

Elasticity

by

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FADE IN:

1 INT DOCTOR'S SURGERY - DAY

1

DAVID and KIM, each in their early 30's, sit side by side, facing an unseen doctor. They are holding hands as a narrow shaft of sunlight is obliterated by a passing cloud through the window, slightly darkening the fairly posh surgery.

Faces fallen, Kim's gaze starts to wander while David keeps his own unfaltering eyes on the unseen doctor. There is a moment of silence.

DAVID

And you're sure? You're absolutely positive that there's nothing else?

DOCTOR

(O.S.)

I'm sorry, Mr Malcolm, Mrs Malcolm. We've exhausted every possible avenue that there is.

DAVID

(leans forward)

But, look, another shot with the IVF could...

Kim puts her hand on David's shoulder. He stops and looks at her. Her eyes are reddened. He relents and takes both of her hands in his, but looks at the floor in frustration.

2 EXT. DOCTOR'S SURGERY -DAY

2

David and Kim are walking from the surgery. He strides slightly in front while Kim tries to keep up, even though they are still holding hands.

DAVID

(almost muttering to himself)
Every possible avenue. Sure. Right.

KIM

David...

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

DAVID

No, I not going to let this be the way it is.

Kims slows. Their hands separate. Kim stops.

KIM

But it is.

He stops and looks back at her. After a brief exchange of looks, he walks on. Kim follows, but they are now no longer holding hands.

3 EXT. STREET. BY BRIDGE - DAY.

3

They round a corner and are about to walk over a bridge in the street when David stops. He takes in the bridge and hesitates.

KIM

What?

DAVID

Look, lets...can we go another way?

KIM

Why? This way's quicker. What's wrong with...

She looks at the bridge and then looks David over, measuring his stance - he has stiffened slightly and has hunched his shoulders. She smiles.

KIM (CONT'D)

This is a hell of a time for your vertigo to reappear.

She approaches him, smiling slightly for the first time.

KIM (CONT'D)

Are you wussing on me?

DAVID

You know that's not funny. Not now.

He backs away from her.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

DAVID (CONT'D)

Everyone's afraid of something.

He walks back in the direction they came. Bewildered, Kim watches him walk away.

4 EXT. ALEC'S GARDEN - DAY

4

An empty mug of tea is set down on a garden table by an older man's hand.

ALEC, mid 60's, Kim's father and looking comfortably retired, sits with Kim in his well kept garden. A SMALL DOG has a rope toy in its mouth on the lawn, trying valiantly to tear it up.

KIM

Overall?

(beat)

Relief. I'm tired of chasing it, now.
Motherhood lost it's attraction when I stopped being bothered about things being so...clinical.

ALEC

And David?

Kim fills her cup from the teapot again. Alec silently notes her reaction. Kim looks to the dog, shaking its rope toy wildly.

KIM

You know, I think you should have named him Davey or something like that.

ALEC

Your mum liked Casablanca. Who was I to argue?

KIM

She did.

Kim smiles and then looks away for a moment. Her smile fades.

ALEC

He's not going to give up, is he?

(CONTINUED)

KIM

It was things like that which made me want to marry him in the first place. Doing the silliest to get my attention. But now...he's become really...I don't know...private.

Alec watches his daughter as she fades off. His eyes flick to an unseen point in the garden.

ALEC

Bogie! Bogie! No, not on the lawn, you wee bugger!

He gets up and goes to the dog. Kim watches her father speak to the dog like a naughty child before he falls for the canine pleas of innocence and begins to pet it. She realises that she is welling up and then reaches for her cup of tea.

5 INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

5

Kim enters the room, switches on the light and takes her coat off, dumping it on the sofa. There is no one else there. She looks at her watch.

KIM

David?

No reply. A light on their answer machine is blinking. Kim replays the message.

DAVID

(O.S.)

Hi, it's me. Look I'm...I'm going to be late home tonight. Got a couple of things I need to see to. Don't make me any dinner, I'll be fine.

A beep indicates the end of the message. Kim slumps into the sofa.

6 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

6

Kim lies asleep in bed. Her lamp is still on. The door quietly opens and David creeps in.

(CONTINUED)

Her eyes open slightly and she turns to see him, straining her eyes. He leans down and gently kisses her forehead. They speak in whispers.

