

Ghosted
Episode 4
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INT. LIGHT HOUSE KITCHEN

Beth runs in from the outside. The DOOR CREAKS open and SLAMS shut.

BETH
(calls) Keira! Are you up there?

Beat.

BETH (cont'd)
I've called the police! They'll be
here soon...

CREAKS from above, as of someone slowly descending the wooden stair.

BETH (cont'd)
(calls) Keira? Is that you?

Heavy FOOTSTEPS.

BETH (cont'd)
I'm going to wait in my car for the
police!
Keira? If it's you, say something!
(whisper) Wez?

CREAK.

KEIRA
(calls) Beth.

Beth releases the breath she was holding. The internal door CREAKS open.

BETH
Keira. Are you alright?

Keira WALKS into the kitchen.

BETH (cont'd)
Is there anyone...?? Did you see the
man?

KEIRA
(quiet) I told you, it's the bin bag.

BETH
Are you sure?

KEIRA
There's no-one there. Not anymore.

BETH
Anymore?

KEIRA
You called the police?

BETH
No, that was just in case there was
somebody up there, so they'd hear.
Are you alright?

KEIRA
I found something. Upstairs.
I think you need to come and see.

BETH
Just tell me.

Beat.

KEIRA
It's Margot.

BETH
Margot? Upstairs? No, Margot's in the
aviary.

KEIRA
She's in the lantern room.

BETH
No, I put her in the aviary last
night...
There's blood on your hands. Keira?
Why is there blood on your hands?

Ambient MUSIC.

INT. LANTERN ROOM, LIGHT HOUSE

Internal door OPENS.

The window onto the Widow's Walk is open. The WIND GUSTS
through it.

BETH
Where is she?

KEIRA

The window, it was closed. I swear it was.

BETH

I can't see her! Where is she?

She SLAMS the window shut.

KEIRA

She was right here.
See? There's blood on the carpet.

BETH

From the seagull.

KEIRA

No, no. It's fresh.

BETH

Check that side of the room. Under the bed.

They move around the space, searching.

KEIRA

When I saw her, I tried to pick her up, but her wings were spread, I didn't know how to hold her so I just left her here?

BETH

And now she's gone.

KEIRA

I swear to God, she was right here.

BETH

Where was she bleeding from? How, how hurt was she?

KEIRA

This doesn't make sense.

BETH

No, it doesn't. How did she get all the way up here if she was hurt?

KEIRA

Beth. She wasn't just hurt. She was dead.

Beat.

BETH

Right. So a zombie Margot opened a window and flew away, did she? What is this, a sequel to the dead parrot sketch?

KEIRA

I, I... I'm just telling you what I saw. She looked dead. Her eyes were staring.

BETH

She's a fucking bird, they're quite starey-eyed.

KEIRA

Why are you angry at me?

BETH

I'm not, I... maybe there's a carbon monoxide leak. We're hallucinating. You imagined that Margot was here.

KEIRA

Like we're imagining the blood on my hands?

BETH

I have to go. To the aviary.

Beth OPENS the door

KEIRA

(loud) No.

Keira SHUTS it.

BETH

Keira. What are you doing?

KEIRA

You said there was a man on the walkway.

BETH

Yes?

KEIRA

What if he hurt Margot? What if he took her.
What if he's still here.

Beat.

Beth gives a small WHIMPER.

KEIRA (cont'd)
I don't think we should go
downstairs. Not right now.

BETH
...no...

Beat.

BETH (cont'd)
Maybe I should lock the door.

KEIRA
Yeah. Good idea.

Beth LOCKS the door. The key JANGLES, then GRATES against
the metal of the lock.

They BREATHE HEAVILY, scared.

BETH
So what do we do now?

KEIRA
Dunno. I guess we just... wait?

Beat.

BETH
Merta! She'll be back tomorrow
morning.

KEIRA
Great. If he's still here, an eighty
year old woman can chase him off.

BETH
Well. She's quite frightening. She
almost scared *me* off.

