

ROOMMATES
“Pilot”
by
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ROOMIES" - Episode One

COLD OPEN

INT. BAR - EVENING

MARK IS SITTING AT A TABLE AT A BAR. HE IS 22 YEARS OLD, SWEET LOOKING BUT A LONG WAY FROM DASHING.

HE LOOKS NERVOUS - AS HE IS WAITING FOR A COMPUTER DATE. HE IS WEARING A RED CARNATION IN HIS LAPEL.

AN ATTRACTIVE GIRL WALKS IN. AS SHE WALKS PAST, MARK LOOKS HOPEFUL. SHE WALKS STRAIGHT PAST. HE WATCHES HER GO AND LOOKS DISAPPOINTED.

ANOTHER ATTRACTIVE GIRL COMES IN. MARK LOOKS HOPEFUL. HE SEES HER GREET HER BOYFRIEND. HE LOOKS DISAPPOINTED.

FROM BEHIND MARK COMES A VOICE

KATIE (O.S.)

Mark? It's Mark isn't it?

MARK GETS UP AND TURNS AROUND AND SEES KATIE. SHE'S 22, A PRETTY GIRL NEXT DOOR TYPE. MARK KNOWS HER FROM HIGH SCHOOL. HE IS DELIGHTED TO SEE HER.

MARK

Katie! Wow Katie? This is amazing...

KATIE

It must have been... I mean it's years...

MARK

...I haven't seen you since high school. [he pauses and takes in the sight of her] Wow! Katie Mackey.

THEY SMILE AT EACH OTHER.

KATIE

Mark. Mark...

SHE STRUGGLES FOR THE LAST NAME AND LOSES.

KATIE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry - I've forgotten your last name.

MARK

Fletcher.

KATIE

Mark Fletcher.

MARK

This is incredible! I was thinking - my date's probably going to be awful, or like - a Russian transsexual. And then it turns out to be you!

KATIE

Huh?

MARK

I mean, I worried that this computer dating thing was only for loners and weirdos but...

KATIE

Computer dating?

MARK LOOKS KATIE UP AND DOWN. HE REALISES SHE IS WEARING A WAITRESS OUTFIT. SHE IS CARRYING A PAD OF PAPER, WITH A PEN. A BEAT OF REALISATION.

MARK

You...work here don't you?

KATIE

Yeah. You were saying something about computer dating.

MARK

Oh that! Ignore me! When I'm surprised I talk about things I have never, ever experienced. Have you ever been ice-climbing?

KATIE

No.

MARK

Me neither! There you see. So, where are you living at the moment?

KATIE

Just next door actually.

MARK

Oh right.

KATIE

Yeah. With some friends from college. There was someone else, but he's gone travelling, so if you know anyone who's looking...

MARK

Actually, I might know someone who'd be interested.

KATIE

Yeah?

MARK

He's er...about medium height, brown hair, quite charismatic, good looking in his own way, popular, a bit of a joker...

PAUSE

MARK (CONT'D)

...popular...

KATIE LOOKS BLANKLY AT MARK

MARK (CONT'D)

Me! I mean me!

KATIE

Oh yes! Of course! Well that would be perfect. I'm on my shift now, but stick around and I'll get you the details. Can you do that?

MARK

Sure.

KATIE

Great!

AND SHE GOES OFF ABOUT HER BUSINESS.

MARK SITS BACK IN HIS SEAT. A MASSIVE SMILE TAKES OVER HIS WHOLE FACE.

OLGA (O.S.)
(very low voice, Russian
accent)

Excuse me? Are you Mark Fletcher?

MARK LOOKS UP TO SEE A VERY OBVIOUS, STOCKY TRANSSEXUAL STANDING IN FRONT OF HIM.

MARK

Me?

MARK THINKS ABOUT HIS RESPONSE.

MARK (CONT'D)

No.

OLGAR LOOKS AT MARK SUSPICIOUSLY. MARK SMILES BACK.

ACT ONEINT. THOM'S KITCHEN/LOUNGE - MORNING

THE TINY MAIN ROOM OF A TINY ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT. IT IS A COMPLETE TIP.

MARK IS SLEEPING IN A SLEEPING BAG ON A MATTRESS ON THE FLOOR. HIS CLOTHES ARE STREWN ON THE SOFA.

THERE ARE NO CURTAINS, AND THE ROOM IS LETTING IN ALL THE LIGHT, SO MARK IS WEARING THOSE BLACK GOGGLES PEOPLE WEAR FOR HANGOVERS/AIR TRAVEL.

THOM ENTERS. HE IS A LOVEABLE AND ENTHUSIASTIC 22 YEAR OLD GEEK. HE AND MARK ARE BEST FRIENDS FROM COLLEGE.

HE IS NAKED. HE IS TOTALLY COMFORTABLE WITH THIS.

THOM

Hey stud, how did the date go!

MARK GROANS IN BED.

THOM LOOKS AT THE SINK WHICH IS FULL OF DIRTY PLATES. HE GETS TO THE BOTTOM AND TAKES OUT A VERY DIRTY BOWL FROM THE SIDE.

