

EASTENDERS

EPISODE ONE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY
FOUR

By

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SCENE 1164/1. SQUARE. EXT. DAY LIGHT.
08.30.

LOT

[BRADLEY SITS ON THE 'BENCH OF TEARS', [A MINUTE MART SHOPPING BAG BESIDE HIM]. HE LOOKS DOWN THOUGHTFULLY AT A VALENTINE'S CARD ON HIS LAP [THE FRONT OF WHICH IS OBSCURED BY ITS RED ENVELOPE] THEN STARES ACROSS TOWARDS THE SLATER'S HOUSE [WHERE MO IS ENTERING WITH A LOAF OF BREAD [HAVING SEEN BRADLEY]]. BRADLEY'S STRUGGLING WITH A DECISION, WHEN A VAN PULLS UP. SHOW THE DELIVERY GUY GETTING OUT OF THE DRIVER'S DOOR, CARRYING FLOWERS, TO WHICH ARE ATTACHED NUMEROUS HEART SHAPED HELIUM BALLOONS and an expensive looking gift bag. AS THE GUY APPROACHES THE BRANNING'S FRONT DOOR, BRADLEY GETS UP, CURIOUS]

CUT TO:

SCENE 1164/2. SLATERS'. INT. DAY LIGHT.
08.31.

STAGE 1

[MO'S MAKING TOAST. STACEY, WORSE FOR WEAR, IS QUICKLY GRABBING HER MONEY BAG]

MO: [KNOWINGLY] Looks like someone could do with a fry up.

STACEY: [GRABBING HER COAT] Haven't got time.

MO: Well, don't you want to wait for the post - 'see how many you get?

[STACEY LOOKS UP]

Valentine's cards.

[CHARLIE ENTERS, ONE HAND HIDDEN BEHIND HIS BACK]

STACEY: [PROUD] I couldn't care less. S'all a waste of time and money. [TURNS TO GO]

CHARLIE: [QUICKLY] So you.. won't be wanting this then?

[STACEY SEES A RED ENVELOPE IN HIS HAND]

Just found it on the mat.

[STACEY TAKES IT AND OPENS IT AS MO MOVES CLOSER. IN ON A TASTEFUL VALENTINE'S CARD.. SIGNED 'GUESS WHO']

MO: [SMILES] Secret admirer?

[STACEY SEES MO AND CHARLIE'S SMILES]

STACEY: More like some saddo stalker.
That's all I need.

[AS SHE EXITS, MO AND CHARLIE SHARE A LOOK.]

GO TO STACEY, PAUSING IN THE HALL TO LOOK AGAIN AT THE CARD - SMILING TO HERSELF NOW, HOPING IT'S FROM MAX.]

CUT TO:

SCENE 1164/3. BRANNINGS' HOUSE. INT. DAY
LIGHT. 08.35.

STUDIO A

[BRADLEY, IN THE HALL, IS JUST CHECKING THE ENVELOPE ATTACHED TO THE FLOWERS AND BALLOONS - IT'S MARKED "TO BRADLEY FROM LYDIA". A MOMENT ON HIM, TROUBLED, BEFORE HE HEARS DOT'S VOICE RAISED IN THE KITCHEN]

DOT: [O.S] Now how could I possibly have thought they were for me!

[GO TO DOT AND JIM IN THE KITCHEN AS DOT CONTINUES]

..[IRONIC] It's only our anniversary.
[POINTEDLY AT JIM]
Hard to remember, is it? On Valentine's Day?

JIM: [ON THE SPOT] I..just got my dates mixed up. [LEANING IN TO HER] Now.. why don't I make you a nice cuppa, eh?

DOT: [UNAPPEASED] To mark the occasion?

[THEY SEE BRADLEY ENTER WITH THE BALLOONS AND FLOWERS and gift bag]

JIM: [WELCOMING A DISTRACTION] Careful, son, you might take off there. All that from Lydia, is it?

BRADLEY: [UNENTHUSED] Who else?

[BRADLEY, AWKWARD, OPENS THE GIFT]

JIM: What is it - brandy?

BRADLEY: Aftershave.

JIM: Gotta be a year's supply there.

[BRADLEY LOOKS AWKWARD, BUT DOT
PRESSES HIM]

DOT: And what does your card say?

BRADLEY: [READING IT] She's..managed to
get some time off later. Says we can go
out after all.

DOT: Well.. at least someone's made an
effort. [PICKING UP HER COAT/TO BRADLEY]
'Hope you sent her a card at least. [FOR
JIM'S BENEFIT] Every good woman deserves a
token of affection.

[DOT GIVES JIM A LOOK AND EXITS. ON
BRADLEY, JUGGLING HIS GIFTS, SHARING
A GUILTY LOOK WITH JIM]

CUT TO:

SCENE 1164/4. VIC UPSTAIRS. INT. DAY
LIGHT. 08.40.

STAGE 1

[PHIL LOOKS AT BEN ACROSS THE
BREAKFAST TABLE]

PHIL: So you think Stella deserved that
yesterday, do you?

[BEN LOOKS DOWN]

All she's ever done is try and be
friendly. [ON BEN'S SILENCE] Well hasn't
she?

[BEN FLINCHES A LITTLE AT PHIL'S
RAISED VOICE]

[FRUSTRATED] Look, I'm not angry, I just
want you to tell me what's bothering you.

[BEN LOOKS UP AT PHIL THEN BACK TO
THE TABLE. PHIL LOOKS AWAY THEN BACK
AT BEN]

So what is it? You're not gonna be
satisfied 'til she's out the way?

BEN: I... [cont]

[A PAUSE AS PHIL WAITS FOR A
RESPONSE. FINALLY IT COMES.]

BEN: [cont] ..I've got to go and meet Abi
- she'll be waiting.

PHIL: [PAUSE/GIVES UP] Go on then.

[BEN GOES QUICKLY. ON PHIL AS HE PICKS UP AN OPENED ENVELOPE FROM THE TABLE, TAKES A VALENTINE'S CARD FROM BENEATH IT, MARKED "WITH LOVE, STELLA". OUT ON PHIL, TORN - WHAT TO DO?]

CUT TO:

SCENE 1164/5. MAX & TANYA'S. INT. DAY
LIGHT. 08.42.

STUDIO C

[IN ON A CHILD'S HANDMADE VALENTINE'S
CARD. PULL BACK TO SHOW IT'S IN ABI'S
HAND AS SHE GIVES IT TO TANYA.
[LAUREN'S EATING CEREAL]

ABI: One for you..

[ABI HANDS ANOTHER TO MAX]

..And one for you.

[MAX AND TANYA SHARE AN EMBARRASSED
LOOK]

MAX: [TOUCHED] That's really nice, Abi.

TANYA: [EQUALLY TOUCHED] Must've taken
ages.

ABI: I just wanted you both to have one.

LAUREN: [UNIMPRESSED] They're not
interested in Valentine's Day.

TANYA: Your Dad isn't. [LOOKS POINTEDLY
AT MAX] Thinks it's a rip off.

ABI: It's still a special day, so you
have to do something if you love someone.

[MAX GIVES ABI A THANK YOU PECK]

MAX: How's that?

[ABI SMILES. TANYA HANDS ABI HER COAT]

TANYA: Go on, Cupid, you'll be late for school.

[LAUREN MOVES OUT WITH ABI. TANYA LOOKS AT MAX]

Out of the mouths of babes..

[SHE TURNS AWAY TO THE SINK]

MAX: I said I'd take you out at the weekend, didn't I?

TANYA: But not tonight.

MAX: Tanya, why d'you think I hate Valentine's night? I don't like being told when to be romantic.

TANYA: [KNOWINGLY] You don't like being told we need counselling either.

[ON MAX, UNCOMFORTABLE, AS HE PICKS UP HIS BRIEFCASE]

MAX: Can we talk about this later?

