

YOU TELL ME

by

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EXT. A1 NORTHBOUND - SUNSET

A car moves along the A1 towards Newcastle, driven by a young woman named Kathy who appears anxious. Her driving is erratic, the car drifting on and off the hard shoulder.

EXT. NEWCASTLE PUB - NIGHT

Two young men, Adrian and Ike, approach the pub.

INT. PUB - NIGHT

Eric and Jo are sitting at a table. Eric looks disconcerted as he sees Adrian and Ike enter the pub. Ike goes over to some friends while Adrian heads for the bar.

ADRIAN
(to the barman)
I'll have a 'p' please Bob.

Having been served, Adrian notices Jo and nods an acknowledgement. He joins Ike.

IKE
Where's my drink?

TIME LAPSE.

Adrian approaches Jo and Eric's table.

ADRIAN
(to Jo)
Can I have a word.

JO
Yeah sure.

She indicates to an empty chair.

ADRIAN
No, I mean...

He indicates somewhere private. Jo looks at Eric.

JO
(to Eric)
I'll be five minutes.

Ike watches Adrian and Jo leave together.

INT. LADIES TOILETS - NIGHT

Jo checks that the toilets are empty before Adrian enters. He grabs her around the waist.

ADRIAN

Nice to see ya, to see ya..

She giggles and pulls him towards the end cubicle. Adrian stops as they pass the condom machine. Seeing it out of order, he smacks it in frustration.

ADRIAN

Oh, for fuck sake!

JO

(after a pause)

Oh, don't worry about it.

Jo pulls him into the cubicle laughing.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

At the bar, Ike is talking with some friends. He looks over at Eric who sits alone at the table nursing a beer.

TIME LAPSE.

Ike sees Eric looking worried. He gets his beer and, with his friend Helen, joins Eric.

EXT. A1 NORTHBOUND - NIGHT

Kathy pulls on to the hard shoulder. Believing herself unable to continue the journey, she considers turning back. Suddenly, the passenger door is whipped open. Kathy jumps.

HITCHER

(shaking from the cold)

Thanks.

Kathy stares at him, too startled to speak.

HITCHER

Didn't you...?

He indicates behind with his thumb.

HITCHER

...I assumed you stopped for me.

KATHY

No, no I didn't see you.

There is an uncomfortable pause.

HITCHER

Couldn't give us a lift, could you?

KATHY

I... I don't know...

HITCHER
(interrupting)
I'm going to Edinburgh

KATHY
(uncertainly)
I suppose so. I can take you some
of the way.

The hitcher gets in beside her, throwing his rucksack into the back.

HITCHER
Thanks a lot.

Kathy hesitates for a while then shakes her head.

KATHY
Look, I'm sorry. I can't...

She sees the hitcher buckle in his seat belt.

HITCHER
Sorry?

KATHY
It's okay.

Kathy pulls away.

INT. PUB - NIGHT

Adrian, Ike, Eric, Jo and Helen sit together drinking. Adrian seems to be the centre of attention.

ADRIAN
...as long as he`s got the money,
right, so he can say, 'You don't
provide trolleys; what am I
supposed to do? Balance the shit on
my head, blah, blah. You just lost
a customer, mate!' So I'm in there
right, looking at magazines and Ike
the cunt is wandering around the
shop filling the bag with pens,
calculators, books, the lot - even
a fucking kids version of Trivial
Pursuit. He's not being exactly
discreet about it, if you know what
I mean. So sure enough, the store
detective eventually ambles over
like he thinks he's fucking Charles
Bronson, slaps him on the shoulder
as if to say, 'You're nicked my old
son.' What a cunt. Ike goes for his
wallet, all smug like, and it's not
there, coz I got it.

Everyone laughs, including Ike who smacks Adrian around the back of the head. Eric gives Adrian a look of disdain. Adrian finishes his beer and slams the glass down in front of Ike.

ADRIAN
Your round!

Ike gives him the finger.

IKE
Fuck off!

Adrian pulls at Ike's jacket, prodding and poking his shoulder.

ADRIAN
Ike, oi, Ike, drink Ike.

Adrian continues this while Ike extracts a small whiskey bottle from his jacket pocket. Adrian leans over and grabs the bottle before Ike has the chance to drink any, swallowing the contents in one.

