

DAMNED POSITIVE

by
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translated by
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Caroline Grant
called Carrie (52)

Stephen Grant
her son (16)

Anna Fisher
Stephen's girlfriend (16)

Marco Hilton
Stephen's best friend (16)

Lisa Walton
Anna's best friend (16)

Roger Grant
Caroline's son (34)

Peter Pritchard
Roger's partner (32)

Dr. Eileen Martin
a doctor (42)

Reg Fielding
AIDS counsellor (32)

1st woman in disco
called Angie (21)

2nd woman in disco
no name (17)

Act 1

Hopes

Scene 1

Stephen's Room

Saturday evening – four and a half hours
before Stephen's 16th birthday.

Stephen's room: across the room a bed with rumpled bedclothes; further pieces of furniture; a desk and a chair, a bookshelf with very few books; a computer monitor or TV set. Various articles of clothing and other objects lie round the room, also under the bed, so one cannot see through the back.

present: Stephen

Stephen is lying behind the bed, so that only his naked feet are visible above the mattress and bedclothes. Carrie is about to appear.

CARRIE Off Stephen!

Stephen's feet disappear.

Enter: Carrie

CARRIE Stephen?

Carrie is about to leave when a sound is audible behind the bed.

CARRIE Stephen!

Stephen's head pops up from behind the bed.

STEPHEN Yes?

CARRIE What're you doing?

STEPHEN Oh... er...

CARRIE I'm not sure I want to know.

STEPHEN Just looking for my socks...

CARRIE At the end of the bed!

STEPHEN Oh, thank you...

CARRIE Look, could you get yourself ready. Your guests'll be here in half an hour.

Carrie exits. Stephen feels for his pants and T-shirt on the bed. Carrie returns. Stephen ducks down behind the bed again.

CARRIE Couldn't you just tidy up a bit.

STEPHEN OK.

Carrie exits. Stephen makes another attempt to dress. Carrie returns.

CARRIE Oh, by the way...

Stephen ducks down behind the bed again.

CARRIE Am I being a pain?

STEPHEN Carrie... please!

Telephone rings off.

CARRIE I'd be nice if you'd just lay the table. After all, they're your guests. And I've got such a lot to do.

STEPHEN Will do, Boss.

Carrie exits

Stephen waits a moment, before cautiously grabbing his underpants.

Enter: Marco

Marco enters, carrying a parcel.

MARCO Hi Stephen.

Stephen sinks back behind the bed.

STEPHEN Why can't anybody knock?

MARCO Why, what're you doing?

Marco throws himself onto the bed and looks over the back..

MARCO Oh dear, have I interrupted something important?

STEPHEN No, Carrie's already done that.

MARCO Ah, that's why she told me to hurry, or I'd miss the best bit.

STEPHEN That's it! As mother she can consider herself fired .

Stephen grabs underpants and T-shirt and puts them on.

MARCO Oh, great! Then I can have her. She's much better than mine!

Stephen rolls over to Marco on the bed.

STEPHEN We'd agreed on eight!

MARCO Yeah. I just wanted to get rid of my present. *Gives him the parcel*

STEPHEN My birthday starts at midnight.

MARCO I think it might be a little unfortunate if you opened it in front of your ... er... my mother.

STEPHEN What's in it?

MARCO Why don't you open it.

STEPHEN What, now?

MARCO What difference will a few hours make?

STEPHEN It's not a CD. A video game perhaps?

MARCO You could say that...

Stephen rips open the parcel.

STEPHEN Wow... "Five Girlies: Latest from the Sex Academy". How did you get your hands on that?

MARCO Connections.

A bell rings off, which is not noticed by the two boys.

STEPHEN Have you had a look?

MARCO Only the beginning.

STEPHEN And?

MARCO Very promising!

STEPHEN You perve!

MARCO Speak for yourself.

STEPHEN Hey, we got a bit of time before the others arrive... we could just have a quick...

CARRIE *Off* Stephen, would you come please!

