

Matt Mitchell, Kate's flat mate frowned at the large bunch of roses, which stood in the corner of the kitchen table.

Feeling uneasy he asked, "Kate, are these yours?"

"Yeah" she replied admiring them, "I got them this morning"

Matt nodded as he opened the fridge he wondered who they were from, plus he was finding it hard to take his eyes off them, never before has he seen such a big bunch of roses.

Kate shrugged "Dunno, they came this morning with a card which just said 'your admirer'"

"And that all it said?" Matt took a sip out of the orange juice carton "don't you think it seems a bit suss?" he asked pressing onto the subject a little

"Yeah I suppose, but I've never had a admirer before" Kate looked at the roses, she thought they were lovely and counted at least thirty in a bunch Putting the carton back in the fridge Matt could sense Kate was getting little sidetracked with a situation a little "Don't you wanna find out who sent you these?" He pressed on

Kate smiled slightly mesmerised "Yeah I course I do"

Matt looked at the roses; he had to admit Kate's admirer certainly got her attention, but he could not help but to feel a little uneasy to the thought of having someone after your affections who is a complete stranger. Something about the situation made Matt think Kate admirer may not be so genuine.

"Good" Matt looked at his watch "Fuck! Jodie's

coming over, I'd better get dinner started" Matt started to open every cupboard randomly

"Just cook your famous lasagne" Kate said taking up the roses

Matt took out four tins of canned tomatoes and grabbed a clean bowl from the sink "Way ahead of you"

Kate laughed

"You sure you don't wanna join us for dinner?"

Kate shook her head "No thanks, I'm gunna watch a film in my room"

Ever since Kate met Matt at primary school, he had always shared interest in cookery, loved it, and impressed the teachers with rice, pasta, and potato dishes. Matt studied catering right through college and university, graduated with honours, and now works in a restaurant.

"Don't forget there's that new wine I got from work, you can use that" Kate said walking into the lounge with her roses, the scene from them Kate found aromatic and decided to put them centre of the coffee table. Standing back, she admired them, hell these things are huge she thought. Suddenly the doorbell went, instantly she knew it was Matt's girlfriend, Jodie.

"Get that please Kate"

"Way ahead of you"

"Thanks Kate" Matt said amongst the sound of clattering pots and pans

"Hey how are you" Kate smiled at Jodie

"Hey ho"

"He's in the kitchen" Kate stood aside to let Jodie pass

"Thank god for that, I'm well hungry" Jodie walked in with lots of carrier bags from all high street names "I'm knackered" she sighed flopping down in the sofa

Kate looked at the bags and then at Jodie, she looked fantastic. Jodie's short, cropped brown hair shone against her blue eyes. Wearing little make up, she looked healthy and radiant and dressed in a fitted jacket, skinny jeans and ballet pumps Jodie looked like she belonged on a make up commercial. Many times Kate has told Jodie she should model or even act, but Jodie insists she is not interested. Running her fingers through her hair, she looked at Jodie and felt slightly underdressed in a off shoulder jumper and jogging pants "Been shopping again?"

"Yeah" Jodie glanced down at her bags "Not bad for half an hours work"

"What d'ya get?" Kate asked peering inside one of the bags and saw something green and lacy, she knew it was another camisole, ever since Jodie spotted a A-list Hollywood actress wear one on the red carpet she has crowned it one of her wardrobe essentials. Jodie shrugged as she crossed her legs "Just this and that, nothing sp- wow whose roses!"

"Mine" Kate beamed

"From who?" she asked leaning over and taking in the aroma "Man, they smell wicked"

"My admirer"

Matt poured Jodie another glass of red wine "How was dinner? Both sitting at the kitchen table enjoying time to themselves while Kate kept out with way by staying in her bedroom.

"Loved it, but not too much wine babe I'll be pissed by end of the night" Jodie said watching Matt trying to fill the glass to the top

Matt pretended to look defeated "Can't blame a bloke for trying"

Jodie put her knife and fork together and sat back, rubbing her stomach she sighed, "Man, I'm stuffed. Nice work Matthew" looking at her boyfriend Jodie fancied him more than ever, Matt has jet-black hair, brown eyes. Having a mixed heritage of Chinese mother Kim (despite taking his father's surname) and a east end of London father Jack, Matt has the combined looks and body, which Jodie thinks should be plastered all over the world. Jodie met Matt months back in a club and instantly they got on, Jodie thought he was the best looking bloke she had seen that evening and was flattered when she left the night with his number. Seeing Matt dressed in plain black t/shirt and jeans, Jodie felt like stripping off in the kitchen in front of him, but thought better of it. Matt took Jodie's plate "All in an hours work"

Jodie laughed "Yeah and the rest"

Matt shook his head "You mock my talents and yet I still take it"

"We all know it's your mum's recipe"

"You gotta be joking, this is far to simple for her"

Jodie smiled "I'm still waiting to taste her cooking"

Matt tapped the edge of the table with his finger "I'll let her know you wanna come for dinner"

"Good, I wanna meet her"

Matt frowned "Why?"

"I wanna meet the woman who made my boyfriend?"

Matt smiled "She didn't do it all alone Jode"

Jodie laughed, "I know that, still wanna meet her"

Matt nodded "I'll let her know" thinking about arranging Jodie to meet his mum, Matt felt apprehensive. It had been ages since he had introduced anyone to his mum and he was not sure if he willing to go through that all over again.

Jodie took up her glass "You do that"

Matt looked at Jodie for a moment he noticed her pretty face and wide blue eyes, which sparkled under the kitchen light. Having changed into a black lace camisole top that showed off her slender top half of her body, Matt thought she was the most stunning woman he had ever met. He remembered the night they met in a club and spotting her from the second she stepped on the dance floor, his mate Steve told him to go for it 'Just ask the girl' he told him, having come out from a messy relationship before Matt was not sure if getting involved with someone again was a good idea. Matt remembers not being able to take his eyes of Jodie and decided to make his move.

Standing up Matt put the plates behind him in the sink, turning on the tap he let water drain over them, he did not notice Jodie taking the wine bottle into the lounge.

"These roses are lovely; I wonder who they're from"  
"Yeah, could be anybody" Matt rolled his eyes; he hoped Kate has taken them into her bedroom for the evening instead of leaving them centre stage of the flat. Not being able to shake his feeling on uneasiness towards the roses would have been easier to deal with if they were not in front of his face. Matt turned off the tap and joined Jodie, walking into the lounge Matt found it hard to take his eyes off them, he felt like kicking them off the table and throwing them out of the window.

"Still its exciting, can't wait to find out" Jodie said reaching over for the television remote, aiming it at the television she pressed the on button

Matt shifted the roses the side slightly "well, the sooner the better if I'm at all honest"

Jodie looked at Matt "why did you move the roses?"

