

Episode 6 / Series 7

CLARE IN THE COMMUNITY

BASIC ATTRACTION

Written by

HARRY VENNING & DAVID RAMSDEN

Starring

SALLY PHILLIPS	Clare
ALEX LOWE	Brian
NINA CONTI	Megan / Nali
RICHARD LUMSDEN	Ray / Dad
LIZA TARBUCK	Helen
ANDREW WINCOTT	Simon
SARAH KENDALL	Libby
TRACY WILES	Client (Mrs Mellish) / Nina
GERARD MCDERMOT	Registrar
ADAM BILLINGTON	Barman / Gavin / Groom
VICTORIA INEZ HARDY.....	Nurse / Bride

Producer

KATIE TYRRELL

SERIES 7 - EPISODE 6 – BASIC ATTRACTION

1. GRAMS: OPENING SIG

2. ALEX: Clare in the Community
by Harry Venning and David Ramsden

Episode Six: Basic Attraction

3. GRAMS: OUT

SCENE 1: INT. THE INTERVIEW ROOM. DAY

A DRAMATIC SCENE. A CLIENT IS CRYING.

1. CLARE If this is too difficult for you Mrs. Mellish, we can do the interview at another time.

2. CLIENT No, really, I'm fine.

3. CLARE Would you like a tissue?

4. CLIENT Thank you.

CLIENT BLOWS HER NOSE.

5. CLARE You were saying...?

6. CLIENT I'm sitting on the sofa with Graham and I ask him for the TV controls to turn the volume up. It was then I suddenly realized that my forty year old, non-smoking, non-drinking, fitness fanatic husband isn't watching East Enders with me, because... he's dead. I've struggled to make sense of it ever since.

PAUSE

7. CLARE Have you tried BBC iPlayer?

SCENE 2: INT. THE OFFICE. CORRIDOR. A BIT LATER

1. FX

DOOR OPENING / OPEN PLAN OFFICE ATMOS

2. CLARE If there's anything else, please, please, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

3. CLIENT Thank you Ms. Barker.

4. CLARE But not in the next two weeks because I'm getting married and going on honeymoon.

CLIENT BURSTS INTO TEARS.

5. CLARE Have you planned the funeral yet?

6. CLIENT No, I've not really given it any thought...

7. CLARE There's an environmentally friendly undertakers in the High Street called Going, Going Green. Can't recommend them too highly, although avoid the cardboard coffins. They can turn a bit too biodegradable if it rains. If you know what I mean.

CLIENT WAILS

8. CLARE Cheerio.

CLIENT LEAVES, STILL SOBBING.

9. FX

CLARE'S FOOTSTEPS / DOOR CLOSES / OFFICE ATMOS OUT

10. CLARE Sorry I'm late for the team meeting, everyone, my interview ran over.

11. LIBBY No probs, Clare. Pull up a seat. Where were we?

1. MEGAN The removal of the water cooler from the corridor; where are we going to gather to discuss it?
2. LIBBY Good point. All suggestions gratefully accepted. Yes, Ray.
3. RAY I would like some advice regarding Dexter, my client on remand. I don't know what to do to help him?
4. LIBBY Call his brief, get him to accentuate Dexter's positive qualities.
5. RAY Dexter was caught in the act of robbing a post office. What positive qualities?
6. LIBBY He managed to find a Post Office, didn't he? That's pretty impressive. Next, Helen...
7. HELEN Yes, team leader.
8. LIBBY Just a small point, but can you stop telling clients in the Trauma Support Group to "Cheer up, it might never happen"?
9. HELEN But they're such a bunch of downers.
10. LIBBY Whatever. Megan? You wanted to say something?
11. MEGAN Regarding Clare's wedding present ...
12. LIBBY Hold it, Megan, the woman is sitting right here in the room!
13. MEGAN Credit me with some discretion, Libby, I'm not about to tell Clare what the present is! But can anyone who's not put in their pound do it by the end of the day.
14. LIBBY/RAY/HELEN Righto!