STEPHEN Christ. She's got a built-in shit detector. I'll be right back.

Stephen exits. Marco takes the DVD from the packet and is about to put it in the computer (or player) Stephen pokes his head in.

STEPHEN And no dodgy little games – without me!

Enter: Anna

ANNA What dodgy little games?

STEPHEN Oh..., hi love...

MARCO Hello Anna.

Marco quickly pushes the DVD under whatever is lying around on the desk.

ANNA And what's he doing here? Again!

STEPHEN Hey, Marco is my best...

ANNA Oh yes, oh yes, no dodgy little games without Marco!

STEPHEN Er... that was just a joke.

ANNA I was hoping we could have a few moments... alone.

MARCO I'll just go over and help my mother.

ANNA His mother?

MARCO Yes, Stephen's just dismissed her... something he ought to do with you, too!

Marco exits.

ANNA Thank you, black man!

MARCO *Off* Oh Mum! The white witch has put a curse on me.

Marco exits.

ANNA You...

STEPHEN Anna...

ANNA This...

STEPHEN Don't you want to say hello? A real hello?

Anna looks at Stephen for a moment, then wraps herself round him so that they land on the bed.

ANNA I've brought you something.

STEPHEN *lifting hips* Mmmh, I can feel it.

ANNA Silly!

She gives him a very small parcel.

STEPHEN Thanks, love.

ANNA To be opened only at midnight!

STEPHEN Of course. I am already looking forward to midnight.

ANNA Why?

STEPHEN My birthday present!

ANNA But I've just given you your birthday present.

STEPHEN It was something else. I think you know...

ANNA Hm, perhaps.

STEPHEN Perhaps? Say, yes! Pleasepleasepleasepleaseplease... please!

ANNA I think you ought to be putting something on!

Stephen drops the present on the bed and starts to pull his T-shirt over his head.

ANNA I said put “on” and I meant on!

She throws his trousers at him. Telephone rings off.

STEPHEN Did you know that according to the law one is obliged to have sex after the age of sixteen without parental permission.

ANNA Silly!

STEPHEN I’m all in favour of sticking to the law, and suggest we do it exactly on the dot of midnight!

ANNA Nothing doing...

Stephen pulls a face.

ANNA ...unless I want to too!

STEPHEN IloveyouIloveyouIloveyouIloveyou...

ANNA There’s something I want to talk to you about first!

STEPHEN Me too, with you. I absolutely must tell you...

Enter: Roger

ROGER Hi, Junior!

STEPHEN Rodge, Rodge.

Stephen lets go of Anna and embraces Roger enthusiastically.

STEPHEN Is Peter with you? How long’re you staying?

ROGER I think someone is getting a little jealous.

STEPHEN Oh, meet Anna. My girlfriend.

ROGER *stretching out a hand to Anna.* Somehow thought it was, the way Stephen’s hanging on to you.

STEPHEN This is Roger. My brother.

ANNA Somehow thought it was, the way Stephen was hanging on to you.

Anna turns away and sits at Stephen’s desk.

ROGER I really didn’t want to disturb you...

Roger exits

STEPHEN Why are you so insulted. I haven’t seen Roger for nearly a year.

ANNA I’ve got something important to tell you, and we keep getting interrupted.

STEPHEN Not any more.

Anna has discovered Marco’s present on the desk.

ANNA Shit!

STEPHEN What?

ANNA Nothing.

STEPHEN Look, nobody’s going to disturb us any more...

ANNA Stoppit!

STEPHEN What’s the matter now.

ANNA Keep away from me.

STEPHEN Have you forgotten already? I love you.

ANNA And why do you have to have this then?

Anna hurls the DVD into the corner.

STEPHEN Oh that... I don’t have to... it’s just a present... from...

ANNA Yes, from your best friend!

STEPHEN Anna!

ANNA You can shove it up your arse!

STEPHEN Anna.

ANNA And that includes your best...

STEPHEN *in despair* Anna.

ANNA I get the feeling that everything is always much more important than me.

STEPHEN That's not true.