Beat.

KEIRA
Beth. What did he... look like? Did
you recognise him?

BETH
No. I couldn't see his face... he was
too high, too far away. He had a big
coat on. Maybe he was just big. And a
hat, or maybe it was hair, I don't
know.

(MORE)

BETH (cont'd)
I need to pee.

KEIRA
It's just nerves. You don't really.

BETH
Mmmm.

The light house CREAKS and GROANS.

BETH (cont'd)
It's just the light house. The light house.
You didn't believe me. When I rang you and I told you there was someone on the Widow's Walk.

KEIRA
Yeah, because it didn't make any sense. How would anyone get in here without me hearing? Or seeing.

BETH
Maybe he broke in last night and... hid in the bathroom?

KEIRA
What about when I go to the toilet? What's he doing, sneaking into whatever room I'm not currently using?

BETH
Sssh. Ssh!

KEIRA
(whispers) It doesn't make any sense.

Beat.

This place. Ever since I got here...

BETH
What?

KEIRA
I keep feeling a presence.

BETH
Keira. Don't. Don't even entertain that thought.

KEIRA
It feels like Wez. Like if I turn around, he'll be there.

(MORE)

KEIRA (cont'd)
Last night, in bed, I thought I could
feel him lying next to me. I thought
I could hear him breathing.

BETH
Doesn't that happen when you lose
someone?

KEIRA
In the first couple of years, maybe.
But now?

BETH
It's the isolation. That's all. It
does things to your brain.

KEIRA
I've been hear a day.

BETH
So you think... you think I saw a
gho--

The RADIO turns itself on.

Beth and Keira give a little SHRIEK of shock.

RADIO DJ
...gotta say, calling the 2000s retro
makes me feel very old...

MUSIC.

KEIRA
(alarm) Fuck! What the fuck??

BETH
It's OK. It's fine.

She CLICKS it off.

BETH (cont'd)
Just a faulty radio.

KEIRA
Jesus!

BETH
It's done that before. When I was
renovating, it turned itself on all
the time.

KEIRA
That's... not very comforting,
actually.

BETH
No, it's not, is it.

BZZZZT. Light flickers.

KEIRA
(unnerved) Ummm...

BETH
I... I do know what you mean,
actually, about feeling a presence.

KEIRA
Oh. Yeah?

BETH
For months now... there's been odd
little things.
Pipe smoke. A lot of pipe smoke. I
thought I was having a stroke, but
that's toast isn't it, you smell
toast--

BZZZZT. The light flickers.

BETH (cont'd)
--and I keep losing things all the
time. I put something down--

BZZZZT.

KEIRA
--Beth.

BZZZZT BZZZZT.

KEIRA (cont'd)
The lights are flickering.

BETH
Mmm. They really are, aren't they? I
had someone look at the electricians a
couple of times actually but they
couldn't find anything wrong.

KEIRA
(small) Oh.

BETH

The kitchen utensils have a mind of their own, too, they're never where I left them.

BZZZZT. Keira WHIMPERS.

KEIRA

Can we stop talking about this now?

BETH

I've been sort of pretending it's not happening.

But it's got a lot worse since you arrived.

I think we might be a bad combination, Keira.

BZZZZT.

KEIRA

OK. I think I would like to leave now.

BETH

But you said... we should wait for the man to leave...

KEIRA

What if's not... what if...
Give me the key. Give me the key,
give me the key.

BETH

You want to unlock the door?? But what if something's out there? Shouldn't we wait, just until we're sure?

KEIRA

I'm not staying here.

BETH

You'll leave me here? On my own??

KEIRA

Like you left me, you mean? At least you'll see me go. And you'll know *why* I left!

Beat.

BETH

Do you really want to know why?

BZZZZT.

BETH (cont'd)
I can tell you. If you really want to
know.
Sit down.

WHOOSH into flashback.

INT. BETH'S BEDROOM, HOUSE SHARE

Beth SHUFFLES a pack of Tarot. POP MUSIC in the background,
through a wall.

