

TIMESHARE

by

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Characters:

Cast of 5/6 (2/3M 3F)

EDDIE HOBSON – twenty-three/eighty-three

PAULA PARKS/HOBSON – twenty-three/eighty-three

EDDIE HOBSON – fifty-three

PAULA HOBSON – fifty-three

MARINA GOMEZ – twenty/twenty-one/fifty/eighty (*Spanish accent.*)

The brief appearance of MIGUEL GOMEZ (*Spanish accent. Can be played by actor who plays young Eddie.*)

Synopsis of scenes:

Act 1

Scene 1 – Last December. Saturday 10.00 a.m.

Scene 2 – The present. Saturday 3.00 p.m.

Scene 3 – Reminiscent of last December. Saturday 10.00 a.m.

Scene 4 – Thirty years ago. Saturday 3.00 p.m.

Scene 5 – Reminiscent of last December. Saturday 10.00 a.m.

Scene 6 – The present. Saturday 8.00 p.m.

Scene 7 – Reminiscent of last December. Saturday 10.00 a.m.

Scene 8 – Thirty years ago. Saturday 8.00 p.m.

Scene 9 – Reminiscent of last December. Saturday 10.00 a.m.

Scene 10 – The present. Saturday 8.10 p.m.

Scene 11 – Reminiscent of last December. Saturday 10.00 a.m.

Scene 12 – Thirty years ago. Saturday 11.00 p.m.

Scene 13 – Thirty years ago. Saturday 11.30 p.m./The present. Saturday 11.30 p.m.

Act 2

Scene 1 – The present. Sunday 10.00 a.m./Thirty years ago. Sunday 10.00 a.m.

Scene 2 – Thirty years ago. Sunday midday./The present. Sunday midday.

Scene 3 – Thirty years ago. Sunday 2.00 p.m./The present. Sunday 2.00 p.m.

Scene 4 – Thirty years ago. Sunday 11.00 p.m./ The present. Sunday 11.00 p.m.

Scene 5 – The present. Sunday 11.30 p.m./Thirty years in the future.
Sunday 11.30 p.m.

Place – A villa on a Spanish island.

Time – Past, present and future time in thirty year intervals occurring simultaneously.

Author's note. The scene changes, especially in the first half, should be as seamless as possible to keep the action flowing. Perhaps a flicker in the lighting during the brief electrocution scenes and avoiding blackouts throughout the play.

[Some Spanish yet to be translated.]

Act 1

Scene 1

Last December. Saturday 10.00 a.m.

The villa is tastefully decorated, but being a timeshare property, the ornaments and pictures are kept to a minimum. Notable items are a wall mirror, a small ornamental urn, a radio and a landline telephone. A sofa and chair dominate the room. One exit is the front door, another leads to the kitchen. There is a shuttered window on the back wall. Stairs lead to the upstairs bedrooms. All doors, windows and shutters are closed.

Spanish song blares out from a radio upstairs. An elderly Spanish man's voice sings along. There is the sound of an electrical buzzing and a cry from the man. The radio breaks up. All sound cuts out.

Scene 2

The present. Saturday 3.00 p.m.

Sound of taxi arriving. Car doors opening and closing.

PAULA 53: (Off.) Gracias.

Sound of taxi driving off. Key opens the front door from outside and PAULA (fifty-three years old.) and EDDIE (fifty-three years old.) enter. They carry suitcases.

PAULA 53: (More to herself.) Ugh! Smells like a rat's died in here.

EDDIE 53: Not just the one.

PAULA opens the window shutters and windows. Sunshine flows into the room. She exits into the kitchen. Sound of cupboards, draws, oven etc. opening and closing, accompanied by groans of disgust. She enters from the kitchen on her mobile.

PAULA 53: (To mobile.) Yes, we are... No, it was bearable... It's filthy... Someone's even left half a pizza in the oven. Who's supposed to be cleaning?... Well, there's no sign of her... (MIGUEL.) No, there's no sign of him either... I will... Yes... (Glancing at EDDIE. Coldly.) Yes... Well, that's what we're here for... I will, don't worry... No I won't, don't worry... He knows he is... Oh yes, I will... Look, Mum, better go and clean up this cess pit... I will... Yes I will... Bye, Mum... Bye.

PAULA hangs up.

EDDIE 53: Is she well? Cess pit's a little harsh perhaps. (*Kitchen.*) Mind you I haven't seen in there. Who's supposed to be cleaning?

PAULA 53: See what God-awful state the bedrooms are in

PAULA takes her case and crosses to the stairs.

EDDIE 53: (*PAULA's case.*) I can do that.

PAULA 53: (*To herself.*) Prepare for the worst.

EDDIE 53: I said I can...

PAULA exits upstairs.

Do that.

Sound of doors opening and closing upstairs.

PAULA 53: (*Off. Disgust.*) Oh for the love of God!

EDDIE notices something poking out from the chair. He pulls out a pair of women's knickers. He examines them, furtively sniffs them and then lays them on the chair. He exits into the kitchen. Sound of car is heard off, arriving and stopping. After a couple of moments MARINA (fifty years old) appears at the front door. She lights a cigarette at the door and blows the smoke in the direction of outside. EDDIE enters from the kitchen chewing on a piece of pizza.

MARINA 50: Hello, Eddie.

EDDIE 53: Marina?

MARINA 50: Long time no see.

EDDIE 53: I thought you were in... Chile, wasn't it?

MARINA 50: Bolivia.

EDDIE 53: You're back.

MARINA 50: I'm back.

EDDIE 53: How was Bolivia?

MARINA 50: Five years of my life I'll never get back.

EDDIE 53: Not too good then.

MARINA 50: Is Paula here?

EDDIE 53: Yes she's...

MARINA 50: Here to escape, Eddie?

EDDIE 53: Oh, you...

MARINA 50: We get English papers here too.

EDDIE 53: Yes, of course. The whole thing was blown completely out of proportion by the tabloids.

MARINA 50: Doesn't sound like them to do a thing like that, eh Eddie? They're the scum of the earth. Don't worry we get them here too.

EDDIE 53: The whole thing wouldn't have got a mention if Rick wasn't in the running... you know, to be an MP. It's the gutter press out to destroy a young man's budding career. Not saying that I don't take full responsibility for what I did. I was a complete...

MARINA 50: Cerdo?

EDDIE 53: What does that mean?

MARINA 50: Swine.

EDDIE 53: Yes, yes I was. The thing is it didn't make the slightest bit of difference to the election, he still sailed through with the majority vote.

