

RALPH & KATIE

Episode 1

Written by

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SHOOTING SCRIPT



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TITLE CARD:

White letters appear on a black screen:

"He's the New Guy . . ."

0A EXT. RALPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE. DAY 1. 14:38.

A row of houses fronting out on to a grassed square.

DANNY (O.S.)

So, Katie, what qualities do you
think you would bring to the role?

1 INT. RALPH AND KATIE'S KITCHEN. DAY 1. 14:38.

The young man talking is DANNY, sitting opposite KATIE at the kitchen table. He is casually dressed in T shirt and jeans. A tattoo on one arm. If he was in a band he would be the bass player - not trying too hard. But he has a kindness about him, you would sit next to him on the night bus. RALPH, leaning on the worktop, watches on.

KATIE

My smile and my blueberry muffins.

DANNY

Great. Anything else.

KATIE

Yoga.

DANNY

And that helps how exactly?

KATIE

The sausage rolls are very hard to reach.

DANNY

Anything you would change in the bakery to improve it?

KATIE

Yes. I would give me a promotion.

DANNY

Brilliant. Congratulations. Let's talk about a pay rise.

A knock at the door, RALPH goes to answer it.

KATIE

I wish you were doing the interview.

(CONTINUED)

DANNY

On Friday, you go in and you do
what you just did and the promotion
is nailed on, am I right, Ralph?

RALPH walks back in with LOUISE who is talking about the shopping.

LOUISE

I got you the soya mince and some
posh crisps . . . and solar lights
for the garden like you asked for
but feels a bit over the top to me -
(PUZZLED)
Oh. Hello.

RALPH

This is Danny.

DANNY

(STANDS AND SHAKES
LOUISE'S HAND)

Hi.

RALPH

This is my Mum.

DANNY

Hi. Can I get you a cup of tea or -

LOUISE

Who's Danny?

RALPH

He's the new guy.

LOUISE

What? What happened to the old guy?
What happened to Judith?

RALPH

We sacked her.

LOUISE

You sacked your support worker.

KATIE

(SHAKES HEAD)
She wasn't right.

LOUISE

She was lovely.

RALPH

Too lovely.

(CONTINUED)

LOUISE

And Danny just walked in off the street and you took a fancy to him did you?

RALPH

No. We did an interview. He was on a list.

LOUISE

Was he indeed? Katie, you're the sensible one. Are you happy with this? No offence Danny but this is all a bit of a shock.

DANNY

I don't take offence easily.

There is something nice about DANNY that irritates LOUISE.

KATIE

We met three candidates and Danny was the best.

LOUISE

Really? Where did you advertise, Billy Smart's Circus?

DANNY

(LAUGHS)

Funny you should mention that, because I do have circus skills.

LOUISE

Why doesn't that surprise me.

RALPH

He can juggle. Show her.

DANNY

I don't think your Mum is in the mood for juggling. I do have some of the more ordinary qualifications too and references but I tend towards the holistic, you know, Mrs. W?

LOUISE

Not really. And don't ever call me that again if you want to live to see another day.

LOUISE picks up the solar lights and heads out to the garden.

RALPH

She likes you.

DANNY doesn't look convinced.

(CONTINUED)

DANNY
I'll talk to her . . .

DANNY moves to head out. RALPH bars his way.

RALPH
She doesn't like you that much.

2 **EXT. LAKE DISTRICT. DAY 1. 14:40**

A wide shot of the Lakes - a great empty gorgeous wilderness - and a blast of music - Latin American or Salsa - a touch of joyous anarchy and rude horns, loud and unexpected.

And over the big, joyous, visual:

RALPH & KATIE

HARD CUT TO:

3 **EXT. RALPH AND KATIE'S BACK GARDEN. DAY 1. 14:42.**

LOUISE in the garden, rattled, gathering her thoughts. As she does so the next door neighbour, BRIAN, appears, carrying a washing basket. BRIAN is late-50s and looks as though he's been that age all his life. Sensible - and like all sensible men he is a dormant volcano of anxieties. His manner is polite and disarming, and he shows a near-permanent 'concern for neighbours' - or nosiness as it is more commonly known. He clocks LOUISE straight away - his interest piqued by her agitated state. He takes his time hanging out the washing.

BRIAN
You're the Mum, aren't you?

LOUISE
Ralph's Mum, yes.

BRIAN
Brian.

LOUISE
Right.

LOUISE clearly doesn't want to talk, looks at the instructions on the box of solar garden lights.

