

WHOLESOME

By
Georgia Affonso

1 x 45' Drama for BBC Radio 4

CHARACTERS

SALLY OLWEN MAY
LIZZY AMBER GRAPPY
KEELAN/OLLY TACHIA NEWALL
ANGE/GWYNETH SUSAN TWIST
STEVE/GP JASON DONE

Producer:	Lorna Newman
Production Coordinator:	Pippa Day
Technical Team:	Sharon Hughes & Mitch Goodall
Record:	Monday 8 th July & Tuesday 9 th July
Location:	MPAS, Dock 10, Media City UK, Salford
Edit:	M50 10 th /11 th /12 th July
TP:	Sharon Hughes
TX:	Tuesday 6th August 2024 @ 14:15

**This broadcast material is the copyright of the author and may
not be copied or sold.**



Audio Drama North, BBC Production

1 **1. INT – BEDROOM – NIGHT**

2 *Night. A sharp intake of breath.*

3 **SALLY V/O** I wake up around 2am every night, panicking. Sometimes I think I've
4 lost something or I've missed my alarm -

5 If you google 'trouble sleeping' you'll get all this irritating advice
6 about sleep hygiene, which makes me think of unwashed bed
7 sheets.

8 The first thing I try is 'mindful breathing'

9 *SALLY inhales.*

10 In, 2, 3, 4 – hold 2, 3 –

11 *SALLY sighs.*

12 Soon as I start that, I need a wee. So I get up.

13 *A toilet flush.*

14 Then once I'm up, I'm awake.

15 *A crash from downstairs.*

16 **SALLY** What was that? Rosie?

17 No –

18 There is no one else in this house Sally.

19 Or there shouldn't be.

20 *SALLY creaks on floorboards as she walks to the landing.*

21 **SALLY** Hello?

22 **SALLY V/O** I should call 999, but my phone is downstairs because of the sleep
23 hygiene people.

24 *SALLY slowly walks downstairs.*

25 **SALLY V/O** I hold my breath as I open the living room door.

26 *The door opens. Sally sighs.*

27 **SALLY** Nothing.

28 **SALLY V/O** Well not nothing, one of my cactae has been blown off the window
29 ledge onto the carpet.

1 **SALLY** You look like you've had a bad night of it love.

2 Ouch! You bastard.

3 I need that thing that, doodad.

4 **SALLY V/O** **As I walk to the kitchen, I catch myself in the hallway mirror. A**

5 **woman with blood on her pyjamas. She looks confused.**

6

7 **It takes a second for me to clock who it is.**

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17 **2. INT – OFFICE – DAY**

18 *An office of about ten people. Phone's ringing, office chit chat.*

19 **SALLY V/O** **At work, my Christmas cactus still has a few blooms left.**

20

21 **I'll tell you a secret. I stole her, from the toilet of a hairdressers in**

22 **Ashton, had no sunlight poor thing! Popped her into my handbag.**

23 **Now she's thriving.**

24 **STEVE** Alright Sally! You still free at four o'clock for our meeting?

25 **SALLY** Yes Steve. I've told you it's in my diary.

26 **SALLY V/O** **And as a reminder on my phone, and a post-it on my screen, I don't**

27 **leave things to chance me.**

28 **STEVE** Right'o

29 **SALLY V/O** **Steve, my manager, has asked me three times this week about this**

30 **'meeting', he's a useless liar.**

31 **When it gets to 4.00 I grit my teeth because this 'meeting' is almost**

32 **definitely a –**

1 **3. INT – STAFF ROOM – AFTERNOON**

2 *The staff team (around 5-6 people) are gathered around - party poppers, blowers etc.*

3 **STAFF** Surprise!

4 **SALLY** Ooh gosh! What a surprise!

5 **STEVE** Happy retirement Sally!

6 **SALLY** Steve – I told you not to do anything.

7 **STEVE** Nonsense, you’ve been at Deansgate Events Hire, formerly Deansgate
8 Crockery and Logistics for over 30 years. You’ve outlasted everyone
9 here, even my dad, god rest his soul.

10 **SALLY** You’re making me feel ancient Steve.

11 **STEVE** Aww come on! There’s life in you yet! Three cheers for Sally, hip hip –

12 *The celebrations continue below.*

13 **SALLY V/O** **Someone’s made a cake, with Happy Retirement scrawled in huge**
14 **letters.**

15 **Looking at it feels like I’m in a film about someone else’s life.**

16 **STEVE** So tell us, what are your plans once you’re a free woman? Off to join
17 your mum on her travels?

18 **SALLY V/O** **The team love hearing about my mum, Ange, an 80 something**
19 **globetrotter who knows how to voicenote -**

20 **ANGE VOICENOTE** *Hiya love, it’s me, mum. Just letting you know we’re having a great*
21 *time in Florence. Lots of gorgeous muscly men carved out of marble*
22 *and endless bread. I’ll be back in March for my hip operation but the*
23 *Aperols seem to be taking the edge off it for now. Ciao.*

24 **SALLY V/O** **The office call her a ‘legend’. I’d call her a bloody liability.**

25 **SALLY** Um –

26 **STEVE** Maybe a cruise? My dad loved them -

27 **SALLY V/O** **I imagine myself, locked on a giant, floating hotel, getting fat from**
28 **the breakfast buffet and thrush from keeping my swimming costume**
29 **on too long.**

30 **SALLY** I don’t think –

31 **STEVE** The key thing is, you’ve got to keep busy. I remember my friend’s
32 mum. The second she stopped, she changed, she had no purpose see,
33 no need to be alive. Died a year later.

1 **SALLY** Thanks Steve, that's very... motivating.

2 **SALLY V/O** I think of my house and the jobs I've been planning – Rosie and I
3 were going to paint the spare room bright green, her current
4 favourite colour, or maybe it isn't now -

5 **STEVE** Of course, you'll probably be busy looking after -

6 **SALLY** What time are the interviews, Steve?

7 **STEVE** Always on the job Sally! We're going to miss you...

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

1 **4. INT – STAFF ROOM – NEXT DAY**

2 *STEVE shuffles papers. We jump between separate interviews in this scene.*

3 **SALLY V/O** **All my potential replacements look barely out of the womb.**

4 **STEVE** So why do you think you would be the best person to work in
5 Deansgate Events Hire?

6 **CANDIDATE 1** I'm really passionate about working in events –

7 *Jump to interview with Candidate 2.*

8 **STEVE** If a client asked about what they need to hire for a wedding, what
9 would you advise?

10 **CANDIDATE 2** Well first of all I'd point them in the direction of Deansgate Events
11 Hire's Bronze, Silver and Gold Wedding Hire Packages –

12 **STEVE** Great answer!

13 *Jump to interview with LIZZY.*

14 **SALLY** Could you give some more detail about your events experience?

15 **SALLY V/O** **I'm struggling to tell them all apart.**

16 **LIZZY** Um currently, I'm managing youth experiences.

17 **SALLY V/O** **I try to make notes so I remember, 'bad fringe, red top'. For this one**
18 **I've written, 'orange rucksack and toothpaste stain'.**

19 **STEVE** It says here you work for Dino World Ltd?

20 **LIZZY** Yes it's a –

21 **SALLY** Isn't that a soft play centre?

22 **LIZZY** Well it is –

23 **STEVE** So the events you manage are –

24 **LIZZY** Children's birthday parties, um yeah. And I guess I sort of don't
25 manage as much as, perform. As a dinosaur.

26 **STEVE** Oh well -

27 **SALLY** Dino World's a soft play centre isn't it?

28 **LIZZY** Um, yeah, I just said that?

29 **SALLY** I-

30 I know I mean, sorry, so you don't really have events 'management'
31 experience, you've lied here on your application.

1 **STEVE** Sally –

2 **LIZZY** Well, I -

3 **SALLY** Is there any other experience you do have that is relevant to this role?

4 **LIZZY** Er, I, I put on a great 21st for my friend last year.

5 **STEVE** Ok well -

6 **SALLY** Thank you for coming in, Lizzy. We'll be in touch.

7 **LIZZY** Oh ok.

8 Um, thank you for the opportunity.

9 *LIZZY leaves.*

10 **STEVE** Blimey Sally. We've all exaggerated on the odd CV, haven't we?

