

Some Things Mean Something

Draft #4  
by  
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BLACK

WOMANS VOICE O/S  
(calling out)  
Wash your hands

1. INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Tony, a thirty year-old man with learning difficulties, stands in front of the bathroom mirror. He stares at his reflection

TONY

Tony

Tony

To oh oh on nee

To oh oh oh nee

He stops for a moment, then starts again, slowly

TONY

Tony, ba bony banana fana fi foney,  
bee boo banana bana

He stops and just stares

TITLE : some things mean something

2. INT. BATHROOM - DAY

We cut back to see Tony looking at himself closer up now.

A sound of plates being laid out takes his attention and he is suddenly self-conscious. He turns on the tap

3. INT. KITCHEN DAY

Tony is sat at the table eating. We watch him in close. His head is turned away from us slightly as he's hunched over by his plate deep in thought. The radio plays an up tempo song

He chews slowly and rhythmically and then stops mid chew

An exhausted looking 65-year-old woman sits opposite looking at him. This is his mother, Rosa. She has finished her meal and now waits

After some time

ROSA

Hey

This brings him back. He finishes up and she takes the plates. He's alone at the table for a moment. In front of him is a small pile of cards still in their envelopes

TONY

Lots of cards

ROSA

I know

TONY

Much more than you got

Rosa continues her work at the counter for a moment

Then she puts an individual, mini birthday cake down in front of him

TONY

You didn't have a cake either

ROSA

That's true

TONY

Cause the sugar rots your teeth

There's silence for a moment. He looks up at her, suddenly worried. He tries to read something in her expression

TONY

You haven't got rotten teeth though

She smiles a tired smile at him

TONY

What is it they say about cake?

ROSA

A moment on the lips

TONY  
A lifetime on the hips  
Lips hips lips hips lips hips  
Lipshipslipshipslipships

He eats the cake. She just sits

We jump to him opening the cards

He shows each one to her as he takes it out of the envelope,  
flashing the cover at her briefly before he opens it up

TONY  
From Jim

He holds up a five pound note

ROSA  
That's nice of him

He opens another

TONY  
Nice colours

She smiles at him just a little

He opens another

It doesn't seem to interest him much and he puts it aside and  
goes for the next one

Rosa looks at the ones he has opened, standing them up on the  
table

Tony takes a card in a distinctive blue envelope

As he removes the card from the envelope, something falls out.  
He finds it and takes a look. It's a small photo of a man and  
a child, possibly taken in the 70s. He looks at it briefly  
then passes it to Rosa while he opens up the card

We watch Rosa as she takes the photo. A silent shock smacks  
through her. She holds it in front of her, frozen for a  
moment. Her breathing quickens. She looks up at Tony

ROSA

Tony

He is looking at the card. It's a cheap looking corner-shop item with a poem printed inside. He awkwardly reads it out

TONY

Although I can't be there today  
to share this special time  
Thoughts of you are with me  
and you're always on my mind

I'm thinking of the past  
and of the future too  
I'm sure you'll grow and find your way  
and know just what to do

We look back at Rosa. The moment for interruption has passed now and she sinks back a little, just taking it in. We stay watching her as he reads

TONY

In this rich life, in this grand world  
You are sure to play your part  
You know you're doing right  
When guided by your heart

You are my joy, you are my star  
Try never to be blue  
Rain or shine it's a sunny day  
whenever I think of you

We now look at Tony. Life is flooding in to him as he reads this

TONY

So, live life here and now  
loving each and every day  
Follow your dreams, follow your bliss,  
no matter what stands in your way

Search the world for wonders,  
sing your song aloud  
and one thing you'll be sure of  
is you've made your father proud

He stares at the card in wonder. He can hardly believe it

He looks over at Rosa, as if for an answer, as if she was somehow in on it

Rosa breathes quickly, this is her moment to do something

ROSA

Don't take any notice of it. He probably just wants something.

Tony looks at her blankly

The words seem impossible for him to process

ROSA (CONT)

You don't know him, the best thing you can do with that is throw it away, forget about it.

It's nothing

Tony still can't really form anything - there's a huge amount he wants to say but he's receiving this new information at the same time

Eventually he manages

TONY

It's a nice poem

ROSA

It doesn't mean anything

He looks at it again, wondering if these words don't actually mean anything. He reads a bit again to himself

Rosa watches him a moment, she takes a breath

ROSA

You're a fool if you pay that any attention

He looks up sharply, worried

She holds his gaze and he looks down again

She lets a moment pass

ROSA

You're smarter than that Tony

He seems defeated now

TONY

Can you tell me about him?

