

Where Was I?

By

Kat McMillan

A story by Kat McMillan & Kori Roze

Katrina.mcmillan@hotmail.com
8 Middlewood Close
Bath
BA2 2TU

07931610849

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET. DAY

The street is stacked with houses and cars parked on either side of the road.

From the distance RAMSEY (A cocky looking white lad in a designer tracksuit. Early twenties) bops up the street. He approaches a side street. He looks around unsure whether to turn down or not. He pulls out his phone and looks at it. Confirms its the right way to walk and heads down the side street.

The side street is a dusty dirt road with nothing but garages at the back of residential houses.

Ramsey starts to slow down as he walks along. He looks confused and a little on edge by where he is going. He approaches a garage.

The garage door is slightly opened.

Ramsey gets closer to the door he gently knocks as he checks his surroundings. He on guard. There is no movement from the garage. He goes to knock again. He is startled and jumps back when the garage door suddenly opens. Ramsey calms himself when he sees...

JJ (Early twenties, mixed raced male, dressed in a hooded jumper and sweats) stands looking at Ramsey. He is calm and composed but looks a little intimidating.

JJ moves to one side signaling for Ramsey to come in.

Ramsey is hesitant at first. JJ tuts at him which causes Ramsey to move in quicker. JJ shuts the garage door behind him.

INT. GARAGE. DAY

Inside there is the bare minimum. A mattress on the floor with some bedding. A wardrobe that looks almost new. Two garden chairs. By the bed sits a jar of loose change. A pile of rolling materials. Empty chicken boxes and some miniature bottles of ENJ.

JJ walks in and sits on one of the chairs. Ramsey follows behind.

RAMSEY
Nice place.

(CONTINUED)

JJ
It's cheap.

RAMSEY
Can't imagine why.

Beat.

RAMSEY(CONT)
You been here long?

JJ
You got the ting?

Ramsey, almost forgetting why they were meeting in the first place, goes into his pocket, pulling out a bag of weed. He throws it over to JJ.

JJ reaches into his pocket and pulls out a five pound note. He searches for another. Nothing. He gets up off his chair to collect the jar of loose change.

Ramsey watches. Is this really happening? He watches JJ grab the jar.

Yep this is happening.

He hands it to Ramsey who just looks at it in his hand.

JJ(CONT)
You'll get the rest in the next couple of days, innit.

RAMSEY
Yeah, yeah, yeah. It's cool.

Ramsey goes to hand JJ back the money who quickly declines.

JJ
(Firmly)
You'll get the rest in a couple of days. Fucking hell I'm not a charity case.

Ramsey looks around the surroundings.

JJ kicks his legs throwing his chair back. JJ paces in the small space with his back towards Ramsey taking deep breaths to calm himself.

Ramsey startled moves himself back on his chair.

He notices a black note book on the floor.

JJ turns to see Ramsey looking at the note book. JJ grabs it off the floor and hides it away again.

RAMSEY

What's that bro, a dear diary?

JJ gives Ramsey a look that quickly leaves him nervous to speak again.

RAMSEY(CONT)

Look... I've got a job coming up. I need an extra pair of hands.

JJ rolls his eyes.

RAMSEY(CONT)

It's easy money JJ. Simple in and out.

JJ

How much?

Ramsey observes his surroundings.

RAMSEY

(Smiling)

Enough.

Ramsey gets up to leave.

RAMSEY(CONT)

Have a think about it. I'd love to stay and chat while you put the kettle on but you know, things to do.

Ramsey leaves.

JJ sits quietly. Lights his joint. Looks around. Sitting back into the chair, exhales and smiles to himself with a gentle head nod.

EXT. STREET. NIGHT

The sound of people enjoying their evening out fills the air as JJ walks keeping himself inconspicuous.

He walks towards a church. Starts to notice that it stands in darkness.

JJ is confused.

(CONTINUED)

He gets to the door and goes to push it open. It's locked. He notices a sign on the door. ***Due to unforeseen circumstances this Soup Kitchen has been closed. For the nearest one please contact your local council. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.***

JJ pulls the sign off the door and screws it up in anger.

He goes to punch the door but stops himself. Taking a deep breath he leaves.

