

Monday Night Girlfriend

by

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INT. SWIMMING POOL - DAY.

The large clock on the swimming pool wall reads 06.15 AM. The pool is already full of keen amateur swimmers. TIM walks from the changing room and tentatively lowers himself into what is known as the "slow lane". He shudders before submerging into the water. Waiting for Tim, are HILARY and SYLVIE. Two super fit ladies in their sixties who kindly coach and cajole Tim through their tough, early morning sessions.

SYLVIE
Morning Tim.

TIM
Morning Sylvie.

HILARY
Ready for a big one this morning
Tim?

TIM
Can't say I am to be honest Hilary.

HILARY
Just draft behind Sylvie then,
you'll be okay. It's a five hundred
metre warm up and then three sets
of five hundred. Swim, pull, swim.
Okay?

TIM
(sarcastically)
Great.

SYLVIE
(to Tim)
Come on then.

Hilary and Sylvie steam off, leaving Tim in their wake.

INT. CHANGING ROOM - DAY

Tim finishes drying himself off, then jumps up onto the bench to talcum powder his feet.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

TIM sits eating his breakfast. His three daughters KATIE (17), BETHANY(15) and TILLY (11), descend from the stairs into the kitchen, all dressed and ready for school.

TILLY
What are you eating Dad?

TIM
Porridge.

TILLY
Looks revolting.

TIM
Do you mind? I'm eating.

Tim takes a mouthful and pretends it's the nicest thing he's ever eaten.

TIM (CONT'D)
This is lovely.

TILLY
You're disgusting.

TIM
So are you. I saw you eating your bogies the other night.

TILLY
No I wasn't!

Katie and Bethany laugh at Tilly mockingly.

BETHANY
You are horrible Tilly.

KATIE
Yes you'll never get a boyfriend doing that.

TILLY
(to Katie)
How would you know? Yours all seem to dump you.

Katie glares at Tilly, she's caught a raw nerve.

TIM
Enough Tilly.
(to Katie Bethany and Tilly)
Right who is going to give their old Dad a kiss goodbye?

KATIE
No thanks.

BETHANY
Yeah not after eating that.

Tilly leans over and plants a big wet kiss on the side of Tim's face as they go to leave.

TILLY
See you later Dad.

Tim savours the affection.

TIM
Ah, thank you Tilly.

KATIE
See you later.

BETHANY
Yes bye Dad.

TIM
See you girls, have a good day.

EXT. SHOP - DAY

TIM sweeps in on his expensive road bike to the front of his beauty and hair salon. He takes off his helmet and sunglasses and opens up the shop.

INT. SHOP - DAY

Tim stands at the counter glued to his laptop, devouring cycling and triathlon websites. He is soon joined by his business partner and best friend, ANDY.

TIM
Didn't hear you come in.

ANDY
Didn't you?

Andy leans past Tim to pick up his mail.

ANDY (CONT'D)
No wonder, you're too busy looking at porn.

Tim looks up.

TIM
What?

ANDY
You, and your bike porn.

Tim gets back to his laptop.

TIM
Oh, oh yeah. Just checking out some new carbon wheels.

ANDY
(sarcastically)
Really? How interesting.

Andy puts his mail down, ready to start work.

ANDY (CONT'D)
How does the diary look today?

Tim is still engrossed in his possible purchase.

TIM
I don't know I haven't checked it yet.

ANDY
Could you, please?

TIM
Yes give me a second, I will just close this.

ANDY
Thank you.

Tim checks the diary.

TIM
Just bits and pieces really.

ANDY
Okay nothing major?

TIM
Oh no!

ANDY
What?

TIM
We've got bloody Sue Jocelyn booked in for a sun bed at nine thirty. It says holiday underneath it, so who knows what she'll want doing after that.

ANDY
Can you take care of her please?

TIM
Why?

ANDY
Lauren is taking Chloe to the doctors this morning and I'm out with the architect for most of the day.

Tim begrudgingly agrees.

TIM
If I have to.

ANDY
Well cancel her, tell her you
don't want her money.

Tim is slow to pick up on Andy's sarcasm.

TIM
I can't do that can I?

ANDY
No you can't. I'm also meeting
the builders tonight so you'll
have to lock up for the girls as
well.

Andy looks Tim up and down with utter disdain.

ANDY (CONT'D)
And can you take that ridiculous
cycling kit off before old sour
tits turns up.

TIM
This kit cost me over three
hundred quid.

ANDY
I don't care how you squander
your money, you look ridiculous.

TIM
You're just jealous.

ANDY
Look at me Tim I'm green with
envy. Now have a shower and get
changed!

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

05.45 AM. The alarm clock rings loudly. Tim sits up and turns the alarm off. He reaches for a T-shirt and shorts on the floor by the side of the bed.

INT/EXT DOOR - DAY

Tim opens the door and begins his run.

EXT. STREET. - DAY

TIM runs along the deserted suburban street, breathing fairly hard as he fiddles with his headphones.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Tim steps out of the shower and starts to dry then groom himself.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Tim chops a banana on the chopping board as he stirs his porridge.

EXT. SHOP - DAY

Tim opens up the salon.

INT. SHOP - DAY

Tim turns on his laptop and quickly becomes engrossed with a cycling forum on the internet, as shop manager LAUREN enters.

LAUREN

Morning.

Tim does not acknowledge Lauren.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

I said, morning Tim.

Tim looks up from his laptop.

TIM

Oh hi Lauren, How's Chloe?

LAUREN

Yes she's a bit better thanks.
Hopefully it's just a bad bug.

Tim's eyes return to the laptop. He's paying little attention to Lauren.

TIM

Yes, hope so.

LAUREN

If she's still being sick at
lunchtime, I've got to take her
back up to the Polyclinic, okay?

TIM

Yes.

LAUREN

Because it might be something more sinister like an appendicitis.

TIM

Yes of course.

Lauren walks to the coat stand and hangs her jacket up.

LAUREN

Or something terminal.

Tim's head bolts upright.

TIM

What?!

Lauren walks towards the kitchen.

LAUREN

Nothing...

Tim is unnerved briefly by Lauren's response before getting back to the internet. As he trawls for information, Lauren returns to the front desk.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

How was yesterday?

TIM

Sorry?

LAUREN

Yesterday?

TIM

(vaguely recalling)
Oh yeah fine, it kept ticking over. Sue Jocelyn was as miserable as ever. Moaning about you not being around, moaning about having to fly premium economy to Antigua next week.

LAUREN

Poor thing.

TIM

It's the husband I feel sorry for.

Tim continues to read. His ignorance is now trying Lauren's patience.

LAUREN

If you do manage to tear yourself away from the computer today Tim, we're all going to see the new place at seven this evening.

TIM

Since when?

LAUREN

Since Andy arranged it yesterday.

TIM

Why didn't he tell me? I'm at my turbo sessions on Tuesdays, he knows that.

LAUREN

He has text and e mailed you.

TIM

I've not picked them up.

Lauren nods at Tim's laptop.

LAUREN

No wonder. You're always on those Triathlon websites. You don't have to come Tim, it's not compulsory.

TIM

Let me try and sort something out.

LAUREN

Oh do what you like. I just thought most men like you went out and bought a Harley Davidson.

Tim gets prickly.

TIM

What are you talking about?

Lauren walks off breezily.

LAUREN

Nothing.

EXT. SHOP - NIGHT.

Tim and Andy stand in front a derelict shop front in a row of rundown businesses.

ANDY

What do you think?

TIM
Yeah it's okay.

ANDY
Is that it?

TIM
It's a empty shell Andy, what do you me to say?

ANDY
I don't know, maybe you could be a little more enthusiastic.

TIM
I'm not a visionary like you.

ANDY
I'm hardly a visionary Tim. We have to expand.

TIM
Isn't five shops enough?

Lauren wanders over to find out why Tim and Andy are sniping at each other.

LAUREN
What are you two old woman bickering about?

TIM
Less of the old very thank you very much.

ANDY
Yes.

LAUREN
Oh sorry, have I caught nerve ladies. Come on Andy I'm starving, you promised me dinner.

Andy feigns a surprised look.

ANDY
Did I?

LAUREN
Oh don't give me that.

Lauren walks ahead to Andy's car. Andy gives a resigned looks at Tim.

ANDY
You coming too?

TIM

Yeah why not. The girls are all out with my Mum and I've missed training now. Might as well gorge myself senseless to fill the void.

Tim decides to goad Lauren.

TIM (CONT'D)

(loudly to Andy)
What is it tonight? Macdonald's drive through?

LAUREN

Bloody better not be!

INT. CHINESE RESTAURANT - NIGHT.

Tim, Andy and Lauren sit eating ravenously. Little is being said until Lauren breaks the silence.

LAUREN

Tim I need to ask you a question.

TIM

Go on, I'm good on capital cities.

LAUREN

No, it's a bit more personal than that.

TIM

Sounds ominous.

LAUREN

How's the old love life these days Tim?

TIM

Non existent. How's yours?

LAUREN

Oh, magical. Are you going to elaborate?

Tim is far more interested in serving food rather than chatting.

TIM

Nothing to elaborate on.

LAUREN

That's a shame.

TIM

Why is it?

ANDY

You must have realised Lauren is one of life's natural born cupids Tim?

TIM

(to Andy)
No I didn't.
I don't have time for all that Lauren.

LAUREN

That's rubbish. How long has it been now?

TIM

How long has what been?

Tim knows exactly what Lauren is inferring, but not playing along.

LAUREN

You know.

TIM

No I don't, tell me.

LAUREN

Okay, how long has it been since Anna went off?

Andy looks furious at Lauren. Tim senses Andy's unease.

TIM

(to Andy)
I knew what she meant Andy.
(to Lauren)
I don't know, five years.

LAUREN

Has it been that long?

TIM

Yes about that. Look, I've got three daughters that need looking after.
(nodding to Andy)
An ever expanding business empire thanks to my wonderful partner here, and I'm now training like a lunatic for this Iron Man thing. I genuinely don't have time, or care.

LAUREN

Yes but aren't you lonely?

TIM

No. In fact I'd love to have the chance to be lonely.

LAUREN

You're a weirdo. I've got a few single friends, they'd go out with you.

TIM

(sarcastically)
Really? Gee thanks.

LAUREN

Want me to set you up?

Tim thinks hard.

TIM

I don't know Lauren, I'm a long time out the dating game you know.

LAUREN

I'm not asking you to marry them Tim.

TIM

Yes I appreciate that.

LAUREN

Surely there's more to life than getting up at silly o'clock in the morning, working all day and then killing yourself training.

TIM

Oh go on then. No munters though!

LAUREN

None of my mates are *munters*, thank you Tim.

Andy doubtfully raises his eyes brows at Lauren.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

Shut up Andy!

ANDY

What? I haven't said anything.

LAUREN

You don't need to.

(to Tim)

Ignore him Tim, I'll find you someone nice.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

MONTAGE of a series of unsuccessful dates between Tim and Lauren's friends.

Tim enters a cinema with his first date. She looks up to the listings board and chooses "gross out" film, "I'M OUT OF MY MIND DUDE 3"

Tim sits in a pub chatting happily with his second date.

DATE 2

.....It was lovely to a bunch of bleeding curry munchers moved next door. Ruined the whole street.

Tim is eating in an expensive restaurant with date number three when she burps unashamedly in front of him.

Tim is being driving home by his overbearing fourth date. He simply can't get a word in edgeways.

DATE 4

I've only had him six months, but you do get attached to them don't you? You got any animals? I don't know what I'd do if anything happened to him, I know it's silly but I really wouldn't.

Tim has glazed over in boredom.

Tim is sat in another pub talking to his fifth date, when he notices an ugly tattoo on her wrist. Tim looks out of the window in despair.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Tim stares out of the window while washing his breakfast bowl. Katie walks in breezily.

KATIE

Tilly wont get up Dad.

TIM

Why?

Bethany enters the kitchen carrying a large box.

BETHANY

She's got Geography first lesson and is pretending to be sick.

KATIE

We know for a fact she hasn't done her homework.

TIM

Remind me never to go into a career in crime with you two, you're such grasses.

Bethany puts the box on the table.

BETHANY

Oh Dad, this came for you yesterday afternoon.

Tim looks down at the large box.

TIM

What's this?

BETHANY

I don't know.

TIM

I do, they're my bloody rollers! Why have you just told me now? I complained because they hadn't turned up!

BETHANY

I'm sorry! I was on my way out when the guy turned up with them. I stuck them in the hall and forgot all about them.

TIM

Unreal!

Tim rips open the box, like a child on Christmas day and examines the goods.

KATIE

Dad.

TIM

What?

KATIE

Tilly?

TIM

Oh yeah.

Tim shouts up to Tilly.

TIM (CONT'D)

Tilly! What's wrong?

TILLY (O.S.)
I don't feel well.

TIM
Nothing to do with you not doing
your Geography homework then?

TILLY (O.S.)
No. Dad I'm really not well.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Tim bolts up the stairs to check on Tilly.

INT. TILLY'S BEDROOM. - DAY

Tilly hears Tim coming up the stairs and lies flat out on the bed to in an attempt to make her condition appear worse. Tim gets to the doorway and is shocked by Tilly's appearance.

TIM
Oh you do look poorly my little
flower.

TILLY
I am.

Tim feels her temperature and then strokes her hair.

TIM
Okay I'll call the school.

Tilly cannot believe her ears but continues to play half dead.

