**Three Sisters Rewired**

**Episode 2**

**By Jenny Sealey and Polly Thomas**

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

**TX script at 28th November 2019**

**Olivia - 28**

**Maisie - 24**

**Iris - 20**

**Angus – 30ish**

**Natalie - 20**

**Victoria - 45**

**Tyrone - 24**

**Sean – 30ish**

**Anna - 80**

**Act 3: New Year’s Eve 2018**

**Scene 1 – Iris is making a vlog**

**Iris:** [vlogging] It is kicking off tonight! It’s okay, we’re safe, the farm is too far away from anything to flood. Never thought I would be glad to be so stuck out here! We’ve had a month of rainfall in one night and there’s nowhere left for it to go. Sirens went off about an hour ago, the river has burst itsbanks. The water is 4 feet in town and rising. The army boys are out there sending people up to us. …

**Anna:** [clattering crockery etc] No time for flogging. The urns are all boiled up…

**Iris:** What?

**Anna:** Tea now… people are wet and cold.

**Iris:** Give me a sec –

**Anna:** One second only! [back to clattering in kitchen]

[back to vlogging] We’ve been on the news twice already! Everywhere is swarming with journalists and camera crews, I’ve been interviewed once and managed to get in shot for some American cable channel. Maisie is out with the boys. Olivia is flapping and ….? Shit ! Shit Shit shit. It’s gone..Lights have … Anna .. I am scared of the dark.. Anna… [calls] Anna! where are you?….

**Scene 2**

[bedroom. Olivia is sorting clothes]

**Olivia: [to herself]** Cut off. Alone. Its almost romantic. Candles everywhere. ….My entire wardrobe is black and white….black and white..if only life was that simple….

**Anna:**Water has knocked the main generator.

**Olivia:** The grey, the mess, the complex.

**Anna:** Olivia……Olivia….No time for talking to yourself, are those clothes ready to take downstairs?

**Olivia:**It all black and white.

**Anna:** Olivia! [stamps on floor]

**Olivia:** Anna.. I didn’t see you. Are you Ok? Hold the candle up…

**Anna:** Water has knocked the main generator..

**Olivia:** Maisie will sort it. Here you are. It’s all black though

**Anna:** They’ve lost everything in a flood, they’re not going to be fussed what colour they’re wearing. Iris said get all her hoodies and trackies. I’ve got her making tea downstairs, so can you sort please quickly.

**Olivia:** They will need blankets too.

**Anna:**The entire town centre is under water…..Thank god no one’s hurt.

**Olivia:** It’s still a disaster. We need rescuing. Council won’t be much use.

**Anna:** Iris’ odd socks, bottom drawer ..pass them over.

**Olivia:** A corrupt council, Angus in the thick of it. Maybe this is a chance for him to redeem himself.

[Beat]

**Anna:** The mayor is having it away with Natalie. She wants me gone. She knows I know.

**Olivia:** That’s disgusting… poor Angus. You are not going anywhere darling Anna. It is our turn to take care of you. You’re not getting any younger.

**Anna:**Cheeky!

**Natalie: (**calls for Anna from downstairs] Anna,what the hell are you doing? Get down here and fix Bobby’s bottle, he’s hungry.

**Anna:** Talk of the devil

**Olivia:** What?

**Anna:** [leaving] Bring down some bedding too, I’ll take this lot.

**Natalie: [on stairs]** And make sure it’s the right temperature! He likes it lukewarm, not tepid! **[entering]** Anna is an absolute liability.

**Olivia:** She is doing her best, Natalie.

**Natalie:** Why we are still feeding and watering her, god only knows. She can barely manage the stairs.

**Olivia:** She is slowing up but so would you at her age,

**Natalie:** She needs to go into a home. I’ll talk to Nigel.

**Olivia:** [beat] What else do you talk to the Mayor about?

**Natalie:** (oblivious to subtext) We have talked about your appointment as Head…. Permanent Head .....not acting.

**Olivia:** That is none of your business

**Natalie:** We could do with the extra money and if we get rid of Anna - more savings. I can decorate Bobby’s…

**Olivia:** Let’s get three things straight. Anna is not going anywhere,

**Natalie:** I will be the judge of…

**Olivia:** I do not want to be Head at that school and my money is my money. I pay my rent here and contribute to food but beyond that – it is none of your business or Angus’s, for that matter

**Natalie:** No need to be confrontational.Everything is our business [as she is leaving]

**Olivia:** Don’t leave the room saying something….you know I can’t hear it. Rude. If you have something to say …say it to my face.

**Natalie:** I don’t want us to argue. That’s all. [She goes]

**Olivia:** [lights go back on] Bloody hell. Let there be light.

**Maisie: [entering]** I did it!

**Olivia:** You star!

**Maisie:** This is so much worse than last time.

**Anna:** [entering] Thank god you are safe darling

**Maisie:** I’m fine…. The town centre is gone …What a bloody awful mess

**Anna:** [reacting to swearing] Ah Huh

**Maisie:** Sorry

**Olivia:** Anna, can you make some tea please?

**Anna:** Builders?

**Olivia:** Please.

**Anna:** Maisie?

**Maisie:** Whiskey, please? I need to find Victoria ….

**Anna:** Tea and whiskey all round..

[Beat]

**Olivia:** Did you know Nat and Nig are at it?

**Maisie:** You’re joking…. Her with the fat controller. UGH

**Maisie:** Angus is going to do his nut…..He’s gambling again……

**Olivia:** I know…

[pause. Rainfall is steady. Then a flood siren goes off]

**Maisie:** Can you hear that?

**Olivia:** Sort of. Not another one?

**Maisie:** Maybe the dam’s burst. Oh god… that means flooding the motorway. I better go….[we hear Natalie coming up stairs. lights go out again] There goes the generator again… where’s my torch…

**Natalie:** [entering] The lights have gone again

**Maisie:** Sorry

**Natalie:** The lights have gone again.. Don’t shine it in my eye like that

**Maisie:** What did you say?

**Natalie:** Oh for gods sake. I said the lights have gone again

**Olivia:** We noticed.

**Maisie:** I am going back out… Put Bobby in your room and get Angus to free up the study. We need more space to put people. Where’s Angus?

