

Congratulations

Written By

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Cast of Characters

- SAM: Best friend and childhood friend of Patrick. Worth noting that Sam wasn't friends with any of the other characters during school.
- PATRICK: Best friend and childhood friend of Sam and now ex-boyfriend of Abigail.
- ABIGAIL: Ex-girlfriend of Patrick and leader of their friendship group. In this trio of Abigail, Cait and Tess, Abigail is like the beer - popular and reliable.
- CAIT: Abigail's best friend and Dan's wife. In this trio, Cait is the wine - classy but snobby.
- DAN: Cait's husband.
- TESS: Best friends with Abigail and Cait. In this trio, Tess is the tequila friend - absolutely wild.

Pre-show announcement:

SAM

Good evening, everyone. The show is about to begin. This is a show about a breakup. Our couple of the moment Abigail and Patrick have been seeing each other for six years. They have decided to celebrate with a party at their shared apartment and you've all been invited to join them. Party hosts like people to be present at a celebration so we ask for your full attention and keep your phones on silent, or better yet - off. Should this party get a little crazy, our emergency exits are signposted so we ask if you to calmly make your way through the exits should we need to.

Patrick and Abigail enter and start getting ready. Patrick pours champagne into flutes as Abigail checks her appearance on her phone.

Although this is a party, it's important to bare in mind that a breakup is a trying time for anyone and many leave their relationships with regrets and what ifs. When it comes to break ups, there are four things you can do to mend your relationship first. Step 1) Find the problem. Most issues within a relationship are bigger than they appear on the surface. It's not JUST a dirty dish for example. Maybe, it's not respecting the fact that I've already asked you to do it. Maybe, it's because I've just spent hours cleaning for you to make it messy again. Maybe, it's because when I nag you, I feel like your mother. Step 2) Communicate. Now that you know the problem, speak to your partner about it. A relationship requires two people so both of you need to know what's hurting your relationship. Step 3) Compromise. Now that both of you know what's wrong, you can go about fixing it. It shouldn't be reliant on one person to fix everything so you both need to compromise. Sometimes these are preferences that are easier to compromise or values where you have no intention to change them. Now knowing if something is a preference or a value, you can move onto, Step 4) Enforcing boundaries. If you've done everything so far and the other person knows where you stand, enforce your boundaries. Demonstrate a willingness to leave if things don't change. You may come to find the relationship can't be saved, or by following these steps, maybe it can.

This play is set entirely in the Living Room.

The door bell chimes.

PATRICK

Showtime. You ready, Abs?

ABIGAIL

Yep. Oh wait.

Abigail checks her appearance one more time.

Okay, go.

Patrick exits and starts his dialogue off stage.

PATRICK

Hey, come on in.

TESS

Hi, Patrick. Where's Abby?

PATRICK

In the living room. Head straight in.

Tess, Cait and Patrick come on stage in turns.

TESS

Abby!

CAIT

Hey, hun.

Tess, Cait and Abigail hug and jump around.

ABIGAIL

Thank you, girls, for coming tonight.

CAIT

Of course. We're here for you, hun.

Dan enters.

DAN

Paddy!

PATRICK

Danny boy!

DAN

How're you both holding up?

PATRICK

I mean considering we still live under the same roof, I'd say I'm doing alright. Don't want to speak on Abby's behalf of course.

ABIGAIL

Yeah, it's been fine. It wasn't a messy breakup or anything.

PATRICK

Can I take your coats, guys?

CAIT

Thanks, Paddy.

DAN

I hold exclusive rights over the nickname Paddy.

ABIGAIL

I'm sure Patrick's coworkers would say the same thing.

Patrick takes the coats and exits.

TESS

I've always got your back, babe, if you ever want to move out. There's room at my place for you.

ABIGAIL

Thanks, Tess. I'm good though. Signed the contract for my new place yesterday so I'll be moving out in no time.

The door bell chimes.

ABIGAIL

If you'll excuse me.

Abigail exits, continuing her dialogue off stage.

ABIGAIL

(OFF-STAGE) Oh, hi.

SAM

(OFF-STAGE) Hi.

ABIGAIL

(OFF-STAGE) Come in.

Abigail and Sam enter.

CAIT

Well well well. If it isn't Sam Steele. What a nice surprise. Haven't seen you since sixth form.

SAM

Hi, everyone. Yeah, I stayed in Liverpool after uni.

PATRICK

(OFF-STAGE) Babe, was someone at the door?

Patrick enters.

SAM

Patthew.

PATRICK

Samala.

Sam and Patrick run to hug each other.

PATRICK

I've missed you.

SAM

I missed you to. Next time don't wait three years for an in-person catch up.

PATRICK

Promise. Next one can be at your restaurant.

ABIGAIL

Babe, I didn't know you were inviting Sam.

PATRICK

You said I could invite whoever.

ABIGAIL

Anyone else coming I should know about?

PATRICK

I think that's everyone.

Patrick gestures to the audience and waves to them.

Sorry I won't be collecting your jackets, but Sam, would you like me to take yours?

SAM

Thank you, Patthew.

Patrick takes Sam's coat and exits.

ABIGAIL

Sorry, Sam, I just wasn't expecting you. Didn't know you were still in contact.

SAM

I mean, we haven't spoken in a while but we have our ways of communicating, like commenting on each other's stories and stuff.

ABIGAIL

That's nice. It's good to see you, Sam. Please, get comfy.

SAM

By the way, Patrick only invited me over. He didn't tell me the occasion. Are we celebrating anything tonight?

ABIGAIL

Patrick didn't mention? It's our breakup party.

SAM

As in?

