

DADDY ISSUES

EPISODE 3 - A CHUNKY JOHN GRISHAM

Written by

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1 OMITTED 1

2 OMITTED 2

3 **INT. GEMMA'S FLAT, KITCHEN -- DAY -- SEPTEMBER** 3

GEMMA (18 weeks pregnant) arrives home to find MALCOLM at the sink washing tins and glass bottles for recycling. She's carrying a yoga mat.

The kitchen light is on even though it's daytime. She switches it off with a huff. Annoyed.

GEMMA

Dad! The lights? It's the middle of the day.

MALCOLM

Sorry Gem. You are better at that stuff than me.

GEMMA

I'm better at turning lights off? It's not a life skill. Chickens can turn lights off.

MALCOLM

Your mother used to turn all the lights off in our house. She had her system and I didn't like to interfere.

GEMMA

Oh my god. Well I'm not Mum so you're going to have to start figuring out the appropriate time to turn lights on and off yourself. But I'll give you a little hint shall I?

MALCOLM

Err... okay?

GEMMA

If it's dark turn them on. If it's not dark. TURN THE FUCKING LIGHTS OFF!

Malcolm shrinks back at the telling off.

MALCOLM

You seem very stressed for someone who's just had a yoga class.

GEMMA

You're always costing me money.  
Lights left on, forty five minute  
showers?!

MALCOLM

I need a long shower to get "things"  
out of my system.

GEMMA

(horrified)

What things?

(then)

And then this morning I find out  
Baris has put the rent up. I thought  
you'd spoken to him?

MALCOLM

I did... but mainly about nunchucks.  
You know I'm not very good at  
confrontation.

GEMMA

(angry)

Well strap in because you and I are  
about to have a very big bloody row.

MALCOLM

Oh no.

GEMMA

I can't afford to cover this. Not  
once I'm on maternity leave.

There's a loud ping from inside Malcolm's trouser pocket.

GEMMA (cont'd)

So you will need to pick up some  
extra shifts at the warehouse...

MALCOLM

U-huh. I can do that, Gemma.

But Malcolm isn't really paying attention.

GEMMA

(annoyed)

Dad! Are you even listening?

MALCOLM

Extra shifts. No problem. Err... let  
me just see if that's Helen.

GEMMA

Helen?

Malcolm pulls a very shit looking phone with all the cameras  
smashed out from his jeans pocket.

MALCOLM

My girlfriend.

The news stops Gemma in her tracks.

MALCOLM (cont'd)

I wasn't sure I was ready but then I got a postcard from your mother about how her loins shrivelled up and died the last time we... you know.

On Gemma. *Waaaaay too much information.*

MALCOLM (cont'd)

So I thought "Malcolm, she's never coming back. It's time for pastures new". And then Helen came into my life.

GEMMA

How did you meet a woman?

MALCOLM

I've not "met her", met her. I met her in cyberspace. On an app.

Gemma's face falls. This won't be real.

GEMMA

We need to have a chat about catfishing.

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3A **EXT. PRISON -- DAY**

3A

Establishing.

4 **INT. PRISON -- DAY**

4

Gemma sits opposite CATHERINE.

CATHERINE

I got a postcard from Mum recently. She's in Nepal.

GEMMA

Yeah she's going through a real postcard phase at the moment. I got one too, said she wasn't impressed with --

CATHERINE

-- Everest? And she'd made love to...

GEMMA

... four different Sherpas? She sent us the exact same one?

CATHERINE

Picture of a temple with "went here"...

GEMMA

... "it was shit" written across it in marker pen? That's why it was addressed to 'Dear Daughter'. At least she made Dad's personal.

CATHERINE

How's it going with him?

GEMMA

He's driving me nuts, obviously. He dried his pants in the microwave the other day. I shouldn't have to tell my own father what he can and can't put in the microwave.

CATHERINE

Mum used to. She made that sign saying 'No metal spoons, Malcolm you twat'.

GEMMA

Maybe I should make him a sign?

CATHERINE

Oh my god. You're turning into Mum!

GEMMA

No I'm not.

CATHERINE

You are. He's turning you into a replacement wife.

GEMMA

As soon as you get out of prison, you can take care of him.

CATHERINE

I'll you exactly how I'd take care of him...

