

Phobia
Episode 1

by

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INT. HOUSE - NIGHT - 1995

TOM;10,Blonde curly hair. Thick glasses, sits cross legged on the floor in front of the TV.

On the TV is an episode of "The Outer Limits".

TOM (V.O.)
This was a defining moment of my
childhood.

Tom stares at the TV in a gaze of wonderment.

EPISODE 2 "VALERIE" is on.

TOM (V.O.)
There are 2 things I remember from
this episode... The first being
that I had seen the most wonderful
breasts I was ever going to see.

On the TV - a scene which shows a woman wearing white lacy underwear leads a man in a wheelchair into a bedroom before revealing her "wonderful breasts" to him.

Tom's eyes open wide and an amazed smile comes across his face.

TOM (V.O.)
The second being the fact that I
was being told that I had to fear
death to be human.

On the TV - The final scene where the female robot is on the floor dying and tells her master that she fears death.

Tom transfixed to the TV has a tear falling down his cheek.

FADE OUT:

SCREEN BLACK:

TOM (V.O.)
That was when I learnt I had a
genuine fear for death. That...and
2 days ago when my Father passed
away.

INT. DOCTOR'S SURGERY -DAY - PRESENT DAY

TOM;34, a slightly darker blonde and less curly than his younger self, sits on the chair with his sleeve rolled up. He has a blood pressure cuff round the top of his left arm.

Tom squints as the pressure increases.

DOCTOR
Any history of heart disease in the
family?

Tom's face becomes one of relief as the pressure decreases.

TOM
Not until a couple of days ago.

The Doctor looks up confused.

TOM (CONT'D)
My father died of a heart attack
two days ago.

DOCTOR
I'm sorry to hear.

The Doctor removes the blood pressure cuff and begins to
type on the keyboard.

There is an awkward silence.

DOCTOR
Your blood pressure is fine. I
recommend a blood test to rule out
any concerns you may have.

TOM
Thank you Doctor.

DOCTOR
May I ask how old your father was?

TOM
He was sixty-two.

The Doctor writes on his notes, looks up and smiles at Tom.

Tom looks worried.

DOCTOR
We are done here.

CUT TO:

DOCTOR'S SURGERY - RECEPTION - MOMENTS LATER

Tom stands in a queue waiting to be seen at the reception
desk.

He looks on the notice board next to him. He gets drawn to a leaflet which reads:

Have a phobia? Need to talk to someone? Visit us!

Tom stares.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Tom walks through the front door. He walks into...

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Tom's wife REBECCA;32, short dark hair sits at the kitchen table.

She looks up at Tom.

REBECCA
How did it go?

TOM
Waste of time, got to have a blood test.

REBECCA
How are you feeling?

Tom rubs his arm where the blood pressure cuff was.

TOM
I hate them bloody things, they make you feel like your arms going to...I don't know, explode or something.

REBECCA
I meant how are you, you know with your Dad? Not your bloody doctors appointment.

Tom acknowledges his error.

TOM
I'm fine.

REBECCA
Have you heard from Tracy at all?

TOM
 (Clearly not wanting to
 talk about it)
 Only briefly, yesterday. Just going
 through some things about the
 funeral.

REBECCA
 And your Mum?

TOM
 (Sighs)
 This morning. She's in Croatia.

REBECCA
 Is she coming back for the funeral?

TOM
 She didn't say. She'll be there, if
 not to make sure he's definitely
 dead.

REBECCA
 Don't say that.

Rebecca stands and make's her way out of the kitchen.

TOM
 Hey!

Rebecca pauses and turns.

TOM (CONT'D)
 Are we good?

Not very convincingly, Rebecca nods then continues out of
 the kitchen.

Tom stares out of the window.

INT. HOUSE - BEDROOM - EVENING

Tom sits on the edge of the bed.

Rebecca enters. Tom Notices Rebecca wearing her best
 trousers and top.

TOM
 You going out?

REBECCA
 Yeah, I told you about it,
 remember? With the girls?

Tom looks confused.

REBECCA
Do you want me to stay in?

TOM
No, course not. I forgot, that's
all.

Rebecca reluctantly walks out the room.

