

**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?