

Losing It

By

William Barrington

1 INT. BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

JOSEPH, early twenties, topless, sits on a double bed in the corner of a woman's room. When he talks to the camera, we can tell he has a disability due to a speech impediment.

JOSEPH  
I... just lost my virginity. And I'm not happy.

He let's this sit in the air for a moment. Then:

JOSEPH (CONT'D)  
I mean, it was incredible.

2 INT. BEDROOM - FIVE MINUTES EARLIER

Joseph and a woman, LILY, early twenties, finish having sex. Lily lies on top of Joseph, both breathing heavily.

JOSEPH  
That was incredible.

Lily laughs, but it's unclear if it's at him or with him.

3 INT. BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING - CONTINUOUS

JOSEPH  
And then, she helped me...

4 INT. BEDROOM - FIVE MINUTES EARLIER

Lily has her hand under the bed covers, near Joseph's crotch. We see Joseph's hand, which is affected by his disability. We hear the twang of latex. Lily drops a condom to the floor.

5 INT. BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING - CONTINUOUS

JOSEPH  
Which...

Joseph doesn't know how he feels about that.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)  
But then...

6 INT. BEDROOM - FIVE MINUTES EARLIER

Lily, in a dressing gown, is about to leave the room. She smiles as she opens her mouth to speak.

7 INT. BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING - CONTINUOUS

With a voice full of disdain:

JOSEPH  
"I'm glad you enjoyed it. I thought you would."

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He sits in silence. The bed frame is decorated with fairy lights, but these are drowned out by the sunrise seeping through thin curtains. Clothes lay across the floor, a reminder of the past excitement.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

So, it was pity sex. Right? And then she helped me with the condom. So that's my dignity gone as well. All so she could feel like a good person. I don't want pity. I don't need pity.

Joseph smiles slightly, realising that's not completely true.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

Well, except from the woman in the fish shop who gives me free chips. But that's free chips.

The light relief is short. Joseph remembers what's happened.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

That's different. This is girls. And I'd figured out how to think about girls. And on a normal night out, I'm fine. Mickey and I go to the pub and we just drink.

8 INT. PUB - EVENING - NORMAL NIGHT 1 FLASHBACK

The loud chatter of a busy pub. Joseph's at a small table, too drunk to sit straight. A hand slides another pint across the table towards him. Joseph shakes his head. MICKEY, classically handsome, muscular with a fashionable beard, smiles and nods. Joseph grins and picks up the glass.

JOSEPH (V.O)

It's great. We talk shit and laugh at each other. But then, at some point...

9 INT. BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING - CONTINUOUS

The loud pub contrasts starkly with the quiet of the bedroom.

JOSEPH

Mickey will see the time. We'll have to run out of the pub and make it down to the club before last entry. The rest of the night depends on how drunk I am. When I'm drunk, I love it.

10 INT. NIGHTCLUB - NORMAL NIGHT 1 FLASHBACK

Music is blaring. Lights are flashing. Joseph dances crazily.

JOSEPH (V.O)

I'm like one of those inflatable dancing men you see outside tacky car  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

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JOSEPH (V.O) (CONT'D)  
salesrooms.

11 INT. BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING - CONTINUOUS

The club contrasts even more with the quiet bedroom.

JOSEPH  
But, normally, I'm not that drunk.

12 INT. NIGHTCLUB - NORMAL NIGHT 2 FLASHBACK

Joseph is standing by a wall. Next to him, Mickey is making out with A WOMAN. Joseph finishes his drink and walks away.

13 INT. BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING - CONTINUOUS

Joseph is looking at the floor.

JOSEPH  
Mickey will get distracted by some girl he'll sleep with. And I go home an hour after I arrived, having spent fifteen pounds on entry and a drink.

Joseph can't even stand self-pity.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)  
But it's fine. I'm used to it now anyway. I'm quite happy going home and  
(he laughs)  
having a wank. It's self sufficient.  
And like I said, I've figured it out.

He crawls across the bed, trying to convince us, and himself.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)  
I've just stopped hoping or dreaming about girls. That sounds too dramatic. I just mean, girls look at me and... Well I don't know what they see. But it's not someone they want to have sex with. And, I get it. I wouldn't want to have sex with someone who can't...  
(he picks one reason out of many)  
Control their own tongue. No one does. So I've just stopped thinking about girls. They're not interested in me and that's absolutely fine. I'm not a one night guy anyway. I'll just wait until they're thirtyfive and desperate.

He forces a smile. He wasn't as convincing as he hoped. He hoped his joke would make him feel better. It doesn't.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)  
But last night. It's Mickey's fault.  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

He's been sleeping with the same girl all week. Which was great. No club. Just pub. Perfect. But this is Mickey we're talking about.