Tom remains seated on the bed. He reaches into his back pocket and pulls out the leaflet he picked up at the doctor's.

He stares at the leaflet.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. COMMUNITY HALL - NIGHT

A group of five people sit on chairs formed in a circle.

INT. COMMUNITY HALL - SIDE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

JODIENE;56, Long blonde hair tied in a pony tail. Wears thick red glasses stands looking out of the window at the group that await her. She rolls her eyes.

JODIENE
(On the phone)
You can't just phone me anytime you wish. We have an agreement remember.

(PAUSE)
I don't give a flying fuck. Take your giant sized nappy and go and find some loner who wants her tits sucked whilst listening to nursery rhythms, you sad perfecting prick.

Jodiene hangs up.

She looks out of the window again.

JODIENE
(To herself,
sarcastically)
God I love my life.

Jodiene turns and Tom stands in the doorway which causes her to jump.

TOM
Sorry, I'm here for the group.

JODIENE
(Enthusiastic)
Brilliant, come with me.

Jodiene ushers Tom along the corridor towards the hall.

JODIENE
How long was you standing there?

TOM
Not long.

JODIENE
Did you hear any of my
conversation?

TOM
Not rea...

JODIENE
Great, what's your name and whats
your fear?

TOM
(Surprised)
Sorry?

JODIENE
You have a name don't you?

TOM
Tom.

JODIENE
Nice to meet you Tom, and why are
you here?

TOM
It's a long story really.

JODIENE
Try the short version for now, what
are you scared of?

TOM
Death.

Jodiene pauses and looks Tom up and down, then at the group

in the hall.

JODIENE

Oh you have come to the right
place. They are going to love you.

Jodiene leads Tom into the hall.

JODIENE

Evening peeps.

The group don't react.

Jodiene grabs a chair for Tom and pulls it into the circle
next to another empty chair.

Tom looks at Jodiene confused. He goes to sit on the empty
chair that was already there.

JODIENE

NO!

Tom pauses.

The group look at Tom.

JODIENE (CONT'D)

That seat is taken.

Tom sits on the chair Jodiene retrieved.

JODIENE

Okay. As you can see we have a
newbie this evening. Everyone I
would like you to meet Tom.

Tom raises his hand slightly to say hi.

The group stare at Tom unimpressed.

JODIENE

Okay, so Tom, being it your first
night we are going to go round the
group and introduce ourselves and
then I would like you to do the
same and tell us a little bit about
you. Okay?

Tom nods.

JODIENE

I'll start. My name is Jodiene, I
work here as part of an NHS group
to help people with Phobia's to

overcome their fears that are
holding them back from living to
their full potential. I have been
working here for nearly 2 years now
and find it very...

(Patronising)

Rewarding.

Sitting to the left of Jodiene is SALLY;52, grey hair, very
timid.

SALLY

(Quietly)

My name is Sally and I am hear
because I suffer from
Arachibutyrophobia.

JODIENE

(Stern)

What is that Sally? explain.

SALLY

Oh, It's a phobia I have of peanut
butter getting stuck to the roof of
my mouth.

The group chuckle.

Jodiene shoots them down with a stare.

JODIENE

Would you like to tell Tom how this
phobia came about?

SALLY

I was six years old and I tried
peanut butter for the first time
and it got stuck to the roof of my
mouth and I was nearly sick and...

(Begins to break down)

Jodiene intervenes and comforts Sally.

JODIENE

It's okay, erase it from your mind.

Sally takes deep breathes.

JODIENE (CONT'D)

(To Tom)

She's not eaten peanut butter
since.

Tom nods, he looks confused.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

JAMES;45,attractive, short grey cropped hair, sits at a table by the window.

Rebecca approaches the table somewhat rushed and a little stressed.

James stands and greets her with a kiss.

They both sit.

JAMES

You ok?

REBECCA

(Sighs)

Yeah, you?

James smiles.

Rebecca takes a large sip of her drink which was already there ready for her.

REBECCA

Thanks for this.

(Reffering to the drink)

I needed it.

JAMES

I can see.

REBECCA

Sorry.

JAMES

No need to apologise.