BETH
Shadow truth? Three fates? Twisting
path? One card?

KEIRA
'One card'. Everything else takes
ages.

SORTS CARDS.

BETH
What did you want to ask?

KEIRA
Errrm. Am I going to fail my finals?

BETH
I can answer that. No, you're not.

KEIRA
I barely studied.

BETH
You always do this.

KEIRA
Do what?

BETH
'Oh no, I've done no work, ohhhh I'm
a disaster!' and then you get
straight As and it's all, 'wow, how
did that happen, I didn't even open
the textbook.'

KEIRA
(laughs) But I didn't! I've done the
bare minimum for three years. I paid
you to write my essays!

BETH
Two essays, both in first year, and
then you stopped because I was
dragging your grades down.

KEIRA
Ooh! I know! Am I pregnant?

Beat.

BETH
(baffled) Are you pregnant?
Maybe a pregnancy test might be more
use?

KEIRA
(sighs) Yeah.

BETH
Is this a joke? You don't really
think you're pregnant?

KEIRA
Well...

BETH
Oh my God. Who?

KEIRA
Who do you think?

BETH
Someone from work..?

KEIRA
I'm not boning anyone at work.

BETH
You said you were.

KEIRA
It's Wez.

Beat.

BETH
Excuse me?

KEIRA
Yeah.

BETH
You slept with Wez? When?? How??

KEIRA

A few weeks ago. We were chatting in his room, got a bit drunk, y'know how it happens.

BETH

Bloody hell! Why didn't you tell me? How did I... how did I miss this? His bedroom's next door. The wall's like paper.

KEIRA

Maybe you were out, I dunno.

BETH

I'm never out.

KEIRA

It was during the day, you must've been at uni.
Why are you pulling that face?
Jealous?

BETH

No! I'm just... appalled.

KEIRA

How supportive.

BETH

Not appalled. Bad choice of words... surprised. Concerned.

KEIRA

'Concerned'??

BETH

I mean, it could get... messy.

KEIRA

If me and Wez got together, would you mind?

BETH

Course not.

KEIRA

You might feel like a spare dick.

BETH

Well, I suppose I might. I suppose I'll just have to move out when the baby comes. Step aside and let you three be a real family.

(MORE)

BETH (cont'd)
 Or four, if it's twins. Or triplets!
 Oh my God, what if you have triplets,
 nightmare.

KEIRA
 I'm glad you think this is funny.

BETH
 I'm only teasing.

KEIRA
 You don't think I'm pregnant.

BETH
 (mutters) Just another story.

KEIRA
 Sorry, what did you say?

BETH
 Nothing! You know what, let's ask the
 spirit realm. Tarot, is Keira
 preggers? Will she shortly evacuate
 a mini-Wez from her nethers?

KEIRA
 Errr..?

Beth FLIPS A CARD.

BETH
 The Star. Very powerful card. The
 centre, the focus. A gassy giant.

KEIRA
 (upset) Beth! What are you doing? I
 told you this very vulnerable thing,
 and you take the piss!? What the fuck
 is wrong with you??

Beth retreats.

BETH
 I was just kidding. I'm sorry, I
 thought we were having a laugh.

KEIRA
 Oh, yeah, hilarious!

BETH
 I didn't think you were genuinely
 worried you were pregnant.

KEIRA

'Gassy giant'?? What was that about, then? Passive aggressive much?

BETH

I didn't mean it, it was just a joke, I'm sorry. I am.

KEIRA

Really not cool.

BETH

I know, I'm sorry. Don't be angry with me, Keira.

Beat.

BETH (cont'd)

I'm sorry. I can bring you something from the chicken shop for dinner on my way back. My treat?

KEIRA

Way back? Way back from what?

BETH

Oh, yes, maybe I forgot to tell you. I've got a try-out shift tonight. Waitressing for a few hours at Los Amigos.

KEIRA

The Tex Mex?

BETH

Shall I bring you chicken? I'll be home by 11.