**Natalie:** With Bobby.. He is terrified of anything happening to us.

**Maisie:** The flood or your -

**Olivia:** Leave it, Maze.

**Natalie:** We won’t flood, will we? The idea of my little Bobby being swept away by this awful water….

**Olivia:** I’ll go and check on him and Angus. [leaves]

**Anna:** [entering] Here’s your whiskey darling. Natalie, Mayor Roberts is looking for you.

**Natalie:** He can wait five minutes,

**Anna:** I’ll just put Olivia’s tea over here and - [she spills a little on Maisie] Oh!

**Maisie:** Shit! That’s hot!

**Anna:** Ah Huh. Sorry darling. You ok?

**Natalie:** You silly, silly old bat, look what you’ve done! Get a mop or something..

**Anna:** I am so sorry..

**Maisie:** Its fine, most of it went on the bed.

**Natalie:** You silly old woman!

**Anna**: [leaving] I’ll find something…so sorry darling.

**Maisie:** Don’t talk to her like that.

**Natalie:** She’s got to go.

**Maisie:** Where?

**Natalie:** Ah, so you heard that did you?

**Maisie:** I beg your par-

**Natalie:** A home. There’s a nice one towards Glossop.

**Maisie**: Why? That’s miles away.

**Natalie:** Well if you can think of a nearer one –

**Maisie:** She’s not going anywhere. It’s her home as much as ours

**Natalie:** I am Angus’ wife.

**Maisie:** I am perfectly aware of who you are.

**Natalie:.** It’s my house too. We can’t afford her now, she is next to no use in the house, I don’t trust her with Bobby and she just scalded you!

**Maisie:** It was just a bit of hot tea.

**Natalie:** [rising, stamps foot] Either she goes or I do!

**Maisie:** [getting up] Well if it comes down to –

[Flood siren goes off again. Lights turn back on. Iris, Tyrone and Victoria rush in as lights go back on]

**Victoria:** There you are.

**Natalie:** Excuse me, I need to find Nigel. [She goes.]

**Victoria:** We’ve got the power back across whole town,

**Tyrone**: But it’s kicking off again in the high street.

**Victoria:** The dam the other side of town burst, water is rising. We need to go back, can’t risk more people getting stranded. Is that whiskey?.. give me a slug….

**Maisie:** Here.

**Victoria:** [drinking] Cheers.

**Tyrone:** The road won’t be passable if we don’t go now, Colonel.

**Maisie:** I’ll come with you

**Victoria:** You’ve done your bit. You’re more use here….

**Maisie:** But I..

**Iris:** [entering] You got the light back on…Is the….

**Tyrone:** Iris..we’re leaving…. I’ll text you later

**Iris:** Is the internet is working again? I need to do a second vlog! Ty, can you come and see?

**Tyrone:** I can try. I’lI just be a moment, M’am [He and Iris leave]

**Victoria:** I’m sorry, Maisie. I’d like to stay here.

**Maisie:** You must go.

**Victoria:** Will you be okay?

**Maisie:** You’ve been amazing. Thanks.

**Victoria:** You too – I mean, you are amazing. How will you get home?

**Maisie:** I’ll be fine. I’ll sleep here.

**Victoria:** Where’s Kevin?

**Maisie:** I don’t know. Somewhere. Not here.

[pause. They might be about to kiss. Moment is broken when]

**Iris:** [calling off, as she and Ty run back upstairs] Wow Ty,,,you did it. Maze it’s working.

**Victoria:** The girls have been following Iris’ vlog – amazing she managed to get a post up before we lost power.

**Iris:** [bursting back in with Tyrone] Yes! Very pleased with that – New Year, new flood.

**Victoria:** Happy New Year!

**Maisie:** Happy New Year.

**Tyrone:** Ma’am, we should go. Its 0300 hours.

**Victoria:** Yes, of course, Lieutenant. See you all. When the waters stopped rising.

**Maisie:** When will that be?

**Iris:** Maybe never!

**Tyrone:** Ma’am, we really should go –

**Iris:** Maybe there’ll be a rainbow in the morning!

**Victoria:** Take care, all of you. [she leaves with Tyrone]

**Iris:** Bye, thanks Tyrone.

**Maisie:** Bye.

[pause. Bobby cries]

**Iris:** Where is Liv?

**Maisie:** With Bobby and Angus. She has been ages. I’m knackered. [sits on bed again]

**Iris:** Do you think Tyrone means it when he says he will leave the army? He’s much nicer when he’s not playing soldier boys.

**Maisie:** He will leave it. For you. You ok to top and tail?

**Iris:** Like when we were little. Keep your socks on though. [sits on bed] Hearing aid race, [we hear them switching aids off and taking them out.] I won. Night.

[pause. Baby stops crying]

**Iris:** [restless, then jumps up] Its all wet! Maisie – did – [we hear Maisie snore gently] Good night Maisie. [tries to settle back in bed]

**Olivia:** [entering, very weary] Iris! (she taps Iris)

**Iris:** You made me jump. What’s up? Hang on a sec (puts hearing aid in)

**Olivia:** Angus wouldn’t let me cuddle him. I said he should take drinks to Natalie and Nigel and he said that I don’t have maternal bone in my body and that I am selective when I hear Bobby and a rubbish aunt.

**Iris:** I hope you punched him..

**Olivia:** It’s her, isn’t it. Putting words into his mouth. I told him to be wary of Nigel…

**Iris:** Wary ?? What?

**Olivia:** She’s a cow.

**Iris:** Livvy!

**Olivia:** If I had a baby, I’d let all of you cuddle him as much as you wanted. We cuddled you loads when you were little. Mum didn’t mind.

**Iris:** What did she say?

**Olivia:** [sitting next to Iris] Bed is wet

**Iris:** Everything’s wet, it’s a flood! Go on.

**Olivia:** She wanted you to recognise each of your sisters just by our smell and our touch, even when you were a baby. Do you remember?

**Iris:** [thinks] Maybe.

**Olivia:** We didn’t know you were Deaf then. We thought you could hear us, you’d turn towards us as we approached your cot. But I think – I think now it must have been our smell.

**Iris:** Oo, that doesn’t sound good!

**Olivia:** Our scent then.

**Iris:** I might do a vlog about scent.

**Olivia:** One vlog at a time, little sister, the flood is your material for the moment. It will take months to get the town sorted. Maybe years.

**Iris:** But that will get boring.

**Olivia:** What’s boring?

**Iris:** The town. Here. It even floods boringly

**Olivia:** People have lost everything Iris, don’t be so selfish. We’re lucky. At least we‘re not flooded out.

**Iris:** Just flooded in with our demented neighbours.Not like London.

**Olivia:** No.

**Iris:** It never floods in London! Or does it? If we lived in London, we’d be in and out galleries –

**Olivia:** You’d be at the shops!

**Iris:** Theatre and walks in the parks –

**Olivia:** The Houses of Parliament!

**Iris :** Fancy restaurants –No more cheesy rustic dinner tables. I’d sell our jams to film stars and royalty!

**Olivia:** And Maisie would stay and make it? Not sure that’s fair. Iris..

**Iris:** No! Angus and Natalie would hold the fort.

**Olivia:** [sarcastic] Really??

**Iris:** We’d have to take Anna. She would love it! At her age she gets free travel in London

**Olivia:** Really?

**Iris:** Yep.. Got it all planned. We’ll sell this heap, and get a place in Primrose Hill –

**Olivia:** Iris.. listen… even if we sell this for .. it would go for 550 thousand split between four of us which is er… 4’s into….1…3… around 137 thousand each. Even if you and I joined forces it, under 275 thousand which gets you nothing in London.

