

NOTTING HILL

ANNA

Hi.

WILLIAM

Hello.

ANNA

You disappeared.

WILLIAM

Yes -- I'm sorry -- I had to leave... I didn't want to disturb you.

ANNA

Well... how have you been?

WILLIAM

Fine. Everything much the same. When they change the law Spike and I will marry immediately. Whereas you... I've watched in wonder. Awards, glory ...

ANNA

Oh no. It's all nonsense, believe me. I had no idea how much nonsense it all was -- but nonsense it all is...

(she's nervous)

Well, yesterday was our last day filming and so I'm just off -- but I brought you this from home, and...

It's quite a big wrapped parcel, flat -- 3 foot by 4 foot, leaning against a bookshelf.

ANNA

I thought I'd give it to you.

WILLIAM

Thank you. Shall I...

ANNA

No, don't open it yet -- I'll be embarrassed.

WILLIAM

Okay -- well, thank you. I don't know what it's for. But thank you anyway.

ANNA

I actually had it in my apartment in New York and just thought you'd... but, when it came to it, I didn't know how to call you... having behaved so... badly, twice. So it's been just sitting in the hotel. But then... you came, so I figured... the thing is... the thing is

...

WILLIAM

What's the thing?

ANNA

Yes. The thing is... I have to go away today but I wondered, if I didn't, whether you might let me see you a bit... or, a lot maybe... see if you could... like me again.

Pause as William takes this in.

WILLIAM

But yesterday... that actor asked you who I was... and you just dismissed me out of hand... I heard -- you had a microphone... I had headphones.

ANNA

You expect me to tell the truth about my life to the most indiscreet man in England?

WILLIAM

Sorry about that.

ANNA

That's fine. There's always a pause when the jury goes out to consider its verdict.

She's awaiting an answer.

WILLIAM

Anna. Look -- I'm a fairly level-headed bloke. Not often in and out of love. But...

He can't really express what he feels.

WILLIAM

... can I just say 'no' to your kind request and leave it at that?

ANNA

... Yes, that's fine. Of course. I... you know... of course... I'll just... be getting along then... nice to see you.

WILLIAM

The truth is...

He feels he must explain.

WILLIAM

... with you, I'm in real danger. It took like a perfect situation, apart from that foul temper of yours -- but my relatively inexperienced heart would, I fear, not recover if I was once again ... cast aside, which I would absolutely expect to be. There are too many pictures of you everywhere, too many films. You'd go and I'd be... well, buggered, basically.

ANNA

I see.

(pause)

That reality is a real 'no,' isn't it?

WILLIAM

I live in Notting Hill. You live in Beverly Hills. Everyone in the world knows who you are. My mother has trouble remembering my name.

ANNA

Okay. Fine. Fine. Good decision.

Pause.

ANNA (cont)

The fame thing isn't really real, you know. Don't forget -- I'm also just a girl. Standing in front of a boy. Asking him to love her.

Pause. She kisses him on the cheek.

ANNA

Bye.