KIM

Hey.

DAVID

Sorry I was so long, hon'. How's your dad and the wee fella?

KIM

Fine.

She notes his undone shirt collar.

KIM (CONT'D)

What's up at work?

He moves to his side of the bed and starts to slip his shoes off.

DAVID

There's a...thing I need to fix. It's not easy but I think it's do-able.

KIM

Ok.

David puts on his dressing gown and heads for the door.

DAVID

I just have to nip to the den for a second. There's a quick note I need to check on.

Before Kim can reply properly, he leaves the room and quietly shuts the door.

She switches off her lamp, but her eyes remain open.

Kim is drinking a cup of tea. A plain file sits on the worktop. A few of bits of paper protrude from it, including what looks like a couple of news clippings. It does not look like "work stuff".

(CONTINUED)

She looks at it and is about to take a peek when David rushes in and grabs an apple. He hurriedly grabs the file.

KIM

(sipping her tea)

Work stuff?

DAVID

(without looking at her)

Yeah. What's your plan today?

KIM

Perusing the vacancies.

(she peers at him over her mug)

I think it's time I went back to work.

Still peering, she waits for his reaction. David stops. He turns and looks at her.

DAVID

Are you sure? I mean, you've been through a lot. Maybe you ought to...

Kim places a hand on his chest, silencing him.

KIM

I don't want my life to be governed by what I can't do anymore. Shouldn't that go for both of us?

David frowns slightly.

DAVID

Whatever you want, hon'.

He kisses her on the forehead makes to leave.

KIM

David, you are alright, aren't you? You'd tell me if you weren't?

DAVID

Nothing I can't take care of.

8 INT. HALLWAY. OTHER SIDE OF THE KITCHEN DOOR -MORNING 8

David turns into the hall, as Kim watches from the kitchen. He shuts the kitchen door firmly behind him, blocking our view of Kim.

9 EXT. SHOP - DAY. 9

Kim leaves a shop, carrying a pack of envelopes. Her mobile phone rings. She recognises the numbers and answers.

KIM

Hi, Dad.

ALEC

(O.S.)

Just wondered if my girl fancied some lunch and a chat this afternoon.

KIM

Sorry, Dad. I'm sending out CV's this afternoon. What about dinner tomorrow?

ALEC

(O.S.)

Thought you two would be spending some time together.

KIM

Er, no. David's been working late all this week.

ALEC

(O.S.)

Ok, tommorrow it is.

10 INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING 10

A pile of envelopes sits on the coffee table, all addressed and sealed.

Kim puts a stamp on the last one and sits back. The phone rings.

KIM

Hello?

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

KIM (CONT'D)

I'm afraid he's not here just now.

(sighs)

No, I'm afraid I don't know when he'll be back. Can I take a message?

She grabs a pen and slip of paper and begins to write. She repeats what she writes. As she writes, her eyes widen slightly.

KIM (CONT'D)

A single or double room. And you said that was for the event this weekend?

(beat)

Ok, I'll pass that on to him. Bye.

She hangs up but still holds the receiver next to her head, staring straight ahead. A DEAD TONE comes from the receiver. She starts to shake and her hand goes to her mouth.

11 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

11

David quietly opens the door again. Kim is not in bed. He switches the light on. She is nowhere to be seen.

12 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

12

David enters and finds Kim, still sitting next to the phone.

KIM

The hotel called. Do you want a double or a single room this weekend?

DAVID

Hotel?

An awkward silence.

KIM

Am I enough? Enough for you?

DAVID

What?

KIM

David, I'm sorry I can't give you a child.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KIM (CONT'D)

But if you want to try with someone else
you might at least have the commone
courtesy to let me know!

David lets out a breath in relief.

DAVID

I'm not seeing anyone else, if that's
what's worried you.

KIM

What's going on?

DAVID

There's something I have to do. This
weekend. For both of us. Then everything
will be ok.

KIM

No, everything will not be ok. You're
never home anymore. We've stopped
talking. I feel like I've lost you.

DAVID

You haven't. I've just been doing
research on...the thing I have to fix.

KIM

Then why won't you tell me what's going
on?

He stands up straight.

