

SUGAR AND SPICE SCRIPT

SCENE 1

(Lights go down. A set of projections of modern Tooting with the following voice over.)

Voice over Diverse community coming out of covid
 Brings us back together in unity
 Rushing back to marketplace
 All those little businesses
 Workers with a happy face
 Tooting common no longer packed
 Back to face-to-face contact
 Tube flower stalls back in bloom
 See the high street bright and new
 Rainbows painted up on doors
 Memories of street applause
 Our community is thriving back
 Finally, we are getting back on track
 I won't take it for granted
 New friendships have been planted
 Back in restaurants
 No more takeaways
 Happy faces, plates, and trays
 Younger people taking over
 But the older will always be remembered
 Our community is built on stories
 New generations light the embers.

(Flashback images of Tooting to the war period / national story of war. Iris appears on stage holding a letter.)

Iris My dear Iris... The first thing I will do when I come home is tell you that I love you. As at the moment, life feels all too short and the opportunity to say what matters should never be taken for granted. I should have told you before I left.
War is brown bread. This often feels like I am trapped in a bad dream. Life here is torture. I have seen things that I can't unsee. I have lost more men that have become my friends than I can count.
So, lately, I find myself thinking about you more than ever. I wonder where you might be when you read this letter, what you might be doing, how you all are back home.
I wonder if Tooting looks the same after the bombings. I wonder if I will recognise Tooting when I get back. I miss our films at the Granada, down to the market, trips for pie and mash. I miss home.
I hold onto the hope of coming home soon, back to Tooting, where I belong, where we belong. Where the horrors of war will dissolve & we will make our lives there together. I hope we will have a little family. I'd like two or three. How about you?

I look forward to the ordinariness of the day. When I make it out of here, I'll never take the magic of everyday life for granted.

Take good care Iris. Until I'm back in Tooting again. Yours, John

(She folds the letter up. A scene is built around her. She folds up her wedding dress.)

Iris I can't believe I'm married.

(Repeat with added props)

Where has time gone? The children are almost grown up.

(She leaves the stage. The children run through the audience.)

Scene One 1950s

(The children arrive on stage)

Lydia (yells) We're back from the store mum.

Em (yells) Thanks for the money for the donuts (pause) Promise. We won't ruin dinner.

Lydia I love Saturdays.

Em Me too. Saturday film club is the best.

Lydia I love the Granada. Being one of the Tooting Grenadiers. All the kids pile up on a Saturday morning. Then the door opens, and everyone stops chattering. The man with the white moustache appears. His smart blue uniform doesn't have a crease in it. The brass buttons shine out. He says nothing. He just nods and lets you in...

Em His hat makes him look like some sort of giant.

Lydia I know. I definitely wouldn't try to sneak past him to get into the films, that's for sure. I flash him my best pearly whites every week, to be sure he'll never tell me off.

Em Sometimes I imagine I am a princess when we walk in.

Lydia Me too! I pretend I'm Cinderella, running down the sweeping staircase and past the hall of mirrors.

(They giggle)

Lydia When the organ comes up from the stage and everyone starts singing. It's all just magic.

Em Isn't it?! I loved the yo yo competition this week! The (film) was so good. I want to be an actress when I grow up. Just like Audrey Hepburn.

Lydia Really?

Em Yeah. It would be amazing – to travel the world and be in movies.

Lydia I don't know. I don't want to move out of Tooting. Ever.

Em Really? I want to see the world Lydia.

Lydia No, not me. I just want it to be my birthday and to go to the Granada and stand at the front to get the free snacks. Also, a doughnut at Hutchins after. They are the best. I love these doughnuts.

(Em laughs)

Lydia What's so funny?

Em My friend Danny had four birthdays this year and no one's caught him out yet!

(They laugh and start to pick out their sweets.)

Lydia I really don't know what I want to be when I grow up.

Em You've ages yet.

(They unwrap their sweets. Em starts to read)

Lydia What are you reading?

Em Look here. It says I can get a penpal.

Lydia What's a pen pal?

Em Someone you write letters to.

Lydia Why'd you want to do that?

Em To have a friend on the other side of the world. Just imagine the holidays when you get to go visit. On an actual plane.

Lydia We don't need a plane. Dads's borrowed grandads Ford, remember?

Em Yeah. All five of us squashed in the car with the luggage on the roof rack and squashed into the boot. I'd like to try a plane.

