

# FAMOUS FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES

## Audition Booklet

### 1

ERICA I can't be dead. I had finished work, fed my cat, and I was walking to the grocery store, and then...

ALFRED You were struck in the face by a rapidly falling television.

ERICA So I'm dead.

ALFRED Yes, sir.

ERICA "Dead", dead

ALFRED Dead as a doorknob.

ERICA Dead

ALFRED Dead as Tom Cruise.

ERICA Tom Cruise isn't dead.

ALFRED I'm afraid so. He was shot and killed about 20 minutes ago.

ERICA Really?

ALFRED With his personality, it was inevitable really.

ERICA So what now?

ALFRED Oh, they'll probably have a parade...

ERICA No! What happens with me! I mean, am I a ghost now or what? Who's going to cover my shift tomorrow? Hell, who's going to feed my cat tomorrow...

### 2

TOM You sure you want to do this?

MOLLY 100 per cent. I've wanted a baby for years now...and as I said to you on the phone, I'm not going to let the fact that I haven't met the right man yet stop me from fulfilling my biggest dream...being a mother. And I haven't got many fertile years left.

TOM Well, my swimmers won't let you down.

MOLLY I'm sure they won't... (then, quietly)...if they ever get off the starting block.

TOM Sorry?

MOLLY Oh, nothing. *(pause)* You know, you look a little less blonde in person?

TOM Oh yeah, those pictures I sent were from a few years ago. I'd just come back from a bit of a 'wild one' in Ibiza...let one of the lads dye my hair.

MOLLY Oh, really? I was really hoping for a little blondie. Oh well, as long as it's healthy.

TOM Fingers very definitely crossed then!

MOLLY What do you mean?

TOM Well, I mean between Nana Margery's dodgy ticker and Uncle Harold's vestigial tail...

MOLLY Vestigial tail?!

TOM Quite cute actually, wags when he gets excited, like a little hairless mole rat appendage. Wag wag.

*He gestures his finger in a 'wag' as if it's a tail. Molly looks horrified.*

TOM Right. I'm off to 'do the deed'!

### 3

RAYSHAWN

Our boss's wife has come to brunch again  
To curse and hate upon us Paget men  
How dare she speak such vile lies as those  
When Warwick women are but skanks and hoes?  
And Warwick men are liars, knaves and scum  
Whose parish looks like hell and stinks of rum  
The Warwick pond is but a pool of cess  
Their nerdy children play no sport but chess  
Warwick, short, is but a hell on earth  
That's why they come to Paget to give birth  
Young Trott, from neither Paget nor Warwick  
Do Warwickers not make thee deathly sick?  
But who is that at yon charcuterie station?  
T'is the fairest maid of this or any nation  
Her eyes have beauty like the siren songs  
Her hands caress the dainty salad tongs  
The most beautiful girl I have ever saw who  
Came upon our brunch and ate our wahoo!

4

FRANK So, you're pregnant, Cheryl says? Congrats! I should've known by the way you wolfed down those donuts the other day on the conference call.

EVE *(going with it)* Yeah. Those... darned pregnancy cravings.

CHERYL You just WAIT until the third trimester—there's no room in there for your organs, let alone food. *(Cheryl shoves a giant piece of cake into her mouth.)*

EVE I... can't wait.

CHERYL *(mouth full)* Look at her ankles, Frank. We should've known. Check that water retention. It's like the T-Rex moment from Jurassic Park when the puddle ripples, you know? *(imitates it)* Boom. Boom.

DAN *(turning to Eve)* You look great.

FRANK So, who's the father?

EVE *(panicking)* It's... umm...

CHERYL Is it that hot older guy with the pimp cane I see you driving around with last week?

EVE Grandpa Frank?! He's like 85.

CHERYL Then who?

EVE Um...uh-

*Eve panics, her eyes darting to Dan. She blurts out:*

EVE Dan.

CHERYL Dan?!

FRANK Dan?!

DAN Me?!

*All eyes turn to Dan. Eve's eyes plead at Dan to go along with the ruse.*

DAN ME. Yes. It's... me.

FRANK Wow. Definitely did not see that one coming.

CHERYL Love really is blind!

## 5

- MARIE My point is: you can't judge women if they don't do your type of yoga.
- KALE And I'm saying I am not judging - not in a judgy way. I just know that they need to see beyond the get-fit-and-sweaty-shit to what their souls need - a path to happiness...escaping this body-comodifying-soul-guzzling world. It's just disappointing.
- MARIE See! Right there you're judging.
- KALE No. No I am not judging them...I'm simply saying they could...
- DAVEED Ladies, ladies, your argument is superfluous...just wasted breath. All yoga practised by non-Indians is inappropriate appropriation.
- KALE Wha? Are you saying non-Indians can't do yoga?
- DAVEED Oh white people can bend their bodies like any other people. I'm saying that they should not. Have you been to India?
- KALE Not yet. But I really want to go. I've been planning...
- DAVEED I have. And I was a vigorous yoga practitioner before I went. But my six months on an ashram left me with a respect for the totality of yogic spirituality that is so profound that I could never practice yoga again. It feels like violating a woman. It pains me to see how it's practiced here.

