

Ghosted (Version 2)

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INT. STUDIO FLAT, BEDROOM - NIGHT

RUSSELL (male, 30s?) checks his reflection. Hair, nails, smile: perfect. He's wearing a casual blue hoodie but is done up smart, but sort of casual. He spins on the spot, checking himself out in the mirror. The lamps dimmed to the perfect warm glow. He struts out, slapping the lights off, walking past the toilet then suddenly pausing to think, he then casually walks back into his toilet and flushes it and then walks back into his living room.

CUT TO TITLES:

INT. STUDIO FLAT, KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Russell power-walks into his pristine kitchen. He shuffles and rearranges plates and cutlery.

The doorbell rings.

Russell stops. He calmly walks to the fridge and pulls out a bottle of fizzy wine. He pours a glass and places it gently on the countertop. Then he strolls to the door of his open-plan living room / kitchen in his apartment.

The camera stays put. We hear a door open somewhere.

ALLIE (O.S)

Hi!

RUSSELL (O.S)

Come on in! Sorry, I was just in the middle of-- I wasn't expecting you just yet!

They walk in. ALLIE (female, 30s) is just as well dressed as Russell. She's got a designer-looking jacket on.

ALLIE

What were you in the middle of?

RUSSELL

Just arranging the mise. Let me help you with that.

Russell helps Allie shimmy out of her coat. She's in a skimpy red evening dress.

RUSSELL

Did I mention we're staying in tonight?

ALLIE

I know. I like dressing up.

Russell smiles. Allie picks up the glass on the counter.

RUSSELL

Oh I feel a little underdressed now..
Prosecco?

ALLIE

This one?

RUSSELL

Sure, I'll pour another.

Russell leaves the room. Allie sits and drinks. Russell reappears in a spotless apron saying WORLD'S GREATEST CHEF. Allie does a split-take.

RUSSELL

Need a bib?

Allie laughs and playfully swats him away.

ALLIE

So what are we having, ratatouille?

RUSSELL

(mock shocked)
You know my secret! Stir Fry!!
But if that's not your kind of
thing there's a pizza menu in the
drawer next to you.

ALLIE

Not the most romantic of foods...
But sure. It doesn't have onions does it?
Remember I'm allergic.

RUSSELL

Phew! Lucky you told me!
... No Onions!

Russell turns away. Allie checks the drawer. There is indeed a pizza menu there. But a fancy one. She peers underneath though and there's a really awkward porno DVD in the drawer. Allie shakes her head in disbelief and brushes it off. Russell continues to cook the stir fry while talking to her.

ALLIE

Oh! You had that interview today.
How'd it go?

RUSSELL

You know, another douchebag trying to use me as
he pretends to be everything I want.

ALLIE

Sounds like dating!

RUSSELL

God, that's depressing. Well if you can't beat 'em, join 'em. Hello, Ms. Nickson, welcome to your three-month review.

Russell puts the spatula to his head, burning his face slightly pretending it's a phone.

RUSSELL

James Flipping Blunt!

Allie laughs. Russell changes hands and then continues talking.

RUSSELL

HR has lost your CV, and I'd like to go over your work history.

ALLIE

Of course, what would you like to know?

RUSSELL

Just summarize your experience: previous employers, start and end dates, as well as key Experiences.

Silence. Allie finishes her wine.

RUSSELL

References would be a plus.

ALLIE

You're kidding, right?

RUSSELL

Well, yeah, but since we're talking about it... What's the worst that could happen, speak of the dead and they shall appear?

ALLIE

What about your past?

RUSSELL

I'm an open book, you know that.
He pours her more wine.

ON BLACK 'Starters'

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Russell plates up two starters.

RUSSELL

So tell me about your first love.
Allie bursts out laughing.

ALLIE

Quentin?

Announced by the strum of his acoustic guitar, QUENTIN (male 30s, in tye-dye co-ords) is in the room with them, he is obviously a figment of Allie's imagination.

ALLIE

God, it's been years since I
thought about him.

QUENTIN

Hey, lil Allie. Long time no...
whatever this is. D'ya miss me?

ALLIE

He was a teenage hippy who didn't
shower, didn't use deodorant and
couldn't play a guitar.

Quentin plays the same chord again, struggles with a second, gives up and goes back to the first. He looks around, pleased with himself and seeking praise.

ALLIE

His lyrics were the worst. He
rhymed 'Quentin' with 'went in'.

RUSSELL

Sounds harmless enough.

ALLIE

In EVERY song.

QUENTIN

(Singing) Quentin! Went in! Allie!

Russell laughs.

RUSSELL

Bless his little brain. I'm
guessing you dumped him.

ALLIE

Well, he was never going to break
MY heart. I think he's in banking
now, but I'll always remember his
stupid grin as he played guitar.

QUENTIN

Mention how I'm all supportive of the environment man!

Quentin plays that one chord again and pulls the face she's talking about.
Allie nods at Quentin who's now standing beside Russell. Russell looks behind
him wondering who Allie is making eye contact with.

ON BLACK 'Main Course'

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

Russell serves the main course and tops up Allie's wine.

RUSSELL

So what was your longest
relationship?

ALLIE

Umm, yeah. About three years?

RUSSELL

Three? Wow! What was his name?

ALLIE

Dan.

No music this time, but DAN (30s, male) now stands in the room. He glares at
Allie as he leans casually against a wall. He's huge with tattoos wearing a
wife beater and has a large creepy smile.

