



BOND IS BACK...



Cally Phillips



BOND IS BACK...



Cally Phillips

Bond is Back

Cally Phillips

First published as an ebook by HoAmPresst Publishing 2012

HoAmPresst Publishing

Hillhead of Ardmiddle,

Turriff

Aberdeenshire

AB53 8AL

© C.Phillips 2000

The author has asserted her moral rights.

All rights in this play are strictly reserved and application for performance etc should be made in the first instance to the publisher at hoampresst@btinternet.com. No performance may be given without permission.

About the Play

The play was originally written in 2000 in anticipation of a performance for the 40th anniversary of the movie franchise James Bond. It has never been performed. It is now published for the first time to mark the 50th anniversary of the James Bond movie franchise.

CAST:

Kevin – On his 40th birthday.

Annette – his wife.

Gary – his oldest childhood friend.

Bo – Gary's latest trophy girlfriend

Mark – Another of Kevin's childhood "gang"

Sam – His sister

Philip – the final, elusive member of the gang.

The action takes place in Kevin's flat on the occasion of his 40th birthday.

ACT ONE

SCENE ONE

EMPTY STAGE. BOND THEME TUNE IS HUMMED ENTHUSIASTICALLY BUT RELATIVELY TUNELESSLY BY THE ACTORS, FROM OFFSTAGE. A MAN, 40, DRESSED IN DINNER JACKET ENTERS STAGE RIGHT. DARK, RECEEDING HAIRLINE, HE IS NOTHING SPECIAL, LOOKS LIKE A LOW GRADE CIVIL SERVANT, WHICH IN FACT HE IS. CROSSES TO DSL FOLLOWED BY SPOT AND (AS IN THE BEGINNING SEQUENCE OF BOND MOVIES) PULLS A GUN (IN THIS CASE HIS FINGER) AT THE AUDIENCE. THIS IS KEVIN.

KEVIN The name's Bond.. James Bond.

ENTER STAGE RIGHT AND CROSS USL, ANOTHER MAN, LATE 30'S, ALSO DRESSED IN DJ'S. REPEATS THE MOVES PREVIOUSLY SEEN BY KEVIN. HE IS DIRTY BLOND, SMOOTHER THAN KEVIN - HE OBVIOUSLY RATES HIMSELF. BUT THEN KEVIN'S NOT MUCH OPPOSITION. THIS IS GARY CHILDHOOD FRIEND OF KEVIN. THE ROGER MOORE TO KEVIN'S SEAN CONNERY?

GARY The name's Bond... James Bond.

ENTER A THIRD MAN STAGE LEFT, 40, BESPECTACLED, LOOKING, IF POSSIBLE, EVEN LESS COMFORTABLE IN DJ'S THAN THE OTHER PAIR. HE CROSSES USR AND REPEATS THE BOND/GUN MOVE. THIS IS MARK, ANOTHER CHILDHOOD FRIEND OF KEVIN'S AND A NATURAL "Q" IF EVER YOU SAW ONE.

MARK The name's Bond... James Bond.

SPOTLIGHT PICKS OUT A FOURTH DJ'D FIGURE. THIS IS SAM, LATE 30'S AND FEMALE. SHE CROSSES FROM STAGE LEFT TO DSR, REPEATING THE MOVES AND TAKES HER PLACE. THIS TIME WE FEEL SOMETHING AKIN TO THE TINGLE OF EXCITEMENT AT THE BEGINNING OF A BOND MOVIE. SHE IS SEXY, THE MAN'S DJ HEIGHTENING HER NATURAL APPEAL. THE HUMMING REACHES A CRESCENDO, THEN PEAKS AND DIES AS SHE SPEAKS THE IMMORTAL WORDS.

SAM The name's Bond... James Bond.

SCENE TWO

THE SITTING ROOM. KEVIN'S FLAT. THE STAGE IS SET UP SO THAT THE FRONT HALF IS TAKEN UP WITH THE SITTING ROOM. USR IS THE BEDROOM AND USL IS THE KITCHEN. THE SENSE IS OF A SMALL, URBAN FLAT. WE SEE KEVIN AND HIS WIFE ANNETTE (LATE 30'S) IN ANTICIPATION OF GUESTS. SOMEONE IS HAVING A BIRTHDAY PARTY - A 40TH BIRTHDAY PARTY IF THE BALLOONS ARE TO BE BELIEVED. KEVIN IS DRESSED AS WE SAW HIM PREVIOUSLY, IN DJ, HIS FEET UP ON THE COFFEE TABLE AMONGST THE NIBBLES, WHILE ANNETTE IS DRESSED IN WHAT ONE MIGHT CONSIDER TO BE A RATHER FRUMPY OUTFIT FOR A PARTY - TWEED SUIT - UNTIL ONE CONSIDERS THAT SHE IS OBVIOUSLY INTENDED TO BE MONEYPENNY TO KEVIN'S JAMES BOND. SHE HANDS HIM A DRINK AND SAYS SOMEWHAT UNCONVINCINGLY

ANNETTE Vodka Martini, shaken not stirred?

KEVIN SMILES. ANNETTE TAPS HIS FEET. EVEN JAMES BOND DOESN'T PUT HIS FEET UP ON HER COFFEE TABLE! KEVIN OBEYS BY REMOVING HIS FEET, BUT LOOKS LIKE A CHASTISED CHILD WHO HAD HOPED FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT ON HIS BIRTHDAY.

KEVIN It is my birthday.

. ANNETTE CUTS HIM OFF.

ANNETTE Look at the time. The quiches will be ruined.

ANNETTE IS OBVIOUSLY A STRESS BUNNY. WE GET THE UNNERVING FEELING THAT SHE MAY DRESS LIKE MONEYPENNY IN REAL LIFE - BUT WITHOUT THE LOIS MAXWELL SEX APPEAL.

KEVIN It's not even eight thirty yet, Annette.

SHE CUTS HIM OFF AGAIN. SHE'S PLAYING A PART HERE- THE LEAST HE CAN DO IS REMEMBER IT.

ANNETTE Moneypenny.

KEVIN What?

ANNETTE Moneypenny. Miss Moneypenny. If you're not going to play along.. I went to a lot of trouble for this..

KEVIN CUTS HER OFF, PULLS HER DOWN TO GIVE HER A KISS, STROKES HER SOMEWHAT UNYIELDING TWEEDINESS. PUTS ON A FAIRLY UNCONVINCING SEAN CONNERY ACCENT.

KEVIN Hey, Moneypenny... what gives?

SHE DOESN'T RESPOND.

KEVIN You're meant to say "Me, given an ounce of encouragement"

ANNETTE LOOKS FOR JUST A MOMENT LIKE SHE MIGHT SUCCUMB. THEN PULLS AWAY. ANNETTE Kevin!

KEVIN IS NOT TO BE EASILY DISTRACTED FROM HIS ROLE-PLAY.

KEVIN The name's Bond.. James Bond. (pause) Oh come on Moneypenny. You set this up. Play along.

ANNETTE I've never seen what the attraction of this Bond thing was. It's stupid. Adolescent. This is the last time Kevin. Positively the last time. You are forty after all. Not fourteen.

KEVIN If it wasn't for Bond we wouldn't have met... remember? The office fancy dress party?

THERE IS A PAUSE WHILE ANNETTE AND KEVIN SHARE A JOINT MEMORY. JUST A MOMENT AND SHE IS OFF AGAIN, STRESS OF PARTY HOSTESS COMING TO THE BOIL.

ANNETTE Surely punctuality and good manners are as important to secret agents as to normal people? Where the hell are they?

KEVIN RISES FROM HIS CHAIR, TAKES ANNETTE BY THE HAND. THIS IS HIS ATTEMPT AT SUAVE IT'S PRETTY NAUSEATING.

KEVIN As long as we're waiting.. how about..?

HE IS TRYING TO LEAD HER TO THE BEDROOM. SHE IS HAVING NONE OF IT. TURNS TO HIM WITH A STONY GLANCE.

ANNETTE Kevin! I've just changed the sheets. And I must check on the quiches.

WITH THAT SHE BREAKS FREE AND EXITS TO THE KITCHEN, LEAVING KEVIN TO DRAIN HIS VODKA MARTINI - SHAKEN, BUT NOT STIRRED! THERE IS A RING ON THE DOORBELL. A DOORBELL WHICH PLAYS PART OF THE BOND THEME, ALBEIT TINNILY. KEVIN PUTS DOWN HIS GLASS ON THE COFFEE TABLE - NOTICES IT'S NOT GOT A COASTER UNDERNEATH. HE'S NOT THAT DARING, EVEN TODAY. GETS A 007 GUNBARREL COASTER AND PUTS IT DOWN ON THAT. CROSSES TO THE DOOR STAGE RIGHT HE LETS IN GARY AND BO, A BLONDE, 20 TOPS (IN EVERY RESPECT) WHOSE STUNNING OUTWARD APPEARANCE HAS TO MAKE YOU WONDER WHETHER THERE'S ANYTHING TO MATCH IT IN THE BRAIN DEPARTMENT.

KEVIN Gary.

GARY IS DRESSED IN DJ'S, LIKE KEVIN. BO IS IN SOME SLINKY DRESS. KEVIN IS TAKEN ABACK BY THE TWO OF THEM.

GARY Kevin. Mate. Happy birthday. This is Bo.

GARY SHAKES HANDS, PUSHES A PRESENT INTO KEVIN'S ARMS. BO IS MAKING A MEAL OF AIR KISSING HIM ON BOTH CHEEKS AS ANNETTE REENTERS FROM THE KITCHEN. HER VOICE IS PAINED, SHOCKED, AND SHRILL.

ANNETTE Oh NO!

GARY S'all right Annette. She's fully housetrained.

ANNETTE IS BEARING DOWN ON HIM.

ANNETTE No, No, No, No, No, No, No.

GARY TURNS TO KEVIN, QUESTIONING.

ANNETTE You can't wear that.

SHE TUGS AT THE LAPELS OF HIS DJ.

GARY Here. Watch out. It's not hired you know. I had it made special. Taylor in Saville Row.

HE WINKS AT KEVIN. ANNETTE ALSO TURNS TO KEVIN, GESTICULATING IN A WAY QUITE OUT OF KEEPING WITH THE CRISP TWEED SUIT.

ANNETTE Kevin's James Bond. You're meant to be Felix Leiter. Didn't you read the instructions?

GARY What instruction's them Netty? (laughs) Instructions was Mission Impossible wasn't it?"Your mission, should you choose to accept it", and all that

BO LOOKS ON, QUITE OUT OF HER DEPTH. CONFRONTED WITH ANNETTE SHE PROCEEDS TO ATTEMPT THE AIR KISSING WHICH HAD PROVED SO POPULAR WITH KEVIN.

GARY Annette, this is Bo. Bo. Annette.

BO I'm Bo.

THIS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NOW SEEMS A LITTLE REDUNDANT, BUT THAT'S THE NATURE OF THE BEAST - ALWAYS ONE STEP BEHIND, OR TO LEFT FIELD.

ANNETTE Domino.

BO SEEMS UNCERTAIN FOR A MOMENT, THEN, ANSWERS, WITH ALMOST COMPLETE CERTAINTY.

BO No. Bo. After Bo Derek.

SHE GIGGLES SLIGHTLY.

BO My dad had a thing about Bo Derek.

ANNETTE Your character this evening. Domino. From Thunderball. The dress?

BO Oh. Gary got it for me. (pause) Oh.I get it.

SHE TURNS TO GARY.

BO The game? Has it started?

HE NODS. SHE LOOKS RELIEVED. UP TO SPEED AT LAST.

ANNETTE So you did get the instructions. If she's wearing the Domino dress, you did.. and so you should be dressed in flannels. As Felix Leiter.

SHE PULLS A LIST OUT OF HER HANDBAG, CHECKING THOUGH SHE KNOWS SHE'S RIGHT. GARY SHRUGS.GIVES ANNETTE WHAT IS AN

ATTEMPT AT HIS BEST BOND "CHARM".

GARY Ah, yes, but Moneypenny. Rules are made to be broken.

GARY'S ATTEMPT FALLS FLAT. KEVIN SEES THAT THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GO HORRIBLY WRONG IF HE DOESN'T INTERCEED. HE DOES THE BEST HE CAN THINK OF IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES - WHICH ARE STRAINED TO SAY THE LEAST.

KEVIN Drinks? Anyone?

BO IS RELIEVED. SHE KNOWS THE ANSWER TO THIS ONE.

BO Yes please Kevin. Oops. I mean Mr Bond.

ANNETTE SUSPICIOUSLY REGARDS THE GIGGLING BO IS SHE FLIRTING WITH HER HUSBAND?

GARY Great. Vodka martini.. shaken

KEVIN JOINS IN.

KEVIN Not stirred.

THEY PULL GUNS (FINGERS) ON EACH OTHER AND LAUGH - OLD TIMES.

GARY Actually, I'll have a bourbon. On the rocks. Martini's a woman's drink don't you think?

TO ANNETTE.

GARY Got any bourbon Moneypenny?

HER FACE IS STONEY.

GARY Well he drinks it in the books. It's only in the films they have him drinking martini. Probably a marketing tie in.

ANNETTE James will fix the drinks. I'm off to check on the food.

SHE TURNS ON HER HEEL AND LEAVES. THEY ARE ALL SILENT FOR A MOMENT IN HER WAKE.

GARY It's not like there's only ever been one James Bond after all.

KEVIN She's been under a lot of stress lately. At work. And she's put a lot of effort into.. (he waves around) into all this.. for me.

GARY Message received and understood. Go easy on Money Penny. So where's my drink Mr Bond?

BO IS STANDING AROUND UNCOMFORTABLY.

