

## Prologue

### Transcript of 999 call

24/12/17 Christmas Eve, 15.06 p.m.

**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...

**Operator:** Emergency, which service?

**Woman:** We need an ambulance at the Happy Forest Holiday Park.

**Operator:** Are you in danger?

**Woman:** Please hurry. We're in the archery field ~~behind~~near Santa's grotto, opposite the main lakeElves' smoking shelter.

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

**Woman:** I'm not in danger. ~~But~~ 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~~OK?

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

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

**Woman:** An arrow. An archery arrow.

**Operator:** What's your name?

**Woman:** Alex.

**Operator:** ~~OK~~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?*

*-Hello?*

*-Does he appear to be completely awake and alert, Alex?*

*Hello?*

*Hello?*

*Are you still there? Alex, are 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~~before, the two of them had stood ~~together~~ in puffed-up jackets ~~and~~ watched, watching 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 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’~~ I’d never stop you doing something you wanted to do ~~that much. It will be a shame to be away from my own kids at Christmas, but I want to do this for you.~~’ 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.’~~

So Claire might have been lukewarm about the training initially, his exercise habits. But if Patrick did something like this for  
her, she could be more into it. She'd have to see it in person, though. He'd have to show her what he's doing. And, you know,

And Claire didn't understand about exercise being his release from the antsy feeling.  
Claire just saw the competitive side of Ironman, the ego thing, or got influenced by her  
mates, like Heather, who waspishly said their husbands did it just to get out of time with the  
family. (Which Patrick definitely would, if he'd been married to Heather.)

[...]

**Commented [E7]:** Could bring this up in the earlier dialogue, as we see him leveraging Ironman chips

**Commented [E8]:** Repetitive of earlier loose phrasing, and sounds to my ears like a US-ism