

Sleigh Bells

By

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A Night of Horror

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Cast of Characters

<u>Gemma</u> :	18
<u>Martin</u> :	45
<u>Interviewer</u> :	32

SLEIGH BELLS

Scene: 1

(MARTIN, A SOCIAL WORKER WHO WORKS AT A SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION COMPLEX IS IN GEMMA'S ROOM. GEMMA IS 18 AND LIVES IN THE ACCOMMODATION.)

1 SOUND: DOOR OPENING

2 MARTIN
Hi Gemma, how are you today?

3 GEMMA
Yeah fine thanks.

4 MARTIN
Did you get your forms filled in all right with Kathy yesterday?

5 GEMMA
Yeah, she was fine.

6 MARTIN
Cool. Well, I wondered if I could ask you a wee favour, now it's perfectly okay to say no to this, and you can be as anonymous as you like, but there's a company who's been in touch, and they want to make a programme about our Supported accommodation spaces, what it's like living here etc etc. Now, they think that it's very important to get a real view of what it's like here, and to get a (beat) connection with the audience. So they're giving out these wee recorders, and would like maybe 4 or 5 people here to document a week in the life sort of thing. Well I know you've been here a wee while and you're quite confident, so I was wondering if you'd like a go?

7 GEMMA
Em, okay, well, (beat) I'll have a go.

8 MARTIN
Brilliant. Well, here's the wee device. This button here, when it is a steady red, that's it recording. (THE DIALOGUE IS NOW HEARD THROUGH THE DEVICE)
And then when you click this (BACK TO NORMAL ROOM TONE)
That's it stopped. And you charge it with this wee cable.

9 SOUND: GOING THROUGH BAG

10 GEMMA
And it's just, day to day sort of thing?

(CONTINUED)

11 MARTIN

Well yeah but maybe as well how you're coping and stuff?

12 GEMMA

I'll try my best.

13 MUSIC: TRANSITIONAL

SCENE: 2

(GEMMA IS IN THE KITCHEN DOING A TOUR OF THE HOUSE, THIS IS HEARD THROUGH THE RECORDING DEVICE)

14 SOUND: KITCHEN RUMBLINGS

15 GEMMA

So this is the kitchen, this is shared usually, but I don't have a flatmate just now, so I have the full flat to myself. We're not allowed sharps in here. Oh, my name is Gemma, I'm 18, and eh, I've been living here for... 8 months now. I'm here because I'm on the waiting list for a house, and basically, since I'm under 21, I live here for a few months while I wait, and there are workers here who make sure I'm read as a younger person to live alone, cooking, cleaning, that sort of thing. Health. Few folk here for different reasons, that's mine.

16 SOUND: WALKING THROUGH HALL

Scene: 3

(IN THE LIVING ROOM)

17 SOUND: DOOR OPENING

18 GEMMA

This is the living room, again this would be shared, it's got 2 couches, one each basically, and a telly.

Scene: 4

(GEMMA MOVES INTO THE BEDROOM)

19 GEMMA

This is my bedroom. This rooms just for me, it's got a bed n a heater, n a set of drawers. And a wee bathroom up the back with a shower. Even though I live myself, I keep all my valuables in here cause it keeps everything together cause a few folk have a key to the main area. You're always told to watch.

Scene: 5

(GEMMA IN HER BEDROOM LATER, JUMP CUT)

20 SOUND: SHEETS RUSTLING

21 SOUND: PAPER RUSTLING

22 GEMMA

Hi everyone, em, I've just sat down to do a bit of paperwork I suppose, this is basically me telling my worker, Martin, what kind of area I want to live in. I get to turn down one, but you just kinda want to get out as soon as possible really so we'll see what comes up. I've put in for some places in the south side, we'll see. It's about 11pm, I'm going to finish this, then, probably go to sleep. You can't really drink in here, that's another thing that's banned, n there's no wifi, so I'll just be trying to sleep really. See what happens tomorrow! Right, night night!

23 SOUND: BUTTON PRESS

24 MUSIC: TRANSITIONAL

scene: 6

SOUND: BUTTONS

Scene: 7

(GEMMA IS IN A MEETING WITH MARTIN, THIS IS BEING RECORDED ON THE DEVICE)

28 SOUND: PAPERWORK

29 MARTIN

It's not really about what you might think it is, or what it turned out to be, you could be in a lot of danger.

