

THE YESTERDAY

Written by

Benita von Sass

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2 Vale Grove
London N4 1PY
07464 444060

BLACK SCREEN

MAN (O.S.)
You know what time it is. But you
won't tell me.

FLASHBACK:

1 EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY 1

Slow motion Josephine's feet walk away in an old cemetery.

DISHEVELED MAN (O.S.)

Why do I let you do this? I said
why?

A moving London underground train coming to a halt is heard,
then doors opening as people exit and chat.

END FLASHBACK.

1a EXT. LONDON TUBE EXIT STAIRCASE - DAY 1a

ANNOUNCEMENT (O.S.)
Mind the gap. And remember, if you
see something which doesn't look
right, speak to one of our staff.
See it, say it, sorted.

Several tube passengers can be heard making their way through
to the exit.

DISHEVELED MAN (O.S.)
I said why? Why, I said.

JOSEPHINE (42), an attractive business woman is dressed
professionally with her hair up. She can be seen from the
back. She glances at a happy BUTTON-SUIT MAN holding flowers
on the stairwell. She passes him on the stairs as she exits
to the street.

Josephine's feet and briefcase ascend the stairs.

2 EXT. LONDON STREET - DAY 2

It is dusk of the same afternoon. Josephine hears the
DISHEVELED MAN behind her. She looks back as she hurries
away, passing an OLD MAN sitting against a wall. He kisses
his own hands, whispers, strokes his face.

DISHEVELED MAN

Why?

Josephine proceeds along a busy London street. A well dressed ATTRACTIVE COUPLE holding hands walk toward her, a green traffic light behind them. The man looks Josephine up and down, then blows her a seductive kiss.

2a EXT. LONDON STREET. DAY

2a

Josephine reaches the now red light. To her right across the street is a MOTHER with a helium balloon on a string behind her back. The MOTHER admonishes a YOUNG CHILD (4) who jumps up and down, begging, and crying. The mother crouches down, bringing the balloon forward as the child reaches for it. Just as it appears she will finally give him the balloon, the mother lets it go. She stands up as the balloon flies, continuing her lecture as the child sobs.

Although the light has now turned green, Josephine stands at the corner transfixed, a church visible behind her. The yellow balloon flies higher and higher into the sky.

3 INT. LONDON CONVENIENCE STORE - NIGHT

3

A bell rings that evening as Josephine walks into the familiar corner grocery store. She calls a greeting to the Shopkeeper at the till, and peruses the shelf.

JOSEPHINE

Hello. Hi. How are you? No goat's milk today?

An attractive, scruffily unshaven East Indian SHOPKEEPER (24) with an accent stands behind the counter at the till. Wearing a hoodie and leather jacket, he is happy to see her again.

SHOPKEEPER

Sorry, your cat will have to be patient. Tomorrow.

JOSEPHINE

It's not my cat, but sure.

Josephine chooses cat and dog food, cheese and sparkling water from a shelf, her golden bracelets visible at her wrist. She drops several cheeses, and glances at the Shopkeeper. He notices, smiling as she re-stacks. They are cordial, yet slightly personal. She adds mints at the till.

SHOPKEEPER

Long day, as usual?

The Shopkeeper begins to ring in the items. Josephine becomes sweeter and girl-like in his presence.

JOSEPHINE

Yes, but in a few minutes the day
will be mine.

Josephine takes her wallet, reviewing the contents.

JOSEPHINE (CONT'D)

Long day, as usual?

The Shopkeeper nods. Josephine nods. They are nodding in unison with the same slight look of comedy, having just questioned and answered each other in the same way.

JOSEPHINE (CONT'D)

(changes to nodding a 'no')
You are not a tireless shopkeeper.
You're a poser. When are you going
to put that degree to use?

SHOPKEEPER

Maybe when you stop taking in stray
cats and feeding foxes in your
garden.

JOSEPHINE

Ok, it's not at all the same thing.