BRIAN
I've had the disabled living next door for so long it's like second nature to me. Never a couple mind. But a first time for everything. You can't hold back the tide of progress, can you? Solar power, Islam, Deliveroo.

(CONTINUED)

LOUISE starts to take the lights out of the box. She really isn't engaging but BRIAN isn't having it.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

I consider myself very much part of their Circle of Support so to speak. Judith is cognisant of my role.

LOUISE

You might want to be cognisant that Judith isn't working for them anymore. They've gone with a more modern approach.

BRIAN

Oh. Right. Not suitable? She seemed perfect. Chivvied the two of them along. Homely, you know . . .

LOUISE

Well, 'homely' is very last year as it turns out. It's all hand rolled cigarettes, tattoos and mindfulness now . . .

BRIAN

(BAFFLED)

Right . . .

RALPH appears in the garden holding a cup of tea for LOUISE. BRIAN has finished hanging out his washing but is showing no sign of moving - and not disguising his eavesdropping.

LOUISE

So he can brew up then can he? That's something.

RALPH

I made it. (BEAT) Danny is right for us.

LOUISE

You might think that. And the juggling should keep you entertained when your electric gets cut off because he didn't remind you to pay the bill.

RALPH

Danny's like a mate.

LOUISE

You don't need him to be your mate. (BEAT) Don't you remember him from when you were at school? Because I do.

(CONTINUED)

RALPH
He's our choice.

LOUISE knows he has a point. But isn't conceding all the way.

LOUISE
Well you can tell your choice from
me that he is very much on trial.

LOUISE heads in. RALPH looks at the watching BRIAN and nods.

BRIAN
Circle of Support, young man. Any
time. Day or night.

BRIAN points to RALPH and himself and makes an awkward circular motion with his hand. RALPH looks nonplussed and heads inside.

3A **EXT. LAKE DISTRICT HILLS. DUSK 1. 18:57.**

The beautiful Lakes as the sun goes down.

3B **EXT. RALPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE. NIGHT 1. 18:58.**

Dark now. We pick out Ralph and Katie's house. The lights on, cosy, welcoming.

TITLE CARD: *"Maybe it was the starter . . ."*

4 **INT. RALPH AND KATIE'S KITCHEN. NIGHT 1. 18:59.**

RALPH and KATIE, both spruced up now, with DANNY as they put the finishing touches to the table for a dinner party. KATIE is laying the table. DANNY is showing RALPH a simple trick, producing a foam ball from behind his hand. (TRICK AVAILABLE ON YOU TUBE).

DANNY
Do you see? Dead simple. Behind the
hand. What do you think, Katie?

KATIE
Could you magic up some napkins?

DANNY
Sorry. Sorry. Ralph? How are the
starters coming on?

RALPH looks at four bowls of crisps that he has decanted from the bag. He kisses his fingers, chef style.

RALPH
Perfect.

(CONTINUED)

DANNY

Your mate and her boyfriend are going to be made up.

KATIE

Cool. Emma's been a good friend to me.

RALPH

At the bakery.

KATIE

She rescued my Danish Pastries on my first day.

DANNY

Say no more. A friend indeed. Have a lovely evening, guys. And remember Ralph, if the conversation dries up . . .

DANNY produces the foam ball from nowhere and gives it to RALPH. Then exits.

RALPH and KATIE are left looking at the beautiful table, the place settings, the cutlery, the pot cooking on the hot plates. RALPH puts his arm round KATIE.

RALPH

It's perfect.

KATIE

I know.

They smile at each other. This is their moment to enjoy. Suddenly it is interrupted by a knock at the door. KATIE looks at her watch.

RALPH

They're early.

KATIE

Put some music on.

RALPH goes over to the speaker and fiddles with his phone. KATIE exits to the hall.

CONTINUOUS:

5

EXT. RALPH AND KATIE'S FRONT DOOR. NIGHT 1. 19:01.

KATIE takes a moment and then opens the door, all smiles.

KATIE

Come in, and welcome to Ralph and Katie's Dinner Party. You are the first. And you will be the best...

(CONTINUED)

KATIE stops speaking. EMMA stands there, on her own, in tears, clutching a bottle of red that she has already opened.

EMMA
Gary's dumped me.

And at that moment RALPH's music kicks in. The highly energetic and inappropriate '5,6,7 8' by Steps.

KATIE
Ralph!

RALPH (O.S.)
Sorry!

The track stops.

