

He's The One

Episode One

WRITTEN BY

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EXT. BLUE SKY - DAY

A blue sky with a few white fluffy clouds above a stand alone coffee shop. Voices of people in the coffee shop get louder and louder. Their words float up into the clouds. A cloud in the shape of the name Steph floats into view.

STEPH's words float out of the coffee shop into her cloud.

STEPH (V.O.)
I'm not asking for much...I just
want...Someone. Anyone. The one.

Panning down through the window sits STEPHANIE WILKES, 26 year old female, a half drunk cup of coffee in front of her. She has her mobile phone in her hand and is texting.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

STEPH's eyes wander to all the other couples. They are laughing, joking, kissing, holding hands and gazing into each other's eyes.

She turns to face her accountant boyfriend QUENTIN UNDERHILL, early 30's male, sat opposite, busy looking through spread sheets, ring binders, books and tapping on a calculator. He wears a dark brown suit and tie and his brown hair is slicked back with gel.

STEPH takes a sip of her coffee, turns to an older couple sat on the next table. The man is in similar attire to QUENTIN and completing a crossword in a newspaper, there are other newspapers spread out on the table in front of him.

STEPH and the lady make eye contact and the lady gives STEPH a sad knowing look. STEPH looks at QUENTIN and types on her mobile.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE A COFFEE SHOP - DAY

STEPH's words float through the window and up into her cloud.

STEPH (V.O.)
He's not the one.

BACK TO:

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

STEPH
(looking into her
coffee)
Quentin, I don't want this
anymore.

QUENTIN
Is there something wrong with it?
We must return it immediately and
obtain a letter of credit against
any future purchase.

STEPH
Not the coffee. Us.

QUENTIN
I beg your pardon?

STEPH
I don't think we should be
together anymore.

QUENTIN
Are you suggesting our merger is
not working out?

STEPH
That's exactly what I am
suggesting.

QUENTIN picks up a spread sheet and performs a quick
calculation on his calculator.

She sighs.

STEPH (CONT'D)
I've been thinking about things
between us. Sure they started out
well, you're generous, took me
out for meals in fancy
restaurants but there's been a
sudden fall in interest, you're
not the person I thought you
were. I need...more.

QUENTIN taps on his calculator.

QUENTIN

Do you feel you are not getting a satisfactory return on your investment? Hmm...let me make a quick calculation of our net profit value.

STEPH

Erm, yes. That's exactly how I feel. I think...

QUENTIN quickly looks at his spread sheets and through his ring binders.

STEPH (CONT'D)

I think I'm going to close this account, I'm going to cut my losses and withdraw. Make a subtraction. Me.

QUENTIN stops.

QUENTIN

Well, if you are sure.

QUENTIN reaches into his briefcase and produces a file, takes out a sheet of paper and hands it to STEPH.

QUENTIN (CONT'D)

Can you sign this disclaimer stating that you, the party of the first part, relinquish all non professional contact with me, the party of the second part and therefore allowing contact with other people, the party of the third part. From this moment on, we will be operating in a strict professional capacity only and you will be charged the usual rate accordingly. I must admit I am surprised, I thought we would see the fiscal year through together.

She signs the paper, QUENTIN checks the document and pushes it back to her

QUENTIN (CONT'D)

(pointing)

Can you initial here and here.

She initials where indicated. He takes the paper and hands her a black ring binder. STEPH opens it, there is a row of coloured tabs down the side. The first page says "Summary" across the top.

STEPH
What's this?

QUENTIN
An inventory of all the meals and activities we have partaken in together and your share of the expenditure.

STEPH reads through the "Summary" page.

STEPH
What!?! That can't be right.

QUENTIN takes the binder back and checks the page.

QUENTIN
(frowning)
No, that's not right.

He scribbles something out and write in red pen.

QUENTIN (CONT'D)
(pointing to STEPH's coffee cup)
I forgot to add the expenditure of that coffee.

He hands back the binder then quickly packs away the papers and documents and prepares to leave.

QUENTIN (CONT'D)
(turning to STEPH)
I expect settlement within thirty days. Goodbye.

He exits. STEPH finishes her coffee.

STEPH (V.O.)
That was the end of that but the beginning of something completely ridiculous.

INT. STEPH'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

The white double doors of a built-in wardrobe, STEPH approaches the doors, opens them and stands looking at the contents. She picks up her cat, Katmandu, from off her bed and holds him.

STEPH
This is my world. Ever since I was thirteen years old and I finally got my own bedroom away from my annoying little brother.

Holding the cat with one hand she starts to look through the rack of clothes.

STEPH (CONT'D)
Funny, what I look for in clothes
I also look for in men.

STEPH puts the cat back down on the bed then pulls out a black dress and holds it up.

STEPH (CONT'D)
Confidence.

CUT TO:

INT. A BOARDROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

STEPH sits on one side of a large wooden desk wearing the black dress. On the other side sit three gentlemen in suits and ties. Two are discussing a document that one of them has open in front of him. The third gentleman is smiling at STEPH. She smiles back.

GENTLEMAN WITH DOCUMENT
Congratulations, Miss Wilkes.
You've got the job. You showed
great confidence.

STEPH stands up and shakes the gentlemen's hands and leaves the boardroom.

