

## BRICKS

The anger in Lara's eyes terrifies me. It's the size of two small countries. Her black pupils are swimming with it, brimming with it hatred, or something akin to it.

'You' she says,' barely audible. Laudable, applaud-able I suppose that she's not shouting. Yet. I'm ready I'm set to defend myself. Calmly. I'm a sensible man, and my plan is to fight fire with a fire extinguisher. Look love I'll say, last night I did not go looking for a shag, I was at Batty's sober as a bar a soap, aimless, borderline sad, that's how lonely I was and your cousin wandered into a bed that I happened to be snoozing in. I'll omit that I was perusing, proper prowling the place schmoozing anyone who would give me the time of night.

'I give you an inch and you take a mile.'

'Ah come on Lara, it's been a while.'

'We're on a 'break'.

'My mistake, I didn't realize you still owned me.' 'You rode my cousin?'

'I didn't have a bull's notion you were related.'

'We're identical, we've carbon copy blue eyes?'

'Yer nothing alike, she twice your size,'

I want to add the words 'and she's fuckin crosseyed!' but I swallow them back. She starts to laugh.

'Lara, let's be adult about this.'

'Adult as in sleeping around? You after all these years I thought you were sound. Irresponsible, and fucked up, a waste of space but ultimately good. But you run off and revenge fucked at the first chance you could? You're the most selfish man I've ever met. Have you ever heard of a thing called respect?!

I'm totting up in my bleeding brain how long its gonna take till she's sufficiently shamed me and I'm free to go.

'It was a one night stand.'

'You're a pathetic excuse for a man, you know that? You need to look in the mirror and examine what you see, cos as far as I'm concerned you're not fit to be a dad right now.'

'Not fit to be a dad! I'm a better parent than you. You're pathetic! You're fucking sad. '

'Piss off, and don't even think of taking Yas. And when you've sorted your shit out, when you manage to do single thing that doesn't involve you being number one, then come crawling back. And I'll see what can be done.'

'Lara, do not blackmail me! Can you not see the damage you're doing here, we have to be civil for Yas sake, and if you're waiting for me to change my mind and take you back -'

'You deserve a fucking smack!'