

Redway

by

Roy Mathur

ROYMATHUR.COM

FADE IN:

1 INT. HALLWAY - MORNING

1

LOUISE 25 smartly dressed, stands amidst packing boxes. She fusses with her clothes, whilst her partner GARY watches.

LOUISE

I'd better go. Are you going to be okay?

GARY

I've still got all this unpacking to do. Are you sure you want to go in so early?

LOUISE

It's the machine, I just want to check it arrived at Buckinghamshire Energetics in one piece. It's a bit temperamental. Besides - first day nerves.

GARY

Temperamental? Just don't blow yourself up. At least take the car.

LOUISE

You're joking? Are you forgetting going out for fried chicken last night? Just two minutes down the road she said. Took an hour to get back. And that was with the satnav.

GARY

The neighbours say the town takes time to get used to. All the roundabouts and twisty-turny Redway thingies.

LOUISE

Tell me about it! This place is like spaghetti-

GARY

-Linguine.

LOUISE

Linguine of Möbius strips.

GARY

I married a stand-up physicist.

LOUISE

I married a pedantic chef.

She pokes her tongue at Gary.

THE WALL-CLOCK READS 8.10.

LOUISE

Oh, and don't you go calling Milton Keynes a town. They get all funny about it. Call it a city.

She rolls her eyes.

LOUISE

Right, I'm off. Kiss, kiss.

She walks to the door where she sees a letter wedged halfway through the letter box. She struggles to pull it loose, then drops it next to the door and leaves.

2 EXT. BUS STOP - MORNING 2

She is pacing and glances at her watch frowning. She hurries away from the bus stop.

3 EXT. MOUTH OF REDWAY TUNNEL - MORNING 3

She hesitates, looks down at her watch again and takes a final look in the direction of the bus stop, before heading into the tunnel.

4 INT. MIDDLE OF REDWAY TUNNEL - MORNING 4

Louise is no closer to the exit. She stops, breathes heavily and rubs her legs. She looks both ways, but neither the entrance, nor the exit, is within view.

LOUISE

Weird.

She makes a call on her mobile.

LOUISE

Darling? Um, I think I'm lost. Hey! Stop laughing! Hello? Hello?

She looks at the phone.

LOUISE

One bar. Stupid tunnel!

She sighs and she starts walking again.

INT MIDDLE OF REDWAY TUNNEL - MORNING

Louise is sweaty and dishevelled.

LOUISE

This is nuts!

She looks up and down the tunnel.

LOUISE

I don't get it.

She looks up and down the tunnel again.

LOUISE

No, no, no!

She closes her eyes. (1 beat) She opens her eyes and notices a metal door.

INT MIDDLE OF REDWAY TUNNEL - MORNING

She tries the door. It's stuck. She kicks it.

LOUISE

Ow!

She looks down at her shoe, kicks it off and uses the long stiletto heel as a lever to pry at the door.

LOUISE

Mess with a physicist, huh?

She opens the door with a screech. It is black inside with the faint sound of wind in the distance. (1 beat) She slowly steps into the dark.

5 INT. STORE CHANGING ROOM AREA - MORNING

5

She emerges wide-eyed and freezing, covered in snow, from a changing cubicle of a clothes shop. (We know it is a clothes shop because there are hangers with new, labelled garments hooked on the cubicle wall).

LOUISE

What the-?

She hears people approaching and ducks back in. DELLA and JAMES are shop assistants.

DELLA (O.S.)

You coming round tonight babes?

JAMES (O.S.)

Yeah and I got you something special.

DELLA (O.S.)

What?

JAMES (O.S.)

Want to see?

DELLA (O.S.)

It's not weird is it? Sound of a bag being unzipped.

(1 beat) DELLA (O.S.)

You're ker-razy! I ain't wearing that!

JAMES (O.S.)

You're ain't going to be the one wearing it.

DELLA (O.S.)

You mean... Whoa James! Cheeky.
Della and James leave.

Louise brushes off the snow, shivers and rubs her very cold and sore red nose. She looks around for warmer cloths, but there is nothing within reach, so she looks in the bag.

LOUISE

Oh no. You have got to be kidding me.

Louise quickly dons the garments. Seconds later a customer comes through to the changing area and is greeted with the sight of Louise wearing a pink, furry onesie with a hood and a gas mask. The customer screams and runs away, while Louise runs back into the cubicle.

6 INT. HIGH TECH LAB - MORNING

6

Louise emerges from a broom cupboard covered in snow. There is a large, complicated setup of electronic equipment on a lab bench. It is Louise's "machine". She lifts her mask. Her eyes are cross-eyed for a moment (she looks deranged).

LOUISE

My first day at work.
(Sighs)

Louise walks towards the machine. It is making a weird sound and numbers are scrolling randomly down a screen. She stares hard at the screen, adjusts something, then and dials her mobile phone.

LOUISE

Gary? You wouldn't believe what's happening. Where am I? I'm at work. What? What do you mean already? Look, never mind that, it's hard to explain, but something really strange is happening. It's nuts, but I think it's to do with the machine. Those idiot movers must have accidentally boinked something. Zillion-to-one chance, but I think it may have caused a, er, slight dimensional shift.

At that moment a SECURITY GUARD opens the door to the lab.

SECURITY GUARD

Oi! Weirdo!

Louise lowers the gas mask, sprints back to the broom cupboard and slams the door shut behind her. When the

security guard opens the door he is stunned to find nothing.

SECURITY GUARD

Weirdo.

7 INT. STORE CHANGING ROOM AREA 7

Louise emerges briefly from the cubicle, covered in snow. She turns and re-enters the cubicle.

8 INT. MIDDLE OF REDWAY TUNNEL - MORNING 8

Louise emerges from the access door. She heads in the direction of the entrance.

9 EXT. MOUTH OF REDWAY TUNNEL - MORNING 9

LOUISE

Phew! Out, finally! Must be
stablising.

She ditches the onesie and mask and rushes home.

10 EXT. OUTSIDE HER FRONT DOOR - MORNING 10

Louise sees a letter wedged into the letter box, starts to pull it out, but is startled when it is torn from her grasp by someone on the other side. She enters and looks at the clock - it still reads 08.10.

GARY

I thought you were going?

LOUISE

What are you talking about? We just
spoke on the phone.

GARY

Eh? Why would you call me? You
haven't left yet.

LOUISE

Wait, are you telling me you can't
remember me calling you? Twice?

(1 beat)

Louise stares at Gary.

LOUISE

The machine!

Gary frowns.

GARY

Never really understood what that
thing does.

Louise rubs her forehead.

LOUISE

It extracts energy from
interdimensional interstices. The
machine must have knocked something
askew.

GARY

Incredibly, that does not make it
any easier to understand.

LOUISE

At least we seem to be over the
worst of it.

There is a large rumble and boom like an earthquake. They
are thrown around. Louise grasps Gary's arms and looks him
eye-to eye.

LOUISE

There goes the Nobel. We're going
to have to fix this and you're
going to have to drive me. We're
also going to need a pink onesie
and a gas mask.

(1 beat)

LOUISE

Make that a pair.

FADE OUT.