

**'The Band' - Audition Extracts**

For all **YOUNG WOMEN** read [EXTRACT 1](#)

For **RACHEL** read [EXTRACT 2](#)

For **CLAIRE** read [EXTRACT 3](#)

For **HEATHER** or **ZOE** read [EXTRACT 4](#)

For **JEFF** read [EXTRACT 5](#)

For **DAVE** read [EXTRACT 6A AND 6B](#)

## EXTRACT 1

Read as either **DEBBIE** or **YOUNG RACHEL**

**DEBBIE:** *(In one breath)* OH MY GOD, oh my GOD Rach did you see it last night, did you SEE *Top of the Pops* with the video of them on the beach with the... *(Gestures a move)* 'pray' and the... *(And another)* 'kneel' and the LITTLE MIRRORS OH MY GOD don't answer, we haven't got time. I recorded it so we could learn the dance.

**YOUNG RACHEL:** You recorded it!? How?

**DEBBIE:** Honey this is the 90's! We live in the modern age! Have you decided yet which of the boys you're gonna marry?

**YOUNG RACHEL:** Actually I decided it's a bit adolescent to think about marrying a boy out of a boyband.

**DEBBIE:** Right. Who are you gonna marry instead?

**YOUNG RACHEL:** All five of them.

*(Debbie laughs)*

**DEBBIE:** Won't argue. Long as I get to be your bridesmaid.

**YOUNG RACHEL:** Yeah you *have* to be my bridesmaid, Deb. You made that very clear at the age of six.

**DEBBIE:** *(Points at her)* 'Balloon promise'.

**YOUNG RACHEL:** God's sake - million TIMES - you are the only person in the world who has ever heard of a 'balloon promise'.

**DEBBIE:** EVERYONE'S heard of a balloon promise!

**YOUNG RACHEL:** They haven't! You only invented it because we were at a birthday party and you had loads of white balloons kicking about!

**DEBBIE:** It's the law! Write something on a balloon and let it go, it becomes eternal!

## EXTRACT 2

### Read for RACHEL

**RACHEL:** My life was eight out of ten. And that's good, Jeff. In life. In a test. Pretty good mark. Unless you know the other two are out there somewhere. Which I suppose I always knew it was.

**JEFF:** Where was it?

**RACHEL:** With those girls. It's what I am when I'm with those girls. What we used to be at sixteen. What we stopped being the moment we didn't let balloons go on the rocks. *(Beat.)* You wouldn't have been marrying Rachel. You'd have been marrying an 'eight out of ten Rachel'.

**JEFF:** Well that's er... *(Beat.)* Really happy for you. That you've found that. But I'm... *(Arms out.)* This is all I've got. This is 'maximum Jeff'. And looking there, looking at you coming off that plane, giving it all that - I don't know that woman, Rach. Don't know anything about her. *(Beat.)* Except I'm pretty sure she wouldn't have wanted to marry me.

*(Beat.)*

**RACHEL:** Why don't you ask?

**JEFF:** And why would it be any different to all the other times, Rach?

**RACHEL:** Because I couldn't get married without a very special bridesmaid. And I didn't have one. And I thought I never would. And now I think I've got three. *(Beat.)* You and me have been together a long old time. Then we had a very important break. And now we're re-forming. *(Beat.)* Don't look at it as a marriage, Jeff. This is our comeback.

**EXTRACT 3**  
**Read as CLAIRE**

*Speaking to ZOE, HEATHER and RACHEL.*

**CLAIRE:** You all came to watch me once. In Leeds, do you remember? Some diving competition. You didn't tell me you were coming, but I got to the top of the ten metre board and looked down and you were just ...

You'd all come. All clapping. 'Go for it Claire'. Judges told you 'shut up'.

And I breathed in. And I dived. For the first time - absolutely no fear. Twist. Tuck. And I was so proud. The two most important things in my life all in one room. Diving. And you guys.

**RACHEL:** So when did you stop?

**CLAIRE:** Thursday. Thursday after the funeral. Training night. I got to the top of the ten metre board. I looked down. And there's no-one there.

What was the point? Just walked back down.

**HEATHER:** You should've claimed back up, Claire! You should've gone back the next week and carried on / so that -

**CLAIRE:** I had no-one saying that. I had no friends telling me to 'carry on'. *(Beat.)* I just found ones who told me to give up.

**ZOE:** Who?

**CLAIRE:** *(Smiles.)* Food, Zo. All them foods I'd never been allowed. They all agreed it'd be much easier if I just gave up diving and hung out with them.