KATIE
Come in.

CONTINUOUS:

6

INT. RALPH AND KATIE'S LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN. NIGHT 1. 19:02.

EMMA follows KATIE through the living room to the kitchen.

EMMA
I brought wine. (BEAT) I started it. I hope you don't mind.

EMMA hands KATIE the bottle. A screw top. Half empty.

KATIE
Not at all.

EMMA
This looks beautiful. You've gone to so much trouble. I'm sorry.

EMMA sits down at the table, silence. A beat, then -

RALPH
Do you like magic?

Silence.

7

INT. RALPH AND KATIE'S KITCHEN. NIGHT 1. 19:16.

A table set for four. Place name cards. One empty chair. A wine glass at KATIE and EMMA's places, a can at RALPH and the absent Gary's. Now she is seated we can see that EMMA is a best friend with a romantic streak, organised and supportive on the outside and chaotic on the inside.

RALPH is tucking in to his spaghetti, EMMA not touching hers, and KATIE easing off to be polite.

(CONTINUED)

EMMA's tone is confused, her thoughts about Gary and their relationship are tumbling out of her. This is fresh news, she isn't reflecting on it, yet, she's just saying these thoughts as they occur to her.

EMMA

Gary would have enjoyed this. And he would've appreciated the can.

EMMA looks at the can.

EMMA (CONT'D)

He loves a blackcurrant IPA.

RALPH

It's from our new range. At the brewery.

EMMA

That's so thoughtful of you.

RALPH

And it was free.

EMMA

(LAUGHS, DESPITE HERSELF)

Even better. He loved a bargain too. Well, I thought he did. Turns out I didn't know him at all.

EMMA sits with the can in her hand. KATIE mouths, 'Get rid!'. RALPH gently takes the can from EMMA.

EMMA (CONT'D)

I said. We've been engaged for eight years. Sometimes it feels like we're in the waiting room at the station and our train is never going to be announced. And he said, "Well, maybe our train has been cancelled."

KATIE

He didn't even want to talk about it?

EMMA

Not even a replacement bus service. I've been so stupid.

RALPH

Yep.

KATIE gives him a look and shakes her head. EMMA notices.

EMMA

No, he's right.
(OF HER UNTOUCHED MEAL)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

EMMA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, Ralph. I just don't feel hungry. I was really looking forward to this and you've made it so lovely and now I'm ruining it. I'll go.

KATIE

You're not ruining anything. Stay as long as you like.

EMMA

Really?

KATIE

Yes. Really.

EMMA

Thank you. I don't think I can face going back to my Gary in our flat now he's not my Gary and it isn't our flat.

KATIE

(TO RALPH)

We'd love you to stay, wouldn't we?

RALPH waits just a moment too long.

RALPH

Yes. We would.

8

INT. RALPH AND KATIE'S BEDROOM. NIGHT 1. 22:25.

KATIE and RALPH sit up in bed. We can hear EMMA crying in the next room. KATIE reading a book: '101 WAYS TO WIN A JOB'.

RALPH

Will she sleep soon?

KATIE

I don't know.

RALPH

Why did you ask her to stay?

KATIE

Because she needs a friend.

RALPH doesn't say anything. He sighs loudly.

KATIE (CONT'D)

If it was your friend I wouldn't mind.

RALPH

You would.

(CONTINUED)

KATIE
I wouldn't.

The crying continues. RALPH puts his hands over his ears.

KATIE (CONT'D)
She needs me now. And I like that.

RALPH
Why?

KATIE
Because she treats me like a proper
mate. Not some girl she needs to
look after.

RALPH knows this is a good reason. The crying stops. They relax. But EMMA can then be heard talking on her phone.

KATIE (CONT'D)
Who is she calling at this time?

RALPH
(HOPEFUL)
A taxi?

KATIE can't help smiling.

MONTAGE:

SONG: SPICE GIRLS - '2 BECOME 1' - plays throughout.

9 **INT. RALPH AND KATIE'S LIVING ROOM. NIGHT 2. 19:15. MONTAGE.**

RALPH sits in his United shirt on the sofa, watching telly, squeezed on to the end. KATIE is next to him but she has her arm around EMMA who is crying into her hands.

10 **OMITTED**

10A **EXT. STREET/LAKES & CAKES BAKERY. DAY 3. 08:30. MONTAGE.**

EMMA and KATIE walk to work together. Behind them, in his brewery clothes, walks RALPH, looking rather put out. As they reach the bakery KATIE turns and waves to RALPH and they go inside. We stay with RALPH outside Lakes & Cakes, a sweet looking bakery that sits on the corner of a cobbled street. RALPH feels slightly abandoned, and heads off towards the brewery . . .

