‘Who Do They Think They Are?’

A one-act comedy drama with music and dance

by Liz Tait

Character List:

Sarah: Sister to Kim, aged 49. Tired from one too many ‘tip of the iceberg’ situations. She wears a ring on a chain around her neck which is concealed.

Kim: Sister to Sarah, aged 47. Loud but lonely in her ‘larger than life’ coping mechanism.

Marion: Aged 49. Childlike, displays mild-autistic traits. Wears baggy sweatshirts. Dreams of expanding her friendship circle from one (her dog).

Pippa: Aged 49 Ex-cruise ship dancer. Has an air of disdain and privilege but is curious for what the day holds.

Notes:

- a dash indicates where the next line of dialogue begins.

…. instead of a sentence denotes the character is speechless for some reason.

Synopsis:

Past and present collide in this comedy drama centring former college friends who reunite at a Spice Girls-themed dance workshop. Old resentments resurface as they attempt to boogie their troubles away. As the reunion descends into chaos, realisation dawns that the day is less about learning a dance routine and more about the power of friendship, the consequences of choice and the courage to embrace their authentic selves.
A story of the joy of friendship and the cathartic nature of letting go of the past.

Setting:

Empty stage dressed with:
Four chairs/stools.
An advertising banner for the dance experience company – ‘Diva World’
A table at the back of the studio laid out with props - hats, feather boas, Spice Girls cardboard face masks, plastic glasses for wine, umbrella, tambourine, bottle of white wine.
Space for framed dance club memory photo.
An imagined kitchen area with make-up - stage left.
The audience are an imagined floor to ceiling mirror.

Time: *Mid-morning on one day in early Spring. Present day.*

Place: *A dance studio in Brighton or similar town.*

(MARION enters from audience doors a few minutes before the show commences as audience are entering, placing the framed reunion photo on the table with props – Spice Girls masks, feather boas, flashing rings/headbands for finale, and then nervously practising what she thinks is the routine they are going to be taught.

KIM enters briskly, holding two bulging carrier bags. She puts them down at the entrance. Walks on to stage)

KIM Oh my God, Maz! You look – Jesus – you look just the freakin' same!

MARION Kim!

KIM *(picks up reunion frame)* This is soo cool.

MARION Where's Sarah?

KIM Trying to park.

(KIM removes her coat – outfit TBC. Takes selfie of herself in the frame, grabs MARION and takes a pic of both, looks at it)

Do I look a bit orange to you?

MARION Yes, you do.

KIM
(gestures for MARION to help her carry her bags to table but just watches as MARION does it all)
So, look – did the Diva people contact you?

MARION No, not since -

KIM Today. Have they called you today? *(MARION shakes head)* Okay, so, right – we might've made a tiny change to the song, but also -

MARION What? But everyone thinks we're doing "Who Do You Think You Are?"

KIM "Wannabe"s way better, but also I had to take a bit of an executive decision on the package -

MARION Can you say that again?

KIM *(a bit louder)* The package? For this? I've changed it to the basic.

MARION No you can't because I -

KIM *(starts unpacking her bags)* It's way cheaper if you bring your own stuff – you know, drinks and make-up and shit like that.

MARION *(Looking at all the bottles of wine*) Lots of people aren't coming anymore, actually - Sarah's definitely coming though, isn't she?

KIM Yeah, told you, she's parking. As long as we've got five Spice Girls…. *(looks at framed photo on the table)*

MARION I think we only -

KIM I cannot wait to see – oh my God, Claire Stewart, look at her hair!

MARION She's not coming, she phoned -

KIM Fran Parsons? She definitely wouldn't miss it.

MARION She's not coming either -

KIM What?! Err,,,Liz….whatsherface….

MARION Jacobs…

KIM She's always on flippin' Facebook *(MARION shakes head)* So who <u>is</u> coming then?

MARION Sophie -

KIM Sophie Parsons? Thank God, she's a right laugh! That's why I got all this *(indicates wine)* cos she's a right piss-head -

MARION She <u>isn't</u> coming.

KIM No loss.

MARION I'm sorry.

KIM So how many definites have we got?

MARION Four.

KIM Four!? Jesus, that's not enough! So with Sar, five.

MARION Four including Sarah. Everyone kept cancelling! I had about twenty to begin with -

KIM There's five in the shitting Spice Girls!

(KIM goes to her bag, opens bottle of wine, pours into glasses, offers to MARION who shake her head).

Right. Tell me who's actually coming.

MARION You, me, Sarah and Deirdre Simmonds.

KIM And Pippa? That's seriously it?!

MARION *(horrified)* Pippa Longhurst?

KIM What sort of a bloody reunion is that?!

MARION You said she wasn't coming.

KIM Yeah, well, she is now.

MARION She wasn't on the list.

KIM Only cos you missed her off – she's a bloody dancer, for God's sake!

MARION I didn't miss her off.

KIM We're lucky she is coming as she's our choreographer.

MARION But we've got a choreographer! Her name is 'Vicky', and she very kindly sent me the steps for -

KIM Told you Marion, Vicky's cancelled. I've swapped us to the basic package – bring your own – it's way cheaper, so

MARION But I've learnt the steps from Vicky and she was looking forward to -.

KIM You're 'Sporty', aren't you?….

MARION Yes – is it alright?

KIM (*hands her bag with costume in)*Try these. Got them off Janey. Can you do any back flips or cartwheels? Anything like that?

MARION No.

KIM How about something like this? *(KIM demonstrates a high-karate kick, MARION flinches)*

MARION Did you say Pippa Longhurst is teaching us the dance?

KIM Yes.

MARION I didn't know she was coming.

KIM I told you just now! So how's things? Long time no see and all that.

MARION I've brought some other photographs of us all, you know, when we were dancing – in the "Monday Night Dance Club" shows. *(KIM offers more wine as she pours herself another, looks at photo display)* oh, none for me, thanks.....

KIM Jesus, I had such bad skin!

MARION - wasn't it such a lovely time? *(pulls photos out and dog poo bags tumble out as well as a hearing aid, which KIM picks up).*

KIM Is this a hearing aid?

MARION *(snatches it back, shoves back in pocket)* I don't need it. I don't know why it's in there.

KIM Thought Soph would come, miserable bitch. Are you still living with your Mum?

MARION No, she's -

KIM She used to scare the crap out of me! *(gets bag of make-up out of one of her carrier bags)*

MARION I'm living by myself now -

KIM Escaped from her clutches at last?! Good for you Mazza. I dunno where Pip's got to. I might just pop this make-up somewhere….

MARION There's a little room just through…I've already been to the toilet in there.

