

LODGERS

Written By  
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SCENE 1 - KITCHEN - MONDAY MORNING

(THE KITCHEN OF A MIDDLE CLASS FAMILY HOME IN SOUTH LONDON. HOWARD COMES IN WITH THE MAIL AND GOES TO POUR A COFFEE. HE SITS AT THE TABLE. AS HE DOES WE SEE SMOKE COME OUT OF THE TOASTER. ENTER MATT)

MATT  
(Half a sleep)  
Morning.

HOWARD  
Morning.  
(He continues to read the mail)

MATT  
(Sits next to Howard)  
Any coffee?

HOWARD  
(not looking at him)  
Yes.

MATT  
Thanks.

HOWARD  
(turns to look at Matt)  
For god's sake, are you incapable of getting your own coffee?  
(Looks at him)

HOWARD (CONT'D)  
Of course you are.  
(Gets up and pours a cup of coffee)

HOWARD (CONT'D)  
There you are sir, would there be anything else?

MATT  
(sniffing)  
Burnt toast...

HOWARD  
You would like burnt toast?

MATT  
No, smells of burnt toast!

HOWARD  
(looking at the toaster)  
Bloody hell!

(Howard panics and tries to pour the coffee on top of the toaster, Matt stops him. Matt grabs a tea towel and starts to hit the toaster to try and put the fire out. Howard grabs the broom and starts to hit the toaster. Matt watches him)

MATT

Dad, I don't think you need to do that.

HOWARD

(putting the broom down)

Well, you can never be too cautious when it comes to fires.

(He looks at the toaster and takes out the 2 burnt pieces of toast)

HOWARD (CONT'D)

They'll be alright...

(Brings them to the table and puts them on a plate)

HOWARD (CONT'D)

(to Matt)

Toast?

MATT

(looking at the toast)

I think I'll just stick to coffee this morning.

(Enter Audrey)

HOWARD

Ah, good morning Audrey, just in time for breakfast, toast?

(He points at the burnt toast and she looks at it)

AUDREY

No thank you, just coffee. And stop calling me Audrey!

HOWARD

What else shall I call you? That's your name.

MATT

She changed it again, remember?

HOWARD

Your name is Audrey and that's that. Toast?

AUDREY

Right, I refuse to talk to you unless you call me by my new stage name.

HOWARD  
And what is your new stage name?

AUDREY  
You are kidding me right? I told you 10 times last week! Matt what is my new name?

MATT  
(looking for help)  
Well, of course I know it! I'm not like dad who doesn't remember your new stage names...

AUDREY  
Matt!

MATT  
Alright, I'm thinking... I can't think under pressure!

(Enter Alison)

ALISON  
(gives Howard a kiss)  
Good morning, I need coffee!

AUDREY  
Mum, what is my name?

ALISON  
Audrey.

AUDREY  
My new stage name?

ALISON  
(avoiding the conversation)  
What's for breakfast?

HOWARD  
(pointing at the toast)  
Toast.

ALISON  
(looks at the toast)  
I'll just have coffee...

AUDREY  
(Stands up and in a very dramatic manner)  
JOANNA!(SHE PRONOUNCE IT JOHANA) that is my new name, Joanna

ALISON  
I knew that... Joanna.

AUDREY  
JOANNA!

HOWARD

I don't understand why you keep on changing it.

AUDREY

When you are an artist you need to find your identity, I'm yet to find mine.

MATT

Well you'd better hurry up, because you are confusing the hell out of everyone in this family.

HOWARD

And what is wrong with Audrey? Your mother and I went through great lengths to find that name for you?

AUDREY

How many famous actresses do you know with the name Audrey?

HOWARD

Audrey Hupburn...

AUDREY

Apart from her!

ALISON

Audrey Heartly!

AUDREY

I'm not famous yet!

HOWARD

But you may be soon...

AUDREY

Yes and I don't want to be called Audrey Heartly! I am Joanna!

HOWARD

Ok, Joanna

(He tries to pronounce it like she does but does not get it, she gives him a look)

HOWARD (CONT'D)

Toast anyone?

ALISON

Not hungry today, thank you...

(They sit there for a moment looking awkward at the toast)

HOWARD

(changing the conversation)

Matt, I bumped into Stacy the other day...

MATT  
(avoiding the conversation)

Who?

HOWARD  
You know, Stacy, the girl you used to go out with.

MATT  
I was not going out with her, we were just friends...

AUDREY  
Really? It looked like she wanted more than friendship!

ALISON  
It's such a shame, she was a lovely girl. When are you going to bring a girlfriend home?

MATT  
Mum!

HOWARD  
Yes Matt, when am I going to meet my "daughter in law"

MATT  
Dad!

AUDREY  
Yes Matt, when are we?

(Teasing Matt)

AUDREY (CONT'D)  
I don't ever recall you bringing any girls back home...

MATT  
Can we please drop the subject!

HOWARD  
Alright, we are just curious. We know there is a "lady lover" somewhere...

MATT  
Dad!

HOWARD  
Ok!

(He changes the subject)

HOWARD (CONT'D)  
By the way, today I have a meeting with a publisher!

ALISON  
That's great news!

MATT

Really? Are they going to publish your book?

AUDREY

He needs to write a book before they publish it!

HOWARD

I'm working on it. This is just an initial meeting to see if my type of work is what they would like to publish.

ALISON

Let's hope so.

(The telephone rings off stage.  
They all ignore it. Howard looks  
at them)

HOWARD

I'll get that.

(He goes out)

ALISON

Audrey, that wasn't a nice thing to say.

AUDREY

Joanna! And it's the truth.

MATT

Come on, he is trying really hard.

AUDREY

Yes and we are running out of money!

ALISON

Alright, I admit it, it's taking him a long time to get going, but you have to give him a chance, to become a writer at his age is not that easy!

AUDREY

Why can't he just look for another job while he's waiting to become famous!

ALISON

Look, your father worked hard all his life to give us what we have and losing his job wasn't easy for him, its time we supported him now to get what he wants. And it's great to have him do both, his writing and the housework.

MATT

Yes, is that open for discussion, he isn't exactly the world's greatest cook...

(He picks up the burnt toast)

ALISON

When he gets his first book published we can get a cook!

AUDREY

He could get a job at the local Tesco's, they are looking for people...

MATT

Imagine dad working there in one of those silly white hats they have to wear! He'd look like one of the Village People!

(He starts to sign YMCA and Alison  
Joins him)

ALISON

YMCA! I used to dance to that tune!

MATT

Oh god, that's it, I'm officially old!

AUDREY

Or gay!

MATT

What? What are you talking about?

AUDREY

Oh come on Matt, the Village People?

MATT

What's wrong with that?

AUDREY

Do you know all the words to YMCA?

MATT

Of course I do, everyone does!

AUDREY

And the moves?

MATT

And the moves!

AUDREY

I rest my case!

ALISON

Anyway, we'll have to try harder, this is an important life changing moment for your dad.

AUDREY

Yes, it's call mid-life crises!

(Howard returns full of joy)

HOWARD  
It was the agency! They got us 2 lodgers!

ALISON  
That's good news!

MATT  
Two what?

HOWARD  
Lodgers. Your mother and I decided we need some extra income and everyone who needs money gets lodgers.

MATT  
But where are you going to put them? There are no rooms...

HOWARD  
(avoiding the conversation)  
Toast anyone?

AUDREY  
Mum? Where are you going to put the lodgers?

ALISON  
Look, it's only temporarily, until you father gets something published...

MATT  
You still haven't told us where you are going to put them?

HOWARD  
Well, your room was empty while you've been at university and we didn't know you were coming back... So we thought we could use your room...

MATT  
My room! No way! Where am I going to sleep?

(Turns and looks at Audrey)

MATT (CONT'D)  
No way! She stinks!

AUDREY  
I do not stink! At least I don't fart all night!

MATT  
I do not fart all night!

AUDREY  
Excuse me? Have you seen the color of your wall? Human gasses produce a decolorant, which impregnates the paint on the walls taking away it's original color!

HOWARD  
Really? And all this years I've been thinking you were secretly smoking in your room!

ALISON  
Anyway, you are not going to share with your sister.

AUDREY  
That's a relief!

MATT  
So where am I sleeping?

ALISON  
Well, your dad's shed...

MATT  
What!

(Audrey laughs)

HOWARD  
It's summer, think of it as your summer hut!

AUDREY  
(realizing that is one room)  
Wait a minute! That's one room, but there are 2 lodgers...

ALISON  
Yes, well you know how you always said you loved that little room up in the attic...

AUDREY  
Mum! I was 10 years old!

(Matt laughs)

HOWARD  
It will be fine! I'll paint the walls today.

ALISON  
Besides, all actresses live in attics.

(Howard and Alison look at both  
Matt and Audrey)

ALISON (CONT'D)  
Come on, only for a few weeks...

AUDREY/MATT  
No way!

LIGHTS OUT.

SCENE 2 - KITCHEN - THE NEXT DAY - EARLY EVENING

(Howard is in the kitchen cooking pasta, there is opera music playing in the background as Howard signs to it. He smells the

pasta and then picks up the pan by the handles, without realizing it's hot and toss it from one hand to the other going toward the table. Just as he get there, he spills it over the table.)

HOWARD

Wow! That's hot!

(He beginning to put it back on the pan)

HOWARD (CONT'D)

Dinner is ready!

(We see Matt and Audrey come in)

MATT

(looking at Howard still picking up the pasta from the table)

What's for dinner?

HOWARD

Ah! Dad's secret recipe!

AUDREY

Dad, you need to know how to cook to have a secret recipe.

HOWARD

Nonsense! How do you think all the great dishes were created? By someone putting in bits and bobs together!

MATT

And what's in the bits and bobs dad special?

HOWARD

Well, we needed to use up a couple of things, as they were expiring today, plus cheese!

MATT

And what was expiring today?

HOWARD

The kippers we had for breakfast last week plus a packet of ham I forgot we had at the back of the fridge...

AUDREY

Kippers and ham!

HOWARD

Actually, you will find that in some Mediterranean countries a popular dish is called "Tierra y Mar" which is the combination of meat and fish. This is my special "Tierra y Mar" recipe!

MATT

Well, at least the cheese wasn't out of date!

HOWARD

Well, that's not entirely accurate, the kippers and ham expire today the cheese last week, but don't worry it has been cook fully to avoid any bacteria living in it.

AUDREY

That makes me feel so much better!

HOWARD

Anyway, the pasta I used was fresh and it smells delicious!

(He picks up the pan again and realizes it still hot and puts it down)

HOWARD (CONT'D)

Dam! Still hot!

(Enter Alison with Ricky and Stephan)

ALISON

Everyone, this is Ricky and Stephan, our new lodgers.

HOWARD

(going towards them)

Ah! Welcome

(He shakes hands with both Ricky and Stephan, they both politely realize he has dirty hands form the pasta and clean themselves)

HOWARD (CONT'D)

I'm Howard.

(Very proud)

HOWARD (CONT'D)

I am a writer! And the "househusband" of this family and this is Matt and...

AUDREY

(interrupting him)

Joanna!

(She goes to Ricky)

AUDREY (CONT'D)

So nice to meet you...

(She extends her had to him, he kisses it and speaks with a heavy south American accent)

RICKY  
So nice to meet you Joanna, what a pretty name.

ALISON  
Ricky is from Mexico.

AUDREY  
Wow, from Mexico!

(Clearly flirting with him)

MATT  
Ricky is not a very Mexican name?

RICKY  
Ah, no my real name is Jose Maria, Ricky is my stage name.

(They all look at each other and  
then to Audrey)

AUDREY  
Well, I like Ricky much better...

RICKY  
Yes and it goes well with my surname, Martin.

(He emphasizes the tin)

MATT  
What, like Ricky Martin? The singer?

RICKY  
Not really, I am Martin (HE EMPHASIS THE TIN) He is Martin  
(HE EMPHASIS THE MA), Ricky Martin, Ricky Martin...

(They all look confused trying to  
work out the difference)

MATT  
I love Ricky Martin, I have all his albums.

(They all look at Matt)

ALISON  
Anyway...

(She pulls Audrey away from Ricky)

ALISON (CONT'D)  
And Stephan is from Canada.

STEPHAN  
(with a heavy French accent)  
Nice to meet you all.

MATT

But you have a French accent?

STEPHAN

Yes, I am from the French Canadian side.

MATT

Is that near France?

ALISON

(looking at Matt)

We need to talk about what you did at Uni all this time!

HOWARD

And what do you do for living Stephan?

STEPHAN

I am a computer programmer. I am in charge of the development of our companies sub-net using the latest fiber optic glass technology, which will assist us in the development of a tetra function, sophisticated enough to stop anyone from breaking through it.

