

Yous Two

Written by [Georgia Christou](#)

Production Details

Yous Two was first performed at **Hampstead Theatre Downstairs, London**, on 18 January 2018. The cast was as follows:

- FUDGE *Ali Barouti*
- RACHEL *Leah Harvey*
- BILLIE *Shannon Tarbet*
- JONNY *Joseph Thompson*
- Director CHELSEA WALKER
- Designer ROSANNA VIZE
- Lighting JAMIE PLATT
- Sound GEORGE DENNIS

Scene 1

A bathroom. Jonny, dark features, mid-thirties, lies in the bath smoking a joint. The door handle goes. He covers himself.

Jonny Don't come in.

The door opens a tiny bit.

Don't come in I said.

Billie (*from off behind the door*) Are you in there?

Jonny No.

Billie You gonna be long?

Jonny I don't know.

Billie How long?

Jonny I don't know I said. I only just got in.

Billie You're smoking.

Jonny Am I?

Billie In the bath, that's disgusting.

Jonny I'm allowed. I'm a grown-up.

Billie You'll be all clean with bad breath.

Jonny Lovely.

Billie It's a nasty habit you know.

Jonny *takes a drag. Leaves it on a copy of The Sun next to the bath.*

You got bubbles?

Jonny I didn't put.

Billie I need to go.

Jonny Hold it. Five minutes, Bill.

Billie I'm desperate.

Jonny What number?

Billie Just a one.

Jonny You'll have to wait.

Billie I need a wee. Is it my fault I need a wee? You can't be annoyed at me for needing to go toilet. I should be annoyed at you.

Jonny Is that right?

Billie If you was a doctor or a lawyer we'd have a house with five bathrooms and I could wee whenever I liked.

Beat.

Jonny One minute. Don't come in.

Jonny *runs the tap, pours in half a bottle of Radox, froths the bubbles up while they talk.*

Billie It's early to be in the bath anyway.

Jonny Just give it a second, I've put bubbles.

Billie Who has a bath a four o'clock?

Jonny Old people.

Billie You're not old. Not compared to the other dads. Rachel Axdale says her sister thinks you're ten out of ten. She's a massive skank though.

Jonny Billie!

Billie What? It's true, Dad! She'll do it with anyone and she doesn't even make them bag it up.

Jonny Don't talk like that it's vile.

Billie She's vile. Rachel said she caught Helen crying in her bedroom the other day and when she looked down on the floor there was green gunk / in her dirty knickers.

Jonny Behave.

Beat.

Whose knickers?

Billie Helen's obviously. The one who fancies you.

Jonny Do you really think this conversation is appropriate?

Billie I don't do anything wrong and I get an earful and Helen Axdale's getting all sympathy and thrush cream from her mum. She makes documentaries for Channel 4 though so she's probably quite used to stuff like that.

Jonny Right.

Billie Did you find anything today?

Jonny Not really.

Billie Was you looking properly?

Jonny No I was looking with my eyes closed.

Billie You know what I mean.

Jonny Don't start.

Billie I'm not.

Beat.

It's just a job won't land in your lap. You need to try a bit.

Jonny You're trying enough for the both of us.

Billie Rachel's dad works at the university, I could ask him?

Jonny I haven't got two O levels to rub together, what am I gonna be doing at a university?

Billie They might need cleaners or something.

Jonny I tore the ligaments in my shoulder, Billie, I can't be scrubbing floors. I've got limited options right now, you know that.

Billie I know. I just worry.

He arranges the bubbles to make sure they cover him.

Jonny Yeah well leave the worrying to me alright. They're done. *(The bubbles.)*

Billie *enters. Small, serious, wears school uniform. She lifts the seat, pees.*

Anyway I have got some good news. I spoke to my claims geezer and he said it could be up to twenty thousand. He's sure we'll get it.

Billie They said that six months ago.

Jonny These things take time. It'll be worth it though for twenty grand. What shall we do with it? Buy you a car if you want.

Billie We should use it for a deposit. On a house. If you got a proper job we could get a mortgage.

Jonny You're no fun.

Billie We could though.

Jonny Don't get all...

Billie What?

Jonny What we eating tonight?

Billie I think I'll just have a snack.

Jonny You're not on a diet again?

Billie No.

Jonny You was a nightmare last time.

Billie I'm not on a diet, Dad.

Jonny Women are always on diets. They don't work you know.

Billie I know, that's why I'm not on one. I just don't have much time before I go out.

Beat.

Jonny What do you mean?

She wipes herself, pulls up her knickers. Jonny averts his eyes. She washes her hands in his bath water.

Billie I mean I'm going out.

Jonny Out?

Billie You know out, Dad. Beyond the front / door.

Jonny It's Friday.

Billie I know.

Jonny How rude.

Billie What?

Jonny How rude is that to cancel plans.

Billie Plans are something you write on a calendar... we get takeaway every week.

Jonny It's EuroMillions. Rollover. Sixty-nine mill. Don't you wanna be here when we win it?

Billie Struck by lightning forty times, Dad. Forty times.

Jonny You'll be sorry when I run off to Barbados and you're left here doing your homework. Where you going then?

Billie Nowhere.

Jonny Don't be stupid, Billie, I'm not letting you out if I don't know where you're going.

Billie I won't be back late.

Jonny Billie.

Billie You'll laugh.

Jonny Go on. Bills?

Billie It's just this thing. This open-evening thing.

Jonny For what?

Billie A college.

Jonny And?

Billie And nothing. I just want to go and have a look.

Jonny Bloody hell.

Billie I told you you'd laugh.

Jonny No I just, I thought you was gonna say –

Billie What?

Jonny Nothing. Looks like rain you know.

Billie Not to me it doesn't.

Jonny I suppose you want a lift.

Billie Not in the slightest.

Jonny What's that supposed to mean?

Billie It means I want a lift over my dead body.

Jonny Snob.

Billie I've told you. I'm not getting in the car till you've sorted the window.

Jonny And I told you a new window's a hundred and fifty quid.

Billie So there we are then.

Jonny It's not private, this school? Is it?

Billie–

Jonny Cos there's no way we could –

Billie I could get a scholarship, for my Maths.

Jonny Billie, it ain't that big school on top of the hill?

Billie I bet hardly anyone applies on Maths.

Jonny You're not serious?

Billie Why not?

Jonny It's a boarding school.

Billie So?

Jonny What's wrong with your school? It's not that, it's all the stuff that goes with it – the uniform, hockey sticks, all that.

Billie I just wanna look.

Jonny I'll take you but –

Billie I don't need you to take me.

Billie *exits.*

Jonny *is still, watches the door for a moment. He takes a bar of soap, stretches to soap his back. He lets out a cry of pain.*

Drys his hands on the carpet, finds and relights the joint. He tries again to reach his back, bangs on the side of the bath.

(Offstage.) What now? You alright?

Jonny–

Billie That stinks.

She re-enters.

Jonny It's medicinal. My shoulder.

Billie Is that it?

Jonny I can't reach.

Billie–

Jonny Could you...?

A beat before she goes and sits behind him.

He hands her the soap. She rubs it over his neck and back.

Billie You've got a spot.

Jonny Don't touch it.

Billie There's all blackheads.

Jonny Told you, I can't reach.

Silence for a moment as she washes him.

Billie Got my predicted grades today.

Jonny And?

Billie A-star Maths, A-star Science –

Jonny Like we thought.

Billie C for English.

Jonny Sounds alright?

Billie C's not good enough.

Jonny They got crystal balls then, these teachers?

Billie It's a prediction. An indication.

Jonny I don't like that. It means you can't win.

Billie You don't win at exams, Dad, it's not like the Lottery.

Jonny Ruins the surprise. Like finding out what your baby is before it's born.

Billie I got a B for French which is a joke cos James Perry copied every one of my answers on the mock and he got an A.

Jonny You don't wanna be French when you grow up, do you?

Billie *Oui.*

Jonny There we go then. I know you're smart and so do you and that's all that matters.

Billie Not really, Dad. Not if I want to go uni. Or get a good job. Or live in a house with five bathrooms.

Beat.

Jonny I am trying you know.

Billie I wasn't talking about you.

Jonny But it isn't that easy.

Billie I didn't say it was.

Jonny Do you want for anything?

Billie Yeah. Loads of stuff.

Jonny In your life have I ever let you go without?

Billie I just said. Yes.

Jonny You're out of order, do you know that?

Billie Don't project your insecurities on me.

Jonny You think I'm making it up?

Billie I don't wanna –

Jonny It's uncertain times, Billie, with the economy.

Billie Okay.

Jonny Don't you read the papers?

Billie Do you?

Jonny We're in a transition stage.

Billie I get it. Stop going on.

Jonny Who's going on? You're the one who come in bleating on about Cs and Bs. Heaven forbid I get five minutes' peace on my own.

Billie I've been in school all day. Five minutes alone. Please god, / just give me five minutes so I can sit and write my diary like a massive princess.

