

LOCKDOWN VOL 1: BREAKUP

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FADE IN

SEAN is sat at his laptop waiting for a Zoom call. He is bearded, kind looking, friendly, dressed casual. He is smiling and excited about the Zoom call.

KATE joins the call. She is in a business blouse. She looks tired from working, a bit hard round the edges, frosty some might say.

SEAN

Hey love, how you holding up?

Kate starts talking but from Sean's point of view, he can't hear her.

Sean gesticulates pointing to his ears, shaking his head and then pointing down at the microphone icon on his screen.

SEAN (CONT'D)

You're on mute Kate. Click the button in the corner. The button in the corner, with the picture of the microphone...

KATE

(exasperated)

God I fucking hate these things. It happens every bloody call.

Kate sounds like she is in one of her 'overworked tired moods'.

With a big smile, Sean tries to calm the situation.

SEAN

I can hear you now, loud and clear. How's it been? They got you an apartment right?

KATE

Yeah yeah its fine. It's just off 5th Avenue.

SEAN

Swanky.

KATE

It'll do. It's one Zoom meeting after another at the moment. I could be anywhere to be honest. How's Debs?

SEAN

She's fine. I had to go pick her up. The Unis have all closed. They're supposed to start doing tutorials and lectures online fairly soon, but nothing much has started yet. I don't suppose you had any time to pick up those jeans she wanted from Macy's?

KATE

Nope, 'fraid not.

SEAN

When do they reckon you can fly home?

KATE

(preoccupied)

I'm...I'm not sure.

SEAN

Don't know if you're getting BBC news but its a complete shit shambles here. One of the idiots mentioned something about repatriation flights but I dunno. It's a joke. The shelves are empty. You can't get any deliveries.

KATE

Its only the two of you. You must have enough food?

SEAN

We should be ok, for the time being. But we need to get you back safe and sound. They've no idea how long this Lockdown is gonna last. You could be stuck there for weeks.

KATE

(something on her mind)

Yeah, I wanted to...to talk to you about that.

SEAN

I've been on the phone to BA and Virgin and they just don't pick up. I've tried the Home Office...nothing! You just get put on hold.

KATE

(reassuring)

Look I'm fine. Just make sure Debs is sorted out and get some food in the house.

SEAN

The Uni's already been in touch. They sound like it's all in hand. We just need to get you home. It's a good thing you're in New York and not...where was the last one?

KATE

St Petersburg.

SEAN

Exactly comrade. Bloody snow and Arctic winds. If you'd got stuck there, not sure they'd have found you a swanky apartment to live in once the hotels chucked you out.

KATE

(preoccupied)

No I don't suppose they would.

Kate is looking away (on her phone). Something is on her mind.

SEAN

Look I know you're busy with work and whatnot so leave it with me - I'll get on the phone again. They can't just leave you there.

KATE

Look Sean, I've got to talk to you about something.

SEAN

(smiling)

Is it the cheesecake? Ha. Remember when I couldn't find bloody New York cheesecake anywhere in bloody New York. Shocking.

KATE

(tetchy)

No its not the bloody cheesecake Sean. Its...its you and me. I'm not getting a flight back.

SEAN

I know, that's what I've been trying to tell you. There's no flights. 'Fraid you're stuck there for a while.

KATE

No you're not listening Sean. I'm not coming back. Even if I can get a flight. I'm not coming back.

SEAN

What d'you mean you're not coming back? They haven't offered you a job out there have they? They do know you have a husband and daughter in England?

KATE

No, yes, sort of.

SEAN

What d'you mean 'sort of'?

KATE

Bloody hell Sean you're not making this very easy.

SEAN

Easy for what Kate? I'm trying to get you back home and then you say you're not coming home? Have they asked you to stay out there, permanently? Or what?

Kate can't hold it in any longer.

KATE

I've met someone. Well it's more than 'met' someone. I've been seeing someone for a...for a while.

Sean is struggling to understand the situation.

SEAN

Seeing someone?

KATE

Yes Sean, seeing someone. God you're being really...slow about this.

SEAN

Well sorry for being fucking slow,
but this is, this is...

(lost for words)

You've been seeing someone?

KATE

Please Sean you know we haven't
been, well on the best of terms
lately.

SEAN

What? 'Best of terms'? What kind of
stupid phrase is that?

KATE

Well we've hardly seen each other.

SEAN

And who's fault is that? I didn't
chose to jet off here there and
everywhere. That was your thing.

KATE

I know. I know. But I can't help
how I feel.

SEAN

(struggling)

How you feel? What about me? What
about Debs? Does she know?

KATE

(quiet)

No.

SEAN

(angry)

So you're leaving that to me are
you? Let Debs know her mother has
been off fucking some yank and
won't be coming home.

KATE

I'm sorry.

SEAN

(trying to regain calm)

Look. Just wait a moment will you.
As soon as I can get a flight, I'll
come over and we can talk this
through.

KATE

No Sean.

SEAN

What about Debs?

KATE

I'll talk to her.

SEAN

So that's it. 20 years and now this, this fucking virus has brought it all crashing down.

KATE

(quiet)

It's nothing to do with the virus. Surely you can see that?

SEAN

Well what the fuck is it 'to do with' then?

KATE

Look I can't do this. Not on a shitting Zoom call. I've got to go.

SEAN

(pleading)

Wait wait. Just, you know, stop one minute. There's got to be something I can...

KATE

(welling up)

No Sean. I'm sorry. I didn't mean for this to happen. It just...

SEAN

(welling up too)

It just happened did it? Jesus Christ Kate!

Kate hangs up.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Kate? Kate?

Sean is left staring at the video of himself. His world has fallen out from beneath him. What to do now?

FADE OUT