

Season 1

Episode 1

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The Anniversary

Scene 1

Location – Kate’s Kitchen

Fergus and Kate are sitting at the kitchen table eating cakes.

Fergus

So, what’s the occasion? I normally get a digestive biscuit with my tea.

Kate

Don’t you know?

(Fergus is blank).

Think Fergus. What are we celebrating?

Fergus

(Trying his best to think)

I don’t know. It’s June. Nothing of note in June. Is there?

Kate

(Disappointed)

Our one year anniversary. Honestly, you’re useless. Don’t you remember? When we went on the staff trip and you know, you came on to me?

Fergus

(Uncertainly)

Oh yes, the trip to the museum in York.

(More certain)

We were supposed to be broadening our minds. And anyway, it wasn’t me that came on to you. It was you remember? Brought me an ice cream and accidentally, on purpose, dripped some on my shirt?

Kate

Well, it’s a good job I did. We would still be pussyfooting around if it were left to you.

Fergus

You were shameless. And you, a married woman.

Kate

Well you’re married as well and you didn’t say no, did you?

Fergus's mobile rings

Fergus
(To Kate)
Shhhh.

(Answers phone).
Hello?

(pauses to listen).
Oh yes, Gordon, we are meeting tonight at the pub,

(pause)
Yes,

(pause)
Yes, OK. No, I've not forgotten. I'll bring the book with me. OK. OK. Bye then.
(Call over)

Kate
Where are you going tonight with your brother?

Fergus
Oh, just to the writing group. You know Gordon; he never writes anything himself. He wants me to take a book along so he can read a piece from there.

Kate
What's the point of going to a writing group if you're not going to write anything?

Fergus
He likes to follow me around. You know, he's quite clueless on his own. And I don't mind him coming along. It's someone to keep me company, and he drives me home at the end of an evening of drinking. I wouldn't be fit to drive, even if I had a car.

Kate
Well, I've got plans as well tonight.

Fergus
Oh?

Kate
Yes. I'm going round to Flora's. She's made some homemade cider and wants to try it out. She's invited a few people round.

Fergus
Oh, not another one of her homemade nights. If it's not jam, it's cakes or it's beer. And now cider. Can't she be like ordinary people and just go to the shop? And everyone has to appreciate all her efforts even if they're crap. Remember the Jam roly-poly? I wouldn't feed it to the dog. But you were all over it, pretending it was marvellous and so delicious.

Kate
Well, she does try.

Fergus
Aye, she's very trying indeed. Anyway, better you than me this evening. I'll think about you and smile.

(Pause)

Fergus
Anyway Kate, are we going to just sit here all afternoon or what? I didn't come for just tea, you know.

Kate
And what did you come for then?

Fergus
A bit of rumpy-pumpy, if I have to spell it out. That's something else to celebrate isn't it? Our one year anniversary of love and sex. And one year of close shaves with our partners. And still no-one is any the wiser.

Kate
Don't say rumpy-pumpy like that. You know I don't like it when you're crude. It makes me feel guilty. And I'm not just here for rumpy-pumpy as you put it. I was hoping for a little romance as well. You used to bring me flowers and chocolates.

Fergus
So you want me to give you hay fever and rot your teeth before you'll drop your panties for me?

Kate
Stop being so coarse Fergus. I need, women need, a bit of attention to get them into the mood. I want you to be more like you used to be; writing me a few lines of poetry, threatening to seduce me with music and songs. And, you used to be so gentle.

Fergus
OK then, get upstairs and I'll show you just how gentle I can be.

Fergus takes Kate by the hand. She reluctantly gets up and he leads her off.

Scene 2

In Kate's kitchen again.
Kate is dressed but Fergus is in a dressing gown.
They are drinking tea.

Fergus
Kate, you're fantastic. That's the way to spend an afternoon.

Kate

It was nice. But don't start getting rude and cheapening it.

Fergus

What do you mean? I'm never rude. I'm a writer, an artist. I can find the most subtle words and string them together like Shakespeare.

Kate

Alas, poor Fergus, I knew him well....

Fergus

Anyway, are there any more of those cakes?

Kate gets up to fetch some cakes when there is the sound of a door closing.
In comes Kate's friend Flora, carrying a carrier bag horizontally so as not to spill the contents.

Flora

The door was open and with my hands full... I hope you don't mind. I was just on my way to college when I thought I could drop off some lemon cakes to you. I've just made them.

She turns and sees Fergus for the first time, in a dressing gown.

Flora

Oh, hello there Fergus. I didn't see you... I mean if I knew you were, you know....

Kate

No! It's not what you think.

Kate is very confused/embarrassed and passes the buck.

Kate

Fergus tell Flora why you're dressed like this.

Fergus

Well... I got soaked...and rushed in here to get out of the rain...and I'm drying off...

