

# **Waking Up For Nothing**

by

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02 Le Pain de Quotidien is a large café in London St. Pancras  
03 Station. Its main feature is a large public table, which  
04 stimulates conversation between strangers. This weekday  
05 morning is like any other: the café is full with suited  
06 London workers, focussed on drinking their coffee and  
07 getting off to work on time and less bothered with  
08 conversation. KATE enters the café with a suitcase and a  
09 handbag. She is glamorously dressed, evidently not dressed  
10 to work, but smart. She stands in the doorway of the busy  
11 café and looks around for someone. She then reluctantly  
12 queues. While she waits, she looks intently at the menu  
13 above the counter, her deliberation clear.

14 KATE  
15 (approaching the counter  
16 confidently)  
17 Can I have a Belgian style hot  
18 chocolate and a fruit waffle  
19 please? And you don't have any of  
20 that white praline spread, do you?  
21 You do? Fantastic. If you could  
22 bring a pot of that to my table,  
23 that'd be great, thanks. I'll be  
24 sitting over there at the big  
25 table. Okay? Thanks.  
26 (she begins to leave but  
27 remembers something  
28 else)  
29 I pay when I leave, yes? Okay,  
30 thanks.

31 KATE walks slowly to the large public table, still looking  
32 at everybody around her. She sits down on the corner of the  
33 table, facing the door, putting her suitcase and handbag as  
34 close to the side of her seat as possible. She waits for her  
35 food and drink. She watches everyone as they enter and  
36 leave, especially those who enter.

37 CREDITS ROLL ACROSS THE SCREEN OVER THE SCENE

38 KATE takes off her jacket and puts it around her chair. She  
39 takes her phone out of her handbag and checks it. She puts  
40 it back when she is disappointed. She is constantly watching  
41 the entrance and all the busy London workers who come in.

42 A waitress brings over the big cup of hot milk and the small  
43 cup of melted chocolate- KATE's Belgian style hot chocolate.  
44 The waitress returns, rushed, to the counter and back. She  
45 brings KATE her waffle with blackberries, blueberries,  
46 strawberries, a few leaves of mint, and dusted sugar on top,  
47 and the pot of white praline spread, labelled "Blondie".

48 KATE  
49 Thank you. That's perfect.

50 The waitress goes back to the busy counter.

51 KATE pours the chocolate into the milk and stirs it round  
52 with the spoon provided. The large cup has no handle and she



01                                 SIMON  
02             You don't mind if I sit here, do  
03             you?  
04                     (KATE does not realise he  
05                     is talking to her)  
06             Hello?

07                                 KATE  
08                     (surprised, looks at him  
09                     for the first time since  
10                     he walked through the  
11                     door)  
12             Oh! Sorry, was in my own world  
13             there.  
14                     (beckoning to chair)  
15             Please.

16                                 SIMON  
17                     (sitting down)  
18             Ta.

19 They sit in silence. SIMON leans back in his chair with his  
20 coffee in his hand, off the table, and he drinks it. He  
21 blows on the surface of the coffee before taking each sip.  
22 KATE is leaning forward onto her elbows and taps her cup.  
23 She leans back, reaches into her bag, checks her phone, puts  
24 it back again. SIMON watches her as intently as she watches  
25 every man who enters the café. She moves her back off the  
26 chair again. She picks up both the knife and fork, only to  
27 use just the fork to eat another piece of waffle. She then  
28 puts down the cutlery and takes a sip of hot chocolate. All  
29 the while, SIMON is watching, deducing.

30                                 SIMON  
31             You're not waiting for someone, are  
32             you?

33                                 KATE  
34                     (being polite)  
35             No. Don't worry about it.

36                                 SIMON  
37             Okay.

38                                 KATE  
39                     (realising she is not  
40                     fooling SIMON)  
41             Yes I am waiting for someone.  
42                     (SIMON nods)  
43             But I will move if he comes.

44                                 SIMON  
45             How long have you been waiting?

46                                 KATE  
47             Why do you ask that?

01                                 SIMON  
02                 Well you might not need to move  
03                 depending on how long you've been  
04                 waiting.

05                                 KATE  
06                 I don't quite understand.

07                                 SIMON  
08                         (blowing his coffee and  
09                         taking another sip)  
10                 There's really no point waiting for  
11                 a man here for so long.

12                                 KATE  
13                 How come?

14                                 SIMON  
15                 It's all work here. Everyone's  
16                 thinking about their forthcoming  
17                 day of work. You can't blame a man  
18                 here if he cares for nothing but  
19                 his work.

20                                 KATE  
21                 Why can't a woman?

22                                 SIMON  
23                 A woman can care about work, sure.  
24                 But at the same time, a woman can  
25                 care about everything else in her  
26                 life including the people she's  
27                 arranged to meet at St. Pancras at  
28                 eight on a Tuesday. Double  
29                 standards, I know.  
30                                 (beat)  
31                 That's why you're here waiting and  
32                 he's probably early for work having  
33                 forgotten why he set his alarm for  
34                 a different.

35                                 KATE  
36                                 (in denial)  
37                 That's sexist. And generalizing.

38                                 SIMON  
39                 You're right. But I'm afraid, for  
40                 the most part, it's true.

41                                 KATE  
42                                 (thinks for a bit)  
43                 How come you're talking to me and  
44                 not thinking of work?

45                                 SIMON  
46                 Because I have no work to concern  
47                 me here.

01 KATE  
02 Then why are you here at all?

03 SIMON  
04 I like the café.

05 KATE  
06 (eyeballs him for the  
07 first time, points at  
08 him with open palm)  
09 And the suit? Why do you have to be  
10 so smart?

11 SIMON  
12 I like dressing smart. I still have  
13 to present myself well.

14 KATE  
15 (whether she is flirting  
16 is ambiguous)  
17 You do look good in that suit.

18 SIMON  
19 (showing her his ring)  
20 I'm married.

21 KATE  
22 (defensive)  
23 So's he.

24 SIMON  
25 Who?

26 KATE  
27 The man I'm waiting for. Marriage  
28 means nothing to me.

29 SIMON  
30 Then I am very different to you and  
31 him.

32 KATE cannot reply. She smiles wryly, but SIMON is less  
33 amused. He begins drinking his coffee again, but at a faster  
34 rate. He no longer needs to blow on it before each sip and  
35 he finishes it before KATE even has three sips of her drink.  
36 He is not interested in her, but she now only watches him.  
37 There has been only silence for many seconds since SIMON  
38 finished his drink.

