

CUCKOO

SERIES THREE

EPISODE 1: "BIRTH"

SHOOTING SCRIPT

05.06.2015

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Huge skyscrapers loom above the Yangtze river delta.

DALE (V.O)

Dear Chief Ken, I am writing you
from the city Shanghai in a
country the local people call
China.

2 INT. SHANGHAI BUILDING, CORRIDOR. DAY 1. 1600 2

Dale strides along the corridor, in an expensive business suit with a bag of groceries under one arm.

DALE (V.O)
Sorry I took off at Christmas *
without saying goodbye. After
Rachel decided not to be with me, I *
had a lot of thinking to do.

Dale reaches his door, gets his keys to open his apartment.

DALE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Lichfield, England is often on my *
mind. But Lady Luck's been kind to *
me these six months. I have a place
to live and a top job in the
Shanghai business community. Yes,
Chief Ken... *

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3 SCENE OMITTED 3

4 INT. SHANGHAI BUILDING, DALE'S APARTMENT. DAY 1. 1602

4

Dale enters, cheerfully singing. The modest apartment is high up, with city views.

He takes his groceries to the kitchen. There is a photo of the Thompson family on the fridge. He picks up a letter addressed to Lichfield, UK, (the letter we are hearing read), and seals the envelope.

DALE (V.O.)
...I can say at last with
absolute certainty that
everything is going my way!

REVEAL three huge menacing Chinese thugs standing in his apartment. They are, in order of ferociousness, HWANG PENG, LIU HONG and WU LI. One of them has dreadlocks.

Dale looks up at them surprised, but not fazed. Inexplicably, he can talk to the Chinese gangsters in English, and still understand them when they talk in Chinese.

DALE
Oh hey guys! Good party last
night? It was your birthday,
right Hwang? Too much rice wine?
You little tearaway!

*
*
*

HWANG nods.

DALE (CONT'D)
(counts gangsters)
Let's see. Three nice cool ones -
coming right up.

*

Dale gets beers from the fridge. Meanwhile, the gangsters draw themselves up to full height, taking out an array of terrifying weapons - nunchucks, blackjacks, baseball bats.

CHINESE GANGSTER ONE
(SPEAKS ANGRY CANTONESE)

*

SUBTITLE: "You fool around with Mr. Xi's Property! Now, you must pay the price!"

DALE
Oh! (WORRIED) I guess he found
out, huh? Is he real mad?

The gangsters advance on Dale...

*

DALE (CONT'D)

Guys, I just wanna say. I rate you
all. You're great competitors. But
we don't have to do this...

*
*
*
*

They attack with their deadly weapons.

*

To anyone else this would be terrifying, but Dale is
incredibly agile, and remains cheerful throughout, evading
their blows, and using his groceries to incapacitate them.
During the fight, he may even use the one guy's dreadlocks
against him.

Through the fight, he might say things like:

DALE (CONT'D)

That's so unfair, I taught you
how to nunchuck.

DALE (CONT'D)

Oh dragon-style! Very nice, Hwang
Peng?

DALE (CONT'D)

Well, should have known you'd
jump right up and attack again -
you have such spirit, Liu Hong.

At the end, two huge thugs lie unconscious on the floor.
Only one is left: WU LI. Wu Li charges - mouth wide open in
a blood-curdling scream.

Dale takes a lychee from his groceries and throws it
straight down Wu Li's throat. Wu Li stops and chokes.

DALE (CONT'D)

OK, guys. Well, we'll laugh about
this someday, but for now - maybe
I should get on a plane.

One of the guys, almost unconscious on the floor goes for his
gun. Without breaking a sweat, Dale steps on his wrist and
incapacitates him. The gun goes off - a bullet hits the
fruitbowl next to Dale. A very close shave.

DALE (CONT'D)

Yep. Let's go with 'plane'.

*

He slips out. Close on Dale's letter - unsent, with the
Thompsons' name and address...

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5 INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, KITCHEN. DAY 2. 1830

5

Lorna is heavily pregnant. She watches anxiously as Ken talks on the phone.

KEN

(on phone, panicked)

Forty minutes?! Listen mate, my wife is on the verge of giving birth and... Twenty minutes! OK. We can hold on till then.

(RELIEVED LOOK TO LORNA, THEN TO PHONE) Yep, I'll have a Prawn Jalfrezi. Mixed Meat Balti. Naans - garlic-keema-plain.

*

DYLAN

Tandoori special.

KEN

(how did he forget?)

My MIND IS GOING! And a Tandoori special for four. Well remembered, Dylan.

*

Lorna looks at him reprovingly. He puts the phone down.

KEN (CONT'D)

What? The bump's a week late. Curry helps induce labour.

*

*

LORNA

(amused)

We've had it three times this week, greedy guts.

KEN

I'm not being greedy here. This is one of the rare occasions the best way is also the tastiest way. And you need your energy. Be tough when the baby comes.

