

JMG Stories

# FIRST

THE FIRST TIME IS OFTEN  
PAINFUL. AND AWKWARD.  
DEFINITELY AWKWARD!



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LOREM IPSUM DOLOR SIT AMET, CONSECTETUR ADIPISCING ELIT, SED  
INCIDIDUNT UT LABORE ET DOLORE MAGNA ALIQUA. UT ENIM

Written by:  
Solomon Radley & Luke Terry

# FIRST TIME

— *The first time is often painful. And awkward. Definitely awkward.* —

Created by: JMG Stories | Written by: Luke Terry and Solomon Radley



— ” —

*“For Elouise, in-laws are like crocs. It’s fine for other people to have them. But if I brought a pair of them home with me tonight, she’d dump me on the spot”*

*Shane, Elouise’s boyfriend*

**Genre:** *Comedy/Drama*

**Format:** *8 eps of 30 min each*

**Targetgroup:** *20 – 35 year-olds*

**Potential buyers:** *BBC, Sky, Netflix, Amazon, HBO, Viaplay and more*

**Estimate:** *€25-27 million*

**At Pitch-level end Q2 2021**

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## FIRST TIME

Everyone worries about their first time. There's the nerves. The anticipation. The pressure to perform. The fear that, if it goes badly, you may never be able to look your partner in the eye again.

Talking about sex has always come naturally to Elouise. Her podcast, First Time, became a cult hit for its sex-positive take on sexuality through the lens of her own ill-fated relationships. It's something else entirely that keeps her up at night, while boyfriend Shane sleeps soundly beside her.

First Time is a comedy anthology framed by a cast of recurring characters whose emotional hang-ups make Joe Exotic look well-adjusted.

It follows the stories of guests on Elouise's show as she reluctantly takes the podcast in a new direction for its fifth season, in a bid to revitalise its audience figures and appeal to an ageing fanbase.

At her producer Clara's request, she abandons the familiar world of sex parties, camming and Only Fans for a new one that brings her out in a cold sweat and sends a shiver down her spine: over the course of eight episodes, she must overcome her crippling fear of meeting her future in-laws.

After years of avoiding the subject in her own life, she finds she must suddenly play agony aunt to a host of characters whose own in-law 'first times' have not gone according to plan.

There's the dominatrix who's furious when she discovers her partner has lied to his parents about what she does for a living, the son whose coddling mother keeps scaring his girlfriends away, the thruple whose romantic getaway is ruined when they discover one of their in-laws is staying in the same hotel – and many more besides.

Hilarious, inventive and uncomfortable in equal measure, this anthology comedy series explores intergenerational attitudes towards relationships, sexuality, gender and more. It offers disastrous situations, comedy in abundance – and plenty of awkward moments that might feel a little too relatable. You're bound to be entertained... if you can bear to look from behind that pillow.

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FIRST TIME

– Pilot –

## THE HARD LIMIT

*Created and written for JMG Stories by:*

*Solomon Radley and Luke Terry*



INT. BDSM DRESSING ROOM - DAY

ANNALISA, a striking dominatrix, removes her civilian clothes, applies her makeup and changes into tight PVC bondage gear. Meanwhile, her cockapoo snaffles about in search of treats.

ANNALISA: (V.O.)

It's hard to find love in my line of work.

INT. THE RITUAL CHAMBER - DAY

Annalisa runs her fingers over the whips and floggers hanging from the chamber wall as she crosses the dungeon, her high heels glistening in the room's moody spot lighting.

ANNALISA: (V.O.)

Sure, I get to meet people from all  
walks of life.

MONTAGE - VARIOUS

- a) Annalisa makes a FOOTBALLER crawl over and kiss her heel.
- b) Annalisa flogs a DOCTOR bound to an X-shaped crucifix.
- c) Annalisa mummifies a POLITICIAN with cellophane.
- d) Annalisa pegs a CLOWN. After every thrust, there's a novelty squeak.

ANNALISA: (V.O.)

Footballers with boot fetishes. Doctors  
with God complexes. Politicians with power  
issues. Freaks of all shapes and sizes  
visit me and leave with more than just a  
smile on  
their faces.

EXT. THE RITUAL CHAMBER - DAY

A SUITED YOUNG MAN scans up and down the street for people he knows before ringing the buzzer for The Ritual Chamber.

ANNALISA: (V.O.)

But any pro domme will tell you, screwing  
clients for free is not good business.

INT. THE RITUAL CHAMBER - DAY

Annalisa's face lights up when she hears the distinctive buzz  
of the chamber's front door.

ANNALISA: (V.O.)

To be honest, I had a strict policy  
against dating civilians for years.

With a wry smile, she selects one of the larger dildos from  
her toy shelf and slides it into her harness.

ANNALISA: (V.O.)

Everything's just simpler if you stick to  
other sex workers. At least then, everyone  
knows the score.

Annalisa throws on a leather trench coat to hide her strap-on,  
before ascending the stairs to meet her client.

INT. RITUAL CHAMBER - DAY

Annalisa opens the chamber's vault-like door to reveal the  
nervous-looking young man on the other side.

ANNALISA: (V.O.)

But all that changed when I met Daniel.

Before he has a chance to say anything, Annalisa grabs him by  
the tie and leads him downstairs.

ANNALISA: (V.O.)

He was different from the others.

INT. RITUAL CHAMBER - DAY

Annalisa leads her client over to a wooden pillory and seductively locks him in.

ANNALISA: (V.O.)

Sure, he had a submissive side. But he was  
also assertive, charming and very,  
very sexy!

She steps into her client's eyeline and lets her coat drop to the floor to reveal what she has on underneath. She makes a show of dangling the pillory key in front of him. As she does so, her dog runs in and rips it from her hand.

ANNALISA: (V.O.)

We met during an emergency at  
my dungeon.

Spotting the look of horror on her client's face, Annalisa drops everything and chases the dog. (Her high heels make this tricky.) Panicking, the client attempts to break free from the torture device. But, it's far too sturdy.

INT. RITUAL CHAMBER - DAY

Annalisa shows DAN, a fireman armed with a pair of bolt cutters, into The Ritual Chamber's medieval play area and leads him to the pillory her client is trapped in.

ANNALISA: (V.O.)

He was the fireman who answered  
the 999 call that day.

His eyes meet with hers as he cuts the pillory lock. There's sexual tension in the air as they stop what they're doing and stare at each other. The client coughs.

CLIENT:

Listen, I have to teach Sunday School in  
an hour, so...

ANNALISA (V.O.):

That was a little over 12 months ago, now.

INT. PODCAST STUDIO - DAY

First Time host ELOUISE and her producer, CLARA, sit in a soundproofed room with Annalisa. Clara keeps an eye on a MacBook Pro hooked up to the room's audio equipment, while Elouise interviews their guest.

ELOUISE:

And how have those 12 months been?

ANNALISA:

Honestly, they've been great. I'd say it's  
the happiest I've been in years...

ELOUISE:

Until now.

ANNALISA:

Well, yeah.

Reassuringly, Elouise gestures for Annalisa to continue.

ELOUISE:

Why don't you tell our listeners  
what happened?

ANNALISA:

Well, a couple of months ago we talked  
about meeting his parents. He seemed  
really cool with it, which is a big deal  
when you have a job like mine. But now...

ELOUISE:

He's gone soft on the idea?



ANNALISA:

Exactly! About a week ago he told me his mum was really busy and won't be able to meet for a while. But he didn't give much of a reason, and he's been avoiding me like crazy ever since.

ELOUISE:

And you think it's because of your job?

While Elouise is talking, HARRY the intern appears in the window of the studio door holding a kettle. He knocks on the glass to get Clara's attention.

ANNALISA:

It has to be. I've had this before. Lots of men like the idea of dating a sex worker, but when the time comes to get serious, they're gone!

Clara attempts to communicate to Harry that they don't want any tea and he should get lost. To her dismay, he gestures that he can't understand her and is coming in.

ANNALISA (joking):

I should have just gone into my backup career. You know, as a kid I always wanted to be Indiana Jones.

ELOUISE:

Well, you've got the whip.

HARRY:

Sorry to interrupt, guys. I'm just putting the kettle on. Do you want anything?

CLARA:

Is the big red light out there that says 'recording' invisible to you?

ELOUISE:

Honestly, Harry! I know we said in the job

post that you'd mainly be making tea, but  
now is not the time.

HARRY:  
Sorry! I didn't think...

CLARA:  
That's your problem in a nutshell,  
isn't it!? Although, since you're here, I  
will have a coffee. Black. And it'd better  
be the best damn brew I've had all day.

Harry glances at the others to see if they want anything.

CLARA:  
Did I sneeze!? Get out of here!

HARRY:  
Sorry!

Harry hastily makes his exit. Once the door is firmly closed,  
Clara takes a deep breath and restarts the recording.

CLARA:  
Sorry about that. New intern. Rolling  
again in three, two, one...

ELOUISE:  
Look, Annalisa, you shouldn't let anyone  
make you ashamed of what you do.

ANNALISA:  
I know, I know. And don't get me wrong: I  
love my work.