SHOPKEEPER

(clears throat, chuckles)
Poser? What does it mean?

JOSEPHINE

It means, pretending, acting.

SHOPKEEPER

(Chuckles, then coughs again.)

Josephine gives the Shopkeeper a 20 pound note. He is not well, and wipes his sweaty brow as he gathers her change.

SHOPKEEPER (CONT'D)

The antibiotic they gave me doesn't
work. It's the third one. And I
have a trip.

JOSEPHINE

Well finally, at least a holiday.
Will you take my advice about the
probiotics? And no sugar, no dairy.
Remember?

The Shopkeeper gives her the change. Their hands touch.

The Shopkeeper shrugs his shoulders, sweetly feigning ignorance. Josephine shakes her head as an ENGLISH LADY arrives behind her. The Shopkeeper hands Josephine her items with a big smile. She turns to leave also with a smile.

Having overheard, the next customer - an uptight impatient English lady - glances at Josephine with disapproval. She turns to the Shopkeeper and over-explains with hand gestures.

ENGLISH LADY

Do you carry English muffins? You know, muf-fins?

With a slightly sly grin, the Shopkeeper points to a bin of long white baguettes.

SHOPKEEPER (O.S.)

Just Bom-bay buns today, Madam.

Josephine laughs to herself as she exits the store.

4 EXT. STREET - NIGHT

4

Josephine's cell buzzes as she exits and walks. Her psychologist FRIEND is on face-time video, smoking outside a loud nightclub with music and laughter.

FRIEND (O.C.)

Josephine, you'd better get down here. We've been here two hours already. It's invitation only and they're asking what happened.

JOSEPHINE

(chuckling)
No, they are not. You put me on the list. No one there knows me. I'm sorry. I just -

4a EXT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

4a

Josephine's FRIEND stands outside the noisy night club wearing a fashionable hip length fur coat, party dress and high heels as she talks holding her cell phone on speaker.

FRIEND

Stop. You've got to put yourself out there. Darling, you're missing more than you know.

4b EXT. STREET - NIGHT (CONT'D) 4b

JOSEPHINE
I am out there.

Josephine on her cell, glances at a Jesus poster she passes. She shakes her head, then turns the corner and keeps walking. Josephine mirrors her Friend's cadence.

JOSEPHINE (CONT'D)
I'm completely fine. And, I know
what I choose to miss.

5 INT. JOSEPHINE'S FLAT (LIVING ROOM) - NIGHT 5

Amidst even louder music and lights, Josephine dances. She appears to be in the nightclub after all, immersed in movement and sound. She reaches down to pick up a wine glass from a coffee table, revealing she is actually at home.

She dances rhythmically, sensually. There is power and desire in her movements. Eventually she grabs her own thighs, squeezing them strongly. Josephine's desire to fully engage with life, with love, with her form - to find meaning in the full current of human life - motivates her dance.

Observing herself dance as she gets closer to her reflection between two curtains, she realizes PEOPLE outside on the street have noticed her. They yell, as Josephine abruptly yanks the curtain shut and backs away, almost tripping.

6 INT. JOSEPHINE'S POSH LONDON OFFICE - DAY 6

It is a bright morning. Josephine at her desk hears coworkers mumble as she carefully maneuvers a paper to catch a spider.

FLASHBACK:

6a INT. FRIEND'S PSYCHOLOGY OFFICE - DAY 6a

FRIEND
Einstein said, 'we can't solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them'. Notice new things, unambiguous things. How often do you choose your favorite color of food?

END FLASHBACK.

6b INT. JOSEPHINE'S POSH LONDON OFFICE - DAY (CONT'D) 6b

Josephine places the spider in a plant by the city view window. Three co-workers chat by her door.

FRIEND (O.C.) (CONT'D)
 Exactly. Just don't get caught.
 See, you don't need to be a lawyer.
 And, keep your alibis tight.