11 **INT. RALPH AND KATIE'S KITCHEN. DAY 4. 16:04. MONTAGE.**

RALPH walks in to the kitchen and sees KATIE being timed by EMMA as she dusts cupcakes with icing sugar. EMMA checks the watch. Nods. The girls laugh and high five. RALPH walks out again, unnoticed.

TITLE CARD: *"A friend in need is a pest . . ."*

12 **INT. PUB. NIGHT 4. 19:15.**

RALPH sits with DANNY.

RALPH
She's pushing me out.

DANNY
Get a grip, Ralph. Emma is not pushing you out.

RALPH
Where am I?

DANNY
In the pub.

RALPH
Where is Emma?

DANNY
At home with Katie.

RALPH takes a drink and looks at DANNY over the lip of his pint. DANNY nods - point taken.

DANNY (CONT'D)
Look on the bright side. Emma works at the bakery too so you get to double up on free Vanilla Slices.

RALPH
I don't need cake. I need peace.

DANNY
Well, there's a sentence I never thought I'd hear.

RALPH doesn't smile.

DANNY (CONT'D)
For what it's worth, I think you're doing a good thing.

A look from RALPH.

(CONTINUED)

DANNY (CONT'D)

I'm a great believer in talking through problems.

Another look from RALPH. Doubtful.

DANNY (CONT'D)

You, Katie and Emma should sit down and talk it through.

RALPH

No.

DANNY

Why not?

RALPH

Me, Katie, Emma and you.

DANNY

Really? Right. Really? Should I be there? Is that appropriate?

RALPH

That'll be great.

DANNY looks at RALPH, trying to work out what just happened.

DANNY

Did you just play me?

RALPH takes a sip of his beer and stares straight ahead.

13

INT. RALPH AND KATIE'S KITCHEN. DAY 5. 08:25.

RALPH (in work clothes) at the breakfast table, putting out bowls. KATIE enters and sits down. RALPH looks at his watch then at the door.

KATIE

What?

RALPH

Nothing.

EMMA comes down, ready for work.

EMMA

That's very kind, Ralph, but I'll just have a brew. We've got an early delivery from the pastry man. And that's not nearly as exciting as it sounds.

RALPH

No, no. Sit down and eat.

(CONTINUED)

He pulls out the chair. Both EMMA and KATIE think this is a bit odd. DANNY enters, having let himself in.

DANNY
Morning, guys!

RALPH perks up.

RALPH
Morning. Here's Danny.

KATIE
(TO DANNY, CURIOUS)
You're early.

DANNY
Ralph and me wanted to sort out that bird table before he goes to work.

A sly wink at RALPH. RALPH smiles. EMMA recognises DANNY instantly.

DANNY (CONT'D)
You must be Emma. I'm Ralph and Katie's PA. Nice to meet you.

EMMA
We met already. Park Court Comprehensive? I was in the year below you?

DANNY
Oh. Yeah. Yeah. Of course.

EMMA
You don't remember me, do you?

DANNY
No.

EMMA laughs and takes a moment to look at DANNY.

EMMA
Well, you've changed a bit.

DANNY
Have I? Thank God for that. So have you. I'm sure. If I'd remembered you I'm sure I'd have noticed that you've changed.

RALPH
Emma's heartbroken.

EMMA

Yeah. But Danny is helping me get over it with his self-confidence class.

DANNY

I'm sorry. I'm back living with my Nan if that helps you feel any better.

EMMA

A bit.

DANNY

Just temporary, you know. A bit like you living here with Ralph and Katie. Temporary.

EMMA

Yeah. (SMILES) And I think maybe I've stayed long enough.

KATIE

No.

EMMA

Er. I think if Danny here is dropping hints then it's time, and I don't want to outstay my welcome. I'm sure my sister'll have me till I get myself sorted.

KATIE

You can stay here. I mean it. (LOOKS AT RALPH) We mean it.

RALPH looks down. EMMA sees there is something of an atmosphere. She heads for the door.

EMMA

Catch me up.

And she goes.

KATIE

What was that?

RALPH

What?

KATIE

I'm not stupid.

DANNY

I'll make a start on that bird table.

(CONTINUED)

KATIE

No. You stay there, Danny!

DANNY

It can wait.