MARINA 50: Well, if it's any consolation Eddie, you won't be the first man to screw up spectacularly, nor the last.

EDDIE 53: So no-one's talking to me – no-one that knows me that is. We're here to discuss our future. The sword of Damocles hovers above my head... waiting to drop down and decapitate me. Don't be surprised to hear sometime in the next ten days that I've walked into the sea and not walked out again.

MARINA 50: Pretty shitty. eh Eddie?

EDDIE 53: Yes, pretty shitty.

MARINA 50: Me, I wake up in the middle of the night – practically every

night – screaming, literally screaming. I get up, have a drink, smoke a cigarette... drink some more, smoke some more... scream some more.

EDDIE 53: About anything in particular?

MARINA 50: Yes: life. Sometimes, Eddie, don't you wish you could turn the clock backwards, do things differently? Follow the dream you once had... Not marry the person – the asshole – you married... I married. Maybe meet the one we really, truly love... the one who really, truly loves us... me. Maybe marry, maybe not. Maybe kids, maybe – no, definitely no kids. No kids.

EDDIE 53: Not possible, I'm afraid. We make our own beds and we have to... strangle ourselves in our own sheets in them.

MARINA 50: Tell me about it. I shouldn't be here.

EDDIE 53: No?

MARINA 50: No, Little Miss Unreliable let me down... again. Andrea, my daughter. Boyfriend trouble... again. I'm sure I was never like her. Tell me I was never like her, Eddie.

EDDIE 53: You weren't like her.

MARINA 50: Thank you. The little... Oh! (*Nails.*) I've just done these and now I'm supposed to be scrubbing and cleaning.

EDDIE 53: No sign of Miguel around, is he –

MARINA 50: Dead.

EDDIE 53: Dead!

MARINA 50: Electrocuted, Christmas Day. Ruined everyone's Christmas.

EDDIE 53: Goodness! Not goodness, I mean Good God! How?

MARINA 50: Installing a shower.

EDDIE 53: At home?

MARINA 50: No, upstairs here. You have a new shower.

EDDIE 53: Ah.

MARINA 50: Don't worry it's been checked out now by someone who knows about electricity. He could barely see. I was always saying to

him: 'Papa, no electricity. Leave electricity to the people who know about electricity.' Would he listen? (*Speaking to the air above.*) Would you listen?

EDDIE 53: I'm sorry, nobody said.

MARINA 50: No more Papa.

MARINA's mobile rings.

(*Checking display.*) Okay, let's see what Little Miss Boyfriend Trouble has to say for herself. (*To mobile. In Spanish.*) Okay, so where are you?... I don't care... No, I don't care!

MARINA exits into the kitchen. Clearing up is heard from the kitchen.

(*Off.*) You should be here. That's what I'm paying you for... Yes, of course I'm paying you... I know... No, it's too late now, I'm here... You're not the only one with problems you know... Andrea... Andrea!

MARINA hangs up and swears in Spanish. PAULA enters from upstairs. She carries her bag and is holding a bra.

EDDIE 53: (*Indicating kitchen.*) Marina. (*Bra.*) That looks like the counterpart to these. (*Knickers.*)

MARINA enters from the kitchen. She carries a full bin bag.

MARINA 50: (*Coldly, but politely.*) Hello, Paula.

PAULA 53: (*Coldly, but politely.*) Hello, Marina. I thought you were in Bolivia?

MARINA 50: No, here I am emptying bloody bins.

PAULA 53: Where's your daughter?

MARINA 50: (*Sarcastically.*) What daughter?

MARINA crosses to the front door.

PAULA 53: (*Bra.*) You might want to put this in there while you're at it. It was on the floor in the bathroom.

MARINA 50: (*Recognising bra.*) The little slut!

MARINA takes the bra.

PAULA 53: *(Knickers.)* And those please.

MARINA 50: Oh, I kill her!

MARINA crosses to the front door.

PAULA 53: It's quite depressing to come here and have to clean the place oneself, you know.

MARINA 50: Tell me about it.

MARINA exits through the front door with the bin bag, swearing in Spanish as she goes.

PAULA 53: You're in the spare room.

EDDIE 53: Are you... going somewhere?

PAULA 53: Yes, out.

EDDIE 53: Listen, Paula, can we not –

PAULA 53: Not now.

PAULA exits through the front door. EDDIE casts his eyes upwards.

EDDIE 53: Electrocutation, a quick way to go, I suppose... a quick way to go.

He picks up his suitcase and exits upstairs.

Scene 3

Reminiscent of last December. Saturday 10.00 a.m.

Brief and fainter sound of the Spanish song coming from radio upstairs. The elderly Spanish man's voice sings along. There is the sound of an electrical buzzing and a cry from the man. The radio breaks up. All sound cuts out.

Scene 4

Thirty years ago. Saturday 3.00 p.m.

A radio plays outside in the distance. A Spanish man's voice sings along. Sound of taxi arriving. Car doors

opening and closing.

PAULA 23: (Off.) Gracias.

Sound of taxi driving off.

PAULA (twenty-three years old.) enters through the front door with her suitcase, followed by EDDIE, (twenty-three years old.) who carries his suitcase.

He must be around somewhere, it's all been opened up.

PAULA 23 looks out the window.

He's there.

EDDIE 23: Hey, hey, look at this!

EDDIE 23 puts his case down and leaps on the sofa.

PAULA 23: Eddie, you'll break it!

EDDIE 23: I'm not that heavy.

PAULA 23: And feet off, they're brand new.

EDDIE 23: (Feet.) No I've had these for some time, twenty three years to be precise.

PAULA 23: Off, please! What would Mum say?

EDDIE 23: Mummy ain't here.

PAULA 23: Yes she is.

EDDIE 23: Where?

PAULA 23: (Eyes.) In here, making sure nothing gets scuffed or broken.

EDDIE 23: She's not going to be in there the whole holiday, is she? It could get a little awkward, especially when we're... you know. Maybe you could tell her to look away. Don't want shock her with my huge –

PAULA 23: Okay, Eddie, that's enough.

PAULA exits into the kitchen. Sound of cupboard doors opening and closing.

EDDIE 23: (Calling in to kitchen.) All in order in there?

*EDDIE admires himself in the full length mirror.
PAULA enters from the kitchen.*

PAULA 23: There's a trail of ants coming in by the kitchen door.

EDDIE 23: Killer ants?

PAULA 23: I'm going to ask Miguel to get rid of them.

EDDIE 23: Why?

