

When We Were Two

by

Fiona Thraillle

fthraillle@googlemail.com

Cast of Characters

Sue: (f), 40s, Londoner

Nain: (f), 70s, From the Welsh Valleys - now living with Sue

Davey: (m), 20, Londoner - now studying in Cardiff

Jane: (f), 20, British - studying in Cardiff

Robert: (m), 40s/50s

: Other parts played by the cast as will be apparent in the script

WHEN WE WERE TWO

Scene: 1

- 1 INT ACOUSTIC. HALL. RHYTHMIC SCRATCHING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF A FRONT DOOR
- 2 NAIN (OFF)
Sue! Can you hear that?
- 3 SUE (OFF)
I'm going, I'm going...
- 4 FX: APPROACHING FOOTSTEPS. DOOR OPENS. DISTANT TRAFFIC.
- 5 SUE
Hello? Anyone there? (BEAT) Odd... (SHOUTS) It's nothing. Probably a cat.
- 6 NAIN (OFF)
Nobody there? You sure? Tylwyth Teg come to take you away to their fairy kingdom a few decades too late?
- 7 FX: TELEPHONE RINGS (OFF). DOOR SHUTS.
- 8 SUE
What are you wittering on about now, old girl?

Scene: 2

- 9 INT ACOUSTIC. LIVING ROOM.
- 10 FX: TELEPHONE RINGING, UNDER.
- 11 SUE (ENTERING)
Don't worry, I'll get it. Don't want you to drop a stitch.
- 12 NAIN
Your phone. Your home.
- 13 SUE
What exactly is it you're knitting? (BEAT) Hello?
- 14 DAVEY (FILTER)
Hi Mum, 'S me.
- 15 NAIN
Never you mind what I'm knitting.
- 16 SUE
Shhh Nain it's Davey. (BEAT) Hello love! It's so lovely to hear from you. How's it going? Do you want me to call you back?

(CONTINUED)

17 DAVEY (FILTER)

No, you're alright. (BEAT) Fine, thanks. Hard work, catching up with everyone... y'know... (BEAT) And you? Are you settled in?

18 SUE

Still surrounded by boxes. I'd go through it, but there's nowhere to put it here. And there's stuff of your Dad's in them. I didn't like tidying up after him when we were together, so... (BEAT) Otherwise, great (BEAT) And have you seen much of Jen? How's she doing?

19 DAVEY (FILTER)

Leave it Mum. She doesn't wanna know me. (BEAT) Lectures this term are...

20 SUE

You have made the effort, haven't you?

21 DAVEY (FILTER)

Mum...

22 SUE

Davey, I know it's hard. It's such a loss for you both, but for her there's the physical...

23 DAVEY (FILTER)

Mum! (BEAT) I'll try, okay?

24 SUE

Good boy! (BEAT) You just need a break, the two of you.

25 DAVEY (FILTER)

Maybe.

26 SUE

You could stay here if I was unpacked but then there's only the sofa...

27 NAIN

Leave the boy alone, will you?

28 DAVEY (FILTER)

I've got to go now - Iwan's turned up. Sorry. I will see you after my exams, I promise. Love you Mum.

29 SUE

And you, Davey, love. I...

30 FX: TELEPHONE HUNG UP

31 NAIN

Poor boy. Smothered like a sack of kittens.

32 SUE

[criticising, not informing - Nain already knows]
They lost their baby, Nain! Have a heart! Poor Jen.
And poor Davey. Whatever he tries, he can't make it
better.

33 NAIN

Couldn't make it better a month ago, either, when she
was all panicky she was in the club, as I recall.

34 SUE

Oh you are hard-hearted sometimes.

35 NAIN

I feel for the girl. Lost four of my own. But you
carry on, don't you? 'S all you can do, isn't it?

36 SUE

I had no idea.

37 NAIN

And why in God's name would you know, eh? What's
meant to be is meant to be.

38 SUE

Oh Nain.

39 FX: DOORBELL, OFF

40 NAIN (CONT'D)

Well? Don't look at me to answer it. It's no-one for
me. (SHOUTS) And if someone's playing silly beggars
again, you drag them in. I'll see to them!

Scene: 3

41 INT. ACOUSTIC HALL42 FX: FRONT DOOR UNLOCKED AND OPENED, DISTANT NIGHT TRAFFIC

43 DAVEY

Hi Mum.

44 SUE

What? What are you doing here? I thought you were
ringing from Cardiff.

45 DAVEY

I probably did ring from Cardiff. I don't have my
mobile any more. (BEAT) Look, can I come in?

46 SUE

Oh Davey! Of course darling! [Hugging] I'm sorry! It
was such a shock! It's so good to see you. Come in...
where's your bags?

SCENE: 4

47 INT. ACOUSTIC. LIVING ROOM

48 DAVEY

I know it's probably a surprise, Mum...

49 NAIN

Mild stroke, by the look of it.

50 SUE

You little bugger! Pretending you were in Cardiff and here on the doorstep all the time!