TANYA: [QUICKLY] You said you'd do anything to make me happy.

[A PAUSE ON MAX]

MAX: [ACCEPTING THIS] And I meant it.

[HE KISSES HER]

I won't be late.

[..AND EXITS. ON TANYA AS SHE LOOKS AT ABI'S CARD - "HAVE A HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY" ON THE FRONT. SHE MAKES A DECISION, PICKS UP THE PHONE AND DIALS, TAPPING IMPATIENTLY UNTIL HER CALL CONNECTS]

TANYA: [TO PHONE] Hello? [PAUSE] Yes is there any chance I can make a reservation for tonight? [PAUSE] It's for two.

CUT TO:

SCENE 1164/6. MINUTEMART. INT. DAY LIGHT.
09.15.

LOT

[PATRICK AND JIM ARE SELECTING A SHERRY]

PATRICK: You want this one?

JIM: No, not the Armadillo, she only drinks sweet.

[PATRICK TAKES DOWN A BOTTLE. THEY MOVE TO THE TILL]

PATRICK: And she really thinks you forgot?

JIM: [SMILES] 'Don't suspect a thing. But I'll be pulling out all the stops; few drinks..nice meal indoors..

PATRICK: [QUICKLY IN/SLIGHTLY ALARMED] You're.. not gonna try and cook?

JIM: I might not be Gordon Ramsay but I can stick a chicken in the oven. Roast potatoes..few sprouts on the side?

PATRICK: Hope she appreciates it.

JIM: She will. [CONFIDENTIAL] It's the element of surprise, see? Gets 'em every time.

[JIM SMILES, TURNS TO GO, PASSING YOLANDE, WHO'S OVERHEARD AT THE DOOR]

PATRICK: [EXPLAINING] Looks like Dot's in for a special treat tonight.

YOLANDE: Maybe she's not the only one.
[COMING CLOSER] I may have a little surprise for you too? [SMILES]

PATRICK: [PLAYFULLY INTRIGUED] You don't say.

YOLANDE: 'If' you can manage to get rid of Bert and Jay for the evening.

[SHE GIVES HIM AN ENIGMATIC SMILE AND MOVES OUT THE BACK. OUT ON PATRICK, HIS SMILE FADING NOW - THAT'S MAYBE NOT SO EASY AS IT SOUNDS.]

CUT TO:

SCENE 1164/7. PAT'S HOUSE. INT. DAY
LIGHT. 09.20.

STUDIO B

[DENISE, CHELSEA [IN UNIFORM] AND PAT, ARE GETTING READY TO LEAVE FOR WORK]

CHELSEA: [PROTESTING] Oh come on, Mum..

DENISE: [FIRM] I just told you, didn't I?

CHELSEA: But I need someone to practice on.

[CHELSEA THROWS A SECRET, LOOK AT PAT, WHO TAKES UP THE CHALLENGE OF PERSUASION]

PAT: I wouldn't say no to a free makeover.

[DENISE HALTS IN HER TRACKS]

DENISE: [TO CHELSEA] There you go - one guinea pig.

PAT: Only I can't get away from the bookies today.

[CHELSEA LOOKS AT DENISE]

CHELSEA: Come on - it'll cheer you up.

DENISE: I don't need 'cheering up'.

[SHE GIVES THEM A DETERMINED LOOK]

CHELSEA: Well maybe I do. I got one Valentine's card this morning - from Deano - he didn't even bother disguising his handwriting.

PAT: Now that is sad.

[ON DENISE, TORN, AS SHE SEES
CHELSEA'S HANGDOG LOOK]

DENISE: [GIVING IN/RELUCTANTLY] Alright.
I'll be round after my shift.

[AS DENISE EXITS THE HOUSE, PAT TURNS
TO CHELSEA]

PAT: [CONSPIRATORIAL] Mission
accomplished. See you in the Vic later?

CHELSEA: I'll get her there, don't worry.

[AS PAT EXITS, OUT ON CHELSEA'S
DETERMINED SMILE]

CUT TO:

SCENE 1164/8. BRIDGE STREET. EXT. DAY
LIGHT. 12.30.

LOT

[BRADLEY'S AT THE FLOWER STALL,
SEEING ALL THAT'S LEFT ARE A FEW NAFF
BUNCHES OF NARCISSI. MAX COMES UP
BEHIND HIM]

MAX: I know it's the thought that counts
but..give Lydia those and she won't think
she counts for much.

BRADLEY: [REALISING] I should've sorted
this out yesterday.

MAX: I thought you did; weren't you going
off to get her present?

BRADLEY: I..got tied up with other stuff.
[ON MAX'S LOOK] She sent me a text last
night saying she'd be busy today with some
PR bash.

MAX: And now?

BRADLEY: [DOWN] Now she's turning up
anyway.

MAX: Well don't sound too excited.

BRADLEY: [ADMITTING] Maybe I'm not.

[AS BRADLEY LOOKS AT MAX, GO OUT ON
MAX, RECOGNISING BRADLEY'S GOT A
PROBLEM.]

CUT TO:

SCENE 1164/9. CAFE. INT. DAY LIGHT.
12.31/T.C.

STAGE 1

[PATRICK'S JUST JOINED BERT AT A
TABLE AS BERT FINISHES HIS LUNCH]

PATRICK: [APPROACHING] Bert..

BERT: I got a good mind to complain..

[BERT INDICATES THE TACKY PLASTIC
ROSE AND HEART IN THE LITTLE VASE ON
HIS TABLE]

..Can't even enjoy a fry-up without hearts
and flowers all over the show.

PATRICK: Well it is..[Valentine's.]

BERT: [IN] St Muggin's Day. As if anyone
needs reminding. [GOES TO GET UP]

PATRICK: [QUICKLY] Some people happen to
enjoy it. [AS BERT LOOKS BACK] Yolande..
could do with a break tonight. She's had
quite a bit to do lately settling Jay into
the house?

BERT: [PAUSE] Yeah, you're right.

[PATRICK SMILES. [IN THE B/G SHOW MAX
HAS ENTERED WITH BRADLEY]]

Why don't we all go to the Vic - let our hair down? [SMILES]

PATRICK: [ON THE SPOT] Actually she's.. planning more on us staying at home. Bit of 'quality time'?

BERT: Even better. Let me know what time she's cooking supper and I'll bring a few cans back.

[BERT QUICKLY MOVES OFF AS PATRICK STARES AFTER HIM, OPEN MOUTHED. IN THE BACKGROUND, SHOW BRADLEY AT A TABLE AS MAX GIVES HIM A TEA GO TO THEM AS MAX SITS DOWN]

MAX: So.. maybe you don't like Valentine's Day either. [SMILES]

BRADLEY: It's not the day it's..[ADMITTING] the girl.

MAX: [TAKEN ABACK] What d'you..[mean]

BRADLEY: [IN] Lydia's just too full on - never stops, like everything's one big campaign.

MAX: [KNOWINGLY] I thought you wanted a woman who knows where she's going.

BRADLEY: Well maybe I don't. [ADMITTING] Maybe the girl I really want has been here in Walford all the time.

[ON MAX TAKING THIS IN]

MAX: You..don't mean Stacey.

[AS BRADLEY LOOKS SAYS IT ALL, MAX
COVERS HIS UNEASE]

Well..what's brought this on? [FISHING]
You haven't been seeing her, have you?

BRADLEY: No. [QUICKLY] Well yeah we..did
have a drink together yesterday.
[ADMITTING] A few drinks actually.

[ON MAX]

But nothing happened. [PAUSE] She doesn't
even know how I feel.

[ON MAX, SLIGHTLY RELIEVED]

MAX: Maybe that makes two of you.

[BRADLEY LOOKS AT MAX]

So you went on the lash for ol' time's
sake. So what?

BRADLEY: So I enjoyed it. I'd forgotten
what it's like to be with her. [SMILES]
But we had a laugh. [REALISING] And that's
something I never get to do with Lydia.

