

4

(Bakery Cottage. Late evening.)

(Porn type music comes from the laptop. BECKY is watching drinking wine. The light from the screen flickers over her face. On the kitchen table, an open bottle of wine.)

(The water from the pipe drips into the saucepan. JENNY arrives through the back door.)

JENNY. Halloo? Are you decent?

BECKY. Is that you? Hang on, hang on.

(JENNY hustles in, with baby things. BECKY quickly shuts the computer, just remembers to put the wine glass down and heads downstairs.)

It is you. Come in. Come in. Ooh!

JENNY. This is just the start of it!

BECKY. Right! Oh great. Wow...

JENNY. For some reason couldn't find the bouncer.

BECKY. Oh no don't be silly.

JENNY. I hope you don't mind only when you said pop over I thought may as well 'kill two birds with one stone.'

BECKY. No that's brilliant. John's going to be wow.

JENNY. Oh John! What a hero. I was thinking that on my way over. I know he's left you for a few days but it's manageable isn't it? A few days at a time. Is here OK?

BECKY. Thanks. Perfect.

JENNY. Poor Jules is 'stuck in El Salvador.' Again. Oh look! It's Bunny!

(She jangles a baby rabbit with bells on.)

You used to be favourite didn't you Bunny? And now what? Does nobody love you? Does nobody want you?

BECKY. Do you want some wine?

JENNY. Are you drinking?

BECKY. I was just going to have the one.

JENNY. I'll have one but really darling don't on my account. Now wait. This might cheer you up. Look what else I've brought...

(She chuck's Bunny down. Reaches into her handbag.)

Wait for it -

(produces a massive block of chocolate)

Ta da! You can't have an emotional crisis without chocolate can you? Lets eat it quick before it melts!

BECKY. Aw thanks Jenny. Thanks for coming round. I really appreciate it.

(JENNY shuts the back door. BECKY gets two fresh glasses.)

JENNY. Not at all it's my pleasure. Mum owes me a night off anyway. You should really keep this door locked you know. When John's away.

(BECKY is pouring them wine.)

Seventy-two hours on my own with the boys I'm either going to drop dead of exhaustion or I don't know what. Please just talk to me like a human. Come on. Out with it. What's up?

BECKY. Oh. Well. It's nothing big. It's just

(JENNY notices the bicycle.)

JENNY. The bike! It came!

BECKY. Yeah. Um, thingy brought it round. Oliver. It's kind of

what I wanted to talk to you about.

JENNY. Uh-oh. What did he do?

BECKY. No! No it's nothing like that. It's more like something to do with my body. Which happened. Earlier. And I can't tell if it's a baby thing or more

JENNY. A physical symptom?

BECKY. Kind of. It's a bit -

JENNY. Trust me darling. Once you've been through childbirth you completely lose all sense of shame. You sit with your legs open in a room full of strangers all staring at your thingamudoodle. Nothing you can say will shock me.

BECKY. OK. It's just that me and John

since I got pregnant

JENNY. Cheers.

BECKY. cheers. In the bedroom. We haven't really - 'done it.' And it's creating quite a lot of um stress?

JENNY. Uh huh. Oh isn't this wonderful? I can't tell you how wonderful this is after three days of Spongebob Squarepants. Sorry darling. Carry on.

BECKY. I just don't know what to do. Because it's like if your body is literally telling you what it needs. More than ever before

JENNY. You're very in tune with it.

BECKY. exactly yes and at the same time there's him. And he's wanting the complete opposite. Do you know what I mean?

JENNY. I think it's pretty normal.

BECKY. Really?

(JENNY yawns.)

JENNY. Ah it just changes things. Doesn't it?

BECKY. Yes! But this is what I say. I say he's being different. And he says I'm being different.

JENNY. You are different! He surely can't expect you to stay the same?

BECKY. No. I don't know.

JENNY. Darling put it this way. It's a bloody miracle we even had Nathaniel. To be honest as soon as I had Seb I just

god it sounds awful doesn't it but I just you know down there's all

eeh and not because of Jules. I still found him 'attractive' I just had no desire to

BECKY. Oh.

JENNY. And then since Nate

well you're just so tired. All the time. I think it's normal. You've got other things to think about haven't you? We're not like them. Thinking about it every five seconds of the day! Though I probably get off light compared to you. Jules is away so much I really never have to do much fending off these days!

