

BOOMERANGS

Episode 1

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Exposed brickwork. Busy. PETRA, early 40s, smart, tailored, by-passes the queue to get the attention of the ASSISTANT.

PETRA

I wanted to order a leaving cake for this afternoon.

ASSISTANT

We need at least three days notice.

PETRA

Can you make an exception? I'll pay double.

ASSISTANT

Even as an emergency, we need at least 24 hours.

PETRA

Triple?

ASSISTANT

We simply can't do it in one day.

The Assistant is about to politely move on, but Petra beckons her to the edge of the counter.

PETRA

Look, I'm really desperate. Our Assistant Director is leaving tomorrow, and I've just found out no-one has organised anything.

ASSISTANT

Oh, that's awful.

PETRA

I know. She's given everything to the company, and they're squeezing her out. Hit that glass ceiling.

The Assistant nods sympathetically.

PETRA (CONT'D)

All I want is a little cake, anything you can do by this afternoon. Just something personal to mark the occasion.

ASSISTANT

Well, maybe, if we keep it simple.

She moves along the counter to show Petra the array of occasion cakes.

ASSISTANT (CONT'D)  
We could do a basic sponge, and write "Good luck...?"

PETRA  
"Petra"

ASSISTANT  
"Good Luck Petra" in the middle.

PETRA  
That would be great. Really great, thank you.

Petra peers at the example cake.

PETRA (CONT'D)  
What font do you use for that?

ASSISTANT  
Sorry?

PETRA  
What font?

ASSISTANT  
Um, we just hand write it with a piping bag.

PETRA  
Of course, yes. Could we get some kind of border, something to just, you know, lift it a bit?

ASSISTANT  
Lift it?

PETRA  
And could you do a cream filling with strawberries?

ASSISTANT  
Probably not -

PETRA  
And instead of the basic sponge could you do the double chocolate?

ASSISTANT  
As I said, we're going to have to keep it simple.

PETRA  
You're right. I'm sorry.

The Assistant writes the details down.

ASSISTANT  
Name?

PETRA  
"Petra" - P, E, T -

ASSISTANT  
No, I need your name for the order form.

Pause. Petra looks uncomfortable. Lowers her voice.

PETRA  
Petra.

2

INT. LIVING ROOM AREA, BARNABY'S HOUSE - DAY

2

An open plan kitchen/dining/living room. BARNABY, (40), attractive but dishevelled, sits on the sofa, holding a notepad and pen. Beside him is SORAYA (39), and her brother ADAM, (43).

Opposite them sits a WOMAN of an undefinable age. Could be anywhere from late 20s to late 30s.

SORAYA  
It's a fairly quiet house, no loud music, no parties.

WOMAN  
Okay.

ADAM  
What time do you leave for work?  
There's only one bathroom, which can be hectic in the mornings.

WOMAN  
Around 8?

Adam nods. The Woman looks at Barnaby, for his question.

BARNABY  
Who is your favourite Dr Who?

WOMAN  
Sorry?

## BARNABY

Multiple choice to make it easier;  
Tom Baker, the quintessential 70s  
doctor, fresh-faced Peter Davison  
from the 80s, or the millennial's  
favourite, David Tennant?

The Woman looks confused.

3 INT. PETRA'S OFFICE, PR COMPANY - DAY 3

CLOSE UP: 'Good Luck Petra' iced on top of a basic sponge  
cake. Petra holds the cake on a cake board, as she looks down  
the corridor towards the meeting room.

Through the glass doors we see several people sitting around  
the table in deep discussion. Petra marches off towards them.

4 INT. BOARDROOM, PR COMPANY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS 4

Petra backs in through the glass doors, balancing the cake  
tray. Interrupts her BOSS, 40s, mid sentence.

## PETRA

Tom said he'd booked the room from  
lunchtime onwards?

## BOSS

Yes, we had to double book though,  
got a last minute...

He trails off as he clocks the cake.

## BOSS (CONT'D)

Petra - my God - it's your last  
day, I er...

## PETRA

Don't worry. I just wanted to say a  
few words.

She takes a deep breath.

## PETRA (CONT'D)

I know some of you think I've been  
pushed. But that's not true. This  
is a great opportunity for me. I'm  
starting my own boutique  
consultancy. So, you're now looking  
at the competition!

Silence. Some awkward smiles.

BOSS

Is that true? Because, company policy, HR has to escort you out of the building.

5 EXT. PR COMPANY - DAY 5

Petra stands outside, bag on her shoulder and coat over her arm, still holding the cake.

6 EXT. LUXURY DEVELOPMENT, RIVERFRONT - NIGHT 6

A 'sold' sign attached to the balcony of one of the flats.

7 INT. PETRA'S LUXURY FLAT, RIVERFRONT - NIGHT 7

Empty rooms, moving boxes packed and stacked. Petra sits alone at the table. In front of her is her leaving cake. She cuts a slice, and takes a bite.

The missing letters now spell out GOO PETRA.

She looks at it. Turns it so she's looking from a different angle. Then swipes the second 'O' off with her finger, and licks the icing off her fingertip.

The cake now says 'GO PETRA'

PETRA

(quietly chants)

Go Petra, Go Petra, Go Petra.

8 INT. LIVING ROOM, BARNABY'S HOUSE - DAY 8

Barnaby, Adam and Soraya back on the same sofa. A MAN, bearded, sits opposite them. His beard covers so much of his face it's hard to tell if he's in his 20s, 30s or 40s.

BARNABY

So I own the house, Adam moved in three weeks ago, and his sister Soraya is just staying.

SORAYA

But not for long.

ADAM

Well you're not sure.

SORAYA  
Pretty sure.

BEARDED MAN  
A short term contract suits me.

SORAYA  
Do you smoke or vape?

BEARDED MAN  
No.

Barnaby looks at him. Trying to size him up.

BARNABY  
Do any of these foods bring on a wave of nostalgia; Findus Crispy pancakes, mushroom vol-au-vonts, Smiths salt 'n' shake?

BEARDED MAN  
(perplexed)  
Er... no.

BARNABY  
Okay, I think that's all.

Barnaby stands up to shake his hand, and walks him out the door. Adam and Soraya look at each other in exasperation as they hear Barnaby say goodbye. He comes back in.

SORAYA  
These questions are pointless, just ask them how old they are.

BARNABY  
The agency said I'm not allowed to.

SORAYA  
But just cos he's never had a frozen crispy pancake as a child doesn't mean he's under 35.

ADAM  
And 20-something hipsters are probably eating retro vol-au-vonts for breakfast these days.

BARNABY  
Well what do I ask them then?

ADAM  
Something that really shows a  
change of the times. A change in  
attitude.

