

## SIDE: HEATHER & CARLA

66 The Wasp

**Carla** Yeh.

**Heather** Do you want to come inside or . . .

**Carla** lights a cigarette.

**Heather** Yeah, yeah . . . we can sit out here. I'll just rescue my latte.

**Heather** goes and returns with her cup.

**Heather** Actually do you want a drink? I may get another.

**Carla** Tea thanks. **Heather**: Milk and sugar? **Carla**: Yeh.

**Heather** Right then.

**Heather** leaves and **Carla** smokes and texts. **Heather** returns with two teas, a milk jug and some sugar sachets. Over the following **Carla** puts milk and four sugars into her tea.

**Heather** Thought I'd join you in a tea. Already had my coffee hit. Don't want to be bouncing off the walls! Got you a builder's. That right? Got myself a camomile. Trying to be good. Well, trying. Look at us!

**Carla** Alright then are you?

**Heather** Well how long? I mean. You haven't changed a bit.

Well. Other than. When are you due?

**Carla** Couple of months.

**Heather** Wow.

**Carla** Thanks. You have.

**Heather** Sorry?

**Carla** Changed.

**Heather** God I hope so!

**Carla** What happened to the plaits. And the glasses then?

**Heather** Oh long gone! Long gone! As soon as I went to uni I wised up and basically realised I had spent years looking like a

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complete idiot. No wonder. Well. No wonder you lot found it so funny.

**Carla** Yeh well. Sorry about that.

**Heather** Oh no bother. Water under the bridge.

We were all young.

**Carla** I'm not like that no more.

**Heather** Course.

**Carla** I'm not. Problem with school is that you think that's everything and then you leave and you realise it's basically nothing and then you're like out in the world and you have to work with people and they didn't know you at school and like don't care and that.

**Heather** . . .

**Carla** That's why I was OK to meet you.

**Heather** Right.

**Carla** When you got in touch I thought, none of that old stuff matters no more. Course I can meet you.

**Heather** I'm glad.

**Carla** Cos if it were, like, almost twenty years ago then there's no way in hell I'd be seen dead with you right?

**Heather** No.

**Carla** But I reckon twenty years can make you wiser yeh?

**Heather** Yes. Absolutely.

**Carla** And I done stuff. So. And I can deal with this.

**Heather** Great.

**Carla** So. What do you want then?

**Heather** Well. How are you? What have you been doing since we last saw each other? I mean I see the bits and bobs on socials but, well, you have kids now don't you?

Carla Yeh. Four.

Heather Gosh!

Carla Had one straight after school, then another, then another, then another.

Heather Yes.

Carla Oldest is sixteen, youngest is six. And this one will make five.

Heather Congratulations. CARLA: Thanks. They're alright.

Heather Good.

Carla Pretty hard work if I'm honest but I love them and that. What about you? You got kids.

Heather Well, no. No. But I'd like to.

Carla Better hurry up.

Heather Yes I know.

Carla I tell you what I'm glad I had most of mine when I was young and had energy and that. At least now I know what I'm letting myself in for. I can prepare.

Heather Well, I guess I didn't really feel ready, I suppose.

Carla Are you ever ready, that's what I say.

Heather No. I guess not.

Carla My old man wanted another and I just told him to fuck off.

Heather So. What happened?

Carla Just happened I guess. And now he's all happy about it.

Heather And you're not?

Carla Well he won't be the one getting up with it at night and changing nappies and such. He never helped with all that. He's traditional like that I think. Don't mind. But I do mind. You know?

Heather Sometimes you need a second pair of hands I guess.

Carla Yeh. He's alright I suppose but he's a lazy fat fuck too.

And he's really old.

Heather Really?

Carla Yeh. In his sixties now. He'll probably die before this one's out of school.

Heather Well I don't know, sixty is still young.

Carla Not when you smoke forty a day and live off shit.

Heather No.

Carla It's alright I don't mind. And I have a plan anyways so . . .

Heather Well I must say you seem pretty together for a mum of nearly five.

Carla I have to be don't I?

Heather And where do you work now?

Carla Morrisons.

Heather Oh yes?

Carla Whatever. It's fine. Look, why did you want to meet?

Heather Sorry. Yes. Look. I know that we weren't exactly mates at school, at least we were; when I first moved here, in fact you were my first, my only. My accent used to make you . . . anyway. After that. Before we got to that stage where you were with Kerry and that lot, and I very definitely wasn't? Do you remember before, in like year seven. When we would hang out after school?

Carla Yeh. Sort of.

Heather Do you remember that one day after school with the pigeon?

Carla No.

Heather Look it doesn't matter what happened. I just. It just made me think of you and I just realised I needed to speak to you. About something. Perhaps I should start at the beginning.