

**Witten by
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**Episode One
'Anniversary'**

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LIZ
Just a silly one.

MARTIN
(got one)
OK

LIZ
Yeah?

MARTIN
Yeah This is. Yeah he'll like -

LIZ
-- Great.

MARTIN
Um where does, did, where did
Saddam Hussein keep his CD
collection.. when he was alive?

Beat.

MARTIN
In Iraq A rack In a rack

Nothing

MARTIN
Sorry, that was rubbish

Martin bows his head Liz tries to raise his spirits.

LIZ
I'm sure if he was awake he would
be laughing his head off.

MARTIN
You're awake and you're not
laughing

LIZ
He heard your voice, that's the
main thing. Constant communication
That's what's going to bring him
back to us.

She smiles and lovingly taps Tony on the hand several times.

MARTIN
Yeah

But Martin's face tells a different story. He's worried

2 **EXT. HOSPITAL DOORS - NIGHT**

2

Hannah, a woman in her 30s who looks like she hasn't slept for a week approaches the hospital entrance, home to a row of smoking patients.

She looks up at the hospital towering over her - and catches the eye of a patient holding a cigarette.

HANNAH

Sorry. Can I just--

She leans in and takes a drag of the patient's cigarette, inhaling deep and breathing out slow. A relief. And then back to reality.

HANNAH

Thanks.

Feeling ready - she enters.

3 **INT. HOSPITAL, PRIVATE ROOM- NIGHT**

3

Liz is in the middle of speaking to Tommy. Behind her, a pressed suit is hanging on the wall, still in the dry cleaning plastic.

LIZ

-- Just because one half of the couple is in a coma doesn't mean you can't have an anniversary party. Everything is still going ahead like normal, I don't know why people can't grasp that.

(to Martin)

I mean how long have we been going to the Eagle for our anniversary now?

Martin, in another world, doesn't realise she's asking him and not Tommy.

LIZ

MARTIN

(no idea)

Oh Yeah

LIZ

Every year for twenty six years,

(back to Tommy)

Anyway, it's all sorted now I told
themve wouldnt need the
wheel chair ramp anymore.

Liz looks at the suit hanging up She checks her watch

LIZ

(to Martin)

Maybe that was a bit hasty? If he
wakes up in the next half hour he
could still make it.

Martin's face - probably not.

LIZ

(back to Tommy)

Mureen's going to do her chicken
thing that you like for the buffet,
we can freeze it. Oh, that reminds
me, you know Mureen's nephew
Paul. Well his sister in law
Cathy, works with Lisa Gilbert from
my sugar-craft class, you know
Claire Wint's cousin, that's book
club Claire, not Zula class Clare,
that's Clare Gardener--

MARTIN

-- Mm that might be too many names
for a coma patient.

LIZ

Oh, nonsense.

MARTIN

I don't know who you're talking
about and I'm fully conscious.

LIZ

(breathes)

Lost my thread now Oh, the new
Father is going to pop by and meet
you HE's visiting Father Gerry in
the Cardiology ward I've asked him
to the party as well so... be good
to have God in the room

MARTIN

Yeah..

LIZ

Why don't you tell him about the
goal?

MARTIN

What, again?

LIZ

He likes hearing it. It makes him feel like he was there.

MARTIN

Okay. Yeah, Jansy just beat a couple of men on the right and put a cross in and Diego finished it.

LIZ

(to Tommy)

He's kept your seat free the whole time you've been here. And everyone that sits around you has been asking after you

(to Martin)

Haven't they?

MARTIN

Yup, yup. They've been asking

LIZ

(to Tommy)

He says going to the games isn't the same without you

(to Martin, joining in)

Don't you?

MARTIN

Yeah

LIZ

Well, say it then

MARTIN

(to Tommy)

....it's not the same without you

But Liz wants more.

LIZ

(to Martin)

Why can't you just talk to him like normal?

MARTIN

I dunno, it's just - we're both quiet, it's not like we spoke that much when he was alive -

Shit. He knows right away.

MARTIN

-- Awake, I want awake.

Liz stands up and covers Tommy's ears.

LIZ

Your father is not...

She knows he's sorry. She motions for them to go outside into the corridor. They do so -

4

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - NIGHT - CONT.

4

MARTIN

Mum I'm sorry.

LIZ

It's been four weeks Martin, I thought by now you might've...

Liz decides against a rollicking. She can see he's struggling

LIZ

Just be careful in there. You need to think about everything you say before you say it.

MARTIN

I will. From now on Promise.

Liz puts her hand on his face.

LIZ

Wit be for much longer.

