

Sandra A house?

Kenneth *laughs some more.*

Kenneth You've got a house.

Rose I'm renting.

Kenneth Your flat.

Rose I rent it.

Kenneth Thought you liked it.

Rose I . . . No.

. . . I . . .

Oh.

Kenneth What's the matter love?

Sandra Something's wrong isn't it? I can tell.

Rose *laughs.*

Rose Yeah one or two things yeah one or two things have gone a bit wrong.

Sandra Come on then.

Kenneth We've got nothing else to do this afternoon love.

Rose Don't get drunk.

Sandra I've only just arrived. Look as I said we're here for you, but we don't need to be insulted.

Yes?

We're well past that. Aren't we Ken? We can do without.

Yes?

Let's make that clear.

Kenneth We won't get drunk love.

Pause. Rosie gathers herself again.

Rose I'm thirty-seven.

Sandra Yes we know. My baby.

Rose It was my birthday, in March.

Sandra We sent you a card. Didn't we? Clive and I did anyway, Kenneth did you?

Rose Mum!

Kenneth Course I / sent her a card

Rose Shut up yeah?

Sandra Okay, alright, we've been having fun, having a good time up till now but maybe it's not clear Rosie I don't have to be shouted at, you understand? We could all be doing lots of / other things –

Rose Do what you like.

Sandra Just carry on.

Rose So . . . my birthday. I had a little thing in a bar in Clapham, hired out this little bar, and all my friends came, and two days before I didn't tell you this, but *two days* before my birthday I broke up with Andy.

Kenneth You didn't . . . oh . . . you're not with.

Rose No.

Kenneth You didn't say.

Rose You never asked.

Sandra You don't like us asking.

Rose Yeah so I'd already booked this bar, and I went ahead with it anyway even though I was quite . . . *lonely* . . . you know.

Sandra Oh baby.

Rose And everyone turned up and some of them with kids and stuff and we had a bit of a dance you know, kept the smiles going but then suddenly I found I was sat on a chair at the side of the room, all on my own, at my own party, and I was crying.

Sandra Were you drinking gin?

Rose No.

Sandra Gin can do that.

Rose I wasn't drinking at all Mum but I found I was crying, and it was because I realised as I was sat there, I realised I'd completely fucked it up.

Sandra What?

Rose I . . . thought I'm thirty-seven and I've had a good time in London, sort of – but what have I got? No flat, no kids, no partner, no car, ten thousand in unsecured debt.

Sandra You're doing what you wanted darling, not many people can –

Rose What I wanted at seventeen but I'm nearly forty and I've got nothing.

And I was sat there at the side of the room and I thought where did it go wrong? And walking down the street it hit me and the more I thought about it the more obvious it was.

It's your fault. All of it.

I wanted to tell you, I thought you should know.

Kenneth Our fault.

Sandra Baby.

Kenneth Our fault. / I see.

Sandra You're upset I understand, you're obviously in some kind of state we can see that but don't turn this at us, you're being ridiculous. / We've given you everything –

Rose Don't get *offended*. Listen to me.

Sandra Well you're accusing us of –

Rose I've done everything / I was told to do.

Sandra Just stood there and accusing us of ruining your life, this melodramatic streak / it comes from your father.

Rose I worked hard at school, / got my results.

Kenneth What's that suppose to mean?

Rose You said go to university to get a job so that's what I did, but when I came out there weren't any jobs.

Sandra A degree was something to fall back on.

Rose A degree means nothing.

Sandra Well you didn't need it in the end anyway you –

Rose Yeah right exactly, as you said I should, as you *encouraged* me to do, I followed my dream, did what you said was *important*, following my *passion*.

Sandra You're really talking look at her Ken.

Kenneth I am

Rose I didn't settle down too early, didn't compromise and I *thought* I really believed, because you *told me* Mum, you *assured* me, that a woman can have it all, you were my example.

Sandra I'll take / that as a compliment –