DAVID

(without looking at her)
I'm going to bed.

He leaves the room. After a moment spent watching the
doorway, Kim gets up and follows him.

David's coat is hanging up. Beneath it lies the plain file
she saw before. She looks up the stairs - no sign of David.
She picks up the file and sits down on the stairs.

After a moment just looking at it, she opens the file.

(CONTINUED)

Dozens of bits of paper fall out of it. One catches her attention. It shows a picture of a Pacific native jumping from a tree with a line tied to his feet.

DAVID

(O.S.)

What are you doing?

She jumps and drops the file. David is standing at the top of the stairs. He rushes down and grabs the papers from the floor.

KIM

Work stuff? Jumping out of trees?

He tries to respond but just slumps down on the stairs beneath Kim.

DAVID

It's a fertility ritual.

KIM

(incredulous)

A what? Are you joking?

DAVID

The people of the Pentecost Islands invented it. They said it would bring fertility to them. New crops.

(beat)

Babies.

KIM

And you thought that by jumping out of a tree with an elastic band tied to you bloody feet would solve our problems? This is your research?

(she stands over him)

We can't have bloody children, David! We can't! Accept it. I have.

She storms up the stairs.

KIM (CONT'D)

How can you jump out of a bloody tree if you're afraid of heights? Eh?

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (2)

13

She slams the bedroom door shut behind her.

David leans down and slowly gathers his papers. he throws the pile frustratedly at the floor and holds his head in his hands.

14 INT. ALEC'S CONSERVATORY - EVENING

14

Two bags of fish and chips lie on a table. Kim is picking at hers. Alec tosses a chip at Bogie, who snaps at it. He crumples up his paper, satisfied. Kim drops her chip and sits back, staring at the ceiling.

KIM

He's never kept anything from me before.
Not like this.

ALEC

Do you think he might be keeping anything
else from you?

Kim looks puzzled.

ALEC (CONT'D)

Has he ever told you how he really feels?
How scared he might be?

KIM

Scared? David? Well, not until his
vertigo came back a few days ago. He was
petrified, like a wee boy.

ALEC

Is that all he's afraid of?

(pets Bogie)

Near the end, your mum asked me to look
after the wee fella. Made me promise. I'd
only walked him - I didn't spend much
time with him other than watching him
piddle in the street. He was her dog, and
we all knew it.

(Kim smiles)

And when she went, it was all I could do
just to take him out for a walk. It
terrified me. That first time. But I had
to do it.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

ALEC (CONT'D)

I had to face it, or I'd never get on with the rest of my life, which is what she wanted for both of us.

Kim looks at her father, realisation creeping across her face.

ALEC (CONT'D)

Do you know where this thing is taking place?

15 EXT. SKY - MORNING

15

The dark silhouette of a man falls from the sky, only to snap backwards in the air. After a moment of silent motion, a crowd cheers.

16 EXT. BUNGEE JUMP VENUE - CONTINUOUS

16

ANGLE ON:

David's feet, being strapped up tightly with a bungee line.

He looks straight ahead, his unblinking eyes focused on something unseen in the distance. An INSTRUCTOR tugs at the strapping around his feet, causing David to sway slightly, but his concentration does not waver. The sound of the crowd suddenly CHEERING loudly again fails to sway him also.

A CROWD is gathered around to watch the event and made up of people of all ages. Other BUNGEE JUMPERS, in various stages of readiness, mill around, waiting for their turn.

David is next. The sound of the crane lowering snaps him back to reality and he looks up at the box as it slowly lowers to the ground.

The box stops on the ground and the instructor opens the gate. David steps unerringly into the box with the instructor, focused once again.

KIM

(O.S.)

David!

He snaps back to reality once more and looks around.

(CONTINUED)

Kim stands by the the crowd, her way to David blocked by a safety barrier. Alec stands nearby. Kim waves to David.

David's face expresses his relief at the sight of Kim. An ear to ear grin lights up his face.

She smiles back at him.

He mouths the word "thank you" to her just as the platform begins to rise.

Kim jumps slightly at David's sudden motion and her hand goes to her mouth for a second. She watches it rise up into the air.

David closes his eyes and takes a deep breath.

Kim watches from below, smiling.

FADE OUT.