

HOT MANGO by Debbie Croysdale

From Barmy Brit Com Series

INT. DAY - FOOD HALL, ICONIC LONDON DEPARTMENT STORE Ornate decor. Man re stocks exotic fruit counter. A woman walks up.

MALCOLM - 54 White, pompous curmudgeon retailer, suit, tie.

CAMILLA - 33 Black, refined, maxi dress, hat, wicker basket.

MALCOLM

What can I help you with Madam?

CAMILLA

I need something special to end off perfectly a romantic meal for two?

MALCOLM

Jackfruit for a rare pungent twist?
Or maybe these here Red Dragons?

CAMILLA

No but that large mango looks the business, I'll take it please?

MALCOLM

Hardly out of the ordinary though?
Instead we can make up and deliver a specially tailored box right to your door? Only noon now so plenty of time to make you a show stopper?

CAMILLA

Thanks but no! Remember the theatre proverb? Show ain't over till the fat lady sings? And wrap it up please with that thick gold paper and red ribbon used for hampers?

MALCOLM

Pardon? Gift wrap it you mean?

CAMILLA

(nodding)

Perfect.

She pays and leaves with parcel. Malcolm grimaces.

MALCOLM

(whispers to self)

Dizzy dork.

INT. DEPT STORE BAKERY AISLE A woman collides into Camilla by accident, Camilla's basket spills, both kneel to re pack it.

WOMAN 20's, white, black suit, heels, red hair in neat bun.

WOMAN

So sorry, all my fault! I was
daydreaming and

CAMILLA

(cuts in)

Don't worry, so busy in here and
kind of you to help me.

Suddenly they lock eyes as they scramble to re fill basket.

FLASHBACK INT. EV - DINGY FLAT A man and woman argue.

BART 40 White, mean, burly, heavily tattooed, vest.

JODIE 25 White, sad, half shaved pixie cut, shiny PVC gear.

Bart holds up two bank cards and a fancy leather desk diary.

BART

Just in! Pimlico house job so shine
at work in the morning? You owe me.

JODIE

Go suck the funds out of the hole
why don't you? Why wait?

BART

Frigging smart ATM's got spyware,
facial recognition and a red flag
instantly linked to big asshole.
Almost busted on the street last
time and for sod all too. Besides
this time it's for real money.

JODI

So move it around then?

BART

Run it through another's business
to jerk up interest? I empty the
jackpot, they put in, I take out.
You do a transaction in that swanky
stuck up store. I'll teach em!

JODIE

Why so sure we have until tomorrow?

BART

Cos resident's brat got took to granny's as they're in Brighton for a morning conference till three. All ears our Danny boy in his cab.

JODIE

Well I hope they didn't tip him. And what about my finger prints?

BART

But not in the system are you? Unless I decide to grass you up?

JODIE

But I dig my part time job now. My team really see me as one of them.

BART

Who got you the fake C.V? Me. You pick pockets in posh rest rooms so don't ever fantasize you're normal.

JODIE

I don't like being involved.

BART

Who asked if you like it?

CRAIG ENTERS 55 Asian, fit, city suit, flash Rolex watch.

CRAIG

You both stand about bickering? I wanted an Alexa but the green nerds had multi solar panels and no mod cons but do you see me complain?

BART

Cos of her we're arguing now, I won't tolerate insubordination.

CRAIG

But it's not Jodie's fault we've to think outside the box on this one. Our mark had sod all albeit rich. No computer, internet connection even, no CHAPS account or Pay Pal.

JODIE

Pay pal, is that to pay a mate?

BART

Dumb barmy bitch! No it isn't. And as he just pointed out we gotta do an old school con, grit and master cards. And start to show respect?

Bart gets hold of her shoulders and shakes her violently.

JODIE

Get off me you sod.

CRAIG

Stop Bart or she'll be bruised and then they might ask her to go home.

BART

Beware or I can hurt you bad without it showing on your face?

JODIE

Okay, okay, I'll do it.

BART

And don't forget to take your hair? Go get some sleep, a big day ahead.

Bart holds up a wig and throws it at her. She walks out.

BART

We go through it once more?

CRAIG

Meet Jodie ten thirty and your old mate Tea Leaf Birdie the decoy. Bank security answers. Daughter Ann's birthday second June 2019. Mother's maiden name Ada Sullivan but first boss is not written down?

BART

No social media trail but my white collar snitch says Blythe began his paid career as an intern writer. Exotic Camper monthly owned by Adam Todd who trained him how to stick up a yurt, imagine that? Sad cunts.

