

## Welcome To Spooktown – Yuriko Kotani

[Spooky music]

ED EASTON: Looky there, a real ghost. Would you believe?

[Wind, owl, and bird sounds]

KATH HUGHES: Uh –

ED: So we're meeting Yuriko at –

KATH: A guesthouse?

ED: Yeah, I can't remember the – I can't remember the name of it.

KATH: No, I'm not sure what the name of it is.

ED: I'll ask her when we see her.

KATH: Yeah.

ED: Well, I'll just look at the sign. So we're meeting her at the guesthouse. Have you ever stayed there?

KATH: No.

ED: Seems like a weird question, doesn't it? Because – but of course not, because you live here. You know how people are like –

KATH: Yeah, yeah. Because you wouldn't, would you?

ED: We've had that quite a lot recently. Where people are like, 'do you know of any good places to stay around here?' Yeah, my own house.

KATH: My house, yeah.

ED: It's perfect. I don't need to look anywhere – anywhere else.

KATH: It would be weird though, wouldn't it? If you were like – lived next door to the guesthouse and were like, 'oh, should we have a – should we have a holiday in the guesthouse?' And it was just your neighbour. That's so weird.

ED: Do you reckon you could get a guesthouse with a waterbed? I've always wanted to try one.

KATH: I don't see why not. As long as you're not carrying scissors around with you.

ED: What, I've got to put my scissors away?

KATH: Yeah, you just don't put them on the bed.

ED: Not worth it. Not interested. Not interested. Why have I got them, then?

KATH: Well, you just don't – it's quite simple, just don't leave them on the bed. You can carry – carry the scissors, carry them. If you need them, carry them. Just don't put them on the bed.

ED: Right, right. Maybe. Because I – I can't obviously – you can't buy – I can't buy a waterbed for myself. Because what if I don't like it?

KATH: You'd have to give it back.

ED: Can you do that?

KATH: Don't know.

ED: Yeah. I know so little about waterbeds. Like who would I even give it back to?

KATH: I wonder if you could just make it – I wonder if you could just get an airbed and shove a hose in it.

ED: Is that a waterbed?

KATH: I guess. I don't know.

ED: Is that what a waterbed is?

KATH: An airbed with water – a waterbed, yeah. Airbed, waterbed. You wouldn't want scissors on an airbed either. Just don't take scissors to bed.

ED: Back off my scissors. Back off my bed scissors.

KATH: Okay, I'm just saying you should cool it on the bed scissors. That's all I'm saying.

ED: How many times have you been in bed and you're like, 'I need to cut something. Wish I had a pair of scissors'?

KATH: Um, twice.

ED: Every night?

KATH: Twice.

ED: Twice a night.

KATH: Twice, uh, in a year.

ED: That's – that's loads. You should – you should definitely get a pair of bed scissors.

KATH: I can – I can live with that twice a year, though. Being, 'oh, I wish I had a pair of bed scissors.' Only twice a year. That's fine.

ED: Because of your bed knife.

KATH: Yeah, I don't need it.

ED: Because of your bed knife.

KATH: Exactly.

ED: Yeah, yeah.

KATH: It's – it's tough to have both.

ED: Yeah.

KATH: And then I really couldn't have a waterbed if I had a bed knife and a bed pair of scissors. It would be a nightmare. I'd just be sleeping in a pool.

ED: Yeah, the ultimate waterbed.

KATH: So I – I hope this place doesn't have waterbeds.

ED: Have you had any nightmares this week?

KATH: Uh, oh last night I had... it was kind of a dream, actually. Because it was like I got asked to a... they were like, uh, 'do you want to be in the next Spiderman film?' And I was like, 'obviously yes.' And then I get there, and they're like, 'oh, surprise, you're playing Spiderman.' And I'm like, 'oh my god, this is great.' But then they're like, 'have you learnt the whole script?' And I was like, 'oh no, no I haven't learnt the whole script.' And they were like, 'well we're just going to film it all now. Just in this like town hall.' And I hadn't learned the script.

ED: Ah.

KATH: So I got fired on the spot, basically. It was all – so it was like a dream slash nightmare.

ED: It sounds like a porn thing.

KATH: No, I just – I just was going to play Spiderman and then they were like, 'don't worry about the special effects. We're just going to do it all in this one room.'

ED: Yeah, they would say that if it was a porn thing. 'Don't worry about the special effects for now. We've got the spider webs, but –'

[Both laugh]

ED: Gross.

KATH: So yeah, so that was – that was last night's. It was more just disappointing, really. It was like, 'oh, bloody hell. Why didn't you tell me I was Spiderman before I got here? Why didn't you tell me to learn the whole script before I got here? Then maybe I would've. But I –

ED: Maybe. [laughs] There'd be a slightly better chance of me learning it if you told me to.

KATH: How about you, any nightmares?

ED: Um, god, I've not really thought about it. I suppose I think I'm gluten intolerant.

KATH: Oh, okay. How'd you work that out?

ED: Whenever I have bread, my stomach and ass are just like, 'ugh, no, not this again. Not more bread.'

KATH: At the same time? Like is your stomach going, 'oh, god.' And then an hour later your ass does it? Or do they – are they both going, 'ah, Jesus' at the same time?

ED: I haven't really kept a diary.

KATH: Oh, okay.

