

Rise & Fall
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INT. APARTMENT - SUZIES BEDROOM

It's morning, and we can see the brightness of the sky through a set of curtains. Scanning from the window, across a messy bedroom, we see a pile of duvet with a couple of feet poking out the bottom.

An alarm goes off. A hand reaches out and turns it off.

The hand belongs to SUZIE, a woman in her late twenties.

SUZIE
(groans)
For fucks sake...

INT. APARTMENT - SUZIES BEDROOM

SUZIE drags herself out of bed, grabs a dressing gown, and her mobile phone, and staggers out of the room.

INT. APARTMENT - SUZIES KITCHEN

The kitchen is as messy as the bedroom. Plates piled in the sink, open packets of food on the cabinets. SUZIE's mobile phone rings.

INT. APARTMENT - SUZIES KITCHEN

We see the screen of her phone, the name shows as Sam.

INT. APARTMENT - SUZIES KITCHEN

While answering the phone, with it tucked between her cheek and shoulder, SUZIE starts boiling the kettle & prepping a cup of tea. We only hear one side of the conversation.

SUZIE
Morning.

SUZIE (CONT'D)
No, I've been up for ages.

Finding a bottle of milk in the fridge, she sniffs it and decides against putting some in her coffee.

SUZIE (CONT'D)
But I don't want to catch a worm. A
bird would be nice tho.
(MORE)

SUZIE (CONT'D)
 (beat) Sorry, didn't mean to offend.

SUZIE (CONT'D)
 No, I've not been out this week, and before you ask, I'm not going out this weekend.

Pouring the kettle into the cup, SUZIE potters into the living room, and plops onto the sofa.

SUZIE (CONT'D)
 But I'm great on my own, I'm living my best life.

SUZIE (CONT'D)
 Christ. OK Sam, I am free on Friday night.

SUZIE turns on the TV, and mutes it. Some kind of angry daytime TV show is on.

SUZIE (CONT'D)
 Yes, I promise I won't bail.

Grabbing a magazine off the coffee table, she starts picking at the fluff between her toes.

SUZIE (CONT'D)
 Fine, I'll see you there at 7.

SUZIE (CONT'D)
 For a change? Fuck off.

SUZIE (CONT'D)
 Yes OK, OK. I know. Did I ever tell you I love you Sam?

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY PARK - PARK BENCH

We see the face of a very earnest JACOB.

He's clearly uncomfortable and is sat at a table with FRAN, who mid sip of her coffee, nearly chokes.

FRAN
 (coughing)What? What did you just say?

JACOB
I said I love you.

FRAN
That's what I thought you said.

JACOB
This is the bit where you say "I
love you" back.

FRAN
Is it now? Have you been watching
romantic crap on tv again?

JACOB
Oh.

They both take sips of their coffee.

FRAN
We've only been going out a few
months.

JACOB
I know that. I just feel ready.
Sorry.

FRAN
It's Ok, it was just a bit out of
the blue. Maybe warn someone next
time you're going to do that.

JACOB
Ah. Ok.

They both take sips of coffee.

JACOB (CONT'D)
But do you though?

FRAN
What?

JACOB
Love me back?

FRAN
We've only been seeing each other
for a few months.

JACOB
You already said that.
(beat)
Don't you love me?

FRAN takes a sip from her coffee, and thinks for a bit.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Well?

FRAN

Easy tiger, you're sounding a bit needy.

JACOB

That's not fair, I just want to know where I stand.

FRAN

You're sitting on a park bench, you're not standing anywhere.

JACOB

Enough with the dad jokes.

FRAN

Alright. I think I do.

JACOB

You think?

FRAN

Well, I don't know. I've never been in love before.

JACOB

What? Why didn't you say?

FRAN

It's not really come up in conversation till now.

JACOB

(hopeful)

So you think you might then?

FRAN

Yeah, I guess. I do?

(beat)

Yeah I do!

(she starts to get emotional)

I wasn't expecting that.

JACOB hugs her, and looks beside himself with joy.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE HALLWAY

We find CHARLES waiting in a hallway looking pensive.

CHARLES
(to the closed bathroom
door)
Have you done it yet?

MARIE (O.S.)
Yes. I'm just waiting for it to
show something.

CHARLES
Come on out then, I want to see
too.

MARIE (O.S.)
(lets out a squeal)

MARIE flings opens the door and comes bounding out.

MARIE
It says pregnant. Oh my god I'm
pregnant!

CHARLES
Oh fuck no.

MARIE
Charlie!

CHARLES
So what do we do now?

MARIE
What do you mean, what do we do
now?

CHARLES
Do you want to keep it?

MARIE
Charles, what the hell?

CHARLES
I guess that's a yes then.

CHARLIE walks off to the living room. MARIE follows him.

MARIE
Why are you not excited about this?

