

# **the way we live right now**

**dramatised for 2008 by jonathan myerson  
from the 1875 novel by anthony trollope**

## **about the research process and content:**

This adaptation of *The Way We Live Now* was commissioned by BBC for broadcast in 2008.

The research task was to update Trollope's 1875 novel and show how the financial venality which he sought to expose was just as prevalent in the Twenty-First century. Thus the research task was to find the modern equivalent of the aristocrats-for-sale whom Trollope pillories in his original story. I also had to research the modern equivalent of a railroad – the bogus scheme in which the moneys are invested: after much research, in the end, I settled on Big Pharma and found a company offering an alternative to antibiotics.

The further task was to find the equivalence in how information was disseminated and how reputations could be manufactured. Trollope's anti-hero required the acquiescence of aristocrats: today's equivalents are 'celebs'.

And the overall task was to do all this while remaining wholly true to the tone and anger of the Trollope's prose.

The series was broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in 15-minute episodes during three weeks of June 2008.

# the way we live right now

## episode 1

### cast

1. TROLLOPE
2. TILLY
3. FLEX
4. NICK
5. MARIE
6. HETTA

IT'S 1875 AND TROLLOPE IS IN HIS STUDY IN CAVENDISH SQUARE

SCENE 1.

INT. TROLLOPE'S STUDY.

TROLLOPE

Let us be introduced to the Carbury Family, upon whose character and doings much will depend. Tilly Carbury's sole object was to provide for the needs of her children, Felix and Hetta,. She could trust Hetta in everything but her son, Felix, was not very trustworthy. And yet Felix was the darling of her heart - in everything she had spoilt him as a boy, and in everything she still spoilt him as a man and now his life was in every way bad.

SMASH CUT FROM TROLLOPIA TO 2008:

SCENE 2.

INT. WIMBLEDON CHAMPIONSHIPS: COMMENTARY BOX.

A RALLY THEN APPLAUSE AND THEN THE UMPIRE'S 'THIRTY LOVE'<sup>1</sup>

MCENROE

Great second serve, Serena was never in the rally after that.

FLEX

(DRUNK, PROBABLY HIGH) She, I mean, man, she planted those legs and she – she's something.

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<sup>1</sup> this episode is broadcast the first day of the 2008 Championships

MCENROE            You're very generous today, Flex.

FLEX                 I like Venus. She's seriously fit.

MCENROE            That's right, her stamina is remarkable.

FLEX                 That too.

THE CROWD HUSHES FOR THE NEXT SERVE

FLEX                 (QUIETLY) 'Course, if we're talking arses, it's Serena every time.

MCENROE            What?

SERVE. RALLY. APPLAUSE.

MCENROE            Unbelievable backhand return. Her wrist control is –

FLEX                 Now, the two of them, together, girl on girl, that's what I call American doubles.

MCENROE            (TRYING TO DROWN HIM OUT) Of course, the Williams sisters are always competitive and with a semi-final place at stake –

FLEX                 It'd be a cup final day for me, John-boy. Serious ball control. Cross-court penetration. One working the forecourt, one working the back -

SUDDEN STATIC. AND AFTER A FEW SECONDS

STUDIO CONTINUITY (UNRUFFLED) Sorry, we seem to have lost the line to Wimbledon for the moment. We hope to restore it very soon. In the meantime, some music.

UNRUFFLED MUSIC

AND MIX INTO:

- NEWSPAPER Flex's Fantasy Fling. Former Tennis Star, Felix 'Flex' Carbury (left, above and right) tries to hide his face as he leaves Wimbledon yesterday.
- MAG Viral Video Chart. Number One: Flex Carbury shoots his sex-obsessed mouth off. Finally the guy says what all men have been thinking. Now put it back in the spank bank, Flex.
- NEWSPAPER A spokesman for the BBC said they were reviewing their tennis commentary rota and former British Number Two, Flex Carbury (below) was not in fact scheduled to do any more work at Wimbledon (right) this year.

AND COMING IN OVER THIS:

- SCENE 3.                    INT. CARBURYS': TILLY'S OFFICE. MIDDAY.
- FLEX                            (APPROACHING) Any coffee? Ma-ma? (PR: MAR-MAR) Ma-ma.
- TILLY                            (INTO PHONE) Got to go. Ring me as soon as you hear anything....Thanks.
- TROLLOPE                    Tilly Carbury had been striving on her son's behalf all morning when he entered the room and threw himself upon the sofa.
- TILLY                            (EXHAUSTED DESPAIR) Darling.
- FLEX                            I am bare wasted.
- TILLY                            Did they give you a very hard time?
- TROLLOPE                    Felix liked to be praised and petted and caressed. He had in this the instincts of a horse, not approaching the higher sympathies of a dog.
- FLEX                            Everywhere I went last night, more snappers than an Amazon lagoon. What's the big deal, I mean? I mean, I didn't actually say any of the banned words, did I?
- TILLY                            Of course not.

FLEX                    So what then?

TILLY                    My darling.

FLEX                    What time am I on today?

TILLY                    (IT'S BAD) Thing is....BBC's cancelling your contract.

FLEX                    They wouldn't dare.

TILLY                    (PICKING UP PAPERS) They've got no choice. The papers have gone rather big on it.

FLEX                    Typical, they never report the match.

TILLY                    Darling, you didn't report the match.

FLEX                    They were watching it. It's up to TV commentators to add colour. Isn't it?

TILLY                    (GENTLY) Honey, did you take something?

FLEX                    You know it helps me. Gets the words...(LITTLE BOY)...am I in vevy big trouble?

TILLY                    Several emails already: Wilkinson's Sword are cancelling your contract.

FLEX                    Why do they need me when they've got the world's ugliest Swiss bloke?

TILLY                    Red Bull aren't renewing your contract.

FLEX                    Thank God, it tastes like penguin sperm.

TILLY                    And Nuts would like you to judge their Top Tits of Tennis contest.

FLEX                    That's....something.

TILLY Problem is...we're committed to a wide range of expenditure. This flat – the service charge alone. The place in Umbria – I've had to stop them tiling the pool.

FLEX I'll go to Sky.

TILLY The Sun called as well.

FLEX Want an exclusive?

TILLY The Williamses are close personal friends of Rupert's. They've pulled your column.

FLEX Bored of writing it anyway.

TILLY You don't write it.

FLEX They ring me. They want to know what Sharapova said to Ivanovic in the showers. (EXHAUSTED) As if.

TILLY We are going to need to replace these income streams, honey.

FLEX You remember I owe that guy twenty k, right? Got to pay it back today.

TILLY Darling, we're stretched to the limit right now.

FLEX Just for a week or two. I can double it, if when it all falls into place.

TILLY I'm going to have to get you some more what Personal Appearances.

FLEX Ma-ma.

TILLY They'll tide us over this dry patch.

FLEX It's dirty, Ma-ma, you stand around in (INVENTING:) Krinkles Nightclub in Berkhamstead or Swingles in the Swindon Arndale and people come up to you and stare and then they

insult you, frankly, like somehow this makes them better than you and – *[it's not worth it]*

TILLY It's still a thousand pounds to climb out of a car and smile and drink a few drinks.

DOORBELL

TILLY (AS SHE GOES TO ANSWER IT) You expecting anyone?

FLEX Could be flowers?

TILLY A wreath maybe.

FLEX Maybe it's Venus and Serena come to take me up on my offer. (LOOKING ROUND) Any coffee anywhere?

TILLY IS MEANWHILE ANSWERING THE DOOR  
AND IN COMES HETTA, AT SPEED:

HETTA What the bloody hell are you doing?

FLEX Hi, Sis, nice of you to drop by.

HETTA I'm trying to live my life, you know that? And you're making it impossible.

TILLY You're not actually his keeper, Hetta darling.

HETTA Someone needs to keep him tied down. He can't be trusted out there on his own.

TILLY If it wasn't for Flex's earnings, we wouldn't've been able to afford any of –

HETTA Half of what he earns goes straight up his nose.

TILLY Hetta, I really fail to see that this is your business at all.

HETTA I have a position. I work at a charity where people care passionately about gender equality. Now every time

someone looks at me, all they're going to think – “her brother, that sexist, drunk –

FLEX (FINDING IT ALL FUNNY) Buff.

HETTA Ignorant.

FLEX Talented.

HETTA Neanderthal.

FLEX Part-time model.

HETTA Drug-addled layabout.

FLEX Who won three opens before his cruciate snapped and -

HETTA And now does sod all.

TILLY Hetta, really, this isn't the day, Flex has suffered a major, major setback.

FLEX (TEARS COMING) I'm so...I am....I'm really upset actually.

TILLY (COMFORTING) Come here, darling.

FLEX I really like commentating and I made one silly little mistake and now they'll never let me do it again.

TILLY We'll find you something.

HETTA (APPALLED) Mum!

FLEX Please, Ma-Ma, don't let her go at me. She's shouting.

TROLLOPE He was so beautiful to look at. But it cannot be said of him that he had ever loved any one to the extent of denying himself a moment's gratification. His heart was a stone.

FLEX So what do you say about that twenty k, ma-ma – it's no good if I don't have the look, have the stuff to pass round. I got to have the p to play.

TROLLOPE            There was an apparent truth in this entreaty which the poor woman was unable to answer.

TILLY                 I'll see what I can get on the MBNA, transfer it this afternoon.

FLEX                  (STANDING, CHEERY) Thanks, Ma-ma.

HETTA YOWLS.

FLEX                  See ya, sis.

TROLLOPE           - though at the time it could be but ill afforded, the youth went away with a light heart.

HE IS WHISTLING

HETTA                You're just going to let him do that?

TILLY                 I can get him more engagements. I know who to call.

HETTA                More immoral earnings.

TILLY                 He worked so hard, for years, training. He has a right to capitalise on -

HETTA                He could have got over that injury. He was on the way down. Now he's just another sublebrity.

TILLY                 Relax, Hetta. It's just a bit of money, it's not real life - the magazines and the programmes and the nightclubs, they want Flex to do things.

HETTA                It's so embarrassing.

TILLY                 You've got your principles and you've got Roger with his mud and his real vegetables, you'll be alright.

TROLLOPE           Of course, to Tilly, Hetta was of infinitely less importance than her brother. Who shall say why the brother and sister had become so opposite to each other? Perhaps Hetta's

virtues were owing altogether to the lower place which she held in her parent's heart.

TILLY (ALMOST BRUSQUE) Now, off you go, I need to write some emails.

AND INTO:

SCENE 4.                    INT. CYBERSPACE.

TILLY FROM: tilly@carbury.org  
TO: nick@celebsrus.co.uk  
SUBJECT: Bugger the Bugging Buggers At The BBC<sup>2</sup>  
My lawyers spent all day yesterday with the BBC Sports People. They won't shift. One passing reference to a perfectly healthy sexual appetite and suddenly Britain's Most Promising Tennis Player Since Tim Henman is persona non gratis. [SIC] (SHE DRAWS BREATH) Do you want an exclusive?

NICK From: nick@celebsrus.co.uk  
RE: Bugger the Bugging Buggers At The BBC  
How much do you want? Will he do photos? Are we talking genuinely exclusive?

TILLY RE: Bugger the Bugging Buggers At The BBC  
Thirty k. That's photos, quotes, documents, the works.  
Won't talk to anyone else until twenty-four hours after you're on the racks.

NICK Ten k's the best I can offer. And I want to bring a couple of ethnics round – we got a nice pair of Somali twins, always do a nice job for us, triple E cups. This afternoon, with a snapper, set up a threesome in Flex's bed – what do you say?

TILLY Twenty-five. And nothing topless. La Perla, no leather. He's got a reputation, you know.

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<sup>2</sup> "Mark Damazer has defended his station against recent criticism that it panders too much to middle-class tastes, insisting that earlier constraints on using language such as 'piss, bugger or shit' had now gone."

OVER THIS:

MAG                      Snapped having lunch alone at Itsu, Flex Carbury (above). Clearly Britain's Number One Sex Fantasist likes to do everything alone. Want to borrow our tissues, Flex?

AND INTO:

SCENE 5.                      INT. TILLY'S BEDROOM. DAY.

TOGETHER ON THE SOFA

NICK                      Still think all the best men are gay?

TILLY                      Nick, you're the best I've had.

NICK                      Thank you.

TILLY                      They must throw themselves at you - all the Chantelles and Kerrys and Katonas.

NICK                      Just don't like big jugs.

TILLY                      (YOU MEAN I DON'T) Oh.

NICK                      Tills, they get themselves 'coned up till they got a pair of blue whales on their chests -

TILLY                      Don't see many naturals in Celebs Я Us.

NICK                      Which shows what a good editor I am. I put our readers first.

TILLY                      I'm so worried about Flex, this Wimbledon thing has been a set-back.

NICK                      He's...he's a...nice lad.

TILLY                      You mean he's a waster?

NICK                      Everyone tells me, he's great if he shows, real charisma, if he's sober, but... He's...he's a...he hasn't got much longer.

Celebrity doesn't last, Tills, it doesn't wait for you. Other sportsmen will retire, and he'll be used jet trash.

- TILLY I'm sure he needs to change his image.
- NICK Our Somali three-in-a-bed jumped off the shelves.
- TILLY He needs something different now. Do some charity work. Unicef. Like Geri or Princess Anne.
- NICK (GOT TO BE KIDDING) Flex?
- TILLY (CONTINUING) Doing things for Africans, people with no legs, you know.
- NICK So what can you give me? Got a shoot lined up?
- TILLY Alright, alright, maybe he might even settle down, start a family. (INSPIRATION:) You could use your mag to say he's London's Number One Eligible Bachelor.
- NICK He's been dating that girl, hasn't he?
- TILLY Sara's too wild for him. They keep having rows. He's looking to centre himself.
- NICK A split-up story? Is that all you're offering?
- TILLY (MEANWHILE SLIDING ON TOP OF HIM) You'd run that for me, centre spread, wouldn't you? You'd help my little boy.
- NICK Everyone's splitting up, couldn't he do a love child or a cancer scare? Where are you going?
- TILLY IS SLIDING DOWN
- TILLY I know you'd help me out, wouldn't you? One little column. (WITH A GIGGLE:) I don't mean this. I mean....

NICK Oh, that's good. (LAST OUNCE OF PROFESSIONALISM AS HE ALSO...) Have to do the break-up on camera. You got to get a pap to snap them.

TILLY (MOUTH FULL, THEN:) I'll get one.

NICK Need tears, in the street – (TILLY MOUTHFULLY INTERJECTS) – it needs running mascara and thongs. (BARELY COHERENT) I'll write it. Do it. Do....anything....

AND AS HE CONTINUES MOANING:

TROLLOPE At this moment she did feel that Nicholas had done much for her, and that she would willingly make him some return of friendship. Of any feeling of another sort, she was absolutely innocent.

MOAN-SLURP-MIX TO:

TRAFFIC, TAXIS, DISTANT LOUD MUSIC  
OVER WHICH:

MAG Just what does Sara (below) make of her boyfriend Flex's new interest for three-in-a-bed romps (left, reconstruction). From the look of her face as she walked into the MTV Awards, we don't think she'll be making up the numbers.

SCENE 6.            EXT. NIGHTCLUB. NIGHT.

MOTHER AND SON APPROACHING EACH OTHER.

FLEX She's bloody locked herself in the bogs.

TILLY What do you mean?

FLEX You know Sara. She won't do it.

PAPARAZZO (OTHER SIDE OF THE STREET) She ready yet, Tills? It's freezing out here, you know.

TILLY (THIN-LIPPED) Get her out here and get her crying in front of that camera.

FLEX She's having a little trouble standing. Three lines and two tazzies.

TILLY (STILL TASTING IT) If you knew what I did to get you this.

FLEX She's insisting on fifty percent.

TILLY I promised the pap fifty percent. Which leaves you nothing.

FLEX I told you this wouldn't fly.

TILLY Tell her – tell her you'll dump her.

FLEX That may be the problem.

TILLY (MOMENTARILY BAFFLED) What is?

FLEX We split up this morning.

TILLY You're splitting up now, Flex, darling.

FLEX No, we really did split up this morning. I mean all those wrinkles, round her eyes, I mean, she's almost thirty!

TILLY They can photoshop, can't they? We need her or our three-page special is up shit -

FLEX We can do another.

TILLY We're running out of options. In all honesty. Darling.

A MOMENTARY PAUSE.  
FROM ACROSS THE STREET:

PAPARAZZO Come on, Tills. Get her out, will you?

TAXIS AND PEOPLE ARRIVING IN THE BACKGROUND.

TILLY Who's that? Over there.

FLEX No idea.

TILLY                    It's that Mehmoud girl, isn't it?

FLEX                    Who?

TILLY                    Her father's just moved here. Gus Mehmoud. So rich he gets people to do his breathing for him.

FLEX                    Why's she all on her own?

TILLY                    Go and kiss her.

FLEX                    What?

TILLY                    So Sara won't do break-up shots but we can still do Who's The New Girl In The Life Of? – and What Does Sara Say About? – and Flex Says Good Riddance To Cradle Snatcher.

FLEX                    Have I got to? Kiss her mouth?

TILLY                    You never complained before.

FLEX                    She's not...she looks geeky.

TILLY                    I'm not asking you to marry her, Flex, just get snapped. (PUSHING HIM OVER) Go start a story. I'll tell the pap.

FLEX                    I want seventy percent.

TILLY                    Shhh.

A FEW PACES THEN:

FLEX                    Hullo.

MARIE ALL BUT SCREAMS IN SURPRISE

FLEX                    Sorry, didn't mean to -

MARIE                    No, sorry, hi.

FLEX                    You like...you like...you know, Indie-Emo-Blues?

MARIE                    Sorry?

FLEX                    You here for the band? Tonight? The music. The band that's playing in the thing.

MARIE                    Very much. I like it. I'm waiting for....you know.

A SILENCE. THIS IS DIFFICULT.

FLEX                    My name's Flex.

MARIE                    I know that. I used to watch you play.

FLEX                    That was then.

MARIE                    Sorry. I'm Marie.

FLEX                    I know that too. Thought you'd be surrounded by people.

MARIE                    I'm kind of new in London. Everyone said I should come, but I don't know anyone.

FLEX                    You know me now.

MARIE                    Great. Hello. That's great.

MORE DIFFICULT SILENCE. THEN:

FLEX                    Can I kiss you?

MARIE                    What?

FLEX                    Kiss you. Like, you know, kiss you.

MARIE                    What? I don't understand.

FLEX                    I'm good at it. Here.

AND HE STEPS FORWARD AND KISSES HER.  
SHE HALF-SQUEALS, HALF-SUBMITS

AND A HAILSTORM OF CAMERAS SHOOTING WITH TILLY ADDING:

TILLY                    That's it. That's my boy. Isn't he beautiful?

END OF EPISODE

# the way we live right now

## episode 2

### cast

1. TROLLOPE
2. MEHMOUD
3. MARIE
4. CROLL
5. FLEX
6. PAUL

### IN TROLLOPIA:

TROLLOPE

It was an established fact that Mr Ghassan Mehmoud had made wealth. Wealth generally supposed to be fathomless, bottomless, endless. He had enormous dealings in other countries and now found that British freedom alone would allow him to enjoy, with negligible taxation, the fruits of his industry. He could make or mar any company by buying or selling stock, and could make money dear or cheap as he pleased.

MEHMOUD

(ON PHONE, THICK LEVANTINE ACCENT AND A LOOSE GRASP OF ENGLISH SYNTAX) Mervyn, very much I like help...But already I give to RBS, to Northern Wreck, to Bears Stern, everyone ask me to help....You know what I want in return.....No, for my daughter also, we both wish be British. Right now, we use passport from Barbuda....Long story.....You tell me how much passport cost, I write cheque....(DISAPPOINTED) That is shame, Mervyn, I want do business. Maybe now I go to Sarko....I know, I know, Carla's like that....I think about it....No, Mervyn, I ring you.

### AND CROSS THIS OVER WITH:

SCENE 7.INT. MARIE'S PENTHOUSE. TIME.

MAG (TITLE:) At home in Belgravia with Ghassan Mehmoud and his daughter, Marie - share their delight at their new home in London. (TEXT:) It's an ordinary scene from happy family life, except Gus (above right) is one of the biggest players in global finance and Marie (above left) is just starting her degree in Assyrian History at London University. That's quite a father-daughter combo. Below left, in their state-of-the-art, onyx and copper kitchen, Gus and Marie set about cooking tonight's supper. "Marie's mother died when she was quite young," adds Gus –tears glistening his eyes – "So I've had to teach Marie how to cook and everything like that." "I had to learn," adds Marie, with a twinkle, "Because Dad's a really terrible cook." And when he playfully raises a hand to smack her, you can see the love between them.

MEHMOUD You need to stop flinching that way.

MARIE (MOSTLY AMERICAN, FAINTEST TOUCH OF THE LEVANT) Go talk to Pavlov.

MEHMOUD Who?

MARIE (OF MAGAZINE) Why did we agree to do this?

MEHMOUD It was your idea.

MARIE I didn't even say any of this.

MEHMOUD Who cares? It's amazing, me I pay them write this about us.

MARIE What do you care?

MEHMOUD My image. My public persona. (HE HAS LEARNED THESE WORDS) Everyone tell me, now, even in the City. You want to end up like Conrad?

MARIE They can't stop you if you keep making money.

MEHMOUD You want be part of somewhere?

MARIE                    It's not the most important thing in my life.

MEHMOUD                How about British passport? You like make queue up with all these foreigners, you do that?

MARIE                    "Foreigners"? – they're us, our people.

MEHMOUD                I British. I am going be British. I will be part of Britain. No more they look down on me.

MARIE                    They could give you ten passports and they'd still look down on you.

HE SLAPS HER.  
A SHOCKED, BUT UNSURPRISED YOWL FROM MARIE.

MEHMOUD                Never you talk to me like that.

MARIE                    I'm sorry, Baba.

MEHMOUD                Both, we both become British. Or we both in danger.

MARIE                    Yes, Baba.

SMASH CUT INTO:

MAG                      Normally shy Marie Mehmoud (above) showed her colours when she clinched with not-quite-so-shy Flex Carbury outside the MTV Awards last week.

ECONOMIST              Ghassan Mehmoud (left, addressing Pension Fund Managers) continues to cut a swathe through City trading floors, making leverage calls where Damon Buffini and Philip Green fear to tread.

GUARDIAN                At a dinner to honour Lord Al-Ansari (inset) the renowned heart surgeon, everyone looked away when Gus Mehmoud (above) was served with three writs by shareholders from companies he previously managed through his Cyprus holding funds. He laughed it off and doubled his donation.

MAG                               What were you thinking of, Marie? Flex Carbury's tongue half way to your tonsils. (clockwise, from left, before, during and after) Get a room! Get a mouthguard! Does your Dad know? Puuuuhhhlease.

CUT TO:

SCENE 8.                   EXT. UCL. DAY.

CALLING, OUT OF NOWHERE:

CROLL                       Hi. Marie! Ready to go?

MARIE                       (TURNING, SURPRISED) Miss Croll? What are you doing here?

CROLL                       Your father told me to pick you up. Yes? The dinner? Here let me take some of those for you. (HUGE PILE OF BOOKS)

MARIE                       If you could just take that one. (APOLOGISING) Been raiding the library.

SAF                           Don't you buy your own copies? We could have the office courier them over to wherever –

MARIE                       I want to do it properly. Like everyone else.

CROLL                       I've got a couple of your dresses in the back of the car. We'll find you somewhere to change.

MARIE                       I told my father, I don't want to go.

CROLL                       It's very important to him. Do you realise who's going to be there?

MARIE                       Fat Saudis and everyone else who wants their money.

CROLL                       Blair, Soros, maybe even Gates.

MARIE                       That's my Dad's life, I just want to stick to my degree, my research.

CROLL                    There's nothing to be scared of. It's just a dinner.

MARIE                    (THIS HAS HIT THE MARK) I don't want to be his little add-on. His little decoration.

CROLL                    You know he wants you to take his place one day. Like Elizabeth Murdoch. Like Jacqueline Gold.

MARIE                    No-one's taking the business off him. Ever. He wants me running round, his little go-for.

CROLL                    I think he's got me for that.

MARIE                    And he'll sit me next to some man, someone old guy he thinks I should go out with to help him seal some deal...it's disgusting.

CROLL                    You owe your father everything. All the money, he made it from scratch.

MARIE                    Several times.

CROLL                    You know what, Marie, I've worked for your father for many years now. And he's always wanted the best for you.

MARIE                    That's it. I don't want it. I want to be left alone. I got myself into this university, you know.

CROLL                    (SLY) In spite of his donation.

MARIE                    I did the interview. I had the grades. This is what I want to do.

CROLL                    Shall we go now? It starts it less than an hour.

MARIE                    I'm not doing it.

ANOTHER DIFFICULT SILENCE

CROLL                    (COLD) You were in one of those magazines last week.

MARIE                    (HORRIFIED) You saw it?

CROLL Lexis-Nexis.

MARIE What did – ? [my father say?]

CROLL I made sure he didn't see it.

MARIE That man, he just came up to me, kissed me like that. Made sure all the photographers were there.

CROLL Are you dating him?

MARIE (AS IF) What? Me? Go out with Flex Carbury?

CROLL (THE THREAT IS CLEAR) Then I don't need to tell your father anything about it.

A MOMENT

MARIE Where's the car?

CROLL This way. I brought that Vera Wang and the Ben de Lisi, and a whole lot of shoes. Some of the stuff from Van Cleef. You're going to make him very happy.

CUT TO:

SCENE 9. INT. MEHMOUD'S OFFICE. AFTERNOON.

PAUL (ENTERING) Mister Mehmoud?

MEHMOUD You got twenty minutes, Montauk.

PAUL Montague. Paul Montague.

MEHMOUD Clock is running.

PAUL Like to make a billion dollars every year for twenty-five years, sir?

MEHMOUD Think that is an original opening gambit?

- PAUL Like to have the patent on a cure for influenza, MRSA, H5N1?
- TROLLOPE Paul Montague was only a young man when he took himself and his money out to California. He had now returned, barely older, with little cash in hand, but with the security of a medical patent.
- PAUL Bacteriophages. You've never heard of them. They're the predators on bacteria. 'Phage', it's a Latin word, means 'eat' – these guys, they eat up the bacteria and make more of themselves.
- TROLLOPE He began his account, and exhibited considerable skill by telling it all in comparatively few words. And yet he was gorgeous and florid.
- PAUL Bacteria build resistance to antibiotics – they're just inert chemicals. But phages evolve with bacteria. Resistance is – as they say - futile.
- TROLLOPE If brilliantly printed programmes might avail anything, with gorgeous diagrams and beautiful little pictures, Mr Montague had certainly done much.
- PAUL Look at this – (PICKING IT UP) - this glass of water. About a million phages in there. They're all around us, sir. I met this guy, this bacteriologist in the US – he's a genius and he knows how to extract them and make them work.
- MEHMOUD Work? What work they do?
- PAUL They're going to cure every disease. Bigger than penicillin. Bigger than Prozac and viagra rolled into one.
- MEHMOUD LAUGHS
- PAUL Do you know how you make vaccines, right here, right now?
- MEHMOUD I never asked.

- PAUL                   Embrionated chicken eggs. Go to a vaccine plant and you'll find row upon row of them. And how much vaccine do you get from each egg? Ten mill.
- MEHMOUD            So?
- PAUL                   And when SARS hits? When the Al-Qaeda crazies go viral? (QUICK BACK PEDAL) No offence.
- MEHMOUD            None taken.
- PAUL                   The chickens can't do it. It takes them months, years to make enough for the whole country.
- MEHMOUD            What else they got to do?
- PAUL                   With Phage Therapy you sidestep the whole viral vaccine process. You sequence the DNA of the virus, you replicate it, you whack it in a bacteriophage coating and whomf you can make vats of it, dole it out.
- MEHMOUD            What about this HIV thing?
- PAUL                   (NOT ANSWERING) We haven't even touched on drug resistance. Why does MRSA create such problems? Every time you total it with an antibiotic – the bacteria evolve, they get stronger. Blame Darwin. But every time the bacteria evolve, phages also evolve.
- MEHMOUD            How much do you need?
- PAUL                   We're ready to go to Phase III trials. Twelve million sterling.
- MEHMOUD            Twelve?
- PAUL                   (IS THAT TOO MUCH?) Ten would get us there. Look at Powderject. The great needle-free injection system. Everyone invested – didn't know what to do with all the money. The CEO got a peerage, got a job in government.
- MEHMOUD            (VERY INTERESTED) He becomes Lord you say?

PAUL                   And now he's racing at Le Mans.

MEHMOUD            Much I rather raise a hundred.

PAUL                   Hundred million?

MEHMOUD            Ten million – not even breakfast to me. Initial Public Offering, say, three hundred and fifty million. Four fifty. Vertical integration, we own patent, we do production, distribution, everything.

PAUL                   (EXCITED) You really think we need that much?

MEHMOUD            Why else you come to me? You get Nobel Pease prize, I get Lordship, we both happy.

PAUL                   You think you can raise four hundred million?

MEHMOUD            Leave it with me.

AND CRASH INTO:

MAG                   He spent last week denying the rumours, but now Flex Carbury (right) is making no secret about his hot new squeeze, Marie Mehmoud (left) -

TROLLOPE           Marie Mehmoud had newly recognised that she had an identity of her own in the disposition of which she herself should have a voice.

MAG                   - she's the daughter of uber-financier Gus Mehmoud (inset).

TROLLOPE           And she did like Felix Carbury. He was beautiful, had the manners of a gentleman and had no feeling of repugnance at declaring a passion which he did not feel.

MAG                   Snapped here [CLICK] in her Porsche Cayenne Turbo, [CLICK] the pair didn't look like just friends any more. Watch that gear stick, Flex. Oops, hang on, the Turbo's automatic, so that's no gearstick.

TROLLOPE                   And as long as Marie was by his side, he would not want for ready money.

SCENE 10.                   INT/EXT. FLEX'S CAR. NIGHT.

FLEX                         Well, what about this...(RUMMAGING THROUGH BAG)...I got this invite – some Louis Vuitton launch, Bond Street.

MARIE                      Will it be crowded?

FLEX                         “Champagne and canapés.” (HE’S UNIMPRESSED)  
Probably not.

MARIE                      We could -

FLEX                         Doesn’t sound very interesting, does it?

MARIE                      What is interesting, Flex?

FLEX                         There’s a squat party tonight down the Old Kent Road.

MARIE                      That’s in Monopoly.

FLEX                         Sorry?

MARIE                      Brown. Very low rent.

FLEX                         Exactly.

MARIE                      I’ve never been to a squat. It sounds...it’s scary.

FLEX SIGHS

FLEX                         We could go to Cirque? We could go dancing?

MARIE                      Do you think – ?

FLEX                         I love it when you dance. You dance really well.

MARIE                      No-one’s ever said that before. People don’t often tell me anything about myself.

FLEX I want to tell you everything about you, from A to Z.

MARIE But you don't know it all.

FLEX That's the point. The finding out's the fun. Like I already know what you like best in the whole world.

MARIE Go on then.

FLEX Somebody who likes you best in the whole world.

MARIE Don't make fun of me.

FLEX You know who likes you better than any one else in the world?

MARIE Stop this, Flexy.

FLEX It's me. I do.

TROLLOPE He looked into her face and she thought it very sweet. He had studied the words as a lesson, and, repeating them as a lesson, he did it fairly well.

MARIE Couldn't we just go a restaurant, you know, talk? About things.

FLEX About what? (HE'S ALREADY FORGOTTEN WHAT HE SAID BEFORE) What things?

MARIE You wanted to tell me everything about me. (IT'S GETTING EMBARRASSING) Never mind.

A MOMENT

TROLLOPE He was beautiful to look at. His hair, was soft and silky. His eyes were made beautiful by the perfect arch of the perfect eyebrow. To her he seemed like a god.

FLEX Please don't call me Flexy.

MARIE I just...Sorry.

TROLLOPE            If she might be allowed to give herself to him, she thought that she would be contented.