ED: But I suppose it goes stomach, stomach, stomach, butt.

KATH: Ass, yeah.

ED: Yeah. And I eat a lot of bread. Because like seitan's just bread. And I've started learning to make seitan. So my – load's just like a loaf of bread.

KATH: Is that the issue, though? Is it not that you're gluten intolerant, is it that you're just eating too much bread?

ED: I'm intolerant to a lot of food, yeah. I'm intolerant to an incredibly dense loaf of bread.

KATH: You're intolerant to an exclusively bread diet.

ED: That's why I sort of said, 'I think I'm gluten intolerant.'

KATH: Mhm.

ED: In that I know I'm not and I haven't been diagnosed. But I had some bread and then I needed a poo. I suppose that's – I suppose that's my nightmare.

[Both laugh]

KATH: Okay. Well have you had bread today?

ED: Have I had bread today? Have I had bread today?

KATH: I'm just wondering if you'll use the bogs at the guesthouse when we get there.

ED: I mean, I could do that. I could always do that. I'll have some bread now.

KATH: Mhm.

ED: And we'll see what happens in the guesthouse.

KATH: Okay, we'll have a little fun experiment.

ED: Yeah.

KATH: Just let me know when your stomach starts going and when your ass joins in.

ED: Okay.

KATH: Ooh, is that – is that Yuriko?

ED: It is. Can we just finish the conversation about – [laughs]

KATH: Oh, sure sure sure. Sure sure sure. I'm so sorry.

ED: [laughs] No, I'm joking. I'm finished. Hi Yuriko!

YURIKO KOTANI: Hi Ed!

KATH: Hey.

YURIKO: Hi Kath.

[Wind noises]

ED: Thank you so much for inviting us to this guesthouse. It's very exciting.

YURIKO: Oh, thank you very much for visiting this place. I just didn't want to be here alone. So I'm so glad you two are here.

KATH: Oh.

ED: Oh, okay. Nice.

KATH: Oh wow, okay.

ED: I didn't realise it was that spooky. Thank you for – for the warning.

KATH: Yeah, thanks for the heads up.

YURIKO: Mhm.

ED: Very quickly: how was your – how was your journey here to Spooktown?

YURIKO: Yes, it's been great. Because I used to take trains a lot. So yes, this journey was very nice. I like to see the scenery, yes.

KATH: Oh, nice. Yeah.

ED: Lovely. Don't – don't hear that often.

KATH: Yeah. Any favourite sceneries?

YURIKO: Um, nature. Nature.

ED: Yeah.

KATH: Yeah, that is a good scenery. Yeah.

ED: Yeah.

YURIKO: Yes. I enjoyed visibly and also smell as well. The fresh air  
–

KATH: Nice.

YURIKO: Even came into the train carriage. Yes, it was nice.

ED: What have we got? Hills, trees, lakes, fields. All the classic –

KATH: Mountains.

ED: Mountains, thank you.

YURIKO: Yes. Mountains and kindness.

ED: Kindness. [laughs]

YURIKO: Yes, I felt –

KATH: Could you just smell that in the air?

YURIKO: Yeah, absolutely. Yes, in the air.

[All laugh]

ED: Yeah yeah yeah.

KATH: Just kindness.

ED: Excuse me, do you have any more kindness? I just fancy a,  
yeah, thank you. Just that shop on the train.

KATH: Some kindness for the table. That would be good.

ED: Can I just get, uh, a coffee, a Red Bull, a bit of kindness, um... sugar free kindness if you've got it.

KATH: It sounds like you've had a lovely journey.

ED: Yeah, it sounds amazing.

KATH: I'm quite jealous of it actually.

ED: I'm pretty jealous, yeah. It's very little kindness in Spooktown.

YURIKO: Yes.

ED: It's good that you topped up on the way here.

YURIKO: Yeah.

ED: Uh, yeah. Great. Really good. Uh, can I ask a couple more questions and then hand you over for Kath for – for a q? Uh, question? Um...

YURIKO: Yes.

ED: How many, Yuriko, how many ghosts have you seen this week? If you want –

YURIKO: There's many. Many ghosts, many ghosts.

ED: Nice.

YURIKO: In my dreams, in reality. Many ghosts, yes. Yes.

ED: Nice, nice.

KATH: Oh, so quite a few, then? Many. Can't even – can't even like get the number. Just many.

YURIKO: Yeah, yeah.

ED: Full time job of seeing ghosts. Yeah, good. Last question from me: what is the scariest thing that's ever happened to you?

YURIKO: Ooh, okay. Maybe it was a time when I was swimming in the river.

ED: Mhm.

YURIKO: Okay, I wasn't even swimming. I didn't even think that I was a swimmer. I was just enjoying the river with my friends. Then, one second later, I was miles away.

KATH: Oh, that's too real. That's awful.

ED: That's genuinely – that's genuinely scary.

KATH: So frightening.

YURIKO: Sorry, uh, yes. I gave you too much, isn't it? Sorry.

ED: So scary.

KATH: No, that's perfect. It's horrific.

ED: What, so you're just like, you went swimming and you're just like playing in the river and then, bam, the river takes you?

YURIKO: Yeah. I was absolutely – I was just far away. Far, far away. And I tried to swim but in the river I forgot how to swim.

ED: Ugh.

KATH: Oh man. And it gets worse. God.