(They laugh)

Em Remember when we had get out and walk when the car couldn't get up the hills?!

(They groan)

Lydia Holland on Sea this year.

Em I know. I thought we might actually be going abroad.

Lydia Still be nice to see the sea though!

Em Yeah. Anyways. Let me find some pens and paper.

(She goes on a hunt; Lydia pauses. Em comes back with paper and starts writing. Lydia starts a cats cradle and humming a tune.)

Lydia What are you writing?

Em Mind your beeswax. Write your own letter.

Lydia I don't know what to say.

Em Tell her about you.

Lydia Um ok. What are you telling her?

Em All about you and how annoying it is to have a little sister.

(Starts writing furiously. Em doodles.)

 She is really annoying.

Lydia Very funny.

Em No, look, I did, it's here.

(She shows her the letter. Lydia is outraged. She tries to swipe it away. Em saves it. They burst into laughter.)

Em I love you really.

Lydia I love you too.

Em Dad said that's all that matters.

Lydia Shall we go and see what Derek is doing up on the common?

Em In a bit. I want to finish my letter first.

Lydia He said he was going to build a soapbox to go racing down the road.

Em Mum will clip him around the ear if he gets into any more trouble.

(The girls laugh. Em is still writing furiously. Lydia starts eating her sweets. Then Ems. Em stops writing.)

Mary Auntie let us in. She's packing up the car.

Carol Want to go play out? We need two more for long rope.

Lydia Come on Em, let's go back out. Have you finished writing yet?

Em Nearly.

Carol What are you writing? A story?

Lydia No. She is getting a pen pal.

Mary Oh that's exciting.

Lydia Wait, do you have one too?

Carol Yes. I have one in Wales. We write about where we live and stuff like that.

Linda I have one in Scotland.

Lydia Oh.

(Em sees her sister is a bit lost & puts the letter away)

Em Let me go tell mum we're going out.

(She leaves)

Mary We're going to Harrington's tonight.

Carol To eat in? Or to buy their green sauce?

Mary No, we're having their pie and mash for tea!

Lydia Yum. Does your dad order the eels at Harrington's?

(She nods.)

Mary Mine too. He tells me I should try them but ...

(They both mime being sick.)

Carol Have you seen them being chopped at the market?

(They mime being the toothless lady and laugh.)

Mary Do you think life will be different now?

Lydia What do you mean?

Mary Now that sugar isn't going to be rationed, it's like things are going to be a new kind of normal. I mean it's taken a long time, but people are back out and about on the High Street. My mum told my Aunty she finds it hard to believe we don't have to worry about the coupons. She actually bought us a Mars Bar last week! She split it into four. It was delicious.

Lydia I don't really remember what life was like without rationing.

Mary There were never enough coupons to go around. Well, that's what my mum told me! Now I think maybe she just didn't want me to know how good mars bars tasted.

Carol My mum said they used to turn carrots into sweets during the war. Everyone would munch on a toffee carrot.

All Ugggghhhh.

Mary My mum and dad won't talk about it very much other than that. They just said it was good to see Tooting recovering from the bombings.

Lydia My mum told me that they meant to bomb the Granada but missed. She saw it as a sign my dad was coming home as that's where they had their first dates.

All Awwwwwwww!

Mary I love going to your dad's shop and looking at all the sweet jars. All the colours and shapes. They all look so delicious.

Carol I want to try them all!

Lydia Dad is very proud of the store. Says he doesn't mind the long hours at all. He says it's going to be our family business. One day we'll work there.

Carol Shall we go play out before it gets dark?

(Em returns)

Em (shouting back) We'll be home before the streetlights go up, don't worry.

Scene Two. 1960s

(Girls run out. Playing out turns into becoming teenagers who dance to music from the 1960s)

Lydia Can you believe it?

Linda I KNOW!

Carol Like the Rolling Stones are performing in Tooting. Not on the TV. Live in Tooting.

Mary Tonight. On my 15th birthday!

Carol And we're all going to see them!

Lydia I will remember this night forever!

Mary I love Mick Jagger.

(Dancing)

Carol Where are the tickets? Who has the tickets? Don't lose the tickets.

Lydia Calm down. I have them here.

Carol Ok great.

Mary Do you think they'll sing (check song that is popular before 1964)?

Lydia I hope so, I love that song.

(Does a Jagger impression.)