TIM
I suppose I'd better stay off with
you then.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Tilly sits on the settee with a duvet wrapped round her. She turns up the television as loud as possible to combat the din of Tim's heavy breathing. He's pedalling his bike hard on his precious new rollers.

Tilly stares at her father incredulously.

TILLY
Aren't you meant to be looking
after me dad?

Tim ignores Tilly, until she waves his phone at him.

TILLY (CONT'D)
Dad, your phone is ringing.

TIM
(out of breath)
What?

TILLY
There's a phone call for you.

TIM
Answer it for me Tilly.

Tilly answers the phone, It's Andy.

TILLY
(on the phone)
Hello...Oh hi Andy. ...yeah I am
not well actually.No he's
on his bike. .No here in the
living room..... Yes it is
unbelievable isn't it?

TIM
Let me speak to him Tilly.

Tilly hands Tim the phone as he continues to pedal.

TIM (CONT'D)
(on the phone)
Andy!..I'm just having
a quick go on my new rollers ...
I'm still in the house aren't I?
.....No I'll get the other two to
look after her. See you
there...yes seven o clock ...bye.

Tim tries to hand the phone back to Tilly. She mischievously holds out her hand, before pulling it back quickly. Tim overbalances and topples over and crashes hard on the floor.

INT. NEW SHOP - NIGHT

Tim limps in to the newly bought salon where he is met by Andy and Lauren, who are sipping champagne from paper cups.

ANDY
(to Tim)
What happened to you?

TIM
Don't ask.

Lauren hands Tim a cup.

LAUREN
Training injury?

TIM
Yes something like that.

Tim holds out the cup, while Lauren pours.

LAUREN
Tilly okay?

TIM
She's better thanks.

LAUREN
Oh good.

A moment of silence as they all take in the surroundings.

TIM
(to Andy)
So when are the builder's due to start?

ANDY
Thursday.

LAUREN
Forget the builders Tim, come on.

TIM
What?

LAUREN
We've not really spoken since the hot dates. How were they?

TIM
Do you really want to know?

LAUREN
Of course I do.

TIM
Horrendous.

LAUREN
Who was?

TIM
All of them. I don't want to single out anyone.

LAUREN
Tim, I'm offended.

TIM
So was I!

Andy stunts a laugh.

TIM (CONT'D)

Look Lauren, they'll tell you I was probably just as horrendous. I'm not interested. It's as simple as that.

LAUREN

You're not over Anna are you?

TIM

Yes I am totally over Anna.

ANDY

Surely you wouldn't mind a bit of t- l- c if it came along would you Tim?

TIM

No I wouldn't, but you're missing the point.

ANDY

What is that then?

TIM

I can't be asked, seriously. And I'm definitely not doing all that on line dating stuff. The thought of it makes me sick.

LAUREN

You'll end up sad and lonely like Andy, you know that don't you?

TIM winces.

TIM

Oh that's harsh. Look I get one night free to myself. I'm not wasting it chasing woman.

ANDY

So you do give yourself a night off then?

TIM

Yes.

LAUREN

What night?

TIM

Mondays normally.

ANDY

Well that's it then.

TIM

What?

ANDY

Advertise for a Monday night girlfriend.

TIM

What like a "Man Friday " sort of thing?

ANDY

Yes exactly, but for a woman on a Monday. Not unless you're trying to tell us something.

Tim smiles.

TIM

No nothing like that.

ANDY

I think you'll be surprised about the thousands of woman in a similar predicament to you.

TIM

Thousands?

ANDY

Okay, not thousands, but tens definitely.

TIM

And where will I find such a like minded female?

ANDY

Er, The internet? That's quite popular these days.

LAUREN

Or personal columns.

TIM

Do they still have them?

LAUREN

Of course they do.

Tim thinks long and hard.

TIM

No, thanks all the same guys, not for me I'm afraid.

LAUREN
Oh grow a pair and give it a go
Tim.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. SALON - DAY

Lauren and Tim are stood hunched over the reception desk trying to pen an advert for the local newspaper's personal columns. Tim struggles to read Lauren's handwriting.

TIM
What does that say?

Lauren snatches the paper off of Tim.

LAUREN
Give it here?

TIM
Oh I'm not doing this.

LAUREN
Grow up will you. Do you really
want to be that sad and lonely
single bloke that everyone talks
about behind his back?

TIM
Do they?

LAUREN
All the time.

Lauren looks hard at the paper but finally deciphers what she's written.

LAUREN (CONT'D)
It says, "fitness fanatic father
of three seeks fun and frolics on
his one free night of the week".

Tim nods, happy with the choice of words.

LAUREN (CONT'D)
What do you think? Too many "fs"

TIM
No it's alliteration, I like it.
We are missing the most important
one though.

LAUREN

Really?

TIM

Thought it was obvious.

LAUREN

Of course, friendship.

Tim shakes his head.

TIM

No I wasn't thinking of that.

Lauren finally twigs.

LAUREN

God you men are all the same.

TIM

What? Look it's a bit long though isn't it? We pay for this by the word don't we?

LAUREN

You're tighter than two coats of paint, you're worse than Andy.

TIM

What about business man seeks Monday night girlfriend?

LAUREN

Then you may as well just get a hooker.

TIM

That could work?

LAUREN

No!

TIM

Okay, go with your one then.

Out the back of the shop, Andy taps away on his lap top.

ANDY (O.S.)

Tim! Come here.

TIM

What you got?

Tim walks over to Andy. Andy opens his lap top to show Tim an impressive web page advertising for a Monday Night Girlfriend.

Tim is impressed.

TIM (CONT'D)

Wow that's amazing.

ANDY

Not such a bad idea after all eh?

TIM

No Andy I take it back. Do you think it'll work?

ANDY

Yes why not? Just be positive. You just never know.

TIM

Do you think I should get a picture of me on my bike on there?

ANDY

Yes I can do that, with the word "tosser" underneath.

INT. SWIMMING POOL - DAY

TIM walks slowly to his lane and lowers himself gingerly into the water. Waiting impatiently are Sylvie and Hilary.

SYLVIE

Come on slow coach.

TIM

I'm coming.

HILARY

At least we've got age as an excuse for being slow.

TIM

What? Neither of you can be more than early fifties?

HILARY

(playfully)
Oh shove off.

Hilary swims off.

SYLVIE

Come on Mr Silver tongue,
flattery will get you nowhere.

Sylvie swims off in chase of Hilary. Tim follows.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

Tim, Sylvie and Hilary climb out of the pool and trudge to the changing rooms.

HILARY

(to Tim)
Well done today.

TIM

(surprised)
Oh, thank you.

SYLVIE

Yes you did really well.
(to Hilary)
Kept up now and then didn't he?

HILARY

(to Sylvie)
Yes he did.

Tim smiles through gritted teeth at the well intended, but patronising comments.

TIM

Think I could be as good as you
two one day?

HILARY

Of course dear.

SYLVIE

One day, but we are in our
sixties.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Tim enters the kitchen. He sits down, opens his laptop and reads his e mails. Dejected at the lack of replies to his advert, he shuts it down quickly as Bethany enters.

BETHANY

What were you looking at?

TIM

Just seeing when my new brake
pads are being dispatched. Going
to be three more days. Can you
believe that?

BETHANY

Hardly the end of the world dad.

Bethany throws a letter in Tim's direction.

BETHANY (CONT'D)

That came for you by the way.

Tim opens the letter.

TIM

Oh, from the school, am I going to like this Bethany?

BETHANY

Probably not.

Tim reads the letter with his hand over his mouth in horror.

TIM

Sit down Bethany.
(holding the letter)
How long has this been going on for?

BETHANY

Don't know, two weeks.

TIM

I can go to prison for this.

BETHANY

No you can't. It's only science I bunk.

TIM

Oh and that's acceptable is it?
And I suppose the Head teacher and education welfare officer will be perfectly happy after I go to see them on Friday?

BETHANY

No.

TIM

Bloody Hell! Why?

BETHANY

I don't understand it.

TIM

Well you won't if you're not there.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Tim checks his P O BOX, it's empty.

INT. SCHOOL RECEPTION - DAY

Tim arrives outside the Head Teachers's office pushing his bike while dressed in full cycling outfit, much to Bethany's horror.

BETHANY
Where have you been?

TIM
I've had to cycle.

BETHANY
Why?

TIM
It's Friday. It's on my schedule.

BETHANY
And what on earth are you
wearing?

TIM
I'm going to get changed, silly.

Tim points to his bag.

BETHANY
You'll get me bullied even more
now. Thanks.

TIM (CONT'D)
What?

The HEAD TEACHER opens his door and Tim and Bethany into
his office.

HEAD TEACHER
Mr Bliss, Bethany.

EXT. SCHOOL GATES - DAY

Tim puts his cycling helmet on and pedals off, wearing his
change of cycling clothes.

INT. SALON - DAY

Tim is styling a customer's hair while trying to get
Lauren's attention as she is at reception on the computer.

TIM
Lauren.

Lauren doesn't hear Tim.

TIM (CONT'D)
Excuse me, Lauren.

LAUREN
Yes.

TIM

Lauren, while you're on there can you check my market research mails please?

Lauren is mystified.

LAUREN

Your market research e mails?

Tim gives her a nod and a wink.

TIM

Yes you know the ones Andy sent out for me?

LAUREN

Oh those ones.

TIM

Yes please.

LAUREN

I must say Tim, for someone who was originally so reluctant to conduct this market research, you've become almost obsessive about it.

Tim turns to Lauren and puts a finger over his mouth.

CUSTOMER

What's this Tim?

TIM

Oh just deciding whether to open on Mondays or not Janet.

CUSTOMER/JANET

Why would you want to do that?

LAUREN

Because he's desperate Janet.

TIM

(mouthing to Lauren)
Piss off!

CUSTOMER/JANET

Tim? Desperate?

TIM

Yes we're expanding Janet and always desperate for more customers. Thought a smart woman like you would understand that.

CUSTOMER/JANET

I suppose so. Anyway, Tim my boy, any improvement on your love life? Surely there must be some old bird knocking about out there for you?

TIM

Oh you paint such a romantic picture Janet. No I'm happy just to rot on the shelf.

JANET

Oh something will come up when you least expect it. Always does for me.

INT KITCHEN - NIGHT

TIM sits at the table and checks his e mails on his laptop. There are no responses in his quest for a Monday Night Girlfriend. In frustration, he slams the computer shut and slumps into his chair like a spoilt child.

TIM

Shit.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

Tim cycles merrily along a stretch of country road, enjoying the scenery and the feeling of freedom. His phone starts to ring loudly. Tim brakes and pulls up by the side of the road. He rummages through his back pocket to get his phone and answers. It's Andy.

TIM (CONT'D)

Hi mate, what's up?...Out on the bike, why?.... Hold on Say that again?Oh mate, what on a Sunday?!.. I'm miles away from the salon... Twenty at least... Isn't there anyone else that can do it? ...Okay, you'll have to give me an hour and a half at least..Yes I can do it quicker actually, I just wanted to give you a worst case scenario. Goodbye!

Tim hangs up and continues to cycle.

TIM (CONT'D)

(muttering to himself)
I would love to see him do it in an hour and a half. Tosser!

INT. SALON. - DAY

Andy politely opens the door for Tim, who stomps into the salon.

ANDY
Nice ride?

TIM
Until you rang.

ANDY
Sorry I have to go and help
Lauren. Chloe is really sick Tim.

Tim heads to the back room to get changed.

TIM (O.S.)
Yeah and so am I, of this place.

ANDY
You know I always open up the
salon for Juliet. She should be
here at Two, so that gives you
twenty minutes to grow up Mr
sulky pants.

Tim has calmed and returns to the reception.

TIM
Yes I heard you.

ANDY
Right I'm off.

TIM
Fine, I hope Chloe is okay.

ANDY
Yes me too.

Andy leaves.

MONTAGE of Tim staring out of the window, lost in thought as he watches out on the world, spinning like a child on the salon chairs and playing with hair care products.

CUT TO: Tim gazes out onto the street, oblivious to JULIET who is standing quietly by the desk.

JULIET
Hello.

Tim turns around slightly startled.

TIM
Oh, hello you must be ...

JULIET

Juliet.

TIM

Of course. Would you like to come over?

Juliet follows Tim.

TIM (CONT'D)

Let me take your coat.

Juliet swings her coat and scarf off.

JULIET

Thank you.

Tim hangs her coat and scarf up and chivalrously offers Juliet a seat.

Tim speaks to Juliet looking at the mirror.

TIM

Okay what are we doing today then?

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. SALON - DAY

Andy is making tea, while Tim trawls the internet.

ANDY (O.S.)

How was Juliet?

TIM

Fine. She's nice isn't she?

ANDY (O.S.)

She's a widow you know.

Tim suddenly perks up.

TIM

Oh really, is she?

ANDY (O.S.)

Now don't you go having any ideas. She's been a friend and customer of mine for years.

TIM

How come that's the first time I've met her.

ANDY (O.S.)
Because normally, she only comes
in early on a Saturday morning.

TIM
I see. That's always been tap and
ballet time for me.

ANDY (O.S.)
Yes, how is your dancing coming
these days?

TIM
Ha ha. The girls, dummy!

ANDY (O.S.)
I know.

TIM
How's Chloe?

ANDY (O.S.)
Better thanks. First they checked
her for meningitis, turns out
it's a viral infection.

TIM
Thank god for that.

