

A Caravan
Named
Desire

The Kastor Script

ABSTRACT

Kastor has been working from his caravan for longer than he'd care to admit, but it's when he meets Gabi that he starts to question how his clients see him. For a good time, contact Kastor. Discreet, professional, clean, and tested. Your desire for hire.

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The stage is filled with an old caravan with one side removed so that the audience can see the action within. It has been cared for over the years, but some wear and tear is unavoidable. It looks like it hasn't been moved for a long time. When scenes are exterior to the caravan, they can be performed either in front of the removed wall or the caravan can be rotated. Outside the caravan there are some old camping chairs and a table. Unless otherwise stated, all scenes are at night and the lighting should demonstrate this. The interior of the caravan is lit with old lamps, fairy lights, and one single, bare hanging bulb in the centre of the main living space. The interior of the caravan is surprisingly clean and tidy, though very dated, possibly 80s or early 90s. It is cramped, and most of the furniture needs some form of unfolding or setting up.

Gabi and Kastor are standing in the caravan. They are looking at each other, both feel a mix of emotions, panic, excitement, nervousness, and fear. They stand in silence for a moment, just staring at each other.

Gabi Are you sure you want to do this?

The lights blow and they are left in darkness. Gabi disappears in the darkness. Kastor comes forward to the audience.

Transition.

Kastor is tidying up items inside the caravan. Some items he may collect from off stage to put in position. He looks at the audience.

Kastor Don't mind me. I'm just getting everything set up.

He carries on moving some things around before stopping and staring into the audience.

I know what you're thinking. Shit! Where's the fucking fourth wall. This twat could have me doing some kind of interactive shit. Maybe I will. But not much. You see, that's the point of this really. In a way. Trust. You see most of the time you trust the performer not to talk to you, touch you, invite you into the space. This is the space by the way. It's a caravan. Well, it's a set made up to look like a caravan. Again, this is where I need you to trust me, trust the set. Forget that we're currently in the [name of space] and believe we're actually outside, and occasionally inside, a caravan. Now, a lot of what you are going to see tonight is true, by which I mean a representation of the truth, of events that have happened. A dramatisation of real life, real events. Inspired by, based upon. Not exactly a fallacy, more of an interpretation. What I'm trying to say is that this is all true, completely true...except for the bits that aren't. I swear. Now, before I go any further do we have any questions? Have I said anything that's been unclear at all?

If questions are asked then Kastor must do his best to answer these questions.

Ok, now that all the formalities are dealt with, onto the story itself. Now, my name is Kastor, that's Kastor with a K by the way, not a C. And this is my home. I'm...well, I'm many things, depending on who you talk to. If you're talking to my mum for instance, I'm an entrepreneur and manager of a little online shop which sells second hand stuff. If you're talking to people online,

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I'm a model and independent film star. If you ask HMRC, then I'm an entertainer. But, if you want to ask me directly...well, you'll just have to wait and make up your own minds. But what I do isn't the main point of this story, it's more about Gabi. Now Gabi... you know what, this isn't a solo show. I'll just let it get started and come back to you in a bit.

Transition.

Kastor climbs back into the caravan and begins hunting for a light bulb. Once he has found one he replaces the bulb that blew, and the lights come back on completely red. There is a knocking at the door.

Just a minute!

Kastor then turns on a lamp with a clear bulb to balance the light. Gabi is waiting at the caravan door wearing a button through blouse and skirt, as if she has just come from work. Everything is a little bit creased, and clearly a little bit old. She knocks again.

Just a sec!

Kastor turns on some fairy lights that trail around the caravan. He has to click the button a few times to work through the pre-sets before He settles on one. He checks himself in a small mirror before going to the door and opening it.

Sorry about that, bloody fuse went again. It's always doing it. Oh. Sorry, I wasn't expecting... I'll just be a sec. Well, come in.

Gabi enters and is directed across to the other end of the caravan. Kastor goes to the bathroom, the only place not entirely visible to Gabi, but is to the audience. Kastor pulls out a small money bag from within the toilet cistern. It contains some notes. He pulls out a few notes and returns the remaining money to where he found it. He returns to Gabi.

You must be Tony's new bird. I wasn't expecting him to send you alone, he should have at least come with you. I told Tony it was going to be a bit short this month cause the internet kept cutting out, so my loss of income is due to him. We've talked about it though and he said it's fine so no need to bother him with the details. Well here, aren't you going to take it?

Kastor thrusts the money towards Gabi. Gabi, uncertain of what to do, slowly reaches for the money. Before she touches it, Kastor pulls it back.

Hang on. What's your name again?

Gabi Gabi. My name's Gabi.

Kastor You're not Uncle Tony's new missus.

Gabi Erm...no. I don't know your Uncle Tony. I sent you a message last week. We'd arranged to meet.

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- Kastor Thursday. We said we'd meet on Thursday. It's not fucking Thursday today is it?
- Gabi No. No, it's Wednesday today.
- Kastor We did say Thursday, didn't we?
- Gabi Oh yes, we did. I'm early.
- Kastor By twenty-four-fucking-hours. You made me think I'd lost a fucking day or something, Jesus Christ! You don't do that to somebody! Do you have any idea what shit you might have caused by making me think I'd lost a day. I might have plans, very specific plans, you know, which I have to do on a Thursday and now all of a sudden I've lost my Thursday and forgotten to do everything!
- Gabi It's not Thursday though, it's Wednesday.
- Kastor I know that now! I knew that five minutes ago. But the time between five minutes ago and now I thought it was fucking Thursday! Fuck me I need a sit down.
- Gabi I'm sorry.
- Kastor *tucks the cash into his pocket.*
- Kastor I should think so too. Why are you here anyway?
- Gabi I'm sorry. I just, I wanted to make sure I knew the way when I came tomorrow. Make sure I didn't get lost. Or that it wasn't some fake address or something. So, I put the address you gave me into my phone and, as you said, it directed me to this site, and then I saw the caravan and thought, well, whilst I'm here I should probably just knock and check it's the right one. I didn't want to come tomorrow and find I was at the wrong door.
- Kastor Right, well...you've found me. Congratulations.
- Gabi Thank you.
- Beat.*
- Kastor Was there anything else?
- Gabi Oh, sorry, no. I just wanted to make sure I knew the way. I should be going actually. Nice to have met you.
- Kastor Wait, wait, wait. Since you're here, do you want to...?
- Gabi Oh, no, no thank you. I've got to get back. But I'll definitely be back tomorrow. I'll see myself out.

