

HAPPY AS LARRY

by
Dave Kinghan

EIGHTH DRAFT

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Writer: Dave Kinghan
therealslimdavy@hotmail.com

Director: Brian Philip Davis
brian@brianphilipdavis.com

1 EXT. HOTEL ROOFTOP - NIGHT 1

Rain pours over Belfast - and on LARRY, standing at the edge of the building, looking over. There are flashes - lightning perhaps? He looks sadly at a photo in his hand: him and girlfriend KATE, smiling at each other.

COMPERE (V.O.)
(Distant)
Larry Brown is the Happiest Man in
the World!

Another flash:

2 INT. PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY 2

A smiling LARRY blinks as many more flashes go off: a room full of PHOTOGRAPHERS and JOURNALISTS. He is onstage, arm in arm with KATE. A banner declares: "Meet the World's Happiest Man!"

COMPERE
And now, ladies and gentlemen -
feast your eyes on the Happyometer!

The COMPERE pulls a sheet off the Happyometer: a tall electronic thermometer displaying an image of Larry's grinning face and a digital number display.

COMPERE
(Pointing to Happyometer)
Here is average, up here is
orgasmic, and down here is... well,
we don't have to worry about that.
You can get happiness updates
anytime - online, on your mobile
phone, on demand.

As he talks the Happyometer shows a colourful demo to illustrate what he's saying, before settling to display a 'current Happiness Level' of 376.

LARRY is fiddling with something on his wrist. The COMPERE bats his hand away.

COMPERE
Just wave.

LARRY does as he's told. A JOURNALIST pushes a mic into his face.

JOURNALIST
How does it feel to be the Happiest
Man in the World?

LARRY looks at KATE and smiles. The moment is captured in a flash.

3 INT. LARRY'S FLAT - EVENING 3

LARRY puts a framed photograph of the press conference up beside lots of other photos - all of him and KATE at different locations around the world, in almost exactly the same pose. LARRY and KATE admire the new photo, then kiss.

4 INT. LARRY'S BEDROOM - EVENING 4

KATE and LARRY are in bed, shagging. LARRY is wearing sheep ears.

KATE

Wait.

LARRY

What?

KATE

(Touching his wristband)

Won't everyone know when we're..

LARRY

No, of course not.

5 INT. PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM - EVENING 5

There is a beeping noise as the Happyometer rises to 490. The COMPERE looks up from his desk in disbelief. He begins to shout to his STAFF.

COMPERE

Oh my God... 490... We've got 490!

The STAFF members look at each other - only one thing could have caused such a high reading. They cheer in unison.

STAFF

Way-hey!

6 INT. LARRY'S FLAT - DAY 6

KATE is cleaning, putting take-away cartons into a black bin liner. A trailer for a talk show comes on TV, with LARRY being interviewed. The caption on-screen reads: "Kinky sex the secret of happiness?" LARRY grins and holds up the sheep ears. KATE'S jaw drops in disbelief.

LARRY walks in the front door, and promptly gets a bin liner full of rubbish to the face. It bursts as it hits him.

7 INT. LARRY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 7

LARRY and KATE lie in each other's arms.

KATE

How's your eye?

LARRY
(Blinking)
I think there's still something
there...

KATE sighs.

LARRY
Look, I'm sorry about... (Beat)
But why not share with others?
This is the best thing that's
happened to us. I mean, have we
ever been happier?

KATE stares at his smiling face, and watering, half-closed
eye.

8 INT. PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM (MONTAGE) 8

Intercut with newspaper headlines spiralling onto the screen:

- LARRY is snapped advertising a range of 'HAPPY FAMILY MEALS'). He sits at a table, tucking into a plateful. KATE is dressed as a stereotypical 1950s housewife in an apron, serving food from a small/plastic oven. She looks far from happy.

- LARRY holds up a dog bowl and leash, both with HAPPY ANIMAL ACCESSORIES printed on them. LARRY jokingly tries the leash on KATE, who forces a smile while the PHOTOGRAPHERS laugh.

- LARRY, wearing a tracksuit, stands with a copy of his 'SMILE TO SLIM' DVD. Both he and a Lycra clad MODEL behind him are doing a ridiculous series of facial/grinning aerobics. KATE is also dressed in Lycra, looking sullen. She holds a sign saying 'BEFORE'. The MODEL holds one saying 'AFTER'.