CRAIG

Hope your crooked tax man's right. I get goods. Carl drives me out of town in untraceable vehicle to drop me at garage by Stanstead airport.

BART

Where I await, no fear. We cut it
fine but if shit hits the fan be in
the air, new passports and idents.

FLASHBACK INT. DAY - JEWELRY DEPT - Jodie in store uniform,
red hair in bun, by counter with SASKIA supervisor colleague.
Craig and an old woman enter separately and approach them.

SASKIA 32 Latino, immaculately groomed, gel nails.

WOMAN 70 White, blue rinse hair, Chanel suit, gloves, holds
pedigree toy dog with gold collar in jacket breast pocket.

SASKIA

(whispers to Jodie)

The rich bitch is all mine!

Saskia makes a beeline to attend woman. Jodie greets Craig.
Both couples stand further apart each end of jewelry counter.

OLD WOMAN

I need a special present for my
lovely daughter but not quite made
my mind up as to exactly what yet.

SASKIA

You're spoiled for choice Maam! Our
matching three piece sets are
exclusive to us or for the young at
heart we've a new contemporary
fashion range? May I ask her age?

Chihuahua pokes head out of woman's coat to lick Saskia.

OLD WOMAN

(to dog)

Yes my baby, she's a lovely girl!

(to Saskia)

And my own girl's middle aged now.

CUT LEFT TO: JODIE

Are you looking for anything in
particular today Sir?

CRAIG

I want to see a selection of
diamond necklaces.

JODIE

Have you a budget in mind?

CRAIG

No limit, it's for my dear wife.

JODIE

Then I suggest our one of a kind signature selection from the large houses. Modern design or classic?

CRAIG

Maureen likes the Tiffany style.

JODIE

She has excellent taste Sir.

Jodie keys open display case to bring out diamond necklaces. Saskia shows old woman broaches and mixed gem necklaces.

OLD WOMAN

Nothing excites me yet but that photo on the wall, the pink and blue diamond earrings? How much?

SASKIA

The price is on application.

OLD WOMAN

Well? I'm applying?

SASKIA

Five hundred thousand pounds Maam and that comes with a signed form of uniqueness from the creator.

OLD WOMAN

(thinks then shakes head)
Still not very original. What's the most special item my Fay can hand down for generations to follow her?

SASKIA

Such calibre stock is not on display but for private viewing.

OLD WOMAN

How intriguing. Things such as?

SASKIA

A Swiss solid gold egg similar to Faberge style but opens length ways instead of at the top. And studded with diamonds, rubies and

Craig moves towards Saskia and the old lady.

CRAIG
(CUTS IN)

Sorry I couldn't help but over hear? Our coral anniversary is soon and that egg symbolizes our wedding day to perfection. May I see it?

SASKIA
Sorry, viewing is strictly by prior appointment only Sir.

CRAIG
Easter day 1989 we tied the knot. Our cake was a giant egg, I can put another love letter inside? Are you sure you cannot help a hopeless old romantic rekindle his youth?

SASKIA
(shakes her head)
Department rules I'm afraid.

CRAIG
Reminding her how in love we once were may just save our marriage.

SASKIA
I'd like to but my hands are tied.

OLD WOMAN
You heard him! Have you no empathy? Only full of the spirit of human kindness at Christmas? Your logo? Customer satisfaction at all times?

Jodie quickly moves to stand right beside Saskia.

JODIE
(whispers to Saskia)
We can enter it in the diary now and it's still done by the book? Who'll know he jumped the queue?

SASKIA
(whispers back)
Prince Amir wanted to see it first.

OLD WOMAN
Surely a mere trinket is not beyond the level of your sales expertise? Your both such two darlings.

JODIE
 (whispers)
 He's been in before and was credit
 checked. Think of our commission?

SASKIA
 (reluctantly)
 Go on then.

JODIE
 Come this way Sir.

CRAIG
 You're both stars!

Jodie leads Craig into a private room behind counter.

OLD WOMAN
 I do hope that nice man patches up
 his relationship. Now where were
 we? Yes show me those chokers dear?

10 Mins later Jodie reappears with the egg, Craig follows.
 Jodie flashes Saskia a high five without the others seeing.
 Saskia excitedly rushes to computer on desk behind counter,
 screen shows two million sterling in department's account.
 Saskia grabs a different choker to clasp on old woman's neck.

SASKIA
 Sorry I left to check the price of
 this one, oh looks lovely on you.