ANNA It's what I feel! And that's true.

STEPHEN That's not what I meant. I meant you shouldn't have this feeling.

ANNA Are you now telling me what feelings I should, or shouldn't, have?

STEPHEN What's wrong with you. Are you starting your...

ANNA No I'm not. I don't have to have my period to be pissed off.

Enter: Carrie

CARRIE And I can confirm that this applies equally to the rest of the female population!

ANNA I'm leaving...

CARRIE *to Anna* You're not! *to Stephen* You go! And start looking after your guests.

STEPHEN Anna...

Carrie throws Stephen's trousers at him and thrusts him protesting out of the room.

STEPHEN What's this all about?

CARRIE Just trust me... and go!

STEPHEN Most unwillingly.

CARRIE That's all right. Now go.

Stephen exits

Carrie sits beside Anna. Anna puts her head on Carrie's arms and weeps.

CARRIE Have they been arguing again?

ANNA *nods silently*

CARRIE Violently?

ANNA *nods again*

CARRIE What happened?

ANNA They want to separate. Finally. There's nothing I can do. Nothing. I've tried. But I don't matter. They only think of themselves. It's always just them. They don't give a monkey's about me.

CARRIE Your parents cannot possibly think like that.

ANNA If they loved me, they'd stay together.

CARRIE It's actually got nothing to do with you at all.

ANNA You're right. It has never had anything to do with me.

CARRIE That's it. When I separated from my husband, it had nothing to do with Stephen. Absolutely nothing. In fact we had wanted to separate much earlier, Stephen wasn't even born, while Roger was already grown up. But then my husband and I decided to try to make the marriage work again. Stephen is more or less the result of this reconciliation.

ANNA I had been wondering why Stephen's brother is so much older.

CARRIE It's never a good idea to bring a child into the world just to save a relationship. It didn't work with us either. Stephen had to suffer for ages while we fought it out. I am still ashamed of that.

ANNA What did you argue about?

CARRIE I really don't know anymore. And then we somehow had the situation that staying together became even more unbearable than separating.

ANNA I love both my parents. I can't bring myself to decide who I'll stay with and who I'll have to leave.

CARRIE *nods silently*

ANNA It's shit, however I decide.

Carrie That's just it. Choosing between two kinds of shit merely results in more shit, and even steering a middle course is just crap!

Anna has to laugh.

CARRIE Look, I'm going over to the others now, but you can stay here for a moment if you wish.

ANNA No, no, I'll come with you. I don't want to spoil Stephen's birthday party. Er... is it OK if I stay here overnight?

CARRIE Of course, you've done it often enough in the past... You're not going to be doing anything morally reprehensible I hope.

Bell rings off.

ANNA It's his 16th birthday...

CARRIE Careful... I don't wish to know. Like every loving mother, I naturally believe that my son is the only decent man on this planet.

ANNA Yes, Mum...

CARRIE Why is everybody calling me "Mum" today? I must be getting old.

Enter: Lisa

LISA Hello, Mrs Grant.

CARRIE Good evening, Lisa.

LISA Hello, Anna.

ANNA *pleasantly surprised* What're you doing here?

LISA Stephen invited me.

ANNA What made him do that?

CARRIE Am I hearing what I'm hearing?

LISA He felt if his best friend was being invited, then your best friend should not be left out.

ANNA Stephen said that? Perhaps he's not as bad as he pretends to be!

CARRIE That does a mother's heart good.

Carrie exits

ANNA I must remember to thank him decently.

LISA Me too.

ANNA Don't you dare. Else you'll be my second-best friend.

Lights

Scene 2

Carrie's sitting-room

It is still Saturday evening – one hour before Stephen's birthday.

Carrie's sitting-room: Sofa, table, chairs, bookcase

Present: Carrie, Stephen, Anna, Lisa, Roger, Peter

CARRIE ...Oh, the sunsets, the starry nights. It was unbelievably beautiful.

STEPHEN Above all, such a fantastic long period. The place to myself for four whole weeks.

