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# **WHERE THIS SERVICE** **WILL SEPARATE**

**by**

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Where This Service Will SeparateKatherine JakewaysScene One

*A crematorium full of people listening to a eulogy. The odd movement of feet, or reaction. Possibly even the odd blowing of a nose. We come in towards the end. During the speech, we hear someone entering at the back. It's a crowded room, and he's trying to find space in a pew.*

1.	Gareth	(we fade up on him reading a eulogy from a sheet) ...and by then of course we were the leading sprocket provider in north Oxfordshire, so already riding a wave... And that was the same week we got the call to say we'd won the contract with ARC Foods. A happy and memorable time in all our lives. And that lunch break we celebrated the winning of the contract with, surprise surprise, one too many beers...
2.	David (whispering)	Sorry... Could I just... sorry... I'm just going to... if you don't mind... could I possibly...if there's space...
3.	Gareth (still going)	...and then had to get through the scheduled conference call to Belgium. Our final afternoon together as a team. Of which we'll all have fond memories of. Even more bonding perhaps, than the orienteering weekend in the Brecon Beacons I detailed earlier. Great days. Rest in Peace, mate. From all of us at Schillinghams.
4.	Celebrant	Thank you Gareth. Touching memories of the working life of the man.... And I'd now like to ask Susie... Frank's widow... to come forward with one or two remembrances of her own.

*Possible clearing of throat from David, as Susie comes up to the front.*

5. Susie

Thank you. Erm, yesterday I started to make a plan for what I wanted to say. Writing it all out and everything on the computer. But actually I decided... because I wanted to... it feels a bit more real... to just say how I'm feeling. As I stand here. I'm not just coping out because I couldn't think what to say, I'm actually... speaking from the heart. Hopefully. So firstly... widow, is such a... horrible word. Actually. I mean, I don't want to make it about me. Because today isn't about me. It's about Frank. But I think "widow" implies... grief, obviously. Which is right. A kind of loss, which... actually I do feel. Desperately. So maybe that's fair enough actually. But also... when you're married to someone... when you spend your life - a portion of your life - with one person, and have children... raise children... two beautiful children... with somebody... (*losing the thread a bit*)... there isn't anything... beginning to wish I had written it down now, actually, as it's turned out... there isn't anything, which bonds you more. The children thing. And Frank and I... met very young. He was a beautiful young man actually - there are photos up somewhere on a bit of card, if you get a chance to look at them... they'll be at the house later, if not. But he had a full head of hair when we met! And he laughed an awful lot. We laughed together. We always laughed. I remember one time the cat brought a mouse in. Just after we were married. And we were trying to chase it out. The mouse. And we were hopeless! It was scampering about. Frank going one way. Me going the other. Right round the kitchen, and into the hall... and we were just laughing and laughing! And swearing at each other. And then the cat came through the back door and pounced on it and killed it. Well half killed it. I mean it was... there was some flailing and a bit of... (mouse impression) surprising amount of blood... and actually... (realising she's lost them) Well it doesn't sound as funny now, but... there were lots of other times we laughed too. Which didn't involve mouse entrails. Anyway we were happy. He was a good husband. And a wonderful father to Lucy and Josh. Who are... Well we're getting through it together, aren't we? The three of us. It feels... I mean we're not getting through it yet, actually. It's very... We can't believe it. It's just... Anyway thanks for coming. Thank you. We've been- Sorry about the mouse impression. I'll write some notes next time, for sure. Not that there'll be a next time, will there? Because he's... (gets choked up) Some people just read a poem don't they? Or a sonnet or something. I should've done that, probably... I should've done that. Anyway, I think they're... are you?... Yes, they're going to close the curtain now. So...

*Music starts to play. It's the theme tune to Ski Sunday. (or if we think that's too comedy, maybe Another One Bites the Dust by Queen or I'm Still Standing by Elton John)*

6. Susie (as the music starts she comes back on the mike)  
Frank always said he wanted this. I didn't choose it. I mean we did wonder if he was joking actually, but anyway... this is what he said, so...

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Scene Two

*The funeral's finished. Music playing. (Probably a different track now) People are beginning to file out. A mourner (Pam) comes over to Susie.*

7. Pam Oh Susie...

8. Susie Hi Pam. Thanks for coming.

9. Pam Of course we came! What a lovely speech.

10. Susie Well, world's worst funeral speech.

11. Pam Not at all. Not at all. I'm sure there've been loads worse. Oh, we just can't believe it.

12. Susie No, we're finding it hard to-

13. Pam Two weeks ago on Tuesday, I saw Frank. I worked it out. So, what exactly-

14. Susie Are you coming to the house Pam?

15. Pam As if we wouldn't! Do you need...? I don't know... Dips? Wine glasses? Trying to think of other things you'd need...

16. Susie It's under control, I think.

17. Pam Because Frank wasn't... for the last few months... was he...? He wasn't actually living at the house....? So I noticed when the... what do we call him? He's not a vicar, is he...? When the...

