

TWO FOR ONE

Written by

David Kline

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1 EXT. PEDESTRIANISED SHOPPING ARCADE - NIGHT 1

Establishing shot. CHRISTMAS, festive lights, sights and sounds. PEDESTRIANS carrying shopping bags, come and go.

2 INT. HOUSE, LOUNGE - CONTINUOUS 2

Warm light from a room beyond pours into a small, gloomy room through a half-open doorway.

O.S We hear RUSTLING and GRUNTING, a man is struggling with something. Unseen, a cardboard BOX is dropped on the floor. A glittery BAUBLE rolls through the doorway into the lounge and comes to rest next to the sofa.

The door is pushed open and PETER, 50s, enters, carrying a cardboard box which he places on a COFFEE TABLE. PETER looks a little unkempt. He has a few days stubble. He opens the cardboard box and looks inside. He takes out a Christmas jumper, finds an old PHOTOGRAPH and a folded SHEET OF PAPER. *

C.U on PHOTOGRAPH. We see PETER wearing the jumper, next to his late wife (SHEILA). *

PETER smiles fondly at the photograph. He holds the jumper against his body, looks down at it, then gently places it back into the box. He unfolds the piece of paper. *

C.U on the tattered looking PAPER. It reads: SHEILA'S CHRISTMAS CRACKERS, followed by a list of ingredients for seasonal recipes. PETER folds it up, puts it in his pocket. *

He returns to the box and pulls out a small, shabby looking Christmas tree, places it in its stand and opens out the branches, it is tilting to one side. He removes a strand of tinsel and it drapes across the branches.

He looks in the box again and finds a solitary BAUBLE. He hangs it on the tree. He searches through the box but there are no more baubles. He disappointedly surveys his work.

3 INT. HOUSE, KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS 3

PETER opens a cupboard and takes out two Sherry glasses. He looks at them for a moment, then puts one back in the cupboard.

He grabs a bottle of SOLITAIRE Sherry. He pours some out but there's only a splash left. He is once more disappointed.

PETER opens the fridge. It contains very little food. He closes the fridge door.

4 EXT. PEDESTRIANISED SHOPPING ARCADE - CONTINUOUS 4

PETER, in a big coat, takes in the Christmas lights and decorations. SHOPPERS come and go carrying bags. Drunken FRIENDS in Santa hats steady each other as they laugh heartily at a joke. PETER watches them briefly, then walks off.

5 INT. MINIMART CONVENIENCE STORE - CONTINUOUS 5

A cold looking, spartan food shop, shelves stacked with tins and packets. JOANNE, 40s, a shop assistant, wearing a 'HERE TO HELP' badge, is behind the counter writing Christmas cards. She stifles a yawn.

PETER O.S
Evening Joanne.

Reveal PETER has entered the shop. He picks up a basket. JOANNE perks up.

JOANNE
Hi Peter. All set for Christmas?

PETER takes out the RECIPE list he found in the box and begins browsing the shelves. *

PETER
I've done a bit. What about you? *

She holds up a Christmas card. *

JOANNE
The usual. Not the same when you're on your own is it? *

CUT TO: *

PETER nods and reads the RECIPE list. He cannot find items he needs. He reaches the food chiller and spots some CHRISTMAS-DINNER-FOR-ONE ready meals. A sign reads 'SPECIAL OFFER - TWO FOR ONE.' He looks up. *

PETER
(Mutters to self)
Sorry love, a lot of effort, when no-one's coming. *

He looks at the RECIPE list, looks back at the DINNER FOR ONE, then reluctantly folds the sheet of paper and returns it to his pocket. He grabs a CHRISTMAS-DINNER-FOR-ONE and puts it in his basket. *

CUT TO:

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

PETER places his basket on the counter.

JOANNE
You must miss Shiela?

PETER
Yeah... she loved Christmas.

JOANNE
Always worse this time of
year.

PETER nods agreement. JOANNE scans the CHRISTMAS-DINNER-FOR-ONE.

