

# Lonely Hearts Interrupted

SHOOTING SCRIPT 1 - 18th May 08

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SCENE 1: INT. BETH'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Yellow and orange dots are splayed across the furniture that make up BETH'S living room.

BETH (O/S)

Daniel. It's me. I've marked a few things. I'll be home Friday. You'll need a truck I suppose.

A phone is placed back in its receiver with an orange dot sticker on it.

BETH (42) sits at her dining table, a large glass of wine at her elbow as she adds to the list of house items written in front of her. Her apartment is sparse, stylish but cold and lacking of any memorabilia from the past.

Yellow and orange dots are splayed around the apartment on each item. She reaches for her glass as the LIGHTS GO OUT.

BETH (CONT'D)

Dammit.

SCENE 2: INT. HALLWAY BETWEEN APARTMENT DOORS - SAME NIGHT

BETH feels her way along the wall to the next apartment's door and cautiously knocks.

BETH  
Hello? Excuse me?

Leaning in she hears SHUFFLING. The door opens and a friendly old man (HERB, 65) answers cheerfully, holding a lit candle.

HERB  
Yes?

Herb's gown falls open to reveal his aging physique and cotton boxer shorts. Beth quickly averts her eyes.

BETH  
The lights... I've just come to borrow some candles, if you had any spare that I -

HERB  
Candles! Light! Of course, righty-oh, ut-most importance for work and things of this nature...

He hands Beth his candle before turning back into the apartment.

HERB (CONT'D)  
Benny! Fire for the femme my boy!

HERB waddles back into his apartment while Beth remains by the door. Drawers scrape open and items clink together.

HERB's reappears at the doorway, handing Beth an assortment of burnt-down candle stubs.

HERB (CONT'D)  
Ah ha! Fire for the femme...

BETH  
Right. Well, goodnight. Thanks.

HERB  
Watch yourself luvvie, made of wax. Tricky to scrape up when it splatters... very tricky...

Herb eases the door closed, mumbling to himself.

## SCENE 3: INT. BETH'S APARTMENT - DAY

One hand flicks through CDs marked with dots: yellow, yellow, orange, yellow, orange. She pulls out the yellow ones as she comes to them.

BETH (O.S.)

Daniel. I've done the CDs. It's just a box this time. It'll need to be Wednesday before work.

## SCENE 4: INT. HALLWAY BETWEEN APARTMENTS - DAY

BETH stands in her open doorway, arms tightly folded, tapping her foot with impatience. DANIEL (45) emerges, carrying a large box filled with yellow stickered items.

Her eyes follow him leaving and her shoulders sag slightly.

As Daniel passes Herb's door she notices it's a few inches open, and a sliver of the man's old face peeks through. Gathering her belongings that lie at her feet, along with a set of stylish candles, she locks her door and moves to knock on Herb's

It swings open immediately and he stands in front of her in a frilly women's cooking apron. She holds out the candles.

BETH

Here - to replace...

HERB

Quiche! Burning! In you come  
luvvie -

(Calling out)

Benny?! We've got a visitor..!

HERB disappears into his flat. BETH hesitantly follows.

## SCENE 5: INT: INSIDE HERB'S APARTMENT

The apartment is older and a bit tattered, with old couches, and a small TV set in the corner. HERB prepares the quiche in the kitchen, while Beth hovers by the door.

HERB (O/S)  
They have us by the knackers you  
know -

BETH  
They?

HERB rambles along in his own little world.

HERB (O/S)  
Cause when you want just a smidge  
of gas, a smodge of heat for  
Benny and I's frail frail bones -

Beth's gaze moves around the apartment, over the piles of old newspapers and magazines. A tuft of creamy fur behind the couch catches her attention.

Leaning forward she stares into the face of a very stiff, taxidermy-stuffed Jack-Russel type dead dog looking straight back at her!

Startled, she backs away from the animal straight into Herb - now suddenly at her side and holding out his cooking on a paper towel.

HERB (CONT'D)  
Quiche?