BARNABY  
Like what?

They think for a moment.

SORAYA  
Well in the 80s, Adam and I used to  
get called half caste. Then in the  
90s, it was mixed race. Now  
apparently it's dual heritage.

BARNABY  
Interesting.

ADAM  
Yeah, something like that. But not  
that, obviously.

The doorbell rings and Barnaby goes out.

Comes back in moments later, followed by MAXINE, a woman who  
is clearly in her 40s.

BARNABY  
This is Adam and his sister Soraya.

Maxine takes a seat opposite them all.

ADAM  
It's a quiet house.

MAXINE  
That suits me.

ADAM  
What hours do you work?

MAXINE  
I'll be out by 7.30, And probably  
not back till 7.

SORAYA  
Do you smoke or vape?

MAXINE  
No. But I love to cook.

ADAM  
Oh great, me too.



Soraya and Adam look really keen. Maxine looks at Barnaby.

BARNABY

Adam and Soraya are both half Irish and half Indian. Would you refer to them as half caste, mixed race, or dual heritage?

Adam and Soraya look at Barnaby in horror.

MAXINE

Sorry?

BARNABY

Half caste, mixed race or -

MAXINE

I heard the question, I just...

SORAYA

Oh he's not being offensive, he's just trying to find out your age, although clearly you're over 35.

ADAM

(to Soraya)

Not any less offensive.

BARNABY

Well it's hard to tell these days. Everyone dresses the same. You could be a hard-drinking hard-partying 29 year old or a well preserved 45 year old -

ADAM

Again, not any less offensive -

MAXINE

I think I've changed my mind about the room.

She picks up her stuff and hurries out. Adam, cringing, looks at Barnaby.

ADAM

'Well preserved?'

Petra comes up to the house, just as Maxine hurries out the front door, with Barnaby calling after her.

BARNABY

I shouldn't have referred to you as well preserved. Jams yes, people no.

Petra, intrigued, walks up to him.

PETRA

I've come about the room?

END OF PART 1.

10

INT. KITCHEN/DINER, BARNABY'S HOUSE - DAY

10

Adam and Soraya are in the kitchen area, as Barnaby walks in with Petra. Adam is eating a bowl of cereal, a box of Coco Pops on the counter.

BARNABY

This is Petra.

He turns to Petra.

BARNABY (CONT'D)

We've got a few questions.

PETRA

Me too. Shall I go first?

Without waiting for an answer, she sits down and flips open her mini laptop.

PETRA (CONT'D)

How old are you?

The others look at each other in surprise.

BARNABY

Um, I'm not sure you're allowed to ask that.

PETRA

Well I just have.

She looks at them all expectantly. They answer obediently.

ADAM

43.

SORAYA

39.

BARNABY

40.

Soraya gets a bowl and pours out some Coco Pops. The box is empty.

SORAYA

(to Adam)

So greedy!

PETRA

All the house shares I've looked at have younger tenants, no good for me. I'm launching my own business, I need a grown up atmosphere.

SORAYA

Well we are very grown up here.

She puts the Coco Pops down.

PETRA

Something else I should be upfront about - I've only got six months.

BARNABY

Oh my god I'm so sorry to hear that.

PETRA

Six months to rent. By then I'll know whether the business is viable or not. Either way, I'll be moving out.

ADAM

That's fine, I'm moving out soon myself.

SORAYA

And me even sooner.

ADAM

We'll see.

SORAYA

Before you, anyway.

PETRA

How come?

SORAYA

Well I'm not really here. Adam's my brother, and I just needed somewhere to crash.

PETRA

(to Adam)

And why are you moving out soon?

ADAM

I'll be moving back in with my wife.

Petra nods. Takes this in.

PETRA

Okay, so, would now be a good time for a tour of the house?

11

INT. ATTIC

11

They all look around at the overload of Cath Kidston florals; the curtains, the bedspread, the wallpaper. Even the bin.

BARNABY

I've been redecorating. It's a bit much, isn't it?

PETRA

Depends what look you're going for.

BARNABY

I've always rented to male students. Ever since I was a male student. And I thought, now I'm forty, I should...

PETRA

Diversify?

SORAYA

Well I think it's cosy.

PETRA

I don't need cosy. I need a home office space.

Barnaby wanders over to the window and measures out a space with his hands.

BARNABY

You could put a desk here. And it's got the best wi-fi signal in the house.

But Petra is already gone. Barnaby hurries out.

12

INT. 2ND FLOOR LANDING

12

Barnaby and Petra stand on the small landing, with three doors leading off.

BARNABY

That's Adam's room. And that's Soraya's. And the bathroom.

PETRA

So is Soraya paying rent?

BARNABY

Em... not sure, exactly.

13

INT. 1ST FLOOR LANDING

13

Barnaby opens his bedroom door to show Petra. It's filled with keyboards and technical equipment.

BARNABY

My room. I'm a composer.

PETRA

Do you work from home?

BARNABY

Sometimes. But with headphones.

She pokes her head into the opposite bedroom - it's huge. Furniture covered with dustsheets, walls freshly painted.

PETRA

Ah, this is more like it. Perfect.

BARNABY

Yes, about this room, it's being repainted, not quite dry, and -

PETRA

That's fine, I can wait.

Adam and Soraya come down the stairs and join them.

SORAYA

So what do you think?

Petra looks around. Nods.

PETRA

The house ticks all the boxes. But I have some concerns. I'll be working from home, on the phone to clients etc, and I'm wondering if this will be a problem.

BARNABY

Not a problem.

SORAYA

Not at all.

PETRA

A problem for me. Your situations are a bit vague. It's Friday afternoon and you're all at home.

ADAM

Well I'm a teacher. But currently on sabbatical.

PETRA

So you're unemployed, with a failing marriage. You'll be moping around the house all day -

ADAM

That's a bit harsh.

PETRA

No judgement, just stating facts. I mean, have you agreed a date with your wife for moving back in?

ADAM

Not exactly. It's complicated.

PETRA

How complicated?

14

EXT. A SMART VICTORIAN TERRACE (FLASHBACK) - DAY

14

The front door opens, and Adam rushes out, huge man bag slung across his shoulders. Behind him is ZAK, (9), skinny, glasses, staring out the window vacantly, a shoe in one hand.

OLIVIA, early 40s, hair tightly wound into a chignon, bustles around behind him getting everything together; schoolbag, water bottle, PE kit.

Adam's phone BEEPS - he glances at the text: *'urgent my office before curriculum meeting'*

ZAK

Dad?

Adam turns back, forces a calm smile.

ADAM

Yes Zak?