Matt looked at Jodie "They're blocking my view"

Jodie turned back to the television "Oh okay"

"why did you ask?"

Jodie rested her head on Matt's shoulder "Just asking"

Kate did not get up until ten the next morning; she showered, dressed and made herself toast and coffee for breakfast. Kate had planned her friend Lauren

as they both wanted to go shopping, she had not seen her for weeks due to both of their hectic work schedules and Kate could not wait to see her.

Watching the toast pop out of the toaster, she thought about the roses and could not wait to tell Lauren, as she heard Matt come the front door.

Buttering her toast "How was dinner?" Kate asked before taking a bite

"Put it this way, they aint any leftovers" he replied walking in the kitchen with a newspaper under his arm. Matt tried not to notice the short skirt, knee high boots and tight fitted slogan t/shirt saying 'West End Babe' Kate was wearing, with her hair tied back in to a ponytail and tan she resembled a young footballers wife.

"Nice to see you haven't lost your touch"

Matt shook his head "Never"

Kate smiled as she sipped her coffee "What are you gunna do today?"

Matt pulled out a chair and sat down "Got nothing planned, why?" He replied opening the newspaper to the back page. Looking at the football page he pleased to find his favourite team did not lose last night's match and still have a good chance win the F.A cup.

"Just asking, I-"

"Bloody hell, those roses smell lovely, I can smell them from the inside the bedroom" Jodie announced from the hallway

Matt gritted his teeth; did he have to hear about those roses first thing in the morning?

"That's what I thought when I got up" Kate agreed sniffing the air a little, Jodie could smell Kate's perfume "What perfume you're wearing?"

Kate shrugged "Dunno one that I got for Christmas" "Smells nice"

Kate smiled "Thanks, coffee?"

Jodie shook her head "No thanks. Let's hope this admirer of yours shows his face so we can congratulate him on his good taste in flowers"

Matt folded his newspaper down and threw it on the table "The sooner we find out the admirer is, the better"

Looking at Matt Kate could see he looked tense; standing up from the table, Kate finished her toast "Morning baby" Jodie kissed Matt on the lips as perched herself on Matt's lap and took the newspaper "God, look at the state of this woman" she pointed to a bad picture of a female celebrity walking along the street in Hollywood

Kate laughed as she looked at the picture "She don't look that bad Jodie"

Matt shifted slightly in his seat, hoping Jodie would get up from his lap as she was sitting in a very sensitive place

"Whatever" Jodie did not move as she turned the page "Too much money and not enough sense"

Kate drank the last of her coffee and put the cup in the sink "And on that note I'm off for some retail therapy with chat, Lauren, coffee and cake"

"That's what I like babe, a girl after my own heart" Jodie applauded



"We're going out tonight, so I need a new outfit" Kate said, feeling a touch excited. Grabbing her keys and handbag, she rummaged through checking for her mobile phone

"Seen anything you like?"

"Yeah a dress in a little boutique, it's like a corset but a dress basically"

Matt could not understand why Kate needed to buy any more clothes he thought Kate had enough to clothe a third world country.

Jodie put her hand on Matt's thigh and squeezed it "Okay cool, have fun hunny"

"Found it" Kate said pulling out her phone, smiling she waved "See you later" and left the kitchen

"See ya"

"You're quiet" Jodie looked at Matt and kissed him on the lips "Are you okay?" she knew something was bothering him as he hardly spoke to her last night after dinner.

I'm great Jodie, one you're going to castrate me and two I'm finding it hard dealing with all this attention Kate is getting all from this admirer who's sent her enough flowers to fill a river! Matt nodded gently pushing Jodie off his lap "Yeah, I'm fine"

Kate pulled on her sunglasses as she waited outside the coffee shop, looking at the passing traffic she sighed as she waited for Lauren. Her mind wondered to the flowers, wondering whom they were from and why the person had chosen to keep their identity a

secret. Thinking about all those she worked with, Kate had no idea who it could be and although she felt frustrated, she did feel slightly flattered. Suddenly Kate spotted a young woman with curly dark hair, brown eyes and dressed in a 'Blondie' t/shirt, jeans and boots walking towards her, smiling she waved and called out

"Ren!"

Lauren waved back just as she dodged a double buggy "Hey beautiful, looking foxy as usual" just as she said that a man dressed in a suit wolf whistled under his breath walking past Kate, if not in a hurry to pick up his daughter from her grandmothers he would have stopped.

Kate shook her head and thought Ren was crazy how she could look foxy wearing what she had on was impossible "You're nuts babe"

Hugging they both linked arms and walked up the high street "So, you ready to shop?"

"Yes, credit card is ready to burn"

walking into the jewellery shop the person waited in the queue before being served, standing eyes roamed around before spotting a pair of earrings. Smiling, it was the person's turn to be served.

Kate noticed a box on her doorstep when she returned home later that day, unaware of what it was she put her shopping inside first and took up the box. Closing the door behind her, Kate began to feel nervous `she opened the gift marked 'cartier',

inside was a pair of what looked to Kate as diamond studs. Kate gasped as she stared at them, noticing a small card she read it *'another gift from your admirer'*

"What you got there?" Matt asked appearing in the hallway

Kate gasped jumping out of her skin "Fuck Matt, you scared me!"

Matt was suddenly filled with dread "Another gift Kate?" he asked trying to see

Kate held up the earrings to show Matt "Yeah, earrings this time"

Looking at the earrings, Kate guessed the studs must have cost her admirer a lot of money

Matt's eyes widened in horror "Earrings" he repeated walking towards her to get a closer look, taking them from Kate he looked at them. The studs were solid gold with what tiny gems around the edge and in the middle, which shone when it caught the light, Matt had to admit the studs were lovely and looked very expensive

Handing them back Matt said "I think you should call the police on this nutter"

"The police?"

Matt rolled his eyes "Yes the police. You've got some nutter sending you expensive gifts to your home, calling himself your admirer and you don't even know who the fuck he is"

There was a silence before Kate spoke, she knew this was bothering Matt a little and part of her knew he was concerned for her welfare but she felt

there was something else. "I know Matt, b--"

"Don't you feel a bit violated?" Matt interrupted "Doesn't it scare you?"

Kate had to think about before answering, "I didn't really, up until now"

Matt felt like grabbing Kate by the shoulders and shaking her asking her why she doesn't care, why she doesn't seem the least bit scared. The prospect having someone watching your every move and sending you gifts should cause concern as Matt was. "There is some twisted fucker out there who is showering you with lavish gifts and looks like he aint gunna stop"

Kate sighed, although she knew Matt was right she felt he was bullying her. It was one thing to be concerned but Kate felt Matt was taking it to the limit. "Thanks Matt you're making me feel a whole lot better" Kate picked up her bags

"Well I'm sorry Kate this is getting serious" Matt pressed on "This person knows where you live"

"I know that Matt, I--"

"Well get the police involved Kate, what's the problem?" Matt snapped "what is it gunna take, a face to face meeting with you, him and a knife to your throat?"

