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(CONTI NUED)

RA

(MORE)

(CONTI NUED)

EMMA
Yes - Valentine'

RALPH
I'll be up in a bit.

KATIE kisses him on the cheek before heading upstairs. After a moment, RALPH retrieves the unopened Valentine's card from his back pocket. He hesitates. Then opens it. It has a handwritten poem inside: *"Roses are red, Violets are blue. I miss your smile. When I'm not with you!"*

Below the poem is a large question mark. Ralph's mind starts going into overdrive.

"The past is a cl

DANNY (CONT'D)

No one goes back to the past. It's a closed door.

RALPH

So what about this?

RALPH produces the mystery Valentine's card from his back pocket and slides it across the table as if it's evidence in a murder trial. DANNY picks it up.

RALPH (CONT'D)

It was sent to Katie.

DANNY

Wait, has Katie seen this?

RALPH shrugs. DANNY drops the card.

DANNY (CONT'D)

You stole her card? And now you're getting me involved?? Jesus Christ! How long have you had it?

RALPH

A day.

DANNY

Twenty four hours?! No. No, you need to talk to Katie and come clean.

RALPH

It's my marriage.

DANNY

(carefully)

Mate, I just think you need to have a chat with Katie.

(beat)

And give her that.

DANNY points at the mysterious card. They both look at it, like it's a bomb waiting to go off.

RALPH

(unconvincingly)

I will.

DANNY gives him a look.

RALPH (CONT'D)

When the time is right.

RALPH takes a sip of his pint. On DANNY: that went well...

(CONTI NUED)

LOUISE heads out.

KATIE
How was your shift? I missed you
this morning.

KATIE heads to a nearby cupboard.

RALPH
Fine. Was running late.

KATIE retrieves a card, a box of chocolates and a football magazine from the cupboard.

KATIE
Happy Valentine's Day!

RALPH looks at the presents, caught out. He clearly hasn't got her anything. Beat.

KATIE (CONT'D)
You can give me mine later. I'm off
to help Emma.

She kisses him on the cheek.

KATIE (CONT'D)
Lov

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

EMMA (CONT'D)

I think I might pass out. A human body can't emit this much air.

TOM

Did you not want helium balloons?

EMMA

Oh god, don't. The canister didn't arrive, did it? We're just gonna have sad balloons.

TOM

Sad balloons?

EMMA

Yeah, like on the floor. Fatigued.

Just then DANNY arrives with a 24-pack of Lager.

DANNY

Afternoon.

EMMA

(smiling)

Oh hello. Didn't think we'd be seeing you...

DANNY

(casually)

Found these in Nan's garage, think they're from Boxing Day two years ago, but figured you might want them.

As he sets them down on a nearby table.

DANNY (CONT'D)

You want a hand with that?

EMMA

(out of breath)

Oh yeah, that'd be great, thanks.

But DANNY h

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

RA

(CONTI NUED)

R

(CONTI NUED)

(CONTI NUED)

By this point a determined (and slightly dramatic) RALPH has reached KATIE. He holds the card (and envelope) out to her. A confused KATIE takes the card and begins

(CONTI NUED)

LOUISE

So, let me get this straight. Katie got a Valentine's card... that you opened and didn't tell her about... and you just found out that it wasn't from some secret lover, but was actually from Emma... and now rather than apologising to Katie and begging for her forgiveness, you've left the party to come here and have a quick rummage through your old football magazines? Seems reasonable. Ten out of ten for that, Ralph.

RALPH

I'm looking for something.

LOUISE

Well, I'm going to the party and I'm not waiting.

LOUISE goes to leave but RALPH has frozen. He's found what he was looking for.

LOUISE (CONT'D)

What's that?

He hands LOUISE a homemade Valentine's card. The inside is blank.

RALPH

I had to make it at school. I didn't have anyone to send it to.

LOUISE looks at a sad RALPH, realising that this might be a bit more serious than she first thought.

RALPH (CONT'D)

Katie's the only person I've ever loved. I've missed out on stuff.

LOUISE

What are you talking about?

RALPH

Katie's parents took her to clubs. She met people. Boyfriends.

(beat)

You never took me.

LOUISE

We weren't the kind of people who did clubs.

RALPH

You weren't.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTI NUED)

RALPH turns to this guy like 'can you not see that we're in the middle of something? Piss off' but instead says...

RALPH

In a minute.

KATIE

I wanted to keep Nathan in the past. I only love you now. That's all that matters.

RALPH smiles at this.

PARTY GOER

On the verge of frost bite over here, mate.

RALPH briefly looks over his shoulder, agitated, then back to KATIE. RALPH reaches BT 12 0 0 12 388 557 Tm /TT11 1 Tf (t) Tj ETTT1

Applause.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Well, a second hand keyboard from Oxfam, but still. And that wouldn't have been possible without all of you. So, thank you.

(beat)

This is actually my first Valentine's Day as a single person for quite a while and... well, I wa

(CONTINUED)

MICK

There you are.

MICK kisses TOM's cheek. We see DANNY trying to compute what's happening in front of him.

TOM

Finally!

MICK

Sorry, I got stuck in traffic.
(clocking DANNY)

Hi .

TOM

Oh yeah, Mick, this is Danny, an old school friend. And Danny, this is my boyfriend, Mick. He's late for everything.

MICK

Nice to meet you, Danny.

DANNY

(crushed)

Yeah, you too.

TOM

Danny does magic. He's basically the David Blaine of Cumbria. Uses ferrets instead of rabbits and everything. Very edgy.

DANNY

Yeah, well ferrets aren't part of a union...

TOM/DANNY

Yet.

TOM and DANNY laugh. MICK looks confused - he doesn't get it at all. After a moment...

MICK

(to TOM)

Anyway, shall we get a drink?

TOM

Drink, Danny?

DANNY

Erm, nah. I'm okay thanks. I've got one over... there.

He points in a vague direction.

TOM

Okay

(CONTINUED)

TOM and MICK make their way towards the drinks area, as DANNY watches on.

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It's near the end of the evening now. Various couples are slow dancing on the dance floor. EMMA joins DANNY, who is watching from the sidelines.

DANNY
You should be proud of yourself.

EMMA
Thanks, pal.

DANNY is looking at TOM and MICK, who are dancing together. EMMA notices this.

EMMA (CONT'D)
I didn't know he had a boyfriend.

(CONTINUED)

She stands in front of him and holds out her hand.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Danny Hyde, will you please dance
with me?

DANNY smiles and, half reluctantly, joins EMMA on the dance floor. He glances back over at TOM, who is still dancing with MICK. But this time TOM looks back at him and smiles.