11 **SALLY** You're not replacing me with someone who works as a dinosaur –

12 **SALLY V/O** **But internally I feel a pang of guilt –**

13

14

15

16

17

18

19 **5. INT – BATHROOM – DAY**

20 *Sally pushes open the door. She washes her hands. Lizzy is crying in the toilets, it gets slightly*
 21 *louder as Sally notices it.*

22 **SALLY V/O** **Since the pandemic I still wash my hands before every meal**

23 **Left hand, right hand, wrists, check nails.**

24 **There's someone in here, crying. It's not the first time, the building**
 25 **has a lot of different businesses, some less friendly than ours. I**
 26 **want to rap on the door, tell them to get away from whichever**
 27 **bullying company makes them so miserable and live their one**
 28 **precious life! God I'm turning into my mother.**

29 **There's an orange rucksack peeking out from the edge of the cubicle.**

30 **It's her.**

31 **I've done this.**

1 **SALLY** Hello? Are you ok?

2 *Lizzy blows her nose.*

3 **LIZZY** I'm fine. Don't worry. Thanks. Just had a bad um, interview.

4 **SALLY** I know, I interviewed you.

5 **LIZZY** Oh -

6 *The door opens.*

7 **SALLY V/O** **She can't be more than 22. What was her name?**

8 **LIZZY** Sorry I must look a total mess –

9 *Lizzy washes her face.*

10 **SALLY** Honestly, I'm so sorry, I didn't mean to be so tetchy in the interview –

11 **SALLY V/O** **Orange rucksack, toothpaste stain –**

12 **LIZZY** No really – you were right, I shouldn't have exaggerated.

13 **SALLY** Would you like a proper tissue? The toilet roll in this building is god-
14 awful.

15 **LIZZY** Thanks –

16 *LIZZY blows her nose.*

17 **LIZZY** Ugh, gross.

18 Sorry now I've forgotten your name, I'm useless!

19 **SALLY** Oh, it's ok! I'm Sally.

20 **LIZZY** Thanks, I'm Lizzy -

21 **SALLY** Please can I buy you a cup of tea?

22 **LIZZY** Honestly I -

23 **SALLY** Please, I owe you, for being a grumpy old mare. Plus, a cup of tea can
24 usually stop a bad morning from becoming a bad day. Trust me.

25

26

27

28

29

30

1 **6. INT – CAFÉ – DAY**

2 *Just ahead of the lunchtime bustle. LIZZY takes a sip of tea.*

3 **SALLY** Better?

4 **LIZZY** Yes, thank you.

5 **SALLY V/O** **Behind her I notice a wilting peace plant.**

6 **LIZZY** I just feel a bit embarrassed to be honest. I was so desperate to leave
7 Dino World.

8 **SALLY** That's understandable -

9 **LIZZY** Sometimes it's not too bad -

10 **SALLY V/O** Her fingernails are bitten down to the nub.

11 **LIZZY** - but the parents they can be so stressy if things aren't perfect -

12 SALLY V/O Part of me just wants to take her to get a haircut, feed her a few good
13 meals, she's wolfed down that brownie -

14 **LIZZY** And then there's the costume.

15 SALLY V/O My eyes stray to the peace plant, they've put it directly above a
16 radiator, what are they trying to do... cook it?

17 **LIZZY** It was only meant to be temporary. My boyfriend and I –

18 **SALLY V/O** My eyebrows rise before I can catch them, I should have known there
19 was a boy involved -

20 **LIZZY** Well ex – we broke up two months ago, and now he wants to go to
21 Thailand to ‘heal’ so I need to move out, but I can’t find anywhere I can
22 afford. I was splitting one room with him and that was a push.

23 **SALLY** Could your parents help?

24 **LIZZY** Well, yeah, I know I should just tell my mum. But she thought it was too
25 soon for us to move in together and I think I might actually die if she
26 tells me ‘I told you so’ – which she definitely would, she wouldn’t hold
27 back on this one.

28 Sorry, you really don't need to hear all this.

29 **SALLY** No please, let it all out! I was young once –

31 [cont.]

1 **LIZZY** Thanks.

2 I, I just feel like I've messed everything up. I thought after uni – more

3 of my friends would stay in Manchester, and we'd hang out with each

4 other all the time but just in a more like grown up, wholesome way.

5 You know like the show Friends, and I'd be the Monica and make

6 everyone incredible meals.

7 **SALLY V/O** **I remember that awful canned laughter as I cooked dinner in the**

8 **kitchen.**

9 **LIZZY** It's just that Olly and I don't fit together like Chandler and Monica and

10 all my friends have gone to do masters and are travelling and now I'm

11 just stuck –

12 **SALLY V/O** **I picture the spare room, empty, free – some noise, laughter in the**

13 **house again -**

14 **LIZZY** Part of me thinks I should just get back together with him so I can afford

15 to rent.

16 **SALLY** What?

17 **LIZZY** Loads of women have stayed with men not because it's what they

18 want romantically, it's a sensible financial decision.

19 **SALLY V/O** **I remember the five years Derek and I lived together while secretly**

20 **separated. But that was different.**

21 **LIZZY** I think, yeah, I think if I've not found a house-share by Friday I will get

22 back together with him.

23 **SALLY** You could live with me?

24 **LIZZY** What?

25 **SALLY** I mean –

26 **SALLY V/O** **I sound insane.**

27 **SALLY** Sorry, I know that must sound strange. I just mean, I have a spare

28 room, no one is using it.

29 **LIZZY** That's so kind I –

30 **SALLY** Lots of people I know have had lodgers! And you read about the

31 housing crisis and you just don't know how to help. I mean, I only own

32 a house because of the Right to Buy scheme, I don't know how your

33 generation are meant to afford it – and renting, I mean there are no

34 controls anymore, it's ridiculous, so if it would be useful -

35 **LIZZY** Can I think about it?

1 **SALLY V/O** **She's trying to be nice but I've pushed too far.**

2 **SALLY** Honestly it was just a silly suggestion. It's just I have a spare room,
3 that's all.

4 **LIZZY** I probably couldn't afford it –

5 **SALLY** We could work something out, or you could contribute to the gas or
6 electric or something if you wanted. Take my card -

7 **LIZZY** I've really got to run, I'll think about it. Thank you so much for the tea
8 and brownie, this has been the nicest bad interview ever.

9 **SALLY V/O** **I watch her as she goes.**
10 **Just for a second, I'd imagined it, another person in the house again,**
11 **someone to look after.**

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19 **7. INT – TRAM – AFTERNOON**

20 *The tram is crowded. People on their phones.*

21 **TRAM ANNOUNCER** This is a Tram to Rochdale Town Centre, the next stop is Freehold.

22 **SALLY V/O** **2 more stops. I won't miss this, bodies pressing against each other**
23 **on the tram. I try to protect my new peace plant from getting**
24 **crushed.**
25 **How pathetic Lizzy must have found me – I don't know what got into**
26 **me. She probably thought I was completely –**

27 *SALLY's phone starts ringing.*

28 **Unknown number.**

29 **SALLY** Hello?

30 **LIZZY** *(On phone)* Did you really mean it, that I can move in?

31 **SALLY** Of course.

32 **LIZZY** *(On phone)* How soon?

1 **8a. INT – FLAT – EVENING**

2 *LIZZY is packing her stuff.*

3 **OLLY** It just seems a bit sudden is all.

4 **LIZZY** We've been broken up 2 months Ol – did you buy this lamp?

5 **OLLY** Yeah, but you can have it. How much are you paying?

6 **LIZZY** It's none of your business. Pass me that tape. I thought you'd be
7 pleased.

8 *LIZZY tapes up a box.*

9 **OLLY** I just don't like the idea of you moving in with a stranger, who even is
10 this person?

11

12 **9a. INT – HOUSE – EVENING**

13 *SALLY is on the phone to her mum ANGE.*

14 **ANGE** *(On phone)* A 20-year-old?

15 **SALLY** 22 mum, she probably won't end up staying that long.

16 **ANGE** *(On phone)* And she works with you?

17 **SALLY** No mum, I said, she came in for an interview, but she didn't get the
18 job.

19 **ANGE** *(On phone)* So she's an unemployed 22-year-old.

20 **SALLY** No she has a job, as a, it doesn't matter -

21 **ANGE** *(On phone)* I can send you money if you need it.

