

**Colin** I'm sorry?  
**S. Worker** Vegetables and fruit and all that are over there.  
**Colin** I know but I've looked and I can't find it.  
**S. Worker** Probably don't have it then.  
**Colin** Probably.  
**S. Worker** Yeah.  
**Colin** Can you check?  
**S. Worker** Chhh.

**Supermarket Worker** *goes off to check. Still the music in the background. Jasmine and Tom are smoking outside.*

**Jasmine** He's sat there opposite me, I said I'm not being funny but if you want two thousand words by Monday you can whistle, I have to work weekends, different for you Gary, fucking baby boomers, get your grant, get your degree then don't pay for your kids. So he says 'Do you have financial difficulties Jasmine?' and I'm like 'Gary. We all have financial difficulties, read the fucking papers'. Then he suddenly goes red, shouts that I'm 'thick as corrugated shit' whatever that means and says I only got in here because of who my sister is, so I lost it completely, threw a bookshelf at him.

**Tom** A bookshelf?

**Jasmine** It was *Bleak House* that got him in the eye, hardback so he had to go to hospital. They said I was a menace, attacking my lecturer with a weapon, I said something about the power of the written word and that was it. Out.

**Tom** You don't look like a menace.  
**Jasmine** I am, Tom.  
**Supermarket Worker** *comes back.*  
**S. Worker** Is this it?  
**Jasmine** I'm a natural fucking disaster.  
**Colin** How should I know? I don't know what a guava is. You tell me.  
**S. Worker** Yeah. This is it.  
**Colin** You're sure?  
**S. Worker** Yes.  
**Colin** Positive? Because this is important. I want you to understand that if I get home and this isn't a guava I'm in big trouble. So it follows that if I get home and this isn't a guava you're in big trouble, yes?

*He reads her badge*

... Sue. You're in big trouble if this isn't a guava Sue. So.  
 You're sure?  
**S. Worker** Candice said it was and she's good with fruit.  
**Colin** Right, thanks.

**Steve** *enters with his suitcase, just as Freya, dancing, throws his coffee across the kitchen. Steve jumps out the way. Freya takes her headphones off.*

**Freya** Didn't mean to do that. Oops.  
**Steve** Oops.  
**Steve** *smiles and grabs a cloth instantly to mop it up.*  
**Freya** I can make another.  
**Steve** No, I have to go really, sorry ...

**Freya** Don't be sorry.

**Steve** Sorry I'm going at all.

**Freya** Don't be – we need work, money, especially now, in the current climate, the way things are, that's what you say.

**Steve** And it's only three days so –

**Freya** Exactly. It's only three days so –

**Steve** And you'll call me if anything –

**Freya** Yes I'll call you if anything but nothing will nothing does nothing happens you know how it is round here these days.

**Steve** I meant the baby.

**Freya** Oh right the baby, well of course / the *baby*

**Steve** You've got the number of / the hospital.

**Freya** There was a programme on TV they're detecting something in the ground.

**Steve** / Freya?

**Freya** They think something might – What? Yes I've got the number of the hospital. It's on the cupboard where you put it.

**Steve** On the fridge.

**Freya** On the fridge exactly. Are you sure you don't want any of this coffee? It's fair trade, kind of fruity, I like it.

**Steve** I have to go – but you'll be alright?

**Freya** The building might collapse while you're away.

**Steve** Freya –

**Freya** This is what I was trying to tell you. They said there's going to be an earthquake.

**Steve** There's not.

**Freya** There is.

**Steve** Not here.

**Freya** Right here, yes, they've detected tremors. It was on television. Do you fancy my sister?

**Steve** What?

**Freya** Not Sarah, obviously. Obviously not her. The other one. Jasmine.

**Steve** No – Freya where does this / come from?

**Freya** Why not? She's pretty.

**Steve** She's nineteen.

**Freya** Exactly. Thin, good-looking, bet she's good in bed. Of course you like her, you've had that thought. I used to look like that when we first met, I found some photographs, but what happened? Look at me now, fat and red like a massive blood clot or something. No wonder you don't want sex with me anymore. You should give her a call I'm serious I really am.

*They look at each other. He moves closer, hugs her.*

**Steve** I don't think you're a massive blood clot.

**Freya** Or something, I'm definitely something.

**Steve** I wanted sex with you last night as it happens.

**Freya** I can't I can't not with this, it's like it's watching.

**Steve** I love you.

*He kisses her tummy.*

You too. I'll call when I get in.

**Freya** I'm a bit lost at the moment, Steve, really. Don't go.

*A moment.*

**Steve** Just three days. That's all. It's not as bad as you think. Never is.

**Freya** Oh. Okay. Good.

*He kisses her again and leaves. As the door shuts, Freya jumps and the walls shake a little. She's scared. As Tom and Jasmine talk, Freya looks around her, then produces a packet of cigarettes and lights one.*

**Tom** So your sister's famous?

**Jasmine** My older sister is. Not in a good way. She's a politician. I didn't get in here because of my sister, I got in *despite* her, they *hate* her here.

**Tom** What does she do?

**Jasmine** When my mum died, my dad was a mess, so my sister looked after us but she was awful at it, really bad, because she's got absolutely no heart. Totally cold. She's made of metal, like the Terminator or something. But worse. She's like Terminator 3.

*Sarah is giving a speech for her team.*

**Jasmine** Yeah, she's Terminator 3.

**Sarah** Hello! Hi. We're so sorry to be seeing ... Casey ... go, leave. Yes. And although of course I absolutely believe our new ... policy of smaller government is the right one at this difficult time, it doesn't mean it's not a ... sadness ... when it impacts on someone personally. Casey's been fantastic as part of the ministerial team, a real laugh, ever since I've been here I've noticed that she's so ... *funny*. Anyway, Casey, we've had a whip round and got you this.

*Sarah gives a gift bag to Casey. Casey looks inside.*

**Casey** A coffee machine.

**Sarah** Yes.

**Casey** I've been here five years.

**Sarah** Well it's quite a good one I –

**Casey** I don't drink coffee.

**Sarah** You don't –

**Casey** Herbal tea.

**Sarah** Oh.

**Casey** It's always been herbal tea.

**Sarah** Right ... well ... someone hasn't done their research.

**Casey** Research? Didn't anybody *know*? Jesus. You have no idea. We don't need *less government*. Everything's getting worse, and you're cutting the support. It's what the Tories would do crisis or not, but I voted Lib Dem. I voted for you. And what good did it do?

*She looks around at everyone and gives the machine back.*

Put it on eBay. I'm leaving the country.

*Sarah steps down, speaks to her aide.*

**Sarah** Good idea. Get the car.

**Simon** You can't, you have a meeting in your office in three minutes.

**Sarah** My stomach's rumbling.

**Simon** Here. Egg salad. Tesco Express. You can eat it on the way back.

*He gives her a horrible looking sandwich. She just stands for a moment. Exhausted. Freya watches scenes from a documentary about the planet. Tectonics plates. Storms and hurricanes.*