

THE BREAK-UP CHRONICLES

by

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FADE IN:

INT. COMMUNITY CENTRE - DAY

KATHY, 45, stands among a circle of seated women. She is pretty, but her face is tattooed with heartbreak.

KATHY
Hello everyone. I'm really new to this.

ANNE, 50 (larger than life) addresses her.

ANNE
In your own time darling.

Kathy smiles.

KATHY
Thanks.

Kathy exhales.

KATHY (CONT'D)
My name's Kathy, I'm forty five, and I've just recently split up with my fiancé.

Kathy begins to cry.

KATHY (CONT'D)
He slept with someone he met on the internet...

Everybody shakes their heads.

ANNE
Well you're in the right place Kathy.

Kathy wipes away her tears and tries to manage a smile.

INT. CAR - DAY

BRIAN, 23 (Kathy's son) drives Kathy home. He is his mother's double.

BRIAN
So how did it go?

KATHY
Fine.

Silence.

Kathy begins to sob, breaking her heart.

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN
I hate seeing you like this.

KATHY
I hate being like this.

Brian pulls out a pack of tissues and hands her them.

BRIAN
He's a douche, and he's not worth
this.

KATHY
I know he's not. I just can't help
myself.

Brian's heart breaks at his mum's vulnerability.

INT. LOUNGE - DAY

Kathy sits with a bowl of raw tomatoes. She salts one, and then bites into it. She winces at the taste.

Brian enters with a plate of dinner and sits. He glances at his mum as he goes to take a bite.

BRIAN
What are you doing?

KATHY
Eating tomatoes. I'm trying to lose
some weight. Who's going to want me
looking like this?

BRIAN
Mum, pull yourself together okay?
Someone else will come along.

KATHY
I don't want anyone else.

BRIAN
You'll get over Keith just like you
got over dad.

Kathy cringes at the sound of his name.

KATHY
Your dad and I just fell out of
love. This is completely different.

Brian sighs as she takes another bite of her tomato.

INT. COMMUNITY CENTRE - DAY

Kathy is back at the support group. Anne is sharing with the group.

ANNE

He told me he was going for a pint of milk... Should have noticed the signs. Who goes for milk at two in the morning? Lying bastard.

She sits down next to Kathy who delivers a supportive smile.

JOHN, 45 (handsome silver fox) enters. He's the janitor.

JOHN

Oh sorry, I didn't know you guys were still in here.

WHISPERS between the women begin.

BARBARA, 40 (jolly and plump) shouts.

BARBARA

Feel free to join us John. You can mop my floor any day.

She lets out a scary wink and a jolly laugh. John smiles.

JOHN

Thanks for the offer but I'll take a rain check.

Anne leans into Kathy.

ANNE

(whispering)
He looks just like that guy from the Diet Coke adverts!

Kathy has a sly look. John catches her eye. She quickly breaks it. As John leaves, Kathy stands to address the group.

KATHY

My sin of the week is the drunken dial.

The group slowly nod. They know all about it.

INSERT: FLASHBACK

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Two empty bottles of red wine are perched upon Kathy's bedside table and piles of clothes dirty her room.

Kathy grabs for her phone and dials Keith's number.

(CONTINUED)

HEIDI, 25, answers the phone. She speaks with a thick Ukrainian accent.

HEIDI (O.S.)
Hello?

Kathy panics.

HEIDI (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Hello?

Kathy frantically begins looking for something to say. She spots a Virgin telephone bill under her wine bottles on the bedside table. She begins speaking in a thick Indian accent. Brian walks in at this moment.

KATHY
Hello, this is Pilau from Virgin telecommunications... would you like to hear about our fantastic deals?

Brian looks at his mum in disbelief. Kathy is also in disbelief at what she has just said.

HEIDI (O.S.)
It's after midnight. Never call here again.

KATHY
Okay, goodbye.

Kathy hangs up. Brian's look says it all.

END FLASHBACK

INT. COMMUNITY CENTRE - DAY

The group eagerly listen to Kathy's story with shocked faces.

KATHY
And this Russian girl answered the phone.

She cries. Anne comforts Kathy with a pat on the back as she sits down.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Brian drives with his mum in the car. Silence.

KATHY
How are you son?

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN
I'm okay, why?

KATHY
Can't I ask my son how he is?

BRIAN
You never ask how I am.

There is a look of guilt in Kathy's eyes.

KATHY
Why don't you get yourself a girlfriend or something? I'm worried about you staying in all the time.

