it. To save yourself.

KEIRA

He's coming closer...

BETH

Because I'm not risking myself any more.

KEIRA

Beth! Beth. Watch out.

BETH

OK. Here it comes, ready or--

BIG CRACK OF TIMBER.

Beth GASPS.

A moment of SILENCE, and then a small--

BETH (cont'd)

Oh!

The sound of RENDING TIMBER and METAL rushes in as they plunge.

THUNDER rumbles.

Long SILENCE.

INT. LIGHT HOUSE - SOME TIME LATER

WIND across the coast.

MERTA

Our brains re-wire themselves over and over, across a lifetime. Loneliness rewrites a brain. And so does grief. And fear. And rage. Powerful experiences, they create new neural pathways. Some of these paths become well-trodden - the Keeper, he returns to the same place, time after time, looking for something he'll never find. Rage and loneliness and grief and fear. They rewire the brain.

(MORE)

MERTA (cont'd)
But so does hope.
And Beth still had hope, as she lay
there on her back, with her old
friend by her side, both of them
looking up at the stars. Beth's hope
was that she would finally be free of
her ghosts.

Wind fades into silence.

THE BUYER
Huh. Fascinating. Did either of them
survive the fall?

MARGOT THE PARROT
Getaway! Getaway! Braaaaark!

MERTA
Sssh Bobby. Noisy thing.

POTENTIAL NEW OWNER
Bobby?

MERTA
After my husband.

MARGOT THE PARROT
Margot. Margot.

MERTA
Shhh Bobby! Shh!

MARGOT THE PARROT
Getaway!

MERTA
I'm a widow.

THE BUYER
Sorry to hear that.

MERTA
Mmm.
Right! Have you seen enough?

Merta STANDS to usher her out.

THE BUYER
Oh. Yes. Lovely building.

BZZZT. BZZZT of lights flickering.

MERTA
So do you think you'll take it?

THE BUYER

I'll have to think about it. If I did, I wouldn't manage it myself. Don't fancy living up here. Not that it's not lovely! But it's a bit... it's a bit lonely.

MERTA

This life doesn't suit everyone.

THE BUYER

If I did want to pursue this any further, do I call you or..?

MERTA

No no. I'm just the cleaner.

THE BUYER

OK. Maybe I'll install you as manager! Haha. Erm.

She opens the front door - CREAK.

It's RAINING again.

THE BUYER (cont'd)

Okey dokey! Thanks again for showing me round!

MERTA

Bye now.

The buyer CLICKS open her car door.

THE BUYER

(calls) Oh! You never finished your story! Did they survive?

A RUMBLE of THUNDER.

MERTA

Raining again.

THE BUYER

Ugh! Do you want a lift anywhere?

MERTA

No thank you.

THE BUYER

Are you sure??

MERTA
I'll take shelter in the light house.
(mutter) Plenty of company there.

Shpooky music.

The End

CREDITS
You have been listening to Ghosted -
by Long Cat Media

Written by Lindsay Sharman
and directed by Lindsay Sharman and
Laurence Owen

Music, sound design and editing by
Laurence Owen

Ghosted starred Beth Eyre as Beth,
and Lucy Roslyn as Keira
with Tessa Hatts as Merta, Laurence
Owen as Wes, Hayley Evenett as the
Buyer and Lindsay Sharman as Beth's
mum Theresa.

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