HELEN
Your going to be sick!

ADRIAN
I'm never sick!

Two attractive girls pass their table and Adrian gives them a long look. Noticing Jo watching him, he grins at her.

TIME LAPSE

EXT. TOWN STREET - NIGHT

Adrian, not bothered by the cold, walks along the road with Ike and Helen. Eric and Jo are trailing a few yards behind. The others go into a chip shop.

JO
You don't mind, do you?

ERIC
I'd rather we went to be honest.

JO
We won't stay long.

ERIC
Alright. We'll have one drink then we'll go.

They stop outside the shop.

ERIC
Do you want anything?

JO
(shivering in the cold)
No. Have you any fags left?

Eric gives her a cigarette and lights it for her.

ERIC
What was all that about earlier?

JO
Nothing. He's having problems with
his girlfriend. I'll tell you about
it later.

Adrian and Ike come out of the shop with chips. Adrian offers
his chips to Jo.

JO
(taking a chip)
"aren't you cold?"

Ike produces a plastic ketchup bottle from under his coat and
squeezes the contents over Adrian's chips.

ADRIAN
You cunt!

Adrian scoops the ketchup ridden chips and hurls them at Ike.
Jumping back, Ike squirts more sauce in Adrian's direction as
Helen steps out of the shop, just missing the stream.

HELEN
Oi! Watch it!

Adrian, laughing, smears his sauce covered hand over her
face.

HELEN
You bastard!

She wipes the sauce from her chin and chases after him.
Adrian runs into the road in front of a car, which breaks
suddenly, the driver sounding the horn.

DRIVER
(shouting)
Watch what your doing!

EXT. A1 BEYOND NEWCASTLE - NIGHT

Just before an exit on the A1, Kathy pulls over on to the
hard shoulder. She stops the car, leaving the engine running.

HITCHER
Thanks for the lift.

Kathy contemplates for a moment while the hitcher retrieves his rucksack.

KATHY
(looking around)
I can't leave you here.

HITCHER
(opening the door)
It's alright. Someone will stop.

He gets out of the car and points to the exit off the A1.

HITCHER
If you go up to the roundabout and
go across, you can get back.

KATHY
Are you sure?

HITCHER
(nodding)
Thanks again.

He shuts the door and watches Kathy with concern as she drives off the A1 and heads back to Newcastle.

INT. IKE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Ike and Adrian are slouched across the bed. Jo and Eric sit on the couch while Helen sits on the floor against the wall. They are drinking, smoking and listening to music. Eric feels out of place.

The phone outside in the hall rings. Ike leaves the room to answer it.

INT. LANDING - NIGHT

Ike picks up the phone as Leslie, Adrian's girlfriend, comes out of her room to answer it.

IKE
I got it.

She smiles at him and goes into Ike's room.

INT. IKE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Leslie joins Adrian on the bed, watched by Jo.

LESLIE
Coming up?

ADRIAN
 (nodding)
 In a while.

Ike re-enters the room.

IKE
 (looking rushed)
 Fuckin' hell, I've been summoned

He picks up his jacket and takes his keys from a drawer which are filled with condoms.

ADRIAN
 By who?

IKE
 I'll see you later.

He leaves. Adrian looks at Jo who turns her head away.

EXT. HEATON ROAD - NIGHT

Ike struggles to close the front door, then runs off down the road. Kathy, from her car, watches him go.

INT. IKE'S ROOM - NIGHT

VThe door bell rings. Adrian gets up and leaves the room. Eric puts out his cigarette.

ERIC
 (getting up)
 I need a piss!

INT./EXT. FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

Adrian opens the front door.

ADRIAN
 (startled)
 Kathy?

KATHY
 Can I come in?

ADRIAN
 (shaking his head)
 This isn't a good time, Kathy.

KATHY
 Please...

ADRIAN
 ..I'm sorry, Kathy, I can't.

He goes to shut the door but she stops him.

KATHY
This is serious, Adrian
(after a pause)
I've been tested HIV positive.

Adrian stares at her for a moment.

INT. LANDING - NIGHT

Eric is standing outside the toilet door listening.

INT./EXT. FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

ADRIAN
What?

KATHY
I'm sorry. I know this is a bit of
a shock but I had to see you about
it.

ADRIAN
What do you mean?