PAULA 23: Because they shouldn't be there, that's why.

EDDIE 23: They were here first.

PAULA 23: No, the villa was here first.

PAULA 23 exits through the front door.

EDDIE 23: *(More to himself.)* I think you'll find...

PAULA passes by the window outside.

Run ants! Run for your lives! The Brits are here and we're taking no prisoners.

EDDIE notices the urn on the shelf. He picks it up and examines it. He goes to the window and glances out. He then takes out his wallet and from it a small pouch. He opens the pouch and takes out a ring. He polishes the ring and returns it to the pouch. He drops the pouch inside the urn and replaces the urn on the shelf.

(To himself.) ¿Quieres casarte conmingo? ¿Quieres casarte conmingo?

EDDIE goes to his case and from it takes out a couple of bottles of spirits. He enters the kitchen with them. Sound of scooter is heard off, arriving and stopping. EDDIE enters from the kitchen. He checks the urn once more.

¿Quieres casarte conmingo?

He goes down on one knee.

(Passionately.) ¿Quieres casarte conmingo?

MARINA (twenty years old) has entered through the

front door. She stands in the doorway.

MARINA 20: Sure, why not?

EDDIE 23: Ah!

MARINA 20: Sorry, rude. Should've knocked. Knock, knock! Hi, Marina. He's my papa. I'm here to help. I'm late. But what can he do, he can't spank my bum any more now, can he?

EDDIE 23: No.

MARINA 20: Nice place. You here for long?

EDDIE 23: Ten days.

MARINA 20: Nice. Ten days of sea and sun... and you know what.

EDDIE 23: Yes.

MARINA 20: What's your name?

EDDIE 23: Oh... Eddie.

MARINA 20: O Eddie?

EDDIE 23: No, just Eddie. Marina?

MARINA 20: It means from the sea. I love the sea. If I could I would be in it all day long.

EDDIE 23: Me too. Although in England you wouldn't want to be in it all day... if at all.

MARINA 20: You're funny, O Eddie.

EDDIE 23: Thanks.

MARINA 20: Who's... the lucky girl?

EDDIE 23: Paula. She's out there.

MARINA 20: ¿Quieres casarte conmingo?

EDDIE 23: ¿Quieres casarte conmingo?

MARINA 20: Perfect, say it like that and she's yours.

EDDIE 23: It's a surprise, so don't –

MARINA 20: Of course. What do you say: 'The word is mother?'

EDDIE 23: 'Mum's' the word'.

MARINA 20: 'Mum's' the word'. Okay, better get to work.

EDDIE 23: Or smacked bum eh?

MARINA 20: No. Nobody smacks my bum anymore... unless I want them too. O Eddie, I'm having a big party tomorrow, it's my birthday. Twenty one.

EDDIE 23: Oh!

MARINA 20: It'll be on the beach. Barbeque, drinking, music, fun. You're invited, with...?

EDDIE 23: Paula.

MARINA 20: Paula. It'll be all afternoon and evening too.

EDDIE 23: Thanks.

MARINA 20: Maybe you too will have something to celebrate.

EDDIE 23: What's that?

MARINA 20: ¿Quieres casarte...?

EDDIE 23: Oh, yes.

PAULA appears outside the window.

PAULA 23: Hello?

MARINA 20: Hi.

PAULA 23: Hi.

PAULA exits from the window.

EDDIE 23: 'Mum's' the word'.

MARINA 20: 'Mum's' the word'.

PAULA enters through the front door.

Paula?

PAULA 23: Yes.

MARINA 20: Marina. How do you do?

EDDIE 23: Miguel's her papa.

PAULA 23: I see.

MARINA 20: Have a nice stay.

PAULA 23: Thanks.

MARINA 20: Well better go help him. Tell Paula about tomorrow.

EDDIE 23: I will.

MARINA 20: Chao!

EDDIE 23: Chao!

MARINA exits through the front door.

PAULA 23: Tomorrow?

EDDIE 23: She's having a birthday party, she's invited us along.

MARINA passes by the window outside. She waves. She exits from the window.

PAULA 23: Us?

EDDIE 23: Yes, me and you, you and I. Is the ant slayer on his way? Hey what do you say, we dump our stuff upstairs – in a neat and orderly way, get changed into our swimming stuff. I'll mix us up a couple of Famous Eddie's and we go for a nice cool swim.

PAULA 23: No thanks. Not with them around.

EDDIE 23: Shy?

PAULA 23: No, I just don't want them around.

EDDIE 23: Okay, I'll ask them to leave and then we can have a nudie swim. We can have some fun in the pool.

PAULA 23: No, people can see.

EDDIE 23: What people?

PAULA 23: In the other villas.

EDDIE 23: What other villas?
PAULA 23: The villas nearby.
EDDIE 23: As they turn their telescopes onto our pool.
PAULA 23: Yes, probably.
EDDIE 23: Oh I forgot, Mummy's also in there watching.

PAULA picks up her case.

It was a joke. (*Case.*) I can do that.

PAULA 23: So can I, thanks.

PAULA exits upstairs.

EDDIE 23: (*Calling after.*) A couple of Famous Eddie's at least, right? Paulie?

EDDIE checks the urn again.

(*To himself.*) ¿Quieres casarte conmingo?

He looks out the window. He waves back to MARINA in the distance. He picks up his case and exits upstairs.

Scene 5

Reminiscent of last December. Saturday 10.00 a.m.

A brief electrical buzzing is heard from upstairs, accompanied by the faint sound of the man's cry.

Scene 6

The present. Saturday 8.00 p.m.

EDDIE passes by the window outside. He looks in. He exits from the window and enters through the front door, closing it behind him. He carries a book.

EDDIE 53: (*Calling.*) Hello? Paula?

He checks his mobile and dials. He gets through to PAULA's voicemail.

(*To mobile.*) Hi, it's me... again. I'm just wondering where you are... again. You can just text me if you don't want to... Just to

let me know you haven't been kidnapped by bandits, or... something.

He hangs up. He notices the urn. He goes to it, picks it up and remembers. He replaces it on the shelf. He slaps at a mosquito on his neck and closes the windows, but not the shutters. He thinks for a moment and then exits into the kitchen.

Scene 7

Reminiscent of last December. Saturday 10.00 a.m.

A brief electrical buzzing is heard from upstairs, accompanied by the faint sound of the man's cry.

Scene 8

Thirty years ago. Saturday 8.00 p.m.