1. MEGAN We can sort the change out next week.
2. HELEN Continuing on the theme...
3. LIBBY Yes, Helen...
4. HELEN It's about your Hen night tonight, Clare. I've got it all planned.
5. CLARE Oh yes, spill the beans.
6. HELEN OK, here's what's happening; cocktails, greyhound racing, more cocktails, Thai banquet, drag night at The Pink Pussycat, Dancing, breakfast at the all-nighter, cocktails to finish.
7. CLARE Sounds fantastic.
8. HELEN Doesn't it! Are you sure you don't want to come?
9. CLARE Positive, thanks. I want to be fresh for my big day.
10. LIBBY We'll take photos.
11. CLARE Thanks.
12. HELEN Is Brian having a stag night?
13. CLARE Oh no, he's far too dull. Brian is celebrating his last day of freedom by giving blood.

SCENE 3: INT. A VILLAGE HALL. LATE AFTERNOON

1. FX: VILLAGE HALL ATMOS

2. NURSE Next.

3. BRIAN Hello! I'm Brian Harris.

4. NURSE Congratulations.

5. BRIAN Is this where I give blood?

6. NURSE That's what the sign says.

7. BRIAN A pint! Why that's practically an armful...

8. NURSE Sit down.

9. BRIAN Righto.

10. NURSE Before we can take any blood we need to ask a few questions.
Please answer honestly...

11. BRIAN It might be a drop to you but it's life or death to some poor soul!

12. NURSE ... and without any tired impersonations of Tony Hancock, all of
which I have heard a million times and still don't know who he
bloody well is.

13. BRIAN Sorry. I'm a bit nervous.

14. NURSE I don't care. I have had a crap day, up to my eyes in blood and
veins. Ready?

15. BRIAN Ready.

1. NURSE Have you ever had sex with multiple partners?
2. BRIAN No.
3. NURSE Have you ever had anal or oral sex with a man?
4. BRIAN No.
5. NURSE Have you ever taken illegal drugs?
6. BRIAN No.
7. NURSE Do you have any body piercings?
8. BRIAN No.
9. NURSE Do you have any tattoos?
10. BRIAN No.
11. NURSE Have you ever travelled through or lived in a tropical destination?
12. BRIAN No.
- PAUSE
13. NURSE Blimey, you're boring.
14. BRIAN Do you think so?
15. NURSE Yes I do. OK, you're going to feel a little prick.
16. BRIAN I already do feel....
17. NURSE Stop there. Please, try not to be boring AND predictable.

1. BRIAN Sorry.

SCENE 4: INT. THE FLAT. EVENING

1. FX **RAIN OUTSIDE / INTERIOR DOOR OPENS**

2. CLARE So, Nali, what do you think?

3. NALI This is your wedding outfit?

4. CLARE Yes.

5. NALI The clothes you will wear to your wedding tomorrow?

6. CLARE That's right.

7. NALI The biggest day of your life, the day every girl dreams about, and you will turn up looking like that?

8. CLARE Yes.

9. NALI It's not a joke?

10. CLARE No.

PAUSE

11. NALI It's lovely.

12. CLARE Thank you.

13. FX **CHINA PLATES KNOCKING TOGETHER**

14. CLARE Hey, be careful polishing those. They're a wedding present.

15. NALI I'm being careful!

1. CLARE They're my most treasured possession. My Mum bought me them as a wedding present.
2. NALI So you said. Although I still do not understand why your Mother should buy you a set of plates commemorating hideously ugly people.
3. CLARE Actually, Nali, the plates commemorate all the post-war Labour Party leaders.
4. NALI Actually my Great Grandmother back home, rest her soul, had a similar collection. Only it was just the one plate, with Comrade Tito on.
5. CLARE Well these are limited edition, so take care.
6. NALI Limited edition or not, you have to admit, Clare, there's not a looker in the bunch. Take this one. To be honest, if I ate my dinner off Margaret Beckett I think I would barf.
7. CLARE Two things, Nali; First, the plates are for decoration, not eating off. Second, your beloved Conservative Party isn't exactly crammed full of beauties.
8. NALI Now I know you are joking!
9. CLARE No I'm not!
10. NALI Next you will be telling me you don't have David Cameron sex dreams.
11. CLARE I most certainly don't!
12. NALI Or Boris...

