

DRUM THEATRE
PLYMOUTH THEATRES

Grand Assembly



STOCKHOLM

ONE – THE SURPRISE APPEARANCE OF SPRING

We are outside.

Lovely spring weather.

TODD is there. OFF-kilter.

He has shopping.

TODD

It's

Saturday

In a few days soon they'll be in Stockholm.

They've both cleared their schedules.

Booked a *great* room.

Flights. They're flying 'Finn Air' **He grins**

Everything's been planned with 'Mission Impossible *One*'
close-attention-to-detail brilliance...

It's going to be Magic.

He can't wait.

That cold bright city.

Magnetically pulling him...

He's a compass a weathervane a magnet he can find...

North.

Where in summer the sun shines all the time

Where come winter it's dark most of the most of the

But

That's in the future

This afternoon

They're returning hand in hand to the lovely home

They've made together...

And yet

It's quite weird...

He's lost her

He can't see her

And he wants to tell her something that just happened that

Look!

Spring arrived!

A sense of [**Sings**] 'Schooooooool's out for Summer!'

A presence of unopened buds

Warm wind gently blowing on his cheek

And it's *unsettling* him...but not in a 'bud' way

Kali!

Where are you?

And **KALI's** there...

With identical shopping

KALI

Where were you?

TODD

Here.

Where were you?

KALI

There. Newsagent.

Why didn't you come in with me?

TODD

Didn't see you go in.

Look!

KALI

I can't look.

TODD

It's Spring!!!

KALI

I'm still in the film

TODD

They're coming back from seeing a film

Wind...listen!

KALI

I can only hear Swedish

I love that film love it love it love it to death love it!

TODD

A matinee

They love going to films together in the afternoon

KALI

Particularly when it's *Someone's* Birthday!

TODD

Particularly then...as part of a spectacularly put-together

Birthday Day...

KALI

Afternoon. Film.

No Dick-flicks no Chick-flicks allowed.

TODD

Class.

KALI

'der seligen sele?

TODD

[**Prompts...**] subtitles...

KALI

'The Seventh Seal'.

I love Ingmar Bergman.

Fuck off Ingmar Bergman you were so fucking talented

Love him love him love him to death whoops! love him.

TODD

'The Seventh Seal'. A classic film.

A benchmark in Swedish...nay European nay World cinema...

They've been doing the late Bergman's entire oeuvre...

KALI

Persona Wild Strawberries Summer with Monika

Silence.../

Fanny and Alexander...now the Seventh Seal...

TODD

They're a thorough couple.
Hey...they want to be up to speed for Stockholm

KALI

Okay.
I want to be Swedish.

TODD

You can be Swedish when we go to Stockholm.

KALI

I want to be Swedish *now*.

TODD

Okay. Uppen Lampen Moben Chairer Billy Bookcase...

KALI

That's not Swedish! That's *Ikean*...?

TODD

It's a Swedish *dialect*. From the *region* of Ikea...

KALI

Speak Swedish Chef dialect...

TODD

From the Swedish Chef region?

Okay. [SWEDISH CHEF – something very dirty...]
Herdleberdishmerdi...?

KALI

[DITTO...shocked] Herdleberdishmerdi? Skadoo!

And she laughs with delight.

TODD

He likes to make her laugh
He loves to have her laughing
She's got an award-winning laugh...

[Something even dirtier...] Kenergen shmergen nergen

KALI

Nergen???? Skadoo!!!

TODD

[Something along the lines of 'I don't know what's
wrong with suggesting a good *nergen*']
...Shnerdlhbode nurdleshermerde nergen

They're walking back through the celluloid Swedish
countryside

They're a susceptible and imaginative twosome...

Everywhere threatened with The Black Death

Everyone else in comedy tights

They are hoping that *they're* the lovely couple who escape The
Plague

KALI

And they are...

TODD

And they're home.

With their key

He lets them in

Welcome to their house.

TWO – INTERIOR: OUR GLORIOUS HOME

KALI

This place when they first saw it...

TODD

Two years ago only two years ago!

They put down their identical shopping and...

They go

Back in time...

KALI

Come in here. Take a look.

TODD
She brings me into this amazing place...

And they are there...

He shudders...

KALI
What?

TODD
Nothing.
Wow.

KALI
'Wow' *exclamation!*

TODD
Back then, she wanted to be *French*...

KALI
Went off French.

TODD
Aujourd'hui, elle deteste France, *Grand Style*...

KALI
The place.

TODD
The place

KALI
Fucking empty echoing nightmare

TODD
Nothing but a pleassic-jurassic sofa amid the quietly looming
mildewed debris...

KALI
Which they with Proustian precision shagged on

TODD
Their christening
As gently as precisely as dipping a Madeline biscuit into a
china cup of tea...

A precise mime of...

Dip
Moisten

KALI
Soften

TODD
Crumble

KALI
Fall to crumbs

TODD
Eaten

BOTH
Marlborough Light. [End of game]

KALI
Made it theirs sort of 'Rosemary's Baby'...

Seizing their fate...

