

# 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 – seventy (*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 11.15 p.m./The present. Saturday 11.15 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 and sometimes occurring simultaneously.

*Author's note: For the brief 'reminiscent of last December' scenes in Act 1 recalling MIGUEL's electrocution, perhaps there is the sound of a distant radio, an electrical buzzing, an electrical bang, accompanied by the visual effect of lights flickering. No blackout. There needs to be a subtle progression in each occurrence of these scenes to suggest the timelines from thirty years ago to present day converging.*

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 thirty year old music system and a landline telephone. A sofa and possibly an armchair dominate the room. One exit is the front door, another leads to the kitchen. There is a shuttered two pane window on the back wall. (Shutters open outward, frames open inward.) Stairs lead to the upstairs bedrooms. All doors, windows and shutters are closed. Internal lights are on.*

*A Spanish song blares out from a radio upstairs. (Perhaps the chorus from Con El Viento A Tu Favor sung by Camilo Sesto.) An elderly Spanish man's voice sings along. After a few moments there is the sound of loud buzzing and a cry from the man as the radio cuts out and the lights flicker. This is followed by an electrical bang. Blackout.*

Scene 2

*The present. Saturday 3.00 p.m.*

*Sound of taxi arriving outside. Sound of car doors opening and closing.*

PAULA 53: (Off.) Gracias.

*Sound of taxi departing. Key opens the front door. PAULA (fifty-three years old) and EDDIE (fifty-three years old) enter. PAULA carries her bag and EDDIE both their suitcases. PAULA puts the key in her bag.*

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

EDDIE 53: Not just the one.

*PAULA opens the windows and shutters. Sunshine flows into the room. She exits into the kitchen. Sound of cupboards and draws being opened and closed in the kitchen accompanied by groans of disgust. PAULA enters from the kitchen speaking 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... Yes... Well, that's what we're here for... I will, don't worry... No I won't, don't worry... *(Glancing coldly at EDDIE.)* 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: *(To herself.)* See what God-awful state the bedrooms are in.

*PAULA takes her case.*

EDDIE 53: 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.)* Oh for the love of God!

*EDDIE notices something poking out from beside a seat cushion. He pulls out a pair of women's knickers. He examines them, furtively sniffs them and then secretes them again. He exits into the kitchen. Sound of car arriving outside. Sound of car doors opening and closing. MARINA (fifty years old) appears at the front door.*

MARINA 50: Knock, knock.

*EDDIE enters from the kitchen finishing a piece of pizza.*

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: 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 wouldn't have even got a mention if our son Rick wasn't in the running... to be an MP. It's the gutter press out to destroy a young man's budding career, using this... to scupper – to try to scupper – his campaign, sensationally blowing it out of all proportion.

MARINA 50: Doesn't sound like them to do a thing like that, eh Eddie? They're the scum of the earth. Unfortunately everyone reads them... including me.

EDDIE 53: Not saying that I don't take full responsibility for what I did. I was a complete...

MARINA 50: Desalmado!

EDDIE 53: What does that mean?

MARINA 50: Swine... and bastard.

EDDIE 53: Yes, yes I was. Like I say, 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 – I suspect – the last.

EDDIE 53: So, no-one's talking to me – no-one who knows me that is. We're here to discuss our future together... or not together, as the case may be. Don't be surprised, Marina, to hear sometime

over the next ten days that Eddie Hobson walked into the sea and didn't walk 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 – dreams – you once had... Not marry the person – the arsehole – 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: Well, don't forget to knock on my door.

EDDIE 53: Hm?

MARINA 50: On your way into the sea. We'll drown our sorrows together, eh Eddie? First with red wine and then with sea water. Give your gutter press something more to write about. Ah, I shouldn't be here! Little Miss Unreliable let me down... again.

EDDIE 53: Who?

MARINA 50: 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.

MARINA 50: Thank you. (*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: Electrocutted, 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.*) Escucharías? (*Translation: 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.*) Bien, entonces dónde estás?... No me importa... No, que no me importa!