HOWARD

(looking confused)

Good...You arrived just in time for dinner...

ALISON

(going to the table)

What is it darling? It smells of... Fish?

HOWARD

My special "tierra y mar" recipe.

ALISON

Tierra and what?

RICKY

I love Tierra y Mar...

HOWARD

Yes, mine is a unique recipe that combines the delights of the sea meeting the exotic flavors of the land.

(Howard stands there proud)

AUDREY

It's old ham and kippers.

HOWARD

Yes, anyway, shall we sit?

AUDREY

(signalling to Ricky to sit with her)

Ricky!

(Ricky sits next to her. They all

sit around the table looking at  
the pasta)

HOWARD

Right, shall I be mother?

ALISON

(taking the serving spoon from him)

Let me serve, you've been working hard all day...

(She serves small portions)

MATT

So Stephan, all that stuff you were talking about your job...  
So what do you do?

STEPHAN

I am a systems analyst who develops intra and extra nets for  
our company to maintain high levels of protocol in the  
servers. This in turn protects our proximi server data which is  
transmitted via this fiber optic glass through the new  
switches we are developing.

MATT

(smiles at him, not knowing what he just  
said)

Nice...

(Howard takes the serving spoon and  
puts more on his plate)

HOWARD

Don't be shy, there is plenty for all. Bon Appetite!

(For a moment everyone just looks  
at their plate and the horrid  
smell from the pasta)

ALISON

Darling, this looks... Wonderful. Thank you...

HOWARD

You are welcome darling. Well go on, it will get cold.

ALISON

(not sure)

Absolutely... Come on everyone before it gets cold.

(Everyone reluctantly picks up  
their fork and a small piece of  
pasta. They all look at each other  
to see who will eat it first.  
Howard is eating his)

HOWARD

(chewing)

Humm... There is a certain "je ne ce qui" about it...

AUDREY

Yes, I imagine there is a lot of that in it!

(Nobody eats, Howard looks at everyone and everyone puts a piece in their mouth)

HOWARD

Good?

(Everyone nods in agreement but trying not to chew or swallow. The door bell rings)

ALISON

(with her mouth full)

Darling could you see who's at the door?

HOWARD

Yes of course, hey but don't finish it all while I'm gone!

(Everyone smiles at him as he walks out and then they all spit out the food)

ALISON

(to Ricky and Stephan)

Howard is learning to cook...

MATT

He needs a better teacher!

ALISON

Look I don't want to hurt his feelings, let's put it back on the pan before he gets back, we'll pretend we've eaten it.

(They all put it back on the pan)

AUDREY

Look mum, one thing is that he is now in charge of the house, but one day he is going to poison us!

ALISON

(takes money out of her purse)

Look, here is some money, take Ricky and Stephan out to dinner, but hurry up before you dad gets back.

AUDREY

Come on Ricky, I want to hear all about Mexico...

(She takes Ricky's arm and walks out chatting to him)

MATT

(as he walks out with Stephan)

Come on, you can tell me all about your opter fabric thing bobs...

STEPHAN

Ah yes, well think of it like long pasta which....

(They walk out. Howard comes back  
in with a screwdriver in his hand)

HOWARD

It was Ron from next door, he brought that screw driver I  
lent him...

(Looks around)

HOWARD (CONT'D)

Where is everyone?

ALISON

Oh, they finished their food and went to show Ricky and  
Stephan the area...

HOWARD

Wow! That was fast, they must have love the pasta!

ALISON

Yes, I think they did...

HOWARD

(sits and starts to eat again, looks at  
Alison)

How about you? Do you want any more? There is plenty for 2 in  
the pan...

(Looks at it and is suspicious to  
see so much pasta)

ALISON

No thank you darling, I had enough...

(Howard continues to eat, Alison  
looks at him)

ALISON (CONT'D)

Howard...

HOWARD

(looks up)

Yes?

(Alison looks at him and cannot  
bring herself to tell him about  
the food)

ALISON

Nothing...

HOWARD

(continuous to eat)

Hmmmm, it is dam good, even if I say so myself. Are you sure  
(MORE)

HOWARD (CONT'D)  
 you won't have any more? There is plenty for the two of us...

ALISON  
 (looks at him and smiles)  
 Yes, of course I want more of your tierra and something or other...

HOWARD  
 (puts a spoon full on her plat)  
 Tierra y Mar darling, here you go.

(He watches her as Alison takes a small bit)

ALISON  
 Yes, you are right, it has a je ne ce qui about it...

HOWARD  
 (puts two more spoon full on her plate)  
 I'm glad you like it, I worked hard to cook it!

ALISON  
 (smiles and gives him a kiss)  
 I know.

LIGHTS OUT

SCENE 3 - KITCHEN - 2 AM IN THE MORNING

(The kitchen is in semi darkness. We see Ricky standing by the fridge, he is wearing nothing but his underpants. He has the door open and picks up a can of Coke. Audrey enters and stand on the other side of the kitchen looking at Ricky. He opens the can and drinks and then cools himself with the can. Audrey walks towards Ricky and makes a noise. He turns around)

RICKY  
 Well hello Joanna...

AUDREY  
 (eyeing him up and down)  
 Wow, well hello Ricky...

RICKY  
 What are you doing down here?

AUDREY  
 (getting closer to him)  
 I couldn't sleep so I came down for a drink. How about you?

RICKY

Me too, I was thirsty.

(He sees that she is looking at his  
body)

RICKY (CONT'D)

Oh, I hope you don't mind, I don't like to sleep with  
anything on.

AUDREY

No, not at all, don't mind me...

(She gets very close to him as if  
to kiss him when Howard walks in,  
he is half a sleep and also only  
wearing his underwear which is big  
and old fashion)

HOWARD

(rubbing his eye)

Audrey?

AUDREY

(turning around and standing in front of  
Ricky)

Dad!

HOWARD

What are you doing down here?

AUDREY

I came down for a glass of water...

HOWARD

(seeing Ricky behind her)

Ricky?

RICKY

(comes from behind Audrey)

Good evening Mr Heartly.

HOWARD

(covering his eye)

Wow, I did not need to see that! What are you doing down  
here?

RICKY

I was thirsty.

HOWARD

What is going on?

AUDREY

I couldn't sleep so I came down for a drink.

RICKY  
Me too, I came for a coke (he pronounce it as cock)

HOWARD  
Half naked?

RICKY  
I sleep like this. How about you?

(Howard realizes he is also in his  
underwear and reaches for a tea  
towel to cover himself)

HOWARD  
Never you mind!

(Howard looks at Ricky's manhood  
which is exuberantly large)

HOWARD (CONT'D)  
Is that real?

RICKY  
(thinking he is talking about his  
underwear)  
Yes, genuine Calvin Klein, do you like them?

HOWARD  
I wasn't talking about your underwear! Please cover yourself!

(Ricky places the can of coke in  
front of him)

HOWARD (CONT'D)  
Something slightly larger!

(Ricky puts the can down and picks  
up the tea pot. Enter Alison)

ALISON  
What is going on...

(Looks at Howard)

ALISON (CONT'D)  
Howard, what are you doing with the tea towel in front of  
you?

(She looks at Audrey)

ALISON (CONT'D)  
What are you doing down here?

(She looks at Ricky standing there  
with the tea pot in front of him)

ALISON (CONT'D)

Wow Ricky!

RICKY

Good evening Mrs Heartly, I'm sorry to woken you up.

ALISON

What are you doing with the tea pot in front of you?

RICKY

Sorry, it's all I could find...

(He removes the tea pot and places  
it on the table again. Alison  
looks at his manhood)

ALISON

Wow! No please put it back!

(She sees Audrey trying to take a  
look at Ricky's manhood)

ALISON (CONT'D)

Audrey!

AUDREY

Joanna!

ALISON

Joanna, Audrey! Who cares, cover your eyes, there is a naked man in the kitchen!

RICKY

There are 2!

ALISON

Ricky, I think we need to perhaps look at some rules like no walking around the house half naked.

HOWARD

Yes, dam right!

ALISON

(Alison looks at him disapproving)  
Look, it's late, I think we better all go back to bed and we will talk about this tomorrow.

RICKY

Yes Mrs Heartly.

(Ricky walks towards the door still  
with the tea pot in front of him)

ALISON

May we have the tea pot please?

Oh, yes sorry...

RICKY

I'll take that.

AUDREY

I'll take that!

ALISON

(Getting in front of her)

(Ricky walks out)

Well, this is certainly not what I expected when we decided to have lodgers! What were you doing down here with Ricky?

HOWARD

Nothing, I told you, I was thirsty, I came for a drink and he was here having a coke...

AUDREY

Really?

HOWARD

Yes, really!

AUDREY

Don't lie to me young lady...

HOWARD

(He removes the tea towel as he points at Audrey)

Dad!

AUDREY

(indicating to cover himself)

Well, at least I'm wearing decent underwear! (to Alison) did you see his!

HOWARD

(covering himself)

Yes, by the way... Was it real?

AUDREY

(Teasing Howard)

(She gives him a cheeky smile)

Audrey please!

HOWARD

What? Calvin Klein underwear is very expensive...

AUDREY

(cheeky)

Ah, well, I don't know, I'm not into underwear fashion...

HOWARD

(Relieved)

AUDREY  
Clearly!

HOWARD  
You still haven't told us what were you doing down here with Ricky?

AUDREY  
I told you, he was already here when I came down, we were just chatting...

HOWARD  
At 2 am?

AUDREY  
So?

HOWARD  
He was half naked!

AUDREY  
And so are you!

HOWARD  
I'm your father!

AUDREY  
That doesn't give you the right to walk around the house with nothing on!

HOWARD  
This is my house!

ALISON  
(intervening)  
Ok, that's enough! We will discuss this tomorrow. Please go back to bed.

(Audrey walks towards the door)

HOWARD  
To your own room!

AUDREY  
(stops and looks at Howard)  
I don't have a room, remember?

(Howard is going to answer but  
Alison stops him)

ALISON  
Please go up stairs now!

(Audrey goes out in a strop. Howard  
stands there with the tea towel in  
front of him)

HOWARD

This is going to be harder than I thought.

ALISON

It will be fine.

HOWARD

What was Audrey doing down here with Ricky?

ALISON

Howard, don't let your imagination run wild. He is from Mexico and we don't know what customs they have there. It may be perfectly acceptable to walk around the house with nothing on...

(She looks at him and smiles)

ALISON (CONT'D)

May be you are Mexican too...

HOWARD

Alison!

ALISON

I'm joking! Look, we need the money so you can focus on your writing. I'm sure it gets easier, we just need to adjust, put some rules, like not walking around naked...

(She points at him being half naked)

HOWARD

Alright, I get it!

(She walks towards Howard and holds him)

ALISON

We'll be fine...

HOWARD

I know darling, I know.

(Pause)

HOWARD (CONT'D)

(looks at her)

Thank you.

ALISON

For what?

HOWARD

For being there for me...

(Alison gives him a kiss)

ALISON

You are welcome.

(She looks at Howard and teasing him)

ALISON (CONT'D)

By the way, was it real?

HOWARD

Alison!

ALISON

(smiling)

His underwear!

(She gives him another kiss and runs her hand down towards the tea towel)

ALISON (CONT'D)

So Mr Heartly, what are you hiding behind your tea towel?

HOWARD

Well Mrs Heartly, whatever it is, it's all real!

(Alison pulls the tea towel away and chases Howard out of the kitchen)

LIGHTS OUT.

SCENE 4 - KITCHEN - THE NEXT DAY IN THE AFTERNOON

(The kitchen is empty. We see Ricky come in with his rucksack and headphones on, he is dancing to the music. Goes to the fridge and takes a drink out. Enter Audrey, she is also carrying a bag. She stops and eyes Ricky up and down, then slowly she gets close to him. He doesn't notice her as he has his music. She stands behind him and takes a deep breath smelling his after-shave and does a face of pleasure.)

RICKY

(He turns around and see Audrey, takes his headphones off)

Joanna, I didn't see you there...

AUDREY

(In a very seductive manner)

Hello Ricky, so very nice to see you again... Dressed.

RICKY  
 (looks at himself)  
 Ah, yes, sorry about that...

AUDREY  
 Why be sorry? We should do it again at some point, it was fun...

RICKY  
 I think you Dad was mad with me. You see in my country it is ok to walk about in your pants, I didn't mean to offend him.

AUDREY  
 Don't worry about him, he doesn't appreciate cultural differences, unlike me who would like to get to know you better...

(She comes very close to him which  
 Ricky enjoys as well as feeling  
 uncomfortable)

RICKY  
 So what do you want to know?

AUDREY  
 (puts her hand over the fridge trapping  
 Ricky)  
 Ricky, Ricky, Ricky... What a lovely name...

