

Prologue

Transcript of 999 call

24/12/17 15.06 p.m.

Operator: Emergency, which service?

Woman: ~~He's been shot.~~ We need an ambulance at the Happy Forest Holiday Park.

~~We're in the archery field behind the main lake.~~

Operator: Are you in danger?

Woman: We're in the archery field behind the main lake.

~~It was an accident.~~

Operator: It's important I understand whether you're in danger now.

Woman: I'm not in danger. But we need an ambulance. He's been shot. It was an accident.

Operator: I've got help on the way. I need to go through some questions with you but it's not delaying us, ok?

Woman: Get them to hurry. There's so much blood.

Operator: Ok, when you say he's been shot, what has he been shot by? What can you see?

Woman: An arrow. An archery arrow. ~~There's so much blood.~~

~~Operator:~~ I've got help on the way. I need to go through some questions with you but it's not delaying us, ok?

~~Woman:~~ Get them to hurry.

Operator: What's your name?

Commented [E1]: I think it's very important here to say as little as possible, so we get more morsels with each of the transcript interviews. Some chops and changes below to the order of info, see if you agree...

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Woman: Alex.

Operator: Ok, Alex. Is he conscious?

Woman: Yes. And no.

Operator: Is he breathing?

Woman: Yes, for now. Please come quickly.

Operator: Like I say, the whole time you're talking to me, they're coming with lights and sirens, ok?

(Wind sounds and background noise cut out suddenly)

Operator: When did this happen?

~~Operator:~~ Hello?

~~Operator:~~ Does he appear to be completely awake and alert, Alex?

~~Operator:~~ Hello?

~~Operator:~~ Hello?

~~Operator:~~ Are you still there, Alex? Alex, aAre you still there?

Commented [E2]: Is it possible to have a one/two line addition somewhere in this exchange which is a bit funny here? Only because it confuses the later tone, which is so funny – to start with something that's not? In the way you weave in such good humour to the standoff sections while making them tense?

[...]

And now, an idea had become reality. Stealth-exercise would soon be unnecessary. Because, two weeks ago, the two of them had stood together in puffed-up jackets and watched Scarlett on the swings in the park, and Claire had given Patrick the golden ticket.

She wanted a weekend away. With her ex-husband.

Patrick had spotted the opportunity right away.

‘Really?’ Claire glanced away from Scarlett. She turned to face Patrick. ‘Really?’

‘I said fine, didn’t I, Claire?’

Claire widened her eyes. ‘You *really* don’t mind?’

Patrick shoved his hands in his pockets. ‘You’re not the only one who wants Scarlett to be happy.’

She touched his arm. ‘I’m pleased, that’s all.’

‘What did you expect me to say? It’s clearly something you ~~really~~-want to do.’

‘I thought you’d think it was a terrible idea.’

Patrick did think it was a terrible idea. He let Claire pull one gloved hand out of his pocket and hold it between hers. ‘You know I wouldn’t stop you doing something you wanted to do that much.’ He paused. ‘A holiday village. They have those big swimming pool complexes, right?’

Claire hugged him. ‘I’m lucky,’ she said into the side of his head. ‘You’re a good man.’

Her admiration warmed him from within. He hugged her back, enjoying the perpetual nature of the affection. |

Commented [B.J.3]: This seems like odd phrasing to me – okay?

Commented [E4]: It’s odd wording, suggest cutting?

The sex they'd had that night had been particularly enthusiastic. It struck Patrick that generosity suited him.

So Claire might have been lukewarm about the training initially. But if Patrick did something like this for her then – well. The next discussion about Ironman would have to go more smoothly. Spending Christmas with her child in North Yorkshire, while his own kids were ~~on~~ two hundred miles away, had to be worth a lot of weekend activity time. Partnership was an exercise in negotiation.

[...]

Commented [E5]: The line before this is funny in a Partridge way, but this line makes Pat very dislikable. Don't go too far with that. There's too much of an Osrebaldy vibe to his character sometimes and be wary of crossing that line unless absolutely necessary or it messes with the dynamics

Commented [E6]: Could bring this up in the earlier dialogue, as we see him leveraging Ironman chips