Bought it

Took it

gutted it

TODD
Pleassic-jurassic sofa...

**Impressive mime of them both throwing the sofa strong
as super-heroes *The Incredibles* into the far cosmos...**

KALI
Took it back to just the four walls really
They got an architect friend of theirs

TODD
Mick
My old friend who became her new friend

KALI
who drew up
The most wonderful plans
They've worked like slaves
But it was worth it

TODD
So worth it

They repick up their identical shopping...

KALI
It's got no scintilla of irony the *wow* factor

TODD
Shnerdlhbo wow!

KALI
It's exactly how they wanted it
Look at it
Look at it
It was worth it all the... all of it

THREE – A DARK HALL WITH A MOTH IN IT

They put their identical shopping down in...

KALI
This is their surprisingly-large-for-this-style-property-hall.

TODD
Postman's been.
On the retro ironic 'welcome' mat...
There's a letter.

She looks.

KALI
It's for you.
Ooh.

From 'Mummy'

A terrible embarrassing outpouring of longing from the letter inside the envelope...

MUMMY
...Todd! Todd!
TODDDYYYYYYY!!! Oh, Todd darling darling darling Todd
Todd Todd Todd... what are you doing where've you gone
why've you gone oh oh Todd Todd my boy!!!!

TODD
Fuck!
Shut the fuck *up!*
What *is* this...fucking 'Mommie Dearest'???

KALI
Is he going to open *that* envelope of worms?

TODD
Leave it there.
Not *that!*

MUMMY
Todd! Todd!!!! Mummy wants you! Mummy wants you
back!!! Todd!!!

TODD
[To the letter inside the envelope]
Not on my Birthday!!!!

To her...
I'm not going to let that mad bitch ruin our day!

KALI
My Good Boy.
My Wannabe Orphan.

Luckily, we don't read English...we're Swedish
Shmerdliberdli!AFuck?

TODD
No not just

KALI
We're Swedish
I'm Swedish
You're Swedish...
Shmerdliberdli!AFuck?

TODD
Skadoo ['no']

KALI
Skadoo, A Fuck?
Skadoo???
Hmmm...
Well then...
ShmerdliberdiaSuck?

TODD
Skadoo

KALI
Skadoo?
Don't 'skadoo' me
Never 'skadoo' me
Don't give me that old 'skadoo'
Don't be skadoogative with *me!*
I won't take 'skadoo' for an answer

And she pins him against the wall as...

TODD
And he leans back against the paint of the wall of the hall
Of the house that Love built
In the hall they decorated together
And let's her take unzip him

Detrouser him
Peel his outer layer
Her onion

She performs an accomplished and elegant sex act upon him as

That's 'Harlequin *Indulgence!* [the wallpaper]
That's 'Antique White' [the paintwork]
It was dark it was so depressingly dark in here
It needed some light
It needed some natural light...

Look at the floor.
These tiles...

This colour gives a rugged warmth to the... doesn't it?
These tiles are from an architectural salvage supply company
They picked them out individually from a pile in the yard
Arranged them into their own pattern...
They're really really old
But God aren't they *beautiful*...?

And she pleasures is that what you say in your
language? him
His Swedish Film Star

It's as good as ever
No call to brag

Hey
They put in the hours the practice
Yes, as good as ever
Except...
While it's happening
There's a fluttering off left
Around near his head
A something alive a not of him...

He tries to watch it...
It with wings lands
On the letter from his fucking mother

And

He can see

It's a moth!!!

Something in like charcoal on its furry head

Is it A skull...?

a moth in their dark hall

And he is...

I don't think I can

She holds him in his last throes as...

He's not alone he's not alone he's not alone he's not alone

He's not alone he's not alone he's not alone he's not alone

He's not alone he's not alone [until...]

He's *Alone!!!*

And he's come.

KALI

I love you.

TODD

I love you.

KALI

That'll be 50 krone, please.

Marlborough Light.

You Swedish fucker.

**And it's all laughter and light...and wild dancing...
impossibly over walls and ceilings...**

TODD

He can't wait to go to Stockholm.

FOUR – A CUPBOARD UNDER THE STAIRS

She picks up the identical shopping...

KALI

[As she passes it...]

There's a cupboard under the stairs

We haven't tackled that yet

She gets past

**As he passes, SOMETHING much stronger than him
reaches out and takes him in its grip into the small
cupboard...**

It speaks

US

Got you!

Look at this, Todd!

Look where you are.

Look around, Todd...

See how *narrow* it is?

This is a very small airless cramped space!

This is where we might keep you.

Would you like that? Would you?

Scrunched up here like an old electricity bill?

TODD

No

US

Okay then...

Here's what you need to do...

Lay your hands upon a large serviceable bag that can hold
everything.

Fill it with happiness.

Complete utter radiant eternal happiness

Next, get the keys to a vehicle

A car that can take us *anywhere*

Next! Make a plan. A *perfect* plan.

Nothing has to go wrong.

Nothing.

This plan needs to work like clockwork.

Okay.

A big bag of happiness.
 A perfect vehicle
 A perfect plan
 That's all.
 It's not much to ask.
 Get It.

