

STEP UP "Jus' Gaps"

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INT. STARKY'S BARBERS - DAY - (THURSDAY)
Dimples is cutting someone's hair. Maxine is checking till receipts and Snakes is watching music videos on the television. Fenton also watches the television.

MAXINE

So where's this new barber you mentioned?

DIMPLES

He said he's on his way.

MAXINE

Oh when did he call?

DIMPLES

2 days ago.

MAXINE

Heavy traffic is it?

SNAKES

I think there's a strike or something.

Maxine heads for the till.

DIMPLES

This must be the new guy.

Emmanuel enters.

DIMPLES

You come about the job?

EMMANUEL

Nah, trim. I came yesterday but someone squeezed me out the seat.

Emmanuel takes a seat. Dimples signals to Snakes to get up and do the cut. Snakes gets up reluctantly. He does a stretch and yawn so big he almost falls over. When he's finished, he sees everyone in the shop looking at him.

SNAKES
 (to Emmanuel)
 Sorry about yesterday.

Snakes proceeds to cut the hair.
He begins by shaving some off the sides.

 DIMPLES
 Fenton. Have you made any progress
 since Cheryl?

Fenton gets out of his seat and heads for the window.

 FENTON
 Yeah I met someone today in a shop up
 the road.

An attractive woman is loading her car with shopping
bags. Fenton smiles at her and gives a quick wave.

 DIMPLES
 Which shop?

 FENTON
 Just a shop up the road there.

The woman outside the shop waves back.

EXT. STARKY'S

Woman's POV.
We see Fenton, Dimples and Snakes all waving at the
woman. Fenton is unaware of his friends' actions.

INT. STARKY'S.

Fenton turns. Dimples and Snakes are back to work again.

 FENTON
 The Fenton charm is alive and
 kicking.

Snakes and Dimples exchange looks.
Meanwhile, Dimples changes the TV channel with the remote. Snakes notices cricket on the TV while Dimples channel hops. Dimples leaves it on snooker.

SNAKES

Can I just see the cricket Dimps?

DIMPLES

Nah man, I can't miss this match.

SNAKES

What? You put snooker before cricket.

DIMPLES

Yes.

SNAKES

Boring snooker.

DIMPLES

What can be more boring than cricket?

SNAKES

(stunned)

What?

Snakes turns to Fenton for support. He doesn't get it. Fenton is distracted by Lucy, who stands outside the shop fixing her tights.

DIMPLES

The snooker stays.

Lucy enters the shop.

LUCY

Hello everyone.

The guys mumble something that vaguely resembles hello. Fenton smiles.

MAXINE

Hello stranger. What breeze blew you
in here today?

LUCY

I got an interview.

MAXINE
Really. That's good.

LUCY
Yeah man.

MAXINE
Where?

LUCY
Wait!

The shop goes silent.

LUCY
Is that my phone? (beat) Nah.

MAXINE
What is it for then?

LUCY
What?

MAXINE
The interview.

LUCY
Oh yeah. The Wellman Clinic.

All the guys look at Lucy.

MAXINE
The Wellman clinic?

LUCY
Yeah, receptionist.

MAXINE
Well you're good on the phone.

Dimples gives Maxine a look. He knows she is faking.

LUCY
I hope I get it man. This is my first
interview since the library. And that
was close. They said they thought I
had "too much energy for this post".

DIMPLES

What?

LUCY

That's what they said. I can bring
the letter for you.

DIMPLES

Can't you read in between the lines?

LUCY

There was nothing in between the
lines. Just gaps. Fool.

Fenton ogles Lucy.

MAXINE

So you confident then?

LUCY

Yeah man. I'm fed up of that blasted
shoe shop. Pure fuckries I have to
put up with in that place.

DIMPLES

Excuse me. There's customers in the
establishment.

LUCY

What? What did I say?

DIMPLES

You said fuckries.

LUCY

No I never. Clean out the wax.
What was I saying before?

MAXINE

The shop.

LUCY

Yeah. Every lunch time, guys coming
in. Pure shit they're chatting to me.
One guy come in looking at my badge.
This is him, this is him, "Chavelle".
That's a beautiful name for a
beautiful person". I said that's the
name of the shop you idiot.

Maxine laughs.