Walking back the way he came. JJ approaches a Take-away venue. He stops admiring the window menu. He reaches his hands into his pocket pulling out a bit of rubbish and a 20 pence piece.

Right now he wishes he took his money back. JJ is pissed off.

He throws his 20 pence in anger and stomps back to the garage.

INT. GARAGE. NIGHT

JJ storms in. Sits on his mattress. Makes a joint and starts smoking.

Picking up his notebook, he reads from the pages quietly to himself. His words are not clear but you can see by his face that he is feeling something towards the words he has written. He continues for a bit before stopping abruptly.

He throws the book.

It hits the wardrobe door which opens slowly.

JJ gets up. Opens the door.

On one of the shelves there is a box of keepsakes.

JJ is hesitant.

He picks up the box. Holds it for a moment before putting it back.

He shuts the wardrobe door abruptly. He lays back on his bed. Relighting his joint. Inhales a long breath.

Closing his eyes he exhales a puff of smoke.

INT. GARAGE. DAY

BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!

JJ wakes up suddenly by the noise.

BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!

Not expecting anyone, JJ prepares himself for unwanted visitors. He opens the garage door to reveal...

EXT. GARAGE. DAY

... CHRISTIAN (A good-looking, well presented, twenty-something mixed race man in a suit).

JJ moves from anger to confusion. Before JJ can speak, Christian punches him straight in the face.

JJ falls back into the garage.

Christian adjusts the cuffs of his suit.

Walks in and shuts the garage door behind him.

INT. GARAGE. DAY

JJ shuffles back to the mattress. Nursing his jaw.

JJ
What the fuck?

Christian admires the small space. He looks inside the wardrobe, noticing the box. He smiles to himself.

He sees the notebook on the floor. Picks it up before turning back to JJ who has his finger in his mouth to check his teeth.

JJ(CONT)
What do you want, pussy?

CHRISTIAN
Pussy? You want me to knock that tooth out?

Beat.

CHRISTIAN(CONT)
That's what I thought.

(CONTINUED)

They hold each others eye contact for a moment. The tension starts to rise.

Both burst into laughter. JJ gets to his feet and hugs Christian.

JJ

You boxed me in my mouth. That hurt. What the fuck, fam.

CHRISTIAN

It was meant to hurt, pussy.

JJ

What have I done?

CHRISTIAN

It's not what you've done. It's what you're about to do.

JJ acts like he has no idea what Christian is talking about.

CHRISTIAN(CONT)

Don't treat me like some sort of dickhead JJ. I know your plan with that 'ickle Rat Boy.

JJ continues to act like he has no idea what he is talking about.

CHRISTIAN(CONT)

I know things are shit.

JJ

Man's blessed. I'm doin' my ting.

CHRISTIAN

I'm sure you are, but you know as well as I do, you do this it's game over.

JJ

Game's already over.

CHRISTIAN

It doesn't have to be.

He throws the notebook to JJ who dismisses it by throwing it on the mattress.

CHRISTIAN

I'm hosting an event. I want you there.

(CONTINUED)

Beat.

CHRISTIAN(CONT)

It could be good for you? You're talented JJ. She always knew it.

JJ

Don't.

JJ's anger rise. Clenched fist by his side.

CHRISTIAN

What? Come on then. If it will make you feel better.

JJ stops himself.

CHRISTIAN(CONT)

Once upon a time you would have picked up a pen.

JJ pauses letting Christians words sink it. He knows there is some truth in what has been said but refuses to give him the satisfaction.

Christian, knows he's knows, he's right.

CHRISTIAN(CONT)

You can stay at this pity party for as long as you like but it's getting boring. You need to pattern up.

JJ

Fuck off man. You're talking shit.

CHRISTIAN

I'm talking shit? Of course. I've just come all this way for nothin'.

Christian opens his suit jacket. Pulls out a piece of folded paper. Hands it to JJ before opening the garage door.

CHRISTIAN(CONT)

Think what Meg would say.

Christian leaves. Leaving the garage door wide open.

JJ starts muttering to himself as he slams the garage door shut behind Christian.

JJ

Man's goin' to come to my yard...

He continues to talk to himself as he paces around the small space. His temper rises.

JJ

Man's goin' to come to MY yard...

The chairs are the first to go flying across the room.