6c INT. FOYER OF POSH LONDON MULTI-BUSINESS - DAY 6c

Like a lovely cage, Josephine's office by a painting of horses, is visible through glass at her door. Her Friend motions with her head toward Josephine, now back at her desk.

FRIEND
 Tightly wound...

The coworkers nod and agree like zoo patrons looking in on an animal. They watch a distracted Josephine review a file.

FLASHBACK:

6d EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY 6d

In slow motion Josephine passes a headless female statue in an old cemetery with leaning, sinking gravestones all around.

END FLASHBACK.

6e INT. JOSEPHINE'S POSH LONDON OFFICE - DAY (CONT'D) 6e

Josephine wipes lipstick from a cup, straightens her desk lamp, and glances at a small family photo among others, as the co-workers continue to talk outside of her door.

SEXY OFFICE WORKER (O.S.)
 Alibis. Mhm.

LAWYER (O.S.)
 I prefer to call them, 'friends'.

6f INT. FOYER OF POSH LONDON MULTI-BUSINESS - DAY (CONT'D) 6f

SEXY OFFICE WORKER
 Really. A little harsh, no?

LAWYER
 No, she's right. (points to Friend)

The psychologist Friend snickers, slightly pleased with herself.

LAWYER (CONT'D)

My strategy? I, mix it up. You know, the credibility of 'spontaneity'. A little alibi lunch here, a surprise drink there...

6g INT. JOSEPHINE'S POSH LONDON OFFICE - DAY (CONT'D) 6g

Josephine looks up to reflect on life, slightly sad and defeated. Her Friend and the others continue to chat.

LAWYER (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Just me and my 'kindness' toward all my good 'friends'.

FLASHBACK:

6h INT. FRIEND'S PSYCHOLOGY OFFICE - DAY 6h

FRIEND

Whatever you prefer. Look, I'm a woman of science. I derive pleasure from rational examination, from appraisal.

END FLASHBACK.

6i INT. FOYER OF POSH LONDON MULTI-BUSINESS - DAY (CONT'D) 6i

LAWYER

Works like a charm. (to Psychologist Friend)
You, sure you're not a lawyer?

The coworkers erupt in laughter.

7 INT. LONDON CONVENIENCE STORE - NIGHT 7

Josephine is about to enter the convenience store. It is weeks later. She notices the Button-suit Man standing across the street. When she looks again, he is gone. She enters.

The Shopkeeper is there as usual, but shaven and looking better than ever. He is excited to see her.

Josephine, again dressed professionally with her hair up, takes her cat and dog food to the cash register. She counts her coins in her hand, accidentally dropping some on the floor as she places them at the till. She laughs, and pops up from retrieving the coins in a kind of guarded flirtation.

JOSEPHINE

You're back.

SHOPKEEPER

Thank you so much. Because of you,
I'm fine now.

The Shopkeeper starts placing her items in a bag.

JOSEPHINE

How do you mean?

SHOPKEEPER

I was sick most of the time back in
my home country. I was in hospital
for eight days.

JOSEPHINE

Oh no.

SHOPKEEPER

When I got out, I could barely
stand up. But I started taking
those PRO-something pills you gave
me. I got better.

Another FEMALE CUSTOMER walks in and stands too close,
directly behind Josephine, distracting her for a moment.

JOSEPHINE

Oh, yes, the probiotics, you mean.
Yeah. They really work. But that
sounds awful.

Realizing they are only chatting, the Customer reaches past
Josephine. With a fake smile, she places her items by the
cash register, glances and sighs. Josephine hurries to cram
the grocery bag into her work bag under the pressure.

JOSEPHINE (CONT'D)

And I thought you were having a
wonderful holiday this whole time
(sighs). Ok, well take good care of
yourself.

Amidst loud laughter and clinking of glasses, well-dressed
office workers socialize around an office birthday lunch
buffet with a boat-like centerpiece. Josephine's Friend drops
the cake knife. It lands blade up. She wipes it, then cuts a
piece of cake and gives it to Josephine, trying to include
her in the fun.

