

CHARACTER: Ruth – (f) - around 40-50

DESCRIPTION:

Ruth's journey is from the false self-confidence of the emotionally abused to the genuine self-confidence of the woman happy in her own skin. Despite being Marie's right-hand woman she is desperate to be the spine of the WI and keep everyone happy. She has a spine herself – if she was too wet, no one would want her around. But they do, and they feel protective of her because they sense there is something better in Ruth than her life is letting out. They are proved right. Ideal car – at the start, whatever Eddie wants; at the end, whatever she wants. Ideal holiday – at the start wherever Eddie is, at the end, wherever he isn't.

RUTH: Although I think with me it was likely more finding your underwear in the map pocket of Eddie's Peugeot. *Pause. Elaine stops the beauty treatment.* You know? The little red ones? I mean I'm not surprised you didn't notice you hadn't got them on afterwards, they couldn't've provided much insulation. But there was one of these? Little business cards? Must've fallen out of your bag in the whole ... *(she "smiles")* ... melee, you know? And that's when I thought, "Well maybe he'd see me in a different light if I went and did this calendar!" Pointlessly, as it turns out. 'Cause what I hadn't realized is that a woman who takes her clothes off on a calendar is a "tart" whereas one who does it in a lay-by is a really good sport. But hey. *(She stands)* What I DID get to realize is that Eddie Reynoldson is one of those guys who wouldn't understand beauty if it was staring him in the face. And you know how I worked that out, love? *(Beat)* Because it was. Now, in fairness, fuck off back to him