FLEX                    A restaurant. Alright. Look, I've got nothing on me, can you pay?

MARIE                 Oh. (MAKING THE BEST OF IT) That's cool.

HE STARTS THE CAR

FLEX                    Mind if we score some gear on the way? I can get my man to meet us.

MARIE                 (WELL OUT OF DEPTH) Right. Cool.

HE GUNS THE CAR AWAY FROM THE KERB

AND STRAIGHT INTO:

SCENE 11.            INT. MEHMOUD'S OFFICE. DAY.

MEHMOUD            I am thinking. I like your bacterio - We need two-street approach.

PAUL                    Right. Sir?

MEHMOUD            We got the patent. Now we need image. We call this PowerCure. Simple, strong, we give people confidence. Can't trust banks, you can trust us. We get some serious high-flyers. I want three big names from last Tony Blair cabinet – what's Prescott doing, and the fat one in a wig - Falconer, and the red-haired one –

PAUL                    Sir?

MEHMOUD            Scottish one, stupid voice, looks like something from that film - Lord Rings.

PAUL                    ...Robin...Cook?

MEHMOUD            Him. Get him.

PAUL He's dead, sir.

MEHMOUD (STILL HOPEFUL) People know that, or not?

PAUL Largely.

MEHMOUD (UNSTOPPABLE) I want somebody from Oval Office....Collin Powell, he will need money. Kissinger, he still alive?

PAUL How do you tell?

MEHMOUD (CONTINUING) That's the serious guys. Heavy-weight. No time to read documents. Not time to get in our way. What about Thatcher, get her?

PAUL She's not quite – she's not as sharp as she once was.

MEHMOUD Put her on audit committee.

PAUL I'll get on to her office.

MEHMOUD Then – this is what I been thinking - we need the other street. Charity stuff, the I Love The Whole World guys, Get Rid of All Poverty and Make All Sadness Illegal stuff.

PAUL I don't quite... [understand]

MEHMOUD We develop drugs – make lots of money - and at same time, we get charity thing, The PowerCure Foundation. This charity, they gets drugs at cost. Everyone sees we being good. They make me Lord. Get me Desmond Tutu, get that woman who runs Sierra Leone, then star ones, that skinny one who never smile – Beckham wife – this AntDec man I read about, Jordan, she get cancer, she's good, I want people like that. And then some sport people - people believe them, are there any in England?

PAUL Rooney, Flintoff, Beckham...

MEHMOUD Tennis is good. It's international. And it's big money. Federer, no, let's keep it British - Murray, Carbury –

PAUL He's retired.

MEHMOUD His age? I should be so lucky.

PAUL Injury.

MEHMOUD I read about him. Some magazine, he says he wants to do charity work.

PAUL Actually, I know his sister. I'll find out.

MEHMOUD We cure Africa in a week. They won't be able to resist.

CUT TO:

MAG Looks like Marie Mehmoud (left) is finally taming the wild man of tennis. They were actually spotted leaving the MOBOs before 3am. Personal best, Flex.

SCENE 12.                    INT. MEHMOUD'S. NIGHT.

FLEX AND MARIE ARE SNEAKING IN THE DOOR,  
MAYBE A LITTLE THE WORSE FOR WEAR.

MARIE                    (ANXIOUS) Shhh. Quiet.

FLEX                    We'll be alright, no-one'll hear us.

MARIE                    I'm really not supposed to take anyone up to my flat after -

FLEX                    You're a big girl now. Time to play big girls' -

HE STOPS DEAD

MARIE                    Hello, Baba.

MEHMOUD                (COOL, CAREFUL) My darling.

MARIE                    We've been out. Flex is just seeing me safely home.

MEHMOUD I see.

A MOMENT

MEHMOUD Introduce me.

MARIE This is Flex Carbury.

FLEX Hello. Sir.

MEHMOUD Tennis player?

FLEX Had an injury. Had to -

MEHMOUD I hear 'bout you. You like charity?

FLEX It's terrific. I love it.

MEHMOUD Want cure AIDS?

MARIE Baba, Flex just wanted to make sure I was safely –

MEHMOUD All Africa. Cure AIDS, cure all the diseases?

FLEX Sounds like a jolly good idea.

WHAT THE HELL DO I SAY NEXT?

MEHMOUD I need people like you, Carbury.

FLEX Sir?

MEHMOUD Murray says he is too busy.

FLEX Andy has a very high opinion of himself.

MEHMOUD I put together new charity. We want to end big diseases.

FLEX I hate to think of...people getting ill.

MEHMOUD Join us?

FLEX I would be honoured.

MEHMOUD (WALKING AWAY) Ring my office in morning. Marie gives you direct line.

FLEX Right. Good.

MEHMOUD CLOSING A DOOR BEHIND HIM.  
DISCREETLY:

MARIE (DELIGHTED) He likes you.

FLEX Think?

MARIE Makes two of us.

FLEX I like you. I like you a lot.

TROLLOPE He had not scorned her and he was so beautiful! At last a man had spoken to her whom she could love.

MARIE I mean...(WHISPERED)...Flex, do you really?

END OF EPISODE

# the way we live right now

## episode 3

### cast

1. TROLLOPE
  2. ROGER
  3. HETTA
  4. PAUL
  5. FLEX
  6. MEHMOUD
  7. TILLY
- and TEENAGER

- TROLLOPE            There are both men and women to whom even the disappointments of love are charming. It is sweet to such persons to be melancholy, sweet to pine, sweet to feel that they are now wretched after a romantic fashion as have been those heroes and heroines of whose sufferings they have read.
- MAGAZINE            Chantelle tells us exclusively (pages 3 to 7): “Of course I don’t miss him. But when I see him with that slut, I want to rip her eyes out.”
- TROLLOPE            There was nothing of this with Roger Lloyd-Montague. He had, as he believed, found the woman who was worthy of his love.
- ROGER                From: roger@purefood.co.uk  
To: hetta@helpaid.org.uk  
What do you fancy for supper? We’ve got some gorgeous celeriac just in.

MEHMOUD                   From: mehmoud@powercure.co.uk  
                                   To: roger@purefood.co.uk  
                                   Subject: A Chance To Truly Change The World  
 Roger,  
 We haven't yet had the opportunity to meet but let me tell you, I insist on ordering all our groceries from your stores. Including the staff's own food.  
 I am writing now because I am assembling a board of trustees for a new charitable foundation which will be enabled to buy and distribute PowerCure vaccines to the Third World at cost.  
 Do you want to cure AIDS in Africa? If you do, we need you as a trustee of this foundation.  
 Gus

ROGER                       From: roger@purefood.co.uk  
                                   To: mehmoud@powercure.co.uk  
                                   RE: A Chance To Truly Change The World  
 Thanks for the offer. I am too busy.

MEHMOUD                   If I might just add, we are hoping to assemble a board of trustees that includes Penny Lancaster Stewart, Peter Fincham, Will Young, Konnie Huq, Calum Best, Timothy Garton Ash, Jemima Khan and Flex Carbury.

PAUL                        From: paul@powercure.co.uk  
                                   FW: RE: A Chance To Truly Change The World  
 Rog, Gus has copied me in your emails. All trustees will be issued with ten thousand shares in PowerCure as a remuneration.

ROGER                       Paul, please, you know me better than that. But glad to hear you're back. How about Middlesex versus Kent, Lord's, Friday?

SCENE 13.                A MOBILE PHONE CONVERSATION. AFTERNOON.

A MOBILE PHONE CONVERSATION.  
 WE ARE WITH HETTA, AT A DAYCENTRE FOR 'CHALLENGING' TEENAGERS. PAUL IS ON THE OTHER END OF THE PHONE, IN AN EMPTY, ECHOING OFFICE SPACE.

HETTA 'Course I did, Paul. When my emails started bouncing back from your hotmail address as well.

PAUL I'm sorry, Hetta, things just got more complicated than I –

HETTA Not even a phone number.

PAUL Are you at work? Where are you?

HETTA I'm at one of the children's centres we fund.

PAUL I thought your charity only did the Third World?

HETTA When were you last in Hackney?

PAUL I should let you get – [on]

HETTA It's OK, right now, I'm just hanging out, watching. Where are you?

PAUL Bishopsgate. One of those rent-by-the-hour office places.

HETTA You've been back long enough to set up offices?

PAUL I wanted to get myself settled. Get something happening before I...

HETTA And what exactly is happening?

PAUL (EXCITED) I've got the patent on this new, well, it's actually a cure, a whole new way of vaccinating, it's amazing, it could change – could cure millions of – it's not really even vaccinations, it's more of -

HETTA (SERIOUS, FROM A DEPTH OF HURT) Why did you do it, Paul?

PAUL What? (TO SOMEONE ENTERING HIS OFFICE) No, sorry, thanks, I don't.

HETTA What?

PAUL Just someone, you know, selling sandwiches.

HETTA Answer me. Why did you disappear like that?

PAUL (BREATH IN) Things got complicated, Hetta. I didn't feel it was...

HETTA What do you mean "things got complicated" – more than just business?

PAUL Kind of everything. People.

HETTA Paul?

PAUL Everyone. Everything. I went a bit crazy.

HETTA Doesn't mean you have to totally break contact. We were....I thought you and me -

PAUL I know it wasn't right.

HETTA I thought we were friends. And then you completely go off radar.

PAUL California. Los Angeles. It really is hateful. I never want to go back.

HETTA What are you going to do here?

PAUL Get investment in my patent. It's an amazing breakthrough, could really change – it could eradicate several major diseases. (THEN HE REALISES) So there's all that. And then I'd like spend plenty of time with you.

HETTA That would be...except I'm pretty busy at the moment.

PAUL Doing what?

HETTA (AVOIDANCE) Who was your meeting with?

PAUL Guy called Ghassan Mehmoud.

HETTA I read about him, he took over that business, sacked half the staff, took the pension fund.

PAUL Tripled the profits.

HETTA Is that really all that counts?

PAUL He's a venture capitalist. I need people like him, keep my ear to the ground.

HETTA Good position for when they want to shaft you.

PAUL Hetta, don't.

HETTA Sorry.

#### A DIFFICULT MOMENT

PAUL Do you see much of Roger these days?

HETTA Kind of. (MORE SERIOUS) Look, Paul, I've got to tell you –

PAUL I've really missed him. He's suggesting we meet up at the cricket.

HETTA Paul, I've got tell you...since you've been away -

TEENAGER (SHOUTING, CUTTING ACROSS THIS) Miss, Miss!

PAUL What the hell's that?

HETTA (TO TEENAGER) What is it?

TEENAGER Chug, in the kitchen, he's cut himself.

HETTA Where's the supervisor?

TEENAGER There's blood like everywhere. 'Sdisgusting.

SHE IS MOVING ACROSS THE ROOM NOW, PHONE STILL TO HER EAR.

PAUL Sounds bad.

HETTA                   Probably nothing, but I'd better.

PAUL                    Can I call you later?

HETTA                   (READJUSTMENT) I'll ring you. If I can.

SHE SWITCHES OFF THE PHONE. SHE IS NOW IN THE KITCHEN AREA.

HETTA                   What have you done?

CUT STRAIGHT TO:

NEWSPAPER            Gus Mehmoud (above, right) and previously unknown instapreneur, Paul Montague (above, left) leaving Goldman Sachs yesterday. Both refused to answer questions. The City is awash with rumours that they're about to announce something big.

SCENE 14.            INT. ROGER AND HETTA'S FLAT: KITCHEN. EVENING.

HETTA IS JUST COMING IN THE DOOR.  
SHE'S TIRED.  
ROGER IS CHOPPING VEGETABLES.

ROGER                   Darling, where've you been?

HETTA                   Sorry, have I done something wrong?

ROGER                   Sorry, no, I mean, sorry, I was worried about you.

HETTA                   For God's sake, can't I have even an hour to myself?

ROGER                   'Course.

HETTA                   Have to account for every second of my - ?

ROGER                   Alright, alright, alright.

A MOMENT.  
SHE PUTS SOME THINGS DOWN, TAKES OFF A COAT.

ROGER I'm doing one my special minestrone.

HETTA Thought we could get a take-away. Or something.

ROGER Why do you want to poison yourself?

HETTA Don't make me save the world every day, Roger.

ROGER (SYMPATHY) You're tired.

HETTA Dead right, I am.

ROGER I mean, these days you're always tired when you're with me.

HETTA (LAST WEEKEND'S ARGUMENT) Just because, last weekend I had to deal with Flex and couldn't spend –

ROGER That's not the issue. Though I am bloody sick of the way Flex eats up your time.

HETTA It's Mum I'm worried about.

ROGER Either way, I'm going to do something about it.

HETTA I love the way you think Flex'll listen to you.

ROGER I don't want to talk about him. Not now, not again. I want to talk about us.

HETTA (GROAN) It's all you ever want to talk about.

ROGER (BLURTED) At this rate, even if we conceived immediately, I'd be fifty before our child was a teenager.

HETTA Please, Roger, you've got to give me time.

ROGER Which I haven't got.

HETTA I'm the one with the ticking clock actually.

ROGER Give up work, or just work part-time on your own terms, doing only what you want. I can't see the hitch, I really can't.

HETTA                   The way you talk about it, like it's a military operation.

ROGER                   I want to do a bit of planning and suddenly I'm an emotional fascist.

HETTA                   Roger, I'm sorry, I'm not ready for children. Not now. Maybe not ever.

ROGER                   OK. (IT ISN'T)

TROLLOPE               He looked into her face as she spoke, and gradually began to perceive the working of her mind. He felt numbed in all the joints of his mind by sorrow. There was but one thing for him — to persevere.

ROGER                   I'll finish the minestrone. You need something to warm you up.

A GROAN OF LIGHT DESPAIR FROM HETTA

AND CUT TO:

TROLLOPE               A few days after, Roger fixed his resolve. The condition of Felix's affairs was parlous and there was an indispensable necessity — so Roger thought — of taking steps by which the young man's excesses might be brought to an end.

SCENE 15.               A MOBILE PHONE CONVERSATION. MIDDAY.

ROGER                   Only last week you were saying you're on the verge of bankruptcy.

TILLY                    I'd had a bit too much to drink.

ROGER                   You showed me your credit card bills. You're paying ludicrous interest so that Flex can blow it on drink and drugs.

TILLY                    He has to stay in the circuit. He's had some bad luck lately. We've got several promising meetings with —

ROGER                    You've got to cut him loose, Tilly. Don't let him drag you down.

TILLY                    I'm just worried that anything you say will drive him away

ROGER                    We can only hope it will. Preferably straight to rehab.

TILLY                    What are you going to do?

ROGER                    I'm on my way round there right now.

TILLY                    (SHOCK) Now?

ROGER                    I'm almost at your front door.

TILLY                    He'll never let you in.

ROGER                    I have Hetta's key.

TILLY                    (PICTURE THE SCENE) Oh my God.

ROGER                    The sooner you and Hetta stop being scared of him, the better.

AS ROGER UNLOCKS THE DOOR, MIX INTO:

SCENE 16.            INT. FLEX'S BEDROOM. MIDDAY.

ROGER IS SHAKING FLEX AWAKE.

ROGER                    Wake up, come on, Flex, come on.

FLEX                    I am awake. Was waiting for you to go away.

ROGER                    It's gone twelve.

FLEX                    Ever considered a job as the speaking clock?

ROGER                    I spoke to your mother and she –

FLEX                    (AS HE SITS UP IN BED) But then again you might not have quite enough personality for it.

ROGER                    She tells me you took another twenty thousand from her.

FLEX                     My cards are maxed out, Roger – Hey, what’s it to you?

ROGER                    Tilly’s stressed, so Hetta’s stressed.

FLEX                     Fancy yourself as head of the household, eh?

ROGER                    Someone has to knock some sense into you.

FLEX                     (GETTING OUT OF BED) You want the twenty k back? Is that it?

ROGER                    Put some clothes on, for God’s sake.

FLEX                     (AS HE GOES THROUGH HIS TROUSER POCKETS)  
That’s what it’s supposed to look like, Roger, sorry if it’s a bit of a shock. (THROWING IT DOWN) There’s ten k. And that’s another fifteen k, in dollars.

ROGER                    I want to know where this cash came from.

FLEX                     Had a good day on the horses. The dogs. The lottery.

ROGER                    Are you selling drugs again?

FLEX                     Would you mind very much if I had a shower while your lecture continues?

HE IS WALKING THROUGH TO THE BATHROOM

ROGER                    Do you intend to live off your mother for the rest of your life?

FLEX                     Actually, Roger, I haven’t asked her for anything for weeks. I might even be moving out soon.

ROGER                    Then why is she borrowing money from me?

THE POWER SHOWER WHUMPS ON AND FLEX WALKS BACK IN

FLEX                     My mother loves playing the victim.

ROGER Do you know how much CO2 is generated by a power shower?

FLEX Let me tell you, everything my father did to my mother – she asked for it, she wanted it.

ROGER Your father had issues.

FLEX My father had balls of steel.

ROGER (REPULSED) Please.

FLEX So if you'll excuse me, I intend to go and wash mine.

AND FLEX STRIDES INTO THE BATHROOM.  
SOON HE IS UNDER THE SHOWER, SINGING, BADLY.

CUT TO:

TROLLOPE And at the end of a month, the company was fully launched in England, with Mr Mehmoud as chairman.

MIX INTO:

CAMERAS CLICKING, JOURNOS SHOUTING QUESTIONS  
QUIETENING IT:

SCENE 17. INT. PRESS CONFERENCE. DAY.

MEHMOUD (READING A PREPARED TEXT) Ladies and gentlemen, thank you, thank you. Today, PowerCure launches the most exciting discovery in medicine since penicillin. The Initial Public Offering is set for Friday, with an initial expected price of around £4.70. Goldman Sachs, the underwriters, confidently expect the closing price at the end of the first day's trading to be in excess of ten pounds.

TROLLOPE To one side stood Paul Montague, silent, or certainly not invited to speak. For it was felt that Mr Mehmoud was himself so great a tower of strength that the Company was made.

AND OUT INTO:

SCENE 18.            INT. CARBURYS'. EVENING.

FLEX                    Hullo, what are you doing here?

HETTA                 Wanted to talk to Mum.

FLEX                    She's just parking the car.

HE IS GETTING HIMSELF A DRINK FROM THE FRIDGE

FLEX                    Want something?

HETTA                 Need a clear head.

FLEX                    I wish your man had paid me the same courtesy.

HETTA                 (TENSE) Sorry about Roger. Couldn't bloody stop him.

FLEX                    Things not good at Chateau Roger? Organic, home-bred tofu finally got to you?

HETTA                 The food's fine. It's the attitudes that go with it.

FLEX                    He told me my shower was melting the polar ice-caps.

HETTA                 He won't flush the toilet, even when I – I won't say.

THEY ARE STARTING TO LAUGH ABOUT IT

FLEX                    It's not like he looks so healthy on it all.

HETTA                 And he hates your friend Mehmoud.

FLEX                    His daughter's my friend.

HETTA                 Thought you were on his all-star charity line-up?

FLEX I am, I've signed up, I'm on the PowerCure Foundation. Don't know what I have to do. But they pay me to – (CLOCKING HIS SISTER'S FACE) - what's up, sis?

HETTA Roger and me – that's why I - talk to Mum - we're thinking about a trial separation. Just a few months.

FLEX Right. OK. Wow, you're going to miss that flat of his.

HETTA Is that all you think of?

FLEX (TRYING TO SOUND EMOTIONALLY ENGAGED) No, sorry, you're right, this is bad. What happened?

TILLY (APPROACHING, TENSE, ALMOST ANGRY) Did you just say what I think you said?

HETTA Mum?

TILLY You and Roger simply cannot split up.

HETTA I wish it was that simple.

TILLY (DESPAIR) What is wrong with my children?

HETTA Mum. Please. I'm still a bit upset, you know.

TILLY Don't I deserve anything from you? Roger's got money, security. You're expecting me to take you in? How am I supposed to pay for everything?

HETTA You think that's the only thing that matters? Right now?

FLEX Actually, you know, I've got a plan.

TILLY (ALL GENTLENESS) Darling?

FLEX You know, I thought, maybe, if, Marie and I got married.

HETTA Married!?

TILLY You would? I mean, you want to? I mean, she wants to?

FLEX                    It would help, wouldn't it?

TILLY                    Darling, that's brilliant.

HETTA                    (APPALLED) Mum, this isn't 1875. You can't just marry someone to get money.

TILLY                    (AMAZED) What? (EVEN MORE AMAZED) What? Half of London's doing it. Heather Mills, all those girls with their footballers? Why should we get left behind?

CUT TO:

SCENE 19.            INT. LORD'S: THE LONG ROOM. AFTER LUNCH.

IN THE BACKGROUND, A COUNTY MATCH IS QUIETLY IN PROGRESS. SPORADIC APPLAUSE, DELICATE MURMURING, POST-PRANDIAL SNORING.

ROGER                    There's a champagne bar on the pavilion roof, do you realise that? Up there, above us.

PAUL                    Come on, Roger, even Lord's needs to modernise.

ROGER                    Does it? Does it really? Weren't there some virtues in the way things used to be done?

PAUL                    Let's not do this again.

ROGER                    I thought, those years, when I took you into the family business, you really understood.

PAUL                    I'll always be grateful for everything you taught me, Roger. And I wouldn't be where I am now if you hadn't let me take my capital out of the business.

ROGER                    And then you give it all to Ghassan Mehmoud.

PAUL                    So, he plays by the new rules, but he's picked up my patent and backed it, to the hilt.

- ROGER                    He's pumping the share price – what is it now, eighteen pounds fifty? – and taking his profit.
- PAUL                     The market believes in us. And we might do some good along the way.
- AN EVENT ON THE PITCH: A WICKET, LIGHT APPLAUSE.
- PAUL                     That never carried to the slips.
- ROGER                    There'll be a replay now. Because you can even trust the player these days.
- PAUL                     Roger, you've got dyspeptic.
- ROGER                    Have I? (MEANINGFULLY) Have I really?
- PAUL                     Hetta, you know, she told me about you two.
- ROGER                    Everything seemed fine. I thought we were – OK, I want children and she doesn't, yet. And then the other day it just all crumbled and she packed her bag. (HE KNOWS HE'S SAYING THIS:) Not long after we heard you were back.
- A PAUSE.  
THEN URGENTLY BUT IN THE UNDERTONE DEMANDED BY THE LONG ROOM:
- ROGER                    I love you, Paul, please don't do this to us.
- PAUL                     She told me you'd broken up.
- ROGER                    It's just a trial – just a few weeks apart. Some breathing space.
- PAUL                     I rang her. We had a drink? That's all.
- ROGER                    How are we going to breathe if you're sucking up all the oxygen?
- PAUL                     You're suffocating her, Rog. That's what she says.

ROGER                    I love her. Simply too much. I need one more chance to make her believe in me. Please, as my friend, as my cousin, stay out of her life until we've got this sorted. Promise me that? Will you?

A SUDDEN MOVEMENT ROUND THEM, CHAIRS PUSHED BACK.

ROGER                    Is that tea?

END OF EPISODE

# the way we live right now

## episode 4

### cast

1. TROLLOPE
2. ROGER
3. GEORGIE
4. RUBY
5. FLEX
6. LONGSTAFF
7. MEHMOUD

### SCENE 20.

### MAGAZINES.

#### MAGAZINE

What's Up Georgie Girl? Georgie Longstaff (left) spotted yesterday getting on the bus to go home from Pangaea night club. That's right, no more fresh oysters for the brewing heiress – it's strictly oyster cards for her from now on.

#### BROADSHEET

Longstaff Breweries regret to announce that the annual Longstaff Ball has been postponed for this year (see Business Pages: Breweries Severe Profits Warning, page 32).

#### MAGAZINE

Georgie Longstaff (above right) checked out of the Priors yesterday. Except our insider tells us she left her four thousand pound bill unpaid. Asked to comment, she said she was on her way to the family house in Suffolk for a rest.

### SMASH FROM THIS TO:

### SCENE 21.

### INT. LONGSTAFFS'. EVENING.

GEORGIE IS WALKING INTO THE HOUSE, SLAMMING THE DOOR BEHIND HER

GEORGIE (CALLING FOR HIM) Daddy! Daddy? What the hell have you done now?

LONGSTAFF Sorry?

GEORGIE First you tell me you can't give me any money and then –

LONGSTAFF Georgie, allow me to -

GEORGIE - you splash out on one of the ugliest, chavviest cars I have ever seen in my whole life.

LONGSTAFF (TRYING TO STOP HER) If you mean the Boxster 7 point –

GEORGIE Blacked-out windows. Dangling bling everywhere. Chrome bumpers. It just shouts Look At Me, I'm The Most Tasteless Person You Have Ever Met, not that you'd ever want to meet someone who drives a burberrymobile like that.

LONGSTAFF If I might intro - [duce you to]

GEORGIE (UNSTOPPABLE) Have we got the plumbers in or something?

MEHMOUD It's mine.

LONGSTAFF Ghassan Mehmoud, may I introduce my daughter Georgiana.

GEORGIE (NOT TURNING A HAIR, ALL CHARM) Call me Georgie. Please.

MEHMOUD Is OK to meet me, yes?

GEORGIE Pleasure. All mine.

MEHMOUD But maybe we not go to drive together?

GEORGIE I hear they handle like a dream. The famous Porsche acceleration. And horsepower like a...like a...could I have a word, Daddy?

LONGSTAFF            Would you excuse us, Gus?

MEHMOUD            Of course.

GEORGIE             Back in a jiff. Pour yourself a drink. Pour me a double.

SHE SHUTS THE DIVIDING DOORS.  
SEMI-WHISPERED:

GEORGIE             What the hell's he doing here?

LONGSTAFF           He doesn't drink, Georgie.

GEORGIE             What?

LONGSTAFF           Camel-jockeys, yes? No drinky-drink?

GEORGIE             What is that man doing in the home where I grew up? My place of sanctuary.

LONGSTAFF           I've invited him down for the weekend.

GEORGIE             (HOWLING) Now I know why you were so keen to drag me down here for the weekend.

LONGSTAFF           He's coming to watch a game tomorrow.

GEORGIE             His blackhead of a daughter isn't here, is she?

LONGSTAFF           We either get his money to recapitalise the business or we sell a whole lot of things.

GEORGIE             Not the yacht?

LONGSTAFF           And the New York apartment. And the Hockneys. And the – here's the full list.

GEORGIE             (AS SHE READS IT) We're that hard up?

LONGSTAFF           Most of the pubs are losing money. The new lager just isn't shifting. We're closing down three alcopop production lines.

We've got debts the size of Malawi. I can't get the City to take down a bond issue and I don't blame them.

GEORGIE (SEEING THIS, HORRIFIED) The London flat's on this list.

LONGSTAFF We're all going to live here in Suffolk from now on.

GEORGIE Like skanking hell I am. It's miles from anywhere. How am I going to get to town?

LONGSTAFF Make your own arrangements.

GEORGIE This poxy business hasn't paid me a dividend in three years. Even Heat magazine is laughing at me for using a bus.

LONGSTAFF (LIKE I DON'T KNOW) What do you think I do all day?

GEORGIE And this horrible little Mehmoud man is the solution?

LONGSTAFF He's interested in Albion.

GEORGIE He knows it's the only Premiership club managing to make a loss?

LONGSTAFF Since Abramovitch, a football team is the status symbol of choice for iffy financiers.

GEORGIE If he buys it, can we keep the London flat?

LONGSTAFF If he's going to buy the club, I need him buttered up, not buggered up. You haven't made a very good start.

GEORGIE He'll get everything short of a BJ.

LONGSTAFF Please, Georgina, I am your father.

GEORGIE And you don't sell the flat?

LONGSTAFF (A MOMENT'S THOUGHT, THEN:;) Deal.

SO GEORGIE RE-OPENS THE DOOR

GEORGIE Gus? How about an orange juice?

MEHMOUD I poured your double.

GEORGIE You are so thoughtful. But really, can I go and squeeze you an orange? Or two?

LONGSTAFF (TRYING TO MAKE A HEARTY JOKE OF IT) People like you are putting us out of business.

MEHMOUD I think your troubles started long before 'my people' arrived.

AND CUT TO:

SCENE 22.                    INT. CARBURY FARMHOUSE. NIGHT.

HAMMERING ON THE FRONT DOOR.

TROLLOPE Most of Roger Lloyd-Montague's week was consumed by the work at his Suffolk farm. But on this Friday night, a little shy of four in the morning, the farmhouse was roused. Tilly Carbury, apparently eager to encourage Roger's steadying influence upon her son, had invited herself and her children for the weekend. Hetta naturally declined and Felix, equally naturally, contrived to catch the latest of trains only to find himself deposited at Ipswich whither Roger had despatched a driver. Roger came down in his dressing-gown.

ROGER Coming. Coming.

AND OPENS THE FRONT DOOR

FLEX It's grundle-freezing out there.

ROGER "Hello, Roger, thanks for arranging the cab."

FLEX Got a brandy?

ROGER "Thanks for inviting me to stay for the weekend."

FLEX Got my heart set on a cognac.

ROGER "And thanks for staying up till (CHECKS) three fifty."

FLEX (AS HE SITS) That man of yours. Drives like a maniac Got a brandy? Did I already ask?

ROGER I thought I might go to bed.

FLEX Where's Ma-ma?

ROGER Went to sleep at a normal human time.

FLEX Lend me a tenner, would you?

ROGER Things that desperate?

FLEX Or a twenty. Anything nice and crisp.

ROGER How long till I get it back?

FLEX About...thirty seconds.

MEANWHILE HE STARTS TO CHOP THE LINES OF COCAINE.

ROGER For God's sake.

FLEX Have some. Might make you smile.

ROGER (HANDING OVER NOTE) Doesn't strike you as sad that you need Class A substances to make you smile?

FLEX STARTS SNIFFING UP THE LINES.  
FIRST ONE. THEN A SECOND. THEN:

FLEX Yes!

ROGER How long are you staying?

FLEX You concede to none in your hostly skills.

ROGER I need to make plans.

FLEX                    Hetta here?

ROGER                  Very funny.

FLEX                    Sorry to hear about you and her....you'll work it out.

ROGER                  Thank you also for your relationship guidance.

FLEX                    Ma-ma'll sort it for you.

ROGER                  She might if her focus was not entirely fixed upon you.  
Apparently your path must be forever smoothed.

FLEX                    (REALLY UP) That was sensational blow.

ROGER                  I'm pleased for you.

FLEX                    Need to borrow a car.

ROGER                  I'm going to bed.

ROGER IS WALKING AWAY

FLEX                    Thought I might pop in on the Longstaffs, is that such a – ?  
                                  *[weird idea]*

ROGER                  They invited me. To supper.

FLEX                    Cool, we can share a cab.

ROGER                  Because they've got the Mehmouds staying.

FLEX                    (BAD LYING) You never?

ROGER                  (2 + 2 =) I thought Tilly wanted to spend some time here on  
the farm. Talk to me about Hetta.

FLEX                    She so does.

ROGER                  (INSTEAD) She's pimping you to the Mehmouds.

FLEX                    I think I may actually be in love.

ROGER                   With money. With their money.

FLEX                    Rog, yes, Marie's got money. And why the hell shouldn't I find that attractive? It's just one of her many lovable allures.

ROGER                   Love? You talk about love? You haven't the faintest idea.

FLEX                    (LOSING IT) Love. Sex. Must get to Suffolk. (STANDING, COKED UP) Any hope of a brandy before I - ?

AND HE KEELS OVER. HE'S GONE.  
ROGER SIGHS.

TROLLOPE             The young man, who had come there on a project of which he, Roger, utterly disapproved had uttered no word of apology.

CUT TO:

MAG                    The Ipswich Albion squad will be two short this weekend as two of their players (above, under blankets) were taken in for questioning by the police following rape allegations after a three day party at the Suffolk Regency Plaza.

AND INTO:

SCENE 23.            INT. IPSWICH ALBION: DIRECTORS' BOX. AFTERNOON.