BO Should I go and help her?

KEVIN AND GARY ARE LOST IN OPENING GARY'S PRESENT - A JAMES BOND FOUNTAIN PEN OR SOMETHING EQUALLY NAFF! KEVIN IS GREATLY APPRECIATIVE.

KEVIN Thanks. It's just the thing. I lost my one..

GARY About fifteen years ago? Yeah. There's a slight confession I have to make to you about that mate.

BO Should I go and help Money Penny in the kitchen?

GARY LAUGHS.

GARY Money Penny in the kitchen with the lead piping. More like Cluedo every minute.

BO LOOKS FORLORN. GARY CROSSES. KISSES HER ON THE CHEEK. PATS HER RUMP IN A HIGHLY NON P-C WAY.

GARY You run along then, honey. Make yourself useful.

BO TOTTERS OFF TOWARDS THE KITCHEN, LEAVING THE LADS TOGETHER.

KEVIN So this Bond thing? You're not going to put up a fight are you?

GARY PUTS HIS FISTS UP.

GARY Queensberry rules?

THEN HE RUBS HIS TEMPLE.

GARY You kidding? After the time you floored me with the garden hoe in Diamonds Are Forever?

KEVIN I'm sorry about that. No. It's just that.. it is my party and so I have to be James Bond.

GARY Hey. We were eleven years old Kevin. I know you never meant it. (laughs) One of the greatest moments of my life actually. The blood. the stitches. The nurse..crisp white aprons and.. you did me a favour there mate. Plenty O'Toole or what? You know, women love a scar. And what about the time I..

HE POINTS TO KEVIN'S CROTCH. INSTINCTIVELY,THE YEARS PASSING IN A FLASH, KEVIN REACHES TO HOLD ONTO HIS "EQUIPMENT", REMEMBERING THE PAIN IN A WAY ONE IS STRICTLY NOT SUPPOSED TO.

KEVIN You expect me to talk?

GARY LAUGHS

GARY No Mr Bond. I expect you to die.

GARY GOES OFF INTO A TUNELESS RENDITION OF "GOLDFINGER."

GARY So where's that drink?

KEVIN CROSSES TO THE DRINKS CABINET.

KEVIN I don't think we've got bourbon.

GARY No matter. Scotch will do. On the rocks. Hey. Tell you what. I'll be Roger Moore. You be Sean Connery? Yeah? Moore got a lot more sex than Connery. I wonder why that was?

GETTING NO RESPONSE FROM KEVIN.

GARY More liberated age I suppose. But you'd have think Timothy Dalton would have got any woman in the sack and yet... and what about good old Pierce?

KEVIN RETURNS HAVING POURED A DRINK.HE'S SOMEWHAT DISTRACTED.

KEVIN I don't know. She's.. she went to a lot of trouble you know. (whispers) And she doesn't even like James Bond.

GARY SPLUTTERS THROUGH A LARGE SLURP OF HIS DRINK.

GARY Now why doesn't that surprise me?

BLACKOUT

SCENE THREE

AS LIGHTS COME UP USL ON THE KITCHEN KEVIN'S KITCHEN. WHILE WE CAN JUST ABOUT MAKE OUT GARY AND KEVIN IN THE DARKENED SITTING ROOM, OBVIOUSLY REMINICISING ABOUT THEIR CHILDHOODS AS SECRET AGENTS, ANNETTE AND BO ARE IN THE KITCHEN, DEALING WITH THE PRESENT - AND FOOD.

ANNETTE ...And on Kevin's ninth birthday, they all went to see On Her Majesty's Secret Service. His grandparents took them. (she snorts disapprovingly) A totally unsuitable film for small children I would have thought. And Sam was only seven.

BO Did you go with them?

ANNETTE I didn't know Kevin then. We met five years ago. At work.

BO Oh. (SILENCE) What do you work at?

ANNETTE The civil service.

BO Oh. I want to be a model.

ANNETTE HIDES HER DISGUST AMIDST THE HORS D'OUVRES.

ANNETTE I expect you do.

BO Gary says I've got what it takes. And he should know because he told me his second wife was a model.

ANNETTE Karina? A model?

BO LOOKS QUIZZICALLY AT HER. ANNETTE SHAKES HER HEAD.

ANNETTE Hmm. Yes. Well that's Gary for you. He's good at fantasy. Have you known him long?

BO DOESN'T PICK UP ON THIS - SHE'S STILL ONE SENTENCE BEHIND. THIS ANNOYING HABIT IS BOUND TO LEAD TO CONFUSION.

BO You must be good at it too.

ANNETTE I beg your pardon?

BO All this. This James Bond thing. Gary says they've been playing it since they were little boys together. Do you like the glamour?

ANNETTE The glamour?

BO Gary says it's all glamour. And sex. I like sex.

ANNETTE (aside) I bet you do.

BO CARRIES ON, REGARDLESS.

BO Can I tell you a secret?

ANNETTE If you must.

BO I've never seen a James Bond film.

ANNETTE Don't worry. It's not obligatory.

BO Sorry?

ANNETTE It doesn't matter.

SHE RELENTS. PERHAPS BO IS AN ALLY AFTER ALL. THE GIRL IS STUPID, BUT IF SHE DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT JAMES BOND, MAYBE SHE'S WORTH INVESTING IN.

ANNETTE I'll tell you a secret shall I?

BO Is that part of the game?

ANNETTE No. Part of reality. Maybe the last bit of reality we'll both see this evening. (takes a deep breath) I don't like James Bond. I just do it to keep Kevin happy.

BO Oh. Like oral sex?

ANNETTE (shocked) What?

BO Like oral sex. Some girls don't like it. But they do it to keep their man happy. (pause) I'm lucky. Cause I like it. So I don't have to do it to keep Gary happy.

SHE SMILES. PUTS A CHEESY BALL IN HER MOUTH. ANNETTE CANNOT DISGUISE THE PAINED EXPRESSION ON HER FACE. SHE DIDN'T WANT TO KNOW THIS CHARMING FACT.

BO But last week, after I got the dress, I had to play Live and Let Die, to keep Gary happy.

ANNETTE Domino isn't in Live and Let Die. She's in Thunderball.

BO Oh. I wasn't Domino. I was Solitaire. Gary said she was very sexy. He says Domino doesn't do me justice.

THERE IS A PAUSE WHILE BO PUTS ANOTHER CHEESY BALL IN HER MOUTH. ROLLS IT AROUND WITH HER TONGUE IN A RATHER SUGGESTIVE MANNER. ANNETTE LOOKS A BIT PERPLEXED - BO IS DISTURBING HER CAREFUL ARRANGEMENT - AND NOT ONLY OF THE HORS D'OEUVRES.

BO You are clever.

THINKING SHE MEANS THE COOKING, ANNETTE PREENS.

ANNETTE I did a Cordon Bleu course at evening classes. Before I met Kevin.

BO LOOKS CONFUSED. PICKS UP ANOTHER HORS D'OEUVRES AND LICKS OFF THE CAVIAR.

BO Oh. (gesturing at the plate) Yes. That too. I meant, knowing all about James Bond. Doing it to keep Kevin happy. Could you teach me?

ANNETTE REALISES THAT BO IS A LOST CAUSE. SHE PICKS UP A TRAY OF HORS D'OEUVRES

ANNETTE I think it would be easiest if you just went and watched the movies.

BO GIGGLES.

BO I used to go to the movies a lot. But not to watch films. You know.

ANNETTE POINTS AT ANOTHER TRAY, BECKONS BO TO PICK IT UP AND FOLLOW HER.

BLACKOUT

SCENE FOUR

KEVIN'S SITTING ROOM. LIGHTS GO UP AS ANNETTE AND BO ENTER, BEARING TRAYS. KEVIN AND GARY ARE ON THE SOFA, RELIVING PAST ADVENTURES.

KEVIN From Russia with Love. When Rosa Klebb..

GARY Hold up a minute there.. Rosa Klebb was one of them..

HE PAUSES AS CONFRONTED BY A TWEEDSUITED ANNETTE FORCING HORS D'OUVRES INTO HIS FACE.

KEVIN One of what?

GARY PULLS A FACE.. IT'S DELICATE..

GARY You know. One of "them".

HE MAKES A GESTURE WHICH LEAVES US IN NO DOUBT THAT HE MEANS - A LESBIAN. KEVIN NONETHELESS MANAGES TO MISS THE POINT.

KEVIN Oh. Smersh. Yes I see. Okay. Favourite Bond girl.. hmmm?

GARY SHAKES HIS HEAD. KEVIN'S A LOST CAUSE. KEVIN LOOKS AT BO, STUNNING IN HER SLINKY DRESS. THEN AT ANNETTE, FUMING IN HER TWEED.

KEVIN Moneypenny. Miss Moneypenny.

GARY What?

KEVIN Yes. The ultimate Bond girl. The one Bond always comes back to. The one who gets him out of all sorts of trouble.

ANNETTE MELTS SLIGHTLY. GARY GETS THE GIST.

GARY Oh, yeah. I see. Miss Moneypenny.

ANNETTE Where are Mark and Sam? I said eight for eight thirty. And it's nearly nine o'clock.

KEVIN You know what Mark's like. Probably forgotten what day it is.

ANNETTE How can he do that? He's been your friend since you were nine years old as you never tire of telling me.. how could he forget that today was..

GARY Your 40th birthday. Ha ha. How could any of us forget that one eh, big boy. The day you show us your Thunderball, eh James?

THERE IS A RING AT THE DOORBELL. KEVIN RISES TO GET IT. GARY PUSHES HIM BACK IN HIS SEAT.

GARY No mate. Leave this one to Roger.

AS HE CROSSES TO THE DOOR, ANNETTE BUTTONHOLES KEVIN.

ANNETTE Is he still insistent on being James Bond?

KEVIN DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.

ANNETTE He'll ruin everything. I had it all so carefully prepared.

KEVIN It's all right. I'm Sean Connery. The original. And best. (pause)
You did like Sean Connery best didn't you?

ANNETTE IS FUMING

ANNETTE I don't care.

KEVIN IS BROKEN.

KEVIN No. Come on Annette. I know you're annoyed. Things not going to plan and all that but... you must have a favourite Bond? Surely?

BEFORE SHE HAS A CHANCE TO ANSWER, THE DOOR OPENS TO REVEAL MARK (IN A DRESS JACKET AND KILT) AND SAM, LOOKING REALLY SEXY IN A MAN'S DJ. ANNETTE HITS THE ROOF.

ANNETTE You can't..

SAM ENTERS THE ROOM, BRUSHES HER ASIDE.

SAM Really Annette? Who says I can't? Hello Kevin. Happy Birthday.

SHE KISSES HIM FULL ON THE LIPS. GARY FOLLOWS UP, HARD IN PURSUIT.

GARY Any more of that going spare?

SAM GIVES HIM A WITHERING STARE.

SAM Get real Gary.

SHE NOTICES BO, STANDING FIDGETING IN THE CORNER.

SAM Going to introduce me then Gary? I take it this is your latest conquest? How clever of you to find the real Bibi Dahl.

BO LOOKS CONFUSED - OUT OF HER DEPTH. GIVES SAM THE BENEFIT OF HER NICEST SMILE.

SAM For Your Eyes Only? (to Gary) Ah. Not a Bond aficionado then?

WITH NOTHING ELSE LEFT TO DO, BO ATTEMPTS AN AIR-KISS. SAM STICKS HER HAND OUT AND SHAKES FIRMLY.

BO I thought you were a man.

SAM Not last time I looked.

KEVIN It's Sam, short for Samantha. Didn't Gary tell you that?

BO SHAKES HER HEAD.

BO I'm Bo. SAM

URNS TO GARY.

SAM Short for Bimbo?

HE GIVES HER A FILTHY LOOK. MEANWHILE, ANNETTE IS STILL COMING TO TERMS WITH MARK'S KILT.

ANNETTE What are you wearing that for?

MARK IS BASHFUL.

MARK Oh. This? Sam said...

ANNETTE Forgive me if I'm wrong Sam, but Q never actually wore a kilt.

MARK No. I'm James Bond. In On Her Majesty's Secret Service. You know. The George Lazenby one. Where he's pretending to be Hilary Bray. I was going to come as Q, but Sam said I had to dress up.

GARY LAUGHS.

GARY Yeah. What kind of party would it be if we all came as ourselves eh? James. Meet Domino.

BO IS BACK ON COURSE NOW. SHE AIR-KISSES MARK WHO LOOKS HIGHLY EMBARRASSED.

ANNETTE And just how do you expect the evening to work with three James Bond's?

SAM Four. I'm James Bond too.

ANNETTE Don't be ridiculous. You're a woman.

SAM So? For one woman the World is not Enough. (pause) I thought you'd appreciate the feminist gesture.

ANNETTE I would have appreciated if everyone had stuck to the parts I allotted them to play. I did a lot of research you know.. it wasn't easy..

SAM Look. It's Kevin's birthday. I'll come dressed as what I like. And what I like is not coming dressed as fucking Pussy Galore. I mean. Who thought that one up? Gary?

ANNETTE I thought that the fighter pilot image would suit you..

SAM Annette. Have you ever watched Goldfinger?

ANNETTE SHAKES HER HEAD.

SAM Oh. This is hopeless. How could you think to organise a party about something you have no interest in and even less knowledge about? Forgive me. I forgot. You work for the civil service. Stock in trade!

ANNETTE IS BEGINNING TO RISE TO THE BAIT. KEVIN RECOGNISES THE SIGNS. HE THROWS SAM A STERN LOOK AND TAKES ANNETTE ON ONE SIDE.

KEVIN Listen darling. It'll be fine. The meal. The quiz, the cards, that'll be quite enough. We can skip the role-playing bit if you like.

