

RUDE

by

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5 MINUTE MONOLOGUE FOR THE BREAK

SERIES 5 BBC THREE

1 INT. HALLWAY NEAR BAR, STUDENT UNION - SATURDAY NIGHT

BLACK SCREEN

We hear LARA's voice:

LARA
Why are you being a dick?!

REVEAL LARA throwing a drink in MAY'S face (NB
LARA's hair is down)

MAY is in shock as LARA storms off

CUT TO:

2 INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE INCLUSIVE TOILET, STUDENT UNION - SATURDAY NIGHT

MAY running past THREE FEMALE STUDENTS (18/19) in line outside an inclusive, gender neutral, disabled toilet.

As the toilet door opens, and AN IDENTIKIT GIRL emerges, MAY (18) appears from out of frame and SKIDS chaotically past the line of girls towards the open door. Queue-jumping brazenly, she SCREECHES into the toilet, SLAMS the door and LOCKS it.

MAY
Excuse me!

CUT TO:

TITLES:

"RUDE"

3 INT. INCLUSIVE TOILET, STUDENT UNION - SATURDAY NIGHT

MAY is dabbing her face dry with paper towel.

A FEMALE STUDENT outside knocks impatiently.

FEMALE STUDENT (OS)

Excuse me! Oi! There's people
waiting, you know!

MAY is at the mirror

MAY

I didn't mean to be rude. You
don't believe me. You think that
I was rude on purpose. But
that's because you don't
understand; because I've never
explained myself to anyone.
Ever. Because I don't know how.

KNOCKING and SHOUTING continues outside. MAY
ignores it.

MAY

And now I've lost my lifeline.

CUT TO:

4 INT. THE BAR, STUDENT UNION - WEDNESDAY NIGHT, FLASHBACK

MAY shyly loiters near the Union door. It's Freshers' Week

MAY

Do you know why you were my
lifeline? You were my lifeline
because you had big hair.

LARA approaches - her hair is in a tight, high
beehive style.

LARA

Hi! I'm Lara.

MAY

So, we met, and you were
into microbiology, said 'fuck' a
lot AND had big hair, I knew
everything was going to be OK.

CUT TO:

5 INT. INCLUSIVE TOILET, STUDENT UNION - SATURDAY NIGHT

More KNOCKING at the door. MAY ignores it.

MAY

I mean - we've been BFFs for like ten days now. You're a bit intense, a bit full-on sometimes. And I'm pretty sure you've got some complex anger issues, but hey - we've all got our flaws.

CUT TO:

6 INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE INCLUSIVE TOILET, STUDENT UNION - SATURDAY
NIGHT

LARA is typing anxiously on her phone

CUT TO:

7 INT. INCLUSIVE TOILET, STUDENT UNION - SATURDAY NIGHT

MAY's listening to the same message in voiceover.

ROBOT PHONE VOICE
Messages from Lara. Was that
your way of dumping me? Angry
face with Horns.

MAY stares her phone, a little deflated.

CUT TO:

8 INT. KITCHEN, MAY'S FAMILY HOME - DAY, FLASHBACK

MAY now sits sulking at the kitchen table where, next to her, are piled RNIB leaflets, magnifying glasses and a number of folded white canes in various sizes. FRAN (32) who looks like Miss Honey from Matilda, stands as she demonstrates how to hold a guide cane.

MAY

The first time Fran, my social worker, came over, she told me there was a website where I could get a custom-made cane with a 'cheerful' handle. 'Isn't that cool?'

MAY's face says she does not find this cool.

MAY

I told Fran that that *thing* wasn't for me but she said: 'The entire purpose of this cane is to help people understand that you are visually impaired'.

MAY'S face tells us what she thinks of that.

MAY

Yeah but will it help people understand I can do three tequilas in ninety seconds, that I know all the words to *Frozen* and that Keenan Ramsay once said I gave the best blow job in the whole of senior choir?

CUT TO:

9 INT. INCLUSIVE TOILET, STUDENT UNION - SATURDAY NIGHT

LARA (OS)

Can we just talk, please?

MAY

So when someone says 'hi' and I
can't see who it is, I do what
I always do: I just pretend.

CUT TO:

10 INT. HALLWAY NEAR BAR, STUDENT UNION - SATURDAY NIGHT

MAY is chatting to a MALE STUDENT.

LARA approaches (LARA is wearing her hair down)

LARA
(tapping MAY on the shoulder)
Hi

MAY glances around the room and we see, for the first time, how hard it is for her. Her vision is restricted and blurred.

MAY
I wait for speech patterns or
gestures to give them away.

MAY is still staring, panicked, at LARA who is, by now, also confused.

MAY
But there are times when I get
caught out and have to hold my
hands up.

LARA's confusion is turning to anger.

MAY
You were like 'why are you
being weird?' and I started
giggling because that's what I
do when I panic. And you were
like 'why are you being a dick?'
and I was like 'Oh fuck'

LARA throws her drink in MAY'S face and leaves.

MAY

I totally get that giggling is
an unhelpful stress response;
but so is throwing a gin and
tonic in someone's face!

MAY hurries away.

CUT TO:

11 INT. INCLUSIVE TOILET, STUDENT UNION - SATURDAY NIGHT

MAY

It's rude to blank people. It's
rude because on a deep, primal
level, we all need to be seen.

MAY stares at us now.

CUT TO:

12 INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE INCLUSIVE TOILET, STUDENT UNION - SATURDAY
NIGHT

LARA is texting MAY

CUT TO:

13 INT. INCLUSIVE TOILET, STUDENT UNION - SATURDAY NIGHT

ROBOTIC PHONE VOICE
Message from Lara. WTF? What is
(in capitals) WRONG WITH YOU?
Distressed face vomiting.
Distressed face vomiting.

MAY sags. She gazes into the mirror.

MAY
Honest question: would you
rather be seen as rude or
disabled?

This isn't easy for her. She's fighting to stay in
control.

MAY
Honest answers. No - glasses
make no difference, Yes - it's
genetic. Yes - it's
degenerative. It's getting
worse every day. Yes, it's
real. I was diagnosed three
years ago and I'm still trying
to find... (wobble) ... the
words. I haven't explained it
to you or to anyone because I
don't know how. I haven't
written the jokes yet. So
you're out there thinking -
it's still Freshers' Week. I
can find a new sidekick. Is
this weirdo worth my while? And
I'm in here thinking - how
can we be friends? How I am I

supposed to keep this up if you
don't have big hair? How am I
supposed to keep this up?

CUT TO:

14 INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE INCLUSIVE TOILET, STUDENT UNION -
SATURDAY NIGHT

LARA (OS)
Look, I'll see you around.

LARA leaves

CUT TO:

15 INT. INCLUSIVE TOILET, STUDENT UNION - SATURDAY NIGHT

MAY
(shouting)
Lara, wait!

MAY moves over to find her bag. She opens it and produces a folded bright white cane. She holds it up and stares at it.

Using the cane, MAY moves towards the toilet door.

MAY
Lara? I'm coming!

Keeping hold of her cane, MAY reaches out and slowly begins to unlock the door.

ENDS