Andy enters with a cup of tea and places it firmly into
Tim's hand.

TIM (CONT'D)
What's up with you, weirdo?

ANDY
I've got something to tell you.

TIM
God you're not sick are you?

ANDY
No.

TIM
Well what then?

ANDY
I've asked Lauren to marry me.

Tim is dumbfounded.

TIM
What? When?

ANDY
Last night at the hospital.

TIM
You're winding me up.

ANDY
No, I'm not. It just felt right
to ask her.

TIM
What, just like that?

ANDY
Yes. She has insisted on an
engagement ring before it's
official.

TIM
They all want one of those mate.
I can't believe you've been
rattling her and not told me.

ANDY
Excuse me? I've not been rattling
anyone.

TIM
I always thought you were..

ANDY
You thought what?

TIM
Just friends. You're a dark horse
aren't you Andrew.

Tim digests the news.

TIM (CONT'D)
Wow! Congratulations mate.

Tim offers his hand to Andy, who shakes it powerfully.

ANDY
Thank you.

ANDY
Tell you who else is a dark
horse?

TIM
Who?

ANDY
Black beauty!

TIM
Very good!

ANDY

Thank you. I'd also really like you to be my best man.

TIM

I'd be honoured. When is it?

ANDY

Why?

TIM

Just hope it doesn't clash with my race that's all.

Andy is unimpressed.

ANDY

No we wouldn't want that, would we? You're unbelievable.

INT. GYM - DAY

Tim is running hard on the treadmill when he notices Juliet in the reflection of the mirror. He continues to run, catching furtive glances until she disappears out of view. He becomes so distracted he stops and paces around the gym trying to find her. He gives up and heads for the exit with his head bowed when he walks straight in to Juliet.

TIM

Oh, hello, how are you?

JULIET

Yes, I'm fine thank you.

Tim nods at Juliet's hair.

TIM

Happy with everything?

JULIET

Oh yes, very happy, just got out of the pool, it's fine.

TIM

Off anywhere exciting?

JULIET

No just off home... Oh there is something I want to ask you.

TIM

Really?

JULIET

Did I leave my scarf at your salon?

TIM

I can check when I'm next in for you... Andy's got your number and address hasn't he?

JULIET

Yes he should have it somewhere. There's no rush anyway...

TIM

I will sort it out now.

Tim heads out of the door to get the scarf.

JULIET

It's a beige cashmere one!

Without turning around, Tim sticks a thumb up in the air.

INT. SALON - DAY

Tim bursts into the salon to find Lauren tending to a customer.

TIM

Lauren. Lauren!

LAUREN

What? Can't you see I'm a bit busy.

TIM

Have you seen Juliet Nicklin's scarf anywhere?

LAUREN

Why don't you check the coat stand where everyone leaves their scarves.

TIM

Oh yeah, good idea.

Tim walks over to the stand, immediately finds the scarf before heading straight back out the door.

LAUREN

Oh, bye Tim.

INT. CAR - DAY

Before driving off, Tim phones Andy.

TIM

(on his phone)
Andy...

(MORE)

TIM (CONT'D)

Quick question, do you have Juliet's address by any chance?... No I'm not stalking her! She left her scarf in the salon and I said I'd return it to her... Honestly!... It's important, just text it to me yeah?

Tim puts his phone down. Seconds later his phone bleeps with a text message. Tim opens the message and clenches his fist in delight.

EXT/INT. JULIET'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Tim pulls up at Juliet's house to find the front door wide open and a dog barking loudly in the driveway. Tim gets out of the car and walks slowly up the path into the porch. As he walks into the house, Juliet bounds down the stairs and freezes in shock.

JULIET

(screaming)
Arrrghh!

TIM

(holding out Juliet's scarf)
Your scarf.

JULIET

You scared the life out of me just then.

TIM

You too.

JULIET

Sorry the dog's been going mad, I think I've been broken into.

TIM

Really?

JULIET

Could you check out the back for me please?

Tim tries to play the tough guy.

TIM

Yeah sure.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Juliet ushers Tim through the kitchen to the garden.

EXT. GARDEN. - NIGHT

Tim, bounds around like a superhero and surveys the pitch black garden. In the distance he can hear the banging of fence panels. Tim returns quickly to the safety of the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Juliet waits anxiously at the door.

JULIET
Was anyone out there?

TIM
Yes it sounded like it. They're gone now.

JULIET
I must have disturbed them.

TIM
Probably.

JULIET
God, I've only been in this place two weeks and this happens.

TIM
Do you want me to call the police?

JULIET
I've done that already. Would you like a cup of tea?

TIM
No thanks. I only brought the scarf round because it's on the way to the pool.

JULIET
Okay. Well thanks for stopping by.

TIM
My pleasure. I'll see you soon.

Juliet follows Tim to the door to see him out.

JULIET
Thanks again.

INT. SWIMMING POOL - NIGHT

Tim slips into the pool. He swims a few strokes before getting out and walking back into the changing room.

EXT/INT. JULIET'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Tim walks up to the porch and rings the bell. After waiting anxiously for the door to open, he decides to ring again. Juliet, dressed for bed in her frumpy dressing gown and devoid of make up, peers nervously around the door. She can barely look at Tim for embarrassment.

JULIET
Hello, again.

TIM
Hello.

JULIET
How are you?

TI
Yes fine, I just wondered if you would like to come out for dinner one night next week?

JULIET
Yes okay. That would be nice. I'm sorry I'm just on the phone to my mum, she lives in Spain.

TIM
Okay, I won't keep you. I will call you in the week.

JULIET
Do that. Have you got my number?

TIM
Yes, Andy gave it to me with your address. I will call you.

JULIET
Yes, do that. Bye.

Juliet closes the door on Tim.

EXT. JEWELLER'S SHOP - DAY

Andy and Tim stand outside the Jewellers window shopping. Tim tries to link arms with Andy as they walk into the shop, but Andy doesn't want to play.

INT. JEWELLER'S SHOP - DAY

Tim and Andy walk about the shop without any real purpose.

TIM

Any idea what you're looking for?

ANDY

No, I thought you might be able to help. That's why I've invited you.

TIM

Why would you think that?

ANDY

You were married once.

TIM

Yes and I when proposed to Anna I borrowed the engagement ring from my Nan.

ANDY

Why didn't you tell me that before?

TIM

I thought you'd remember that dead relatives or antique jewellery as they call it now, was all the rage in those days.

ANDY

Your Nan wasn't dead when you got married Tim.

TIM

As good as.

Andy is speechless when a female shop assistant wanders over to help.

SHOP ASSISTANT

Can I help you gentlemen?

TIM

Yes my friend would like to buy an engagement ring please.

Andy turns to Tim.

ANDY

I can speak for myself thank you.

TIM
(to shop assistant)
Could we get a discount if we
bought two?

ANDY
(to shop assistant)
I'm sorry about my friend.
(to Tim)
What on earth are you on about?

TIM
I'm taking Juliet Nicklin to
dinner next week.

Andy is dumbfounded.

ANDY
You're having dinner with Juliet?

TIM
Yes.

ANDY
Since when?

TIM
Since I asked her out last night.

ANDY
You only met her on Sunday.

TIM
Yes, well you've got to act quick
when you know it's right. I
thought you of all people would
know that?

SHOP ASSISTANT
Do you want me to come back?

ANDY
No can you stay where you are.
(to Tim)
This has nothing to do with this
bloody Monday Night girlfriend
thing?

TIM
No.

ANDY
You promise me.

TIM
Yes. Why are you so protective of
her anyway? She is a grown adult.

ANDY

She's been through a lot, that's all.

TIM

So have I. Ever thought of that?

Andy goes quiet as Tim makes a good point.

TIM (CONT'D)

Look, I frightened off a burglar the other day when I returned her scarf. Think that's what's given her the hots for me.

Andy can't help mock.

ANDY

Oh and that knight in shining armour thing has worked its magic has it?

TIM

Yeah if you like. Look we're having dinner that's all. Want to come and hold her hand?

ANDY

No thanks. Bad enough having to listen to your tired old chat at work all day.

SHOP ASSISTANT

We finished yet gents? I take it is ladies rings you're after?

ANDY/TIM

Yes!

SHOP ASSISTANT

Good. I don't want to hurry you but we shut in six hours, okay?

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Tim scoffs his food as Juliet watches in a state of disbelief.

JULIET

Are you enjoying that?

Tim takes another huge mouthful.

TIM

Excuse me, sorry. What must you think? I'm starving, I'm doing a lot of training at the moment.

JULIET
What's that for?

TIM
Oh I'm doing an Iron man distance triathlon in September.

JULIET
What does that entail?

TIM
A two and a half mile swim, a one hundred and twelve mile bike ride and a marathon to finish.

JULIET
Wow. I'm tired from just thinking about it.

TIM
Yes I'm burning thousands of calories training everyday.

JULIET
No wonder you're hungry then.

Tim continues to stuff himself. Juliet plays with the remainder of her food, which Tim eyes greedily.

TIM
You eating the rest of that?

JULIET
Do you want it?

TIM
Yes please.

JULIET
Do you ever watch that show Man versus food?

TIM
No, why?

JULIET
Just wondered.

Tim moves on to demolishes his huge, creamy dessert. Juliet watches on in a combination of awe and disgust. She pushes her half eaten sundae towards him disdainfully.

JULIET (CONT'D)
Here finish mine.

TIM
Oh lovely.

Tim has his head in the dessert glass, almost like a pig in a trough. Appalled by the gluttony, Juliet wedges Tim's head into the glass, forcing him to choke. Juliet tries to not to laugh. The more Tim coughs and panics, the funnier Juliet finds it harder to suppress her laughter, until Tim starts to hyperventilate. Juliet then grabs Tim's hand.

JULIET

Breath Tim, breathe. Slowly, up from your belly up through your nose.

Tim starts to breathe normally.

JULIET (CONT'D)

That will teach you.

Tim looks at Juliet, with a smile of resignation.

TIM

Funny eh?

JULIET

Yes, very.

TIM

Charming.

JULIET

Oh I'm sorry I shouldn't have laughed like that.

TIM

I aim to please.

JULIET

You did that all right.
(offering a napkin to Tim)
Here take this and wipe your face.

TIM

Thanks.

Tim walks off to the toilets to clean up.

EXT. RESTAURANT CAR PARK - NIGHT.

Tim and Juliet amble slowly back to their cars.

JULIET

Are you okay now? Fully recovered from your little mishap?

TIM

Yes I'm fine thank you.

JULIET
Still hungry?

TIM
Not really.

TIM (CONT'D)
Would you like to do it again?

JULIET
What make you choke?

TIM
No.

JULIET
Oh please?

TIM
No, go out.

JULIET
Yeah, I need a good laugh.

TIM
Next week some time?

JULIET
Have to check the diary first.

TIM
That's a no then.

JULIET
No, it's not, it's I have to
check my diary first.

TIM
Okay.

JULIET
If I'm free, can I drown you in
ice cream again?

TIM
If you want.

JULIET
Great, count me in then.

They stop at Juliet's car.

JULIET (CONT'D)
Thanks for tonight, I've had a
really nice time.

TIM
My pleasure. I Hope you didn't
mind the venue.

JULIET
No it was fine for a Monday.

TIM
That's what I thought.

Juliet goes on tip toes and kisses Tim on the cheek.

JULIET
See you soon.

Tim touches his face, almost in shock.

TIM
So I can call you in the week then?

JULIET
Of course.

Juliet gets into her car and winds the window down.

JULIET (CONT'D)
Get home safely.

TIM
You too.

Juliet drives off. Tim waves her off in a daze.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Tim checks his profile in the mirror and grabs at the spare
flesh around his waist.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Katie walks through the door chatting on her phone.

KATIE
..I'm just through the door. I will
look into it first thing in the
morning. See you, bye.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Katie walks in to the lounge to find Tim riding his bike on
his rollers.

KATIE
What are you doing dad?

Tim looks around and in shock, falls off his bike.

INT. SWIMMING POOL - DAY

Tim lowers himself slowly into the pool. He is once again met by his regular swimming companions Sylvie and Hilary, who notices the cuts and bruises on his arms and legs.

HILARY

Oh what's happened to you?

TIM

Oh nothing.

SYLVIE

Didn't fall of those sippy rollers again did you?

TIM

No.

Tim can't lie.

TIM (CONT'D)

Yes, yes I did.

SYLVIE

Thought so. Come on doughnut draft behind me, We're doing two thousand five hundred straight off today.

Tim groans but manages to keep up with the ladies as they swim off.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

Tim finishes his long swim, exhausted but happy.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Tim stands in front of the mirror fixing his appearance, happy with what he sees. Tilly walks down the stairs glued to her phone, ready to leave for school.

TIM

Ah, Tilly glad I caught you before you left.

TILLY

What's up?

TIM

I'm out later, okay?

TILLY

And?

TIM

So Katie and Bethany are in charge okay?

TILLY

Why?

TIM

They're older than you, that's why.

TILLY

For god's sake.

TIM

I will leave your dinner in the microwave okay?

TILLY

Ah ha.

TIM

All you've got to do is heat it up.

TILLY

Okay.

TIM

Please listen to me.

TILLY

I am, but it's so boring.

TIM

And you're so rude.

TILLY

Where are you going then?

TIM

Out.

TILLY

On a Monday?

TIM

Yes what's wrong with that?

Tilly finally takes her eyes off of the phone.

TILLY

No one goes out on a Monday.