Becks (early 30s, shy and smiley) walks down the corridor towards them clutching the straps of her rucksack. Martin sees her coming and instinctively moves back from Liz.

Liz turns round and senses that there would definitely be a crowd

LIZ

You should say hello

MARTIN

Yeah I mean I might. No, I will. I'll say hello and then I'll come straight back in

Liz smiles, enjoying how nervous he is - and goes back into Tommy's room. Beck's approaches Martin

BECKS

Hey.

MARTIN

You alright?

BECKS

Yeah, you?

MARTIN

Yeah. Y know

Beat

BECKS

(cute)

Your dad still in a coma then?

We get the impression this is an old routine they do

MARTIN

Afraid so. Your num still in a coma then?

BECKS

(playfully rolling her eyes)

Afraid so

They both smile at each other - then immediately look down at their shoes. Becks remembers something and goes into her rucksack, from which she retrieves a tupperware box FULL of cakes.

BECKS

(handing it to him)

Cherry Bakevells today.

MARTIN

Oh. Thanks. Mist've taken you ages.

BECKS

Couldn't sleep last night.

Beat.

MARTIN

So, your num do anything today?

BECKS

Just an arm spasm

NGEL
(to the chairs)
Sorry.

Nigel walks round to take a closer look at Tommy - inspecting the various tubes and machines. In doing so he inadvertently knocks out a wire from the back of one of the monitors. The screen goes black

Martin watches on, frozen in astonishment, as Nigel quickly re-attaches the wire.

NGEL

It's okay. It's like at home. AV1
to AV2

The display comes back on the screen. Everything seems to be OK

Nigel gives Martin a relieved smile - Martin unclenches - he

Martin nods. Hannah appears at the door.

HANNAH
 Alright.

MARTIN
 Hey.

HANNAH
 No change then?

MARTIN
 Well, still in the coma. Yeah

HANNAH
 How's Mum?

MARTIN
 She keeps mentioning how normal things are, which isn't normal, but apart from that fine I think

Hannah can't take her eyes off Tommy.

MARTIN
 What's in the bag?

HANNAH
 Oh Anniversary present for mum

Hannah takes a pillow out of the bag. It's made out of tiny squares of different striped and checked patterns.

HANNAH
 It's a shirt pillow

MARTIN
 Right. What's a shirt pillow?

HANNAH
 It's a pillow made out of shirts. Well, Dad's shirts. I saw it on Queer Eye.

She smells the pillow and smiles.

HANNAH
 Smells just like him I made one for all of us. Except you Nige. Forgot you were coming. Sorry.

NGEL
 (guttled)
 That's alright.

MARTIN

Looks like you used all his shirts?

HANNAH

Yeah but just a little bit of them
I didn't want to leave any out.

MARTIN

So he'll have holes in all his
shirts when he wakes up?

Hannah hasn't considered this.

HANNAH

Shit. I did it...shit.

MARTIN

I don't think you should show ~~man~~
this.

HANNAH

But it's her anniversary present.

MARTIN

You don't think it might come over
a bit...

HANNAH

What?

MARTIN

Just y'know That you think he
might not need his shirts anymore?

Hannah gets a little upset. She puts the pillow back in the
bag

HANNAH

I just thought it'd be nice.

Martin realises he's upset her.

MARTIN

And it is.

HANNAH

Yeah?

MARTIN

Yeah Only shirts. Can always
get more.

Hannah smiles.

HANNAH
 Can't believe we're going to have
 to talk to all those people

Hannah gets another text on her phone. She ignores it.

MIRIN
 Who's that?

HANNAH
 Oh, just, Vodafone.

MIRIN
 You didn't even look

HANNAH
 It's fucking Vodafone, alright?

MIRIN
 OK. It's Vodafone.

Beat.

MIRIN
 It's not...

HANNAH
 What?

MIRIN
 (reluctantly)
 Hm

HANNAH
 Jesus Christ.

MIRIN
 OK it's not.

HANNAH
 It's over. How many times do I need
 to say it?

MIRIN
 Good. I mean that's good. I just
 worry about--

HANNAH
 (interrupting)
 -- Yeah well don't.

NGEL
 No one texts me anymore.

HANNAH

What?

NGEL

Think no one really knows what to say since everything that happened (scrolling through phone)

The last text I got was two months ago From the gym Hello, rejoin the gym today and let us pay your joining fee. I replied, thanks, but I'm OK for the gym at the moment but would you like to meet for a pint instead,

HANNAH

Mum and dad

They open their cans. Lager from Nigel's overflows and spills onto the bed. It's no big deal but it seems to send Nigel into a ever-growing spiral of panic.