Kate

Matt felt a pang of guilt he did not intend to carry on like a nagging parent, but he had to make her understand how serious this was "Kate, I--"

"Listen Matt, I've gotta get ready. We can talk about this later" Kate interrupted before heading

off to her room

Matt and Kate did not say much for the rest of the evening, Kate did decided to go out, she tried to enjoy her self but spent the evening looking over her shoulder and circling the place for anyone whom she felt was looking at her. What Matt had said to her was on her mind, but what was bothering her the most was Matt's reaction. After a few hours, Kate said goodbye to the girls and caught a cab home. When she got home Matt was still up,

"Hey "she said as she entered the kitchen

"Enjoy yourself" Matt saw Kate was dressed for bed in a long sleeved white night shirt which reached just above her knee, her long tousled brown hair sat on her shoulders, Matt thought Kate had a figure that all women would kill for, and with her brown eyes shone bright against the kitchen lights like stars, Matt thought Kate looked great

Kate nodded "Yeah it was a laugh, drinks were half price so Ren and Soph were pissed by half nine"

"Oh yeah mid week drinks offer" Matt said pulling out a chair and sitting down, Matt smiled "Lightweights"

Kate smiled as she got herself a glass of water "Yeah, long may it reign"

There was an awkward silence before Matt spoke again "Look Kate, sorry about-"

Kate took two large gulps "It's okay Matt, you made me realise what's going on"

"I know but I should have been more supportive

rather than carry on so self righteous" Matt apologised

Kate shook her head as she ran her fingers through her hair "Its fine forget it"

"As long as you know, I'm not being an arse with you"

Kate looked at Matt "I know you're not"

Matt met Kate gaze just as she pulled away "I just don't want anything to happen you that's all"

Kate smiled "I know you'd be the same if it was Jodie"

"Yeah more than likely" Matt murmured into his cup of tea

"No Jodie tonight then?" Kate asked surprised not to see her shoes, handbag, and keys scattered about the flat

Matt shook his head and wondered if Kate thought he and Jodie were joined at the hip "I'll see her tomorrow; we've got stuff to do tonight"

Kate sensed Matt meant more than he was letting on with his remark, but she knew it was none of her business "okay Matt, I'm off to bed," Kate announced before finishing her water

Matt hoped Kate would stay up and chat longer "Okay then, night" he said trying to hide his disappointment.

Getting into bed that night Kate was wide awake, the past few days seemed a blur but now things seemed clearer. Kate had an admirer and she was frightened.



Sitting outside the local coffee shop, it was early summer's afternoon Lauren and Kate sat centre stage of the collection of chairs, which looked out to the busy high street. Kate dressed in tight white tank, white skinny jeans and white wedges was oblivious to the many motorists where drove by and caught a glimpse of her. Some honked their horns, whistled only to go unnoticed.

Lauren gasped at the table in the middle of star bucks "You've got a secret admirer?"

Kate put her finger to her lips "Keep your voice down ren, I don't want the whole world to hear"

Lauren flicked her long curly black hair over her shoulder "Well this has shifted my hangover, I've been feeling like shit all morning"

Kate smiled "Behave Lauren"

Feeling the heat from the early afternoon sun Lauren sipped her coffee, strong and black just how she likes it "It's true, I text Soph this morning and Marcus said she's still in bed with her clothes on, lightweight"

Kate laughed aloud "You can talk Betty Ford, you drank more than the whole entire place"

Lauren sighed with disgust as she glanced at her nails; she reminded herself she needed a manicure "Don't remind me Kate"

Taking her coffee, Kate gave Lauren a look "Sorry, that's my job"

Lauren shook her head in disbelief "I can't believe you have an admirer who sent you red roses and diamond earrings"



A gentle breeze blew Kate's hair as she sipped her coffee "Yeah and it's freaking me out a bit, actually Matt is"

Lauren looked confused "What's it gotta do with 'im?"

"He's worried ren, he wants me to ring the police" Kate explained picking at her muffin

"That's only because he's nose out of joint" Lauren scoffed

Kate wanted to laugh but she didn't "Don't think so ren, he's just concerned just like anyone else would be. I've got someone sending me expensive gifts and watching my every move"

Lauren knew it was more than that and was baffled why Kate could not see it "Kate I can't believe it, I mean who is this day gets an admirer"

"No one, only in films"

Lauren smiled "Told you you're a fox" indicating to Kate's white tight fitted tank top which looked great against Kate's tan.

Kate rolled her eyes "Will you just stop please, I am no fox"

"I'm not the one who made James Allen in uni leave the local miss beauty queen for you"

Kate closed her eyes remembering the day James, who was considered the best looking football player declared his love for her after bumping into her in the canteen. Despite feeling flattered, Kate knew James was engaged to a fellow classmate and model Kelly, and getting involved with him was going to be a mistake. "God Ren, that can we forget about

that”

“You were the envy of if not all girls that year”

Kate cringed “I’m I wasn’t”

Lauren shook her head “Whatever, carry on and be modest”

“I am not modest Ren”

“So what else?”

Kate sighed, “Jodie loves the attention I’m getting, I think she wants one too”

Lauren gave Kate a look of disapproval “She’s some twisted sister that chick”

Kate burst out laughing, “She’s okay”

Lauren sipped her coffee “If you like umbrella and pepper spray”

Shaking her head Kate thought Lauren’s comment was a bit harsh “She’s crazy about Matt ren; I think they’re good for each other”

Lauren rolled her eyes; she really did not want to talk about Matt and Jodie

“You know you’re gonna have to call the police don’t you”

Kate tapped the side of her cup with her forefinger

“Don’t wanna get them involved ” she said tightly

Lauren leaned forward and lowered her voice, “Are you sure you have no idea who he is?”

Kate’s eyes met Lauren’s “Yeah, I haven’t got a clue and the more think about it the more I’m scared ren”

Before Kate knew it, she was back at work. Sitting at her desk, she typed away while phones rang around her. Trying to concentrate on finishing all the letters going out to various companies, Kate ignored the phones determined to finish before this afternoon. Kate works for advertising company based in London, she had been there for two years and now it is a suitable position.

Hitting the paragraph key, Kate began a new sentence suddenly she felt someone was watching her, looking up she saw no one was there. Trying to shake off the feeling, she carried on.

"Hey Miss Reade"

Kate almost jumped out her skin "Fuck!" she gasped, "You scared me Jack!"