ELOUISE:  
But it's also possible that he's just  
nervous about introducing his new  
girlfriend to his parents. People can get  
weird when in-laws are involved.

Clara gives Elouise a knowing look.

ELOUISE:

What happened when you asked him what's going on?

ANNALISA:

Urgh, he hates talking about his feelings. He says it's because he doesn't want to burden me with his baggage. But honestly, I think it's more that, if he doesn't talk about things, he doesn't have to deal with his emotions.

ELOUISE:

So, it was like talking to a brick wall?

ANNALISA:

More like banging my head off one! But this is important to me. So, what am I supposed to do? I mean, you're sort of in the sex industry...

Annalisa gestures to a poster from a previous season of *First Time* that's hanging on the studio wall. It features Elouise holding a sex toy suggestively, with the strapline, '*Putting the 'sex' in sex education*'.

ANNALISA:

You must have gone through something similar when you met your in-laws.

ELOUISE:

Um, well actually, I would rather catch gonorrhoea than-

Clara pauses the recording again. She removes her headphones and joins the others at the interview desk.

CLARA:

Erm... sorry to interrupt, ladies. But Annalisa, would you mind giving Elouise and I a couple of minutes?

ANNALISA:  
Is everything alright?

CLARA:  
Absolutely! There's just something funny  
going on with the recording...

Clara gestures vaguely at the equipment.

CLARA:  
I need to test the mikes. But if you're  
quick, I'm sure you can catch Harry in the  
kitchen area. Actually, even if you're not  
quick. I swear using a cafetiere is like  
splitting the atom to that boy.

Hesitantly, Annalisa rises from her swivel chair.

ANNALISA:  
OK, then. I guess I'll see you in five?

CLARA:  
Great. See you in five.

Clara waits until Annalisa has closed the door behind her  
before grabbing a pen and lobbing it at Elouise.

ELOUISE:  
Ouch! What!?

CLARA:  
You know what. You were about to tell that  
woman you plan on *never* meeting your  
boyfriend's parents!

INT. STUDIO KITCHEN - DAY

Annalisa enters Barley Media's small kitchen area to find  
Harry preparing himself a cup of builder's tea.

ANNALISA:

Hi.

HARRY:

Oh, hey.

ANNALISA:

So, you're the tea boy?

HARRY:

Ha! Something like that.

Harry retrieves an extra cup from the cupboard in front of him, throws a tea bag into it and begins pouring water over it from the freshly boiled kettle.

HARRY:

How do you take it?

ANNALISA:

Like my men: weak.

Harry adds a healthy lug of milk to Annalisa's tea and gives it a cursory stir before passing her the mug.

HARRY:

Oh, you're the... dominatrix?

ANNALISA:

I certainly am.

Harry lets out a nervous chuckle.

HARRY:

That's cool. That's very, uh...

Annalisa waits patiently for Harry to finish staring awkwardly at the floor and get his words out.

HARRY:

That must be... fun. I guess you must see a  
lot of... whips?

Annalisa gestures vaguely towards the recording room.

ANNALISA:  
Yeeeeeah... I should probably be  
getting back. Get my details off El if you  
want to book a consultation.

HARRY:  
Wait! I... I have a question. About...  
Um... bondage?

As she's turning to go, Annalisa does a brief mental  
calculation before turning back to Harry with a wry grin.

ANNALISA:  
Oh, yeah?

INT. PODCAST STUDIO - DAY

Elouise is still holding her arm where the pen hit her. But  
Clara is unmoved by the pout on her face.

ELOUISE:  
I'm not going to lie to my  
audience, Clara.

CLARA:  
I'm not saying lie to them, El. But it  
can't hurt to be a bit economical with the  
truth. I mean, who's going to take in-law  
advice from someone who's afraid of  
meeting their own?

ELOUISE:  
Well, that's exactly the point, isn't it?  
Maybe they shouldn't.

CLARA:  
Look, I know you're still not 100% on  
board with this idea for the new season-



ELOUISE:  
You can say that, again!

Elouise gets up and parades over to the posters from old seasons of *First Time* that adorn the studio wall, pointing to each of them as she talks.

ELOUISE:  
Season One was about my first three-way.  
Season Two was about my first sex party.  
Season Three was about my first STD.  
Season Four was about my first non-  
monogamous relationship. And Season Five  
is, what exactly?

Clara throws her arms up in despair.

CLARA:  
It's what your listeners want, El. We did  
focus groups!

ELOUISE:  
I don't care if it's what they want. I'm  
not doing it!

Clara stands and puts an arm around Elouise.

CLARA:  
No-one's pushing you to do anything you  
aren't comfortable with...

Elouise rejects the gesture.

ELOUISE:  
Good. Then, I want to go back to talking  
to sexy people about sex.

Patiently, Clara leads Elouise back to her chair and takes a seat next to her.

CLARA:

Look, there's a reason our audience figures are in decline. And you're not going to like me saying this. But quite frankly, people think you're getting a bit old for that!

ELOUISE:

How *dare* you!

CLARA:

I'm not trying to shame you here, El. I'd have you chatting about butt plugs and fingering at 80. I'm just saying, your fans aren't 21 anymore. They want to hear about more than just sex. The show needs to keep maturing with its audience, and this is the logical next step.

ELOUISE:

But it's not the logical next step for *me*. After you meet your future in-laws, that's it. You're an adult - and I'm not done being young, just yet! I'm sorry, Clara, but I'm not your puppet.

Elouise folds her arms and turns away from her producer. But Clara takes her hands and forces her to make eye contact.

CLARA:

OK. But can we put a pin in that? Because what's right for you might not be what's right for Annalisa, and we don't want to ruin a perfectly good relationship.

Elouise collapses forwards onto the desk.

ELOUISE:

Ugh this is so stressful!

The pair sit like that for a moment, in silence.

ELOUISE:

Shouldn't she be back by now?

CLARA:

She should. You go get her. And make sure  
Harry hasn't screwed up my coffee.

Elouise rises from her chair and leaves the room.

INT. BARLEY MEDIA KITCHEN - DAY

Harry is standing in the kitchen with his hands and legs bound using an assortment of belts, laces and cables from the studio. Annalisa is finishing a knot.

ANNALISA:

So, the cool thing about this knot is,  
this slight variation makes it far easier  
to disassemble. But when you're tied  
up, it's still impossible to undo. Go on,  
try and get out.

Harry tries, and fails, to escape his bindings.

ANNALISA:

Good, huh?

HARRY:

Very impressive.

ELOUISE: (O.S)

Harry!

Harry jumps and instinctively makes towards the tea. But his legs are bound and crashes to the floor. Annalisa looks down as Clara marches in.

ELOUISE:

Harry, have you seen... oh, you're there!

Elouise spots Harry, prostrate on the floor.

ELOUISE:  
And you're down there?

Annalisa helps Harry up and undoes the knot.

ANNALISA:  
You've fixed the problem then?

ELOUISE:  
I hope so!

ANNALISA:  
Listen, I actually just got a message and  
I'm going to have to shoot off. I'm  
meeting one of my regulars at 1pm and I  
don't like keeping him waiting. Well, not  
until he's on the clock, anyway!

ELOUISE:  
Oh. Okay.

ANNALISA:  
But... I'd be happy to pick things up again  
later, if you can come to me?

ELOUISE:  
At your place? The um, what did you  
call it?

ANNALISA:  
Ritual Chamber.

ELOUISE:  
Right, of course. Very intense. Just let  
me know when.

INT. BARLEY MEDIA OFFICE - DAY

The pair enter a studio common area from the recording area.  
Annalisa hands Elouise a business card as they go to the exit.

ANNALISA:  
OK, that's the address. Tomorrow at noon.

ELOUISE:

Perfect.

ANNALISA:

And I wanna hear about your in-laws. I  
think it could really help me.

Elouise forces a smile as waves Annalisa off, but it's clear that last remark worried her. Clara exits the recording room with her gear and locks it behind her.

CLARA:

Oh, is she gone?

ELOUISE:

Yep! We've rearranged for tomorrow though.

CLARA:

Probably for the best. Tarquin has the  
afternoon booked for the next episode of  
*Finding Inner Calm* and he gets so angry  
when whoever's before him overruns!

ELOUISE:

Sounds like we have the rest of the day  
off! Wanna get lunch at The Phoenix?

CLARA:

Lead the way!

Clara and Elouise grab their coats and head out the door.  
After the door closes Harry appears holding a coffee.

HARRY:

Guys?

EXT. VICTORIA PARK - DAY

Annalisa draws amused gazes from passers-by as she walks a  
BDSM CLIENT wearing a PVC puppy suit through the park on a  
leash while enjoying a Solero. She's basking in the attention  
when she spots Dan up ahead, walking towards her with his  
MOTHER, who is dressed in black. Dan spots her. But instead of

saying 'hi', he puts one arm around his mother and attempts to hurry back the way they came.

ANNALISA:  
What the-

Annalisa gives chase, but soon gets stuck behind a lady with a buggy. She steps into the cycle lane to cut around her. But in the process, she steps into the path of a passing CYCLIST.