BRIAN
I don't think you're in a position to give me relationship advice mum.
(beat)
And the reason I'm in all the time is because I'm scared you're going to kill yourself or something.

KATHY
I'd never do anything like that Brian.

Brian shoots her a "whatever you say" look.

KATHY (CONT'D)
Can we make a quick stop before we go home? I need to collect something.

BRIAN
Sure.

INT. CAR - LATER

Brian still drives.

BRIAN
Are we near?

KATHY
Just around the corner here.

Brian turns the corner into a suburb.

KATHY (CONT'D)
Keep going.

As they continue, Brian eyes her suspiciously.

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN
This is Keith's house.

KATHY
Just keep going.

Kathy pulls out a balaclava from her handbag and puts it over her head. Two eyes have been terribly cut out and are nowhere near where they should be.

BRIAN
What the hell are you doing?

KATHY
Trust me son. Pull over, and keep the engine running.

BRIAN
You're crazy! I'm not letting you out of this car.

KATHY
Yes you are.

BRIAN
No I'm fucking not.

KATHY
Don't you dare swear at me! I am your mother and you will listen to me... now pull this car over right now!

Brian exhales, and does so. Kathy pulls out a plastic bag from her handbag and exits the car.

Brian has his head in his hands.

Kathy sneaks up to Keith's car but walks into a fence. She's practically blind. She tries to slash his tires with a kitchen knife, but fails miserably.

She then produces a can of spray paint and begins to graffiti his front door. She begins badly writing the letters "CHEA" but slips and sprays what looks like an "S" at the end.

From the car Brian squints at the word she has written.

BRIAN
Cheas?

Kathy hears a noise and runs back to the car. She turns around to admire her artwork. She squints also, realizing the monstrosity she has just produced.

KATHY
Oh no.

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN

Did you mean to write cheas on his door?

KATHY

I was trying to write cheat but I slipped.

Kathy takes the balaclava off. Brian begins driving.

BRIAN

You're the worst criminal ever. The police are now going to be looking for a retarded criminal who can't spell.

Kathy and Brian exchange looks but burst out laughing.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Kathy walks down a busy street with Anne.

ANNE

I can't believe you did that.

KATHY

A woman scorned...

Anne is in hysterics. Kathy notices KEITH, 50 (her ex fiance) approaching. He's completely bald and is not the best looking guy in the world.

KATHY (CONT'D)

Oh no.

ANNE

What?

KATHY

That's him!

ANNE

Who? Kojak?

KATHY

Keith!

Kathy dives into the nearest shop, which is a sports shop.

She falls into a basket filled with soccer balls and they go everywhere. She is on her back.

A hand takes hers and pulls her up ...

... It's John the janitor.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN
Are you alright?

KATHY
Yeah, I'm fine. I just lost my
balance.

JOHN
That was some tumble.

Kathy smiles. John picks up some of the balls.

KATHY
Here, let me grab those balls.

She instantly notices what she has said. John laughs.

KATHY (CONT'D)
I don't mean your balls balls.
(she cringes)
Not that they're not nice balls...

She helps him. John laughs at what she has said.

JOHN
I knew what you meant. It's Kathy,
isn't it?

Anne watches on from behind John. She is in hysterics, and
distracts Kathy.

KATHY
Kathy? My name, yes, my name's
Kathy.

John laughs.

JOHN
Are you sure?

Kathy laughs.

KATHY
I'm sure. Must have been the fall.
What's your name?

JOHN
I'm John.

He extends his hand. She just stares at it.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Don't leave me hanging here.

She realizes, grabbing it eventually.

KATHY
Nice to meet you.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

Well it was nice talking to you
Kathy.

Kathy smiles as John exits the shop.

Anne approaches Kathy grinning from ear to ear.

KATHY

Don't you say anything.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Brian sits at his computer with a University application page opened. He hovers over the submit icon with his mouse. He doesn't click it.

He changes page to a dating website and finishes writing a profile for Kathy. He reads as he writes.

BRIAN

I'm a caring, loving person
who likes to live on the edge. I've
got a really big heart.

He submits what he has written.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Done.

He is happy with himself.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Kathy enters the kitchen in a lovely dress. This is the nicest she has been in a long time. Brian stands before her.

BRIAN

Wow.

KATHY

You don't think I'm too overdressed
do you?

BRIAN

I think you look perfect.

KATHY

I'm not sure if I'm into this
internet dating thing.

BRIAN

Mum, we've been over this. It's a
way for you to try and get over
him.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN (CONT'D)

I'm not asking you to get married,
just make an effort for me.