LUCY

And then, and then I was complaining
about my job. Everything I said he
answer me with a poem. "Shoes, shoes,
don't worry about shoes, spend the
night with me and I will wipe away
your winter blues."

While Lucy says "wipe away your winter blues" we see
Fenton mouthing the exact words.

LUCY

I had to tell him, "I don't care for
all your fancy rhyme, cos I'm taken
and my man is so fine." Pure idiots
we get in there. And the joke is, his
feet did stink.

MAXINE

Is it?

LUCY

(cracking up)

Yeah. I had to burn some incense in
the men's department. And that wasn't
even enough.

Fenton pulls his cap over his face.

LUCY

It was disgusting. When he took off
his boots, I turn around and the shop
was empty.

Dimples and Snakes turn around to see Fenton's reaction.
Fenton has disappeared.

LUCY

Them man don't know about lyrics.
None of them can test Wylie.

Dimples has finished his cut. The customer gets up and
leaves while Maxine is looking through some papers.
Dimples gives him a wink.

LUCY

Anyway I better go. I don't wanna be late. Wylie said he would treat me if I get this one.

MAXINE

Really?

LUCY

Yeah and speaking of treats. Who's giving me a lift?

There is no reaction from the guys.

MAXINE

Don't worry, I'll take you Luce. Do you know what questions you gonna ask?

LUCY

Of course. You forget Wylie's sister used to work in a hospital. She told me what to say.

MAXINE

Okay.

Lucy and Maxine leave the shop.
Dimples does a mock kung fu chop in Lucy's direction.
Snakes laughs.

EXT. STARKY'S BARBERS - STREET - SAME TIME

Maxine leaves the shop followed by Lucy. We see Fenton outside having a smoke.

LUCY

Bye.

FENTON

Bye.

INT. WELLMAN CLINIC - OFFICE - DAY- (THURSDAY)

Lucy is sitting at a table opposite a woman and a man.

WOMAN

So you've worked in a busy reception before?

LUCY
Yeah.

MAN
I don't see reception work on your
CV.

LUCY
Well it aint really a reception. I
work in a shoe shop.

MAN
That is absolutely not a reception.

LUCY
No but you get nuff people coming in
at the same time asking questions.

WOMAN
It's a fair point.

MAN
And how do you deal with these
people?

LUCY
(reciting advice)
I just tell them to wait and someone
will be with them shortly.

INT. THE CHAVELLE SHOE SHOP - DAY - FLASHBACK

We see Lucy shouting at two customers.

LUCY
Just sit down and wait your turn.

INT. WELLMAN CLINIC - DAY

WOMAN
And if they refuse to wait.

LUCY
(reciting advice)
Then I politely ask them to bare with
us. If we are short of staff I will
apologise and explain to them that we
are short staffed and we are doing

our very best to serve everyone as
quickly as possible.

INT. THE CHAVELLE SHOESHOP - DAY - FLASHBACK

LUCY
(to customer)
It's either you wait or you know what
you can do.

INT. WELLMAN CLINIC - DAY

WOMAN
It's all about people skills isn't
it?

LUCY
Definitely. We get a lot of customers
everyday.....

MAN
And what if they still refuse to
wait.

LUCY
(reciting)
In that situation, I call the manager
to deal with the matter.

INT. THE CHAVELLE SHOESHOP - DAY - FLASHBACK

LUCY
(to Manager)
I'll deal with this, I'll deal with
this.

Lucy grabs the customer by the scruff of the neck.

LUCY
(to customer)
Don't come back until you learn some
manners.

She throws him out the shop.

INT. WELLMAN CLINIC - DAY

MAN

Now I'm sure you'll.....

WOMAN

Hold on!

There is silence.

WOMAN

Is that your phone?

Lucy listens.

LUCY

Yeah it is.

Lucy's mobile rings. She searches her bag before pulling the phone out. Her phone plays the Eastenders theme tune.

LUCY

Sorry about this.

Lucy checks the number display on the phone. She smiles sheepishly.

LUCY

It's Wylie.

Lucy takes the call as the Man and woman look on gob smacked.

LUCY

All right darling? (beat) Can I call you back a bit later. (beat) I'm at the clinic. (beat) What you mean what have I got? My interview. You forget. (beat) I'm sure it can wait. I'll call you later sweets and we talk about it then. Bye.

