



Ed Stone is Dead

Episode 1: Dead on Arrival

Script & words

ED

This thing's a death trap!

CARRIE

Ed Stone! Long Time. I thought you'd died. What happened?

ED

You dumped me and went out with Derek.

CARRIE

Oh yeah. But his name's Big D the Mack Daddy. He hates being called Derek.

ED

I know. So, Derek's DJ-ing our thing tonight and he sent me over to pick up his vinyl.

CARRIE

What, Derek - I mean Big D - trusts YOU with his records?

ED

What's not to trust? Have these hands ever let you down?

CARRIE

The time I found them down my sister's top?

ED

Whoaa.

CARRIE

And be careful. Some of those discs date back to the late 1990's!



ED

C'mon. You can do it. You the man Ed. You can do it. You can do it.

You can't do it. This is why they invented CDs.

ED

HOLY CRAP!!!

ED

Whew!

ED

Oh shi-

NIGEL

That's him. That's Ed Stone.

NIGEL

I still can't quite believe he's gone.

CORONER'S ASSISTANT

I felt the same way when George Clooney left ER.

But.....you adapt.

NIGEL

May I have a copy of the death certificate? Or my employer won't believe I was here.

CORONER'S ASSISTANT

And, again, you're his-

NIGEL

Brother.

Step. Half. Half step. All right - I was adopted. Could I have a few moments alone with...

CORONER'S ASSISTANT

Whatever.

NIGEL

What the hell were you doing? You couldn't have gone the other way!?! Who jumps in front of a bus to save themselves!!!



NIGEL
LOOK AT ME WHEN I'M TALKING!!

ED
Wow! What a dream!
Oh hi. I just had the worst dream since the one where
J.Lo said I wasn't her type...AARGHH! What is this?

NIGEL
What does it look like?

ED
It looks like Hannibal Lecter's kitchen, man. Why am I in
it?

NIGEL
I have some rather bad news for you, Mr Stone. You may
want to lie down. People are traditionally lying down when
I say this to them.

ED
Say what?

NIGEL
You're dead.

ED
I'm dead.

NIGEL
You were hit by a number 11 bus in Water Lane earlier
today. Death was almost instantaneous, time of death
estimated at...5.11pm.

ED
I'm...dead?

NIGEL
Yes.

ED
Ugh! I admit I've looked better... Who put you up to this?
Was it Scotty? It was Adam wasn't it? He works on
movies and stuff. This is makeup! Is this the set of that
hospital show? Is Duffy here? Can I meet her?



ED

H-how'd you do that?

NIGEL

Oh, I froze time. Just around the tray. But let's talk about you. You're dead.

ED

Sure I am. Look, who are you?

NIGEL

I am death. The grim reaper. The harvester of souls. But you can call me Nigel.

ED

The 'harvester of souls'...

NIGEL

Yes. Have you been to a harvester before?

ED

Nigel. And you're death.

NIGEL

Well, not death as such. I'm one of his reps. UK South East Mortality Division, Regional Sub manager. I mainly do London. It's a big job.

ED

I'm dead. I can't believe it. I mean, I'm young, I'm good looking; there was so much I was going to do...

NIGEL

Yes, about that...

ED

All the places I've never been. Sights I've never seen. Girls I've never...

NIGEL

Look, it just so happens that today's your lucky day. We're letting you go back.

ED

Huh?



NIGEL

Here's the deal. You are now frozen in time at the moment of death. So that wound...

Will never heal but the rest of you can't be injured. Unless you go more than six feet underground or throw yourself onto a funeral pyre, flames are a definite no-no. Oh and watch out for scavengers; jackals, vultures and so forth. But you want to hear the best part?

ED

There's a best part?

NIGEL

You'll never age. How cool is that?

ED

So I'm dead...but you're just gonna let me keep walking around? Why?

NIGEL

Did I mention the never ageing thing?

ED

Yeah, but-

NIGEL

No wrinkles, no sagging, no hair loss, nothing. You stay just as you are now. And all you have to do is: don't tell anyone. Ever. EVER. It's kind of a little experiment I'm doing and I haven't memoed head office yet and if they find out, we're in BIG trouble, you don't want to know. But it involves soul-devouring spectral hounds if you're interested at all.

ED

Huh?

NIGEL

So - we on the same page?
Excellent!