And it pushes him back out of the confined space, out of the cupboard.

KALI is somewhere unpacking the shopping

KALI

[Off] Where are you?

TODD

Here

KALI

[Off] What's wrong?

TODD

Nothing.

Coming.

FIVE – A BLOWN-UP PHOTOGRAPH – OUR FIRST MEAL

She is in their beautiful knocked-through kitchen-living space...

Shopping unpacked on a surface...now...

She takes out a couple of bottles of champagne.

KALI

This is their USP knocked-through-kitchen-cum-living space

They don't drink much usually.

Don't need to.

They are naturally filled with intoxication!

But tonight...she's got him a lovely surprise...

His favourite...

La Veuve...

The Widow!

She hides it. Ready for later. Ready.

She opens a fridge.

Something insides receives, with ecstasy, the champagne...

US

Yes Yes Yes

Yes Yes

Yessssss!!!!

She closes the fridge.

TODD enters the kitchen space.

They unpack and sort the shopping brilliantly.

They show us that they could unpack shopping for England.

Olympic Standard Unpack Team.

There's a photo framed right next to the fridge...

KALI

This is them

The night they met

When they became *us*

Just a Polaroid someone took but

she said 'let me have that...'

Had it touched up

Blown up/kerboom to this...

She was at a restaurant opening

A restaurant that's closed now

She's taking you for a brief moment a visit back in time

And she whisks us back to...

She's a hell of a time witch

Big night

Restaurant opening under new improved management

There was a taster menu...

She can't remember who else was there...?

Hadn't she come with friends?

She can't have come alone

That's not *her*...

And who was *he* with...?

Doesn't matter

It doesn't matter

It doesn't matter...

Who was *he* with?

Who?

Who?

Who?

Stop.

Doesn't...

She must ask him

Who *he* came with...

That blonde girl...

She must ask him.....

What did we talk about...?

She can't remember them even speaking...

Some music was playing

The music was

The music was

And it is playing...

Like in films

Exterior

Surrounding scene becomes runny and glittery and fuzzy

Like a sudden rainstorm on a water colour landscape...

then

Interior

Woman alone in house

We the audience see the blurry outline of someone behind her at the window...

then

Crowd shot

Woman alone in crowd...

Someone's watching her

But

The woman

she

all she can see take in is...

The near aspect

The near aspect is a table, two knives, two forks, glasses...

Stranger enters

He comes in...

And for a moment there's absolutely nothing about this ordinary him that would...

TODD

Hi

Adam

KALI

Hi

Eve

TODD

No!!!

KALI

Actually...No.

TODD

Actually...no either.

Actually...David.

KALI

Hi David.

Victoria...

They are sitting down opposite one another...

TODD
No!

KALI
Actually No!!!

TODD
Actually...again No!

Actually...Bond. James Bond.

KALI
Actually, any one of those fucking vacuous male fantasy fucking plastic cunt holes just for fucking in any of those fucking dick flicks...
let's settle for

Pussy

TODD
He likes her intensity

KALI
She likes that he likes her intensity
It's something she's been working on
Although actually it's really not something she needs to work on...
Shall we start again?

TODD
Todd.

KALI
Nice name. Foxy.
Kali.

TODD
Nice name too.
Sort of

They look at one another.

Food arrived at some point...

They start to drink one another
They start to cut each other up and eat each other...
And pour each other and drink each other
They savour and devour each other
during which...

TODD
Delicious.

It's like something in the food that night in the drink
That night

KALI
Like the menu read...

Lotus Fruit come to my island
or

That fucking flower out of Midsummer Night's Dream that goes on the lids makes the eyes... [droop]
Rohypnol

TODD
He's never tasted anything quite like it before.
It makes him forget things
Oh what...?

KALI
She's experienced this before where?
Who?

Not *this* intense
Not *this* *delicious*

And back in the Now...
From that moment?
Inseparable
The Siamese Twins

Where are you?

TODD

Here

Can we have some music on please?

KALI

Music. Sure. Yes.

And there is music...

He's looking out of their window

Towards the distant horizon

Except

There's no view of the distant horizon from this room...

What is he looking for?

She watches him looking out

She's got to make sure he enjoys his birthday...

He must be given a lovely day

She starts to dance with him...

It goes everywhere dangerous...

No going in the fridge.

There's a big surprise in there.

You must apply to me in writing if you need to go in the fridge..

Okay?

TODD

I'm cooking...how the/...?

KALI

To Me. In Writing.

TODD

Okay.

SIX – AND YET ANOTHER ONE LAST DANCE...

TODD

[As he dances]

I absolutely can't dance with you now.

I have to think about our supper.

And she says

KALI

Please.

One last dance.

TODD

Look at the time!

I have to cook su/...

KALI

/The club's closing

The music.....they'll turn it off after this one

This last dance oh!

It's a slow one

And there's just the two of them

Out on the dance floor

And

TODD

we love each others to bits

KALI

You're my world.