TIM

Well I am.

TILLY
Dressed like that?

TIM
Yes.

TILLY
So it's not a date then?

TIM
Might be.

TILLY
Who'd go out with you?

MONTAGE of Tim and Juliet ten-pin bowling. Having dinner in an Italian restaurant. Enjoying lunch in a country pub, walking hand in hand through a park, avoiding a large puddle as they do. Tim and Juliet strolling along the City of London before stopping for a smouldering kiss at the foot of the steps of St. Paul's Cathedral.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Katie, Bethany and Tilly sit in stunned silence at the table, cringing with embarrassment as Tim sings along joyously to the music on the radio while he serves breakfast to each of his daughters.

TIM
(singing)
"Rip it up and start again, rip it up and start again.
And I hope to God you're not as dumb as you make out. I hope to God I hope to god".

KATIE
What's up Dad?

TILLY
Yes. What is it with all this singing and cooking us all breakfast?

TIM
(still singing)
"And when I next saw you my heart reached out for you".

BETHANY
And being unbearably happy.

TIM
(still singing)
"My arms stuck like glue to my side".

KATIE

Or is there something you want to tell us?

TIM

What are you going on about? Can't a man be happy that he has his health and three beautiful daughters to cook for?

BETHANY

Dad, we know what's up with you.

TIM

Go on then, little miss know it all, tell me?

TILLY

(singing)
You're in love!

Tim starts to blush as he continues to serve.

TIM

What do you say? Whatever?

KATIE

Dad it's pretty obvious. You've had me and Bethany looking after the devil child at least one evening a week for god knows how long.

BETHANY

We've known something is up for a while Dad.

KATIE

Who is she?

Tim sits down to eat his food.

TIM

I've no idea what you are talking about.

TILLY

You're just being so happy Dad, and now breakfast. It's creepy.

TIM

That's nice. Look, haven't you noticed I'm doing all this training for this triathlon? Any ideas how many calories you need to live on when you're training like me.

TILLY

Why don't you just admit it?

TIM

Admit what?

KATIE

You're being ridiculous now. Okay, why then has your phone beeped with love texts every five minutes for the last six weeks or so?

TIM

What?

KATIE

We've read the messages Dad.

TIM

When?

TILLY

Every time you leave your phone hanging around.

TIM

How? My phone is locked.

BETHANY

We worked out your pass code ages ago.

KATIE

Yes, fancy using your own birthday. Wally!

Tim smiles. The game is up.

BETHANY

So does that make you Romeo then if she's Juliet?

TIM

If you like.

BETHANY

Ah how sweet.

TIM

Okay so now you know.

The girls go quiet as they digest the information, while Tim tucks into his breakfast.

BETHANY

Where did you meet her?

KATIE

Please tell me not online.

TIM

By chance. She come in to the salon one day while I was covering for Andy.

TILLY

And do you love her?

TIM

(with a mouthful of food)
Not as much as I love you!

Tim grabs Tilly in a playful hold, before planting kiss after kiss on her face.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

TIM steams along on his bike through a winding country lane when he is forced off the road by a speeding, oncoming car. He lands heavily in a ditch clutching his collar bone and arm. He manages to locate his phone and dials 999.

TIM

...Yes Ambulance please.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Tim is in considerable pain as he is attended to by both doctor and nurse.

DOCTOR

Well it all seems fairly straightforward Mr Bliss.

TIM

Really?

DOCTOR

Yes, regulation cyclist's break of the collarbone and fracture of scaphoid bone in the wrist. Almost textbook.

TIM

What about my knee, it's agony?

DOCTOR

X ray just shows some twisting and ligament damage. I'd say you were extremely lucky today.

TIM
(sarcastically)
Oh me too, really lucky.

NURSE
Now can anyone pick you up? There
is no answer from any of your
contact numbers.

TIM
Yes I know I've tried too. My
Miss...

JULIET (O.S.)
Hello anyone there?

The doctor pulls back the curtains to find Juliet.

DOCTOR
Ah Mrs Bliss.

JULIET
Not quite.

DOCTOR
Oh, anyway so glad you could get
here.

Juliet looks unimpressed at a forlorn looking Tim.

JULIET
Will he pull through?

DOCTOR
Yes Of course.

JULIET
That's a shame.

DOCTOR
Every weekend we get men like Tim
coming in injured because they
can't ride these expensive road
bikes they go out and buy.
They're called M-A-M-I-L-S...
You know middle aged men in
lycra.

Juliet continues to stare menacingly at Tim.

JULIET
Yes I know exactly what you mean.

DOCTOR
They never learn.

TIM

Excuse me I am still here you know.

JULIET

How could we forget? Right come on then hop along.

Tim struggles to get up.

DOCTOR

I'm sorry ...

JULIET

Juliet.

DOCTOR

Sorry Juliet, he has hit his head so he will need someone to monitor him for at least another twelve hours.

JULIET

Well I was on my way out to see Daryl Hall this evening and have only waited thirty years to see him, but never mind eh?

DOCTOR

Oh.

JULIET

Yes oh.
(to Tim)
You owe me big time Mister.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Tim rests on the sofa as Juliet enters with a pillow to prop his leg on.

JULIET

There you go.

TIM

Oh thank you.

JULIET

Okay now?

Juliet takes a patient breath. They hear front door open and voices in the hallway.

TIM

Hello.

TILLY (O.S.)
Hello. Katie?

KATIE (O.S.)
Hi. Dad who's blocking the drive?
(to Bethany)
I bet it's one next door's kids.
They can't park for shit.

BETHANY (O.S.)
Shoosh big mouth, they could be in
there.

KATIE (O.S.)
Oh hardly!

Katie, Bethany and Tilly enter the living room.

TIM
Hello girls.

BETHANY
What's happened to you, was it
those rollers again?

TIM
No I was out on my bike in the
country when someone ran me into
a ditch.

TILLY
Did you get the car's number?

TIM
No darling I was going over the
handle bars at the time.

TILLY
Could have taken a mental note?

TIM
Never thought of that.
Anyway, the hospital told me
they'd tried ringing the house
all afternoon.

KATIE
Yeah I ignored that, I didn't
recognise the number.

TIM
Oh good job it wasn't too serious
then eh?

KATIE
Yeah it is.

TILLY
 (pointing at Juliet)
 So who's this Dad?

TIM
 Oh sorry girls, this is Juliet.

JULIET
 Hello girls.
 (to Tilly)
 You must be Tilly?

TILLY
 Yes I am, how did you know?

JULIET
 Can't tell you that.

Tilly's eyes narrow.

JULIET (CONT'D)
 No your dad has told me all about
 you.

TILLY
 Has he?

JULIET
 Yep.

TIM
 (pointing at Bethany and Katie)
 And this is Bethany and this is
 Katie.

JULIET
 Hello ladies. Come on I'm fed up
 with hop along Cassidy here. I'm
 parched, who's going to show me
 where the kettle is?

TILLY
 I can. We've got loads of wine if
 you'd prefer?

JULIET
 What are you trying to say?

KATIE
 Come this way Juliet.

Bethany watches on. Not wishing to be left out, she
 follows them all into the kitchen.

BETHANY
 Wait!

INT SALON - DAY

Andy is on the phone to Tim as Lauren leans into hear the conversation.

ANDY

What did I tell you about that bloody bike?...How long?!
...eight weeks? That's a lot of time in plaster. Perfect timing as ever.... See if you can get someone to bring you in next week as I'm with the builders over at the new place.

Andy hangs up the phone.

LAUREN

What happened?

ANDY

Apparently someone ran him off the road...God what a twat.

LAUREN

Yeah, he could have quite easily killed Tim.

ANDY

What? No I was talking about Tim.

Lauren nods.

INT DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Tim, Juliet, Katie, Bethany and Tilly, sit around the table eating dinner.

TILLY

Juliet?

JULIET

Yes.

TILLY

Why aren't you married?

Bethany puts her cutlery down and stops eating.

BETHANY

(to Tim)
Oh stop her now Dad.

JULIET

I was married darling.

TIM

Tilly.

TILLY
What happened then?

JULIET
My husband died.

TILLY
Oh god, when?

JULIET
About four years ago.

TILLY
How?

JULIET
He had Leukemia.

TILLY
I'm sorry I shouldn't have asked.

JULIET
No darling it's fine to ask.

TILLY
I wish my Mum had died.

JULIET
Oh sweetheart that's a terrible thing to say.

TIM
Why did you say that Tilly?

TILLY
Going off one day like that without saying goodbye, might as well be dead to me.

JULIET
Oh she wasn't very well.

TILLY
Well I still think she's a fucking cow.

TIM
(angrily)
Enough Tilly!

BETHANY
She is a bit though Dad.

TIM
May be she is, can we just stop talking about your mother please, especially in front of Juliet.

JULIET
It's fine darling.

TILLY
Do you want to know something
else Juliet?

JULIET
Go on.

TILLY
I think you're too good for my
Dad.

Tim smiles.

TIM
She may have a point on that one.

INT. SALON - DAY

Lauren flicks through the internet for vintage wedding dresses. She moves the laptop across for Andy to see, who is stood close to the till, cashing up. Andy feigns a heart attack when he checks the prices.

ANDY
How much?

LAUREN
What?

ANDY
When you said vintage I thought
that meant prices as well.

LAUREN
It's the most important day of a
woman's life Andy, I've got to
look the part.

ANDY
Sweetheart, we are opening a new
salon soon as well.... And...

LAUREN
..And what? It was your idea this
wedding lark, I've been married
before remember? This is about
us, not the sodding business.

Tim is pushed in on a wheelchair by Juliet.

TIM
Hey lovebirds, why the arguing?

LAUREN

This idiotic friend of yours.
Anyway what are you doing here?
Coming back to work?

TIM

Oh no, a bit too early for that I
think.

LAUREN

Thought you might say that.

TIM

(to Lauren)
I just needed to speak to Andy
about the stag do.
(to Andy)
I've had this great idea. Ready?
Vegas five nights? I'm going to
book it when I get in, what do
you say?

LAUREN

You what? I hope you mean Bas
Vegas?

TIM

We're not going to Basildon
Lauren.

LAUREN

Listen the way he's going, the
only do you'll be going to, is
his funeral.

JULIET

What's he done?

LAUREN

Squabbling over a hundred quid on
my dress for the wedding.

JULIET

I'll talk some sense into him
Lauren. Don't be such a tight
arse Andy.

ANDY

I'm not. Christ I'll be lucky to
get a new suit from Marks.

TIM

Am I getting one?

ANDY

No you're not.

LAUREN

Well if you can get through to him Juliet I'll be very grateful because he's pissing me off.

Lauren looks hard at Tim.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

Why are you pushing him around in a wheelchair Juliet? He's not been crippled.

TIM

Oh yeah we ought to take this back to the hospital Juliet.

JULIET

I was the one that said you didn't need it in the first place.

TIM

(to Andy and Lauren)
Don't believe her guys, if it's not nailed down she'll nick it.

JULIET

(to Lauren)
Why do we bother with these idiots?
(to Tim)
Come on you we've got to be home for the girls.

Juliet starts to wheel Tim out of the salon.

TIM

Let me know about Vegas Andy.

Tim winks and gives a thumbs up to Andy.

INT. CAR - DAY

Juliet spots Bethany, dressed in her school uniform, standing at a bus stop, smoking.

JULIET

What time do you make it?

TIM

Nearly quarter to three.

JULIET

And what time does the girl's school finish?

TIM
Half past, why?

JULIET
I think I've just seen Bethany.

TIM
Oh she's not bloody bunking
again.

JULIET
Do you want me to go back for
her?

TIM
No I cant face a slanging match
now. Maybe you could have a word
with her later when she gets in?
She wont listen to me.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Bethany trudges up the hallway to the kitchen.

BETHANY
Hello, anyone at home?

JULIET (O.S.)
Yes is that you Bethany?

BETHANY
Yes.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Juliet sits alone in the kitchen drinking a cup of tea,
when Bethany enters.

JULIET
You okay?

BETHANY
I'm fine. Where's my Dad?

JULIET
He's having a nap.

BETHANY
What?

JULIET
Says it's tiring all this limping
around.

BETHANY
Big wuss.

JULIET
That's what I thought.

Juliet gets up and washes her mug in the sink.

JULIET (CONT'D)
Did you want a cup of tea?

BETHANY
No thanks I don't drink caffeine.

JULIET
Wish I didn't. How was your day?

BETHANY
Fine, why?

JULIET
Come and sit down Bethany.

Bethany takes a seat.

JULIET (CONT'D)
I saw you smoking at the bus stop
on Worrin Road today, way before
the end of school.

BETHANY
Did you?

JULIET
So it was definitely you then?

BETHANY
Yes.

JULIET
Where were your friends?

BETHANY
I don't know.

JULIET
So you bunk off on your own?

BETHANY
Yes, what's wrong with that?

JULIET
Other than the truanting? Just
seems a bit weird to do it on
your own.

BETHANY
It's thanks to one of them that I
do it.

JULIET

How come?

BETHANY

They found a sort of love letter
I'd written to my science
teacher.

JULIET

Oh.

BETHANY

And one of my so called friends
took a photo of it and put it on
Snap chat, Twitter and Instagram.

JULIET

Some friend.

BETHANY

I know. Says she didn't, but she
did.

JULIET

Look, we all have crushes on our
teachers when we're kids, it's
all part of growing up I'm
afraid.