ED: I've – I've had that. You know that feeling where you're like – because I think I can swim alright. But that feeling where you're like, 'oh, wait, the water's stronger than me,' is one of the scariest feelings.

KATH: Yeah.

ED: Because suddenly you're like, 'oh, this is how people die.' When you have that like – you know, when it pulls you, and you're like, 'oh!'

KATH: It's awful.

ED: Because you're just like swimming and 'uh!'

KATH: Yeah, 'oh! Panic!' Did like – did like a current just sort of rip you off? Like, you know, whip you down the river? That's – that's so frightening.

YURIKO: It is, it is.

ED: Kath, got a q?

YURIKO: Yes, Kath.

KATH: Oh yeah, sure. Okay, so Yuriko, the – the invisible man, Dracula, or Brad Pitt. Shag, marry, kill.

YURIKO: Uh, let me take note now, sorry. Invisible man –

ED: Invisible man, yeah.

YURIKO: Dracula, and Brad Pitt.

ED: Yeah.

YURIKO: Shag.

KATH: Yeah.

YURIKO: Marry.

KATH: Yep.

YURIKO: Or kill.

KATH: Yep.

YURIKO: Hm... it's very hard.

ED: It's a tough one. I think it's the – I think it's the hardest one we've had.

YURIKO: Okay, so I will kill – I will kill the invisible man.

ED: Straight in. Straight in with kill.

KATH: Get killing out of the way.

YURIKO: Because... invisible. He doesn't exist.

ED: Oh, yeah. I see. You'd still get away with it.

KATH: Okay.

YURIKO: Yes.

KATH: That's fair, yeah.

YURIKO: I think so. Or is it by law if – okay, maybe it's legal but it's morally wrong?

KATH: Yeah, I think it's probably morally wrong. Because you're – it's still a person at the end of the day. But, um, I think it's easier to get away with. The murder, I think.

ED: Yeah. Whereas Dracula – if you kill Dracula, he's technically already dead.

YURIKO: Oh! True.

ED: But I don't – I don't want to put words in your mouth, Yuriko. You go – you go with your gut. Your gut said, 'kill the invisible man.' And I think it's a good shout.

YURIKO: Yeah, probably I'll regret, but because this question is so hard, I had – I'm so sorry, I had to say it.

KATH: Yeah, if it feels right it feels right. You just know.

YURIKO: And uh, okay. Marry Brad Pitt.

ED: Yeah, fair. Fair.

KATH: Yeah.

ED: It would've been wild if you'd gone for Dracula. Would've been really wild.

YURIKO: Yes. And okay, last one. Oh, shag Dracula. Oh no. Um, so – okay, if you shag Dracula –

ED: Yeah.

YURIKO: But you will not become a vampire, right?

KATH: No.

ED: No.

YURIKO: Shagging is not –

ED: I don't think so.

KATH: I don't think so. I don't – I don't think that's ever been in any of the sort of vampire lore.

ED: No.

KATH: I might be wrong, because I've not – I've not read it all. But um, yeah.

ED: You've read a lot.

KATH: I – I think – I think you'd be able to do that without becoming a vampire.

ED: Yeah, I don't think you'd have to worry about that.

KATH: Unless he bit you in the middle of it.

ED: If you marry Brad Pitt, you're not going to become a Brad Pitt.

KATH: Yeah.

ED: So I think we should – we can take that and put that under Dracula.

YURIKO: So true. Okay, uh, making so much sense. Ah, yes.

[All laugh]

YURIKO: Yes. Then Dracula, please.

KATH: Great, okay.

ED: Great, shag Dracula. Brilliant. I really like that, um, you went straight in at kill. Loved that. But I also like that you said, 'so, I will regret killing the invisible man. I will marry Brad Pitt.' How you've worked regret into your answer. No one else has ever said that they'd regret the murder, so that –

KATH: Yeah.

ED: I think you're the first person who's brought a sense of morality to...

YURIKO: Thank you.

[Spooky music]

ED: Brilliant. Well, that was wonderful. Big fan of that. But what I'm really fucking excited for –

KATH: Yeah.

ED: Is you have a ghost story to tell us about this guesthouse that we're stood outside, haven't you?

YURIKO: Yes.

ED: So are you able to tell us that story now?

YURIKO: Yes.

[Saxophone plays]

YURIKO: Okay, so I stayed in this guesthouse before. [bell rings, music plays] And you know when you arrive at a guesthouse and you check certain things? For example, a toilet. [toilet flushes] And this guesthouse doesn't have, you know, a tech toilet. It's fine, it's fine. And taps. [water gushes] They have like – you know, like two taps? Why? Why two taps? I don't understand it, but it's got two taps. So it's fine. And the third thing you check is wifi, isn't it? [phone dials] And it was brilliant wifi. I thought it was very, uh, I was surprised. Because sometimes, you know, if you go to a guesthouse sometimes they have weak wifi. But this

guesthouse had amazing wifi. Then I was sending emails [keys clicking] without any problems [whooshing]. And I could watch Netflix [Netflix sound] without any stopping. Amazing, right? Then I did some comedy gigs [laughing] so smoothly. It was wonderful. Then I had to do some – how do you call it – internet meetings. Online meetings. [beeping]

Then something happened. So for example, so I was on the phone call and then my colleague said, ‘nothing! Stop!’ [music stops] And then everybody was laughing after that. [clapping] And I was like, ‘what did you say? What happened?’ Then, another time this colleague stopped, then talked super fast like [robot voice]. Like that, super fast. And I was like, ‘what? What happened?’ And then I checked the wifi and it’s fine. And then I got so confused [‘what?’] and then I couldn’t understand what was happening.