NGEL

Bollocks. That's... sorry. Just let me...

Martin picks up a cloth from the bedside table but finds Nigel stooping to suck the spilled lager off the sheet.

MARTIN

Er, Nigel, it's okay man, you don't have to do that.

NGEL

Yeah, no, I just don't have anywhere else to put it.

As he straightens up he knocks his can over, sending it onto the floor.

NGEL

(at himself)

Oh for fuck's sake.

He gets down on his knees to retrieve the can and suck up the beer from the floor.

HANNAH

(concerned)

Nigel, don't drink it off the floor.

NGEL:

I'm really sorry -

In his panic he disconnects the same wire from the monitor as before.

NGEL

Jesus Christ.

Hannah looks panicked. Martin gives her a reassuring look to say ' ' and calmly re-connects it. And then silence.

MARTIN

Nigel mate, everything okay?

Nigel is huddled up into a ball on the floor.

NGEL
(long beat)
Yes thank you

Liz enters, confused at what she sees.

LIZ
What's going on?

NGEL
(bouncing up)

NGEL

Ah

LIZ

Oh, sorry.

Liz stifles a laugh Ngel sees the funny side too

LIZ

**Martin and Hannah told me what
happened Don't worry about it! I'm
sure he'd thank you for it if he
could**

? m

LIZ

We all appreciate you coming
It'll mean a lot to Tommy. He never
misses a service. I wish we could
all say the same but I'm afraid the
rest of the family lapsed some time
ago

FATHER SYDNEY

Oh no. Perfectly understandable.

Father Sydney looks at Tommy with a child like fascination

LIZ

Takes a bit of getting used to
The wires and everything

FATHER SYDNEY

Yes.

LIZ

Come with me. I'll introduce you

Liz guides him to Tommy's bedside.

LIZ

Tommy, this is Father Sydney.

Father Sydney nods.

LIZ

You might actually have to say
hello

FATHER SYDNEY

Oh right. Erm Hello Tommy. I'm
Father Sydney.

Father Sydney waits for a response.

LIZ

Maybe we could say a prayer?

FATHER SYDNEY

(nodding in agreement -
and then realising)

Now?

LIZ

Yes.

FATHER SYDNEY

Right. The Lord's one?

LIZ

Perfect.

She motions for Martin and Hannah to take their seats which they do so reluctantly.

FATHER SYDNEY

Right, well. Here we go

He bows his head

FATHER SYDNEY

Our Father. Who art in heaven
Hallowed be thy name.....

An enormous beat. He's forgotten the next line. Liz, Martin and Hannah take a peek out one eye. As does Father Sydney.

FATHER SYDNEY

(that's it!)

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done.
Yeah. On earth as it is in heaven
Give us... some bread

Martin and Hannah have to stifle a snorty laugh. Liz sees Doctor Roy trying to walk quietly past the room

LIZ

Doctor Roy! Sorry Father.

FATHER SYDNEY

No, no Amen

Caught, Doctor Roy puts on a brave face and enters.

DOCTOR ROY

Evening. Howve all doing?

LIZ

We were just saying a little prayer
for Tommy, Doctor.

DOCTOR ROY

Right. Good. Good stuff. Yeah,
prayer, it's err, no that's good

LIZ

Are you religious at all Doctor?

DOCTOR ROY

Ah. It's err, been a while since I
spoke with the man upstairs if I'm
being honest.

Beat.

FATHER SYDNEY
That just another doctor or?

DOCTOR ROY
No I meant God

FATHER SYDNEY
Oh Right.

A puzzled Father Sydney looks upwards.

HANNAH
How's my dad doing Doctor?

DOCTOR ROY
Well, we're seeing a great deal of consistency with Tony.

MARTIN
So, no improvement then?

LIZ
He didn't say that Martin. Stop putting words in his mouth

There's an awkward silence - broken by Doctor Roy's phone. The ring tone is the theme tune from Casualty. He apologetically takes it in the corner.

DOCTOR ROY
Sorry I just need to
(phone)
Hi Mum Can't really talk, I'm at work remember. At the hospital. Doctor. I know you need a degree to be a Doctor, I have one. Cambridge. Four A's. Is Claire not there? Where's she gone? Well why did you call her that? Look I'll text her and get her to come back. I need to go. I'll talk to you in a bit.

He hangs up. There's a muted laugh and nod of the head between them all.

LIZ
Families.

LIZ
You OK love?

HANNAH
No Obviously not. Jesus mm
dad's just lying there and no one's
telling us anything. Maybe we
should get him out of here?