Catherine raise an eyebrow.

GEMMA

(loud)

There's no point pushing Dad down a staircase. He doesn't even have life insurance.

This comment draws attention from some other inmates. Gemma lowers her voice again.

GEMMA (cont'd)

I don't know how I'm gonna cope once the baby gets here.

CATHERINE

You need a business plan to get yourself out of this mess.

GEMMA

Your last "business plan" got you incarcerated, but sure, go on then, Jeff Bezos. Apprentice me.

Catherine thinks.

CATHERINE

Given your skill set, I'd say your best option is to find a rich and preferably senile, guy asap.

Reaction from Gemma. *That's not a good plan.*

5 INT. GEMMA'S FLAT, LIVING ROOM -- DAY

5

Malcolm sits with DEREK. In front of them is the boardgame Catan. Derek opens a large bag of pom bears and tips them into a cereal bowl. They spill everywhere.

DEREK

If she won't let me see the kids this weekend, she's not having the crunchy bears. Bloody women.

Derek rolls the dice.

MALCOLM

About... ladies. I've been using an app to find a companion... And I've found one and we've chatted quite a bit... She's called Helen...

Derek stops. Raises an eyebrow - this doesn't sound good.

MALCOLM (cont'd)

She's 50. She works at the hospital. She doesn't have any children.

DEREK

Bang her then leave her.

MALCOLM

Yeah. Definitely. But also I might be in love with her. She's very funny.

DEREK

Women aren't funny, Malcolm. Show me.

Malcolm shows Derek a picture of Helen on his phone. Derek takes the phone off Malcolm.

DEREK (cont'd)

You dirty old dog, this is a hook up app.

MALCOLM

What?

DEREK

Casual sex.

MALCOLM

No. No, that doesn't sound like Helen at all.

Derek ignores Malcolm. Scrolls through the settings.

DEREK

Malcolm, I promise you this app is for finding a no strings fuck buddy.

MALCOLM

But I like strings. Strings are romantic.

DEREK

Why don't we see if she's turned on the 'mutual attraction' feature.

MALCOLM

What does that do?

DEREK

Let's you find each other, so you can meet up and smash.

MALCOLM

(shocked)

Without going to the cinema first?

Derek is still looking at Malcolm's phone.

DEREK

Bingo. I use it all the time for casual encounters.

(corrects himself)

Or I will do... just waiting for a couple of rashes to clear up.

Derek smiles. Gets his own phone out, opens the app and presses the screen. "WOW WOW PUSSY ALERT" rings out.

DEREK (cont'd)

You get a boring notification when you're within five meters of each other so I paid extra for this. Want me to add it to yours too?

MALCOLM

I'll just keep the factory settings, thanks.

5A    **EXT/INT. SALON -- DAY**

5A

Gemma enters the salon.

6    **INT. SALON -- CONTINUOUS**

6

Gemma comes from outside as RITA fixes WINNIE's hair.

GEMMA

They've run out of decaf at the mini-mart Rita. Do you want me to pop to the big shop while it's quiet?

RITA

No need cock, ooh I know, let's open the tequila instead?

GEMMA

It's 9am and I'm eighteen weeks pregnant. So I'd much rather we went straight onto the ket.

Rita ignores Gemma. Grabs the tequila from an unused pedestal and pours two shots.

RITA

Winnie'll have one won't you? Little minx. And I work so much better when I'm a few glasses down.

WINNIE

Congratulations Gemma, love! I didn't even know you were courting.

RITA

She's always courting!

GEMMA

Not recently. Not since...

Points to her belly.



RITA

(to Winnie)

And she's not told us who the father is? Is it that old one? I thought you dumped that old one months ago.

GEMMA

I did dump him. Because he wanted to settle down and have children and I didn't.

RITA

Ooh the irony.

GEMMA

Not lost on me.

Rita downs a shot of tequila then pours another two for her and Winnie.

GEMMA (cont'd)

(slightly smug)

Adam actually asked me to marry him.

WINNIE

Did you?

GEMMA

Obviously not.

RITA

Why the hell didn't you, you silly mare? You can't afford to be turning men down in your condition.

GEMMA

I wasn't pregnant when he asked...

RITA

He owned that bungalow outright. His trousers weren't made of polyester. I'd kill for a man like that.

