

A Catch-Up With The Ex

written by

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Third Draft

**EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - DAY.**

GARY (mid-thirties, rocking an obvious combover that's intended to hide fairly significant balding) is in the driver's seat of a blue Toyota Yaris, parked with his window down on a leafy suburban street.

He's spying on something out his front windscreen, and trying to be discreet.

POV: KERRY (also mid-thirties) is approaching, partially obscured by the edge of the windscreen.

Gary, now pretending to look at his phone, feigns surprise as she gets closer to his car:

GARY

Oh! Hello Kerry!

KERRY

Oh! Hello. What brings you round my neck of the woods?

GARY

(laughing defensively)

Well, nothing weird!

(turns serious)

Very simple explanation - was doing some work in the Southside, and I thought I'd cut through one of the side streets to get back on to the motorway; yours is quiet.

KERRY

But it's a cul-de-sac...?

GARY

(trying for jolly)

Well, this is it! It's a dead end! As you correctly observe. And so - back to the drawing board, I pulled in to gather my thoughts, and... and here we are. Hey, let me ask you, what...- how are you?

KERRY

Och, you know. Good days and bad.

GARY

Yeah. Good days and bad! Same.

KERRY

I see you've lost your tuft?

She indicates the tuft by making a little imaginary point at the front of her forehead; Gary subtly adjusts his doomed combover as soon as this topic is introduced.

GARY  
(glancing in the mirror)  
Yeah, the tuft is history,  
regrettably.

KERRY  
I take it that's curtains for  
your... curtains? Ha!

GARY  
How do you mean?

KERRY  
Well I just mean I assume you're  
going to... shave it off?

GARY  
What, and just... live as a bald  
person? That's psychotic.

KERRY  
No I get it. There are no good  
options.

GARY  
This is a perfectly good option-

KERRY  
-apart from that, yes. No *other*  
good options.

Gary looks offended.

KERRY (CONT'D)  
Sorry, I'm speaking out of turn!  
I'm digging a hole here! Bleh!

GARY  
No, please.

KERRY  
(delicate)  
Well I just assumed that the tuft  
was structurally integral. I  
mean, obviously that's not... -  
that's not a haircut. You know  
how *nobody* has that haircut?

GARY  
The tuft was important; it was a  
big loss. But, I've sort  
allocated resources from  
elsewhere, so you actually  
wouldn't... know.

Gary indicates the fact that he has optimistically *pointed the rest of his hair into the middle* with some significant lack of subtlety.

GARY

If you come closer, you can actually see what-

KERRY

No, I see what you've done, yes.  
How's business?

A long pause.

GARY

Yeah, business is... really good... with respect to the fact-

(a long pause)

There's really only one way that crypto can actually go, at this point. Thankfully! And that's up.

(a beat)

You know, unless it continues to go down.

KERRY

Oh Christ. So I take it your mum's still paying your rent, frittering away your dad's life insurance payout?

(leaning round)

No offence Jackie.

REVEAL: Gary's mum JACKIE (sixties, very smiley) is sitting next to him in the front seat of the car.

JACKIE

(earnest and lovely)

None taken, princess! How are you?

GARY

(to Jackie)

Please don't engage.

KERRY

(remembering)

Oh. By the way - I was going to message you. Sorry to be the bearer of bad news, it's just I would want to know if it was me.

GARY

Go on...?

KERRY

Well some people are spreading a creepy rumour, that Stephen's wee sister is your new girlfriend.

On Gary's face, a mixture of embarrassment and annoyance.

KERRY (CONT'D)  
(slightly pointed)  
I've obviously defended you, and  
said "no way, that would be  
shameful"; explained she's twelve  
years your junior...

GARY  
(defensive)  
That's ridiculous! She's not my  
girlfriend.

KERRY  
That's what I thought! Can you  
imagine?

GARY  
We're not using labels, or  
whatever, so...

The penny drops with Kerry.

KERRY  
Well that's... good for you!  
She's lovely. Has she chose her  
subjects for next year yet?

GARY  
(forcing a laugh)  
...that's funny! Because she's  
young! That's good. She's not at  
school, but she is lovely, yes.  
Good sense of humour, quite  
mature.

At this point, both characters are fully killing each other  
with kindness; it's smiles through gritted teeth all round.

KERRY  
That's good; some kids will laugh  
at anything! I'm only kidding you  
on, I'm sure a younger model has  
its advantages.

GARY  
Well... she can hold in a pee for  
more than a few minutes. And her  
knees don't click when she turns  
the page of a book.

KERRY  
Haha, that's good! And how is her  
reading, is it... good?

GARY  
 (staying jovial)  
 She reads well, thank you.  
 (suddenly concerned)  
 How's your IBS, by the way? I  
 hope you're not still having  
 those extremely painful liquid  
 bowel movements?

KERRY  
 (cheerful)  
 Och it's good days and bad.

GARY  
 And how do you handle it, for  
 dating? Do you announce it right  
 there on your Tinder profile?

KERRY  
 I think most adult males aren't  
 that bothered about it-

GARY  
 Must be hard to know when to  
 broach the subject - at least sex  
 offenders have a register!

KERRY  
 Haha, very true! Speaking of  
 perverts, are you still needing a  
 finger up the arse so you can  
 cum?

Gary is flabbergasted by the accusation. It knocks him for  
 six. He glances at Jackie.

GARY  
 (stammering, still trying to  
 laugh it off)  
 I'm not even going to dignify  
 that with a-  
 (comes out swinging)  
 -more like, are you still...  
 compulsively, obsessed with  
 touching men's...

KERRY  
 Oh yeah, that's it. I just can't  
 get enough of that, we love that!  
 Don't we, Jackie?

JACKIE  
 His dad was exactly the same, God  
 rest his soul!

GARY  
 Don't fucking say that- okay.  
 (MORE)

GARY (CONT'D)

I could have done without knowing that.

(to Kerry)

Do me a favour, don't- ...you shouldn't be talking that way in front of my mum. Or your mum, for that matter.

REVEAL: Kerry's mum, ANNE, is also present, standing a few feet from Kerry and trying stoically to ignore the chat.

GARY

The mums have been through enough. I'm sorry you had to hear that, Anne.

Anne does not acknowledge.

GARY

Dignified silence. That's classy. You should take a leaf out of your mum's book.

KERRY

Oh yeah? You should take a leaf out of your mum's book.

GARY

Should I?

JACKIE

(leaning across)

Thank you for saying that, princess.

GARY

(mutters to Jackie)

Would you shut the- why are you...?

(to Kerry)

Anyway, listen. Lovely to bump into you. Don't be a stranger.

KERRY

Yes. Nice to see you! You should get up the road to the missus! Give her a bottle of warm milk and a Rusk.

GARY

Yeah, I'll do that. Hey, safe travels! I hope you don't mangle your spine in a horrible accident.

This is a conversation stopper. Both Kerry and Anne look appalled, and start to walk off.

Jackie hits Gary on the arm and TUTS.

GARY

What? I'm saying I hope she  
doesn't mangle her spine in a  
horrific accident.

JACKIE

You cannae let her leave, she's -  
you haven't told her about the  
chlamydia?

Gary REMEMBERS. He's kicking himself.

GARY

Oh fuck-  
(shouting)  
Kerry!

CUT TO BLACK.