GARY The quiz? Since when did they have quizzes in James Bond films?

MARK Shut up Gary.

GARY I thought it was going to be a typical James Bond night. Drinking vintage champagne, winning at cards, a long drive in a fast car and sex with a beautiful woman into the wee small hours. Not flipping Cluedo.

ANNETTE IS CLEARLY NOT AMUSED.

MARK He's joking Annette. You know us lot. In jokes. Bad sense of humour.. all that.

ANNETTE SEEKS REFUGE IN BETWEEN MARK AND KEVIN.

MARK You were really clever to think it all up. And these hors d'ouvres. They're wonderful.

ANNETTE SNIFFLES SLIGHTLY.

ANNETTE They were ready at eight fifteen. They're like rubber now.

MARK No. They're just perfect. Come on, Money Penny. You hold us all together you know.

KEVIN That's right. Now. Drink anyone?

SAM GOES WITH KEVIN TO POUR THE DRINKS.

ANNETTE HAS GONE BACK OFF INTO THE KITCHEN. BO HAS SIDLED HER WAY UP TO MARK WHO SITS DOWN ON THE SOFA. BO SITS DOWN BESIDE HIM AND GARY SITS THE OTHER SIDE OF HER, POSSESSIVELY.

BO Do you have anything on underneath that?

MARK What? Oh. Sorry. You mean what does a Scotsman wear under his kilt?

BO LAUGHS.

BO I know this one. It's a Big Mac isn't it.

GARY I shouldn't imagine so.

KEVIN IS FOLLOWING ANNETTE OFF INTO THE KITCHEN. SAM HANDS ROUND THE DRINKS.

SAM What's Annette's problem?

MARK I told you we shouldn't have done it. We should have stuck to the script.

SAM Oh come on Mark. It's Kevin's 40th birthday. He needs to cut loose for once in a while.

GARY Yeah. I mean, what does Annette know about us and James Bond eh? Three years with him and she thinks she owns him.

MARK Given the legal technicalities of the marriage ceremony, I suppose you could say that she does own him.

GARY You teaching me about marriage. That'll be the day.

MARK I forgot - weddings are like all your other purchases. You Bulk buy.

GARY IGNORES THIS JIBE.

GARY Where was Annette when we played From Russia With Love on Morecambe Beach? Where was she when we played The Man with the Golden Gun at Butlins in Rhyl? (laughs) Not exactly Phucket! Remember how we used to laugh about that one. Phucket. eh?Ah, those blissful days of youthful innocence. And For Your Eyes Only at that hotel in Corfu.

THERE IS A PAUSE DURING WHICH SAM LOOKS DAGGERS AT GARY.

GARY Oops. Sorry. Forgot that was strictly for my eyes only.

MARK SEEMS OBLIVIOUS. HE PICKS UP A BOND ASHTRAY, A BOND ATTACHE CASE AND A BOND BALLOON.

MARK It's a pity Philip wasn't here.

NOW THERE IS A TOTAL AND UNCOMFORTABLE SILENCE. IT IS BROKEN BY BO, CHARGING ON IN REGARDLESS, TO SAM.

BO Is Philip your first husband?

SAM TURNS AWAY.

GARY No sweetie. Philip was a boy we all used to play with. (To Sam) You did used to play with Philip didn't you Sam? I don't remember too clearly?

THIS IS A BARB - HE REMEMBERS PERFECTLY.

MARK Philip died in nineteen eighty one.

BO SEEMS GENUINELY SHOCKED.

BO Was he that old?

SAM He was twenty one.

BO Oh. GARY The year that Bond died too really. If you think about it. For Your Eyes Only was the last truly great Bond movie. I mean, 1983, Octopussy and Never Say Never Again. Hardly vintage Bond. Enough to send Cubby Broccoli to an early grave. MARK Cubby Broccoli didn't die till 1986. GARY Oh. The quiz has started. How jolly.

SAM SITS ON THE ARM OF THE SOFA BY MARK, GLARING ACROSS AT GARY.

SAM You never change, do you Gary?

GARY Got two ex wives and five kids to prove I do. You? Still playing Solitaire? Bit old to be still playing the prescient virgin now aren't you?

SAM Grow up Gary. James Bond is fantasy you know!

GARY ACTS SHOCKED.

GARY No. NO. You don't say. I thought it was all for real.

MARK Will you two stop it. It's Kevin's party for god's sake.

BLACKOUT.

SCENE FIVE

THE KITCHEN. THE LIGHTS GO UP ON THE KITCHEN. WE CAN STILL VAGUELY MAKE OUT GOINGS ON IN THE SITTING ROOM, BUT OUR ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO THE FORCED INTIMACY OF KEVIN AND ANNETTE.

KEVIN I know it's hard for you darling. And they can be awkward sometimes. But this party.. it means a lot to me. And.. and.. I promise I'll never make you do anything James Bondy again.

ANNETTE Promise?

KEVIN Yes. Bond is back.. for one night only. Okay?

ANNETTE LOOKS RELIEVED, MELTS SLIGHTLY.

KEVIN And you do look... well.. very... you know.. in that suit.

ANNETTE Really?

KEVIN Yes. Really.

ANNETTE Funny because I thought you couldn't take your eyes off that girl Gary brought. And that dress she threw on and almost missed. Honestly. It shouldn't be legal. She can hardly be out of her teens. His eldest daughter must be about the same age. KEVIN Don't be silly, Money Penny, you know I only have eyes for you.

AS KEVIN MOVES IN TO KISS HER, ANNETTE DECIDES IT'S IN HER BEST INTERESTS TO PLAY ALONG FOR A WHILE.

ANNETTE Oh, James.

THE KISS IS NOT ONE OF BOND'S BEST. OVER ALL TOO SOON AND REALITY RE-EMERGES. ANNETTE FUSSES OVER SOMETHING IN THE OVEN.

ANNETTE And as for Sam. What does she think she looks like?

KEVIN TRIES TO RESTRAIN HIMSELF. HE OBVIOUSLY THINKS SHE LOOKED HOT.

KEVIN Hmm. Well. I mean. Sam's Sam isn't she.

ANNETTE Yes. But what's wrong with her?

KEVIN What do you mean?

ANNETTE You know. She doesn't seem to like men.

KEVIN LAUGHS.

KEVIN You think she.. no.. she's not a lesbian if that's what you think.

ANNETTE Do you have to use language like that?

KEVIN Sorry. I thought that's what you meant. You should be nice to her, Annette. She never says, but I think it's Philip.

ANNETTE Think what's Philip?

KEVIN I think she was in love with Philip. And when he died..

ANNETTE Philip who used to play the villain?

KEVIN Yes. He was a nice chap. You'd have liked him. Gary never really got on with him. I think he was jealous of Sam and Philip's relationship.

ANNETTE Does everything have to revolve around sex with you lot?

KEVIN No. (pause) It's got nothing to do with sex, Annette. It was James Bond. You know. Just games kids play. I know we should have grown out of it. But.. well.. I suppose it's only really James Bond that has kept us together. It's what we have in common. James Bond is part of our joint childhood memories.. part of our life.

ANNETTE Like that awful burn on your left arm?

KEVIN Well, Gary could get carried away you know. We've all got some scar or other from playing as kids though, haven't we?

ANNETTE We don't all set fire to our best friend and throw him through plate glass windows though, do we?

KEVIN Look. I know it's hard for you to understand. But..I was lucky to have friends like Gary and Mark and Philip and Sam when I was a little boy. Most only children are lonely and isolated. Me, I had the most wonderful childhood..

ANNETTE Courtesy of James Bond?

KEVIN Whatever you think of Gary now, he was a great little kid. I remember the summer we were twelve. The year Gary's mum died. His parents took us all to a big old farmhouse for a month. We thought it was paradise. We lay around and read all the Bond books from cover to cover - in the right order- and then went out and shot rats in the barn. Pretending they were Smersh agents. You can't buy memories like that.

ANNETTE SEEMS SOMEWHAT PERPLEXED.

ANNETTE No. No I'm sure you can't.

KEVIN He's had a hard time, Gary. With his mother dying when he was that young. I expect that's why he is the way he is with women. You know. To compensate.

ANNETTE And what exactly is "his way" with women.

KEVIN You know. Chats them up. Chases them. Gets them into bed for sex but can't hold down a meaningful relationship.

ANNETTE Oh yes. That "way".

KEVIN You see. We're the lucky one's. We've got each other. Rock solid eh? Safe. Secure. Comfortable. Gary. He's still in turmoil. And Sam. Still grieving over Philip. Her link to the past.

ANNETTE So this James Bond thing is your way of giving your messed up friends a bit of comfort. Remembering happier days?

KEVIN For them. Yes. Me, I've got happy days now. I wouldn't mind if I never saw a James Bond film or read a James Bond book again. But.. they're my friends Annette. They expect it. And we always promised that on my 40th birthday...

SHE CUTS HIM OFF IN MID FLOW.

ANNETTE So you mean to tell me I've gone to all this trouble for them, not for you?

KEVIN Yes. No. Oh, come on. It's done now. Let's just enjoy the party. Loosen off for once eh? Can I get you another drink?

ANNETTE NODS HER HEAD, SLOWLY, DEFINITELY. IF THIS IS ALL OUT OF HER CONTROL SHE'S GOING TO GET AS WELL OILED AS SHE'S EVER BEEN. KEVIN MOVES TO THE DOOR. ANNETTE STAYS BEHIND AND REACHES FOR THE COOKING SHERRY. SHE PUTS THE BOTTLE TO HER LIPS AND TAKES A MIGHTY SWIG.

ANNETTE I'll give you loose, Mr Shaken not stirred.

BLACKOUT.

SCENE SIX

THE SITTING ROOM. AS LIGHTS GO UP ON THE SITTING ROOM, WE SEE KEVIN FROZEN AT THE DOOR. HE AND ANNETTE ARE STILL IN DARKNESS IN THE KITCHEN, FROM WHICH WE ASSUME THAT THIS SCENE IS RUNNING CONTINUOUSLY WITH THE ONE WE JUST WITNESSED. SAM HAS MOVED TO A CHAIR ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE

ROOM, BY THE DRINKS CABINET. GARY MOVES OVER TO REFRESH HIS DRINK AND ACHIEVE HIS ULTIMATE AIM WHICH IS TO SIT ON THE ARM OF SAM'S CHAIR. HE DOESN'T SEEM TO WORRY THAT HE'S LEFT MARK IN THE CLUTCHES OF BO. GARY, AFTER ALL, LOVES A CHALLENGE AND BO IS HIS RIDE HOME. A CERTAINTY. BUT SAM..?

GARY Mind if I park it here?

SAM LOOKS NONPLUSSED.

SAM Sit where you like Gary.

GARY Hey. Come on. Call me James.

SAM DOESN'T RESPOND.

GARY Truce? Come on. Truce for the evening.

SAM Okay. But just for Kevin.

GARY CLINKS GLASSES WITH HER.

GARY Mmm. Here's to Kevin.

SAM To Kevin.

GARY Kevin. And James Bond and The Spy Who Loved Me? You did love me didn't you Sam?

SAM And just when was that Gary?

GARY The Spy Who Loved Me? Nineteen seventy seven? Don't you remember? You and me? I mean, Live and Let Die didn't count did it? After all, you were only eleven. Don't know how they ever let you in the movie. But boy, you kissed incredibly for an eleven year old! And a mere four years later.. James Bond would have been proud of me. You must remember. Your first time? All girls remember their first time..

REFLECTS FOR A MOMENT.

GARY I was your first? Sam? Wasn't I?

THERE IS NO RESPONSE.

GARY Philip didn't beat me to that one.. Sam? You couldn't have. You didn't? With Philip? When you were only fourteen?

HE SOUNDS A BIT SHOCKED.

SAM So? I thought James Bond liked women of easy virtue.

GARY You telling me that that weekend.. The Spy Who Loved Me.. you'd already been doing it with him?

SAM The Man with the Golden Gun?

GARY Dammit. You lost it to Scaramanga?

SAM Well, James Bond's appeal waned for me after Sean Connery.

GARY GETS UP, NEEDING TO REFRESH HIS DRINK.

GARY Christ Sam. I really thought I was the first.

HE TAKES A LONG, THOUGHTFUL DRINK. MEANWHILE, BO AND MARK ARE GETTING ON LIKE A HOUSE ON FIRE ON THE SOFA. BO Hilary. Isn't that a girl's name?

MARK Pardon?

BO Before. You said you were pretending to be Hilary Bray. That's a woman right?

MARK No. Sir Hilary Bray. You know, Bond's Alias in On Her Majesty's Secret Service. George Lazenby's finest hour?

THERE IS A PAUSE.

MARK You're not really into James Bond, are you?

SHE SHAKES HER HEAD, PUTS HER FINGER TO HER MOUTH IN A SEXUALLY ALLURING MANNER.

BO It's a secret. Don't tell anyone. I just do it for the sex.

MARK Sorry? BO Gary likes to play James Bond when we're..

MARK CUTS HER OFF.

MARK I don't think I want to know this thank you very much.

BO Oh, it's quite fun. I get a lot of nice dresses. Gary says I can use them on modelling assignments. But I thought that models didn't wear clothes.

MARK Depends what kind of model I suppose.

BO Glamour. I want to be a glamour model. Do you think I could?

MARK SPLUTTERS HIS DRINK.

MARK I'm sure you could do anything you wanted to.

GARY HAS CROSSED BACK TO THE SOFA. PUTS HIMSELF IN BETWEEN MARK AND BO.

GARY So. How's the world of information technology Q?

MARK Oh. You know. Still pretty good. My website's getting a lot more hits these days. Pierce Brosnan is good for business.