GEMMA

... And I wasn't in love with him.

RITA

Love? Pah. I've been married four times, Gemma and not once was it for love. A house, a car, some fantastic crockery. But never love.

Gemma puts her hands on her bump - protective.

GEMMA

That's really sad, Rita.

RITA

I didn't plan on getting wed at all.  
When I was your age, I was set for  
joining MI6 as one of those spies  
that shags about for secrets.

GEMMA

Will I regret asking why you didn't  
become a spy?

RITA

Sucked off Mike Baldwin on a tour of  
the Coronation Street set. They found  
out and said I wasn't very  
discerning.

GEMMA

How did "they" find out?

RITA

I must have done it on camera by  
accident. Didn't know I did Kevin  
Webster too, though. Bloody MI6. They  
don't know shit.

Gemma shakes her head. *Where is this going?*

GEMMA

What are you trying to tell me?

RITA

That life is about compromise.  
Especially for us girls.

Gemma sighs.

GEMMA

My sister said something similar.

RITA

Just because she's in prison for  
paying a man to push another man down  
a lift-shaft...

GEMMA

(correcting)  
... Off a fire escape...

RITA

... does not mean she gives bad  
advice.

(then)

Tell your Dad he's welcome to pop in  
for a "Corrie Special" any time he  
likes.

GEMMA

Rita!

6A    **EXT/INT. HOSPITAL -- DAY**

6A

Malcolm and Derek walk into the hospital looking at Malcolm's app.

We see a map with two dots, one pink one blue. The pink dot moves slowly towards the stationary blue dot.

MALCOLM

Which one am I?

DEREK

The blue dot that isn't moving.  
Because you're not moving.

MALCOLM

And the pink dot?

DEREK

(snaps)  
Helen!

Malcolm recoils a bit. *He was only asking.*

7    **INT. HOSPITAL -- MINUTES LATER**

7

Malcolm and Derek walk and talk down the hallway.

DEREK

So what's she like? Other than well  
up for it?

MALCOLM

Lovely. We watch Emily in Paris at  
the same time and message each other  
about what Emily's wearing.

DEREK

Weak. Get her to watch some UFC with  
you. If she's turned on by a man  
round-housing another man's head off,  
she's a keeper.

MALCOLM

She's a vegan which is a bit  
worrying. In case I smell of meat. Do  
I smell of meat?

Derek sniff Malcolm's neck.

DEREK

A bit. But in a good way.

MALCOLM

She runs.

DEREK

Mental.

MALCOLM

And she believes in angels.

DEREK

What?

MALCOLM

She believes in angels. That angels walk among us. And it's very important I do too.

DEREK

Do you?

MALCOLM

I could. Yeah. I do. Why not?

Derek stares intently at the screen.

DEREK

She's heading towards us. Now's your chance.

Before Malcolm can answer, a gurney comes flying towards them. Riding on top, performing chest compressions on a lifeless man is HELEN (50s; attractive and confident). She shouts to a DOCTOR.

HELEN

55 year old male, arrived by car. Lacerations to both legs after a strimmer accident, went into cardiac arrest on the way here. I've just started compressions.

The gurney moves past Malcolm and Derek. Helen turns to look at Malcolm. A moment of recognition. But then she's back with the life saving. It's very sexy.

DEREK

Oh my god. Malcolm!

MALCOLM

I know, I used to love using the strimmer.

Derek shakes his head. Malcolm thinks about his strimmer.

CHERRY sorts through potential pulling outfits for Gemma. Cherry holds up a skimpy dress.

CHERRY

Reckon you can fit in this?

GEMMA

Touch and go.

Cherry holds up another dress. Longer sleeves, higher neck.

GEMMA (cont'd)

Nowhere near slutty enough.

Cherry holds up a third dress. Gemma shakes her head at the price.

GEMMA (cont'd)

Ouch. Too expensive now my rent's going up.

Cherry holds up a credit card.

CHERRY

My treat. Lance's treat. So what kind of bloke are you after?

GEMMA

(firm)

Willing to take care of me and my baby. Not a prick.

(then)

I can't work out if that's a high bar or a low bar? Reckon you can help me find someone?

CHERRY

I can if we go to Sugar Daddies.

GEMMA

It's not actually called that, is it?

