

# *Come Dance with me*

—

## *THE MUSICAL*

*By*

*Kevin Davies*

Chloe (Sterling)– early twenties. quiet, people pleaser, naive, dresses slight hippie.

Rob (Kane) – early thirties Intimidating, muscular, frown lines, serious.

Karen – late twenties, more mature than the other girls, mother figure,

Suzanne – mid-twenties, single, irresponsible, pushy, not too bright, misbehaves.

Mel – mid-twenties, sensible, calm, fashionable,

Chloe's Mum – mid forties, (only seen at funeral)

Chloe's dad – late forties, (only seen at funeral)

Manager – late forties, seen but not heard except for Never can win.

Dave – early thirties, Rob's best friend, not bright, slightly overweight and scruffy.

Steve – early thirties, Rob's friend, lazy, untrusting, chauvinist, tall, confident.

The handsome man (In the bar) – late twenties.

Handsome man's friend 1 a/a

Handsome man's friend 2 a/a

The male neighbour – late forties

Policeman 1

Desk Sergeant

Vicar –

Pallbearers 1 to 4

Small crowd at Dance – scene 3 – between 10 and 20 people

Customers at Wine bar – scene 4 – between 5 and 12 people.

1) I will make you mine (Rob)

3) I'm right there – duet (Chloe and Rob)

5) Things I don't want to (Chloe)

7) Nothing else matters (Chloe)

9) Never can win (Karen)

11) Come dance with me (Chloe)

2) The greatest thing (Band)

4) Stay the night (Suzanne)

6) Hippy soul (Dave & Steve)

8) Mind's eye (Rob)

10) My life today (Chloe, Mel, Suzanne)

## ACT ONE

*The stage is split into two separate scenes. One is of a small office over a shop on the high street. The other is of the High Street and shows the door from the office out onto the High Street. Both are unlit until.....*

**Scene 1 – A small office above a row of shops on the high street (RH side of stage).**

*Stage lights illuminate in bright white replicating office lighting in the office half of the stage.*

*FX: a telephone rings, general office background noise.*

*We see the interior of a small office comprising of 4 young females sitting at 4 desks with various office equipment dotted around the room. In the far corner is a small glass office where an older male manager sits at a desk whilst taking a telephone call.*

KAREN

Suzanne, did you get hold of Renfold's?

*KAREN stares over towards SUZANNE awaiting her answer but stares blankly for a second and then recovers her thoughts.*

SUZANNE

Oh.... yes I did but they couldn't give me an answer straight away. They promised to call me back but haven't yet.

*SUZANNE looks at her watch. The time is 5 minutes to 5pm and the office hours are 9am to 5pm so she screws up her face slightly as if to say "I don't think they'll ring back before we close".*

*KAREN rolls her eyes and sounding slightly impatient replies....*

KAREN

Hmm, OK! Can you chase them up first thing Monday please.

*Just as she says this SUZANNE leans over and turns off her monitor and stands up to get ready to leave.*

*The other three girls all stop what they were doing and begin to chat as they get their coats on and turn off their PCs.*

CHLOE

Okay, so what time are we meeting tomorrow?

*CHLOE looks towards the other three girls awaiting a response.*

SUZANNE

What about 6?

*She raises her eyebrows knowing the other three girls will disagree and moves her gaze between the other three awaiting their reaction.*

KAREN

Six? Don't be ridiculous, we'll never be there by six. Let's say seven at the Moon and Stars.

*KAREN maintains her raised eyebrows as a visual act of defying the others to disagree with her as she looks towards each in turn. Each nods their agreement in almost silence except for the odd mumble of agreement.*

MEL

So what's everyone wearing?

SUZANNE

Best dresses of course. It's got to be best dresses for dancing with a proper band.

CHLOE

I don't think I've ever been to a dance with a proper band before in my life. Will it be like the fifties?

*KAREN scoffs and laughs as she replies.*

KAREN

Yeah, all the blokes line up down one side and the girls on the other and you're only allowed to jive.

*The other three girls sense the sarcasm in her voice. At this point SUZANNE looks at her watch and sees that it is 5pm and time to leave.*

SUZANNE

Right I'm off. I want to be changed and out to the pub by seven tonight.

*SUZANNE logs off her PC and hurriedly packs her things away in her drawers.*

MEL

So where you going tonight?

SUZANNE

Oh, just to the Crown to meet some friends. Right girls, I'll see you all tomorrow night at the Moon. Bye.

*SUZANNE's last word is almost lost as she disappears out of the door and off stage.*

*The other three remaining girls simultaneously log off their PC's and also pack away their things into drawers and KAREN waves towards the MANAGER as they head towards the door.*

*The stage lights dim on the RH side of the stage and slowly illuminate the second scene of the High Street on the LH side.*

## **SCENE 2 – A typical High Street scene. (LH side of stage).**

*FX: the sounds from the office are now silent and gradually the sounds of the High Street are increased. The noise of gentle traffic and some footsteps can be heard.*

*People are walking up and down the High Street. A young man (ROB) is standing outside of one of the shops whilst looking at his mobile phone trying to look inconspicuous.*

*SUZANNE emerges from the office outside door and walks off stage left. A few moments later KAREN, CHLOE and MEL also emerge, their goodbyes are inaudible but they also wave to each other before KAREN and MEL walks off and exit stage left whilst CHLOE walks a few paces past ROB to a nearby bus stop. An old lady and a young girl are already waiting at the bus stop.*

### **SONG: I will make you mine sung by ROB**

#### **I will make you mine**

The boys, call you porcelain  
Cause of your perfect skin  
You're such a fragile thing  
And girls are jealous of your looks  
Hate you cause their boyfriends heart's you took

(chorus)

I will make you mine, I will make you mine  
I feel so damn sure it's what I'm on earth for  
I will make you mine, I will wait all time  
You're so worth fighting for, I want for nothing more

I will stalk you day and night  
Peep in through your window, such a perfect sight  
And wait outside your work at five  
Merge into the bus queue wearing my disguise

#### **CHORUS**

One day when I'm by your side  
They'll know you are mine I'll be so full of pride  
Till then I'll wish on stars above  
And you'll still remain my unrequited love

CHORUS

CHORUS

*During the song ROB joins the bus queue behind CHLOE as the bus arrives.*

*ROB gets onto the bus and sits a few seats behind CHLOE. She is unaware he is following her. The song ends whilst they are still on the bus. Behind the bus the scenery rolls by and depicts the High Street gradually changing to a suburban background. On stage the bus remains in situ as the scenery moves.*

*FX: Continuous bus engine noise and after six seconds the sound of a mobile phone ringing.*

*CHLOE scrabbles into her handbag and pulls out her mobile phone and answers it.*

CHLOE

Oh hi Auntie Jane .....Yes I'm on the bus. ....oh no I can't babysit for you sorry. I'm going out with the girls tomorrow to the Town Hall, they've got a live band playing .....Yes I'm really looking forward to it.....Okay, hopefully she can, have a great time.....yes I'm sure we will.....okay bye, see you soon.

*CHLOE ends the call and puts the phone back into her bag and then realises she's approaching her stop and presses the 'Stop' button.*

*FX: single bell dings.*

*The bus slows to a halt and CHLOE gets off followed slightly after by ROB*

*FX: The bus noise changes to stationary bus noise as the bus stops and then the sound of it pulling away and fading into the distance. Just bird noise can now be heard along with the sound of Chloe's high heels.*

*CHLOE walks away along the pavement and exits stage left unaware of ROB standing on the pavement behind her by the bus stop.*

**SONG: I will make you mine (reprise). ROB sings first two lines of Chorus only.**

*Music continues as he exits stage right and lights on the suburban scene dim to darkness.*

*Meanwhile, on the RH side of the stage the office scene has been removed and under darkness to reveal the scene of a Town Hall.*

**SCENE 3 – A town hall, with a stage at one end.(RH side of stage)**

*On the stage at one end a five piece band is about to start playing. Many young people in their twenties are gathered around holding drinks and talking or looking up towards where the band are playing.*

*The lights come up to reveal the scene 3.*

*FX: Background chatter and chinking glasses.*

*CHLOE, SUZANNE, KAREN & MEL enter from stage left carrying a drink each and wearing party clothes and stand centre stage.*

KAREN

Not many here yet is there?

*KAREN scans around the room looking at the other people. She spots ROB who is watching them from the corner of the room and he immediately looks the other way.*

SUZANNE

It's early yet, there'll be plenty more arriving. At least I hope so.....not many nice lads here yet.

*SUZANNE turns her nose up as she scans the room. She also spots ROB looking at them who again immediately turns to look away.*

MUSIC – the band start to play an indistinct instrumental upbeat song

CHLOE

Well at least the band sound alright. Does anyone wanna dance to this one?

*The other girls screw up their faces to say 'no thank you'.*

SUZANNE

Nah, I think I'll get another drink. Someone gimme a hand?

*SUZANNE and KAREN exit stage left to the bar and leave CHLOE and MEL in the middle of the dance floor. They both spot ROB lurking in the corner who has been staring their way. They both look at each other and raise their eyebrows but say nothing and ignore him.*

*Eventually ROB plucks the courage to approach the two girls and taps CHLOE on the shoulder.*

ROB

Hi, I just spotted you from over there and thought I'd say hi.

*CHLOE and MEL look at each other again without speaking and turn back towards ROB waiting for him to speak again, but he doesn't say anything. After a few awkward seconds CHLOE speaks.*

CHLOE

Oh, okay.....that's.....very nice.....of you. At least you've got that off your chest.

*CHLOE sounds slightly dismissive and turns away to face MEL and pulls a face mostly using her mouth.*

ROB

My name's Rob. You're Chloe aren't you?

*Rob is speaking to CHLOE'S back but she immediately spins around when she hears her name.*

CHLOE

How do you know my name? We've never met before have we?

*CHLOE looks confused and concerned about who ROB is and how he knows who she is.*

ROB

Oh, ah....a friend who knows you pointed you out to me.

*ROB sounded insincere and evasive. CHLOE looks round to where ROB has come from to see who this 'friend' is.*

CHLOE

Who is this friend that knows me?

*Seeing no one in the area ROB has walked from she looks him straight in the eye. ROB starts to think on his feet and decides to sound more sure of his facts.*

ROB

Oh he's not here. I saw you recently in the High St and I asked him who that pretty girl was.....as I pointed to you.....

*ROB pretends to be embarrassed by what he is saying as he gestures his palms towards CHLOE but continues.....*

ROB

He somehow seemed to know who you were and where you worked. I don't think you'll know him, he just knows you through a friend of a friend. You know how it is.

CHLOE

So where do I work? And should I be concerned that you know stuff about me?

*ROB laughs and flaps his hands down to dismiss her question.*

ROB

No, no, nothing like that. He thought you worked at Frazers in that office in the High Street. Is he right?

*ROB knew full well this was right as he'd been watching her leave work for several weeks and this 'friend' who allegedly pointed CHLOE out was entirely fictitious. He had gathered all his information about CHLOE through following and stalking her. At this point MEL gets bored of being a gooseberry and quietly wanders off to find the others to leave ROB and CHLOE alone to talk. Just at that moment the BAND end their instrumental and start up a different song, much louder than before.*

ROB

Oh, I love this track, fancy a dance?

*CHLOE looks round to see that MEL has disappeared and with nothing better to do she nods her agreement and ROB leads CHLOE closer to the BAND and starts to dance.*

**SONG: The greatest thing:** Sung by **THE BAND** on the stage.

I'm still searching, for a way to you  
I've been waiting, seems so long for you  
Is there a chance for both us two?  
Could be the start of something new  
Come on and take it, cause it's the greatest thing.