BETHANY

Is it?

JULIET

Yes. Did the teacher get the
letter?

BETHANY

Yes.

JULIET

And have the school spoken to
you?

BETHANY

Yes.

JULIET

And are you in trouble?

BETHANY

It's hard to say. They didn't
shout at me or anything. They
said they'd need to speak to my
Dad. Do you know if they've
phoned?

JULIET

Not to my knowledge.

BETHANY

Good, I really can't face him
moaning at me at the moment.

Juliet tries to reassure Bethany.

JULIET

I will speak to your Dad for you.

BETHANY

Thank you.

JULIET

So how was this teacher of yours?
Has he said anything?

BETHANY

Who is he?

JULIET

The teacher, you sent it to.

BETHANY

She's not a he.

Juliet tries to look unperturbed.

JULIET

I see. Have you told anyone else
about the way you feel?

BETHANY

Who can I tell?

JULIET

I don't know. Do you need to tell
anyone? It's nobody's business
but yours at the end of the day.

BETHANY

Not really. I just feel ashamed.

JULIET

Why? You shouldn't feel ashamed
darling. You can't help who you
fall in love with.

Bethany starts to smile. At last someone understands.

JULIET (CONT'D)

I mean look at me. I fell in love
with your Dad.

BETHANY

What!? You're joking me?

JULIET

Don't you approve?

BETHANY
Of you?

JULIET
Yes.

BETHANY
Of course! It's him, he's such a knob sometimes.

JULIET
I know darling. He's a man, he can't help it.
Come here.

Juliet gets up and hugs Bethany, who holds on tightly.

JULIET (CONT'D)
Am I feeling sorry for you or are you feeling sorry for me?

BETHANY
Bit of both!

The pair laugh tearfully as they embrace.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Juliet enters the bedroom carrying two mugs of tea. She hands Tim his mug as he struggles to sit up, milking the last drops of the wounded soldier routine. Juliet puts her tea on the side and slips in bed beside Tim.

JULIET
What do you want to do today?

Tim grins a dirty grin and raises his eyebrows up and down.

JULIET (CONT'D)
Oh behave. You wouldn't be able to manage it anyway.

TIM
I'm as horny as hell, I'd give it a go.

JULIET
Oh Tim, you really know how to woo a girl.

Juliet considers her options.

JULIET (CONT'D)
Well come on then lover boy!

TIM
Really?

JULIET

Yes before I change my mind.

Juliet lies back and thinks of England.

Tim puts his tea on the side and tries to clamber over to Juliet, but his injuries stop him as he winces with pain.

TIM

Oh not tonight Josephine.

JULIET

I said you couldn't!

Tim returns to his tea, looks at his mug and takes a sip.

TIM

Who said they preferred a cup of tea to sex?

JULIET

Boy George.

TIM

He was lying.

Juliet smiles as she snuggles into Tim, savouring the closeness between them.

TIM (CONT'D)

Babe, I've got to check in with my online coach. Could you fetch my laptop from Bethany's room please?

JULIET

Oh! I've just got comfortable.

TIM

Go on, please. I'd like nothing more than just to nip out of bed and get it, but I can't, can I?

Juliet begrudgingly gets out of bed to collect the lap top.

JULIET

This is wearing a bit thin Tim.

TIM

What is?

JULIET

This dying Swan routine of yours.

TIM

How can you say that? I can't even perform my conjugal duties for you sweetheart.

JULIET (O.S.)
Don't we know. While I'm in here
that reminds me, we need to talk
about Bethany.

Juliet re enters the room carrying the lap top. She hands
it to Tim, who flips it open and logs in.

TIM
Thanks. What about her?

JULIET
Last night I had a bit of a heart
to heart with her.

Tim is engrossed with his laptop.

TIM
What about her bloody truanting?

JULIET
Yes, amongst other things.

TIM
What else?

Tim's jaw drops open as he freezes in shock.

JULIET
What's up? Looks like you've seen
a ghost.

TIM
It's nothing.

Tim slams the computer shut in a panic.

JULIET
It's obviously not nothing Tim.

TIM
It's nothing!

Tim pulls the computer away from Juliet's reach.

JULIET
What's on there?

TIM
You'll just get the wrong idea.

JULIET
(playfully)
Show me!

TIM
You don't want to see it.

JULIET

No I do. Don't be shy.

TIM

Juliet, please, no.

JULIET

Come on I'm intrigued now. What are you a part time gigolo advertising your wears?

TIM

Seriously, I don't think you'll appreciate it.

Juliet wrestles the lap top from Tim and opens it.

TIM (CONT'D)

It's not what it seems.

Juliet reads the content with her hand over her mouth, trying to quell both hurt and tears.

JULIET

An advertisement for a Monday night girlfriend. Why not just get a Thai bride like all the other desperate blokes your age?

TIM

I wasn't desperate. It was just a daft project that Andy dreamt up ages ago. I'd completely forgotten about it.

JULIET

Andy was involved in this?

TIM

Yes, well it was Lauren that sort of got the ball rolling.

JULIET

Please don't tell me anymore.

TIM

It's not what it seems.

JULIET

I thought it was weird at first how we only went out on a Monday.

Juliet gets up and starts to gather some of her belongings.

TIM

It was a ridiculous idea and has nothing to do with how I feel about you.

JULIET
(disbelieving)
Oh really?

TIM
Really.

Juliet walks around the room, deciding what else she needs to take.

TIM (CONT'D)
Can you just stop this Juliet?

JULIET
Just leave me alone.

TIM
You really are over reacting.

JULIET
Am I? Two silly boy's idea of a joke that I'm the butt of. And I'm just meant to laugh along am I?

TIM
You've got it all wrong. Look, I'd been single for years and they just wanted to get me out there again, more out of pity than anything else. I wasn't remotely interested. Then by complete chance I meet you. It had nothing to do with this nonsense. Ask Andy.

JULIET
I will ask Andy!

TIM
I'm really sorry.

JULIET
So that's okay is it?

Juliet heads for the door. Tim shuffles across and tries to stop Juliet from leaving.

JULIET (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

TIM
Where are you going? Please stay.

JULIET
I'm going home.

TIM
So is that it then?

JULIET
Please let me go.

Tim moves aside.

(O.S) Juliet runs down the stairs and slams the front door closed.

Tim stands at the window and watches Juliet speed off.

INT. SALON - DAY

CAPTION: TWO DAYS LATER.

Tim walks into the salon, sheepishly. He finds Andy sat at the counter tapping away at his calculator.

ANDY
Did you forget we have a business to run?

TIM
No.

ANDY
I left seven messages for you on your voice mail yesterday. Didn't you think to call back?

TIM
No.

ANDY
Wouldn't have hurt just to text back would it?

TIM
No. I'm sorry. I couldn't face anyone.

ANDY
I just assumed you'd ended up in that ditch again.

Andy gets up and starts to potter about the salon, straightening and tidying the equipment.

ANDY (CONT'D)
Look, I know what's happened Tim.

TIM
What do you know?

ANDY
Juliet called me earlier.

TIM

Lucky you. She won't talk to me.

ANDY

She's upset. You can't blame her.

TIM

What were we thinking? It was a bloody stupid thing to do.

ANDY

You weren't to know this would happen. I explained that I was responsible too for this Monday night nonsense, and it had nothing to do with meeting her.

TIM

Good. Did she believe you?

ANDY

I think so. It's the truth isn't it? I also told her that you were a nice bloke really and did have many redeeming qualities.

TIM

You said that?

ANDY

I'm a world class liar if you hadn't noticed.

TIM

Thanks. Do you think I should go round there?

ANDY

No. Give her a bit of space and time and don't do anything ridiculous.

TIM

So what do I do in the meantime?

ANDY

I don't know? Come back to work and get on with your mid-life crisis.

TIM

Did Juliet say I having a mid-life crisis?

ANDY

No Tim, everyone says it.

TIM

That's nice. Well I'm not. Okay?

Tim sulkily removes his coat, hangs it up on the stand and heads for the counter.

MONTAGE of Tim working hard in the salon, styling hair, interacting with the customers, cooking a meal for his daughters and punishing himself by swimming, cycling and running.

EXT. SUPERMARKET CAR PARK - DAY

CAPTION: 6 WEEKS LATER.

Andy and Lauren load their shopping bags into the boot of their car. Lauren notices Juliet in the near distance walking towards them.

LAUREN
Look it's Juliet!

ANDY
Oh yeah!

LAUREN
(shouting)
JULIET ! JULIET!

Juliet looks around, she spots Lauren and walks towards the car.

ANDY
(to Lauren)
Oh well done! I can really do without a load of small talk outside Tesco's.

LAUREN
She's your friend Tim. When was the last time you spoke to her?

ANDY
Weeks ago. She hasn't been in since she split up with Tim.

LAUREN
I had noticed.

ANDY
Shame.

Juliet approaches carrying a small shopping basket. Andy and Lauren both hug Juliet.

ANDY (CONT'D)
(to Juliet)
Long time no see. How are you?

JULIET

Not bad. Still trying to get the house straight.

LAUREN

How is it all coming along?

JULIET

Slowly. My Mum invited herself over for a fortnight which has somewhat halted proceedings.

LAUREN

Interferes does she?

JULIET

So many opinions. It's exhausting after a while.

ANDY

So when are you coming in to the salon next?

Juliet tugs her hair and examines its poor condition.

JULIET

It's a bit of a mess isn't it?

ANDY

No it's fine.

JULIET

Tell me the truth.

ANDY

Okay it's a bit of mess.

JULIET

Thanks! Look I'd love to come in but it's awkward Andy.

ANDY

I understand.

LAUREN

Ring us when you're ready Juliet.

JULIET

Thanks guys. I will, I promise.

ANDY

Has he been in touch?

JULIET

Who Tim?

ANDY

Yes.

JULIET

No he hasn't. I'm surprised really.
Perhaps I should call him.

ANDY

He'd like that.

JULIET

How is he?

ANDY

He's been pretty low to be fair.

Juliet wipes a tear onto her sleeve.

JULIET

Has he? I'd better go, my Mum is in
the car. Lovely to see you both.

ANDY

You too. See you soon maybe?

JULIET

Yes hope so.

Juliet gives Andy then Lauren a peck on the cheek.

LAUREN

Take care darling.

Lauren watches Juliet walk off.

INT. SALON - DAY

Tim scrubs the salon's floor in demonic fashion while
singing along to the blaring radio.

TIM

(singing)
"You say you stand by your man,
tell me something I need to
understand, you said you loved me
and that's a fact and then you left
me, said you felt trapped. Well
some things that you can't explain
away, but the heartache's in til
this day, did you stand by me no
way"

Andy and Lauren enter the salon. Andy heads straight for the
radio to turn it down. Tim stands up to object.

TIM (CONT'D)

Oi! I was listening to that!

ANDY

It's too loud, we've got neighbours
either side you know.

TIM

Sorry Mum.

Andy looks Tim up and down, who is still in his cycling kit.

ANDY

And why haven't you changed?

TIM

Oh leave me alone will you. Can't
you see I've been busy?

Andy looks around the salon.

ANDY

Yes, sort of. We've got a cleaner
to do this.

TIM

Yes, but I do it properly. I've
also been dealing with a problem
with the stag do.

ANDY

What's that then?

TIM

We're going to have to put it back
a week.

ANDY

Why?

TIM

The private room we wanted has been
double booked. They said if we put
it back they'd give us free booze
and then free entry into a couple
of nearby gentleman's clubs as a
goodwill gesture. What do you say?

ANDY

Should I bother? I mean we're all a
bit long in the tooth for a stag?

TIM

Every man is entitled to a stag do
Andy! It's the law.

ANDY

Okay, let's do it then.

TIM

Good lad.

ANDY

Hold on. This has nothing to do
with your precious race has it?

TIM

No! Why do you instantly think the
worst of me?

ANDY

Because I find it saves time.

TIM

You're out of order.

Tim starts to clean the walls.

LAUREN

We've got some news for you Tim.

TIM

Oh yeah?

LAUREN

Guess who we've just seen outside
Tesco's?

ANDY

(to Lauren)
I thought I was telling him.

LAUREN

(to Tim)
Guess.

TIM

I don't know, Barry Manilow?

LAUREN

No.

TIM

Leo Sayer? Go on I give up?

LAUREN

Juliet.

Tim stops dead and turns to face Lauren.

TIM

Oh. Is she okay?

LAUREN

Yes had a quick chat, didn't we
Andy?

ANDY

Yes. She seemed well.

TIM
That's good.

Tim returns to work on the walls. Lauren looks at Andy puffing her cheeks and body out. Andy shakes his head and wags his finger at Lauren , willing her to stop.

ANDY
(to Tim)
She said she'd call.

TIM
Who me?

ANDY
Yes.

TIM
I wont hold my breath.

ANDY
Look, we're going over to the new place in a bit, then going to cook some pizza later if you fancy joining us?

TIM
No thank you, all the same. I need to get out on the bike after work.

ANDY
Okay, the offer still stands if you change your mind.

TIM
Thanks. Actually, I think I need to go now.

Tim drops the sponge into the bucket, walks over to reception to collect his bike shoes and helmet. He puts them on, picks up his bike and wheels it out of the salon.

EXT. SUBURBAN ROAD - DAY

Tim pedals hard. He's heading for the country.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

Tim continues to power his way through the countryside until he hits broken glass strewn across the road, causing him to puncture. Somehow, he manages to stop and stay upright.