1. CLARE Nali please! Change the subject!
2. NALI Or both at once. Like last night, I dreamt I was in the Jungle in Boris' arms when David swung through on a vine clutching his manifesto...
3. CLARE Enough! Ugh, ugh, ugh!
4. NALI OK, OK, I shall dwell on it in my spare time. So, how about Brian, what will he be wearing?
5. CLARE Don't talk to me about Brian, I'm sick of him and his listless, lethargic and lackluster ways. Two hours ago it started raining, and all he's done since is stare vacantly through the window.
6. NALI Maybe you should think about letting him in.
7. CLARE Maybe. I don't want him catching cold and sneezing through the ceremony.
8. NALI I'll go fetch him in.
9. FX **DOOR OPENING, STORM OUTSIDE.**
10. NALI Brian, Brian, come on Brian.
11. CLARE I can't even see if he's out there.
12. FX **TING, TING, TING, TING, TING**
13. CLARE Nali, what are you doing?
14. NALI Hitting his bowl with a spoon. It works with the cat.

SCENE 5: INT. A PUB. LATER THAT EVENING.

1. FX PUB ATMOSPHERE

2. BRIAN Good to see you, Simon.

3. SIMON You too, Brian. It was nice to get your call. I didn't think you were going to see anybody the night before your wedding.

4. BRIAN Yes, well maybe I'm regretting the decision!

5. SIMON Well hallelujah you've come to your senses. Marriage isn't for you. Look, I don't mind telling Clare it's off, part of the Best Man's duties...

6. BRIAN I am not regretting getting married, Simon.

7. SIMON Oh. Blast.

8. BRIAN But maybe a bloody good stag do is what I need to send me off into wedlock. You know, Tie one on! Run amuck! Spend a night on the tiles painting the town a shade of red that won't fade for years.

9. SIMON Pint?

10. BRIAN Just a half, thanks mate.

11. SIMON Come on, Brian, out with it. What's wrong?

12. BRIAN Well, I'm getting married tomorrow and it suddenly seems heavy with significance. It's like a curtain is descending on my life...

13. SIMON Come on, Brian, it's a marriage. It's not like it's forever.

1. BRIAN I want to get married, Simon. But there are so many things I haven't done, experiences I should have ticked off, before settling down.
2. SIMON Like what?
3. BRIAN Hitch-hiking, scuba diving, snow boarding, paragliding...
4. SIMON Sex with twins, that's a good one.
5. BRIAN Playing the violin, abseiling...
6. SIMON Triplets, ditto.
7. BRIAN I shall never drive through Paris in a sports car, with the warm wind in my hair...
8. SIMON You could still do the sports car bit.
9. BRIAN Do you know what, Simon, I've never even chatted up a woman in a bar.
10. SIMON Come on, Brian, be serious.
11. BRIAN I never have, and I never will now. Don't get me wrong. I'm quite prepared to go to the scaffold, I just don't want to go meekly. Punch the priest en route, if you know what I mean?
12. SIMON Oh, I know what you mean. In fact I did punch the priest at one of my weddings, didn't go down at all well...
13. BRIAN Simon, what I am about to tell you is in strictest confidence.
14. SIMON Everything you tell me, Brian, is in strictest confidence...

1. BRIAN People think I'm boring, Simon

PREGNANT PAUSE.

2. SIMON No!

3. BRIAN It's true.

4. SIMON You're not married yet! Surely there's still time to tick a couple of those boxes. I mean, what would we need if we wanted to go abseiling on the way home?

5. BRIAN Forget it, Simon, I'm mouthing off. Just ignore me.

6. FX **DOOR OPENS**

7. BARMAN Evening, Miss. What can I get you?

8. NINA Gin and tonic, please.

9. SIMON Good grief, Brian! There she is!

10. BRIAN There who is?

11. SIMON Don't you recognize her?

12. BRIAN No.

13. SIMON It's the woman in the bar that you never chatted up! Now's your chance!

14. BRIAN What? No Simon, I can't do that...

15. SIMON Why not?

1. BRIAN Because it's the night before my wedding!

2. SIMON All the more reason to do it!

PAUSE

3. BRIAN Look, I'm not about to... What the hell! I'll do it!

4. SIMON Proud of you, mate.

5. BRIAN Here goes!

PAUSE

6. SIMON Go on, Brian, what's the problem?

7. BRIAN Simon.... what if I'm successful?

8. SIMON I don't think you have to worry about that. Off you go.

A PAUSE AS BRIAN CROSSES THE BAR.

HE COUGHS DISCREETLY TO ATTRACT HER ATTENTION.