Jonny You have no respect. You show no respect for anyone.

Billie Relax, Doris. I've got to leave in a minute anyway. What you doing?

Jonny Forget it. There you go, I'm getting out, you spoiled it now.

Jonny *stands up in the bath with his back to Billie. He covers his bits with his hands.*

I just wanted to do one thing for myself and you had to ruin it for me. Pass me my...

She flings him the towel. It drops into the bath behind him.

Goodness' sake.

He bends to grab it, still covering his genitals with one hand then wraps the towel round his lower half.

Billie Oh my god.

Jonny Everything's hard work with you.

Billie Dad!

Jonny You came in looking for a fight.

He climbs out of the bath.

Billie Dad, you got something on your bottom.

He puts shaving foam on his face and shaves with a razor which is on the sink.

It's like a growth. On, round your bottom, I saw something.

Jonny What?

Billie Like coming... out. / Cancer. It might be cancer.

Jonny What d'you mean coming / out?

Billie I've seen it in biology. Cancer of the colon. Your bum hole swells and you get little growths.

Jonny I've not got cancer, Billie. I have piles thank you for noticing.

Billie Mr Minns said it happens all the time – they see the blood, think it's piles and then bang – three months later they're wearing a head scarf and doing charity bike rides.

Jonny Your teacher said that?

Billie You have to go up A&E, Dad.

Jonny Why do you say these things?

Billie I mean it. I'll worry otherwise.

Jonny Let's not fall out.

Billie You never go when I ask you.

Jonny You're a scaremongerer.

Billie We've been lucky up till now but one day it'll happen. I'll come home and find you dead, blood leaking from your bumhole and a cat licking it up. I don't need that right in the middle of exams, Dad.

Jonny We don't have a cat.

Billie Don't joke.

Jonny But we *don't*.

Billie Will you go doctor's or not?

Jonny Not.

Billie Then I'm gonna have to look.

Beat.

Jonny No way.

Billie It's me or the doctor's.

Jonny You must be joking.

Billie What did I just say about taking me serious?

Jonny I do / take you serious.

Billie You know how you feel about hospitals.

Jonny I'll go tomorrow.

Billie Liar. Bend down again.

Jonny Get out of it.

Billie Just for a second.

Jonny Enough now.

He faces her, razor in hand.

Billie I'll know when I see, I'll remember it from science.

Jonny What is wrong with you?

Billie I have to look, Dad, before I go out.

Jonny Maybe you'd better stay in.

Billie Come on.

Jonny Monitor me.

Billie Let's get it over with.

Jonny We can have Chinese if you like?

Billie No, Dad. Now.

She tugs the towel hard.

*The towel drops. There is moment, a fraction of stillness before **Jonny** snatches his towel up. He covers himself. He throws the razor in the sink.*

Jonny You know maybe I was wrong, maybe predictions are good. Cos God knows I'd have run a fucking mile if I'd known it was you coming out.

He exits, the shaving foam still on his face.

Billie(shouting)Potty mouth.

She pulls the plug in the bath.

Shall we get them to deliver? Dad?

The sound of rain.

Scene 2

Billie and Rachel. **Rachel** is lying down with her leg propped up on **Billie's** lap who is sitting on the edge of the bath. **Rachel** is holding a pot of hot wax up whilst **Billie** smears it onto **Rachel's** legs with a stick.

Rachel I told them. Anna, Dave, you're acting like a pair of fucking mugs.

Billie Bet that helped.

Rachel I said you've ruined my sixteenth so I hope that plays on your conscience for the rest of your life. They really drag me down d'you know that. That's too –

Billie Sorry.

Rachel Need to let it cool –

Billie Yeah sorry.

Rachel I mean tell me if you think I was out of order. Was I?

Billie–

Rachel They keep saying they just want me to be happy. We just want you to be happy, Rachel. Well clearly they don't as they literally hold the keys to my happiness and they won't hand them over. Keisha had a house party. Rahima had a house party.

Billie How's that?

Rachel Like skin meltingly hot. Whatever just let's just...

Billie I don't know why you don't just shave them.

Rachel They're too hairy.

Billie They wouldn't be if you shaved them.

Rachel It'll last longer.

Billie It's gonna hurt.

Rachel Have you had it done?

Billie No, but I know it will hurt.

Rachel It can't be that bad.

Billie Ready?

Rachel Yeah.

Billie Okay. Take a deep breath in –

Rachel Just rip it off quick –

Billie *rips the wax strip off.*

Fuck! Billie, I wasn't ready.

Billie I told you.

Rachel Is it bleeding?

Billie Course not.

Jonny (*from off*) You alright up there?

Billie / Rachel Yeah.

Billie We're fine, Dad.

Beat.

You can't scream like that every time.

Rachel It hurt.

Billie Should have done this at yours.

Rachel Lock the door.

Billie Doesn't have one.

Rachel I love this place. It's proper old-school.

Billie Proper shit you mean. Ready?

Rachel Oh my god I don't know if I can handle any more.

Billie Take a deep breath like I said.

Rachel I need an anaesthetic.

Billie Like you're giving birth.

Rachel Can I have a break?

Billie We only just –

Rachel Two minutes.

Billie You need to look at my English before you go as well remember.

Rachel I'm not in a hurry.

Billie I didn't tell my dad you was staying for dinner.

Rachel It's fine. I had like four bags of crisps at lunch anyway. Just give me two minutes to mentally prepare.

Billie Your feet smell like dead rats by the way.

Rachel Don't.

Rachel *sits up. Lifts a foot to her face and smells it.*

Beat.

I'll give them a quick...

Rachel *sits on the edge of the bath where Billie was sat. She runs a little water in the bath, paddles her feet in and soaps them through the conversation.*

How old is he? Your dad?

Billie Thirty-six.

Rachel Mate. My da- Dave's nearly sixty. He could be your granddad.

Billie I haven't seen him in ages.

Rachel He's at work most of the time, hiding from my mum. She basically hates him.

Billie What did he do?

Rachel Nothing bad. Mostly he just sits in his office. Listening to songs about, like war and stuff. And crying into his coffee. Anna calls him an island.

Billie-

Rachel Like hard to reach. She keeps coming into my bedroom to 'hang out' and watch me get changed. She goes, 'It's nothing I haven't seen before, you came out my front bum.'

Billie *laughs.*

She's a proper pervert. My sister's the same. She's like Mum and I'm like Dad. I mean, you're always gonna turn into one of your parents aren't you, it's just about choosing the one who's slightly less mental.

Beat.

Shit. Sorry.

Billie For what?

Rachel You know.

Billie Oh. Don't be. My dad says she was a selfish cow so I didn't miss out on much.

Rachel Still.

Billie Honestly. I'm not emotionally scarred or anything. I don't remember her so...

Rachel Well, sorry anyway.

Billie Gimme your leg. And you can't scream okay?

Rachel I'll try. But I can't make any promises.

Beat.

How come he's always around, your dad? Does he work nights?

Billie He works from home. Mostly.

Rachel Doing what?

Billie Like, freelance stuff.

Rachel Doing what though?

Billie It's sort of...

Rachel What?

Billie Like a sales thing.

Rachel Billie?

Billie Yeah.

Rachel Is your dad a dealer?

Billie No!

Rachel I wouldn't say anything.

Billie He isn't.

Rachel He smokes weed though.

Billie I dunno.

Rachel I could smell it soon as we walked in. Do you think he'd sell me some?

Billie He's not a dealer.

Rachel Okay.

Beat.

Billie Rachel!

Rachel What?

Billie He's not –

Rachel I won't tell anyone.

Billie He sells tickets.

Rachel Tickets?

Billie Like football, gigs, that sort of thing.

Rachel Amazing.

Billie He needs to get a proper job.

Rachel Does he give you any?

Billie I never ask.

Rachel What can he get?

Billie I dunno. I don't ask, I said.

Rachel My dad is so desperate to go to the Arsenal game next week.

Billie Is that a hint?

Rachel No.

Billie Good.

Rachel Actually it was.

Billie I'll ask but –

Rachel Please. Mum's having a life-drawing party that night. Some naked hippy comes and leaves their crusty old pubes on our sofa and we have to like paint them or whatever. The last one had the biggest nipples I've ever seen I swear. Like a giant owl watching me across the living room.

Billie Do you think if I got him the tickets, he'd do some tutoring with me? On my English.

Rachel I dunno. Maybe.

Billie Would you ask?

Rachel You only need a C. As long as you don't have to retake who gives a shit?

Billie C's not good enough.

Rachel I'm not predicted anything above a C.

Billie I just mean, for where I wanna go –

Rachel I'm dropping as many subjects as I can. I'm just gonna do music and art. Doss classes.

Billie What about uni?

Rachel I'm gonna go travelling instead, take a load of drugs, have sex with some Australians. That's what my parents did. It's how they met.

Billie Your dad's not Australian.

Rachel You don't marry them, you just have sex with them.

Billie By time you get back I'll be nearly qualified, you can get some free counselling.

