

9 EXT. BELLE'S HOUSE - DAY

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Belle is walking towards her house.

BELLE

(TO US)

One of life's great pleasures:
Come home, mid-morning, the
world's at work, have a nice long
bath.

As she opens the door, a softball flies past her face.

BEN

Sorry. Wasn't expecting you. Nice
surprise though.

Ben kisses a bemused Belle, before going outside to
retrieve his ball.

BELLE

(UNENTHUSIASTIC)

Isn't it just. Why aren't you at
work?

Poppy is on her mobile, wandering around in the background,
dressed in shloppy clothes.

POPPY

(INTO PHONE)

I so know what you mean. Exactly.
Exactly. Exactly. Yeah. Exactly.

BEN (O.C.)

The suppliers are doing their
quarterly audit.

Ben comes back in.

BEN (CONT'D)

I'm going in later. You having a
good day?

BELLE
(STILL THINKING ABOUT
HARRY)
Yes. I was.
(BEAT)
Could you not play with the ball
in the house.

BEN
(SARKY KID)
Sorry.

Ben starts playing keepy-uppy.

POPPY
(INTO PHONE, SQUEALING)
Really?

BELLE
(TO POPPY)
Do you think you could take that
somewhere else?

Poppy smiles and nods at Belle, but doesn't move.

Belle sees that the kitchen is in a terrible mess.

BELLE (CONT'D)
And please could you tidy the
kitchen?

Ben loses control of the ball and it flies past Belle again
and hits the wall.

BELLE (CONT'D)
Ben!

BEN
Ooops! Sorry.

POPPY
(INTO PHONE)
That is mad!

BELLE
Poppy!

Poppy gestures with her hand to say: just give me one
second.

BEN
Poppy, hang up and do the
kitchen.

POPPY
(TO BEN AND BELLE)
I will. I swear.

BELLE

I can't deal with this right now.

Belle goes to leave. She opens the front door only to find JACKIE poised to ring the bell, holding a plant.

JACKIE

I bought you a plant.

BELLE

Fuck! Jackie!

JACKIE

Charming.

BELLE

I mean, hi, obviously. What are you doing here?

JACKIE

You invited your only sister round to see your new house, remember?

BELLE

No, I...(didn't). Right. Well played.

JACKIE

Thank you.

(BEAT)

May I enter, or is there a written exam I need to sit first?

BELLE

I was just on my way out actually.

BEN (O.C.)

Han, do you want some lunch?

Jackie shudders when she hears his voice.

JACKIE

Is that Ben?

BELLE

No?

Ben is looking in the fridge.

BEN

I thought I might re-heat that...

(CLOSING FRIDGE DOOR,

JACKIE'S THERE)

Fuck! Jackie!

BELLE
Jackie's here, yay!

JACKIE
(COLD)
Hello Ben.

BEN
(SOLEMN)
How are you, Jackie?

JACKIE
I am not well, thank you. Do you
want to know why?

BELLE
(TO BEN)
We really should get going.

POPPY
(INTO PHONE, NOW
INTERESTED IN JACKIE'S
STORY)
I'll call you back.

JACKIE
Because when Ben and I had sexual
intercourse and he then promptly
decided he did not want to have
an adult relationship with me, it
seriously damaged my self-image
and left me with residual self-
esteem issues which manifest
themselves in my daily life.

BELLE
How is Doctor Griffin?

JACKIE
A life saver.

BEN
I'm sorry Jackie.

JACKIE
(TO POPPY)
So I should probably warn you,
whatever your name is, that you
shouldn't rely on this man to
affirm who you are as an
individual because he will leave
you. And he will crush you.

BEN
Oh no, wait...

POPPY

What?

BEN

(RE HIM AND POPPY)

We're not together.

POPPY

No way. He's living with Belle.

JACKIE

Who?

POPPY

(POINTING AT BELLE)

Er, Belle? Hello?

BELLE

(TO JACKIE)

It's a nickname.

JACKIE

(TO BELLE)

He's living here?

POPPY

That's what couples do.

BELLE

Why don't you go and make some calls, Poppy?

JACKIE

You and Ben are a couple?

