

Episode 2 – A Murder is Announced

SCENE 1: EXT – The car park outside JACK and KARA's building – Day 2

POLICEMAN: I'm sorry, sir. But I really don't see what more we can do.

MR KHAN: Can't you check the CCTV? Surely, if it's a mugger you will see them leave the building?

KARA (VO): The cops have been here for a little over 10 minutes. Open and shut case, according to them. Mr Khan is trying to convince them to see some logic that their random mugging theory might have some holes...

POLICEMAN: All I'm saying is, we're the rapid response unit, Sir.

MR KHAN: Rapid response? It took 3 hours to get here!

POLICEMAN: Even so, sir. If you send a copy of the CCTV to the appropriate department, then it will be dealt with. Until then, sir, I wish you a good evening.

MR KHAN: A good evening? (starting to lose his temper) Have you seen what's just happened upstairs?

GERAINT: Come on, Mr Khan. Let's get everyone settled down a bit.

KARA (VO): Geraint leads Mr Khan back to the shocked crowd who are still milling around with a horrified curiosity at what happens now.

JACK: Mugging, my arse! They didn't even steal anything.

GERAINT: Well they did say failed mugging...

JACK: Ah, come on Ger. Pull the other one...

KARA: If it was a mugger I'm sure Mr Khan will find him on CCTV – There's only one way they could have got out and that's down the stairs – it's not like they could have taken the lift, is it?

GETHIN: Well, we were walking up the stairs to the 6th at the time and we didn't see anyone...

KARA: Don't you live on the third floor?

GETHIN: Yep. Alex and I believe that the extra steps do our health a world of good.

KARA: (suspiciously) hmmm...

GETHIN: (not noticing the accusatory implication) Yes, a great way to get some extra cardio in before dinner.

ALEX: Sometimes, we even run up and see if we can beat our last time....

KARA (VO): Of course you do! Figures, Mr and Mrs Perfect wouldn't ride the lift like the rest of us.

GERAINT: But, if no one left the building, either they are still in there...

JACK: Or someone here is the murderer!

MR KHAN: OK, everyone. I don't think there is anything more that we can do tonight. Take your loved ones home and keep them safe. I'll check the CCTV for today and make sure no one left the building in the confusion that followed. We'll meet in the business suite for a special emergency meeting at 10 am.

[We hear more murmur and excited chatter amongst the assembled residents...]

SCENE 2: INT – KARA and JACK's flat – Day 2

It's later in the same night and JACK, KARA and GERAINT sit discussing the events of the evening. We hear the three chatting as KARA delivers her voiceover.

KARA (VO): Geraint's staying with us tonight, everyone's a bit shaken up. Jack's pontificating on what happened like he's Sherlock-Bloody-Holmes or something... I'm still annoyed about Gethin and his sodding cardio.

JACK: ...What do you think? [pause] Kara?

KARA: I could do cardio if I wanted to. Who the hell does cardio up the stairs anyway?

JACK: (put out that she wasn't listening to him) About the murder?

KARA: Well, I suppose we don't really know it was murder. What I can't get my head around is how quick someone would have to have been to kill Dan in that short a time. I mean, it was seconds between me getting out of the lift and the lift stopping for the Hampson's on sixth...

JACK: Someone could have got on at the third or fourth and hopped out at the fifth?

GERAINT: I guess, but It's a risk. They wouldn't have known if anyone had already called the lift on the fifth... Lucky they didn't try escaping on the sixth, where the Hampson's were!

JACK: Lucky... or suspicious?

KARA: It doesn't give a lot of time for someone to stop the lift, get in, then stop it again and get out again, all before the Hampson's found the body.

JACK: That's if the Hampsons did 'find' the body...

KARA: The Hampsons are many things, Jack. –

GERAINT: (helpfully) Racist, homophobic, anti-science, transphobic, xenophobic, jingoistic...

KARA: ... But, I'm not sure if cold-blooded killers are one of them.

JACK: So, how else do you explain someone killing him so quickly and escaping?

GERAINT: Well, someone didn't necessarily have to have got in the lift and back out again. They could have, for example, stabbed Dan from the corridor and then the lift carried up while they fled.