CHERRY

May as well be. But trust me it is the place to go for your fairytale ending.

GEMMA

Really? That good?

CHERRY

Mate of mine, no money, grotty flat, went there one night, hooked up with an oligarch, got married, he was murdered. Now she lives on a yacht with her super hot wife and couple of pugs.

GEMMA

A real life Cinderella story.

CHERRY

The jackpot would be a financially secure smart dude, right? I don't care about smart, got a kink for dummdums actually, but you... you enjoy having conversations.

GEMMA

I know. I'm really weird like that.

CHERRY

So ideally a university professor who's wife has died, maybe? Then you've got a month to get your love hooks in before springing another man's kid on him.

GEMMA

(dry)

Plus I'll be doing him a favour, helping him get over his dead wife.

Cherry holds up another dress. It's gorgeous.

GEMMA (cont'd)

(re; dress)

That's the one.

9 OMITTED 9

10 OMITTED 10

10A **EXT/INT. GEMMA'S FLAT/WALKWAY -- LATER** 10A

Gemma carries two big shopping bags as she makes her way along the walkway.

11 **INT. GEMMA'S FLAT, LIVING ROOM -- MINUTES LATER** 11

Malcolm has been waiting for Gemma to arrive home. Jumps into a conversation as soon as she's through the door.

MALCOLM

Can I ask you for a tiny favour?

GEMMA

I'm not squeezing your back spots again, Dad.

MALCOLM

It's nothing like that. I wondered if you'd mind letting me use your very smart telephone to...

Gemma looks at her father.

MALCOLM (cont'd)

To take a quick picture of my willy.

GEMMA

(instantly replies)

No chance. Use your own phone.

MALCOLM

I bought it second hand off Andy but he's smashed all the cameras out.

GEMMA

Why?

MALCOLM

His brother told him to. To stop him catching 5G.

GEMMA

No.

MALCOLM

Please! It's for Helen, so she can see 'the goods'.

GEMMA

Helen is a six foot trucker from Didsbury.

MALCOLM

She's not. Me and Derek saw her today. She's actually lovely.

GEMMA

If she's lovely why does she want a photo of your penis?

MALCOLM

I'm stepping my wooing up to the next level.

GEMMA

Jesus Christ Dad. Unsolicited dick pics are not the next level.

MALCOLM

Oh it's very solicited! She sent me a picture of her... lady breasts first. Quite a few pictures actually.

(then)

I understand. I should probably forget finding love at my age.

She quickly hands over her phone to Malcolm.

GEMMA

Take it!

Malcolm grabs it and rushes to the bathroom.

11A INT. GEMMA'S FLAT, HALLWAY -- MINUTES LATER

11A

Gemma stands outside the toilet door. Gives a gentle knock.

GEMMA

(concerned)

Are you done yet?

MALCOLM (O.S.)

Nearly love.

Gemma pulls a concerned face.

12 INT. GEMMA'S FLAT, LIVING ROOM -- LATER

12

A while later Malcolm comes back out. He gingerly hands Gemma the phone.

MALCOLM

I don't know how to send it to myself.

She sighs and grabs the phone off him - looks at what Malcolm has taken.

Gemma closes her eyes to compose herself. A beat. Then...

GEMMA

This is flaccid.

MALCOLM

I didn't want to be presumptuous.

GEMMA

You can't send her a flaccid cock shot. It looks like a baby rat that's fallen asleep on a scourer. Do it again, but...

Gemma cannot believe she's saying this to her own father.

GEMMA (cont'd)

Erect.

MALCOLM

Oh. Okay. Thanks Gemma!

Malcolm leaves. Then quickly returns.



MALCOLM (cont'd)  
Might need to pop a Kylie video on  
for a few minutes if that's okay?

12A **EXT/INT. SWANKY NIGHTCLUB -- NIGHT**

12A

Gemma and Cherry arrive at the nightclub. Both dressed up.

CHERRY  
Still want to do this?

Gemma nods. Determined - rubs her tiny bump.

GEMMA  
(to bump)  
We're gonna find you a daddy.

13 **INT. SWANKY NIGHTCLUB -- CONTINUOUS**

13

They enter the club. Gemma looks around at the male talent on display. It's all sleazy older men with much younger women.