So after this phone call, [door closes] I thought, ‘okay, maybe this wifi is really bad and like, uh, for this laptop.’ And I wanted to avoid that. So I went to a local café in Spooktown, [kitchen sounds] but it was closed [door shuts] because it was Sunday. I didn’t know. I didn’t know that the, you know, local cafes are closed on Sunday. Um, so next meeting I used my phone [dialing] with my 4G. And it was so fine. Then the same problem happened [static sound] and I couldn’t understand it, because my phone was fine. Then what I realised was this house, the wifi of this house, is fucking me over. But actually this house can hack other people’s wifi, then fuck you over. The end.

[Spooky music]

[Wind, crickets]

ED: [laughs] The house can hack other people's wifi. So the house, the guesthouse, the wifi – the wifi – was the wifi – the wifi was haunted?

YURIKO: Yes. So the wifi is haunted. And this house can haunt other people's wifi.

KATH: So the – the house – the house itself is doing the haunting? Or is the wifi doing the haunting?

ED: It's a great question, Kath.

KATH: Thank you.

YURIKO: I think the guesthouse's wifi. So I think both are – got chemistry.

[All laugh]

KATH: So the – the wifi and the house are working together?

YURIKO: Yeah.

ED: So the house and the wifi are haunted. And they sort of work in a – they have a sense of synchronicity in like, 'let's haunt this wifi over through this meeting?'

YURIKO: Yes.

ED: 'Yuriko's on another call,' says the house to the wifi.

YURIKO: Yes, yes. Like on important meetings. Yes, that's right.

KATH: Interesting. So they – so it did pick and choose to do it. Because you were able to watch Netflix fine. So it was obviously okay with that. And you were able to send emails fine.

YURIKO: Yeah.

KATH: It was just when you were having meetings.

YURIKO: Yeah.

KATH: That it wanted to, uh, fuck shit up.

YURIKO: Yeah.

KATH: Hm.

ED: What's the name of the guesthouse? Do you know? I can't see the sign from here.

YURIKO: Spooktown guesthouse.

KATH: Oh yeah, that makes sense.

YURIKO: Yeah.

ED: Spooktown guesthouse, yeah.

YURIKO: I think it's the only one.

KATH: Spooktown guesthouse, yeah. It probably is, actually. If it's called Spooktown guesthouse then what would you call the others? So yeah.

ED: Yeah, Spooktown guesthouse two?

KATH: Spooktown guesthouse the sequel? Yeah.

ED: Etcetera.

YURIKO: Yeah.

ED: Three, yeah.

KATH: Right, okay.

ED: I'm going to – I'm going to challenge you now, Yuriko.

YURIKO: Yes.

ED: Could it have just been bad internet? And not a ghost?

YURIKO: That's what – that's what I thought as well. But, as I said earlier, I could watch Netflix so smoothly, without any interruption.

ED: Yeah. Yeah, true.

YURIKO: And everything... other stuff as well. For example, gigs.

ED: Yeah.

YURIKO: Or meetings. Like I was, you know, chatting with friends or family. It was all fine.

KATH: Oh.

YURIKO: Something important.

KATH: So it's maybe whatever it is just doesn't – maybe it just wants you to have a holiday. Because it seems to be doing its thing every time you're trying to work. It lets you watch Netflix, nice. It lets you chat with your friends and family, nice. Try and do work, it stops you. So perhaps this is a pleasant spirit, if it is a spirit.

ED: Kath, have you been watching Poirot?

[All laugh]

ED: That's absolutely amazing. That's the smartest thing I've ever heard.

YURIKO: Yeah, I thought, 'oh my god, you're right! I need a holiday!'

KATH: You just need a holiday, mate. That's all that's happened.

YURIKO: Yeah.

KATH: This still doesn't clarify whether it is – is it – is it just by incident, like I said? Because that does happen. You can – you can be watching something, you know, what if – what time were your meetings? Was it when everyone else in Spooktown was on the internet? And that's why it messed up?

ED: Yeah, good. Another good question. Another good question.

KATH: Do you know what I mean? There's no – there's no clarification, I think, that there's a ghost involved here. In my opinion.

ED: Yeah, there's no like dead wifi. Can – can wifi die and therefore have a ghost? Let's try and connect to the internet using the guesthouse wifi.

KATH: Okay, let's see what happens.

ED: Um, Yuriko, do you remember the wifi password to the – I've got 'Guesthouse guest' wifi?

YURIKO: Yes, 'come back'.

ED: Say that again?

YURIKO: Come back.

ED: Come back?

YURIKO: Yes.

ED: That's the password? 'Come back', yeah?

YURIKO: Yes.

ED: Great. 'Come back'. Is that two words or one word? Is it 'come back', or is it 'comeback'?

YURIKO: One, one.

ED: The first one. Come space back.

YURIKO: Yes. Yes. I wish it was the second one.

