

Island Town

Written by [Simon Longman](#)

Cast

- KATE
- SAM
- PETE
- DAVE
- ALEX
- WILL
- LIV

Setting

The play is set in a town in the middle of the countryside. A town large enough to have a ring road going around it, but not that much in the middle.

Scene 1

Kate Because I don't think you'll care about me at the end. If I tell you what I've done. I don't think you'll care about me. Or like me. But standing here. Standing in front of you. In this dead town that I grew up in. I can't think about anything else. It all just circles round the inside of my head. And won't let me go. So maybe if I tell you it will. Maybe if I say it all out loud again it'll let me go. So I think I'll do that. You probably won't like me. But maybe you will. I won't mind either way. I just want it to let me go. Because then. Because then maybe I'll - I'll be able to start again.

Scene 2

Pete Where from?

Kate What you just said?

Sam About what he did?

Kate Yeah.

Pete Don't tell her though.

Sam Why?

Pete Dunno because -

Sam Because what?

Pete It's a bit weird thinking about it now.

SamThinking about it now?

PeteYeah?

SamBut not at the time?

PeteYeah I guess both.

SamI'm telling her.

KateTell me what?

PeteAh yeah go on it's kind of funny actually.

KateWhat is?

SamLast week right?

KateYeah?

SamKnow what he did?

KateNo what?

SamTell her.

PeteYou tell her.

SamHe pulled my grandma.

KateWhat?

SamLike just properly grabbed her face and just started kissing her.

KateWhat?

SamTongue and all.

KateThat true?

PeteIt is yeah.

SamIt was one of the funniest things I've ever seen.

KateTalking shite.

SamI'm not.

PeteShe's not.

KateWhy?

PeteWhy what?

KateWhy'd you get off with her nan what else mate?

PeteDunno. Just wanted to see what it was like.

KateCan you not imagine?

PeteNah not really.

KateNot really?

PeteNo. How would I do that?

KateJust imagine getting off with someone but make that person old that's how you do it mate.

PeteYeah but.

KateBut what?

PeteNot the same is it?

KateBollocks you did. He being funny?

SamAsk him.

KateYou being funny?

PeteNo.

KateAnd you see this happen?

SamYeah.

KateNot want to stop it?

SamTold you.

KateWhat?

SamWas funny. Why would I stop that?

KateMessed up in the head you.

SamWhy's that then?

PeteNot you. Him. Actually you and all letting him do it.

SamWas so funny. He was like shall I do it? And I was like yeah why not.

KateThat it?

SamWhat?

KateNot a bet or something?

PeteNo why's there need to be a bet?

KateSo you would come out of this a tiny bit better than you are at the moment because right now all it is is that you've pulled her nan just because you fancied doing it.

PeteI was very drunk.

SamHe was.

KateWhy were you both drunk around your nan?

SamFamily barbeque.

KateHe's not your family.

SamNah but asked him to come.

KateWhy?

SamDunno.

KateWhat about me?

SamThought you'd be busy.

KateWhy'd you think that?

SamDunno because –

KateHow'd you know he wasn't busy?

SamHe's never busy is he? And it's different isn't it because of your –

KateHow'd it happen then?

SamSaid. Just thought it would be funny.

KateFunny?

SamYeah.

KateThat it?

PeteWhat more you want?

SamHe just goes shall I get with your nan? I went yeah go on. And he goes she's quite fit isn't she like for a nan and then –

PeteI just go over to her and am like alright how're you not said hello to you yet and she just kind of looks at me and then I just give her a big old kiss on the lips and then go in with my tongue which is a bit weird but I went with it and then stopped and was like alright? And after that she's looking at me still and then just goes and who are you then and I'm like I'm Pete nice to meet you and she was like you're very friendly and I went thanks very much and then that was that. Was quality. First kiss that.

KateYeah sounds quality.

PeteNext time I'll be ready for someone my own age whose teeth feel a bit like firmer in place.

KateJesus. She knows you're only fifteen right?

PeteDunno why?

KateDunno doesn't that make her like – I dunno. A paedo?

SamDon't think my nan's one of them.

KateMight be never know.

SamThink we would.

KateYeah I guess and he did come on to her.

SamAnd she didn't know what was happening.

KateThat can be her defence then.

SamMy dad chucked him out a bit after that.

KateDid he see you kissing her?

SamNo.

KateWhy'd he throw you out then?

SamBecause he got naked and just started paddling about in the fish pond.

KateWhat?

PeteSeemed like a good idea at the time.

SamWas funny too.

KateWhy'd you –

PeteWas a bit hot.

KateSo?

PeteThought it would cool me down. Summer and that isn't it? Boiling. And drank a load of her dad's whisky and all.

SamHe was standing in the pond just going I'm hot it's hot I just want to be cooler I think I'm dying I think I'm going to die.

PeteBit dramatic but worked and all because I didn't die and did cool me down and all. But then her dad got proper mad and I think goes like get that spitpiss out of my pond right now and then I go they're moving under me the fish are moving and then I go I've broken one Sam I've broken one of the fish and I pick up this dead fish right and go Sam look it's a tragedy I've caused the tragedy here and her dad he flips right and just legs it over to me right and I'm still standing naked in this pond holding a dead fish and he just picks me up and carries me to the gate and lobs me in the street and then I'm just on the pavement which is boiling and all burning my arse and that and then I just went home.

KateFucksake that's not true.

SamAll true. Funny that.

KateBollocks is it.

SamNot making it up.

PeteStill got this fish and all. Took him home and put him in a saucepan. Thought I could resurrect it but I couldn't resurrect it.

KateInvite me next time?

SamYeah alright. Told you thought you'd be busy.

KateWhy?

SamWith your dad?

KateAny more drink?

PeteNot much. Actually not –

SamWhere'd you get it?

KateHome.

SamHe won't notice?

KateHave a guess?

PeteCan he not drink or something?

KateCan't do anything.

PeteWhat anything?

KateNo.

SamNot that bad is he?

KateCan talk and move around a bit. Sometimes eats and sometimes has a drink then goes to the toilet.

PeteThat's fucking loads then.

SamIs it shite?

PeteMade it out like he was a potato or something.

KateKnow what I meant.

SamIs he alright?

PeteWish my brother was a potato and all. And his girlfriend.

SamShe moved in yet?

PeteYeah. It's terrible. She smells like an egg.

SamIs he alright though?

KateWhat?

SamAsked if he was alright.

KateWho?

SamYour dad? Who else?

KateHe's fine.

SamIs he?

KateHas to be doesn't he? Pass that cider.

PeteTried to tell you. None left....

SamI can get some this week.

KateWhere from?

SamGive us some money and I'll get it from the shop.

KateWhat? Just nick it?

SamAlright for not losing my job thanks.

KateShit job anyway.

SamBetter than nothing isn't it?

KateNot even a proper job anyway is it?

SamI work. For money. That's a job.

KateFifteen though. Kiddie wage that.

SamSixteen next year.

KateOh right then what? Full time at the newsagent is it? Sounds a laugh.

SamBetter than nothing. Pays for you to get pissed doesn't it?

KateNeed something now.

SamCan't help you with that.

KateI'll get Pete to nick some from his brother.

SamYeah do that then.

KateReckon he'll be mad with me?

SamWho?

KateHis brother?

SamWhy? What you do?

KateDunno always do something to wind him up don't I? How're your mum and dad?

SamShit.

KateKicking off at each other again or something?

SamYeah a bit.

KateThat's funny.

SamIs it?

KateDunno. Kind of.

SamKeep waking my little sister up.

KateWhy?

SamShouting at each other all night.

KateThey smack each other?

SamA bit.

KateThat's funny.

SamIs it?

KateDunno. Parents scrapping with each other. Think that's funny....

PeteCouldn't get any.

KateWhy not?

PeteBrother was stomping about the house like a bellend.

SamWhy?

PeteGot his girlfriend pregnant.

SamWhat?

PeteHe's having a baby.

SamNot happy about it?

PeteNo. No one would be. Jesus. Seen the state of his girlfriend? Imagine being stuck with that. And then a smaller version of it.

KateGot nothing then?

PeteWhat?

KateSaid you would bring drink?

PeteThat all you care about? Just said I'm going to be an uncle and you're only interested in getting pissed.

KateRight yeah congratulations and that but seriously where's the –

PeteTold you.

KateTold me what?

PeteThat I couldn't get –

KateTold you he'd fuck it up didn't I?

PeteAlright mate calm down I got some just joking wasn't I? So angry you.

KateYeah?

PeteYeah said I would didn't I?

KateWhere's it from?

PeteBrother's room. Keeps it under his bed. Legged it in when he was taking an angry piss. Mad that. Was just in the bog taking a slash and screaming like he was pissing out lava from his knob or something.

SamIs she keeping it?

PeteYeah.

SamBaby's going to help with his rage isn't it?

PeteWon't be any different will it? Angriest man in the world isn't he? Imagine if you two got together hey?

KateWhy?

PeteBecause if that happened and you had a kid it would be like a more violent Satan.

KateI'm alright for sleeping with your brother thanks.

PeteYeah probably a good idea given the current state of things and anyway and he's still pissed off with you and all.

SamWhy?

KateWhy?

PeteWhy?

KateYeah why?

PeteWhy'd you think?

KateDunno.

PeteThrew up on his car didn't you?

KateOh that. Fucksake. Was ages ago. And was only the wheel wasn't it?

PeteHe loves the wheels in particular.

SamWhat?

PeteJust got them done. Was telling me about them. You ever listened to someone talk about car wheels before? Fuck me that's boring. I mean. They look the same as before but apparently they're different. He loves them though.

KateHe'll get over it.

PeteHe won't though will he? We all know my brother. He doesn't get over anything. Does he? He's full of rage. Angriest man in the world. Should have seen him when I nearly burned the house down.

SamWhat?

PeteWhat?

KateWhat you say?

PeteAbout what?

KateYou nearly burned your house down?

PeteYeah.

SamWhat?

PeteWhat?

KateWhat's that about then?

PeteWhat's what about?

KateBurning your house down?

PeteWhat about it?

KateYeah.

PeteDid I not tell you this?

SamNo.

PeteOh right sorry forgot. Yeah I nearly burned my house down.

KateWhy?

PeteCremating that fish I killed in her pond.

SamCremating a fish?

PeteYeah.

KateFrom her pond?

PeteYeah.

SamStill had that?