51 DAVEY

You need to sit down, Mum. (BEAT) Thing is, I am in Cardiff right now. Some really weird stuff's going on.

52 NAIN

I'll put the kettle on. Don't mind my knees...

53 SUE

You remember Nain, don't you Davey?

54 NAIN

Course not. he's far too young. (BEAT) Nice to see you all grown up - quite a looker, just like your great grandfather, God rest his soul. (BEAT) I'm helping your mother out while she comes to terms with everything: You leaving her, then your father - (MOVING OFF)little wonder the poor girl doesn't know her proverbial from her elbow.

55 SUE

I'm letting her stay here. She's a tough old bird. Old's the word.

56 NAIN (OFF)

(Laughs) Older than the Mabinogion!

57 DAVEY

The what?

58 NAIN (OFF)

I heard that! I hope your dear dead grandfather is rolling with shame in his grave!

59 SUE

She's a bit full-on.

60 NAIN (OFF, CONTINUING)

That's what his moving away gets you: your language, your culture - obliterated. A whole branch of the family tree bereft! (BEAT) Studying in Cardiff, too, Davey. You should know better!

(CONTINUED)

61 DAVEY

Yeah, maths. Not Welsh.

62 NAIN (OFF)

Literature! History!

63 DAVEY

I do need to talk to you about this, Mum. (BEAT) Like I said, it's weird - and you're not gonna believe this - but I am in Cardiff right now. Another me. I mean it's another me who's living in my room, who's got my money, my job in the pub... I don't have anywhere to live or anything to live on because it's all his.

64 SUE

I... I'm not sure what you're on about love. What, you need to stay here?

65 DAVEY

Can I?

66 SUE

Darling! You don't have to ask! But start again from the beginning. What happened?

67 DAVEY

It was last Thursday, no... Wednesday, right? Middle of the week, middle of the month, nothing to mark the day. Lectures as normal, a quick drink with Iwan and Pete in the pub. I go home, y'know, to Topaz Street. Chat to Andy for a while and turn in and then... well... I wake up - and my bedroom in Topaz street's gone. I'm back in my room in Cedric Street!

68 SUE

Yeah, that's where you were when I came up at Easter. How'd you get there? Had one too many, did you?

69 DAVEY

No! I told you.

70 SUE

Sleepwalked then?

71 DAVEY

I woke up on the floor where my bed used to be. Mum, it was pitch black in there, no electric, I didn't know where I was. (BEAT) And then I heard this little scream - and it was Jen, in there with me. She didn't know how she got there either. (BEAT) Cedrick Street's still under demolition notice - the doors and windows were all boarded up. We had to smash a window and prise off some planks and that's how we got out.

72 SUE

But you must've both got in somehow...

73 DAVEY

Mum, there's more. When we got out, Jen went all white and... she could feel it... She's expecting again.

74 SUE

[Taking it in] Well. That is a surprise. (BEAT) So soon? (BEAT) Is it yours again?

75 DAVEY

No, she's still expecting - our baby, the same one. They got it wrong. I don't really understand it, but she's really showing now, you'll see. She's with me. She's just gone to get some groceries, let me explain a bit before she gets here.(BEAT) Can she stay here too?

76 SUE

Oh Davey, I'm so happy for you both! What a miracle! I really am going to be a grandmother! Of course she can stay! You can have my bed.

77 DAVEY

We can't take your bed.

78 SUE

I'm not having a pregnant woman - my grandchild to be - kipping on my sofa!

79 DAVEY

Where does Nain sleep?

80 SUE

In the armchair. Won't sleep anywhere else...

81 FX: TEA TRAY APPROACHING

82 NAIN (COMING ON)

I grew up sharing four to a bed, I'll have you know. This armchair is perfectly plush enough.

83 DAVEY

Mum, there's more.

84 SUE

Oh I got all carried away with being a granny! Did you hear that, Nain?

85 NAIN

I did.

86 SUE

You were saying about you and Jen sleepwalking?

87 DAVEY

We weren't...(BEAT) The sun was up by the time we got out and over the wire fence.

88 SUE

And Jen pregnant? Poor love. That's no place to be messing about. Wasn't that building condemned? Dodgy foundations or something?

89 DAVEY

We went back to mine - to Topaz Street - to find out what was going on and... this is the bit you're not going to get, Mum.

90 SUE

Davey, I've done and seen more in my life than you could imagine. Try me.

91 DAVEY

Jen and I saw... me. Me, walking out the front door just like normal, off to lectures.

92 SUE

A boy who looked like you...

93 DAVEY

It was me. Identical in every single way - my bag, my clothes. It was me.(BEAT) Jen and I, we were just like in shock. In the end I went and knocked. Andy came to the door, thought I'd come back because I'd forgotten something. It was unreal. So I said I had and I ran into my room. I grabbed a bagful of stuff, whatever I could take, and got back out as fast as I could. It wasn't much because the other me had my money and stuff. But I got my savings card, and that's how I got the money to get here.

94 SUE

When I spoke to you last week you said you'd had a break in, someone had stolen your stuff.