REBECCA

I've had a really shit few days that's all.

JAMES

It's fine, relax.

James reaches across and holds her hand.

REBECCA

I think he knows.

James is unfazed.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

I can see it in his eyes and I

think he knows.

James listens.

REBECCA

(Crying)

His Dad has just died and I am out seeing another...Seeing you. I am a bad person. Oh my god I am such a bitch.

JAMES

Hey, hey! Calm down. Don't be stupid. You are not a bad person.

Rebecca wipes her eyes.

REBECCA

What are we doing?

JAMES

We are acting on something we have both wanted for a long time. You are not a bad person for that, it happens.

REBECCA

But what about Tom? He looks so lost at the minute and I can't help him. I can't even be in the same room as him.

JAMES

Listen, How ever you want to do this, you let me know. I will be here for you whatever.

Rebecca smiles.

REBECCA

God I want to fuck you.

Rebecca flings herself forward and snogs James causing the cutlery and glasses to fall on the table.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMUNITY HALL - NIGHT

To the left of Sally is MARTIN;41,Heavy build, slightly out of shape.

MARTIN
I'm Martin. I suffer from
Tokophobia, which is a fear of
pregnancy.

A BEAT

JODIENE
What makes this a little
complicated is that this particular
fear is one who fears childbirth.

There is a silence.

Martin's eyes move around the group.

MARTIN
I don't ever want to go through the
pain.

Tom doesn't know where to look.

Next in the group is ROGER; 26, Black, cropped hair, athletic
build.

ROGER
My name is Roger and I am here
because I suffer from a fear of
long words.

Again the group chuckle.

JODIENE
(LOUDLY)
Stop it this instance.

The chuckling stops.

Roger looks for permission to carry on.

Jodiene acknowledges this.

ROGER
When I was at school I was bullied
because I couldn't pronounce
certain words that were long and
had a lot of syllables. I'm
currently on a plan to assist me
with trying to help me overcome
this using a word table.

JODIENE
I have been working with Roger for
almost a year now and he is doing

very well.

The group all nod in agreement.

JODIENE (CONT'D)

Unfortunately the phobia name is ironically a lengthy one which we can't mention of course and clearly invented by some sick bastard who thought it would be amusing.

Roger begins to panic at the thought of someone saying it.

JODIENE

Calm down Roger.

Next is TANYA;56, short spiked blonde hair where the roots need some drastic attention. She holds a cross tightly in her palm.

TANYA

(Confidently)

Hello, I'm Tanya and I suffer from Philophobia which is a fear of being in love.

JODIENE

Tanya unfortunately keeps her distance from people. She has been hurt in the past which is where we believe this fear has developed from.

(To Tanya)

Have you taken your medication today?

Tanya nods.

JODIENE (CONT'D)

Good girl. Such a pretty little thing as well.

(Pause)

Next we have...

Next in the group is PAUL;32, Shoulder length hair which hangs down and a beard which isn't well groomed.

PAUL

(Strong Irish accent)

I'm Paul and I am here because I have a phobia of work.

Silence in the group.

PAUL (CONT'D)
 Basically I can't bare it. I tried
 it once and hated it. Mention work
 to me and I am sick instantly.
 (Imitates throwing up)

JODIENE
 Ok Paul, that's quite enough thank
 you.

Paul smirks at Tom who doesn't know how to react.

In between Paul and Tom is the vacant chair.

Jodiene intervenes.

JODIENE
 Ah, yes. This chair belongs to
 STANLEY. As you all know - Tom,
 this is for you, Stanley has a
 phobia called Glossophobia which
 means that poor Stanley cannot
 speak publicly or attend meetings.
 We are trying to persuade Stanley
 to change his mind but to no avail
 so far.

An awkward silence.

JODIENE (CONT'D)
 We hope and prey that next week he
 will attend.

Tom realises he is next.

TOM
 My turn?

Jodiene smiles with encouragement.

TOM
 (Nervously)
 Hello, my name is Tom. This is my
 first time here. I am here because
 I believe I have a fear of death.
 (The group look at each
 other)
 Two days ago my Father died of a
 heart attack.
 (Gasps in the group)
 Today I went to the doctors for the
 first time in almost ten years to
 have some tests just to find out if
 it is hereditary. I am shit scared

of the results coming back.