PeteYeah. Was in the freezer.

SamWhy?

PeteBecause I put it there.

SamWhy?

PeteDunno can't remember now. But anyway I felt guilty so decided to cremate it you know? Just to send it off to fish heaven or whatever. So did that but did it with petrol which I think was a bit violent for one goldfish because I didn't know how much to use so used probably too much and the fish exploded.

KateWhat like blew up?

PeteYeah blew up. It blew up. The fish exploded. Then my brother looked out the window and was like what the fuck are you playing at? And I said I just cremated a fish but then we had to call the fire brigade because the garden table was on fire quite a lot.

SamQuite a lot?

PeteWell it was on fire enough for the house to catch fire a bit too.

SamA bit?

PeteJust a bit. But if your house is on fire just a bit then that I guess that means it's just on fire so probably not what anyone's after although I thought a fire engine was a bit over the top but guess you got to be careful with fire don't you?

KateYou set your house on fire because you were trying to cremate a goldfish?

PeteYeah. Bit mad right? Anyway they came and squirted the fire out and I asked to have a go on the hose and they said no because they were busy trying to stop my house being on fire which they did and then everything was alright after that and the fish was no longer to be seen along with the table which my brother wasn't massively happy about but it was all worth it because the fish is now smoke drifting on the breeze like the sky was its new ocean or something. Brother was raging. Smacked me a bit after that. Why my face is all bruised up. Cut my lip too. Broke a tooth. Guess I deserved that right? But yeah. Hope having a baby calms him down. I don't think it will though. Can I tell you something? I'm well jealous of him having a baby. Would love that me....

KateWhat you doing?

SamNothing. Felt like a walkabout.

KateAny more of them?

SamHelp yourself.

KateWhose are these?

SamMum's.

KateNick them?

SamNot really. Just lying around. She was out. Taste like shit.

KateBetter than nothing hey? Got a lighter?

SamYeah.

KateWhat's up with you?

SamNothing much. Just had to get out the house.

KateWhy?

SamParents going at it. Thought Dad was going to rip my mum's head off.

KateIn a funny way like?

SamHave a guess.

KateWhat's that in there?

SamIn what?

KateThat bag?

SamMy little sister.

KateWhat?

SamHave a look. She's asleep.

KatePut your little sister in a bag?

SamWould have had to go through Mum and Dad to get the pushchair. She's alright.

KateWalking about with a kiddie in a bag in the middle of the night?

SamDidn't want her to hear it all.

KateShe won't remember.

SamNo. But I will though.

KateStill though. Get nicked for that?

SamPutting a kid in a bag? Don't think so. And anyway not like she's dead and in a supermarket carrier bag. She's fine. Made it comfy for her.

KateYeah?

SamWouldn't mind someone carrying me about like that.

KateYeah?

SamBe like being in a nice soft cave.

KateYeah I guess. We're too big for that though....

KateHow'd you do?

PeteHave a guess?

KateShite?

PeteShite. Spot on. She did alright.

KateYeah?

SamI guess. Not really. You?

KateDunno don't care really.

PeteWhat we do now?

SamWhat you mean?

PeteWhen you finish school? What do you do when you've got no one telling you what to do?

KateDunno. Do whatever you want.

PeteYeah?

KateYeah.

PeteAlright. What should I do now? Let's have a think. Alright reckon I should try and have sex with someone.

KateYeah?

Pete Yeah. Sixteen and that. I'm now legal. Watch out Pete's about. That's good isn't it? Not done it before. So. So that's something to try and do isn't it? That's normal isn't it?

Kate Need someone to have sex with for that which is a problem for you.

Pete Yeah yeah yeah yeah. Need to sort that out. How'd I do it?

Sam Not going to explain to you how to –

Pete Not that. Meant find someone.

Kate Find a hospital for the blind and hang about there.

Pete Must be someone about.

Kate Not in this town.

Pete There's one in the supermarket.

Sam One?

Pete She's alright. Keep trying to talk to her. Maybe she'll do.

Sam Lucky girl.

Pete Yeah trying with her. Keep buying stuff but she doesn't seem that bothered.

Sam Are you speaking to her?

Pete When?

Sam When you're buying things?

Pete No. Why?

Sam Because you might want to talk to her.

Pete Why?

Kate Because that's how this works mate isn't it? Because if you're just buying stuff and not talking to her you're not flirting or cracking on with her you're just. Shopping.

Pete Nah I'm being subtle.

Sam How?

Pete With the things I buy.

Sam What do you buy?

Pete Dunno. Things and that. Pack of six sausages.

Kate What? Why?

Pete Didn't know what else to buy. And thought. You know.

Kate You know what?

Pete They're quite like. Dunno.

Kate Quite what?

PeteSuggestive.

SamSuggestive?

PeteYeah.

KateOf what?

PeteYou know.

KateHe's – Am I thinking this right?

SamThink so.

KateDid you think buying a six pack of sausages would be suggestive because a sausage looks like a dick?

PeteYeah. But it didn't work I don't think.

KateYeah no shit. Walking up to someone suggestively placing what essentially looks like six severed penises wrapped in plastic in front of them to try and chat them up didn't work?

PeteAlright alright I don't know. I don't know what I'm doing do I? This is shit. Everything's too hard isn't it? Why's everything so hard? Stuck in this town not knowing what to do. Everything's much harder than it should be isn't it?

SamIf you do stuff like that then yeah.

PeteTell me then.

SamWhat?

PeteWhat to do?

SamI don't know.

PeteMaybe we should do that thing?

SamWhat thing?

PeteWhere we like make a pact that by the time we're like a certain age then we could –

KateNo. Shut up.

PeteWhat?

KateTalking like that. No one does shite like that. You think they do because you're a idiot. But no one does.

PeteBut what if we're all on our own –

KateNo mate. Stop talking. That will never happen. Sleeping with you? I don't think I can think of anything worse. No disrespect and that and you're my best mate and that and I love you and stuff but having sex with you. I mean. I think that would. Like. Dunno. I think if I did that then it would make me. Like. Violent. Like it would happen and the next day I think I would just be like I've got to kill something. I need to kill. Something. Anything. I have to kill something. Then just start small like ants and flies and that. Just kill them a lot. But realise that's not satisfying this violent urge so then just move up to mice and that. Then cats and

dogs. Then. Dunno. A pig? Then a cow and then a horse or something. But it wouldn't be enough. So then I'll just go on to humans. Just violently kill humans. And kids. And babies. In one day. All that killing in one day which happens to be the one after we had sex.

PeteRight well that's the confidence boost that I –

SamI wouldn't either.

PeteRight yeah thanks.

SamI would feel the same –

PeteYeah alright –

SamI would feel like committing horrible acts of violence because I saw your pe –

PeteAlright shut up about it it was just an idea. Not that bad am I?

KateLook a bit like a fish so –

PeteAlright shut up. But not being funny or anything but that's all you need isn't it?

KateWhat?

PeteA family.

KateA family?

PeteReckon I should give that a go. All you need isn't it?

KateA decent one.

PeteYeah mine will be. Be the best family you've ever seen. Just laugh all the time. Thirty kids legging it about. Be amazing. Wouldn't ever be bored then would you? Just be constantly legging it about after them all. Be like what's that one doing climbing in the oven? And why's the other one switching the grill on? Better turn that off but can't because one's killing the dog with a kitchen knife. Oh what's going on over there why's that one wearing. Like. A hat? Or something. Where'd that come from? Never seen that hat before. I mean. You'd never be bored. That is my dream.

KateSounds terrible.

PeteYeah no shit that sounds terrible to you.

KateWhy's that then?

PeteYou'd be terrible.

KateAt what?

PeteBeing a mum.

KateWhat you saying?

PeteSaying if you ever have a kid then poor kid.

KateFuck off.

SamHe's got a point.

KateHas he?

SamStill don't know my little sister's name do you?

KateYeah I do.

SamWhat is it then?

KateSandra.

SamSandra?

KateYeah.

SamSandra?

KateYeah that's her name isn't it?

SamNo. That's not even close. Where'd you get Sandra from? My little sister is not called Sandra. No one is called Sandra.

PeteExcept. Like. Cleaners and that.

SamShe's called Alex.

KateYeah knew that didn't I?

PeteWhy'd you say Sandra then?

KateJust joking wasn't I?

PeteYou weren't though were -

KateAlright got mixed up shut up about it.

PeteSee.

KateWhat?

PeteBe terrible. You'll keep forgetting their names and then eventually forget them literally.

KateI'd be alright.

PeteBollocks you would. Be drunk all the time. You'd be a classic drunk mum.

SamYou'd kill your kid in a car crash.

KateJesus that's nice.

PeteShe's got a point and all.

KateYou'd be a shite dad.

PeteYou know and I know and Sam knows that's not true. I'd be amazing. The best. Just need someone to do it with.

SamYou could go out with my nan? She might be a bit old for physically producing kids though. But. You know. Worth a try?

PeteI don't think I want to go out with your nan thanks.

SamShe'll be devastated but will recover.

PeteMean it though.

KateMean what?

PeteThat's all I want. Think about it all the time. Get jealous of my big brother about it.

KateWhy?

PeteWhy what?

KateWhat's your brother got to do with it?

PeteOh my God are you being funny mate? How pissed are you? Told you so many times. Keep talking about it don't I? He's going to have a baby isn't he? Told you about three hundred times haven't I? Keep talking about it? His girlfriend is pregnant and will produce a tiny ugly baby and because of that I will become an uncle because you know that's how life works isn't it? Are you losing it? Can't remember things? First case in history of a teenager getting fucking dementia.

KateAlright calm down just –

PeteNot fair. None of it is.

SamWhat isn't?

PeteHim and his kid and all that. He's got all that and I've got nothing.

SamTakes time.

PeteDoes it?

SamI guess.

PeteHorrible someone's done that isn't it?

SamWhat?

PeteShagged my brother. Makes me feel sick that.

SamYou don't have to.

PeteKnow that don't I? Just the thought someone did. Even someone who smells that bad of egg should have standards above the state of my brother. Mental that. Anyway I'm sort of made up being an uncle though. Got a plan.

KateWhat's that?

PeteJust going to give this kid so much love right then one day it'll just look at me and go Uncle Pete I wish you were my real dad.

KateThen what?

PeteThen what what?

SamWhat happens when the kid's said that?