KATIE

Danny came early. He is never early. He is never even on time!

RALPH looks at DANNY.

DANNY

Ralph had talked about how you were finding it, you know, a bit crowded. With Emma. And he wondered if it was easier if it came from me. To just drop a hint or two.

KATIE

You made a plan?

DANNY

I'm sorry.

RALPH

It's okay.

DANNY

It was actually Katie I was apologising to. I'll get on to that bird table.

DANNY exits to the garden.

RALPH

She's a pain in the arse.

KATIE

Good. That means she's a proper mate. Not a pity mate.

RALPH

Is it the job?

KATIE

What?

RALPH

(SLOWLY)

You made her stay. Because you need her.

KATIE

For what?

RALPH

To help you get the promotion.

(CONTINUED)

KATIE looks as though she has been hit.

KATIE

Is that what you think? Do you think I'm not good enough to get the promotion without Emma's help?

RALPH

I didn't mean it like that!

KATIE

Every day of my life people think I can't do things for myself. Every day I have to take that shit. But not from you. Not from my husband.

KATIE goes out of the door and slams it shut, leaving RALPH blinking back tears.

14

EXT. RALPH AND KATIE'S BACK GARDEN. DAY 5. 08:32.

DANNY is rolling a cigarette and staring at the parts of a self-assembly bird table. BRIAN, like a bird himself, appears on his side of the fence, clearly wanting to interrogate the new guy.

BRIAN

Bird table is it?

DANNY

That would be my guess.

BRIAN doesn't take the hint.

BRIAN

I find wildlife to be a welcome relief from an increasingly frantic world - although I don't think Springwatch has ever truly recovered from the loss of Bill Oddie.

DANNY

Sorry?

BRIAN

I take it you're the new Judith so to speak. Ralph's Mother mentioned you might struggle.

DANNY

Did she?

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN

But just so you know, Judith and the relevant agencies very much considered me part of Ralph and Katie's Circle of Support. (BEAT) A group of people that share a common goal to contribute to the collective wellbeing of the -

DANNY

(IN) I'm not struggling.

DANNY leaves the bird table and heads inside.

BRIAN

Judith used to have a special name for me.

DANNY

Just the one?

BRIAN

Mr Dependable.

But DANNY has gone.

15 **INT. RALPH AND KATIE'S KITCHEN. DAY 5. 08:33 (CONTINUOUS).**

DANNY in to find the house empty, RALPH nowhere to be seen.

TITLE CARD: *"When Does the Reassuring Bit Start?"*

15A **EXT. LAKES & CAKES BAKERY. DAY 5. 09:55.**

We take in the bakery for a few beats and then head inside.

16 **INT. LAKES & CAKES BAKERY. DAY 5. 09:55.**

A small brightly decorated bakery/cafe with a handful of tables that sells coffee, sandwiches, bread and cakes to eat in or takeaway. We find EMMA behind the counter, making a coffee, as KATIE puts on her apron, still angry.

EMMA

You okay?

KATIE

Will I get the promotion because I'm good?

EMMA

Of course you will.

(CONTINUED)

KATIE

Did you tell the boss she had to give it to me?

EMMA

What? No. But I wrote you a glowing reference. What's this about?

KATIE turns and DANNY has entered the cafe.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Danny! Twice in one day.

DANNY

Katie. I'm sorry about before. It was a daft idea. And I'm sorry to you too, Emma. I'm still working out where this job begins and ends.

KATIE

It starts with you not being a dick.

DANNY

Point taken.

EMMA

Good. All friends again?

EMMA's optimistic tone somewhat challenged by a look from KATIE that says, "I Don't Think So."

EMMA (CONT'D)

Danny. I'm feeling you're a skinny cappuccino but go easy on the chocolate sprinkles.

DANNY

Uncanny. Double espresso.

EMMA starts to make the coffee.

LOUISE (O.C.)

He'll have that to go, Emma.

DANNY turns to see LOUISE behind him.

LOUISE (CONT'D)

Then you and me can have a chat about why Ralph was just on the phone to me in tears?

17A **EXT. LAKE DISTRICT. DAY 5. 10:35.**

DANNY and LOUISE with takeaway coffees (in eco cups).

LOUISE
So you made a plan. With Ralph.
Behind Katie's back.

DANNY
It sounds worse when you say it out
loud.

LOUISE looks at DANNY and launches in.