**Iris:** We don’t need much, we’d be out all the time

**Olivia:** Angus has signed over his share.. The farm is in Nat’s name. Me and Maisie need sort the legal stuff.. it’s a mess.

**Iris:** Just sort it,

**Olivia:** Why can’ I live at school? There, its safe.

**Maisie:** [sitting bolt upright] What time is it?

**Olivia:** Safe

**Maisie:** Pass my hearing aid. (she puts it on) What time is it?

**Olivia:** Gone 3?

**Maisie:** It’s milking time in 2 hours. I need more sleep..

**Iris:** Can’t Angus do it?

**Maisie:** He doesn’t know one end of a cow from the other.

**Olivia:** He can learn.

**Iris:** Yes, we had to learn.

**Maisie:** When was the last time you milked a cow?

**Olivia:** He’s a boy.

**Iris**: We’re girls –

**Olivia:** Women!

**Maisie:** Whatever. He’s not going to get his hands dirty and nor is Natalie.

**Iris:** Maybe we can ask nicely…..??.

**Maisie:** No chance! She’s why we are in this mess

**Iris:** What mess?

**Olivia:** Iris, have you listened to a word I have said?

**Maisie:** Look, now’s not the time –

**Olivia:** There’s never a good time for anything in this house!

**Iris:** It’s New Year’s bloody Eve. There’s no chance of a party, so you might as well spill the beans….

**Maisie:** Angus is gambling again.

**Iris:** Shit.

**Olivia:** And the farm has been signed to Nat

**Iris:** Double shit.

**Maisie:** It gets worse.

**Olivia:** Worse?

**Iris:** He promised to stop.

**Maisie:** He hasn’t. He went all tearful and said it was the stress of Natalie, the new baby, work – the usual.

**Olivia:** We need to get him to Gamblers Anonymous

**Maisie:** I’d pay money to see you suggest that to him

**Olivia:** Maisie, how do you mean worse?

**Maisie**: I don’t…..

**Olivia:** Maisie?

**Maisie:** He’s spent the rest.

**Iris:** What do you mean?

**Maisie:** He’s spent the money that dad left us too.

**Olivia:** Daddy’s money… what…our savings? There’s nothing?

**Maisie:** So we have truly bugger all. And my darling sisters….We’re skint, we have truly bugger all.

**Iris:** Oh God, how are we going to get to London if we can’t sell the house –

**Olivia:** I can’t cope with any more tonight. I really can’t. [lies down]

**Maisie:** Liv – Liv – don’t turn your back, we need to talk – I will sort it .The Bank Manager loved Dad…. He’ll help us.

**Olivia:** Are you still talking? Please stop… I need sleep. I’m taking my hearing aid out. (Takes hearing aid out) Night.

**Maisie:** Look there’s something else -

**Iris:** Me too. I have had an epiphany. Livvy is right. My best bet is Tyrone. He is my gateway out of this hell. And on that note… sleep tight… love you… (we hear her take her hearing aid out and snuggling down in bed]

**Maisie:** Not you too! Please…..I need to tell you both… it’s a nice thing.. a nice thing for me..- [pause, snoring ] Here it is….…..I love her. Victoria. I want to disappear with her, so I can forget this mess of a farm, this mess of a life. I’m happy. She makes me happy. And I want more. [pause] Kev will…he will be OK. He always is. [pause]

Now…….cows to milk.

[Enter Angus.]

**Angus:** Where’s the spare bedding?

**Maisie:** The girls know

**Angus:** What? We are putting Nigel up in the study. He had one too many whiskeys Natalie asked me to ask you. She’s upset

**Maisie:** Ask Anna. Now go away… I haven’t got the energy..

**Angus:** Nat is really hormonal and this flood has freaked her out.

**Maisie:** Whatever. I’m off to see the cows [leaves]

**Olivia:** [waking, groggy] Angus – what are you doing? (puts hearing aid in)

**Angus:** Looking for bedding

**Olivia:** Ask Anna. Now sod off. Don’t wake Iris.

**Angus:** How can either of you sleep in a crisis like this?

**Olivia:** Hardly a crisis. We’ve not been flooded.

**Angus:** So selfish!

**Olivia:** Iris and I have been up most of the night helping people out. What have you been doing? The only saving grace is the wifi is down so you have not lost any more money..

**Angus:** That is my business… …I have been looking after my son, my wife and …my boss

**Olivia:** Nat and your boss….

**Angus:** What..

**Olivia:** We will deal with you in the morning.

**Angus**: Livvy.. what do you

**Olivia:** [she ostentatiously settles herself back under the duvet. Muffled call] Can’t hear you!

**Angus:** You three are the of the most selfish women in Britain! Growing up with you lot has to be one of the loneliest childhoods ever. You and your secret signed code, convenient total hearing loss when you got into trouble. Wrapping Dad around your little fingers……What about me? What about my life? Working in a scratty little council office, living on a farm in the middle of nowhere.. No contact with the real world. My academic work buried in this miserable little farmyard. And you, you begrudge me one tiny scrap of happiness, you can’t bear to see me loved. My darling Natalie, the only one who listens to me…My wife, who you despise, you don’t even bother to hide it any more. So I’m not sorry about the money, I’m not sorry that I’m the happy one…. Deal with it. Do you hear me?.....no of course, you don’t! No one ever listens to me……Well good night, dear sisters! [leaves]

[Silence. Then Olivia rustles the duvet and sits up.]

**Olivia:** Thank God he’s gone.

[Iris sits up.]

**Iris:** Did you get any of that?

**Olivia:** Not really, - random sounds.

**Iris:** He says he’s happy, but he doesn’t look it.

**Olivia:** He doesn’t deserve to be happy. Stealing from us.

**Iris:** Maisie will sort it. Angus is a little bit scared of her

**Olivia:** Who is though?

**Iris:** She scares me sometimes… that look she gives… the death stare…

**Olivia:** I meant who is happy. Look at us three.

**Iris:** Can’t we just be a normal family?

**Olivia:** What’s normal?

**Iris:** If only I knew.

**Olivia:** The problem with this family is it doesn’t know when to stop

**Iris:** Start, you mean!

**Olivia:** Eh?

**Iris:** None of us ever do anything.

**Olivia:** We work bloody hard….even you

**Iris:** I mean we don’t do any of the things we really want to do.

**Olivia:** Maisie loves this place!

**Iris:** She’s vegan! You don’t run a cattle farm if you’re vegan because you love it!

**Olivia:** I love being a teacher.

**Iris:** Really! At least you have a decent wage. But I bet you’d give it up if the right bloke came along…You want to be in lurrrrrve.

**Olivia:** Shut up!

**Iris:** And Angus –

**Olivia**: He is going to regret the day he was ever born. I’m going back to sleep.

**Iris:** Whatevers. [pause] I’m sorted.

**Olivia**: What do you mean?

**Iris**: I’m getting out of here. Screw love and happy ever afters, all that rubbish. I’m going to marry Tyrone, he’ll set up in business and take me to London. Then my life will really begin.