(KIM exits to kitchen area offstage. Enter SARAH, cautiously, in a coat covering a formal-type dress).

SARAH *(MARION has her back to SARAH)* Sorry to – the door was open so I … I'm a bit lost…I thought this was – oh my God - Marion?!

MARION Sarah!

SARAH This is…how weird is this?! How are you?

MARION Gosh! I'm very well, thank you, how are you?

SARAH I'm lost! Horribly lost. I'm supposed to be meeting Kim, remember my sister?

MARIONi Kim's here, she's just having a look for where… *(shouts)* Kim!

SARAH Right, okay, but why, I don't get why you're….

MARION She's looking for somewhere to put the make-up *(shouts)* Kim!

SARAH Make-up?

MARION I don't know why she didn't tell you.

SARAH Tell me what?

MARION Surprise!! Kim! *(MARION shouts frantically)*. She'll come back in a minute I expect.

(Awkward moment as the women wait for KIM who enters with refreshed lipstick, dancing provocatively and singing along).

KIM *(sings)* "I'll tell you what I want, what I really, really want, so tell me what you want, what you really, really want" - Sar!

(KIM tries to hug SARAH who backs off, she pours a glass of wine)

SARAH I've been trying to call you.

KIM Hello dear sister, I'm fine, how are you?

SARAH Marion's here!?

KIM I know, so, right, okay, don't panic, have a glass of this and then I'll tell you all about it.

SARAH All about what?

KIM Alright!

MARION We are going to be the Spice Girls! *(claps hands gleefully)*

KIM You're going to love it!

MARION Kim thought it would be a really nice surprise.

KIM It was all Marion's idea. She's arranged everything.

SARAH Whooah I'm not following this. I thought we were meeting to talk about -

KIM *(pours a drink)* Here - drink this, look, here…

SARAH - to talk about dad, and -?

KIM We should start getting warmed up -

SARAH I'm already very warm, thank you.

MARION Would you like a Wasabi Pea, Sarah? *(offers around bag, they decline)*

SARAH Go on, what are we doing here?

KIM We're supposed to be learning a dance routine with a -

SARAH A what?!

KIM ….professional choreographer, but -

MARION But Kim cancelled Vicky, who was really nice, and -

KIM Then it gets filmed and we all get to keep it as a special momento.

SARAH Oh God. I feel a bit sick.
(SARAH sits down. Produces handheld fan from bag and fans herself)

KIM And you get to show the film at your party!

SARAH What party?

KIM Your birthday party, obvs!

MARION *(claps her hands)* It's going to be just like it was back at dance club!

SARAH *(is suddenly hot, sheds garments).* I cannot believe you didn't tell me about this.

KIM Maz thought it'd be a nice surprise. *(KIM picks up Scary Spice face mask, puts it over her face, turns around, giving SARAH a fright)*

SARAH I hate surprises and I'm not having a party.

KIM When did you get to be so bloody miserable?

SARAH This isn't a good time. *(SARAH sighs heavily, prepares to leave)*

KIM Where are you going?

SARAH I'm going to lock myself in my car and cry. It usually helps. <u>If</u> I can find it again.

KIM Maz's gone to a lot of trouble to organise this for you.

SARAH Not <u>just</u> for me, surely.

MARION Mainly for you, actually. For your birthday. I recently added Facebook to my phone, well, you know, because you accepted me as a friend, and so did Kim, and Sophie Parsons and Wanda Hopkins, Deirdre Simmonds and Julie Maynard and Melanie Crouch – oh no, actually, she didn't accept my request to be her friend, I don't know why though, because -

KIM Maz wanted to organise a reunion – for the dance club.

MARION You thought she would like it, didn't you Kim?

KIM Wasn't exactly cheap, either.

SARAH *(angry)* Alright, alright! Jesus, Kim, what were you thinking??

KIM Err, I was thinking what a lovely thing it would be if we organised a special surprise for my sister, and –

SARAH Alright, I get it! Okay, I suppose I can stay for a bit but then…

KIM You're so gonna love it! *(picks up wine bottle)*

SARAH You'd better have more of those, cos I'm definitely not doing it without a drink.

MARION "Stay alive, don't drink and drive"!

SARAH Not exactly dressed for dancing.

KIM Still waiting for Pippa to show.

MARION And Deirdre.

SARAH Pippa?

KIM Can't wait for you to see the outfit I've got for you.

SARAH Pippa Longhurst, Pippa?!

MARION Yes.

SARAH Oh God.

KIM What's wrong now?!

SARAH *(whispers)* I wish you'd spoken to me about this, Kim.....

KIM How many more times, it was a sodding surprise!

SARAH Yes, but if I'd known -

KIM Thought you'd be chuffed she was coming, she wasn't going to -

SARAH Is there a window we can open? *(MARION goes to look)*

KIM - sooo okay, what do you think of this?!

(KIM pulls a Union Jack dress, knickers, boots, wig from her bag. SARAH stares, stunned)

SARAH I am definitely <u>not</u> wearing that!

MARION I'm so glad I found you all!

KIM Come on, might as well do a warm-up while we're waiting!

(KIM goes to music system, a song blares out – suggestion "W*e Are Family" by Sister Sledge KIM sings loudly. She starts dancing randomly and MARION tentatively joins in. SARAH half-heartedly jigs about. PIPPA enters dressed in a coat under which is an expensive, branded exercise outfit. She watches for a few moments, unseen).*

KIM Oh my God, 'Princess Pippa'!

PIPPA Sorry I'm a tinsy bit late. You told me it was a dance studio!

KIM Still fabulous, babe!

PIPPA *(air kisses, greets everyone similarly)* Kim, darling girl! I feel absolutely ancient! My yoga session ran over and then my Uber driver arrived, eating some sort of highly-pungent-smelling take-away dish. I merely suggested he put it away for the duration of the fare and he just drove off! So then I had to get another one -

SARAH My car's miles away, literally.

PIPPA Honestly, who's idea was it to book something right in the middle of Brighton?! *(MARION puts her hand up. PIPPA takes her coat off).* Everyone nicely warmed up?

SARAH Very.

MARION Kim cancelled what we booked.

PIPPA You can all thank me later for stepping in and saving you some money.

(PIPPA goes to table, glances at the framed dance club photo. MARION is staring at her).

How's things, Marion? You're looking....well, you really haven't changed a bit.

MARION Thank you.

PIPPA We can wait a bit longer for the others, but really we need to get started -

MARION There's just Deirdre Simmonds we're waiting for.

PIPPA No! You are joking?!

KIM Glass of wine? *(PIPPA declines)*

PIPPA This is seriously it?!