Lydia What's wrong with you?

Carol Sometimes. I'm just not sure if I like the Beatles better.

(Outrage which turns to laughter)

Carol Can you believe that we are going to a gig together? At the Granada.

Mary I know, We're not little kids anymore. Remember all the years we'd go to the cinema club.

Carol Oh, I used to love the cinema club & the donuts after. Some of the best Saturdays ever.

Mary I feel like I am growing up too fast. I want life to slow down.

Carol Nah. Think about it, you'd miss Wimpy Bar too much.

Mary I do like their new sauce.

Lydia So, guess what.

All What?

Lydia I've spent my first wage from my Saturday job.

(She holds up a bag)

Carol You went to xx?

Lydia I did.

Linda Did you get it?

(She pulls out a high skirt)

Mary Wow, that's so cool.

Carol I LOVE It. What did your mum say?

Mary Did your dad not say it was too short?

Lydia Yeah. Mum said it's going to be freezing cold waiting outside but its up to me. So I'm keeping these trousers on.

Mary Save her some time on wash day. That'll go right through the mangle.

Carol So, what's it like working at Woolworths?

Lydia I love it so much. Although, I feel sorry for the old girls coming in for a quarter of bath salts - I always gave them extra. I hope no one realises!

Carol I can't wait to get a Saturday job. I'm tired of staring at the window of Dolcis, not able to afford all the cool shoes.

(They laugh. Picks up leaflet)

Mary What's this?

Lydia Something Em keeps banging on about.

Carol What?

Lydia Feminism

Mary Oooooohhhh. What's that when it's at home then?

Lydia Like people wanting to make sure women have equal rights.

Carol Don't we have them already?

Lydia I'm not sure.

Mary What do you mean?

Lydia Well, Em says, you know all our mums are getting jobs now.

Carol Not mine. She says she needs to look after the house

Lydia Well anyway, turns out the women who do want to, don't often get paid the same as men for the same job.

(They stop what they are doing in horror for a moment.)

Mary Why?

Lydia Because they are women.

Derek I don't know what to say.

Lydia So feminism is about fixing that?

Mary Yeah, cause why wouldn't just pay women the same as a man?

Carol I don't know.

Lydia Can we get back to the Rolling Stones? This is like a once in a lifetime experience in the heart of Tooting. Feminism can wait.

(They leave for the gig.)

Scene 3 1960s

(Lydia arrives home from school, excited. Iris is sitting at the kitchen table, with a cup of tea and a newspaper. Lydia flings her school bag into a corner.)

Lydia: Mum! You won't believe what I've seen!

(She takes a seat. Iris raises her eyebrows questioningly)

They're doing tv's now, but with colour! It feels like it's happening right in front of you, like you could step into the screen! It's amazing!

Iris: (sighs deeply) what are you suggesting, Lydia? (Lydia knows her mother is onto her but is not giving up)

Lydia: Well, the Haroldson's have one and I thought... Before they become all popular we can maybe... ur -

Iris: (with another sigh, looks back down at her newspaper, believing the battle to be won) Let's talk about this when your father gets home, why don't we? (Lydia knows that she is losing)

Lydia: mum, please...?

Iris: tv's are expensive, sweetheart. Later, ok..?

(Lydia looks frustrated, folds her arms across her chest. Em enters, with a book underneath her arm.)

Em: What's going on?

Lydia: (sighs) Mum's not letting us get a colour tv.

Iris: (folds up her newspaper, getting agitated) Now, girls. That's not what I said-

Em: (cutting her mother off, looking incredulous) A colour tv? wow. really?

(Iris slaps a palm over her forehead.)

Em: (quivering with excitement) mummy, mummy, pleeease can we get one?

Lydia: (with traces of a smirk; she knows she has a lead) Pleeease, mum?

Iris (truly frustrated now but trying to keep her cool. heaves a sigh) look, girls. This isn't how these things work. A colour Tv. It sounds so expensive. We can't just stride up to Tandy's and buy a tv like we would a bunch of bananas. I am not even sure that we would even watch it, we already have the radio.

(The girls look disappointed seeing this, Iris tries a different approach.)

We'll ask your father, ok? See what he thinks?

(The girls smile)

Em: Ok

Lydia: We understand.

(Time passes. Clocks? Freeze frames of movement.)

Derek: Beautiful, isn't it?

