

Written by

By

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ST KILDA

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FADE IN:

INT./EXT. VARIOUS

MONTAGE - THE MAN by The Killers plays.

DAMIEN SCOTT (32). MOVIE STAR. Suave. Charming. Killer good looks.

MAGAZINE COVERS. TELEVISION INTERVIEWS with GRAHAM NORTON, JIMMY KIMMEL.

PAPARAZZI SHOTS. Getting into a car. Getting out of a car. Heading into a club.

Headlines: 'ANOTHER AUSSIE MAKES IT BIG IN HOLLYWOOD'.

Damien slides out of a limo at a premiere, blowing kisses.

The crowd goes wild.

CROSS FADE TO:

EXT. FITZROY STREET, ST KILDA - MORNING

A MASSIVE STREET POSTER for the new Damien Scott film, DIRTY STREETS. His chiseled face is cast in shadow, he holds a GUN up to his cheek. The tag line - 'He's going to clean them up'.

Past the poster runs MYRA CLARK (28). Workout gear, earphones in, driven, sweating up a storm. Myra has a smile that lights up a room, but right now, she's focussed.

MYRA (V.O.)
Well of course I know who he is.
Everyone in St Kilda does.

EXT. ST KILDA FORESHORE - CONTINUOUS

She heads down the running track near the beach. It is a beautiful day.

MYRA (V.O.)
But it isn't like I'd ever run into
him in St Kilda.

She runs through the palm trees and past the Royal Yacht Club.

MYRA (V.O.)
It's a pretty special place, St
Kilda. It's many things to many
people.

People go about their morning. Heading off to work - heading home after a long night - there are people out on their bikes, rollerblades, walking their dogs.

MYRA (V.O.)

There's the backpackers humping on the beach -

She swerves around a MOUND which, on closer inspection, is two BACKPACKERS making out on the sand, the end of a long night.

EXT. LUNA PARK - CONTINUOUS

Myra heads up away from the foreshore and back towards the road, running past the face of the world famous LUNA PARK FUN PARK.

MYRA (V.O.)

The ultra-rich in their refurbished penthouse apartments -

She waits as a RICH HOUSEWIFE, straight out of the Real Housewives, trots in front of her into a waiting limo, TINY DOG in tow.

EXT. FITZROY STREET - CONTINUOUS

Myra jogs by a couple of gaunt lads. She waves at them, one nudges the other up and they wave her on before dozing off.

MYRA (V.O.)

Just enough junkies to keep the rent reasonable.

EXT. THE ESPLANADE - CONTINUOUS

Myra heads up the street towards her destination, passing a fabulous DRAG QUEEN going the other way, to whom she also WAVES.

MYRA (V.O.)

And not to mention the occasional drag queen.

The Drag Queen blows her a kiss and sashays away.

MYRA (V.O.)

It's an odd mix of people that shouldn't work, but does.

(MORE)

MYRA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 If you live in St. Kilda you're
 part of something bigger. You're
 family.

EXT. ACLAND STREET - CONTINUOUS

Myra turns in to Acland St at speed - and is HIT in the
 stomach by an unexpected BARRICADE.

That is not supposed to be there.

Winded, she catches her breath and steps back, taking in the
 spectacle before her.

The entire street has been blocked off by an enormous FILM
 SHOOT. Trailers, crew, cameras - Myra is not getting any
 further down this street today.

MYRA
 God. Damn. It!

There is a crowd of people standing at the barriers watching,
 being held back by a few ADS and PAs.

One particular PA is standing, bored, headset on, flicking
 through her phone, stopping now and then to direct people
 back from the barrier.

A FAMILY OF TOURISTS, Mum, Dad, two kids, approach her.

DAD
 This is very exciting!

PA
 Uh huh.

DAD
 The kids would really love to know
 what you are shooting. Lots of
 famous people?

PA
 Nup. Mayonnaise commercial.

The family look disappointed and walk off.

Myra approaches the PA.

MYRA
 Hi there. I -

PA
 Mayonnaise commercial.

MYRA

You've been shooting around here for weeks. This is not a mayonnaise commercial. Or if it is, it's the Ben-Hur of mayonnaise commercials. I don't care. I need to get through there.

She gestures through the street.

PA

Sorry, road's closed to the public.

MYRA

Sure, I see that. Thing is, my cafe serves bagels and the bakery is - through there. So I need to get to the bakery, otherwise my customers do not get their bagels. And they like their bagels. In fact, it is one of the reasons people come to our cafe. To get food. Although much fewer people have been coming to our cafe to get food since you people have been blocking off half the roads in and out of here on a daily basis for the past month!

The PA realises that Myra is working up to a full-on scene.

She weighs up the situation and takes the easy route. She stands aside and ushers Myra around the barrier.

She puts out her hand. Myra looks at it, baffled, and... goes to shake it?

The PA pushes her hand away impatiently.

PA

Phone?

MYRA

Oh. I don't take it running.

PA

Straight there and back. If you're not back in five minutes I'll come looking.

Myra mock salutes her, and gets a withering glance in return.

EXT. FILM SET - CONTINUOUS

Myra wends her way around the outskirts of the set. Despite herself, she's interested.

A massive set piece is being constructed on the road. There's a TANK OF WATER up one end, and four or five CARS down the other. What seem like HUNDREDS OF CREW work busily.

Myra wanders past craft services, sees a whole lot of EXTRAS dressed as police, and a few sitting at a table dressed in - hula costumes?

As she does a double take, she is nearly HIT in the head as someone walks past her with a human sized FISH TAIL hoisted on their shoulder.

Police, hula dancers, fish tails - what the hell kind of movie is this?

Myra has nearly made it to the end of the road when she hears raised VOICES. As she walks quietly past the last trailer she comes upon -

EXT. DAMIEN SCOTT'S TRAILER - CONTINUOUS

- DAMIEN SCOTT. Decent, modest, good-humoured - and currently having a diva-sized tantrum.

DAMIEN

What the hell is this dialogue - I feel like I'm saying 'something's fishy' on every second page!

He SLAMS a script onto a nearby table.

DOUG HALLETT, 35, Damien's friend/assistant/manager, out of his depth in designer duds, is busy on his phone.

DOUG

You did read it before you signed on -

DAMIEN

You told me the Farrelly Brothers had signed on to do re-writes -

DOUG

I think they might have been busy, wait I'll get Chris on the phone -

DAMIEN

I don't need you to get Chris on the phone! I need you to get me out of doing this stupid mermaid movie!

Myra mouths to herself - 'MERMAID movie?'

DOUG

I'll call Cindy, she can call David...

The door from the trailer next door opens and ELISE CARMICHAEL (30s) supermodel, legs for days, wrapped in a robe and slippers, appears. Every time we see her, she's eating.

Taking a salt and vinegar chip out of the packet, she floats down the steps and over to Damien and Doug.

ELISE

You two fighting again?

She chomps the chip down and offers the packet to the two men, who wave it away.

DOUG

Damien is having... artistic issues with the script.

Elise puts her arm around Damien and gives him a squeeze.

ELISE

Darling, say the lines and think of the money.

Myra rolls her eyes and heads off, not seeing -

Damien, his bad temper spent, sitting down on the step of the trailer with his head in his hands.

DAMIEN

I have to go through with it now, don't I?

Doug pats him on the back.

DOUG

It's supposed to be broad comedy, Damien, right? It's just a bit different to what you're used to.

ELISE

You're broadening your fan base darling.

DAMIEN

But - a mermaid cop?
 (groans)
 How did I let you talk me in to
 this?

DOUG

Well - merman, to be accurate.

Damien groans and buries his head in his hands again.

EXT. GALLEON CAFE - MORNING

A charming, welcoming cafe tucked around the corner from
 Acland St.

Myra pushes through the doors, her hands full with the bagel
 tray.

Sitting at the counter is BEATRICE (Beats), Myra's nine year
 old daughter, quirky, intelligent, not great with eye
 contact, finishing off her homework.

Myra tousles her hair as she walks past.

MYRA

Shouldn't you be getting off to
 school, my Beatrice?

Beats tries unsuccessfully to dodge the caress.

BEATS

Mum, why do people use headphones?
 Why don't they just listen to the
 songs in their heads?

MYRA

That is an excellent question. Why
 don't you ask your teacher?

From the back of the cafe appears JACOB (early 30s) Asian,
 gorgeous in his work suit, tends not to take life too
 seriously, downing the last of his coffee.

JACOB

Beat-y Beats, let's go!
 (to Myra)
 Good morning young lady!

In the corner, an old lady in her late 70s sips a short
 black. This is NANNA.

NANNA
(snorting)
That girl hasn't been young since
the day she was born.

MYRA
(wry)
Thanks Nanna.

Myra starts to help Beats pack up her things.

MYRA (CONT'D)
Jacob. You are not going to
believe.

JACOB
What?!

MYRA
I actually SAW Damien Scott on set
this morning.

Jacob goes white.

JACOB
No you did not.

MYRA
Yes I did. And they're making a
film about mermaids. I knew it
wasn't a mayonnaise commercial.

JACOB
Mermaids?!

BEATS
What kind of mermaids?

MYRA
There's more than one kind?

JACOB
You saw him in the flesh?

MYRA
I sure did. He was having a massive
tantrum. What an absolute diiii-

She struggles as she realises what she is about to say in
front of Beats -

JACOB
-iva. A diva.

MYRA

Yes. A diva. Exactly.

JACOB

Was he the hottest man on earth?

At that moment ZACHARY (30s) the epitome of cool, calm and collected, apron on, emerges from the back of the cafe, holding aloft a plate of scrambled eggs.

ZACHARY

But that would be me, would it not?

JACOB

Of course!

They kiss.

Myra notices. There's something about other couples' happiness when you're lonely that seems - bittersweet.

Nanna notices Myra noticing. Myra notices Nanna noticing. She looks away quickly.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Come on Beats. Maybe we can wander past Acland Street -

MYRA

Don't you dare, you get her straight to school.

BEATS

Damien Scott is lame anyway.

JACOB

Sacrilege!

BEATS

Bye Mum! Bye Dad! Bye Nanna!

She kisses Myra, Zachary and Nanna on the cheeks and heads out with Jacob. Myra and Zachary watch her leave.

MYRA

She's just the best.

Zachary puts the plate of breakfast in front of her.

ZACHARY

The one good thing to come out of my straight years.

MYRA

Hey!

ZACHARY

Aside from our friendship, of course.

MYRA

Better.

Zachary kisses her on the head and turns and heads back out to the kitchen.

Myra takes a bite of eggs before taking them with her behind the counter to start work. A counter-hand, ETHAN (early 20s) mild intellectual disability, kick ass at his job, interrupts her.

ETHAN

Myra, someone wants to book for dinner?

MYRA

That's great Ethan, can you pop it in the computer?

ETHAN

They want to book the whole restaurant though? I don't think there's a button for that.

MYRA

What?

She turns back to the counter to see - her old friend, the PA.

PA

Get your bagels?

The eye-roll is suggested in her tone.

MYRA

I did, thank you so much for all your help.

She puts on her business face and smiles.

MYRA (CONT'D)

And how may I help you?

PA

I need to book your cafe tonight. For dinner. Private function.

MYRA

Tonight? That's very last minute.

PA

You said your business was down because of the shoot and your website says you are available for functions.

(shrugs)

I can try somewhere else though if you're busy. You had a good write up on Yelp, but...

She looks around.

MYRA

Just let me check.

Myra rustles some papers. They aren't busy.

MYRA (CONT'D)

No that's fine, how many can we expect?

INT. GALLEON CAFE - NIGHT

The gang are frantically trying to get the cafe ready for their exclusive booking.

Zachary cooks up a storm in the kitchen. Jacob and Beats are scrubbing tables, squirting each other with the multipurpose spray. Myra is setting tables and Ethan is folding napkins.

Nanna sits in her corner, rolling dumplings with her fingers.

Myra is squirted one too many times with the multipurpose spray.

MYRA

Can you two stop?

Jacob and Beats exchange a look.

BEATS

Sorry Mum.

JACOB

Yeah, sorry Mum.

Myra takes the spray off them.

MYRA

Thank you so much for both your help, but it is time for Beats to go upstairs and get ready for bed.

BEATS

Aww Mum... I wanna see the famous guy!

