

POW.COM

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INT. TAPAS BAR - NIGHT

A COOL, TRENDY SHOREDITCH KIND OF A PLACE.

KATE (early 30s), attractive, quirky, is sitting at a table with DANNY (mid 30s), good-looking, smartly dressed. The chemistry's flowing so they hardly notice when A WAITRESS come over with the bill.

It's DANNY however, who grabs it first.

DANNY
This is on me.

KATE
No!

DANNY
I insist - please.

KATE
OK but only if you let me get the next one.

DANNY
So there's going to be a next one?

KATE smiles coyly at DANNY, he smiles back. Perhaps love is in the air...

INT. RESTAURANT TOILET - NIGHT

KATE sits on the toilet frantically texting.

ECU: SMART-PHONE SCREEN...

This guy Danny is really fit :)

A reply comes up immediately from someone called CHLOE.

So are you going to shag him on the first date?

KATE texts her reply.

No way!!!! What kind of a girl do you think I am?

INT. SITTING ROOM - NIGHT

Smash-cut...

DANNY and KATE are locked in a passionate embrace, kissing hard on the sofa. They are already HALF-UNDRESSED when DANNY pulls away.

DANNY
God you're gorgeous...

2.

KATE tries to pull DANNY back into the action but he resists and jumps up from the sofa.

DANNY (CONT'D)
(smiling)
I'll just be a sec.
(beat)
I want this to be perfect...

DANNY exits, leaving KATE grinning from ear-to-ear before rearranging herself on the sofa in a casual-yet-sexy pose.

Time-cut...

KATE is having problems maintaining her spontaneous, fuck-me position on the sofa. She looks desperately towards the door.

KATE
(calling to DANNY)
Are you OK?

A BEAT LATER DANNY re-enters the room but instead of being stripped-down to reveal more of his ripped six-pack, he's wearing a tight rubber one-piece suit with a plastic hose that joins the arse area to the mouth of a tight mask/helmet.

DANNY
(excited, muffled)
I'm ready!

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

CHLOE (early 20s) is sitting on THE TOILET peeing. KATE is taking her make-up off in the mirror.

CHLOE
I thought you weren't going to sleep with him?

KATE
What can I say?
(beat)
I'm putty in the presence of incredible teeth and perfectly defined abs.

CHLOE
And there were no giveaways he was going to be a weirdo in bed?

KATE
None.

CHLOE
No up-front rubber chat?

3.

KATE

Well I did mention our leaky
washing machine hose over dinner...

CHLOE

(knowing)

Ah.

KATE

What?

CHLOE

Then you were basically asking for
it.

KATE

(incredulous)

Why was I asking for it?

CHLOE

Washing machine hose is a massive
trigger-phrase in the kinky-sex
community...

KATE

(shocked)

I didn't know that!

INT. SITTING ROOM - NIGHT

ARTHUR (early 30s), an archetype bearded slacker lies on the
sofa watching TV. KATE enters wearing tee-shirt and pajama
bottoms.

ARTHUR

(without looking up)

How was the blind date?

KATE

*The guy turned out to be a rubber
fetishist who wanted me to watch
him smell his own bottom gas.*

ARTHUR

(focussed on the TV)

Sounds really promising.

KATE

*Did you hear a word of what I just
said?*

ARTHUR still doesn't shift his gaze away from the TV.

ARTHUR

No.

(beat)

(MORE)

4.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)
I'm watching LADY-BOY COPS OF
MANILLA, which is incredible.

KATE
More incredible than my tragic
dating experience?

ARTHUR gestures towards the TV.

ARTHUR
This is real life, Kate - nothing
is more incredible than that.

KATE
How would you know?
(beat)
You spend your entire day in front
of the TV.

ARTHUR
Can I give you some advice?

KATE
No.

ARTHUR
(ignoring KATE)
You need to relax a bit.
(beat)
Love will find you one day when you
least expect it and it will be all
the better for being spontaneous...

KATE
*Is that a line from LADY-BOY COPS
OF MANILLA?*

ARTHUR
No, that was all me.

KATE
Then you won't mind if I totally
disregard such a wanky platitude.
(beat)
Given that it comes from an out of
work web designer with poor
personal hygiene, who doesn't
actually have a life himself...