You are my night and day

TODD

Swirling

He's an epileptic under a glitter ball

KALI

Everybody's moved back to watch them

US
Ooooooh!!!

TODD
Every time...every time they dance together...
A serried global gasp of awful awe

US
Aaaaaah!!!

KALI
Turning

We're dancing
We're in each other's arms
We're holding each other close
We're in step
We're part of the music oh!
We *are* the music
They're playing...
It's our song!!!
And we dance
And we dance
And we dance
And we dance
And we dance
And who was the blonde girl you were in the restaurant
with
That time?

TODD
What time... [**He knows 'what' time!**]

KALI
That first time.
Our first meeting
Darling sweetheart
That blonde thing
With the sagging great mango tits...

TODD
Repeat after me.

She was called Josette...

BOTH
She was called Josette.
She was French.
She now lives in Marseilles with a very nice doctor
And two adorable French children
And has no plans we believe for reconnecting with Todd
Pour une rencontre avec Todd

TODD
He's losing all his fucking French now he doesn't speak it any
more...
And we've been through this.
What did we agree?
What did we agree?

BOTH
We agreed that retro-jealousy
Over past lovers was a waste of cosmic time...

Dumb
Stupid

KALI
That we trust one another
That our love is strong impenetrable
can

Move mountains
Ford rivers
Survive three months of Serbian builders

TODD
Dearest darling beautiful wonderful thing
Do you know how much I love adore just love fantasise want
need have to have must have love passionately eternally
perpetually love you desire you want you?

They look at one another

KALI
Don't leave me.

TODD
I won't leave you.

Their landline rings

SEVEN – HAPPY BIRTHDAY FROM YOUR CRAZY FAMILY

KALI
Do you want to get that?

TODD
No.

This is hallowed holy sacred 'us' time.

Do you want to get it?

KALI
She can't bear phones.

She's probably phone-phobic that's probably...

Available you're so fucking available these days...
Fucking phones.

**Ansaphone clicks. Their recorded comedy-message.
It records them trying out their new music/sound
effect-making software package...they aspire to Laurie
Anderson's 'O Superman'.
Quite new, it amuses them...**

TODD / KALI
Hello, this is Us. Us us us usssssssss

KALI... Me.

TODD... and Me.

KALI... Kaataaaah!.....

TODD... Toddoddoddoddodd

BOTH... Why are You Calling Us At A Time Like This???

Why are you calling us at a time like this???

TODD... If you must *absolutely* must

KALI... and only then...

TODD... Leave a short message which we probably

Won't respond to...

Otherwise

BOTH... JUST FUCK OFF

Into song...

FUCK OFF

FUCK OFF

OUR FUCKING PHONE

AND

LEAVE US ALONE

LEAVE US ALONE

LEAVE US ALONE!

WE'RE OCCUPIED RIGHT NOW...!!!!

TODD
God, we're Good!

Ansaphone clicks in...

ANSAPHONE

Hello, it's Mummy.

Just ringing to send love to you both...

Hello... Kali... dear

And, of course, Happy Birthday, Todd Darling!

We don't know what you're doing today...

You might be in Stockholm already...

I can't remember when you're going to...

Anyway... whatever you're doing...

I hope you're having a wonderful time...

And so does Daddy...

Pause

Then...

MOTHER / FATHER

[Almost in tune...]

Happy Birthday to you

Happy Birthday to you

Happy birthday dear To-odd...
Happy Birthday to you!

MOTHER
Happy Birthday, darling!

FATHER
Yes. Happy Birthday, er... Happy Birthday, son.

Pause...

MOTHER
[Background...]

Hang up now, for goodness sake Frank, please, quick, we're not...hang...

Clicks off

KALI
How sweet.

Mummy and Daddy.
Mummy and Daddy.

Calling on your Big Day, Little Boy.
Why didn't you pick up?

TODD
I've cooking to do.

Honestly, people making me *dance*
Wanting me to *talk* to them...

KALI
Don't you want to talk to them?

TODD
Not at this moment in time, no.

KALI
But you *do* want to talk to them *some* moment in time.
On your birthday...

Don't you.
Don't you?

TODD
Well, they *are* my parents!

Later
No

KALI
See?

You do want to talk to them really.
Oh yes.

They are your family, after all.
Even if she is Cunt of Cunt Hall.

Lady Cunt.
And Lord Cunt-Fuck too.

Lord and Lady Cunt-Fuck of Cunt-Fuck Manor...
Your *parents* after all ...even *despite* their Cunt-Fuck Manor
treatment of *me*

Call them
Call them

It's your birthday
Call them

TODD
No.

No.

KALI
Why won't you call them?

Why?

Why?

TODD
I DO NOT WANT TO.

KALI
Why not? Why not?
Because...?

TODD
Because I can't stand my parents for fuck sake!
Because I hate how they treat you!
Because I want to be with just *you* on my birthday.
Because I want to cook our dream dinner now.
Can I please cook our dream dinner now?

KALI
Do what you like.
I've stuff to do upstairs.

TODD
What stuff?
KALI
Private stuff.

TODD
What private stuff?

KALI
Private private stuff.

