

MAKING PLANS WITH NIGEL

written by

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Final Draft
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INT. BUSY BAR IN CONFERENCE CENTRE - NIGHT 1.

FX: CHATTER AND BUSTLE OF A BAR.

JIM and STUART have just got to the bar. JIM is a Londoner in his mid-40s, STUART is mid-40s (northern)

JIM 1.
Pint? I think they have draught
cider and some kind of real ale.
(pause) And cooking lager.

STUART 2.
Oooh, why not? If the ale's an IPA
I'll have the cider. If not, the
brownest ale they have.

JIM 3.
Right. Back in a minute.

STUART (NARR) 4.
When I sat down to write this, I
briefly thought about making the
start a bit more fantastical. That's
me, by the way, in the bar at a
comedy writing conference. About to
order some snacks.

STUART 5.
Oh, and some crisps. Or nuts. No,
AND nuts.

FX: MORE BAR NOISES. BGD CONVERSATIONS & THE ODD LAUGH

STUART (NARR) 6.
Do you know the story of The
Monkey's Paw? It's a bit Twilight
Zone-y. A magical bit of taxidermy
that grants wishes, but with
terrible consequences. You know it?

FX: FADE UP TOWN ATMOS UNDERNEATH

STUART (NARR) 7.
Well I was thinking, I might start
the story earlier in the day. I'd be
walking around town and I'd end up
in an antiques shop.

INT. SHOP.FX: DOOR OPENS WITH DING OF SHOP DOORBELL 2

GRAMS: MAYBE SOME 'MAGICAL' BG MUSIC HERE?

STUART (NARR) 8.
Probably run by a mysterious old
man, with lots of curios for sale.
(MORE)

STUART (NARR) 8. (CONT'D)
There'd be a carved whalebone chess set and a grandfather clock you could climb inside. And next to them, on a plinth covered with a dusty glass dome, would be the Monkey's Paw. I'd buy it, of course.

GRAMS: SOME APPROPRIATE MUSIC

INT. BAR BGD. - NIGHT. WE HEAR 2 PINTS PLONKED ON TABLE 3

JIM 9.
No crisps so I got 2 bags of nuts.

STUART 10.
Ta. Cheers! To the new Galton & Simpson!

STUART (NARR) 11.
Then we'd cut to this bar, where me & my mate Jim were slapping each other's backs. We'd just had a meeting about our comedy script and it had gone pretty well.

JIM 12.
Let's not get ahead of ourselves.

STUART 13.
But at the same time, let's get completely ahead of ourselves!

JIM 14.
Haha. I s'pose we can. Tonight, at least. I mean, this could actually go somewhere.

STUART 15.
I hope so. You know, I'd do anything to write for the radio. I don't care how it happens.

STUART (NARR) 16.
And here the script would say something like "SOUND FX: MONKEY'S PAW CLENCHES AND WE HEAR THE CRACKLE OF ITS EVIL MAGIC"

FX: MONKEY'S PAW CLENCHES AND WE HEAR THE CRACKLE OF ITS EVIL MAGIC, OBVIOUSLY

STUART (NARR) 17.
But... That's not what happened. What I actually said was...

STUART 18.
(laughing) Knowing our luck, one of
us will probably get cancer now.

(both laugh)

FX: DESCENDING TONE INDICATING A BAD TURN OF EVENTS

STUART (NARR) 19.
I mean. Honestly.

INT. DOCTOR'S SURGERY - DAY 4

DOCTOR MILLER is a small-town GP with a calm demeanour.

STUART 20.
(in full flow)...and as he's telling
her about the symptoms she keeps
tossing things to him from her desk,
like, BOOM there's a stapler - and
he drops it. And again! A
stethoscope. And he grabs for it but
fumbles and it clatters to the
ground.

DOCTOR MILLER 21.
Riiight.

STUART 22.
And then she says, try not to worry.
What you have is not catching.

There is an awkward pause

STUART 23.
(small voice) Badum... tish?

DOCTOR 24.
(unimpressed) Hmm. Yes, that's very
good Mr Hawthorne. But, I assume you
didn't come to the surgery to try
out new material?

STUART 25.
Umm, no. Well, doctor, I've... It's
probably nothing. I've got this...
sort of...

DOCTOR MILLER 26.
Go on.

STUART 27.
Well... I was in the shower...

INT. FADE UP RUNNING SHOWER - DAY STUART IS SINGING IN THE

SHOWER 5

FX: RUNNING WATER

STUART (V/O) 28.

I was just washing myself. Late for work, as usual.

FX: SHOWER NOISES. MAYBE SOME TUNELESS HUMMING.

STUART (V/O) 29.

Nobody really washes their nipples, do they? I mean, you sort of wash the general area but you don't give them any special treatment. There's no nipple-washing implement you can get from Boots. No male grooming product devoted to nipple ablution. Except, that day, I must have been paying attention in a way I don't usually. Because one felt different.

STUART 30.

Uh? What's this...

STUART (V/O) 31.

The left one felt normal.

STUART 32.

(condescending voice) Yeah Stu but, like, what IS normal?

STUART V/O 33.

Well, you know... Nipply. A slightly harder sticky-out bit on top of a standard-issue man boob. The OTHER one - on the right - felt sort of... spongy. Not a lump, just a weird firmness. Like someone had injected a dab of polyfilla.

STUART 34.

Hmm.

STUART V/O 35.

So I did the sensible thing... ignored it and got on with my life.

INT. DOCTOR'S SURGERY - DAY 6

DOCTOR MILLER 36.

Right. And when was this?

STUART 37.

Oh, I dunno. About 6 weeks ago.

STUART (NARR) 38.
This was not true.

DOCTOR MILLER 39.
And how about now? I assume you
didn't come in to tell me about a
shower you had over a month ago.

STUART 40.
Well no. Now I think it might be a
lump.

DOCTOR MILLER 41..
Well let's take a look, shall we?

FX: RUSTLE OF CLOTHING

DOCTOR MILLER 42.
Oookay. I'm just going to compare
the two... Hmm.

STUART 43.
Hmm? Good hmm or bad hmm?

DOCTOR MILLER 44.
Hmm.

STUART 45.
Ok, now you're pulling a face. Why
are you pulling a face?

DOCTOR MILLER 46.
Sorry. I'm just thinking.

STUART (NARR) 47.
Your natural instinct here - well,
mine, anyway - is to attempt some
kind of cosmic bargaining. Like a
reverse Noel Edmonds. Say the worst
thing, then it won't be that.