39 KATE  
40 Why haven't you left?

41 SIMON  
42 Where else'd I go?

43 KATE  
44 Don't you have a home?

01 SIMON  
 02 Yeah, I have a home. But it's not  
 03 what it was. I'd rather be here.

04 KATE  
 05 I don't understand. You were just  
 06 offended when I slated marriage.  
 07 Are you and your wife okay?

08 SIMON  
 09 Things are always more complicated  
 10 than they first seem.

11 KATE  
 12 Sorry. I won't pry.

13 SIMON  
 14 It's okay.

15 SIMON signals to the waitress for another coffee. She brings  
 16 it over quickly. KATE eats the final pieces of her waffle in  
 17 the same manner as the others. The café empties in a matter  
 18 of minutes and all the businessmen walk stiffly and quickly  
 19 through the double doors. There are few others left other  
 20 than SIMON and KATE. KATE checks her phone and looks at it  
 21 slowly this time, disappointed as she puts it away. She  
 22 tidies her cutlery to indicate she is finished and the  
 23 waitress takes away the empty plate and the spread. She  
 24 waits a few beats.

25 KATE  
 26 How come you're out of work? You  
 27 seem a smart man to me.

28 SIMON  
 29 Oh, it's only been a few days. I'd  
 30 been an insurance executive a few  
 31 years...

32 KATE's phone rings loudly from her bag, a plain,  
 33 professional ringtone. She almost dives off her chair to  
 34 answer, still leaning under the table when she checks it.  
 35 She rises slowly, apologetic.

36 KATE  
 37 Sorry, it's him. I have to take  
 38 this.  
 39 (SIMON nods, KATE answers  
 40 the phone and holds it  
 41 against her ear)  
 42 Christian? What is it?  
 43 (beat)  
 44 Yeah, I'm here.  
 45 (beat)  
 46 No, no, I understand. It's easy to  
 47 forget when you're working.  
 (MORE)

KATE (cont'd)

01 (beat)  
02 No, it was no trouble. I've been  
03 meaning to come back for a while  
04 anyway.  
05 (beat)  
06 Chris, stop apologising, please.  
07 (beat)  
08 Yes, I'll stay for the weekend. Now  
09 go. Go! Get back to work!  
10 (laughing)  
11 Yes, I'll see you then.  
12 (beat)  
13 I've missed you too.

SIMON

14 I don't really understand. Are the  
15 two of you married?  
16

KATE

17 He's an old friend, actually. I  
18 don't really know why I said what I  
19 said earlier. I haven't seen him  
20 for years. I just couldn't see  
21 myself getting married.  
22

SIMON

23 Is there a reason you wouldn't get  
24 married?  
25

KATE

26 Other than my astonishing bad luck  
27 with men? Well, actually it's more  
28 like bad taste. No, you can't have  
29 bad taste when the menu's sour.  
30 Still, I try them anyway.  
31

SIMON

32 There's more to it than that. I  
33 don't know, did you have a bad  
34 experience? Parents divorced? Or  
35 constantly bickered when you were  
36 growing up?  
37

KATE

38 Oh no. My parents are still  
39 together.  
40

SIMON

41 Oh, okay, sorry I assumed.  
42

KATE

43 They never argue, either.  
44

45 SIMON does not reply. Instead, he waits and intently  
46 listens.



01 KATE  
02 It's all too convenient. My father  
03 gets to uphold his reputation as a  
04 family man, great for business,  
05 while he fucks every girl he  
06 fancies, and my mother- she gets to  
07 have the money and lifestyle she  
08 always dreamt she'd marry into.

09 SIMON listens still, intrigued, almost smug. He waits for  
10 her to continue, not even drinking his coffee.

11 KATE  
12 And, as a kid, you're observant  
13 without knowing, you know?  
14 (SIMON nods)  
15 So I could see my father slept with  
16 all these girls and I could see my  
17 mother knew and didn't care.  
18 Growing up thinking that was normal  
19 destroyed any desire to get married  
20 myself.

21 KATE finishes talking and SIMON is still silent. They look  
22 at each other for a beat then she breaks eye contact.

23 KATE  
24 (embarrassed)  
25 I don't even know your name.

26 SIMON  
27 It's okay, you're vulnerable, don't  
28 worry about it.  
29 (beat)  
30 I'm Simon, by the way.

31 KATE  
32 Yes, you could call me vulnerable.  
33 (she waits for him to get  
34 the joke- he never gets  
35 the joke)  
36 Did I...? Oh gosh, sorry, that was  
37 a joke. My name's not actually  
38 vulnerable. It wasn't funny.  
39 (SIMON raises his  
40 eyebrows expectantly)  
41 It's Kate.

42 SIMON  
43 (noticing her suitcase)  
44 Where have you come from, Kate?

45 KATE  
46 Today?

47 SIMON  
48 Well today, yesterday, everyday.

01 KATE  
02 Well today, I came from Paris.

03 SIMON  
04 Paris?

05 KATE  
06 Oui.

07 SIMON  
08 What were you doing in Paris?

09 KATE  
10 I live in Paris.

11 SIMON  
12 You live in Paris?

13 KATE  
14 Yeah. I lecture at ENS and I'm also  
15 a foreign correspondent for The  
16 Times.

17 SIMON  
18 ENS?

19 KATE  
20 The university. Please tell me you  
21 know The Times is a paper?

22 SIMON  
23 Yeah, yeah.

24 KATE  
25 Paris is a beautiful city to live  
26 in.

27 KATE drinks more of her hot chocolate. SIMON drinks more of  
28 his coffee. SIMON looks at her a lot. KATE looks out of the  
29 window more, but she glances at him like she shouldn't, but  
30 she really wants to.

