

in the
RAINBOW

Series One

Red

EPIISODE ONE

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INT. HOUSE POST PARTY. NIGHT (PRESENT)

Scene 1

The party's pretty much done. It's now almost completely empty. The house is a mess, bottles and other rubbish everywhere. BEN (17) is standing the middle of the empty room. It's dark but it is washing with red lights from outside, pouring in through the door and windows.

He picks up a red scarf from the ground holding it for a second.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. PARTY. (EARLIER THAT NIGHT)

Scene 2

The party is full force, teenagers dancing everywhere, music up loud and red light flashing. A girl (17) is dancing with Ben who is having a blast but they are totally out of sync. She pulls the scarf off from around her neck looping it over Ben and trying to pull him closer. He looks panicked and ducks out of the scarf and away from her.

CRASH!

BACK TO:

INT. HOUSE POST PARTY. NIGHT (PRESENT)

Scene 3

The sound pulls Ben out of the memory, it's deadly silent again. He folds the scarf and puts it on a table.

He looks around the living room, two people catch his eye and he looks at them with a longing gaze. A tall guy picking up his passed out girlfriend from the sofa. You get the feeling Ben wants a partner.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. PARTY. (EARLIER THAT NIGHT)

Scene 4

Back to the raging party. Ben is standing against a wall practically shouting at Alan (19 - a camera around his neck).

BEN
Having fun?!

ALAN
What?!

Alan leans closer

Just then the guy from the sofa bangs into Ben, spilling his drink all over Alan.

ALAN (CONT'D)
What the hell?!!

Alan holds his camera away from his soaked shirt, the guy grabs his shoulder.

GUY
Oh shit sorry my bro!

Alan rolls his eyes and dashes away. The guy keeps dancing, slopping some more drink everywhere.

BACK TO:

INT. HOUSE POST PARTY. (PRESENT)

Scene 5

The guy touches Ben on the shoulder pulling him back once again to the present.

GUY
(whispering)
Epic

Two girls follow them out the door one is DOLI (who we'll meet properly later on). Ben moves into the door frame.

DOLI
Best night EVVEEEEERRRRRRRRR!

She does a half spin holding her mostly empty drink in the air. They wander off. Ben squats down and picks something up off the ground.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. PARTY. (EARLIER THAT NIGHT)

Scene 6

Roy (19) is dancing in a crowd of people, he is taller than most of them. He downs the last of his drink throwing the empty cup away. Then with an adrenaline rush he pulls off his shirt throwing it and hitting Ben right in the face.

BACK TO PRESENT:

INT. HOUSE POST PARTY. NIGHT

Scene 7

Ben stands up holding the t-shirt, he stares down at it for a second gently running his fingers over it. He looks back up and glances around.

He sees something just off screen, rolling his eyes and wanders towards it.

EXT. FRONT YARD. NIGHT

Scene 8

POPPY (18 Ben's sister) is lying on the grass in the front yard giggling drunkenly. The screen is illuminated by a shiny red light as Doli and her friends wander over to a parked taxi.

ROY (Poppy's boyfriend - Shirtless) is kneeling down next to her trying to get her to stand up. It's clear he's pretty drunk himself, he's a little wobbly and his speech is slurred.

ROY
(Exasperated to Poppy)
Come on babe, get up.

POPPY
(With a giggle)
No

Ben walks over, he looks as though he is going to reach out to Roy but Poppy looks at him and Roy looks over his shoulder at Ben who is now standing behind him.

ROY
Oh hey Ben. Sweet party, looked like the whole town showed up.

BEN
 (Sarcastic)
 I mean- not hard in Te Aho Bay.

ROY
 Yeah, true.

Ben smiles awkwardly. Poppy puts up her hand attempting to cover Roy's mouth but totally misses smooshing his face.

POPPY
 Shoosh

ROY (TO BEN)
 She's kinda smashed.

Roy is quite obviously pretty drunk himself as he slurs his words, Ben looks at him concerned.

ROY (CONT'D, SELF EFACING) (CONT'D)
 Pity she can't handle the drink
 like me.

Ben bends down to get to Poppy's level.

BEN
 Hey Pop. What's going on?

She stares adoringly at BEN

POPPY
 You were the cutest baby, you know
 that Benny? (TO ROY) He is totally
 the cutest, right?

ROY
 (humouring) Yep.

BEN and ROY exchange fond looks - here we go. POPPY throws a red flower she was holding at Ben

POPPY
 And you're still cute. And you're
 still my baby bro.

