

**ME & MRS JONES**

**EPISODE ONE**

**by**

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**SHOOTING SCRIPT**

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1 INT. GEMMA'S BATHROOM. MORNING

1

CHARLOTTE and JESS are in their school uniforms, GEMMA looks scruffy and is trying to tie her hair in a pony tail. They are all looking down the toilet. JESS is holding a fish bowl looking worried.

CHARLOTTE

Sorry mum, I just thought Nemo would like to go for a swim somewhere new.

GEMMA

I'm not sure he wants to swim in the sewage pipes Charlotte.

JESS beckons the fish out of the toilet like you would a cat, sucking her lips making kiss noises.

JESS

Come on Nemo. Come on...

GEMMA

Oh mind out... (*GEMMA plunges her hand down the loo*)... Wrestling a goldfish first thing in the... Gotcha!

GEMMA pulls her hand out fast and plops a goldfish into the fish bowl JESS is holding.

JESS

(*Kisses the fish bowl*) Nemo... what an adventure you've been on!

GEMMA (CONT'D)

Right quick sticks or we'll be late.

MUSIC starts and they all exit to head downstairs...

INTO...

1A INT. GEMMA'S LIVING ROOM. MORNING.

1A

CHARLOTTE comes downstairs first heading for her lunch box at the bottom of the stairs.

CHARLOTTE

Mum if Jesus hadn't died how old would he be now?

GEMMA follows her down the stairs.

GEMMA

I don't know.... Coats on, grab your bags.

CHARLOTTE  
Because you can't add up?

CHARLOTTE has opened her pack lunch in an attempt to eat it.

GEMMA  
No (*slams CHARLOTTE'S lunch box closed*) and can you not eat your pack lunch before school please.

GEMMA grabs bags, football kits and coats etc as JESS comes down stairs still holding the fish bowl.

JESS  
Poppy's getting a bosom bra can I have one?

GEMMA  
No.

CHARLOTTE  
You don't really need a bosom bra do you mummy?

JESS  
Can Nemo come to dads tonight?

CHARLOTTE goes out the front door followed by GEMMA.

INTO

2 EXT. GEMMA'S HOUSE. MORNING.

2

The POST WOMAN is at the gate as GEMMA and CHARLOTTE come out.

GEMMA  
No. And don't drag your bag Charlotte.

POST WOMAN  
Morning Mrs. Jones.

She hands the post to CHARLOTTE there is a post card from China which CHARLOTTE looks at. JESS comes out the front door still carrying the fish bowl.

CHARLOTTE  
It's from Alfie in China mum!

GEMMA  
... now come on... Just get in please or we'll be late.

As JESS talks they head down the path towards the car. The POST WOMAN is with them as they are herded by GEMMA who then heads to the front of the car.

JESS

Is it today or tomorrow for Alfie in China mum? I mean it can't be tomorrow because that hasn't happened yet. Unless our brother is Doctor Who? Is he mum?

As GEMMA rushes to the front of the car CHARLOTTE starts to shout relentlessly from inside the car.....

CHARLOTTE

Mum Mum Mum.....!

GEMMA

*(Gets in the car)* What?

CHARLOTTE

I need to do my maths homework or Mrs Collier says I'll lose my golden time.

GEMMA

You can do it at your dads tonight.

JESS

Mum I like how the light makes the fur above your lip glow.

CHARLOTTE

But its due in today.

GEMMA

*(She looks in the mirror at CHARLOTTE)* Brilliant....

As she looks in her mirror GEMMA sees the POST WOMAN sitting between CHARLOTTE and JESS who has the fish bowl on her lap.

As the TWINS chatter on GEMMA gets out the car and opens the door letting the POST WOMAN out. She then gets the fish bowl and puts it in the POST WOMAN'S hands.

CHARLOTTE

Chloe Bryant is bringing her dad's pants in for show and tell today.

JESS

Ergh that's disgusting.

CHARLOTTE

I know - she'll get a penalty point for that.

JESS  
I'm gonna close my eyes, I don't  
wanna see them.

CHARLOTTE  
I do.

JESS  
Eeerrrrrghhhhhh...

GEMMA gets in the car and drives off leaving the POST WOMAN  
holding the fish bowl and looking confused.

CUT TO:

3

INT. JASON AND INCA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM

3

The bedroom is white with a large colour studio  
photographic portrait of INCA and JASON hanging above the  
bed. INCA is sitting at her dressing table with mirror and  
is vigorously rubbing lots of moisturiser on her arms.  
JASON is in the bathroom brushing his teeth.

JASON (V.O)  
Charlotte and Jess have got their  
football match tonight so I'll  
collect you at 4.30.

INCA rubs a dollop of moisturiser between her hands.

INCA  
I should be revising for my  
waxing exam this evening Jason.  
If you please you will speak to  
Gemma and arrange for otherwise.

JASON enters in a overly short Chinese Kimono, it is black  
with red dragons on it and is tied neatly. He is mid tooth  
brush.

JASON  
She'll go potty.

INCA starts to apply the moisturizer to her upper arms in big  
strokes watching herself in her dressing table mirror.

INCA  
It is very important I learn wax  
Jason, English women are having a  
lot of mighty big hairs. Gemma  
will understand my strong needs  
in this matter.

JASON  
Are you sure I can't change your  
mind?

He puts a leg up provocatively on the end of the bed. She stops and looks at him. Pauses then squirts some moisturizer and starts an elaborate face buff.

INCA  
It will take more than the wolf  
sex to change Inca's mind.

JASON stands deflated in the small Kimono.

CUT TO:

4

EXT. LARGE(ISH) JUNIOR SCHOOL PLAYGROUND. MORNING

4

GEMMA pulls up at the school gates. The TWINS charge out of the car armed with art projects, lunch boxes etc. She catches up with the twins in the playground to kiss CHARLOTTE who ducks to avoid her.