ANNA What for? That was before our time.

CARRIE I've just got to go back there again.

STEPHEN This time, eight weeks maybe!

CARRIE That would be just up your street, wouldn't it?

STEPHEN For us.

ROGER We're off next week.

LISA Marco is spending an awfully long time in the loo.

CARRIE Where are you going?

ANNA Well, let him.

ROGER San Francisco.

LISA He's really rather sweet.

PETER I'd prefer something quieter.

CARRIE How long're you going for?

ANNA Sweet?

PETER Sadly only for a week.

ROGER Better than nothing.

STEPHEN He's still got nobody.

PETER It's not really long enough.

ANNA You can't mean that!

ROGER I also want to have some fun.

LISA Why not.

CARRIE The main thing is you have a nice time together.

Enter: Marco

MARCO *slightly tipsy* The countdown has started. Only 58 minutes to midnight.

STEPHEN *to Anna* Only another hour, love.

LISA *to Anna* Are you intending to go to John's party on Tuesday?

PETER *to Roger* A beach holiday on a remote island would be an attractive alternative.

ANNA Not sure. Probably not.

ROGER When I'm fifty perhaps.

LISA I'm actually not that keen. He's such a show-off.

ANNA Son of a diplomat!

PETER *to Carrie* Roger is always on the lookout for excitement.

STEPHEN He's our best striker.

ANNA Yeah, that's all that counts with you lot..

ROGER And for you, nothing's too boring.

LISA *to Marco* Are you in the team?

PETER That's not true.

MARCO Yes, on the left wing.

ANNA Best place for nobodies.

MARCO I somehow have the feeling she doesn't like me.

STEPHEN *puts his hand over Anna's mouth.*

PETER Roger, that's just not true.

LISA When's your next match?

MARCO Next Saturday.

LISA Maybe I'll come and watch.

MARCO You mean that? We train Tuesday evenings.

STEPHEN *to Carrie* Hey, is Gerald not going to come?

CARRIE He felt he'd be in the way this evening. But he'll be round tomorrow afternoon.

ROGER Who's Gerald?

STEPHEN Carrie's new boyfriend.

ROGER You've got somebody new? Why wasn't I told?

CARRIE As if my private life has ever interested you.

ROGER How long?

CARRIE Roughly three weeks.

STEPHEN Nineteen days!

CARRIE I'd no idea you were recording all the details.

ANNA *to Peter* How long have you been together?

ROGER And what's he like?

PETER Two years.

STEPHEN He's OK..

CARRIE You've only seen him twice.

ANNA Are you living together?

STEPHEN I mean he hasn't pretended to be a new father

PETER Not yet.

ROGER How old?

ANNA Why not?

STEPHEN Like Carrie, about 80.

CARRIE I heard that! And that creature pretends to be my son!

STEPHEN Has to be.

PETER Roger doesn't want to.

ROGER What don't I want?

PETER To live together.

ROGER Not that again.

STEPHEN Anna and I want to move in together.

ANNA The first I've heard of it.

MARCO *to Lisa* Would you like to move in with me?

STEPHEN Main thing, I know.

ANNA The cheek of it!

LISA Ah, lay off, he's so cute.

STEPHEN & MARCO Who is?

CARRIE Can't you wait till you've finished school before moving in together.

STEPHEN Why?

CARRIE That would give me two more years of hope that you might somehow improve.

STEPHEN You can't improve on perfection.

CARRIE What have I done to deserve this? One son as gay as a goose and the other as daft as a brush.

ROGER I have no complaints.

ANNA Me neither. You can do something about stupidity.

STEPHEN Thanks, love.

PETER *to Roger* Oh thanks, love.

LISA Is it true that most gays have Aids?

ROGER Yes of course. Most gays also wear women's clothes and live with their mothers.

LISA It was only a question.

ROGER Why don't you ask Marco if he's got Aids. After all, the blacks brought it here.

MARCO Thank you very much. All Africans have Aids. After all both words begin with "A".