22

23 **8b. INT – FLAT – EVENING**

24 **LIZZY** It's not just about the rent Ol – it's me and you, we need time to
25 properly split, fully.

26 **OLLY** You said you wanted to stay mates.

27 **LIZZY** Of course that's what I want, but we're not mates at the moment,
28 there's not a word for what we are at the moment.

29 **OLLY** We still haven't finished the last season of Rick and Morty.

30 **LIZZY** Olly, I was only really watching that because you wanted to-

31 **OLLY** Oh right –

1 **LIZZY** Sorry.

2 **OLLY** No no it's fine. I mean you used to laugh quite a bit but –

3 Anyway, why don't you talk to you mum? If I could move to London I

4 would.

5 **LIZZY** Everyone moves to London –

6 **OLLY** Exactly!

7 **LIZZY** I want to do something different –

8 **OLLY** So you're going to live with some creepy old woman -

9

10 **9b. INT – HOUSE – EVENING**

11 **ANGE** *(On phone)* She could be a scam artist, or a murderer, I saw this awful

12 docu-drama the other day, these people pray on pathetic, old –

13 **SALLY** Oh well thanks for that –

14 **ANGE** *(On phone)* This isn't like you Sally, you used to hate guests. Why

15 don't you fly out here and join me instead? Then you could help the

16 housing crisis by renting out your place on that Air B&B.

17 **SALLY** Not for now mum, maybe later in the year, once I've figured out what

18 I'm doing.

19 **ANGE** *(On phone)* Honestly, you don't need to figure out retirement, I've

20 already figured it out for you. Leap in, grasp at adventure and live

21 your life!

22 **SALLY** Mum, for now, I just want some peace and quiet.

23 **ANGE** *(On phone)* So you're letting a 20-year-old potential murderer move in

24 with you?

25 **SALLY** 22 – and I reckon she's an old soul –

26

27

28

29

30

1 **8c. INT – FLAT – EVENING**

2 **OLLY** How old is she?!

3 **LIZZY** She's not old –

4 **OLLY** If she's retiring she'll be like, 60

5 **LIZZY** Yeah 60, 65.

6 **OLLY** 65! You'd rather live with a pensioner than me!

7 **LIZZY** You're my ex-boyfriend!

8 **OLLY** Well maybe I don't want to be your ex-boyfriend.

9 **LIZZY** Olly? What about Thailand?

10 **OLLY** Thailand can wait. I think we just got stuck, arguing about stupid

11 things.

12 **LIZZY** We want different stuff, you want to go out and I want people to

13 come round for food and play board games together.

14 **OLLY** Board games – Lizzy, we're in our twenties.

15 **LIZZY** See we just want different things.

16 **OLLY** We can play board games!

17

18

19

20 **8d/9c. INT – HOUSE – EVENING / INT – FLAT EVENING**

21 *The two scenes merge together.*

22 **ANGE** *(On phone)* I just think –

23 **OLLY** It's feels like a –

24 **ANGE** *(On phone)* Really –

25 **OLLY** Really –

26 **ANGE** *(On phone)* Foolish –

27 **OLLY** Weird –

28 **ANGE** *(On phone)* And reckless –

29 **OLLY** Plan.

30 *The sound of a phone cutting out.*

1 **10. INT – HOUSE – NEXT DAY**

2 **SALLY V/O** **Lizzy arrived the next day -**

3 *A bang on the door.*

4 **SALLY** Coming!

5 *She opens the door.*

6 **SALLY V/O** **She had boxes and bags of stuff, I couldn't believe someone so**

7 **young had accumulated so many things.**

8 *Lifting boxes and bags through a hallway, maybe running up and down the stairs.*

9 **SALLY V/O** **I'd stowed away the Hey Duggee duvet cover and the discarded soft**

10 **toys in the loft before she arrived, put on fresh bedding. I'd installed**

11 **a lock, but she left the door open and played music-**

12

13 **She seemed genuinely pleased to be here.**

14 *Kitchen. The sound of a blender.*

15 **SALLY** Are you ok in here? Lizzy?

16 **LIZZY** Oh sorry –

17 *The blender turns off.*

18 **LIZZY** Is it too noisy?

19 **SALLY** No, no – I just wanted to check you weren't going to too much

20 trouble. Honestly, I thought we could just get fish and chips.

21 **LIZZY** I know, I saw on your meal planner, so organised, love it. Love that

22 you even put your breakfast when it's cereal every day.

23 **SALLY** Oh well –

24 **LIZZY** But I have to do something to say thank you, and cooking is like my

25 love language you know?

26 **SALLY** Ok well - What are all the mugs doing out?

27 **SALLY V/O** **I try to subtly move the small bright green mug with butterflies**

28 **around a letter 'R' further from the ledge.**

29 **LIZZY** Have you ever seen 'Sort Your Life Out'? It's like a reorganising show.

30 You'll love it, I'm obsessed, anyway I was sorting them but then I

31 realised the time and thought I better get cooking -

32 **SALLY** Ok -

33 **LIZZY** I'm doing a sort of mezze. It's my first-time making spanakopita!

1 **SALLY** Well it smells wonderful. Are you happy drinking red?

2 **LIZZY** Definitely.

3 *SALLY opens the bottle and pours them a glass each.*

4 **SALLY** To being housemates?

5 **LIZZY** Housemates!

6 *They sip.*

7 **LIZZY** Sally? Are you worried that we've made a really bad decision? My ex-

8 Olly thought I was mental.

9 **SALLY** My mum thought you might be a murderer.

10 **LIZZY** Well I promise I'm not!

11 **SALLY** Hmm but that is exactly what a murderer would say.

12 **LIZZY** True!

13 *They cheers again.*

14

15

16

17 **11. INT – KITCHEN – EVENING (NEXT DAY)**

18 *SALLY pouring a glass of wine.*

19 **SALLY V/O** **When I get home from work the next day, usually I'd read a chapter**

20 **of my book, then do an hour of gardening, but Lizzy is bouncing off**

21 **the walls with news.**

22 *LIZZY is cooking about ten dishes again.*

23 **LIZZY** And so I told him, he can't just get me to clear up after every child's

24 vom if we're both on shift-

25 **SALLY** Fair enough-

26 **LIZZY** And then he has the nerve to tell me I'm not displaying the company's

27 required can-do attitude -

28 **SALLY** So, no more diplodocus costume?

29 **LIZZY** No.

30 But I think this could be really good for me you know. Time to find a

31 job I value, not just be a slave to 'the system'.

1 **SALLY** Yes of course!

2 **SALLY V/O** **I want to be supportive. But I was always told it was easier to get a**
3 **job if you were in a job.**

4 **LIZZY** I've even got this habit tracker app. I want to get up with my alarm,
5 exercise every day-

6 **SALLY V/O** **Rosie and I used to have a list on our days, she'd help me garden,**
7 **bake, walk to the park...**

8 **LIZZY** Are you ok Sally?

9 **SALLY** Yes! Yes! It's just, Lizzy we've talked about the cooking-

10 **LIZZY** It's picky tea!

11 **SALLY** Picky tea is bread, salami and some carrot sticks this is –

12 **LIZZY** It's just a few bits –

13 **SALLY** There are about ten dishes. Also why are all my books on the floor in
14 the living room –

15 **LIZZY** Oh, I was alphabetising them, so they're easier to find.

16 **SALLY** Right ok, good, although I usually find them quite -

17 **LIZZY** You're welcome!

18

19 **12. INT – OFFICE – DAYTIME**

20 *The sounds of the office.*

21 **STEVE** Last day Sally!

22 **SALLY** I know, I can't really believe it!

23 **STEVE** Don't feel like you have to work all day – if you could just make sure
24 your files and everything are clearly marked for your replacement.

25 **SALLY** And I'll email you the handover notes.

26 **STEVE** Er, well, you just sent them to me remember? Actually, you sent them
27 to me yesterday as well.

28 I, I wasn't sure if I should say anything but I have noticed Sally that
29 you've seemed a bit um, a bit confused lately. Not anything dramatic
30 but, just not the tip top Sally Turner organisation aficionado we know
31 and I just wondered -

32 **SALLY** Honestly Steve, I think it's just all this change, and of course you
33 know, women's things -

1 **SALLY V/O** I mean, it's not impossible that I'm still menopausal...