EDDIE enters from upstairs. He has changed his shirt. He goes to the urn and checks the ring inside. He then crosses to the mirror and looks at himself. PAULA enters from upstairs. She too has changed.

EDDIE 23: Looking good.

PAULA 23: Thanks.

EDDIE 23: No, I mean me. And you look great too.

PAULA 23: Thanks.

EDDIE 23: You wearing them?

PAULA shows her earrings.

Whoever bought you those had incredible taste.

EDDIE takes out a bracelet from his pocket with a ribbon tied onto it.

PAULA 23: What's that?

EDDIE 23: A bracelet, a piggy bracelet. For you, because you like piggies.

PAULA 23: I thought we agreed –

EDDIE 23: Just a little extra, to go with your eyes.

PAULA 23: My piggy eyes?

EDDIE 23: No, the stones in between. Not the red ones, the blue ones. Happy anniversary, again.

PAULA 23: Thanks. I haven't got you anything else.

EDDIE 23: This shirt is all I could ever have asked for.

PAULA 23: Shall we go?

EDDIE 23: Are we okay now?

PAULA 23: Yes, we're okay.

EDDIE 23: Good. I love you, Paulie.

PAULA 23: Love you too.

EDDIE 23: Say it with a kiss.

PAULA kisses EDDIE briefly.

Is that is? That piggy bracelet's got to be worth more than that doesn't it?

PAULA gives EDDIE a longer kiss.

Better.

PAULA 23: Shall we go before the restaurant closes?

EDDIE 23: Don't worry they stay open to well after midnight here.

PAULA 23: I'll be good and starved to death by then.

PAULA exits through the front door followed by EDDIE. He closes it behind him and locks it.

Scene 9

Reminiscent of last December. Saturday 10.00 a.m.

A brief electrical buzzing is heard from upstairs, accompanied by the faint sound of the man's cry.

Scene 10

The present. Saturday 8.10 p.m.

EDDIE enters from the kitchen. He is chewing on another piece of old pizza. He picks a hair out of his mouth. He checks the pizza and reconsiders. He exits into the kitchen. PAULA enters through the front door. EDDIE enters from the kitchen.

EDDIE 53: You're back. I called. A few times. Just to check you hadn't been kidnapped by bandits. Been anywhere nice?

PAULA 53: Yes.

EDDIE 53: Good. I haven't eaten, have you?

PAULA 53: Yes.

EDDIE 53: Look –

PAULA 53: I'm having an early night.

PAULA crosses to the stairs.

EDDIE 53: Paula, can we not just... talk?

PAULA 53: Not now.

EDDIE 53: Then when? I mean, we're here to talk, aren't we. That's why we've –

PAULA 53: Not now, I'm tired, I'm going to bed.

EDDIE 53: Paula, please.

PAULA exits upstairs. EDDIE thinks for a moment. He checks his watch. He takes his book and exits through the front door, closing it behind him. After a couple of moments PAULA appears at the top of the stairs.

PAULA 53: Eddie?

She descends the stairs. She checks the kitchen and looks out through the window. She opens the front door and looks out. She closes the door. She checks her mobile. She thinks for a moment and then dials. She gets through to voicemail. She considers hanging up, but then decides to speak.

(To mobile.) Hello, Rick, it's Mum. I just wanted to say I'm here at the villa. Just been out for dinner. Place at the sea-front called Freddie's. Wasn't the most pleasant of experiences. People started doing karaoke halfway through the meal. All

very tacky. Villa's just the same. The Hendersons were here last, so it was in a bit of a state. Didn't help with there being no cleaner. Marina's daughter, Andrea. No sign of her, just her underwear all over the place. So, anyway, I just wanted to say... I'm here... I'm here if you... if you wanted to... to say hello... And I've been thinking, Rick, I think I've made up my mind about... I think I'm pretty clear we can't... Well, it would be good to talk to you Rick just to... sound you out. Call me... please. Say hi to Trish. Well... There's the landline here too. Think that still works. Might be cheaper... Bye, Rick.

PAULA hangs up. She thinks. She notices the urn. She goes to it and picks it up. She remembers. She replaces it on the shelf and exits upstairs.

Scene 11

Reminiscent of last December. Saturday 10.00 a.m.

A brief electrical buzzing is heard from upstairs, accompanied by the faint sound of the man's cry.

Light fades to moonlight coming through the windows.

Scene 12

Thirty years ago. Saturday 11.00 p.m.

EDDIE and PAULA enter through the front door. They switch on the lights.

- PAULA 23: No, he was saying some pretty leery things to me and you were just sitting there grinning like an ape.
- EDDIE 23: I couldn't take him seriously, he had a mono-brow and ears like a Vulcan.
- PAULA 23: He was still saying some pretty disgusting things.
- EDDIE 23: I'm sorry, I thought you were laughing.
- PAULA 23: I wasn't laughing. *(Showing a fixed grin.)* This isn't laughing. Ha! ha! ha! that's laughing.
- EDDIE 23: I'm sorry. Let me make it up to you. I'll give you a nice back rub.
- PAULA 23: No, thank you.
- EDDIE 23: Foot rub then.

PAULA 23: I'm fine.

EDDIE 23: Let me do something.

PAULA 23: Perhaps you could start by being a little more aware of how I'm feeling next time. Learn to read the signals better. The signals of distress.

EDDIE 23: Sorry. Very sorry. Incredibly sorry. *(Fingers.)* Sure I can't give you a –

PAULA 23: No, I just want to relax.

EDDIE 23: Okay, we can do that.

EDDIE puts his feet on sofa.

PAULA 23: Feet!

EDDIE 23: Sorry.

EDDIE glances over to the urn.

Little digestive.

PAULA 23: No, we've both had enough. You have.

EDDIE 23: I only had three glasses.

PAULA 23: Three large ones.

EDDIE 23: I'm not drunk. Honeshtly.

EDDIE glances over to the urn again.

What shall we do tomorrow? Catch a boat somewhere?... Horse riding?... Go for a hike?... Bike ride?... Hire a couple of mopeds?... Or just lounge around the pool? Paulie?

PAULA 23: *(Distractedly.)* Yes?

EDDIE 23: What, all the above? It's a lot to pack into one day. Okay, next time anyone says anything like what he said, just give me the nod and he gets this. *(Fist.)* So long as he's smaller than me and wears glasses.

PAULA 23: That's comforting to know.

EDDIE 23: How's the piggy bracelet?

PAULA 23: It's fine.

EDDIE 23: Two years, hey! Two whole years! Big changes are happening for both of us.

PAULA 23: Really?