MYRA

I thought he was lame? We are not even sure the 'famous guy' is coming. And if he does it will be past your bedtime.

Nanna starts to get up, wiping her hands on her apron.

NANNA

Come on Beatrice. Bedtime.

JACOB

Nanna, I can do it. You finish what you are doing!

NANNA

I am finished. And I think you are needed down here.

BEATS

Yay, Nanna!

Nanna takes Beats's hand and they head upstairs.

JACOB

You were pretty lucky when you found Nanna.

MYRA

I think that every single day.

JACOB

Is she ok?

MYRA

Doctors say it could be six months, could be six years. But most likely around a year. The cancer has metabolised, it's anyone's guess.

JACOB

Will you have enough to buy the place in six months?

MYRA

...Let's cross our fingers for six years.

LATER:

The long table is full of movie people enjoying themselves, including Damien, Doug and Elise.

Jacob, Myra and Ethan are run off their feet, serving the boisterous group.

Doug clicks his fingers arrogantly at Ethan.

DOUG

Hey, you, what does it take to get a refill around here?

Myra notices. She's about to intervene when -

Damien waves Ethan off.

DAMIEN

All good, I got it.

He leans over and refills Doug's glass.

Doug doesn't register, engrossed in conversation with the HOLLYWOOD TYPE on his left, but Ethan - and Myra - look at Damien gratefully.

Brushing off the attention, Damien stands up and TAPS his spoon on his glass.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)

Can I have your attention please.

The hubbub dies down.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)

I would like to make a toast to our intrepid leader on his birthday, the incredibly, incredibly talented and hilarious writer AND director of the reason we are all here, the future hit 'Mercop'...

In the background, Myra can't stifle a SNIGGER. MERCOP?

Damien hears and looks for the source of the noise, but Myra is back innocently folding napkins.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)
Anyway, as I was saying, as we
embark on the final few weeks of
shooting...

As he continues to talk, Myra notices something moving out
the front window. She heads towards it and looks out, only to
see -

Two PAPARAZZI, cameras up against the glass, taking pictures
for all they're worth!

MYRA
Hey!

She rushes to the door, unlocks it and pushes it open.

MYRA (CONT'D)
Hey! Hey you! Get lost!

Busted, the Paparazzi run off.

Myra has a thought - follows them into the street and shouts.

MYRA (CONT'D)
Hey - if you sell the pictures -
It's Galleon - Gee ay el el -

But they're gone.

She heads back inside, where the whole table is silently
staring at her.

MYRA (CONT'D)
Oh - um, sorry. They were just -
they were taking photos -

Damien is still standing up, drink in hand. He looks at her.

She smiles.

That smile.

There's a moment.

Damien recovers.

DAMIEN
Oh - thank you. Can't imagine how
they knew we were here?

DOUG
They always know.

MYRA

Anyway, they're gone, so, please -

She gestures for them to keep going. The party starts again.

INT. STOREROOM, GALLEON CAFE - LATER

Myra barges in with an armful of empty wine bottles which she DUMPS in a recycle bin.

She heads over to the wine rack on the wall and pulls down a bottle, examining the label.

DAMIEN

Hi.

Myra, scared out of her wits, makes a noise between a SHRIEK and a SHOUT - and DROPS the bottle - which SMASHES all over the concrete.

MYRA

Damn!

DAMIEN

Sorry. I didn't mean to scare you.

She looks up.

He's sitting on a pile of pallets in a dark back corner.

MYRA

What the holy hell are you hiding back there for?

DAMIEN

Needed a break.

He smiles at her.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)

If I have to smile politely one more time while someone asks me if I'm enjoying Mercop, I might just harpoon my brains out.

MYRA

Most people take their break in the bathroom, not sneaking into people's storerooms.

She gets down on her hands and knees and starts picking up the broken glass.

Damien comes over and helps her.

DAMIEN

Sorry about this. You can add it to our bill.

MYRA

I most certainly will.

He smiles again.

DAMIEN

Do you mind if I hang out here for a minute?

MYRA

Go for it. You're the movie star, you can do whatever you want.

DAMIEN

You'd think that, wouldn't you.

He gazes at a piece of glass thoughtfully.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)

But really, I can do even less what I want than anyone else I know.

MYRA

Yes I'm sure being rich, gorgeous and famous is a real hassle.

DAMIEN

When you put it like that...

She's got no time for this pity party.

MYRA

If you'll excuse me, I have to get back to work before your friends are so rude to my staff that they quit.

DAMIEN

Those people aren't my friends, they're my colleagues. I guess they're used to a - certain standard of service.

MYRA

Well la di da.

She turns to go.

DAMIEN

Hey - I didn't mean - that's no excuse of course. They're Hollywood assholes.

MYRA

No argument there.

DAMIEN

Thanks for chasing off those paps by the way. In the world of this rich, gorgeous dude, they really are the pits.

That was - strangely down to earth. She stops and considers him for the first time.

MYRA

'Life is like walking through paradise with peas in your shoes.'

DAMIEN

Exactly.

He realises what she said.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)

Wait - what?

She laughs.

MYRA

Nanna always says - life is like walking through paradise with peas in your shoes. Even the most perfect thing is flawed in some way. Most people would think being a big movie star is the best, but really - peas.

DAMIEN

Peas. Yes. Exactly. The paps are peas.

MYRA

I should get back out there. If I put enough expensive wine on the table tonight hopefully it will make up for the week no one could get to the cafe cause of your shoot.

DAMIEN

You've been losing business?

Oops. Not what you tell the customer.

MYRA
Oh - no big deal. It's fine.

DAMIEN
I'm so sorry, that really stinks.

She is surprised by his sincerity. In fact, this whole conversation is surprising.

She turns to go again.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)
I'm Damien, by the way.

He offers her his hand.

MYRA
Yes, I know.

She shakes his hand.

DAMIEN
And you are?

MYRA
Oh - Myra. I'm Myra.

DAMIEN
Well Myra of the Peas, it was lovely to meet you.

MYRA
You too.

She turns to go as he tries to kiss her on the cheek - and their lips meet.

Myra breaks away, bright red. She panics.

MYRA (CONT'D)
Thank you.

She turns to go. Thank you?! WTF? She cringes as she leaves.

DAMIEN
(baffled)
You're welcome?

INT. LOUNGE, APARTMENT ABOVE THE CAFE - DAY

Myra and Beats's place. Homely. Lots of Beats's art hung around on the walls, the fridge, the cupboards.

Myra is making lunch in the kitchen. Jacob and Beats are sitting on the couch, watching tv.

Myra looks over.

MYRA

What are you two watching?

BEATS

'They Only Hang You Once.'

MYRA

What?!!

She comes over. Jacob looks up, guilty as sin.

MYRA (CONT'D)

This is not a G rated movie.

JACOB

But look! Damien! On a horse! With his shirt off!

On the tv, a scene from a Western.

EXT. TEXAS DESERT - SUNSET

A Cowboy, shirt off, rides away from the sunset. It's Damien.

He pulls his horse up, surveys the countryside, looking pensive. Sunlight falls over scene. It is a beautiful shot.

Another COWBOY rides up beside him, this one fully clothed.

COWBOY 2

We'd better be heading into town if we are going to head off the hanging.

COWBOY DAMIEN

True thing, partner. They only have to hang you once.

They ride off together into the sunset.

INT. LOUNGE, APARTMENT ABOVE THE CAFE - CONTINUOUS

Myra is now sitting with Jacob and Beats on the couch, riveted to the screen.

JACOB
Is he the hangman? He certainly
looks well hung.

Myra slaps him without taking her eyes off the screen.

MYRA
Why does he have no shirt on?

JACOB
Greater minds than ours are at work
there.

MYRA
Genius.

BEATS
I think it's boring.

Myra and Jacob, however, are mesmerized as the two cowboys continue to ride.

They are interrupted by a KNOCK at the door.

Myra jumps up to open it, still barely taking her eyes from the screen. It's Ethan.

ETHAN
Myra? Syd is here to see you.

JACOB
Oh no.

MYRA
I'll come down.
(to Jacob)
If you have to have a Damien Scott-
a-thon, can you find something more
family friendly? Didn't he do that
cartoon about the flamingos?

She follows Ethan down the stairs.

JACOB
(to Beats)
You like it really, don't you?

INT. GALLEON CAFE - DAY

Myra and Ethan appear from the bottom of the stairs.

Nanna is sitting in the back, playing cards with an OLD FRIEND (70s). She doesn't notice as Myra greets SYD (40s), self-righteous in his cheap suit, standing at the counter.

MYRA

Syd! To what do we owe this pleasure.

SYD

Hello Myra.

They kiss each other on the cheek.

SYD (CONT'D)

I wanted to let you know - after talking to the doctors, the family have decided to put the building on the market.

MYRA

Now???

SYD

For when Nanna dies.

MYRA

She's not dead yet!

SYD

I know, but we want to get some idea of what interest is out there. What price we can expect. Don't worry, I've seen her will, she's left you a little money to start again. A little money. And, god willing, it won't be for a very long time, but as the Bible says, it is better to be safe than sorry.

MYRA

I don't think the Bible -

SYD

We'll give you first right of refusal on the place, of course, at market value, but there is a lot of interest and we want to start showing people around.

Myra looks over at Nanna.

MYRA
Have you told Nanna?

SYD
Nanna is a sick old lady, she
doesn't know what day it is. She
should really come home and live
with her family.

As Myra looks at Nanna, sharp as a tack. Beats comes up to her and hugs the old lady. Nanna makes a space for her and deals her into the game.

MYRA
We are her family.

Syd and Myra are interrupted by a now familiar voice.

PA
Excuse me.

They both turn and look at her.

MYRA
Good grief.

SYD
See you soon Myra.

He turns and heads over to Nanna. He greets her, kissing her on both cheeks.

Hardly able to contain her lack of enthusiasm for the upcoming conversation, Myra turns to the PA.

MYRA
And what can I do for you.

EXT. FILM SET, ACLAND STREET - DAY

Myra walks up to the barriers and flags down a passing AD (20s).

MYRA
Excuse me-

AD
Mayonnaise commercial.

MYRA
Actually, I'm here to see Doug
Hallett?

AD

Finally.

He activates his headset.

AD (CONT'D)

The masseuse is finally here, I'm bringing her through.

He opens the barrier for her.

AD (CONT'D)

You're late.

MYRA

No - I mean, I'm not -

AD

It's fine, forget it, I'll take you to Doug and he'll take you to Damien.

Well - that is who she's here to see, guess it doesn't matter how she gets there?

The AD pushes her towards the line of trailers.

AD (CONT'D)

Don't you have any - stuff?

He mimes a bag.

MYRA

Oh - no, it's all in here -

She wiggles her fingers. He shrugs.

AD

Really? You don't use oils or anything?

They walk together towards the row of trailers.

MYRA

Oh, no - it's a new thing. No distractions. Just flesh meeting flesh.

She's grossed herself out. She makes a face. He doesn't notice.

AD

Oh yeah?

MYRA

Yeah. Stripping back everything and concentrating on the human contact.

AD

Oh right, cool. Skin on skin.

MYRA

Yes exactly. We concentrate on feeling the human vibrations given off through the skin -

She's almost convinced herself.

EXT. DAMIEN'S TRAILER - DAY

On the door, a label - DAMIEN SCOTT. The AD knocks.

AD

That sounds amazing. Do you have a card? I'd love to give it a shot -

MYRA

Oh - no - we eschew all types of material things, but if you just Google -

DOUG (O.S.)

Come in!

MYRA

(to the AD)

Thanks so much! Look me up!

She turns the handle and goes in.

INT. DAMIEN'S TRAILER - CONTINUOUS

This is a pretty amazing trailer. It's more like a small home. A small luxurious home.

Doug sits on the couch, leafing through scripts and contracts. In the next room, a shower can be heard.

Doug looks up as Myra comes in.

DOUG

Ah great, there you are. Damien's just in the shower so he wont mind if I go first.

He gets up and starts to take off his shirt.

DOUG (CONT'D)
Where's your table?

MYRA
Oh - no - I'm not -

She holds her hands in front of his semi-naked torso, trying not to look at his decidedly non-buffed body.

At that moment, Damien comes in from the bathroom.

