

ACT ONE

KATHY greets the audience like friends and neighbours as they're coming in. Things like –

KATHY. Hi!

Good to see you.

Tom, Anna, great to see you.

Alright, Mags?

Hi. Hello.

Dannyyyyyy.

Come in, please, make yourselves comfortable.

Gerry, your favourite table's there waiting. No one would dare.

Etc, etc.

Once everyone is largely settled, KATHY gets things going –

Right, let's turn this blather off. What more can they say, eh?

She turns the broadcast off.

That's better.

So. First things first – thank you, thank you from the bottom of my heart for choosing to spend your last night here with us at the Horsemen. It means so much, it really, really does.

Looking around – most of you I know, friends and neighbours...

Terry, is that your Susan you're always telling us about? Lovely to meet you at last, love. I wish it was under different circumstances but

better late than never, eh. Or better late than pregnant, as my Aunt Viv always said.

Mary, no Chris? Decided to try and get down to see her Pat, did she? I can understand that and good luck to her.

Tasha. Andy. Naz.

Paul. (*Curt. A look, a history.*)

And those of you I don't know, and there are a few unfamiliar faces, welcome. I'm so pleased you found us, however you did. You're all welcome. Even Paul.

I'm so glad that we're all here together tonight...

She breaks off, emotional.

Sorry. Sorry.

That won't get me anywhere, will it? I'm sure we've all cried rivers these last few days. Raged, ranted, turned the air blue. But here we are. And there *it* is – (*Points to the heavens.*) and it's not stopping its trajectory while I stand here blubbing, so no more of that. (*Wipes her eyes, enough.*)

Now, Rav's just putting his distinctive finishing touches to the quiz and then we'll be off.