

STAY THE NIGHT

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Episode 2

EXT. NEWMAN HOUSE - DAY

NARRATOR

Ben and Ava pull up to a gravel driveway. The large house overshadows them. A Prius sedan sits out in the front from another guest. Ben exits the car gets their suit cases out of the trunk. Ava gets out of the car and pauses.

AVA

They better not be chatty.

BEN

What's wrong with chatty?

AVA

You and my father are the only people I know that like small talk.

NARRATOR

Ben leads them towards the house. Ava lags behind.

The old floor boards squeak under their feet. Pause.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Ben and Ava approach the front door. The door is ajar.

AVA

Do we knock?

NARRATOR

Ben shrugs.

BEN

I don't know, it's the South. Aren't people friendly around here?

AVA

Friendly, or they have guns.

NARRATOR

Ben opens the door.

INT. NEWMAN HOUSE - DAY

NARRATOR

The bed and breakfast is a traditional southern home, patches of mold on the ceiling, hard wood floors, floral wall paper, lace curtains. Family photos, clocks, and miscellaneous antiques everywhere. The house once in good condition, now appears dated and decaying. TODD is hunched over on his phone playing games. He looks like the kind of kid who would shoot up a high school and has a thick head of shaggy hair.

TODD

Whats up.

AVA

Are we in the wrong house?

MARTHA

Well hello there.

(Yelling.)

Dennis! Dennis! We've got guests.

NARRATOR

MARTHA, in her 60s, traditional woman with gray hair and wrinkles, walks out into the entrance to greet Ava and Ben. She has a dress and an apron on.

MARTHA

Hi, I'm Martha. You can call me Mrs. Newman. Welcome to my home. Y'all passing through? Need a place to stay?

BEN

Yes, I'm hoping you have a room open?

MARTHA

(Yelling.)

Dennis get out here.

(Normal)

My husband is just upstairs, taking care of some things. We've got a perfect room for the two of you. You can leave your luggage here.

(MORE)

MARTHA (CONT'D)

I can give you a tour, and introduce you both to our other guests.

AVA

We can just go straight to our rooms.

NARRATOR

Martha's smile drops.

BEN

A tour would be lovely.

NARRATOR

Ava shoots Ben a look.

MARTHA

How did you two hear about the bed and breakfast?

BEN

We stopped in town to get gas and stretch our legs. We ran into Deputy Nelson, he recommended the place.

MARTHA

Oh, I haven't seen that boy in quite some time. I need to call his mother and tell her to have him stop by. Nice boy. Not a lot of crime for our police department here. I'm proud to say.

AVA

He was putting up flyers for a missing woman.

NARRATOR

Martha brings Ben and Ava to a formal dining room with very traditional place settings. The table is set with floral table cloth, and china. On a cherry wood hutch are a bunch of family photos. Dennis and Martha's wedding in black and white. Ava looks at color photos of a strapping young teenage handsome boy with a beaming smile and warm eyes. Next to it is a photo of the local high school football team.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

In the team photo there's a younger Deputy Nelson huddled next to the same handsome teen.

MARTHA

This is our dinning room, I'll have to set the table for you two. I'm so happy to have you here. I always make plenty of food just in case we sell out our rooms. Dennis always nags at me telling me I'm wasteful. But this just goes to show ya.

BEN

What we will be having for dinner?

MARTHA

Oh, I have Martha's famous meatloaf, some corn casserole, and sweet potatoes, and I've got buttermilk biscuits from scratch. Everything is finishing up in the oven as we speak.

BEN

That sounds delicious.

NARRATOR

Ava nods. She looks around curious and sees a door.

AVA

What's in there?

MARTHA

Don't mind that dear. That's the basement. Off limits to guests. Mostly storage, old hunting trophies, furniture, things from another life.

NARRATOR

She leads them to the formal living room. Displays of hummel figurines, football trophies, and lace doilies are on every dusty surface. REGINA and RICHARD both in their late forties, huddled around the WIFI router that has been stuffed into the bottom of a hutch.

REGINA

Martha, we're trying to get the WIFI to work, Do you know how to fix it?

MARTHA

Oh Ava, Ben, these are our other guests. Regina, and Richard was it?

NARRATOR

Richard looks up and nods. Ben and Ava shake hands with Regina.

MARTHA

And of course you met their lovely son Todd as you were walking in. Such a fascinating boy. Do you two have any kids?