JODIE
 I'll just release this security tag
 on the gift for you Mr Blythe.

Jodie places the egg on the glass counter and deactivates
 then removes the square grey plastic tracker with a pin.

JODIE
 All done.

The old woman turns and tries to catch Jodie's eye.

OLD WOMAN
 (feigning a loud cough)
 Something's stuck in my throat.
 (points to her own throat)
 Inside! Inside! Deep inside!

JODIE
 Almost forgot, our head of security
 will find the hidden tracker Sir.

Jodie texts security. A man quickly appears with a small bag.

SECURITY OFFICER 36 White, intense, uniform, bald shiny head

SECURITY OFFICER

Please pass me over the egg? It's not often I'm called for one of our more rare and precious pieces.

CRAIG

You've just described my wife Sir.

Security man runs his hand held GPS blocker all around inside the egg, finds and holds up a tiny object hardly visible.

SECURITY OFFICER

See? The Faraday Cage! A simple yet reliant tool against a chancer, we do get the odd fool surprisingly.

Security man wraps object in tin foil dropping it in his bag.

SECURITY OFFICER CONT

And now Sir I shall personally arrange a special courier to deliver to your Pimlico address.

CRAIG

No need thank you, I'm a collector. My chauffeur's waiting as usual, we do know the ropes with rare items.

SECURITY OFFICER

But hardly safe out there Sir? And once in your hands and left our store you are liable for any theft?

JODIE

Mr Blythe? Relax while I wrap it especially for your wife and bring it out to your Rolls in bay six?

SECURITY OFFICER

No, that is my job Miss Frazer.

Dog jumps out of woman's jacket, scuttles across floor onto security man's big shoes. It cocks a leg and rapidly pees.

OLD WOMAN

Oh woopsy daisy! Naughty Delilah! I'm so sorry Sir, it's her bladder.

SECURITY OFFICER
I'm saturated through to my socks!

Disgusted he holds up each foot and moves away. Dog follows.

SECURITY OFFICER
Can you call her back to you Madam?

OLD WOMAN
Delilah? Come back to Mummy?
Naughty, why are you ignoring me?

SECURITY OFFICER
(points crooks finger)
Miss Frazer? A private word please?

Jodie moves to stand right next him.

JODIE
Yes Sir?

SECURITY OFFICER
(down her ear)
I handle all our premium purchases.

Dog suddenly squats by security officer, he moves backwards.

OLD WOMAN
(panicked voice)
Oh dear, she's suddenly got that
strained look on her little face. I
feel a number two is most imminent.

SECURITY OFFICER
Most disconcerting this! Our policy
should restrict to service animals.

Dog moves to drop faeces on his shoes, man heads off fast.

SECURITY OFFICER CONT
(gruffly as walking)
Excuse me for just two minutes.

Old woman bursts into hysterical tears.

OLD WOMAN
I feel so stupid and I only wanted
to give my daughter a special day.

SASKIA
Don't worry, these things happen.
I'll just ring for the cleaners.

JODIE
Mr Blythe go check on your driver?

CRAIG
No, I can text him now.

Craig get's out his mobile phone but can't get any signal.

FLASHBACK Jodie swaps Craig's sim card in the apartment.

PRESENT JODIE
(low voice to Craig)
Look suspicious if I don't wrap it
fancy so go check Carl's not got a
ticket or you'll be going nowhere.

CRAIG
But this store owns the car park?

JODIE
(low voice)
Minor glitch sorry! Just found out
today the council took it over. Be
greedy foot patrols and if you are
fined be vehicle paperwork needed.
And aren't Carl's cars all hot?

CRAIG
Damn! And I think they still clamp.

JODIE
(low voice)
Well go on? While I wrap it? I'll
bin this fancy velvet box, might
hold another tracer gismo couriers
are meant to remove upon delivery.

Craig leaves main store entrance. Jodie grabs red ribbon.

PRESENT INT. DAY - CAR, TINTED WINDOWS, UNDERGROUND GARAGE
Bart and older man sit rear. Third man in driver's seat
passes two men behind a bottle of champagne and two glasses.

DANNY 21 White, serious, city chauffeurs uniform and cap.

TOM 60 White Irish, grey hair, tweeds, top hat, briefcase.

DANNY
Charmed life you!

BART
No more drinking cat's pee, only
the best now our ship's come in. A
1996 Rose Gold, saved it special.

TOM
Cheers to us! And where's Jodie?

BART
Left her with rest of the shit.

