

SCENE 1

A HEARTBEAT. TOM IS SWIMMING UNDERWATER. HE CAN HEAR MUFFLED VOICES/NOISE ABOVE THE WATERLINE. THIS IS A FORETELLING OF THE PENULTIMATE SCENE, SCENE 44.

TOM RISES UP OUT OF THE WATER AND TAKES A BREATH. CUT.

SCENE 2. EXT. AN ALLOTMENT PLOT. (15th April)

SOUND OF A ROBIN'S SONG.

SARAH IS RAKING THE SOIL VIGOROUSLY.

TOM Have you got any idea what you're doing?

SARAH (OUT OF BREATH) Not really, but Beth's lent me a book.

TOM MOVES HIS CHAIR TO GET UP.

SARAH You don't need to get up. You can scatter from your chair.

TOM No. I need to get up for this. (GETS UP WITH SOME DIFFICULTY)

SARAH Lean on me.

TOM I'm ready.

SARAH Hold your hand out.

TOM That Robin's after these seeds.

PUTTING THE SEEDS INTO TOM'S HAND

SARAH I've already warned her... or him. Ready?

TOM What am I sowing?

SARAH Radishes. 'Pink Beauty' they're called. And then we've got some lettuces - Little Gem and Suzan.

TOM There's a lettuce called Susan?

SARAH You spell it with a z.

TOM Rock on.

SARAH And then we've got peas.

TOM Don't tell me.....Peter?

SARAH Prince Albert.

TOM Prince Albert.

SARAH After three.

TOM (THROWS) Three!

THE SEEDS ARE THROWN ONTO THE EARTH AND TOM NEARLY FALLS OVER PULLING SARAH WITH HIM.

SARAH Whey! You nearly went then Tom.

TOM (LOUDLY) Grow you Pink Beauties! Grow, and may Sarah and I eat the plentiful fruits of our labour and may blessings, prosperity and...

SARAH A miracle cure?

TOM A 'miracle' cure be cast down upon this virgin... sod!

SARAH (SHE KISSES TOM). Thank you. (WHISPERS) Everyone's looking over at us now.

TOM I know. (INTIMATELY) Mmm, you smell!

SARAH Sorry.

TOM I like it.

TOM KISSES SARAH.

SARAH I don't think this is....

TOM

What?

SARAH

We don't want to get chucked off before we've even started.

TOM

Spoilsport. (HE CONTINUES TO KISS SARAH)

DISTANT SOUND OF THE AMATEUR DRAMATICS SOCIETY RE-HEARSING IN A NEARBY CHURCH HALL. 'FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD', FROM THE MUSICAL OLIVER.

TOM

The Am Drams are off.

SARAH

Appropriate. (PAUSE) We...could...

TOM

What?

SARAH

Go and sort out the shed? It's a real mess in there.

TOM

Anything you say.

AM DRAMS COME TO A STOP IN THE MIDDLE OF A VERSE, AS IN A REHEARSAL.

SCENE 3. INT. A BUSY GARDEN CENTRE.

AN INSTRUMENTAL PAN PIPE VERSION OF FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD. (16th April - NEXT DAY)

TOM IS WALKING SLOWLY WITH TWO WOODEN WALKING STICKS.

TOM (SLOWLY COUNTING HIS STEPS) 19,20,21(HE BREATHES OUT AND STOPS WALKING)

SARAH (APPROACHING) Are you OK?

TOM I'm fine.

SARAH I thought you might be interested. There's a man dressed up as a rabbit over there.

TOM Where?

SARAH Straight ahead. By the decking.

TOM Poor bloke.

SARAH It is Good Friday.

TOM The day of the Crucifixion for God's sake and here we are buying overpriced unnecessary plastic things!

SARAH (LAUGHING) None of this is unnecessary Tom. We need seed trays – which are admittedly plastic - and seed compost. You can't use ordinary compost for seeds if you're starting them off in pots.

TOM Really.

SARAH According to the book, getting your growing whatsit right is...(NOTICES TOM HAS STOPPED AGAIN) Are you sure you're ok?

TOM I'm fine. Why don't you get one of these?

SARAH What?

TOM 'A Pop Up Garden Tidy'! Look at it. I could fit in there....

SARAH Let's not get distracted.

TOM ...we both could. We could be like Bill and Ben.
(HE SINGS) Bill and Ben, Bill and Ben, Bill and Ben, flowerpot men. – Heyo pepo (TALKS BILL AND BEN LANGUAGE.)

SARAH (LAUGHS) Please Tom, No. Don't make me laugh. My ribs hurt.

TOM Heyo. O wey!

SARAH (LAUGHING) Don't! I overdid it with the weeding.

TOM You can borrow my sticks if you like. (PAUSE) Compost. Down there on the right.

SARAH Great.

TOM I can give you a hand.

SARAH It's ok. They're not too heavy.

SARAH TRIES TO CHUCK A BAG OF SEED COMPOST ON TO THE TROLLEY.

SARAH My arms feel like they've been wound through a mangle.

TOM Hold my sticks. MS man to the rescue!

HE GIVES HIS STICKS TO SARAH.

SARAH Tom, no. They're not heavy. It's my own stupid fault.

TOM I'd make use of me while you still can.

SARAH You're not allowed to say that.

TOM There you go.

HE COMPLETES THE TASK.

SARAH Thank you. This is all going to be worth it. I promise. You'll have loads of gorgeous veg. to/

TOM LOSES HIS BALANCE. HE CRASHES TO THE GROUND
BRINGING THE SHOP DISPLAY AND HIS STICKS WITH HIM.

SARAH Tom!

TOM Shit!

SARAH Not again. Are you alright.

TOM (ANGRY) No I'm not *alright*.

SARAH It's these wretched sticks.

TOM (TRYING TO GET UP) I can't get up.

SARAH Lean on my shoulder.

TOM Get my stick.

BUNNY (APPROACHING OUT OF BREATH) Can I help mate?

SARAH Hold onto the shelf.

TOM HAULS HIMSELF UP

BUNNY Need any help?

SARAH Oh, thank you.

TOM Thanks mate, but I'm up now.

BUNNY Saw you on the floor. So, I hopped over.

TOM We're fine.

BUNNY If you need any help, just give the rabbit a shout.

TOM I said we're fine, mate.

SARAH Thanks. I think we've made the 'pop up tidies' all a bit untidy.

BUNNY Easter bunny'll sort it.

TOM Come on Sarah. Let's go.

SARAH I like your costume.

BUNNY What costume?

PAUSE

BUNNY (BUGS BUNNY LAUGH). Hahahahaha.

SARAH (NERVOUS LAUGHTER) Ha ha ha...

TOM Come on. Isn't there other stuff you need to get?

SARAH Yes. (TO RABBIT) Vegetable seeds. (TO TOM) Are you OK?

TOM (HAS STARTED WALKING OFF) Come on!

BUNNY Carrots! Second aisle on the left, down there.

SCENE 4. INT. V/O SARAH'S JOURNAL.
(7 days later)

SARAH

22nd April 2015.

Breaking news – the Pink Beauty radishes have broken through the earth.

Seeds sown in seed trays:

Purple sprouting broccoli (PSB for short)
Variety - Claret.

Kale – variety - Westland winter, Nero di Toscana

Courgettes - Rondo di Nizza, Straight Neck Yellow, All Green Bush and Black Forest.

Chard – Golden sunrise.

A SPADE SPLITTING THE EARTH.

SCENE 5. EXT. ON THE ALLOTMENT PLOT.

(19th May - 3.5 weeks later)

TOM BANGING NAILS INTO WOOD.

TOM (HURTS HIMSELF) Ahh!

HAMMER DROPS TO THE GROUND.

(SUCKS HIS FINGER.) Stupid bloody thing. Why did you drop that?

GRAHAM (COMING UP.) Morning lad.

TOM Morning Graham.

GRAHAM Working you hard is she.

TOM Chores to be done; compost bin to be mended. And then Mr. Tamwar over there, has asked me to mend one of his beehives.

GRAHAM With the bees not residing in it, I hope.

TOM I hope not.