He's fresh out of the shower, hair and body glistening, crisp white towel slung around his waist.

If Myra has her mouth hanging open, we can hardly blame her.

Damien takes in the situation - Myra in shock, Doug undressing -

DAMIEN
What the hell?

DOUG
Oh - sorry mate, the masseuse is here, thought you wouldn't mind if I jumped in first -

DAMIEN
That's not the masseuse dickhead, that's the chick from the place last night, don't you remember?

DOUG
Um...

DAMIEN
She chased off the paps?

DOUG
Oh! Yeah, sorry...

DAMIEN
I asked her here to discuss catering the wrap party.

DOUG
The wrap party? That's not our -

DAMIEN
Wanna put your shirt back on mate?

There's another knock at the door.

VOICE (O.S.)
The masseuse is here.

Doug quickly puts his shirt back on.

DOUG
Excuse me, I'll go find the actual
masseuse. So sorry.

He scuttles out the door. Damien pushes it shut behind him.

DAMIEN
Sorry about that. Thanks for coming
in, I wasn't sure you would.

MYRA
Catering such a big party would be
a real coup for us.

DAMIEN
I spoke to the PM - the production
manager - about it, hopefully it
will make up a bit for the business
you've lost?

MYRA
Yes absolutely - we've only just
started the catering arm of the
company, it looks like we might be
losing the building soon so we need
other sources of income -

Damien sits down, instantly serious and attentive.

DAMIEN
You want me to do an instagram
post? I've got 22 million
followers.

He reaches for his phone.

MYRA
Well - let's see how the party goes
first.

DAMIEN
Why are you losing the building?
Developers?

MYRA
Nanna's son will get it when she
dies and - he wants to sell it.

MYRA (CONT'D)
We've been saving up to buy it but
I just can't see how we'll ever
have enough...

She suddenly realises this is a complete stranger she is talking to.

MYRA (CONT'D)
Anyway! Of course none of that is
your problem. But we would be
honoured to cater your wrap party.

Damien gets up.

DAMIEN
I want to hear more about this.
Keep talking, I'll just throw some
clothes on. How is Nanna not your
grandma?

He disappears into the other room.

MYRA
Well... Nanna has been like a
mother to me. My own mother kicked
me out when I got pregnant at
nineteen. I was waitressing at the
Galleon at the time. Nanna found me
crying and insisted I move in with
her above the cafe. Her husband
died about a year before and I
think she was lonely. We made a
little family.

Myra wanders the room as she speaks. She finds a script on the table - MERCOP. She flips through it.

Damien reappears in a t-shirt and shorts, looking even more devastating, if that's even possible. She jumps away from the script.

DAMIEN
You've got a kid?

He opens the door and gestures her out.

EXT. DAMIEN'S TRAILER - CONTINUOUS

They walk and talk on their way to set.

MYRA

Yeah, Beats - Beatrice. She's nine.
She's the greatest.

DAMIEN

And what happened to her dad?

MYRA

He's around. We see him every day,
in fact.

DAMIEN

You're married?!

Damien might be an actor but he can't suppress his horror.

MYRA

Ha! No. Zachary realised soon after
we got pregnant that he's gay.
We're still best friends, he's been
a great dad to Beats - and he's had
a partner for like ten years,
Jacob. Jacob is like Beats' second
dad. We all co-parent. Modern
family and all that.

EXT. SET - CONTINUOUS

This unknown woman walking with the biggest star on the
planet is getting plenty of strange looks, but no one has
said anything.

Damien turns to her.

DAMIEN

So I have to do this thing right
now, but I want to take you out for
dinner later.

MYRA

Oh, to figure out what kind of food
you want at the party?

DAMIEN

No, to figure out who you are. You
know, a date.

Myra is baffled by this concept. The movie star? A date?

MYRA

What? A date like a date? Like a
kissy date? Don't you have a
girlfriend?

(MORE)

MYRA (CONT'D)

I'm sure I saw it on some magazine -
 (embarrassed)
 - that I definitely didn't buy as I
 walked past it in the supermarket.

DAMIEN

A kissy date? I don't want to
 presume, but sure, a kissy date.
 And I don't have a girlfriend.
 Haven't for yonks. Have the press
 been beating something up again?

MYRA

She was definitely a supermodel...

DAMIEN

Oh, Elise? Nah, she's just a mate,
 we've known each other for yonks.
 So what do you say?

MYRA

(stumped)
 I don't date.

DAMIEN

You kissed me!

MYRA

Oh come on!

They laugh. There's another moment.

MYRA (CONT'D)

Look, I don't date, but we have
 family dinner tonight, and
 occasionally we invite friends.

DAMIEN

I can be a friend.

MYRA

Jacob will die.

They look at each other.

MYRA (CONT'D)

Be at the cafe at at 7.

He turns and grabs a passing AD.

DAMIEN

Hey, mate - this is a friend of
 mine.

(MORE)

DAMIEN (CONT'D)
Will you let her watch as long as
she wants then show her out?

AD
Yes sir!

Damien winces at the implied salute.

DAMIEN
See you later.

MYRA
Bye.

They smile at each other, and then he is gone.

The AD shows her to a chair.

AD
I'll be right back. Um - don't
move. And don't touch anything.

As Myra watches, Damien heads over to the TANK OF WATER she
saw being set up earlier.

A STUNT COORDINATOR puts him into a harness and straps him
in.

A COSTUMER straps him into a MERMAID TAIL. He gets into
position.

A couple of CO-STARS dressed as criminals get into the cars
at the end of the street. Other CO-STARS dressed as police
stand by.

Elise is there, dressed as a COP. A sexy cop. She brandishes
A GUN.

The DIRECTOR on a CRANE shouts into a loudspeaker.

DIRECTOR
Action!

The water in the tank is immediately released and sweeps down
the road.

Damien, guided by wires attached to his harness, RIDES the
wave down to the cars, which are swamped by water.

The CRIMINAL CO-STARS in the cars fall out into the water and
are immediately ARRESTED by POLICE CO-STARS.

One of the Criminals tries to make a run for it and Mercop Damien SLAPS him with his tail. The Criminal FALLS to the floor and is arrested by Elise.

Mercop Damien looks at the captured criminals.

DAMIEN

And that's what I call - WET
JUSTICE!

He gives Elise a HIGH FIVE with his tail.

DIRECTOR

Cut! Print!

OFF Myra's face.

INT. UPSTAIRS APARTMENT - NIGHT

Myra is cooking in the kitchen with Nanna. Zachary is sitting at the dining table with Beats, helping her with a puzzle.

Jacob is pacing up and down by the window.

NANNA

Will you sit down you, you're
making me nervous.

Jacob sits down on the couch but then gets back up and starts pacing again.

JACOB

Damien Scott. Like, Damien Scott.
He's coming here. For dinner. Like,
for dinner! We have dinner every
day. He's coming here to eat
dinner!

BEATS

(to Zachary)

Is he having a nervous breakdown?

ZACHARY

No darling. He'll be fine.

JACOB

I think I need a drink.

He disappears downstairs.

ZACHARY

(to Beats)

Maybe a small one.

A doorbell rings.

MYRA

Oh my god. Damien Scott is here.

Zachary exchanges a look with Beats.

ZACHARY

Perhaps I should get it.

He disappears down the stairs.

MYRA

Oooh how was this a good idea?

NANNA

Movie stars are just like everyone else. They go to the toilet just like you and me.

MYRA

Thanks Nanna. Strangely, that helps.

Zachary and Damien appear at the door.

DAMIEN

Hello!

MYRA

Hello! Come in. This is Nanna -

DAMIEN

Lovely to meet you, Mrs -

NANNA

You can call me Nanna, just like everyone else.

She allows him to peck her on the cheek.

MYRA

And this is Beats.

Beats looks at him quizzically.

DAMIEN

Hi Beats, I'm Damien.

BEATS

Hello.

She keeps staring at him oddly. Myra makes the best of an awkward situation.

MYRA

Well, shall we all sit down? Food
is ready!

ZACHARY

Where is Jacob?

Jacob appears brightly from around the door where he was not
at all hiding shyly.

JACOB

Here I am! Here! Was just getting
the wine!

He passes behind Damien making massive eyes at Myra. She
glares at him.

LATER:

They've all had food and wine, except Beats, who didn't have
wine, obviously, and who is still staring strangely at
Damien. Jacob is sitting perfectly still, like he's lost all
use of his limbs. The two of them sit there and stare at
Damien while the others chat.

NANNA

So you, movie star, what famous
people do you know?

DAMIEN

I know a few, Nanna, who do you
like?

NANNA

Cary Grant.

DAMIEN

I think he's dead?

NANNA

James Stewart.

DAMIEN

Definitely dead.

NANNA

Kim Novak.

DAMIEN

You know I think she's still alive
but I haven't met her.

NANNA

You're not a real movie star. You don't know anyone famous. Jimmy Stewart, he was a real movie star. They don't make movies like Jimmy Stewart movies anymore.

DAMIEN

Next time I'll do a Jimmy Stewart movie just for you Nanna.

BEATS

Do you know Taylor Swift?

DAMIEN

I have met Taylor! She's very nice.

Beats is impressed. She goes back to staring.

Zachary looks at Jacob, frozen solid, and tries to keep the conversation going, pouring Damien more wine.

ZACHARY

So where are you from Damien?

DAMIEN

Byron Bay, actually, born and raised. I've been wanting to come back to Australia to work for ages, but nothing's come up until now.

ZACHARY

Ah, yes, Myra was telling us - Mercops?

They are all trying very hard to keep a straight face. Damien pretends not to notice.

DAMIEN

Just the one, actually. Me. Mercop.

NANNA

And what's that about, movie star?

MYRA

(under her breath)
Stop calling him that Nanna...

DAMIEN

Well... there's a policeman, who gets a curse put on him by a sea witch...

ZACHARY

Oh, a sea witch, I see...

Jacob has to turn away in case Damien sees him sniggering.

Myra is waging a losing war with her mirth.

DAMIEN

So that any time he gets wet, he turns into a merman. And he uses it to fight crime.

Zachary can't help himself.

ZACHARY

Wet Justice, perhaps?

They all start laughing.

Damien pretends to look offended but eventually laughs with everyone else.

ZACHARY (CONT'D)

I don't pretend to be an expert in your industry, but why would one who has been nominated for an Oscar take the part in Mercop? It seems like a - strange choice?

DAMIEN

I guess I'd just done a lot of really heavy stuff, trying to prove I was the best, a serious actor, and it was just - a lot. I needed to do something more lighthearted, it was just -

ZACHARY

- it was just a lot of money?

DAMIEN

It was a lot of money. A - very lot of money. I have to admit, it is worse than I thought it was going to be. 'Crime doesn't pay - even underwater!'

They are laughing so hard they can barely speak.

MYRA

Oh, oh no.

There's a pause. Beats chooses this moment to turn to Damien.

BEATS

Damien, do you really go to the toilet just like everyone else?

Myra's face.

DAMIEN

(seriously)

Indeed I do. Number ones and number twos. Is that important?

BEATS

Nah. I have one more question.

DAMIEN

And what is that.

BEATS

Do mermaids like mice?

Damien looks at Myra. She shrugs.

DAMIEN

Sure. There are actually mermice. And they keep them as pets.

Beats gets up.

BEATS

Do you wanna see my room?

Myra looks at her in amazement. This is the highest compliment anyone can be paid by Beats.

DAMIEN

I would love that.

Beats gets up.

BEATS

(to the others)

You all can stay here.

Beats and Damien march off together.

Jacob stares after them.

JACOB

I think she was four years old before I was allowed to see her room.

EXT. FRONT DOOR, GALLEON CAFE - NIGHT

Zachary and Myra are walking Damien out.

DAMIEN

That was amazing. Thank you so much for having me. You're quite the cook.

ZACHARY

We all have our gifts.

MYRA

Thanks for coming. It was really fun.

Zachary offers him his hand. They shake.

ZACHARY

Come back any time.

DAMIEN

Thanks.

Zachary turns and leaves them to it.

Damien looks at Myra.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)

Feel like dessert? I could murder a golden gaytime.

She looks back into the cafe.

Zachary is heading back up the stairs. He gestures wildly at to her to go.

MYRA

Sure. Friends get ice cream.

They walk off side by side.