18. Susie Celebrant.

19. Pam ...introduced you as his widow, I noticed-

*Suddenly...*

20. David Hello. Hello there.

21. Susie Oh! Oh! I didn't-

22. David Sorry, I didn't know if... But I wanted to...

23. Pam I'm Pam.

24. David Hi.

25. Pam Desperately sad day...

26. David Awful...

27. Susie Well look, we ought to-

28. Pam Are you a... relative? Colleague?

29. Susie No! No, no. He didn't even-

30. David Friend. Of the family.

31. Pam Really? Well, see you at the house, I expect...

32. Susie No! He's not going to-

33. David I'm leaving... Going back to London. But I didn't want to go without-

34. Susie Listen, sorry Pam, Lucy and Josh are over there, and I don't want them to get stuck with... there are a lot of people I ought to... Sorry...

35. Pam (leaving) I'll leave you to it, shall I? You're in demand...

*Pam goes.*

36. Susie (hissing at David) My children are here!

37. David God, I'm sorry. I'm not... I'm leaving. Right now, in fact. But I got here a bit late, and I didn't want you to...

38. Susie What?

39. David Be on your own.

40. Susie I'm not on my own!

41. David Are you ok?

42. Susie I'm... No! Obviously.

43. David Sorry. Obviously.

44. Susie You never met Frank!

45. David But I met you. And I wanted to... support you. People come to funerals... for support, don't they? To support the living.

46. Susie The bereaved, you mean. The widows. I'm Frank's widow. So what does that make you?

47. David Well what does it make us both? (beat) Sorry. Just trying to make us a team. Bit clumsy of me... under the...

48. Susie We're not in this together.

49. David No, I know.

50. Josh (arriving) Car's here, Mum.

51. Susie Oh Josh! Yes, sorry darling. I'm coming. Are you ok? Is Lucy ok? We're all ok. (to David). Right, bye then.

52. David Bye.

53. Josh Were you a mate of Dad's?

54. David No no. I wasn't. I mean I hear he was a very nice man. So I expect we'd have been... in other circumstances. But I'm a friend of...

55. Susie He's just a friend. An old friend.

56. David I'm sorry about your Dad.

57. Josh Cheers.

58. David And I mean the turn out doesn't change anything, obviously. But...

59. Josh Good turn out.

60. David Good turn out.

61. Susie (to Josh) Come on sweetheart... You're doing brilliantly. Next bit now...

62. Josh (to David) Are you... coming to the house?

63. Susie No!

64. David Well, no...

65. Susie He's leaving.

66. David I'm leaving.

67. Josh We've got 5 million sausage rolls.

68. David Well, I'd only eat 4 million probably, but...

69. Josh It's for everyone. Isn't it, Mum?

70. Susie Well, not actually every-

71. Josh Dad would've wanted everyone. You know where to...?

72. David The house? Well I do remember, yes...

73. Susie You've hardly-

74. Josh See you there then.

75. David Yes, ok. See you there... (to Susie) Will I?

76. Susie Oh for God's sake...

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Scene Three

*Susie's house. Lots of people milling around and speaking in slightly hushed tones. But also, booze flowing...*

77. Susie We should've had it at the pub.

78. David No, it's perfect.

79. Susie I said we should. They do the food. And the clearing up. And now I have to- Steve! Come on in! Can I take your... Frank would've been delighted that... well, you know what I mean. Not delighted, but... There are drinks... and everything... in the... lots of people have been very kind. (He's gone). Oh God.

80. David Look, you go and circulate.

81. Susie Suddenly some kind of hostess...!

82. David I'm ok. You've got people to-

83. Susie I know you're ok.

84. David I won't talk to anyone. If you don't want me to. Or if I have to, I won't say...

85. Susie Just play down the friend thing.

86. David Old colleague?

87. Susie Ex neighbour?

88. David Long lost cousin?

89. Susie Just don't say anything! God, why did you come?

90. David I didn't plan to, actually. I just got in the car this morning. I've been desperate all week. Since you called... that first night... when the police had-

91. Susie I shouldn't have called you.

92. David I'm glad you did! I'm so glad. You were in a-

93. Susie I was a mess.

94. David Of course you were. So... Frank.... what actually...?

95. Susie I just called you. Without thinking.

96. David And I've been... it's all I can think about. I can't concentrate-

97. Susie Well sorry it's been hard for you.

98. David I don't mean that! That's the point, isn't it? If we're...dating...

99. Susie We're not cheerleaders from the 1980s!

100. David Well I don't think I am, certainly. I mean, maybe you could carry off the-

101. Susie We've had one dinner! Which was...

102. David It was lovely.

103. Susie It was lovely.

104. David And I mean, before that... it wasn't as if... We're not strangers.

105. Susie That's exactly what we are! Meeting once on a train makes us strangers.

106. David And then the-

107. Susie You can't just keep turning up! We were supposed to have stopped all that. The surprising each other. Supermarkets... Offices... And now... Frank. Which I can't even... And we weren't together! Me and Frank! We didn't even... he wasn't living here... But people think... I mean we hadn't hidden that we'd split up... but what do you do? Send out cards? You don't advertise it if you're trying to be apart, you're just apart. And the kids keep saying we'd have got back together.

