

GEMMA & RUSSELL TALK THROUGH THEIR
HOTEL BATHROOM ADJOINING WALL.
SHE LOOKS IN THE MIRROR MIMICKING THE PRESENTERS
58 INTRODUCTION ABOUT HER
ACT ONE

GEMMA *(Annoyed.)* "Gemma, a carer from Blackpool . . ." *(Excitedly.)*
"Gemma . . . an astronaut! From . . . Lancashire!" *(Defeatistly.)*
"Gemma, a sad sack from Blackpool with nowt going on who's
never even been on a bloody *aeroplane* before let alone the
soddin' moon!" *(She practices a leaving speech.)* "Listen Jim,
Kim – I've had a brilliant time, really, but I think it's best you find
someone else to take my place – a back-up back up if you will – "

*(Next door in his hotel room, RUSSELL washes his hands in his
bathroom sink.)*

RUSSELL Who are you talking to, Gemma?

GEMMA My . . . self?

RUSSELL Ooh I talk to myself as well.

GEMMA I know Russell, I can hear you . . . *regularly* . . .

RUSSELL "You are a tower of feminine strength."

GEMMA *(Beat.)* Are you talking to me or you?

RUSSELL You, Gemma! "You're truly brilliant in every way!"

GEMMA Ah thanks Russell . . .

RUSSELL No that was to me. *(Beat.)* It's funny, people do tend to come
into your life for a reason. Say if I hadn't have found myself in
the queue for the lavatory at Gloria Estefan – Manchester Arena,
1996 – I might not wake up every morning to a snoring Italian with
wind problems. *(Warmly.)* But I'm very glad I did. And so somehow
Gemma I think that you were meant to meet us . . .

(He puts his hand on the wall between them briefly then exits.)

*GEMMA hesitates, then puts her hand on the wall too. It's a
comfort to her.*

FRANCESCA runs on.)

FRANCESCA

Gemma, come on – we're going to be late!