ED: [phone typing] I'm going to – I'm going to try and stream something on Netflix. Give me two seconds. Have a look at this. Okay, stream that. [Netflix sound] Yeah, watching um, the advert for the second series of '60 Days In', which is about people going undercover in prison. It's working perfectly fine. I'm going to send an – an email. [typing] 'Please get me some auditions.' Send. It's not sending.

YURIKO: What?

KATH: Alright, so it doesn't send the work email. Yeah, okay. I've got – I'm back on board with it being haunted. But it's a nice, friendly ghost that just wants everyone to have a holiday.

ED: A holiday ghost.

KATH: A holiday ghost, yeah.

ED: How does that sound?

KATH: It sounds pretty nice.

[Spooky music]

ED: [footsteps] Yuriko, do you want to – do you want to sort of take us to your – the room that you stayed in? So we can have a little look around?

YURIKO: Oh yes, of course. Yes.

ED: Thank you so much. Cheers.

[Door creaks]

ED: All come through here. Oh, it's nice.

[Footsteps]

KATH: Yeah, it is. Yeah.

ED: It is nice.

KATH: Yeah.

ED: I can see why you stayed here.

YURIKO: Yeah, it's a nice, um, colour.

ED: Really nice colour.

KATH: Yeah, it is a nice colour, that. Unusual for a guesthouse.

YURIKO: Yeah.

ED: What would you call that?

YURIKO: Um, double room.

ED: Double room.

YURIKO: Yes.

ED: It's nice. So what number – what number's your room?

YURIKO: Oh, 2b.

ED: 2b.

KATH: 2b.

ED: Nice.

YURIKO: Yes.

ED: Alright, let's see it. Let's go in. let's have a little look around.  
[door opens] This is nice. Is that two taps? [water runs]

YURIKO: Oh, yes.

ED: I like that.

YURIKO: See, it's – one tap gets so hot, and one tap gets so cold.  
And I don't know how to use them.

ED: Yeah.

KATH: That's – yeah, it's tricky if you don't know how to use them.  
Once you get the hang of it, though, I promise you the – it's good.  
It's a good method. [water dripping]

ED: Now I'm with – I'm with Yuriko. I think it's – I think it's stupid. I  
think the two tap system is like – it's like riding a horse and cart.  
Just get in a car. In brackets – one tap – close brackets.

KATH: So what are the other – what are the other tap options?

ED: One tap. And you have the swizzle arm thing that controls whether it's cold or hot.

KATH: Okay.

YURIKO: Yeah.

ED: Instead of two taps where you have to like – burn yourself and then freeze it, burn yourself and then freeze it, burn yourself and then freeze it.

YURIKO: Yeah.

KATH: Oh, I see.

ED: Because – I mean obviously you can fill the sink up, but I'm not –

KATH: Yeah.

YURIKO: Which one do you do first? Burning yourself or freezing first?

ED: Yeah, which one do we do first?

KATH: Neither is a nice option, is it?

ED: I think – I think I put my hand under the cold first, as a sort of barrier. So that when the water hits it it's hitting the cold water before it hits my hand.

KATH: Yeah, that's good.

ED: Yeah, that's my sort of go to, is like cold, get your hands wet, soap them up all nice. Bam! Straight into the hot. Ah! Back into the cold. Give them a rinse. That's cold now. Ah!

KATH: I think I'm the other way around, you know? I think I'm, um, cup some hot water, go, 'ah!' and then get some cold water and go, 'ahh.' I think that's my method. I've never thought this much about taps, you know?

ED: I genuinely think about this quite a lot and I'm glad Yuriko has brought it up.

KATH: I – this has blown my mind that I – because I do – I do have those different – I've got double taps in the bathroom and one tap in the –

YURIKO: Kitchen.

KATH: It's got a mixer tap. Kitchen, yeah.

ED: Yeah. Perfect. Mixer tap, perfect. Absolutely perfect. It's fine for a bath.

YURIKO: Yeah.

ED: It's fine for a bath. But just get a mixer tap for everything. That's all a shower is.

YURIKO: Yeah.

KATH: Yeah, I suppose.

ED: A shower's a body mixer tap.

KATH: Yeah, it is. It's just a really big one.

ED: A full-body mixer tap. Yeah. It's weird that – it's weird that the bedroom is also a wet room.

[Water moving sound gets louder]

KATH: Yeah, that's unusual.

ED: Because usually – usually you separate – usually you separate the – the bathroom from the bedroom. So it is a bit weird to – maybe that's – I mean, perfect for a murder.

KATH: Very good for a murder, yeah.

YURIKO: Yeah, you can wash your hands.

ED: Yeah, yeah.

KATH: You wouldn't – you could murder Brad Pitt in here. You wouldn't need to worry about the invisible man thing.

ED: Yeah.

KATH: You could get away with it.

[All laugh]

ED: Maybe they thought this was – this was what it was meant by waterbed. Is that it's just a very wet bed.

KATH: Ah, they've just got confused, yeah.

ED: Yeah.

YURIKO: Oh, waterbed. I haven't seen that for ten years.

ED: I've never – I have never seen a waterbed. So –

KATH: I'm not sure I have.

ED: I'm impressed that you're like, 'oh, ten years ago when waterbeds were everywhere.'

KATH: Remember when waterbeds were huge? In 2010?

ED: Yeah, 2010 was a big waterbed year. I think they'd make me feel very, very sick.

KATH: Oh really?

