

FOOLPROOF



Something Familiar
(extract)

ACT 1

SCENE 1: The Coach Station

A coach station, early hours of the morning. Everyone is sleepy. HARRY, JUDY, REBECCA, MRS ANGELO and EDDIE are standing with suitcases.

REBECCA: Are you sure this is the right place?

JUDY: I told you. I checked and double checked the tickets. Underneath the clock at 1.30am.

REBECCA: Seems very strange, meeting under a clock in the middle of the night. I said we should have booked with a proper travel agent. If we'd booked with a proper travel -

JUDY: We did book with a proper travel agent. Harry told you in the taxi.

She looks over at HARRY who is deep in conversation with EDDIE

EDDIE : I still don't see why you wanted me to come on your family holiday.

HARRY: Look, you're getting a free trip to the Cotswolds. Why can't you just accept it graciously?

EDDIE : Don't get me wrong. I'm not saying I'm not happy to be here, it's just you've never offered to take me on a holiday before.

HARRY: How long have you known me, Eddie?

EDDIE : On and off? About 20 years.

HARRY: Right. And have you ever known me to take a holiday?

EDDIE : Well, no, but that's what I mean. First time in 20 years you're taking a holiday and you invite me, your mother and that Mrs Angelo from over by... Wait. Are you up to something?

HARRY: Of course I'm not up to something, Eddie. I just thought it might be nice for you to get away from it all. Have a break. And if it happens to be useful to have you around then all the better.

EDDIE : Eh?

REBECCA: Did Harry book it?

JUDY: Yes, he did. Harry! Harry!

HARRY looks up from his chat with EDDIE

HARRY: Yes, my love?

JUDY: Will you please assure your mother that this is a reputable trip and that you did in fact book it through an ATOL protected travel agent?

HARRY: A tall what?

JUDY: Would you get over here and look after your mother! There's no telling her.

REBECCA: That's not fair, Judy. I didn't say I didn't believe you. I just think it's strange catching a bus in the middle of the night and -

HARRY: Mum, we're early. The bus isn't due for another 10 minutes. Here, have a jelly baby.

REBECCA: Thanks, son. Mrs Angelo, would you care for a sweetie?

MRS ANGELO: Sorry?

EDDIE : Jelly baby?

MRS ANGELO: I'm not your baby, son.

REBECCA: Would you like a jelly baby?

MRS ANGELO: Not particularly. They get stuck in my plate.

EDDIE : Suit yourself. [*He proceeds to eat all the jelly babies*]

HARRY: Jelly baby?

JUDY: No thank you.

HARRY: [*Looking at EDDIE*] Just as well. Come on, Judy. What's up with you?

JUDY: Nothing.

HARRY: Oh, come on. We're here on a smashing holiday, surrounded by the people we love.

JUDY: People we love? Your mother, your mate, Eddie, and that old crow? You know she only pretends to be deaf, don't you? Nosy old bat. The first holiday I have had in I don't know how long, and you make me stand in the middle of the night with this lot. Smashing? I don't think so.

HARRY: I thought you liked my mother.

JUDY: I don't dislike your mother, but she's not my first choice of companion on the holiday of my dreams.

HARRY: Who said anything about the holiday of your dreams? It's just a coach trip to the Cotswolds.

JUDY: And that's another thing. Where did all this come from? We've been married for 19 years and not once have we had a holiday away from Scotland. What are you up to, Harry?

HARRY: Why does everyone think I'm up to something? Trust me, Judy, and let's make this the holiday of your dreams. Here's the bus now.

EDDIE : That's it, Mrs A. Just hand me that suitcase and I'll put it in the luggage rack.

MRS ANGELO: Of course I didn't forget to pack. Do you think I'm stupid or something? Take my suitcase and put it on the bus.

*Everyone moves to the bus apart from **REBECCA** and **EDDIE***

REBECCA: So, Eddie. What's your angle?

EDDIE : What do you mean by that, Mrs Isaacs?

REBECCA: Why are you here? Is Harry paying you?

EDDIE : No! Of course not. What makes you think that?

REBECCA: No reason. I just wouldn't have thought a coach trip to Chipping Norton was your idea of a good time.

EDDIE : I don't know what you mean, Mrs I.

REBECCA: Oh, you know exactly what I mean, Edward Mitten. I hope you've not got your eye on something belonging to my son. Because I've got my eye on you. And take care with that vanity case. I don't want it knocked over in transit.

MRS ANGELO: Rebecca! Hurry up so you can sit up at the front with me. There's a couple of seats behind the driver.

*As **EDDIE** goes to lift **HARRY's** bag a note falls onto the pavement.*

JUDY: You've dropped something.

JUDY goes to pick up the note but **HARRY** swoops in before she can get to it.

EDDIE : It's not mine. It's -

HARRY: I'll take that.

JUDY: What is it?

HARRY: It's nothing.

JUDY: It's not nothing. Why would you say it's nothing when you nearly knocked me off my feet to get it?

HARRY: It's nothing, It's just a receipt. I didn't want it to blow away.