

THE FATHER
by
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(Anthony & Anne Beginning Scene)

Name (of company, if applicable)
Address
Phone Number

FADE IN: ANNE ENTERS THE FLAT WHERE ANTHONY IS.

ANNE
Dad? It's me. Dad? There you are.

ANTHONY
What are you doing here?

ANNE
What do you think?

ANTHONY
Huh?

ANNE
So, what happened?

ANTHONY
Nothing.

ANNE
Oh, tell me.

ANTHONY
I just did. Nothing happened.

ANNE
Nothing happened?

ANTHONY
No.

ANNE
I've just had her on the phone.

ANTHONY
So, what does that prove?

ANNE
You can't go on behaving like
this.

ANTHONY
Well, it's my flat, isn't it? This
is incredible. You burst in on me
as if —
I've no idea who she is, this
woman. I never asked her for
anything.

ANNE
She's here to help you.

ANTHONY

To help me do what? I don't need her. I don't need anyone.

ANNE

She told me you'd called her a little bitch. I don't know what else.

ANTHONY

Maybe, I don't remember.

ANNE

She was in tears.

ANTHONY

Because I called her a little bitch?

ANNE

No. She told me that you'd threatened her physically.

ANTHONY

Me? Physically? Obviously she has no idea what she's talking about. This woman is raving mad, Anne. Believe me. Best if she does leave, believe me. Especially as, um..

ANNE

As what?

ANTHONY

Hmm? Ah. I didn't want to tell you this, but since you must know... I suspect she was, um - uh, she...

ANNE

She was what?

ANTHONY

She was stealing from me.

ANNE

Angela? Of course not. What are you talking about?

ANTHONY

I'm telling you, she stole my watch.

ANNE

Your watch?

ANTHONY

Yes.

ANNE

Isn't it more likely you just lost it?

ANTHONY

No! I already had my suspicion. So I set a trap for her. I left my watch somewhere in the open to see if she'd pinch it or

ANNE

Where?

ANTHONY

Hmmm?

ANNE

Where did you leave it?

ANTHONY

I don't know and I don't remember. All I know is it's nowhere to be found. I can't find it. There's your proof. That girl stole my watch. I know she did. Yeah. What's the matter?

ANNE

I don't know what to do. We have to talk, Dad.

ANTHONY

Well, that's what we're doing, isn't it?

ANNE

No, I mean, seriously. That's the third one you've...

ANTHONY

I'm telling you, I don't need her. I don't need her or anyone else. I can manage very well on my own.

ANNE

It wasn't easy to find her, you know.

ANTHONY

No.

ANNE

This isn't easy. I thought she looked really good. Lots of great qualities. And now she doesn't want to work here anymore.

ANTHONY

You are not listening to what I'm telling you. That girl stole my watch. I'm not going to live with a thief, do you understand?

ANNE

Have you looked under the bath?

ANTHONY

What?

ANNE

Under the bath, by the pipes. Where you hide your valuables.

ANTHONY

How do you know that? And tell me the truth.

ANNE

I don't know, I just know.

ANTHONY

Have you been looking in my hiding place?

ANNE

No.

ANTHONY

Then how do you know that sometimes that's where I keep my valuables.

ANNE

I don't know. I found it by accident.

ANTHONY

You.

[Anthony storms off]

ANNE

Dad. Dad. Where are you going? I haven't touched anything!

[door closes]

[door opens and Anthony returns to living room and turns on the television.]

ANNE
So you found it then?

ANTHONY
What?

ANNE
Your watch?

ANTHONY
Oh, yes.

ANNE
So, you realize Angela had nothing to do with it?

ANTHONY
Only because I hid it, luckily, just in time. Otherwise I'd be sitting here talking to you with no means of knowing what time it was. It's five o'clock, if you're interested. Myself, I am interested. Pardon me for breathing.

ANNE
Have you had your pills?

ANTHONY
Yes! Why do you keep looking at me as if there's something wrong? Everything is fine, Anne. The world is turning. You've always been that way. A worrier. Whereas your sister... Where is she, by the way? Have you heard from her? I am asking you a question.

ANNE
Um... I'm going to have to move, Dad. I'm going to have to leave London.

ANTHONY
Really? Why?

ANNE
We talked about this. Do you remember?

ANTHONY

Ah, is that why you're so keen on this nurse living with me? Obviously it is. The rats are leaving the ship.

ANNE

I won't be here. I won't be able to come here every day. You need to understand that, Dad.

ANTHONY

Yeah. So, you're leaving? When? I mean, why?

ANNE

I've met someone.

ANTHONY

You?

ANNE

Yes.

ANTHONY

You mean a man?

ANNE

Yes.

ANTHONY

Really?

ANNE

You don't have to sound quite so surprised.

ANTHONY

No, no, its just that, I mean... well, you have to admit that since, um..

ANNE

James?

ANTHONY

James. There hasn't been a lot of, um... What does he do anyway?

ANNE

He lives in Paris.

ANTHONY

Oh.

ANNE

So I'm going to go and live there.

ANTHONY

What, you in Paris? You're not gonna do that, are you, Anne? I mean, wake up. They don't even speak English. So, if I understand correctly, you're leaving me. Is that it? You're abandoning me.

ANNE

Dad.

ANTHONY

What's gonna become of me?

ANNE

Obviously this is very important to me, otherwise I wouldn't be going. I- I really love him. And I can come back and see you often. At the weekends. But I can't leave you here on your own. It's not possible. And that's why if...if you refuse to have a carer, I'm going to have to --

ANTHONY

To what?

ANNE

You have to understand, Dad.

ANTHONY

Anne, you're going to have to what?