108. David Would you?

109. Susie No! I don't think so. Well especially not after you and I had... our date.

110. David Which I enjoyed very much.

111. Susie Oh so did I. Anyway, they can think that now can't they? They can tell themselves forever that if their Dad hadn't... then we'd have just... happy families. Look, I've got to go- all these people... I need to find the kids...

112. David Did you... before you go... I just wanted to ask you something. I mean I feel silly even mentioning it, but I did think... I mean, it was one of the reasons I thought I'd... as I was setting off this morning... and the thing is, I don't suppose you had a chance to.... that book...

113. Susie What book?

114. David The one I lent you. Do you remember? The detective one. Set in Chicago. I thought you'd... And I wondered if you...

115. Susie David, I haven't been reading books!

116. David Of course not. But I don't suppose... it's not... handy?

117. Susie My husband's just died!

118. David Yes of course. Of course.

119. Susie This is his funeral party.

120. David I'm sorry.

121. Susie I mean, it's not a party. Exactly. It's his... what do you call it...?

122. David Wake?

123. Susie Reception?

124. David After... party...

125. Susie Whatever it is, I'm not thinking about books.

126. David Of course not. Of course not.

127. Susie What I'm mainly thinking about is finding a drink.

*She walks away.*

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Scene Four

*Little while later. David is standing, slightly awkwardly, chatting to Gareth from earlier...*

128. David ... well, yes, I drove up from Chiswick...

129. Gareth "Up"?

130. David Is it "up"? Yes, up... from Chiswick.

131. Gareth Right. London, is it?

132. David That's it. West London. Good old M40.

133. Gareth I don't know it.

134. David Well, I mean it's just a... motorway. Sort of... carriageways and a central-

135. Gareth. Chiswick. I don't know Chiswick. Or London. I couldn't live in London. Terrible place.

136. David Right. Well it's not for everyone.

137. Gareth Friend of Frank's were you...?

138. David Well yes. Just an old... I mean I guess you'd say drinking buddy... of sorts. We did bits of work together. So, colleagues. Plus I was an ex-neighbour. And we often wondered if we... I mean family connections... we just didn't know. Terrible shock of course. Anyway. I might just... Great speech. Earlier. Really got me.

139. Gareth Right you are.

*David escapes. We hear him wandering through the busy house, looking for Susie. Josh is there suddenly. He's been crying.*

140. Josh Oh. Ok...?

141. David Just looking for the bathroom.

142. Josh Upstairs on the right.

143. David Thanks.

144. Josh Are you... ok? Sorry. Stupid question.

145. Josh Hasn't stopped people asking me it all week.

146. David Well people are idiots. Generally speaking. Best to ignore the lot of them.

147. Josh Right.

148. David My Dad died when I was 16.

149. Josh I'm 17.

150. David Well I'm not saying...

151. Josh So you're the winner.

152. David Oh excellent. I might get a T shirt made up. Anyway, you don't get over it. Whatever anyone's telling you. I don't know if they still say that now, do they? Everyone's probably a bit more... these days... more clued up. Anyway, sometimes it's as painful as 30 years ago. I still miss him. But it's painful less often, probably. If that's any help. And missing him's less... of a surprise. More familiar. Sorry, none of my business.

153. Josh It's just it was... quick...

154. David I know.

155. Josh It's huge. Dying.

156. David It's the hugest. (Pause) My Dad wasn't quick. In any way. Took forever. Sorry... talking about my own Dad again.

157. Josh (smiling) Yeah, this is my grief we're on about.

158. David It was all that stuff about me being the winner. It made me go a bit... You're doing amazingly I think. You're here at least. You were handing round crisps earlier.

159. Josh I was eating them mainly. I've been in bed for 3 days.

160. David Well quite right. And you can go back to that tomorrow. But you're doing amazingly today.

161. Josh Cheers.

162. Susie Oh Joshie, Lucy's looking for you.

163. Josh I thought she was Face-timing Alfie.

164. Susie She's in the garden. Go and see if she's...

165. Josh Ok. See you.

*Josh goes*

166. Susie What are you doing? What are you saying to Josh?

167. David Upsetting him. Telling him a few home truths. Explaining my sexual feelings for his mother. I was talking to him.

168. Susie Ok.

169. David Listen... sorry to be.... I know it sounds... And I know it's not top of your.... but, that book... from before...

170. Susie You're not actually asking about that again?

171. David No! No no no. Only-

172. Susie For God's sake David. It's like that joke about the paint.

173. David Don't think I know it.

174. Susie Yes you do... when the guy... I mean it's exactly like you actually...the guy at the funeral says to the wife "so sorry to hear about your husband... terrible news etc... but did he say anything about a tin of green paint?" (beat) I mean, I think there's probably more to it. At the beginning.