GARY Can't believe you get geeks from all over the world obsessing about James Bond over the internet. How sad is that? Like people who have cyber sex. Find this perfect woman on the net and then when they meet her she's some overweight man with a stocking fetish.

HE LAUGHS.

MARK (pointedly) Surely what people do in the privacy of their own homes is their own business?

GARY It's what people do in the privacy of their own homes when they're hooked up to a computer that worries me. It's not normal.

HE KISSES BO EXTRAVAGANTLY.

GARY Now that's normal. Isn't it babe?

MARK IS A BIT NONPLUSSED.

MARK How's Karina and the kids?

GARY GIVES HIM DAGGERS.

GARY Kids are kids Mark. Sleepless nights, snotty noses, then it's all hospital visits and endless pocketmoney. You never see kids in James Bond films do you?

MARK WINKS AT BO.

MARK Watching, or taking part?

BO I like kids.

GARY Yeah, well I've got five you can play with.

HE GIVES BO A PAT ON THE RUMP.

GARY Go talk to Sam. We've got man's things to talk about.

BO GIGGLES.

GARY What's funny about that?

BO WIGGLES HER FINGER AROUND, THEN PUTS IT IN HER MOUTH AND SUCKS ON IT.

BO Man's things!

SHE MOVES OVER TO TALK TO SAM.

GARY What are you trying to do, Q?

MARK What do you mean?

GARY Getting women onto talk about babies is fatal. Soon as she starts on that nonsense..

HE MIMES CUTTING HIS THROAT.

GARY (Continued) .. for the chop. You think I like going out with girls hardly older than my Kim? But once they hit mid twenties they're all hormonal, settling down and baby talk. Ugh.

MARK ANSWERS POINTEDLY.

MARK There's plenty people would kill to have what you've thrown away Gary.

GARY SHRUGS. THE CONVERSATION CONTINUES IN SILENCE AS WE CROSS TO PICK UP ON THAT BETWEEN SAM AND BO. SAM IS SPRAWLED OUT IN THE SEAT WHILE BO PERCHES CAUTIOUSLY ON THE ARM.

BO Your husband is really nice. Funny. And... kind. Not like Gary. Gary's not kind. I mean we have a good time and everything and the sex is.. okay.. but he's not kind. Not like your husband.

SAM HASN'T REALLY BEEN LISTENING TO BO'S RAMBLING, BUT PICKS UP ON THE HUSBAND REFERENCE THE SECOND TIME ROUND.

SAM What husband? I'm not married.

BO OH.

SHE POINTS TO MARK - DEEP IN HEAVY DISCUSSION WITH GARY. SAM LAUGHS.

SAM Mark? He's my brother.

BO Oh.

SAM What's wrong with that?

BO Nothing.. I thought you were a couple. (pause) You're not a couple? I mean, I don't mind if you are.. Gary's always telling me to Live and Let Live but (her voice lowers) What's it like doing it with your brother?

SAM EXPLODES.

SAM For heaven's sakes. Me and Mark are brother and sister. Normal brother and sister. I've never done it with him and I would no more do it with him than with.. with..

AT THIS MOMENT KEVIN ENTERS AND CROSSES TO JOIN GARY AND MARK.

SAM ...Kevin.

THERE IS A MOMENT'S SILENCE. BUT BO ISN'T SMART ENOUGH TO REALISE THAT THIS IS THE END OF THE LINE FOR THEIR CONVERSATION, SHE PAUSES SIMPLY LONG ENOUGH TO THINK UP ANOTHER CONVERSATIONAL GAMBIT.

BO Don't you want children?

SAM HAS BEEN WATCHING GARY, MARK AND KEVIN, TRYING TO WORK OUT WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT.

SAM No. Why?

BO I want children. I like children. I was excited when Gary said we were going to a birthday party. I thought there would be children.

SAM At a fortieth birthday party?

BO Well. Gary's got five children. I thought.. why don't Kevin and Annette have children?

SAM As far as I know, Annette puts all her problems down to James Bond. That and the lack of a cervix.

PAUSE.IT'S CLEAR THAT BO IS COMPLETELY LOST.

SAM Excuse me Bo.. I have to (mutter) Talk to someone with more than one brain cell.

SAM GETS UP, CROSSES TO THE SOFA AS WE GO INTO BLACKOUT.

SCENE SEVEN

THE ROOM IS LAID OUT FOR DINNER - TWO CARD TABLES PUT TOGETHER AND AN ASSORTMENT OF CHAIRS. THE FEEL IS OF TOO MANY PEOPLE IN TOO SMALL A SPACE. A RECIPE FOR DISASTER. DINNER APPEARS TO BE NEARLY OVER. THE TWO CARD TABLES ARE SET OUT IN DIAMOND PATTERN TO THE AUDIENCE, SO THAT KEVIN AND ANNETTE SIT VIRTUALLY BACK TO BACK, SIDE BY SIDE, FACING THE AUDIENCE. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT THE SEATING GOES: SAM, GARY, ANNETTE, KEVIN, BO, MARK. KEVIN STANDS UP, CLINKS HIS GLASS. THE OTHERS CHORUS "SPEECH, SPEECH."

KEVIN I won't make a long speech..

GARY Thank god for that.

KEVIN But I do think we should all toast Annette.. Miss Money Penny, for this marvellous feast she's laid before us. One thing we are all agreed on about James Bond is that he was a true gourmet, and this dinner has done him, and us, proud. (toasts) To Miss Money Penny.

THE OTHERS ALL CLINK GLASSES AND CHORUS: "MISS MONEY PENNY."
AS KEVIN SITS DOWN HE MISSES WHAT WE SEE, WHICH IS GARY TAKING

ANNETTE'S HAND FOR A MOMENT. THERE IS AN UNMISTAKABLE TOUCH OF THE BOND CHARM IN HIS ACTION.

GARY Shaken but not stirred eh Miss Money Penny?

ANNETTE BLUSHES IN SPITE OF HERSELF. IS IT TOO MUCH TO DRINK, OR IS GARY FINALLY GETTING TO HER? THE CONVERSATION BREAKS OUT GENERALLY AGAIN. KEVIN DECIDES ANOTHER TOAST IS IN ORDER. HE STANDS TO HIS FEET. IT'S CLEAR THAT THE BOOZE HAS BEEN FLOWING FREELY FOR THEM ALL THIS EVENING.

KEVIN Another toast. Charge your glasses.

THE WINE IS PASSED ROUND AGAIN AND ALL FILL THEIR GLASSES.

KEVIN I just want to thank you all for coming. You've been the most wonderful friends a man could have and it's been a privilege to share my life..

GARY You didn't say that when we locked you in the bog for three hours playing From Russia With Love.

SAM Or when Gary chained you to the Eiffel Tower at his View to a Kill stag night!

KEVIN LAUGHS AT THE MEMORIES. ANNETTE GIVES GARY AN OLD FASHIONED LOOK. SHE GETS A LEWD WINK IN RESPONSE. BO IS SIMPLY OUT OF HER DEPTH.

MARK Or when Philip was Scaramanga and I was NicNac and we..

THERE IS A MOMENT'S SILENCE AT THE MENTION OF PHILIP'S NAME. ALL LOOK AT SAM.

SAM What?

SILENCE

SAM What?

KEVIN Sorry Sam.

MARK Yes. Sorry Sam.

SAM What do you mean, sorry Sam?

KEVIN You know. Mentioning Philip.

SAM He did exist Kevin. He was part of our lives. Part of the happy memories you've just been banging on about relentlessly all evening. Philip was part of that too. The best part.

KEVIN I.. I thought.. We thought you wouldn't want to talk about him..

SAM I wouldn't want to talk about him? It's you lot who've expunged him from your memories. From all the tales of derring do. It makes me sick. How can we have this evening and NOT mention Philip. He was the best man of all of you..

GARY (aside to Annette) And she should know.

SAM ..And here we are pussyfooting around, frightened to mention him in case our trivial little evening touches on something real. Something important. Something with meaning.

KEVIN No. No. That's not it at all Sam. We just didn't know where we stood..

SAM Kevin. Philip's dead. He died nearly twenty years ago. He died doing something that he loved, living the life he wanted to live.. and the fact that he left us behind is just bad luck on us. Because he did leave us behind. We haven't moved on since then. Not properly. We've simply kept on remembering the past, rewriting it bit by bit without him in it, till we get to the stage where we can't even mention his name together. Well I haven't forgotten him.

SHE RAISES HER GLASS SAM (Continued) To Philip.

THE OTHERS CHORUS: "PHILIP."

SAM The best of us all.

THE OTHERS JOIN IN "THE BEST OF US ALL."

GARY The best Bond villain there ever was.

KEVIN Do you remember the time we let him play Bond..?

MARK You only live Twice

BO HAS MISSED THE IMPACT OF THE MOMENT. SHE TURNS TO MARK.

BO When are we going to play the game?

MARK What game?

BO Gary said we were going to play a James Bond game. Is this it?

MARK SHAKES HIS HEAD. ANNETTE STANDS UP, BEGINS GATHERING PLATES. SHE IS ALSO EMBARRASSED BY THE OUTPOURING OF EMOTION THAT THREATENS TO OVERTAKE HER CAREFULLY LAID PLANS FOR A CIVILISED EVENING.

ANNETTE If you will help me clear the plates, we can get the tables ready for Baccarat.

BO STANDS UP TO HELP.

BO That's a game isn't it?

MARK Yes. A card game. James Bond's card game.

BO SMILES. KEVIN CROSSES TO SAM, PUTS HIS ARM ROUND HER AND HUGS HER.

KEVIN Sam. I'm so glad we can talk about him. I loved him you know. I know you loved him. But I loved him too. You know that don't you.

SAM I know that Kevin.

GARY HAS CAUGHT ANNETTE BY THE ELBOW.

GARY Great meal Money Penny. How about you and me play strip poker instead of Baccarat?

ANNETTE SHAKES HIM OFF, THEN FACES HIM.

ANNETTE What did you mean when you said "she should know"?

GARY You know Sam. Pussy Galore! She road tested us all. So she can make a fair comparison I suppose.

ANNETTE Not Kevin?

GARY SHRUGS.

GARY I don't know. What do you think?

HE POINTS TO KEVIN AND SAM WHO ARE IN AN EMBRACE, STILL BONDING OVER PHILIP! ANNETTE LOOKS WORRIED. GARY PUTS HIS ARM ROUND ANNETTE.

GARY Come on Annette. Can you imagine Kevin getting a look in with me and Philip around? And anyway, it would only be you show me yours sort of stuff - part of the game - nothing serious.

THERE IS A MOMENT'S PAUSE. GARY THINKS HIS SEDUCTION IS BEGINNING TO WORK AND PRESSES ON.

GARY Has anyone ever told you you've got beautiful.. (he lowers his voice and whispers in her ear) Breasts.

ANNETTE BURSTS INTO TEARS AND PUSHES PAST GARY INTO THE KITCHEN. KEVIN NOTICES HER SPEEDY DEPARTURE.

KEVIN What did you say to her Gary?

GARY SHRUGS.

GARY You know. Women. Always get over-emotional at big events.

KEVIN I'd better go and see what you've done.

KEVIN EXITS TO THE KITCHEN AFTER ANNETTE. THE OTHERS STAND AROUND. SAM LOOKS DAGGERS AT GARY.

GARY What? It's true. Remember Philip's funeral.

HE HUMS FOR YOUR EYES ONLY. SAM WAVERS.

GARY I thought we were allowed to talk about Philip now?

SAM LEAVES THE ROOM IN TEARS, HEADING FOR THE BEDROOM.

MARK You schmuck! GARY Come off it Mark. Let's face it, the evening needed a bit of livening up.

MARK WALKS UP CLOSE TO GARY, THROWS A PUNCH WHICH LANDS SQUARE ON GARY'S FACE, AND EXITS AFTER SAM. GARY ISN'T REALLY HURT, BUT IS AMAZED THAT MARK HAS HIT HIM. AND IN FRONT OF BO, WHO STANDS WIDE-EYED. HE TOUCHES HIS MOUTH TO MAKE SURE IT'S NOT BLEEDING THEN GRINS AT BO.

GARY Part of the game babe. There's always a good few punch-up's in a Bond movie.

BO LOOKS UNCERTAIN. SHE CROSSES TO LOOK AT GARY'S FAT LIP.

BO He looked a bit serious to me.

GARY I'll live.

HE CATCHES HER ROUND THE WAIST, FEELS HER UP.

GARY Give us a kiss, Domino.

SHE BEGINS TO KISS HIM PASSIONATELY, BUT HE PULLS AWAY, LIP STINGING.

GARY Oooh. Owwh. Hmmm. Not now babe.

BO LOOKS DISAPPOINTED. GARY IS DETERMINED TO SAVE THE SITUATION.WHAT BETTER WAY THAN WITH A JUVENILE JOKE.

GARY Hey. What do you call a woman who stands between goal posts?

BO SHAKES HER HEAD.

GARY A net. Get it. Annette?

BO D'you think I should go and help her in the kitchen?

GARY SHRUGS. BO EXITS TOWARDS THE KITCHEN, LEAVING GARY ALONE. HE CONTEMPLATES HIS OPTIONS. THE KITCHEN - NO. THE BEDROOM - NO. HE TURNS TO FACE THE AUDIENCE.. DOES THE ROGER MOORE GUN BARREL ROUTINE.

GARY The name's Bond. James Bond.

CROSSES TO THE DRINKS CABINET AND REACHES FOR A DRINK.

GARY Shaken. Not stirred.

BLACKOUT. INTERVAL.

