

I mean just being in the same r

... colo-rectal... When I think about you, I get exactly the same feeling as when I think about my dead dad's cancer. **Exactly** the same.

HE

No – it's the lips. Your fucking lips.

HE (ALTERNATIVE LINE) (CONT'D) No - it's the lips. It's your stupid lips.

 \mathbf{SH}

HE I believe in hard work.

SHE

Everyone believes in hard work.

HE

Whereas she's an old-fashioned, unreconstructed sociali

That

SHE Last time **HE** You want me... to talk?

SHE

Well

Which is unusual for her, normally she's lovely

HE

So I go ' Excuse me, excuse me – erm, look, I hear what you say but I just happened to glance inside there u

Beat.

HE (CONT'D) 'What?'

'One thousand pounds. A grand, right her

Oh my god...

Oh my god! Oh my god oh my god...

HE

What?

SHE

You are just... awf

HE

Believe me, our former feelings for each other are as inexplicable to me as they are to you.

Beat.

HE (CONT'D) But it's true. We were... in love.

I thought she was incredible.

SHE And I thought he was charming.

HE Now I think you're repugnant.

SHE

And now I think he has all the charm of diarrhoea in a pint glass.

Pause.

SHE (CONT'D) So lockdown - it's gonna be hard.

HE It's gonna be really hard.

SHE It's gonna be really, really hard.

Scene 2 - Mushrooms

I ! T. KITC2 531 Tm /TT1 1 Tf(h) 1 (82 cm /B1 Tm2 11 1 Tf()) TjET Q /TT4 1 Tf(.) TjET Q 67.77

Mushrooms...

HE

Oh Christ - tell them about the mushrooms. Go on, tell

H

HE

One of us picked the wrong mushrooms

SHE

I mean they look stupidly like the good ones

HE

- and they ended up in a fricassee – which I

SHE No, no, he's ri

SHE (CONT'D)

It hasn't been as bad as we thought. Lockdown.

HE

No...

SHE

Two weeks of lockdown done, and... and we're kind of getting through it.

HE

We are.

SHE

Don't get us wrong, it's not pleasant - being to

SHE Tell them what you do.

Beat

HE Don't start with

SHE Go on – tell them.

HE Look, don't start because

SHE No-one understands what he does.

HE Yes they do, they...

SHE I don't understand what you do

HE Well, that's not exactly...

People do understand what I, they -

SHE Then tell them. Go on.

Beat.

HE Alright. I have

a boutique consultancy that specialises in data analytics and finding multi-media technological solutions...

SHE

I mean what?

HE

...for linear broadcast marketing providers specialising in cost efficiency savings, I mean what is so complicated about tha

SHE When we

Beat.

HE So there has been a lot to

HE Saving the world, this one...

SHE Mainly dealin

But he's lovely.

HE

Oh he's a lovely, lovel

SHE So I just

She did. She really did. She got mum into that home.

HE That care home - remember?

SHE

She persuaded her to go in there.

HE

That lovely care home - amazing place. God knows how she did it. But someh

HE

This evening I harvested asparagus.

Never done that before. And actually, I shouldn't have done that now because I only planted it a few months ago

(MORE)

HE (CO ! T'D)

He's the main nurse that's looking after the old girl over there in intensive

HE Right.

-

Why?

I mean does that...?

Does that matter anymore?

A moment. She looks at the laptop. It suddenly occurs to her that of course it does not.

Closes the laptop.

SHE

No, I suppose not.

He goes to hug her - shee

(MORE)

SHE (CO!T'D)

And that I was so, so sorry that I'd never said any of those things when she could actually hear me. And that I loved her so much that my life was already hurting without her in it and that I was scared that the hurt might never go a

Stops. Comes back, an almost guilty look on her face.

She picks up the laptop and takes it wit

HE

I mean I never thought I'd go there again.

SHE

Last man on earth? Fine, give me celibacy – now.

HE

But...

SHE

we

you know. We have

been having sex.

HE

And

it's been

SHE It has been...

Well, what has it been?

HE

It's been goo

I remember with dad – he was a sheet metal worker, taciturn old shit he was: it was like being fathered by granite – but at his funeral I remember this huge, tob

I loved that funeral.

I did. And I know I shouldn

I never said anything coz... well, you know...