BECKY. But if you don't

I mean if you two don't ever
you don't think he might
do anything?

JENNY. You mean

BECKY. With someone else I mean.

JENNY. Oh I see. I mean

god. You don't know you do? I know he had a crush. Once. There was an aid nurse. Anna. Italian or

BECKY. And what happened?

JENNY. I can't remember now. I think she got engaged to a Major. Oh god. Darling. John's not -

BECKY. No! God no. No. He's over the moon about the baby.

JENNY. Because it's a funny time isn't it? I think some men go a bit

BECKY. Do you think?

JENNY. Wife-beating. For example. Very common during pregnancy. Not that John's likely to

(BECKY *laughs.*)

is he?

BECKY. No!

JENNY. No but they can get funny about s-e-x. Too. Remember what happened to Sally Montgomery?

BECKY. No.

JENNY. When she was having her third. Oh course you weren't here then. Sorry darling. I'm going a bit wazoo. But anyway yes. When all those prostitutes got done in,

her husband was interviewed. Turned out he'd been down there picking up "whores." Had to give a statement to police.

BECKY. Did they think it was him?

JENNY. No no. God no he just might have seen something.

BECKY. And had he?

JENNY. No I just mean the embarrassment. One of them was only sixteen apparently.

BECKY. Oh no.

JENNY. Sally was chair of the PTA at St Michael's. She had to stand down.

BECKY. *She* did?

JENNY. I don't know if she *had* to but she did. They moved actually.

BECKY. No but

JENNY. To Lemmington Spa.

BECKY. What I mean is

I mean what happens to me?

JENNY. When?

BECKY. Now. Next. It's like

before

I knew who I was. And now
who am I?

JENNY. You're having an identity crisis.

BECKY. No. I just mean

is that what they want? Tight
pussies?

JENNY. What?!

BECKY. I feel like I'm losing something.

JENNY. You mean

giving birth is going to

BECKY. No! I don't just mean that. Or maybe I do. I mean. They. Have all the power.

JENNY. Men?

BECKY. No! Them. The Aid Nurse. Your nanny with the short skirt.

JENNY. Monika?

BECKY. That's why you got rid of her. Isn't it?

JENNY. I'm a bit lost darling. Start again. I'm not with you.

BECKY. I called that plumber today.

JENNY. Mike? He's not responsible for this is he?

(She means the drip.)

BECKY. No no. He was great. /It's just

JENNY. Oh good.

BECKY. how do I say it? I feel

safe. Not safe that's the wrong word because I don't feel safe with the plumber I feel the opposite of safe but I feel like

when he looks at me

JENNY. The plumber?

BECKY. Yes! When he looks at me. I know he wants to have sex with me.

JENNY. Mike?!

BECKY. Yes

JENNY. Mike the plumber? Mike the plumber wants to have sex with you? What makes you say that?

BECKY. Because of the way he looks at me.

JENNY. You know his wife died of cancer.

BECKY. What's that got to do with it?

JENNY. I'm just saying.

BECKY. It's not the point.

JENNY. He might be lonely.

BECKY. That's not what I'm saying! I'm not saying he's in love with me, I'm saying

not even he **wants** to have sex with me I just mean he **would**.

JENNY. Based on what?

BECKY. Based on his eyes. You must know what I'm talking about. I'm talking about men and how most of them would

probably have sex with you if you gave them a chance. You know.

JENNY. With me?

BECKY. With me. That's how I deal with men. I assume

they want to have sex with me.

JENNY. How complex.

BECKY. I haven't explained.

JENNY. You poor thing. You know all this it's so

(BECKY reaches for the wine bottle.)

leave that maybe.

(JENNY swipes the wine out the way.)

so normal. Everything you're talking about. Of course you're scared and

anxious and all that stuff and your body's changing and your hormones are going crazy but believe me darling once it's born? You won't give two hoots about any of this. I promise you. When you hold that little baby you'll love it so much

you won't care about anything else.

Don't look like that. It's a good thing! It's liberating! And look in the meantime

you've got the whole summer. You can take things easy. Get out on your nice new bike! Carefully of course. Nice and slow.

(They look at the bike.)

BECKY. It's broken.

JENNY. Oh!

BECKY. No it's fine he's

he said he's coming back to fix it. Didn't I say?

JENNY. I don't think so. Did you? Are you OK darling? You look strange.

BECKY. I'm fine. No. I'm just excited.