

I'll Stand by You

By

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INT. HANNAH'S HOUSE - EVENING

An ordinary terraced house, nicely but simply decorated.

HANNAH (20s) comes rushing in through the front door. She is dressed for a night out but is looking harried. MATT (20s) trails behind her. He is also smartly dressed. There is a hint of dejection in his face but he's clearly trying to hide it.

HANNAH
Where is she? Is she okay?

She is talking to STEPH, 17, the babysitter, who is waiting in the hallway.

STEPH
Yeah, she's fine now, she just...

Hannah isn't listening. She brushes past Steph and disappears into the living room.

STEPH
(To Matt)
Is she mad at me?

MATT
'Course not. It's not your fault.
You did the right thing calling
us.

Matt tries to smile but it doesn't reach his eyes. He pulls a twenty pound note out of his pocket.

STEPH
Cheers! Sorry I ruined your
dinner.

She leaves and Matt follows Hannah into the living room. He sees her lying on the sofa with LILY, her six year old daughter, who is clutching an inhaler and spacer.

LILY
I took my puffer but I still
couldn't breathe.

HANNAH
Oh, sweetheart. It's all right my
darling, Mummy's here now.

C.U. on Matt as he watches them sadly.

C.U. on Hannah as she strokes Lily's hair.

(CONTINUED)

O.S. The front door SLAMS. We stay on Hannah as she realises - Matt has left. She is alone. She presses a tender kiss against Lily's hair and holds her close, then reaches down to her handbag. She pulls out a single red rose.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE STREET OUTSIDE HANNAH'S HOUSE - EARLIER THAT EVENING

MATT hands over the rose.

MATT

Sorry, I know it's a cliché but... actually, I don't have an excuse. It's just a horrible cliché.

HANNAH

Hey, there's a reason it's a classic. Besides, I'm a single mum. You could take me to see mud-wrestling aardvarks and it would still be the most romantic experience I've had this decade.

MATT

Damn, and there was me worrying the restaurant I've picked wasn't fancy enough.

CUT TO:

INT. HANNAH'S HOUSE - EVENING

Hannah and Lily are still lying on the sofa. Lily is asleep but Hannah is jerked out of her reverie by-

O.S. KNOCKING

Hannah slowly gets up, careful not to disturb Lily, and goes to the front door. She opens it to find Matt standing there, holding a plain plastic bag.

MATT

I took a punt that you're more of a chippy fan than curry.

He smiles and hands her the bag of food.

MATT

Happy Valentine's Day.

Hannah grins hugely as she pulls Matt towards her and kisses him sweetly.