Why you waiting, can you just not see?  
Are you missing, what I want to be?  
Come on let's take the fantasy  
Gives us the greatest chance to be  
Taking it all, cause it's the greatest thing

Mid 8

Cause I am offering you the things I bring  
Yes I will give away the greatest thing  
Don't stray too far and pass on by what's waiting here  
Don't wait too long it may just die and disappear.

Verse 1 repeats and then through CHORUS to end.



*As the BAND finish the song the audience clap and the two make their way back to where they'd been talking earlier. The other girls have still not arrived back so they continue talking.*

*The background music from THE BAND continues and the pair talk inaudibly. Gradually the other people in the room drift off stage right and left leaving just CHLOE and ROB onstage to one side of the stage. The lighting around them dims to darkness leaving just the two cast members lit by pin lighting.*

*MUSIC. The tune the band is playing changes to softly played piano and the opening notes to 'Come dance with me' and CHLOE sings to ROB the opening four lines of the song to him.*

**SONG: COME DANCE WITH ME** sung by **CHLOE**.

You called and said come dance with me, I followed willingly  
A fragile flower you seemed to be, didn't know where you would lead.

*MUSIC: The BAND music reduces to nothing as the lighting of the pair also dims to total darkness.*

#### **SCENE 4 (repeated) High Street (LH side of stage)**

*FX: High Street traffic noise.*

*The lighting on the High Street scene comes on. After a few moments MEL and SUZANNE emerge from the office door. It's 5.00pm on Monday evening.*

SUZANNE

Oooh, that's a turn up for the books about Chloe. I thought she was the quiet one.

MEL

I know.

SUZANNE

I thought it was just me that threw myself into boys quickly but it seems I've got a challenger.

MEL

I know, spent the rest of Saturday night with him and then most of the day Sunday. Not exactly playing hard to get eh. He seemed a bit weird to me though. What did you think?

SUZANNE

Yeah, too right. All very obsessive and wanting her attention the whole night. I don't think I spoke to her once after they got speaking.  
Anyway, it's her life.  
Right then Mel, see you tomorrow.

*As she says this she spots ROB wander up the street and who waits a few doors down and the two girls look over and smile. ROB nods and forces a slight smile and small wave but doesn't say anything.*

MEL

Right, yes.....okay...see you tomorrow.

*The two girls look at each other and give each other 'a look' and then part, one exiting stage left and the other stage right. As MEL walks past ROB she nods again politely and he nods back but they say nothing.*

*A few moments later CHLOE emerges from the Office door and spots ROB.*

CHLOE

Oh hi. I didn't expect to see you here. To what do I owe this?

ROB

Oh, I had to get a few things in the High Street and thought I'd kill two birds with one stone and say Hi. Do you fancy a quick drink?

CHLOE

Well.....yes why not. Seems early but yes.....okay.

*CHLOE seems surprised by ROB's suggestion as it's a Monday afternoon and not normally a time she would head straight for a pub. Just at that moment KAREN emerges from the office door and smiles.*

CHLOE

Karen, we're just heading to the pub for a drink.....at 5 on a Monday! Do you fancy joining us?

*CHLOE's tone betrays her surprise at going to a bar this early at the start of the week by emphasising "at 5 on a Monday".*

ROB

Chloe, I don't think Karen is going to want to go straight to the pub from work. I'm sure she has loads to do.

*ROB's intervention was quick and firm and made it clear that the invite was for Chloe only and that Karen wasn't really invited. Karen got the message.*

KAREN

Absolutely I have. Listen you two kids have a great time and don't drink so much you don't make work tomorrow. Have fun.

*KAREN parental tone was there on purpose and CHLOE smiled at that, taking it as a joke. KAREN then departs and heads off up the High St stage left. CHLOE and ROB link arms, smiling and head off in the opposite direction and off stage right.*

*The lights dim and the High st noise fades away and the stage is in darkness.*

MUSIC – brief few moments of instrumental music to signify the passing of time – in this case a four days.(This allows the cast members to quickly change into wet weather clothes)

*After a few moments the lights come back on to reveal exactly the same scene but four days later.*

*FX; High Street traffic noise plus sound of rain.*

*Rob wanders onto stage from stage right wearing a coat and carrying an umbrella. He waits a few metres away from the office door. CHLOE emerges wearing a long coat, looks skywards and immediately puts up an umbrella as she steps out onto the High Street and sees ROB waiting.*

CHLOE

Wow, waiting for me outside for an entire week. I am honoured.

ROB

Well, what else would I want to do with my time than spend it with the prettiest girl in the world. Plus the fact that I wouldn't want you getting soaking wet so thought I'd make the effort and meet you with an umbrella.

CHLOE

Awww, that's so nice of you. You really are the perfect guy. Though I'm worried you're neglecting your friends spending so much time and attention on me, I feel I'm monopolising you.

ROB

Ah no way. They're fine. Anyway, they're nowhere as pretty as you so I'd much rather spend the time in your company.

*CHLOE smiles in embarrassment and the pair head off stage right.*

*The lights dim and the noise of traffic and rain fade.*

MUSIC – brief few moments of instrumental music to signify the passing of time – in this case several weeks.

*After a few moments the lights are raised again in the same scene but several weeks later.*

*FX: Traffic noise from the High St.*

*Rob wanders onto the stage from right in same jeans but a lighter weight jacket and waits in the same place as before.*

*After a few moments CHLOE emerges from the office door in a summer dress and smiles as she sees ROB waiting for her. She walks over to him and holds out her hand to hold his ready to walk on but he stops and faces her.*

ROB

Listen, I've got something to ask you.

*He looks more serious than he has before and thinks for a moment.*

CHLOE

Oooh! This does sound serious. Something wrong?

ROB

No, not at all. Completely the opposite actually. Listen.....we've been together now for a few weeks and I'm just mad about you and hope you feel the same about me.

*CHLOE nods but in a more curious manner, anxious to hear what he is getting at.*

ROB

...and.....I like to spend all my time with you.....and I think you like to spend lots of time with me....so..... I wondered if it made sense..... for you to move in with me?

*CHLOE says nothing to begin with as she clearly isn't expecting this. She mouths a few unintelligible words for a moment and opens her eyes really wide before slowly saying....*

CHLOE

Wow,.....o...kay.....why not?

*ROB laughs loudly and claps his hands in joy and hugs Chloe who still shows signs of slight shock. ROB is clearly overjoyed at the idea and jumps up and down still holding CHLOE.*

ROB

I'd hoped you'd say yes so in anticipation I had a key cut just for you.

*ROB fumbles in his pocket and pulls out a single key on a chain and proudly hands it to Chloe.*

CHLOE

Wow, thanks Rob that's.....great. It feels so.....sudden but hey, why not.

ROB

Exactly, why not. We can spend our time together, just the two of us. We don't need other people. They just interfere and try to stop us doing what we want to do so to hell with them, we've got each other.

**SONG: I'M RIGHT THERE** sung by **ROB** and **CHLOE**

(ROB) Sometimes everybody needs a hand to hold, a kindred soul,  
A place to go with things that they're not sure about.  
I can be that someone when you need to talk,  
A place to walk, confide in me and I can re-assure you.

*Chorus*

(ROB) I'm right there, I'm straight there, I'll be where you are.  
Just call out and shout loud and summon me no matter just how far.

(CHLOE) Sometimes the world seems such a lonely place, a heartless place,  
You're feeling things that you're not really sure about.  
I can be the hand that's there to hold throughout, when you're in doubt,  
A shoulder that is always there to cry upon.

*(Together harmonising) Chorus*

Middle 8

(ROB) I know how you feel when you're trapped and on your own  
I'm always he-re with the key  
(CHLOE) I know how you feel when you're in prison all alone  
I'm always here to set you free.

(ROB) Sometimes everybody needs a hand to hold, a kindred sole,  
A place to go with things that they're not sure about.  
(CHLOE) I can be that someone when you need to talk,  
A place to walk, confide in me and I can reassure you.

*(Together harmonising) Chorus*

(ROB) Sometimes the world seems such a lonely place, a heartless place,  
You're feelings things that you're not really sure about.

*Hand in hand the two head off down the High St and exit stage right.*

*The lights dim and sounds fade.*

## **SCENE 5 Bar on High Street (RH side of stage)**

*A small bar on the High Street, similar to a wine bar. Several customers are in the background and a barman stands behind the bar chatting to two customers.*

*FX: Quiet chatting and occasional chinking of glasses.*

*KAREN, MEL and SUZANNE are already seated on high stools around a high table and sipping wine. They are discussing CHLOE moving in with ROB.*

SUZANNE

But seriously, she's only known him a few weeks! No one wants to move in together THAT quickly. It's ridiculous.

KAREN

Some people do. If she really likes him then why not. Look, if it's too early then she'll know within a few days and she can simply move back home to her Mum and Dad.

MEL

I have spoken to him a couple of times outside of the office and he seems a little creepy to me.

KAREN

What do you mean? Why creepy?

MEL

You know. He's just so intense. And asking her to move in straight away seems a bit over the top. It's all a bit suffocating.

KAREN

Well look, we'll get to meet him shortly and see what he's like when he's in a normal environment. It might be that he's just a bit shy. Some blokes are you know.

MEL

Mmmm, we'll see. Uh oh, look out, they're just coming in now.

*The three girls all look towards the door and after a few seconds smile towards the couple emerging through the door into the bar and then head over to their table.*

CHLOE

Hi everyone, this is Rob.

*Rob nods towards the three girls but doesn't smile. His demeanour is one of reluctance to be there and he looks nervously around the bar to see who else is in there. KAREN and MEL smile back and give say hi almost in unison. SUZANNE says nothing and just looks ROB up and down.*

CHLOE

Right, what does everyone want? Girls?

KAREN

No we're fine, we got a bottle so why don't you just get two extra glasses and join us?

CHLOE

Oh, perfect. Oh! But Rob doesn't drink wine so I'll get him a lager. Rob can you find us two stools please and I'll go to the bar.

ROB

No, I'll .....

*CHLOE had already headed to the bar leaving ROB mid sentence. He looked around and spotted some stools next to an empty table and dragged those over. As he sat down he again said nothing. The girls glanced briefly at each other in recognition of his silence before one of them spoke to him.*

KAREN

So Rob, what do you do for work?

*ROB thought for a moment as if deciding what career he could pretend to have before eventually speaking.*

ROB

I work at Statham's, the local builder's merchants. Do you know it?

KAREN

Yes I've heard of it. Never been there....obviously.

*She giggles as if ridiculous idea that a girl would go within a mile of a builder's merchants.*

SUZANNE

And what do you do there?

ROB

Oh, the usual. Serve customers, take orders, prepare orders, drive the fork lift. Just all the usual really.

*He says nothing further and ends the conversation as if he doesn't really want to talk about his work.*

SUZANNE

And how's it going with CHLOE living at your place now? Guess it's a bit more crowded now? What with all her clothes and shoes. No more leaving the seat up eh.

ROB

Mmm, no. Chloe knows it's still my flat and she lives there by my rules. She's very happy to live together that way.

*Again, ROB stops the conversation there and says nothing further. The girls again glance briefly at each other when ROB isn't looking and show their shock that CHLOE has agreed to move in with ROB when he's like this.*

*At this point CHLOE arrives back with ROB's pint.*

CHLOE

So, have you introduced yourselves? All getting to know each other?

KAREN

Ah, yes. Rob was just saying that he works at Statham's.

CHLOE

Yes, though I'm not sure he really enjoys the job, do you Rob. The lads there seem to be a funny bunch so Rob doesn't spend much time outside of work with them.

KAREN

Oh, that's a pity. Who are your best mates then Rob?

*Chloe answers for Rob as he appears reluctant to answer Karen's questions and to avoid an awkward silence Chloe does the speaking for him.*

CHLOE

Dave and Steve, they're Rob's best friends. They're always 'round Rob's flat.