ARTHUR
*Please yourself but I don't lay
golden eggs like that everyday...*

5.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

KATE'S making herself coffee when an unknown guy (20s), covered in homemade tattoos wanders in WEARING JUST HIS UNDERPANTS.

KATE
(startled)
Who the bloody hell are you?

THE GUY SCRATCHES HIS ARSE before offering the same hand for KATE to shake.

GUY
(thick Russian accent)
Petar.

KATE
And what are you doing in our kitchen?

PETAR
(arrogant Russian accent)
I suck on Chloe last night...

CHLOE wanders in wearing tee-shirt and knickers.

KATE
Correct me if I'm wrong but when we went to bed at one o'clock this morning you were alone?

CHLOE
Yeah, so?

KATE
So how exactly did Vlad The Impaler get in here?

CHLOE
From the Pizza place next to the station.

KATE
They're giving away strange, tattooed Russian men instead of free garlic bread these days are they?

CHLOE
It's just a coincidence he works there.
(beat)
I wasn't sleepy when I went to bed so I hooked-up with him online.
(beat)
I'll send you the link if you like.

6.

KATE looks over at PETAR in a world of his own making the toast pop up and down in THE TOASTER like it's a magic trick.

KATE

No thanks.

(beat)

If I'm looking for that kind of nocturnal company I'll buy a gerbil.

INT. UNION ADVERTISING AGENCY - DAY

KATE wanders from her workstation into the kitchen where a FEW OF HER WORK COLLEAGUES are gathered. One particular girl SOPHIE (late 20s), average-looking is showing the rest an ENGAGEMENT RING.

COLLEAGUE ONE

How did the two of you meet?

SOPHIE

He ran past me in the Windsor Half-Marathon last year.

(reminiscing)

I was vomiting bile because I'd hit the wall and it was congealing all over my thighs...

(beat)

Rory gave me a gel sachet to keep me going.

Everyone coos in unison.

COLLEAGUE TWO

That's so romantic!

SOPHIE

I know.

COLLEAGUE ONE

Where did he propose?

SOPHIE

We were circuit training and the ring was hidden in his thigh support!

There are more oohs and aahs as SOPHIE shows off the ring.

INT. PUB - NIGHT

KATE is drinking at the bar with STELLA (early 30s), attractive, athletic-looking.

KATE

(incredulous)

She was wearing Lycra covered in her own puke and he still ended up proposing to her!

STELLA

Is it really getting to you that much?

KATE

What?

STELLA

Other women meeting their soulmates?

KATE

(drama queen)

I'm going through a mid-life crisis, Stella!

STELLA

At 30?

KATE

My last serious relationship was with Phil just after Uni...

(a bit too loud)

And currently I haven't had sex with a man for eleven months!

AN ELDERLY GUY sitting along the bar hears and CHOKES ON HIS BEER.

STELLA

I haven't had sex with a man for ten years.

KATE

Yes but that's because you're a predatory lesbian...

THE SAME OLD GUY chokes again.

STELLA

Don't exaggerate!

KATE

OK when was the last time you had lesbi-sex?

STELLA

Can we please just call it sex and not lesbi-sex?

(beat)

Lesbi-sex sounds like a treatment for herpes...

8.

KATE

When?

STELLA grins.

STELLA

Two hours ago at the gym...

KATE

God I hate you.

STELLA

You could always become a lesbian too.

KATE

No I couldn't - *can't*.

INT. SITTING ROOM - NIGHT

KATE enters to find CHLOE on her LAPTOP in front of the TV, swigging a glass of wine.

CHLOE

How was Stella?

KATE

Great except for an annoying post-orgasmic glow...

KATE double-takes CHLOE.

KATE (CONT'D)

Exactly like the one you've got now in fact!

(accusing)

You've been on the pizza delivery website again haven't you?

CHLOE

(guilty)

Might have.

ARTHUR

She has.

KATE

That's two in a day!

ARTHUR

Three.

CHLOE

(guilty)

I can't help it.

(beat)

I'm like a kid with new felt tips.