PeteDunno. Nick it and leg it off somewhere. Just make sure it's full of hope and that.

KateJesus.

PeteWhat?

KateTalking like that.

PeteWhat's wrong with that?

KateSound like a twat.

PeteAlright –

KateFull of hope. Talking shit.

PeteWhat you saying then?

KateNothing much.

PeteExactly.

KateDon't get hope with families. And you don't get hope in towns like this. Get hope by yourself.

PeteSure.

KateThat's what I'm doing.

SamWhat?

KateOut of here. This town. It's a prison. Not staying here and having a family. I'm leaving. Going. Get a car and drive for miles and miles and miles. Just keep going.

PeteGet a car? That's funny.

KateHow's that?

PeteSixteen aren't you? Have to be seventeen to drive. What you going to do? Just get a car now and just look at it for a year. Besides be boring having a car.

KateWhy's that then?

PeteCan't drink then can you?

KateYeah you can. Five and drive.

PeteFive and drive? Fuck's that?

KateFive pints and you're alright. Everyone out here gets pissed and drives. Otherwise what the fuck else is there to do?

SamWhat happens when you get to the sea?

KateWhat?

SamOn a tiny island aren't we? Keep driving you'll end up at the sea. Then what?

KateKeep going somehow. I'll figure it out when I get there.

PeteRight yeah your car turn into a boat and all?

KateSaid.

SamSaid what?

KateFigure something out.

SamAnd who's going to look after your dad?

KateGot a carer doesn't he?

SamWhat happens when that goes?

KateHow's that going to go? Don't think anyone's going to be like oh we should get rid of people making home visits to people that are dying in their own houses to save a bit of cash. Won't happen will it?

PeteHome though isn't it?

KateWhat?

PeteThis town. Got each other don't we? And that's what home is. I think anyway. Not buildings or parks or roads or anything. Just people isn't it?

KateWell there you go then.

PeteWhat?

KateHome can be anywhere then can't it? So why the fuck are we here? Need more to drink.

PeteGot no money.

KateNick it off your brother again?

PeteHe'd kill me.

KateYou?

SamDon't get paid till next week.

KateOh well I'll just nick some off my dad.

SamWon't notice?

KateProbably not. And who gives a shit if he does?...

PeteGet it?

KateYeah.

SamHow much?

KateThirty or something.

PeteNo change?

KateChange? Don't get change from a drug dealer do you? Seen one carrying a till about have you? Asking if you need the receipt and that.

PeteWhat is it?

KateBit of weed is all. What's that?

PeteWhat's it look like?

KateA pumpkin.

PeteYeah it is a pumpkin. Well identified mate.

KateWhat for?

PeteWhat for what?

KateWhat for what for what? Why you got a fucking pumpkin?

PeteYou thick? Carve a face in it. Be well spooky that.

KateHow old are you?

PeteSixteen why?

KateKiddies do that.

PeteOh you're too old for this then?

KateDunno bit stupid.

PeteYou're fucking stupid and all. Give us that cider.

SamWhere you going to put it?

PeteGonna carve a spooky little face in it right and then hang it outside the door of the house so when my brother opens the door it'll be right in his face and he'll be like oh fucking hell what's that and scare him so much so he falls over and smacks his head open on the front step so his brain leaks out his skull and then he's dead.

KateGood plan that.

PeteYeah thought so. Then he'd be gone and I wouldn't get done for murder and all that shite.

SamThe perfect crime.

PeteExactly. Want to help me do it?

KateNo.

PeteThere's a surprise. You?

SamWhat?

PetePumpkin?

SamWhat about it?

PeteHelp me do a face in it.

SamWhen?

PeteNow.

SamNeed a knife.

PeteYeah got one here. Want to help?

KateWhat you carrying a knife about for?

PeteCarving pumpkins and that. Give us a hand be a laugh.

SamYou're alright I'll watch.

PeteSuit yourself. Sure you don't want a go?

KateNo. Pass that cider.

PeteHow'd you do it?

SamDo what?

PeteMake a face in it and that.

SamCut off the top and then scoop out the middle and then make the face put a candle in light that then put the top back on.

PeteAh fuck it seems like too much effort actually. And you need a candle? No one's telling me that before. What's that for then to make the face light up or something?

SamWell worked out.

PeteAll that effort on a pumpkin? Mad that. Why's everything hard?

SamNot that hard –

PeteCan you eat them instead?

SamIf you like. Got to chop it up still.

PeteWhat like the same as making it into a face?

SamYeah.

PeteCan't just eat it like it is no?

SamWhat like an apple or something?

PeteYeah.

SamNo.

PeteAh fuck that an' all. Wasn't worth nicking was it?

KateYou nick that?

PeteYeah.

KateWhere from?

PeteShop.

KateWhich one?

PeteLittle one.

SamOne I work in?

PeteYeah.

SamWhat's wrong with you?

PeteWhat?

SamWork there don't I?

PeteSo?

SamSo what?

PeteThat mean I can't nick stuff from there because you work there? Doesn't make sense does it?

KateShould grass him in. Be funny.

PeteDon't do that.

KateThen he'll get nicked.

PeteNicked?

KateYeah. Get done for that. Shoplifting and that.

PeteBollocks will you get done for nicking a pumpkin. What they going to do send me to prison?

KateMight do.

PeteOh yeah sure. Can imagine. Be locked up sitting about and one bloke's like I'm in here because I murdered all my kids with a brick what you done? I nicked a pumpkin mate let's share some feelings.

KateBe funny if they did. Then all your life you can't get a job because you've got a criminal record for nicking a pumpkin. And eventually you run out of money and can't afford anything then you just kill yourself.

PeteYeah good story that mate liked the happy ending.

KateCould have nicked something more useful?

PeteWhat drink?

KateObviously.

PeteNah that was all behind the counter this was just out front so thought this was the easiest for a rob. Give us some of that.

KateNot much left.

PeteFuck off is there had like two sips.

SamMe too and all.

PeteNot know how to share mate?

Kate Keeping me warm.

Pete Oh is that it is it? Should go to a pub then shouldn't we. Freezing tonight.

Kate Pub's shite.

Pete It's alright.

Kate Which one?

Pete Oak.

Kate Oak's shite. Full of twats.

Pete Better than the park isn't it? Three sixteen-year-olds in a kiddie park sharing a bottle of cider. We're doing alright aren't we?

Kate I'm not complaining.

Pete Yeah you not wonder why that is? Oh yeah because you've had about three litres of cider on your own.

Kate Not pissed.

Pete Bollocks are you not. I'm battered and I've had about two sips.

Sam Do well in the pub then wouldn't you.

Pete Yeah I'd get my head kicked in.

Sam You going to be sick?

Kate What?

Sam Look like you are?

Kate Do I shite. Worry about yourself.

Pete What we doing next?

Sam Dunno.

Pete Can anyone give me a push on the swing?

Kate Something wrong with you.

Pete Oh too old for that an' all? Nothing else to do round here is there? Left school months ago. Done nothing except get pissed.

Kate Nothing else to do.

Pete Suppose. Oh forgot to tell you.

Sam What?

Pete My brother had his baby. I'm an uncle now....

Sam Stop shouting alright.

Kate Why? No one cares.

Sam I do.

Kate Why?

Sam Because you'll wake her up?

Kate Who?

Sam My sister.

Kate So?

Sam What's it about anyway?

Kate What's what about?

Sam What you shouting at me for? And most people knock at the door normally anyway.

Kate Bored.

Sam So?

Kate So come out.

Sam Can't.

Kate Why not?

Sam Watching after my sister aren't I?

Kate Where's your dad?

Sam Out or something dunno.

Kate Be in the Oak getting pissed probably.

Sam Yeah probably.

Kate Pete said his brother said he's in there every night now.

Sam Not every night is it?

Kate Seems like he's coping really well with your mum walking out on you all.

Sam Yeah and how's your dad then? Dead yet?

Kate Come out with us we'll get pissed.

Sam Said I can't got to watch her don't I?

Kate She'll be fine. Said she was asleep and all.

Sam Right and what happens if she wakes up?

Kate Can look after herself can't she?

Sam She's five.

Kate That's plenty old. Put her in the bag again.

Sam Too heavy for that now.

KateWhat no she's not? Tiny.

SamSeen her recently?

KateCan walk can't she?

SamSo?

KateSo when kiddies can walk they can look after themselves right? If she gets into bother she can walk to the pub and tell your dad. Come out.

SamShe could walk last year.

KateOh right? Why were you carrying her about in a bag then?

SamBecause it was the middle of the night and she was aslee – Why am I explaining this? I can't come out alright?

KateNicked some vodka.

SamSo?

KateSo come drink it with me.

SamGo find Pete.

KateHe's not about or he's not answering his door because he's wanking.

SamOh yeah probably. You know he puts candles on while he does that?

KateWhat?

SamSays it makes it more romantic and less depressing.

KateCome out.

SamI told you –

KateAlright fuck's sake this shouldn't be happening you know?

SamWhat?

KateYour parents should be doing what you're doing now and we should be doing what they're probably doing now. Which is getting pissed.

SamGo do that then.

KateDo what?

SamGo get pissed. All you do anyway.

KateOn my own?

SamYeah.

KateI'm bored.

SamWell. Go home then.

KateDon't want to do that either.

SamThen dunno. Go do what Pete's doing.

KateWhat have a wank by candlelight?

SamYeah that I don't care just leave me alone got to watch her. I'll be out tomorrow or something.

KateYou telling me to just go have a –

SamYeah go have one. Might get some of the rage out of you.

KateAlright whatever. Have fun when your dad comes home and decides to scream at you. Picking up next week. Need a tenner from you.

SamFine I'll get it to you....

PeteI feel like I'm not achieving my full potential.

KateYeah wanking thirteen times a day will probably have that effect.

PeteI mean it though.

SamWhat?

PeteI don't know what to do. Need something to pass the time. Need some money.

SamGet a job.

PeteOh aye I'll just get a job then that easy is it?

SamI have.

KateYeah good job that one and all isn't it? How's that promotion coming in the newsagent's?

SamBetter than nothing. More than you're doing isn't it?

KateWhat?

SamSaid was more than you're doing.

KateWhat with?

PeteJobs and work and that.

KateNot thought about that.

PeteOh yeah?

KateNo. Leave town first and then think about all that.

SamThink you probably need work to leave.

KateNo work about though is there?

PeteMust be something? Supermarket?