*MARINA exits into the kitchen. Sound of noisy clearing up in the kitchen.*

(*Off.*) Tendrías que estar aquí. Es por lo que te estoy pagando... Sí, por supuesto que te estoy pagando... Lo sé... No, ahora es demasiado tarde, ya estoy aquí... Sabes, tú no eres la única con problemas... Andrea!... Andrea! (*Hangs up.*) Vaya desperdicio! Vaya desperdicio! (*Translation: Okay, so where are you? ... I don't care... No, I don't care! 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! Waste of space! Waste of space!*)

*EDDIE looks at himself forlornly in the mirror. PAULA enters from upstairs. She carries her bag and is holding a bra.*

- EDDIE 53: (*Indicating kitchen.*) Marina.

*EDDIE retrieves the knickers.*

That looks like the counterpart to these.

*MARINA enters from the kitchen carrying 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?

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: *(Taking bra. Recognising it.)* The little slut!

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

MARINA 50: *(Taking knickers.)* 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.*

*(Off.)* Hostia puta! Inútil! Desgraciada! *(Translation: Bloody hell! Useless! Hopeless!)*

*MARINA passes by the window outside. Sound of metal dustbin being filled outside.*

PAULA 53: You're in the spare room.

EDDIE 53: Are you... going somewhere?

PAULA 53: Yes.

EDDIE 53: Where?

PAULA 53: Out.

EDDIE 53: Listen, Paula, can we not –

PAULA 53: Not now, I'm going out.

*PAULA exits through the front door. EDDIE picks up his case. He casts his eyes up to the ceiling.*

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

*EDDIE exits upstairs.*

### Scene 3

*Reminiscent of last December. Saturday 10.00 a.m. (See author's note.)*

### Scene 4

*Thirty years ago. Saturday 3.00 p.m.*

*Sound of taxi arriving outside. Sound of car doors opening and closing.*

PAULA 23: *(Off.)* Gracias.

*Sound of taxi departing. PAULA (twenty-three years old) enters through the front door with her suitcase, followed by EDDIE (twenty-three years old) with his suitcase and a shopping bag with bottles in.*

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

*PAULA 23 looks out the window.*

*(Seeing MIGUEL.)* That must be him there.

EDDIE 23: Hey, hey, look at this!

*EDDIE 23 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 cupboards and draws being opened and closed in the kitchen.*

EDDIE 23: 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 exits through the front door.*

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

*PAULA passes by the window outside. EDDIE exits into the kitchen.*

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

*EDDIE enters from the kitchen pretending to machine gun the ants. He notices the urn on the shelf, 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 conmigo? ¿Quieres casarte conmigo? (Translation: Will you marry me?)*

*EDDIE picks up the bag with bottles in and exits into the kitchen practising his Spanish proposal as he goes. Sound of scooter arriving outside. After a couple of moments EDDIE enters from the kitchen.*

*¿Quieres casarte conmigo?*

*He goes down on one knee. MARINA (twenty years old) appears at the front door, unseen to EDDIE.*

*¿Quieres casarte conmigo?*

*MARINA holds out her hand.*

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 no 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 conmigo?

EDDIE 23: ¿Quieres casarte conmigo?

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... 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 at the window outside.*

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: 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 me. 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 Martinis 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 mix us up a couple of Famous Eddie’s Martinis and  
once they’ve gone we won’t bother about costumes and we’ll  
go for a nice, cool, nudie swim. Have some nudie fun in the  
water.

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. I can do that.

PAULA 23:           So can I, thanks.

EDDIE 23:           You are, aren’t you?

PAULA 23:           Am what?

EDDIE 23:           Still angry... about last night.

PAULA 23:           No.

EDDIE 23:           Look, Paulie –

PAULA 23: I've said, let's just forget about last night, shall we?

EDDIE 23: What last night? You're sure I can't...

