

ABRA CADAVER

By

LUKE MEPHAM

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BLACK SCREEN

OPENING TITLE: THE CORPSE

FADES OUT

**INT. BEDROOM - DAY**

An alarm clock beeps and a hand presses down on it.

HOLLY, 33 sits up and stretches. She looks to her side to see JOHN, 38 doing the same thing.

**HOLLY**

How do you feel, hon?

**JOHN**

Fantastic. No hang over or anything. You?

She shakes her head.

**HOLLY**

Same.

John lays back and Holly does the same.

He looks up at the ceiling in disbelief.

**JOHN**

I've never performed in front of a crowd as wild as last night. They loved us.

**HOLLY**

You were fantastic.

**JOHN**

As were you.

She smiles.

**JOHN (cont'd)**

I think I got a bit wasted after, though and didn't we bring people back here?

**HOLLY**

We did but only a few friends of ours.

(CONTINUED)

**JOHN**

Right.

**INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY - LATER**

The sun shines through the blinds and onto the white walls of the living room.

Some distant talking is heard along with laughter. Holly walks into the room. She's wearing a white T-shirt and jeans, like she's stepped right out of a GAP advert. She walks over to the kettle.

**HOLLY**

Did you want a coffee?

John - rubbing his eyes walks in wearing the same kind of outfit as his wife.

**JOHN**

Tea please.

John dozily walks into the living room and crashes onto the couch.

**JOHN**

Did everyone get back okay?

**HOLLY**

I presume so. I haven't checked my phone yet.

She turns around and stops in her tracks, she's taken back by what she's looking at.

John notices her.

**JOHN**

What is it? Are you okay?

He sits forward and tries to wave in her eye line.

She motions him to look on the floor.

He does.

Laying on the floor, face down is a WOMAN.

He stands up next to her.

(CONTINUED)

**HOLLY**

(deep thought)

I could've sworn everyone left.

(laughing)

Were we really that pissed?

Holly leans to him.

**HOLLY** (cont'd)

Do you remember her?

**JOHN**

No.

**HOLLY**

What does she look like?

**JOHN**

Well I can't see through the back of her head now can I.

**HOLLY**

Then turn her.

**JOHN**

Why are you so agitated? She clearly had a great time last night. We should feel proud.

**HOLLY**

I'll feel a lot better when she's out of here. Check her pockets or something. See if she's taken anything.

**JOHN**

Oh for goodness sake. The only thing she's probably taken is an illegal substance.

He kneels down to her and turns her over.

Her eyes are closed. Her brown hair tied back. She's wearing a dress. She's attractive.

He tries to figure out her face.

Holly leans in behind him.

**JOHN**

(He looks her over)

...friend of yours?

She shakes her head.

(CONTINUED)

**JOHN**

Wakey wakey! Hello. Time to get up...

(under his breath)

Whoever you are.

He shakes her shoulder.

**HOLLY**

Just give her a minute, we don't want to startle her.

John stands up and stands next to Holly. They both tower over the girl. Holly is looking nervous.

**JOHN**

Would she be on any photos?

Holly's expression becomes one of surprise.

**HOLLY**

Yes! The phones! I'll get it now.

SCREEN WIPE

**INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY - A LITTLE LATER**

John and Holly are swiping through photos on their phones.

**HOLLY**

Nothing.

**JOHN**

Me neither.

**HOLLY**

So strange.

She looks at the front of the phone.

**HOLLY (cont'd)**

It's been 30 minutes. Lets just get her up and out of here.

John shifts forward and shakes her again. He reaches over and shakes her shoulder then backs off looking disturbed.

**JOHN**

That's funny.

(CONTINUED)

**HOLLY**

What?

**JOHN**

She's frozen.

**HOLLY**

It's baking in here though.

**JOHN**

Feel her.

She does and matches John's expression.

John gets up and slowly puts his ear to her mouth.

He then places two fingers on her jugular.

His eyes widen in terror. He then takes a breather and turns to Holly.

**JOHN (cont'd)**

She's dead.

**HOLLY**

Are you serious?

**JOHN**

No. I'm telling porkies - Yes I'm serious!

She covers her mouth and paces around the kitchen.

John leans back with his back on the bottom of the couch.

**HOLLY**

What are we going to do? We can't call the **police**.

**JOHN**

No...you're right about that. We'd be the prime suspects.

**HOLLY**

Is she real?

**JOHN**

What?

**HOLLY**

It could just be a prop. A rival magician playing a prank?

(CONTINUED)

**JOHN**

No she's definitely real.

John stands up and frowns in thought.

**JOHN (cont'd)**

Let's think about this rationally now. There's no evidence of her being at the party. There's nothing on her like ID or a phone or anything. Nobody has tried ringing her...or us for that matter.

**HOLLY**

Right. Then what do you propose we do? We can't bury her here, we have no garden.

**JOHN**

We could... keep her?

**HOLLY**

What do you mean...like as an...accessory to the house?

John nods creepily.

**HOLLY (cont'd)**

I'm intrigued.

**JOHN**

We can easily make money off of her.

Holly's eyes widen with mega bucks.

**HOLLY**

She could be in a few of your acts.

**JOHN**

Our acts.

**HOLLY**

Oh I don't know John, she comes from somewhere.

**JOHN**

That was when she was alive. She's not now so that kinda makes her ours.

Holly looks away in thought then snaps her head back to John.

(CONTINUED)

**HOLLY**

It does doesn't it.

**JOHN**

Yeah.

John looks at the time.