Iris: (smiling through a sigh) Even if it will take 5 years to fully pay it off.

(Derek laughs)

Lydia: It's brilliant. Thank you, mummy.

Iris:(looking modest) You should thank Derek for getting us that discount.

Lydia:(with a giggle) Alright then. Thank you, Derek

Em: T The colours gone again.

Derek: Just a minute, let me twiddle with this bit here.

Em: Ah it's back.

(Derek returns)

Em: It's gone again. Go back. Stand where you were. Don't move.

(Derek disappears. They listen in.)

Lydia Mum, have you seen the advert for the new shop coming to Tooting?

Em It's called St Michaels.

Lydia They are going to revolutionise the way you do shopping apparently.

(The girls laugh)

Lydia Chelsea Girl has revolutionised my shopping habits! Are you going to miss it when you leave?

Em Miss what?

Lydia Tooting.

Em I'll be back, you know.

Lydia Yeah, but it won't be the same. Everything's changing. I'm mean who is St Michaels and why is he coming to Tooting? I like it is as it is.

Em There are so many new shops on the High Street now. Did you smell those spices in that Londis?

Lydia Yeah. It smells delicious.

Em Write me letters when I go?

Lydia What, like a penpal? You know, I was never very good with words.

(Derek and Iris return)

Derek Mum's left the door open.

Girls Why?

Iris The neighbours want to watch the colour TV.

(Everyone looks to the door and smiles)

(Change to late 1960s/early 70s.)

Em It'll be alright you know.

Mary I can't believe it's finally here!

Derek Your last day here, right, in little old Tooting

Mary Before you are off to change the world.

Em I'm going to study nursing.

Mary Well that's amazing.

Em Yeah, but that's what they tell girls to do don't they? Then they tell boys to go to Oxford. Honestly.

Mary You are going to be just like (nursing times militant millie poem)

Em Ha. Well, I'm glad I read that the role of nurses is changing for sure.

Derek What will we do without you?

Em You'll be fine.

Derek You are the one that organizes us all.

(The others join them)

Em Well, what are you all going to do?

Carol I'm getting a job at (Xx)

Mary Tooting's changing. Remember all the years shopping in Woolworths, Chelsea girl, BHM and walking around the markets where everyone was shouting for people to buy from them. We'd always end our Saturday meet up Harrington's. Until you became a vegetarian that is...

Carol It's funny how some shops seem to stay forever.

Em Do you remember when I came around your house. Your mum didn't know what to give me, so I had chips stuffed in a jacket potato when I said I was a vegetarian!

Derek Well you can get a cheese salad wherever, so you'll be fine.

(Lydia enters)

Lydia Aren't you taking these with you?

(Holds up a toy and a photo album)

Em I'm not sure take a teddy bear is a good look.

Derek Lets look at the photos.

Lydia But you've had it for like for ever. It's like a family heirloom.

Em So, it can stay here.

Lydia I think you should take it.

(They look at each other.)

Em Is this your way of saying you are going to miss me?

(Pause. Lydia nods. They hug.)

 Put it on my suitcase.

Lydia Remember when you were going to go over travelling around the world like Audrey Hepburn.

(She laughs)

Em Maybe I will as a nurse.

Carol Is the pay that good?

(They smile)

Lydia You'll be good at it. You have been ready to make a difference since you were a kid.

Derek I'm proud of you. Going off to pursue your dreams...

Em Stop it, you're going to make me cry too.

Lydia I mean it. I just Well We were born and raised in Tooting, but life is changing you know. Girls and women – they can do more. We will do more. You've inspired me Em. It's amazing that you are going off to study.

Em I'll be back. You all do know that, right?

Derek You better be. I want to hear all about your adventures.

Scene 3 1970s

1973

Iris I can't believe they closed the Granada, Everytime I pass it and see it all boarded up and I remember all the weekends I took you kids to the Saturday film club. So many memories there.

Derek I know mum.

Iris I knew I didn't want a colour TV. Killed the cinema. It's your fault, too good at selling TVs.

Derek Have you seen they've bought out this thing called Ceefax?
Absolutely brilliant. There's this game called Bamboozle on it. I love it. Gaming might be the next big thing.

Iris I can't see it catching on.

Derek We'll be able to search for holidays on it soon by all account.

Iris Why would we do that? We could go into a shop and speak to a person! I don't have time for all this Derek. As if we'd ever go on a cruise! Your father is struggling with the shops. We can't keep up with all the changes ... Things aren't the same. Can you start over at our age?