TIM
Shit!

Tim examines the damage. Both the inner tube and tyre have ripped. He checks his back pocket for spares. He's out of luck as he's forgot to pack them.

TIM (CONT'D)
I don't believe this!

Tim takes off the front wheel and then removes the inner tube. Out of desperation, Tim gathers grass from the bank on the side of the road and stuffs it into the tyre. A hopeless idea. Tim slings his bike over his shoulder and climbs up the grass verge. He sits down and scrolls through the contact list on his phone and calls Andy, but there is no answer. He then tries to ring Bethany, who is also unavailable. Tim continues to scroll through his contact list and pauses at Juliet, before thinking twice about phoning her. Tim attempts to call Katie, but as he hears the ring tone, the phone's battery expires.

TIM (CONT'D)
No !!

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

Tim stands shivering at the side of the road, trying to hitch a ride. A car slows down, the woman driver takes a long hard look at Tim before deciding to speed off.

TIM
I'm not a bloody axe murderer you know!

Another car following immediately behind also slows down. Tim waves his arms manically for the male driver to stop.

TIM ((CONT'D)
(to himself)
Please stop! Please stop! Please stop!

The car also speeds off.

TIM (CONT'D)
Oh come on!

Tim hears the thunderous noise of a large vehicle approaching. He walks out to the middle of the road and makes himself as big as possible. Hurtling towards Tim is a large scaffolding lorry that he manages to flag down, stopping inches from him. The LORRY DRIVER leaps out of his cab and grabs Tim with both hands by the shirt. Angry is an understatement.

LORRY DRIVER

What the bleeding hell are you playing at? You could have killed the both of us!

Tim curls up, both tearful and pathetic.

TIM

I'm sorry mate. Please don't hit me!

The Lorry Driver unhands Tim.

Tim thrusts the broken wheel in front of the Lorry Driver's nose.

TIM (CONT'D)

Look. I've punctured, I've got no spares, my phone's dead, I'm about 25 miles from home and my girlfriend doesn't want to know me.

LORRY DRIVER

Calm down mate, I didn't ask for your life story.

TIM

I'm screwed. I know I'm out of order, but any chance of lift please? I've been out here for two hours and no one has stopped for me.

LORRY DRIVER

I just have!

TIM

I beg you. I'm freezing.

The Lorry Driver thinks hard as he watches Tim shiver.

LORRY DRIVER

Go and stick your bike on the back.

TIM

Thank you so much.

Tim puts his bike on the back of the lorry and jumps up into the cab.

INT. LORRY - NIGHT

LORRY DRIVER

(to Tim)

So where are you going to then?

TIM
 (to Lorry Driver)
 Where ever you're off to. I can
 call someone to pick me up. Just
 whatever is best for you.

LORRY DRIVER
 Oh just bloody tell me where you
 live mate!

TIM
 Okay then..

INT. LOUNGE - NIGHT

Bethany and Tilly are slumped in front of the television.
 Neither are really watching what's on, but are too lazy to
 change channel. Katie walks in to check on proceedings.

KATIE
 You two look comfortable.

Tilly and Bethany's eyes are both glued to the television.

TILLY BETHANY
 Yes we are thanks. Yeah.

KATIE
 Done all your homework already
 Tilly?

TILLY
 Didn't get any tonight.

Katie doesn't believe Tilly.

KATIE
 Of course you didn't.

TILLY
 Check my planner if you don't
 believe me.

KATIE
 No thanks. What about you Bethany?

BETHANY
 Yes, but I did mine at lunchtime.

KATIE
 Anyone heard from Dad?

BETHANY
 I got a missed call from him. No
 message.

KATIE

Yes me too. Did you try ringing him back?

BETHANY

Yes but it went straight to answer phone.

Tilly hears a loud engine noise and a door slam outside. She rushes to the window and peeps through the curtains.

TILLY

O- M- G- !

BETHANY

What is it now?

TILLY

You don't think Dad could have turned gay since Juliet chucked him do you ?

BETHANY

Oh you do talk shit sometimes Tilly.

KATIE

(to Tilly)
What on earth are you going on about?

TILLY

Come and have a look if you don't believe me.

Both Katie and Bethany scramble to the window to join Tilly. They watch Tim hugging then kissing the Lorry Driver on the cheek.

BETHANY

Oh dear.

KATIE

I'm sure there is a simple explanation.

INT/EXT. PORCH/ HALLWAY - NIGHT

Katie and Bethany open the front door to Tim, who is waving to the Lorry Driver. Tim acknowledges Katie and Bethany with a defeated looking smile.

KATIE

I did try and call you back Dad.

TIM

Did you?

BETHANY

Me too. What happened to you?

TIM

I had a puncture right out in the middle of the country.

Tim walks through the hallway and leans his bike up against the wall. Thanks to fatigue and cold, he can barely climb the stairs.

Tilly rushes past Tim on the stairwell.

TILLY

I've just started to run a bath for you Dad.

TIM

You're a star Tilly.

Tim struggle further up the stairs.

KATIE

(shouting up to Tim)
Bethany and I made a lasagne earlier. There's loads left if you're hungry.

Tim becomes emotional.

TIM

Thanks girls, that would be lovely.

Katie, Bethany and Tilly stand at the bottom of the stairs, concerned at their father's plight.

EXT. SWIMMING POOL - DAY

Tim walks towards his car with Hilary and Sylvie.

HILARY

All set for Sunday then Tim?

TIM

I think so.

HILARY

You confident?

TIM

I wouldn't go as far as confident, but I've certainly trained hard enough for it.

SYLVIE

(to Tim)
I agree. It wouldn't be for the
want of trying, would it dear?

TIM

Certainly not.

HILARY

We'd never seen anyone as bad as
you when you first joined us, had
we Sylvie?

SYLVIE

No we hadn't.

Tim tries to keep a straight face through all of Hilary and
Sylvie's condescending.

HILARY

(to Tim)
But you never gave up.
(to Sylvie)
Did he ?

SYLVIE

No, very resilient.

TIM

(to Hilary and Sylvie)
And you do know it's only down to
your patience and expertise that
I've come this far. Thank you.

Tim stops at his car and gives Sylvie a kiss on the cheek.

SYLVIE

(beaming to Hilary)
Oh he's such a creep.

HILARY

He's quite right though.

Tim then kisses Hilary.

HILARY (CONT'D)

(to Tim)
Good luck Sunday, we'll be
thinking of you.

TIM

Thank you both. I won't be in
Monday if that's okay?

SYLVIE

We'll let you off, but just this
once! Good luck!

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Tim stands at the hob stirring his porridge and looking through his phone as a raging argument between Bethany and Tilly spills into the kitchen.

BETHANY
Give it back.

TILLY
No why can't I wear it?

BETHANY
Because it's mine and it's not school uniform.

TILLY
You wear it to school.

BETHANY
I'm year 10. I can get away with it.

TILLY
Yes, when you're not bunking off.

BETHANY
What are you talking about, bunking?

Bethany grabs the scarf and tries to throttle Tilly with it.

TILLY
(to Tim)
Get her off me Dad.

Tim oblivious to this point, hurries over to stop the fight.

TIM
(to Bethany and Tilly)
Enough you two! Stop it! STOP IT!

Tim separates Bethany and Tilly.

TIM (CONT'D)
What on earth is going on here?

BETHANY
Tell her to give my scarf back.

TIM
(incredulous)
You're fighting over a scarf Bethany?

BETHANY

Yes, she stole it from me. *And* she knows what's been happening at school.

TIM

Well I haven't told her anything. Okay?

BETHANY

No it's not okay!

TIM

How do you know about this Tilly?

Tilly bows her head in shame.

TIM (CONT'D)

The truth please.

TILLY

I found a letter you left on the table a few weeks ago.

BETHANY

(to Tim)
Oh well done!

TILLY

And I've heard kids at school calling her the lesbian science freak.

Tilly smirks at Bethany.

BETHANY

She is loving this Dad!

TIM

I can't believe what I'm listening to here. Just get to school the pair of you!

Tim's hi tech sports watch vibrates loudly on the table, which indicates he has an incoming phone call. He goes back to the hob to answer the phone.

TILLY

(to Tim)
Why don't you just take your phone off of silent.

TIM

(to Tilly)
What and put you on silent instead? Go to school.

Tim answers the phone.

TIM (CONT'D)

Hello ..

Tim's demeanour changes dramatically from grumpy to happy in the blink of an eye.

TIM (CONT'D)

...Oh hi! I'm fine thanks. How are you more importantly?...
...can you give me a second please.

Bethany and Tilly loiter, trying to eavesdrop.

TIM (CONT'D)

(to Bethany and Tilly)
For the last time, Go to school you two!

TILLY

(to Tim)
Who is it?

TIM

It's Juliet.

Bethany and Tilly trudge out of the kitchen.

BETHANY

(to Tilly)
Someone's cheered up.

TILLY

I wonder why?

TIM

Less of it you two. Goodbye!

Tim shuts the door on Tilly and Bethany and gets back his conversation.

TIM (CONT'D)

..Yes this Sunday.. You remembered?
..Thank you, I will try.. Look, I'd understand if you said no, but is there any chance we can meet up soon up for a coffee or something perhaps?.. Really?... That would be great... I've really missed you... Have.. No forget that question. I will call you next week, is that okay? Once I've done the race.

EXT. TRANSITION AREA, TRIATHLON COURSE - DAY

Tim checks over his bike before hanging it on the rack. He carefully lays out his running shoes on a towel next to the bike.

EXT. LAKE - DAY

An anxious looking Tim pulls his swim cap over his head and places his goggles over his eyes. Tim jogs on the spot with his eyes firmly fixed on the water in front of him. A whistle blows. Tim and the other competitors charge at the water and start swimming.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

Tim cycles along the course as fast as he can.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Tim staggers manfully over the finishing line.

EXT. CAR - DAY

After finishing the race, Tim fastens the bike onto the car's bike rack, before getting into the car and driving off.

FADE OUT.

INT. NEW SALON. - DAY

Tim walks into the salon.

TIM

Hello.

ANDY (O.S.)

Is that you Tim?

TIM

(triumphantly)
Yes, it is I!

LAUREN (O.S.)

(to Tim)
Shut your eyes We're coming in.

Tim shuts his eyes. Lauren and Andy emerge from the kitchen carrying champagne and cake.

LAUREN ANDY

(singing)
We are the champions my friends
and we'll keep on fighting 'til the
end. We are the champions , we are
the champions, no time for losers
cos we are ..

TIM

I wasn't anywhere near winning.

LAUREN
Sorry, I don't know any other
sports related songs.

ANDY
Nor do I.

TIM
Can I open my eyes yet?

ANDY
Yes.

Tim opens his eyes to be presented with champagne and cake.

TIM
Wow. Thank you very much.

Tim leans over to give Lauren a kiss.

LAUREN
Our pleasure. Well done.

Tim then tries to kiss Andy.

ANDY
Get off me you fool.

Andy hands Tim a glass of champagne.

ANDY (CONT'D)
Yes well done indeed. How was it?

TIM
Horrendous.

LAUREN
Would you do another one?

Tim tucks into his food and drink.

TIM
One day, maybe.

Tim looks around the salon.

TIM (CONT'D)
Hey this place is all coming along
nicely isn't it?

ANDY
(sarcastically)
All thanks to you.

Tim shakes his head and throws his eyes upwards.

TIM
When do we open?

ANDY

Six weeks with a bit of luck.

LAUREN

We should be back from honeymoon just before it's finished.

TIM

It's all happening isn't it?

LAUREN

That's an understatement. The wedding is in three weeks.

TIM

I know! And the stag do is in one!

LAUREN

That will be a wild one. What time do you think you will finish? Ten o'clock?

ANDY

That late?

LAUREN

Afraid so.

Tim stands up, puts his cup and plate down and clears his throat.

ANDY

(to Tim)
Speech!

TIM

What?

ANDY

Sounded like you wanted to say something.

TIM

No. I have got to shoot in a bit though.

ANDY

That's fine.

TIM

I would like to thank you both for the lovely little reception here.

LAUREN

No problem.

ANDY

Are you sure you don't want to tell us something?

TIM

Okay. I'm meeting Juliet.

ANDY

I knew something was up with you! When you meeting with her?

Tim looks at his watch.

TIM

In about twenty minutes.

LAUREN

That's great isn't it?

TIM

Hopefully. I'm sorry I can't stick around for longer.

ANDY

We'll let you off.

LAUREN

Well that is great news.

TIM

We're only meeting for a coffee.

LAUREN

It's a start.

ANDY

I would say just to be yourself but that could be disastrous.

LAUREN

Stop it Andy. Can't you just be nice for once?

TIM

Yes be nice.

ANDY

Okay. I hope it all goes well for you. Seriously.

TIM

Thanks.

Lauren grabs Tim's hand.

LAUREN

Good luck.

Tim walks out of the salon and waves at Andy and Lauren through the window.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Tim walks into Paolo's coffee shop and spots Juliet sitting quietly in the corner. Tim waves over to Juliet, who smiles and waves back.

TIM
(to BARISTA)
Hi can I have a pot of English
breakfast tea please?

BARISTA
Yes of course. I Can bring over to
you if you like?

TIM
That would be great thanks.

Tim takes a deep breath and walks slowly over to Juliet.

JULIET
Hi.

TIM
Hi.

JULIET
So you did it then?

TIM
Just about.

JULIET
Well done you!