Rachel I won't need counselling.

Billie We need to finish your legs.

Rachel Mate, can't we do it in your room, it's boiling in here?

Billie You'll get wax all on my sheets. Look at my essay while I do it.

Rachel Bet you'd be allowed a party, wouldn't you.

Billie Why?

Rachel No reason.

Billie Do you reckon your dad would look over my coursework as well?

Rachel Dunno. Maybe for a –

Billie *pulls off the strip*, **Rachel** *screams*.

Fuck!

Scene 3

Dead of night. Fudge stumbles into the bathroom fully clothed, bare feet. He doesn't turn the light on. Lifts the lid, stands, pissing. Jonny, in just his boxers, opens the bathroom door, switches on the light.

Jonny What, who the / fuck –

Fudge Shit. Sorry, man, I'm just –

Jonny *runs offstage*.

Shit.

Jonny *re-enters, holding a baseball bat*.

Jonny What do you think you're doing / in my –

Fudge Listen, I'm –

Jonny Think you're a big man, breaking in my house –

Fudge No, man, I ain't, I didn't break in. I'm just, I'm staying over / I didn't break in.

Jonny You think I'm an idiot? / Some kind of idiot?

Fudge Course I, please please put that down. And put some clothes on, bruv.

Jonny 'Bruv' –

Fudge Sir, I meant sir.

Jonny Tell me what to do in my own house?

Fudge No, sir.

Jonny In my own fucking house. Try it. Try it you melt. If I want to slap your melt face with my nuts I will, / 'bruv', cos we're in my house now.

Fudge Fuck.

Billie(*offstage*)Oi, what's goin' on?

Jonny Do you understand me? Not your brother, mate, not me. Peasant. Fucking peasants, the lot of you. Thought you'd stop for a piss –

Fudge No.

Jonny You think I'm a cunt –

Fudge No. Shit. You've got it wrong, man. Put that down. Please, I'm here I'm here with Billie –

Jonny *rushes at Fudge, smashes his head against the wall, grabs his throat.*

Billie *enters.*

Billie Oh my god, Dad.

Fudge Please –

Jonny Are you alright, Billie?

Billie Dad, get off him.

Jonny Did he hurt you?

Billie Dad, no, get off him, what are you doing?

Jonny Go to bed, Billie.

Billie Dad, he's / my friend.

Jonny Go to bed, babe. You don't have to be scared, / I'll sort it, go to bed, baby.

Billie *goes to Jonny tries to pulls him off Fudge.*

Billie Let go of him. You'll kill him, he's my friend, I know him. He's my friend.

Jonny *lets go of Fudge's neck.*

Beat.

Put it down, Daddy. 28

Jonny *holds tight to the bat.*

My god, what... Put something on, Dad.

Jonny *doesn't move.*

Here.

She takes off her bathrobe, shivering, stands in her shorts and a strappy top. Jonny stares at her for a moment.

*Takes the bathrobe, puts it on. Stares at **Billie**, does not look at **Fudge** for the remainder of the scene.*

You're scaring me.

Jonny You alright?

Fudge I think so.

Jonny Not you.

Billie I'm fine.

Jonny *takes in the state of the room.*

It was Rachel's birthday. I didn't think you'd... I was gonna tidy up in the morning.

Jonny Will he be alright?

Billie I dunno.

Fudge I think I'm okay.

Jonny So you two...?

Billie He's my friend. From school. He missed the last bus. He's sleeping on the floor, I promise.

Jonny If you're lying to me, Billie...

Billie–

Jonny If I find out you're looking me in the eye and lying, Billie, I swear –

Fudge Please, man, I'm sorry I just want to go home.

Billie Shut up.

Jonny If I go in that bedroom I'm gonna find a bed all made up on the floor, am I?

Billie–

Jonny Am I?

Billie I didn't think you'd be back till the morning. I was gonna tell you then.

Jonny I asked you a question, Billie.

Billie–

Jonny You've never been a liar. You're a lot of other things but... Not to me. Do you understand?

Billie Yes.

Jonny Is he sleeping in your bed?

Billie Yes.

Jonny *drops the baseball bat. **Fudge** flinches at the sound of it hitting the floor.*

Jonny Are you –

Billie Oh my god. No.

Jonny–

Billie I said no, Dad. We're not... Stop looking at me like that.

Beat.

Jonny exits.

Long pause.

Fudge Is that your dad then?

Billie–

Fudge He seems nice.

Blackout.

Scene 4

Christmas Eve. Billie is breathing heavily, kneeling over the toilet. Jonny is at the door. She flushes the toilet, slumps against the side of the bath.

Jonny Shall I / come in –

Billie Yeah it's fine.

Jonny enters. *He wears a Santa Claus hat.*

Jonny Billie, you don't half look pasty.

Billie–

Jonny Do you think it was that –

Billie Oh shut up.

Jonny I thought it was done.

Billie It wasn't you.

Jonny You're gonna be poorly for the big day.

Billie I feel a bit better now.

Jonny This is why I shouldn't cook.

Billie If it was food poisoning you'd be sick too, wouldn't you. There's a bug going round.

Jonny Right. So you don't think it was the chicken?

Billie I don't want to think about it, Dad.

Jonny Right you are. Can I get you anything?

Billie I just wanna sit here.

Jonny Water?

Billie You're alright.

Jonny Are you feeling like you might –

Billie No. I just need to sit still.

Jonny I'll wait downstairs for you then, eh?

Billie Stay with me a minute.

Jonny Course.

Beat.

You look very young.

Billie Sit with me then.

He hesitates then goes to her. She leans her head on his shoulder.

Daddy?

Jonny Billie?

Billie Do you ever worry that I might have it too?

Jonny Have it?

Billie Like her?

Jonny–

Billie I'm like her, aren't I?

Jonny Nah.

Billie I am. I know I am. I see how you look at me sometimes.

Jonny I don't look at you like nothing, you nutter.

Billie Dad!

Jonny Sorry. Bad choice...

Billie Why are you breathing all funny?

Jonny I'm not.

Billie I can feel it.

Jonny You're alright, babe.

Billie Dad?

Jonny You can call me Santa.

Billie Santa. If you get any more Arsenal tickets, will you –

Jonny Billie. Don't push it.

Billie Rachel's dad lectures English. If he'd help with my coursework I could bump my mark up.

Jonny Is this still about that school?

Billie I can't go there now anyway. But if I wanna go to a decent uni –

Jonny Uni? Slow down / a bit.

Billie Durham, Edinburgh, they all look at your GCSEs.

Jonny Edinburgh?

Billie I'm not gonna get in anywhere decent with a C, Dad.

Jonny So you keep saying.

Billie Well, I have to think about these things. Don't I?

Jonny Yeah fine, I dunno.

Billie Exactly. You don't know.

Beat.

Jonny I've always done my best by you, Billie. I'm sorry if it's not good enough.

Billie I didn't mean –

Jonny I've had my injury to deal with as well, remember.

Billie I know you have.

Jonny The fact is, I can't trust you now.

Billie Dad –

Jonny How do I know these tickets you want aren't for that kid?

Billie They're not. You could call Rachel's dad yourself.

Jonny And how would that make me look? Like I don't have a clue what's going on in my own child's life and he can sit down with his wife all la-di-da / and talk about what a horrible mess I'm making of –

Billie They're not like that, Dad, they're really nice.

Jonny It's not that the two of you are going out. I know you're gonna want to be hanging around with boys and that but I cannot tolerate you betraying my trust.

Billie You're being melodramatic.

Jonny Let's not argue. It's my busiest night of the year.

Billie I'm not it's just –

Jonny This is a pointless conversation anyway. I can't afford to be giving stuff away. He's a professor, he can put his hand in his pocket.

Billie Don't get all cross, / we can't discuss anything without –

Jonny I'm not 'getting all' anything. Anyway like I said it's pointless. I've had my memberships taken off me.

Billie You what?

Jonny The clubs have taken them back.

Billie And?

Jonny And I can't get any more seats obviously.

Billie What about the money you paid?

Jonny That's it.

Billie You've lost it you mean.

Jonny Well, they certainly ain't gonna hand it back to me, Billie. I mean I could call up and see if they'll pop a cheque in the post but I think it's more likely they'll have me nicked.

Billie I told you. I told you you needed to pack it in. I told you to get a proper job. How much did you lose?

Jonny That's none of your –

Billie How much, Dad?

Jonny Two.

Billie Two hundred? You better say two hundred, Daddy.

Jonny Two hundred, Daddy.

Billie Honestly?

Jonny No.

Billie Two thousand pounds. You've lost two thousand pounds? Fucking hell.

Jonny You watch your language.

Billie Bloody hell, Dad.

Jonny Did you hear me?

Billie Where did you get that sort of money from in the first place?

Jonny It's a loan.

Billie Well, how you gonna pay it back if you can't sell the tickets?

Jonny It doesn't matter, I'll get my payout soon and we can pay it off and forget it.