*

*

*

LORNA

Yeah. Ken, you know these new branches we're opening in Sutton Coldfield? Rachna asked today if I'd oversee them. Sort of head honcho.

*

*

*

*

*

*

KEN

Great news, gorgeous! Well deserved, might I say!

*

*

*

LORNA

Thanks Ken! They want me to start straight away.

KEN

Yes. (BEAT) Hang on.

LORNA

So I was thinking this time round - third time round - you might handle the baby duties. Take Paternity Leave.

Ken looks startled. Dylan perks up.

DYLAN

Oh this is jokes!

KEN

Paternity Leave? No, I don't think so!

LORNA

Interesting. Why not?

KEN

Well...(THINKS) Very late to decide! You've kind of sprung it on me!

LORNA

Right! Sort of like you sprang a baby on me. By lying about your vasectomy.

DYLAN

And that's the knockout!

KEN

Well, there are other reasons...which are momentarily elusive. (BEAT) In theory why not? Thing is - I would have to ask the other partners. And I am HUGELY important to the firm. A kind of king to them, in my humble way.

LORNA

Great! So you'll ask them tomorrow!

KEN

Sure, I will. I'll ask.

Lorna leaves the room. Pause. Ken looks torn and annoyed. Dylan sniggers.

DYLAN

(mimicking him)

Going to look after the baby.
Going to give it its bockle and
wear a pinny and be the "pwimawy
cawer".

KEN

Shut it. I'm not even going to
mention this at work. As soon as
your mum sets eyes on that baby,
and that oxytocin hormone starts a-
flowin', all thoughts of Paternity
leave will leave her mind. Just
gonna ride it out.

*

*

*

DYLAN

Wow, sweet plan, Dad. Give me
twenty quid or I'll tell Mum.

*

*

Ken sighs, gets out his wallet, and gives him twenty quid.

KEN

Dylan, when you go to university
and leave this house...

DYLAN

Yes. What?

KEN

Nothing. Just a wonderful
thought!

The doorbell rings.

6 INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, FRONT DOOR/HALLWAY. DAY 2. 1832 6

Ken opens the front door.

KEN
Finally. Yummy yum... Oh sorry,
sir. Thought you were the
curry...

There is a MAN at the door, wearing a beautiful dark Armani
suit, a high lustrous Eighties quiff, carrying an expensive
looking briefcase, and designer sunglasses.

He smiles and removes his sunglasses. It's DALE.

KEN (CONT'D)
Dale? What the hell?

DALE
Chief Ken! Long time no see!

They take a moment. Grin at each other.

7 EXT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, DRIVEWAY/BEN'S CAR. DAY 2. 1840 7

Ben and Rachel pull up outside the house.

BEN
Touchdown at Thompson Towers! And
so concludes another mighty
session in the drinking
establishments of Lichfield!

*

RACHEL
Thanks for being designated driver.
Must be boring not drinking.

*

BEN
You know me! Couldn't be boring
if I tried.

RACHEL
Awww! So glad we stayed friends.

BEN
Best friends. Besties.

RACHEL
Could easily have been weird,
with us almost being engaged...

BEN
Well, technically, we were engaged.
You said yes.

*

RACHEL
Yeah, but then I said no about ten
seconds later.

BEN
Exactly. So we were engaged - for
ten seconds. We were... (BREAKS
OFF) This doesn't matter! The point
is you're still the love of my
life. It's just you're the FRIEND
love of my life.

RACHEL
Feels right doesn't it. I think
it's because it never really got
that good for us sexually did it?

BEN
(sucks it up)
Yes.

Ken has come to the car from the house.

KEN
(calling out)
Rachel! (TO BEN) Hi Ben!
(MORE)

KEN (CONT'D)
(TO RACHEL) You have to come in!
Dale's back!

Rachel looks like she's been punched in the stomach. So does Ben.

Oh my god. RACHEL Oh fuck off! BEN *

Ken heads back indoors.

RACHEL
Ben, how do I look?

BEN
Not your best. Maybe stay in the
car. Wait until he's gone away
again.

RACHEL
I'm going in! Wish me luck! *

BEN
(pathetically)
Yeah! You go girl! *

Rachel skips in eagerly. Ben drops his head on the car horn. It sounds out loudly. Rachel turns.

BEN (CONT'D)
(cheerfully)
Have fun! *

8 INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, KITCHEN. NIGHT 2. 1900

8

The family eat their massive curry together.

Rachel and Dale share a glance. Rachel's pretty awestruck by this change in him.

DALE

Oh my Lord! Yum, yum all in my tum.
One thing I've missed while out in
Asia. Good curry.

*

LORNA

Dale, you look SO nice in your
suit. Doesn't he, Rach?

RACHEL

Yep. Yep. Very nice.

DALE

Thank you, Lorna. Mr Xi had this
suit made for me personally. Mr
Xi is my new mentor. Oh, what a
wise and inspirational man!