KEIRA

You can't seriously want to work at Los Amigos.

BETH

I think it might be fun. Jo says everyone hangs out after their shift.

KEIRA

Who's Jo?

BETH

The girl who gave me an application form.

KEIRA
(laughs) Oh my God.

BETH
(stutters) What?

KEIRA
(sighs) Oh. Nothing.

BETH
OK.

KEIRA
I just don't see how it's gonna work.

BETH
What isn't gonna work?

KEIRA
You're ill all the time.

BETH
Not all the time.

KEIRA
If you call in sick more than a couple of times, they'll just fire you, y'know. Can't you just ask your mum for money.

BETH
It's not about the money.

KEIRA
Yeah? Alright for some. I have to work.

BETH
Yes. And you love work.

KEIRA
Uh, no I don't.

BETH
But you go out drinking with your work mates while I'm here on my own, being so bloody careful, sipping cocoa like Big Ears the bloody gnome.

KEIRA
What do you want me to do? Quit work?

BETH

No of course not! That's not what I'm saying.

KEIRA

Dump my friends, then? So I can look after you instead?

BETH

What? No!

KEIRA

We spend enough time together. As if I have any choice! God.

BETH

Wha...

KEIRA

Even your mum took me aside, said I should take care of you.

BETH

What? What do you mean? Why would my ... when??

KEIRA

First fucking day, when you moved into halls. She took me aside. 'Keep an eye out for little Beth. She's so fragile.' And ever since--

BETH

My mother said that? *Fragile*? I had a 100 degree fever once, she told me to jog it off.

KEIRA

I dunno then, maybe she just wanted to palm you off on someone else. Had the cheek to lecture me about my nose piercing and then said, 'Do look after her, Keira.' And because I'm a fucking angel, I said I would.

BETH

But I didn't know she said that! And I don't want you to look after me!

KEIRA

So I just don't understand how you think you're going to handle waitressing.

(MORE)

KEIRA (cont'd)
It won't work out Beth, and then
you'll have another crisis, and I'll
have to pick up the pieces. *Again!*
It's just *selfish*. I'm sorry, it is!

Beth is utterly defeated. Silence.

KEIRA (cont'd)
(sighs) I'm sorry. I'm just trying to
be realistic.

BETH
No, no, don't apologise. I know you
are.

KEIRA
Just looking out for you.

BETH
I know.

KEIRA
I don't want you to get hurt.

BETH
I know.

A couple of beats.

BETH (cont'd)
I think... I think I'm still going to
try, though. And if they fire me,
then at least I know I tried.

KEIRA
I guess.

BETH
I better get ready. They said to wear
all black.
Might have to borrow a t-shirt,
actually. Keira? Would you mind?

KEIRA
(sighs) Yeah, sure. I'll go get it.

BETH
Thank you.

Keira OPENS the door. Pauses.

KEIRA
What time's your shift?

BETH
Five o'clock.

KEIRA
You got time for some ouija?

BZZZT. BZZZZT. Light flickers.

BETH
Ouija! You... you want to do a seance? Now? Uhh. To be honest, I'm not really in the right frame of mind, Keira. And it never works anyway, does it? Not since the first time.

KEIRA
Come on, Beth. Don't you want to try?

BZZZZT.

BETH
Umm. Maybe tomorrow?

KEIRA
Tonight. When you get back from work.

BZZZZT. CREAK of feet on stairs.

BETH
Umm...

KEIRA
I'll set it up. I'll get it ready for you.

CREAK.

BETH
Ummm...

KEIRA
It'll be fun! And I dunno--

PRESENT DAY BETH
(echo) Keira.

KEIRA
I've got a feeling... like it might work this time.

PRESENT DAY BETH
(echo) Keira.

TIME JUMP WHOOSH.

INT. LANTERN ROOM, LIGHT HOUSE

BETH

Keira!

KEIRA

Why have you stopped?

CREAK.

BETH

Don't you hear that? It sounds like... someone's coming up the stairs.