THE GAME IS IN PROGRESS

WHISPERED BETWEEN THEM:

GEORGIE             (AMAZED) You've done what?

LONGSTAFF           The agents rang me – apparently renting the London flat will bring in over ten k a week. We need the cash.

GEORGIE             You promised me.

LONGSTAFF           I said I wouldn't sell it.

GEORGIE            You've led me on.

LONGSTAFF        Sell him this bloody football club and I'll turf the tenants out the next day.

MEHMOUD         What you two whisper about? You miss game.

TROLLOPE         Longstaff had devoted the best part of the morning to this conversation with Mr Mehmoud. He had been taught to believe that if he could get the financial necromancer even to look at his affairs everything would be made right for him.

MEHMOUD         We watch game now, yes?

LONGSTAFF        Surely.

MEHMOUD         Roman tells me it is fun. (TURNING) You play a full part in the family business, Georgiana?

GEORGIE          (TURNING IT ON) Georgie.

MEHMOUD         Georgie.

GEORGIE          I'm a director of the club. And I have family shares.

MEHMOUD         You're in a strong position.

GEORGIE          And I love football.

HUGE BURST FROM THE CROWD

GEORGIE          (DISAPPOINTED) Corner.

MEHMOUD         Worried, Longstaff? This could put you out of the Premiership.

LONGSTAFF        Relegation's just a nasty rumour.

MEHMOUD         People do not buy replica shirts for a club that loses.

GEORGIE          We need an injection of cash. Three new internationals. People will pay to see them.

MEHMOUD            That's what Roman says. But Mohammed, he says, it's the team that counts.

GEORGIE            Al Fayed's done a fantastic job, buying cleverly, selling later.

MEHMOUD            Marie, stop skulking over there.

MARIE                (IN HE CORNER) I'm just...

MEHMOUD            Over here, girl. There's about to be a corner.

MARIE                (BAFFLED) Aren't there always corners? One at each....corner.

GEORGIE            You don't like football?

MARIE                So much shouting. And they all fight all the time. And their girlfriends, they all wear those dresses.

GEORGIE            I hear your friend's staying over at the farm.

MARIE                Friend?

GEORGIE            Flex Carbury.

MARIE                We've dated. Once or twice.

GEORGIE            Saw you in Grazia. And Heat. You seemed to know him very well.

INTO WHISPERS:

MARIE                Shhh. My father doesn't know.

GEORGIE            Your secret's safe with me.

MARIE                He just came up and kissed me like that. Didn't even know him then.

GEORGIE            Some girls have all the luck.

THEN A HUGE ROAR FROM THE CROWD.  
IT'S A GOAL.

LONGSTAFF           We can pull it back.

MEHMOUD           Otherwise it's wiped a hundred k off the purchase price.

LONGSTAFF WHIMPERS.

CUT TO:

SCENE 24.           EXT. ROAD. AFTERNOON.

FLEX, IN THE CAR, DRIVING:

FLEX                   (INTO MOBILE AS HE DRIVES) Yeah, Roger's lent me his old banger...I got to do, what, maybe an hour, two, over at Caversham....It's business, Ruby, strictly hard yakka....OK, Rubykins, Ruberoo, after that?....What time's your shift finish?...

SCREECH OF TYRES AND CAR HORNS

FLEX                   (YIKES) Almost totalled it....OK, now....OK, the usual place then?....Say, about six?....OK, I'll text you.....See you later, Rubes-boobs. Got to get to work.

AND OUT INTO:

SCENE 25.           INT. MARIE'S BEDROOM. DAY.

MEANWHILE THEY ARE APPROACHING CLIMAX. WELL, FLEX IS.

MARIE                Quiet, they'll hear.

FLEX                 (BETWEEN GROANS) They're all outside...and...

FLEX CLIMAXES.  
AND IMMEDIATELY ROLLS AWAY.



FLEX                    Well, I sold mine.

MARIE                    Is that a problem?

FLEX                    He told us not to. Told us not to flood the market but I had these serious guys I owed money to and -

MARIE                    Just buy another thousand then.

FLEX                    That money's kind of gone. You know.

MARIE                    (INGENUOUS) I could buy them for you.

FLEX                    (DISINGENUOUS) That'd be great. And then we could get married or something.

MARIE                    (EXCITED) Really? You will? Flex, I do love you.

TROLLOPE                She looked up into his beautiful face as she spoke, and he saw that her eyes were swimming with tears.

FLEX                    (AUTOMATIC) I love you too. Alright?

MARIE                    So talk to Baba? And I'll lend you the money for the shares.

FLEX                    Cool. That's totally cool.

TROLLOPE                He left her as soon as he could.

AND OUT TO:

FLEX GUNNING THE ENGINE FIERCELY ALONG ROAD, DURING:

SCENE 26.                EXT. WOODS. DAY.

TROLLOPE                Felix then took himself two miles out of his way in order that he might return by Sheepstone Birches. Where he found his assignation.

FLEX                    (APPROACHING) Been waiting long, chick?

RUBY (SUFFOLK-NORFOLK ACCENT) I ain't nobody's chick.

FLEX You're angry with me.

RUBY Three weeks ago. You went off, saying you'd be back. You turn off your phone every time I call. You're a shit.

FLEX So I'm here now.

RUBY (MELTING) You are.

FLEX Kiss me.

RUBY Do you love me?

FLEX I love you so much, Ruby.

RUBY Do you think I could make it?

FLEX What?

RUBY I wrote to Nuts. Sent them some photos. They asked to see more.

FLEX (AS HE MOVES TO UNBUTTON HER) I want to see more.

RUBY Wait. I totally need you to get me into a magazine.

FLEX How do I do that?

RUBY I come to London. You get snapped with me outside clubs, things like that.

DURING THIS, THEIR 'LOVE'-MAKING HAS ADVANCED

FLEX Thing is I'm supposed to be with a girl these days.  
(NOTICING) You seem bigger.

RUBY I had them augmented. Clinic in Woodbridge. After Krystal was born.

FLEX Nice.

RUBY                    Come here.

TROLLOPE            Why should Ruby with all her prettiness, and all her cleverness, become settled before she tasted something of the world's sparkle? Why should Ruby's child, still but an infant, stay her progress towards her dreams? Why indeed should the infant's father have first claim upon her future?

MEANWHILE FLEX CLIMAXES (AGAIN)

AND INTO:

MAGAZINE            Want to be the next Abi Titmuss (above)? Want to be the next High Street Honey (click below for links to all the girls)? Strap on your best lingerie, or don't even bother, and send in your snaps. Let's see if you've got real talent. Or the next best thing.

SCENE 27.            EXT. CAVERSHAM HALL. LATE AFTERNOON.

PEOPLE GETTING INTO CARS, CAR DOORS OPENING AND CLOSING

LONGSTAFF            Seems like perfect symbiosis to me, 'Gus'. We elect you onto the board of Longstaff's, obviously there are share options. And I take a place on the Board of PowerCure.

MEHMOUD            (PATIENT) Mister Longstaff, your family very old. Your business very old.

LONGSTAFF            Since 1812. First brewery south of the Wash.

MEHMOUD            But now 2008. Many things change. Not beer any more - oil, social networking, phones.

LONGSTAFF            My contacts in the Tory Party are still -

MEHMOUD            I do something for you, Gerry. I have good weekend. I buy your football team, OK?

LONGSTAFF            (HOORAY) You'd like to open negotiations?

MEHMOUD            Ring my office Monday. You talk to Miss Croll. She sort everything for me.

LONGSTAFF         Certainly will.

MEHMOUD            Georgie, thank you. You make Suffolk very pleasant.

GEORGIE            I'm so pleased I had this chance to get to know you properly. And you, Marie.

MEHMOUD            No more you judge man with his car, yes?

GEORGIE            Can't wait to go for a spin.

THEY KISS. IT LASTS A LITTLE TOO LONG.

MEHMOUD            See you Tuesday then. We go now.

LAST DOORS CLOSING

LONGSTAFF         'Bye!

GEORGIE            'Bye!

MARIE               'Bye.

AND THEN THEY DRIVE AWAY DOWN A GRAVELLED DRIVE

LONGSTAFF         What was that Tuesday thing?

GEORGIE            He offered me his butler's flat.

LONGSTAFF         (APPALLED) What?

GEORGIE            His domestics don't live on the premises. So he's got this empty lower ground in Grosvenor Square. He offered it to me.

LONGSTAFF         (APPALLED) You can't live there!

GEORGIE            You've bloody rented out the London flat, where am I supposed to live?

LONGSTAFF        As soon as he pays for the club, I'll get the flat back.

GEORGIE         (MUSING) Reckon his house is as tasteless as his car?

LONGSTAFF        They'll say you're his mistress.

GEORGIE         He lays one filthy, muzzie finger on me, I'll be the one chopping off hands.

LONGSTAFF        And you'll have to be nice to that daughter of his.

GEORGIE         The things I do to stay in the game, Daddy. Honestly, sometimes, I wonder, is it worth it?

CRASH IN MUSIC

END

# the way we live right now

## episode 5

### cast

1. TROLLOPE
2. PAUL
3. HETTA
4. MARIE
5. FLEX
6. GEORGIE
7. MEHMOUD

### SCENE 28.

### CYBERSPACE

MARIE

FROM: marieinlove@hotmail.com

TO: flex@carbury.org

SUBJECT: Our Fab Married Future

I can't wait to wake up every morning with you. All you have to do is speak to Baba. You're going to talk to him today, aren't you? Yes?

GUARDIAN

Ghassan Mehmoud (below left) was in bullish form yesterday as he addressed a packed meeting at the Davos World Economic Forum (see map, right). His recent launch of PowerCure, a corporation intending to develop a major medical discovery while sharing the gains with a charitable Foundation, has made him flavour of this difficult year.

MARIE

TO: flex@carbury.org

SUBJECT: Our Married Future (Again)

I know he was busy yesterday. But you've got the board meeting today, you'll talk to him today, right?

### SCENE 29.

### INT. GROSVENOR SQUARE: BOARD ROOM. DAY.

A BOARD MEETING, RUSTLING PAPER, MEN IN CHAIRS

- MEHMOUD (READING) And finally, following the over-subscription of our shares we have decided to issue a new Eurobond. Investors will be invited to buy our bonds fixed at 17.25 less six-month LIBOR.
- PAUL Through the chair, why do we need to issue any debt when we have just raised in excess of eight hundred million – ?
- MEHMOUD It's an inverse floater, Paul. You have heard of the credit squeeze, yes? I am thinking we overlay with digital swaps, quanto'd into Yen. Agreed?
- PAUL I'm sure I read a lawyer's opinion which said that -
- MEHMOUD We got a different lawyer.
- POLITE LAUGHTER
- TROLLOPE At the regular meetings of the Board, which never sat for above half an hour, Mehmoud himself would speak a few slow words, always indicative of triumph, and then everybody would agree and the "Board" for that day would be over. To Paul Montague this was very unsatisfactory.
- MEHMOUD I like go shopping for lawyers to agree with me. It's like that Prince looking for woman to fit shoe. You try and you try and finally you find Snow White.
- FLEX Wasn't that...through the chair....Cinderella?
- MEHMOUD Flex, we need you on this board.
- MORE LAUGHTER.
- FLEX (SELF-MOCKING) I'll cover that sort of stuff, you do the reverse floaty things.
- MEHMOUD For those of you who are unaware, Flex Carbury has joined us as non-exec representing the interests of the Foundation. Many of you will recognise him as the handsome face of our

charity, some of you maybe also remember he once played some tennis. He even won a few games.

HEAR, HEARS AND LAUGHTER

MEHMOUD (ASIDE, TO COMPANY SECRETARY) No need to minute any of that, Croll. About opinions and lawyers. Or Mister Montague's doubts.

PAUL Our shareholders should be made fully aware of where their money is going. They are ordinary men and women who have used their savings to -

MEHMOUD Mister Montague, we cannot just sit on their millions while the boffins look down their microscopes. We need to invest it for them. I am looking at Alt-A mortgage backed securities, mezzanine CDOs, and some SIV Capital Notes.

PAUL I tabled a report on cashflow to the research arm. Or rather lack of it. Why is it not on today's agenda?

MEHMOUD (WAVING IT) This kind of provocative document. It is not helpful. We must allow the market to remain confident.

PAUL The market must know whether it has a right to be confident.

MEHMOUD Shall we move on to the next item? We need to buy some land. We need plant, we need warehousing, we -

PAUL We don't even have a Phase III research trial launched. We have a fiduciary duty to our shareholders. Mister Chairman.

MEHMOUD We must make investment. Or you want us to sit on arses while the scientists fill rats with stuff?

PAUL Phase III is a human trial.

MEHMOUD Perhaps they use you then, Paul. Keep you busy.

LAUGHTER

MEHMOUD            A show of hands please? The paper before us – to purchase ‘several parcels of land along M4 corridor’. These will then be leased back to Mehmoud Dubai Investment Holdings which will enable trusts based in...

CUT TO:

MARIE                FROM: marieinlove@hotmail.com  
 TO: flex@carbury.com  
 I’ve emptied a whole wardrobe for you. And I've transferred that money so you can buy those shares and things. Hurry up. Speak to him.

AND INTO:

SCENE 30.            INT. GROSVENOR SQUARE: BOARD ROOM. DAY.

AS THE BOARD MEETING BREAKS UP.  
 MEHMOUD LEADS PAUL AWAY FROM THE OTHERS.

MEHMOUD            Come with me, Paul. Miss Croll, the document, please.  
 (SHE HANDS IT TO HIM) Here.

PAUL                 What’s this?

MEHMOUD            We sold your special share allocation.

PAUL                 When? What special - ?

MEHMOUD            It matter? This is banker’s draft. You make profit of three seventy-two per share. On forty thousand shares that you never paid for in first place.

PAUL                 But I –

MEHMOUD            You don’t want one hundred forty-nine thousand pounds?

PAUL                 You misunderstand me.

MEHMOUD            PowerCure is valuable share. Valuable because of the patent you bring me, the patent we now developing together.

Everyone making money. You have some. What is problem?

PAUL We need to ratify the cashflow stream into -

MEHMOUD Sure, sure, you have many work to do. (WALKING AWAY)  
So do I. Croll, get me Winkworth's Commercial. Who else?  
Those pushy people at Foxton's?

PAUL IS LEFT STANDING.

FLEX (APPROACHING) What's all that about?

PAUL Nothing. I don't really....it's confusing.

FLEX (READING THE CHEQUE) Is all that money really yours?

PAUL I sold some shares. Apparently.

FLEX (BAFFLED) Didn't think we were allowed to do that?

PAUL We're not.

FLEX (STILL BAFFLED) Right.

PAUL How's Hetta?

FLEX (CONTINUING:) Thing is, you know, I sold my share  
allocation. Except I've got some money to buy more. Do  
you think – I was wondering if now would be a good time?

PAUL You think I know? He behaves like I'm shit on his shoe.

FLEX I need to talk to him about a kind of other thing as well. Is he  
in a good mood?

PAUL (AS HE GOES) You're the face of the Foundation, Flex. We  
need you. Get in there.

FLEX (CHUFFED, PEOPLE DON'T OFTEN SAY THAT TO HIM)  
Oh. Right. Maybe I will. (AS SHE APPROACHES,

SURPRISED) What are you doing here? He got you on the Founda - ?

GEORGIE I've moved in downstairs.

FLEX Wouldn't've thought it was quite your style?

GEORGIE (LYING) The flat's being redecorated. I needed somewhere to crash. (TEETH GRITTED) I muck in. I make conversation. Breakfast is a bit of trial.

FLEX No-one told me.

GEORGIE You mean your little mousie didn't tell you?

FLEX Georgie, please, you shouldn't really call her –

GEORGIE (SEMI-DISCREET BUT BLUNT) You know and I know what you're at here, Flex.

FLEX (RIPOSTE) At least she's my age.

GEORGIE He's tried it on a couple of times. I think he's got the message. Now.

FLEX (LOSING SELF BELIEF) I need to speak to him actually. Formally.

GEORGIE What? (JOKING) To ask his daughter's hand in...(SHOCK REALISATION)...My God, you are going to.

FLEX It's how she wants to do it.

GEORGIE Flexy-Flexerama, you're braver than I thought.

FLEX Haven't done it yet.

GEORGIE Finally getting taken up the aisle.

FLEX She's that kind of girl. All or nothing.

GEORGIE And you want it all.

FLEX Well...s'pose.

GEORGIE Buy me lunch first. Come on.

MIX TO:

TROLLOPE And meanwhile Flex's sister, Hetta Carbury strove every day to do what little she could through charitable works. Yet she also wondered why Paul Montague, after trumpeting his return several weeks before, was now once more an unreliable correspondent. So when he was announced at the door, she -

SCENE 31.      INT. CHARITY OFFICES. DAY.

PAUL IS WALKING TOWARDS HETTA'S DESK

HETTA (LOOKING UP) What are you doing here?

PAUL Reception waved me in.

HETTA They're supposed to ring ahead.

PAUL Are you avoiding me?

HETTA I thought it was the other way round.

A MOMENT. THEN:

PAUL What's going on, Hetta?

HETTA Lots.

PAUL Like?

HETTA I'm living back at home.

PAUL What?

HETTA I told you, Roger and me, on a break.

PAUL I didn't think it was that serious.

HETTA If maybe you'd rung. Bothered to ask.

PAUL I didn't want to -

HETTA For God's sake, Paul, you wanted to move out to L.A. Sure, I said nothing. We emailed, we skyped. It was...was OK. Then you disappeared. Nothing for almost two years. Then you turn up here, back in London, and you've got all these business plans and I have to come running.

PAUL When did I ask anything of you?

HETTA You know what you do, Paul.

PAUL It's not – you didn't even tell me you'd moved in with Roger in the first place.

HETTA I would've if I'd had an email for you. Or number. I would have written you a letter. Pigeon post. You're the one who went off radar.

PAUL I wanted to give you and Roger some space. He asked me to...He does love you.

AFTER A SECOND:

HETTA Then what the hell are you doing here, Paul? What Are You Doing Here?

AFTER A SECOND:

PAUL I don't know.

HETTA Nor do I. And it's driving me crazy.

PAUL (BACKING OFF) I'm not going to disappear this time. But I'll stay out of your life, alright? (GOING) I said I would.

MIX TO:

MARIE                    From: marieinlove@hotmail.com  
                               To: flex@carbury.org  
                               Subject: breakfast  
                               I want to cook breakfast for you. Full English or something  
                               dark and Italian? Please, tell me, Flex? And you have fixed  
                               a time to see Baba, haven't you?

MIX TO:

SCENE 32.            INT. MEHMOUD'S OFFICE. DAY.

FLEX                    (KNOCKING, HEAD ROUND DOOR) Mister Mehmoud, sir,  
                               they said I should....

MEHMOUD            What?

FLEX                    Go straight in.

MEHMOUD            Then come in. If that's what they said.

FLEX                    I was wondering....

MEHMOUD            Foundation doing well, yes?

FLEX                    We've got a Blue Peter slot this week.

MEHMOUD            Peter Blue – who's he?

FLEX                    Kids' show. Everyone loves it. Well, used to, there was  
                               something to do with a cat. It was gay or something.

MEHMOUD            Kids - they are the future, yes?

FLEX                    Actually, yes, that's kind of what I wanted to talk to you  
                               about. Kids, families, people getting together and what I -

MEHMOUD            Sit down. Coffee?

FLEX                    Thanks. No. Thanks.

MEHMOUD            Then I will stand also.

HE STANDS. FLEX BACKS OFF.

- FLEX                    I wanted to talk you about....thing is....recently....I've been spending more and more time with you know those shares that Paul Montague sold?
- MEHMOUD             What you know about them?
- FLEX                    Nothing. I was just wondering. If it would be possible for me to buy any more allocation. Possibly?
- MEHMOUD             You wish to buy one of our bonds, yes?
- FLEX                    That would be – look, I don't really understand all this finance stuff. Heard about the credit crunch, thought it was something new from Kellogg's.
- MEHMOUD             You just do the fairy tales, right?
- FLEX                    It will be possible for me to immediately sell this bond thing and make – ?
- MEHMOUD             Everything is possible. Don't you see? We have the capital, we have the patent, it is sensational.
- TROLLOPE            Felix endeavoured to explain that his object in this commercial transaction was to make money immediately by reselling — and to go on continually making money by buying at a low price and selling at a high price.
- MEHMOUD             Sign there. (FLEX SIGNS) Sign there. (FLEX SIGNS)  
Give me your cheque –
- FLEX                    Oh. Right.
- MEHMOUD             Now you are a rich man.
- FLEX DOESN'T MOVE
- MEHMOUD             Anything else?
- FLEX                    No. Thank you.

MEHMOUD Thank you, Flex. We couldn't do this without you.

FLEX Really? Really?

CUT TO:

MARIE From: marielove@hotmail.com  
To: flex@carbury.org  
Subject: Baba  
Flex, are you checking your emails? Where are you? Your phone's always off. Have you asked him yet? Flex!

MAG Flex Carbury (below, back left) looked like he drunk most of his friend's brewery when he emerged from Movida with Georgie Longstaff (below, front right) last night.

AND INTO:

SCENE 33.      INT. CARBURYS'. EVENING.

AS FLEX LETS HIMSELF IN THE DOOR, HETTA IS THERE.

FLEX Sis, what are you doing there? You haven't come to tell me off again?

HETTA Just getting some milk. Couldn't sleep.

FLEX Join me in a brandy?

HETTA Did you see Paul today? Wasn't there a board meeting?

FLEX What's going on? First thing Paul asks me "Where's Hetta?".

HETTA Really?

FLEX And now you - (WORKING IT OUT) Bloody hell. Is he the reason?

HETTA Reason what?

FLEX                    The reason you've shipped out of Schloss Roger.

HETTA                    (LYING BADLY) For God's sake, Flex.

FLEX                    Cousin Paul shows up back in the homeland and the next week –

HETTA                    Hardly.

FLEX                    Next day, you're on a breakeroo and asking me all about Paul.

HETTA                    You can be so crass sometimes.

FLEX                    Crass but strangely clever.

HETTA                    Do you want some honesty, Flex, really?

FLEX                    About what?

HETTA                    About you being a stuffed face for the Foundation launch? About Mehmoud using you, and you so-called celebs.

FLEX                    (BRITTLE) He needs us.

HETTA                    But you need him too, don't you? Why else are you suddenly so in love with Marie?

FLEX                    We're really in love. We really are.

HETTA                    (WALKING AWAY) Tell it to Heat.

FLEX                    (CALLING AFTER HER) Already have. Actually. And Closer. And Grazia. Ma-ma set it all up.

SLAM IN:

MAG                    Flex and Marie (above and left) are fast turning into the power couple round town. Her money and her brains – what a combination.

OVER-LAP WITH:

MAG Page 13, On The Razz With Marie And Flex. OK! Magazine was invited to spend an evening round town with this happening couple. You won't believe how many parties they can cram into a single night.

OVER-LAP WITH:

MAG Marie Mehmoud (inset, in Armani hijab) on her way to mosque last Friday. Is she about to ask the imam to fix a wedding day?

INTO TROLLOPIA:

TROLLOPE At about three on Sunday, Felix knocked at the door in Grosvenor Square. Up to the moment of his knocking — even after he had knocked — he was unaware if he would be able to ask Mister Me -

SCENE 34.                    INT. MEHMOUDS': LIBRARY. 3.02PM.

THE TELEVISION IS ON. MEHMOUD IS WATCHING WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION.

FLEX IS ENTERING TENTATIVELY:

FLEX Sorry to disturb you.

MEHMOUD Carbury. Flex.

FLEX Wondered if you were busy?

GEORGIE (SITTING UP) Hi, there, Flex.

FLEX Didn't see you there...back of the sofa.

GEORGIE (UNENTHUSED) I never knew this wrestling thing was so much fun.

MEHMOUD My guilty pleasure, Flex. Now you know something about me.

FLEX In a way, I hoped I might get to know you a whole lot better. Sir.

MEHMOUD Not those bloody bonds again, is it?

FLEX No, no, no. No. That's all fine. Very happy.

A SILENCE. ONLY THE WRESTLING FILLS THE VOID. A SLAM.  
GEORGIE SCREAMS IN AN ALLURING WAY

GEORGIE Is he hurt?

MEHMOUD This one, he's pussy, he deserves what comes to him.

FLEX That mask. It does him no favours.

GEORGIE (A CHANCE TO ESCAPE) I'll leave you two gents alone. Serious business stuff, I can tell, eh, Flex?

MEHMOUD Georgie, don't –

GEORGIE (GOING) I'll just go and ring Izzy, tell him what he's been missing all these years.

AND SHE CLOSSES THE DOOR BEHIND HER.

MEHMOUD Carbury, shoot.

FLEX OK. OK. I've dated Marie a few times.

MEHMOUD Hard luck.

FLEX DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO REACT.

MEHMOUD Joke, Flex, joke. Go on.

FLEX Yes. Yes. And we've been getting to be friends. Really good friends.

MEHMOUD Taking precautions, I hope?

FLEX Well...um....

MEHMOUD            You have bodyguard follow? Use my driver? When you go out?

FLEX                (RELIEF) Yes, yes, yes.

TROLLOPE           Was he not a very handsome fellow and a man of the world? And yet the vulgar wretch took advantage of his assumed authority to ask these dreadful questions! Felix stood silent, trying to look the man in the face, but failing —

MEHMOUD           I say nothing more. You speak what you want speak.

FLEX                Well. Right. And Marie has suggested that, well, it was her idea, as we're getting on so well, she suggested that, well, we get married.

MEHMOUD           Who to?

FLEX                Sorry?

MEHMOUD           You, you want to marry my daughter?

FLEX                That sort of thing. What do you think?

MEHMOUD           Flex, I like you.

FLEX                Thank you, sir.

MEHMOUD           You are useful. You come to my board meetings. You vote. You say little. People see you in the charity things. They like your face.

FLEX                We're getting on OK, aren't we?

MEHMOUD           And now you want to take my daughter?

FLEX                We're in love. That's the sort of idea.

MEHMOUD           What do you do?

FLEX                Do?

MEHMOUD To make money?

FLEX I...um....I appear in magazines. And I appear in clubs.

MEHMOUD You have property? You have investments?

FLEX Never really thought to – and then the crunch, you know. I work on a cash-in-hand basis. Really.

MEHMOUD You know what, Flex?

FLEX Sir?

MEHMOUD If you want to marry her, OK.

FLEX (WONDERFUL) Really?

MEHMOUD Of course. You marry her. She has no money then. But you want marry her, you marry her.

FLEX No money?

MEHMOUD She marries you, she out. Out of here. She will have nothing. I give her nothing. But you love each other, that will be enough. You love her. Go ahead.

SLAM IN MUSIC

END OF EPISODE

# the way we live right now

## episode 6

### cast

1. TROLLOPE
2. LONGSTAFF
3. MEHMOUD
4. PAUL
5. MARIE
6. FLEX
7. WYNFORD

TROLLOPE                      Any honour can be achieved in the present days by money scattered with an easygoing hand. Ghassan Mehmoud was not long in convincing himself that the conservative element in British Society stood the most in need of his fiscal assistance. Further, it had been whispered into his ear that by certain conduct, he himself might be ennobled and thus made safe with the kingdom. Let him be munificent in his entertainments and the peerage would be almost a matter of course.

SCENE 35.                      INT. GROSVENOR SQUARE. DAY.

LONGSTAFF                      Thing is, Ozzy reckons that the Emir is just the man to invest in –

MEHMOUD                      Ozzy?

LONGSTAFF                      George? Shadow Chancellor.

MEHMOUD                      Nice boy, I remember.

LONGSTAFF                      So we need the Emir on our side after the election and –

MEHMOUD                      You mean the half trillion Qufari sovereign wealth fund which he controls?

LONGSTAFF            If Qufar's going to be investing in old UK plc, we want them investing in the right things. And I was having dinner with Dave – tea, actually, in the Commons – and we were trying to see a way through this and suddenly I thought of you.

MEHMOUD            I like when you think of me.

LONGSTAFF            That you'd be just the chap to throw a big reception, a ball even – The PowerCure Ball, you could call it – but the numero uno guest of honour is the Emir of Qufar when he's over for the Aldershot arms thing – you know how they like buying tanks – and that way we'd all get a chance to know him, see where he might want to make investments under a Tory government.

MEHMOUD            (TEASING HIM) And I was thinking, you are good father, you come to visit your daughter.

LONGSTAFF            Business first. Is Georgie...she's alright? Not getting in the way?

MEHMOUD            She settle in very well. She and me, we spend time together, wonderful girl.

LONGSTAFF            Right. You and Georgie. (IS THIS OLD BLACK RAM TUPPING MY WHITE EWE?) Sort of....together?

MEHMOUD            We have a drink, we talk, we watch DVD.

LONGSTAFF            Right.

MEHMOUD            We watch football. She get very excited, your girl, lots of shouting, bouncing.

LONGSTAFF            (TMI) Everything going alright with the sale of the club?

MEHMOUD            You talk to my lawyers?

LONGSTAFF            Almost daily.

MEHMOUD            Then you know what there is to know.

LONGSTAFF           Quite. Good. So what do you say about the Emir? Bit of a bash? We can help you invite everyone who's everyone. Make plenty of contacts.

MEHMOUD           (BLUNT) You know what I want.

LONGSTAFF           Well, obviously, yes, the Leader of the Party is entitled to make recommendations for the Honours List.

MEHMOUD           We all get together, we sort it.

LONGSTAFF           We can't promise anything. If it's a suitable appointment, as a working peer.

MEHMOUD           I work, Jerry. I work for you all the time.

CUT TO:

MAG                   Paul Montague (above, with producer David Furnish; left, with footballer Freddie Ljungberg) was flavour of the month after the launch of PowerCure. Everyone wanted to touch the magic. But who will win the chance to get closer?

SCENE 36.           INT. STARBUCK'S. DAY.

WYNFORD           (TEXAN) Now can we talk?

PAUL                 What do you want? Latte, cap, what?

WYNFORD           Paul, Paul, Paul, you've dragged me along the streets. Barely refused to speak to me, you're like a – Can't we just sit down?

PAUL                 Not right by the window, Wyn.

WYNFORD           Want to make it any more obvious you won't be seen with me?

PAUL                 Just give me a moment, can't you. Suddenly you're here. In London. Not a word of warning.

WYNFORD Why do you think I'm here? Standing, sitting, right here in front of you in...(LOOKS FOR STREET SIGN, MISPRONOUNCED)...Wardour Street?

PAUL I don't know.

WYNFORD I came to find you, Paul. To put it back together.

PAUL You could have called me first. Phone lines down across the – [*Atlantic?*]

WYNFORD (REALISING) My God. It's not me, is it? You're not 'out' here, are you?

PAUL I'm not out anywhere.

WYNFORD You're totally weirded, Paul. We went to City Hall.

PAUL That was between us. For the green card. A thing. That's all.

WYNFORD (DISBELIEVING) Uh-huh?

PAUL Wynford, let's get something straight –

WYNFORD Good word for it.

PAUL I explained this when – that last day I saw you.

WYNFORD Paul sings his greatest hits.

PAUL You were good to me. Out there. I was lonely.

WYNFORD Do Starbuck's do violins? (AS THOUGH SHOUTING OVER) Hey, guys.

PAUL And we shared something special. It was very intense. But I think it was...

WYNFORD (COMPLETING PAUL'S THOUGHT) "Some sort of crisis." "Something you had to come through." Not this again.