Derek I don't know mum.

Iris I miss Em and her logical brain.

Derek Me too.

(Pause)

Derek I best be off mum. I promised Mary I'd be home to help plan the wedding.

Iris We can't wait until your big day son. I've already been to the hat shop.

Derek Very good mum.

Iris It'll be lovely seeing everyone together, you, Mary, Em, x, Lydia and x. I'll be a grandmother before I know it.

(MUSIC. Iris is crying.)

Derek Steady on.

(Scene change)

Derek It's going to be ok.

Iris Can you believe that Elvis died? I brought the paper on the way to work, jumped on the bus looked at the paper, burst into tears and shouted the king is dead, went on to work cried all morning.

Derek I think Mary will be around soon.

Iris I don't know what came over me.

Derek Did you see the Granada is reopening? Going to be a Bingo Hall.

Iris As if I'd play Bingo. I can't keep up with all the changes.

Derek I think you'd love it mum. We'll will take you.

Iris Really?

(All nod)

Iris I feel a bit nostalgic about that place as it's where I met your dad. Maybe it's meant to be. We'll grow old and grey over the bingo cards.

Derek Have you heard from Em?

Iris Yes, she wrote to me this week. Said that the training was paying off & she wants to be Matron by the time she's back. She was less scared. I am so proud of her. The NHS is one of the best things that happened to us after the war. It makes me so happy that someone in our family is part of it. Can you believe St Georges will open up here soon? A hospital on our doorstep – we are lucky.

(Music)

Derek Where's dad?

Iris Gone to watch the Fox being filmed at the Kings Head.

Derek Ah I bet he has chips. I could really go for a bag of chips, right now.

(Looks at time)

Derek How about we all stay for tea mum? I'll nip down the road and get chips for all the kids.

Iris That'd be lovely. I never thought when Em left, I'd get all my kids back in Tooting. Can you believe she ended up in St Georges. All my children are back together and now all my grandchildren are here

(Lydia leaves)

Derek Em on nights again? No wonder she moved back here - for all the childcare.

Iris Shush you. You know we love having them.

Derek Can Christopher stay then - I can go up and see dad.

(Laughter. Iris nods.)

Derek Off to Kennedys then. Back soon.

Scene Four 1980s

(1980s music plays. Lights up. Children playing a board game.)

Tiffany Who'd have thought we'd all be at nan and grandads the night of a storm. I wonder if it'll be a big one.

Christopher Was it Mr White in the kitchen with the candlestick?

(Nods/opens envelope)

Christopher I won!

Tiffany Well done. What now?

Kimberley Mousetrap?

Tiffany No. That's way too babyish.

(Pulls face)

Kimberley Look what I found.

(Holds up Argos catalogue)

Kimberley Lets pick Christmas presents.

(They all crowd around. Call out different things that relate to shops.)

Kimberley I want that one, that one and that one, plus a new teddy friend.

(Jessica swipes catalogue as Kimberley pauses for breathe.)

Jessica Ohhh, turn back, I want the new barbie set.

Tiffany I don't want anything from Argos. I want some of those flared leggings from Chelsea Girl. You ruined my last pair. Also, some lip gloss if mum asks.

Witney One day I'm going to be as famous as Madonna.

Christopher You're missing a trick.

(Does a star wars presentation. They play around. Tiffany leaves.)

Tiffany I'm going to ask nan if we can watch a film.

Witney I want to be a star. I hope I get the new Madonna album & a karaoke machine.

(She leaves. Witney dances around. She returns with a cake.)

Christopher Nan said we can watch The Princess Bride.

Tiffany How did you guess?

Christopher She always gives you Battenburg cake when we watch The Princess Bride. We've seen it like a hundred times. I want to watch Beverly Hills Cop.

Witney That's a 15. You know she'll never buy that until we are like 27.

(Laugh)

Christopher The Princess Bride it is then.

(Sound of storm)

Witney **Buttercup:** We'll never survive.

Westley: Nonsense. You're only saying that because no one ever has.

(They laugh but look around. Storm continues.)

Tiffany Sounds scary, doesn't it?

Christopher It'll be alright.

Jessica Wish mum didn't have to work at the hospital tonight.

Christopher It's nice we are all here with nan and grandad though.