JOANNE (CONT'D)
These are Two-for-One you know.

PETER
(Flat)
There's only me.

JOANNE
(Smiles)
Sure. Well if you change your mind.

JOANNE gives him a sympathetic smile and places the CHRISTMAS-DINNER-FOR-ONE into a bag and hands it to PETER.

PETER
Could I get some Sherry please.

JOANNE grabs a bottle of Sherry from a shelf behind her, then takes a Christmas card from the box beside her, writes a greeting on it and puts it in an envelope. She hands the card and bottle to PETER with a beaming smile. He tries to pay but JOANNE blocks his card with her hand.

JOANNE
On the house. All the best.

PETER smiles thinly, then exits. JOANNE watches him leave.

6 INT. HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT

6

PETER removes the CHRISTMAS-MEAL-FOR-ONE from the bag, places it on the worktop. He opens the bottle of sherry, fills a glass and takes a big gulp, then opens the Christmas card JOANNE gave him.

C.U on card, which reads: "Chin up, it will soon be all
over." Beneath the caption there is a cartoon image of a
Turkey wearing a Christmas hat and serviette, waiting at a
table, clutching a knife and fork. *
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*

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

Approaching the bird from behind, an ominous looking farmer is brandishing a big knife. A "Merry Christmas" caption follows underneath. *

PETER looks back at the cover. He gets the joke and initially smiles at the card, but it quickly drains from his face. PETER opens the card, Joanne's inscription reads: 'HAVE A GOOD ONE, JOANNE X' PETER stands the card on the worktop. *

7 INT. HOUSE, LOUNGE - NIGHT 7

PETER sits down with his glass of Sherry and the bottle and gazes at the Christmas tree.

PETER's POV: The tree looks sad and pathetic. A solitary bauble dangles from a bare branch.

JOANNE V.O
(Echoes)
You must miss Shiela...

PETER V.O
(Echoes)
Yeah... she loved Christmas.

PETER knocks back his Sherry, then refills the glass and reflects. His eyes well up.

JOANNE V.O
(Echoes)
Always worse this time of
year... Always worse this time of
year...

PETER adjusts his gaze and spots the other BAUBLE that rolled through the door. He gets up and places it on the tree. Two BAUBLES hang next to each other.

C.U on PETER's face.

C.U on BAUBLES

PETER drains his glass, gets up, wobbles slightly and exits.

8 INT. HOUSE, BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS 8

PETER looks at himself in the mirror. He opens the cupboard and takes out a traditional safety razor. He stares at it for a moment then returns his gaze to the mirror.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

PETER V.O
(Echoes)
Yeah... she loved Christmas.

JOANNE V.O
(Echoes)
Always worse this time of
year... Always worse... Always...

He removes the blade and holds it between his fingers. He takes out his phone and starts typing a text message.

C.U of phone screen, the message reads:

JOANNE (SHOP), I'VE DECIDED THAT...

We don't see the rest of the message. He finishes typing, puts his phone down and picks up the RAZOR BLADE.

E.C.U on the sharp edge of the RAZOR BLADE.

CUT TO BLACK.

9 INT. HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT

9

The Microwave oven PINGS. PETER takes out the CHRISTMAS-DINNER-FOR-ONE and serves it onto a plate. He is clean-shaven, some bits of tissue covering cuts. He's wearing the Christmas jumper.

10 INT. HOUSE, LOUNGE - NIGHT

10

C.U On the CHRISTMAS-DINNER-FOR-ONE on a TRAY.

PETER sits down on the sofa with the TRAY of food. Reveal, JOANNE sitting next to him also with a CHRISTMAS-DINNER-FOR-ONE on a tray. They CHINK Sherry glasses together.

JOANNE
Merry Christmas.

PETER
And a happy new year.

END SHOT: C.U on TWO BAUBLES hanging from the Christmas tree.

SOFT FOCUS on PETER and JOANNE in the background, sitting on the sofa eating, drinking and chatting.

FADE TO BLACK

END CREDITS