EXT. FITZROY STREET - NIGHT

They walk towards the water.

DAMIEN

Beats is awesome.

MYRA

I'm sorry about the toilet thing. She often takes things literally that are meant - less literally.

DAMIEN

She's great. You're really lucky.

MYRA

I'm sorry for making fun of your movie.

DAMIEN

Nah. It's pretty stupid.

MYRA

What do you need the money for?
Aren't you already rich?

DAMIEN

Yeah, I don't know. The rat race -
always on to the bigger, better
thing. I don't even know what it's
for anymore.

They make it to a 7/11.

It's getting dark now, and people don't notice them.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)

Would you mind going in? Probably
best if I stay out here.

MYRA

Yeah. Of course.

INT. 7/11 - CONTINUOUS

She heads in and grabs two ice creams from the freezer. From inside she sees two TEENAGERS stop Damien and ask him for a selfie. He obliges and gives them both HIGH FIVES as they head off.

She heads back out to him with their order.

EXT. ST KILDA FORESHORE/ PIER - CONTINUOUS

He grabs her hand and they run across the road and make it to the pier.

It's getting dark now, and people don't notice them. It's mainly couples caught up in their own worlds and a couple of old fishermen who couldn't give a fuck.

They stop against the rails. Catch their breath.

MYRA

That was nice of you.

DAMIEN

It can get a bit much, but I always remind myself, it's a big deal to them, and a few minutes for me. Also I charged them fifty bucks.

They stand against the rails, looking out over the water.

Damien takes a bite of ice cream.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)

Wow. It's like being a kid again.

It's a beautiful picture, the two of them on the pier in the moonlight. It's no wonder that Damien tries to take Myra's hand...

MYRA

You know I said I don't date.

DAMIEN

Yes.

MYRA

Well now you see why. I have responsibilities. I can't be running off for ice cream at a moment's notice.

Damien contemplates this. Stares at his ice cream.

DAMIEN

I like you and I'd like to hang out with you while I'm here. It can just be as friends, if you like. The shoot finishes in three weeks and I'll be out of your hair.

MYRA

Friends for three weeks I can do.

She holds out her ice cream to him.

MYRA (CONT'D)

Cheers.

They knock ice creams.

DAMIEN

Cheers.

They smile at each other.

There is no way they are just friends.

INT. LOUNGE, APARTMENT ABOVE THE CAFE - NIGHT

Myra comes back in, smiling to herself, and is instantly set upon by Jacob and Zachary.

JACOB

What happened? Did he kiss you?

MYRA

No, he didn't kiss me. We have decided to be friends until he leaves, and then I imagine we will never see each other again.

ZACHARY

Very Sensible. Very, very sensible.

MYRA

It is one thing to have a friend over for a dinner party. It is quite another to introduce Beats to a man I'm only going to have a fling with.

ZACHARY

Myra, you haven't dated since Beats was born -

JACOB

- That's NINE YEARS or four hundred and forty three years in homosexual time -

ZACHARY

- You deserve to have some fun.

JACOB

And Beats is fine. She's probably the most well-adjusted of all of us.

MYRA

That's probably true.

She pours herself another glass of wine.

MYRA (CONT'D)
 Anyway, we will be busy preparing
 for the wrap party for the next
 three weeks as well as trying to
 find somewhere to live when Syd
 sells the place from out beneath
 us, I'm sure I'll hardly have time
 to see him anyway.

INT. GALLEON CAFE - EVENING

The gang is working hard, preparing for another evening
 booking.

Myra is scrubbing the tables. She turns to the counter to
 find - her friend, the PA.

MYRA
 Oh no. Not tonight.

PA
 You're supposed to come with me.

MYRA
 I am working.

PA
 Aren't you about to close?
 Apparently it's been cleared with
 (checks notes)
 Zachary.

Jacob appears, ties on an apron embroidered with MYRA.

JACOB
 Go, woman. Have fun. I will be you
 tonight.

MYRA
 Jacob, you have a day job.

JACOB
 One double shift is not going to
 kill me.

Jacob starts ordering Ethan around, pretending to be Myra.

Ethan finds it hilarious.

JACOB (CONT'D)
 Do this! Do that!

Myra can't help but laugh.

MYRA
But Beats...

Zachary pokes his head over the kitchen half-door.

ZACHARY
Myra Genevieve Clark. The man has
put effort into taking you for a
date. Go and have some fun before I
put you in the car myself.

Myra looks from one to the other, ganged up on.

MYRA
Oh fine.

She throws off her apron.

MYRA (CONT'D)
Just let me get changed.

INT. TOWN CAR - EVENING

Myra gets in, hair pulled back, makeup on.

There's a glass of champagne poured, waiting for her.

She pulls the door shut and the car pulls off.

Suddenly, the partition to the driver starts to go down. On
the other side, the driver - Doug.

DOUG
Hey there, I don't think we've been
properly introduced. I'm Doug,
Damien's manager - and childhood
friend.

MYRA
Ah - hi. Nice to meet you. Myra.

DOUG
Sorry about the misunderstanding
the other day.

MYRA
Ah, that's ok. It was my fault
really.

DOUG

I'm taking you to Damo's place,
he's cooking dinner there - less
intrusion from the public, if you
know what I mean.

MYRA

Yes. Damien is very popular.

DOUG

I gotta say, you aren't his usual
type, you know?

MYRA

No, I imagine not.

DOUG

His last girlfriend - Elise
Carmichael. You know her? She's a
big time model, Calvin Klein,
Victoria's Secret, the works. He
got her the part in Mercop.

MYRA

He said they were just friends?

DOUG

Yeah, now they are. She broke his
heart. Maybe he wants to try
something new, you know? He's real
impulsive, Damien. I spend most of
my time putting out fires he
accidentally starts. With the best
intentions, of course!

MYRA

Doug, we've only just met, but if
you are trying to warn me off your
boy, I assure you he is in no
danger from me.

DOUG

Whoa! Whoa! Settle down there
princess. I'm just making
conversation, you know. Just
chatting. Getting to know one
another.

She presses the button for the partition to go back up.

Sculls the champagne.

INT. INCREDIBLE PENTHOUSE APARTMENT - NIGHT

Myra stands at the door and rings the bell.

Damien answers, dressed casually, tea towel over his shoulder.

How is it that he looks devastating whatever he wears?

DAMIEN
Hello! You made it!

MYRA
Yes, somehow it seemed to happen
without my contributing.

DAMIEN
You met Doug properly?

MYRA
Yes, he's certainly a - person.

He brings her through the foyer and into the lounge.

MYRA (CONT'D)
This - this place is amazing.

DAMIEN
Yeah, the production rented it for
me while I'm here.

MYRA
Oh you don't live in that trailer?

DAMIEN
(laughs)
Oh no, that's just to hang out in
when I'm on set.

MYRA
It could house a small family.

DAMIEN
Martini?

Myra grimaces.

MYRA
I'd rather have a gin and tonic?

DAMIEN
Done.

He starts making drinks.

MYRA

You know, this looks very much like a date. And we said we weren't dating.

DAMIEN

Friends can have friends over for dinner and drinks! I'm sure of it. But if you like I can check with my Mum?

LATER:

They've just finished dinner. Myra puts down her fork.

MYRA

That was amazing! Where did you learn to cook like that?

DAMIEN

That is my one dish. My Mum taught us boys - said every man should have at least one dish.

MYRA

Sounds like Zachary. His Mum taught him to cook too.

DAMIEN

How did you meet Zach?

MYRA

We met at the Galleon. He was a waiter before he became a cook. My first day - I'd served people their meals, and was doing that thing you do where you come back ten minutes later and ask if their meals are ok. This woman says, "Uh, no actually - there's a grub in my salad". And there was a little green grub. Zachary came past and said "Oh, I'll get you a new one, no problem, I take it you don't want that one?" She said no. "Well," he said, "Do you mind if I?" and he picked up the grub and ate it.

Damien laughs disbelieving.

DAMIEN

He ate the grub?

MYRA

Yeah.

DAMIEN

In front of the customer?

MYRA

He said it tasted green and grassy.

DAMIEN

That's hilarious.

MYRA

We've been friends ever since.

DAMIEN

Your family is amazing.

Myra takes a sip of her drink.

MYRA

What about yours?

DAMIEN

Mum and Dad and brother. Mum and Dad still going strong after forty three years.

MYRA

Forty-three years?! Jeepers.

DAMIEN

It's one of the reasons I chose Mercop - so I could be closer to them. They're only a two hour flight from here now.

MYRA

I knew it had to be more than the money.

DAMIEN

After I lost the Oscar I knew I needed to come home. Regroup. And Mercop came up. So I thought - why not? Give my audience the chance to see a different side of me.

MYRA

That's for sure.

DAMIEN

I don't know what I'm doing, to be honest.

(MORE)

DAMIEN (CONT'D)

I'm thinking of quitting the industry all together. Buying a farm and sitting back and - raising cows or something, I don't know.

MYRA

(leaning forward)

What led you to acting in the first place?

DAMIEN

I couldn't settle on a career because I wanted to try everything - and as an actor, you get to experience everything as all kinds of people.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)

That - and look at this jawline. I couldn't keep that to myself. Selfish.

MYRA

(ignores the joke)

So go back to that. What's a career you haven't tried yet? That we want to see on screen?

DAMIEN

I'd like to try - family man.

Is Damien trying to tell her something? If so, it goes straight by her.

MYRA

Surely there are heaps of roles like that?

DAMIEN

Maybe.

He gets up.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)

Let me get dessert.

He disappears and reappears with two golden gaytimes.

MYRA

(laughing)

How did you know?

EXT. BALCONY, PENTHOUSE - NIGHT

They are having drinks on the balcony. Any pretense at 'friends' is totally gone. This is a date and this is the good bit.

DAMIEN

What if we just have - a hiatus
from the rules.

He lifts a strand of hair from her bare neck.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)

Just - a time out from our lives.
For twenty-four hours.

MYRA

You're a movie star. I'm a single
Mum.

DAMIEN

I've been with single mums.

MYRA

(laughing)

You really thought that was the
right thing to say, didn't you?

DAMIEN

It's not like I said "at the same
time".

MYRA

So a time out, huh.

He kisses her neck.

DAMIEN

For twenty-four hours.

MYRA

I can give you four.

They finally kiss. It's pretty amazing.

INT. BEDROOM, PENTHOUSE APARTMENT - NIGHT

Myra sits over Damien in bed. Nothing raunchy, they're being playful, but it's clear they've had sex.

MYRA

Let's see. Your partner was killed by the Russian Mob, but your partner smelled real bad so you're kind of okay with it and - go!

Damien uses his acting skills to convey all her directions with his facial expressions. They both laugh.

MYRA (CONT'D)

I can see why you didn't get the Oscar.

DAMIEN

Ooft. You're mean.

Myra lies back down.

MYRA

This is the most surreal thing that has ever happened to anyone in the world.

DAMIEN

What, 'flesh meeting flesh, concentrating on feeling the human vibrations given off through the skin...'

Myra swats him with her pillow.

MYRA

Oh my god, how did you...?

DAMIEN

Andy is my AD. We spend a lot of time together - and he couldn't find you online.

MYRA

Not that. Me. Here. In bed with a movie star. Who looks like you.

DAMIEN

(serious)

Myra. You are one of the most beautiful women I have ever met. If not the most.

She laughs it off.

MYRA

I take it back, you are a good actor.

DAMIEN
I'm not acting.

She kisses him, then swings her legs over the side of the bed and starts to get dressed.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)
Where are you going?

MYRA
Home.

DAMIEN
That wasn't four hours.

MYRA
I exaggerated.

He grabs her. Pulls her to him.

DAMIEN
Promise I will see you soon.

MYRA
Yes! The wrap party. Next week.

DAMIEN
Let me call the car for you.

MYRA
Damien. I live five hundred meters from here. I can walk.

She kisses him.

And then she's gone.

EXT. PENTHOUSE APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Myra lets herself out. Un-noticed by her, a CAMERA clicks nearby.

We see the SHOTS - she's easily recognisable under the canopy light.

EXT. GALLEON CAFE - MORNING

Establishing. People going in and out. The morning rush.