INT. OFFICE CORRIDOR

STEPH jumps, whoops and dances down the corridor with delight.

GENTLEMAN (O.S.)
We can hear you, Miss Wilkes.

STEPH puts her hand over her mouth and crouches low, embarrassed.

BACK TO:

INT. STEPH'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

STEPH drops the dress on the floor, reaches into the wardrobe and pulls out an enormous blue shaggy knit jumper and smiles.

STEPH
Humour.

She drapes the jumper across herself and laughs.

CUT TO:

INT. A STUDENT UNION PARTY - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

A large hall with flashing lights and loud dance music with people dancing. On a stage are several people in fancy dress cheering, laughing and holding up trophies.

STEPH comes walking towards camera with her hair in pigtails, heavy black eye make-up and wearing the enormous blue shaggy knit jumper, she looks dumbstruck. There is a large pink rosette on her chest saying "2nd Prize". As she draws near she looks into the camera.

STEPH
(stunned)
I didn't know it was fancy dress.

BACK TO:

INT. STEPH'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

STEPH reaches down to the bottom of the wardrobe and pulls out a pair of pink Wellington boots covered with small sunflower stickers. She grins.

STEPH
Sensibility.

CUT TO:

EXT. A LARGE OPEN FIELD - DAY (FLASHBACK)

A music festival is going on with crowds of people carrying rucksacks and plastic carrier bags, making their way towards a performance stage off in the distance. STEPH comes into shot and approaches a group of fellow festival-goers. One of them, JOE, 25 male, wearing a green fatigue jacket and ripped jeans, carrying a very large rucksack, looks down at STEPH'S boots.

JOE
(mocking voice)
Oh, Steph. What have you brought those for? Don't you know this is a Summer festival, the forecast is for blazing sunshine and clear skies all weekend.

CUT TO:

EXT. A LARGE OPEN FIELD - DAY (FLASHBACK)

There is a torrential thunderstorm and the rain is pouring down. The group trudge through the mud, STEPH leads with a big smile on her face, splashing away in the mud quite happily. JOE slips and falls flat on his arse. He grabs hold of his sandal covered foot and inspects it.

JOE
(concerned)
Guys...guys? I think it's
serious.
(holds up his dripping
foot)
Trench foot!

BACK TO:

INT. STEPH'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

STEPH puts back the boots.

STEPH
Stupid Joe. Thought he knew
better. All I really want is
someone...I can rely on.
(looks into the
wardrobe)

INT. STEPH'S HOUSE - HALLWAY

JEFF MIDDLETON, mid 20's male, tall, slim and everyone's friend, enters. He is carrying a carrier bag and pops his head into the living room. Several people are in there chatting and laughing.

JEFF
(POV)
Hi, everyone

EVERYONE
(in unison)
Hi, Jeff.

JEFF
(apologetic)
Sorry I'm late. Is everyone
ready?

Everyone in the room looks up and points to the ceiling.

JEFF (CONT'D)
 Oh, I think she's waiting for her
 decision-maker.

JEFF exits.

INT. STEPH'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

JEFF enters the bedroom, STEPH stands over the bed looking at the outfits she has laid out.

STEPH
 (not looking at JEFF)
 You're late.
 (she turns to face him
 and pleads)
 You know I need your help
 choosing something to wear.

JEFF approaches the bed and walks slowly down looking at the outfits.

JEFF
 (matter of fact type
 voice)
 No, you wore that last time, you
 hate that, I like that but no,
 no, no, it's going to be cold
 later so wear this.
 (he picks up an outfit
 and hands it to STEPH)
 And where's that short denim
 jacket?

STEPH points to it on the bed.

JEFF (CONT'D)
 Oh, there it is. Take that. Now,
 come on...
 (claps his hands)
 ...everyone is waiting
 downstairs, we are late.

STEPH starts to get changed.

STEPH
 Is Moo coming?

JEFF
 (looks at his wrist
 watch)
 Well, it's nearly throwing out
 time at the spa so I won't be
 surprised.

JEFF exits.

INT. SPA TREATMENT ROOM - DAY

MOO, late 20's female, with short black hair, is just finishing massaging a buff young man.

MOO
(indicating)
The sauna is just through here.
If you want to have a relax in
there and I will come through for
you later.

The man goes through to the sauna.

LATER

MOO sneaks through, locking the treatment door and removing her white coat revealing that she is totally naked just as she steps into the sauna.

INT. PARTY HOUSE - NIGHT

There is music and lots of people dancing. STEPH stands chatting to a guy with a beard and black rimmed glasses, she seems uninterested. MOO jumps in from the side and grabs STEPH.

MOO
Hey!!

STEPH
(delighted)
You made it.

The bearded guy wonders off.

MOO
So, how are you feeling?

STEPH
Okay. Why?

MOO
It's been over twenty-four hours
since your break-up.

STEPH
(sighing)
I'm alright, honest. I worked out
that he was the longest I have
ever been out with someone. Six
weeks. Can you believe it?

MOO

Yes, you just wanted the free meals.

STEPH

No! But you know what they say about there being no such thing as a free meal?

MOO

(puzzled)

What do you mean?

STEPH

This party's boring, lets go home?