Zak struggles to say what he wants to say. Adam walks back to him, while texting a reply: *will try and make it in time*

ZAK

I won't know anyone.

ADAM

What?

ZAK

At football.

ADAM

So it's a good chance to make new friends.

Zak pulls at the skin around his nails. Bloody and ragged. Adam gently prises his hands apart. Then takes Zak by the shoulders, phone still in his hand, and looks into his eyes.

ADAM (CONT'D)

It's never as bad as you think it's going to be. Come on, say it with me - I am not controlled by emotions I do not like - I am not controlled by -

ZAK

That's not a good mantra. It's got a double negative in.

ADAM

You're right. We'll think of a new one. Tonight.

Adam gets another text. Glances at it over Zak's shoulder. He kisses Zak and hurries off. Zak splurges out -

ZAK

Dad I really don't want to go!

Adam stops, walks back to him again. Zak is shaking.

ZAK (CONT'D)

(under his breath)

I really don't want to.

Adam's phone BEEPS again.

ADAM

You know what? Fuck It. It's just a bloody football club. If you don't want to go, don't go.

Zak's eyes widen in surprise. Then a big smile. They hi-five, although Zak misses.

15

INT. CORRIDOR, SECONDARY SCHOOL - DAY

15

Adam rushes in down the corridor. The HEADTEACHER comes out of her office, hurries after Adam.

ADAM

Sorry I didn't make it in time.

HEADTEACHER

Tyler's mum wants another meeting.

ADAM

That'll be the third one this month. She won't stop until she's got a diagnosis.

HEADTEACHER

Then just refer him.

ADAM

So they can stuff him full of Ritalin?

Adam walks into his class, leaving the Headteacher exasperated.

16

INT. BOYS' TOILETS, SCHOOL - DAY

16

A boy uses the urinal; all we see is the back of his trainers, and the stream of urine. Moments later another boy, TYLER (14), with fluorescent orange trainers, stands at the urinal next to him. Another stream.



Tyler then turns to the other boy, mid piss, and deliberately pisses all over his shoes.

17

INT. ADAM'S OFFICE - DAY

17

Tyler and TYLER'S MUM, late 20s, sit opposite Adam. Hostile.

ADAM

We're now looking at suspension, as Tyler has had three warnings.

TYLER'S MUM

Too right this is a warning - a warning for you. This was obviously a cry for help.

ADAM

No this isn't a warning - the next step, as I said, is -

TYLER'S MUM

The warning is - if he'd been properly diagnosed we wouldn't be here.

A KNOCK at the door and SUE, overly calm and smiley, pops her head around.

SUE

You didn't tell me the meeting was happening today.

ADAM

Oh, this isn't the scheduled meeting.

SUE

But it's 'a' meeting.

ADAM

Yes, but not 'the' meeting.

Sue smiles at them all.

SUE

Quick word?

18

INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

18

Sue and Adam stand outside Adam's office.

SUE

As SENCO I should be at every meeting.

ADAM

I just called his mum in because he pissed all over Kaden's shoes.

SUE

So... don't you think it's time we accepted this child has behaviour issues?

ADAM

I do accept he's got behaviour issues. But he's not pissing over other kids because he's got behaviour issues, the behaviour issue is that HE IS PISSING OVER OTHER KIDS.

SUE

Why won't you refer him? I'm beginning to think you just don't like him.

ADAM

Of course I don't like him - he's a little shit. But that's not why I won't refer him. There are kids I dislike a lot more who I have referred because I genuinely believe they need a diagnosis. Tyler doesn't.

SUE

That's not for you to decide -

ADAM

If a kid can't stop fidgeting, maybe we need to accept they'll grow up to be an adult who can't stop fidgeting, instead of medicating the hell out of them -

SUE

But Ritalin works -

ADAM

It gets them to sit still long enough to scrape a bloody C, and that's all that matters right? The school's happy, because they get their results -

SUE

Adam -

ADAM

- his mum's happy - she gets to shout about her son's disability instead of taking responsibility for her bad parenting -

SUE

Adam -

ADAM

Oh and let's not forget the extra quid she'll get with disability allowance, I mean a cynic would say the State is colluding with parents to medicate their kids so they can conform to our idea of what a 'normal' child should be -

SUE

ADAM!

He stops. Turns. Tyler is recording this rant on his phone. He taps the screen a couple of times. Smug.

TYLER

(nodding to himself)  
Hashtag InTheShit.

19

EXT. INTERCUT SCHOOL/ADAM &amp; OLIVIA'S KITCHEN - DAY

19

Adam strides out of the school gates, on his phone to Olivia.

ADAM

Look I'm just popping out for lunch, and things are -

OLIVIA

Did you say 'Oh Fuck It' to Zak when he was trying to get out of football?

ADAM

Yes. I'm sorry.

OLIVIA

You actually said 'Fuck It' to a nine year old?

ADAM

Sorry.

OLIVIA

Great. Now he's missed the first week, there's no way I'll get him to do it.

ADAM

Is it really a big deal if he doesn't play football?

OLIVIA

Yes, these are important life skills he needs to learn.

ADAM

Well you could argue it's an important life skill to just say 'fuck it' sometimes.

She hangs up.

20

INT. HEADTEACHER'S OFFICE - DAY

20

CLOSE UP ON A SCREEN: Edited with MUSIC and cartoon graphics:

ADAM (IN THE VIDEO)

Of course I don't like him he's a little shit/parents colluding with the State/to medicate their children/colluding with the State/to medicate/he's a little shit

The Headteacher and Adam watch this on a laptop.

HEADTEACHER

It's gone viral.

ADAM

Well, two thousand hits, that's not really viral.

The Headteacher scrolls through Twitter on her phone.

HEADTEACHER

Parents demanding an apology, several calls for your immediate dismissal, our local MP who just happens to be a Junior Minister in the Department of Education is issuing a statement...

Adam clicks on an article: *Teacher accuses government of colluding with parents to over-medicate vulnerable children.*

ADAM  
That's not what I said! I said a  
*cynic* would say that. A CYNIC.

The Headteacher shuts the laptop. Adam knows what's coming.

HEADTEACHER  
I'm sorry Adam.

ADAM  
You've been desperate to get me  
out. Congratulations.

HEADTEACHER  
It's not personal.

21 EXT. SCHOOL - DAY 21

Adam stands outside looking shell shocked. Calls Olivia. We hear the automated voice at the other end.

VOICE ON PHONE  
...leave a message after the tone.

Adam ends the call as KIRSTY, mid 30s, perky, comes up.

KIRSTY  
I just heard! I can't believe it!

22 INT. PUB - NIGHT 22

Adam sits drowning his sorrows with Kirsty.

