

The Reunion
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INT. FRED'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Here is a cosy room of warm colours. FRED (30) is bearded with blonde curtains and is wearing a cardigan. His FRIEND, TOM (30) has scruffy hair and is in denim. They are both spread out on a settee. In front of them is a TV on a popular soap.

FRED

It's so good to see you again, Tom! I can't believe I haven't seen or really even heard from you since university!

TOM

I know right, I've had four kids since I last met you!

FRED'S eyes widen.

FRED

Four? Why didn't you tell me on Facebook? What are their names?

TOM

Sorry, just had other things on my mind, I guess.

TOM looks up in thought.

TOM

Anyway, the eldest is six. I named him Fred...

FRED

(jokingly)

Good name! You named him after me, right?

TOM

Haha, no. I just liked the name...

FRED

Oh, never mind. What are the others called then?

TOM

My eldest girl is five. I named her Tracy...

FRED coughs awkwardly and scratches his ear.

FRED

That's... My sisters name...

TOM

(laughing)

No way! What are the odds in that?

FRED
 Pretty slim, ha. Ok, what are the
 other two called?

TOM looks up again, but not for as long.

TOM
 My youngest two are twins. I called
 them Tina and Paul.

FRED moves away from TOM a little.

FRED
 (freaked out)
 They're... my parents names...

TOM starts to sweat a bit.

TOM
 I didn't search for them on the
 internet.

FRED
 Shall we just watch the TV?

TOM leans forward with interest.

TOM
 I'll just watch the repeats. Out of
 curiosity, do you have any aunts or
 uncles?

FRED
 No...

TOM
 Neices? Nephews?

FRED
 Er...

TOM
 Never mind. Would like to see a
 picture of my family?

FRED
 Go on then...

TOM retrieves a photo from his wallet in his trousers. He
 shows it to FRED.

FRED
 They all have blonde curtains like me.
 .. Isn't it child abuse giving girls
 boy haircuts?

TOM

Not if it suits them it isn't. My Fred is very clever. When he grows up he's going to be a computer programmer...

FRED

Well I don't do that stuff any more. Now I'm more into teaching I.T.

TOM

I didn't finish my sentence. I was GOING to say he will be a programmer for a few years and then teach, what secondary school?

FRED

College.

TOM

... College... As I said - very clever.

FRED

Good man.

TOM puts his thumb and finger on his chin.

TOM

Why didn't you say you changed careers on Facebook?

FRED moves further away.

FRED

I didn't think it mattered...

TOM relaxes further in the seat. FRED doesn't.

TOM

That's what my Fred's like! He needs to take life more seriously. He's still clever, though.

FRED

Well it's been nice catching up with you, but you know me - I only like to talk to people for a couple of minutes...

TOM jolts.

TOM

Oh no!

FRED

What?

TOM
It's been about two and a half
minutes...

FRED
So?

TOM
So? It's a paradox! It means I don't
know what's real any more!

FRED
Well... When I said two minutes, I
meant any time from exactly two
minutes to two minutes and fifty nine
seconds...

TOM puts his hands together as if praying.

TOM
Oh thank God!

FRED
Right. That means you have a few
seconds to get out of my house. After
that, it will that paradox you fear.

TOM
Oh my God, so little time!

FRED gets his mobile and takes pictures of the surroundings.

TOM
So little time to see what to order
from Amazon and the furniture store!

TOM finally runs out of the room and FRED finally relaxes.
Shouts are heard from outside. It's TOM.

TOM
Look at that car! Beautiful! And the
front garden has so much style!

FRED
Oh God...