

BEST LAID PANS

By

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(Draft 3)

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Arts(2010)

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INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

JERRY ORTON (20s) directly addresses the camera.

JERRY
I love you Ellie. Will you do me
the honour of becoming my--

Suddenly Jerry's mate FRANK (20s) kisses Jerry on the lips.

FRANK
I do mate! I do!

JERRY
I like you, Frank. But as a friend.

FRANK
I'm hurt, Jerry. When's the table
booked?

JERRY
Eight. Got loads of time! I'm so
nervous!

FRANK
You know the clock's went forward!

Fast track dolly forward into Jerry's face!

JERRY
Noooooooooooooooooooo!!!!

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

ELLIE DAY (20s) checks her watch which reads: 8.00pm.
Sips her wine. A VIOLINIST (30s) plays sweet music in the
background.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Jerry sprints for dear life.

EXT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Jerry runs past the restaurant leaving the screen. Hold.
Runs back into shot. Breathless. Centres himself. Enters
restaurant.

INT. RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

ANGLE: over Ellie's shoulder. Jerry enters. He talks to the MANAGER (30s). Slips money into their pocket. Points at the Violinist.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT - SAME

Jerry turns. Crashes into a WAITER (20s) carrying a drink's order. He's soaked.

JERRY
Oh no! No! No!

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT - SAME

Ellie looks at her watch again. Very drunk DARREN SCOTT (30s) sits at an adjacent table. Alone. He eyes Ellie. Raises a glass.

DARREN
You been stood up gorgeous?

She ignores him.

DARREN
I'm celebrating. Just divorced.

INT. TOILET - NIGHT

Jerry tries - limbo style - to dry his shirt under the dryer. Lifts his leg to do the same with his trousers. Suddenly he hears FEMALE VOICES! Darts a look around: NO URINALS. Jerry dives into a cubicle. Party girls BELINDA OSBORNE (20s) and SIMONE GARDINER (20s) enter.

BELINDA
He's absolute gorgeous, Simone.
Like Orlando Bloom meets Johnny
Depp!

INT. CUBICLE - NIGHT

Jerry lowers the toilet seat. Sits feet up in a ball.

BELINDA (CONT.)
It was sooo romantic. In the back
of his van. And he was massive.
Couldn't sit straight for days. I
think Danny's the one.

(CONTINUED)

Jerry hunts for his phone. Forgets himself.

JERRY
Where is it?

INT. TOILET - SAME

Belinda/Simone turn toward the cubicle simultaneously.

BELINDA
Are you okay in there?

JERRY
(in 'Tootsie' voice)
Yes. Fine. Thanks.

Belinda looks at Simone. Shakes her head.

BELINDA
Come on. I need a drink. I'm drier
than a nun's--

They exit. Door SLAMS on the last word of that sentence.

INT. HALLWAY - JERRY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Jerry's phone RINGS. Beside it are his wallet. Keys. And THE RING!

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Ellie - phone to her ear - has an uninvited guest: Darren.

DARREN
According to her I was unreliable.
Always late. Forgetful. Kid's
birthdays. Anniversaries. Even my
own. Everything I touched was a
disaster. . . Bitch!

ELLIE (HANGS UP)
Sounds familiar.

DARREN
Go on. Let me get you a drink.

ELLIE
Married.

DARREN
Don't see a ring.

ELLIE
As good as. I don't mean to be rude
but please. . .
(leans forward/under breath)
Piss off!

INT. CUBICLE - NIGHT

Jerry unlocks the door. Opens it very carefully.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Ellie picks up her phone. Starts typing furiously.

DARREN
Is it me or do I sense. . .
Chemistry? Between us?

ELLIE
NO! IT'S JUST YOU! I'm a lesbian!
Okay! L-E-S-B-I-A-N! Now - GO AWAY!

DARREN
Playing hard to get. I like it.

INT. HALLWAY - JERRY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Frank grabs the phone, ring and wallet.

INT. TOILET - NIGHT

Jerry's reaches for the toilet exit. Suddenly hears VOICES.
Door opens. SMACKS Jerry in the face. Jerry backs into the
cubicle holding a bloody nose. WHACKS his head on the
cistern. Belinda and Simone re-enter. Belinda's in tears.
Panda make-up stains her face.

BELINDA
He said he loved me Simone.

SIMONE
I know.

BELINDA
Dumped by text.

SIMONE
I know.

BELINDA
I hate him.

SIMONE
I know.

Jerry GROANS loudly in pain. The girls turn to the cubicle.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Ellie moves toward the exit.

INT. STREET - NIGHT

Frank sprints toward the Restaurant.

INT. CUBICLE - NIGHT

Belinda holds Jerry's head down the cistern. Flushes!

JERRY
I can explain.

BELINDA
Don't bother. You're all the same.
Scum!

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Ellie heads for the door as Frank enters. SCREAMS are suddenly heard. Simone comes running from the toilet.

SIMONE
Call the police. There's a--

Ellie and Frank look at each other.

ELLIE/FRANK
Jerry!

INT. CUBICLE - NIGHT

Jerry's head is dunked again and again as he speaks.

JERRY

I'm here to propose to my girlfriend. Drinks spilt on me. I was so nervous I came in here by mistake. Please let me go. I love my girlfriend. I want her to be my wife. God knows what she'll say if she finds me in here.

ELLIE (OFF)

I'd say it's an interesting story to tell the kids.

Jerry looks and SEES: Ellie, Frank, the Manager there.

BELINDA

You know this scumbag?

ELLIE

Fiancé if you don't mind.

Ellie runs into Jerry's arms. Frank throws Jerry the ring who catches it. Jerry goes down on one knee.

JERRY

This isn't how I rehearsed it but--

ELLIE

Yes, Jerry. Yes!

Ellie and Jerry kiss. The Violinist plays beautiful music. Frank offers Belinda a tissue. They smile at each other. Darren - has appeared from nowhere - also wipes away a tear.

DARREN

I knew she wasn't a lesbian.

FADE OUT