Darling

by Meg Coombs

The entire play is set in the kitchen. There is an island in the middle of the stage.

There is a fridge on the left of the stage and counters going around the edge of the space. A sink is built into a counter in the middle as well. It is all fairly modern and chic; a basic kitchen set up with neutral colours; it is very naturalistic. There is a stool next to the island. The island has drawers on the side that the audience cannot see, along the back. There is a CD player on the counter.

The play does not run chronologically, as in the scenes that follow after the first one do not happen one right after the other; it may be on a different day, for example. However, all of the action leads up to the first and final scene.

Scene 1

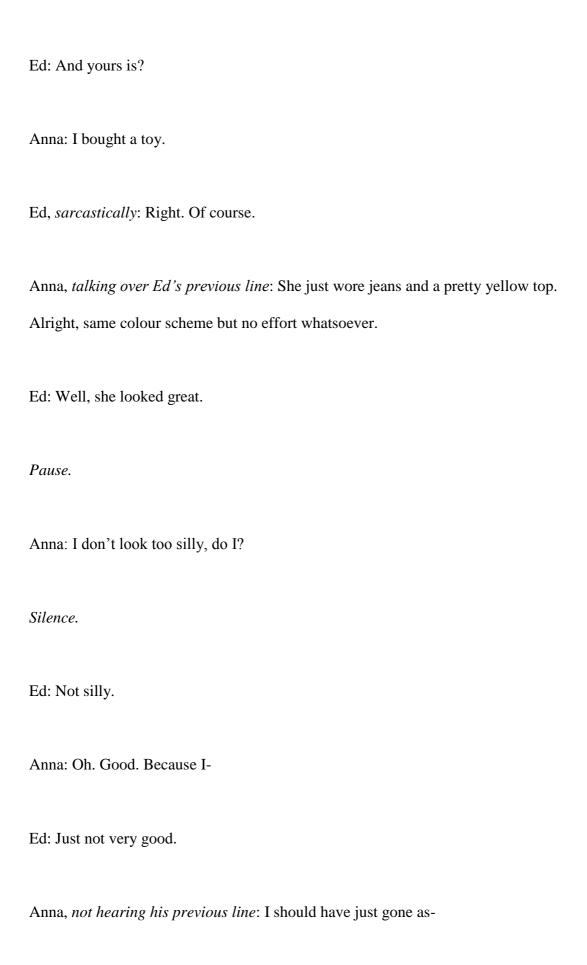
Anna enters as if home from a party. She wears all black. Puts down her bag, coat and a toy Dalmatian puppy. Ed enters with her and gets a glass of water. Anna watches him intently, as if searching for an answer. Ed does not seem to notice.

Long pause.

Anna, she finally pipes up, trying to start a conversation: God, I'm exhausted.

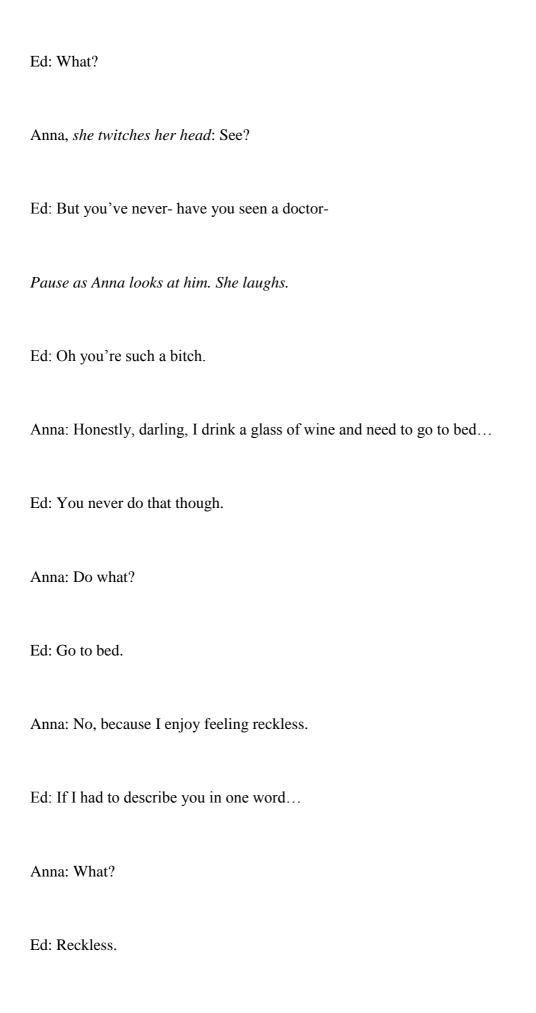
Ed remains silent, drinking the water, ignoring her.