STUART 48.
Ha ha, obviously my first thought
was cancer but well, umm, I er...

STUART (NARR) 49.
Yeah, it sounded better in my head.

DOCTOR MILLER 50.
There are a lot of things this could
be. Sometimes people get little
swellings in the breast tissue due
to a hormonal imbalance.

STUART 51.
Gynecomastia?

DOCTOR MILLER 52.
(slightly taken aback) Yes. Someone said this before?

STUART 53.
No, I just googled it. Obviously. I mean, as soon as I felt a lump I was straight on to Dr Google. "MALE BREAST LUMP POSSIBLE COMPLETELY BENIGN EXPLANATIONS." Doesn't everyone do that? Gynecomastia's harmless, isn't it?

DOCTOR MILLER 54.
It can be.

STUART 55.
Or a cyst? Could it be a cyst?

DOCTOR MILLER 56.
No, it's definitely not a cyst. No.

STUART 57.
Oh. I was hoping you were going to say it was a cyst.

DOCTOR MILLER 58.
I gathered... But look, you are well outside the age range for that kind of cancer.

STUART 59.
Oh... Wait... what? *Breast cancer?*

DOCTOR MILLER 60.
Yes. Oh, unless you have a family history of it. Do you have a family history of it?

STUART 61.
I don't think so.

DOCTOR MILLER 62.
That's good then!

STUART 63.
Plus I'm a bloke. I mean... I'm a bloke.

DOCTOR MILLER 64.
You still have breasts. Just not very useful ones. I think I'd like you to have a little ultrasound scan. To be on the safe side. Ok?

STUART (NARR) 65.
 Of course it was ok. But she was still pulling that face. I thanked her, said I'd wait for my appointment letter then walked home. It'll be fine, I thought. It'll all be fine.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING -7

STUART is in the KITCHEN eating breakfast -cereal with his wife, NATALIE and their two children, STANLEY and MAX. It's busy. Radio is on in the background with SHAUN KEAVENY SHOW

NATALIE 66.
 C'mon boys. Stop dawdling and eat up. Stan, you have to leave early this morning for guitar.

STANLEY 67.
 Ok mum.

STUART 68.
 (Playing with his cornflakes)
 (absently) Hmm.

MAX 69.
 Can I have some more juice mum?

NATALIE 70.
 Slow down. You'll turn into a glass of juice at this rate.

STUART NARR 71.
 The following day I was still assuring myself that it would all be fine....

SHAUN KEAVENY 72.
 We've got new music from Young Fathers and Gwen-no.....

NATALIE 73.
 Have you got your inhaler Max?

SHAUN KEAVENY 74.
coming up later in the show,

NATALIE 75.
 Because I haven't got time to drop it off

STUART NARR 76.
there was absolutely no point in bothering anyone with anything

NATALIE 77.

Stu, can you drop Stan off on the way to the station?

SHAUN KEAVENY 78.

but, to kick us off, here's....

STUART NARR 79.

It was just one tiny mammogram that's all

SHAUN KEAVENY 80.

The Presidents of the United States of America and... Lump.

STUART 81.

Oh for god sake

NATALIE 82.

(exasperated) Stu - can you drop Stan off for his guitar practise?

GRAMS 83.

*She's lump, she's lump
She's in my head
She's lump, she's lump, she's lump
She might be dead*

STUART(V.O.) 84.

Oh for f...

STUART GETS UP AND TUNES THE RADIO INTO RADIO 4.

STANLEY 85.

Aww. I was listening to that.

TODAY HOST 86.

(fade up) ...igel Farage, who today accused the Remain campaign of scaremongering.

STUART 87.

It's a bit early for guitars mate. Let's hear what's happening in the world.

TODAY HOST 88.

With the Referendum just a few months away, the former UKIP leader was speaking at a Leave.EU rally.

NATALIE 89.

Boys! It's ten past eight! Come on or we'll be late. Stu! Your son will be late for guitar. Get your finger out, for goodness sake!

INT. RADIOGRAPHY SUITE - DAY -8

This is effectively an x-ray suite so the RADIOGRAPHER will move around behind a screen for part of the procedure, becoming slightly muffled as she does so.

FX: SOME BEEPING AND AMBIENT NOISES

BARBARA 90.

Good morning Mr... Hawthorne. I'm Barbara. How are we doing today?

STUART 91.

Oh, er, fine I think. Here for my mammogram. Which... sounds weird when I say it.

STUART (NARR) 92.

The mammogram suite was a small room that, considering how many people take off their clothes in it, was just a little bit too cold. It had a single plastic chair, a desk behind a screen and a gigantic metal machine that looked like something you would use to torture C3-P0.

BARBARA 93.

Not to worry. Could you just take off your jacket and shirt? You can put them on the chair there. And then just come over and stand here...

STUART 94.

Ok. Er, just here?

BARBARA 95.

Yes, that's right. No, bit closer in. Ok, just put your arm up like so. Sorry, this has to clamp over your breast so it might feel a bit uncomfortable...

STUART (NARR) 96.

I had to lean forwards and squash my boob between two plastic plates, that ratcheted together like a vice.

FX: THE MAMMOGRAM CLAMPS ARE RATCHETED INTO PLACE

STUART 97.

Ow!

BARBARA 98.

Sorry. You don't have much flesh
(MORE)

BARBARA 98. (CONT'D)
there to clamp and we need to make
sure we see as much of the breast
tissue as we can. Now, I'm just
going to go behind this screen.

FX: BARBARA WALKS BEHIND THE SCREEN

BARBARA 99.
Just hold still there and...

FX: NOISE OF X-RAY MACHINE FIRING

STUART (NARR) 100.
Barbara unclamped me and I got
dressed again as quickly as I could.
I was just about to run away when...

BARBARA 101.
If you could just take a seat IN THE
WAITING AREA Mr Hawthorne. Someone
will call for you in a moment.

STUART (NARR) 102.
So no getting back to the office in
time for lunch... I thought...what a
pain in the arse. And then my phone
went off - it was Natalie. I let her
go onto voicemail

INT. BREAST CLINIC WAITING AREA - DAY - 9

FX: BUSY. SOME BACKGROUND CHATTER
IN THE MIX IS TV WITH NEWS CLIPS
ABOUT UPCOMING REFERENDUM

STUART NARR 103.
The waiting area was hot and sticky.
Coverage of the EU referendum was
spewing out of a TV which was fixed
to the wall in the corner. I just
couldn't get away from it.
Finally...