EDDIE 23: Well, you going to work at the agency.

PAULA 23: It's just a temp job until I get something better. Hardly a major career move.

EDDIE 23: Okay, true. For me it is. Look, Paulie, I know you're not happy about it but I think it's a good move for me and your Dad thinks so too.

PAULA 23: I just think you can do something on your own without any help from him.

EDDIE 23: It's just a leg up.

PAULA 23: It's more than that, it's a free hand out.

EDDIE 23: I'm the one who'll be doing the leg work for him, growing his business.

PAULA 23: His business doesn't need growing.

EDDIE 23: All businesses need growing... unless it's a drug cartel in Mexico.

PAULA 23: It would be just nice to think you could act a little more autonomously. Forge your own career. Be dynamic. make your own bold decisions without anyone's help.

EDDIE 23: I can do that.

PAULA 23: I'd like to see it.

EDDIE 23: You will.

EDDIE glances over towards the urn again.

PAULA 23: What?

EDDIE 23: What?

PAULA 23: Why do you keep looking over there like you're seeing something?

EDDIE 23: Do I?

PAULA 23: Yes, you do. You're not, are you?

EDDIE 23: What?

PAULA 23: Seeing something?

EDDIE 23: A spookie wookie, you mean?

PAULA 23: Don't! You know I don't like things like that.

EDDIE 23: I shouldn't think they'd be any spookies in here, it's only just been built. Unless of course one of the builders fell off the roof or maybe an electrician electrocuted himself wiring up the shower. You can see him wafting around in ghostly white overalls, Hair standing on end, screwdriver in hand.

PAULA 23: Stop it!

EDDIE 23: Sure I can't interest you in a little one?

PAULA 23: No, thanks.

EDDIE gets up.

And neither do you.

EDDIE 23: Just stretching my legs a bit.

EDDIE crosses to the urn and picks it up.

PAULA 23: You might start forgetting who you're in bed with again.

EDDIE 23: I knew you were still cross about that.

PAULA 23: Well, it's never nice to hear the name of your boyfriend's ex being called out when you're in the middle of...

EDDIE 23: I'm sorry, like I say, I've got no idea where that came from.

PAULA 23: You were obviously thinking about her.

EDDIE 23: I wasn't, I swear to you I wasn't. And it will never happen again. I sweat it.

PAULA 23: Well I suppose we're all a little guilty of it from time to time.

EDDIE 23: What?

PAULA 23: Thinking about... others.

EDDIE 23: When? What when you're –

PAULA 23: Don't looked so shocked, we know you do. I think Gemma Hardwicke is evidence enough of that.

EDDIE 23: Who?

PAULA 23: No one in particular. Just fantasies.

EDDIE 53: Boys? Men?

PAULA 23: Not unicorns.

EDDIE 23: Him?

PAULA 23: Who?

EDDIE 23: You know who. David Potts?

PAULA 23: David Potts is in the Far East.

EDDIE 23: It doesn't stop you thinking about him.

PAULA 23: It's not him. It's no-one you know, it's no-one I know. It's just to get my imagination going sometimes.

EDDIE 23: Right.

PAULA 23: We know you do.

EDDIE 23: I don't.

PAULA 23: *(Urn.)* What are you doing with that?

EDDIE 23: Nothing.

EDDIE replaces the urn on the shelf. The landline phone rings.

PAULA 23: Do you want to get that?

EDDIE 23: It's not going to be for me.

PAULA answers the phone.

PAULA 23: *(To phone.)* Hello?... Hi Dad... Yes, everything's fine... We are... Yes, yes it is... Yes, he is... Yes, he's fine... Not yet,

probably tomorrow... We've just been out... A restaurant by the beach...

EDDIE exits through the front door.

Yes, it was okay... We haven't decided yet... I would, but he's just gone out... I'm not sure... Yes, everything's fine... Yes, I'll tell him... Is Mum there?... Oh, well say hi from me... Yes... Yes, Dad, I will... Yes... Bye then... Bye.

PAULA hangs up. She goes to the window and looks out. She crosses to the front door and looks out.

(Calling.) Eddie? Eddie?

She shrugs as if not caring and sits on the sofa. She gazes around the room. Her imagination quickly gets to work. She pulls herself tightly into herself on the sofa to comfort herself. She gazes across to the urn. She gets up and steps towards it when the radio in the living room suddenly buzzes with an electrical static. The faint sound of the man's cry is heard. The radio then blares out a Spanish song. (The song that played during MIGUEL's electrocution.) PAULA is almost paralysed with fear, but manages to run out the front door.

(Off. Calling.) Eddie! Eddie!

Scene 13

Continuation from previous scene. Thirty years ago. Saturday 11.30 p.m./The present. Saturday 11.30 p.m.

PAULA 53 enters from upstairs. She is wearing a dressing gown with pyjamas underneath.

PAULA 53: *(Calling down.)* Will you turn that... Eddie!

PAULA 53 descends the stairs and turns off the radio. She briefly looks off into the kitchen. She then crosses to the front door and looks outside.

(Calling off.) Are you there? Eddie?

She closes the front door. She thinks for a moment. She exits into the kitchen. She enters from the kitchen with a glass of wine. She sits, drinks and thinks. EDDIE 53 enters through the front door.

EDDIE 53: Still up?

PAULA 53: No thanks to you.

EDDIE 53: I was going to come in quietly so as not to wake you.

PAULA 53: But you decided to come in noisily instead. The radio.

EDDIE 53: Radio?

PAULA 53: That thing over there that plays music... loudly.

EDDIE 53: What about it?

PAULA 53: You're obviously too drunk to remember.

EDDIE 53: I haven't touched a drop, promise.

PAULA 53: Well it didn't go on by itself.

EDDIE 53: I've only just come back in. Must be a loose connection somewhere.

PAULA 53: Yes, there must. And you left the door open.

EDDIE 53: Did I? Well, I'm sorry if I did. Enjoying a glass of... I've been very good, mineral water only. Just been to a new place called Freddie's. Did you see it when you were...? Not a bad place, apart from the music. Turned out to be a bit of a karaoke bar. I did consider having a crack at Lonesome Tonight, but thought better of it. So...

PAULA 53: I've made up my mind.

EDDIE 53: About?

PAULA 53: What do you think? Us. I want you to get a flight back. Tomorrow.

EDDIE 53: But –

PAULA 53: I really see no point in us...

EDDIE 53: Paula –

PAULA 53: I've made up my mind. The damage you've done is beyond repair.

