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Opening Extract from...

## THE FORGOTTEN GUIDE TO HAPPINESS

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Some days start off looking hopeful: it's August, the sun is out, the birds are singing, people are smiling – this was one of those days. I was waiting with anticipation for my literary agent Kitty Golding to let me into her apartment block. She lives in the penthouse of a modern architectural block bordering Regent's Park, which is five storeys high and glass-fronted, giving it the effect of a doll's house. On the ground floor, the white sofa had its back to the window and I could see the top of a head of black, curly hair – could be a man or woman, girl, boy or dog. I was itching to reach in and rearrange the furniture.

The intercom clicked into life. 'Come on up, Lana.' The door clunked open, and I got into the lift which took me up to my agent's floor.

Kitty was waiting for me, smiling faintly. Early forties, lean, glossy black hair, wearing a lime and heather coloured boiled-wool dress.

She held the door open, and I smiled back at her and went into her office. The glass wall looked out at the sky and the rooftops above the busy street below. The other three walls were lined with books. Mine was easy to spot: *Love Crazy*, with *LANA GREEN* emblazoned along the spine. I headed for a low tan and chrome chair, and for a disconcerting second I had the sensation of plummeting – the chair was lower than it looked. I tugged at my red skirt: I could see my faketanned knees in close-up.

Kitty took the chair opposite me, gripping the armrests and lowering herself in a sort of triceps dip. She picked up the typescript of my sequel, *Heartbreak*, from the glass table and flicked through a few pages, nodding thoughtfully.