SUZANNE

Yours and Rob's flat.

*Suzanne chipped in cheekily. ROB slowly turns his head towards SUZANNE to give her a withering look, fully aware of what she was up to. SUZANNE smirked to herself, pleased with her side swipe.*

CHLOE

No, it's Rob's flat. I'm very lucky to be there so we can spend time together.

*The other three girls turn their heads towards CHLOE in amazement at the change in their friend. They don't recognise the Stepford Wife that CHLOE appears to have become and the things that she is now saying when in the company of ROB.*

*ROB continues to slowly drink his pint. It's his turn to smirk to himself recognising the shock on the face of the three girls and pleased with CHLOE's response.*

*At this point three men in their early twenties enter the bar. The man closest to the girls table looks SUZANNE up and down and holds his stare for a moment or two before turning away and following his two friends to the bar.*

MEL

Woah! Did you see that? The way he looked at you?



SUZANNE

He was nice wasn't he. Do you recognise him?

*KAREN and MEL shake their heads in response. All four girls spin their heads around to take another look at the handsome man at the bar just as he turns round and sees them staring over. The four quickly spin back round and giggle.*

ROB

Tsk!

*ROB tuts his disapproval quite loudly and carries on drinking his pint but makes sure the four girls know he disapproves of their flirting. At this point the three men head back away from the bar and stand around the spare high table close to the girls. The handsome man they've been watching is last to pass and casually says Hi to SUZANNE as he passes.*

*Again the four girls giggle but quietly this time as they look at each other.*

MEL

Go over and introduce yourself Suzanne.

SUZANNE

I can't do that. I'll look far too easy.

*At this point ROB pretends to choke quite loudly on his lager to signify his feelings that the short time he has known SUZANNE that he thinks she probably is a 'bit easy'. SUZANNE and the other girls quickly turn their heads to look at ROB. He doesn't turn around or laugh and the girls dismiss him as childish. MEL whispers to SUZANNE quietly.*

MEL

I really don't like him.

SUZANNE

Me neither.

*SUZANNE and MEL then turn their heads away from ROB and look over to the handsome man who is not involved in conversation with his two friends but instead is looking over towards the girls. He points towards SUZANNE and asks her....*

HANDSOME MAN

Do I know you from somewhere?

*SUZANNE doesn't immediately reply but screws her face up as she thinks hard. She turns to MEL but MEL just shrugs her shoulders and so SUZANNE takes a few steps towards him and he in turn leaves his table and they meet part way between the two tables and start an inaudible conversation.*

*The lights dim and the sound FX drops briefly. After a few seconds the FX and lights return and we are in exactly the same scene and in almost exactly the same positions as before but an hour later with some of the customers having left the bar. A clock on the wall now shows the time as an hour later.*

*SUZANNE and the HANDSOME MAN have been talking quietly all this time.*

ROB

Right Chloe, time to go. You ready?

CHLOE

Uh, yes, nearly. I'll just finish my drink.

*CHLOE is in a conversation with MEL and KAREN. ROB has been sitting most of the time not getting involved with any of the talk. MEL calls over to SUZANNE.*

MEL

Suzanne, I think we're going now. Are you coming with us?

*Suzanne takes a few paces towards the girl's table and says quietly.*

SUZANNE

Mmmm, no we might go for a drink back at mine. He just doesn't know it yet.

*SUZANNE laughs loudly and the other three girls burst out laughing. Rob's face is stern and as CHLOE turns towards him he says quietly to her,*

ROB

Seriously, you think that's funny?

*Chloe doesn't reply but screws her face up to show that she doesn't understand.*

ROB

She's only just met him and wants to drag him back to her flat for sex. Your mate is such a slut.

CHLOE

Rob, that's a terrible thing to say, that's my friend you're talking about.

ROB

So you think one night stands are okay? You're okay with that? Is it something you'd do?

CHLOE

No, of course not.

ROB

So why don't you do one night stands?

CHLOE

Cause it's just not me, I don't think.....

*Chloe gives up on the argument as she realises she's backing herself into a corner and doesn't want to extend the row with ROB. Suzanne finishes her indistinguishable chat with MEL and KAREN and returns to talk to THE HANDSOME MAN.*

**SONG: STAY THE NIGHT** sung by SUZANNE (backing CHLOE, MEL & KAREN)

Chorus

*Come back and stay the night (I know you really want to)  
We'll pass the time alright (anyway you want to)  
You can stay up all night (please tell me that you want to)  
Do anything you like (telling you I want you)*

Been watching you and wanting you  
And every move that you made  
Across the room you came in view  
I had to see you and say  
Take me in your arms and stay

*Chorus*

So what's the news, you coming too?  
So what decision you made?  
It's in your face, a smile that says  
We're heading home to my place  
Take me in your arms and stay

*Chorus X 2*

Lights dim and sound FX fade.

**SCENE 6— Rob's flat (LH side of stage)**

*The lounge in ROB's flat. The flat is poorly decorated and very male orientated. The three piece suite is tired and brown. The main door is at the back of the stage and another door far right leads to the bedroom, kitchen and toilet.*

*Lights rise to show CHLOE sat at the dining table using a laptop whilst ROB is sat in the arm chair playing a computer war game on the Telly.*

*Sound FX: Firing of guns and explosions from the telly.*

CHLOE

Rob, have you been looking at my laptop again?

ROB

What? No? I told you last time I was trying to search something online and you'd left your emails open, that's not my fault. You should be more careful.

CHLOE

Rob, that's not the way a laptop works. I know how hopeless you are with technology and how hopeless you are in trying to cover your tracks. You have to physically open the emails when you login and now my emails are all open, and I haven't opened them, so it must be you searching through them again. I only let you use my laptop because you said you wanted to do some online betting, I wouldn't have given it to you if I'd known you were going to nose around in my emails.

*Chloe looks over at ROB angrily but he keeps looking at the telly.*

CHLOE

Have you been checking the texts on my phone again as well?

*Rob throws the controller down and the noise of computer games stops.*

ROB

What is this? We've talked about this before. Why are you so paranoid? Have you got something to hide? Is that why you keep going on about privacy? I thought we didn't have any secrets? I thought you wouldn't have anything to hide but clearly you do.

CHLOE

Oh my god!

*CHLOE throws her arms in the air in exasperation.*

Rob, you can't keep going through my stuff, my emails, my texts, my post. It's weird. Don't you understand?

And no, I don't have anything to hide but there might be something about work, or the girls, or my parents that is confidential.....to me.

Will you please stop spying on my and checking up on me, it's creepy and weird.

ROB

I wouldn't have to check up on you if you weren't constantly trying to hide stuff from me. It says to me that you've got something to hide, and that makes me suspicious.

CHLOE

Oh for crying out loud!

ROB

Okay then, if you've got nothing to hide and you're not up to anything you'll have no problem with me seeing your emails and texts, yeah?

CHLOE

Are you serious, you want to go through all my stuff and check I'm not up to anything? Who with? I never go out to meet anyone.

ROB

Your mates, those girls. I'm not stupid you know.

*Rob sarcastically imitates a high pitched girls voice.*

Oh Chloe, I've got this date but he's got this mate, could you make up the four?

*Chloe just sighs and puts her head in her hands, her hair now dangling over the laptop keyboard. She is so exasperated that she can't be bothered to argue anymore.*

ROB

Good, we're agreed. We're having an open and honest relationship where we hide nothing from each other. Surely you and your mates will love that, all that 70's hippy crap, your mates seem to believe in free love anyway so will be right at home.

*With that he picks up the controller and continues his computer game.*

FX: Noise of computer game starts up which includes loud firing of guns and explosions.

*Chloe keeps her head pointing towards her laptop screen and shakes her head slowly. The lights fade to allow the personnel on stage to change places.*

*Still on scene 6 at Rob's flat – a few days later/*

*Lights raise to show ROB, DAVE and STEVE sitting on the three piece looking towards the telly and playing a computer war game. The back of the telly faces the audience so they never see what's on but a changing light within shows that it is on.*

*Sound FX: Firing of guns and loud explosions coming from telly.*

*CHLOE enters the room carrying three beers and places them onto the coffee table. She looks fed up.*

CHLOE

There you are.

*The three are engrossed in their game and don't even look up. The only one to say anything is DAVE and he says....*

DAVE

Thanks

*CHLOE walks back towards the door and looks back at the three men.*

CHLOE

Are you three going to be playing games all night?

*There is no response from the men.*

CHLOE

Well if you are I might ring the girls and see what they're doing.

ROB

. I've told you, your friends are sluts. I don't want you socialising with them.

*ROB doesn't take his eyes off the game and sounds quite sinister as he says it.*

*CHLOE stands there staring at ROB for a few moments but he doesn't look over, she then retreats to the kitchen off stage. The boys continue playing their computer game.*

*After 30 seconds CHLOE emerges quickly from the kitchen and from the corner of the room shouts....*

CHLOE

We haven't been out together for weeks.....I haven't been anywhere for weeks.....it's like I'm trapped.

*CHLOE finishes and looks towards ROB who suddenly and angrily slams his controller to the floor and violently stomps over to CHLOE and puts one hand around her chin and clasps her face and puts his face a few centimetres from hers. CHLOE looks scared. He then hisses.*

ROB

Don't...you....ever....embarrass me.....in front.....of my friends.....ever again!.

*STEVE and DAVE twist their heads slightly to briefly look over but continue with their game. Eventually ROB lets go of CHLOE's face and returns to his seat and calmly picks up his controller and continues playing.*

*Tears start to run down CHLOE's face and she quickly wipes them away with her sleeve but she doesn't leave the room and sings as the boys continue their game.*

*FX: The sound of their game dims to nothing.*

**SONG: THINGS I DON'T WANT TO** sung by **CHLOE**

I had the perfect life, perfect world, to cling onto  
And then you moved my world, changed my life, one becomes two

chorus

*Can you make me feel all those things I don't want to,  
How d' you make me do all those things I don't want to.*

I should have checked the price, asked if I, could afford you  
The cost I'd have to pay, what remained, to return to.

chorus

*Can you make me feel all those things I don't want to,  
How d'you make me do, all those things I don't want to.*

Mid 8

Knowing what you take and you bring, I still want you,  
Having just a taste, of something, to cling onto.

*Chorus*

*The last notes play as CHLOE returns to the kitchen carrying some empty cans she has picked up wandering around the lounge as she sings. The boys continued to play their game throughout the song.*

*Lights fade to dark.*

***Lights rise again on same scene but several days later.***

*FX: Washing machine on spin coming from kitchen. After a few moments there is a knock on the flat door. CHLOE emerges wearing old clothes and an apron because she is clearly cleaning the house and goes towards the door to open it.*

*DAVE and STEVE are standing at the door as CHLOE opens it.*

STEVE

Oh hi Chloe, is Rob in?

*CHLOE looks puzzled as the three boys are normally joined at the hip and know each other's movement at all times. She sounds hesitant because she's confused by the question.*

CHLOE

No.....he's gone to take his bike for a service. He talked about it last night when you boys were here.

*Steve feigns confusion and looks purposely puzzled.*

STEVE

Oh, you sure. I can't remember that. Can you Dave?

DAVE

Remember what?

STEVE

Tsk. That Rob was taking his bike in today.

*DAVE just looks vacant like he's no idea what's going on, or why they're here at ROB's flat.*

STEVE

Anyway, not to worry. We just wanted to pop by and pick up our controllers cause we're gonna have a game at Dave's and can't play without them. Is that okay?

CHLOE

Yes, of course. Come on in. You know where they are.

*Instead of heading over to the chairs where they play on the console, STEVE heads towards the kitchen and pokes his head in through the door just to see if anyone is in the flat. As he walks back into the centre of the lounge he asks.....*

STEVE

You doing the cleaning then?

