

INT. - LIVING ROOM - LATE EVENING

POV - We are watching a girl in her, early thirties moving around in a living room. Behind her on the table there is a shopping bag and groceries on the table. It is basic supplies; milk, bread, soap, toilet roll. She is leaning on the counter with a tablet in her hand. She is typing and swiping, looking to be setting something up. We then see her wiping the tablet down. She disappears for a few beats.

INT. - ANOTHER ROOM - SAME TIME

An elderly man who looks to be in his late seventies is sitting in an armchair reading a newspaper. There is a radio playing in the background. There is a knock at his door. We follow him as he goes to answer it.

INT. - FRONT DOOR - CONTINUOUS

He stops for a beat and looks out of the peephole. He opens the door. There is no one there. He looks down and sees a tablet with a note on top sitting on the doormat. The writing on the folded letter says 'thank you'. He picks them both up and reads the note as he walks back into his house. He has a bemused look on his face.

INT - ANOTHER LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

We are watching as the man sits down at the table in his living room, placing the tablet down to focus on the letter. We then watch as he slowly and slightly awkwardly opens and balances the tablet on its keypad. He disappears off camera, returning with a broom. He chuckles to himself as he knocks on the ceiling with it. Within a few seconds, a ringing sound comes out of the tablet. He jumps at the unfamiliar sound. He gathers himself, sits down at the table and tentatively touches the screen.

CUT TO:

INT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

POV - We are now looking at the girl's computer screen. On the screen, we see the elderly man, looking quizzically out from the monitor. The girl's picture is in the corner of the video. This is MR NOLAN and RUBY.

RUBY

Hi Mr Nolan, how are you? Can you see me?

MR NOLAN's face moves in and out of the shot. He is studying the tablet. Ruby is laughing as she is watching.

RUBY (CONT'D)

Mr Nolan, sit down in front of the screen. The wee green light at the top is a camera.

We watch as Mr Nolan settles.

RUBY

There you go. Hello, how are you?

MR NOLAN

(looking amazed)

Well hello my dear. This is affy fancy, is it no?

CUT TO:

INT - ANOTHER LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

We are now seeing the screen from Mr Nolan's POV. Ruby's face looks out while his face is in the corner.

RUBY

(chuckling)

I suppose. I never really thought of it like that. I just wanted to say thank you for my care package. I usually get direct from the supermarket, but when I tried, I was in a queue of 9000, and delivery slots are weeks away. Everything's just escalated so quickly. How are you, are you ok?

MR NOLAN

Ah lass, I'm well. As long as I can get out for a wee constitutional, I am grand. How about you? Managing fine?

RUBY

Oh yeah, I actually work from home. Not too different for me, apart from the shopping, of course.

MR NOLAN

You're just a young thing, shops aren't too far away?

RUBY  
(offhandedly)  
Oh, it's not that. Isolating you know. So I thought you may not have a computer, you don't do you?

MR NOLAN  
No, not at all. This is all new to me.

RUBY  
I thought you may have some folks you want to reach out to with the tablet.

She is met with silence. Ruby laughs uncomfortably.

RUBY (CONT'D)  
My version of the basics.

We see Ruby's face staring earnestly out from the tablet.

CUT TO:

INT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

We are now on Nolan.

MR NOLAN  
That is very kind, but I wouldn't know where to start. Answering to you is about my limit. Thanks for the instructions.

Nolan waves the piece of paper at the screen.

RUBY  
Do you have any family you want to see?

MR NOLAN  
Well, that's a question.

A silence hangs between them for a beat. We hear a ding from Ruby's computer, but we can tell it's coming from Nolan's side.

MR NOLAN  
What was that?

RUBY  
Oh, that's the email I set up for you. I hope you don't mind. I didn't have your number, and that was the quickest way to set you up for this call.

(MORE)

RUBY (CONT'D)

I can help you do all sorts of things. Set you up for news alerts, connect you to family. You can video call anywhere in the world if you like. I put an app on so you can watch whatever TV you want too.

MR NOLAN

That's amazing, Ruby. You really didn't need to go to all this trouble.

RUBY

It's no trouble. Tech is what I do.

MR NOLAN

Well, it seems very complicated to me. Thank you, though.

On the screen a 'breaking news' alert flags up. Headline: 'Prime Minister speech 8.30pm'. Nolan can see she is not concentrating on their call.

MR NOLAN

What was that?

RUBY

Boris is due to give a speech in thirty minutes. If you tap the news app, you can watch it on there.

MR NOLAN

I've got my radio on. I don't want to break your gadget.

RUBY

It's pretty robust!

MR NOLAN

Aye well, I like the radio all the same.

Another silence fills their screens.

RUBY

I tell you what, I'll give you a call on this tomorrow and help you set up some things if you like.