CHARLOTTE  
Ergh that is gross mum.

JESS  
We're not six!

CHARLOTTE  
Don't hug us it's embarrassing!

GEMMA  
No it isn't - see.

We pan over to see TOM MARSHALL hug his overly confident 8 year old daughter POPPY goodbye, he lifts her from the ground.

GEMMA  
There's nothing wrong with a hug.

JESS  
Only poo heads hug.

GEMMA  
Jess, please don't say poo heads!

POPPY passes and hears GEMMA say 'poo heads'.

POPPY  
Excuse me Mrs Jones, can you not  
use the word poo on school  
property!

POPPY moves off as CAROLINE approaches she is one of the THREE NIGELLA WANNABES (women who once had careers but now are overbearing helicopter mums) and hears.....

GEMMA  
*(Shouts after Poppy)* Poo.... No,  
 hang on, I didn't say poo..

CAROLINE  
 Morning Gemma, see you just made it  
 on time...

GEMMA  
 What! Oh, Caroline, hi, I expect  
 you're wondering why I shouted poo!

CAROLINE  
 Not really.

GEMMA  
 It wasn't me who said it first, I  
 was just repeating it...

Before she can finish CAROLINE spots TOM and moves off  
 towards him (not too far from GEMMA). Her fellow NIGELLA'S  
 SUSIE and TANYA are already with TOM.

GEMMA  
 Great.

GEMMA turns back to the twins for a hug.

GEMMA  
 Hug please.

JESS  
 Mum! Stop being a geeky loser.

GEMMA  
*(Under breath)* I'll pay you.

JESS/CHARLOTTE  
 How much?

GEMMA  
*(Smiles)* 50 pence?

JESS looks at GEMMA, arms crossed.

JESS  
 Pound each or no hug.

CHARLOTTE  
 And we want half up front.

GEMMA  
 You two are so like your father.

GEMMA surreptitiously hands them some money and they hug  
 before CHARLOTTE and JESS run into school. GEMMA turns in  
 surprise to see TOM standing behind her.

She is a little flustered by him, mostly because she's aware of all the mums in the playground watching them.

TOM  
(Playful) Did you just pay your daughters for a hug?

GEMMA  
Of course not, don't be ridiculous! That was their lunch money.

TOM looks over at the TWINS holding lunch boxes at the school door.

TOM  
But they've got packed lun....

GEMMA  
They have yes but they... eat two lunches they've got some sort of high metabolic rate issue. It's a twin thing, which affects their... How can I help you Tom?

TOM summons up courage.

TOM  
Right, good, straight to the point, I like that. Gemma would you like to go out with me for a drink, slash, meal thingy tonight?

Before he can finish GEMMA grabs his lips and pinches them closed so he can't speak. They stand staring at each other. GEMMA holds his lips closed during the following.

GEMMA  
Oh! Sorry, I don't know why I did that - it was a nervous reaction to the drinks, slash, meal thingy - Why am I still holding your lips? Oh no, I've been holding them for far too long people are....

GEMMA looks about her, realising everyone can see her holding his lips. She makes eye contact with CAROLINE standing with TANYA and SUSIE who gives her an evil look.

GEMMA  
OK, I'm going to let them go and we will pretend this didn't happen and we'll talk about the... PTA!

She releases his lips and tries to act casual.



GEMMA  
Sooooo...?

TOM takes a pen from his jacket pocket, grabs GEMMA'S arm and rolls up her sleeve and starts writing his phone number on her arm.

TOM  
Ok look, I've talked to you about the PTA every day for a month when what I've really wanted to do was ask you out. Which I think you know....

The moment is broken by FRAN shouting.

FRAN (V.O.)  
Watch where you're putting that sword Flynn.... Flynn!

FRAN approaches as TOM puts the lid on his pen.

TOM  
So call me Mrs. Jones. (*Nodding acknowledgment at FRAN*) Fran.

FRAN curtsies a bit. TOM leaves. FRAN who is in a business suit but has on bright spotty/patterned wellies reaches GEMMA. FLYNN is brandishing a large sword as he runs to the school.

GEMMA  
(*Looking at FLYNN*) Oh no, is it Roman day?

FRAN  
No.

TOM suddenly reappears and points at GEMMA'S arm (sleeve still rolled up) to unnecessarily explain.

TOM  
(*Points at GEMMA'S arm*) Sorry, sorry, I just wanted to explain I saw someone do that on a TV show, but it was on her naked thigh so - a bit sexier.

TOM smiles at FRAN and GEMMA and goes. FRAN grabs GEMMA'S arm and looks at the phone number.

FRAN  
The school DILF's phone number!

They look over at TOM getting into his Range Rover

FRAN

Ohhh Gem's result! He's super sexy,  
like a slightly porkier Antonio  
Banderas in Zorro.

FRAN sees the THREE NIGELLA'S looking over.

FRAN

The Nigella Wannabes are going to  
hate your guts if you date *their*  
Tom. You know, I could have been a  
Nigella.....

GEMMA covers her arm up and attempts to change the subject.

GEMMA

If you hadn't got drunk at sports  
day and tried to seduce Mr.  
Roberts. Interesting look you're  
sporting with wellies by the way.

FRAN

Flynn buried all my shoes in the  
garden again.

TOM drives past the gates in his Range Rover and blasts the  
horn getting the attention of the whole playground. He  
waves over enthusiastically at GEMMA, FRAN waves over  
zealously back at him.

FRAN

You're going to go out with him,  
right?

GEMMA

He's not my type.

FRAN

You mean he's not a self centred  
philanderer with a very small...