Flora

Oh. I didn't see any rain. In fact it's a pretty sunny day outside.

Fergus

(Unconvincingly)

Of course it is. It was just a sudden downpour and ended almost as soon as it started. I just got caught in it. Funny that isn't it. Nature and the like. You never know do you?

Flora

Unconvinced but prepared to let it go

Oh. Yes I suppose so.

Then coming back to her own reasons for coming

So anyway Kate. I know you're coming to the tasting tonight at mine, but I thought you could be a guinea pig for these lemon cakes. If they're good enough I'm serving them tonight with the cider.

Fergus

Right then. I better get dressed. The clothes will be dry by now.

Flora

Don't go on my account. I'm off. See you tonight Kate.

Flora leaves in a bit of a rush.

After a pause

Kate

Well, everyone will know about us by tonight.

Fergus

No. I think I handled that quite well.

Kate

Do you? I think you had guilty written all over you.

Fergus

Well no... so what if she does suspect? She didn't discover us in an embrace or anything like that, did she?

Getting more annoyed

Anyway, I don't care. We're consenting adults, good friends and all that.

Kate

We're also married to other people, and it's not every day that someone wears a dressing gown during the day in a female friend's house, alone.

Fergus

It's not every day that a person gets soaked in a sudden downpour either.

Kate

That was made up, remember? It didn't really rain and even if it did, don't you think the pavements would have been wet for a long time afterwards.

Fergus

Oh! Forget it. Flora is a nosy busy body. Everyone knows to take her with a pinch of salt. It's too late anyway. We'll stick to the story and after five minutes tonight no-one at your tasting party will care. You'll see.

Kate

Well there is one thing we can never do again, and that's go around half-dressed. In future, we should both be fully dressed downstairs in case we are seen again.

Fergus

Right, OK. Anyway, I'm getting dressed and out of here now. I've a few things to do in town.

Fergus gets up and leaves the room.

Scene 3

In Flora's living room.

There are two sofas opposite each other with a coffee table in between. Flora is sitting on one sofa and Kate is sitting opposite. They have cups of coffee on the table.

Kate

Well, Flora, you've done it again. The cider was tasty, fruity, and so warm and rich.

Flora

Thanks, Kate. It was good of you to come.

Kate

And those lemon slices. Mmm... they were so soft and lemony.

There is a silence.

Flora moves nervously on her sofa.

Then

Flora

So.

Kate

So.

Flora

So.

There is more uneasy silence.

Then.

Flora

So, then. What about Fergus?

Kate

What about him?

Flora

Well, it's not every day you, a married woman, has a naked man in your kitchen.

Kate

Uncomfortably

He wasn't naked. He was wearing my husband's dressing gown.

She falls silent after realising what she has just said.

Flora

Yes, your **husband's** dressing gown.

Kate

Well, it had been raining and Fergus just wanted to dry out.

She is very unconvincing

Flora

You know, Kate, I don't want to be funny, but it hasn't rained for more than two weeks.

Kate

Fergus said it was just a sudden shower.

Flora

Come on Kate. How long have we been friends? You can tell me.

Kate

After a pause to compose herself

It was just a one off. It means nothing.

Flora

You know, this isn't the first time I've been suspicious.

Kate

After another pause and deep breath

OK. It's been going on for a while. Just don't tell anybody. Especially I don't want to hurt my husband.

Flora

Your secret's safe with me.

Kate

Well, I'd better get going. Remember no one else should ever find out.

Kate leaves.

Scene 4

Fergus is at the writing group with his brother Gordon. The group is just finishing at the end of the writing session. They are sitting around a table with others who then get up and leave, but the focus is only on the two.

Fergus

So, that was a good session.

Gordon

Yes, I enjoyed your poem.

Fergus
Well, you read well, as well.

Gordon
Yes, but I wish I could write my own instead of reading out other people's poetry. I'd love to write like you.

Fergus
Just keep writing and one day it will all come out just right. Anyway, let's get a few pints down us before we have to get off home.

Gordon
OK

They walk to the bar.

Gordon
Where's my sister in law then? If you're not in a hurry to get home it must mean she's away.

Fergus
Yes, she's visiting her mother. Some sort of illness or other. I don't listen anymore. You know, I did an appraisal of the wife the other day, like you do with a student.

Gordon
Oh yes? And what did you conclude?

Fergus
Well, she's been a good wife, you know, but it's been over for a long time.

Gordon
Oh dear! Sounds pretty bad.

Fergus
Yes. She's a bit of a dried out prune. I guess it's almost time for the old adage: out with the old bag, and in with a new one. No. That's not really fair is it?

Gordon
Have you got a new one in mind then?

After a short pause

Fergus
No, not really, but you know how it is. There's always a roving eye, isn't there?

Gordon
Are you sure? You've been married for more than 10 years now. Ah well, it's your life I suppose.