Can I borrow your mobile?

TODD
Why d'you want to borrow my mobile?

KALI
I just do.

TODD
Is yours broken?

KALI
No. Is yours?

TODD
No.

KALI
Well, then, let me borrow it. Mardy-arse.
Please. Thank you.

And she gets it...
And now he can't just call or speak or text or email
Because she knows he won't dare use the landline and she's
got this and she's going on the computer so all he can do is
sneak out the door...

TODD
[Calls up...]
I'm just popping down to the shop!

KALI
See?

Why?

TODD
We forgot fennel!

KALI
Do without fennel.

TODD
It'll only take a minute!

KALI
Do without fucking fennel.

TODD
But it's good with fish...

KALI
We don't need fennel.

TODD
But with fish it's...

KALI
Can we seriously not live without fennel?

TODD
Yes, but...

A lot of silence in both their spaces...

Oh.

Alright. We can live without fennel.

KALI

Why does he want to leave such a lovely house...?

Why does he pretend to forget the fennel?

So he can sneak out to pretend he's buying fucking fennel?

How remedial does he think she is?

EIGHT – FISH

He stares at the ingredients.

TODD

No fucking fennel. Fennelless. Sans la fenouille. Skadoo

Fennel.

Okay.

Potatoes.

Rosemary. That's for Remembrance.

Strawberries. Chocolate. That's for Hot Sex.

Mixed leaves. That's for Roughage.

He opens the fish. Lays out two trout staring up at him.

Don't look at me like that.

You old trout.

He takes a fuck-off knife out of a block.

Some fabulous 'Pirates-of-the-Caribbean cutlass work with it as...

NINE – THE ATTIC OF STARS

She's in the office attic...

KALI

This attic might be her favourite room

It was just roof space far as the eye can

Full of junk

All the families who used to live here just dumped all their shit up here... magazines newspapers from Biblical times old photographs she's not a Big Fan of 'Families'

There was a dessicated fossilised flat mouse stuck to this floor joist just here

Where she's standing now...just a model city of piles piles of shit some baby clothes filthy rolls of early wallpaper with a garish but now faded space rocket design...

Nearly *filled* the largest size skip!

Fucking families

They've made it so they can stand up straight in it

They've put in velux windows so they can see for miles upon city miles

God, the views

This is the one room in the house they can see to the distant horizon...

But she doesn't look at that...

Who has he been phoning?

She investigates his mobile

Who has he been texting?

Mick
 Mick
 Topher
 Work
 Work
 Mick
 Mummy Lady Cunt-Fuck has learned how to text...
 Interesting...
 Nothing in his calls
 Ansaphone empty.
 No shit Sherlock!
 Let's go into missed calls...elementary my dear Watson...
 Missed calls...
 Topher Mick *Domino Pizzal* Mr Gordon-fucking-Ramsay???
 Mick
 Hello?
 A number she doesn't recognise...
 But has been expecting...
 A Mystery number
She calls the mystery number
 Ansaphone message woman's voice...
 She's called Louise...
 She wants me to leave a message...
 No chance, Cunt!
 So
 She was right
 A leopard does not change his acne
US
 Look all you like
 Look as far as you like

You're still earthbound Earthing
 These are not your stars
 There are no stars for you
 You cannot see constellations
 You're a blind girl
 You're a deaf girl
 You have learning difficulties
 You are mind impaired
 Nowhere you look is far enough away for you
 You are a black hole
 You are an infinite black hole
 We are very disappointed to discover you still do not
 Realise this!

**And they give her back...
 shuts the mobile**

yes...from this room...the most fabulous views...
 You can see Iceland on a clear day...

She's looking out of the window...

At night, stars. Fuck the stars you can see.
 And for her last Christmas...
 He always buys her extravagant presents
 ...he bought her *a telescope!!!*

She puts her hand on it.

He's shown her and shown her how to use the fucking thing...
 But every time she tries to do it on her own...
 It fucking fucks up

She looks through

Nothing!

Gives it a vicious shake...

It's a sort of library reference officey space
 The desk here with all the bose and mac-ery and
 ipodderly...
 Makes it like the flight deck of the Starship Enterprise...

Like she's the controller of something...

but mostly
up here

she wishes he had given her instead
an instrument that hasn't been invented yet...
something small enough to conceal

something so powerful
it can look into someone's brain
and see what they are thinking...
to check absolutely
that someone means what he says...

What are you doing?

TODD

[From downstairs...]

Cooking

What are you doing?

KALI

Reading

And she looks at something on the screen...

TEN – A FISH RECIPE

And in their separate spaces...

TODD goes near to the landline phone.

Looks at it for a bit...goes back to...

TODD

'in a pan gently sweat ... the onions, leeks, garlic and *fennel*...'

KALI

'Quality Hotel Prince Olaf

Oxholsmsgrand 2

Stockholm

Sweden

Come to this charming hotel

consisting of just 32 rooms all equipped to ensure a
comfortable stay for our guests and leave all your everyday
cares at home'...

TODD

'gently sweat hah!... in butter just to start the softening
process...'

all the vegetables...
softening process...