- PAUL I'm an entrepreneur, Wynford. I work in the City. I'm high profile. Do you know what they do to gay guys?
- WYNFORD Come on, Paul, this isn't Teheran.
- PAUL You can throw your expense account at anything with tits. As soon as it's a guy, tabloids like the Daily Mail – they take you apart.
- WYNFORD So we won't give them anything to write about.
- PAUL Once they get the cuts on you.
- WYNFORD Tuck me away in a cottage in Cheddar or Brighton Rock. That's all I ask.
- PAUL PowerCure is one of the highest-profile IPOs the City seen since Thatcher's sell-offs. They need copy, they'll hunt you out.
- WYNFORD This Mehmoud's quite a guy, eh? I've been reading. Do I get to meet him?
- PAUL He's a liar and I don't trust him.
- WYNFORD When I heard you two were working together. (EXCITED FOR HIM) You're really happening, Paul, just like you hoped.
- PAUL Mehmoud's too interested in the quick buck. Bacteriophage Therapy needs patience, the long haul. He's more interested in credit default swaps for short-term gains. He's deceiving our shareholders.
- WYNFORD You're hot when you talk like that.
- PAUL Why do you go on like that? Like you're some gay-bar pick-up?
- WYNFORD (REALISING) Is there someone else?
- A MOMENT

WYNFORD Does he know about me?

A MOMENT. THEN QUIETLY:

PAUL She doesn't even know I love her.

WYNFORD And Mehmoud's the big liar. (STANDING) I'm going back to my hotel. But don't expect this to be the last you hear from me.

PAUL Wynford, please.

WYNFORD` Get me a cab.

TROLLOPE Paul's position was embarrassing. Had he done his duty properly, he would have sprung to his legs, and have declared that, however faulty might have been his previous conduct, he now found himself bound to another. But he was either too much of a man or too little of a man for conduct such as that.

AND INTO:

SCENE 37.

CYBERSPACE.

PAUL FROM: paul@powercure.co.uk  
TO: mehmoudprivate@powercure.co.uk  
SUBJECT: We Need to Meet  
We've got a Regulatory Agency spot check tomorrow, they want to overview the double-blind monitoring arrangements for PowerCure's Phase III tests. And as we don't yet have any. What should I tell them?

MEHMOUD TO: paul@powercure.co.uk  
RE: We Need To Meet  
You'll think of something.

PAUL RE: We Need to Meet  
Meanwhile the FSA is asking questions about due diligence of our IPO and there are some genuine questions we have to hope they don't ask.

MEHMOUD            Already speaking to more important people. David and Ozzy will see us OK.????

PAUL                In this country, Gus, politicians can't stop regulators.

MEHMOUD            'Lord Mehmoud'. Or Lord Al-Mehmoud? What sounds best?

WYNFORD            FROM: wyn@heavenonearth.co.uk  
 TO: paul@powercure.co.uk  
 SUBJECT: Somebody stop me!  
 Paul, I was way too uptight with you yesterday. I'm sorry. I was so looking forward to seeing you, surprising you, and it all seemed to go wrong so quickly. But I'm not who you think I am. Sure, there are things in my past I'm not proud of but that doesn't mean you have to totally blank me.  
 All I know is, I don't know anyone in this big city. I've got numbers for friends of friends but I want to see you.  
 So I've booked a table for dinner, Thursday night. Will you pick me up at my hotel? The Hyatt Islington.

TROLLOPE            Paul felt that he was surrounded by difficulties as soon as he read this. That his heart was all the other way he was quite sure; yet it did seem to him that there was no escape from his troubles.  
 And he was not alone. Felix Carbury was also spiked on the horns of a dilemma: should he abandon Marie altogether, or should he persevere and marry her? But what if the old brute then stuck to his word and she was cut off? He would just as penniless but doubly blockaded from any new source of revenue.

MIX TO:

SCENE 38.            INT. MEHMOUD'S OFFICE AT HOME. DAY.

MEHMOUD SITS IN HIS EAMES CHAIR.  
 HE IS LISTENING TO A RECORDING MADE WITH A ROOM MICROPHONE:

MARIE                (ON PHONE) Flexy, we can do this.  
 ....Are you saying you don't want to get married?

....(CORRECTING HERSELF) Flex. I'm sorry. I love you too. Don't listen to Baba. He always goes on like that. He likes scaring people.

....Of course he wouldn't do anything like that.

....Alright, we can just move out if we want to. Get a place together.

....I don't know where, you're the one's lived in London.

....Where's Morden?

....You're being silly, we can always find some money from somewhere.

....He wouldn't do that. I mean I know he's obsessed with security, bodyguards and cameras everywhere.

....That's why we should just walk down to the Town Hall and get married. I want to be Mrs.Carbury.

....(HE HAS SAID NO, HURT) Alright, OK, no, I didn't mean to – sorry. Sorry.

MEHMOUD LAUGHS.

HE STOPS THE TAPE AND WINDS IT FORWARD (DIGITALLY)

HE STOPS IT AND HITS 'PLAY'

MEHMOUD (OVER THIS, SHOUTING AT THE TAPE) Marry him, little library girl, and you have nothing. Your boy, he knows it. He will never do that.

TROLLOPE Felix was her idol, and she abandoned herself to its worship. But she desired that her idol should be of flesh and blood, and not of wood.

SCENE 39.                    INT. RESTAURANT. EVENING.

WYNFORD IS GETTING OUT HIS CIGARETTES

PAUL (URGENT) You can't smoke in here.

WYNFORD (EXPLAINING) You once said I looked so handsome with a cigarette.

PAUL I can't believe I said that.

WYNFORD Have you really forgotten? No, you're just determined to forget. Sorry, I said I wouldn't say anything like that.  
(LOOKING ROUND) It's nice here, very chic, very discreet.

PAUL Shame it's all businessmen and their trophy wives.

WYNFORD (YOU MEAN LIKE US?) Uh-huh.

PAUL For God's sake, Wyn.

WYNFORD We did get married.

PAUL It's called Domestic Partnership and it was strictly for the work permit.

WYNFORD Except we were living together. You know, as in 'domestic'?

PAUL I never gave up my apartment.

WYNFORD Never went there either.

PAUL We never told anyone about the civil partnership thing.

WYNFORD That was your – (STOPPING HIMSELF) – this is silly.  
(GEAR CHANGE:) Tell me what you did at work today?

PAUL (BREATH, THEN:) The share offer raised almost eight hundred million. Where's Mehmoud put all this money? Our Head of R & D rang me yesterday – he needs to commission the monitoring agency but the Chairman won't authorise the funds.

WYNFORD Guys like Mehmoud, they can't worry about silly little rules. He's going to help you do something good, for humanity. You'll never do that by filling every form, ticking every box.

PAUL The boxes are there to protect us all.

WYNFORD Money is power and power's what you need to change things.

PAUL All I ask is a little straight-forwardness.

WYNFORD Me too, Paul. Me too.

PAUL I told you it was over. I told you I was leaving. I left.

WYNFORD You didn't even let us talk about it.

PAUL There was nothing to say.

A TRICKY SILENCE. THEN, STARTING AGAIN:

WYNFORD So you've told Mehmoud you're worried?

PAUL I emailed him. His assistant – I don't like her –

WYNFORD Blue rinse, tweed suit, posh accent?

PAUL Black Armani suits, thirtyish, ice maiden.

WYNFORD Does she do him?

PAUL (CONTEMPLATING THIS) It's hard to imagine. She's a Size Zero. He's got to be over twenty stone.

WYNFORD At least she can see where he's coming from.

PAUL Enough, already.

THEY'RE LAUGHING. IT'S GOOD.

WYNFORD I'm having fun.

PAUL (NOT WANTING TO ENCOURAGE HIM) Me too.

WYNFORD I knew you would.

AND MIX INTO A LONDON TAXI

WYNFORD (TO DRIVER) It's just down here, thanks. This'll do fine. I won't make you come into the hotel, Paul.

PAUL You don't have to keep –

WYNFORD I don't want to spoil such a good evening.

PAUL (ABASHED) Thanks.

WYNFORD Kiss me before you go.

A MOMENT. THEN HE KISSES HIM. DURING:

TROLLOPE Of course he kissed – not once, but with a long, warm embrace. How could it be otherwise?

WYNFORD Coming in?

TROLLOPE How could it be otherwise?

CUT TO:

SCENE 40. INT. MARIE'S KITCHEN. EVENING.

MARIE IS COOKING, FLEX IS BEING WAITED ON

MARIE Do you like it al dente?

FLEX I like it any way you – not too hard though.

MARIE The mushrooms are done.

FLEX Proper little Nigella, aren't you?

MARIE We haven't always been – I had to learn – we haven't always had this kind of money.

FLEX When was this?

MARIE We were in Kuwait. Baba was – we didn't have any servants. We were in this poky flat.

FLEX And now you've got all this.

MARIE I don't know where it's come from. Baba doesn't seem to actually do anything. People invest and then we seem to

have more money and then – Kuwait was one of the times it all went.

THE DOOR IS SUDDENLY OPEN AND MEHMOUD ENTERING, SAYING:

MEHMOUD            My darling.

MARIE                How did you - ?

MEHMOUD            They told me you were back.

FLEX                  (STANDING, HASTILY) Hello. Sir.

MEHMOUD            (FALSE BONHOMIE) Are you cooking?

MARIE                Just for us. I thought you were out.

MEHMOUD            I'm not hungry.

A SILENCE. APART FROM THE MUSHROOMS SAUTÉING.

MEHMOUD            Don't let me stop you eating.

MARIE                Baba, you never come up to my flat.

MEHMOUD            I – we need to be friends.

MARIE                Then why are you being so beastly?

MEHMOUD            Am I, little thing?

MARIE                I love Flex. Flex loves me –

FLEX                  You know how it is.

MARIE                We want to get married. Make you happy and – and you were horrible to him.

FLEX                  I wouldn't say you were. Sir.

MARIE                Flexy's very special to me, Baba.

MEHMOUD           And me, I no longer special to you?

MARIE               You're my father. I obey you.

MEHMOUD           Good girl. Then you will continue to obey.

MARIE               I love this man.

FLEX                 Well, we're getting on quite well.

MEHMOUD           What would imam say if I tell him? This man?

MARIE               I think the imam'd say Who The Hell Are You, I Haven't Seen You At Mosque Since The First Gulf War.

MEHMOUD           (RAISING HIS HAND) That is insolent.

FLEX                 Hang on there.

MEHMOUD           (SWIVELLING) This is your fault, Carbury.

FLEX                 I'd hate to feel I was the cause of –

MARIE               You won't stop us, Baba.

MEHMOUD           Stop you what?

MARIE               Being together.

MEHMOUD           Be together. I tell him, do it.

MARIE               We'll get a flat.

MEHMOUD           How you pay for it?

MARIE               You'll stop my allowance?

FLEX                 No need to lose our tempers.

MEHMOUD           Go to your flat in Morden. You never again get one cent from me.

MARIE (WEIRD) Morden? Why do you think - ?

MEHMOUD What? I know nothing. That sort of place student end up, yes?

MARIE You want me here.

MEHMOUD Go. Do what you want. Do it without my money.

THIS STOPS MARIE IN HER TRACKS. IT'S TRUE.

MEHMOUD I let you eat now. Not burned, is it?

FLEX Looks fine. Thanks.

AND MEHMOUD WALKS OUT.

MARIE The other day, on the phone, you were talking about Morden.

FLEX Was I?

MARIE And then he mentions it. (SHE'S WORKING IT OUT) Oh my God.

FLEX What?

MARIE He's been listening to us.

FLEX You don't know that.

MARIE Watching us.

FLEX You mean?

MARIE I was lying on my bed when I was talking to you. Microphones, cameras, in there!

FLEX Well...(ON THE BRIGHT SIDE)...that video did alright for Paris. Pamela did one too.

MARIE (NOT LISTENING TO FLEX, DETERMINED) Right.

SHE TURNS THE SINK TAP ON HARD. BOTH TAPS.  
AND THEN WHISPERS TO FLEX:

MARIE                   Can you hear me?

FLEX                     Sort of. Can't we -                   *[turn that off?]*

MARIE                   I don't need his money. He doesn't realise.

FLEX                     What?

MARIE                   He thinks I don't understand the document he made me sign.  
But I do.

FLEX                     What?

MARIE                   There's a trust, these bonds, bought in Lichtenstein, entirely  
in my name. Only I can sign the money away. It's in case  
he goes bankrupt, or has to cut and run, but we could have  
it.

FLEX                     Do you mean...?

MARIE                   The money's mine, in my name, released by my signature.  
He can't stop me.

FLEX                     How much?

MARIE                   At least seven figures.

FLEX                     Pounds?

MARIE                   Possibly eight.

FLEX                     You little...you're not the little mouse you pretend to be.....I  
think I love you, Marie.

MARIE                   Oh Flex, do you mean it? Do you really mean that?

END OF EPISODE

# the way we live right now

## episode 7

### cast

1. TROLLOPE
2. PAUL
3. RUBY
4. MARIE
5. FLEX
6. ROGER
7. MEHMOUD

TROLLOPE                    A mind more absolutely uninstructed than that of Ruby Ruggles as to the truth of the world beyond Suffolk it would be impossible to find. So when Felix Carbury came in her way, with his beautiful oval face, and his bright hair, she was lost. She had now journeyed to the City and, needing employment, accepted terms of service at a hotel near the Angel. Notwithstanding, she intended to inform the world that she was a guest at the hotel.

SCENE 41.                    INT. HOTEL: BAR. NIGHT.

RUBY                            Everyone stays here. Kelly Osbourne, Kerry and Mark, Mark and Cerys – wasn't that sad?, I really thought they were -

FLEX                            Ruby, come on, I mean, you're not going to pull this off.

RUBY                            I'm going to get into the mags. I am. Same way you do. Everything you've told me. I can be a celeb.

FLEX                            I did manage a few things on the tennis court first.

RUBY                            Who was Abi Titmuss? A nurse going out with a creep. Michelle Marsh was a care assistant. They'll spot me with you and they'll want to interview me, photo spreads of me.

FLEX Not with all your clothes on.

RUBY Don't mind removing a few.

FLEX First timers, you've got to practically – (HE STOPS HIMSELF)

RUBY I got the tits. (SHE HOISTS THEM UP) I got my lips done. (SHE POUTS) And I got you.

FLEX I don't know how much I can... [*help you*]

RUBY I already sent a shot to the Nuts website –

FLEX Assess My Breasts?

RUBY I been in the Top 10 two days running now. I got 'gorgeous gazongas'. I'm going to win.

FLEX "Ruby, 21, from Bungay" – I voted for you and I didn't even –

RUBY Why did I put 'Bungay'? Sound like a hick.

FLEX (NOSTALGIC) I enjoyed our times in Suffolk.

RUBY If I never go back there, it'll be too soon. If I never see Roger's stupid farm again... (A SHUDDER OF DISGUST, THEN GALVANISING HERSELF:) Right, when are we getting out of this place and going somewhere to get snapped, Flexy-baby? If I can get in next week's Heat or Closer, I can -

FLEX I'm kind of good here.

TROLLOPE Felix was dressed "incognito". He entertained an idea that were any West End reporter to see him in this attire they would not know him – there would be no newspaper report to upset Marie Mehmoud and their plan to elope.

RUBY You ain't ashamed of me, are you? I won't tell anyone I'm a chambermaid here – I'll tell them I'm in a suite or something.

FLEX This is a complicated time for me, Ruby. As I tried to explain. I'm supposed to be hitching up with –

RUBY It was tricky for me and all. Every day I got to ring up, make sure someone's looking after Krystal, taking her to nursery, my Mum can't always –

FLEX Why didn't you – that bloke of yours, isn't he looking after her?

RUBY Jase? All he wants is to get up, go to work on stupid Roger's stupid farm, come home, have a bevvy, go to bed and fart.

FLEX (TMI) I see.

RUBY (REACHING OUT) Anyone would think you weren't pleased I come, Flexy.

FLEX I am. Just don't call me... (HER HAND NOW DISAPPEARING DOWN HIS TROUSERS) Are you – are you sure no-one can see what you're doing?

TROLLOPE He was beautiful — oh, so beautiful! — but she was still a little afraid of him. Yet to have him to guide her through the labyrinth, that was heaven to her. For that, she would offer him any suitable recompense.

RUBY That feel alright, do it?

FLEX Another – another brandy and coke?

WHILE FLEX MOANS QUIETLY :

TROLLOPE Ghassan Mehmoud was becoming greater and greater in every direction — his corporation mightier and mightier every day. The great company had acquired premises of its own and all now bowed before it. All except one – Roger Lloyd-Montague was never a man to worship false idols.

AND INTO:

SCENE 42. INT. POWERCURE OFFICES. DAY.

## PAUL IS SHOWING ROGER ROUND

- ROGER            Not exactly FHB.
- PAUL             People have a right to work in amenable surroundings. You taught me that.
- ROGER            Do the shareholders know you've spent their money on all this...glass and chrome and –
- PAUL             Bacteriophage Therapy is the biggest breakthrough in medical science since penicillin – it's bigger than penicillin.
- ROGER            (DISPARAGING) Yet it takes a man like Ghassan Mehmoud to bring it to us?
- PAUL             We rely on commerce to invest the hundreds of millions required to develop these products – no-one else is going to. Mehmoud makes people believe in it, that helps it get developed.
- ROGER            (AGAIN) I'm not joining the board, Paul.
- PAUL             We want you on the Foundation. When this is developed, we're going to supply the Third World at cost, effectively nothing. That's something, isn't it?
- ROGER            I'm amazed you still think I will lend my name to this enterprise.
- PAUL             It's not actually the only reason I – has anyone been in touch? About me?
- ROGER            What do you mean?
- PAUL             Wynford's turned up again. He was threatening to come and see you.
- ROGER            You said all that was...in your past?
- PAUL             It was. It is. Except now he's in London.

ROGER            Send him straight back, Paul. He's trouble.

PAUL             He's not some mail order delivery. I can't just fill in the returns form.

ROGER            I warned you before – he's a loose cannon.

PAUL             He hasn't been in touch then?

ROGER            (SHARP) You're worried about Hetta, I suppose?

PAUL             What do you mean? You asked me not to contact her. I don't understand?

ROGER            I thought, maybe, maybe you'd been emailing each other or something.

PAUL             You two aren't speaking?

ROGER            I rang her – it wasn't successful.

PAUL             I am sorry, Roger.

ROGER            No point in taking a break if it's not a break.

PAUL             I haven't been in touch with her. I promised you.

ROGER            Thank you. Still, sounds like you've had your hands full.

CUT TO:

TROLLOPE        Felix Carbury was also in the City. Nearly penniless, he had come intending to suggest to Mr Mehmoud that having paid ready money the previous week, he should now like to have a few shares to go on with. He understood that as a director he would be always entitled to buy shares at par, and, as a matter of course, immediately sell them at profit. And as a man about to elope to the Levant, he was in sore need of funds.

AND SLAM INTO:

SCENE 43.            INT. ABCHURCH LANE. DAY.

AS FLEX ENTERS THE OFFICE

MEHMOUD            Welcome, Flex, welcome, come in.

FLEX                 Wanted to explain. The other night?

MEHMOUD            Come in, come in. You see Daily Express today? Look, look, all of you, Johnny Borrell, Ross Ifans, Toying Wilcock, all there, all saving Africa. (THRUSTING THE PAPER AT HIM) Saving the sick people. And they love you. They love PowerCure. Share price up thirty-seven pence already this morning.

FLEX                 Cool.

MEHMOUD            How can I help you today?

FLEX                 You know I made that little investment in the company?

MEHMOUD            It was well-placed. You will be rich.

FLEX                 Any chance of, you know, getting my hands on it now – whatever it is! – and then getting someone to – don't quite know how you do this buy-sell thing –

MEHMOUD            (CUTTING RIGHT ACROSS THIS, COLD) This nonsense with Marie. It's over, yes?

FLEX                 Marie?

TROLLOPE            Felix looked into the man's face. There had suddenly come upon his brow that heavy look of a determined purpose which all who knew the man were wont to mark.

MEHMOUD            My only child. She lives a sheltered life. Her books, her lumps of old pottery.

FLEX                 I'm thinking of studying it myself. Really interesting.

MEHMOUD            You funny man, Carbury. I see why she like you.

FLEX                 I really am, just an evening course or something.

MEHMOUD            These ideas of yours. Marrying my daughter. Not possible.

FLEX                 I realise that's a little...

MEHMOUD            Not even this "get a flat together". No, it will not happen. I will not see my daughter dragged down.

FLEX                 Hang on.

MEHMOUD            I know you have habits. (HE IS OPENING A FOLDER/ENVELOPE) I know you do things.

HE SKIMS THE PHOTOGRAPHS AT FLEX.

FLEX                 Who took these?

MEHMOUD            Never mind.

FLEX                 This wasn't a pap, was it? (THEN HE REALISES) You've been following me.

MEHMOUD            Your daughter falls in love with a man who uses (AS HE GOES THROUGH EACH PHOTO) alcohol, cocaine, GHB, - what is that you are selling him?

FLEX                 Ketamine, I think that was.

MEHMOUD            (LAST PHOTO) And lap dancers. Two lap dancers. In same bed.

FLEX                 I see. Right.

MEHMOUD            And all this with no money! (HANDING HIM MORE DOCUMENTS) You owe everyone money. Many sub-Saharan nation carry less debt.

FLEX                 Where did you get these?

MEHMOUD            If I want see a man's bank statements, credit card readouts, it is as easy as – as easy as a lap dancer.

FLEX                 Right. Message received. Loud and crystal.

MEHMOUD            Send me one email and I clear all those nasty credit card balances. And more.

FLEX                 Really?

MEHMOUD            You want money – I pay you to leave my daughter in peace.

FLEX                 Just an email? Is that all?

MEHMOUD            Something I can print off. And show Marie.

FLEX                 Some break-up sort of thing?

MEHMOUD            Just honest. Like this. (HE TAPS HIS LAPTOP, SWIVELS FOR FLEX TO SEE) For instance.

FLEX                 (READING OUT) “Dear Gus, I would like to apologise for the disagreement the other night. I have no intention of moving into your house, let alone marrying Marie. And I also understand that Marie's best interests would not be served by her moving out. I give you my word that I would not encourage her to do any such thing.”

FLEX                 Not exactly my literary style.

MEHMOUD            Do you want balance cleared, Carbury?

FLEX                 And that paperwork thingy? My investment in PowerCure? That I could sell.

MEHMOUD            That will require lawyers, but everything possible. Make appointment with Miss Croll.

FLEX                 So...I just send this?

MEHMOUD            (KEYBOARDING) Shall we find your webmail? Do a little cut and paste?

TROLLOPE Ignorant as he was as to the duties of a gentleman, indifferent as he was to the feelings of others, still Felix felt ashamed of himself.

FLEX TYPES IT.

MEHMOUD Now click 'Send', my young hero.

CLICK

MEHMOUD I keep you rich, Carbury. Just play it my way.

TROLLOPE Felix tried to console himself by reflecting that his writing such a letter would not prevent his running away with the girl, should he, on consideration, find it to be worth his while to do so.

CUT TO:

SCENE 44. INT. HYATT ISLINGTON: ROOM. EVENING.

PAUL IS KNOCKING ON THE DOOR.  
BUT IS SURPRISED BY WHO OPENS IT.

PAUL Sorry, must have the wrong room. (AS HE CHECKS NUMBER AND IT'S CORRECT) Oh.

RUBY (STUBBING OUT CIGARETTE) This is Wynford's room. Sorry. He lets me hang out here. Have a quick smoke, between shifts.

PAUL I see. (SURPRISED:) Ruby? It is Ruby, isn't it?

RUBY Mister...Montague? (EQUALLY SURPRISED) You're that Paul?

TROLLOPE Ruby had often seen Paul down in Suffolk, and recognized him as quickly as he did her.

PAUL I don't understand, how do you – what are you – ?

RUBY Wynford's my new special friend. Here. In the hotel.

PAUL I see. No, I don't.

RUBY (PUTTING IT TOGETHER) He's told me all about his friend 'Paul'. Just didn't realise it was you.

PAUL This is quite a surprise.

RUBY Has Jase got you to come and get me?

PAUL (MYSTIFIED) Jase? Who?

RUBY Nothing. Wynford's had to go out. He asked me to stay and tell you.

PAUL Oh. Right.

RUBY He's told me so much about you...

PAUL Perhaps I ought to..... [get going]

RUBY And he's been so kind to me. I'm working here but I'm like the only one speaks English, got a bit lonely.

PAUL What are you doing – in London, I mean?

RUBY I'm here to see my friend. He's going to get me on the celeb circuit. He's real big. Used to be a tennis player.

PAUL If it's who I think it is, stay well away.

RUBY Wynford knew you'd say that.

PAUL Wynford doesn't know the first thing about me.

RUBY (TEASING) He knows a bit.

PAUL I've changed.

RUBY Then why you here?

PAUL I've got to go. (BACKING OFF) Remember what I said about Flex. He's the most unreliable man I've ever met.

RUBY Funny to hear you saying something like that, Mr.M.

CUT TO:

SCENE 45.                    INT. BRITISH MUSEUM. DAY.

MARIE Why did you send it then?

FLEX He told me to. Pasted it into my webmail thing. All I did was press Send.

MARIE I would've had to be tortured before I sent something like that.

FLEX No real harm done.

MARIE He waved it in my face. I thought you meant it.

FLEX Marie. You're so....Now are you sure about this money you say you can get your hands on?

MARIE I went to see a lawyer. Only I can release the funds but once I do, my father could get an injunction to prevent me using them.

FLEX Oh.

MARIE But he can only do that in Britain.

FLEX Still.

MARIE So all we have to do is go away on a holiday, a month or two, get the money, bank it, where he can't get it, and then we can come back.

FLEX But won't he....?

MARIE He'll know there's nothing he can do by then.

FLEX He'll be like crazy.

MARIE He'll have to be nice to me to get some of it back. It's fifteen million, we don't need it all.

FLEX But what if we go off to – where are we going to go?

MARIE Beirut.

FLEX (HORROR) Iraq?

MARIE It's in the Lebanon. On the Mediterranean.

FLEX You sure?

MARIE It's where I was born, Flex. I have dual nationality.

FLEX What's the other one?

MARIE Barbuda. In the West Indies.

FLEX Couldn't we go there? Sounds cool.

MARIE Too easy to extradite. It's in the Commonwealth.

FLEX But, I mean, what do you do in Beirut all day?

MARIE Cafés, beaches, the mountains are beautiful.

FLEX Any clubs?

MARIE We'll find you one.

FLEX But, I mean, what if we go there, and he still manages to stop the money and then I get nothing.

MARIE You get me, Flex. Isn't that enough?

FLEX Well, yes, of course, that's what I really...

TROLLOPE            Felix looked down, pondering the matter. There would be no "cropper" which a man could "come" so bad as would be his cropper were he to run off with Marie – the father would certainly not forgive him. And if he were true to Mehmoud, Mehmoud would probably supply him with ready money and –

MARIE                I don't think you actually love me, Flex.

A NANO-SECOND BEFORE:

FLEX                  I love you so much, Marie.

MARIE                You'll come to Beirut?

FLEX                  Always wanted to go there.

MARIE                I've pencilled in a booking at the Sheraton – I was a bit naughty, it's the honeymoon suite – and then we'll find ourselves a lovely little villa up in the hills.

FLEX                  What about the tickets and stuff – not sure I've quite got the readies.

MARIE                We'll get you out a couple of thousand now. Might as well use my cards until he stops them. By then we'll have the big money.

TROLLOPE            It was decided that they were to go on a Thursday. Felix really had no need to think about anything. Marie Mehmoud was certainly a clever girl.

AND CRASH INTO:

SCENE 46.            CYBERSPACE.

MEHMOUD            FROM: mehmoudprivate@powercure.co.uk  
 TO: paul@powercure.co.uk  
 SUBJECT: Unanimity Is All  
 Paul, we had argument at the last board meeting. This is no way to do business. A venture like this requires confidence and if we do not show it, who will have confidence in us, you

know how the market is since the crunch? One bad moment and rumours start. Do you want to see your ordinary people lose all their money?

RUBY FROM: rubyredlips@hotmail.com  
 TO: flex@carbury.org  
 SUBJECT: Bit of a Surprise  
 Never guess who turned up to see my new friend the other night. A bloke I think you know – Paul Montague, used to own the farm business with Roger. It turns out that he's the Paul that Wyn's come all this way to see!!!! Kind of amazing, eh?  
 Can we go to Fabric tonight? I hear Gemma Atkinson's doing a PA.  
 xxx

PAUL RE: Unanimity Is All  
 Happy to work with you, Gus. But yesterday I visited the factory site you purchased only to discover that it has already been sold, at a loss, to a company called Corniche Holdings (Damascus) Ltd. Who are they? Has the audit committee had sight of these papers?

FLEX RE: Bit of a Surprise  
 Your gay friend, Wyn, right? And he's come chasing this guy – and the guy is actually the Paul who fancies my sister?

MEHMOUD Save your sweat, Paul. Corniche Holdings is owned by me, registered in Cyprus and managed through a Syrian finance house. Purely a tax device to have PowerCure reduce its liability to Corporation Tax. Anything Tesco's can do is good enough for me.

RUBY That's the point! Paul and this guy, they were an item in LA. Maybe still are.

FLEX Montague bats both ways?! Devious, lying hound.

PAUL I'm sorry, Mr.Mehmoud, but until I see the paperwork, I feel I am deceiving the shareholders. And I refuse to lie. Ever.

END OF EPISODE

# the way we live right now

## episode 8

### cast

1. TROLLOPE
2. PAUL
3. WYNFORD
4. RUBY
5. ROGER
6. MARIE
7. FLEX

TROLLOPE                    At this time Paul Montague was thoroughly in love with Hetta Carbury. So he would have given all of his golden prospects to have had Wynford Hurtle reconveyed suddenly to California. To be gone from that hotel in Islington and away across the ocean. And yet...

SCENE 47.                    INT. HOTEL. EARLY MORNING.

PAUL TURNING OFF HIS WATCH ALARM

WYNFORD                    Where are you going? It's – what time is it?

PAUL                            (GETTING UP, DRESSED) I've got to get up, Wyn. I've got a car coming for me.

WYNFORD                    At six-thirty? Coming here?

PAUL                            My place, at seven.

WYNFORD                    You were always like this the morning after.

PAUL                            I'm not running away. I've got to go and look at this industrial estate thing.

WYNFORD                    I'll come with you.

PAUL Not appropriate.

WYNFORD I'll be your assistant's assistant.

PAUL That's not how things work.

WYNFORD You're the big boss, Paulo. Make it work. Come on, a little trip to the seaside. Remember Big Sur?

PAUL You showing off your abs. That's all I remember.

WYNFORD You said – you said I was 'all you ever wanted'. That day. You looked at me and said that. Was I wrong to believe you?

PAUL I was...the person I was then, who said that – I don't understand who he was.

WYNFORD And now...now you just keep me here in this hotel, use me.

PAUL You insisted I see you back to your room. You insisted on one last drink.

WYNFORD This is sad, Paul, you're flailing, you're drowning.

PAUL (ADMITTING) I have made some poor judgements. I can't deny it.

WYNFORD You don't have to hide me away.

PAUL I need to change. I have changed. Please don't drag me back.

WYNFORD I have never dragged you anywhere. You're always out front, leading us. That's what hurts the most. The way you make out it's me. You want this just as much.

PAUL You're right. I've got to go.

WYNFORD Let me come with you. Where is this estate thing?

PAUL Woodbridge. Suffolk. Venice Beach it ain't.

WYNFORD One last trip, just walk along the beach, smell the salt and then, and then...I'll go, I'll sign the divorce papers or whatever you need and I'll disappear.

PAUL BREATHES.

WYNFORD Think about it, quite an offer. One day, in public, with you and then I'll give you everything.

PAUL GIVES IN:

PAUL I'll be back past here at seven fifteen.

WYNFORD (BOUNDED OUT OF BED) Knew you'd see sense. Are you done with the bathroom?

PAUL (THROWING A SHEET AT HIM) Put some clothes on.

WYNFORD That's not what you said last - [night]

PAUL (STANDING) Seven fifteen, out front.

WYNFORD Say hello to Ruby if she's out there, doing her ting.

PAUL Seven fifteen. Out front. Black Lexus.

CUT TO:

MAG Snapped reeling out of Cargo at four this morning, Flex Carbury (right). Later we got a view of his bar bill – Louis Roederer champagne all round and not much change from two k.

