

"THE GROVE"

EPISODE 2

By

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ALL OF THE ACTION IN THE TEXT TAKES PLACE ON 'THE GROVE'; A LITTLE CUL DE SAC FULL OF DIFFERENT NEIGHBOURS DURING LOCKDOWN.

THE ACTION SHOULD BE FILMED IN SOME PARTS TO CAMERA, LOOKING OUT OF THE WINDOW AND FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF ANOTHER ACTOR. THIS WILL BE SIGNALLED IN THE STAGE DIRECTIONS.

Characters:

Barry: early 50s, quite lazy - too lazy to go out anywhere. Steals items from his neighbours' doorsteps (milk, flower pots).

Irish Vincent: 75 years old and deaf. Loves his Irish music and blasts this out most days. His hearing aids have been playing up the last couple of weeks. Still drives, but frequently hits other cars on The Grove as his eyesight is also poor.

Fran: 20s. A young professional who has just moved into a house share on 'The Grove'. Fran has friends round frequently to social distance in the garden as nobody on The Grove is her age.

Julie: Early 40s and lives with her husband and 2 daughters. Julie is very kind and often offers to do the shopping for the elderly on The Grove. Julie can often be a little naive to situations as she sees the best in everyone.

Roy and Gayle: mid 60s and recently both retired. They see themselves as the local 'neighbourhood watch' team. Gayle wears the trousers and is easily irritated. Roy sits most days on his lawn watching the other neighbours and reports them for anything he deems to be 'breaking the rules'.

Karen: early 40s - recently single and living in a house share with Fran. Never really been bothered about her appearance but has recently taken up online fitness classes. Karen is quite loud and opinionated and is not very friendly to Fran. She sees their house share as her territory.

Richard: 60s and widowed for a few years. Richard has recently purchased chickens and a cockerel to keep him occupied during lockdown. Much to the dismay of his neighbours.

Michelle: 40. Used to live with her sister but she has moved out so now lives alone. Has an extremely nervous disposition and thinks that anyone on The Grove could give her the virus no matter how far away they are from her.

ON SCREEN TITLE" 2 WEEKS INTO LOCKDOWN

OPENING SHOT OF BARRY SNEAKILY STEALING MILK FROM HIS NEIGHBOURS DOORSTEPS (BARRY IS WEARING A HOOD SO WE DON'T RECOGNISE HIM).

The sound of Irish Rover is heard.

Shot of Vincent dancing around his landing.

Shot of Fran putting a pillow over her ears.

Shot of Roy getting out of bed and storming over to the window.

ROY

I am sick of this racket every single morning! Someone's going to have to go over there and tell him Gayle.

GAYLE

Maybe I'll ask Julie to mention it next time she pops across to see him. It'll probably just be that he's forgotten to put his hearing aids in again.

ROY

Well he's forgotten to do that every single day for the last two weeks.

Shot of Julie organising piles of work ready for her kids

JULIE

(As if shouting through to her husband)

Can you bring the milk in from the doorstep? The milkman came this morning.

(Pause as if Husband is replying to her) There can't only be 3 bottles we usually get 6. Oh, he must have made a mistake. I'll send him an email later on.

Shot of Richard coming to his doorstep to collect his milk and waving to the camera as if to another neighbour

Shot of Michelle, nervously and with a mixing bowl over her head so to cover her face collecting milk from her doorstep

GAYLE

(Making a cup of tea) Roy, we need to use the milk a little less. We've not been delivered our usual 6 pints, they've only given us 3.

ROY

I'll be ringing the council. It's an absolute joke, us elderly folk can't get out and now they're rationing our milk orders.

GAYLE

We can get out Roy. We could just nip to the shops later on and pick some more milk up.

ROY

The rules are clear Gayle, the elderly must shield. You'll have to do an online order.

GAYLE

I've tried but there isn't a delivery slot for 3 weeks! If you would've just let Julie pick up some bits for us like she offered, we wouldn't be running low on food!

ROY

Hmmmm. What's for breakfast?

KAREN

(Looking confused at the pints of milk on the kitchen counter, shouting) Fran?
Fraaaaaaaaaan. FRAN!

FRAN

(Rushes into kitchen with towel on her head) What's wrong Karen?!

KAREN

Have you taken a couple of milks on to your room? We should have 6 pints and we only have four.

FRAN

Why on earth would I take milk into my room? There was only 4 on the doorstep when I came back from my run this morning.

KAREN

We always get six, so where are the other two?

FRAN

Jeeez milk police. Calm down. The milkman must have mixed up the order. *(Starts to leave the room)*.

KAREN

I'll be keeping an eye on you Fran.
(Gestures fingers to eyes and back to camera).