*

*

LORNA

Right. He's not...another cult
leader is he...

DALE

(laughs)

Oh no, Lorna, I learnt my lesson
on that one! I was so
impressionable back then huh, you
must have thought I was a real
dope!

LORNA

We did not!

KEN

(sort of...)

Hmmm?

DALE

No, Mr Xi is a successful business
man. He worked his way up from the
bottom, fought hard, and now has
interests all over Shanghai. I
guess he saw a kindred spirit in
me. I worked for him almost six
months and I learned a helluva lot.

*

LORNA
(suspicious, digging)
So, with everything so great out
there - what brings you back to
Lichfield?

DALE
(looks at Rachel)
Well, once a man has found
success in his work, his
attention turns to matters of the
heart...

*
*
*
*

Lorna knows exactly what he's talking about. She glances
significantly at Rachel too.

RACHEL
Dale doesn't have to go into this
right now.

*
*
*

LORNA
Well, you can stay as long as you
like... Only, we're doing up your
room for the baby, so you'll have
to sleep in Dylan's room.

*
*
*

DYLAN
That isn't happening.

KEN
Great! We can put the old bunk beds
in there.

DYLAN
No. We can put the old bunk beds in
your ass.

Dale slaps him round the face.

DALE
Insubordination!

KEN
(smiles approvingly)
Good to have you back, Dale. (TO
DYLAN) Move your bed out yourself.
I am not touching your clammy
mattress.

*

9 INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, KEN AND LORNA'S BEDROOM. NIGHT 2. 21109

Ken and Lorna in bed.

LORNA

He's come back for Rachel! It's
finally happening! Love is in the
air, Ken!

*
*
*

KEN

Well, she could do worse. Good lad
is Dale. No brainbox - but he gets
stuck in.

*

LORNA

Wouldn't want Rach to move to
China... Although it is a growing
economy, I read.

KEN

I dunno. Rachel's in a rut right
now. Maybe change would be good
for her. And if it's Dale... who
cares if he's her dead husband's
son by a teenage one-night stand?

LORNA

...as the song goes!

They giggle.

10 INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, DYLAN'S ROOM. NIGHT 2. 2115 10

Dale is building the bunk beds at mega speed. Rachel appears at the door. Dylan is listening to music in his headphones. Rachel appears at the door.

*
*

RACHEL

Hey.

DALE

Hey! Me and Dylan are just buildin' up these beds, mom!

*

RACHEL

Yeah, do you think it's time to drop the 'mom' thing? Now, you're back. And since we have had sex.

DALE

OK, mom. Guess I'll call you, Rachel. Or Rach. (THINKS) I like both!

*
*

RACHEL

Dale, I've been thinking. Last time, you left so suddenly, and I felt we - you and me - had some... talking to do.

DALE

I'm so glad you said that! There's SO much to say isn't there?

RACHEL

Loads, yeah. SO maybe we could go out, do it properly? There's a neat, little Italian just popped up on the High Street.

DALE

Cool! What does he want?

*

RACHEL

It's a restaurant not a person.

DALE

OK! Great idea! Really missed you, mom. (CORRECTS HIMSELF) Rach!

*

RACHEL

Me too. Night.

DALE

Night.

Rachel leaves. Out on Rachel's face. She does a little excited dance.

11 **EXT. LICHFIELD STREETS. DAY 3. 0910**

11 *

Ken and Lorna run into Jess, an attractive heavily pregnant woman in her late thirties.

JESS

Hey! How are my NCT homies?

KEN

Ah, Jess, good to see you!

LORNA

How's it going?

JESS

Oh, you know - ready to pop. And Mark's still in Dubai, so... yeah. Poor, deserted, pregnant Jess.

LORNA

Oh, it's a crying shame.

JESS

Well, he sends cheques. Maybe I should buy a man in! How much for this one?

Lorna laughs. Ken laughs.

LORNA

Too much for anyone. I sell by the pound!

Everyone laughs.

KEN

Ha ha... (ANNOYED) All right.

LORNA

We're actually overdue now. Hard not to get anxious about it...

JESS

Oh well, friend of mine swears the only thing that works is nipple stimulation.

KEN

Maybe we should try it.

JESS

Us? Ken, you are naughty!

KEN

No, no. Hell, no. I mean - Lorna
and me.

JESS

(terrible embarrassment)
Of course! Of course! You two are
the sweetest! Could eat you up!
Anyway, gotta run, bye! See you
on the other side!

Lorna scowls as Jess goes away.

LORNA

She is the worst!

KEN

(fondly)
I like her.

LORNA

Because she fancies you.

Ken looks at her. Smiles.

KEN

I love you for even thinking it's a
possibility.

12 INT. KEN'S WORKPLACE, KEN'S OFFICE. DAY 3. 1000

12

Ken is at his desk. Ben appears at the door.

BEN
Ken, how goes it down the old
Thompson ranch?