GEMMA  
You weren't joking about who comes  
here.

CHERRY  
There are a few little rules worth  
keeping in mind.

GEMMA  
This isn't the first time I've  
chatted men up in a bar.

CHERRY  
Don't talk about politics. Laugh at  
all their terrible jokes. Pretend you  
like golf. Don't slag off the King.

GEMMA  
Hadn't actually thought of those last  
two.

Cherry taps the side of her head. She knows the score. A man JIMMY approaches. Very expensive watch. Gemma smiles.

JIMMY  
Ladies.

Gemma shakes his hand then instantly turns her head away from him to whisper to Cherry.

GEMMA  
He smells weird.

CHERRY

Pregnancy early warning system.  
(to Jimmy)  
Sorry, babe.

Jimmy leaves - dejected. Cherry spots another man CLINT.  
Cherry waves and Clint approaches.

CLINT

Hey, I'm Clint. Friends call me the  
Clintser.

GEMMA

What's your favourite novel, Clint?

CLINT

(very confident)  
Shakespeare.

Gemma looks at Cherry then turns back to Clint. Shakes her  
head. Clint Walks off.

CHERRY

This won't work if you're too picky!

Finally a gorgeous man FERGAL (Late 30s; charming, sharp  
dresser) approaches.

FERGAL

May I buy you ladies a drink?  
Champagne maybe?

Gemma gives Cherry a smug look. *Bingo.*

FERGAL (cont'd)

I'm Fergal and you are..?

GEMMA

Gemma.

CHERRY

Cherry.

FERGAL

(to Gemma)  
I was going to say 'far too gorgeous  
to be in a place like this'.

13A EXT. LOCAL PUB -- SAME TIME

13A

Derek strides past the pub and spots Malcolm inside.

14 INT. LOCAL PUB -- CONTINUOUS

14

Malcolm sits alone in the pub trying to read a book but he's nervous. A bunch of flowers rests on the table. Malcolm glances at the doors - they open. It's Derek.

DEREK

I knew you'd get stood up Malc. Knew it. I told you not to send her a pickle picture without showing me first.

MALCOLM

Helen was very nice about my "display" actually. And she hasn't stood me up... yet.

DEREK

Why is she meeting you so late? Waiting for her jealous husband to fall asleep first?

MALCOLM

(frowns)

I told you she does overtime on a Friday. Oh... I am feeling quite nervous.

DEREK

Grow up. You're a man and any man is better than any female.

MALCOLM

Is Fred West better than Aretha Franklin?

DEREK

You're fiddling the system now Malc.

MALCOLM

But what if she wants to... you know.

DEREK

Good! That's what you're paying £2.99 a month for.

At that moment Helen walks into the pub looking for Malcolm. She looks amazing - tight outfit, killer heels - total cougar. She spots him and waves - warm smile.

HELEN

Malcolm? Hey!

As Helen approaches, Malcolm panics and abandons his phone - runs towards the toilets - knocking a bar stool over.

HELEN (cont'd)

Malcolm?

A notification comes up on the screen. HELEN IS NEARBY. Derek picks up Malcolm's phone and fiddles with it.

HELEN (cont'd)  
Err is he okay?

DEREK  
Obviously not. And that's your fault.

HELEN  
I'm sorry, who are you?

Helen stands with her hands on her hips. Total confidence. Derek shrinks back, he doesn't meet women like this.

DEREK  
I'm...

Derek clutches his heart.

DEREK (cont'd)  
I think I'm having a heart attack.

Derek does some poor fake heart attack moves to a very unimpressed Helen. He eventually slumps on his stool with his eyes shut. Derek opens his eyes.

DEREK (cont'd)  
(pathetic)  
Help me?

HELEN  
(cutting)  
I'm a nurse, not a therapist.

Helen walks off. Derek picks up Malcolm's phone and installs the WOW WOW PUSSY ALERT setting.

DEREK  
Malcolm my friend, you are getting that pussy alert.

15     **INT. SWANKY NIGHTCLUB, BOOTH -- LATER**

15

Gemma, Cherry and Fergal chat at a table.

FERGAL  
Your husband plays for the Sale Sharks?

CHERRY  
Man and boy. He'll never move away. His mum's a right needy wanker.

GEMMA  
She has Parkinson's disease.