"Sorry Kate" sounding the apologetic "Just wanted to know if you want anything"

Catching her breath, Kate took her glasses "No thanks Jack"

Jack nodded wondering what was making Kate on edge "Okay, well let me know if you changed your mind"

Kate smiled at Jack as she put her glasses back on, Jack felt his heart skipped a beat thinking how stunning Kate was in her white silk blouse, tight black pencil skirt and heels. Jack thought Kate should pose a men's magazine model, as he would defiantly be her no. 1 fan.

"Thanks Jack"

Shrugging he blushed slightly "No problem" he said walking away

Matt exhaled cigarette smoke out into the cold morning air, watching the busy streets and passers by Matt thought about his long ten-hour shift ahead. With the new shopping complex opening up in a few weeks equipped with foot courts, the restaurant have extended her opening hours to compete with present competitions. Matt took another puff from his cigarette, he thought about Kate. He did not like the gifts, the attention she was getting. Who was he and what did he want with Kate? In addition, why doesn't he just come out from wherever the fuck he is and then pisses off? The more Matt thought about it, the more frustrated he felt, Matt wanted to know who he was, and he wanted to know *now*.

Suddenly Matt heard the back door open "There you are Mitchell, I've been all over for looking for you"

Matt threw his cigarette on the ground before stepping on it "You've found me Steve"

Steve Smith let the door shut behind him "What are you doing out here anyway, it's cutting out here" Steve blew on his hands and rubbed them together. Steve stands at 6 foot, average build with dark hair and light eyes. With a West Indian and Irish background, Steve has inherited his father's strong facial features and his mother's good values. Never one to mince his words Steve is honest, loyal and a good listener. Both Matt and Steve have been friends since college, both have been there for each other and intend to for years to come.

Matt shrugged "Just wanted a bit of piece of quiet" Steve could feel Goosebumps on his arms "You're well quiet today, what's the matter lost your chopsticks again"

"Fuck off Steve" Matt muttered

Steve sensed whatever it was, Matt did not want to say, but he was not about to give up easily "Then what's with the long face "

"Since when am I grinning from ear to ear on a Monday evening" Matt snapped

Steve sighed "Just tell me why are you're acting more of a moody bastard than you already are"

Matt went quiet for a moment before replying, "Kate has an admirer"

Not expecting to hear that "Oh" Steve said a little surprised

Matt put his hands in his pockets "Yes, oh"

"What does she think?"

"That's the best things that's ever happened to her" Matt tutted

Steve paused for a moment " I told you this would come back on you"

Matt shot Steve a look, "Don't you think I know that"

"So what are you going to do?"

Matt did not reply, instead he pushed passed Steve and went back inside

Kate arrived home a little before six, tired from her long day at work all she wanted was a shower, dinner and sit in front of the television. Thinking

about Matt's suggestion to ring the police Kate looked at the phone, she knew she had to but couldn't. I don't need their help and I don't want it. Kate undressed in the bathroom, suddenly she felt an icy breeze across her neck, and she spun round to face the open bathroom window. Gasping Kate pulled it shut, feeling alone and vulnerable she finished getting undressed and turned on the shower.

When Matt got home later that evening, Kate was dozing on the sofa with the television remote in her hand, closing the door quietly Matt kept his eyes on her to see if she would wake. Suddenly Matt's mobile rang in his jacket pocket but he ignored it, shaking Kate to wake Matt took the television remote and put it aside. Stirring Kate's eyes, open and she quickly sat up; rubbing her eyes she felt disorientated "what time is it?"

Ten to midnight Matt replied without looking at his watch

Kate stood up "must have fallen asleep before the end of that film I was watching"

"You'd better get to bed, it's late" Matt said heading for his room

Kate followed him "Thanks for waking me"

Matt smiled in the dark "I'll leave you there next time"

"Dare ya" Kate said sleepily

"It's on" and Matt disappeared into his room  
"Night"

"Night Matt"

Matt switched on his bedside lamp, sat on the edge of his bed as he got undressed he stopped; turning to his bedroom window he heard a noise. Listening intensely Matt moved to the window and pulled back the curtain, but there was nothing. Matt put it down to be being over tired and finished getting ready for bed.

"Kate got bling too, what's going on?" Jodie said over breakfast the next morning, Jodie decided to pop round to see Matt before work having not seen or heard from the night before

Matt bit into his toast wondering why he brought the subject up in the first place "Yeah, two nights ago"

Jodie sipped her coffee "Wow, what's next lingerie with tickets to Paris for the weekend wrapped inside?"

"It's not funny Jodie" Matt snapped

Slightly taken back with Matt's remark, Jodie looked confused "Never said it was babe, just wondering what's next that's all"

Matt sipped his coffee " I want her to go to the police"

Jodie looked at Matt as if he was insane "what for? It's not as if she's got dead rabbit head in a box" Matt felt as if he was going to lose his temper "This person is a nutter Jodie, he's putting her life at risk"

Jodie could not understand why Matt is assuming Kate's admirer is a man "How?" Jodie asked, "By

sending her flowers and bling? This person could teach other blokes a thing or two about romance and presents” Jodie understood Matt’s concern but at times she thought he blew things out of proportion Matt could not believe what he was hearing and asked himself what is the matter with this girl? “I don’t’ see a stranger showering a woman with gifts anonymously romantic, its sick Jodie”

Jodie rolled her eyes “Whatever Matt, I don’t see why you’re so bothered anyway” Jodie was concerned into why Matt was making such a fuss

“She’s a mate Jodie that’s why I am bothered,” he said curtly

Jodie was not convinced she knew something else was bothering Matt “well it’s not really your say is it, cos Kate don’t look bothered. It’s only you with your over active imagination”

Matt did not think he had an over active imagination, he knew his instincts were right and he did not need Jodie sticking her nose in “I tell her what I think is right Jodie”

Jodie finished her coffee and stood “Do you know what, it seems to me you’re a little bothered about all this just a little too much Matt” and with that Jodie walked out the kitchen leaving Matt to finish his breakfast alone.

Matt pissed off, he had every right to be worried about Kate, and he could not care less what Jodie thought. Suddenly Matt lost his temper and threw his mug of coffee against the wall, and then he



pushed everything on the table onto the floor and watched everything smash to pieces. Looking at the mess, Matt took a deep breath and regained calm, pulling open the cupboard and took out the dustpan and brush, sweeping up the mess Matt thought about what Jodie said, he was bothered but what Jodie did not know was how much and why.

"So who's this admirer then?" Steve asked as he opened a packet of salt n vinegar crisps

Matt sat before Steve in the local pub, it was a quiet night, light traffic with only one bar staff and the sounds of the jukebox finished the mood of a quiet mid week evening.