TIM
Thank you.

JULIET
I see you're still pretty stiff
then?

Tim looks down at his crotch.

TIM
What?

Juliet shakes her head and pulls a mock frown.

JULIET
Behave.

TIM
Yes, very ..stiff.

Tim chuckles at his childish joke.

JULIET
Nice to see you.

TIM
You too. Thank you for seeing me.

JULIET
Don't be silly, I wanted to see you.

TIM
I swear I never dreamt of hurting you Juliet.

JULIET
I know that now.

The Barista places the tea and receipt in front of Tim, before walking off quickly.

TIM
(to Barista)
Thank you.

TIM (CONT'D)
It's killed me how you could just up and leave like that.

JULIET
It was too much Tim. There I was one minute, living this almost reclusive, widowed existence. Next minute, thanks to a late change of hairdresser, find myself living with the world's most silliest and selfish man, and his three girls.

TIM
Yes.. But.

JULIET
Hold on a minute. So if that wasn't enough, I find out that this man that I'm now in love with, has with the help with one of my oldest friends, dreamt up an online search for a woman as equally sad, to go out with him on his one night off from training. For an event, may I add, that almost killed him before he even did it.

TIM
We've gone through all this. It had nothing to do with meeting you.

JULIET

Yes I know, but maybe you can understand why I felt so stupid and humiliated?

TIM

Yes.

JULIET

Good.

TIM

So can't we go back to where we were then?

JULIET

Just like that?

TIM

Yes.

JULIET

It's not as easy as that.

TIM

Why not?

JULIET

Things have changed now.

TIM

Why? Are you seeing someone else?

JULIET

No.

TIM

What then?

JULIET

I'm pregnant.

TIM

How?

Juliet is taken aback.

JULIET

Tim, please.

TIM

You said you couldn't have kids.

JULIET

Well that's what I was told.

TIM

Who by?

JULIET

The last of the endless
gynecologist I was treated by.

TIM

I can't do this.

JULIET

I'm not asking you to do anything.
I just wanted to let you know.

TIM

Thanks. And you're going ahead with
everything?

JULIET

Yes. It's seriously high risk at my
age but it's and I want it to
happen.

TIM

Great. I am its father?

JULIET

I'm not going to even answer that
question.

TIM

So I was just a sperm donor then?

JULIET

I beg your pardon?

TIM

I said..

JULIET

I heard what you said. If I'd have
wanted a sperm donor I'd have paid
for one.

TIM

I want to know the truth. You knew
I didn't want anymore kids.

JULIET

I know that. This is a miracle
that's happened Tim.

TIM

Some miracle.

JULIET

I'm going to put your reaction down
to shock Tim.

TIM

You do that.

JULIET
 You're being horrible and I'm
 getting upset, which is no good for
 me, so I'm going, okay?

TIM
 See you then.

Juliet get up and hands Tim a picture scan of the baby.

JULIET
 That's who matters now.

Juliet walks out.

INT. BACK OF SALON - NIGHT

Tim enters through the back door of the salon in his sweaty gym kit.

INT. BACK OF SALON - NIGHT

Andy enters the back of the salon and switches the alarm off that is flashing brightly. Andy notices that the blue light of the sauna is on. Fearing that it's being used by an intruder, he arms himself with a nearby umbrella and walks over.

INT. SAUNA - NIGHT

Tim sits back, enjoying the heat and the quiet until the door bursts open. It's Andy, armed with his umbrella held like a bayonet.

TIM ANDY
 What the f.. What the hell?

ANDY
 What are you doing?

TIM
 What does it look like?

ANDY
 I thought we were being burgled.

TIM
 What sort of burglar has time for a sauna?

ANDY
 How was I to know ? The alarm went off at home so I come straight here.

Tim gets up and out of the sauna.

ANDY (CONT'D)

What are you up to?

TIM

Well I'd been to the gym for a recovery session, just to get rid of the lactic acid from the race.

ANDY

Thanks for the sports science lesson, but why now at eleven thirty at night?

TIM

Just to sweat out all the remaining toxins.

ANDY

Yeah, yeah, what's really happened?

TIM

I've told you.

ANDY

I don't believe you.

TIM

Okay, I found out today that Juliet's pregnant.

ANDY

What?

Andy takes a breath.

TIM

Did you know?

ANDY

No of course not. Lauren had an idea, you know that female intuition stuff.

TIM

Yes.

ANDY

That's amazing news. I'm so pleased for her. She'll be a great mum.

TIM

What about me? I don't want anymore kids. I can't believe she's done this to me.

Andy reaches for an open bottle of water nearby and throws it over Tim.

TIM (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

ANDY

Will you get over yourself for once in your life you self centred little prick.

TIM

Why are you siding with her?

ANDY

I'm not siding with her! She's one of the sweetest people I know and been through more shit than most people have in two lifetimes. She deserves this happiness.

TIM

Do I ?

ANDY

Yes you do. You were the one that told me the other day how much you loved her and how you'd do anything to have her back.

TIM

That's all changed now.

Andy gets right into Tim's face.

ANDY

You are such an idiot sometimes. I could punch you right in the face right now.

TIM

Nice. Well go on then!

ANDY

I'm not going to am I?

Andy backs off and takes a breath.

ANDY (CONT'D)

So how have you left it with her?

TIM

She walked out and left me a picture of the scan.

ANDY

She was obviously very upset then, I take it?

TIM

A bit.

Andy throws Tim a dressing gown.

ANDY

Put that on.

TIM

What?

Andy heads for the door.

ANDY

Hurry up and put that on and come with me.

TIM

Where are we going?

ANDY

We are going to sort this out right now, because if we don't, I'm finished with you. The business, our friendship, best man, stag do, the lot.

EXT. JULIET'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Andy and Tim pull up on Juliet's drive and walk up to the door.

TIM

(to Andy)

Is this really necessary?

ANDY

Absolutely necessary.

TIM

I could do it on my own tomorrow. I am an adult you know?

ANDY

Well start acting like one then.

Andy rings the door bell. A light goes on in the hallway. Juliet is behind the door, peering through the spy hole.

JULIET (O.S.)

Is that you Andy?

ANDY

Yes it's me.

JULIET (O.S.)

What's up?

ANDY

Well first of all I wanted to say I've heard the news. I'm ecstatic for you darling.

JULIET (O.S.)

Thank you.

ANDY

And secondly my friend Tim needs to speak to you urgently.

TIM

(to Juliet)
Yes, yes I do.

JULIET (O.S.)

(to Tim)
I'm not opening the door to you.

TIM

That's fine. I just wanted to apologise for the way I spoke to you earlier. Like you rightly said, I must have been in shock. I'm so sorry.

JULIET (O.S.)

Okay...

TIM

And if you do ever want to talk to me again I will support you and love you in all you want to do.

JULIET (O.S.)

Thanks. I will let you know. I've got lots to think about.

Tim turns to Andy and shrugs his shoulders.

TIM

(quietly)
Like what?

Andy puts his finger over Tim's lips to shut him up.

TIM (CONT'D)

(to Juliet)
I understand. Take as much time as you have to.

ANDY

We're off now Juliet, so get some rest and we'll see you soon hopefully.

JULIET (O.S.)

(to Andy)
Yes see you soon. Good night.

Andy and Tim walk back to the car.

ANDY

(to Tim)
You will thank me one day for this
tonight.

TIM

I do hope so.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

CAPTION TWO WEEKS LATER.

A white limousine pulls up in front of Tim and Andy, who are
stood on the pavement outside the salon. Tim genuflects
towards the car.

TIM

(to Andy)
Your carriage awaits sir.

The electric window lowers. Andy peers in to find four
scantly dressed females.

ANDY

(to Tim)
Are they strippers?

TIM

No Andy they are tax inspectors.
What else are they likely to be?

ANDY

Wow wee wow wow!

TIM

I wanted my oldest friend go out in
style.

ANDY

Thank you.

TIM

My pleasure, but behave yourself in
there.

ANDY

Naturally.

Andy opens the door.

INT. LIMOUSINE - NIGHT

Andy and Tim almost dive head long into the limousine.

ANDY
Hello girls.

TIM
(to the driver)
Take as long as you like driver
there's no hurry!

EXT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

The limousine pulls up outside the restaurant. Andy and Tim emerge from the limousine trying to suppress enormous smiles as they enter.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Andy and Tim are ushered into a private dining area where ten of their closest friends are stood. There is a loud round of applause for Andy as he makes his way to the head of the table.

ANDY
Wow boys. Thank you.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

Much merriment is being had by all.

TIM
(to Andy)
Are you having a good night?

Andy looks around the room.

ANDY
Yes thank you. I really appreciate
all of this you know?

TIM
Thought it was a bit more
appropriate than a week in Magaluf.

ANDY
I am a bit disappointed no one has
their nickname on the back of their
shirts though.

TIM

Yes, sorry about that. And you're still okay not to be tied up to a lamp post dressed up as Wonder woman?

ANDY

I am now. I was a bit gutted at first.

TIM

I thought you were.

ANDY

I still can't believe this is all happening.

TIM

Me too. Who would have thought it?

ANDY

Not me!

Andy pulls his chair close to Tim and puts his arm on Tim's shoulder.

ANDY (CONT'D)

I want you to know how sorry we are that Juliet's not going to be there next week.

TIM

I know.

ANDY

We didn't know what to do for the best. She's more than welcome to join us in the evening if things do change between you.

TIM

I doubt it. I still haven't heard from her.

ANDY

No?

TIM

No. I know I can be a knob sometimes.

ANDY

(tongue in cheek)
No not you Tim.

TIM

But she can't keep me hanging like this. I told her how sorry I was.

ANDY

I know that. She's obviously not sure that you are ready to do it all over again. Someone else is involved now and she has to think of that person too.

TIM

I know. It wasn't the plan but I've come to terms with it and I want to have a family with her.

ANDY

Do the girls know?

TIM

God no. I haven't even thought about broaching that subject yet.

ANDY

What? I thought they like Juliet?

TIM

They love her. It's me who pisses me off.

ANDY

I sense a correlation here.

TIM

Shut up you.

ANDY

Are we going to one of those gentleman's clubs or not?

TIM

Haven't you had enough for one evening?

ANDY

I'm thinking of everyone else.

TIM

Of course you are! I booked a booth for all of us at a place called Mitzi's.

Andy stands up and addresses the table by making a loud whistle with his fingers.

ANDY

Gentlemen, my best man and I have decided to move on now. I do hope you're all going to join us for a little light entertainment as we're booked into a club called Mitzi's just down the road from here.

Andy heads for the door.

ANDY (CONT'D)
Forward ! March!

The men cheer loudly. As one, they get up and exit.

EXT. MITZI'S ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Tim is at the kiosk, negotiating the stag party's entrance into the club.

TIM
Hi I've booked an area for twelve.

SECURITY GUARD
What's the name sir?

TIM
Bliss.

A SECURITY GUARD looks down at a list on his clip board.

SECURITY GUARD
Ah yes, tell your friends to make their way in please sir.

TIM
(to the stag party)
Okay lads we're good to go.

Tim stands at the entrance of the club counting his friends in. As Tim walks in he starts to scroll through his phone.

FADE OUT.

FADE UP:

KATIE (O.S.)
Dad! Dad!

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Tilly, Bethany and Katie burst into Tim's room, to find him lying on top of his bed, fully clothed and snoring loudly.

TILLY
(to Katie and Bethany)
He's still breathing.

BETHANY
(to Tilly)
Yes we can see that.

KATIE

Dad! Juliet has been on the phone.

BETHANY

Dad wake up !

TILLY

(to Katie and Bethany)
Watch this.

Tilly leans over and pinches Tim hard on the nose.

TILLY (CONT'D)

Wake up !

Tim wakes up panic stricken and in daze.

TIM

What's going on?

KATIE

(to Tim)
Dad, Juliet has been trying to call you all morning. She's going to be here in fifteen minutes.

TIM

What?

BETHANY

You asked her to be here at One o'clock.

TIM

I haven't even spoken to Juliet.

BETHANY

Well you did last night.

TIM

Oh my god.

KATIE

Just get in the shower because you stink.

BETHANY

Where did you go last night?

Tim stands up and tries to remember.

TIM

Lots of places. Girls, before Juliet gets here we need to have a bit of a chat please.

BETHANY

On bore off Dad!

TILLY

Yes what have we done now?

TIM

Do you mind? This is important.
Down stairs in the lounge in
fifteen minutes.

(to Katie)

Can you sort out these two please?

KATIE

(to Tim)

Okay.

(to Bethany and Katie)

Let's go you two!

TILLY

Yes of course Mummy.

Katie, Bethany, and Tilly leave the room.

KATIE (O.S.)

I swear Tilly, one more comment and
I will batter you.

INT. LOUNGE - DAY

Tim enters the lounge ready to address the girls to find nobody there. Somewhat cross, Tim walks through the lounge to see Katie, Bethany and Tilly sat out at the garden table, enjoying the sunshine.

EXT. GARDEN - DAY

Tim walks through the patio doors.

TIM

What are you doing out here?

KATIE

It's nicer out here.

TIM

But I wanted to talk in the lounge.

TILLY

It's too stuffy in there.

BETHANY

(nodding over Tim's shoulder)

And we have a guest.

Tim turns around to find Juliet stood behind him, holding a glass of water.

TIM

Where did you come from?

JULIET

You invited me, remember?

TIM

Not really, but it's lovely to see you.