KATE

Are any of them still upstairs with their tops off or have they all just dried up?

CHLOE

None of them are here. It's not a dating site.

(beat)

Although you'd be surprised how many guys there are within a two-mile radius who'll drop everything for a few hours of intense casual sex.

KATE

In my experience that would be every guy within a two-mile radius...

CHLOE

Before you judge it why don't you try it?

KATE

Because I'm looking for a man with substance...

CHLOE

There are plenty of drug users.

KATE

I mean moral fibre!

ARTHUR

You need to be less choosy, girlfriend.

(beat)

Moral fibre's like gold dust these days.

KATE

(pious)

Can I help it if I prefer to get to know a man before I go to bed with him?

CHLOE

You mean like you did with the rubber guy?

KATE

(guilty)

That was a one-off...

10.

INT. YOGA STUDIO - DAY

KATE is sitting on her YOGA MAT next to STELLA. They're waiting for the class to start.

KATE

I was on the internet last night and I found a thirty-four year-old scientist in America who's worked out that if she wants to meet a guy, fall in love, get married and have her first child by the time she's thirty-seven she should have met him six months ago!

STELLA

American's always play it really safe with that stuff.

KATE

You think so?

(beat)

After I'd read it I tried the same exercise myself and if I met a potential man for a life partnership right now in this room and we spend say two years going out and getting to know each other before moving in together, and then another two years buying furniture and getting cozy with families and stuff - and if all that goes to plan and he asks me to marry him - say a year later - and then we have another year getting used to married life before we discuss having babies, I'll be thirty-six before we even start trying to conceive!

(beat)

And that - like I said - is if I meet that man in this room right now...

A SLIGHTLY CREEPY, BEARDED GUY wanders past WEARING LYCRA THAT IS JUST TOO TIGHT. He smiles at KATE as he passes.

STELLA

How about Raoul?

(beat)

He's incredibly flexible.

KATE

Why do I get the feeling you're not taking this very seriously?

STELLA

Because I have faith that when the time is right you'll meet an amazing man and have babies and everything will be bloody fantastic.

KATE

Well I'm afraid I'm just not prepared to leave that to chance...

INT. OFFICE - DAY

KATE perches at her workstation staring across towards the other side of the room where JOE (late 20s), sits at the end of the table is working on AN iMAC.

After a beat KATE gets up and casually wanders over to his desk.

KATE

(enthusiastic)
Joe, hi.

JOE

(smelling a rat immediately)
Hi.

KATE

How are you doing?

JOE

OK thanks.

KATE

(trying to be a bit flirty)
So you err -- you design and build web sites yeah?

JOE

We've worked together for two years and you don't already know that?

KATE

Of course I do! Yes...
(beat)
I'm just - y 'know - shooting the breeze...

The conversation continues in a very stilted vein.

KATE (CONT'D)

Good weekend?

12.

JOE
Pretty good.
(beat)
You?

KATE
Amazing!
(beat)
A few cool parties, long boozy
lunches and a mega-session in my
onesie watching the entire box-set
of Breaking Bad...

JOE
Really?

KATE drops the sham.

KATE
No.
(beat)
If you must know I actually spent
the whole weekend de-scaling the
kettle while I sobbed and ate Mars
bars and tried to block out the
sound of my flatmate having sex
with a pizza delivery guy upstairs
in her room.

JOE looks like he doesn't know how to react to this remark.

JOE
Was err - there anything specific
you wanted to ask me?

KATE
(perking up)
Actually there was...

KATE scans the vicinity for possible spies.

KATE (CONT'D)
(furtive)
Do you ever do freelance?

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

CHLOE is cooking something in A WOK when KATE enters carrying her laptop.

CHLOE
I'm making stir-fry if you're
interested.

KATE
No thanks. I need to get on with my
new website.

CHLOE
What new website?

KATE
The one I'm in the process of
designing.

CHLOE
So it's not a website at all.
(beat)
Just a potentially destructive
figment of your twisted
boyfriendless imagination.

KATE
Hey!

CHLOE
I'm just trying to warn you.

KATE
Warn me about what?

CHLOE
The last time you started your own
business.

KATE
You mean the interactive telephone
diet?