KATHY
(sighing)
Adrian. You have to see a clinic.

ADRIAN
(shaking his head)
I haven't got it.

KATHY
Adrian...

ADRIAN
...I haven't got it. I.. I've been
tested.

Kathy sighs and enters the hallway, closing the door behind her.

KATHY
Adrian, I know this is difficult.
I've had to deal with this myself.
You have got it. It was you that
gave it to me.

Adrian pauses.

ADRIAN
Is this the best you can do?

KATHY

What?

Adrian stabs his finger at her viciously.

ADRIAN

It's a fucking obsession!

KATHY

Adrian please!

ADRIAN

I know exactly what you're playing
at...

Adrian opens the front door, taking Kathy by the arm and leading her out.

ADRIAN

Get it into your fucking head that
I don't want anything to do with
you.

Pushing her on to the street, he goes to slam the door. The door bounces open and Kathy stares at him with dawning realisation. They stare at each other for a long moment then he shuts the door.

INT. LANDING - NIGHT

Eric is visibly disturbed by what he has heard. Hearing Adrian approach, he enters the toilet.

EXT. HEATON ROAD - NIGHT

Kathy goes back to her car. She sits quietly for a long time then begins to cry.

INT. IKE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Adrian re-enters the room and Joins Leslie on the bed.

LESLIE

Who was that?

ADRIAN

Don't fucking ask!

Adrian hugs his knees up against his chest. Eric returns from the toilet.

ERIC

(to Jo)

Can we go?

Jo nods.

Adrian suddenly springs off the bed.

ADRIAN
I'm going to bed!

LESLIE
I'm making a cuppa tea first, I'll
bring you one up.

Adrian leaves.

LESLIE
(to Eric and Jo)
You can crash here if you want
to. Ike won't mind.

She indicates to the couch.

LESLIE
That pulls out.

JO
(shrugging)
Okay, thanks.

ERIC
I'd rather we go.

JO
We might as well stay.

ERIC
I want to go.

JO
(suddenly annoyed)
Then go.

INT. ADRIAN AND LESLIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Adrian and Leslie are having sex; he lying on top of her. As Adrian climaxes, Leslie's head flops to one side. He takes her chin in his hand and leaves a smear or blood there. Realising she is dead, he scrambles back in horror, falling off the bed and hitting his back on to the floor.

INT. ADRIAN AND LESLIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Adrian awakens, visibly disturbed by the dream. Leslie lies asleep by his side. He pulls back the covers and sits up, wearing boxer shorts and a T-shirt. A cup of tea sits cold and untouched on the bedside table. He wipes his face with his hands and shivers.

He walks over to a dressing table looking for his cigarettes. Opening a drawer, he finds it empty except for several crunched up packets of Marlborough.

INT. IKE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Adrian creeps quietly into the room and looks around for a cigarette. He pauses on seeing Jo and Eric asleep on the couch. He contemplates them for some time, his finger massaging a point on his upper arm. Eventually, he leaves the room, his need for a cigarette forgotten.

INT. ADRIAN AND LESLIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Adrian re-enters the room and on passing the dresser, catches a glimpse of his reflection in the mirror. Going over to it, he sits down on a chair and stares intently at himself.

TIME LAPSE

Leslie wakes up and sees Adrian sitting at the dresser. She climbs out of bed, wearing a night shirt, and goes over to him.

Adrian continues to stare at himself, his fingers scratching away the veneer from the surface of the dressing table. Leslie wraps her arms around his neck.

LESLIE

Are you coming back to bed?

He looks at her through the mirror, seeing the two of them framed like a picture. He smiles at her and nods.

Leslie leads him back to bed where they make love.

EXT. HEATON ROAD - DAWN

Ike walks hurriedly to the front door and lets himself in.

INT.: HEATON ROAD - DAWN

Ike picks up a letter addressed to Adrian and tucks it into his jacket.

INT. IKE'S ROOM - DAWN

Ike enters his bedroom and on seeing Eric and Jo on his couch and Helen on his bed, takes a blanket from the cupboard and settles himself on the floor.

INT. ADRIAN'S ROOM - DAWN

Adrian and Leslie are asleep. The early morning light filters in through the curtains.

EXT. A1 SOUTHBOUND - DAWN

Kathy is driving South. She looks resolved.

THE END