CYCLIST:  
Oi! Watch it!

Annalisa pauses to regain her composure. In the distance, she sees Dan look back over his shoulder at the commotion.

BDSM CLIENT:  
Are you OK, mistress?

Annalisa scowls at her client.

ANNALISA:  
Er, do puppies talk?

BDSM CLIENT:  
...

ANNALISA:  
I didn't think so. Now, heel!

Tossing her ice cream stick into a nearby bin, she brings her client to heel and resumes her chase. Dan's mother is moving slowly. Annalisa quickly closes the gap between them, until Dan breaks into a trot, dragging his mum behind him.

ANNALISA:  
That bastard!



She tugs on her pets lead to signal that they're about to respond in kind.

ANNALISA:

Come on! If you're a good boy, I may even give you a treat, when we get back. Would you like that?

Annalisa's client yowls with excitement and the clattering of her high heels on the concrete quickens. Her client clambers along beside her on all fours. When Dan breaks into a jog, Annalisa slips off her heels and runs after him. Her client pants heavily, struggling to keep up.

BDSM CLIENT:

Mistress... I can't keep... going...

ANNALISA:

Well, I suppose we could stop. That is, assuming you don't mind another two weeks locked in your chastity cage?

The client whimpers and presses on. The Prince George is up ahead, where Dan's car is parked. With his spare hand, he rifles through his pockets for the key. The gap between he and Annalisa has closed. But her pet is running out of steam.

BDSM CLIENT:

Please, mistress... no more!

Annalisa is determined to keep going. But it soon becomes clear she's not going to catch up. Soon after that, her client collapses onto the ground in a fat, sweaty, panting heap. Reluctantly, she abandons the chase. As Dan reaches the car park, Annalisa turns to her client with a look of disdain.

ANNALISA:

What did I tell you about talking!?

The client whimpers. Annalisa picks up his leash and begins the slow march back the way they came.

ANNALISA:

Now all I'm going to be able to think  
about on the walk home is what your  
punishment should be.

Behind her, Dan helps his mum into the car and drives away. Outwardly, Annalisa tries to keep her cool. But a pit of rage bubbles beneath the surface.

INT. ELOUISE'S STUDIO APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Elouise leans against her front door as she clumsily slots the key into the lock. She stumbles into her sitting room, accompanied by her boyfriend SHANE.

ELOUISE:

So, there's Annalisa all geared up to meet  
Dan's parents, and suddenly he won't even  
talk to her about the idea anymore!

SHANE:

Huh.

Elouise throws her backpack down on her coffee table and makes a beeline for the fridge.

ELOUISE:

Honestly, I feel so sorry for the girl.  
This is a big deal for her, and he seems  
totally oblivious to how much of a wanker  
he's being!

She opens it and grabs a half-bottle of wine. Shane watches her take a sniff and a swig to test if it's still good.

SHANE:  
Is that so?

Retrieving two glasses from the dishwasher, Elouise turns to face her boyfriend.

ELOUISE:  
Why are you being weird?

SHANE:  
I don't know what you mean.

Elouise places the glasses next to the bottle on the kitchen counter and walks over to Shane, jabbing playfully at his chest with her index finger as she talks.

ELOUISE:  
Yes, you do. All this umming and ahh-ing and *agreeing* with me. Explain yourself.

SHANE:  
Well, doesn't Dan remind you of anyone?

Elouise feigns outrage.

ELOUISE:  
...what are you getting at here, Shane?

SHANE:  
I'm talking about what happens every time I try to introduce *you* to *my* parents!

CUT TO:

INT. SHANE'S FLAT - DAY

Shane and Elouise are on the sofa.

SHANE  
So, do you want to meet me parents this weekend?

ELOUISE:  
Sorry, I have night school.

MONTAGE - VARIOUS

- a) Elousie responds to the same question, while she and Shane are out for dinner: "...jury duty."
- b) Shane has just asked again, this time at a farmer's market: "...life drawing classes."
- c) Shane catches Elouise off-guard while they're in bed together: "...Glockenspiel lessons?"

INT. ELOUISE'S STUDIO APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Elouise walks dismissively away from Shane. Leaving him standing in the living area, she returns to the kitchen and pours two glasses of wine.

ELOUISE:  
You are misremembering. I would never  
behave with such flagrant disregard for  
your feelings.

Elouise hands Shane a glass and they both recline on her sofa.

SHANE:  
Oh? So, if I told you my parents were  
visiting in a couple of weekends' time and  
that they'd love to meet you, you'd be all  
for it, would you?

As she takes her first sip, her phone starts to buzz.

ELOUISE:  
Hold that thought.

Shane watches Elouise retrieve her phone and scroll through the incoming messages.

SHANE:  
What is it?

ELOUISE:  
I have to go.

SHANE:  
Oh, what a surprise!

Elouise stands and grabs her backpack.

ELOUISE:  
It's Annalisa. From the show? Something bad's just happened with Dan and she wants to talk to me about it.

SHANE:  
Is that such a good idea? You've been drinking, after all.

ELOUISE:  
It's fine. I've not had that much!

Elouise heads for the door with Shane in tow.

SHANE:  
You know what? I think you're just using this as an excuse to get out of this conversation.

ELOUISE: (Sarcastically)  
You got me! I'm fixing other people's relationships, so I don't have to confront the issues with my own.

SHANE:  
That's exactly what you're doing!

Elouise opens the door but pauses before leaving. She turns back to Shane and puts her hands on his shoulders.

ELOUISE:

Look, I really am sorry about this. I won't be long. There's cash in the bedside table, if you fancy ordering take-out. We'll talk when I get back, I promise!

With that, she walks out the door.

SHANE: (calling after her)  
You always say that!

ELOUISE:

I can't hear you, I'm drunk!

SHANE:

That's not how drinking works!

EXT. THE RITUAL CHAMBER - DAY

Elouise rings the chamber intercom. The door opens and a very sheepish BUSINESSMAN squeezes past her and onto the sidewalk. Moments later, Annalisa appears in the doorway.

ANNALISA:

You won't believe what's just happened!

Annalisa grabs Elouise and drags her inside.

INT. THE RITUAL CHAMBER - DAY

Annalisa and Elouise sit at a small table with recording equipment positioned carefully between them.

ANNALISA:

He is *literally* running from his problems.  
I nearly gave my client a heart attack  
chasing him through the park!

ELOUISE:

Ha! And there was me thinking you'd just  
given him a good seeing to!



ANNALISA:

I know, right? That guy needs to do more cardio. Still, I guess we don't have to wonder whether Dan's ashamed of me anymore.

ELOUISE:

No, that seems pretty conclusive.

ANNALISA:

So, what should I do? Ah, our refreshments are here!

A HANDSOME MAN in a French maid uniform appears with a tea pot and two cups on a silver tray. He places them down silently and begins pouring out the tea.

ELOUISE:

Wow. What's your name, handsome?

ANNALISA:

He's not allowed to speak. His job is to attend to my every desire, and I find that is best done in silence.

ELOUISE:

Oh. In that case, I have a question: after such a trying experience, don't you 'desire' something a bit stronger?

The servant looks to his mistress for confirmation. She nods and he takes the unwanted tea away.

INT. THE RITUAL CHAMBER - EVENING

Annalisa and Elouise are drinking margaritas. Annalisa's phone is buzzing with messages from Dan, but she's having too much fun to notice. On the far side of the room, the 'maid' is dusting the studio's sex toys.

ANNALISA:

You know, you never told me what happened when you first met your in-laws.

ELOUISE:

What? Oh, you don't want to hear about that. It was... embarrassing!

Annalisa makes a show of putting down her glass and giving Elouise her full attention.

ANNALISA:

Well now I definitely want to hear it! Go on, it'll cheer me up.

ELOUISE:

Well, um, when I met Shane's parents, they were very... anal... about, er...

Elouise scans the room for inspiration. Her eyes glance from the wall of whips to the shelf of dildos, to the racks, to the restraints and back to Annalisa, who is staring at her, expectantly. Coming up blank, she leans forward and turns off the Dictaphone.

ELOUISE:

OK. I'm going to level with you. I haven't met them. Frankly I'm terrified of meeting them. All this 'meet the parents' stuff? I don't know the first thing about it. I hate my family and, honestly, I'm surprised my boyfriend has stuck around as long as he has.

ANNALISA:

Then... maybe you're not the best person to ask for advice about meeting mine.

Elouise's lip trembles. She glances down at the table to hide the tear forming in her eye.

ELOUISE:  
Maybe not.

Quietly, Elouise begins to sob. After a moment, Annalisa leans over and soothingly rubs her back.

ANNALISA:  
Listen: do you want to know why I started listening to your show? A few years back, I was still a pretty inexperienced domme, and one of my clients brought in a huge string of anal beads for me to use on him. Fine, I thought, happy to do it. But while they were up inside him, the bloody cord broke. And suddenly, he's shouting at me about how this is all my fault!

Elouise starts to giggle.

