**Three Sisters Rewired - AS BROADCAST 11/10/19**

**Episode 1**

**By Jenny Sealey and Polly Thomas**

**Inspired by Chekov’ Three Sisters, translated by Julius West**

**Final draft 13Th June 2019**

**Olivia - 28**

**Maisie - 24**

**Iris - 20**

**Angus – 30ish**

**Natalie - 20**

**Victoria - 45**

**Tyrone - 24**

**Sean – 30ish**

**Anna - 80**

**Act 1 – May**

**Scene 1**

**Opening music.**

**Kitchen – Iris doing her vlog as Anna tries to prep dinner. Sometimes we hear dogs barking and cows outside.**

**Iris:** [close mic] Hi. It’s me . My anniversary vlog! One year of vlogging. One Year since we buried dad. And one year since I launched my Birth and Death cocktails. As in BD cocktails. And one year since I was 19! Yay…Its my 20th Birthday today! As you see I’m doing a birthday meal -

**Anna:** You mean, Anna is doing your birthday meal!

**Iris:** [close mic] Steak and purple sprouting broccoli grown by moi and Daphne potatoes. My absolute fave.

**Anna:** Dauphinoise

**Iris:** What? Sorry… Anna just said something

**Anna:** Dauphinoise

**Iris:** What?

**Anna:** Pardon, not what

**Iris:** All right, pardon! Anna come and say hello.

**Anna:** Hello… um....its me, the housekeeper. Anna. How are you all? [over clearly] **I** am cooking lunch with Dauphinoise potatoes. Iris is ‘helping’.

**Iris:** Anna…..! Livvy’s done an Eton mess and Maise’s made a nut roast.

**Anna:** Iris .. go and get changed.. now… please….

**Iris:** Wait til you see my dress… got from a chazza shop.. it’s come up a brilliant white .. I’m well pleased.

**Anna:** Just go….

**Iris:** Will you do my hair? We could do a proper teach you how to do hair stuff vlog…. Oohh I need to think about this… OK you lot…Laters……[switches off laptop]

**Anna:** Do people really watch all that?

**Iris:** Of course. Got a big fan base. Loads of them Londoners –

**Anna:** Londoners! Got nothing better to do?

**Iris:** They are curious to know that there is style and glamour even in the back of bloody beyond.

**Anna:** Ah huh [*this a repeated vocal thing Anna does whenever any of them swear or isn’t polite enough]* Yorkshire is not the back of beyond, Its very nice, actually.

**Iris:** Sorry. You will come with us to London? Livvy is applying for jobs..

**Anna:** Not just in London

**Iris:** My London vlog will be mega…….

**Anna:** Just go… go!

**Iris:** [leaving] I’m going!

[As kitchen door opens we hear Maise playing the flute.]

**Iris:** shouting) Maise… practise outside… please….it messes up my hearing aid….. Oh for god’s sake [she then realises how stupid it is to shout and goes upstairs]

[Cut to ]

**Scene 2 - Maise and flute in sitting room.**

**Maise:** Do you think she will like it? Liv?? [she stamps on floor. Olivia looks up from marking]

**Olivia:** What?

**Maise:** Do you think Iris will like this?

**Olivia:** Hang on, [we hear hearing aid being switched on] Ok play it again

[Maise does.]

**Olivia:** She loves a top C ! Play it when we cut the cake. (beat) Daddy did her cake last year…

**Maise:** He did.. he was in such pain……fancy a drink?

**Olivia:** Anything to help with this marking….

[Iris enters]

**Iris:** Ta Da…

**Maisie:** Is that the dress you got from [the charity shop]

**Iris**: Great isn’t it… will you do my toe nails? It’s a new pink with glitter in it.

**Maisie**: Liv – chuck the cushion..Sit! (sounds of sorting the painting of toe nails)

**Olivia:** We were just talking about Daddy

**Iris:** Well don’t. Open the window.. the room stinks of nail varnish

**Olivia:** What?

**Iris**: Open the window.

**Olivia:** A Please wouldn’t go amiss (Olivia opens window. beat) We need to decide what to do with daddy’s ashes.

**Maise:** (to self) Not this again

**Iris:** We already agreed, some here, some at the barracks, and lots in London with mum.

**Maise:** Liv, how did that interview go? You’ve not said anything

**Olivia:** I’m too expensive and…..

**Iris:** Why can’t we just sell up and go?

**Maisie:** If only it was that simple. Iris, listen….

**Olivia:** Maze, we can’t put it off for ever….

**Maisie:** Iris…listen (she plays her flute)

**Iris:** Darling Maze.

**Maise:**  You have no idea if its good or bad do you? (all three laugh)

**Olivia:** Why do you bother?

**Maise:** I need something more that just cows. Liv, you need a hobby

**Olivia**: A hobby!..... Marking, lesson planning, timetabling…. I’m knackered.

**Maisie:** And lipreading all those bloody girls.

**Olivia:** I am used to that.

**Maise:** Why you don’t use terps.

**Olivia:** I’m a good lip-reader. The girls would take more notice of the interpreter than they would me. Hormonal girls have enough distractions.

**Maisie**: Suit yourself.

**Iris:** What time is everyone arriving? Why is no-one here yet?

[Beat]

**Olivia:** They’ll get here when they get here. Where isAngus?

**Iris:** With what’s her face.

**Maisie:** Natalie!

**Iris:** Can you do my second coat?

**Maisie:** Give us your foot….Sit still…That Natalie’s got a face like a slapped arse-

**Iris:** - and dress sense to match.

**Olivia:** I am not a fan but I think maybe she might be good for Angus

**Iris:** Is he ever going to become a professor? He could take us to London! And she won’t leave her family……. So its win win!

**Maisie:** Notgoing to happen! I’m off. Beatrice is not well. [teasing] My darling beautiful baby sister, Happy birthday! [kisses Iris, and starts leaving].

**Iris:** Urrgh! I’m not a baby! Maisie!

[Door knock/bell and commotion off in hallway, inc dogs barking]

**Maisie:** I’ll be back later. Might take while so don’t hold dinner for me [on the move]

**Iris:** She loves those cows more than us.

**Olivia:** That’s what vegans do…….

**Maisie:** It would do you both good to eat less meat!

**Anna:** [entering. dogs going mad] Girls – guests have arrived - Captain Fraser and Lieutenant Whitaker and …

**Victoria**:[entering] Colonel Thomas

**Anna:** Victoria?

**Victoria:** You have a good memory. Anna, isn’t it?

**Anna:** [trying to quiet dogs] Maud, Maudie …here … sorry about the dogs…yes, its Anna.

**Sean:** [entering] Irises for Iris

**Iris**: How sweet… You spoil me Sean…. Anna, can you take these?

**Anna:** I can dear. Would everyone like to come through to the summer room for drinks?

**Iris:** Where’s Ty?

**Tyrone:** [entering] Sorry, I’m here!

**Iris:** And what did you get me?

**Tyrone:** It’s a surprise.

**Iris:** I love surprises!

**Maisie:** Let me get you all a drink.

**Anna:** [trying to calm dogs] Maudie, Ethel…

**Iris:** Welcome to my Birthday lunch! Made by my own fair hands….

**Anna:** Ah huh!

**Iris:** And Anna’s! Come on, follow me

[Iris, Sean, Victoria and Anna go though, with general chit chat]