HE STUDIES IT. HE POURS CEREAL AND MILK IN. HE EATS A SPOONFUL, AND CHEWS THOUGHTFULLY.

THOM (CONT'D)

You know you'd expect chicken soup and
Cheerios to go well together. They
don't.

HE TAKES ANOTHER SPOONFUL JUST TO MAKE SURE.

THOM (CONT'D)

No, they really don't.

THOM PUTS THE BOWL DOWN.

HE GOES TO THE WINDOW AND LOOKS OUT. HE YAWNS AND STRETCHES.

HE SEES SOMEONE ON THE STREET BELOW. THEY'RE CLEARLY ABLE TO SEE HIM COMPLETELY NAKED. HE SMILES. HE WAVES. HE CHUCKLES TO HIMSELF.

THOM (CONT'D)
(with affection)

Kids!

MARK GROANS IN BED.

THOM (CONT'D)

Mark, time to get up! Time for you to
start the day.

MARK GROANS. THOM TUGS MARK'S SLEEPING BAG A BIT OFF HIM.

THOM (CONT'D)

Mark. Get up!

THOM TUGS AGAIN, MARK PUTS UP MORE RESISTANCE, BUT THE COVERS
ARE ALMOST OFF. THOM CONTINUES TO URGE MARK TO GET UP, UNTIL...

MARK

Right, that's it.

MARK SUDDENLY LAUNCHES HIMSELF AT THOM. THEY WRESTLE ON THE
FLOOR FOR A WHILE, UNTIL MARK IS FIRMLY PINNED UNDER THOM.

THEY LIE FACE TO FACE, LAUGHING. MARK SUDDENLY STOPS
LAUGHING, AS IF HE'S FELT SOMETHING. THOM IS STILL LAUGHING.

MARK (CONT'D)

Thom?

THOM

Mark.

PAUSE

MARK

You're naked, aren't you.

MARK SLOWLY LIFTS OFF HIS EYE GOGGLES. HE LOOKS AT THOM IN
HORROR.

THOM

Yes, I am.

PAUSE

MARK

I... think it's time I moved out.

THOM

Move out?

MARK HAS LEFT THE ROOM, LEAVING THOM THERE NAKED, FACE DOWN ON THE FLOOR. HE CALLS AFTER MARK, DESPERATE.

THOM (CONT'D)

For the love of god - why?!

INT. KATIE'S ROOM - MORNING

A DOUBLE BEDROOM IN A MARKEDLY MORE STYLISH APARTMENT.

BEN IS 22 AND VERY GOOD LOOKING JOCK. HE IS KATIE'S ON/OFF BOYFRIEND AND KNOWS HER FROM COLLEGE.

NAKED, SAVE AN ELEGANT KIMONO, HE WAKES UP TO SEE KATIE STANDING AT THE FOOT OF HIS BED.

THE BED IS COVERED WITH POST-COITAL TISSUES. KATIE IS DETERMINED BUT TEARFUL...

KATIE

I know I said this two weeks ago. But
this time it really is over, Ben.

BEN

OK.

BEN ROLLS OUT OF BED, TOTALLY NONCHALANT. KATIE MEETS HIM AT THE DOOR OF THE ROOM.

KATIE

What went wrong? Was I not good enough
for you?

BEN

You were too good, Katie. There was nothing left to want.

KATIE

Is that true?

BEN

Of course not. Can I go now?

BEN WALKS INTO THE ENSUITE BATHROOM. WE HEAR A SHOWER START.

INT. THOM'S KITCHEN/LOUNGE - MORNING

THOM AND MARK ARE EATING BREAKFAST AT THE BREAKFAST BAR. THOM'S CLEARLY REALLY UPSET WITH MARK.

HE BUTTERS SOME TOAST AGGRESSIVELY. HE CLUNKS DOWN THE KNIFE. HE CLUNKS DOWN THE BUTTER.

MARK

You're not upset are you?

THOM
(incredibly upset)

No!

MARK

I'm sorry, Thom, but this is exactly the kind of break I've been looking for. I've been dreaming about Katie since I was fifteen years old.

PAUSE. THOM IS NOT MOVED.

MARK (CONT'D)

This guy James she shares with,
apparently he's an investment banker -
he's rich, dresses well, goes out a
lot.

THOM

Goes out a lot?

MARK

Yeah. His girlfriend's this glamorous
girl in TV.

THOM
(impressed)

TV? Girlfriend?

MARK

You see? These are people I can really
relate to.

THOM HAS CHEERED UP

THOM

Yeah. Me too. We'll all be great
friends.

MARK LOOKS AWKWARD

MARK

Yes, but I really feel they could
bring something out in me.

THOM
(grinning)

And I'll be right by your side. We'll
all hang out together.

MARK LOOKS, AGAIN, AWKWARD.

THOM PICKS UP A DIRTY MUG FROM THE SINK. HE POURS SOME ORANGE JUICE INTO IT.

MARK

Didn't you mix your eggs in that mug?

THOM SPITS OUT HIS ORANGE JUICE. IT IS DISGUSTING.

THOM

I'm having really bad luck with my combinations this morning!