INT. GALLEON CAFE - MORNING

Beats, in her school uniform, and Nanna sit in the corner eating breakfast. Jacob sits at the counter downing a coffee, dressed for work in a suit, flicking through his phone.

Myra is taking orders and giving change. In the back, Zachary is flipping eggs. A normal morning in the Galleon.

JACOB

Um. Myra.

MYRA

What.

JACOB

You - are going to want to see this.

MYRA

I'm busy.

JACOB

Now.

MYRA

Can you read it out?

JACOB

Are you sure?

Myra makes an impatient gesture.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Ok...

(your funeral...)

MYSTERY WOMAN SEEN LEAVING STAR DAMIEN SCOTT'S PENTHOUSE APARTMENT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. Is this mysterious blonde how the hunky star is getting over his gorgeous ex, Elise Carmichael, who sources say dumped him around the same time as he discovered his mother, KAREN, 54, was diagnosed with breast cancer in a move some describe as heartless...

MYRA

Holy shit.

She grabs the phone. There is a photo of her leaving the apartment. It's definitely her, clear as day under the awning lights.

MYRA (CONT'D)

Holy shit.

A CUSTOMER waiting to pay has been listening intently to their conversation. She leans across the counter and addresses Myra.

CUSTOMER

What kind of breast cancer is it?

MYRA

Sorry?

Myra hands Jacob's phone back.

JACOB

Good luck!

He kisses her on the cheek and heads out.

CUSTOMER

I had breast cancer. It was way up under my armpit. A pain to get out.

MYRA

I didn't know it was breast cancer.

She's in shock, trying to process a lot of things at once.

She looks up to see Syd enter the cafe with a string of THREE BUSINESSMEN in tow.

MYRA (CONT'D)

Jesus.

CUSTOMER

I'll give you the name of my specialist, she was the third doctor I went to but she was the best - I've got the card at home -

SYD

Myra! These gentlemen are interested in the building. I'm going to show them through.

Myra manages a strained smile.

MYRA

It's not the best time right now Syd, surely you could call first...

SYD

(ignores her)

So we'll start with the apartment upstairs, it has untapped potential, un-renovated apartments around here are going for a fortune, the area is seeing an uptick in value, gentrification...

He goes to lead them past her through to the stairs but there isn't enough room behind the counter and they all get stuck...

CUSTOMER

My first doctor told me I was as good as dead, can you believe it? I told him he had no bedside manner and I was going to report him -

MYRA

That's awful -

Beats finishes her breakfast and comes over.

BEATS

Mum are you taking me to school?

MYRA

Just a second darling -

She is trying to put the Customer's order through. In her frustration the computer is not co-operating. She's being jostled by Syd and the Business Men.

CUSTOMER

You should tell your friend's mother that I found lavender oil really helped - calming, you know -

Myra finally gives the Customer her change.

CUSTOMER (CONT'D)

I'll bring that name in tomorrow.

The Customer waves and turns to leave.

MYRA

No - I mean thank you, but it is really not necessary -

BEATS

Mum we have to go!

Ethan arrives and takes over from Myra on the til. The Business Men finally all make it up the stairs. Myra can finally take a breath. She turns to Beats.

MYRA
Right, let's go.

She turns towards the door and -

In comes DONNA CLARK, late 50s, selfish, ostentatious, out of place in her costume jewelry.

DONNA
Daaaarling!

Just what Myra needs.

MYRA
Mum.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Myra, Beats and Donna make their way to Beat's school.

MYRA
So, Mum, we haven't seen you for a while.

DONNA
I've just been so busy, darling, you know how much I love to come and visit my favourite girls but you do live so far away.

MYRA
It's forty-five minutes, Mum.

DONNA
The traffic is always so terrible.
(to Beats)
And how is my favourite grandchild?

BEATS
Aren't I your only grandchild?

They make it to the primary school and Myra kisses Beats goodbye.

MYRA
Have a great day sweetheart.

Beats runs off. Donna shouts after her.

DONNA

Your grandfather was always top of his class darling!

MYRA

How on earth is that helpful?

DONNA

It's inspiring. She knows she comes from intelligent stock. Maybe she won't drop out and have a baby when she's nineteen.

Myra rolls her eyes but lets it go. They start to walk back.

DONNA (CONT'D)

Now darling, I saw you in the gossip pages! Tell me all!

Ah. Now the real reason for the visit comes out.

MYRA

Nothing to tell, Mum.

DONNA

A movie star though, darling, how fabulous! And you a single mother! It's like a fairy tale!

There is no one in the whole world who can push Myra's buttons like Donna can.

MYRA

Yes, who would have thought a single mother would be deserving of love?

DONNA

So it is love!

MYRA

Mum, I've been meaning to talk to you.

DONNA

Oh dear, that sounds serious.

MYRA

Syd is starting to take offers on the building.

DONNA

Oh dear, that is serious.

MYRA

I don't have any collateral so I can't get a loan, but Dad left you all that money and the house, and I would absolutely pay you back - you know I wouldn't ask if I wasn't desperate...

DONNA

Oh darling, of course you know I would if I could! But I have my retirement to think about - you don't want me out on the street in my old age, do you?

MYRA

You own your house.

DONNA

I have so many expenses, I pay the wages of at least three people, darling, the housekeeper, the gardener, and then there's Charlie who walks the dogs - they rely on me for their livelihoods, you wouldn't want them out of jobs as well, would you?

Myra sags. She didn't hold much hope for this in the first place but it is always disappointing when people disappoint you - even when you expect it.

MYRA

Forget it.

DONNA

But you and Beatrice can come and live with me when you have to move! You could go back to school, get a real career -

MYRA

I have a real career, Mum.

DONNA

Serving in a cafe is hardly a career, darling.

MYRA

I run the cafe, Mum.

DONNA

Anyway, when you marry the movie star, you won't ever have to work again, will you, darling?

OFF Myra's face.

EXT. THE ESPLANADE HOTEL, KITCHEN ENTRANCE - EVENING

Myra slams the door on a food truck. Delivery complete. She walks around to the front of the truck where Zachary is climbing into the cab.

MYRA

We did it!

ZACHARY

We did it! Nice work us.

MYRA

Very nice work us.

ZACHARY

Food for four hundred people who are all going to tell all their friends. Even if the Galleon is sold we'll always have catering work.

MYRA

But no place to live.

ZACHARY

You and Beats will always have a place with Jacob and me.

MYRA

I know. Thank you.

They hug.

ZACHARY

Now go have fun.

MYRA

I'm pretty tired. Maybe I'll just come home with you.

ZACHARY

Don't you dare. At least go and have one drink.

MYRA

One drink.

INT. ESPLANADE HOTEL - NIGHT

The whole place - a 1920's style restored pub - has been booked out for the wrap party. About four hundred crew members are letting loose after a hard few weeks.

Myra doesn't know anyone. She wanders around aimlessly, looking for Damien. Finally, she sees an old friend.

MYRA

Hi there.

PA

Hi! Oh my god, it's the cafe chick!
You guys, this is the cafe chick!

The group of people she is with nod and exclaim.

PA (CONT'D)

She had that dinner, she took the last minute booking, do you remember, when I forgot to find a place and everywhere was booked and I thought I was going to be fired?

Myra finds her hand being shaken vigorously by various PAs and ADs, greeting her like a long lost friend. The PA turns back to Myra.

PA (CONT'D)

Do you have a drink? Let me get you a drink!

She turns back to the group. A drink is handed along a long line of people to the PA, who hands it to Myra.

PA (CONT'D)

Its so great you came! You were always so nice to me -
(to the group)
she was always really nice to me -

The PAs and ADs thump her on the back.

PA (CONT'D)

We think the food is amazing, like, really great, right guys?

The various PAs and ADs agree enthusiastically.

MYRA

Oh - oh thanks! Actually, I'm
looking for -

Oh man. Looking for the movie star is not going to sound
good. But then, inspiration -

MYRA (CONT'D)

Doug Hallett.

PA

Yeah of course, he'll be in the VIP
room, you want me to take you? I'll
take you! You guys, I'm going to
take her to the VIP room!

They all agree and nod and cheers to her good health as she
leaves with the PA.

INT. VIP ROOM ENTRANCE, ESPY - NIGHT

The PA leads her up to the door where a bored looking
assistant, JANET, sits with a clipboard.

PA

Janet this is the caterer, she's
looking for Doug Hallett?

PA (CONT'D)

Her company did the food, the food
is amazing, right?

JANET

I didn't get any. Yeah she's on the
list. Go straight in.

The PA looks at Myra with awe.

PA

You're on the list? They must
really love your food!

MYRA

Ah. Thanks.

The PA looks at Janet and the VIP room, then looks at Myra.

She takes her aside.

PA

Hey, you were always really nice to
me and my job sucked.

(MORE)

PA (CONT'D)
If I can ever do anything for you,
here's my number.

She keys her number into Myra's phone. Myra is touched by the unexpectedly kind gesture.

MYRA
Thanks.

PA
Have fun!

Myra heads into the VIP room.

INT. VIP ROOM, ESPY - NIGHT

She hasn't gone two steps into the room when she's pulled to one side by - Doug.

DOUG
Oh look, if it isn't the caterer.

MYRA
Hello Doug.

DOUG
Are you having fun? Do you even
know anyone here?

MYRA
I know you.

DOUG
Yeah. Well, if you like I can tell
Damien you stopped by and we can
let you get back to - cooking.

Over Doug's shoulder, Damien sees them talking. He waves vigorously and heads over.

DAMIEN
Myra! You're here! Doug was just
going to try and find you.

MYRA
(dry)
Was he.

DOUG
And I found her! And here she is.

There's an awkward moment.

DOUG (CONT'D)
And now I will go.

He sidles off.

DAMIEN
You two did not hit it off.

MYRA
Not so that you'd notice.

DAMIEN
Doug is good people. He's just really protective. There are a lot of people who want a lot of things from a person like me.

MYRA
I promise I don't want anything from you.

They smile at each other.

DAMIEN
Listen, do you care much about this party? I could introduce you to everyone, but they're all really boring, and I have a present for you, but we have to leave now.

MYRA
You have a present for me?

DAMIEN
Yeah, to say thank you - but it's - time sensitive. Will you come?

MYRA
Isn't your girlfriend here?

DAMIEN
Mate, Elise is not now nor has ever been my girlfriend, but yeah she's here somewhere. Do you want to meet her?

MYRA
No not particularly. Why on earth did you get me a present?

DAMIEN
It's a thank you present!

What the hell.

MYRA
Sure. Let's go.

EXT. LUNA PARK - NIGHT

Damien leads Myra along by the hand, his other hand over her eyes.

DAMIEN
Keep them closed, keep them closed -
ok open!

She opens her eyes. Luna Park is all lit up, lights flashing.

MYRA
Luna Park?

DAMIEN
All of Luna Park!

MYRA
You booked out Luna Park?

DAMIEN
You don't like Luna Park?

MYRA
I love Luna Park!

MONTAGE:

- They ride the CAROUSEL, Damien pretending to race the horses
- They play Put-the-ball-in-the-Clown's Mouth. Damien crashes out but Myra WINS a massive teddy bear. She gives it to Damien. He kisses it on the nose.
- Myra REFUSES to go on the CONEY ISLAND DROP. Damien comes out, looking sick and green. Myra laughs and laughs.
- They RAM each other in DODGEM CARS.
- They MAKE OUT on the GHOST TRAIN, breaking apart when a GHOST screams in their faces. They both collapse in laughter.

EXT. FERRIS WHEEL - NIGHT

Damien and Myra head over, licking ice cream. Damien helps Myra into a seat.

DAMIEN

M'lady.

MYRA

Why thank you.

He's just about to sit next to her when - he hears the chorus of a WELL KNOWN LOVE SONG playing over the loudspeakers.

Let's go with I WANNA KNOW WHAT LOVE IS by Foreigner.

Caught up in the moment, Damien starts to serenade her, using his doughnut as a mic.

DAMIEN

(lip sync)

IN MY LIFE THERE'S BEEN HEARTACHE
AND PAIN I DON'T KNOW, IF I CAN
FACE IT AGAIN CAN'T STOP NOW I'VE
TRAVELLED SO FAR TO CHANGE THIS
LONELY LIFE I WANNA KNOW WHAT LOVE
IS I WANT YOU TO SHOW ME I WANNA
FEEL WHAT LOVE IS I KNOW YOU CAN
SHOW ME

Laughing, Myra finally catches him, pulls him into a kiss and pulls the safety barrier shut. The Ferris Wheel starts to spin as the rest of the song plays.