31 SIMON  
32 Did you come all the way from Paris  
33 for a cup of coffee and a waffle?

34 KATE  
35 It's hot chocolate.

36 SIMON  
37 Worth it?

38 KATE  
39 It's pretty good.

40 SIMON  
41 You travelled all the way from  
42 Paris to St. Pancras for a pretty  
43 good hot chocolate and a waffle?

01 KATE  
02 The waffle was pretty good as well.

03 SIMON  
04 I'm not buying it.

05 KATE  
06 The waffle?  
07 (SIMON must think KATE  
08 has a really bad sense  
09 of humour)  
10 What are you saying?

11 SIMON  
12 I think you'd drop everything for  
13 this married guy.

14 KATE  
15 Don't act like you know me.

16 SIMON  
17 I don't know you, I could be  
18 completely wrong. I'm just  
19 saying...

20 KATE  
21 Just saying?

22 SIMON  
23 It already seems like you've  
24 dropped everything for him like  
25 he's going to ruin his marriage  
26 just to sleep with you.

27 KATE  
28 (for all her anger,  
29 remains composed in her  
30 speech)  
31 You really don't know me. I'm sorry  
32 if what I said gave you that  
33 impression. If I wanted sex, I  
34 would have stayed in Paris, there's  
35 plenty to be had there.  
36 (pauses)  
37 Let me clear things up. He's an old  
38 friend. Okay? I haven't seen him in  
39 five years. Okay? Out of nowhere,  
40 he asks me if I want to catch up,  
41 of course it's a little difficult  
42 living in Paris, but I wanted to  
43 come back to London again so  
44 meeting him was a nice excuse.  
45 (beat)  
46 Do I need to justify anything else  
47 with you?  
48 (SIMON shakes his head)  
49 Do you think I'm that much of a  
50 whore?





KATE (cont'd)

01 generation ago. And since then,  
02 North African and Eastern European  
03 influences in France have dampened  
04 the so called distinguishable  
05 appearance of a French national. In  
06 two thousand and ten alone, twenty  
07 seven percent of French born  
08 children had at least one  
09 non-French parent.  
10 (pause)  
11 You wouldn't know this, but I not  
12 only lecture in Paris, I lecture  
13 French literature.  
14 (beat)  
15 I know my French and you are being  
16 very prejudiced.

17 SIMON  
18 (impressed, smiling)  
19 I did say I have a judgement issue.

20 KATE  
21 (smiling)  
22 How old are you?

23 SIMON  
24 Thirty four.

25 KATE  
26 Thirty four?  
27 (SIMON nods)  
28 Marriage has aged you.

29 SIMON  
30 You're very pseudo-intellectual.

31 KATE  
32 Is that intimidating?

33 SIMON  
34 No, I just noticed.

35 KATE  
36 How old were you when you married  
37 again?

38 SIMON  
39 I didn't say.

40 KATE  
41 Didn't you?

42 SIMON  
43 I don't think so.

44 KATE  
45 Well, how old were you?

01    SIMON  
02                          I was twenty four.

03    KATE  
04                          That's young. Too young. No wonder  
05                          you seem old.

06    SIMON  
07    (playing on the joke)  
08                          Well, in my generation, to marry at  
09                          that age was the norm.

10    KATE  
11    (missing the joke)  
12                          What do you mean "your generation"?  
13                          I'm only six years younger than  
14                          you.

15    SIMON  
16                          You're twenty eight?

17    KATE  
18    (unsure- "does he think  
19    I'm older or younger?")  
20                          Yeah.

21    SIMON  
22                          You seem so...  
23    (choosing the appropriate  
24    word)  
25                          Invigorated. Like you have a lot of  
26                          ambition left.

27    KATE  
28    (playing on the old joke  
29    a little late, she gets  
30    it now)  
31                          Is that the old folk way of saying  
32                          I look younger?

33    SIMON  
34                          Something like that.

35    KATE  
36                          Thanks.

37 SIMON now looks out the window. KATE watches him and  
38 finishes her drink. SIMON leaves his drink on the table and  
39 now he glances at her like he knows he shouldn't.

40    KATE  
41                          So ten years, you doing anything  
42                          special?

43    SIMON  
44    (takes his time,  
45    surprised she asked)  
46                          Our anniversary isn't actually till  
47                          the sixteenth of next month.

01 KATE  
02 What have you got planned?

03 SIMON  
04 (very unsure)  
05 Do you really want to know?

06 KATE  
07 Yes.

08 SIMON  
09 I wouldn't have guessed you were  
10 one for the romantic gestures.

11 KATE  
12 Everyone enjoys some romance here  
13 and there.

14 SIMON  
15 (suddenly more enthused)  
16 Okay. So I've got the usual, you  
17 know: chocolate, jewellery,  
18 flowers, fancy dinner reservation.  
19 Not that I can afford it, but I've  
20 got it.  
21 (beat)  
22 And then I've got her a special  
23 present as well, which I know  
24 she'll probably appreciate less.

25 KATE  
26 (genuinely interested)  
27 What's that?

28 SIMON  
29 A calendar.

30 KATE  
31 A calendar?

32 SIMON  
33 You see, her name's June.

34 KATE  
35 (she doesn't see)  
36 Okay.

37 SIMON  
38 So I custom printed a calendar with  
39 every month June.

40 KATE  
41 (losing interest)  
42 That's cute.

43 SIMON  
44 And all the pictures are pictures  
45 of us together.



01 KATE  
02 Have you ever thought of having an  
03 affair?

04 SIMON  
05 Sorry, what?

06 KATE  
07 You heard me. Ten years is a long  
08 time. Surely, you must have had  
09 some thoughts.

10 SIMON  
11 I've never considered an affair.

12 KATE  
13 Okay.  
14 (beat)  
15 Well, have you ever thought another  
16 woman more attractive than your  
17 wife?

18 SIMON  
19 No. To me, June is the most  
20 beautiful woman in the world.

21 KATE  
22 Oh, get off it! Scarlett Johansson,  
23 Miranda Kerr, Camille Rowe- don't  
24 tell me this wife of yours is more  
25 attractive than them!