JULIET

You too.

Juliet sits down at the table.

TIM

Have you told them anything yet?

Juliet looks down at her pregnant tummy.

JULIET

I think they worked it out pretty quickly Tim.

TIM

(to Katie Bethany and Tilly)
So, now you know. I'm going to be a Dad again. I hope you're all okay with it?

BETHANY

(to Tim and Juliet)
So do you two intend to get married then?

TIM

And I though I was the only old fashioned one around here?

Juliet looks down at her tummy again.

JULIET

This thing is all I'm worried about at the moment Bethany.

TIM

(to Bethany)
I'd do it tomorrow, but Juliet has got to actually start talking to me again before that happens.

Tim and Juliet's eyes meet. They smile.

TILLY

Well I've told Juliet it had better be a boy. I can't be doing with any more sisters, especially an annoying little one.

KATIE

Welcome to our world Tilly.

JULIET

Anyway Tim, the girls and I were thinking that you could do a barbecue this afternoon.

TIM

I'd planned to go out on my bike this afternoon.

Tim sensibly thinks better of the bike ride.

TIM (CONT'D)

But seeing as it's such a lovely day and we've got something to celebrate, why not?

MONTAGE: Tim cooking on the barbecue, Katie, Tilly, Bethany and Juliet sitting around the table laughing and chatting. Tilly patting and talking to Juliet's tummy. The reunited family enjoying their food.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Tim stands in front of the mirror, struggling with his collar and cuff links. Juliet, lying in bed, watches Tim in disbelief at his clumsiness.

JULIET

Have you never worn a shirt and tie before?

TIM

Always tried to avoid it wherever possible.

JULIET

Come here.

Tim walks over and sits on the bed. Juliet sits up and straightens Tim's collar out.

JULIET (CONT'D)

Didn't you ever wear a tie for school?

TIM

Now and then. I was brought up by wolves remember?

JULIET

Of course Tarzan. Now give me your sleeves.

Tim offers his arms out, one at a time. Juliet fastens both cuff links.

JULIET (CONT'D)

What time do you have to pick the groom up?

TIM

In about ten minutes.

JULIET

Stand up. Let me look at you.

Tim gets up and stands like a soldier on parade, ready for inspection.

TIM

Better?

JULIET

Miles better!

TIM

It's a shame you can't be there today?

JULIET

Never mind. I don't think I could have lasted all day anyway.

TIM

You are going to come along tonight though aren't you?

JULIET

Yes. What time do you want me there?

TIM

7.30 ish.

JULIET

Ish it is then!

Tim leans over and kisses Juliet.

TIM

Bye darling.

JULIET

See you later.

Tim bends down and speaks to Juliet's tummy.

TIM

Bye, Roy.

JULIET
Roy? Where did you get Roy from?

TIM
I want to bring back one of the
great British names.

JULIET
I don't think so.

TIM
Okay then. See you Alan.

JULIET
Get out!

Tim blows Juliet a kiss and hurries out.

INT. TAXI - DAY

Tim opens the door for an anxious looking Andy.

TIM
(cheerily)
Morning!

Andy is in no mood for talking.

ANDY
Morning.

TIM
What's up?

ANDY
I've not slept and I feel like I'm
going to be sick at any moment.

TIM
Don't do that. Have you had
breakfast?

ANDY
You are joking?

TIM
Nice full English would sort you
out.

Andy cringes.

ANDY
Please don't.

Tim smiles.

ANDY (CONT'D)
Please tell me I am doing the right
thing, aren't I?

TIM
What not having breakfast?

ANDY
You know full well what I mean.

TIM
Yes of course you are. It will be
fine. It's just pre match nerves
that's all.

ANDY
You and your tedious sporting
analogies.

TIM
I must say you do look very smart..
For your cup final.

ANDY
I will actually punch you in the
face one of these days.

Tim sniggers. He loves watching Andy get cross.

EXT. REGISTRY OFFICE - DAY

The taxi pulls up outside the registry office. Tim and Andy
get out. Tim leans through the front window to pay the fare.

TIM
(to CAB DRIVER)
How much mate?

CAB DRIVER
Fifteen pounds please mate.

Tim hands a twenty pound note to the driver.

TIM
Sorry I haven't got any smaller.

Tim receives his five pound change, which he hands straight
back to the cab driver as a tip.

TIM (CONT'D)
(to cab driver)
There you go.

CAB DRIVER
Thanks very much!

Andy puts his hand over his mouth in mock disbelief.

ANDY
A fiver tip?

Tim tries to act cool.

TIM
New me. Mr Nice guy.

ANDY
Oh please.

TIM
No it is.

Tim and Andy jog up the stairs to the registry office. Tim trips on the last step and tries to act like it hasn't happened.

ANDY
Oh send us a postcard next time.

TIM
What?

ANDY
Of your next trip.

TIM
Oh ha ha.

Andy sprints into the office.

ANDY
(to Tim)
Come on slow coach.

Tim sprints after Andy, who closes the door on Tim.

MONTAGE: Registry office. The nuptials being said. The happy couple posing for photographs. A photo of Andy kissing Tim on the cheek. The wedding breakfast. Tim's best man's speech. The bride and groom's first dance.

INT. WEDDING VENUE - NIGHT

Tim is strutting his stuff on the dance floor to "A night to remember" by Shalamar. A crowd gathers around Tim as he attempts Jeffrey Daniel's style body popping and Moon walk. A massive cheer goes up as the song ends. Tim bows to his audience before walking off. Waiting for him at the edge of the dance floor is Katie.

TIM
Katie? What's up?

KATIE
Why haven't you answered your
phone?

TIM
It's been on silent for the
speeches. What's wrong?

KATIE
It's Juliet.

TIM
What about her?

KATIE
She's had a car accident.

TIM
Oh my god!

KATIE
She's okay, but the hospital says
they think she's gone into labour.

TIM
Where is she?

KATIE
She was just being moved from A&E
when they called.

Katie leads Tim running out of the venue.

KATIE (CONT'D)
Weren't you even worried that she
was late?

TIM
A bit. But she's always late.

KATIE
You were too busy bloody showing
off more like.

INT. A&E WARD, HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Tim and Katie run in and head straight for reception.

RECEPTIONIST
Can I help you sir?

TIM
Yes my partner Juliet Nicklin come
in here earlier after a car
accident. Could you tell me where
she is please?

RECEPTIONIST

I will just look that up for you.

The receptionist looks at her computer and finds the information.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)

Ah, yes, she was transferred to the maternity ward.

TIM

Where is that?

RECEPTIONIST

Ward 2F. Take the lift to the second floor, come out, do your first left. Okay?

TIM

Thank you very much.

Tim and Katie run to the lift.

INT. MATERNITY WARD - NIGHT

Tim and Katie rush to the ward's reception where waiting for them is NURSE JOYCE.

NURSE JOYCE

Can I help you?

TIM

Yes I believe my partner Juliet Nicklin has been admitted to this ward. She's come up via A&E.

NURSE JOYCE

Are you Mr Bliss?

TIM

Yes I am.

NURSE JOYCE

Mr Bliss, I'm nurse practitioner Joyce, I've been asked to take you along to Dr Joshi. He is our duty consultant neonatologist. He needs to speak with you. If you can follow me please?

Nurse Joyce walks around the desk and starts to walk along the corridor followed by Tim and Katie.

TIM

(to Nurse Joyce)

Is everything alright? Can't I see Juliet now?

NURSE JOYCE

In time Mr Bliss. Let's speak with Dr Joshi first.

TIM

It's not alright is it?

Tim starts to sob. Nurse Joyce tries to reassure him.

NURSE JOYCE

As I said, you need to talk to Dr Joshi. He knows far more about what's going on than I do.

KATIE

Come on Dad. Let's be strong for Juliet eh?

Katie grabs Tim's hand tight. Tim appreciates the gesture. Nurse Joyce stops at an office and knocks on the door.

DR JOSHI (O.S.)

Come in.

INT. OFFICE. - NIGHT

A gentle looking Dr Joshi sits calmly at his desk.

NURSE JOYCE

Hello Dr Joshi, Mr Bliss for you.

KATIE

And his daughter Katie.

NURSE JOYCE

(at Katie)
And his daughter Katie.
(to Tim)
If you need me I will be at my desk.

TIM

Thank you.

Nurse Joyce walks out of the office.

DR JOSHI

(to Tim and Katie)
Please take a seat.

Tim and Katie sit down at the desk.

DR JOSHI (CONT'D)

Mr Bliss, as you know, Juliet has had a car accident. The good news is that there is no lasting damage to her.

(MORE)

DR JOSHI (CONT'D)
A broken wrist and some cuts and
bruises. She is going to be
absolutely fine.

KATIE
(to Dr Joshi)
So what's the bad news?

TIM
Katie!

KATIE
There has to be bad news Dad.

DR JOSHI
(to Tim)
Your daughter has in this instance,
assumed correctly. Unfortunately
the shock and trauma of the
accident has led to Juliet's waters
breaking and her going into an
untimely labour.

TIM
Where is she?

DR JOSHI
She is back in the ward resting.
She gave birth to a boy about an
hour ago.

TIM
Where is he? The baby?

DR JOSHI
He's currently in our Neonatal
intensive care unit or the "NICU"
as you will hear it being called.

TIM
Right.. and what's happening with
him?

DR JOSHI
Mr Bliss as you know Juliet was
between 23 and 24 weeks pregnant.

TIM
Yes.

DR JOSHI
Well any child born within this
stage of the pregnancy is at great
risk from a whole host of medical
complications.

TIM
Sure.

DR JOSHI

Sadly the baby has serious respiratory problems due to the lack of development in his lungs. We've also detected a defect in his heart that will require surgery, should he survive the next twenty four hours.

TIM

And will he survive?

DR JOSHI

We don't know. He's incredibly weak. He currently weighs five hundred and thirty five grams, which is about a pound. The reason I asked to speak to you Mr Bliss before we did anything else, was to advise you to prepare for the worst.

Katie sobs quietly. Tim wipes tears from both his and Katie's eyes.

TIM

(to Dr Joshi)
Does Juliet know any of this?

DR JOSHI

Not yet.

TIM

Good.

DR JOSHI

She will need to be told very soon though.

TIM

I understand.

Tim wipes away more tears.

TIM (CONT'D)

Is there anything that can be done for this baby, Doctor?

DR JOSHI

Yes of course there is, but we speak from experience unfortunately. Our only hope is that statistically, survival rates are better than ever, thanks to the advancements in this particular field of science. If this had happened 30 years ago this child wouldn't have stood a chance.

TIM
Let's hope and pray then.

DR JOSHI
It won't do any harm.

TIM
Is it possible to see Juliet?

DR JOSHI
Yes we can do that now.

TIM
Thank you.

INT. PRIVATE ROOM, MATERNITY WARD - NIGHT

Dr Joshi and Tim stop at the door of the room where Juliet is resting. Dr Joshi taps on the door and opens it gently.

DR JOSHI
Juliet.

JULIET
(faintly)
Hello.

DR JOSHI
Juliet, sorry to disturb you. I'm
Doctor Joshi, consultant
neonatologist, taking care of your
son. I'm here with Tim.

Tim wipes his teary face and leans over to kiss Juliet.

TIM
How you doing?

JULIET
(to Tim)
Where's my baby?

TIM
He's..

Tim turns to Dr Joshi for a better explanation.

DR JOSHI
Juliet, as I've explained to Tim,
your son is currently in the
Neonatal intensive care unit.

JULIET
Is he okay?

DR JOSHI
No.

Juliet slumps into Tim's arms and starts to cry.

JULIET
My little boy.

DR JOSHI
Juliet, a child born this prematurely always comes with medical complications. Your son has two life threatening conditions in his heart and lungs. He's currently being kept alive with the aid of a ventilator.

Juliet becomes hysterical.

JULIET
Please no. Please don't let this be happening.

DR JOSHI
If he does survive these crucial, coming hours and subsequent surgery, then the quality of his life may be severely limited.

JULIET
Please make him survive.

DR JOSHI
We will try. I don't want to give you false hope, and there are many permutations at this early stage. But as I've told Tim, it will be prudent to prepare yourselves for the worst.

Juliet shakes uncontrollably before letting out a harrowing wail.

JULIET
No!!

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE UP FROM BLACK:

A lit match slowly lights a candle, held by a woman's hand.

CAPTION: ONE YEAR LATER.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

The candle is placed on a large white cake, before being whipped off of the side.

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY

Tim, Katie, Bethany and Tilly are sat around the dining table after dinner. Sat up in his high chair at the head of the table is one year old JAMES. Juliet enters carrying the cake. She dims the lights, before ceremoniously placing the cake in the middle of the table. Tim gets up, picks up James from his high chair and holds him shoulder high with one arm and grabs Juliet around her waist with the other.

TIM

Right girls, can we all stand up please?

TILLY

What?

TIM

You heard. All of you. Now.

Katie, Tilly and Bethany stand up.

TIM (CONT'D)

Okay everyone, after me, one, two, three, Ha..

Juliet, Katie, Bethany and Tilly join in and sing along.

TIM/ JULIET/ KATIE/ BETHANY/ TILLY

(singing)

Happy birthday to you, happy
birthday to you. Happy birthday
dear James, happy birthday to you
!! Hooray!!

As the song ends, FREEZE on Juliet, Katie, Bethany, Tilly, Tim and James.

THE END.

FADE OUT.