

**Host**

royalty free 1950's instrumental music plays. a door opens and jingles a bell. footsteps.

Clerk

Ahhh WELCOME to Mad Mannie's Mattresses, Blankets, and Pillows, Sir, Ma'am. My name is Carlo (or a girls name, whatever) What can I do for you today?

Mark

Good morning to you! My wife and I are furnishing our first home together.

Clerk

Congratulations sir, you are a very lucky man so have such a beautiful woman on your arm.

Kelly

I own a worldwide import business and hardly need to be reduced to just a pretty face and cute figure, sir.

Mark

She's a firecracker.

Clerk

My apologies, please excuse my platitudes, I've only been here for a few weeks and am still trying to acclimate.

Kelly

oh, you've moved from abroad! How lovely.

Clerk

something like that. Are you in the market for a new bed or just linens?

Mark

Pillows actually. I heard from my buddy Sam that you have the best darn pillows on the whole east side.

Clerk

We certainly do! Our top of the line pillows are 5.99 a piece, or 8.99 for a set.

Kelly

Pretty steep prices for some pillows, friend!

Clerk

Oh yes ma'am, and well worth the price tag. I import the finest pillows into New York from abroad. My supplier can barely keep up with the demand, I sell so many. And I've never once had a return. I guarantee you won't find pillows like this anywhere else on the planet.

Mark

I don't know, honey. We can get a pillow for 2.79 at Sears Roebuck.

Kelly

Yes and I bet those pillows are flat, soft, and itchy. We'll take two sets please, and make sure you tie the boxes tight. I won't have my new pillows spilling out on the dirty street on the walk home.

Clerk

right away ma'am.

Kelly

What do I always say, darling? If you want a full experience-

Mark

You're going to have to pay for it. You're right.

(more royalty free 1950s transition music. don't worry about it sh sh shhh. Mark is ruffling around the sheets getting into bed. Kelly is brushing her teeth)

Mark

You were right about these pillows, honey. Wow! These things are practically cradling my head!

Kelly

Our bedroom set is complete. With those silk sheets, and the doileys for the end table lamps, our bedroom set is complete.

Mark

I sur am lucky to have a lady as sharp as a tack and pretty as whip.

Kelly(spits into sink. facut runs. she spits)

Let's give these pillows a good sleeping-on, and tomorrow we'll walk up to the park and share a malted.

Mark  
Hot dog!

(she gets into bed)

Kelly  
Saay, these pillows really are something else! I could almost swear they're warm to touch!

Mark  
Seems to good to be true!

Kelly  
So do you.

Mark  
aw.

(kiss)

Kelly  
Good night dear (lamp clicks off)

Mark  
Good night lovely. (lamp clicks off)

(a pause. a rustle. another rustle. a wet, licking sound. something being slowly sucked out a straw. spooky music or sfx to transition into the morning)

Mark  
(yawning) Mm...Good morning dear.

Kelly  
(waking up) mmm oh? already? I feel as if I had just gone to sleep! What time is it?

Mark  
oh it's- say! It's already half eight!

Kelly  
We must have slept clean through the alarm! And I still feel so tired.

Mark  
me too! Maybe our new bedding is TOO comfortable!

Kelly  
(chuckles) Oh you! Let's go for that walk to the park. That'll be just what we need to wake ourselves.

Mark  
don't have to tell me twice!

(they rustle out of bed. transition to the park. birds chirping, children laughing, etc. they are sharing a malted, occasionally sipping out a straw)

Kelly  
This malted really hits the spot.

Mark  
Mm! A nice treat on such a hot summers day.

Kelly  
it's strange...that sound the straw makes. I think I must have been dreaming about this last night.

Mark  
You know, I wa just going to say the same thing! All night I thought I was hearing the sound of a straw being sucked.

Kelly  
Why, we can't have had the same dream!

Mark  
Ha ha, I suppose not! Maybe it was just a slow drainpipe in one of the neighbors apartments. We were sleeping so deeply we must have thought it was a dream!

Kelly  
I still feel so fatigued though! This walk isn't helping at all I'm afraid. Maybe I'm coming down with something.