*CHLOE looks in disbelief at STEVE and then makes an obvious move to look down at her apron and then back at STEVE and replies sarcastically...*

CHLOE

No, I've just got ready to go out.

STEVE

Oh, shame, I was hoping you'd be making us a cup of tea. I'm parched.

*STEVE then walks over to the console and switches it on and returns to sit in one of the arm chairs and makes himself at home.*

*CHLOE is open mouthed at Steve's cheek and replies....*

CHLOE

I've got cleaning to do. Rob's asked me to make sure the flat is clean and tidy I'm not having you two get in my way playing your silly war games.

STEVE

Oh, we'll be no bother. We'll keep out of your way. Just tell us and we'll lift our feet when you need to Hoover here. Anyway, they're not silly, they're really serious. Using a gun is a serious sport. You're talking to the county junior clay Pigeon shooting champion I'll have you know. Come the next war I can do all this stuff for real.



*STEVE smugly carries on with his game whilst CHLOE shakes her head in disbelief again and looks at DAVE who sheepishly edges his way around the other side of the lounge and plops onto the sofa and also picks up a games controller to play STEVE. CHLOE returns to the kitchen and carries on and chooses to ignore the two men.*

*FX: Sound of computer war game on telly.*

*For a few minutes the men play their games and CHLOE wanders in and out of the kitchen tidying and polishing things. Eventually STEVE looks up and asks....*

STEVE

Did you make that tea Chlo?

*CHLOE stops what she's doing and looks over and simply replies...*

CHLOE

No.

*She then carries on cleaning trying to ignore the boys. STEVE sighs and rolls his eyes and asks...*

STEVE

Is it okay if we make a cup for ourselves?

*CHLOE doesn't answer but stops what she's doing and waves her arm in the direction of the kitchen as if to say 'help yourself'. STEVE puts down his controller and saunters into the kitchen, as he passes behind CHLOE he nods to DAVE and pretends to fondle CHLOE's bum with his hands from behind her back so she can't see him. DAVE laughs which alerts CHLOE to something and she stands straight up and looks behind her. STEVE has quickly stopped what he was doing and pretends to be looking at an ornament.*

*He then continues on into the kitchen. CHLOE looks over at DAVE who wipes his smile off his face and continues to play. CHLOE carries on cleaning. After a moment STEVE calls out from the kitchen.*

STEVE

Chlo! Where's the tea?

CHLOE

Rob's had this flat for over four years and you've been coming here all this time and you still don't know where the tea is kept? Unbelievable.

*CHLOE disappears into the kitchen leaving just DAVE alone in the lounge. The audience can still hear STEVE and CHLOE in the kitchen and the sounds of cupboard doors opening and closing.*

CHLOE

Not there! It's up here on this top shelf.

*Suddenly there is a shriek from CHLOE from the kitchen and she runs out horrified.*

CHLOE

What the hell do you think you are doing?

*STEVE eventually saunters out with a grin on his face.*

STEVE

What? I'm just having a laugh.

CHLOE

You felt my bum. That's not a laugh. You wait till I tell Rob, he'll punch your lights out.

*The mention of ROB changes the mood in the room immediately and the grin on STEVE's face now turns to a sneer and he appears suddenly very threatening. CHLOE takes a few steps backwards away from STEVE and looks to DAVE for some help. He is ignoring everything and continues to play. He is aware of what STEVE is like and wants to stay out of this.*

STEVE

Ha, you've gotta be joking. Rob doesn't trust you or your mates as far as he can throw you. He's told us that that you and your mates are all into free love and sleeping with whoever you fancy. He's almost certain you're screwing around and that he'll never be able to trust you. I've been his mate for nearly twenty years so he knows I wouldn't do anything behind his back.

Yeah, he'll just have to hear the truth from me about how we simply popped by to pick up the controllers and you invited us both in for a 'cup of tea'.

*STEVE makes inverted commas sign in the air with his fingers around the words.*

Yeah, and you being one of those..... free love hippy types... always had a bit of a thing for me.

*STEVE had now walked much closer to the trembling CHLOE and he flicked at her long dangling earrings as he said the words 'hippy types' and then grabs her face in one hand sinisterly.*

I wouldn't be saying anything to Rob if I were you, you'd never be believed, especially as it's our two words against yours.

*STEVE glanced in DAVE's direction who started to turn his head towards the two but quickly turned back towards the TV. By now CHLOE is extremely nervous at this sinister turn of events and decides to react and try to throw the two men out and pulls away from STEVE's grip and shouts....*

CHLOE

Get out, get out..now.

*She points to the door and tries to stop herself but begins to sob and wipes away the tears with her sleeve as she doesn't want the two to see they've got the better of her. DAVE had put his controller down and quietly walked towards the door.*

Rob deserves better mates than you two pair of savages. How dare you.

STEVE

Oh calm down you snivelling hippy, so I touched your ass. What are you afraid of?  
You should be flattered,

**SONG – HIPPY SOUL** sung by **STEVE and DAVE**

You shed your tears, your hippy soul babe  
Shed your tears, for your soul, hippy soul, soul, hippy soul, soul

Your fears, are like a child's babe  
Running wild, from your soul, hippy soul, soul, hippy soul, soul

Who can say that, who can tame that, who can win your smile  
Who can change that, can arrange that, has to run for miles

You shed your tears, your hippy soul babe  
Shed your tears, for your soul, hippy soul, soul, hippy soul, soul  
Your fears, are like a child's babe  
Running wild, from your soul, hippy soul, soul, hippy soul, soul

(solo)

You shed your tears, your hippy soul babe  
Shed your tears, for your soul, hippy soul, soul, hippy soul, soul  
Your fears, are like a child's babe  
Running wild, from your soul, hippy soul, soul, hippy soul, soul

*STEVE and DAVE finally walk out through the front door as the music finishes and CHLOE slams the door behind them. The lights dim.*

**SCENE 7 (again) (The office above the High St) (RH side of stage)**

FX: General office background noise.

Lights come on to reveal KAREN and THE MANAGER already at their desks.

*MEL enters the office and waves to THE MANAGER and he waves back but then continues looking at his monitor. She speaks to KAREN.*

MEL

Morning KAREN, how was your weekend?

KAREN

Oh great, Mike and I went to a local garden centre and bought loads of plants and spent the week-end planting them.

*KAREN sounded quite enthusiastic about this but MEL's face looked horrified at the thought and simply replied....*

MEL

Oh, Wow. I don't think my life could handle that much excitement.

*She continued sarcastically. KAREN just smiled and carried on working.*

MEL

I'm really worried about Chloe by the way. She wasn't right last week at all. In fact, she hasn't been looking happy for weeks. I really don't think this Rob is good for her at all, he's suffocating her.

KAREN

I know, I've noticed that too. But I don't think she's listening to anybody. Look how we tried to organise a night out for her last week and she point blank refused to come out.

MEL

I know, it's like he won't let her go out, and it can't be that they do stuff together because I get the impression that his mates come round most nights and they play war stuff on their computer and Chloe just mops up around them.

KAREN

Well it's my birthday coming up next week and I'm definitely wanting her to come out for that and WON'T take no for an answer.

MEL

Another birthday! You must have had well over thirty of them now.

*MEL's response was full of sarcasm and she smiled after saying it and looked over for KAREN's response. She ignored it mostly and just smiled but after a few moments replied.*

KAREN

No, not thirty yet. I will laugh at you though when you're my age and never come out cause you're looking after your kids. Although isn't that what Chloe's doing, never coming out and looking after three kids?

*Just at that moment SUZANNE arrives in the office, waves towards THE MANAGER and says to the two girls....*

SUZANNE

Morning you two. No Chloe yet?

MEL

We were just talking about her and we're both worried about how she is.

SUZANNE

You mean with Rob?

MEL

Yeah. He's got some weird hold on her and never lets her out and never takes her out. It's like she's a prisoner. Anyway, it's Karen's birthday next week and we're all going to go out and Karen's going to insist she join us.

SUZANNE

Another birthday? Don't you keep that sort of thing quiet when you've had that many?

*SUZANNE and MEL both giggle at the joke. KAREN smiles but lets it go and continues working. CHLOE enters the office. She also waves towards THE MANAGER and sits down hurriedly at her desk because she's slightly late for work.*

CHLOE

Sorry I'm late everyone. I wanted to do a bit of last minute cleaning of the flat 'cause it was such a mess and it took way longer than I'd planned.

MEL

And what about Rob. Doesn't he help clean the flat?

CHLOE

Phhh, yeah right. That'll be the day.

SUZANNE

You need to sort him out and get him to do his fair share. It's probably him and his mates that make most of the mess.

*CHLOE doesn't respond or look up. She hears the comment but chooses to ignore it and continue staring at her monitor. The girls glance at each other aware she has said nothing and there is silence in the office for a few awkward moments until MEL breaks the silence.*

MEL

Anyway, it's Karen's birthday next week and she's insisting we ALL go out for a few drinks with her on the Saturday night.

SUZANNE

Yeeesss, absolutely. Everyone!

CHLOE

Ooh, I don't know. Rob's really funny about me going out without him. I'm not so sure Karen.

KAREN

Chloe, it's just for a few drinks and it won't be a late one and anyway, I want you there. And it's just girls so Rob's not invited or ANY of the guys. I'm not taking no for an answer Chlo', it IS my birthday after all.

SUZANNE

Not a late one?

CHLOE

We'll see. I'll speak to Rob tonight and let you know.

KAREN

You're not allowed to refuse this one Chlo, it's my birthday and I want you ALL there. So no asking, just tell him.

*CHLOE looks sheepish and stares straight ahead at her monitor as she eventually replies in a rather resigned tone....*

CHLOE

I'll see what I can do.

SUZANNE

Kar, you didn't reply, Not a late one?

*KAREN gives a hard stare at SUZANNE in response and flicks her head towards CHLOE in a not too subtle hint that she's saying that for CHLOE's benefit in the hope that it will persuade her to come out.*

KAREN

And Chloe, if Rob doesn't say yes it's okay I'm going to pop round and ask why one of my best friends can't come out for my birthday drink so you'd better get a yes first time.

*KAREN smiles as she finishes but ensures CHLOE knows she means it.*

MEL

It'll be great for us all to be out together, what's the dress code?

*MEL's voice was enthusiastic but slightly false in an attempt to change the conversation away from what time the night finishes.*

*KAREN & SUZANNE in unison*

Jeans and a nice top!

*All four girls laugh together.*

CHLOE

Actually, that's good. Rob wouldn't like me dressing up too tarty, he thinks it would draw too much unwanted attention from men.

*CHLOE emphasises the last two words in a type of mickey take but fully aware that she meant it and was embarrassed that her boyfriend dictates what she wears out.*

KAREN

Chloe, you're a young independent woman, you can wear what the hell you like. No-one should be dictating what you can and cannot wear for goodness sake.

If you want to wear nice dresses I'm happy to wear one as well, we all would.

CHLOE

No. no, jeans and a top are fine. I'd feel more comfortable in that anyway.

SUZANNE

He's quite controlling your Rob isn't he? Telling you what you can and cannot wear. That's not healthy Chlo'.

CHLOE

He's not controlling, he's just.....you know, protective of me. He cares about me and wants to keep me safe. That's normal isn't it.

MEL

But there's a fine line Chloe.

*All four girls continue to chat inaudibly as the lights dim and the background sounds fade.*

### **SCENE 8 (again) Rob and Chloe's flat(LH side of stage)**

*Lights raise to show ROB sitting in his chair facing the telly, games console I hand. CHLOE is standing up behind the sofa facing him, looking and sounding exasperated.*

*FX: Sound of background noise of war game on console.*

CHLOE

It's just a few drinks for Karen's birthday.