BELLE

Kind of.

BEN

Sort of. Sorry.

BELLE

Sorry.

JACKIE

(SITTING, WINDED)

This is not good at all.

BELLE

Well, this couldn't be more awkward.

Jesus walks in holding a brown A4 envelope.

JESUS

Hello?

BELLE
Apparently it could.

JESUS
Is this a bad time?

BELLE/BEN/JACKIE
Yes.

JESUS
I just wanted to drop off your...

BELLE
(TAKING PHOTOS, TRYING
TO TURN HIM TOWARDS
DOOR)
Great. Thanks Jesus. Bye now.

JESUS
(STARTING TO TAKE A
PHOTO OUT OF THE
ENVELOPE)
No but some problems with
exposure on the final set...

BELLE
Jesus! My boyfriend and my sister
are not interested in this.

Belle takes the envelope and puts it in a drawer in the
side table.

JESUS
Oh! Okay! I go now.

BELLE
Bye bye.

Belle closes the door behind Jesus, as her phone rings.

BELLE (CONT'D)
(RE INTERRUPTIONS)
Is this a joke?
(INTO PHONE, TESTY)
Hello?

HARRY (V.O.)
Miss me yet?

Belle smiles, surprised how pleased she is to hear his
voice.

BELLE
Oh hello.
(TO THE OTHERS, HUSHED)
The decorators.

Belle turns away from the others and lowers her voice.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. HARRY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Harry is sitting in a stationery car.

HARRY

A perilous and illicit tryst.

BELLE

I'm sorry?

Harry has a crossword puzzle in his lap.

HARRY

Seven across. Nine and seven.

BELLE

Dangerous Liaison.

(COVERING MOUTH PIECE,
OFF LOOKS)

It's a shade of red.

HARRY

Is there no end to your talents?

BELLE

Not that I'm aware of.

HARRY

I want to book you.

BELLE

I understand. I should have some
availability.

HARRY

We'll need two hours.

BELLE

I see. And what time did you have
in mind?

HARRY

You'll know when it starts.

Harry hangs up.

We now see that he is sitting in his car outside Belle's
house. He drives away.

Belle hangs up and smiles to herself. She turns to see Ben helping Jackie breathe into a paper bag, with Poppy back on the phone talking to her friend.

JACKIE

Why do you need decorators?

BELLE

Huh? Oh, right, yeah, we were thinking of repainting.

BEN

We were?

BELLE

(GIVING HIM THE EYES)

We were.

BEN

(TO JACKIE)

We were. That's right.

BELLE

In fact they have some samples they want to show us. But we have to go and see them now.

JACKIE

Now?

BEN

(MOCK DISAPPOINTMENT)

Oh no.

JACKIE

I've only just got here.

BELLE

I know.

BEN

Bummer.

(BEAT, HAPPY)

Oh well.

Ben quickly grabs his jacket. Belle and Ben now shuffling out.

BELLE

(TO JACKIE)

We'll be back really soon if you want to stick around?

JACKIE

I know when I'm not wanted.

BEN

Good to see you again, Jackie.

JACKIE

I disagree.

BEN

Okay.

BELLE

Poppy, tidy the kitchen.

Poppy gives the thumbs up, still on her call.

Belle and Ben both rush out the door, delighted by their escape. They give each other a low five in celebration of their escape.

BEN

That woman is a nightmare.

BELLE

That woman is my sister.

BEN

Right. Sorry.

BELLE

And she's a nightmare.

BEN

We're not really doing paint samples, are we?

BELLE

Course not.

BEN

(HE KISSES HER)

Clever girl. In that case, do you mind if I duck off for a few hours. There's a place with a sub-woofer and these special little...it's man stuff.

BELLE

Go. Enjoy yourself.

They kiss again.

BEN

See you later.

'Secret Diary' Series 4. Episode 3, Pink Amendments..

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CONTINUED:

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Ben trots off down the road, pausing only to jump and click his heels mid-air for Belle's entertainment. She looks on with affection and laughs.

Belle then remembers that she is standing outside her house, potentially still fully visible to Jackie and Poppy. She quickly scurries away.

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CUT TO: 27