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Gabi makes her way to exit the caravan and closes the door behind her.

Kastor Alright. Well, see ya.

Transition.

So, that was Gabi. A close encounter of... the weird kind. I can't say I held out much hope as to whether she would even turn up the next night. She looked like a deer in the headlights just standing in the fucking door. I couldn't tell if she was religious weird or just, you know, kinky weird. Was she gonna turn up tomorrow to try and convert me to Mormonism, or come with a full on leather gimp suit underneath her top? I mean who turns up twenty-four hours early for an appointment just to check they know the way. And who knocks on the door! She did come back the next day. Though I've got to say, she still didn't fill me with much confidence. I'm glad I took the initial money upfront.

Transition.

Kastor is laid on the sofa bed going through some paperwork. He keeps looking at the clock hanging on the wall. He then taps on his phone to check the time is correct. Gabi is outside the caravan, sitting in one of the camping chairs. Eventually, Kastor goes to the caravan door and opens it. He looks about until he spots Gabi sat in the chair and is startled.

Kastor Jesus Christ! What the fuck are you doing sat there?!

Gabi is startled by his response.

Gabi Sorry. I came to your door, but I was a little early and wasn't sure if you might be busy, so I thought I'd just wait out here for a minute. I guess I must have lost track of time.

Kastor You were meant to have been here at seven.

Gabi I know.

Kastor It's nine!

Gabi I know. I lost track of time.

Kastor Fuck me.

Gabi Should I come back another time?

Kastor No. No, it's fine. I'm charging you as if you were here from seven though.

Gabi Ok.

Kastor *(to himself.)* Two fucking hours.

Gabi What do we do now then?

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Kastor Do you wanna come in?

Gabi Can do.

Kastor Unless you wanna do it out here?

Gabi Would you like to?

Kastor I was kidding. It's fucking freezing out here.

Gabi Sorry.

Beat.

It's a lovely night.

Kastor Yeah?

Kastor *looks up at the sky.*

Yeah, I suppose it is.

Gabi The moon's so bright.

Kastor I prefer new moons myself.

Gabi Yeah?

Kastor You can see the stars better then. The moonlight blocks out a lot of the stars.

Gabi At New Moon you're also meant to bow and turn over any of your silver for good luck... or a new love.

Kastor Yeah?

Beat

Well, coming in then? I'm letting all the cold in here!

Gabi gets up out of the chair and enters the caravan. Kastor shuts the door behind them.

I can see you're going to be trouble.

Gabi I don't mean to be.

Kastor I'm sure. You just go from twenty-four hours early to two hours late. What would you have done if someone else turned up?

Gabi Erm...I don't really know. Left, I suppose.

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Kastor Well, you're lucky I'm quiet at the moment. And in a good mood. Look, why don't you take a seat. Do you want a drink?

Gabi Oh, nothing for me, thank you.

Kastor Then take a seat while I make myself a drink.

Kastor gets a bottle of squash and water out of a cupboard along with a glass and pours himself a drink. He takes a swig then tops up the glass. Gabi is looking for somewhere to sit down. She goes to sit on the sofa bed but doesn't want to disturb the papers that are there. She starts to move some of them when Kastor turns around and sees him.

Don't fucking move those!

Kastor rushes across the caravan and grabs at the papers, trying to put them back how they were.

Gabi I'm sorry. I was just trying to find somewhere to sit.

Kastor So you start fucking with my tax returns?

Gabi Tax returns?

Kastor takes Gabi by the shoulders and places her on the sofa bed where in a small space beside the papers.

Kastor Yeah, my fucking tax return. I'm not exactly PAYE doing this, am I? Now, just sit there, and don't move, alright.

Gabi Sorry.

Kastor And stop apologising.

Gabi goes to apologise again but stops herself.

Now, before we go any further, have you got money?

Gabi reaches into her handbag and pulls out her purse.

Gabi Did it not come through? I used the link you sent me when I booked.

Kastor That was for one hour. I'm charging you for three now, remember.

Gabi Oh, yes. Sorry. How much? I've only got...

Kastor Hang on, let me work it out. Now, you've wasted two hours already, so that's going to be £160. £80 an hour whether we do anything or not, no negotiation. Now, what is it you actually want? You didn't go into much detail before.

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Gabi Well...

Kastor I'm open to most things but I do have my limits.

Gabi All I really want is...erm...well...

Kastor Come on, spit it out.

Gabi Can we just talk?

Kastor Talk?

Gabi Yeah.

Kastor I take it back, I will take the money first.

Gabi I'm not saying I definitely don't want to do anything, I'm just not sure that I will.

Kastor So what *might* you want to do? Want me to finger you, go down on you, fuck you? If so, front or back? Want a facial, fisting, pegging? Do you want to suck my dick, rim me, be rimmed...?

Gabi I don't know. I probably won't want to try anything. At least not tonight. I don't even know half of the stuff you said then. Maybe if we hit it off we could arrange a second night. I don't really know. I've never done this before. I'm sorry. Maybe I should just go now.

Gabi gets up to leave but Kastor stands in her way.

Kastor £240 and you just wanna talk? Stay for the hour, and we'll talk. That's all that's covered, mind. Anything else happens, that's extra.

Gabi Ok.

Gabi gets out her purse again and takes out a load of cash.

I've only got £50 with me.

Kastor I take card.

Gabi takes a card out of her purse. Kastor picks up his card machine from amongst the paperwork on the bed. There's an awkward silence while Kastor waits for the machine to load. He offers the device to Gabi.

Check the amount and tap.

Gabi does so. The transaction goes through. Kastor returns the machine back with the paperwork.

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Right. So, what do you wanna talk about?

Transition.

I hope this isn't breaking up the action too much for you. I don't mean it to, it's just there isn't much point in you watching the next hour when it's just talking. There wasn't even much of that actually, to be fair. There were probably more pauses and silences than talking. And there's no point me making you watch an hour of just pauses and silences. I mean you might as well go and watch a Beckett or a Pinter if you're just gonna watch a silent stage.