ED

Hold on. I'm not buying it. If I was dead-



NIGEL

You'll get used to it. There are a few TINY drawbacks, but nothing you can't deal with. And that's it. Gotta run. Urgent business.

ED

Right. Some other poor sod about to die...?

NIGEL

No, Buffy the Vampire Slayer's about to start and I forgot to set the video. Enjoy!

ED

Hold it!

ED

OWWW!

ED

Mr Smillie, do I look....dead to you?

MR SMILLIE

Dead? Hah! You young people don't even know you're born!.

SCOTTY

Ed Stone! Your moment has come! You must accompany me to-

ED

Don't start, Scotty. I've had a rough afternoon.

ED

One question. Do I look different to you? Do I...smell?

SCOTTY

Cool costume! I get stuck with the Grim Reaper but you went with the dark side of the moon...

SCOTTY

Dunno why I even got this costume. I look like Obi Wan Kenobi's grandma. Wish I hadn't come.

ED

You live here, Scotty.



SCOTTY

Don't remind me.

BETH

So, Macky D, this 'thing' with Carrie - it serious?

DEREK

She's my soulmate.

BETH

Yeah. Soulmate. Sure. But is it serious?

KATE

Er...Beth? Got a moment?

BETH

Kinda busy here, Kate.

DEREK

Ed! Am I glad to see you! Where's my vinyl?

ED

It looks a lot worse than it is.

ED

Okay, it is pretty bad.

BETH

Great, Ed. Thanks a lot. I really liked him! You could see what a caring, honest, devoted partner he'd make - once I'd got him to dump his fiancée. But that won't happen now - 'cause you've driven him out of the goddam' house!

And-

Oh NO! Now Scotty gets to put on his megamix tape!!

ED

Sorry, Beth, I-

BETH

Sorry? That's not good enough! It's Halloween! And according to legend, y'know what happens to people who don't have a date on Halloween?

ED

They don't get laid?



BETH

Exactly! So it really IS the scariest night of the year!

SCOTTY

I hope you haven't forgotten our little wager, Edwardo.

ED

What?

SCOTTY

You've got 'til midnight to finally put Kate Carter in the Stone Zone and I've got ten big ones that says you're going to crash and burn.

ED

Pound coins aren't actually 'big ones', Scotty.

SCOTTY

We're playing for pounds?

No it's fine. Look - she's already chatting up Dan!

KATE

I made the twiglet skeletons myself. They're anatomically correct, except - they're twiglets. Unlike a skeleton, which as you probably know is made of bones. I'm Kate.

DAN

Dan.

KATE

Can I get you a drink, Dan?

DAN

No thanks. Someone's already getting me one...

BETH

Hi Kate.

There you go, honey.

Back in one minute!

KATE

You can't go after Dan. You already said you were going to chat up Derek.



BETH

That would be wrong because a) he's in a relationship
b) he's not here and c) he's not here! Ed drove him away!
Dan's pretty cute, don't you think?

KATE

Yes! You remember me telling you last week I hoped Dan
could come to the party because, quote, he was pretty
cute??

BETH

So we agree on the cutability rating.

KATE

Beth. Who got you through the breakup with Nik? The
breakup with Tony. The breakup with Tim?

BETH

That was one helluva weekend.

KATE

Look, I'm asking as a friend: hands off Dan. He's just split
up with his girlfriend. He's in a highly vulnerable state right
now...

BETH

Excellent!

ED

Hey! Look what the babe fairy brought me! Kate, I need to
ask you something - if we were together but I stayed this
good looking always, would that bother you?

KATE

Ed...don't take this the wrong way, but if you were the last
man on earth - I'd demand a recount.

ED

There's a right way to take that?

SCOTTY

Great tortillas! And the cheese dip? To die for!



ED

That's a matter of opinion.
I can't taste anything!

KATE

Ed. You all right?

ED

Kate, I-I've got no taste!
But, um, you look great. You wanna dance?

ED

Scotty - some seriously weird stuff is happening to me. Do
I...look dead to you?

SCOTTY

Oh yeah. Yeah dude. Totally dead. Yeah. Really chillingly
dead.

ED

Really?

SCOTTY

Yeah. I mean, no. I mean - I dunno. I must be getting old.
Is 'dead' like 'bad' or 'P-H phat', or is it-

ADAM

Hey Ed. Scotty.