LOUISE
In my head I have a box marked
Ralph. Sellotaped down. All sorted.
Then Ralph met Katie so I opened
the box and put her in. Then he
sprung marriage on us so that went
in it too. Then the moving out. Got
the support in place. Taped it down
again. And relax. Get on with my
life. But now. He's just burst out
of the box again and all this . . .
with you. I can't rest. Again.

DANNY
Maybe you just need a bigger box.

Off LOUISE's thunderous look.

DANNY (CONT'D)
Too soon?

LOUISE
You should be grateful Ralph's
stepdad isn't here right now.

DANNY
Right.

LOUISE
He's trekking in Nepal - the
Annapurna Ranges. (DANNY LOOKS
BLANK) Me neither. He'd just turned
60 and he needed a new challenge.
He'd run out of people to annoy in
Cumbria. You don't need to know any
of this. You just need to be
grateful he's not here because
believe it or not, I'm the calm and
reasonable one.

DANNY
It was stupid. What I did. I'll
make it right between them.

(CONTINUED)

LOUISE

Will you be charging for those hours or is that part of your after-sales service?

DANNY

Look, I get it. You don't trust me. And I think we both know why.

LOUISE

Do we?

DANNY

It was years ago. I was a kid. And I was a coward.

LOUISE senses new information here and is curious.

LOUISE

Go on.

DANNY

The bullying . . . Ralph and the school bus stop and . . .

LOUISE

You bullied Ralph?

DANNY

No! But I never tried to stop it. Hang on, I thought you knew. I thought that's why you didn't trust me.

LOUISE

I didn't trust you because I remember you getting done for shoplifting and breaking your Nan's heart. But now I know you stood by while Ralph got bullied you've really set my mind at rest!

DANNY

I know I'm not your perfect choice for Ralph and Katie. I'm not sure I'd pick myself for the job to be honest -

LOUISE

I'm asking you to reassure me. Can you let me know when that bit starts?

DANNY

But I also know what it feels like to be different round here. And how good it feels when you get a bit of help from the right person.

(CONTINUED)

LOUISE

And that's you, is it? The right person.

DANNY

I hope so.

Out on LOUISE. Not even a smile.

18

INT. RALPH AND KATIE'S KITCHEN. NIGHT 5. 18:45.

RALPH is cooking and DANNY checking the recipe card on his phone. It's a vegetarian paella. The kitchen looks like a bomb has hit it.

DANNY

You put the peas on and cover it up with foil.

RALPH finishes doing this.

RALPH

Why?

DANNY

Because when you take the foil off again, three doves will fly out.

RALPH tries not to laugh but he is amused.

RALPH

Is this going to work?

DANNY

Taste it if you're worried.

RALPH

I mean to win Katie back.

DANNY

You haven't lost Katie. You just had an argument.

RALPH

We never argue.

DANNY

An argument is a good sign. It means you aren't afraid to fall out.

RALPH

I am afraid to fall out.

EMMA enters with KATIE. RALPH turns, all charm and smiles.

(CONTINUED)

RALPH (CONT'D)

Hi ladies.

KATIE turns straight to EMMA.

KATIE

Emma. Can you please tell Ralph what you told me.

EMMA

Oh. Right. We're doing that now, are we? Ralph. If Katie gets the promotion tomorrow, it'll be because she's the best person for the job.

RALPH

I know.

EMMA

And they will be lucky to have her.

RALPH

I know.

EMMA

All I did was encourage her to apply. Because she's the best baker, she's the best barista and she's got the best smile in the cafe.

RALPH

I know.

KATIE

Then why did you say it?!

RALPH doesn't say anything.

EMMA

Well. There. That's sorted. Now can you two stop falling out. The world can't stand it.

RALPH stands opposite KATIE.

RALPH

I'm sorry.

RALPH puts his arms out to hug KATIE. She doesn't hug him back.

KATIE

It's not that easy.

RALPH

Why not?

(CONTINUED)

EMMA looks at DANNY, her expression telling him to say something.

DANNY

I've been in bad relationships and I know what it feels like if you're with somebody and they're always trying to trip you up, always doubting you. Always telling you you're lucky to have them and then wondering why you have no confidence. And you tell them you fancy them all the time but they never say it back. And then it turns out you were in an open relationship all along but he just hadn't told you. Christ, where was I going with this?

EMMA

Ralph and Katie.

DANNY

You two. You two aren't like that. Ralph was just wanting it to be you and him again. That's all. And I get that.

EMMA

And so do I. So I'm going to stay for my tea then I'm heading off to my sister's.