14 INT. PUB - EVENING - LAST NIGHT FLASHBACK

Joseph and Mickey are sitting at their table. Mickey starts making eyes at someone behind Joseph. Joseph sighs.

15 INT. BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING - CONTINUOUS

JOSEPH

I wasn't surprised. And he dragged me into it, convinced he was doing it for me and not himself. So, soon we were at their table sharing cocktail pitchers. And inevitably...

16 INT. PUB - EVENING - LAST NIGHT FLASHBACK

Joseph is at a different table. Next to him, Mickey is making out with A WOMAN. Joseph rolls his eyes. Lily, sitting opposite Joseph, notices and laughs. Joseph smiles back.

17 INT. BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING - CONTINUOUS

Joseph talks about Lily with annoyance.

JOSEPH

I got talking to Lily, snoggy girl's friend. That was my mistake.

18 INT. PUB - EVENING - LAST NIGHT FLASHBACK

Joseph and Lily chat, laugh and enjoy each other's company.

JOSEPH (V.O)

She was being overly nice. I told her that she didn't have to talk to me if she didn't want to. She said she never does anything she doesn't want to. With this big stupid grin on her face.

19 INT. BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING - CONTINUOUS

JOSEPH

I knew it was sympathy. But I was trapped. I had to keep talking to her. Then snoggy girl wanted to go dancing. And suddenly everyone wanted to go to the club. I did try to get out of it. I told Lily I dance like an idiot. But she said she didn't care what people look like.

Joseph looks at us; 'What a self-righteous bitch.'

(CONTINUED)

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JOSEPH (CONT'D)

She took my hand and dragged me away.

20 INT. PUB - EVENING - LAST NIGHT FLASHBACK

Lily takes Joseph's hand, which is affected by his disability, and pulls him into the night.

21 INT. BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING - CONTINUOUS

Joseph is annoyed at himself.

JOSEPH

We got to the club and she started dancing with me. I just went with it because... I thought she'd be even more annoying if I resisted. I wasn't thinking...

22 INT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT - LAST NIGHT FLASHBACK

Joseph and Lily dance together, neither of them caring about what they look like. Lily pulls Joseph closer and kisses him. He kisses her back.

23 INT. BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING - CONTINUOUS

Joseph is clearly annoyed at himself.

JOSEPH

Stop thinking it was my first kiss. It wasn't. I bet she thought it was though. I did kiss her a lot. Maybe this is my fault. I didn't want this. I don't want to be like Mickey and lose it on a one night stand. But when someone

(He corrects himself)

When she stood there, and invited me back.

Joseph doesn't want to remember this, but...

24 EXT. NIGHTCLUB - LAST NIGHT FLASHBACK

Joseph and Lily stand outside the club in each other's arms, smiling excitedly. They clearly like each other.

JOSEPH (V.O)

She's just so, herself.

25 INT. BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING - CONTINUOUS

Joseph smiles at the memory, but is then annoyed at himself.

JOSEPH

See. And now I'm gonna be sad. Because she's great. But she's going to come

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

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JOSEPH (CONT'D)  
in and tell me to leave. I should  
really just get dressed and go. It'll  
be easier for both of us.

His legs swing over the edge of the bed and he puts his feet  
on the floor and stands up. But one foot lands on something:  
The condom. This makes him stop and think. He glances at the  
door.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)  
She did understand me straight away.  
She held my weird hand. She helped me  
with the condom, while laughing about  
it. And we did have fun. A lot of fun.

Joseph tries to fight it, but a smile slowly grows across his  
face. He sits back on the bed.

He nods slightly to himself, making a decision. He lifts his  
legs up, hesitates for a moment, and then slips them back  
under the bed covers. He settles himself in the middle of the  
bed. And waits.

The door opens as if by itself. Then Lily's head pops round  
the doorframe. At first, we aren't sure what she's thinking,  
But then she smiles. Joseph smiles back. He was right. She is  
great.

Lily walks into the room. She stands at the foot of the bed  
and holds up a condom. Joseph grins and nods. Lily shakes her  
head excitedly. She knows what's coming.

She a slight flick of her fingers, she reveals that the  
condom is one in a roll which unravels. Joseph could be  
smiling any more.

Lily throws the condoms at Joseph and walks round to get into  
bed. As she does, she takes off her dressing gown.

Joseph looks at the condoms, smiling but worried.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)  
I hope she realises I can't open  
these.

As Lily climbs into bed, she throws her dressing gown away  
and it falls over the camera.