"Aint gotta clue Steve" Matt replied not wanting to talk about it

"Does Kate?" Steve asked shoving a handful of crisps into his mouth

Matt said back in his chair "Nope"

"Can I ask what she got?" Steve asked through munching

Now Steve was pushing his luck. Matt shot him a look

Rolling his eyes Steve shoved another handful of crisps in his mouth "Has she called the police?" He asked with his mouth almost full

Matt was suddenly put off but Steve eating, the sound of him crunching on his crisps was so loud Matt felt as if it was in 3d cinema sound. Steve was the loudest eater he's ever met, many times they had gone to the cinema and Matt had missed

half the film as he'd be struggling to concentrate due to Steve munching through popcorn and crisps. Steve stopped "what?"

Matt almost smiled "You"

"Sorry man's gotta eat" Steve grinned showing his pearl white dentures, it amazed Matt how someone who ate so many sweets and crisps managed to maintain such perfect looking teeth. Matt shook his head

"This has really got your knickers in a twist, hasn't it?"

"Something like that" Matt muttered

"Has she called the police yet?" Steve asked again

"No, I've told her to but she's not listening and it's fucking me off" Matt replied tightly

"Has she got any idea who it could be?"

Matt shrugged "She hasn't said"

"So she aint got a clue who it is then?"

"That's what I *said*" Matt replied irritated

Steve sensed Matt's irritation "No need to get rude, I'm trying to see what's goin' on"

Matt sat back slightly "whatever"

"So that isn't all that is bothering you is it?"

Matt did reply

Steve finished his crisps and screwed up the packet onto the table "Matt you either get over this or you deal with it, this has gone on for long enough" Steve could not understand how Matt had himself into such a mess; all he had to do was the right thing. At times Steve wondered if Matt purposely made everything so complicated for him, seeing Matt

experience Steve swore he would ever get himself in such a state over a woman.

"I heard you the first time"

Steve sipped his pint "Good, now do the right thing, Jodie don't deserve this and you know it" Steve could never understand why Matt moved in with Kate after all that happened between them, countless times Steve told Matt it was suicide after all that had happened between them. Steve remembers telling Matt 'who is their right mind moves in with their ex girlfriend?'

Matt knew Steve was right, he was finding it hard dealing with everything in the last few months. When he met Jodie, he had hoped things would be different; he was desperate for a new beginning and a chance to put the chance behind him. Despite his hopes, Matt was finding it hard to control his feelings and deal with the past, he now has to face up to it, and first that means Kate.

Later that evening Kate sat alone in the flat watching television, suddenly she heard a noise from outside the door. Kate sat still for a moment wondering if it was just her imagination but she heard the noise again, tuning down the volume on the television Kate moved to the door. Stomach churning with nerves, Kate listened carefully she desperately hoping none was waiting on the other side ready to attack, but how could she be so sure? Kate put her ear to the door, listened once more but there was nothing, she slowly opened the door,

to her relief there was no one there then she noticed a long gift box in front of her, taking the box inside, Kate knew it was from her admirer. Slowly Kate opened the box and screamed.

Matt nearly threw up as he disposed the contents of the box into the outside dustbin, the stench of dirt, maggots and worms shot up his nose like fumes making his stomach turn and his throat itch. Matt coughed before turning back to go inside, Kate was sitting at the kitchen table clutching a cup of tea. Kate was in shock, never in her life had she experienced anything so disturbing, which would do that? Even though Kate was worried where the situation would lead she never expected it to turn nasty. Kate was angry with herself for not taking Matt's advice, putting her life in danger and not being able to see it coming. Kate was soon over her fears towards her admirer and was starting to feel anger.

"Should have listened to you" Kate said quietly as Matt said down beside her

Matt wanted to tell her 'I told you so and you're right you should have listened to me' but he felt now was not the time to gloat, "Doesn't matter"

Kate looked at Matt "Yes it does, I was too busy feeling flattered rather than fearing for my life" looking away "I put myself in danger"

"Kate, you-"

Suddenly Kate lost her temper "Oh Matt shut up! You and I both know this was gonna happen"

There was a moment's silence; Matt was taken back by her outburst

Kate stood up and looked at Matt deep in the eye "So let's stop pretending, just say I told you so Kate"

Matt did not know what to say, what did have into Kate? Why was she acting so resentful towards me? Kate sighed feeling a little guilty but her anger still burned inside her "Look, I'm going to bed, I'll see you in the morning"

Matt and Kate did not sleep well that night, Kate relayed events in her head for most of the night and Matt thought about Kate's admirer. Matt wanted to find out who he was and wondered where to start, maybe check out some of her male colleagues, or see if there is anyone who she has met recently, whom he does not know about. Matt thought about Kate's night of recently, was there anyone she danced with or spoke to? He hated this. Why does Kate have to have an admirer? In addition, why now?

At breakfast, conversation was minimal; Kate left and met up with Lauren leaving Matt in the flat alone.

"Wow, two days this week I'm honoured" Lauren said sitting down

Kate half smiled "Don't get used to it, I'm going into work later"

Lauren pretended to look hurt "You get me every time Kate"

Sipping her coffee, Kate acknowledged Lauren's pale pink fitted blouse she was wearing "New top?"

Lauren put her bag down beside her and nodded "Yeah, got it yesterday"

Kate pointed to it "Nice, I need something like that for work"

Lauren raised an eyebrow "Kate, you don't wear stuff like this, it's not sexy enough for you" pointing to Kate's short sleeved v-neck top which emphasised her cleavage to the maximum.

Kate laughed. Kate knows she is renowned for her cute-sexy dress sense with her countless mini dresses, low cut tops and stilettos in her wardrobe "Lauren please"

Lauren shook her head "When are you gonna realise how much of a head turner you are"

"I keep telling you I don't see it" Kate protested, which is true Kate has never understood the level of attention she receives when she's out and is not aware of how pretty she is in person. Many times Kate has failed to notice males stop in their tracks as he walks along the high street and even

hear the odd hiss from a few females.

Lauren smiled a little "So what's been happening?"

Kate exhaled slowly and explained to Lauren what happened the night before; she was speechless and urging Kate to seek legal help.

"Kate you have to tell the police, this guy sent you a box of maggots for gods sake"

Kate shook her head "I don't wanna get them involved"

Lauren gave Kate a sympathetic look "what happened with Chrissie was a long time ago hun, you can't let that override this"

Ignoring Lauren for a moment, Kate tapped her finger against the table "I wanna find him myself, I wanna stand before him face to face"

Lauren frowned "why?"

Kate lowered her voice a little " I wanna do this for myself, I should have done this is the first place instead of getting caught up in everything"

Lauren sat back in her chair "But you didn't see the point at the time"

Kate shook her head as she looked down in her coffee "No excuse Ren, I put myself in danger"

Lauren crossed her arms "Now you sound like Matt, has he been making you feel like shit?"