ROSA

I'm not dredging up the past just  
cause he sends a card out of nowhere

Anyway there's nothing to tell

We watch Tony in close now accepting this silence

Eventually he puts the card down on the table in front of him  
- she takes it and puts it with the others

ROSA

Come on, don't let it spoil things

She waits a moment, then gets up and gets him a present

He slowly starts to open it

Once its open he looks at it, unsure what it is. It's a  
frisbee, he looks closer

TONY

Colour change

ROSA

It changes colour in the sun  
I thought you could take it to the park

She smiles a broad open smile at him. He looks closely at the  
Frisbee now

She starts to clear up

4. INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Tony stands in the middle of the modest suburban living room.  
Everything here is in its place. Some of the décor seems  
faded.

His cards are lined up on the mantelpiece. The one from his father is there, at the back. He takes it and tucks it in its blue envelope

5. EXT. STREET - DAY

Tony walks briskly down the quiet suburban street. He passes a teenage couple stood chatting and we see a slight anxiety creep across his face. He sneaks a look at the girl but turns away swiftly as she looks back

6. EXT. ABANDONED LAND - DAY

Tony strides through the overgrown landscape. He stops under a large tree

He takes out the card and re reads it here, bent over slightly, half hiding, half confiding in the tree

He reads almost silently just emitting the odd whisper

We see him deep in thought as he reads, stopping and starting

Then his thoughts seem to race, his breathing is fast

He looks around, then back at the poem, scanning it

TONY  
my joy, my star  
try never to be blue

He scans to the end, then goes back to the start

TONY  
special time, on my mind  
  
time mind, mind time

We see this confusing thought get put to one side. He looks again at the poem and the blue envelope

7. EXT. STREET - DAY

Tony walks again. The card is in his back pocket - we watch it as he walks. We look in close at him, determination and concern on his face

He walks past a row of shops then stops and double back

8. INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY

He slips in to the shop just behind the door.

The owner is behind the counter dealing with a customer. He briefly looks up as Tony comes in and there's a nod of recognition but what looks like irritation too

Tony slips around to the back, sidling awkwardly past some customers. A middle aged woman glances at him then back to her friend. It's a split second look but Tony catches it

He loiters at the back by a freezer. The shop is quieter now and he selects a lolly, takes some beers from a fridge and goes to pay

SHOPKEEPER

Are you getting these for yourself?

TONY

They're my mums

SHOPKEEPER

Really?

Tony just stands there as if it's not clear this is a question

The shopkeeper looks at him.

We see tension start to rise in Tony, a panic coming on

After a moment the shopkeeper rings it up and without looking passes Tony a napkin for his lolly that has already started to drip

9. EXT. PARK - DAY

Tony approaches a small group of boys in school uniform who laze under a tree. They are aged about 9-11

He hovers awkwardly before starting to hand out the beers

MARK

Very nice!

TONY

I got them no trouble

MARK

Good man

JONES

That's not all you got though, what's  
that on your face

The boys look at Tony and we can now see a large pink lolly  
stain around his mouth

He tries to wipe it away

JONES

Is it lippy Tone? You been kissing  
the girls?

Was she lip-smacking good

Tony smiles, trying to keep up

TONY

Lip-smacking

It was my lolly

JONES

What's that, she sucked your lolly?

The boys all laugh

TONY

I had a lolly

JONES

You had to give her some lolly?  
Ah now it makes sense

You got to give to receive!

You do something for her and  
she'll do something for you.

The boys all laugh again

MARK

That's the way women work, its  
a very simple exchange!

Tony is confused

TONY  
That's the way women work

The boys roar with laughter now. Tony laughs along but awkwardly

MARK  
Hey, relax, we're only messing

Tony smiles

Some other chat starts up, Tony watches looking from one to another as the conversation goes back and forth.

10a. EXT. PARK - DAY

The boys are walking up a slight hill, towards the edge of the park. They swing their bags, their school jackets slung over their shoulders.

Tony is lagging at the back, he watches Mark up ahead

A few of the boys disappear off in different directions as they exit the park. Tony runs to catch up with Mark but stops a bit short. Mark turns round and he just stands there

MARK  
What is it?  
TONY  
Something happened - I got something

Tony shifts his weight from one foot to the other

After a moment he gets the letter out and cautiously hands it over

TONY  
It's from my Dad

Mark looks at him blankly then takes the card.

Tony watches avidly as he reads

Mark comes to the end of the poem, turns the card over to glance at the back and front and then looks up Tony

MARK  
So?

Tony looks expectantly at him

MARK

It's nice of him isn't it?

TONY

That's what I thought - Exactly!