Lucy terminates the call.

LUCY

That was my Wylie.

Lucy plucks out a passport sized photo and shows the man and the woman.

LUCY

That's him.

The man and the woman look at the picture.

LUCY

My sweetheart. You can see he's got
very unusual eyes.

The man and the woman pay closer attention.

LUCY

They point in different directions.
The man gives a disgruntled cough.

MAN

Miss Jacobs, I was about to point out
the very sensitive nature of this
particular establishment. For the
most part you won't be required to
meet the issues head on. However,
should a situation arise where a
waiting patient was to discuss his
particular circumstance with you,
what specific qualities do you
believe you possess to deal with some
of these very delicate matters?

LUCY

Come again.

WOMAN

Tell us why you think you should be
working here.

LUCY

I just told you two minutes ago.

MAN

Yes but there is a big difference
between dealing with customer's shoe
problems and problems of a highly
personal nature.

LUCY

Well I know all about sex. Who
doesn't?

MAN

You don't see my point.

LUCY

Me and Wylie have a very good sex life. Problem free, and always has been, thank you very much.

MAN

So that would be your response to a man who had a serious sexual problem.

LUCY

He shoulda keep his little self quiet innit, then he wouldn't be here in the first place.

WOMAN

Queries for sexually transmitted infections are small in comparison. In the seven years I've been here.....

MAN

(to Lucy)

Thank you Miss Jacobs, we'll be in touch.

LUCY

What, finish already?

The man looks through his pile of CV's of waiting candidates without looking up again. The woman gives an uneasy, fake smile to Lucy. Lucy gives a fake smile back.

INT. MAXINE'S PLACE - EVENING - (TUESDAY)

Maxine is at home going through papers. Her phone rings. She answers.

We hear wailing and screaming from the telephone receiver. Maxine holds the phone away. She realises it is Lucy.

MAXINE

Lucy, you all right?

INT. LUCY'S PLACE - SAME TIME

We see Lucy in tears.

MAXINE'S PLACE

MAXINE

Lucy. Lucy. Calm down. What happened?

LUCY

Wylie, Wylie.

MAXINE

Wylie? What happened to him?

Lucy continues to cry.

MAXINE

Lucy, Lucy listen to me. Listen to me. Just calm down.

LUCY

Wylie.

MAXINE

What happened to Wylie? Did he have an accident?

LUCY

No, worse.

Maxine swallows hard.

LUCY

He's. (sobbing)

MAXINE

He's?

LUCY

He's. (sobbing)

MAXINE

He's?

LUCY

He's left me.

Lucy is now crying even harder than before.

MAXINE

He left you. What do you mean he left
you?

LUCY

Dump me, finish with me, done with
me, sack me. How many more meaning
you want?

MAXINE

But, but why? Did he find someone
else?

LUCY

He's vex cos I didn't get the job.

MAXINE

You didn't get it Luce.

LUCY

I was sure that job was mine when I
walked out of that place.

MAXINE

So why didn't you get it?

LUCY

I think I was over qualified.

MAXINE

They must have seen all those courses
you done.

LUCY

Exactly. They don't know I didn't
finish them.

MAXINE

So Wylie left you for that.

LUCY

And he said my mouth too big.

MAXINE

Eh?

LUCY

And I cuss too much.

MAXINE

And what did you say to that?

LUCY

I cuss him innit.

Lucy begins to cry again.

MAXINE

All right babe don't worry.

LUCY

What am I gonna do Max?

MAXINE

Why don't you come round tonight?

LUCY

No way. I can't even move right now.
What about tomorrow?

MAXINE

Tomorrow's out. I got a business
lunch to go to with Dimples. What
about Saturday?

LUCY

That's years from now.

MAXINE

This meeting is important. We're in
the middle of a cash flow crisis at
the shop. I'm sitting here right now
surrounded by paperwork.

LUCY

(sobbing)
Me too.

We now see Lucy surrounded by hundreds of tissues.
Various colours.

LUCY

I'll be all right (beat) Here on my
own. (beat) Don't worry about me.

MAXINE

I'll call you tomorrow okay.

LUCY
Okay. And thanks.

MAXINE
What for?

LUCY
For always being there for me. (beat)
Most of the time.

Lucy hangs up the phone.

THE END