Anyway, you didn't miss much. I couldn't even tell you if what we talked about was the truth or not. In fact, the only thing she told me, which I can be fairly certain is true, was that she was a virgin! Now, I'm not here to judge. People have all sorts of reasons for not wanting to do it. Saving it for marriage. Just not met the right person yet. Not had the opportunity. But Gabi, well, who knows! I like to treat a person's virginity, or at least their first sexual experiences, like a game of Cluedo. Me for example: Ms Morris, behind the cinema, with my fingers. One of my old teachers, never did get her first name. Chrissy Sinclair, inside my Dad's shed, from behind. I still come over all funny when I get the smell of creosote. Mr Wallace, on the back seat of his Toyota Corolla, wearing his wife's knickers. Him, not me. That was my first bloke. I make it sound as if I've never had it 'normal'. A loving girlfriend, on the bed, missionary. It's just not as exciting to talk about really, is it?

Now, as I said, Gabi and I didn't do anything on that first visit. We didn't do anything for her first three visits! The talking got a little better. But it was still just small talk. It was on her fourth visit however when things started to get a little bit more interesting.

Transition.

Gabi is pacing around outside the caravan. Kastor is stood at the door as before trying to convince him to come in.

Kastor Look, the longer you stay out here the colder my caravan's going to get and then we'll both be complaining. Now, why don't you just get on in here and tell me what's shit in your knickers today?

Gabi Nothing's shit in my knickers!

Gabi storms into the caravan. Kastor moves out the way before she can push past him.

Do you like me?

Kastor Do I what?

Gabi Do you like me?

Kastor To be honest you're freaking me out a little bit.

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Gabi I know you don't *like me* like me, that's not what I'm asking. What I'm asking is do you... do you think I'm an alright person.

Kastor I've only met you a handful of times and even then you barely speak, so I can't really say. I doubt you're a complete twat if that's what you mean?

Gabi Ok.

Kastor I'm not saying I've completely ruled it out, mind. You might still pull a knife on me yet.

Gabi I think I like you.

Kastor Right.

Gabi Not, like that. I could never like you like that.

Kastor Good to know.

Gabi I don't mean it like that. I just mean, I like you as a person, an acquaintance, sort of.

Beat.

I don't think you're a complete twat either.

They both smile. This is the first time they both seem relaxed.

Kastor Look, why don't you take a seat, I'll make us both a drink and we can have a chat again.

Kastor turns to get some cans of drink out of his cupboard. Gabi just stands and stares at him.

Gabi I want to do more than just talk tonight.

Kastor turns to look at her.

If that's ok.

Kastor Erm. Sure. Yeah. What did you have in mind?

Gabi I don't know.

Kastor Right.

Gabi I just... I want to try something new.

Pause.

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Kastor Alright. I'll get those drinks.

Kastor checks out some cups to pour the drinks in but changes his mind.

Gabi I don't drink.

Kastor I get the impression you're going to need something. It's only coke anyway.

Gabi Can I just have a water?

Kastor Alright.

Kastor gets out a bottle of water and passes it to Gabi. Gabi just watches him, not thinking to take the bottle from him. Kastor just places it on the side. She takes a step towards him as if about to do something but is unsure what. She takes a step back, sees the water and takes a mouthful.

Gabi Do you kiss and cuddle and stuff?

Kastor Kiss and cuddle?

Gabi I know some...

Kastor Some?

Gabi What do you like to be called?

Kastor Kastor.

Gabi I mean...

Kastor I know what you mean. I'm Kastor.

Gabi Well, I just know some...Kastors that don't do kissing and cuddles.

Kastor Know many Kastors do you?

Gabi Well, no. I mean I've heard, or rather seen on TV, that some don't like to do all that stuff.

Kastor Do you like to kiss and cuddle?

Gabi doesn't know how to respond for a second before eventually nodding.

 Then we can kiss and cuddle.

Gabi Ok. Ok.

Kastor moves close to Gabi. Gabi stands still but begins to prepare herself for a kiss.

Transition.

Kastor Her hands were all over me. Her fingers running through my hair, pulling my face into hers. I felt her fingers slowly run down my back before grabbing my arse. Our bodies rubbing together, her tits pressed up against me. I could feel her hands making their way round to my belt! She whipped it off me, ripped open her top and dropped to her knees...! I'm just kidding you. Can you seriously imagine her...? We just kissed. But, you know what, she wasn't too bad. Good even. Eventually. A little awkward and tentative to start with but she began to get into it after a while. I tried the tongue but that seemed to freak her out a little too much. It was a bit like being back in school.

Who here remembers the name of their first kiss by the way, you don't need to call it out, just a show of hands. Everyone remembers their first. Ok, a little trickier now. Who remembers *how many* people they've kissed, the actual number, not a round abouts? And their names? So, we're not really all that different are we. Some of us, anyway. Selena was my first. Selena McDermott. This geeky little blonde girl who fancied me in primary school. A load of us were playing kiss chase and the other girls pressured her into playing. She had me pinned in the corner. She clearly didn't know what to do so *I* kissed *her*. She went bright red and ran off, apparently she went and threw her guts up in the toilet or something. But that's just school gossip, who really knows.

Transition.

Gabi is sat on the sofa bed. Kastor is in the kitchen area making himself another drink.

Kastor So be honest, was that your first kiss?

Gabi seems to just be staring off into the middle distance holding her bottle of water.

Gabi No!

Kastor No?

Gabi Year 5. Dale French, St Mary's Primary School. A load of the other girls were playing kiss chase and pressured me in to playing. I had him pinned in the corner. I think he could tell I didn't know what to do so he kissed me. I went bright red and ran and hid in the toilets. I thought I was going to be sick.

Kastor Did he kiss you as his name suggests?

Gabi Pardon?

Kastor French?

Gabi We were only nine!

Kastor You done with that bottle?

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Beat.

Gabi I lied to you, Kastor.

Transition.