95 DAVEY

That was the other me. Talking about me stealing my stuff.

96 SUE

Davey...

97 DAVEY

I didn't mention the savings?

98 SUE

No...

99 DAVEY

Brilliant! He hasn't checked yet. I'll get some more out.

100 SUE

Davey!

101 DAVEY

I'm not stealing if I steal from myself Mum.

102 SUE

Oh, this is all too much. (BEAT) I love you Davey. You're having a difficult time is all. I don't care what's going on, I don't need to know. You don't need your savings while you're here. But you do need a shower and a rest. We'll talk about what's worrying you later.

Scene: 5103 INT. ACOUSTIC. LIVING ROOM

104 JEN (OFF)(FADING IN)

...As a stopgap, yes. But we've got to have some sort of plan. We can't bring her up in this bedroom!

105 DAVEY (OFF)

I've got a plan. I'll get a job!

106 JEN (OFF)

You said that before!

107 DAVEY (OFF)

Yeah in Cardiff. London's full of jobs. We'll be fine. Relax!

108 JEN (OFF)

Maybe you should relax a bit less!

109 DAVEY (OFF)

What are you saying?

110 JEN (OFF)

Shhhh!

111 NAIN

Can tell those youngsters are used to good, solid Welsh walls. These? Can hear a woodworm fart in the next room.

112 SUE

They'll settle.

113 NAIN

Well. What a fine state of affairs this is, isn't it? It's like the clock's rolling backwards. (BEAT) Back when the mines and steel closed down, your grandfather made the hardest choice. Left behind the family who loved him, his childhood friends and got on a train to find work. Broke his mother's heart in two it did. (BEAT) And why did he do it? For a
(MORE)

NAIN (cont'd)

better future for his family, that's why. Escape the daily struggle for money, the overcrowding, the misery of it all. (BEAT) He found work four days after setting foot in London, mind. Educated himself, sent a small fortune home to us all. (BEAT) But left us all for what? So's Davey and his girl can come back to the one bedroom in this... cardboard flat, not a job between the three of you and Babi on the way. (BEAT) All his sacrifice for nothing: it's all come round again. Back to the Victorian age...

114 SUE

That's not fair! This was never meant to be a family home! And it might be a squash but those kids won't be living on the breadline here. I'll get a new job.

115 NAIN

You've not worked in a year.

116 SUE

Yeah, well I was sorting out the marriage, what there was of it - and all that upheaval, moving here. And I was...

117 NAIN

Lazy.

118 SUE

I was not! I was... depressed. When Jen rang up - I lost a grandchild, too, remember.

119 NAIN

That only excuses the last couple of months. (BEAT) Depressed! Wasn't even a word for it when I was young.

120 SUE

So that's why Uncle Ray didn't have a name for it and decided to hang himself instead, is it? And why my Mum's cousin Bert - remember him? - he was a shut in for years after the war, just drinking tea and chain-smoking and watching the telly? And Mum cried non stop for a year after Dad died. (BEAT) You're ignorant, that's what you are.

121 NAIN

Practical is what I am. And you'll need a job if that son of yours can't get one quickly. When mine were young I took on cleaning.

122 SUE

I think I can get something a bit...

123 NAIN

Better? Too good for the likes of you, is it? Not when you've hungry mouths to feed, girl.

124 SUE

Better paid. I have office skills, years of experience.

125 NAIN

You have years alright.

126 SUE

What do you want me to do, kick my own baby and a pregnant girl out on the street because he's having some sort of a breakdown?

127 NAIN

Course not. I'm simply saying you have to be practical about this. Putting a roof over their heads and giving them a bit of love costs nothing. But putting food on the table, keeping them clean and warm, that's where it all goes and you have nothing in the way of savings.

128 SUE

How do you know what I have?

129 NAIN

Don't you give me that look, girl. I haven't been snooping. Just putting two and two together.

130 SUE

I know why you're so interested... Think you might get pushed out? Put into a home?

131 NAIN

I'd manage. I could go back to my Valleys. (BEAT) But apart from your armchair, what do I take up? I don't eat a morsel of your food. It's you I'm thinking of. When Davey and Jen and the baby move out leaving you older and poorer, what will you do then?

132 SUE

It'll work out.

133 NAIN

But that's the thing, isn't it? I don't know that it should work out. I don't know that it should.

134 SUE

What do you mean?

135 NAIN

Something's wrong about all this. You know it too, deep in your bones, so don't deny it. There's something unnatural at work. Have you considered there really are two Daveys?

136 SUE

I'm gonna pretend I didn't hear that! It's computers, Nain. They can do things with them, him and his

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SUE (cont'd)

mates. You wouldn't understand. They can do clever stuff nowadays, wind each other up. I don't get the joke either, but that's what it is.

137 FX: SCRATCHING BEHIND FRONT DOOR, OFF

138 SUE

Do you hear that? That noise again.

139 NAIN

Right. You stay put. I'll get it this time. My poor knees will have to cope...

