

Anything Is Possible If You Think About It Hard Enough.

CHARACTER NAME

AGE

GENDER

Alex

Late 20's/Early 30's

Female

Rupert

30'S

Male

SCENE ONE.

RUPERT

A crisp morning, a seat on the tube, no queues on the escalator, an easy stroll in The Navy Suit with the red tie from my school days that I should of forgotten but I keep to remind me of . . . Success. Shoes polished like my Grandfathers and an umbrella tucked neatly under my arm just in case. I'm immaculate, I'm pretty darn close to perfection, some may think, but some may think I am a ...

Rupert accidently hits Alex with his umbrella, hard. It hurts her, but he doesn't notice, until she shouts.

ALEX

Twat !

Rupert turns around and looks at her, he stops.

RUPERT

A green skirt, ironed in a rush with straighteners, a pink and yellow jumper clashing but in a charming way. High heel shoes rubbing already, but its OK there are some grey trainers discarded under her desk. No umbrella, handbag that doesn't quite fit everything and a tooth paste stain down the clashing jumper, but its instantly forgotten when you see her smile.

Did you know we are 1 in 8.788 Million buzzing around this busy city .We rub shoulders, brush hands, stand face to face with only a paper or a phone separating us. We rarely look up. We rarely stop and look and breath we rarely even say.

Hello

ALEX

(Looking around bewildered)

Hello?

RUPERT

Hello

ALEX

Hello.

RUPERT

It's me. Umbrella man. I hit you with my Umbrella.

ALEX

It's you.

RUPERT

How are you?

ALEX

Its early

RUPERT

It's 8:15

ALEX

Its early.

RUPERT

Coffee?

ALEX

Now?

RUPERT

Yes.

ALEX

We're on the tube

RUPERT

I magic a thermos of coffee from my goatskin briefcase.

ALEX

Of course

RUPERT

What?

ALEX

Of course you have a thermos.

They go there separate ways

RUPERT

A short, a far too short caffinated meeting , a blip in this universe a meeting of little consequence.

I plod, plod through my life, probably working at a 6.3 .4 mean level of happiness. I'm polite and clean, I can iron. I give to the homeless, I tip, well. I'll always make eye contact with the young girl from the RSPCA. I , I plod along nicely, happily. But most days I'm thinking

I don't understand

That's hard

I'll never understand

I think I'm coming down with something.

Why am I always tired?

And these thoughts these little ... Thoughts run frequently through my brain. Becoming so deeply entrenched in my soft matter it becomes hard to dismantle them. I smile, I laugh, I enjoy, but I don't feel I deserve it, I am always the worst of my friends. I compare, I analyze, I settle.

But

After that short, far too short caffinated meeting I changed. I strolled, no skipped into work, if I had had a hat I would of doffed it at the security guard, and at lunch I bought cake because who doesn't bloody love cake.

And for some reason, some niggling reason I sensed that she changed to, that she danced into the office singing.

ALEX

Good morning.

RUPERT

That she floated to the kitchen saying to anyone listening

ALEX

Who fancies a cuppa.

RUPERT

Waltzed around all day sighing at the photocopier, laughing with Gary from accounts for no reason at all ,no particular reason whatsoever other than the fact that she felt happy, because of her coffee on the tube from a stranger with an umbrella.

SCENE TWO

RUPERT

A tube strike.

On a Monday.

A two day hangover.

Drizzle.

A forgotten thermos

No umbrella

Calls for one thing.

Coffee and an Almond croissant please.

Rupert turns and runs into Alex, the coffee goes all over her, her own coffee drops on the floor ,she is soaked and furious.

ALEX

Fuck

RUPERT

Oops

ALEX

Just leave it

RUPERT

It's OK, here let me.

ALEX

No, just leave it

RUPERT

Let me, no, let me buy you a fresh one

ALEX

No, no I don't want one anymore

RUPERT

Is OK, wait a sec. I'll just nip up/ to the ..

ALEX

It's you

RUPERT

Oh hello

ALEX

Umbrella man

RUPERT

Its me.

ALEX

Nip up.

RUPERT

Excuse me ?

ALEX

You said you'd 'nip up' to the ...

RUPERT

Counter

ALEX

I know. 'Nip up'.

RUPERT

Its just another way of saying/ go up

ALEX

I know what it means .

Oh  
RUPERT

My mum says it.

ALEX  
Your mum? Sweet.

PAUSE

ALEX  
I didn't take you as an almond croissant kind of man,

RUPERT  
Oh you know Monday blues.

ALEX  
And where is your thermos?

RUPERT  
I forgot it

ALEX  
Oh dear

RUPERT  
What did you take me for?

ALEX  
What ?

RUPERT  
If not an almond croissant then what ?

ALEX  
An almond milk protein bowl kind of man.

RUPERT  
Oh

ALEX  
Am I right?



I guess RUPERT

You guess? ALEX

I am. RUPERT

Thought so ALEX

What do you have for breakfast? RUPERT

Guess. ALEX

I'm awful at guessing RUPERT

Just guess ALEX

No I cant. RUPERT

Try ALEX

Ummm.... coffee... RUPERT

Nope ALEX

What then? RUPERT

Jam ALEX

Just Jam? RUPERT

Yup. ALEX

Out of a jar? RUPERT

Exactly. ALEX

Like a yoghurt? RUPERT

Perfect. ALEX

Do you eat the whole jar? RUPERT

No, I eat just the right amount. ALEX

What's the right amount? RUPERT

Well it depends how I'm feeling. ALEX

So how much did you eat today? RUPERT

A huge amount of Raspberry Jam. ALEX

What's your name? RUPERT

Alex ALEX

Jammy Alex. RUPERT

What's yours? ALEX

Rupert. RUPERT

Like the bear. ALEX

Beat

RUPERT  
 A lesson, a lesson in each other. Our routines, our names are now secured in our minds. We can begin to imagine, begin to create pictures of each other. She'll probably see a man in a crisp white shirt, sleeves folded up. A bowl, a placemat, a cafeteria and a paper waiting for me to begin breakfast. I'll see a woman standing in a kitchen, her hair in a towel despite being fully dressed, scrolling through her phone absentmindedly eating a pot of raspberry Tiptree.

That image, that routine made my hairs stand on end. And I pictured it again and again and again. Shirt, coffee, paper, her. Her turban, her phone, her Jam. She steals my breakfast, I tap her on her nose. She finishes my coffee I pull her turban off. This scene, this scene of happiness is replaying and reforming my brain as I stand and I stare at Alex, at Jammy Alex who is covered in coffee. Isn't anything possible if you think about it hard enough, think about it long enough. Can we re-wire our minds so that the very thing we wish for becomes real. Sometimes it may take years. And sometimes, sometimes it only takes a second.

Wine? RUPERT

Now? ALEX

Thursday? RUPERT

ALEX  
A date.

RUPERT  
Id like that.

ALEX  
OK.

RUPERT  
OK, yes?

ALEX  
OK yes, Rupert The Bear.

### SCENE THREE

RUPERT  
There is something about the pop of the cork, the glug of wine into the clear glass the sound, the sniff,, the texture. Hints of raspberry, of earth, a little smokiness, a little soil and the slight scent of...

ALEX  
Toothpaste

RUPERT  
I'm sorry

ALEX  
Apple juice and toothpaste, that's what i think of when i drink it.

RUPERT  
Oh even with red wine

ALEX  
No, I don't mind red wine, I don't mind white wine. I don't mind wine, I just don't get the buzz, I don't get the long sniffs and aroma chat, I'm like, just drink it, soon it wont matter what it tastes like.

RUPERT  
Do you want me to order something else?

ALEX  
No wine is fine

RUPERT  
I can get bubbles

ALEX  
OK

RUPERT  
Do you want bubbles?

ALEX  
Yes

RUPERT  
Or we can just stick with the Chablis

ALEX  
Fine

RUPERT  
What would you prefer?

ALEX  
I honestly don't mind

RUPERT  
Or we could just not drink.

ALEX  
God no, its a first date we're going to need it.

RUPERT  
Great, so the Chablis

ALEX  
Perfect

RUPERT  
We could just do the glass, if you don't really like wine.

ALEX

No a bottle, we need a bottle.

RUPERT

One each?

ALEX

Perfect

RUPERT

I was joking

ALEX

I wasn't

RUPERT

Are you planning on getting really drunk

ALEX

Yes, aren't you ?

RUPERT

I thought we could just enjoy the wine?

ALEX

God no, don't you think its better if we just get smashed, lets not pretend Rupert that either of us are feeling in the least bit comfortable, in the least bit relaxed. Are we? Really? Bloody first dates, bloody awful if you ask me. Fag?

As she speaks takes some cigarettes out of her bag and offers Rupert one, he declines and then tries his best to listen and stop her from lighting up. She doesn't notice.

ALEX

Lets just get all the ugly bits out of the way, reveal all now rather than three months down the line when we discover our stars aren't aliened at all, that you snore or worse that you voted Tory.

Pause

ALEX  
Oh shit.

RUPERT  
You can't smoke in here.

ALEX  
Why?

RUPERT  
Its a non smoking area.

ALEX  
No, why did you vote Tory?