GEMMA holds FRAN's lips together.

CUT TO:

5

INT. GEMMA'S LIVING ROOM. MID - MORNING

5

GEMMA's living room has a lived in feeling. She is sat at  
her computer in the corner. There are family pictures of  
her with the TWINS and ALFIE scattered around. She dips a  
Mars Bar into her coffee. Suddenly JASON is stood behind  
her, leaning against the door frame. He is wearing a grey  
blouson leather jacket.

JASON

Enjoying a deep throat chocolate moment are we?

GEMMA

*(Startled with chocolate in mouth)*  
Jason! Blimey, you nearly gave me a heart attack! How many times can you please knock.

JASON

The back door was open.  
Besides, my kids live here I should be able to come and go as I want.

GEMMA

Of Course, you're right. *(She smiles, JASON seems pleased)* So I guess I should have the keys to yours and Inca's so when the twins are with you I can just let myself in and out. I'm sure Inca will be happy with that arrangement?

He makes a face like "ok you win". GEMMA pushes past him into the kitchen and opens the washing machine. She takes out the washing and put it in the washing basket. Jason leans on the kitchen table and helps himself to a pear.

JASON

Fine, I'll knock. Thing is Gem Gem, Inca's got a waxing exam tomorrow and she needs to meditate tonight so.....

GEMMA

Oh no... no you don't... the girls are staying at yours tonight...

JASON

Please, otherwise Inca will stealth wax me in my sleep again.

GEMMA opens the utility cupboard a clothes horse falls out which she wrestles with trying to get it out.

JASON

I'll still see them at the weekend, Inca's doing Sunday lunch, Swedish style.

GEMMA

As delicious as dry Ryvita  
pickled gherkins and cabbage  
sound you'll see them tonight.

JASON  
Why? What difference does it  
make?

GEMMA  
Because tonight Jason...I've got  
plans...to go out....

JASON  
Singles night at the Legion is it?

He laughs at his own joke and watches as GEMMA tries to  
pull out the clothes horse which has now got caught up with  
the long tube of the hoover.

JASON  
Need a hand?

GEMMA  
Nope.  
(*getting more annoyed  
with the clothes horse*)  
I've got a date.

JASON snorts.

JASON  
No you haven't.

GEMMA  
I have!

JASON takes over and pulls out the clothes horse and begins  
to set it up. It is complicated and for the rest of the  
scene he struggles with which bit goes where. GEMMA rolls  
up her arm to show TOM'S phone number written on it.

JASON  
What sort of lunatic writes his  
number on *human* skin?

GEMMA  
It's sexy. He would have done it  
on my naked thigh but I was...  
wearing trousers. It's Tom, Tom  
Marshall.

JASON  
The knob in the Range Rover?

GEMMA  
Yes. No! Tom is not a knob.

JASON  
His wife left him for the Asda  
night supervisor. That qualifies  
him for complete knobdom.

GEMMA

I left you for no one so what  
does that qualify you for?

He puts up the clothes horse looking pleased with himself.

JASON

Fine, I'll have the girls, but  
don't wear those.

He points to granny knickers that GEMMA is now holding.

JASON

Unless he's a pervy knob in a  
Range Rover.

He gives the clothes horse a manly pat.

JASON

*(re clothes horse)*  
Glad I popped round now aren't  
you?

GEMMA

*(smiles sweetly)*  
Love to Inca.

He throws her a look and exits and as he does so the  
clothes horse collapses in on its self to the floor.

GEMMA

*(shouts after him)*  
Poo head!

She gives the clothes horse a kick, then looks at her arm  
with the phone number on it.

GEMMA

Right.

She marches into the kitchen

INTO

6

INT. GEMMA'S KITCHEN. MID-DAY

6

GEMMA picks up the phone and is about to dial when she  
turns and grabs a bottle of Advocat from a kitchen cupboard  
and takes a swig. She does a 'yuck' face then recoils and  
chokes.

GEMMA

Erghhh.... God.... Erghh

As she speaks we cut to....

CUT TO:

7

INT. TOM'S LIVING ROOM. MID-DAY

7

TOM's house is a family home but with predominantly masculine touches. A photo of him and his daughter in Taekwondo outfits is on a table with the answering machine. TOM is standing in his full taekwondo kit going through various moves calmly, his answer machine clicks in and he hears....

GEMMA (PHONE MESSAGE)  
*(we hear choking / gagging noises)*  
 Ergh... sorry... Advocat went down the wrong way.... I don't normally drink during the day... Just a quick shot for courage... that's not important.. Anyway, it's me..... Gemma.. Gemma Jones... from the play ground... you wrote on my arm.. But you know that, so  
*(overly loud)*  
 I will go out with you tonight... goodbye.  
*(She thinks she's hung up)*  
 Oh no what have I done - oh no.. the phone what the....  
*(line goes dead)*

The machine clicks off. TOM goes into a full on taekwondo display.

TOM  
 Yes! Yes! Yes! Aaaaah.

He does a small bow.

CUT TO:

8

INT. BOUTIQUE DRESS SHOP. LUNCH TIME

8

GEMMA is in a changing area curtained off from the shop. She is holding a small slutty dress and looking at it. It's red and sparkly with holes in it all over the place.

GEMMA  
 I'm not sure about this dress Fran.  
 There is no answer.

GEMMA (cont'd)  
 Fran! The dress, it's a bit... small looking...

Still no answer so GEMMA'S head appears between the curtains that open out into the shop. She spots FRAN texting nearby.

GEMMA (cont'd)

Fran!

FRAN

What! Sorry, I'm just flirt texting my dentist.

GEMMA

Fran! This dress is... confusing.

FRAN

Rubbish, it's the perfect mix of educated sluttiness. Trust me.