MYRA

I didn't know you could sing.

DAMIEN

I can't. Think I should do a musical next?

MYRA

Hey why didn't you tell me your mum is sick? I talked about my problems enough.

DAMIEN

Never seemed like the right time. Anyway she's in remission. It's all good.

MYRA

So that was why you took Mercop.

DAMIEN

That and the money was really very, very good.

They get to the top of the circuit and stop. The view is incredible.

MYRA

This has been quite a month.

DAMIEN

I have two surprises for you.

MYRA

Oh... I hate surprises...

DAMIEN

Well one is for me and one is for you.

MYRA

You've signed on for Mercop 2, Back in the Ocean?

DAMIEN

I bought the penthouse.

MYRA

You bought the penthouse?

DAMIEN

So I'll be able to visit all the time.

The Ferris Wheel JERKS back into life and continues its spin.

MYRA

Oh. Wow. That's - great! Good for you.

DAMIEN

And - I put in an offer on the cafe.

MYRA

You what?

DAMIEN

I put in an offer on the building. To Nanna's son, what's his name. That guy is a piece of work, but whatever, it's done.

MYRA

Nobody asked you to do that!

DAMIEN

Well, no, but -

MYRA

I cannot believe you would do that!

DAMIEN

Wait - are you mad?

MYRA

Yes I'm mad! That is none of your business! It's my business. Literally! My business!

DAMIEN

I'm getting the peas out of your shoes!

MYRA

I deal with my own peas! I don't need your help and I don't need your charity!

DAMIEN

It's not charity, ask Doug, we've been looking for a restaurant to invest in for ages -

MYRA

Doug says you are too impulsive and I think I'm starting to see where he's coming from!

She starts to wave to the FERRIS WHEEL ATTENDANT.

MYRA (CONT'D)

Hello? Hello? Yeah, hi, I'm getting off, if you could stop, thanks. Hello?

The dude doesn't seem to be looking, engrossed in his phone.

DAMIEN

If you could just calm down for a minute -

MYRA

Calm down? Don't tell me to calm down! You waltz in here and start throwing your money around -

DAMIEN

Hey that's not fair! I have all this money and when I see someone who needs money it just seems weird not to help -

MYRA

You can't just play in people's lives like that! What do I do when you move on to the next thing, I'm still here trying to hold my life together -

DAMIEN

That's really not fair -

MYRA

Excuse me! Excuse me, hello, I'd like to get off please!

The attendant finally gets the message and pulls them to a stop.

Myra struggles with the strap and pulls it off herself.

MYRA (CONT'D)

You can take your money, and your surprises, and bugger back off to LA, thank you very much, Mr Movie Star.

She starts to storm off, but she's still stuck to the seatbelt. It pulls her over.

MYRA (CONT'D)

Goddamn it!

She rights herself and storms off, leaving Damien sitting there staring after her.

EXT. THE ESPLANADE - NIGHT

Myra walks towards home, crying and wiping snot from her nose.

INT. APARTMENT ABOVE THE CAFE - NIGHT

She lets herself into the apartment.

Nanna is sitting there, playing solitaire and watching tv.

She looks up to see Myra crying.

NANNA

Oh no no. Come here.

Myra throws herself into Nanna's embrace.

MYRA

Nanna I had a tantrum and it was terrible and now I'm never going to see him again.

NANNA

I find that hard to believe. I haven't seen a man look at a woman like he looked at you since my husband died, god rest his soul.

Myra dries her eyes.

MYRA

Really?

NANNA

I was horrible to poor Walter. I put the poor man through the ringer but he always came back. When he died I thought I'd never be happy again. And then you girls came to me and brought me so much joy.

MYRA

You saved us Nanna. I can never repay you.

NANNA

You saved me darling. If it wasn't for you and Beats I would have withered away and died. Now dry your tears. If this is as good a man as I think, you can go back tomorrow and apologise, and all will be well.

MYRA

It doesn't matter. It's not a thing. I'm me and he's him.

Nanna takes Myra's face in her hands.

NANNA

You listen to me Myra Genevieve. You are my very dear Myra and you just remember that. Apologize and all will be well.

Myra kisses her withered hand.

MYRA

Thank you Nanna.

NANNA
Remember, life is walking through
paradise -

NANNA (CONT'D) MYRA
With peas in your shoes. With peas in your shoes.

EXT. PENTHOUSE APARTMENT - DAY

Myra knocks on the door of the apartment.

The intercom buzzes and an unidentifiable voice comes through.

VOICE (O.S.)
Yes?

MYRA
Oh hi, it's Myra?

The door buzzes and she's let in.

VOICE (O.S.)
Come on up.

INT. LOUNGE ROOM, PENTHOUSE APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Myra puts her head around the corner and sees - not Damien, but Doug and Elise.

Myra tries to back away but walks into a massive dog statue, which wobbles precariously. She catches it just in time.

DOUG
That you Myra? Come on in.

Caught, Myra heads in and joins them.

DOUG (CONT'D)
Myra, this is Elise Carmichael, who
I was telling you about, Elise,
this is Myra.

Elise swallows the mouthful of bagel she's eating.

ELISE
Have we met? You look familiar.

DOUG
Myra's been doing the catering for
us, you might've seen her around.
(MORE)

DOUG (CONT'D)

She's probably just here to settle the bill.

MYRA

No - we were paid by the production

-

DOUG

I think Damien wanted to leave you a tip. Hang on, I'll get the check.

He heads off.

Myra looks at Elise. She is about as intimidating as another human being can be.

ELISE

Catering, hey? Have you been in the business long?

MYRA

Ah - yeah - a while, I guess?

ELISE

The food here is incredible. I wish I was staying longer. I'd love to try your food.

MYRA

Well - you might have. We catered the party last night.

ELISE

Oh that food was delicious! Congratulations!

MYRA

You heading back to LA?

ELISE

No, I'm heading to Damien's parents' house with him. His mum's been sick, you know.

MYRA

Yes. I know.

ELISE

It must have been fun for you guys, to have the production in town?

MYRA

Ah, yes! Lots of fun. Learnt a lot.

ELISE

I had such a blast on Mercop. I'm so lucky Damien got me the part! He always looks after me, you know.

Myra feels a bit faint.

MYRA

Yes, very lucky.

Doug comes back in with the chequebook.

DOUG

There we go! From Damien himself.

He tears it out with a flourish and hands it to her. He looks at her meaningfully.

DOUG (CONT'D)

Now I think we both understand that this is the end of this matter, are we clear?

Myra takes the cheque without looking at it, longing to be anywhere but there.

MYRA

Crystal.

She turns to leave.

ELISE

Super nice to meet you!

Myra half waves as she dashes from the room.

EXT. PENTHOUSE APARTMENT ENTRANCE - DAY

Finally out of the room, she looks down at the cheque.

To: Myra Clark. The sum of One hundred thousand dollars. For: Services rendered.

It's actually signed by Doug, not Damien. He's paying her off.

Myra feels the bile rise in her throat. She rips up the cheque in rage and heads off, tears streaming down her cheeks.

INT. GALLEON CAFE - EVENING

Myra cries in Nanna's arms. Jacob joins the hug - then Zachary joins the hug - then Ethan joins the hug - they all tumble over in a pile.

It is enough to stop her tears.

INT. GALLEON CAFE - THE NEXT DAY

Myra is trying to work as she begins to notice a kerfuffle out the front of the shop.

MYRA
(to Ethan)
Can you go and see what that is about?

He nods and heads out.

A moment later he reappears - with Donna.

MYRA (CONT'D)
Mum. What a nice surprise.

ETHAN
Myra, there are photographers outside. They say you're Damien Scott's new girlfriend and they'll go away if you give them a picture.

DONNA
Darling! Photos in the magazines! You have to pop out and give them a shot. Let me fix your hair.

MYRA
Go and tell them I am most emphatically NOT Damien Scott's girlfriend and if they don't get lost I will call the police.

Ethan obliges.

DONNA
Are you not though, darling? There are photos of you together on a rollercoaster or something.

Donna makes herself at home at the counter while Myra continues to work.

MYRA

I think I would know if I was. But if I'd known dating a famous person was a way to see more of you, Mum, I would have done it years ago.

DONNA

You're always so funny, darling. Probably why he likes you, he got sick of all those gorgeous women throwing themselves at him.

MYRA

Is there an actual reason you are here Mother?

DONNA

I've brought a couple of things for Beatrice, they were on sale at Aldi. Where is she? Doesn't school finish at three?

Myra checks her watch.

MYRA

Yes she should be home by now.

Ethan runs back to them.

ETHAN

Myra - it's Beats. You'd better come.

Myra drops everything she's doing and runs.

EXT. GALLEON CAFE - CONTINUOUS

The two PAPARAZZI who were taking photos of the dinner are back. They've spotted Zachary and Beats on their way home from school and have abandoned their position at the front of the cafe to encircle the two of them, taking photos and SHOUTING.

Zachary is trying to shield Beats from the flashing cameras as he shepherds her forward towards the safety of the cafe.

There are only two paps and it isn't terrifying, but it isn't comfortable either and Beats is not enjoying the experience.

Myra sees what is happening and thinks quickly.

MYRA

Hey you!

They see her and turn, almost as one.

Now that she has their attention, she starts to pose in front of the Galleon.

MYRA (CONT'D)
Aren't you looking for me?

PAPARAZZI 1
There she is!

PAPARAZZI 2
That's her!

PAPARAZZI 1
Are you Damien Scott's girlfriend?

PAPARAZZI 2
Are you getting married?

Myra is drawing them off as Zachary and Beats make it into the safety of the Galleon.

MYRA
Is that how you make your money?
Harassing children? Are you proud
of yourselves?

PAPARAZZI 2
We asked you for a shot, if you'd
just come out we wouldn't have had
to -

MYRA
I am NOT Damien Scott's girlfriend.
We did some work for him AND THAT
IS ALL!

PAPARAZZI 1
Then why were you spotted leaving
his apartment at midnight?

MYRA
It wasn't midnight, it was eleven
o'clock, and it was because I was
CATERING A PRIVATE DINNER FOR HIM
AND HIS GIRLFRIEND ELISE
CARMICHAEL!

This finally stumps them.

PAPARAZZI 1
Damn it.

PAPARAZZI 2
 (to the other one)
 That sounds right.

PAPARAZZI 1
 She's in the movie too.

PAPARAZZI 2
 It's more likely the supermodel,
 right?

They both nod at one another.

PAPARAZZI 2 (CONT'D)
 Scoop!

PAPARAZZI 1
 (to Myra)
 Sorry to have bothered you.

They turn away.

Myra shouts at their backs.

MYRA
 GET A REAL JOB!

INT. GALLEON CAFE - CONTINUOUS

She dashes back inside and envelops Beats in a massive hug.

MYRA
 Are you ok sweetheart? I'm so, so
 sorry.

BEATS
 Yeah, I'm fine.

Beats shrugs off the hug.

Myra looks at Zachary, who also shrugs.

ZACHARY
 Comes with the territory I guess.

MYRA
 There isn't any territory anymore.

DONNA
 (to Beats)
 Isn't it exciting, having your
 photo taken, maybe you'll be in the
 magazines!

MYRA
Time to go Mother.

EXT. ST KILDA BEACH - EVENING

It's a cool and blustery evening. Myra is walking slowly along the beach.

She's regrouping, regathering herself.

In the background, music plays and people have fun. The Ferris Wheel turns slowly.

Myra sits on the edge of the boardwalk. Looking out to sea.

Damien finds her there.

DAMIEN
Hey. Zachary said I would find you here.

MYRA
Hey.

They sit for a minute, looking out to sea.

DAMIEN
Zachary told me what happened to Beats. I'm so sorry. Paps are the worst.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)
I should have tried harder to protect you both. I'll do better.

MYRA
No - it's good actually. It made me realize what I was playing with.

DAMIEN
Playing with?

MYRA
You and me - it was fun, but it's just a fantasy. I have a real life. Those paps made me realize what my responsibilities are. What my real life is.