GRAHAM Now I've popped over with an invitation for you. The Am drams are holding auditions next week for the Christmas review. Not one for the little ones, if you get my meaning. Do you fancy it? We are doing Grease the musical at the moment. We can sing and dance with the best of them - some of us better than others.

TOM I thought you lot were doing Oliver?

GRAHAM We're doing that at the same time.

TOM Grease and Oliver? What do you call that?

BETH (FROM AFAR) Yoo hoo!

TOM Groliver!

BETH Hello gentlemen.

GRAHAM Beth.

BETH (SHE STAYS UP NEAR THE SHED) I'm looking for your sweet lady Tom.

TOM She's at work Beth I'm afraid.

BETH I have herb plants. Rosemary, mint, tarragon. Would she be interested?

TOM I'm sure she would be. (HE GOES TO GET UP)

BETH No need to get up. I'll leave them by the shed here.

GRAHAM (TO TOM) Are you up for it then?

TOM What?

GRAHAM The review?

TOM I don't think I'd be much use.

TOM HAS STARTED TO BANG THE WOOD AGAIN WITH THE HAMMER.

GRAHAM Sarah's told me all about you. We could do with a lad of your talent.

TOM LETS GO OF THE HAMMER ACCIDENTALLY AND IT GOES FLYING.

GRAHAM Hey! How did you do that?

TOM Sorry Graham. It didn't hit you did it?

GRAHAM RETRIEVES THE HAMMER.

GRAHAM Here's your flying hammer back. Very impressive.

TOM (LAUGHS) Not quite up there with Thor I'm afraid.

GRAHAM Thor. (PAUSE) The musical. Now there's an idea.

BETH (FROM AFAR) I've left them *behind* the shed Tom. Get back to work you two.

GRAHAM Beth

BETH And stop throwing tools around! Toodle pip.

GRAHAM Let me help you.

TOM Honestly. I'll be fine. I was a joiner in my former life, believe it or not.

GRAHAM How about 'joining' us then?

SCENE 6. INT. SWIMMING POOL.

TOM DIVING INTO THE WATER AND SWIMMING
UNDERWATER. WE HEAR FAINT MUFFLED VOICES/NOISE FROM
ABOVE THE WATER AS IN THE OPENING SEQUENCE BUT NOT
AS INTENSE. HE COMES UP FOR AIR AND BREATHES.

SCENE 7. INT. A CONSULTANT'S (CS) OFFICE
(20th May - next day)

CS Now Tom, any new symptoms since we last met - any numbness, weakness or tingling anywhere?

PAUSE

TOM Nope.

CS And how are your waterworks?

TOM The same. When I need to go, I really need to go.

SARAH There's been a few tricky moments.

CS I'm sure. What about fatigue?

TOM Some days are worse than others. I can't really work out a pattern to it.

CS That's MS for you. And what about work? How's the acting going?

TOM I'm still getting the odd audition.

CS Great. And are you still swimming?

TOM Yep. I went today.

SARAH Three times a week at the moment.

CS Good. It's important to keep the muscles strong. Keep things moving. And the physiotherapy is going well?

TOM As well as can be expected.

CS Good.

SARAH She's really impressed with you Tom.

TOM I wouldn't go that far.

CS Now you took a good number of steps for me earlier Tom and then you had to stop for a moment. Why did you feel you needed to stop?

TOM It's tiring....getting these lumps to move... and I feel a bit unsteady.

CS That's reason enough. Any falls in the last six months?

TOM No.

SARAH Yes.

TOM Yes. One or two.

SARAH More than one or two.

TOM (ANNOYED) Alright. Alright.

CS From what I've seen today those sticks are not supporting you well enough. Your physio has probably mentioned this but a walking frame might be a better option.

PAUSE

TOM I'm not using an old person's zimmer frame at the of 35.

CS You will feel safer, and you may well be able to take more steps.

SARAH Sounds good to me.

TOM Does it?

SARAH If it makes things safer. Yes.

PAUSE

TOM These were my grandad's.

CS A fine pair of sticks.

TOM Thank you.

SARAH You can always customise it. Jazz it up. Like you've done with your sticks.

TOM (IGNORING SARAH) My legs are getting worse, aren't they?

PAUSE

CS Possibly. You might just be having a bad couple of days.

TOM Yeh..

SARAH We have just taken on an allotment, so it's all a bit mad at the moment.

CS That's good. Lots of fresh air and fresh vegetables.

SARAH That's the idea.

TOM (INCREASINGLY ANNOYED) Working wonders, as you can see.

CS Let me answer your question Tom. You were diagnosed with secondary progressive. There's no getting away from the fact that the symptoms you have will get worse, over time.
Now, when did you get your diagnosis? (LOOKING AT NOTES)

TOM Eventually, one year ago.

CS Ok. Now, as you're well aware, the damage that's happening to the myelin around your nerves, this damage is following its own unique path in your body. I can't tell you exactly what's going to happen next. I wish I could.

TOM Yeh.....

CS I've had some patients with secondary progressive and their symptoms have stayed the same, more or less, for 20 years, longer in some cases. Others haven't been so fortunate. But things are moving in the research field. You've got your name down for the MS Smart trial and they are starting to contact people for screening. The decision isn't up to me, unfortunately, but in my opinion you are good trial material.

TOM Thanks.

SARAH How can we make sure Tom definitely gets onto a trial?

TOM (ANNOYED) Oi. This is my MS. Butt out!

SCENE 8. EXT. ON THE ALLOTMENT.
(22nd May – 2 days later)

WINE IS POURED INTO 2 GLASSES.
IN THE BACKGROUND SARAH IS RAKING THE SOIL

TOM Are you ready?
SARAH (FROM AFAR) Not until I have raked the earth to a fine tilth no....
TOM You've been at it all day. This wine needs to be drunk chilled.
SARAH Ok. I'm done. (APPROACHING TOM) You go first.
TOM They're your radishes.
SARAH They're *our* radishes.
TOM. Cheers.
SARAH Cheers.

CLINK OF GLASSES. THEY KISS

To radishes and research trials?
TOM For what it's worth.
SARAH Be positive, Tom.
TOM Knowing my luck, if I did get onto a trial, I'd be the one taking the placebo. Cheers!
SARAH Cheers.(EATS A RADISH)
TOM (EATS A RADISH) Mmm. That is beautiful. You can't beat that radish feeling.
SARAH Mmm. A fresh red hot crunch, for lunch! Nothing better.
TOM I concur Mrs. I concur.

THEY KISS.

SCENE 9.INT. SARAH'S JOURNAL. V/O
(5 weeks later)

SARAH June 30th
 Harvest: A sea of radishes, lettuce and wild rocket

Tom's Radish recipe of the week:
Radish and fennel salad with lemon and olive oil

Seeds sown: Carrots - Purple Haze

Beetroot - Bulls Blood to add to the Red Ace.

More salad (slugs ate most of the first lot)....Suzan, her friend
Lollo Rosa and a whole load of sweet hearted little gems.

SCENE 10. EXT. ON THE ALLOTMENT.

(July 10th 10 days later)

A BURST OF THE AM DRAMS SINGING/REHEARSING 'SUMMER NIGHTS' FROM GREASE, THE MUSICAL.

TOM IS WALKING ON A GRAVEL PATH WITH A WHEELED WALKING FRAME.

TOM 6....7....8....9 Come on wheelie thing. Moveor I'll get my sticks out!

BETH (IN DISTANCE) Yoo hoo.

TOM (TO HIMSELF) O no.

BETH (APPROACHING) Such fecundity you two. Look at all your courgettes.

SARAH (LAUGHING) Thanks Beth. I didn't realise how big the leaves grow.

BETH You've got some black fly on your broad beans. You should pinch out the tops now the pods have set, like so...

BETH SNAPS OFF THE TOP OF A BROAD BEAN PLANT.

...and this will deter the little blighters.
These are delicious. You can use them in salads.

TOM The black fly?

BETH No Tom. Now, I do like your new walker.

TOM Graham wants it first. Wifey here likes it. It stops me falling over.

PAUSE

SARAH What have you got there Beth?