**Olivia:** You can’t use people like…

**Iris:** I’ve made up my mind –

**Olivia:** Look at Maisie- she didn’t marry for love and look how unhappy she is

**Iris:** Not listening! That’s your phone. Going back to sleep!

**Olivia:** [Phone pings]… Oh a signal. Its one of my pokes! [Olivia goes on Face Time with sound down] Hello. Oh how exciting. Are you in a different time zone.. Oh St Ives It’s the middle of the night I wasn’t expecting..

**Iris:** [sitting up and join in FT call] Just say where and when and she will be there…. PLEASE MEET HER..

**Olivia:** Sorry about that…. That was my baby sister.. don’t go….

**Iris:** Night! [loudly gets back under the duvet] Sleeping now! [snores]….

**Olivia**: YOU COW….

**[music]**

**Act 4**

**May 2019 – a year after Act 1**

**Scene 3 – kitchen - Iris making a vlog.**

**Iris:**  Wedding Vlog 3. Hi. One week to go. Everything is in place I think. Dress – which I will show you on the day - was my mums. Anna kept it. Maisie was too fat to get into it when she got married. Fits me like a glove! I will be wearing some of my mum on my wedding day - sort of cool, don’t you think? Shoes from Clarks (don’t laugh – they are beautiful). I’llmake my bouquet from our own wild flowers. Save a fortune! I will give you a bouquet making demo

**Anna:** I will be teaching her..

**Iris:** Anna … please

**Anna**: Olivia’s girls have decorated the school hall. I’ve made the cake. All you have to do darling Iris is turn up and look pretty and mean those vows.

**Iris:** Do you want to take over the vlog??

**Anna:** Oh yes I would love to -

**Iris:** Do one of your own. Back to ME. Maisie’s taught Ty to sign his wedding vows. He keeps wanting to practise with me but that is such bad luck. Kev is giving me away, bless him. Nat refused to let Angus do it. As if! Kev insisted. Keeps banging on about the importance of marriage, trust and transparency… He’s bit of a knob but he’s all right really. [beat] Sean offered. It would have felt a bit weird, him giving me away. Given that it was a sort of between him and Ty.

Anyway….Tyrone is having his top table thing… An army ritual giving blessing for his new role in civvy street and Sean has sorted a stag night.

Sean has fixed us somewhere to stay in Peckham ( I think that is South London)

**Anna:** Well done**.** It is south London.

**Iris:** It is so sick I can barely sleep. If any of you girls out there want a nice army man, Sean is a good catch. Only problem is he is being stationed in Europe…he won’t say where .. man of mystery!....quite sexy really. ….

**Anna:** You mentioned Sean more that you mentioned Tyrone. Are you sure you are doing the right thing?

**Iris:** Anna! Laters gang laters.

**Iris:** I’m going to miss you.

**Anna:** You didn’t answer. Are you sure?

**Iris** When we are settled, you must come and stay.

**Anna:** I am needed here. I am worried about Maisie having to take on all the deliveries. Natalie won’t help.

**Iris:** Angus should leave her. He must know she is shagging the Mayor?

**Anna:** Uh huh

**Iris:** She doesn’t even both to hide it any more. He’s here all the time.

**Anna:** It will all play out. You just wait and see. Angus is not stupid.

**Iris:** If you say so

**Anna:** He is really trying…

**Iris:** He is that! [She laughs]

**Natalie: [calling, off]** Anna where are you? Come and make yourself useful.

**Iris:** Where you going? Stay here a bit longer please

**Anna:** That wasFlasa calling

**Iris:** Anna …. Brilliant …. Anna said Flasa, Anna said Flasa

**Anna:** Sssssh. [they go]

**Scene 4**

Front door of the farmhouse, exterior.

**Maisie:** Is that it then?

**Victoria:** Most of the battalion have gone. Captain Whittaker –

**Maisie:** Who?

**Victoria:** Sean goes after the wedding.

**Maisie:** I didn’t mean that.

**Victoria:** I know you didn’t.

**Maisie:** So??

**Victoria:** I don’t know. I honestly don’t know.

**Maisie:** I know what I want. If Iris can go, so can I.

**Victoria:** The farm would die without you. You can’t just leave. Iris has youth on her side. Be pleased for her. You have a farm and husband and a purpose here.

**Maisie:** Purpose.. did you just say purpose. You don’t get it do you… you just don’t…… why can’t you see? (she runs off crying)

**Victoria:** Please…wait…. oh god.

**Tyrone:** [on approach] Ma’am, is everything all right?

**Victoria:** Yes, of course, Lieutenant…Are you ready for your big day?

**Tyrone:** Ready as I will ever be.

**Victoria:** Tough decision to leave the armed forces. Possibly stupid.

**Tyrone:** Ma’am, I am bricking it. This has been my life since I was 18. What do I really know about the real world? About London, living with a woman?

**Victoria:** What has the army taught you?

**Tyrone:** To be resilient, pragmatic and to use my initiative, my intuition.

**Victoria:** All admirable qualities. You will be fine, Lieutenant.

**Tyrone:** We have one life. Iris is so unhappy being here and being able to take her to the promised land and make her happy makes me feel so…

**Victoria:** Like a knight in shining armour.. (they laugh). You should be getting ready for your Top Table. And the Captain has really pulled out the stops for your stag.

**Tyrone:** And hehas sorted me and Iris somewhere to live in London. I might actually miss the old bugger.

**Sean:** [approaching] Less of the old….Ma’am.

**Victoria:** Captain… I will leave you two boys to it and give Maisie a hand. I may pop my head around later if that is OK [leaving].

**Tyrone:** I would be honoured M’am.

**Sean:** Let’s find Iris, I need my daily fix

**Tyrone:** Hands off. She is all mine.

**Sean:** For the moment

**Tyrone:** Forever. You can rule the roost in ….. where are you being stationed?…surely you can tell me….

**Sean**: Don’t call me Surely…. [He laughs at own gag]

**Tyrone:** How old are you??? (He laughs too.). You are a good man. Thank you…. For….you know…. For everything….. Will you watch me sign my vows?

**Sean:** Do I have a choice?

**Tyrone: [signing and speaking] We hear only breathe and odd word.**

Iris my goddess

An extraordinary rainbow

I desire you so

And I love you so

Together lets fly away

And explore being us

The world is all ours

You make a happy man

Thank you for being you

Does it look ok? It’s all haiku, I wrote it myself.