Billie You need to get a job and start paying back now.

Jonny Billie, you're the kid and I'm the grown-up, right? I think I'm better qualified to deal with this than you are, / do you understand?

Billie Well obviously not as you appear to have lost TWO THOUSAND POUNDS. I've told you how many times, Dad, what if you'd gone prison?

Billie *lunges at Jonny and buries her head in his chest. There is a beat before he puts his arms around her and strokes her hair.*

Jonny I'm not going prison, you doughnut.

Billie What we gonna do?

Jonny I'll sort it. I know it's not ideal –

Billie You got that right –

Jonny You need to relax. Trust me, alright? Madam? I'm Santa remember. Have I ever let you down before?

Billie I won't answer that.

Jonny Got yourself all worked up –

Billie Can I sit in your legs?

Jonny I don't wanna catch it as well, Bills, we wanna be alright for tomorrow.

Billie I'll hold my breath.

Jonny *sits with his legs crossed. Billie climbs onto him like she is climbing into a nest. She presses a button on his hat, it flashes lights. She sucks her thumb.*

Jonny You're getting a bit big for this.

Billie Am I hurting?

Jonny Take your thumb out your mouth. You don't want buck teeth.

Billie *(with thumb in mouth)* I've been alright so far.

Jonny Anyway it'll be all sicky.

Billie Good point.

She takes her thumb out her mouth. They sit for a moment in the quiet.

This floor is getting really mank.

Jonny It's always been mank.

Billie Who puts carpet in a bathroom?

Jonny Where's your mark?

Billie We're sitting on it.

Jonny What about when he wanted to gut the bathroom?

Billie I dunno why you said no.

Jonny No one touches this room. It's where my baby was born.

Billie Maybe if you ask the landlord he might offer to do it again?

Jonny You were such an ugly baby them first few days.

Billie Thanks.

Jonny The spit of your mum's dad. I was a bit worried to tell the truth cos he was a right... they both were. 'All about the show', do you know what I mean. When I told them, after I'd found her that day, the first thing he says, no word of a lie, he goes, 'What am I gonna tell the bowls club?' That was it for me then, I wasn't letting you anywhere near them.

Billie It's weird to think she was here. That she's been in this room.

Jonny You come so quick, Bills, honestly. I thought she'd gone for a wee. Then I find her, bent double in here, white as a sheet. You were nearly out before the cab got here.

Billie Do you think I look like her more? As I'm getting older?

Jonny You don't look like either of us.

Billie I don't look like the milkman, do I?

Beat.

Joke.

Jonny Very funny.

Billie It is hereditary you know. Depression and schizophrenia and all them things.

Jonny Not always.

Billie Yeah. But it can be. You can catch it from a parent or it can like skip a generation like the ginger gene. I learnt it in psychology.

Jonny What are they filling your head with? When I went it was Geography, Maths, PE, proper subjects.

Billie Don't be like that. It makes you sound old.

Jonny Everyone's got something now. OCD. Bloody ADAD.

Billie ADHD.

Jonny See. And the kids are more clued-up than us. When I was at school I was a little shit. That's what I was. That's what they told me I was. And I had to deal with the consequences.

Billie And look how that turned out.

Pause.

I like psychology. It's interesting. We learned about this kid and her parents had locked her in a room all her life and had told her things the wrong way round, like they taught her that a chair was called an apple and a table was called a tree. When they found her, the Social Services or whoever, she couldn't talk to anyone. They couldn't understand a word she was saying. They tried to teach her again, make her learn the words, but she couldn't... She just

stopped talking altogether in the end. It was too confusing I suppose. I cried when I watched the film.

Jonny *shifts.*

Jonny Move your head a minute.

He is sweating slightly.

Billie How could you do that to a little baby though. I think that's even worse than what my mum did, don't you? Are you alright?

Jonny Yeah I'm just feeling a bit... I'm wondering about that chicken?

Billie I told you it's a bug.

Jonny It did have a bit of a smell.

Billie Don't start.

Jonny Now I think of it.

Billie You haven't got food poisoning, Dad.

Jonny That's the thing about a Ruby. That's why they made them in the first place, cover up the smell of bad meat. Is it hot in here or what?

Billie It's always hot in here.

Jonny Maybe I've got it too?

Billie You'd know if you did.

Jonny Yeah that's what I mean, I don't feel right.

Billie It's me, Dad. I need looking after. There's nothing wrong with you. You're meant to be the parent, you're meant to be the one –

Jonny *crawls to the toilet. Crouches over it. Deep breaths.*

Jonny Just give us a minute?

Billie Fuck's sake, there's nothing wrong with you.

Jonny Language, Billie –

Billie There's. Nothing. Wrong –

Jonny *retches. Dry.*

What are you doing?

Jonny I'm ill.

Billie You're not. I know you're not. It's all in your head.

Jonny I'm not going hospital, / I can tell you that now –

Billie You don't need to. It's just in your head, Dad. It feels real but it isn't.

Jonny *retches. Dry again. He is shaking.*

Jonny Oh god –

Billie You're unfair. This is so unfair. You're the nutter.

Jonny I need a glass of water.

Billie I've got no chance. With you and her. I'll be in a straitjacket –

Jonny Can you get me a water please?

Billie YOU'RE NOT SICK, YOU PYSCHO!

He dry retches again.

I'm pregnant.

Beat.

There's no bug. Nothing wrong with your korma. I've been sick all week in school. I'm pregnant, Dad.

Jonny *turns to the toilet. Pukes his guts up. Billie watches for a second. She takes the hat from his head, rubs his back gently. Blackout.*

Scene 5

New Year's Eve. Billie sits on the toilet with a pregnancy test. Fudge stands watching her at a distance. A plastic bag in the middle of them. The taps are running.

Fudge Well?

Billie Just...

Fudge What?

Billie Give it a second.

Fudge Come on, Billie, man.

Billie I'm trying.

Fudge Don't try, relax.

Billie You're not being very relaxing.

Fudge Have some juice.

Billie I don't want any of your nasty orange juice, / this is completely unnecessary –

Fudge It's Rubicon Mango and it is fucking necessary, Billie.

Billie I thought you wanted to talk?

Fudge We can talk after.

Billie Turn away.

Fudge *tuts.*

I can't do it with your hawky eyes on me.

Fudge Hawky?

Billie Just look the other way.

Fudge Not hawky.

Billie Oh my god.

Fudge Caramel, mate.

Billie Do you want me to go or what?

He turns around.

Pause.

Fudge This is long, man. Adele's gonna be pissed.

Billie I'm sure she'll get over it.

Fudge She's gonna freeze.

Billie Well, you shouldn't have brought her.

Fudge She's family.

Billie So?

Fudge So we stick together.

Beat.

Making me late.

Billie For what?

Fudge It's New Year's Eve, Billie. I got plans.

Billie *pulls her knickers up. Turns the taps off.*

What you doing?

Billie It's a waste of water.

Fudge I've don't have time for this. I got to walk her, give her a bath, get myself ready –

Billie The dog goes in the bath?

Fudge She has sensitive skin. Eczema.

The sound of a firework, off. The dog starts barking relentlessly.

Billie You need to shut her up.

Fudge She's scared.

Billie People will start complaining.

Fudge She don't like loud noises. Let me bring her in.

Billie My dad's allergic.

Fudge He's not even here.

Billie The hair hurts his eyes.

Fudge It's fucking minus-ten out there, Billie. Not that you'd know that in here.

Billie Take your coat off.

Fudge I told you I'm not staying.

Billie And I told you, this is a waste of time. I did two tests last week.

Fudge Another one won't hurt then, will it?

The barking stops.

Billie See. She's fine.

Fudge Probably dead. Drink the juice at least.

She takes a sip. Spits it in the sink.

Billie!

Billie That is rank.

Fudge Tramp.

Billie It's all thick.

Fudge You can give me the money for this stuff then.

Fudge *throws the bag at her.*

Billie Oi.

She throws it back at him.

Fudge Two pregnancy tests, one carton of juice and a Boost. You owe me / fifteen quid.

Billie I don't think so.

Fudge Don't be tight, Billie.

Billie I never asked you to / buy that stuff.

Fudge Fifteen quid.

Billie Take it back to the shop.

Fudge You can have the Boost as a gift but the rest –

The dog starts barking again.

Fudge *lets out a frustrated growl. Punches the wall.*

Billie Why d'you do that for?

Fudge Look what you made me do.

Billie There's a mark.

Fudge You're stressing me out.

Billie I swear, why are boys always doing that?

Fudge You either do that test or you give me fifteen pounds.

Billie You better hope my dad don't notice.

Fudge Are you listening, Billie?

Billie I'm listening, Fudge.

Fudge They're your options. So just... think on them.

Billie You've hurt your hand, haven't you?

Fudge No.

Billie Do you want me to look at it?

Fudge I'm fine, move from me.

Beat.

My cousin says if you actually are, then you have to do a DNA test.

Billie Is your cousin Jeremy Kyle?