175. David Well I didn't mean to-

176. Susie I lent it to Frank. Your book.

177. David Did you?

178. Susie A few weeks ago. I thought it sounded up his street.

179. David And did he read it?

180. Susie I've no idea! What's the matter with you?

181. David I just... It wasn't mine. To lend. And I wanted to... just have it back, that's all.

182. Susie Well I'm sorry Frank died before he had a chance to do you a book review.

183. David Look, don't be silly. Just... I don't suppose you know where he might have-

184. Susie He wasn't cremated with it. If that's what you're worried about.

185. David No, obviously...

186. Susie I mean I can see it's important to you. And maybe you should leave instructions for your own funeral when it comes to it. You could have it in your...

187. David Don't be silly. Don't be silly. (beat) I mean, my funeral's irrelevant at the moment while we don't even know where the book-

188. Susie David!

189. David I'm going to leave.

190. Susie Yes, good. It's probably upstairs.

191. David What?

192. Susie Your bloody book. All the stuff from Frank's flat. It's in the spare room. I'll look at some stage.

193. David Ok. Great. Yeah. (beat) Or I could...? I mean... if you know roughly where it is, I could maybe...?

194. Susie Are you serious?

195. David It's just it was... You're right. I'm being ridiculous. I'm leaving.

196. Susie No, come on! If you really mean it. If you actually want me to go trawling through my dead husband's stuff for your book. I mean I can do...

197. David No don't be silly. Of course not. I wouldn't dream of asking. Wouldn't dream of it.

Scene Five

*They're searching through boxes in the spare room. Sounds of the party still happening downstairs.*

198. Susie I mean it's ridiculous. It could be in any of this stuff.

199. David Let's leave it. Don't worry.

200. Susie I've got his toothbrush. I've got his pants. Didn't think I'd see those again.

201. David Like old friends.

202. Susie I've got... about 500 other books. And oh!

203. David What's that?

204. Susie Look. When the kids were little. We were in Scotland somewhere.

205. David Goodness.

206. Susie It was freezing. Absolutely freezing. And wet. I'm not sure we enjoyed it, actually. Not most of the time. But that was a pub we stopped at. And anyway...

207. David It looks like you were enjoying it there.

208. Susie It does, doesn't it? Yes, we were actually. We were.

209. David God, I'm sorry. About this. Well all of it actually. But today more than anything. Turning up like some kind of maniac. But I felt so terrible when you rang. After the police and everything. You sounded so...

210. Susie I hardly remember.

211. David Yes, you sounded like you might not. But I wanted to be with you. Immediately. When you're speaking to someone every day... Like we were. After the dinner and everything. And I was feeling we might... well, stupid of me probably. And selfish. But then suddenly this. And the police. And I felt...well, lots of things... when you rang me. Desperately sad for you of course. And shocked. I mean, almost like I'd met him. I felt desperate. But also furious with him. If I'm honest. Just as we were getting started. After all the mucking about. And also proud. In an awful way. That you phoned me. That I was the one you phoned. And obviously I've stayed away. This last couple of weeks. I wouldn't have dreamt of.... you had Lucy and Josh and everything... but I wanted to be here today. To support you. Just to be with you. Because you want to help, I suppose...

212. Susie Yes.

213. David ...when you're falling in love with someone...

214. Susie What?

215. David I'd better-

216. Susie Coming to my actual house at my actual husband's funeral? And making it all about you by falling in love with me! What does that even mean! We hardly know each other!

217. David I just mean that... you understand, don't you?

218. Susie You lied to me! When we first met. You said your wife was dead. And she wasn't even dead! But now all this! Now Frank! And you're turning up in my actual house! Staying stuff like that! And I-

*She cries.*

219. David I'm sorry. I'm sorry. Come on.

*She kisses him.*

220. David Oh goodness. You're very good at that. We're really very good at that.

*They carry on kissing.*

221. Susie You've got to go. You've got to... Everyone's downstairs! All the people! And all Frank's stuff! We mustn't-

*They kiss again.*

222. Susie What the hell's going on?! An actual funeral! My husband's funeral!

223. David Well, you were separated. Technically. You weren't together. And this is... I mean it feels... surprising. Certainly. Is one of the things it feels... But not the main one in fact. You haven't done anything wrong.

224. Susie I'm not worried *I'm* behaving badly. You're the one lying about dead wives and turning up in supermarkets and suddenly being there at funerals. You have to leave. I'd like to leave too actually. I'd like to just go. I can't bear downstairs. All the sad faced smiles and the shaking heads. I can't bear it. Could we go? In fact? Just get in your car? Is your car here? Could we get in it and just go? So we stop feeling like this? So you stop making me feel like this! By turning up here with your... suit on... saying lovely things and saying stuff without thinking and kissing. Being kissed. You have to leave. You should leave.

225. David Ok.

*And they're kissing again. This time with a bit more purpose.*

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Scene Six

*A while later. They've just finished having sex on the bed in the spare room.*

226. Susie Oh.

227. David Yes. Oh.

228. Susie I mean that was really very bad.

229. David Always what you want to hear...

230. Susie I don't mean... I really don't mean that. It was actually very...

231. David Oh God, it was...

232. Susie It was SO...

233. David Oh good.

234. Susie I mean, wasn't it?

235. David It certainly seemed to be.

*She kisses him.*

236. Susie But it was... Jesus Christ.... his stuff is all... (tearful) That's Frank's coat. Oh God. It doesn't get much worse, does it?