RICKY  
 Joanna, Joanna, Joanna... What a lovely name too.

AUDREY  
 So you see, we already have something in common, lovely names.

RICKY  
 Yes, lovely names.

(Audrey gets very close to him)

AUDREY  
 So Ricky from Mexico, tell me about your country, what's it like...

RICKY  
 Well, it is very hot...

AUDREY  
 I can imagine that, it gets very hot there...

(As she gets very close to him we  
 see Howard walk in and Audrey  
 moves away)

HOWARD

Well it seems that you too are getting alone well. I find you in the same place as yesterday, except this time you are dress...

RICKY

Hello Mr Hartley, nice to see you dress too.

AUDREY

I'm going to my room, see you later Ricky...

RICKY

Yes, see you later Joanna.

(Audrey goes out. There is an awkward moment)

HOWARD

Ricky, I would like to talk to you about last night...

RICKY

Yes Mr. Heartly, I'm sorry for having waken you up.

HOWARD

Well Ricky, it's not just that...

RICKY

And also for walking around in my pants. You see in Mexico it is ok for us to do this.

HOWARD

That's fine. But I want to talk to you about something else...

RICKY

Yes?

HOWARD

(hesitates for a moment)

Well Ricky, I feel that it is not appropriate for you and Audrey to...

RICKY

You mean Joanna?

HOWARD

Yes, Joanna. Well it is not right that you should be standing there half naked in front of a young woman...

RICKY

Yes Mr Heartly, I understand and it won't happen again...

HOWARD

Well, yes I know but the thing is...

(Pause)

RICKY

Yes?

HOWARD

Look she is a young girl and easily impressionable by someone who looks different...

(Pause)

RICKY

Yes?

HOWARD

What I mean to say is that, she... You... It shouldn't!

RICKY

It shouldn't? I'm sorry Mr Heartly I don't understand, my English is not so good...

HOWARD

Oh for god sakes! Look, all I'm asking is please keep your manhood where it belongs!

RICKY

Manhood?

HOWARD

You know, keep your snake in your pit...

RICKY

Snake?

HOWARD

Your Robin in his nest!

(Ricky looks really confused)

HOWARD (CONT'D)

Your trumpet in it's case!

RICKY

Trumpet?

(We see Alison come in, goes to Howard and gives him a kiss)

ALISON

Hello Darling. Hi Ricky.

RICKY

Hello Mrs. Heartly, nice to see you.

ALISON

Alison.

RICKY  
Alison?

ALISON  
You can call me Alison, that's my name.

RICKY  
Ah, Alison, what a pretty name...

ALISON  
(feeling fettered)  
That is a nice thing to say, thank you Ricky.

RICKY  
You are welcome.

HOWARD  
Yes, anyway, Ricky and I were talking about last night's incident...

ALISON  
Oh good. Yes Ricky, here in England we don't really walk around the house half naked...

(Ricky looks at Howard)

ALISON (CONT'D)  
Apart from Howard.

RICKY  
Yes, I'm sorry it will not happen again. And I'm sorry to have waken you up.

ALISON  
Oh that's ok Ricky, we understand you had to get a drink, as long as you are dress, it's ok.

RICKY  
Ok, I will dress to drink.

ALISON  
Good.

(There is a silence)

HOWARD  
Anyway, I need to get back to work...

(He gets up and crosses Ricky and without Alison seeing him he does the "I am watching you" sign to Ricky)

ALISON  
See you later darling.

(Howard goes out. Ricky takes his

rucksack and goes to the door)

RICKY

See you later Alison.

ALISON

(stops Ricky)

Ricky?

RICKY

Yes?

(She thinks about telling him something but stops)

ALISON

Nothing, see you later.

(Ricky walks out. Matt come in)

MATT

Hi mum, when it's dinner, I'm starving!

ALISON

How should I know, I just got in, you should ask your father. How is the job hunting going?

MATT

No good, there isn't anything out there!

ALISON

So what have you been doing all day?

MATT

Well, you know, bits and bobs...

ALISON

Matt, seriously, you need to focus, otherwise how else are you going to find a job.

MATT

Mum, don't worry, it's all under control.

ALISON

Yea sure...

(Enter Stephan)

ALISON (CONT'D)

Hi Stephan, how was your day?

STEPHAN

Good thank you. Hi Matt.

MATT

Hi Stephan.

ALISON

Right, I'm going upstairs, there is plenty to do in this house and I cannot sit around doing nothing. See you later.

(Alison goes out)

MATT

Hey Stephan, do you want a drink?

STEPHAN

Thank you.

(He goes and sits at the table)

MATT

What would you like?

STEPHAN

Oh, Cocacola if you have.

(Matt takes a bottle and 2 glasses)

STEPHAN (CONT'D)

So Matt, what do you do for living?

MATT

Well, I'm currently looking for work.

STEPHAN

I see, and what are you looking for?

MATT

Well, to be honest I'm not sure. Something that pays well and it is not hard work!

STEPHAN

Then you should be doing what I do...

MATT

(looks at him)

Yes... So what is it that you do again...?

STEPHAN

I'm a systems programmer working...

(He stops and looks at Matt knowing he didn't understand last time)

STEPHAN (CONT'D)

I chase hackers in our system.

MATT

Hackers... (PAUSE) So do you run around a lot chasing them... things... Hackers...

STEPHAN  
 May be you should look for something else...

MATT  
 Yes, may be...

(Pause)

MATT (CONT'D)  
 Do you have a girlfriend?

STEPHAN  
 No.

MATT  
 Me neither...

(There is a silence)

MATT (CONT'D)  
 May be we should go and look for a girlfriend together!

STEPHAN  
 Matt, I'm gay.

MATT  
 Ah, I see... So we can't go out and look for a girlfriend together I guess. Unless you were looking for a boyfriend...

STEPHAN  
 Perhaps.

(Pause)

MATT  
 So... Do you go out much?

STEPHAN  
 No.

MATT  
 Do you like going out?

STEPHAN  
 Yes.

MATT  
 You like going out but you don't go out?

STEPHAN  
 Yes.

MATT  
 Why?

STEPHAN  
Because no one likes going out with me.

(Silence)

STEPHAN (CONT'D)  
Do you like going out?

MATT  
Actually I do!

STEPHAN  
Nice.

MATT  
(Realizing he now needs to invite him to  
come out)  
There are some fun palaces around here. Do you want to come  
out?

STEPHAN  
Sure.

MATT  
OK.

(There is a silence)

MATT (CONT'D)  
I don't know may gay bars though...

STEPHAN  
We don't need to go to a gay bar.

MATT  
Oh, ok. I just thought...

STEPHAN  
Matt, gay people also go to other places you know...

MATT  
Of course. It's not as if you guys go to gay shops only...

(Stephan looks at Matt. There is an  
awkward moment)

MATT (CONT'D)  
Anyway, I'll see you later...

(He picks up his bag and goes to  
the door.)

MATT (CONT'D)  
So, we can go out after dinner?

STEPHAN

Yes, that will be great.

MATT

Ok.

(Matt goes out. Stephan sits there drinking and smiles to himself)

LIGHTS OUT

SCENE 5 - DINNER - SAME DAY

(As the lights come up we see everyone at the table eating. Everyone eats slowly and they pull faces as they put food in their mouth)

HOWARD

So Stephan, is there a Mrs Bouf?

STEPHAN

Yes, my mother.

HOWARD

No, I meant is there a woman in your life? Do you have a girlfriend?

STEPHAN

No.

ALISON

Ah, just like Matt, you two should get together and find a girlfriend...

MATT

Actually we are going out today mum but I don't think we are going to go and find a girlfriend...

HOWARD

Why not! There are plenty of lovely girls out there waiting for young men like you! I bet old Stephan here is a real ladies man!

STEPHAN

Actually I am...

(Matt cuts him off)

MATT

He is, a real ladies man! That's why I'm taking Stephan to the pub to have a drink. It's 80's night and they play wicked music!

ALISON  
You should take Ricky with you.

MATT  
Sure, Ricky do you want to come?

RICKY  
Yes, if there are a lot of pretty girls...

HOWARD  
I'm sure there are...

AUDREY  
I want to come too!

HOWARD  
Well I'm not sure that's a good idea, it's a boys night out, they are going to go and pick up girls, you don't want to get on the way do you?

AUDREY  
I want to come, Matt can I come?

MATT  
As long as you promise not to be annoying!

AUDREY  
I promise.

HOWARD  
(he looks at Ricky)  
I don't think is a good idea for you to be there, the boys wants to have fun!

AUDREY  
Mum, please can I go?

MATT  
It's ok dad, she can come.

HOWARD  
Ok, but you are in charge of your sister.

AUDREY  
Dad! I'm 17, I don't need to be looked after.

HOWARD  
Oh, I think you do...

MATT  
Right, we'd better get ready, it starts in half and hour and I want to catch all the tunes from the 80's.

(They all get up and start to leave the kitchen)

MATT (CONT'D)  
Mum, can you help me iron my shirt?

ALISON  
Really? Matt how did you survive at Uni?

MATT  
Well, often I didn't wash things so I didn't have to iron them...

ALISON  
I don't want to know! Come on, I'll iron your shirt!

(As they go out Howard stops Audrey)

HOWARD  
Audrey, a word if I may?

(She turns back and they all go out)

AUDREY  
Joanna! Why can't you just call me Joanna!

HOWARD  
Look, I don't know what's going on between you and Ricky, but I'm warning you...

AUDREY  
What? What are you talking about?

HOWARD  
I know there is something going on.

AUDREY  
There is nothing going on!

HOWARD  
So how comes you were here last night with him in his underpants?

AUDREY  
I told you, I was thirsty!

HOWARD  
And this afternoon, you were practically on top of him.

AUDREY  
We were having a conversation!

HOWARD  
I have conversations with the bus driver and I don't sit on top of him!

AUDREY  
I told you, there is nothing going on!

HOWARD  
Well, it'd better, your cannot date the lodgers!

AUDREY  
Says who?

HOWARD  
Says I!

AUDREY  
And who are you to tell me what to do!

HOWARD  
Your father for starters!

AUDREY  
And?

HOWARD  
(he is going to say something and holds  
back calming himself down)  
I'm telling you Audrey Heartly, you will not date the  
lodgers!

AUDREY  
Ok...

HOWARD  
(confused)  
What?

AUDREY  
Yes, Audrey Heartly will not date the lodgers.

HOWARD  
Good, I'm glad you've come to your senses...

(Enter Ricky looking very suave)

RICKY  
Are you ready Joanna?

AUDREY  
Yes I am...

(She looks at Howard and winks at  
him)

AUDREY (CONT'D)  
Audrey Heartly will not date the lodgers, but Joanna might.

(They go out)

LIGHTS OUT

## SCENE 5 - AFTER THE NIGHT OUT - MIDNIGHT

(The kitchen is in semi darkens.  
There is a small light on. We see  
Matt, Stephan, Audrey and Ricky  
come in, they turn the lights on)

MATT

I can't believe you knew all the words to Diana Ross Chain  
Reaction!

STEPHAN

And the moves!

MATT

And the moves! You are good!

STEPHAN

Merci

RICKY

Hey, but no one knew the words and moves like me to Ricky  
Martin Viva la vida loca!

AUDREY

And what amazing moves!

MATT

Yea, I love the way you move those hips!

(Matt grabs Ricky and he starts to  
salsa dance with him, Audrey steps  
in)

AUDREY

Alright Matt, that is just too wired!

STEPHAN

Why? What is wrong with 2 men dancing together?

AUDREY

Nothing if you are gay!

RICKY

Yea, and I'm not gay!

STEPHAN

Well, the way you move your hips, I'm not sure...

RICKY

Hey, Ricky Martin is not gay!

STEPHAN

Which one? One of them is for sure!

RICKY

Hey, not this Martin!

MATT

Alright, can we just drop the gay thing, what does it matter who's gay and who's not!

(They all stop and Matt's response)

STEPHAN

Of course it doesn't matter Matt, you are right...

(He stands up)

STEPHAN (CONT'D)

I'm gay and I don't dance with men, women are much more fun on the dance floor!

(He picks Audrey up and starts to dance with her)

RICKY

Now, that is strange!

MATT

Anyways, I'm off to my shed. Tomorrow is another long day.

AUDREY

Doing what?

MATT

Looking for work, you don't know how exhausting it is!

STEPHAN

Wait until you get a job, then you will know how exhausting it is! I'm going to be too.

(Matt and Stephan head for the door. Matt turns to look at Audrey and Ricky)

MATT

Alright kids, don't do anything I wouldn't...

(He winks at them)

AUDREY

You don't do anything!

MATT

Then I trust you will not do anything! Nigh night!