9. NINA Why, hello.

10. BRIAN (FALSETTO, POSSIBLY CRACKING) Hello.

SCENE 6. INT. MORNING. THE REGISTRY OFFICE

1. FX **REGISTRY OFFICE ATMOS**

2. SIMON Look, Brian, it's OK to be nervous on the morning of your wedding, but I think you're taking things a bit far.

3. BRIAN It's not the wedding, Simon, its Clare! She'll take one look at me and know what I did last night. She was too pre-occupied this morning, but Clare can sniff out guilt at a hundred paces.

4. SIMON Relax, she can't possibly know.

5. REGISTRAR Hello, I'm Mr. Lane, the Registrar for today's ceremony, this is my assistant Gavin. I'm showing Gavin the ropes.

6. GAVIN You the groom?

7. BRIAN That's right.

8. GAVIN Bit nervous aren't you?

9. BRIAN No.

10. GAVIN I'd say you were. Very nervous. In fact you're sweating like a blacksmith's backside.

11. BRIAN It's very close in here.

12. GAVIN I notice the bride's not here.

13. BRIAN She's still getting ready.

14. GAVIN Still sorting out her visa, is she?

1. BRIAN Visa?

2. GAVIN Well I'm sure you can use the time to practice pronouncing her name properly.

3. BRIAN Exactly what are you insinuating?

4. GAVIN I've got your number, mate. Or are you going to tell me that she's marrying you for love (UNKIND LAUGH).

5. BRIAN Yes, she is! And what's more she was born in Ruislip.

6. GAVIN Oh yes? Is that Ruislip in Middlesex or Ruislip in Kazhakstan, say?

7. SIMON Is there a Ruislip in Kahakstan?

8. REGISTRAR That's enough, Gavin, calm down. I'm so sorry. We got a memo telling registrars to keep a look out for fraudulent marriages, and our Gavin is being a bit over vigilant. Come along, Gavin.

9. GAVIN Coming, Boss. (TO BRIAN) I'm watching you, Sonny. There'll be no fake marriages on my watch. Got it?

RAY MAKES AN ANNOUNCEMENT

10. RAY Ahem! Hello, everybody, I'm Ray the usher. Remember? As you came in I told Bride's friends to the left, Groom's friends to the right. Well, right is a bit on the empty side, would some of you mind pretending to be Brian's friends?

11. MEGAN Well done, Ray.

12. RAY You're looking a bit peaky, Megan.

13. MEGAN I have to say, I've felt better.

1. RAY I feel absolutely grotty. I wish I'd changed my clothes when I had the chance.
2. MEGAN You were out all night, Ray, you never had the chance.
3. RAY I meant three days ago.
4. BRIAN Ray, is there any sign of the bride?
5. RAY None at all, Brian.
6. BRIAN Where the hell is Clare? She should be here by now.

SCENE 7: INT. THE FLAT. MORNING

1. CLARE Nali, please, that's enough make-over! I have to go now.
2. NALI Clare, please, it's just a dab of cream. It'll take no time!
3. CLARE Sorry, I've got to go!
4. NALI Have it your way. Brian's first kiss as a married man is with Lech Walensa.
5. CLARE I'm fine.
6. NALI I love a wedding Clare. You know, in my village we have a tradition...
7. CLARE I thought you would.
8. NALI The evening before the wedding, a big cart is decorated in hundreds and hundreds of freshly cut flowers and all the virgins of the village are driven around the town square.
9. CLARE Sounds fun.
10. NALI It was. But when I was fourteen I wasn't allowed in it anymore. Hay Fever. Since then the tradition has slowly died, and nowadays there is just Auntie Branka bouncing around in the back. And Mika the Milkman says she has no right to be in there.
11. CLARE Go and wait in the car, Nali
12. NALI Very well. First, a hug please.

THEY HUG

1. NALI You have been a good friend to me Clare. And for that reason I have decided to stay out of any photos, so as not to upstage you in your dowdy dress.

2. CLARE The car, Nali.

3. NALI I go.

4. FX **DOORBELL**

5. CLARE Who's that?

6. FX **DOOR OPENS / STREET ATMOS B/G**

7. NALI Yes?

8. NINA Clare Barker?

9. NALI No, that's her. (LEAVING) Clare, I see you in the car.

10. NINA Clare? How nice to meet you after all the things I've heard.

11. CLARE And you are...?

12. NINA Nina. Nina Murray

13. CLARE Well I'm sorry, Nina Murray, whatever it is it'll have to wait. I'm about to get married.

14. NINA That's exactly why it can't wait. You see there's something you really ought to know; Last night I slept with your fiancée Brian.