KARA: I guess so. But, something just doesn't feel –

JACK: (interrupting excitedly) Back!

KARA: What?

JACK: He was stabbed in the back and fell against the lift doors. So, no one from the corridor could have stabbed him. Or, I mean they could have... but it would take some careful manoeuvring to get him propped up against the door again.

GERAINT: Wouldn't there be blood around the lift if that was the case? Seems like it would be difficult to disguise that in the time.

KARA: Also, kinda blows your Hampson's theory, as they would have been covered in the stuff.

JACK: hmmm, I guess.

KARA: Anyway, us pontificating about it isn't gonna do anything. Problem is, neither are the police. Bunch of timewasting –

GERAINT: Ah, come on K, that isn't fair. Their hands are more than full at the moment, I heard that there was a huge insurgency plot on the borders that a lot of the police had been drafted into dealing with. And anyway, the guys are volunteers. Sure, I'd much rather be going home at 11 pm if I was in their shoes and not getting paid.

JACK: That's it!

GERAINT: What's it?

JACK: They are volunteers. If they are allowed to investigate crimes, then why can't I?

KARA: (In disbelief) You? You couldn't even be bothered to investigate what made the fridge smell like death last week. Now you're solving murders?

JACK: (hurt) Hey! I can solve a murder. Let's face it, it's not like anyone else here has as much experience.

KARA: Experience of what exactly? Not sure sitting on your arse all day watching detective shows on daytime TV counts.

JACK: Why not... It's not like we're swimming in potential detectives with extensive police backgrounds, is it? I could crack the case!

KARA: (mockingly) Oooh, it's a 'case' now is it?

JACK: Yes. I don't see why not. I've seen every episode of Poirot at least 5 times. Just last week I finished the box set of Midsomer murders. If Joe Bloggs from Newport can play at being an actual policeman, then I don't see why I can't be a private detective?

KARA: (scornfully) Doesn't someone have to request your help to be a private detective... I don't see anyone calling for Cardiff's Greatest Consulting Detective, Jack Davies.

JACK: Mock if you will, but –

KARA: I will.

JACK: (undeterred) But, I'm going to do it. And, I'd hope that you two would be with me.

GERAINT: Meh, sounds good to me. Can't be as hard as trying to teach my year 10s maths, so, why not?

KARA: (Sighs) Ok, Jack. It's ridiculous, but life is nothing if not ridiculous, right now.

JACK: (Brightening) Cool! The Mystery Team is on the case.

KARA: The Mystery Team, really?

JACK: I'll work on the name...

[There is a knocking on the door and an awkward pause]

KARA: (sighs) Ok, I'll get it, shall I? (muttering to herself as she goes to the door) Thinks he can solve a murder, but can't even work out how to answer the door...

[door opening]

KARA: Oh, hi both. Come in!

JACK: (Shouting from the lounge) Who is it?

KARA: It's Reeshi and Linda.

REESHI: Hey, guys. Awful business, right?

LINDA: Who'd have thought it? Murder, right here in our little flat complex!

GERAINT: Hey. Yeah, it's awful. Poor Dan.

JACK: Hey, Linda. You're on six... Did you see anything?

LINDA: Nope, not a thing. Heard all hell breaking loose and popped my head out. Everyone was just in their doorways staring and wondering what was going on – James and Will, The Williams', Jimmy Rich. A few of us ran towards the screaming – oh, what a sight. Not something I'll forget in a while. Poor Dan... and just while he was getting everything together too.

JACK: Getting it together?

LINDA: Yeah, you know. Nice new girlfriend, work starting to fall into place... That reminds me... Kara, did you ask about any jobs going at the call centre for my niece?

KARA: Oh, yeah. In all the excitement, I forgot. Come into the kitchen and I'll give you the details...

[the pair leave]

JACK: What do you reckon, Reesh? Was it murder?

REESHI: I'm not sure. I hope not – It's not like the police are going to protect us with a killer on the loose!

GERAINT: Fear not, Agatha Crusty over there is taking on the case!

REESHI: What? Jack? (chuckles)

JACK: (hurt) Hey! Why does everyone think it's so funny? I can solve this case.