**Tyrone:** Maudie…. Ethel…..give me a kiss…..

**Anna:** Ty, take them out to back yard will you…

**Tyrone:** [taking dogs out] Here, here girls! Come on, out….

**Olivia:** Maze,I thought you were going …. **[aside]** Who’s Colonel Thomas?

**Maisie:** Sssh. I don’t know

**Olivia:** Maisie..

**Maisie:** Love a woman in uniform

**Olivia:** …You’ve got a very odd look.. Maze…..

**Scene 3 – summer room. Everyone is standing round having pre dinner drinks.**

**Tryone :** [coming in]What are we drinking then?..

**Iris:** Champagne!

**Tryone :** I’d like to propose a birthday toast…..Happiest birthday to the loveliest birthday girl ever. To Iris.

[general hubbub - A toast! To the birthday girl.! Anna checking everyone has a drink etc]

**All company:** Happy Birthday, Iris!

**Iris:** Where’s my surprise?

**Anna:** Uh Huh

**Tyrone:** I need to get it set up… It all in the timing…

**Anna:** So how are you Victoria? It’s been a good few years… You probably know Major Langley passed last year.

**Victoria:** I did. I was sorry to hear of it.

**Anna:** You remember my three girls. Well, not mine but I love and tolerate them like my own… Iris…

**Iris:** Did you say tolerate? Nice to meet you.

**Victoria:** And you.

**Anna:** Olivia.

**Olivia:** Welcome to our home. Have we met?

**Anna**: Maisie.

**Maisie:**  Pleased to meet you. Don’t mind Anna.

**Anna:** I’ll pretend I didn’t hear that. I’ll be in the kitchen if you need me. Dinner’s nearly ready. (She goes)

**Iris:** Sean, Ty, I need you to help me with the laptop…..

**Tyrone:** I’m crap with technology. But I need to set up…..

**Sean:** I am not. What is it?

**Iris:** It cuts out and I really need to have…..[ ad lib to go under the following dialogue]

**Maisie:** You’re new here Colonel Thomas

**Victoria:** Victoria. You don’t remember me do you?

**Maisie:** Have we met?

**Olivia:** We have met..I’m sure we have

**Victoria:** Years ago. London. It was your father who encouraged me to join the army. I used to visit your house in Stoke Newington..

**Maisie:** You do look familiar….

**Olivia:** Stokey. That’s right! Colonel Thomas -

**Victoria:** Victoria, please.

**Olivia:** I remember you now. How lovely to see you again.

**Victoria:** I have very fond memories of your house.

**Olivia:** I was in London last month. So much change… not all it for the best. Homeless people everywhere

**Victoria**: A complex city of contradictions but I do love it.

**Olivia:** So bloody expensive. A coffee and croissant £4.45. Its staggering how many coffee and bread shops everywhere and who knew we needed Cupcakes… And Maze, get this..you pay on the tube with your credit card.

**Victoria:** Yes. If you have contactless.

**Olivia:** I wasn’t sure what that meant, to be honest…..I got an Oyster.

**Maisie:** Victoria, which part of London are you based in?

**Victoria**: I live in Twickenham…

**Iris:** [joining them] Livvy’s looking for a job in London.

**Olivia:** Iris.. It’s not as easy as that…

**Maisie:** Where are the boys?

**Iris:** Trying to sort the wifi. I’m going with her…

**Olivia:** I didn’t get the one at ,,..

**Iris:** I might branch out. You know, take Langleys Lushious Jams and the BD Cocktails to the London street markets . Make it a national brand! Not just for Yorkshire posh.

**Maisie:** It’s theYorkshire posh that keeps you fed and watered

**Iris:** To live, to work, to be as free as a bird to do whatever I want

**Olivia**: Iris..its not as simple…

**Anna** (coming back in):Iris, my darling, did you say work. You sleep till noon and then fritter away the day flogging . Livvy, can you come and give me a hand?

**Olivia:** (with relief) Thanks Anna

**Iris:** Its called vlogging. I market Langley Luscious stuff online. And do all the local deliveries.

**Maise:** She is the public face of the farm.

**Victoria:** And you?

**Maise:** I do cows.

**Victoria:** Sorry?

**Maisie:** I look after the animals. Easier than people!

**Victoria:** They don’t answer back

**Maise:** Exactly

**Iris :** I hate this sodding farm . There’s bugger all to do. Being Deaf doesn’t help either.

**Maisie:** Iris!.

**Iris:** What? I’m 20! Its the perfect time to start my life in London. You know what, I woke up this morning and for the first time in ages I woke up feeling happy.

**Tyrone:** [coming back with Sean]More champagne.

**Iris:** Thank you. My 21st will be in London!

**Tyrone:** London? You can’t leave me

**Sean:** London is full of young entrepreneurs. You would be brilliant there.

**Tyrone:** She is brilliant now… here …

**Sean:** I’ll visit you, Iris and leave this sad bugger to wallow!

**Iris:** Ty, you can keep Maise and Kevin company. He’s far too old to change. And boring.

**Maisie:** Who’s boring?

**Sean:** Tyrone – (laughs) More champagne…..My mother still lives in Barnes. She would love you Iris. We can go dancing

**Iris:** Do you dance?

**Sean:** I can - come here (he swirls her around and over to other side of the room. She laughs)

**Tyrone**: Right, well I’ll just go and sort out that surprise! [leaves]

**Iris:** [off] Hurry up!

[Victoria and Maisie are apart from others]

**Maisie:** Have a seat.

**Victoria:** Thank you. He has a point. There would be so much more opportunity for Iris in London. She’s young. It must be tough on her only having the barracks for entertainment.

**Maisie:** We would all lose it if we didn’t have your boys… Iris loves the attention, they help me out when I go to the slaughterhouse. I mean - when they are off duty… I wouldn’t want them to get into trouble…

**Victoria:** It is fine. They are supposed to support the local community. I’m glad they are making themselves useful.

**Maisie**: Tyrone is like a lovesick puppy around Iris.

**Victoria:** Based on the briefest encounter – I cannot imagine Iris as an army wife.

**Maisie:** She is just stringing him along. I have told him…

**Victoria:** You can’t tell the young anything. He’ll find out the hard way!!

**Maisie:** There will be tears.

**Victoria:** She seems young for a 20 year old. Some of the things my boys have seen by that age….. Things you wouldn’t wish upon anyone.

**Maisie:** (Awkward silence) Do you enjoy your work?

**Victoria:** I love it. I get to travel, meet new people and it is an honour to serve my country.

**Maisie:** Is your husband in the army?

**Victoria:** How did you.. ah my ring… Was. He is, well.. he has quite severe PTSD…. I can only leave London when he is stable. Do you ever come south?