**Sean:** I am sure that is all perfectly signed. I know this sign and this…. And

**Tyrone:** Bullshit…. That was the first one I learnt. Two pints of larger please.. Do that other one again

**Sean:** I want to make love to you?

**Tyrone:** Who taught you that?

**Sean:** Olivia. Who do you think?

**Tyrone:** Iris? ….…

**Sean:** We should get going. Top table won’t wait…[leaving]

**Tyrone:** Was it Iris? [leaving]

**Angus:** [approaching] Ty. Can we have a word….

**Tyrone:** Shall we have a quick one, just the three of us?

**Sean:** Will Natalie allow you out?

**Angus:** She’s with Nigel. Ty..

**Tyrone:** Are you all right with that?

**Angus:** What do you mean?

**Tyrone:** Iris said she is -

**Sean:** Shafting him

**Angus:** That’s just gossip…..

**Sean:** For gods sake man, get out when you can… where’s your pride..

**Angus:** Its more complicated than…

**Sean:** She’s playing you for a fool.

**Tyrone:** Easy Sean….Its up to Angus how he runs his marriage. Come on let’s get down the pub…

**Angus:** Hang on - Ty we should talk

**Tyrone:** Yes … in the Whethy arms

**Angus:** Its private.

**Tyrone:** Course mate. Come on! Let’s get that beer.

**Angus:** I really need to talk to you Ty…alone

**Sean:** You go on ahead. I just need to check some wedding stuff with Iris. See you at the pub [He goes]

**Angus:** Come to my study … I need to show you something

**Tyrone:** [as they go] Do you sign? Could you watch me do my vows?

**Scene 5 – kitchen, Maisie is making a cup of tea.**

**Maisie:** Where is everyone?

**Olivia:** I think the boys are giving Angus refuge from Natalie…. Nigel has just arrived… we should just tell him.

**Maisie:** Oh he knows. He knows. At least he has paid us back what he gambled from our savings….almost.

**Olivia**: We have to talk to Angus. He needs to leave Natalie, get the farm back..

**Maisie:** He knows…..

[Tyrone rushes out and slams door.]

**Tyrone:** You’ve got ti wrong, it must be wrong…[exit]

**Angus:** [after him] Ty, don’t do anything -

**Olivia:** Tyrone, are you…?

**Angus:** [following] Ty…[calling out door] Don’t do anything… Ty ….

**Maisie:** What’s up? He looks like he has seen a ghost

**Angus:** Just offering him some financial advice

**Olivia:** I’ll pretend I didn’t hear that.

**Maisie:** You…. What have you done

**Angus:** Nothing. He is a grown man. …I’m going out for a beer…

**Olivia:** No…Angus…We need to talk….

**Maisie:** The house, the farm, daddy’s money…everything

**Olivia:** We are a family Angus, we need to pull together…

**Angus:** Natalie is having an affair…..( he cries)

**Maisie:** We know…..

**Angus:** Everyone knows!

**Olivia:** Get out while you can

**Angus:** I love her….I have Bobby….How long have you known

**Maisie:** It doesn’t matter…Come on Angus…do what is right for you, for us, for Bobby

**Angus:** I want Bobby bought up by his mum and dad. That is the right thing, the honourable thing.

**Maisie:** If you are happy to share her with the -

**Olivia:** Fat Controller

**Maisie:** Then fine….but you need to sort out the deeds for house - get them back and sign it over to us three sisters

**Angus:** What the F

**Maisie:** We would never see you short but Natalie is entitled to half of it all if you divorce. If you sign it over to us three, she can’t touch it. It’s our way of protecting you …

**Angus:** Have you any idea -

**Maisie:** I know you paid us back –

**Angus:** It was a good win

**Maisie:** Don’t – its like accepting blood money…

**Angus:** Yes but…. I am…

**Olivia:** How much debt you are in again?

**Angus:** I…I…..[trails off]

**Olivia:** You plonker…. Let’s get Iris’s wedding out the way, get her settled in London and then get some proper financial advice… please Angus….

**Maisie:** Look, we can find a way for you to study full time… get your PhD …

**Angus:** I’ll never get a PhD! [he is tearful] Look at me…. I used to be young, happy and clever…the future seemed so full of hope!

**Maisie:** Man up

**Angus:** I need to find Ty.(He goes) …It’s a mess, it’s a great big mess

**Olivia:** I’m worried about him…

**Maisie:** He’s a big boy.

**Olivia:** He’s sensitive.

**Maisie:** Let’s just get Iris’s wedding out the way...

**Maisie:** Did you know Anna has a plus one for the reception?

**Olivia:** You are joking – at her age…

**Maisie:** Jack..

**Olivia :** The Robinsons’ gardner! He’s a good fifteen years younger than her.

**Maisie:** Yes…Go Anna Go.. What’s with the face, Livvy?… If Anna can pull, so can you. There must be some teacher at Kev’s school that would put you out of your misery. Don’t you look away when I am talking to you.

**Olivia:** Pardon?

**Maisie:**  You are -

**Olivia:** -My own worst enemy….don’t I know it.

**Iris:** [approaching]What you arguing about now??? I love you both but I am so counting the hours till I am out of here.

**Olivia:** Don’t rub it in.

**Iris:** The hall looks beautiful… your girls have done a great job.

**Olivia:** You have put them off the idea of ever having a wedding planner. Your DIY is the way forward. They love your vlog.

**Iris:** New girl about town is going to be my London Vlog. Me getting lost, tracing the family steps….. I am going to do my BSL level two …. great way of meeting new people…..Aren’t I brave?…….You will visit won’t you? Maze – promise. I can still do the online delivery stuff until you get someone new in.

**Maisie:** Don’t worry about that darling – you just do London for three of us……

**Olivia:**  (to self) And then there were two.

**Natalie: [on approach]** What are you three plotting?

**Iris:** To tell Angus about Nigel

**Maisie, Iris and Olivia:** He knows.

**Natalie:** How do you …what….

**Maisie:** You’ve not been very -

**Natalie:** Well… really….. Nigel and I. We work…. Angus and I don’t. But he is Bobby’s father and I want Bobby to be bought up by his mum and dad.

**Olivia:** How very honourable of you

**Natalie:** It lets him off the hook. Modern day relationship open and otherwise.

**Olivia:** Open for you, you mean. Nigel is Angus’s boss…..

**Natalie:** And your point is…..?

**Olivia:** You have a nerve to -

**Natalie:**  It is actually none of your business.

**Olivia:**  You live in our house with our brother and our nephew. Everything is our business.

**Natalie :** …..Don’t walk away when I am talking to you. Nigel is worth 10 of your brother, who is a gambler and a con man and crap in bed and I need to be loved….and…oh go to hell the three of you go to hell [storming out, slamming door].