RUPERT  
You really cant smoke

ALEX  
(continuing to smoke)  
Did your parents vote Tory?

RUPERT  
Yes, but / look, please can you put it out people are looking.

ALEX  
Ah that's why you did it. /Bet you believe in Fox hunting

RUPERT  
Yes.

ALEX  
Did you go to an all boys boring school?

RUPERT  
I did.

Rupert starts searching in his jacket pocket for something

ALEX  
Summer holidays in the Dordogne, plenty of tennis lesson, rugby tours and thousands of dogs.

Yes

RUPERT

He finds it, its an inhaler he sits down and takes a puff, an another and another, he relaxes. Alex is yet to really notice despite looking right at him, she is on a roll.

ALEX

See you are destined to repeat your parents life, you never really left home not really, you are merely a vessel to spread the right wing beliefs of your parents further, you'll never think independently, you're just a continuation of the same blood.

Pause. Rupert is calmer, Alex stubs out her cigarette they look at each other, Rupert is looking at her shocked, but still smitten.

ALEX

Are you OK?

RUPERT

I think we're going to need more wine.

ALEX

This is good, I like this a lot.

RUPERT

You do ?

ALEX

Yes, I'm getting to know you .

RUPERT

You don't know me.

ALEX

I know your asthmatic. And that your politics are dodgy.

RUPERT

Bloody hell.



ALEX

This is good, this is promising. I'm insulting you, I'm insulting your family but you're going no-where you're staying right where you are.

RUPERT

I could leave.

ALEX

You won't

RUPERT

How do you know?

ALEX

You're a Tory from the shires you're too polite.

RUPERT

What if I insult you

ALEX

Go for it

Pause

RUPERT

I like your hair

ALEX

Not going well so far

RUPERT

I cant insult you, I was bought up properly

ALEX

You were bought up by Tories

RUPERT

Not always

ALEX

Oh, did they change their minds after Blair?

RUPERT  
No, I was adopted.

ALEX  
Oh

RUPERT  
When I was six

ALEX  
Wow

RUPERT  
See you don't know me.

It takes us 60 seconds to decide weather we like someone, 60 seconds on average to decide to stick it out, to pursue this person. I don't know, I don't know whether it was the bad taste in wine, the continuous fags or the just down right rudeness. But something, something about Alex, about Jammy Alex made me stay.

Pause

ALEX  
But you're still here.

(back to Alex)  
I told you I like your hair

ALEX  
Just my hair

RUPERT  
At the moment

ALEX  
Are you sure you don't want one?

RUPERT  
My asthma is really quite ... Sensitive

ALEX  
Sensitive

RUPERT  
Yes, the smallest thing can set off.

ALEX  
Gosh, how did you manage with all those dogs

RUPERT  
They had short hair.

ALEX  
They

RUPERT  
Mum bred them.

ALEX  
Course she did

RUPERT  
When she found out she couldn't have, you know babies, she bred puppies.

ALEX  
Labs?

RUPERT  
Nope

ALEX  
Beagles

RUPERT  
Bluetick Coonhounds.

ALEX  
Excuse me

RUPERT  
Bluetick Coonhounds, their American, the official dog of Tennessee.

ALEX

That makes sense.

RUPERT

George Washington had one.

They have an unusual bark it's described as 'The Bells Of Moscow'

ALEX

An accurate description ?

RUPERT

Not really, more the 'Howl of Moscow'.

ALEX

We had a tortoise.

RUPERT

Called?

ALEX

Lennin. DONT.

RUPERT

I didn't say anything.

ALEX

I still think you voted Tory because of your parents.

RUPERT

Maybe

ALEX

Ah so I was right! You did !

RUPERT

Lets talk about something else.

ALEX

Do you know who your real parents are?

Or not

RUPERT

Do you ?

ALEX

Beat

Um, no. I don't.

RUPERT

Have you ever tried to find them.

ALEX

No.

RUPERT

Why ?

ALEX

I don't know.

RUPERT

Aren't you curious ?

ALEX

Yea, i don't know. My folks are amazing

RUPERT

They vote Tory

ALEX

They're amazing. They gave me everything.

RUPERT

You're lucky.

ALEX

I remember when I first lived with them, I'd have moments

RUPERT

Moments?

ALEX

RUPERT

Episodes I guess, tantrums. And my mum would put on music, really loudly, not the kind of music your thinking. It was big olf school drum and base music. She would turn it up, so loud, so loud, I could see the speakers bouncing. And she'd say Dance. DANCE. DANCE RUPERT! And we'd dance, together.

ALEX

Then what?

RUPERT

I'd be OK.

ALEX

Do you still do it?

RUPERT

Yea. Sometimes, not that much. I might do it tonight

ALEX

Are you close to a moment?

RUPERT

I am.

ALEX

Am I that awful?

RUPERT

No. God No.  
I think you're...

ALEX

What?

RUPERT

I think your magnificent

Beat

ALEX

My Dad had affairs.

I'm sorry.

RUPERT

Have you had an affair?

ALEX

Nope.

RUPERT

Liar

ALEX

Well when I was ten

RUPERT

Did you break her heart?

ALEX

I did. It was a mess.

RUPERT

Beat

I like the wine.

ALEX

You do ?

RUPERT

I do

ALEX

Apples?

RUPERT

No, but definitely toothpaste.

ALEX

RUPERT

I wont bang on, I could. Maybe I should. Tell you all about the dinners, the first fights, the parents, the holidays, the socks in the bed the loose change under the sofa. That year, that year of ...

She never opens her post, is that important for you to know? Never opens it, then one day I did, and the next day I did again until soon I always opened her post. And it became a thing. A thing we did. I could spend hours talking about the little things. They slowly build one on top of each other until soon they make a life. And that's special I think, it happens slowly without realizing with out really planning. And I never expected that, expected any of that. How can something happen without a plan? All my life ive been planned, I've known the dates, the times the journeys. But with Alex nothing's ever planned.

SCENE THREE

	ALEX
It's a girl.	
	RUPERT
It is?	
	ALEX
Yes	
	RUPERT
A girl	
	ALEX
Rose	
	RUPERT
Oh	
	ALEX
That's what we agreed.	
	RUPERT
Yes.	
	ALEX
Rose	



I know	RUPERT
Rose	ALEX
It's nice, its a bit / you know	RUPERT
A bit what ?	ALEX
A bit flowery	RUPERT
Its a type of flower	ALEX
I know	RUPERT
We agreed	ALEX
I know	RUPERT
So what's the problem?	ALEX
There isn't a problem	RUPERT
	Pause
It's just	RUPERT
What ?	ALEX
Its just.	RUPERT

What? ALEX

Do we want her / to be flowery RUPERT

We decided it was a good theme ALEX

Theme RUPERT

Yes a theme for our children's names ALEX

What? RUPERT

We did decide ALEX

Beat

Its wet RUPERT

Wet? ALEX

It's a bit wet. RUPERT

A bit wet? ALEX

Princessy RUPERT

I flowery name/ doesn't maker her princessy ALEX

RUPERT  
Do we want her to be princessy?

ALEX  
No / but if she ...

RUPERT  
To have no backbone?/

ALEX  
To have no backbone?

RUPERT  
I just worry, is all, your name says a lot about you

ALEX  
You're named after a bear

RUPERT  
Exactly/ bears are

ALEX  
A teddy bear!

Beat

RUPERT  
I never liked it

ALEX  
What

RUPERT  
I've never liked it

ALEX  
But we agreed

RUPERT  
We didn't

ALEX  
We did

I don't remember RUPERT

You do ALEX

Beat

You do remember ALEX

What about Ethel ? RUPERT

Ethel? ALEX

Yes RUPERT

No ALEX

Beat

I don't like it RUPERT

But we agreed ALEX

We didn't agree RUPERT

We did ALEX

I don't remember RUPERT

ALEX

We talked about having a 'Flower Bed' our very own flower bed.

We did not talk about that

RUPERT

WE DID

ALEX

Maybe you talked about to yourself

RUPERT

Excuse me?

ALEX

Maybe you imagined you had that conversation

RUPERT

I did not.

ALEX

It wouldn't be the first time

RUPERT

It would

ALEX

Since you've... you know ...

RUPERT

Been pregnant

ALEX

Yea

RUPERT

With our child

ALEX

It wouldn't be the first time since you've been pregnant that you've had imaginary conversations

RUPERT

I've never had an imaginary conversation

ALEX

You have RUPERT

Name one then ALEX

In bed the other night RUPERT

In our bed. ALEX

Yes RUPERT

What was I saying? ALEX

It doesn't matter RUPERT

No say. ALEX

All sorts of stuff RUPERT

What stuff? ALEX

Just stuff . RUPERT

Well I was obviously talking to you ALEX

You weren't, I wasn't in the room. RUPERT

Where were you? ALEX

RUPERT

I got up to go for a wee

ALEX

Don't say wee you know I hate it when you say wee.

RUPERT

Ok, whatever, anyway , I got up , I wasn't in the room and then .

ALEX

Then what ?

RUPERT

I came back and you were talking

ALEX

What was I saying?

RUPERT

You were saying, you know

ALEX

I don't

RUPERT

Sexy stuff

ALEX

Well obviously I was talking to you

RUPERT

No! I was doing a wee.