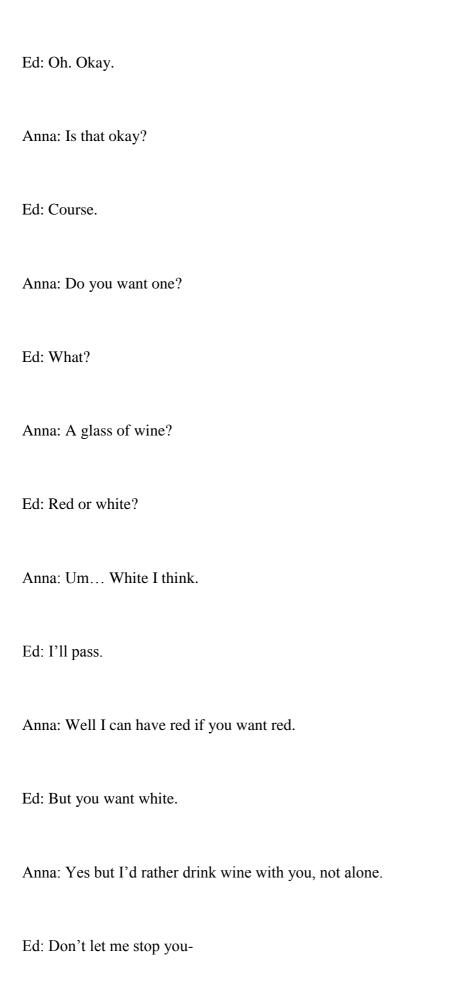


Ed: You just- don't look very- nice.
Ed, unphased, carries on drinking his water. Anna is brought to an immediate halt. Ed finishes the rest of the water, kisses her on the forehead and leaves.
Scene 2
Lighting change.
Anna stays onstage; she then begins to search around the kitchen for something.
Ed enters, looking tired.
Anna: Have you seen the
Ed: Hi.
Anna: The um. Um.
Ed: What?
Anna: You know? The Um Errr
Ed: What, what.