BETH's phone lets out a SHRILL RING. She shuffles through her bag to answer it.

BETH  
Hello? Yes. No, I'm 5 minutes  
away for christ's sake.

She snaps the phone off. HERB, startled, holds out her quiche again tentatively but she backs towards his door, throwing one last disapproving look toward Benny.

BETH (CONT'D)  
(firm, distracted)  
Look, I'm just here for the  
candles, no time to chat. Sorry.

She closes the door abruptly in his face.

SCENE 6: INT: HALLWAY OF BOTH APARTMENTS - DAY

BETH struggles up the staircase with grocery bags and keys in her mouth. The key won't go in the door until suddenly it swings open and HERB stands in front of her, nursing BENNY under his arm. Beth HURLS BACKWARDS in shock.

BETH  
Oh, dammit. I'm so sorry - I  
thought -

HERB  
No troubles luvvie - need a hand?

BETH  
No no, I'm fine -

She struggles to control the bags again.

HERB  
Right well I'll pop a cuppa here  
on the table and you get it when  
you're ready...

He shuffles back into the flat, leaving the door open. With a sigh and a flicker of a smile Beth lets the bags fall to the floor and follows him inside.

SCENE 7: INT: HALLWAY OF BOTH APARTMENTS - AFTERNOON

BETH, arrives home from a run in her exercise gear, headphones blaring . Jogging past Herb's door she notices some mail on the floor. Wiping the sweat from her hands before picking it up, she knocks.

The door opens. Beth hands the mail to HERB with a smile, still jogging on the spot, then jogs over to her own house.



SCENE 8: INT. BETH'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

BETH (O.S.)  
Uh, Daniel. Just - I've come  
across a few more, bits and  
pieces -

BETH sits at her table, phone to her ear and holding two  
teaspoons and a butter knife in her other hand. A yellow  
dot sticker is stuck to the handle of each.

BETH (CONT'D)  
So, whenever, you let me know  
when's good for you.

SCENE 9: INT: HALLWAY OF BOTH APARTMENTS - EVENING

BETH, casually dressed, emerges from her flat a book tucked under her arm, and some fresh chillis in her hand.

Without looking up, she moves straight to Herb's door and gives a light tap. HERB answers, she hands him the book and gets him to smell the chillis.

He opens the door wider for her. As she passes him, Herb reaches out his hand towards her bottom. Turning and seeing this she jolts in shock - his hand whips away and stuck to his finger is an orange dot sticker.

HERB  
Didn't think there'd be much left.

BETH  
Excuse me?

HERB  
Surely you've run out of things for that poor man to retrieve?

BETH  
I'm sorry, is that your business somehow?

Turning from him she returns to the hallway.

HERB  
I'm just saying - everyone needs company, that's understood but...

BETH  
Ha! Company?!

Beth stares pointedly at Benny with disgust.

Herb meets Beth's eyes. Her hard stare wavers but before it can crumple before him, he gently closes the door on her, leaving her standing alone in the cold hallway.

SCENE 10: INT: HALLWAY OF BOTH APARTMENTS - MORNING

BETH emerges from her flat in a neat weekend outfit of jeans and a light sweater, towing a medium suitcase.

Passing by Herb's door she pauses. Her hand lifts a few inches to knock, but she hesitates, and steps back.

She turns on her heel and walks away briskly.

SCENE 11: INT: HALLWAY OF BOTH APARTMENTS - MORNING

Pulling her suitcase up the narrow stairs, BETH looks relaxed from her trip. Excited, she heads straight for Herb's door, a gift for him under her arm.

After a number of knocks he still doesn't answer, and she finally notices the pile of junk outside his door.

Confused, she looks closer, making out tufts of Benny's hair poking through the rubbish.

Her breath catches before the gift falls to the floor.

Frantically she pulls Benny from the rubbish and wipes away ot his fur.

Finally, BETH slides down the wall to crouch in between the door and the rubble.

She wraps her arms around her knees and sits.