ALEX

Dont say wee

RUPERT

You were not talking to me.

ALEX

Ok, then I was talking in my sleep

RUPERT

You were sex talking in your sleep

ALEX

Ok , I was sex talking in my sleep

RUPERT

There you go

ALEX

There you go what?

RUPERT

You're having conversations with someone who isn't there.

ALEX

No, I'm having conversations with people who are very much there.

Beat

RUPERT

People

Beat

RUPERT

People

ALEX

Yes

Beat

RUPERT

What people

ALEX

Just, all sorts

RUPERT

All sorts



YES. ALEX

Not me? RUPERT

No, not really ALEX

Sometimes though? RUPERT

Actually no, not really ever ALEX

Who are these people RUPERT

I don't know, they are just, they don't have faces ALEX

Why? RUPERT

They're wearing masks ALEX

What? RUPERT

Masks. ALEX

Masks? RUPERT

Yes ALEX

What kind of masks? RUPERT

The black ones

ALEX

Balakovas

RUPERT

Yes

ALEX

And they're french.

What?

RUPERT

Usually they're french with balakovas and I'm tied up.

You never let me tie you up.

RUPERT

Yea, but its you.

ALEX

Thanks

RUPERT

You're cuddly not sexy

ALEX

I am sexy

RUPERT

You say wee, saying wee isn't sexy

ALEX

French people say wee all the time.

RUPERT

Its not the same

ALEX

Ok well ill stop  
RUPERT

That's not the point  
ALEX

Beat

I love having sex with you  
ALEX

I can be sexy  
RUPERT

I know  
ALEX

RUPERT

(in a french accent)  
I can be very sexy

Beat

I don't like Rose  
RUPERT

But we agreed  
ALEX

I don't remember agreeing  
RUPERT

You did I promise  
ALEX

Yea, but I never thought it would..  
RUPERT

Would what?  
ALEX

RUPERT

I never thought it would be a girl

ALEX

Oh

RUPERT

I was like 99% sure it would be a boy

ALEX

Right

RUPERT

So I'm actually rather ...

ALEX

How were you so sure?

RUPERT

I just had a feeling

ALEX

What do you mean you had a 'feeling'?

RUPERT

Just a, you know, manly feeling

ALEX

How were you so sure Rupert?

Beat

RUPERT

OK. So. On the day we conceived/ it

ALEX

The 16th of May

RUPERT

The 16th of May

ALEX  
And. Stop calling it.

RUPERT  
I'm not calling it Rose

ALEX  
We'll see. So on the 16th of May

RUPERT  
On the day we conceived . . .

ALEX  
Rose

RUPERT  
Oh it doesn't matter

ALEX  
What ?

RUPERT  
You always interrupt

ALEX  
I don't

RUPERT  
You do, You asked me to tell you and I'm trying / and you keep interrupting

ALEX  
I'm sorry ill stop

Beat

RUPERT  
So, on the day we conceived ...

ALEX  
Rose!

Alex RUPERT

Sorry! ALEX

Baby Girl Harris RUPERT

Baby Girl Brown Harris ALEX

Baby Girl Brown Harris, I remember when I .... Ended RUPERT

Came ALEX

Finished RUPERT

Jizzed ALEX

Finalised the seed of our baby RUPERT

Jesus Christ! ALEX

It was like a really big . . . RUPERT

What? ALEX

It was a lot of .../sperm RUPERT

Sperm? ALEX

Beat

RUPERT

And I remember thinking, cor that's a big load, that's a manly load

ALEX

So it must be a boy

RUPERT

Yes, boys are generally bigger

ALEX

No, no they're not.

RUPERT

They're, they have bigger bones

ALEX

Sperm doesn't effect bones

RUPERT

I just had a feeling that I had ejected, if you were going to get pregnant from my ejection/

ALEX

Rupert

RUPERT

/that I had ejected a boy into you

ALEX

This is charming

RUPERT

Sorry

ALEX

This is just how I pictured this conversation going

RUPERT

So, yea, I am actually very very shocked/ that its a girl

ALEX  
So am I.

A Rose

RUPERT  
Not Rose

ALEX  
A Rose amongst two thorns.

#### SCENE FOUR

ALEX  
I'd like yellow

RUPERT  
Ok

ALEX  
Oh

RUPERT  
Do you not want yellow?

ALEX  
I really do

RUPERT  
Then why do you sound disappointed

ALEX  
I'd thought you'd say no

RUPERT  
Why?

ALEX  
We always disagree, I thought we would disagree on this



I think yellow is great,/ neutral

RUPERT

Neutral

ALEX

Great minds.

RUPERT

Indeed

ALEX

Beat

This is weird

ALEX

What?

RUPERT

Deciding something quickly with you

ALEX

Its normal

RUPERT

Oh this is what normal feels like

ALEX

Yes, I guess so, its nice isn't it?

RUPERT

Very grown up.

ALEX

It's like we're parents

RUPERT

Nearly, not quite parenting yet.

ALEX

Pause

ALEX

She'll have a great mind wont she?

RUPERT

Of course

ALEX

A great mind, a creative mind, a mathematical mind, a dirty mind.

RUPERT

Not a dirty mind

ALEX

Why not?

RUPERT

I don't want my daughter to have a dirty mind

ALEX

Well she will

RUPERT

Stop it

ALEX

I bet she'll be filthy

RUPERT

Can you not talk about our baby like that.

ALEX

Why not, it's important to be curious

RUPERT

I hope she's always a virgin

ALEX

That's awful

RUPERT

It's not

ALEX  
You're not a virgin

RUPERT  
That's different

ALEX  
I'm not a virgin

RUPERT  
Its different

ALEX  
Why sex is important, I want her to have it, and be good at it. I want her to know what good sex is. We have to be able to talk to her, guide her, advise her.

RUPERT  
Advise her

ALEX  
Yes

RUPERT  
On what? Blow Jobs?

ALEX  
Maybe yes.

RUPERT  
What sit her down with a can of pledge and show her whats what

ALEX  
A can of pledge ?

RUPERT  
Yes

ALEX  
Bloody hell

What?  
RUPERT

A can of pledge seriously  
ALEX

Everyone has pledge in there cupboards  
RUPERT

It's quite in your face, its quite intimidating  
ALEX

Its more or less the same shape  
RUPERT

IT IS NOT  
ALEX

It is its long and cylindrical  
RUPERT

Wooooo  
ALEX

I think it would be good for a demonstration.  
RUPERT

Beat

Is that what you think you look like?  
ALEX

No! No!  
RUPERT

You sure?  
ALEX

Yes I mean no, no, no, I don't think No.  
RUPERT

Good because you don't  
ALEX

I know  
RUPERT

You're not even close  
ALEX

I'm above average.  
RUPERT

You're not a can of pledge.  
ALEX

Beat

ALEX  
You have to be able to talk to her about these things, even if it makes you feel uncomfortable.

I wont ever  
RUPERT

That's selfish  
ALEX

It's not  
RUPERT

ALEX  
Imagine if a boy asks her to do something because its meant to be cool.

Like what ?  
RUPERT

Like anal.  
ALEX

RUPERT  
No one is going to tell her that she has to do anal in order to be cool.

ALEX  
They might, and if we don't build that openness, that conversation from the get go, then she won't know and that'll be it.

RUPERT

That'll be what?

ALEX

She'll have anal and she wont ever know if she's ok with it.

Beat

RUPERT

Maybe we should stick with white

ALEX

Fine don't talk about it

RUPERT

Or cream

ALEX

No.

RUPERT

Its less suggestive

ALEX

Than yellow

RUPERT

Less oppressive

ALEX

Than a neutral yellow

RUPERT

Yea, exactly. Yellow might make her...

ALEX

What?

RUPERT

Might make her

ALEX  
What Rupert?

RUPERT  
Might make her like anal.

SCENE SIX

ALEX  
Lets move

RUPERT  
Where?

ALEX  
The country side

RUPERT  
What would we do?

ALEX  
Be bored I suppose

RUPERT  
Exactly

ALEX  
Id like to be bored, it would be easier

RUPERT  
We could never go to the theatre

ALEX  
When do we ever go to the theatre?

RUPERT  
Well, if we wanted to go it would be harder.

ALEX  
Lets risk it.

What about work?  
RUPERT

Maybe I wont go back .  
ALEX

Why?  
RUPERT

I hate it, you know I hate it.  
ALEX

But the money  
RUPERT

Will just go on childcare  
ALEX

Beat

We could have an allotment  
RUPERT

Yes  
ALEX

Grow stuff  
RUPERT

Carrots  
ALEX

Beat

We're going to be poor  
RUPERT

No we're not  
ALEX



RUPERT  
We're going to really struggle.

ALEX  
How?

RUPERT  
This is serious Alex

ALEX  
Oh is the poor little Tory worrying about his bank balance

RUPERT  
I mean it

ALEX  
Ok

RUPERT  
We wont make enough money

ALEX  
Ok

RUPERT  
So we're going to struggle

ALEX  
I get it

RUPERT  
Do you Alex

ALEX  
I DO!

RUPERT  
I just don't feel like you're engaging

ALEX  
I am.