BETH Plants going spare. Runner beans – old variety, Painted Lady. And a few more herbs. Sage and Yarrow.

SARAH Thank you. I haven't got much space left but I'm sure I can squeeze them in.

BETH This one is for you Tom. A cup of Yarrow infusion in the mornings. Doctors orders. It's an anti inflammatory. Very good for your immune system. Keep you strong.

TOM You should tell the papers, get it on the front page. "Yarrow tea, the new miracle cure for MS".

SILENCE

A MOBILE GOES OFF

TOM That's me. Saved by the bell.

HE ANSWERS IT AND MOVES AWAY. HIS CONVERSATION CARRIES ON IN THE BACKGROUND.

TOM (ON THE PHONE) Sandra. Hi.

BETH I'm sorry SarahI didn't mean/

SARAH /(TO BETH) Beth. I need slug help. I have been using pellets because it's easy - the organic ones of course - but as soon as it rains the slugs are out again.

BETH Chapter 5 of the book. Slug pubs.

SARAH Slug pubs?

TOM (ON THE PHONE) Are you sure they want to see me?

BETH Fill empty jam jars with beer. Cheap beer. Nothing fancy. Dig a hole in the earth next to your vulnerable plants. Position the jars so that the slugs crawl in sip on the sweet beer and drown.

TOM (ON THE PHONE) That sounds great. Yeh, I can do that.

SARAH Drowning in beer.

BETH Not a bad way to die.

TOM (ON THE PHONE) Thanks.

TOM (TO SARAH AND BETH) You'll never believe it. You know I went up for that TV comedy thing a while ago. They want to see me again..... for one of the main parts. They're sending the script through.

SARAH That's brilliant! O Tom. O my god. Well done.

TOM I need to sit down. (PAUSE) Beth. Apologies for having a go at your Yarrow tea. I might need some of it before long.

BETH Forgotten. Have a chair. A TV star. On the plot.

SCENE 11. INT. KITCHEN
(July 20th- 10 days later)

A HEAVY WICKER BASKET IS PLONKED ON A TABLE.

SARAH Ok. Cook. What can you do with this beautiful lot. Little gem lettuce....

TAKES THEM OUT AS SHE MENTIONS THEM

..Albert's peas.....another little gem. Lots of Suzan - she's cut and come again so there'll be loads more of her- 'Golden Sunrise' chard, chard, radish.....more chard.
Some sock it to me Rocket.
Little Gem, my firm hearted friend....and....da da.....
10 baby 'Black Forest' courgettes, 2 very small and wrongly shaped purple carrots and a tiny 'Ace' beetroot.
Look at my Bounty. Our basket floweth over.

SHE TAKES A PHOTO WITH HER PHONE.

TOM. Great.

SARAH I'll have to take some lettuces into work, there's so many of them. I could make some more lettuce juice.

TOM I'm sure your clients will appreciate that. Can't get you a decent job but here's some yummy lettuce juice.

SARAH Beth said I should have successionaly sowed.

TOM I need to go over these lines once more. The taxi should be here in a minute. Can you read the other part again. Sorry.

SARAH It's ok. Ready?
(EATING LETTUCE AS SHE READS.)
Do you mean we're going to rob that bank?

TOM We've got no choice. We have got to show this lot in here we're just as good as them out there...

SARAH How am I going to get in? The bank's got steps.

TOMshow people that we are not In.. Valid. Do you get it?
Invalid. In.... valid.

SARAH But we are invalids. I'm in a wheelchair and you've got a spassy walk.

TOM Believe in yourself sunshine.

SARAH Can I wear a balaclava?

TOM Wear what you sodding well like you spass.

SARAH. (LAUGHS) Can they get away with that?

TOM It's not very funny is it.

SARAH You're not going to say that to them are you?
(OFFERS TO TOM WHAT SHE IS EATING) Little gem?

TAXI BEEP FROM OUTSIDE.

TOM Taxis here. (HE GETS UP AWKWARDLY)

SCENE 12. SARAH'S JOURNAL.
(10 days later)

SARAH July 31st
Harvest:
5 Red Ace Beetroot
A bag full of peas
15 Black Forest courgettes

Take a bet on a bucket load of courgettes
Roll 'em out
Count the dots
The spots
The little speckled bits of a gouey
ratatouille....

SPADE CUTS THROUGH THE EARTH

SCENE 13. EXT. ON THE ALLOTMENT.
(next day Aug 1st)

A SUMMER EVENING. A BEE COLLECTING NECTAR FROM A FLOWER. HOT COALS SIZZLING ON A BARBECUE.

TOM This courgette is ready.

TOM LEANS OVER AND TAKES THE COURGETTE OFF THE BBQ

SARAH Careful.

TOM Pass your plate. Quick, quick.....

HE DROPS IT

SARAH Missed, sorry.

TOM You better do this. I'm being useless.

SARAH No problem. It's not as if we're going to miss one courgette. There are thousands of them. Here you go.

SARAH PLACES A COURGETTE ON TO A PLATE FROM THE BBQ

One barbequed courgette.

TOM Look at that. Mmm. Variety?

SARAH Rondo di Nizza.

Toast first. Well done you.

CLINK OF BEER BOTTLES

TOM Please, let us not tempt fate. I haven't got the job yet.

SARAH No, but you've got a second recall ...they must really like you.

TOM I am but a mere actor, strutting around with a wheelie thing.
Let's keep it real eh?

THEY EAT AND DRINK DURING THE SCENE

SARAH (EATING) Mmm. They taste great barbecued. I might enter a yellow one into the vegetable competition. Pass us a broad bean.

TOM (AS HE IS PASSING OVER A POD) Funny looking vegetables aren't they? When they're growing they look like willies on sticks.

SARAH They're much tastier than willies on sticks.

TOM Pass us another beer. (DROPS IT) Shit.

SARAH It's ok.

TOM Shit.

SARAH It didn't break amazingly. Here you go.

PAUSE

TOM Thanks.

SARAH All we need is the sea, and we could be on holiday. Old Bob's shed here could be our beach hut, and the bed of courgette plants could be palm trees. The leaves are big enough.

TOM They look like big hairy spiders.

SARAH (HITS HER ARM) Midges are out.

TOM What I'd give for a swim in the sea, before my legs give out.

SARAH You're not allowed to say that.

TOM Sorry.

SARAH I tell you what. If you do get this job, if...

TOM If....

SARAH If, I know..... and if it pays a shed load of money, why don't we move to Cephalonia, buy a big house by the sea and become olive farmers?

TOM (LAUGHS).

SARAH I wonder if Mr. Bludbones is still alive.

TOM With his bottomless bottle of Uso. He must be long gone.

SARAH We could dig the earth and tend the olives. You could swim as much as you wanted – and take interviews of course because you'd be a famous actor by then. We could maybe have a kid or two if we felt like it and I could get on with my novel.

TOM (LAUGHS) The never-ending novel by Sarah Medway.

SARAH Well I never have time to write it do I.

TOM Too busy trying to convince us jobless wasters that we're worth something. And, you are forgetting the issue of my sclerotic body.....might get in the way a bit.

SARAH. Be positive Tom. You'll get on to a drugs trial and they'll discover a cure and a way of reversing the damage and you will get your legs back. No MS.

TOM. Ah. But. I'm a famous 'disabled' actor. If I'm cured then I'll be out of work. You haven't thought of that one.

SARAH O well. You'll just have to join the Am Drams then. Take Graham up on his offer.

TOM I'd rather have a multiply sclerotic body thank you. Pass us the salad.

SARAH PASSES THE SALAD AND THEY CONTINUE EATING

SARAH Whoever called it Multiple Sclerosis needs shooting.

TOM That's what it is. Sclerosis; I've got scarred nerves.

SARAH Yeh, but there are other horrible diseases with nice names.
(PAUSE) Parkinsons? Motor Neurone? They're inoffensive.

TOM (LOOKING) Where's my phone. Parkinsons was named after
the doctor who discovered it right.
(LOOKING ON THE INTERNET USING HIS I PHONE).
Can't get a signal here.

SARAH You can by the PSB. Here I'll do it.