NURSE 104.
Stuart Hawthorne?

STUART 105.
Yes! That's me. You haven't got my
results all ready have you?

(beat)

NURSE 106.
Could you follow me please?

STUART 107.

Er, sure. Where are we going?

NURSE 108.

The radiographer wants to run the mammogram again. Just to make sure they get a clear image.

STUART 109.

Oh, ok. I did think it wasn't lined up right. I think. Maybe.

NURSE 110.

And she also asked for an ultrasound. Depending on that, they might do a quick biopsy too, but don't worry, you won't need another appointment.

STUART 111.

Wait... what? That's NOT what I would be worried abo...

FX: LOUD SOUND OF X-RAY MACHINE FIRING

INT. RADIOGRAPHY SUITE - DAY -10

FX: FADE UP - THE SWISHING RHYTHM OF AN ULTRASOUND

RADIOGRAPHER 112.

Did the nurse explain what we'd be doing? The mass looks a bit unusual so we'd like to do a biopsy.

STUART 113.

(worried now) Unusual how? Also, "mass"? Why are we calling it a mass now? It was a lump. Is a mass worse than a lump? Why isn't it a lump?

RADIOGRAPHER 114.

It's the same. It's just... quite dense and firm. We can't see much detail so, what we do is put this small needle in and it just takes a little sample of the tissue. Just put your arm up like this... And try to relax. Small scratch...

FX: A LOUD CLICK

STUART 115.

Ow.

RADIOGRAPHER 116.

Sorry. All done.

STUART 117.
(wincing) Ah well. At least today
can't get any worse.

INT. SUSPICIOUSLY NICE PRIVATE WAITING ROOM - DAY -11

FX: TEASPOON CLINKING ON CUP

STUART NARR 118.
But this time I was shown to a nice
private waiting room. In fact it was
too nice. Comfy chairs. Cup of
tea....

STUART TO SELF 119.
Oh god, they've even given me a
biscuit. Christ! They don't waste
biscuits on good news, do they?

FX: DOOR OPENS, FOOTSTEPS ENTER ROOM

MIRIAM is an Irish woman in her mid 50s who speaks
precisely and chooses her words with care.

MIRIAM 120.
Mr Hawthorne? Hello, I'm Miriam...
head radiographer at the breast
unit.

STUART 121.
Hi.

MIRIAM 122
(straight to business)
The radiographer who did your
ultrasound thinks the lump looks a
bit unusual.

STUART NARR 123
Unusual? (assimilating)

MIRIAM 124
It may prove to be nothing but we
need a biopsy to be sure. Did
someone do that already?

STUART 125
(wincing) Yes.

MIRIAM 126
Good. So, what we need to do is send
that off to be analyzed.
We should get the results back in
about a week and then a group of
doctors here will decide what they
think is going on. Is that ok?

STUART 127

Um... When you say unusual... Does it look... bad?

MIRIAM 128

It doesn't fit the profile of a benign lump like gynecomastia or a cyst. It's quite dense, which is why it showed up so clearly on the mammogram. Beyond that, I can't say without seeing the biopsy results.

STUART 129

Right. Er, so does it fit the... How can I word this?

STUART (V.O.) 130.

Come on, there must be a way to trick her into telling you.

STUART 131.

Would you say it... doesn't... not fit the profile of something, er, not unhealthy?

MIRIAM 132.

I'm not sure I follow you.

STUART 133.

(blurts) DO I HAVE CANCER OR WHAT?

MIRIAM 134.

(patiently) I'm sorry, Mr Hawthorne. I can't say any more without the test results.

STUART 135.

So now what? I just go home?

MIRIAM 136.

Yes. You should get a letter in the next couple of days but I imagine the next appointment will be in roughly two weeks. I know it's difficult but try not to worry.

STUART 137.

(disappointed) Great... Thank you. Sorry. Really, thanks.

INT. CAR - DAY -12

FX: DOOR SLAMS SHUT, ENGINE

GRAMS: MUSIC BLARES OUT OF CAR RADIO WHEN ENGINE STARTS

STUART 138.
Jesus. OFF!

FX: RADIO CLICKS OFF

We hear the car pull out of the carpark and begin the long drive home. Other than the engine noise we are in silence for a short while until...

STUART (NARR) 139.
It was now mid afternoon, obviously no point in going back to work now, I remember thinking. Not that I could have faced it anyway. How was I meant to have a conversation after that?

We drive for a bit longer

STUART 140.
(trying to stay calm) Right. Just got to try and forget about it. No need to tell Nat. No point in worrying her as well, is there? That'd be selfish. Just.. Think about something else.

FX: RADIO CLICKS ON

We fade out on a news bulletin about brexit (of course)

INT. HOME - DAY -13

GRAMS: SOME WOOZY, TRIPPY MUSIC MIXED IN WITH BREXIT NEWS AND SPEECHES

We fade up on 'Our' Nigel reading quotes from 'real' Nigel's speeches and interviews, or a facsimile thereof. As he continues, it becomes more and more about Stu and his cancer.

NIGEL 141.
We will always act in the interests of Britain.

STUART NARR 142.
SO I decided to carry on as normal.....

NIGEL 143.
Especially on the important issues of...

STUART NARR 144.
Whatever *normal* meant...

NIGEL 145.
...immigration...employment...

STUART NARR 146.
Meanwhile everything around me

NIGEL 147.
..Stuart's continued existence ..

STUART NARR 148.
.....seemed to be getting weirder.

NIGEL 149.
..and fisheries.

FADE IN STU IS IN BED. TOSSING AND TURNING.

NIGEL 150.
We know that only by leaving the
European Union can we regain control
of our borders.
And only by absorbing more hormones,
can our tumour take control of the
cells it needs to grow and thrive in
the challenging environment that is
the modern, male nipple.
As an independent country we would
be free to cooperate and trade with
our European neighbours whilst
re-engaging with the wider world
including our kith and kin in the
Commonwealth. The family will be
able to take full advantage of all
the opportunities that a No-Dad Exit
can offer.
I said then we were overtaking the
Lib Dems to become the third party
in British politics. We've thirty
thousand members and growing fast.
We are growing fast.
Growing fast.
Growing fast.

FX: SMARTPHONE ALARM BEEPING, THEN SILENCED

INT. STU AND NAT'S BEDROOM. MORNING - 14

STUART (V.O.) 151
(tired) Well, that was an enjoyable
three minutes of sleep....