FRAN pushes GEMMA's head back in the cubicle and resumes texting. The camera stays with FRAN and we presume GEMMA is changing into the dress.

FRAN (cont'd)

I thought you were going to chicken out of this date with Tom.

GEMMA (V.O.)

Jason drove me to it.

FRAN

Yeah well he'd drive me to binge drinking and self harming.

GEMMA opens the changing room curtain to reveal she has the dress on but it's over her own clothes - it looks insane as she obviously doesn't have it on right.

GEMMA

I look like Noddy.

FRAN

I quite fancied Noddy when I was little - he had his own car.  
(*looking at her*) It might help if you took your other clothes off.

GEMMA

Fine.

A resigned GEMMA closes the curtain. FRAN resumes texting as a SNOOTY SHOP WOMAN walks past and hears.

FRAN

And I'll need to bring you up to date on this Centuries sexual practices.

A nervous GEMMA pops just her head through the curtain. We can't see her body but she's wriggling a bit during the following, we assume trying to get the dress off.

GEMMA

What! (*Under her breath*) I assumed sex had remained pretty much the same over the Centuries.

FRAN

Who was the last man you slept with?

GEMMA tries to think.

GEMMA

Er...was it?...no....er. It could have been...er..

FRAN

It was Jason wasn't it?

GEMMA

Yes.

GEMMA goes back into the changing room. We stay on FRAN.

FRAN

Men over 40 need to see flesh to make the effort. Nowadays people don't even go on dates, they just hook up for a quickie between 'Attenborough's Blue Planet' and 'Newsnight'.

GEMMA (V.O.)

(*sounds hot and bothered*) Really?

FRAN

Yeah, Attenborough's shows were responsible for at least three of my best ever sexual encounters. You can learn a lot from the animal kingdom.

GEMMA'S head appears through the curtain, she looks a mess - obviously been struggling to get out of the dress.

GEMMA

I'm going to cancel.

GEMMA disappears back into the changing room and we go with her, she is still trying to get out the dress.

FRAN (V.O.)

Look, Tom's really nice. You deserve some fun Gems..

GEMMA

(*To self*) Houdini would struggle with this...



FRAN pops her head into the cubicle....

FRAN  
Does bosoms have one or two 'o's'  
(*sees GEMMA*) Oh!

FRAN takes her head out the curtains and we see her stop the SNOOTY SHOP ASSISTANT as she walks past.

FRAN  
Have you got any scissors, we may  
have to cut her out of the Educated  
Slutty.

CUT TO:

9 INT GEMMA'S LIVING ROOM. AFTERNOON

9

GEMMA is in the living room with facial hair removal cream on her upper lip. She is watching an animal documentary - two bears are wooing, we hear them growling. Unannounced her son ALFIE and his mate BILLY enter carrying rucksacks - they watch the TV before speaking.

ALFIE  
(*To BILLY re bears*)  
Reminds me of you mate.

GEMMA  
Alfie! You're not supposed to be  
back for another four months!  
(*suddenly worried*)  
Are you in trouble?! Is it  
drugs? (*checks his arms*) Have  
you been expelled from China?

ALFIE  
It's not school mum. They don't  
chuck you out of China for  
smoking behind the bins. Oh  
yeah, this is Billy, I said he  
could stay a few nights.

BILLY  
Hi. I think there's...  
(*motions to his upper  
lip*)  
something on your.....

GEMMA  
Oh no!

GEMMA wipes the hair removal cream off her upper lip.

ALFIE  
Billy saved my life in China.

GEMMA  
Saved your life?

ALFIE  
Yeah, I fell off the Great Wall  
into his arms.

BILLY  
It was quite romantic really.

GEMMA (CONT'D)  
I thought you were going to be  
away "discovering yourself" until  
Christmas.

ALFIE  
Nah, I "discovered myself" in a  
week. Turns out I'm actually  
fairly shallow.  
*(sits on sofa and looks  
at the tv)*  
Man those bears are really going  
for it...

GEMMA tries to turn the TV off only to turn it up as the  
bears growl. Finally she pushes the right button and mutes  
it.

BILLY  
*(to Gemma)*  
If it's a problem me staying I  
can just...

ALFIE  
Nah mum's cool about stuff like  
this aren't you mum?

GEMMA  
*(unconvinced)*  
It's fine. Oh its so lovely to  
have you home lets celebrate with  
a - Tom!

ALFIE  
What's a Tom?

GEMMA  
I have a date with a Tom - no  
wait I'll cancel.

ALFIE  
Don't do that mum, we're gonna go  
out anyway, right, need to grab a  
shower if I'm gonna work the  
Alfie magic tonight.  
*(to BILLY)*  
Make yourself at home mate.

ALFIE goes. BILLY looks at the TV. The bears are still on.

BILLY

Once they've mated the male walks away and might never see the female again.

GEMMA

I've met a few of those in my time. Well, when I say a few I mean - well - anyway, better get ready.

CUT TO:

10 EXT. FOOTBALL MATCH. SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS - AFTERNOON 10

JASON and INCA stand freezing to death on the sidelines of a children's football match. It is bleak. Girls run around, their parents shout. JESS stands in goal not that into the match while CHARLOTTE runs about furiously. INCA shivers in her bright coloured 'going out' tight red/fuscia dress and high heels, her hair long and shiny looking. She looks totally pissed off.

INCA

*(brrrs like a horse pointedly for attention)*

The thing is Jason, because I am so slim I feel the cold much more. Plus apart from my head I am completely hairless; like an otter.

*(pouts)*

I should be revising for my waxing exam Jason.

JASON

I know love - and to show my appreciation I will let you wax any body part you like when we get home.

She smiles seductively at him. We see TOM is wildly cheering on POPPY standing with CAROLINE, TANYA and SUSIE.

