

NOT LOOKING FOR ANYTHING RIGHT NOW

by

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1 EXT. REGENTS CANAL - MORNING 1

It's early. Rays of sun poke through trees and sparkle off the canal.

Canalboats bob. A jogger traipses past, puffing.

2 INT. KAILA'S CANALBOAT - MORNING 2

What a cute canalboat! Bohemian living, baby. Trinkets on the window sill, a stack of worn paperbacks, and empty bottles of wine.

Two figures are in bed, asleep.

We concentrate on KAILA (20s) as behind her, a man gets up out of bed carefully, as to not wake her. We hear him padding around the place, opening a door.

Kaila rouses. Rolls over. Sees BEN (20s) standing at the door to the bathroom, looking in at the cramped space.

KAILA
Are you claustrophobic?

BEN
Huh? Ha. No. Just um...

KAILA
Is it a wee or a poo?

BEN
Huh? It's ... just a wee.

KAILA
If it's a poo, you can use the sawdust.
(re: Ben's expression)
For the sound. So I won't hear the plop.

Beat.

BEN
It's just a wee.

Beat. Ben shuts himself into the small toilet. Kaila allows the memories of the night before to come back to her, then lies back down.

CUT TO:

3 INT. KAILA'S CANALBOAT - MORNING

3

A bit of time has passed. Kaila is dressed in Sunday clothes: a rock gig t-shirt, hair stylishly tousled. Ben is buttoning up last night's shirt.

KAILA

Do you want coffee?

BEN

Um. I'm okay, it's too early.

KAILA

Too early for coffee?

BEN

(gestures with hands)

Yeah, your cortisol levels in the morning are like this and if you have a coffee, it spikes it. Makes your anxiety worse.

KAILA

Do you have anxiety?

BEN

Actually no.

KAILA

Are you just terrified it'll make you need to shit even more?

BEN

It's just ... I should probably go.

KAILA

Oh yeah, you've gotta get all the way back to Shepherd's Bush, right?

BEN

Thanks for last night though. It was very unexpected and very fun.

KAILA

It was good.

BEN

It was amazing.

Kaila shyly rubs her nose with her index finger to hide her face.

It triggers a memory in Ben and we flash back in time:

4 EXT. VIC PARK VILLAGE, CAFE - FLASHBACK (THE DAY BEFORE) 4

Ben stands outside with a friend, talking to Kaila. He's just said something ultra-honest and she rubs her nose with her index finger in the same way.

BACK TO:

5 INT. KAILA'S CANALBOAT - CONTINUOUS 5

KAILA
How are you getting back?

BEN
I was gonna grab a Lime but
(checks phone)
I'm on two per cent.

KAILA
I have a powerpack...

Kaila rummages through her belongings. Ben watches her.

6 EXT. REGENTS CANAL - MORNING 6

Ben and Kaila walk down the canal. Ben's holding a powerpack plugged into his phone. Some cyclists squeeze past, making them group closer.

BEN
I feel like I should -- actually,
never mind.

KAILA
No, go on.

BEN
I'm not ... really in a place to
be like... in terms of um...

Kaila stops.

KAILA
What.

BEN
What?

KAILA
WHAT.

BEN
Oh god, I'm sorry--

KAILA
(breaking)
I'm kidding. You're not looking
for anything right now. You told
me already, like four times.

BEN
I did?

CUT TO:

7 EXT. ROYAL INN ON THE PARK PUB - FLASHBACK 7

Ben and Kaila are outside a pub. Ben mouths along to
Kaila's voiceover in italics:

KAILA (V.O.)
The first time you said:
*I'm not really dating right now,
because you know, I'm leaving
London.*

8 EXT. LATE NIGHT BURGER JOINT, MARE STREET - FLASHBACK 8

Ben and Kailani have burgers and a beer. Again, Ben's mouth
moves:

KAILA (V.O.)
Then
*It's just that I'm leaving, so
like, I'm not "available".*

9 EXT. CANAL - FLASHBACK 9

Walking along the canal at nighttime, Ben's talking:

KAILA (V.O.)
Then:
*I guess I'm between things? A bit?
I hope that's okay.*

10 INT. KAILA'S CANALBOAT - FLASHBACK 10

Ben and Kaila are drinking a last glass of wine. They're about to kiss when:

KAILA (V.O.)
 We were about to kiss and you said
*Before anything happens, I should
 just say: I'm not looking for
 anything right now. Is that okay?*

BACK TO:

11 EXT. REGENTS CANAL - CONTINUOUS 11

BEN
Is that okay?