KateBetter than that.

PeteOh yeah?

Kate Didn't go to school do a load of shite exams and jump through a load of hoops to work in a supermarket did we?

Pete Dunno. Some people think it's alright.

Kate Not us.

Pete Supermarket's not hiring anyway. Asked there. Would have been perfect. Me and that girl on the meat counter. Sausages everywhere.

Kate Sausages? What is it with you and fucking sausages?

Pete Alright just joking. But seriously. Bit stuck aren't we. Thinking about it.

Kate Yeah.

Pete I think I'd like to be a fireman. I was very inspired when they put out my house that time.

Sam What you?

Pete Yeah. Be amazing that.

Kate You'd be shite at it.

Pete Bollocks would I.

Kate Soft as shit. Scared of the dark aren't you?

Pete So?

Kate So if you're scared of the dark how're you going to leg it in a fire?

Sam Wouldn't be dark.

Kate Know what I meant.

Pete Think I would be shite at it?

Kate Yeah.

Pete Oh. Well that's that dream gone.

Sam Can't be a fireman round here anyway.

Pete Why not?

Sam No fire station is there?

Pete Oh is there not? Thought there was one in every town.

Kate Not this one.

Pete Where'd they come from then?

Sam Miles away I think.

Pete That's mad isn't it? Imagine if my house had burned down and all because they took ages to get there? Wouldn't be my fault then would it?

KateWell yeah.

PeteYeah I guess. Oh well. This is weird isn't it?

SamWhat is?

PeteAnother year's nearly gone. Felt like we left school only a few minutes ago. No idea what to do with jobs and that. But maybe I don't care. Thinking about it. I don't think I care. Because I think I just want to be a dad.

SamA what?

PeteA dad.

KateBe a dad?

PeteYeah just said that. Think that's all I want to be really. My brother's baby. I can't stop thinking about him. Keep looking at him when he's asleep. Little baby lying there. Just want to pick him up. Carry him about for a bit. But I don't do that. Because if I wake him up my brother explodes. And that's not worth the punches. So I just look at him sleeping. Do that every night. See his little chest going up and down. Imagine what he's thinking. Try and work out what pictures are inside his head. What I look like in his tiny memories. Can't. Can't think about anything else but that....

SamWhere did you get it from?

KateSome bloke at the pub.

PeteWho's that then?

KateSome bloke in the Oak. Dunno. Just hung about outside a bit. Only wanted some weed but he was like weed's boring have some ketamine.

SamSounds legit.

KateSaid it was decent.

PeteWho?

KateWho what?

PeteWho was it then?

KateDunno some bloke.

PeteDid he have one eye?

KateDon't know didn't notice.

PeteDidn't notice?

KateDunno.

PeteYou didn't notice if the bloke you were talking to had one eye?

KateWell one eye was closed.

SamI know him. Comes in the shop. Keep thinking he's winking at me but then it just stays shut.

PeteNah he's not winking at you. He's only got one eye. Because you can't wink if you haven't got an eye to wink.

KateHow'd you know?

PeteWhat? Well because the eye isn't there for like your eyelid to close over then –

KateDidn't mean that did I? Meant how did you know him.

PeteOh right because I do. Brother knows him. Tell you something and all right.

KateWhat?

PeteThat bloke.

KateWhat about him?

PeteWith the one eye right?

KateYeah?

PeteHis nickname.

KateWhat about it?

PeteIs One-eye Steve.

SamCatchy that.

PeteBecause he's only got one eye that's why he's called –

SamYeah got that one.

PeteRight yeah my brother said he lost his eye because someone punched him in the head once and his eye fell out and the bloke that punched him just legged it right but Steve knew the bloke's cousin or something so he was like I'll sort him next week I know where he lives or something with his eye like hanging out of his face right –

KateBullshit.

PeteNah nah true that. Apparently he was so drunk he just like pushed it back in and kept drinking and everyone was like Steve mate your eye doesn't look too good there mate and he was like I'm fine just a scratch mate and then someone was like doesn't look like a scratch Steve mate because your eye's not where it should be there. He wasn't bothered right just kept drinking and went home but then apparently right he woke up the next morning and it was still giving him grief so he just pulled it out right. And then right he posted it to the bloke who punched him with a note saying I've got my eye on you. Bet the bloke shat himself then. One-eye Steve right there. Mad that isn't it? Now he's a drug dealer so seems like he's got a good hold on his life and is really making all the right decisions right?

KateTalk such shite you.

PeteDo I bollocks? About as much as you. Difference is that everything I say is true. Could write a book.

SamWhat about?

PeteThis town. All the stories that come out of it. Best-seller that. Make a fortune. Read them to my kids at bedtime.

KateCould do that if you could spell or read.

SamOr write.

PeteI can write can't I? Wrote that exam ages ago didn't I?

SamHow did that go?

PeteI can spell a bit and all.

KateYou can that's right.

PeteExactly.

KateJust that if you get to a word that's longer than three letters then that's where things fall apart a bit don't they?

PeteCan spell a word more than three letters can't I? Name's got six hasn't it?

SamWhat Pete?

PeteYeah.

KateThat's four you fucking idiot.

PeteMeant Peter didn't I?

SamAnd that's five.

PeteAh fuck off that's not the point is it? Point is I've got stories. And people love a story don't they?

SamSome do.

KateNot about this place.

PeteWhy's that then?

KateNo one cares about towns surrounded by fields do they? Or the people inside them. Like us. No one's interested in the towns that sit like islands in the middle of fields. Never have been. Never will be....

KateWhy's all your stuff all over the place?

PeteBrother lobbed it out the house.

KateWhy?

PeteCame back pissed and thought I'd hidden the TV remote.

KateSo he chucked all your gear out?

PeteIt's alright I don't mind.

KateAnd now you're standing out here?

PeteYeah he locked me out. I'm freezing. What you doing here anyway?

KateDad was coughing. Didn't want to listen to it any more. Come for a walk?

PeteMiddle of the night.

KateSo?

PeteCan't anyway.

KateWhy not?

PeteBrother said I have to stand here.

KateWhat?

PeteI have to stand here and if I move he'll kick my head in.

KateYour brother mate.

PetePrick isn't he?

KateAll because he thinks you hid a TV remote.

PeteYeah well I did hide it and all.

KateWhy?

PeteKeeps having a go at me about not bringing any money home.

KateWhat's that got to do with him?

PeteSays I have to pay rent.

KateIt's your house too isn't it?

PeteI know but he won't shut up about it. Going to see about getting on Jobseekers and that. Which makes me feel a bit empty. Don't know why. It shouldn't should it? There to help isn't it? Not to make you feel like you're not worth anything.

KateSo you're just going to give your brother your dole money?

PeteDunno what else to do.

KateTell him to fuck off.

PeteAnd get the shit kicked out of me again? I'm good for that cheers. You should get on and all. If he comes back and you're here he'll kick off. You really need to stop throwing up on his car you know?

KateCan't help it. Ugliest car I've ever seen. Have to throw up on it.

PeteHe really hates you you know.

KateYeah I know. Don't care about that. Just care about getting out of here.

Pete Yeah maybe.

Kate Maybe? Definitely. My dad. Sam's dad. Your brother. That's not right is it?

Pete No guess not.

Kate Not fair.

Pete I know but –

Kate But what?

Pete I'm just worried about it is all.

Kate Worried about what? We'll be fine.

Pete No not us. My brother's kid. Feels like I need to look after it. You know? Because. Because I don't think my brother knows anything about it.

Kate About what?

Pete About love....

Pete I forgot.

Kate Fucksake man one thing I asked you to get. What did I say? Pete get papers because you can't smoke a joint without papers and I'm getting everything else aren't I? One thing. One fucking thing.

Pete Alright calm down –

Kate Go to the shop for us.

Sam Closed isn't it?

Kate Useless you. Don't know why I hang about with you.

Pete Because you've got no other mates.

Kate Doesn't matter anyway. I nicked some painkillers so can get high off them.

Sam Who off?

Kate My dad who'd you think?

Sam Doesn't he need them?

Kate Got loads. And I need them more. Want one?

Sam Stick to cider.

Kate Suit yourself. You?

Pete Alright why not. What they do?

Kate Dunno. Get you high I think.

Pete That's top. And I've got a bit of a headache and all so two birds one stone hey? They'll knock a headache out won't they?

Sam Yeah probably if they're meant for what her dad's got.

Kate Shut up saying that about my dad.

Sam Alright just saying –

Kate Well don't alright he's fine.

Sam Don't think he is that fine really though?

Kate Told you shut up about it.

Sam Never talk about it.

Kate Why'd I need to talk about it?

Sam Don't know. Just think you should. Reckon you should be ready for it or something.

Kate Ready for what?

Sam When he goes.

Pete Yeah that'll be a shit day won't it?

Kate What day?

Pete Coming home drunk like you always are and finding your dad dead. I mean. That'd kill the buzz a bit wouldn't it?

Kate Won't happen.

Pete I think it might there mate.

Kate Won't.

Pete I've got an idea for you.

Kate What's that?

Pete You should get a hamster or something.

Kate Why?

Pete Because they don't last very long do they?

Sam So?

Pete So it'll die and then you can practise doing some grieving for when your dad goes.

Sam Is that the same thing?

Pete Close enough. I can get you one though.

Kate I don't want –

Pete My brother's mate sells them.

Sam What?

Pete He's got a little shop in his front room.

SamWhat shop?

PeteSells all sorts. Rodents and that though is what he specialises in. He loves it. Breeds them and sells them. Cheap and all. Fiver or something. Fiver for a little hamster that's a good deal isn't it? If you have a tenner you could buy two. And that is maths.

SamGenius.

PeteIf you had a twenty you could buy five.

SamJesus.

PeteBut give me a shout anyway.

KateYeah I'm alright for that thanks.

PeteFair enough. You?

SamI'm good for a rodent.

PeteAlright no worries I'm not bothered at least that means I don't have to go round his house because it stinks.

SamReally why's that then?

PeteYeah because he's got a load of rodents shitting all – Oh you were being sarcastic. You're hard.

KatePass that.

PeteMake it last like. Only got the one.

KateWhat?

PeteAll I could find in the house.

KateFucksake. One can?

PeteNot much I can do about it.

KateLast us a while isn't it?

SamTook a load of painkillers didn't you?

KateFuck-all point if you've got nothing to come up on is there? All be asleep.