**Maisie:** It’s a schlepp. I can’t leave the cows.

**Victoria:** It’s only 5 hours by train. The world is getting smaller and no one has to stay put. I am sure Kevin can take care of the cows.

**Maisie:** Kevin?

**Victoria:** Your brother. Tyrone said you have a brother and Iris mentioned…

**Maisie:** Kev is my husband….

**Victoria:** Yes, of course. Its Angus - Angus is your brother.

**Maisie:** No point wearing a ring with cows and that.

**Victoria:** I’m sorry…

**Maisie:** Don’t be.He’s a housemaster at Kings. He’s home most Sunday’s. We FaceTime but most of the time I haven’t got a clue what he is saying. I married a -

**Victoria:** - a mumbler.

**Maisie:** I did!

**Victoria:** If themilitary teaches you one thing, it is to speak clearly and with authority.

**Maisie:** But without emotion.

**Victoria:** Don’t generalise

**Maisie:** My dad …..

**Victoria:** Major at work and at home.

**Maisie:** He loved us in his own way.

**Victoria:** He idolised you girls

**Maisie:** When Iris was little –

[loud burst of Happy Birthday being played on Alexa]

**Tyrone:** [walking back in] Ta da!Alexa play Happy Birthday….[music cuts out] Bugger… Iris, it was working -

[Olivia, Angus and Natalie burst in signing/singing Happy Birthday and bringing in a cake.]

**Iris:** Bravo!Beautifully signed darling bro. You too Natalie.

**Natalie:** Angus taught me. Did I get your name sign right?

**Angus:** You did my darling… Gentlemen,

**Maisie:** Colonel Thomas.

**Angus:** Colonel Thomas. Hang on - its Victoria, isn’t it?

**Victoria:** It is. Been a while.

**Angus:** All those years ago! How lovely to see you again.

**Victoria:** And you too

**Angus:** Welcome. This is my girlfriend Natalie.

**Natalie:** [very shy] Hello, hello everyone. Iris – a gift from the Mayor. He asked me what was your favourite cake and I said chocolate. It is isn’t it?

**Iris:** What?

**Natalie:** [over emphatic and loud]CHOCLATE CAKE. Chocolate Cake

**Iris:** No need to shout!

**Angus:** Sean, long time no see. How’s tricks

**Sean:** The professor! Written any books since I last saw you?

**Angus:** Several, and learnt Arabic and Urdu in my spare time.

**Olivia:** If only!

**Victoria:** What is your subject?

**All 3 Sisters** (loudly or as a whisper) QUIETISM

**Angus:** Sssh. My PhD is in Quietist Philosophy

**Maisie:** Don’t worry we are aware of the deep irony of this…..

**Victoria:** Wittgenstein wrote papers on Quietism. Have I got that right?

**All 3 Sisters**  Ssssh ( they giggle)

**Angus:** Music to my ears. At last someone who understands Quietism as a universal metaphor for the…

**All 3 Sisters**  Ssssh ( they giggle even more)

**Angus:** See what I have to put up with. I am more than happy to share my latest research in the juxtapositions of Wittgensteins theory

**Iris:** It’s my birthday and I don’t want to talk about your bloody PhD

**Victoria:** It would be a privilege. It’s been a long time since..

**Iris:** Unless you will give me a job. When you become a Professor, I can be your secretary. I’ve got lovely handwriting.

**Olivia:** The one thing the three of us -

**Angus:** I’m a long way off being a professor -

**Iris:** What?

**Natalie:** [overloud] LONG WAY –

**Iris:** [pointedly mimicking Natalie] WHAT?

**Natalie:** LOOONNNGGG WAAAYYY -

**Angus:** Oh never mind. Darling, she’s just winding us up.

**Natalie:** Sorry I was only trying -

**Iris:** Very!

**Angus:** See? She can hear perfectly well when she wants. Which is rarely when I’m talking.

**Maisie:** Leave it. It’s her birthday.

**Angus**: Fine. I will. Natalie. Shall we take a turn in the garden?

**Natalie:** I’d love to [they leave]

**Olivia:** The one thing we three have in common (besides hearing aid batteries) is beautiful handwriting. Mum taught us.

**Tryone :** Alexa play….Budapest by George Ezra.

**Olivia:** Angus writes like a doctor though.

**Tryone :** [Alexa doesn’t work] Bugger….

**All three sisters:**  What is this???

**Iris :** What is it???

**Tyrone:** Alexa. I’ve tried to set it up for you and connect it to your computer. You can ask Alexa every time you want a different song for your vlog.. you don’t have to text me.. You just ask Alexa. I only know about 10 songs. She’s got millions.

**Iris:** OMG That’s amazing Ty. Alexa can sort out everything.

**Sean:** You’ve not set it up properly.. Let me…

**Tyrone:** Er…. Yes…Thanks Sean.

[Kev texts Maisie so we never hear his voice. Phone ping]

**Maisie:** Great timing. It’s Kev, Iris.. He says his present is in the desk. [gets book from drawer]Here darling.

**Iris:** [unwraps book**]** Stephen Hawking’sA Brief History of Time. You are kidding me.

**Olivia:** Typical

**Tyrone:** Alexa, who is Stephen Hawking?

**Alexa:** Stephen Hawking is Professor of astro physics….

**Iris:** What?

**Tyrone:** See how clever she is….

**Sean:** Did you know thatTy – It’s a good book for you to try. I will help you with the big words.

**Tyrone:** I’ve read it. It’s awesome.

**Iris:** Men! Livvy – do you want it? Do you (Olivia does not hear) … whatever…

**Maisie:** At least open it – he’ll have written something for you. He always does.

**Iris:** (she opens book and reads) Darling Iris, Happy Birthday (she struggles to read this) Mens sana in corpore sano love Kevin

**Victoria:** Mens sana in corpore sano

**Iris:** Alexa what does this mean -say it again Victoria

**Victoria:** Mens sana in corpore sano

**Alexa:** A healthy mind in a healthy body.

**Iris:** What did she say?

**Sean:** Inspired present Ty…. …. She said A filthy mind keeps a body healthy

**Victoria:** Captain!

**Sean:** Sorry M’am

**Victoria:** She said A healthy mind in a healthy body. A good motto.

**Maisie:** Kev’s school’s motto

**Victoria:** Your motto?

**Maisie:** Mine is to get through the day and hope that the cows don’t die.

**Iris :** ‘One could still imagine that God created the universe at the instant of the big bang……. Is it all about God?

[sound of heated conversation from garden]

**Sean:** Trouble in paradise!

**Victoria;** Just a lover’s tiff.

**Maisie:** Really? Can you see them from here?

**Victoria:** Through the window. [moving] There –

**Maisie** [moving with her] Oh yes….

**Tyrone:** As I was saying,,,, Its is about the extraordinariness of humanity and how we came to be.

[Cut to window. Muffled but heated conversation]