KEN
Not bad, Benjamin.

BEN
(fishing)
So Dale's back!

KEN
They're going for dinner
tonight...

BEN
That's so great - good to see
they're wasting no time.

KEN
OK, Ben...

BEN
What?

KEN
Hope this doesn't sound too
direct, but drop this pathetic
charade. Get some distance, mate.
You're just hurting yourself.

BEN
Don't get you, Ken. Why would it
hurt spending time with your
bessie mate? THIS is hurting
myself.

He grabs a staple gun and staples his own arm.

BEN (CONT'D)
Ow! Jesus! So I won't do that.
But hanging out with Rachel? No
problem there. (BEAT) Where are
they having this date tonight?

KEN
New Italian on the high street.

BEN
Solid. They do a carbonara to die
for.

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

13 INT. KEN'S WORKPLACE, COMMITTEE ROOM. DAY 3. 1530 13

Ken is at the head of the table. He has his feet up on the desk, totally comfortable. He's bouncing a ball against the wall, and not even bothering making eye contact. *

Jane sits at the other end. All the other partners are turned towards Ken, as towards the Sun King. *

KEN
(catching the ball)
Yeah! So if I can sum up here:
Adrian cocked everything up and now
they're suing us. *

ADRIAN
Not a great result, Ken. But I gave
it a hundred percent. *

KEN
(SARCASTIC) Well, as long as you
tried. Guess muggins here will have
to bail you losers out again. *

ADRIAN
Would you, Ken? *

KEN
(finishing)
My pleasure. OK, meeting over. *

Everybody's about to get up to leave.

BEN
Wait everybody!... Er, Ken aren't
you forgetting something? *

KEN
No, Ben. Don't think I am. *

BEN
(rolls his eyes)
Come on all of you - sit down! Ken,
you drongo, you forgot to ask for
Paternity Leave... *

KEN
(look of worry)
What are you doing? *

BEN
Don't worry. Lorna texted me to
remind you. So, everybody, Ken
really, really wants six months
paid leave to look after his baby. *

Everybody turns to look at Ken, astonished. *

JANE

You do realise you're meant to
give six weeks notice? That is
really putting us in a position.

*
*
*

Ken reads the room. It's not going to happen - brilliant.

KEN

Aw! So, it's impossible. A hard
blow. Well, Ben, probably text
Lorna and say I was turned down.
Great, so...

*
*
*
*

JANE

On the other hand... It *would* be
an inspiring example to the
female workforce. I think I like
it.

*
*
*

ADRIAN

Jane, are you on crazy pills? We
can't do without Ken. He's the Big
Daddy. The Grand Old Duke of Law.
He makes it rain like bloody
nimbostratus.

*

KEN

Looking at this objectively, I do
see Adrian's point.

*

JANE

Oh I don't know. We're big boys
and girls. We can handle it.

*

BEN

We'll be FINE.

He gives Ken a thumbs up. Got your back, partner. Ken panics.

KEN

Brave words, guys. But let's not
be cursory. Adrian, maybe unpack
what you were saying.

ADRIAN

Well, I don't know...

*
*

KEN

You do. Come on. Why *SHOULDN'T* I
go on Paternity Leave? Say
something, you wet!

*
*

ADRIAN

Er... Ken's the rainmaker.

KEN

You've said that one.

JANE
Let's just vote. All those for
Ken's paternity leave!

*

Jane, Ben and one other partner put their hands up.

JANE (CONT'D)
Three for. And against?

Adrian and one other partner put their hand up.

Ken sees the way the wind is blowing. Desperate, he sticks
HIS hands up.

ADRIAN
Three against. (REALISES KEN IS
ONE OF THEM, CONFUSED) And Senior
Partner has casting vote...?

The whole room looks at Ken in total confusion.

JANE
Ken, are you voting against your
own paternity leave?

He looks around. Everyone thinks he's being VERY strange.

KEN
Must have got confused. Obviously,
I'm voting *for* it. Because that's
what I want.

*

JANE
Great, so Ken's taking Paternity
Leave. While he's away, I suppose
I'll have to take the reins.

*

*

*

*

Almost immediately, everyone's chair now faces away from him
and towards Jane.

*

*

JANE (CONT'D)
Fantastic! OK, well I suppose, see
you in six months, Ken!

*

*

*

She walks out the room, does a little skip of joy. Ken looks
at Ben: you utter tit.