FLEX VOMITS IN THE GUTTER

AND MIX TO:

TROLLOPE Paul and Wynford had long departed and Ruby had commenced her day's work in the hotel by the time Roger decided to make his visit. So when she found her former

employer standing alongside her new implements of work, she presumed that she had been caught in a trap.

INTO:

SCENE 48.

INT. HOTEL: CORRIDOR. MORNING.

RUBY (STILL SHOCKED) How did you find me?

ROGER Paul Montague told me.

RUBY (DRY) There's a surprise. (HORRIFIED) You haven't told Jase, have you?

ROGER He's a good man, Ruby. He'll forgive you putting your breasts on the internet if you go back now.

RUBY Once I'm famous, he won't mind.

ROGER Famous for what? For showing men your body? For getting drunk in clubs?

RUBY Why shouldn't I? I'm as good as any of them. Myleene, who was she? Chantelle? Just because she looks like someone else.

ROGER And now, where is she now?

RUBY She's in the papers every day. She came second in the list of Britain's Happiest People.

ROGER She won't be so happy when she realises how she has debased herself.

RUBY I got the body. Why shouldn't I get a footballer?

ROGER Jason is truly missing you.

RUBY (REACHING FOR CLEANING STUFF) I got to get on, do this whole corridor before check-in.

ROGER Your baby needs her mother.

- RUBY Krystal's with my mum and Jase is at work, wondering how he can earn enough to buy a ranch-style on a new development to trap me in for the rest of my life.
- ROGER You've got a baby. Who needs you. Who loves you.
- RUBY Do you know how boring it is, stuck at home with one of those things?
- ROGER Unfortunately, I don't.
- RUBY I got a right to a good time first. Something to make it worthwhile.
- ROGER How many of those women you admire, in the magazines, how many of them end up on drugs? Or in rehab. And penniless.
- RUBY 'Least you got memories. Something to tell your children.
- ROGER If you're not sterile, damaged.
- RUBY When I take my clothes off, who's in charge? Answer me that. Me, getting paid, or the bloke with his tissues and his – ?
- ROGER Tell me how feigning sexual arousal for a camera, for total strangers, renders you sexually liberated?
- RUBY 'Cause I do what I want. Why can't I get some experience? Why's I got to stay back, be Prissy Miss Girl? I'm taking charge here.
- ROGER You think you have the power? When you're an object? How can you use this power of yours?
- RUBY It's my autograph they'll want.
- ROGER So they can go home and snigger about you. About your body. Your intimacy.

RUBY I always knew you were soft, Roger, but you're one of them feminists as well.

A MOMENT

ROGER I've irritated you enough for now. (HE PUTS DOWN A CARD) I'll leave my number here, on your trolley. When things get bad, ring me, any time.

CUT TO:

MAGAZINE Flex Carbury (above, flashing the cash), was the centre of attention during lunch with, left to right, Kate Moss, Amy Winehouse and Danny Cipriani. Welcome back to high life, Flex.

TROLLOPE Felix now had Mehmoud's money in his pocket, and was therefore bound to run away with Mehmoud's daughter. It merely remained to lay the last plans.

SCENE 49.      INT. STARBUCK'S. DAY.

A NOISY COFFEE SHOP

MARIE Flex, you're not listening –

FLEX Sorry, had a few at lunch time.      [S/C]

MARIE Stay focused: Do Not Ring Me.

FLEX (FORGOTTEN WHY) Why not?

MARIE Because my crazy father bugs everything. Thinks everyone's plotting against him.

FLEX We are!

A MOMENT.

MARIE We're only trying to get what we want. To be together.

FLEX It'll be so good.

MARIE OK, last run-through, then we don't meet till Thursday.

FLEX Why no – (ANSWERING HIMSELF) - because he might be following us.

MARIE Good. Right. Which airport?

FLEX Luton. May the Lord have mercy on our souls.

MARIE How do you get there?

FLEX Train from Marylebone.

MARIE You've still got the money I gave you? You'll need it.

FLEX Every penny, safe and sound.

MARIE Flight leaves at what time?

FLEX Mmmm....Eight forty?

MARIE Check-in by eight forty. Leaves at nine forty-five.

FLEX I would have been early.

MARIE What airline?

FLEX Cypriot Jets.

MARIE Close enough.

FLEX This is all really exciting.

MARIE Where will you find me?

FLEX At the gate.

MARIE How will you recognise me?

FLEX (IS THIS A TRICK QUESTION?) I don't....I'm not...

MARIE I'm going to wear my niqab, you weren't listening.

FLEX Is that a sort of – ?

MARIE You know, the full Ned Kelly veil thing, just a slit for the eyes. In case Baba's sent anyone to keep watch.

FLEX Cool.

MARIE We're finally going to be together, Flex.

FLEX Not for too long, I hope.

MARIE (SHOCK) What?

FLEX Sorry, I mean, in Beirut, you know, having to be away there, too long, I mean.

MARIE We'll be together, all day. Doing what we want.

FLEX I'm looking forward to that bit.

MARIE What time train do you have to be on?

FLEX Please, Marie, no more. I'll be there.

MARIE (STANDING) OK. Let's say goodbye. Till Thursday.

FLEX (SURPRISE) Thursday?

MARIE Flex!

FLEX Got you.

MARIE That is so incredibly funny.

FLEX OK. (GOING) See you there then.

MARIE Aren't you going to kiss me goodbye?

FLEX Sorry.

HE RETURNS. WHILE HE KISSES HER.

TROLLOPE Then they parted with the understanding that they were not to see each other again till they met on board.

MARIE You're a very good kisser, you know.

FLEX I practise a lot.

MARIE (HATING-LOVING HIM) Go, go away, now.

TROLLOPE But there was no reason, he thought, why he should not enjoy himself to the last, should not offer a few parting words to Ruby.

FLEX (INTO MOBILE AS HE WALKS) No, not Amika, how about China White?....OK....Ten?...Cool....Yes, I have got money....Don't sound too surprised. OK, nine, your place.....Be ready for me....Good girl.

HE CLOSSES THE PHONE.

FLEX (CLENCHED FIST) You Are Da Man.

CUT TO:

TROLLOPE Roger was fond of the sea-shore, and often came to loiter there on his way back to the farm.

SCENE 50.                    EXT. ORFORD NESS: HARBOUR. DAY.

TROLLOPE Now he was walking close down upon the marge of the tide with his hands joined behind his back, and his face turned down towards the promenade, when, blocking his path, a vehicle. He was close to them before they had seen him. Then he perceived that the man inside was his friend Paul Montague.

FROM OUTSIDE THE CAR:

ROGER (TENTATIVE, KNOCKING ON THE CAR WINDOW) Paul? Is that you?

PAUL (FROM INSIDE) Roger? (OPENING THE DOOR, BREATHLESS) Roger? Hi. Roger.

TROLLOPE Paul had been a fool. And now he felt his folly. As soon as he saw Roger, he blushed up to his forehead.

PAUL (STEPPING OUT OF THE CAR) What are you doing here?

ROGER I was on my way back to the farm. Thought I might have a bite to eat.

WYNFORD (FROM INSIDE) We've just eaten. Amazing oysters.

PAUL Roger, this is Wynford. Friend of mine from LA.

ROGER (BENDING) Hi.

WYNFORD I've heard a lot about you.

ROGER Really?

WYNFORD You taught Paul everything. Apparently.

ROGER Did I?

WYNFORD And when he needed to go, you let him go.

PAUL Wyn, please.

WYNFORD If you love someone...

PAUL Bit too Californian now.

WYNFORD (GETTING OUT THE CAR) I can see you two have got plenty to talk about, I'm going to go and look in the antique shops. (DOOR SLAM AND GOING) See you up there.

AND HE HAS WALKED OFF.

PAUL Roger, I –

ROGER I don't want to offend you, Paul. I just didn't realise.

PAUL The last thing – (WRONG WORD) – it's him, I can't seem to....I should be stronger. I told him it was over when I left the States.

ROGER (QUIETLY) Shut up, Paul. I mean, really.

PAUL (DESPERATE) He doesn't know anyone in Britain. I can't just abandon him.

ROGER Doesn't mean you have to – you don't have to – for God's sake, Paul, when I saw you, you were kissing. Intimately.

PAUL He was kissing me. Saying goodbye. He's going back to America.

ROGER A bloody funny way to say goodbye.

PAUL We're purchasing a site for PowerCure, just the other side of Woodbri -

ROGER (VERGING ON ANGER) Please don't embarrass both of us, Paul. (TIGHT:) Please.

PAUL I'm not – Roger, I suppose I never hoped to have this conversation. With you, especially.

ROGER You think I'm prejudiced? You think gay or straight, that's what's relevant?

PAUL What is?

ROGER What is!? You've come back to Britain, you've paraded yourself in front of Hetta, and now, here you are, with this man who is hardly trustworthy, who you've said you don't trust, let alone love. Aren't you ashamed?

PAUL We came for a meal, a walk by the sea.

ROGER It's deceit, Paul. Old-fashioned deceit. I can't seem to understand how people live nowadays. I've just come from

that silly girl in London. She thinks she's going to be famous for falling down drunk outside clubs. And now you, you're...I don't know what you're doing, Paul. And you pretend not to know either.

PAUL Wynford promised me. Today, one last day – and then he'll accept that it's over.

ROGER I've got to stop intruding here. (MOVING AWAY) I don't understand the way people behave. I'm the one who's -

PAUL Roger, please, I know what you're thinking.

ROGER (GOING) Then you know a great deal more than me.

PAUL You won't tell Hetta, will you?

ROGER (STOPPING, AT A DISTANCE) What?

PAUL If Hetta....I couldn't bear the idea that Hetta might....

ROGER Why would I tell her about your private life?

PAUL I thought...

ROGER Is that the sort of man you think I am?

PAUL Sorry, Roger.

ROGER Right. See you soon, I hope.

AND HE WALKS AWAY

TROLLOPE Roger thought that if the woman they both loved were now to know — if she could now learn — of what nature was the love of this other man; if she could be made to understand this whole story, would not that open her eyes? Yet could he betray his friend, so callously?

ROGER Never.

TROLLOPE - said Roger to himself, hitting at the stones on the beach with his stick.

ROGER Never.

CUT TO:

SCENE 51. INT. ANTIQUE SHOP. DAY.

JUST THE SOLITARY GRANDFATHER CLOCK, AS PAUL ENTERS THE SHOP AND APPROACHES

WYNFORD Did he get a shock.

PAUL I'm going back to London. Right now.

WYNFORD We're booked into the pub.

PAUL Got to get back.

WYNFORD OK, I'll get my bag, no big disaster.

PAUL I mean it's over forever, totally, every way, between us.

WYNFORD Was it that guy? He's a phobe, right?

PAUL Not at all.

WYNFORD (2 + 2 =) That wasn't a coincidence, was it?

PAUL Of course it was.

WYNFORD You set it up. The whole thing. To give you a good excuse.

PAUL I need an excuse? I've told you so many times it's over. You said it would be over if I brought you -

THE SHOP OWNER CLEARS HIS THROAT.  
THEY SHIFT INTO SEMI-WHISPERS:

WYNFORD (DESPISING) You coward.

PAUL (MOVING AWAY) I'm going now, Wynford.

WYNFORD You can't even keep one promise to me.

PAUL I have to go.

WYNFORD To her?

PAUL That's over. That's well screwed. She'll find out and she'll be...

WYNFORD You're so ashamed of me. Can you imagine what that feels like?

PAUL If you'd just listen to what I'm telling you.

WYNFORD I have come all this way to tell you one simple thing: that I love you. That I still love you. Is that such a painful thing to hear?

PAUL I'm only ashamed I didn't end this sooner. That I'm involved with someone else –

WYNFORD (APPALLED AT HIMSELF) How could I ever have loved you?

PAUL I don't know, you're right.

WYNFORD I want to hurt you. I want to see you suffer the way I do.

PAUL Go on, then.

WYNFORD As though I could. As though that would make me feel better.

PAUL (WALLET) Here's thirty, fifty. That'll get you a taxi to the station. Woodbridge. Or Ipswich.

WYNFORD If you want to buy a whore, go down the docks.

PAUL A hundred, here, a taxi to London. Please. Least I can do.

WYNFORD (QUIET, CALM) Keep your money.

PAUL I'm not going to abandon you.

WYNFORD (HARDER) Go now. You know where to find me.

PAUL (MOVING AWAY) If that's the way you want it.

WYNFORD Just go.

AND PAUL IS OUT THE DOOR, THE BELL RINGING, AND IT CLOSSES AGAIN.

CUT TO:

MAG You can't put a good man down. Flex Carbury (below, sandwiched between Claire Merry and Peaches Geldof) certainly reminded everyone how to have a good time last night. He may be in the gutter (left) but who's the unknown lady friend down there with him? And is she getting up or going down?

AND INTO:

SCENE 52. INT. LUTON AIRPORT. MORNING.

A BUSY MORNING AIRPORT.

MARIE (INTO PHONE, GETTING HIS VOICEMAIL, DESPERATE)  
Hi there, Flex, I hope you're on your way. Check-in closes in ten minutes. Where are you? Ring me now.

SECURITY Miss Mehmoud?

MARIE (VEILED) Sorry, you've got the wrong person. Not my name.

TROLLOPE But the gentleman would by no means kindly allow her to pass. With the gentleman was another gentleman — who did not seem to be quite so much of a gentleman —

SECURITY You need to come with me, Miss.

MARIE I'm not going anywhere.

SECURITY Your Dad asked us to help you get home.

MARIE My father? (TAKING IT IN) My father....?

SECURITY Shall we go? (TO COLLEAGUE) Take her bags, Jerry. (TO MARIE) No need to make a scene, Miss. Got the car over there. Even got a nice thermos of hot coffee for you.

OVER THIS, STARTING TO STRUGGLE:

MARIE No way, get off me. Get off! Someone help me! Stop them! Help! Help!

SECURITY Get her, Tel, get her arm, get hold of her.

POLICEMEN ARE RUNNING FROM ALL DIRECTIONS,  
COCKING THEIR MACHINE GUNS AND SHOUTING, BRUTALLY:

POLICEMAN 1 Drop your weapons. Drop your weapons.

SECURITY We know this lady. It's alright.

POLICEMAN 1 Get away from her. Get down. Drop your weapon.

SECURITY (THROWING HIMSELF TO THE GROUND) Alright, alright, alright.

POLICEMAN 2 She got a bomb under there?

POLICEMAN 1 Keep your hands high above your heads.

POLICEMAN 2 Clear the zone, clear the zone.

POLICEMAN 3 Shoot if she moves her hands. If she moves, open fire.

DURING ALL THIS:

MARIE I'm not doing anything. I'm not anyone. Get away from me. Leave me alone. Pleeeeease! (AND THEN SCREAMING)

POLICEMAN 1 Lie on the floor. Get down on the floor.

DURING ALL THIS, FROM ALL SIDES, SCREAMING PASSENGERS:

She's got a bomb under there.

It's a bomber.

Get away from her.

AND MIX OUT OF THIS TO:

A PHONE RINGING INSISTENTLY IN

SCENE 53.

INT. HOTEL BEDROOM. MORNING.

RUBY (VERY SLEEPY) Flex, wake up. Flex. Flex. Answer your fat-arse phone.

FLEX (COMING TO) What?

RUBY Your phone, someone's been ringing you for hours. Deal with it.

FLEX 'Sthat? My head. (FLIPS THE PHONE OPEN, PRESSES BUTTONS, THEN REALISES) Christ.

AS HE JUMPS UP AND RUNS AROUND:

What time is it?

Where are my trousers?

Stop laughing you bitch.

OVER WHICH:

TROLLOPE There could hardly have been a more miserable wretch than Felix. What had he better do with himself? Should he still make the journey? No, it was too late and he had not strength of will. So we may congratulate Marie on her escape.

FLEX (A SIGH AND A SLUMP) I have so screwed this.

END OF EPISODE

# the way we live right now

## episode 9

### cast

1. TROLLOPE
2. PAUL
3. MEHMOUD
4. LONGSTAFF
5. GEORGIE
6. MARIE
7. BEHROOZ

TROLLOPE                      Downstairs in Mr Mehmoud's Grosvenor Square residence, the Board sat, as was the Board's custom every Friday. On this occasion one member, Mister Carbury, was absent.

MAGAZINE                      Was it al-Qaeda who shut Luton Airport on Friday morning? No, the terrorist alert was sparked by Britain's very own Patty Hearst, in the shape of Marie Mehmoud (left, under Burberry blanket), who was dressed in niqab and taken for a suicide bomber. She was later released without charge but I think her Dad may well be asking her to help him with his enquiries.

MARIE                              FROM: marieinlove@hotmail.com  
TO: flex@carbury.org  
SUBJECT: Where are you!?  
Flexy, please, just a quick email. Tell me you're alright. Whatever happened to you, I will forgive you. Or text me. Anything.  
I love you so much. I keep ringing you but.... Please.

TROLLOPE                      And one member, the Right Honourable Jeremy Longstaff, MP, QC, was late.

SCENE 54.                      INT. MEHMOUDS': HALL. DAY.

AS LONGSTAFF RUSHES ACROSS THE MARBLE FLOOR

GEORGIE (CALLING AFTER HIM) Daddy, Daddy.

LONGSTAFF Not now, Georgie, I'm hopelessly late.

GEORGIE Have you seen the papers, it's everywhere?

LONGSTAFF I can still manage to –

GEORGIE (LOVING IT) She was arrested as a terrorist at Luton, can you believe it? Whole airport shut down for half an hour!

LONGSTAFF Surely you want to keep your voice down.

GEORGIE He's been yelling every second since he found out.

LONGSTAFF (CAUGHT UP IN IT) The point is, why wasn't Carbury there? If they were supposed to be flying off together?

GEORGIE Nobody knows where Flex is. Not even Marie.

LONGSTAFF What's she say about it?

GEORGIE You think I want to talk to her? It's like sucking a pimple.

LONGSTAFF You're the one who decided to live here.

GEORGIE You're the one who said we'd get the flat back as soon as he paid for Albion.

LONGSTAFF Which he hasn't. I keep asking him, there's always some inspection or diligence before he can make the payment.

GEORGIE And I get stuck here, with these Cairo Chavs.

LONGSTAFF (SIMPLY) Come home.

GEORGIE It's one thing getting cut by half my friends, it's quite another getting buried in Suffolk.

DOORS THROWN OPEN

MEHMOUD Ah, Longstaff, why you skulk out there?

GEORGIE (WHISPERED UNDER THE FOLLOWING) Get the bloody money off him.

LONGSTAFF Sorry, Gus, sorry, my daughter, you know. (REALISING) When I say my daughter I'm not referring to your recent -

MEHMOUD Shut up, Longstaff. (TURNING BACK TO THOSE IN THE ROOM) Gentlemen and ladies, may I introduce the newest member of our board, Jerry Longstaff, last surviving Tory Minister of Defence.

OTHERS Hear, hear.

LONGSTAFF Thank you. Thank you. It was Social Security but.... I'm honoured to join your ranks.

MEHMOUD Empty chair, Longstaff.

WHILE HE SITS:

BEHROOZ Might I then also congratulate our Chairman on your forthcoming honour?

BEHROOZ, 50, IS AN AMERICAN-EDUCATED SAUDI.

OTHERS What's this? What?

MEHMOUD (MOCK MODESTY) It's still all hush-hush, Izdihar.

BEHROOZ Everyone else seems to know.

OTHERS What?

BEHROOZ Our Chairman has been prevailed upon by the Conservative Party and has agreed to take their whip in the House of Lords.

PAUL Lord Mehmoud?

- MEHMOUD Well...
- OTHERS Congratulations. Well done. Hear, hear.
- MEHMOUD It's to be announced in the Honours List. But nobody they talk about it first. Stupid rules. Don't minute this, Croll.
- BUT MUCH TABLE BANGING AND CONGRATULATING. DURING WHICH:
- BEHROOZ You're not clapping, Mister Montague?
- PAUL Forgive me, Sheikh, I'm sure Mister Mehmoud will be a highly welcome addition to the Conservative Party – but we were discussing an important issue which –
- MEHMOUD You do not think that this new honour will help us raise the credit we so badly need?
- PAUL Why do we need credit when the share issue has raised – ?
- BEHROOZ No-one will lend – sub-prime hurts us all. Soc Gen fraud hurts us all. Alistair Darling hurts us all.
- LAUGHTER, OVER WHICH, SERIOUS:
- PAUL We should be investing the equity we've raised and -
- MEHMOUD (OVER THIS) The board will forgive me if today's meeting is on the nod. As you know I am heavily involved in the visit by the Emir Abdullah of Qufar, our special guest at tonight's PowerCure Ball.
- BEHROOZ It is an honour to the company that you have been called on to do this.
- PAUL I understand the need for financing, the need to invest, but there are funds moving between PowerCure plc, PowerCure Research Limited, Mehmoud Dubai Holdings and the Audit Committee has never -
- MEHMOUD All signed off. We met yesterday.

PAUL By conference call.

MEHMOUD The committee is satisfied.

PAUL The log says that the meeting lasted eight minutes, everything agreed nem con, for which the members of the audit committee were each paid twenty-two thousand dollars.

BEHROOZ They are players, former prime ministers, former secretaries of state. They do not work for free.

PAUL Meanwhile the Research Team have preliminary findings in readiness for the Phase III trials – these are admittedly disappointing yet these have not been made public.

MEHMOUD We cannot afford to harm the share price.

PAUL The share price has tripled since the IPO and we've got nothing to show for it except a portfolio of credit default swaps, all vulnerable to another slide in confidence.

MEHMOUD You sold shares, did you not? A nice profit for you, I think.

PAUL (WRONG-FOOTED) I re-invested it in the company.

MEHMOUD Many people make good profit, what is wrong?

BEHROOZ Confidence, Mr Montague, we cannot risk – look at the markets, look at the lay-offs at Merrill Lynch, look at – one moment of doubt and everything could be lost.

LONGSTAFF If I might say, there are ordinary men and women, widows, pensioners, servicemen back from Iraq, who have invested in PowerCure and I for one am not going to see them lose their hard-earned savings.

PAUL Where is the money?

BEHROOZ Montague. What are you saying?

A MOMENT. HE IS FORCED TO SAY IT.

- PAUL I do not think this publicly owned company is being run with the interests of its shareholders paramount.
- LONGSTAFF The usual thing, the corporate governance Nazis move in and everything grinds to a halt.
- MEHMOUD Do you wish to consider your position, Montague?
- PAUL Where is the money?
- MEHMOUD We make investments. We spread risk. Hedge funds are yesterday. We get range accrual notes. We get property B shares.
- PAUL It should be spent to develop the patent. That's all. Develop the science, to bring the cure. That's our only purpose.
- MEHMOUD Many things to be done first.
- PAUL Nothing else is more important. ....This is wrong. I cannot be part of it.
- MEHMOUD How fortunate that the day you resign, we introduce a new member.
- PAUL (STANDING) And how coincidental that the day Cameron's go-for joins the board, you are offered a peerage.
- BEHROOZ If you think it's that simple, little boy, your expertise will not be missed.
- MEHMOUD You understand: you signed a non-disclosure agreement, Montague. Nothing spoken inside here can be spoken outside, nothing written -
- PAUL (COLLECTING HIS PAPERS) When I need to take lessons from you about confidentiality, I will be in a bad way.
- AND THE DOOR CLOSES.
- LONGSTAFF Well....Is it always this exciting?

MEHMOUD            If there is no more business, will members understand if I need to attend to His Highness' visit?

OTHERS             Of course, of course.

AS THEY STAND AND DISPERSE

MEHMOUD            Jerry, here, Jerry, tell me then, who coming tonight?

BEHROOZ            If it's alright, I'll just have a word with Georgie.

MEHMOUD            Of course.

LONGSTAFF          (SLIGHTLY ANXIOUS) Georgie?

MEHMOUD            Who's coming, Jerry, I must know.

LONGSTAFF          Right. David and Samantha have confirmed, the Osbornes. We've got Heseltine and Hague. We've put out some feelers, Clegg looks good. Huhne, if not. Kennedy of course, he'll come if there's drink. And I made sure Galloway isn't coming.

MEHMOUD            You do good.

LONGSTAFF          I wonder, if this actually might be the right moment...?

MEHMOUD            It is clearly not.

LONGSTAFF          Thing is, I really do need to raise some liquidity and the fact is, you've taken possession of Ipswich Albion FC, and, well, funny thing is, we haven't received any of the funds.

MEHMOUD            You instructed me to invest them in PowerCure shares.

LONGSTAFF          Did I? Let me have the certificates and I'll sell.

MEHMOUD            Not possible. Such a large sale, the price would fall badly. Confidence, Jerry, remember? Trust?

LONGSTAFF            Could use them as collateral against a loan – that would be OK?

MEHMOUD            Of course.

LONGSTAFF            So you could you let me have the full certificates?

MEHMOUD            By courier this afternoon.

AND MIX TO:

TROLLOPE            Sheikh Behrooz, a local tribal leader who had waxed wealthy thanks to his nation's mineral resources, was also now the chief executive of a hedge fund. He was also a man who asked for what he wanted; and having made up his mind that he wanted another wife, had invited Miss Georgiana Longstaff to luncheon.

MIX INTO:

SCENE 55.            INT. RESTAURANT. DAY.

BEHROOZ HAS JUST MAKE HIS SUGGESTION

GEORGIE            I have really enjoyed our chats.

BEHROOZ            Have I not spent a great deal of money on you?

GEORGIE            I can't thank you enough.

BEHROOZ            And I want to spend more.

GEORGIE            Couldn't we just live together? You said your house near Cannes was –

BEHROOZ            (BLUNT) I want more children.

GEORGIE            Well, yes, maybe, in time, maybe....

BEHROOZ            My other wives will welcome you, you do not need to be afraid.

- GEORGIE I hope not.
- BEHROOZ But as part of my establishment, as a recognised wife, you have status.
- GEORGIE I really like you, Izzy.
- BEHROOZ That is important.
- GEORGIE I just never – when I imagined getting married, I never thought I would marry a man with other wives.
- BEHROOZ Only two wives. And one is old.
- TROLLOPE Miss Longstaff had begun life with very high aspirations, believing in her own beauty and her family's fortune. In the years since, the fortune had failed and now she was not as sought-after as she had once presumed. Behrooz was fat, was fifty, and conspicuous for hair-dye.
- BUSINESSLIKE:
- GEORGIE I want the Gulfstream whenever I want it. And you'll buy something in Manhattan?
- BEHROOZ Of course.
- GEORGIE Then I will think seriously about your proposal.
- A MOMENT, THEN:
- BEHROOZ You will have to convert, of course.
- GEORGIE What, for the wedding?
- BEHROOZ You must be a Muslim. It will not be possible for you to drink.
- GEORGIE But, like, when I'm on my own? With my friends?
- BEHROOZ (= NO) You want me to buy on Upper East Side or somewhere nearer Central Park?

GEORGIE (HORRIBLY CONFLICTED) I suppose alcohol is terribly bad for the complexion.

CUT TO:

MAG Buying their new outfits on Bond Street, both Cheeky Girls (left), Lily Allen (right) and Ziggy (below). Everyone wants to look good for the PowerCure Ball, guest of honour the Emir of Qufar, definitely the event of the year.

SCENE 56. INT. MEHMOUD'S. AFTERNOON.

MEHMOUD No, no, no, get those vodka bottles off there. Harry and Chelsy will snort it up their noses. (TURNING ) You, what you mean flowers not here yet? It's four o'clock, what they do, wait for them to grow?

FLUNKY I'll look into it, sir.

MEHMOUD (AN ORDER) Georgie, you do it for them

GEORGIE (FLOUNCING OUT) I might point out, Gus, they are your servants. I believe I am a guest here.

MEHMOUD (AFTER HER) Yes, guests, that's right, you make sure everyone comes tonight. That your job.

MARIE You shouldn't talk to her like that.

MEHMOUD Stupid girl. Behrooz will tame her.

MARIE Look, Baba, I'm sorry, I really don't want to –

MEHMOUD Understand me, young lady. You will be present tonight.

GEORGIE (SOFT COP) It's the biggest night of your father's life.

MARIE I want to be with Flex.

MEHMOUD You not a prisoner. Go to your thief.

MARIE (LIMP) I will then.

GEORGIE (GENTLY) Marie, sweetness, after all the stuff in the papers, he's hiding, from everyone.

MARIE (BAD LIE) We talk all the time, on the phone.

MEHMOUD (NOT ANSWERING THIS) That boy will ruin you. He uses drugs, he steals, he sells drugs.

MARIE He'll change, once he's with me.

MEHMOUD To me, it seems opposite is true. He makes you into stealer.

MARIE What did I steal?

MEHMOUD You were carrying my bearer bonds.

MARIE Read them, Baba. They're mine. My name, right there, on each page.

MEHMOUD You were running off to Beirut, outside jurisdiction, you and that boy, you want to steal my savings.

MARIE (TO MEHMOUD) If I want to take my money, I'll take it any time I want.

LONGSTAFF (KNOCKING, ENTERING TENTATIVELY) Excuse me, um...Gus?

MEHMOUD Longstaff, no, I have no time now. The Emir arrives at my house in less than –

LONGSTAFF This is crucial. I'm sorry. There's a rumour going round the City. It's not good.

MEHMOUD I am host of dinner for two hundred people. Including the Prince Of Wales, including your boss and most of the rest of the shadow cabinet –

LONGSTAFF (FINALLY SHOUTING HIM DOWN) None of whom will turn up unless we sort this. (CALMER) Those share certificates you sent me, Gus. My lawyers are saying they're duplicates.

MEHMOUD Nonsense. Why would I - ?

LONGSTAFF And the real ones have already been pledged against loans from Credit Suisse.

MEHMOUD I see there is confusion. I will sort it.

LONGSTAFF But my lawyers have spoken to Credit Suisse and Credit Suisse have spoken to – I had no choice but to tell my lawyers they came from you.

MEHMOUD Do we not trust each other? If other people know!

LONGSTAFF Half the City knows – it's all over the screens and Bloomberg and Reuters. I'm terribly sorry.

MEHMOUD Share price?

LONGSTAFF Under seventeen.

MEHMOUD What!?! (TAKING A GRIP) Return here in one hour and I will have sorted this out. Five o'clock.

LONGSTAFF Otherwise, David and Samantha, they're sorry, but they can't come to your house tonight.

MEHMOUD They are safe to come. I speak to Behrooz. One hour.

LONGSTAFF Thank you.

AS LONGSTAFF STARTS TO GO

MEHMOUD And the peerage is safe?

LONGSTAFF (IT'S UP TO YOU) The Honours List is released to the media at midnight tonight.

CUT TO:

MARIE FROM: marieinlove@hotmail.com  
 TO: flex@carbury.org  
 SUBJECT: Please, Please, PLEASE!!!  
 I know - you're worrying about Baba and the police and everything. Just send me a quick text. Please.

TROLLOPE When could Felix show himself again anywhere? What lie could he invent to cover his disgrace? He had heard of suicide. But as this idea presented itself to him he simply gathered the clothes around him and tried to sleep.

CUT TO:

SCENE 57. INT. MEHMOUD'S. EVENING.

THE ROOM IS BEING READIED, EVERYONE SCURRYING EVERYWHERE

MEHMOUD (URGENT) Have you got it?

BEHROOZ I've done everything I can. No-one's lending anything these days, not on any terms.

MEHMOUD How much?

BEHROOZ Everyone in Canary Wharf – there are nasty rumours going round about you.

MEHMOUD How much you bring?

BEHROOZ Bearer bonds, my own, twelve point eight million US.

MEHMOUD Enough for the moment.

BEHROOZ But if you ask for those share certificates back –

MEHMOUD I already have.

BEHROOZ It will prove they're fakes.

MEHMOUD I get lawyers.

BEHROOZ            Can you make your next loan repayments?

MEHMOUD           In the morning, I tell world we do great things and PowerCure share price rises. I sell shares every afternoon, next day I send the money to the banks.