237. David Possibly not.

238. Susie And he's dead. Frank's dead. He's actually dead. You said Julia was dead. And she isn't. But Frank is. So have we...?

239. David Now, you mustn't-

*Susie starts frantically getting dressed.*

240. Susie Pass me that skirt. And where are my...? It's like that thing about shouting out in the theatre. You always think you could, but you never would. Not in a million years. I mean this is NOT the kind of thing I do! It's not what anyone does! I mean I'd actually be surprised if anyone - certainly not anyone in Banbury - has EVER done this. Not ever. It might be a completely new thing. We might have invented it. I need to... can you do up this zip? It's a nightmare.

241. David It is a tricky one actually.

242. Susie Not the zip, David! The zip isn't the thing that's a nightmare.

243. David Well it is a slight nightmare.

244. Susie It's like you don't know anything about nightmares. Right. Shoes! Where are my-

245. David Here. And the other one's...

246. Susie (putting them on) Where are Lucy and Josh? Oh God. My hair... I've got to... I'm going to...

*She kisses him again.*

247. Susie I can't believe you.

*She unlocks the door, opens it and starts to leave.*

248. David I'm not easy to believe.

*She puts her head back round the door.*

249. Susie Get dressed! For God's sake! Just get dressed!

Scene Seven

*Back at the party. David's coming downstairs*

250. Josh All right? I thought you'd gone.

251. David Nope.

252. Josh Have you seen Mum? No one knows where she is.

253. David Erm... Is she not...? I thought she was down here?

254. Josh Probably trying to avoid Dad's boss, Gareth. Did you hear his speech? He spent about 20 minutes on a deal they made about sprockets.

255. David Ah. No I missed the start. Sadly. Maybe he'll send me a copy to browse later.

256. Josh Don't ask him. He will. He'll have it all saved on a dongle. He might give it to you now.

257. David Well I'm very bad with dongles.

258. Josh Dad would've hated it. I mean he'd probably have laughed about it. Me and Luce were nudging each other all the way through. But Dad wouldn't have wanted his life defined by sprockets.

259. David No fair enough. But we all have to accept that when we're gone there will be stories. I mean that's how you get remembered. Michael Hutchence...

260. Josh Who?

261. David Australian fella. Very popular with the... INXS. Before your time. But they were very... I mean everyone liked them. And Hutchence particularly. Leather trousers and so on. Quite the thing. Proper rock star. But then he died because he... (realising) because he...

262. Josh What?

263. David Well, because he was... I mean... in a hotel room... When he was... it's what gets remembered. Which is... I mean best to forget it to be honest. And not to talk about it. At all. Just forget about it. Brian Harvey! That's another one. When he goes... I mean let's hope it's not for years and years, but-

264. Josh Sorry?

265. David Brian Harvey. Before you were born too probably, but he was a popstar once upon a time, who ran himself over. While eating a jacket potato.

266. Josh Ok.

267. David I mean it's a complicated story, I should think. Poor man. And he was fine! But when he does go... when that sad day comes... no matter how many hits he's had...

268. Josh How many has he had?

269. David God knows. I've no idea about his hits. He was in a band. Quite successful I think, as these things go. East 17...

270. Susie (*arriving, singing, had a few more drinks*) Baby if you've got to go away. Don't think I could take the pain. So won't you stay another-

271. David (joining in) Stay now! That's the fella!

272. Susie Oh don't leave me alone like this. Don't say it's the final kiss...

273. Josh Mum.

274. Susie Won't you stay another... Stay now!

275. Josh Mum.

276. Susie Stay now! (*realising herself*) Brian Harvey. Ran himself over whilst eating a jacket potato.

277. David I was just explaining to Josh! You can google it, Josh. Google Brian Harvey potato.

278. Josh Yep. I'll definitely do that.

279. David (*under his breath*) Don't google Michael Hutchence.

280. Susie What?

281. David Never mind. Anyway lovely chap, Brian Harvey, almost certainly. String of hits. The potato's how he'll be remembered.

282. Josh (*leaving*) I'm going to get another drink.

283. Susie Yes, fair enough. I've had another couple.

284. David I quite wish you'd come along earlier when I was being comforting.

*They're on their own.*

285. Susie What might happen now?

286. David I don't know.

287. Susie I mean I think all bets are off, aren't they? After that. Upstairs.

288. David What, because it was...nice? Or because you feel guilty?

289. Susie I think I feel guilty it was nice.

290. David So it was nice?

291. Susie I feel...

292. David Yes, so do I!

293. Susie I can't think about it.

294. David I suspect I might think about it a bit.

295. Susie So will I, actually. Oh God, this doesn't happen, does it? Not to me. I was normal before I met you on that train. And now look. I could do anything after that. I could stand on that table and sing a song. Or just start screaming. I mean, I might, actually. I might. I could actually just-