NARRATOR

Ava's face drains of color.

BEN

No ma'am. We don't.

MARTHA

Oh such a shame. A lovely couple like you should have a bushel! I bet the two of you would have nice, strong babies. Oh, and Ava has such pretty eyes. I would hope that a little one would have her eyes.. We have a son Dennis and I. Wonderful boy. He's not feeling well so he won't be joining us for supper. Nice strong lad. You'd like him Ben. If he was up to it, oh, he would take a football out back and-

REGINA

Martha, um, the WIFI? I was trying to get some e-mails sent out. And Richard, he has a deadline. Our phones doesn't have any service.

MARTHA

Well, that's the joy of being out in the country. You get to unplug, and unwind. Dennis and I have a land line.

NARRATOR

Martha points to a small side table with an old fashioned land line phone.

MARTHA

I'll have him call the folks that take care of all this. Dennis deals with all the yard work, and changing light bulbs.

(Normal.)

He can fix anything.

(Yelling.)

Dennis!

(Yelling.)

Our guests need you! Dennis!

DENNIS

Quit your yellin'.

NARRATOR

DENNIS walks in with a slight limp. He's a foot taller than Martha. A few years older than her. Once he was a strapping, now he has a head full of gray hair.

MARTHA

Oh, here he is! Dennis we have new guests. This is Ben, and Ava. Aren't they lovely?

DENNIS

Nice to meet ya. Martha, where's supper? I was expecting it to be on the table by now.

MARTHA

Oh, the meatloaf. Let me go check on that. Dennis can you show Ben, and Ava to their rooms? I'm sure they'll want to freshen up before supper. I've got to put the biscuits in.

REGINA

And the internet!

MARTHA

Oh yes dear. That too. We'll take a look after supper.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - SUNSET

NARRATOR

Dennis leads the way up the stairs.
Ben looks at his limping leg.

BEN

You don't have to walk us all the
way upstairs.

NARRATOR

Dennis pauses, patting his knee.

DENNIS

Oh this is nothing. Just a little
accident doin' some yard work.

NARRATOR

They get to the top of the stairs.
Dennis fumbles with the keys
opening the bedroom door for Ava
and Ben. It's a long narrow hallway
with several bedroom doors. Ava
notices another bedroom at the far
end.

AVA

Is that where the other guests are
staying?

DENNIS

No, that's Wyatt's room. Our son.
He's not feeling well. Maybe you'll
get to meet him later.

BEN

Is it contagious?

DENNIS

Naw, nothin' like that. He's just
restin' up. Had a bit of an
accident.

INT. AVA AND BEN'S ROOM - SUNSET

NARRATOR

Dennis opens the door to their
bedroom. Ava and Ben walk in and
looking around. The bedroom is
crowded, with dated maroon peeling
wall paper. Old furniture and
mismatched light fixtures.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

There's a traditional handmade quilt on the bed, knitted blanket, saggy pillows, and tacky decor.

DENNIS

Alright, I'll see you down stairs for supper. I expect you both to be members of the clean plate club.

BEN

We sure will.

NARRATOR

Ben opens his suit case. Ava sinks onto the bed, and sighs.

AVA

I didn't know what I was expecting, but not this.

BEN

It's not exactly the Ritz.

AVA

Please, you love it here. I'm half expecting you to ask that old couple to adopt you.

BEN

Nothing wrong with a little southern hospitality.

NARRATOR

Ava sits up. Ben goes to the bathroom. He comes back holding towels covered in stains.

AVA

Gross.

BEN

Yeah.

AVA

Want to go?

BEN

Think we'll get bed bugs?

NARRATOR

Ava climbs out of bed. Ben wraps her up in his arms.

BEN
I'm just kidding. They probably
change the sheets.

AVA
Probably!

BEN
Keep your voice down. What if they
can hear us?

AVA
I'm just not in the mood for small
talk.

BEN
I'll handle the small talk. You
work on smuggling some of those
biscuits upstairs for a late night
snack.

A buzzing noise emanates from the dresser.

BEN (CONT'D)
What's that?

NARRATOR
Ava opens up the drawer. Inside is
a smart phone. She turns the home
screen. A picture of a pretty woman
pops up.

AVA
Looks like a guest left her phone.
The battery is almost dead.

BEN
I can give it to the Newman's.

AVA
Wait.

AVA (CONT'D)
Isn't this the girl on the missing
posters?