

**PAT AUDITION PIECE (JEFFERY, GORDON, SOPHIE, NIGEL, CHARLOTTE)**

- Pat Stan wanted it that way. But, well, ours wasn't what you would call a normal marriage. For a start, we actually liked each other. He made me laugh. How many marriages can you say that about? (*Everyone looks guilty/sheepish*) Oh dear, this is so difficult. I really didn't want a big hoo-haa and kerfuffle. I just want the chance to live the life that I want to live before it's too late. 'Tho Stan not being here has only made things worse. You see, I don't think that I was properly married to Stan in the first place.
- Jeffery You don't think what? Mother, you aren't making sense!
- Pat I don't think Stan and I were properly married.
- Gordon Not properly married?! of course you were properly married! You have the photos and everything. (*Grabs a photo*) What was this? Some fancy dress party!
- Pat It's hard for you all to imagine, but you have to remember that I was young once. You do strange things when you're in love and have parents who disapprove. Nana and Grandad Hargreaves. They had set ideas about me; you did then, in those days. But then – I suppose you'd call it hormones now – they kicked in and I was whisked off my feet. He was so handsome. Your Nana and Grandad were not happy; he was not on their approved list. They forbid me to meet him. They had no idea. Even when they locked me in my room, I climbed out of the window and went out to meet him.
- Sophie Oh Pat how romantic.
- Pat Yes it was until the time I lost my footing on the drainpipe and landed in the water-butt. But when you are young and in love (sighs). You don't care. Everything seems possible. Anyway, when I turned sixteen in the March, we decided to get married. He was twenty-one and he got a special licence. We went to a Registry Office.
- Nigel Where?
- Charlotte Does it matter?
- Pat It was Bognor actually.
- Nigel Christ Almighty! Bognor actually?
- Pat Bognor can look lovely in the summer.
- Gordon You were married in March.
- Pat Yes shame it wasn't the summer. But Bognor was still trying its best!