Scene: 6

140 INT. ACOUSTIC. LIVING ROOM

141 FX: CAT MEOWING AND PURRING

142 SUE

It's...it can't be! Pushkin! How did you get here? It is you, isn't it? Yes, two slashes in that ear and your tail's still bent where you caught it in the door (BEAT) I don't have any food for you. Wait, there might be some tuna somewhere...

143 NAIN

Your cat, is it?

144 SUE

From the old house.

145 NAIN

He made it all this way across town?

146 SUE

It's not far. But...

147 NAIN

What?

148 SUE

If this is my Pushkin - and it is, I know it is - then a year ago - I must've buried the wrong cat.

Scene: 7

149 INT. ACOUSTIC. KITCHEN

150 SUE

Morning Jen, love. Cuppa?

151 JEN

Don't think I could manage it yet, ta.

- 152 NAIN
Sick, are you? That's a healthy sign, bach.
- 153 JEN
Yeah. I hope so. I can't get it off my mind, y'know?
- 154 NAIN
I do. But every day that passes now, that little one's getting stronger and stronger, so don't you worry.
- 155 SUE
Here. I found that ginger of yours. Sip this.
- 156 JEN
Ta.
- 157 SUE
Jen, is Davey alright, do you think?
- 158 JEN
Yeah...
- 159 SUE
I mean, you've both been under so much strain...
- 160 NAIN
She wants to know if he's round the twist.
- 161 JEN
I'm surprised he's not. Surprised neither of us are yet. (BEAT) He's gone off to look for jobs again this morning.
- 162 SUE
Told you Nain. I saw his bowl on the table and I said to you that's where he'd be, didn't I?
- 163 NAIN
That porridge he eats goes like bloody concrete. Could he not soak...
- 164 JEN
Sorry! He's trying. We both are...
- 165 SUE
Nain! It doesn't matter! (BEAT) I know you're trying Jen, love. It's been lovely having you here this last week. It's not that. I just wondered if you knew any more about why he dropped out of uni?
- 166 JEN
He didn't. The other Davey is still there.
- 167 SUE
Yeah yeah. I forgot.

168 JEN It's true! I know it's insane but...

169 SUE Don't treat me like an idiot Jen. Come on. What's really going on?

170 JEN I told you. (BEAT) I feel sick.

171 SUE I just want to help. I know it's bad. (BEAT) What is it, like, schizophrenia or something?

172 JEN You know what? That'd probably be easier.

173 SUE You're not helping Davey by feeding this fantasy.

174 JEN Ring Cardiff Davey if you don't believe me.

175 SUE I'm not falling for that twice. (BEAT) Could I tempt you with dry toast?

176 JEN Ring Cardiff me then.

177 SUE What?

178 JEN There's two of me, too. The me who's not with Davey, the one who lost our... Just ring me. (BEAT) But... promise you won't give her any grief. I don't think she knows about me. Like Cardiff Davey doesn't know about our one. And she's a bit fragile still... and if she finds out... (BEAT) I really, really want this baby. So did she.

179 SUE I'll be straight with you Jen. I don't know if I should humour you. It's not healthy.

180 NAIN Duw! Just phone her, will you? Prove the girl wrong if you must.

181 FX: LANDLINE PHONE BUTTONS, RINGING

182 SUE I'll play along this once, but...

183 JEN (FILTER)
Hello? Who is this? Hello?

184 SUE
Hello... Jen? Jen R...?

185 JEN (FILTER)
Richards, yes.

186 SUE
I'm... I'm ringing from the university. Would you be able to pop into the admissions office this morning please?

187 JEN (FILTER)
Who is this please?

188 SUE
Mrs... Mrs Anne Smith.

189 JEN (FILTER)
I'm right here in the office now, waiting to see Ioan Parks. Outside his door. I can't see you. Er...Where are you? Give me a wave?

190 SUE
I've... another call. I'll call back later.

191 FX: HANG UP

192 JEN
Happy now?

193 SUE
She sounded exactly like you.

194 JEN
Because she was.

195 SUE
So. I'll put aside all logic, let's just say I believe you for five minutes: why haven't you talked to this other Jen about all this?

196 JEN
Davey and I thought about it, but we bottled it.

197 NAIN
Why?

198 JEN
It's complicated.

199 SUE
Jen love, you've had a difficult time. Grief - it causes odd reactions. I mean, look at me: worked my arse off since I was sixteen. My grief over Robert
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SUE (cont'd)

knocked me for six. I never thought I'd ever be signed off and popping pills just to get up in the morning.

200 NAIN

Grief my foot! Robert didn't die. He left you.

201 SUE

Our relationship died, Nain! It counts!

202 NAIN

(Mumbles) Nonsense.

203 JEN

It's because we're the copies. Okay? That's why.

204 SUE

The copies?