**CUT TO GARDEN**

**Natalie:** Right now, I want to go home –

**Angus:** We can’t go yet. I said its just not the done thing –

**Natalie:** I don’t care if it’s the done thing! You’re so pompous….

**[Fade out and back to inside the house]**

**[Summer room]**

**Victoria:** Should we be doing this?It looks private. Can you read their lips?

 **Maisie:** [loudly] No, not quite….[calling] Iris – come here. Liv…

**Iris:** [moving over] What is it?

**Olivia:** (moving over, lipreading) Hang on.. Nat’s just told Angus she wants to go home…..

**Maisie:** If only!

**Olivia:** ‘You’re so pompous and showy offy with your family and mates. I hate it. I hate your sisters too.

**Iris:** Oooo calling Angus pompous – brave girl.

**Maisie:** Cheeky. She knows where the door is!

**Anna**: [entering]Lunch is served in the blue room.

**Victoria:** Thank you, Anna

(we hear the men moving towards lunch, talking as they go)

**Olivia:** Maze, can I sit with you

**Iris:** Sit with Sean

**Olivia:** Iris don’t you dare try …. (Iris laughs) God I hate being the only single person in this….

**Iris:** You’re way too young to be a spinster (she laughs) That’s what Tinder’s for….

**Olivia:** I am not swiping for anyone

**Iris:** What about all those sites I did your profile for?

**Maisie:** You been doing dating sites? Oooh Livvy you are blushing

**Olivia:** Don’t

**Iris:** Good profile.

**Olivia:** Oh no, don't –

**Iris:** Victoria, what do you think? [getting out phone] Look - Teacher (good), Solvent (good). Lives at home (not so good) Gorgeous picture –

**Victoria:** Yes, lovely picture, Olivia

**Iris:** I took it… See the sun shining through her hair. You look almost young. (Maisie laughs)

**Olivia:** The money I have spent on those sites. Lots of pokes but not one like. Maybe I should leave out the Deaf thing.

**Maisie:** I told Kev straight up about us three. Still doesn’t get it.

**Iris:** Tyrone loves me having to look him intensely to lipread. He thinks it is sooo sexy.

 [Victoria interrupts.]

**Victoria:** Annahas just announced lunch.

**Maisie:** [Phone pings] Excuse me – I just need to get this.(They go.) Save me a seat. (Reads text and starts texting furiously) It is Iris bday so no I am not coming to Head’s party I H.A.T.E those things. Great choice of book. Iris was delighted! [This last is sarcastic] I am staying for lunch!

[We hear her leave to go to blue room..open the door and some general chit chat spilling out. Door closes.]

**[Time passes]**

**Scene 4**

[Cut to kitchen. Dogs bark as they come into kitchen We hear strains of Maisie playing the flute to the guests. Olivia and Anna are stacking and sorting dirty dishes]

**Anna:** [to dogs] Maudie, Ethel……Right you two out….. (she lets the dogs out) Leave me to do this.

**Olivia:** (she doesn’t hear) One left!.. [holding a glass] The last of the cut glass…..

**Anna:** Your father’s face when he dropped the tray

**Olivia:** Glass and sherry everywhere…. I’ll wash, you dry.

**Anna:** You look tired my darling

**Olivia:** End of term marking, stuff going on at school… same old.

**Anna:** Kelmwood phoned to say you didn’t get the Headship .

[Olivia laughs]

**Anna:** What’s funny?

**Olivia:** Did you tell them in your posh voice that Miss Langley does not use the phone

**Anna:** (in Posh voice) Miss Langley does not use the phone. May I take a message?

[They both laugh]

**Olivia:** I think I might only be trying for a new job because of Iris

**Anna:** And there are more men in London

**Olivia:** Anna!

**Anna:** You need to do what is right for you.

**Olivia:** You sound like mum… I don’t know…I just don’t know any more… Would it be rude if I just go up for a nap?

**Anna:** YES… get in there and make an effort. I’ll bring the knife through

**Olivia:** Smile inanely, nod my head, pretend I am part if it all….

**Anna:** Here, finish the wine.... now get out of my kitchen.

**Scene 4a**

[Cut to drawing room.. flute playing in full pelt. Maisie stops. Everyone claps ]

**Iris:** Alexa who composed this

**Alexa:** I do not know this tune.

**Iris:** What did she say?

**Tyrone:** Can you really not … She does not know the tune. Iris I am sorry….

**Sean:** Inspired gift, mate, totally inspired.

**Tyrone:** Leave it

**Iris:** It’s the thought that counts.

**Tyrone:** Thank you. (keen to change subject) Maisie you should go on Britain’s Got Talent

**Victoria:** I think she is well beyond that, Lieutenant. She plays beautifully. What a treat.

**Maisie:** Not bad for a Deaf bat!

**Victoria:** I hope you don’t mind me asking how you play music when you can’t hear it properly?

**Maisie:** I trained myself to feel the notes…

**Victoria:** What about if you go out of tune?

**Maisie:** Did I go out of tune? How embarrassing.

**Victoria:** You didn’t. It was perfect. You are really inspirational.

**Maisie:** My cows think that too.

[They laugh]

**Maisie:** Come with me. I want to show you some of the old photos with mum and dad

**Victoria:** I’d like that.

 [They move away to a corner of the room. Tyrone comes up to Iris]

**Tyrone:** Are you enjoying yourself? I am sorry about Alexa….I am so so sorry…just didn’t think -

**Iris:** She can be company when you lot go home. We can have one-sided chats!!

**Tyrone:** But -

**Iris:** Don’t let Sean take the piss.

**Tyrone:** I take him with a pinch of salt.

**Iris:** What?

**Tyrone:** Don’t trust him.

**Iris:** I won’t. What about you? Should I trust you?

**Tyrone:** Without a doubt. You know I love you ….

Iris: What? Ty …..

Tyrone: Sorry. It doesn’t matter

Iris: Don’t ever say that. What did you say

Tyrone: I love you.

**Iris:** You are darling. But….I’m not going to make the same mistake as Maisie, marrying the first person who shows any interest in me. There will be plenty of fish in the sea in London.

**Sean:** [approaching] Ouch, I bet that hurt Ty.

**Olivia:** [also on approach] Iris, that is tactless

**Tyrone:** Sod off – Sean, not you..

**Sean:** Olivia, are you going to marry the first….[ Olivia cuts him off]

**Olivia:** Iris, let’s cut the cake. Tyrone, please get Anna…And give Angus a shout.

(We hear Tyrone call for Anna and Angus)

**Iris:** Cake on the head time… Someone take a photo for the mayor. Alexa, play Toast by Koffee

**Olivia :** Most of you know the drill. The cake is placed on Iris’s head. Everyone must cross their fingers. When I put the knife in the cake, you make a wish for yourself and when I cut downwards you make a wish for our birthday girl. Anna – knife

**Anna:** [entering] Please. Be careful.

**Olivia:** Here goes!

[Clapping and cheers as knife hits the plate.]