MR NOLAN

That would be lovely, my dear. Do you need anything while I'm out in the morning?

RUBY

I'll post a wee list tonight if that's ok?

MR NOLAN

Of course. Don't know how much will be there, but I will certainly try.

RUBY

Tomorrow then?

MR NOLAN

Tomorrow lass.

CUT TO:

INT - ANOTHER LIVING ROOM - NEXT DAY

We are back in Nolan's living room. The radio is still playing in the background. We can hear the news talking about further lockdowns and the dead in Italy and Spain. We hear a knock on the ceiling. Nolan knocks back with his broom. The tablet starts ringing. Nolan settles down and answers it. Ruby's face appears on the screen.

MR NOLAN

Good afternoon Ruby!

RUBY

Afternoon Mr Nolan. Thank you again for my supplies. Can't believe you managed everything on my list.

MR NOLAN

Easier than I thought my dear. I went extra early. The shop opened, especially for us old buggers.

RUBY

Well, as a special treat, I'm going to make my famous lasagne. I hope you will join me for tea. Drop it at your door later?

MR NOLAN

Ah, some home cooking, beats what I had in mind. That would be lovely Ruby.

RUBY

(waiving gloves at the screen)

Don't worry, I'll take all the necessary precautions. Talk to you later?

MR NOLAN  
Absolutely.

CUT TO:

INT - LIVING ROOM - SAME EVENING

We see the screen calling Nolan. Nolan comes to life, looking very smart. A plate of lasagne, a wine bottle and glass of wine is in front of him. In the corner screen, we can see that Ruby has an almost identical set up.

RUBY  
(raising her glass at the  
screen)  
Evening Mr Nolan. Looking very  
dapper.

MR NOLAN  
(mirroring a clink)  
And to you Ruby. Well, it's only  
right when a beautiful lady cooks  
you a meal.

CUT TO:

INT - ANOTHER LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

A blushing Ruby on the screen gestures to the lasagne.

RUBY  
Dig in.

MR NOLAN  
Ruby, this is fabulous. I think  
you missed your calling.

We see Ruby also tucking in on the screen.

RUBY  
Thanks. It's not too bad.  
(Raising her glass again)  
Thank you for the wine.

They start to eat in a relative comfortable silence, peppered with murmurs of appreciation. We cannot hear, but they are chatting over their meal. For an instant, it feels as if the screens are not there, and they are sat enjoying a meal together. We come back into focus and see Mr Nolan wipe his face with his napkin and stare back into the screen.

MR NOLAN  
Thank you for that Ruby. Just  
wonderful.

RUBY

You're very welcome. It was nice to cook for someone besides myself.

MR NOLAN

No young man in your life?

RUBY

(hesitates)

Erm...

MR NOLAN

Sorry, none of my business.

RUBY

No, no, it's alright. Nope, no one special.

MR NOLAN

I just realised I don't know too much about you. When did you move in?

RUBY

About six months ago. For work. Although I mostly work from home, I have to go into the office once a month, so I moved closer to do that.

MR NOLAN

D'you not find that hard, working from home?

RUBY

(looking puzzled)

MR NOLAN

I don't mean to pry, but getting up and going out to work was just how we did it.

RUBY

(smiling)

I suppose, but it suits me.

Another awkward silence. They both fill it by having a drink of wine.

RUBY

(tentatively)

Was there anyone you wanted to video chat with? I just wondered if there was anyone you wanted to reach out to with your new gadget?

MR NOLAN  
(sipping some more wine)  
Och no. Lovely idea, but no lass.

RUBY  
No family?

MR NOLAN  
(almost imperceptibly)  
Not that would want to hear from  
me.

RUBY  
Mr Nolan? Do you see the state of  
the world!  
(catches herself)  
Sorry...

MR NOLAN  
Sorry, you're right lass. I do  
have a son, but I haven't talked  
to him in almost twenty years.

RUBY  
Oh god, I'm sorry, I never  
meant...

MR NOLAN  
Don't be daft lass. To be honest,  
I wouldn't know where to start. I  
did try calling the number I have,  
but it was disconnected. It's been  
so long.

RUBY  
Can I ask why?

MR NOLAN  
My young lad took his mother's  
death hard. I wasn't around much.  
Ever to be honest. Providing is  
what my generation did. Being  
there was not something you  
thought about. I wasn't with them  
when she died. He was just a  
teenager, holding his mother's  
hand. I was stuck on a rig,  
waiting for a flight out. Thing  
is, we knew it was coming and I  
still went out to work. But that's  
it though, isn't it? You all think  
time stops for you. Nothing is  
going to happen out-with your  
timetable.

RUBY  
Mr Nolan, I am so sorry.



MR NOLAN

No pet, I'm the one that's sorry. I've left it so long. Cowardly on my part. I just couldn't stand the way that he looked at me. It was easier to look away. Anyway, I've no idea where he is now.