*PAULA exits upstairs.*

Do that?

*EDDIE checks the urn again.*

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

*He closes the front door. He notices MARINA through the window in the distance. He waves. He picks up his case and exits upstairs.*

### Scene 5

*Reminiscent of last December. Saturday 10.00 a.m. (See author's note.)*

### Scene 6

*The present. Saturday 8.00 p.m. (Five hours later from start of Scene 2.)*

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

EDDIE 53: *(Calling.)* Hello? Paula? 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 picks it up and remembers. He slaps at a mosquito on his neck. He replaces the urn and closes the windows, but not the shutters. He exits into the kitchen.*

### Scene 7

*Reminiscent of last December. Saturday 10.00 a.m. (See author's note.)*

Scene 8

*Thirty years ago. Saturday 8.00 p.m. (Five hours later from start of Scene 4.)*

*EDDIE enters from upstairs. He has changed his shirt. He goes to the urn and checks it and then admires himself in the mirror again. 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.*

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: 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. The door is closed but not locked.*

### Scene 9

*Reminiscent of last December. Saturday 10.00 a.m. (See author's note.)*

### Scene 10

*The present. Saturday 8.10 p.m. (Ten minutes later from start of Scene 6.)*

*EDDIE enters from the kitchen chewing on another piece of old pizza. He stops and picks a hair from 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.

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?

*PAULA exits upstairs.*

*(Calling.)* Paula?

*Sound of door closing upstairs. EDDIE checks his mobile 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 and briefly looks into the kitchen. She crosses to the front door and looks out. She closes the door and checks her mobile. She dials but gets through to voicemail. She thinks about hanging up, but decides to speak instead.*

*(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 I 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 notices the urn. She remembers for a moment before dismissing the memory. She exits upstairs.*

Scene 11

*Reminiscent of last December. Saturday 10.00 a.m. (See author's note.)*

Scene 12

*Thirty years ago. Saturday 11.00 p.m. (Three hours later from start of Scene 8.)*

*EDDIE and PAULA enter through the front door. PAULA switches on the lights. EDDIE closes the door.*

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 pained grin.*) This isn't laughing. Ha! ha! ha! that's laughing.

EDDIE 23: I'm sorry. Let me make it up to you with 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 shorter 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 glances over to the urn again.*

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. I'll be helping to grow the family business.

PAULA 23: The family business doesn't need growing.

EDDIE 23: All family businesses need growing... unless it's the Mafia.

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

EDDIE 23: And I will.

PAULA 23: I'd like to see it.

EDDIE 23: You will... once I branch out. Give it a couple of years or so and you're going to be proud of me. Who knows, maybe even sooner.

*EDDIE glances over to the once more.*

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: 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 tempt you with a wee one?

PAULA 23: No, and you don't need a wee one either.

EDDIE 23: Just stretching my legs.

*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 it! I knew you were still angry. I've been doing my best to forget it... like you said.
- PAULA 23: Easier for you. It wasn't me who called out the name of my ex while we were having –
- EDDIE 23: Okay, I'm sorry... again. I've got no idea where it came from.
- PAULA 23: Well you were obviously thinking about her.
- EDDIE 23: I wasn't, I swear it. And it will never, never, never happen again... ever. If it does – which it won't – you have my permission to kick me... hard. Not too hard. No, as hard as you like. I'm sorry. Sorry, sorry, sorry, sorry, sorry.
- PAULA 23: Okay. Well, I suppose we're all a little guilty of it from time to time. It's just some of us are better at keeping it to ourselves.
- EDDIE 23: What?
- PAULA 23: What we might happen to be thinking about.
- EDDIE 23: What? When we're – ?
- PAULA 23: Don't look 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.
- PAULA 23: No.
- EDDIE 23: 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.  
EDDIE 23: Isn't it?  
PAULA 23: No, it isn't. (*Urn.*) What are you doing with that?  
EDDIE 23: Nothing.

