

Dry Write:
What's in my box?

And eat it.

Louise Taylor

Cast of Characters

KERRY	F / 30s
ED	M / 30s

Scene: Kitchen

ED is looking at a box that sits unopened on the table/bench.

KERRY enters with a bottle of wine and glasses.

Kerry

Just one glass? I think we deserve it.

Ed

Do we? I don't know. It feels naughty.

Kerry

It feels what?

Ed

You know. Feels sort of -

Kerry

It feels 'naughty'!

Ed

Shut up.

Kerry

That is so sweet. That is so schoolboy. You? Are totally the sweetest thing in the whole wide -

(Spots the box - delighted)

The whole wide world. And all of the other worlds. Even like the ones that might or might not be worlds. The ones hovering around out on the edges. And the big gas monster worlds. And the little icy worlds way way out, and the worlds with rings -

Ed

Rings?

Kerry

Shut up, and the ones that are hardly even worlds at all just like loose clusterings of rock pieces and comet pebbles. If there was a world, right, and it was made entirely of nothing but sugar crystals? You would still be sweeter than that world.

Ed

You're drunk.

Kerry

I haven't even poured yet.

Ed

Then it's weird how drunk you sound.

Kerry

Drunk on you maybe?

They both cringe.

Kerry

God. Sorry. That's disgusting isn't it?

Ed

Pretty disgusting, yeah.

Kerry

We're not that kind of couple are we?

Ed

And we're not going to be.

Kerry

We don't want to be, no.

Ed

Never called me sweet before.

Kerry

I'm sure I have.

Ed

Dirty, you've called me.

Kerry

I'm sure I have not.

Ed

'Filthy hot bastard' a few times.

Kerry (*hisses*)

Shut up!

Ed

But it's alright now.

Kerry

It's alright now?

Ed

Can say what you like, now. (*Beat*) You forgot didn't you?

Kerry

I did. God, I did! I one hundred per cent forgot.

Ed

You can call me anything you -

Kerry (*shouts in his face*)

FILTHY HOT BASTARD!

Ed

Yes. That. Or you could call me sweet again.

Kerry (*whispers in his ear*)

Filthy hot bastard, what's in my box?

Ed

I thought we were drinking.

Kerry (*pours two glasses of wine*)

A toast?

Ed

Not a toast, no.

Kerry

Not a toast then. A 'salutation'.

Ed

An acknowledgement. A remembrance?

Kerry

A 'remembrance'?

Ed

Not a remembrance.

Kerry

No, I don't want to remember. To the future.

Ed

To the now?

Kerry

Not right now. A little bit further forward than that.

Ed

Now's bad?

Kerry

Not 'bad'. Now is good. Now's fantastic! It's great, isn't it?
I mean it's okay but it's still a bit -

Ed

A little bit.

Kerry

So tomorrow's probably better.

Ed (*lifts his glass*)

Tomorrow?

Kerry

Tomorrow!

They clink glasses and drink.

Ed

So how many were you down today?
(*Cold beat*)
No? Are we not - ?

Kerry

No we are not. What's in my box?

Ed

I think maybe we should -

Kerry

You know what though, the thing is that you totally know what I'm thinking don't you? And you know what's on my mind, and what I like and what I hate and what I wish for. So I don't even need to ask, do I? I know what's in here. Now. Here and now, on the first night of our lives together and I love you. But you know that don't you? I want you to know it though, to hear it. Before I touch it. Before I even look at it. I love you.

Ed

The first night?

Kerry

Well -

Ed

There's been other nights.

Kerry

There have.

Ed

Or did you forget them too?

Kerry

No. Absolutely I remember them, I think about them always.
But this time we mean it. Now we mean business.
Now and forever after, we fall asleep and we wake up together.

Ed

Because until now we've been complete slags.

Kerry

Well, we have but I actually really really enjoyed the slaggery.

Ed

Yes. Me too.

Kerry

And I would quite like to recapture some of the slaggery in the future, if you'd be up for that?

Ed

I think that I very much would be, yes.

Kerry

The skulking, the sniggering. The sneaking into corners?

Ed

The skulking was my personal favourite.

Kerry

And when all those other kinds of 'drunk on you, baby' couples have their shitty little date nights? We'll be having our slaggy nights.

Ed

Excellent. Love it. And how would that go?

Kerry

Well, what we'd do is that I would go out after work to one of your five most favourite watering holes. And I wouldn't tell you which one I was going to.

Ed

Okay. Liking it so far.

Kerry

And so I'd start drinking like straight away, straight away at five o'clock. And then I would just keep on drinking. And then at, say... nine o'clock? Yes, definitely nine. Nine on the dot and not a minute before.

Ed

Not a second.

Kerry

You would come out to each of those five particular watering holes, and you would try and find me.

Ed

My five most favourite.

Kerry

And I'd be pissed out of my skull by then and need absolutely no persuading, and you'd say 'Well hello there' and I'd just immediately fall in your arms and we'd be straight home and like, 'pow'.

Ed

My five most favourite -

Kerry

Or we could go somewhere completely new, where nobody knows us at all and they think we're just some disgusting every day drunken slags.

Ed

Because they don't even know us?

Kerry

Stop spoiling it!

Ed

I'm not!

Kerry

You are though, you really are and you're pissing me off now!
What's in my box?

Ed

I'm sorry.

Kerry

You've ruined the whole lovely first night ambience. What's in
my box?

Ed

I think I'm five down now.

Kerry

There you go, and you're making it worse!

Ed

I'm sorry but I think we need to talk about it.

Kerry

Well I don't.

Ed

Well I really need to, and shouldn't we be grown ups about it?

Kerry

Yes but... tomorrow. Alright? Grown ups tomorrow.

(Beat)

'Oh darling look, our first fight.'

Ed

We've had other fights.

Kerry

We really haven't.

ED tries to remember.

Ed

God.

Kerry

Told you.

Ed

We really haven't, have we?

Kerry

We're incredible.

Ed

Or we were until right now.

Kerry

Yeah but this is the best bit. Now I know that it's going to work.

Ed

Now? As in, before you weren't quite sure?

Kerry

I had no idea before! I've been waiting for it all to come crumbling down and bite us on the arse. Arses.

Ed

You know it actually really scares me that you would say that.

Kerry

Why? No. Don't be scared. I love it. I love that I wasn't sure but I did it anyway. Doesn't it make you angry though, that we wasted so much time being only friends? Having fun but only just fun? Having the stupid drunk sex but then just laughing about it afterwards?

Ed

I never thought of being scared. I never thought of being angry. I thought what we had was the only option.

Kerry

You know why that is? It's because you're a coward. Incredibly sweet and an incredible coward. And that's why we're just incredibly lucky, aren't we? That I'm so incredibly brave.

KERRY suddenly tears open the box.

Ed (*yelps*)

No!

PAUSE.