Alex  
RUPERT

What?  
ALEX

Can you just please/ just ..  
RUPERT

What?  
ALEX

Oh never mind.  
RUPERT

Beat

We can make small changes I've listed just some small changes.  
ALEX

Great  
RUPERT

The gym that's £50 each a month  
ALEX

Ok  
RUPERT

No?  
ALEX

Gym sure  
RUPERT

What ?  
ALEX

Well you never use it, but I do, I use it a lot actually. Actually.  
RUPERT

ALEX  
You don't

RUPERT  
I love the gym, I need it, it helps me .

ALEX  
Helps you what?

RUPERT  
Just get through the week.

ALEX  
You haven't been in two months

RUPERT  
That's not true

ALEX  
I rang to see how often you go and you haven't been in two months.

RUPERT  
This months been crazy

ALEX  
More crazy than having a baby?

RUPERT  
Fine

ALEX  
Great, so no gym.

RUPERT  
Fine

ALEX  
You can go running

RUPERT  
It's cold

ALEX  
Then get fat, like me.  
Ok SKY TV that can go

RUPERT  
Agreed

ALEX  
The week subscription

RUPERT  
Never read it.

ALEX  
We should

RUPERT  
I know

ALEX  
We should read more

RUPERT  
I know

ALEX  
We're very busy

RUPERT  
Exactly

ALEX  
Ok, The Week gone.  
We can do a bulk shop once a week

RUPERT  
Online!

ALEX  
Exciting!  
Cinema Membership

RUPERT

You gave that to me, that's a present

ALEX

It's going, you've used it once.

RUPERT

I might use it again

ALEX

You used it to get a muffin

RUPERT

....

ALEX

Yoga studio

RUPERT

Since when have we been part of a yoga studio?

ALEX

I am, you're not

RUPERT

When do you do yoga

ALEX

I don't

RUPERT

How much is it?

ALEX

I'm not saying

RUPERT

Tell ME!

ALEX

No its embarrassing, I'm embarrassed.

Is it a lot?  
RUPERT

Its a lot, its so much  
ALEX

How much ?  
RUPERT

If I tell you, you cant be cross.  
ALEX

I promise  
RUPERT

Promise?  
ALEX

Promise.  
RUPERT

I cant say  
ALEX

Say  
RUPERT

I cant say it out loud.  
ALEX

Write it down.  
RUPERT

Ok.  
ALEX

(she writes it down)

ALEX!  
RUPERT

ALEX

You promised you wouldn't get cross.

Beat

ALEX

We'll freeze them all.

RUPERT

You made twelve

ALEX

Twelve lasagna's

RUPERT

We cant eat lasagna's for twelve weeks

ALEX

It's quorn lasagna

RUPERT

It's so much qourn lasagne

ALEX

It's saving

RUPERT

It's boring

ALEX

It's for the baby

Beat

RUPERT

Where's the sourdough?

ALEX

There's sliced white in the cupboard.

What? RUPERT

Beat

And the Lurpack RUPERT

Tesco's own, just as good. ALEX

Beat

Id thought we'd stay with my parents RUPERT

When? ALEX

In the summer RUPERT

God why ? ALEX

Instead of a holiday. RUPERT

No ALEX

Why? RUPERT

Its damp ALEX

Not in the summer RUPERT

Its quite moist. ALEX



RUPERT  
Its for the baby, we're saving.

ALEX  
We could stay with my parents?

RUPERT  
No, absolutely not

ALEX  
Why

RUPERT  
Your mum will make me meditate.

ALEX  
So.

RUPERT  
Make me sleep with crystals

ALEX  
It might be nice, do you some good.

RUPERT  
There's no phone signal, no internet, there's barely electricity

ALEX  
So?

RUPERT  
Its like going back in time

ALEX  
We can reconnect.

RUPERT  
What happens if there's an emergency?

ALEX  
Like what?

RUPERT

Like a terrorist attack

ALEX

Well we'll be safe, we will be away from it.

RUPERT

What happens if there's a terrorist attack and all our friends die

ALEX

I wouldn't mind if I' honest..

RUPERT

Alex

ALEX

What ?

RUPERT

They're our friends

ALEX

Oh Rupert they're all so boring so smug and chatty, I hate the chattiness.

RUPERT

Oh, even Paul?

ALEX

I cant bare Paul

RUPERT

Right. Ok. You always seem to laugh a lot when Pauls around

ALEX

I never laugh a lot when Pauls around.

RUPERT

You do you throw your head back and laugh like this...

(he shows her how she laughs)

ALEX

Like what ?

RUPERT

Like this

(he shows her again )

ALEX

Well clearly that's fake, clearly I'm over compensating.

RUPERT

That's not clear, you're laughing, if you laugh it usual means you're having a great time

ALEX

Or you're just being polite

RUPERT

So you really don't like Paul

ALEX

I think Paul's a nob

Beat

RUPERT

Do it now

ALEX

What?

RUPERT

Do your fake laugh now

ALEX

Ok. Say something I can react to.

RUPERT

Like what ?

ALEX

I don't know just something amusing

RUPERT

Lift your leg

(she lifts her leg, he blows a raspberry)

Beat

(she rolls her head back and laughs)

ALEX

See?

RUPERT

God you're good

ALEX

I know

RUPERT

You're very good

ALEX

Thank you.

RUPERT

God I love you

Beat

ALEX

Say it again

RUPERT

God I love you.

ALEX

Again

GOD I LOVE YOU! RUPERT

Lets stay with Mum and Dad ALEX

Alex, no I hate it. RUPERT

I'll do that thing you like ALEX

What thing RUPERT

That thing? ALEX

Really ? RUPERT

Yes. ALEX

Will you really? RUPERT

I will Rupert. ALEX

Ok. RUPERT

Beat

Ok? ALEX

Fine. Just a week. RUPERT

It's for the baby. ALEX

Its for Ethel RUPERT

Not Ethel ALEX

Not Rose. RUPERT

Beat

Why are you so red? RUPERT

I walked ALEX

From work? RUPERT

I thought it would be nice ALEX

You're pregnant RUPERT

Cutting back Rupert ALEX

Beat

I want pizza. ALEX

You've got lasanga RUPERT

I need pizza ALEX

Its expensive RUPERT

I want a sourdough pizza with a tomato and burrata salad. ALEX

You'll live. RUPERT

Beat

Fuck RUPERT

What's that noise? ALEX

Fuck it. RUPERT

Rupert what is it? ALEX

It's the bloody boiler RUPERT

Turn it off ALEX

I can't RUPERT

Just turn it off ALEX

I cant Alex its fucked! RUPERT

That bloody boiler. ALEX

Beat

Everyone not just me. ALEX

Are you sure RUPERT

Yes, they have no money. ALEX

How long have they known? RUPERT

A while ALEX

Are you sure its everyone? RUPERT

Yes, not just me the pregnant woman. ALEX

Well what are we going to do? RUPERT

I dont know ALEX

What about your maternity pay RUPERT

There's no money ALEX

Savings? RUPERT

No ALEX



Why?  
RUPERT

I didn't make enough to have savings  
ALEX

Can you ask your parents  
RUPERT

For what, a job?  
ALEX

No, money.  
RUPERT

Uh no Rupert, don't be silly.  
ALEX

I'm not being silly they're clearly loaded  
RUPERT

They wont give us money  
ALEX

Why  
RUPERT

They don't work like that you know they don't work like that.  
ALEX

Well what the fuck are you going to do  
RUPERT

What are we going to do?  
ALEX

You Alex, you. I haven't lost my job.  
RUPERT

Its not my fault  
ALEX

RUPERT

You have no savings, no income from now on, no maternity leave nothing, there is nothing just what I earn.

ALEX

It's not my fault

RUPERT

Its never your fault

ALEX

This isn't my fault

RUPERT

FUCK SAKE ALEX

ALEX

Don't shout at me.

RUPERT

I'll SHOUT IF I WANT TOO.

Beat

ALEX

Never shout at me. Shout at me like that again ill leave.

Beat

RUPERT

I don't earn enough money to support us

ALEX

I know

RUPERT

We don't have enough savings

ALEX

We have a little

Not enough

RUPERT

I'm sorry.

ALEX

...

RUPERT

I am sorry.

ALEX

Beat

Oh my god.

ALEX

What?

RUPERT

Oh my god.

ALEX

What?

RUPERT

Here.

ALEX

(she puts his hand on her stomach)

Oh wow

RUPERT

She kicked

ALEX

Oh wow.