MIRIAM
Howve meant to do that?

HANNAH
We've got his suit! We could put it
on and walk him out if we take an
armeach? No one would notice.

MIRIAM
It's not
Hannah

HANNAH
Maybe there's somewhere where they
can operate or do something
experimental. I mean, he's not
waking up... why isn't he waking up

Liz pulls her in for a hug

LIZ
He will love. He has to

Nigel appears, struggling to hold about a vending machine's
worth of sweets.

NIGEL
Anyone want a Twix? Got fucking
loads of them here.

Liz re-enters with Martin, Hannah and Nigel

LIZ
Sorry about that Father.

Father Sydney jumps up, startled

FATHER SYDNEY
No, no Just been sitting here
Quietly.

Liz smiles. And then looks down at Hannah's feet.

LIZ
What's that?

It's the shirt pillow sticking out of Hannah's bag Liz takes it out and inspects it.

LIZ
These are your dad's shirts. What is this?

HANNAH
(PLEASE DON'T BE MAD)
It's a shirt pillow I made it for you as an anniversary present.
Smell it!
(to Martin)
It smells just like him doesn't it?

MARTIN
Err, yeah Yeah like fresh air and
tod-box

Liz slowly brings it to her nose. She closes her eyes and pulls it closer.

LIZ
It does smell like him

Liz smiles.

LIZ
I love it.

Everyone relaxes. Until Liz sees inside Hannah's bag what the pillow had been covering - her bottle of Gin

There's a tiny moment between them And then Liz moves to pull a party bag from under a table in the room

LIZ

I forgot to say, I've got party things here. There's hats and streamers so dive in and y' know get into the party spirit.

She empties it out onto the foot of the bed. No one moves.

LIZ

Tea! Everyone? Quick cuppa before we go? Father Sydney, you'll have one with you?

FATHER SYDNEY

Yes. Sure, if everyone. Tea, the universal problemsolver. And the Lord God said unto them.

He reaches for anything he can quote. Fuck

FATHER SYDNEY

Just two sugars please.

17

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - A MOMENT LATER

17

Liz leaves the room and takes a moment to herself by the door, out of sight of everyone.

She hears muted laughing down the corridor and sees Doctor Roy with another woman, Carl. They're finishing up their conversation.

CARL

Thanks Doctor.

Doctor Roy leaves and Carl turns round to see Liz, who pretends that she hasn't been watching. There's a 'neighbours who are only nice to each other because they share a fence' vibe between them.

CARL

Hi Liz.

LIZ

Yes hi Carl.

CARL

How's the patient?

LIZ

Tony's fine. Improving every day.

LIZ
(mouths)
Fuck off.

Liz looks back into Tommy's room at her family and Father Sydney awkwardly standing about, lacking clarity in how to act. Nigel inspecting the party supplies. She comes to a decision And goes back in

18

INT. HOSPITAL, PRIVATE ROOM- NIGHT - CONT.

18

LIZ
There's something I need to say.
To all of you

Everyone stops and looks up. Nigel is now wearing a party hat and has a party horn in his mouth

LIZ ly caQ ° e
Maybe you should sit.

Everyone takes a seat, there's only three. Nigel races to the one next to Father Sydney, who gives up the chase graciously.

LIZ
It's my fault your dad's here, like this.

NGEL
You were driving the bus that hit him

LIZ
No, Nigel.
The night he was knocked off his bike. Well I was on my special diet. Low carbs, no sugar. So I could fit into this for the party, which I barely caQ ° el cia 8

FATHER SYDNEY

No one mentioned There should be signs up

HANNAH

You shouldn't be carrying anything like that around on your own man I'm sorry if I made you feel like you had to

MARTIN

Me too

NGEL

Me too

MARTIN

You didn't do anything Nigel.

NGEL

...I just assumed cos we all were.

MARTIN

No You're fine

NGEL

Yeah? Cheers.

Martin gets a text on her phone

LIZ

Taxi's here

HANNAH

C'mon We've a party to go to

The group begin to make their way to the door but Liz holds back

LIZ

You get in I'll grab the next one.

MARTIN

Why? Where you going?

LIZ

Nowhere.

Beat. Everyone senses Liz just wants to be alone with Tony for a bit.

MARTIN

Alright. See you there.

The group wave and leave. Liz sits by Tony and takes his hand in hers. Once again, Father Sydney is left hanging about.

FATHER SYDNEY

Sorry did you mean me as well?

LIZ

I did, yes.

Father Sydney obliges and quickly leaves. They are alone at last.

LIZ

Happy Are e5, e

a F