CHARLES
Marie, I thought we said we'd wait.

MARIE
There's never a right time to have
a baby you know.

CHARLES
(fearful)
I know that. But I'm not ready.

MARIE
What are you talking about?

CHARLES
What if I'm like my dad?

MARIE
(moves to Charles, and
hugs him)
But you're nothing like him. You'll
make a great dad.

CHARLES
I wish I had your confidence.

MARIE
Come on now, you know you're
nothing like him. We've built a
very different life together.

CHARLES
I know, I know. I'm just scared.

MARIE
It's ok to be scared Charlie,
you're not on your own tho. I'm
here too. We can do this together.
It'll be an amazing adventure!

CHARLES
(laughing)
How do you do that?

MARIE
What?

CHARLES
You always work out how to convince
me that you're right?

CUT TO:

INT. MCWILLIAMS LIVING ROOM

We hear a front door closing. JOHN is pacing back and forth in the living room. KATE enters.

KATE

Right, well, I thought he was a really nice young man.

JOHN

What? Nice? Nice? Kate, what is wrong with you? How did we let her go out with him?

KATE sits on the sofa, watching her husband with an amused look on her face.

KATE

He was polite, well dressed, and Lauren is obviously besotted with him. That ticks enough boxes for me.

JOHN

He said we had a 'sick' house, what does that even mean?

KATE

It means cool John, that's all. He just liked our house.

JOHN

(ignoring her)
And when he said Lauren looked 'proper peng' I thought I'd wring his neck, until I realised that he was probably being nice.

KATE

(laughing)
It's just how kids talk these days.

JOHN

Why can't they talk proper english?
(beat)(laughing)
How did we get so out of touch?

KATE

I'm sure it happens to all parents at some point. I'm sure our parents had to handle it.

JOHN sits down in an armchair heavily.

JOHN

Christ, does that mean we're getting old? What happened to my little girl?

KATE

She's our little girl, and Lauren has to grow up at some point.

JOHN

But why does it have to happen now? Can't it wait a few more years?

KATE

She'll be leaving home for university in no time, getting married, and we'll be grandparents before you know it!

JOHN

That's not helping Kate!

KATE

This is only her first date, let's not get carried away.

She goes over to JOHN and sits on the arm of his chair.

KATE (CONT'D)

We do have the house to ourselves for the evening, you know.

JOHN

Oh yeah. What do you want to do?

He jumps up, and dances with KATE.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Get crazy and party wild like we used to?

KATE

Not exactly what I had in mind. And aren't you playing golf in the morning?

JOHN

Oh yeah. Well, what then?

KATE

A cup of tea and a bit of Strictly?

JOHN
Oh, go on then. I'll put the kettle
on.

JOHN leaves to go to the kitchen.

INT. MCWILLIAMS HALLWAY

John takes a look at the front door, shakes his head and walks to the kitchen.

INT. MCWILLIAMS HALLWAY

The McWilliams front door from the inside.

CUT TO:

INT. SARAS APARTMENT HALLWAY

It's night time, late evening, and the front door opens.

A very tired looking woman, SARA, wearing a big winter coat steps into the hallway.

She takes off her jacket, revealing hospital scrubs, hanging the jacket on the wall.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Kicking off her shoes, and putting her bag by the coffee table, she flicks on the radio, and grabs a half-drunk bottle wine from the sideboard.

She pours herself a drink, and sits heavily on the sofa.

No sooner has she taken a drink, when the phone rings.

INT. LIVING ROOM - PHONE

The phone display shows "Mum" is calling.

SARA groans.

INT. LIVING ROOM

SARA answers.

SARA
Hey Mum

SARA (CONT'D)
Yeah, I'm fine, just tired. I just
got in from work.

SARA (CONT'D)
We're slammed with all the extra cases that come in cos of the weather. It's always busy at this time of year.

She takes a big gulp of wine while she listens to her Mum.

SARA (CONT'D)
Yeah I know. I do know Mum, but there's not much I can do about it right now.

SARA (CONT'D)
No, I'm not looking for a new job. Why would I? It's the most rewarding thing I've ever done.

SARA (CONT'D)
Don't be so dramatic. I'm fine, I really am.

SARA (CONT'D)
Yeah, I promise I'll think about finding a hospital nearer you guys.

SARA (CONT'D)
I said I promise! Anyway how come you're calling this late?

Takes another gulp of wine while she can.

SARA (CONT'D)
(laughing)
Oh god, you and Brenda are like two old mother hens.

SARA (CONT'D)
No I don't want you to give my number to Brenda's nephew.

SARA (CONT'D)
Because I'm happy being single right now Mum!

SARA (CONT'D)
Yeah, it was worth a try tho.

SARA (CONT'D)
Anyway, I need to head to bed soon. I love you. Let Dad know I love him too. Night Mum.

END.