(A pause)

My wife is having an affair, although she doesn't know that I know.

(Jodiene looks awkwardly round the group)

I've been reading their texts to one another for the past 3 months and I never have the bottle to confront her about it - I guess because I'm afraid I know what will happen after I do. My sister is not answering my calls leaving me to arrange the funeral by myself which is fucking hard when you have a phobia of death. They want me to go to the funeral home and pick out a coffin. I'm not sure I can do it.

(Takes a deep breath)

The only reason I fear death is because I believe it makes us human to fear it.

ROGER

I once saw a tv show about that where this robot wants to be human and...

JODIENE

ROGER! Do you mind.

Roger shuts up immediately.

TOM

That's right Roger, your spot on.

Roger smiles proudly.

TOM (CONT'D)

I saw the same show when I was a kid and it has haunted me ever since.

A BREAK

JODIENE

Well fuck me Tom.

(Looks at her watch)

Sorry peeps but I think we may have to pick this up next week after that from Tom.

Tom looks sad.

TOM
Sorry, I thought...

JODIENE
Don't worry about it Tom, it sounds
like you've got a lot on your plate
at the moment.

Tom looks across at Tanya who smiles sympathetically at him.

Jodiene can be heard talking to the group.

Tom smiles back at Tanya.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. COMMUNITY HALL - LATER

Tom makes his way out of the exit, down the pathway.

PAUL (O.S.)
Tom! Wait up.

Tom stops and turns.

Paul is jogging towards him.

PAUL (CONT'D)
What's your deal?

Tom stands confused.

PAUL (CONT'D)
You with benefit fraud?

Tom has not got a clue.

PAUL (CONT'D)
Come on, you can cut that shit out.
They sent you to check on me didn't
they?

TOM
I have not got a clue what you are
talking about.

PAUL
You expect me to believe all that
shit in there?

TOM
What shit?

PAUL
Fear of death? Get the fuck out
man, everyone is scared of death.

TOM
And everyone hates work...

PAUL
Exactly! That's my point. You and
me are the only ones in that room
with genuine fears.

Tom starts to walk away.

Paul follows.

TOM
I don't fear work I just would
rather not have to do it.

PAUL
Fuck you! You are here to check on
me aren't you? I have a genuine
certificate that say's I cannot
work because of my fear.

TOM
I am not here to check on you. I
came tonight because I wanted to
talk publicly about my fear of
death.

Paul tugs Tom back.

PAUL
Listen, are you telling me that you
have a genuine fear of death?

Tom refuses to answer.

PAUL (CONT'D)
Good god. You are sitting in there
telling those whacko's about your
life?

TOM
Hey, that's a bit harsh.

Paul laughs.

PAUL
Have you seen "One flew over the
cuckoo's nest"?

Tom rolls his eyes.

PAUL
Come on, you've even got Nurse
Ratched for good measure.

TOM
Is that what this is about? You
wanted to be McMurphy and I've come
along and ruined it.

Tom walks off again.

Paul chases after him.

PAUL
Ah, so you have seen it, good. Look
it's got nothing to do with that...
(Out of breath)
Listen, lets go get a beer, my
shout?

TOM
Why would I want to get a beer with
you?

PAUL
Because you've got no one else
offering.

Tom thinks for a moment.

INT. PUB - MOMENTS LATER

Tom sits at a table alone. Paul approaches with two pints of
beer. He hands one to Tom and sits down opposite.

TOM
Thanks

PAUL
No worries, I've got nothing else
to spend it on.

TOM
No family?

PAUL
Nah, I mean my Mum is still alive

but I don't see her much. She
always seems to be away travelling.

TOM
I know what you mean. No kids?

PAUL
(Shakes his head)
No. I've never been great with
ladies really, not like that
anyway.

A BREAK

TOM
So, do those people turn up every
week for that session?

PAUL
Without fail, it's the highlight of
their week. To be fair, its the
highlight of my week.

Tom laughs.

TOM
But why would they...I mean some of
their fears are just...