*

*

14 INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, LIVING ROOM. DAY 3. 1620 14

Lorna is hugging Ken as Rachel and Dale come downstairs. *

LORNA

Aw, I love you! (SEES RACHEL AND
DALE) Guys, it's official! Once
the baby's popped, Dad's going to
be primary carer. *

DALE

I don't know what that is, but
congratulations Chief Ken! *

RACHEL

That's really cool, dad. See you
later! *

Rachel and Dale go off together. *

LORNA

(to KEN)

You are quite something, Ken
Thompson. What other husband would
just drop his career like that
because it was the fair thing to
do? *

KEN

True. I'm a great guy. (BEAT)
Having said that - now I've shown
my willingness to do Paternity
Leave, maybe that's enough. Maybe
it's time to ask the question -
what happens if I in fact don't do
Paternity Leave. Would that better?
Maybe it would! *

Lorna slowly lets go of the hug. *

LORNA

Ken, grow up. Just because you take
time off to look after your own
child does not make you less of a
man. *

DYLAN

I dunno - he's already had his
balls lopped off. Pattern emerging. *

KEN

It's not that, it's just...(SMALL
VOICE) I like being Senior Partner.
Also, you're better at child-care,
you've had loads of experience. *

LORNA
Because I did everything with
Rachel and Dylan!

*
*
*

KEN
And what a great job you did! Look
at this strapping boy... (HE GRABS
DYLAN) With his place to do media
studies, and his... sly mind.
Doesn't it make you wanna do it all
over again?

*
*
*
*
*
*
*

The doorbell.

*

LORNA
You are not getting out of this.

*
*

15 **SCENE OMITTED**

15

16 INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOUSE, FRONT DOOR/HALLWAY. DAY 3. 162316

Ken opens the door. Steve has his medical bag with him, and walks in immediately.

STEVE
Well hello there, Ken! Lorna!

*

KEN
We're busy. Go away.

*

STEVE
Not a social call, Ken. As your family doctor, I'm here to check on my patient. (HE SMILES AT LORNA, BEAT) Haven't seen you two much since Connie ran off again! You know, I'm just up the road now. Come round. Check out my new hot-tub. Got it half price - the previous owner drowned in it.

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

He begins to delve in his bag.

*

KEN
Steve, we're using a doctor at the hospital.

*

*

STEVE
Tsk. Not gonna trust those quacks at the so called "hospital" are you, Ken. (AS IF TELLING A RIDICULOUS ANECDOTE) I was *kicked* out of the hospital for alleged malpractice. They won't let *me* within 20 yards of the place. So there we go. That's how stupid hospitals are! (SMILES) Let's have a look.

He looks at Lorna's belly.

*

STEVE (CONT'D)
(as he listens)
OK. In my professional opinion, this baby could be coming out any day now! (EARNEST) Am I right?

*

*

LORNA
It's a week late. We're getting a bit anxious.

KEN
Don't encourage him.

*

*

STEVE

A while back now I rejected
Western notions of medicine, got
into Eastern methods:
reflexology, acupuncture, ancient
science. Lorna, I have a trick to
get that baby out of you like a
rat from a trap.

*
*
*
*
*
*

LORNA

Does this method involve you
touching me in any way?

STEVE

(chuckles)

No. (BEAT) I mean I could. (OFF
HER FACE) But no, fine without.

*

LORNA

Can't hurt! I'll read Marie
Claire while you get on with it.

*
*

STEVE

(formally)

Thank you for this opportunity.
(TO HIMSELF) You're back, Steve.
You're back!

*
*
*

17 INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOUSE, LIVING ROOM. DAY 3. 1624 17

Lorna reads her magazine, absorbed. Steve is wearing a purple bib over his normal clothes, and dangling a large sword in one hand. He downs a tumbler of whiskey. *

STEVE
Rah! And we begin! *

He hands the sword to Ken. *

STEVE (CONT'D)
OK, so hold that pointing to the sky like you're at Giza or Karnak. It's your job to align the energy fields. Align them, Ken. Align the energy fields. *

Ken holds the sword upright in his right hand. What the hell is this? Lorna looks at Ken and giggles.

Steve stands looking at Lorna.

STEVE (CONT'D)
OK, Lorna. Look at me.

Lorna looks at him. He moves his head to the left, making a quiet, strange noise. Lorna keeps eye contact.

He moves his head to the right.

He makes series of judo-like moves over Lorna, then a gesture of power towards her belly.

STEVE (CONT'D)
Hip. Si. Bin. YAH!!!

A silence. Lorna looks apprehensive then disappointed.

KEN
You blew my mind, Steve. *

LORNA
(giggling)
Oh, you silly beggar, you're just not... OH MY JESUS CHRIST!! *

Lorna's waters have broken.

LORNA (CONT'D)
Ken, it's happening. Come on!
It's happening!

KEN
Oh Christ. Where are my keys?

STEVE
(whispered to himself)
Victory.

Ken rushes out. Lorna stumbles to get her coat. Steve looks genuinely shocked by his own power.

STEVE (CONT'D)
Victory!!!!!!!

Out on Steve's villainous face.

18 **EXT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOUSE, DRIVEWAY/KEN'S CAR. DAY 3. 1626**18

Ken's bundles Lorna into his car, while on his phone.

KEN

(to phone)

Ben, Rachel's not picking up -
would you swing by the
restaurant, get her to the
hospital? Thanks mate.