## EXTRACT 4

### Read as HEATHER or ZOE

**HEATHER:** Policeman's right. We're not sixteen anymore. And we shouldn't want to be. More than anyone on this planet ...

**ZOE:** It's fine / let's find the -

**HEATHER:** It's not 'fine', Zo. I think Claire's just shown it's not fine and - and it's not cause of you Claire. It's cause of the whole ... (*Gestures at the four friends.*) I mean come on, am I the only one seeing this?

**ZOE:** Let's find that guy and ask / where the -

**HEATHER:** So why are we coming back!? Sorry Rach I'm not getting at you for suggesting, but Clair, I mean - Zo! GOD! Why the HELL -

**ZOE:** Heather -

**HEATHER:** - raking all this up when you don't need this? I mean LOOK at you! 'Earth mother whatsit', four lads off at uni. What are you, / of -

**ZOE:** Heather -

**HEATHER:** - no, seriously, of ALL people looking back for? I mean god, you're the only one who did the orienteering! Out of ANYONE / you -

**ZOE:** Heather will you SHUT UP. (*Beat.*) I don't have a map, Heth. I don't have a 'plan'. I've launched everyone in my family and now I'm falling back to earth and hoping I land somewhere soft and that is my plan. Sit rusting in a field. (*Beat.*) And if I was an 'earth mother' that would be enough for me, but it's not and to be honest, I came here so I didn't have to sit in an empty house thinking about all this so thanks, but. (*Beat.*) I'm going back.

## EXTRACT 5

Read as JEFF

*JEFF turns back to RACHEL.*

**JEFF:** *(Reads...)* All I do each night is pray ...

**RACHEL:** Jeff, give me / the cards.

**JEFF:** Babe I'm here again ...

**RACHEL:** *(Taking the cards of him.)* Stop it! How many have you got?

**JEFF:** *(Gets more out of his pocket.)* About thirty.

**RACHEL:** God's sake ...

**JEFF:** I always wondered why you didn't want to get married. *(Beat.)* Over the years. Whenever I asked, it was always - 'Time's not right.' 'Save the money.' 'Buy a caravan instead ...' I always knew those weren't real reasons. And you panic, a bit, Rach, to be frank. Dark of the night. A girl only doesn't tie herself down if secretly she wants to get out. *(Beat.)* Then you start entering competitions for bands you went to as a kid. Then I come home and find you sitting in the dark. Then you're looking up friends from school. I mean - I'm not great with words, Rach. But I know you only start looking backwards if you don't want to go forwards.

## EXTRACT 6

To audition for the role of DAVE please prepare both extract 6a and extract 6b.

### EXTRACT 6a: Read as BUS DRIVER DAVE

*DEBBIE causes a bus to emergency stop. The DRIVER and a handful of PASSENGERS lurch forwards.*

**BUS DRIVER DAVE:** WHAT THE BLOODY HELL ARE YOU PLAYING AT?

**DEBBIE:** Driver, I'm REALLY sorry to both you but our friend Zoe here's a student at Manchester doing a survey on local transport / and -

**BUS DRIVER DAVE:** No you're not. You're a load of girls who've been to a gig, hung round trying to meet the band and missed the train home.

**DEBBIE:** *(Beat.)* How did you know that?

**BUS DRIVER DAVE:** Because it happened all the time when I was in Spandau Ballet.

**YOUNG ZOE:** Eh?

**BUS DRIVER DAVE:** BECAUSE I DRIVE THIS BLOODY BUS AND IT HAPPENS EVERY WEEK.

**YOUNG ZOE:** Which one was he in Spandau Ball- ?

*There's a honk behind from traffic and complaints from the PASSENGERS.*

**BUS DRIVER DAVE:** Oh, just bloody get on.

**EXTRACT 6b: Read as BUDJET AIR DAVE**

**BUDJET AIR DAVE:** Okay, we're closing.

*HEATHER and ZOE, to each other.*

**HEATHER:** She'll be on the plane. Any money. Go, Claire!

**ZOE:** Yeah. You know what she's like. Was.

**BUDJET AIR DAVE:** *(To HEATHER.)* Across the tarmac, up the steps!

**HEATHER:** It's just our friend who's organised this er ... *(Tries to look at the list.)* ... well, 'won' a competition -

**BUDJET AIR DAVE:** I can't let you look at the passenger list, madam.

**HEATHER:** No, no, I understand, that wouldn't be allowed for er ... for er ... *(Looks back down the corridor.)* GOD! So are they still thinking or building another runway?

**BUDJET AIR DAVE:** I can't let you stall for time either.

**HEATHER:** *(Takes passports and goes.)* Oh god, alright, ALRIGHT ...