MARION A lot of people cancelled.

PIPPA But darling girl, my routine is designed for twenty dancers!

MARION I'm sorry –

KIM It'll be fine, it's still a celebration!

PIPPA Where are the changing rooms?

KIM There aren't any as such. What would you like?

PIPPA Do you have any mineral water?

KIM No.

MARION You have to back there to change. There's a toilet.

KIM Tap?

PIPPA *(Removes coat, passes to MARION, reveals coordinated keep fit outfit)*
No thank you. Did you know there are 12 toxins in tap water?
So, ladies, we're going to start in a line facing the front -

MARION Pardon?

PIPPA then we're reaching up with both arms on –

KIM Pippa's 'Posh Spice', isn't she, Maz?

MARION Yes she is.

KIM Is that your costume?

PIPPA What? This old thing?

(PIPPA picks up the Ginger Spice face mask, puts it over her face)

This is just rehearsal wear, darling.

KIM Sarah's 'Ginger'.

SARAH I am really not bothered what –

PIPPA Didn't realise we were taking it all <u>that</u> seriously!

MARION Nor did I. I'm supposed to be doing back flips.

PIPPA Why are there two Baby Spice masks?

MARION Pardon?

KIM *(raises voice)* Why are there two Baby Spice masks?

MARION They sent me two 'Babys' and no 'Posh' by mistake so they've put a Posh in the post - first class - but it hasn't arrived. They did say that I could keep both Babys, which is very kind of them.

KIM *(mutters)* It's not like we've even got a bastard Baby Spice….

PIPPA Okay so let me demonstrate that first bit - *(MARION puts her hand up)* Actually, Marion, why don't you go and pop some make-up on while we're sorting ourselves out? *(to KIM)* You did bring some, didn't you?

KIM It's just through there.

MARION Oh, Okay. *(exits offstage to kitchen/make-up area)*

PIPPA I see Marion's dress sense hasn't improved. But such a sweet thing! And what an appalling turn out!
(to SARAH) So anyway, you'll be here, Kim you're on the end and I want you to reach both arms up and pull them across your body -

SARAH Okay….

PIPPA Like this….*(demonstrates)….*then we're turning round -

KIM It'll get a bit more…challenging, right?

PIPPA I had no time to make it more challenging, my dear.

SARAH It doesn't have to be hard, it just has to be fun, apparently.

(KIM exits. Lights down - ++ TIME CHANGE++ :
MUSIC CLIP:

MARION "Trust it, use it, prove it, groove it, show me how good you are".

*(**Lights up.** PIPPA and SARAH talk by the props table, looking at reunion frame).*

PIPPA Fancy Sophie Parsons not coming.

SARAH Fancy nobody not coming! What are you up to these days?

PIPPA Tidying up after our wretched builders, mostly. We're having the second barn converted – Phoebe – you know, my daughter - desperately needs her own social space.

SARAH Don't we all.

PIPPA So, special birthday tiptoeing up the hill?

SARAH Marching, more like. How was yours?

PIPPA Oh, mine's not for a little while yet. Charles is taking me on a super luxurious rail trip – three months - on the Royal Express to the furthest corners of the world - Antarctica, Bhutan, er, oh…it's on the tip of my tongue…..you know -

SARAH Lands End?

PIPPA it's where, ohh…..famous for its darling penguins – Patagonia! Then onto…

SARAH Sounds amazing, lucky you.

PIPPA *(looks closely at Sarah)* Dear girl, I'd be happy to recommend, there's this fabulous supplement to relieve some of that ghastly bloating – comes with quite a price tag though. The menopause can be such a trial - so I've heard. Sooo dehumanising.

SARAH Sometimes I get this surge, like, just this – honestly, comes from nowhere – and I find myself lashing out at the nearest person!

PIPPA How utterly miserable for you.

SARAH Not always.

(MARION singing slowly offstage)

MARION "I am not afraid of anyone, who do you think you are?"
"I am not afraid of anyone, who do you think you are?"

PIPPA I'm glad we've met up today, actually, because, well it's so lovely to see you, obviously, but I've been wanting to ask you about something – about dad and your mum's little…. tryst…. I think he might have given her a ring. All very unfortunate, and just a tad awkward – but it wasn't actually his to give away, apparently.

SARAH Oh.

PIPPA Bit of a family heirloom, to be perfectly honest. My mother's quite anxious to -

SARAH Right, well, I did inherit some bits of jewellery from mum, but -

PIPPA It's gold with diamonds inset - known as a trilogy ring – with an aquamarine gemstone.

SARAH I don't know….it's not…I can't say it's ringing any bells.

PIPPA It's not the worth, you understand, it's a sentimental value thing..

SARAH Him giving it to mum would've been a 'sentimental value thing' too, I imagine?

PIPPA It belonged to my grandmother.
(A beat)
Remember when.

SARAH When what?

PIPPA When we were those girls with those smiles.

SARAH There was more to smile about back then.

Lights down ++ Time change ++ MUSIC clip: "When you look at me" - Christina Milian
All back in dance space, during music, in a line.
Lights up: *MARION enters. Now made-up with, eyebrows very thick and dark).*

PIPPA That's quite..different...

MARION Didn't know what half the things did, but…

PIPPA *(under breath)* Clearly.....Okay, so if you could get yourselves into a line then and think about your own little bit of dancing – we'll have a go at that now.

MARION What kind of 'little bit of dancing'?!

PIPPA Anything you like. Remember your characters, so Marion, if you fancy doing a forward roll at any stage, do it!

(PIPPA turns music on - beginning of "Who Do You Think You Are")

KIM *(under breath)* Thought we'd decided on 'Wannabe'.

PIPPA My dear, I had no time to change it – you asked me to do this one, so -
(MUSIC OFF)
KIM Can't we do the same steps.... *(she sings and dances)*
I'll tell you what I want, what I really, really want
So tell me what you want, what you really, really want

PIPPA Kim, darling, what I really want is for you to do as I say.

MARION *(looking at message on phone)* Deirdre's not coming.

KIM *(under breath)* Lets pay a ton of money and dance to a shit song.

MARION Her pump has broken –

KIM Her what?

MARION On her fish tank. Her Suckermouth has suffocated.

SARAH *(under her breath)* Losing the will to live, let alone dance.

MARION *(goes to KIM)* Kim, you haven't paid me your money yet, Sorry.

PIPPA Can we please get on otherwise there'll be no dance!

KIM Okay, Okay, let's see this amazing dance then.

MUSIC ON: *(**PIPPA plays beginning of "Who Do You Think You Are?" again**. KIM dances confidently. SARAH and MARION jig about self-consciously).*

PIPPA Okay, it'll come, the more you do it. So the next bit goes like this.