KIRSTY  
Short end of rant - you've got real  
results this year, and then they  
punish you for this -

ADAM  
I'll just try Olivia again.

He calls while Kirsty goes to the bar. No answer. Ends call. Kirsty sits back down, puts another drink in front of Adam.

23 INT. BEDROOM - DAY 23

Adam opens his eyes. His head is near the bedside table with his mobile on. He picks it up - the display says '0629.' And 17 missed calls from Olivia.

His eyes widen in panic as he realises his other arm is trapped under Kirsty's shins. They are top to toe. She looks as if she might be naked under the covers. He is half dressed.

He scrabbles around for the rest of his clothes on the floor.

ADAM  
(whispers)  
Kirsty?

KIRSTY  
Mmmnnn?

ADAM  
I have to go. Should we talk about what happened?

KIRSTY  
Shhh.

ADAM  
What actually happened?

KIRSTY  
(drowsy)  
S'fine.

She rolls over and goes back to sleep.

24 EXT. ADAM AND OLIVIA'S HOUSE - DAY 24

Adam walks up the path. Takes a deep breath.

25 INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS 25

Adam finds Olivia sitting, fully dressed, at the table which is laid for dinner. He stands in silence.

OLIVIA  
In case there's any confusion. I'm not twelve hours early with tonight's dinner. You're twelve hours late.

Adam opens his mouth to explain, but can't find the words. Olivia stands up and makes a show of scraping the food from the plates into the bin. Turns to him.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
So let's hear it then?

END OF PART 2.

26 INT. KITCHEN/DINER AREA, BARNABY'S HOUSE - DAY

26

Petra, Soraya and Barnaby listen to Adam.

ADAM  
Just kicked me out. She wouldn't even let me explain.

PETRA  
So were you actually unfaithful?

ADAM  
Well that depends on whether we base moral judgement on intention or outcome.

SORAYA  
He was too drunk to know. (Adam glares at her) No judgement, just stating facts.

PETRA  
So you have no idea when you'll be moving back in then?

ADAM  
Well, as soon as she's cooled down.

SORAYA  
In other words, you have no idea.

ADAM  
Well your situation is just as 'vague' as mine. No judgement, just stating facts.

PETRA  
What exactly is your situation?

SORAYA  
That's a bit personal.

PETRA  
I'm just trying to work out how long you'll all be in the house for.

SORAYA

Well. Well...

PETRA

Let me guess. It's complicated.

27

INT. ROZ AND SORAYA'S APARTMENT (FLASHBACK) - DAY

27

A chic, open-plan apartment with photos of a chic, elegant couple, Soraya and ROZ (early 30s), covering one wall.

In one print, Soraya raises her face to the sun; warm, joyful. Reflected in the glass, standing in the cold blue light of the kitchen, stands the real life Soraya, crying.

Roz comes in. Ignores the sniffing.

ROZ

No workshop today?

SORAYA

No. Papier-mâché supplies are delayed.

Roz pours her coffee. Soraya moves the coffee pot away.

ROZ

I assume you're not crying over papier-mâché.

Soraya says nothing.

ROZ (CONT'D)

I've got a client dinner tonight so don't wait up.

Roz packs up her stuff.

ROZ (CONT'D)

So are you going to tell me what's wrong?

SORAYA

I want to talk about having a baby.

Roz carries on packing as if she hasn't heard her.

SORAYA (CONT'D)

You can't just ignore me.

Roz ignores her. Walks over to the hallway cupboard and puts her coat on. Soraya follows her.



SORAYA (CONT'D)  
Why won't you talk about this?

ROZ  
Because I don't want a child.

SORAYA  
How can you say that without talking it through?

ROZ  
Because I know I don't want a child.

SORAYA  
But you can't make that decision by yourself.

Roz just looks at her, and shrugs.

ROZ  
I don't want a child.

SORAYA  
Can we just talk -

Roz leaves, shutting the front door behind her.

Soraya walks back into the kitchen, screams in frustration, grabs the vase on the sideboard and SMASH - hurls it at the wall.

Stands there, shocked. Gets the dustpan and brush out and carefully sweeps it up. Looks at the mark on the wall.

28 INT. PAINT SHOP - DAY 28

Soraya browses the pots of paint on the shelves, comparing different shades of white.

29 INT. SORAYA AND ROZ'S KITCHEN - DAY 29

CLOSE on the crack in the wall made by the vase, and Soraya carefully painting over it.

Soraya unwraps an identical vase from its packaging.

30 EXT. SORAYA AND ROZ'S GARDEN - DAY 30

Soraya puts the packaging in the recycling box. It sticks up, conspicuous. She then hides it under the newspapers in the box, squashing it down.

They look too neat so she ruffles them up. Too ruffled - squashes them down. Finally settles on one paper sticking up.

31 EXT. SORAYA AND ROZ'S GARDEN - NIGHT 31

Roz walks up the path. The newspaper sticking up out of the recycling box catches her eye. She lifts it up to read the headline.

Then frowns when she spots the packaging underneath, squashed down, obviously hidden.

32 INT. ROZ AND SORAYA'S KITCHEN - NIGHT 32

Roz walks in, to find Soraya cooking. Roz kisses her on the back of her neck and places a gift-wrapped box beside her.

ROZ  
I do love you.

Soraya turns to face her.

SORAYA  
I'm sorry about this morning.  
I mean, I'm not sorry, but I'm  
sorry that -

ROZ  
I don't want to argue.

Roz moves in for a kiss, but Soraya pulls away.

SORAYA  
Please, can we just talk? Not even  
about having a baby - can we just  
talk about this morning?

Roz stands back. Takes a moment.

ROZ  
Did you go shopping today?

Soraya goes quiet.

SORAYA  
No.

Roz goes over to the vase that Soraya replaced earlier, and adjusts its position slightly.

ROZ

I'm tired. Come up to bed.

Soraya stares after Roz as she goes upstairs. Soraya looks at the present. But doesn't open it. She closes the door. Gets her laptop out. Clicks on a website.

She gets up, looks through a very organised cupboard - everything in glass containers. She takes out a kidney bean. Holds it up to the light. Wells up.

On Soraya's LAPTOP: A pregnancy website, with the headline *'Your baby at 8 weeks is the size of a kidney bean!'*

33

INT. SORAYA AND ROZ'S BEDROOM - DAY

33

Soraya wakes. The bed beside her is empty. Roz comes in, wrapped in a towel, and gets dressed.

SORAYA

How come you're up so early?

ROZ

Work trip, remember?

Roz makes her side of the bed, with Soraya still in it. Arranges the pillows neatly on her side, and goes out.