KATHY

Okay.

BRIAN

And whatever you do, don't do
anything crazy.

Kathy rolls her eyes.

KATHY

Okay dad.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Kathy enters a busy restaurant with a rose. The worst looking man in there, RANDAL, 40 (glasses and pony tail) sits himself with a rose.

Kathy cautiously walks over instantly regretting her decision. She utters hoping she is wrong...

KATHY

Randal?

Randal stands.

RANDAL

Yes, and you must be the lovely
Kathy.

He gives her an awkward kiss on the cheek before they sit down.

RANDAL (CONT'D)

I've ordered you a glass of red
wine. I hope you don't mind.

KATHY

Thank you.

RANDAL

Well you look just as beautiful as
in your picture.

KATHY

Thank you. You look nothing like
your picture actually.

RANDAL

Yeah it was taken about five years
ago before the accident.

KATHY

Accident?

(CONTINUED)

Kathy takes a drink of her wine.

RANDAL
My family were murdered.

Kathy's spurts the wine all over Randal's face.

KATHY
I'm so sorry!

Randal begins dabbing his face.

Keith and Heidi (leggy, hot, and looking ten times better than Kathy) enter the restaurant hand in hand.

Kathy spots him instantly. She can't take her eyes off them. Randal turns and looks over in their direction.

RANDAL
Do you know them?

KATHY
My ex.

Randal turns his head again. Kathy grabs his pony tail and pulls him back round.

RANDAL
Ouch!

KATHY
Stop looking, I don't want him to know we're talking about him.

Randal takes a gulp of his beer; a gulp that suggests he's got his work cut out.

INT. COMMUNITY CENTRE - DAY

Kathy is recalling the events of her date night whilst the group eagerly listen.

ANNE
So what happened next?

KATHY
This is when things went from bad to worse...

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Kathy is now visibly drunk whilst a scared Randal looks on.

KATHY
I can't believe he did this to me.

(CONTINUED)

RANDAL
He's not worth it Kathy.

Kathy ponders for a moment.

KATHY
Right!

Kathy struggles up and staggers over to Keith's table.
Keith sees her coming and holds his head in his hands.

KATHY (CONT'D)
Keith! What are the odds? This must
be...?

Heidi takes a gulp.

HEIDI
Heidi.

Heidi speaks with her thick Ukrainian accent.

KATHY
Heidi! Lovely to meet you. Where
are you from Heidi?... Russia?

HEIDI
Ukraine.

KATHY
Ah, tomato tomato. And how old are
you Heidi?

KEITH
Don't do this Kath.

KATHY
Don't call me that.

HEIDI
I'm twenty five and a half.

KATHY
Really? And a half, a whole half.

Heidi awkwardly smiles.

KATHY (CONT'D)
So what does someone like you want
with someone like this?

Kathy points to Keith.

KATHY (CONT'D)
I mean, you're beautiful and young.
Keith on the other hand is... well,
the opposite.

(CONTINUED)

Keith stands up.

KEITH

Stop this now Kathy. You don't need to answer this Heidi.

KATHY

Because you're scared of what she'll say!

KEITH

Get out of here! We're over Kathy, accept it! I don't love you any more.

Kathy is hurt by this. A tear cascades down her cheek. At this, she picks up Heidi's glass of wine and throws it over Keith.

Kathy storms out the restaurant leaving a baffled Randal sitting alone. A look of sympathy dominates Keith's face as Heidi wipes away the wine.

INT. COMMUNITY CENTRE - DAY

Kathy has finished her story and the women are on the edge of their seats.

Kathy sits down.

INSERT: MONTAGE

A) Kathy goes out jogging with Brian, getting herself into shape.

B) Kathy burns pictures of Keith and her together.

C) Kathy has the girls from the support group over at the house. They laugh and have a good time. Brian watches on with a smile on his face.

D) Brian spots Kathy chatting to John as she walks out the community centre.

E) As Keith walks down a busy street with Heidi holding multiple designer bags of shoes and clothes, he spots Kathy at the other side of the street. She struts looking great. He seems bothered.

END MONTAGE

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Kathy and Brian play scrabble at the table. They look like they're having fun.

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN
You're glowing mum.

She smiles.

KATHY
For the first time in a while, I
feel good.

He smiles.

Kathy's cell phone RINGS. An unknown number. She answers.

KATHY (CONT'D)
Hello?

VOICE (O.S.)
Hi.