"No, he's been great actually"

Lauren rolled her eyes, she did not believe Kate for a moment she knew Matt has been bullying her into doing what he wanted and getting on his high horse at Kate's reluctance. "Sounds like a yes then"

Kate glanced out the window, she could feel the conversation leading to something else, and she preferred it not to "Ren, he said nothing"

Lauren sipped her coffee and replaced the cup carefully on the table " To this day I dunno why you moved in with that man, it's a miracle the man aint in a wooden box by now"

Kate shifted in her seat slightly, he always felt uncomfortable speaking to anyone about her past relationship with Matt, having dealt with a teenage pregnancy, miscarriage and then being told she is unable to conceive. It has been ten years since Matt, Kate had dated, and as far as she was concerned, it was ancient history "We're mates Ren, that's it"

"Does Matt see it that way"?

"Of course he does, he knows that" Kate said quickly

Lauren wondered why Kate refused to admit Matt still harboured feelings for her. Lauren could see it was as plain as day Matt's reaction is fuelled by jealousy and his feelings for her. What is the matter with this girl? Anyone can see Matt's nose is seriously out of joint by this admirer, which is why he's acting like he's still her boyfriend. Lauren remembered how the break up affected them both, especially Matt who convinced her that he would never recover from it. Lauren decided to change the subject slightly seeing uncomfortable Kate was

"So why the sudden man hunt?" she asked taking a



bite out of her muffin

Kate paused before she replied “ I wanna find him Lauren and ask him why he wants me afraid of living in my old shadow”

Lauren did not like the idea of Kate carrying out her own detective work, “ you can’t just go after someone who you don’t know, what if he’s dangerous?”

Kate sighed “ I know, but I’ve had maggots on my doorstep and I have to do something”

Despite Laurens reservations, she understood Kate’s motives and knew in her position she would want to do the same. “How are you going to start?

Kate tapped the table lightly with her forefinger”  
I don’t know yet”

“Have you spoke to Matt about this?”

Kate sat back in her chair as she recalled last night “No, but he’ll be fine about it”

Like hell he will Kate, he’s gunna want you to do it his way. Lauren reached over and took Kate’s hand “Look, I may not agree with what you’re doing, but I understand”

Kate smiled “Thank you”

“All I ask is that you be careful”

Kate squeezed back “Promise”

Jodie peeped through the letterbox and waited for Matt to answer the door “Come on” she muttered “ I’ve been out here for ages”

Matt opened the door; he half smiled before letting Jodie in. he really did not want to see Jodie

today, she was the last person on his mind.

Jodie walked past in a huff "Didn't you get my text this morning?"

"No, must have missed it" Matt lied, he received it hours ago and was putting off replying, besides she was still thinking about Kate after last night

Jodie sat perched on the edge of the sofa, she knew Matt was lying but she was no mood for an argument with her boyfriend as she wanted to spend time with him " So do you wanna go see the new batman movie?" Matt did not want to do anything right now " I'm not really fussed Jode" he replied pulling out his mobile from his back pocket, he had hoped Kate would have text him or even ring.

Jodie sensed Matt's mind was elsewhere and she wanted to know where, ever since Kate discovered her admirer he seemed pre-occupied, on edge and distant and Jodie hated it "Do you wanna go or not? Cos I can book the tickets over the phone"

Matt wanted to ring Kate to see where she was, so he could clear the air from last night " I think I'll give it a miss tonight Jode, I've got an early start in the morning"

Jodie was pissed off "Okay, we'll have dinner hear then"

Matt shook his head wishing Jodie would leave him alone " Make it another night"

Jodie stood up, what is his problem? why is she acting like such a moody bastard? "Fine, I'll get out your hair then" she said, feeling put out

Matt felt a pang of guilt but he wanted to speak to

Kate "Sorry Jodie, make it anything night" he offered

Jodie shrugged, she wanted to scream at Matt and tell him to go fuck himself, how dare he treat me like this! Just as she opened the door to leave, Kate walked in. Matt and Kate looked at each other. Jodie could sense something and she did not like it. She felt as if something happened between Kate and Matt last night, which explained Matt's offish mood towards her. Jodie could not stand it, she stand the thought of something going on between them, slamming the door behind her Jodie stood behind the door for a moment and let tears run down her face.

Matt was relieved to see Kate and Kate wanted to clear the air and tell Matt her plans. Matt noticed how pretty Kate looked today; she was dressed in tight fitted jacket, skinny trousers, and green heels. Her hair loose on her shoulders, wearing only mascara and eye shadow and Matt thought she looked great. For a moment, Matt could not take his eyes off her

"Hi" Matt said putting his hands in his pockets

"We need to talk" Kate said closing the door behind her

Matt walked towards her, his stomach began to churn with nerves, and he did not know why "Yeah about last night-"

Kate shook her head as she threw her bag down on the sofa "Forget it, it doesn't matter"

Matt did not agree "No you were right, I was half

blaming you for what happened” he continued, “I was out of order”

“Like I said, it’s in the past” Kate appreciated Matt’s modesty but now it was not the issue. Her main concern was finding her admirer and fast Matt felt deflated; he remembered those words Kate said to him the night of their miscarriage. The atmosphere that evening was the worst he had experienced in his life, Matt swears those words will haunt him forever.

“I just wanted you to know that” Matt added feeling as if he would getting the message across to Kate as he would have liked, it was as if Kate did not care what he had to say.

There was a silence before Kate spoke again “ I wanna find him Matt, I wanna find my admirer”

Matt was taken back by Kate’s announcement “What are you talking about?”

“Exactly what I said Matt” Kate replied picking up her bag “I wanna do exactly what it takes without the police”

Matt followed Kate, he did not want her going on a rampage, and risk getting killed in the process “How are you going to do that?”

Kate faced Matt “ I dunno, but I’ll think of something”

Matt did not like what he was hearing “Like what? Put posters around the street?”

Kate sighed with irritation “I’m not stupid Matt”

Matt begged to differ “This is *dangerous* Kate”

Kate rolled her eyes, sometimes Matt really got in

her nerves "So you keep telling me Matt, but I have to do something he's not going to stop until I stop him" Kate walked into the bedroom, taking off her watch she put in on her dressing table she had hoped for Matt's support.

Matt could not help but to feel the remark about reminding her was directed at him, will he ever live it down? "All I am saying is that you need-"

Kate was not in the mood for Matt's negativity; sometimes she thought Lauren was right. "Do you know what Matt if you're not going to help then that's fine" she interrupted

Matt lost his temper " Oh do what the fuck you want Kate! I mean this wouldn't be the first time"

Kate looked at Matt

Instantly Matt wished he could take back what he said, shit! why did I say that for? Matt went to speak, but looking at Kate, he knew it was too late "That's right, " Kate hissed "And judging by the last couple of days it will always be the case won't it Matt?"