BEHROOZ           (GOING) Go and see if you can crush these rumours. Otherwise don't expect to see Mervyn here tonight.

CUT TO:

SCENE 58.            INT. GEORGIE'S ROOM. EVENING.

GEORGIE IS DOING HER MAKE-UP WHILE LONGSTAFF BERATES HER:

GEORGIE            He's a very affectionate man.

LONGSTAFF           What you do in private - what can I say about that? - but you're happy to share him with other women?

GEORGIE            Is Mummy happy to share you?

LONGSTAFF           Don't you ever talk to me like that.

GEORGIE            Every day, I ask you, where's the money? And you've done nothing. Nothing. I'm stranded here. Now half my old friends won't talk to me. I've got to find someone to look after me. I'm not going to throw it all away.

LONGSTAFF           But this man, you'll just be –

GEORGIE            It's your fault. You did this to me by screwing up the business. I had a right to that money and you lost it -

DURING THIS, A KNOCK ON THE DOOR.

GEORGIE            Come in.

BEHROOZ ENTERS

GEORGIE            Izzy.

BEHROOZ            Jerry, hello.

LONGSTAFF        I was just going.

BEHROOZ        Not on my account?

LONGSTAFF       I only came to see Gus.

BEHROOZ        He has bonds for you.

GEORGIE         Before you go, Daddy.

LONGSTAFF       Mmmm?

GEORGIE         I want you two to get to know each other much better. I have decided to be the newest Mrs.Behrooz.

BEHROOZ        Truly?

GEORGIE         Daddy just decided for me.

BEHROOZ EMBRACES HER.

BEHROOZ        I am so happy.

LONGSTAFF       (WEAKLY) This is marvellous.

BEHROOZ        I hope to give you many fine grandchildren, Mr.Longstaff.

LONGSTAFF       (SWALLOW) Welcome to the family.

CUT TO:

MAGAZINE        Arriving at the PowerCure Ball (clockwise from left), Jake and Dinos Chapman, George Galloway and Dermot O'Leary, Latoya Jackson and Lembit Opik, Ross Kemp and Princess Beatrice.

SCENE 59.        EXT. MEHMOUD'S. HALLWAY.

TAXIS AND CARS AND PEOPLE ARRIVING.  
SOME CAMERA FLASHES.

MEHMOUD            You promised me five hundred guests, all famous.

GEORGIE            It's the rumours, Gus. They're staying away.

TROLLOPE           Dismayed as he was as to his present position, still at this moment he enjoyed keenly a certain amount of elation. It was wonderful that he, the boy out of the gutter, should entertain Royalty at his own house. Even if this were to be the end of it all, part of him would escape Oblivion.

LONGSTAFF ARRIVING, BREATHLESS:

MEHMOUD            What news?

LONGSTAFF           I'm sorry, Gus, David and George made their decision at four-thirty. I tried to explain that you'd cleared it up but –

MEHMOUD            I will not be treated like this.

GEORGIE            Did you ring John and Norma? They'll come to anything.

BEHROOZ            Plenty from the City will be here.

MEHMOUD            Where's Sugar? Where's Applegarth. Not even Evan Davies.

BEHROOZ            Cowards.

MEHMOUD            (DETERMINED) We will pull this off, Izdihar, we will. I will not be cowed. I am the general of this army and nobody stops me. No-one does what I can do. And tomorrow I will be Lord Al-Mehmoud.

CARS DRIVING UP

MEHMOUD            Here comes the Emir. (CALLING HER) Marie, by my side. Quick. Everyone smile.

A RUSH OF FLASHING CAMERAS AND

END OF EPISODE



# the way we live right now

## episode 10

### cast

1. TROLLOPE
2. PAUL
3. MEHMOUD
4. CROLL
5. HETTA
6. MARIE

THE ENTIRE EPISODE IS SET DURING THE POWERCURE BALL; GUEST OF HONOUR, THE EMIR OF QUFAR

### SCENE 60.

### EXT. FRONT STEPS. EVENING.

MAGAZINE

At the PowerCure Ball, seen talking to proud host, Gus Mehmoud (left) were Rod Stewart, Natasha Kaplinsky and Kim Cattrall.

TROLLOPE

The ball was intended to be a sumptuous affair. But for all the grandeur, the rooms were barely half-full, the conversation halting, and the carriages outside waiting.

MAGAZINE

Arriving for the PowerCure Ball, Lord and Lady Bragg (above). After talking urgently on his phone for five minutes, the Braggs' found they had a more pressing engagement.

MEHMOUD

Lord Digby, welcome, so pleased to see you. Is this Lady Digby? (GETTING ANSWER NO) No matter.

MAGAZINE

We waited and we waited, but Flex Carbury (inset, library picture) just didn't show. Strange, that.

MEHMOUD

Croll, where are they all? Where are the real players?

CROLL                   When the rumours went round the City this afternoon, they all sent in apologies. Don't want to be seen near you.

MEHMOUD               One small mix-up with share certificates. I will sure them all.

MAGAZINE               Snapped in Bungalow 8 (left to right), the Beckhams, the Mick and L'Wren and the Parker-Bowleses. Apparently the PowerCure Ball wasn't for them.

CROLL                   I've spoken to the wonks at Credit Suisse.

MEHMOUD               Sorry?

CROLL                   The bank is refusing to issue a retraction. They're insisting you passed false collateral.

MEHMOUD               What's the share price doing?

CROLL                   Closed in New York at sixteen-oh-three.

MEHMOUD               Eighteen is our mark.

CROLL                   If the FSA decide to press charges....

TROLLOPE               No policemen had come to trouble him yet. No hint that he would be "wanted" had been made to him – yet. Things might be exactly as they were before, but for the absence of guests.

AS SOMEONE APPROACHES:

MEHMOUD               Hello, hello, welcome. So good to see you again.

SOMEONE               Thank you.

MEHMOUD               Go in, go in.

AS SHE WALKS INTO THE PARTY

MEHMOUD               Who that?

CROLL                   Rebecca Loos.

MEHMOUD           Who she?

CROLL               Something to do with pigs.

MEHMOUD           (IN HIS OWN THOUGHTS) I was going to be a Peer of the Realm.

CROLL               May still be, Gus, may well still be.

MEHMOUD           The Committee sent it back to Number Ten, you know what that means.

CROLL               They can't prove anything.

MEHMOUD           (DISMISSIVE) Cameron. He floats where the wind blows. Nothing more dangerous.

CROLL               So we go to Gordon.

MEHMOUD           Who did he send? Blears and Balls. A midget and a nerd.

CROLL               The Labour Party is running a deficit of over twenty million. They can't turn you down this time.

MEHMOUD           Cannot give me a peerage also. Too many policemen watching.

CROLL               In time, in time.

MEHMOUD           Which I do not have.

CROLL               The Emir seems to be enjoying himself.

MEHMOUD           Are the rooms upstairs secure?

CROLL               And some very nice young men in there.

MEHMOUD           What about HRH? Is he here?

CROLL               Camilla is a no-show.

TROLLOPE            Mr Mehmoud was acting under a resolve that at no moment, either when alone or in a crowd, or even when the policemen with their first hints of arrest should come upon him — would he betray himself by the working of a single muscle, or the loss of a drop of blood from his heart. He would go through it without a sign of shrinking.

AND AS THEY WALK INTO:

TROLLOPE            Hetta Carbury had no such strength of resolve. Following Mr.Mehmoud's munificent donations to her charitable fund, she was nominated to attend the ball as their representative. Her heart sank as low as hearts can sink. Fortunately, she was barely inside the great room before Marie timidly crept up to her and –

SCENE 61.            INT. POWERCURE BALL. NIGHT.

THE PARTY IS FULL SWING

MARIE                (APPROACHING) You're Hetta, is that right?

HETTA                Hello.

MARIE                I'm –

HETTA                I know who you are.

MARIE                Is it alright for us to talk?

HETTA                Why shouldn't it be?

TROLLOPE            Hetta was not very cordial to the poor girl, being afraid of her, partly as the daughter of the great Mehmoud and partly as the girl with whom her brother had failed to run away; but Marie was not rebuked by this.

MARIE                Are you angry with me?

HETTA                I'm embarrassed. After what Flex did, to you, stealing from your father.

MARIE Are you angry with my father?

HETTA This whole PowerCure Foundation thing. I couldn't possibly be angry with him – a donation like that, we can launch whole new outreach programmes.

MARIE I hate money.

HETTA Easy to say if you've –

MARIE I know. I know.

A MOMENT.

THEN, IN A SPLURGE:

MARIE He hasn't come, has he?

HETTA He's not come out of his room. Not since.

MARIE Why won't he even ring me? What's he saying?

HETTA I haven't spoken to him. About it.

MARIE Where was he? We set it all up. He had the tickets, the time, everything.

HETTA He's just not very good at arrangements.

MARIE If he'd been there, we would have got on the plane. We'd be in Beirut now. Married.

HETTA Thing is, he'd spent all the money you gave him.

MARIE What does that matter?

HETTA He was...he didn't come home that night. I think he was somewhere else. With someone. Else.

MARIE (A BODY BLOW) Oh. Oh.

INTO WHICH:

MEHMOUD (APPROACHING, ALL FALSE BONHOMIE) Hello, hello, welcome to my home. (SHAKING HETTA'S HAND) Enjoying yourself?

HETTA (NONPLUSSED) Very much. Thank you.

MEHMOUD Introduce me, my darling.

MARIE Baba, this is....this is....

HETTA Hetta Carbury.

A MOMENT

MEHMOUD (COLD) You are his sister?

MARIE Don't be horrid, Baba.

AND THEN HE STARTS LAUGHING

MEHMOUD I thought it was bad enough, the people who didn't come. (MOVING OFF, CHUCKLING) Excuse me, I have other guests.

HETTA Sorry, I should go.

MARIE (STOPPING HETTA) I do love him. You know. I do. I've never felt like this before.

HETTA You will again, I'm sure.

THEN THEY BOTH REALISE WHAT SHE HAS SAID.

HETTA I mean, what I mean is –

MARIE Do you really think he – ?

HETTA My brother is a very focused person.

MARIE Have you ever loved someone so much that you can barely breathe?

HETTA I think so.

MARIE Then where is he? Flex knows that's how I feel about him, doesn't he?

TROLLOPE This also was a question difficult to be answered. Since that horrid morning on which Felix had stumbled home, he had not left the house. He kept his bed where he would smoke and drink brandy and complain of headache. The theory was that he was ill.

MARIE (WORRY, NOT CRITICISM) Too ill to ring? Was he in hospital?

HETTA Marie, I love you for loving him. It gives me such hope.

MARIE Except now it's like I suddenly don't exist.

HETTA It's been very hard for him since he was sacked by the BBC. And the Sun. And Breitling. And Wilkinson's Sword.

MARIE Will you give him a message? I need to know if it's over, I need to know....(THIS HURTS)...if he ever really loved me. I need to ask him. See what he says. In person.

HETTA I'm not sure he'll -

MARIE Will you tell him that? Please?

HETTA I don't know if I'll actually see him to –

MARIE I can't leave the house without Baba sending people to follow me. I can rely on you, can't I? Just tell him, I need to know – is it over or...?

HETTA I'll find out.

MARIE And you and me, whatever happens, we could always be friends, couldn't we?

CUT TO:

MAGAZINE Lily Allen (right) and Lembit Opik (left, dancing) at Kabaret nightclub after making an early exit from the PowerCure Ball. “Too many boring politicians” Blake told us.

AND INTO:

SCENE 62.                    INT. BALL. NIGHT.

MEHMOUD                    You too? Come to gloat?

PAUL                            I merely wished to deliver this in person.

MEHMOUD                    Your resignation, I hope?

PAUL                            I want it logged before things get any worse.

MEHMOUD                    You follow the rats.

PAUL                            If it's rat-like to want to do my fiduciary duty to the shareholders.

MEHMOUD                    Look around you, all these people here to celebrate the good work we doing.

PAUL                            All what people? Everyone's stayed away, Mehmoud. You're toxic.

MEHMOUD                    Rumours. Tomorrow they are nothing.

PAUL                            PowerCure has lost thirty percent of its value on Wall Street in the last two hours.

MEHMOUD                    We were over-valued.

PAUL                            You've been pumping and dumping and –

MEHMOUD                    Reasonable market adjustment.

PAUL                            (INTENSE) I believe in bacteriophage therapy. It is the new penicillin. It is a discovery with an immense future and you have snatched it away from me.

MEHMOUD I am making this into the company of the future. By maximising profits we can afford to distribute it at cost to the Third World. Is that not a good thing?

PAUL I'm sorry, I don't believe it will ever happen, under your stewardship.

MEHMOUD Your friend Carbury believes in me.

PAUL He'll believe in anything if he gets paid to do it.

MEHMOUD I mean his sister. She is your special friend, is she not?

PAUL (SURPRISE) She's here?

MEHMOUD She has come to support me.

PAUL (MOVING OFF) I think we're done, Mister Mehmoud.

MEHMOUD Run to her, Montague. (CALLING AFTER HIM) Tell her your sad story.

THEN SEEING SOMEONE:

MEHMOUD Mister Lagerfeld, how glad I am that you could come. Is Kylie here?

MIX THIS INTO:

MAGAZINE Talk about Sale or Return. They were loading the champagne back onto the van (below) after half the guests stayed away from the PowerCure Ball last night. And the local foxes (above) – they were feasting all night.

AND INTO:

SCENE 63. INT. EDGE OF PARTY. NIGHT.

MARIE Baba?

MEHMOUD You made me jump.

MARIE Why did you invite all these people?

MEHMOUD I didn't. It's diplomacy.

MARIE Someone from The Financial Times rang me.

MEHMOUD How did they get your number?

MARIE They said there's something funny happening. Some share certificates.

MEHMOUD Did you tell them anything?

MARIE I don't know anything.

MEHMOUD It's all a silly mistake. Listen to no-one. I settle it tomorrow.

MARIE They said the Honours List thing, tomorrow, it might not happen.

MEHMOUD (MEANING 'YES') You are always safe anyway. You are not involved.

MARIE I'm sorry about what I did last week. I think I....

MEHMOUD (COOL) I not want to talk about it.

MARIE Let me. I've been very stupid. Flex is so unreliable.

MARIE He is very clever. He knows what he wants.

MEHMOUD That's true.

MARIE I let you down.

MEHMOUD Everyone lets you down.

MARIE Is that why you and my mother - ?

MEHMOUD I must go and check the Emir upstairs. He may have finished his amusements.

MEHMOUD STRIDES AWAY.

CUT TO:

TROLLOPE            Since Roger had chanced upon Paul with his friend in intimate circumstances, Paul had not dared to correspond with Hetta. Nor had he dared speak again to Roger. Like his host, Paul resolved himself to face his disgrace with an unflinching heart.

SCENE 64.            INT. BALL. NIGHT.

PAUL IS APPROACHING

PAUL                    I hardly expected you to be here.

HETTA                 Mehמוד gave us a quarter of a million for a new children's centre. Someone had to come, I drew the short straw.

PAUL                    You must be the only one who suddenly decided to come.

HETTA                 (CONFUSED) What?

PAUL                    There's a rumour going round the City. Apparently he tried to shift some share certificates that were, well, far from kosher. Apparently the police could show up any minute.

HETTA                 Won't that make your life – ? [*difficult*]

PAUL                    I just delivered my resignation.

HETTA                 (JAW DROP) From PowerCure?

PAUL                    It's rotten, Hetta, it's a sham. He's taking the money, it's not being ploughed into –

HETTA                 Do you really want to talk about this?

PAUL                    No.

HETTA                 Me neither.

A MOMENT.

PAUL                   How are you doing? Generally, I mean.

HETTA                 OK.

PAUL                   Seen anything of Roger?

HETTA                 We talk. Occasionally.

PAUL                   Did he mention....I saw him, did he say? In Suffolk.

HETTA                 Don't think so.

PAUL                   OK.

HETTA                 I don't know why you've been so...you do this thing where you don't get in touch.

PAUL                   I said I would...that I shouldn't contact you.

HETTA                 You're a stupid man.

PAUL                   I certainly have been stupid.

HETTA                 Roger's never stupid.

PAUL                   He thinks before he acts. I admire that.

HETTA                 Bloody boring.

PAUL                   He tries to do the right thing.

HETTA                 I'm sick of it.

PAUL                   That's a bit hard.

HETTA                 I don't want to be fathered. That's what he does. I'm not some little girl he's creating. I want to be loved.

PAUL                   I love you.

A MOMENT.

PAUL                    My God. I just said something, didn't I?

HETTA                 Really?

PAUL                    Yes. You know... I'll go now.

HETTA                 Come here.

SHE KISSES HIM. THEN:

HETTA                 I think I love you too.

PAUL                    I can't do this.

HETTA                 What?

PAUL                    Roger will hate me. Forever.

HETTA                 I left him. We separated. We're not together. You're not doing anything.

PAUL                    He'll think I am. I promised him.

HETTA                 What?

PAUL                    Give it time for you two to work things out.

HETTA                 (AAARGH) We're not going to. Thinks he can control everything.

PAUL                    I owe him. It's all he asked.

HETTA                 Then walk away now. Go on.

PAUL                    No.

HETTA                 OK.

PAUL                    OK.

HETTA OK.

PAUL How long do you have to stay here?

HETTA Till the end. Orders.

PAUL I can't be seen here any longer. I mean, I just resigned.  
Made a bit of a scene.

HETTA Then you'd better come round later. About midnight, alright?

MIX ACROSS TO:

MAGAZINE Simon Cowell (left) and Miquita Oliver (right) leaving the  
PowerCure Ball early.

COLLAGE WITH:

MEHMOUD CONSTANTLY SAYING GOODBYES:

MEHMOUD Thank you for coming.  
So glad you could come.  
Who was that?  
Thank you, thank you.

AND COLLAGE WITH:

MAGAZINE As the queue lengthened, Heather Mills (below) Salman  
Rushdie (above) shared a cab to get away from the  
PowerCure Ball.

AND WITH:

MAGAZINE By the time George Galloway (below) arrived, the  
PowerCure Ball was over. That didn't stop him dancing in  
the street with Javine (above left), Ledley King (above  
centre) and Daniel Radcliffe (above right).

MIX THIS INTO:

SCENE 65. INT. BALLROOM. NIGHT.

## MEHMOUD WALKING ACROSS AN EMPTY ROOM

TROLLOPE           The people went, and Mehmoud went back up into the drawing-rooms which were now utterly deserted. His life had been made dark by similar clouds before now, and he had lived through the storms which had followed them. No policemen had come yet. There was no tangible sign that things were not to go on as they went before.

DURING THIS, HEELED FOOTSTEPS APPROACH ACROSS THE PARQUET FLOOR.

MEHMOUD           Are they here then?

CROLL               Who?

MEHMOUD           Serious Fraud Office. City Police.

CROLL               Just the morning papers. Thought you might like to see them.

MEHMOUD           Has the Nikkei opened?

CROLL               Down to eleven dollars, rallying a little.

MEHMOUD           Next month's payments will be impossible.

CROLL               Can I read you something from the papers?

MEHMOUD           If you like.

CROLL               “A knighthood for David Beckham on retirement, an OBE for Boy George following his work with homeless teenagers and, biggest surprise of all, Gus Mehmoud, financial wizard to some, financial trickster to others, takes the Conservative Whip in the House of Lords. Arise Lord Gus of Dubai-on-Thames.”

MEHMOUD           (DELIGHT AND SURPRISE) Croll!

CROLL               Congratulations, Your Lordship.

MEHMOUD I've made it.

CROLL They can't touch you now.

MEHMOUD They got Conrad, they got Jeffrey.

CROLL They were fools. You're the only one who can save their money.

TROLLOPE So much had been achieved by him who had begun the world without a shilling — almost without education! Much as he loved money, and much as he loved the spending of money, and much as he had made and much as he had spent, no triumph of his life had been so great to him as this. Brought into the world in a gutter, without father or mother, with no good thing ever done for him, he was now a member of the British Parliament.

MEHMOUD (RELISHING IT) Lord Al-Mehmoud.

CROLL You go to the City tomorrow. You make an announcement, share price'll come straight back up.

TROLLOPE Of course he had committed forgery — of course he had committed robbery. Of course he was in danger of almost immediate detection. Yet, whatever they might do, quick as they might be, they could hardly prevent his taking his seat in the House.

MEHMOUD Did you hear that? "Lord Al-Mehmoud". That's something, isn't it?

CROLL It's more than something.

MEHMOUD Lord Al-Mehmoud. I am Lord Al-Mehmoud.

END OF EPISODE

# the way we live right now

## episode 11

### cast

1. TROLLOPE
2. PAUL
3. HETTA
4. MEHMOUD
5. CROLL
6. FLEX
7. MARIE

SCENE 66.

INT. HETTA'S BEDROOM. MORNING.

THEY ARE IN BED, CLOSE, THE DAWN CHORUSING

HETTA                      Morning.

PAUL                        'Morning.

HETTA                      Coffee or tea?

PAUL                        Nurofen?

HETTA                      Pussy.

TROLLOPE                Now that Hetta had admitted her love to Paul and he had reciprocated, she did not coy her emotions. Having once spoken the word she did not care how often she repeated it. She did not think that she could ever have loved anybody but him — even if he had not been fond of her.

PAUL                        You had as much as me.

HETTA                      It takes more than a few brandies to stop a Carbury.

PAUL                    Are you going to be like this every morning?

HETTA                 Take it or leave it.

PAUL                    I'll take it, please.

HETTA                 I love you, Paul.

PAUL                    I love you too.

HETTA                 I always have, I think, you know.

PAUL                    Perhaps we shouldn't tell Roger that.

HETTA                 You don't have to keep worrying about him.

PAUL                    I sort of promised him.

HETTA                 What that you wouldn't fall in love with someone else? How can you promise that?

PAUL                    (HIS ACHILLES HEEL) You're right. Sure. Right.

HETTA                 The way he thinks it can all be done by a set of rules. Love is where it falls.

PAUL                    Just that I said I'd stay out the way while you two sorted out your problems.

HETTA                 They're sorted. It didn't need you. That's my business. I wasted two years with him. Not wasted, that's...he was a stop-gap, while you disappeared.

PAUL                    I need the bathroom. (STARTING TO GET OUT OF BED) Do you think your mother's prowling around there?

HETTA                 Got to break it to her, one way or another. (AS PAUL STANDS) Possibly not looking like that though. Wrap yourself in something.

PAUL                    (AS HE REACHES FOR A DRESSING GOWN) She doesn't like me, does she?

HETTA She just thinks Roger's a living god.

PAUL (AS HE WALKS OUT THE DOOR) I thought we weren't supposed to talk about him.

TROLLOPE But what was to be done in reference to poor Roger? Whether for good or bad, she had given herself to Paul Montague. Even though Roger should have to walk disconsolate to the grave, it could not now be helped.

FLEX (FROM THE CORRIDOR AND THEN WALKING IN) Who the bloody hell's in the bathroom? Hetta, why's Ma-ma in our bathroom?

HETTA Morning, my sweet sibling.

FLEX Why are you in such a good mood? (2 + 2 =) My God, you've got someone here.

HETTA Kind of.

FLEX It's not....Is old Rodge the Dodge back?

HETTA (SMILING) Not exactly.

FLEX Jesus, it's him, isn't it? The other one.

HETTA Be nice to him when he comes out.

FLEX Good word for it.

HETTA Flex, listen up, I have a message for you, as it happens.

FLEX OK, OK, I can guess, you went to the PowerCure bash last night, Marie bodyslammed you and demanded my head on a plate. They do that kind of thing where she comes from.

HETTA She just wants to know why you haven't been in touch.

FLEX (HALF ENJOYING THE IDEA) Were they all talking about me? What are they saying? Good, bad or indifferent?

HETTA You abandoned her at the airport, she was thoroughly humiliated. The police body-searched her, the press ran her ragged and you don't even ring and apologise?

FLEX (ME, ME, ME) Do people like know I was supposed to be there? What are they like saying?

HETTA She loves you. That's plain. However incredible. And all she wants to know now, wants me to ask you, is it over? Or, is there a chance?

FLEX It's never going to work now, I mean, her father's about to go belly up, everyone's saying.

HETTA She's got a right to see you, talk to you. To know what you really feel.

FLEX If she hasn't worked that out by now.

HETTA What am I supposed to tell her?

FLEX Whatever you like, God, a guy just wants to get in the bathroom.

HETTA You really are a bastard.

FLEX Surrounded by them, aren't you?

HETTA What's that mean?

FLEX I mean, OK, I'm open-minded, everyone can have a thing with people, different people, different times.

HETTA What are you on about, Flex?

FLEX You know, Paul, first he's in love with someone in the States, now he's in love with you.

HETTA I'm sure he had girlfriends when he was over there.

FLEX Girlfriends. Maybe not girlfriends.

HETTA                   What the hell are you saying?

FLEX                    Maybe he swings it both ways.

HETTA                   (INTO WHISPER) You've just heard some nasty rumour.  
'Course he's not -                   [*gay*]

FLEX                    And maybe one of his boyfriends has followed him over here.

HETTA                   As if.

FLEX                    Maybe he's staying in a hotel in Angel, and he's been visiting him there.

HETTA                   I'm not listening to any more of this crap.

FLEX                    The Hyatt Islington, to be precise.

HETTA                   I don't believe you.

FLEX                    Maybe they went for a hot weekend in Suffolk, maybe they didn't.

HETTA                   You are repulsive.

FLEX                    To say he's gay or to say he's two-timing you?

HETTA                   To make up this whole crap thing.

FLEX                    Just ask Roger.

HETTA                   Now you're telling me Roger's gay as well.

FLEX                    We both know Roger isn't interesting enough to be bi.

HETTA                   Get out, just get out of here now.

FLEX                    (NOT MOVING) You don't dare ask him, do you?

HETTA Of course I'm not going to ask Roger about a whole lot of rubbish you've made up.

PAUL (ENTERING, DISTANT FLUSHING) Morning, Flex. Nice boxers.

FLEX I'm not quite sure how to take that.

HETTA (GETTING UP, AVOIDANCE, RATTY) Hope you haven't stunk up the bathroom.

TROLLOPE - said Hetta, leaving the room. Once she was alone she was very wretched. Why should Felix have referred to Roger? And she did feel that there was something in her brother's manner which forbade her to reject the whole story as being altogether baseless. So she sat and cried and thought of all the tales she had heard of faithless lovers.

SHE IS NOW CRYING AS PAUL KNOCKS, GENTLY

PAUL (OUTSIDE THE BATHROOM DOOR) Hetta?

SHE FLUSHES THE TOILET TO MASK THE NOISE.

MIX TO:

TROLLOPE Although this morning dawned brightly, with Ghassan Mehmoud now a Member of the House of Lords, there was still much business to be done.

MAGAZINE His Highness The Emir of Qufar (left) flew out of London this morning on his Gulfstream (below, library picture). Asked by reporters if he had enjoyed the PowerCure Ball the night before, he claimed to know nothing about it.

TROLLOPE Before he could enjoy his new honours, Mehmoud needed to silence all talk of fraud and falsified documents . Rumours breed anxiety and anxiety breeds enquiry and -

SCENE 67. INT. MEHMOUDS': OFFICE. MORNING.

MEHMOUD I want lawyers.

CROLL We have lawyers, Gus.

MEHMOUD I want rooms full of lawyers. Whole floors – rent more space. I want libel writs, to every newspaper, every TV station, anyone dares say one word about those share certificates.

CROLL There's pretty good evidence, Gus.

MEHMOUD We get enough injunction, they not dare. We go to court. We stop everyone.

CROLL It's not just the guys at Credit Suisse, there's everything else they might dig up.

MEHMOUD We stop this one, we stop them find everything else. We make it frightening. They shit even to hear the name Mehmoud.

CROLL Do you want the certificates back from Credit Suisse?

MEHMOUD What we owe them?

CROLL Three point eight million sterling.

MEHMOUD Tell them we get certificates or our lawyers dismiss loan, then they do what we say. What next?

CROLL Weekly board meeting.

TROLLOPE Felix Carbury of course did not attend the Board, Paul Montague had resigned, and Mr Longstaff had been banished. The Chairman was therefore supported by the universal absence.

MEHMOUD Who's sent apologies?

CROLL Behrooz, Rumsfeld, Falconer, al-Fayed.

MEHMOUD One rumour and they run like chickens.

CROLL If there's no written apology from the others, we can say they were here.

MEHMOUD (SURPRISE) You want the Board do business? Today?

CROLL As a matter of urgency we need to approve the transfer of patents to Amman Holdings Ltd.

MEHMOUD (AS THOUGH TO THE ASSEMBLED BOARD) Anyone against?

SILENCE

MEHMOUD Nem con.

CROLL We've re-mortgaged the Washington State holdings that were donated by the Gates Foundation and we need Audit Committee approval for –

MEHMOUD Just write it up. All in favour. Maybe do one, two abstention.

CROLL Rumsfeld - he likes to abstain.

MEHMOUD Where are we trading now?

CROLL Twelve thirty-four. Still waiting for the Nikkei's response.

MEHMOUD Arizona trailer trash junk their mortgages and everyone else gets blown out.

CROLL There are hedgies on Wall Street who are just staring into space, not daring to touch the keyboard.

MEHMOUD When is the next Morgan Stanley repayment scheduled?

CROLL (PAPERS) Friday. Four hundred and fifty-three thousand.

MEHMOUD What's on deposit?

CROLL (PAPERS) Less than – nothing.

MEHMOUD So we ask Behrooz for it.

CROLL He's already in for sixty-two million.

MEHMOUD The only way to protect his debt is to lend us more.

CROLL If you're Bear Sterns, they'll save you. Not us.

MEHMOUD There's one other way to get the money.

CROLL You'd be a fool. You don't touch that money till, if you have to bale out.

MEHMOUD Fifteen million US, sitting in Lichtenstein bearer bonds.

CROLL And if the market slides again? You'll have nothing.

MEHMOUD Then I might as well use it right now. Eh?

CROLL It's in Marie's name. She has to sign it.

MEHMOUD She'll sign. She will not know what she is doing.

CUT TO:

TROLLOPE Felix Carbury was also concerned as to the provenance of his finances. As he lay in bed in his mother's house he counted up all his wealth. One thing only was clear to him. He must realize his possessions.

SCENE 68.

INT. CYBERSPACE.

FLEX FROM: flex@carbury.org  
TO: mehmojd@powercure.co.uk  
SUBJECT: Sort Of Forgot Something  
You know, that cheque for ten k I gave you a couple of weeks ago? That was for shares that I could sell, right?

TROLLOPE He made no allusion whatever to Marie, or to the great man's anger, or to his seat at the board.

FLEX (CONTINUING) Any chance of the cash now? Hopelessly strapped and need a bit of profit.

TROLLOPE           Mehmoud's answer to this was not altogether unsatisfactory. A clerk from Mr Mehmoud's office called at the house and handed to Felix –

SCENE 69.           EXT. CARBURYS' HOUSE. DAY.

ON THE DOORSTEP, TAXI RUNNING

FLEX                 I don't want bloody share certificates.

CROLL               Lord Al-Mehmoud says you gave him the money to buy into the company.

FLEX                 To buy at basic price and sell at a profit! What use are these?

CROLL               You are a Director of the PowerCure Foundation, I would have thought you would know.

FLEX                 How many shares are here?

CROLL               They were purchased two weeks ago, when you gave us the money. At that stage the shares were trading at eighteen pounds eleven.

FLEX                 Oh. Alright. I suppose I can sell them for more.

CROLL               They are currently trading at two pounds seventy-one.

FLEX                 (TRYING TO WORK IT OUT) So you give me more shares to make up the difference?

CROLL               No, Mister Carbury, you get less money.

FLEX                 How much?

CROLL               That's for your broker to tell you.

FLEX                 How much less?

CROLL                    Sell them now and you take a hit of fifteen pounds forty per share. That's a total loss of about eight and half k.

