

**FRESH**

Episode Four

by

Dean Craig

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Producer: Simon Maxwell

Danny and Shane are walking along, talking. Danny's face has just about recovered. But he's looking depressed.

DANNY

Becky's party was ruined. I bet she hates me now.

SHANE

No way man. Not with Big Shane watching out for you.

DANNY

Can you stop referring to yourself in the third person? It's really weird... Anyway, what do you mean, you were watching out for me?

SHANE

I was totally bigging you up! Saying you were the cleverest guy I know, and the coolest... I also told her that you worked for six months on a South American leper colony like Che Guevara.

DANNY

What?! That's not true. Why did you say that?!

SHANE

Well she kept going on about these amazing places she'd been to, so I wanted you to match up.

DANNY

But I already told her I spent the summer in Wales!

SHANE

Yeah, but I said you invented that because you were being modest. She was bowled over... I reckon you might have a hope now, at the Fresher's Ball tomorrow.

DANNY

(appalled)  
You're unbelievable.

SHANE

I know. It's a gift.

DANNY

I have to find her now and tell her you made the whole thing up!

SHANE

Don't do that. She'll think I'm a right idiot.

DANNY

(sarcastic)

No... Why would she think that?

Danny heads off. Shane follows Danny. Danny notices.

DANNY (CONT'D)

I'm going alone Shane.

SHANE

Oh, right, sure. I've got some reading anyway... Aristophanes...

2 INT. CORRIDOR - DAY - DELETED

2

3 INT. CAMPUS CORRIDOR - DAY

3

Danny and Becky are walking along the University corridor.

DANNY

So listen, I'm sorry about the whole punch thing. Shane has this habit of messing up everything he gets involved in.

BECKY

What, like with the jelly?

DANNY

(panicked)

He didn't tell you about the jelly. Did he?

BECKY

No...

DANNY

Oh, thank god... I mean... Good.

BECKY

How come you're so friendly with him then, if he's always messing everything up?

DANNY

Well, we've sort of grown up together, and I feel responsible for him in a way... I feel like I need to look after him... He needs special care.

BECKY

Well, he definitely looks up to you. Last night he was talking about you non-stop. He told me all about your summer in Bolivia.

DANNY

Yeah, well that was one of the things I wanted to talk about-

BECKY

I mean, to set up your own hospital for lepers. Amazing.

DANNY

Hmm....

BECKY

And when the hospital caught fire, and you had to save all those children from certain death. That must have been terrifying!

DANNY

Yeah... listen-

BECKY

I'm so glad we've met. You're just the kind of person I was hoping to find at Uni... So many of the guys here are such wasters.

They suddenly come across Scarlet handing out leaflets.

SCARLET

Hi Danny.

DANNY

Oh hi Scarlet. Becky, this is Scarlet, my flat-mate.

SCARLET

Oh, hi.

Scarlet shakes her hand. She squeezes it a little too hard.

BECKY

You're hurting my hand.

SCARLET

Oh sorry.... So, listen, we're about to start a debate about third world poverty. You coming?

DANNY

Oh-

BECKY

Yeah, let's go in.

Danny and Becky enter. Danny's looking a bit unsure.

4

INT. DEBATING ROOM - DAY

4

It's a room full of students, with the hippy-ish looking official, KEITH, standing at the front chairing the debate.

KEITH

So you've seen how I've helped children; I've improved lives. I've *saved* lives. But I'm not the only one. You too could go to Africa, and build a well. But remember to put a security fence around it... Learn from my mistakes. That's what this is all about... Now are there any of you here that, like me, could give inspiration to the other kids?

BECKY

(whispers to Danny)  
Tell them what you did.

DANNY

Er, no I don't think so.

Becky doesn't accept this. She raises her hand.

DANNY (CONT'D)

(panicked)  
What are you doing?.. No, please Becky. Don't-

Keith points up at Becky, and clicks his fingers.

KEITH

Yeah?

BECKY

My friend Danny here spent six months working on a leper colony in Bolivia.

KEITH

(excited)  
Now *that's* the kind of thing I'm talking about!

KEITH does the "wicked" click of the fingers.

KEITH (CONT'D)  
Someone who risks his own butt to  
help others... Come down here  
man, and tell us all about it.

A round of applause. The pressure is immense.

DANNY  
I, er...

BECKY  
Go on.

Becky pushes him forward. Danny, very nervous, walks and slightly stumbles down to the front. All eyes are on him. Keith welcomes him to the stage with a long hug.

KEITH  
So, where in Bolivia did you go?

DANNY  
It was a village called...  
Santa... Manta...

KEITH  
Santa Manta?

Danny nods unsurely.

KEITH (CONT'D)  
And what were you doing on the  
leper colony exactly?

DANNY  
Oh, you know. Servicing. General  
servicing. That kind of stuff...  
Erm... Sponging. They needed to  
be sponged down a lot...

KEITH  
Right. For sure... And did you  
find the disfigurements a  
challenge to get used to?

DANNY  
Oh yeah, definitely... they were  
really... disgusting... I almost  
couldn't look at them a lot of  
the time... It was like they  
were... melting... there was one  
time I was talking to this old  
guy and his hand just fell off...

A beat.

DANNY (CONT'D)  
We tried to fix it back on  
using.. You know... Tape and glue  
and stuff... but it didn't work.

ANGLE ON:

Shane comes in and sees Becky. He walks over to her.

SHANE  
(whispers)  
Hey Becky. Has Danny spoken to  
you?

BECKY  
Yeah, why?

SHANE  
Oh good... I'm really sorry I  
made up that thing about Danny  
working on that leper colony.

BECKY  
(confused)  
You made it up?

SHANE  
Yeah. I was just trying to make  
him sound cooler than he really  
is.

Shane looks over and sees Danny sitting at the front.

SHANE (CONT'D)  
What's going on?

Danny is still talking on stage.

DANNY  
You had to be very careful about  
letting the lepers around the  
food making areas.. This one time  
I found a finger in my mashed  
potato... but you couldn't let it  
get to you. I had to stay strong.  
For the kids.

Keith wipes a tear from his eye. Becky raises her hand.  
Keith sees her.

KEITH  
Yes honey?

BECKY

I'm just really interested to know Danny, how you had this incredible experience as a new age Mother Teresa, when you told me you spent the summer in Wales taking photos of sheep!

Everyone looks at Danny as his face goes bright red. Becky, furious, decides to leave. As she walks out, Danny catches eye contact with Shane who has his fist in his mouth.

KEITH

Is that true?

Danny realizes that everyone is looking at him, appalled.

DANNY

It wasn't only sheep, but...

He's thinking of anything to lessen the embarrassment.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Some of them had blue tongue...

THE END