KAILA
 Yeah, it's totally fine.
 ALT: I'll be all right.

RAPID CUTS: Kaila says "That's totally fine" in every scenario.

BEN
 It's just ... I know that you're looking for something.

KAILA
 I'm looking for a relationship, yeah. Actively. Aggressively.

BEN
 Yeah, you're rocking the singles book club night, all the apps.

KAILA
 Ooh yeah, I'm having a ball.

BEN
 I've given up on all that. It's kinda why moving back home.

KAILA
 Shit really? Because you can't get a girlfriend? That's kinda...

BEN
 Pathetic?

KAILA

No. I mean -- I didn't mean...

(beat)

I did mean pathetic actually. Yes.

BEN

Well, I feel liberated now that I've officially given up.

KAILA

Oh that's what that is. You've got quite a cool thing going on.

BEN

Cool, huh?

KAILA

Very laid back, nonchalant.

BEN

Beats desperation, I guess.

KAILA

That's what I smell like. I've got mad desperation aura.

BEN

Na.

(smells her hair)

You smell nice.

(beat)

What a shame.

KAILA

That you're leaving?

BEN

Mmm.

KAILA

It's all right. It's cold here. Expensive.

BEN

Hard to make friends.

KAILA

I love it here. But I have friends, so...

BEN

Yeah, you're cool and popular.

KAILA
Exactly.

Beat.

BEN
I feel bad I interrupted your
morning coffee. Let me get you
one.

12 EXT. PAVILION PARK VICTORIA PARK - MORNING

12

Kaila waits outside the cafe, scrolling on her phone. Puts her phone away. Tries to live in the moment. Ben comes out with two takeaway cups.

BEN
Sorry. There was a big line.

KAILA
No there wasn't.
(beat)
Feel better?
(beat)
You finally did your poo.

BEN
What?

KAILA
I could see it in the way you
walked. You are so much more
relaxed now!

BEN
I didn't want to do it in your
canal boat--

KAILA
But I have sawdust--

BEN
Sawdust, I know, to mask the plop
sounds. But still.

Kaila takes her coffee.

BEN
I feel so much better now.

KAILA
It's Sunday, it's my croissant
day.

BEN
 (Kiwi pronunciation)
 Croissant?

KAILA
 Yeah, you want one?

BEN
 Ooh um. Yes, I want one. But I'm
 not eating gluten.

KAILA
 (does the same hands)
 Because of the cortisol?

BEN
 It's an experiment--

KAILA	BEN
Do you want a croissant or not?	I do.

CUT TO:

13 EXT. STONEWAY WALK BY BLUE IVY - MORNING 13

Ben and Kaila eat their croissants, leaning against the railing, looking out at the willow trees.

We can hear them talk, but they're quiet. Ben's talking about his little brother.

BEN
 ...he's been having a hard go of
 it lately, I think it's party
 because of uni and partly because
 he's the only one at home...

We crossfade to later. They're still talking, the croissants are finished. Kaila's talking about her family now.

KAILA
 ...always been perfect, ticking
 off all the signifiers that she's
 got her shit together, so it's
 taken the pressure off me
 actually...

14 EXT. VICTORIA PARK NEAR CROWN GATE EAST - MORNING 14

Ben and Kaila walk through the park.

BEN
 (re: phone)
 There are none in here. I don't
 think you're allowed to leave them
 in the park.

KAILA
 Hey. It's the water fountain.

Kaila points out the water fountain.

BEN
 Our water fountain.

KAILA
 Ours?

BEN
 Well, you know. Where you first
 asked me out.

KAILA
 All those hours ago?

BEN
 Yeah wow, that was yesterday? Wow.

A nice beat. Kaila's annoyed at the niceness of it.