PeteFine by me I would love a sleep. Not here though. Freeze to death wouldn't you. Then we'd be dead. Which wouldn't be ideal. Oh speaking of rodents right. Bought that girl a mouse the other day. Wasn't into it still.

SamWho?

PeteGirl in the supermarket.

KateStill trying with that?

PeteYeah.

KateHow long's that been?

PeteDunno. Year and a half or something?

KateNot think you should probably leave it there?

PeteNah I'll keep trying. Annoying she didn't like the mouse though.

SamFunny that.

PeteNah wasn't a manky one.

SamDid she mention it before?

PeteMention what?

SamLiking mice.

PeteNo.

KateSo why'd you buy her one?

PeteBecause they're cute and that. Just a present like. A token of my love for her.

KateYou're not in love with her.

PeteI am. That's all I am. I love her OK? I'm in love. I'm literally in love with her. I want to make love to her. Very slowly. Very gently.

SamGross.

PeteBy candlelight.

KateFucking candles. What is it with him and candles? Why the candles? What're the candles all about?

PeteWhat people do isn't it?

KateNo.

PeteHave you?

KateNo.

PeteAh because you've not been romanced. Me right. I'm romantic. So I'm all over the candles and that shite. Yeah? Seventeen now. Time to stop being kiddies with this love shite. Step it all up.

KateMice and candles then?

SamBetter than sausages.

KateThat's true.

PeteAnyway. Got a mouse now. Don't want it. Just going to let it go. Give it its freedom. Be alright that. Tell you something.

SamWhat?

PeteI don't think it was the mouse really.

KateNo?

PeteI think it was because I followed her home.

KateYeah that'll do it.

SamYou followed her?

PeteYeah. Not like directly behind her like. Just like. Few metres behind.

SamYeah that doesn't make it creepy then.

PeteDidn't mean to do that did I? Just didn't. Didn't know what to say so just followed her. Didn't want to follow her. Wanted to talk to her. But. Couldn't. Always the way isn't it that?

SamWhat is?

PeteYou just lie about thinking about what you could say. All these amazing things in your head. Saying them inside your own mind. Then when it comes to it everything sounds wrong and you can't even speak. What's that about then?

SamDunno.

PeteMe either. You ever get that?

SamI guess.

PeteYeah. Don't get that. Don't think I'll ever be able to not do that. Just be me. Thinking stuff. And that's all it is isn't it? Life's just thinking. Then you die. And that's all it is. Right? That's all. All it is. Just thinking about doing and saying things. And some people can. But I can't. And that's. That's not good is it? I mean. To just dream and never actually do. That's. Why can't I do that? Jesus these painkillers are something weird aren't they? What am I talking about? Feels like I could float. Float and drift. Drift to the horizon and see what's after it...

SamIt's not that bad.

KateDoesn't look it. Fuck happened?

SamDad came back drunk and smacked me. It's alright. Just a black eye is all.

KateIs all?

SamWas shouting. Just let him hit me. Easier that way. Sister woke up because of the noise. He just passed out and I spent the rest of the night trying to get her back to sleep.

KateCall the police?

SamWhat they going to do?

KatePut him away.

SamThen what?

KateWhat?

SamWhat I do then? Dad inside and Mum not interested in coming back. Me and my sister doing what? She'll get taken in somewhere and I'll have nowhere to stay. Rather put up with this.

KateI wouldn't.

SamNo choice have I?

KateSmack him back?

SamWish I could. Got this idea anyway.

KateWhat's that?

SamSaved up some from the shop. Next year when I'm eighteen going to rent a little flat in town. Just live there with my sister.

KateDon't do that.

SamWhy not?

KateBecause it's not your problem.

SamIt is though isn't it?

KateDon't think so. Tell you something.

SamWhat's that?

KateWent out in my dad's car last night.

SamDid you?

KateYeah. Practising. It's a piece of piss. Drove it about town then the ring road. Just went round and round. Was amazing. Orbited the town like I was in a spaceship or something. Town on my left. Horizon on my right. Was amazing. Driving about. Never felt so free. Just pick a direction and we're gone.

SamThat easy is it?

KateYou know if you climb up the swings and sit on the bar at the top you can see the horizon through the little gap in the trees. Just a curved line. That's all it is. Just a curved line resting on top of the earth. But looking at it. Looks fragile. Like it could just move away. Leaving a space behind. And I reckon if we're not careful that's where we're going to end up. So fuck your dad and come with me.

SamCan't do that though.

KateWhy not?

SamBecause my little sister needs protecting. Don't want to leave her alone. Weird this isn't it? Being here. Feeling the world spinning around me. Feels like the town's not letting us go. Even if I did want to escape. I don't think I ever could....

PeteSaid I had to go back every two weeks.

KateHow long's that take?

PeteAges. And costs about as much.

SamHow much is it?

PeteJust under sixty quid. Gave up talking to them because worked out the train would cost too much to actually bother going to pick it up. And there's no buses to the station any more so that's the end of that then. Just hung up the phone.

KateDunno why you even bothered with it.

PeteKeep my brother happy. Or whatever he thinks that is.

SamNothing where he works?

PeteHe hasn't got one either has he?

SamWhat happened?

PeteFactory closed down didn't it?

SamDidn't notice that happening. Can't he drive you then?

PeteHe won't do that would he?

SamHe'll have to go now too right? Not having a job?

PeteHe won't. Says people on the dole are scum.

SamBut he wants you on it?

PeteYeah.

KateYour brother's a dickhead.

PeteI know.

SamIt's stupid you can't get on the dole anyway because of geography isn't it?

PeteGuess so. If I had a car I could drive there. But don't have one so can't. And also don't know how to drive. You know what I think what would really help me out here is some fucking public transport.

KateSat on a bus that smells of piss taking you to sign on. Sounds like a laugh.

PeteWhat you saying then?

KateTold you.

PeteOh right this about you and your dad's car again. She told you about that?

KateYeah.

PeteDo you believe her?

KateWhy would I lie?

PeteDunno just seems a bit funny is all.

KateFunny?

PeteDrunk all the time aren't you? If you got in a car you'd crash it into someone's nan or something. Like straight away. Just get in turn the key put your foot down and then go oh shite I've killed a nan.

KateWhy would I lie about it? Not just doing this for me. For all of us. Keep dreaming about it?

PeteWhat driving your dad's shit old car?

KateJust driving. Getting off a road that doesn't just go in circles. One that's a straight line that actually leads somewhere else. Out past the horizon. And then the next one. Don't even know what I want to do. But just know I've got to do that you know?

PeteMake me laugh you.

KateWhy?

PeteTalking like that.

KateLike what?

PeteLike it's that easy.

KateWhat she said.

PeteShe's right then.

KateWhy's it not?

PeteBecause got no money for a start. And you know you need that to make a car literally move don't you? And anyway what am I going to do outside of this town? Can't do anything here. Thick as shit aren't I? So what's the point not being able to do something anywhere else. All I want to do is just find somebody that doesn't think I stink and have a nice big family and –

KateTalking about this again?

PeteNothing wrong with it is there?

KateFucking boring isn't it? That all you want?

PeteHundred million per cent yes.

KateWell then do all that somewhere else. Might find someone you don't have to follow about and buy fucking mice for. And who actually talks to you.

PeteShe is talking to me now.

SamIs she?

PeteYeah.

SamWhat she say?

PeteHello.

SamWhat else?

PeteBye.

SamMaking progress then?

PeteAh better than nothing isn't it? And anyway I'm going to ask her out now. Nothing to lose hey? Worst thing that happens? I stay like this. Best thing. She says yes. And I'm like right then date night let's do this. And I met up with her. And I'm all like alright what's up and she's like oh my God every-thing I've heard about you is true you are a legend and I'm like yeah I know I'm very very very very special and then we walk hand in hand in the moonlight and then just like fall in love. By candlelight. And then shag each other. Have thirty kids.

SamIn one go?

PeteYeah. Is that possible?

SamHave a guess.

PeteNo?

SamNo spot on.

KateDon't ask her.

PeteWhy not?

KateBecause she'll say no.

PeteWhy?

KateWhy? Because you look like a fish mate.

PeteWell that's –

KateAnd you've been stalking her for a year and a half. She's not going to want to go out with a sex pest is she mate?

PeteAlright yeah but worth a try isn't it?

SamAsk her.

PeteYeah?

SamYeah do it so I don't have to listen to you talk about it any more.

PeteYeah fuck it. I will.

KateDon't.

SamWhy can't he?

KateBeen years hasn't it? She's not interested. And she's boring as shit anyway. Working in a supermarket? Sounds like a catch.

PeteAlright easy how'd you know what she's like?

KateSeen her in there. Just plods about. Looks dull as anything. Looks like a ghost. Just be shagging a ghost. Bet she doesn't even drink and all.

PeteThat is it then? You looked at her and decided she's boring.

KateYeah. Trust me.

PeteWhat and she should be more like you?

KateWhat's that mean?

PetePissed all the time.

KateFun isn't it?

PeteOh right yeah? Like the other night fun?

KateThat was funny.

SamWhat's that?

PeteWant me to tell her?

SamWhat about?

PeteOther night right. I'm in bed. Just hanging out with my own thoughts and that.

KateFew candles set up.

PeteAnd hear this sound from outside like someone laughing but trying not to you know. And then look and it's her. Steaming. Off her tits right. Jumping up and down on my brother's car.

SamOn your own?

KateYeah.

PeteAnd I'm like this isn't good so leg it down and push her off the car just as my brother comes out the house in his pants and he's raging right. Absolute pissing mad.

SamDid he see you on the car?

PeteNah thank God but he does see her lying in the drive with a bottle of vodka –

KateGin.

PeteRight gin. Sorry because that's important. And anyway my brother screaming for her to piss off and she stands up and just screams. Didn't you?

KateThink so can't remember.

PeteJust screams so loud that all the neighbours wake up and my little nephew wakes up and they're all shouting now and my brother is in his pants just screaming at her and she wobbles a bit and drops the vodka –

KateGin.

PeteFucksake. Gin. Whatever. Drops the gin. Gin everywhere. Then right. Then she just starts licking it up. Glass and all. Blood in her mouth. Then gets up. Throws up on his car and walks off and my brother's like the absolute state of your mates to me.

KateFunny that right?

SamDunno.

KateWhat?

SamNot. Not really.

KateNo?

SamNo.