*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. EDDIE replaces the urn on the shelf.*

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... Yes, it was okay... We haven't decided yet...

*EDDIE exits through the front door.*

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, Dad, I will... Yes... Bye then... Bye.

*PAULA hangs up. She crosses to the front door.*

(*Calling.*) Eddie? Eddie?

*She turns back into the room. She thinks about the ghost and anxiously surveys the room. She looks across to the urn and moves towards it. The music system radio suddenly buzzes with a brief electrical static before blaring out a Spanish song. (The same song that was playing during MIGUEL's electrocution.) PAULA screams and hurries out the front door.*

(*Off. Calling.*) Eddie! Eddie!

### Scene 13

*Thirty years ago. Saturday 11.15 p.m./The present.*

*Saturday 11.15 p.m. (Continuation from Scene 12./Three hours and five minutes later from start of Scene 10.)*

*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 glances into the kitchen and then crosses to the open front door and exits outside.*

*(Off. Calling.)* Are you there? Eddie?

*She appears outside the window.*

Eddie?

*She exits from the window and enters through the front door, closing it behind her. She exits into the kitchen and enters again 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.

EDDIE 53: Sorry?

PAULA 53: 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 wide 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!
- EDDIE 53: Paula? Paula?

*PAULA 53 exits upstairs.*

Paula?

*Sound of door slamming upstairs. EDDIE 53 stands dejected for a couple of moments. He exits into the kitchen and then enters with a full glass of wine. He starts to sing 'Lonesome Tonight' as he exits through the front door, closing it behind him. He passes by the*

*window outside. After a couple of moments EDDIE 23 and PAULA 23 enter through the front door.*

EDDIE 23: Just because they're not actually real people doesn't stop me from getting jealous if you're thinking about them.

PAULA 23: Okay, okay, I said I won't.

EDDIE 23: *(Radio.)* Well it's not on now. Are you sure it just came on by itself?

PAULA 23: Yes, I was nowhere near it.

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

*EDDIE 23 switches radio on. There is just static noise.*

PAULA 23: It was definitely playing music.

EDDIE 23: Not anymore.

*EDDIE 23 switches radio off. PAULA 23 notices the glass of wine.*

PAULA 23: Whose is that?

EDDIE 23: What?

PAULA 23: That.

EDDIE 23: Er... yours?

PAULA 23: It's not mine.

EDDIE 23: Well it's not mine. It must be yours.

PAULA 23: It's not. I did not put that there.

EDDIE 23: Oh, I see. You'll have to do better than that.

PAULA 23: What?

EDDIE 23: If you're trying to get me back for the g-g-g-ghost!

PAULA 23: Eddie, I'm serious I –

*PAULA 53 enters from upstairs. PAULA 23 sees her and screams.*

EDDIE 23: Good scream.

*EDDIE 23 turns, feigning shock. He sees PAULA 53.*

Oh!

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

EDDIE 23: What...? Who are you? What are you doing here in our... in our...? Well?

PAULA 23: Well?

EDDIE 23: Well?

PAULA 23: Are you...? Are you one of... the others? One of the Hendersons or the Hartleys? Or... a Penhaligon perhaps?

PAULA 53: Dear God!

EDDIE 23: What?

PAULA 53: No.

PAULA 23: I'm sorry, but we're booked in here... for the next ten days.

PAULA 53: You can't be!

PAULA 23: We are.

EDDIE 23: We are.

PAULA 53: No... no... it's not possible.

EDDIE 23: Well... we are.

PAULA 23: We can call my parents if you don't – if you don't –

PAULA 53: Paula?

PAULA 23: Yes?

PAULA 53: Oh! Eddie?

EDDIE 23: Yes?

PAULA 53: Oh!

EDDIE 23: You... know us?

PAULA 53: *(Calling towards the window.)* Eddie!

EDDIE 23: Yes?

PAULA 53: *(Calling towards the window.)* Eddie!

EDDIE 23: Yes?