LORNA

Ken! Hurry!

Ken gets in the car. Steve runs out.

STEVE

Be fair, Ken - let me finish the
job. I'll deliver it. Freebie.

*
*

The car drives off.

*

STEVE (CONT'D)

(shouting after them)

Call the baby Steve! Call it Steve!

19 INT. ITALIAN RESTAURANT. DAY 3. 1700

19

Dale and Rachel are on their dinner date.

DALE
You would love the food! There's a
dish called Chicken Chop Suey. You
have never tasted the like!

*
*
*
*

RACHEL
Makes me miss travelling, listening
to you.

*
*
*

DALE
Travelling's fun! You should do it
more.

*
*
*

RACHEL
Who would I go with? (BEAT) So -
you heading back to China soon?

*
*
*

DALE
Well, it kinda depends on what
happens now I'm here.

*
*
*

Beat.

*

DALE (CONT'D)	RACHEL
I wanted to talk to you about	We have to talk about
Christmas.	Christmas.

DALE (CONT'D)
Oh! Spooky! You first!

RACHEL
No, you. Just say what you feel.

DALE
I was so cut up when you said we
couldn't be together. See - I was
taught to believe that each person
on earth is given only one love. It
was so confusing! I had to go away,
work it out.

*
*
*
*
*

RACHEL
And did you? Work it out?

*

DALE
Well sorta. (THINKS) I suppose I
just got to believe in second
chances.

*

RACHEL
Second chances are good.

*

She smiles shyly. He smiles back.

DALE

Great! (BEAT, LOOKS AT HER) I have
fallen for a truly special girl.
Someone who's beautiful. And kind.
And clever. And funny.

*
*
*

RACHEL

(flirting, loving it)
Oh yeah? What's her name, this
girl?

DALE

Ling. She lives in Shanghai, China.

RACHEL

Who the fuck is Ling? I mean -
(NICELY) Ling?

*
*

DALE

She's Mr. Xi's daughter. We fell in
love but Mr Xi was not cool with
it, so he had me chased out of
town. Now, I've got to lie low till
Ling talks her dad round. Then I'll
go back to China and we'll be
together forever!

*
*
*
*
*
*
*

RACHEL

Right. So you're in love with Ling.
And you're only here to hide out
from her dad. This is great!

*
*
*
*

DALE

I knew you'd be happy! I mean -
think - there I was, last
Christmas, following you round like
a lovesick puppy! But now it can be
Dale and Mom - friends again,
without even the faintest hint of
weirdness! Wait, what did YOU want
to say about Christmas?

*
*
*
*
*
*
*

RACHEL

Erm... I wanted to say...

Suddenly a shout from the other side of the room.

BEN

Rachel! Stop!

Ben is walking quickly over to them. Rachel turns - so
grateful - for being bailed out.

RACHEL

Ben!

BEN

Stop it! You have to stop this immediately. Your mum's waters broke. Come on! Wrap it up. Stand up, Dale.

RACHEL

Yeah, let's go now. Ben, can you give me a lift? I'll pay up.

*
*

Rach runs off to pay the bill. Ben looks at Dale with hatred.

BEN

(I hate you)

Yeah, would take you too. It's just I only have space for one in the car.

*

DALE

(cheerfully smiling
back)

That's OK! I'll jog! Race you there!

*
*

And he runs off.

*

20 **INT. HOSPITAL, CORRIDOR (KEYPAD). DAY 3. 1705** 20

Ken stands outside the Maternity Corridor which is accessed via a door with a keypad. He can't remember the code.

He looks at a code on his hand written in biro. He types in *
the number, and goes in. *

21 INT. HOSPITAL, LORNA'S WARD. DAY 3. 1706

21

Ken enters. Lorna is tucked up in a hospital bed. Dr Stokes is looking at her scans.

KEN
Everything OK?

DOCTOR STOKES
All on course. But looking at these scans, you might be in for the long haul. Another four hours would be my guess.

She moves out. Ken and Lorna breathe a sight of relief. Rachel comes in, with Dale soon after.

*

RACHEL
Hey Mum! Everything all right?

*

DALE
Phew, these suits were not made for long distance running! Did a baby come yet?

*

*

LORNA
You're all in plenty of time. How was your da...

RACHEL
Dinner! Our friendly dinner. It was fine. Really good and fine. Let's stop talking about it!

LORNA
(smiling)
OK. Well, look at us, all on time. Got my whole family around me. (REMEMBERS) Dylan! (TO KEN) You'd better call him, get him over here.

*

Ken looks at his phone.

KEN
No reception. Be back soon as.

Ken gives her a kiss and moves off.

DALE
I'll stay here, Ken. Guard your babymother.

*

Dale puts his arm round Rachel. Rachel's finding it hard to be in the same room as Dale.

RACHEL
Might also get some air.

*

Dale gets some stuff out of his bag for Lorna.