205 JEN

We've talked about it. Somehow, for some weird reason, Davey and I split in two, or grew a copy of ourselves or something, right? I don't know why. Well, as real as we feel - we're not the ones carrying on with our normal lives, are we? If we were the originals, why did we wake up in an empty flat together with nothing but the clothes we were wearing? Why did we lose everything from that life - apart from... the baby? (BEAT) And we don't know what happens if we actually meet ourselves. But if it's something bad, well, we're the ones who'll disappear or get merged back into them, aren't we? And then what will happen to my baby? Will she disappear too? Will I lose her all over again?

206 NAIN

Bach...

207 JEN

I feel as much the real Jen as I ever did. We just want to get on with living and bringing up our baby in peace.

208 SUE

Right. So according to your tale...?

209 JEN

It's not a tale! This is my life!

210 SUE

Okay, okay love. But if there are two of each of you...

211 NAIN

It'll make for some awkward Christmas plans, won't it? (BEAT) Sue'll manage, don't you worry girl.

212 JEN

Don't tell Davey I told you. Thing is, he's afraid you won't love him as much if you know he's a copy.

213 SUE

You just wait til that little one comes along, Jen. Then you'll know. I have room enough to love a million of him. You're our Jen and Davey and that's that, love. We'll look back on this all one day and laugh.

214 NAIN

...with bitter tears of regret as we're crushed around the table by doppelgangers, scrabbling for the last few crumbs of turkey, not a party hat between us.

215 SUE

Nain!

Scene: 8

216 INT. ACOUSTIC. LIVING ROOM

217 NAIN

Are you done with that light yet?

218 SUE

No. I've got one more chapter to go.

219 NAIN

Challenging book, is it?

220 SUE

Not particularly.

221 NAIN

You've not turned a page in ten minutes. Maybe a touch of your Aunt Helen in your blood. Have problems with reading, do you?

222 SUE

No I do not! I can't concentrate. You piping up every minute doesn't help.

223 NAIN

You're not reading. You're waiting up for Davey. Again.

224 SUE

And what if I am? Look at the time!

225 NAIN

He's perfectly old enough to look after himself. If he was still in Cardiff you wouldn't even know he was out. Now turn off the bloody light, will you? Some of us need our beauty sleep.

226 SUE

It puts me off sleeping, you in your chair staring down at me.

227 NAIN

I've better things to do than watch you snore, girl.

228 SOUND: FRONT DOOR UNLOCKED, OPENED, SHUT, OFF

229 SUE

Oh thank goodness. (BEAT) Eh, no creeping off to bed, Davey. Where've you been?

230 NAIN

As if we can't smell where.

231 DAVEY

Out. And? (BEAT) What, you weren't waiting up for me?

232 SUE

I know you're an adult, Davey, and you're used to your freedom. But this is my roof you're under now. Just a call to say you're out...

233 DAVEY

I don't have a phone any more, remember? The other me's got it.

234 SUE

I don't want to give you a hard time Davey. It's my fault for not laying down some house rules at the start of the week.

235 DAVEY

It's just a night out.

236 SUE

It's every night, though. It's turning into a habit, love. And poor Jen off on her own to bed each night.

237 DAVEY

She's got you and Nain. She doesn't need me in her face all the time.

238 SUE

Is everything alright between you two?

239 DAVEY

It's just intense. I haven't stopped applying for jobs all week.

240 NAIN

Should think so.

241 DAVEY

And none of them take CVs. They all want separate forms filled in. Even cutting and pasting it takes forever.

- 242 NAIN
Cutting and pasting? Blackmail notes you sending is it?
- 243 SUE
Get with the times, Nain.
- 244 DAVEY
I just need a break Mum. I need to get air.
- 245 SUE
I know love. I've been looking, too.
- 246 DAVEY
It's just so unfair.
- 247 NAIN
You've had a sheltered life if it took you almost twenty years to learn that, boy.
- 248 DAVEY
What am I meant to do? I was doing well in uni. I was on track for a first. Yeah. I never mentioned that, did I? I had friends, I had the bar job - oh you'll be dead proud of the other me when he comes to visit, Mum, Nain. Because he's doing really well for himself.
- 249 SUE
Is that it? You're burnt out, love? (BEAT) Whatever has happened to you, I'm here for you. I'm sorry for having a go at you tonight...
- 250 DAVEY
You still don't believe me.
- 251 SUE
It's not that. It's just all a bit... odd. (BEAT)
Would you think about having a chat with a doctor?
- 252 DAVEY
What for? See if they've got a job going? (BEAT) Mum, I worked my arse off and now I've lost it all. Jen and I are on the brink and my life's down the pan. I didn't choose all this! Ending up back here!
- 253 SUE
Davey!
- 254 DAVEY
Mum, I didn't mean...
- 255 NAIN
And right there is the spear through the heart, Llew.
The boy wants to fly. It's only natural.

