

A group of four friends backpacking through Cambridge, lose one of their member - where did she go?

The grass of a farm bridleway is being trodden underfoot as three fellow travellers stomp towards a road.

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Shirley - A complaining and whingey twenty-something.

Oliver - A cocky but well meaning eighteen year old.

Tom - The eldest of the group, a no-nonsense political activist claiming to still be in his twenties.

Kate - No where to be found?

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Shirley : <Pouting> "But I packed the tent away...it took an age and I'm totally exhausted...I'm not sure how I'm able to walk as well as I am...you should be grateful you don't have to carry me."

Oliver : <Grinning> "Carry you, we'd need an army!"

[Beat]

"And heavy lifting equipment!"

Tom : <Serious> "Can you please stop complaining Shirley! We all drew straws! Yours was the shortest! You have to flag down a car!"

Oliver : <Grinning to Shirley> "The fact that you're top totty won't hurt our chances!"

Shirley : <Mildly flirts with Oliver by flicking her skirt up a little.>

Tom : <Mild Panic> "Hang on a minute...Where's Kate?"

Shirley : <Pouting>

"Oh, she's probably dragging her slutty heels again.

<Pause>

"You decided to bring her along."

[Beat]

"You go look for her."

Tom : <Mild Panic, stops walking and turns to shout> "Oh no..."

<Beat : Yelling>

"Kate...Kate"

Oliver : "Oh, she'll she'll catch us up Tom, don't worry. Shirly's! what have you done with Kate, you never did like her did you?"

Shirley : <philosophical> "Not overly keen I have to say. There's something not quite right about her eyes...<pause>, her hair...<pause> well everything really."

Tom : <Mild Panic> "<Yelling> Kate...Katey! Where are you? Oh damn you Shirley, that's an awful thing to say, you'd better not say that around her."

Shirley : <Stops walking, waiting for Tom> "Oh yes, heaven forbid that darling Kate would really find out what we think of her."

Oliver : <Stops walking, waiting for Tom> "I reckon Shirley cooked Kate for our dinner last night. Wonder why I had that strange taste in my mouth."

Tom : "That isn't helping Oliver...shouldn't even joke about such things. Kate..."

Shirley : "Oh he's not joking. He really does have a strange taste in his mouth, I can smell it from here. Perhaps Kate paid a late night visit last night eh? But seriously, you should brush occasionally Oli, at least occasionally."

Tom : "You two go to the road, I'll look for Kate. If you flag down a car, just keep it waiting, I won't be long."

Shirley : "Tom...don't be bloody stupid, you know how it works! They won't wait. Oh I hate her! She's always going off on here own little mission...never telling anyone. Well I don't care if she gets left behind. It serves her right."

Tom : "It's not all the time Shirly's, don't exaggerate! Please just go to the road, flag down a car and make them wait; I have to find Kate."

Oliver : "Don't worry Tom. It'll be fine, we'll make them wait. Shirley can give them a lap dance or a strip-tease or summat."

Shirley : "Eff-off Oli! That was one time and I was drunk. Tom, we'll come look for Kate with you. When did you see her last?"

Oliver : "I thought she was in your tent last night? "

Tom : "Well she sat with you most of the night, I went to bed early. If she did come into my tent, I didn't notice her."

Shirley : "Wasn't she there in the morning?"

Tom : "No, I assumed she'd slept in your tent with you. Are you saying she didn't?"

Shirley : "I didn't notice her come in last night and she wasn't there in the morning."

Oliver : "So, the last time anyone saw her was last night..."<trails off>

Tom : "And you were the last to see her."

Shirley : "Tell us the truth Oli..."<trails off - becomes aware of a sound in the distance>

<Sound of a car approaching>

Oliver : "Car Shirl's! Quick, get to the road and flag it down!"

Tom : "Not without Kate...no one is getting left behind."

Shirley : "We don't have time for this Tom. Kate's gone, she obviously didn't want to come with us. Let's just go!"

<Car getting closer>

Tom : *<Turns around and starts heading back the way he came>*

"No way, I'm not leaving anyone behind."

Oliver : "I can see the car...I'm going to stop it, you should both come too...come on!"

<The Car about to come around the bend>

Tom : "You two get to the car, ask them to wait."

Shirley : "Tom, let's just get to civilisation. I promise we'll hire a car and can come and look for Kate later!"

Oliver : <Starts running towards the road.> Come on! You two...come on!

Shirley : <Turns and starts walking after Oli> "Please Tom, come one. "

<She turns and shouts at Oli>

"Stop that car Oli; make it wait."

Tom : "But she may be hurt...I have to look for her. You stop the car and ask them to wait."

<Car has turned the corner>

Shirley : "Tom! They won't wait, come on...I'm not going to get stuck out here. It's miles to the next town."

<Turns and looks at Oli.>

"Dammit! Oli's brutish thug look will surely scare the driver off. Tom! Let's go!"

<Shirley starts jogging towards Oli and the road.>

Oliver : <Shouting at the others> "COME ON! RUUUN!!!"

Shirley : "Come on Tom...please!"

<Shirley turns to shout at Oli>

"Oli, start waving your hands."

Tom : <Resigned>

"Bugger!"

<Starts running full pace towards Shirley and Oliver.>

Camera close up on Tom as he runs; then Shirley, then Oliver.

Camera establishing shot as Oliver is waving hands while on the road, Shirley gets to the road and starts waving too and smiling. Car goes sailing past, but then quickly stops.

Camera close up on Tom as he runs.

Cut to Oliver and Shirley who are both moving towards the car but also waiting for Tom to catch up.

Distance shot as all three approach the car.

Inside car shot...looking out at Tom, Shirley and Oliver appear in shot.

Shirley : <Looks shocked> Oh my god!

Oliver : <Looks shocked> Wooooaahhh!

Kate : <Sitting in the drivers seat and looking at all three>

 "Hey guys, thought you could use a lift!"

Tom : Kate!

Fade to black! Credits.

Fade up.

Camera :medium closeup on back of moving car of Kate driving and scenary drifting past. Then cuts to Shirley close up.

Shirley : "Oh Kate, this is brilliant. I was telling Tom how I admire your get up and go. You're so intrepid and spontaneous!"

Camera : Medium close up of Oliver.

Oliver : <Smirking> Yeah Kate! Shirl's was well biggin' you up!"

Camera : Cut to Tom who is now silently fuming and looking very angry.

Cut to black.

ENDS.