

One day: Brand new day

In the bathroom, Emma Morley **wiped** the crescents of toothpaste from the corner of her mouth and wondered if this was all a terrible mistake. Here she was, after four romantically **barren** years, finally, finally in bed with someone she really liked, had liked since she'd first seen him at a party in 1984, and in just a few hours he'd be gone. Forever probably.

wipe 擦拭

barren 贫瘠的; 不育的

He was hardly likely to ask her to go to China with him. And he was alright, wasn't he? Dexter Mayhew. In truth she suspected he wasn't all that bright, and a little too pleased with himself, but he was popular and funny and — no point fighting it — very handsome.

So why was she being so **stroppy** and **sarcastic**? Why couldn't she just be self-confident and fun, like those **scrubbed**, **bouncy** girls he usually hung around with? She saw the dawn light at the tiny bathroom window. **Sobriety**. Scratching at her awful hair with her fingertips, she pulled a face, then **yanked** the chain of the ancient toilet **cistern** and headed back into the room.

stroppy 蛮横的

sarcastic 挖苦的; 刻薄的

scrubbed 精致的; 纯净的

bouncy 有弹性的; 快活的

sobriety 冷静; 清醒

yank 猛拉

cistern 水箱

From the bed, Dexter watched her appear in the doorway, wearing the **gown** and mortar board that they'd been obliged to hire for the graduation ceremony, her leg hooked mock-seductively around the doorframe, her rolled degree certificate in one hand. She peered over her spectacles and pulled the mortar board down low over one eye. 'What d'you think?'

gown 睡衣

seductively 诱惑地; 勾引地