2 **STEVE** Ha – of course, ok well – I'm here if you need, even after you leave -

3 **SALLY V/O** I do the bits Steve's asked me. I know technically I could go. I'd

4 always imagined on my last day I'd turn up at Rosie's nursery for

5 pick-up, hopefully my first pick-up of many, surprise her, go for ice-

6 cream. She loves mint-choc chip, although, maybe she has a

7 different favourite now -

8 *The phone rings.*

9 **SALLY** Deansgate Events Hire, Sally speaking, how can I help?

10

11

12

13 **13. INT – BEDROOM – MORNING**

14 *Alarm going off.*

15 **SALLY V/O** The next morning, I'm halfway to the bathroom before I realise, I

16 forgot to turn my alarm off. I can just lie here, I don't have to get up,

17 don't have to get on that blasted tram. Perfect.

18

19 I'll make a cup of tea. Do my crossword. There's bright spring light

20 coming through the window.

21 *The sound of banging downstairs.*

22 **SALLY** What on earth?

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

1 **14. INT – LIVING ROOM – MORNING**

2 *Lizzy is doing her Joe Wicks workout.*

3 **JOE WICKS** Ok next up, aw you're gonna hate me for this, it's burpees.

4 *SALLY enters.*

5 **SALLY** Knock knock!

6 **LIZZY** Hiya, Sally – sorry did I wake you?

7 **SALLY** No, I just, I thought there was a man in here –

8 **SALLY V/O** **For a second I thought it was Keel-**

9 *Lizzy is continuing to do the workout as she speaks.*

10 **LIZZY** Sorry, it's my workout app, I'm on a free trial -

11 I was going to try an aerial hoop class later, want to come?

12 **SALLY** Um, no thank you. I think I'm just going to sit out in the garden, and
13 have a quiet day.

14

15

16

17 **15. INT – GARDEN – MORNING**

18 *Birdsong. Trees in the wind.*

19 **SALLY V/O** I get out a notebook, it's full of old lists. Carrots, onions. A list of
20 half-term activities. Chester zoo.

21

22 I turn to a fresh page. I need a new routine.

23 I'll start each day with gardening.

24 We need bread, I could bake.

25 A memory creeps in, fairy cakes, fingers covered in icing sugar. Her
26 fascination with watching them rise.

27 **SALLY** No, we're not doing that -

28 **SALLY V/O** I will go for an afternoon walk in the park, every day, because I can.

29 I'm going to be just fine.

30

31

1 **16. INT – BEDROOM – MORNING**

2 *Alarm going off.*

3 **SALLY V/O** **Day two.**

4 *The sound of Lizzy's workout downstairs. This continues as Sally speaks.*

5 **Lizzy's still doing exercise with that Joe man -**

6 **I have my tea, I do my crossword.**

7 **An hour of gardening, weeding mostly.**

8 **I give the fridge a deep clean.**

9 **I pass a squirrel eating out of a fried chicken container in the park. I**
10 **wonder if she still calls them wizzles?**

11

12 **17. INT – KITCHEN – MORNING**

13 **SALLY V/O** **Day three, day four, day five -**

14 **Tea, crossword. Gardening.**

15 **Lizzy is baking so I can't get in the kitchen.**

16 *The sound of a mixer is added to the sound of the workout.*

17 **3.00, my phone reminds me to walk in the park.**

18 **I repot three of the cacti.**

19 **Lizzy and I watch Mama Mia.**

20 **I don't tell her I've already seen it, I don't tell her who with.**

21

22 **18. INT – BEDROOM – MORNING**

23 **SALLY V/O** **Day six, day seven, day eight.**

24 **I still wake up at 7am every day.**

25 **Now and again I realise I haven't thought about them for a whole**
26 **half hour, and I congratulate myself.**

27 **Lizzy plays music as she 'manifests jobs' although it looks like she is**
28 **mostly on social media.**

29 *Music joins in.*

30

1 **19. INT – BEDROOM – MORNING**

2 **SALLY V/O** Day nine, Day ten.

3 Ventilate 3 letters. I know this, I should know this.

4 I can't find my gardening gloves, maybe Lizzy has 'reorganised'
5 them. Honestly she gets me in a right muddle.

6 3 letters.

7 Lizzy is crashing around, I hope she's not cooking again.

8 *Cupboards opening and closing from the kitchen.*

9 I'll go for a walk.

10 Ventilate, 3 letters. Come on Sally!

11 *Crash from the kitchen.*

12 **SALLY** What was that?

14 **20. INT – KITHCEN – SAME MORNING**

15 **SALLY V/O** In the kitchen, Lizzy is sweeping up the small mug with a butterfly on
16 it.

17 **LIZZY** Hi Sally I'm sorry –

18 **SALLY** Why were you using that mug –

19 **LIZZY** Sorry, it was just a good size to make a dressing, my hand slipped -

20 **SALLY** How dare you use my things! And what have you done with my, my
21 hand things, my hand socks -

22 **LIZZY** *(Half laughing)* Your gloves? Sally, you're wearing them?

23 **SALLY** I –

24 **SALLY V/O** I hold up my gloved hands, I want to slap that look off her face, she's
25 the one that's causing this-

26 **SALLY** I've told you about the cooking! I can't live in this house with all that
27 banging and carrying on you're doing.

28 **LIZZY** Sally –

29 **SALLY** It's 3 o'clock. I'm going for a walk.

30 *A slam of the door.*

1 **21. EXT – PARK – DAY**

2 *The sounds of a children's play park. An ice cream van.*

3 **SALLY V/O** **When I was little and I had tantrums, mum used to buy me an ice-**
4 **cream, she just couldn't stand the noise. I think she preferred me**
5 **once I got older.**

6 **ICE CREAM DRIVER** What you having love?

7 **SALLY** Feast please.

8 *SALLY'S phone buzzes.*

9 **SALLY V/O** **Speak of the devil.**

10 **ANGE VOICENOTE** *Hello darling, it's me mum. Just wondering how you're getting on.*
11 *Hope you're not getting too bored. You can always come and join me*
12 *in Venice next week. You'll find me next to the dashing gondolieri! Lots*
13 *of love!*

14 *SALLY unwraps the ice-cream and bites into it.*

15 **SALLY V/O** **The park is full of women my age and their grandchildren. A few**
16 **blokes too. I'm about to hurry past but a woman with a bobble hat is**
17 **heading towards me smiling. I know her, oh god she's called –**

18 **GWYNETH** Sally!

19 **SALLY** Hello... you!

20 **GWYNETH** How are you doing love? It's me Gwyneth? Steve's mum –

21 **SALLY** Oh! I know! I just, I'm surprised to see you, how is Steve?

22 **SALLY V/O** **Gwyneth, Steve's mum Gwyneth, come on Sally it's not hard!**

23 **GWYNETH** Oh he's ok, missing you though! He's a bit stressed with your
24 replacement, she's set up a company TikTok.

25 **MICHAEL GO DOWN WITH HER!**

26 Lucy bless her, she always loses faith when she's on the edge of the
27 slide. **MICHAEL.** There we go.

28 Are any of these-

29 **SALLY** No, I er –

30 **GWYNETH** **MICHAEL GET DOWN FROM THERE!**

31 Well, I love these two but I am basically a free nursery.

32 **SALLY** It must be nice being such a big part of their lives.

1 **GWYNETH** Don't get me wrong I love them to death, but once they go home I
2 have to lie down. I'm sure you're the same -

3 **SALLY** Well -

4 **GWYNETH** I booked a week in Tenerife in May, and I've just found out they've
5 booked in too – Steve told me like it was some lucky surprise, I
6 could've killed him.

7

8 MICHAEL LET HER HAVE A – OI, MICHAEL LET HER HAVE –

9 Sorry, I better go prevent World War Three. We should go for a coffee
10 sometime -

11 **SALLY** Yes sure -

12 **SALLY V/O** **I watch um, thingy, as she wrestles the three-year-old off the swing.**

13 **I ache with envy. Her granddaughter reaches her arms up, wanting**
14 **her.**

15 **(Sighing) Lizzy looked so terrified when I shouted at her. It's because**
16 **she doesn't understand.**

17

18 **I need to explain.**

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

1 **22. INT – HALLWAY – AFTERNOON**

2 *SALLY knocks on Lizzy's door.*

3 **SALLY** Lizzy, I need to talk to you. Lizzy?

