



White letters appear on a black screen:

"He's the New Guy . . ."

OA

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

DANNY (O.S.)

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

1

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The young man talking is DANNY, sitting opposite KATIE at the kitchen table. He is casually dressed in T shirt and jeans. A tattoo on one arm.



RA

(CONTI NUED)

DANNY  
I'll talk to her . . .

DANNY moves to head out. RALPH bars his way.

RALPH  
She doesn't like you that much.

2

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

And over the big, joyous, visual:

3

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~~LOUISE in the garden, rattled, gathering her thoughts. As she does so the next door neighbour, BRIAN, appears, carrying a washing basket. BRIAN is late-5~~ HARD CUT TO:

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

BRIAN

(CONTINUED)







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

EMMA  
Gary's dumped me.

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

KATIE  
Ralph!

RALPH (O.S.)  
Sorry!

The track stops.

KATIE  
Come in.

CONTINUOUS:

6

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EMMA follows KATIE through the living room to the kitchen.

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

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

KATIE  
Not at all.

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

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

RALPH  
Do you like magic?

Silence.

7

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

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

(CONTINUED)



EMMA (CONT'D)

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

KATIE

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

EMMA

Really?

KATIE

Yes. Really.

EMMA

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

KATIE

(TO RALPH)

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

RALPH waits just a moment too long.

RALPH

Yes. We would.



(CONTI NUED)

DANNY (CONT'D)

I'm a great believer in talking  
through problems.

Another look from RALPH. Doubtful.

DANNY (CONT'D)

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

RALPH

No.

DANNY

Why not?

RALPH

Me, Katie, Emma and you

(CONTI NUED)





No. You KATIE

KATIE looks as though she has been hit.

KATIE

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

RALPH

I didn't mean it like that!

KA

BRIAN

But just so you know, Judith and the relevant agencies very much considered me part of Ralph and Katie's Circle of Support. (BEAT) A  
g

(CONTINUED)





L  
Will you be  
hours or is

for those  
t of your after-

N DANNY

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

(CONTINUED)

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

DANNY  
I hope so.

Out on LOUISE. Not even a smile.





EMMA looks at DANNY, her expression telling him to say







Oh LOUISE

(CONTINUED)

EMMA

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

KATIE

Never again . . .

EMMA

How do you mean?

KATIE

My heart was broken once. But not  
by Ralph.

RALPH







RALPH doe