256 SUE
What are you on about, you creepy old woman?

257 NAIN
The world can't be twisted into being. Someone's been messing.

258 DAVEY
What?

259 SUE
Stop it, Nain.

260 FX: DOORBELL, OFF

261 SUE (CONT'D.) (GOING OFF)
I'll get that.

262 NAIN
It's not natural, you hear me! It's not natural!

Scene: 9

263 INT. ACOUSTIC HALL

264 FX: DOORBELL, INSISTENT

265 SUE
I'm coming, hang on will you?

266 FX: FRONT DOOR UNLOCKED AND OPENED, DISTANT NIGHT TRAFFIC

267 FX: CRINKLING CELLOPHANE

268 SUE
Why are you here? Who are these for?

269 ROBERT
They're for getting you up at this hour.

270 SUE
You didn't. This is one all-night party right here tonight.

271 ROBERT
How've you been keeping?

272 SUE
Robert, tell me you're not going to do awkward small talk at three a.m. Save that for your girlfriends.

273 ROBERT
Look, can I come in? Please Sue?

274 SUE
What do you want?

275 ROBERT

I won't beat about the bush... Sue, I've been having counsellng. Yeah, I know, last person you'd expect, eh? (BEAT) I'll admit, at first I was hoping for a quick fix, sort me out, get me back in the saddle, y'know?

276 SUE

Hmm.

277 ROBERT

But the more it went on... the more I realised it's about you, too. I haven't slept a wink for the past week, thinking about you. Lying all alone in the dark, doing them breathing exercises they say'll help... well, it puts it all into perspective, dunnit? You start to think about everything you had - and what you lost, the people you lost. And how you... you miss them, y'know? How if you could turn back the clock, you would.

278 FX: ANOTHER RUSTLE OF CELLOPHANE

279 ROBERT (CONT.)

I'm sorry, Sue. (BEAT) I took the last night bus here. Walked for miles. Don't have anywhere else to go. (BEAT) Whatever you think of me, take these.

280 SUE

You only ever bought me flowers when you were seeing other women.

281 ROBERT

'S true. I'm sorry.

282 FX: CAT MEOWING AND PURRING

283 ROBERT

Got a new one, then? Looks just like that cat we had...

284 SUE

...Pushkin, yeah. He does, doesn't he? Like the one who died.

285 ROBERT

Ey, chin up, love. You looked less serious when you found out about Joanna.

286 SUE

And Kate. And Linda, yes. No, that's not it. (BEAT) Someone's messing, she says... Is it you? Did you do all this?

287 ROBERT

All what? If you're talking about something from way back, yeah, hands up, I probably did it. (BEAT) You alright?

288 SUE

No, it can't be you. You wouldn't have thought of the cat. Not even sure you would have thought of Davey.

289 ROBERT

What're you on about?

290 SUE

No, wait, what were you on about? Breathing, you said? Deep breathing? Meditation...

291 ROBERT

No - there's a group for all that hippy crap. I just did the breathing thing. In and out, counting. It's meant to calm you down...

292 SUE

This isn't about you. (BEAT) In bed alone, thinking and breathing. Breathing life into life...(BEAT) Come in, quickly Robert. You're letting the cold in. Your son's home. See if he remembers who the hell you are.

293 ROBERT

Does this mean...?

294 SUE

Room to the right. His girlfriend's Jen. Oh and you're going to be a granddad.

Scene: 10

295 INT. ACOUSTIC. LIVING ROOM.

296 NAIN

Gone quiet in there.

297 SUE

Probably letting Robert kip over on their floor.

298 NAIN

The only place left in this bug hutch.

299 SUE

That or Davey's killed Robert for abandoning him.

300 NAIN

True.

301 SUE

I need some time to myself, Nain.

302 NAIN

Knew you would, sooner or later.

303 SUE

You're behind all this, aren't you?

304 NAIN

Am I?

305 SUE

I've got to sort this out. (BEAT) You don't mind?

306 NAIN

Why in heaven's name should I mind, bach? (BEAT) It's not enough for you to pop out for the day. This is my cue to give you some space in your own home.

307 SUE

Well, I'll miss your... your company.

308 NAIN

You'll cope. It's been lovely being here. (BEAT) Nothing personal, cariad, but my heart's already been broken all those years ago. Felt at the time like it was my fault. (BEAT) Mair Hughes, down the lane, she had a little boy a year before I had your grandfather. Couldn't feed him, had nothing left in her, poor girl. Lady next door had to take him in for a while. (BEAT) Wasn't milk your grandfather lacked. I had plenty of that. It was the town that ran dry - of jobs, of hope. And no mother can supply that, can she? People move on, of course they do. Sometimes through necessity, like my boy - and sometimes out of choice.

309 SUE

Like Davey.

310 NAIN

And your Robert. The thing is, they willingly chose a life without you, a better one for them. That's what strikes the killing blow - right through the heart.

311 SUE

You do know what's going on.

312 NAIN

Of course I do. Why do you think I'm here in this rat trap? Not for the benefit of my health, I can tell you.

313 SUE

Well I'm only guessing, Nain! Help me!

314 NAIN

They say love is the strongest emotion of all. Sentimental poppycock! It's loneliness. That's what fires love: loneliness. That's what brings babies into this world - to fool ourselves we're not alone.

315 SUE

You're so cold.

316 NAIN

Anything but! My heart goes out to you. I understand it painful enough. It's an emotion old as the hills. Older. (Beat) Llew Llaw Gyffes knew.