4 *LIZZY opens the door.*

5 **LIZZY** Sorry I didn't hear you-

6 I've been applying for jobs. There seems to be a lot of work in

7 recruitment, which is strange, given that there doesn't seem to be a lot

8 of jobs to recruit for. But I have signed up for a company that gets you

9 to answer quizzes and you get 20p for every quiz you do and –

10 **SALLY** Lizzy stop -

11 **LIZZY** Yes, sorry.

12 **SALLY** That wasn't ok how I spoke to you earlier, and I'm sorry about that.

13 **LIZZY** Honestly Sally, you were right, I should have checked I could use the

14 mug.

15 **SALLY V/O** **I can see she wants to ask -**

16 **LIZZY** And the organising, I'm sorry I was trying to be helpful. Maybe if you

17 could talk me through your system? I noticed some things have labels?

18 **SALLY** Only a few things –

19 **LIZZY** No totally! I love labels, more labels the better I say. I mean if that's

20 what you want. It's your house obviously, I'm just so grateful you're

21 letting me -

22 **SALLY** No Lizzy this is not the way it is going to be.

23 You should not have to be insanely grateful for this small room. You

24 should not have been contemplating staying in a relationship just to

25 afford rent. At best that's ridiculous and at worst that's a dangerous

26 place for women in this country to be in.

27 The reason I got upset is not to do with you – not really, it's because-

28 **SALLY V/O** **She's looking at me so openly – it would be so easy just to tell her -**

29 **SALLY** Because I'm already bored.

30 **LIZZY** Bored?

31 **SALLY V/O** **You absolute wuss Sally Turner.**

1 **SALLY** When my mum retired she went straight into a million and one
2 activities. I'm not like that, I thought I'd be happy with the simple
3 things, just enjoying the present but the present is bloody dull!

4 And I hate it when she's right.

5 **LIZZY** I get that.

6 Is there, is there anything else? I've been wondering about, well it's just
7 that mug seemed so important to you and I actually found a Hey
8 Duggee pillowcase in the airing cupboard the other day and it's just you
9 never mention um, well I'd assumed you don't have any kids but -

10 **SALLY** Well -

11 **SALLY V/O** **Come on woman!**

12 **SALLY** The mug belongs to Rosie -

13 **LIZZY** Rosie?

14 **SALLY** I have a granddaughter, Rosie. The mug is hers, I bought it for her when
15 she came for her first sleepover. I have a son, Keelan, and he has Rosie.

16 We had a, falling out about six months ago.

17 There was a, a bit of a muddle. When I was looking after Rosie. She was
18 fine. But he's very protective. Then it all came out; he told me he's been
19 going to therapy to work through his childhood. First I'd heard of it.

20 He didn't want for anything growing up. He went to a good school, he
21 got into university.

22 And yes, Derek, he was my husband, we did split up, but we waited
23 until Keelan left home. We still send Christmas cards, it's all very civil.

24 I'm sorry I'm getting upset about it.

25 **LIZZY** No it's ok, I get it now, I get why it was a big deal. I'm so sorry I broke
26 her mug.

27 **SALLY** I mean the most important thing is that she's ok. I can check she's fine
28 on Keelan's Instagram. I don't even like the photos in case he blocks
29 me. But I just miss her-

30 **LIZZY** Sorry if I'm totally overstepping here but have you ever tried therapy?
31 Like when you and your husband split?

32 **SALLY** The day Derek left, I hoovered the house, changed the sheets, made
33 chicken casserole and packed my bag for work the next day.

34 **LIZZY** Do you think it would help now?

1 **SALLY V/O** **I imagine pouring my pension into hours of sitting on a sofa, going**
2 **over and over where I've gone wrong in life -**

3 **SALLY** I don't need to sit around talking to someone. I need, I need a bloody
4 to do list, my mother was right.

5 **LIZZY** Ooh! Gimme a sec.

6 **SALLY V/O** **She thinks I'm old fashioned.**

7 *LIZZY finds a box from under her bed.*

8 **LIZZY** Here we go. Let's moodboard.

9 **SALLY** What?

10 **LIZZY** I've got magazines, I've got scissors, I've got glue.
11 What's an activity you've always meant to do, but never got round to?

12 **SALLY** Um, I guess, I've never had a spa day – I don't even know if there are
13 any spas around here...

14 **LIZZY** Don't worry about that. There's a picture of a lady with cucumbers on
15 her eyes on the back of that Vogue. Cut it out, stick it on!

16 **SALLY** Ooh I've always wanted to try growing my own rhubarb.

17 **LIZZY** Now we're cracking –
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31

1 **23. INT – KINDER SCOUT (TOP)– DAY**

2 *Music with the same vibe as Walking on Sunshine / Happy (Pharrell Williams)*

3 **SALLY V/O** **We tried pottery, salsa dancing. I kept a list of everything we'd done**
4 **on my phone –**

5 **We got Lizzy a second-hand bike, and discovered new parks –**

6 **And I introduced Lizzy to the Peak District.**

7 *SALLY and LIZZY sit down at the top of Kinder Scout.*

8 **LIZZY** Ugh finally –

9 Wow, it's stunning.

10 **SALLY** I've not been here in ages.

11 **LIZZY** Have you been up here with your son?

12 *(Pause)*

13 **SALLY** Yes, Keelan's a big hiker actually.

14 I keep, it sounds stupid. I keep thinking I see him every time one of
15 those lads with all the hiking gear passes us.

16 **LIZZY** Maybe you should call him.

17 **SALLY** Let's get the thermos out, I brought tea-

18 **LIZZY** You could send him a picture from here, say you're thinking of him.

19 **SALLY** He doesn't want to hear from me.

20 **LIZZY** He's probably just waiting for you to reach out –

21 **SALLY** Maybe you should tell your mother you don't live with Olly anymore?
22 Have you thought about that?

23 **LIZZY** Touché.

24 **SALLY** I'm sorry, just, let's just enjoy this. Pass the, what are those?

25 **LIZZY** Arancini!

26 **SALLY** Of course...

1 **24. INT – SPA STEAM ROOM – DAY**

2 *Calming music.*

3 **SALLY V/O** **Then there was the spa day....**

4 *A sudden blast of steam.*

5 **SALLY** God that gives me a fright every time!

6 **LIZZY** Me too. Have you put any of the lotions on yet?

7 **SALLY** I'm just trying to relax for a moment.

8 **LIZZY** Sorry, I'll shut up.

9 *LIZZY applies the cream.*

10 **LIZZY** Ugh, it's got bits in it! Smells good though!

11 **SALLY** Lizzy!

12 **LIZZY** Sorry! Shutting up!

13 **SALLY V/O** **The wet air around me is heavy, I can't decide if I like it.**

14 **SALLY** I used to get a steam when I took Keelan swimming. He didn't like me

15 to watch.

16 **LIZZY** I love swimming.

17 **SALLY** Mm. He should be done by now.

18 *SALLY gets up.*

19 **LIZZY** Who should? Sally where are you going?

20 *SALLY walks across the room towards the door.*

21 **SALLY** I need to go get him –

22 **LIZZY** Sally, can you hear me? Watch the floor –

23 *A sudden blast of steam. SALLY stumbles and falls.*

24 **LIZZY** Sally!

25 *LIZZY opens the door.*

26 **LIZZY** Help! Somebody! Help!

27

28

29

30

1 **25. INT – BEDROOM – EVENING**

2 *LIZZY enters SALLY's bedroom. SALLY is propped up in bed.*

3 **LIZZY** Knock knock! How's my patient?

4 *LIZZY sets a tray on SALLY's lap.*

5 **SALLY** Lizzy this looks amazing!

6 **LIZZY** It's just a simple ramen... I thought it would be healing.

7 **SALLY** Well it smells great – thank you. I really didn't need to have it in bed
8 though. I feel like a child.

9 **LIZZY** How is your ankle?

10 **SALLY** Barely feel it now, honestly you don't need to fuss.

11 **LIZZY** And you're sure you don't want to pop into A&E tomorrow, just to get
12 it looked at?

