

RALPH & KATIE

Written by

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SHOOTING SCRIPT

"Peace on Earth... Almost."

1

The opening chords of MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYBODY by SLADE
kicks in over a wide view of cold, snowy hills.

THE

(CONTINUED)

8

RALPH and KATIE come back in. RALPH looks confused.

RALPH
What's she on about? We're not
going there for Christmas.

KATIE
Yes we are. It's all arranged.

RALPH
But I told my mum we'd go to hers
for Christmas.
(beat. Shi t...)
It's all arranged.

Oh dear.

9

DANNY and EMMA have been drafted in to help solve the problem
- and avert a row. They all sit at the table with teas.

EMMA
Okay, so you said you'd go to
Katie's parents.

RALPH
We didn't.

EMMA
And you were going to speak to your
mum?

RALPH
I never said that.

DANNY
So there's been a miscommunication.
The main thing is, what do you want
to do now?

KATIE
We should go to my mum and dad.
They've had a to2 299 221Tm /TT11 1 T 0 0 12 355 221T4 (o)

EMMA

Also a good point. But couldn't
Louise go with you

DANNY
It's just what you do, isn't it...
(to RALPH)
So when are you going to talk to
Louise?

On RALPH. A man with a big mission.

HARD CUT TO:

10

LOUISE has let RALPH in. He follows her into the living room, where the tangle of fairy lights is now even more tangled.

LOUISE
You must've read my mind. These
blooming things. Every year! I
thought they'd look nice round the
window.

LOUISE has knelt down. RALPH does the same.

RALPH
Here.

He gestures to the lights and LOUISE gives him one end. They begin to work together to untangle them. A practised team.

LOUISE
It's good you popped round. I've
been wanting to go over the plans
for Christmas.

RALPH
(uneasy)
Right.

LOUISE
Is Katie still okay to sort the
mince pies? I thought I'd come over
and get them tomorrow.

RALPH
Mum -

LOUISE
And then I'll do a final shop so if
there's anything you want me to--

The lights suddenly turn off. LOUISE frowns.

LOUISE (CONT'D)
Oh how's that happened?

She gets up and goes to the plug to investigate.

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(CONTI NUED)

RALPH
I'm sorry. I couldn't tell her.

KATIE strokes his arm, comforting.

KATIE
It's okay.

RALPH
I don't want to let Mum down.

KATIE
You won't. We'll tell her together.
Tomorrow.

A beat.

KATIE (CONT'D)
Parents are weird.

RALPH nods in agreement.

RALPH
Christmas is weird.

They kiss goodnight. RALPH switches the light off. Darkness.

12

A beautiful wintery morning. RALPH and KATIE are asleep in bed, snuggled up. Peaceful and contented.

Then, the sound of singing bleeds in from outside. Approaching, increasing in volume. Irritatingly enthusiastic.

CAROL SINGERS (O.S)
Ding Dong Merrily on High!
In heaven the bells are ringing!
Ding Dong Merrily...

And now the doorbell is ringing too. RALPH stirs, looks to KATIE, who peeks out at him from under the covers.

More doorbell. More singing. And perhaps the sound of LOUISE, calling Ralph's name. RALPH sits up, looks pleadingly at KATIE but she snuggles ba11 1 Tf (i) Tj ET BT 1 ET BT 12 0 0 12 234 2

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CLARE

But it's all arranged. They're coming to us for Christmas Day.

LOUISE

That's just it you see because I didn't have a note in my calendar about that. Bit strange, wouldn't y

LOUISE

We could join forces. How about you all come round to my place? The more the merrier.

STEVE is fine with this. He slaps his knees.

STEVE

Job done. That hand won't be much good for cooking, eh? And goose'll be a nice change.

CLARE

Fatty goose. Lovely.

STEVE

And I'm still doing my famous bread sauce.

CLARE Shudders.

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And EMMA and DANNY head out.

25

EMMA and DANNY exit the house, shrugging on coats as they go.

EMMA

It's not too late to sort things out, you know. You just need to explain.

DANNY

If I ring him now, he'll think it's just because I'm lonely at Christmas.

EMMA

But you are lonely at Christmas.

DANNY looks at her - not helpful.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Honestly, if you carry on like this you're going to end up like Brian. Talk to Tom.

But DANNY isn't having it.

DANNY

I've got to go. Nan'll be on the Baileys by now.

He pecks EMMA on the cheek.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Happy Christmas mate.

He heads off. Concerned EMMA watches him go.

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27

CLARE and STEVE have just arrived. They stand awkwardly with LOUISE. STEVE has a large tupperware, CLARE's hand is wrapped in a bandage. Awkward beat.

LOUISE

You brought your turkey, then?

CLARE

Just in case.

(CONTINUED)

STEVE
(trying too hard)
I insisted. Clare makes the best turkey on the planet. I could eat this stuff all day. You know, I'm blessed. Truly, truly blessed...

CLARE signals he should really stop talking.

LOUISE
(reaching for a bottle)
Wine?

CLARE
Yes please.

LOUISE pours a large glass.

CLARE (CONT'D)
(strained)
Are Ralph and Katie on their way?

LOUISE
I'm sure they'll be here any minute.

27A

RALPH and KATIE finish clearing up the wrapping paper. They stand, take a breath. A brief moment of peace. But then...

RALPH
(weary)
We need to get ready.

KATIE nods. They head upstairs.

28

RALPH and KATIE look at their Christmas outfits, laid out on the bed. Smart shirt for RALPH, posh dress for KATIE.

They look at each other.

29

The room is empty. A long silence. Then the sound of footsteps coming down the stairs.

KATIE enters the living room, not in her posh dress but a Christmas onesie. She flops on to the s

(CONTINUED)

(CONTI NUED)

EMMA (INTO PHONE)
I'm on my way. See you there.

She heads off.

TOM

Really.

They sit for a beat. TOM holds DANNY's hand.

DANNY

What if I were to call you Tommy?

TOM

Then it would definitely be over.

They kiss. It is Christmassy.

37

BRIAN, RALPH and KATIE sit together. The pizza box is on the table, empty. BRIAN has polished off the tea and biscuits too, along with two bottles of beer.

Merry, contented BRIAN is chatting away - it seems he has been for quite some time.

BRIAN

... so then I said that they were misshapen and different sizes and I could only paint what I saw. And they didn't like that. So that was the end for me and life drawing I'm afraid.

RALPH and KATIE exchange a look -j ET BT 12 0 0 12 213 12 325 389Tm /

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BRIAN (CONT'D)

And it turns out I did too, thanks to you two.

RALPH and KATIE accept this. Is he going to leave now?

BRIAN (CONT'D)

It's no secret that when you first moved in, well, I didn't know what to expect. But let's just say it wasn't this.

KATIE

We thought you were a bit of a plonker too.

BRIAN

(Laughs)

Noted. Now I really should be leaving you to it. I'm sure you've got lots of nicer gifts to dig into. Merry

LOUISE