FLEX                    (LITTLE BOY) That's not my fault.

CROLL                    Less brokerage. If you could just sign the receipt?

FLEX                    Mehmoud said he'd... Everyone else was doing it –

CROLL                    And initial there.

FLEX                    Buy at ten, sell at fifteen. Why shouldn't I? Haven't I got a right? I mean.

CUT TO:

TROLLOPE                Mehmoud sent for Marie to the study and had told her that he should also require her signature.

SCENE 70.                INT. MEHMOUDS'. DAY.

CROLL                    It is absolutely normal to put things in one's child's name. It's a tax avoidance strategy.

MARIE                    Except I'm not a child any more.

MEHMOUD                I know that.

MARIE                    So I'm not signing.

MELMOTT                I put it in your name when we left Kuwait. It was my money. I use your name.

MARIE                    Only so nobody could get at it if the business went down the chute.

MELMOTT                Correct.

MARIE                    If it's in my name it must be mine. That's why I took it before. I would never steal from you, Baba. That money is mine.

MEHMOUD                If PowerCure collapses, I could go prison. I need it.

MARIE Do they have a whole wing for Lords?

CROLL They'll arrest your father, Marie.

MARIE Oh dear.

MEHMOUD Marie –

MARIE Now you know how I felt at Luton. Your heavies picking me up like I was a piece of meat, like you own me.

MEHMOUD (BAD, BAD ACTING) Marie, I love you. I only wanted to protect you. A father always love his daughter. I want you have this house, enjoy all this...everything we treasure.

A MOMENT. HAS HE GOT HER?

MEHMOUD Just sign this. Croll here will witness.

MARIE I don't want any of this. This house, this money, this – you've ruined it for me.

MEHMOUD Sign.

MARIE You can't make me. If I can't have what I want, nor can you. You told me if I married Flex, you wouldn't give me a penny, so why should I give you anything?

MARIE RUNS UP THE STAIRS  
WHILE MEHMOUD BREATHEES.

CROLL (QUIETLY) Let her go. Give it time.

MEHMOUD What she mean? All this Flex thing? What she talk about? This nonsense.

DURING THIS, GENTLE KNOCKING ON THE DOOR

HETTA Excuse me. Sorry...? (COLOSSAL EMBARRASSMENT) I did hear people and....

MEHMOUD           What the hell you want coming here?

HETTA                I have a message from my brother. For Hetta.

MEHMOUD           What's he to say to my stupid daughter now?

CROLL                She just went upstairs. Feel free to go up.

HETTA                Thank you.

HETTA RETREATS

MEHMOUD           (APPALLED) What you do, Croll? That's the stupid man's sister.

CROLL                Your daughter needs to hear this. From her. It can only help.

CUT TO:

SCENE 71.           CYBERSPACE.

FLEX                 FROM: flex@carbury.org  
 TO: montague743@hotmail.com  
 SUBJECT: Time To Decide Which Team You're On, Matey-Mate  
 I tried to tell Big Sis about your friend Wynford but she didn't believe me. Time to come clean before it gets any worse.

PAUL                 FROM: montague743@hotmail.com  
 RE: Time To Decide Which Team You're On, Matey-Mate  
 I fail to see that this is any business of yours.

FLEX                 She's my sister. It's totally my business. You're two-timing, two-bending, two-everythinging.

PAUL                 Dear Flex, I have no sexual relationship with Wynford Hurtle. Though why I am explaining myself to a coke-snorting, gold-digging slut like you, I have no idea.

CUT TO:

SCENE 72.            INT. MEHMOUDS'. DAY.

HETTA AND MARIE TOGETHER

MARIE                    You don't have to lie to me, Hetta.

HETTA                    My brother, he's not like most people.

MARIE                    He's unique. I really do think he is.

HETTA                    He wants too much. No, he enjoys himself too - No, he has a problem with certain substances and – Sod it, he's a bastard, isn't he?

MARIE                    (TEARS COMING) Don't say that. I love him.

HETTA                    Sooner we both realise that, the better. He's very self-centred.

MARIE                    If you'd loved someone, really loved them – can't he love me, Hetta? What did he say?

HETTA                    He's incapable of love.

MARIE                    What did he say? Did you ask him like I said?

HETTA                    ...I did.

MARIE                    Does he want to get back together? Is he waiting for a chance to get in touch with Baba knowing?

SILENCE

MARIE                    Say something, please, anything.

HETTA                    It's over, Marie.

MARIE                    Are you sure?

HETTA                    Marie, yes, I've been trying to – he's – he doesn't love you.

MARIE I thought he was different. Really unique. And then he just does all this. Lies to me the whole time. Lies, and lies, and lies and – he was just using me, wasn't he?

TROLLOPE There came over the face of the other girl a stern hard look, as though she had resolved at the moment to throw away from her all soft womanly things.

MARIE Tell him then, tell him, that if I ever see him again, I will look at him, I'll look at him in a way he will never forget.

TROLLOPE As she said this, Marie thrust her foot upon the ground as though the false one were in truth beneath it.

MARIE I despise him. I do. I despise him. They are all bad, but he is the worst. Sure, Papa hits me - I can bear that. Miss Croll sneers at me - I can bear that. But to think that he was a liar all the way through — I can't bear it.

SHE IS NOW WEeping UNCONTROLLABLY, BARELY ABLE TO GET THE WORDS OUT

MARIE Tell Baba. Tell him. Tell him I'll do whatever he wants.

CUT TO:

# the way we live right now

## episode 12

### cast

1. TROLLOPE
  2. LONGSTAFF
  3. MEHMOUD
  4. GEORGIE
  5. JASE
  6. RUBY
  7. FLEX
  8. WYNFORD
- plus CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS  
and LORDS and LORD SPEAKER  
and PAPARAZZI

TROLLOPE                      Determined to make something of herself in the metropolis, Ruby Ruggles had run away from Suffolk, abandoning both baby and baby's father. As weeks passed and her prospects receded, Wynford realised that only a heroic intervention by this young paramour might enable her to admit her mistake.

SCENE 73.                      EXT. TRANSPORT YARD. DAY.

LORRIES MOVING ROUND, PALLETS LOADING

JASE                              Watch your back.

HE PULLS WYNFORD FORWARDS

WYNFORD                      Right. Sure. Thanks.

A LORRY GRINDS PAST, CLOSE.  
SHOUTING OVER THIS:

JASE                              Working in your hotel, you say? What, like a chambermaid?

- WYNFORD            You know, Jase, that kind of thing.
- JASE                 And my Ruby prefers that to everything I can give her? Home, car each, the cinema in Lowestoft whenever she wants.
- WYNFORD            (= YES) That's what she says.
- JASE                 And the baby? What's she say about poor little Krystal?
- WYNFORD            She's not the mothering kind and I reckon she kind of freaked out at it all.
- JASE                 I know it's hard, the nappies and everything. But this London thing, wanting to be famous and in magazines and everything.
- WYNFORD            She's going to keep at it until –
- JASE                 (HE'S A ROMANTIC) I'll wait, you know, I will. Till hell freezes over. She's real crazy if she don't know that. You go back and tell her, will you?
- WYNFORD            (SYMPATHETIC) Do that, Jason, and you really will wait for ever. Come and get her. She doesn't know it, but she wants you to.
- JASE                 Oh. Really?
- WYNFORD            She's in a mess and she's desperate to be rescued.
- JASE                 Maybe I can get Saturday off.
- WYNFORD            (DIDN'T WANT TO HAVE TO SAY THIS) I don't like the way that guy's treating her.
- JASE                 (COMPLETE SURPRISE) There's someone else?
- WYNFORD            You didn't realise?
- JASE                 (GALVANISED) I'll kill him. Whoever he is.

WYNFORD            No need to go that far.

JASE                I'm coming Friday. I got holiday owing. Just you see.

CUT TO:

FT                  Recently-ennobled Lord Al-Mehmoud (above, left) was in crisis talks last night at the Department for Business and Enterprise as PowerCure shares lost half their value on the Stock Exchange.

MAGAZINE        Speaking to reporters outside Sotheby's, Jerry Longstaff (below) insisted Longstaff Breweries were as safe as ever, these art sales are a family matter.

TROLLOPE        The storm of public shame seemed to have passed for the moment and now Mehmoud need only keep a steady tiller to sail through. But there was still the money owing to Longstaff, for the purchase of Albion – somehow that needed to be found.

SCENE 74.        INT. THE GARDEN. EVENING.

MEHMOUD        Been waiting long, Jerry? (NOTICING HER) Ah, Georgie?

GEORGIE         (COLD) Two hours.

LONGSTAFF       Not long at all.

MEHMOUD        I have lunch with Merv and he talks and talks, you know.

GEORGIE         I don't.

MEHMOUD        Any word from Dave, about our meeting?

LONGSTAFF       I saw him in the Commons and he presumed you were a little tied up at –

MEHMOUD        I thought I might pop down to the House this afternoon, make my mark.

LONGSTAFF            Already?

MEHMOUD            Am I not already Lord Al-Mehmoud?

LONGSTAFF            Well, technically, you're not until –

MEHMOUD            Why you want to see me anyway?

GEORGIE            (BLUNT) We need the money.

LONGSTAFF            (EMOLLIENT) She means Ipswich Albion FC. You know.

MEHMOUD            Good win yesterday, eh, Georgie?

GEORGIE            DK, DC, we want the money.

LONGSTAFF            Thing is....Georgie, let me handle this – we –

GEORGIE            You've been handling it for the last I-don't-know-how-long and all you've got is dodgy share certificates.

LONGSTAFF            That was an understandable error.

MEHMOUD            Very stupid mistake. I sack staff.

GEORGIE            And apparently we signed a memorandum agreeing to be paid in PowerCure shares but I don't remember signing anything, do you, Dad?

LONGSTAFF            (CUTTING OVER HER) Whatever, we haven't received anything towards the purchase price. Yet. Really.

MEHMOUD            I buy players. I make team good, yes? Capelli from Chelsea, Gashvili from Middlesbrough. I spend over thirty-seven million.

LONGSTAFF            I did notice they're nearly all back on the transfer list again?

MEHMOUD            Manager tell me they lazy buggers. Always in bed with supermodel girlfriends. We sell them to Berlusconi, he don't care.

GEORGIE           The Manager said it was because you needed the money. He told me.

MEHMOUD           Stupid gossip.

LONGSTAFF        Thing is, Gus, we're the local family, owned the club for decades. There have been some incidents, outside the house. Fans, doing things, showing their displeasure.

GEORGIE           Sod the jobs, we need the money.

LONGSTAFF        It's true, I have personally had to instruct Sotheby's to sell some of the family's finest – look, Gus, if we could just trouble you for some cash?

MEHMOUD         We agreed three point two k per share, yes?

GEORGIE           A total of eighty-six million for our stake, plus interest since the date of signing.

MEHMOUD         I put Miss Croll onto it. She'll issue new shares to the value as soon as –

LONGSTAFF        We were imagining a liquidity event.

MEHMOUD         PowerCure shares. Best I can do.

GEORGIE           Cash.

MEHMOUD         We agreed shares.

LONGSTAFF        Well, then....

MEHMOUD         (CALLING OUT) Miss Croll, get these people some share certificates.

LONGSTAFF        Thank you.

GEORGIE           (GOING) Let's talk about this, Daddy. Outside.

CUT TO:

MAGAZINE                    Girls, he's back! After jilting Marie Mehmoud at the Luton check-in, Flex Carbury (below) was finally spotted at Pangaea last night. Brazen or just bronzed?

MAGAZINE                    Two weeks away and now Flex Carbury (above) is everywhere. And is that really Jodie Marsh on his arm? Put some back spin on those 32 triple-Gs.

SCENE 75.                    INT. HOTEL: WYNFORD'S ROOM. EVENING.

WYNFORD                    See? (THROWING THEM DOWN) Look, Heat, Three AM Girls, Grazia – he's in them all, without you, honey.

RUBY                            He's lined up a pap thing for us tonight, it's arranged, he totally promised.

WYNFORD                    Flex is not going to be seen with you. You're no use to him.

RUBY                            I will be. I'm Number Three on Assess My Breasts.

WYNFORD                    You're yesterday's dog food. Flex survives by hanging out with the rich, the famous. You are neither.

RUBY                            Why shouldn't men be wags and all?

WYNFORD                    Jase is downstairs, in the lobby, go home with him now.

RUBY                            He's here? You – you bitch.

WYNFORD                    He loves you. I'll sort it with the hotel. Go now. Start your life again.

RUBY                            How could you do this to me?

WYNFORD                    (UNLIKE ME) You've got a man who loves you, don't let him go.

FLEX                            (KNOCK AND ENTERING) Ready to go, Rubes?

RUBY                            Sweetie! (SHE RUSHES TO KISS HIM) How do I look?

FLEX                            It's very short.

RUBY I got the bum for it. It's Emporio. Two week's wages.

WYNFORD You're Flex, I presume.

FLEX You must be Wynford.

WYNFORD I'm not going to let this happen to you, Ruby.

FLEX What do you take me for?

RUBY Wynford, I am going to be famous.

WYNFORD Men say they want one thing and then... Don't waste your life. Go with Jase.

FLEX Let the girl have a little fun.

WYNFORD There's a man who loves her. Waiting downstairs.

RUBY We can go out the staff entrance.

WYNFORD (CONTINUING) A man who wants to make her happy all her life. Do you love her?

FLEX Does Paul Montague love you?

WYNFORD I'm old enough to look after myself.

FLEX You still got two-timed by him.

RUBY We going clubbing or what, Flex?

FLEX Didn't blow it all on that dress, did you?

RUBY I got some money.

FLEX Good girl.

WYNFORD Look at him, Ruby. He can't even pay his way.

RUBY He's gorgeous, isn't he?

CUT TO:

TROLLOPE                    In this way two or three days had passed without any renewal of the accusation before the public, and Mehmoud had in a certain degree recovered his position. Mehmoud, who would lose nothing by want of personal pluck, went down to Westminster at four o'clock - he would be stopped by no phantom fears. He presumed that if he presented himself in the House of Lords, he would make his way in and assume his right.

SCENE 76.                    INT. HOUSE OF LORDS: LOBBY. AFTERNOON.

MEHMOUD                    I happen to be Lord al-Mehmoud.

CLERK                        Forgive me but you need to be introduced to the House first, My Lord.

MEHMOUD                    Introduce me then.

CLERK                        That requires the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, the Garter Principal King of Arms and two supporting peers.

MEHMOUD                    What you talk about? The Queen celebrates by making me a Lord. I therefore like to sit in House of Lords.

CLERK                        We can't admit you until you have your letters patent.

MEHMOUD                    I am Lord al-Mehmoud.

LORD                        (COMING UP ALONGSIDE) Lord Mehmoud, yes? (TO CLERK) Let me take him in, Julian. No reason why he shouldn't just sit and observe.

CLERK                        I believe Mister Mehmoud is taking the Conservative whip, sir. (= HE'S NOT ONE OF YOU)

LORD                        (SLY) I can show him the way.

MEHMOUD                    Thank you so much.

- LORD                    You have to promise you won't say anything.
- MEHMOUD                Whatever.
- LORD                    Not till you've taken your oath, all that.
- MEHMOUD                If you say.
- TROLLOPE                The noble lord seated Mehmoud on one of the back Conservative benches and then retired to the opposing side. There Mehmoud remained for a considerable time unnoticed. For the first hour he hardly caught the meaning of a sentence that was said. The place was very much smaller than he had thought. But in the course of the debate which followed, a question arose about the value of money and a statement had been made containing a fundamental error in finance. Here was an opportunity, the means of showing to the world that he was not afraid of his city enemies! It required some courage certainly but on a sudden the new member was on his legs.
- MEHMOUD                I want say something on this matter. You, over there, that speech, you talking rubbish.
- LORDS                    (OVER HIM) Take your seat, my noble lord.  
Is he drunk?  
Has he been introduced?  
Isn't he a Muslim?  
Retire, my lord.  
The noble lord is drunk.
- MEHMOUD                (BARRELLING ON) What that man say, it completely – I know about money and the LIBOR overnight rate is never -
- LORDS                    Please refer to him as the Noble Lord.  
I move that we hear from the Noble Bishop.  
Move the motion.  
This is a disgrace.  
My Lord Speaker, please ask the noble lord to retire.  
You really should sit down.

TROLLOPE In such a position how should any man understand so many and such complicated instructions at once –

MEHMOUD The Bank of England Discount Rate protects British traders from....protects...it's the Bank of England that....

TROLLOPE - and at the same time remember the gist of the argument to be produced?

LORDS Take your seat, My Lord.  
I move the noble Lord no longer be heard.

LORD SPEAKER The motion has been put. Shall we hear the Noble Lord?

MEHMOUD You will hear me. You bloody hear me.

LORDS Let him do it.  
I withdraw the motion.

THE HOUSE FALLS SILENT DURING:

MEHMOUD I wish to say...I wish to say....I wish....

TROLLOPE As soon as Mehmoud, looking round, found that everybody was silent with the intent of listening to him, a good deal of his courage oozed out of his fingers' ends.

MEHMOUD What he said, all wrong. And a man like him ought know better. I know much about this.

A LOW MURMUR OF RELIEVED VOICES

TROLLOPE He then walked out with as stately a demeanour as he could assume. But when he returned to his grand offices -

CUT TO:

FT Following an ex parte application in the High Court, Jeremy Longstaff (above) as major shareholder in Ipswich Albion FC was granted an Anton Piller Order to make immediate seizures at the offices of PowerCure Plc and Amman

Holdings International. This Search Order gives immediate and full access to all documents, all hard drives, all –

SCENE 77.

INT. MEHMOUD'S OFFICE. DAY.

MEHMOUD (BURSTING INTO HIS OFFICE) What the hell going on here?

LONGSTAFF We want to see that memorandum instructing you to make the payment in PowerCure shares. (TO OTHERS) Carry on, please.

MEHMOUD Get away from that computer.

LONGSTAFF We have the right to make a full inspection. Read the warrant.

MEHMOUD (CALLING) Croll, get my lawyers.

LONGSTAFF I'm quite happy to apply for a Mareva Injunction freezing all your assets. (FINGER CLICK) Like that.

MEHMOUD (SUDDEN CHANGE OF TACK) Jerry, Jerry, we really need to do this?

GEORGIE You're not giving us any choice.

MEHMOUD We have plans, we....I can pay you in full, here and now.

LONGSTAFF Really?

MEHMOUD I can make over these bonds, monoline guaranteed, redemption in three and six months.

LONGSTAFF I need immediate liquidity.

MEHMOUD You really think I can raise that kind of money in an instant?

GEORGIE Once we've completed the search, we'll know the answer to that, won't we?

MEHMOUD            Alright, alright. Give me a week. Full settlement. Bearer bonds.

GEORGIE            Next Friday?

MEHMOUD            Noon.

LONGSTAFF        (TO TEAM) Stop searching.

MEHMOUD            So sorry you are put to this inconvenience, Georgie.

GEORGIE            No sweat.

AND MIX TO:

TROLLOPE           Elsewhere in the metropolis, Felix was also finding that his Ruby was developing a will of her own.

SCENE 78.            INT. SOHO STREET. NIGHT.

AS THEY LEAVE A CLUB, BY THE BACK ENTRANCE, INTO AN ALLEY:

RUBY                I don't get it, who's out front you got to avoid?

FLEX                It's a guy. We did a deal and now –

RUBY                You're embarrassed to be seen with me, aren't you?

FLEX                Actually, I just wanted a moment with you alone. In the dark.

RUBY                You promised me a pap, outside, you promised. Get us in the mags. You ain't set it up, have you? (AS FLEX GROPE) Not here, Flex. Please, stop, now.

FLEX                Just a quick one, no-one can see us.

RUBY                (SCREAMING) Let go! Let go of me! I want to get snapped out front.

TROLLOPE           Yet Jason Crumb was the only man who could be said to have been waiting outside for them. He had followed them thither from the hotel. Then, of a sudden, he heard a

woman. The sound was very near him, but he could not quite see whence it came. Then he heard the voice distinctly:

- RUBY                    These bricks are going to rip my dress. I don't want to – not here.
- FLEX                    Come on, I need it. I already popped two GHB and a viagra.
- RUBY                    No, stop, I can't.
- TROLLOPE            He rushed after the sound, and turning down a passage, saw Ruby struggling.
- FLEX                    You're so sexy. In that dress. You get me so -
- RUBY                    Get us snapped and you can do anything you want.
- TROLLOPE            Whereas Felix was of opinion that he could make a preferable arrangement.
- JASE                    (APPROACHING AT A RUN) Oy you, what's you doing? Get off her.
- FLEX                    (MEANWHILE UNAWARE OF JASE) Come on, Rubes, let me just...quickly...
- TROLLOPE            On a sudden Felix found a hand on his coat, and he was swung violently away, and brought forcibly back against the railings.
- FLEX                    (AS HE MOVES THROUGH THE AIR) Whaaaaaat's...? (FOLLOWED BY AS AN UMPH AS HE THWACKS AGAINST THE RAILINGS)
- RUBY                    Jase! Is that you?
- FLEX                    (RECOVERING) What the bloody hell do you think you're – ?
- JASE                    I been waiting for this.

TROLLOPE            Then there came upon Felix a sense of coming destruction, as though the world for him were all over.

JASE                    You ain't done enough? Got to add rape to the list, have you?

JASE PUNCHES HIM IN THE STOMACH AND FLEX REACTS AND RUBY LETS OUT AN EXCITED SQUEAL

TROLLOPE            And, collapsing throughout his limbs, he slunk down upon the ground.

JASE                    Get up.

FLEX                    (HOARSE, WINDED) I don't think I can.

JASE                    I'm going to have you.

FLEX                    (BARELY ABLE TO SPEAK) You wouldn't hit a man when he's down.

JASE                    Too right, I wouldn't. (AS HE STARTS TO:) Have to help him up so's I can.

TROLLOPE            - said Jason, taking him by the collar of his coat and lifting him.

RUBY                    Jase, don't, don't! (BUT SHE WANTS HIM TO)

TROLLOPE            Felix was a child in the man's arms. Jason Crumb raised him, and catching him round the neck with his left arm, struck the poor wretch some half-dozen times violently in the face, every blow obliterating a feature.

FLEX REACTS TO EACH BLOW.  
AS DOES RUBY: HALF-SYMPATHETIC, HALF EXCITED.  
THEN HE LETS HIM DROP.

JASE                    Now do up your flies.

FLEX                    (BARELY ABLE TO SPEAK) Right. Yes.

## HE MANOEUVRES AND ZIPS

RUBY                    You've...you've....I never knew you were so....

JASE                    Anyone want to call the coppers? Press charges? Ruby?

RUBY                    No.

JASE                    Carbury?

FLEX                    I'm good.

JASE                    Shall we go then, lovely? Car's just round the corner.

AS THEY WALK AWAY DOWN THE PASSAGE (WE STAY WITH FLEX):

RUBY                    You've got blood on your hand.

JASE                    It's his, not mine.

RUBY                    It was so exciting watching you. Do you like my new dress?

JASE                    Bit short.

RUBY                    (TO ASSEMBLED PAPS) Hey, guys, who wants an exclusive of Flex Carbury after he got beaten to pulp?

PAPS                    What? Where?

RUBY                    He's down there, waiting for you.

MEANWHILE FLEX HAS BEEN GROANING AND GETTING OUT AND DIALLING HIS MOBILE.

IT CONNECTS AS RUNNING FEET OF PAPS APPROACH:

FLEX                    Ma-ma? Come and get me, Ma-ma. Quick.

DURING WHICH THE CAMERAS SNAP A THOUSAND SNAPS.

END OF EPISODE

# the way we live right now

## episode 13

### cast

1. TROLLOPE
2. ROGER
3. HETTA
4. FLEX
5. PAUL
6. MARIE
7. MEHMOUD
8. CROLL

MAGAZINE            A guy with a grudge or just a routine debt unpaid?  
Whichever it was, Flex Carbury (left, arriving at St.Thomas' Hospital), looked even more of a mess than usual by the end of Saturday night.

TROLLOPE            The hospital declared that the young man was in no danger and that none of his bones were broken, but that he was terribly bruised about the face, that his eyes were in a frightful condition, sundry of his teeth knocked out, and his lips cut open.

MAGAZINE            In a later statement, police announced they are not looking for anyone in connection with the assault on Flex Carbury (inset, with artist's impression of probable scarring). But plastic surgeons from all over the globe await the call from the former British Tennis Number Two.

SCENE 79.            INT. ST.THOMAS' HOSPITAL: CORRIDOR. MORNING.

OUTSIDE FLEX'S SIDE-WARD

ROGER                I came as soon as I... How are you, Hetta?

- HETTA Roger. I hardly expected you to –
- ROGER I didn't know – I didn't know if you'd want me to come or not.
- HETTA It's terrible, why would anyone do that to Flex? It's not like he ever has much to steal.
- TROLLOPE Hetta told the story as far as she knew it. Her brother's face was strapped up with plaister so that not a feature was visible; and both his eyes were swollen and blue; and his physiognomy had altogether been so treated that even his family would hardly have known him.
- ROGER It's a man called Jason Crumb.
- HETTA Who's that?
- ROGER Works on the farm. In charge of the transport yard.
- HETTA Why would he want to attack my brother?
- ROGER Because your brother has been screwing the mother of his child.
- HETTA Don't be ridiculous. He's been having a thing with Marie Mehmoud.
- ROGER You are obviously labouring under the illusion that people nowadays sleep with one person at a time.
- A MOMENT: HETTA KNOWS HE IS REFERRING TO PAUL.
- HETTA Who is this girl?
- ROGER She's called Ruby Ruggles. Obviously it started those times when Flex came down to the farm with you.
- HETTA He used to say he liked the chance for a proper rest.
- ROGER And she thought he was her passport to celebrity.

HETTA            She was using him?

ROGER            It was a thoroughly two-way street.

HETTA            Why hasn't Flex told the police?

ROGER            He knew he had it coming to him. Maybe he's starting to do the right thing.

HETTA            Had to happen one day.

ROGER            Can I see him?

A MOMENT. SHE DOESN'T MOVE:

HETTA            What you said before, about people, still seeing one person when they start with another.

ROGER            I really didn't mean to be so...

HETTA            I know this is going to sound silly but Flex said something, a few days ago, before this, about Paul. That I should ask you about it.

ROGER            (EVASIVE) Really?

HETTA            About some man. An American. Staying in a hotel in London. Some friend of Paul's. That Paul's – It's got to be nonsense if Flex –

ROGER            It's true, I'm afraid.

HETTA            How do you know?

ROGER            Paul told me. I've known about this American since....Paul told me that he and this man – there was some sort of relationship. In Los Angeles.

HETTA            I don't understand.

ROGER            It's what enabled Paul to get his green card.

HETTA                   What was?

ROGER                   They're married, Hetta. One of those civil partnership things.

HETTA                   I think I need to sit down. (IT SINKS IN) Oh my God.

ROGER                   He hadn't told you anything about it?

HETTA                   Paul told you he was with someone in America and this someone just happened to be a man? And nobody bothers to mention it to me?

ROGER                   Why should we?

HETTA                   (EDGY) I should think that's obvious, Roger.

ROGER                   Are you and he...? (REALISING) It's become serious, you two, has it?

HETTA                   Why didn't you tell me?

ROGER                   I gave Paul my word. I never would have told you.

HETTA                   That's the thing, isn't it?

ROGER                   What?

HETTA                   If you really loved me, really respected me, you would have told me.

ROGER                   I promised my friend.

HETTA                   You wanted us to have children. You want us to share our lives, but you wouldn't tell me that.

ROGER                   This is ridiculous. I'm damned either way.

HETTA                   You were dishonest to me.

ROGER                   How long have you loved him?

HETTA                   A long time.

ROGER All the time we were...?

HETTA I suppose.

ROGER So who am I?

HETTA You're a very sweet man.

ROGER That's a kiss-off if ever I heard one.

HETTA You've been so good to me.

ROGER I don't want to be 'good'. I'm sick of being 'good'. Why can't I be bad for a while?

HETTA You can't. You're incapable of it.

A MOMENT

ROGER Perhaps I'd better see the patient.

HETTA He's in here.

SHE PUSHES OPEN THE DOOR OF THE SIDE WARD.

ROGER Hi, there, Flex, how you doing?

FLEX (97% INCOMPREHENSIBLE, THROUGH BANDAGES AND WIRED-UP MOUTH) Hello, Roger, thanks for coming.

ROGER That's quite a cage you got on there.

FLEX You should see the other guy.

ROGER Sorry?

FLEX You should see the other guy.

ROGER (REALLY TRYING) Sorry? What?

FLEX You should see the other guy.

HETTA                    You should see the other guy.

ROGER                    I'm sure I will, Flex. Just as soon as I get back to the farm.

AND INTO:

TROLLOPE                When Mehmoud had made his promise to Mr Longstaff that he would, on this day, pay the purchase price, in ready money, he intended to be as good as his word. The investment from which he intended to raise the necessary funds was really his own. There could be no doubt about that. When he had placed it in his daughter's name, he had done so simply for security.

SCENE 80.                INT. MEHMOUDS'. DAY.

MEHMOUD                Please sign here. And here. Then Croll come in witness the signatures.

MARIE                    I don't want to. I told you.

MEHMOUD                We have no time for a little girl playing games. I need to pay Longstaff in two hours time. Sign it.

MARIE                    No.

MEHMOUD                (URGENT) He comes here, he has warrants. He freeze everything. We lose everything.

MARIE                    I'll do anything else you tell me, Baba. I'll be the good daughter, I'll stand next to you at a thousand dinners and I'll try to learn the business but I won't sign that piece of paper.

TROLLOPE                Then came across his brow that look. The lower jaw squared itself and the teeth became set, and the nostrils of his nose became extended —

DURING THIS, MEHMOUD STARTS TO GROWL. BUT THEN:

- but he reminded himself that there was another game

which he had proposed to play before he resorted to anger and violence.

- MEHMOUD (MR SOFTY) Marie, my darling, we have been through much, yes? If I not pay this money to bloody Longstaffs, I file for bankrupt. When that happens, the Serious Fraud Office, they come. You and me will have nothing.
- MARIE Except I'll still have this. This money here. It's in my name.
- MEHMOUD You think you'll enjoy spending it, with me in prison?
- MARIE I'm going to give it to charity.
- MEHMOUD It isn't yours to give. It's mine.
- MARIE Then why can't you use it? You need my signature because it's mine.
- MEHMOUD (TEMPER RISING) It's my parachute fund. And I need to jump now.
- MARIE I can't. I won't. It's got to end now. All this make-believe, all this lying and spending and pretending. It's not real. I want it to stop.
- MEHMOUD SLAPS HER.
- MARIE I don't mind. Hit me again.
- MEHMOUD SLAPS HER AGAIN.
- MARIE Again.
- HE SLAPS HER AGAIN AND SHE FALLS TO THE FLOOR.
- TROLLOPE Poor Marie. Crouching down, she hardly uttered a sound.
- MEHMOUD Will you sign them now?
- SHE SAYS NOTHING. HE STRIKES HER AGAIN.

MEHMOUD            Now? Will you? Will you?

OVER THIS:

TROLLOPE            At that moment Croll, frightened by the screams, burst into the room.

CROLL                Gus! Gus! What are you doing?

MEHMOUD            She ruin us, she wants me bloody screwed.

TROLLOPE            Marie crouched, cowering, in the corner of a sofa, by no means vanquished in spirit.

MEHMOUD            Will you sign them?

CROLL                Do what you father says, Marie. I beg you.

MARIE                I will never again do what he says.

MEHMOUD            Bitch. Nothing but a bitch.

TROLLOPE            - said Mehmoud, collecting the papers together. Then he left the room, and followed by Croll, descended to the study.

CROLL                You idiot.

CUT TO:

SCENE 81.            INT. HOSPITAL. DAY.

ROGER AND PAUL APPROACH ALONG THE CORRIDOR FROM DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS

PAUL                 Roger.

ROGER                You've been avoiding me.