ED: Like you know if you drink loads of water and you try and fall asleep on your belly?

KATH: Yeah.

ED: Like on your front, not –

KATH: Not like –

ED: Not just balance – balance on your ball belly. But when you're lying on that and it's sloshing about? It would just feel like that, I think. I don't know. Well, Yuriko, you know more about this.

KATH: Have you – have you slept on a waterbed, Yuriko?

YURIKO: I think so. A long time ago. I can't remember if it was in Japan or Spooktown, but uh...

ED: I don't think Spooktown's got waterbeds yet. I think it's – we're just about to tip into waterbed territory.

KATH: It's a bit behind, yeah.

ED: We're in about – we're in about the 70s at the moment in regards to fashion and interior design.

KATH: Well that would make sense why the wifi's bad.

ED: Yeah, yeah.

[Spooky music]

KATH: I feel like, can we – is there a – like is there a history of this building at all? Like can we know why it's haunted?

ED: It feels like it's got a sort of, um, Shining vibe.

YURIKO: Oh yes.

ED: It feels like it's got a Shining vibe. Same – same carpet.

YURIKO: Yeah.

ED: Maybe – maybe head downstairs and check the guestbook. See if anyone's stayed here.

[Footsteps]

YURIKO: Do you think we can do that? Let's do that.

KATH: Yeah, I mean I haven't seen anybody else. Haven't even seen the owners or anything. It's just us. That's weird.

ED: So we're going to – going to look at the guestbook here. So Yuriko, you've put your name down there. You're the last person to stay here.

YURIKO: Yeah, that's – yep.

ED: Glenn Miller before that.

KATH: What year was that?

ED: That was in 1940.

KATH: Oh, gosh!

ED: So I think it was just before he disappeared.

KATH: So there's literally been –

ED: So there haven't been many people staying here. Maybe that's why the wifi's so good.

YURIKO: No sharing with other people.

KATH: So it's literally Glen Miller stayed in – in the 40s, and then Yuriko's come along. And that's it.

ED: Yeah, it's been building up and up and up until Yuriko stayed here, yeah.

KATH: Yuriko, have you ever seen any of the – have you exchanged money with anybody? Have you ever seen any of the staff? Or is –

YURIKO: It was all – what's it called? Something dot com.

KATH: Like – like booking? Yeah, like online?

YURIKO: Oh, I remember. It was Booking.com because I got extra points.

KATH: Oh, nice. Nice.

YURIKO: Yeah.

KATH: You might as well.

YURIKO: But I wonder, why did I get extra points for this guesthouse?

[All laugh]

KATH: Okay, this is getting weirder. That there's nobody else here. Who cleans the place?

ED: Yeah. It's a guesthouse. I got the vibe it's a B&B. Was – did you have a breakfast in the morning?

YURIKO: Yes, it was included.

ED: What um, do you remember what you had?

YURIKO: Okay, the problem is I didn't see anybody there. Because I saw coffee, juice, and fruit on the table.

ED: Coffee, juice, and fruit.

KATH: Classics, yeah. Hm.

ED: Alright. Do I believe this?

KATH: I feel there's – there's more – more questions than – than answers here. Like it's so –

ED: Yeah, yeah.

KATH: Like I'm not convinced that the wifi is haunted. But there's something 100% going on with the guesthouse.

YURIKO: Yes. Because I felt like the wifi signal was controlled by some sort of energy or something.

KATH: Yeah, and I'm starting to go back to the theory that it's a pleasant ghost energy spirit. Because they've provided breakfast, they've – they've given you points on Booking.com.

ED: Coffee, juice, and fruit isn't – I wouldn't say that's providing breakfast.

KATH: True. But they had it out there.

ED: That doesn't feel like a welcoming breakfast. That's doesn't feel like, 'sit down, take as long as you want.' It feels like, 'get – get out of here, Yuriko. Take your food with you.'

KATH: Grab an apple and go, yeah.

ED: Grab an apple and go.

KATH: Yeah, fair. Yeah.

ED: It doesn't – it doesn't feel – if it had been like a full English, or you know, even a continental breakfast, you know, grab yourself some cereal, grab – grab a bun, whatever, I'd be like, 'yeah.' But –

YURIKO: True, it wasn't a hot meal. I wanted a hot meal.

ED: Let's go through to the kitchen and see if anyone's there.

YURIKO: Yeah.

[Footsteps]

KATH: Hello?

[Oil sizzling]

ED: [laughs] It doesn't seem like there's anyone here. What a waste of time. Oh well. Shame. I really thought that was going to be like a – some sort of denouement. Actually, weirdly feels quite – I'd say quite hot in here considering it's like steel and everything's off.

KATH: I'd say it's hot. Yeah, it's like someone's just cooked in here but then –

ED: Everything's off. Everything's off.

YURIKO: Yeah.

KATH: But everything's off. Yeah, that's strange.

YURIKO: Yeah, I can smell.

KATH: Hm, so they were cooking a breakfast. Didn't provide it.

ED: Even – yeah, even ruder that they just gave you fruit.

KATH: Yeah, very rude actually. Gone back to the rude again.

[Spooky music]

ED: Yuriko, did – when you were booking this place, did it mention anything about being built on an ancient burial ground or anything like that?

YURIKO: Oh!

KATH: Are you remembering a paragraph at the bottom now? The small print?