It's not going to be a late one.

*ROB continues to ignore her and plays his game.*

CHLOE

What are you so worried about?

What's wrong with going out with the girls? It's just a quiet bar.

*ROB's temper snaps and he throws the console to the floor in temper and jumps to his feet and stomps towards CHLOE and stands very close to her, his face just inches from hers.*

ROB

I'll tell you what's wrong with your mates, they're all sluts.

*ROB turns slightly away and walks a couple of paces away before turning back to CHLOE but this time in a slightly more controlled way.*

ROB

I'll tell you what's wrong with going out with the girls, they're always on the pull and they'll be looking to hook you in with one of the guys they meet and I know you'll be off back to their place and in bed with them as quick as you like!

*CHLOE gasps and holds her arms out wide to her side in disbelief.*

CHLOE

What, you seriously think that's what I'll get up to? You actually think I would jump into bed with the first man I meet? Just any stranger? And go off with him?

Anyway, it's only Suzanne that's single, the other two have long term boyfriends, they've never cheated on their boyfriends.

ROB

So you say. So you think. You have no idea what they get up to when you're not there. And you forget, I've seen what they're like when they're out.

CHLOE

Again, that was Suzanne, she's single. She's allowed to chat up other single guys if she wants to.

But I don't want to. I'm just going for a few drinks for Karen's birthday and then I'll be straight home, probably still sober. And if Suzanne wants to head off to a club to find men then she'll be going without me. I've got a boyfriend and I don't need another one. I'm not interested in messing around.

*CHLOE has walked over to ROB and tried to put her arm on his shoulder and then around him but he shrugs her off and doesn't respond.*



**SONG: NOTHING ELSE MATTERS sung by CHLOE. (backing by others offstage)**

Nothing else matters cause you and I are everything  
No-one else matters, gotta believe what I am saying

*CHORUS*

*While I'm away, I'm not hunting other game  
Others can play, doesn't mean I want the same*

Love life in tatters, self-fulfilling sure will see its way  
I'm well bruised and battered; you're not listening to a word I say

*CHORUS*

(solo)

I've seen it happen, watched while others made mistakes  
It follows a pattern, prisoners making an escape

*CHORUS*

Others can play (while I'm away) (I'm not hunting other game) X 3

*Lights fade on Scene 6 as CHLOE continues to sing the final chorus to ROB to allow time to prepare the LH side of the stage for Scene 4 again.*

*As music fades the lights fade on the RH side of the stage (scene 5)*

**SCENE 9 (again) – A small bar on the High Street. (RH side of the stage)**

*FX: Background bar noise, chinking of glasses and murmur of conversations with occasional sound of fruit machine.*

*ROB, STEVE and DAVE are seated at a high table on stools and drinking pints.*

STEVE

So why did you agree to it? If you don't like her going out without you.

ROB

I know, I know, but if it's just for a few drinks for Karen's birthday she won't be out late. Anyway, it's better to agree to this than when that bunch of tarts head off to the clubs, oh my word.

At least I can say that I'm allowing her time with her mates and that it's not all no, no, no. I can put my foot down if she mentions going into town and going to night clubs.

*There's silence as ROB takes another sip of beer and the other two do the same. Eventually STEVE speaks...*

STEVE

The thing is Rob, I'm not sure you should be trusting your Chloe.

*He pretends to be vague and just giving his private thoughts.*

ROB

What do you mean?

STEVE

You know.....just little things. And after all, she's a pretty girl and she'll always attract a lot of attention.

ROB

Yeah, but what are you getting at? Have you heard that she's been sleeping around? Are you trying to tell me something and can't bring yourself to tell me straight?

STEVE

No, no, no. I've not heard anything. I'm just saying that's all. You agree with me don't you Dave?

*STEVE looks to DAVE for some sort of backup and as ROB turns to look at him as well he simply shrugs his shoulders and looks blankly at the two friends as he hasn't understood what STEVE is getting at as doesn't want to get dragged into something eh doesn't understand.*

*STEVE huffs in disbelief at DAVE but looks instead back towards ROB.*

ROB

So what exactly are you getting at? Has she been putting it around or not?

STEVE

Nope, not saying that at all. It's.....just the way she behaves around people, including us, eh Dave.

*They both look at DAVE but he still doesn't get what's going on and stares back blankly at the two. ROB and STEVE look at each other with a look to say 'does he even know what month it is?'*

STEVE

Look, it's probably nothing and I'm probably talking completely out of turn, but when me and Dave dropped round at your place to pick our controllers up, I told you we we'd popped round to pick them up, she was all sort of.....Hi boys, .....would you like a cup of tea whilst you're here.....what will Rob think.....me and you two alone in the flat together?

*STEVE spoke the whole sentence in a high pitched voice to mimic what he thought a girl sounds like and at the same time dipping his head in circles and flicking his hair to mimic a girl flirting.*

*ROB moves uncomfortably in his seat and doesn't say anything to begin with but is clearly thinking to himself.*

ROB

So my Chloe was flirting with you? The two of you? .....you two?

*The last 'you two' was said in an extremely questioning manner with a wincing look on his face as if to imply that she would never stoop THAT low.*

STEVE

Well not exactly flirting. Just...just...a bit overly friendly I suppose. It just felt uncomfortable, that's all I'm saying.

ROB

Right, I'm gonna have to talk to Chlo about this...It's..

STEVE

No, no, no. Don't do that. She'll know it was us two that told you and it'll make the whole thing really uncomfortable when we come round to yours.

*STEVE had interrupted ROB mid-sentence in a panic that he might actually mention it to CHLOE.*

STEVE

Look, forget I mentioned it. It's probably me getting it all wrong and misreading the situation. I just wanted to bring it up so you understood a minor concern that I had, what with Chloe going out on her own and all that.

It's almost certainly, absolutely nothing and all a figment of my imagination anyway, eh Dave?

*DAVE happily nods to this as he is sure that it most certainly is a figment of STEVE's imagination. His happy nods appears to calm ROB down and forget about the idea of speaking to CHLOE about the matter.*

*The three carry on quietly sipping their pints without speaking for nearly a minute until eventually STEVE drops into the conversation....*

STEVE

Mind you, I'd check her knickers when she gets back in from her night out cause if she's been up to no good you'll know for sure then!

*ROB looks horrified but before he can say anything the lights immediately go out, the background noise stops and the scene ends.*

**SCENE 10 (Rob and Chloe's flat) is as before and on the LH side of the stage.**

*ROB is sitting in his chair in front of the telly drinking scotch but for the first time isn't playing on any game. Instead he looks miserable and is sulking.*

*CHLOE enters the room wearing jeans and a top and is putting on her earrings as she searches for her winter pink coat and then puts that on.*

CHLOE

Rob, we've been through this again and again, what's changed now?

ROB

I just thought it would be nice for us to have a night in together, just the two of us.

*ROB sounds grumpy and childlike.*

*CHLOE stops what she's doing and looks over towards ROB.*

CHLOE

Seriously? I moved in months ago and your mates have been round every night playing computer games with you when we could have had just one of those nights with just us, but no, you wanted to play games with your mates.

And the one night I'm going out they suddenly don't turn up and you, all of a sudden want us to have a night in together? Why don't you call them and get them round?

*Rob suddenly sounds much more childish*

ROB

I don't feel like playing anything. I don't want to be with my mates. I want to be with you.

CHLOE

Well, we can have a night in tomorrow night and maybe watch a film, eh?

*ROB doesn't reply and continues to sulk. CHLOE leaves the room to get something and ROB get up and grabs a bottle of scotch and a glass from the cabinet and sits back down and pours himself a drink.*

*CHLOE returns to the room and has now put her coat on. She walks over to the seated ROB and give him a kiss on the cheek but he doesn't respond. She walks towards the door and as she's leaving says....*

CHLOE

Okay, I'm off. I won't be late, see you later, bye.

*CHLOE closes the front door leaving ROB alone in the flat.*

*ROB gets up from his chair carrying his glass of scotch. ROB talks to the door*

ROB

Yeah, see you later, but who are you seeing before then, eh?

You think I'm stupid? Soft in the head?

You don't think I know what you're up to, and what you're gonna get up to?

You....and those sluts.....shagging around.....what am I thinking.....letting you do it?

Just standing by and allowing it to happen. Steve's right, I must be mad.

Don't think I can't see exactly what you're up to.

*As ROB sings the lights come up on the RH side of the stage to reveal.....*

**SCENE 11 – A hotel bar with 4 large round tables and a neon flashing 'Hotel Bar' sign high above.**

*Seated at each table is a male. The four girls, KAREN, CHLOE, SUZANNE and MEL walk in wearing short black coats but pull off their coats and throw them towards an illuminated 'cloaks' stand to reveal skimpy underwear. They dance throughout in the song with the four male dances who also strip down to just their trousers.*

*Rob is drinking heavily throughout the song in his flat on the LH side of the stage and at one point smashes the glass into the fireplace and continues to drink straight from the bottle. Before the end of the song he finishes the bottle and smashes that into the fireplace also.*

**SONG: MIND'S EYE** sung by **ROB** (backing by girls elsewhere)

In my mind's eye, you've dabbled in sin  
In my mind's eye, I know where you've been  
But when you're out there, I'm burning within

And I feel it (you're out there)  
I feel it (you're out there)  
I feel it (you're out there)  
I feel it (you're out there) Yeah

In my mind's eye, you've wallowed in hell  
In my mind's eye, you sleaze and you sell  
But when you're out there, I never can tell

And I feel it (you're out there)  
I feel it (you're out there)  
I feel it (you're out there)  
I feel it (you're out there) Yeah

SOLO

In my mind's eye, you put it about  
In my mind's eye, you tease and you flout  
But when you're out there, I'm so full of doubt

And I feel it (you're out there)  
I feel it (you're out there)  
I feel it (you're out there)  
I feel it (you're out there) Yeah

Oh yeah x 4

*He has now drunk himself into a rage. Once the song finishes he sits back down in his chair in the near darkness. The lights fade on the Hotel Bar as the girls and the males leave together before the music has faded.*

*ROB is sitting in silence in near darkness as the sound of keys turning in the lock can be heard.*

*FX: Keys turning in lock and front door creaking open.*

*CHLOE is unaware that ROB is in his chair believing he is in the bedroom asleep already. as she quietly takes off her pink coat and puts down her handbag he makes her jump as he growls at her from the almost darkness.*

ROB

So, had a nice night out with the boys then?

CHLOE

Rob, you frightened me. I thought you were already in bed, what are you doing sitting in the dark?

*ROB gets slowly out of the chair and begins to walk towards CHLOE who is still by the front door.*

ROB

Waiting for you. To ask you what sort of night you'd had.....sleeping around with another man.

CHLOE

What...what are you talking about....I've been out with the girls. Rob, we've been over this I....

ROB

Yeah, yeah, yeah I know. You were out with the girls. But I know exactly what you've been up to. Do you think I'm stupid? Do you think I can't see exactly what you've been up to?

*By now ROB has reached the now frightened CHLOE who is standing completely still. ROB grabs her whole lower face with one hand around her chin and moves his face closer to her to intimidate her. He hisses loudly in her face....*

ROB

You and those sluts can't wait to get naked and shag around. Was he good? Better than me? You and those whores must think I'm soft in the head.

*At this point ROB flings CHLOE's face away from him in disgust and CHLOE staggers back a few paces.*

CHLOE

Rob, what's got into you? You're drunk, you're imagining things, nothing's happened and we didn't meet with anyone.

ROB

You're a lying bitch.