(Matt and Stephan go out. Audrey and Ricky stand looking at each other)

RICKY

So Joanna, do you want to salsa dance with a not gay Ricky Martin?

AUDREY

I love to salsa dance with the not gay Ricky Martin.

(They start to salsa dance. During one of the moves they hit the table and start laughing)

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Shhh! We don't want to wake my dad again!

RICKY

Well, at least this time I'm dress!

AUDREY

(in a very seductive voice)

That's a shame...

RICKY

Yes, it is a shame but I'm not allowed to walk around the house in my pants...

AUDREY

Well, actually...

(Audrey gets very close to Ricky as if to kiss him)

RICKY

Joanna, what is ouchualli

AUDREY

What is what?

RICKY

Ouchalli, you've been saying that word a lot...

AUDREY

Oh, you mean actually!

RICKY

Yes, ouchoualli

AUDREY

(laughs at the way Ricky says it)

It is actually not ouchalli!

RICKY

Yes, that's what I said, ouchoually!

AUDREY

Look if you are going to become a famous actor in Hollywood you need to know how to say actually, repeat after me ACTUALLY

Ouchoualli RICKY

No A C T U A L L Y AUDREY

O U C H O U A L L I RICKY

(As they do this they get close again and Audrey closes her eyes and leans forward to kiss him. Ricky stands there looking at her. She opens one eye and looks at Ricky)

So? AUDREY

What? RICKY

Aren't you going to kiss me? AUDREY

Kiss you? RICKY

Yes, that's what happens when a boy and a girl go out on a date... AUDREY

Joanna, I'm sorry, I don't kiss girls on a first date... RICKY

(Audrey opens both eyes and looks at Ricky in shock)

You are kidding me right? AUDREY

No, I'm not. I'm not like those men who take advantage of women and want not just a kiss but more on their first date. My mother always said to me "Jose Maria" she call me by my real name, "Jose Maria, you must respect girls like you respect me" So I don't kiss on first dates... RICKY

(Audrey looks at him)

That is so lovely! I have never met anyone who thinks like that! I'm sorry, I didn't mean to be so forthcoming... AUDREY

That's ok Joanna, I understand why you would find me attractive, I know I would... RICKY

(Audrey goes to the sink. While she has her back to him, Ricky takes out a mouth spray and sprays his mouth and does his hair)

AUDREY

Ricky, I don't want you to think badly of me, you must think I'm such a floozy.

RICKY

A what?

AUDREY

Floozy, easy... Tart!

(Ricky goes to Audrey)

RICKY

Joanna, I don't understand what you say but don't feel bad, it's me, I just like to treat girls with respect...

AUDREY

And I love that!

(They are facing each other, Audrey looks at Ricky with lovingly eyes)

RICKY

I tell you what, for you, because you are such a lovely girl and because you have been so understanding about this, I am prepared to make an exception...

AUDREY

Oh Ricky, no, honestly...

RICKY

No, it's ok, Mama would approve of this, I'm sure. Close your eyes.

(Audrey closes her eyes and Ricky checks his breath and slowly gets close to her and kisses her. He moves away and Audrey stands there with her eyes closed. Ricky looks at her and waits for a reaction. She stands there with her eyes closed)

RICKY (CONT'D)

Joanna...

AUDREY

(with her eyes closed)

Shut up and kiss me again!

(Ricky takes his mouth spray again. He is just about to kiss her when

Howard comes in)

RICKY  
Good evening Mr Heartly.

HOWARD  
Ricky...

AUDREY  
Oh hi Dad, what are you doing still up?

HOWARD  
I came down for a glass of water...

AUDREY  
Good to see you learned!

(Pointing at him being dress)

RICKY  
Well, I'm going to bed, good night Joanna.

AUDREY  
Good night Ricky, I really had a lot of fun today.

RICKY  
Me too. Good night Mr Heartly.

HOWARD  
Good night Ricky...

(We see Ricky go out, Audrey walks towards the door)

HOWARD (CONT'D)  
A moment please...

AUDREY  
Dad, save it.

HOWARD  
Look, dating the lodgers is out of the question! This is business and you never mix business with pleasure!

AUDREY  
Well, it is my business and it is my pleasure!

HOWARD  
Audrey, I mean it! Stay away from Ricky.

AUDREY  
I told you Audrey is staying well away from Ricky...

HOWARD  
Don't mess with me young woman!

(Audrey goes towards the door and

stops, turns and looks at Howard)

AUDREY

Good night dad...

HOWARD

Audrey!

(She walks out)

HOWARD (CONT'D)

Joanna!

(He stands there. Goes to the fridge and takes out the milk. He puts the kettle on. After a few moments enters Alison)

ALISON

Howard, what are you doing up again?

HOWARD

Sorry darling, I couldn't sleep. I'm making a cup of tea, would you like one?

ALISON

No thank you. What's the matter?

HOWARD

Nothing, I'm just stressed.

ALISON

Why?

HOWARD

I don't know. I wish I could get this dam book done and make lots of money. That way we can get rid of the lodgers!

AUDREY

Howard, they've just arrived. Are you not happy with them?

HOWARD

No... It's fine. I just have a lot on my mind.

ALISON

Come on, let's get back to bed. May be I can give you a massage...

(Alison rubs his shoulders)

ALISON (CONT'D)

Oh honey, you are tens!

HOWARD

Yes, I could do with a nice massage.

ALISON

Come on then Mr Heartly, let me release that tension!

HOWARD

Oh Mrs Heartly, I'm ready to relieve my tension!

(Howard makes a tiger noise and  
Alison runs to the door. Alison  
stops and looks at Howard)

HOWARD (CONT'D)

After my cup of tea...

(Alison looks at Howard)

LIGHTS OUT

SCENE 6 - NEXT DAY. EARLY AFTERNOON

(Stephan is in the kitchen with his  
laptop, he is typing away and  
looking at the screen intensely.  
Enter Matt)

MATT

Hi Stephan.

(Stephan doesn't answer. Matt goes  
to the fridge and takes out a  
drink. He sits next to Stephan and  
watches him)

MATT (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

STEPHAN

(without looking at him)

Working.

MATT

On what?

(Stephan stops typing and looks at  
Matt)

STEPHAN

Do you really want to know?

MATT

Sure.

(Stephan moves the computer out of  
the way and looks at Matt)

STEPHAN

There are currently 2 main servers in my company. One is an extranet with 1 terabyte of information and the second server is a back up with 200 switches connected to the main server linked by fibroptic cables running through a mass connection giving the company only access to the proxy server through the net.

(Matt is looking at Stephan completely lost)

STEPHAN (CONT'D)

Do you follow?

MATT

I got lost at one point...

STEPHAN

Which part?

MATT

When you said there are currently 2 main servers...

STEPHAN

Matt, I have work to do...

(He turns away and starts typing again)

MATT

Yes, sorry. Carry on...

(Stephan continues to type. Matt watches him)

MATT (CONT'D)

So did you enjoyed last night?

(Stephan looks up)

STEPHAN

Yes.

MATT

Good.

(Stephan looks down again and types, Matt watches him)

MATT (CONT'D)

Me too, I enjoyed last night.

(Stephan stops typing but doesn't look up)

MATT (CONT'D)

Sorry!

(Stephan continues to type. Matt stands up and whistles a tune. Stephan stops typing)

MATT (CONT'D)

Sorry!

(Stephan continues to type. Matt picks up an apple and plays with it and drops it making some noise. Stephan just stops his typing. Matt makes apologetic signs and he picks up the apple. Goes and stands behind Stephan looking over his shoulder, he bites the apple making crunching noises. Stephan stops typing. Matt stops chewing aware of this)

STEPHAN

Matt, is there something you want to talk about?

MATT

(sitting next to him)

Actually yes...

(Stephan puts his laptop away and looks at Matt)

MATT (CONT'D)

Well, the things is, I wanted to ask you a personal question...

STEPHAN

Yes?

MATT

I hope you don't mind me asking this...

(Pause)

STEPHAN

Yes?

MATT

Well, I wanted to ask you...

(Stephan looks at Matt waiting for the question)

MATT (CONT'D)

How did you know you were gay?

STEPHAN

(looks at Matt and smiles)

Well, it was actually a friend of mine, he helped me realized I was gay.

MATT

How?

STEPHAN

I knew there was something different, I had girl friends before but never felt happy or comfortable around them. So I asked him to kiss me...

MATT

You asked him to kiss you?

STEPHAN

Yes, and I knew I was gay

MATT

Was he gay?

STEPHAN

Of course.

(Matt stops and thinks. Stephan looks at him)

MATT

And with that kiss you knew you were gay?

STEPHAN

I guess so.

(Matt stands and walks away. Stephan looks at him then picks up his laptop and starts to type again. Matt walks around the room and then stops. He turns around and looks at Stephan)

MATT

Stephan...

STEPHAN

(he stops typing and turns around)

Yes?

MATT

Will you kiss me?

STEPHAN

Sorry?

MATT

Will you kiss me?



STEPHAN

Yes, I did, and my parents were happy for me.

MATT

You are right, they'll understand!

(Alison walks in, she has shopping bags with her)

ALISON

Good afternoon.

MATT

Mum I'm gay!

(Alison stops and looks at Matt and drops the bags on the floor)

STEPHAN

Yes, I think you may have waited for the right moment though...

ALISON

What?

MATT

I'm gay!

(Alison looks in shock)

LIGHTS OUT

SCENE 7 - 10 MINUTES LATER

(We see Alison sitting at the table, Stephan is fanning her with a newspaper, Matt brings her a cup of tea)

ALISON

No, your father must not find out! He will kill you!

MATT

(to Stephan)

I thought you said your parents took it well!

STEPHAN

Yes Matt but I didn't tell my mum when she came after shopping!

MATT

Well, I didn't know did I?

ALISON

When did you find out?

MATT

Well, I think I've always known but Stephan help me...

ALISON

Stephan?

STEPHAN

Can I just clarify that I was only doing what he asked me to do?

ALISON

What did you do?

MATT

He kissed me.

ALISON

He kissed you?

STEPHAN

Well not exactly, he asked me to kiss him.

ALISON

(to Matt)

You asked him to kiss you?

MATT

Well yes, but because he told me he found out he was gay when he kissed his friend?

ALISON

(to Stephan)

You kissed your friend?

STEPHAN

It was a long time ago.

MATT

The point is mum, that Stephan helped me understand who I really am.

ALISON

You've always been you, what are you talking about!

STEPHAN

I think you are still in shock, why don't you drink your tea...

(Alison takes a sip of her tea)

ALISON

Your father mustn't find out!

MATT

Why?

ALISON

Matt, your father is stressed out as it is, if he finds out you were kissing Stephan he will flip!

STEPHAN

Can I just say, I only kissed him because he asked me...

ALISON

It makes no difference!

MATT

Mum, it's not Stephan's fault.

ALISON

I didn't say it was.

(There is a silence. Alison takes another sip of her cup)

ALISON (CONT'D)

Look, your father can be old fashion when it comes to things like this. I'm not saying he will not accept it, we just need to give it time. He has a lot on his plate right now and to bring this on him will kill him.

(She looks at Stephan)

ALISON (CONT'D)

Don't take this the wrong way Stephan, but I think it is best if he doesn't find out that you are gay.

STEPHAN

I understand Mrs Heartly.

(Alison puts her cup down and stands up and goes to the door)

ALISON

I need to go and lay down, your father will be back from his meeting and I was supposed to have cooked dinner tonight.

STEPHAN

I can cook dinner for you if you want...

ALISON

Really? Can you cook?

STEPHAN

I'm an expert in the kitchen, my mother taught me.

ALISON

Well, if you don't mind...

STEPHAN

Not at all, you go and lay down and we will take care of the kitchen.

MATT

Yes mum, we'll take care of it.

ALISON

Alright, I'll go and rest, my head still spinning!

(Alison goes out. Stephan looks at  
Matt)

STEPHAN

I guess you don't know how to cook right?

MATT

Right...

STEPHAN

I'll teach you, come, let's clear this mess and then we will  
cook a wonderful meal for all.

(They start to pick up the bags)

MATT

Stephan, thank you I really appreciate it...

STEPHAN

What?

MATT

Helping me...

STEPHAN

It's my pleasure. But next time, talk to me before you speak  
eh?

MATT

I sure will!

LIGHTS OUT

SCENE 7 - AFTER DINNER - SAME DAY

(We see everyone at the table  
finishing their food)

HOWARD

Well Stephan, that was an incredible meal! Thank you.

STEPHAN

You are welcome, it is my mother's own recipe. She is a  
wonderful cook.

AUDREY

Unlike some...

HOWARD

And she taught you well! I tell you, the woman that marries you will never have to cook again!