PAULA 53: *(Calling towards the window.)* Eddie!

EDDIE 23: Look... who are you?

PAULA 53: Paula?

PAULA 23: Yes?

PAULA 53: Don't you...? You don't... recognise me?

PAULA 23: Are you a friend of my parents?

PAULA 53: No... No, Paula.

*EDDIE 53 appears outside the window. He looks through and then hurriedly exits.*

EDDIE 23: Who's that?

PAULA 53: Eddie.

EDDIE 23: Yes?

PAULA 53: No, he's Eddie... too.

*EDDIE 53 enters through the front door.*

EDDIE 53: Hello, what's going on in here? *(To PAULA 53.)* Paula?

PAULA 23: Yes?

EDDIE 53: Can we help you?

EDDIE 23: No. Can we help you?

EDDIE 53: I don't think so. Who are you?

EDDIE 23: Who are you?

EDDIE 53: Eddie Hobson.

EDDIE 23: Yes?

EDDIE 53: What?

EDDIE 23: I'm Eddie Hobson, yes.

EDDIE 53: No, I'm Eddie Hobson.

EDDIE 23: No... I am.

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

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

PAULA 23: My parents do.

EDDIE 23: Her parents do.

PAULA 53: Paula Parks.

EDDIE 53: What?

PAULA 53: Eddie?

EDDIE 23: *(Together.)* Yes?

EDDIE 53: *(Together.)* Yes?

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

EDDIE 53: What?

PAULA 53: Look at them, Eddie... us. Eddie Hobson, Paula Parks.

EDDIE 53: Oh my God! Oh my... God!

EDDIE 23: Excuse me?

EDDIE 53: What...? What's...?

PAULA 53: I don't know.

EDDIE 53: It's us!

PAULA 53: Yes.

EDDIE 53: It's us, isn't it?

PAULA 53: Yes.

EDDIE 53: That's us!

PAULA 53: Yes.

EDDIE 23: Look... I don't know what you're talking about, but there's obviously been a mistake with the booking.

EDDIE 53: I'm afraid it's... it's a... a little more than that, Eddie.

PAULA 53: Paula?

PAULA 23: Yes?

PAULA 53: Look at me. Take a good look at me.

EDDIE 53: Look at me, Eddie.

PAULA 53: There's nothing about me that seems... familiar, Paula?

PAULA 23: No.

PAULA 53: Nothing?

EDDIE 53: Anything about me, Eddie?

EDDIE 23: No. Who are you?

EDDIE 53: Eddie Hobson. We're both Eddie Hobson, Eddie.

EDDIE 23: Then that's... that's where the mistake's been.

EDDIE 53: What?

EDDIE 23: With the booking. We're both Eddie Hobson. And you've obviously –

EDDIE 53: No, Eddie, there's only one Eddie Hobson... and that's us.

EDDIE 23: What?

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

EDDIE 23: If... if you don't leave now we'll call the authorities.

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

PAULA 23: Eddie, come on let's –

PAULA 53: Wait, Paula... You chipped a tooth back here from falling out

of a peddle boat in Benidorm when you were thirteen? Threw up in Billy Chandler's tent on a school camping trip? Remember that? Mortifying.

PAULA 23: 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: You set fire to your hair on your eleventh birthday, Paula, trying to blow out the candles on your cake.

EDDIE 53: The holiday in Corfu, Eddie, behind the sand dunes with the girl from Stroud. Things got cut short when you got stung on the bum by a bee.

EDDIE 23: How do you know?

EDDIE 53: Because I was there, Eddie. That happened to me.

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

PAULA 23: *(Horrifed.)* Oh!

*PAULA 23 hurries out the front door.*

PAULA 53: Obviously not.

EDDIE 23: Paulie? Paulie?

EDDIE 53: Eddie –

*EDDIE 23 hurries out the front door.*

Eddie –

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

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: That was us.

PAULA 53: Yes.

EDDIE 53: There must be some... some anomaly in the –

PAULA 53: Yes, there must be.