**Iris:** Anna, can you give the cake out?

**Anna**: Please.

**Olivia:** You cut and I’ll hand out. (sounds of cake being cut etc)

**Sean:** [aside] I know what you wished for Ty…. Randy old bugger. My thoughts much the same

**Tyrone:** What? I don’t know what you’re on about…

**Iris:** Here’s your cake boys. Take it and eat it. (laughs at her own joke) Grab that bottle there and let’s go outside. I want to show you my herb garden

**Sean:** I would love to see your herb garden

**Tyrone:** Would you leave it?

**Iris:** My poor herbs are being choked by the weeds. I know how they feel. Its like this sodding place. Choking the life out of you. Come on.

**Sean:** I think I might move on to whiskey..

**Tyrone:** I think I’ve had enough

**Iris:** It’s my birthday! Let’s all have a BD.

 [Tyrone, Sean and Iris move to drinks table other side of room]

**Olivia:** I’ll go and give Anna a hand in the kitchen…[leaves]

**Victoria:** What on earth is this cake on head business?

**Maisie:** My mum. We’ve always done it, even though she died years ago. We don’t cut our nails on a Sunday, we spit and count to seven if we see a single magpie, don’t put new shoes on the table….the list is endless.

**Victoria:** Most of my men are extremely superstitious. St Christophers, left boot on before right, left arm in left sleeve. My husband used to always have a coffee and listen to a song before going on patrol. The one time he didn’t do his ritual, he got caught in an explosion. To this day he can’t remember what the song should have been.

**Maise:** I was so desperate to join the army. To be like my dad. Then he sat me down one day and told me that I couldn’t because I was Deaf. I was devastated. That’s when he gave me the flute. It was his Mums, my granny’s. I was confused…but he was right…. I love music…

**Victoria:** I’m sorry about the army.

**Maisie:** It’s fine. I’m a better farmer than I’d ever have been as a soldier.

**Victoria:** What about your brother?

**Maisie:** He made it quite clear he wanted to be an academic and has zero interest in farming

**Victoria:** A farmer and a flautist… you really are quite extraordinary..

**Maisie:** You flatterer! Keep going,,,its been a long time… ….

[They laugh…..Olivia dashes in]

**Olivia:** Guess what’s just happened!

**Iris:** [joining them] Liv? What’s happening?

**Olivia:** Guess…..

**Maisie:** You ok Liv?

**Olivia:** Our darling brother has just gone and proposed.

**Maisie:** Did he tell you?

**Olivia:** I was taking the bins out and saw Angus and Flasa snogging and then …

**Victoria:** Who?

**Maise:** Face like a slapped arse

**Victoria:** Charming!

**Olivia:** He said ‘Darling let’s do the honourable thing and get married. I don’t want my son to be a bastard’.

[All react with surpriste etc]

**Sean:** Way to go professor!

**Maisie:** She’s pregnant!

**Iris:** OMG Tales of a young aunty.. That could be well vloggable! Ty I am going to be an aunty.

**Tyrone:** Congratulations!

**Iris:** Alexa play Here comes the bride….[Alexa does]

**Maisie:** She hid that well. Are you sure?

**Olivia:** Absolutely.

[Enter Angus and Natalie]

**Angus:** Everyone, I have an announcement to make.

**END ACT ONE**

**MUSIC**

**Act 2 – Christmas Eve, same year**

**Scene 1 – nursery room**

**Iris:** (vlogging) Here’s Bobby, my nephew..I am whispering because he is finally asleep. I bought his Christmas baby gro. Look…. Isn’t it just adorable. Sweet dreams darling Bobsy…remember Iris is your favourite aunty…

I am so not doing that. Angus’ description of the birth was horrendous. UGH Nat is acting like she is the only person in the world to have a baby. She is also dripping milk everywhere. It’s gross.

I will be the best aunty though…so any good aunty tips. Send my way. [moving to sitting room]

Now our tree…. Hang on, Alexa play Christmas songs… (Xmas music kicks)

The whole barracks is coming to ours and some of our customers… All part of the Langley Christmas tradition. I love…….[internet starts to cut out]

All.. … what… Angus…. Get off the ……[ Xmas music cuts out abruptly too. Bobby cries.]

**Scene 2 - study**

[Natalie enters Angus’ study. He shuts his computer lid down quickly to hide his online gambling. Distant baby crying]

**Natalie:** Still studying?

**Angus:** Can you knock before you come in?

**Natalie:** I am your wife, so no. Will you come and look at Bobby? He’s not right. I’m worried, I think I should call the midwife.

**Angus:** He’s fine. It costs every time we get the midwife or health visitor out Why we had to go private…… We could have got a new roof for the cost of his birth! Maise could have delivered him. She’s done enough calves.

**Natalie:** Not that again. Angus. Bobby has a temperature. He was all smiles and then went all hot and limp in my arms and fell asleep and now he’s crying again.

**Angus:** It’s what babies do – cry, shit, puke and sleep.

**Natalie:** I’m going to ring round and cancel the party, then I am calling the midwife –.(she starts to cry) – Emma will know what to do, she cares…..

**Angus:** Come here Nats, you know I love you – give me a kiss…come on darling. You are exhausted

**Natalie:** Sorry, I’m all over the place at the moment – I love you too

**Angus:** You go and lie down. I’ll check on Bobby.

**Natalie:** Then will you come and check on me?

**Angus:** My Natalie!

[They kiss.]

 **Natalie:** Don’t forget! [She leaves]

**Scene 3 – Nursery**

[We here Angus open door crying gets louder and subsides as Angus reads.]

**Angus:** Ssssh good boy…. Sssshhh. Now where we… Ah yes…[Tractatus 6.4](http://www.kfs.org/~jonathan/witt/t64en.html%22%20%5Ct%20%22new). A properly logical language, [Wittgenstein](http://www.philosophypages.com/ph/witt.htm) held, deals only with what is true.  (Bobby goes quiet) Blah blah blah Sssh..(Bobby starts up again)

Bugger…. The book concludes with the lone statement:

"Whereof one cannot speak, thereof one must be silent."

Or as [Frank Ramsey](http://www.philosophypages.com/dy/r.htm#rams) put it,

"What we can't say we can't say, and we can't whistle it either."

**Angus:** Bobby… bob…… Thank god. [He leaves

**Scene 4 – study**

[Angus opens his laptop and we hear ‘casino type’ noises]

**Angus:** Come on come on come on…. Oh you beauty!...

[Anna comes in. He shuts the laptop down quickly]

**Anna:** Courier has just dropped council papers.

**Angus:** You are joking. I am on annual leave. Bloody hell!

**Anna:** Ah Huh

**Angus:** Sorry. It’s just….Anna…I don’t…..what am I doing with my life. Why am I still only halfway through my PhD? I’ll be dead before I get a professorship… Why is my brilliant mind not being recognised? How did I end up working as a town planner for the fat controller.

**Anna:** Mayor Roberts if you please Angus. You’re lucky to have a job. It is a rare thing in these parts.

**Angus:** I want to be a Professor at King’s University or Queen Mary’s or SOAS. I want to be in London or anywhere but here…. Work, the baby, Nat..its all too much..