Soraya kicks out her legs to 'unmake' the bed.

34

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

34

Roz, coffee in hand, stares at a strip of vitamins poking out of Soraya's bag, which is on the counter. She lifts them out to get a better look. Folic acid.

Soraya comes down. Roz pours more coffee. Soraya absent-mindedly moves the espresso pot to the other counter.

ROZ

You've been doing that all week.  
Moving the coffee.

SORAYA

Have I?

ROZ

What's this sudden aversion to  
coffee?

Soraya says nothing.

ROZ (CONT'D)  
Are you... pregnant?

Soraya is shocked. Then sees the strip of folic acid in front of Roz. Roz laughs.

ROZ (CONT'D)  
You can't be. Right?

Soraya just stares at the vitamins.

ROZ (CONT'D)  
One of the perks of being in a lesbian relationship - you can't accidentally get pregnant.

SORAYA  
(barely audible)  
It wasn't accidental.

ROZ  
What?

SORAYA  
You won't talk about it, and there's a time limit here, in case you haven't noticed, so I thought I'd get started while waiting for you...

ROZ  
(disbelief)  
You're pregnant?

SORAYA  
I honestly expected this stage to fail. So by the time we got on to the next stage you'd be on board, and we'd go through it together.

ROZ  
You're actually pregnant?

SORAYA  
Yes.

ROZ  
How?

SORAYA  
A clinic.

ROZ  
Where did you get the money? The  
holiday fund?

Soraya won't look her in the eye.

ROZ (CONT'D)  
I can't believe you've done this.

SORAYA  
I know it's a shock, but nothing  
will really change - it won't  
affect your career, we've got  
enough space -

ROZ  
Holidays. Schools. Child-care.  
Nappies. Evenings out. Our sex  
life. Shall I go on?

SORAYA  
Please, just think it over.

ROZ  
I don't want a child. I'm one  
hundred percent sure of that.

Roz takes a deep breath. Drains the last of her coffee,  
rinses the cup in the sink, and places it on the side.

ROZ (CONT'D)  
I'm away for a fortnight. It'll  
give you time to think it over. I'm  
happy to pay for an abortion. But  
if you decide to go ahead with the  
pregnancy, you're on your own. I  
want my money back. Everything you  
took from our joint funds.

SORAYA  
But you can't kick me out, I mean,  
I'm pregnant, Roz.

ROZ  
Not with my kid. And I can be one  
hundred percent sure of that.  
Another perk of being a lesbian.

PETRA

In German we have an expression for someone like Roz. Kontrollfreak.

BARNABY

I know, right?

PETRA

You speak German?

Barnaby just mumbles something (clearly he doesn't).

SORAYA

She's not all bad. Underneath her hard exterior she's actually quite soft.

ADAM

You said she's got a core of steel.

SORAYA

That's also true.

ADAM

So somewhere between the hard core and the hard exterior there is a thin layer of humanity. That's who you want to make a family with?

PETRA

But you've decided to move out and keep the baby?

SORAYA

No, I've pretended to move out while she's away to make her realise how serious I am about this.

PETRA

You're calling her bluff. I admire your confidence. When's she due back?

SORAYA

Tonight.

Barnaby's phone rings.

BARNABY

Excuse me, I have to take this. (he answers) Hi Pete -

36

INT. PETE'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

36

PETE (35), has his hand cupped over the phone.

PETE

I'm in a blini situation, forgot the cream cheese, Orla is freaking out - how soon can you get here?

INTERCUT BETWEEN PETE AND BARNABY

BARNABY

What?

PETE

I need 2 tubs of cream cheese ASAP.

BARNABY

I'm in the middle of something -

PETE

It's an emergency!

BARNABY

Ok.

Barnaby hangs up.

BARNABY (CONT'D)

Sorry, I need to get to my brother's. It's his engagement party tonight. Can I call you later to discuss?

PETRA

No need. I'll take the room.

BARNABY

Oh great!

PETRA

I can move in straight away.

Barnaby's phone rings again. He answers.

PETRA (CONT'D)

And I'll need the big bedroom.

BARNABY

Ah, yes, as I was saying about that room - Hi Pete - yes I'm coming - yes leaving right now -

Petra heads out, followed by Adam and Soraya.

37 EXT. BARNABY'S HOUSE. DAY

37

Petra is at her car, parked across the road, taking suitcases out. Adam and Soraya watch from the front door.

ADAM  
By straight away she meant...

SORAYA  
Straight away, I guess.

Barnaby comes out past them, holding a bottle of Champagne.

BARNABY  
Oh, by straight away she meant...

ADAM  
Straight away.

Barnaby watches as Soraya and Adam cross over to help Petra.

BARNABY  
(to no-one in particular)  
Okay. Okay then.

And he walks off.

38 INT. HALLWAY, PETE AND ORLA'S HOUSE - DAY

38

ORLA, (34), heavily pregnant, lets Barnaby in and gives him a hug. Laughs as her bump gets in the way.

ORLA  
I keep doing that, not realising  
how big it's getting.

39 INT. PETE AND ORLA'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

39

Barnaby follows Orla through to where Pete is busy piping cheese onto rows of blinis. Barnaby holds up the packs of cream cheese he's brought.

PETE  
Mate! You saviour. How can I ever  
repay you.

Pete hands him the piping bag, and moves on to slicing through dozens of tiny mushrooms. Barnaby opens the cheese and starts refilling the bag, struggling a bit.



BARNABY

Actually, dad needs somewhere to stay and I was wondering if he could stay with you this time?

Pete and Orla laugh. Barnaby doesn't.

PETE

Oh, you're serious?

Pete looks at Orla.

ORLA

Um, it's just not a great time.

Barnaby still looks blank.

PETE

Because of, you know... (gesturing to Orla's belly)

BARNABY

(alarmed)

Why, what's happened?

PETE

Nothing, it's just we're about to have a baby?

BARNABY

Oh yeah, sure.

Pete and Orla carry on with their prepping.

BARNABY (CONT'D)

So, would it be bad for dad to stay? I mean, he could help out?

Pete and Orla exchange a look.

ORLA

Well apparently, as all my friends with babies keep telling me, I'll spend the first few weeks wandering around in my dressing gown with a newborn permanently clamped to my bleeding nipple. Not sure how helpful your dad can be with that.

BARNABY

Ah, okay, yeah, sorry. So, how is everything going, you know, with the... foetus?

ORLA  
Everything's fine, we've had all  
the tests, and it's all good.  
There's been lots of tests.

PETE  
Yes.

Pete and Orla exchange another look, which Barnaby picks up on.

BARNABY  
What?

She raises her eyebrows at Pete, to continue. He doesn't.