296. David No, Susie! Susie!

297. Susie I mean the chair's a bit... it's always been wobbly but.... if I can actually... then I really might-

298. David Susie!

*A crash. Susie cries out.*

299. David Susie!

Scene Eight*Few minutes later*

300. Susie Can you tell everyone to stop looking?

301. David Just sit down. Just sit there quietly.

302. Josh Nobody's looking, Mum. It's ok. They're all pretending to look at something else.

303. Susie I'm ok. I'm ok. Oh Joshie...

304. Josh What were you doing?

305. Susie I'm sorry, darling. Come here. Come here. Give me a cuddle.

306. Josh What's she doing?

307. David It's a difficult time. I think we're all feeling it.

308. Susie Lovely to have a cuddle...

309. David Yes, that'll... (to someone else) She's ok. Yes, she's ok. Anyway.... Josh, I'm just thinking... Just standing here thinking... Did you happen to see a book that your Dad was reading...?

310. Susie Oh my God.

311. Josh A book?

312. Susie You're still talking about it!

313. David A paperback... picture of Chicago on the cover. I was just... your Mum thought your Dad was reading it...

314. Susie For God's sake, David.

315. Josh I don't know what he was reading.

316. Susie Sorry Josh. David's leaving. (as she leaves) I'm just going to show him out.

317. David Yes, bye bye.

318. Josh You've been leaving all day.

319. David It's that kind of day!  
 320. Susie David!  
 321. David Take care Josh...

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### Scene Nine

*In a quiet corner of the hall...*

322. Susie Come on. What's going on?  
 323. David Well it's just that... ok, it's not just the book. It had a note in it.  
 324. Susie What note?  
 325. David I gave the book to you at dinner. With a note in. It was supposed to be a... god, I'm hopeless at this, aren't I? I should've flagged it up more. It was supposed to be a thing you'd find. That night ideally. After our evening. On the train home or whatever. The book's set in Chicago.  
 326. Susie You said that. But you didn't mention a note.  
 327. David I thought you'd open it! The book. At least open it on the way home. And see the note inside. I mean the book itself was... it's a good book... slightly goes off at the end to be honest, but the first, I'd say, third, is very good indeed.  
 328. Susie Well I'll bear that in mind. Now what about the note?  
 329. David I've got a new job.  
 330. Susie Oh have you?  
 331. David That's what the note said. Says. Said. The job's in Chicago.  
 332. Susie Right.  
 333. David It's a big project. Partly the opportunity of course. I mean, you're not supposed to say no to opportunities like that. When they're offered. But also, Stella... my-

334. Susie Daughter. I know who Stella is.

335. David She's got a College place. In Chicago. Very exciting. She just found out. And she's going in September. So I ...

336. Susie Right!

337. David Stella's had a few problems, did I tell you?

338. Susie No.

339. David With anxiety and so on. So she needs a bit of support. And Julia's got work she can't leave. I mean, she'd like to. But then this job came up for me. Which seemed... ideal in many ways. So we discussed it. And I said yes.

340. Susie Well that's... good news. You're moving?

341. David And the note was asking you to come. I mean it wasn't the note doing the asking. It was me. Asking you. To come with me. To live in-

342. Susie Chicago?

343. David With me. For a while. Or however long you-

344. Susie I don't know anything about Chicago.

345. David Well I did give you a book to read... But before all this of course. Before any of this. A million years ago. Because I just thought... if you and Frank were separated. And me and Julia were separated. It might be-

346. Susie This is Frank's funeral. His funeral's today. I mean this is actually it. We're at it. We're standing at it.

347. David Yes.

348. Susie The after-party.

349. David Reception.

350. Susie Wake.

351. David Whatever it is.

352. Susie And he... hang on. So the note was in the book?

353. David Yes.

354. Susie Which I lent to Frank?

355. David That's right. I mean, we have covered this.

356. Susie And he... because I thought he'd like it. I'm not actually big on detective novels. I didn't want to say... But Frank loves... loved... he loved that kind of thing. So I... And what did it say? The note?

357. David Well like I say, it was an invitation. To come with me.

358. Susie But was there... in the note...? Stuff about...?

359. David Inevitably.

360. Susie Us? There was stuff about us?

361. David Well I couldn't really ask you to come and live with me... without mention of... at least mention of... the two of us. And our... feelings etc.

362. Susie "Feelings etc"?

363. David Yes, I mentioned those. And our get-togethers. And our phone calls. And our... I mean I may have mentioned the train toilet. And how I'd thought about that. A fair bit. I mean, not the most romantic way to ask someone to move to Chicago with them now I'm describing it, but I like to think I found a... tone for it.

364. Susie So Frank read it?

365. David Well...

366. Susie (panicking) God, when did I give him the book...? Oh come on, when was it...? Well probably that Thursday I suppose... yes - when he was round doing the garden. Which was the same day he... oh God!