EDDIE 53: Some... glitch in the –

PAULA 53: Yes, 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.

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: Yes, we did. But we didn't meet us again, did we? If we did I

would remember it and I don't. Do you?

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

EDDIE 53: No. Then they or we must've disappeared just after meeting us. The glitch in the... whatever it is must've –

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

EDDIE 53: No?

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

EDDIE 53: Back then?

PAULA 53: Yes. And now.

EDDIE 53: I think I need to lie down.

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

EDDIE 53: 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 and I don't – which means you don't either.

PAULA 53: Well, not yet we don't.

EDDIE 53: What?

PAULA 53: If we do meet us again we'll remember it, that's what I'm saying.

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

*PAULA 53 crosses to the front door and looks out.*

Any sign of us? Perhaps we've vanished already. The tear in the timeline's knitted itself up again – if that's what's happened. Or the portal's sucked us back in – or them... if it is a portal. 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. I remember it was a bit of a shock meeting us here – you and me back then meeting us – older us, now – wasn't it? To see how we'd... changed. We didn't speak about it too much though afterwards, did we? 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... We ended up questioning whether it had actually happened at all, didn't we? Now we know it did. Still nothing? So... what will you say to us – if we do meet us again?

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

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 – given to us by somebody up there – to me, to repair... the damage I've done to... to... 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: Like I say: a chance, a second chance given to us – to me, to –

*EDDIE 23 appears at the window outside. He 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: Please, whoever you are, we'd like you to go... please.

PAULA 53: We will, Eddie.

EDDIE 53: Will we?

PAULA 53: Yes, we will.

EDDIE 53: Yes, we will. Go where?

PAULA 53: Somewhere else. I just want to speak to Paula.

EDDIE 23: She doesn't want to speak to you.

PAULA 53: Then we shan't leave. Just for five minutes.

EDDIE 23: Look –

PAULA 53: Just for five minutes, Eddie, that's all.

EDDIE 53: Five minutes.

PAULA 53: Then we'll go. We promise.

EDDIE 53: Promise. We'll go... somewhere else.

EDDIE 23: *(Calling back.)* Paulie, they just want to talk for five minutes. Then they promise to go.

*PAULA 23 appears at the front door.*

PAULA 53: Come in, Paula, it's your place just as much as ours.

PAULA 23: How did you know about...?

PAULA 53: I know it's a shock, Paula, meeting us – me. I remember it was, when we met us – when I met you – thirty years ago. But I

don't think I've done too badly, considering... *you've* done too badly, that is.

PAULA 23: What... what's...?

EDDIE 53: We think there must've been some kind of glitch in the –

PAULA 53: We don't know.

EDDIE 53: No, we don't. But we're thinking we're meeting here like this for a reason. We need to tell you things you need to know about, 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: Amongst other things.

EDDIE 53: Yes... amongst other things.

EDDIE 23: Look –

EDDIE 53: Eddie, perhaps you and I should have a little word alone together... outside by the pool, perhaps.

EDDIE 23: No.

EDDIE 53: You'll thank me for it later, Eddie, if you do. Trust me.

PAULA 53: Paula, can we speak privately please, upstairs?

PAULA 23: No. Four minutes.

EDDIE 23: Four minutes.

PAULA 53: Okay, well, I might as well lay it on the line. (*To EDDIE 23.*) And it's probably good that you're here to hear it too, Eddie.

EDDIE 53: What are you going to say? Paula?

PAULA 53: Eddie, Paula, you have a wonderful future ahead of you both.

EDDIE 53: You do.

PAULA 53: Full of memorable, magical experiences. Meeting fascinating people... travel... romance... adventure... fun!

EDDIE 53: Yes.

PAULA 53: 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.

PAULA 53: It is.

EDDIE 53: Don't listen too her. We've had lots of good times, plenty of good times – together.

PAULA 53: One or two.

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

PAULA 53: 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 omitting 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.