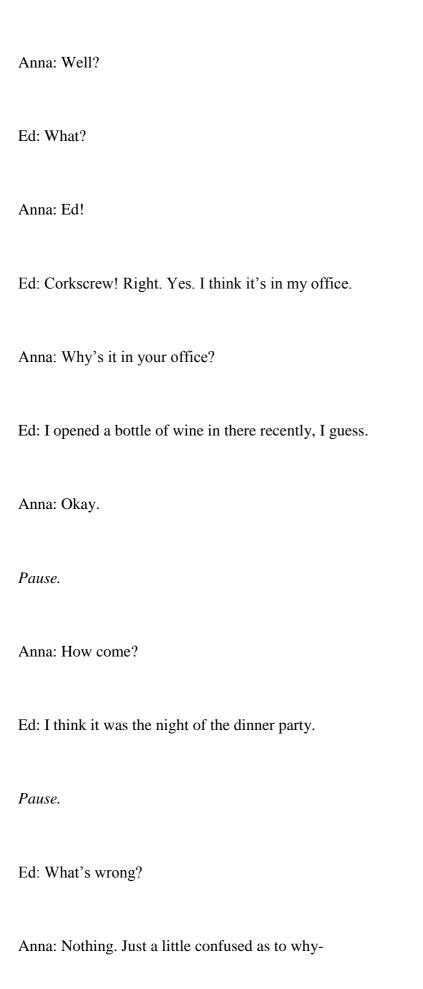




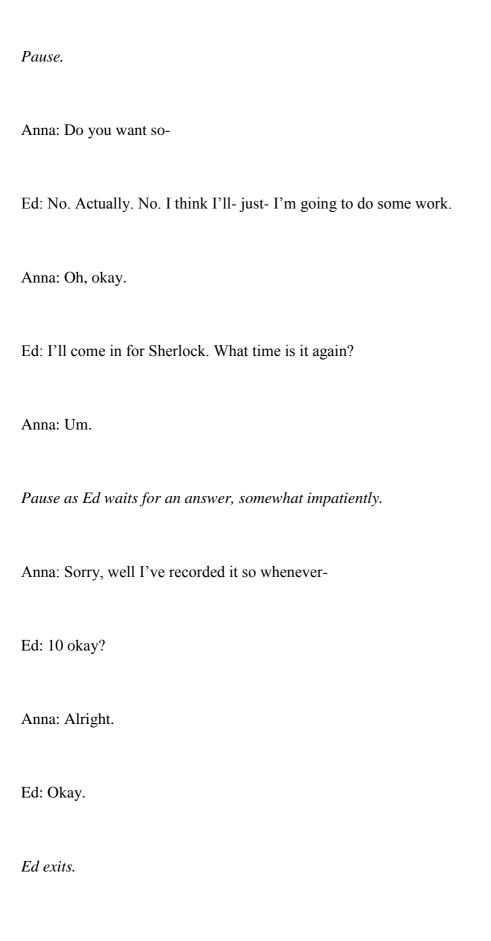






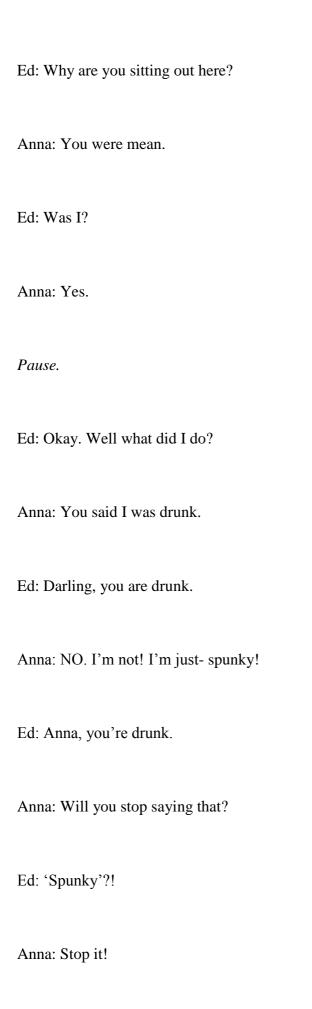


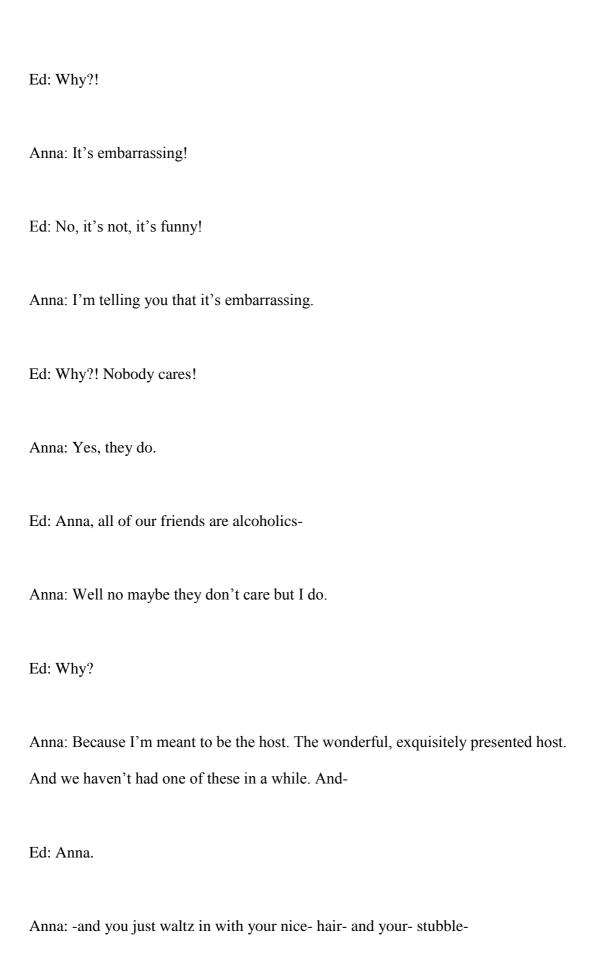
Ed: Jesus, Anna, I don't fucking know. I must have took a bottle of wine out of the
fridge, gone to get something from my office with the corkscrew in my hand and
opened it in there!
Anna: Okay, okay.
Ed: Okay?
Anna: Okay.
Pause.
Ed: What?
Anna: Well, could you get it please?
Ed: Right, sorry, yeah.
Ed leaves.
He returns after a few seconds.
A
Anna: Thank you.