Fudge Funny.

Billie What d'you mean 'if I actually am'?

Fudge I dunno.

Billie You think I'm making it up? That's why –

Fudge Girls lie to trap good men, Billie.

Billie Your cousin tell you that too?

Fudge So what if he did?

She takes the test and sits back down.

Billie Your cousin's a dickhead. Just so you know.

Takes a deep breath. Closes her eyes.

Pause.

The sound of her weeing. Fudge looks away. He looks out the window.

Fudge She keeps scratching. Her skin's gonna get sore.

Billie Here.

Fudge What?

Billie You wanted to see.

Fudge I ain't touching that. And wash your hands.

Beat.

How long –

Billie Was quick last time.

She opens the chocolate bar and eats it on the loo.

Fudge How long's it been?

Billie I dunno. Thirty seconds.

Fudge Should I time it?

Billie A watched pot.

Fudge What?

Billie Never mind.

Pause.

You finished your Geography?

Fudge Don't be silly.

Billie It's due in first day back.

Fudge I'll do it tomorrow.

Billie Have you even started?

Fudge I been busy.

Billie Fudge.

Fudge We got family over. I had to share my room with my auntie.

Billie It counts towards our final mark, you know.

Fudge I can't sleep, she snores like a donkey. Plus I have to take Adele out four times a day. She had a accident the first day they got here and my cousin kicked her. Cunt.

Billie Told you.

Fudge Different cousin.

Billie How many you got?

Fudge Too many I swear. There was twenty-six of us Christmas Day.

Billie Where d'you all sit?

Fudge Least it's quiet here.

Billie You can stay for a bit if you want? Not like... The roof's flat upstairs, you get a proper good view of the fireworks, me and my dad always... we took a sofa up one year.

Fudge Where is he now then?

Billie Out.

Fudge Is he coming back?

Billie You scared?

Fudge Yeah. Are you not?

Billie Your hand's bruising already.

Fudge Yeah. My knife hand as well. Meant to have a trial shift at Pelham Saturday.

Billie Should have thought that through.

Billie *looks in the bathroom cabinet, finds a cream.*

Fudge Head chef there's proper tapped. If you don't work fast enough he throws hot pans at you.

Billie That can't be true.

He puts out his hand. She rubs the cream in.

Fudge What I heard. Is it done?

Billie What?

Fudge The test.

Billie Oh. Yeah.

Fudge And?

Billie Thought you wanted to look yourself.

Fudge What does it say?

Billie It says I'm pregnant. Obviously.

Fudge You sure?

Billie Course. The cross means...

Fudge—

Billie Told you I wasn't lying.

Beat.

Fudge This is your fault.

Billie Sorry?

Fudge You did this on purpose.

Billie Got pregnant on / purpose?

Fudge I'm cursed.

Billie Drama queen.

Fudge This face. Women see me and they want my genes.

Billie Because you're so modest?

Fudge No, dickhead, cos I'm good looking. You told anyone?

Billie Course I –

Fudge My parents can't find out.

Billie You're not gonna tell them?

Fudge Shut up, they'll kill me. Like I'll actually die. Anyways, my mum don't believe in abortion. You told your dad?

Billie–

Fudge Billie!

Billie He found out.

Fudge Right, then I'm gonna die anyway. What did he say?

Billie Nothing.

Fudge Did he mention me?

Billie No, I mean literally nothing. He hasn't said a word. Not for a week.

Fudge Good. That's good.

Billie Is it?

Fudge I have to go.

Billie Don't you want to watch the fireworks?

Fudge I told you, Adele doesn't like loud noises.

Billie We need to meet before term starts again.

Fudge I don't need your help.

Billie To talk about what we're gonna do.

Fudge *goes to exit.*

You said family sticks together.

Fudge You're not my family, Billie.

He exits.

Billie I wasn't talking about me.

The sounds of fireworks. The dog barks.

Scene 6

The bathroom. Billie is screwing a lock into the door.

Jonny You can't be serious.

Billie I am.

Jonny Am I hearing this right?

Billie You tell me.

Jonny You want me to evict you?

Billie Yes. Please.

Jonny So you can move into a B&B?

Billie Just for a bit.

Jonny With a load of scagheads and mongs.

Billie Don't be unkind, that's a horrible word –

Jonny Leave that. (*The lock.*)

Billie It'll only take a minute.

Jonny You're naive. You're being really naive, Billie, if you think it's that easy.

Billie I can manage a hammer and nail, Dad.

Jonny Not that. The other thing.

Billie I never said it was easy, I'm just thinking about the long term and what's best / for all of us.

Jonny You've got no idea.

Billie You won't even notice I'm gone.

Jonny Is that right?

Billie We've barely spoke lately anyway, so...

Beat.

Jonny That's not true.

Billie I know you're cross –

Jonny I'm not / cross.

Billie Then why won't you speak to me?

Jonny I'm speaking to you now.

Billie You can't even look me in the eye.

Jonny See, you're just saying things now. Making up stories / in your head...

Billie You think I should have –

Jonny No. No course not.

Billie We're not like that, Dad. Are we?

Beat.

It'll be better for you anyway. Can have some birds round.

Jonny Yeah, you see if it's better when you've got some bloke banging on your door at three in the morning, you see if it's better when the baby's sick all the time from the damp –

Billie You don't half exaggerate.

Jonny Alright. You see. You wait and see what it's like. Obviously you know much more than I do.

Billie I don't want to do it... you just have to be a bit desperate or they won't give you somewhere.

Jonny You aren't desperate. We aren't desperate, we're fine.

Billie Dad –

Jonny And how does that make me look? If I kick you out. I would never –

Billie It will be worth it if I get a flat.

Jonny What's wrong with here? I'll get the papering done and that. We can paint your room make a little nursery bit in the corner.

Billie It'll never happen.

Jonny That's unfair.

Billie Three months. Three months I've been asking you to put a lock on this door.

Jonny I was gonna do it tomorrow.

Billie You would never have done it.

Jonny We've managed this long without, what's the hurry?

Billie Everyone has a lock on the bathroom.

Jonny Is that what all this is about? You're making a point? Alright I get it, point made.

Billie It's not that.

Jonny We're alright together. Aren't we?

Billie Of course.

Jonny We have a laugh.

Billie I don't need a laugh, Dad, I need a place to live.

Jonny YOU HAVE SOMEWHERE TO LIVE.

Beat.

You live here, babe. Nothing's changed, you can stay here till you're a hundred if you want to. That's the point of this place.

Billie But once the baby comes we're gonna need more space.

Jonny I'll sleep in the living room.

Billie It'll keep you up all night.

Jonny Don't tell me, Billie. I've done it, remember. I know you think you're Bertie-big-bollocks now cos you've managed to get yourself... but you don't realise. You don't have a clue how hard this will be.

Billie You managed.

Jonny He won't change his mind, Billie.

Beat.

Billie I know.

Jonny He's said he doesn't want anything to do with it. You knew that when you made your decision.

Billie I know.

Jonny Don't go thinking when it's born, when he sees the pictures up on Insta whatever, that he'll come knocking on the door ready to play happy families. It's not going to happen, I can tell you that now.

Billie Alright, I know. I know he won't. But they do say, they say a woman knows how to love her baby as soon as she gets pregnant, it's just an instinct. But a man doesn't, he won't love it until he holds the baby in his arms. They say that. We don't know.

Jonny He's only a kid himself.

Billie You weren't much older than him when you had me.

Jonny How do you expect me to sleep at night knowing my grandchild is in some bedsit?

Billie It would only be for a bit, a few months –

Jonny You're mad if you think it's that easy.

Billie I've spoke to people.

Jonny Who?

Billie People who've done it before.

Jonny It's different now, Billie. People did it, we all did it before.

Billie Not everyone.

Jonny You don't think Mr and Mrs Rachel had their go? Six months on the dole living in some bloody commune. Everyone did it, trust me. We've been rinsed, mate.

Billie You don't know what you're talking about.

Jonny You thought cos you're knocked up you'll get a flat?

Billie I'll rent somewhere.

Jonny What you paying with?

Billie I'll get a job.

Jonny And do your college, and do your uni?

Billie Just because you never did anything.

Jonny You need to be realistic, Billie.

Billie I'm not an idiot.

Jonny No, you're a clever bollocks, that's why I didn't want this for you.

Billie I'll say I had to run away. That you beat me up.

Jonny You've got an imagination on you, I'll give you that.

Billie I should have recorded you swinging that baseball bat around, that would have done it.

Jonny I was protecting you.

Billie You did a bloody of good job of making sure he never come back.

Beat.

Jonny Listen, I'm getting my payout soon –

Billie Oh, give it a / rest, Dad –

Jonny We could move? Maybe even put a little deposit down like you said?

Billie And then what? You gotta have a job to get a mortgage.

Jonny I'll get a job.

Billie Dad.

Jonny I know you think I should have done things different.