FRIEND

If you had a boat, what would you name it? I think I would name mine The Sororal, you know, like a sisterhood. No, The Rambler - that's the car my Dad had when he first met my Mom back when she was -

Her voice drifts off as Josephine looks to the balloons lying on the floor. She is drawn to the yellow one, like the balloon she saw the mother release with the crying child.

Office workers continue to socialize. The Friend jokes with Josephine and looks happy. Josephine leans in and whispers something serious not in keeping with the party atmosphere.

JOSEPHINE

I don't care about any of this - the goals, the things, just all of it. Don't you find yourself wanting to really be human, in a different way?

The raunchy expression of the LAWYER as he lustfully observes the breasts and bottom of the SEXY OFFICE WORKER walking by, marks a shift.

8a INT. OFFICE PARTY (SURREAL VERSION) - DAY

8a

With exaggerated, distorted faces, open mouths lean in to laugh or eat cake. The bright pleasant environment transforms into a surreal kind of bad dream from atop the city view.

FRIEND

Enjoy what life really is - a series of consumables in all shapes and flavors. Open your mouth... just drink.

Drinks are poured. Bloody steak is cut into, a morsel is chewed with the delight of poor manners. Whipped cream on someone's mouth is coarsely wiped off. Another fixes lipstick now also on her teeth, and laughs. Someone leans in to make Josephine laugh. She forces an uncomfortable small smile, noticing coworkers in the mirror who whisper with disdain.

Hands greedily grab crisps. There is drunkenness with sweaty faces. Alcohol is poured into overflowing glasses. Someone sits on someone's lap, pouring red wine that splatters like blood across the table. Party laughter roars.

Josephine stands paralyzed with the party around her. She says nothing as the bizarre and surreal scene surrounds her.

9 INT. KARATE STUDIO - NIGHT

9

A powerful punch flies through the air. Josephine, in her white gi and purple belt, hair up in a ponytail, is in Shotokan Karate class. She practices punching the way she has lived her life - with focus, self-discipline and strength.

KARATE TEACHER (O.C.)

Ichi, ni, san shi, go, roku,
shichi, hachi, kyu, ju. Ichi, ni

The class punches harder, faster. Everyone looks straight ahead, focused and strong.

KARATE STUDENTS

Ichi, ni, san shi, go, roku,
shichi, hachi, kyu, ju. Ichi, ni...

Josephine punches and punches, her face eventually turning from determination and focus to a kind of desperation. Her eyes well up with her reddened cheeks. She stops punching.

9a EXT. KARATE STUDIO - NIGHT

9a

A door shuts hard as Josephine powerfully exits the Karate studio building. She yanks off her hair band and puts it on her wrist. She almost runs into a man and looks up.

JOSEPHINE

Oh my gosh, I'm sorry -

Josephine realizes with astonishment it is the Shopkeeper. He is in loose sports wear, carrying a yoga mat.

JOSEPHINE (CONT'D)

Oh! What, are you doing here?

SHOPKEEPER

I am attending my yoga class.

JOSEPHINE

Yoga? Oh, that's right. The studio -

SHOPKEEPER

May I, walk with you?

10 EXT. PARK - NIGHT

10

The two walk side by side through a park. It is dark with a delicate outline of park lighting on their faces. Slightly nervous but cheery, Josephine eventually over-explains the health benefits of products she has recommended.

JOSEPHINE

Just keep taking the diatomaceous earth powder twice daily, just for now. And make sure when you mix it, you don't inhale. The dust is hard on the lungs. But it's amazing - it will clear out any bacteria like nothing else.

The Shopkeeper stops. Josephine takes another step and looks back at him. He looks at her deeply. He slowly nods.

JOSEPHINE (CONT'D)

Is everything fine?

