

SOMETHING BORROWED

By

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FADE IN:

INTERCUT - INT. NICOLE'S PARENTS' KITCHEN / MARK'S APT - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: "Day 14 of the lockdown"

NICOLE'S KITCHEN is super clean. MARK'S ROOM is a little messy.

MARK is very well groomed.

MARK

Oh Christine, I thought I was calling Nicole.

CHRISTINE is furious but she is trying to put on a calm face.

CHRISTINE

She doesn't want to talk to you right now, Mark, and I can't blame her.

MARK

I want to apologize to her. I didn't mean to...

CHRISTINE

Of course you didn't mean to. Do you know how much pain you have caused?

MARK

That's not what I'm saying, I can explain...

CHRISTINE

What are you saying then?

MARK is lost for words. He is trying to compose his face, not lose his calm with CHRISTINE.

CHRISTINE

Go ahead, apologize to me. I'll pass it on.

MARK

Can I talk to your daughter, Christine? I hurt her, not you.

CHRISTINE

She doesn't want to talk to you, I told you already. Either you hang up or you apologize to me.

MARK

(sobbing)

I can't. I need to see her. I'm so sorry about everything. I didn't mean to hurt her. But I was so lonely... and Sally too... and she came over... and I really messed up, didn't I.

NICOLE is heard sobbing just off screen, next to CHRISTINE.

MARK

Nicole? Is that you? Can you hear me?

CHRISTINE

You've lost her Mark, you've lost *them both*.

MARK'S face is super confused.

MARK

Them?!

NICOLE
(shouting off screen)
Mum! I haven't told him yet.

CHRISTINE
(talking away from the camera)
But, Nicole, it's his child too.

NICOLE
(shouting off screen)
Hang up right now!

CHRISTINE'S screen goes off.

MARK'S in shock.

MARK
Nicole? Christine? Are you there? What are you
talking about?

FADE TO:

INTERCUT - INT. NICOLE'S CHILDHOOD BEDROOM / MARK'S APT -
EVENING

SUPERIMPOSE: "Day 12"

NICOLE'S ROOM is really messy. There are personal items thrown
across everywhere (old stuffed animals, clothes, books, ...).

MARK'S ROOM is really messy. Clothes and empty take away boxes are everywhere. There is a pair of fancy female panties somewhere half-hidden in the mess.

MARK is a bit messy looking. He is having a 2-day stubble.

MARK

(awkwardly)

Hi.

NICOLE is dressed for an average day in the city.

NICOLE

(awkwardly)

Hi.

MARK

Last time got a little intense.

NICOLE

Yeah. Yes, it did. We have a lot to talk about.

MARK

Look, I'm sorry. I should have told you that Sally was over.

NICOLE

It's my fault too. I know it is not easy for you, stuck in the apartment. And Sally too, she's all alone without her roommate.

MARK

I'm glad you understand. I was so worried after our last call. I don't want to lose you.

NICOLE

You won't lose me, you Big Silly Bear. I still have something amazing I want to tell you.

MARK

(smiling)

I love you my Snuggle Bunny. You are the best.

NICOLE

(laughing)

No, you are the best.

MARK

What do you want to tell me? Did we win the lottery?

NICOLE

(eyes wide open)

What's that behind you?

MARK

(confused)

What do you mean?

NICOLE

(shouting)

You utter bastard! Who's knickers are those?!

MARK

Oh shit.

NICOLE

(a little calmer now)

Are those Sally's?

MARK

I can explain.

NICOLE

You don't need to.

NICOLE hangs up.

MARK sits there defeated for a little longer.

FADE TO:

INTERCUT - INT. NICOLE'S BEDROOM / MARK'S APT - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: "Day 9"

NICOLE'S ROOM is a little messy. Things are still relatively organized but a few books are thrown around, and a stuffed animal is upside down in a corner of the screen.

MARK'S ROOM is a little messy. A few things litter the floor.

Both NICOLE and MARK look like their everyday selves. They are both very happy and smiling when the call starts.

NICOLE

Good afternoon my Big Silly Bear.

MARK

Back at you, Snuggle Bunny. I miss you so much. You wouldn't believe how lonely it gets in the apartment.

NICOLE

I miss you loads too. Hopefully this situation is going to blow over soon and I can fly back to you.

MARK

I can't wait to hold you again.

NICOLE

I have some amazing news to tell you...

SALLY

(off-screen)

Oh, hi, Nicole. How is it at your parents' place?

NICOLE

(surprised)

Sally?! What are you doing there? Mark, what's she doing there?

MARK is signalling SALLY to stay off screen.

MARK

She... um... her roommate is also gone, and she's all alone too. She sometimes comes over for a movie and a chat so we don't go mad waiting for you.

NICOLE

Oh, so you two are playing house now? And I'm not even gone for two weeks?! I can't even...

MARK

It's not like that, Snuggle Bunny. It's crazy over here. The police stop us if we go to the street. It's maddening. We just need to talk to someone.

NICOLE

Well, I can't talk to you right now. I really can't. I'm sorry. Bye.

NICOLE hangs up.

MARK sits there defeated for a little longer. (SALLY comes back and gently touches his shoulder.)

FADE TO:

INTERCUT - INT. NICOLE'S BEDROOM / MARK'S APT - NIGHT

SUPERIMPOSE: "Day 4"

NICOLE'S ROOM is pretty clean. Things are very well organized.

MARK'S ROOM is also pretty clean, everything in its place.

NICOLE looks really tired and maybe a little sick on the call.

NICOLE

Hey, babe. How are you keeping?

MARK is looking pretty fresh, and well put together.

MARK

Hi, Snuggle Bunny. Things are getting a bit crazy over here. Are you okay? You look a little sick.

NICOLE

I'm fine, just super tired, and a bit nauseous. It was a rough flight.

MARK

Hopefully you'll feel better soon. Your mum's cooking should help a lot.

NICOLE

Yes, it should. I'm so happy I got those last minute tickets. I'm sorry that you couldn't join.

MARK

Don't worry. I should be able to join you in a few days when this is all over.

NICOLE

I can't wait. Before I forget, can I ask you a favor?

MARK

Sure, what is it?

NICOLE

Do you know Sally from downstairs?

MARK

She's your yoga buddy, isn't she?

NICOLE

Yes, that's her. I have a book of hers on my nightstand. Could you drop it to her apartment?

MARK

Sure, what's her apartment number?

NICOLE

212, thanks. That book is apparently her quarantine reading goal.

MARK

I'll drop it tomorrow. Now I want to hear about you. Are you planning anything with your parents?

NICOLE

Loads, actually. My mum's birthday is next week, and we have all these plans with my dad...

Voice and picture slowly fade away.

FADE OUT

THE END

CHARACTERS:

NICOLE: 25ish, from Europe, speaks very good English with slight accent

MARK: 25ish, British, NICOLE's long term boyfriend

SALLY: 25ish, little younger than NICOLE, NICOLE's friend from the same apartment complex where NICOLE and MARK live

CHRISTINE: NICOLE's mother, 50ish