317 SUE

Who?

318 NAIN

A hero. Among other things, his own mother cursed him to be single, never to know the love of a mortal woman. (Beat) His uncles mind, they knew well enough the suffering that could bring. Enough that they made him a bride - from flowers and weeds no less! Blodeuwedd they called her. (Beat) That, my girl, is the power of loneliness!

319 SUE

I don't really get your stories, Nain. (Beat) Is there a point to this?

320 NAIN

Nothing good came of it. (BEAT) What did they expect? They created something from next to nothing, something that shouldn't have been. Poor Blodeuwedd. Wrenched from the trees and the ground and woven and twisted into a shell of humanity. (BEAT) There was betrayal of the heart, spears thrown, blood spilled, and she ended up transformed into an owl. Always to dwell in darkness. There's lonely for you. (BEAT) The point to this tale, my girl, is that nature goes its own sweet way. You can't force it to your will, no matter how strong that will is. So strong that maybe you don't even know it's yours.

321 SUE

You think this is all my fault?

322 NAIN

Your doing, certainly. Nothing to do with me.

323 SUE

No?

324 NAIN

Your son, with all his future ahead of him came back to live in this hutch. Your wayward husband suddenly can't live without you. A grandchild sparked back into tiny life for you. Even your bloody cat came back to you. And above all else, you got me here too, haven't you? You're dragging people out of nothing and into your life. I don't want to speak out of place, but I think I should mention it before we have your adolescent crushes beating a path to your door.

325 SUE

[amused] Nain!

326 NAIN

(BEAT) Unless it's not you. Perhaps you're like the rest of us. Considered that, have you?

327 SUE

No, I hadn't. (BEAT) If that's it then I know where to go. But what'll happen if I do, Nain?

328 NAIN

Whatever is meant to happen. Whatever is natural.
(BEAT) Nature will re-balance, whatever you do. It all comes down to whether you want to spend your days fighting it or moving with it.

329 SUE

What do I do?

330 NAIN

You have quite studiously avoided taking my advice since I arrived. I don't see why anything I say now will have the slightest effect.

331 SUE

I'm still not sure this is real.

332 NAIN

Exactly. Which is why you need to go now. I'll put the kettle on. You're not going far, are you?

333 SUE

No. Five minutes away. (BEAT) Thanks for staying, Nain.

334 NAIN

Dim problem. (BEAT) Now, give me a hug and be off with you.

335 SUE

Bye Nain.

336 NAIN

Da bo ti, cariad. Da bo ti. (*Goodbye, dearest, goodbye*)Scene: 11337 INT. ACOUSTIC. HALL338 FX: FRONT DOOR OPENS

339 SUE TOO

Hello? [horrified gasp] Who are you? (BEAT) Oh God!
[screams] Go away! No...! don't come in! [whispers, under]

340 SUE

Shhhhhh! Stop it! You've got to calm down Sue!

341 SUE TOO

Don't touch me! Please go away!

342 FX: FRONT DOOR SHUTS

343 SUE

I can't Sue. I know it and you... I know it. We have to stop all this! It's out of control!

Scene: 12

344 INT. ACOUSTIC. EMPTY LIVING ROOM

345 SUE

So. At least we didn't implode when we saw each other or something.

346 SUE TOO

No. I don't think it works like that. I... don't know how it works.

347 SUE

I know.

348 SUE TOO

Okay, so fill me in. Why are there two of us? There are two of us, right? You're not some long-lost twin. (BEAT) Are you from the future or something?

349 SUE

I'm from Stanley Court.

350 SUE TOO

Those new flats off Wenward Street?

351 SUE

Pretty nice - all mod cons but titchy. (BEAT) Still. Better than rattling about in this place like the last pea in the packet.

352 SUE TOO

I'm thinking of moving out.

353 SUE

To a little flat, maybe in Stanley Court. Yeah.

354 SUE TOO

But when...

355 SUE

When you've got over Robert. When you've got on top of things. Once you're off the pills, maybe. Once you've got back into work.

- 356 SUE TOO
So you know everything about me.
- 357 SUE
I am you. Just a different you.
- 358 SUE TOO
What happened?
- 359 SUE
I don't know. I think you wanted - I wanted - too much. Or I wanted too hard. (BEAT) It was Robert coming back that made me remember.
- 360 SUE TOO
Robert came back?
- 361 SUE
See why I was suspicious? (BEAT) He reminded me of being you, the lying in bed alone and wanting things to be different, wanting so much it really hurt. And that's what you're doing, still, at nights isn't it?
- 362 SUE TOO
On bad days. (BEAT) I don't get you.
- 363 SUE
Well you wanted so hard that you managed to do something, make a new world for yourself, bring everyone back to you.
- 364 SUE TOO
What? Who?
- 365 SUE
Apart from Robert - there's Davey and Jen. They came back to live with me. And... Jen's baby.
- 366 SUE TOO
The baby?
- 367 SUE
It came back. She's pregnant again. You made her pregnant again.
- 368 SUE TOO
I don't know what you're on about. Even if I believe all this codswallop, let me get this straight. You. You had all that love around you and you risked it all? You came here to find me and throw it all away?
- 369 SUE
Yeah. Because it's not right. It's all falling apart. They're not real and they're suffering.