ANNALISA:  
Of course, I took him straight to A&E. But he didn't want me sat next to him in the waiting room and I was in a state by that point. So, I called a friend in tears on the drive home and he said, you know what would make you feel better? This cool new podcast for people like us. So, I put it on and, do you know what you were talking about that week? Anal play mishaps.

Elouise laughs in astonishment.

ANNALISA:  
As I listened, it made me feel so much better to know that I wasn't the only one who'd been in that ridiculous situation. That's why I reached out to you, when this thing with Dan happened. Not because I thought you were some perfect expert on

family matters, but because I know you can handle this kind of thing. So, tell me, what would you really do in my shoes?

Elouise considers for a moment.

ELOUISE:  
You said he's at his parents'  
place, right?

ANNALISA:  
Yeah?

ELOUISE:  
And you know where they live?

ANNALISA:  
I do.

Elouise chortles to herself.

ANNALISA:  
What's so funny?

ELOUISE:  
Oh nothing. I was just thinking how badass it would be if you stormed down there dressed like *that* and broke up with him in front of them. *That's* what I would do!

ANNALISA:  
Oh my God! He'd be so embarrassed!

Annalisa finishes her drink and gets to her feet.

ANNALISA:  
You can find your own way out, right?

ELOUISE:  
Um, I guess. But what about the podcast?

Annalisa swipes the Dictaphone from the table.

ANNALISA:

Oh, don't you worry about that. I'll get you your story!

ELOUISE:

Wait. You aren't actually going down there, are you?

Annalisa strides purposefully away up the dungeon stairs. Elouise gets to her feet and calls after her.

ELOUISE:

Wait, no. You can't listen to me.  
I'm drunk!

Receiving no response, Elouise turns sheepishly to find the handsome man scrubbing the dungeon floor with a toothbrush.

ELOUISE:

I don't suppose you know where I could get a kebab, do you?

EXT. DAN'S PARENTS' HOUSE - EVENING

Annalisa marches down the street in a leather 'Naughty Nun' outfit. She counts her way to the right door. Reaching it, she takes a deep breath and looks around. Over the road, a nosey old couple is staring at her through their curtains. Annalisa smiles, cracks her whip and marches up to the front door. She rings the bell and stands back in a domineering stance. After a while, Dan answers.

DAN:

Anna. What are you doing here?

ANNALISA (sarcastically):

Hi, darling. I'm here to meet mum and dad.

Annalisa attempts to step inside, but Dan blocks her path.

DAN:

What? No. You can't be here right now.

ANNALISA:

Oh, yes I can. Since you're clearly too embarrassed to introduce me to your parents, I decided I'd do it myself!

DAN:

I'm not embarrassed by you Annalisa.  
Honest. It's just-

ANNALISA:

Not a good time? Except it's never a good time for you, is it?

Annalisa pushes past Dan and into the house.

INT. DAN'S PARENTS' HALLWAY - EVENING

Dan pursues Annalisa as she makes her way along the hallway. He grabs hold of her free hand to stop her advance.

DAN:

Anna, we can talk about this later. But I need you to listen to me-

ANNALISA:

I've had it with your excuses, Dan. After that stunt you pulled in the park earlier on, this is what you deserve.

DAN:

Wait. That's what this is about?

ANNALISA:

Yes. Try and run away from this.

Annalisa rips free from Dan's grasp and barges through the living room door.

ANNALISA:



Mr and Mrs Turner, I have some *terrible*  
news! Your son Daniel is-

INT. DAN'S PARENTS' LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Annalisa strides into the living room to find Dan's extended family, all dressed in black. Her grand entrance causes Dan's mother to gasp and drop her champagne flute.

ANNALISA:  
...a pervert!

The guests stare, as Annalisa glances in horror from the trays of quartered sandwiches to the open bottles of beer, the bouquets of flowers, the photograph of a smiling old lady and the banner that reads: "In Loving Memory of Mary de Silva".

ANNALISA:  
Ah, fuck.

Annalisa is frozen in place. Painfully slowly, Dan edges into the room after her.

DAN:  
I uh... told you it wasn't a good time.

DAN'S MOTHER:  
Daniel, what's going on?

Dan clears his throat and puts his arm around Annalisa.

DAN:  
Mum, dad... everyone. This is my girlfriend.

Awkwardly, Annalisa waves at her future in-laws.

INT. PODCAST STUDIO - DAY

Elouise and Clara listen in awe as Annalisa recounts her story into the microphone in front of her.

ELOUISE:

A wake!?

ANNALISA:

Yep.

CLARA:

At least you were wearing black!

ANNALISA: (Laughing)

That's not funny!

ELOUISE:

So, what happened next?

ANNALISA:

Well, that wasn't even the worst part...

INT. DAN'S PARENTS' LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Annalisa is still standing awkwardly in Dan's parents' living room, with all eyes trained on her. In the hallway, a toilet flushes. Shortly afterwards, a MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN enters and is confused to find that Annalisa has joined the party.

MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN:

Miss Fantasia. What are you doing here?

A PRIEST steps out from the crowd of guests.

PRIEST:

You *know* this woman!?

MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN:

Darling, I can explain.

DAN:

Um, how do you know aunt Petunia?

Annalisa grits her teeth, mortified.

MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN:

Well, I'm sorry Angus but I have needs.

DAN:

Oh my *god*... you've seen my aunty  
Petunia *naked*!?

ANNALISA:

She never said she was married! But her  
kink makes so much more sense now...

PRIEST:

I told you, Petunia, using a Bible for  
that is blasphemy!

ANNALISA:

I should leave.

Annalisa makes for the exit. But before she can escape, the front door opens again. Moments later, DAN'S DAD steps into the living room.

DAN'S DAD:

Sorry I'm late, everyone. I was... oh,  
Mistress Fantasia?

Dan's mum drops a second champagne flute. After a long beat:

DAN:

Hey dad...

INT. PODCAST STUDIO - DAY

Elouise and Clara stare at Annalisa in slack-jawed horror.

ANNALISA:

Don't worry! He just follows my burlesque page on Instagram - which is lucky because his mum looked like she might actually kill him! I still decided it was probably a good time to go, though.

ELOUISE:

So, how many relationships did you end up  
ruining that night?

ANNALISA:

None, actually!

ELOUISE:

Wait. So, you and Dan are still together?

ANNALISA:

He was surprisingly cool about the whole  
thing! Although, we have agreed that I  
shouldn't see aunt Petunia anymore.

CLARA:

Probably for the best.

ELOUISE:

You know, I just realised this whole thing  
is kind of on him. Why didn't he tell you  
his grandma had died?

ANNALISA:

I told you, he keeps these things bottled  
up! But we've agreed, if he stops keeping  
secrets, I'll stop marching into his  
family gatherings dressed in PVC.

ELOUISE:

So are you actually planning to see his  
family again, after all that?

Annalisa sits back while she thinks.

ANNALISA:

Yes. Yes, I am.

ELOUISE:

Really?! You're a braver woman than I.

ANNALISA:

Well, I care about Dan. And I want a real,  
grown-up relationship with him. And  
unfortunately, families are just part of  
that deal. If he can keep dating me after

knowing what I've done to his aunt, the least I can do is put up with some awkward family get-togethers. Besides, take it from someone who humiliates people for a living: there are worse things than a little embarrassment.

Elouise's watch beeps.

ELOUISE:

Damn, we're out of time.

ANNALISA:

Oh no! Really?

Clara signals that they're out and the group take off their headphones. She unplugs her laptop and packs it away.

CLARA:

Yep. Tarquin flipped out and punched another guest for breathing too loudly during yesterday's meditation. So, he's recording a solo episode today, instead.

ELOUISE:

Annalisa, it's been a pleasure.

ANNALISA:

It really has! We should do a sequel in a few years' time.

Annalisa goes to the door. Then she stops.

ANNALISA:

You know, I'm glad you told me the truth at the Ritual Chamber. Sure, it all got pretty weird. But if you hadn't said what you did, things might have worked out differently.

Clara stands at Elouise's side as they watch Annalisa leave.

CLARA:  
Good episode.

ELOUISE:  
OK, Clara. You win.

CLARA:  
Win what?

ELOUISE  
Let's make this season about meeting  
the in-laws.

CLARA:  
You mean it?!?

ELOUISE:  
Yep. I'm not guaranteeing that I'll meet  
Shane's parents at the end of it. But if  
Anna's relationship can come out of *that*  
train wreck stronger than ever, I guess  
it's possible I've blown this 'meeting the  
parents' stuff out of proportion.

Clara pumps her fist and throws her arms around Elouise.

CLARA:  
I promise you won't regret this. This  
series is gonna be great.

ELOUISE:  
But, I'm telling everyone the truth about  
how nervous it makes me. At least that  
way, if anyone else out there is as scared  
of meeting their in-laws as I am, maybe  
it'll help them know they're not alone.

CLARA:  
Deal. You know, The Phoenix is still open.

ELOUISE:  
Oh, hell yeah.

The two grab their coats and head the door.

ELOUISE:

I'll bet aunty Petunia loves a good  
spanking. Those ultra-religious types love  
a bit of flagellation...

CLARA:

Save it for the podcast, El.