30 GEMMA

I knew it wasn't a real fire but-

31 MARTIN

No you didn't Gemma. Right, As long as you know, that you can't be doing this again. I'm not going to take you're days away off of you, but I will be restricting your computer privileges.

(CONTINUED)

32 GEMMA
Right whatever.

Scene: 8

(GEMMA IN HER ROOM. RECORDER)

33 SOUND: BEDROOM NOISE

34 GEMMA
Bit annoyed tonight really. Computer ban for the next day, basically we all share a computer in the main room. You feel like folk aren't really listening to you, like, I'm 18. Uch. I'll end up saying something I don't want to. Anyway. Night.

35 MUSIC: TRANSITIONAL

Scene: 9

(GEMMA, RESTLESS, RECORDER)

36 SOUND: HANDLING NOISE

37 GEMMA
(WHISPERING)
Can you hear that?

38 SOUND: ROOM TONE

39 GEMMA
It's about, three in the morning. Every so often I keep hearing, bells, n the stones outside moving. You never really get peace in these places.

40 SOUND: ROOM TONE

41 GEMMA
I'm going to get up and check.

42 SOUND: MOVING AROUND

43 GEMMA
(SMALL SCREAM)

44 SOUND: BUTTON PRESS

Scene: 10

(GEMMA IN HER ROOM. RECORDER.)

45 GEMMA
So, basically, last night. I heard this noise, whatever, and I swear to God. There was a man in the garden, with, and I'm not kidding, sleigh bells in his hand, and a fake beard on. Just standing. I ran down to tell the person on the night shift, and by
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GEMMA (cont'd)

the time i got down, he was gone. They're not having it, they're saying I must have been tired, but I've told them if he comes back I'm calling the police.

46 SOUND: BUTTON NOISE

Scene: 11

(GEMMA IN BEDROOM. RECORDER)

47 SOUND: BEDROOM NOISE

48 GEMMA

Basically, I'm just waiting. I've switched this on cause I feel like if I get him on the recorder, then that's him caught basically.

49 SOUND: BELLS, FROM FAR AWAY, OUTSIDE

50 GEMMA

Oh my god.

51 SOUND: BELLS

52 GEMMA

He's back. (beat)

53 SOUND: WALKING TO WINDOW

54 GEMMA

I'm just kind of, peering round my curtains to see if I can see him.

55 SOUND: HEAVY BREATHING

56 SOUND: CURTAIN MOVING

57 GEMMA

Urgh (Gemma makes a noise that sounds like her stomach sinks) There he is. What's this guy doing? Okay so for the person who's listening, basically, hes just staring off into space, t-shirt n jeans, no jacket, it's raining by the way. Santa beard, reddish face, and these (beat) bells

58 SOUND: BELLS

59 GEMMA

Oh my- Oh my god, he's looking at me. Hes standing in the garden looking at me. I'm calling the concierge.

60 SOUND: DROPPING THE RECORDER

61 SOUND: BUZZING NOISE, ROOM INTERCOM

(CONTINUED)

62 GEMMA

(FROM A DISTANCE)

That guy's back, HE'S STARING AT ME.

63 SOUND: BELLS

64 SOUND: BATTERY LOW, CUT OUT OF DEVICE

Scene: 12

(MARTIN IS BEING INTERVIEWED ABOUT GEMMA.
RECORDER.)

65 SOUND: OPEN ROOM TONE

66 INTERVIEWER

So, what can you tell us about Gemma. What's been happening?

67 MARTIN

Well, Gemma (beat) She's a really, bright girl. She's had ups and downs here. She's been here about 7 or 8 months I think, a few warnings, but, overall, she'll do well in her accommodation. But.

68 INTERVIEWER

Have you spoken to her about last night.

69 MARTIN

(BEAT)

We have. Um. Gemma, sometimes, suffers from not having enough sleep. She's (beat) quite a panicky girl. Christmas is a difficult time of year for a lot of residents here and (beat) I think-

70 INTERVIEWER

Do you think there isn't someone, who's been in the garden?

71 MARTIN

We've been doing our best to keep an eye out, we have CCTV over the majority of the areas and we think-

72 INTERVIEWER

No?

73 MARTIN

We're keeping an eye out.