26 SIMON  
27 What are you trying to achieve?

28 KATE  
29 I want to see how far you'll go to  
30 defend your commitment. What  
31 outrageous things you'll say.

32 SIMON  
33 I love her. What more do you want  
34 me to say?  
35 (KATE retreats)  
36 I have a family with her, I've  
37 built my life with her- a happy  
38 life at that. Why would I ruin  
39 that?

40 KATE nods. She accepts what SIMON has said.

41 KATE  
42 Life is stressful, right?

43 SIMON  
44 Sometimes, of course.

01 KATE  
02 And you share everything with your  
03 wife?

04 SIMON  
05 As much as possible.

06 KATE  
07 Then surely that would affect your  
08 sex?  
09 (SIMON is silent with  
10 confusion)  
11 I don't know, I've never been  
12 married, but I've always imagined  
13 that when you have sex with your  
14 spouse, you'd be associating them  
15 with all the stresses of life and  
16 nobody enjoys that.

17 SIMON  
18 That's normal, though. Marriage  
19 isn't based primarily on a physical  
20 connection.

21 KATE  
22 But sex makes us happy- even just  
23 on a pure, biological, chemical  
24 level.  
25 (smiling to herself)  
26 Well, good sex anyway. Sex which  
27 isn't stressful.  
28 (stops smiling)  
29 Which means that if you'd have sex  
30 with a woman who isn't your wife,  
31 who you wouldn't associate with so  
32 many other, stressful, things,  
33 releasing all your instinctive  
34 sexual urges, you'd be happier,  
35 right?

36 SIMON  
37 I can't agree with that.

38 KATE  
39 My logic is sound, though.

40 SIMON  
41 I disagree, sorry.  
42 (pauses)  
43 What about the lies and the deceit?  
44 (beat)  
45 Won't they make me equally unhappy?

46 KATE  
47 Can you honestly tell me there are  
48 no lies in your marriage?

49 SIMON  
50 Yes.

01 KATE  
02 Then you're a liar.

03 SIMON does not even attempt to deny this. He sits forward in  
04 his chair, finishing his coffee, staring into space  
05 intensely. KATE sits back in her chair, watching her broken  
06 subject. She smiles at her success, but loses her smile in  
07 thought.

08 KATE  
09 Look at you, you're so shocked.  
10 (pauses, laughs as she  
11 says...)  
12 I warned you you'd say something  
13 outrageous.

14 SIMON  
15 Is this a joke to you?

16 KATE  
17 (still laughing)  
18 No, but I can't help but laugh.

19 SIMON  
20 At my marriage?

21 KATE  
22 (stops laughing)  
23 At how you think it's possible not  
24 to lie.  
25 (pauses)  
26 Do you tell your wife about all  
27 your thoughts?

28 SIMON  
29 What thoughts?

30 KATE  
31 See, you're even lying to me.  
32 (beat)  
33 What reason do you have to lie to  
34 me?

35 SIMON  
36 (disgruntled)  
37 I don't know you.

38 KATE  
39 (continuing)  
40 Not that I mind. I've been lying to  
41 you. The chances are so has your  
42 wife. Which matters more?

43 SIMON  
44 My wife, of course.

45 KATE  
46 (mocking)  
47 Don't I matter to you?

01   SIMON  
02         What? I've only known you a matter  
03         of minutes.  
04                         (sees her acting  
05   despondently)  
06         You seem nice. Very smart. Great to  
07         chat to, as well.  
08                         (beat)  
09         It upset me when you said you'd  
10         lied and I'm sorry if I lied to you  
11         too. Life's just complicated.

12   KATE  
13   (smiling)  
14         Listen to you grovel. Are you like  
15         this with your wife?

16   SIMON  
17         I meant it.

18     KATE looks into his eyes. She shows no emotion other than  
19     with her eyes. She checks her watch, checks her phone before  
20     immediately putting it away. SIMON signals the waitress over  
21     and KATE looks at him again, as if for the last time.

22   SIMON  
23         Hey Cath, can I have another coffee  
24         please?

25   KATE  
26         You're staying?

27   SIMON  
28         Oh, and can I have the English  
29         breakfast as well?  
30   (beat)  
31         Yeah.  
32   (beat)  
33         Thanks Cath.

34   KATE  
35   (as the waitress is about  
36   to leave, points to  
37   empty mug)  
38         Can I have another one as well?  
39   (beat, ecstatic, waving  
40   arms around)  
41         Everything! Get me everything!  
42   (beat, more composed  
43   again)  
44         Continental, though.  
45   (less composed again)  
46         Everything continental!

47     The waitress leaves, baffled, but smiling. KATE and SIMON  
48     are both smiling now, laughing even (slightly), and look at  
49     each other.

01 KATE  
02 I don't know why I did that.  
03 (SIMON laughs)  
04 I'm not even hungry, that waffle  
05 did it for me. I just ordered  
06 something because you did.

07 SIMON  
08 That was honest of you.

09 KATE  
10 (smiling)  
11 I know, it felt weird.  
12 (pauses)  
13 Christian sent me a letter.  
14 (SIMON nods)  
15 A week ago, I received a  
16 handwritten letter from him.

17 SIMON  
18 And that's why you're here.  
19 (KATE nods)  
20 A letter, though. What is it? The  
21 fifties?

22 KATE  
23 I know, it was so romantic, too  
24 much so. I checked his Facebook and  
25 yep, still married.

26 SIMON  
27 What did he say in the letter?

28 KATE  
29 He said he'd been thinking of me a  
30 lot and he'd realised he missed me  
31 and some spiel about having to see  
32 me to catch up. It was all so  
33 ambiguous, so vague, I could have  
34 completely misinterpreted it.

35 SIMON  
36 But you still came?

37 KATE  
38 Yeah.

39 SIMON  
40 Did he actually say he wanted  
41 anything? Sometimes we just see  
42 what we want to see.

43 KATE  
44 You mean an affair?  
45 (beat)  
46 No. He didn't really state much.

47 SIMON  
48 Then why did you come?

01 KATE  
02 (really thinks about it  
03 before speaking)  
04 He's the only man I've met I could  
05 ever love.  
06 (pauses)  
07 We lived down the road from each  
08 other in Barnet, you see. As  
09 teenagers, we knew each other as  
10 teenagers. He went to QE and I went  
11 to Henrietta.  
12 (SIMON does not know the  
13 schools)  
14 They're the best schools around.  
15 Henrietta was the girls' school,  
16 Queen Elizabeth the boys.  
17 (SIMON nods)  
18 He was funny. He was smart. Boy,  
19 was he boyish. Yet, he was always  
20 so courteous towards me. We'd hang  
21 out on the streets of North London.  
22 We once fell asleep on the tube  
23 together, my head on his shoulder,  
24 and drifted all the way to Clapham.  
25 (beat)  
26 I felt safe with him.