SCENE 8: INT. MORNING. REGISTRY OFFICE

1. FX: REGISTRY OFFICE ATMOS

2. SIMON Well?

3. BRIAN She's not answering her phone.

4. REGISTRAR I'm sorry, but we do have another wedding booked in afterwards.

5. GAVIN A real wedding.

6. BRIAN This is a real wedding!

7. GAVIN Good, good, I'm pleased for you. It's just normally when brides fail to turn up it's because they've realized we're onto them.

8. BRIAN She'll be here!

9. LIBBY Hey, Brian, what's going on, where's Clare?

10. BRIAN She's been held up, everything's fine.

11. LIBBY Not with me it isn't. I've a tsunami of a chunder brewing down below and if we don't get a move on...

12. BRIAN (SNAPS) Well I apologise for the delay, but Clare does have to be here!

13. HELEN Excuse me, are you the Registrar?

14. REGISTRAR That's right?

15. HELEN Well can you please turn that fire alarm off?

1. REGISTRAR There isn't any fire alarm.
2. HELEN Really? Well that really was a hell of a night we had last night.
3. MEGAN Perhaps one of us should go to the flat and see what's happening.
4. HELEN I'll go, I could do with some fresh air. I rather regret finishing off the evening drinking the hand gel in the bathroom.
5. MEGAN Actually I was thinking of somebody who wasn't... still drunk.
6. HELEN I am not drunk, Megan, I'll have you know I am in total control of my faculties. I shall see you all later.
7. REGISTRAR This is all very well, but I don't know if there's time...
8. RAY Look, Clare has included a couple of her favourite songs for after the ceremony. Let's do them now?
9. REGISTRAR Fine. Whatever.
10. FX **AT A DISTANCE THE FRANTIC SOUND OF DOOR RATTLING.**
11. HELEN (OFF) How the bloody hell do you get this stupid door open?
12. REGISTRAR You push it, like it says.
13. FX **DOOR OPENS**
14. HELEN Thank you.

1. RAY (ANNOUNCES) OK, does everybody have a songsheet? Could the congregation be upstanding as we all sing “Between The Wars” by Billy Bragg.

2. FX **SHUFFLE OF CHAIRS AND FEET, FOLLOWED BY A CHORD ON THE GUITAR.**

3. CONGREGATION (SINGING IN DIRGEY HYMNAL STYLE)

I was a miner
I was a docker
I was a railwayman
Between the wars
I raised a family
In times of austerity
With sweat at the foundry
Between the wars....

SCENE 9: INT. THE FLAT. LATER THAT MORNING

1. FX: **STREET ATMOS B/G**

2. CLARE I've never heard such utter nonsense.

3. NINA It isn't nonsense. Believe me.

4. CLARE Brian would never betray me.

5. NINA Really? Well what about when he slept with Nali's twin sister Nuli?

6. CLARE Brian would never betray me more than once in a year. Besides, how did you know about Nuli?

7. NINA Oh you'd be surprised what I know about you. For Brian and I didn't just share a night of wonderful lovemaking, we talked. And Brian needed to talk. A lot.

8. CLARE I am about to get married to Brian. Now get out of the way.

9. NINA I don't think so.

10. FX **DOOR SLAMS.**

11. NINA Brian said you were obstinate. Well I am just going to stand in front of this door and stop you leaving until it's all over, and then he can make a choice between us!

12. CLARE And just how do you intend doing that?

1. NINA I think I know a way. You see Brian told me a lot about you. About your selfishness, your arrogance, your total disregard for other people's feelings. About the disgusting hairs on your toes that you refuse to cut because you regard letting them grow wild as a feminist gesture.
2. CLARE If you don't leave, I shall call the police.
3. NINA Brian also told me about your recently acquired most precious possession. And goodness me, here they are, proudly displayed on the dresser; Your limited edition, spode china collection of plates featuring the heads of all the post-war Labour Party leaders.
4. CLARE Please, not the Spode!
5. NINA Who's this then?
6. CLARE Put that down!
7. NINA Clement Attlee! (READS) Prime Minister, 1945 to 1951. Undertook sweeping nationalization and introduced The National Health Service...
8. CLARE No!!!!!!
9. NINA Goodbye Clement!
- 10. FX PLATE SMASHING**
11. NINA Look, it's James Callahan...
12. CLARE I'm begging you...
13. NINA Ooops a daisy!