PAUL
(Interrupting)
Bollocks?

TOM
(Laughs)
Yeah. I mean who has a fear of
peanut butter getting stuck to your
mouth and the fact that she has
never had peanut butter since -
doesn't that make her cured?

Paul nods.

TOM (CONT'D)
And who's the guy who has fear of
childbirth?

PAUL
(Raises his glass)
Dear old Martin.

TOM
The guy with the fear of long
words?

PAUL

(Raises his glass)

Roger. Now he is good fun.
Honestly, so the length of word
which falls into the long word
category is anything more than 12
letters. Now if you say a word with
11 letters he is fine but the
minute you say a 12 letter word he
is shaking and everything. It's a
very good game.

Tom laughs again.

PAUL

Listen, they are an odd bunch but
actually I have grown quite fond of
them. There like my little
characters of my favourite soap
opera.

TOM

And what about you?

PAUL

Me? I just go for the
entertainment.

They both drink their beers.

PAUL (CONT'D)

So, is you wife really having an
affair?

TOM

Yep - She's out with him tonight.
She thinks I think she's out with
the girls but I know she's not. I
read her texts earlier.

PAUL

That sucks. What you gonna do about
it?

TOM

Not sure yet, haven't really had
time to think about, not with my
Dad and everything.

PAUL

Shit. I'm sorry man.

Paul raises his glass.

PAUL (CONT'D)
To the dead and the deceiving.

Tom raises his glass.

TOM
So how long have you been attending
the meetings?

PAUL
About three months. To be fair it
beats anything thats on the telly
these days. Plus, Jodiene has some
kind of spell on me.

Tom almost spits his beer out.

TOM
Nurse Ratched? Are you kidding me?

PAUL
(Laughs)
Straight up. When I first starting
going I hated it, I only went
because it got me my benefits and I
had to prove attendants. But then I
stopped going and I started to have
dreams about her so I started up
again and the dreams stopped, then
I left again about a month later
and the bloody dreams started
again. Since then I've been going
all the time.

TOM
And the dreams?

PAUL
Stopped.

Tom laughs.

PAUL
Seriously - it helps. They are all
very weird but it helps. Maybe
were not so different from them.

A BREAK

TOM
I'm not sure if it helped me or
not. I mean it was nice to talk
about things to people who wouldn't
judge, but I'm not sure how I feel

right now.

PAUL
You not going back?

TOM
I don't think it's for me.

PAUL
Think about it. I enjoyed your
company at least.

INT. HOUSE - HALLWAY - LATER

Tom walks through the front door and turns on the light.

TOM
(shouts)
Rebecca! You home?

Silence.

Tom walks along a little and looks into the front room.

TOM'S POV - THE FRONT ROOM IS IN DARKNESS.

INT. HOUSE - UPSTAIRS - CONTINUOUS

Tom climbs the stairs.

TOM
(Shouts)
Rebecca!

Tom enters the bedroom.

INT. HOUSE - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

The bedroom is empty.

Tom stands by the doorway and looks slightly deflated.

INT. HOUSE - BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Tom gets into bed and turns off the side light. He lays down
and stares up at the ceiling.

He closes his eyes.

INT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT - DREAM

POV - WE FOLLOW A YOUNG ATTRACTIVE WOMAN INTO A BEDROOM.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS - DREAM

POV - THE WOMAN TURNS AND IT IS JODIENE WEARING THE SAME LACY UNDERWEAR WHICH WE SAW THE WOMAN IN THE EPISODE OF "THE OUTER LIMITS"

THE DREAM IS PLAYING OUT THE SCENE.

Tom sits in the wheelchair wearing just a large nappy looking up at Jodiene in awe.

Jodiene slips down the underwear revealing her breasts.

Tom's eyes widen at the sight of them.

JODIENE
Make me feel human Tom.

Jodiene leans forward to kiss Tom.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE - BEDROOM - LATER

Tom jumps up from the bed in a sweat of panic.

His breath fast and deep.

He begins to calm down.

TOM
(To himself)
Fuck!

Tom lays back down and stares at the ceiling again.

FADE OUT:

THE END.