MOO

But I just arrived and there's this dishy guy...

STEPH

(pleading)

Please?

STEPH and MOO exit.

INT. STEPH'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

STEPH and MOO are sat in the living room. MOO is looking through QUENTIN'S large black ring binder.

MOO

I can't believe he gave you this.

STEPH

Everything from the six weeks we were together is listed in there. And he expects me to pay half.

MOO

Unbelievable.

STEPH

On page ten there's a receipt for a slap-up meal at this posh restaurant that his parents didn't actually own...

MOO

Oh, yeah. You had crisp pavé of sea trout, fricassée of macaroni, brown shrimps and samphire.

(puzzled)

What's samphire?

STEPH
(distracted)
It's a edible coastal plant with
white flowers.
(realising)
Moo!

MOO
Sorry. Wow, it cost how much?

STEPH
We had the full works. Wine with
every course, champagne and
desserts. And he expects me to
pay for every mouthful.

MOO
Well, I can see his point. It is
the 21st century and going Dutch
is the norm.

STEPH
(angrily)
It was my birthday!

MOO
Soz. And the grand total is...?

MOO starts to flick through the binder.

STEPH
As far as I'm concerned I owe him
nothing. We were in a
relationship and he said nothing
about sharing costs.

MOO finds the page and runs her finger down to the bottom.

MOO
One thousand, four hundred and
twenty-three pounds, seventeen
pence!

STEPH
I haven't got that sort of money.
What am I going to do, Moo?

MOO
I don't know. You, young lady,
need cheering up. And I am going
to sort that.

STEPH
No, Moo, you don't have to.

MOO
Oh, yes I do.

MOO gets up to leave.

STEPH
Where are you going?

MOO
To start the cheering up process.
But first I'm just going to nip
back to that party, see if that
dishy guy is still there.

MOO opens the door then turns back to STEPH.

MOO (CONT'D)
You'll be alright on your own?

STEPH sighs and MOO smiles then exits.

EXT. HIGH STREET - DAY

STEPH and JEFF are walking down the street chatting.

JEFF
So you blow us all off last night
to go off with Moo, again.

STEPH
I wasn't feeling in the party
mood and Moo came to cheer me up.

JEFF
And did she?

STEPH
No, but she said she was going
to.

JEFF
I hope you told her not to.

STEPH
Of course, but you know her.

JEFF
I do and you can bet there will
be some selfish reason.

STEPH
She's not selfish, she's very
kind and thoughtful.

JEFF
If the thoughts are about what's
in it for her. Steph, you do know
why she's called Moo?

STEPH
It's short for her name.

JEFF
Which is?

STEPH pauses for a moment thinking.

JEFF (CONT'D)
It's because she is a such a fuc...

MOO comes running up to STEPH and JEFF.

MOO
(excited)
I've got them, I've got them!

STEPH
What?

JEFF
Yes, what have you got? Crabs?

MOO
(disdainful)
Oh. Hi Jeff.

MOO turns back to STEPH and holds up two tickets.

MOO (CONT'D)
(grinning)
These. We are going to have the
best time ever.

STEPH takes the tickets from MOO and looks at them, her
faces drops.

STEPH
(horrified)
No, no. We are not going to spend
the night with a bunch of...

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT

A guy dressed as a zombie runs forwards and screams loudly.

STEPH and MOO are running away from another zombie.

STEPH
...zombies!! Why? Why am I here?
Why are we doing this?

MOO

Because it's fun. You must have played Tig as a kid. Well, this is the adult version. Look out!

A zombie comes close to catching STEPH and MOO but they move off in opposite directions. They move down the street as quick as they can.

LATER

STEPH and MOO are running down a street with several other players, up ahead there are three zombies moving slowly in the middle of the road.

STEPH

What are we suppose to be doing?

MOO

Looking for a terminal that will give us the coordinates to the next terminal.

STEPH stops running.

STEPH

This is stupid. Of all the ideas you have had to cheer me up this is the stupidest...

MOO

(horrified)
Behind you...RUN!

ADAM PERCIVAL, 28 male, tall, athletic, dressed as a zombie, sneaks up behind STEPH, she runs off quickly pursued by the zombie. She runs down the street then doubles back and weaves from side to side to evade his clawing hands.

She goes one way then the other and sprints away. He chases her and just manages to grab her upper arm, they both stop breathless.

STEPH turns and looks at him as he stares back at her. His expression drops to a slight smile then he produces a UV ink pen and writes on her forearm.

Finished writing he looks up at her.

ADAM

(quiet zombie type
voice)
Call...me.

He screams in her face then runs off.

MOO appears at STEPH's side.

MOO
Did you get infected?

STEPH
(unsure)
Yes, I think so but it was weird.

STEPH and MOO run off around a corner, there are more zombies at the end of the street.

STEPH (CONT'D)
More! When will this end?

MOO
In about two hours, we've only just started. This way!

STEPH and MOO run until they are close to the zombies then walk slow and quietly.

MOO (CONT'D)
(whispering)
Keep quiet, they are attracted to noise.

They walk quietly passed two female zombies but suddenly they turn and start to run towards them. STEPH and MOO run.

STEPH looks round to see one of the zombie close behind then STEPH stumbles and falls, rolling along the road then lies still.