SHOPKEEPER

Yes, now that you're here.

Josephine is surprised, unsure if reading something more into his comment is an embarrassing misperception.

JOSEPHINE

So, you had a good holiday? Other than being ill I mean?

SHOPKEEPER

Yes. Yes.

They both nod awkwardly in unison, like before in the store.

SHOPKEEPER (CONT'D)

I'm so happy that you are here right now. You have no idea.

JOSEPHINE

Well I hope this has been useful - this information.

SHOPKEEPER

It's about you.

JOSEPHINE

What is?

SHOPKEEPER

This.

JOSEPHINE

What do you mean?

There is a silence.

SHOPKEEPER

I went back to my home country to
be married. It was arranged.

The now-solved mystery is secretly slightly disappointing.

JOSEPHINE

Congratulations. You must be so
happy.

There is an awkward silence. Unsure, Josephine continues.

JOSEPHINE (CONT'D)

Is there something else you, maybe
need my advice with? Relationship
advice, or?

Josephine turns and they walk again. It is chilly. The
English trees are massive. Yellow moonlight outlines their
hair and features against an indigo/blue sky. The night and
one special English tree with a spiral branch, are magical.

SHOPKEEPER

All year I waited every day,
waiting for you to come in. Or just
see you walk by.

Josephine is confused, yet somehow secretly delighted.

JOSEPHINE

I don't understand.

SHOPKEEPER

I don't either. And yet I do.

They stop on a path.

SHOPKEEPER (CONT'D)

Every day was so long. I couldn't
stop thinking about you.

JOSEPHINE

But this doesn't make sense. You're
married.

SHOPKEEPER

I've never... It's so strong.

The Shopkeeper breathes in deeply. They look at each other.
Josephine searches his eyes. She sees he is serious. She
looks down nervously, and takes a deep breath. She looks up,
and feels something new. With astonished, new eyes, she looks
at the Shopkeeper, dropping her bag.

He is like a beautiful, shining apparition. Something has suddenly, profoundly changed. He gently drops his yoga mat.

Reality shifts back and forth from normal to amazing, almost supernatural. The wind blows the trees. The moment is quiet, serene, but filled with magical expectation. Josephine shivers in the cold. She looks up at the Shopkeeper, unsure of what to do. She is transfixed in a space of connectedness to him, beyond her rational comprehension.

The Shopkeeper pulls her toward his chest to hold her. She closes her eyes. As they come apart again, they look at each other. There is kindness and vulnerability in their eyes. Slowly, he gently kisses her lips. He whispers in her ear.

Then Josephine takes the lead. She reaches forward to hold his head as he closes his eyes. She delicately kisses them.

11 EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY 11

Days later, Josephine happily walks past damaged headstones and dilapidated graves in the now sun-sparkled old cemetery.

11a EXT. PARK - DAY 11a

Continuing her brisk sunny walk through the park she had walked in with the Shopkeeper, Josephine puts on sunglasses. Wearing a white jacket and skirt, she carries a briefcase and happily speaks to her Friend on her cell. Birds chirp loudly.

FRIEND (O.C.)

Oh, you're coming out this weekend.
No excuses. Is that - are you
getting another call, on a
Saturday? Are you, seeing som-

JOSEPHINE

No. No excuses. It's just -

FRIEND (O.C.)

Ditch the 80's love songs, ditch
love for that matter. Darling,
you're the only one who actually
believes that shit.

Josephine passes the special tree with the spiral branch.

She sees the Button-suit Man far in the distance. He stands and bows with one hand forward toward her as she walks. There is the exaggerated sound of a spinning button coming to rest. Josephine picks up a mother of pearl button lying on her path, cherishing it to the hum of her Friend's voice.

FRIEND (O.C.) (CONT'D)

No one believes that shit. It's
brain chemicals. Jesus, as a
professional and as your friend...
it's not real.

