

Cloudy Days

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EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - DARK MISERABLE EVENING

A couple in the glow of house lights, hurry down the street, huddled close together under one umbrella.

INT. LIVING ROOM - HOUSE ON THIS STREET

JOHN spoon feeds his disabled daughter HELEN. He holds a bowl of food, and a spoon hovering mid-air.

JOHN
Last one love?

Helen chews very slowly. John gazes out the window dead eyed at the laughing couple passing by.

TV (O.S.)
...after the break our Valentine's night movie special 'Casablanca'. So cuddle up close with your special someone and enjoy.

John's snaps out of his trance and back to Helen. Helen watches John as he feeds her a spoonful of food, she spits it out and shakes her head.

JOHN
OK love, it's your night.

He cleans her chin with the spoon and stands up.

INT. KITCHEN

John walks in, throws the bowl into the full sink. Eyes closed, he holds himself up with the sink edge.

JOHN
(WHISPERING)
It's OK...OK...just havin a bad day...smile...smile...

INT. LIVING ROOM

John walks through the kitchen door smiling broadly, he is carrying a birthday cake, he switches off the living room light, a giant 30th candle flickers.

JOHN (SINGING)
Happy Birthday to you...

John holds the cake to Helen who claps excitedly.

JOHN (CONT'D)
 Make a wish love... (beat)
 ...ok (beat)... one, two, three...

John sits down and blows the candles, Helen laughs.

JOHN
 Oh what did you wish for cheeky?! We've
 got a card here to open too...

John opens a card, he forces a smile.

JOHN (CONT'D)
 It's from Mum! Dear Helen, have a great
 day, Lots of Love Mum... (beat)and
 George. Oh and big kisses!

John hands card to Helen, who looks at it happily.

JOHN (CONT'D)
 We'll have cake later shall we? Yea.
 Come on lets get you comfy for your
 movie. Guess what? Yup. You know.

John moves Helen from her chair to the sofa. He sits beside her and presses TV remote, the music starts, Helen laughs. John stares blankly out the window as another couple pass by. He stands up suddenly and pulls the curtains shut. He sits down next to Helen again, they lock eyes, the gaze is held. Helen dunts his shoulder with her body and kisses his chin awkwardly. John hugs Helen tight and closes his eyes

JOHN
 (WHISPERING)
 (CONT'D)
 You big daft softie you...eh

Helen watches TV, John sits her up gently, he strokes her hair then gets up and walks into the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN

John, smiling, teary eyed, takes a beer and a large bottle of coke from the fridge. He pours coke into a beaker, he stops mid pour and shakes his head, he finishes pouring. He walks into the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM

John sits next to Helen, he helps her take a drink. They watch the movie, John smiling, his arm on hers.