1. FX **PLATE SMASHING**

2. NINA Who's this? Tony Blair!

3. CLARE No, please... actually you can drop that one.

4. FX **PLATE SMASHING.**

5. NINA Next is Neil Kinnock... aren't those freckles realistic! I see I have your attention. Good. If you do as I ask, you will still have a reasonably large collection. Understood?

6. CLARE Understood.

7. NINA Good. There's no reason why we shouldn't be civilised about this. You just sit down whilst Neil Kinnock and I stand in front of the door to stop you getting any ideas.

8. FX **FRONT DOOR OPENING**

9. NALI Clare, I am waiting in the car...

10. FX **THE DOOR HITS NINA WITH A THUD AND AN OOF,**
FOLLOWED BY THE SOUND OF NEIL KINNOCK BEING
DESTROYED EVEN MORE COMPREHENSIVELY THAN HE
WAS IN 1992 - PLATE SMASHING

11. NALI Ooops.

SCENE 10: INT. THE REGISTRY OFFICE. MORNING

THE CONGREGATION ARE FINISHING A SONG, "STAND DOWN MARGARET' BY THE BEAT.

1. CONGREGATION (SING)

... I say stand down margaret
Stand down please
Stand down margaret
Stand down, Margaret, Stand down, please, stand down Margaret.
I say, stand down Margaret, stand down please, stand down
Margaret.

2. FX THE CONGREGATION SIT/SHUFFLE DOWN

3. GAVIN So, where is she, then?
4. BRIAN Oh, be quiet.
5. GAVIN I shall be sending your details to registry offices throughout the country, just in case you're thinking of pulling this little trick again.
6. REGISTRAR You're not helping, Gavin. Mr.Harris, you have to understand that a Registry Office is like Gatwick. We can keep the other weddings in a holding position, but we can't do it forever.
7. BRIAN Just a bit more time, please. Has anyone managed to get hold of Helen?
8. LIBBY Her phone is off.
9. MEGAN She's probably face down under a hedge somewhere.
10. RAY I think the three of us should go round to the flat.

1. BRIAN OK, but hurry up and try and come back with my bride!
2. GAVIN Or just nip over to Heathrow and rustle him up a new one.

SCENE 11: INT. THE HOUSE. MORNING

NALI AND CLARE ARE WHISPERING

1. NALI I say we rush her.
2. CLARE We can't. She's holding Harold Wilson. Besides, as a care professional I feel I have a duty towards this poor woman who is clearly suffering under a delusion.
3. NALI In love with Brian! That is not a delusion, that is crazy bonkers. No offence.
4. NINA What are you two talking about? You'd better not be scheming!
(YAWNS!)
5. NALI Just chatting!
6. NINA (YAWNS AGAIN) I do apologise for all this yawning, but Brian kept me up all night. He was insatiable, and very imaginative! In the end I had to say to him, "You keep going if you want, Brian, but I'm going to have to get some sleep".
7. NALI Clare, may I ask you, without going into intimate details; Does this sound like Brian to you?
8. CLARE Well...He's had his moments.
9. NALI This floozy is getting on my nerves. What do you say, Clare, we rush her?
10. CLARE No, Nali, I'm trained in this kind of thing. I am going to engage with her, be as honest and direct as possible, with her best interests at heart.

1. NALI Whilst I creep round the back and hit her over the head with the clothes iron. Good idea.
2. CLARE Actually Nali, I don't think that'll be necessary. Look at her, sitting there, she can barely keep her eyes open.
3. NALI Her eyes are closed. Listen.
4. NINA **THE GENTLE SOUND OF SNORING**
5. CLARE She's asleep.
6. NALI Fast asleep. I suggest we follow the example of Uncle Pasha, who once crept up on a bear, in the wood. It was the terrible winter of 1987, and his family was starving. The bear was pre-occupied, doing what bears do in the wood...
7. CLARE Can it not wait?
8. NALI Why should it? It's a bear.
9. CLARE The story, Nali. Another time, perhaps.
10. NALI OK, I creep left, you creep right.
11. CLARE Here goes.
12. FX **GENTLE FOOTFALLS AS THEY EDGE NEARER.**
13. FX **LOUD BANGING ON THE DOOR. CLATTER OF LETTERBOX.**
14. HELEN Clare, it's me, Helen! Open the door! Brian's waiting at the registry office and I need to throw up!