He somehow discovers himself by the landline receiver
again.

He goes to the fridge

KALI

'each 'premium' rate room possesses a luxurious
private bathroom with a top-of-the-range array of comfort
products to soak all those cares away...'

'Massages are available inquire at reception professionally-
trained Swedish hands will make those tensions disappear...'

Extensive mini-bar.

Private wet room

Trouser press...'

He opens the fridge.

He finds the champagne.

US

this was a smart move getting us this fridge

this keeps everything fresh

this protects our sell-by date

you can store everything in here for as long as you like

we like this refrigerated space

nothing in here goes bad

nothing in here goes off

you can halt decomposition here

this means we can stay here as long as we like..

**He looks at it.
Puts it back.**

He shuts the fridge.

Goes back to reading the recipe...

TODD

'Sweat in butter

...Just to start the softening process but not so that they give up all resistance...'

**He discovers he is singing something incriminating...like
'I just called to say I love you...'** He stops.

KALI

'Thoroughly relaxed

it is now time to visit the Local attractions which include the Folk Museum, the world's largest IKEA store...'

TODD

'Season'

TODD's mobile goes

KALI answers it...

KALI

His mobile goes

TODD

His mobile goes

KALI

Hello?

TODD

He hopes it's not...

He listens intently...

KALI

Topher!

Good!

Actually, he's in the middle of cooking.../you know what he's like when he's *cooking!*

You can talk to me though...tell me...

Oh, I'm sure he'd have loved that! You should have given us more notice we've made plans for toni...

Home

Romantic Dinner For Two

Aw shame

Where are you all going?

Aw. Shame.

Yeah I'll tell him.

We would have loved that!

TODD

'Lay the vegetables as a bed for your fish.'

Make your bed.

'Place your fish on its vegetable bed.'

Then lie on it

'Dot

With knobs of butter'

You knob.

KALI

[**Quieter...**] Hey, Topher...

Do you know anybody called Louise?

TODD

'Check the fish with a knife..'

Gutted.

KALI

No...somebody left a message

[**It's very light, unimportant...**] and we've no fucking idea who she is!

TODD
‘the flesh should fall easily off the bone’

KALI
It’s probably a wrong number then.
Yeah. Stockholm.

Departing London Heathrow 16.25
Arriving Arlanda Stockholm 19.55

We’re flying Finn Air **[She laughs]**
Can’t wait.

Oh! I can smell food. Got to go...

Yeah

We’ll send you a postcard of The Largest IKEA store in the Universe. Bye

ELEVEN – WHO’S LOUISE?

She descends, hands him back his mobile

KALI
Thanks

TODD
Oh Thank you
Finished with it?

KALI
Completely
Topher says ‘Happy Birthday’

TODD
That’s it?

‘Happy Birthday’?

No ‘Your Hatley Davidson 850 Vintage Edition with Sidecar is on its way?’

KALI
Oh, yeah. He said that was on its way.

TODD
I should fucking think so!

KALI
He was talking about some girl Louise. Do you know her?

She’s watching him, everything for clues...

TODD
Don’t think so. No.

KALI
Well.

She looks at the deeply-amusing clock they bought together at The Conran Sale...

Look! Seven o’clock!
Time for...

She opens the fridge...

KALI
Happy Birthday!

She has two champagne bottles

TODD
Do we need that?
Weren’t we going to go teetotal till...

KALI
It’s your birthday!
Stockholm soon!

**He watches her open a bottle.
Pour champagne.
Hand him a glass.
To Stockholm!**

TODD
To Stockholm!

They drink.

He slowly.

She drains the glass.

Pours another.

KALI

Drink up.

TODD

I will.

I'm cooking.

And he is, in the dangerous kitchen...

KALI drinks champagne, watches him cook...as

US

Here's to Us!

TWELVE – THE FLIGHT DETAILS TO STOCKHOLM

KALI

Birthday Dance Time

TODD

Not yet

KALI

Yes

TODD

I'm cooking

KALI

Cook *afterwards*

TODD

Cook first
afterwards

afterwards

and they dance a bit, he really wants to cook...

KALI

Best meal...ever?

TODD

This one

KALI

You are gorgeous

Not counting this one.

TODD

I can't think.

Let's just cook

I'm cooking.

Cook with me.

Chop something.

KALI

Go on.

Best meal ever:

TODD

Not really a meal...but...

Our second fuck...

The champagne strawberry chocolate ice cubes cigarette thing

We got into in the hotel room with the uneven floor...

KALI

that was good

that was hot

how hot was that?

Best meal ever.

Not counting anything we've had together.

Best meal ever...*before*

TODD

ooohhh...

KALI
It's in there...

I can see it

I've got this invisible gismo for seeing into your brain...

Yep

Look!

lovely memory...get it out...on the table...

TODD

Okay.

grilled fresh tomatoes

fabulous dressing...fresh herbs loads of them

some weird pink wine

then

grilled sardines...great plateful of them...

then just cheese some soft like goat cheese...

Pause

KALI

Where was this

TODD

France.

