

MILLY THOMAS

CLICKBART

GINA: Fuck.

CHLOE: Yeah.

GINA: *(To NICOLA.)* Have you seen this already?

NICOLA: I cast an eye this morning but couldn't see anything 'untoward'.

CHLOE: Don't know how they've got the energy.

NICOLA: No judgement, Chloe.

CHLOE: I know, I was –

GINA: Where was it taken?

NICOLA: Waterloo Station. The Waterloo Road exit.

CHLOE: Wait. Rewind it.

NICOLA: Why?

CHLOE: There's a –

NICOLA: What?

CHLOE: Her hand.

GINA: Where?

CHLOE: Look at her hand.

*Pause. The video is rewound then played back. The sisters breathe a sigh of relief. CHLOE's professional anxiety is palpable.*

NICOLA: Good girl.

CHLOE: D'you reckon that'll help?

NICOLA: Help? We're laughing. Excellent spot, Chloe.

GINA: Good. *(Beat.)* Right, I've got to –

NICOLA: Go go go.

GINA: Glad that's sorted.

*GINA exits.*

ADAM: Nicola, are you free for ten minutes?

NICOLA: No.

ADAM: Okay, how about this afternoon?

NICOLA: No, email me.

ADAM: I – okay.

*ADAM exits. The awkwardness between him and NICOLA fills the room.*

CHLOE: Do we need to watch the rest of it?

NICOLA: Watched it all this morning. Couldn't spot a thing either way. Good job we had your beady eye on it.

CHLOE: I'll let her know its a 'No' from us, then?

NICOLA: Go for it. She'll request a meeting anyway. They always do.

*There is a woosh and the email is sent.*

CHLOE: Done.

NICOLA: Cheers. *(Reading.)* Sorry ... *(Searches for her name.)*

Lilly. Not today, Sunshine. *(Beat.)* How many more do we have today?

CHLOE: *(Checking her phone.)* Fifty-three.

NICOLA: Mother of fuck.

CHLOE: It's fine, they're all distribution queries.

NICOLA: Don't scare me like that.

*NICOLA's phone goes.*

Now scram, Chlo. I'm busy. *(Beat.)* Nicola Barker of Protest speaking. No judgement.

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COMMENTS I

*Comments.*

TROLL: I THINK I TOTALLY SAW YOU TODAY  
WALKING DOWN PAST THE MCDONALDS IN  
OXFORD CIRCUS.

TROLL: Has anyone read the story about the homeless man  
they found in the Oxford Circus booth? Really sad.

TROLL: Did he make a smeg removal tutorial?

TROLL: That is horrible.

TROLL: I'm going to hide in your room tonight I have no eyes  
but I'll find you I slide my hand under the duvet and grab  
your ankle reblog to ten friends if you don't want this to  
happen god bless

SCENE FOURTEEN

*A week later. Outside the conference room. ADAM is hovering. CHLOE  
walks up to the door.*

ADAM: Chloe, this is a mistake. Nicola takes Big C's for a  
reason.

CHLOE: The fuck it's a mistake. I've read her file. I've seen  
Nic do it a hundred times.

ADAM: You've never done one before.

CHLOE: I actually want to climb the ladder here, Adam.  
Who spotted the hand?

ADAM: You, but -

CHLOE: Who spotted the hand?

ADAM: Did you watch the rest of the video?

CHLOE: I did, yeah. She's a lying whore.

ADAM: She's next door.

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CHLOE: This is open shut. It'll take five minutes. Are you a  
pussy, Adam?

ADAM: Fuck off.

CHLOE: Are you Nicola's little bitch?

*CHLOE slides in.*

Hi Lilly, my name's Chloe Barker. I'm head of HR. Before  
we start I just want to say thank you so much for coming in  
today. I'm so glad you did.

*ADAM is left in the hallway. He goes to leave and bumps into NICOLA.*

NICOLA: Hi!

*ADAM doesn't move.*

Something wrong?

ADAM: No.