The female zombie bends down to examine STEPH.

FEMALE ZOMBIE
(in her normal voice)
Are you okay?

STEPH
(surprised)
What? No, my leg it hurts.

LATER

An ambulance with its lights flashing is at the side of the road as two paramedics attend to STEPH.

STEPH is helped into the back of the ambulance, MOO and a ZONE MANAGER, female 30's, with a clipboard climb into the ambulance.

INT. BACK OF AMBULANCE - NIGHT

STEPH is sat with one trouser leg rolled up, MOO is sat beside her holding a cold compress against STEPH's leg.

STEPH
(to ZONE MANAGER)
I just lost my balance and fell over.

ZONE MANAGER
We still need to fill out this accident form.

STEPH
(sighs)
Okay.

EXT. SANCTUARY (ZOMBIE BASE) - NIGHT

A large warehouse unit on an industrial estate. Flashing lights and disco music emitting from the open doors. The ambulance pulls up and the ZONE MANAGER, MOO and STEPH alight from the vehicle.

A ZOMBIE STEWARD, male mid 20's, runs up to them.

ZOMBIE STEWARD
Did you get infected?

MOO
I didn't, but I think she did.

The ZOMBIE STEWARD produces a UV light and shines it on STEPH's arm.

MOO (CONT'D)
(horrified)
OMG! What is that?

The ZOMBIE STEWARD and MOO stare at STEPH's arm, a string of numbers shine out in purple.

STEPH
That lad must have wrote it on there.

MOO
Which lad?

STEPH
(mocking)
Duh...the zombie.

STEPH and MOO stare at the numbers.

STEPH (CONT'D)
I think it's his phone number.

INT. THE BLACK BULL PUBLIC HOUSE - NIGHT

JEFF stands at the bar with a pint of beer in front of him. Enter ADAM PERCIVAL, male 28, tall and athletic with blonde hair. JEFF notices ADAM and looks slightly puzzled.

ADAM goes to the other end of the bar and orders a drink from the bartender. JEFF hesitantly walks towards ADAM.

JEFF
Adam?

ADAM looks at JEFF

JEFF (CONT'D)
Adam Percival?

ADAM
Yes. It's Jeff isn't it?

JEFF
Yes, Jeff Middleton. I was in the relay team with your brother John at school.

ADAM
I remember you now, it's been years. That relay team broke all the school records with you two in it.

JEFF
You didn't do bad either. Running champion three years on the trot! Pardon the pun.

They both laugh.

JEFF (CONT'D)
The Percival brothers, that was it. Won everything going in sports. So what brings you to my local? I haven't seen you in here before.

ADAM
On a date actually. Third one. It's her local too.

JEFF
Going well?

ADAM

I think so. We have a laugh but we're taking it slowly. Very slowly.

JEFF

Oh?

ADAM

I came out of a relationship a while back so I don't want to do the whole re-bounce thing. And I really like this girl, she so...so familiar.

Enter STEPH limping slightly, she sees JEFF and ADAM chatting at the bar and limps over to them.

STEPH

Hands off, Jeff. He's mine.

JEFF give STEPH a puzzled look. STEPH kisses ADAM on the cheek and links his arm.

JEFF

So, she's your date then?

STEPH

Ay, less of the she.

JEFF

Well, watch out, she'll give you a run for your money!

ADAM

(laughing)

Another pun. But funny you should say that really, it was Steph's running that I first noticed about her. She's quick that's for sure.

JEFF gives STEPH a puzzled look

STEPH

So...Adam asked me out for a drink and it turned out we've got loads in common.

ADAM

Yeah. Steph told me about all the races she's competed in and how many trophies she'd won. It's nice to meet someone who takes their fitness so seriously.

JEFF
(sarcastically)
To think I've known you for years
and I had no idea!

STEPH glares at JEFF so ADAM cannot see

STEPH
Well you know me, I don't like to
brag.

ADAM
(surprised)
So, you didn't you know that she
was the Under 16 cross country
county champion in 2003?

JEFF looks surprised. ADAM smiles at STEPH

ADAM (CONT'D)
So modest!

STEPH grabbing ADAM's arm

STEPH
What's this surprise you've got
planned for me next week then?

ADAM
Do you really want to know?

STEPH
(pleading)
Please...but I desperately need to
pee. Got to run.

JEFF
(half laughing)
She's got to run.

STEPH exits. ADAM points to a table nearby and they go and
sit down.

Awkward silence. ADAM and JEFF each take a drink of their
pints.

ADAM
How do you know Steph?

JEFF
(smiling)
You don't have to worry about me,
Steph is a childhood friend, known
her since primary school.

ADAM
Oh, good.

Awkward silence. They both take another drink.

JEFF
(suddenly)
Zombie!

ADAM
(surprised)
What? Where?

JEFF
No, you're the zombie. From last week that silly tig game.

ADAM
Yeah, that was me. And it's not silly, it's bloody hard work all that running around chasing people. Knackering.

JEFF
At least you got something out of it.

ADAM
What's that?

JEFF
(puzzled)
Steph.

ADAM
Oh, yeah. She's thinking of doing it again next year but playing a zombie. Do it as a zombie couple.

JEFF
(sceptical)
Oh, right.