MAX: [PAUSE] Then maybe you're right;
maybe Lydia's not the right girl for you.
[ON BRADLEY'S HOPEFUL LOOK] 'Doesn't mean
Stacey is.

BRADLEY: But..

MAX: [IN] The grass is always greener, Bradley. You're looking back and you should be looking forward. If you don't want Lydia then go and play the field..

BRADLEY: [CONFUSED] But..

MAX: [IN/QUICKLY] 'You forgotten all the grief you got with Stacey?

BRADLEY: No but... maybe that wasn't all her fault. Look at the way we broke up..

MAX: [IN] You're feeling guilty.

BRADLEY: [QUICKLY] Maybe.

[ON MAX FEELING THE SAME]

MAX: Well we've.. all got stuff to feel guilty about, son. But the important thing is you learn from your mistakes and move on. [PAUSE] One thing I know is you don't go out for hamburger when you've got steak at home. [AS BRADLEY LOOKS QUICKLY AT MAX] Lydia's still a great girl.

BRADLEY: I know but...[TORN]..I really should be honest with her.

MAX: On Valentine's Day?

BRADLEY: [CONFUSED] Yesterday you were telling me it's all a load of rubbish..

MAX: [IN] Well I'm not your girlfriend, am I? [PAUSE] All I'm saying is; it

wouldn't hurt to give it a bit more time, would it? If you still feel the same then..let her down gently. [PAUSE] But you..might give Stacey a wide berth too or.. you could end up getting more confused?

[A BEAT BETWEEN THEM BEFORE BRADLEY'S WON ROUND]

BRADLEY: Yeah. Yeah, maybe you're right.

MAX: [SMILES] You know I am, son.

[OUT ON MAX, HIS SMILE FADING, HOPING HE'S GOT THROUGH TO BRADLEY]

CUT TO:

SCENE 1164/10. SALON. INT. DAY LIGHT.
13.30.

STUDIO C

[IN ON PREETI, PUTTING ITEMS AWAY AS
TANYA PLEADS WITH HER - CHELSEA IN
B/G]

TANYA: Oh come on, Preeti, please? I've
already booked the table, and if I don't
find a sitter..[then]

PREETI: [IN/ON THE SPOT] I'm sorry,
Tanya, if it was any other night?

[SHE MOVES OFF TO OTHER ITEMS NOW, AS
TANYA PURSUES HER]

TANYA: So what're you doing instead?

[ON PREETI, ON THE SPOT]

[KNOWINGLY] Nothing, right?

PREETI: I..just haven't made up my mind
yet. Valentine's night isn't just for
couples, you know.

[TANYA, STUMPED, SEES CHELSEA NOW -
GOES TO SPEAK..BUT CHELSEA'S IN
FIRST]

CHELSEA: Sorry. I got plans.

[ON TANYA, STUFFED]

CUT TO:

SCENE 1164/11. BRANNINGS' HOUSE. INT. DAY
LIGHT. 14.31.

STUDIO A

[BRADLEY'S JUST ENTERED THE HOUSE
WHEN HE HEARS DOT'S VOICE FROM THE
LIVING ROOM]

DOT: [O/S] 'Course I'd have been happy
with just an anniversary card, but no
chance of that.

[GO TO DOT, WITH LYDIA, ON THE SOFA
WITH CUPS OF TEA]

[FISHING] Did Bradley give you a
Valentine's Card?

LYDIA: Not yet but..

[BRADLEY ENTERS]

DOT: Ah there he is. [SMILES]

BRADLEY: [TO LYDIA] Sorry I..didn't
expect you so soon.

DOT: One surprise after another, eh? [TO
LYDIA] You should've seen his face when he
walked in with them balloons. [SMILES]

LYDIA: [SMILES] 'Wish I had.

[SHE KISSES HIS CHEEK. BRADLEY LOOKS
EMBARRASSED]

DOT: Well, don't just stand there - Lydia hasn't got all day.

LYDIA: Just a couple of hours for lunch. So I booked us a table at Fargoes.

BRADLEY: Right well I'll.. go and get changed.

[AS HE TURNS FOR THE DOOR, DOT LEANS IN TO HIM]

DOT: [SOTTO] And don't forget her card.

[DOT SMILES SWEETLY AT LYDIA AS SHE REJOINS HER ON THE SOFA. ON BRADLEY, UNDER PRESSURE, BEFORE HE EXITS]

CUT TO:

SCENE 1164/12. MINUTEMART. INT. DAY
LIGHT. 14.41.

LOT

[PATRICK ENTERS THE SHOP. AN AWKWARD MOMENT ON HIM, AS YOLANDE GETS INTO HER COAT, BEFORE SHE SEES HIM]

YOLANDE: I'm just going out to get a few things for tonight. [SMILES] Don't be late.

[AS SHE STARTS TO MOVE OFF, PATRICK SPEAKS]

PATRICK: Yolande?

[SHE TURNS BACK]

Maybe we should go out instead?

YOLANDE: [REALISING] You haven't told Bert, have you.

PATRICK: I tried but.. you know what he's like.

YOLANDE: I know exactly what he's like - so you'd better find him and make sure he listens this time. Unless you want him for your Valentine's date?

[SHE GIVES HIM A DETERMINED LOOK. OUT ON PATRICK, ON THE SPOT]

CUT TO:

SCENE 1164/13. BRIDGE STREET. EXT. DAY
LIGHT. 14.51.

LOT

[BRADLEY, [NOW IN HIS SUIT], IS WALKING WITH LYDIA, HER ARM THROUGH HIS, AS SHE LEANS IN TO HIM]

LYDIA: You're not wearing it, are you?
[AS HE LOOKS AT HER] The aftershave I bought?

BRADLEY: [AWKWARD] I..just thought I'd save it for a special occasion.

[ON LYDIA, A LITTLE PUT OUT, BEFORE STACEY CROSSES THEIR PATH, COFFEE IN HAND]

STACEY: Off out?

LYDIA: Valentine's lunch.

STACEY: Nice one. [SMILES/TO BRADLEY]
Hope your head's feeling better than mine.

[LYDIA LOOKS AT BRADLEY]

BRADLEY: [ADMITTING] We..had a few drinks in the Vic yesterday.

LYDIA: [KNOWINGLY] A 'few'?

STACEY: Don't ask - he probably lost count. [TO BRADLEY] Have a 'hair of the dog' for me?

[STACEY GIVES AN INNOCENT SMILE,
MOVES OFF TO THE STALL. LYDIA LOOKS
AT BRADLEY, WHO GIVES A WEAK SMILE,
BEFORE THEY MOVE ON]

CUT TO:

SCENE 1164/14. SALON. INT. DAY LIGHT.
14.52.

STUDIO C

[DOT TRAILS AFTER TANYA, WHO'S
TIDYING UP]

DOT: ..I don't know if it's all men or
just Branning men..

TANYA: [DISTRACTED] Sorry?

DOT: The lack of consideration. I mean it
doesn't take much to send a card, does it?
But even Bradley had to be reminded..

[THEY SEE DENISE NOW AT THE DOOR. AN
AWKWARD MOMENT ON HER, BEFORE SHE
SPEAKS]

DENISE: Preeti sent me up.

TANYA: [SMILES] Take a seat. Chelsea'll
be back in a minute.

[DENISE SITS DOWN, DOT FISHES]

DOT: Kevin the romantic sort, is he?

DENISE: I'm sorry?

DOT: I heard he's away on business but I
bet he still sent you a card?

[TANYA SEES DENISE AWKWARD AT DOT'S
PRYING]

TANYA: Dot was just saying it's her anniversary today.

DENISE: Congratulations.

DOT: That's more than I got from Jim.