REESHI: Sorry, Jack. You're my friend and everything, but following through is not one of your most well-known skills...

JACK: I can follow through on stuff! You'll see – at the residents meeting tomorrow I'm going to announce my intention to everyone...

SCENE 3: INT – The Business Suite – Day 3

There is an excited murmur and chatter going on amongst residents as they assemble for the start of the emergency meeting. We hear some snatches of conversation including "Well, Jamie told me it was the mob," and "Involved with the Bristol separatists," "a string of jilted lovers"

KARA (VO): Whoever wrote that book, "The Wisdom of Crowds," had obviously never attended a Prosperity Heights Residents meeting. I'm more inclined to agree with Terry Pratchett that the crowd who cheers your coronation is the same one that cheers your execution. No one looks, well, scared. You'd think after such a horrific event people would be more subdued. But, if anything people seem more alive!

Jack is sitting in the corner looking like an excited puppy – waiting for his big moment. As much as I hate to admit it, Jack has a point. Why can't we solve the crime? It's not like the police are anything more than enthusiastic amateurs, anymore.

ALEX: Oh, hey Kara, did we miss anything?

KARA (VO): Only the part where I wish you'd stop talking.

KARA: Nope, still waiting.

ALEX: Oh, good. Gethy and I were just dying to get a few laps of the pool in before breakfast. Makes those overnight oats taste even sweeter!

KARA (VO): Uurf, make it stop.

MR KHAN: OK, quiet everyone. The quicker we get started the quicker you can all go to work.

KARA: Oh, thank god.

MR KHAN: Firstly, I hope you all managed to get some sleep after the unfortunate events of last night.

[we hear some affirmative murmuring from the crowd]

MR KHAN: Good. So after the police were less than helpful last night, I spent a good few hours - with the help of Reeshi and Will - going through the CCTV footage for yesterday to see if we could spot our assailant entering or leaving the building.

MR HAMPSON: Hurry up, Khan! Did you find him?

MR KHAN: Or her, Mr Hampson. And, no. We couldn't find anyone either entering or leaving the building at any point before or after the murder.

REESHI: Outside of all of us, of course.

[The crowd reacts to this. There is a lot of excited/angry talking amongst the assembled crowd]

MR KHAN: Yes, unfortunately. Look. I'm not saying the murder was carried out by one of us. But, it could potentially mean that the killer was hiding here for a while and may even still be somewhere in the complex.

[The crowd again react to this with amazement and more excited chatter]

MR KHAN: OK, OK. Settle down. I am asking you all to remain extra vigilant over the next few days. Keep an eye out for things going missing – particularly food. If we do have an unexpected lodger in the complex, he or she is going to have to break cover and find supplies.

LINDA: How exciting! I saw something similar on True Crimes of Hollywood – a guy lived in this actor's house for years and they didn't realise. Then, one day they find a sleeping bag in between the walls when building an–

MR KHAN: Um, thank you for that anecdote, Linda. I don't think we need to be unduly concerned at this stage – just keep vigilant. If anyone would like to join me and Reeshi in searching all possible hiding places in the complex, we will be meeting at 12 pm by the pool. CCTV will also be monitored 24/7 over the next few days to make sure this person can't make a run for it without us knowing.

MR HAMPSON: Ridiculous, Khan! Taking away our liberty by watching us like mice. We've done nothing wrong, why should we be punished.

WILL: It's not a punishment, is it? It's to help keep us safe in extr–

MR HAMPSON: (indignant) I won't be lectured by the likes of you!

JAMES: (annoyed) And what exactly do you mean by that, Mr Hampson?

MR KHAN: (Shouting) Enough! (speaking in a measured voice) I know emotions are high right now. But arguing will get us nowhere. Mr Hampson, if you can't be civil to the members of this association, I shall have to ask you to leave the meeting.

MR HAMPSON: (Still indignant) Outrageous! Firstly, you stamp on my liberty and then you silence me! Well, I will not be silenced, Mr Khan. If you want to find your killer, I'd say you'd be better speaking to his trollop of a girlfriend than playing hide and seek with the invisible man around the place.

KARA: Hey, steady on. There's no need for that.

MRS HAMPSON: You don't need to stick your oar in. For all we know, you killed him! You were the last person to see him alive, after all...