THE END.

TAG

INT. ELOUISE'S FLAT - DAY

Shane steps out of a steamy bathroom wearing just a towel and is just starting to get ready for work, when Elouise swoops in and hands him his phone.

ELOUISE:

Morning, hot stuff. Do you have a photo of  
your parents on here you can send me?

SHANE:

Sure. Two secs.

Shane opens his photo gallery and WhatsApps Elouise the first picture of his parents he can find.

ELOUISE:

You're the best!

Elouise kisses Shane on the cheek, before trotting back to her bed, opening her laptop and getting to work. Shane goes back to getting dressed. But he's barely able to get on his shirt before his phone rings.

SHANE:

Huh. Speak of the devil.

He answers.

SHANE:

Hi, mum. No, I don't think she's going to make it this weekend. But you know what: I think she's coming round to the idea!

Over on the bed, Elouise is mocking up the poster for season five of *First Time*. It features the photo of Shane's mum and dad and strapline reads: Meet the Parents. She's given them devil horns and is in the process of giving them evil red eyes, like those [Tony Blair attack ads](#) from 1999.





FIRST TIME

– *First time* –

CHARACTER BIOS

## FIRST TIME

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### *Elouise*

*Job:* Host of the podcast, First Time

*Age:* 29

*Personality:* Smart, empathetic and effortlessly charismatic. Capable and proud, but incapable of asking for help. Self-reliant and reluctant to accept intimacy.

*She loves:* Feeling like she's in control. Being with people who respect her individuality and share her worldview. Feminist literature. Evangelising about sex education. Fixing other people's problems, while ignoring her own. Gin.

*She hates:* The idea of being trapped in a life she didn't choose. Real intimacy. Bigots. Fascists. Her mother, father and six brothers (who she says are bigots and fascists). The concept of family. Or rather, the conception of family that has been lodged in her mind since childhood. Sultanas.

\*\*\*

For Elouise, meeting her future in-laws is the stuff of nightmares. She did the whole "family" thing growing up – absent father, hypercritical mother, out-of-touch grandparents, six obnoxious brothers who only seemed to get louder with age. It's not for her.

Elouise ran away from home at 17 and has been living a happy, family-free life ever since.

She went to Goldsmiths on a scholarship, where she worked in bars on weekends, surrounded herself with arty types and got involved with student radio. After graduating, she saved up to put herself through a master's in journalism at a prestigious London university.

She started her sex and relationships podcast, First Time, while studying for her post-grad. And the rest is history.

Independent and self-reliant, Elouise is proud of the life she's built for herself. And why shouldn't she be? She rents her own flat, has a loving boyfriend and hosts one of the UK's most successful podcasts.

For Elouise, the beauty of hosting an advice podcast is that she's always in control. She vets the guests. She prepares the questions. And when she's done, she never has to see a guest again.

Unfortunately, all that's about to change.

Now in her late 20s, Elouise is starting to settle down. Weekends that were once filled with sex parties, dungeons and three-day benders have become quiet nights in with a home-cooked meal and snuggles on the couch.

The problem is, Elouise's listeners are going through the same thing – and her audience figures are starting to tumble. Her producer, Clara, thinks 'first time meeting the in-laws' would be a more engaging, age-appropriate theme for the new season of First Time. (A suggestion Elouise strongly contests!)

At the same time, her partner, Shane, is eager to take things to the next level. If she won't move in with him, surely she'd at least be open to meeting his parents? Elouise doesn't think he'll put up with her fabricated excuses for much longer.

With her producer pushing for her to take First Time in a new direction and her boyfriend's patience wearing thin, all signs are pointing to the same, chilling conclusion:

Elouise will have to confront the ghosts of her past, conquer her fear of intimacy and finally meet her future in-laws.

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## FIRST TIME

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### Clara

*Job:* Producer of the podcast, First Time

*Age:* 48

*Personality:* Sassy, salty, smart and a little bit cutthroat. Very ‘punk rock’. Well organised, competent and dependable. People trust Clara to get stuff done. Afterwards, they don’t ask questions about how she did it.

*She loves:* Red wine. Nirvana. Leather jackets. Spin classes. Live music. Boozy lunches. Electric guitars. Real cigarettes (none of that ‘vaping’ malarkey). Clubs that stay open all night. Vinyl. Shaking off hangovers with a Virgin Mary and an early morning run. Marmite.

*She hates:* Bad coffee. Idiots.

\*\*\*

Clara cut her teeth in radio in the 90s, starting her career as an assistant producer on the BBC Radio 1 Rock Show.

Since then, she’s served as the right-hand woman to many of the biggest names in radio and even briefly stepped in front of the mike in the 00s for a stint as a DJ on Kerrang! Radio.

Clara is married to her job. She has had many lovers. Some, quite famous. But at 48, she’s slowly coming to terms with the fact that she’s left it too late to find ‘the one’ or start a family of her own.

She spent much of her early career fighting for respect in an industry dominated by men. As a result, she has developed a disdain for anyone she feels hasn’t earned their place in the world and an uncanny knack for reading people and identifying their flaws.

Her ‘take no prisoners’ approach to climbing the career ladder earned her a few enemies along the way. Not everyone likes a woman who knows how to stand up for herself. Especially when that woman is as capable as Clara is.

That, combined with her general dislike of corporate culture, meant she never rose to the upper echelons of radio. Instead, she moved into podcasting in 2014, when a newly-founded Barley Media made her an offer she couldn’t refuse.

Clara worked on several lesser-known Barley Media titles before she was ultimately paired with El to bring her DIY sex podcast, First Time, to a wider audience.

She quickly became a mentor to the young podcast host, and the pair have enjoyed a close bond ever since.

Clara sees First Time as her last shot at leaving her mark on the world and is immensely proud of the success she and Elouise has achieved to date. She wants what’s best for the show and is prepared to do whatever it takes to make this new season work.

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FIRST  
TIME

## FIRST TIME

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### *Harry*

*Job:* Intern at the podcast, First Time

*Age:* 20

*Personality:* Enthusiastic and eager to please. Nice, but a bit vacant. The kind of person who was shy as a child and is now a little bit too innocent for their age, as a result.

*He loves:* Nintendo. Marvel movies. Twitch. YouTubers. Esports. WWE. Puppies. The colour yellow. Richard Ayoade.

*He hates:* People who are mean. Vegetables.

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Spending time with Harry is like looking after a puppy who is experiencing everything for the very first time. His enthusiasm is boundless. But his attention span is not.

People who've just met him often find his wide-eyed, rose-tinted view of the world disarming. But his new bosses, El and Clara, quickly discover he needs constant supervision to stop him chewing on cables or making a mess in the corner.

Fresh out of studying Media and Communications at Westminster University, Harry resolved to get a job in the media in the hopes of one day 'making it' in the industry.

He applied to a dozen internships in the media and was over the moon when Barley Media offered them a role on its hit show.

Harry believes good things come to those put in the effort, and is eager to impress his new bosses in any way he can. But lacks the talent or focus to succeed with complex tasks.

His good nature makes him liable to being taken advantage of. This brings out the maternal nature in some people, who want to protect him from exploitation. Others might argue his privileged status as an attractive, straight, white man is protection enough.

Ultimately, Harry doesn't have a bad bone in his body. He sees the best in people and expects the same in return. So, as useless as he may be, most people can't help but like him.

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FIRST  
TIME

## FIRST TIME

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### *Shane*

*Job:* Media relations

*Age:* 31

*Personality:* Smart. Laid back. Polished. Generally affable. A little bit nerdy, in a Clark Kent kind of way. The kind of man you would be happy to bring home to your parents... unless you're Elouise, that is!

*He loves:* His parents. His two sisters and his little brother. Drafting press releases. Mr Scruff. A good cup of tea. Brunch. Political activism. Ed Milliband. Schmoozing with journalists. Dancing to downtempo. Cheap pints. Pingers. Spending time with his friends. And most of all, Elouise.

*He hates:* Spiders. Brexit. People who put the milk in before the tea bag. Thrash metal. Bigots.

\*\*\*

Shane was raised in a liberal household by a hippie mother and a musical father. Like El, he has many siblings. But unlike El, he gets along very well with his.

In fact, Shane's parents have played a key role in most of his major life decisions. He calls them regularly, visits the family home every couple of months and genuinely considers his mum and dad to be two of his best friends.

His father is a musician, but pushed him to study 'something proper' that would help him get a job in an industry where success is less dependent on luck. As a result, he studied maths at UCL, but promptly fell into PR when he graduated and has worked in the industry ever since.

His close familial relationships have, of course, influenced the types of person Shane is drawn to in his personal life. He gets along effortlessly with creative and arty types - which is a big part of what first drew him to Elouise.

After several years working in PR, he is a master of small talk and has a black belt in anecdotes. People hand off his every word, whether he's dishing the dirt on one of his media acquaintances or waxing lyrical about pop culture.

He first met Elouise when the agency he works for was hired to do the press for First Time's Barley Media launch.

To this day, he says it was love at first sight. But they didn't actually start dating until later, when they matched on Hinge and soon discovered a mutual passion for cats, socialism and Studio Ghibli films.