DALE

I ran by the supermarket on my way over. Snacks. Magazines. I thought you might like some moisturiser - the aircon in these places can be terrible.

Lorna looks impressed.

22 INT. HOSPITAL, CORRIDOR. DAY 3. 1707

22

Rachel steps out into the hospital corridor fighting back tears. Ben is waiting there.

BEN
How's your mum?

RACHEL
Good. Be a few hours.

BEN
Rachel?

*

Rachel is starting to cry. She can't help herself.

RACHEL
Nothing's going to happen between
me and Dale!

*

She sobs, and falls into his arms, tearful.

BEN
(trying to contain his
delight)
Whaaaaat? Oh shit the bed!!!

RACHEL
I wasted all that time thinking
about Dale, and he met someone as
soon as he set foot in China!

*
*

BEN
Dale's got a girlfriend in China!
And he's over you! Massive
bummer! Pissed off right now!

*
*

RACHEL
He's madly in love with her!

*

BEN
Hey! You'll bounce back. And now
you're single and carefree!
Although you should consider
getting into another serious
relationship before too long.

*

RACHEL
You're the best, you know that?
(GIVES HIM A HUG) I'll call you.

*

Rachel trots back to Lorna.

*

BEN
(calling after her)
OK, bye bestie!

*
*

23 INT. HOSPITAL, CORRIDOR. DAY 3. 1710

23

Ken's staring at his phone, which doesn't have reception.

KEN
Obey me, you bastard!

*

JESS (O.S.)
Ken!

It's Jess in a hospital gown.

KEN
You're here too!

*

JESS
Looks like it's popping at last!
Marc missed his plane back from
Dubai. Work again. Pretty good
indication where *his* priorities
lie. Yeeeeow!

*

A big contraction. Ken's a little bit put out.

JESS (CONT'D)
(recovering)
That was a big one. So your
wife's in too...

*

*

KEN
Yeah. Lorn's got a few hours to
go. Looks like you're going to
beat her to it. Well done!

*

JESS
Ha! Yes! I suppose have a fast
vagina!

KEN
Ha! Congratulations!

*

Suddenly a huge contraction comes over Jess.

JESS
Raaaaaargh!

She grabs Ken's hand. It's a vice-like grip, and Ken can't
get out of it...

KEN
What? What's going on?

JESS
(intensely, in pain)
What do you think is going on?
It's coming! I need you to get a
doctor!

KEN
(SHOUTS IN PANIC) Doctor! We need
a doctor!

Ken looks at his hand, trapped in Jess's vice-like grip.

KEN (CONT'D)
Maybe if you let go of my hand I
can fetch someone.

JESS
For FUCK'S SAKE, Ken. Just keep
shouting. *

A medical team burst in. They start moving Jess into a room
for the birth, but Jess doesn't let go of Ken's hand.

JESS (CONT'D)
Aaargh!

MIDWIFE
OK. This one's coming fast! I'm
going to need the extractor
ready. No worries, Mrs Price,
we'll see you through this easily
enough.

JESS
Raaargh. Fuck you all!

MIDWIFE
That's the spirit!

KEN
(meekly)
Erm... Doctor, could someone help
me release this hand. I'm not
supposed to be here. *

MIDWIFE
Someone calm the father please.
He's panicking.

KEN
Er yes, but you see, I'm not the
father.

MIDWIFE
(not looking up)
Mr Price, I assure you this is
far from uncommon. How about we
get your wife through this and
save the soap opera till later?

JESS
Aargh! Aargh! *

KEN

Oh right. OK. Just be quick. I
need to be out of here in a
couple of hours.

Jess screams. Ken grimaces - stares at his hand, crushed in
Jess' vice like grip...

24 **INT. HOSPITAL, LORNA'S WARD. DAY 3. 1716**

24

Rachel and Dale sit on either side of Lorna's bedside.
Lorna is sitting up in bed dozing. Her eyes suddenly open.

LORNA

Oh my goodness, it's happening!
It's happening! Where's the
doctor? Where's Ken? Get Ken!

DALE

I'll find him, Lorna. I promise.

Dale sprints off. Rachel holds Lorna's hand.

25 **INT. HOSPITAL, CORRIDORS. DAY 3. 1725**

25

Action movie music runs through the final sequence. Dale runs through the corridors, he stops a passer-by.

DALE

Really big guy. His face looks
sort of like a really angry
eagle.

A patient points the way.

26 INT. HOSPITAL, JESS'S BIRTHING ROOM. DAY 3. 1730 26

Surrounded by doctors, and Ken, Jess strains to give birth. Close on Ken's hand, still kept in Jess' vice like grip. Ken looks terribly distressed.

JESS
MOTHER!!!!!! FLIPPER!!!

Crying. A baby emerges into the world.

MIDWIFE
It's a girl!

Ken looks down at the mixed race baby. Jess looks up at him.

JESS
I really appreciate it, Ken. I just needed someone there for me.

