

DWS AUDIO

“SUBURBAN TALES: BIRDS ON A WIRE”

CHARACTERS:

SHAZ...Elizabeth Waite

SHEL...Katie Blair

SAL...Catlin Storer

SHERI...Mia Thomas

HETTY...Emilia Cynarska

F/X FADE UP EXTERIOR ACCOUSTIC. BIRD SONG. FLAPPING WINGS.

SHEL Alright Shaz.

SHAZ Alright Shel.

SHEL What's going on?

SHAZ Just "hanging", you know; taking a butchers at the sunset.

SHEL Best view in the whole county.

SHAZ Best *telephone wire* in the whole county. (*Beat*) You seen anything of Sheri?

SHEL Flirting.

SHAZ Flirting? With who?

SHEL Dagenham Dave.

SHAZ (*Repelled*) Dagenham Dave?

SHEL She's not fussy.

F/X FLAPPING WINGS.

SAL (*Approaching*) Who's not fussy?

SHAZ Alright Sal.

SHEL Ooo nice hair.

SAL You like it?

SHEL What is that, some kind of product?

SAL Just water. Number 15 – they've installed a fountain. (*Beat*) You seen Sheri?

SHAZ She's flirting.

SAL With who?

SHAZ Dagenham Dave.

SAL (*Repelled*) Dagenham Dave?

SHAZ Can't see it lasting. Not with his bad breath and her smelly feet.

F/X FLAPPING WINGS.

SHAZ I give it a week. (*Stops, beat*) She's behind me isn't she? (*Beat, all smiles*) Alright Sheri.

SHERI (*Cold*) Alright Shaz.

SHAZ How's Dave?

SHERI He's asked me out.

SHEL And you said 'yes'?

SAL Where's he taking you?

SHERI Just a quiet, intimate little bird bath that he knows.

SAL There's a great new water feature at number 15 if you're interested.

SHERI Bit too fancy for my taste.

SHAZ Alright, we gonna do this?

SAL Hold up. Can't go until we're altogether.

SHAZ Who's not here yet?

SHEL Steph.

SAL Sam.

SHERI Sophie.

SHAZ (*Weary*) Okay.

SHEL Sarah, Sadie, Stella --

SHAZ (*Impatient*) Alright I get the picture.

SHERI Never get why we always have to fly together.

SHAZ Because we do, *that's* why!

SHERI Alright Shaz, keep your fur on.

F/X FLAPPING WINGS.

SHAZ Hold on, who's this?

SAL Looks like a sparrow

SHEL On *our* telephone wire.

SHERI The cheek!

SHAZ (*Calls out*) 'Scuse me brownie. I think you'll find that spot is taken.

HETTY Is it?

ALL Yeah.

HETTY I thought as no-one was sitting here... (*Beat*) It's a very nice sunset.

SHAZ And this is our telephone wire. So if you don't mind.

SHEL Yeah, bye bye little sparrow.

HETTY Can't I just stay here for a minute?

ALL No.

HETTY Just until the sun goes down?

ALL NO!

SHAZ Listen mush, this is our spot. Why would we want to share it with a little tiddler like you?

ALL Yeah!

SHAZ You aint even pretty to look at. What is that colour, a lighter shade of poop?

HETTY It's a speckled brown.

SHEL Ooo speckled brown. What kind of accent is that?

SHERI Think's she's posher than us.

HETTY No.

SHAZ Listen brownie, see this wire? This is reserved for good looking birds. And you're not a good looking bird.

ALL Yeah.

SHAZ See us? We're the good looking birds.

ALL Yeah.

SHAZ So we don't need no ugly birds hanging around here. Got it? *(Pause)* Did you hear what I said?

SHEL Didn't you hear what she said?

SAL Clear off.

SHERI We don't want you here.

HETTY *(Quiet)* No.

SHAZ What?

HETTY *(Clears her throat, brave)* I said 'no'.

SHEL Do you know who you're talking to?

HETTY You can't make me go.

SHERI You wanna bet?

HETTY I have as much right to be here as you.

SHAZ Listen mush, in a few minutes there's gonna be dozens of us on this wire. Dozens and dozens. What are you going to do then?

HETTY What are *you* going to do then?

SHAZ Do what?

HETTY I've seen you, every night, at sun down. Always the same.

SHAZ Push off little / sparrow.

HETTY / You think you're so tough, but you're just a bunch a sheep.

SHERI Er, I think you'll find we're Starlings.

HETTY You gather together, you fly off together. Always in your little gang.

SHEL I think you'll find it's a big gang.

HETTY Don't you ever do anything on your own?

SAL Sherrri's going on a date. Alone.

SHERI With Dagenham Dave.

HETTY Dagenham Dave? (*Amused*) He never goes anywhere without his brothers.

SHERI (*Interested*) Really?

HETTY Listen, you don't have to say everything she says, you don't have to do everything she does. You can think for yourselves you know.

SHAZ Don't listen to her. She's just jealous coz she don't have any friends.

F/X A MASS OF FLAPPING WINGS.

HETTY Here come the other sheep.

SHAZ What you gonna do now brownie?

HETTY I'm staying here. What are you lot going to do? Same as you always do?

SOPHIE (*Off mic, calls*) Oi, you lot coming? Oi!

 (*Pause*)

HETTY Well?

SHAZ Come on girls. Never liked this wire anyway.

SHEL Worst view in the whole county.

SAL Worst telephone wire in the whole county.

F/X MASS OF FLAPPING WINGS.

HETTY (*Whistles cheerily*)... (*to herself*) Glorious sunset. Should've brought my sunglasses.

F/X FADE.