Awkward silence. They both take another drink.

JEFF (CONT'D)
So, what's John up to these days? Still running.

ADAM
He got a knee injury about six months ago and had to give it up. Knee injuries run in the family.

JEFF
I thought feet did.

ADAM
What?

JEFF

Sorry bad joke. Shame he had to give up, he was good. I try to keep it up but it's mostly helping the junior runners down the club nowadays. You should come down and have a look, we're always looking for more volunteers.

ADAM

Yeah, I might do that. Is Steph a member?

JEFF

(awkwardly)

Welllll, she can always be found in the clubhouse bar.

ADAM

It's good to be able to meet one of Steph's friends. She's told me about a few friends, is there one called Moo?

JEFF

Moo? Oh, Moo, I would stay clear of that one. Nothing but trouble. Bad news, very bad news.

ADAM

Why's that?

STEPH suddenly returns and sits next to ADAM grabbing his arm.

STEPH

Right, tell me about the surprise.

ADAM

I wasn't going to keep it a secret... but I know you'll love it so much I can't keep it to myself anymore.

STEPH

(grinning)

Tell me...

JEFF takes a drink of his pint.

ADAM

(excitedly)

I've signed us both up to do a 5K charity run next week!

JEFF splutters.

EXT. A RUNNING TRACK - DAY

STEPH stands at the side of the running track stretching. JEFF, holding a clipboard, stands nearby talking to a young man. STEPH lifts her leg up and rests it on a rail then bends forwards.

STEPH (V.O.)

(in pain)

Be sure your sins will find you out. That's what some people say and at the moment that's very much the truth.

JEFF approaches STEPH while checking his stopwatch.

JEFF

Right, when you've finished your stretching I want a brisk jog around the track.

STEPH stretches a little more then starts off on a brisk jog.

STEPH (V.O.)

Jeff, however, had not lied. He had been a junior running champion and is helping me train for the run, he's very talented, Moo is here just for the talent and to offer her own special skills.

MOO is massaging the legs of a young runner by the track side. STEPH heads for the running track.

JEFF watches STEPH start off on her brisk jog as she bumps into one runner already on the track then another runner, who falls to the ground.

JEFF

(to himself)

The 2003 Under 16 cross country county champion, really Steph?

STEPH completes a lap of the track then jogs back to JEFF.

JEFF (CONT'D)

How did that feel?

STEPH

Less painful than last week.

JEFF

Good. You should be able to run five kay, no problem.

STEPH
 Ten kay. He couldn't get us in
 the five kay. That's not much, is
 it?

JEFF
 (alarmed)
 That's over six miles. That's
 twenty five laps of the track.

STEPH
 What?

STEPH's mobile bleeps. She picks it out of her sports bag
 and checks the message. MOO wanders over.

STEPH (CONT'D)
 It's from Adam.

MOO
 Ooh, what's he say?

STEPH reads the message, a look of horror slowly spreads
 across her face.

STEPH
 (shocked)
 Oh, no!

MOO
 (concerned)
 What is it?

JEFF
 (equally concerned)
 Something wrong?

STEPH
 This can't be happening.

JEFF AND MOO
 (together)
 What?

JEFF and MOO look strangely at each other.

JEFF AND MOO (CONT'D)
 (together)
 Tell me.

JEFF and MOO exchange annoyed looks.

STEPH looks up at both of them.

STEPH

Adam has suffered a knee injury and is unable to do the run, he's cancelled our entries.

JEFF

(relieved)
Oh, that's good.

MOO

For once, I agree.

STEPH

No, it gets worse. He was due to run in another race the week after and he has put me in his place.

JEFF

It's not another 10k?

STEPH

No. A half-marathon.

JEFF throws down his clipboard.

STEPH (CONT'D)

(confused)
What?

JEFF

That's 21 kay. Fifty-two and half times around this track.

STEPH

Fifty-two...

JEFF

...and a half. You can't do that, certainly not by next week.

STEPH

What am I going to do?

JEFF

Tell him you can't do it.

STEPH

I can't do that.

JEFF

That's what I just said, you can't do...

STEPH

No. I can't tell Adam I can't do the run. He'll know that I been faking it.

MOO

Nothing wrong with that, it's something that has to be done.

JEFF looks astonished at MOO.

MOO (CONT'D)

What? Only when the need arises.

STEPH starts to pace up and down, panicked.

MOO (CONT'D)

Wait, wait. I can sort this. Leave it to me.

JEFF

No, Moo. You can't sort this there isn't enough time.

MOO

There's plenty of time.

JEFF

Why? What are you going to do?

MOO

Cheat.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

The coffee shop is quite empty with only a few customers. STEPH and JEFF are sat at a table drinking coffee.

STEPH

What is it with you and Moo?

JEFF

I don't know what you mean.

STEPH

You are two of my best friends but you can't get along. Why?

JEFF

You'll have to ask her that. It's not for me to say.

STEPH

(confused)

What's that suppose to mean?

COLIN FARNWORTH, 25, thin build with scruffy black hair, enters the coffee shop and walks towards STEPH and JEFF.

STEPH (CONT'D)
(looking down)
Oh, shit. Not him.

JEFF
(looking round)
Who?

COLIN sits down at the table.