ED

Hi Adam.

ADAM

AARGH! What's going on?

SCOTTY

It's the party. The Halloween Party? So...what have you
come as?

ADAM

That's an interesting question, Scotty, because I've come
as stupid tossy guy who knew nothing about a party and
just came upstairs to watch the Weakest Link!!

SCOTTY

I'm missing Weakest Link?



ADAM

WHY WASN'T I TOLD? Do you hate me? Is that it? Why didn't you tell me?

SCOTTY

Well, you've been going out to a lot of job interviews, and you sleep all day and club all night, and-and Ed was s'posed to tell you!

ED

Oh, thanks very much.

ED

So. Kate. It's Halloween. Has anyone given you the willies yet?

KATE

Excuse me. I'm taking this snack over to Dan.

ED

Dan? Wasn't he talking to Beth? Where is Beth?

KATE

She went to the toilet.

GUEST

Come quick! Someone got locked in the toilet!

KATE

I'd better get this snack to Dan.

ED

Hold on! Don't you wanna dance?
Sure you do!

KATE

OWWW! That really hurt!

ED

Let Dr. Love kiss it better.
Hey! Just trying to help.



KATE

Ed, I'm a medical student. They've let me in on the big secret you can't 'kiss things better'. And talking of myths, where'd you keep getting the idea I'm interested in you as anything other than a friend?

ED

I look in the mirror. Face it Kate - you're hot. I'm hot. We're the two hottest people in this postcode.

KATE

It's a very small postcode.

ED

C'mon Kate - there's 10 quid riding on this. Tell you what - I'll split it with you! Let's take things to the next level.

KATE

You mean something physical?

ED

Oh yeah.

KATE

OK. How about this?

SCOTTY

Nice doing business with you.

BETH

So. Dan. You single?

DAN

Yeah.

BETH

Great. Well, that's enough small talk. Why don't we....?

DAN

Actually, I promised that I'd wait for Kate.

BETH

Kate? I'd keep away from her if I were you. She's got a pathological disorder.

DAN

But she seems so nice, I quite like her.



BETH

If she senses you like her - she'll go crazy! She'll squeeze your skull till your brains turn to guacamole and ooze out through your ears.

KATE

Sorry about that. Ed was trying it on again, so I smashed his face in.

Now where were we?

ED

Peter Piper Picked a Peck of Pickled Peppers.

TANYA

Ed Stone! How long is it?

ED

Um...I beg your pardon?

TANYA

Since we saw each other.

ED

A week?

TANYA

Much too long.

ED

Can I-?

ED

Nope. Let me-

ED

You're just like the cheese dip!

TANYA

That's so swee-what?!?

ED

That dip used to be so good!

TANYA

Call me!



BETH

Where do you work, Dan?

DAN

In a music shop.

BETH

Me too!

KATE

No you don't!

BETH

No I don't - but I like music!

KATE

Me too! I like it more than her.

Come and look at my CD collection.

BETH

No come and look at my CD collection....

DAN

New?

SCOTTY

Yep.

DAN

Cool.

SCOTTY

D'ywanna?

DAN

Sure.

SCOTTY

Nice one.

SCOTTY

Beer?

DAN

Cheers.



ADAM

I mean, if you're trying to tell me something - just come out and say it.

ED

I'm not trying to tell you anything - it was a mistake.

ADAM

Er - you do know you just ate the fridge freshening ball?

ED

Tasted like everything else...

ADAM

Ed...why didn't you invite me? Why did you keep this party secret?

ED

Secret? Come on, we all talked about it at the house meeting...

ADAM

Wait a minute! House meeting? What house meeting? Why wasn't I invited to the house meeting?

BETH

Ed! You worm!

ED

What have I done now?

BETH

Scotty's run off with my boyfriend.

KATE

He was not your boyfriend! He liked me!

BETH

In your dreams!

ED

Wait a minute. Scotty's run off with Dan? I don't believe it.

ADAM

Yeah. Scotty's not gay. Is he?



ED

It's not that. It's the running aspect I find hard to believe.

KATE

He lured him with his weird playstation playing ways.

BETH

You scared him off more like. He was mine.

KATE

He was not!

And he's the only decent man here.

BETH

Especially since Ed made the DJ leave. Why did you have to do that, walnut brain?

ED

I'm sorry, I...

BETH

You've ruined this party.

