

THE LONG KISS GOODBYE

FADE IN:

INT. VARIOUS HOUSE ROOMS. NIGHT.

Typical middle class home, smart furniture, low lighting. GEORGIO (mid 30s tall, slim, nice looking) is sitting in an armchair watching TV. He keeps checking his watch. We hear a car pull up outside and a car door slam. He checks his watch again then gets up and heads to the front door. The VO tells the story.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Opinion was divided on Georgio and Beth's marriage. He loved it, she loathed it

(pause)

He was besotted from their first kiss... it was the best kiss he'd ever had... long, passionate, intimate

(pause)

She thought marrying a hotel owner was a good move, but it was more graft than gravy, sixteen hours of slog, seven days a week

(pause)

But that was for Georgio, not for her... She preferred the gym, girly lunches and nights out...

'babysitting'

(pause)

Last night she had said to Georgio, 'I'm babysitting at Sandra's tonight. Don't wait up'

(pause)

She'd arrive back after two in the morning stinking of booze, aftershave... and sex

(pause)

After three years Georgio reluctantly admitted it would be over any day soon. All the signs were there. This was her twelfth night in a row 'baby sitting.' He heard the door and glanced at his watch... *five a.m.!*

The front door opens. BETH (early 30s, a blond bombshell) enters looking tarty. She opens the door as quietly as she can.

She sees Georgio standing there and gives up all pretence of being subtle. She comes inside, closes the door and sighs as if ready for the inevitable row.

GEOGIO
Where have you been, Beth?

BETH
(sighs)
Don't start

GEORGIO
It's past five in the morning

BETH
I told you, baby sitting

GEORGIO
Till five in the morning? I'm not
stupid Beth

There's no look of contrition on her face, just defiance.

BETH
What do you care?

GEORGIO
I love you, babe

BETH
Oh really... and you let me stay
out till after five. Where's your
balls?

GEORGIO
Beth!

BETH
If you really loved me you'd do
something to keep me interested.
(scornful)
But you're too in love with your
precious hotel. Let's be honest for
once... It's over... I've had
enough

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Georgio's heart sank. Despite her
misbehaviour he still adored her,
and couldn't bear the thought of
her leaving him

Beth walks past him and over to the drinks cabinet and takes out a bottle of gin. She pours herself a drink, downs it in one then turns to Georgio.

BETH

We need to have a little talk...

They start to row. We hear raised voces behind the VO but not what's said.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Their little talk soon descended into a huge and bitter row. It all came out

(pause)

Yes, she'd been having affairs, a string of them

(pause)

The latest was waiting for her outside in a taxi. She was off. It was over

We rejoin the row. Georgio is looking gutted, a beaten man.

GEORGIO

What will you live on?

Beth laughs cruelly at his naivety.

BETH

(derisory)

My half of the hotel! What do you think, you bloody fool!?

GEORGIO

(astonished)

But you've just admitted to adultery

BETH

(cutting in)

... a desperate for cry for love after years of your neglect. My lawyers will take you to the cleaners... I need some things... don't try to stop me

She flounces out of the room and heads upstairs to pack her essentials, make-up, jewelry and a change of underwear. He goes into the kitchen and scrabbles around in a kitchen drawer looking for something. He finds it and slips it into his pocket, then goes back to the lounge and pours himself a stiff drink. She stomped downstairs, suitcase in hand.

When she goes to open the front door he stops her, taking hold of her free wrist, not violently, gently, tenderly raising it to his lips and kissing it. He looks deep into her eyes.

GEORGIO

I know I can't stop you... but
don't let it end like this

She softens a little. She puts down the case.

BETH

I know you're hurting now, Georgio,
but it's for the best. You'll see

She strokes the side of his face with her hand. Then we hear the car horn blow from the street outside. She is hard faced again and checks her watch.

GEORGIO

I know... But can you do one last
thing for me before you go, give me
something to always remember you
by?

BETH

(impatiently)
What?

GEORGIO

Do you remember our very first
kiss?

(pause)

I want you to kiss me one last
time... just like the first time we
kissed... so intimate... so warm
and loving... full of hope, joy and
passion

(pause)

... No matter what happens later,
it will be a kiss by which you'll
always remember me

Beth is in two minds. She looks towards the door then back to Georgio.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Beth could hear the taxi's engine
running and thought about the
handsome man sitting waiting for
her

(pause)

She looked at Georgio, all dewy-
eyed and heartbroken

(MORE)

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

(pause)

Why not?... What was there to lose?

BETH

Alright... Where's the harm

Beth quickly checks her look in the mirror, tittivates herself then turns to kiss Georgio. As she does this Georgio takes the tube of Superglue from his pocket. We see what it is. We see him smear it all over his lips just as Beth turns to kiss him. He holds her tight in the kiss. She starts okay but soon realises something is wrong. She struggles to push him away. They are locked tight at the lips. She starts to scream. He grips her arms as she struggles. We fade with her muffled screams, her frantic struggling and the VO.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Beth checked her looks in the mirror. She teased at her hair and smeared lip gloss on her beautiful mouth. She wanted to look her best for Georgio... Why not? It was their last kiss

(nasty)

He deserved to see her at her best, so his heart would ache that little bit more when she was gone

(pause)

Beth turned towards the man she had just scorned

(pause)

... the man she was about to leave for a new lover waiting impatiently in the car for her

(pause)

She turned towards Georgio, closed her eyes and puckered her lips

(pause)

While she was making sure she was as beautiful as she could be for him, Georgio had made his preparations for her... he smeared his lips with the Superglue he'd taken from the kitchen drawer

(pause)

Then he pressed his lips hard against hers in a kiss that began just like the first time they'd kissed... so intimate... so warm and loving... full of hope, joy and passion

(pause)

...

(MORE)

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)
but ended just like he'd
promised... in a kiss by which she
would always remember him

FADE OUT.

END OF EPISODE