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FIRST  
TIME

– Character Bios –

## FIRST TIME

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— *The In-laws* —

*Names:* Mr Lau  
*Job:* Retired  
*Age:* 63

Shane's father, Alex Lau, played guitar in a Brit pop band that had one hit single and set him up for life. Today, he spends his time painting, taking arty photographs and being the best father he can be to his kids.

Although he is very creative, he also feels that his success is, in many ways, a case of 'right place, right time'. As such, he has pushed his children to succeed academically, so they can find careers where they can be happy and successful without depending on the winds of fate.

*Names:* Mrs Lau  
*Job:* Doctor  
*Age:* 55

Shane's mother, Hripsime Lau, is a pediatrician and former groupie, who met Alex when he was on a European tour.

Her natural beauty may have been what inspired him to invite her backstage. But it was her intellect and caring nature that won his heart and kept her in his mind as he traveled the mid-sized venues of Europe.

Alex looked her up when he returned to London, they quickly married and the rest is history.

Lyulya loves children and was thrilled that Alex wanted so many of his own. However, believes her work is important, and was equally thrilled when Alex offered to be a 'stay at home' dad so she could continue helping those in need.

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FIRST  
TIME

— Character Bios —

# FIRST TIME

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— Episode 1 guests —

*Name:* Annalisa  
*Job:* Dominatrix  
*Age:* 30

Annalisa is charismatic, extroverted, a natural performer and very, very kinky. She's accepting of other people's flaws and very open about her own. People call her 'the life of the party', and that reputation is very much deserved.

She first dipped her toes into the world of sex work at university, when she started an Only Fans page to earn a bit of extra cash while she earned a degree in psychology. This proved to be the first step on a journey of sexual awakening that culminated in her becoming a 'full service' dominatrix.

Like Elouise, she has historically struggled to develop intimate relationships with her sexual partners. When she was younger, she was content to go with the flow and enjoy whatever romantic encounters life threw her way. But as she approaches 30, she's looking for something serious with a man who accepts her for who she really is.

*Name:* Dan  
*Job:* Fireman  
*Age:* 32

Dan is what Grayson Perry would call a "default man". He has a masculine job and is into manly things like rugby, beers with the lads and working out. He doesn't like talking openly about his feelings and prefers to deal with what he sees as sensitive or private matters privately.

However, his good looks have also afforded him many opportunities to partake in sexual encounters that are rare for most of us and generally not discussed in polite society. No stranger to sex parties himself, Dan is very comfortable with Annalisa's choice of profession and loves her because of who she is, rather than in spite of it.

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FIRST  
TIME

— Character Bios —

## FIRST TIME

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— Episode 2 guests —

*Name:* Dante  
*Job:* Personal trainer  
*Age:* 24

Dante is a young, fiery, passionate personal trainer from Italy. He could probably have been a doctor, or a dancer, or anything he put his mind to. But his chiseled good looks attracted the attention of modeling agents when he was 17 and he's earned a living from them ever since.

When he's not posing for photographs or strutting down the runway, he teaches London's business elite to hone their own physiques, working as a freelance personal trainer at some of the City's most exclusive gyms.

*Name:* Georgia Connolly  
*Job:* Head of Marketing  
*Age:* 28

Someone unfamiliar with the situation might say Georgia has had everything given to her on a silver platter. As the head of marketing at her own father's firm, she has spent much of her professional career dealing with allegations of nepotism.

However, the truth of the matter is that her father has many outdated and sexist views about women in the workplace. In order to secure her position and make her father proud, she has had to go above and beyond to impress him.

As a member of a business dynasty, she is acutely aware of the importance of appearances. She met Dante in the course of her pursuit of physical perfection. But she keeps their relationship a secret for fear of what people might think if they were to find out.

*Name:* Luca  
*Job:* Corporate lawyer  
*Age:* 30

There are two main facets to Luca's personality. On the one hand, his shrewd legal mind has secured him a place as a trusted advisor to Mr Connolly. On the other, he is a sexually liberated bisexual man with an insatiable appetite.

So, when he learned that his fiancée was sleeping with their personal trainer, he seized the opportunity. Rather than call off the wedding, he suggested that the three of them should simply expand their relationship parameters - and the three of them have been seeing each other in secret ever since.

*Name:* Mr Connolly  
*Job:* CEO  
*Age:* 59

Leo Connolly's alcoholism is an open secret at his law firm, and has been ever since he punched a receptionist and exposed himself at a recent board meeting.

Having put up with his boozing for years, his wife seized the opportunity broker a deal with the board. Her husband could remain as CEO, so long as he books himself into a luxury rehab facility to get himself clean. Little does she know, he has no intention of doing any such thing.

Mr Connolly started his shipping business straight out of school and grew it into the vast empire it is today. He puts the firm's success down to his own instincts and business acumen, and resents the idea of anyone else telling him what to do.



— Character Bios —

# FIRST TIME

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— Episode 3 guests —

*Name:* Alex  
*Job:* Underwriter  
*Age:* 24

Alex is a nice kid. When he was young, he was diagnosed with an irregular heartbeat. The doctors told him he would likely be dead by 45. At first, he was upset. But over time, he has come to view the time he has been given on Earth as a gift and resolved to live 'in the now'.

He met Crystelle at a party at a colleague's house. He didn't realise she was trans until the next morning, when she (nervously) broke the news to him via WhatsApp. He didn't care. When your time on the planet is short, you have to recognise the good things when they come along, and Crystelle is definitely one of them.

*Name:* Crystelle  
*Job:* Food journalist  
*Age:* 28

Crystelle always knew she was different. But it took her a long time to realise exactly how. As a child, she didn't really get along with the boys in her class. When they were outside playing football, she preferred to stay inside, writing stories about princesses and unicorns. Her father tried and tried to get her into sports. But while he was away on

deployment, her mother would let her play with her makeup and parade about in high heels. No one was surprised when she came out as trans. And while her father had a hard time coming to terms with the news, her mum was at her side every step of the way during her transition.

*Name:* Arnold  
*Job:* Retired police officer  
*Age:* 70

Arnold has always seen the world in black and white. There's right and wrong, and there's good and there's evil.

As a police officer, he applied the law rigorously and followed the rules with a level of pedantry that some would find annoying. These traits also informed his parenting style. And, while his son does love him, Alex also knows what the back of his dad's hand feels like and fears his father's disapproval.

Religion informs a big part of Arnold's worldview. Like his father before him, he is a strict Roman Catholic and attends mass every Sunday at his local church. He believes it's his duty to live a good life in the eyes of God and expects the same from his son.

FIRST  
TIME

— *Character Bios* —

## FIRST TIME

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— *Episode 3 guests* —

*Name:* Maisa  
*Job:* Housewife  
*Age:* 61

Alex has always thought of his mum as ‘the nice one’. She’s a soft touch compared to her husband, and played up to her familial roles as the ‘laid back, liberal mum’ throughout Alex’s childhood. She was his rock after his diagnosis and helped him get through his depression.

What Alex doesn’t know is that she’s not as much of a tree-hugging hippie as she seems. At the end of the day, there’s a reason she was attracted to his dad. She holds the same ‘Christian values’ dear to her heart, and may even be more devout than her husband.

*Name:* Tarquin  
*Job:* Wellness podcast host  
*Age:* 35

Tarquin is an angry, angry man. Deep down, he knows this. That’s why he’s become so obsessed with ‘zen’. Over the years, he has become a cult personality in the wellness community as the host of Finding Inner Calm. Little do his fans know, his short temper makes producing the podcast an absolute nightmare.

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FIRST  
TIME

— Character Bios —

## FIRST TIME

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— Episode 4 guests —

*Name:* John  
*Age:* 35  
*Job:* Kitchen fitter

If you were going to use one word to describe John, that word would be ‘normal’. He grew up in Essex, left school with mediocre grades and promptly found himself a trade, just like his dad told him to.

He is still friends with the clique he used to hang out with as a kid and regularly sees them to sink a few beers and watch the football down at his local pub.

He’s not particularly ‘at home’ hobnobbing with posh people. But he does like a good flutter. So, he jumped at the invitation to join Joan’s family at the New Market races - a decision he would later come to regret.

*Name:* Joan  
*Age:* 33  
*Job:* Yoga teacher

Joan grew up in rural Suffolk and developed a passion for animals as a result of her father’s job as a vet. (His vocation has meant she’s had many unusual pets over the years.)

She left her job as a teaching assistant after she and John had their first child and developed her love of yoga while attempting to get back in shape after the birth. She has since earned a teaching qualification and runs postnatal yoga sessions, inspired by her own experiences.

Joan has documented her relationship with John on Instagram religiously since their very first date. To her, he is the ideal partner, and she can’t help but show their love off to the world.

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FIRST  
TIME

– Character Bios –

# FIRST TIME

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— Episode 5 guests —

*Name:* Faith  
*Age:* 37  
*Job:* Estate agent

Claire and Faith used to attend the same yoga class in West London during Claire's time at the BBC. They usually sit together at the back and exchange dating stories in the pub afterwards.