KARA: What? That's ridiculous, I –

[They all start talking over each other and shouting]

MR KHAN: [Shouting over the din] Quiet! *[The fighting dies down]* This is getting us nowhere! Mr Hampson, like it or not, as the elected head of the resident association, I will decide what course of action I believe is right to keep everyone safe. You are more than welcome to help us in our efforts or keep your opinions to yourself, please! Jack, I believe that you wanted to address the group.

KARA (VO): Here we go! Jack still looks incredibly pleased with himself. I suspect he's even more so, since Khan finally blew up at Mr Hampson.

JACK: Thank you, Mr Khan. Everyone, these are unprecedented times we live in. Sometimes unprecedented times call for... unique solutions. It is highly likely a killer is still here among us. In the worst case, one of us here present might even be the killer. *[muttering of surprise and disapproval]* To support the search for any hideaways in Prosperity Heights, I have agreed with Mr Khan that each of us will be interviewed as to our whereabouts and movements on the night of the murder, to eliminate the possibility that one of us could possibly be involved.

MR HAMPSON: And who, pray tell, will lead this witch hunt?

JACK: The 'investigation' will be led (pause as he savours the news) by me.

MR HAMPSON: What! Khan, you can't be serious. This jumped up.... Oik? I will not allow it.

MR KHAN: As young Jack tells us, these are indeed unprecedented times, Mr Hampson. And, he does have certain qualities that I believe will make him well suited to leading this... 'phase'... of the investigation.

MR HAMPSON: Ridiculous, I will not countenance it.

KARA (VO): Mr Hampson's whiskey-ashened cheeks have turned an even deeper shade of red than normal. It looks like he may be about to burst a blood vessel.

MR KHAN: If you do not wish to co-operate, that is your prerogative. I'm sure that no one will... Draw any assumptions from your silence... I move that we vote on the matter. All those in favour of allowing Jack Davies to lead the investigation into the murder of Dan Harris, raise your hands now.

[hands go up]

KARA (VO): Jack's gamble that everyone hates Giles Hampson enough to give him the go-ahead is working. The only hands that remain down are the Hampson's themselves.

MR KHAN: Good. That settles it. Jack will report back to me at the end of each day with a progress report. Please have a safe day everyone and I look forward to catching up with those helping with the search this afternoon.

[The assembled residents all chatter excitedly to each other]

KARA (VO): And there we have it. The investigation is on. Our first case – The Not so dapper death of Dapper Dan Harris. Let's hope Jack knows what he's doing and doesn't go overboard with the whole private investigator thing...

SCENE 4: INT – Hallway, floor 7 – Day 3

KARA (VO): (Out of breath) Jack's asked me and G to meet him by the crime scene straight after work. The lift is still out of action so the stairs are the only option. So. Many. Stairs.

GERAINT: Wow, Kara. You ok? You look a bit... 'peaky'?

KARA: (catching her breath) Yeah, stairs just don't really feature much in my post-apocalyptic landscape, you know.

[We hear footsteps running up the stairs]

GETHIN: Excuse us, coming through. Just getting in some quick exercise after work.

ALEX: Oh hey, Kara! You ok? You look a bit –

KARA: (Faked enthusiasm) I'm fine, Alex! Looks fun!

GERAINT: Maybe you should sit –

KARA: Just don't, Ger, Alright!

ALEX: See you later, alligators!

KARA (VO): God, they are so... aaargh. Compose yourself, Kara. Don't let the wonder twins put you off... Right. Where was I? When I left for work this morning Jack was – unusually for him – already up and out. I've no idea where he was – but it's nice to see him enthusiastic about something for once... even if it does take the murder of somebody to do it! [more breathing and footsteps] Finally, the 7th floor! I just hope he takes it seriously and doesn't go too over the top, you know.

KARA: Oh, God.

KARA (VO): Well there goes that faint hope!

GERAINT: (Laughing) What on earth? (more laughing) Who's this? Magnum PI?

KARA (VO): Jack is wearing a very loud Hawaiian shirt and dark aviator sunglasses. I imagine in his mind he thinks he looks like Tom Selleck.