EDDIE 53: Nothing's beyond repair.

PAULA 53: This is. I can't possibly go on living with this...

EDDIE 53: We need to talk it through, that's why we're –

PAULA 53: This is beyond talking through. You've made everything... worthless... completely worthless.

EDDIE 53: Please, Paula, let's just –

PAULA 53: No. There's... We shouldn't have even come.

PAULA 53 hurries up the stairs.

EDDIE 53: Paula? Paula?

She exits upstairs. Sound of door closing upstairs. EDDIE 53 reflects for a couple of moments. He picks up PAULA's glass of half drunk wine and takes a sip and then a bigger one. He drains the glass. He exits into the kitchen. He exits from the kitchen with a full glass. He crosses to the front door. He begins to sing 'Lonesome Tonight' as he exits through the front door. He passes by the window as he continues to sing. His voice trails off into the distance. After some moments EDDIE 23 and PAULA 23 enter through the front door.

EDDIE 23: Okay, I promise not to make you jealous if you promise not to make me jealous.

PAULA 23: Okay.

EDDIE 23: It's not good for us.

PAULA 23: I know.

EDDIE 23: *(Radio.)* It's not on now.

PAULA 23: I know.

EDDIE 23: Are you sure it just came on by itself?

PAULA 23: I was nowhere near it.

EDDIE 23: Okay, must be a loose connection then.

EDDIE 23 switches radio on. There is just the sound of static.

PAULA 23: It was definitely playing music.

EDDIE 23: Not anymore. Maybe it's the g-g-g-ghost!

PAULA 53 has entered from upstairs and slowly descends the stairs. PAULA 23 sees her and screams. She is unseen to EDDIE 23.

It's okay.

EDDIE 23 turns. He sees PAULA 53.

Oh!

PAULA 53: Who are... who are you? What are you doing in our... in our...?

EDDIE 23: What are... Who are you?

PAULA 53: Dear God!

EDDIE 23: Well?

PAULA 23: Well?

PAULA 53: You can't... you can't be. It's not possible. No.

EDDIE 23: Look, who are you?

PAULA 53: Paula?

PAULA 23: Yes?

PAULA 53: Oh! Eddie?

EDDIE 23: Yes?

PAULA 53: Oh!

EDDIE 53 appears outside the window.

EDDIE 53: Hello, I heard... What's going on in here? Paula?

PAULA 53: *(Together.)* Yes.

PAULA 23: *(Together.)* Yes?

EDDIE 53 exits from the window.

EDDIE 23: Who's that?

PAULA 53: Eddie.

EDDIE 23: Yes.

EDDIE 53 enters through the front door.

EDDIE 53: Hello? Can we help you?

EDDIE 23: I don't think so. Who are you?

EDDIE 53: Eddie.

EDDIE 23: Yes?

EDDIE 53: I'm Eddie. I'm Eddie Hobson and that's Paula Hobson and we own this place.

EDDIE 23: I'm sorry, I'm Eddie Hobson and that's Paula Parks and we own this place.

PAULA 23: My parents do.

PAULA 53: Eddie, don't you recognise them... us?

EDDIE 53: Yes... yes I do. My God!

EDDIE 23: Look, who are you?

EDDIE 53: I'm you, Eddie... you're me.

PAULA 53: Paula? Don't you recognise me?

PAULA 23: Are you friends of my parents?

PAULA 53: No, look at me, it's you. I'm you.

PAULA 23: *(To EDDIE 23.)* Eddie, I don't like this.

EDDIE 23: Neither do I.

EDDIE 53: Must be some glitch in the time space thingummy.

PAULA 23: Eddie, let's go.

EDDIE 23: Look, if you don't leave now I'll call the authorities.

EDDIE 53: I wonder what the hell they'll make of this.

PAULA 53: Paula?

PAULA 23: Eddie, come on!

PAULA 23 crosses to the SR exit.

PAULA 53: Paula, wait! You chipped a tooth back here from falling out of a peddler boat in Benidorm when you were thirteen? Threw up in Billy Chandler's tent on a school camping trip? Remember that? Mortifying.

PAULA 53: How do you know?

EDDIE 53: That watch, Eddie, it was a gift to you from Uncle Trevor. He lost his eye in a fishing accident. You had a pet rabbit called Benny, when he died you buried him in an ASDA bag at the bottom of the garden. Am I right?

EDDIE 23: Yes.

PAULA 53: How about this one Paula? Douglas Smeaton, need I say more?

PAULA 23: Oh!

PAULA 23 hurries emotionally out the front door.

PAULA 53: Obviously not.

EDDIE 23: *(Calling after.)* Paulie! Paulie!

EDDIE 53: The holiday in Corfu, Eddie, remember that one? Behind the sand dunes with the girl from Stroud. Things got cut short when she was stung on the bum by a bee.

EDDIE 23: How do you know?

EDDIE 53: Because I was there Eddie. That happened to me. You're me, I'm you.

EDDIE 23 hurries out the front door.

EDDIE 23: *(Calling off.)* Paulie! Paulie!

EDDIE 53 and PAULA 53 look at each other in amazement.

EDDIE 53: Are we dead? Did we both die and don't know it? I don't feel very dead, do you? *(Stomach.)* If we are, it seems a bit unfair to still be carrying this around with me.

PAULA 53: We're obviously not dead.

EDDIE 53: You say that.

PAULA 53: You may be, I'm not.

EDDIE 53: Then like I say it must be some glitch in the... in the thingy... Some anomaly in the... in the... universal working of things.

PAULA 53: Obviously.

EDDIE 53: I remember reading an article once about a man in Colchester who witnessed a battle in fields at the back of his property between a Roman battalion and some of the native English at the time. Five minutes later, just fields again – not a Roman in sight. Maybe that's what's happening here. A temporary aberration in the... the... time –

PAULA 53: I remember this.

EDDIE 53: What?

PAULA 53: This. I remember this happening – meeting us here.

EDDIE 53: Well so do I... it's only just happened. I know my memory's not –

PAULA 53: No, I mean I remember meeting us now – back then, when we were younger – here in the villa. I remember us being younger meeting us – you and I – here now.

EDDIE 53: Do you?

PAULA 53: Well, don't you?

EDDIE 53: Yes I do, now you come to mention it. We met us here, our older... you and me. You ran off and I went looking for you, just like they...

PAULA 53: Yes.

EDDIE 53: I found you sitting in the bushes and persuaded you to come back to confront us. What happened after that?

PAULA 53: We did, come back.

