...

THE LAST QUIZ NIGHT ON EARTH (NHB MODERN PLAYS)

RAV. Everybody swapped?

FRAN. I really have to tell you something.

RAV. In a sec.

Okay. All done? Excellent.

Now I'm going to invite Kathy up here to take us through the answers without using the answer sheet. Put her money where her mouth is.

Kathy, if you can join me here please.

No pressure and in your own time, but quickly cos we'll all be dead soon.

Flag One.

KATHY. Wales.

RAV. Flag Two.

KATHY. Switzerland.

FRAN. Rav, can I talk to you?

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RAV. Flag Three.

FRAN. I love you, Rav.

KATHY. Bosnia and Herzegovina.

RAV. What?

FRAN. Sorry, but I really do need to talk to you.

FRAN. I love you.

RAV. Flag Four.

RAV. Course you do, I'm very lovable.

KATHY, China.

Kathy -

RAV. Flag Five. She's on a roll.

FRAN. No. I mean, I love you.

KATHY. Bahamas.

Actual heart-pounding, heart-aching, love-of-my-life, romantic love, heart beating out of my chest when I think about you, love you.

RAV. And finally, she's got them all right so far but could this one be her undoing?

RAV. You don't know me.

Drumroll please...

FRAN, I do.

Encourage audience to get drumroll going.

RAV. We haven't seen each other for years.

Flag Six. Kathy?

FRAN, So?

RAV cuts the drumroll.

RAV. So you can't love someone you haven't seen for a decade.

KATHY takes a big breath in to reveal the answer but FRAN beats her to the punch with –

••• THE LAST QUIZ NIGHT ON EARTH (NHB MODERN PLAYS)

FRAN. Yes I can. I can love whoever I like.

RAV. Well yes, but.

How did you even know where to find me?

FRAN. I follow you on Twitter. And Instagram.

You're not on Facebook, are you?

RAV. No one's on Facebook any more.

KATHY. I am.

FRAN. And you're always posting about this place.

About your day.

About Kathy.

KATHY. What do you say about me?

FRAN. Nothing bad. The funny things you say.

KATHY. Funny ha-ha or funny weird?

FRAN. Both.

I feel like I know you, he talks about you so much.

KATHY (to RAV). Do you?

FRAN (*to* RAV). And you. You say I don't know you, but I know you do park runs once a fortnight.

I know you make a really good steak and kidney pie.

I know you love funny cat videos.

RAV. Everyone loves funny cat videos.

FRAN. I know you really hate Paul Hollywood.

RAV. Everyone really hates Paul Hollywood.

FRAN. I know that when you were fourteen you got your best mate Jonesy who was in my Business Studies class to put a note in my rucksack asking if I'd go out with you and I said yes and we went to Fat Mike's All You Can Eat Buffet for our first date and I was so nervous I hardly ate anything which kind of defeated the object of Fat Mike's All You Can Eat Buffet but I didn't want you to think I was greedy and you had corn on the cob and it got all stuck between your teeth and all night all I could think of was that sweetcorn and how if you kissed me it was going to go in my mouth and I really wanted you to kiss me but I didn't want all your sweetcorn in my mouth.

RAV. Okay, and breathe.

FRAN. That year we went out was honestly the happiest year of my life.

RAV. We were kids.

FRAN. So? We still knew how we felt.

Fifteen is a formative age.

And if my parents hadn't split up and Mam got a job down the country.

We tried so hard to get me to stay.

He asked his parents if I could move in with them. But they said we were too young. He was so upset. Weren't you?

RAV. Yeah.

FRAN. Did they stop you replying to my emails too? My calls, my texts.

RAV. They said we were too young, like you said.

FRAN. What I felt for you I've never felt for anyone else.

RAV. You don't mean that.

FRAN. I do. Nothing's come close.

Standing here with you now, it doesn't matter how long it's been. I feel the same fizzy butter-flies in my stomach when you look at me. I feel awake.

RAV. Fran -

FRAN. Maybe I shouldn't say this but I'm glad there's an asteroid, cos it's the kick I needed. Seeing that announcement earlier, my life flashed before my eyes and it was... shit.

And after, in the office on my own, your face just kept popping into my mind until you were all I could think about.

I've wasted so much time but I'm here now. And I'm asking you – last chance saloon.

And I know I talk a lot but -

RAV. You always did.

FRAN. Yeah. 'She never says one word when she can say ten' my gran used to say.

Well, here's three – I love you.

I really do.

Sorry, that was six.

And that was another four.

I just wanted to leave it at 'I love you' but I've spoiled it now.

Are you going to say something?

Sorry, that was another six.