Tony beams a gormless smile, relieved and excited all at once

Mark hands the card back

A moment passes

MARK

I gotta go

TONY

Yeah sure, thanks for reading though

MARK

See you later

TONY

Yeah, see you tomorrow, bye Mark

10b. EXT. PARK - DAY

Tony stays on the spot as Mark leaves. He stands still and stares ahead. It seems to get darker around him. He clutches the card and envelope

We look in close. He holds rigid as if for a photograph, looking intently ahead

The grass at his feet where he has stepped, starts to bend back up.

Sounds one by one seem to drop out

He slowly looks down at the card and letter in his hand

He looks up again, a moment passes and the intensity seems to drop from his face. Whatever gripped him has passed. He slowly wanders off

11. INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Rosa is Hoovering. Tony bursts in and makes her jump. He's got something behind his back

TONY  
Close your eyes

She turns off the Hoover - it wheezes slowly in to silence

TONY  
Close your eyes

ROSA  
What

TONY  
I've got a surprise for you

She looks at him

TONY  
A present

She closes her eyes and he puts a large white box in her hands. It's tied up with a ribbon

She opens her eyes and looks at it then up at him

TONY  
It's a cake for you

She smiles with surprise

ROSA  
Oh Tony

TONY  
I got it for you

Have some

ROSA  
Okay, after dinner

TONY  
No now

ROSA  
Oh okay then, let me get the  
plates

TONY  
No, I'm getting them

He rushes out

12. INT. KITCHEN - DAY

And hurriedly assembles a tray

13. INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

He rushes back in

She has opened the box now - it's a wedding cake.

He looks at it and smiles at her

ROSA  
It looks lovely

He sits down with the tray on his lap

ROSA  
Oh, we need a knife.

TONY  
Oh

He moves to get the knife but is held up by the tray.

ROSA  
It's okay, I'll get it.

She hurries out and Tony waits with the tray on his lap.  
We hear Rosa rustle about in the kitchen and make her way  
back. He sits small and contained

She returns and slices the cake for each of them. She starts  
hers but he just sits on his lap

ROSA  
It's delicious

Tony looks delighted

TONY  
I knew it would be

ROSA  
Thank you

TONY  
See

Rosa continues eating her cake

TONY (CONT)  
I know that's how it works

I do something for you, and you  
do something for me

She isn't really listening

TONY  
That's how women work

She looks up at him now

TONY  
So now you can tell me about  
the poem

She stops chewing and just looks at him. After a moment she  
looks down again and carries on eating her cake

ROSA  
We talked about that it doesn't  
mean anything

Her voice is hard and final

Tony is surprised

TONY  
But I

She cuts in, her voice is raised now

ROSA  
No Tony, I don't want to hear another  
word about it

He watches her

She chews in silence and finishes her cake.

TONY  
Have another bit Mum

ROSA  
We'll have the rest another day

She piles up the tray and disappears in to the kitchen leaving him alone. He eats some of his cake

She returns and resumes Hoovering.

He looks at the slab of cake that's left - the ribbon is the same blue as the envelope his card came in. He takes it and puts it in his pocket

14. INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Tony lies in bed with the card in front of him. He traces a line in the poem with his finger

You are sure to play your part  
You know you're doing right  
if you just follow your heart

He gets out of bed and opens a drawer in his desk. He rummages around and then pulls out a blue eraser in the shape of a heart. He returns to bed, putting the eraser in to the envelope with the ribbon

15. INT. SHOP - DAY

Tony enters the shop and begins striding up and down the aisles scanning for something - he's in a hurry

He picks up a carton of juice and takes a close look at it. At the top is the text 'blue star brand' and a logo of a blue star in a circle.

He takes it to the counter

TONY  
This is for me

The shopkeeper looks at him but rings it up and Tony starts to hurry out

He opens the carton as he goes and once outside starts tipping the contents down a drain. The shopkeeper watches from inside

On the street a couple of passersby stare but Tony doesn't notice

16. EXT. STREET - DAY

Once the carton is empty he tears at it until he has the part with the logo. He discards the rest and puts the torn section in his envelope

17. EXT. ABANDONED LAND - DAY

Tony stands by the tree. He holds the star from the carton, the heart eraser and the ribbon in one hand and the card and envelope in the other

He smiles at them, excited

He closes his eyes and starts to mumble under his breath

It gets louder and we can just make out what he is saying

TONY

Thoughts of me are with you  
And you know were side by side

I'm thinking of the blueness  
And what lies in your heart  
Do what things you want  
You can play your part

Thinking of the future  
It's too good and it's true  
It's you and me and me  
It's me and you for you

He opens his eyes and looks at the letter again

He holds up one of the blue items and feels its surface with his fingertips

He suddenly laughs to himself, and looks around, wanting to share this

18. EXT. ABANDONED LAND - EVE

Tony walks slowly through the long grass.