[DENISE PICKS UP A MAGAZINE FOR
DISTRACTION. TANYA TURNS TO DOT]

TANYA: Look Dot, I've really got to..[get on]

DOT: [IN] What about you and Max? He should be taking you out tonight.

TANYA: Actually I was going to take him. Surprise dinner? But I'll have to cancel - can't find a sitter.[GOES TO MOVE OFF]

DOT: Consider one found.

[TANYA LOOKS BACK AT DOT]

[KNOWINGLY] At least one of us should have a nice time.

[TANYA FINALLY SMILES - EVENING SORTED.]

CUT TO:

SCENE 1164/15. BRANNINGS' HOUSE. INT. DAY
LIGHT. 15.01.

STUDIO A

[JIM, WEARING DOT'S FRILLY APRON, IS JUST FINISHING STUFFING HIS CHICKEN. HE PUSHES THE LEGS BACK UNDER AN ELASTIC BAND - ADMIRES HIS HANDIWORK, THEN POPS THE BIRD INTO THE OVEN. HE SMILES, WIPES HIS HANDS ON THE APRON THEN TURNS - TO SEE THE KITCHEN IN ABSOLUTE CHAOS..STUFFING BOXES, VEG PEEL, BOWLS ETC EVERYWHERE. OUT ON JIM, REALISING HE'S STILL GOT A LOT OF WORK TO DO.]

CUT TO:

SCENE 1164/16. TRUEMANS'. INT. DAY LIGHT.
15.02.

STUDIO C

[PATRICK'S IN THE LIVING ROOM WHEN HE HEARS THE FRONT DOOR SOUND. AFTER A PAUSE, BERT ENTERS, WITH 2 BEER PACKS WHICH HE PLOKNS DOWN ON THE TABLE]

BERT: [SMILES] 'Reckon that'll do me tonight. You were right about the Vic - 'probably be full of courting couples.

PATRICK: That's what I wanted to talk to you about. Y'see, me and Yolande..

BERT: ..[CONTINUING OVER] And they've always gotta do them overpriced Valentine's specials, right? Anything to pull the suckers in.

PATRICK: ..We were.. 'hoping' you might go out tonight after all.

BERT: [BROUGHT UP SHORT] Eh?

PATRICK: With Jay.

[PATRICK GIVES BERT A LOOK. THE PENNY DROPS FOR BERT]

BERT: Don't tell me - 'quality time'?

[PATRICK'S LOOK SAYS IT ALL]

Well what am I meant to do with the lad?

PATRICK: I'm sure you can occupy yourselves somehow.

[ON BERT DOUBTFUL]

Spend some 'quality time' with him.

[PATRICK EXITS LEAVING BERT WONDERING
WHAT TO DO]

CUT TO:

SCENE 1164/17. BRIDGE STREET. EXT. DAY
LIGHT. 15.06.

LOT

[MAX IS HEADING OUT WHEN HE HEARS A VOICE BEHIND HIM]

STACEY: I got a card this morning.

[MAX STOPS NOW, TURNS. SHE TAKES THE CARD FROM HER POCKET]

Was it from you?

[SHE SMILES PLAYFULLY]

MAX: I don't send Valentine's cards.

STACEY: Not even to Tanya?

[STACEY GIVES HIM A CHALLENGING LOOK]

MAX: That's between me and her. [STARTS TO MOVE ON]

STACEY: So the answer's no.
[cont]

[MAX LOOKS BACK AS STACEY STUDIES THE CARD]

STACEY: [cont] I'm.. only asking cos if you didn't send it, someone else did?

[A MOMENT ON MAX, CONSIDERING WHETHER IT MIGHT BE FROM BRADLEY]

'That bother you?

MAX: [CLIPPED] Why should it?

STACEY: You tell me.

MAX: I couldn't care less who sent your card. So why don't you go find someone else to play your little girl games with.

[STACEY SMILES FINALLY]

STACEY: [KNOWINGLY] All you had to say was 'no'.

[SHE TURNS NOW, MOVES OFF. A MOMENT ON MAX STARING AFTER HER, ANGRY WITH HIMSELF FOR 'PROTESTING TOO MUCH']

CUT TO:

SCENE 1164/18. FARGO'S. INT. DAY LIGHT.
15.16.

LOT

[A WAITRESS HAS JUST SET LUNCH IN FRONT OF LYDIA AND BRADLEY. AS SHE MOVES OFF, LYDIA LOOKS AT BRADLEY, WHO'S JUST PICKED UP HIS CUTLERY]

LYDIA: Would you.. mind filling my glass?

[BRADLEY LOOKS UP TO SEE THE GLASS IN HER HAND IS EMPTY]

BRADLEY: Sorry.

[HE OBLIGES WITH THE WINE]

LYDIA: [SMILING] Happy Valentine's day.

[HE SEES LYDIA NOW HOLDING HER GLASS OUT FOR A TOAST, SO PICKS UP HIS OWN GLASS AND TOUCHES LYDIA'S WITH IT, SLIGHTLY CURSORILY. LYDIA SIPS, STUDYING BRADLEY'S LACK OF ENGAGEMENT - AND HIS FAILURE TO DRINK]

I'm beginning to think you were lying about that hangover.

BRADLEY: [AWKWARD] No, that was just Stacey, she's not one for holding her drink.

LYDIA: [POINTEDLY] I remember. Hope she didn't embarrass you too much in the Vic?

[A BEAT ON BRADLEY AS LYDIA SMILES
KNOWINGLY]

[SMILES] So.. do I get my Valentine's
surprise now?

[A PAUSE ON BRADLEY, TRAPPED BY HER
SMILE. HE HESITATES.. THEN SEES A
FLOWER SELLER DOING THE ROUNDS AT THE
TABLES AND CALLS HIM OVER]

BRADLEY: Excuse me?

[THE FLOWER SELLER COMES ACROSS.
BRADLEY PAYS HIM AND HANDS LYDIA A
SLIGHTLY WILTED STEMMED ROSE. BRADLEY
MUSTERS AN AWKWARD SMILE]

Happy Valentine's.

[OUT ON LYDIA, SUITABLY UNDERWHELMED]

CUT TO:

SCENE 1164/19. TRUEMANS'. EXT. DAY LIGHT.
15.17.

LOT

[JAY'S ABOUT TO PUT HIS KEY IN THE
FRONT DOOR WHEN A HAND TAKES HIS AND
STOPS HIM]

BERT: You and me're gonna have a little
chat.

[AS BERT NODS FOR HIM TO FOLLOW - ON
JAY, LOOKING BACK TOWARDS THE
TRUeMAN'S DOOR BEFORE HE FOLLOWS
BERT]

CUT TO:

SCENE 1164/20. VIC DOWNSTAIRS. INT. DAY
LIGHT. 15.19.

STAGE 1

[MAX IS ROOTING THROUGH HIS BRIEFCASE, FOR HIS WALLET, AS PHIL BRINGS HIS DRINK OVER. HE SEES ABI'S CARD ON THE BAR WITH SOME OF MAX'S PAPERS]

PHIL: [AMUSED] Nice one.

[MAX SEES PHIL NOD TOWARDS THE CARD, AND PICKS IT UP]

MAX: From Abi. You know what women are like about Valentine's Day.

[MAX PUTS IT BACK IN HIS BRIEFCASE WITH THE PAPERS]

PHIL: So she's okay now. [ON MAX'S LOOK] Over the accident alright?

MAX: Yeah, she's fine. Played it up for a while, you know, to up the sweets ration. 'Expect Ben did the same after that business with Martin?

[ON PHIL UNEASY. MAX COMPENSATES]

Well it's like Tanya said..they get used to the extra attention, don't want it to stop.

PHIL: [THOUGHTFUL] Maybe.

MAX: [KNOWINGLY] Playing you up, is he?

[PHIL'S LOOK SHOWS MAX IS RIGHT]

Well it's gotta be harder for you than me and Tanya. [ON PHIL'S LOOK] There's two of us - good cop, bad cop - we can take it in turns - but you've got to be both.