ED: 'Oh yeah, hang on!'

[All laugh]

YURIKO: Disclaimer! There is a long disclaimer that I didn't read.

ED: Well there we go! There we go.

KATH: Right. Okay. Okay.

ED: Right, I'm heading back to the front desk to see if they've got any, uh, disclaimers there.

[Flipping paper]

ED: Yeah, I found – I found a disclaimer! If you want to come through.

KATH: Yeah, okay, should we follow him?

YURIKO: Yes.

ED: Right.

KATH: Let's have a look.

ED: Yeah. It's pretty wordy, but it's basically saying that this was built on a – sort of an ancient burial ground. Viking, actually.

YURIKO: Ooh!

ED: An ancient Viking burial ground. But very strange, not of any of the workers. Just the people who really liked to, you know, relax, kick their feet up.

KATH: Ah.

ED: And have a sort of swell time and not work too hard, it says here in the disclaimer. Which actually –

YURIKO: The Vikings' holiday place.

ED: A Vikings' holiday place, yeah. Uh, a sort of um, Viking respect.

KATH: So is it holiday Vikings that are now ghost Vikings? That are now running the place?

ED: Hey Kath, I didn't say that. I'm just reading the disclaimer. I don't – I don't know.

KATH: Well, does it say anywhere that's it's like –

ED: Maybe.

KATH: 'You will not see any staff. It'll just – you'll just go with it and it'll be fine.' Does it say that anywhere?

ED: Not in the disclaimer. Let me read through some more paper.

[Flips paper]

ED: Uh, oh yeah. Yeah, this is a staff-less hotel.

KATH: Okay.

ED: Very modern considering.

[Spooky music]

ED: Yuriko?

YURIKO: Yes.

ED: Can you just give us a couple of seconds while Kath and I go work out whether we believe your story or not? If that's alright.

KATH: Yeah, we just need to decide whether it's going to become part of Spooktown lore.

YURIKO: Oh yeah, of course. Take your time.

ED: We're just going to go and talk over here by 2b.

KATH: Okay.

ED: First thing's first: did you turn the taps off when we were in the bathroom?

KATH: Oh no! Oh no. Oh no.

ED: Oh no oh no oh no. okay. Okay. It's okay it's okay it's okay it's okay. I'll do it later.

KATH: But did – okay, okay.

ED: Do you believe Yuriko's story?

KATH: Okay, now that we've dug into the history, there's more like – okay, there's something – there is something mystical, ghostly going on. At first I was like, 'that's just bad wifi. It's just bad wifi.' But the more we've sort of established that the building

is a Viking holiday let, makes me think, 'okay, something's amiss.'  
But I don't think it's the wife that's haunted.

ED: Can I piss on your bonfire?

KATH: Sure.

ED: Thank you. Um –

KATH: Always, Ed.

ED: That's really kind. Um, I think that it isn't haunted. I think the wife is just temperamental.

KATH: Yeah.

ED: But I think that the hotel latches onto that. It's the first time I've ever heard of a Viking holiday let.

KATH: Yeah, yeah.

ED: I'm not saying that it doesn't exist. I'm just saying that it's weird that this is the first time I've ever heard of that.

KATH: Yeah, considering we're in Spooktown all the time.

ED: Yeah. I – I only just found out about Vikings.

KATH: Mhm, big day then.

ED: This is like a couple of – a couple of weeks ago. This isn't all today. That was –

KATH: Oh okay, okay.

ED: If I'd had just found out about Vikings today, I wouldn't be doing this. I'd be Googling it.

KATH: You'd be Googling. Yeah.

ED: Yeah. Um, so I think – I think it's a – I believe that Yuriko believes that the wifi was haunted.

KATH: Yeah. Yeah, I believe that.

ED: So I don't think – I don't think Yuriko's a liar. I just don't think – I don't believe that it's actually haunted. My wifi was really bad recently, and it was just trees rubbing on the wires. So it feels like, look at that – look at that first before we think it's Vikings. Do you know what I mean?

KATH: Yeah. Yeah.

ED: I feel like I'm coming across like a bell-end, but I'm just trying – I'm trying to be pragmatic.

KATH: No no, yeah. No, I – I'm absolutely onboard with the fact that the wifi is not haunted. The building, however, could be.

ED: I – I'm a big fan of Yuriko's, so I'm going to tell her that her story's in Spooktown. But I'm not going to put it in.

KATH: Oh, so you're just going to lie to her face. You do that and I'll go switch the taps off.

ED: You're right, no. That's bad. That's bad. I'm not going to lie to her. I respect her too much to lie to her. Okay, let's – let's say. Here, you ready?

KATH: Um, I am still thinking about the taps. I'll be honest.

[Water sloshing]

ED: Okay, okay let's just – two seconds and we'll go turn the taps off.

KATH: Okay, okay.

[Door creaks]

[Water sounds stop]

KATH: Okay, okay. I – I had switched them off. I had switched them off.

ED: [laughs] Hate when that happens.

KATH: Yeah, I know. You always got – you just panic, don't you?

ED: And it's nothing? Yeah.

KATH: Yeah.

ED: The stress is never as big as you think. Um, back to the stress though. Do you think that Yuriko's story should go in?

KATH: Not as is, no. We had to dig. We had to really dig to unearth things that weren't actually in the story.

