

LIT TOWN EP.1
MEAT THE NEIGHBORS

Written by

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INT. ROADSTER - DAY

"It's Not Unusual," By Tom Jones Crackles through the makeshift speakers of what used to be a 2018 Honda Odyssey.

GAVIN, a well kept man in his 30's wearing a shirt and tie, bobs his head and whistles along with the tune as he drives.

Gavin's fingers are interlaced with those of his wife, SHIVA

Her hair is a multi colored Death Hawk. She wears patchwork armor made of hardened leather and steel.

Gavin starts bumping forward as his chair is kicked from behind.

Behind him, his Daughter ANDY, a 9 year old with wild orange hair, is firing her legs into her father's chair.

Next to her is her sister, OLIVIA (17). She looks like a goth-cyberpunk with ludicrous amounts of black makeup on her eyes.

Next to Olivia is DANNY (15). Who stares out the window, sighing. He's dressed like J.D. from Heathers

GAVIN

Andy, Sweetheart, I'm glad you have so much energy today, but could you find another activity that doesn't involve kicking the back of my chair?

ANDY

I'M BORED. And the bumps are making me sick.

GAVIN

Why don't we play a game to pass the time?

SHIVA

How about the quiet game?

ANDY

The Quiet game is EXTRA double boring.

GAVIN

How about "I Spy?"

The car is filled with stone faces.

OLIVIA
I spy with my little eye, something
red.

GAVIN
Is it... the sky?

ANDY
My hair??

DANNY
(Poetically)
Is it the contusions of my young
heart, aching for connection to
another?

Danny keeps staring out the window listlessly. Everyone is uncomfortable with his bad poetry.

OLIVIA
It's the pile of decapitated
burning corpses coming up on our
right.

Gavin looks out the window. He throws his eyebrows up.

GAVIN
Would you look at that!

EXT. APOCALYPTIC HIGHWAY - DAY

The family car drives past a burning pile of mutilated
corpses.

GAVIN(V.O.)
Well it certainly is red alright.
How neat!

The landscape surrounding the road is hellish. Burnt orange
sands. Military Wreckage. Skeletons. Fire for no reason.
There's a tornado on the horizon.

GAVIN (V.O.)
That's what I love about driving
through the country. Adventure is
everywhere!

The car zooms down the highway through the apocalyptic
hellscape.

INT. SECRET BASEMENT - DARKNESS

12 Hooded figures are gathered in a circle in a dark basement. Dim candle light illuminates them, but it's real dark and spooky there.

A hooded figure (MARTH) raises a hand.

MARTH

So first order of business, Jeanine has another piano recital tomorrow. And I'd like to see people there this time.

The hooded figures grumble to each other.

MARTH (CONT'D)

It's a potluck, but if everyone brings pasta salad, I'm gonna be irate. Ok? (Beat) So second order of business, the new neighbors. I-

A door opens at the back of the room. Another hooded figure (Jakob) enters clumsily.

JAKOB

Scuse me, sorry...

MARTH

-know that many of you are uncomfortable with strangers and--

Jakob trips over his robe and falls face first.

JAKOB

Oh dangit!

Jakob gets back up and dusts himself off. He looks around apologetically.

MARTH

Okay, so I was in the middle of talking then you show up, late, and now you're the center of attention. I'm sorry, I just don't know how that's fair to me. I'm trying to do a thing here, man.

JAKOB

Look, I tripped ok? It's ark as hell and. I just don't understand why we have to meet in the basement. Seems cliché. Honestly.

MARTH

Sure. And why don't we just have dinner on the floor and wear our pants on our heads? The Secret Neighborhood Society meets in secret. There's a way to do things.

JAKOB

I'm just saying we could do brunch. It could be chill and casual.

MARTH

Are you done? (Beat) Okay. So there's new people moving in. What do we know about them?

The hooded figure look around in silence. Someone coughs.

MARTH (CONT'D)

So we don't know anything. Okayyyyyy. Jakob, why don't you have them over for dinner? See if they're the right fit for our community.

JAKOB

Okay. I see how it is. What if I had plans?

MARTH

But... Do you?

JAKOB

No. But I might have. You can't just assume like that.

MARTH

Okay. Super. You guys will have dinner and if they're trouble we'll just kill them. Is that cool with everyone?

Everyone shrugs and mumbles their agreement.

EXT. ROADSTER

The car drives past the sign outside of town. It once said "LevitTown" but it now reads "L itTown"

GAVIN (V.O.)

Lit Town. I've got a good feeling about this place.

INT. ROADSTER - DAY

Danny is fogging up his window with his breath and drawing hearts that he then puts initials in.

DANNY

I don't know why we had to move
anyway.

Shiva and Gavin look at each other nervously.

SHIVA

This is going to be a new start for
this family. It's gonna be fun!

DANNY

Mmmmmmmmm.

GAVIN

They have an excellent school
system you know.

EXT. LIT TOWN - DAY

The family drives through their new neighborhood. Danny looks out his window at the neighboring houses.

People are out on their front lawns waving in the new neighbors. They're pretty creepy about it.

Their homes are the remains of suburban cookie cutter houses that have been patched back together with scrap metal and car parts.

Danny Waves out his window shyly.

Andy looks out on the other side of the car where she sees a small lake that all the houses surround.

A slimy head and fish like eyes emerge from the water.

Andy and the creature make eye contact before it returns to the murky depths.

