

THE BOYS
HERE I AM

SCENE NINE – RACHEL'S KITCHEN

THE BOYS *variously strike the doors and become the washing line.*

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RACHEL *(Calls off.)* Je-ff! Jeff love, it's five past!

(In races JEFF, a sweet guy nearing fifty, slightly out of condition, in a suit that betokens a council office job.)

JEFF RA-ACH! WHY DIDN'T YOU KNOCK ON THE BATHROOM!
LOOK AT THE TIME!

RACHEL I did knock, my darling but if y'r gonna play *Iron Maiden* that loud there's only so much I can do.

JEFF Is Bob outside?

RACHEL He hasn't honked.

JEFF *(Straightening tie.)* Tell y' what, y're a lucky girl, Rach Ditchfield. D'you not wake up some mornings and think 'how did I end up in a bed with a sex god'?

RACHEL I do, love. But I always come home to you in the end.

(There's a CAR HORN off.)

And there is your chariot! GO Jeff, to that local council!

JEFF *(Strikes Superman pose.)* My mission – to meet our seventy-eight per cent domestic recycling target.

RACHEL MY HERO!

JEFF Oh hey, Bob's birthday card – can you get one today an' write something funny in it? I'm not great with words.

RACHEL Yes! Go!

JEFF An' are we doin' the quiz at the Red Lion?

RACHEL (*'Of course'.*) Is it Thursday? Tell Bob / we –

RADIO DAVE Rachel Ditchfield! Cue screaming, cue dancing. We have a winner.

JEFF SHHHH! (*He points at the radio.*) Your name! They just said – !
TURN IT UP!

RADIO DAVE Good name that innit Don, 'Ditchfield'! Real good Northern name!

(*RACHEL turns the radio up.*)

RADIO DAVE . . . So there we go, 'Rachel Ditchfield' my darling! MANY congrats, you'll be heading to the concert, all four of you – the prize is four tickets – not only that, staying at the Royal Hotel in Prague, a FIVE STAR hotel – Don, how are we affording these prizes? Concert, flights, five star hotel . . .

(*His voice fades under another song.*)

(*RACHEL and JEFF stare at each other.*)

RADIO DAVE . . . how much do we love you guys . . . !

(*JEFF turns it off.*)

JEFF Did you enter a competition?

(*RACHEL looks at him, stunned . . .*)

JEFF In Prague? For Prague?

RACHEL (*Stunned, 'yes'!*) To a concert.

JEFF In Prague? T' go to Prague?

RACHEL Yeah.

- JEFF In Prague?
- RACHEL Reunion tour.
- JEFF In Prague! On the bloody radio! You won a weekend for four! An' you know what's in Prague?
- RACHEL The concert.
- JEFF It is the WORLD CAPITAL of LAGER!
- RACHEL *(Slightly lost.)* Y'what?
- JEFF SERIOUSLY! It's FAMOUS! There are more types of lager and wheat beer in Prague . . .
- (There's a CAR HONK off.)*
- MM-ah! I gotta go, but THAT just – I tell you what, Rach, girl. Your timing's impeccable! Here's me thinking we couldn't afford a decent present for Bob's fortieth! *(He goes to the door, then turns. A tiny glimmer of a thought . . .)* You never enter competitions. What suddenly made y' enter that one?
- RACHEL I don't know!
- (Beat. He has to accept that, and goes. RACHEL sits for a moment, on her own in thought.)*
- (Much more for herself.)* I don't know.

Music No. 5 – THE GARDEN

(Underscore. RACHEL sits, slightly dazed, trying to process this. She turns on the radio. The radio produces a flower. Then another.)

BOY 3

THIS IS THE LIFE WE'VE BEEN GIVEN

SO OPEN YOUR MIND AND START LIVING

WE CAN PLAY OUR PART, IF WE ONLY START BELIEVING . . .