367. David What?

368. Susie (suddenly frantic) He'd have been reading it! The day he died! That'll be why he-

369. David What are you doing?

370. Susie We have to go.

371. David Where? Where are you going?

372. Susie I'm not going on my own. This is both of us! Where's your coat?

373. David Now Susie, if we can just... for a moment...

374. Susie Is it on the banister?

375. David Where are we going?

376. Susie We're going to the police. We've been having sex!

377. David Do the police need to know that?

378. Susie Frank was driving his car! In a state of... well distress certainly, as it turns out.

*She opens the front door.*

379. David Now hold on-

380. Susie We killed him.

381. David What?

382. Susie The two of us. We killed Frank. For God's sake where are your car keys?

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Scene Ten

*They're in the car. David's driving.*

383. Susie Are they even open? Police stations? Because when you ring them you have to hold forever, and then get put through. I mean I don't think it's like in films. Any more. If it ever was. Left here! It's left here.

384. David Listen, seriously, I think we need to-

385. Susie They gave me a number and a name, when they came round to tell me. PC somebody. Now where did I... ? Anyway you have to hold, that's the thing. And the sooner we can... I mean I don't know if they'll be able to deal with us straight away, or if we-

386. David Deal with us?

387. Susie Well they question you. I expect. When you hand yourselves in. But do they-

388. David Hand ourselves...? Now listen! Seriously!

389. Susie There! It's there look! Just hover here a sec.

390. David We're not going to-

391. Susie That building with the ramp. That's new actually. That ramp didn't used to be there. But you have to, now. And quite right. Although it takes up a lot of that pavement to be honest. So you- There's a space look! Or is that too small? Can you-

*She opens the car door.*

392. David What are you doing? Susie!

393. Susie (getting out) In case there's a queue. I'll go and get started. That space might be too small actually. But come in once you've parked.

*The door slams.*

394. David No Susie! Oh Jesus. Susie! Susie!

Scene Eleven

*Inside the police station. A few minutes later. David comes rushing in.*

395.      David              Sorry. Excuse me! I just... there was a woman. Who came in. About 10 minutes ago. She was in a bit of a... in a black dress. Or sort of blouse. And skirt. With shoes. And a coat. Also black. Or certainly dark at least. And she... well she's not here now I don't think. So is she...? Did she actually...? Maybe she...

---

Scene Twelve

*Outside in the street. It's raining.*

396.      David              (calling) Susie! Susie? For God's sake. Susie! (pause - *he's rushing down the street - then spots her sitting at a bus stop*) Oh God. (rushes over to her) What are you doing?

397.      Susie              Waiting for a bus.

398.      David              Right. Is this where you...? I mean do you know the timetable?

399.      Susie              No.

400.      David              (sitting with her)  
Ok. Do they have countdowns? Digital countdown things? In Banbury?

401.      Susie              We're not the back of beyond.

402.      David              So how long do you have to wait?

403.      Susie              No idea.

404.      David              Well we'll just sit here then shall we? For a bit...

*Pause*

405.      Susie              You couldn't get your car in that space then?

406.      David              I'm not sure I could've got my foot in it.

407.      Susie              (suddenly crying) I'm sorry.

408. David No, it looked bigger from a distance. It wasn't your fault-

409. Susie Not about the parking space.

410. David It's ok. It's ok...

411. Susie Frank... Oh God, this is real life.

412. David I know. I'm so sorry.

413. Susie I wasn't sure I even liked him recently. I didn't a lot of the time. But now he's... And what about us? Having sex!

414. David Shhhh.

415. Susie At his funeral! Like a pair of... it was...

416. David Terrible.

417. Susie Wonderful

418. David Yes! It was quite wonderful!

419. Susie But also terrible. And now you're going too!

420. David Well not in the same way as Frank.

421. Susie You'll be gone.

422. David You could still... None of this is your fault.

423. Susie The kids... God, I have to go back.

424. David Good thinking. I mean the bus would be... they're unreliable, buses.

425. Susie What the hell am I doing? The sausage rolls! We'll never eat all those sausage rolls.

426. David Oh they always get eaten.

427. Susie We can turn ourselves in tomorrow.

428. David Well I really don't think....

429. Susie After I've cleaned the kitchen. I've ruined everyone's lives.

430. David You haven't ruined mine. The opposite.

431. Susie We caused it.

432. David Well we don't know-

433. Susie And it's all because-

434. David Because nothing.

435. Susie Because I got on that train!

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**Scene Thirteen**

*They're sitting in the car with the engine off, outside Susie's house.*

436. Susie Thanks for driving me back. Hardly any cars now. Thank God. Everyone's gone. Carolyn will have got rid of people. Oh good, Pam's leaving look. There she goes. Won't be the last I see of her this week. If she can find an excuse she'll come back in the morning to sit looking sadly at me.

437. David We should go back in.

438. Susie Yes ok. (*neither of them move. There's a pause.*) He'd been at mine all afternoon. Stupid really, that he still came to do the garden. But it was his garden. He liked doing it. We didn't even talk much, that day. I just took him a cup of tea and he told me... I don't even know... something stupid about the borders. I wasn't listening really. And then he was going back to his flat. And he said he was going to pick up some bread on the way. He said he'd buy a half loaf and I said that was false economy and he said he never got through a full one so I gave him half a loaf I had in the freezer. And he was looking at the book you gave me. It was on the side in the kitchen. And I was trying to be blasé about it... playing it down... so I said I wasn't interested in it. No idea where it even came from I said. Like an idiot. And I told him he should take it. He was quite pleased. Said he liked the look of it. So he went. He was flicking through it on the way to the car. And then on his way home, on the road past the petrol station, someone was coming towards him and they think he was texting. The other guy. Not Frank. So he was swerving towards Frank. And Frank - I mean he'll have been in a state - if he saw that note. And he jerked the wheel. And hit the barrier.