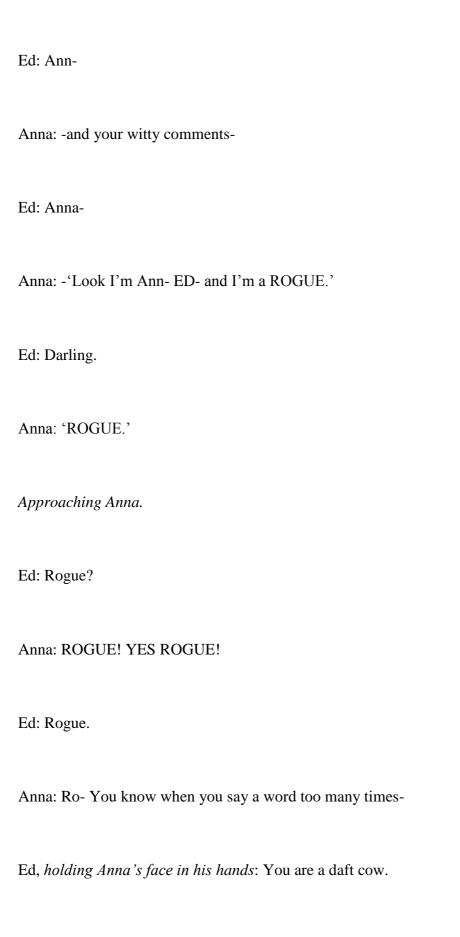


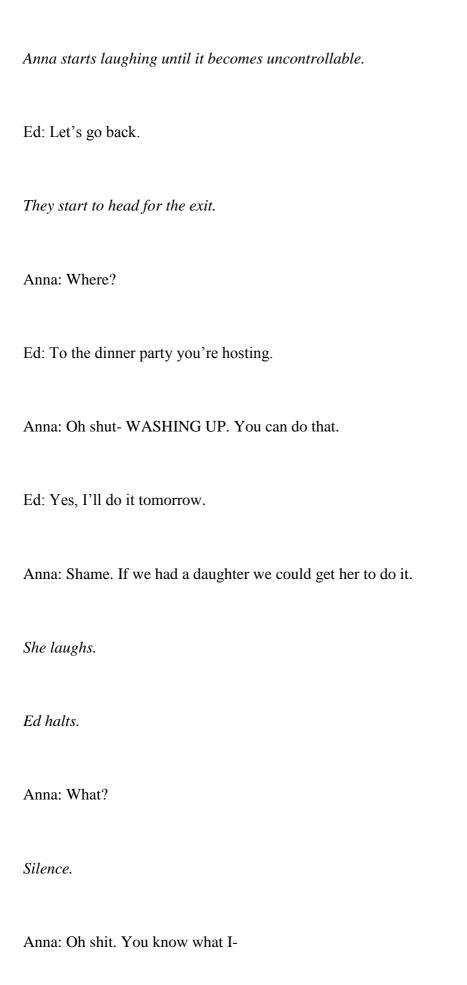
Anna goes to open a bottle of red wine but opens a bottle of white wine instead and
drinks a glass.
Scene 3
Lighting abange
Lighting change.
Anna is sitting in the same place, sounds of a dinner party are heard offstage.
Long pause.
Ed enters with empty plates.
Ed, addressing the party guests: I look absolutely nothing like Harry Potter, I don't
know where you get this crap from.
Surge of laughter.
Silence as Ed puts the empty plates down and goes to the fridge.
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Anna says the following few lines bitterly, it is obvious she is a bit drunk.
Anna: You do look like Harry Potter.