KIM Oh.... nearly forgot – the cake!

(KIM hurries over to her bag, extracts cake box, places it on the table, removes lid. The cake is in the shape of a large penis – all crowd round to have a look)

Okay, who wants a piece of that!?

PIPPA Ohh.....that's… very realistic.

MARION Yummy! I am really hungry.

SARAH *(drily)* Cock cake. My favourite.

MARION Oh, is it? That's so funny, Kim! Isn't it funny, Sarah?!

KIM Fancy a piece, Sar?

PIPPA Did you make it?

KIM Bollocks did I. Someone brought two to my mate's hen-do / so

SARAH *(drily)* Second-hand cock cake.

KIM ….I took one before it got binned.....here you go, Sar.

(KIM hands cake around on napkins, pours more wine, they take photos on phones)

PIPPA Is it gluten-free?

KIM Haven't a clue, but it's full of natural goodness!

(all laugh, PIPPA pretends to, MARION doesn't get joke)

PIPPA I won't, thank you.

KIM Come on, squeeze a bit in?!

PIPPA Oh, well perhaps I'll just have a teeny, tiny piece, just to taste.

(KIM hands PIPPA cake. MARION drops a bit on the floor, goes to pick it up, hurriedly scraping cake off the floor. Laughter).

PIPPA Do be careful Marion.

KIM Sticks in your throat a bit!

PIPPA It's going to get terribly slippy if you start throwing cake around.

MARION I'm so sorry, it was just a little bit that fell off my napkin -

SARAH It's quite hard, isn't it? *(more laughter)*

PIPPA It's a tad untoward, Kim, having food in a dance space, I mean, if -

KIM Thought this was supposed to be fun?!

MARION I've got it all up, I think.

PIPPA We're all going to have to be very careful now, dancing at this end.

SARAH Pippa, maybe you should go next for make-up?

PIPPA What products are there Kim? My skin's ultra-sensitive to most of the high street brands, I generally avoid – *(KIM makes an exasperated face)* I'll go and have a look…..
(PIPPA goes to make-up area)

MARION *(whispers)* I can't remember any of what she's shown us –

SARAH I wouldn't worry Marion, it's -

KIM 'Wannabe' would've been way better. *(sings and dances with MARION)*
"Yo, I'll tell you what I want, what I really really want
MARION So tell me what you want, what you really, really want
KIM I'll tell you what I want, what I really, really want
MARION So tell me what you want, what you really, really want
BOTH I wanna, I wanna, I wanna, I wanna
I wanna really, really, really wanna zigazig ah!

(KIM pulls MARION towards her, takes a selfie of them both. PIPPA re-joins them)

PIPPA I found some Tom Ford Traceless – not really my shade, but -

(PIPPA slips on bit of cake, nearly falls over. All try to suppress giggles)

Oh my God!

MARION Oh! I'm so sorry - are you alright?

PIPPA *(shouts)* Jesus Marion, you could have killed me!

MARION I thought I wiped it all up!

PIPPA Clearly not, you stupid woman!

SARAH Woah, there's no need for that!

KIM Wait, wait – got a joke - 'What did the cake say to the fork?'-

PIPPA I think I've twisted my ankle!

KIM No! 'you wanna piece of me?!' *(laughter, volume rises)*

PIPPA For God's sake! *(shouts)* This is a dance space - not 'the Mad Hatter's tea party'!

MARION We did a dance to that, remember?! *(clutches PIPPA's arm)*

PIPPA Get off me!

KIM Oh for fucks' sake, chill out, Pip!

MARION I was the 'Dormouse'! *(eats from her Wasabi Pea bag)*

SARAH I was the 'Queen of Hearts' – *(shouts at PIPPA)* "off with her head!"

(SARAH swings arm excitedly, knocks MARION's wasabi pea bag out her hand. Peas clatter all over floor. All look at PIPPA, horrified. MARION starts to pick them all up, KIM and SARAH help her, PIPPA watches).

Lights down. MUSIC CLIP: ++ TIME CHANGE ++

***(Lights up**. Ladies in the middle of running the next section of the dance – CANNON bit. PIPPA hobbles about).*

PIPPA That's it, right arm Marion.....looking good, ladies! Enjoy it! Circle the hips, so, we're going to keep going with the hips, hip, hip, left to right, / fists clenched

MARION Sorry, what did you say?

PIPPA Sarah, can you let those hips go a bit more? Just relax into it.

SARAH I need to sit down with these hips*. (SARAH sits down)*

PIPPA Wrong foot, Marion! …then we're going to go right knee, left knee… She can't do it. *(PIPPA, pointing at MARION).*

KIM I need another drink. *(pours herself one)*

SARAH She's having a go, that's the main thing.

PIPPA She can't dance. At all. *(under breath)* She never could.

SARAH Don't be mean.

MARION I can't remember what comes next!

PIPPA Didn't you play the piano at dance club?

SARAH Can't remember what I did five minutes ago, let alone a dance routine.

KIM *(to PIPPA)* Just show her again.

*(**Lights down on SL** MARION & PIPPA move to side of stage left, leaving SARAH & KIM).*

(Spotlight SR) Told you it'd be a laugh.

SARAH You told me nothing!

KIM Oh, you know that ring of mum's I texted you about, the aquamarine diamond-y one?

SARAH She gave it to me. *(conspiratorially, afraid Pippa might hear)*

KIM Yeah, I know, but I thought you said it didn't fit any of your fingers? Cos, I was thinking, you know it's Janey's 18th in September and -

SARAH She gave it to me, Kim.

KIM She knew I liked that one.

SARAH You know she split everything fairly between us.

KIM 'Fairly'?! What about Janey?

SARAH Do we have to do this now?

KIM You'd think her Gran would have left her something.

SARAH Jesus Kim, it's been over a year! I doubt Janey'd be that bothered about it, anyway.

KIM How would <u>you</u> know what Janey'd be bothered about?

SARAH <u>And</u>, you had that mini, don't forget? If we're talking about fairness!

KIM That was a loan. Anyway, we can talk about all this later, about…everything, we've got lots to catch up on tonight!

SARAH Tonight?!

KIM We're having dinner, aren't we - after this?

SARAH No?! You told me we were having lunch! I didn't know about any of this, did I? I've got to get back.

KIM Can't you tell Michael you'll be a bit later? *(Pause)* When did mum tell you about the car money?

SARAH She didn't. I…it popped up when I was going through stuff on her laptop - some financial bits.

(A beat)

KIM I didn't know you took her laptop.