KateWhy not?

SamDunno. Just. Everyone see you?

KateWasn't many.

SamStill though. Be talking about you now.

KateSo?

SamJust think.

KateWhat?

SamNothing doesn't matter.

KateNothing?

SamYeah. It's fine. Hope you're alright and that.

KateI'm alright yeah.

SamThat's good then.

KateIs it?

SamYeah.

KateWhat?

SamNothing.

KateTell me –

SamSaid it's nothing. It's alright. Everything's alright....

KateThink I'm a fuck-up don't you?

SamNo.

KateI'm not.

SamI know. I don't think that.

KateWhy's it feel like that then?

SamWasn't anything to do with you. Just. Dunno.

KateNeed to drink more you. Loosen up.

SamYeah maybe.

KateMean it.

SamCan I ask you something?

KateAnything.

SamYou feel like you're seventeen?

KateWhat?

SamYou feel like you are?

KateDunno. Not thought about it. Guess so. Do you?

SamNo.

KateNo?

SamFeel like I'm old. Feel like I've been living for longer than I ever should have. And that's weird because it feels like we were all fifteen about half an hour ago. You know?

KateGuess so.

SamWhat we doing Kate? Feels like we're drifting doesn't it? Just drinking and drifting. All this. Doesn't feel like the world exists beyond the ring road does it?

KateIt does.

SamYeah?

KateCan see it when you're driving round and round. It's there. I promise.

SamWent out there the other night.

KateWhere to?

SamEdge of town. Just walked about. Dad passed out. TV on. Looked at him for a bit then thought about my sister. Picked her up and carried her out. Just carried her. Walked to the edge of town. Holding her. Got to the ring road. Thought about crossing it then out into the fields. Just keep walking. Keep walking until we got to the sea. Just to look at a horizon that was blue instead of green and brown. That's all I wanted. But got to the edge of the road and couldn't take one step further. Don't know why. Like my feet were stuck to the town. Just couldn't move. Felt like a ghost. Just empty. Couldn't take another step forward. So just turned around and went home. Put my sister back to bed. Went downstairs. Sat watching my dad's chest rise and fall. Think I could see the air going in and out of his mouth illuminated by the light of the TV. Had this thought that I could just stab him in the throat. Over and over again. Watch the blood fall out. Then I would get my sister again and walk back to the ring road and be able to cross it. But I didn't do that. I just went to bed and got up the next morning and made my sister her breakfast and walked her to school. Another year's nearly gone. Nearly an adult. A horizon for you to walk into. No idea about any of that. Feels like I've been old for years. Can I tell you something else and all?

KateWhat?

SamThink I've reached my horizon you know? And it's the ring road....

PeteOne-eye Steve kicked me in the balls.

KateWhy?

PeteWanted to buy some ketamine. Didn't have enough money. Said I'd write him a cheque. He didn't like that. So he kicked me in the balls.

SamYou've got a cheque book?

PeteHow hard do you need to be kicked for your balls to not work at making kids any more?

KateDunno not got any.

PeteRight yeah. But. A guess.

KateNo idea. Hard.

PeteIt was hard. Felt like my balls were going to come out my mouth. Just hang there so I could look at them and see how useless they probably are. Think that's my chances of kids gone.

KateThat might be good for the world.

PeteFuck off. The one hope I've got left isn't it?

SamWhat?

PeteMy balls. If they don't work then I've got no idea have I? What am I then? Having a load of kids is my one plan isn't it? If that's gone then I've got nothing. Just me. A bloke called Pete. That's fucking it.

SamYou're in a good mood.

PeteGuess so.

SamWhat happened to all that massive family full of hope stuff?

PeteYeah still clinging on to that if my balls work.

SamYou'll be alright.

PeteReally starting to think I won't there mate. I mean how long have I lived for? Feels like forever. How long?

SamWhat you want me to say it?

PeteYeah. Tell me.

SamEighteen years now.

PeteEighteen years I lived in this town? So I'm eighteen in age now then?

SamThat's maths.

PeteJesus I'm not eighteen am I? What have I done? Nothing. Have I shagged anyone? Have I? Tell me?

SamYou want me to –

PeteYeah.

SamNo?

PeteNo I haven't. Not even kissed anyone. Since your nan mate. Fucking hell can't be can it? I think it is. And that was like years and years ago. Jesus. What have I been doing?

KateGiving mice to women.

PeteMean it. Jokes aside and all that? What the fuck am I doing?

KateCalm down.

PeteI'm not calming down. Think I'm having a breakdown.

KateWhat right now?

PeteYeah.

KateSeem like you're the same as normal.

PeteI'm not. My mind. Inside of here. My stupid head. It's full-on going mad.

KateSure it's not all the speed you just took?

PeteNo. Well. Partly. But that's only opening my eyes and mind to how completely fucked I am. What are we going to do?

KateBeen telling you.

PeteRight yeah I don't think just leaving in your dad's stolen car is really the answer to all our problems is it?

KateWhy not?

PeteBecause it's stupid.

KateWhy?

PeteBecause it is.

KateThat it?

PeteThat's it what?

KateNot going to tell me why it's stupid?

PeteBecause it's not going to happen ever.

KateWhy not?

PeteBecause I don't believe you. Going out in your dad's car. Talking nonsense mate.

KateNot making it up. Ask her.

SamWhat?

KateNot making it up am I?

SamI don't know.

KateWhat?

SamNever seen you driving it.

KateWhat?

SamJust saying.

KateSaying what? Both don't believe me?

PeteNo. Not at all. My head. Just spinning and spinning.

KateBe alright calm –

PeteI don't think I will Kate. I really don't. Feel so empty. Can't do anything. Can't even ask a girl out. Fuck me. I'm meant to be an adult aren't I? That's what they tell you? Don't they?

KateI guess.

PeteThen why do I feel like a kid? Eighteen-year-old kid? Thing is though that kids are meant to bounce when they fall over aren't they? But me. I feel like a kid who if they fell over would shatter into a million pieces....

KateYou can't live there.

SamWhy not? It's cheap.

KateBecause it's a shithole.

SamBetter than nothing.

KateWalls are more mould than paint.

SamAll I can afford isn't it?

KatePut our money together and get a place somewhere else?

SamYou've got no money.

KateI know but can get some.

SamYeah? Where from?

KateYou can't live there.

SamLook at my face Kate.

KateWhat?

SamSee those bruises?

KateYeah.

SamNow tell me I can't live there.

KateI'm not going to let you do this.

SamWhy not?

KateMove into a shitty flat in the middle of the town you grew up in. I'd do anything to not have you do that. I'd stab your dad for you. Just say the word. I would.

SamDon't be stupid.

KateI'm not. If you won't let me do that then the only other thing to do is come with me. Because thinking about you sitting in that flat. Eighteen watching the paint dissolve off the walls in front of you. That's not going to keep your sister safe you know? That's not. And I'm not letting you do that. Just come with me. Somewhere else. Anywhere and –

SamYou seen Pete?

KateDon't change the subject mate I'm –

SamHave you seen Pete?

KateYou can't live –

SamYou seen him?

KateNo.

SamBeen two weeks.

KateTried calling. Went round. Anyway –

SamNothing?

KateNo?

SamAt all?

KateNothing. Sure he'll be alright. Mean it Sam. Get in a car with me. I'll take you somewhere where you don't have to worry any more. Alright? Please. For me. For yourself....

KateWhere you been then? Hiding?

PeteI guess. Worried about me or something?

KateNo. What you been doing?

PeteJust lying in bed. Couldn't get out.

KateAt all.

PeteNo. Thought about it every morning and then just couldn't. Like I was stuck inside it. Just listening to my brother shout at his kid. Horrible that. Want to pick it up and run away with it you know? Sorry for having a freak-out like.

KateIt's alright happens. Sam does it all the time.

PeteShe said yes by the way.

KateWho?

PeteAsked that girl out?

KateThought you couldn't get out of bed?

PeteThis morning. Just was like. Fuck it. Not getting like that ever again. Go mental like that. Lying about in bed. Eighteen. Need to do something. Anything. So just asked. And she said

yes. Know you think I'm being a dick but I really do like her you know? Hope she doesn't think I'm a bellend. You seen that flat Sam wants to move into?

KateYeah.

PeteMight be good for her.

KateYou reckon?

PeteDunno. Might be. Don't you?

KateNo.

PeteWhy not?

KateBecause it looks like the place you would go to live in when you want to be forgotten. And I'm not letting that happen....

KateSo I drove it here.

PeteBollocks you did.

KateDon't believe me go look.

PeteWhere is it?

KateJust over there mate.

SamYou drunk?

KateNo.

SamHigh?

KateNo. Told you. Think I'm joking or something?

SamNo it's just –

KateWhat?

SamCan't just –

KateJust what?

SamCan't just leave.

KateWhy not?

SamBecause of everything here.

KateAnd what's that? What's here? That shitty flat?

SamYeah that and my family and –

KateFamily? Some families we've got right? Dad who kicks the shit out of you and a brother who can't stand the sight of you. Why'd you want to stay with that?

SamNot that it's just –

KateThen what is it then? Your sister? Worried about her? Just an excuse that.

SamExcuse for what?

KateFor not being brave enough to do anything about your own life. Told you so many times right. It's not your fucking problem. And neither is your brother's kid to you. It's not yours mate is it?

PeteI know but –

KateBut what? What you going to do? Both of you? Just hang about here worrying about them until they can worry about themselves? Then what'll you have then? Nearly thirty in the same town going what the fuck have I done? That's no way to live is it? Towns like these are for leaving. And then coming back to sometimes to remind yourself why you left.

SamSaid I can't.

KateAnd I said that you don't because you're scared.

SamNot scared.

KateWhat then?

SamHave to be here.

KateThen what's the point then? Tell me that.

PeteOf what?

KateOf existing.

PeteListen to you.

KateWhat?

PeteTalking like that. Existing. Are existing aren't we?

KateBarely. All you both do is moan. Daydream about stabbing your dad. That's healthy isn't it mate?

SamAlright just –

KateWhy don't you? Just go stab him. Go on. Then everything would be alright wouldn't it?

SamAlright just –

KateJust what?

SamWhy don't you go then?

KateWhat?

SamGo by yourself. If you want to so much. Why'd you need us?

KateBecause I'm not doing this for me. I'm doing this for us all. I need you to come with me because I couldn't live with the thought that you both are living like you are right now. You in that shitty flat and you getting the shit kicked out of you by your brother and going after some girl that you don't even like.