COLIN
(ignoring JEFF)
So, what has he got that I haven't?

JEFF
How rude.

COLIN
And why don't you return my calls. Or answer my e-mails?

STEPH
Go away.

COLIN
I think I know what I did wrong on our last date. Tell me if I'm right. I...

STEPH
Our last date was our first date. Move on.

COLIN
I can't move on. Not until I get some feedback from you.

JEFF sniggers. COLIN turns to JEFF and gives him a look.

COLIN (CONT'D)
(to STEPH)
What do you see in him? He looks like a regular guy.
(upset)
How is he different?
(more upset)
How can you fancy him over me?

STEPH
(to herself)
He's more likely to fancy you.
(to COLIN)
(MORE)

STEPH (CONT'D)

Look we had our time, it was only one date. We barely got started and Jeff is just a friend.

COLIN

(re-composed)

Oh, Jeff. Is that Geoff with a G or Jeff with a J?

JEFF

With a J.

COLIN

(slightly angry)

Well, let me tell you Jeff with a J...

COLIN spots MOO walking past the window with someone who looks similar to STEPH. COLIN looks panicked, he stands up.

COLIN (CONT'D)

(pointing at STEPH)

You haven't seen the last of me.

COLIN exits.

JEFF

That was a little weird. Who was that?

STEPH

A nightmare.

JEFF sees MOO and JORDAN, female 27, similar looking to STEPH, enter the coffee shop.

JEFF

Speaking of which.

STEPH

(pointing at JEFF)

Don't.

MOO and JORDAN join STEPH and JEFF at the table.

MOO

(to JEFF)

Ta-dah! Well, what do you think?

JORDAN sits down next to STEPH.

JEFF

Very good, almost the spitting image. But how is that going to help.

MOO

(to JORDAN)

This is Steph and Jeff.

(to STEPH and JEFF)

This is Jordan she comes into the spa and the first time I saw her I thought it was you.

(she points at STEPH)

She has agreed to step in for you during the half marathon.

JORDAN

I'm a marathon champion so it should be easy. As a favour to Moo I'm prepared to help you out.

JEFF

(slightly cynical)

That's very kind of you.

MOO

(talks over JEFF)

So, we get similar running gear and duplicate numbers.

(pointing to STEPH)

You start the run then after a couple of kay Jordan steps in to run the bulk then near the end you swap back and finish. Adam will be none the wiser.

JEFF

Hmmm...sounds foolproof but you being the brain behind it something's bound to go wrong.

STEPH

Jeff, have a little faith.

JEFF

Oh, don't worry. I'll be praying for you both every step of the way.

EXT. A RUNNING TRACK - DAY

JEFF stands at the side of the track watching a large group of runners finishing a warm-up routine. He cranes up to see through the group and spots STEPH waving at him.

JEFF is talking on his mobile phone then looks up and gives STEPH the thumbs up, she replies putting both her thumbs up just as a air horn sounds and the runners start the race.

JEFF is still talking on his mobile as STEPH runs past, they both wave at each other. JEFF watches as the runners leave the running track.

EXT. COUNTRY LANE - DAY

JORDAN and MOO are sat in MOO's car. MOO is speaking on her mobile phone then hangs up.

MOO
(excited)
The race has started. I'm so excited that we are actually going to do this.

JORDAN
Let's hope we can pull it off.

MOO checks the time on her wristwatch.

MOO
They should be coming past in about fifteen minutes. You'd better go and warm-up.

JORDAN exits the car.

EXT. URBAN ROAD - DAY

STEPH is running down the road, already she is red in the face and breathing heavily.

A race marshall up ahead directs her down a country lane.

EXT. COUNTRY LANE - DAY

MOO and JORDAN stand by the car, slightly hidden, watching the runners go past. MOO suddenly points and STEPH can be seen running down the lane.

STEPH slows down and as a MALE RUNNER approaches her she points to the bushes.

STEPH
(breathless)
Just...just need to go for a pee.
(she mouths the last word)

She staggers into the bushes and immerges out the other side stumbling to the ground.

MOO and JORDAN go to help STEPH to her feet. She pushes JORDAN away.

STEPH (CONT'D)
(urgently to JORDAN)
Go, go! Quick.

JORDAN runs off and joins the race.

MOO picks STEPH up and half carries her to the car.

MOO
Come on, girl. I know exactly
what you need.

STEPH looks up at MOO.

STEPH
(breathless)
Pub?

EXT. COUNTRY LANE - DAY

JORDAN re-joins the race, there are spectators taking photographs and videos using their mobile phones.

JORDAN sprints ahead and overtakes the runner STEPH spoke to.

MALE RUNNER
Blimey, you're a quicker peer.

JORDAN pulls a quizzical look and runs ahead.

INT. THE WHITE HART PUBLIC HOUSE - DAY

MOO is at the bar paying for two pints of cider. The barman takes her money and she picks up the drinks and walks out of the pub.

EXT. THE WHITE HART PUBLIC HOUSE - DAY

STEPH is sat at a table with a long raincoat over her. MOO approaches and puts the drinks down. STEPH picks one up and drinks it quickly.

STEPH
God, I needed that.

She drinks again and empties the pint glass.

STEPH (CONT'D)
Have we got time for another?