SARAH How would you? You weren't there when I was sorting through her stuff.

KIM Yeah, because I was moving, wasn't I? Remember?

(SARAH looks at KIM who looks away. They rejoin the others)

SR spotlight down, up on centre stage.

PIPPA So, let's have a look at where we're at.

(All get into places, Routine starts well but MARION loses her timing and stops. PIPPA pauses music. SARAH is clearly struggling with heat, tiredness)

PIPPA Marion, darling girl, you've not quite got the timing right?

MARION Oh...which bit?

PIPPA Every bit, to be perfectly frank.

SARAH You'll be fine when we start running it properly.....

PIPPA Lets move on to the scissor bit, moving left to right *(shows off with accomplished dance demonstration).*

MARION I'm never going to get that bit.

SARAH It's just a bit of fun at the end of the day.

KIM This is bloody killing me. *(tugs at the crotch of her outfit – or whatever she's wearing if not changed into leopard suit)*

PIPPA We want to get it right for the film.

KIM Supposed to be a 12 but there's no way it's a flippin' 12. Sar, what's the label say? *(SARAH reads label on KIM's outfit)*

SARAH 14.

MARION It's quite a tricky dance, isn't it?

PIPPA It's actually very easy, Marion. When I was in the cruise ship shows, we had to learn three different routines - every week.

KIM Yeah, but you were young and fit then -

PIPPA Full production routines with fabulous sequin and feather head-dresses, So many adorable costumes.

KIM There's no way you'd be able to do all that now. *(PIPPA grabs a feather boa, dances with high kicks, ankle injury forgotten, showy routine, nearly kicks MARION).*

SARAH Mind Marion!

KIM Impressive!

PIPPA Oops, didn't see you there. *(throws feather boa back on the table)*
Let's go through your individual bits now.

MARION Sorry, what was that?

PIPPA *(louder)* Your individual dance bits – your own thing.

MARION You never said we had to do that!

PIPPA Whatever you like.

MARION When did she say we had to do that?

PIPPA I can do Marion's bit if she doesn't want to do it.

SARAH No. *(pause)* I'm sure Marion can do it. Can't you Marion?

MARION I'll try, Sarah.

PIPPA *(to MARION)* Let's do you first.

MARION Could you do someone else first? I need to check with my neighbour about my puppy, I've not -

KIM I'll go first.

PIPPA Okay, but it'll only take a moment to do each one so please don't go anywhere.

(MARION exits. SARAH pick up phones. KIM takes prop from table and practises individual bit)

KIM I know exactly what I'm going to do. *(she dances a few steps PIPPA watches her)* I'd forgotten how bloody easy this dancing lark is!

PIPPA This? You call this dancing?! This is herding, my dear.

(*LIGHTS DOWN ON SL. UP ON SPOTLIGHT SR. PIPPA/KIM EXITS).* *SARAH talks quietly on her mobile, whilst putting on some make-up. MARION approaches, overhears)*

SARAH Yeah, well that's what I thought. *(pause - listens)* What I'm actually doing is learning a dance routine to the sodding Spice Girls! *(pause - listens)* Bloody Facebook, that's where. Status update: Get me out of this horror show! *(pause - listens)* Yeah, me too. See you later.

(SARAH sees MARION, who steps on a stray wasabi pea).

MARION They went quite a long way, my peas. Just crunched down on one just then! Was that your husband on the phone?

SARAH No.

MARION You're an English teacher aren't you?

SARAH English, mostly, yes. How's your mum?

MARION She died. She's gone. Sorry to say.

SARAH Oh Marion!

MARION One month ago.

SARAH I am so sorry!

MARION 10th of February.

SARAH I had no idea!

MARION The checkout girl had to put everything back from out of her trolley.

SARAH Oh.

MARION Sainsburys Supermarket. Not the one by 'Pets at Home', the other one.

SARAH Okay…

MARION I knew she wasn't quite herself because they gave me back her shopping list and she had porridge oats written down on it and we definitely didn't need any more porridge oats because we had a box and a half left in the cupboard.

SARAH Right.

MARION Your mum died as well, didn't she?

SARAH About a year ago – just over –

MARION My mum always said – she always called her 'a bit of a one', you know, because of, she was always – she had lots of friends, didn't she?

SARAH It was all a very long time ago.

MARION Did Pippa's dad go to her funeral?

SARAH No. Look, if there's anything I can do, you will let me know, won't you? *(tries to walk away)*

MARION Jessie - my new puppy's bitten Pauline - our neighbour. She ate this tissue off the pavement. She loves them, the snottier the better. Not Pauline, Jessie! When she tried to take it out of her mouth, Jessie bit her hand, accidentally - only grazed it a little bit.

SARAH Oh dear, sounds nasty. My, our dog, he's just – 'Monty'…we've just said goodbye to him – about a fortnight ago.

MARION Oh, what a terrible thing to happen! So many dead people! And animals. And fish!

SARAH How have you been, since….are you coping all right on your own?

MARION The garden's the hardest because I've never had to...mum always did it before. I bought a fork from B&Q Superstore. It's got a silver handle. I saw a snail when I was digging and I picked it up and moved it behind me so I didn't stab it with my fork but then I forgot all about it and stepped backwards and stood on it! I heard it crunch and I...it was squashed. Flat. I killed it. Then I saw two tiny snails behind…two tiny orphan snails!

SARAH Are you talking about Hove B&Q? What a nightmare trying to get out of the car park -

MARION I go on the bus.

SARAH Especially at the weekends.

MARION It stops right outside.

SARAH My cat knows when I'm not having a good day - she comes and lies close to me. I wonder if they go through the menopause?

MARION No, because actually cats can carry on getting pregnant all through their lives. Their fertility declines, but they can still have kittens, even in old age.

SARAH Poor things! *(MARION abruptly joins others.* ***Lights down SR****)*

++ TIME CHANGE ++MUSIC CLIP:
*(****Lights up centre stage*** *as Sarah joins the dance line - they have obviously just finished running the dance)*

PIPPA Okay. Not too bad for a first go. Marion, remember your arms and Kim, try to keep in line with everyone.

MARION *(to herself)* “Trust it, use it, prove it”.....

PIPPA *(PIPPA shouts in her ear)* “Move it!” She still doesn’t know it!

MARION I just can’t remember what comes next.

PIPPA You don’t say!

SARAH Alright….

MARION I think I’d like to go home now. *(MARION goes to her coat)*

KIM What? You can’t!

MARION *(upset)* I can’t do it.

PIPPA So why on earth did you want to do a dance reunion?!

KIM Pippa….

SARAH She doesn’t have to stay.