RUBY

We could find him, you know.

MR NOLAN

What d'you mean?

RUBY

Social media. I bet I could find him for you.

MR NOLAN

That's a lovely thought Ruby, but I wouldn't know where to start, and anyway, he knows where I am.

RUBY

Well that's a bloody copout! Sorry...it's just that, it's not up to him, is it? You're the parent.

MR NOLAN

And what would you know about kids?

RUBY

(gulping hard)

I didn't say I know anything, but given everything that's going on, don't you want to reach out?

MR NOLAN

Well yes. I always do, but he has his own life now. I don't need to go upsetting things.

RUBY

You might not think it, but he'll want to hear from you.

MR NOLAN

Och, I don't know.

RUBY

Wouldn't your wife want you to?

MR NOLAN

Oh, that's a low blow, Ruby.

RUBY

Sorry, but whatever works. What was she like Mr Nolan?

MR NOLAN

Oh, Ruby, a force. Just a force of nature. Ruled the roost. Just everything...

(Nolan's voice trails off)

RUBY

And what would she say?

MR NOLAN

(chuckles and tilts his head as if hearing something)

Point taken.

RUBY

So?

MR NOLAN

Why are you pushing this Ruby?

RUBY

I just think now is the time for family.

MR NOLAN

Are you in touch with yours?

RUBY

Of Course. But we are not talking about me right now. C'mon Mr Nolan, wouldn't you like to know how he is doing. Great thing about the internet, you can check in on folk, and they don't have to know.

MR NOLAN

(wistfully)

I would love to know what type of man he has become.

RUBY

See. So, what can you tell me?

MR NOLAN

Ok. His name is Justin Nolan, and he is a civil engineer. Last I knew he was living in Edinburgh.

RUBY

Wife? Kids?

MR NOLAN

(quietly)

I don't know. No wedding invite  
ever came my way...

(gulps down)

I would like to think I would have  
made that cut.

We can see Ruby, clicking on the screen.

RUBY

Do you have a picture of him?

Mr Nolan gets up and returns with a photo.

MR NOLAN

It's an 8old one I'm afraid

Ruby studies it and keeps typing. Nolan is watching as  
she concentrates. Every so often, Ruby shakes her head.

RUBY

I'm not seeing any social media  
presence. Do you know where he  
works?

MR NOLAN

Afraid not lass.

Nolan drains his wine glass and watches her type some  
more. After a few beats, he breaks her silence.

MR NOLAN

Ruby...Ruby. Don't worry about it  
lass.

RUBY

I'm sorry, Mr Nolan, I really did  
think it would be easy to find  
him. Usually, it's so easy to find  
anyone nowadays.

MR NOLAN

Well, let's just take it as a  
sign. It's getting late Ruby, I'm  
going to call it a night if you  
don't mind?

RUBY

Sure thing. I am really sorry, I  
didn't mean to open old wounds.  
Talk tomorrow?

MR NOLAN

Yes lass.

CUT TO:

INT. - ANOTHER LIVING ROOM - NEXT DAY

Mr Nolan is sitting flicking through a newspaper. Radio in the background. His screen rings. He sits down and answers. Ruby's face lights up the screen.

MR NOLAN  
Afternoon Ruby.

RUBY  
Afternoon Mr Nolan. You well?

MR NOLAN  
Yes lass.

RUBY  
(unable to contain  
herself)  
I found your son!

Nolan disappears from the screen.

CUT TO:

INT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

We are looking into Nolan's living room.

RUBY (CONT'D)  
Mr Nolan?

We wait for a beat.

RUBY  
Mr Nolan?

MR NOLAN (O.S.)  
I'm here.

RUBY  
Did you hear me?

MR NOLAN  
I did Ruby.

Nolan sits down. His eyes are moist.

MR NOLAN  
How? I thought you said no online  
presence or something.

RUBY  
(laughing)  
Sewage.

MR NOLAN  
Sewage?

RUBY

Sewage. Found an article about some eco-friendly construction he was responsible for. Well, his company.

MR NOLAN

He has a company?

RUBY

Yep.

MR NOLAN

That's amazing. I'm so glad he is doing well for himself.

At the same time, Mr Nolan's screen rings again.

RUBY

(smiling)

Why don't you tell him, Mr Nolan?

We watch Mr Nolan answer another call. We see his face light up as we see him say "hello son". Ruby clicks off her call with him.

CUT TO:

INT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

We are now looking at Ruby's house, but not through the computer camera. We see her living room in full. There are photographs of a 'younger' her with a child. The camera pans, and we see a very able-bodied woman, Nothing suggests high risk. As it pans past the fireplace, we see deepest sympathy cards and a funeral card with a picture of the child from her photos. The camera pans back to Ruby, tears are streaming down her face, but she has a slight smile.