

THE COST OF A KISS

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INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Low romantic lights. Clothes strewn over the floor and bed. CHLOE is snug under the duvet. Happy. She watches BEN dress.

CHLOE
(playful) I want to stay in here.

She buries her head beneath the duvet.

BEN
Come on Chloe. You have your surprise.

CHLOE
That wasn't the surprise?

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Remains of a meal left on the table, wine glasses half full. BEN drains his glass. CHLOE pulls on the remainder of her clothes behind him. BEN takes out a diamond ring from his pocket. It's safe and it's time. Phone rings. He returns the ring to his pocket and looks at the screen display: "UNKNOWN"

CHLOE
Who is it?

BEN
It's Jim.

CHLOE
Answer it. I don't mind.

BEN
It will be work stuff. He can wait.

CHLOE
(dangerous) Who is it Ben?

BEN
Jim.

She moves towards his phone.

BEN
Don't. Leave it.

CHLOE
(into phone) Hello. Hello? (hangs up)

She slams the phone down on the table.

BEN
I can handle it.

Doorbell.

2.

CHLOE

Fix it.

INT. FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

BEN opens door to EMILY.

EMILY

(fraught smile) Got company?

BEN

You know I have.

EMILY

You got the lads round, eh? Messing with me? Doing silly voices. Girly voices. (beat) Happy Valentines.

BEN

Emily, I'm asking you nicely to leave.

EMILY

Did you like your present?

BEN

I didn't open it.

EMILY

We'll do it later. Together. Excited! Would you like to say "thank you?"

BEN

I want you to leave *us* alone.

EMILY

Then thank me. (beat) You know how.

BEN

And you'll go?

She nods.

EMILY

(closes eyes) I promise.

BEN leans in for a cold kiss. EMILY wraps her arms around him and grows passionately into it. BEN struggles to break free. EMILY is freakishly strong. CHLOE walks around the corner.

CHLOE

Ben!

BEN breaks from the embrace. CHLOE grabs her coat and leaves.

BEN

Chloe, this isn't . . . Chloe!

CHLOE is gone. EMILY grins. BEN dazed. FADE OUT.