KATE

Yeah.

ADAM

Yeah.

ED

Okay - something is VERY wrong here!

NIGEL

NO! BUFFY! BEHIND YOU!

Ohhhhhh!!!

ED

Does Elton John know you're living in his bathroom?

NIGEL

Who are you? Don't answer that till the commercials come on!

Okay.

ED

Ed Stone. From the morgue. Remember?

You gave me your card?



NIGEL

And I think we can both see that was a mistake. Ed Stone.
How you been keeping?

ED

Terrible! I can't seem to connect to anything. Food has
lost its taste, alcohol has no effect - even making out
doesn't, you know...

NIGEL

No? Well, there's a simple explanation for that.

ED

There is? What?

NIGEL

You're DEAD! Didn't we cover this at the morgue?

ED

Don't give me that! I can't be dead. I went to a party. My
friends saw me. I can touch stuff. I snogged Tanya. Now
what have y-

ED

ARRRHGHHHH-
-huh?

ED

I - I'm dead? I'm really dead?! Oh my god!

NIGEL

You're not the sharpest tool in the box are you?

ED

I'm DEAD! I-I'm DEAD! OH GOD!

NIGEL

At least you're still walking around. You could be the other
kind of dead - horizontal with no TV privileges.

ED

That's - hold it. Why aren't I REALLY dead? Why me?

NIGEL

Er...you're our nine billionth customer?



NIGEL

It wasn't your time, Mr Stone. I wasn't coming for you, I was coming for someone else, only somehow...you ended up dead. No idea how - a trick of fate, an act of God...

ED

It was you! Right? You messed up!

NIGEL

No. Yes. A bit. Technically, I am an act of god. Anyway, I felt....slightly guilty, robbing you of 57 years, so I bent the rules. Kept you on earth.

ED

Why not just give me my life back?

NIGEL

Can't. It's gone. As soon as you die, your life/life force goes to Head Office, express delivery. That's why they haven't noticed the cock-up - they never count heads, just life forces. Now, I've doctored the paperwork so they won't suspect a thing - IF you keep shtum!

ED

Keep shtum!? Thanks to you, I've alienated my friends....lost all my hobbies...and I can't taste, or snog properly, or -

NIGEL

Certain autonomic and sensual responses have altered on account of you losing your life force.

ED

Huh?

NIGEL

Humans are binary creatures. On one hand, your soul: dreams, ambitions, higher impulses - The soul's the bit that 'goes on' as Celine Dion so beautifully put it. You've still got that bit. And on the other, your life force: appetites, base needs. I took your life force - basically cancelled your season ticket to physical needs; food, booze, you know....whatever else you used to fill your empty, Buffy-less existence with.



ED

What about my love life? That's out too I suppose?

NIGEL

Oh!. You can fall in love - that's your soul. And you'll still feel desire in the right circumstances. Which is actually quite lucky, all things considered.

ED

What 'things'?

NIGEL

Well, the rule. About you no longer being able to have....you know -

ED

What? Speak up!

NIGEL

Sex. You can't have sex.

ED

WHAAT?!? Why not?

NIGEL

One: you're dead. Which is traditionally, a bit of a turnoff for most women. And two: she'd die. Anyone who has sex with the undead must forfeit their own life.

ED

Oh, this just gets better and better.

NIGEL

Think of it as an itch you no longer have to scratch.

ED

But I liked scratching. I loved it. I'd scratch two, three times a night sometimes!

NIGEL

Well if you do start to feel the urge you absolutely **MUST NOT** act on it.

ED

You can't do this to me, man!. It's not fair. I need something to not live for.



NIGEL

Three words: Sarah Michelle Gellar.

ED

She's cute, but I don't think she's enough reason t-

NIGEL

No. She's back. Go.

See you in 57 years. Don't bother to keep in touch.

ADAM

Hey. I gatecrashed this great party last night. In my own house.

ADAM

I feel like death.

BETH

I'm a corpse till I've had my coffee.

KATE

Dan was a bit of a dead loss, wasn't he?

BETH

No he wasn't. He was drop dead gorgeous.

ADAM

I thought I'd die laughing when you two were fighting over him...

KATE

Mmm! These sausages are dead good!

ED

Scotty...I don't really feel like I...fit in anymore.

SCOTTY

Yeah?

Oh no! Where did he come from? Get off! Get off!