Jodie stood in front of her bedroom mirror eyes red from crying. She wiped her face and exhaled. She could not stop thinking about the way Matt was looking at Kate when she left; it felt as if they were keeping secrets. Ever since Matt had discovered Kate's admirer, it was now about Kate and her admirer. Sitting down on her bed Jodie thought about their relationship, Jodie wanted Matt but felt he was holding back. Jodie hoped her reservations towards Kate would disappear but they did not, Jodie is aware how serious Matt and Kate were of how far in the past it was but she felt it was not water under the bridge. Jodie lay back down on her bed and knew she HAD to do something. Suddenly her mobile phone rang, she rolled over and answered it

Steve eyes widened in horror "she got a box of what?"

Matt sat back and exhaled lightly "You heard"

"Matt this is serious shit" Steve shook his head as she screwed up an empty crisp packet in his hand; sitting in the pub it was quiet with music from Coldplay playing the background.

"what did Jodie say when you told her"

Matt shrugged "I haven't spoken to her much, it's just a bit mad at the moment"

Steve knew Matt was avoiding Jodie while trying to deal with his feelings with Kate, he thought it was

wrong and Jodie deserved better "I'm not gunna say anything, I'm tired of telling you what you should do"

"I'm gunna see her later" Matt knew Steve was right but at the moment he wanted to sort things out with Kate

Steve nodded with acknowledgement

"I don't understand some people who'd wanna do that to someone" Matt looked at Steve "which sick fucker is that hell bent on making her life a misery"

Steve shrugged "isn't there anyone from work or someone she used to date or something?"

Matt shook her head "She says there isn't, but I'm not sure. We had a massive row last night and I'm dunno what's going on in her head right now"

"She don't wanna call the police does she?"

"instead she wants to find him herself"

Steve frowned "How? A sniffer dog and a pipe?"

Matt almost smiled at Steve's remark "she's adamant Steve, she don't want the police involved"

"well she needs to do something before it gets really serious"

Matt looked at Steve deep in the eye "I hope not"

Later that evening Matt was out leaving Kate alone in the flat. Reflecting over the day, she was angry. what was it he could not see that was important to her? How dare he say that to me! Does Matt still resent for what for miscarriage. Kate could not think straight, she forced herself to focus on her admirer, and Matt would have to wait.

Sitting at the kitchen table, her mind raced where should I start. She thought about asking her parents to lend her some money to install security equipment but she would need to ask the council which would arise too much suspicions Kate then wondered if asking all the residents in the block if they had seen anything or anyone suspicious, thinking it was a good idea she decided she would start tomorrow. Looking at the clock it was almost ten to eight sighing Kate realised she had only had breakfast, needing to eat Kate decided to order in. remembering there was a Chinese takeaway menu in the lounge, Kate stood up from the table. Making her way to the lounge Kate noticed something out of the corner of her eye; she topped and saw an envelope sticking out from under the door. Kate almost froze, a sudden rush came over her body walking to the door Kate could feel her adrenalin. Kate picked up the envelope and tore it open

*'Roses are red violets are blue, you're never going to find me until you know who'* and at the bottom of the page Kate read *'I hope you liked my gifts'* Kate dropped the piece of paper and opened the front door, running out onto the landing she swung round to the stairs "where are you!" she screamed, "who the fuck are you!"

Matt rang the doorbell to Jodie's flat and waited, standing out on the front step he looked up and waited for Jodie to answer. There was a buzz and Jodie's voice heard over the intercom



"Come on up Matt"

Pulling the door open, Matt walked inside

Just then the phone rang, Kate listened to it ring before dashing back inside to answer it

"Get my gift"

Kate's heart nearly stopped

"I take that as a yes then"

Kate tried to guess the voice but it was too distorted, it sounded as if the person was speaking through a device

Kate could not believe this was happening, how did he get my number and know I was here? Kate looked to the window; maybe he is outside or even in the building

Kate finally spoke "who are you?"

There was a chuckle before the line went dead; in a state of desperation, Kate did a number recall only to be told the caller withheld their number. Slamming the phone down Kate felt sick; she felt in danger but did not want to leave the flat. Running to the door Kate locked it shut and added the chain. Standing with her back to the door, Kate was petrified.

"Matt we need to sort this out" Jodie said sitting before him

Matt agreed, but in truth he did not know where to start "Yeah, I've been thinking that too jode"

Jodie sighed "I feel like I'm fighting a losing battle with you Matt" she before she carried on, carefully choosing her words so not to start an argument "All this business with Kate is messing us up Matt"

Matt knew Jodie was right, but he had hoped she would not make an issue out of it leaving him enough time to sort things out in his head "Kate's a mate Jode, I'm just looking out for her like I keep saying" he explained lightly

Jodie shook her head "It doesn't seem like that Matt"

Matt did not want to talk about Kate's admirer "Not this again Jodie"

"Yes this again Matt"

Standing by the armchair Matt sighed with irritation "What is there to say, we went out we broke up end of story" he snapped

Jodie stood up "It's more than that, it's the way you and her were looking at each other the other day"

Matt did not want to spend the whole defending himself "There's nothing going on Jodie" he said tightly

Jodie did not believe him "Matt you and Kate have a history deeper than a grave, there's still stuff between you even if you know it"

Matt could sense there was no reasoning with Jodie and she was right "Jode, I haven't go-" suddenly his phone rang, pulling it out of his pocket he answered it

"Hello. What! I'm coming"

Jodie crossed her arms "No prizes for guessing who that was"

Matt reached for the door "Gotta go Jode, I'll-"

"See, she clicks her fingers and you come running!"

Jodie spat

Matt was in no mood for Jodie's outbursts tonight, he had to get home.

Jodie gave a false laugh "Just look at you Matt you're halfway out the door"

"Do you know what? I aint got time for this"

"Matt if you go running to her one more time, I swear we're over!" Jodie cried, "If you leave things like this, we're over"

At that moment, Matt did not care what Jodie thought, breaking up with her was the right thing to do, and she doing it was perfect for him. Looking at Jodie for a moment, Matt thought he tried his best at making everything work but it was too difficult "Take care Jode" and closed the door behind him

Jodie went berserk and began picking things ups around her and throwing them at the door, screaming she was filled with rage "I HATE YOU!" she shrieked before bursting into tears, "YOU CAN'T FUCKING DO THIS TO ME!!" Jodie began searching through the mess and found her mobile, taking a deep breath she

went into her address book.

When Matt arrived home, he was worried about Kate as she hardly said two words and sat staring into space while the television was on. Looking at Kate for a moment she looked vulnerable, scared and as if, she was about to fall to pieces. He hated to see her suffer and he felt helpless, sitting beside Kate, he took her hand and squeezed it.