Billie I don't –

Jonny No, I know what you think. That I should have worked harder and got further and that but I was learning on the job with you, Billie, and for everything I've done wrong I must have done something right, mustn't I. Cos you're *it*, Bill. You're magnificent. It's not true that, what you said. I loved you the second I knew about you, the biggest feeling I've ever...

Pause.

Can I be honest with you? I'm gonna be honest with you now okay.

Billie–

Jonny I'll worry.

Billie I know, Dad, the drug addicts, the Muslims, the –

Jonny Not that. I mean, I worry about all that stuff, course I do, every parent does. But it's more than that with you.

Billie What do you mean?

Beat.

Jonny Forget it.

Billie No, go on.

Jonny I'll say whatever you want.

Billie Go on I said.

Jonny I don't know what I was thinking. You're nothing like her.

Beat.

Billie Like my mum? Is that what you mean? That I'm like my mum?

Jonny You're a different person. I have to remind myself of that sometimes.

Billie But do you think we're alike?

Jonny She wasn't well.

Billie That won't happen to me though. Why do you think that would happen to me, I'm nothing like her. Am I?

Jonny *takes Billie's face in his hands, he holds onto it too tight.*

Jonny Now you listen to me, right. You are not, you'll never be, anything like what she was. And do you know why? Cos I know. I know you aren't ever gonna leave me.

Scene 7

Bathroom. Jonny on a stool. Rachel is shaving the back of Jonny's head with an electric buzzer.

Rachel That okay?

Jonny Yeah.

Rachel I'm not hurting?

Jonny No, no.

Rachel You can tell me if I am.

Jonny You're alright.

Rachel Does it –

Jonny Ahh.

Rachel What, what did I –

Jonny Got you there.

Rachel Jonny!

Jonny Good actor am I?

Rachel Thought I'd chopped your ear off.

Jonny Bit of a wind-up, me, you'll get used to it.

Beat.

How's it looking?

Rachel Yeah.

Jonny That good, is it?

Rachel No, it's... yeah.

Jonny Right listen, you're hardly filling me with confidence here.

Rachel What time's Billie finishing?

Jonny Dunno. Midday normally, when she's on an early. Six o'clock start. She's eight months' pregnant, it takes the absolute Michael.

Rachel Totally.

Jonny It shouldn't be legal what they're paying her.

Rachel She said there's a discount.

Jonny Fifteen per cent.

Rachel That's handy. They've got everything up Asda, haven't they.

Silence apart from the electric razor.

You nervous?

Jonny Oh. God yeah. I'm well out of practice, mate. What do people talk about these days, anyway?

Rachel Don't ask me.

Jonny Come on, I need some tips.

Rachel Should ask my sister. She goes on like three dates a week.

Jonny She doesn't.

Rachel At least.

Jonny Doing what?

Rachel Drinks. Dinner. Trampolining.

Jonny My first night out with Billie's mum we shared a knickerbocker glory in the Wimpy.

Rachel What's Wimpy?

Jonny Exactly, see. You lot want those metro blokes now isn't it. Soya lattes and leggings.

Rachel For some people maybe.

Jonny Horses for courses?

Rachel–

Jonny Means... not for everyone.

Rachel Yeah, no not for everyone. And like even if you think you want that... My mum's really... she doesn't shave her armpits and stuff. But sometimes when my dad's putting his lip balm – he gets really dry... anyway, when he's putting his ChapStick on I see her looking at him like she wishes he was dead.

Pause.

I don't think I'm very good at this.

Jonny Could have mentioned it earlier.

Rachel I think you're done.

Jonny Like a kipper, mate. Do I wanna look in the mirror or...?

Rachel I'd say probably not.

Jonny Right good so long as I know.

Beat.

He looks in the mirror.

Beat.

He shakes her hand.

Rachel What d'you think?

Jonny Almost as good as that haircut I got off a blind fella that time.

Rachel Only cheaper.

Jonny Only cheaper, that's right.

Beat.

Seriously though, did you want something for –

Rachel No!

Jonny I've got a ten in my coat.

Rachel Stop it, no... just shout me a fag and that will do.

Jonny 'Shout you a fag'?

Rachel If that's...

Jonny Does your mum and dad know you smoke?

Rachel They never mention it.

Jonny Dunno I'd like that myself.

Rachel They're not like you.

Jonny They don't mind?

Rachel They don't notice.

Beat.

I think they're probably like nearly done. With each other I mean. Dad's got two phones so...

Jonny That don't mean –

Rachel One of them's full of pictures of this Japanese woman. With her tits out.

Jonny Right, yeah that does sound... Yeah.

He offers her the packet.

Gotta stay in here though. The boss won't have smoking in the other rooms. Suicide in slow motion she calls it which is a bit much but that's Bill, isn't it.

He opens the window.

He checks his hair in the mirror.

Rachel *struggles through the cigarette. She offers him some. He refuses.*

Beat.

Go on then.

Swings on the door frame while he smokes, antsy.

Rachel What?

Jonny Dunno.

Rachel What?

Jonny I feel like a bit of a...

Rachel–?

Jonny I don't think I should go. To this. Coffee. Thing.

Rachel You have to.

Jonny Don't even drink coffee.

Rachel They'll have other drinks.

Jonny Hot chocolate.

Rachel If you want.

Jonny Would you mind that?

Rachel What?

Jonny If we was on a date and I ordered a hot chocolate?

Rachel I wouldn't.

Jonny She is a real-life grown-up, this Lienne. Works the city, her profile said. Commuter.

Rachel So?

Jonny So what's she want with me?

Rachel *does a mime – a fisher casting a line.*

Beat.

Rachel Fishing.

Jonny Yeah, very good.

Rachel For compliments.

Jonny I got it.

Rachel The thing is it's not about being like the richest or the best looking or whatever.

Jonny You calling me ugly?

Rachel No course I'm –

Jonny Calling me poor and ugly?

Rachel No, I, no –

Jonny Winding you up again. Warned you.

Rachel No, you know what I mean, like... not to be a bitch or anything cos obviously I love her and she's like stunning, but – Billie. For example. She's not like she's the hottest girl in our year or anything. But people just...

Jonny What?

Rachel Okay, like Fudge. He's like one of the... Loads of people would go out with Fudge. He turned down Genevieve from the year above and she's done modelling for M&S so, you know. You're probably just nervous. Because of... Billie said you haven't really been with anyone else since...

Jonny I've not had much time.

Rachel My mum made this documentary. *Suicide and Me: Life After Death*, did you...?

Jonny Missed that one.

Rachel You can still get it on iPlayer... anyway, what came up a lot was it's really common for the people left behind to blame themselves. Like, wondering if they could have done something different or, but the thing is, you couldn't have. And everyone's always saying how well Billie's turned out, all things... My dad's said he'll recommend her. Write a personal letter when we apply to uni.

Pause.

You need to go. Probably. Don't you?

Jonny Yeah.

Rachel Your / date.

Jonny Yeah no, think I'm gonna give it a swerve actually.

Rachel Really?

Jonny No I don't feel like it so much as it happens. Can hardly go looking like this, can I? He's a big deal then, is he?

Rachel Sorry?

Jonny Your old man. He's got some say in that stuff, unis and...

Rachel I dunno.

Jonny You'll have the pick of the bunch.

Rachel I'm not going uni.

Jonny Early days though, isn't it.

Rachel I don't wanna go.

Jonny Course you do.

Rachel Anyway he hasn't offered so...

Jonny Why d'you think that is?

Rachel-

Jonny Rachel?

Rachel I'm not very...

Jonny What?

Rachel I'm in the lower sets for a lot of stuff.

Jonny So?

Rachel So he's probably embarrassed.

Jonny Never.

Rachel You don't know.

Jonny Or if he is, it won't be for the reason you think.

Rachel I'm more like, musical and stuff.

Jonny Singing?

Rachel Kind of.

Jonny You got a good voice?

Rachel I dunno.

Jonny Go on then.

Beat.

Rachel What?

Jonny Do us a song.

Rachel You joking again?

Jonny Yeah.

Rachel Good.

Jonny Yeah I am.

Rachel Cos that would be –

Jonny Getting the hang of it, aren't you?

Rachel Yep.

Jonny Got the measure of me.

Rachel Six foot one.

Jonny So go on then.

Beat.

One song.

Beat.

Rachel I don't really get it.

Jonny I don't get what's not to get?

Rachel Are you annoyed?

Jonny I'm confused, / that's all.

Rachel Have I done / something?

Jonny Confused as to why you've gone shy all of a sudden?

Rachel I'm not shy.

Jonny Thought you wanted to be a singer?

Rachel I never said that.

Jonny What Billie said. Yous lot aren't the only ones that talk you know. If you're any good I'll write you a letter. 'Dear Simon.'

Rachel You're taking the piss.

Jonny Am I?

Rachel–

Jonny Go on.

Beat.

Rachel?

Beat.

No?

Long pause.

He gets up to leave.