It's not enough he needs to release the pent up rage that bubbles inside him.

He looks to the wardrobe. Heading towards it he turns away in one final attempt to restrain himself. It is no good he turns back facing the wardrobe. With all of his power he throws his fist into the closed door.

The door opens as he releases his fist showing the keepsake box. JJ picks it up shaking. He throws the box against the wall. The contents goes flying everywhere. JJ picks up his notebook and storms out of the garage.

EXT. GRAVEYARD. DAY

A well maintained graveyard. It is quiet.

Freshly laid flowers lay on a settled grave.

Standing over the grave is JJ. His hood is up covering his emotionless face. He hold the notebook in his hands.

He opens the notebook and pulls out a photo. He holds the photo in his hands for a moment.

Bending down and props the photo up against the flowers.

The photo shows MEG (Early twenties, female) and JJ. Both are smiling as JJ holds Megs belly.

He pulls his hood down and for a moment as he looks down at the smiling faces, he remembers the good times. It feels like he will show some emotion but he doesn't.

He opens the notebook looking through the pages. He can't make it the whole way through before he closes it. He bends down and crouches over the grave looking at the photo again.

There seems to be a glint of emotion in his eyes but he suppresses it, quickly shaking it off. He remains emotionless.

(CONTINUED)

He puts the note book on the grave next to picture.

JJ
I'm sorry.

He stands up and pulls out his phone.

EXT. STREET. DAY

Ramsey's phone starts to ring.

EXT. STREET. DAY

Christian's phone starts to ring.

INT. ROOM. DAY

Ramsey picks up.

RAMSEY
Alright mate?

EXT. STREET. DAY

Christian picks up.

CHRISTIAN
Hello?

EXT. GRAVEYARD. DAY

Beat.

JJ
I'm in.

INT. LITTLE THEATRE. NIGHT

The stage is set with nothing but a microphone.

The audience start to take their seats. The show is about to start.

Christian stands at the entrance. He looks at his phone. Goes to call JJ but stops as he sees SOPHIE and CHELSEA, dressed formally, enter.

Putting his phone away. He meets them and shakes their hands.

EXT. GARAGE. NIGHT

JJ stands at the garage door dressed head to toe in black. He looks inside at the damage from earlier. He shuts the garage door.

Puts up his hood. Walks away.

The following scenes will have a recording of a spoken word poem read over them.

EXT. NEW KINGS STREET. NIGHT

Ramsey, dressed in all black, stands on a corner hidden away.

A male figure in black approaches him. Ramsey greets him.

INT. LITTLE THEATRE. NIGHT

Sophie and Chelsea find their seats.

Christian finds his seat next to Chelsea.

He checks his phone one more time, this time he calls JJ. No answer. Christian tries to hide his panic. Remaining professional.

EXT. THE YARD. NIGHT

At the entrance Ramsey looks to check the coast is clear.

The sound of broken glass can be heard.

There is no alarm but there is a box with a red flashing light that both are unaware of.

INT. LITTLE THEATRE. NIGHT

The audience smile as their eyes are fixed on the stage.

Christian looks at his phone.

INT. THE YARD. NIGHT

The two men are searching around a dark room.

Behind a small bar.

A fireplace.

The room starts to light up red and blue. Ramsey notices first. He gets the attention of the other guy.

Ramsey is the first to run.

The other man follows behind a few moments later. It's too late.

INT. VENUE. NIGHT

The audience are fully engaged with the performance.

Both Chelsea and Sophie are taken back by what they watch.

Christian quietly leaves his seat without anyone noticing.

EXT. FRONT OF BUILDING. NIGHT

Blue and red lights continue to flash as the other male lays on the stone floor. His face is covered. Hands behind his back. A knee pressed onto him keeping him restrained. An arm reaches to pull the hood to reveal...

INT. VENUE. NIGHT

Christian watches now from the side of the stage.

He can see the audience's reactions all eyes on centre stage to see JJ.

JJ takes a breath. Full of emotional confidence he gives the audience his heart as he performs the last verse.

A standing ovation.

Christian couldn't be prouder.

JJ takes it all in. He closes his eyes. Lifting his head to the sky, giving a gentle nod of gratitude. Closing his eyes he inhales a deep breath. He exhales. Open his eyes.

END.