GOES 200 YARDS TO PSB AND TYPES INTO SEARCH ENGINE ON
PHONE

TOM What does it say?

SARAH (WALKING BACK FROM THE PSB) Multiple Sclerosis was
discovered and named by.....Doctor Jeane- Martin Charcot... in
France in 1868. Sclerose en plaques translated into English as
Multiple Sclerosis.

TOM Charcot 1868.

SARAH Charcot's disease.

TOM Sounds like a fine wine.

SCENE 14. INT. V/O SARAH'S JOURNAL.
(Aug 10th- 10 days later)

SARAH August 10th.

Tom's courgette based meal of the week:
Starter: Courgette and mozzarella salad with chilli and mint.
Main course:
Courgette and pea fritters with a Rainbow Salad - grated raw
beetroot and carrot, with a garlic and chilli yogurt tarragon
dressing, with deep fried courgette flowers on the side.
Desert:
A slice of moist chocolate and courgette cake with a dollop of
icecream.

SCENE 15. ON THE PLOT.

(Aug 15th- 5 days later)

TOM IS BANGING NAILS INTO WOOD AGAIN.

TOM Time for tea. And a wee..... There's nobody looking is there wheelie thing?

TOM STANDS UP AND UNZIPS HIS FLY AND WEES ON TO THE COMPOST HEAP AND HE WHISTLES WHILE HE WEES.

Good source of nitrogen for the compost.

AS HE DOES HIS FLYS UP AND TURNS HE LOSES HIS BALANCE AND STARTS TO FALL INTO THE COMPOST HEAP.

No.....

HE FALLS INTO THE COMPOST AREA. THE WALKER GOES FLYING. HE TRY'S TO GET HIMSELF UP.

GRAHAM (FROM AFAR) Hey lad. (COMES OVER)

TOM Bollocks.

GRAHAM Here. Take my hand.

TOM Thanks. I need the...

GRAHAM Your walker's here lad. It's right here.

TOM Sorry Graham. I was just watering the compost, if you know what I mean.

GRAHAM Eh, yes.....I do it all the time, no need to apologise.

TOM I'm Ok now. I do need to sit down.

GRAHAM You need to be careful. We've got a TV star on the plot. We need to look after him.

TOM SITS IN THE CHAIR

TOM I haven't got the job yet.

GRAHAM All safe now lad.

TOM Thanks.
Your flowers are looking great Graham.

GRAHAM Decorative Dahlias. They're coming on nicely now the weather's better.

TOM The bees love 'em I've noticed?

GRAHAM The bees. The hummingbirds. The butterflies. The ladies. Everyone loves a Dahlia.

PAUSE

TOM Don't tell Sarah, Graham. That I fell.
She'll only fuss.

GRAHAM Whatever you say lad.

SCENE 16. INT. SWIMMING POOL.

TOM DIVES INTO WATER AND SWIMS UNDERWATER. WE HEAR MUFFLED VOICES/SOUND FROM ABOVE THE WATER. TOM RISES UP FOR AIR AND BREATHES HEAVILY.

SCENE 17. INT. V/O SARAH'S JOURNAL. (12 days later)

SARAH

August 27th
Harvest:
20 All Green Bush courgettes
25 Chard leaves
30 of Albert's peas
And an armful of dirty beetroot....
They look like
Dark golf balls with tails
And taste of perfumed earth.
They are Red as Bull's blood
With a dirty girth.
Hit a beetroot and it may ache.
It may bleed.
But it's 'ard.
It ain't gonna break.

SCENE 18. EXT. A CARPARK.
(Sept 10th – 2 weeks later)
CAR DOORS ARE OPENED.

SARAH I'll drive.

TOM I want to drive.

SARAH Are you sure. The physio worked you hard.

TOM Walking up and down a corridor with lots of old biddies watching.
"Oo his legs are getting worse aren't they Gladys".

SARAH She said you did really well. And the OT said/

TOM /The OT. What a nonsense profession that is. I can still do my buttons up. Great! Give me the keys. It's one thing I can still just about do. So if you don't mind, I'd quite like to do it.

THE KEYS ARE HANDED OVER.

SARAH I'll take the walker.

TOM Thank you.

SCENE 19. INT. A CAR. (follows on)

THE ENGINE IS STARTED.

SARAH Have you phoned your agent today?

TOM I don't want to talk about it.

PAUSE

SARAH Have they said no?

TOM I haven't heard anything yet but it is probably 'a no'.

SARAH You haven't had a definite no?

TOM No. I haven't had a definite no.

SARAH How do you know it's a no then?

TOM It's been weeks. I'm obviously bottom of the list. I told you not to get excited. End of story. Ok.

CAR STARTS TO GO.

TOM What's for tea?

SARAH I don't know. There's a fridge full of....

TOM Courgettes. I fancy meat. A big juicy steak with chips and gravy.

SARAH Fine.

TOM I'd quite like a day off from eating fodder, if that's alright.

SARAH You could make a big meat and vegetable pie. There's some pastry in the freezer. Any leftovers we can take to Whitby at the weekend.

TOM /Didn't you hear me. I don't want any courgettes, any chard, peas, beetroot, lettuce.

SARAH There's no lettuce left now anyway. It's all gone to seed.

TOM My foot was dragging like a wet rat in there.

SARAH Slow down, Tom.

PAUSE

TOM Do you know what I really want to do?

SARAH What.

TOM When I've eaten my steak and chips I want to drink beer, like a slug, till I piss myself. Is that alright? (PAUSE) Maybe we could try and have some sex later, if you're interested.

SARAH What?

TOM Hasn't been that long has it? It's exercise. I'm sure the physio would be right behind us. Not literally, of course.

SARAH You're being an idiot!

TOM Let's not talk about sex. Let's talk about vegetables!

SARAH You do need to look after yourself. You might still be in the running for this job. You haven't heard anything yet.

TOM I said I don't want to talk about it!

SARAH And then there's the trials.

TOM (ANGRY) 'The miracle cure'! It's not going to suddenly cure me getting on to a trial.

SARAH I know that. God, you don't need to get so angry.

TOM Don't I?

SARAH It's a waste of your energy.

TOM Is it.

SARAH You should be using it to ...

TOM What?

SARAH To do.... constructive things.....

TOM Like what?

SARAH There's a car coming Tom, you can't turn yet.

TOM Swimming?
Knocking nails into a compost bin?

SARAH Tom. There's a car coming!

TOM HAS TO BREAK SUDDENLY.

TOM Sorry. Sorry. (TO HIMSELF) Concentrate. You idiot.

SPADE DIGGING INTO THE EARTH.

SCENE 20. EXT. ON THE PLOT.

(12th Sept – 2 days later)

RAIN. SARAH ROUTING THROUGH BROCCOLI FOLIAGE.

SARAH (SHE IS PICKING OFF CATERPILLARS AND DROPPING THEM ON THE GROUND)

10, 11, 12.....12. PAUSE You are all going to die!

SHE SQUASHES THE CATERPILLARS UNDER HER BOOT
A ROBIN SINGS.

Mrs. Robin. There are caterpillars here for you. Here, look, eating all the leaves of my broccoli plants.....(SHE STARTS TO CRY) come on, don't just look at me, come down here and pull your weight.

BETH (FROM A DISTANCE) Yoo hoo.

SARAH (TO HERSELF AMID TEARS) O God.

BETH (APPROACHING) Is that Sarah? Amid her foliage?

SARAH (SNIFFING) Beth.

BETH (EATING PEAS) Have a pea. There is nothing like a freshly podded pea. For lifting the spirits.

SARAH No, thanks....I'm awash with peas.... and courgettes.

BETH Have you been you crying?

PAUSE

SARAH NO. No..... I've...er.. just got my angry face on from killing caterpillars.

BETH Ah. You're fighting a losing battle. The best thing to do is to net them. In the Spring. The cabbage white butterflies can't lay their eggs.

SARAH Right.

BETH (STILL EATING PEAS. PASSES HER A TISSUE) Have a tissue. Here. You're covered in muck and snot. Not very becoming.

SCENE 21. V/O SARAH'S JOURNAL (Same day)

SARAH

September 12th.