HE

Well it's a covid funeral, you're not supposed to be happy about a covid funeral. And I suppose when we came home... well we got distracted talking about Artie.

Artie was... he was...

SHE

He was upset.

HE

Yeah. Because he wanted to look at the body.

SHE

he loved his gran.

HE

And he wanted to touch it.

SHE

So what - I wanted to touch it, that's normal

HE

And he wanted to taste it

SHE

Bu

43.

Oh, there he is.

HE

And at no point during all this do we at all even think of having sex. Even when the lockdown to save Christmas starts, we're still not doing it, are we?

SHE

No! God no, just, no, no. Not in a million years.

HE

Then they announce a vaccine's been discovered

and we just start ploughing

You will be getting the vaccine long before any front-line worker in Sierra Leone has even the remotest chance - and what the fuck do you do?

HE

I'd run out there and get it tomorrow if I could.

SHE You would, wo

,d

HE No, no. All the ins and outs

She snickers.

HE (CONT'D) Oh please...

SHE Sorry.

HE How old are you?

SHE How old are you?

Something exchanges between them. Something the

You too?

HE

Yeah. Sort of. I think the sex has helped.

SHE

Well, yeah, the sex, but maybe... not exactly the sex, but the contact.

HE

Yeah, you're right – the contact, it's the contact.

And... the sex as well, to be honest. For me anyway. To be h

Beat. A moment. For a second she might say something.

Doesn't. Can't. She goes.

He is left alone. Might go as well. Th

My Top Team top was a zip up, navy blue and white

I shook my head because that

'You get charity. That's how you ea

SHE (CONT'D)

That was the last time we ever saw Nancy. She never came back after that. And my mum...

I remember when she found out about it, after the explosion and the shouting and the recriminations and the grounding and everything - I remember her calming herself. And then - weirdly - trying to be nice.

But I could see it in her eyes. A look that

She is overwhelmed - can't say it. Can't complete the words, is too scared

It's very American

HE

No, other people make

SHE

Have you been watching Seinfeld again?

HE

6

h

Last night though. I really thought there...

HE

I know

SHE I really, really thought

HE

I know, I know

SHE

I actually thought I was gonna die.

HE

I know. I know you did. You did... think that.

Beat.

SHE

What are you...?

HE

No, I'm just saying. You thought you were going to die.

But...

you didn't, did you.

SHE

Excuse me?

HE

You didn't die. You thought you were going to die...

but you weren't gonna die. Because you didn't.

SHE

I nearly did.

HE I don't know if that's true...

SHE

I was at death's door!

HE

Yeah. You were at the door...

but you weren't on the premises, were you.

SHE

Oh you ...

HE

Yo

In the background Artie is building d

61.

But the difference between the start of the ninth week and the end of the ninth week is 786,432.

Same amount of days – hugely different numbers.

Stops her phone.

Puts the phone down. A

SHE (CO ! T'D) This time they weren'

She wasn't even killed by a virus.

She was killed by stupidity.

She was killed by dumbfuckery.

She was killed by looking at something that is clearly coming at you

You remember that week when we all expected the lockdown to sta

SHE That's rea

She doesn't answer. Is considering so

HE

Well, you were being such a dick – and I saw the mushrooms and I thought, you know... what would it be like to shove that in her fricassee

I!T. KITCHE! - EVE!I!G

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Pause.

Things between

(MORE)

HE (CO ! T'D)

I c

HE (CONT'D) You know?

And I'm looking at him

(MORE)

HE (**CO ! T**'**D**) 'Thank you. For... this. For keeping t

SHE

I am not

a shitty person...

HE Look when I sa

HE

Okay.

Okay. No, that's erm...

No, no. I get it. I to

SHE

We're not splitting up, what makes you think we're splitting up?

HE

You just said...

SHE

I didn't say we're splitting up.

HE

Then... then what did you say?

SHE

I said I don't want to get married - that's what I said.

Revi si o

SHE (CO ! T'D)

SHE

In our garden?

ARTHUR

Yeah.

SHE Are you sure it's a

HE You didn't?

SHE

No.

HE Okay. Right.

Okay, that's erm.... Okay.

SHE It was because of your

HE

Yeah. I think I do actually.

They join Arthur outside to look at the dead parakeet.

<u>E ! D</u>