- 370 SUE TOO
And I made that happen, just by wanting?
- 371 SUE
That's what Nain thinks.
- 372 SUE TOO
Nain?
- 373 SUE
She's living with me... wait, did you dream her up, too?
- 374 SUE TOO
I didn't dream up anyone. No, I don't even know who she is.
- 375 SUE
She's family - she's always been there. I never thought to wonder. (BEAT) She's always rambling on about some family member or ancient Welsh fairytales. I thought she was a bit do-lally.
- 376 SUE TOO
Dad's grandmother was called Nain, but she died when we were two. Why would I even think of her?
- 377 SUE
Maybe I got what I needed, not what I wanted. Our cat came back from the dead.
- 378 SUE TOO
And the baby.
- 379 SUE
Yes.
- 380 SUE TOO
Okay. Even if I knew how, what happens if we stop all this?
- 381 SUE
Jen and Davey thought that all of us would just... disappear. Puff.
- 382 SUE TOO
And the baby.
- 383 SUE
The baby.
- 384 SUE TOO
Does Jen still want it?
- 385 SUE
Yes.

386 SUE TOO

And you want to stop all this before she has the chance to see it? Before that baby can draw its first breath?

387 SUE

This is just...

388 SUE TOO

How could you even consider it?

389 SUE

Because... Because it's not natural, Sue. You're manipulating people and it doesn't work. Davey's having a breakdown, Jen's thinking of leaving him and the baby... (BEAT) Nature has its reasons. Why did she have the miscarriage? A young, healthy woman? Maybe there was never going to be a healthy baby. Maybe it wouldn't have managed to draw a breath. (BEAT) She's not felt it kick yet. (BEAT) You won't be destroying anything, because there is nothing to destroy.

390 SUE TOO

I can't believe this. Let alone stop it. This is, what do they call it? Psychosis? Part of the depression... I've lost it entirely. (BEAT) What will they do to me? They'll lock me up. I'll be sectioned.

391 SUE

Then believing me is the better alternative.

392 SUE TOO

Even if I did - I can't do anything! Look at me! You've managed the move to a new flat, you've spent all this time knowing you'll be a gran again, having Davey and Jen for company, having a shot at a relationship.

393 SUE

Stroking the cat on the lonely evenings, yeah.

394 SUE TOO

Well I haven't, Sue! I've been here alone every night! I don't have the strength for all that.

395 SUE

Then let's try this...

396 SUE TOO

Stay away from me...

397 SUE

I've got nothing left to lose, Sue, and neither have you. One of us has to do something and if you can't...

398 SUE TOO
No!

399 FX: SWIRLING SOUNDS AND EXTRACTS OF PREVIOUS CHARACTER DIALOGUE SWISH AS IF GOING DOWN A PLUGHOLE AND THEN...

Scene: 13

400 SUE
Let's think. I still remember Nain and everyone, so that means we must've merged into one, doesn't it? So I didn't go puff, not really. And if there's only one of me, then I'm not going mad. Am I? (BEAT) Ha! Listen to yourself, Sue! A little less chattering to yourself and you might start to be more convincing! (BEAT) Right. Well, Sue, after facing oblivion I reckon you can face a teenager...

401 FX: LANDLINE DIALED, RINGING

402 DAVEY (FILTER)
Hello?

403 SUE
Hello Davey love. How're you doing?

404 DAVEY (FILTER)
Fine, thanks. Hard work, catching up with everyone... y'know...

405 SUE
A little bird tells me you're in line for a first.

406 DAVEY (FILTER)
Who told you that?

407 SUE
Oh don't worry love. I won't spoil your cool slacker image! (BEAT) Have you seen much of Jen? How's she doing?

408 DAVEY (FILTER)
Leave it Mum. She doesn't wanna know me. (BEAT) How about you? You okay? You seem... better.

409 SUE
Give her time. (BEAT) I'm thinking of moving out of here, maybe getting a one bed flat. Moving on. I've been looking for jobs.

410 DAVEY (FILTER)
That's great news Mum. Do it. But then, you know what I think about Dad.

411 SUE
I should've listened to you earlier. But now I've got a feeling it'll work out. [to self] Long as I don't
(MORE)

SUE (cont'd)
have to share with three and a half others and a dead
cat.

412 DAVEY (FILTER)
What was that?

413 SUE
Don't mind me love. You get on. See you soon.

414 DAVEY (FILTER)
After my exams, I promise. Love you Mum.

415 SUE
And you, Davey.

416 FX: TELEPHONE HUNG UP

417 SUE (CONT'D)
I'm so sorry for you and Jen. So sorry for us all.
(BEAT) Poor Sue. We never merged, did we? You were
the one who went puff. (Small laugh) Da bo ti,
cariad, da bo ti.