**JOHN (cont'd)**

Look, I have some errands to run.  
Do you mind if -

**HOLLY**

No, no. You go...leave this with  
me.

John gets up and walks out of the room. Holly sits on the  
arm of the couch and looks down on the body.

CROSSFADE

**INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY - LATER**

John walks back into the room.

Holly is sitting on the couch reading a magazine. Her feet  
are propped up by a lump under a blanket.

**JOHN**

I've had time to think.

**HOLLY**

What did you think?

**JOHN**

Okay hear me out. She doesn't move.

**HOLLY**

Right....

**JOHN**

She could be used in the tricks  
that look like they go wrong. Sword  
in the basket etc.

**HOLLY**

It wouldn't work. She's dead. No  
blood.

**JOHN**

Load her up with blood packs.

(CONTINUED)



**HOLLY**

Possibly... but what about when she's not in any acts. Where should we keep her?

**JOHN**

We could cover her in papier mache. Use her as things around the house.

Holly has her eyes fixed onto Johns.

John notices her feet propped up.

**JOHN (cont'd)**

I see you've had the same idea by using her as a footstool?

**HOLLY**

Correct.

She smiles.

**JOHN**

I guess we've always had a fascination with the macabre, haven't we?

**HOLLY**

We have.

**JOHN**

Course, we could always eat her when we're low on food?

**HOLLY**

No, we're not cannibals. We're not even killers, John. We're magicians. Don't get carried away.

**JOHN**

Right.

**HOLLY**

We're simply...preserving her. You always wanted to open a waxwork museum.

**JOHN**

(being serious but still smiling)

This isn't waxwork but okay.

(CONTINUED)

**HOLLY**

We can work around her.

**JOHN**

Let's do it.

A crack is heard and the body drops down.

CROSS FADE

**INT. LIVING ROOM - ANOTHER DAY - SERIES OF IMAGES**

-John is positioning something out of shot.

Holly is sat on the couch and is motioning with her hands for him to go left and right.

John is balancing books on the arms of the corpse, who is leaning against the wall.

Holly gives him a thumbs up.

-John is sawing down a piece of wood.

Holly comes in and John looks up and smiles at her.

He is using the dead body as a sawhorse.

**INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

Holly and John are watching TV. On it, a Young Woman slowly walks into a bedroom to see 2 mannequins. Holly turns it off and turns to John.

**JOHN**

Hey I was watching that.

**HOLLY**

Get it on catch up, listen I've been thinking. What's next Thursday?

**JOHN**

Halloween.

**HOLLY**

Yep. We'll throw a wild Halloween party with 'Felicity' here being the main attraction.

John looks at Felicity.

(CONTINUED)

Her head is facing them but her eyes are shut. She has an arm extended outwards and it has coats hanging off of it.

**JOHN**

Oh I don't know, Hols, remember the last party we ended up having? THAT happened.

**HOLLY**

We'll tell them we ordered her from another country or something. It'll be fine.

**JOHN**

But she's starting to smell.

Holly looks at her.

**HOLLY**

Okay well I have an idea.

**INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - HALLOWEEN**

People are at the door ready to walk in.

Holly is at the door in a Halloween costume and she's holding a green tub.

People are putting their fingers in there then wiping them under their nose.

**HOLLY**

Hey guys, don't forget your vapor rub. Trust me...you'll need it.

John is dressed up and welcomes people in.

**JOHN**

Come in, let me show you around, you thirsty?

**VARIOUS STILLS FROM THE PARTY**

Holly and John are dressed up and are posing in various pictures with their guests whilst we hear ambiance in the background.

Some guests have their picture with 'Felicity'.

CUT TO BLACK

**INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY**

John and Holly slowly walk into the living room wearing their PJs and look around the corner. They grimace and then wipe the vapor rub under their noses.

'Felicity' is standing in the middle of the room.

**JOHN**

So far so...Oh for the love of..

At her foot is a male body laying face down.

**HOLLY**

Are you frigging kidding me?!

John takes Holly and turns her around.

**JOHN**

Look let's just cut them up into tiny little pieces, bonfire them then scatter them into the sea.

**HOLLY**

What if he's alive?

**JOHN**

You check.

**HOLLY**

Why me?

**JOHN**

I did the last one.

**HOLLY**

Oh for God's sake.

She turns around and tip toes to the male body.

She slowly kneels down and feels for a pulse.

She turns to John and shakes her head slowly.

Suddenly 'Felicity' reaches out and grabs the male corpse. Holly frantically backs away and pushes herself into the front of the couch.

'Felicity' helps lift the male corpse up. Holly runs to John and he holds her in his arms.

The two corpses look at their arms and bodies then up to each others eyes. 'Felicity' holds the Males hand and they both slowly drag themselves out of the front door.

(CONTINUED)

John loosens his grip on Holly and they watch them leave.

**JOHN**

Well would you look at that.

**HOLLY**

I know. Love made them come to  
life.

**JOHN**

Cute isn't it?

**HOLLY**

It sure is.

'Felicity' and the Male Corpse stand at the door way with  
their backs to them.

**HOLLY**

Love comes in many...strange  
and...fairly repulsive ways.

The corpses slowly turn and face them then shuffle back into  
the house.

**HOLLY (cont'd)**

Er...John...

**EXT. HOUSE - DAY**

The front door closes.

FADE TO BLACK

**INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY - LATER**

The front door opens up and the Male corpse and 'Felicity'  
slowly walk out. They hold hands.

Along with various other limbs not belonging to them.

THE END