ACT TWO

SCENE ONE

KEVIN'S SITTING ROOM. LATER IN THE EVENING. KEVIN AND BO SIT STAGE RIGHT, OPPOSITE SAM, GARY AND MARK WHO ARE ON THE SOFA STAGE LEFT. EVERYONE IS MORE DRUNK THAN THEY SHOULD BE TO ATTEMPT SUCH A GAME, SO WE SENSE THAT WE ARE TEETERING ON THE LIP OF AN ABYSS THROUGHOUT THE SCENE. ANNETTE PASSES BETWEEN THE GROUPS, BEARING A COCKTAIL SHAKER FROM WHICH GARY PICKS A PIECE OF PAPER. HE READS.

GARY It's the biggest. It's the best. It's Bond and beyond.

THERE IS A BRIEF PAUSE DURING WHICH GARY WINKS AT SAM.

GARY The Spy Who Loved Me.

ANNETTE Correct.

SHE MOVES ON TO BO WHO PICKS A PIECE OF PAPER FROM THE COCKTAIL SHAKER AND READS.

BO James Bond is back in action. Everything he touches turns to excitement.

SHE LOOKS LOST. KEVIN WHISPERS IN HER EAR AND SHE SPEAKS UP, UNCERTAINLY.

BO Goldfinger?

SAM (sarcastically) Well done.

KEVIN Come on Gary - she can't be expected to..

SAM Yeah. She's hardly old enough to remember Timothy Dalton, never mind Sean Connery. GARY I've been training her, testing her for weeks. MARK LAUGHS.

MARK So that's what you call it.

ANNETTE STEPS IN BETWEEN THEM AND MARK PICKS A CARD. HE READS.

MARK Far up! Far Out! Far More. James Bond 007 is back. - It's On Her Majesty's Secret Service of course.

SAM, ASIDE TO MARK AS ANNETTE CROSSES BACK TO KEVIN.

SAM I hope it gets harder than this.

KEVIN PICKS HIS CARD FROM THE COCKTAIL SHAKER.

KEVIN Look Up! Look Down! Look Out! Here comes the biggest Bond of all.

BEFORE HE HAS A CHANCE TO ANSWER, GARY SHOUTS OUT..

GARY Show us your Thunderball, James.

ANNETTE GIVES HIM A WITHERING LOOK.

GARY Just trying to get things moving Money Penny!

ANNETTE Are you determined to spoil everything?

SHE GETS A LEWD WINK IN RETURN. KEVIN MISSES IT..

KEVIN Come on - it's meant to be fun.

SAM (aside to Mark) Oh. Fun. Really? BO I'm having a good time.

GARY Course you are sweetie.

KEVIN You pick yours Annette.

SHE MOUTHS "MONEYPENNY" AT HIM.

KEVIN (Continued) Sorry. Money Penny.

ANNETTE PICKS A CARD FROM THE SHAKER.

ANNETTE James Bond's all time High. - That's Octopussy.

KEVIN Well done.

SAM But.. you put all the cards in there didn't you Annette?

MARK Shut up Sam. Look at it like a handicap system eh?

SAM Yeah. Kevin's natural handicap.

ANNETTE HOLDS THE COCKTAIL SHAKER OUT FOR SAM, WHO TAKES THE ONLY CARD LEFT AND READS IT

SAM Sean Connery is James Bond. And Twice is the only way to live. - Not exactly hard - You only live twice by any chance?

GARY So what happens now? BO Have they won?

KEVIN No. We haven't started yet. You've to answer questions on the film you picked.

BO But I don't know anything about gardening.

GARY That's green fingers babe. This is goldfinger!

KEVIN Don't worry. I'll help you.

GARY I bet you will!

THE TEAMS SIT OPPOSITE EACH OTHER AS THE GAME BEGINS. KEVIN SITS IN BETWEEN ANNETTE AND BO - HE PUTS A JAMES BOND BRIEFCASE ON HIS LAP OPENS IT AND READS OUT (IN THE STYLE OF TRIVIAL PURSUIT)

KEVIN Sam. Who played Blofeld in You Only Live Twice?

SAM Donald Pleasance.

KEVIN Correct. For extra points, name all the other actors who played Blofeld and in which films. You can confer.

SAM Anthony Dawson in From Russia with Love and Thunderball, Telly Savalas in On Her Majesty's Secret Service, and Charles Grey in Diamonds are Forever.

GARY And John Hollis in For Your Eyes Only.

SAM He wasn't playing Blofeld.

GARY What? Bald man in wheelchair. Of course he was playing Blofeld.

KEVIN He wasn't credited as Blofeld though.

ANNETTE I'll take Sam's answer as final?

GARY SHRUGS. GARY Whatever.

SAM OPENS UP THE BRIEFCASE ON HER OWN LAP.

SAM (reads) Okay. Kevin. Who played Felix Leiter in Thunderball?

KEVIN Rik van Nutter.

SAM Correct. And for your extra points. Name the only man to play Felix Leiter twice - and the two films.

KEVIN David Hedison. In Live and Let Die and Licence to Kill.

BO Why did they have different people playing the same man?

KEVIN That's just the way it is.

BO Oh. Like on soaps? When someone goes away and then comes back but it's a different actress and everyone pretends not to notice? That they're married to a different woman.

ANNETTE Yes. So Something like that. Now. Can we get on with the game.

SAM (aside) Bibi's getting the gist after all, isn't she Gary?

GARY (to Annette, ignoring Sam) Don't you want to know all the Felix Leiter's and what films they were in?

ANNETTE, UNDER HER BREATH.

ANNETTE Not particularly.

GARY Jack Lord in Dr No. Cec Linder in Goldfinger, Rik van Nutter in Thunderball, Norman Burton in Diamonds are Forever. Then good old David Hedison, followed by John Terry in The Living Daylights - oh, and some black guy in Never Say Never Again.

MARK That's outrageous.

GARY What? Non PC? All right. A man of ethnic origin, which is ridiculous really..

MARK No. I mean including Never Say Never Again. It isn't a proper Bond Film.

GARY Had Sean Connery in it.

SAM Mark's right. It didn't even have the Gunbarrell beginning.

GARY Power of copyright eh. Give Kevin the deciding vote. It's his birthday after all. Was Never Say Never Again a Bond film or not Kev?

KEVIN I think we should get back to the game. Annette's put a lot of work into it.

SAM And it must have been really difficult for her.

BO Because she doesn't have a secret cervix?

THERE IS A MOMENT'S SILENCE. TENSION LIKE AN EARTHQUAKE COULD ERUPT. THEN ANNETTE CONTINUES AS IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED. SHE TAKES A CARD FROM KEVIN'S BRIEFCASE.

ANNETTE Mark. What car did James Bond drive in On Her Majesty's Secret Service? Oh. You'll get this one straight away.

MARK Aston Martin DB5.

ANNETTE Correct. And for the extra point, give me all the other cars James Bond has driven.

MARK The Sunbeam in Dr No, The Bentley Mk IV in From Russia With Love, The Aston Martin DBS in Goldfinger..

SAM Wouldn't it be a better question to ask which film James Bond didn't drive a car in?

GARY Daah? You Only Live Twice?

BO (to Kevin) How do they know all this?

KEVIN Just the sort of things you pick up I suppose.

ANNETTE If you are an obsessive fantasist.

GARY If you've quite finished.

HE TAKES A CARD FROM THE BRIEFCASE.

GARY (Continued) Bo. Sing a bit of the theme tune from Goldfinger.

BO I.. I..

GARY Come on. Just sing Goldfinger!

BO BEGINS TO SING, RATHER HESITANTLY, AND CERTAINLY WITH LITTLE RESEMBLENCE TO THE TUNE.

BO Goldfinger.. Goldfinger..

GARY Come on you two, join in if you want the point.

KEVIN JOINS IN. ANNETTE LOOKS DAGGERS AT GARY.

KEVIN Da, na, na, na, na. Goldfinger.

GARY Can't hear you Annette.

ANNETTE It's not one of the questions.

GARY Come on. (sings) He's the man, the man with the Midas touch..

ANNETTE Why won't you take the game seriously, Gary?

GARY I thought it was meant to be FUN! We're having fun now aren't we? I'll do mine. (sings) Nobody does it better, makes me feel sad for the rest..

SAM LAUGHS.

SAM In your dreams Gary.

DURING THIS INTERCHANGE, ANNETTE HAS STORMED OUT INTO THE KITCHEN.GARY RISES TO FOLLOW HER.

GARY Guess that's my cue.

SAM TAKES HIM BY THE ARM AND PULLS HIM ASIDE.

SAM Gary. Stop it. It's Kevin's birthday party for Christ's sake.

KEVIN I.. I think..

BO PATS KEVIN ON THE KNEE.

BO I'll go after her. Give her a hand.

GARY (to Sam) Now that really is my cue!

SHE LOOKS DAGGERS AT HIM.

GARY Jealousy?

SAM Don't be pathetic Gary.

GARY CROSSES TO KEVIN, LEADS HIM TO THE DRINKS CABINET.

GARY Come on Kevin - which novel begins "James Bond, with two double bourbons inside him, sat in the final departure lounge of Miami Airport and thought about life and death"?

HE POURS OUT A DRINK FOR KEVIN AND HIMSELF. WHILE KEVIN IS THINKING, GARY TURNS TO BO.

GARY Go on sweetie. You sort out the women's stuff.

BO TOTTERS OFF IN SEARCH OF ANNETTE.

SAM (to Mark) Like she's going to be any help.

MARK What was all that about her secret cervix?

SAM Bibi hasn't got much in the brain department has she?

MARK Is it true?

SAM And if it is? Perhaps if she spent more time thinking about gravity in a curved universe, or the role of AI in the Windows 98 interface or even how to connect a SCART plug from a VCR to a computer, she'd be more grounded in things that matter in the contemporary world.

MARK You can be really hard sometimes you know.

WE FADE OUT OF THE SCENE AS MARK AND SAM ARE GIVING EACH OTHER A DIRTY LOOK AND KEVIN AND GARY ARE MAKING A BIG DENT IN THE SCOTCH BOTTLE. AS THE LIGHTS GO DOWN WE HEAR KEVIN'S DELAYED RESPONSE.

KEVIN Goldfinger? Yes. It was Goldfinger. How do you remember all this stuff?

SCENE TWO

THE SITTING ROOM IS IN SUBDUED LIGHT AND OUR FOCUS IS ON ANNETTE AND BO IN THE KITCHEN.

BO I'm so sorry if I upset you. Sometimes I say the wrong thing. I don't mean to. I'm always getting into trouble for it. Gary gets very annoyed.
PAUSE.

BO I'm sorry. Was it wrong to talk about your not having a secret cervix? I don't have one either. (pause) I don't think? What is it?

ANNETTE LAUGHS.

ANNETTE You probably use it every day. Take it for granted. We all do. Until it's not there any more.

BO STILL LOOKS CONFUSED.

ANNETTE It's the bit at the neck of the womb. You know what your womb is don't you?

BO Of course. But I thought this was all something to do with James Bond. I would never have said...

ANNETTE Who told you? Gary?

BO No. Sam. I'm so sorry Annette. Really..

ANNETTE Forget it. BO No. You should talk about it. My mum always says you should talk about problems. Why don't you have one? Were you born without it?

ANNETTE I had a hysterectomy. Following a particularly difficult miscarriage. That's why we don't have any children. (sarcastically) There now. I feel a whole lot better.

BO RESPONDS IN A NATURAL WAY, IGNORING THE SARCASM, SHE PUTS HER ARMS ROUND ANNETTE. SURPRISED BY THE SHOW OF PURE AFFECTION, ANNETTE BEGINS TO CRY.

ANNETTE And..and.. Gary has five children, and you can have them, and Sam doesn't even want them and..

BO There there.

ANNETTE It's so unfair.

BO Couldn't you adopt? There are lots of children in the world who would be happy to have you and Kevin as parents.

ANNETTE Too old. Useless and old.

BO You're not old. My mum is far older than you. She's forty two.

ANNETTE BEGINS TO CRY AGAIN.

BO Oh. Oh. I'm sorry. I'll shut up. Here. Have another drink. Shall I get Kevin in to see you? Or Mark. He's very kind, Mark, don't you think?

DURING THIS SPEECH WE CAN JUST MAKE OUT SAM LEAVING THE SITTING ROOM AND GOING INTO THE BEDROOM. KEVIN GOES TO SIT DOWN BESIDE MARK, AND, AFTER A SHORT INTERVAL, GARY LEAVES THE ROOM. FOR A HIDEOUS MOMENT WE THINK HE'S GOING TO THE KITCHEN, BUT HE MOVES TOWARDS THE BEDROOM AS THE LIGHTS BLACKOUT COMPLETELY.

SCENE THREE

LIGHTS GO UP ON SAM IN THE BEDROOM. SHE'S REACHING INTO HER COAT FOR SOME HEADACHE TABLETS. THERE IS A SOFT KNOCK ON THE DOOR AND GARY ENTERS. FOR A MOMENT HE LOOKS SURPRISED TO FIND SAM - BUT ONLY FOR A MOMENT BEFORE HE RECOVERS HIS UNIQUELY BAD PATTERN.

GARY D'you come here often?

SAM Ha Ha. I'm sorry, I don't remember what film that one came from. Or is it masquerading as originality? Run out of James Bond chat up lines?

GARY Hey. Lighten off Sam. It's meant to be a party.

SAM Sorry to disappoint you. (pause) You were looking for Miss Money Penny I presume?

GARY What?

SAM Come off it Gary. It's a party. And you always get laid at parties. Right?

GARY Well.. Yeah, but that's not the point is it. Come on. Friends? Please.

HE SITS DOWN ON THE BED NEXT TO SAM. THERE IS SILENCE FOR A MOMENT.

GARY What a fucking abortion of a party eh? Are we really all that old and sad?