*Suddenly ROB grabs CHLOE by the neck and pushes her to the floor behind the sofa, out of sight of the audience. ROB swings a punch at CHLOE as she lies on the floor and catches her straight on the face. He punches her hard another few times as CHLOE screams and tries to protect herself and plead with ROB but as he punches her he hisses.....*

ROB

Make an idiot of me would you. Now you'll think twice about screwing around.

*ROB stops his attack as CHLOE sobs on the floor and he stands back slightly breathless from punching her. He turns to walk through the door to the bedroom but stops and shouts...*

ROB

And don't think you're sharing a bed with me tonight you lying bitch. You can sleep on the sofa.

*ROB disappears through the door and can be heard fumbling around trying to get undressed in the bedroom. CHLOE sobs from behind the sofa out of sight of the audience. Eventually ROB's bedroom light goes off and the stage falls into darkness as the scene ends.*

**INTERVAL**

**SCENE 12 (Rob and Chloe's flat) is as before and on the LH side of the stage.**

*The lights come up to reveal the same scene on the LH side of the stage as ROB's flat. The other side of the stage remains in darkness as the scenery is changed. It's the next morning.*

MUSIC: Classical music piece, Grieg – Morning from Peer Grynt plays for a few seconds and then the sound FX of a needle being dragged across a record making a loud scratch noise and then silence.

*FX: Sound of a key in the door and door opening and then slamming.*

*ROB hurriedly enters the flat through the front door carrying some cheap service station flowers and goes quickly into the kitchen.*

*FX: Sound of pots and pans banging.*

*After some banging about he comes back with a saucepan with some water in it and places it onto the top of the telly. He drops the flowers into the pan and they fall hopelessly onto an edge. He spreads them out to hang pathetically over each side of the pan.*

*Then he disappears quickly into the kitchen again and comes back with some polish and a rag and starts to polish the table, TV, pictures etc very badly. He hears CHLOE coming out of the bedroom and so throws the polish and rag down and wipes his hands on his jumper.*

*CHLOE appears from the door to the hallway wearing dark sunglasses and dragging a packed wheelie suitcase. ROB runs to stand between her and the front door with his hands in a prayer position.*

ROB

Chloe darling.....I am so.....so.....sorry. I don't know what came over me.

I was drunk. Please forgive me, it'll never happen again.

I'll never drink again, I can change, I promise.

*CHLOE stands motionless just staring at ROB but he can't see her eyes. As he says 'I promise' he gets down on his knees as if to beg for forgiveness.*

*CHLOE drags her suitcase and walks back into the room to walk around the kneeled ROB by detouring around the sofa and heading to the front door that way.*

*ROB shuffles across the room still on his knees to cut off her exit that way.*

ROB

Please Chlo. I really am so, so sorry. Look, I bought you flowers,..... to say sorry.



*ROB points towards the pathetic looking bunch of flowers on the telly. There is silence for a moment before CHLOE eventually speaks.*

CHLOE

You punched me in the face. How can I ever trust you not to do it again. You were possessed, I don't know you anymore.

ROB

I know, I know. I don't know why I did it. I've never punched you before have I?

*CHLOE raises her arms up by her sides in disbelief as if that was some kind of defence. She points to her face.*

CHLOE

Rob, that hurts, it's really, really painful. I can't touch it.

ROB

I know and I'm sorry and if it makes things better I'd like you to punch me really hard in the face. Please, as hard as you can.

*He gets up off his knees and leans his face over towards CHLOE beckoning her to punch him. CHLOE shakes her head in disbelief and walks back the other way around the sofa trying to make her way to the door. ROB cuts off her route once again.*

ROB

Go on, please. It'll make you feel better and I'll suffer too.

It'll make you feel better and I'll know exactly how painful it is too.

*CHLOE isn't listening. She's walked back around the other way so ROB pursues her to keep apologising and preventing her from walking out. He moves his arm over slowly and grabs her suitcase and their hands momentarily touch at the handle so she lets go.*

ROB

I'm sorry Chlo. What can I do to make it up to you? Anything.

I know, I'll track down that band, the one that was playing when we first met, when I asked you to dance with me, yes, we'll go out dancing like when we first met.

CHLOE

I really don't know Rob, I don't think I even know who you are. What got into you?

ROB

Yeah, listen, like I said I'm so sorry. I drank too much and got all worked up and thought you might be in a club being chatted up by some bloke.....and that.

CHLOE

A club? Seriously? Wearing jeans and a nice top, you think I'd firstly go to a club dressed like that and secondly chat up some bloke I'd never met before. It's not just that I don't know you, you don't know me.

ROB

Well that's going to change, I'm going to take you out and make it up to you and I'll make sure I know everything about you and you know everything about me. How's that?

*Now that CHLOE has lost hold of the suitcase she decides she doesn't want to start a fight with ROB and risk a physical confrontation and so says nothing and retreats in silence to the relative safety of the bedroom.*

*The lights fade leaving ROB on stage still holding the suitcase and staring through the open door towards the hall and the bedroom area.*

### **SCENE 13 (again) A small office in High Street on RH side of the stage**

*The lights come up to reveal that it's Tuesday morning in the office at work. The MANAGER sits in his small glass office quietly working; KAREN, MEL & SUZANNE are already at their desks and working.*

*FX: Background noise of an office.*

MEL

Do you think she's going to be in today Kar?

KAREN

I don't know, she just said yesterday that she wasn't feeling well and wouldn't be in.

MEL

She didn't seem to drink too much on Saturday night so I wouldn't have thought it was anything to do with that.

Do you think Rob has kidnapped her and won't let her leave the flat?

*KAREN looks at MEL with a look that clearly said 'don't be so stupid'.*

*Just at the moment CHLOE arrives in the office but wearing a pair of dark sunglasses. She waves to the MANAGER and takes her coat off and sits down at her desk.*

CHLOE

Sorry I'm late, I needed to stop off at the chemists to pick up some more aspirin. It's these headaches, that's why I wasn't in yesterday. They're a bit better today but I still feel a little jaded.

KAREN

Oh, not to worry, sorry to hear that. What do you think brought it on?

CHLOE

Oh, I don't know, maybe a dodgy wine from the weekend.

*No one speaks further for a long while but the other three girls glance around at each other and motion towards the sunglasses that CHLOE is still wearing.*

SUZANNE

Are they helping?

*SUZANNE looks at CHLOE and motions towards the sunglasses.*

CHLOE

Oh yes, it's way too bright without them on. You're okay me wearing them aren't you Karen?

KAREN

Uh, oh...yes...course.

*KAREN was unsure what to say as she is suspicious as to the real reason CHLOE is wearing them.*

MEL

How come your wearing makeup today Chloe? You normally wear nothing but a bit of lippy and eye shadow. You're wearing foundation today.

*The other three girls are becoming increasingly suspicious.*

CHLOE

Oh, I think because I'm under the weather that I'm all pasty (paste-ee)  
I thought I needed to add some colour cause I looked pure white.

*No one replied straight away but the other three girls give knowing glances to each other.*

MEL

But you've got hardly any on the right hand side of your face. You've only got it on your left cheek and around your eye.

*CHLOE suddenly snaps and yells at MEL.*

CHLOE

Look, I couldn't see very well and sorry if my makeup's not perfect for you.

*The three other girls are shocked by her outburst and say nothing. But suddenly CHLOE starts to cry and sobs into her hands at her desk.*

*The other three girls immediately get up out of their chairs and go to comfort the sobbing CHLOE.*

KAREN

Hey, it's alright. What's the matter? What's happened? Has Rob hit you?

*CHLOE can't answer for a moment or two but eventually admits to what's happened and removes her sunglasses to show a swollen face that makeup couldn't hide. The girls wince at the sight.*

CHLOE

Oh god, what a mess. I can't believe it. He just went berserk, started shouting the moment I got through the door. He was drunk and talking nonsense and the more I tried to speak the worse he got and then he just hit me, several times.

SUZANNE

Oh my god, where did he hit you?

*All fell silent for a moment and all three stare at SUZANNE because it's obvious he has hit her in the face and the question was unnecessary.*

SUZANNE

Oh, yeah, right.

KAREN

So where are you staying now? Are you back home with your mum and dad?

CHLOE

No, I'm still there. In the morning he begged me to stay and kept apologising and even bought me flowers.

KAREN

Chloe, you can't stay there. What if he does it again? Can you seriously trust him now?

MEL

Yeah Chlo, that type will always apologise for hurting you but they never mean it. As soon as they think the whole thing is blown over they're back to their old ways.

CHLOE

I really do think he's sorry and he's making a real effort. He even tried to cook tea, but that was hopeless, but at least he's trying.

*KAREN kneels down in front of CHLOE and becomes incredibly serious and slightly angry in her nature.*

KAREN

Listen to me. You can't trust Rob not to do this again and if you just carry on like nothing's happened his behaviour will simply get worse.

He's already completely possessive about you and staying there and you appearing to accept it all will just make him worse. It's not going to get better Chloe; I've seen men like Rob before.

**SONG: NEVER CAN WIN** sung by **KAREN & MANAGER** (Backing by **MEL & SUZANNE**)

*The MANAGER steps out from his office for the first time in time to Rap the 1<sup>st</sup> verse.*

Chorus (KAREN)

He's the man, understand, he's a woman killer  
He's the man, just a man, he's a real thriller  
He'll say, always says he's a sorry fella  
Leave alone, stay at home, but no-one could say save your skin  
Better than keep riskin', never beat that sin  
Never can win.

Verse 1 (rap) (MANAGER)

Let it go, don't you know, everything you're riskin'  
Tell you so, and you know, it's the truth I'm tellin'  
Heard the lies, seen the pain, reputation's ruined  
And the girls, think they know exactly what they're doin'  
But he's so good, so cold, so smooth,  
he'll never lose, give the man a miss, a parting kiss,  
Fight another day cause you never can win.

*Chorus (KAREN – backing by MEL & SUZANNE)*

Verse 2 (rap) (MANAGER)

No surprise, open eyes, don't you let him win it  
His disguise, normal guy, just to talk a minute  
But his plan, he's the man, gonna work his way in  
Like a crook, keep you hooked even though your payin'  
But he's so good, so cold, so smooth,  
He'll never lose, give the man a miss, a parting kiss,  
Fight another day cause you never can win.

Middle 8

Can I help you, can I tell you,  
You'll do well to, keep a distance now  
Cause he'll chain you and he'll beat you down,

*At the end of the song THE MANAGER returns to his office.*

KAREN

After work, me and the girls are going to go round and collect your things and we're taking you back to your mum and dad's. But you know you can stay at ours if you'd prefer.

*There is a few moments silence as CHLOE thinks about what Karen has said and eventually says....*

CHLOE

No, it's okay thanks, I'll stay at Mum's, but thanks for the offer.

I can go and get my own things and tell Rob what I'm doing.

KAREN

No way, you don't know what you'll be walking into. It'll be far safer if we go and I'd like to have a few words with him anyway.

MEL

Yeah and me.

KAREN

Right, the plan is Suzanne will go with you back to yours and Mel and I will go to the flat. Is there anything particular that you need?

SUZANNE

Aw, why can't I come?

KAREN

Because someone needs to be with Chloe and I'm worried you'll say the wrong thing to Rob anyway.

*SUZANNE puts her hands on her hips as if to say 'that's unfair' but says nothing except to huff loudly.*

*The lights dim on the office and the background sounds subside.*

**SCENE 14 (Rob and Chloe's flat) is as before and on the LH side of the stage.**

*The lights come up to reveal an empty lounge but there is the sound of someone making a noise in the kitchen.*

*FX: The doorbell rings.*

*ROB appears from the kitchen into the lounge and goes to the front door and opens it. He steps back in surprise as he sees KAREN and MEL standing at the door and they quickly invite themselves in.*

ROB

Oh, come in why don't you.

*ROB says sarcastically.*

She's not home yet, why are you here?