(There is an awkward laugh from  
Alison, Matt and Stephan)

AUDREY

Can you cook for us every night please?

HOWARD

I'm sure Stephan has better things to do than too cook for us every night! Besides I'm the chef in this house!

AUDREY

(sarcastically)

Really?

HOWARD

Stephan we must swap recipes!

STEPHAN

Sure.

MATT

I think you will be giving more than receiving! Dad's recipes go as far as pasta with cheese and cheese with pasta!

HOWARD

And don't forget my "tierra y mar" recipe.

AUDREY

We are trying hard to forget that one!

HOWARD

Stephan you should teach Matt how to cook. I think every man should be able to cook for their wives!

STEPHAN

(cheeky)

Yes, may be I should...

(Alison is looking awkward)

ALISON

Anyway, enough of all this cooking talk and let's clear the table...

(They all stand up and clear their  
plates)

AUDREY

(flirting)

So Ricky, there is a really good film on tonight, fancy seeing it with me?

RICKY  
Yes, why not I like good films, what is it?

AUDREY  
(thinking)  
Oh, I don't remember, but it is good...

RICKY  
Ok.

MATT  
I'll come too!

AUDREY  
Matt! You can't.

MATT  
Why?

AUDREY  
(thinking)  
Because... You have to help Stephan!

STEPHAN  
Help me?

AUDREY  
Yes, with his... English.

MATT  
With his English? What are you talking about?

AUDREY  
(indicating she wants to be alone with  
Ricky)  
You know what I'm talking about...

HOWARD  
I think it's a good idea that Matt goes to the cinema with  
you!

MATT  
Yes, thanks dad.

HOWARD  
Why don't you take Stephan too.

STEPHAN  
I have work to do.

MATT  
Come on, you need a break.

STEPHAN  
Oh, well ok. I'll keep you company while they are kis...

AUDREY

(she interrupts him)

Really! We are not the Braidy bunch! We don't need to do everything together!

ALISON

It will be fun! I'm thinking may be we should also go...

ALL

NO!

HOWARD

It would be fun actually...

AUDREY

(to Matt under her breath)

I'll kill you!

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Don't take this the wrong way mum, dad, but going to the cinema with you wouldn't be cool!

HOWARD

Nonsense!

ALISON

No, they are right, it's not cool to go out with your parents.

AUDREY

Right, so see you later...

(She stands up and grabs Ricky by the arm to walk out)

MATT

Mum, can I have money for my ticket?

AUDREY

(turning around)

He has no money so he can't come!

STEPHAN

I'll invite you.

MATT

Oh, thanks Stephan, that's nice of you.

STEPHAN

You are welcome.

AUDREY

Agrrrr! Ricky, let's go!

(She storms off)

RICKY

Thank you for dinner, see you later...

ALISON

You are welcome Ricky.

(As he goes out Howard gives him  
the "I'm watching you" sign.)

MATT

Thanks Mum, see you later.

STEPHAN

See you later.

HOWARD

Have fun boys, and don't do anything I wouldn't...

(Alison laughs awkwardly. They go  
out. There is a silence. Howard  
and Alison continue to clear the  
kitchen in silence, then they try  
to speak at the same time)

HOWARD (CONT'D)

You go first.

ALISON

No, you go.

HOWARD

I forgot what I was going to say.

ALISON

Me too!

(Silence)

ALISON (CONT'D)

Do you want a cup of tea?

HOWARD

Yes, I could murder a cup.

(Alison goes to put the kettle on)

HOWARD (CONT'D)

So, the lodgers...

(Alison turns around quickly)

ALISON

What about the lodgers?

HOWARD

I think they are getting on fine...

Yes, I think so... ALISON

With the kids... HOWARD

Yes, with the kids... ALISON

Good. HOWARD

Yes good. ALISON

(There is a pause, Alison puts the tea bags in the teapot. They try to speak at the same time again)

You first. ALISON (CONT'D)

Well, I'm glad the lodgers are getting on well with the kids. HOWARD

Yes, you said that already. ALISON

Yes I did, indeed... HOWARD

(Pause)

Matt really likes Stephan... ALISON

Oh good. HOWARD

(Pause)

Audrey likes Ricky... HOWARD (CONT'D)

Oh good. ALISON

(Pause. Alison pours the water on the teapot and brings it to the table)

Yes indeed, the lodgers are getting on well with the kids... HOWARD

(He puts sugar in his cup and Alison puts milk in hers)

Milk?  
ALISON

Thank you Darling. Sugar?  
HOWARD

Thank you Darling.  
ALISON

(Silence as Alison puts milk in his cup and Howard sugar in hers. They take their cups and drink)

Yes indeed, the kids like the lodgers...  
ALISON (CONT'D)

What!  
HOWARD  
(nervously)

(He spills the tea)

Are you ok?  
ALISON

Yes, I'm fine. Sorry.  
HOWARD

(They sit in silence and drink their tea.)

In deed...The the kids like the lodgers...  
HOWARD (CONT'D)

(They stare at each other)

BLACK OUT.

SCENE 8 - ONE WEEK LATER

(The kitchen is empty. On the table there is a glass and a plate and paper. Audrey walks in. She goes to the fridge and takes out a drink then goes to the table and sits and looks at the papers. She starts to read one of them and her expression changes as she reads with surprise the contents of the letter. Enter Howard)

Audrey, what are you doing?  
HOWARD

AUDREY  
 (stands with the letter in hand and faces  
 Howard)

Dad, what is this?

HOWARD  
 Why are you reading my mail?

AUDREY  
 Dad?

HOWARD  
 (goes to Audrey and snatches the letter  
 from her)  
 Nothing concerning you!

AUDREY  
 What do you mean? It says you owe 25,000 pounds and you need  
 to make the first payment! Why do you owe that money?

HOWARD  
 It's none of your business...

AUDREY  
 Dad, what's going on?

HOWARD  
 I told you, it's nothing to do with you...

AUDREY  
 You've got to tell me, that's a lot of money...

(Howard doesn't say anything, he  
 goes and sit at the table looking  
 at the paper)

AUDREY (CONT'D)  
 Dad, what's going on...

HOWARD  
 Look, I'm struggling to write a good book, and the publisher  
 are threatening to pull the plug unless I bring something  
 soon. I didn't want to give up that easily... so I met these  
 guys who offered me a loan, no questions asked. We needed the  
 money and so I told your mum I had a book deal and they'd  
 given me an advance...

AUDREY  
 (thinking about what he just said)  
 So... that's why you got the lodgers...

HOWARD  
 Well yes, partly. I'm hopping that I can repay this money  
 with the income from the lodgers.

AUDREY

Why didn't you tell anyone about this?

HOWARD

I didn't want you guys to see me as a failure. Your mum has worked really hard to support me becoming a writer after I lost my job, I didn't want to let her down.

AUDREY

You should have told her...

HOWARD

How could I?

(He stands and walks around)

HOWARD (CONT'D)

I'm a failed writer with a massive debt!

AUDREY

(goes to him and holds his shoulder)

Dad, you are not a failed writer, you just need to focus and write something good.

HOWARD

You don't think I tried? We have no money, and I can't get my pen to move!

AUDREY

Look we can work this out...we have the lodgers now...

HOWARD

Yes, and that is becoming an nightmare!

AUDREY

Why?

HOWARD

Come on! You and Ricky?

AUDREY

What's wrong with me liking Ricky?

HOWARD

Look, your mother is a little old fashion when it comes to things like this, I know she will not approve of you and Ricky, not in the same house... She didn't want us to get lodgers in the first place, I insisted and so if she finds out she'll flip. And the last thing I need is for her to kick them out. We need the money...

(Audrey looks at Howard and we see a slight smile in her face)

AUDREY

She doesn't have to find out...

HOWARD

What do you mean?

AUDREY

Look dad, I've had lots of boyfriends, so many I can't remember...

HOWARD

Alright, I don't want to know, thank you.

AUDREY

Anyway, the point is, Ricky is different, I really like him, he is a true gentleman.

HOWARD

Look, Latin man have a reputation...

AUDREY

I know, but Ricky is not like the rest. His mother taught him how to treat women with respect.

HOWARD

Really?

AUDREY

Yes! And he is so sweet...

HOWARD

(feeling relived)

Well, that's good to hear...

AUDREY

I know he really cares about me... He wouldn't even kiss me on our first date...

HOWARD

You've had a date!

AUDREY

Dad! Come on, I'm not a kid...

(Howard looks at her)

HOWARD

Well, he sounds like a nice boy.

AUDREY

He is.

(Pause)

HOWARD

Alright, but you have to be careful, you mother cannot find out!

I promise. AUDREY

And no hanky panky in the house. HOWARD

No hanky panky in the house. AUDREY

Or outside the house! HOWARD

Dad! AUDREY

Look, I don't want to know what you get up to with Ricky, just keep his snake in his pit! HOWARD

What? AUDREY

Never mind. HOWARD

(Audrey gives Howard a kiss)

Thanks Dad. AUDREY

No, thank you... HOWARD

(Pause, Howard looks at Audrey)

Audrey, you mustn't tell anyone about the money, ok? HOWARD (CONT'D)

OK. On one condition... AUDREY

What? HOWARD

You stop calling me Audrey! AUDREY

Ok Joanna... HOWARD

Thank you Howard. AUDREY

Hey, Dad to you! HOWARD

AUDREY

Thanks dad.

(They hug each other)

LIGHTS OUT

SCENE 9 - AFTERNOON

(We see Ricky and Audrey in the kitchen. They are kissing passionately. They stop and Ricky bends over gasping for air)

RICKY

One moment please...

(He breaths in an out as if to catch his breath)

AUDREY

Are you done?

(Ricky indicates with his hand to give him time, then he stands up and start to kiss her again. Ricky tries to touch Audrey's breast and she moves his hand away, then he tries her bottom and she moves his hand away. She stops and moves away)

RICKY

What's the matter?

AUDREY

Look Ricky, I promised my dad we wouldn't do any hanky panky in the house...

RICKY

Any what?

AUDREY

Hanky panky!

RICKY

What is hankui pankui?

AUDREY

(laughs)

You are so funny.

(She goes to him and hugs him)

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Look, I know how much you respect women and I really like that about you. Every boy I ever met before you just wanted  
(MORE)

AUDREY (CONT'D)  
to have sex.

RICKY  
Yes, some time boys like that...

AUDREY  
But not you, I know you are not interested in that.

RICKY  
Well, ouchoually Joanna, I don't mind if you want to have sex...

AUDREY  
No, I will not push you to do it, I know how important it is for you and your mum...

RICKY  
No, seriously Joanna, my mum won't mind...

(He grabs her again and tries to kiss her)

AUDREY  
(breaking away)  
No! Besides I promised my dad no Hanky Panky.

RICKY  
What is this Hauinky Paunki?

AUDREY  
Sex!

RICKY  
We don't have to tell your dad we Hauinky Paunki...

AUDREY  
No, I promised him, no hanky panky in the house...

RICKY  
Ok, let's hankui pankui outside!

(He grabs her arm and walks towards the door)

AUDREY  
(she smiles at him)  
You are so funny...

RICKY  
No, I mean it, come on and hankuit pankuit or whatever you want to call it...

AUDREY  
Oh Ricky, I'm so happy I met you!

RICKY  
 Me too, but seriously, I don't mind hankui pankui after the first date...

AUDREY  
 No, No hanky panky!

RICKY  
 A little haunuti pankuti?

AUDREY  
 No!

RICKY  
 Just a little bit, please?

AUDREY  
 (looks at him and smiles)  
 You are so lovely! Alright, but then we stop, someone may come in...

RICKY  
 Yes, then we stop...

(They start to kiss and Ricky again tries his hand in her bottom and she moves it, he makes a fist in frustration. Audrey pulls away)

AUDREY  
 That's enough for today...

RICKY  
 Really?

AUDREY  
 Really! Anyway, I have to go.

RICKY  
 Ok, one more kiss before you go?

AUDREY  
 Ricky!

RICKY  
 Please?

(He gives her a big smile)

AUDREY  
 Last one!

(They start to kiss and just as they finish Stephan walks in)

AUDREY (CONT'D)  
 (she separates and see him standing)

Stephan...

STEPHAN  
 Good afternoon. Are you ok?

AUDREY  
 Yes thank you, I have to go, good bey!

(She hurries out the door. Stephan looks at Ricky and Ricky smiles back. Stephan indicates to Ricky to tidy his shirt which is messing. He does and sits at the table)

STEPHAN  
 So, what were you and Joanna up to?

RICKY  
 Just talking...

STEPHAN  
 Really?

RICKY  
 Yes, really.

STEPHAN  
 (takes a drink and sits next to Ricky and looks at him, then he smiles)  
 What kind of things?