TOM

Good team work Poppy. That's the spirit!

CAROLINE

Poppy's such an amazing little person Tom. A real credit to your parenting skills.

TOM  
Thank you.

CAROLINE  
(*Touches his arm*) No thank you,  
for being such a positive male role  
model.

We go back to JASON and INCA. JASON is looking annoyed at TOM.

JASON  
That's the guy that's going out  
on a date with Gemma tonight.

INCA  
Which one?

JASON  
The one who looks like a knob.

INCA looks over at TOM talking with the THREE NIGELLA'S.

INCA  
He's a handsome knob.

JASON  
No he's not.

They both look over at TOM as the NIGELLA'S laugh, touching his arm.

INCA  
He looks like he could really  
give the good sexual  
experiences. Oh! I am knowing, I  
will see if Gemma wants me to  
give her the body wrap, she can  
lose inches off her torso.

CHARLOTTE scores by getting past POPPY. JASON jumps up and down shouting too much, pointedly over at TOM.

JASON  
That's my girl! Well done. My  
flesh and blood, from these  
loins! Go Jess!

TOM looks over nonplussed at JASON shouting.

INCA  
It was Charlotte who scored.

INCA walks off, her heels sink in the mud.

CUT TO:

11 INT. GEMMA'S HOUSE. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT

11

BILLY is sat on the sofa unpacking his dirty clothes from his rucksack. ALFIE is on GEMMA's computer with "Facespaces.com" up.

ALFIE

*(looking at screen)*

Oh yes! Get in! I've been sexy poked by that fit Thai bird I met in Bangkok.

BILLY

*(looks up)*

And you're OK with that?

ALFIE

She was hot.

BILLY

*She* was a *he*.

ALFIE

Shut up! She was all woman.

BILLY

You were pissed out of your brains on Thai whiskey.

ALFIE

So. She had all the right bits.

BILLY

On the outside maybe.

ALFIE

Jealousy is a terrible thing my friend.

BILLY

Her name was Ken!

BILLY heads for the kitchen with his dirty clothes.

ALFIE

I don't care, I'm sexy poking back - then lets get totally mullered.

CUT TO:

12 INT. GEMMA'S HOUSE KITCHEN. NIGHT

12

GEMMA is looking at her reflection in the kettle. She bouffants her hair up so it's enormous.

GEMMA  
Brilliant, I look like a  
scarecrow...

She grabs a clip and frantically smoothes her hair down  
clipping it to one side.

GEMMA  
Great, now I look like Hitler.

She piles her hair onto her head, it now just looks like a  
large nest.

GEMMA (TO SELF)  
Hi I'm Gemma and I have a family  
of rats living in my hair.

Defeated she slumps on the counter.

GEMMA  
It's just a date... pull yourself  
together.

BILLY enters carrying the washing Gemma springs up from  
counter.

GEMMA  
(*Slightly desperate*  
*tone*)  
How do I look?

BILLY  
You look...

GEMMA  
...like the Fuhrer...?

BILLY  
No.

GEMMA  
Like I should cancel and just  
have an early night?

He laughs.

BILLY  
No. You look nice. Kind  
of....Cameron Diaz - Charlie's  
Angels not Shrek obviously.

GEMMA  
Are you just saying that so you  
can take advantage of my washing  
machine?

BILLY

Absolutely, I've got a weakness for a triple A+ graded 1400 spin washing machine with 12 wash programmes, reduced creasing option and a 29 minute quick wash.

GEMMA

Wow, you know your stuff.

BILLY

Two summers working at Croydon's premier electrical store has its uses when it comes to impressing the ladies.

GEMMA

I bet it does.

She laughs. He motions towards the washing machine. She nods and puts on some earrings again using the kettle as a mirror as he loads the machine.

GEMMA

I feel like a teenager on a first ever date.

BILLY

That's a great feeling isn't it. The bit just before your first kiss - you both know it's going to happen but you don't know when and your hearts pounding and...

GEMMA

Oh no!

BILLY

What?

GEMMA

I should've shaved both my legs.

BILLY

You only shaved one leg?

GEMMA

Work deadline ..... trying on 14 dresses ... prodigal son returning... sort of took my mind off what I was doing.  
(suddenly looks up)  
Contraception!

BILLY

What?

GEMMA  
My one shaved leg, I'll use it as  
a form of contraception. It'll  
put him off.

BILLY stands up and they are now facing each other.

BILLY  
I think I'd find it kind of  
intriguing. "The woman with the  
one hairy leg."

She laughs and picks up her bag and goes into the living  
room. BILLY looks at the washing machine. He pushes the  
button on the machine to start it.

CUT TO:

13 INT. GEMMA'S LIVING ROOM. NIGHT

13

GEMMA goes into the living room finding ALFIE mucking about  
on her computer.

GEMMA  
Alfie! My work's on that, be  
careful.

ALFIE  
Chill, I know what I'm doing.

The door bell goes.

GEMMA  
Oh no... I'm not... Do I look OK?

ALFIE  
(*doesn't look up*)  
Yeah, fine.

GEMMA goes to the door and lets in TOM.

GEMMA  
Tom hi, come in.

He comes into the living room.

TOM  
Wow! You look...  
(*searching for right  
word*)  
Super!

GEMMA  
Thanks. This is my son Alfie  
just back from travelling the  
world. Alfie this is Tom.



ALFIE doesn't even look up from the computer.

ALFIE  
Alright mate.

TOM  
He's your son! Wow... big. I didn't realise you and Jason had been together so long.

ALFIE  
(*snorts*) That muppet isn't my dad.

