

(Printed with the demonstration version of Fade In)

FIRES IN THE HEATHER

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Draft
V1

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EXT. ROAD - DAY

A POT HOLE lies in wait like an open mouth.

Mavis pedals on, unaware of the danger ahead.

INT. TRANSIT VAN - CONTINUOUS

Declan draws closer, slowing to avoid startling her. He spots the pothole and BLASTS his horn in warning.

EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Startled by the horn, Mavis jerks the handlebars. She avoids the pothole but her bike lurches into an uncontrolled wobble.

INT. TRANSIT VAN - CONTINUOUS

Declan's face fills with concern as he watches Mavis swerve wildly, heading straight off road toward the grassy verge.

DECLAN
(panicking)
Shit!

EXT. GRASSY VERGE - CONTINUOUS

Mavis hits the verge and tumbles gently from her bike.

She sits on the ground, unhurt but startled, foliage sticking out from her helmet. She catches her breath.

Declan's van passes, then pulls over with a SCREECH.

EXT. ROADSIDE - CONTINUOUS

Declan exits the vehicle and hurries toward Mavis.

DECLAN
(concerned)
Are you okay love? I'm sorry about
the horn, I was trying to warn you
about the pothole...

Mavis looks up, slightly dazed, as Declan arrives at her side.

DECLAN (cont'd)
Are you injured? Don't get up yet,
let me check you over first. I'm so
sorry.

MAVIS
Don't worry about me young man. This
happens all the time. Let me just get
up.

DECLAN
Be careful, take your time.

Before Declan has a chance to assist, Mavis tries to get to her feet. Slightly overcome by the minor accident, she falls back down on her bum.

MAVIS
Urgh.

DECLAN
Let me help you.

Declan helps Mavis to her feet. She look sat her bike - it's fine. Then removes her helmet that is covered in leaves and grass.

MAVIS
I wanted a new helmet anyway. I'm not
a fan of white.

Mavis brushes away the dirt from the helmet. Declan looks at her with amazement.

DECLAN
(pointing)
There's some muck on dress.

Mavis looks down at her gown and brushes away the dirt without a care.

MAVIS
That will wash out.

Beat.

DECLAN
Can I give you a lift anywhere?

CUT TO:

INT.TRANSIT VAN

Mavis sits drinking a energy drink nosily with a straw - in the passenger seat beside Declan. She surveys the messy cabin—drink cans and food wrappers scattered everywhere. The interior is grimy.

She discreetly lifts the hem of her dress off the floor.

DECLAN

Sorry about mess. It's a work van. I don't get many passenger's wearing...
(awkwardly)
what you're wearing... it looks good.

MAVIS

Very kind of you - I didn't get your name?

DECLAN

Declan. And yours?

MAVIS

Mavis.

Awkward silence fills the van. Declan clearly isn't the social type.

Mavis picks up on this.

MAVIS (cont'd)

Do you cycle Declan?

Declan looks surprised at the question - given his physique.

DECLAN

Never quite got into to cycling. More of a football nut.

MAVIS

Ahh, do you play?

DECLAN

(chuckling)

No, no - I just have a season ticket. Go with my lad quite a lot. But he's into bikes - he has one of those expensive mountain bikes. He loves it, probably more than football.

MAVIS

Smart lad you have. Cycling is good for the soul.

(MORE)

MAVIS (cont'd)
You should try it one day. Clears the head. Perhaps you could go out with your son?

DECLAN
I'm terrible with four wheels let alone two - look what I did to you.

They both chuckle.

DECLAN (cont'd)
I recognise you from somewhere. Are you local?

MAVIS
No deary, I'm from the borders. Just here for an event.

DECLAN
(playful)
That would explain the dress.

Mavis looks at her dress, brushing off some grime.

MAVIS
Not really suitable for cycling is it?

DECLAN
(playful)
I've never seen such a stylish rider.

MAVIS
Perhaps I should of worn something more practical..?

Mavis takes a final slurp of her energy drink.

DECLAN
Where can I drop you? I'm happy to take you anywhere after.. you know, the...

MAVIS
...my silly accident.

Declan looks awkward in his skin.

MAVIS (cont'd)
If you could take me by the castle so I can ride down the hill. It's much easier that way.

DECLAN

Are you sure - I can take you
anywhere.

MAVIS

You have been a great help. Besides,
I want to go a bike shop - I need a
new helmet.

DECLAN

Can I give you some money towards it?
I feel a bit responsible.

MAVIS

Oh no no. Don't be silly. My plan was
to get a new one today.

(tapping helmet)

This one always falls to the side.
Very annoying when you're trying to
tackle a steep hill.

DECLAN

Are you sure?

MAVIS

Yes I'm sure. But thank you.

(Pointing out of
window)

You can drop me here. This is
perfect.

EXT. BACK STREET NEAR CASTLE - DAY

Mavis mounts her bike on the pavement. Declan looks out his
van window at Mavis.

DECLAN

Nice meeting you, Mavis. Enjoy your
event.

MAVIS

She pedals off and waves to Declan, wobbling slightly as she
does it. Declan has a mild scare from her actions.

He drives off and turns on the radio.

EXT. EDINBURGH CITY CENTRE - DAY

Edinburgh sparkles. Bustling streets fill with people
shopping and drinking coffee outside boutique cafés.