12 INT. LONDON CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY 12

That same day the Shopkeeper looks at Josephine continuously as she shops. Dressed in white, she glances often, smiling sweetly and knowingly. For her it is like a wedding day.

Josephine's hair is down and beautiful. She looks younger. He blows her a kiss. They both look like happy children as she pays for her items. No words are spoken. They smile the special knowing smile that only people freshly in love have.

13 INT. JOSEPHINE'S POSH FLAT (DINING ROOM) - NIGHT 13

Smiling and innocently flirtatious, Josephine and the Shopkeeper sit formally dressed at opposite ends of her dining table of foods. Shards of moonlight enter as they drink wine and eat. The Shopkeeper gets up to join Josephine at her end. He feeds her a little, and drinks from her glass. He removes the sheer shawl from her shoulders. She feeds him too. Soon, as if reading each others' minds, they laugh and load their plates. They run to the living room.

13a INT. JOSEPHINE'S POSH FLAT (LIVING ROOM FLOOR) - NIGHT 13a

The pair continue their main course and wine on the floor at the coffee table with lit candles. They feed each other and eat with their hands. Unlike the office party, it is sweet and delightful. Order and rule have given way to happy chaos.

13b INT. JOSEPHINE'S FLAT (LIVING ROOM)- NIGHT 13b

The pair dance cheek to cheek. She whispers in his ear.

13c INT. JOSEPHINE'S FLAT (LIVING ROOM FLOOR) - NIGHT 13c

At dessert, the Shopkeeper removes his jacket. Noticing a guitar, he tunes it and plays chords as they eat and laugh.

14 EXT. STREET BY JOSEPHINE'S FLAT - NIGHT 14

Another day at dusk, the Shopkeeper walks in jeans to Josephine's flat. A neighbor's curtain moves as he passes.

14a INT. JOSEPHINE'S FLAT (FOYER)- NIGHT 14a

The Shopkeeper enters with his own key that night, and hangs his coat. Other clothing items of his are already there.

14b INT. JOSEPHINE'S POSH FLAT (LIVING ROOM SOFA)- NIGHT 14b

Both in jeans later that night, Josephine and the Shopkeeper sit on the sofa by the coffee table with a lit candle. They smile and look at each other. He gently traces her lips, then just inside her lips. He gently touches her hair, kissing it, cherishing it. He removes her hair band from her braid, placing it on his wrist. He takes her hand, very slowly touching each finger with his finger to the tip. Josephine puts her long pearl strand around them both.

SHOPKEEPER

Touching you... I already... know
you (touches his chest)

The Shopkeeper puts her hand under his shirt, placing his other hand overtop, and looks at her. He pulls her to lean back with him on the couch. They are entwined as we see her hand under his shirt go around to his back and gently start to lift his shirt and undershirt up.

14c INT JOSEPHINE'S FLAT (LIVING ROOM)- NIGHT 14c

The couple in white undershirts and jeans exit the room.

15 INT. JOSEPHINE'S FLAT (BATHROOM) - NIGHT 15

The disheveled couple playfully stand before the foyer powder room mirror. They look at one another and to the mirror.

JOSEPHINE

Let's take a picture.

The Shopkeeper shakes a 'no' with his head.

SHOPKEEPER

With your eyes. Just like this.

They both look directly ahead at the mirror like a framed portrait. The Shopkeeper in pearls appears now as the mature one, with Josephine childlike and trusting. She kisses him on the cheek as he looks ahead, then to her in the mirror.

15a INT. JOSEPHINE'S FLAT FOYER - NIGHT 15a

The couple happily leave the powder room. There is a familiarity between them, and a kind of Adam and Eve sweetness. Holding hands they take the stairs.

16 EXT. STREET BY JOSEPHINE'S FLAT - NIGHT 16

The happy couple hold hands walking to her stately home at dusk. They stop for a moment to enjoy a view of the private park. Curtains move at a neighbor's window close. He notices.