PETER Roger only wanted to play one prejudice against another...

MARCO I just can't take any more of this crap.

ANNA There's no reason to get so worked up.

MARCO Perhaps not for you!

LISA Well if you can't...

MARCO Look, I had to change Kindergarten four times because some screwed-up parents were frightened I might infect their children.

CARRIE Yes, but at the time nobody really knew how it was passed on.

MARCO And when people knew better, that didn't help either. I have over twenty reports confirming that I'm OK, and still couldn't do sport for ages because I might get injured and infect someone.

STEPHEN Yes, but now you're in the team and nobody says anything.

MARCO They don't say anything. But there are still several wankers who'd rather die of thirst after a game than drink from my bottle.

Silence. Marco empties his glass in one gulp.

PETER But it's still true there are more Aids cases in Africa than anywhere else.

MARCO For the moment.

CARRIE But there are other reasons.

ROGER Look all the information campaigns have failed.

PETER Well, many have.

MARCO Africans are very well aware of how Aids is transmitted.

ANNA So why do they not use condoms? That way...

STEPHEN Perhaps they don't have any.

LISA Probably religious reasons.

MARCO Absolute rubbish. Of course there are condoms. But as long as they remain as expensive as a bowl of maize, nobody's going to buy them if they're hungry.

All silent. Marco fills his glass again.

STEPHEN Maybe we should change the subject.

CARRIE Actually, I think this is a subject with which we should all...

STEPHEN Carrie!

CARRIE All right, all right!

All silent. Marco drinks.

LISA *to Marco* Where do you come from. Originally?

MARCO The High Street.

LISA Rubbish, I meant... You idiot, you know exactly what I meant.

MARCO Malawi.

LISA Where exactly is that? And don't say "Africa".

CARRIE *to Stephen* You could go and get the glasses.

MARCO In the south-east. Between Zambia and Mozambique.

STEPHEN Champagne?

CARRIE Can't afford champagne. My son gets too much pocket money.

ROGER She can't possibly be referring to me.

STEPHEN Nor me, neither.

CARRIE In that case I can stop it.

STEPHEN Ouch, that was a bit of an own goal!

LISA Did you live there very long?

MARCO I was only born there. My parents are both dead. Malaria.
especially loudly In Africa more people still die of Malaria than Aids.

LISA How did you come here?

MARCO My father, that is my adoptive father, was a doctor for some aid organisation and brought me back when he returned.

STEPHEN White medicine man rescue black bush baby.

ANNA Silly.

CARRIE Dr Hilton and his wife have adopted four children.

MARCO Yes, from four different corners of the earth. We could stand in any time for the United Nations.

LISA Have you ever been back?

MARCO Once.

PETER As soon as it's allowed, I also want to adopt children.

LISA And what's it like there?

ROGER Not me!

MARCO Very strange. I don't even understand the language.

STEPHEN We'll be producing our own children.

ANNA Why don't I know?

PETER But we'd have to marry first.

STEPHEN Well, I know how it's done.

ROGER No thank you, and then finish up as a miserable old married couple.

CARRIE Well, you're certainly already arguing like an old married couple.

MARCO Ah, old married couple. That reminds me. D'you know this one. A gay couple and a straight couple are sitting in a restaurant. The heteros begin to argue. Then they shout at each other. Finally the woman gets up and leaves in tears. One of the gays says to his friend: "Look, just what I've always said: mixed marriages don't work"!

STEPHEN I know another joke. *Whispers so that only Anna, Marco and Lisa can hear.*

CARRIE *to Roger* It's Monica's birthday next Thursday. You ought to phone her.

ROGER I'll think about it.

CARRIE She is your godmother after all!

ROGER In addition, a pain in the neck.

CARRIE Well, she put a hell of a lot of money into your bookshop.

ROGER Thank you for reminding me.

The four juveniles giggle. Marco empties another glass.

CARRIE How's the shop doing?

ROGER Not bad at all, particularly second-hand.

CARRIE I could let you have some more books from here.

STEPHEN I know another one.