"Kate we have to do something"

Kate shifted slightly in her seat "I know that Matt"

Matt still holding her hand "I wanna get the police involved, it's the only way to catch this bastard"

Kate went quiet, Matt hated it went Kate went quiet it felt as if she was shutting him out "Babe, I'll ring them if you don't wanna"

Kate shot Matt a look "I said I don't want them involved Matt"

Matt closed his eyes in dismay and suddenly remembered when Kate and her sister Christina were attacked in her home during a burglary. Kate spent hours with the police giving evidence, during that time, Christina lost her life due to a gunshot to the chest, and Kate was inconsolable. The incident went to trial and the attackers were sentenced to fifteen months in prison, but were released within a year. Kate was mortified, she could not believe only a year had been given for taking her beloved sister's life, 'what about the other 23!' Kate screamed 'what about them' as Kate left the court

that day Matt tried to be positive, despite not being able to understand how the offenders had received a light sentence. Kate swore to herself she had lost faith in the justice system and she never wanted anything to do with it again.

"Kate" Matt began

"No Matt, I wanna find him on my own" she protested pulling away from Matt, " I don't want them involved"

Matt knew he was fighting a losing battle and he had enough of fighting "Okay, I'll help you" he said taking her hand again "I just don't want anything to happen to you"

Kate felt taken back as it had been a long time since she had seen Matt's caring side; it reminded her of when they were together, "Nothing will, just as long as you help me"

Looking in Kate's eyes Matt was reminded of how much he loves and wondered if he would ever stop. Squeezing her hand tight "I will and I promise we'll find the bastard"

Kate squeezed back, feeling as if she was making progress already "Okay"

Tossing and turning that night Matt could not sleep, his mind was racing. Where would he start? He wondered if Kate moving out would be a good place to start, but knew Kate would refuse. Matt thought about installing cameras or alarm system in the flat, he knew he would have to ask landlord permission but he could not see that being a problem. Suddenly Matt saw something move out the corner of his eye, looking to his bedroom window he listened and watched for a moment, he saw it again it looked like a shadow. Matt quickly sat up and moved to the window; pulling back the curtain, Matt looked out but saw nothing. Then Matt heard a loud thump coming from outside his bedroom door, what was that! Matt hurried into the darkness and stood in the hallway. Listening he knew someone was out there, he could feel it in his skin and bones. Matt hoped it was the admirer, prayed it was he so he could grab him, and smash his skull into the ground. Matt could feel his adrenaline beginning to pump, his heart thumping against his chest and his hands were beginning to sweat. Whoever the fuck you are, I'm ready for you.

Matt moved closer to the kitchen, he was sure someone was there. If I hear anything, I'm going in. There was another thump; Matt burst in the kitchen and saw someone lying on the kitchen floor, his heart nearly stopped. Despite the darkness, Matt recognised the person it was Jodie. Matt reached for the kitchen light and switched it on.

"What the fuck" Matt whispered

Suddenly, Kate jumped out of her sleep she thought she heard something. Catching her breath, she ran out her bedroom

"Matt" she called out "Matt!"

Anxious Kate dashed into the kitchen to find Jodie lying dead before her astounded Jodie looked at Matt who just stared down at Jodie's body. "What is she doing in our kitchen?"

Matt looked to the open window; he could not believe what was happening, what was Jodie doing here? "I don't know Kate" he managed to say, suddenly his stomach was filled with dread and then he realised.

Kate noticed there was a piece of paper in Jodie's back pocket of her jeans, she noticed something was written on it turning her head to read it, it said *'Your admirer'*

Lauren sipped her coffee "well Jodie as your admirer does not surprise me"

Kate frowned "Why'd you say that?"

"Think about it Kate, her jealousy towards you"

"I'd rather she had it out with me"

Lauren smiled "She didn't see it like that, she wanted Matt and she had to get rid of you to get him, or so that was her plan"

Kate sighed "Still can't get my head around this, I saw nothing"

"How were you meant to see that? The crazy bitch covered her tracks"

Kate shook her head "She had no history of mental

illness, she was just driven by her own emotions”

“Yes of delusion” Lauren added

“Poor Matt, I can’t even begin to imagine how he feels”

Lauren shrugged “I think he’s over the moon”

Kate shot Lauren a look “That’s not funny Ren, she was the love of his life”

Lauren rolled her eyes, my god this girl is so dumb! “No, you are Kate when are you gunna get that through your head, Matt’s in love with you”

Kate was taken back by Laurens’s revelation, she never thought in a million years Matt still had feelings for her, she thought her miscarriage had ended everything between them “What?”

“Look, he may not be my favourite person but it’s plain and simple” Lauren took Kate’s hand “Kate that man hasn’t stopped loving you and only you couldn’t see that”

Kate was quiet, was this true? “Did Matt say any of this to you?”

Lauren shook her head ‘No, but you don’t have to be a genius to work it out, why do you think he was carrying on like a jealous boyfriend?”

Kate put her hand to her mouth, oh my god

“So now you know, what are you gunna do about it?”

When Kate got home Matt was in the kitchen, still in shock she walked into the kitchen

Matt was pouring pasta into a saucepan of boiling water ‘hey, dinner’s five minutes way’ he said sprinkling herbs into boiling water



Kate stood in the doorway, wondering where to start how was she going to ask Matt if what she had heard was true. She could not say 'hi Matt, so you're still in love with me, never did she think Matt still had feelings for her and now she wondered if she felt the same.

Matt turned down the heat under the saucepan, looking at Kate, he could sense Kate wanted to say something important "what's wrong"

Kate knew if Lauren was right her relationship with Matt would change, she would be unable to live with him until she was able to accept how Matt felt.

"Matt, I need to ask you something"|

"Shoot" he said taking up a wooden spoon

"I heard something today and I wanna know if it's true"

"Yeah" Matt said slowly

"I was chatting to ren and she mentioned something to me," Kate continued

Matt's stomach churned, he knew Kate now knew how he felt but now the question was how did she feel.

Matt was not sure if he could handle being rejected, he had spent too long loving Kate. "Kate" he began

"So is it true then?"

Putting down the wooden spoon, Matt know now there was no turning back "Yeah it is"

Kate did not know what to say, she thought about the last few months and how Matt had supported her.

Kate looked at Matt, she had two admirers, one was dead, and the other one was alive

"So where do we go from here?' Matt asked, inside his nerves were churning away

Kate smiled "we'll chat over dinner"

Backing away before Matt could say anything, Kate headed for her room. For the first time in weeks, she felt safe, safer than in a long time. Walking into her room, Kate heard her phone beep it was a text message, opening it she read

*'Roses are red, violets are blue, don't think you have got rid of me that easily xx your admirer'*

*To be continued...*