Tiffany Grandad said he's seen worse than a storm.

(Sound of storm. Go to window)

Witney That tree might come down, you know. People's windows might smash through.

Kimberley No way.

Tiffany I wonder if the shops will be ok.

(Digs in board game box)

Witney Want to play ghost castle?

Jessica I have a better idea!

(Noise of storm)

Kimberley What's going on? I'm a little bit scared.

Tiffany Me too.

(Blackout. They all shriek.)

Christopher What's that grandad?

(They all listen)

Christopher The electrics are shocked out.

Tiffany It's going to be a long night.

Kimberley I want mummy.

Christopher It's going to be ok. Look you stay here. I'm going to help Grandad.

Witney It's alright. We're going to be alright. Hold my hand.

(1980s singing in the dark blends into 1990s music. Lights up and we are in the early 1990s. Tiffany, Witney and Christopher are sitting around the table eating a tub of quality streets.)Add in Blue Peter decoration.

Witney Can I have a strawberry one please? I don't like the blue ones.

Christopher Ok. As long as I can have the orange.

(They sit and eat)

Witney Are you looking forward to playing with your Nintendo?

Christopher Yup. Can't believe nan and grandad bought that for me.

Witney They went all out this year.

Tiffany Can you imagine how people managed to do Christmas before when shops were shut on Sundays?

Witney Wild isn't it? I might try get a job in (xxx)next year.

Christopher I hope they hurry up soon. I'm starving.

Witney We literally just had Christmas dinner.

Christopher Haven't had cake yet.

Witney Nan said we would save it until mum and dad are back from the hospital. She said they deserved a little bit of Christmas magic after their shift. So, we're going to have a cold buffet, cake and watch a film.

Christopher Did you help make the Christmas cake?

Witney Yeah.

Tiffany I love the smell of the Christmas cake filling the kitchen every year. Flour and icing all over the floor.

Witney They are quite the team. Nan does the cake. Grandad pickles the onions.

Christopher Ah pickled onions. A feature on every cold buffet table in this family for years.

Tiffany Plus a cheese and pineapple hedgehog.

(They laugh)

Christopher Did you see their faces when dad gave them their presents?

Tiffany I know. Grandad doesn't believe that they don't need to be plugged in.

Christopher They should be calling any minute now.

(Phone goes. Kids leap for it)

Christopher Hello nan. Yes, yes I can hear you.

(Others gesture to say hi. He holds the phone up and they all shout hi.)

Christopher Hello grandad. Yes, I can hear you too.

(Pause)

It is good that dads started selling mobile phones now isn't it.

(The rest giggle)

What's that? Hang on nan. I think Tiffany wants to know what you think about it.

Tiffany Hi nan. Yes, It's great. Technology is amazing.

(Witney takes phone)

Witney Are you coming back now nan? I know you just wanted to see for yourself that it does work. (Laughs) Yes, I know it's time for Ceefax Christmas music. We won't eat all the quality streets. (she laughs). See you soon!

Tiffany Do you think nan and grandad will ever give up Ceefax for the 'tinternet'?

(They laugh)

Christopher Dad might sell it to her yet! Now he's manager of the store, I'm trying to get him to get me one. Or a Saturday job, so I can have a discount.

(Rest of the grandkids enter. Dressed up in an assortment of clothes.)

Kimberley I loved this Christmas. Nan let me help wrap all the presents when I was sleeping over. I was so into Grandads stories about Christmas when

mum was a kid, I didn't realise I was stuck in tinsel and wrapping paper instead of the present.

Tiffany What have you been up to?

Witney Love the hair.

Kimberley Thanks.

Tiffany Did you do it yourself?

Kimberley Yup.

Witney You smell...Like a sweet shop.

Kimberley Oi.

Jessica Rude

Witney Of vanilla or something.

Tiffany Opened your Body Shop gifts already?

Witney Opened your

Jessica Yeah.

Kimberley My skin is sssooooooooo soft. It literally is like butter.

Jessica Plus no animals were harmed in the making of this.

(They do elaborate actions to showcase the products)

Witney Very good.

Kimberley Extinct is for ever you know.

Jessica Now you see us...Soon you won't.

Christopher Where you going?

Jessica Duh, it's on their t-shirts.

Kimberley This is literally a present that helps save the world.

Christopher My dad said Auntie Em always liked a crusade.

Witney They have a point. I saw something about it on the news... The ozone layer or something...