NIGEL is in bed with between Stu & Natalie. The latter is
blissfully asleep and unaware, of course.

NIGEL 152.
Morning!

STUART 153.

(jumping out of his skin) Oh Jesus Christ!

NIGEL 154.

Sorry, did I keep you awake? I do go on, don't I? When you think about it, that could be another advantage of being dead. Sunlit uplands and all that. Well, probably without the sun, but...

STUART 155.

What are you... How... Why are you, Nigel Farage, in my bed oh god I've gone mad.

NIGEL 156.

Well there's no need to be like that. As I explained in detail during that little episode in your dream, I'm taking back control. And of course, growing fast.

STUART 157.

You're the... you're the lump.

NIGEL 158.

No brad Pitt yourself, chum. What I represent is a collection of cells that is sick and tired of the status quo.

STUART 159.

Just piss off!

NATALIE 160.

(sleepily) Uhh? Did you say something?

STUART 161.

(quickly) No. No, probably the radio.

NATALIE 162

The radio isn't on.

STUART 163.

I'll make coffee... Coffee?

NIGEL 164.

(quietly) Uh oh. She thinks you've been acting weird. Rumbled. I'll see you later.

NATALIE 165.
(turning over) Are you feeling
alright, Stu? You haven't seemed
yourself lately.

STUART 166.
Acting weird? How?

NATALIE 167.
I.. I didn't actually say you were
acting weird.

STUART 168.
No. Erm. Sorry, just still waking
up. Coffee?

NATALIE 169.
Yes please. Make sure you have a
large one yourself.

GRAMS: SOME MUSIC

INT. CAR - DAY - 15
FX: ENGINE SOUNDS

STUART NARR 170.
But from that morning onwards things
just kept on getting weirder. By the
day of my results, whether it was my
by now regular single-malt stress
nightcaps or just a lack of sleep...

NIGEL th, eh? The real question is at the end of the day,
who do we want to run our body?

STUART NARR 171.
...Nigel had moved permanently into
my head.

NIGEL 172.
Are we proud of who we are? Are we
happy to be just a ganglion in an
underperforming moob or do we want
to expand?

STUART 173.
Mmm-hm.

NIGEL 174.
We stand on the edge of a great
moment for our body. At last, I will
be able to open up lymphatic trade
routes with the vital organs, free
from the restrictions of the DNA
bureaucrats.

STUART 175.
What? No way. MY body. My rules.

NIGEL 176.
That's what you say now but, look.
Cancer...

STUART 177.
You're not cancer.

NIGEL 178.
...cancer is like populism for the
flesh. I offer a simple solution
that your disaffected,
barely-employed cells will leap at
the chance to embrace.

STUART 179.
You think my cells want to kill me?

NIGEL 180.
Change, my friend. I represent
change. That's all. You'll learn to
live with it.

STUART 181.
Really though?

NIGEL 182.
Figuratively speaking. No need to be
nervous, just think about the
opportunities this represents.

STUART 183.
Who's nervous? I am absolutely calm.
I have iced water in my veins. Look
at my hand, look. Not a tremor.

NIGEL 184.
Yes, well you should probably watch
the road instead...

FX: CAR SWERVES TO AVOID TRAFFIC

STUART 185.
Jesus Christ.

NIGEL 186.
Yes, you seem to be handling this
awfully well. Well done you.

GRAMS: SOME MUSIC

INT. BREAST CLINIC - DAY - 16

STUART NARR 187.
My appointment at the breast clinic
was with the surgeon Mr Kashap

MR KASHAP 188.
Please, take a seat Mr. Houghton.

STUART NARR 189.
And sitting opposite him on an
examination couch was a nurse with a
box of tissues.

STUART SITS DOWN OPPOSITE MR.KASHAP WHO IS AT HIS DESK.

MR KASHAP 190.
I'm sorry you have had to wait, I
know it's not an easy thing.

STUART NARR 191.
Mr. Kashap had a kind voice. I
imagined he'd seen a lot in his
time.

MR KASHAP 192.
So...We've examined the sample of
tissue that we took from your right
breast and... I'm afraid it is
cancer.

STUART (NARR) 193.
I was still pretty calm because I
knew what he was going to say. "But
don't worry, it's not the serious
kind of cancer. It's really easy to
treat."

STUART 194.
Ok. Y-you mean breast cancer?

MR KASHAP 195.
Yes. It's a grade 3 carcinoma,
roughly a centimetre across. Maybe a
little more.

STUART 196.
(to self) Ok, he hasn't said it yet
but he will. Calm down.

NIGEL 197.
He's not going to say it, you idiot.
I'm proper, BRITISH cancer. The envy
of the world's biopsy labs.

MR KASHAP 198.

We'll have a better idea of the size once it's removed. What we will have to do is perform a mastectomy, as well as remove some lymph nodes from under your arm.

STUART 199.

But I'm a bloke. Yes I've got some moobage going on but BREAST cancer?

MR KASHAP 200.

It is very rare in men. But it can happen. I'm sorry.

STUART 201.

You say grade 3. Is that STAGE 3? That's really bad, isn't it?

MR KASHAP 203.

No no, that's the type of cancer it is. We don't currently know the stage - that will come once we have removed the lymph nodes. They're a bit like stops on the Tube. If the cancer is going to move out of your breast, it will be detectable in those nodes, so we can see how far it's spread, if at all.

STUART 204.

This is going to sound daft but... is it serious?

NIGEL 205.

Yes, that did sound a bit daft.

STUART 206.

I mean, I know it's serious. It's cancer. I mean will it kill me?

MR KASHAP 207.

It's not too big currently, but grade 3 is a fairly aggressive cancer. We need to get it out as soon as we can. You'll probably need some radiation as well, and perhaps chemotherapy.

STUART 208.

When you say "mastectomy", do you mean, like, the whole thing? Can't you just cut the lump out?

MR KASHAP 209.

I'm afraid not. With men there's
(MORE)

MR KASHAP 209. (CONT'D)
usually not much... extra. Better to
take the whole breast, to be sure.

STUART 210.
Even the nipple?

MR KASHAP 211.
Even the nipple.

STUART 212.
Balls.

NIGEL 213.
Oh, I'm sure there will be no need
for that. Not at this stage.

EXT. GARDEN AT HOME - DAY -17

FX: A BBQ. MUTED MUSIC IN BACKGROUND. SIZZLING, ETC.

STUART (NARR) 214.
The next day, Nat had arranged a
family barbecue, as if having Nigel
in my head wasn't enough. And
no...I still hadn't told her about
the lump.