Kathy's heart sinks. Brian can tell who it is. He signals for her to hang up. She can't.

KATHY
What do you want Keith?

Keith speaks.

KATHY (CONT'D)
I don't know if that's such a good
idea.

He speaks.

KATHY (CONT'D)
Because, it's been too long.

He speaks. Brian again signals for her to hang up.

KATHY (CONT'D)
I'll think about it. I've got to
go.

Kathy hangs up.

KATHY (CONT'D)
He wants to see me.

BRIAN
Why?

KATHY
He said he misses me.

BRIAN
After all this time?

KATHY
He must be coming to his senses.

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN
Are you going to do it?

KATHY
I don't know.

Brian sighs.

BRIAN
After everything we've all done to help you through this.

KATHY
This is my life son.

BRIAN
And it's my life too. Do you think it's easy for me seeing you the way you've been over the past year?

Brian's voice cracks, trying to fight back the tears.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
I've had to delay things I've wanted to do in my life, like going to University because I'm scared to leave you by yourself.

KATHY
I didn't know that.

Tears are now streaming down Brian's face.

BRIAN
You didn't, because you didn't give me a second thought. I'm getting sick of picking up the pieces all the time. You're my mum, and you should be taking care of me. Not the other way around.

KATHY
We can't help who we love Brian.

Brian sighs.

KATHY (CONT'D)
I want you to stop focusing all your attention on my life and start living your own.

BRIAN
Whatever mum.

Brian gets up and exits the kitchen.

LEGEND: ONE MONTH LATER

INT. KEITH'S CAR - DAY

Kathy and Keith silently sit in his car.

KATHY
So what happened to Heidi?

Keith gives her a knowing look.

KATHY (CONT'D)
Ah. Not going to say I told you so.

KEITH
You don't need to. She's back in
the Ukraine.

KATHY
I'm sure she's got a bit of a nicer
wardrobe now though.

KEITH
I don't want to talk about her. I
want to talk about us.

Keith looks at Kathy in the eyes. She breaks the eye contact.

KATHY
I can't.

KEITH
You can't what?

KATHY
Do this. We're completely
different. You were right to end
it.

KEITH
But you love me. I know you do.

KATHY
Part of me will always have
feelings for you, but I need to do
some me for a change.

Keith studies her face as if trying see whether this is
genuine. He looks away. It is.

KATHY (CONT'D)
Have a nice life.

Keith smiles.

EXT. KATHY'S HOUSE - DAY

Kathy exits Keith's car. Brian lets her in.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Brian and Kathy stand in the kitchen. Silence.

BRIAN

So?

KATHY

It's over for good.

BRIAN

And that's what you want?

Kathy purses her son's face in her hands.

KATHY

You are the most important thing in my life, and I want you to be happy. I thought Keith was the one, but obviously not.

Brian smiles.

BRIAN

I'm proud of you mum.

Kathy smiles.

KATHY

Thanks son.

BRIAN

We're going to be okay.

KATHY

I know.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Brian stares at his computer screen. It's his University application page. He smiles to himself, and then presses submit.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Brian loads some boxes into the back of his car while Kathy looks on. She is emotional.

KATHY

Are you sure you want to do this?
It's okay if you don't.

BRIAN

Mum, I'm doing it. I'll call you when I get there.

(CONTINUED)

KATHY

I want you to come back every weekend and I'll do your laundry.

Brian smiles. He hugs his mum tight and kisses her on the cheek.

BRIAN

Don't get up to any mischief.

Kathy smiles.

He gets in the car, and drives away

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Kathy prepares bowls of nibbles, and lies them out on the kitchen table. The door RINGS.

INT. DOOR - DAY

Kathy opens the door ...

... It's John the janitor. He holds a bouquet of flowers.

JOHN

Surprise.

He hands Kathy the flowers.

KATHY

Thanks, they're beautiful.

John turns and shouts.

JOHN

Hurry up slow coach.

STEVE, 40, (handsome and chiseled) walks up the drive.

KATHY

And you must be Steve.

Steve leans in and gives her a kiss on the cheek.

STEVE

It's a pleasure to meet you Kathy.

KATHY

You're such a good looking couple.

John and Steve look lovingly into each other's eyes. Kathy invites them in.

INT. LOUNGE - NIGHT

Kathy and all her friends from the community centre are drinking and enjoying themselves. Kathy stops for a moment, and looks around. She smiles to herself.

The bouquet of flowers sits in a vase at the window, looking as fresh and alive as Kathy.

FADE TO BLACK.