MOO rolls her eyes and hands her the other drink.

MOO

We've got over an hour here. You have this one, I'll get another.

MOO gets up and goes back into the public house.

LATER

There are several empty glasses on the table in front of STEPH and MOO. STEPH is drinking again then puts the glass down and looks around.

STEPH

Are you sure we are okay here?

MOO

We're well off the beaten track. We're safe here.

STEPH

I can't help feeling nervous that someone will see us.

MOO

Relax. We're fine.

STEPH

Great idea about the raincoat, I would never have thought of that.

MOO

That coat has served me well in the past at covering things up. And it's surprisingly warm if you are wearing very little underneath.

MOO looks at her watch.

MOO (CONT'D)

We'd better start making a move soon.

STEPH

Oh, do we have to?

MOO

Yes, we do. Now drink up we don't want that fella of yours to catch us out.

STEPH

(dreamily)

That fella of mine. He is very good looking and fit too. Could he be the one?

MOO

He could be for you. Not my type really. That weird tattoo puts me off. I like my men to be unmarked and clean shaven. All over.

STEPH snaps out of her trance and looks strangely at MOO.

MOO (CONT'D)

Come on, time to go.

They both stand up and walk to the car.

EXT. A DIFFERENT COUNTRY LANE - DAY

STEPH and MOO stand a short distance away from the main road. MOO is looking through a pair of binoculars at the runners.

MOO

Here they come but I can't see Jordan.

STEPH grabs the binoculars off MOO and takes a look.

STEPH

These are the leaders, see must be with them. Wait. I think she's...

COLIN FARNWORTH suddenly pops up in front of STEPH.

STEPH (CONT'D)

(angry)

What are you doing here? I thought I told you before.

COLIN

Ar, yes. I've been thinking about that.

STEPH dodges around COLIN and uses the binoculars to look at the runners.

STEPH

(to MOO)

She's there. Here.

She hands MOO the binoculars and takes off the raincoat.

MOO watches the runners.

MOO

Get ready.

COLIN
(approaching STEPH)
Yes, can you give me some advice,
please?

MOO
(looking through the
binoculars)
Ready?

JORDAN is running down the road but does not stop and carries on past STEPH and MOO.

STEPH
What?

COLIN
I want your advice.

STEPH
(ignores COLIN)
What's she doing? She's suppose
to stop.

COLIN
(confused)
Your advice?

STEPH
On what?

COLIN
On what is the best way to get
you to go out with me again.

STEPH
You idiot, get out of the way.

STEPH tries to get past COLIN, he inadvertently trips her up and she falls to the ground. STEPH looks up and sees JORDAN running off into the distance.

STEPH scrambles to her feet.

STEPH (CONT'D)
(to MOO)
Start the car, start the car!
Quick get after her.

MOO tries to start the car but it is dead.

MOO
I'm out of petrol.

STEPH
What? How?

COLIN
 (quietly)
 I have a motorbike.

MOO
 Or flat battery. I don't know.

STEPH
 What do you mean you don't know.
 You passed a driving test.

MOO
 (slightly annoyed)
 They don't test you on car
 maintenance. I don't know what's
 wrong with it.

COLIN
 I have a bike.

MOO nods to STEPH. She looks around at COLIN.

STEPH
 (approaching COLIN)
 Colin, sorry for the idiot thing.
 Bit stressed. Can you help with
 the car?

COLIN
 No.

STEPH is crestfallen.

COLIN (CONT'D)
 But I have a motorbike.

STEPH looks blank at COLIN then at the moped parked behind
 him.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

COLIN and STEPH are riding along the road on the moped
 passing the runners on the other side of a row of thin
 trees.

COLIN
 So, the thing I got wrong the
 last time we went out together?

STEPH
 (watching the runners)
 What?

COLIN

I think I know where I went wrong, I was hoping for some more feedback after our conversation earlier.

STEPH

Shut up and ride.

STEPH spots JORDAN up ahead and pointing gives COLIN instructions. He speeds up and they pass JORDAN.

COLIN stops the moped and STEPH jumps off, COLIN grabs her arm.

COLIN

I need to know.

STEPH

(pausing)

Colin the reason I stopped seeing you was because...

(exasperated)

...oh!

STEPH pulls away and runs towards the road. She charges across the road and rugby tackles JORDAN to the ground.

STEPH (CONT'D)

(shouting)

What are you doing? We're supposed to swap places.

JORDAN pushes STEPH away from her, gets up and starts running.

JORDAN

I'm going to win.

STEPH

Oh, no you're not.

STEPH chases after JORDAN. She dodges out of STEPH's way, weaving back and forth down the road. JORDAN pushes STEPH to the ground and runs for the finishing line.

STEPH gets up and runs after her. She crosses the finishing and attacks JORDAN. The two of them fall to the floor fighting.

JEFF and ADAM wade through the gathering crowd. ADAM grabs STEPH and pulls her up. JEFF grabs JORDAN.

ADAM

Steph, what are you doing?

JORDAN pushes JEFF away from her and approaches STEPH. ADAM notices her for the first time.

ADAM (CONT'D)
(confused)
Jordan, what are you doing here?

JORDAN
Winning the race.

ADAM
What for?