*Pause.*

Nicola?

NICOLA: What's wrong?

ADAM: I - um.

NICOLA: What?

ADAM: Nothing.

NICOLA: Just ping me an email.

ADAM: Nicola, I -

NICOLA: Adam.

ADAM: Can I take you for lunch tomorrow if you're not busy?

NICOLA: Oh for God's sake. Look, I just think that ... It might  
be better if we didn't ...

ADAM: Were you about to break up with me?

NICOLA: No. Oh God, no. *(Beat.)* No.

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ADAM: I can take a lot of things, Nicola, but after everything -

NICOLA: No. All I was going to say was when we're working can we not be too lovey dovey?

ADAM: Do you want to just-?

NICOLA: At work -

ADAM: Not -

NICOLA: Just not -

ADAM: Yeah.

NICOLA: Okay?

ADAM: Okay. *(Beat.)* Well, actually. You're not going to be happy but -

NICOLA: Oh for fuck's sake, Adam, I've just been fucking clear about how I feel about personal issues being discussed at work.

ADAM: Okay.

NICOLA: Don't just lurk in the corridor waiting to pounce on me. Speak to me properly at home.

ADAM: Right.

NICOLA: Good.

*CHLOE comes rushing out of the meeting room.*

CHLOE: Okay, you were right I was wrong this is really difficult, she's really difficult, sorry.

*She sees NICOLA.*

Oh hi.

NICOLA: Who's in there?

ADAM: A Big C.

NICOLA: What the fuck? What the fuck have you done?

CHLOE: Sorry sorry sorry.

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ADAM: I tried to stop her.

NICOLA: Shut up. Fuck off.

*ADAM leaves.*

Start talking.

CHLOE: Her name's not Lilly, it's Lolly.

NICOLA: Lolly? Like the thing you suck?

CHLOE: Rude.

NICOLA: CHLOE.

CHLOE: Sorry sorry sorry.

NICOLA: I haven't read any of the fucking documents. I needed - A Big C, Chloe.

CHLOE: Sorry sorry sorry.

NICOLA: What's she saying happened?

CHLOE: That it was rape.

NICOLA: What do we have on her?

CHLOE: She's the hand girl. Remember? I spotted the hand last week.

NICOLA: Right. Where's her file?

CHLOE: I left it in there.

NICOLA: You cretin.

CHLOE: I'm sorry. I thought I could - She's not how I'd thought she'd be.

NICOLA: Is she emotional?

CHLOE: Not at all.

*The moment hangs. NICOLA strides into the conference room.*

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SCENE FIFTEEN

*We're in the room with NICOLA and KAT, who is calling herself LOLLY.*

NICOLA: Hi, Lilly, I'm -

KAT: Lolly. It's Lolly.

NICOLA: Of course. I'm so sorry, Lolly, for some reason our system had you down as Lilly.

KAT: I guess I'm lots of things. On your system.

NICOLA: Right. Well, Lolly, it's lovely to meet you.

KAT: Is it though?

NICOLA: *(Beat.)* Of course. I'm Nicola Barker, CEO of Protest.

KAT: I know who you are.

NICOLA: Right. *(Beat.)* Please sit down.

*LOLLY is already sat down. Beat.*

I understand you've been talking to my colleague.

KAT: Your sister.

NICOLA: Excuse me?

KAT: She's your sister.

NICOLA: Yes. Yes, she is. We make no secret of that. We're a family business.

KAT: Then why did you say 'colleague' like it was filthy?

NICOLA: *(Beat.)* I don't think I -

KAT: I get you.

NICOLA: I beg your pardon?

KAT: Fobbing me off with your sis.

NICOLA: I -

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KAT: What do you call her? I've seen it on those youtube clips. Those interviews. What do you call her?

NICOLA: If we could talk -

KAT: Chlo. That's it. Chlo'.

*Pause.*

NICOLA: If we could discuss why you're here today, Lolly, I'd really appreciate that.

