

Characters

Grace
Freya
Steve
Jasmine
Tom
Colin
Sarah
Simon
Supermarket Worker
Peter
Attendant
Businessman
Robert
Mrs Andrews
Many Students
Many Swimmers
Carter
Daniel
Roy
Young Man
Fifteen Mothers with pushchairs
Old Woman
Second World War Officer
Receptionist
Tim
Maryna
Liberty
Emily
Usher
Police Officer
Commuters
Passer by 1
Passer by 2
Other passers by
Doctor Harris
Nurse

Act One

Prologue

1968

Cambridge.

Black and white.

Robert Crannock is on a date with **Grace**, who is wearing a floral dress. They eat. **Robert** is awkward.

'2525' is playing quietly in the background.

Robert I'm sorry if the letter was too forward.

Grace I liked the letter.

Robert I got carried away, I'm sorry.

Grace No.

Robert I didn't mean to sound strange.

Grace It wasn't strange. I liked it. Love letters in my pigeon-hole. Romantic.

What do you do Robert? I mean I know you're a postgraduate, but what exactly do you ... do.

Robert I'm doing a doctorate

Grace In?

Robert Atmospheric conditions on other planets.

Grace Other planets? Like aliens?

Robert Some of the work is to do with finding life yes.

Grace Like Star Trek?

Robert Well ... NASA are interested, so –

Grace You're joking?

Robert No.

Grace NASA?

Robert Yes.

Grace Wow.

Robert Yes.

Grace Wow.

Robert

Grace So how do you know? If there's life?

Robert Well, all life gives off excretions of some kind. Gases, minerals.

Grace We all give off gases?

Robert Yes.

Grace Even girls?

Robert And all these gases –

Grace Have you / researched this?

Robert These excretions, from all of these creatures, they go up into the atmosphere, and you can imagine globally they would make quite a difference to its composition. So it follows that if we could accurately measure the composition of gases in the atmosphere of a planet like Mars, we could tell whether there was life.

Grace And?

Robert What?

Grace Is there?

Robert We don't know.

Grace Oh.

Robert We haven't done it yet. Not enough funding.

Grace Right.

Robert But as I say, NASA are interested.
She looks at him.

Grace So all the time, every bit of life, animals, humans, everything, change the environment.

Robert Yes. You are right now. The room is entirely different because you're in it.

Grace You think?

Robert Doesn't matter what I think. The atmosphere in this room is completely dependent on how much you move, whether you talk, if you've got a cold, how hot you are.

Grace How hot I am?

Robert Yes. Imagine if we all came in with a fever, the room would get much hotter, and then we'd get even hotter as a result, our fever would get worse and the room would become hotter in turn and so on and so on, upwards and upwards.

Grace Hotter and hotter.

Robert Exactly.

Sorry. Whittering on. Supposed to be a date. I like your dress.

Grace No, Robert, you've raised a very important question.

Robert Really?

Grace Yes. How hot do you think I am?

Robert How hot?

Grace How. Hot.

Robert Well ...
Oh.
You mean ...

Grace It's 1968. It's the summer. We're young. We can do what we want.

Robert *puts his hand on her forehead.*
She smiles.

Robert Above average.
She smiles, and puts her hand on his head.

Grace Boiling.
So what happens now?

They look at each other.
'2525' plays – gets louder. Cross fade scene and music into –

Proper Coffee

2010

*A kettle boils.***Freya's face isolated. Freya is singing along to a cover of '2525 Venice Beat' ft Tess Timony. She loves it.***he sings some more.**We see Freya. She is pregnant, wearing a man's shirt and making coffee in her kitchen. She has headphones on and dances. A television is on as well.**Everything is done in rhythm – coffee, kettle ... sugar ... eats a spoonful herself.**We see Steve in the shower. He hears her singing – bemused.***Steve** Freya?**Freya** *keeps on singing.***Steve** Freya!**Freya** *sings a bit more then takes a headphone out. The music is quieter.*

What?

Steve What are you / singing?**Freya** I'm making coffee.**Steve** What?**Freya** Coffee! Do you want some?**Steve** Proper coffee?**Freya** It's always proper coffee.**Steve** What?**Freya** It's always proper coffee, / no one drinks *instant.*