Kastor Lies aren't anything new. If anything, it's expected. It's unusual if they don't lie to be honest. I mean let's face it, if you were given the chance to be anyone you want to be, which is basically what's on offer here isn't it? The chance to be whoever you want to be. Make your dreams come true. Even if it's just for an hour or two. Why would you be yourself? But I wasn't expecting her to say what she told me next.

Transition.

Gabi I'm married.

Kastor Oh.

Gabi Well, not anymore.

Kastor Ok.

Gabi Divorced. Soon to be anyway.

Kastor I'm sorry?.

Gabi Papers are all filed now. I just thought you should know.

Kastor Hey, I'm not here to judge. Plenty of the people come to see me after a relationship. Hell, most people see me when they're still in a relationship. That's nothing new.

Gabi It's just...

Kastor Hang on, does this mean you're not a virgin?

Gabi Well, not exactly.

Kastor Well you either are or you aren't. Either way, it doesn't really bother me. You can say what you want, it's you paying for the time.

Gabi It's just, I have had sex... I've just never... I don't think I've actually...finished.

Kastor What do you mean?

Gabi I'm... well, I struggle.

Kastor Right.

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Gabi Or at least, I've never not struggled.

Beat.

You see, I've... not been with many men. I mean I had boyfriends and things before I got married but they were just little school romances, so we never really did anything. Well, except this one time where Callum Jordan invited me to go to the cinema with him and before the we went in her took me round the back and started to touch me, which I wanted him to do, but I began to feel guilty and left and never spoke to him again.

Beat.

You see Richard and I, that's my husband, was my husband, we'd only done it once before we got married and I was so nervous I never really relaxed into it. I thought it'd get better as we got use to each other, but it never did so whenever we had sex, no matter how much I wanted to enjoy it I just... never did.

Kastor Ok. So when you say you're a virgin, you mean... what?

Gabi I've never... actually... finished with anyone. Even if it's started off well and I wanted to get into it I just never managed to...

Kastor Cum?

Gabi No.

Beat.

At least not while with someone else.

Kastor But you do when you wank right? You do wank don't you? Masturbate? Flick the bean? Schlicking? Rolling the pill? Paddling the pink canoe? Dialling the old rotary phone? Visit the downstairs DJ?

Silence.

Gabi Erm... Do you mind if I just take a minute? I'm just getting a bit... sorry.

Gabi rushes outside of the caravan to try and catch her breath. Kastor stands at the door of the caravan and watches her.

Kastor You alright?

Gabi No. I get like this. I don't really know why I'm here. I don't know what's wrong with me.

Kastor It's alright, just take a breath. Nothing's wrong with you. You want another water or something?

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Gabi No, I'll be alright. I just need...

Gabi sits down on one of the camping chairs again. She looks up at the sky.

 You're right. You can see more stars without the moon.

Kastor steps out of the caravan and looks up.

Kastor Beautiful, isn't it? If you look behind you you'll see the big dipper.

Gabi I can never see those things.

Kastor The constellations? Look, just turn around. See that trapezium sort of shape there?

Gabi The what?

Kastor The sort of square shape, over there?

Gabi I think so?

Kastor And those three stars going up at an angle? That's the big dipper. People always say it looks like a saucepan or something, I dunno. And those three there, that's Orion's belt. That was the first constellation I learnt. And that little cluster of stars there is the Seven Sisters and that one there...

Gabi starts to relax.

Gabi How do you know all of these?

Kastor I dunno. I just do. I'm not just some bimbo, alright. I do know things.

Gabi Sorry.

Kastor It's alright.

Beat.

Gabi I just want to know what it's like.

Kastor What it's like to be a constellation?

Gabi To be with someone... and enjoy it.

Kastor Oh. We can work on that. Why now though? You've got to be what, 40, 45?

Gabi I'm 39!

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Kastor Sorry. But surely you've come at least close to it, once? Did you never discuss it with your husband?

Beat.

You don't have to tell me. It might just help me to work out what...

Gabi He cheated.

Kastor Oh.

Gabi Richard. He kept asking if it was something he was doing or if I didn't find him attractive or something, but I kept brushing it off and telling him it was nothing. That it was fine. Eventually he just stopped trying.

Beat.

I came home one day, and he was just sat on the sofa crying. I thought something awful had happened, I tried to console him but then he told me he did something. He said being with me was making him feel unattractive and making him think that I wasn't happy being with him. I told him this wasn't the case but... I tried to suggest that we went to counselling or maybe we should try spicing things up a bit in the bedroom, without necessarily leading to sex.

Transition.

Kastor **This went on for some time so I'm just going to cut to the end bit. It's the only key bit really.**

Transition.

Gabi He said that he'd slept with someone from work. He didn't even say he was sorry or that it was a mistake or that he regretted it. He just came out with it and said it. Next thing I know he's walked out the door and I'm the one crying on the sofa.

So this is my new start, new me, new life. And I want to enjoy it.

Kastor Sex?

Gabi Life. But to do that I want to know if I can at least enjoy sex, to know if it's going to stop me finding someone new. So I thought what better way to find out than to do it with a professional. If you can't get me there then no one can.

Kastor No pressure on me then.

Gabi Sorry. I did consider just hooking up with some stranger on a night out but, well, I've never been one of these one-night stand kinds of people. I still want to feel some connection, even if I'm not meant to. Like this. I mean, no offence, but that's why I thought this would be the best way to do it. No connection, no

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feeling, just...sex. I just need to do it once, to see if I can enjoy it, but I know I won't be able to do it unless we build up to it, try a few things first. Like it's a real relationship, but I know it's not.

Kastor So you're after the Boyfriend Experience?

Gabi Sort of, I guess, but, not that at the same time. I don't want you to treat me like a girlfriend or anything. This is just what it is.

Kastor looks at his watch. Time is nearly up.

Six years we were together. Married for four. At the start we tried a few things to try and find something that worked for me. We did it in different positions and different rooms of the house. We even tried outside once. He took me out to the shed, but the smell of the creosote just kept distracting me. There were the odd times where things seemed to happen organically and that was nice, but then I'd start to get self-conscious about it and get worried. As soon as I start to think about it, it just... I'm just not in the mood.

Kastor looks at his watch again. He begins to try and move things along. Time is up.