PHIL: So?

MAX: So kids're clever - they run rings round you if they see you're laying down the law and feeling guilty at the same time. [SMILES] You've just gotta give 'em a clear message - you love 'em.. but you ain't having no nonsense.

[MAX SMILES, MOVES OFF WITH HIS DRINK. OUT ON PHIL, ABSORBING MAX'S ADVICE]

CUT TO:

SCENE 1164/21. FARGO'S. INT. DAY LIGHT.
15.21.

LOT

[AN AWKWARD ATMOSPHERE, LYDIA TOYING
WITH THE CHEAP ROSE ON THE TABLE]

LYDIA: So..what're you planning to do
tonight?

BRADLEY: I don't know. Just hire a DVD or
something.

LYDIA: [PAUSE/GUILTY] I'm sorry, Bradley.
If I didn't have to get back to work..

BRADLEY: [IN] It's alright. [PAUSE] I
don't mind.

LYDIA: Well.. maybe we can make up for
lost time soon?

[BRADLEY LOOKS AT HER]

[SMILES] A friend of mine has a cottage in
Suffolk. She said I can use it any weekend
she's not there. [PAUSE] We.. 'could' take
off Friday night?

[LYDIA SMILES, BRADLEY LOOKS
UNCOMFORTABLE]

BRADLEY: I'm.. not sure.

LYDIA: You're not busy, are you?

BRADLEY: No but..

LYDIA: "But" what?

BRADLEY: Well we..don't have to be doing things all the time, do we?

LYDIA: [CONFUSED] Bradley?

BRADLEY: We saw each other yesterday.. we're having lunch today..

LYDIA: [CLIPPED] We're spending too much time together, is that what you're saying?

BRADLEY: It ..wouldn't hurt to have a bit of a break, would it?

LYDIA: [KNOWINGLY] So you can go to the Vic in the evening?

BRADLEY: Look, this has got nothing to do with Stacey.

LYDIA: [BROUGHT UP SHORT] I didn't think it had. I know you're going to see her from time to time - you can hardly avoid her on that market stall but.. [cont]

[BRADLEY LOOKS UP, UNHAPPY ABOUT HER TONE WITH STACEY]

LYDIA: [cont]she's hardly your dream girl, is she?

BRADLEY: [QUICKLY/PUTTING DOWN HIS NAPKIN] I'm sorry.

LYDIA: What?

BRADLEY: Look, I like you, Lydia, I really do.. [but]

LYDIA: [REALISING/STUNNED] Don't tell me.. I think I know what's coming next.

BRADLEY: [PAUSE] It's not you, it's me..

LYDIA: [IRONIC] Spot on.

BRADLEY: [PAUSE/ADMITTING] I'm.. just not ready for another relationship.

LYDIA: And it's taken you until now to realise that, has it?

[BRADLEY LOOKS AT HER]

Or did a few drinks last night help to focus your mind? [cont]

[BRADLEY LOOKS AT HER, GUILTILY]

LYDIA: [cont] [REALISING] This really is to do with Stacey..

BRADLEY: It's complicated..

LYDIA: [QUICKLY] Is it? It all looks pretty simple to me. All that talk about wanting to move on with your life? [PAUSE] It's not really what you want at all, is it, Bradley? [PAUSE] You're still stuck in your local with your ex, aren't you? And you know what? Maybe that's where you should stay.

[SHE GETS UP]

BRADLEY: [QUICKLY] I'm sorry.

LYDIA: Don't be. [PAUSE] Give Stacey my regards. And this?

[SHE TOSSES THE ROSE TOWARDS HIM THEN MOVES OFF, PURPOSEFULLY. ON BRADLEY, LOOKING DOWN AT THE CHEAP ROSE BEFORE HIM]

CUT TO:

SCENE 1164/22. TRUEMANS'. INT. NIGHT.
17.31.

STUDIO C

[PATRICK ENTERS THE LIVING ROOM
[WEARING HIS COAT]]

PATRICK: Yolande..?

[ON PATRICK AS HE HEARS SOFT MOOD
MUSIC PLAYING, SEES TEA-LIGHTS
EVERYWHERE. A MOMENT ON HIM AS HE
SMILES]

YOLANDE: [O/S] Coming.

[HE STARTS TO TAKE OFF HIS JACKET]

PATRICK: [CALLING BACK] Don't worry about
Bert and Jay. I told him straight - we
need some time to..

[HE BREAKS OFF AS HE TURNS TO SEE
YOLANDE BEFORE HIM, SEXILY DRESSED..A
TRAY IN HER HANDS OF FINGER FOOD -
HEART SHAPED CANAPES, STRAWBERRIES
AND CHOCOLATE SAUCE]

PATRICK: ..ourselves?

[YOLANDE HOLDS HIS LOOK NOW]

YOLANDE: Hungry?

PATRICK: Ravenous.

[THEY SIT BACK ON THE SOFA, STILL
HOLDING ONE ANOTHER'S LOOK]

CUT TO:

SCENE 1164/23. BRIDGE STREET. EXT. NIGHT.
17.32.

LOT

[IN ON JAY, WITH BERT]

JAY: [MIFFED] So if we can't go back, what're we meant to do?

BERT: We.. 'could' kill a few hours at the flicks.

JAY: There's only some love film on.

BERT: How about some ten-pin bowling?

JAY: You?

BERT: I'll have you know, when I was your age, my nickname was Lucky Strike.

JAY: Whatever. [PAUSE/GIVING IN] Alright. If that's what you want to do..

BERT: [IN/PROUD] Well don't go doing me no favours, lad. If there's other things you'd rather be doing..

JAY: [IN/EQUALLY PROUD] Plenty I could be doing.

BERT: Fine. Here's a tenner. Go do 'em.

[BERT HANDS JAY THE MONEY AND STRIDES OFF TO THE VIC. JAY LOOKS AT HIS TENNER, A LITTLE LOST, BEFORE HE MOVES OFF IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION.]

NOW GO TO MAX, HEADING HOME, WHEN HE SEES SOMETHING ACROSS THE STREET. TAKE HIS POV OF STACEY CROSSING THE SQUARE WHEN BRADLEY, [A WAY BEHIND HER], SEES HER AND CALLS TO HER]

BRADLEY: Stace?

[ON MAX, WATCHING. THEN GO TO STACEY AS SHE SEES BRADLEY, THEN LOOKS DOWN AT THE TAKEAWAY PIZZA BOX SHE'S CARRYING]

STACEY: [SMILES] If you're after a slice, I'm saving it 'til I get home.

BRADLEY: [FISHING] You're.. not doing anything tonight then?

STACEY: Actually I got a date...[HER HAND GOES TO HER POCKET]...with Johnny Depp.
[cont]

[BRADLEY SEES SHE'S HIRED A DVD, SMILES NOW]

STACEY: [cont] Where's Lydia?

BRADLEY: Oh she's.. gone.

[STACEY SEES HIS LOOK, BUT BRADLEY EXPLAINS FURTHER]

Back to work.

[STACEY FILLS AN AWKWARD PAUSE]

STACEY: 'Didn't drop you in it earlier, did I?

BRADLEY: Course not.

STACEY: Good. [RE HER PIZZA] Well I'd.. better go, this is getting cold.

[SHE STARTS TO TURN, THEN HESITATES AND TURNS BACK]

Listen Bradley, you didn't..[send me a Valentine's card]

[SHE GOES TO TAKE OUT THE VALENTINE'S CARD STILL IN HER POCKET, THEN THINKS AGAINST IT]

BRADLEY: 'Didn't' what?

STACEY: Nothing.