ABIGAIL

Patrick and I, we're breaking up. We decided to throw a party.

SAM

Oh uh, congratulations? Sorry for your loss?

ABIGAIL

Congratulations is fine. We're finding the silver lining in this.

SAM

I... admire your optimism.

ABIGAIL

Thanks. Plus I can get some nice photos from tonight to advertise that I'm single now. So, what's this about a restaurant.

SAM

Oh. I'm a chef actually. Two friends from culinary school joined me in starting our own restaurant.

TESS

Shut up. Which one?

SAM
It's not here. It's in Liverpool. We haven't been open for long but Bouchon has had steady business so far.

CAIT
Bouchon? The new French Bistro? Where Rocket and Ruby used to be?

SAM
That's the one.

CAIT
Holy shit. It came across my for you page.

TESS
Wow. That's really exciting, Sam.

SAM
Thanks. What about you, Tess? What do you do for a living?

TESS
Work at big Tesco's.

DAN
The dream.

TESS
It's the worse.

SAM
I get it. With retail and hospitality, you get your fair share of rude or... bizarre customers. Once had someone ask me for an eggless omelette.

TESS
Exactly. People are such dickheads. Won't be for long though; just waiting for my big break. I'll have you know, Sam, I'm also an aspiring actress.

DAN
Emphasis on aspiring. You never actually do anything to help yourself.

TESS
I've been worn out from work. I just haven't had the time to go on an audition lately. I'm still an actress.

DAN
You need work to be an actress.

TESS
I've had work. I've been on Netflix.

Patrick enters.

DAN
You were a background extra in Sex Education. Along with a third of Newport.

TESS
When I'm famous, you'll be sorry.

DAN
If you become famous, I'll drink my piss from a shoe.

PATRICK
Haven't you done that for a rugby initiation before?

DAN
That was someone else's piss.

CAIT
Yeah, that changes everything. Aren't I the world's luckiest wife?

SAM
You're married?

CAIT
Yep. It's been three years now.

SAM
I didn't know you guys were dating three years ago.

CAIT
We were in a casual relationship. Turns out I had a bun in the oven and Dan stepped up and took responsibility. He's a good dad.

DAN
Thanks, babe.

CAIT
What about you, Sam? How's your love life going?

SAM
Well, I'm a busy chef. All of my focus is going on the new restaurant. Besides, I don't really do

relationships.

PATRICK

They're not just an Ace in the kitchen.

TESS

Anyway, you opening gifts now or later?

ABIGAIL

Let's do it now. Right, Patrick?

PATRICK

You're the boss, Abs.

TESS

From me.

Tess gives them each a card. Patrick and Abigail open them.

ABIGAIL

Aw, a spa trip for three. You babe.

PATRICK

Aw, a Greggs gift voucher. You babe.

TESS

You're very welcome. Sam, did you not get them anything?

SAM

I didn't know I needed to? I haven't been to a break up party before. Besides-

Sam gestures to audience.
-They didn't get anything either.

CAIT

They haven't known Abby since she was 11.

TESS

And how long have you known Patrick?

ABIGAIL

(Under breath) Too long.

PATRICK

For life, practically. Don't worry, Sam. We didn't ask anyone for gifts. It's a surprise to us too.

DAN

For you, Paddy.

Dan hands Patrick a four pack of beers with a label on the top. Patrick starts chuckling as he reads it out.

PATRICK

"To celebrate your freedom." Crossed out. "To drink away the sorrows. From Cait and Dan" Nice one. Thanks, both. Might need some help with them though. I'll pop these in the fridge for now.

Patrick exits.

CAIT

This is from Dan and I for you, Abby.

Cait hands Abigail a gift bag with a tiara and sash in it labelled 'Bachelorette'.

ABIGAIL

This is so cute.

CAIT

It's for your back to a bachelorette party.

ABIGAIL

Aww, I can't wait. We need to decide what comes first, though; the B.T.A.B party or the housewarming for when I move out.

SAM

I hope you're not expecting gifts for all of these parties.

Sam nervously laughs as Abigail and her friends all glare at them. Patrick enters.

SAM

Patthew, I think I've upset Abby.

PATRICK

You've not been here for ten minutes.

SAM

She makes it so easy, though.

PATRICK

Maybe you should come help me next door.

SAM

You know I don't try to piss her off, don't you?

PATRICK

Not gonna lie, Sam, it doesn't take much to piss her off.

Patrick puts a hand behind Sam's back and leads both of them off stage, both of them holding back laughter.

TESS

What a weirdo.

DAN

They were always a weirdo, even in high school.

CAIT

I get why you hate them so much, Abs.

ABIGAIL

(Aside)

Do I hate Sam? Really? Sam and I never got on when we were in school. We were part of two different friendship groups so it's not like they had the time to get to know me. I think they just misunderstood me. When Patrick and I got together, I thought I could get to know them more, but they just kind of drifted away afterwards. They stopped talking to Pat and next thing we know, Pat and I are attending uni at Cardiff and they went to Liverpool. I swear they thought they were better than me, than us, better than anyone who chose to stay in Newport. Then they come back to visit, very smug about the fact that they started a new life in a different city. I'm not bitter, I'm happy for them, I really am. So happy... I was glad they left our lives. I thought without them there, Patrick would focus solely on me. Even when he hadn't seen them in years, they would still come up in conversation. 'Sam made this joke once' or 'Sam and I used to come here a lot'. I didn't want to be the type of girlfriend to ask him to cut off his friends or to ask him not to talk about Sam again, so I didn't. I wish I did, because every time he brought them up, I died a little inside. The truth is I don't hate Sam. I hate how much Patrick loves them.

END OF SAMPLE