CHLOE
What else?

KATE
(defensive)
It was a brilliant idea!

CHLOE
Really?

INT. PUB - NIGHT

Flashback...

KATE, CHLOE and STELLA are sitting at A TABLE having a drink,
chatting. KATE'S mobile rings and she suddenly springs on it
and answers.

KATE
(forcefully into the
phone)
Put the bloody sponge cake down
now!

STELLA and CHLOE stare at KATE, who hangs up the phone.

STELLA

What kind of sad person eats a
sponge cake at ten o'clock at
night?

KATE

My clients are desperate people.

STELLA

Hungry too by the sounds of it.

CHLOE

But do they actually listen to you?

KATE

(serious)

Absolutely one hundred percent.

(beat)

The interactive telephone diet is
the diet for the Facebook
generation...

KATE'S MOBILE goes again. She answers, listens.

KATE (CONT'D)

(into the phone)

You just ate the whole cake?

(hard)

I am disgusted with you!

(beat)

No! Do not go near the biscuit
tin...

End flashback...

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

KATE is unrepentant.

KATE

It was a brilliant piece of
thinking.

(beat)

I just didn't have the seed capital
to hire any employees...

CHLOE throws vegetables into THE WOK.

CHLOE

So what's this latest idea of
yours?

KATE

An online dating site.

CHLOE

That isn't exactly original.

KATE
This one's different.

CHLOE
Different how?

KATE
(casual)
I'm the only woman registered.

CHLOE
(shocked)
What?

KATE
I've been doing some research and
it's the most direct and scientific
way of sorting out the wheat from
the chafe.

CHLOE
So when a guy signs up, the only
woman he's offered as a match is
you?

KATE
Correct.

CHLOE
I knew it!
(beat)
You're turning into a bunny boiler.

KATE
I am not...

CHLOE
Are you going to tell them you're
the only available date?

KATE
(sheepish)
Probably not.

CHLOE
Isn't that totally unethical?

KATE
(defiant)
No.
(beat)
I'm going to radiate different
facets of my personality so I will
actually be a lot of different
women in one.

CHLOE

*I already feel sorry for the guy
who dates the version of you on the
day before your period.*

KATE

You'll be laughing on the other
side of your face when I find the
man of my dreams incredibly
quickly.

CHLOE

What are you going to call the
site?

KATE

Presence Of Womanhood.
(beat)
POW.COM.

CHLOE

Is that a joke?

KATE

No.
(defensive)
Why?

CHLOE

*It sounds like an instructional DVD
for ladies who are about to hit
menopause...*

INT. UNION ADVERTISING AGENCY - DAY

KATE is talking to JOE in the kitchen area.

JOE

(clandestine)
I've almost finished the...

JOE drops his voice to a whisper.

JOE (CONT'D)

...The you know what.

KATE

Amazing!
(beat)
When can we go live?

JOE

Before we activate it I need to
show you how to manage the CRM.

KATE

CRM?

JOE
Customer Relation Management - very important feature for a dating website.

KATE
(sheepish)
I don't suppose I'll need a huge amount of that stuff on my insignificant little site...

JOE
You never know, you might be swamped with people signing up.

JOE suddenly looks a little bit embarrassed.

JOE (CONT'D)
I thought I might give it a go myself.

KATE
(alarmed)
You can't!

JOE
Why not?

KATE
It won't allow men under six foot one to register.

JOE
(confused)
I don't remember making that a feature of the design.

KATE
No - I err - I'm going to change it myself using your CRM thingy.

JOE
But that's ridiculous!

KATE
Is it?
(beat)
Lonely, short men can always join other dating sites.

JOE looks offended.

JOE
I wouldn't describe myself as short...
(beat)
...Or lonely for that matter.

18.

KATE eyes JOE and it's obvious she begs to differ.

JOE (CONT'D)

Anyway what if you get women signing up who actually want shorter men?

KATE

Are there really any women out there who would seriously consider marrying a man under six foot one?

JOE

Yes!

KATE

I can't imagine it...