Rachel starts singing – it might be ‘Heaven Knows I’m Miserable Now’ by The Smiths. It could be something else. It’s worse than being naked.

She cries furious, humiliated tears.

She stops singing before the end of the song.

Long pause.

Rachel I thought you were alright.

Jonny No, I know what you thought. And you can tell them that I don’t.

Rachel–

Jonny Blame myself. I don’t blame myself.

Blackout.

Scene 8

Bathroom. Billie washes her face over the sink. Rachel stands in the doorway.

Rachel Is it still bleeding? Billie? I can’t really stay long.

Billie I feel dizzy.

Rachel No, obviously I can stay for a bit but I just mean... Do you want a sip of Coke? It’s a bit warm but...

Billie I’m gonna get a bruise.

Rachel Does it hurt?

Billie Yeah.

Rachel I’ve never actually seen someone’s nose get broken before.

Billie You think it’s broken?

Rachel Not yours. Ryan Dinnage’s. Did you hear the noise it made? Like treading on a snail.

Beat.

Are you sure you're okay? I could get you some ice?

Billie–

Rachel Have the Coke if you want. I'll get that...

Rachel *exits. Billie turns around. Her bump is huge. There's blood on her T-shirt.*

Pause.

Rachel *enters with a Vienetta.*

There wasn't any, I looked for peas or whatever but this was all I could... shall I wrap it in a towel or something?

Billie Does it look like I'm getting a black eye?

Rachel No. A bit, maybe. Here then. 62

Rachel *hands her the Vienetta.*

So. Will you be alright if I... Your dad'll be back soon, won't he?

Billie He's getting a curry. To get the baby out. You might as well stay in case she comes.

Rachel I don't really like curry.

Billie You can have something else.

Rachel My parents are taking me out to celebrate my results, all of us together. I think I actually did well better than they thought I was going to. My dad's gonna sleep at home tonight so... Oh, your results. You dropped them when it all kicked off.

She takes an brown envelope out of her bag, hands it to Billie.

Beat.

Aren't you gonna open them?

Billie–

Rachel If it's cos you don't wanna tell me don't worry about it. I'm gonna bounce now anyway.

Billie Bounce?

Rachel Yeah.

Billie Keep your phone on.

Rachel I will.

Billie It's any time from now. So you need to have it on loud.

Rachel Fine. I will.

Billie Do it now. Put it on loud now.

Rachel Oh my god.

Billie You didn't reply last night.

Rachel I was asleep.

Billie What if that had been it? You'd have missed it.

Rachel Well, I didn't, did I.

Billie What's your home number?

Rachel I'll make sure my mobile's on. Okay?

Billie It could be tonight.

Rachel Yeah.

Beat.

Although, I've sort of made plans tonight.

Billie Come here after.

Rachel I promised I'd go to Leah's party. It'll be shit, like I'm not really bothered about going but it's just... we might not see anyone from school ever again, do you know what I mean?

Billie You'll see them at college.

Rachel Are you still...

Billie What?

Rachel You're definitely going still?

Billie Why wouldn't I?

Rachel No I just... you know. My mum said it was gonna be quite full-on. For the first bit.

Billie I'm still going to college, Rachel.

Rachel Course.

Pause.

I'm sure you could come tonight? If you wanted?

Billie Just keep your phone on.

Rachel I will. Defs. Deffo.

Beat.

The thing is. I'm not sure about the whole... Like if I can still make it.

Billie Make it when?

Rachel It's not that, I'm just not sure if I can come. If I would be the best person.

Billie For...

Rachel When you have her.

Billie But you have to.

Rachel I'll try. Obviously.

Billie You're my birthing partner. I put it on the forms.

Rachel I'm shit at stuff like that. Blood and... You'll be looking after me.

Billie I'm having a baby, Rachel.

Rachel I know. It's just I can't like... guarantee... I just wanted to let you know. In case something comes up.

Billie Like what?

Rachel It would be easier if you had more of an idea when she might come?

Billie You can't order it, Rachel, it's not a Domino's.

Rachel Like, I'm going Thorpe Park this weekend, what if she comes then?

Billie I can't go in on my own.

Rachel Your dad'll be there.

Billie He hates hospitals.

Rachel Don't you have an auntie or something?

Billie No. And I want you.

Rachel You'll be alright.

Billie How do *you* know?

Rachel You'll be great. I know you will. And when you think about it... everyone that's ever lived, like ever, has been born, right? There's probably one just been born now. And another one now. And another one now –

Billie I get it.

Rachel So it's not such a big deal when you think about it like that, is it?

Billie It's a big as a watermelon.

Rachel It's the most natural thing in the world.

Billie You said you cried when that boy from Year 12 put three fingers in.

Rachel So?

Billie So imagine his fingers had a watermelon on the end.

Rachel I really want to be there –

Billie Do you?

Rachel I do, you know I do. It's just... my mum. She's not sure, if it's a good idea. She thinks it might be...

Billie What?

Rachel A bit much.

Beat.

Your nose is bleeding again.

Billie *bunches up a wad of tissue. Sticks it up her left nostril. The sound of the front door.*

I should go really.

Billie Rachel? Ryan and... everyone. Why were they saying that stuff?

Beat.

Rachel I dunno.

Jonny *enters.*

Jonny Mothers' meeting is it? Alright...

Billie Rachel?

Jonny Alright, Rachel?

Rachel Yeah.

Jonny All go okay with your exams and that?

Rachel Yeah. Good. Better than I...

Jonny Keeping busy are you?

Beat.

Good. Nice one. Billie? Wha's –

Billie Nothing.

Jonny Your face.

Rachel I'll get going.

Jonny What's going on?

Billie Nothing.

Jonny The baby's alright?

Billie She's fine.

Jonny Well, what's happened?

Pause.

Come on, this ain't fair, you're fucking freaking me out here.

Billie Don't swear, Dad.

Jonny Rachel?

Rachel She headbutted a boy from school.

Jonny You what?

Billie I headbutted Ryan Dinnage.

Jonny Who's Ryan Dinnage?

Billie A boy from school.

Jonny You went off right as rain this morning. I thought you was getting your results.

Billie I was.

Jonny And?

Billie I dunno. I've not opened them.

Jonny What you doing getting in fights?

Billie He's a prick.

Jonny Look at the state of you. You can't be fighting in the street.

Billie It was in the car park.

Jonny What will people be thinking?

Billie It's not my fault.

Jonny Nothing ever is, is it? Only you, Billie. Honestly. Bet none of the other girls was getting in fights. Was they, Rachel? You have a fight with anyone today?

Rachel No but –

Jonny Course you haven't. But this one... Take that Sarah Lee off your face, that ain't gonna do anything.

Billie It was Rachel's idea.

Rachel There aren't any peas.

Jonny *crouches in front of Billie.*

Jonny Come on then. Let's have a look at you.

Billie I'm fine.

Jonny You shouldn't nut someone if you don't know how.

Billie I made him cry.

Jonny Nothing to be proud of, Bill. You bought her back, did you?

Rachel Yeah.

Jonny Thanks for looking after her.

Rachel I didn't do anything.

Pause.

Jonny Right. Well, get home safe. And yeah, thanks for taking care of Rambo here.

Rachel It's okay. Like I said... Bye then, Billie.

Billie–

Jonny Billie. Your mate's going.

Rachel And good luck okay, if I can't... You'll be amazing.

Rachel *exits.*

Jonny Well, there's a black eye coming. You bruise like a peach as it is. Come on then, Rocky, what was this fight about?

Billie It was nothing.

Jonny Are you being bullied?

Billie No –

Jonny You want me to have a word?

Billie You'll make it worse.

Jonny What's happened?

Billie They were just... saying stuff.

Jonny Like what?

Billie About us.

Jonny What?

Beat.

Not the car, is it?

Billie No, not the car, Dad.

Pause.

Jonny What about these results then?

Billie I haven't yet.

Jonny What you waiting for?

Billie–

Jonny Come on. I got Freud on the other line. He's worried you're after his job.

Billie What if I haven't –

Jonny Then it doesn't matter. It's bit of paper, Bill. Whatever it says we both know you're gonna do big wonderful things, okay?

Billie 'Kay. After three then.

Beat.

Jonny / Billie Three.

*She rips the top off the brown envelope that **Rachel** gave her earlier. Blackout.*

Scene 9

*The bathroom. **Billie** stands by the door. There's a shallow pool of water in the main bath. A baby-changing bag on the floor as well as a used nappy, Babygro, vest, etc. **Fudge** is packing the used stuff into the bag.*

Fudge So?

Billie–

Fudge What do you think?

Billie–

Fudge Well, don't say right now, have a think about it.

Billie Fudge...

Fudge What?

Billie It's not right.

Fudge We've got a baby together.

Billie You don't love me.

Fudge I do –

Billie It's alright. I don't love you neither.

Pause.

Fudge So we need to decide.

Billie On what?

Fudge On her name.

Billie Oh.

Fudge Do you wanna give me your list first and I'll –

Billie I don't have a list.