THOM LOOKS AT THE INSIDE OF THE MUG. WE SEE IT TOO, IT'S DISGUSTING.

THOM (CONT'D)

Actually the aftertaste is OK.

INT. KATIE'S ROOM - MORNING

KATIE IS STILL AT THE DOOR OF BEN'S ROOM. BEN IS BRISKLY DRYING HIMSELF OFF AFTER HIS SHOWER.

KATIE

Three months is a long time, Ben. When I think about that whole part of our lives that we're just throwing away...

BEN

You want to have sex one last time.

KATIE

Yes.

BEN

Like last night.

KATIE

Yes.

BEN SHRUGS. HE FOLDS UP HIS TOWEL.

BEN

Sure. Why not?

EXT. A TRAIN PLATFORM - MORNING

THOM AND MARK ARE WAITING ON A TRAIN PLATFORM, STANDING BESIDE ONE OF THOSE SMALL COFFEE BOOTHS.

MARK

She's with this guy called Ben at present but, reading between the lines, I reckon that's rocky. All I have to do is wait.

THOM

Wait? Let me say something here, Mark. Women respect a powerful man. That's why I took up archery. Women respect a man with imagination. That's why I read fantasy fiction. Women do not, however, respect a man who has been building up to making his move for six and a half years. That's why I didn't do that and I never would.

MARK

But at least if I get into the house, I can...

THOM
(nodding)

Live on the same territory, establish
a day to day rapport - sure. But then
surprise her with some subtle token of
your affection. Something classy.

PAUSE. THOM THINKS.

THOM (CONT'D)

Remember that film we saw where the
guy makes up to his wife by wrapping
flowers around his genitals?

MARK

Yes.

THOM

Would she like that?

MARK

Katie?

THOM

Sure.

MARK

No.

THOM

Not the flowers kind, eh? Tricky.

Tricky.

MARK

I was thinking more, you know. We'd be watching TV one night, and gradually her head would rest onto my shoulder, and she'd nuzzle my neck and start to kiss me. And then she'd take my hand and lead me to her room. And then...

THOM
(captivated by the story)

And then what..?

MARK

And then we'd have sex.

THOM

Great! I did not see that coming.

THE COFFEE WAITRESS BEHIND THE COUNTER IS A 22 YEAR OLD, WHO LOOKS LIKE SHE WOULD BE VERY GLAMOROUS ON HER DAYS OFF. SHE IS WELL GROOMED AND HARD EDGED.

SHE LEANS FORWARD AND PLONKS A COFFEE IN FRONT OF MARK. MARK LOOKS AT THE CUP OF COFFEE.

MARK

Umm... sorry. I think I ordered a cup of tea.

THE WAITRESS LOOKS BLANKLY BACK AT HIM.

MARK (CONT'D)

This is coffee.

WAITRESS
(as if Mark is being
staggeringly petty)

It's a hot drink.

MARK

Well, may I have a cup of tea instead
please?

THE WAITRESS SHAKES HER HEAD, AND GROANS IN PROTEST LIKE AN
ADOLESCENT. SHE GOES TO THE BACK OF THE COFFEE BOOTH AND
STARTS TO PREPARE ANOTHER DRINK.

MARK STANDS AGOG FOR A WHILE.

THOM

This is all part of the same thing,
Mark. You let women walk all over you.
Stop being so nice. As soon as that
bitch comes back I want you to give
her hell!

WAITRESS

There's your tea, sir.

SHE HANDS OVER THE ACCOMPANYING PAPER NAPKIN.

WAITRESS (CONT'D)

And there's your prize for being this
week's most anal customer.

MARK

Thank you. Thanks, very much.

THE WAITRESS TUTS AND PROCEEDS BACK.

MARK TURNS TO SEE THOM SHAKE HIS HEAD.

MARK RAPS HIS HAND ON THE COUNTER.

MARK (CONT'D)

Erm...excuse me.

WAITRESS

What?

MARK

Excuse me... I'm sorry. I don't like
your attitude.

WAITRESS

What's wrong with my attitude?

MARK
(warming up)

It's bad. It's a bad attitude.

WAITRESS

So?

MARK

So, I think we need to talk...

FADE TO:

MARK (CONT'D)
(relaxed)

You probably don't think this is
really your job, do you? You're not
really just a coffee-vendor. You're
waiting for your break in television,
or advertising, somewhere where you
can be pretty and bright for a living.
Well, I think you should know: you're
not that pretty, and my guess is
you're not that bright...

FADE TO:

MARK (CONT'D)
(animated)

You, you're going nowhere fast.

(MORE)

MARK (CONT'D)

You'll be here till promotion takes you to the giddy heights of sandwich manager, or Keith from corporate puts you in charge of the latte machine.

FADE TO:

MARK (CONT'D)
(absolutely masterful)

So, until that day you should try and remember I am customer; you are coffee attendant. Please, learn to distinguish between the only two hot drinks you have to serve. By the way, that's tea, that's coffee.

THOM
(pointing at his drink)

And that's hot chocolate.