BEN
 Yup she's smashed. Time for bed?

POPPY
 Nah I just sleep here, fairies
 always sleep in the garden

Ben sniggers, he passes the shirt he is holding to Roy who gives him a smile and puts it back on.

ROY bends down and grabs Poppy's feet.

ROY
Come on. Put those muscles to use.

INT. PARTY. MAIN HALLWAY NIGHT

Scene 9

We follow Ben and Roy as they half carry, half drag Poppy through the house towards her room, she's still half awake and squirming a little.

BEN
You got her?

ROY
Yeah, yeah, yeah.

ROY (CONT'D)
This has so got to be worth serious boyfriend points.

BEN
Um hello?. I'm doing half the work.

Roy smirks and half drops Poppy, putting all the weight onto Ben. Ben almost drops her before Roy grabs her again. Roy laughs.

BEN (CONT'D)
Shut up.

INT. POPPYS ROOM

Scene 10

Roy tucks Poppy into bed, rolling her onto her side. The room is illuminated by red fairy lights hanging above her bed. Ben enters the room with a red bucket and a towel and hands it to Roy.

ROY
Thanks.

He places them on the ground, near Poppys bed. Then he strokes her hair.

Ben watches him, smiling a little, leaning on the doorframe. The camera follows Bens gaze. He's checking Roy out a little bit

ROY (CONT'D)
 (Sweet and soft)
 Happy hangover you crazy girly.

Poppy, half asleep, murmurs something we don't quite catch, pulling her blankets up to under her eyes

He strokes her head and starts quietly singing a lullaby to her, within a second she is asleep

He looks back at Ben who runs his hand through his hair. He's lit from behind, looking kinda cute himself. Ben smiles turning and heading out of the room.

Roy kisses Poppy on the head

INT. LOUNGE.

Scene 11

Ben sits down on the couch, pulling his legs up to his chest and turns on the TV. He flips through channels for a bit, nothing good's on.

BEN
 Ugh.

Roy wanders into the room, his keys in his hand. We can tell he's still a bit drunk.

ROY
 Okay, I'm off, tell Poppy I put her to bed with absolutely no help whatsoever.

He starts to head for the door.

BEN
 Hey, you think that's a good idea?

Roy turns back.

ROY
 Hmmmm?

BEN
 Driving...you're kind of smashed too...

ROY
But the 7am start is calling my
name-

He starts to wander off again. Ben jumps up reaching out to grab Roy's keys.

BEN
I could call you a cab?

They both look at his hand on Roy's arm and he quickly removes it.

BEN (CONT'D)
It's no trouble.

Roy looks hesitant, waving Ben off.

BEN (CONT'D)
Come on, just chill out for ten
minutes. I'll get it.

Roy turns back. Gives in. Okay...

BEN (CONT'D)
Done.

Ben holds up his phone showing the text message is sent.

With that Ben sits back down on the couch. Roy wanders back towards Ben, falling down next to him, quite close. Ben hands Roy a drink which he takes with a smile.

ROY
What's on?

BEN
Nothing good.

Whatever's on TV has a red colour palette, lighting the entire room in a dark red tint.

Beat.

After a second Roy starts to doze off and spills some of his drink on the sofa.

BEN (CONT'D)
Whoa!

Ben grabs Roy's hand steadying the drink upright then lifts it out of his hand, waking him up in the process.

ROY
Oh shit, sorry

They lock eyes. Time slows down. Roy looks sleepily down at Ben's lips then back to his eyes.

ROY (CONT'D)
Fuck, you were right. I should not
be behind a wheel.

The moment of frisson lingers. Both men feel it. But after a couple of uncertain beats, it's BEN who leans in and instigates a kiss...

It's sweet, gentle and cautious. Neither party are really comprehending what they're doing.

Until they do. Roy quickly pulls away, shocked at himself.

BEN
What's wrong?

Roy is taking a second staring at the tv not saying anything, Ben starts to look worried.

Awkward beat.

BEN (CONT'D)
Was that bad?

Roy looks up as if he is only just hearing him.

ROY
(soft) Sorry?

BEN
Was it like- bad?

Ben reaches out putting his hand on Roys arm

Beat.

They just process everything for a second still holding each other, Ben reaches up and moves some of Roy's hair not making eye contact

BEN (CONT'D)
I thought it was good.

Roy looks up making eye contact with Ben, his face very troubled.

ROY

Me too.