The family car rolls into the driveway of a house in the middle of the neighborhood.

The house is a total wreck. The windows are smashed and almost a quarter of the roof is caved in.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

The family opens the door to their new home. It's even more of a mess on the inside.

OLIVIA
It's a shithole.

SHIVA
Honey, I don't want to hear that kind of negativity right now. This is our new home.

Everyone starts fanning out through the house.

Danny goes over to a wall with a patch of mysterious mold growing over it.

He pushes into the wall. His hand goes through and just keeps going.

Andy Kicks around some rubble on the floor.

ANDY
It's kinda crumbly.

Gavin looks around, appraising the rubble on the floor from the caved in roof and destroyed furniture.

GAVIN
Are you kidding?? Now this place...
This place has great bones.

Danny's hand is deep in the wall.

DANNY
Oh crap, it has teeth too!

SHIVA
Get your hand out of the wall,
honey.

Gavin picks up some scrap wood on the floor. Danny yanks his arm free.

GAVIN
Look at all this free scrap! We could make deck chairs. Heck, we could build a deck!

SHIVA
Now that sounds nice.

The kids aren't buying it. Gavin looks up at the open ceiling.

GAVIN

And check it out! Skylights! All that vitamin D. See ya later seasonal depression.

Olivia is staring out a window hole.

OLIVIA

What about when it rains?

GAVIN

A little rain never killed anybody!

SHIVA

I'm sure some neighbors could lend a hand with that.

Olivia looks out the window at some neighbors gathered outside the house, peering in hungrily.

OLIVIA

They look like they wanna have us for dinner.

GAVIN

Come on. I'm sure they just want to get to know us. You kids aren't used to it, but that's the type of friendly atmosphere you can expect in these small towns.

There's a knock at the door.

GAVIN (CONT'D)

Speak a the devil.

Gavin opens the door. Standing outside are Jakob and Shareill Carlyle. They're covered in blood.

JAKOB

Hey. So we're gonna have you for dinner.

Gavin is taken aback for a moment. Oh No!

SHAREILL

Really Jakob? Think. How does that sound? Let's try that Again. I'm Shareill, and this dope is my husband Jakob.

(MORE)

SHAREILL (CONT'D)

Welcome to the neighborhood! We'd love to have you over for dinner.

Gavin re-assumes his happy demeanor.

GAVIN

Oh! Wow, that's some grade "A" hospitalitay for you! SHIVA! Come to the door. We have guests!

Shiva appears in the doorway.

SHIVA

You have a little red on you.

SHAREILL

Oh, don't mind that. It's just blood. (Beat) We're butchers.

GAVIN

Now don't worry about that! Blood stains are actually "in" right now. We had some friends back in the city who were really into that.

SHAREILL

So you're from the city, huh?

SHIVA

Yep. But we're here to make a fresh start.

GAVIN

And maybe some new friends too!

Gavin smiles too big.

JAKOB

Ok. Yeah. So dinner is at dusk.

Shareill looks at Jakob, pissed.

SHAREILL

We'd be just delighted to have you.

GAVIN

Well, you can call us the circles cause we'll be a ROUND!

GAVIN Waits for it too land. It never will.

INT. HOUSE, BATHROOM - DUSK

Shiva clips a necklace on.

She brushes on mascara with a blackened toothbrush.

She slides a sawed off double barrel into a thigh holster and brushes the white skirt of her dress over it.

She looks in the mirror and smiles.

INT. HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DUSK

Danny lies on the floor of the ruined home. He picks up dust in his hands and lets it pour out.

DANNY

Am I destined to be the lonely
pilgrim? With naught but vague
dustings too loose to hold close to
my weary soul?

Andy squats in front of him, listening intently. She sneezes and blows away the dust.

Danny rolls onto his face, forlorn.

Olivia leans against a cracked wall. She's wearing a black BDSM harness and has her hair in random pig tails. She looks at her brother. "Really Dude?"

Shiva walks into the living room.

SHIVA

Okay everyone -- Olivia, really??
Is that what your wearing? ...
Olivia.

Gavin enters wearing a tuxedo T-shirt. He adjusts his tie.

GAVIN

Your mother is talking to you young
lady.

Olivia perks up, feigning confusion.

OLIVIA

I'm sorry, do you mean me?

SHIVA

Yes. Who else?

OLIVIA

That's funny. Because I've told you exactly 17 times that my Moonpact name is NIGHTMURDER. So I don't know why you're still calling me "Olivia."

GAVIN

Honey, we're glad you're expressing yourself and--

ANDY

If Olivia gets to change her name, I wanna be Ms. Boogaloo Kazoo!

GAVIN

What?

SHIVA

Look, sweetie, we don't approve of you calling yourself that.

Olivia is floored. She throws her hands around in angst.

GAVIN

It's just the parts about the night and the murder. It doesn't suit you, jellybean.

SHIVA

And if you're calling yourself "Nightmurder," you're really pigeonholing yourself career wise. What if you end up becoming a daytime or evening murderer? Or a doctor? Is anyone gonna want a doctor named "Nightmurder?" I don't think so.

GAVIN

That's a good point.

Shiva goes to her daughter. She brushes her hair.

SHIVA

Look, it's really important that we make a good impression, so I need everyone on their best behavior.

Andy is rolling around in the dirt. Danny looks dead.

GAVIN

That means, Andy; Mind your manners. Danny, um, be normal.