**Anna:** It’s just all new for you both. It’ll take time to settle. You need to be there for them, not frittering away money

**Angus:** How dare..

**Anna:** I used to change your nappies and I potty trained you….[Bobby cries….] I’ll see to him. You check on Natalie.

**Angus:** I do so love you.

**Anna:** Just go

 [They both leave]

**Scene 5 – sitting room**

[Maisie and Victoria enter.]

**Victoria:** I just wanted to come and say Happy Christmas. I can’t stay for the party. Andy’s driving up with the girls. We’ve rented a cottage…the one at Stoddart Farm…. An hour and half from here

**Maisie:** Everything’s an hour and a half from here! … Are they staying for the whole of Christmas? Will we have -

**Victoria:** No..but I am here now…

**Maisie:** You are…. …You are here..I think Kev knows..

**Victoria:** Have you said anything?

**Maisie:** No.. what would I say… that when I see you my world stands still and my body melts… I am not sure it would go down well….

**Victoria**:.…I

**Maisie:** Sorry, that just came out

**Victoria:** You are the sweetest thing and I feel..

**Maisie:** It is new for me too…I have never done anything quite like this.

**Victoria:** Maze I..

**Maisie:** Or felt like this ever… Have you?

**Victoria:** I have missed you.

**Maisie**: And me you.

**Victoria:** [beat] Andy is really good at the moment. Really good… I feel like we are turning a corner

**Maisie:** Its just that you make me….

 [They kiss. Its passionate. When they talk, they are locked in each other’s arms, whispering up close.]

**Victoria:** Maze…..The men will be here soon

 [They kiss again…]

**Victoria:** We should –

**Maisie:** Yes. We should. [they break apart. Pause]

**Victoria:** What the hell am I going to do with two teenagers and a crap signal?!

**Maisie:** The girls could come here, to the farm. They can muck out.

**Victoria:** No, I don’t think that’s a good idea.

**Maisie:** You could bring them over ..

**Victoria:** No, no.

**Maisie:** How long have I got you for now?

**Victoria:** For long enough.

**Maisie:** Come with me… [They leave]

[beat. Iris and Tyrone enter.]

**Iris:** People should be here soon. Liv and Maze are a total waste of space.. I feel like I have done a week’s work in a day…

 **Tyrone:** I love it when you get on your high horse.

**Iris**: My what …

Tryrone: It doesn’t matter.

Iris: Tryrone…I hate

Tyrone: I said I love it when you get on your high horse.

Iris: I’m not. Look, all my own work - the tree, the drinks table ….Alexa, play something Christmassy

**Alexa:** I do not know that word.

**Iris:** What?

**Tryone:** Alexa play Christmas carols. [She does.] She is playing something Christmassy.

**Iris:** Good! Drink?

**Tyrone:** Mulled please

**Iris:** What,,,, Oh Mulled…god…I ache all over. I was not put on this earth to to trek jars of pickle across the moors. Thank god Sean helped me.

**Tyrone:** Sean did?.. Right.. good one… Just think on Christmas day how many houses will be having their turkey with Langley’s homemade cranberry sauce.

**Iris:** (talking over him) A woman cried all over me today. I gave here her delivery and she burst into tears. It was heart-breaking. I just held her. I had no idea what to say. I mean what do you say to someone who has just lost their husband? All I could think of was clichéd nonsense, so I said nothing.

**Tyrone:** [slightly sarcastic]Good old Sean! Sometimes a cliché is all you have to hold onto.

**Iris:**  Dad said that ‘God needed a new angel’ when mum died. So naff.

**Tyrone:** What?

**Iris:** Anna told it like it was. She held us together. She still does. Is she too old to go back to London? We can’t leave her can we? Could we? Oh god I am sooooo fed up.

**Tyrone:** Life’s a bitch and then you die!

**Iris:** I will pretend I didn’t hear that.

**Tyrone:** [beat] Iris, I’ve been thinking. I need to get out of the army.

**Iris:** What? Why?

**Tyrone:** I want to come to London with you

**Iris:** Why?

**Tyrone:** Do you know you’re standing underneath the mistletoe! (he kisses her)

You do know I would go to the end of the earth to be with you

**Iris:** You are such a soppy git.

**Tyrone:** Seriously. I have just invested in a new venture, and if it pays off, I will have some serious money, Iris. Seriously big money. I want what is mine to be yours.

**Iris:** You are not gambling are you?

**Tyrone:** I am not Angus.

**Iris:** He loses all the time

**Tyrone:** Sean gave me the heads up on some amazing new stock, he made a killing. He plays the market all the time.

**Iris:** Are you allowed to do this if you are in the army?

**Tyrone:** I will make a killing for us and buy you some Louboutins.

**Iris:** And a Chanel bag..

**Tyrone:** Your wish is my command..

**Iris:** You are a sweetheart – come here….

[They kiss.]

**Tyrone:** Alexia play White Xmas . (she does). Iris, dance with me.

[Music starts and then cuts out]

Tyrine: God, Alexa! [he contiunues to sing ‘White Christmas’.]

**Scene 6 – dining room**

[Olivia is on an online chat room, typing on instant message.]

**Olivia:** Hello..hello? Can you see me alright? Are you ready for Christmas?...Me too….Its school holidays now…..I’m acting up as head. It is a new challenge yes.. You?.... Sorry. ….A farmer, lots of farmers around here (she laughs pathetically). Where’s your farm? Sorry? ..No, not getting that…Can you spell that? You keep breaking up..my brother is on line constantly….. Yes ..It is a skill lipreading..Thank you… Yes I am actually but its ok ..Don’t go not just…[sound of connection being turned off] …. every time….. every bloody time… well sod you…..

**Sean:** [entering] It was a no then?

**Olivia:**  Where were you? Did you – (hear that?)

**Sean:** You’re a good looking woman Olivia.

**Olivia:** Don’t you dare patronise me

**Sean:** I’m not. Don’t waste time on those sites. We never see you at Barrack events. You could turn a few of the officer’s heads.

**Olivia:** I am not military wife material.

**Sean:** Beggars can’t be choosers.

**Olivia:** You’ve certainly got a way with words

**Sean:** Sorry that came out wrong. We make fine husbands you know.

Cheer up. It’s Christmas. Let’s get a drink shall we?

[Tyrone and Iris enter]

**Tyrone:** You look like you have seen a ghost. What’s he been saying to you?

**Olivia:** I need gin.

**Sean:** Let me do the honours. Iris, are you Ok after Mrs Townsend’s melt down? She was wonderful Olivia, you would have been proud of her.