JORDAN
You.

STEPH pulls away from ADAM and goes to stand near JEFF.

STEPH
You two know each other?

JORDAN
We used to date.

ADAM
(slightly embarrassed)
But we broke up last month.

STEPH looks from ADAM to JORDAN and back at ADAM

ADAM (CONT'D)
We had a massive row and Jordan stormed off.

JORDAN
(puts her hand on ADAM's arm)
It was about nothing really. Just a stupid row. I regretted it straight away.

ADAM
Really? Me too.

STEPH looks at JORDAN.

STEPH
(realising)
Oh my God. Don't say you still love her and only went out with me because I look like her.

ADAM
(protesting)
No, no. It's not like that.

JEFF
Looks like it to me.

ADAM sniffs the air.

ADAM
(to STEPH)
Have you been drinking?

ADAM looks down at STEPH's running vest then at JORDAN's running vest.

ADAM (CONT'D)
And why are you wearing the same number?

STEPH runs off.

MOO pulls up in her car and gets out. JORDAN goes over to MOO and hugs her.

JORDAN
Thanks for your help.

JORDAN exits with ADAM. JEFF looks puzzled.

JEFF
What was that?

JORDAN
Mind your own business, this has nothing to do with you.

JEFF
Did you set all this up? Getting those two back together?

MOO
I was helping out a good friend, something you know nothing about.

JEFF
What's that supposed to mean? And I thought Steph was a good friend?

MOO
She is, but she couldn't give me what I wanted.

JEFF
And what was that?

MOO
For me helping Jordan get back with Adam, she will set me up with her gorgeous brother.

JEFF

Steph has a brother.

MOO

And have you seen him, all scrawny and skinny. I want a real man, firm and hard where it matters.

JEFF

So it's just about sex and your selfishness.

MOO

Well, not all of it but certainly most of it. What of it?

JEFF

This is typical you, using people to get what you want and not caring about people's feelings.

MOO

I'm happy, why can't other people be happy for me?

JEFF

What? You have no idea what you have done.

MOO

I've got two people back together.

JEFF

And torn two people apart.

MOO

Who?

JEFF

Steph. You stupid co...

Jeff exits.

EXT. PLAYING FIELD - DAY

A brick clubhouse at the side of a playing field. JEFF and STEPH are leaning against the low wall in front looking out across the field.

JEFF

Another one bites the dust?

STEPH

Shut up.

JEFF

I found out what happened back there.

STEPH

I said shut up.

Silent pause

JEFF

Moo set the whole thing up. Jordan asked her to help her get Adam back. They know each other, they're good friends.

STEPH turns to look at JEFF, he is looking ahead.

JEFF (CONT'D)

You were right. That's why Adam was going out with you.

STEPH and JEFF look out across the field.

JEFF (CONT'D)

The race was the ideal opportunity for Jordan to win Adam back.

Silent pause.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Moo knew exactly what she was doing and didn't care about how you'd feel afterwards.

STEPH

Why can't the two of you get on? You're suppose to be my best friends but you're always sniping at one another.

JEFF

It's because I know what she's like. She uses and abuses you.

STEPH stands in front of JEFF.

STEPH

What has she ever done to you? You're jealous of our friendship.

JEFF

What? No. I'm trying to protect you.

(MORE)

JEFF (CONT'D)

I know you really liked Adam and that you wanted to impress him, it's just a shame that it back-fired but that's because of Moo's selfishness.

STEPH

Moo is not selfish.

JEFF

Of course she is. She wanted to sleep with Jordan's brother. That's her reward for betraying you.

STEPH slaps JEFF across the face. JEFF quickly walks away and disappears behind the clubhouse. STEPH heads off across the field.

JEFF re-appears and watches STEPH, he places his hand on his reddening cheek.

INT. STEPH'S BEDROOM - DAY

STEPH is lay on her bed with her arms by her side.

STEPH (V.O.)

What a disaster. Adam and Jordan went off happily ever after, Jeff stormed off and I haven't seen Moo for a couple of days.

(lifts her arm producing a trophy)

But at least I won a trophy. Third place.

(half-heartedly)

Yay!

There is a knock at the front door. STEPH gets off the bed still holding the trophy and exits.

EXT. OUTSIDE FRONT DOOR - DAY

Two male race officials, one 30's the other 40's, stand on the doorstep looking very serious.

FIRST OFFICAL

Are you Stephanie Wilkes?

STEPH nods.

FIRST OFFICIAL produces a series of photographs. One shows STEPH on a motor bike then of her wrestling JORDAN to the floor and then a photograph of STEPH and JORDAN together wearing the same number.

SECOND OFFICIAL, points to the photograph of STEPH and JORDAN.

SECOND OFFICIAL
We know this lady.

The FIRST OFFICIAL shakes his head slightly. The SECOND OFFICIAL points to the other woman in the photograph.

SECOND OFFICIAL (CONT'D)
This lady. She is a well known member of several running clubs. However, you are not known and unaffiliated.

He grabs the trophy and they both leave.

STEPH (V.O.)
Oh well, lost my boyfriend, lost my best friends, lost my trophy. Could things get any worse?

QUENTIN walks down the street heading in STEPH's direction.

STEPH (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Hell, yes!

END