

The Catalyst

By

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INT TAXI - NIGHT 1

SAM and HEATHER are kissing frantically in the back of a taxi. The driver cranes his neck trying to get a better look at the two women in his mirror, but hits the kerb, jolting SAM and HEATHER apart. They laugh, but quickly resume kissing, hands now moving over each other's body.

The taxi stops and SAM and HEATHER prise themselves apart.

TAXI DRIVER

You both getting out here?

SAM

Nah mate, this lady needs to go home. Next stop Ferrymead Gardens.

HEATHER

Can't I stay over with you?

SAM

Don't think your husband would be best pleased, do you? Especially on Valentine's night! (Softening her tone) We'll talk tomorrow, OK?

SAM kisses HEATHER on the lips and gets out of the taxi. HEATHER sits motionless, watching SAM walk away.

INT HEATHER'S HOUSE - NIGHT 1

We hear keys opening the front door and HEATHER walks in. She creeps up the stairs and checks on her husband TONY, who is snoring, then on her son FINN who is also asleep. HEATHER goes back down the stairs, enters the lounge and closes the glass-panelled door. She walks to the kitchen, pours a glass of wine and sits on the sofa. HEATHER picks up a remote control, selects a track and the music system starts playing "Hurt" by Leona Lewis really loudly. HEATHER quickly turns the volume down, before relaxing back into the sofa with her wine. But HEATHER is restless and picks up her mobile phone. She calls SAM who immediately picks up.

SAM

I take it your old man is asleep?

HEATHER

Snoring like a steam train. Listen, can I come over? I want to do that all over again...what we did just now.

(CONTINUED)

SAM

As much as I would love that babe,  
it's really not the right thing...

HEATHER

(interrupts, voice raising)  
Thing is Sam, I've known I'm gay  
all my life - and you've just  
confirmed it for me. Do you know  
how amazing that feels?

As HEATHER is talking we see a man's shadow lurking behind  
the glass-paneled door.

SAM

Heather, I know - I've been  
there. But you're married, with a  
kid, so it's not going to be easy,  
is it?

HEATHER

I want you Sam, if I can have you  
then...

The lounge door noisily flies open and TONY comes storming  
in, grabs HEATHER's phone and throws it angrily against the  
wall, before turning towards HEATHER who looks petrified.

TONY

Lesbo, eh? Don't you think you  
should have told me that, eh?

TONY aggressively pulls HEATHER up from the sofa and punches  
her full force. Blood immediately spreads from HEATHER's  
nose and across her face, as she falls to the floor. TONY  
kicks HEATHER repeatedly in the stomach, then staggers  
backwards. FINN enters the room, tiredly rubbing his eyes.

FINN

What was that noise Daddy?

FINN stops rubbing his eyes and sees his Mummy lying on the  
floor, covered in blood. FINN screams and runs over to her.

FINN

Mummy, mummy!

TONY picks up the phone, his hands shaking violently.

TONY

Ambulance, I need an ambulance. My  
wife, she's...she's had an  
accident...come now, please?