RUPERT

She's kicking	ALEX
Oh wow	RUPERT
Rose	ALEX
Not Rose	RUPERT
A rose amongst two thorns	ALEX
	Beat
Rupert!	ALEX
Rupert!	
Oh my God, Rupert!	
Hang on	RUPERT
What are you doing?	ALEX
I'm doing a wee.	RUPERT
Don't say wee	ALEX
Hurry up.	
What's wrong is it the baby ?	RUPERT
Guess	ALEX

What's happened?  
RUPERT

Guess  
ALEX

I hate guessing Al, just tell me.  
RUPERT

Guess  
ALEX

I cant guess  
RUPERT

We won.  
ALEX

Won what  
RUPERT

We won...  
ALEX

WHAT?  
RUPERT

(PAUSE)

We won the lottery  
ALEX

Good one Al  
RUPERT

No, no I mean it.  
ALEX

Right  
RUPERT

Honestly, we won Rupert, we won the lottery  
ALEX

Beat

Nooo?  
RUPERT

Yes  
ALEX

Seriously  
RUPERT

Yes, my lucky numbers.  
ALEX

Have you just found out  
RUPERT

Yes  
ALEX

Were you on the train?  
RUPERT

Yes  
ALEX

Where you sat down on the train  
RUPERT

Yes  
ALEX

You were sat down on the train and then what?  
RUPERT

I checked the numbers  
ALEX

Yes....  
RUPERT

And then I was like GOD we've won!  
ALEX

Fuck  
RUPERT

Yes  
ALEX

This is huge  
RUPERT

Yes  
ALEX

Have we seriously won the lottery?  
RUPERT

We have YES!!!  
ALEX

Oh my god, oh my god. Have you told anyone  
RUPERT

No just you.  
ALEX

How much, how much is it?  
RUPERT

(silence)

£50  
ALEX

(pause)

50 smackerons baby!  
ALEX

We're rich  
RUPERT

Loaded  
ALEX

All our problems solved  
RUPERT

It's our lucky day!  
ALEX

Lets celebrate  
RUPERT

PIZZA  
ALEX

Sourdough  
RUPERT

Burrata  
ALEX

Is it Pasteurized?  
RUPERT

Fuck off Rupert I'm having Burrata.  
ALEX

#### SCENE SEVEN

RUPERT

A crisp morning in The Navy Suit with the red tie from my school days that I should of forgotten but that I keep to remind me of ... Freedom. My shoes polished like my Grandfathers and an umbrella tucked neatly under my arm just in case. Green skirt ironed in a rush with straighteners, a pink and yellow jumper clashing but in a charming way. She is absentmindedly eating from a pot of Raspberry Tiptree, her hair still in a turban despite being fully dressed and she is casually scrolling through her phone. I walk passed and tap her nose heading towards my breakfast, on a placemat with yesterdays newspaper beside it.

RUPERT

My Breakfast is half eaten!



What? ALEX

You ate my breakfast. RUPERT

The baby ate it. ALEX

You have toothpaste on your jumper. RUPERT

Oh its been there for years ALEX

Do you ever wash RUPERT

Will you ever go to work ALEX

Goodbye you RUPERT

Goodbye me. ALEX

Beat

Oh ALEX

What? RUPERT

Don't go yet. ALEX

SCENE EIGHT

I don't like her. ALEX

You haven't got a choice RUPERT

She's judging me. ALEX

She's not judging you. RUPERT

When I asked for jelly she sighed ALEX

She did not RUPERT

She did ALEX

You haven't even eaten your Jelly RUPERT

I hate it ALEX

Eat it RUPERT

I hate it ALEX

I'll eat it RUPERT

No I might want it ALEX

Beat

I can't ALEX

You have to RUPERT

I can't ALEX

Where is she RUPERT

Go find her ALEX

Ok RUPERT

No come back. ALEX

Beat

Why is she speaking like that ALEX

Like what ? RUPERT

In that weird way ALEX

She's got an accent Alex RUPERT

I cant understand her ALEX

Shall I interpret? RUPERT

Don't be so fucking irritating Rupert! ALEX

RUPERT  
Don't be so fucking racist Alex !

Beat

ALEX  
Ok

RUPERT  
Ok

ALEX  
Ok

RUPERT  
You're amazing

ALEX  
I know

RUPERT  
I love you

ALEX  
I know

RUPERT  
You're so amazing

ALEX  
Where's the midwife

RUPERT  
She's coming

ALEX  
Do you think she knows we haven't bought a car seat that's why she hates us.

RUPERT  
She doesn't hate us

ALEX  
She does

RUPERT  
Anyway I'm going to buy one.

ALEX  
Oh god ok

RUPERT  
Just one push

ALEX  
Ok

RUPERT  
Keep breathing

ALEX  
I am fucking breathing .

RUPERT  
The second before your life changes everything slows down, I slowly pull her hair back, she grabs my hand and squeezes and squeezes but I don't feel it I don't feel the pain. I just watch her as this magnificent fucking crazy woman fucking rocks the room. And everything stops for one moment and she looks at me and we stare at each other and wait, wait for the sound of the first

ALEX  
Crying, why isn't she crying

RUPERT  
It's a boy

ALEX  
What?

RUPERT  
It's a bloody boy, I told you it was a boy.

ALEX  
No we were told it was a girl ?

RUPERT  
A mistake, we've got a baby boy

ALEX  
A boy?

RUPERT  
A boy!

ALEX  
Not Rose

RUPERT  
NO!

ALEX  
A boy. I love him

RUPERT  
I told you!

ALEX  
You did.

RUPERT  
Didn't i tell you it was a boy

ALEX  
You did, you did, you're so clever.

Beat

ALEX  
Where is she?

RUPERT  
He not she

Where is he? ALEX

They're just RUPERT

Can I have him ALEX

Lets get him shall we? RUPERT

Why isn't he crying? ALEX

Where is he? RUPERT

Don't get up ALEX

He isn't crying Rupert RUPERT

I know ALEX

What's happened RUPERT

I don't know I cant understand. ALEX

Where is he? RUPERT

Its fine ALEX

Its not

RUPERT  
It is they're just

ALEX  
I want my baby

RUPERT  
Nurse what is happening?

ALEX  
Why is it so quiet.

RUPERT  
I um.  
I just.  
I didn't do anything . . . that helpful.  
Because its... you cant help, I couldn't do anything helpful. Like other people.  
I stood at the bottom of the bed and held her foot.

ALEX  
Rupert why isn't he?  
Rupert?  
Rupert?  
Rupert why isn't he crying?

RUPERT  
Alex

ALEX  
Why isn't he crying

RUPERT  
They couldn't

ALEX  
No

RUPERT  
There was...



ALEX  
What's wrong with/ my baby.

RUPERT  
I don't know

ALEX  
You do

RUPERT  
I don't

ALEX  
Please can you make him cry?

RUPERT  
I cant

ALEX  
Please can you make him cry

RUPERT  
I cant

ALEX  
Please.

#### SCENE NINE

RUPERT

A morning, a black suit with a red tie from my school days that I've ... kept. Shoes polished like my grandfathers and an umbrella waiting by the door.

A black polo neck with a black skirt, hair brushed straight unlike the usual messy bun, two pearl earrings and a necklace placed gently around her neck, that I secure with difficulty. Her tights have a hole in them, but it's too late by the time I've pulled them up her I don't have the energy to take them off.

Shall I tie your hair up?

I can do a mean french plait

Which shoes?

The car will be here soon

I think in about ten minutes

It might be here already actually, I'll have a look.

I've got your coat, your fur one, well fake fur one. Shall I put it on, c'mon sit up my love, there you go and give me your arm we'll pop it through.

Which shoes?

It's cold, there was a frost this morning did you see it? I'll find your boots. You might need some woolly socks, have a rummage in my drawer, take mine.

ALEX

I'm not allowed

RUPERT

What?

ALEX

I'm not allowed, you don't like me taking your socks?

RUPERT

I don't mind

ALEX

You do, you get cross when I steal them.

RUPERT

Only because they never come back matching

ALEX

So why are you letting me take them now ?

RUPERT

Because ...  
Because  
I don't want your feet to get cold

ALEX

OK

RUPERT

I want you to wear my socks

ALEX

Ok

RUPERT

I'll get your shoes .

ALEX

Ok

(he comes back with her boots)

RUPERT

Here we go, give me your first foot, there we go my love.

ALEX

Stop it

RUPERT

What?

ALEX

That

RUPERT

What

ALEX

Talking to me like I'm her

Beat

RUPERT  
We have to give him a name

ALEX  
Her

RUPERT  
No him, a baby boy Alex, we had a baby boy.

ALEX  
Rose

RUPERT  
Alex it was a boy.

ALEX  
It.

RUPERT  
He

ALEX  
HER.ROSE

RUPERT  
Its the wrong name.

ALEX  
She' not alive she doesnt know

RUPERT  
We had a baby boy

ALEX  
We didn't

RUPERT  
We have to put a name on the , I need you to tell me what name you want to put on the gravestone. I need to tell them.

ALEX  
Rose

We cant put Rose

RUPERT

Why

ALEX

We cant

RUPERT

You did, you put that name on the birth certificate

ALEX

I know

RUPERT

And the death certificate

ALEX

I know but

RUPERT

So why cant we put it on the gravestone.

ALEX

Beat

The car is here, its been here for half an hour Alex. We have to go.

RUPERT

I'm ready.

ALEX

(they go to leave)

They want to know if you want to hold the coffin on your lap, on the way.

RUPERT

Is she in it?

ALEX

He is. RUPERT

I can hold her? ALEX

In the coffin yes RUPERT

Yes. ALEX

Ok, you'll sit down and they'll place him on your lap. RUPERT

Will he know? ALEX

Sorry? RUPERT

Will he know im holding him? ALEX

Yes. RUPERT

Of course he will.