MARK
(ignoring Thom)

So for pity's sake, keep your sarcastic comments to yourself in future. Because you piss me off. Good day.

MARK WALKS AWAY.

THE CAMERA CLOCKS THE COFFEE ATTENDANT. A SINGLE TEAR TRICKLES DOWN HER CHEEK.

THOM

That was totally amazing.

INT. BAR - MORNING

THOM

How come this guy James has to interview you?

MARK

It's his house. I guess he wants to check he likes his new roomie.

THOM

Right. And how are you going to impress him?

MARK

I don't know. Just be myself I guess.

THOM LOOKS AT HIM, WORRIED. HE STARTS SLOWLY SHAKING HIS HEAD, LOOKING MARK IN THE EYES.

MARK (CONT'D)

What?

THOM

OK. Practice questions for the interview then:

THOM CHANGES HIS DEMEANOR TO ACT THE PART OF A HARSH INTERVIEWER.

THOM (CONT'D)

So Mark, are you currently attached?

MARK

Not at the moment, James.

THOM LOOKS AT MARK, AS IF TO IMPLY THAT BEING SINGLE MEANS YOU ARE WEIRD.

THOM

Hmm.

MARK

I mean, I'm single at the moment, but in my time at college, I went out with three or four girls. Really attractive ones.

THOM
(reverting to his normal
self)

You never! I was at college with you.

MARK

Thom, I told you about those three or four girls I went out with at high school. The really attractive ones.

THOM

At high school, yes. But the sex tired you out so much that at college you decided to be celibate for three years. Remember? And I did too. To help you out.

MARK

Yes, but I have to tell James I went out with lots of girls at college, because otherwise it sounds a bit strange, like a lie. Even though it's true.

THOM

You're right. I have the same problem when I tell people about losing my virginity to that girl in the Czech Republic.

MARK

(correcting him)

You mean Fiji.

THOM

Yes, Fiji. Of course.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOINT. OFFICE - MORNING

WE SEE THE FACE OF A WATCH READING HALF-PAST TWELVE. WE THEN SEE THE WATCH'S WEARER.

WE ARE IN JAMES' OFFICE. JAMES IS 22, A FAIRLY AVERAGE LOOKING GUY IN EXPENSIVE CLOTHES WITH A SERIOUS SELF IMPORTANT MANNER. JAMES IS DINGLE'S BOYFRIEND, AND KNOWS DINGLE, KATIE AND BEN FROM COLLEGE.

HE IS SHOUTING INTO A PHONE AS HE CHECKS THE TIME.

JAMES

No, no! I don't want to hear any of this crap, just quote me a number!...give me a number... no, I don't want to hear that, I don't want to hear that, I don't want...

A KNOCK ON THE DOOR. JAMES GESTURES MARK IN, AND CONTINUES TALKING.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Listen, buddy, are we going to screw around with generalities all day, or are you going to give me what I want? Good. Right. That wasn't so hard now was it?

HE PUTS THE PHONE DOWN

JAMES (CONT'D)

Goddam directory assistance!

HE STANDS TO SHAKE HANDS.

JAMES (CONT'D)

You must be Mark.

INT. BAR - AFTERNOON

KATIE IS IN A BAR WITH HER BEST FRIEND, DINGLE. DINGLE IS KATIE'S BEST FRIEND FROM COLLEGE.

KATIE IS LOOKING AT A PHOTO. THE CAMERA SHOT REMAINS TIGHT ON KATIE'S FACE.

DINGLE

How have you been feeling since Ben finished with you?

KATIE LOOKS TEARFUL ON AN INSTANT.

KATIE

Not good. I just can't believe it's really over. It doesn't seem so long ago that he took me back to his place for the first time. [dreamily] We made love in every room.

DINGLE

It was a studio apartment.

KATIE

It was so romantic! Where did it all go wrong?

DINGLE

Don't blame yourself, Katie! There's no way you could have predicted it.

KATIE

Thanks honey.

DINGLE

Except that he did do the same thing to all your friends at high school, and I did tell you every day twice a day for the whole three months of your relationship that he was going to cheat on you. Which he did.

KATIE SLUMPS ON THE TABLE, AND CRIES IN EARNEST.

DINGLE MOVES THE PHOTO ACROSS THE TABLE TOWARDS HER.

IT SHOWS BEN AT GRADUATION, SURROUNDED BY KATIE, DINGLE AND TWO OTHER GIRLS.

DINGLE (CONT'D)

Katie, you might think this shallow, but after my exam results, my career looked dead in the water, just like your love life does. Now, I've got a job in television, I'm successful, thin, and thrillingly happy. So don't cry. It can happen. It happened to me.

WE NOW SEE DINGLE.

IT IS THE SAME GIRL AS THE COFFEE ATTENDANT THAT MARK TOLD OFF.

SHE SMILES

INT. OFFICE - AFTERNOON

JAMES IS PACING ABOUT THE ROOM, HOLDING HIS CLIPBOARD.

MARK

I'm an actor.

JAMES

An actor?! Wow! What kind of stuff do you do?

MARK

Well, you know, theatre, TV, films...

JAMES

Films? What films have you been in?

MARK

Pardon?