[SHE TURNS NOW AND MOVES OFF. A MOMENT NOW ON BRADLEY, WANTING TO GO AFTER HER..BUT HE DECIDES AGAINST IT, AND MOVES OFF INSTEAD [IN THE DIRECTION OF THE VIC]

SHOW MAX NOW, STILL WATCHING FROM A DISTANCE. OUT ON HIM, THOUGHTFUL]

CUT TO:

SCENE 1164/24. BRANNINGS' HOUSE. INT.
NIGHT. 17.35.

STUDIO A

[JIM'S IN THE KITCHEN, SCRUBBED UP, SUITED AND BOOTED, TABLE LAID. HE CHECKS DOT'S SHERRY'S ON THE SIDE, WITH SCHOONER, A BRACE OF BEERS FOR HIMSELF, STICKING OUT, AT A JAUNTY ANGLE, FROM AN ICE-FILLED WINE BUCKET. HE CHECKS HIS WATCH NOW AND IS JUST STARTING TO LIGHT SOME CANDLES WHEN HE HEARS THE FRONT DOOR SOUND]

JIM: [CALLING OUT] Dorothy?

[HE QUICKLY SETS A SERVING DISH ON THE TABLE [A TEA TOWEL COVERING HIS CHICKEN] JUST AS DOT ENTERS BEHIND HIM]

DOT: What's all..[this]

[JIM WHISKS HIS TEA TOWEL AWAY TO REVEAL HIS PERFECTLY COOKED CHICKEN, SURROUNDED BY ROAST POTATOES AND SPROUTS]

JIM: [SMILES] You didn't really think I forgot, did you?

[ON DOT, COMING FORWARD]

'Had all this planned for days. Just you and me?

[HE SMILES, HANDS HER A SHERRY AND PULLS OUT A CHAIR FOR HER TO SIT DOWN]

DOT: Jim I..

[BUT ABI'S VOICE SUDDENLY SOUNDS FROM THE HALL]

ABI: [O/S] Grandma Dot?

[JIM LOOKS TOWARDS THE DOOR]

DOT: [GUILTY].. I..said we'd look after the girls tonight.

JIM: [STUNNED] You what?

[BEFORE DOT CAN SPEAK, ABI OPENS THE DOOR.]

ABI: [SEEING THE TABLE] Oh great..roast chicken!

[LAUREN ENTERS NOW]

LAUREN: Cool.

[THE GIRLS QUICKLY SEAT THEMSELVES IN DOT AND JIM'S CHAIRS. DOT LOOKS AT JIM, GIVES HIM A PECK ON THE CHEEK]

DOT: [APPEASED] It's the thought that counts.

[OUT ON JIM, BACK IN DOT'S GOOD BOOKS - EVENING SCUPPERED]

CUT TO:

SCENE 1164/25. VIC UPSTAIRS. INT. NIGHT.
18.01.

STAGE 1

[PHIL ENTERS THE LIVING ROOM, SEES
BEN IN FRONT OF THE TELLY]

PHIL: What're you watching?

[BEN SAYS NOTHING. CONTINUES TO KEEP
HIS EYES ON THE TELLY. ON PHIL, A
LITTLE HURT]

Still giving me the cold shoulder, then?

[BEN STILL FAILS TO ENGAGE. PHIL GOES
TO TOUCH BEN'S HAIR BUT STOPS
HIMSELF]

Well that's alright. I know you'll have
something to say eventually.

PHIL: [BRACING HIMSELF] Gran'll look
after you tonight, alright?

BEN: [SEEING PHIL MOVE OFF] Where're you
going?

[A DIFFICULT PAUSE ON PHIL BEFORE HE
TURNS]

PHIL: To meet Stella. [PAUSE] I'll be
back later.

[PHIL GOES. OUT ON BEN SEETHING - HIS
SILENT PROTEST RUINED]

CUT TO:

SCENE 1164/26. VIC DOWNSTAIRS. INT.
NIGHT. 18.02.

STAGE 1

[BRADLEY'S AT THE BAR, LOOKING MOROSE AS HE SEES A SIGN BEHIND THE BAR ADVERTISING 'VALENTINE'S COUPLES - TWO COCKTAILS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE.' SHIRLEY, IN BRIGHT MOOD, ALL GLAMMED UP, COMES UP TO SERVE]

SHIRLEY: Right, what'll it be? [SMILES]
Couple of 'loving cups'?

BRADLEY: [NOT IN THE MOOD] Just a beer,
please.

SHIRLEY: Oh come on, I'm pushing the boat
out here. Two for the price of one?

BRADLEY: I'm on my own, aren't I?

SHIRLEY: And I don't know why - good
looking boy like you. [SMILES]

[ON BRADLEY WHEN A VOICE SOUNDS
SUDDENLY BEHIND HIM]

BERT: Just serve 'em up, Shirley - I'll
keep you company, son.

[AS BERT SMILES, OUT ON BRADLEY -
THIS IS ALL HE NEEDS..]

CUT TO:

SCENE 1164/27. SALON. INT. NIGHT. 18.30.

STUDIO C

[CHELSEA, PREETI, TANYA AND DENISE
ARE GETTING READY TO LEAVE]

PREETI: So who's up for a drink at the
Vic?

TANYA: Not me - I've got a few more
things to do here.

PREETI: Chelsea?

CHELSEA: [DECIDES] Yeah I'll come. [TURNS
TO DENISE] If you do.

DENISE: I'm going home. [TURNS TO GO]

CHELSEA: Mum...

[DENISE STARTS TO HEAD DOWNSTAIRS AS
CHELSEA MOVES QUICKLY TO HER]

Why would you want to sit at home when you
look like a million dollars?

DENISE: [REALISING] So that's what all
this was about, was it? Your way of
getting me out tonight? [PAUSE] I thought
I was doing you a favour.

CHELSEA: And I thought you deserved a
Valentine's treat.

[ON DENISE NOW, WON ROUND BY
CHELSEA'S MOTIVE]

DENISE: [DECIDING] Well..maybe I do.
[SMILES]

[OUT ON CHELSEA'S SMILE]

CUT TO:

SCENE 1164/28. SLATERS'. INT. NIGHT.
18.45.

STAGE 1

[STACEY'S JUST LOADING HER DVD, [HER half-eaten PIZZA ON THE COFFEE TABLE], AS MO, [AT THE DOOR], DRESSED FOR A NIGHT OUT, SHOUTS UP LOUDLY TO CHARLIE]

MO: [CALLING OUT] Come on, Charlie, it'll be last orders at this rate!

CHARLIE: [SHOUTING BACK] I'm looking for my glasses.

[MO SITS ON THE SIDE OF THE SOFA. LOOKS AT STACEY]

MO: No tempting you out then?

STACEY: [EATING PIZZA/TOYING WITH REMOTE] I'm fine.

MO: Sitting here thinking about 'you 'know who?

[STACEY LOOKS AT MO, THEN AWAY TO THE TELLY]

[SITTING DOWN BESIDE HER] I guessed it, you know? [cont]

[STACEY SEES MO LOOK TOWARDS THE VALENTINE'S CARD SITTING ON THE SIDE]

MO: [cont] 'Remembered I saw him this morning. Sitting on the bench he was, probably writing it out then.

STACEY: Who?

[CHARLIE ENTERS]

CHARLIE: [LOOKING AROUND] I still can't find 'em..

[MO FINDS HIS GLASSES ON THE SIDE AND GIVES THEM TO HIM]

I'll never get used to these stupid things.

MO: [CONTINUING TO STACEY] Bradley, that's who. Don't know why I didn't think of it before.

[AN UNCOMFORTABLE MOMENT ON STACEY AS CHARLIE LOOKS ON]

CHARLIE: 'Think' of what?

STACEY: [TO MO] You're wrong, Nan. Bradley's got a girlfriend.

MO: Girlfriend or no girlfriend, it was him who sent that card.

[ON CHARLIE, UNEASY]

CHARLIE: [GUILTY PAUSE] Actually.. it was me.

