

JEFF I always wondered why y'didn't wanna get married. (*Beat.*) Over the years. Whenever I asked, it was always – 'Time's not right.' 'Save the money.' 'Buy a caravan instead . . .' I always knew them weren't real reasons. And y' panic, a bit, Rach, t'be frank. Dark of the night. A girl only doesn't tie herself down if secretly she wants t' get out. (*Beat.*) Then you start entering competitions for bands you went to as a kid. Then I come home an' find you sitting in the dark. Then y'r looking up friends from school. I mean – (*Re. the cards.*) I'm not great wi' words, Rach. But I know y'only start looking backwards if y' don't wanna go forwards.

(*RACHEL sits next to him.*)

RACHEL My life was eight out of ten.

(*Underscore resumes.*)

And that's good, Jeff. In life. In a test. Pretty good mark. Unless y'know the other two is out there somewhere. Which I s'pose I always knew it was.

JEFF Where was it?

RACHEL With them girls. It's what I am when I'm with them girls. What we used to be at sixteen. What we stopped being the moment we didn't let balloons go on the rocks. (*Beat.*) You wouldn't've been marrying Rachel. You'd've been marrying an 'eight of ten Rachel'.

JEFF Well that's er . . . (*Beat.*) Really happy for y'. That y've found that. But I'm . . . (*Arms out.*) This is all I've got. This is 'maximum Jeff'. I don't go any higher on the dial. An' looking there, looking at you coming off that plane, giving it all that – I don't know that woman, Rach. Dunno anything about her. (*Beat.*) Except I'm pretty sure she wouldn't've wanted to marry me.

(*Beat.*)

RACHEL Why don't you ask?

JEFF An' why would it be any different to all the other times, Rach?

RACHEL                    Because I couldn't get married without a very special bridesmaid. And I didn't have one. And I thought I never would. And now I think I've got three.

*(Underscore continues – The Garden.)*

You an' me 've been together a long old time. Then we had a very important break. And now we're re-forming. *(Beat.)* Don't look at it as a marriage, Jeff. This is our comeback.

*(RACHEL rises with JEFF to leave. THE BOYS amass to see them off, their work done.)*

THE BOYS

EVERYONE, EVERYONE CAN YOU HEAR THE SOLDIERS COMING?  
EVERYONE, EVERYONE, EVERY MAN AND EVERY WOMAN  
WE ALL FALL IN THE END, WE'RE JUST MIRACLES OF MATTER  
SO COME ON

*(RACHEL hangs back . . . )*

RACHEL                    Louder boys!

THE BOYS

LET ME LOVE YOU!

*( . . . then goes off with JEFF as The Garden Underscore comes in, the airport chairs are taken off by THE BOYS and the rocks return.)*

## SCENE EIGHT – THE ROCKS BEHIND TOWN

*ZOE is heard before she's seen, and is seen in a magnificent dress as if a bridesmaid.*

ZOE                         HEATHER! OKAY LET'S KEEP GOING KIDS! THAT'S REALLY GOOD. NEARLY THERE! *(Claps to inspire.)* Keep climbing. You're all doing really well!

*(HEATHER appears, also in a stunning creation, hair slightly awry, puffed.)*