PeteShe didn't turn up anyway.

KateNo?

PeteNo.

KateWell there you go. Haven't even got that any more. Got nothing now have you? Like everyone in this town.

PeteJesus.

KateWhat?

PeteNo wonder we don't go to the pub.

KateWhat?

PeteTalking like that you'll. Get your head kicked in.

KateWhy's that then?

SamBecause there's a lot of people who think you're talking shite. There's a load of people out there who'd probably be a bit fed up or something talking like that. About their hometown. Alright? And what about your dad?

KateWhat about him?

SamHow he would feel? Left alone.

KateNot my problem is it?

SamNo?

KateNo it's not alright.

SamWhy's that then?

KateBecause fuck him that's why.

PeteWhat?

KateNot fair is it?

PeteDon't choose to get sick do you?

KateNot him. Me.

SamWhat?

KateNot fair on me.

PeteI know but –

KateThey took his carer away you know?

PeteWhat? Why?

KateDon't fucking know do I? To save some money? Or something? Just cut them like they've cut everything else. Weeks ago. And now no one comes round. And it's all me. I have to go pick up his pills and bring them home. I have to feed him. I have to take him to the toilet. That's my job? To clean up his shit and piss and listen to his bones slowly rotting?

Fuck that thanks. That's not what I should be doing. He should be properly looked after. And the worst thing is right. You want to know the worst thing? I think I hate him.

PeteDo you?

KateFor being sick. Think I really hate him.

PeteThat's –

KateAnd not because of what he's got. Just because of what it does to me. And if I say that to anyone people will just think I'm scum won't they?

PeteSuppose.

KateBut I don't think I care you know? Think I'm scum. I don't give a shit. Because I deserve something better than this right? Doesn't everyone? And this town. Inside this dying town. This won't ever give us what we deserve. I mean. Look at you.

SamWhat?

KateIt's like everything's fallen out of you. And you. Just two ghosts. Empty. And I can't look at you like this any more. I know you both think I'm full of shit. But I'll be your guide out of here. Mean it. Don't think either of you know it but I'm both of yours guardian angel. Just one driving my dying dad's shitty old car. We're bigger than this. We're bigger than this town. And we're bigger than a horizon that's going to leave us behind if we don't fucking do something about it. All that bravery inside of you. I know it's there somewhere. Just too scared to use it. What you want to do to your dad. How you would love to smack him back but can't.

SamShut up alright –

KateWhy? Because I'm right.

SamNo because –

KateBecause what? You couldn't. It's all gone from you. That fight. It's gone.

SamIt's not –

KateIt has.

SamIt hasn't.

KateProve it then.

SamWhat?

KateSmack me. Go on. I don't mind.

SamWhat?

KatePunch me then. Prove it.

SamDon't –

KateDon't what?

SamDon't do –

KateDo what? I don't mind. Prove to me there's something left in you. That your dad hasn't taken it out of you.

PeteWell this is fun.

KateYou and all. Smack me if you want.

PeteI'm alright thanks.

SamHow drunk are you?

KateNot had a drop. Go on. Hit me. Show me you've still got something inside of you?

SamI don't need to prove –

KateShow me then.

SamThis is –

KateShow me. What you going to do? Work in a newsagent's until your sister can look after herself? Sounds good doesn't it?

SamHave to –

KateNo you don't. You're scared because you're empty so hit me. Show me something.

SamI'm not –

KateGo on.

SamStop it.

KateGo on. Hit me.

SamNo.

KateHit me.

SamNot going –

KateDo it. Come on. Tell her.

PeteTell her what –

KateTo hit me.

SamI'm not –

KateSmack me.

SamNo.

KateDo it.

SamNo.

KateHit me.

SamShut –

KateHit me.

SamCalm down alright I'm not –

KateHit me come on.

SamI'm not going to –

KateHit me come on.

SamI'm not –

KateDo it.

SamNo.

KateDo it.

SamNo.

KateFucking hit –

SamI'm not going –

KateHit me.

SamJust –

KateSmack me in the face go on I want you to.

SamSaid I –

KateDo it do it do it –

SamStop –

KateDo it do it do it do it hit me alright hit me like your dad likes to hit you and your little sister –

Sam *punches Kate in the face. Hard.*

PeteFucking hell –

KateFuck. Yes mate. That's it. That's the way. Yes mate. That's what I wanted. Fucking hell that felt alright.

PeteJesus.

KateAm I bleeding?

PeteA bit yeah –

KateThank you mate.

PeteWith the ring and all.

KateOh yeah could have taken that off couldn't you mate? That's not bad at all. That's what I needed. Want a go?

PeteI'm alright –

KateSee?

SamSee what?

KateWhat friends are for isn't it?

PeteWhat punching each other?

KateYeah that and the rest. And all of it. Listen to me Sam. Listen to me right now. You listening? I'm going to tell you something alright. I'll tell you something?

SamWhat?

KateI love you alright? I love you so much it hurts. And what's going on with you and your dad and your little sister is not for you to fix alright? You stay here you'll end up just like your dad you know? Full of rage and shouting at nothing. So look at me. Right into my eyes and see that I'm doing this because I love you more than anyone ever could and I can't think about anything but that. I can't think about leaving without you because he's always been right since he said it years and years ago. Home is wherever you both are. It isn't bricks and parks and roads and shops. It's wherever we are together. Alright? The blood running down the side of my face. That belongs to you. And I love you even more for doing that. You know? Because it shows you're not a ghost. You're real. And I think I love you so much I could explode. I could. I could burst how much I love you both. I feel like I could just fill up. Just fill up till I'm sick. Till I'm sick with it. Till I just throw up all the love out of my mouth and it would just be us in it all. Swimming in it. Swimming in all that love that's around us. Just me and you and you as little islands in the middle of it. And I just think we should get in that car right now and go somewhere. Away from your dad and your brother and everything else. Alright? Let's go. Anywhere. I don't care. Just get to our horizon and see what's after it because whatever it is it's got to be better than this right? Right? Right? So let's just go. Let's just go now –

*A year passes through **Kate**, and the horizon starts to pull itself away from the earth.*

KateLet's just – Let's – Are you still – Are you listening to me still? Are you – Can you –

*Another year passes through **Kate**.*

KateCan you – There's – Can you –

*Another year passes through **Kate**.*

KateCan you hear that?

*Another year passes through **Kate**.*

KateCan you hear that happening? Are you still –

*Another year passes through **Kate**.*

KateIt's – Are you still here and can you –

*Another year passes through **Kate**.*

KateCan you hear that happening to me?

*Another year passes through **Kate**.*

KateCan you hear time –

Another year passes through Kate.

Kate Can you hear time crashing through me?

Another year passes through Kate.

Kate Can you hear that?

Another year passes through Kate.

Kate Can you – Can you hear all that time crashing and ripping through me?

Another year passes through Kate and the horizon stops moving away.

Kate And can you see that? In between the earth and the sky. The horizon. It's just a space with nothing inside of it.

Scene 3

Dave Fuck you doing here?

Long pause.

Kate Just ended up here.

Pause.

Dave Taking yourself out for a drink or something?

Kate No.

Dave No?

Kate Don't drink.

Dave Bollocks don't you.

Kate I don't. Not touched a drop since.

Dave Right.

Pause.

You look terrible.

Kate Older. Aren't I?

Dave Don't look older much. Just look terrible.

They look at each other for a moment. Kate looks away.

Kate You look –

Long pause.

Kate Steve in there?

Dave Who?

Kate Bloke with the one eye?

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Dave One-eye Steve?

Kate *nods.*

Dave Why'd you want him?

Kate I don't.

Beat.

Just. Making conversation.

They look at each other for a moment. Kate looks away.

Dave Tell you something you've got some balls haven't you?

Kate Why's that?

Dave Coming up here? Knew I drank here didn't you?

They look at each other for a moment. Kate looks away.

Kate Bit of a surprise?...

Alex No.

Kate Is to me a bit.

Alex Why's that then?

Kate Just thought something would have changed. Nothing has though. Town looks. Looks the same.

They look at each other for a moment. Kate looks away.

Alex Did you want something? Most people just buy what they want then leave you know? Sort of how shopping works isn't it?

Kate Looking for a job.

Alex Really?

Kate Guess so.

Alex Right well can't help you with that.

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Kate Sign in the window says you're needing people.

Alex We're not.

Pause.

Kate OK.

They look at each other for a moment. Kate looks away.

Can I ask you something?

AlexWhat?

KateAre you –

Beat.

Are you pretending?...

DaveWhat?

KateSaid is it a bit of a surprise or something.

DaveWhat seeing you?

KateYeah.

DaveNo.

KateWhy not?

DaveKnew you were about. Saw you walking down the ring road. Looked like a ghost.

Pause.

DaveWhen'd you get out?

KateToday. Got here this morning.

They look at each other for a moment. Kate looks away.

DaveBack at your old house then?

KateYeah.

DaveBit empty is it?

78

Pause. Kate nods a little.

DaveGuess that's alright though. Don't have to listen to your dad dying any more. Not that you gave much of a shit before anyway.

They look at each other for a moment. Kate looks away.

KateWant me to leave?

DaveDo what you like doesn't bother me.

KateWhy not?

DaveBecause you're a waste of fucking air that's why....

AlexAm I pretending?

KateYeah.

AlexAm I pretending what?

KateTo not know who I am?

AlexNo.

*They look at each other for a moment. **Kate** looks away.*

KateBeen away a long time haven't I?

AlexGuess so.

KateEleven years.

Pause.

Eleven years spinning inside my head.

*They look at each other for a moment. **Kate** looks away.*

You – Are you –

Beat.

KateYou sell that extra-strong cider?

AlexYeah.

KateI'll have some of that.

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AlexIf you've got the money.

KateI'll owe you.

AlexCan't do that.

KateNeed something to stop my head spinning you know? And I – I just –

*They look at each other for a moment. **Kate** looks away.*

KateDon't give me any. Ignore me. Just ignore me.

AlexCouldn't give you any anyway.

KateYeah I know but I know myself and I think you know what I'm like too so I feel like I could just nick it from you anyway and when you go to stop me I'll just explode. But I shouldn't be asking. Because I've not drank since. And I'm – I've. I've been sober for a while now but it's just your eyes. When I look at your eyes and skin and hair and the way you stand you look just like her. It's like I'm talking to a ghost....