CHERRY

And she doesn't let you forget it.

Gemma spots XANDER at the bar. Her face lifts, excited to see him again, but also conflicted because Fergal is lush.

Cherry catches Gemma looking elsewhere. Yanks at Gemma's clothing to reveal a bit more flesh.

CHERRY (cont'd)

(whispers)

Babe, eyes on the prize, eh?

Gemma dials up the flirting with Fergal.

GEMMA

Another round Fergal? You are so good at buying drinks after all.

He hands Gemma his credit card.

FERGAL

That's a terrible line, but I am quite good at buying drinks.

He picks up a glass and takes a sip. Tap water. We see a flash of Fergal looking disgusted before the charm is back.

GEMMA

(flirty)

Maybe later, you'll get to find out what I'm good at?

Gemma smooths her dress down as she approaches the bar, trying to see if Xander has spotted her.

15A INT. SWANKY NIGHTCLUB, BAR -- CONTINUOUS

15A

XANDER

Hi. Gemma?

GEMMA

(feigns surprise)

Hey! Are you here alone..?

XANDER

With my boss.

GEMMA

(looks around)

Is he a douchebag?

XANDER

Yes. He's disgusting. But he's got an early start. I was about to leave too... unless I can buy you a drink, maybe?

Gemma catches the BARMAN's eye.

GEMMA

Bottle of champagne thanks. And some sparkling water.

XANDER

Shit, okay. Do you think I'm running some kind of Breaking Bad operation? Because while I technically do know how to make methamphetamine, I would have no idea how to shift it.

She flashes Fergal's credit card and points to the booth where Fergal and Cherry are.

GEMMA

Drinks are on Fergal.

XANDER

Who's Fergal?

Cherry marches towards Gemma - Fergal following.

CHERRY

Me and Fergal have decided this place sucks a donkey's big fat dick.

FERGAL

(to Gemma)

That's not quite what I said.

CHERRY

(impressed)

Who's this?

Before Xander can reply.

CHERRY (cont'd)

(to Gemma)

We're going back to mine.

(to Xander)

Coming?

Xander looks at Gemma. She doesn't want him to come but doesn't want to put him off either. Mixed signals.

XANDER

Err?

CHERRY

Great.

(whispers to Gemma)

You found one for me! Thanks babe.

On Gemma. This isn't quite what she had planned.

16     **EXT. STREET -- SAME TIME**

16

Derek and Malcolm walk down the street. Malcolm looks like a man who knows he's messed up.

MALCOLM

What did you say to her?

Derek doesn't want to tell Malcolm the truth.

DEREK

That you had the shits. I said you'd seen an angel and it'd turned your stomach funny.

MALCOLM

No! Why?

DEREK

It's as likely as anything else that happens when you see an angel.

MALCOLM

I'm not sure I am ready for this. Davina might have been really cruel, but at least I knew where all her bits were and how they worked. Like a menopausal Ford Focus.

Derek gives Malcolm a comforting slap on the back.

DEREK

You'll get there champ. If not with Helen, then one day.

Malcolm is surprised by this show of emotional intelligence.

DEREK (cont'd)

Plus now I've seen her up close she's only a six on the pussy-ometer, at best.

Derek and Malcolm walk off.

17     **INT. CHERRY'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM -- LATER**

17

Bottles of beer discarded on the coffee table and floor. Cherry is all over Xander, even though Gemma is his focus.

CHERRY

So are you a doctor?

XANDER

No.

CHERRY

I love a man in uniform.

XANDER

I don't wear one of those either.

Cherry takes a selfie of her and Xander as she tries to put her tongue in Xander's ear.

CHERRY

Let's show Lance what he's missing.

FERGAL

(to Gemma)

I was married but we split up six months ago. It's just me rattling around my four bed semi... choosing whether to drive the Audi or the Merc. Do you like cars Gemma?

Gemma glances at Xander who has shaken Cherry off. They both think Fergal is trying way too hard to impress.

GEMMA

(nods)

They're really good for getting stuff to places.

FERGAL

We were childhood sweethearts but she wanted something different.

Xander is free from the clutches of Cherry, who has passed out, face down on the sofa.

XANDER

A Range Rover?

FERGAL

We had totally different world views, argued over politics. She was devoted to her career but I...