KIM Course she does, she arranged the whole bloody thing!

MARION *(darkly)* You did.

PIPPA Oh, let her go, *(under breath)* we might finally get somewhere…

SARAH How about you give it a bit longer? See how you feel after that?

MARION Only if you want me to.

SARAH We all want you to. Don’t we ladies? *(all nod except PIPPA)*

KIM Maybe we should have a break.

MARION All right I’ll stay a bit longer.

PIPPA Okay, everyone back here in 5 minutes!

(MARION exits behind screen to get changed).

SARAH Old habits?

PIPPA Sorry?

SARAH You should be saying that to Marion.

PIPPA But she can't dance! I'm at a complete loss to understand why on earth she wanted to do a dance reunion?!

SARAH I'm not just talking about today.

PIPPA Of course you were all her best buddies!

KIM You were all pretty mean to her, as I remember it.

(*PIPPA exits, SARAH and KIM sit, drink water etc.)*

Are you going to change into the dress?

SARAH Hmm?

KIM The dress I bought you for this.

SARAH Would you mind if I didn't?

KIM Yeah. I would.

SARAH Look, I'm here, aren't I?!

KIM £28.95 that cost me.

SARAH Oh, for God's sake, I'll put the bloody stupid dress on!

(SARAH snatches up the carrier bag containing dress and starts to exit but stays)

KIM This was a mistake. I'll tell Pippa not to bother filming it.

SARAH No.

KIM No-one's up for it, are they?

SARAH *(lowers voice)* Marion would be devastated. I'll give you the money for the dress.

KIM Don't worry about it. *(pause)*

Dad says he's not seen you in months.

SARAH It's not 'months'. I phone him. Regularly.

KIM You need to go and see him.

SARAH I need you to get off my case. *(KIM gets up to exit)* Sorry. I'm sorry.

KIM What's going on, Sar?

SARAH I'll call him later, okay, sort out a visit.

KIM What's going on <u>with you?</u>

SARAH I'd better get changed.

KIM I've got an idea! Let's try you telling <u>me</u> what's going on, and then I'll tell you about <u>my</u> stuff. Like normal sisters.

SARAH It's nothing - *(KIM gets up as if to leave)* Okay!
It's just the usual – we're not getting on – Michael and I - he says I've changed, since - we seem to be clashing, a lot – all the time - not helped by the fact that I cannot sleep…..at all.....one of the many joys of the menopause, of course,

KIM Can't wait.

SARAH and I've got him snoring next to me – honestly, tell you what, at 3am, I can totally understand why women end up picking up that pillow and *(mimes)*……and he just doesn't seem to understand – want to understand - what it's like for me -

KIM Doesn't sound like him?

SARAH Honestly, you've got no idea what things are like at home -

KIM I should do. I'm your sister. *(pause)* My mate Vicky's had some menopause issues. Down below.

SARAH *(grimaces).* He left his mug by the sink yesterday. He left it – he put it <u>next</u> to the bowl of water - and the dregs got stuck to the bottom. Apparently, my reaction was extreme. *(SARAH takes layer of clothing off/uses handheld fan etc.)*

KIM Explain extreme. (*SARAH's mobile is on a chair. It buzzes a message - KIM sees it)*

SARAH I put it in the bowl and the handle broke off. So what's Vicky say about it?

KIM *(KIM glances at SARAH's phone)* What? Oh, Vicky tells her bloke it's a blow job or nothing. Are you two……?

SARAH No! Not for ages.

KIM Ages weeks or ages months?

SARAH Ages. I think I might go and sit outside for a minute. The trouble is we cope. We go to the doctors and they throw estrogen patches and lubricants and anti-depressants and whatever else at us and we go home and we eat more nuts and tins of mackerel and we tip cranberry juice down our throats and we get on with it. *(picks up her phone and bag with costume in)* You know we're the only species to go through the menopause apart from two types of whales? Killer whales and…another type…..why?! We can get to the moon but we can't sort out urine infections! Thank God for Davina McCall! And she's not helping! *(aggressively jabs the dancer on the banner as she exits)*

KIM Me? Oh I'm great, just great.

(KIM exits briefly, following SARAH)

*PIPPA enters furtively, goes to cake, cuts a large piece eats it quickly**, exits hurriedly with it.** MARION enters from behind screen and witnesses this, unseen by PIPPA. KIM re-enters as MARION is finishing getting changed into her costume).*

KIM Hey, Maz, I was thinking, you know we don't have much time and you.....well, it's up to you, but.....you know, to speed things up a bit, I could show you a special bit of dancing, just for you?

MARION Pippa's the teacher.

KIM Yeah, well, she's not in charge though, is she? So what you could do is…

(KIM shows MARION a step to the side and clap move or similar, MARION copies her)

MARION You think I should do it all the way through?

KIM Apart from your freestyle bit – what do you think?

MARION It reminds me of a ballet step but without the sliding and bending and pointing.

KIM Oh my God, I was completely ballet mad when I was little, obsessed with going to classes but I was never all dainty and alice-bandy like the other girls. "Big for a ballet dancer" some bastard examiner said to my teacher once. There was this one time we danced at this festival at Sadlers Wells. We did "The Secret Garden". I got the part of the dog, you know, who finds the key to unlock the gate. A fucking non-dancing role! I had to wear this furry costume which stank of smoke and was really heavy and hot.

All the other girls wore these pretty rose-pink leotards with fairy wings and white ballet shoes. I never said I was the dog – to my mum - but then they bloody decided to come up to London to see me in it, didn't they?!

Afterwards mum said I looked so pretty in the leotard and white ballet shoes. Then my teacher came up to us just as we were getting in the car, asked if we'd get the dog costume dry-cleaned!

MARION I thought, in the real story, it was a robin redbreast that found the key, not a dog?

KIM *(irritated)* Maybe they couldn't get a robin costume, I dunno, but -

MARION I did always wonder - how did a robin lift the key in its beak, because it would be really heavy?

KIM Not really sure why I was telling you all that. Oh yeah, so, I was given like a special part, like an important part -

MARION Birds are so lucky, aren't they, because they can fly away, when they want to, can't they?

KIM - which I didn't kind of get, at the time, but when I -

MARION Maybe I could have a tambourine instead of clapping?

KIM Yeah, if you can find one.

(SARAH enters followed by PIPPA)

MARION I brought one with me!
Kim's given me my own special steps for the dance
*(she demonstrates as **PIPPA enters**)*

PIPPA Look at my face!!

KIM What?

PIPPA That bloody cake!

SARAH Oh God.

PIPPA I can't have gluten!

KIM You shouldn't have had a bit then!