SCENE 12: INT. THE REGISTRY OFFICE. MORNING

1. FX: REGISTRY OFFICE ATMOS

2. BRIAN She's stood me up, hasn't she? All we need is an altar, and the cliché would be complete. I am such a loser. And it's my own fault. She's found out about the woman in the bar and has decided that I'm not worth it. And do you know what, I think she's right.

3. BRIDE Yes, that's very sad, but we are trying to get married here.

4. GROOM Yes, come on, mate, it's our turn now.

5. BRIAN It's alright for you, your Bride showed up.

6. GROOM I know, I know, it must be tough.

7. BRIDE Terry, just get rid of him, will you.

8. GROOM All right, all right!

9. BRIDE We're an hour behind schedule as it is, and there's the high table ice sculpture to consider!

10. GROOM Come on, have a heart, Trudi, the guy is in pain.

11. BRIDE Yes, well so will you be in a minute if you don't get rid of him.

12. GROOM What's that supposed to mean?

13. BRIDE It means I'll give you what for, you soppy prat.

14. GROOM Look, it's not my fault that I've got a fully functioning human heart.

15. BRIDE And I haven't?

1. GROOM No! This flaming wedding has drained all the humanity out of you!

2. BRIDE (BURSTS INTO TEARS) Dad, Terry's being horrible to me.

3. DAD Upset my Princess, would you! I knew you weren't good enough for my little girl!

4. GROOM Keep out of this, Stan, you silly old fart.

5. DAD Right, you've had this coming to you.

6. FX **A FIGHT BREAKS OUT, NOISILY – CAST + FX**

7. SIMON (APPROACHING) I can't get hold of Libby, Helen, Megan, Ray, Clare or the rest of the guests. I'm the only one left, shall I pop round. I mean, you seem to have things covered here.

8. BRIAN Why not?

9. REGISTRAR Mr. Harris, I'm going to try and move this fight outside. I don't think things are likely to calm down, so I think I can probably offer you their slot.

10. BRIAN That's very kind, but I don't think Clare's going to show up.

11. REGISTRAR This job has made me an incurable romantic. Let's give it half an hour, shall we.

12. GAVIN (UNDER BREATHE) Mug.

SCENE 13. INT. THE HOUSE. MORNING

THERE IS A GENERAL HUBBUB OF CHAT.

1. LIBBY OK, I've got twelve teas, eight coffees, help yourselves to orange juice. Nali's making sandwiches, there'll be coming through in a minute.
2. HELEN You know, you can never justify kidnapping but I think this woman may have done Clare a favour.
3. MEGAN Look, are we going to play Pictionary or aren't we?
4. NINA Excuse me, excuse me....

5. FX NINA TINGS A GLASS WITH A SPOON

6. NINA Unaccustomed as I am to taking hostages...

THEY ALL LAUGH

7. NINA Seriously, though, can I say that I think you're a super bunch, and I only wish I'd met you under more pleasant circumstances. In fact I insist you all come along when Brian and I get married.
8. CLARE Libby! Libby! Over here!
9. LIBBY What is it, Clare?
10. CLARE I want you to stand here by the window and if anyone walks past attract their attention and get them to rescue us.
11. LIBBY Like who?
12. CLARE A policeman?

1. LIBBY A Bobby on the beat? Clare you've got more chance of seeing
i. Mel Gibson at a Bah Mitzvah.
2. CLARE We have to do something!
3. LIBBY Clare, just chill. If we relax then Nina will relax, and we can ease
our way out of the situation gradually.
4. CLARE But she could kick off at any moment!

5. FX SOUND OF PLATE SMASHING

6. CLARE What did I tell you?
7. HELEN Sorry Clare, that was me!
8. **GRAMS SUDDENLY MUSIC STARTS UP. IT IS TIGER FEET BY MUD.**
9. CLARE For crying out loud!

SHE CROSSES THE ROOM

10. CLARE Ray, what the hell is going on now?
11. RAY iPod disco! It was Nina's idea.
12. CLARE (SHOUTS) Turn this music off now!