Kastor You're over thinking all of this. Just get a plan together and go for it!

Gabi I can't do a plan. If I have a plan and something goes wrong then I'll just worry about that.

Kastor Spontaneity then.

Gabi I hear you can get these things off the internet now, like a lady masturbator, they're supposed to be good, I could get one of those for next time.

Kastor Toys are certainly one way to do it, but I'm afraid...

Gabi Though I've never really been all good at that either. How can you not even be good at doing it to yourself?

Kastor That's a good question, have a think about it.

Gabi is not taking the hint to leave.

Gabi Could we just try a kiss again. See if I feel anything.

Kastor Maybe next time.

Gabi Next time?

Kastor I've got another...

Gabi Another what?

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Kastor Your times up. I've got another appointment.

Gabi Oh. Sorry. I didn't realise. You should have said.

Kastor Next time. We'll see what's gonna be best for you.

Gabi Ok. I'll book it when I get home. Same time work for you?

Kastor Yes. Yeah, that's fine. Please, though, if you wouldn't mind. I've really got to get ready.

Gabi Oh. Yes. Of course. Sorry.

Gabi makes her way off. She looks back at Kastor.

You can just tell me to shut up by the way. I don't normally talk all that much with new people. I guess you make me feel at ease. Comfortable.

Kastor smiles.

Kastor See you next time.

Gabi exits. As soon as she's out of sight, Kastor, starts tidying up the caravan: making the bed, putting the mugs away. He pulls out a cooler of canned drinks. The cooler contains a variety of soft drinks and water. Kastor places the cooler between the two camping chairs at the front.

Transition.

I do hate a rush. I'm self-employed for a reason. I can stick to my own schedule, I don't have to answer to anyone, so as soon as someone starts fucking with my plans I quickly start to lose my shit. Time is money, as they say.

Show of hands, who uses an alarm to wake you up? Do you snooze it though? Alarm set for six but don't get up till seven sort of thing? I can't do that. I set the alarm - I get up with that alarm. I have to. You do if you're your own boss. I have a very strict routine otherwise I never get anything done.

Evenings and nights vary from day to day of course. I've got my regulars that I go to see. Clare's nice. Tuesday evenings, seven-thirty. She's a young widow, fifties I think. She just gets lonely, and I think Tuesday used to be her regular with her husband. Then there's the three Ms: Martine, Megan and Matthew. They're all Friday night. One after the other. Matthew I have to come back here for though. Women tend to like you to go to them, but the guys don't really want to do it in their own places. Probably because they've got a wife and kid waiting for them at home. I think women feel safer doing it in their own homes. Then there are semi-regulars. Once a fortnight or once a month-ers. Occasionals and of course one-offs and new clients. I usually try and have Sundays and Mondays off for general admin but depending on how the month's going I might take the odd bit of work here and there. Women tend to

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plan ahead but men tend to be more in the moment so if I get a last minute ping through I might go for it. It is a full-time job doing this.

Kastor opens the cooler and makes it clear to the audience what is inside.

Anyone want a drink by the way? It's just soft drinks. I don't keep alcohol in. Obvious potential issues. Well, I say obvious, it wasn't always obvious. But hey, you live and learn I guess. Seriously though, anyone want one?

Kastor hands some drinks out to people, one of whom he invites to sit in one of the camping chairs.

Is that comfortable enough for you? Are you alright there? I'm just going to quickly grab something.

Kastor goes back inside the caravan, leaving the audience member in the chair.

I'll just be a second!

Transition.

Gabi enters but freezes as soon as she sees the person in the camping chair. Gabi looks at her watch then back at the other person. Gabi walks off for a moment before returning, still confused. She offers a hand to the other person to shake.

Gabi Hello. Gabi.

The audience member may or may not reply.

I thought I must have been early, but only a couple of minutes. Is he still...? Do you mind if I just sit and wait with you? I don't want to intrude if...

Gabi sits in the second camping chair.

Is it just you here? There isn't someone else in with him I mean or have you just...?

The audience member may or may not reply.

Sorry. I shouldn't ask. None of my business. Sorry.

Beat.

Lovely night. Not too cold. Or too warm. Just right. What is it you're drinking?

Kastor walks out of caravan and sees the two clients together.

Kastor Sorry about that, I just had to find a card with the correct details on. Oh...erm. Sorry, you're early?

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Gabi Only by a couple of minutes.

Kastor (*To audience member.*) I'm sorry about this. Here, drop me a message and we'll arrange another appointment.

Kastor ushers off the audience member. Gabi tries to shake hands with them again before they go. Gabi remains in her camping chair

Gabi They seemed nice. Chatty.

Kastor sits in the other camping chair and chooses a drink from the cooler.

 New regular?

Kastor Why do you still come here, Gabi?

Gabi What do you mean? You know why.

Kastor It's been three months.

Beat.

 Aside from the occasional kissing session we haven't even tried anything. I'm not trying to turn you away or anything, I'd just like to know where this is going? Which seems like an odd question under the circumstances I know, but, c'mon. Don't we know each other enough yet for you try a bit more? You'll never know if you like it if we don't try it.

Gabi I... I don't know. You're kind of putting me on the spot. I don't know.

Kastor Well, let's find out shall we.

Kastor moves to kiss Gabi passionately, taking her by surprise. Kastor stops and slowly pulls his face away from Gabi's.

Kastor How was that?

Gabi nods her head, a little embarrassed.

Gabi I can't promise it'll last though.

Kastor Then let's not waste our chance.

Kastor repositions himself so that his hand is down Gabi's trousers. He begins to work.

Kastor How's that?

Gabi nods, her breathing now becoming erratic.

 That's it. C'mon. Come on.

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Gabi's face starts to look different, as if she is concentrating a lot.

Think of something. Think of something that turns you on. Think of something that gets you off. Richard. Another ex. Your celebrity crush. C'mon!

Gabi I don't know.

Kastor Picture the perfect guy. He looks amazing. He's calling you to him. He's...
[Kastor *begins describing a member of the audience: their clothes, their hair, their eyes, etc. in as much detail as possible.*] He looks at you, dead in the eye and tells you he wants you.

Gabi Yes?

Kastor You can feel yourself getting wet. You want him.