**Maisie:** She didn’t like that!!

**Olivia:** I think I heard her saying Angus is crap in bed

**Maisie:** I could have guessed that

**Iris:** Lalalalala I don’t need to hear this.

**Olivia:**  We have to sort this. I can’t bear it….

**Iris:** I am counting the hours.

**Olivia/Maisie:**  Shut it.

**Victoria: [approaching]** Maisie! I think you need to come to the cow shed.. Julie is not looking too good..

**Maisie:** Vic … what happened? [moving off]

**Victoria:** I was looking for you so I went in and she was just lying down….[They go] Julie is the big brown one [fade out]

**Iris:** Julie?

**Olivia:** I know… after Julie Andrews….

**Iris:** I might do a vlog of Maisie with her cows before I go…. Maisie the cow…no – Maisie and her love cow..No. Doesn’t sound right, I need to think about this…..[She goes]

**Olivia: (**to self**)** … I need a gin.

Cut to

**Scene 6 – farmyard**

**Maisie:** Was she making any sound? How was her breathing?

**Victoria:** Julie is fine..I just had to get you on your own.

**Maisie:** Jesus !

**Victoria:** Come here….

[They kiss]

…

**Victoria:** Oh no…. round here, now!

**Maisie:** What – ow you’re hurting me…

**Victoria:** Quickly this way [they move] Someone was watching…..

**Maisie:** Who? One of your men?

**Victoria:** No, he had glasses.

**Maisie:** Shit. Kev..

**Victoria:** Kev as in Kev your husband?

**Maisie:** He was supposed to be at school……why is hehere now?…. are you sure he saw us??

**Victoria:** I just don’t know….

**Sean: [on approach]** Don’t worry he didn’t Ma’am….

**Victoria:** Christ, Captain, where did you spring from?

**Sean:** Looking for Angus and Ty.

**Maisie**: They’re probably in the pub.

**Sean:** Thanks. [beat] Your secret is safe with me Ma’am. [He goes]

**Maisie:** Can he even talk to you like that?

**Victoria:**  Don’t worry. He wouldn’t dare. I had better get back. I call you later.

**Maisie:** (to self) You mean text?

**Victoria:** You know I mean text.. Maze..yes text…or if I can get some privacy I will Face Time…

**Victoria:** Come here. [They kiss.] I’ll text. Promise. [She goes.]

**Maisie:** [to self] Vic… Kev knows….he’s known for ages…I want to be found out.. I want to be not here…

**Scene 7 - kitchen**

**Anna:** Surprise. (she lets off some party poppers. Maud and Ethel bark]

**Maisie and Olivia:** Anna what..the.. Maudie here girl…. Ethel…sit… good girl etc

**Iris:** Its my hen party!… quick…group selfie.

**Anna:** Alexa could you play Ed Sheeran please

**Iris:** You don’t have to say please

**Maisie:** Since when did you know Ed Sheeran

(A blast of song then it cuts out)

**Olivia:** Wifi’s down. Quelle suprise

**Anna:** I have made a new cocktail in your honour. An ID

**Iris**: ID?

**Anna:** Iris’s Day Vermouth, raspberry syrup and dark rum with edible flowers

**Iris:** To me… Iris’s Day today and everyday..

[They clink glasses]

**All:** Iris Day!...Cheers!!...That’s delicious Anna.

**Anna:** We will miss you darling girl…. You will always be known as

**Iris:** The one who got away..

**Anna:** As our baby girl….

**Iris:** Stop getting soppy Anna

**Anna:** It’s not often I have the three of you all to myself…

**Iris:** I bet Jack likes to have you all to himself

**Anna:** Iris

**Iris:** You are blushing. It is so cute.

**Olivia:** Iris, how did you know

I**ris**: I introduced them.. I knew he would love Anna. Even though you are so much older

**Anna:** Cheeky ….. our ages are nicely compatible actually….. He wants me to move in with him

[Ed Sheeran plays for a second and then stops. This can happen throughout the scene. ]

**Olivia:** Anna, you’ve have only known him five minutes

**Anna:** At my age 5 minutes is like 5 years…I can’t hang about

**Maisie:** You can’t leave us….

**Iris:** Way hey Anna

**Olivia:** You can’t do leave.

**Anna**: But I can and I may…. It’s not decided yet. Let’s just all enjoy Iris’s wedding. Jack has a rather lovely son Livvy. He’d have to trim is moustache though

**Olivia:** I wouldn’t be seen dead with a gardner.. sorry Anna … I didn’t mean..

**Anna:** He’s a stonemason actually and heads up the dry walling cooperative. Don’t be a snob. It doesn’t suit you….

**Iris:** At your age Livvy you shouldn’t be hanging about being fussy..

**Maisie:** Girls…

**Anna:** Where is Kev…. He said he would join us…..

**Maisie:** Anna … You know Victoria..

[Olivia’s phone pings]

**Olivia:** It’s Kev…

**Iris:** Why is he texting Livvy?

**Maisie:** What does it say?

**Olivia:** [reading text] He’s had to go back to the school.

**Maisie:** Is he okay?

**Olivia:** He says sorry but he will be there for the rehearsal tomorrow

**Maisie:** He is just sulking

**Olivia:** What have you done now?

**Iris:** I am going to be loads taller than Kev in my heels. Tyrone is a tad miffed too. Should I have gone for Sean… He is 6ft 3

**Maisie:** Don’t make the same mistake I made

**Iris:** You wore flats. Gross.

**Maisie:** I didn’t mean..

**Iris:** I know. It’s my mistake to make.

**Maisie:** I hope Tyrone knows about your selective deafness

**Iris:** What you on about?

**Maisie:** There you go again….

**Iris:** I actually feel sorry for Kev.

**Anna:** Girls…please.

**Iris:** You can be such a bitch.

**Anna:** Iris…help me with the food….Keep the hall light off…. we don’t want

**Iris:** She who should not be named to join us. (Anna and Iris laugh and leave)

**Olivia:** Maze- You Ok?

**Maisie:** I’ve been better

**Olivia:** I can’t wait for this wedding to be over

**Maisie:** The wedding …Then the boys and Victoria will be gone….it is a mess. A total mess..

**Olivia:** Maze darling. This is not like you. Has something happened? Why don’t you and Kev take a break after Iris wedding? Go somewhere – In Europe, while you still can!

**Maisie:** I can’t leave the farm

**Anna** (coming back into the room): We’ll manage. Livvy is right… You two need some you two time

**Iris:** [entering] Da da. Scampi and chips…

**Olivia:** Anna, you think of everything

**Iris:** Tartar for me, Mayo for you Liv and horseradish for you Maisie

[they all help set plates out etc]

**Maisie:** Please don’t leave us Anna. I don’t think I could cope.

**Anna:** It is Iris’s hen do… let’s just have some fun….

**Iris:** I sort of wish Angus was with us

**Maisie:** I don’t

**Olivia:** Leave it…

**Iris:** He needs to come to London... He doesn’t belong here.

**Olivia:** None of us do really.

**Iris:** Given the chance, where would you be right now??

**Olivia:** I wasn’t going to tell you until after the wedding….. but I have got a Headship

**Maisie:** What?

**Anna:** Where?

**Olivia:** In a small private school in Dumfries

**Anna:** Fantastic!

**Iris:** For dumb …what

**Olivia:** Dumfries.. border between England and Scotland

**Anna:** I’m so proud….that is amazing darling…. Well done…..

**Iris:** So not here ?

**Maisie:** You kept that quiet. Did you ever consider us at any point?

**Iris:** And Angus and Anna

**Anna:** Angus can take care of himself

**Olivia:** When I moved back when dad got ill, all I considered was you two…

**Iris:** You can’t go. What about London?

**Maisie:** Is there a man involved?

[Ed Sheeran pipes up. Stops.]