MIDWIFE
Maybe Daddy would like to cut the umbilical cord?

KEN
(baby is mixed race)
Daddy? For God's sake.

JESS
Go on, Ken. If you'd like to.

KEN
Nah. No way. Well, gotta shoot. Bye.

Ken leaves sheepishly. All the medical staff are looking at Ken like he's a monster...

27 **INT. HOSPITAL, LORNA'S WARD. DAY 3. 1735**

27

Lorna is in labour...

LORNA

Oh, my god, I think it's coming!
Where's your dad?!

28 INT. HOSPITAL, CORRIDOR/VENDING MACHINE. DAY 3. 1740 28

Ken is walking down the corridor, looking distinctly sheepish.

He sees a chocolate machine. He definitely deserves some.

But when he pays and chooses, the bar containing the chocolate rotates, but no Twix drops.

KEN

No! Damn you!

He puts some more money in the machine. His phone starts going off in his pocket. All his texts and messages have through at once. He looks at the phone. Horror!

KEN (CONT'D)

No! No! Nooooo!

He starts to sprint off down the hospital corridor... But hears the sound of a chocolate bar dropping into the bin.

He runs back, grabs the Twix and sprints off again.

29 **INT. HOSPITAL, CORRIDORS. DAY 3. 1745**

29

Action music. Dale runs, trying to find Ken.

 DALE
 (running down the
 corridor)
Ken! Ken! (TO PATIENTS) Have you
seen a really huge man? His name
is "Chief Ken". I gotta find him.

30 INT. HOSPITAL, CORRIDORS (KEYPAD). DAY 3. 1750

30

Ken runs through the hospital corridors, looking for the maternity wards - but all the corridors look the same.

Finally, he sees the door with the keypad. He tries the door. He needs the code. He looks at his hand, where it was written. Jess' grip has wiped the number off.

KEN

What's the code? What is the
bloody code, Ken you muppet! Let
me in! Lorna, I'm here! Let me
in!

He bangs on the door.

KEN (CONT'D)

(to self)

OK. Calm down. Start from scratch.
(TYPES ON KEYPAD) 1111. No. 1112.
No. 1113. (STARTS RANDOMLY TYPING)
Any number. Any number.

He types furiously.

31 **SCENE OMITTED**

31

32 **INT. HOSPITAL, CORRIDORS. DAY 3. 1753**

32

Dale is still running, desperate to find Ken.

DALE
(shouting)
CHIEF KEEEN!

33 INT. HOSPITAL, CORRIDOR (KEYPAD). DAY 3. 1756

33

Ken is still at the keypad

KEN
7256. 9247. 4747...

The midwife approaches.

KEN (CONT'D)
Oh thank God! Please I need to get
to my wife!

MIDWIFE
Of course! It's Ken, right?

KEN
Yes. Thank god.

MIDWIFE
I'll take you to her.

Ken follows the nurse down the corridor, and into a ward.

34 **INT. HOSPITAL, JESS'S BIRTHING ROOM. DAY 3. 1800** 34

Ken enters the ward. Jess is breastfeeding her baby.

JESS

Ken! You came back!

KEN

No! Not you! Not bloody you!

And he turns round and runs off again.

35 INT. HOSPITAL, LORNA'S WARD. DAY 3. 1810

35

Lorna is mid-labour. Rachel is there beside her, holding her hand.

The baby emerges. A beautiful baby boy!

RACHEL

You did it! Well done, mum!

Ken finally arrives out of breath. Dale arrives seconds later.

DALE

Chief Ken! I went looking all over!

LORNA

Ken!?! Where the hell were you?

KEN

Bad phone reception. Sorry love.

LORNA

Ken, I...

KEN

Shhh! Let's just enjoy the moment!

The doctor hands the baby to Ken, he holds the baby in his arms for the first time.

KEN (CONT'D)

Number three, eh? Finally - I have a son!

LORNA

Erm, what about Dylan?

KEN

Oh yeah, Dylan.

Everyone is happy.

36 INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, KEN AND LORNA'S BEDROOM. NIGHT 3. 2120

Lorna and KEN are in bed. Ken brings Lorna a glass of water.

KEN

He's asleep! Here's that water. And if there's anything else you need, just ask.

LORNA

Wow, I feel like a princess. And all I had to do was push a ginormous baby out my lulu.

KEN

Eleven pounds, eh? Big like his dad. (SIGHS) I wasn't sure about this Paternity Leave. But seeing the lad now...Anything he needs I shall provide. You did your share with Dylan and Rach - now, it's my turn. (A SMILE BETWEEN THEM) Love you.

LORNA

Love you too.

They snuggle down to sleep. The baby starts wailing.

LORNA (CONT'D)

Primary carer.

KEN

I'll start tomorrow.

LORNA

Nope. Starting now.

KEN

You're still off work...

LORNA

Go and get him.

KEN

This is SO unfair.

Ken gets out of bed...

END OF EPISODE