KATIE

No.

RALPH

I'd like you to stay.

EMMA

That's very sweet, Ralph. But I've stayed too long already. I'm not going to take advantage.

KATIE turns to RALPH.

KATIE

Happy now?

On RALPH - he looks to DANNY who has nothing.

19

INT. RALPH AND KATIE'S BEDROOM. NIGHT 5. 22:14.

RALPH and KATIE in bed. We are in darkness.

RALPH

I'm sorry.

(CONTINUED)

No reply.

RALPH (CONT'D)

Katie?

KATIE

You let me down, Ralph.

20 **EXT. LAKE DISTRICT. DAY 6. 12:00.**

A new day. A wide view of the hills.

21 **EXT. RALPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE. DAY 6. 13:55.**

Wide shot of the house.

DANNY (O.S.)

"Dear Katie, you're my wife . . ."

22 **INT. RALPH AND KATIE'S LIVING ROOM. DAY 6. 13:55 (CONT).**

DANNY, reading from a piece of paper -

DANNY

". . . And I'm sorry I was a nob."

(LOOKS AT RALPH)

It's poetic. No doubt about it.

(BEAT)

You know what, Ralph. Times like these, she needs to know what she means to you. So you go big. You go corny. And you ask yourself this. What would Marcus Rashford do?

RALPH nods and looks at the large framed photo of Marcus Rashford, which sits above the fireplace in the position that a picture of Jesus would occupy in a Catholic household. RALPH turns back to DANNY.

RALPH

What would you do?

On DANNY.

23 **INT. LAKES & CAKES BAKERY. DAY 6. 14:28.**

The job interviews are being held at one of the cafe tables. The boss - GERALDINE - is chatting and laughing with a SMARTLY DRESSED YOUNG MAN. KATIE waits at another table. EMMA comes over to wipe the table but to actually bolster KATIE who is watching the interview.

KATIE

The boss loves him. She's smiling.

(CONTINUED)

EMMA looks over. She isn't convinced.

KATIE (CONT'D)
He's going to get the job.

EMMA
She's humouring him. Trust me. You don't ask for proof of age on Pensioners Discount Day without learning a thing or two about body language. On the subject of smiles, you might need to remember how to do that.

KATIE
I'm going to wait outside. It's making me nervous.

KATIE gets up and heads outside.

24

EXT. LAKES & CAKES BAKERY. DAY 6. 14:30.

KATIE stands outside the cafe. She looks unhappy and tense. She checks her phone. Nothing.

She feels crestfallen. But at that moment she looks up and sees - at the end of the road - RALPH walking towards her, clutching a large brown paper grocery bag.

KATIE is just pleased to see him at this moment but before she can say anything he offers her the bag.

RALPH
Look in the bag.

KATIE, puzzled, looks in the bag.

KATIE
Nothing.

RALPH holds up his finger, turns away from KATIE, puts his hand in the 'empty' bag and pulls out a bunch of flowers, which he hands to KATIE.

KATIE (CONT'D)
How did you do that?

RALPH
I don't know.

KATIE laughs. RALPH is serious, looks into KATIE's eyes.

RALPH (CONT'D)
I believe in you, Katie. I always will.

(CONTINUED)

KATIE

Come here.

They hug.

KATIE (CONT'D)

You're my Knight in Shining Armour.

RALPH

That's my job. (BEAT - HE POINTS TO THE CAFE) Now go in there and smash it.

KATIE heads inside, full of confidence.

TITLE CARD: *"And in the end, the love you make, is equal to your love for cake."*

25

EXT. RALPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE. DAY 6. 16:00.

LOUISE arrives at the front door carrying a bottle of champagne. KATIE answers the front door and we notice she is wearing a zipped up hoodie.

LOUISE

I hear somebody got a promotion.

KATIE

Me!

KATIE turns and heads in. LOUISE follows.

26

INT. RALPH AND KATIE'S KITCHEN. DAY 6. 16:01 (CONTINUOUS).

As KATIE and LOUISE enter, DANNY - in a huddle with RALPH and EMMA - opens Prosecco.

DANNY

Congratulations.

And now DANNY, RALPH and EMMA turn and we see they are all wearing identical T shirts with 'Circle of Support' printed on them. KATIE unzips her hoodie to reveal the same.

LOUISE

Very funny. Have you got one for him next door?

DANNY

No, but don't worry, Louise. You won't miss out.

DANNY hands LOUISE her own 'Circle of Support' T shirt. LOUISE smiles.