GEMMA  
Alfie! I had Alfie waaay before I met Jason... I mean not waaaay way. I'm not that old... I mean I'm oldish, obviously but not... I was really young when I had Alfie.... I mean not young as in "headline in the Daily Mail" young just.....  
(*panic plea to Alfie*)  
Did you say something?

ALFIE smiles at his mum, he's not helping her out. He pulls the plug on the computer.

ALFIE  
Nope you carry on, you're doing really great.

ALFIE relaxes back in his chair as BILLY comes in.

TOM  
Gosh two man sons?

GEMMA  
No, this is Billy. He's Alfie's friend. He saved his life  
(*after thought*)  
It wasn't drugs related.

TOM and BILLY shake hands.

TOM  
I once saved someone.

GEMMA  
Really?

TOM  
 (with pride)  
 Well, when I say someone, it was more of a dog - But it was an old lady's dog and she said he was more of a son to her than her son had been. Anyway he fell in the pond and got into distress, little legs, and I ... well, I paddled in and saved him.

They all stare at TOM blankly as he smiles broadly.

CUT TO:

14

INT. JASON AND INCA'S DINING ROOM. NIGHT

14

JASON and INCA'S dining room is minimalist and not exactly child friendly. It's quite sterile and there are awful sculptures dotted around. The twins and JASON are sat at the dinner table. Relaxation music plays, pipes and whale sounds.

JESS  
 What's that noise?

INCA comes into the room holding large dinner plates.

INCA  
 Whales who are relaxing.

INCA puts down the plates and we see that there are tiny portions of health food in the centre of them. It looks to be a beansprout and tofu based dish. It looks awful.

CHARLOTTE  
 What is this?

INCA  
 Tofu and beansprouts.

JESS  
 Ergh puke.

JASON  
 No not puke, now eat it up girls.

He takes a mouthful then winces then smiles lovingly at INCA.

JASON  
 Mmmmm yummy.

JESS  
 But Dad I thought we were having burger and fries?

INCA  
I'm sorry Jess but I don't allow  
meats in the house.

CHARLOTTE  
But we had burger and fries with  
Dad last time we were here.

INCA  
Excuse me?

JESS  
When you were at your spray tan  
class.

JASON  
(to Jess)  
Don't be daft love, we don't do  
hamburgers - remember? Or any  
form of corporate food.

INCA  
Are you lying to Inca?

JASON  
No, I promise. They've got it  
wrong. I would never let a  
Quarter Pounder down my digestive  
tract.

INCA  
(to JASON stern/annoyed)  
I have decided which body part of  
yours I am going to wax.

JASON looks nervously at the girls who stifle a giggle.  
CHARLOTTE and JESS eat using small mouths like rabbits.

CUT TO:

15 INT. THAI RESTAURANT. NIGHT

15

We look through the window of 'Bangkok House' Thai  
restaurant. GEMMA and TOM are sat at a small bar waiting  
for their table. They have Mai Thai cocktails.

GEMMA  
These are lovely.

She sucks long and hard on the straw.

TOM  
Steady there cowboy, they're  
strong.

She laughs, then does a hiccup.

GEMMA  
Been a long day, I needed that.

TOM  
You look really stunning Gemma.

GEMMA  
Thank you.

TOM  
I knew you could.

GEMMA looks at him slightly shocked.

TOM  
(*embarrassed*)  
I mean, you always look good, you  
just look *more* good now.

GEMMA  
Thanks, thing is you get too used  
to slobbering around in jogging  
bottoms, sometimes I forget I've  
got a waist.

TOM laughs and takes a gulp of his cocktail he seems very  
relaxed now.

TOM  
Yeah, I've seen you in those  
jogging bottoms at the school  
gates every morning sporting that  
big old Marmite moustache.

He laughs, GEMMA looks at him blankly.

GEMMA  
(*upset*)  
Marmite moustache?

TOM  
(*oblivious to response*)  
Yeah, it's either Marmite or  
Chocolate spread.

GEMMA  
(*flatly*)  
It's Marmite.

TOM  
(*pleased with self*)  
Thought so.

TOM smiles at her long and hard. She smiles back. He smiles  
again. She smiles again.

TOM  
I like your teeth.

CUT TO:

16 INT. BUS - NIGHT

16

ALFIE and BILLY are sitting on the top deck of a bus chatting. ALFIE is spouting crap looking in the bus window and adjusting his clothes to look 'perfect'. BILLY has his feet nonchalantly up on the seat in front next to ALFIE'S leather jacket.

ALFIE  
You know mate, travelling the world and all its orifices has really opened my eyes. It's helped expose the real me...

BILLY  
Yeah, well, my advice, keep the real you covered up if you wanna pull tonight..

FROSTY GIRL and CUTE GIRL get on the bus dressed for a night out. They sit near ALFIE and BILLY on the bus.

ALFIE  
Aye! Aye!...

ALFIE leans over to them to introduce himself.

ALFIE  
Ladies, I'm Alfie, this is Billy. He's a bit like my Sherpa. We just got back from travelling the world.

FROSTY GIRL  
(*unimpressed*)  
Really?

CUTE GIRL smiles at BILLY.

ALFIE  
Oh yeah. Tell them Billy.

BILLY  
China, Borneo, Phuket. Alfie was just telling me how he's a changed man since Thailand.

FROSTY GIRL  
(*sarcastic*)  
Sex change?

CUTE GIRL and BILLY laugh.

ALFIE  
*(to Frosty Girl  
 seriously)*  
 You're funny, I like you.

FROSTY GIRL looks slightly taken aback by this.

ALFIE  
 No, I meant changed as in my  
 outlook's changed. I'm kinda now  
 looking for someone who's my  
 intellectual equal. Like...

BILLY  
 Paris Hilton?

ALFIE  
*(ignores Billy and  
 stares intently at  
 Frosty Girl)*  
 Someone I can share things with  
 like....