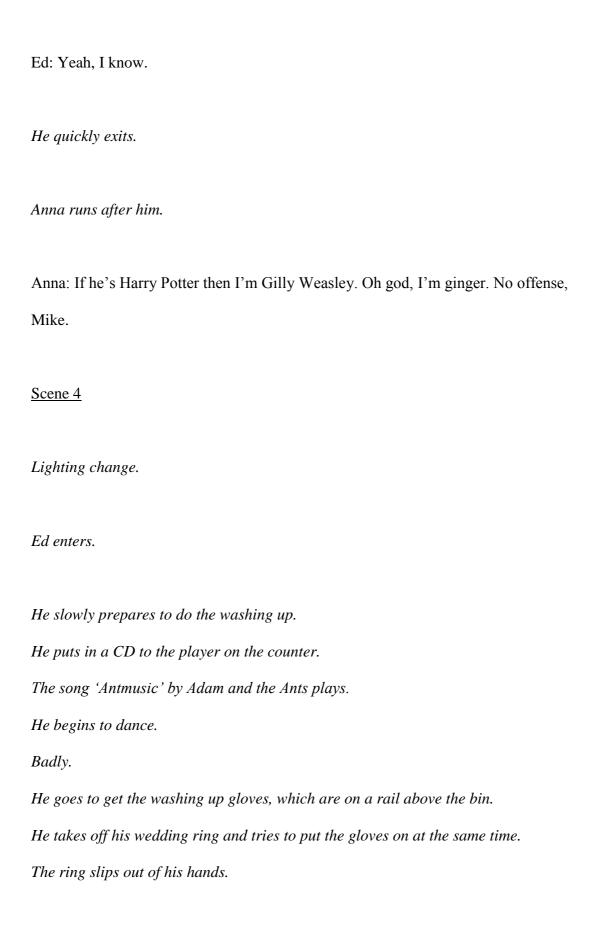












Ed: Shit.
He rummages around quickly.
He pauses.
He brings out an empty contraceptive pill packet.
Silence.
Long silence.
He leaves.
Scene 5
Lighting change.
Anna arrives with shopping bags, she unpacks them, humming. Throughout the scene
she remains preoccupied with unpacking.
After some time, Ed appears and watches her in silence.
Anna: Oh hello. Didn't see you there.
Pause.

Anna: You okay?
Pause.
Anna: It was mad at M & S today. No idea why, I went at an awkward time on a Tuesday. I'm always so careful- because if you pick the wrong time, it's a fucking
nightmare.
Pause.
Anna: I got ingredients for chicken salad tonight.
Pause.
Anna: That okay?
Pause.
Anna: And- I got that really fresh garlic bread. You know. Not the normal one. That
cheaper one. It's just not as nice. Remember?
Pause.
Anna: Ed?