Harvest:

Courgettes - of every single variety
and two bucket loads of Prince Albert Peas.

Sshhh!

Just eat a Princely Pea
Tear. And fill your mouth with seed.
Feast, feed
Till your cheeks are padded out with podded peas.
No need to utter a word.

Pop out the peas into
A sea
.....of dribble green.

SCENE 22. EXT. THE SEASHORE AT WHITBY.
(Sept 17th – 5 days later)

THE SOUND OF WAVES ROLLING IN AND OUT.

TOM (COUNTING) 5..6..7....(SHOUTING) The sea!

SARAH (SHOUTING) The sea....it's so big!

TOM (SHOUTING) The big sea!
Come on, let's get closer....1...2.....3...

SARAH Probably not a good idea Tom? Not with wheelie thing.

TOM Chicken. You're the one who's dragged me here for the day.
Come on we're English. It's a rubbish day, but you *will* stay on the beach, and shiver your nuts off! Come on.

SARAH You have drunk nearly a whole bottle of wine.

TOM Look, the sun's coming out.

THE SOUND OF THE SEA.

SARAH (LAUGHING) The big round sun. PAUSE Where do you think that ferry's going?

TOM Hull?

SARAH Romantic.

TOM Then on to Rotterdam probably, and then the world is your oyster. Where do you want to go?

SARAH How about scuba diving in Sumatra?

TOM I can't do that anymore, can I.

SARAH Yes you can. We'd be on the Equator. Loads of sunshine, lots of Vitamin D.

TOM I've already got the lurgy. There's no point sitting me in the sun now. Pass us one of your pebbles.

SOUND OF PEBBLES BEING TAKEN OUT OF A POCKET.

SARAH These are beautiful.

TOM That's the sea that's done that. The constant in and out.

HE SKIMS THE PEBBLE ACROSS THE SURFACE. HE NEARLY FALLS OVER.

SARAH Careful. You nearly went then.

TOM That was crap. I need one with a sharper edge.
(IMPATIENTLY) Come on.

SARAH Alright. Try this one.

TOM SKIMS THE PEBBLE.

TOM Yes !

SOUND OF THE WAVE

SARAH This has got to be done.

SHE TAKES OFF HER SHOES AND SOCKS AND GOES FORWARD INTO THE WATER.

TOM That's not fair. I want to do what you're doing. Take my shoes off.

SARAH ...O my god, the water's freezing....

SHE SPLASHES OUT

TOM Take my shoes off. Now!

SARAH HELPS TOM TAKE HIS SHOES AND SOCKS OFF.

TOM (LAUGHING) Get a move on.

SARAH (LAUGHING) OK. Are you holding on?

TOM I need to get closer. 1,.....2.....Are you ready for this wheelie thing?

SARAH I warn you it's freezing. Here it comes....

SOUND OF THE SEA ROLLING ONTO THE SHORE

SARAH (TOGETHER WITH TOM) Ahhh

TOM (LAUGHING) Ahhh. That's freezing. Why didn't you warn me!

SARAH We're in the sea!

TOM (SHOUTS) We... are in.... the big.... sea!

SARAH Hold on.

TOM Stop fussing.

PAUSE

SARAH O my God.

TOM What?

SARAH I think the tide's coming in. Yep. We need to move back.

TOM (TRY TO MOVE HIS WALKER) I don't think wheelie thing is going anywhere.

SARAH What do you mean?

TOM He's sunk. Into the sand.

SARAH What?

TOM (LAUGHS).

SARAH Tom...

SHE TRIES TO LIFT IT. IT MAKES A SQUELCHING NOISE. IT'S STUCK IN THE SAND.

It's stuck. Wheelie thing is completely stuck.

TOM (LAUGHS).

SARAH Tom, why are you laughing? It's not funny.

TOM I quite fancy a swim.

SARAH We do need to move.

(SHE IS TRYING TO LIFT WHEELIE THING.)

It's not going anywhere.

TOM We'll have to stay here then. Not a bad way to go, eh wheelie thing? We could be the new Flotsam and Jetsam. Introducing to the stage, for a limited run only..../

PASSERBY /(SHOUTING IN THE DISTANCE) Hello!

TOM ...until the rot sets in.....Flotsam and Jetsam.

PASSER BY (GETTING CLOSER) Are you OK? Do you need some help?

SARAH Tom, you need to lean on me.

PASSER BY (APPROACHING) Do you want a hand? It looks like you're in a bit of trouble there.

SARAH Thank you. Yeh...um.... well, the walker's.... stuck

PASSER BY Tides coming in pretty sharpish.

TOM We were having a paddle.

PASSERBY It just needs a good yank, I reckon.

SARAH Right.

PASSERBY I'll take this side shall I?

SARAH Thanks.
PASSERBY After three?
SARAH One, two, three....

THEY PULL. A SQUELCHING NOISE.

TOM It's not budging.
CHILD (DISTANCE) Daddy!
PASSERBY (SHOUTING TO CHILD) Rory! Stay there. Daddy's coming.
 (TO SARAH AND TOM) Another tug?
SARAH I'm sorry about this.
PASSERBY Don't worry. I've got my eye on him. He's busy with his sandcastle. After three. 1, 2, 3. Pull.

SQUELCHING SOUND.

This thing isn't going anywhere. They have got special beach wheelchairs up there you know.
I can go and get one for you. Let the lifeguard know/
TOM /You won't get me in one of those. I'm a cripple, yes, but I'm not a proper cripple!
SARAH Let's have one more go.
TOM Unless you were thinking of pushing me into the sea.... then I might consider your offer.
SARAH 1,2,3....

THEY PULL. SQUELCHING NOISE. THE WAVES ARE STRONGER.

PASSERBY You don't want to end up in the North Sea. It's freezing.
TOM All the better.

CHILD Daddy! Daddy! I've finished it daddy.

TOM (HE NEARLY FALLS OVER.) Whey hey!

SARAH Hold on to me Tom.

TOM I am.

PASSERBY (SHOUTING) Well done Rory...(TO TOM AND SARAH) One last go?

SARAH (TO PASSERBY) Please, you're soaking. I'm so sorry. Don't worry about us. Your son....

TOM He wants to join us for a swim.

CHILD Daddy!

THE CHILD AND PASSERBY EXCHANGES OVERLAP WITH TOM AND SARAH ARGUING

PASSERBY (SHOUTING) You keep guard of the sandcastle Rory.

SARAH This is stupid. Let's just walk back Tom. There are two of us.

PASSERBY (TO TOM AND SARAH) Good idea. One on either side. We can support you.

TOM I'm not leaving wheelie thing.

PAUSE

SARAH That's ridiculous.

PASSERBY The lifeguard's on his way.

TOM I'm not sitting in a wheelchair. I'm not leaving wheelie thing stuck in the sand. You'll have to drag me kicking and screaming/

CHILD (FROM AFAR) Come and look Daddy!

PASSERBY (SHOUTING) I'm coming.

SARAH /Shut up Tom. Just shut up!

SCENE 23. INT. THE CAR. (follow on)
THE CAR DOORS SHUT.

SARAH Tom.

TOM Don't touch me. Can we go home please. Whose stupid idea was it to come to the sea.

PAUSE

SARAH I didn't mean to shout at you.

TOM You don't deserve any of this. This. This! (HITS OWN BODY.)

SARAH Tom?

TOM Why haven't you left me?

PAUSE

SARAH I don't want to leave you.

TOM God, I'm so sorry.

SARAH For what?

TOM For ruining your day out. For having Multiple Sclerosis. I'm so sorry.

SARAH It's not your fault.

TOM Isn't it?

SARAH Of course it's not your fault.

TOM Whose fault is it then? I must have done something wrong.

SARAH You haven't done anything wrong.

PAUSE

TOM That bloke thought I was an idiot.

SARAH No he didn't.

TOM My own immune system doesn't like me. It's attacking me like I'm some alien.

PAUSE

SARAH It's bad luck Tom. (PAUSE) Let's go home.

TOM He should have pushed me into the sea that bloke. Shoved me into the waves.

SARAH You don't mean that. You're upset.... about the job....

TOM I don't care about the job.