DaveAren't you? Waste of air.

KateYeah?

DaveYeah. Waste of air. Scum.

KateCame to say sorry.

DaveWhat for?

KateFor what I did. I'm sorry.

DaveAlright.

KateThat it?

DaveThat it what?

KateJust alright and that's it?

DaveDunno what more you want. Was ages ago. Most people have forgotten about it. Got on with life. No one's been waiting for a piece of shit like you.

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KatePiece of shit?

DaveWhat?

KateThat what I am?

DaveCourse you are.

KateWhat else am I?

DaveWhat?

KateScum? That it? You've always thought that about me haven't you? What else am I?

DaveOh I get it.

KateWhat?

DaveI know what you're after.

KateWhat's that?

DaveYou're trying to wind me up. Just like you used to. Throwing up on my car. Licking booze off my drive. Waking up my kid. Trying to wind me up like you used to when you came knocking for my brother. I know what you want.

KateWhat do I want?

DaveFor me to smack you. I know. But I'm not going to do that. I'm not going to do that.

KateKnow you want to.

DaveDo you now?

KateI think you do. I think you should and all. Smash a fist into my mouth. Knock a few teeth out. Make me bleed. I think you want to do that to me because of what I did.

DaveNah I'm not going to do that.

KateWhy?

DaveBecause you want me to do that because you want to feel something. And I'm not going to give you that.

KateWhy not?

DaveDon't deserve it.

KateWhat do I deserve then?

Dave *looks at Kate a moment. Smiles. Shakes his head.*

DaveWhat you've got now.

KateWhich is what?...

AlexYou're not though are you?

KateWhat?

AlexYou're not talking to a ghost. Because I'm not her. I'm me. And I'm alive. And she's dead. Because you killed her in a car crash because you were drunk and fucked off your head on drugs.

Pause. Kate closes her eyes for a moment. Opens them.

KateI know I just –

They look at each other for a moment. Kate looks away.

KateDo you hate me?

AlexNo.

KateWhy not?

AlexDon't care about you enough to hate you.

KateWhat do you think of me then?

AlexDon't think anything of you. Don't think anyone should think anything of you.

Long pause.

KateShe used to carry you about in a sports bag. Packed it with soft stuff. Made you comfy. Wanted to keep you safe. Didn't want you to hear your parents shouting at each other. You remember that?

AlexNo.

Pause. Kate nods. Can't look anywhere but at her feet. She is tense.

KateShe did. Why don't you remember that?

AlexBecause I don't.

KateI do. I remember it. I remember it all. That's all I do. Just remember it all. My head. Just goes round and round. Spins around them both.

They look at each other for a moment. Kate looks away.

KateI think I need you to say you hate me. Would you do that for me?

AlexNo.

KateWhy not?

AlexBecause I'm not going to give you anything that you want.

KateDo you forgive me?

AlexNo.

KateSo you do hate me then?

AlexNo.

KateThen what?

AlexI feel nothing for you. That's all. Not going to help you. You know? Not going to do that for you....

DaveWhatever's inside that messed-up car crash of a mind. Whatever's spinning around there. That's what you deserve. To be constantly haunted by the ghost of my brother and the other one you killed. What was her name?

Beat.

KateSam.

DaveSam that's it. Samantha. Sister works in the shop doesn't she? Looks just like her. Quite funny really.

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KateWhat is?

DaveAll this. You coming back here walking around. Looking for a fight. Or something to make you feel something that isn't just wanting. Think it's quite funny. Can keep trying to wind me up. Not going to hit you. Have another go if you like. Wind me up. Go on.

Beat.

KatePete wanted to run away with your boy.

DaveOh yeah? Why'd he want to do that then?

KateBecause he hated you.

DaveHated him and all. Streak of piss he was. Useless excuse for a person. Good thing you killed him really because it got him out the house and freed up some space. Want to try again?

Pause. Kate looks at Dave. They stare at each other a bit.

KateWhere does that come from?

DaveWhat?

KateThat. That anger. That emptiness inside of you. Inside of us all. Inside of me.

DaveWhat you going on about?

KateIs it just here? Is it in the bricks of towns like this? In the cracks of the roads and pavements? In the rust of closed shop signs? In the weeds growing out of ruined pubs? Is that where it is? Grows out of all that and gets into our heads? Because it's in you isn't it? And me. And all I wanted to do was run away from it. And take them away from it too. But I messed up. That's all. I didn't mean to do what I did. I was stupid. I know that. I do. But now this. Now this emptiness is all I have. And I don't want to feel that any more. I don't want to feel empty. So just hit me.

DaveNo.

KateHe hated you. Hit me.

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DaveKeep trying all you like.

KateHe hated you. He did. Hit me.

DaveNo.

KateThen just –Just –...

KateJust say you hate me.

AlexNo.

KatePlease.

AlexAre you begging?

KateNo I'm just –I'm just –I'm –I'm just.Tired.And

Kate *shuts her eyes tightly. She keeps her eyes closed.*

And I don't know how to make my head stop spinning. That's all it does. Because of what I've done. Spins around them. Them and all those little hopes inside their heads. Pete with his family. Sam with her flat. Those simple hopes. Where are they now? Can you tell me that? Are they still hanging in the air by the road where they died? Those tiny hopes that spill out of your head. All because of me. Because I was scared of being alone. Because I couldn't look after my dad. And wasn't brave enough to do that. Those hopes. Where – Where do they go?

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Kate *opens her eyes. She is very close to tears but holding them back. She tries to look at Alex.*

KateHow'd you do it? How'd you put yourself back together? Because I don't know how to do that.You look just like her. So does he. It's like I'm being haunted by them. It's like I'm just walking round and round next to the ghosts inside my head. How'd you put yourself back together? When the pieces of yourself are just scattered about inside of your own head? I wish someone would tell me how to do that. I keep doing this. Going round and round. And it's always the same. And no one will tell me how to make it stop.It's strange isn't it? How you think something will go the way you think. And then one moment. Just one. One moment out of every moment that exists in the whole universe happens to you and then it's gone. And now I just circle around that one moment. And it won't let me go.

Kate looks at **Alex**. Then away. The tears are just behind her eyes.

Kate How'd you put yourself back together? This time can you tell me?

Pause.

Alex I have to close the shop. So can you please get out.

Kate looks down. Closes her eyes tight. And keeps them shut.

Scene 4

Will Who you then? Never seen you about. Mad you're sitting in a playground on your own middle of the night. Nearly shit myself seeing you here. Thought you were a ghost. Nearly shit my pants. Glad I didn't. Always thought I would do that if I saw a ghost. Just see one and just be like I've shit myself. Then fall over. But you're not. Are you?

Kate opens her eyes.

Kate What?

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Will Just asking if you were a ghost and that? Please tell me you're not because I know I was joking about shitting myself before but if you were a proper ghost it wouldn't be a joke and I would literally just shit myself which is something I don't want.

Kate No I'm not.

Will That's a relief then because I hate shitting myself. Not that I do it ever. Just to be clear.

Liv Ignore him he's broken. What you doing here? Swings are all rusted. Don't work.

Kate Grew up here.

Liv Did you? Not seen you about.

Kate Been away for a while.

Will What you doing back here then? I wouldn't come back here if I left. Shithole.

Kate Nowhere else to be.

Will Loads of other places to be aren't there? Your age and all. Go anywhere. Go to the sea mate. That'd be quality. Go to the sea. Have a paddle. Be top that. Can't wait for a paddle about in the sea man. Can't beat that can you?

Liv What's your name?

Kate What?

Liv What's. Your. Name? Not a hard question is it mate.

Beat.

Kate Kate.

Liv Kate?

Will Just sitting here on your own then Kate?

Beat.

Kate Didn't know where else to go.

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Will Go to the pub? Old enough right?

Liv Don't go to the Oak though because it's full of twats. Absolute twat cave that place. Where you been then?

Kate What?

Liv Said you came back? Assume you've been somewhere to come back?

Beat.

Kate Prison.

Will Prison?

Kate *nods.*

Will Oh yeah why?

Kate Just because.

Will Just because? Don't go to prison just because do you? Have to have done something right?

Beat.

Kate I killed my best friends in a car crash.

Will Oh yeah?

Beat.

Well. That's not fun. You alright?

Beat.

Kate What?

Will Asked if you were alright. Proper sad that. You miss them?

Kate *nods.*

Liv Were you drink driving or something?

Kate *nods.*

Liv Yeah unlucky. What's that thing people say? Five and drive? Think it happens every year in our school. Just hear 88 about that. Few kids die in a car crash. And then they're gone. Sad that. Still though. Everyone gets pissed and drives out here don't they. Towns like this. Not much else going on except look at a horizon that feels too far away. Shame really. Because

they just need a bit of attention I guess. Like all of us sometimes. But what else is there to do hey? That where you got that scar from on your face?

Liv reaches out and touches the scar on **Kate's** face. **Kate** just looks into **Liv's** eyes. They stare at each other for a bit.

KateNo.

LivWhere's it from then?

Pause.

KateMy mate. I made her punch me.

WillDid you? That's funny.

Kate nods.

KateI think it's my favourite part of me.

Beat.

LivIs she dead?

Kate nods. **Liv** drops her hand away. **Will** and **Liv** look at each other. There is a pause.

LivWant to tell us?

KateWhat about?

Liv About it all? Sitting in a playground on your own at night and all that. Don't look much fun. I mean we're only fifteen. Don't mind listening. And we're bored so nothing else to do.

Kate You want me to tell you?

Will Dunno. If you want to. I was going to tell her a story about how I got off with my mate's nan but yours sounds more interesting.

Beat.

Kate Don't think you want to hear about it.

Liv Might as well. We don't mind. Why wouldn't we want to hear?

Kate Because.

Liv Because why?

Long pause.

Kate Because I don't think you'll care about me at the end. If I tell you what I've done. I don't think you'll care about me. Or like me. But standing here. Standing in front of you. In this dead town that I grew up in. I can't think about anything else. It all just circles round the inside of my head. And won't let me go. So maybe if I tell you it will. Maybe if I say it all out loud again it'll let me go. So I think I'll do that. You probably won't like me. But maybe you will. I won't mind either way. I just want it to let me go. Because then. Because then maybe I'll -I'll be able to start again.

Scene 5

Pete Where from?

End.