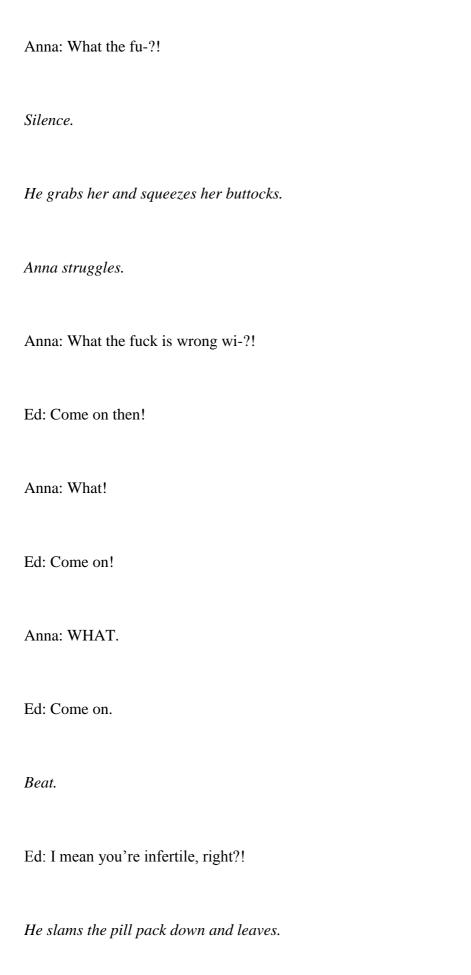
Anna: Oh shit.
Pause.
Anna: I forgot- forgo- avocado.
Pause.
Anna: I knew I'd forgotten something.
Pause.
Anna: You don't mind, do you?
Pause.
Anna: It doesn't matter, does it?
Pause.
Anna: You don't even like it-
Pause.

Pause.

Anna: -it that much.
Pause.
Anna: Doesn't matter.
Pause.
Anna: Don't need it.
Pause.
Anna: Ed?
Pause.
Anna: Ed.
Pause.
Anna: Darling.
Pause.

Anna: Are you okay?
Pause.
Anna: Actually. Actuall- I really would like some avocado.
Pause.
Anna: If you're not too busy could you pop to Tesco and get some?
Pause.
Anna: Some- some-
Pause.
Anna: Avocado.
Pause.
Anna: Ed?
Pause.
Anna: Ed, will you please-

Ed quickly walks over to Anna and kisses her passionately.
Anna: Ed, what are you-
He kisses her again.
Anna: Ed-
He kisses her again.
Anna: Ed, you're hurting-
He kisses her again.
Anna: Ed, stop-
She pushes him off.
Silence.
They stare at one another.
He slaps her across the face.



Long pause.

Anna leaves after Ed.

Scene 6

Lighting change.

Anna enters on her mobile.

There is a long pause as if she is listening to someone on the other line.

Anna: I don't know. I don't- I- Well. Yeah, well, when I found out- he- he slammed it down in front me. Yeah. I know. I know. I thought I was going to be- sick. Jesus, I feel sick now. I've felt like I'm going to be sick at any second- well- well it was- it's a bit of a blur now. I was unpacking shopping and trying to talk to him but he wasn't responding and- well, I thought he was just on his blackberry, you know. Well, no I didn't look at him because I- because I was- unpacking. And then- the- yeah. He looked so confused. And so angry. He's so angry. Oh god. Mum, he's so angry at me. I feel so stupid. I can't believe I thought I'd get away with this. But then, it all seemed so easy. I know. I wish I'd just- I know. But once we got married, I don't know how or why it happened but I saw them and I just hated them. I literally hated them. I hated the things. I don't know. Just- how they... The mums, I mean, with their huge-they looked like they were going to burst. It made my skin crawl. I just didn't want- I

know. I have no idea. I'm just pathetic- I'm a terrible, terrible- Okay, sorry. Yeah. Um, well. I'm not sure. I think we've agreed to work things out. Yeah. Well, I mean we discussed it and he hasn't left yet so... I think so. I hope so. I don't know about that but I'm just keeping quiet. I don't want to fuck things up any- I can't answer that. I don't know.

Anna hears the front door open and starts leaving with the phone as she says the next line.

But I loved him. I love him.

Anna exits.

Scene 7

Anna enters as if home from a party. She wears all black. Puts down her bag, coat and a toy Dalmatian puppy. Ed enters with her and gets a glass of water. Anna watches him intently, as if searching for an answer. Ed does not seem to notice.

Long pause.

Anna, she finally pipes up, trying to start a conversation: God, I'm exhausted.

Ed remains silent, drinking the water, ignoring her.





Ed: You just- don't look very- nice.
Ed, unphased, carries on drinking his water. Anna is brought to an immediate halt.
Ed finishes the rest of the water, kisses her on the forehead and leaves.
Blackout.
End of play.