**Iris:** Of course not

**Olivia:** Thank you both…. Just the reaction I was expecting

**Maisie:** So you were just going to sneak out after the wedding…. and direct your mail to bloody Dumfries?

[Ed Sheeran blares out]

**Iris:** What about London?

**Oliva:** How can you be so –

**Maisie:** No, no, you go ahead and move to bloody Scotland!

**Anna:** Girls.. Bloody Alexa…[she switches it off]

**All Three:** Ah huh

**Anna:** Sorry. Let’s get some bubbly….

**Olivia:** Iris – you’re going to London. What do you care where I am?

**Iris:** We had plans!

**Maisie:** And where was I?

**Olivia:** Maze -

[Anna pops some champers]

**Anna:** Enough. Here’s to our beautiful bride to be. And here’s to the wonderful clever Headmistress Olivia! And here’s to you Maisie.. the hardest working woman I know.

**Iris:** Those cows are lucky to have you.

**Maisie:** Damn right they are. (she stomps out)

**Iris and Olivia:** Maze….Don’t go…..come back..

**Anna:** Let her be.

**Olivia:** Jesus…that was

**Anna:** Ah Huh

**Olivia:** Sorry.

**Iris:** Olivia is very sorry she has ruined it all, Anna

**Olivia:** You mean ruined it for you. [we hear Maisie off playing her flute]

**Iris:** Don’t you start. I am going to FaceTime Sean

**Anna:** Sean again…

**Iris:** He said he would show me what Ty is up to… I’ve never seen the Top Table thing…I’m intrigued… [her phone pings] OMG spooky its Sean…. Hi….. how’ s it going??? [we hear intermittent words and phrases from Sean under this] Did Ty scrub up Ok? ……What…. Slow down ….Its too dark where you are…slow down… (It cuts out)……Bloody Hell (sorry Anna) its 2018…the internet should NOT be cutting every five minutes…..

**Sean:** [fragments heard under Iris’ speech above] ..turn up?......ready and……..tried call……have you?.......I said……Ty hasn’t……not sure….

**Olivia:** Angus is out. It must be Nat online shopping….

**Iris:** I need to call Sean back… he looked worried…. Something about Ty.

[She goes]

**Olivia:** She was almost convincing then…

**Anna:** She was…. Well done darling. I’m proud of you.

**Olivia:** Thanks.

**Scene 8 - bedroom**

**Maisie:**  [packing suitcase] Everything is so bloody farmy ……where’s my.. oh.. mummy’s silk PJ’s, still in the box.. not for long…. right….Batteries, brush, brogues…. All beginning with B….like me…. I feel battered, I have betrayed…. I deserve something better than here.. so much better….

**Iris: [entering]** Talking to yourself is the first sign of madness.

**Maisie:** [caught off balance]What do you want??

**Iris:** The internet is down… Can you fix it? I need to Face Time Sean

**Maisie:** Why?

**Iris:** I think something has happened to Ty..

**Maisie:** So you do care.

**Iris:** I’m getting married next week……

**Maisie:** To a kind and gentle man who adores you and is taking you to London

**Iris:** He bloody better be…

**Maisie:** It shouldn’t where you are as long as you have each other. When you’re in love.

**Iris:** I have to get to London…Have a look at the wifi? Please?

**Maisie:** (to self) OK…Am I brave enough?

**Iris:** Of course you are. Its only a few wires

**Maisie:** Your hearing really is very good

**Iris:** I can’t work out if that is a compliment or not…..

[Door slams off. We hear the dogs rushing in, barking]

**Maisie:** Did you hear that?

**Iris:** What? Must be Livvy. [Phone pings.] Hang on - Sean has just arrived…. He’s here…. great..he can sort the wifi .[she goes]

**Maisie:** [slow zipping of a suitcase…] Come on Maisie darling. Do this for you. It will all play itself out. It will all be fine. Chinese Flute solos… that’ll do…..[puts CD on]

[We hear her leave the room.]

Cut to exterior SFX

[feet on gravel, suitcase, car being opened, luggage in boot, gets in car and car starting up and driving away. Flute in background?]

**Scene 9 – outside the house**

[Hear flute from scene 8]

**Iris:** What! He didn’t show up?…

**Sean:** I thought he might be with Angus.

**Iris:** Where’s Angus?

**Sean:** Totally hammered…incoherent … Ieft him in the pub…..

**Iris:** Ty could be lying in a ditch somewhere

**Sean:** I have driven all over, there are men scouring the barracks.

**Iris:** You don’t think he has done something stupid… he wouldn’t… would he?

**Sean:** He hasn’t got the balls.

**Iris:** He is marrying me….

**Sean:** He will.

**Iris:** Why do you even care. You’re horrible to him

**Sean:** I am his senior…. It looks bad on me if anything has happened to him.

**Iris:** What?

**Sean:** What was the last conversation you had?

**Iris:** London, shopping, what should our new business be….How much money he was going to get…

**Sean:** Christ…..Let me try [phone activity]….Bugger no signal…

**Iris:** Let’s drive up the hill**.**

[They leave..]

**Olivia: [entering]** Hello? Hello… …..[phone texting] Darling Anna….off to Dumfries. Going to do hand over with head and check out what I need. Back before wedding. Can you tell the girls I will Face Time later? Love…Livvy.

[She leaves. We hear a car outside. Dogs bark]

[Fade out on flute music. Time passes]

**Scene 10 –outside, up on the hill**

[Some hours later.].

**Iris:** So there is no money?

**Sean:** Stupid git should never have taken Angus’ advice

**Iris:** What?? It was your advice…don’t blame Angus..

**Sean:** Angus talked him into investing more

**Iris:** You said it was a winner… you said that.. its your fault… you said that… [she hits him and cries]

**Sean:** Sssh it will all be ok.. ssssssh

**Iris:** How can it be OK….how can it be ok.. where is he?…where…

**Sean:** If I knew, I wouldn’t be here. I would be bringing him back…to you..

**Iris:** No you wouldn’t… I have seen how you look at me….

**Sean:** Let me settle you in London…

**Iris:** I’ve got no money….

**Sean:** Let me take care of you..

**Iris:** I thought Ty really loved me…..

**Sean:** (to himself) Oh he did.. he so did

**Iris:** What?

**Sean:** Let’s go now?

**Iris:** Now???

**Sean:** Come on Iris… London… you can be anything in London

**Iris:** The wedding….

**Sean:** It doesn’t matter…..

**Iris:** Anna…

**Sean:** Leave her a note. She will understand

**Iris:** Maze and Livvy.. they will be cross… they really will

**Sean:** They’ll get it…. Please Iris….

**Iris:** I don’t know…. Bloody Ty…. And you…..you made this…. All go wrong…..[She hits him. Cries some more. She gets her breath back.]