PIPPA I had the tiniest bit! Literally a taste!

SARAH Why's it have to be so hot in here?! *(drinks from her water bottle)*

PIPPA And I didn't even finish that!

MARION Yes, but don't you remember, you had another bit, didn't you?

PIPPA No?

MARION Don't you remember, it was a bit later when you said we could have a break and I -

PIPPA *(to MARION, up close)* No I didn't!

MARION You did though.

KIM It wouldn't have been that old tube of Tom Ford you found…?

MARION Don't you remember, you cut quite a big bit from the, the big end and -

PIPPA *(interrupts savagely)* That was my first bit!

MARION No it wasn't because you had a bit when we -

PIPPA *to MARION aggressively)* I've had one piece, and one piece only, Marion!

(PIPPA looks into the mirror/audience, she has foam in her mouth)

I asked you if it was gluten free and you -

KIM - and I said I didn't know! Blimey, that is quite bad…. does it always come up like that?!

MARION *(to PIPPA)* Why has your mouth's gone all bubbly?!

KIM Oh shit! Did you eat one of the balls?

PIPPA Why, what's the matter?

KIM I forgot - the balls are bath bombs!

SARAH Bloody hell!

PIPPA What an irresponsible thing to do!

KIM I'm so sorry, I added them myself cos it looked weird without any balls –

SARAH Jesus, Kim!?

KIM I was going to cut them off before…. *(they are still laughing)*

PIPPA Someone needs to get rid of that cake before it does any <u>more</u> damage.

MARION You look so funny!

SARAH Are you okay?

PIPPA *(sarcastic)* Me? Oh yes, couldn't be better! Only nearly broken my ankle, got a rash all over my face and been poisoned by a cock cake!

SARAH Why don't you see if you can cover it up with -

PIPPA I am not going anywhere near that make-up -

MARION You might get diarrhoea.

KIM I'm so sorry!

MARION You should put some cold, splash some cold water on it –

PIPPA *(shouts)* How's that going to help?! You stupid woman!

KIM Leave her alone!

PIPPA *(to KIM)* I'm surprised you're still standing, the amount you've been putting away!

KIM Why don't you just shut the fuck up.

PIPPA What did you just say to me? Who do you think you are?!

MARION *(sings line from "Who Do You Think You Are")* 'Some kind of superstar'?!

PIPPA Oh will you just be quiet!

KIM I swear to God, Pippa, I'm going to –

(KIM and PIPPA look like they might go for each other)

SARAH Come on ladies!

PIPPA *(wiping mouth, near to angry tears)* I have absolutely no idea what I'm even doing here!

SARAH We're not at college now.

(A beat)

MARION And they really shouldn't have behaved like that, mum said.

SARAH Maz, let's leave it -

MARION *(points to PIPPA and SARAH)* At college. Your dad and your mum. Remember? Mum said he should have kept his trousers done up.

SARAH Marion!

KIM What's she on about?

MARION Oh. Was it a secret?

SARAH I have no idea!

PIPPA Can we please just get on with this wretched dance!

KIM Mazza? –

MARION Mum called her ‘racquet Ruth’ cos she always walked around with three racquets under her arm but never seemed to play any tennis.

PIPPA Your mother always had way too much to say about everything.

KIM What’s this all about?

MARION Mum said she saw them in the ladies changing room and they weren’t in a tennis match together or anything. They were in the shower bit but not actually washing because they weren’t wet.

KIM My mum and -

MARION They were smiling a lot.

SARAH ‘Smiling’, whatever next!

PIPPA Bit of harmless flirting, that’s all it was, but anyway -

KIM Jesus, but, I mean, did anything -

SARAH What? *(to KIM)*

KIM I don’t know. Why didn’t I know about this?

PIPPA Marion’s mum made this completely fabricated story up and then our dear friend Marion here, popped round to our house to tell my mother!

MARION I didn’t!

PIPPA Huge, disgusting scandal, tears, tantrums –

KIM *(to SARAH)* So all this time Marion knew and not me?

PIPPA - we had to move to Chipping Norton in the end! For what?

SARAH There was nothing to know.

MARION It wasn't me, Pippa.

KIM So why did Maz's mum say about keeping up his trousers? -

MARION *(to PIPPA)* I didn't tell your mum. I absolutely promise.

PIPPA Well who did then, Marion?

KIM All these years – you never said anything?

SARAH Mum told me not to.

KIM What about dad?

MARION I'm so sorry.

KIM Did dad know?

SARAH I think so. I'm not really sure.

MARION I don't know why I said that. We were having such a lovely time, weren't we?

KIM Anything else, Marion, while we're all gathered here?!

MARION I remember going round to Pippa's house once, for a rehearsal or something. Her dad made me a cheese and pickle sandwich because I didn't have any lunch with me. He put a lot of pickle in it. Much more pickle than cheese and the chunks of pickle were too chunky. I didn't like it. I spat the pickle out and put it in my hanky when he wasn't looking. It was much, much too pickly. *(pause).* He shouldn't have done <u>that</u>, should he?

PIPPA Jesus Marion, why can't you say something normal for once in your life! Can we all please just get ready to film the bloody thing then we can go home and forget all about this bonkers day!

Lights down. PIPPA and SARAH exit to get changed

MUSIC CLIP:

Lights up on KIM and MARION SR spotlight

KIM Why do you let her speak to you like that? She has not changed one bitchy bit.

(KIM pours two glasses of wine and hands one to MARION who looks at it for a moment and then takes it. Sips very cautiously).

MARION I didn't want her to be here.

KIM I thought she'd have got over herself by now.

MARION Her face.

KIM Sooo red.

MARION Sooo red. *(they look at each other and laugh and clink glasses).*

KIM Come on, let's do a quick practise.

(*KIM and MARION practise the dance, MARION with tambourine.*
SARAH enters wearing the Union Jack Dress, boots, knickers and wig).

SARAH How am I supposed to dance in these?!

KIM Wig's a bit…. *(adjusts wig)*

SARAH This is way too tight.

(PIPPA enters wearing her Posh outfit with wig on),

PIPPA Where did you get that? *(points at MARION's tambourine who points at KIM)*

MARION *(to SARAH)* You look beautiful - just like Geri! And matching pants! Look at her matching pants!

PIPPA Okay, places everyone.

SARAH *(to KIM)* Are you supposed to see my knickers?

PIPPA Let's see those inner Spice Girls!

SARAH You can sure as hell see mine!

KIM They're supposed to be showing. *(whispers loudly)*

PIPPA *(to KIM and SARAH)* There are occasions when less is more as one gets older.

SARAH God, I'm melting.