He stops suddenly and listens, there's music playing very softly somewhere. He looks surprised, worried even. He tentatively turns to the direction it's coming from, moves ahead a little and listens again.

He carefully carries on and comes close to a short path half hidden by trees. He looks about him but there's no one

He goes a few steps up and sees a fence with a wooden door that's slightly ajar. The handle to the door is the same blue as his envelope. He stares at it. The music is louder here - a pretty, simple melody

Some kind of panic rises in him, he looks back the way he came then back at the door.

Slowly, with great concentration, he moves forward and pushes the door further open

19. EXT. GARDEN - EVE

On the other side of the door is a small simple garden. A young pretty woman sits with a baby on her lap

She looks up and is startled. She stares at Tony for a moment and he stares back loitering on the threshold. Her eyes dart back and forth but she remains calm

WOMAN

What do you want?

He doesn't know how to respond but something about his manner reveals his learning difficulties and her alarm fades a little

WOMAN (CONT)

Are you okay?

After a long pause Tony looks at the child

TONY

He's got yellow hair

WOMAN

Yes

It hangs in the air

WOMAN

Were you just out for a walk?

Tony looks worried. He fingers the poem a bit

WOMAN (CONT)

I think I've seen you before, in the  
Park maybe

He looks very concerned now

TONY

Oh

She sees this

WOMAN

Or maybe just someone who looks like  
you

He relaxes a little

TONY

Yeah

There's a pause as the baby takes her attention. Tony watches.  
She is very beautiful

She looks up at him again

TONY

You're sure to play your part  
You know it's going right  
If you follow up your heart

She smiles a little

WOMAN

Is that from a song?

TONY

A poem

WOMAN

Did you write it?

TONY

No, my Dad wrote it for me

She smiles a big genuine smile

WOMAN

That's lovely

He must love you very much

He smiles back at her, an excitement is building in him. She sees this and waits for him to say something but he just stands

WOMAN

What's your name?

His smile increases

TONY

I'm Tony

He stands there looking at her smiling broadly, full of excitement

Suddenly he runs off

20. EXT. STREET - EVE

He hurries through the streets, breaking in to a run

21. INT. HALLWAY - EVENING

He rushes in to the house

TONY

Mum, Mum

He rushes up to her bedroom and throws the door open.

22a. INT. ROSA'S BEDROOM - EVENING

TONY

Mum, wake up

Rosa, already dozing, is startled. She sits up fast

ROSA

What is it?

TONY  
Everything..

He struggles to catch his breath

TONY (CONT)  
Everything is changing

ROSA  
What?

TONY  
This woman, she understands the rhyme.  
It's all going to be different now

Rosa sinks down.

ROSA  
Go and get some sleep now Tony

TONY  
Can't you hear me? She's there right  
now and all the signs

She rubs her eyes

ROSA  
There aren't any signs

TONY  
You don't understand I was just there

She looks at him hard and still

ROSA  
It's nothing

He grows increasingly distraught

TONY  
Get up and come outside

She closes her eyes to keep her patience

TONY  
I thought you were supposed to be  
clever

ROSA  
Think Tony, think about what  
you are saying

TONY  
But everything is going to be different

Suddenly she is wildly angry

ROSA  
No, nothing is ever going to be  
different. Do you hear me? We will  
live here, like this, forever and  
nothing is ever going to be different

She starts to cry

TONY  
Mum?

ROSA  
Leave me alone

He takes a feeble step forward

TONY  
But Mum

He moves to comfort her

TONY  
Mum, what are you crying for?

ROSA  
(shouting)  
Get out

She buries her face in the pillows and weeps

He stands frozen, bewildered, then slowly backs out of the  
room. He very carefully closes the door behind him so that it  
doesn't make a sound

22b. EXT. LANDING - EVE

He hovers on the other side unsure what to do.

23. INT. KITCHEN - EVE

He slides down a wall in to the kitchen and in to a chair

He stares ahead desperately worried, breathing hard, thinking

Slowly he takes the envelope from his pocket and looks at it

He empties its contents out on the table then picks up the card rips right through it, tearing and tearing it until it's just a pile of small pieces

He cries

Slowly he recovers

He looks at the mess on the table in front of him then gets up

24.INT. ROSAS BEDROOM - EVE

He quietly opens the door to Rosas room - she lays in bed facing him but looking down

He waits a moment then goes and sits on the edge of the bed with his back to her

A moment passes with them both completely still

She places a hand on his back

End