(They look up & here the door.)

Tiffany Nan and grandad are back.

Christopher We've eaten all the Quality Streets for the film.

Witney Oh no.

(They all try and pick up wrappers and hide the tin)

Scene Five: 2000S

(Lights up and a group are gathered around a photo album)

Witney It feels strange to be doing this.

Tiffany Do you think we should?

(They slowly open up the photo album)

Kimberley It's so weird being here without nan.

Jessica She was never the same after grandad died.

Witney Grandad taught me to sing. Every time I was off pitch, he'd say kiddo, life's too short, get up and try again. I'd sing x to nan the last few years and we'd laugh about it.

(Hums a tune.)

Witney Saturdays at nans. What a ritual.

Christopher I know right. Remember when we'd come over in the summer holidays? Roam around Tooting to see people go into the recording studios.

Witney When Banarama came to Tooting, I literally thought I'd died and gone to heaven.

Christopher Then, down to the market.

Tiffany She loved Tooting Market. Said it was the heart of the High Street.

Witney Mum said that Marks & Sparks swayed her for a bit, but she always loved going back to the market, whatever new thing came along.

Kimberley Mum said they bought a pet tortoise from the market one year. All these memories. Things won't be the same.

Tiffany What's this?

Witney Letters and stuff by the looks of it.

Jessica Listen to this... I miss our films at the Granada, down to the market, trips for pie and mash. I miss home. I hold onto the hope of coming home soon, back to Tooting, where I belong, where we belong. Where the horrors of war will dissolve & we will make our lives there together. I hope we will have a little family. I'd like two or three. How about you?..."

Christopher When grandad was in the war.

(They carry on reading)

Kimberley I love brown bread too.

Tiffany I don't think that's what they meant.

(Laugh)

(They pick out a diary)

Witney Here handwriting was so beautiful.

Tiffany Listen to this... 1952. We have a Queen now. I cannot quite believe it. A woman at the head of the house. How amazing we could watch from home on the TV and party out on the streets. I knew when John was at war, if he made it home, Tooting would be our home forever more. I want my girls to walk the roads, swing past the Granada and know it was the place where their parents were engaged. I want them to know the market, eat pie and mash, feel the warm comfort of their community ... cause there isn't anything like it. Life won't always be easy, but they'll always have their home here ...

Jessica Oh wow.

Christopher I might cry. I don't cry. What's come over me?

Tiffany It's just sad isn't it. We were all kids here playing on the carpet when Grandad came in with fish and chips for everyone.

Witney I wonder our mums have read these.

Tiffany They are going to cry. OMG. Look, that's mum. Check out that mini skirt! If she ever tells me my skirt is too short again...Nans written on the back of it. Shopped at Chelsea Girl.

Jessica Oh wow? I can't believe it.

Witney What is it?

Kimberley I think its nans wedding dress.

Tiffany How beautiful.

(They stare at it for a while)

Jessica Oooooooooohhhh. Look, she must have kept the film tickets from when they went to the cinema together. All these years. They are so delicate. Look.

Tiffany Grandad wrote her a poem when he was away at war ...
Together we will be
Over the hills and down the valleys
I will never leave you

Ever together
Shall we be
To never be apart, always together

Ever
Together
Eternal love
Roses are
Never
Ever to die as they are the symbol of my undying
Love for you.

Christopher I had no idea he was so poetic. Dad definitely hasn't inherited that skill from him!

Jessica Grandad always said to stay the most colourful person in the room though.

Tiffany Ahh but listen to this ... "Derek bought us home a colour TV. We are going to be paying it off for years, but it'll be nice to watch Wimbledon in colour."

(They look again)

It's mum in the early 70s. When she qualified as a nurse. Will you look at that uniform?

Ahhh listen to this. All my children are back in Tooting now. Em finally settled down and came back to work at St Georges. They have a lovely house now up by the Bec. I've five grandchildren now all in Tooting. Can you believe it? All those years ago, when I wondered if John would make it home ... This is the stuff dreams are made of.

Witney It's funny isn't it. They've gone, but all their stories are still here in their stuff.

Tiffany Mum said we all must take something to carry with us.

(All pick something & give a reason.)

Voices of parents Come on kids, it's time to go.

Witney I can't believe this is the last time we'll be in the house.

(Pause. The parents come to the edges of the stage. They take the boxes away as music plays)