RICKY  
 Things...

(Stephan looks at Ricky)

STEPHAN  
 Ricky, I am not stupid...

RICKY  
 Look, can you keep a secret?

STEPHAN  
 Sure I can.

RICKY  
 Well, me an Joanna are doing hankui pankui

STEPHAN  
 You what?

RICKY  
 Yes, she likes me and I want to hankui pankui with her.

STEPHAN

I don't know what hankui pankui is but here is some advice my friend, you want to be careful.

RICKY

Why? We are just having a bit of fun...

STEPHAN

Look Ricky, I don't think she just wants hankui pankui...

RICKY

Don't worry my friend, I know women and I know how to handle this. You just keep this a secret and don't tell anyone.

STEPHAN

(take his drink)

Don't worry, I won't tell anyone.

RICKY

Thanks. I have to go. I see you later.

STEPHAN

See you later.

(Ricky goes to the door and enter Matt)

MATT

Hey Ricky!

RICKY

Hi Matt.

MATT

You look flustered? Have you been running?

RICKY

Ah yes, running...

MATT

Why?

RICKY

Because...

STEPHAN

He missed his bus, so he ran home.

MATT

Why? You could have just walked...

RICKY

Yes but I'm in a hurry. See you.

(He goes out)

MATT  
What a strange little man!

STEPHAN  
Yes, very strange. How are you?

MATT  
Good, I feel so good! Today I had an interview and I think this may be it!

STEPHAN  
Oh, good. What is it for?

MATT  
Working in a bar.

STEPHAN  
That's a start.

(Matt goes and sits next to Stephan)

MATT  
Stephan?

STEPHAN  
Yes?

MATT  
When you kissed that guy. Did you ever kiss him again?

STEPHAN  
No.

MATT  
Why?

STEPHAN  
Because he was my friend.

MATT  
So you didn't feel the urge to kiss him again?

STEPHAN  
No.

MATT  
Did you fancy him?

STEPHAN  
No.

MATT  
But let's say if you did, would you have kissed him again?

STEPHAN  
Matt, do you want to kiss me again?

MATT

I don't know. It's just that ever since we kissed I've done nothing but think about it... you.

(Stephan laugh)

MATT (CONT'D)

What? What's so funny?

STEPHAN

I think you may have a crush on me.

MATT

Really?

STEPHAN

Look, you will have plenty of time to meet boys, and you will have many crushes. I just want to be your friend...

MATT

So you don't fancy me?

STEPHAN

No, it is not that. I fancy a lot of men. You are a good looking man Matt. But what you have to look for is love.

MATT

How do you know when you are in love?

STEPHAN

It will come to you.

MATT

Have you been in love?

STEPHAN

Not yet. But I will, one day.

(He looks at Matt)

STEPHAN (CONT'D)

And so will you.

MATT

I hope so.

(Pause, Matt looks at Stephan)

MATT (CONT'D)

In the mean time, as a friend, will you kiss me again?

STEPHAN

(laughing)

You really have a crush on me!

MATT

May be...

(They come close and kiss. Ricky walks in and see them)

LIGHTS OUT

SCENE 10 - NEXT DAY

(Stephan is working in his computer on the kitchen table. Enter Matt)

MATT

Stephan, Ricky knows!

STEPHAN

Knows what?

MATT

He knows about me!

STEPHAN

How?

MATT

He saw us kissing yesterday.

STEPHAN

How do you know?

MATT

He made a funny comment just now, I know he saw us.

STEPHAN

Are you sure? What did he say?

MATT

He came into the living room and looked at me and said "where is your "Friend" Matt", he knows! What are we going to do!

STEPHAN

It's ok...Don't worry.

MATT

What do you mean it's ok! Are you nuts! We are meant to keep it under wraps, if mum finds out that Ricky know because we've been kissing, she'll kill me, then you and then Ricky!

STEPHAN

Matt, don't worry. I have a secret weapon, he will not tell anyone...

MATT

What secret weapon?

STEPHAN  
(gets closed to Matt)  
I know a little secret...

MATT  
What? Is he gay too?

STEPHAN  
No, he is as straight as they come, sadly. Something else,  
more juicier and will work in our favor.

MATT  
Well, go on, I'm dying to know!

STEPHAN  
Him and your little sister...

MATT  
No!

STEPHAN  
Yes, and he wants hankui pankui, whatever that is.

MATT  
The little tart! My little sister getting it off with the  
Latin lover!

STEPHAN  
But we must be careful, only used this information if needed.

MATT  
Why?

STEPHAN  
He also knows your little secret!

MATT  
Right... We must be careful...

(Enter Audrey)

MATT (CONT'D)  
You little tart!

AUDREY  
What?

MATT  
You are screwing Ricky!

STEPHAN  
Matt, you really need to learn to control yourself.

MATT  
Oops, sorry!

AUDREY  
How did you know!

MATT  
Well, I just know.

AUDREY  
But how? None knows apart from dad!

MATT  
Dad knows!

AUDREY  
Oops!

STEPHAN  
You father knows?

MATT  
And he is ok with it?

AUDREY  
Of course not! But he has no choice!

MATT  
What do you mean...

AUDREY  
Never mind...

(She walks away)

MATT  
And mum? Does she know?

AUDREY  
No, and she mustn't find out! Dad and I decided to keep it away from mum, she'd go nuts if she finds out. Anyway, don't change the subject, how did you find out!

(Matt and Stephan look at each other)

STEPHAN  
I told him...

AUDREY  
And how did you know?

STEPHAN  
I saw you.

AUDREY  
No you did!

(Pause)

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Did you?

STEPHAN

Of course I did, you need to be more careful when you hankui pankui with him.

AUDREY

(looking suspicious)

How do you know about hanky panky?

MATT

Ah, hanky panky! Now I understand!

STEPHAN

I saw you hankui pankui.

AUDREY

We have not been hanky panky if you must know! We've kissed.

STEPHAN

Yes, and I saw you.

MATT

So you've been canoeing with Ricky in the house?

AUDREY

No we have not!

STEPHAN

Now I'm confused, what is canoeing?

AUDREY

Look, you have to keep this under warps, if dad finds out that you know he will kill me! And mum must not find out, whatever happens, it's really important!

MATT

Why? What difference does it make?

AUDREY

(pause)

Dad thinks she would flip and get rid of the lodgers, no offense Stephan, she is a bit old fashion when it comes to things like this.

MATT

Well actually...

(Matt is about to tell her about him and Stephan when he cuts him off)

STEPHAN

She is right, we'd better keep this between us.

AUDREY  
God, I can't believe you saw us!

STEPHAN  
(directing this to Matt)  
Well you have to be careful if you want to keep it a secret!

MATT  
(to Audrey)  
Who would have though it, my little sister dating a Mexican!  
So, is he any good?

AUDREY  
Matt!

MATT  
What?

AUDREY  
I really like him.

MATT  
Do you?

AUDREY  
Yes, in fact, I think I'm falling in love with him.

(Stephan chokes on his drink)

MATT  
Are you ok?

STEPHAN  
Yes, sorry, it went the wrong way.

MATT  
In love? Wow, so this is serious?

AUDREY  
Yes and I think he is in love with me too.

(Stephan chokes again)

MATT  
Stephan are you ok?

STEPHAN  
Sorry, just this drink...

MATT  
So you think he loves you too?

AUDREY  
I think so.

STEPHAN  
Has he told you this?

AUDREY  
Well, not exactly, but he is such a gentleman.

(Stephan chokes again)

STEPHAN  
Being a gentleman doesn't mean he loves you.

AUDREY  
I know, but he really cares and he is not looking just to have sex with me.

(Stephan chokes one more time)

MATT  
Seriously, are you ok?

STEPHAN  
Yes, sorry.

MATT  
Well, I'm happy for you. But if you are in love you are going to have to tell mum?

AUDREY  
I know, it's so complicated!

MATT  
Tell me about it!

(Enter Alison)

ALISON  
Hi guys, what are you doing?

AUDREY  
Nothing, we were just talking...

ALISON  
About what?

MATT  
Nothing, just stuff.

ALISON  
(suspicious)  
Just stuff?

AUDREY  
Yes, just stuff.

(Matt gets up)

MATT

Anyway, we were just going...

(Indicates to Stephan to get up)

STEPHAN

Yes, we were...

(He picks up his computer and they go to the door)

MATT

See you later mum!

(Stephan and Matt leave in a hurry)

ALISON

(looking suspicious)

What have those 2 boys been telling you?

AUDREY

Nothing mum, I have to go too!

(She hurries towards the door)

ALISON

One moment please, I want to talk to you.

(She stops and turns around)

ALISON (CONT'D)

I've been observing you recently...

AUDREY

Really?

ALISON

Yes, I've notice you've changed...

AUDREY

Have I?

ALISON

Yes, there is something about you I can't quite put my finger on.

AUDREY

Really? I don't think so!

(Pause)

ALISON

Is there a boy in your life?

AUDREY

What ever gives you that idea!

ALISON  
You just look happy, like if you were in love.

AUDREY  
IN LOVE! Don't be ridiculous! Me, no, never!

ALISON  
Well, then something is going on...

AUDREY  
Nothing mum, I promise, I have to go!

ALISON  
Are you sure there is nothing you want to talk about?

AUDREY  
100% sure!

ALISON  
Ok, but remember I'm always here if you need to talk.

AUDREY  
I'd love to but I can't, I mean I don't need to, really,  
thanks mum!

ALISON  
Ok.

(Audrey goes towards the door)

ALISON (CONT'D)  
Where are you going anyway?

AUDREY  
To my... Room!

ALISON  
And what's the hurry?

AUDREY  
I need... The toilet!

ALISON  
I see, well of you go, it's bad to keep it in.

AUDREY  
Yes, I know...

(Enter Howard as Audrey is going  
out)

HOWARD  
Ah, Joanna, glad I've seen you. I wanted to...

(He see Alison)

HOWARD (CONT'D)  
Oh, hello darling, I didn't see you there.

AUDREY  
Dad, I must go...

ALISON  
Yes, she is dying for the loo!

HOWARD  
Oh, ok, off you go, bad keeping it in.

(Audrey goes out. Howard goes to  
the table and picks up a news  
paper and goes towards the door)

ALISON  
Howard?

HOWARD  
(stopping and turning around)  
Yes dear?

ALISON  
There is something going on...

HOWARD  
What do you mean dear?

ALISON  
First of all, you call Audrey Joanna...

HOWARD  
Ah, yes, well, I thought if you can't beat them, join them!

ALISON  
Really?

HOWARD  
Yes dear.

ALISON  
Secondly, Audrey has changed.

HOWARD  
In what way dear?

ALISON  
Well, she has become mellow, almost as if she was in love.

HOWARD  
Really dear? I've not noticed.

ALISON  
I've asked her but she denied it, but my maternal instincts  
tells me something is going on.

Really dear?  
HOWARD

ALISON  
And thirdly you are hiding something from me.

HOWARD  
Me? Don't be ridiculous dear.

ALISON  
I know it.

HOWARD  
How do you know it dear?

ALISON  
Because every time you hide something from me you call me dear.

HOWARD  
Really de...

ALISON  
What is going on Howard?

HOWARD  
Nothing dear, I mean, nothing darling.

ALISON  
Howard?

(There is a silence and Howard  
looks tens)

HOWARD  
Alright, you got me. I didn't know how to tell you... I booked dinner for us tonight...

ALISON  
Really? Why?

HOWARD  
To celebrate...

ALISON  
Celebrate what Howard?

HOWARD  
Our lodgers...

ALISON  
Our lodgers...

HOWARD  
Yes, the fact that all is going well with the lodgers!

Really? ALISON

Yes dear - darling! HOWARD

And where have you booked? ALISON

Oh, a special place. HOWARD

What special place? ALISON

Well, I don't want to tell you now that you know about the surprise, so you'll have to wait... HOWARD

Hmm, I see. Well that is very thoughtful of you, thank you. ALISON  
(suspicious still)

Well, you were looking a bit tens lately so I thought you could use with a night out. HOWARD

Yes I could, we both could... ALISON

(Howard gives her a kiss)

This last few days have been tough having the lodgers around. ALISON (CONT'D)

Tell me about it! HOWARD

I guess we deserve a treat. ALISON

Absolutely, to forget about it all for a while. HOWARD

Yes, that's right, to forget about it all for a while. ALISON

No children, no lodgers, just you and me Mrs Heartly. HOWARD

Yes, just you and me Mr Heartly. ALISON

(They kiss)

LIGHTS OUT

## SCENE 11 - LATER ON

(Audrey is in the kitchen at the table. She is looking at some books and has her music on. Enter Ricky. She doesn't see him and he goes behind her and grabs her)

AUDREY  
Ricky, you scare the crap out of me!