SARAH There'll be other jobs, *and* we will go on holiday somewhere warm in the winter.

TOM If my legs don't pack in before then/

SARAH /we'll get lots of sunshine on a paradise island somewhere.

TOM My hands are going, I drop things all the time, I do my buttons up wrong. My hands have started to tremor, like an old person. That's what happens you see. The nerves stop working. The messages stop getting through.

SARAH We're seeing the consultant next month. It's not long until this trial and we/

TOM /My trusty friend here has stopped working for sure. No movement there. Haven't you noticed?
(cont...) The Viagra doesn't even work anymore. I can't provide you with any fresh Leeson sperm I'm afraid.

SARAH That doesn't matter

TOM Doesn't it?

SARAH No

TOM I can't get it up!

SARAH Tom

TOM (LAUGHS) What? Are you embarrassed?

SARAH No I'm not embarrassed.

TOM I can't give you what you want.

SARAH This isn't the right time to talk about this....

TOM Isn't it?

SARAH It doesn't matter Tom!

TOM Doesn't it?

SARAH (ANGRY) Ok. Ok.

TOM What?

SARAH (ANGRY LAUGHTER) I will leave you..... I'll go and pick up some bloke, shall I? - off the street probably - and just get his sperm....

TOM Good idea.

SARAH ... I don't need to know his name or anything I just need his sperm, because that's the only thing I care about isn't it? I don't care about *you* Tom.

TOM That's more like it. Why would you? I'm a waste of space.

SARAH Yes, a complete waste of space.

TOM I'm only going to end up as an incontinent mute anyway. An old vegetable sitting in a chair with my mouth stuck open, staring at the wall.

PAUSE

SARAH That's not going to happen to you Tom.

TOM That's what it does to you.

SARAH That's not going to happen to you!

TOM How do you know? It's my MS.

SILENCE

SARAH I need something to eat. Are you hungry?I think there is some food left in the back...

OPENING AND LOOKING IN HAMPER

We didn't eat everything. There's some.....pea and beetroot salad? Do you want some?

PAUSE

TOM No Thanks.

SCENE 24. INT. SWIMMING POOL.

TOM DIVES INTO WATER. SWIMS UNDERWATER.

HE CAN HEAR MUFFLED VOICES/NOISES FROM ABOVE THE WATERLINE.

HE RISES UP FOR AIR AND BREATHES SHARPLY IN.

SCENE 25. V/O SARAH'S JOURNAL (next day)

SARAH September 18th

Harvest: One yellow prize courgette

A basket full of stringy runner beans

Run take a running jump Runner Bean
You are giant tough I have never liked you
Stop growing for a moment please take a rest
Enough.....

SPADE CUTS THROUGH THE EARTH.

SCENE 26. INT. A KITCHEN. (Sept 19th - next day)

TOM (TO SARAH) Morning.

SARAH (SHE IS LATE AND LOOKING FOR CAR KEYS) Morning. You are making the fritters for the party aren't you?

TOM Yep.

SARAH Use the perch stool if you get tired. I've already podded the peas.

TOM Yes Miss.

SARAH Are you sure you don't want to come?

TOM Why would I want to go to a flower and produce show. No.

SARAH Where are the car keys?

TOM On the table.

SARAH Here.

TOM What are you doing?

SARAH (ADJUSTING HIS BUTTONS) You've done your shirt up wrong.

TOM Have I?

SARAH I've sorted it, don't worry. See you later.

TOM Sarah.

SARAH What?

TOM You've forgotten your *prize* yellow courgette.

SARAH (ANNOYED) Oh....Thanks.

SHE GRABS THE BAG AND RUNS OUT.

SCENE 27. INT. KITCHEN (Later same day)

RADIO ON IN BACKGROUND. SOUND OF FRYING.

TOM

(SINGING) 15 courgette and pea fritters sizzling in a pan, 15 courgette and pea fritters sizzling in a pan. And if 1 courgette and pea fritter should accidentally fall.....that's you done mate...(HE PUTS THE DONE ONES ON A PLATE) ...there'll be 13 courgette and pea fritters sizzling in a pan.....what happened to 14.....Come on hands, wake up. You're frying with hot oil don't get lazy on me now.

HIS HANDS TREMOUR AND SHAKE VIOLENTLY AND HE DROPS THE SPATULA ON THE FLOOR AND BURNS HIS HAND ON THE HOT PAN.

Shit.

RUNS HIS HAND UNDER COLD TAP.

You useless sod!

THE RADIO IS PLAYING AN UPBEAT INAPPROPRIATE TUNE OR LAUGHTER ON A PANEL SHOW

Useless....

IN A FIT OF ANGER HE PUSHES THE RADIO OFF THE BENCH.

SCENE 28. EXT. ON THE ALLOTMENT. (Later that night)

A PARTY. LAUGHTER AND CHATTER.
DISTANT MUSIC BEING PLAYED ON A SITAR.
THE CRACKLE OF A BONFIRE.

GRAHAM Mr Tamwar has got his sitar out. He does it every year.

TOM Good old Mr. Tamwar.

GRAHAM One first prize rosette and a trophy. That's what I usually get and that's what I got this time. And the ladies got a first.

TOM Yeh, the ladies told me. Well done Graham.

GRAHAM You should have come along. Great way to end the summer.

TOM Should have done. Yeh.

GRAHAM My decorative dinner plate Dahlias did me proud.

TOM A good title for a song that.

GRAHAM (SINGS) Decorative dinner plate dahlias.

TOM Very Noel Coward.

BETH (COMING OVER. SHE IS A LITTLE DRUNK.) Here you both are. Smug looking Graham and darling Tom.

SARAH (DRUNK.) What a beautiful evening. Isn't this lovely. All the allotmenteers getting together and having a good time.

BETH The midges are starting.

GRAHAM The little beggars.

BETH Your pea and courgette fritters have all gone Tom. They were delicious.

SARAH You should have made more. Used up all the courgettes..

TOM Maybe I should have done.

SARAH Now we've got a fridge full of runner beans to get through. I don't really like runner beans, Beth to be honest.

BETH Best eaten young, like most things. You've already opened it Tom. Well done. Have you hurt your hand?

TOM Ah it's nothing.

BETH Wine will make it better.

WINE IS POURED INTO A GLASS.

SARAH I would like to draw everyone's attention to our compost bin.

TOM Why?

SARAH We now have a beautiful compost bin....the most beautifulst compost bin in the world. (GOES TO HUG TOM.) Thank you.

TOM I banged a few nails in. It's hardly rocket science.

BETH Time for a toast. Here is to valley allotments. And our plate of prize winning veg.

SARAH Our prize blinning bedge. (SHE LAUGHS)

THEY DRINK.

GRAHAM And don't forget my Dahlias.

SARAH O Graham. And Graham's Dahlias. I'm sure it was my yellow courgette that swung it - surrounded by a sea of princely peas. We came first Tom. Can you believe it. I've never won a rosette before in my life.

TOM I know you've told me.

BETH When are we going to see you on the television then Tom?

GRAHAM I've told all the Am dram lot.

TOM I didn't get the job.

SARAH Tom....

BETH Oh.

SARAH You nearly got it. They really liked you.....you got down to the last 3....

BETH That's very good.

SARAH It is isn't it....

TOM A progressive disease. Not a viable option really when it comes down to it. Nothing to invest in is there. By the time the second series comes around I'd be ready for the knacker's yard.

SARAH You are not allowed to say things like that.

TOM Why not?

SARAH Because...you are not allowed to say things like that/

TOM /Why not?

SARAH It's not....

TOM What?

SARAH It's not true. That's why.

TOM Somebody who's lost their leg in an accident. A nice amputee, that's what they'll have gone for. Stable and reliable.

SARAH You're being silly Tom.

TOM Am I?

SARAH You're being very silly. You never know what's round the corner. You never know/

TOM /Wow. wow. That's really original.

PAUSE

SARAH (ANGRY) I am trying to be helpful.....Don't ...don't speak to me ...like that. Don't. (SHE HAS TO LEAVE) Excuse me.