ROGER No, not today. There's somewhere I want to go.

STEPHEN Where are you going?

ROGER To a party.

PETER I thought we'd talked that through.

ROGER Perhaps you thought we had.

PETER You bloody well know that I don't want you going to such parties.

ROGER And you know damned well that I intend to go.

PETER I can't take any more of this crap.

ROGER Well, we've talked about it often enough.

PETER Seemingly not.

CARRIE Couldn't you wait to offload your personal problems or discuss them somewhere else?

PETER I just don't want you going there.

ROGER I know that. But you can't just stop me from doing everything that gives me pleasure.

PETER Then I must presume it gives you pleasure to contract AIDS and then pass it on to me.

ROGER Oh Christ, do we have to go over this again?

PETER We most certainly do, because...

ROGER That's my problem.

PETER Look, we have a relationship. And that means it's no longer exclusively your problem who you fuck with and whom you let...

CARRIE Peter!

ROGER Just get a grip on yourself. There are children present!

MARCO Hey, I'm no child.

STEPHEN Belt up, Marco!

PETER How come you're so squeamish all of a sudden?

LISA That wasn't nice of Stephen.

ROGER I'm warning you.

ANNA Can't you pack it in, both of you!

MARCO No, it most certainly wasn't.

PETER Are you threatening me?

STEPHEN Don't get upset, love.

PETER Are you threatening me?

ANNA They're completely screwed up.

ROGER Yes, I'm warning you. Now lay off.

PETER Why? May your little brother not learn what his fabulous big brother gets up to at bareback parties.

CARRIE For God's sake. STOPPIT!

ROGER That does it. I warned you.

MARCO What's a bbbb b....

CARRIE If you two don't stop this instant, I'm going to throw you out.

ROGER Don't bother. I'm going anyway.

LISA Sounds rather cool, doesn't it?

PETER Please. Please don't go!

ROGER Don't start that again!

MARCO B-b-b-buhuhuhu...

PETER You know I love you. Please... don't go.

ROGER We'll see each other in the morning.

STEPHEN I thought we were celebrating my birthday.

ROGER I'm no longer in the mood.

MARCO ...TTTTTTTTT...

STEPHEN It's only another half hour.

ANNA Ah, just forget it.

ROGER We'll be seeing each other tomorrow.

CARRIE Roger, can I just have a word.

ROGER No.

MARCO ...back!

Roger exits. Carrie follows him.

CARRIE *Off* Look, I don't want to interfere in your relationship, but...

ROGER *Off* Then please don't!

A door is slammed.

Roger exit

MARCO *to Peter* What did you mean about Stephen not knowing about something.

STEPHEN Marco, shut your mouth.

MARCO Only wannid to know whad barebackpardies are.

LISA Don't be so rough with him.

PETER Nothing for little boys.

MARCO Whaddy mean? I'm not liddleanymore. Dja wanna see?

Marco opens his flies. Stephen jumps up.

STEPHEN Put it back. Nobody's interested.

LISA I am!

MARCO You shee!

Carrie comes back.

CARRIE What's going on here?

STEPHEN Marco's a bit under the weather.

CARRIE Perhaps you'd better be going home.

MARCO I feel dshreadful...

Stephen grabs Marco by the collar and exits with him.

LISA Marco, my little raven.

Lisa rushes after Stephen and Marco.

PETER Maybe I'd better go.

CARRIE You can stay if you want.

PETER No, I think I'd just put a damper on everything.

ANNA As if there's much left to be damped!

PETER I'm very sorry.

ANNA *sarcastic* Yeah? ...

CARRIE Anna...

ANNA There was absolutely no need for any of this!

CARRIE Anna...

PETER She's right.

Peter exit

Carrie stands up and is on the point of following, stops, and sits down again. Short silence. Then Carrie and Anna both begin to speak.

ANNA Those two...

CARRIE I have...

Both laugh.

ANNA They argue exactly like my parents.

Stephen returns.

STEPHEN Where's Peter?