KAT: *(Struggling.)* I got raped in one of your booths. Figured you'd sort it.

NICOLA: Okay. Now, I understand that what happened to you is an extremely delicate and serious matter -

KAT: Delicate.

NICOLA: Pardon?

KAT: You've watched it? Delicate isn't the word.

NICOLA: *(Beat.)* Lolly, I'd like to speak for a moment if that's alright? Okay?

KAT: Sure.

NICOLA: Thank you. Now I am fully aware that this is an extremely serious allegation and one that requires thorough investigation. How it works here is that in order for a claim to be considered for investigation we expect you to have reported the crime to the police and for them to have gathered enough evidence for a claim to be pursued -

KAT: I've done that.

NICOLA: Thank you. Thank you for that. *(Beat.)* Having done that and with the police's approval of sufficient evidence we then ask you to approach us in order to investigate the claim.

KAT: I've / done that

NICOLA: / done that, yes you have. And we're grateful. So grateful you did. *(Beat.)* I watched your tape, Lolly. I watched it twice.

KAT: Turn you on?

*Silence.*

NICOLA: I don't think that's appropriate in the wake of what we're discussing.

KAT: Sorry. It was a joke.

NICOLA: *(Beat.)* Lolly, I'm going to cut to the chase, okay? I'm sure you'd appreciate that.

*LOLLY shrugs.*

We've reviewed the footage and I'm afraid we don't think you have a claim here. To us the acts performed in the booth are consensual. At no point do you withdraw your consent throughout the duration. There is no physical force employed, or indeed, force with regards to opting for possession rights. As far as I can see, this was a consensual encounter which has gone awry. The conditions just aren't there. What would you say to that, Lolly?

KAT: *(Pause.)* I'd say that I got raped and you're fucking this up.

NICOLA: I don't appreciate that language when I'm trying to help -

KAT: You're only trying to help yourself.

NICOLA: I don't think that's fair.

KAT: I was threatened.

NICOLA: By what means, Lolly?

KAT: He threatened me ... He blackmailed me.

NICOLA: By what means, Lolly?

KAT: Before we go in. He threatens me.

NICOLA: I can't help what happens outside of the booth, Lolly. I can only take responsibility for what happens inside and at no point do you raise the alarm.

KAT: How could I when he'd threatened me?

NICOLA: There were plenty of things you could have done or shouted, Lolly.

KAT: Stop saying my name.

NICOLA: I'm sorry -

KAT: You're not. Stop it. You're saying it wrong.

NICOLA: ... Lolly?

KAT: Fuck off.

NICOLA: *(Beat.)* Lolly, we treat consent claims extremely seriously. We have a name for them here. We call them the 'The Big C'. Because as far as we're concerned these are just as life destroying as cancer. We have a duty to respect and investigate every single claim. And we do. We have investigated yours and been unable to find any evidence of wrong doing.

KAT: The police said they won't be able to press unless you agree.

NICOLA: And we won't be agreeing, unfortunately.

KAT: I don't get why.

NICOLA: Out of interest, have you watched the video?

KAT: Yeah. 'Course I have.

NICOLA: Would you be willing to watch a segment of footage with me? No judgement, of course.

KAT: ...

NICOLA: I was wondering if you might be able to describe to me what's happening here.

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*NICOLA takes a remote control, selects the video, and presses play. We hear sex noises. KAT looks uncomfortable.*

There. Can you tell me what happens? Right there. What are you doing there?

KAT: I – I take his hand.

NICOLA: And?

KAT: I make it hold me.

NICOLA: Where?

KAT: My arse.

NICOLA: Right. Then?

KAT: Then?

NICOLA: What happens to your hand after that?

KAT: I ... It stays on my arse.

NICOLA: And where's his hand?

KAT: Underneath ... my hand.

NICOLA: Underneath, that's right, Lolly. It stays underneath your hand. You take your hand. Find his with your own. Place it on your bottom and then keep it there with your hand. And there it stays.