JAMES

I mean, were you in "Amistad"? That's a very touching film.

MARK

No. I'm actually just temping at the moment.

JAMES

Right. Temping. Wow. [he mouths while he makes a note] "Amistad".

INT. BAR - AFTERNOON

DINGLE AND KATIE'S DISCUSSION IS NOW QUITE HEATED.

KATIE

Dingle, I know Ben. And you have to realize that Ben is a very physical person - he finds it hard to express himself otherwise. So when he had sex with Nicky...

DINGLE

And Jane.

KATIE

...and Jane... he was saying "look at me.
I feel neglected."

DINGLE

Katie, Ben used you. And if you keep
going back for more, he'll just use
you again.

KATIE

Do you think so? Do you think there's
still a chance?

KATIE REALIZES WHAT SHE HAS SAID AND LOOKS DOWN IN SHAME. SHE
LOOKS LIKE SHE'S ABOUT TO CRY. DINGLE REACHES ACROSS THE
TABLE TO CONSOLE HER.

DINGLE

Oh darling! Do you know what the most
difficult thing in the world is?
Watching your friends make mistakes.
When you've specifically told them not
to. Now, I don't want you to feel
emotionally pressured by this, but if
you sleep with Ben one more time, I'll
never speak to you again. It's the
only kind way.

KATIE

But...

DINGLE

Promise!

KATIE

I promise, Dingle.

DINGLE

Good girl.

KATIE GETS UP TO GO TO THE TOILET.

DINGLE REACHES INTO HER HANDBAG AND BRINGS OUT A FOLDED PIECE OF PAPER. AS SHE UNFOLDS IT WE REALIZE IT IS A PHOTO, A COPY OF THE PHOTO KATIE HAD.

HOWEVER, IN DINGLE'S COPY, THE TWO OTHER GIRLS HAVE BLACK MARKER PEN CROSSES OVER THEIR FACES. DINGLE GETS A BLACK MARKER PEN. SHE CROSSES OUT KATIE'S FACE. SHE LOOKS UP, LOST IN REVERIE.

INT. OFFICE - AFTERNOON

JAMES IS BACK ON HIS CHAIR. HE LOOKS DOWN HIS NOTES. HE APPEARS TO BE MAKING SOME CALCULATIONS FROM THEM.

JAMES

Well, Mark...I am pleased to welcome...

no, wait!

HE LOOKS BACK AT HIS NOTES, MOVING HIS LIPS AS HE GOES. HE HAS TO TURN HIS EYES UPWARDS AS IF TRYING TO MAKE SURE A BIT OF ARITHMETIC IS RIGHT.

JAMES (CONT'D)

No. No. It's alright. I was right

before.

JAMES BEGINS HOLE-PUNCHING THE NOW MASSIVE PILE OF NOTES HE HAS MADE, AND PROCEEDS TO PUT THEM IN A RING BINDER ENTITLED "MARK FLETCHER"

JAMES (CONT'D)

Now, in an ideal world I'd check with Dingle before I do this, but screw it - it's my name on the contract. I'd be delighted to have you with us. Just sign there

HE HANDS THE CONTRACT TO MARK

INT. BAR - AFTERNOON

MARK ENTERS THE BAR, WITH A BIG FAT SMILE. KATIE RUNS UP TO HIM.

KATIE

Good?

MARK

(with new found confidence)

I'm your new lover! Roommate. I said roommate.

KATIE, OBLIVIOUS, SMILES AND GIVES MARK A HUG. MARK SEES DINGLE OVER HER SHOULDER. HIS FACE DROPS.

KATIE

Mark, this is my other roomie, Dingle.

MARK

Yes, we've met - no we haven't.

DINGLE IS SHAKING HER HEAD FURIOUSLY AT HIM.

KATIE

Hey, maybe Dingle could help you out.

[to Dingle] Mark wants to be an actor...

MARK

(correcting her)

Is an actor...

KATIE
(to Mark)

...Dingle works in TV.

MARK NOTES THE LIE BUT TRIES TO BE POLITE ABOUT IT.

MARK

Oh really, what on?

DINGLE

It's called "if you think you're
living with me after what happened
this morning, you're very much
mistaken."

SHE STARES AT MARK. MARK STARES BACK, BUT LOOKS UNCERTAIN.

KATIE

If that's a new project, Mark could
audition for it!

MARK, STILL STARING AT DINGLE, DECIDES THIS IS TOO IMPORTANT
NOT TO FIGHT.

MARK

Hmm. When's it being filmed?

DINGLE

November.

MARK

Actually Katie, I've got a job coming
up in November.

(MORE)

MARK (CONT'D)

I'm up to play a desperate man who it's unwise to cross, in the crime thriller "I know your secret, Missy, and I'll snitch if you attempt to foil my accommodation plans."

KATIE

Mark, that's wonderful. Why didn't you tell me?

DINGLE

I think I know a producer who's working on that actually, Mark. I met him on "very well, we have a deal, but I'll be watching you"

KATIE

Brilliant. When did you do that one?

DINGLE

It's ongoing.