He'll know I'm there? ALEX

Yes. RUPERT

Really. ALEX

Yes. RUPERT

Beat

ALEX

Edward

Edward

RUPERT

Edward

ALEX

Teddy

RUPERT

Like a bear

ALEX

Like a bear

RUPERT

Like Rupert

ALEX

Yes.

#### SCENE TEN

ALEX

Blue for boys, pink for girls. What do you think Teddy? Shall I go down the gender specific route? Make you play with bricks and cars and wear Fireman Sam trainers. Or shall I allow you to be open, make it your own choice.

Daddy wont like that, Daddy will hate that, Daddy will hate this, I think Daddy may hate me.

People bring food to my door, literally. People i don't even know or like come to my door present me with a hot pot, a thermos of soup, endless brownies and then they come back a day later and pick it up. Then ask what I'd like next, what takes your fancy? So i spice it up, I spend hours researching difficult meals, curries with obscure spices, or a passion fruit and papaya pie, a 12 hour beef stew. They do it, they cook it all, these people who now feel they know me.

I think yellow, lets stick with Yellow. I think we agreed on that.

I want to know what you look like, I want to hear your laugh I want to hear your cry. I want to pick up your sock and test the temperature of your bath with my elbow. I want, I want to have your comforter permanently thrown over my shoulder and I want to manically search the flat for your lost toy that you just cant sleep without. I bought so much tuppaware so that I can have chopped up carrots on me like a mum, like a really mum. And I hate myself I'm a fucking cliché who talks to her dead baby and spends her days trying to find out what he looks like. Why hasn't the earth stopped turning, why aren't buildings collapsing? Where are they alarms and the police and the army? How can there still be sun when you didn't get a chance to feel it on your face. Why was it you? Where did you go? You didn't even say hello? I'd have liked that, I'd like that so much and then it will be ok.

## SCENE ELEVEN

You're painting

RUPERT

Yes

ALEX

That's excellent

RUPERT

Thank you

ALEX

What are you painting?

RUPERT

Teddy's room.

ALEX

Ok

RUPERT

(he notices the colour of the room )



RUPERT  
You're painting it yellow.

ALEX  
You see we never decided

RUPERT  
On what

ALEX  
We never decided on the colour

RUPERT  
No I guess not.

ALEX  
We never decided on the colour of his room.

RUPERT  
I know

ALEX  
We never decided on his name

RUPERT  
Ok

ALEX  
We hadn't even bought a car seat.

RUPERT  
I know

ALEX  
So we obviously weren't planning on taking him home

RUPERT  
...

ALEX  
We hadn't decided on a colour or a name or bought him anything to travel in.

I was going to

RUPERT

Going to

ALEX

Yes

RUPERT

Always going to.

ALEX

(Rupert notices a bag full of teddies and toys and things to decorate a nursery, he hasn't seen them before, they're recently purchased.)

What are these?

RUPERT

Toys

ALEX

And these

RUPERT

They're toys Rupert

ALEX

I mean these Alex, these pictures and decorations. What's this?

RUPERT

It's a lampshade.

ALEX

I know, why is it here?

RUPERT

I bought it today, I bought it all today.

ALEX

Why? RUPERT

For the nursery ALEX

Beat

How did you pay for it ? RUPERT

With money ALEX

What money RUPERT

My money ALEX

You don't have money RUPERT

Mum gave me some ALEX

Your mum RUPERT

My mum ALEX

When did you see your mum RUPERT

I haven't ALEX

So how did you know about the money? RUPERT

She sent a credit card  
ALEX

Right  
RUPERT

Is that ok?  
ALEX

OK  
Beat  
RUPERT

I told you I'm painting it.  
ALEX

Yes, you said.  
RUPERT

Have you eaten?  
Beat  
RUPERT

No  
ALEX

Shall I cook.  
RUPERT

Ok  
ALEX

Do we have any veg?  
RUPERT

I think there is some frozen veg in the freezer  
ALEX

The school dinner veg? RUPERT

Yes ALEX

Rupert heads to the Freezer and I finds a frozen lasagna, with 'For the First Night' written on it. He holds the lasagna tightly, not minding how cold it is how it is ruining his suit. He then puts it back in the freezer.

I don't want you to paint the room RUPERT

Why? ALEX

Its RUPERT

Its ALEX

Wrong RUPERT

Why? ALEX

I don't want you to paint the room. RUPERT

(Alex continues to paint)

Stop it RUPERT

(she keeps painting)

Stop it RUPERT

(she continues to paint)

RUPERT

I know you can hear me will you just stop please, Alex. Alex?

ALEX

We didn't decide on a colour

RUPERT

I know.

ALEX

We didn't get a car seat.

RUPERT

I know

ALEX

We didn't even decide on a name

RUPERT

I know

ALEX

So no wonder.

RUPERT

No wonder what?

ALEX

No wonder he decided to die

Beat

RUPERT

Stop painting

(she doesnt stop)

RUPERT

Alex please

(she keeps going)

RUPERT

Will you stop!

Alex continues to paint ignoring him, he goes over and grabs her arms, holds them tightly, he fights back, but he is stronger and he pulls the roller out of her hands. They stand and look at each other. Alex then goes back to the tray and scoops some paint into her hands she throws it at the wall then starts spreading it around. Rupert stands there, watching her and holding the roller.

RUPERT

It wont bring him back

ALEX

It might

## SCENE TWELVE

ALEX

I went to a coffee shop today. I wore Daddy's big puffa jacket and ordered a fresh mint tea. Not because I wanted one I just panicked and ordered the most expensive thing on the menu. I felt everyone staring so I thought if I order the most expensive thing they will think I'm OK.

Its funny when it happened I was so scared about having to tell people, close but no cigar that sort of thing, but actually it was really easy, because one day you're pregnant and the next day you're not and if there is no baby, well then they know.

Rupert suggested sending a card out.

So I bought hundreds of Peter Rabbit Cards from paperchase with 'Its A Boy' written on the top. I crossed out 'Boy' and 'A' and wrote 'dead' instead, 'Its Dead'. 'Its Dead, All Our Love, Alex and Rupert' then I posted them, first class. .

You were so little Teddy. I held your little feet in my hands and kissed your toes and thought about how little you were, how little and unnecessary you are in this massive world. No one cares, really. That's the truth of it.

## SCENE 12

ALEX

What are you doing?

RUPERT

You have to wash your paintbrushes

ALEX

Why are you in here ?

RUPERT

You haven't washed them, so they've got all hard, you cant paint properly, you need to remember to wash them

ALEX

You cant just come in here.

RUPERT

You're going to have to buy new paintbrushes

Beat

ALEX

Are you not working today?

RUPERT

I thought id take the day off, cook you breakfast maybe?

ALEX

The toasters broken

RUPERT

Are you sure?

ALEX

Yes, its been broken for a few days

RUPERT

Why didn't you say anything?

ALEX

I just stopped having toast.



RUPERT  
Well do you want toast today?

ALEX  
Ok

RUPERT  
Or pancakes?

ALEX  
Pancakes? Yes.

RUPERT  
That's good.

ALEX  
I was going to buy new paintbrushes.

RUPERT  
I know

ALEX  
I was probably going to buy them today

RUPERT  
I'll save you the bother

ALEX  
Don't

Beat

RUPERT  
Pancakes it is.

ALEX  
I'm not sure there's milk you know.

RUPERT  
There's a whole pint in here

ALEX  
Smell it

Bloody hell  
RUPERT

Is it bad ?  
ALEX

Its bad  
RUPERT

How bad?  
ALEX

Rotten eggs bad  
RUPERT

Shit  
ALEX

Yes shit exactly  
RUPERT

Beat

Shall we have coffee then  
RUPERT

Black coffee.  
ALEX

In a thermos?  
RUPERT

Beat

If you like.  
ALEX

Beat

Ok  
RUPERT

Thank you

ALEX

My pleasure

RUPERT

Grab my thermos, think its in my bag still.

(she fishes his thermos out of his bag, then see's something, some papers)

What are these?

ALEX

Nothing .

RUPERT

(he goes to take them off her)

No, what are they ?

ALEX

They're adoption papers

RUPERT

I can see

ALEX

My mum sent them.

RUPERT

Ok

ALEX

My mum sent them all.

RUPERT

Why are you talking to her

ALEX

I talk to her every day

RUPERT

Why?  
ALEX

She's my Mum.  
RUPERT

Don't say that.  
ALEX

What?  
RUPERT

That?  
ALEX

What?  
RUPERT

Stop saying Mum.  
ALEX

Beat

Its nothing .  
RUPERT

Its a whole file.  
ALEX

Its the research from when they adopted me  
RUPERT

You're 32  
ALEX

I know  
RUPERT

So this stuff is ancient it wont be, it wont... I don't understand why she is sending this ?  
ALEX

She's trying to help.

RUPERT

Tell her to fix the toaster then

ALEX

Alex

RUPERT

What?

ALEX

She's my mum

RUPERT

She's not your adopted

ALEX

Shes's still my Mum.

RUPERT

She's not your mum. She cant get pregnant. Stop calling her a Mum.

ALEX

Beat

RUPERT

I've got to go to work

ALEX

I thought you had the day off

RUPERT

I think id like to got to work now.

ALEX

OK.