DAMIEN
That doesn't sound good.

Myra turns to him.

MYRA

Thank you so much. For everything.

DAMIEN

Hang on, don't do that. Don't say
goodbye.

MYRA

This has to be it, though. We had
fun, now it's over. After the shoot
you'll go back to LA, back to your
life -

DAMIEN

I don't want to go back to that
life.

He takes her hand.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)

You and Beats - and Zachary and
Jacob and Nanna - you made me see a
different life. Just give me
another chance - I promise I'll do
better.

Myra holds back tears.

MYRA

I love that you think that. But
this is all I have.

MYRA (CONT'D)

I have to protect it - even if it
is at the expense of - someone I -

DAMIEN

Someone you?

MYRA

I will miss you.

Damien takes her face in his hands and kisses her.

DAMIEN

You belong in my life Myra.

MYRA

I wish that was true. But I don't.
Doug has made that very clear. We
couldn't be more different.

DAMIEN

Screw Doug. What has he got to do with it?

MYRA

How do you know I'm not just another impulse to you?

That hurts.

DAMIEN

I'm not just some playboy having flings right and left -

MYRA

I know you think that, but I can't be sure. And I have other people to think about.

She gets up.

DAMIEN

Don't do this.

She touches his face.

MYRA

Thank you. So much. For everything.

She's crying for real now. And so is he.

MYRA (CONT'D)

Goodbye.

DAMIEN

Myra!

She walks away.

EXT. PENTHOUSE - NEXT DAY

A LIMO stands outside the entrance. Doug, Elise and various ASSISTANTS bustle around with suitcases and belongings.

Damien stands, half in, half out, of the car. Staring at the pier. Reluctant to move.

Finally, everything packed, Doug SHOVES him in and SLAMS the door.

FADE TO BLACK.

MONTAGE:

Time passes. Seasons change.

EXT. CARLISLE STREET - DAY

Myra walks Beats to school through massive snowdrift size piles of autumn leaves.

They walk past the entrance to the Penthouse apartment and Myra notices the FOR SALE sign on the building.

Beats distracts her by jumping into a pile of leaves. Myra laughs and joins her.

INT. APARTMENT ABOVE THE CAFE - DAY

Jacob and Myra are sitting on the couch watching NOTTING HILL.

Julia Roberts tells Hugh Grant she is 'just a girl, standing in front of a boy...'

Myra and Jacob bawl in each other's arms.

In the kitchen, Zachary and Beats exchange a look. Crazy people.

INT./EXT. GALLEON CAFE - DAY

Outside, the WIND whips the rain against the glass.

Myra helps Nanna down the stairs and into her favourite spot in the cafe. Nanna looks old and frail.

Syd is showing more potential buyers around the cafe. Zachary meets Myra's eyes and they exchange a look.

INT. APARTMENT ABOVE THE CAFE - DAY

Outside, the trees are sprouting leaves.

Inside, it is Beats's birthday. Decorations and balloons line the walls.

Beats is opening presents. Myra and Zachary give her a box.

She opens it - and out pops A KITTEN.

She is ecstatic.

Nanna sits watching nearby in a wheelchair, with an oxygen mask on, a tank next to her feet.

EXT. FITZROY STREET - DAY

The DIRTY STREETS poster has been replaced by MERCOP.

And yes, 'TIME FOR SOME WET JUSTICE' has made it on the poster.

Myra walks by, balancing a tray of bagels.

She stops for a moment and looks at the poster. Her face gives nothing away.

She walks off.

END MONTAGE

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Nanna is in a hospital bed. She looks almost transparent.

Beats chats away, oblivious.

BEATS

Kitten can climb on to the bed now,
Nanna! Jacob thinks calling a
kitten Kitten is stupid cause soon
it will grow up and not be a kitten
anymore, but I like the name
Kitten?

BEATS (CONT'D)

And Nanna, Mum bought me tickets to
the Taylor Swift concert, Nanna, I
wish you could come!

NANNA

You have fun for me Beatrice.

Myra sits next to the bed, holding Nanna's hand, staring at her face. Trying not to cry.

Nanna traces her face with her fingers. Smiles at her.

NANNA (CONT'D)

Be happy my darling.

Myra holds her hand to her mouth, kissing it, holding back tears.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

The sun is shining. It's a beautiful day. Summer has returned.

At a small gathering, Myra, Beats, Zachary and Jacob attend a funeral. Syd and his family are standing, arms around each other.

A PRIEST says a few words and throws a handful of dirt in an open grave. Tears run down Myra's face, but she's trying to keep it together for Beats.

LATER:

The service finished, everyone hugs each other.

Myra kneels down to Beats's level.

MYRA
How you doing Beat bug?

BEATS
I'm ok.

MYRA
We'll miss Nanna, won't we?

BEATS
Yeah she was my favourite grandma.

MYRA
Not a lot of competition.

BEATS
Don't worry Mum, you'll be my favourite grandma when you get old.

MYRA
Thank you so much sweetheart.

They hug.

Myra stands up and finds herself face to face with Syd.

MYRA (CONT'D)
Beats, will you run over to Dad for a minute? Mummy needs to talk to Syd.

Beats runs off to Zachary. Syd and Myra watch her go.

SYD

She loved you two very much. You were like the daughters she never had.

MYRA

Yes. Thank you.

SYD

Now I'm not heartless, I know this is a shock, I'll give you two weeks to move out of the place.

Myra looks at him, shocked.

MYRA

Two weeks!

SYD

Kidding! I'm kidding.

MYRA

Syd. You got me.

SYD

You can have three.

MYRA

...Wow. Thanks.

SYD

You shoulda kept that rich guy on the hook when you had a chance! He was going to buy the whole place outright. He was a good guy, even sent flowers for Nanna.

MYRA

He sent flowers?

SYD

Yeah, massive wreath. Huge. He was going to let you guys live there as long as you wanted! Missed a trick there!

MYRA

Well, we've got you, don't we.

SYD

Yeah you gotta look after family. They're reading the will this afternoon, you should come by.

(MORE)

SYD (CONT'D)

I think she updated it recently,
I'm sure she left you some knick
knacks or something.

MYRA

Thanks Syd, I'll be there.

She walks off, leaving him congratulating himself on being a great guy, and heads back to where Zachary, Jacob and Beats are waiting for her.

ZACHARY

What was that about?

MYRA

He's giving us three weeks to vacate.

JACOB

Three weeks?!

ZACHARY

He told you that here?

MYRA

He's a good guy.

Zachary puts his arm around her.

ZACHARY

It's fine. You and Beats can move in with us, and the catering side of the business is going great. We'll survive without the cafe.

MYRA

I know. It's just - that place was home.

MYRA (CONT'D)

I brought Beats back there after she was born. She grew up there. It - it's a lot.

She shakes it off.

MYRA (CONT'D)

There's a reading of the will, I should go. Will you guys take Beats home?

Beats hands her a dandelion she picked from the grass.

BEATS

Here Mumma.

MYRA

Thank you sweetheart.

INT. LAWYER'S OFFICE - DAY

A few family members sit around the office, which hasn't been updated since it was furnished in 1975. Syd sits in front of the desk, front and centre. This is his moment.

Myra comes in and takes a seat at the back.

The LAWYER starts.

LAWYER

I think we are all here. It's a bit unorthodox but Mrs Cameron has left a letter she would like me to read out before we get to the contents of the will.

SYD

Let's just skip to the will, I'm sure the letter just says how much she loved us all.

He laughs, expecting everyone to join in. No one does.

LAWYER

I will follow her instructions.

He unfolds the letter.

LAWYER (CONT'D)

Dear Family. I think you are not all going to be happy by my decisions. But I believe in my heart you will know I am right.

LAWYER (CONT'D)

I love you all dearly, especially my son, Sydney, my flesh and blood, but also those who came after and were a family to me when I was alone. Sydney, I am leaving the Galleon to Myra.

SYD

WHAT?

MYRA

What?

LAWYER

She has spent the last ten years working with everything she has to make the place what it is, not to mention looking after me as I got old and sick.

SYD

She can't do this!

LAWYER

Sydney, I know you will be angry, and I am sorry. Myra, my darling, you have achieved so much. The Galleon was a tiny hole in the wall before you took it over. Never doubt yourself, and never let the peas stand in the way of your happiness. I love you. Signed, Beatrice Cameron.

Syd is standing, spluttering with rage.

SYD

This is outrageous, I know my rights, I'll challenge the will, no way it will stand up in court -

Myra sits there quietly. Taking it in. Tears in her eyes.

INT. APARTMENT ABOVE THE CAFE - DAY

Zachary, Jacob and Beats are playing a board game in the kitchen when Myra bursts in.

MYRA

YOU GUYS.

They jump a mile.

JACOB

You gave me a heart attack woman.

ZACHARY

What?

MYRA

She left it to us.

JACOB

What?

MYRA
The building, the cafe, Nanna left
it to us - to me!

ZACHARY
She what?!

JACOB
Oh my god.

BEATS
We don't have to move?

MYRA
We don't have to move!

They all look at each other for a second, taking in the news.

Then they all get up shouting for a massive group hug,
dancing and shouting and celebrating.

ZACHARY
But - how?

MYRA
Apparently she wrote a new will
about a year ago and Syd never
bothered to read it.

Suddenly in business mode, Jacob pulls his computer over.

JACOB
Right, well, he'll challenge it,
that's for sure, but we have
precedent, let me look -

ZACHARY
Yeah, possession is nine tenths of
the law, right?

JACOB
You know that's not really a thing.

MYRA
We are so lucky having a lawyer in
the family.

Jacob half smiles but is engrossed in his precedent. Zachary
kisses him on the head.

Myra and Beats look at them. Myra holds Beats in a half -hug.

MYRA (CONT'D)
I am so lucky to have you all in my
family.

BEATS

I love ya Mum.

She heads over to play with Kitten.

There's a knock on the door. Myra opens it.

It's Ethan.

ETHAN

Myra, there's a pretty lady down stairs to see you.

Myra look at him quizzically.

MYRA

A pretty lady? How did she get in, we're closed?

ETHAN

She knocked on the door. I let her in. She's pretty.

He turns and heads back downstairs.

Myra shrugs at Zachary and Jacob and follows Ethan down stairs.

INT. GALLEON CAFE - CONTINUOUS

In the empty cafe sits Elise Carmichael, her impossibly long legs folded under one of the tables. She fishes around in her handbag for a protein bar, starts to open it.

She gets up when she sees Myra.

ELISE

Hi again! Do you remember me? I'm Damien's friend Elise? I think we met in his apartment that time?

MYRA

Yes, I remember.

Elise sits down again awkwardly.

MYRA (CONT'D)

Can I get you something?

ELISE

Oh, no thanks. I actually came - to bring you this. It's from Damien.

She hands her an envelope.

Myra takes it from her.

ELISE (CONT'D)

Listen, its none of my business, but Damien's a good guy, you know? He would have come himself, really, but its the premiere of Mercop tonight - they're doing it here, thought it would be cute - and he's in back-to-back press all day, we just flew in this morning. I had to sneak out. He didn't trust anyone else.

MYRA

He didn't trust Doug?

ELISE

I feel like the situation may have been manipulated because Doug doesn't like the idea of not being the most important person in Damien's life. Damien mentioned a girl in Australia a few times and how she broke his heart - I only put together afterwards that it was you and what it must have looked like finding me in his apartment like that, talking about visiting his Mum, for Christ's sake.

MYRA

He talks about me?

ELISE

Constantly. He says you're a fighter. That you've fought for everything you have. He really admires that. Something about peas in the pants?

Myra laughs.

ELISE (CONT'D)

Anyway, don't worry about Doug. If he gives you any more hassle, let me know.

She gets up.

ELISE (CONT'D)

Is this your place? It's real nice.

MYRA
(the first time she's said
it)
Yes. Yes it is.

ELISE
Nice. I couldn't run a business if
I tried. Anyway, it was really nice
to see you and I hope to see you
again.

She shakes Myra's hand.

MYRA
You too.

As Elise pushes out the glass doors, she turns back.

ELISE
Oh by the way, the premiere is at
the Palais tonight. That theatre
down the road. Just in case that
becomes useful information.

She leaves, the door jangling behind her.