KAREN

And she won't be home; we're here to collect her things. She's moving out.

ROB

Oh, like hell she is.

*ROB moves to defiantly stand in front of the door to the hallway and bedroom and folds his arms. KAREN quickly stands immediately in front of him and brings her face threateningly close to ROB's. He leans back looking slightly intimidated.*

KAREN

You, you bully, don't get any say in this. You should be put away for what you did to Chloe.

*KAREN prods his chest with her finger and ROB steps backwards each time she does which is almost in time with every word she hisses.*

If...you...even...attempt... to...get...in...touch...with...her...we're ...going...to...the ...police. Got it?

*ROB doesn't reply but stands to one side to allow the girls into the bedroom to start packing CHLOE's clothes.*

*FX: Cupboard doors opening and closing.*

*After some of packing & the noise of cupboard doors banging ROB, who has stayed in the lounge hesitantly asks a question of the girls who are still offstage.*

ROB

So where is Chloe staying? Just cause I'm worried about her.

KAREN (offstage)

She'll contact you if she needs to speak to you.

*The two girls then reappear dragging a wheelie suitcase and briefly stop to talk to ROB.*

KAREN

Right, I think that's everything. If we've missed anything I'll come back later in the week if that's okay.

*Her voice is curt and clearly wasn't caring whether ROB was okay about it or not. The two girls then quickly turn and walk out of the front door leaving ROB alone looking out of the front door as he shouts:*

ROB

What, so you think you can come between me and my Chloe?

You don't think I know you've been trying to split us up since the start?

You think YOU can boss be about and tell me and Chloe how to live our lives?

You've got another think coming Karen, you and your two slutty mates.

Me and Chloe aren't over. She still loves me and I love her and you and your whores won't ever change that.

*The lights fade to dark and the scene ends with sinister instrumental music.*

#### **SCENE 15 (Bar on the High Street) on RH side of the stage.**

*Sound FX: Background bar noise, hushed chatter and occasional chinking of glasses and fruit machine noise.*

*The lights come up to reveal CHLOE, MEL, KAREN and SUZANNE seated at a high table on tall stools drinking glasses of wine.*

*FX: sinister instrumental music is played.*

*ROB appears in the background of the bar behind the girls who are unaware that he is there. He walks past behind the girls and stops momentarily and stares at all four of them and then quietly moves on to a table at the back of the bar in the corner.*

*FX: The sinister music ends just as the conversation starts between the girls.*

MEL

So, what's it like being back home with your mum and dad this week?

CHLOE

Okay really, they've been fine. They've been ridiculously over protective of me, checking who's at the door, not letting me answer it in case it's Rob. They're even beating me to the phone every time just in case he rings me.

They're so stuck in the past, they don't realise no-one uses landlines anymore and that it's all mobiles nowadays.

SUZANNE

So has he tried ringing you on your mobile?



CHLOE

Has he? You're kidding me, he must have called 100 times and sent tons of texts. I've just ignored every one.

KAREN

Good for you girl. What's he said on the texts?

CHLOE

Oh all sorts. It started with 'I miss you', 'I still love you', 'can't we try again?' and then turned quite nasty to 'I'll never allow you to be with anyone else', 'you're gonna regret leaving me' so I had to block him after that.

MEL

Oh my god, I didn't realise. You never said.

CHLOE

Well, it was inevitable I guess. He still thinks that because he's apologised that it's all okay now and that it's me that's in the wrong by not giving him another chance.

MEL

What a knob.

SUZANNE

So he's not tried to come to your house then or come up to you in the street? I mean cause you've ignored his calls and texts.

CHLOE

No, I've not seen him nor heard of him, luckily. I'm quite enjoying life at the moment, I've got way more time to myself and I can go out without having to explain myself.

SUZANNE

And you can meet and speak to other guys, like my mate Mike; he's seriously interested in you Chlo. It's not too late you know, it might do you good to actually speak and meet other males. He's really cute as well.

CHLOE

Ha, thanks but no thanks Suz. I'm enjoying being free too much at the moment.

*At this point the girls have finished drinking their wine and get up to leave the bar and walk towards the exit onto the High Street (in reality walking across the stage to the next scene on the RH side of the stage).*

*None of the girls see ROB hiding in the corner of the bar as they leave and are too interested in their own conversation to notice the rest of the bar and the other customers in there.*

*The lights fade in the bar and the sound is dimmed to nothing.*

## **SCENE 16 – The High Street (LH side of the stage)**

*FX: Sounds of a High street, people walking on pavement and passing engine noise with the occasional distant beep of a car horn.*

*The lights come up on the LH side of the stage to reveal the High Street with some other pedestrians going about their business.*

*The four girls exit the bar and KAREN kisses the other three goodbye and disappears off stage left leaving the three girls to walk towards the front of the stage.*

*Their conversation is simply continued from the earlier discussions.*

**CHLOE**

And besides, I like the space I've got now. No hassles, no quarrels, no explanations, just me having fun.

### **SONG: MY LIFE TODAY** sung by **CHLOE (Backing- Suzanne & Mel)**

I never thought I'd feel this way, pushing the world away  
Keeping the clouds at bay, keeping my life this way-ee-ay

It's just a thing I have to do, now I'm no longer bruised  
Healing the blacks and blues, keeping my life this way-ee-ay

*Chorus*

*And now, I've got both feet on the ground  
And for the first time I'm now feeling all so safe and sound,  
And I, want it to stay this way, happy with life today-ee ay  
And I just don't want someone sharing my life today-ee-ay*

Now I'm happy night and day, plenty of fields to play  
Dancing the night away, keeping my life this way-ee-ay  
School is out as of today, clear of the past affray,  
Bend all the rules and say, keeping my life this way-ee-ay

*Chorus*

*And now, I've got both feet on the ground  
And for the first time I'm now feeling all so safe and sound,  
And I, want it to stay this way, happy with life today-ee ay  
And I just don't want someone sharing my life today-ee-ay*

I never thought I'd feel this way, pushing the world away  
Keeping the clouds at bay, keeping my life this way-ee-ay

*As the song ends and the girls kiss each other good bye in the High St and make their ways home and disappear off stage ROB appears front right of the LH side of the stage. He has been watching CHLOE and the girls all the time.*

*FX: Sinister instrumental music precedes ROB's appearance and returns again after his lines to the now disappeared CHLOE.*

ROB

What, you think you're happy?

Happier then when we were together?

Playing the field?

Well let me make it clear Chloe, if you're going to ignore my calls and texts and won't accept my apology then we're over, and if I can't have you, then no one can.

*The lights fade as ROB makes his way offstage left to more sinister instrumental music.*

#### **SCENE 17 – Bar on the High Street (RH side of the stage)**

*Lights come on to show ROB, DAVE and STEVE sitting at a high table on high stools drinking pints of lager.*

*FX: Background noise of a bar including hushed chatter, occasional clinking of glasses and of a fruit machine.*

STEVE

Are you still moping about that Chloe? For Christ's sake.

ROB

No, I'm not. I'm fine, completely forgotten her, until YOU mentioned her. Anyway, Chloe who?

DAVE

I dunno, I never knew her surname. I thought you'd have known it having lived with her for several months.

*STEVE and ROB shake their heads and ignore DAVE's stupid sentence.*

STEVE

So what are you going to do with all this time you've got on your hands? You're not interested in playing much PS at the moment, in fact we haven't been round for days. What you doing with your time?

ROB

Oh, this and that. I've got plenty of stuff to do and plenty of plans.

*Suddenly ROB remembers something and it appears to spark some interest in himself once again.*

Oh, of course. I forgot to ask. Listen, Steve. You own a shotgun right?

STEVE

Yeeaah

*He said suspiciously and slowly.*

ROB

Well, I've been invited to this company clay shooting day up country next week-end and I was hoping to borrow your gun for the event.

STEVE

Surely they'll have shotguns for people to use if it's a company event.

ROB

Ah, yes they have. But I was showing off a bit and some of the lads were getting all cocky about how good they were and wanting to put some money on the results and everything, so I went and said I'd been doing it for years and wouldn't want to take their money.

You know, a bit of bravado.

STEVE

And?

ROB

Well, I sort of made out that I had my own shotgun and had been using it for years and had done it since I was a kid and all that, so I can't now go back and ask to use a loaned gun can I?

STEVE

Why not?

ROB

Cause I'll look stupid. And besides, they'll never believe any of the bullshit I tell them ever again.

So, can I borrow it, just for the week-end? I promise I'll look after it and won't let anyone else near it.

STEVE

You know it's licenced and has to be kept at my address under lock and key?

ROB

Yeah, yeah, yeah. I'll pick it up Friday night and have it back to you by Sunday evening. No-one's going to know it's even left the house. And I won't take it out in public and hide it in the boot of my car until I get there. And then straight back to you Sunday, promise.

STEVE

Okay, okay. But if you're caught with it I'm denying all knowledge and I'll say you must have nicked it from my place without me knowing.

ROB

Yes, of course. But no-one's going to see it or be bothered. I'll be there and back and it'll be back in your cabinet before even you're aware, I promise.

MUSIC: Sinister Cello music plays.

*The lights fade and the sounds subside and the scene ends with the boys sipping their lagers.*

**SCENE 18 – The following weekend in Chloe's parents street with their terraced house in background. (LH side of stage)**

*The lights partially come up to show a street scene at night. Some lights are on in the houses and the street lights throw down some light but just around the foot of each light.*

*FX: A hooting owl and extremely distant occasional car and occasional police siren. The noise of a bus pulling up and stopping briefly and the pulling away again. Then steps on a pavement as CHLOE walks onto the stage from the right.*

*As she walks her high heels are making a clipity clop sound on the pavement. She stops suddenly before she reaches her house and turns round as if she has heard something behind her. Thinking she must have heard a cat or something she begins to walk on but then hears a shout from behind her.*

ROB (from offstage)

Chloe. Wait up a minute.

*CHLOE strains to see who is shouting at her from down the street. Then she recognises ROB and looks fed up that he has appeared on her street.*

*ROB enters the stage from the right.*

CHLOE

Rob, what are you doing here?

*Rob is slightly out of breath from running and is carrying a large cricket bag over one shoulder. He pauses for breath before answering.*

ROB

Oh, I was just seeing a mate who lives in the next street and I thought I'd pop by and catch up.

*CHLOE screws up her face in a disbelieving manner before replying..*

CHLOE

Really? Who do you know that lives around here?

*ROB shakes his head vaguely as he tries to think on his feet.*

ROB

Ah, yeah, you probably don't know him, he's a bloke I got to know recently. I've been doing loads since you left and been really busy and meeting loads of people and things.

*CHLOE's eyebrows close in towards the middle of her face as she clearly doesn't believe a word of this so just says....*

CHLOE

Oh, okay. That's nice. Anyway, I can't stop, Mum's got tea on the table, said it would be ready right about now so I can't really stop and chat Rob.

*CHLOE forces a smile and starts to turn away to walk the 10 metres to her house but ROB stops her by shouting...*

ROB

Whoa, whoa. Chlo, I've just....run ...all the way over here to catch up with you and say hi and you just can't be bothered to even spend two minutes talking to me?

After all we've been through you were just gonna turn away and leave me standing here like a lemon?

Remember Chloe, you left me.....alone.....at the flat...and pissed off back to your mum and dad's, leaving me on my own, and then expect me to accept that and what, get on with my life?

CHLOE

I left because you beat me up Rob. You beat me up because you couldn't handle me going out without you. You were suffocating me Rob, expecting me to sit there like a good girlfriend and clean up after you and your mates and never have any sort of life of my own?