[MO AND STACEY LOOK AT HIM]

[AWKWARD] I.. bought it on my way home last night. 'Always used to give one to Zoe - just to keep her guessing.

[STACEY TAKES THIS IN]

MO: You did that alright.

CHARLIE: It was just meant to be a bit of fun but..[TO STACEY]..well I wouldn't want you to go thinking it was from someone it wasn't.

[A BEAT ON STACEY, HIDING HER DISAPPOINTMENT]

STACEY: 'Course I didn't. S'alright, Uncle Charlie. It was a nice thought.

[SHE SMILES. MO AND CHARLIE EXIT. ONCE THEY'VE GONE, OUT ON STACEY, LOOKING AT THE CARD AS HER SMILE FADES]

CUT TO:

SCENE 1164/29. VIC DOWNSTAIRS. INT.
NIGHT. 19.00.

STAGE 1

[IN ON BRADLEY, SUFFERING, AS BERT,
BESIDE HIM, SUCKS NOISILY THROUGH HIS
COCKTAIL STRAW THEN PONTIFICATES]

BERT: ..If you ask me, we're lucky
tonight we've no women in tow. And you
know why? Cos it never works out, son;
they're from Mars and we're from Venus.
[FROWNS] Or is it t'other way round?

[BERT DRAINS HIS COCKTAIL AS SHIRLEY
COMES UP]

SHIRLEY: How're they going down?

BERT: Well I'm a real ale man myself, but
as far as poncy Southern cocktails go,
they certainly pack a punch. [BELCHES THEN
NUDGES BRADLEY] Ready for another?

BRADLEY: [HAVING HAD ENOUGH] Suit
yourself.

[BRADLEY MOVES OFF. BERT, ABANDONED,
SEES PAT'S ENTERED]

BERT: Ah Pat..[LEANING CLOSER]..As it's
Valentine's, how d'you fancy a drink with
someone dark and handsome? [SMILES]

PAT: What - when it's dark, you're
handsome?

[ON BERT, SMILE FADING, AS MO
[HAVING ENTERED WITH CHARLIE] LEANS
IN NOW]

MO: [TO CHARLIE/RE BERT] 'Thought he'd be
at home with his inflatable girlfriend.

[MO MOVES ON WITH CHARLIE. PAT
SMILES, TAKES PITY ON BERT]

PAT: Come on then, let's have a
Valentine's special.

[BERT SMILES NOW.

NOW GO TO CHELSEA ENTERING WITH
DENISE AND PREETI. A LOOK BETWEEN
DENISE AND SHIRLEY [AT THE BAR]]

CHELSEA: [TO DENISE] Go sit down, we'll
get them in.

[DENISE SITS DOWN AS CHELSEA AND
PREETI MOVE TO THE BAR. CHELSEA SEES
AN ATTRACTIVE, SINGLE GUY, AT THE
BAR, LOOKING OVER TOWARDS AN
OBLIVIOUS DENISE.
CHELSEA SMILES TO HERSELF.

NOW PICK UP CHARLIE, SEEING BRADLEY
ALONE. HE SIDLES UP TO HIM]

CHARLIE: All on your own?

[BRADLEY NODS]

How d'you fancy a drink?

BRADLEY: As long as it's not a 'loving
cup'.

[NOW TAKE PHIL WITH STELLA, SITTING AT A TABLE, WHO'S SIPPING HER COCKTAIL THROUGH A STRAW]

STELLA: These are nice.

PHIL: All Shirley's idea.

STELLA: It's a good one. [SMILES]

[STELLA SEES PHIL'S SERIOUS]

PHIL: About Ben..

STELLA: [ANXIOUS] You've..talked to him?

PHIL: Not exactly. He's been giving me the silent treatment.

STELLA: [TAKING THIS IN] I'm sorry.

[HE LOOKS AT HER]

I know I've made things difficult between you, and..[BRACING HERSELF].. if you think you need some time...

PHIL: [IN] I don't.

[ON STELLA, FEELING HE'S ABOUT TO BREAK THINGS OFF]

[PAUSE] I'd like you to stay tonight.

[A BEAT BETWEEN THEM AS HE HOLDS HER
LOOK]

STELLA: Are you.. sure?

[A PAUSE BEFORE HE KISSES HER]

PHIL: [SMILES] Come on, I've got a table
booked for us.

[STELLA SMILES, REASSURED, AS THEY
MOVE OFF FOR DINNER]

CUT TO:

SCENE 1164/30. FOWLERS'. INT. NIGHT.
19.10.

STUDIO C

[JAY, COAT ON, SITS ON THE LIVING ROOM FLOOR, chip wrapping BESIDE HIM. HE SHIVERS, HOLDS HIS HANDS TOWARDS A CANDLE FLAME THEN PICKS UP HIS LAST chip. MISERABLE, HE CAN'T FACE IT AND TOSSES IT BACK IN INTO THE wrapping. HE CHECKS HIS WATCH - [WE DON'T SEE THE TIME] - THEN MAKES A DECISION, BLOWS OUT THE CANDLE - AND EXITS]

CUT TO:

SCENE 1164/31. TRUEMANS'. INT. NIGHT.
19.20.

STUDIO C

[IN CLOSE ON PATRICK, LYING BACK ON THE SOFA AS YOLANDE POPS A CHOCOLATE COATED STRAWBERRY INTO HIS MOUTH]

PATRICK: Mmmmm..

[YOLANDE SMILES AS PATRICK SAVOURS HIS STRAWBERRY]

YOLANDE: 'Been a long time since we did this.

PATRICK: [HOLDING HER LOOK] Too long.

YOLANDE: Then.. we should make the most of it, don't you think? No-one looking over our shoulder..

[YOLANDE MOVES HER FACE CLOSER NOW.. IS JUST ABOUT TO LOCK HER LIPS OVER PATRICK'S.. WHEN PATRICK REACTS TO THE SIGHT OF SOMETHING BEHIND HER]

PATRICK: What the...

[AS YOLANDE REACTS, TURNING, TAKE THEIR POV OF JAY, LOOKING ON AS HE HELPS HIMSELF TO YOLANDE'S CANAPES - CHOCOLATE SMEARED AROUND HIS MOUTH]

JAY: [RE CANAPE] These are good.

[OUT ON PATRICK AND YOLANDE - FACES
SET - SOMETHING MUST BE DONE]

CUT TO:

SCENE 1164/32. VIC DOWNSTAIRS. INT.
NIGHT. 19.30.

STAGE 1

[IN ON CHARLIE WITH BRADLEY]

CHARLIE: So Lydia's busy tonight, is she?

BRADLEY: Yeah. [PAUSE/ADMITTING] And she'll probably be even busier from now on.

[ON CHARLIE AS HE SEES BRADLEY'S LOOK. THEN GO TO PREETI, CHELSEA AND DENISE AT A TABLE, NURSING COCKTAILS]

PREETI: I don't get it - three beautiful women..Valentine's Night..and not a fella between us.

[CHELSEA SEES DENISE LOOKING AWKWARD]

DENISE: I'll be back in a minute.

[AS DENISE MOVES OFF TO THE TOILETS, CHELSEA LOOKS AT PREETI]

CHELSEA: Just put a sock in it, will you?

PREETI: Charming.

[AS PREETI MOVES OFF, GO TO PAT WITH BERT]

PAT: Patrick and Yolande off out for supper, are they?

BERT: No.[SCOWLS] All cosied up at home.

PAT: [FROWNS] With Jay?

BERT: I told him to get lost for the evening.

[AS BERT SIPS HIS DRINK, ON PAT,
TAKEN ABACK]

PAT: [OUTRAGED] You mean you just set him loose on the streets?

BERT: [DEFENSIVE] I gave him a tenner to amuse himself.

PAT: [KNOWINGLY] Doing what?

[A MOMENT ON BERT BEFORE A VOICE
SOUNDS BEHIND THEM]

PATRICK: Playing gooseberry, that's what!