(CONTINUED)

LOUISE
Oh. Right. Well.

EMMA
Will you wear it?

LOUISE
(STILL SMILING)
No.

EMMA has charged the glasses.

EMMA
To all of us, to Danny for his new job, to Katie for her new job, to Ralph for his honesty and to me, as I face up to the rest of my life as a lonely and desperate spinster.

DANNY
Hear, hear!

A look from EMMA - 'Thanks a lot, mate'

EMMA
And to the two of you. You've both been very kind. And I must have been pretty awful to have around.

KATIE
No, not at all.

RALPH leaves a gap for just too long.

RALPH
Not at all.

EMMA
(LAUGHS)
You're a good man, Ralph. What I'd give for a man like you.

RALPH
I'm taken.

KATIE
For now.

EMMA looks from RALPH and KATIE.

EMMA
The perfect couple.

KATIE
Not perfect.

EMMA

Not perfect, maybe, but at least you know you will never get your heart broken.

KATIE

Never again . . .

EMMA

How do you mean?

KATIE

My heart was broken once. But not by Ralph.

RALPH

Was it?

RALPH looks surprised and concerned.

KATIE

A long time ago. And I'm not going back there.

DANNY sees RALPH and senses something is needed so throws his arm round RALPH.

DANNY

Probably a City fan anyway, mate. Cheers!

RALPH smiles. Yeah. Nothing to worry about. LOUISE gives DANNY a nod of (almost) approval, then spots something in the garden and heads out. As she exits we notice that RALPH's smile has gone. There is something to worry about . . .

27

EXT. RALPH AND KATIE'S BACK GARDEN. DAY 6. 16:04 (CONT).

LOUISE finds BRIAN putting the finishing touches to the bird table that Danny failed to assemble earlier. She doesn't know whether to be grateful he has done the job or irritated that he is in Ralph and Katie's garden without permission.

BRIAN

There we go. That's never coming down.

LOUISE

Right. Thanks.

BRIAN

Absolute pleasure. I don't need much of an excuse to enjoy an hour with my Phillips screwdriver.

(CONTINUED)

LOUISE
Run out of things to do in your own
garden, then?

BRIAN catches LOUISE's tone.

BRIAN
It was never an issue with all the
others.

LOUISE
Well these two aren't 'all the
others'. Okay?

BRIAN
Point taken.

BRIAN goes back to his own garden. LOUISE suddenly feels
shitty.

LOUISE
Brian?

BRIAN turns and LOUISE hands him the 'Circle of Support'
T Shirt over the fence.

LOUISE (CONT'D)
Here. You might want to wear that
next time.

BRIAN looks at the T shirt, bemused.

BRIAN
Right. Thanks. I will.

LOUISE heads inside. BRIAN looks down at the T shirt again.
The slightest of smiles. Quite likes the idea.

28

EXT. STREET. NIGHT 6. 18:30.

DANNY and EMMA walk home. An easy friendship emerging between
these two.

DANNY
You really are staying at your
sister's aren't you? You're not
sleeping on a bench?

EMMA
I'm on the bottom bunk with my
sister's kid on the top but it's a
bed. With a safety rail. And an
Octopus night light. What more does
a single girl need?

(CONTINUED)

DANNY

How come Gary wasn't the one to move out?

EMMA

He didn't offer. And I didn't ask.

DANNY

And right there is the reason you're well shot of him. (BEAT) I do remember you from school, you know. And I remember Gary. He was an arsehole. Fancied himself. Like Draco Malfoy without the charm.

EMMA laughs, but then looks crestfallen.

DANNY (CONT'D)

It will get better.

EMMA nods.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Hey and what about Katie? Bit of a dark horse. How many fellers do you think she's had before Ralph?

EMMA

She said she'd had her heart broken. That hardly makes her a scarlet woman.

DANNY

Not so sure Ralph saw it that way.

EMMA

They'll be okay. If I could back any couple to put the past behind them and live life in the moment it's those two.

29

INT. RALPH AND KATIE'S BEDROOM. NIGHT 6. 22:11.

RALPH and KATIE are in bed.

KATIE

Night night.

KATIE leans towards RALPH who has his back to her, clearly expecting a kiss.

RALPH

Night.

(CONTINUED)

RALPH doesn't turn. KATIE kisses his shoulder then lies down. We stay on RALPH, his eyes still open, looking at his wedding day photo on his bedside table.

END OF EPISODE