KAT: But –

NICOLA: I'm afraid that's a move that firmly classifies the content as consensual.

KAT: He said I had to.

NICOLA: I'm afraid without proof of coercion that's not up for debate. It's really your word against his on this one. And as far as this video goes, you two seem a very happy, sexually active couple. The sex looks healthy, albeit a little rough, but there's No Judgement here.

KAT: I didn't want to.

NICOLA: Did you say No?

KAT: I – I went unwillingly.

NICOLA: Did the word 'No' leave your mouth?

KAT: No.

NICOLA: But you're still insisting this wasn't consensual?

KAT: I didn't want to. I made it clear.

NICOLA: How? Because the word 'No' is the all important classification that myself, the police and indeed your sexual partners are going to be looking for. 'No' is the word. And it's an enthusiastic 'NO' we need rather than a 'No'? Or a 'nah' or even a 'mm'. Do you understand? *(Beat.)* Yes or no?

KAT: I've seen your first tape.

*Silence.*

NICOLA: Excuse me?

KAT: I've seen your first tape. The one in Ibiza.

NICOLA: *(Beat.)* I don't see that that has anything to do with –

KAT: You look terrified.

NICOLA: ...

KAT: That bit where one of the guys hits you round the face with his cock. Where he hits you. And it makes that slap sound, you look down the camera for, like, a second. And you can sit here and say you loved it. But your eyes look like a cow. Like a cow just before it gets killed. For beef. Like it knows its going to die.

NICOLA: *(Beat.)* Have you ever seen a cow just before it gets killed?

KAT: Nah.

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NICOLA: Then I'd appreciate you not using metaphors to describe my body of work that appear to be beyond your understanding.

*Pause.*

Are we done, Lolly?

KAT: You think that because someone did this to you, you can do it to everyone else?

NICOLA: (*On an intercom.*) Chloe, could you send security please?

KAT: You don't have security. It's just 'Chlo'. And I wouldn't waste my energy trying to hurt you. You're hurting yourself.

NICOLA: Lolly, I think we're done here. This meeting is over.

KAT: Must be fun up in your little castle playing with all this money and power and sex and fucking over women calling people liars. You're not like any feminist I've ever met.

NICOLA: Goodbye, Lolly.

KAT: You shouldn't've fucked me. You're gonna get fucked.

*LOLLY gets up and leaves. She passes CHLOE and ADAM on the way out who are responding to the intercom.*

She didn't even recognise me.

#### COMMENTS J

*Comments.*

TROLL: That's horrible.

TROLL: Also the whole 'no' thing is fucking sketchy.

TROLL: I just don't like the way it's not even called into question at all. Like it's shut down before it's begun.

TROLL: It's her voice that gets me. Urrgh.

TROLL: nicola barker is only good for blowing me thh

TROLL: Nicola Barker is a moron.

TROLL: Who is the chick who fucked in the booth and is she dtf?

#### SCENE SIXTEEN

*A day later. The three sisters are back in the office. CHLOE's phone continues to buzz throughout the scene. CHLOE is engaged in the scene but constantly checking her phone.*

GINA: Start talking.

CHLOE: Well, we all watched her video ... Um ... Then she requested a meeting after we denied her claim. She, um ... had the meeting -

GINA: With you?

CHLOE: Uh ... Yeah. Yeah with me.

GINA: Was there any particular reason that she had the meeting with you and not with Nicola?

CHLOE: I ... Er ... No.

NICOLA: I'm the face of the company.

CHLOE: I know.

NICOLA: We agreed this early on, it is crucial Big C's see me. I'm the living breathing face. People know me. I'm the faith. I'm the trust. I'm Big Brother. I'm Putin. I'm Che Guevara.

GINA: Then what happened.

CHLOE: She said she wanted to speak to Nicola. That she knew I wasn't meant to take the meeting ... She seemed to know ...

GINA: Well of course she knew. She'd been in before.

CHLOE: I saw the hand.

GINA: What?

CHLOE: The hand. In the video, I saw -