TOM (CALLING AFTER HER) Cheers but there's no hope for this crip-ple. Not even for the Paralympics.

SILENCE

BETH Tom. You are a git sometimes, if you don't mind me saying. This is Sarah's day. A celebration.

SILENCE

TOM More wine anyone?

GRAHAM I'm done me.

SCENE 29. INT. BOTTOM OF STAIRS IN HOUSE. (same night)

SARAH We'll have to take it one step at a time. I'll lift. You pull.

TOM You shouldn't have to do his.

SARAH (SHE HELPS HIM UP EACH STEP BY LIFTING EACH FOOT. HE PULLS HIMSELF UP. THIS REQUIRES HUGE PHYSICAL EFFORT FROM BOTH OF THEM) One..... How else are you going to get to bed?

TOM I'll sleep on the sofa.

SARAH No you won't. Two.....three.....Four! Being drunk gives you amazing bionic powers.....

Five!

TOM (URGING HIMSELF ON) Come on!

SARAH Six! Seven!

TOM (JOINS IN WITH COUNTING) Eight!

SARAH Up the wooden hill. Nine!.....To blanket Fair.

TOM (TOGETHER) Ten!

SARAH Ten! (SARAH ROARS THIS OUT. PHYSICAL EXERTION, RELIEF, ANGER, TEARS. IT'S ALL IN THERE.)

A SPADE DIGGING THE EARTH

SCENE 30. INT. THE KITCHEN

(20th Sept – next day)

BACK DOOR OPENS STRAIGHT INTO KITCHEN.

SARAH STAMPS HER BOOTS.

TOM

There you are. You went out early didn't you.

SARAH

It's a nice day. A good day to start digging. Get rid of the hangover. I brought back some parsley and spring onions...

TOM

You should join the army. They'd love you.

SARAH

I'm digging manure and compost into the lower levels of the soil, to build up the fertility and restore lost nutrients.

TOM

Ah..... and there's me thinking you were digging an escape tunnel. I wouldn't blame you. (PAUSE) I'm so sorry. I was a git last night.

PAUSE

SARAH

Let's have a nice breakfast. I could murder some scrambled eggs with... spring onions, and parsley.

TOM

I think I can manage that.

TOM STRUGGLES UP USING HIS WALKER.

SARAH

Is there any post?

TOM

Over there.

SARAH

You said you'd start on the shed this week. We need to sort it out - chuck most of the stuff - before it gets too cold.

PAUSE

There's a draw full of old Bob's porn mags in there.

TOM

Now there's an incentive.

SARAH LOOKING THROUGH THE POST

SARAH Gardening mag. There's an article about bee keeping in it...

TOM Yeh, I know.

SARAHa letter here for you. It's from the hospital. The trial hospital. Why haven't you opened it?

RATTLE OF POTS. DROP TO THE GROUND.

SARAH I can do the eggs if you want. Don't worry.

TOM (ANGRY) I can make scrambled eggs. It's not difficult. You just break the eggs in to a bowl whisk them up and heat them in a pan. A simple task, even for spassy MS man. You don't have to do everything for me. Pussy footing around me like some lackey. I can open my own letters. Just leave me to get on with it. Go out and dig...or whatever you're doing. ...

SCENE 31. INT. SWIMMING POOL.

TOM DIVES AND SWIMS UNDERWATER. MUFFLED NOISE IS HEARD. HE COMES UP FOR AIR

SCENE 32. EXT. ON THE PLOT.

(Sept 25th – 5 days later)

WIND IN THE TREES.

A SPADE CUTS INTO THE EARTH. EARTH IS LIFTED. A SPADE CUTS INTO THE EARTH AGAIN.

GRAHAM (FROM A DISTANCE) Morning Sarah.

SARAH (OUT OF BREATH FROM THE DIGGING) Morning Graham.

GRAHAM (FROM AFAR) Leaves are on the turn. Keep on digging girl.

SARAH (TO HERSELF) Keep on digging.

SCENE 33. INT. V/O SARAH'S JOURNAL.

A SPADE DIGGING THE EARTH COULD EXTEND UNDER THE V/O
(Same day)

SARAH

September 25thst.

Harvest: 2 courgettes
The leaves are going mouldy now
– the big hairy spiders –
with their hollow legs - stuffed full of nothing.

Tom's recipe of the day: Beetroot, ginger and cream soup.

Today I have been digging
Pushing down on the spade
To break the soil.
Lifting the soil.
Breaking the soil.
Pushing down on my spade to break the soil
Lifting the soil.....breaking
The.....
(UPSET) Pushing.....

SCENE 34. EXT. ON THE ALLOTMENT.

(Oct 1th – 6 days later)

**THE GATE CLICKS OPEN. TOM STRUGGLES WITH HIS WALKER
TO NEGOTIATE THE PATH.**

TOM Come on wheelie thing. Get yourself in there.

SARAH (DISTANCE) Tom!
(APPROACHING) Am I glad to see you. I'm going digger crazy out here.

TOM Thought I'd get off my backside and start sorting out old Bob's shed.

SARAH Great.

PAUSE

TOM I didn't just come for the porn mags by the way.

SARAH (LAUGHS) I should hope not.

SCENE 35. INT. THE SHED. (Follow on)

SARAH Now this chair is more comfortable.

TOM Ok. You don't need to fuss. You get out there and finish digging. I brought a flask. More beetroot soup I'm afraid. Only allowed some when you've finished.

SARAH You can turn the heater up here if you get cold.

TOM This gardening mag's good. Did you know that in China they send armies of poor underpaid drones out into the fields, with little brushes, to hand pollinate all the crops. All the bees and other insects have buggered off.

SARAH There's the answer to unemployment then. I could send all my young jobless clients on pollinator training courses.

TOM Yeh, but the catch is if you want to be a pollinator, you have to dress up as a bee and make buzzing noises. Buzz.

SARAH (LAUGHS)

SILENCE

TOM They want to see me for the trial, by the way. The hospital. They want to consider me.

SARAH Tom. That's good news.

TOM Is it?

A SPADE CUTS THE EARTH.

SCENE 36. INT. THE SHED.

A KNOCK ON THE SHED DOOR.

(Follow on)

GRAHAM

(FROM OUTSIDE) Anyone home?

SOUND OF SOMETHING BEING SHOVED IN A DRAWER

TOM

Graham.

GRAHAM

I'm off to rehearsal now for the Christmas review. Are you sure I can't tempt you? It's not too late.

TOM

I'd be useless. What are you playing?

GRAHAM

Father Christmas, on a Harley Davidson this year.

TOM

Wow.

SCENE 37. EXT. THE PLOT. (Follow on)

SARAH IS OUT OF BREATH. DIGGING THE EARTH WITH A SPADE.

BETH (FROM AFAR) You hoo!

SARAH (OUT OF BREATH.)

BETH (AS SHE LEAVES) An infusion of lavender in your bath tonight, and a big glass of wine. You deserve it. And if you are still here in the morning I shall have you physically removed!

THE AMATEUR DRAMATICS CHOIR START SINGING/
REHEARSING MEAT LOAF'S 'BAT OUT OF HELL' IN THE BACK-GROUND.

SCENE 38. INT. IN THE SHED. (follow on)

BAT OUT OF HELL CONTINUES.

TOM That can go.

CHUCKS AN OLD TIN INTO A BOX.

You racy thing Graham. Meat Loaf?

OPENS A DRAWER

These porn mags can go.....disgusting habit.

SCENE 39. EXT. ON THE PLOT. (follow on)

SARAH DIGGING THE EARTH WITH A SPADE.

THE SINGING OF 'BAT OUT OF HELL' CONTINUES.

SARAH

(SHE IS OUT OF BREATH AND SINGS ALONG.)

Gotta be damned you know I wanna be damned

Dancing through the night with you.....

SCENE 40. INT. THE SHED. (follow on)

BAT OUT OF HELL IN THE BACKGROUND.

TOM

Be a good boy Tom, have a stretch. Come on wheelie thing.

GETS UP AWKWARDLY.

TOM

(JOINS IN WITH THE SONG) Like a bat out of hell
I'll be gone when the morning comes
When the night is over
Like a bat out of hell I'll be gone gone gone....