DAN

Hey, Allie. You're looking well.
And by well I mean awful. Like
really REALLY bad. Genuinely.

RUSSELL

Did it end well?

ALLIE

No.

DAN

Bitch.

RUSSELL

So how do you make a relationship work for a decade?

ALLIE

Well... communication.

RUSSELL

Really?

ALLIE

Consistency..

DAN

Keep talking.

ALLIE

And Love..

DAN

Why don't you tell him the truth?
He seems nice. Truth is, mate,
You only need one person to be in
love as long as the other can keep a secret.

RUSSELL

So how come it's over?

ALLIE

We met when we were young and idealistic, and three years later
we both kinda realized we weren't who we had hoped...

DAN

Is that what you call it?
Because I call it every word out of
your mouth was a lie... or bullshit.

RUSSELL

I'm sorry to hear that.

DAN

Don't be sorry, mate. She took me
in with this same victim rubbish.
I wasted a decade trying to fix
problems that I couldn't because
YOU CAN'T FIX EVIL.

Dan throws the bottle of wine at Allie's head, she dives behind the table.

RUSSELL

You okay?

ALLIE

Yeah, I dropped at earring?

RUSSELL

(short pause)

You're not wearing any earrings?

On top of the table now Dan and Quentin are sitting eating each of Russell and Allie's food cockily?

DAN

Keep acting as if I don't exist,
it's what you were best at.

QUENTIN

Mellow out, bruh. Have you tried
craft-brewed CBD kombucha tea?
I had it this one time in Zimbabwe.

DAN

Oh, shut up!

Russell and Allie sit back down at the dining table and Quentin and Dan are gone, Allie's stomach suddenly makes a horrific sound and she runs out the room.

It's then slowly revealed that they're at the edge of the room Quentin and Dan are there both sharing popcorn.

QUENTIN

How do you think it's going?

DAN

Oh! Shutterty uppity!

ON BLACK 'Dessert'

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

The toilet flushes and we cut to Russell who pulls some chocolatey desserts out of the fridge. Allie walks over looking slightly pale, but trying to hold herself together. Russell is oblivious.

ALLIE

Did that starter have any Onions in it?

RUSSELL

The Bhaji's?

ALLIE

Yeah...

There is a silent pause and at the edge of the scene we see Quentin trying to take popcorn from Dan. Dan swats his hand away.

RUSSELL

So what was your latest break up?

ALLIE

Edgar? I missed a phone call, then never heard from him again.

RUSSELL

Just like that? Ghosted for not answering a call?

ALLIE

I guess. I just hope he's okay.

Allie's phone is in her hand bag on the table in front of her, she sees it ringing with Edgar's name. She can't bring herself to pick it up and look. Russell looks puzzled looking at Allie staring into her handbag as no one's calling?

Suddenly Edgar, a skinny goth dressed fully black and white with long black straight hair, reaches into her bag and then hands her the phone to answer it and then turns away overly dramatically.

ALLIE

Sorry, can I get this?

Russell looks at the phone and then back at her.

RUSSELL

No one's calling.

Allie's phone keeps ringing. Edgar holds his phone out to Allie. We see on the screen that he's calling her.

RUSSELL

Are you alright? You look like
you've seen a ghost.

The phone keeps ringing. Allie puts it in her handbag. It's still just as loud. Edgar keeps reaching for her to the edge of shot with the phone, Allie is batting him away. Edgar starts to groan. Allie gets up and walks away.

ALLIE

Any more of that wine?

RUSSELL

You've really not had the best
luck, have you?

ALLIE

Wine?

RUSSELL

Under the sink.

Allie opens up the cupboard under the sink and Edgar is inside and he dramatically falls out groaning. Allie ignores him and grabs the wine.

ALLIE

It is what it is.

RUSSELL

But aren't you pissed off at how
these people treated you? I
mean, Quentin seems like he was
an adorable idiot, but the other
two...

Quentin smiles and Dan and Edgar look upset.

ALLIE

Let's talk about something else.

RUSSELL

And I'm guessing the blokes in
between didn't act like Prince
Charming, either!

Allie puts her bag down on the floor behind her.

She then spins around so she's face-to-face with Russell. Behind him are maybe five other boyfriends in addition to Quentin, Edgar and Dan, the craziest looking bunch of people you've ever seen. A guy dressed as a dragon, a man in a mankini, a guy with an axe in his head.

ALLIE

STOP!

RUSSELL

Sorry, to upset you just..

All the boyfriends have now disappeared. Allie gets up and walks over to the other side of the room.

ALLIE

Oh thank god!

Look If they were really meant to be,
I wouldn't be here, now would I?

RUSSELL

I hadn't thought of it like that.

Allie sits down on the sofa. Russell joins her. They look adoringly into each other's eyes...

ALLIE

I just want to forget about all those GUYS
you're what's important right now...

Allie and Russell kiss passionately.

MARIE (O.S)

Allie!! Allie!! You forgot about me!!

A woman with pink hair and a rainbow hat appears in the window outside. Allie opens her eyes to see Marie in the window behind her.

MARIE

Allie! You said I meant something to you...
You promised we weren't just experimenting...

ALLIE

(to Russell)

Hold on!

Allie gets up and closes the blinds on the window.

ALLIE

Now, let's just enjoy tonight!