ED: I think – so my – my issue is, there's a piece of paper, the disclaimer. Of course they're going to say it's a Viking holiday let. Because that means people will stay here instead of staying at their friend's houses.

KATH: Yeah, but it's not worked, has it?

ED: There's a fucking – there's a massive Premier Inn. Do you know what I mean? Just stay there. Anyway.

KATH: Oh, okay.

ED: Happy? You know what I mean.

KATH: No, no.

ED: It's a big – it's a big question.

KATH: God, no.

ED: Happy with what we're about to do specifically?

KATH: No, don't think so actually. Happy in terms of like, 'oh, I believe we're doing the right thing.' But it doesn't feel right. It doesn't feel nice.

ED: Okay, I'm going to rip the plaster off. Hi Yuriko!

YURIKO: Hi Ed!

KATH: Hey, sorry we took so long.

YURIKO: No, not at all.

ED: We thought we'd left the taps on in – in your room.

KATH: Yeah, just had a bit of a panic. I hadn't. I hadn't.

ED: But it's – yeah, it's fine.

KATH: I've got to check.

YURIKO: Shall we go check? Did you check?

KATH: I did check. It's fine, it's fine.

YURIKO: Oh you did check? Good good good.

KATH: It's sorted.

ED: Thank you though.

KATH: Yeah, thank you.

ED: Uh, we –

YURIKO: It happened.

ED: We believe you, but we don't believe that the wife's haunted.  
Um, so the story – uh...

YURIKO: What?

[Ed and Kath sigh]

ED: Okay, I believe you. [laughs] I believe you.

KATH: Yeah. You can't make those noises and then, you know.

ED: I believe you, it's in. I can't do it.

KATH: I can't.

ED: I can't do it, you're in. We believe – we believe your story and it's become Spooktown lore.

TK: You know what, Ed and Kath? Thank you. Because I want to think that it's not haunted. I just – I hope that it's just my paranoia.

ED: Okay.

KATH: Okay, let's go down that route.

ED: I can go with that.

KATH: Yuriko, this is your paranoia. It's not haunted. It's not part of Spooktown lore.

ED: Which is arguably worse.

[All laugh]

KATH: Yeah.

ED: Arguably a scarier thing. Yuriko, you're paranoid. Go home.

YURIKO: So – so there's no, you know, wifi ghost? I don't know what to call the ghost – in the wifi wires? Or in this air? Nothing.

ED: No, I don't think so. I think we're fine.

KATH: I don't think so, yeah, I think we're okay.

ED: I think we're safe. I think it's just sort of a moderately priced B&B with bad facilities.

YURIKO: Okay.

ED: And silly taps. Thank you very much, Yuriko.

KATH: Yeah, thank you.

ED: Thank you for your story.

YURIKO: Thank you. What about the house? Do you think there's something behind it?

KATH: There's something amiss.

ED: There's something a little weird about the house.

KATH: Yeah, but –

ED: I wouldn't be surprised if we hear another story about this creepy house.

KATH: Mhm, yeah. Yeah.

ED: I think – I think the house – the house – there’s something weird about the house. There’s nothing weird about the wifi.

KATH: Yeah.

ED: So I think – I think the house is definitely – I believe – I believe the house is an evil presence. But I don’t believe in the wifi.

YURIKO: Oh.

ED: So I guess – I guess you’re like 50% in Spooktown lore.

KATH: Yeah, that’s fair.

YURIKO: Oh, that’s good.

ED: Yeah.

YURIKO: That’s okay.

KATH: Hope that helps with your paranoia.

YURIKO: Yeah, yeah. That’s the thing. Um, thank you. Because I was so worried, but I – yeah, it’s just in my head, isn’t it?

ED: Yeah. The wifi bit is, but the house isn’t in your head. It’s freaky. It’s a creepy house.

YURIKO: Oh gosh. Uhh...

ED: Right, well thank you very much, Yuriko. Are you – how are you getting home? Are you just getting back on the train, yeah?

YURIKO: Oh yeah, the train.

ED: Great.

YURIKO: And I'm going to eat lots of crisps.

KATH: Nice.

ED: Nice, yeah.

YURIKO: I like the journey.

ED: Thank you very much then.

YURIKO: Thank you so much and I hope to see you again soon!

KATH: Thank you. Yeah, yeah.

ED: Yeah, big time. Come back to Spooktown whenever you want. Obviously I don't know – maybe I'm saying come back to Manchester whenever you want.

YURIKO: I'll visit both.

[All laugh]

KATH: Thanks.

[Spooky music]

ED: That was nice.

KATH: Yeah. What are you up to now?

ED: Oh, me? Um, I've just got a Whatsapp from Nasty Nick. He's caught a ghost under a glass and he wants me to help him release it into the nature reserve. So I'm going to meet him there.

KATH: Cool, have fun.

ED: Thank you. Are you doing – did you want to come? Or are you busy?

KATH: I'll tag along.

ED: Okay.

[Spooky music]

This has been a Little Wander production. Music from Rhodri Viney. Local artwork from Suze Hughes. Voice by Melanie Walters. With special thanks to Beth Forrest, Steve Pickup, Sam Roberts, Henry Widdicombe, and Jo Williams. Other podcasts from Little Wander include Here to Judge and I Wish I Was An Only Child. Subscribe now on iTunes, Spotify, or wherever you get your podcasts.