SAM I thought you were of the “you’re as old as the woman you feel” club?

GARY Come on Sam. A lot of water under the bridge eh? I don’t know what you think I’ve done that I should have to beg forgiveness for, but I’ll do it if that’s what you want.

HE GETS DOWN ON HIS KNEES.

GARY Really. I just want to be friends. Like the good old days.

SAM Oh yeah. And which particular good old days were those?

GARY Well. How about 1977? The Spy Who Loved Me. They were pretty good days weren’t they? You have to admit.

HE JOINS HER ON THE BED. TRIES TO PUT HIS ARM ROUND HER. SHE SHRUGS HIM OFF.

SAM I don’t believe you. In Kevin’s bedroom, with your own real life BiBi doll next door, you come in looking for a bit of marital infidelity and now you’re hitting on me. Wake up Gary. James Bond doesn’t really exist. And if he did, you wouldn’t be first choice for a body double.

GARY I’m not hitting on you - as you so eloquently put it. I just want to talk about old times. I’ve learnt a lot of things tonight, things I want to get clear in my head. For example: When you were going out with me in 1977, were you two timing me with Philip?

SAM It’s over twenty years ago Gary. That’s carrying hurt pride rather over the top isn’t it?

GARY So you were. (he laughs) You. Moralistic you. The one who always has the ethical high ground.

SAM Sorry to disappoint you.

GARY Sam. You've done many many things to me over the years. But you've never disappointed me. In fact, it kind of makes me horny to think about it. Did you.. hey.. when I picked you up from school that day and you.. had you.. you were with him, weren't you?

SAM So - we share a little sordid history - and you can get off on that? It's nothing. It was nothing. It meant nothing. It wouldn't even make a James Bond plot. Ian Fleming would be indifferent to the whole thing.

GARY Why? Just tell me why you did it?

SAM It was nothing to do with you. It was to get back.. at him. He said he was going away.

GARY What?

SAM We'd been going out since I was fourteen.

GARY So it wasn't even the first time you two-timed me.

SAM Get it into your thick skull Gary. I didn't two-time you. I two-timed Philip. And anyway. That first time was only because you went on about it all so much. Because you thought I was a sweet little virgin who you were going to initiate into the ways of the world. And I wanted to show you. I laughed at you. I was laughing at you all the time.

GARY So you were a cruel bitch even then. (aside) But you came back for more!

SAM You wanted to know. I'm telling you. Let's see. It was between The Spy Who Loved Me and Moonraker wasn't it?

GARY Yeah. You were back together for Moonraker. How could I forget that painful evening at Kevin's second rate uni, the fleapit cinema matched by the ridiculous travesty of the film. Now that would have sent Ian Fleming spinning in his grave. And then, by For Your Eyes Only, Philip was no more.

SAM And you had your revenge.

GARY What?

SAM You wonder why I hate you?

GARY I didn't know you did. I thought it was all a bit of lighthearted banter.

PAUSE

GARY You really hate me? Why?

SAM Scene opens. February 1981. A funeral. I was nineteen and the man I loved was in a box in front of me. Cut to - June 1981. The release of For Your Eyes Only. The first time we didn't all watch a James Bond Film together. Kevin "couldn't make it". And Mark.. was sitting his finals or some such lame excuse. Just you and me then. And the picture opens. James Bond. At the graveside of his wife. And the skiing sequences. And you wondering why I was crying. Hadn't I "got over" Philip by then? Change locations. Greece. July 1981. Supposed to be a holiday for us all. The last one, all together. Before everyone went off to proper jobs. But we weren't all together, because Philip wasn't there. You hit on me then all right.

GARY You wanted me to. You said..

SAM I was nineteen Gary. What I said and what I meant were totally different things. I was grieving for Philip. You didn't help.

GARY I tried.

SAM You did not. You just wanted to be the last to get your legover. You knew Philip was the first and you wanted to make sure you were the last.

SHE BURSTS INTO TEARS.

SAM Well you were. Satisfied. And that's why I hate you.

GARY You haven't had sex since nineteen eighty one? I don't believe you.

SAM I've had sex all right. Meaningless, pointless sex. But I haven't made love since the last time Philip and I... (pause) And you.. in Greece.. you were the first to break the spell. To reduce it all back down to sex.

GARY We didn't just have sex Sam. You know it. We made love. Remember..

SHE PUTS HER HANDS OVER HER EARS.

SAM I don't want to hear it.

GARY You know we did. I know what this is all about. WE made love in Greece and you felt guilty. Because with Philip hardly cold in his grave, you were making love with me - two-timing him like you always did. I take my hat off to you Sam, you're priceless. PAUSE.

GARY So what about once more? For old times sake?

HE MOVES IN ON HER. SHE SLAPS HIM HARD AND PULLS AWAY.

SAM Okay, so you're right that I'm a prizewinning, heartless whore, but I'm not that desperate. Not any more. Save it for Bungalow Bibi.

GARY You're a liar Sam. You know me and you were always good together. If you didn't want to do it with me, why'd you keep away from me all those years? Why didn't you turn up for The Living Daylights? Licence to Kill? Didn't fancy Timothy Dalton? And Goldeneye?

SAM Perhaps I've just grown out of the whole stupid James Bond thing.

GARY No way. Tomorrow Never Dies? You were there for the big reunion.

SAM It was just after Kevin's wedding. I had to go.

GARY And Mark just happened to tell you that I'd split from Karina? You were up for "some old time's sakes" that day weren't you. What's wrong. Angry cause I knocked you back? Turned up with another woman? What's sauce for the goose eh?

SAM GETS UP FROM THE BED.

SAM Drop dead Gary.

SHE LEAVES THE ROOM. GARY CALLS AFTER HER

GARY You want to be careful who you say that to Sam - I hear you've got a way of making these things come true.

SCENE FOUR

AS THE LIGHTS COME UP, GARY IS ALONE IN THE BEDROOM AND SAM IS NOWHERE TO BE SEEN. ANNETTE AND BO ARE STILL DIMLY LIT IN THE KITCHEN AND OUR FOCUS IS ON THE SITTING ROOM WHERE KEVIN AND MARK ARE SITTING WORKING THEIR WAY THROUGH THE BRIEFCASES OF QUESTIONS.

MARK What was the most impressive gadget in Octopussy?

KEVIN The Yo Yo Buzz saw.

MARK Correct.

KEVIN Which film featured the seagull snorkel.

MARK Easy. Goldfinger.

KEVIN Correct.

MARK Who said and in what film "This can save your life, this cigarette"?

KEVIN Tiger Tanaka. I can't remember what his real name was.

MARK He had a real name?

KEVIN POURS MARK OUT ANOTHER DRINK.

KEVIN Why do you think he called her Pussy Galore?

MARK That's never one of the questions.

KEVIN No. I'm asking. Seriously. Why did Ian Fleming name Pussy Galore Pussy Galore?

MARK Come on Kev. You're forty years old. You must get it by now! Female anatomy isn't still that much of a mystery to you is it?

KEVIN (defensively) No.

PAUSE.

KEVIN It's just..Pussy Galore is supposed to be a lesbian isn't she and so she wouldn't put out for James Bond so why... Oh - I get it.

MARK Happy Birthday Kev. Glad to be of service.

PAUSE WHILE THEY SIP THEIR DRINKS.

MARK Hey. I don't mean to be rude about your lovely wife, but these questions are all a bit tame aren't they? Can't we make up some more exciting game?

KEVIN What sort of game?

MARK I don't know. Things you've always wanted to ask me but never dared.

KEVIN Like, what's it like to drive an Aston Martin DB5?

MARK I suppose so. If that's what you've really always wanted to know about me.

PAUSE KEVIN Well?

MARK Well what?

KEVIN Well, what is it like to drive an Aston Martin DB5?

MARK THINKS FOR A MOMENT. IT'S BECOMING CLEAR TO US THAT THESE TWO ARE WELL ON THE WAY TO OBLIVION.

MARK Like the best sex you've ever had.

KEVIN Oh. Not very good then.

THEY BOTH GIGGLE LIKE SCHOOLBOYS. MARK REACHES INTO HIS SPORRAN. KEVIN MOVES AWAY FROM HIM.

KEVIN You going to change my luck?

MARK THROWS HIM A SET OF KEYS. KEVIN PICKS THEM UP.

MARK Go on. Give her a whirl.

KEVIN You're kidding. I.. I've..

HE HOLDS UP THE BOTTLE.

KEVIN What if..?

MARK You crashed it? Don't be crazy Kevin- all your life you've wanted to drive an Aston Martin DB5 - admit it. You have. Every day of your life since you first saw it roar onto the screen in Goldfinger. You thought

you'd fallen in love with a car in OHMSS - The DBS - but then we went to that crummy little cinema which was showing a weekend of the first five Bond films. Remember - 1972 - Your twelfth birthday? And we came out of there, unmoved by a naked woman covered completely in gold, but absolutely in love and besotted with a car. And we made a pact - you, me and Philip. That we'd save all our pocket money for ever and buy one between us.

KEVIN LAUGHS.

KEVIN And Gary wouldn't tell me why he laughed at the name Pussy Galore!

MARK He was always more into fast women than fast cars.

HE PUSHES THE KEYS NEARER TO KEVIN.

MARK You want to know the true meaning of Pussy Galore? Drive it and weep. Go on. Live a little. Be Bond - just for once.

KEVIN THINKS ABOUT IT. HE REALLY THINKS ABOUT IT. HE'S ABOUT TO ACT ON IMPULSE. THEN SLUMPS BACK INTO HIS CHAIR.

KEVIN But that's just it Mark. I'm not James Bond. I'm short, I'm fat, I'm forty and I'm not James Bond.

MARK So? Who is? But we can all dream eh?

KEVIN I'm a low grade civil servant - in the department of, what does Gary call it? Stealth and total obscurity. I've got nothing. I am nothing. I'm never going to be anything. I took the easy, safe option always. Not like you, or Gary, or Philip.

MARK We're none of us who we wanted to be Kevin. That's part of growing up. Accepting that you aren't the fantasy man you always imagined you'd be. Look at me. So I drive an Aston Martin DB5 - the insurance of which is crippling, believe me. But is it a babe magnet? Let me tell you. It's not the car that gets the girls, it's the man in the car. You've got Annette, and Gary can get any girl he wants - and he drives a Vauxhall Vectra. And I.. I have to make my liasons over the internet because as soon as I see a woman I...

KEVIN Maybe you should wear a kilt more often. Seemed to be doing the business for Bo.

MARK You think so?

KEVIN Yeah. You should get in there. Give Gary a taste of his own medicine.

THEY TAKE ANOTHER LONG DRINK.

MARK I've got something I've always wanted to ask you Kevin.

KEVIN Ask on.

MARK Did you ever sleep with my sister?

KEVIN What? Me sleep with Sam? You have to ask? Sam? Come off it. She'd never look at me. With Philip around.

MARK Do you wish you had?

PAUSE

MARK Seriously. Think hard. Did you ever really wish you could sleep with Sam?

KEVIN THINKS HARD.

KEVIN I suppose so. Maybe. When I was about sixteen But.. she and Philip.. I never stood a chance.

MARK Cause I always thought that you lot just let me play with you because of Sam. She's always had that effect on people. Put me into the shadow.

KEVIN That's what we've got in common. You and me. We're "nearly" men. Men who live in the shadows of other, more exciting people's lives.

MARK You're wrong. Their lives aren't any more exciting. The likes of Sam and Gary, their lives are more screwed up than ours will ever be. They're both living in a total fantasy world. You have to grow up. Live in reality.

KEVIN Philip then.

MARK Philip's dead.

KEVIN Yeah. But he had an exciting life. He did what he wanted to do always. He didn't let petty reality hold him back. And if that avalanche..

MARK But it did. And if it hadn't been an avalanche it would have been something else. Philip was a classic member of the live fast, die young and leave a beautiful corpse cult. He was too exciting to stay alive for long. I just wish Sam had realised that. Because look at the debris he left behind him.

KEVIN I've always wanted to know if he did all those things because we expected it of him. If we killed him. God, I'd give anything for Philip to be here tonight.

MARK Anything?

KEVIN If I had anything to give.

MARK If Philip turned up here tonight, I'd punch him.

KEVIN What?

MARK It's been a night for punching people. I know it's your birthday and all that - but Gary was asking for it.

KEVIN You hit Gary?

MARK SMILES.

MARK Before dinner. When you were tending to your wife.

KEVIN Really?

PAUSE

KEVIN Where is Gary? And Sam? Come to think of it, where are they all?

MARK Where does everyone always end up at parties Mr Bond?

KEVIN LOOKS DOUBTFUL.

MARK In the kitchen dope. Come on. I need more booze.

HE WAVES THE EMPTY BOTTLE AT KEVIN AND THE TWO OF THEM STUMBLE TO THEIR FEET, HEADING FOR THE KITCHEN.

BLACKOUT

SCENE FIVE.

BEFORE THE LIGHTS COME UP WE SEE KEVIN AND MARK MAKING THEIR WAY TOWARDS THE KITCHEN, WHERE WE CAN MAKE OUT THE FIGURES OF SAM AND BO. LIGHTS COME UP IN THE BEDROOM. WE CAN JUST MAKE OUT GARY, SPACED OUT ON THE BED. THE DOOR OPENS. ANNETTE ENTERS. SHE DOESN'T NOTICE GARY, SHE IS INTENT ON "FIXING" HER MAKE-UP, WHICH HAS RUN SINCE HER TEARS IN SCENE TWO. SHE SITS AT THE DRESSING TABLE. GARY, AWARE OF HER PRESENCE, SITS UP. QUIETLY CROSSES THE ROOM AND, COMING UP BEHIND HER, PUTS ONE HAND ACROSS HER EYES. HE IS STANDING CLOSE BEHIND HER. SHE GIVES A SLIGHT GASP.