KEIRA

(scared) Maybe it's Merta?

BETH

(calls) Merta? Is that you?

CREAK.

KEIRA

(whispers) Shhh! Don't! Keep quiet.

BETH

Why?

CREAK.

KEIRA

It might not be her.

CREAK!

BETH

(calls) I've called the police!

KEIRA

(whisper) Beth!

BETH

(calls) They'll be here any second!

They wait. No CREAKING.

KEIRA

It's stopped.

BETH
Maybe they heard me.

KEIRA
We need to get out of here.

BETH
How? Down the stairs?

KEIRA
Fuck no!

BETH
How then?? Sprout wings?

KEIRA
The scaffolding. The scaffolding.

BETH
What? No.

KEIRA
We could climb down--

BETH
No. It's unstable. The scaffolding went up months ago, and then I ran out of money for the renovation, so the workmen, they just left.

KEIRA
Months? That's not long.

BETH
It doesn't take long out here. The salt in the air, it eats through metal, and the rain, and the wind's ripped some of the planks off--

THUMP at the door. The women SHRIEK.

KEIRA
(whimper) Beth. The door...

A long SCRATCH at the wood of the door.

BETH
Ohhhh...

KEIRA
The scaffolding, if we're careful, if we avoid the wobbly bits...

BETH

I can't, Keira. I can't do it. I don't like heights and I'm really not very athletic.

KEIRA

We can't stay here!

RADIO turns ON (MUSIC and DJ BABBLE). They SCREAM.

RADIO DJ

(amongst static) And now a little classic from the past--

BETH

It's OK, it's OK, it's just the radio!

RADIO BETH

--think we have to touch the glass.

RADIO WEZ

Someone'll nudge it.

RADIO BETH

Yeah, Wez, that's how it works.

KEIRA

Oh my God. Do you hear that??

RADIO KEIRA AND WEZ

I promise not to push the glass.

BETH

It's us.

KEIRA

Oh my God.

RADIO KEIRA

I'm a widow.

RADIO BETH

Just another story.

KEIRA

What the fuck. What the fuck. No no no, I'm leaving.

BETH

But the radio, it's talking!

KEIRA

And that's a reason to stay??

BETH

You go.

KEIRA

You're not coming with me?

BETH

I want to stay.

KEIRA

Why??

BETH

Because... it might be fine.

KEIRA

'Fine'!?

BETH

Safe! She wouldn't hurt me.

KEIRA

'She'? Who are you talking about??

BETH

Gabby!

SCRRRATCH.

KEIRA

Gabby? You think that THAT is Gabby??

BETH

I have a theory...

SCRRRRATCH. BANG.

RADIO STATIC in the background.

KEIRA

Is this the time for theories??

BETH

Keira. This place, the light house...
it's a gateway or a focal point or
something, I don't know. And us
together, whatever we are when we're
together, our combined energies--

KEIRA

Energies??

BETH

--maybe after all these years...
we've brought her back?

KEIRA

What the fuck. I know how much all
that affected you, but that isn't
Gabby!

BETH

It might be?

KEIRA

It's not!

BETH

Or Wez. What if it's Wez?

KEIRA

Fuck! No!

BETH

But you said, your book, you said
that's what you were going to do.
Create a channel. Make contact.

KEIRA

Yeah, but I didn't! I haven't!

BETH

But the *intention* was there...

KEIRA

Look, I don't know what's going on,
but whatever that is, it's not Gabby,
and it's not Wez!

BETH

You don't know.

KEIRA

I do. I absolutely fucking know.
Fuck this. I'm going.
You're blocking the window. Beth!

BETH

How can you be so sure?

KEIRA

(anger) Because Gabby *never* spoke to
us! She's dead, gone, she was never
here! It didn't happen, it wasn't
her!

BETH

I didn't think so either, at first,
and not for a long time, but now, now
I'm not so sure--

KEIRA

Beth! It was me. I pushed the fucking
glass. Both times. It wasn't Gabby.
It was me.

TIME WHOOSH.