South of France.

KALI

South of France where?

TODD

Just a little town called something like...Green...alle...or
olle or something

KALI

When was this?

TODD

Oh. *Years* ago.

I was a *student* for fuck's sake!

Camping

KALI
This was with...?

TODD

Oh, just this other student.

Pause.

Er. Nickie... That was it. Nickie.

KALI

Not 'Josette'?

TODD

No!

KALI

Not twitly fair-hair mango tins?

TODD

No...

KALI

This was a girlfriend?

TODD

Er...sort of... Very casual...I mean real kid's stuff...I mean...
collegel!

KALI

But you were sleeping together?

TODD

Well yes

What did we agree about retro/jealousy?

KALI

Oh this isn't retro-jealousy

This is contempt this is disgust this is about fundamental
unchangeable character you slept with her but it was just
casual!

TODD
Let's not do this it's my/...

KALI

Look at your face

Look at your smug face

With your delicious French meal

And your 'Er...Nickie I think', 'Yeah...Nick! Nickie!'
Knickers!

And a leopard never changes its student-acne-spots does it

We can still slope off for a delicious meal fuck meal fuck

Meal fuck cunt mobile cunt mobile/ cunt mobile

TODD

What are you talking about...?

KALI

Your smug fucking gorgeous face.

TODD

And

Incredibly rapidly

She claws his face

KALI

Don't lie to me.

TODD

I'm not.

KALI

And this time

Her hand whole arm like a mare kicking lashes out

She hits him

TODD

He sees for a few seconds galaxies of stars

KALI

Liar.

Lying.

Porkies.

Mendacity.

TODD

Please.

For once.

Let's not do this.

It's my birthday.

KALI

You can't lie to me.

Liar.

Who's Louise?

TODD

Louise?

I don't know a Louise

There isn't a fucking Louise

KALI

Oh but there is.

Oh but there is.

It's phenomenally difficult to catch you out you clever
fucking CuntFuck Manor Boy
But I've caught you out at last...

TODD

This again?

KALI

Let's remove that smug fucking expression....

And now, a terrible beautiful fight.

Let's kill him for this betrayal

She, trying for his absolute annihilation.

He, trying to hold her, contain her until the fury passes.

But, it's probably a beautiful wild dance...

TODD

This

With improvisations on a theme

Is how it goes

She leaps for him

KALI

You *fucker!!!!*

TODD

He tries to contain her

Tries to just anticipate her

Parry her

Until all her stuff's out

KALI

Something's in her filling her

That makes her feel *complete*

Whole

TODD

He's stopped experiencing *fear*

Now it's mostly *boredom*

KALI

She ties with her hands her limbs

Kicks

Teeth bite eat fucking sink into that lying unreliable fucking

flesh he's wearing...

TODD

And

It used to be very occasional

But these days a bit more often

One gets past his guard and

Somehow, now, she provokes him enough for him to

lash out at her.

Yes

As ever now

There it is

He hits her.

She ricochets

KALI

Right.

Good.

He hit her.

Get the police.

Domestic violence.

He's going down.

Where's her phone?

Where's her fucking phone?????

THIRTEEN – THE TIME IN STOCKHOLM

He takes the clock off the wall.

Shows it to her.

TODD

whose is this clock?

your clock?

my clock?

our clock?

well, guess what...

Smashes its face into a hard surface.

Shows it to her...

See the time?

this is the exact time

this thing is over

the time this ends!

He puts the clock down.

He dis-arms

Do what you like.

Anything.

Kill

Murder

Destroy

Finish it.

He offers himself to her:

I'm too intelligent for this

This is stupid

This is stupid behaviour

This makes us stupid

He hands her his mobile.

Here. Use mine.

Call somebody.

Anybody.

She does not take up his offer.

He goes back to cooking.

She watches him.

Occasionally, she tries to offer things... Herbs? A utensil?

He ignores it. Or not.

He is indifferent.

**When she feels it absolutely...
then**

absolute remorse.

KALI

Let's get help.

He just carries on clearing up.

I'll get help

I'll see somebody.

I'm too intelligent for this too.

He just carries on clearing.

I know it's me

She sits and watches him...

TODD

[As he tidies...]

It's like getting to the summit of the medium-difficult climb
the violence then the after is the best bit
be cause he doesn't have to read her

control her

stop her

because she *is* going to do it

and all the rest is leading up to it

gentle incline

or steep slope

always leading up to the same top of the same hill with the

same view

it's actually relief the violence

he won't feel the parrot scratches wont start to smart till later
her bites usually really start to nip I mean really 'ouch'
after about twenty minutes

her playful punching of the six-pack she is so proud of calls
forth a pain similar only to an uber-tough exercise regime
the occasional lucky bone dislocation or break usually a finger
usually a little or third finger
usually mends surprisingly quickly...

And now she really is...

KALI

I'm sorry

She truly is. Does she cry?

They both sit.

He watches her for a bit

When he feels, *really* feels forgiveness, true forgiveness...