GARY Don't scream Money Penny. It's only me.

HE RELEASES HIS HAND FROM HER EYES. SHE TWISTS TO LOOK AT HIM, BUT HE'S STILL PRESSED CLOSE UP TO HER.

ANNETTE Stop that.

GARY Stop what?

ANNETTE Sticking your finger in my back. It isn't funny.

GARY It isn't my finger.

ANNETTE SPINS ROUND, CONFRONTING GARY IN SHOCK.

ANNETTE What?

GARY Can I help it if you turn me on?

ANNETTE BEGINS TO CRY AGAIN.

ANNETTE Don't... don't be so cruel..

GARY TAKES HER IN HIS ARMS.

GARY Moneypenny. I mean it. You do. You turn me on. I'll prove it to you.

HE KISSES HER, FULL ON THE LIPS. ANNETTE DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO RESPOND. SHE CAN'T HELP BUT ENJOY IT, BUT EVENTUALLY PULLS AWAY.

ANNETTE Don't.. you.. we..

GARY Oh come on Netty. It's a tradition of mine. Only polite really - to lay the hostess at parties. My way of saying thanks.

ANNETTE You.. you're disgusting.

GARY And you love it. Has anyone ever told you.. .oh, you really do have the most wonderful breasts.

HE FONDLES HER BREASTS. SHE IS JUST DRUNK ENOUGH TO BE UNABLE TO DECIDE WHAT SHE THINKS. HE NUZZLES HER THROAT, KISSING HER.

GARY You want it. I know you want it. Just give in to it.

ANNETTE But..

GARY But what?

ANNETTE Kevin.

GARY What about Kevin?

SHE PULLS AWAY FROM HIM.

ANNETTE Stop it. I'm a married woman.

GARY An unhappily married woman.

THERE IS A LONG PAUSE.

ANNETTE And how do you know?

GARY There's no other kind is there?

GARY IS BACK ON FOR ANOTHER ASSAULT.

GARY Come on Moneypenny. You and me..

SHE SHRUGS HIM OFF AGAIN.

ANNETTE Don't be ridiculous. We can't. Kevin is just in the other room. He might come in at any minute..

GARY Money Penny...

HE REACHES OUT, UNCLASPS HER TIGHTLY BOUND HAIR AND LETS IT FALL DOWN.

GARY Come on. Let your hair down for once.

SHE LOOKS BOTH SHOCKED AND, SOMEWHERE AMIDST ALL THAT HAIR, DRUNK ENOUGH AND UNHAPPY ENOUGH TO BE JUST VAGUELY TEMPTED. GARY RECOGNISES THE SIGNS AND GOES IN FOR THE KILL.

GARY Kevin won't come in. He's got his hands full with a Bond girl.

ANNETTE What?

GARY Come on. It's a party. It's nothing. Just give in to the fantasy. Tomorrow you can go back to.. to it all, but for now..

HE SWEEPS HER UP IN HIS ARMS.

GARY Forget Annette. Forget Kevin. Forget Gary. This is the movies. James Bond and Money Penny getting it together at last. The bit you never see in the film. The bit they always leave to the imagination.

HE GENTLY DROPS ANNETTE ONTO THE BED. SHE LIES THERE LOOKING SOMEWHAT CONFUSED.

ANNETTE But we can't..

GARY You want to though?

SHE LOOKS UNDECIDED. UNDECIDED IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR GARY.

ANNETTE We.. we shouldn't..

HE PUTS HIS ARMS AROUND HER.

GARY Who is it harming? I fancy you.. and you.. go on, look me straight in the eye and tell me you don't fancy me, right here, right now..

ANNETTE I can't..

GARY No one will ever know. For my eyes only. Come on. Live a little. Just for once.

HE LIES DOWN ON THE BED BESIDE HER. SHE DOESN'T PULL AWAY. THEY BEGIN TO KISS. AFTER A TIME, GARY RESTS ON HIS ELBOW.

GARY I want you to show me.

ANNETTE Show you what?

GARY Your secret cervix. (he giggles) Come on. It's nothing. For goodness sake...

ANNETTE PULLS AWAY FROM HIM.

GARY It's a joke Annette. Pillowtalk. Come on..

SHE BEGINS TO CRY. GARY SITS UP. TAKES HER IN HIS ARMS.

GARY Hey, come on. I didn't mean it. I'm sorry. Come on

HE STROKES HER HAIR.

GARY Don't cry. I really.. you have the most beautiful hair you know.. and you smell.. hey, come on.. tell me about it.

ANNETTE I can't tell you. I can't tell anyone.

GARY CRADLES HER FACE IN HIS HANDS.

GARY This is fantasy Money Penny. Tonight you can tell me anything.

ANNETTE So that you can all laugh at me.

GARY KISSES HER GENTLY, STROKES HER FACE.

GARY No. Seriously. Come on. Before. The rest of it. It's all just for show. You.. you drive me wild you know. I.. I can't get you out of my mind. I just do that.. you know, to try and deal with it. But really.. You are so unhappy. Tell me. I won't tell a soul. I promise. Cross my heart.

HE SMILES, PUTS UP HIS FINGERS IN A SCOUT SALUTE.

GARY Scout's honour?

SHE CAN'T HELP HERSELF BUT LAUGH.

ANNETTE You were never a scout.

GARY See. I have dark secrets too. Come on Annette. Tell me all about it.

SHE BURROWS INTO HIS CHEST AND WHISPERS IN HIS EAR. WE MISS IT. BUT HIS RESPONSE MAKES IT CLEAR WHAT SHE HAS SAID.

GARY Who told you that? The doctor? Kevin? Lazy bastard. Have you never heard the expression "It isn't what you've got, it's what you do with it?"

ANNETTE I.. I just can't.

GARY Sorry. Did I hear wrong? You've had your cervix removed right?

SHE NODS.

GARY But you've still got a clitoris?

SHE NODS AGAIN - EMBARRASSED.

GARY But Kevin doesn't know where it is?

SHE TURNS AWAY FROM HIM IN EMBARRASSMENT.HE TURNS HER HEAD BACK TO HIM. FORCES HER TO LOOK HIM STRAIGHT IN THE EYE.

GARY Well James Bond has never had a complaint on that score yet.

HE LAUGHS. NERVOUSLY, SO DOES SHE.

GARY Forget the missionary position Miss Money Penny - we're going for an all time high here. Bond is back - for one night only!

HE REACHES OUT TO UNBUTTON HER BLOUSE. WE GO TO BLACKOUT BEFORE WE CAN SEE WHETHER HE IS SUCCESSFUL OR NOT.

SCENE SIX.

LIGHTS COME UP ON THE KITCHEN. KEVIN, MARK, SAM AND BO - IT'S RATHER OVERCROWDED. KEVIN AND MARK ARE THE WORSE FOR DRINK. KEVIN HAS HIS ARM ROUND SAM'S SHOULDER AND BO IS MAKING EYES AT MARK.

KEVIN You and Bo making friends. Good to see, Sam.

SAM Lucky you came in when you did. I was just about to clock her one. Where does he find them? Toyshops sell things with more intelligence than her.

KEVIN Intelligence isn't everything Sam.

HE IS ALMOST GROPING HER, BUT MORE IN AN ATTEMPT TO STAY UPRIGHT THAN ANY SERIOUS SEXUAL OVERTONE.

SAM Kevin!

KEVIN What?

SHE PROPS HIM UP AGAINST THE COUNTER.

SAM Oh. By the way, we found out Annette's little secret.

KEVIN What secret?

THERE IS AN UNCOMFORTABLE PAUSE.

SAM The book.

PAUSE.

SAM The James Bond trivia book. Where she got all the questions from. If there's one thing sadder than being obsessed with James Bond, it's taking a crash course in James Bond in order to impress other people.

SHE POINTS AT BO WHO IS WAVING THE TRIVIA BOOK AT MARK.

SAM See what I mean?

KEVIN WATCHES STUPIDLY - HIS BRAIN REALLY ISN'T WORKING PROPERLY ANY MORE. BO READS FROM THE BOOK. MARK EVINCES GREAT INTEREST, BUT JUST PERHAPS HE'S LOOKING AT HER CLEAVAGE, NOT ENGAGING IN DEEP THOUGHT ABOUT THE ANSWERS.

BO What was the first song featured in the James Bond series?

MARK SQUEAKS.

MARK Easy. Three Blind Mice.

SAM Pathetic.

KEVIN Well, let's see if you can do better. Come on Bo - we'll all join in. It'll be fun.

MARK AND SAM EXCHANGE A GLANCE - BUT SHE ISN'T GETTING SUPPORT FROM HIM.

BO Oh. Okay. Emm. Which champagne was served to Bond at his dinner with Dr No?

KEVIN Dom Perignon Fifty Five.

BO CLAPS HER HANDS TOGETHER.

BO Good. You're so clever Kevin.

SAM Ask him something a monkey couldn't get!

BO IS SOMEWHAT INTIMIDATED BY SAM'S TONE.SHE PROFFERS THE BOOK TO SAM.

BO Here. You take it. You know all the difficult questions.

MARK LAUGHS.

MARK Pity she doesn't know the easy answers!

SAM IS ANNOYED. MARK IS DRUNK, BUT HE'S ALSO MAKING A FOOL OF HIMSELF.

SAM No. You carry on. You do read so nicely. (under her breath) This season's must have toy - Talking Barbie!

BO What was Felix Leiter's Miami Beach hotel telephone number.

KEVIN Ha. Go on Sam. Answer that one!

SAM Which film? BO It doesn't say which film.

MARK Goldfinger.

SAM You don't know it do you? You do know it. Mark -how can you possibly know something as trivial as that?

HE SMILES. BO IS IMPRESSED. SO, IN HIS ENEBRIATED WAY IS KEVIN.

KEVIN You said you wanted a hard one Sam. (realising his double entendre) Oops. Sorry.

HE LOOKS AT HIS GLASS. HICCUPS.

KEVIN I think maybe I've had one over the nine!

MARK Good on you Kev. Happy 40th Birthday. 879 -432.

SAM You're kidding.

MARK No. The number of Felix Leiter's Miami Beach hotel number in Goldfinger is 879-432.

BO He's right.

SAM WRESTS THE BOOK FROM BO.

SAM Okay. Okay. So - what brand of golf ball did Goldfinger use?

MARK Slazenger.

SAM What was the license plate number of the Ford Mustang 007 drives in Diamonds are Forever?

MARK CA52H6.

SAM I don't believe this. You are the saddest person alive.

BO AND KEVIN CLAP AND CHEER HIM ON.

SAM What was the ID number of the New York Cab which picked up 007 in Live and Let Die?

MARK 145. You'll have to do better than that.

SAM License plate number of the Lotus in The Spy Who Loved Me?

MARK PPW 306R - and CPW 654W in For Your Eyes Only.

SAM This is just terrifying. Don't you have a life Mark?

MARK I bet you know plenty of the answers in here Sam.

SAM If I do, I'm not proud of the fact. Here's one even you won't get. Please tell me you don't know it. Please. I beg you to get this one wrong.

MARK I'll do my best.

SAM The number of Bond's hotel room at the San Monique Hotel in Live and Let Die?

MARK Bungalow 12.

SAM The number of Andrea's Hong Kong Peninsular Hotel Room in The Spy Who Loved Me?

MARK It was in The Man With the Golden Gun. And it was Room 602. Give it up Sam.

KEVIN Yes. Give it up Sam. You're making my brain ache.

HE TAKES THE BOOK FROM HER - CAN'T HELP HIMSELF BUT BEGIN THUMBING THROUGH THE PAGES.

KEVIN Hmm. That's interesting. I never knew that..

SAM GETS HERSELF ANOTHER DRINK. BO HAS NOW MORE OR LESS WOUND HERSELF ROUND MARK.

BO I bet you could go on Who Wants to be a Millionaire, you're so clever.

MARK But it only works with James Bond.

BO I.. I bet I could ask you all kinds of things and you'd know the answer..

SAM (sarcastically) I bet you could.

BO GIVES SAM A LOOK, THEN LEANS CLOSER TO MARK.

BO I'll whisper. - I don't think your sister likes me.

BO AND MARK NOW GO INTO A WHISPERING HUDDLE THAT LOOKS SET TO END IN SOME SERIOUS SNOGGING SOMETIME SOON. SAM, DISGUSTED, TURNS BACK TO KEVIN. HE LOOKS UP FROM THE BOOK.

KEVIN Sam. I never knew this. Did you know what brand of skis 007 used in For Your Eyes Only?

SAM BEGINS TO BREAK DOWN.

KEVIN Sam. Sam. What's wrong? I didn't know either..

SAM Of course I know. The same kind that Philip used!

SHE STORMS OFF INTO THE SITTING ROOM, LEAVING KEVIN NONPLUSSED BEHIND HER.

KEVIN I never knew that.

URNS TO MARK, WHO IS FINALLY GETTING IT ON WITH BO.

KEVIN Did you know that Mark... oh...

HE TURNS BACK TO THE BOOK.

KEVIN Olin Mark VI's. Well, you live and learn.

THEN REMEMBERS THAT HE'S UPSET SAM AND TAKES OFF INTO THE SITTING ROOM IN PURSUIT OF HER.

BLACKOUT.

SCENE SEVEN.

SITTING ROOM. MARK AND BO ARE ON THE SOFA TOGETHER, SHE RUNNING HER HAND UP HIS LEG UNDERNEATH HIS KILT. KEVIN IS SLUMPED IN A CHAIR AND SAM IS HITTING THE BOTTLE. ENTER GARY. HE SEES MARK AND BO.