Shot of Fran looking confused. She then shakes her head and leaves room

Shot of Barry lining up all of the milk that he has acquired

BARRY

Who needs to go to the shops when you can go to the neighbours doorsteps! Now cocopops or shreddies?

RICHARD

(Looking out of the window) Finally the chickens are here! *(Rushes out of the room)*.

Shot of Richard at his doorstep

RICHARD

(As if talking to the delivery driver) Are you the chicken man? Well not the chicken man, but you know the man that brings the chicks. HA gosh sorry can't get my words out! Let's start again. My name is Richard and I have ordered some chickens. Are you the man that is delivering them?

(Pause as if delivery driver is responding, excitedly) OH EXCELLENT! Yes, bring them straight through, their coup is in the back garden!

Shot of Vincent in his front garden looking to see what Richard is being delivered

RICHARD

Morning Vincent!

VINCENT

What have you got there then?

RICHARD

Chickens Vincent, Nancy and I always talked about keeping chickens. I'll have to bring you over some eggs when they start to lay.

Shot of Vincent looking confused. It should be clear Vincent hasn't quite heard what Richard has said

VINCENT

(Mumurs as if talking to himself trying to process what Richard has said) I'll have to come and see the pond with the fish when it's done. (Smiles)

RICHARD

(Realizing that Vincent didn't hear him, shouting) NOT. FISH. VINCENT. I'VE. GOT. CHICKENS. (Starts to flap arms like a chicken and walks inside as a chicken).

Shot of Richard walking in to the house (As a chicken

Shot of Vincent looking disturbed by Richard's chicken movements

VINCENT

That poor chap needs to get out more.

ROY

(At the window) Come here Gayle. I thought I must have been seeing things, but I've just heard him say it myself. He's bought chickens!

GAYLE

He's completely lost the plot since Nancy passed.

ROY

Get me the RSPCA on the phone. Chickens are to be kept on farms or on my plate. There's no in between.

GAYLE

Oh Roy.

ROY

I mean it Gayle, chickens are NOT pets.

Shot of Michelle walking up to her front door with lots of toilet roll. Struggling to carry it

Shot of Julie as if noticing Michelle and walking towards camera

JULIE

Michelle! Let me help you. *(Walks towards camera)*

MICHELLE

(Nervously) Stay back, Stay back! I don't want to catch anything.

JULIE

What are you like, you sausage, I haven't got the virus.

MICHELLE

You can't be sure so please STAY BACK.

JULIE

Why have you got SO much toilet roll Michelle? *(Laughs)* Are you expecting an apocalypse.

MICHELLE

The newspaper said that shops were running out and that if you needed some to get it whilst you can. Now if you don't mind I need to go and disinfect myself.

GAYLE

(looking out of the window) Ey, Roy. No wonder there's limited toilet rolls. Come and have a look at how many that Michelle at the end of the grove has got.

RICHARD

(As if looking at his new chickens) So we have, Sybil, Ducky, Sydney and Mabel. What should I call that one? It's rather large! *(Pause as if delivery man is responding)*. A rooster? I didn't order a rooster! *(Pause as if delivery driver is responding)*. Well I would rather keep him

than have him slaughtered! He'll be staying with me.

Knock Knock sound

shot of Karen walking to the front door and opening the door

POSTMAN

Delivery for Francesca Staddon

KAREN

Oh, she's...*(We see Karen consider pretending to be Fran)* she's...right here! Yes I'm Francesca that's me! Where do I need to sign.

POSTMAN

Just here love thanks. Have a good day.
(Hands over package to camera)

Shot of Karen receiving package

KAREN

What do we have here? *(Opens package)*. Oh lovely some new gym gear! Sure she won't mind me trying them on, after all she did take my milk!

2 hours later

Shot of Fran lying on her bed on her phone looking angrily at her ceiling

Shot of Karen in her gym wear jumping up and down as if 'doing Zumba'

KAREN

(Wearing clothes that are obviously too small) To the left, to the right and jump it up and down. *(She slides left then right then jumps violently up and down)*.

FRAN

(On facetime to her friend) She's being doing this for an hour. I feel like she's

going to come through the roof. I'm going to have to tell that baby Hippo to stop. Let me ring you back. (Fran looks up to ceiling). K-A-R-E-N! URRGHHHHHHH.

Shot of Fran walking up the stairs

Shot of Fran opening the door

Shot of Karen jumping up and down violently then noticing Fran at the door (To camera)

KAREN

What? I'm just in the middle of my class and you're actually ruining my flow.

FRAN

You're actually ruining my room with your jumping. And...*(she notices the clothing Karen is wearing)* IS THAT MY AMAZON ORDER?!

shot of Karen looking down at her clothing then back to camera with a smirk

THE END