BILLY  
 STDs?

ALFIE  
*(ignores Billy)*  
 Experiences. A woman with  
 intelligence, knowledge, you  
 know, a big brain.

BILLY  
 Which would obviously mean a big  
 head.

CUTE GIRL smiles at BILLY

ALFIE  
*(unsure)*  
 Right sure, a big head.

FROSTY GIRL  
*(defensive)*  
 Are you saying my heads too big?

ALFIE  
 What? Umm. No, yeah, sort of -  
 but you know, in a good way -  
 like a Bratz doll - I mean not  
 plastic or.. what I'm trying to  
 say is ... Billy, what am I  
 trying to say?

BILLY

I think what you're trying to say  
is can you buy these two ladies a  
drink in town for being a dick on  
the bus?

The girls laugh. The boys are in.

CUT TO:

17 INT. THAI RESTAURANT. NIGHT.

17

GEMMA and TOM are now seated at their table and their  
desserts are being served.

TOM

*(thank you nod to  
waiter)*

Khorb koon ka.

The WAITER does a little bow and leaves.

TOM

Thong yib - pinched golden egg  
yolks for you and sang kha ya fak  
thong - Thai custard with pumpkin  
for me.

GEMMA

Yummy.

GEMMA tucks in. TOM doesn't he looks at bit perturbed.

TOM

Gemma I...

TOM stops GEMMA looks up and smiles.

GEMMA

What's wrong, not lusting after  
my pinched egg yolks are you?

TOM

Have I been a bit over the top?

GEMMA

What?

TOM

I think possibly I've been trying  
too hard this evening and I think  
I might be coming over as a bit  
of a knob.

GEMMA

No...

TOM

It's just it took me so long to pluck up the courage to ask you out, and then you said yes and now we're here and I feel...

GEMMA

I've had a really lovely evening Tom. It's nice to feel like a grown up again, I'm glad I said yes.

She smiles. He smiles. She smiles.

TOM

You really do have great teeth.

CUT TO:

18

INT. TRENDY BAR. NIGHT

18

BILLY is stood at the bar with the Manager, RACHEL, 30's and cool. They are watching ALFIE who is chatting to FROSTY GIRL.

RACHEL

So you're mates with our Alfie then?

BILLY

Yep, four months intercontinental mayhem ending with him being chased out of China by an old woman with a broom.

RACHEL

Sounds like Alfie - what had he done? Broken her heart?

BILLY

She had three daughters.

RACHEL

(*knowing*)  
Ah.

BILLY

Three broken hearts and one broken broom. She was a bit of a ninja granny.

RACHEL

So you thought here was a safer bet?



BILLY

That and we ran out of cash. Do you need anyone?

RACHEL

Sexually no, I've just turned lesbian.

She smiles over at MEGAN her partner clearing tables.

BILLY

Right, congratulations. But I meant work wise.

RACHEL

You worked a bar before?

BILLY

2 months in Portugal, 3 months in Goa, 3 days in China.

RACHEL

3 days?

BILLY

The Ninja granny ran us out of town.

RACHEL

Since you're a mate of Alfie's, I shouldn't even entertain the idea but... I'll give you a trial run tomorrow.

BILLY

Cheers.

We look over at ALFIE who is with FROSTY GIRL and she's proudly sticking her breasts out and ALFIE has his hands on them in a 'matter of fact' way, as if analyzing them somehow.

FROSTY GIRL

Well, what do you think?

ALFIE

*(matter of fact)*

You're right they do feel kinda natural.

FROSTY GIRL

Told ya.

BILLY and RACHEL smile.

BILLY  
 (to RACHEL)  
 You better get your broom.

CUT TO:

19 EXT. DOORSTEP GEMMA'S HOUSE. NIGHT

19

GEMMA and TOM are standing on her doorstep. She is rummaging for her keys in her bag, she hands her bag to TOM to hold while she carries on rummaging in it.

GEMMA  
 I should have a key round my neck  
 I can never find anything in this  
 bag. It's a bottomless pit.

She brings out a doll's torso, football cards and a pair of socks which she hands to TOM.

GEMMA  
 Well, apart from the doll's head,  
 the football cards and the socks  
 of course.

(ALTERNATE ITEMS: Trump cards, Math attaxs cards, conkers, dolls leg, stickers, plastic necklace, broken tiara, play figure, mouth organ, empty juice carton)

This is now the moment on a date where a couple might kiss - or might not - so there is a bit of an awkward atmosphere as they both know this.

TOM  
 So....

GEMMA  
 So err....

TOM  
 You fancy another date sometime?

GEMMA  
 Er...yes. That would be nice.

TOM goes to kiss her on the lips, only she goes to kiss him on the cheek - the result is he kisses her on the ear hole.

GEMMA  
 Sorry.

TOM  
 Sorry. I'm rushing things.

GEMMA  
No, it's fine just caught me off guard. But I'm on guard now, so you could try again, maybe. If you wanted to...

He goes to kiss her again, this time they kiss.

GEMMA  
(*whispers*)  
I can't feel my feet.

TOM  
(*whispers romantically*)  
I know what you mean.

GEMMA  
No, I mean I really can't feel my feet, I think you're standing on them.

TOM  
What! Oh sorry.

BILLY comes round the corner and walks straight in on them.

BILLY  
Oh sorry, sorry, don't mind me carry on. Hello Tom.

He fumbles for his key, trying not to interrupt. It's a squeeze on the step.

GEMMA  
Where's Alfie?

BILLY  
Still sampling some of the local delights.

They all stand awkwardly on the doorstep.

BILLY  
Right I'll leave you to it.

They all stand awkwardly again.

BILLY  
Bye.