27 SIMON  
28 So what happened?

29 KATE  
30 Nothing happened. That was the  
31 problem.

32 SIMON  
33 Then what didn't happen?

34 KATE  
35 We never kissed, never went out,  
36 never slept together. We never fell  
37 in love- like we should have.

38 SIMON  
39 Didn't he say anything?

40 KATE  
41 No, he did. He asked me out many  
42 times, actually. I was just stupid.

43 SIMON  
44 How?

45 KATE  
46 I turned him down every time.

47 SIMON  
48 Why? If you felt that way, why turn  
49 him down?

01 KATE  
02 We spent all our time together  
03 anyway. I'd thought he'd sexualise  
04 me if we were in a relationship,  
05 lose his sensitivity. What I liked  
06 about him was his sensitivity and  
07 humour. I always thought they'd be  
08 the first things to go if I went  
09 out with him.

10 SIMON  
11 Didn't you find him attractive?

12 KATE  
13 (nodding)  
14 I thought he was good looking,  
15 yeah.  
16 (beat)  
17 He had this slick hairstyle, dark  
18 and gelled, and he wore this  
19 blazer.  
20 (picturing it in her head  
21 in a way which is  
22 visible to SIMON)  
23 He really suited that blazer...

24 SIMON  
25 But like you said earlier- wouldn't  
26 the sex have made you happier?

27 KATE  
28 Too complicated.

29 SIMON  
30 How?

31 KATE  
32 I knew him. I'd have associated  
33 things with him, I told him things  
34 nobody else knew.

35 SIMON  
36 Why do they have to be separate?

37 KATE  
38 Complicated, I really don't like  
39 complicated.  
40 (pauses)  
41 Though, if I think about him for  
42 too long, I think I do love him.  
43 And then I'm in love with a married  
44 man, who lives in a different  
45 country, and that's complicated  
46 enough.

01                                 SIMON  
02                                 (a bit pissed off now,  
03                                 not with KATE but just  
04                                 philosophy and life)  
05             I'm sorry, but what is love? Like,  
06             what is it really?

07                                 KATE  
08             Why'd you say that?

09                                 SIMON  
10             Like is love meant to be forever?  
11             I've loved my wife for fifteen  
12             years, but who says she'll be there  
13             for me to love tomorrow, or if I'll  
14             be around still. Lots of people  
15             seem to be in love, it's common,  
16             lots of people love lots of other  
17             people and you say you love this  
18             married bloke and nothing's  
19             happened with that love for umpteen  
20             years. So what does it all mean?  
21             Why can't we define what love is?

22                                 KATE  
23             I can Google it if you want?

24                                 SIMON  
25             Go on, Google it.  
26                                 (KATE gets her phone from  
27                                 her bag and Googles  
28                                 "love")  
29             What does it say?

30                                 KATE  
31             Apparently, love is a variety of  
32             different feelings, states, and  
33             attitudes that ranges from  
34             interpersonal affection to  
35             pleasure.

36                                 SIMON  
37                                 (sarcastic)  
38             Wow, thanks Google, very  
39             definitive. Does that cover your  
40             feelings for Christian?

41                                 KATE  
42             Yeah, sure. Does that cover how you  
43             feel about...?

44                                 SIMON  
45             June? Yeah, course.

46                                 KATE  
47             Then why do I feel less certain I  
48             love him?



01 SIMON  
02 I've been married ten years, I  
03 think like that a lot. How do I  
04 know whether I love June?  
05 (beat)  
06 Let me tell you this: I don't. Love  
07 can't be defined. And, as for  
08 certainty, you could be one hundred  
09 percent certain one day and then  
10 suddenly, the next day you're as  
11 uncertain as you've ever been.  
12 Something they never tell you is  
13 that doubt never goes away.

14 KATE  
15 I thought it was a bullshit  
16 definition anyway.

17 SIMON  
18 Oh God yeah! They didn't take into  
19 account a fair few factors.

20 KATE  
21 Yeah, like if they're already  
22 married.

23 SIMON  
24 They could easily make that  
25 amendment, though. Variety of  
26 feeling, blah blah blah, from  
27 interpersonal affection to  
28 pleasure. Unless they're married.  
29 Shouldn't love them then. Unless  
30 you are, in fact, the one they've  
31 married. Then I suppose that's  
32 okay.

33 The waitress walks over with two full plates, one in either  
34 hand. One plate has on it bacon, beans, tomato, sausage,  
35 etc., the other has croissants, pastries, ham, pastrami,  
36 cheese, fruit, etc..

37 KATE  
38 How am I going to eat all this?

39 SIMON  
40 I'm not complaining. Smells great.  
41 (the waitress places his  
42 plate in front of him)  
43 Thanks.

44 KATE  
45 (the waitress placing her  
46 plate in front of her)  
47 Thank you.

48 KATE picks up her cutlery precariously, looking dazed by the  
49 amount of food on her plate. She takes her time cutting her  
50 croissant and then putting jam and butter inside. She leaves



01 They put their cutlery on the same plate and the waitress  
02 clears it away with SIMON's plate.

03 KATE  
04 You never finished telling me about  
05 your work.

06 SIMON  
07 Oh yeah. As I said I got laid off.  
08 So many other people get laid off,  
09 I'm no different.  
10 (pauses)  
11 See, there's always money in  
12 insurance. I always thought I'd  
13 never be unemployed because of the  
14 sector I was in, but my company had  
15 pumped a lot into a graduate  
16 scheme. They can pay them a lot  
17 less to do the same job as me and  
18 that made me literally redundant. I  
19 couldn't afford to take a pay cut,  
20 I need every penny for my family  
21 and mortgage. I can't blame them  
22 for trying to save a few here and  
23 there.