EDDIE 53: But we didn't meet us again did we? If we did I would've remembered it and I don't. Do you?

PAULA 53: No, of course I don't, not if you don't.

EDDIE 53: Then they or we must've disappeared just after meeting us. The glitch in the timeline knitted up or whatever it is.

PAULA 53: Yet ten minutes before this, before we met us, I don't remember meeting us at all. Do you?

EDDIE 53: I don't know, I can't remember not remembering it now.

PAULA 53: Trust me, we didn't.

EDDIE 53: Well that's because we hadn't met us then.

PAULA 53: Yes we had.

EDDIE 53: Had we?

PAULA 53: Yes, younger us had met older us, remember.

EDDIE 53: Oh yes, of course. So why didn't we remember that, ten minutes ago.

PAULA 53: Because ten minutes ago we hadn't met us.

EDDIE 53: What!

PAULA 53: It was only through meeting us just now that we remember meeting us back then.

EDDIE 53: I'm sorry I think I need to go and lie down.

PAULA 53: What I'm saying is, quite simply, is that we've appeared to alter our memory of what happened to us back then through us meeting us now.

EDDIE 53: It's still quite hazy.

PAULA 53: Well it's quite clear to me.

EDDIE 53: Well, one thing's for sure, we obviously don't meet us again.

PAULA 53: How do you know?

EDDIE 53: Because if we did we would remember it.

PAULA 53: Well, not yet we don't. If we do meet us again we'll remember it. That's what I'm saying.

EDDIE 53: I think I need another drink – I mean a drink.

PAULA 53 goes to the window and looks out. She crosses to the front door and looks out.

Any sign of us? Perhaps we've vanished through the... the

portal already, if it is a portal that is. Don't think that man in Colchester had any interaction with them – the Romans I mean. They were probably too busy hacking each other to pieces to take any notice of him. Yes, I do remember it now, meeting us, quite clearly. It was a bit of a shock to say the least. To see how we'd... changed. We didn't speak about it too much though afterwards, did we?

PAULA 53: No, we didn't.

EDDIE 53: We doubted it actually happened, didn't we? It all seemed quite unreal, like a dream. And we couldn't tell anyone about it. They'd have been sure we'd been drinking or on drugs. Probably have carted us off to the nearest...

PAULA 53: Yes.

EDDIE 53: Still no sign of us? So what will you say to us – if we do meet us again?

PAULA 53: I know what I'll say to me.

PAULA 53 moves away from the door.

EDDIE 53: I'll know what I'll say to me too. Something along the lines of: there'll be ups and downs Eddie, but more ups than downs, there'll be some memorable holidays together – for the right reasons, a couple for the wrong, but you'll laugh about it... later. There'll be some firm friends made... firmish. What else? Some great meals in some top notch restaurants. Of course there'll be things I'd like to warn me about too. Like for instance not to park the car on that river bank in Tuscany. Or make certain investments... we wish we hadn't. And of course I would tell me... not to... I would certainly tell me not to... Who knows, this could be a chance for us... for me, to repair... the damage I've done. What will you say to you?

PAULA 53: That's between me and me.

EDDIE 53: Fair enough, won't pry. Do you think it could be?

PAULA 53: What?

EDDIE 53: You know, a second chance... for me?

EDDIE 23 appears outside the window and looks in.

Ah, looks like we're back. I am anyway.

EDDIE 23 exits from the window and then appears at

the front door.

Eddie?

- EDDIE 23: Who are you really?
- EDDIE 53: We really are who we say we are. I'm you, you're me. Ask me anything about me – you – I'll tell you. I know it's a bit of a shock, I've changed a bit – you have – since, (*Stomach and hair.*) Gained a bit more of this and lost a bit more of this. Ageing Eddie, you can't fight the inexorable tide of life, however much one tires.
- EDDIE 23: Doesn't look like you've done too much fighting.
- EDDIE 53: That's unkind, Eddie. The exercise went a bit awry at forty, didn't help with ruining my knee by falling down the library steps.
- EDDIE 23: We want you to go.
- PAULA 53: Is Paula there, Eddie?
- EDDIE 23: We'd both like you both to go.
- EDDIE 53: Go where Eddie?
- EDDIE 23: Back to where you came from.
- EDDIE 53: We are where we came from.
- PAULA 53: Eddie, yes we will, if I could just speak to Paula.
- EDDIE 23: She doesn't want to speak to you.
- PAULA 53: Then we shan't leave. Just for five minutes. Then we promise to go, don't we, Eddie?
- EDDIE 53: Yes, we do. Go where?
- PAULA 53: Back to where we came from.
- EDDIE 53: Yes, back to where we came from.
- PAULA 53: Tell her, I won't hurt her. Be rather foolish of me, wouldn't it to hurt myself. Just for five minutes.
- EDDIE 23: (*Calling back.*) Paulie, they promise to go. They just want to talk to us for five minutes. They promise.

PAULA 23 appears at the front door.

- PAULA 53: Come in, Paula, it's your place just as much as ours.
- PAULA 23: Who are you?
- PAULA 53: I know, it's probably a little bit of a shock to you – I remember it was, when we met us – but I don't think I've done too badly, considering... You've done too badly, that is.
- PAULA 23: You are not me.
- EDDIE 23: How is this happening?
- PAULA 53: We don't know.
- EDDIE 53: We think there must have been some glitch in the time space –
- PAULA 53: We don't know.
- EDDIE 53: But we're thinking we're meeting here like this for a reason. We need to tell you things you need to know about what happens to you, things to avoid in your future. For example, don't park the car on a seemingly safe river bank in Tuscany or be taken in by an investment company called RJR Trading.
- PAULA 53: We're not talking about things like that.
- EDDIE 53: No, there's... a couple of other... Eddie, perhaps you and I should have a little private chat together.
- EDDIE 23: Whatever you have to say to me you can say it here.
- PAULA 53: Paula, I really need to talk to you privately. Can we go upstairs.
- PAULA 23: No, I'm staying here. You have five minutes. Four now.
- PAULA 53: Okay, well, I might as well lay it on the line. *(To EDDIE 53.)* And it's probably good that you're here too to hear it, Eddie.
- EDDIE 53: What are you going to say, Paula?
- PAULA 53: Eddie, Paula, you have a wonderful future ahead of you both, full of memorable, magical experiences, meeting fascinating people, travel, romance... fun. And very little of that I'm afraid you're both going to have being married to each other.
- EDDIE 53: That's not true. Don't listen too her. We've had lots of good times, plenty of good times.