Myra sinks into a chair. She slowly opens the envelope and
takes out a handwritten note. She starts to read.

DAMIEN (V.O.)
Dear Myra. I can't imagine what you
must be going through right now. I
am so sorry for the loss of Nanna,
the woman who was more mother to
you than your own mother. I
understand why offering to give you
the cafe upset you. Now I thought
maybe I could loan you the money
instead? Then I wouldn't be
throwing my Mr Movie Star money
around. I miss you and wish you all
the happiness in the world. Love
Damien.

Myra looks up. She's crying. Again.

EXT. APARTMENT UPSTAIRS - CONTINUOUS

Myra makes it back upstairs. Jacob sees she's been crying and
heads over to give her a hug.

MYRA
Where's Zachary?

JACOB

He had to go, he's performing tonight. What happened?

She hands him the letter.

JACOB (CONT'D)

(glancing at it)

I think he might actually have been one of the good ones My.

MYRA

I think you might be right.

She wipes her nose.

MYRA (CONT'D)

Oh well, too late now.

JACOB

Why is it too late now?

MYRA

Well - it's never going to work, is it? What happens if we get together, Beats and I move to LA and never see you and Zachary again? He goes off to set for months on end and I spend every night worrying he's with a groupie? He ends up leaving us and breaking Beats's heart? I think it probably all worked out for the best.

JACOB

You know what also wouldn't work? A nineteen-year-old waitress getting pregnant to a gay man and raising a daughter with his lover, all while caring for an old lady above a shop. But it did work, didn't it?

JACOB (CONT'D)

Sounds like it couldn't or shouldn't, but that's what we do Myra - we make it work.

MYRA

It's too hard. It's like Nanna always used to say 'Life is like walking through paradise with peas in your shoes.'

JACOB

Yeah, I've always thought you had the wrong interpretation of that. It's not 'only look for perfect things.' It's 'look for the things you love even when they're not perfect.'

MYRA

I need to go after him, don't I.

JACOB

I would imagine so, yes.

MYRA

Goddamn it.

Jacob turns to the room.

JACOB

Alright, Beats, we're going to a premiere!

BEATS

(suspicious)
What movie.

Myra looks at her.

MYRA

Mercop.

BEATS

Damien! Yay!

They tumble down the stairs.

EXT. FRONT DOOR, GALLEON CAFE - CONTINUOUS

Myra hands the keys to Ethan.

MYRA

You are in charge til we get back.

Ethan beams.

ETHAN

I will definitely not burn the place to the ground!

MYRA

Great work!

Ethan heads back in.

JACOB
I'll get the car. Where are we going?

MYRA
To the premiere!

JACOB
Myra, where is the premiere?

MYRA
Oh - it's at the Palais!

JACOB
The Palais! We don't need the car!

BEATS
We can run!

JACOB
Oh my god, are we gonna do the whole rom-com running through the airport before they fly away forever thing?!

They look at each other. They are.

EXT. THE ESPLANADE - CONTINUOUS

The three of them run, hand in hand, down the Boardwalk in the setting sun.

EXT. THE PALAIS THEATRE - CONTINUOUS

They get to the Palais Theatre. It's an enormous, stately, old art deco theatre rising above the park outside.

The road has been blocked off for the red carpet and POLICE are directing traffic around.

CROWDS OF FANS line the barriers, all straining for a glimpse of their idols.

Limos are arriving and A thru D-list celebrities are getting out of their cars, posing for the PAPARAZZI before making it down the red carpet.

JACOB
How are we going to get in?

MYRA

No idea.

BEATS

We need a distraction. Then we can sneak through there.

MYRA

My child, the criminal.

JACOB

I've got an idea.

He dashes off.

BEATS

Oh. My. God.

Myra looks around at her.

MYRA

What? What is it?

Beats is staring at the red carpet.

BEATS

That's Taylor Swift!

TAYLOR SWIFT (or other big star. You get the idea) is posing on the carpet.

Beat's eyes are going to pop out of her head.

JACOB

Here we are!

Jacob is back with the DRAG QUEEN from the opening scene.

We now recognise it as Zachary. But now he's Josie Pussycat.

MYRA

Josie!

JOSIE/ZACHARY

Darling! Jacob said I, and only I, can be of assistance!

JACOB

We need you to do your white woman act and make a fuss so Myra can sneak in.

JOSIE/ZACHARY
 Say no more my friends, this is
 Josie Pussycat's area of expertise!
 (to Myra, sotto)
 You go get him, my dear.

Josie/Zachary pushes her way past the crowds and slips under the barrier.

JOSIE/ZACHARY (CONT'D)
 Excuse me darling. Excuse me.

SECURITY GUARDS start to notice as she gets to the red carpet and starts to perform.

JOSIE/ZACHARY (CONT'D)
 Can you believe, darlings, I, Josie
 Pussycat, was NOT INVITED to the
 event tonight!

The crowd lap it up. They vocally support her performance, cheering her on.

Josie gestures at Myra to make a run for it as she continues to shout. Security start to surround her.

The crowd is on her side, cheering her and booing security.

Myra turns to Jacob and Beats.

MYRA
 This is it.

BEATS
 Good luck!

MYRA
 Beats, you're coming with me. One
 in, all in.

Beats beams. Jacob grasps them on the shoulders.

JACOB
 Good luck you two. I'll wait here,
 I have a feeling Miss Josie
 Pussycat is going to need a lawyer.

Myra and Beats turn and head off.

EXT. ENTRANCE, PALAIS THEATRE - CONTINUOUS

The front door has been deserted, the security guards drawn to the scene Josie Pussycat is making.

Myra and Beats slip through.

INT. LOBBY, PALAIS THEATRE - CONTINUOUS

They make it to the lobby and high five each other.

At the doors, USHERS are checking tickets.

MYRA

Shit, we don't have tickets.

BEATS

You swore!

MYRA

Shit!

She has a brainwave.

MYRA (CONT'D)

Hold on for a sec.

She gets her phone out of her pocket, scrolls through. Finds the PA. Calls.

Beats is staring around, mesmerized by the fancy people everywhere.

Suddenly, she realises she is standing next to Taylor Swift.

Her eyes nearly fall out of her head. Taylor Swift is standing there, scrolling through her phone.

BEATS

Excuse me, are you Taylor Swift?

Taylor Swift notices her. Kneels down.

TAYLOR SWIFT

Yes I am! And who are you?

BEATS

I'm Beats. I'm your biggest fan.

TAYLOR SWIFT

You are? I've always wanted to meet my biggest fan!

BEATS

I'm here with my Mum. She's going to marry Damien Scott.

TAYLOR SWIFT

Is she indeed! That's pretty cool!
Are you guys coming in to the
movie?

BEATS

We don't have tickets, we can't
find Damien, you see -

TAYLOR SWIFT

My biggest fan doesn't have
tickets? That doesn't seem right.
You wait right here.

She pulls out her phone and wanders off.

Myra gets off her phone and turns back to Beats.

At the same time, our old friend the PA turns up, hanging up
her phone.

PA

Hello! I'm glad you called me!
Let's try and get you two in!

Just then, a bunch of SECURITY GUARDS descend on them.

SECURITY GUARD 1

Alright you two, clever ruse, but
out you go.

PA

No, they're supposed to be here,
authorized by Damien Scott -

SECURITY GUARD 2

Oh yeah, and I'm authorized by
Taylor Swift.

The Security Guards all laugh together at this hilarious
joke.

PA

Wait! Doug Hallett! Doug Hallett,
hang on I'll get him, he'll
authorize them!

The PA ducks back into the theatre.

The Security Guards exchange a look, but wait for her to
return.

Myra and Beats exchange a look.

Almost immediately, the PA returns with Doug.

PA (CONT'D)
See! Doug Hallett!

SECURITY GUARD 1
Sorry sir, these two were trying to
sneak in, she says you can ok it?

Myra and Beats and the PA all look at Doug.

He pulls himself up a little. Adjusts his cuffs.

DOUG
I've never seen this woman before
in my life.

The PA gasps.

SECURITY GUARD 2
Sorry to bother you sir. Out you
go!

MYRA
You fucker!

BEATS
Yeah, you fucker!

Doug watches with some satisfaction as the Security Guards hustle Myra and Beats out the front doors.

He adjusts his cuffs again and turns back towards the theatre

-

As he turns he notices, on top of the stairs to his left -

Elise. Standing there, frozen, a pretzel half way to her mouth, staring at him with a mixture of shock and disgust on her face. She's seen everything.

Their eyes meet. Doug goes white as he realises what this means.

DOUG
Elise!

As he starts to defend himself, Elise, never breaking his gaze, puts down her pretzel, starts to pull off her high heels -

DOUG (CONT'D)
Elise, it's not what it looks like -
I didn't - you can't - I've got to -

She finishes pulling off her shoes -

And starts RUNNING down the stairs towards him -

He turns on his heel and SPRINTS in the other direction -

She's hot on his heels.

They disappear out a side door, leaving the PA standing there, mouth hanging open. She looks after Elise, then after Myra and Beats - and runs off after Elise.

EXT. ENTRANCE, PALAIS THEATRE - CONTINUOUS

The Security Guards eject Myra and Beats back out on the red carpet.

They turn to each other, beaten, dejected.

Behind them, the crowd goes wild.

Curious, they both turn as one.

DAMIEN SCOTT HAS JUST GOTTEN OUT OF A LIMO AND IS HITTING THE RED CARPET.

Myra and Beats turn to each other. Exchange a look.

Taylor Swift comes out the doors, two tickets in hand. She sees what is happening. Takes Beats' hand.

TAYLOR SWIFT
(to Myra)
Go get him girlfriend.

Myra kisses Beats on the cheek. Hugs her.

Turns back to the red carpet. Takes a deep breath.

The Security Guards are heading towards them. Taylor Swift steps out in front of them. Gives them a death stare. They back off, unable to believe their eyes.

Myra gathers herself. If this is where this is going to happen, this is where this is going to happen.

She walks forward. The crowd is shouting Damien's name as he signs autographs and takes photos with fans.

Finally, he turns. Notices her.

A great many emotions go across his face.

The crowd goes quiet.

He walks up to her.

DAMIEN

Hello.

MYRA

Hello.

DAMIEN

I didn't expect to see you here.

MYRA

Well - I was looking for some wet justice.

It's funny, but he's not in the mood for joking.

DAMIEN

Last time we talked you were worried about the peas.

MYRA

I've realised that the peas are what make life worth living.

He smiles. She smiles.

DAMIEN

Is this where we are doing this?

MYRA

Looks like it.

He take her in his arms. Kisses her. A movie kiss.

The crowd goes wild.

Beats jumps up and down clapping with Taylor Swift.

Josie/Zachary and Jacob give each other a high five as they are being escorted into a cop car.

The PA and Elise BURST out of the theatre, quickly see what is happening. Elise and the PA HIGH FIVE.

Damien and Myra come up for air. They beam at each other.

The paparazzi get the perfect shot. SNAP!

THE END

Under the credits, the shot TURNS INTO a tabloid cover.

DAMIEN SCOTT - LOVE AT LAST.

As the credits continue, TABLOID COVERS are contrasted with ACTUAL FOOTAGE of their relationship.

CATFIGHT - DAMIEN'S WOMEN AT WAR

Myra, Damien, Elise, others, all at lunch, having a wonderful time. Elise and Myra crack each other up.

FAMILY SPLIT - WHY DAMIEN'S FAMILY HATE HIS NEW WIFE

Damien introduces Myra and Beats to his PARENTS. They all get along great.

BARREN - DAMIEN'S DEVASTATION

Myra, happily pregnant, waddles around the Galleon, talking to Beats. Zachary is trying to teach Damien to cook in the back.

IN DAMIEN'S WORDS - WHY SHE'S HOLDING ME BACK

Damien on set, Myra watching on. It's a remake of IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE.

Eventually -

TRIUMPH - HOW MY NEW FOUND HAPPINESS BROUGHT ME AN OSCAR

Damien accepts his Oscar, subtitle WINNER - DAMIEN SCOTT, IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE.

Myra claps madly in the audience.

And, finally -

A beautiful family scene. A backyard bbq. Zachary, Jacob, Beats, Myra, Damien, a TWO-YEAR-OLD. The happiest little family you ever could meet.

FADE OUT.