GARY Anyone for a coffee?

SAM POINTS AT KEVIN

SAM I think he's gone beyond coffee.

GARY REPEATS HIMSELF LOUDER - FOR BO'S BENEFIT.

GARY Bo. I said, Anyone for a coffee.

MARK AND BO COME UP FOR AIR.

MARK Mmm. Yeah. Please.

SAM You been making coffee in the kitchen all this time Gary? Or have you another sordid little secret?

BO WAGS HER FINGER AT GARY.

BO Yes. We all know your little secret.

SHE GIGGLES. THEN TURNS TO MARK.

BO Annette's got a secret cervix. Gary's a secret coffee maker. What's your secret Mark? Is it hidden under your kilt?

SHE IS ABOUT TO TRY AND FIND OUT WHEN GARY LUNGES FORWARD TO PULL HER OFF MARK. SAM INTERVENES.

SAM What's wrong Gary? James Bond losing his touch?

GARY GIVES BO A MEANINGFUL STARE.

BO I'll go and make the coffee then shall I?

SHE EXITS. KEVIN COMES ROUND BRIEFLY.

KEVIN Did someone say coffee? (he is dozy) I was having the most amazing dream..

SAM I'm not sure you want to wake up just yet Kevin.

KEVIN THINKS FOR A MINUTE.

KEVIN Yeah. Maybe you're right.

GARY What was the dream about mate?

GARY SITS DOWN ON THE ARM OF KEVIN'S CHAIR.

KEVIN Well, Rosa Klebb was in the bath with James Bond..

GARY You've got to be joking. Even James Bond wouldn't do it with Rosa Klebb. (laughs) What's this thing you've got about Rosa Klebb, eh Kev? Miss Money Penny not good enough for you?

SAM Good enough for you?

GARY WHISTLES "NOBODY DOES IT BETTER" SAM RESPONDS BY SINGING "HE'LL SHOOT ANYONE, THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN GUN" KEVIN HOLDS HIS HEAD.

KEVIN Are we on the singing round again? Oww, my head hurts.

GARY Then the birthday's been a success.

SAM TAKES GARY ON ONE SIDE.

SAM What are you playing at Gary?

GARY The name's Bond, James Bond. You should have come as Mary Goodnight Sam, really you should. Just leave it huh? It's a party.

SAM You are out of this world.

GARY I do my best to please.

GARY MOVES OVER TO MARK. PICKS UP THE ASTON CARKEYS FROM THE COFFEE TABLE AND WAVES THEM AT HIM.

GARY This the best you can do to impress women these days?

MARK What? GARY Aston Martin key fob. Bit sad eh?

MARK Look out the window.

GARY LOOKS OUT - TURNS ROUND AMAZED.

GARY Bit over the top eh? Hiring an Aston Martin to come to a party. (he laughs) Especially now you're too plastered to drive it home!

SAM COMES OVER TO JOIN IN THE FUN

SAM But it's not hired.

GARY What? NO. You... you mean..?

MARK SMILES LIKE THE CAT THAT GOT THE CREAM.

MARK You've got it. Aston Martin DB5. All paid up and mine.

SAM More than can be said for the girl, eh Gary?

BO RE-ENTERS, WITHOUT THE COFFEE.

BO I couldn't find...

GARY PULLS BO ASIDE BY THE ARM.

GARY Get your coat babe, we're leaving.

BO Owww. Gary. You're hurting me.

MARK JUMPS TO HIS FEET. GARY TAKES A STEP BACK IN MOCK FEAR.

GARY What? Want to have a go again Mark? You're more Clark Kent than James Bond aren't you. By day mild mannered..

MARK SQUARES UP TO HIM.

MARK Don't push me Gary.

GARY By night.

SAM TRIES TO INTERVENE.

SAM Mark. Don't. He's not worth it.

AS THE FRACA BREAKS OUT, THE DOORBELL GOES.

BO I'll get the door shall I?

NO ONE REPLIES TO HER, SO BO LEAVES THE ROOM TO ANSWER THE DOOR.

PHILIP (O.S.) Sorry I'm a bit late. The party's not over is it?

BO RE-ENTERS - TRIES TO GET KEVIN'S ATTENTION. HE'S STILL SLUMPED IN HIS CHAIR, HEAD IN HANDS. DOESN'T NOTICE A THING.

BO There's another James Bond, Mr Bond.

KEVIN LOOKS UP STUPIDLY. SAM HAS JUST ABOUT STOPPED THE FRACA IN THE FAR CORNER. KEVIN, OBLIVIOUS TO THEIR LATEST GUEST, HEAD DOWN HEADS FOR THE KITCHEN.

KEVIN I'm going to be sick.

KEVIN'S EXIT MEANS HE MISSES PHILIP'S ENTRANCE - PHILIP IS ALSO DRESSED AS JAMES BOND IN DJ - BUT HE REALLY LOOKS THE PART.

SAM TURNS ROUND FROM THE SQUABBLING. SHE IS SHELLSHOCKED.

SAM Philip!

MARK My God. It is! Philip?

GARY You what? You can't be...

PHILIP STANDS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROOM. THE OTHERS ARE TOTALLY GOBSMACKED.

BO Philip? But you all said Philip was dead. .

SAM Philip. How could you?

HE SHRUGS HIS SHOULDERS. NOTHING CAN MAKE UP FOR THE LAST TWENTY YEARS AND HE ISN'T GOING TO TRY.

PHILIP How could I miss Kev's 40th Birthday?

GARY So.. so you're back..

PHILIP SMILES.

PHILIP Looks like it. Like I said. Sorry I'm late.

BO Back from the grave?

SAM Sorry I'm late? After twenty years. That's the best you can do? Sorry I'm late!

PHILIP POINTS TO THE PARTY DEBRIS AND THE DISHEVELLED STATE OF THE PARTIERS.

PHILIP Looks like you've been having a whale of a time.

SAM CROSSES TILL SHE IS REALLY CLOSE TO PHILIP, AS IF SHE DOESN'T TRUST HER OWN EYES. PHILIP (Continued) Sam. I'm so sorry..

SAM Sorry? For what? For being late? We should have expected it. After all, you were obviously too late to attend your own funeral. We missed you there.

PHILIP For the way it ended.

SAM The way it ended? How could you be so fucking cruel.. I thought... we all thought... we've all thought you were dead for twenty years and now you just turn up as if nothing's happened. Happy Birthday Kevin?

GARY You Only Live Twice. Blinder!

PHILIP Look. I owe you an explanation. I know. But this isn't the time or the place.

SAM This is exactly the time and the place.

THERE IS A MOMENT'S SILENCE. GARY PASSES PHILIP A DRINK.

GARY Hey. Mate. Get this down your neck. You've a bit of catching up to do.

PHILIP TAKES THE DRINK, BUT IS STILL LOOKING AT SAM.

PHILIP I couldn't help it. I had to change my identity.. I.. I.. tried to tell you. I would have.. but..

SAM But what? You just forgot?

PHILIP They told me it would be better..

SAM Who told you?

PHILIP You can't argue with MI6 Sam.

SAM Don't give me that spy crap Philip. This is the real world..

PHILIP And spies don't really exist?

SAM No.

PHILIP Not like James Bond maybe.. but..

SAM So how come you've blown your cover now?

PAUSE

SAM You total bullshitter. Twenty fucking years Philip! You walked out on me. You let me go to your funeral. You.. total.. fucking.. bastard..

SHE BEGINS TO HIT HIM. MARK STEPS IN AND PULLS HER OFF.

MARK You'd better make yourself scarce or I'll join her.

GARY Yeah, watch out Phil, Mark's turned into quite a little Oddjob these days.

BO IS CONFUSED. TURNS TO GARY.

BO So he isn't a ghost then?

GARY Not yet. But keep watching.

BO Is this part of the game?

GARY Not exactly babe.

PHILIP AND SAM ARE IN A WORLD OF THEIR OWN.

PHILIP I'll go. I'm sorry. I knew it would be a shock for you. But.. I just kept thinking about our promise.. for Kevin's 40th birthday. Remember. That summer we spent with Gary's family? When his mum died. Six days before her 40th birthday? And we promised that whatever else happened to us, we'd all get together on Kevin's 40th birthday..

SAM This is totally unbelievable. I can't...you... what the bloody hell is all this about?

PHILIP Sam. What can I say? I am sorry. They recruited me in 1980 - I got into some bother. I I didn't want to drag you into it... I couldn't do anything else..

MARK Still. Staging a funeral? That was a bit sick wasn't it?

PHILIP It wasn't my choice.

MARK We were your best friends. You could have told us. We'd have understood.

PHILIP I couldn't. I'm sorry, it was out of my hands. I couldn't risk it?

HE TURNS TO SAM

PHILIP What could I have done?

SAM You could have stayed dead.

PHILIP If that's what you want.

HE MAKES FOR THE DOOR. SHE LAUGHS SARDONICALLY.

SAM So what now? Off on another assignment? Just like that.

GARY Ha ha. Bond is back... for one night only? For one man, the World is not enough. You only live twice..

HE TAILS OFF BECAUSE NO ONE IS LISTENING TO HIM.

PHILIP I'm retired. Perhaps we should talk sometime when the wine hasn't been flowing quite so freely?

SAM You think any of us could have handled this sober?

PHILIP OFFERS SAM A BUSINESS CARD.

SAM You have to be joking. A spy with a business card. Why don't you just walk into a bar in downtown Smershville and announce you drink Vodka martini shaken not stirred.

SHE TURNS AWAY FROM PHILIP - IN TEARS. MARK COMFORTS HER. PHILIP CONTINUES HIS PATH TO THE DOOR AND GIVES GARY A CARD AS HE PASSES HIM.

PHILIP Give this to Kev will you? Oh, and nice car outside Gary.

GARY It's Mark's.

PHILIP LOOKS A BIT SURPRISED, AND IMPRESSED.

PHILIP Really? Well done. HE TURNS TO BO.

PHILIP Nice to meet you, albeit briefly.

SAM TURNS TO HIM AS HE REACHES THE DOOR.

PHILIP Is this what you want?

SHE NODS.

PHILIP Okay. Well. If you change your mind, give me a call.

PHILIP (To Mark) Look after her.

MARK SNARLS BACK AT HIM. PHILIP TURNS TO GARY ONCE MORE.

PHILIP Tell Kevin.. well.. tell him happy Birthday.

HE EXITS. THEY ALL STAND BEWILDERED. AS THE DOOR SLAMS, KEVIN AND ANNETTE ENTER THE ROOM. THEY CARRY TRAYS OF COFFEE.

KEVIN What's up with you lot?

ANNETTE Coffee anyone?

GARY You just missed Philip.

KEVIN Ha Ha.

SAM HANDS HIM PHILIP'S CARD.

SAM He's back from the dead alright. To wish you a happy birthday. Oh, and to tell you he's been working as a spy for the last twenty years. But it's okay, he's retired now and he thinks he'll just pick up where he left off.

KEVIN Philip? A spy? Do me a favour Sam - He might have made a good Scaramanga, but Philip as James Bond - never! Oh.. I get it. It's another party game is it?

BO No, Kevin. He really was here. Philip. He's alive. (aside) It's just like a soap opera.

KEVIN Well, where's he hiding?

HE BEGINS TO LOOK AROUND THE BACKS OF THE FURNITURE.

KEVIN It's my birthday party. Why isn't he here?

MARK He.. um...

GARY Sam kicked him out.

KEVIN Kicked him out? Philip? Our best friend Philip? Philip who we...

KEVIN RUSHES FOR THE DOOR.

KEVIN I'm going after him.

MARK TOSSES THE ASTON MARTIN CARKEYS AT KEVIN - WHICH MIRACULOUSLY HE CATCHES. THERE IS A MOMENT OF SURPRISE AND JOY ON HIS FACE AS HE EXITS. ANNETTE GIVES MARK A DIRTY LOOK.

MARK Okay, okay, I'll go with him.

GARY Excellent. A car chase after all. (to Bo or is it to Annette?) Get your coat babe, we're offsky.

BO AND ANNETTE BOTH RESPOND BY LEAVING THE ROOM TO FETCH THEIR COATS. GARY AND SAM ARE LEFT ALONE.

GARY Come on Sam. Philip back. It's what you always wanted.

SAM IS STILL STANDING, DUMB WITH SHOCK. GARY TAKES HER IN HIS ARMS.

GARY Hey. Shaken, not stirred Sam. Okay?

SHE NODS WEAKLY.

GARY Then let's go after him.

HE TAKES HER BY THE HAND AND THEY RUSH OFFSTAGE. ANNETTE AND BO RE-ENTER, WITH THEIR COATS. THEY STAND AMIDST THE DEBRIS OF THE PARTY.

BO When I'm forty, I'm going to have a theme party. It's so exciting. D'you think they'll still have James Bond then, Miss Money Penny?

ANNETTE I do hope so!

BLACKOUT - TO JAMES BOND THEME TUNE.

Cally Phillips

Worked for 20 years as a professional screenwriter, playwright and now, latterly as a novelist. She has broadcast credits with BBC and Granada TV and 13 performed plays. From 2002-2004 she was Scottish Arts Council's dramatist in residence for Dumfries and Galloway Arts Association. From 2002-2006 she was Artistic Director of Bamboo Grove Theatre Company. In 2010 she set up HoAmPresst Publishing and in 2012 she became editor of Indie eBook Review site as well as setting up the inaugural Edinburgh eBook Festival.

She lives in the rural North East of Scotland with her husband and a pair of GSP's and dreams (occasionally) of having a James Bond themed birthday party. But only if the 'real' Bond would put in an appearance.

You can find out more about Cally's published work at www.callyphillips.co.uk