439. David Christ.

440. Susie I wonder if he even had anything in? To have in his sandwich? One minute he was driving home with half a loaf and a plan for an early night. And the next he was... That's what can happen. It's a bit like nearly shouting out in the theatre. Or nearly getting on a train. You can be driving and just jerk the wheel and that's the end of it. So how do you... cope with that?

441. David With knowing that?

442. Susie With the power of it? The absolute gut-punch. That any of us could... at any time... just... couldn't we?

443. David We could.

444. Susie I mean I suppose you either never do anything... Just stay at home and wait for it to happen...

445. David Or you say balls to it and do everything! Just keep doing everything!

446. Susie Frank wasn't saying balls to it. He was going home to have half a sandwich. We have to tell them. Don't we? About the note. I was standing in the queue at the police station... imagining him reading it. It probably fell out. Because that's the kind of thing that happens, isn't it? People driving in a blind rage. Or racing along with tears streaming-

*Suddenly there's a knock on the car window.*

447. Susie Oh my God.

448. Pam Susie? Are you ok?

449. Susie Oh God, it's Pam. (getting out) Hi Pam. Yes fine thanks. Just had to dash to the shops. To pick up...

450. David Some more sausage rolls. You never know. When you might need more.

451. Pam Oh ok. Belt and braces. Only Lucy and Josh were wondering...

452. Susie Are they ok?

453. Pam Well... under the circumstances...

454. Susie (dashing for the house) What the hell's the matter with me?

Scene Fourteen  
*Inside*

455. Susie Lucy? Josh? Hello? Have you seen...?

456. Josh (coming downstairs) Mum?

457. Susie Oh sweetheart. Are you ok? Where's Lucy? I needed some air. I couldn't... I'm so sorry.

458. Josh It's ok. I've been upstairs. Looking at Dad's stuff.

459. Susie Well I'm here now my love. I'm here.

460. Josh (to David) You've still not left then?

461. David Not as easy as you think, as it turns out.

462. Josh I found your book.

463. Susie What?

464. Josh That book you were on about. It was with his gardening stuff and half a bag of manky bread. Here you go.

465. David Oh! Oh yes! That's it! Thanks.

466. Josh Lucy's in the garden with Auntie Carolyn.

467. Susie Is she?

468. Josh I think she's having a fag.

469. Susie Well we'll talk about it later. Don't try to get your sister in trouble.

470. Josh Ok.

471. Susie Love you.

472. Josh (leaving) See ya.

473. David (whispering) Oh! It's here, look! It's here!

474. Susie What?

475. David The note!

476. Susie In an envelope?

477. David Unopened! Unopened!

478. Susie Unopened! You didn't say it was in an envelope!

479. David Well what does it...? Frank didn't read it! He can't have done. It's sealed, look!

480. Susie Oh thank God.

481. David Thank God. Yes. Well... there you go.

482. Susie Thank you.

*We hear her opening the envelope.*

483. Susie Nice note paper.

485. David I bought it specially. Not something you have lying around these days... you always used to... anyway...

486. Susie (reading it)  
Oh. (pause) Oh. That's a lovely bit.

487. David Which bit? Oh yes. I was pleased with that bit.

*Susie reads for a bit longer.*

488. Susie You did find a tone.

489. David Oh good.

490. Susie I can't come with you you know.

491. David I know.

492. Susie I mean I expect Chicago's... And it's a lovely... it's lovely note paper. But my children have lost their Dad. And I've lost him too actually.

493. David Yes.

494. Susie Good luck with your next chapter.

495. David I'm sorry. I wish I didn't have to... Chicago's... well I don't know how many miles it is, but it's...

496. Susie Oh, lots of miles.

497. David Lots.

498. Susie It's ok. It's good actually. Because you won't keep turning up. And nor will I.

499. David Well that feels a shame. But-

500. Susie When are you off?

501. David Quite soon.

502. Susie Well that's best probably. You'll love it!

503. David Yes! And I'll remember our... earlier...

504. Susie Me too. But this is all... I mean you know this is it for us, don't you?

505. David Yes.

506. Susie I won't call or anything.

507. David No that's best.

508. Susie Just.. everything's happening.

509. David Of course. I hope everyone's ok.

510. Susie Thank you.

511. David And you most of all.

512. Susie Oh I'll be ok. Well thanks for coming.

513. David Yes.

514. Susie Safe journey.

515. David I'm sorry for your loss.

516. Susie Yes. Thank you. Goodbye.

517. David You wouldn't...? No.

518. Susie No.

519. David Goodbye.

520. Susie Good luck.

*She closes the door on him. Stay Now by E17 plays us out.*

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THE END

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