

SHOWFOLK

"All's Fair"

Written by

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COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

EXT. HAPPY JOHN'S CARNIVAL FUNFAIR - EVENING

A traveling fairground stands on the outskirts of a typical English town. A badly painted caricature of a bearded man with arms spread wide and menacing smile spread even wider welcomes visitors to 'Happy John's Carnival Funfair'. Just inside the entrance a shabby gypsy caravan is framed by the lights and frenetic activity behind. The sound of screams of delight and a cacophony of dated music blares in the background. The faded sign above the door of the caravan reads, 'Madame Eva's Fortune Telling'.

CUT TO:

INT. MADAME EVA'S CARAVAN - CONTINUOUS

EVA DARTFORD, late 30s and dressed in traditional gypsy costume leans over a crystal ball. The dimly lit interior behind her is adorned with tapestries and shelves lined with dusty curiosities. She waves her hands across the ball before looking up with an ominous stare.

EVA

I see a man close to you. A relative, yes. A father figure. Bearded (leaning closer) and red-shirted.

She waves her hands more and leans further in to inspect the globe before her. She looks up startled.

EVA (CONT'D)

I see misfortune. Pain. A gripping of the chest. Stumbling...

She begins to wail, flailing around and clutching her arm.

EVA (CONT'D)

This man is dying. He wants you to help him but you can't. You're not there when he needs you. Dying... dying. And then. Gone.

She stops gesticulating, straightens up and holds out her hand.

EVA (CONT'D)
That'll be £10 please.

CUT TO:

The recipient of the fortune, a LITTLE GIRL, 7, stands aghast in front of her BEARDED FATHER, 32, who's wearing a red shirt. She turns to him and bursts into tears.

LITTLE GIRL
Are you going to die, daddy?

The curtain behind Eva parts and her husband FRANK DARTFORD, 42, with greasy hair and oil-stained face, pops his head in urgently.

FRANK
Happy John's had a heart attack!

Eva turns back and slaps the top of her crystal ball, like it's a telly on the blink.

EVA
Calibration must be off.

She looks back at the little girl's father and holds out her hand again.

EVA (CONT'D)
£5?

END OF COLD OPEN