ANNA Gone.

STEPHEN He could at least have waited those few minutes.

CARRIE How's Marco?

STEPHEN Barfing... in the barf!

CARRIE Does he need any help?

STEPHEN Lisa's looking after him.

ANNA Can't he manage to throw up by himself?

CARRIE Things are really picking up.

STEPHEN That's enough. Let's stop talking about Peter and Roger, and we'll forget that puking Marco. *He cuddles up to Anna* I now want to start having that 16-year-old feeling.

Telephone rings.

CARRIE That's bound to be for you.

STEPHEN I doubt it. Anyone wanting me would use my mobile.

Carrie picks up the phone.

CARRIE Yes? Oh hello Mrs Fisher, I'll pass you on. What? Can't that wait till tomorrow. Oh er, I understand. Yes...yes. I'll tell her. Goodbye.

CARRIE *to Anna* Your parents. They want you to go home immediately.

STEPHEN What?

ANNA Did they say why?

STEPHEN She can't leave now.

Carrie Only that it was very urgent, and that they didn't want to talk on the phone.

Anna stands up.

STEPHEN You can't just leave now.

ANNA Steve, if they phone, there's nothing...

STEPHEN It's almost midnight.

CARRIE If her parents call at this time of night, there really must...

STEPHEN Have you gone all crazy?

ANNA Steve, listen to me. Please!

STEPHEN I'm listening.

ANNA The problem is that...

Stephen Will somebody please tell me that all this isn't happening.

Anna My parents are on the point of...

STEPHEN At this particular moment, I couldn't give a toss about your parents. I...

ANNA Just go screw yourself.

Anna exits

STEPHEN Anna! Anna!

Carrie grabs Stephen.

CARRIE Now you've really done it!

STEPHEN I have? What about you lot? That's my birthday party just gone up the fucking chimney.

Marco & Lisa return. Lisa supports Marco who is very unsteady on his feet.

MARCO Hi Stephen, wild party, heh?

LISA I think I'd better take Marco home. He's not feeling good.

MARCO Coursecourse course I am. I... feel wunnerful... .

STEPHEN Yes, of course. You just shove off too.

LISA I'm sorry, Stephen, but Marco...

STEPHEN Marco's not feeling well. Yeah, yeah, you're a really great mate, Marco.

MARCO You too Shtephen. I lllllloves ya.

LISA Come along Marco.

CARRIE Hope you get home all right.

Lisa pushes Marco out of the room.

MARCO bye Mrs Ggggg.

STEPHEN Am I in the middle of some horror film?

MARCO Off Oops! Film: exactly. Where haja conshealed the deedeedee...veedee

STEPHEN I just don't believe this.

MARCO Who's conshealed the deeveedee?

LISA Off There is no DVD!

MARCO Ooh... whadda pidy.

Lisa and Marco exit

STEPHEN This can't be happening.

CARRIE Look, the thing with Anna was most unfortunate, but I think I can explain.

STEPHEN Stop! No explanations. I'm going to be sixteen in twenty minutes and I've no intention of hanging around here all by myself.

CARRIE You're not by yourself! *Points at herself*

STEPHEN You're my mother. You don't count.

Stephen exits

CARRIE That wasn't nice. That really hurt.

A door slams off. Carrie takes a deep breath, picks up the telephone and dials a number.

CARRIE It's me. No, the birthday party has been a total disaster, Gerald. I'll spare you the details. But I just can't bear the thought of staying here all by myself and feeling miserable. Be a darling, come and join me.

Carrie puts down the receiver. She breathes deeply and smiles to herself.

Lights.

Scene 3

In the Disco

Midnight – Stephen's birthday

Present: Stephen, Angi

Angie and Stephen: Stephen has a bottle of beer in his hand, and is staring absolutely fascinated at a woman on the dance floor. She puts her arms around him. They dance cheek to cheek. Then they start kissing.

Lights

If you are interested in reading the whole play
including

Act 2: Sobering Up
Act 3: Counselling
Act 4: Decisions

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