BARNABY (CONT'D)  
What is it?

PETE  
(quietly)  
I had the test.

BARNABY  
What?

PETE  
The Huntington's test.

Barnaby is gobsmacked.

BARNABY  
You had it? And?

PETE  
I'm clear.

BARNABY  
Well, that's great, what a bloody relief.

PETE  
It is a bloody relief, I can tell you. Well, I don't have to tell you.

Silence.

ORLA

Look, I know you two were always going to get the test together, but with the pregnancy, we had to find out, it was a last minute thing, Pete was offered the test and I pushed him into it -

PETE

You didn't, I wanted to -

ORLA

But what I mean is -

BARNABY

Really, guys, it's fine. I'm so relieved for you.

He picks up the piping bag, grabs another tray of blinis, and starts piping.

Orla gently puts her hand on his arm.

ORLA

Barnaby, those are crackers.

BARNABY

Oh, sorry.

He puts the bag down. All three of them just stand there.

PETE

You should have the test.

BARNABY

Well if you'd told me you were having it I might have done.

PETE

Does it make any difference that I've had it?

BARNABY

No, well yes, because now you've found out - and you're clear - and there's a 50-50 chance - which means I've probably got it -

PETE

Probability doesn't work like that - there's just as much chance of us both being clear as there is of -

BARNABY

You wouldn't be so rational if you  
were the last man standing!

Pete steps back. Goes quiet.

PETE

I'm sorry. I should have told you.

BARNABY

And I hate saying all this because  
it sounds like I'm not happy for  
you.

PETE

Of course I know you're happy for  
me.

Both of them look utterly miserable.

40 INT. ORLA AND PETE'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

40

The place is packed with people drinking and chatting. A  
guest lifts a cracker from a plate which disintegrates as  
it's so soggy with cream cheese.

Barnaby is off to one side. He glances over at Pete, who is  
laughing with Orla and another couple as they pat her bump.

Barnaby drains his drink, then quietly slips out. Pete, by  
the window, catches sight of Barnaby as he steps down onto  
the path and walks off.

41 INT. KITCHEN AREA, BARNABY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

41

Petra is at the cooker making hot chocolate in a pan. Barnaby  
wanders in, pre-occupied, and slumps down at the table,  
hardly noticing Petra behind him.

PETRA

Hope you don't mind, I'm staying on  
the sofa, as there's no point  
taking all my stuff to the attic  
and then back down when the paint's  
dry.

BARNABY

Hmmm?

Petra looks at him.

PETRA  
Are you okay?

BARNABY  
Yeah.

PETRA  
How was the party?

BARNABY  
Good.

PETRA  
You're back early?

He says nothing.

PETRA (CONT'D)  
You want some hot chocolate? It's a family recipe.

BARNABY  
Thanks.

He comes over to see what she's doing. She pours more milk into the pan, then adds ginger, cinnamon, cloves and lots of black pepper, to Barnaby's alarm.

PETRA  
Your brother's engagement party, you say?

BARNABY  
Yeah.

PETRA  
Older?

BARNABY  
Younger.

PETRA  
Ah.

BARNABY  
Yeah. They've a baby on the way as well.

She pours the frothy milk into two mugs; hands one to Barnaby.

BARNABY (CONT'D)  
Is that really traditional?

PETRA

Family recipe, no idea if  
traditional or not.

She gets into her 'bed' on the sofa, while he stands there  
awkwardly.

PETRA (CONT'D)

Please, sit.

BARNABY

Oh, thanks.

He sits on the edge. Petra takes a sip. Barnaby goes to take  
a sip of his, veers back from the fumes. Blows on it.

PETRA

Whenever people hear I'm single by  
choice, they say I just haven't met  
the one.

BARNABY

Yes, I get that too.

Barnaby takes a sip, is pleasantly surprised.

BARNABY (CONT'D)

This is good.

PETRA

People say I need to commit in  
life. But I am committed. Committed  
to my work. Committed to my  
friends. Committed to myself.

BARNABY

That is very committed yes.

PETRA

You know why people can't accept  
that I'm happier alone? Because it  
makes them doubt the choices  
they've made. Modern relationships  
are doomed to fail. The idea that  
one person can meet all your needs  
for a lifetime is ludicrous.

BARNABY

I know what you mean.

PETRA

Historically, marriage and love are  
separate things.

(MORE)

PETRA (CONT'D)

You married to consolidate wealth.  
Falling in love had nothing to do  
with it.

BARNABY

You're absolutely right. I mean,  
don't get me wrong, it can be hard,  
sometimes you miss, you know...

PETRA

The sex?

BARNABY

I was going to say, someone to  
share things with.

PETRA

You have to make sure you get  
enough sex.

BARNABY

Yes.

PETRA

Do you get enough sex Barnaby? As a  
single person committed to  
yourself?

Barnaby stares straight down into his hot chocolate.

BARNABY

Yes, I do get enough, yes.

He drinks his chocolate as fast as he can. Stands up. Red in  
the face.

PETRA

Are you okay? You're very red.

BARNABY

I think it's the drink. Is it  
traditional?

PETRA

You asked that already.

BARNABY

Yes. (gestures to her mug) Shall I  
take that for you?

Petra hands him her mug, and he goes over and puts them in  
the sink.

Walks out. Touches his hands to his red cheeks and takes a deep breath.

END OF PART 3.

42 EXT. BARNABY'S STREET - DAY 42

Petra returns from an early morning run.

43 INT. KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM, BARNABY'S HOUSE - DAY 43

Barnaby comes in, yawning, in his dressing gown. He looks at Petra's empty bed, now back to a sofa, the blankets perfectly folded at the end. He sees the two mugs in the sink. Smiles to himself as he washes them up. Places them to dry, side by side.

44 INT. KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM - DAY 44

Petra comes back in. Barnaby is still in the kitchen.

BARNABY

There's a German bakery not far from here. They do breakfast -

Soraya rushes in - followed by Adam.

SORAYA

I told you she'd call! Roz is on her way over! What do I do?

ADAM

First of all, calm down.

SORAYA

I know. But what do I say?

PETRA

Why don't you just let Roz talk. Hear what she's got to say. Keep the ball in your court.

SORAYA

Yes! I like it. I just don't say anything.

ADAM

The problem with that is, it involves you not saying anything.

The doorbell RINGS. Soraya jumps.



SORAYA  
I can't answer it.

Adam rolls his eyes, then goes to get the door.

SORAYA (CONT'D)  
(to herself)  
Say nothing. Say nothing.

Adam walks back in with Roz, who carries several folders.

ROZ  
Soraya.