Faith is a fit, independent woman who had a child at 16 years old and raised the boy as a single mother. This experience forced her to grow up fast and has meant she missed out on a lot of the 'coming of age' experiences many young people have.

Clara thinks there's something strangely attractive about Faith - but she can't quite place her finger on it.

*Name:* George  
*Age:* 21  
*Job:* Student

George is hot. But also, surprisingly emotionally intelligent for a boy his age. Clara met him at a festival. He spotted her gumming coke with her little finger and offered her the drugs spoon he was

wearing on a chain around his neck. At first, the attraction was purely physical. But as time went by, Clara started to realise they shared many of the same views, interests and aspirations.

Yes, he was a little immature. But he was also passionate about changing the world for the better and - Clara was certain - had an illustrious career ahead of him in the Labour party. He liked the right music, had a razor sharp wit and, of course, was dynamite in the sack.

*Name:* Terry  
*Age:* 50  
*Job:* Landlord

Terry is Faith's boyfriend. He's not very exciting or much to look at, really. But she doesn't have much time to meet people in between work and looking after her son.

So, he'll have to do, for now.

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FIRST  
TIME

— Character Bios —

## FIRST TIME

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— Episode 6 guests —

*Name:* Mike  
*Job:* Data scientist  
*Age:* 30

When Mike was small, his dad packed a bag one night and left without telling anyone where he was going.

In the years that followed, he became very close with his mother and did everything he could to help her recover from his father's betrayal. This tenderness and emotional sensitivity has become a defining part of his character.

Mike is very conflict averse and will do anything to avoid an argument. As a result, he has a tendency to let people walk all over him and has trouble standing up for himself when things aren't going his way.

*Name:* Dorothy  
*Job:* Full-time mother  
*Age:* 59

Dorothy loves her son. Perhaps a little too much.

A feisty older woman, Dorothy really does want the best for her son. Unfortunately, she also thinks she knows best. So that means constant meddling and interference in Mike's life.

The ultimate micro-manager, Dorothy has always made sure she has a say in everything her son does: What he wears, what work he does, who he spends time with. And that goes double with dating.

Many's the woman Dorothy has driven away from Mike with her incessant involvement. But Dorothy has never understood that what she does is a problem. Mike... disagrees.

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– Character Bios –

## FIRST TIME

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— Episode 7 guests —

*Name:* Alan  
*Job:* Art Curator  
*Age:* 50s

Dignified, urbane and a little camp: Alan is perfectly at home in the art world. In fact, he's worked in it for his entire adult life. He's been lucky enough to do his passion for his job, and so Alan is generally very satisfied.

The only major hole in his life: a distant relationship with his daughter.

Alan wants to connect with his daughter, fearing that if he leaves it any later they'll drift apart forever. So he decides to feign an interest in a world he is definitely not at home in: MMA.

The plan seems to be working, Nat has even agreed to introduce Alan to her new boyfriend. But when Alan meets Steve, who seems as macho as they come, can he hide his effete demeanor and obvious discomfort long enough to impress both Nat and her partner?

*Name:* Steve  
*Job:* Actor  
*Age:* Early 30s

A career actor, Steve has been moderately successful: local theatre runs, small TV spots etc. However, he's constantly typecast as a tough guy.

It's not without reason, Steve is a big, muscular man from the East end of London. But despite his "rough" appearance (which he maintains up partly to keep getting acting work), Steve is a gentle giant, more likely to sit at home reading Emily Dickenson than head down the pub with the lads.

After going on a couple of dates with the tomboyish Nat, he figured she was attracted to his manly image. At that point he probably should have told her the truth. But he really liked her, so just stuck with the pretence.

Now she's taking him to an MMA fight. Squeamish around blood and uninterested in "blokey" activities, it'll be hard even for an actor to hide his true self. Especially when he meets Nat's father, who seems obsessively manly.

*Name:* Nat  
*Job:* Account Manager  
*Age:* Late 20s

Nat doesn't particularly care about her bland office job. Nat doesn't particularly care about the art her father always tried to discuss with her growing up. What Nat cares about is MMA.

A tomboy all her life, Nat is always the first to sneak off and watch boxing or sink some pints. And after discovering MMA, it instantly became her obsession.

She's dabbled a little in the sport, taken a few classes. But mainly she just like to watch the big fights.

Nat has never struggled making guy friends, but her 3-month relationship with Steve is probably the closest to a serious romantic attachment she's ever had.

She was surprised at first that her soft, art-loving dad had suddenly developed an interest in MMA, but welcomed the chance to bond with him over something's she's actually interested in.

– *Character Bios* –

## FIRST TIME

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— *Episode 8 guests* —

*Name:* George

*Age:* 33

*Job:* Counsellor

Remember George? Clara's old flame is back and more than a little wiser.

Over the years George has matured into a kind and thoughtful man. He took his surprising emotional intelligence and put it to good use, training as a counsellor so he could help and listen to the people around him.

With him and Clara both single, and George's newfound maturity, is it time for the pair to give it another go?

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– *First time* –  
SETTINGS





## *The Studio*

First Time is one of many shows in UK-based production company Barley Media's wheelhouse.

The show shares a small studio with a ragtag portfolio of podcasters working on everything from zany shows about homeopathy and horoscopes to serious endeavors exploring the virtues of intersectional feminism.

As a building, it's not much to look at. The space is small and rundown, with a lift that breaks down and phones that don't work. But, it's theirs. And they wouldn't trade it for the world.

## *Green Room*

Countless podcast guests have waited in the Barley Media's green room for their 30-minutes of fame. Well, we say 'green room'. It's more of an unmanned reception area.

The chairs are uncomfortable. The wifi is patchy. And the magazines haven't been changed since long before the Barley crew moved in.

Luckily for those stranded in this waiting room, there's plenty of entertainment to be found in watching the dysfunction unfold all around them.

## *Elouise's Flat*

Elouise lives in a cramped studio apartment on the outskirts of East London.

The fittings are from the 80s. The windows are single glazed. The ceiling has damp. And there are mice in the walls.

Shane doesn't understand why Elouise insists on living in the dump. He has plenty of room for her in his modern City flat, but she refuses to move in. To her, this dump a symbol of her independence. It might not be much. But it's hers - and hers alone.

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– *First time* –

## EPISODE OUTLINES



## FIRST TIME

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### *Episode 1*

*(The Hard Limit)*

Elouise is going through a crisis. Listening figures for her long-running sex advice podcast, First Time, have plummeted. After five seasons, she's rapidly approaching 30 and is running out of sexual 'virgin territory' to explore with her audience.

With the studio threatening to pull the plug on her baby, her producer Clara pitches the one idea to save the show that scares Elouise more than the thought of losing the only job she's ever loved. Clara wants to do a season about Elouise meeting her future in-laws.

For Elouise, this sounds too much like growing up. Besides, what does she know about family? She hasn't talked to her own in years!

When she reluctantly agrees to give Clara's idea a try, Elouise soon runs into trouble. (New intern Harry's inability to make a decent cup of tea turns out to be the least of her worries!)

The season's first guest is Annalisa, a dominatrix who thought she'd finally found a partner who truly accepted what she does for a living in the form of her firefighting boyfriend Dan. After Dan cancelled a planned introduction to his parents with no explanation, she's suddenly not so sure.

Out of her depth, Elouise gives Annalisa some terrible advice. After a few cocktails, she jokes that Annalisa should go to Dan's parents' house in her dominatrix gear and force him to introduce them to her.

Full of Dutch courage, Annalisa takes this advice. But she soon comes to regret the decision when she barges into Dan's mum's house to find them in the middle of a wake. To make matters worse, one of Daniel's family members is a client of hers.

Against all the odds, Annalisa and Dan's relationship comes out of the experience stronger than ever. Elouise learns that in-laws aren't always something to

be afraid of but insists that she will be honest with her audience about her own situation from now on.

### *Episode 2*

*(Three's a Party, Four's a Crowd)*

It's episode two of the First Time podcast's sixth season, and Elouise is already having doubts about their new direction. Can't she just go back to talking about sex?

To soothe El's worries and bridge the gap between the show's old identity and its new one, Clara books in Dante, a rugged personal trainer in a committed thuple.

Dante has been seeing Georgia and Luca – two attractive, highly successful professionals – for a while now. But he's fed up with being a secret and feeling like a third wheel in his own relationship.

Happy to be back in her comfort zone of sex-related advice, Elouise pushes Dante to tell his partners that he's tired of having to hide his love from the people they know. Dante follows this guidance and, sympathetic to his worries, Georgia and Luca invite him to join them on a romantic getaway in the south of France. There, they assure him, they can openly be together.

On arrival, they discover that Georgia's alcoholic father (who is also Luca's boss) has booked himself a secret wine tasting holiday and is staying in the very same hotel.

Dante is unsure what to do. His attempts to reach back out to Elouise are thwarted by the hotel's glitchy Wi-Fi. Even during the resort's rare bursts of signal, he can't seem to reach her. Left to fend for himself, Dante is forced to imagine what Elouise might tell him.