[PAT AND BERT TURN TO SEE A FURIOUS
PATRICK. ON BERT UNDER HIS ACCUSING
GLARE.

THEN PICK UP DENISE, RETURNING FROM
THE LOO, ABOUT TO PASS THE ATTRACTIVE
GUY, AS HE SPEAKS]

ATTRACTIVE GUY: Those cocktails any good?
[POINTING TO THE SIGN]

DENISE: Not my style, but my daughter likes them.

[THE GUY LOOKS OVER AT CHELSEA]

ATTRACTIVE GUY: Your daughter? [SMILES]
Don't you mean your sister?

DENISE: I've heard that before but..
thanks.

[SHE GOES TO MOVE OFF WHEN HE SPEAKS
AGAIN]

ATTRACTIVE GUY: You from round here?
[cont]

[AS DENISE LOOKS BACK, SHOW CHELSEA,
INTRIGUED, MOVING ACROSS NOW AS THE
GUY CONTINUES TO DENISE..]

ATTRACTIVE GUY: [cont] ..It's just.. to
tell the truth, I'm a bit stranded
tonight. 'Meant to meet a friend about
some business but.. turns out he can't
make it. [PAUSE] Is there anywhere local I
could get something to eat?

DENISE: On Valentine's Night? You'll be
lucky.

[THE GUY LOOKS DISAPPOINTED]

Well.. there is a curry place you might
get into - just under the bridge.

ATTRACTIVE GUY: Fancy joining me?

[UNSEEN BY DENISE, CHELSEA'S NOW
WITHIN EARSHOT AT THE BAR]

DENISE: 'Don't think my bloke would like
that much.

ATTRACTIVE GUY: So where is he?

DENISE: [PAUSE] Away at the moment. But
he is coming back.

ATTRACTIVE GUY: [PAUSE/SMILES] I don't
blame him.

[AS HE MOVES OFF, DENISE TURNS ..AND
SEES CHELSEA]

CHELSEA: 'You really believe that?

DENISE: [CONFIRMED] Kevin'll be back
alright. I know he will.

[ON CHELSEA, TAKING THIS IN, AS
DENISE MOVES OFF.

NOW GO TO CHARLIE WITH BRADLEY]

CHARLIE: [SYMPATHETIC] I'm sorry,
Bradley. Gotta be a better time to break
up than on Valentine's Day, eh?

BRADLEY: Yeah.

[AS CHARLIE PICKS UP HIS DRINK, SHOW
BRADLEY TAKING THE VALENTINE'S CARD
FROM HIS POCKET]

CHARLIE: But maybe it's all for the best.
I mean, you've got to be sure about
someone - and you'll know it when you find
her. Like me and my Viv?
[cont]

[ON BRADLEY FOR A MOMENT AS CHARLIE
LOOKS AHEAD, REMINISCING]

CHARLIE: [cont] You know, she always used
to say.. it doesn't matter what you do on
Valentine's Day..as long as you spend it
with the one you love.

[CHARLIE SMILES, LOOKS BACK NOW]

Bradley?

[BUT SEES BRADLEY'S NO LONGER THERE]

CUT TO:

SCENE 1164/33. MAX & TANYA'S. INT. NIGHT.
19.31.

STUDIO C

[TANYA ENTERS THE HOUSE, LOOKING A
MILLION DOLLARS. SHE SMILES]

TANYA: I'm home.

[..MOVES INTO THE LIVING ROOM]

Max?

[NO SIGN OF HIM. SHE SEES A MESSAGE
FLASHING ON THE ANSWERPHONE AND PLAYS
IT]

MAX: [ON ANSWERPHONE] Tan, it's me.
Listen, something's come up with work
but..I'll be back as soon as I can,
alright?

[ON TANYA, SLIGHTLY DISAPPOINTED,
BEFORE SHE HEARS A COMMOTION OF
BANGING OUTSIDE. SHE PULLS BACK THE
CURTAIN AND LOOKS OUT]

CUT TO:

SCENE 1164/34. SQUARE. EXT. NIGHT.
19.32/T.C.

LOT

[PICK UP BRADLEY KNOCKING, ON THE
SLATER'S FRONT DOOR]

BRADLEY: [SHOUTING] Stacey, come on, I
know you're in. [PAUSE] Stace?

[HE MOVES TO THE WINDOW. [THE
CURTAINS ARE DRAWN, LIGHTS STILL ON]
AS HE TRIES TO PEER IN]

Stacey!

[AN UPSTAIRS WINDOW OPENS]

STACEY: What the hell is..[BREAKS OFF AS
SHE SEES HIM]

BRADLEY: [DETERMINED] I came to give you
something.

[HE LOOKS AT THE RED ENVELOPE IN HIS
HAND]

STACEY: [CONFUSED] What is it?

BRADLEY: Open the door.

STACEY: Look Bradley, you can't just..

BRADLEY: [IN] Alright. Then I'll say what
I have to say right here. [PAUSE] I made a
mistake.

STACEY: [CONFUSED] What?

BRADLEY: [IN] Lydia. That's all she was - just one big mistake..I realised that this morning when I bought this card. [LOOKS AT THE ENVELOPE IN HIS HAND] I.. couldn't give it to her.

[STACEY GIVES HIM A LOOK]

I'm not drunk. I know what I'm saying.

[ON BRADLEY AS HE BRACES HIMSELF]

I love you.

STACEY: [TAKEN ABACK] What?

BRADLEY: I know it now, Stacey. I always have.. and I always will. [PAUSE] Let me in?

[A BEAT ON STACEY, TORN AND CONFUSED]

STACEY: I can't.

BRADLEY: [TAKEN ABACK] Why?

STACEY: [REALISING] It's...just too late, Bradley.

[BRADLEY SEES STACEY START TO CLOSE THE WINDOW.

GO TO TANYA AT HER OWN WINDOW, AS SHE LETS THE CURTAIN FALL.

THEN BACK TO BRADLEY AS HE SUDDENLY
PROTESTS]

BRADLEY: [SHAKES HIS HEAD] No! No maybe
you're scared but.. you don't mean that. I
know you love me too..

STACEY: [IN] Bradley...

BRADLEY: [IN/QUICKLY] If you didn't, you
would've found someone else by now. And
you haven't. So please, Stacey. Just give
me another chance?

[ON STACEY, SEEING HOW MUCH HE MEANS
THIS. A BEAT ON HER, TORN, BEFORE SHE
SPEAKS]

STACEY: [HELPLESS] Go home, Bradley.
Please?

[AS SHE CLOSES THE WINDOW, ON
BRADLEY, STUNNED, AS HE SEES THE
CURTAIN FALL.

HE STARES DOWN AT THE VALENTINE'S
CARD IN HIS HAND, IT'S ENVELOPE
FINALLY WRITTEN 'TO STACEY' - NEVER
TO BE DELIVERED]

CUT TO:

SCENE 1164/35. SLATERS'. INT. NIGHT.
19.34/T.C.

STAGE 1

[ON STACEY, STILL FACING THE WINDOW,
TRYING TO ABSORB WHAT BRADLEY'S JUST
SAID. WHEN A VOICE SOUNDS BEHIND HER]

MAX: [O.S/SOFTLY] Stacey?

[SHE TURNS SLOWLY.. REVEAL MAX IN HER
BED. A BEAT BEFORE HE GENTLY TOUCHES
THE SPACE BESIDE HIM. STACEY MOVES TO
HIM. HIS ARMS REACH OUT TO HER AND
SHE FALLS TOWARDS HIM FOR COMFORT. ON
MAX AS HE STROKES HER HAIR, HOLDING
HER CLOSE AS SHE RESTS HER HEAD ON
HIS SHOULDER. OUT ON THEM BOTH AS
THEY LOOK TOWARDS THE WINDOW. EACH OF
THEM WRACKED WITH GUILT]

FADE OUT