KAILA
 You're leaving the country.

BEN
 Sorry.

KAILA
 It's okay. You wanna take a drink
 from it?

BEN
 Yeah, go on.

Ben takes a drink. As he does, we...

CUT TO:

15 EXT. VICTORIA PARK NEAR CROWN GATE EAST - FLASHBACK 15

Kaila enjoys a hot day in the park, sitting on a picnic
 blanket with her friends. They all look cool, reading
 books, lazing around.

Kaila's friend nudges her -- points to:

Ben, out for a jog, taking a drink from the water fountain.
Kaila watches him and we go to flashback-ception.

CUT TO:

16 EXT. VIC PARK VILLAGE, CAFE - FLASHBACK 16

Kaila's friend goes in for the bathroom while Kaila waits outside. Ben and his friend are nearby.

Ben says something to Kaila, maybe about her shirt. It's clear they haven't met before and she's thrown by this stranger's friendliness. They talk.

Kaila's friend comes back out

BACK TO:

17 EXT. VICTORIA PARK - FLASHBACK 17

As Kaila's friends debate whether it'd be weird for her to approach him, she gets up and walks to Ben.

Ben sees Kaila coming over as he's mid-sip.

BACK TO:

18 EXT. VICTORIA PARK - MORNING 18

Ben finishes drinking. Offers it to Kaila. She drinks.

19 EXT. REGENTS CANAL - MORNING 19

Ben and Kaila walk back to her canal boat.

BEN

Ah, are we back at your canal boat already?

KAILA

Yeah. It's almost eleven.

BEN

Wow. Okay yeah, I should go.

KAILA

You should. I have yoga.

BEN
Oh yeah? Whereabouts?

KAILA
Hackney. With Hannah. You met her.

BEN
With the hair? She's great.

KAILA
Yeah she's the best.

They get to the boat. Ben hands the powerpack back.

KAILA
When are you actually flying back?

BEN
I don't have a ticket yet. I was
thinking maybe next month. Late
next month.
(beat)
Why's that?

KAILA
I'm just making polite
conversation.

BEN
Do you want to hang out again?

KAILA
It's probably a bad idea. Why, do
you?

BEN
I do, yeah. But you're right --
pointless.

KAILA
Because you're not wanting a
relationship and I am.

BEN
Exactly.

KAILA
Eh, it would never work anyway.

BEN
What, why?

KAILA
Because I don't know. We're different.

BEN
Yeah, that's why it does work. I mean, why it would work.

KAILA
And you said you wanted to name your kids "something unique" like Gabrizelda or something.

BEN
What? I never said Grizelda. I mean a chill name. Charlotta or something.

KAILA
Charlotta?

BEN
Or something.

KAILA
Charlotta's nice.

BEN
Right?

KAILA
Okay.

BEN
Okay.

KAILA
I gotta get ready.

BEN
Yeah, and I should...

They go for a hug. It lasts a while. After, there's an energy in the air. Ben looks at the canalboat.

BEN
If we're quick--?

KAILA
Yeah quick.

They stumble onto Kaila's canalboat.

20 EXT. REGENTS CANAL - DAY

20

Ben and Kaila walk quickly down the canal. Kaila's hair is messy; Ben's buttons are done wrong. Kaila trails her bike.

BEN
Will you make it?

KAILA
Yeah. But I wanna get there early enough to have a shower first...

BEN
Good call.

A fork in the road.

BEN
Ah, I'm up this way.

KAILA
Okay.

They have to rush their goodbye. Ben kisses her quickly and they hug.

BEN
Hey I don't have your number.

KAILA
You don't need it.

BEN
But, what if--?

KAILA
You're leaving.

BEN
Yeah, but what if ... I don't?

Kaila walks backwards away from him.

BEN
I'm just -- I don't know. It's silly. I'm being silly.

KAILA
My boat will be moored in the same spot for two more days.

BEN
Moored.

KAILA
Moored yup.

BEN
Okay.

KAILA
Okay.

Kaila turns and walks way. Ben reflects. What a crazy evening, night, and then day.

BEN
Okay.

Ben walks home.