RICKY  
Sorry.

(He goes to give her a kiss and she moves away)

RICKY (CONT'D)  
What's the matter?

AUDREY  
Ricky, we have to be careful.

RICKY  
I'm always careful.

AUDREY  
No, I mean it. Stephan knows about us.

RICKY  
Bastardo!

AUDREY  
What?

RICKY  
He is a shit! I can't believe he told you!

AUDREY  
Told me what?

RICKY  
That I told him!

AUDREY  
You told him what?

RICKY  
(stops realizing he hasn't told her)  
That...

AUDREY  
What Ricky?

RICKY  
(pause)  
Oh shit!

AUDREY  
Ricky!

RICKY  
Well I didn't mean to tell him about us!

AUDREY  
You told Stephan about us?

RICKY  
Only a little bit...

AUDREY  
Ricky, it doesn't matter, a little bit or a lot! You told him! Now it makes sense! He didn't see us!

RICKY  
It came out of my mouth, I didn't think he tell you.

AUDREY  
No, he told Matt!

RICKY  
He told Matt! Doble Bastardo!

AUDREY  
Luckily Matt told me because he can't keep a secret! Like you!

RICKY  
Joanna, I'm sorry...

(Audrey turns away from him)

AUDREY  
Seriously Ricky, He could have told mum and then we would have been in trouble!

RICKY  
I know, I'm sorry, don't be mad at me...

(He goes towards her)

RICKY (CONT'D)  
Will you forgive me?

AUDREY  
(without looking at him)  
I don't know.

RICKY  
If I tell you a secret about Matt, will you forgive me?

(She turns around)

AUDREY  
What secret about Matt?

RICKY  
You have to promise not to tell anyone.

AUDREY  
Ricky, you are in no position to ask for that!

RICKY  
Yes sorry. Well I saw Matt and Stephan...

AUDREY  
What?

RICKY  
Hankui pankui!

AUDREY  
What?

RICKY  
You brother is maricon...

AUDREY  
Gay?

RICKY  
Yes, he is like a gay!

AUDREY  
Are you sure?

RICKY  
Yes, I saw them here, with my own eyes, they were kissing!

AUDREY  
OMG! My brother is gay! I knew it! Nobody knows the words and moves to YMCA without being gay!

RICKY  
So, now do you forgive me?

AUDREY  
(smiles)  
May be...I can't believe my brother is gay!

RICKY  
I'm not so kiss me!

(They kiss. Audrey looks at Ricky)

AUDREY  
Ricky, how do you feel about me?

What do you mean? RICKY

I mean, what do I make you feel? AUDREY

Well, in my country I would say caliente! RICKY

Caliente? What's that? AUDREY

Hot! RICKY

Ricky! No Seriously. AUDREY

Yes, seriously! RICKY

No, I mean, when you see me, what do you feel? AUDREY

I like you. RICKY

Just like me? AUDREY

Yes, like you. RICKY

Is there another word you can think of? AUDREY

I like you very much? RICKY  
(stops and think)

Ricky, like is a word we use for saying, "I like ice cream" AUDREY

Yes, I like ice cream too! RICKY

Exactly! There must be another word you can think of to tell me how you feel about me? AUDREY

No, I like you like ice cream... RICKY  
(he thinks for a moment)

How about... AUDREY  
(pauses and looks at Ricky)

What?  
RICKY

Nothing.  
AUDREY  
( she stops)

Joanna, you are a very nice girl, and I like you like ice cream!  
RICKY

Yes, you told me that...  
AUDREY  
(Sad)

Ok..., no I like you more than ice cream!  
RICKY

Well, I guess that's something!  
AUDREY

How about you? What do you like me like?  
RICKY

I think I like you like a Mexican chili!  
AUDREY

Oh, Senorita, you like you hot chili?  
RICKY

I sure do!  
AUDREY

(They start to kiss)

LIGHTS OUT

SCENE 12 - NEXT DAY - EARLY AFTERNOON

(We see Matt, Stephan, Audrey and Ricky sitting down at the table. Enter Howard and Alison)

Right then kids, we are off.  
HOWARD

Stephan, thank you again for cooking tonight, it's very helpful.  
ALISON

No problem, it's my pleasure.  
STEPHAN

And ours, trust me!  
AUDREY

HOWARD

We will be back late, don't stay up to wait for us.

AUDREY

I can't believe you guys are going to the cinema and for dinner! How romantic!

ALISON

I know, it's just been such a long time since your dad and I were out!

HOWARD

It's not that long!

ALISON

Trust me, it is!

MATT

Anyways, please enjoy yourselves and don't worry about us.

HOWARD

(directing this to Ricky and Audrey)  
Right, so please behave yourselves!

AUDREY

Of course we will!

ALISON

(directing this to Stephan and Matt)  
Yes, and don't do anything we wouldn't do!

MATT

As if we would...

(There is a silence, they all look at each other)

ALISON

Right, shall we dear?

HOWARD

Yes, let's.

(They walk towards the door and turn around and look at the 4 of them)

AUDREY

See you later.

HOWARD

Right, yes see you later...

(They walk out. Audrey, Ricky, Matt and Stephan sit at the table. A few seconds later Alison walks back in)

ALISON

I forgot my handbag!

(She picks up her handbag and walks out. They all look at each other. Howard walks back in)

HOWARD

Sorry, I forgot the car keys.

(He takes the keys out of a draw and walks out. They sit there and wait as if they will walk back in again. After a few seconds Howard and Alison walk back in and walk towards the back door)

HOWARD (CONT'D)

(as they walk to the back door)

Sorry, the car is in the garage!

(They walk out. Silence as they all sit there not saying anything)

MATT

(breaking the silence)

So Stephan what are you going to cook tonight?

STEPHAN

Well, one of my dad's favorite dishes, it is a beef casserole which my mother used to cook for him.

MATT

Sounds great.

(Silence)

AUDREY

So Matt, how's life in general?

MATT

Good, thank you. How about yours?

AUDREY

Good.

(Silence. Matt stands up)

MATT

I need to go to the toilet...

(He goes out)

AUDREY

So Ricky, do you fancy going for a walk before dinner?

(She winks at him)

RICKY

Sure, why not.

AUDREY

I'll go and get my coat.

(She goes out. Stephan stands up  
and goes to the fridge. Ricky  
follows him)

RICKY

You little shit!

STEPHAN

What?

RICKY

You told Matt!

STEPHAN

Well, I told him only because we knew you knew about him and I.

RICKY

So what! I did not tell anyone!

STEPHAN

Well, this way now we know you won't tell Audrey.

(Ricky moves away)

STEPHAN (CONT'D)

You haven't told her right?

RICKY

Of course not. I'm not like you little shit!

STEPHAN

Don't call me little shit!

RICKY

Well, it's true. I told you as a secret and you told Matt. Because of your fault, now I have to work harder to get Joanne to hankui pankui with me.

STEPHAN

You Latin men are all the same, only thinking one thing. And for your information I think Joanna wants more than hankui pankui with you.

RICKY

What do you mean?

STEPHAN

Ricky, she is falling in love with you.

RICKY

What? Don't be stupid, we like each other, like ice cream and hot chili.

STEPHAN

Trust me, Joanna wants more than ice cream and hot chili.

(Audrey walks back in)

AUDREY

Ready?

RICKY

Yes, ready.

(They walk to the door)

STEPHAN

Enjoy your walk and your hot chili ice cream...

AUDREY

(to Ricky as they walk out)

Did you tell him about the ice cream and hot chili?

RICKY

No, I just said...

AUDREY

Ricky!

(They walk out. Stephan smiles to himself and gets some pans out to start cooking. Matt walks back in)

MATT

Have they gone?

STEPHAN

Yes, for a walk and hot chili ice cream!

(He laughs)

MATT

What?

STEPHAN

Matt, your sister is falling in love with Ricky and I'm afraid he is not...

MATT

What do you mean?

STEPHAN

Well, he is a typical Latin man with only want thing in his mind.

MATT  
Don't worry, Audrey is a man eater! I'm sure she is encouraging him.

STEPHAN  
Oh no, trust me, this time she is in love.

MATT  
How do you know?

STEPHAN  
I just know...

(Pause, Matt looks at him)

MATT  
Stephan?

STEPHAN  
Yes?

MATT  
I hope one day you find a man that loves you...

STEPHAN  
I'm sure I will.

(Matt looks at him)

STEPHAN (CONT'D)  
What?

MATT  
Nothing.

STEPHAN  
Do you want to help me cook?

MATT  
Sure.

STEPHAN  
Alright, you can start with the boring job, peeling the vegetables!

MATT  
Oh thanks!

STEPHAN  
You are welcome!

(Matt grabs the vegetables and starts to peel and Stephan puts water in a pan)

LIGHTS OUT

## SCENE 13 - LATER ON IN THE EVENING

(Matt, Stephan, Audrey and Ricky are sitting down finishing dinner. There are 2 bottles of wine on the table and they are laughing and joking. Matt stands up)

MATT  
Right, I want to make a toast.

(Matt looks at Stephan)

MATT (CONT'D)  
To Stephan, a wonderful cook and friend!

STEPHAN  
Merci!

(They raise their glasses and drink)

MATT  
You've saved us from Dad's horrid cooking!

AUDREY  
Yes, here here!

STEPHAN  
It is a pleasure, I like cooking specially for friends!

MATT  
Yes, here it's to friendship!

(He again looks at Stephan)

MATT (CONT'D)  
To a great and long lasting friendship.

(Matt and Stephan raise their glasses as they look at each other)

RICKY  
(interrupting)  
Right, we've run out of wine, so we need to get more!

AUDREY  
There is no more, if we want more wine we have to go and buy it.

RICKY  
Ok, I go and buy. May be some Tequila too?

MATT  
Oh yea baby! That's what I'm talking about!

RICKY

Alright! Wine and tequila coming up!

(Ricky goes to the door)

AUDREY

Matt, why don't you go with Ricky and I'll help Stephan clear up the kitchen.

MATT

Why?

AUDREY

He doesn't know where the off licence is.

MATT

Why don't you go with him?

AUDREY

You helped Stephan cooked dinner, it is only right that I help clear up...

STEPHAN

Yes, besides, he many get lost and never come back! He's had one too many wines I think...

RICKY

(he stands there swaying)

I have not.

MATT

Right, yes I'd better come withy you!

(Matt and Ricky go out. Stephan and Audrey start to clear the plates)

AUDREY

Stephan?

STEPHAN

Yes?

AUDREY

Can I talk to you for a moment?

STEPHAN

Of course.

AUDREY

Can we sit down?

STEPHAN

Yes.

(They sit at the table)

AUDREY  
 Look, it is none of my business but I wanted to talk to you  
 about my brother...

STEPHAN  
 Ricky told you right?

AUDREY  
 Yes.

STEPHAN  
 He is a laying little shit! He told me he hadn't told you!

AUDREY  
 Well, he did. He finds it hard to keep things secret.

STEPHAN  
 Sounds like your brother!

(They laugh)

AUDREY  
 I guess so!

(Audrey looks at Stephan)

AUDREY (CONT'D)  
 Look, I know my brother and I'm afraid that he may be...

(She pauses)

STEPHAN  
 What?

AUDREY  
 Well, falling in love with you!

STEPHAN  
 What?

AUDREY  
 Yes, I think he is falling in love with you.

STEPHAN  
 How do you know that?

AUDREY  
 Oh, come on, the way he looks at you? The way he speaks  
 about you?

STEPHAN  
 We are just good friends.

AUDREY  
 Really?

STEPHAN  
Yes, we are friends that's all.

AUDREY  
But you have kissed, right?

STEPHAN  
Yes but that was a one off, he wanted to try.

AUDREY  
And you have not kissed again?

STEPHAN  
Well...

AUDREY  
You have!

STEPHAN  
Well yes, but it was for fun.

AUDREY  
Stephan, I think my brother is falling in love with you.

(Stephan looks out)

AUDREY (CONT'D)  
How do you feel about him?

STEPHAN  
I don't know. I haven't thought about him that way. I like him.

AUDREY  
Like ice cream?

(She smiles at him and he smiles back)

STEPHAN  
I guess so, like ice cream!

AUDREY  
Oh dear, well that is not good...

(They look at each other)

STEPHAN  
Joanna, you need to be careful with Ricky. I can feel you are falling in love with him too and I'm not sure he feel the same...

AUDREY  
Just like you and Matt, right?

(Stephan looks away)

AUDREY (CONT'D)

What a mess! The Heartly kids fall in love with the lodgers and the lodgers just like them like ice cream.

(She gets up and goes to the sink.  
Turns around and faces Stephan)

AUDREY (CONT'D)

I don't know about Matt, but I can tell you that I will do everything I can to make Ricky fall in love with me.