24 KATE  
25 That's tough.

26 SIMON  
27 That's life. I'm sure I'll get back  
28 into employment soon enough.

29 KATE  
30 I can't see why not, you seem a  
31 smart man. Your family, though?  
32 There's nothing here for you, is  
33 there? Why not use this as an  
34 opportunity to spend more time with  
35 your children?  
36 (beat)  
37 You have children, right?

38 SIMON  
39 Yeah, three.

40 KATE  
41 There you go, I thought so.  
42 (beat)  
43 Did you say three?  
44 (SIMON nods)  
45 Shit. That must be hard work.  
46 (SIMON nods, smiling)  
47 So why aren't you with them? Wait,  
48 did you have to get a train to be  
49 here?

50 SIMON  
51 Yeah, from Luton.

01 KATE  
02 And you travel in everyday? For a  
03 real good English breakfast?

04 SIMON  
05 Well today I got some continental  
06 as well, worth it or what?

07 KATE  
08 Isn't it expensive?

09 SIMON  
10 I'd already paid for this month's  
11 travel when I got laid off. I'm  
12 getting my money's worth.

13 KATE  
14 And after that?

15 SIMON  
16 I'll probably get another month.

17 KATE  
18 How can you afford it?

19 SIMON  
20 (somehow smiling)  
21 I can't really.  
22 (beat)  
23 I can't afford anything if I think  
24 about it.

25 KATE  
26 Then why not be positive- proactive  
27 even? Stop wasting your time and  
28 money here and start looking for a  
29 new job. There must be things you  
30 want to do.

31 SIMON  
32 (his face telling,  
33 frustrated)  
34 Yes, but...

35 KATE  
36 (epiphanic)  
37 They don't know. Your family don't  
38 know. Of course, of course.  
39 (almost to herself)  
40 It's complicated. It's always  
41 complicated. They think you're at  
42 work. What are you going to do?

43 SIMON  
44 I don't exactly know.

45 They both take their first sips of their new drinks. The  
46 drinks are remarkably still too hot, so they recede and put  
47 the drinks back on the table.

01 KATE  
02 Why haven't you told them? Your  
03 wife at least?

04 SIMON  
05 I never got the chance to. I would  
06 tell her everything as soon as it  
07 happened, everything I thought as  
08 soon as I thought it.

09 KATE  
10 Do you remember when you began not  
11 to tell her everything?

12 SIMON  
13 You mean when I started lying?

14 KATE  
15 I didn't want to say that.

16 SIMON  
17 Sorry, Kate, I don't understand.  
18 You told me I was a liar, you made  
19 a distinct effort to enlighten me  
20 of that fact. What's changed?

21 KATE  
22 I've learnt why you lie.  
23 (beat)  
24 It's different to why I lie. I  
25 think it changes what it means.

26 SIMON  
27 I'm still a liar.

28 KATE  
29 Everybody is, Simon. But why do  
30 you, specifically, lie?

31 SIMON  
32 I don't know.  
33 (thinks about it)  
34 I suppose, because of my children.  
35 They think I'm their superhero.  
36 (beat)  
37 It's the same reason every parent  
38 pretends to think Santa exists or  
39 doesn't expose their child to the  
40 violence on the news. It's the  
41 reality everybody wants, and every  
42 parent has the opportunity to give  
43 that to their children, to give  
44 them a happy childhood with Santa  
45 and the Tooth Fairy and where their  
46 dad has a job that pays for  
47 everything they could possibly  
48 want.

(MORE)

SIMON (cont'd)

01 (beat)  
02 I go to London, this city of  
03 everything, and I return home a  
04 hero, providing them with all they  
05 could ever need. They love me for  
06 that. I don't want them to realise  
07 this world is cruel. Not yet, not  
08 now.

KATE

09 See, you lie for a good reason.  
10 Love. I lie to deceive, to  
11 manipulate, to seduce. You're a  
12 good person.  
13

SIMON

14 I love my wife. I have no reason to  
15 keep it from her. She knows how  
16 shit life can be. She'd understand.  
17

KATE

18 Do you think about her? Worry about  
19 her?  
20

SIMON

21 Yeah.  
22

KATE

23 Then there's your reason.  
24 (pauses)  
25 You're not a bad person.  
26

SIMON

27 Neither are you.  
28

KATE

29 I don't think anyone is a bad  
30 person as such. I think everyone  
31 has an element of choice to who  
32 they want to be.  
33 (beat)  
34 The choices I make, the things I  
35 do- they're bad a lot of the time,  
36 I'm not going to go into them, but  
37 they are. But then again, I have to  
38 do them to get what I want.  
39

SIMON

40 Why do you have to?  
41

KATE

42 Have you tried being a woman in  
43 society?  
44 (SIMON is silent)  
45 Well?  
46

SIMON

47 I can't say I have.  
48



01                                   SIMON (cont'd)  
02                           (KATE nods)  
02                   I'd be a weatherman.

03                                   KATE  
04                           (leaning forward, she  
05                            laughs)  
06                   I'm sorry.  
07                           (seeS SIMON is serious)  
08                   Why a weatherman?

09                                   SIMON  
10                   I've always been fascinated by the  
11                   weather. I got my degree in  
12                   geography from Exeter and I grew up  
13                   down that way as well, in Fowey.  
14                   The weather affects life in that  
15                   area significantly so, you know, it  
16                   was a big part of my life. My dad  
17                   used to tell me that the weather is  
18                   the only thing which is truly  
19                   unavoidable.  
20                           (beat)  
21                   You can run away from all your  
22                   responsibilities, you can even  
23                   stave off death, but the weather;  
24                   the weather is unavoidable.

25                                   KATE  
26                   That's very British.

27                                   SIMON  
28                   It is! I mean weathermen are so  
29                   iconic. My children could actually  
30                   watch me work and big me up to  
31                   their friends. I'd be a real hero.  
32                           (beat)  
33                   I don't know, it's just a dream of  
34                   mine to.

35                                   KATE  
36                   What's stopping you?

37                                   SIMON  
38                   My kids. I'm all the money they've  
39                   got. I'm past the point when I can  
40                   chase unrealistic dreams. I've just  
41                   got to do something I know I can  
42                   actually do.

