

PAUL No.

MR POPPY Right, I know you're scared about all of this. So, I've got Jennifer's number here on speed dial. You just need to take a big daddy breath, phone her up and see if you can get her over here.

PAUL How have you got her number?

MR POPPY I may have gone through your little black book that you keep by the side of your bed . . . out of interest, how do you know Keith Chegwin? Anyway, all you have to do is copy everything that I say, alright, word for word, we're gonna get through this together. You know as well as I do that if Hollywood do come and see those kids up there on that stage, those kids will sparkle and shine like the brightest stars you have ever seen. Okay, speed dial number one.

PAUL Toys 'R' Us.

MR POPPY Try speed dial two

PAUL Jennifer Lore . . . No, no. I can't do this, I can't . . .

(MR POPPY whispers and PAUL repeats everything he says. JENNIFER is revealed in her "Hollywood" light.)

JENNIFER Hello?

Music No. 19a: WRAPPED UNDERSCORE

(Music score is a melancholy version of "Wrapped in a Rainbow." PAUL now repeats everything that MR POPPY says to JENNIFER . . .)

MR POPPY / PAUL Hello. It's me, Paul. Paul Maddens, your past boyfriend.

JENNIFER Paul, it's good to hear from you, it's been a long time.

MR POPPY / PAUL Yes, it has; seventy years. (Seventy years???)

JENNIFER Paul, I'm sorry but I can't really hear you. Is everything okay? Is Cracker okay?

- MR POPPY / PAUL Yes, all fine. We're just here listening to his favourite rapper . . . Snoop Dog. Look, I was wondering if you would come and see our Nativity? It's going to be very good. There's a death slide, there's a Camel, it's probably going to be on ice.
- JENNIFER Paul, I don't know what time it is over there, but are you a little bit drunk? But, I can't pop to Coventry to see a Nativity. It's a really, really busy time over here. We've got a film opening tonight; it's the premiere, actually, and I really should be getting ready. It . . . really is good to hear from you, though, Paul . . . I hope you're okay.
- PAUL One more thing, before you go, but the main reason why you should come to see our Nativity, is because, I love you.
- (Music cuts. PAUL can't believe what MR POPPY has made him say. PAUL hangs up.)*
- PAUL No, no, no! Why did you make me say that?
- MR POPPY Because you do love her.
- PAUL No, I don't.
- MR POPPY You do. You talk about her all the time, and I talk about pizza all the time and I love pizza. So, you love her.
- PAUL It's not the same thing, though, is it!
- MR POPPY Yes, it is!
- PAUL Just leave, Mr. Poppy.
- MR POPPY Okay, okay, I'm sorry. I'll go! But here . . .
- PAUL What is it?
- MR POPPY It's the letters the kids wrote to Santa; if you read them, it might help!
- (He picks up the key.)*
- PAUL What are you doing with that?