LIGHTS OUT

SCENE 14 NEXT DAY - DINNER

(We see everyone sitting down  
having dinner)

AUDREY

So, how was last night?

ALISON

Oh, great thank you. It was nice to be out with your dad. I'd forgotten what it is like to have fun!

MATT

May be you guys should do this more often.

HOWARD

Yes, I think we will.

ALISON

In fact I was thinking, you and I could go somewhere for a weekend? Nothing fancy, just a get a way...

HOWARD

Yes, well steady on, I don't think we can afford that!

ALISON

Why not? We now have the lodgers and soon you will get your book publish?

MATT

Yes, how's that going on dad?

HOWARD

Well, good, yes, good. Still a long way but we are getting there...

STEPHAN

What is your book about Mr Heartly?

HOWARD

Well, it is about...

(They all look at him waiting for an answer)

Howard (CONT'D)  
Its about... Life!

Ricky  
Life?

Howard  
Yes, life!

Alison  
Well, that sounds... Interesting. So when you say about life, do you have a specific subject? I mean, life is a pretty big subject...

Howard  
Yes, I do...

(Pause)

Alison  
So what is it?

Howard  
Well, I don't want to talk about it, I'm afraid it would jinx it

Ricky  
What is jinx?

Audrey  
It's a superstition which people believe if you talk about something it may not happen.

Ricky  
Like a secret?

Stephan  
Yes, something you are not very good at...

Howard  
Anyway, I think we should talk about something else...

Alison  
Yes you are right, we should not talk about the book, it will be a nice surprise when it comes out!

Howard  
Yes... It will be...

(There is a silence)

Howard (CONT'D)  
So how was your night kids?

MATT

Oh, it was great, Stephan is such a good cook.

RICKY

Yes, no offense Mr Heartly but your food is shit.

(They all look at Ricky)

AUDREY

Ricky, you really can't keep things in do you?

RICKY

Sorry, I didn't mean to...

HOWARD

No, that's ok Ricky, I appreciate your frankness. At least I know someone thinks my food is shit!

STEPHAN

I also think your food is not very good...

HOWARD

Well, at least we know the lodgers don't like the food!

AUDREY

Actually Dad, it's not just the lodgers...

(Howard looks at all at the table)

HOWARD

Ok, hands up who doesn't like my food?

(Ricky and Stephan put their hands up. Slowly Audrey puts hers up, then Matt. Alison looks at Howard)

ALISON

Well darling, is not that is is bad...

HOWARD

Alison...

(She slowly puts her hand up too)

HOWARD (CONT'D)

Right, well, it seems no one likes my food...

ALISON

It's not that darling...

HOWARD

No Alison, that's fine. I just wish someone had been honest before and told me...

ALISON

Well, we didn't want to hurt your feelings...

HOWARD

(pause)

Well, perhaps there is a lesson to be learned here...

(He moves away from the table  
thinking)

HOWARD (CONT'D)

I think since we are being open and honest with each other I should perhaps tell you something...

(Audrey looks at Howard with panic)

AUDREY

(stands up before Howard can speak)

I love Ricky mum!

ALISON

What?

RICKY

What!

HOWARD

(looking at Audrey)

That's not what I was going to tell you!

AUDREY

Ah!

(Pause, she looks at Ricky and then  
Alison)

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Mum, I'm in love with Ricky and we are going out together, we are madly in love with each other!

RICKY

Well, Joanna, I like you like ice cream...

ALISON

Madly in love?

AUDREY

Madly in love!

RICKY

Well, my English not good but I don't know if the word love is...

ALISON

Howard? Did you know about this?

HOWARD

Well, yes, to some extent...

ALISON  
What do you mean to some extent!

HOWARD  
Well, I knew they were together but...

(He turns and looks at Audrey)

HOWARD (CONT'D)  
Madly in love?

AUDREY  
(looks at Ricky)  
Madly in love!

RICKY  
(feeling uncomfortable)  
Well, Johanna...

(He pauses and looks at her)

RICKY (CONT'D)  
Madly in love?

AUDREY  
Madly in love!

RICKY  
Are you sure is not just like, like an ice cream?

AUDREY  
Madly in love!

STEPHAN  
(to Ricky)  
I told you...

ALISON  
Did you know it too?

STEPHAN  
Yes.

ALISON  
Matt?

(Matt nods)

ALISON (CONT'D)  
Well, it seems I was the only one that didn't know!

HOWARD  
I didn't know Stephan and Matt knew...

ALISON  
It makes no difference Howard! I was the only one who didn't know my daughter is madly in love with a Mexican!

RICKY  
Well, I didn't know either...

(Alison gives him a look)

ALISON  
(to Howard)  
Well, any more secrets?

MATT  
(stands up)  
I'm gay!

(Alison looks at him)

STEPHAN  
Matt, I think you mum meant your dad...

HOWARD  
You are what?

MATT  
Well, since we are all coming out...

(He stops and thinks what he just  
said)

MATT (CONT'D)  
I'm coming out! Dad, I'm gay!

HOWARD  
(turns to Alison)  
Alison?

ALISON  
Well, yes it's true, he is gay.

HOWARD  
And you knew about this?

ALISON  
Well, yes...

AUDREY  
And me...

RICKY  
And me...

STEPHAN  
And me...

(Howard looks at everyone, then to  
Alison)

HOWARD

And you knew about this?

ALISON

Sorry darling, I couldn't tell you.

HOWARD

You couldn't tell me your son is gay?

ALISON

Well, you couldn't tell me your daughter was madly in love with a Mexican!

(There is a silence, Stephan gets up)

STEPHAN

Well, since we are all telling our secrets, I also have something to share with you all...

RICKY

Stephan, we all know you are gay!

HOWARD

You are gay too?

STEPHAN

Yes, I am. But that is not what I want to tell you all.

MATT

Don't tell me you are a spy for the Secret Canadian Police and you are here to find a dangerous criminal who scaped from one of your high security prisons and lives next door to us?

HOWARD

Ron?

STEPHAN

No. You watch too much television.

(He looks at Matt)

STEPHAN (CONT'D)

Matt, do you remember when you asked me if I have ever been in love and I said no?

MATT

Yes?

STEPHAN

Well, I think that has now changed...

(Matt stands up)

MATT

Stephan!

STEPHAN  
Yes, I'm in love with Ricky too!

MATT  
What?

AUDREY  
What?

RICKY  
Oh shit!

STEPHAN  
(looks at everyone)  
Only kidding, that was funny, you should have seen your faces. No, I have better taste than that!

AUDREY  
That's a relief.

RICKY  
Yes!

(Ricky thinks about it)

RICKY (CONT'D)  
What do you mean better taste than this!

STEPHAN  
No offense Ricky, but I'm not into Latino lovers.

(He turns to Matt)

STEPHAN (CONT'D)  
Matt, I think I'm in love with you!

MATT  
Stephan!

(They run and embrace each other.  
Matt turns to Howard)

MATT (CONT'D)  
Dad...

HOWARD  
(Looks at Matt, turns to Alison, then  
looks at Audrey. Steps away from the group  
and turns)  
Well, as I said all along, this is certainly not what I  
expected when we decided to get Lodgers!

LIGHTS OUT

## SCENE 15 - 6 MONTHS LATER

(Howard is sitting at the table reading the mail and drinking coffee. Enter Alison)

ALISON

(Goes to Howard and gives him a kiss and sits next to him)

Good morning, I need coffee.

HOWARD

Here you are darling.

(He pours her a cup)

ALISON

Anything exiting in the post this morning?

HOWARD

No, not really, the usual...

ALISON

(looks at Howard)

Howard?

HOWARD

(looks at Alison)

What?

ALISON

Come on, I know it's here...

HOWARD

(playing with her)

What?

ALISON

Darling, you were up at 5 am. The postman doesn't get here until 7. So come on, I know it is here!

HOWARD

I don't know what you are talking about...

(Enter Matt and Audrey)

MATT

So? Is it here?

HOWARD

What?

AUDREY

Dad! Come on.

(Howard stands up and goes to the back and grabs the coffee)

HOWARD  
I don't know what you are talking about, coffee anyone?

ALISON  
Right where is it?

(She gets up and starts searching)

MATT  
Come on dad, we are dying to see it!

(Matt and Audrey also starts to search)

HOWARD  
Ah, do you mean this...

(He produces a jiffy bag which has a book inside from one of the cupboards in the kitchen. Alison holds it)

ALISON  
Oh Howard, this is great!

(He snatches it back from her)

HOWARD  
Alright, everyone sit down.

(They all sit down and look at him in anticipation. He very slowly starts to open the envelope)

AUDREY  
Come on dad!

HOWARD  
Alright, good things come to those who wait.

(He continues very slowly)

ALISON  
(Shouting)  
Howard!

HOWARD  
Ok!

(He opens the envelope and takes the book out without revealing the title)

HOWARD (CONT'D)  
Ladies and Gentleman, I present to you my new book...

(He shows it with the title covered)

up)

ALISON  
Darling, this is so amazing! So come on, what is the book about...

(He slowly unveils the title)

HOWARD  
"living with Lodgers" by Howard Heartly!

ALISON  
That is a great title, and a great subject!

HOWARD  
Yes, I guess I'm an expert on the matter!

MATT  
(grabs the book)  
I hope there is nothing here about me coming out the closet!

AUDREY  
(grabs the book from Matt)  
Or of me and my love affair with Ricky!

HOWARD  
(grabs it back from them)  
Don't worry, I've kept all those bits out!

AUDREY  
That's a relief!

ALISON  
Speaking of Ricky, have you heard back from him?

AUDREY  
No he still in LA. He did promise to call though.

MATT  
Yea, I'm sure he will...

AUDREY  
Well, at least I know where Ricky is, not like you and Stephan...

MATT  
It was never going to work between us, too much fiber optic stuff...

HOWARD  
Anyway, can we focus back on this please?

(Pointing at the book)

ALISON  
Yes, oh Howard, I'm so proud of you.

MATT

Me too dad, I think is great you finally got your booked published.

AUDREY

Yes, we are all very proud of you.

HOWARD

Thank you, it means a lot to me.

(The telephone rings)

HOWARD (CONT'D)

I'll get it.

(He goes out)

ALISON

(looking at the book)

Howard Heartly, a writer! We can now get a cook!

AUDREY

Yes please!

MATT

I do miss Stephan's cooking...

AUDREY

If anything you should have stayed with him for his cooking skills.

MATT

Yes, I think I rather starve to death than hear anything more about fiber optic wires!

AUDREY

(picks up the book and opens up a page)

So let's see what's in this book of "living with Lodgers"

(She starts to read)

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Living with Lodgers is a book that will help any British Family gain an insight on the trials and tribulations of having strangers in your home. When I woke up one day at 2 in the morning and found a half naked man in my kitchen, none could have ever prepared me on how this would change my life. And having lodgers not only help me and my family financially, but it help me discover how wonderful my family is, and no matter what may come, they will always be here, with of without lodgers...

(Audrey puts the book down and looks at Matt and Alison and they smile to each other)

ALISON

That is so... Lovely

(Howard walks back in)

ALISON (CONT'D)

(runs and hugs him)

Oh darling, you are the most amazing man!

(Matt and Audrey stand and give  
also Howard a hug)

MATT

Thanks Dad!

AUDREY

We love you dad!

HOWARD

Well, this is... Very nice. Thank you. What do I owe all this  
affection?

AUDREY

We read the beginning of the foreword of your book.

ALISON

It was lovely darling.

HOWARD

Ah, well yes, thank you. After all what are families for  
dear!

(They go back to the table and sit)

ALISON

Absolutely

HOWARD

Yes, to support each other...

MATT

Yes, to support each other.

HOWARD

Through good and bad, right?

AUDREY

Yes, through good and bad.

(Howard stands there for a moment  
feeling awkward)

HOWARD

Yes...

ALISON  
What is it Howard? Who was on the phone?

HOWARD  
Well, we are a family that supports each other right?

ALISON  
Howard?

HOWARD  
It was the agency, we have 2 new lodgers!

ALISON/MATT/AUDREY  
What!

HOWARD  
Well, we still have the small matter of the 25 thousand pound loan to pay and I just thought, since Stephan and Ricky left, well, we could get some more lodgers,

(Alison looks at him)

HOWARD (CONT'D)  
only for a few weeks...

(Audrey looks at him)

HOWARD (CONT'D)  
Months....

(Matt looks at him)

HOWARD (CONT'D)  
Years...

(Alison, Matt and Audrey look at each other. Alison goes to the draw and brings out a small paper white hat and puts it on him)

ALISON/MATT/AUDREY  
NO WAY!

LIGHTS OUT