Have you played Cannibal Zombie Holocaust? It's brilliant.

You have to shoot the undead before they suck your brains out.

ED

The undead don't suck your brains out.



SCOTTY

Of course they do.

ED

And they object to the term 'zombies'. They prefer 'life-challenged'.

SCOTTY

Who cares what they prefer? They're monsters, they must be destroyed.

ED

Can you just stop playing for one second - this is important.

SCOTTY

So is this!

ED

But that's just a game!

SCOTTY

Just a game! I'm freeing this house of the Living Dead! Zombies have no place in East London! If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem!

ED

I see.

NIGEL

...you can't be injured...unless you throw yourself on a funeral pyre...flames are a definite no-no..

ED

Okay!

NIGEL

What are you doing?

ED

Who let you in?

NIGEL

Let me in? C'mon. I'm a celestial being of great ectoplasmic power. Plus your gate was open. What are you doing?



ED

What you should have done in the first place.

NIGEL

Please don't.

ED

Why not? I'm dead already. And what kind of life is death?

NIGEL

This is a mistake.

ED

Right. Your mistake. Remember?

NIGEL

I've said I'm sorry.

ED

No. Actually, you haven't.

NIGEL

All right, well I am s...

ED

Don't bother. What difference does it make?

NIGEL

What about my paperwork?

ED

I don't care about your paperwork. I don't care about anything any more. And no-one cares about me. So what's the point?

NIGEL

(loud ranting) Oh me, me, me. That is just so bloody typical.

ED

What?

NIGEL

Sodding mortals, you think you're so special, don't you? Based on what? Opposable thumbs, fire, a lucky guess



with the wheel and mobile text messaging? BIG DEAL!
Okay, occasionally you get it right, produce a Shakespeare...an Einstein ...a Tony Head. But the rest of you, strutting around with dreams way too big to achieve in your teeny tiny life spans! Pathetic! Look at you! 'Oh poor me, Dead Ed Stone. It's not fair.' Well boo hoo. I mean what difference does it make, really, in the scheme of things,eh? What were you going to do with the next 57 years that was so amazing anyway?

ED

Well I don't know, I mean, I thought I might...

NIGEL

What? Use the power of your wardrobe to reduce third world debt? Enrich humanity's cultural canon via a series of one night stands? Please.

ED

Hey you're way out of order fella.

NIGEL

Am I? So go ahead then, Ed. Do it. If you haven't even touched one person deep enough that no one will care. I certainly don't. And don't worry about me. I never liked this job anyway.

KATE

Ed?

ED

Hm?

KATE

Friend of yours?

ED

Kind of...he.. I..

KATE

Are you OK?

ED

Kate. What do you think of me? Honestly.

KATE

Oh God, Ed. I don't know...you're a..



ED

And don't hold back...

KATE

...self centered, egotistical, impossibly arrogant...

ED

Oh.

KATE

Come on. Let's go inside. Ed! Oh my God!

ED

Aaaaah!

Ow. Ouch.

KATE

Are you all right?

ED

Yeah, yeah. Wow. That was close.

KATE

You want me to kiss it better?

I thought I told you - it doesn't work.

ED

Oh and, you know, sorry about last night. It's just....I was so intoxicated by your charm and your beauty.

KATE

- that you tried to shag me for a bet.

ED

Um. It doesn't sound as romantic when you say it.

KATE

Ed, what am I going to do with you?

ED

Kate - it's what you can't do with me that's really tragic...

Words

Death trap
 Vinyl
 Top
 Discs
 Holy crap!
 Instantaneous
 The grim reaper, the harvester of souls
 Funeral pyre
 To memo someone
 Soul-devouring spectral hounds

Soulmate
 A wager
 Ten big ones
 Chatting up someone
 Recount
 Tossy
 Give someone the willies

To gatecrash
 A celestial being
 Sodding

dödsfälla
vinylskivor
överdel, blus
skivor
Milda makter!
ögonblicklig, omedelbar
liemannen, döden
likbål
att meddela någon
själsslukande spökhundar, hundar från
helvetet
själsfrände
ett vad (en vadslagning)
tio pund
flirta med någon
omräkning (av ex.vis röster)
värdelös
ge någon stora skälvan, göra någon
nervös
att planka in någonstans
en överjordisk (himmelsk) varelse
jävla