MARK AND DINGLE ARE STARING AT EACH OTHER TO THE POINT WHERE KATIE IS FINDING CONVERSATION QUITE HARD.

KATIE

I'm such an idiot! I haven't heard of any of those programmes.

DINGLE AND MARK
(simultaneously)

They're on cable.

DINGLE AND MARK LOOK AT EACH OTHER. THEY ARE WORTHY OPPONENTS...

INT. THE APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

MARK IS BRINGING IN ALL HIS STUFF. KATIE IS ON THE SOFA.

THERE ARE SUITCASES, A PLANT, A LAVA LAMP, BOOKS, DUMBBELLS, A CASSIUS CLAY POSTER, A LARGE GLASS FRAME WITH PHOTOS OF MARK WITH FRIENDS.

MARK

That's the lot.

KATIE

Remember when me and Hannah Proops tried to smuggle all that bourbon onto the high school trip?

MARK

Yes.

KATIE

And you took the blame for us.

MARK

(mimicking himself)

"It's mine. It's all mine!"

KATIE

(laughing)

Yes. And Mr. Marshall said..

MARK

(mimicking Mr. Marshall)

"you're suspended for a week, and I'm going to put you on report card for the next three years!"

KATIE LAUGHS, BUT LESS SURE OF HERSELF

KATIE

Yes, and..

MARK

And my dad said: [mimicking his dad]
"we're worried about you, Mark, so
we're sending you to live with grandma
in Layton...

PAUSE

KATIE

Mark.

MARK

(still mimicking his dad)

"...which is in Utah."

PAUSE

KATIE

Taking the blame like that. That was a
really sweet thing to do.

MARK SMILES

MARK

Thanks.

PAUSE

KATIE

What did you think of Dingle?

MARK

I really really really like her.

KATIE

Sometimes I think she can be a
bit...um...do you know what I mean?

MARK

Yeah. I could tell that she was
um...like that.

KATIE

Bossy.

MARK

Yes, exactly. Bossy. And a bad judge
of character. Quite arrogant too. And
really annoying.

KATIE

I thought you liked her.

MARK

I do. I do. I really really really
like her.

KATIE

Could I ask you something?

MARK

Sure.

KATIE

This is a hypothetical situation which
isn't real and I'm asking it because I
just want to know the etiquette if it
maybe happened to a friend of mine,
like, way off in the future or
something.

MARK

OK.

KATIE

If this person's best friend, the one in the future, has told her not to be with someone, and has made her promise not to, but she still wants to be with that person. What do you think she should she do?

MARK

This is about... you and Dingle?

KATIE
(impressed with his
perception)

Yes! But it's someone she doesn't really know, and I, well, I've known him for ages.

MARK NODS.

MARK

You shouldn't listen to Dingle. I don't think she's... objective.

KATIE

Thanks, Mark. I'll see you at home.

KATIE GIVES MARK A HUG. WE SEE MARK'S FACE OVER KATIE'S SHOULDER. HE LOOKS EXTREMELY HAPPY.

INT. BAR - AFTERNOON

THOM AND MARK ARE SIPPING FROM GLASSES OF MILK.

THOM

That is awesome. There is absolutely no way she could have been talking about anyone else but you.

MARK

Think so?

THOM

Sure. I've got some er... if you... need... to

MARK TAPS HIS WALLET. THOM NODS.

THOM (CONT'D)
(making another signal)

And?

MARK
(confident)

Ralph Lauren tight fit trunks.

THOM

Nice, nice. Just one problem.

MARK

The best friend.

THOM

Mark, I enjoyed this morning on the platform. I admire what you did, don't get me wrong. However, with the benefit of hindsight, knowing that you were about to move in with her, you almost certainly made a bad first impression.

MARK

Maybe it won't make a difference.

THOM

Think for a minute, will you? If Dingle hates you, she'll try to make life in the house as hard as possible. You'll start to feel unpopular - just like at college. Except this time it'll be worse - because this is real life - there's no going back.

HE TAKES A SIP OF MILK.

THOM (CONT'D)

You've got to show Katie how much she means to you before Dingle ruins it all. The question is: how?

MARK PUTS HIS HEAD IN HIS HANDS AND STARTS TO THINK.

END OF ACT II

ACT THREE

INT. THE APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

KATIE

Thanks for coming.

BEN

Pleasure. Here's all the stuff of
yours I could find.

HE GETS OUT A CD FROM HIS POCKET.

KATIE

"The Beach Boys"? But that's yours. I
gave it you for your 22nd.

BEN

Did you? Pause. Oh well, it's here
now, you may as well have it.

PAUSE

KATIE

Maybe in another reality, we would
have stayed together.

BEN

Hmmm. No.

BEN TURNS TO GO.

KATIE

Ben?

BEN

What?

KATIE

Three months is a long...

BEN

You want to have sex one last time.

KATIE

Yes.

BEN

Like this morning.

KATIE

Yes.

BEN

OK then.

INT. THE APARTMENT - EVENING

BEN IS LEAVING THE APARTMENT. AS HE LEAVES THE DOOR, HE BUMPS INTO MARK, WHO IS COMING IN.