13. GRAMS MUSIC TURNS OFF IMMEDIATELY

14. NINA Do you have a problem, Clare?
15. CLARE Yes, I do. First, with this song. It tacitly encourages the illegal
poaching of an endangered species and the use of its body parts in
Chinese medicine.

1. NINA Tiger feet? This is political correctness gone Mud!
2. CLARE And second, this isn't a house party it's a kidnapping.
 But it won't do you any good. All you have achieved is to postpone
 my marriage to Brian. It will happen, believe me.
3. NINA I don't think so, Clare. Do you seriously believe Brian would prefer
 you to me? There's no contest. You, a shriveled shrew with
 scraped back hair, pinched face and parsimonious make up...
4. NALI God knows how many times I tried to tell her...
5. NINA Or me, a passionate, voluptuous, pre-surgery male-to-female
 transsexual!

A SURPRISED MURMUR GOES THROUGH THE ROOM.

6. NINA Brian was too drunk to notice at the time, but I will tell him the first
 chance I get. I believe all relationships must be founded on total
 honesty.
7. CLARE And kidnapping.
8. NINA Bitterness is such an unattractive trait, Clare. Try and lose with
 some dignity.
9. CLARE Forget it, Nina. Brian loves me! This isn't going to work.
10. NINA Yes it will, Clare. Because Brian loves me. He hasn't said so, not
 in so many words, but I know he does.

11. FX DOORBELL.

1. MEGAN I'll get it!
2. FX **FRONT DOOR OPENS.**
3. ALL Simon!
4. NINA Brian!
5. CLARE Brian? Simon.
6. NINA Simon? Brian.
7. SIMON Ah, yes, I see. Right. I think I probably owe you all a bit of an explanation.

CONTINUE SEEMLESSLY INTO:

SCENE 14: INT. AFTERNOON. THE RECEPTION, THOUGH WE DON'T KNOW IT

1. SIMON ...so, after Brian's guilty conscience got the better of him and he scurried out of the pub I started chatting to Nina, and we got on like a house on fire. Now, anybody who knows me will be fully aware of my issues around commitment, and it has long been a strategy of mine to hide behind Brian's identity. A strategy which, I have to say, has served very me well until today.
As any actor will tell you, a convincing performance is all in the detail and – you'll laugh at this, Clare - I always made sure I passed on any particularly intimate aspects of your relationship that Brian chose to share with me. This is how Nina knew so much about you.
As you will have realized, this isn't the Best Man speech I had intended making, and it is a shame to spend all that money on a pair of rubber breasts and not use them, but I felt I owed everybody an explanation for a situation that was, after all, partly my fault.
But if Nina can forgive...

2. NINA I forgive you, Brian!

3. SIMON (COUGHS) Simon...

4. NINA Whatever.

5. SIMON I'm sure the rest of you can.
So, if we all raise our glasses! The Bride and Groom!

6. ALL THE BRIDE AND GROOM!

SCENE 15: EXT. A BEACH. DAY

1. FX SEA. WAVES. SUN

2. BRIAN (GETTING PROGRESSIVELY LOUDER AS HE APPROACHES)
Agh! Agh! Agh! Agh! Agh! Agh! Agh! AGH! AGH! AGH!

3. CLARE I told you the sand was hot, Brian. Why didn't you wear your flip flops?

4. BRIAN Didn't think. Here's what's left of your ice cream. Happy Honeymoon, Clare.

5. CLARE Thanks.

6. BRIAN Is today Tuesday?

7. CLARE No, I think it's Wednesday.

8. BRIAN I'll check on my mobile.

HAS A LOOK. LAUGHS.

9. BRIAN Both wrong, it's Thursday.

10. CLARE Oh Brian, do you know what this means?

11. BRIAN Yes. It means we have thrown off the shackles of dull care, conquered the tyranny of anxiety and have finally attained the holiday Nirvana of just existing in the moment.

12. CLARE It means we've missed our flight home.

13. BRIAN Oh, bollocks.

1. GRAMS: CLOSING SIG

2. ALEX: You have been listening to Clare in the Community
by Harry Venning and David Ramsden.

Starring; Sally Phillips, Alex Lowe, Nina Conti, Richard Lumsden,
Liza Tarbuck, Andrew Wincott and Sarah Kendall
with Victoria Inez Hardy, Adam Billington, Gerard McDermot and
Tracy Wiles.

The producer was Katie Tyrrell

3. GRAMS: CLOSING SIG OUT