DANNY
Posh totty now the high life boss?

TOM
But Jodie was good for the team?

DANNY
An accolade? Unusual for you Tom.
Why? Did you screw her too?

TOM
So crass! You just don't understand
meaning of the term "gentlemen."

Craig enters car by Danny and turns to hand Bart a parcel.

CRAIG
We all played it moment by moment,
a damn good act too even though I
say it myself? So, where is Jodie?

BART
She stays. Ivor's got her passport
to work off her debt like the rest.

CRAIG
What? Have you traded her in?

BART
As if I'd ever take passengers.

PRESENT INT. DAY - PLANE EXECUTIVE CABIN Jodie and Camilla
sit, empty food trays on tables. Steward brings champagne.

CAMILLA
So ecstatic that plane food was my
most special meal ever. When we're
by the sea I'll feed you oysters.

JODIE
Got something special to ask you?
But first let's fill our glasses?

Camilla holds up the glasses. Jodie pours champagne.

JODIE
 (raising a toast)
 Marry me?

CAMILLA
 You knew I'd say yes dear.

They kiss. Opposite cabin sits old woman shopper from store.

OLD WOMAN
 Cobbler's awls we got some balls
 ain't we? Where did you two meet?

CAMILLA
 I was Bart's duty solicitor and
 first saw Jodie through the window
 of his cell. And now we're both
 here, the happiest day of my life.

OLD WOMAN
 A real love story but darn lucky
 you found me at such short notice.

CAMILLA
 Happened so fast Rose! Jodie only
 rang last night but I remembered
 you recited Shakespeare at your
 suspect's interrogation and who'd
 ever forget the judge's face as
 Delilah ruined the bail hearing?

OLD WOMAN
 My days at The Globe paid off more
 than a bloody oscar, had em good!
 (changes accent)
 The rain in Spain falls mainly on
 the plane. Ha, ha, ha! Well pucker!

JODIE
 Can you saw me through some bad
 times but best is yet to come babe.

INT. DAY - CAR GARAGE Bart looks at parcel Craig just gave.

BART
 Happiest day of my frigging life!

CRAIG
 The best is yet to come for us all.
 We did it. We damn well did it!

TOM

Always a keen horseman so I was in
Derry and now I'll get me some fine
Connaught ponies of my very own.
And stables out in Spain so I will.

DANNY

And spoken by a man paid to shoot
people from tall buildings. Having
a laugh aren't you Tom?

TOM

Think cos I got stuck with you two
innets I never had class of my own?

DANNY

But innets like us win it, like we
just proved, that's right innet?
Lighten up Tom? That was a joke.

BART

Shut it you two. We're Paris bound!
And where next? Rio? Tokyo? Moon?
Why not? Toff's are pre booking it.

Bart suddenly gets a call on his mobile. Caller says FRIEND.

BART

(down mobile)

Ape shit! No that can't be right?

TOM

What is it? What's wrong? Gone and
mixed up our boarding schedules
again? Like you did in Tenerife?

BART

(down mobile)

Tea Leaf Birdie was in hospital all
last night and still in there? Some
stranger drugged her drink? Fuck!

DANNY

Someone's messing with your head
cos words out we never cut them in.

Bart rapidly shreds open the parcel then screams very loudly.

CRAIG

Shush my eardrums are bursting.

TOM
I ask you again what is it Bart?

DANNY
(laughing)
Bart's having a tantric orgasm
thinking of all the dosh he's got.

Tom tries to peer what's inside parcel, Bart drops parcel to floor so Tom can't see. Bart grabs Craig from behind in a stranglehold. Craig tries to pull away. Car begins to rock.

BART
Fool!

CRAIG
Stop it, I can't breathe.

DANNY
Don't go psycho on us now Bart?

Danny tries to pull Bart's arms apart to free Craig's neck. Car rocks wildly. Tom sticks his hand gun in Bart's ribs.

TOM
Stop it! You're drawing attention
to us and there's CCTV down here.

Bart releases Craig and falls back into rear seat. Head in hands he stifles his words, so angry he bites his own flesh.

BART
No! No! No! I won't be had!

Tom sticks his hand gun in Bart's shoulder.

TOM
No more shenanigans! Start talking?

Bart bends to peel a sticky label off parcel and reads aloud.

BART
Fresh from the fucking fruiterer.

Tom pokes gun in Bart's head.

TOM
Riddles? Show me what's in the
package right now or I'll kill you.

Bart holds up a huge ripe mango.