Then he goes over to her

TODD

There is simply no way of telling anyone outside of this

How attractive it is true remorse

Because it *is* real

She feels it from the bottom of her heart...

He wraps his arms round her

She climbs into him

FOURTEEN – BEDWORLD

He picks her up and they go to a dangerous bed as...

BOTH

We're not sure this isn't our favourite part of the situation!

TODD

Because what is delightful is that at this moment

We actually think it is going to be different from now on!

KALI

What is *delicious* is that we actually *believe* we'll get out of the situation...

TODD

Actually believe in all the press coverage!

'Hostages saved!

Hostages recovered without physical harm!'

KALI

'the helicopters circling the squads of cops in kevlar vests the strategy just went in surrounded the innocent hostages and pulled them out of there!'

TODD
Let's have a little sleep

KALI
Us little hostages are given...

A little late nap

TODD
But what's best about it is

The little present we give each other

The treat

The sweetener

For forgiving each other

**They are on the bed...
And very tender wonderful love-making...as...**

The terrific terrific terrific warm loving we have

KALI

When we feel the war's over

TODD

The absolute heaven absolute bliss we have

KALI

When we are allies victorious allies
Succeeding against all the odds...

TODD

When we are completely *us*

KALI

And that's when we let each other sleep for a while...

They fall asleep.

They throw their sleeping shapes in their pattern.

Even in their sleep, there is territory, negotiation and danger.

Once, only once during the whole thing, they are both

awake at the same time. At this moment, they look at each other

TODD

I'm sorry I didn't mean to wake you.

Eyes close

The shapes continue

KALI

I'm sorry I didn't mean to wake you

As they sleep...

FIFTEEN – A DARK AND DINGY CELLAR

A terrible dark hole opens somewhere...

And they are ...

US

this is the cellar

a coldness to it no sun could warm

if any sun ever reached down here

a smell of mildew mould rat droppings

old human blood

in this space in this space

there's too little space

they can't stand upright

can't stretch

no far horizon

here's where we discover our hostages

He and she lie, affectionate, sleepy...

There is just a radiator. They are chained to it.

TODD

We should get started on the cellar soon

KALI

I know

We'll do it as soon as we get back from Stockholm...

US

Yes

Eventually

In the future

Sometime

later

They'll find in this cellar

Look

Squashed flat on the cement floor

Their children

cold cocoons

which they know won't be breathing

will be still as dolls

smothered

coldheaded

these are the children these two make grow up

beauties beautiful children with their

fragile easy-bruising snap-happy limbs

the children who make the newspaper story

when he walks out

when he walks out for good this time

and she calls him on his mobile

and says 'if you don't come back I can't go on living'

and she puts the eldest child on the phone

says 'tell Daddy'

'tell Daddy you want to go where Mummy's going'

and the eldest child says

'I love you Daddy. Please come back.'

And he's impotent with rage at the poor sentimental dialogue

She's been made to memorise his eldest daughter

These are the children in the car in the lay-by

These are the ones who drink the Ribena with the sleeping

pills crushed up in it

These are the ones she gets to phone him all that long last

night...

As the car fills not with air

TODD
Strip it right back
Gut it absolutely

KALI
Yes.
Okay.

Good.

As soon as we get back from Stockholm.

Let's eat.

Let's have some hot chocolate!!!

And they rise
Ascend to their kitchen...
There are voices from the outside all the way up...

MUMMY
Are you alright, Todd?
Why don't you drop in? Just for a coffee or something...
Bring Kali...both of you be lovely to see both of you...

TOPHER
Mate.
Topher.
Call me.
Fucking call me.
You never call me.

MICK
Todd! It's Mick. You there? I've sourced those tiles...
You want to swing by and see them?
Any time.
Be nice to see you.
I never see you.

LOUISE
Hello, this is Louise...
Todd...

Could you call me back.
It's urgent.

But he ignores them all

TODD
Look there's that moth!

SIXTEEN – IN THE BRIGHT NIGHTKITCHEN
They both cradle in their hands mugs of warm, odourful steaming hot chocolate...

KALI
it's been a lovely day
they woke up entwined like orang-utans in each others' arms

TODD
they had a late breakfast out

KALI
That nice new place... 'Coffee'

TODD
they sat outside
the coffee smelled like a door opening
early spring

KALI
but it felt like summer

TODD
But it felt like summer

KALI
a blessed day

TODD
they sat in a dark cinema
saw a piece of great cinematic art
he popcorn

BRYONY LAVERY

she

KALI

... a small bag of Maltesers

they shared happily

They had one of their rows!

They're both very strong individual characters...

TODD

Almost at the end of the day

She discovered that the name of the travel agent they booked

their Stockholm stuff with is called...

KALI

Louise

TODD

To tell them they've been upgraded.

You pillock.

KALI

I am. I'm a pillock.

They smile at one another.

TODD

there was a plentiful amount of really rather splendid sex

BOTH

They have Olympic Golds in that category.

KALI

he cooked

they ate

TODD

Even without fennel...

The meal was a triumph

KALI

they danced

TODD

in a few days' time

they will have a holiday

Stockholm.