NATALIE 215.
Stu, can you go and put some more
wine in the fridge? Mum has finished
that last bottle off

STUART (NARR) 216.
How on earth could I tell her now..?

STUART 217.
Yeah, sure. Do we need any more
burger buns?

NATALIE 218.
Don't think so. Boys, are you
finished or do you want another
burger?

MAX 219.
More burgers mum!

NATALIE 220.
(sigh) yes, go on then. Get another
pack of six out.

FX: STU OPENS KITCH DOOR AND GOES INSIDE, MUSIC MUFFLES A
BIT

BRIAN 221.
Hey Stu. You need another beer?

Stu doesn't answer straight away. Things on his mind.

STUART 222.

Oh, er, no thanks Bri. Just grabbing some bits for Nat. You alright?

BRIAN 223.

Yes thanks. Hey, your Stanley's cricket is coming on, eh? Finally nailed catching a hard ball.

STUART 224.

Yeah, yeah, he's doing great. Max too.

BRIAN 225.

I used to love going to watch my eldest play. Is he still in that team or is it just in school now?

Stuart doesn't answer straight away. This is starting to get to him.

STUART 226.

Excuse me a second.

FX: DOOR OPENS INTO HOUSE, FEET WALK QUICKLY UPSTAIRS

We hear STUART breathing rapidly, in a panic.

STUART 227.

(to self) God, I can't do this. I can't think about anything. Bedroom.

INT.BEDROOM. CREAK OF MATTRESS AS STUART SITS ON BED- 18.

NIGEL 228.

Tut tut. You seem tense. Something on your mind?

STUART 229.

Oh just stop, please. What if it's bad news? They say 10 years is good, don't they? That's how long they watch you for. Stan will be 21, in university. Max'll be 17. Still in school maybe. I hope.

NIGEL 230.

You can't expect them to have it easy all their lives. Sooner or later they need to get off the gravy train and strike out on their own.

STUART 231.

Shut up! If I get ten years I can do
(MORE)

STUART 231. (CONT'D)
 a lot. I can see my boys grow up.
 Get them started. And they won't
 have to see me really ill until
 they're old enough to handle it.
 (frantically) Or 5 years. Stan would
 be 16. That's not too bad? Max 13.
 Is that long enough? I'll take 5
 years. I don't want them to have to
 grow up without me.

NIGEL 232.
 Why not give them a chance? They can
 take stock of the great
 opportunities a No-Dad deal could
 offer. I mean, look at you. First
 sign of trouble and you panic. They
 can and should refuse to shy away
 from the most imminent and urgent
 threat and problem that faces this
 family. You. You can't even tell
 your wife about a simple diagnosis.

STUART 233.
 Just leave me alone!

Stu starts hitting the bed with his fists. Frustration and
 anger and worry all bubbling up together.

FX: DOOR OPENS

NATALIE 234.
 Stu? What the...? What's the matter?
 What are you doing?

STUART 235.
 (startled but at some level
 resigned) Oh god, Nat. I'm so sorry.

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING -19

All the BBQ guests have left and Stu & Nat are finally
 alone, with the kids in bed. Stu has told Nat his secret.

NATALIE 236.
 Christ Stu...is THIS why you've been
 acting so bloody detached all week?

STUART 237.
 Nat.. I.. I wanted to tell you but I
 just... Didn't want to make it real.

NATALIE 238.
 (angry and upset) How long have you
 known?

STUART 239.

About.. I dunno. About a month? ../I went to..

NATALIE 240.

(interrupts) A MONTH? I thought you were going to say a week! I can't believe...

STUART 241.

I...

NATALIE 242.

Oh waitwaitwait. I know you. You only went to the doctor after stewing over it for ages, didn't you? When did the lump appear?

STUART 243.

Ah.. I don't know. A while ago. Maybe a couple of months? I just thought it was nothing, you know? It had to be nothing, didn't it? Men don't get... that.

NATALIE 244.

(deflated, calming a little) God.

STUART 255.

Nat, I'm really scared.

NATALIE 256.

Oh Stu. It's ok.

STUART 257.

I never meant to hide it.

NATALIE 258.

I'm not angry... Well, ok, I am angry. I'm absolutely bloody furious.

STUART 259.

I'm sorry, I...

NATALIE 260.

It's completely selfish and irresponsible and I can't believe you have been sitting there stewing for WEEKS and not said anything.

STUART 261.

I...

NATALIE 262,

But... I get it. You must have been
(MORE)

NATALIE 262, (CONT'D)
frightened. I can't believe you
didn't say when you had the tests! I
could have gone with you. I could
have been there when they told you.
You silly sod!

STUART 263.
I know. It was stupid. I'm stupid.

NATALIE 264.
I'm going back with you. I need to
hear it from them. You have to tell
me everything they told you.

STUART 265.
(more upset) Jesus Christ, I don't
want to have cancer! How can I have
cancer? Oh god, Nat. What am I going
to tell the boys? Sorry kids, your
dad has breast cancer? Oh, and
breasts too. Didn't know that, did
you? He'll probably be ok but might
die?

NATALIE 266.
(takes a breath) Hey, hey. Calm
down. We'll speak to them together.
We need to let them know your
(pause) going to be sick. What to
expect.

STUART 267.
I might have had it longer than a
couple of months. I mean, what if it
has spread? They can't see
everything on the ultrasound, can
they? If they could why would they
do a biopsy? I read about this. If
it spreads it can go to my bones or
my lungs and then there's no getting
it out and I... (chokes)

NATALIE 268.
Stop it. Please Stu. Stop. We don't
know what's going to happen but I
promise I'll be there. Whatever
happens. We'll do this together.

STUART 269.
(relieved) Thank you.

NATALIE 270.
And then I'm going to kill you, you
absolute berk.

INT. DAY SURGERY WARD - DAY -20
 GRAMS: SOME RELAXING MUSIC. IRL, I LISTENED TO LOU REED -
 CONEY ISLAND BABY, BUT WHATEVER WE CAN CLEAR.

We join the song part way through. After a few bars we can
 hear muffled speech...

NATALIE 271.
 (muffled, through music)
 Stu. Stu I think you have to go.
 Take your headphones off.

FX: HEADPHONES REMOVED. NORMAL SOUND BALANCE RESUMES. THE
 SONG CONTINUES THROUGH TINNY HEADPHONE SPEAKERS, UNTIL...

STUART 272.
 What? Oh, sorry. Just trying to take
 my mind off things. Is it time to
 go? (beat) Oh. Ok.