16a INT. JOSEPHINE'S FLAT (LIVING ROOM) - NIGHT 16a

That night the Shopkeeper and Josephine stand and argue in her flat. Curtains are drawn. The coffee table candle is lit.

JOSEPHINE

How long?

SHOPKEEPER

We are just waiting for the visa.
It could happen any day.

JOSEPHINE

So WE, what, make the best of OUR
last days together? Until your
'real' life starts?

Josephine adjusts photos of her and her sister as children.

SHOPKEEPER

It's not like that.

JOSEPHINE

It is. It is exactly that. What do
you think is happening here? Even
you said this comes from somewhere
else.

SHOPKEEPER

It does.

JOSEPHINE

My body is alive with it. With you.
I feel it all day and night - when
I'm alone, everywhere. I think my
whole body is my heart.

SHOPKEEPER

It's the same for me.

Josephine holds her head in her hands by her open birdcage.

SHOPKEEPER (CONT'D)

I can't be by your side. But I can
be with you, always.

Josephine looks up. The Shopkeeper is touching his chest.

SHOPKEEPER (CONT'D)
It's this world.

JOSEPHINE
No, it's you. You can change it.

SHOPKEEPER
The families... I can't leave her.
Not now.

JOSEPHINE
Now, you can live for whatever you
want. Or what everyone wants from
you, posing, pretending. How is
this not your choice?

SHOPKEEPER
You always knew this.

JOSEPHINE
We both knew. Don't act like
telling me about her right from the
start excuses you.

SHOPKEEPER
We didn't choose this. We let it
take us.

JOSEPHINE
Because it's real. It's all that
matters.

The Shopkeeper nods.

JOSEPHINE (CONT'D)
We get to live in it. Or not.

Josephine and the Shopkeeper nod in agreement.

JOSEPHINE (CONT'D)
But you are walking away?

SHOPKEEPER
Just my feet.

Josephine turns away. She is distraught, holding tears.

JOSEPHINE
What about me? How do I live,
tomorrow?

SHOPKEEPER

Yesterday. Tomorrow will carry our
yesterday. Now, tomorrow and every
day will carry the yesterday.

Josephine finally turns back to the Shopkeeper and rushes to embrace him and the tragedy she poignantly feels.

Later that night, the Shopkeeper leaves Josephine asleep on the sofa. The candle is out. Carrying a travel bag, he places his key next to her golden bracelets lying by her childhood photos, a dog collar and horse picture. He takes a last look.

17

INT. LONDON CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY

17

Months later and with no briefcase, a more relaxed young looking Josephine with casual elegant clothes, pearls and longer hair, walks into the grocery store. She looks directly at the Shopkeeper who looks well. With a full beard and now wearing a sports jacket, he is happy and deeply moved.

Josephine brings her familiar items to the till. She looks at him with depth, seriousness and knowing. No words are spoken. She gives him a handful of coins, taking back the mother of pearl button she sees in the mix. Their hands touch for a moment. Josephine sees her hairband on his wrist. As he sorts the coins in his hand, she sees he is wearing a wedding band.

The Shopkeeper hands her several coins, then places her items in a bag. He continues to look at her with love and respect. A kind East Indian woman's voice is heard speaking from the stock room in the Hindi language.

EAST INDIAN WOMAN (O.C.)

Are the orders ready to place, or
are we still doing canned goods?

Josephine glances from the Shopkeeper's wrist to his face to see his reaction. She searches his eyes as tears well up. Josephine and the Shopkeeper smile as they look at each other. We see their eyes filled with their story, their love and also a deep farewell. Josephine nods. She whispers as she walks backward.

JOSEPHINE

Thank you.

Birds chirp outside as the sun bounces off the cash register.

Josephine turns, and can be seen from the front as she exits the store into bright, rising golden sunlight. She is alone, but this time truly happy. Josephine has finally known love. She is able to live with love alive in her heart. She happily turns her head toward the sun.