Soraya says nothing. Roz is blocking the doorway, so Adam, Barnaby and Petra retreat to the other end of the kitchen.

Eventually, Roz speaks.

ROZ (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry about what I said before  
I left. I didn't mean it. I was  
just angry.

Soraya looks over-joyed; instantly melts.

SORAYA  
I realise it's a shock, and I  
should have told you, but I know we  
can make this work -

ROZ  
I meant about the money.

Soraya stops.

SORAYA  
What?

ROZ  
You don't have to pay me back.

Soraya is crushed.

ROZ (CONT'D)  
I've just come to give you these.  
Your passport, everything is in  
here. Why did you leave them  
behind?

Soraya blinks back the tears.

The other three retreat further and busy themselves at the far end of the kitchen, seemingly out of earshot.

Soraya and Roz are at the table, and the others can't get past without intruding into their space.

ROZ (CONT'D)  
Because you've clearly made your decision, right?

SORAYA  
I don't know.

ROZ  
Well you've moved out.

A phone RINGS loudly on the table - everyone jumps.

ROZ (CONT'D)  
That yours?

SORAYA  
No.

The others pretend not to hear. Eventually it stops.

ROZ  
It wasn't what you did. It's the betrayal of doing it without consulting me. And also - what you did.

SORAYA  
But you refused to talk about it.

ROZ  
So you just went ahead and got pregnant?

SORAYA  
I thought you might feel differently once it was happening.

Soraya tentatively reaches for Roz's hand. Places it gently on her belly.

Then the phone goes off again - Roz withdraws her hand as Soraya explodes -

SORAYA (CONT'D)  
Adam is this yours?

ADAM  
Sorry - really sorry -

He reaches between them for his phone, disappearing out the door, as Petra and Barnaby follow. Petra closes the door behind them.

45

INT. HALLWAY

45

Adam answers his phone - *the screen flashes with a mobile number but no name* - just as it stops ringing. Barnaby and Petra hover.

BARNABY

Maybe we should make ourselves scarce, give them some privacy.

*Voicemail* flashes up on Adam's phone, and he calls it.

BARNABY (CONT'D)

That bakery I was talking about -

ADAM

Shit - it's Zak - some kind of emergency - he's locked out -

Adam calls the *unknown number*. It rings.

ADAM (CONT'D)

He's not picking up - Jesus -

PETRA

I can see now what you mean, being far away must be hard.

ADAM

So hard. ZAK - it's dad - you okay?  
(Pause) Stay right where you are.  
I'm coming.

He rushes out the front door. Petra stares after him.

She watches Adam charge down the street, past a few houses, and across the road to where Zak waits outside his house.

PETRA

Zak lives across the road?

46

EXT. OLIVIA'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS.

46

Adam rushes up to Zak, out of breath.

ADAM

What happened?

ZAK

Well Scott's mum took us to football but it wasn't on, and she said do I want to go back to their house, but Scott's been mean to me all week, because at school -

ADAM

I mean the bit about you being locked out?

ZAK

Well my key doesn't work.

He puts his key in the lock to show Adam.

ADAM

You have a key?

ZAK

Mum says just for emergencies.

ADAM

And since when do you have a phone?

ZAK

That's also just for emergencies. I think mum is expecting a lot of emergencies.

Adam takes his own key out and unlocks the door, just as Olivia rushes up, on her phone. She ends her call. Annoyed.

OLIVIA

What are you doing here?

ADAM

I'm here because it's an emergency!

OLIVIA

What are you talking about? I was moments away, coming up the road, I was on the phone to Lucy as she dropped Zak off -

ADAM

Oh well that sounds safe!

Olivia takes a deep breath. Goes inside.

OLIVIA

(to Zak)

Go upstairs and start your homework sweetheart.

Zak runs up the stairs. She turns back to Adam.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

I think you should leave your key.

ADAM

Oh come on, how long are you going to keep punishing me? I fucked up. I'm sorry. I was just so... tired.

OLIVIA

Oh, you were 'tired.' I see.

ADAM

Are we really supposed to carry on day in and day out without ever making any mistakes?

OLIVIA

Yes. It's called marriage. When you're bored, and *tired*, and fed up of going through the motions day after day, you still keep going, because you made that promise.

Adam takes a step back.

ADAM

Going through the motions, is that how you feel?

She says nothing.

ADAM (CONT'D)

I fucked up, but I still love you. We still love each other.

Still nothing.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Olivia?

She looks at him for a moment. Then closes the door.

47

EXT. BARNABY'S HOUSE - DAY

47

Barnaby lets Roz out, who marches off down the street.

48

INT. KITCHEN, BARNABY'S HOUSE - DAY

48

Petra is consoling Soraya at the table.

SORAYA

I don't know what to do.

PETRA

Okay, well, what are the downsides?

SORAYA

I can't think straight.

PETRA

Okay. So. You have no steady income, no partner, and you're living in a house share with your brother.

Soraya says nothing. Then bursts into tears.

PETRA (CONT'D)

And moving on quickly, the upsides.

SORAYA

None - there's no upsides... except (words muffled by her sobs)

PETRA

Except?

SORAYA

I just know I'd be a good mum, I really would.

PETRA

I'm not sure that's an upside, more a positive incidental...

SORAYA

I know. So it's just not supposed to happen for me. No matter how much I want it.

Petra pauses. Softens her tone.

PETRA

My aunt. She's in her 70s. Really wanted have kids, but wasn't able to. She says even now, at her age, she sees a baby and it still gets her.

Petra looks at her.

PETRA (CONT'D)

If this is something you really want, then you find a way.

SORAYA

I don't know.

PETRA

You're not destitute. You have a roof over your head. You have family support.

Soraya looks blank. Then laughs through her tears.

SORAYA

Oh, you mean Adam?

PETRA

Well, you came to stay with him, that must count for something.

SORAYA

But it's not enough, is it?

PETRA

You don't have to decide right now. Think it over.

SORAYA

You're right. I don't have to rush into a decision.

She clasps Petra's hands.

SORAYA (CONT'D)

Thank you. And you should take strength from this as well. It can still happen for you too, you know.

PETRA

What?

SORAYA

Kids.

PETRA

Oh no, I don't want kids.

SORAYA

That's what Roz says, but deep down...

PETRA

Deep down I really don't. Crowded planet, the environmental impact, and to me it just makes no sense, creating a human life to face what is ultimately a meaningless existence ending in death.

Soraya looks at her.

PETRA (CONT'D)

But that's just me. Everyone's different.

Soraya nods. They look up as Adam and Barnaby come in.

ADAM

Would I be able to take the big bedroom, now it's redecorated? I might be here a bit longer than I thought.

PETRA

What's that about the big room?

