

Characters

Ben	<i>Shari's boyfriend</i>
Shari	<i>Ben's girlfriend</i>
<i>Joanna</i>	<i>Ben's supervisor</i>
<i>Kevin</i>	<i>A cadet reporter</i>
<i>Doug</i>	<i>A school principal</i>
<i>Abi</i>	<i>A PR manager</i>
<i>Alan</i>	<i>A lawyer</i>
<i>Greg</i>	<i>Abi's personal assistant</i>
<i>Mark</i>	<i>A TV journalist</i>

Perception

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A Café

- Ben** Scrambled egg, avocado, mushroom and a hash brown.
- Shari** And a Stuyvy upended in a smokeless ashtray.
- Ben** The coffee here is terrible.
- Shari** You're obsessed with fucking coffee.
- Ben** I dream about it.
- Shari** Stop staring at that waitresses bum.
- Ben** Tell her to stop wiggling it.
- Shari** Miss, could you stop wiggling your bum at my partner.
- Ben** Angling for a bigger tip.
- Shari** Must you struggle to find sex in everything?
- Ben** Is there something better to struggle for?
- Shari** Marketing.
- Ben** Morning meetings.
- Shari** Let's settle for morning meaning at least and then just call it quits.

Pause

- Ben** Lightning.
- Shari** Digital camera. It's a bit charming.
- Ben** If you're a tourist.
- Shari** Even Disneyland can have its charm.
- Ben** So does cancer. I mean Canberra.
- Shari** Canberra isn't touristy.
- Ben** Then Buchenwald.
- Shari** You're so rhythmical.

Ben I do like to keep a flow going.

Shari For any one that's listening.

Ben The grounds are burnt, that's why it's bitter.

Shari You should have been a barista.

Ben Probably never clean it.

Shari Look, look, red beret, red beret.

Ben You're so world weary.

Shari Eat your avocado dear and we can talk loudly about global warming.

Ben Anyway, when did buttering toast go out of style?

Shari Have some eggs with your salt, why don't you?

Ben There's a Brunetti's just round the corner.

Shari God, it's like the McDonalds of Carlton.

Ben I bet they clean their filter basket.

Shari It really ought to be raining. You know, for authenticity.

Ben You're right. It should.

It does.

Shari And hello Melbourne.

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At Ben's office. Ben is on his knees

Ben Christ.

Joanna No need to be alarmed, Benno.

Ben Just picking up my, something, I dropped my, something.

Joanna You get that thing I sent you?

Ben The email?

Joanna No the gorilla in the post pack, yes the email.

Ben I got that.

Joanna And?

Ben I have a girlfriend.

Joanna You have a girlfriend?

Ben Joanna –

Joanna You think I care you've got a girlfriend?

Ben No, just –

Joanna Fucking sensitive. What a girl. Say you're a girl.

Ben I'm not a girl.

Joanna You're out of your mind. I've got loads of men after me. Fucking loads.

Ben Well, you're so charming.

Joanna I'll tell you what else: I don't think it's appropriate.

Ben Not appropriate?

Joanna Not appropriate. I might screw around with you guys on the floor but I'm still your supervisor. I worked my way up from sales to get here. Fucking sales.

Ben I know –

Joanna That's not easy when you look like me. When you've got these in front of you. Is that what it is? You get blinded by these? Face's up here Benjamin. Eyes front and centre.

Ben Not a great choice, either way really.

Joanna What did you think though? Seriously.

Ben I didn't really get it.

Joanna It looked like she was –

Ben I got that.

Joanna Then what?

Ben Why'd she do it? I mean, was she a bit touched?

Joanna Didn't give you a tingle?

Ben – cause that's not funny, surely.

Joanna You dead down there?

Ben I wouldn't say dead.

Joanna And you reckon you've got a girlfriend?

Ben You met her at the Christmas party. You said she looked like a school girl.

Joanna You still with that awful scrag?

Ben Shari, yes, I'm still with Shari.

Joanna No wonder you don't feel anything. You vegan yet?

Ben Neither of us is vegan.

Joanna Go eat a pie.

Ben We're vegetarian it's not the same thing.

Joanna I'm a messy eater with a pie. Always end up with fat and sauce all down my girls.

Ben Because you're all class.

Joanna Because I suck all the meat out.

Ben And we're back to the email.

Joanna Very funny. You reckon that looked like me?

Ben Arse might have been yours.

Joanna She had a nice arse.

Ben I'm not sure nice is the word.

Joanna What would be the word?

Ben Huge?

Joanna You reckon I've got a big arse?

Ben Ample perhaps.

Joanna I like big butts and a cannot lie.

Ben That's not what that means.

Joanna Well, I sit around all day on it. Takes for ever to work it off at the gym.

Ben You're still going to the gym?

Joanna Theoretically.

Ben Does that mean no?

Joanna Came across an eyeball once eating a pie. Take this big bite and the gravy runs out cause the pastry all collapses.

Ben Well, it's lost its structural integrity.

Joanna And there's this sorta harder bit in the centre and I reckon that doesn't feel like fat. So I dig in with my finger, which burnt, and I scoop out this lump to have a proper look at it, and it's looking back at me.

Ben The eye in the pie.

Joanna Milky white and hard, cause it'd been cooked, I guess. But you could so still see it used to be an eyeball. I don't think it was a human eye or anything cause it was too big. It looked like one of those eyes you used to dissect in year ten.

Ben Cows eyes.

Joanna Were they cow's eyes?

Ben Yeah.

Joanna That'd make sense then. Being in a pie.

Ben I don't have a problem with you eating meat Joanna, really, I don't. I'm not vegetarian cause of ethics.

Joanna No, you're vegetarian cause you're girlfriend is.

Ben I'm vegetarian cause I was sick of finding eyeballs in my lunch.

Joanna The bosses are coming down from Sydney so loose the attitude, yeah? Hey, Simon you douche bag, you get that thing I sent you?

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At Ben and Shari's flat

Kevin I'm not unsympathetic.

Shari You won't make us look like a bunch of hippies?

Kevin I think it's a great project.

Shari We're just trying to make a difference.

Kevin If it is to be it's up to me, right?

Shari That's great, what is that?

Kevin It if is to be it's up to me?

Shari Yeah.

Kevin It's a thing.

Shari A thing?

Kevin Yeah, like it's a thing I say.

Shari Is it your thing?

Kevin It's kinda my thing. Like it's my thing that I say it, I don't know if it's my thing exactly, you know?

Shari Not exactly no.

Kevin I don't remember coming up with it exactly.

Shari Ah.

Kevin I don't wanna claim ownership of a thing unless I remember a moment of inspiration and can say, you know, that was it, the moment of the thing.

Shari That's very responsible of you.

Kevin Responsibility's kind of my thing.

Shari Responsibility's your thing too?

Kevin It's one of my things. I've got a lot of things.

Shari It's one of my things too.

Kevin So when did you actually start down here, doing this?

Shari Exactly this part of the project or when did I start caring for the wetland in general?