RUPERT

Just leave the folder i'll bin it.

Fine  
ALEX

Ok, I'm going .  
RUPERT

Go.  
ALEX

Beat

I don't want to adopt  
ALEX

Fine  
RUPERT

Ever  
ALEX

Right  
RUPERT

I don't want someone else child.  
ALEX

I have to go to work  
RUPERT

You can go, but I want you to know I don't want to adopt.  
ALEX

What about me?  
RUPERT

What about you ?  
ALEX

I might want to .  
RUPERT

ALEX  
Well I don't want to

RUPERT  
Tricky

ALEX  
You should go to work, can you go?

RUPERT  
What about what I want?

ALEX  
It doesn't matter

RUPERT  
What about what I want?

ALEX  
I don't care about what you want anymore

RUPERT  
Fine.

ALEX  
I cant.

RUPERT  
Fine

ALEX  
I cant

RUPERT  
Yup

ALEX  
I dont want to adopt

RUPERT  
I know

ALEX

I want to have my own baby.

RUPERT

Fine.

ALEX

Go to work.

SCENE THIRTEEN

ALEX

I want to cover this room in stars, endless stars. Then I'm going to nestle your name amongst them. I know what your thinking, you've painted the room yellow, how will the stars show up on the yellow wall? But you see, stars don't have to always be yellow, they can be whatever we want them to be, what ever we decide.

Is that you Teddy? OK, lets stop, I'll stop. For you. How's things? Can you feel that sun?

Do you want to know something? When your pregnant the DNA of your baby becomes part of your DNA. You are permanently altered, the baby is always with you. Really you haven't gone anywhere. You're right here. I like that, that little dead baby fact. You don't learn that in an NCT class. You learn that your nipples will crack, that you'll always be tired and that your hair might fall out. Among other useless shit. God, I wish my nipples would crack.

ts also been revealed to me that shock horror you 'Must talk about how your feeling'

Beat

Rupert and Alex are sat side by side, in a therapists room.

ALEX

I feel good, I'm keeping busy.

RUPERT

She's decorating

ALEX

Yes



RUPERT

Teddy's room, she's painting the nursery.

ALEX

He doesn't like it

RUPERT

I don't mind it

ALEX

He thinks I'm mental.

RUPERT

I don't think that, i think she's not coping.

Beat

RUPERT

She talks to him.

ALEX

I'm right here.

RUPERT

I know.

ALEX

Then say it to me.

RUPERT

I don't think your coping.

ALEX

You're wrong, i am

RUPERT

Fine.

ALEX

Lovely.

Beat

ALEX

I cant talk though, I don't say the right thing. I don't speak grieving mother very well. Rupert does, he's got top marks, in grieving father and grieving mother.

Beat

RUPERT

I feel like each day is easier, and that while i still feel heavy, parts of the weight is lifting, it really is. Its like it was all grey and slowly patches of colour are starting to seep through, patches of hope I think.

ALEX

Beautiful

RUPERT

Thank you

ALEX

Well learnt.

RUPERT

Pardon?

ALEX

Well recited.

RUPERT

I didn't learn it Alex, that's how I feel. It was our homework.

ALEX

Homework

RUPERT

Yes, we were told to vocalise our feelings. Did you do it?

Pause

RUPERT

Did you do the homework?

ALEX  
No.

RUPERT  
Well.

ALEX  
Don't say that

RUPERT  
Say what

ALEX  
Don't say 'well' like that.

RUPERT  
I didn't say it in anyway

ALEX  
You did you said it deliberately, you deliberately said 'well' in that way.

RUPERT  
In what way?

ALEX  
You know what way?

RUPERT  
I don't

ALEX  
You do Rupert.

RUPERT  
I don't Alex, tell me.

ALEX  
In a really fucking passive aggressive, fucking teachers fucking pet irritating little bell end kind of way. That is how you said it.

Pause

RUPERT

Well.

Beat

ALEX

Mum keeps sending me healing crystals. She writes long letters on what to do with them, 'Place the moonstone on your pelvis my darling and gentle hum.' She's never mentioned you, not once. Her and Dad are off to Corfo soon and Rupert thought it would be a good idea to join them.

RUPERT

I booked a holiday

ALEX

With my parents

RUPERT

I thought it would be nice

ALEX

My parents that didn't even come to the funeral

RUPERT

I thought it would make her feel better

ALEX

Better

RUPERT

Yes. I thought it would be good for us

ALEX

Good for us?

RUPERT

Yes.

ALEX

Good for us.

RUPERT

Yes I thought it would be good for us.

ALEX

Do you know what's bad for us ?

RUPERT

Tell me

ALEX

Having a dead baby

RUPERT

Alex

ALEX

I wonder what the opposite to having a dead baby is, like if that's on a sale, and that's 10 as in the worst thing that could ever happen. What do you think the best thing could be.

RUPERT

I don't know

ALEX

You do

RUPERT

I really don't

ALEX

You suggested it

RUPERT

Did I?

ALEX

Yes just now

RUPERT

OK

ALEX

You suggested going on holiday, its good not bad therefore the scale is balanced

RUPERT

I don't think going on holiday will do that.

ALEX

You don't think it will make me feel better

RUPERT

Maybe

ALEX

You do or you don't?

RUPERT

Ok no, not really.

ALEX

Then why should I do it, why should I do anything that doesn't make me feel better

RUPERT

Us.

ALEX

What

RUPERT

Make us better. Its not just you, its us. Its me and you.

Beat

ALEX

They also told us to find a piece of music that reminds us of you. Rupert created a spotify playlist and asked me to add any ideas. But all I could think of was the Funeral March. Its gets stuck in my head and Rupert gets really upset because .

Beat

RUPERT

She sings it all the time.

I don't

ALEX

RUPERT

And if she's not singing it then she plays it full blast.

ALEX

I like it

RUPERT

You don't like it

ALEX

I do

RUPERT

You like to annoy me

ALEX

I don't

RUPERT

Your doing it all deliberately to hurt me,

ALEX

Hurt you?

RUPERT

Yes.

ALEX

Why would I want to hurt you?

RUPERT

I don't know Alex

ALEX

You do.

RUPERT

I don't

ALEX

Why would I want to hurt you Rupert?

Pause

RUPERT

I think we're done, aren't we? I think our hours up.

## SCENE FOURTEEN

ALEX

I've cooked

RUPERT

Cooked?

ALEX

Well I defrosted Barbara's Tagine

RUPERT

Congratulations.

ALEX

Would you like some ?

RUPERT

Yes

ALEX

Are you starving?

RUPERT

I am

ALEX

Its good I cooked then

RUPERT

Cooked?

ALEX

Warmed some food.



Did you have a good day

RUPERT

We did

ALEX

Beat

What did you do

RUPERT

Painted

ALEX

Yes

RUPERT

I painted the wall by the Window

ALEX

Again?

RUPERT

Yes

ALEX

What colour?

RUPERT

It's still yellow

ALEX

Oh

RUPERT

Just a lighter shade.  
It'll been finished soon.

ALEX

Ok

RUPERT

Shall we eat?  
ALEX

Is it ready?  
RUPERT

It is  
ALEX

Lets eat chef.  
RUPERT

Beat

Ah Barbara's famous Tagine  
RUPERT

Good old Barbara  
ALEX

How many more do we have  
RUPERT

This is the last one.  
ALEX

Thank God.  
RUPERT

What does she smell of, she has that smell doesn't she?  
ALEX

Its not unpleasant?  
RUPERT

Its not pleasant.  
ALEX

Its like  
RUPERT

Cheese  
ALEX

Yes  
RUPERT

Cheesy  
ALEX

But a very mild cheese.  
RUPERT

Cheesy Cheddars  
ALEX

Thats it  
RUPERT

Cheesy bloody cheddars.  
ALEX

Beat

This is nice  
RUPERT

What?  
ALEX

Deciding something with you  
RUPERT

Yes.  
ALEX

Beat

Alex.  
RUPERT

Do you want salad? ALEX

Oh RUPERT

I think I can rustle up a salad. ALEX

I don't need a salad RUPERT

I'd like some greens ALEX

Ok RUPERT

We don't eat enough greens ALEX

I know RUPERT

We've never eaten enough greens ALEX

We've always tried RUPERT

I think we should eat more ALEX

Ok RUPERT

We need to be a lot healthier. ALEX

Ok RUPERT

ALEX  
Perhaps we should join the gym again?

RUPERT  
Yes

ALEX  
Do more exercise

RUPERT  
Get my six pack back

ALEX  
You've never had a six pack

RUPERT  
I have

ALEX  
No, you haven't

RUPERT  
When we first met I had one

ALEX  
I don't think you did

RUPERT  
I had a faint one

ALEX  
A light sketch of one perhaps. perhaps.

RUPERT  
I defiantly had some definition.

ALEX  
Where?

RUPERT  
My pecks, my pecks have always been very defined

Really ?

ALEX

Yes! You remember don't you?

RUPERT

I've always thought your nipples were very large.

ALEX

Beat

RUPERT

I know.  
I know.  
That's why i've always kept my pecks defined.  
Id like to go back to the gym.

ALEX

If we eat more greens and exercise we'll feel better, Be better be more

RUPERT

Healthy

ALEX

Yes

RUPERT

I think this is great

ALEX

You do?