Fergal shakes his head. He shouldn't be this candid this early, but he's a bit drunk and he wants to be sincere.

FERGAL (cont'd)

I really want a family. Didn't even know men had a biological clock.

On Gemma. *Maybe Fergal is the perfect guy?*

FERGAL (cont'd)

Alexa, play "\*\*\*\*\*".

Music starts. Gemma looks at Fergal, mouth open.

GEMMA

Oh my god, I've not heard this song for years.



Fergal pulls her to her feet.

GEMMA (cont'd)  
(to Fergal)  
My Dad would sing this all the time  
when we were little. This and  
anything by Cat Stevens.

XANDER  
I'm more of a dog person myself.

But no one is listening to Xander. Fergal pulls Gemma in and kisses her. She kisses him back.

Xander tries to not look at them but his body language screams disappointment. He scrolls through his phone.

Fergal takes Gemma's hand and pulls her towards the stairs. Xander looks at his phone - pretends it isn't happening.

XANDER (cont'd)  
I'll just... yeah?

Xander opens another beer. It fizzes all over him. A shit end to a shit evening.

18    **EXT. CHERRY'S HOUSE -- SUNRISE**

18

Gemma stands on the doorstep with a dressing gown around herself. Fergal is dressed to leave.

FERGAL  
So you'll message me?

Gemma takes a deep breath - confession time.

GEMMA  
Look, I like you so I don't want to  
start with a lie. I'm pregnant.

FERGAL  
What? Wow. That's...

GEMMA  
Massive. Still want a DM?

Fergal kisses her.

FERGAL  
I don't know where this is gonna go  
but... girls like you really don't  
come along very often.

Gemma smiles. They both turn to look at the sky. A plane flies high above, leaving a streak.

GEMMA

It's such a beautiful morning.

FERGAL

Yeah. Oh no.  
(beat)  
Chemtrails.

GEMMA

What?

FERGAL

You see that line up there? Behind  
the plane? That's a fucking  
chemtrail. Fuck! Fucking cloud  
bastards.

Gemma can't tell if he's being serious. She frowns. Fergal  
can see she's uncomfortable so tries to sound reasonable. For  
a bit.

FERGAL (cont'd)

The government use aeroplanes to pump  
chemicals into the atmosphere, which  
keep the electorate stupid and  
control our minds. Same with flouride  
in the water.

(angrier)

If it's to protect our teeth why have  
so many people got fillings? Think  
about it? It makes no fucking sense.

GEMMA

(shrugs)

Err...

FERGAL

I'm in a whatsapp group. We're really  
trying to blow this whole thing wide  
open. Let the sheeple know the truth.

GEMMA

About chemtrails?

FERGAL

And flouride. Won't let a drop of tap  
water pass my lips, because I know  
what the Great Reset is really about.  
I'll add you to the group. There'll  
be a lot of videos posted but you  
don't need to watch them all.

Gemma's body language changes - Fergal is a conspiracy nut.

GEMMA

Oh...kay! Thanks for a great night.

Gemma keeps the smile on her face until Fergal leaves - he's gorgeous so this is a real let down. She watches him walk off, then heads back inside.

19     **EXT/INT. CHERRY'S HOUSE, HALLWAY -- CONTINUOUS**     19

Gemma closes the door. Shakes her head. Talks to her bump.

GEMMA

So close.

20     OMITTED     20

21     **INT. GEMMA'S FLAT, LIVING ROOM -- DAY**     21

Malcolm sits in a slump looking more dishevelled than usual. All the lights on. Curtains closed in the daytime.

Gemma enters in her salon uniform and opens the curtains, turns off the lights.

GEMMA

Dad! Have you had the lights on since I left this morning?

MALCOLM

(lies)

No.

GEMMA

You've been moping for days. Is she still connected with you on the app?

MALCOLM

Yes. That's how I know she's been at work all week, but she's not read or replied to any of my messages.

GEMMA

Have a short shower and get dressed.

On Malcolm. *Why?*

GEMMA (cont'd)

You're going to tell Helen how you feel, the old fashioned way.

MALCOLM

(hopeful)

Post-it note through the letterbox?

Gemma shakes her head.