Mark  
Not unless I'm coming down with the same thing! I'm beat. Why don't we head home and

listen to Ozzie and Harriet.

Kelly

Alright. Maybe a glass of brandy will burn this bug out.

(the tail end of radio station outro. they click the dial)

Mark

That was a nice program.

Kelly

It was fine.

Mark

Still not feeling well?

Kelly

No I'm afraid not.

Mark

No, me niether. This brandy's just made my head swim. Why don't we call it an early night.

Kelly

that's sounds just fine to me.

(footsteps. door close. rustle rustle rustle. lamp clicks.)

Mark

good night dear.

Kelly

mm goodnight. Feel better.

(spook music/sfx begin again. rustling. murmuring this time. then the kissy noise)

Kelly (fussing)

Mmm stop that dear, I'm not feeling well. Go to sleep.

(kissy rustling continues.)

Kelly

Now I won't say it again. I know brandy gets your blood up but tonight I'm really just not well!

(now the straw like noise begins)

Kelly

Now there it is again! That's no drain pipe! What are you doing in the dark now?

(she clicks the lamp on. Kelly scream in disgust and horror)

Kelly

Oh!! Oh darling! What is that?? Get off him!

(she bats at the pillow with thumps)

Kelly

It's the pillow! It's attached itself to your head and it...oh god it's sucking out your brains!  
Where are the others??

(the pillows ooze about, squirming and making little 'meezrack' noises.)

Kelly

Oh no! We bought too many! They're every where!

(rustling thumps, she falls out of bed and runs to the door.)

Kelly

I'm so sorry my darling! Ahh! Stay away!

(the pillows have advanced. She slams the door closed. the pillow thump and waller, trying to get out.

Kelly

Oh dear! Oh my sweet man! What they've done to you! Wait...wait the clerk said he imported these pillows..and he could barely keep up with the demand! I must warn him!  
Who knows how many people have had their brains sucked out by their bedding!

(the front door slams and she runs out. transition noises. she's on the street, a car passes. she bangs on the door again and again until it unlocks and opens, the bell chimes again.)

Clerk

Why hello miss, what a surprise to see you again. And at this hour! You're lucky I live in the apartment above my shop, or you would have been out there all night!

Kelly

Carlo! It is Carlo, isn't it? You must listen! Those pillows you sold us! My husband and I haven't been sleeping well, and tonight, just now- oh my..i'm suddenly so fatigued. It must be the shock.

Clerk

Oh yes miss. Please come, sit down. Now what's all this about my pillows? What brought you back here in the middle of the night?

Kelly

This will sound mad, I know. But the pillows! At night they come alive, they sap our very essence! My poor husband is at this very moment lying bed, eyes wide and skin sallow as his pillow burrowed into his head and sucked out his brain for food! I only just got away!

Clerk

Will, now that is difficult to believe, indeed!

Kelly

You must believe me! You must stop selling those pillows at once! We have to find all your customers and warn them! We have to find out who's doing this, your supplier is selling you monsters!

Clerk

I think you misunderstand, miss. I have no supplier. I provide my wares myself, imported from abroad.

Kelly

What I- I don't follow.

Clerk

The pillows I sell are my people. We come from abroad, as I said, but from far far away. The planet Mars, as you call it.

Kelly

No..

Clerk

We need a new home and we like what you've done with the place. We don't want to eat your brains for food. That's ghastly.

Kelly

What...what do you mean?

Clerk

We can't well live in your cities and operate your cars and go to your picture shows as white blobs no bigger than a dog! We aren't eating your brains, we remove them entirely, and enter your skulls. We then live out your bodies life cycle until it rots off and we find a new host and begin again.

Kelly

Rot off, you mean you're hijacking our bodies? You're invading our world??

Clerk

Just this town so far. But now that we have a woman who owns a worldwide import business, I expect a rapid expansion to every corner of the planet!

Kelly

no! Nooo! NOOOO!

(clerk laughs. the pillowy 'meezrack' sound emerges. Kelly screams and scuffles, but her muffled cries are subdued with a sickening sucking sound.)