INT. SITTING ROOM - DAY

KATE is sitting on a sofa with HER NEPHEW RONNY a TWO YEAR-OLD TODDLER on her lap. KATE'S SISTER EMMA sits opposite in an armchair, holding an IDENTICAL TODDLER TWIN, DONNY.

EMMA

Mum's worried about you.

KATE

Why?

EMMA

She says you never call her.

KATE

That's only because she calls me twice every day.

EMMA

She's convinced you're going to end up living in a static caravan surrounded by cats and empty Malibu bottles.

KATE

The bloody woman's probably on point.

(beat)

Unless Mr. Right comes along soon.

EMMA

Finding a man isn't going to make you happy, sis.

KATE

Easy for you to say when you already have one.

EMMA

And look where it's got me!

KATE

Your life with Tom doesn't seem that bad.

EMMA

Bad doesn't even begin to cover it!

(beat)

If we piled up all the nappies I've changed over the last two years it would be like a steaming, life-sized, poo-filled model of Mount Vesuvius...

(beat)

Plus I had chafed nipples for eighteen months *and* I still haven't shed all my baby-weight.

KATE

But you and Tom still love each other, yeah?

EMMA

I suppose so. But we never spend any quality time with each other because there's always at least one toddler in tow.

KATE

That must make it difficult to have a sex-life?

EMMA

Sex?

(beat)

We don't have sex anymore.

EMMA gestures towards DONNY and RONNY.

EMMA (CONT'D)

I mean look what happened last time we did it...

The door to THE SITTING ROOM OPENS and EMMA'S HUSBAND TOM walks looking exhausted and concerned. He's holding YET ANOTHER IDENTICAL SIBLING! This one's called SONNY.

TOM

(sheepish)

I'm not one hundred percent sure but I think Sonny might have swallowed one of the screw fittings from the IKEA cabinet I'm building in the loo...

SONNY smiles contentedly at EMMA and KATE.

INT. PUB - NIGHT

CHLOE, ARTHUR and STELLA are sitting at a table drinking.

CHLOE

Ever since she turned thirty it's been like living with that mad, menopausal character from Downton Abbey...

ARTHUR

Lady Cora?

CHLOE

Mr. Carson.

STELLA

Kate's problem is she needs to relax a bit and just take what life throws at her.

CHLOE

That's exactly what I've been saying...

A beat later KATE walks in dressed like AN AUTHENTIC JAPANESE GEISHA. ARTHUR, CHLOE and STELLA all look at her open-mouthed.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Jesus!

KATE

(self-conscious)
What?

ARTHUR

I didn't know it was Chinese New Year.

KATE

It isn't.
(beat)
And anyway this is a traditional geisha's outfit, which isn't Chinese at all.

STELLA

So err - why are you dressed like that?

KATE sits down at the table.

KATE

I'm going on my first date from the website.

CHLOE

Is the guy flying in from Tokyo for the night?

KATE

His name is David and the reason I'm wearing this is because he's into martial arts and in his own words - everything oriental.

CHLOE

Sounds like it might be a Kung Fu version of Fifty Shades to me.

ARTHUR

He's probably a lonely, tattooed, ninja fantasist who wants to feast on your brains like they're human Sashimi.

KATE

He describes himself as a sporty funster with a love of the outdoors.

ARTHUR

That means absolutely nothing!

(beat)

Where does he live? What does he do for a living? Does he wear a parole tag?

KATE

Actually it says in his profile that he's the owner of a successful local business.

STELLA

What kind of business?

KATE

I don't know yet.

ARTHUR

It might be a shop that sells occult supplies.

CHLOE

...To gay ninja cannibals.

STELLA

Do you really think starting this website was a good idea?

KATE

Look at Chloe - she can't get enough of the guys she meets online.

CHLOE

Yeah but as you always say - I'm only in it for casual sex whereas you want something a bit more substantial, don't you?

STELLA

Where are you meeting him?

KATE

The sushi place next to the bus depot.

ARTHUR

That's pricey.

CHLOE

Better hope he's paying.

KATE

No way.
(beat)
I'm going Dutch.

ARTHUR

Not dressed like that, you're not.