*Chloe's voice is starting to get angry and louder and places her hands on her hips almost demanding a response from ROB. He is also losing his temper and his voice also starts to rise as he gets angrier.*

ROB

I...said...sorry! I apologised for hitting you. So yes, I got drunk and lost it, once. But I tried really hard to make it up to you.

CHLOE

You bought me some flowers from the garage around the corner! Wow, forgive me for not welcoming you back with tears and open arms. Rob, you haven't got a clue about how to treat women.

You're never going to trust any woman, you're never going to let her have her own life. Well I have got my own life back and I intend to use it... to the full.

ROB

Oh that's it isn't it. You want to shag around. I was right all along, this isn't about me at all, it's about you and your scrubber mates wanting to shag as many men as possible. I bet that bloke you were talking to outside your work on Tuesday is just another one of them. I'll bet you've got a string of them all begging for a bit from you.

CHLOE

Are you following me? Are you seriously waiting outside my work just to see who I'm talking to?

ROB

No!, So who is he then? Don't tell me, just a friend.

CHLOE

I don't have to tell you anything, you're nothing to do with me, you don't control my life and I don't have to answer to you anymore. Thank god.

*By now ROB's face is showing signs of breaking and about to completely lose his temper. As Chloe finishes what she is saying she spins around and starts to stomp off towards her house with no intention of continuing this shouting match with ROB.*

*As she starts to walk away ROB quickly unzips the cricket bag and grabs out a shotgun from the bag and runs after CHLOE who has almost reached the back of a large van parked outside of her parent's house when she glances over her shoulder to see whether ROB is still there but instead catches sight of the gun in his hand and spins around quickly.*

CHLOE

Rob, what the hell are you doing? What have you got that for? Put it away, now. Don't be so stupid.

*CHLOE is scared. She looks around in every direction hoping to see a passer-by or even better one of her parents looking out of their window but no one is around. She steps backwards and holds her hands out in front of herself.*

*By now she has walked behind the van and so is obscured from the audiences view but ROB is still clearly on view aiming the shotgun straight at CHLOE. His voice is menacing. He steps gradually closer to the shaking CHLOE*

ROB

Yeah, you'll talk to me now. You'll talk to your former boyfriend now. But you just dropped me like a stone, wouldn't return and of my calls or texts.

CHLOE

Rob, put the gun down, we can talk.

ROB

Oh yes, you'll talk now, but you're already somewhere else, thinking about him I'll bet. Well I can't trust you anymore Chloe, you're spoilt goods, tarnished. I really loved you Chloe but you can't be trusted and I definitely can't trust you anymore. And if I can't have you then no one else can either.

CHLOE

Rob stop it, no.

*At that point ROB fires two shots in quick succession into CHLOE who screams loudly. ROB stands there for a few seconds not fully aware of what he's done but the sound of front doors opening in the street and shouts from some people across the road seems to shake him into reality and he slides the weapon into the cricket bag and runs off up the street.*

*A neighbour reaches CHLOE who is hidden by the van but watches ROB running away before tending to the dying CHLOE. Her mum has also heard the shots and the scream and has come out of her house and immediately sees CHLOE lying next to the front gate.*

*She screams loudly and sobs as she kneels down to tend to CHLOE who isn't making a sound now. She calls to her husband to come quickly and call an ambulance.*

*People are running backwards and forwards to their houses carrying blankets or sheets for bandages. Some simply stand and stare.*

*CHLOE's body and much of the action is hidden from the audience behind the parked van.*

*A few seconds later the wail of an ambulance quickly followed by the sirens of a police car are heard and they quickly stop just out of view, their blue flashing lights reflecting off the windows of neighbouring houses.*

*FX: Sirens and then police radio conversation interspersed with white noise.*

*Police radio conversation can be heard to describe ROB and then his full name is announced as the suspect who is armed and dangerous.*

*The Police radio then announces that CHLOE is pronounced dead at the scene and that ROB is now wanted for murder. The stage lights gently fall but the blue flashing lights continue whilst further Police radio messages announce that a suspect has been spotted and Police are in pursuit. The messages end with a simple "One arrested and a weapon recovered".*



*The blue flashing lights gently dim and the noise also fades to silence.*

**SCENE 19 – (RH side of stage) A police cell to the left – with no natural light and just a bench and blue blanket. To the right a high desk with Police Sergeant sat behind.**

*The lights come up to reveal the empty cell and desk Sergeant.*

*FX: sounds of other prisoners in background in other cells shouting occasional indistinguishable things to each other and unseen policemen with occasional rattle of keys,*

*ROB is lead to the desk by POLICEMAN 1 and turns to face DESK SERGEANT whilst the POLICEMAN 1 stands back and slightly behind ROB.*

*The DESK SERGEANT is writing something and eventually looks up.*

DESK SERGEANT

Okay, what have we got here then? Full name please.

ROB

Robert Kane.

DESK SERGEANT

Date of birth?

ROB

13<sup>th</sup> October 1991

DESK SERGEANT

Occupation?

ROB

Fork lift driver.

DESK SERGEANT

Are you taking any medicines at present and do you suffer from any mental health issues?

ROB

No and No

DESK SERGEANT

Is there anyone you'd like us to call to make aware that you're here?

*ROB sighs and rubs his face vigorously and eventually replies....*

ROB

Nah.

*The DESK SERGEANT looks towards POLICEMAN 1 and asks.....*

DESK SERGEANT

And what's he been arrested for Officer?

POLICEMAN 1

He's under arrest on suspicion of murder and in possession of an illegal firearm.

*The DESK SERGEANT huffs loudly to indicate his surprise at the seriousness of the charges and looks towards ROB.*

DESK SERGEANT

Okay, let's have him in cell number 7 please.

*POLICEMAN 1 leads ROB towards the side of the cell facing exit right to an unseen door and ROB walks through so he can be seen by the audience and takes a seat on the bench and buries his head in his hands as POLICEMAN 1 shuts the door and walks away.*

*FX: Cell door opening and closing and the viewing slat being slammed shut.*

*The lights dim to near darkness.*

**SCENE 20 – A small church – Two stain glass windows on the back wall denote that it is a church. There is no other furniture. LH Side of the stage.**

MUSIC: A church organ plays the chords for 'Come dance with me' on a loop, slowly and quietly.

*The lights come up to reveal a small procession enters the left hand side of the stage from the left, lead by a VICAR carrying two trestle table stands, then, carrying a coffin comes PALLBEARERS 1 to 4, CHLOE'S DAD, CHLOE'S MUM, THE MALE NEIGHBOUR and THE HANDSOME MAN. Behind them walks KAREN, SUZANNE, MEL & THE MANAGER*

*They walk to the middle of the left hand side of the stage where the coffin is placed on two trestles placed there by THE VICAR. The VICAR stands at one end that faces the audience. The remaining mourners stand either side of the coffin.*

*At this point the lights come up on the RH side of the stage illuminating:*

## **SCENE 21 – The Police cell. (RH side of the stage)**

*ROB is sitting on the bench with his head in his hands staring at the floor. He doesn't move. DESK SERGEANT and POLICEMAN 1 are talking unheard at the desk.*

*MUSIC – The opening piano notes of Come dance with me play over the top of the chords still being played on the church organ.*

*CHLOE enters from stage left and is dressed in white to denote she is now dead and is an angel. As the song starts the stage lighting across both halves of the stage changes to a blue light and dry ice pours onto the whole stage from all sides.*

*The cast stand completely still as if frozen in time and CHLOE walks amongst them until the end of the first verse. As soon as the second verse starts and the other instruments join in the blue light changes back to the original lighting and the cast begin to dance a line dance including ROB, POLICEMAN 1 and DESK SERGEANT who dances the same dance in a line on the other stage.*

*By now CHLOE has walked to the centre of the stage and stands facing ROB who is unaware of her presence.*

**SONG: COME DANCE WITH ME** sung by CHLOE.(backing by KAREN, MEL and SUZANNE initially but later by whole cast)

You called and said come dance with me, I followed willingly  
A fragile flower you seemed to be, didn't know where you would lead

Commitment's what you want from me, to leave behind my friends  
And once alone, nowhere to turn, the subtle loving ends  
A different person faced me now, controlling every stage  
Manipulating all the moves, with well-rehearsed outrage

And now resistance seemed futile, just seconds to comply  
A bird whose wings had both been clipped, and could no longer fly

I saw the vultures circle round, they looked just like your friends  
Descended with their good advice, how far backwards I would bend  
The strange thing was these friends of yours, the guys to whom you ran  
Were all the bitter single types, the confirmed batchelor man.

And now a broken girl lies here, but a wiser girl who knows  
That when a man says dance with me, to flee before the bloody nose

BVs

(dance with me)  
(come on, come on dance with me)  
(won't you come and dance with me)  
(come on, come on dance with me) X 12

(lead vox ad lib)

Just looking for a little romance  
Given half a chance  
Just take you for a dance  
Take a chance on a little romance  
Just come on and dance  
Oh won't you dance with me, ooh etc

*The line dance continues as a door appears on the LH side of the stage and opens to reveal extremely bright light. Chloe sees the door and knows she has to walk through it but looks towards her friends and family as if not wanting to walk through.*

*She tries to touch her parents but they continue to dance, unaware of her presence and she hands her head and then heads slowly for the door.*

*Before walking through she takes one last look at her friends and family and then reluctantly walks through the door which slams shut behind her and the bright lights vanish.*

*The cast dance to either side of the stage and one by one take their bow.*

**THE END**

## SCENES

Split stage with two scenes, left and right.

### LEFT

#### Scene 2 – High Street

*Rob follows Chloe, **I will make you mine***

#### Scene 4 – High Street

*1<sup>st</sup> – Rob waits for Chloe go for drink*

*2<sup>nd</sup> – Waits again few days later*

*3<sup>rd</sup> – Few weeks later asks to move in – **I'm right there***

#### Scene 6 – Rob's flat

*1<sup>st</sup> – Rob checks Chloes emails – they argue*

*2<sup>nd</sup> – Argue in front of lads, **Things I don't want to***

*3<sup>rd</sup> – Steve & Dave go to flat, **Hippy Soul***

#### Scene 8 – Rob's flat

*Rob & Chloe discuss Karen's night out, **Nothing else matters***

#### Scene 10 – Rob's flat -----

*Rob tries to persuade Chloe to stay in*

*Rob sings **Mind's eye***

#### Scene 12 – Rob's flat

*Rob pleads forgiveness*

#### Scene 14 – Rob's flat

*Karen & Mel collect Chloe's things*

#### Scene 16 – High Street

*Girls sing **My life today***

#### Scene 18 – Outside Chloe's parents

*Rob wants to speak to Chloe, shoots her.*

#### Scene 20 – Small church -----

*Coffin arrives followed by Chloe as angel*

*Final scene as Chloe walks through door, **Come dance with me***

### RIGHT

#### Scene 1 - Small Office over High St shop

*Arrange to meet at dance – setting the scene*

#### Scene 3 – Town Hall Dance band on stage

*Rob meets Chloe; they dance to **The Greatest Thing***

#### Scene 5 – Bar on High Street

*Rob meets the girls, don't get on, **Stay the night***

#### Scene 7 – Small Office over High St shop

*Arrange night out for Karen's B'day*

#### Scene 9 – Bar on High St

*Rob talks with Steve & Dave about Chloe going out.*

#### Scene 11 – Hotel bar with rooms above

*Girls arrive at Night club & dance*

#### Scene 13 – Small office over High St shop

*Girls discuss Chloe, she arrive late in sunglasses*

***Never can win***

#### Scene 15 – Bar on High Street

*Girls discuss life after Rob who is hiding behind them*

#### Scene 17 – Bar on High Street

*Rob asks to borrow Steve's shotgun*

#### Scene 19 – Police cell/station

*Rob arrested is put in a cell*

#### Scene 21 – Police cell/station