## 6

- DIEGO *(to audience)* I almost forgot- we're having lunch, not dinner. Lunch is the least intimate of all the meals. People go to lunch with the guys from work. People go to lunch with anybody. I feel like I've already been demoted. It is so over.  
*(to Sula)* So you say we need to talk... You invite me out for ominous lunch - I mean, who gets lunch with anyone they actually like? What's up?
- SULA You really want to know? You sure you don't want to search it up on your phone?
- DIEGO Nope - I'm much too busy talking to other women. Come on - I thought we were past that. I thought we could joke about it now.
- SULA I'm not sure when it will ever become funny that you cheated on me...
- DIEGO I mean - I already apologized. What do you want me to say?
- SULA Nothing! About that at least...
- DIEGO So you just wanted me to come sit here and stew in boring, non-sexual tension?
- SULA I wanted you to think about what you've done and maybe... I don't know... Just maybe apologize.

## 7

PETER That's it! I'm done!

AMANDA No, I'm done! I've had it with you.

PETER College sweetheart my ass. There's nothing sweet about your heart. Nag nag nag...

AMANDA Women nag because men don't listen.

PETER After three hours I tune you out.

AMANDA I'm off.

*AMANDA walks toward the car park elevator.*

PETER Where are you going?

AMANDA Home to pack.

PETER You're not leaving me! I'm leaving you!

*PETER hurries ahead of her into the elevator. He stabs the button angrily. They fold their arms and turn their backs to one another.*

*After a few seconds the elevator jolts to a stop. They are stuck in the elevator together.*

AMANDA What've you done?

*AMANDA presses the button again but nothing happens. She starts trying all the buttons.*

PETER You're not doing it right. Get out the way.

AMANDA It wasn't *me* who broke it.

PETER Broke it? All I did was press the button.

AMANDA But you can't do anything gently, can you?

PETER Great! Trapped in an elevator with a garrulous judgmental harpy.

## 8

JUNE Hey you, sexy man, how's it going?  
Well, I haven't told them *everything*.  
Of course they know about the engagement, *silly (She is clearly lying)*  
My mum did, huh? I know she likes to forward them. I see... it wasn't a  
congratulatory cat video? (*Grimacing to herself*) Seriously? No mention of it? I'm  
sure mum's just waiting to congratulate us in person!  
What, when you pick me up *tonight*?! Um, you *could* see them then. Or we could  
wait and do it on the weekend. Or even next weekend...  
Yes, I've told them we're getting married! Why wouldn't I?  
Of course I'm happy... Of course I agree we are very compatible and we  
make a sensible couple. And I'm going to tell them about Connecticut. Right now.  
You got my text? Cheryl confirmed I can transfer to the Stamford office, no  
problem. More hours, but that's the tradeoff I suppose. Ducks lining up, as you  
would say. Nothing stopping me. (*She looks to the door, doubtful*) I've just got to  
ease them all into this. It's a BIG change!  
It's not that simple, Rod! I've got Hayley on one side to consider, you  
don't know what teenagers are like (*She picks up one half of her sandwich*) and two  
feisty old ladies on the other (*picks up the other half*). I'm stuck in the middle.

*She puts the halves together and presses, then takes the knife and regretfully cuts it in half, like killing a kitten.*

I know it's my life too. But I owe them so much. I could never have bought this house without my mum. She owns half this property. Or bring up Hayley, alone, with the job I do. The two of them made all that possible, babysitting and everything. I mean, she's my mother! Like I wouldn't even exist. What don't I owe her? Yes, I'm sure they'll be very happy for me. I just need to figure out a way to make it work... for everyone. Okay, well, let me get off the phone and tell them now.

## 9

JOHN My wife, she was never home. She worked her ass off in a job I thought she didn't like. She said she didn't like. But really she liked it more than being with me and the kids. So yeah, I'm starting from scratch: enjoying another person's company and hoping they enjoy mine.

QUITA Did she make you laugh?

JOHN No. Laughing wasn't her thing. Or maybe I just didn't find her funny? She was just unhappy- always talking about how complex the world is. We'd talk endlessly through her decisions but it felt like she was always talking down to me, that I didn't see how hard things were for her.

QUITA Blah.

JOHN Yep. Blah.

QUITA Do me a favor, ok?

JOHN      What?

QUITA     Don't talk down about her.  
JOHN     No no. I don't...

QUITA     No I mean it. I deal with a lot of people. Men, women, the high and mighty, and the low down dirty - folks get all ragged over someone who's walked out on them. But folks get so caught up in their sobbing and blaming they don't consider that maybe they were unhappy before.

JOHN     We weren't always unhappy.

QUITA     You ever see those abandoned boats? You know the ones half underwater, all green with algae.

JOHN     Yeah.

QUITA     When I see them I just feel so damn sad. Each one there was a day a long, long time ago when some poor soul turned over his cash and got his chance at joy and freedom. And then, something happens, or doesn't happen and then you just wind up with a rotted out vessel.

## 10

LINDA     Do you have a problem with people making money?

CATCH     There's a difference between making money the right way and making money the wrong way.

LINDA     The way I see it, he saw an opportunity in the market and he took it. If you have a problem with that, don't blame him, blame the market.

CATCH     ...the market being teenage boys?

LINDA     You think he's the first? If you want to make money in this world, you need to find a way to make rich people richer. Not doodling, not playing pretend. And not teaching. Is that a good thing? No, but that's the world. Do I want my son to fail? Do you want my son to fail?

CATCH     Of course not.

LINDA     Of course not. So here is what is going to happen. I'll get Austin out of the pornography business. Half of those intellectual properties belong to Disney, so he will have a cease and desist before the end of the week, but if you think for a second I am going to punish him for having a bit of business sense you are kidding yourself.

CATCH     Is that the lesson you want him to learn? That money comes first?

LINDA     That if you make a foolish choice about how you want to make a living you will find yourself living in your parent's basement until your 50. Ms Catch I think you need to consider what lessons you are teaching my child and if they are actually going to help them succeed after they leave your classroom.