

CHRIS

(Mock offended)
Me? A reputation?

ANNIE

On which subject can I jus' warn y' – Marie's gonna get suspicious if these projector bulbs keep blowing ev'ry time we have a dull guest speaker.

CHRIS

(Goes off waving, deadpan, super-innocently)
ONE MORE YEAR IN YORKSHIRE

CHRIS

JANUARY, FEBRUARY...

ANNIE

She'll find you ou-ut!

(ANNIE shakes her head knowingly as the world pivots round her and in the moonlight JOHN enters with a customised wooden wheelbarrow, reg plate 'CLARKEY 1'.)

Scene 3 – Annie's Garden

JOHN

...APRIL, MAY, SEPTEMBER AND JULY
KEEP ROLLING –

ANNIE

So.

JOHN

(Jumps in shock.)
Bloody hell! Don't do that! How long've you been watching?

ANNIE

'bout eight pots.

JOHN

Well don't just sit like a lettuce.

ANNIE

What y' doing?

JOHN

Chris's sunflower.
(Holds up.)
These are the seeds we didn't drink! Never let beauty go to waste!

ANNIE

So how was your day?

JOHN

Oh, y'know. Put up a few fences. Mended a few stiles.

(Plants another.)

Then on the way home I nipped in the hospital to see the charming Doctor Blakey.

ANNIE

(Stops dead.)

The hospital rang?

JOHN

(Beat, nods at her efforts.)

Bit deep, that.

ANNIE

(Over-casually.)

So they've had all the- ? You got the results back?

JOHN

I said 'plant' them, not 'bury' them, soft girl. I'll get some water.

(He goes off. ANNIE is alone, her mouth drying.)

ANNIE

Not that it matters that much 'cause it's fixable anyway, isn't it? With blood. Whatever. There's transfusions and god knows what. Transfusions and – and –

MUSIC 3: SCARBOROUGH

AND SUDDENLY THERE'S A NEW GIRL IN THE ROOM
AND SHE'S EIGHTEEN AN' NERVOUS, AND - AND - AND - AND FILLING EACH
POSSIBLE PAUSE WITH A HANDFUL OF 'ANDS'
STOOD OUTSIDE THE ODEON HOPING THIS BOY CALLED JOHN CLARKE
WON'T DETECT IT'S HER FIRST EVER DATE BUT IN
FACT SHE'S MATURE AND SOPHISTICATED
BUT JOHN CLARKE'S THE SON OF A FARMER AND THEY HARDLY
SPEAK AT THE BEST OF TIMES SO ALL HER SENTENCES
START RACING OFF LIKE SOME DOG IN A PARK
DOING CIRCLES AND LOOPING AND FALLING BECAUSE SHE HAS
NOT GOT A CLUE WHAT SHE SHOULD SAY
THAT GIRL IS BACK
IN THIS GARDEN NOW

JOHN (OFF)

Where's the attachment for this hose? Someone has moved the end of this hose.

ANNIE

THE DUVET WE BOUGHT IN THE NEW YEAR SALES,
IT'S PATTERNED AND BRIGHT AND THE SIZE OF WALES
WHO HOLDS THE TOPS WHILE I'M FOLDING THE TAILS IF YOU DON'T?