**Olivia:** Sorry what ..who had a meltdown?

**Iris:** I wonder if I should consider becoming a counsellor.

**Tyrone**: We could have a house with one of those posh shed office things at the back. That could be your counselling room

**Olivia:** You need to live and suffer more before all that Iris

**Iris**: I am an orphan, I’m , I have to live here….I have suffered thank you very much..

**Olivia:** You’ve seen nothing compared to what the boys have seen

**Tryrone;** Olivia is right, and you like being ..no….that came out wrong….what I mean is..it is your USB…I mean USP…

**Iris:** Shut it Ty. Shut up now.

**Sean:** How are you going to afford a house with and office in the back here, let alone in London, on your salary???

**Tyrone:** I’m going to quit the army..

**Sean**: The army makes that decision, not you.

**Tyrone:** Sean..I did it.. I invested my savings, like you said

**Olivia:** You’re not gambling like Angus

**Tyrone:** No it’s a sound investment and soon I will be able to take Iris off your hands

**Sean:** She only wants you for your money Ty

**Iris:** Boys ..shut it. Livvy you’ll come and live with us?

**Sean:** What if it all goes tits up? The market is very precarious right now.

**Tyrone:** What..

**Sean:** I’m just saying. You have to keep an eye on these things

**Tyrone:** Stop winding me up…

**Sean:** The stock market’s not for the fainthearted, Tyrone, just a friendly word of advice from one who knows. Got to stay one step ahead, look to the future.

**Tyrone:** In the future we won’t die.. how would we live our lives if we knew we could live forever or how would live our lives if we knew exactly which age we would die.

**Sean:** Death is the only certainty in life

**Olivia:** I would want to die, if I was always going to be on my own

**Iris:** You will be, because you are so gloomy. God…where is everyone…come and rescue me from these three…….

**Anna:** [entering, putting down tray] Cheese and biscuits and tomato soup. Keep you going till the guests arrive.

**Iris:** I so love you

**Sean:** What was Iris like as a baby?

**Anna:** A joy. She never cried.

**Sean:** Is she your favourite?

**Olivia:** Favourite?

**Anna:** Naughty. I don’t have favourites

**Olivia:** It’s me isn’t it?

**Iris:** (Mouth full of cheese and biscuit) What you talking about

**Oliva:** What?

**Anna:** I don’t have favourites. Iris ..don’t talk with your mouth full.

**Iris:** Yes you do. You like Heinz Mulligatawny.

**Sean:** Mulligatawny! (Laughing) I am now officially in love with you.

 [Victoria and Maise arrive.]

**Victoria:** Don’t let me interrupt.

**Sean/Tyrone:** Ma’am -

**Victoria:** I am heading to the farm via the Barracks. My family have arrived. Enjoy the party

**Sean/Tyrone:** Thank you M’aam.

**Victoria:** Happy Christmas everyone.

**Iris:** You’ll miss the party!

**Olivia:** Iris, her family are coming up for Christmas!

**Victoria:** My apologies but its snowing and I really should go.

**Iris:** Bye then.

**Anna:** Ah huh!

**Iris:** [sulky] Happy Christmas!

**Olivia:** Stoddart’s farm is miles away, you best get going

**All:** Merry Christmas!

**Maisie:** I’ll see you out.

**Scene 7 - hallway**

**Maisie:** I want to come with you …

**Victoria:** Don’t ruin it …Kevin will be here soon.

**Maisie:** Five minutes ago you were……

**Victoria:** Ssh. I know and it was lovely.

**Maisie:** Sorry Colonel Thomas. I’ll see you to the door.

**Victoria:** Now you’re being childish.

**Maisie:** Sorry

**Victoria:** Stop saying sorry – stop signing sorry. I will text you later. I promise.

[She goes. We hear Christmas music and laughter/chat from blue room]

**Maisie:** (to self) What am I doing? Oh Kev…I am sorry. No I am not sorry. I want to matter….this bloody life…..

**Cut to blue room**

**Maisie** : [entering] Where’s the cheese and biscuits? I am starving.

**Olivia:** I wonder if Victoria would do a talk for my girls. They could do with some strong female role models who aren’t Youtubers or fashion models….why are young people so disinterested in the world around them?

**Maisie:** [eating] Whose fault is that? Some teacher you are

**Iris:** Stop talking with your mouth full!

**Maisie:** [clearerl] I said ‘Some teacher you are!’

**Olivia:** I can only do so much. They are not even interested in you soldiers.

**Sean:** We make fine husbands.

**Olivia:** I didn’t mean to marry…I meant as an example…

**Sean:** I was telling Olivia. Military training is akin to being house trained. We take orders, we’re tidy, we are….

**Olivia:**  Misogynistic

**Maisie:** Emotionally stunted?

**Iris:** Emotionally what? Who?

**Sean:** Your sister is accusing Tyrone and I of lacking passion. I can’t answer for him,

**Tyrone:** No you can’t,

**Iris:** This place sucks the passion out of everything......I deliver pickles and jam. I am single, I am…..

**Tyrone:** Iris, I

**Iris:** I hate being , I hate being here and I …I might have to go and make a snow angel. To feel the cold snow on my back. To feel something.

**Olivia:** You …DQ (signs)

**Iris:**  Stop signing DQ

**Tyrone**: I’ll come with you.

**Iris:** No don’t.

**Sean:** (to himself) DQ – ha drama queen You are magnificent.

**Iris:** I just want to be alone. For once.

[She goes out]

**Maise:** Shut the bloody door. It’s freezing. Sometimes, Iris is a spoilt brat. Manages to bring every conversation around to her. You have your work cut out with her Ty.

**Tyrone:** I want get her away from this.

**Olivia:** London, where the streets are paved with gold

**Tyrone:** I am sure we’ll find somewhere….I’ve got an aunt in Kent.. it nearly London.. I need her hit list from London down. I’ll ask – [he leaves, calling] Iris, wait…..

**Sean:** Kent….She will kill him! I need to see this. [leaves]

[Anna comes back in and calls after him]

**Anna:** Can you bring in some more wood when you come back in?

**Sean:** Sure.

[Front door slams distant]

**Olivia**: We need Angus to have a big win on online poker

**Anna:** You shouldn’t be encouraging him. He lost a lot of money last night

**Maisie:** Oh …Jesus

**Anna:** Uh huh

**Olivia:** Not again

**Anna:** You need to have a word with him…This house is all he has got as equity

**Olivia:** He wouldn’t dare…Does Flasa know

**Anna:** I suspect not.

**Maisie:** She will kill him.

**Anna :** Sssh.. Here she comes

**Natalie:** Has anyone arrived yet?

**Maisie:** G&T or Mulled?

**Natalie:** I am breast-feeding

**Anna:** Iris has made some mocktails… for you and people who are driving

**Maisie:** Everyone has to drive to get here, so more alcohol for us.

**Natalie:** I’m breastfeeding!

**Anna:** I should check on the hotpots. [leaving]

**Natalie:** [calling after her] No Anna. I need you to sort laundry. I am getting through so many tops…Bobby has to be changed five times a day ….Angus sweating over his computer all hours god sends….

**Maisie :** (signing but not spoken)You’ll be sweating when you know exactly what it is he is doing?

**Natalie :** Maisie, you know I don’t understand signing. What did you say?

**Oilvia:** (signing but not spoken) Do you understand this. F.L.A.S.A

**Natalie:** I actually do know the alphabet. F..L..A Do it again but slower

**Maisie:** [Laughs. Speaks ] Close call Livvy

**Natalie:** What?? Oh never mind. Actually, a quick word. Olivia, I need Iris’ room for Bobby so she will have to share with you.. Anna will help you move your stuff after Christmas….oh god, I’m leaking…[calling] Anna! Anna, you need to put a wash on right now. [She leaves]

**Olivia:** What?!

**Maisie:** Christ Liv, were you expecting that?

**Olivia:** No! What a cow. I am 30 years old, an acting Headteacher and she expects me to share with my baby sister. This is our house, not hers!