PAULA 53: One or two.

EDDIE 53: More than one or two, plenty more than one or two.

PAULA 53: *(To EDDIE 23.)* And a life working for my Dad, Eddie, in his stifling company is really quite mind numbing. He won't deny that. See.

EDDIE 53: She's forgetting to tell you, you have – or will have – a highly intelligent, highly articulate son called Rick, whose got a highly promising career in politics.

PAULA 53: That his father is doing his utmost to highly destroy.

EDDIE 53: That's not true. Not intentionally.

EDDIE 23: Who, you?

EDDIE 53: Not intentionally.

EDDIE 23: Why what are you doing?

EDDIE 53: What I did, not doing.

EDDIE 23: What did you do?

EDDIE 53: This is one of things I want to talk to you about, Eddie, alone.

PAULA 23: What did he do?

PAULA 53: Do you know what escorts are, Paula?

EDDIE 53: Paula!

PAULA 23: Cars?

PAULA 53: Not cars, Paula.

EDDIE 53: Paula, please!

EDDIE 23: What...?

PAULA 53: Yes, Eddie.

EDDIE 23: Women who...?

PAULA 53: Yes, Eddie, women who for money.

PAULA 23: Prostitutes!

EDDIE 53: Just the one. Escort. Eddie –

EDDIE 23: Look, just... just go away.

EDDIE 53: But I can help you, Eddie, not to do the stupid things that I did.

EDDIE 23: I won't.

EDDIE 53: You will if you don't listen to me.

EDDIE 23: I won't because I'm not you.

EDDIE 53: Then who am I Eddie, if I'm not you? Who am I?

EDDIE 23: You're just a... sad version of me that I'm never going to become.

PAULA 23: *(To PAULA 53.)* Me neither, with you.

PAULA 53: Paulie –

PAULA 23: Just go away! Go away!

PAULA 53: Paula –

PAULA 23: I don't want to talk to you!

PAULA 23 crosses to the stairs and starts to ascend.

EDDIE 23: Your five minutes are up.

PAULA 23: Just because you've had a sad and miserable life it doesn't mean I have to have one too.

PAULA 23 exits upstairs. Sound of door closing upstairs.

EDDIE 23: Please go.

EDDIE 53: Go where?

EDDIE 23: Back to where you came from.

EDDIE 23 crosses to the stairs and starts to ascend.

We don't want you here! Please go!

EDDIE 23 exits upstairs. Sound of door opening and closing upstairs.

EDDIE 53: Well, that went well. Probably wasn't the best idea to mention... I would've preferred to have had a word with me in private. Think I could've softened the blow a little. Did you mean that? That we would've been better off if we hadn't got together at all? Obviously you did otherwise you wouldn't have said it. So what do we do now? We're supposed to disappear, aren't we? How do you propose we do that?

EDDIE 23 appears at the top of the stairs with PAULA 53 and EDDIE 53's hurriedly packed suitcase.

EDDIE 23: You can take these with you.

EDDIE 23 slides the cases down the stairs.

EDDIE 53: Eddie?

EDDIE 23 exits from the top of the stairs. Sound of door closing upstairs.

Bit like being back at the airport, isn't it.

EDDIE 53 fetches the cases. He places them in a more orderly way.

Looks like we need to find a hotel somewhere. We're obviously not welcome here.

PAULA 53: Gemma Hardwicke.

EDDIE 53: What?

PAULA 53: That was her name wasn't it?

EDDIE 53: Who's?

PAULA 53: Gemma Hardwicke's!

EDDIE 53: What about her?

PAULA 53: You always had a thing for her, didn't you? I remember, you used to call her name in your sleep.

EDDIE 53: Why do you bring her up?

PAULA 53: You always regretted breaking up with her. She left you for that

Northern man, what was his name?

EDDIE 53: Danny Proctor. Mr Ponytail. Why do you bring her up... or

him.

- PAULA 53: She regretted breaking up with you too. She sent you that letter pouring out her heart. It didn't last long between them you said, a few months. She would've taken you back quite readily – if you tried. In fact she may not have gone with Mr Ponytail in the first place if you'd been a bit more proactive in your affections with her.
- EDDIE 53: I've got no idea why you're talking about Gemma Hardwicke.
- PAULA 53: For me there was David... David Potts.
- EDDIE 53: David Potts. You had a thing for him all right.
- PAULA 53: We both came to each other on the rebound.
- EDDIE 53: We were in love.
- PAULA 53: We thought we were.
- EDDIE 53: I was, with you. That's why I didn't suddenly chase after Ms Hardwicke again, once Mr Ponytail had let her out of his Lancashire clutches.
- PAULA 53: He wanted me to join him.
- EDDIE 53: Who, Mr Ponytail?
- PAULA 53: No, David, in the Far East.
- EDDIE 53: When?
- PAULA 53: Just before we...
- EDDIE 53: So why didn't you?
- PAULA 53: My heart said yes, Daddy said no.
- EDDIE 53: So you regret it now then, not going?
- PAULA 53: Yes I do. David and I could've had something amazing together. We did, briefly, before he left, it could've only got better.
- EDDIE 53: I suppose it doesn't hurt now to know that he's a multi millionaire with houses around the world and a yacht in the Caribbean.
- PAULA 53: That's immaterial, it was love. The good little girl didn't want

to rock Daddy's world.

EDDIE 53: So you settled for Mr Second Best instead.

PAULA 53: It's not that I didn't feel something for you. It just wasn't... love. Real love.

EDDIE 53: Well, I was in love with you. You can't take that away from me.

PAULA 53 crosses to her case. She opens it and takes out a dress. She puts it over her pyjamas.

What are you doing?

PAULA 53: Well, we can't stay here. We're going to find a hotel, like you said.

EDDIE 53: What, with me?

PAULA 53: Yes, with you. We need to talk.

EDDIE 53: Talk about what?

PAULA 53: About what we're going to do.

EDDIE 53: About what?

PAULA 53: About us.

EDDIE 53: But I'd thought you'd made up your mind –

PAULA 53: Not about us... about *us*. (*Indicating upstairs.*)

PAULA 53 exits through the front door with her suitcase. EDDIE 53 fetches his case and follows after. After a couple of moments EDDIE 23 and PAULA 23 appear at the top of the stairs.

EDDIE 23: (*Calling down.*) Hello?

EDDIE 23 descends the stairs, crosses to the kitchen and briefly glances inside before crossing to the front door. He looks outside. He shuts the door and locks it.

They're gone.

Blackout.