74 SOUND: SHIFTING IN SEATS

Scene: 13

(GEMMA, BEDROOM, RECORDING)

75 SOUND: CURTAINS MOVING

76 GEMMA

I've been waiting here for about, an hour. Just seeing where he comes from. Nothing yet.

77 SOUND: BED SPRINGS

78 GEMMA

I've basically been sent to Smiles, that's the woman that comes in and asks you how you're feeling. I think they think I'm (beat) making it up. I've been asking other people if they've heard him but it's at like three, four in the morning so what are the chances-

79 SOUND: BELLS

80 GEMMA

THERE HE IS.

81 SOUND: GEMMA BOUNCING UP OFF THE BED AND RUNNING TO THE WINDOW

82 GEMMA

I'm going down, I'm going to talk to him.

83 SOUND: GEMMA GETTING JACKET

84 SOUND: MOVING AROUND

85 SOUND: PICKING UP THE DEVICE

86 SOUND: OPENING HER DOOR

87 SOUND: WALKING DOWN HER HALLWAY

88 GEMMA

(SILENCE FOR AROUND 10 SECONDS)

89 SOUND: PICKING UP AN ENVELOPE

90 GEMMA

(BREATHES IN DEEPLY)
I've (beat) got a card...

91 SOUND: OPENING CARD

92 GEMMA

There's nothing in it. It's empty. It's just an empty Christmas card. What the fuck?

93 SOUND: WALKING IN THE HALL

(CONTINUED)

94 SOUND: USING INTERCOM.

95 GEMMA

Come up, come up quick. He's (beat) That mad guy
he's. Just come up.

96 SOUND: GOING BACK INTO BEDROOM

97 SOUND: CURTAIN MOVING

98 GEMMA

He's not there. Where is he?

(GEMMA MOVES AROUND THE ROOM, MAKING SEVERAL
FRIGHTENED NOISES.)

99 SOUND: DOOR OPENING

100 GEMMA

Aw thank -

101 SOUND: BELLS, CLOSER NOW, FROM OUTSIDE HER DOOR

102 GEMMA

He's. (beat) He's in the hall.

103 SOUND: BELLS - LOUDER

104 SOUND: FLOORBOARDS

105 GEMMA

(WHISPERED)

Please please please please, go away. please. (beat)
Whats he doing?

106 SOUND: BELLS - LOUDER

107 SOUND: DEVICE DROPPING

108 GEMMA

NO! WHAT DO YOU WANT?! GO AWAY!!!

(GEMMA BEGINS TO CRY IN A TERRIFIED MANNER.)

109 SOUND: DOOR OPENS

110 SOUND: HEAVY BREATHING

111 SOUND: GRUNTING

112 SOUND: THUDDING

113 GEMMA

Oh My Fuck

114 SOUND: BATTERY LOW, CUT OUT OF DEVICE

Scene: 14

(INTERVIEW WITH MARTIN)

115 SOUND: PAPER RUSTLING

116 MARTIN

Yeah, it's sad, it's really sad.

117 INTERVIEWER

Is this something, you have dealt with before?

118 MARTIN

Not suicide no, this is the first instance of that.

119 INTERVIEWER

Do, you and other members of staff here feel, responsible in a way, for her care?

120 MARTIN

We recently decided to send her off to Smiles, the mental health team here, we feel that we have, a duty of care, but ultimately, people need to have their own private lives.

121 INTERVIEWER

The most recent tape hasn't been released yet to us, it may not be, as, it's being looked over by a number of people higher up than us. Obviously you've heard the other tapes, do you think her recordings will help others with knowledge of her state of mind at the time?

122 MARTIN

I do, yes. I think she was obviously in a bad place at the time, i think people wouldn't like to listen to something like that. But it will help. The fact she sent herself a card, shows she wasn't in her right mind and she wasn't to be blamed...

123 INTERVIEWER

Sorry, she had what? A card?(beat)

124 SOUND: ROOM TONE

125 INTERVIEWER

Have you listened to the tape?

126 MARTIN

(BEAT)

No, but, I think she had mentioned that before on a previous-

127 INTERVIEWER

No, what was the significance of the-

(CONTINUED)

128 MARTIN
 No?

129 INTERVIEWER
 No. (beat) No.

130 SOUND: ROOM TONE