

GUMSHOE

By Fraser May

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INT. HALLWAY - DAY.

An official brown envelope drops through the letterbox.

KATE 32, petite, curly brown locks, curses as she kicks golf shoes, trainers and men's brogues out of the way. She opens the letter and reads -

KATE (V.O)

"Dear Miss Rigby, I regret to inform you that your Birth Mother has decided...not to disclose her identity at this time. I realise that this.."

Tossing the letter onto the sideboard, she sees a pink card pinned to the back of the front door - "KATE".

Kate looks at the calendar on the wall - **14th February.**

Groaning, she snatches the card off the door.

EXT. DOORSTEP - DAY.

Closing her front door behind her, Kate turns to see a MAN (50) clean shaven, bomber jacket, standing on her step.

MAN

I've found her. Not far.

He shows Kate a note. She goes to take it. The Man keeps hold.

KATE

Wait there.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY.

Kate is gingerly opening the bedside drawer next to where ANDY (35) a dreamboat, is sleeping. On his side hiking boots, slippers and cycling shoes litter the floor.

She removes a wad of notes from a white envelope- "Wedding £"

EXT. DOORSTEP - DAY.

Kate slaps a black envelope into the Man's hand. He opens it, riffles through the cash, then hands her the address.

Kate is staring at the note.

EXT. TERRACED STREET - DAY.

In front of a miserable Terraced House, Kate is studying first the note, then the number on the door.

Kate looks up to see a MOTHER (50) kind faced, walking towards her, smiling. Kate smiles back.

The Mother looks away to embrace her DAUGHTER (15). Kate busies herself with her mobile phone.

Suddenly, a WOMAN (48), wiry, distracted, bustles past Kate, jamming a key in the lock. The Woman looks Kate up and down.

WOMAN

Can I help you?

Kate and the Woman are staring at each other. Kate, unable to speak, shakes her head.

The Woman scowls and goes inside. Kate scrunches up the paper, goes to drop it, then shoves it back in her bag, where she finds the pink card. She opens it -

ANDY (V.O.)

Hey Valentine, remember me?

INT. BEDROOM - DAY.

A blue card is stuck to the sole of a foot - "ANDY." Stirring, Andy feels for the card. Opening it, he smiles at Kate, who is reposing at the end of the bed.

ANDY

Did I tell you? My shoes are ready. Where did you go this morning?

KATE

Oh nowhere. I don't know, you and your shoes.

ANDY

This will be the most important pair I'll ever own.

Andy goes to open the bedside drawer. Kate grabs Andy's feet. He stops, looks down at her, puzzled.

Kate is kissing his toes as her tears begin to fall.

THE END.