Gabi's face continues to look uncomfortably focused before she seems to give up.

Gabi It's gone. I'm sorry.

Kastor carries on for a second.

Kastor Stay with me. C'mon, tell me what you wanted him to do to you.

Gabi takes a gentle hold of Kastor's wrist, stopping him.

Gabi It's too late.

Kastor retrieves his hand and, deflated, sits in the other camping chair.

Sorry.

Kastor What are you apologising for? I'm the one that didn't to get you there.

Gabi There was just too much pressure.

Kastor There's no pressure. I was trying to be more spontaneous – even less pressure really.

Gabi Not for me. I've had no chance to prepare myself for what might happen. Then as it happens I was wondering how far it's gonna go. Then I worry that maybe it will go further but I'll lose it. Then once I start to think I'm gonna lose it that's all I can think about and then...

Kastor You lose it.

Gabi Yeah.

Transition.

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Kastor You know what, I've got to say I was pleasantly surprised by her honesty. I mean let's face it, how many women would admit they struggle to enjoy sex? I bet most would just fake it. Men wouldn't say they couldn't perform. Or just say no comment of course.

Have you ever struggled to get it up with someone sir? (*He doesn't give time for a response.*) See, no response, men don't like that question, or rather, they don't like the truth behind the answer to that question. But Gabi was really quite open. Maybe that's just women though. Men hide from the truth whereas women try and change it.

You see the problem with Gabi was this block she had if she didn't know you well enough. We were coming up to six months now. What more did she need to know? How much longer was it gonna take to get to know me. I asked her.

Transition.

How much longer is it gonna take to get to know me?

Transition.

She couldn't tell me. I mean you don't know, do you?

I made a suggestion for her next visit. That we just talk. Back to step one, but this time with a specific topic of conversation. Has anyone here heard of the 36 questions?

If someone says yes then Kastor can engage them in conversation to see how much they know.

Well, there are these 36 questions right which, if discussed with a partner, are meant to create a really close and intimate bond between you. Nothing too fancy, it's just meant to be an exercise to get to know someone essentially. *The Experimental Generation of Interpersonal Closeness: A Procedure and Some Preliminary Findings* accredited to Dr Arthur Aron and his colleagues. For those non academics in here, it was also in Cosmo last year, snappily titled 36 Questions to Fall in Love, and has featured in a dozen other magazines before that.

Transition.

The two camping chairs are now positioned to be facing one another. Gabi is sitting on one holding a piece of paper. Kastor is getting himself a drink from inside the caravan before coming out to join Gabi, sitting in the opposite chair.

Gabi So what do we do?

Kastor Just work our way through the questions. You ask a question and we both answer, then I ask a question which we both answer, until we've both answered all 36. We've got to be honest though.

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Gabi And then what?

Kastor Well, then you know me. And I know you. It might just sort our little problem out and we can try some stuff.

Gabi So who goes first?

Kastor You go.

Gabi Ok. Set 1 slip 1. Actually, before we start, there is one thing I'd like to ask.

Kastor Yeah?

Gabi Kastor? Is that really your name?

Kastor It's how I like to be referred to.

Gabi But were you born Kastor?

Kastor Are any of us born...

Gabi Never mind. I just wondered that was all. It doesn't matter. Set 1, slip 1...

Kastor Vincent.

Gabi What?

Kastor My mum called me Vincent. After Vincent van Gogh.

Gabi As in the *Starry Night* guy?

Kastor Yes.

Gabi Vincent.

Kastor Don't.

Gabi I think it suits...

Kastor No it doesn't. And it's not the name I chose at birth, and it's not the name I choose now, alright?

Gabi Ok.

Kastor Start us off then.

Gabi Ok. Slip 1: Given the choice of anyone in the world, whom would you want as a dinner guest?

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Pause.

Kastor Now, you answer first since you asked the question, then I'll answer.

Gabi Oh, erm... Is it living or dead?

Kastor Try not to over think it. Just go for, first name in your head.

Gabi My grandmother. Before she got ill. She's dead now, but I'd love to have one more meal with her. Hear her stories and her laugh.

Kastor That's nice.

Gabi Thank you. You?

Kastor Phaedo of Elis.

Gabi Who?!

Kastor He's an ancient Greek Philosopher who was enslaved as a prostitute before Socrates and his mates bought him his freedom.

Gabi Why'd you wanna meet him?

Kastor I just think it'd be cool to know what it was like back then and how it felt to become free.

Gabi Fair enough.

Kastor Slip 2: Would you like to be famous? If so, in what way?

Transition.

Kastor You get the gist. I'm not going to show you all 36 questions, but I just wanted to share a few of the key ones with you.

Transition.

Time moves forward.

Kastor Slip 8: Name three things you and your partner appear to have in common.

Gabi Shit.

Kastor It's not that hard.

Time moves forward.

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Gabi Slip 13: If a crystal ball could tell you the truth about yourself, your life, the future, or anything else, what would you want to know? Will I ever enjoy sex with someone?

Time moves forward.

Kastor That was the first time I properly saw a planet. We looked round the whole sky and he taught me... that's when I learnt the constellations. At the end of the night, when he dropped me back off at home, he gave me the telescope. Said it was mine. He said he was moving away and wouldn't have any space for it and knew it would go to good use with me.

Time moves forward.

Slip 20: What does friendship mean to you? Trust.

Gabi That all?

Kastor If you have trust, what more do you need?

Gabi I guess so. I mean I still want trust, but I also need a sense of humour, good conversation, likes going out for meals or coming and going round each other's houses to chill.

Kastor You make it sound like you want a date with everyone you know.

Time moves forward.

Kastor Complete this sentence: "I wish I had someone with whom I could share..." my life, I guess.

Gabi Yeah?

Kastor Yeah. I know this career doesn't scream boyfriend material, but I'd like to meet someone someday who gets me and wants to be with me. I'd probably stop meeting up with and actually having sex with people, but I could still do the internet stuff. I just need to find someone who gets me and will let me be who I want to be.

Gabi I get you.

Kastor Thanks. How about you?

Gabi I wish I had someone with whom I could share... everything.

Kastor Everything?