PIPPA Nicole Kidman. Now she's a woman who can do less is more. Classically simple and very, very chic.

***(MUSIC: Introduction to song starts**. SARAH's wig comes off etc).*

PIPPA What are you doing, Marion?!

(Suddenly the power goes - the lights go off, music stops, light is dim, natural state).

SARAH What's happened?

KIM Oh brilliant.

MARION Can we do that bit again?

PIPPA The power's gone.

KIM This whole thing's been a right fucking shambles.

PIPPA I think we should call it a day.

MARION I don't like the dark.

KIM Waste of bloody money.

(A beat)

(All stand around, not knowing what to do).

PIPPA Marion, who said you could do your own little hop skippy nonsense?

KIM I did. She just wasn't getting your one and -

PIPPA You should have checked with me first. As for - give me that - *(puts her hand out for the tambourine from MARION who backs away)* Give me that thing!

MARION I need it!

PIPPA Well my eardrums don't, so… *(advances on MARION, KIM steps in front of her)*

KIM *(quietly, menacing)* Let her have it.

PIPPA Don't tempt me. *(walks upstage, MARION shakes the tambourine at her back. She turns and glares at MARION*)

MARION I think I fancy a nice cup of tea. *(goes to exit)* Why don't I see if I can find some teabags and what not? Yes, I think that's a good idea. I will.

*(**MARION exits**. PIPPA sits upstage on her own. SARAH and KIM sit quietly for a moment).*

KIM She'll have a job boiling a kettle without power. So, who's this 'Simon'? "Sounds like you could do with a drink" Simon?

SARAH I hope you haven't been looking at my phone?

KIM I hope you know what you're doing.

SARAH It's a colleague I chat to at school, nothing more than that.

KIM Shouldn't you be 'chatting' to Michael?

SARAH We don't chat.

KIM You're lucky you've got someone to 'not chat' with.

SARAH You're still -

KIM Alone? Can't be arsed with it all. Still unpacking a million boxes.

SARAH You moved months ago!

KIM Tell me about it, still getting grief from Janey *(mimics)* – "it's too far from town"

SARAH She told me she likes it. Says you're the one who's not happy.

*(**MARION enters** with carton of milk, puts it under SARAH's nose)*

MARION Do you think this is off?

KIM But you still love Michael?

SARAH I'm not sure....

KIM Sarah?!

SARAH I mean the milk!

KIM Do you?

SARAH Marion, you can't make tea without electricity.

MARION Oh. Silly me. There's no toilet roll in the ladies, I don't think.
I can't be sure because there's no lights on so it's hard to see.

(*SARAH on her phone. **MARION exits**)*

SARAH Jesus! Michael's already on Gumtree looking at dogs!! I've told him - I don't want another dog! His bed's still in the spare room with all his toys. I can't go in there, it's too soon.

KIM Oh my God.

SARAH Jesus, now I need to pee.

KIM How did I not know Monty'd died?

SARAH I must have told you.

KIM You didn't.

SARAH I'm sure I did. What?

KIM I'm trying to figure out when it was you turned into someone I don't know. When I became someone you didn't want to share things with.

SARAH How is my dog dying suddenly about you?!

KIM I mean, let's be honest, you never really have, have you? Not really, but the silence, I mean, pretty much complete silence, the months and months of hardly even a text!

SARAH Alright! Our dog died! I'm sorry!

KIM By the way, in case you're interested, Dad's got quite a hoarding problem going on. His gardening magazines – floor to ceiling - almost, everywhere, every room - ***(PIPPA & MARION enter during this).***

SARAH Didn't know it'd got as bad as that.

KIM Well, you know now. I'm sorry about Monty. *(pause)* Anyone for another piece of this? *(goes to cake, cuts a piece)*

SARAH I did try and clear some of it last time I was there but he went and got it all back out of the recycling - accused me of trying to take part of his life away.

(KIM eats a piece of cake. All have sat down on chairs/floor. It is cold).

KIM *(to PIPPA)* Sorry I told you to fuck off -

PIPPA It's okay.

MARION Jessie's tea-time is really soon.

PIPPA My hormones do have a tendency to gang up on me from time to time and I just need to scream at someone.

SARAH Dogs love you, no matter what.

PIPPA Having a puppy's like having a baby, without the devastating impact on your figure. Then you starve yourself into osteoporosis, for what?

KIM I took Janey out for tea the other day, went to the loo and while I was gone, she paid.

SARAH How sweet of her.

KIM I got angry with her for paying. She hasn't really spoken to me since.

SARAH Why did you get angry about that?

KIM I have absolutely no idea.

(There is a silence then everyone laughs, slowly at first, then momentum builds. MARION takes her sweatshirt off with some difficulty which triggers a memory)

MARION When I was, I was putting my jumper on and I went to the window to wave to her but I was putting my jumper on and my arms got stuck … and I couldn't wave! She looked at me and I didn't wave goodbye!
I didn't know it was the last time.

KIM What was the last time?

SARAH *(goes to Marion)* Her mum passed away. Not long ago.

KIM Oh babe, I'm really sorry. We lost ours last year.

(PIPPA tentatively nearly puts her hand on MARION's shoulder)

MARION I should've waved to her.

KIM She probably saw you were stuck in your jumper.

PIPPA *(under breath)* How does that even happen?

MARION And now nobody's come and it's all ruined. Everything's ruined!

SARAH Nothing's ruined.

MARION I wanted it to be like it was back at college.

KIM You can't go back, Maz.

PIPPA Who'd want to, quite frankly.

MARION I wanted it to be lots of fun. A really, fun day for everyone.

PIPPA *(sarcastic)* It has been so much fun.

MARION *(mumbles)* I wanted to do *"We're in the Money"* dance but they didn't have it.

KIM What was that, Maz?

MARION *"We're in the Money"* dance. You remember?

KIM *(to SARAH)* We used to practice it in the garage when we were meant to be cleaning the guinea pigs out – remember?

PIPPA I think I did a rather lovely little solo..

SARAH We made mum and dad watch it over and over.

MARION Why don't we do it now?!

PIPPA Because we have this dance routine to film.

KIM With no power?

(they sit quietly for a moment, remembering. MARION starts to sing and they recreate their college dance club production. SARAH puts her phone down on a chair)

MARION
We're in the money, we're in the money

KIM & SARAH
We got a lot of what it takes to get along

PIPPA
We're in the money, the skies are sunny

ALL
Old man depression you are through, you done us wrong

(All sing, KIM grabs hat, MARION – broom and SARAH – feather boa from the props table which they all use in the routine. Gradually more and more excited as they remember it.