KARA: Hey, what's up, Ace Ventura How's the case of the lost Monkeys going?

GERAINT: Oooh, that's a good one. Hey Dennis Nedry, better not be letting that T-Rex loose!

JACK: Yeah, laugh it up, guys.

KARA: We will. Oooh, Hey, Hollywood era Elvis, you forgot your guitar.

GERAINT: Oh hey, John Candy in every film of the 80s

KARA: Hey, Larry Wilson. What have you done with Bernie?

JACK: Ok, that's an obscure one – well done. Bit bad taste, though, considering the circumstances...

KARA: Jack, are you taking this seriously?

JACK: I am taking this very seriously. While you two have been out galavanting –

KARA: By, which you mean earning enough money to keep a roof over your sorry butt.

JACK: Ok, while you two have been completing your time as tools of capitalist oppression. I have been busy investigating.

KARA: (Mocking) And what did you find, boy? Did Timmy fall down the well?

JACK: Lassie was a girl. And anyway that one doesn't even make sense.

KARA: Meh, they can't all be gold.

JACK: As I was saying, before being so rudely interrupted, I spoke to Dapper Dan's girlfriend, Amelia this morning.

KARA: What, alone?

JACK: Yes, of course alone. Why?

GERAINT: Well, she is grieving. And you're not most well known for your tact in difficult situations.

JACK: No follow-through, no tact... any more inspiring words from my friends this week? I was very tactful, thanks. Anyway, will you two let me finish? Even though he's a massive bellend, Mr Hampson did say that if we wanted to find the killer we should speak to Amelia. So I did. Not for the reason that Mr Hampson wanted us to – but, I thought that if someone had managed to upset him more than I do, it was probably worth looking into why.

GERAINT: And? What had she done to deserve top billing on Prosperity Heights' own Fuhrer's hitlist?

JACK: Listen, I taped it...[pulls out tape player] vintage walkman...

GERAINT: Ooh, nice

JACK: I know, right.

[we hear the tape click]

AMELIA: Thanks, Jack. Everyone has been so kind to me since Danny passed. Will and James have been checking in on me every few hours, to see if I need anything and Linda has been sending me meals. I just can't believe what's happened.... I mean, everyone seemed to love Danny. Did you know him well?

JACK: Well, I... um... we have lived in the same building now for many years. So, you know... How did Dap – I mean 'Dan' seem the days before he was... before 'it' happened?

AMELIA: Fine. As far as I know.

JACK: He didn't seem worried or distracted at all?

AMELIA: No. Danny was always super upbeat about everything. Even when everything else in the world seemed so... Well, shit.

JACK: You mentioned that everyone had been really kind to you. Does that include Mr and Mrs Hampson?

AMELIA: Well, I... Let's just say they aren't my biggest fans.

JACK: Oh, how come?

AMELIA: Well, it's kinda ancient history now. But, before I met Danny, he used to date the Hampson's daughter. She was super mean and Danny used to say she was totally spoiled.

JACK: Figures.

AMELIA: When me and Danny met, there may have been some... crossover. We didn't mean for it to happen like that. And, he ended it pretty quickly with her. At the time, Giles was really mad. He even came up to Danny's flat one-night bashing on the door, screaming that he was a coward and telling him to "come out and fight like a man."

JACK: And, what happened then?

AMELIA: Nothing. Danny pretended that we had gone out for the evening and nothing was ever said by any of us about it again. Since then, they've kind of ignored Danny and me. I mean, Jillian still makes comments when we pass in the halls – but they haven't come back to the flat, or anything.

JACK: Amelia, I have to ask you this question – please don't be angry – but, Giles Hampson intimated in the meeting that you could have had something to do with Dan's death. Is there any reason you know why he'd think this?

AMELIA: Apart from being a hateful, spiteful old man? No. Me and Danny were perfectly happy together.

[JACK clicks the tape player off again]

JACK: So, there we have it.

KARA: You believe her?

JACK: Seemed genuine enough. Interesting titbit about old Hampson trying to fight Dapper Dan, though.

GERAINT: Hmm, one thing I'm not wholly convinced over is that her and "Danny Boy" were so happy together.

JACK: Why's that?