Gabi Yeah, everything. All my secrets and worries and fears and dreams and...well, everything.

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Time moves forward.

Gabi If you were to die this evening with no opportunity to communicate with anyone, what would you most regret not having told someone? Why haven't you told them yet?

Beat.

Kastor You ok?

Time moves forward.

Slip 36: Share a personal problem and ask your partner's advice on how they might handle it. Also, ask your partner to reflect back to you how you seem to be feeling about the problem you have chosen.

Gabi Wow.

Kastor Yeah. It's the big one.

Beat.

Well...

Gabi I already knew he cheated on me.

Kastor *stays quiet.*

Before that night when I found him crying and said he'd cheated... Almost a year before, I went through his phone. I'd found messages from numerous women on there, going back months... There were even pictures of him with them.

Kastor Did you tell him?

Gabi Didn't see the point.

Kastor Even when he admitted it to you?

Gabi It was already over.

Kastor Why didn't you ever say anything sooner?

Gabi He stayed with me. I couldn't give him what he wanted so he found it elsewhere, but he stayed with me. That must have meant something.

Transition.

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Kastor The final part of the experiment is sustained eye contact. You look into each other's eyes for four minutes.

Transition.

Kastor and Gabi look into each other's eyes. This can last anything up to four minutes but can be shorter. At the end of this time Gabi kisses Kastor. Kastor takes Gabi by the hand and leads her into the caravan. He turns the lights off and they undress each other. They climb into bed and have sex. Kastor is clearly in charge of the situation, but there is still a gentle and tender quality to the act. It is not romantic, but more than simply platonic. It is affectionate and intimate, but not heated. It is unclear if they both climax or when it happens. They both relax and lay next to each other.

Transition.

Kastor climbs out of the bed as if trying not to disturb Gabi and puts some form of clothing on to cover up. This is more due to it being cold rather than any feeling of modesty. During this speech we see Gabi dress herself and walk out of the caravan as if avoiding Kastor.

Kastor So, that happened. It only took her, what, just over six months. Be honest, who thought we'd actually even get to this stage? *(If members of the audience don't raise their hands, ask why not.)* And you know what, she actually wasn't that bad to be fair. I mean I've certainly had worse.

When we finished we both got dressed and she left. It was the first time she ever left without saying she would book another visit. Now don't get me wrong, I know the whole point of the visits was for her to build up to having sex and enjoy it, but I was surprised how cold she became. Almost instantly. And she didn't book again. Maybe she still didn't enjoy it after all. I half expected to get a booking or something saying she wanted to meet but.. I'm not bothered. Just surprised. I just got used to our evenings of chatting and what not. Actually, I tell a lie, I did get one thing. Just over a week after we had sex I got a package.

Kastor runs inside and grabs a book from under his pillow. He comes back out with it. It's a copy of 'Turn Left at Orion'.

This arrived. No note or anything but I can only think it was from Gabi. It's a guidebook for the stars and the night sky. Just a little something to say thank you I guess. Maybe she did enjoy it. I've never been given a gift before from a client. It's sweet.

A year went by. Nothing much changed. Gained some new customers, lost some others. The three Ms became two as Megan moved away to work in the city. Oh, and Clare met a new guy. She booked one last visit just to let me know, which was nice. She showed me a picture. Robert, I think she said his name was. Looked like a bit of a God botherer, but if it's what keeps her happy.

I've started getting messages from this new guy. Haven't met him yet though. Might be a time waster. He says his name's Kian, but there's something about

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him... He keeps messaging with these weird cuckold fantasies. I don't know. It's all money at the end of the day.

And, after I'd given up all hope I got a message through. A booking. Gabi. It took me by surprise. It was the same day and time as she always had before. And as she always had been before, she was early.

Transition.

Gabi enters wearing a pair of overside sunglasses. She looks at her watch, looks at the caravan door, then moves to sit in her usual camping chair. Kastor pops his head around the door.

Kastor I knew you'd be early.

Kastor steps out of the caravan and approaches Gabi who stands up to greet him.

Gabi Couldn't go breaking the habit.

Kastor What are you doing here?

Gabi I wanted to see you.

Kastor I gathered that much.

Gabi I wanted to apologise.

Kastor For what?

Gabi For ending things like I did.

Kastor Hey, it's fine. It's not like we were together or anything. You came for sex. You got it. Why hang around?

Gabi I know, it was just a bit rude. We were getting close.

Silence.

Kastor doesn't know how to respond. He turns away.

Kastor You want a drink or anything?

Gabi I didn't mean for things to end that way. I should have contacted you.

Kastor I've got squashes, tea, coffee. You know, the usual.

Gabi When I went home that night I... I contacted Richard. I told him that I always knew about the other women. And that never once did he ever make me cum.

Kastor How did he take it?

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Gabi I also said I'd been seeing someone and that I've had the best sex of my life and I've never felt more alive.

Kastor Wow! What did he say to that?

Beat.

Gabi New Moon tonight. New luck.

Kastor New love.

Beat.

Kastor What's with the glasses anyway? Moon's not that bright.

Gabi It's just all the glare from the headlights of other cars.

Kastor You're not driving now though. Take them off.

Gabi hesitates for a moment. Kastor moves toward her and takes them off for her. She lets him. She has a bruise around her eye.

Kastor What happened?

Gabi It doesn't matter.

Kastor Have you been to the hospital?

Gabi No, it's fine. It looks worse than it is. I put some peas on it. Anyway, I wanted to ask, did you get the book I sent?

Kastor Yes.

Gabi I was gonna put a note with it to try and explain but I didn't know what to write.

Kastor I knew it was from you. Thank you.

Gabi I wanted to give it to you myself.

Kastor That would have been nice.

Gabi But I was afraid I'd already left it too long. Then once I started building it up in my head I started to have a panic attack and then I just...

Kastor No, of course.

Beat.

Gabi I'm sorry.

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Beat.

Kastor Still apologising.

Beat

Look, are you sure you're alright. It looks like you might...

Gabi It's fine!

Kastor I'm sorry.

Gabi Now who's apologising.

Kastor Have you started seeing anyone yet?

Gabi A couple of people.

Kastor Wow. One fuck and you're a proper little player now.

