

ADMITTEDLY BE WANTING SO MUCH MORE
 NOW WE'VE MADE THE PERFECT PETIT FOURS!
 BA-DA-DA-DA
 BA-DA-DA-DA-DA
 THE PERFECT PETIT FOURS!

(End of song.)

(Then IZZY slowly rises up from behind one of the benches. She has been there (unseen) the whole time and is starting to get worried about her abilities in the competition.)

Music No. 15a: OBVIOUSLY (Reprise)

IZZY
 OBVIOUSLY STAR BAKER HAS ELUDED ME
 AND OBVIOUSLY THAT'S NOT GREAT
 I CAME HERE TO BE
 THE BEST ON TV
 A CELEBRATED HOUSE-HOLD NAME
 I'M GONNA HAVE TO UP MY GAME
 I WON'T JUST TAKE IT ON THE CHIN
 I'M HERE TO WIN

(Deviously, she takes HASSAN'S lucky t-shirt out of her bag and stuffs it into an industrial-sized Marmite tub.)

Lights fade.)

Hassan's Story

There is a Portaloo outside the Bake Off tent. RUSSELL and HASSAN stand by it, waiting to use it. HASSAN is in his pyjamas.

HASSAN Honestly Russell, my lucky t-shirt – I've looked everywhere!
 Someone musta thrown it away!

RUSSELL Well you can't go on television in your pyjamas, Hassan – OFCOM
 will get complaints . . .

HASSAN Off what?

RUSSELL No, OFWAT's the water regulation service.

(FRANCESCA comes out of the Portaloo.)

RUSSELL Honestly Francesca, the sartorial standards of young people today! Not like you and I, eh – dressed to impress! In fact my patent leather trousers were the talk of Bollington High Street in 1993 . . . and YES for the right reasons . . .

(RUSSELL hurries into the Portaloo quickly. HASSAN spots that FRANCESCA has been crying.)

HASSAN Whoah, hold up mate – is everything okay?

FRANCESCA Me? Yes – fine – of course . . .

HASSAN S'just – y'look you like you've been cryin' –

FRANCESCA *(Brushing it off.)* No no – do I . . . ?

(He immediately tries to chivvy her up.)

HASSAN Ah nooo . . . come on Francesca . . . you've nothing to worry about . . . really – you're *dead* good at baking! I'm the one who should be worrying – no-one liked my celebrity signature yesterday – CAKE. MIDDLETON.

(He looks at her, dumbfounded. FRANCESCA smiles, weakly.)

FRANCESCA Nooo it's not that . . . it's just . . . *(Thinks about how to say this.)* You know when you try and get a recipe right, and you keep *trying and trying and trying* . . .

HASSAN Ah mate, every single night, 'til 2am . . .

(She tests the waters of whether he understands her predicament.)

FRANCESCA Sometimes my bakes don't always seem to *rise* . . . when you've been trying for so long . . .

- HASSAN** *(Innocently, wide-eyed – he doesn't get it.)* Oh well, trust me Francesca, ma bakes don't always rise neither! But hey – don't worry . . . *(Genuinely lovely.)* It'll work out in the end, I'm sure.
(She smiles, relieved at the advice all the same.)
- FRANCESCA** Yes . . . let's hope so . . . thanks Hassan . . .
- HASSAN** You're welcome bro.
- FRANCESCA** *(Amused.)* Please don't call me bro.
- HASSAN** Sis . . . ?
- FRANCESCA** I'm not your sister either . . . !
- HASSAN** Wish you were – my sisters are bare boring like. You're all dead fashionable and that – in your old people clothes . . .
- FRANCESCA** *Vintage!*
- HASSAN** Vintage yeah. I'd love to have a sister like you.
- FRANCESCA** *(Genuinely touched.)* Oh thanks . . .
- HASSAN** *(Attempts a moment of deeper connection.)* It's funny, really, innit . . . you and me . . . "The Great British Bake Off".
- FRANCESCA** *(Lightly.)* Why?
- HASSAN** Well you're Italian for starters!
- FRANCESCA** Yes of course, but I've been here sixteen years! *(Still jovially.)* What you are you trying to say, I don't belong here . . . ?!
- HASSAN** No . . . no . . . it's just that word . . . you know . . . *British*. Crazy really innit – to be thought of like that . . .
- FRANCESCA** *(Sensitively.)* How else would you be thought of?
- HASSAN** Syrian.
- FRANCESCA** *(Nonchalantly.)* Sorry, I thought you were from Wembley . . .

HASSAN Well yeah I am, but – (*Pondering aloud.*) I mean that’s what I told them, when they asked me and that . . . Do you think I should get them to change it?

FRANCESCA It depends how you feel . . .

HASSAN Well I’ve been here half my life now. Even eat potato smileys.
(He thinks.)

Music No. 15B: HASSAN’S STORY

HASSAN I remember my first day at school here. I was 9 years old and the only English words I knew were “Hello”, “thank you” and (*À la Joey Tribbiani.*) “how you doing . . . ?”. No-one really talked to me at first. I’m terrible at football, see, always have been. Which sorta put me outta place . . . So one day, my teacher – Mr Sharma – he suggests I make a cake. So I goes home yeah. Oh my *days* you shoulda seen me! Flour on the ceiling, butter down my uniform! Mum went totally *mad!* (*Softly.*) But there – just before midnight . . . on a Tuesday night in November . . . 24 sponge vanilla butterfly cakes . . .

(He can still see the image, proudly.)

HASSAN Sure enough, they *loved* it . . . lappin’ it up . . . ! They called me “Hassan the baking boy”. (*With urgency.*) So the next night I’m in the kitchen . . . biscuits, shortbreads, loaf cakes, tray bakes – till slowly but surely I became *invited*. *Accepted*. *One of the class*. (*Still bugs him.*) Still crap at football mind. Stupid game . . . !

(He shares a final secret with FRANCESCA.)

HASSAN I always used to think we’d go back one day, you know. Damascus – see my family . . . before it’s too late. (*Innocently.*) I miss the smell, Francesca. (*A far away thought.*) My grandma’s courtyard. (*A very fond memory.*) Lemons . . .

(A beat, then RUSSELL exits the Portaloo abruptly.)

RUSSELL I'd give it a moment if I were you, Hassan. Those date flapjacks have quite an effect after all . . .

(RUSSELL exits. A new connection holds between HASSAN and FRANCESCA.)

HASSAN *Shukran* Francesca – 'thanks' . . .

FRANCESCA *(Softly.)* Prego . . .

HASSAN Smash it out there, yeah?

FRANCESCA *(Warmly.)* Sure thing. *Bro.*

(End of scene.)

The weeks roll by

Music No. 16: DON'T SEND ME HOME

Back in the tent, the bakers are making their petit fours. KIM and JIM observe.

KIM
IT'S WEEK 3 IN THE BAKE OFF TENT
AND TENSIONS ARE GETTING HIGH

JIM
THEY'RE GETTING HIGH

KIM
THEY'RE PINNING ALL THEIR HOPES AND DREAMS

KIM / JIM
ON A MINIATURE KEY LIME PIE

KIM
WILL THE JUDGES BE IMPRESSED?

JIM
CAN THEY PRODUCE THEIR VERY BEST
WITHIN THE TIME?