INT. SUSHI RESTAURANT - NIGHT

KATE enters the restaurant and scans the room for her BLIND DATE. It appears that he hasn't turned up - until there - sitting at a corner table is A GORGEOUS THIRTY-SOMETHING MAN, who is at least six-feet one with lovely hair and a kind, sexy smile he's currently directing at her right now!

KATE moves cautiously over to the man's table and he gets up to greet her.

GUY

Kate?

KATE

David?

DAVID

Hi!

THEY BOTH relax a tiny bit. DAVID gestures to KATE'S GEISHA GIRL look.

DAVID (CONT'D)

I like your dress.

KATE

Thank-you!

23.

There's a palpable spark between the two already, and they haven't even opened the wine yet.

INT. PUB - NIGHT

ARTHUR, CHLOE and STELLA are still drinking.

CHLOE

Do you think I should text her and check she's OK?

STELLA

Depends how worried you are.

ARTHUR

Dressed like that I'd be more worried for him.

CHLOE

Seriously, what if he is a weirdo?

(beat)

Kate's desperate at the moment and we don't know anything about this guy.

STELLA

Then do it.

CHLOE begins texting.

INT. SUSHI RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

KATE and DAVID seem to be getting on like a house on fire. Their body language is hinting at the night getting even hotter later, too.

KATE

(incredulous)

You actually liked SHOWGIRLS 2 too?

(beat)

Really?

DAVID

Really I did!

(beat)

Is that good or bad?

KATE

Good -- I think...

A sexy look passes between KATE and DAVID but it is cut-short by KATE'S MOBILE PHONE vibrating as a text comes through.

KATE (CONT'D)

Sorry, I thought I'd switched it off.

25.

INT. SUSHI RESTAURANT - NIGHT

KATE and DAVID are flirting like mad and it's looking like KATE might just break her own rule not to sleep with a guy on the first date - again.

KATE
On your profile it says you own a
local business.

DAVID
That's right.

KATE
What kind of business?

DAVID leans back and smiles seductively at KATE.

DAVID
Try and guess.

KATE plays along.

KATE
Architect?

DAVID
No.

KATE
Advertising?

DAVID
No.

KATE
Accountancy?

DAVID
(mock offended)
Do I look like an accountant?

KATE
(giggling)
No!
(beat)
How about giving me a clue?

DAVID
OK...

DAVID thinks for a beat.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Well it doesn't begin with 'A' and
this afternoon I've been having
trouble with a leaky washing
machine hose...

26.

KATE'S demeanor immediately changes.

KATE

What?

DAVID grins at KATE.

DAVID

Bit of a gusher it was too.

KATE

(outraged)

Do I look like the kind of girl who
wants to smell your bottom gas?

DAVID looks confused.

DAVID

I err...

KATE

Or were you just going to get me
home and then surprise me with your
rubber suit?

DAVID

(confused)

I don't wear a rubber suit.

(beat)

Overalls and boots usually.

KATE gets up from the table.

KATE

You people are sick!

KATE storms off as fast as she can on her Japanese platform shoes, leaving DAVID bewildered and the focus of attention for EVERYONE ELSE IN THE RESTAURANT...

DAVID

(to anyone who will
listen)

She must have had a bad experience
with a plumber in the past...

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

CHLOE and ARTHUR are making popcorn. KATE walk in.

ARTHUR

What are you doing here?

KATE

He turned out to be another one of
those rubber fetishists.

ARTHUR

No way!

KATE

It all started out brilliantly too -
- he was good-looking, funny and we
really seemed to connect.

(beat)

Actually for a moment there I
thought he might be the guy.

ARTHUR

And then you got back to his place
and it was all set up for kinky
sex?

KATE

We didn't even make it out of the
sushi place thank God.

Something is starting to dawn on CHLOE.

CHLOE

So err - how exactly did you find
out he was into S&M?

KATE

He used the washing machine hose
trigger-phrase you told me about.

ARTHUR

What washing machine trigger
phrase?

KATE

It's well known in the kinky-sex
community, isn't it Chloe?

ARTHUR

I've never heard of that.

CHLOE

Well I...

CHLOE suddenly looks really sheepish.

KATE

(beginning to realize
CHLOE might have been
lying)

What's that matter?

CHLOE

Err about that trigger phrase...

END

