

# THE BAND

## ACT ONE

### INTRODUCTION

*Our preset is a parade of 90's TV, then a BBC1 transmission introducing TOP OF THE POPS. The screen disappears back into a small battered portable television in the bedroom of a teenage girl. This now takes up the transmission.*

RACHEL, a buried treasure in her early 40s, appears with an Addis washing basket as if to hang washing out on the line.

RACHEL                      When I was a kid, I grew up with a boyband.

### SCENE ONE – YOUNG RACHEL'S BEDROOM

*In a shaft of light, as through an open bedroom door, in races a sixteen-year-old girl in her dressing gown, hair in a turban towel. We are in RACHEL's memory, and in her childhood home.*

YOUNG RACHEL            *(Appearing.)* . . . Oh my god oh my GOD OH MY GOD I WAS IN THE SHOWER! DID I NOT SAY 'SHOUT ME WHEN IT'S ON'?! WHERE'S THE VOLUME?

*(She searches frantically for the remote.)*

RACHEL                      That's me. Twenty-five years ago. Semi-detached house on the edge of a housing estate near a chemical plant in North West England.

YOUNG RACHEL            CAN SOMEONE CHECK IF GRAN'S TRYIN' TO MAKE A PHONE CALL USING ME TV REMOTE?

RACHEL                      Bedroom on the end, next to the airing cupboard. Seven o'clock on a normal Thursday night in 1993.

YOUNG RACHEL            NEVER MIND! FOUND IT!

*(She finds the remote and drops like a sack of spuds in front of her telly on which a band are now singing.)*

RACHEL I mean, the boyband didn't know they grew up with *me*. It's just that I was quite a rare case. See, for me the boys weren't just on the telly.

*(YOUNG RACHEL takes over the narration.)*

YOUNG RACHEL Oh no. For me, they were right here in my house!

*(One of THE BOYS appears.)*

### **Music No. 1: PRAY**

YOUNG RACHEL OH yes!

*(He immediately reveals another one of THE BOYS! They basically emerge / reveal each other in the house until all five are in her world.)*

*ADULT RACHEL leaves to put washing out.)*

YOUNG RACHEL Ev'ry step of the way!

BOY 3

WHEN THE TIME GREW NEAR FOR ME TO SHOW MY LOVE  
THE LONGER I STAYED AWAY FOR

YOUNG RACHEL Getting up in a morning!

THE BOYS

HIDING FROM A WORD I NEED TO HEAR NOW  
DON'T THINK I'LL HEAR IT AGAIN

YOUNG RACHEL Getting showered!

THE BOYS

BUT THE NIGHTS WERE ALWAYS WARM WITH YOU

YOUNG RACHEL Not 'IN' the shower, obviously.