STUART NARR 273.
 On the day of surgery I was as
 prepped as I'd ever be. ON the
 surface things were looking better -
 I had Natalie with me now.

NATALIE 274.
 I'll be here when you come around,
 Don't worry.

STUART 275.
 I know love. Thank you. Come here.
 FX: SOUND OF A KISS
 See you in a couple of hours, I
 guess. I love you.

NATALIE 276.
 I love you too.

STUART 277.
 Ok then. Shall we?

FX STUART WHEELED THROUGH DOORS INTO OPERATING THEATRE
 UNDERSCORES...

STUART (NARR) 278.
 And Mr Kashap who seemed as calm as
 ever

MR KASHAP 279.
 Now, Mr Hawthorne. How are you
 feeling today?

STUART 280.
 Oh just great. In many ways, this is
 my ideal Monday.

MR KASHAP 281.
That's the spirit.

STUART NARR 282.
In the operating theatre, I had to lie on a table with an extended section for my right arm, which looked like the kind of thing they might strap you to before a lethal injection.

FX: BEEPING OF MACHINES AND HISSING OF OXYGEN

MR KASHAP 283.
Don't worry, I'll try to leave a very neat scar.

FX: MORE BEEPING AND HISSING. THEATRE BABBLE

STUART (NARR) 284.
The anaesthetist fiddled with my cannula and the nurse who brought me in made small talk. One of the last things I remember is her squeezing my hand in reassurance. It seemed an exceptionally kind thing to do. I hope I never see her again but, if I do, I will thank her.

ANAESTHETIST 285.
Now we're just going to count down from 10 Mr Hawthorne. 10... 9... 8...

FX: SOUND BECOMES MUFFLED AND ECHOEY BEFORE FADING INTO

GRAMS: THE SAME RELAXING MUSIC AS PREVIOUS SCENE

INT. STU AND NAT'S BEDROOM. NIGHT.-21

STUART (NARR) 286.
If you were wondering how long forever is.....

(Nigel's dialogue slightly muted or at a remove here.
These are memories not a conversation)

NIGEL 287.
I have plans to bring down this failed project. Exit means exit.

STUART (NARR) 288.
...it's roughly two weeks..

NIGEL 289.
What we've seen from the Survive side has been a remorseless torrent
(MORE)

NIGEL 289. (CONT'D)
of propaganda. Scaring us and
warning us. All total and complete
nonsense.

STUART (NARR) 290.
Particularly at night times - when
the only voice in my head was
Nigel's. Even though I knew he was
lying somewhere in a hospital
incinerator, whoever was producing
the current affairs show of my
internal monologue just couldn't
seem to help but book him.

NIGEL 291.
I'm just here to make one very
simple point. You can not be
reformed. I must take back control.

STUART (NARR) 292.
But finally the day of the
histology results arrived.

INT. BREAST CLINIC - DAY -22

NATALIE 293.
Do you want me to go and ask again?
They might've forgotten you.

STUART 294.
No, no it's fine. They're probably
running late and everyone just went
to lunch at the same time. I'm sure
they'll call in a minute.

NATALIE 295.
I just can't stand the waiting.

STUART (NARR) 296.
I couldn't stand it either. Two
weeks of watching a coin spin slowly
in the air and it was still falling.
Any minute now it would land face up
or down, but not. Quiet. Yet. I went
to the loo. Just to move, to try and
speed up time. When I came back,
Natalie was deep in conversation
with a young woman with a silk
headscarf and bone-white skin.

NATALIE 297.
Stu, this is Fiorentina. She's here
to see her oncologist too. Sorry,
you don't mind me saying, do you?

FIorentina is an Italian woman in her late 20s. She sounds ill and tired to her bones.

FIorentina 298.

Not at all. Your wife was telling me about your cancer. So unusual.

STUART 299.

Yeah. Just lucky, I guess. Have you been coming here long?

FIorentina

This is my 3rd round of chemicals. I'm just checking in with my doctor today for some blood tests.

STUART 300.

How did you find the op? I'm still pretty sore.

FIorentina 301.

Oh, I'm still waiting. They need to shrink my tumour down before they will remove it. I've had radiotherapy, 3 weeks. Now chemicals. I hope today they will tell me it's smaller.

NATALIE 302.

(concerned)

Oh God. That sounds awful.

STUART 303.

Are you here by yourself?

FIorentina 304.

Yes. My family are back in Italy. My mum was going to visit but, ah, she now also has breast cancer. So I'm stuck here and she is stuck there.

STUART 305.

Oh man.

STUART (NARR) 306.

Not for the first time. I felt like I had it easy. I had Natalie there to hold my hand and reassure me. To drive the car and make sure I remembered my appointments. And this poor woman, who looked sicker than anyone you'd ever seen, she came here on the bus with just her tumour for company. I never saw her again after that. I think about her a lot.

INT.BEN'S OFFICE. FX: AUTOMATIC DOOR HISSES. DAY -23

BEN is an easygoing man in his mid-50s with a home counties accent and an occasionally distracted air.

BEN 307.
Mr Hawthorne?

STUART 308.
(nervous)
Yes! Yes, that's me.

BEN 309.
Come through, take a seat. Sorry to keep you. I'm Ben, your oncologist.

STUART 310.
Hi Ben. This is Natalie, my wife.
She's here for moral support.

NATALIE 311.
I just want to make sure you're ok.

BEN 312.
Very sensible. Right, let's look at your results... Now, as you may or may not know, there are about fifty-six thousand cases of invasive breast cancer every year in the UK...

STUART (V.O.) 313.
Ben is a lovely chap and I have nothing but respect for him.

BEN 314.
(rattling on) ...less than four hundred of those are men. The cancers we tend to see in men are of two main types, one of which has a genetic factor and...

STUART (V.O.) 315.
But this first time we met he talked about percentages, survival rates and lymph nodes for about 10 minutes, during which time me and Natalie must have been visibly sweating actual bullets until he finally noticed and said...

BEN 316.
Oh! Sorry. This is all good news.

STUART 317.
It is?

NATALIE 318.

Really?

BEN 319.

Yes! Sorry, I should have started with that, shouldn't I?

STUART 320.

Maybe? Yes.

BEN 321.

This is absolutely treatable. But I think you have been rather fortunate - it's quite an aggressive cancer. If you had come to see me in 3 months we'd be having a very different conversation.

STUART 322.

(still quite agitated)

So do you think we got it in time?