MARK SPILLS THE COFFEE HE IS HOLDING DOWN HIS PANTS.

BEN

Oh, I'm sorry!

MARK

(wiping himself with his hands)

No, it's fine, it's fine. You must be

Ben.

BEN

Yeah. I'm Ben.

MARK

(deflated)

Great. You're really tall and good-looking.

BEN

Yeah. I'm leaving now.

HE LEAVES. MARK WATCHES HIM GO. HE IS VERY ANNOYED THAT THIS IS HIS RIVAL. HE BEGINS TO BEAT HIS HEAD AGAINST THE FRONT DOOR.

KATIE (O.S.)
(from the bathroom)

Who's that?

MARK QUILTS HURTING HIMSELF.

MARK

It's me! Mark.

KATIE EMERGES FROM THE BATHROOM. SHE IS NOT QUITE FULLY DRESSED, AND HER MASCARA IS A BIT SMUDGED. SHE HAS CLEARLY BEEN CRYING, BUT IS MAKING AN EFFORT TO LOOK COMPOSED.

SHE IS HOLDING A BOX OF TISSUES

KATIE

Mark...

MARK

You've got some mascara on your face...

KATIE

Oh.

SHE DABS AT IT. IT DOESN'T GO AWAY.

MARK

Just saw Ben at the door.

KATIE

Really? Mark, you won't let Dingle know Ben was here will you?

MARK

Dingle?

KATIE

Only, I don't think she's really objective about Ben. So I took your advice instead. You won't tell, will you?

MARK LOOKS TEMPORARILY DISTRAUGHT, THEN..

MARK
(heroically)

You can count on me, Katie.

KATIE

Promise?

MARK

I promise.

KATIE

Thanks, Mark. What would I do without you?

KATIE HUGS MARK WITH GREAT AFFECTION. MARK SMILES AS HE HUGS HER BACK. SHE NOTICES HIS PANTS.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Your pants are dirty.

MARK

Oh, I spilled some coffee on myself, it's noth..

KATIE

You'd better take them off or they'll be ruined. I'll deal with that for you.

MARK

Take them off...?

KATIE
(tugging at Mark's belt)

Mark, it's only me. Don't be shy.

MARK TAKES THEM OFF. HE IS WEARING RALPH LAUREN TIGHT FIT TRUNKS. THEY DON'T SUIT HIM.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Let's see if I can get this off. Stay
right there.

SHE GOES INTO THE KITCHEN. MUSIC VERY QUIETLY IN THE BACKGROUND.

MARK LOOKS AROUND. HE LEANS AGAINST THE WALL AS IF DRUNK. EVERYTHING GOES BLURRY AND STRANGELY ANGLED. HEARTBEAT ON THE SOUNDTRACK. WE SEE KATIE, CLOSE UP FROM MARK'S POV.

KATIE (CONT'D)

You'd better take your pants off or
they'll be ruined.

SHE LOOKS DOWN. A LITTLE SMILE. HEARTBEAT BUILDS UP.

KATIE (CONT'D)

I'll deal with that for you.

SHE DESCENDS OUT OF VIEW. BEHIND HER STANDS DINGLE.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Let's see if I can get this off.

DINGLE

Why haven't you got any pants on?

SUDDEN CUT BACK TO REALITY. HEARTBEAT STOPS. DINGLE IS POISED BUT OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED. JAMES STANDS BEHIND HER. THERE IS AN AWFUL SILENCE.

MARK

Erm.. I got coffee on them. Katie said
she'd wash them. I'm sorry.

THEY STARE AT HIM INTENTLY

DINGLE

It's alright, Mark, you look quite
sexy.

AN AWKWARD PAUSE. DINGLE LAUGHS AT HER JOKE. JAMES AND MARK
FOLLOW SUIT.

JAMES

She's right. And we'd have seen you in
your underpants before long anyway.

MARK LAUGHS

JAMES (CONT'D)
(to Mark)

What type are those? I might get some
myself.

MARK

They're Ralph Lauren, tight-fit
trunks.

JAMES

Nice. Nice.

JAMES CONTINUES TO LOOK AT MARK'S PANTS.

A SLIGHTLY AWKWARD PAUSE.

DINGLE

James was telling me about your ex-
girlfriend.

MARK

What?

JAMES

Stella.

MARK

Oh, yes. Stella. She had a Ph.D. in astrophysics. She was from Finland. I met her on holiday in the Czech Republic.

JAMES
(correcting him)

You mean Fiji.

MARK

Yes, Fiji. Of course.

DINGLE

Do you still see her at all?

MARK

No, never, she lives in Boston.

DINGLE

Oh, I know Boston...

MARK

Boston, England. She's English.

DINGLE

I thought she was from Finland.

MARK

She's dead. She died.

PAUSE. JAMES AND DINGLE LOOK CONFUSED.

MARK (CONT'D)

Coffee? Tea?

INT. KITCHEN. - EVENING

MARK IS MAKING TEA. KATIE IS DEALING WITH HIS PANTS.

MARK

They're really cool, Katie. It's funny
how I get on so well with your
friends.