13 **SALLY** Pop into A&E? We'd be there for hours, and I can tell nothing's wrong-

14 **LIZZY** Yeah, no I'm sure you're right it's just –

15 You know the stuff you were saying? Before you fell –

16 **SALLY** The steam probably just made me go a bit funny that's all –

17 **LIZZY** Has it ever happened before?

18 **SALLY V/O** **I remember trying to explain, Keelan furious, Rosie crying –**

19 **LIZZY** Sally?

20 **SALLY** I've always been a bit sensitive to heat. Why, do you think I'm going
21 doolally?

22 **LIZZY** No I – I mean, it just seemed strange.

23 I was thinking maybe we should call your / son /

24 **SALLY** / No Lizzy. He wouldn't want to know.

25 **LIZZY** Are you sure?

26 **SALLY** I'd like some peace and quiet now please.

27 **LIZZY** Oh, right, ok.

28 **SALLY V/O** **As she leaves I allow myself to grimace, my ankle throbs. I try to focus**
29 **on my food, try to push the memory of Rosie, confused and tearful,**
30 **out of my head.**

1 **26. INT – LIFE DRAWING CLASS – DAY**

2 *Gentle jazz music playing.*

3 **SALLY V/O** After all the fuss, Lizzy wanted me to rest for a few days but I feel
4 absolutely fine, well, as long as I'm sitting down, which is why we are
5 at this life drawing class.

6 **LIZZY** Do you think we are meant to draw his, you know?

8 **27. EXT – MUSIC CLASS – DAY**

9 **SALLY V/O** We tried a music class.

10 *Some very bad recorder playing.*

12 **28. INT – COMMUNITY CENTRE – EVENING**

13 **SALLY V/O** Archery -

14 *The sound of an arrow releasing and hitting a target.*

16 **29. EXT – PARK – DAY**

17 **SALLY V/O** Horse Riding –

18 *A neigh of a horse.*

20 **30. INT – THEATRE – EVENING**

21 *Applause.*

22 **SALLY V/O** The theatre –

23 **LIZZY** Did you know they were going to make us take part?

1 **31. INT – LIVING ROOM – EVENING**

2 *The chatter of the TV.*

3 **LIZZY** Clubbing!

4 **SALLY** Clubbing? I don't think so.

5 **LIZZY** Honestly it'll be ace, it's an 80s night-

6 **SALLY** No thank you, I'm going to have a quiet night and watch that show you
7 like – you know the cleaning show, you've got me hooked.

8 You go! It sounds like it will be fun. Who's going?

9 **LIZZY** Well, um, just a couple people I haven't seen for a while.

10 **SALLY** Perfect, we don't have to do everything together!

11 **LIZZY** Ok. I won't stay out too late...

12 **SALLY** Stay out as late as you like, I sleep through anything me.

13 **LIZZY** Ok well, you're coming to the next one.

14 **SALLY** Maybe –

15 **LIZZY** That's not a no!

16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30

1 **32. INT – CLUB – NIGHT**

2 *80s music plays. LIZZY and her ex OLLY are at the bar.*

3 **LIZZY** I thought you said the whole group were coming?

4 **OLLY** Yeah, you know what they're like, super flakey. Bottoms up.

5 *They do a shot.*

6 **LIZZY** You did invite people right?

7 **OLLY** You want another shot?

8 **LIZZY** I'm more of a red wine gal now.

9 **OLLY** Oh yeah? Now you live with your adult friend?

10 **LIZZY** You're making it sound weird.

11 **OLLY** It is weird.

12 *(To the barman)* Bottle of red please. I'll get this.

13 **LIZZY** Oh um, thanks.

14 *OLLY pours the wine out.*

15 **OLLY** I just mean you shouldn't be living as if you're a pensioner.

16 **LIZZY** Oh yeah, and how is Thailand going?

17 **OLLY** Maybe the real adventure is still here.

18 I've missed you –

19 **LIZZY** You just miss my cooking.

20 **OLLY** No! I mean yeah, but I miss everything about you, no one ever
21 understood me like you. I actually wrote a song –

22 **LIZZY** Shall we dance?

23 **OLLY** What?

24 **LIZZY** Come on, I really want to dance –

25 **OLLY** Oh ok –

26 *They head to the dance floor.*

27

28

29

30

1 **33. INT – HALL – NIGHT**

2 *LIZZY and OLLY open the door, they're tiptoeing, trying to be quiet but they're giggling.*

3 **OLLY** *(Whispering)* I still can't get over that you live in like a proper house
4 house. You have a dishwasher!

5 **LIZZY** Shh you'll wake her up -

6 **OLLY** How many cacti can one woman have?

7 **LIZZY** You know what, I'm 90% sure that one was in the reception of a spa
8 we went to. Careful with that! Shh!

9 **OLLY** I think it's wrong you're not allowed to have people over.

10 **LIZZY** It's not that I'm not allowed it's just we haven't -

11 *SALLY bangs on her bedroom door.*

12 **SALLY** *(From her bedroom)* Get out of my house!

13 **LIZZY** Sally!

14 **SALLY** *(From her bedroom)* Who's there? I warn you I'm armed.

15 **OLLY** What the -

16 **SALLY** *(From her bedroom)* Whoever you are, I'm calling the police!

17 **LIZZY** Sally - it's me! Lizzy!

18 **SALLY** *(From her bedroom)* I have a weapon -

19 **LIZZY** She doesn't, Olly, just, stand back.

20 Sally, it's me Lizzy, I'm opening the door.

21 *LIZZY opens the door. SALLY is stood in the doorway, holding up a hairbrush.*

22 **LIZZY** Sally -

23 **SALLY** Lizzy?

24 Why, um, where have you -

25 *SALLY backs into her bedroom. LIZZY follows her into the room. LIZZY turns on the light.*

26 **LIZZY** I was out clubbing remember, and Olly lost his key so I hope it's
27 alright I said he could stay on my floor just for tonight.

28 **OLLY** *(Popping his head round the door)* Hiya -

29 **SALLY** Right, oh, I, I'm sorry I thought you were burglars.

30 I, I forgot you were out. I keep forgetting things -

1 **LIZZY** It's ok, Sally, sit down, just take a breath.

2 *(LIZZY sits SALLY down on the bed, putting her arm round her.)*

3 **LIZZY** In –

4 *(They inhale together)*

5 Out-

6 *(They exhale together)*

7 Better?

8 **SALLY** Lizzy, I – I think there's something wrong with me.

9

10 **34. EXT – PARK – NEXT DAY AFTERNOON**

11 *SALLY and LIZZY are walking in a park.*

12 **SALLY** I'm sorry I gave your friend a fright.

13 **LIZZY** Oh he'll be fine. The main thing is you're ok. First thing tomorrow we

14 can call the GP –

15 **SALLY** Well, I don't know if that's really necessary.

16 **LIZZY** But Sally –

17 **SALLY** I honestly think I'd just had one too many wines. The doctor will

18 probably just tell me to watch my alcohol intake, the NHS is on its feet

19 as it is.

20 **LIZZY** Last night you seemed genuinely worried –

21 **SALLY** I was just discombobulated. Anyway, I want to know about you and

22 um -

23 **LIZZY** Olly –

24 **SALLY** Yes. Are you really getting back together with him?

25 **LIZZY** No, I, I wasn't thinking really, I just... He said he's lost his keys, so I said

26 he could sleep on my floor, which is genuinely what happened in the

27 end. I'm sorry I brought him round without asking.

28 **SALLY** Oh you can have people over, I'm not fussed – God Lizzy, look some

29 arsehole has parked in my driveway-

30 **LIZZY** Well actually –

31 **SALLY** They can't do that, just because I don't have a car-

32 **LIZZY** Um Sally, don't you recognise it?