BEN 323.

The surgeon removed 4 lymph nodes from under your arm. They were all clear. There were no signs of cancer spreading to any of them.

NATALIE 324.

That's... that's amazing.

STUART 325.

So, what now? Do I just go home?

BEN 326.

We don't want to get complacent. There's still a chance a few cancer cells are hanging around. Then there's the question of why you got it in the first place.

NATALIE 327.

And?

BEN 328.

Honestly? We don't know. There might be a genetic factor, and we'll test for that. This cancer feeds, for want of a better word, on oestrogen. That's a "female" hormone but men have it too.

STUART 329.

So I'm just really in touch with my feminine side?

BEN 330.
We do know fat cells can store
oestrogen and... how can I put this?

STUART 331.
I'm a fat bas...

BEN 332.
...you might be carrying a little
extra weight.

STUART 333.
Oh god. This is MOOB CANCER.

BEN 334.
Your words not mine. Anyway, we can
give you Tamoxifen, which works to
block the effects of oestrogen.

STUART 335.
But I should lose weight anyway.

BEN 336.
Exactly. Now, we talk about 10-year
survivability because, frankly,
after that it might be something
completely unrelated that kills you.
Look at this...

FX: TYPING AND CLICKING

BEN 337.
This is a tool we use to estimate
the effects of different treatments.
For someone your age with (FX:
TAPPING) grade 3, node negative, ER
positive... Without further treatment
your 10-year survival's 80%.

STUART 338.
Is that good? It doesn't sound
great.

BEN 339.
If we add radiotherapy and a course
of Tamoxifen that rises to just
under 90%.

STUART 340.
Great! So I don't need chemotherapy?

BEN 341.
Well, that's your decision. If we
add chemotherapy we get (FX:
TAPPING)93.5%.

STUART 342.

Well. That's... better than 90%.

BEN 343.

It's a small increase, but significant. These are all estimates and to be honest with you, this system - PREDICT - is based on data gathered from female patients so it's not an exact science when it comes to outliers like yourself.

STUART 344.

Is it worth it?

BEN 345.

Tricky. A couple of percent more and we wouldn't be having this conversation. I'd just say do it. A couple less and I'd say it wasn't worth the extra side effects. But... you're in the middle.

NATALIE 346.

(after a pause) How bad is it? Is it going to make him sicker?

BEN 347.

Do you have children?

STUART 348.

Yes.

NATALIE 349.

Two boys. 7 and 11.

BEN 350.

In my experience, people with young children always go for the chemo.

(beat)

STUART 351.

Well. That focuses the mind a bit, doesn't it? Nat?

NATALIE 352.

I think you know, Stu.

GRAMS: SOME MUSIC

EXT. ONCOLOGY DAY UNIT - DAY -24

NATALIE 353.

Right, quick check before we go in. Have you got everything you need?

STUART 354.

Lemme see... phone, charger, battery pack, iPad, book, crosswords - no, don't need that, got a crossword app. Um... I think so?

NATALIE 355.

Right I was thinking more...

STUART 356.

Oh wait... Crisps, water, some sweets...

NATALIE 357.

We're not going to the seaside. What about your cancer stuff from the hospital, your appointment letter... anything of any practical use whatsoever? That kind of thing.

STUART 358.

Oh. Er, no.

NATALIE 359.

Something telling us where to go?

STUART 360.

I think it's all in the blue folder. Which... I can't find.

NATALIE 361.

That's because it's in the bag that I packed last night while you were downloading the Complete Works of Shakespeare "Just in case."

STUART 362.

You never know. They might be running late.

NATALIE 363.

(Sigh) Come on or we'll be late.

INT. PUB - EVENING -25

FX: LIGHT PUB CHATTER

STUART 364.

Ta-da!

JIM 365.

Woah! Er, I mean, it really suits you.

STUART 366.

Nice try. I think the words you're looking for are 'Uncle Fester'

JIM 367.

It'll definitely pay off at Halloween, yes. When did that happen?

STUART 368.

After my first chemo. They said it would be about 10 days and sure enough. Wham.

JIM 369.

What, on the dot?

STUART 370.

Pretty much. I went outside to put something in the recycling and I just sort of ran my fingers through my hair. I look down and there's a clump between my fingers.

JIM 371.

Must've freaked you out.

STUART 372.

Too right. Next thing I know there is a gust of wind and I see a cloud of hair drift across the garden, like a human dandelion.

JIM 373

(laughs)At least it should bloom afresh when this is all over. Some of us have been dealing with this for years mate.

STUART 374.

I let Stanley buzz me with the clippers. It actually feels quite nice. It's weird, but my hair actually started to *hurt*.

JIM 375.

You look well, though, considering.

STUART 376.

Cheers. I dunno. It's not too bad between doses. I feel awful for about a week then I'm just left with this horrible taste in my mouth. Right now is about my best - I have dose 4 next Friday.

JIM 377.

Is everything going to plan?

STUART 378.

Yeah, I think so. Honestly? All the leaflets they give you are for women. You get the feeling so few men get it they don't really know what the plan is. You just have to assume it works the same way if your chest is purely decorative.

JIM 379.

And how's Nat doing?

STUART 380.

She's being brilliant but I can see it's getting her down. Did I tell you she's been taking time off work when I have to go into hospital? Not just for me, either. The kids are worried and I know she's trying to keep them happy too.

JIM 381.

You guys need a holiday when this is all over.

STUART 382.

That's the plan, believe me. Everything feels so... stretched thin.

INT. CAR - DAY -26

GRAMS: SOME NICE, DREAMY MUSIC

NATALIE 383.

Stuuuu.

STUART 384.

Uhh?

NATALIE 385.

Wake up lazybones! We're here.

STUART 386.

(groaning) Ohh, sorry Nat. I can't seem to sit down without nodding off lately. They say they're doing radiotherapy but I'd swear they are just shooting me with a tranquiliser dart.

NATALIE 387.

Who's Nigel, anyway? You seemed to be giving him a piece of your mind on the way here.

STUART 388.

Oh. (small laugh) That's what I called the lump. Annoying little sod. (brightly) Gone now! I'm not going to worry about him any more.

NATALIE 389.

Good. Come on, stretch your legs. Your first appointment isn't for another half hour but you don't want to be all dozy when you speak to them.

Stu lets out an exaggerated yawn then opens the car door.

FX: CAR DOOR OPENS

STUART 390.

Right. let's go get 'em.