[They leave the room. Flute plays on. ]

**Scene 11 - hallway**

[Dogs going mad as door opens. Flute playing]

**Natalie:** [entering from outside with lots of bags and stuff]I’m home……[calling] Maisie ….stop that racket…. Bobby’s sound asleep in his pram. Go and practise in a field. Oh what’s the point? [calling louder] Angus…. Anna….Where’s Angus? Where is every one? [she goes upstairs. Crossfade to]

**Scene 12 - bedroom**

**Natalie:** [opening door] Maisie…. Oh…. (she switches CD off)….where the hell is everyone? [going out] Angus? Anna? Anyone?!

[Beat]

Next two speech heard over music underscore or outside traffic for Vlog 1 and music of Maisie’s letter .

**Iris: [vlog]** Well darling viewers. Hot off the press at Newport Pagnell. You’ll never guess what’s happened. Ty has done a runner. Can you believe it!

I am off to London anyway. Sod him. I’dem wearing mummy’s dress…. It’s my get away dress! I’ll vlog from Peckham… the land of never ending wifi……..Ciao for now.

**Maisie:** [letter] Dear Angus. Sorry.. well…Look after Anna and if she does move out, please still keep an eye on her. I know you know bugger all about cows but they are the same as humans, they need food and water, love and care. Anna can show you the milking routine. She trained me! Shame you don’t play the flute. They love a good tune! Maybe read your thesis to them…hahahaha Make friends with Pickles down the abattoir. I have no idea what his real name but he is a lovely man and always gives me a brandy when he slaughters one of our lot. Beatrice is up next. Glad I won’t be there to see that. Give her a kiss from me….and Julie and El… (voice breaks). Big kiss to Bobby too.

[Beat – passage of time]

**Scene 13 – kitchen – September 2019**

[Kitchen. We hear dogs in back ground. We hear a recording being played, switched off, played again.]

**Iris:** Hi. Girl about town here. Loving Peckham but I am a North London girl at heart. Today I did my ten thousand steps and some from Victoria Park to Clissold Park, the walk mum did with me in the pram. I love the canal but it is filthy and full of beer cans. There was a mannequin floating in the water just near Broadway market. Only in London! Walking through Ridley Rd market makes me so happy… I love it, the colours in the high street…[ plays out under following]…the smell of bread and coffee…...retro chazza shops…

[Door opens. Dogs barking]

**Iris:** Hello?

**Angus:** [turning] Oh God! [vlog abruptly switched off]

**Iris:** Sorry.Down Maudie! Ethel!Didn’t mean to make you jump.

**Angus:** You shouldn’t be here!

**Iris:** Have you got any food?

**Angus:** You’re in London.

**Iris:** No I’m not.

**Angus:** Yes you are.

**Iris:** Clearly not. I’m starving.

**Angus:** But I was just watching you…..

**Iris:** That was ages ago.

**Angus:** Oh.

**Iris:** Any grub?

**Angus:** There’s some cold casserole…

**Iris:** What?

**Angus:** [over enunciated] CASSEROLE

**Iris:** No need to shout. …. I’ll have it.

**Angus:** Its in the fridge.

**Iris:** [opening fridge, getting dish out}

**Angus:** What are you doing here?

**Iris:** Oh you know….[eating] Missed the old place.

**Angus**: [sitting with her] Really?

**Iris:** Is this out the freezer? Mmm… Maze’s vegan casserole….

**Angus:** I made it…

**Iris:** It’s very nice.. surprisingly…

**Angus:** You’ve only been gone two months. What about your job?

[beat]

**Iris:** I make lousy coffee. Too many types to lipread…

**Angus:** Oh dear.

**Iris:** It was hard work.. bloody hard and zero hours

**Angus:** Ah huh.

**Iris:** Oh I have missed that…where is Anna?

**Angus:** On a cruise with Jack. Who knew gardening was so lucrative!

**Iris:** When’s she back?

**Angus:** Dunno.

**Angus:** So are you back back ?

**Iris:** I think…

**Angus:** It’s Ok you know..

**Iris:** I just need to sort what’s what

**Angus:** London will always be there

**Iris**: I know

**Angus:** Where’s Sean?

**Iris:** On tour somewhere. I don’t know… he was crap in bed

**Angus:** I don’t need to know that.

**Iris:** Where’s Natalie?

**Angus:** Working late.

**Iris:** Career woman eh? Nigel?

**Angus:**. Also working late.

[Beat ]

So you’re back?

**Iris:** For now……

**Angus:** Great. I could do with a hand.

**Iris:** With what?

**Angus:** The farm, the jam and daddy day-care.. I have been doing it all.. on my own!

**Iris:** What about Natalie?

**Angus:** She’s full time at the Council now.

**Iris:** What about Bobby?

**Angus:** He’s got his dad. She brings in a wage. Modern families and all that. Its autumn – the fruit needs picking. Even more work…

**Iris:** What about your studies?

**Angus:** Quietism

**Iris:** Sssssh….

**Angus:** Still not funny.

**Iris:** [beat] We’re both epic failures…..

**Angus:** Less of the epic. You see Maisie before you left? Is the bedsit still grim?

**Iris:** No.. I just.. it was a bit last minute. How are things with Victoria?

**Angus:** She has told her husband. So you can imagine…tricky.

**Iris:** He took it badly?

**Angus:** Very. He said if she moves in with Maisie, he won’t let her see the girls.

**Iris:** She should come home.

**Angus:** She’s living in hope. And in London.

**Iris;** Lucky her. Livvy?

**Angus:** Fine.

**Iris:** She like Dumfries? She got a bloke yet?

**Angus:** Yes and No. Her wifi is as bad as ours. She can’t lip read me, so I just listen to her witter

**Iris:** So its just you and me then.

**Angus/ Iris :** And Bobby.

[beat]

**Angus:** Meat sales are up by 45%. Bobby has named a calf…He’s called it Ah Huh!!

**Iris:** Brilliant.. does Anna know?

**Angus:** It’ll keep till she gets home.

**Iris:** If she does. Everyone left.

**Angus:** Almost.

**Iris:** Do you ever wonder why?

**Angus:** Why what?

**Iris:** Why we are here. Why we live. Why we work. Why we suffer. Life’s big mysteries.

**Angus:** Blimey, so you’ve become the family philosopher.No. No. No time. I’ve got to check the online orders for tomorrow’s delivery.

**Iris:** Angus the worker! Who knew?!

**Angus:** You can help load the van later… Iris – we’ve never….well, we’ve never really got on…. but.. [To himself]. Its nice – well, its nice to have some company. [leaves]

**Iris:** What? ….oh never mind…..

[music starts. Over the music, we hear the three sistres, softly]

**Olivia:** Everyone has left.

**Iris:** And so it goes on.

**Maisie:** Time passes. And we shall be forgotten.

**Olivia, Maisie, Iris:** My dear sisters.

**Iris:** We must live…live….

**Olivia:** And work.

**Maisie:** Find out all the mysteries…

**Olivia:** If we could only know..

**Iris, Oliva, Maisie:** If we could only know!

[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.