TOM  
Bye.

BILLY lets himself in.

GEMMA  
Hold the door. Thanks again Tom, see you at school.

GEMMA and BILLY go in and close the door leaving a confused TOM. He puts the doll's head and football cards on the window ledge and posts the socks through the letter box.

CUT TO:

20

INT. GEMMA'S HOUSE. NIGHT

20

GEMMA follows BILLY into the house.

BILLY

I'm really sorry for interrupting your...

GEMMA

It's fine. Got to keep them wanting more.

BILLY

Mind if I make a coffee?

GEMMA

No go ahead.

BILLY goes into the kitchen. GEMMA kicks off her shoes and goes over to the computer.

GEMMA

No!

She tries again. She is now panicking.

GEMMA

No no no!

BILLY comes back into the living room.

GEMMA

No!!!

BILLY

Everything alright?

GEMMA

I need to send my work. It won't turn on!

BILLY

Let me look.

GEMMA

Do you know what you're doing?

BILLY

Trust me I used to be a big nerd.

GEMMA  
How big?

BILLY  
NHS specs and acne big.

GEMMA  
Do it.

BILLY goes up to the computer. He looks at it.

GEMMA  
What's wrong with it?

BILLY  
Shhh...

She looks away as BILLY looks closely at it then looks at the wall and puts the plug in and turns it on, it comes on.

BILLY  
There we go.

GEMMA  
Oh thank you, thank you!

She hugs him.

BILLY  
It was just unplugged. It's the first place us big nerds look. You'd be surprised how many...

Suddenly he stops speaking and they realise that he is still holding her. They both look at each other. The moment is broken when the back door opens and JASON comes in with the twins holding a bucket. GEMMA and BILLY step away from each other. JASON doesn't see them he is too caught up with ushering the sick kids in.

JASON  
Gemma! The kids have been throwing up all over the place. Inca has beansprout puke in her hair extensions. She's in a terrible state.

GEMMA runs to the kids. BILLY goes in to help.

GEMMA  
Beansprouts?

JESS  
She made us eat green stringy stuff mum.

And with that JESS throws up all over BILLY's trousers.

GEMMA  
Oh no! Sorry Billy.

BILLY  
It's fine.

CHARLOTTE then throws up in the bucket.

JASON  
Ergh this is disgusting...

GEMMA  
(to Jason)  
Get out!

JASON  
It's not my fault.

GEMMA  
It never is.  
(to Billy)  
You better get cleaned up,  
there's fresh towels in the  
bathroom.

BILLY passes JASON on his way upstairs.

JASON  
(to Billy)  
Who are you anyway?

GEMMA  
Not now Jason.

GEMMA heads upstairs with the twins

JASON  
Got yourself a toy boy? What  
happened to the knob?  
(shouts up the stairs)  
Couldn't he rise to the occasion?

He laughs at his own joke then realises he's alone in the  
living room.

JASON  
Alright, I'm leaving.

CUT TO:

21 INT. HALLWAY. NIGHT

21

BILLY is in a towel coming out the bathroom having had a  
shower. GEMMA is coming out of the twins room. They stop  
in front of each other.

BILLY  
Got the sick off.

GEMMA  
Good. Sorry about that.

BILLY  
I just spent 4 months with your  
son, so am kinda used to it.

She seems a bit awkward with him in just a towel. We hear the front door open and giggling. It's ALFIE and the girl coming in. GEMMA looks panicked. Without thinking she shoves BILLY back into the bathroom as Alfie and Frosty Girl go past snogging.

ALFIE  
What's your name?

FROSTY GIRL  
Sam.

ALFIE  
Sam, short for...?

FROSTY GIRL  
Samantha.

ALFIE  
Just checking.

She pushes Alfie against his bedroom door which is opposite the bathroom and starts snogging the face off him.

CUT TO:

22 INT. BATHROOM. NIGHT

22

GEMMA and BILLY are standing close together by the bathroom door. They whisper. Billy seems amused by the ridiculousness of her actions. He's being playful and non-predatory during the following.

BILLY  
What are you doing?

GEMMA  
Shhh. I didn't want Alfie to see  
us together.

BILLY  
Together in the hall?

GEMMA  
What? Yes, well you've got no top  
on, he might - have got the wrong  
idea.

BILLY

The wrong idea about what? That I'd just had a shower?

GEMMA

Yes...no

*(realizes what she's done)*

I may have slightly over reacted.

BILLY

To me having a shower?

GEMMA

No, to Alfie seeing us, he might have thought we were up to no good.

BILLY

Why?

*(laughs)*

Do you usually get up to no good with his friends?

GEMMA

*(embarrassed)*

No! Absolutely not. Never. How could you even insinuate...

BILLY

I didn't.

GEMMA

Shhh!

They stand close, silently. They hear ALFIE'S bedroom door open and FROSTY GIRL giggle as the go in slamming the door.

GEMMA

He's gone.

BILLY

Phew! Because God forbid he should have caught us innocently chatting in the hall but us holed up chest to chest in the bathroom, no problem there.

He smiles. Then they both laugh but trying to keep it quiet. Clearly there is a spark between them.

BILLY

Good night Mrs. Jones.

GEMMA

...Good night.



They look at each other. There is a beat, like they are both holding their breath. Then the moment is broken.

BILLY  
Good night.

GEMMA  
Night night, mind the bed bugs  
don't bite.

BILLY leaves. GEMMA glances at herself in the mirror.

GEMMA  
(*to her reflection*)  
Mind the bed bugs don't bite?  
Really?

She slides down the wall and sinks to the floor.

GEMMA  
So, you snog a man you hardly know  
on your doorstep, then drag a half  
naked young man into your bathroom.  
Well done Mrs. Jones.

END.