
Extract from **Earthquakes in London**

By Mike Bartlett

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Characters

**Freya
Steve
Tom
Jasmine
Sarah
Simon
Colin
S Boy**

Proper Coffee

2010

A kettle boils.

Freya's face isolated. Freya is singing along to a cover of 2525 Venice Beat ft Tess Timony. She loves it.

Freya In the year 2525
 If man is still alive.
 If woman can survive
 They may find.

Freya is pregnant, wearing a man's shirt and making coffee in her kitchen. She has headphones on and dances. A television is on as well.

*Everything is done in rhythm – coffee, kettle...sugar...eats a spoonful herself.
We see Steve in the shower. He hears her singing – bemused.*

Freya In the year 3535

Steve Freya?

Freya Ain't gonna need to tell the truth, tell no lies.
 Everything you think, do or say.
 Is in the pill you took today.

Steve Freya!

Freya In the year 4545

Freya takes a headphone out.. The music is quieter.

Freya What?

Steve What are you / singing?

Freya I'm making coffee.

Steve What?

Freya Coffee! Do you want some?

Steve Proper coffee?

Freya It's always proper coffee.

Steve What?

Freya It's always proper coffee, / no one drinks *instant*.

Steve What? I can't hear you! I'm in the shower! I can't hear you!

*Freya dances. The music becomes background in Starbucks.
Tom enters and offers a coffee to Jasmine.*

Tom Full fat latte, two brown sugars, cream on top.

Jasmine Do I know you?

Tom Thought I'd do the honours. Did I get it right?

Jasmine Don't know yet what does rohypnol taste of?

She drinks a bit.

Tom It was Marxist Criticism. We used to get our coffees at the same time. I liked the look of you, remembered your order. I'm Tom.

Jasmine Yeah.

Tom You're Jasmine. I heard you dropped out.

Jasmine I had an argument with my lecturer.

Tom What about?

Jasmine Charles Dickens. Do you smoke?

Tom I can.

Jasmine Good boy.

Sarah appears, talking to Simon, her assistant.

Sarah There aren't any plants.

Jasmine Lets take this outside.

Sarah Department of climate change, massive office and nothing's green. It's ridiculous.

Simon It's on the list. And you need to put something in for Casey. She's leaving.

Sarah Who's Casey?

Simon By the wallchart? Under the window?

Sarah Why's she going? Pregnant?

Simon Redundant.

Sarah Oh.

Simon She's the chaff we talked about.

Sarah Right. Yes. Right.

Simon Smaller government. That's your policy.

Sarah Not *my* policy Simon.

Simon I'm afraid so minister. What sort of plants do you want? You mean flowers?

Sarah Here's ten for Casey. No not flowers. Flowers are dead. We want some life round here. Get a cheese plant. They still have those?

*Freya continues to make the coffee. Watches television at the same time.
Colin is in Sainsburys and approaches a young male assistant.*

Colin Excuse me.

Sarah They had them in the eighties.

Colin I'm looking for a guava.

S Boy A what?

Colin A guava.

S Boy What's that?

Colin It's a vegetable.

S Boy Right.

Colin Possibly a fruit.

S Boy Vegetables and shit are over there.

Colin I'm sorry?

S Boy Vegetables and fruit and all that are over there.

Colin I know but I've looked and I can't find it.

S Boy Probably don't have it then.

Colin Probably.

S boy Yeah.

Colin Can you check?

S Boy Chhh.

*Sainsburys Boy goes off to check. Still the music in the background.
Jasmine and Tom are smoking outside.*

Jasmine He's sat there opposite me, I said I'm not being funny but if you want two thousand words by Monday you can whistle, I have to *work* weekends, different for you Gary, fucking baby boomers, get your grant, got your degree then don't pay for your kids. So he says "Do you have financial difficulties Jasmine?" and I'm like "Gary. We all have financial difficulties, read the fucking papers". Then he suddenly goes red, shouts that I'm "thick as corrugated shit" whatever that means and says I only got in here because of who my sister is, so I lost it completely, threw a bookshelf at him.

Tom A bookshelf?

Jasmine It was Bleak House that got him in the eye, hardback so he had to go to hospital. They said I was a menace, attacking my lecturer with a weapon, I said something about the power of the written word and that was it. Out.

Tom You don't look like a menace.

Jasmine I am, Tom.

Sainsburys Boy comes back.

S Boy Is this it?

Jasmine I'm a natural fucking disaster.

Colin How should I know? I don't know what a guava is. You tell me.

S Boy Yeah. This is it.

Colin You're sure?

S Boy Yes.

Colin Positive? Because this is important. I want you to understand that if I get home and this isn't a guava I'm in big trouble. So it follows that if I get home and this isn't a guava *you're* in big trouble, yes?

He reads his badge

...Will. You're in big trouble if this isn't a guava Will. So.

You're sure?

S Boy Candy said it was and she's good with fruit.

Colin Right, thanks.