Gabi Maybe. Nothing serious, just fun. It has been fun. You helped with that.

Kastor It's just confidence.

Gabi That you gave me.

Kastor So I did succeed then that night?

Gabi Does it matter?

Kastor I guess not. I just hope I helped you.

Gabi You did.

Kastor Good.

Gabi I just had to start having feelings for you. I never thought about the fact that maybe I just never had that sort of connection with anyone before.

Kastor Well, I see why you didn't message then. You didn't want feelings for me. I mean if you carried on seeing me then you obviously would have just fallen madly in love with me or something.

Gabi They weren't those feelings. I liked you. I liked your company. I wanted to spend time with you as a friend.

Beat.

Kastor I'd have liked that.

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Kastor moves forward to try and touch her face. Gabi pulls away.

He didn't do this did he? Richard.

Beat.

Gabi I've thought about you a lot recently.

Kastor Then why won't you let me help you? Just let me look at it at least.

Gabi I said I'm fine!

Beat.

Kastor Ok.

Beat.

Well, I suppose we should get on with it then.

Gabi What?

Kastor Well, you've booked the hour now, so I assume you only came here for one thing?

Gabi What's the matter?

Kastor Nothing. What do you actually want to do then? Are we just talking, star gazing or do you want to fuck again?

Gabi Kastor?

Kastor What? You're the one who just spent the last five minutes saying how much you thought we were friends after just leaving without saying goodbye and yet you won't tell me what happened. Are we friends or are you a customer cause I need to know how we're doing this now.

Gabi I...

Kastor In fact, wait here.

Kastor goes to the toilet cistern and gets the money out. He takes out a few notes, returns the toilet back to how it was, and then goes back to Gabi.

Here. Here's a refund for tonight. I forgot. I've got to get a load of stuff ready for the post tomorrow morning.

Gabi Kastor.

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Kastor Sorry, I really should have blocked it out on my calendar. It's my fault. Don't worry about it.

Gabi I'll book for another time then.

Kastor I'm really busy at the moment. I'll have to see.

Kastor makes his way back into the caravan, leaving Gabi alone.

Gabi I'll see you soon.

Gabi waits for a moment then leaves. After a moment Kastor comes back out looking after her.

Transition.

Kastor approaches members of the audience.

Kastor Excuse me, could you just help me for a second? Could you just turn those chairs over for me please. And would you mind just popping inside and ripping those off and flipping that over onto its side. Thank you. And would you mind just sticking some of this tape over that for me please.

Members of the audience rearrange the set as instructed. As they do this, Kastor asks other members of the audience to touch different parts of his body, asking one to touch his face, one to touch his arms, and wherever else Kastor feels appropriate to invite people to touch. Once touched, Kastor applies the same purple make-up as before and possibly even some red liquid until he appears beaten up.

Thank you. You can return to your seats now.

The caravan now appears wrecked as if a fight has occurred or it has been broken into.

Transition.

Kastor is sitting on the step of the caravan with pieces of furniture and broken items all around him. The bed sheets have been torn off the bed. The pillows are on the floor. The toilet cistern has been removed. He has clearly been crying. He appears broken. He gets out his mobile phone and tries to call someone. They don't answer. He starts to leave a message...

Kastor It's me. Could you...

...but hangs up before finishing. He waits a minute then sends a text instead.

Transition.

Kastor approaches the audience as he has done before as if about to speak but stops. He goes inside the caravan and pulls out a bottle of whiskey which has been hidden somewhere. He drinks from the bottle.

Transition.

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Kastor returns to sitting on the step of the caravan with the whiskey bottle. The sun is beginning to rise. After a short time Gabi appears.

Gabi Oh Christ! What happened? Are you alright?

Kastor I knew I didn't trust him. I knew something was weird, but I thought I'd be alright.

Gabi Who? Have you called police?

Kastor shakes his head. Gabi gets out her phone and starts dialling but he stops her.

Kastor No. I can't do that.

Gabi At least let me phone an ambulance then? You need to be seen by a doctor.

Kastor Could you take me?

Gabi Of course.

Gabi tries to help Kastor up, but he resists.

Kastor Just give me a minute.

She looks around at the carnage before her.

You know you didn't need to book to see me. I wanted to help you. I wanted to help you be who you wanted to be. I thought I helped. I wanted to help. And then you just stopped coming. I thought you might have messaged or something. I thought about you. About what you might have done next, whether you'd have contacted Richard or suddenly gone on a mad sex spree or something.

Silence.

Gabi Kastor...

Kastor It's fine. Don't worry about it.

Kastor tries to get himself up off the caravan step.

Gabi We can talk about this later. Let's get you looked at first.

Kastor looks up at Gabi.

What?

Kastor He's still here.

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Gabi What?

Kastor He came at me so fast. I was just trying to defend myself. I just grabbed the first thing I could. I didn't even think I just hit him. It wasn't hard, but...

Gabi Where is he?

Kastor gestures to another area of the caravan. Gabi goes over to look and freezes.

Who is that?

Kastor I don't know. He'd been messaging for weeks but I'd never met him till tonight. He started shouting and screaming about his wife. I don't know if he's someone's husband or something.

Gabi It's Richard.

Silence.

That's Richard. He must have tracked you down after I told him about us.

Kastor What?

Gabi I didn't think. I was just trying to get back at him. Remember, I told you that I said to him that I met someone.

Kastor But you told him where I live?

Gabi No. No. Just that you worked from a caravan. Oh my god, I'm so sorry. I'm so sorry. What are we going to do?

Beat.

Kastor Phone the police.

Gabi What? No, we can't do that, there's got to be another way.

Transition.

Kastor So I think this is where I showed you at the start. Just the two of us, alone in my caravan, my home. I guess this was my story.

Gabi It's time for us to go.

Kastor Ok, just give me a minute.

Transition.

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Gabi and Kastor are standing in the caravan. It is dawn and the sun is shining. They are looking at each other, both feel a mix of emotions, panic, excitement, nervousness, and fear. They stand in silence for a moment, just staring at each other.

Gabi Are you sure you want to do this?

Kastor *nods.*

Kastor It'll be alright. This sadness won't last forever.

The lights blow and they are left in darkness.