1 *A man getting out of the car.*
2 **SALLY** Who on earth do you think you are –
3 **KEELAN** Hello mum –
4

5 **35. INT – LIVING ROOM – DAY**

6 *SALLY and KEELAN are sitting awkwardly in the living room.*
7 **LIZZY** *(From the kitchen)* Do you take sugar Keelan!
8 **KEELAN** 1 please!
9 **LIZZY** *(From the kitchen)* Just like Sally!
10 **KEELAN** Yeah, that's right.
11 Lizzy said you had a fall -
12 **SALLY** It was nothing.
13 **KEELAN** Well it was obviously not nothing.
14 **SALLY** I was in a spa, anyone could have slipped.
15 **KEELAN** Yes but -
16 *LIZZY enters with the tea.*
17 **LIZZY** There we go, I'll leave you two to it.
18 **SALLY** *(Coldly)* No, please, join us Lizzy.
19 **LIZZY** Oh ok –
20 *(LIZZY awkwardly sits next to KEELAN.)*
21 **SALLY** Keelan is your guest, not mine.
22 **KEELAN** Oh that's nice that –
23 **LIZZY** I- I was worried –
24 **KEELAN** She says you've not been yourself mum, which is blindingly obvious
25 because the mum I know wouldn't invite a random stranger to live
26 with them, no offense Lizzy.
27 **LIZZY** No, that's fair, totally fair –
28 **SALLY** Well, I've had a lot of free time.
29 How's Rosie?
30 **KEELAN** She's fine.

1 **SALLY** I miss her.

2 **KEELAN** Yes well-

3 **SALLY** It's cruel, keeping us apart.

4 **KEELAN** Can you blame me? After what happened? Did she tell you?

5 **LIZZY** I know there was a muddle.

6 **KEELAN** A muddle?

7 Is that what you called it?

8 You left her in the park.

9 **SALLY** I, you're exaggerating -

10 **KEELAN** I got called by one of the mums from her nursery to say she'd found
11 Rosie balling her eyes out by the swings, alone.

12 **SALLY** I was already on my way back, I realised as soon as I got to the house.
13 I was under a lot of stress at work -

14 **KEELAN** Rosie was traumatised –

15 **SALLY** She was a bit upset. You use the word 'trauma' for everything –

16 **KEELAN** See I knew we wouldn't be able to have this conversation.

17 I say this with love mum, you need professional help.

18 Lizzy don't you agree?

19 **LIZZY** I –

20 **SALLY** Lizzy?

21 **LIZZY** It could be nothing Sally, but you have been getting a bit confused
22 recently, and last night -

23 **SALLY** I've not been sleeping well. It's not like I'm going crazy, I'm not like my
24 dad -

25 **KEELAN** Grandad wasn't crazy mum he had dementia, and I'm not saying you
26 have that, I just think -

27 **SALLY** I just want to look after my grandchild.

28 **KEELAN** Right now you need to focus on your health -

29 **SALLY** You think I can't parent!

30 **KEELAN** I never said that!

1 **SALLY** When you were little I had to work, and your father and I, well we
2 were unhappy for a long time.

3 **KEELAN** You think I don't know that? You think that your passive aggressive
4 marriage of pain just passed me by? Why do you think I'm in therapy?

5 **SALLY** We stayed together until you left home.

6 **KEELAN** And I'm meant to thank you for that am I?

7 **SALLY** I can be a good grandmother to Rosie. I need to be.

8 **KEELAN** Oh I see, so this is retribution-

9 **SALLY** No I -

10 **KEELAN** I'm sorry, I can't do this -

11 **SALLY** Lizzy, tell Keelan all the things we've been doing, archery, horse riding
12 – I'm well enough to do all of those things –

13 **LIZZY** Yeah she –

14 **KEELAN** My daughter is not a hobby mum. Look, I, I'll call you.

15 *KEELAN leaves. A pause.*

16 **LIZZY** I'm sorry -

17 **SALLY** Pack your bags.

18 **LIZZY** Sally, I just, I was trying to -

19 **SALLY** Look at yourself, you can't stick it out at a basic customer services job,
20 you're lying to your mum, you're doing god know's what with your ex
21 boyfriend, messing him about.

22 **LIZZY** I'm not –

23 **SALLY** Get a grip on your own life before messing up mine.

24 **LIZZY** I was trying to help a friend.

25 **SALLY** You're not my friend. You were my tenant. Not anymore. Get out.
26
27
28
29
30
31

1 **36. INT – KITCHEN – NEXT DAY**

2 *Rearranging crockery.*

3 **SALLY V/O** I turn off my phone and put it in a drawer.

4 First, I rearrange the kitchen.

5 I superglue Rosie's mug, and store it safely at the back of the

6 cupboard.

7 Next, I deep clean every room, working around each one clockwise,

8 donating things I don't use, making sure everything is neat and

9 ordered.

10 Finally, I get to the spare room. Empty, taunting me.

11 You almost wouldn't know someone had been living here. Just the

12 lingering scent of dry shampoo.

13 **SALLY** What am I going to do with you?

14 **SALLY V/O** That lady in the tv show about organising yourself, says you shouldn't

15 have a 'spare' room. She says that every room needs to have a clear

16 purpose.

17 I make a list of options.

18 A home gym.

19 An art room.

20 A reading room – although, whenever I try to read I've been struggling

21 to stay on the words.

22 A play room.

23 I decide not to worry about what the purpose of it will be for now,

24 and just to give it a refresh. A lick of paint.

25 Sanding the wall is satisfying. I turn on my phone so I can play some

26 music while I work. The only messages I have are from mum.

27 **ANGE VOICENOTE** *Buonasera from Milan! The activities you're doing with your friend look*

28 *fabulous darling. So glad –*

29 *SALLY skips to the next one.*

30 **ANGE VOICENOTE** *Bonjour! It turns out Giovanni has a vineyard down in Marseilles so a*

31 *few of us -*

32 *Skip.*

1 **ANGE VOICENOTE** *Sally? I hope you're ok. I just wanted to let you know I'm going to be*
2 *hopping back to England just for a little appointment. Boring stuff. If*
3 *I'm coming near Manchester I'll let you know. Bye for now.*

4 **SALLY** Appointment?

5 *SALLY dials the number.*

6 **ANGE** *(On phone)* Hello stranger! Put your camera on I can't see you!

7 **SALLY** Ok hang on a moment, sorry I only just got your messages I –

8 **ANGE** *(On video call)* That's better. Oh dear, you look tired, have you been
9 using the face-cream I sent you?

10 **SALLY** I-

11 *(Sound of Italian voices/a party on Ange's side)*

12 **ANGE** *(On video call)* Giovanni I'll be there in a moment, just top me up!

13 **SALLY** Mum are you ok – in your last message you mentioned an
14 appointment.

15 **ANGE** *(On video call)* Oh it's nothing darling.

16 **SALLY** Mum-

17 **ANGE** *(On video call)* Really, I don't think you want to know.

18 **SALLY** I do mum, honestly, if there is something wrong -

19 **ANGE** *(On video call)* Fine, I have chlamydia.
20 Don't gape darling.

21 **SALLY** How?

22 **ANGE** *(On video call)* How do you think? Too many martinis. It's not like I'm
23 going to get pregnant.

24 **SALLY** Mum, you should be more careful –

25 **ANGE** *(On video call)* Sally, I'm 85, what's the worst that can happen? And
26 now I've got some lovely antibiotics to clear it up.

27 **SALLY** Ok well –

28 **ANGE** *(On video call)* This is what I keep trying to tell you darling, you've got
29 to live life!

30 **SALLY** I am living my life!

31 **ANGE** *(On video call)* Whatever you say darling, I've got to run, I can hear
32 bottles popping!

1 **SALLY** Ok, be safe or whatever.

2 *SALLY hangs up.*

3 **SALLY V/O** I hang the phone up, I am living my life! I am doing DIY!

4 I position the ladder against the wall. Brandish my roller. Hmm, it's

5 not quite the shade I thought it was but, that's not a problem, the

6 main thing is that's it's a refresh, a change – a –

7 *SALLY falls off the ladder. The paint tips.*

8 *A slight ringing.*

9 **SALLY** Oh god.

10 **SALLY V/O** I feel my head, there is something wet and sticky – paint. My head is

11 covered in green paint.

12 My left wrist, no arm, no shoulder, I don't know, but something's not

13 right.

14 Slowly, I sit myself up, I catch sight of myself in the wardrobe mirror.

15 *SALLY starts to laugh.*

16 I look like that Scottish man with the donkey –

17 **SALLY** I've got to get a picture of Lizzy!

18 Right, come on where's the camera. There –

19 *(SALLY takes the photo).*

20 Now find Contacts –

21 **SALLY V/O** But then I remember.

22 **SALLY** Oh, right -

23 **SALLY V/O** And the floodgates open. I'm half laughing, half sobbing, green paint

24 dripping everywhere.