Meanwhile, Elouise's competitive side gets the better of her when Shane brings a complex new game round

to her apartment. After a series of escalating bets, Shane ups the ante with the mother of all wagers: if Elouise loses, she must agree to dinner with his parents.

Elouise wins on a technicality. But after seeing how much the usually annoyingly laid-back Shane wanted to win, Elouise reluctantly agrees to commit to a date for meeting them.

### *Episode 3*

*(Terf Love)*

*Five Weeks Until Elouise Meets the In-Laws*

El still can't quite believe what she's agreed to. Did the woman who's spent her life running from her own family really just agree to throw herself into someone else's!?

Luckily, she doesn't have much time to think about it. Her new guest, Alex, has a bigger problem that needs solving.

Alex loves his fiancée, Crystelle. But he also loves his stern, devoutly Catholic father, Arnold. And he's pretty sure his dad won't love the fact that Crystelle is a trans woman. He reaches out to First Time, hoping Elouise will help him figure out a way to broach the subject with his father so that he and Crystelle can meet. Ideally, before the wedding.

Elouise advises Alex to come out with the truth at his next family event: a 'gender-reveal' party Alex's sister is holding for her soon-to-be firstborn. Desperate for anything to distract her from her own problems, Elouise even volunteers to tag along to the party for moral support.

The experience proves distressing for Elouise. She's suddenly thrust headfirst into the sort of large family event that traumatised her as a child and spends the evening fielding uncomfortable questions about her own family from well-meaning party guests.

Ultimately, she decides to call her sister, who she knows has recently had a child of her own. When she doesn't pick up, Elouise leaves a voicemail.

Meanwhile, Clara attempts to help Harry toughen up after finding out he's being bullied by the host of a wellness podcast.

### *Episode 4*

*(Dating a Murderer)*

*Four Weeks Until Elouise Meets the In-Laws*

Elouise is insisting on planning every detail of her long-awaited meet with Shane's parents in meticulous detail, and the pressure is giving her panic attacks.

Sensing her friend's anxiety, Clara decides to try and calm her by bringing forward a planned episode featuring two guests, John and Joan, whose introduction to each other's in-laws at the New Market races went perfectly.

Unfortunately, her plan runs into trouble when the happy couple give Elouise very different accounts of the day while recording the episode. Suddenly, it looks like Elouise may have inadvertently driven a wedge between the two lovebirds.

Sensing an opportunity for some on-air drama (and a chance to live out her dream of producing a "true crime" podcast), Clara invites John and Joan's families along for the recording to discover the truth of the matter.

But as each member shares their unique perspective on the day's events, we discover just how much this couple have been hiding from each other. Especially when the sudden disappearance of a beloved family parrot comes into question.

Enticed by the juicy mystery, Elouise cancels her evening plans with Shane, switches off her phone and

## FIRST TIME

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truly commits to her work. Together, they will get to the bottom of what really happened to the family pet that disappeared that day.

In the process, Elouise realises that no amount of planning can mitigate against the chaos of the universe. She resolves to stop trying to engineer fate and accept that what will be will be. As a result, the tensions that had appeared in her relationship with Shane soon evaporate.

### *Episode 5*

*(Downward Spiralling Dog)*

*Three Weeks Until Elouise Meets the In-Laws*

After a relatively calm couple of weeks, Elouise is starting to panic about the ‘big day’ again.

The stresses in her personal life manifest as rage in her professional one, when her latest podcast guests drop out at the last minute after Harry’s bumbling attempts to make conversation split the couple apart. Elouise explodes at Clara, accusing her of ruining her show and her relationship in one fell swoop with her idea for season six.

With no time to book another guest before the next episode must go out, Clara volunteers to step up to the plate and becomes Elouise’s podcast guest on short notice.

The experience proves cathartic for both of them, as Clara shares a tale of heartbreak from her past. She reveals what happened years ago, when dating a much younger man named George.

When George tried to take their relationship to the next level, Clara rejected his request that she meet his parents. At the suggestion of an old friend from her yoga class, she instead agreed to introduce him to one of her friends.

So, a double date was planned with Clara, George, Clara’s friend from yoga and her new boyfriend. Unfortunately, it was only once they reached the restaurant that Clara realised that the yoga friend was, in fact, George’s mother.

This encounter does more than just end the happiest relationship of Clara’s life. She credits it with the commitment-phobia that has plagued all her subsequent relationships.

Along the way, Clara expresses just how much she cares about First Time and why she fights so hard to keep the show a success. In return, Elouise opens up about her doubts and gets some much-needed reassurance from her friend.

### *Episode 6*

*(Killing Steve)*

*Two Weeks Until Elouise Meets the In-Laws*

Things are looking up for El. She finally seems to be adjusting to the idea of meeting Shane’s parents, and the universe sends her a rare opportunity to play the emotionally mature adult in the form of Alan and Steve.

Alan is an art curator and a big softie. But since reconnecting with his daughter, Nat, he’s been pretending to share her interest in combat sports in order to forge a connection.

Steve is an aspiring actor and gentle giant. But since he fell in love with MMA-obsessed Nat, he’s been pretending to be a “man’s man” to keep her interested.

Things really got out of control when the two men met at an MMA event and, in a desperate attempt to appear macho, challenged each other to a white-collar fight. Now, both men believe they’re about to get their arse kicked by a ‘real man’ in front of the woman they love.

## FIRST TIME

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When Clara and El find separate emails from each of them in the First Time inbox, they connect the dots and book the pair to come on the show.

El wants them to be honest with Nat. But instead, the two decide to use Steve's acting abilities to stage the fight and keep the illusion of masculinity they've cultivated intact. With Clara egging them on for ratings and the newly wrestling-obsessed Harry insisting on being their coach, El is unable to stop the fake fight from going ahead.

When the plan falls apart, El relishes the chance to get on her high horse. But later on, she starts to wonder if she's been lying to herself about how she feels about the looming date for meeting her future in-laws.

### *Episode 7*

*(No Friend of Dorothy's)*

*One Week Until Elouise Meets the In-Laws*

It's the eve of Elouise's 30th birthday, and she's dreading the implications of adulthood that come with the bitter-sweet milestone. Her mood isn't improved when she comes face-to-face with Dorothy, a real-life parent from hell.

Within seconds of appearing on the show alongside her timid son, Mike, it's clear that this Dorothy is everything Elouise fears about family: the classic overbearing mother, whose involvement in her son's life has kept him well and truly in his shell.

When Elouise hears about Dot's attempts to 'coach' her son's partners on how to please him, Elouise suspects there's a reason so many of Mike's girlfriends leave after meeting her.

After the interview, Elouise corners Mike and hatches a plan to set him up with one of her most intense friends and orchestrate a 'first time' that will give his mother a taste of her own medicine.

Meanwhile, Shane enlists Harry to help him give Elouise the surprise birthday of her dreams.

Unfortunately, Shane's idea of what constitutes a 'successful party' does not match his partner's. Elouise quickly becomes upset at how grown-up and old her friends have become, and the pair end up having a fight – one that leaves El's plans to meet Shane's parents hanging in the balance.

### *Episode 8*

*(The Out-laws)*

The day has finally arrived and, despite her argument with Shane last week, Elouise is committed to seeing the meet-up through. Or at least, she is until her sister unexpectedly responds to her voicemail from a few weeks back.

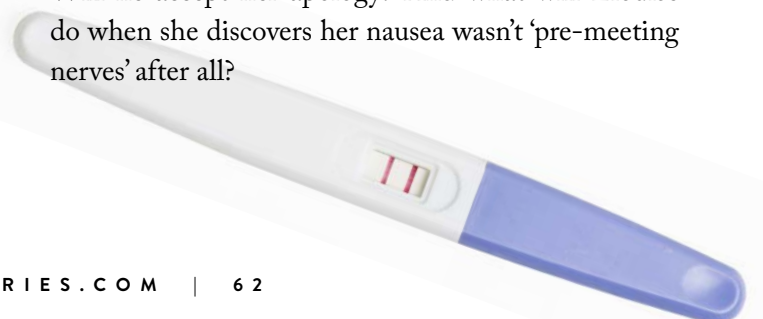
The season finale is thrown into jeopardy when her sister catches her up on all the latest family drama and Elouise remembers why she cut them out of her life in the first place. This, coupled with a bout of nausea she attributes to pre-meeting nerves, leads Elouise to bail on a pre-record meeting with Shane's parents.

Keen to salvage the situation, and knowing how to create great entertainment, Clara arranges for Shane and his parents to surprise Elouise at the studio during a livestreamed listener Q&A session. The results are predictably explosive, with Elouise bailing on that too.

While the others try to find her, Harry rallies the season's podcast guests to call Elouise and persuade her to come back.

Meanwhile, Elouise holes up in a dive bar and meets a fellow drunk whose story about a long-lost ex (who sounds suspiciously like Clara) helps her realise how irrational she's being.

But will Elouise make it back to Shane's flat in time? Will he accept her apology? And what will Elouise do when she discovers her nausea wasn't 'pre-meeting nerves' after all?



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