

EMILY

I blame me. No, I won't even try to find something else
- I won't have anything to do with the 'real' world
anymore. It was an out and out disaster.

MRS RICHPIN

Stop sulking and help me with these invitations.

EMILY

What's this for?

MRS RICHPIN

My sister-in-law is having a party.

EMILY

Another kind of hell.

MRS RICHPIN

It shouldn't be. She is surprisingly well-connected.

SOUND: BACKGROUND CHATTER

MRS RICHPIN

Emily, you must speak to people. That is how parties
work.

EMILY

I'm still thinking about the cake shop. I'm haunted by
it...as anyone with a heart would be.

MRS RICHPIN

There is a time and a place for a heart, and this is
not one of them. You're attracting attention in all the
wrong ways - the guests are wondering why a nice young
lady sits by herself in a corner, glaring into the
middle distance. Your expression is sour; I've spent
half the evening apologising for it.

EMILY

Tell them I have been to the 'real' world, and what I
saw there frightened me.

MRS RICHPIN

Why don't you tell them some of your stories? They're
wonderfully entertaining.

EMILY

They don't have the wit for them. Only the brightest
can face into darkness.

(A NEW, DEBONAIR VOICE)

JORDAN

I couldn't agree more.

EMILY

You agree that you don't have the wit?

JORDAN

I agree that light is the counterpoint to darkness. It is a necessary counterpoint. Look at any piece of art.

EMILY

Whatever.

MRS RICHPIN

Jordan - what a great insight. But can it applied to *all* the arts? Architecture, for instance? The work of a chef? Or music?

JORDAN

Those disciplines are beyond my expertise. My specialism is the self-portrait.

MRS RICHPIN

Of course. Have you met my daughter, Emily?

JORDAN

I haven't had the pleasure. I'm Jordan.

EMILY

Emily.

MRS RICHPIN

I much admired your show, Jordan.

JORDAN

The summer one?

MRS RICHPIN

360 Degrees. Jordan photographed his face from every angle, all 360 degrees, every day for a year.

JORDAN

A total of more than 130,000 pictures.

MRS RICHPIN

I found it very moving.

JORDAN

Thank you. I was exploring the constancy of the human condition.

MRS RICHPIN

So much to think about. More gin!

JORDAN

Yes, please.

MRS RICHPIN

It wasn't a question.

EMILY

If you think I'll make conversation to fill the embarrassing silence, you are wrong.

JORDAN

I have no expectations of the sort. This is a polite social occasion - or, in other words, an unforgiving, morally barren desert. You are brave to have ventured into it.

It would be brave at any time, but so soon after - what you've been through...

EMILY

How do you know about that?

JORDAN

It's all anyone will talk about. I just want to say I really respect your decision not to speak publicly about it.

EMILY

It wasn't a decision, exactly.

JORDAN

If or when you do speak out, let me give you some advice. I'm a - you-could-say - high-profile person, not super-high-high-profile, but sort-of high-medium-moderately- reasonably-well-known -if-you-know-what-you're-looking-for- niche-influential-high-profile person. Personality, really...Are you on Instagram?

EMILY

I know what it is.

JORDAN

All I'm trying to say is that I understand the public eye. And I want you to know that - whatever happens, you mustn't let the Arctic-prison-Cake-Shop-tragedy define you.

EMILY

(PAUSE)

So what brings you to the 'unforgiving, morally barren desert' that is my family's social gathering?

JORDAN

Apologies if I have caused offence.

EMILY

You haven't.

JORDAN

After 360 Degrees, I felt lost. I went a little crazy...130,000 photos took its toll. So I'm actively reconnecting with the world. Reaching out. Taking all those pictures of myself made me realise - a life with only me in it - is a bit dull.

In fact, next weekend I'm hosting an open house. There's plenty to see - large gardens, a lot of history. We're expecting a lot of people. It would be great to see you there.

MUSIC: INTERVAL

EMILY

I was not particularly impressed by Jordan. But I was intrigued by the 'large gardens' he mentioned. Not 'garden' - 'gardenzzz'. I tried not to think of perfectly trimmed lawns and flowing fountains. And I hoped I would not be disappointed.

INTERVAL

JORDAN

The house dates back to Tudor times.

EMILY

It's almost a castle.

JORDAN

We always open for visitors in the summer. This is the first time we've opened the doors in winter.

EMILY

And the paintings - they are all of...you?

JORDAN

(LAUGHS)

No, no - the Le Ratt family goes back a long way. That is my great-great grandfather, the one to the left is my grandfather, that one is my great-great-great grandfather, the one in the corner is my great -

EMILY

I get the idea.

JORDAN

Sorry, you must find all this very boring.

EMILY

No, I don't.

JORDAN

We have a room dedicated to the history of rat-catching
- that was the family trade. Want to see it?

SOUND: FOOTSTEPS ON STONE