

My Beloved

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INT SPORTS CAR

Ken 68, is valeting the inside of his sports car. It's his pride and joy. He sprays the dash board with polish and massages the leather stitching of the passenger seat - lost in thought.

DIANE (OOV)

Ken lunch is on the table!

Ken ignores his wife Diane and shuts the car door - closing himself inside. He leans back and closes his eyes - breathing in the smell of the car.

The car door opens abruptly. It's Diane, 63, glamorous Cheshire house wife.

DIANE

Ken! Your lunch is on the table.
Stop faffing about.

Ken doesn't open his eyes or move his head. He holds his hand out to her - she takes it. He attempts to lead her into the car.

KEN

Sit down with me.

DIANE

For god's sake you silly bugger.

KEN

Just sit down and close you're eyes.

DIANE

Ken?!

KEN

Let me show you something.

He looks at her.

KEN

For a second?

Diane gets into the car as he asks and sits back closing her eyes.

(CONTINUED)

DIANE

It'll be getting cold.

Ken presses a button. The roof begins to lift off the car and go into the boot. Ken sits back next to Diane and closes his eyes. Sunshine spills over them into the car.

KEN

I've thought it through. We can get on the ferry and drive down the South of France? or the Amalfi Coast? Like you've always wanted.

He engineers her seat backwards so she's almost lay down.

KEN

The wind in your hair...

Diane's hair shines golden. She smiles as the sun hits her cheeks.

KEN

We can make love under the stars?

Ken puts his hand under Diane's neck.

DIANE

Stop it.

Diane bristles and tries to sit up but can't with the seat down.

DIANE

Get me up Ken. For god's sake.

Ken readjusts her seat.

DIANE

It's too late.

KEN

What?

DIANE

Facebook... You promised me it'd be gone by today. They're taking it today.

(CONTINUED)

KEN

They are bloody not!

Diane's phone starts to ring. She takes it from her pocket.

DIANE

Forget lunch they'll be here in a minute.

Before she can answer it Ken grabs the phone and hurls it out of the car. He presses the button that makes the roof go back up.

KEN

I've worked my arse off to finally retire and drive my car...

DIANE

(over the top of Ken)
Ken you're being unreasonable.

KEN

...the car I could only use once a month if I was...(lucky)

A BEAT

KEN

How much did you get for it?

DIANE

Three and a half grand.

KEN

Three and a half grand?!

Ken locks the doors from the inside.

KEN

That's robbery. They're not having it.

Roof now firmly up - Ken and Diane are cocooned inside.

DIANE

You are embarrassing me Ken.
They'll be here any minute and they're taking it.

Diane tries to get the door open.

(CONTINUED)

DIANE

Ken. Open this door now.

KEN

What's next a mobility scooter?
Well no cos we can't - not with 3
and a half grand. Can just about
share a bloody zimaframe!

Diane breathes deeply to keep her composure.

KEN

I don't understand... I thought
this is what you wanted? I got
this for us.

DIANE

Us?... You sure you didn't get it
to impress her?

KEN

What are you talking about?

DIANE

Carol.

Ken falls silent. He turns away from Diane.

KEN

I know Ken... I've always known.

KEN

Nothing happened.

DIANE

Really?

A BEAT

KEN

Why didn't you ever say?

DIANE

I made myself believe that it was
a phase. That this car was a
phase and she was a phase.

Ken and Diane sit looking straight ahead - too scared to
look at each other.

(CONTINUED)

DIANE

I can't stand this bloody car.

A BEAT

DIANE

If I'm wrong then by all means -
keep it. But if I'm not...I want
the keys.

Stillness.

Ken slowly takes the car keys and places them in Diane's hand. She fights back a lump in her throat - the truth finally out.

Ken reaches over and takes her hand - she lets him for a moment then breaks free.

Diane opens the car door with the key fob and walks away leaving the keys behind on the seat. Ken watches her for a moment.

He reaches into the glove compartment to get a new air fresher and puts it around the windscreen mirror. Ken exits the car leaving the keys behind. A cardboard palm tree air freshener dangles in the foreground as we see him enter his family home and shut the door.

THE END