RUPERT

Yes

ALEX

Because if we're healthier

RUPERT

Fitter

ALEX

More alert and alive we'll be ready/

We'll be happier/  
And our baby wont die again.

Beat

Alex

Will you hold me?

...

Just a small part of me, maybe even my finger. Will you just hold my finger.

Ok

Thank you.

He holds her finger

And then maybe, maybe you can hold more.

I can hold your hand

Yes

He holds her hand

Alex?

ALEX

Don't. I don't want you to talk to me.

RUPERT

Ok

ALEX

I want you to hold me.

RUPERT

I have your hand

ALEX

No

RUPERT

Ok, just your finger again?

ALEX

No

RUPERT

Alex?

ALEX

I want you to hold me Rupert

RUPERT

I am Alex.

ALEX

No.

RUPERT

Alex, I don't understand? Shall I just hold your finger? Or I can hold your fingers, all of them, just them? Would you like that? And just leave your hand, the main part of your hand.

ALEX

Take me to bed.

Silence



RUPERT  
Do you want to go to sleep?

ALEX  
No

RUPERT  
Do you want me to lie down beside you?

Silence

RUPERT  
Do you want me to hold you until you fall asleep?

ALEX  
Have sex with me.

RUPERT  
But

ALEX  
Have sex with me.

RUPERT  
But.

ALEX  
Give me a baby.

Silence

RUPERT  
No Alex.

ALEX  
Yes.

RUPERT  
It doesn't work like this.

ALEX  
I want a baby.

Alex.  
RUPERT

Please.  
ALEX

RUPERT  
I don't understand Alex we haven't slept in the same room for months, for months and now you want this. You cant just, you cant just decide when these things happen? You have to talk to me and check in to see how I'm feeling. You cant just decide our lives Alex. This isn't how it works, it wont work like this, you do as you want, when you want, how you want, and never, never think of who, who. I will not partake in this anymore. You will not decide our lives for us.

Alex walks over to Rupert and kisses him.

You cant decide it all.  
RUPERT

She kisses him again and grabs her and kisses her back.

#### SCENE FIFTEEN

We're late.  
RUPERT

ALEX  
Can you grab my coat, the fur one, the fake fur one?

RUPERT  
Got it.

ALEX  
Thanks

RUPERT  
You don't have to come

ALEX

I want to

RUPERT

But if you don't then just say, Mum wont mind

Alex walks in, wearing a maternity dress, she looks different some how, larger as if she has stuffed something under her dress. She is also carrying a car seat.

ALEX

I want some fresh air

RUPERT

What's that?

ALEX

What ?

RUPERT

What are you wearing

ALEX

A dress.

RUPERT

Its not a dress

ALEX

It is.

RUPERT

Alex

ALEX

Rupert

RUPERT

Your wearing your maternity dress.

ALEX

I know Rupert.

Beat

RUPERT

Alex what's under the dress?

ALEX

Nothing

RUPERT

Have you put something under your dress?

ALEX

I don't know what your talking about.

RUPERT

Ok,

ALEX

Did you get my coat?

RUPERT

No, I

ALEX

Ok, ill get it.

(she goes to get her coat)

ALEX

Do you think ill be too hot.

RUPERT

No, its cold.

ALEX

I know, but we always get so hot when we walk with your mum.

RUPERT

What? Yea.ok.

ALEX

She walks so fast

RUPERT

...

(Alex comes back into the room.)

ALEX

Maybe ill just take a jumper

RUPERT

Alex what's under your dress?

ALEX

Can you grab the car seat?

RUPERT

(he suddenly notices it)

RUPERT

When did you?

ALEX

I ordred

RUPERT

Oh.

ALEX

You weren't going to

RUPERT

I would have

ALEX

So I did. I ordered it

Beat

ALEX

Can you put it in the car, you know I'm crap with that sort of thing.

We don't need a car seat.

RUPERT

We do,

ALEX

Alex

RUPERT

Are you going to put it in the car or shall I? We cant leave it here. I will not leave this house without /the car seat.

ALEX

Alex

RUPERT

Can you do it for me please

ALEX

Put it away

RUPERT

I want it with me.

ALEX

What will people think

RUPERT

I don't care what people think.

ALEX

What have you got under your dress?

RUPERT

Please put it in the car

ALEX

What is under your dress

RUPERT

ALEX

Rupert

RUPERT

ALEX WHAT IS UNDER YOUR DRESS!

ALEX

Don't shout at me.

RUPERT

I will, I will, I will shout and shout and shout until i get it into your head how awful you are being. Never ever have I met someone so selfish, so so, so ARGHHHH

(he wants to hit something)

ARGHHHHH, ALEX YOU ARE SO , THIS IS NOT, I CAN'T DO THIS ANYMORE  
ALEX DO YOU HEAR ME , NO MORE.

ALEX

I like it, it makes me feel like he is here, that he's near me.

(Rupert walks out )

ALEX

(to her stomach)

We'll stay here then Teddy.

Rupert storms back in fast, determined. He goes straight over to Alex, he picks her up and he pulls up her dress, a pillow is tapped around her stomach and tucked into her tights. She is resisting and shouting, screaming at him but he doesn't stop, he must take it off. And he does eventually. Alex, is a state and sobbing on the floor clutching the pillow. Rupert steps back and looks at her, you can see his regret he goes towards her but she pushes him away, so he goes over the speaker and puts on some music, loudly so he cant hear her cry and he starts to dance. He dances hard and fast, and then he looks at Alex still on the floor.

RUPERT

Dance

Get up

And dance

Alex please

Dance

DANCE

Its good.

Its so good, I feel AMAZING!!!

He does and picks her up, she lets him and he holds her in his arms and dances with her, slowly she joins in with him and they both dance, in the middle of the room. When the music ends, they both collapse on the floor out of breath.

ALEX

If it was a choice between you and Teddy I'd choose Teddy.

RUPERT

I know

I'd choose you

ALEX

I know.

RUPERT

I love you

ALEX

I know



RUPERT  
I love you the most right now.

ALEX  
I'm going to break soon.

RUPERT  
But let me help you

ALEX  
You cant

RUPERT  
I can, I can.

ALEX  
Do you know what makes me sleep ?

Pause

Just before I fall asleep, i relive the moment i had teddy, but instead of him leaving, the whole moment slows down and the doctor, do you remember to doctor? With the funny accent. She hands me a gun , I shoot your brains out, you die, she hands be Teddy he clings onto my little finger looks at me, and I fall asleep.

RUPERT  
Are you going to leave me?

ALEX  
No, ill never leave you.

RUPERT  
Will we be ok ?

ALEX  
Of course

RUPERT  
How do you know?

## SCENE SIXTEEN

ALEX

He scored a try, his one and only try ever ,according to him it was amazing. They won the U16 National Rugby Championships because of that try. The school awarded him a gold cup, which he says he keeps at his mum's but I know its in a shoe box under the bed and a very smart red tie. Which he's always kept to remind him of happiness. He would have given it to you my boy, I know he would have, I wish he could have. Good things happen when he wears that tie, the weather is perfect, always a seat on the tube, no queues on the escalator, an easy stroll across busy London, me, you.

I feel like you stole my love for him.

And now when I think of that crisp morning and that clashing jumper and revolting skirt. Of the commute to work the sweat, the heavy bag and bloody painful shoes, I wish, I wish he had never hit me with his umbrella. I wish he had decided not to bring it with him. But then if he hadn't , if he hadn't , if he hadn't hit me with an umbrella and spilt my coffee I would never have met you.

I feel like you stole my love for him.

So we have to let him in. We have to remember that Navy Suit and the red tie from his school days that he should of forgotten but that he keeps to remind him of happiness. Of the shoes polished like his Grandfathers, and the umbrella tucked neatly under his arm just in case.

## SCENE SEVENTEEN

RUPERT

There's that smell  
First thing in the morning  
You know that smell  
Breath and farts and sweat  
I love that  
The indent of the night  
The mess of pillows  
That's what I miss the most

When I think of that  
It makes me sad  
It makes me sadder to think of what I've lost with her  
Than thinking of how I've lost you  
When I think of you I'm angry

Her breath is awful in the morning  
Always has been  
It's like a mixture of garlic and dirt  
No, fuck it, I'm being polite, its a mixture of garlic and manure

You know that smell in the country  
The air around a farm.  
That's her breath mixed with garlic  
But only in the morning. The rest of the day its like ... flowers.

I don't mind  
I never have  
I love the smell  
When I opened my eyes and felt it on my face in the morning I knew she was still there,  
she was mine, we were together.  
All I want is to wake up and have her next to me.  
All I want is to wake up and for it to be ok again

I'm trying I'm really trying  
I'm trying to make everything right again  
But I'm so angry  
I'm so angry with you  
You've fucked up my life.  
My well planned life.  
And you've ruined her  
My Jammy Alex.

I don't know how to talk to you. She wants to me talk to you, to tell you about my day  
ask you things. Chat to you as if you're...

I don't know how to talk someone who isn't here. I'm not like that.  
So I thought id just tell you something  
I thought id tell you about her about your magnificent mother.

On a crisp morning.