21A **EXT. GEMMA'S CAR/CHURCH -- LATER**

21A

Gemma's car pulls up outside a lovely church. Gemma and Malcolm climb out - Malcolm still looking at the app.

GEMMA

Still don't think we should have brought your emotional support dickhead along.

Reveal Derek as he climbs out of the back seat.

DEREK

Called it. She's getting married. She just wanted you for a last blow on the meat horn, Malc. And you bailed on her.

Malcolm's face falls.

GEMMA

Don't listen to him, Dad. She'll just be a guest. Have you got the flowers?

Malcolm holds up the flowers he'd bought to give Helen at the pub. They're now a bit wilted and brown.

22 OMITTED

22

23 OMITTED

23

24 OMITTED

24

25 **INT. CHURCH -- CONTINUOUS**

25

Gemma, Malcolm and Derek walk into the church and down the aisle when Gemma has a wobble - she looks at her dowdy salon uniform.

GEMMA

This is not wedding appropriate. What if I'm tagged in the photos?

DEREK

I think you look really pretty. You've got that glow, the baby glow.

On Derek. OMG he likes Gemma. A tiny look of horror on Gemma's face but the moment is moved past quickly.

They've not noticed that Malcolm has stopped. At the altar is a huge picture of Helen. The situation apparent. Helen's dead.

MALCOLM

She's dead?

GEMMA

(whispers)

Oh Dad!

A few people come in behind them so Gemma pushes Malcolm and Derek into a pew.

DEREK

(to Malcolm)

It's probably for the best. Hey, she might have had a disease she was trying to pass around as an act of vengeance?

GEMMA

(hisses)

Shut up.

Malcolm stares at the picture of Helen, heartbroken.

MALCOLM

I can't believe she's dead.

A kindly looking mother CHELSEA with a baby on her hip whispers to him.

CHELSEA

One minute she's sat in the garden with a chunky John Grisham and the next her brain just pops. Did you know Helen well?

MALCOLM

(stunned)

Err...

CHELSEA

She was so lovely. Helped me out no end with this one. I couldn't have got through those early months without her.

Malcolm looks at the baby and smiles. He should be trying to help Gemma. *It's what Helen would do.*

MALCOLM

She was lovely, wasn't she? I just wish I'd told her how I felt.

CHELSEA

They've put her phone in the casket so you can text a little message if you like?

Malcolm smiles at the thought, as the casket is brought into the church by four pallbearers.

Reverential silence. The casket approaches. The alert on Malcolm's app screams.

AUTOMATED VOICE

(loud)

Wow wow, pussy alert. Wow wow pussy alert.

Malcolm pulls his phone from his pocket trying to turn the alert off. He fumbles and drops the phone.

DEREK

(loud)

At least she's with her best friends the angels now.

Out on Gemma. Mortified.

26 OMITTED

26

26A **EXT. PHARMACY -- DAY**

26A

Gemma walks into the pharmacy with another prescription.

26B **INT. PHARMACY -- CONTINUOUS**

26B

Gemma places her prescription on the counter. Xander looks surprised to see her.

XANDER

So was it the start of something beautiful? With Fergal?

Gemma blushes. Embarrassed.

GEMMA

That? No. He's in a whatsapp group dedicated to uncovering government conspiracies.

XANDER

Is that why his wife left him?

GEMMA

No, that was the illuminati.

They both laugh.

XANDER

Oh mate. I am so sorry.

GEMMA

Better to find out now than on our wedding day.

Xander hands over Gemma's prescription.

XANDER

Your iron tablets. That's nine pounds sixty five. But if you show me your mat card, it's free.

Gemma looks surprised as she slides her Maternity Exemption Card across the counter.

GEMMA

You know?

XANDER

Yeah. For a while. Those antibiotics are you had are mainly given to pregnant people. Plus I saw you coming out of the midwives office. How far along are you?

GEMMA

Eighteen weeks. It was an accident and he's not around.

XANDER

Shit! That's big.

GEMMA

That's the only reason I was at the club. I panicked about doing it alone.

(beat)

Fergal was really hot though, wasn't he?

XANDER

Oh so hot!

(then)

Fancy getting a coffee sometime? I think it's your turn to pay.

GEMMA

Sounds great. And afterwards I can tell you my theory on why 9/11 was an inside job?

Gemma turns to leave - smile on her face. Connection made.