KATIE

You didn't mention Ben did you?

MARK

Of course not. I promised you didn't
I?

DINGLE

(from elsewhere in the house)

What happened to the sofa?

KATIE

Oh no. Mark, me and Ben, we were on
the sofa...

PAUSE. MARK LOOKS AT HER THEN LOOKS DETERMINED.

MARK

(calling out - an emotional
twinge in his voice)

It was me, sorry!

KATIE

Mark, don't!

MARK

A promise is a promise, Katie. And
hey, I've dealt with worse things than
a rumpled sofa.

AS HE TALKS HE PICKS UP THE TRAY OF TEA HE WALKS TOWARD THE
SITTING ROOM, KATIE IN TOW.

DINGLE (O/S):

What were you doing?

MARK

Oh, you know how it is. Maybe I'm
crazy, but when I get into a new home
I like to try out the sofa. So while
Katie popped out and couldn't stop me
with her responsible ways, I put
"Stairway to Heaven" on the hi-fi, and
had a bit of a bounce.

INT. THE APARTMENT - EVENING

THE CAMERA STAYS CLOSE IN ON MARK AS HE ROUNDS THE DOOR OF
THE LOUNGE.

MARK

Sorry. I'm a bit of a...

MARK FREEZES, AS HE LOOKS AT THE SITTING ROOM.

THE SITTING ROOM IS REVEALED. ALL ABOUT THE SOFA ARE CRUMPLED
WODGES OF TISSUE PAPER. DINGLE HOLDS ONE AT ARM'S LENGTH. SHE
SUDDENLY DROPS IT IN DISGUST.

MARK (CONT'D)

Weirdo.

DINGLE COMPOSES HERSELF.

DINGLE

You must really like Led Zeppelin.

JAMES ENTERS HOLDING A CLUMP OF TISSUES.

JAMES

Who left tissues on our bed?

HE STOPS AND LOOKS AT MARK, WHO IS STANDING IN HIS BOXER SHORTS HOLDING THE TRAY OF TEA. JAMES DROPS THE TISSUES SUDDENLY.

THEY ALL LOOK AT MARK.

KATIE

Look, there's been a...

MARK

They're mine. They're all mine.

JAMES LEAVES THE ROOM. THE OTHERS STARE IN SILENCE.

MARK (CONT'D)

I...

JAMES (O/S)
(calling out loudly)

They're in the bathroom too!

ANOTHER LONG PAUSE. DINGLE AT LAST RAISES HERSELF TO SPEAK IN A VERY CONTROLLED WAY.

DINGLE

You wanked in every room?

THEY STARE AT THE PILE AGAIN. THEY LOOK AT KATIE. SHE SHOULD REPRIMAND HIM. KATIE LOOKS AT HIM.

KATIE

That's disgusting, Mark.

DINGLE AND KATIE FILE OUT. KATIE GOES LAST, MAKING EYE CONTACT WITH MARK AS SHE GOES.

MARK STANDS THERE AMONGST THE TISSUES.

INT. KATIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

MUSIC BEGINS. PERHAPS "THAT'S ALL" PLAYED BY BEN WEBSTER.

MARK AND KATIE ARE IN KATIE'S BED, SNUGGLING UP TO EACH OTHER, FACE TO FACE, ALL BUT THEIR HEADS UNDER THE COVERS. THIS IS ALL VERY PILLOW TALK. THEY LOOK LIKE THEY COULD BE NAKED.

KATIE LEANS OVER TO THE BEDSIDE TABLE TO PICK UP THE CD BEN GAVE HER EARLIER. SHE GIVES IT TO MARK.

MARK

The Beach Boys. Great.

KATIE

It's just to say sorry you got off to a bad start with James and Dingle.

MARK SMILES UP AT HER. THIS IS HEAVEN.

KATIE (CONT'D)

You know what, I've come to a decision. As much as I'm in love with Ben I'm not going to let myself see him again. It's over. Forever.

MARK

(punching the air)

Yes!!!!

KATIE

What?

MARK

I mean... I'm sorry. I hope you're OK.
Not too upset.

KATIE

I'll be OK. I've got you looking out
for me now, haven't I?

AN AFFECTIONATE MOMENT

KATIE (CONT'D)

I'd better let you get to bed.

SHE KISSES MARK ON THE CHEEK. MARK GETS OUT OF THE BED. HE
WAS FULLY CLOTHED UNDERNEATH THE COVERS, INCLUDING HIS SHOES.
KATIE STOPS HIM BEFORE THE DOOR.

KATIE (CONT'D)

You know what my problem is. I've
never been able to make friends with a
boy without sleeping with him. That's
got to stop. From now on, I'm going to
have real male friends, where sex just
doesn't enter the equation.

MARK

That's great, Katie.

KATIE

I'm starting with you.

MARK

(resigned)

That's even better.

KATIE

Night, Mark

MARK

Goodnight.

HE LEAVES AND CLOSES THE DOOR. WE HEAR A THUD AND A GRUNT FROM OUTSIDE, AS IF SOMEONE IS BANGING HIS HEAD AGAINST THE DOOR.

THE END