Fudge I'll tell you the ones I like.

Billie You can choose.

Fudge Yeah? Okay, I liked Hope –

Billie Really?

Fudge It's symbolic.

Billie It's a bit...

Fudge I thought you didn't care.

Billie I don't but... Hope. It's like calling her Lucky.

Fudge So you do care.

Billie I just –

Fudge Mia?

Billie–

Fudge I thought before you had her, like I was thinking about if it was a boy I'd wanna give him some hench name like Aslan or something but for a girl.... my nana was called Maria so I thought....

Billie Mia.

Fudge Is it, do you mind?

Billie Yeah.

Fudge Yeah you mind or –

Billie Yeah whatever you think. You need to never have a son by the way. Aslan?

Fudge I don't get you, you know. I don't get how you don't wanna be with her all the time. Sometimes I wanna wake her up when she's asleep just cos I miss her. Can you believe that? How can you miss someone who's just there?

Billie I don't know.

Fudge So?

Billie So nothing.

Fudge Fuck's sake.

Billie You weren't interested either, remember –

Fudge I was just... I was scared though a bit. And I still feel bad you know, about the way I treated you, both of you, but I'm trying to make it up. That's what I'm doing, Bill, I'm making it up to her.

Long silence.

She's proper dark, isn't she?

Billie Yeah.

Fudge Everyone's saying she looks like I did. I was a cute baby, man.

Billie–

Fudge Her personality is definitely you though. She flings her wrists around when she's sleeping like... (*Imitates boxing.*) Must've learnt that off your dad.

She doesn't laugh. He lights his cigarette. Silence. Fudge opens the window. Leans out to smoke.

Billie That's a nasty habit you know.

Fudge I'm trying to give up, but I got a lot of stress in my life at the moment, know what I mean?

Takes a few deep drags.

Adele's proper jealous.

Billie Yeah?

Fudge Serious, she's needy at the moment always following me round like... She don't like sharing me I think.

Billie It's not that I don't appreciate it. I do. And you were right. It was alright today, giving her a bath and that. But I still... You're good with her. She seems happy.

Fudge Try it. Just a couple of weeks, a month to start off with and if you don't like it you can move out. Come back here.

Billie I can't, Fudge.

Fudge I had plans as well you know.

Billie I know. I shouldn't have had her.

Fudge Billie! Why do you say things like that?

Billie You just said you don't want her either.

Fudge I didn't want her. But she's here. She ain't goin' anywhere. She's actually well funny, the things she does. She don't even cry that much.

Billie—

Fudge She needs a mum.

Billie I was alright.

Fudge Your mum's dead, Bill, she isn't living round the corner.

Beat.

Billie I've been looking at unis. Edinburgh, maybe like Oxford and stuff. My results were good so... What? What's funny?

Fudge Nothing.

Billie You don't think I'm clever enough?

Fudge I don't think... You're not going Scotland, Billie, you pulled out of every school trip we ever had, there was some reason. You'll die here. In this oven. With him. Where is he anyways? Do I need to put on my fucking... bullet vest.

Billie He's having a check-up.

Fudge His head I hope.

Billie Arm. He's getting a big payout.

Fudge Right.

Billie I'll give you money, for her stuff.

Fudge Fuck you.

Billie I will.

Fudge Don't you love her?

Beat.

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Billie The thing is...

Beat.

She'll be alright with you. She thinks you're the shit already, imagine when you're giving lifts down the town and letting her eat peas off your plate. It will be better just the two of you.

Fudge We'll just go then shall we?

Billie I am grateful.

Fudge You should be.

Billie I am.

Fudge Right. Bye then.

Billie Bye.

He doesn't move. Pause.

Fudge—

Billie What?

Fudge Why you talking like you're not gonna see us again. We only live down the town.

The sound of a baby crying, off.

Do you mind?

Billie Can't you?

Fudge(*re: his fag*). Billie?

She doesn't move. He stubs out his cigarette, half-smoked on the sink. Exits. The baby's cries gets louder, then quieter, then stop. Fudge re-enters with her in his arms.

Don't like being put down, do ya? She's proper lairy, Bill, you can tell already. Look at her face.

Billie *goes close, stares at the baby. The baby starts crying again. Billie goes to the window, sticks her head out, breathes deeply. Fudge rocks the baby vigorously till she stops crying.*

What's wrong with you, man?

Billie Don't.

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Fudge You're nuts.

Billie Don't joke.

Fudge You need to be careful. A bird might see that nose and think it's a nice juicy raspberry / swipe it right off.

Billie Don't joke I said.

Fudge I'm not, you seen those seagulls?

Beat.

We actually do have to go. My auntie's picking us up.

Billie Okay.

Fudge You're gonna think about what I said?

Billie Yeah.

Fudge I know it's not perfect but... you can still do your college and uni and whatever you want. They wouldn't make us pay rent, I can work in the restaurant, save up, get a flat or something. They want us there. All of us. They're obsessed with her, Bill. With Mia. My dad would breastfeed her if he could I swear.

Billie Your family are funny.

Fudge They like you.

Billie Really?

Fudge Course they do. You're a fucking geek. Mum keeps going on at me to check up on you. Said you looked proper pale when she saw you in hospital.

Billie I'm always pale.

Fudge And that you need a proper dinner. Fancy it?

Billie What?

Fudge Come to mine for dinner.

Billie I'm not a charity.

Fudge I can show you the baby's room and my mum can stuff you full of chicken.

Billie I don't –

Fudge We'll give you a lift back tonight.

Billie My dad looks after me really good. Tell your mum that.

Fudge Tell her yourself.

Billie He's not...

Fudge What?

Billie What everyone was saying at school. Ryan and... he's not like, weird.

Fudge You sure about that?

Billie You know what I mean.

Fudge I know, Billie. I get it now okay?

Beat.

He'll be alright without you.

Pause.

Billie Give me a minute.

Fudge Yes, Billie!

Billie How long have I got?

Fudge I'll go down and tell her.

Billie Okay.

Fudge Wait in the car. My mum's chicken is the nuts, Bill. You're gonna love it.

He slings the baby bag over one shoulder. Exits with the baby.

Billie *pauses.*

She exits and re-enters wearing trainers. She ties her hair back. Rinses out her mouth. Washes her face. She looks at herself for some time.

The sound of keys in the door.

Jonny(*off*)Bill?

Beat.

Billie?

She takes the stub of the cigarette from the edge of the sink. Puts it in her pocket.

Jonny *enters.*

How you feeling?

Billie Good.

Jonny Promise?

Billie Yeah.

Jonny You look like you got a bit of colour back as it goes.

Beat.

Not gonna ask how it went?

Billie Sorry. How'd it go?

Jonny Very well thanks for asking.

Billie What did she say?

Jonny Yeah, yeah. Really good chance for the money I think. Really good chance.

Billie But is your shoulder okay?

Jonny Yeah, no she thought it looked really bad. Gonna take quite a bit longer to get the strength back, you know. I had to tell her about that time I went fishing.

Billie You've never been fishing.

Jonny Course I have, I must have told you about that time. When I went fishing. I caught a fish... and it was this big – *(Flexes his muscles like Mr Universe, it's an old game.)*

Billie Dad!

Jonny And it bit me right here – *(Flexes his muscles down pointing towards his bum.)*

Billie You're so embarrassing, did you actually do that to the doctor?

Jonny Thought you loved that one.

Billie I really don't.

Jonny Right. Well... am I too embarrassing to sit next to on the sofa? Cos in my nifty little bag for life – I got DVDs. Girly ones. Popcorn, one of them smelly candles and a pair of steaks; doctor said you have to keep your iron up. So basically everything two girls could need for a massive night in. What do you reckon? Too embarrassing?

Billie Maybe.

Jonny Even if... *(Consults the DVD in the bag.)* Ryan Gosling is involved?

Billie Maybe even then.

Jonny Right, well I'd better –

The doorbell rings.

You expecting someone?

Beat.

Doorbell rings again.

Billie?

Beat

Billie No.

Jonny I'll go.

Billie Probably selling something.

The bell rings again.

Jonny Sure you're okay?

Billie Yeah.

Jonny You didn't have plans already?

Billie Why d'you say that?

Long pause.

Looks like rain, anyway.

Jonny Right. I'll get this film on then, shall I. It's a choice of *La La Land* or *How to Lose a Guy in Ten Days*. They both look fucking terrible.

Billie *Scarface* it is then.

Jonny Right. And you can take your shoes off, babe. We ain't going anywhere.

He exits.

A beat.

Then she quietly closes the door, locks it.

She goes to the window and looks out.

The faint sound of a car pulling away.

She dips her hands in the baby's bath water. Drinks a little from her hands.

*She gets **Jonny's** lighter from a tin beside the toilet. Takes **Fudge's** cigarette stub out her pocket.*

Goes back to look out the window.

Lights the cigarette.

Pulls the plug in the bath.

She is still.

Blackout except for the orange of the fag.

Then black.

End.