SCENE 41. EXT. ON THE PLOT. (follow on)

SARAH DIGGING THE EARTH WITH A SPADE.

SONG BEING SUNG IN THE DISTANCE.

DURING THE SONG A LOUD CRASH IS HEARD.

SARAH

Tom?

SHE THROWS DOWN HER TOOLS.

SCENE 42. INT. THE SHED. (follow on)

SARAH Tom. Can you move?

TOM I don't know.

SARAH Have you hurt your head? Is anything hurting?

TOM No. No. I don't think....

SARAH Can you get yourself up?

TOM (HE TRIES.) My legs just went from under me.

SARAH Let's clear all this rubbish.

TOM Where's that magazine?

SARAH Lean on me. That's it.

TOM I can't move.

SARAH I'll try and drag you onto this chair. Ok? It's low enough it might work.

TOM (DURING THIS SCENE TOM GETS MORE DELIRIOUS. HE HAS A FEVER) I'd pay good money to see old Graham singing Bat Out of Hell wouldn't you?

SARAH I've moved the chair as close as I can get it.

After three. Ready.

TOM You're not going to do this. I'm too heavy.

SARAH Yes we will.

TOM Just leave me.

SARAH One....

TOM Leave me here, in this rotting old hole.

SARAH Stop being dramatic. Two, three.....Heave!

TOM That hurts.

PAUSE

SARAH (STOPPING HERSELF FROM CRYING) I can't do this. I'm not strong enough.

TOM What did I tell you.

SARAH I could go and get Graham.

TOM No. I don't want Graham.

SARAH I'm sorry Tom. I shouldn't have made you come out here. Badgering you to get off your backside and help me...

TOM I can't even do that properly. Maybe I should just join the Am Drams and call it quits...

SARAH Don't be ridiculous.

TOM It's curtains for you sonny.

SARAH I don't know how to get you up Tom.

TOM I said, leave me. I'm a diseased runt.

SARAH You're not a runt Tom.

TOM A stunted runt.

SARAH I'm going to have another go.

SHE MOVES THE CHAIR.

TOM I've just pissed myself.

SARAH It doesn't matter. I can use some of this.

SARAH RIPS PAGES OUT OF THE MAGAZINE AND WIPES UP THE WEE.

TOM (BREATHING MORE HEAVILY AND QUICKLY)

It says in that magazine that you can adopt a beehive.

SARAH I'm going to try using this scarf to pull you up.

TOM You can adopt a beehive in Africa.

SARAH (SHE FEELS HIS FOREHEAD)

You're really hot Tom. You're burning up.

TOM Please don't cry.

SARAH Let me try and tie this scarf round your waist. It might be easier to pull you up.

TOM Buzzzzzzz

SARAH TIES A SCARF AROUND TOM'S WAIST.

SARAH Why are you making that noise?

TOM DOES NOT ANSWER.

Tom?

TOM (HIS BREATHING BECOMES HEAVY)

SARAH Another go. Come on.

SARAH HAS ANOTHER GO AT HOISTING TOM UP.

SARAH Come on! (IT DOESN'T WORK.) Tom?

SILENCE

Tom I'm getting an ambulance.

(RIFFLES THROUGH THE BAG)

Where's my phone?

(UPSET AND ANGRY) This isn't meant to happen to you. Tom.

Don't go to sleep. Have some water Tom. Drink something.

Some soup. Some beetroot and ginger soup.

Stay awake.

TOM (HEAVY BREATHING)

SARAH Come on. Where is it? Where's the phone?

LOOKS INSIDE THE RUCKSACK FOR THE PHONE.

(UPSET) This isn't meant to be happening to you. I don't want this to be happening to you. I love you Tom.

SHE HAS FOUND THE PHONE AND IS PHONING 999.

Found it. Stay awake Tom.

TOM (HEAVY FAST BREATHING.)

TOM HOLDS HIS BREATH AND SINKS DOWN INTO WATER.

SCENE 43. INT. THE SHED. (follow on)

TOM'S HEARTBEAT IS HEARD.

WE HEAR THE FOLLOWING SCENE FROM TOM'S POINT OFVIEW
AS IF HE IS UNDERWATER. MUFFLED VOICES /NOISES ARE
HEARD - WITH CLEAR WORDS COMING IN AND OUT TO GET
SOME SENSE OF WHAT IS GOING ON.

THIS SEQUENCE SHOULD CLARIFY THE PREVIOUS SWIMMING
SEQUENCES AND THE MUFFLED VOICES/NOISES; THEY ARE
PREMONITIONS OF THIS MOMENT AND CHART THE INEVITA-
BILITY OF TOM'S MS DECLINE.

SARAH (ON THE PHONE) We're on the allotments off Simpson Lane. Yes.....he's still breathing..... No he's not bleeding. It's not easy to get an ambulance here.vehicle access is tricky at this end.we came on a foot path from our house 34 Lyson Street.... yes.....the access is on Simpson Street.

IN THE BACKGROUND. SOUND OF A SIREN. MUFFLED.
(half hour later)

PARAMEDIC Don't worry love.

SARAH Is he going to be alright?

PARAMEDIC Let's have a look. What's his name?

SARAH Tom.

PARAMEDIC Tom? Can you hear me Tom? Tom?

SCENE 44.INT.

IN THE FOREGROUND OF SCENE 43 IS SARAH'S JOURNAL V/O
(written a few hours later in the hospital)

SARAH

Oct 5th.

I'm pushing down and I'm lifting I'm pushing and I'm
Lifting I'm pushing and I'm lifting

There she is. Scared as hell.

The lunatic digging woman.

They found her buried in the earth

Fossilised in the act of digging

What was she doing?

I'm pushing down and lifting pushing down and lifting

I'm moving muck, buckets, horse shit

stone....

Breaking the soil... for the worms.

She is crazed as a box of frogs.

A mouth full of worms and muck

There she is

PAUSE

In the dark.

SILENCE

SCENE 45. INT.

**SILENCE BROKEN SUDDENLY BY TOM COMING UP FOR AIR
FROM BEING UNDERWATER. DESPERATE FOR AIR. HE
BREATHES HEAVILY AND LOUDLY. CUT TO SILENCE.**

SCENE 46. EXT. ON THE ALLOTMENT.

(Oct 14th - 2 weeks later)

**SARAH PUSHES TOM'S WHEELCHAIR ALONG THE PATH.
A ROBIN'S SONG.**

TOM I think Mr. Robin's here.

SARAH There she is. Keeping herself warm. All puffed up look.

TOM Get the Krupnik out then. I've been dying to taste this.

PULLS THE TOP OFF THE HIPFLASK.

Homemade Krupnik. Just like the Poles make it.

SARAH What's in it then?

TOM Lots of spices, a few herbs – courtesy of wise Beth, sweet honey from Mr Tamwar's bees - so it's good for you – and vodka.

(TAKES A SLUG.) Ooo. It'll hit you hard that.

SARAH (TAKES A SLUG. CHOKES.) Mmm. Blimy. That is beautiful. Warms the very cockles of my heart.

TOM Not bad is it.

SARAH Are you warm enough?

TOM I've got a blanket over my knees, like an old man. I can drink as much as I like now. I don't have to worry about staggering home.

PAUSE

SARAH We shouldn't stay out too long. Look at the PSB. Some of it's nearly horizontal.

TOM Where's all the broccoli bits?

SARAH If won't be ready until the Spring - if we get any. It says in the book you're meant to stake it. To keep it upright.

PAUSE

TOM At least there's no courgettes left.

SARAH Thank the Lord.

SILENCE

TOM Sarah.

SARAH Yeh?

TOM Thanks.....

PAUSE

SARAH For what?

TOM Thanks for picking me up from the hospital.

SARAH My pleasure.

SILENCE

Tom.

TOM Yeh.

SARAH I'm scared.

PAUSE

TOM I'm scared too.

PAUSE

SARAH Come here.

THEY EMBRACE AND KISS

A ROBIN SINGS.

TOM Cheers. What a sod eh?

SARAH Yeh. What a sod.

THEY CLINK GLASSES.

END