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: Escorts – just the one. Listen, Eddie –

EDDIE 23: Look, please, whoever you are, 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. You need to talk to me – older you, wiser you.

EDDIE 23: You are not me!

EDDIE 53: Ask me anything about you, Eddie, and I'll tell you. Falling off the back of Andrew Bennett's bike and fracturing your wrist. Getting drunk on Nigel Radcliffe's dad's whisky in his tree-house and not coming down. Louise Williams in the bike shed. Want me to go on?

EDDIE 23: No.

PAULA 53: Paula, please can we just –

PAULA 23: No, go away!

PAULA 53: Paula –

PAULA 23: Go away! Go away! Go away!

*PAULA 23 hurries upstairs.*

PAULA 53: Paula?

EDDIE 23: Paulie?

PAULA 53: Paula?

EDDIE 53: Paula?

PAULA 23: Go away!

*PAULA 23 exits upstairs.*

EDDIE 23: Paulie?

*Sound of door slamming upstairs.*

Look, please just go!

EDDIE 53: Eddie –

EDDIE 23: We don't want you here!

EDDIE 53: Eddie –

EDDIE 23: Go away! Go away! Go away!

*EDDIE 23 exits upstairs. Sound of door slamming 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. We've had plenty of good times together. Plenty. I don't think you had to throw the baby out with the bathwater quite so... entirely. Well, despite your best efforts, we obviously stuck together... up until now.

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

EDDIE 23: You can take these with you.

*EDDIE 23 throws the cases down the stairs.*

EDDIE 53: Eddie? Eddie?

*EDDIE 23 exits upstairs.*

Bit like being back at the airport, isn't it. Looks like we need to find a hotel somewhere, we're obviously not welcome here. Don't worry, separate rooms. Separate hotels, if that's too close for comfort. At least let me help you with your case.

PAULA 53: Gemma Hardwicke.

EDDIE 53: What?

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

EDDIE 53: Whose?

PAULA 53: Gemma Hardwicke's.

EDDIE 53: What about her?

PAULA 53: You always had a thing for her, didn't you?

EDDIE 53: Why do you bring her up?

PAULA 53: 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: It didn't last long between them you said, a few months. She sent you that letter pouring out her heart, didn't she? She regretted breaking up with you. You did, with her.

EDDIE 53: Did I?

PAULA 53: I know you did. I remember, you used to call her name in your sleep. Not only in your sleep, a couple of times when we were... I recall. She would've taken you back quite readily. In fact she may not have gone with Mr Ponytail in the first place if you'd worked a bit harder – romantically – 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 – you and I, I mean.

EDDIE 53: We were in love.

PAULA 53: We *thought* we were.

EDDIE 53: I was, with you.

PAULA 53: You *thought* you were.

EDDIE 53: I was. 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... us.

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: David and I could've had something amazing together.

EDDIE 53: Really.

PAULA 53: We did, briefly, before he went. 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. But 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. I did.

EDDIE 53: Thanks.

PAULA 53: It just wasn't... love. Real love.

EDDIE 53: Well, I felt real love for you whatever you say.

*PAULA 53 opens her case and takes out an article of clothing. She puts it over her pyjamas.*

Anyway I've still got no idea why you're bringing them up it's not like we can change anything now. What are you doing?

PAULA 53: Like you say, we can't stay here. We're going to find a hotel.

EDDIE 53: Together?

PAULA 53: Yes, together. We need to talk.

EDDIE 53: Do we?

PAULA 53: Yes.

EDDIE 53: 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: *(PAULA 53 and EDDIE 53.)* No, not about us... *(PAULA 23 and EDDIE 23.)* About us.

*PAULA 53 exits through the front door with her suitcase. EDDIE 53 fetches his case and follows after. He closes the door behind him. 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 and briefly glances into the kitchen. He crosses to the front door and looks out.*

*(Calling.)* Hello?

*He turns back into the room.*

They're gone.

*Blackout.*