ADAM

Could we swap? I'm going to need space for Zak to stay over.

PETRA

But that's my room.

BARNABY

Actually about that room -

SORAYA

(to Adam)  
Why should you automatically get it?

ADAM

Because I need it the most.

BARNABY

About that room -

SORAYA

I might need it - who knows, as a nursery -

ADAM

What are you talking about?

PETRA

We agreed that I would have the room -

BARNABY

No-one's getting that room because my dad's coming to stay and it's his room!



What? ADAM What? SORAYA

PETRA  
What do you mean, he's coming to stay?

BARNABY  
He's in a difficult place at the moment, he's got lots of problems, you know, to do with his age, and his partner just can't cope any more.

PETRA  
So you have to look after him?

SORAYA  
When is he coming?

BARNABY  
Next week.

SORAYA  
So does that mean I have to move out by then?

ADAM  
And what about when Zak stays over -

PETRA  
I don't mind your dad staying, as long I still get the room -

ADAM  
But I need the room -

SORAYA  
We haven't decided about the room -

PETRA  
STOP IT!

Petra turns to Barnaby.

PETRA (CONT'D)  
As landlord, how do you normally resolve these situations?

BARNABY  
Well, usually a drinking game of some sort.

PETRA  
Okay. Well. We are going to have a cup of tea and a sit down.

She goes over to the cupboard above the kettle and opens it; dozens of different types of tea. Soraya reaches for the decaf, Adam goes for his loose leaf Darjeeling. He then opens the fridge to take the milk out - the carton is empty.

ADAM

(to Soraya)

Was that you? There were 2 pints last night, I checked.

SORAYA

No.

ADAM

So typical -

SORAYA

I never run out of milk! Roz would be so cross!

ADAM

I can't believe this. We need to put some rules in place if this is going to work - and putting empty cartons back in the fridge is just not on -

PETRA

Do not panic about the milk. It's easily solved. I will go and buy more milk.

She goes out. Adam takes down the teapot and sits, grumbling to himself. Soraya gets out the mugs.

49

INT. CORNER SHOP - DAY

49

Petra picks up a large carton, queues behind a SEXY OLDER MAN at the till, who is taking his time choosing between two boxes of chocolates.

SEXY OLDER MAN

But these you say are very popular?

SHOPKEEPER

Yes.

SEXY OLDER MAN

And these are more expensive, but organic.

SHOPKEEPER

Yes.

Petra huffs away impatiently.

SEXY OLDER MAN

I'm not sure now...

PETRA

If you want to say 'I'm sorry' then get these, and if you want to say 'I'm sorry but not sorry enough to actually go out of my way to get a decent box of chocolates', then get these.

He turns to her in surprise.

SEXY OLDER MAN

What makes you think they're for a jilted lover?

Petra looks at him.

PETRA

I'm a good judge of character. It's what I do for a living.

SEXY OLDER MAN

What, make crass assumptions based on buying habits?

PETRA

(laughing)  
Yes, as it happens.

He laughs too. There's a moment between them. Then Petra gets hold of herself.

PETRA (CONT'D)

I don't mean to be rude, but I'm in a hurry. Can I just get this milk?

SHOPKEEPER

Sorry, I've rung this customer's stuff through, so I can't put yours through until he's finished.

Sexy Older Man looks across the counter as something catches his eye.

SEXY OLDER MAN

Ah, I didn't realise, you've got Heroes.

SHOPKEEPER

Yes, one of our bestsellers.

PETRA

Please -

SEXY OLDER MAN

Yes, you're in a hurry. Could I just buy you your milk?

PETRA

Fine. Thank you.

SEXY OLDER MAN

Pleasure.

The shopkeeper scans her milk, she picks it up and hurries out. Sexy Older Man smiles, watching her go.

SHOPKEEPER

Can I buy you your milk - smooth, man.

50

INT. KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM, BARNABY'S HOUSE - DAY

50

Barnaby lifts the lid off the teapot and stirs the tea. Petra comes in with the milk, opens it, smiling to herself, as they all sit down.

ADAM

I'm really sorry to hear about your dad, that he's having problems. Really sorry. But, I just, I don't know if I can cope, living with an old person. I mean, I'm finding it hard enough coming to terms with the fact I'm sharing a fridge.

BARNABY

He's my dad, I can't just turn him away. Besides, he sort of owns the house. He bought it when I was a student.

PETRA

Well I don't have any objection to sharing with a frail old man. At least he won't be constantly taking selfies. But I need the big room.

BARNABY

But he always has that room.

PETRA

Okay. Then I can't move in.

BARNABY

But you have to.

Barnaby suddenly looks embarrassed. The doorbell goes. Petra gets up.

PETRA

I'll get that.

51

INT. HALLWAY

51

Petra opens the door, to find the Sexy Older Man (DOUGLAS) from the corner shop standing there, holding a box of Heroes.

PETRA

What are you doing here? Did you follow me?

DOUGLAS

What are you doing here?

PETRA

I live here.

DOUGLAS

Well I own 'here' - what a coincidence!

Barnaby comes up behind Petra.

BARNABY

What are you doing here dad? We said next week?

DOUGLAS

No, we said next Saturday, last Monday, so that's today.

BARNABY

Also, it's a bit chaotic in the house at the moment, so I was going to ask if you could stay with Pete? Just for the next couple of weeks until the baby arrives.

DOUGLAS

Are you kidding? Crash their last two weeks of loved up blissful ignorance, before the awful reality of child rearing hits home? I wouldn't do that to anyone.

He walks past Barnaby towards the kitchen diner.

52

INT. KITCHEN/DINER - CONTINUOUS

52

Adam and Soraya look up in surprise.

DOUGLAS

So, these are the new housemates?

BARNABY

Everyone, this is my dad, Douglas.  
Dad, this is Petra...

Douglas steps forward to shake Petra's hand, as he hands the box of Heroes to Barnaby.

DOUGLAS

Petra. Pleasure to be officially introduced.

As Douglas introduces himself to Soraya, Adam whispers to Barnaby.

ADAM

You said he was a frail old man with health issues?

BARNABY

I said he had problems to do with his age. His attitude to women. And his latest girlfriend has had enough.

BARNABY (CONT'D)

Dad - this is Adam.

Douglas shakes Adam's hand warmly.

DOUGLAS

I feel a selfie coming on. hashtag new housemates! Come on!

He gets his phone out, holds it up, gets everyone to squeeze in together, and takes a selfie.

It FREEZES on the shot - Petra and Douglas exchanging a flirtatious glance, Adam and Soraya bundled in, and Barnaby, standing awkwardly to one side, holding his box of Heroes.

ENDS