25 Crying because of my wrist. Crying because of whatever's wrong with

26 my head. Crying because I just miss them and I've made such a literal

27 mess of things.

28 Deep breath. I catch sight of my reflection again.

29 **SALLY** What to do?

30

31

32

1 **37. INT – GP – SAME AFTERNOON**

2 **GP** So Sally you're looking very verdant.

3 **SALLY** Sorry Doctor Fisher, I tried to shower but as you can see I've, well I think
4 I gave your receptionist a bit of a fright.

5 **GP** It's one way of getting an emergency appointment, I guess. I'm afraid
6 I'm still going to have to send you to A&E for an x-ray.

7 **SALLY** Ok that's fine.

8 Um, I was wondering if -

9 Well actually I –

10 I don't know if there's time but –

11 **GP** Fire away.

12 **SALLY** I've been having some problems with my memory.

13 **GP** Ok, could you give me some examples?

14 **SALLY** Well, like oh I can't think now – like names, I forget people's names and
15 I know that's normal but it never used to be for me.

16 And then I've got lost a few times, just on my normal route, I set off
17 and then I just end up somewhere I never meant to go and, and I just
18 find myself getting so frustrated all the time.

19 **GP** Ok, and can I ask what are you worried that it might be?

20 **SALLY** Well, it's probably nothing but-

21 My dad had dementia, and it came on very quick. He just sort of
22 changed, lost all his confidence, and I'm scared that I –

23 I mean I know I'm a bit young for it but I read online –

24 **GP** It's not impossible Sally, but I think we need to rule a lot of other things
25 out first. Ok? I'll get you booked in next week so we can take some
26 blood samples and have a longer discussion. How does that sound?

27 **SALLY** *exhales.*

28 **SALLY** Ok.

29 **GP** Now, is there someone who could meet you at A&E?

30 **SALLY** Yes, yes there is.

1 **38. INT – BEDROOM – NEXT MORNING**

2 **SALLY V/O** **The next morning I wake up, groggy from the painkillers.**

3 *A knock on the door.*

4 **LIZZY** Knock knock! Breakfast service.

5 **SALLY** Lizzy! You didn't have to do that.

6 **LIZZY** Well, it's just a basic shakshouka.

7 **SALLY V/O** **Waiting in A&E had given us plenty of time to catch up, Lizzy had been**
8 **staying with Olly, on his sofa she emphasised, because apparently he**

9 **LIZZY** *(FLASHBACK) Kept trying to spoon me –*

10 **SALLY V/O** **So, eventually she fessed up to her mum.**

11 **LIZZY** *(FLASHBACK) I mean, she did say I told you so, but mainly she was just*
12 *annoyed it had taken me so long to tell her.*

13 *Turns out she doesn't think I should come back to London either, I*
14 *reckon she likes having the flat to herself. She actually helped me find a*
15 *houseshare, the people are nice although there is a bit of a rodent issue*
16 *–*

17 **SALLY V/O** **Luckily at that moment, they called me in.**

18 **SALLY** Lizzy, this is delicious by the way, but we need to talk –

19 **LIZZY** No! Wait! I've got another surprise for you –

20 **SALLY** What?

21 **LIZZY** Come in she's ready!

22 *KEELAN enters with ROSIE.*

23 **ROSIE** Surprise Nana!

24 **KEELAN** Mum! Careful Rosie -

25 *ROSIE runs towards the bed and hugs SALLY.*

26 **SALLY** Rosie! Hello my darling.

27 Goodness I've missed you.

28

29

30

31

1 **39. INT – PARK – DAY**

2 **SALLY V/O** **Once I'm up and dressed we walk to the park.**

3 **LIZZY** Tag Rosie, you're it!

4 *LIZZY and ROSIE run off.*

5 **KEELAN** I hope Lizzy knows that Rosie does not give up with tag.

6 **SALLY** It's probably quite a good match –

7 **KEELAN** Now mum –

8 **SALLY** Don't start –

9 **KEELAN** Hey, hey I'm not starting! I'm just, I wanted to say I'm proud of you,
10 for going to the doctors.

11 **SALLY** Thank you.

12 **KEELAN** Hopefully it will be an easy fix.

13 **SALLY** I, I don't think so love.

14 Look, Keelan. If I go through all these bleeding tests and whatnot and
15 it turns out it is dementia-

16 **KEELAN** Which it might well not be-

17 **SALLY** Ok but, but if it is. I want to stay in my own house, for as long as I can.
18 Keep my routine, maybe you can set me up online food shopping and
19 stuff like that.

20 **KEELAN** Ok well -

21 **SALLY** The second thing, Keelan is, if you're willing, I want us to go to
22 counselling. We have a lot of unfinished business that I'd like to talk
23 through with a neutral person.

24 **KEELAN** Are you sure you're my mother?

25 **SALLY** Mum knows a brilliant counsellor, she's 83, ex-psychiatrist, absolutely
26 bonkers apparently.

27 **KEELAN** Fantastic.

28 **SALLY** And I want to look after Rosie.

29 **KEELAN** Mum –

30 **SALLY** You can stay close by and do some work in the spare room. But I want
31 to help, I need to feel useful. I need this Keelan.

32 **KEELAN** Ok mum, we can give it a try.

1 *LIZZY runs over*

2 **LIZZY** That kid is non-stop. Well I guess we know where she gets that from.

3 **KEELAN** Rosie, Daddy's it now! Pray for me.

4 *KEELAN runs off.*

5 **LIZZY** Good luck! Ooh I meant to say I got a job!

6 **SALLY** Fantastic, who with?

7 **LIZZY** I realised, I love organising for other people so I googled it and it turns
8 out there are loads of house organising companies sprouting up in
9 Manchester. And they offer apprenticeships, get you trained up, so I
10 applied and I start next week-

11 **SALLY** But Lizzy you're so -

12 **SALLY V/O** **And I just stop myself before I say messy. Because she looks so**
13 **enthusiastic, and who knows maybe this is the start of something for**
14 **her.**

15 **SALLY** You're so friendly, I'm sure people will love having you come into their
16 house and 'clean them up'.

17 So see, I don't think you should move back in, properly. Whatever's
18 wrong with me, I don't want you to become responsible.

19 **LIZZY** What if I don't mind?

20 **SALLY** You're 22, everything's just starting for you, and I want you to be my
21 friend, not a tenant, not a carer -

22 **LIZZY** Look, what about this? What if you let me cook for you once a week. I
23 can do it from my house and bring it round, so there's no mess in your
24 kitchen.

25 **SALLY** Only if you stay to eat it with me.

26 I've really missed you.

27 **LIZZY** I've missed you too Sally.

28 **SALLY** There's one more thing I wanted to ask you –

29 **LIZZY** Anything –

30

31

32

33

1 **40. EXT – CANAL – MORNING**

2 *SALLY and LIZZY stand on the edge of the canal with a group of newbies.*

3 **LIZZY** I cannot believe you’ve talked me into this.

4 **SALLY** You promised –

5 **LIZZY** I thought you might have toned down the moodboard a bit –

6 **SALLY** Nope, if anything, it’s getting more ambitious.

7 **INSTRUCTOR** Ok everyone, are you ready for your first Open Water Swimming

8 Session!

9 **LIZZY** I’m bloody not.

10 **INSTRUCTOR** Now, unfortunately, although I’m sure some of you want to get the

11 hard part of this over and just jump in, that can be dangerous. So we

12 have to enter the water slowly.

13 Any volunteers?

14 **LIZZY** We’ll do it!

15 **SALLY** I thought you were scared.

16 **LIZZY** We can do it together.

17 **SALLY V/O** **I have absolutely no clue how the rest of my life is going to go. But I**

18 **know that my son will call me tonight to hear about my day and I**

19 **know he will bring Rosie round tomorrow and we will bake her**

20 **favourite chocolate flapjacks.**

21 **Yes, there are some pretty huge questions I’m trying to grapple with,**

22 **about potential treatments, and care, and even death. But none of**

23 **that matters in this moment. This moment is about life.**

24 **Lizzy holds out her hand to steady me –**

25 **- and I take it, both sort of leaning on each other. We enter the**

26 **water, slowly, but surely, together.**

27

28

29 THE END