**Maisie:** She’s got us exactly where she wants us. Trapped. We are pathetic. All three of us. Why are you even here? You could be anywhere, Liv. Anywhere in the world.

**Olivia:** I wish Natalie would go. And take Bobby with her.

**Maisie:** Why don’t you go?

**Olivia:** Where?

**Maisie:** London…. They are crying out for teachers.

**Olivia:** I’ve tried! I am too expensive. It is cheaper to hire postgrads. Even with a deputy head salary, I am not sure I could afford to buy in London and rent is stupidly expensive. What is the point of it all? And where the hell is everyone? It’s supposed to be a party!

**Iris:** [coming back in] Its freezing out there. I’m soaked…I might have to change. Liv, can I have a drink?

**Olivia:** [serving mulled wine] Please! That’ll warm you up.

**Iris:** Mulled makes it all Christmassy.

**Maisie:** Where are Sean and Ty?

**Iris:** Chopping more logs. Tyrone promises me bloody London and now Kent. Suppose it is down South at least…. Sean might be posted in Germany. Or was it Spain? I’m not sure if I fancy either of them. I could just go with Sean, leave here, get settled and then leave him.

**Maisie**: Sounds like a plan. Then Bobby can have your room. And everyone’s happy.

**Iris:** I could be happy with Sean. He has GSOH. But Ty is so sweet. Where is everyone?

**Olivia:** Just what I was saying – the party was supposed to start half an hour ago!

**Maisie:** That’s all we need in life GSOH

**Iris:** Just because you haven’t got one! Does Kev make you laugh? What do you see in him? The sex must be amazing for you to have stayed with him so long.

**Olivia**: Does it really all have to come down to sex? There’s more to life than sex! Isn’t there?

**Maisie:** I don’t know.Kev lives away all week.

**Iris:** You can have Tyrone

**Olivia:** I don’t …

**Maisie:** Beggars can’t be choosers

**Olivia:** Don’t

**Maisie:** The Mayor has a soft spot for you!

**Natalie:** [entering] The Mayor has a soft spot for who?

**Olivia**: Me.

**Natalie:** Oh I don’t think so. He has a very particular taste! I am actually just looking out for Nigel - I mean the Mayor. He is coming to pick up the papers. Can you keep an ear out for Bobby?

**Olivia:** We can, but it won’t do much good. (all three laugh)

**Natalie:** You know what I mean. Here - keep an eye on the baby monitor.

**Maisie:** Why can’t Angus deal with Nigel and Bobby?

**Natalie:** He’s done daddy duty. I have sent him with the boys back to the barracks. Do I look all right in this top?

**Maisie:** You are joking.. they will get drunk and he’ll loose..

**Natalie:** I have given him 50 quid and sent them all on their way. Is the colour right?

**Maisie:** You gave him what?

**Olivia:** Natalie, it may have escaped you notice but we are all set to receive guests

**Natalie:** You are so like Angus.

**Olivia:** You are leaking by the way

**Natalie:** Not again! I am out of bras, Anna is useless. Nigel is on his way…

**Iris:** You should change before the guests come.

**Natalie:** I just did!

**Iris:** Have the boys just left…. I’ll stop them

**Maisie:** Natalie…do you know Angus gambling?

**Natalie:** I must change….

**Maisie:** Natalie……Angus is bleeding money.

**Natalie:** Do stop fussing!

**Maisie:** Don’t you care?

**Natalie:** It’s all fine. I know you think I’m stupid but I’ll be fine, Nigel got him tosign the house over to me so at least Bobby will always have a roof over his head. You should be worrying, not me. I am going to change. [leaves, then stops with an afterthought] By the way, I’ve cancelled the party. Bobby is too poorly to have noise in the house. So you will just have to entertain yourselves. Goodnight.

**Maisie:** Did she say Nigel has got Angus to sign our house over to her. How is that even legal?

**Iris:** She cancelled our party! The bitch!

**Olivia:** All this food going to waste!

**Maisie**: For Christ’s sake you two, did you not hear what she said about the house?!

**Iris:** (Phone vibrates) Brilliant. Sean is coming back to pick me up. Victoria is having a gathering. There will be dancing!!

**Olivia:** What?

**Maisie:** The house! He has signed the house over to – wait - what did you say about Victoria?

**Iris:** I am going to change….. night, you two.. I’ll be late. Don’t forget to put the sherry for out for Santa and a carrot. Byeeee……

**Olivia:** How old is she…..[ping Text] Someone wants to Face Time

**Maisie:** Livvy, not now!

**Olivia:** Is my hair okay

**Maisie:** Liv!

 [Face Time signal starts]

**Olivia:** Oh Hi. Yes I am Olivia.. Happy Christmas to you too. I am free to talk. Yes…. oh about a year,,, no not met anyone quite yet… hang on I will just go somewhere more private.……… (Her voice fades away as she takes her FT to other side of room)

**Maisie:** (groans, then pouring a glass and drinks) This bloody life…..[gets phone and sends a string of texts]

So you are having a party. Without me. Iris is on her way. You wouldn’t want me there. I know I am being childish…..

Could I come?....

I could try and get a taxi.. I think I have had too much to drink to drive…..

Please pick up……

Are you having a wonderful time……

Please pick up… Victoria.. I can still feel your kisses….Maisie you idiot! She’s not going to reply, what’s the point?! [throws her phone down. Phone strikes a clock, that smashes to the floor]

**Olivia:** [back towards Maisie] Maisie! What happened? …… Mummy’s clock….

**Maisie:** ……. It was my fault. [She starts to cry.] Daddy gave it to her….her most precious possession…

**Olivia:** Sshhh… itsok ssssh Maze…. [hugging her] I’m meant to be the sentimental one! Not you. Its…just a clock. Maisie, what’s happened? You can talk to me.

**Maisie:** Mummy would be so upset

**Olivia:** We can pick up the pieces and try and mend it. It won’t look quite the same and it might never tell the time again. But it doesn’t matter… it doesn’t…

**Maisie:** Oh my life…. My life….

[Music plays]

Closing credits:

Iris was played by Alexandra James, Anna by Kay Purcell, Maisie by Lara Steward, Olivia by Genevieve Barr, Victoria by Alexandra Mathie, Sean by Chris Jack, Tyrone by Tachia Newell, Natalie by Stephanie Lacey and Angus by Jonathan Keeble.

Original music was by Alice Trueman and the flute played by Ruth Montgomery

Three Sisters Rewired was inspired by Anton Chekhov. It was written and directed by Polly Thomas and Jenny Sealey. The Producer was Eloise Whitmore.

Three Sisters Rewired was a Naked Productions and Graeae collaboration for BBC Radio 4.