43                                   KATE  
44                   Won't your wife work while you go  
45                   after the job you really want?

46                                   SIMON  
47                   No, that's not possible.  
48                           (beat)  
49                   I can't ask her to do that.



01 KATE  
02 What would your father say?

03 SIMON  
04 He'd say my duty as a dad comes  
05 first.  
06 (beat)  
07 That finding a job which provides  
08 for my children and gives me more  
09 time with them is my priority  
10 rather than following childhood  
11 dreams. My dad would give up  
12 anything for me.

13 KATE  
14 Don't you care about enjoying your  
15 own life?

16 SIMON  
17 I'd rather they enjoy their lives  
18 than me enjoy mine. That'd make  
19 happier- seeing them happy.

20 KATE  
21 (nods)  
22 What are their names?

23 SIMON  
24 The eldest is Zac, he's nine, very  
25 excitable. The two girls are Zöe  
26 and Melanie, they're great talkers.  
27 Melanie's the youngest- she's  
28 three. Zöe's seven already- goes  
29 quick.

30 KATE  
31 Have you thought about having more?

32 SIMON  
33 No, that'll be it. I don't think I  
34 could cope with anymore.

35 KATE  
36 I feel like that with my work.

37 SIMON  
38 Don't you think you could have a  
39 family as well?

40 KATE  
41 Realistically?  
42 (beat)  
43 Realistically, I'd need a husband  
44 who wouldn't rely on me for money  
45 and would still be a heavily  
46 invested parent.

47 SIMON  
48 And that's Christian?

01 KATE  
02 I think so.

03 SIMON  
04 Does he want a family?  
05 (beat)  
06 He's married- hasn't he had kids  
07 already?

08 KATE  
09 No, he's got no kids. I don't know  
10 why I think of him as father  
11 material. Maybe it's just a fantasy  
12 of mine, but he had the caring  
13 side, the sense of humour, the  
14 sympathy. I think he'd be a great  
15 father.

16 SIMON  
17 Do you think he wants to leave his  
18 wife to start a family with you? Is  
19 that why you think he hasn't had  
20 any children yet?

21 KATE  
22 Maybe.  
23 (beat)  
24 He did write to me, didn't he?  
25 (thinks)  
26 He used to say he wanted a family  
27 sometimes when we were young. I'd  
28 tease him for that.

29 SIMON  
30 And you'd want him to do that?

31 KATE  
32 That's what I can't work out.  
33 (pauses, thinking aloud)  
34 I've not talked about it before.  
35 Before today, I didn't know what I  
36 wanted. And, now, talking to you, I  
37 think I really do love him and I  
38 want to be with someone I love.  
39 You've taught me how that's  
40 important.  
41 (beat)  
42 But I moved to France to get away  
43 from everything I knew because I  
44 wanted to be pioneering. I couldn't  
45 do that in love- that's not  
46 pioneering at all. I left this  
47 country wanting to be someone who  
48 could assert their superiority and  
49 ultimately succeed. And I did  
50 succeed- I'm incredibly successful.  
(MORE)

KATE (cont'd)

01 (beat)  
 02 I love what I'm doing in France.  
 03 For me, it's a project. I'm  
 04 increasing the awareness of  
 05 inequality to several young  
 06 students to improve society,  
 07 hopefully boosting progress. And I  
 08 write articles of a similar ilk for  
 09 The Times. I can sense I'm having a  
 10 real impact. If I went to the  
 11 bourgeois ideals of marriage which  
 12 has indoctrinated previous  
 13 generations, I'd be a hypocrite.  
 14 (pauses)  
 15 It's all got too complicated.  
 16 (beat)  
 17 I really do hate complicated.  
 18 (beat)  
 19 Can't I have two lives? One where I  
 20 act on what I feel? And another  
 21 where I act on what is right?

22 SIMON tries to understand. He can't.

23 SIMON  
 24 He has a wife!  
 25 (beat)  
 26 He falls asleep at night next to a  
 27 woman he loves and wakes up to that  
 28 same woman in the morning. He's  
 29 lucky, okay? Having that bond for  
 30 so long and not losing it is  
 31 something special. I don't think  
 32 he'd want to lose it. And if he  
 33 does, he doesn't know what it feels  
 34 like to lose it.

35 KATE  
 36 Not every married man is like you.

37 SIMON  
 38 No, I know they aren't. His  
 39 wife's...

40 KATE  
 41 Don't idealise humanity.

42 SIMON  
 43 I don't. I wasn't.

44 KATE  
 45 And don't, don't criticise me for  
 46 trying to get the best for myself.  
 47 Don't you dare. I have to care for  
 48 myself first, then the rest of the  
 49 world.

(MORE)

KATE (cont'd)

01 (beat)  
02 That's how it works; that's how we  
03 work.

04 (both are silent)  
05 Be outrageous and deny that, why  
06 don't you?

SIMON

07 That's how you work, not me. I'm a  
08 dad, it's different for me.  
09 (beat)  
10 Look, fair play, you get what you  
11 want, but I have children. I'd much  
12 rather they do better than me.  
13 They smile, I smile; they succeed,  
14 I succeed. That's how it works;  
15 that's how I work.  
16

KATE

17 You sure you haven't thought of  
18 having an affair?  
19

SIMON

20 Not that again.  
21

KATE

22 No, seriously. Because if you've  
23 never thought about it, you really  
24 would be the perfect husband.  
25

SIMON

26 Course I've thought about. I'm not  
27 perfect at all. Nobody is.  
28

29 SIMON is anxious now. He strokes his cheeks and chin, he  
30 cannot stay still. He watches the coffee in the mug like it  
31 is a gate to another universe: a shocking, unbelievable  
32 universe.