Ben leans in again

They kiss again. More passionate this time, both parties really want this. The tiny couch makes it a bit awkward for the boys. They move around and adjust themselves. Ben pulls away.

BEN

(Whispering)

You wanna...?

Yep, Roy does. Ben takes off his jacket and kisses Roy again who puts his hand on Ben's waist pulling him onto his back.

And the lights switch on, the red from the TV lightens..

INT. NIGHT. LOUNGE

Scene 12

POPPY

(O.S.)

Ben, I've been sick.

Everything in the room seems to go silent and be washed away. Roy looks up. A very sleepy looking Poppy is standing in the doorway, holding the bucket under one arm. She rubs her eyes.

Roy jumps up, as if an explosion has just gone off. Ben stays put on the sofa looking like a deer in the headlights.

BEN

(Under his breath)

Oh shit.

Poppy is sleepy, she hasn't processed what she has seen yet

POPPY

(vague, to Roy) You still here?

Beat

She is firstly humored by what she has seen

POPPY (CONT'D)

(With a sleepy laugh)

What are you geeks doing?

Roy is on high alert now but trying to act casual.

ROY
What-what do you mean?-

From Roy's reaction Poppy starts to feel more uncomfortable, the humor wearing off. A silence fills the room for some painful seconds then she clicks.

POPPY
What's going on...?

Beat

Roy and Ben say nothing, glancing at one another for a second in guilt.

Poppy is confused, the guy she loves just kissed her little brother. She is clearly hurt as this thought weighs on her mind.

She looks at Roy, her voice is scratchy and dry.

POPPY (CONT'D)
(Hurt and quiet)
Did you two....(fuck)? Oh my God.

Roy looks pale and washed out, he sees how hurt she is. He starts to panic more

ROY
It was nothing, we've had too much
to drink.

Ben looks a little disappointed and sheepish. Poppy's eyes have filled with tears that she quickly blinks away.

Poppy is trying to fill in the blanks

POPPY
So you-you like guys now?

ROY
Yes- I mean no, it's not that
simple-

Poppy takes that as a straight yes and jumps to conclusions.

POPPY
So you thought you'd try it out on
my brother- when you're hammered?

ROY
No it wasn't like that, just let me
explain-

POPPY
(To herself)
Fuck-

He turns to Ben who looks like he just wants to disappear and says nothing. Ben is hating himself for making Poppy feel this way.

Seeing the look on Ben's face Poppy's anger grows.

POPPY (CONT'D)
Go please.

Roy doesn't move, he is searching for the right words

She throws the bucket under her arm at Roy but it completely misses him.

POPPY (CONT'D)
Go!

Poppy moves to the door pulling it open and gesturing outside.

POPPY (CONT'D)
Now

Ben slowly puts his jacket back on. His whole demeanor has changed, he's shrunk.

ROY
Wait hun - it was just a stupid
mistake. I was drunk, it didn't
mean a thing-

A car reverses into the driveway yet again flooding the scene with red. What Poppy saw has started to weigh heavily on her and her voice sounds very scratchy, like she can hardly speak.

POPPY
I hope that's your ride.

She stands there staring at him. Ben looks between the two of them. We can tell he wants to say something but he just can't find the words.

ROY
But-

She shakes her head.

I/E. NIGHT. DOORWAY

Scene 13

Roy looks between Poppy and Ben before heading for the door. Ben follows him, watching him from the doorway as he wanders towards the waiting car.

Poppy wraps her arm around Bens, resting her chin on his shoulder.

POPPY

I-I can't believe him. I'm so sorry

She squeezes him a little hoping he'll say something

Ben looks like he wants to scream but he just looks around instead.

BEN

I- wow this place is a mess...

Poppy rubs her eyes

POPPY

So much for love aye-

Ben doesn't even hear what she is saying, he tries to talk about something else, anything else

BEN

I'd better start cleaning up...

But Ben stays frozen to the spot watching Roy.

POPPY

I-I think I'm gonna be sick.

She pulls away from Ben putting one hand over her mouth.

POPPY (CONT'D)

Oh god

She quickly walks back steadying herself on the living room doorway as she goes.

Ben watches as Roy gives him one last look, Roy too has shrunk looking beaten, he ducks his head and gets into the car.

The brake-lights are pointed right at Ben's face. He's covered in red light.

The car drives away, the red slowly shrinking and fading until Ben isn't illuminated at all, left in darkness, alone with his thoughts again.