

NEXT STOP LA

by

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INT. CLAIRE'S HOUSE - DAYTIME

We look round CLAIRE's house - modern traditional, tasteful and bespoke, aspirational.

A dog eared map of LA, an LA travel guide, a ten year career plan ending with 'NEXT STOP LA' as the goal.

Most importantly, a group selfie of CLAIRE, AMANDA and SOPHIE in pride of place on the mantelpiece.

CLAIRE is on the phone, grabbing her laptop bag and house keys.

CLAIRE

I know, I know, I'm on the way.
I'll tell you when I get there.
This is me opening the door now...

She holds the phone by the latch and opens the door.

She hangs up, pulls the door to and jogs down the street.

EXT. CAFE - DAYTIME

CLAIRE and AMANDA are having tea and cake, catching up on news and gossip. SOPHIE is standing to the side on the phone.

AMANDA

I can't believe it's finally happening. But we are really going to miss you.

SOPHIE

Oh my god, oh my god, oh my god!

AMANDA

Are you OK?

CLAIRE

What's happened?

SOPHIE

Longford Lodge just called. They had a cancellation! (To AMANDA)
How do you feel about getting married on 28th?

AMANDA

Which month?

SOPHIE
This one! August.

CLAIRE
(Incredulous) In three weeks?

AMANDA
Are you insane?

SOPHIE
It's either three weeks or five years.

AMANDA
We can't pull a wedding together in three weeks.

SOPHIE
They do it on Don't Tell the Bride.

CLAIRE
It is totally possible. If you're organised.

AMANDA
We are so NOT organised.

AMANDA and SOPHIE turn their puppy eyes on CLAIRE.

CLAIRE
I can't.

SOPHIE is incredulous.

AMANDA
(Telling SOPHIE) LA is happening.

SOPHIE
Oh my god! Seriously? When?

CLAIRE
No start date yet, but soon.

SOPHIE
Wow! Fantastic! (Completely assuming CLAIRE will prioritise the job) Don't worry, I'm sure we'll manage.

SOPHIE
Or just have it somewhere else.

AMANDA
Or just wait a while longer.

CLAIRE
(Giving in) Fine. I'll help.

CLAIRE gets out her laptop and opens a new document, calls it 'OPERATION 28TH AUGUST'.

AMANDA hugs her with delight. SOPHIE makes a phone call.

SOPHIE
Hello. This is Sophie Allen. I'm just calling to confirm that, yes, we would love to book our wedding for 28th August.

SOPHIE and AMANDA start talking, CLAIRE starts typing. She has a worried frown.

INT. CLAIRE'S HOUSE - VARIOUS

MONTAGE SEQUENCE: CLAIRE is busy juggling LA stuff and wedding planning. The wedding is an irritant getting in the way of what is really important to her.

EXT. YORK SUPPLIES - DAYTIME

SOPHIE and AMANDA are walking round, looking at plants and flowers, discussing likes and dislikes.

CLAIRE is a couple of feet away, phone clamped between shoulder and chin, notepad and pen in hand.

CLAIRE
(On the phone) So that's 200 people at £25 a head. And definitely no mint in any of the dishes. Fantastic. Bye.

CLAIRE hangs up and walks over to AMANDA and SOPHIE.

CLAIRE
Catering, sorted. Just cake and flowers left.

SOPHIE
The ship's happy to do the food as well?

CLAIRE

Yup.

AMANDA

Great. Thank you so much.

SOPHIE gets a text.

SOPHIE

Dad says Uncle Graham's just confirmed.

AMANDA

Really?

CLAIRE

You're going to need a bigger boat!

They all laugh.

SOPHIE

You sure you can manage all this?

AMANDA

You mustn't let anything jeopardise LA.

CLAIRE

I won't.

CLAIRE's phone rings.

CLAIRE

Speak of the devil.

She answers and starts walking away.

CLAIRE

Hi Brad. Yeah, sure. Mmm hmmm.
Yup. Oh fantastic. Yep, shoot.

[BRAD SAYS: Hi Claire, you want some good news. Well, I spoke to Cindy and we've finally got a start date. You got a pen?]

CLAIRE writes on her pad 'LA start date' and waits. She writes as she talks.

CLAIRE

28th. Of August? Right, sure,
Thanks Brad.

[BRAD SAYS: Great, huh? It's all go, go, go.]

CLAIRE goes back to SOPHIE and AMANDA. She's pensive.

SOPHIE
Everything OK?

AMANDA
Did he give you a start date?

CLAIRE
(Shaking herself out of it) No,
still waiting. So, show me those
flowers you liked.

SOPHIE and AMANDA rush off excitedly. CLAIRE follows,
concerned frown.

INT. CLAIRE'S HOUSE - VARIOUS

MONTAGE SEQUENCE: CLAIRE is juggling LA and wedding
planning. She's continuing with LA plans, but frequently
looking at the date in her notebook, torn, guilty.

INT. CLAIRE'S HOUSE - EVENING

AMANDA and SOPHIE are sitting at the dining table. In front
of them are plates of different cakes, profiteroles,
cupcakes. Amongst the plates are papers and post it notes -
they're arguing over the seating plan. Also on the table is
CLAIRE's notebook, open on a page with scores for the
various cakes written.

AMANDA
You can't put Hashim next to
granny, she'll eat him for
breakfast.

CLAIRE enters with a bottle of wine and tops up their
glasses.

SOPHIE
That'll save two lots of 25 quid
then.

They laugh. CLAIRE seems distracted, withdrawn.

SOPHIE
I like the idea of profiteroles,
but the chocolate cake is
incredible.

AMANDA
I'll never hear the end of it from

mum if we don't have fruit cake.

SHOPIE

(To CLAIRE) What do you think?

CLAIRE gets a text, checks her phone. It's a text message from BRAD. 'I need confirmation by 8pm your time or the deal's off'. CLAIRE looks at the time. It's 7.55pm.

CLAIRE

Whatever you want. Hang on,
there's just something I need to
do.

CLAIRE goes to her laptop, opens her email. AMANDA and SOPHIE continue to discuss cakes excitedly in the background. CLAIRE looks at them guiltily as she types an email 'Hi Brad. I'm in.' She hovers over the 'send' button.

She looks up, sees a photo of her with AMANDA and SOPHIE at university.

CLAIRE deletes her email and instead writes 'Sorry, no can do.' Clicks send.

THE END