KATE

33 What's wrong?  
34

SIMON

35 (looks up at KATE)  
36 I do idealise humanity, you were  
37 right. I have to, same as you have  
38 to be a bitch sometimes when you're  
39 quite clearly not a bitch. And I  
40 know exactly why I have to.  
41

KATE

42 Why?  
43

SIMON

44 Because if I didn't pretend the  
45 world was perfect, I'd have to tell  
46 my kids that their mum, my wife,  
47 (MORE)

SIMON (cont'd)

01 June, hasn't been travelling the  
02 world with work, that she's not the  
03 explorer hero who supports us from  
04 afar, that she's not coming back.  
05 (pauses, trying to  
06 compose himself,  
07 failing)  
08 I'd have to tell them that she's  
09 dead- that she killed herself  
10 because of this fucking depressing  
11 world.

12 His lip quivers. He takes a deep breath, sits back and looks  
13 into his coffee. KATE is still. She looks at him the way he  
14 looks into the coffee, as if looking into another universe-  
15 a universe where things were different. He drinks plenty of  
16 his coffee. Its now cold.

17 SIMON  
18 (quietly)  
19 I'm just going to the toilet.

20 KATE  
21 Yeah.

22 SIMON gets up. He is rather wooden, tucking his chair under  
23 the table. KATE watches the space he vacated.

24 KATE is left alone at the big table. She cries slowly. She  
25 can wipe each tear before it reaches her cheek. She looks at  
26 the window, detached, and hugs her mug with both hands. She  
27 closes her eyes and takes a deep breath. When she opens them  
28 again, she is not crying. She quickly drinks all of the hot  
29 (now cold) chocolate and puts the mug back on the table,  
30 pushing it away

31 She takes a mirror from her bag and checks herself.  
32 Disapproving, she takes out some wipes from a makeup bag.  
33 She takes one and wipes her eyes. She puts the used wipe in  
34 the mug and puts the pack away. She takes mascara out and  
35 unscrews it, still holding the mirror, and attempts to apply  
36 some, shaking. She shuts the mirror in frustration and puts  
37 everything down on the table. She leans back and looks out  
38 of the window again.

39 SIMON returns and KATE sits up. She tries to look cheerful,  
40 putting everything away.

41 SIMON sits down. He tucks himself under the table with two  
42 shuffles.

43 KATE  
44 Hey.  
45 (SIMON forces a smile)  
46 I'm so sorry.

47 SIMON  
48 Thanks.

01 KATE  
02 I bet a lot of people have said  
03 that.

04 SIMON  
05 It's been three years.  
06 (pauses)  
07 Nobody's said it for a while.

08 KATE  
09 Why'd she do it?

10 SIMON  
11 She'd been suffering from severe  
12 postnatal depression. I thought  
13 it'd pass, like the other times.  
14 Sure, it'd lasted longer this time,  
15 but they'd all passed eventually.  
16 Of course, I only got two weeks  
17 paternity leave. It'd been five  
18 weeks or so and I was working  
19 again- leaving home at seven in the  
20 morning and getting back at seven  
21 at night. June was left at home  
22 with the kids most days- alone.  
23 (pauses)  
24 She kept saying she couldn't cope  
25 and she didn't have the motivation  
26 to get up in the mornings. I tried  
27 to be there for her without  
28 actually being there, you know,  
29 always by the phone. And then, just  
30 another day, nothing special, I got  
31 back to our home and she was there  
32 in our bed and she was... She'd  
33 killed herself.

34 KATE  
35 (shocked)  
36 Did she leave you anything?

37 SIMON  
38 A note? Yeah, she left one.

39 KATE  
40 What'd it say? If you don't mind  
41 saying.

42 SIMON  
43 "I wasn't worth your love." That  
44 was it.

45 KATE  
46 I'm so sorry.

47 SIMON  
48 No, don't be. It's okay.

49 They sit silently for a few moments.

01 KATE  
02 "Il n'y a qu'un bonheur dans la  
03 vie, c'est d'aimer et d'être aimé."  
04 (beat, SIMON can't  
05 translate)  
06 There is only one happiness in  
07 life, to love and be loved.  
08 (pauses)  
09 George Sand, the French novelist,  
10 wrote it in a letter to her son's  
11 wife, Lina Calamatta.

12 SIMON  
13 Oh.

14 KATE  
15 I just thought it applied. To the  
16 both of us. I couldn't think of  
17 anything to say.

18 SIMON  
19 There's not really much else to  
20 say.

21 And that could have been it. They sit silently, politely,  
22 neither acknowledging their discomfort.

23 SIMON  
24 So tell me about this George Sand  
25 lady? What's with the man's name?

26 KATE  
27 Actually, her real name is Amantine  
28 Dupin. She had to use a pseudonym  
29 for work to gain any credibility.  
30 It was remarkable really, she used  
31 to wear men's clothes in public so  
32 she could go places where women  
33 were barred from. She was rather  
34 extraordinary.

35 SIMON  
36 I hadn't heard of her.

37 KATE  
38 Most people who have don't know her  
39 for her writing, but her affair  
40 with Chopin the composer.  
41 Ridiculous, really.

42 SIMON  
43 (looking at the empty  
44 mug)  
45 I should go.

46 KATE  
47 Okay.





01   SIMON  
 02            I have my children, they need my  
 03            love more than anyone else.

04   KATE  
 05            Please listen to me. If you take  
 06            anything from this, let it be that  
 07            you're the bravest man I've met in  
 08            a long while. You deserve more.

09   SIMON  
 10            Thanks. That makes sense. You make  
 11            the unthinkable make sense.  
 12   (beat)  
 13            But I...  
 14   (beat)  
 15            When you're married to someone,  
 16            things are never perfect. They just  
 17            aren't; we're all fucked up enough  
 18            to always be at least a little  
 19            dissatisfied with our realities.  
 20            But when someone dies and you still  
 21            love them, you remember nothing but  
 22            perfection. Suddenly, the arguments  
 23            were passion, the stress  
 24            codependence. And the longer I live  
 25            without her, the more inaccurate  
 26            the memories become. And the more  
 27            likely it is I could never love  
 28            someone again, not the same way.  
 29   (pauses, KATE is  
 30   expectant)  
 31            I really should go.

32 SIMON turns and walks away. KATE gathers her bags.

33   KATE  
 34   (calling after him)  
 35            Simon!  
 36   (he turns back)  
 37            Au revoir.

38 Simon opens his mouth, but closes it before speaking.

39 They walk in opposite directions, not turning back.