INT. RADIOTHERAPY UNIT - DAY -27

FX: THE BEEPING AND CHUGGING OF RADIOTHERAPY

GRAMS: CELINE DION - MY HEART WILL GO ON

RADIOGRAPHER 391.

Aaaaaand you are done!

STUART 392.

That's it? My last dose of radiation. Wow.

RADIOGRAPHER 393.

How are you feeling in yourself? Have you been moisturising?

STUART 394.

Like a Turkish wrestler.

RADIOGRAPHER 395.

Good stuff. Keep an eye on it. It might get a bit red and sore in a few days but the cream'll clear it up.

STUART 396.

Will do. And... thanks. This has been a lot easier than I expected. The worst bit was the music, if I'm being honest.

RADIOGRAPHER 397.

Don't diss Celine, mate. Any plans? Going to celebrate?

STUART 398.

I have an appointment with my oncologist after this. In fact...

RADIOGRAPHER 398.

Yes, you get off. See you again.

STUART 399.

I hope not. But yes. Thanks again.

INT.BEN'S OFFICE - DAY - 28

BEN 400.

So, your bloods all look fine. I'd like you to get your blood sugar checked, but other than that everything looks normal. How are you feeling in yourself?

STUART 401.

Honestly? Knackered. Driving here every day to lie on a trolley for 20 minutes is surprisingly tiring.

BEN 402.

Oh that's pretty standard. The radiation treatment can be quite draining. You should find it wears off in a few days though.

STUART 403.

Other than that... Ok, I think?

BEN 404.

No ill effects from the chemo? Your hair should start to come back soon, by the way. It rather suits you, actually.

STUART 405.

My feet are still a bit sore and my fingernails have weird ridges on them, like I trapped them in a vice. I don't feel ill or anything though. That all passed a few weeks ago.

BEN 406.

All pretty normal. Your nails will grow out, although you may lose a couple. As with your hair, the chemo attacks any rapidly dividing cells... Any questions for me?

STUART 407.

Well. I don't really know if... I know you don't like to use words like 'cure' but...

BEN 408.

No, I think we can say you're cured.

STUART 409.

Eh? What, seriously?

BEN 410.

Yes, of course. I mean, we can never be 100% certain of anything but we caught this at relatively early stage, you've responded well to treatment and you'll be on Tamoxifen for 10 years. I think it's likely we've nailed this.

STUART 411.

That's... amazing. I don't really know what to say.

BEN 412.

Of course, we're going to keep an eye on you. Has anyone mentioned something called "lifeboat syndrome" to you?

STUART 413.

No. Do you treat the women and children first?

BEN 414.

No. It's just once your treatment is over, some people feel like they've been left alone as the support network they took for granted is suddenly taken away.

STUART 415.

So you're all alone in the lifeboat?

BEN 416.

Exactly. So we try to get you back with one of the breast cancer nurses in about 6 months or so to see how you're doing. That's as well as your annual mammogram to make sure there is nothing in your left breast. Otherwise, I think this is goodbye.

STUART 416.

I... I don't know what to say. Thank you. I hope I never see you again.

BEN 417.

I get that a lot.

STUART 418.

In a nice way, I mean.

BEN 419.
 Googbye, Mr Hawthorne. And good
 luck.

INT. HOME/KITCHEN - DAY -29

STUART (NARR) 420.
 And that was that. My little cancer
 adventure was over after almost a
 year. My hair grew back, except for
 on my chest where the radiotherapy
 zapped the hair follicles to nothing
 so it looked like someone had shaved
 off a rectangle of fur... I started
 back at work. Things finally began
 to return to, not quite the state
 they were, but at least not one of
 constant alert. For all of us.
 Buuuut...

NATALIE 421.
 I'm off to work, Stu. See you
 tonight.

STUART 422.
 Ok love.

NATALIE 423.
 You ok? You look a bit peaky.

STUART 423.
 Bit of indigestion maybe. Ate lunch
 too fast. I'll be alright. Just a
 small pain in my side. See ya.

They kiss goodbye. Natalie leaves.

NIGEL 424.
 Hello again.

STUART 425.
 Oh no.

NIGEL 426.
 I am considering a return to the
 front line.

STUART 427.
 You CAN'T still be here. This is NOT
 cancer. I've got indigestion.

NIGEL 428.
 Have you though? I've been in this
 game long enough to know that you
 can't take what so-called experts
 have to say at face value. Take
 (MORE)

NIGEL 428. (CONT'D)
 smoking. Now, the health botherers
 say it's bad for you but...

STUART 429.
 And it is. Look, my mum had these
 symptoms and it turned out to be
 gallstones. And my nan. And my dad,
 come to think of it. It's nothing to
 worry about. Nothing for YOU to be
 involved with.

NIGEL 430.
 Well, I'm sure that's what the
 experts would like you to believe
 but in THIS body, there is an
 appetite for real change.

We fade down Nigel's incessant chatter

STUART (NARR) 431.
 So that's where I am. A new normal,
 someone called it. You don't beat
 cancer. The doctors beat it for you,
 if you're lucky. If you're even
 luckier, your friends and family
 will keep you going while they do
 their work, and you can start to
 pick up on your old plans, just a
 bit different.

INT. PUB - DAY - 30

FX: BAR BGD. WE HEAR 2 PINTS PLONKED ON TABLE

JIM 432.
 There you go. Sup up.

STUART 433.
 Cheers!

JIM 434.
 Your good health!

FX: GLASSES CLINK

JIM 435.
 Ah, 'course. So, how's the script
 going?

STUART 436.
 Alright, I think. The BBC still seem
 keen, unbelievably.

JIM 437.
 Brilliant, so have you nearly
 finished?

STUART 438.

Almost. I've been struggling to write the 'Jim' character but I think I'll probably just make him a bit of a div.

JIM 439.

Hmm. Well, as I said, I'm happy to take a look once you've done the first draft. See if I can make a few suggestions. Like, maybe 'Jim' could be the main character. And there could be a scene where he fights of a load of ninjas in the hospital car park. Oh, and casting. You were thinking Clooney for Jim, yes?

STUART 440.

If available, sure.

JIM 441.

Excellent. Oh, I forgot to get crisps. Want a bag?

FX: CHAIR BEING PUSHED BACK

STUART 442.

Not for me. Trying to lose a bit of weight, to be honest. I've even been thinking of joining the gym...

NIGEL 443.

Well now, steady on. Let's not be too hasty. No sense pandering to Project Fear...

GRAMS - XTC - MAKING PLANS FOR NIGEL

END