GERAINT: Well, at least half of the house saw them having a huge bust-up in the car park last week. Couldn't hear what it was about, but Amelia looked furious. Dan tried to grab her arm to stop her storming off – but, off she went, yelling something at him from the car on her way out. Not quite the picture of elysian bliss, she made out.

KARA: Also, when I saw Dan just before he died, he definitely didn't look fine! Maybe something had just happened that Amelia didn't know about. But, it could be that Amelia, for whatever reason, isn't telling us the whole truth.

JACK: Hm, maybe. Grief does make us gloss over some of the less than perfect parts sometimes. Might just be that? Anyway, I asked you both to meet me here so we could walk through what we know about the murder. But, instead, I think it's time we spoke to Mr and Mrs Hitler.

GERAINT: You mean Hampson?

JACK: Yeah – why, what did I say?

SCENE 5: INT – THE HAMPSON's flat – Day 3

We hear knocking on a door, door latches being pulled back and a door opening

MRS HAMPSON: Yes? Oh, it's you.

KARA: [making an effort to be as polite as possible] Good afternoon, Mrs Hampson. Could we please speak with you and your husband?

MRS HAMPSON: Come in... I guess. Take your shoes off, please. That is a very expensive carpet, handmade from the finest sheep's wool. *[shouting into the other room]* Giles. The Scooby-doo gang is here. Please, come through to the drawing-room. Just don't touch anything.

JACK: [Whispering] They have a drawing-room?

KARA: [whispering] I think it's just a posh word for the lounge?

KARA (VO): We enter the 'drawing room'. Mr Hampson is reading the FT on the balcony. Their flat isn't exactly how I imagined it. I'm not sure what I expected? Maybe more stag heads on the wall and one of those globes that opened up into a drinks cabinet. I definitely wasn't expecting the giant painting of a startled looking Mrs Hampson that took pride of place on the large, but otherwise featureless wall.

KARA: My, what a lovely painting, Mrs Hampson.

MRS HAMPSON: Ah yes, that was painted by a street urchin in Morocco. Of course, most will sooner rob you than paint you. But this one young chap, such talent and intensity. Such delicate strokes...

KARA (VO): And she drifts off into the daydreams of the perpetually sexually frustrated.

GERAINT: Mr Hampson, thank you for agreeing to speak with us. I know that you have some rese—

MR HAMPSON: [Interrupting] Listen, the only reason I'm indulging you and your band of cretins in your game of Sherlock is because Khan said I have to. So be quick. Say your piece and be out of my flat.

KARA (VO): Jack flinches at the word cretins. We agreed on the way down that it would be best if he doesn't speak in this one. There's no way Giles is talking at all to Jack. So far, he's keeping it up.

GERAINT: Mr Hampson, we just wanted to ask you a few questions about how you knew the deceased.

MRS HAMPSON: Gurrant? Is it?

GERAINT: Geraint, mam

KARA (VO): Jack's eyes glaze over at Geraint's ability to be aggressively polite and deferential at the same time.

MRS HAMPSON: That's what I said. Well Garint, I think my husband has already made his feelings clear about who we feel is responsible for Mr Harris' death.

GERAINT: GER-AINT. And thank you very much for your insightful comments. We would like to assure you we made sure that this was our first line of enquiry, today.

MR HAMPSON: What did that harpy have to say for herself?

GERAINT: Well, although obviously in a state of grief due to the brutal death of her partner, she did manage to tell us about her good relationship with Mr Harris.

MRS HAMPSON: Hah, good relationship?! You witnessed that rather public mess in the car park last week, didn't you Jerrant?

GERAINT: I did, Mrs Hampson. And it's Geraint. While we are continuing our enquiries into that matter, there was one thing that Amelia raised about Mr Harris' history with you and your husband that we wanted to discuss.

MR HAMPSON: Really, I don't have time for your games. If I want to listen to a bunch of kids playing dress-up I'd go visit my Grandchildren. I am going to have to ask you to –

JACK: [interrupting and talking very quickly and excitedly] Mr Hampson, I believe that it was YOU who murdered Dan Harris.

KARA (VO): Well, that was unexpected. So much for keeping out of this one.

——— end ———