

## VALENTINE'S HELL 2

### EASTENDERS' ROXY MITCHELL (Rita Simons)

It's not so much the fact she makes bad decisions. Everyone in soap makes bad decisions, that's half the fun. It's the fact that in Roxy Mitchell's case, those decisions always have the most catastrophic consequences.

This is the woman, remember, who fell for drug-dealing psycho Sean Slater. The woman who struggled to accept that her dad, evil Archie, could be a rapist.

And the woman who at some point, of course, decided to get a huge, unsightly tattoo on her arm (although admittedly actress Rita Simons, 33, may also have had some say in this).

Roxy's Valentine's week is set to be fantastically miserable on two counts. First, because she's still got her eye, and more, on Alfie Moon's cousin Michael (Steve John Shepherd) – and has no idea what a

terrible choice this is. And second, because she feels obliged to fulfil a drunken promise made to her dearest friend.

The key problem with Michael Moon, other than the fact you wouldn't trust the creep as far as you could throw him, is he's the father of Tommy, the baby for whom Archie and Kat are still grieving.

Tommy, of course, isn't really dead. He was secretly snatched on New Year's Eve by Roxy's troubled sister Ronnie (Samantha Womack), distraught at having just lost her own baby son, born the same day, to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

So far, Ronnie is the only person who knows she swapped the babies. So Roxy's ignorance is at least forgivable.

Less so, you might argue, is the booze-fuelled offer she made to her gay best friend Christian (John Partridge) – namely, to be a surrogate mother for him and his boyfriend Syed (Marc Elliot). None of them has really considered the implications – the most significant being that Roxy wishes Christian were straight.

Hence the all-round shock this week when it seems she may already be pregnant with his baby.



**EASTENDERS,  
MON, TUES,  
THURS & FRI,  
BBC1**

Roxy makes plenty of bad decisions, but this week's could be her worst yet

**CORONATION  
STREET, MON,  
THURS & FRI,  
ITV**

LEANNE AND  
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ABOUT TO RENEW  
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## VALENTINE'S HELL 3

### CORONATION STREET'S LEANNE BARLOW (Jane Danson)

It's Valentine's Day. We're in a church. A happy couple, their relationship having miraculously survived everything from alcoholism to a ratings-topping tram disaster, are about to renew their wedding vows in front of their nearest and dearest.

What could possibly go wrong..?

Well, since this is *Coronation Street*, and the couple in question are Peter (Chris Gascoyne) and Leanne Barlow – one a former bigamist waging a daily battle with the bottle, the other an ex-hooker, one-time drug addict and perennial love cheat – I'd say pretty much anything.

Soon to turn 30, the former Leanne Battersby may have mellowed in the 14 years since she and her folks moved into No. 5 Coronation Street.

But even now, trouble is rarely far from her doorstep. This time it's arrived in the form of ex-husband Nick Tilsley (Ben Price), to whom she was briefly married to in the late 90s.

Ever since he arrived back on the Street, Nick has made no secret of the fact that he still has feelings for his ex-wife. And Leanne, for her part, has done a hopeless job of pretending these feelings aren't reciprocated.

This week's big Valentine's drama looks set to bring their on-off affair to a head in cataclysmic fashion. Peter, hardly in the merriest of moods since suffering crippling injuries on the night of the tram crash, has discovered what his seemingly devoted wife, with whom he dramatically tied the knot while in intensive care, has been up to, his wicked stepsister Tracy (Kate Ford) having spilt the beans.

Almost as bad, he's found out that his dad and stepmum, Ken (William Roache) and Deirdre (Anne Kirkbride), have known of the affair for weeks – but were persuaded to keep quiet by a remorseful Leanne.

He could, of course, have confronted her the moment he found out. Instead, rather ominously, he's been waiting for the right moment.

And when more deliciously apt than February 14...?