9 INT. LARRY'S FLAT - NIGHT 9

KATE storms out of the living room to the bedroom.

KATE
No!

LARRY
(Following her)
But it's the big premiere! Come
on, don't you want to see me happy?

KATE
Don't start! I'm tired, I'm fed
up, and anyway I've got nothing to
wear.

She disappears into the bedroom.

LARRY
So? No one'll be looking at you
anyway.

Beat. A copy of 'SMILE TO SLIM' hits him in the face.

10 INT. CINEMA - NIGHT 10

LARRY stands sullenly in the foyer, a cut on his cheek, while others bustle about on the red carpet. He sees glamorous MELISSA across the hall. Hers is the face on all the posters. She smiles. LARRY smiles too, but turns sheepishly away. When he turns back she is right beside him.

There is a moment of awkward silence, until MELISSA leans over and whispers.

MELISSA

Bet I can get you up to 500.

LARRY hesitates then starts to walk away. MELISSA grabs his arm. She speaks softly in his ear.

MELISSA

Come on... try something different.

LARRY turns to look at her.

11 INT. LARRY'S FLAT - NIGHT 11

Many photos of LARRY and KATE have been replaced by publicity shots of LARRY.

KATE sits on the sofa, alone and bored. Sighing, she switches the (now wide screen) TV to the news. She notices a breaking news story running across the news bar at the bottom: "Larry's Happiness Level: 499 - Highest Ever!" She stares in shock.

12 INT. HOTEL BEDROOM - NIGHT 12

MELISSA and LARRY are in bed, having sex. LARRY is wearing moose antlers.

MELISSA

Give it to me, you big moose!

13 EXT. LARRY'S FLAT - MORNING 13

LARRY approaches, a bit the worse for wear. He is about to unlock the door when it opens and KATE brushes past, carrying two suitcases.

KATE

(Incredulous)

499?

LARRY opens his mouth to explain but KATE slaps him hard in the face and starts beating him to the ground with the suitcases, before storming off.

LARRY, bloodied, turns his head to see a PAPARAZZO in the bushes, who has been photographing every moment. He nips over, snaps a photo right in LARRY'S face, then runs away.

14 INT. LARRY'S FLAT - EVENING

14

LARRY lies unshaven on the floor, propped up against the sofa. Dozens of beer cans lie empty and crushed around him, as well as days of newspapers, with disparaging, witty headlines. The photos of him in the room have been defaced with devil horns, etc.

LARRY'S wristband bleeps: his happiness is down to 103, a sad face beside the number. The news is on TV.

NEWS REPORTER

...and a staggering 80% of you think Larry is a 'ratbag'. And with his ex-girlfriend's kiss-and-tell to be published in Ciao! Magazine tomorrow, it's unlikely the World's Happiest Man is --

LARRY switches it off. He picks up a photo of him and KATE, and looks at it sadly.

15 EXT. HOTEL ROOFTOP - NIGHT

15

The photo is blown out of LARRY'S hand and lands on the rooftop behind him. His wristband bleeps: 89 - the sad face changes to a skull. He takes a deep breath.

KATE (O.S.)

Larry!

LARRY hears the voice and turns. KATE is there, amidst the flashing light.

KATE

Larry, don't do something stupid.
We can get through this. Can't we?

A pause, then: LARRY smiles weakly, and extends his arms. KATE smiles, and runs to embrace him, but - her foot slips on the discarded photograph; she loses her footing, and tumbles over the edge of the building.

LARRY

Oh Christ. Kate!

He is about to follow her but TWO SECURITY GUARDS grab him and pull him to safety, still screaming.

LARRY faces the flashing lights, which are shown clearly for the first time: not lightning, but PHOTOGRAPHERS' cameras, capturing every moment. With them are JOURNALISTS, who shout ridiculous questions. The COMPERE pushes through them.

COMPERE

OK, OK, give him some room, for
God's sake - didn't you see what
just happened?

He looks at LARRY'S wristband: it is flashing an 'ALERT
AUTHORITIES' message. He quickly hides it from view.

COMPERE (CONT'D)

One question at a time.

A JOURNALIST pushes a mic into LARRY'S face.

JOURNALIST

So how are you feeling now, Larry?

LARRY stares at them.

CUT TO TITLE:
'HAPPY AS LARRY'