PAUL                 We just haven't been in the same place at –

ROGER One email. (FURY) One call to tell me you'd done the one thing I begged you not to do.

PAUL You really think it was going to make a difference?

ROGER For God's sake, one minute you're off with your bloke, the next you're with Hetta – the one woman in the world I will ever love.

PAUL I love her too.

ROGER How can you say that? You go from one thing to – first it's your PowerCure – how many people have been hurt in that?

PAUL They bought shares, they knew there were risks.

ROGER Risks is alright - absolutely no prospect of ever seeing your money again is another. Handing over their money to a swindler because people like you gave him credibility, how can you be part of that?

PAUL I was taken in as much as anyone. I've lost my entire capital fund.

ROGER That's something I suppose.

PAUL I've never heard you be spiteful.

ROGER I've never been so betrayed. You, Paul, you. I gave you so many chances.

PAUL I'm grateful. Always will be.

ROGER I taught you, I brought you into the partnership. And this is how you thank me. You take Hetta away –

PAUL She's not some possession, to go to the highest bidder.

ROGER You stepped between us. Our relationship was fine till you came back.

PAUL                    You talk as though if I didn't exist, or if I hadn't come back, she would have said "Well, there's no-one better to love, I'll make do with boring old Roger."

A MOMENT.  
THAT WAS A BODY BLOW.

ROGER                I know I don't jet round the world, doing big deals, sleeping with anyone I find.

PAUL                I didn't mean it like that, Roger.

ROGER                I know I insist on values and principles that no longer seem to be...valued.

PAUL                We all admire you for that.

ROGER                'Admire' – what a deadening word.

PAUL                It's important.

ROGER                She's loved me for these years. She really has. We were talking about having children.

PAUL                That seems to be a thing of the past.

ROGER                Unlike your homosexual lover.

PAUL                I told Wyn to go back to the US. He's agreed to a dissolve the civil partnership. Anything else is his decision.

ROGER                How convenient for you.

PAUL                I haven't seen him, spoken to him for over – since that day in Suffolk.

ROGER                Uh-huh.

PAUL                (FUMBLING FOR IT) Want to check my phone? Calls made? Here, go on.

ROGER                (SOFT) I believe you.

PAUL                    If it was a woman you wouldn't be making nearly so much fuss.

ROGER                 Deception is still deception,

PAUL                    Let it go, Roger, you can't make Hetta love you by scoring points. Nothing you say will make it right or wrong – it's love. It's not logic. It's happened.

ROGER                 And it's wrong.

PAUL                    It's happened.

A MOMENT.

ROGER                 You'd better go up and see the patient.

PAUL                    How is he?

ROGER                 (GOING) Mercifully incomprehensible.

PAUL                    Wasn't he always?

MIX TO:

TROLLOPE            Mehmoud, after he reached his private rooms hardly made a reference to his daughter. The Great Financier went on to explain to Croll what he wanted done.

SCENE 82.            INT. MEHMOUDS': HIS OFFICE. DAY.

MEHMOUD             It's my money. As you well know, my dear.

CROLL                 It is.

MEHMOUD             I will sign her name. I'm her father.

TROLLOPE            Then he looked up at the clerk.

CROLL                 I see.

TROLLOPE           The clerk assented — after a fashion.

MEHMOUD           And then, and then you can witness the signatures.

TROLLOPE           Then he again looked up at Croll. Croll did not move a muscle. There certainly was no assent.

MEHMOUD           (CHANGE OF TACK) You're right. It's silly. I'll have another word with Marie.

CROLL               That's best.

MEHMOUD           See you in an hour or two.

DOOR CLOSES

TROLLOPE           But Mehmoud made no further attempt upon his daughter. As soon as Croll was gone he searched among various papers in his desk, and having found two signatures, those of his daughter and of his clerk, he practised the two signatures for the best part of an hour.

CUT TO:

SCENE 83.           INT. HOSPITAL: SIDE WARD. DAY.

PAUL APPROACHING

PAUL               How you doing, Flex?

FLEX               (EQUALLY INCOMPREHENSIBLE) It hurts.

PAUL               Sorry?

FLEX               It really hurts.

PAUL               Is Hetta here?

FLEX               She's gone to get a drink.

PAUL               What?

FLEX She's gone to –

HETTA (ENTERING) Here I am.

PAUL (TURNING) Hetta.

TROLLOPE When she entered, Paul stepped forward to take her in his arms. That was a matter of course. She knew it would be so, and she had prepared herself for it.

HETTA I think we have to talk about something first.

TROLLOPE She sat down at some distance from him — and he found himself compelled to seat himself at some distance from her.

HETTA Tell me about him.

FLEX Yes, tell her.

HETTA Shut up, Flex.

PAUL Wynford, you mean?

FLEX Like obviously.

HETTA Shut up, Flex.

PAUL It's - it's hard to know where to start.

FLEX At the 'ucking beginning, 'irt-lifter.

PAUL & HETTA Shut up, Flex.

FLEX Hmm.

HETTA (CALMLY, HOLDING IT IN) You are married. I now discover. To a man. In another country.

PAUL We only did it to get me a green card.

HETTA Great, you married someone you didn't love? Planning to do it again any time soon?

PAUL                   It's so different from what we have, Hetta.

HETTA                 Tell me how exactly.

PAUL                   It was a kind of infatuation.

HETTA                 Do you love him?

PAUL                   That was – I don't. I realised, after a while, it was just a craziness.

HETTA                 Some people might call that love.

PAUL                   Maybe I did love him once.

FLEX                   Told you!

AND SHE SWEEPS THE CURTAIN ROUND HIS BED.

FLEX                   (FROM BEHIND) Oh.

PAUL                   Maybe I did. It was something – I was lonely. I was surprised.

HETTA                 You're not the only one. For God's sake, I thought there was honesty between us. I didn't expect you to be celibate over there.

PAUL                   You moved in with Roger.

HETTA                 (COLD) Careful.

PAUL                   Right. Yes. And then Wynford turned up in London. I wasn't expecting that. I didn't want that.

HETTA                 You bloody went out with him, you were in his hotel room, you took him to Suffolk.

PAUL                   He was lonely.

HETTA                 And you fancied a few quick ones until I was ready.

PAUL I've been stupid. I've been –

HETTA You've been telling me you love me and then dashing off to Islington to...see him.

PAUL You think I've still got a relationship with him?

HETTA I wouldn't dignify it with the word 'relationship'. That's what I used to think we had – he's your booty call. Right?

PAUL He means nothing to me. God, what a cliché.

HETTA Your life's a cliché, Paul. You see me, bored with Roger, and you think, ah-ha, perfect little wifey. I'll go on having affairs with men and she can be my little extra wife-woman.

PAUL That's the last thing. I'm not like that. That stage of my life is over.

HETTA What am I, a holiday?

PAUL I love you, Hetta. I always have.

HETTA Some weird obsession of yours. Have the guts to come out at least.

PAUL I'm not gay.

HETTA Stop lying to me, to yourself. It's cheap, it's sad.

PAUL Please, Hetta.

HETTA I think you should go now.

PAUL Are you – what are you saying?

HETTA I'm saying it's best if you go.

PAUL And come back...?

HETTA Hurry up and go, will you?

TROLLOPE            Paul Montague was beside himself with dismay as he left. He had never allowed himself for a moment to believe that this American affair would really separate him from Hetta. In his mind, he had been true to her from the first moment in which he had seen her, never swerving from his love.

HETTA DRAWS BACK THE CURTAIN

FLEX                 Well played, Sis.

HETTA                Shut up.

SO SAYING, SHE PUNCHES HIM IN THE STOMACH

FLEX                 Urg!!!!!!!!!!

AND HETTA BURSTS INTO TEARS.

END OF EPISODE

# the way we live right now

## episode 14

### cast

1. TROLLOPE
2. MEHMOUD
3. BEHROOZ
4. MARIE
5. GEORGIE
6. LONGSTAFF

TROLLOPE            On that Thursday afternoon it was known everywhere that there was to be a general ruin of all the Mehmoud affairs.

FT                     Lord Al-Mehmoud (above) was in usual bullish form as he left the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform – by the back door – yesterday. Later the Secretary of State refused to deny that trading in PowerCure shares will be suspended later today.

MAGAZINE            Marie Mehmoud (below) snapped on a ten-bag spree in Bond Street. Spend it while you've got it, we say, Marie. And is that veil for Allah's sake or (close-up, left) is that a nasty bruise under there? Are tempers fraying in the Mehmoud caravanserai?

NEWSPAPER           Later the outgoing Chairman of Bear Sterns (above) flatly denied reporters questions that the bank had invested over twenty-eight million dollars in PowerCure.

TROLLOPE            Why had he not stuck to the City instead of going into Parliament? Why had he called down unnecessary notice on his head?

SCENE 84.            INT. MEHMOUDS'. DAY.

MEHMOUD (SHOUTING THROUGH) Miss Croll, get me Shanghai Capital on the line.

TROLLOPE He had thrown in his lot with the Conservative Party which meant that their political opponents now hunted him with more than customary vigour.

MEHMOUD (AFTER A 'NO' ANSWER) OK, try that guy we know at the Qatar Investment Authority. Get me Sheikh Hamad.

TROLLOPE But if Mehmoud could make the payment to Messrs Longstaff by noon on this day, his empire would survive to fight again.

MEHMOUD I'll go and see Behrooz then. Warn him I'm on my way.

TROLLOPE Mehmoud had not felt the slightest scruple in writing Marie's signature to the papers himself. Nor Croll's as witness thereto. They should put him on trial for forgery, what of that? He had heard of trials in which the accused criminals had been heroes to the multitude while their cases were in progress — though no one had doubted their guilt — and who had come out unscathed at the last.

SCENE 85. INT. BEHROOZ'. DAY.

MEHMOUD Izdihar, good morning.

BEHROOZ Coffee?

MEHMOUD Not even ten minutes to spare. Give me that water.

HE SNATCHES A GLASS AND DOWNS IT, GULPISHLY. DURING:

BEHROOZ Naturally, Gus, I don't believe half what they're saying about you.

MEHMOUD Politics. Parliamentary Standards. They all take their brown envelopes, employ their children, but now I am wrong to try make a great business.

BEHROOZ The crunch, it's hitting us all.

MEHMOUD           Eleven million US will get me through, Izdihar. I have here bearer bonds valued at over fifteen million US.

HE HANDS OVER THE DOCUMENTS.

BEHROOZ           (AS HE READS THEM) In your daughter's name. These bonds.

MEHMOUD           She has signed a full power of attorney, in your favour. And waived all rights, in your favour. There. And there. And Croll witnessed all the signatures.

BEHROOZ           She should really have signed these in my presence.

MEHMOUD           (BAD LIE) She's not well.

BEHROOZ           I saw some pictures.

MEHMOUD           Fell down the stairs.

BEHROOZ           Why not use the lift?

MEHMOUD           Children. Who knows?

BEHROOZ           I'll have my lawyers run due diligence on these and –

MEHMOUD           (TOO QUICK) No need. They're good.

BEHROOZ THINKS FOR A MOMENT, THEN:

BEHROOZ           Take these back to your office, Gus. Have Croll check them over one more time.

MEHMOUD           I need to raise this money by noon. Longstaff's got a Freeze And Seize if I don't.

BEHROOZ           I know Miss Croll would not want to be vulnerable to a malfeasance action.

MEHMOUD           With this collateral the bank will happily advance you -

BEHROOZ Not even collateralised, no-one is lending, not even to me.

MEHMOUD But these bonds ensure it. Marie's bonds guarantees the –

BEHROOZ You know how much I have already lent you.

MEHMOUD All that is at risk! Unless.

BEHROOZ I am aware of that. I will have to...I have made plans.

MEHMOUD But...? Maybe I take the bonds to someone else. You think Barclays Cap - ? *[ital?]*

BEHROOZ Don't. (VERY CALMLY) Please, take them home, put them somewhere safe.

TROLLOPE It all flashed upon Mehmoud at a moment. Behrooz was aware of the forgery and had taken this way of saving him. He had known Behrooz to be the most good-natured of men but he could hardly believe in pure good-nature such as this.

MEHMOUD You're right. I should give it up.

BEHROOZ Take a break. What will come, will come. Spend some time on your yacht.

MEHMOUD I've been thinking that.

BEHROOZ Maybe the share price will rally.

MEHMOUD It might.

BEHROOZ When it does, insha'allah, I will do what I can.

MEHMOUD Thank you.

BEHROOZ (CROSSING AND OPENING THE DOOR FOR HIM) Do something with those documents.

MEHMOUD I shall.

BEHROOZ Goodbye, Ghassan.

MIX TO:

TROLLOPE Still ensconced in Mehmoud's property, Georgiana Longstaff was now agonized by many doubts. Her fiancé, Sheikh Behrooz was rich. But if it were necessary that she should really marry down into a much lower world, a world composed altogether of Behroozes and Mehmouds, would it gain her enough to be the mistress of gorgeous houses?

SCENE 86. INT. MEHMOUDS'. MORNING.

GEORGIE The number of people who've started avoiding me. My old friends. It's repulsive. How do you stand it?

MARIE In London?

GEORGIE In clubs. You know. It's like I'm tainted or something.

MARIE They're repulsive.

GEORGIE They look at me, mention things. It's really upsetting.

TROLLOPE Georgie was certainly was not prepared to nail her colours upon the mast and to live and die for Behrooz.

GEORGIE (DESPAIR) What have I done? Do you think I can ever teach him where to shop?

MARIE Sheikh Behrooz is a very nice man.

GEORGIE Yes. Charming. Generous. But he's already got two wives.

MARIE You said you wouldn't have to see them.

GEORGIE That's not the point. It's...it's too weird. Marrying a guy who's already married. And all my friends know it too.

MARIE It is normal in some countries.

GEORGIE Is that why he's saying we have to get married over there?

MARIE                    That's a family thing.

GEORGIE                He promised, we'd have one wedding here and one over there. Like Liz and Arun.

MARIE                    That whole thing was way over the top.

GEORGIE                Now he won't even let me fly my friends over to Qufar. One little charter jet, is that too much to ask? But no, he says they can pay for their own flights. Except they won't.

MARIE                    Then they're not your friends.

GEORGIE                It's so embarrassing, having to ask. And you know what the worst thing is?

MARIE                    What?

GEORGIE                I haven't got any choice. If we can't get your stupid father to pay up, Daddy's completely broke. I've got to do it.

MARIE                    I think the Sheikh is one of the nicest men I've ever met.

GEORGIE                You marry him then.

MARIE                    If Baba told me to, I would. I know he's good.

TROLLOPE              But Georgie could not back out of it so as to obliterate all traces of the disgrace. For all Behrooz' wealth, a feeling of intense regret for the things she was losing came over her.

GEORGIE                Is it really worth it, Marie?

MARIE                    He's very wealthy. That's what you wanted, isn't it?

GEORGIE                Wearing a veil when we go back to Qufar? And the other wives – what if they hate me? - and then there's the...what if he got fundamentalism?

MARIE                    That's not going to happen.

GEORGIE                   What then? I'd be separated but not divorced. Some washed-up Muslim reject. Nobody'd go near me.

MARIE                     So don't marry him. Call it off.

GEORGIE                   (TEARS OF FURY) Then I'll be the one who was jilted by the fat old Arab. That's what they'll say. It won't ever go away. I have so screwed this up.

CUT TO:

SCENE 87.               INT. BEHROOZ'. DAY.

BEHROOZ                   Frankly, I'm surprised, Mister Longstaff, today, especially today, you have time to talk about this.

LONGSTAFF                Mehmoud is due to make the payment in ninety minutes. We both know he won't manage it. Until then, what am I supposed to do?

BEHROOZ                   I was unable to offer him additional support. It was very painful.

LONGSTAFF                I'm sure you all like to stick together.

BEHROOZ                   Unlike the old Etonians? Unlike you and David and Boris.

LONGSTAFF                Look, shall we stick to the nub of the issue - my daughter and you.

BEHROOZ                   You are against our marriage.

LONGSTAFF                You're fifty-eight, man.

BEHROOZ                   And your special friend, how old is she?

LONGSTAFF                What on earth do you - ?

BEHROOZ                   Georgie told me about your girl in your flat. We listened to her songs on MySpace. Pretty girl.

LONGSTAFF I am not trying to marry her.

BEHROOZ Perhaps you should. Perhaps she deserves that much.

LONGSTAFF She wouldn't want it. She doesn't understand my world. And that's the thing. We don't really understand how you make your money. That talk of deals and shipments and -

BEHROOZ I agree. It is complicated, Not as simple as your breweries.

LONGSTAFF All your different customs. All the different things you people do.

BEHROOZ In fact, we do not cut off the hands of those who steal a loaf of bread.

LONGSTAFF I don't mean all that. Frankly, I think we could learn from you there. I mean women and all that.

BEHROOZ You mean - don't you? – my wives.

LONGSTAFF Bloody hell, man, 'course I do.

BEHROOZ Would you rather I pretended they do not exist? Would you rather I wore suits like you and was a polished English gentleman?

LONGSTAFF I hardly think you could.

BEHROOZ First it was the Jews, then it was the blacks, and now it is us. The English boast of their welcome to all nations but you always need someone who may not become one of you.

LONGSTAFF I have no objection to you coming over here –

BEHROOZ “Just don't marry my daughter.”

LONGSTAFF You'll be divorced in months.

BEHROOZ Have you said this to Georgie?

LONGSTAFF She won't listen to me.

BEHROOZ But you think you can come here, speak like this to me, and I will run off and obey your commands?

LONGSTAFF I have a father's duty to save my daughter.

BEHROOZ Mister Longstaff, I would not want to cause your family – such an old and famous family - any unhappiness. I will tell Georgie what you have said.

LONGSTAFF (SURPRISED) Oh. Right.

CUT TO:

TROLLOPE At eleven o'clock, a different daughter came to her father. It can hardly be said that Mehmoud had ever been kind to Marie, but perhaps she was the only person who in the whole course of his career had received indulgence at his hands.

SCENE 88.                    INT. MEHMOUDS'. DAY.

MARIE Baba, I think I might have been wrong.

MEHMOUD It doesn't matter now.

MARIE If there is some money, why don't you go?

MEHMOUD (IGNORING THIS) I was thinking of spending a few days in the Mediterranean the yacht.

MARIE I meant further. Use the money. I'll sign those papers. I don't really want everything to –

MEHMOUD I thought I'd get the helicopter out to the yacht.

MARIE You could go back to the Beirut, or the Emirates?

MEHMOUD Just to rest. I need a rest. Come with me.

MARIE I have things to do here.

MEHMOUD            Are you still seeing that boy?

MARIE                Flex? No.

MEHMOUD            You don't sound certain.

MARIE                I want to help him – underneath, he's good.

MEHMOUD            Everyone's good underneath.

MARIE                Really?

MEHMOUD            Come with me, just a few days in the sun, we could be in Palermo by midnight.

MARIE                You go. It's a good idea. I can't.

MEHMOUD            That's a shame.

MARIE                Is it? Maybe you need to be alone.

TROLLOPE            He had often beaten her; but he had also often smiled on her. He had cause to be angry now with Marie if he had ever had cause for anger. But he had almost forgotten the transaction. He had at any rate forgotten the violence of his own feelings.

NEWSPAPER            Jeremy Longstaff (above) entered the PowerCure offices at just after midday. Trading in the shares was suspended fifteen minutes later. Gus Mehmoud (library picture) was unavailable for comment.

TROLLOPE            He was about to have a crushing fall — but the world should say that he had fallen like a man.

MIX INTO HELICOPTER

AND OUT INTO:

SCENE 89.            INT. MEHMOUDS'. AFTERNOON.

BEHROOZ            It is the fact, Georgie. There is nothing to be done.

GEORGIE            Why didn't you tell me before?

BEHROOZ           We all hoped it would not happen. And it never happens until it happens.

GEORGIE           The whole house is deserted. Gus has gone off somewhere, not answering his mobile, and Marie's - I don't know where. It's scary.

BEHROOZ           It will become simple soon.

GEORGIE           How much did you lend him?

BEHROOZ           In the end. Near sixty-five.

GEORGIE           Hundred thousand?

BEHROOZ           Million.

GEORGIE           Can't you just borrow it from someone else?

BEHROOZ           No-one is lending, Georgie. Time to trash and cash.

GEORGIE           (OUTRAGED) So we have to sell houses? We have to go without?

BEHROOZ           I like it when you say 'we' like that.

GEORGIE           That's because it's you who's bollixed it and me who's going without. I'm stuck in this with you.

BEHROOZ           I would not wish you to feel that you are bound to your promise.

GEORGIE           Sorry?

BEHROOZ           I know how important it is to you, our future quality of life. The place on the Upper East Side. The Palm Beach place.

GEORGIE           I love it there, you know I do.

BEHROOZ           And now it must be sold.

GEORGIE HOWLS

BEHROOZ           I must explain. I have made commitments to my existing children, that a certain amount will be settled on each of them. To do that, I am now obligated to sell various assets, reduce certain expenditures.

GEORGIE           What about me? What do I get?

BEHROOZ           You are unhappy. Your father also, I should tell you, is unhappy. I do like to be the cause of such unhappiness to the whole Longstaff family.

GEORGIE           What did you expect? You don't understand us.

BEHROOZ           I wish...but no.

GEORGIE           Expecting me to climb into bed with all those wives.

BEHROOZ           That is not how it works.

GEORGIE           No drinking, wear a veil, pray eighteen times a day - I'd probably be arrested and searched like Marie the other day.

BEHROOZ           That was –

GEORGIE           Her fault. It's your lot who wear the veils and set off the bombs. I ask you, who started this?

BEHROOZ           That is a good question.

GEORGIE           We're all walking round, looking at every beardie with a rucksack and what did we do wrong?

BEHROOZ           (WHOLLY CALM) Shall we announce it?

GEORGIE           What?

BEHROOZ           The end of our engagement?

GEORGIE (WRONG-FOOTED, SHE WANTED TO BE THE ONE TO SAY IT FIRST) What?

BEHROOZ Maybe not. Just allow it fade away.

GEORGIE Oh. I... But...

BEHROOZ And please, keep the ring, I will think of you wearing it.

HE STANDS AND WALKS TO THE DOOR.

GEORGIE Izzy?

BEHROOZ Yes?

GEORGIE Um. (SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY) Goodbye.

BEHROOZ Goodbye.

HE GOES OUT AND CLOSSES THE DOOR.

TROLLOPE Somebody had told her the ring had not cost less than a hundred and fifty. She could not wear it, as people would know whence it had come, but she might exchange it for things she could wear.

NEWSPAPER As shareholders (above) hammered on the doors of the PowerCure offices in Bishopsgate, a spokesman for the Financial Services Authority (left) insisted they would soon have Lord Al-Mehmoud in custody.

TROLLOPE Mehmoud strode along the quay with his face carefully dressed in its usually jaunty air. But carrying an external look of indifference when the heart is sinking within — or has sunk almost to the very ground — is more than difficult; it is an agonizing task.

AS HE WALKS AWAY FROM THE HELICOPTER

SCENE 90.                    EXT. FRENCH QUAYSIDE. EVENING.

MEHMOUD The yacht. It is prepared?

CAPTAIN            This way, Your Lordship.

TROLLOPE            In all mental suffering, the sufferer longs for solitude — for permission to cast himself loose along the ground, so that every limb and every feature of his person may faint in sympathy with his heart.

MEHMOUD            Just out to sea. Just get some quiet.

CAPTAIN            Things a bit sticky in the City?

MEHMOUD            Something like that.

TROLLOPE            But of what avail were regrets? And if the worst should come to the worst, then let him face it like a man!

DURING WHICH, MIX INTO:

SCENE 91.            EXT. YACHT AT SEA. NIGHT.

WAVES GENTLY LAPPING AGAINST THE HULL

MEHMOUD            I'm just go for walk around deck.

CAPTAIN            Careful, it can get a bit blowy.

MEHMOUD            I will be alright.

HE WALKS ALONG THE DECK.  
 THEN HE HOISTS HIMSELF OVER THE RAIL, IT'S NOT EASY  
 AND CLIMBS DOWN THE RUNGS  
 DURING ALL OF WHICH:

TROLLOPE            There was much that he was ashamed of — but all that could now be undone as long as no-one saw him, no-one interrupted him as he climbed each rung of fate's downward ladder.

HE SPLOSHES INTO THE WATER  
 AND, WITH DIFFICULTY, SWIMS AWAY FROM THE BOAT

Fraud and dishonesty had been the very principle of his life, and had so become a part of his blood and bones that even in this extremity of his misery he made no question within himself as to his right judgment.

HE IS NOW TRYING TO TREAD WATER, BUT SINKING, DURING:

Still, he was finally able to deliver himself from the indignities and penalties to which the law might have subjected him.

DURING THIS, HIS LAST GURGLES, AND

END OF EPISODE

# the way we live right now

## episode 15

### cast

1. TROLLOPE
2. MARIE
3. HETTA
4. CROLL
5. WYNFORD
6. PAUL
7. FLEX
8. ROGER

SCENE 92.

INT. MEHMOUDS'. MORNING.

MARIE'S MOBILE IS RINGING. SHE IS ASLEEP.

MARIE                      Hello?...What? Say that again?...(GROWING PANIC)...What do you mean? Which hospital? We need to get some proper doctors....I don't believe that. I don't believe, he can't've just fallen...It's a ninety foot yacht....Can't they do anything?...Alright....OK....I'll ring them.....OK.

SHE TURNS OFF THE PHONE  
AND SCRABBLES FOR THE REMOTE  
SHE PINGS THE TV ON:

NEWSREADER            ...being reported by Italian news agencies based in Sicily that the financier, Lord Ghassan Al-Mehmoud, has been taken to hospital in the Sicilian city of Palermo. Press Association is carrying uncorroborated reports that he is dead but the hospital has yet to make a statement. He is thought to have been holidaying on his yacht nearby.

DURING THIS SHE FUMBLES FOR HER MOBILE AND DIALS.  
AS SOON AS IT'S ANSWERED:

MARIE I'm really sorry...No, I know....Thank you....Complete shock...He just wanted a rest, just a chance to....(REALISING) Oh my God....Would you? I didn't know who else to ask. Thank you. Yes, I'm here, I'm here. Thank you.

CUT TO:

STEAM TRAIN IN TUNNELS DURING:

TROLLOPE That morning, wholly unaware of the obituaries circulating the metropolis, Hetta Carbury trusted herself all alone to the mysteries of the underground railway and emerged at King's Cross. She walked from thence to Islington.

AND OUT INTO:

SCENE 93.                    INT. STARBUCK'S. DAY.

WYNFORD (TAKING CHARGE OF THIS ENCOUNTER) I've been waiting for your call.

HETTA (TERRIFIED) Thank you for agreeing to see me.

WYNFORD Why did it you take so long? You knew where to find me.

HETTA SAYS NOTHING

WYNFORD Look at me. Please. Don't be scared.

TROLLOPE They were both of the same complexion, both dark, with hair nearly black, with eyes of the same colour. But Hetta acknowledged that she had no pretensions to beauty.

HETTA Thank you for not being angry.

WYNFORD I've lost him. It's that simple.

HETTA I wish.

WYNFORD Don't tell me you two have broken up? That really would be a waste.

HETTA You're surprised?

WYNFORD What's he done now?

HETTA (IT'S OBVIOUS!) Why didn't he tell me about you?

WYNFORD Come on, Hetta, act your age. The guy is in a complete mess. He doesn't know who he wants to be. But he wants you. And I'm the collateral damage. What American can complain about that?

HETTA But he....you guys, you loved each other?

WYNFORD Why are you making such a big thing of it?

HETTA How can I not?

WYNFORD Have you noticed it's 2008?

HETTA So?

WYNFORD Would you care if I was a woman?

HETTA I'd care if he'd been with anyone, any woman, while with me, yes. Bloody right I would.

WYNFORD Honey, I did something stupid. He left the US, told me it was over. I missed him. I told myself it was over. I missed him too much. I got on a plane to come and get him back. Dumb. Wrong. Painful.

HETTA You were married.

WYNFORD That was – he needed a work permit, I took the chance to tie him closer. I talked him into it. Dumber.

HETTA So, nothing's happened between you? I mean, while you've been here?

WYNFORD           Guys like Paul, they find it hard to be bad-mannered. And I worked him, so hard he had to be rude to get rid of me. And you know how Paul hates being rude. It's one of the things we love about him, isn't it?

HETTA                You went out together. You went to Suffolk together.

WYNFORD            I gave him a hard time. Said I had no friends here. Said I was lonely. It was cheap but effective. I'm not ashamed. I thought it would win me more time with him.

HETTA                It did!

WYNFORD            He went straight back to London, the same day. My cunning plan was foiled. Pesky kid.

HETTA SAYS NOTHING

TROLLOPE           Hetta had no reply to make. All had been said that she had come to hear. She had told herself that her visit was to be made in order that she might be justified in her condemnation of her lover. Now she was told that however false her lover might have been to this other, he had been absolutely true to her.

HETTA                OK, I have to ask. This is... Is Paul gay? I need to know.

WYNFORD            Paul's like all these guys, he comes alight when someone's interested in him. He glows. When someone makes a fuss of him. I talked him into it. Now I'm the one paying the price.

HETTA                You're sure?

WYNFORD            He's the English guy, too polite to tell me he wasn't gay.

HETTA                (ALMOST SMILING) Stupid man.

WYNFORD            Forgive him. You're young. Both of you. Love is all that counts. If that doesn't sound too cheesy.

HETTA                (GETTING UP AND STARTING TO GO) Thank you.  
Thank you.

TROLLOPE            How full of beauty was the face of that American and above all how powerful and at the same time how easy and how gracious! And yet Paul Montague had preferred her, Hetta Carbury!

DURING THIS SHE HAS WALKED OUTSIDE  
AND IS DIALLING HER MOBILE

HETTA                (HAPPY, URGENT) Hi, Paul.

PAUL                 (THROUGH PHONE) Hetta, what's going on? You've been blocking my calls for the last –

HETTA                Want to have coffee?

PAUL                 It's amazing, isn't it?

HETTA                Sorry?

PAUL                 I just didn't think he was the sort of guy to do that.

HETTA                What? Who?

PAUL                 Mehmoud. You haven't heard?

HETTA                What?

PAUL                 Killed himself. Last night.

HETTA                No?

PAUL                 Well, could be an accident. I doubt it. Fell off his yacht, they say. He jumped. He did it.

HETTA                Why do we always end up talking about him?

PAUL                 What do you want to talk about? Suddenly taking my calls.

HETTA                I just thought I'd buy you a coffee. In Islington.

PAUL                 Hang on, what are you doing there?

HETTA I just met someone. Talked to him.

PAUL You mean....?

HETTA I like him.

PAUL Why are you doing this?

HETTA Because I love you, Paul.

PAUL I thought I – (BRAKES) - What?

HETTA Shall we have another try?

PAUL Do you mean that?

HETTA Where are you? Are you watching television?

PAUL Of course I am. I have to know what's – wow, they've got the body there, they're bringing it ashore, on a trolley thing, he's huge, or is that the water and -

HETTA Can you tear yourself away for long enough to come and buy me lunch?

PAUL At your office?

HETTA One o'clock. Don't be late. I've missed you.

PAUL OK.

HE TURNS HIS PHONE OFF  
AND TURNS THE TV BACK UP:

NEWS (VAMPING) And we can look again at the footage of the Italian ambulance service who took the body to the Infirmary at Santa Castellana, to the mortuary in the hospital there. According to Italian law, the post mortem will now be underway, performed by the Chief Pathologist, Doctor Salvatore...

TROLLOPE            They could only stand round and gaze on the square, sullen, livid features of the big-framed man, and each lament that he had ever heard the name of Mehmoud.

NEWS                Meanwhile share trading in PowerCure has been suspended following an intervention by the Serious Fraud Office. We'll now go over to our reporter outside the PowerCure offices in the City of London. Apparently Lord Mehmoud's daughter – his only child – arrived there a few minutes ago. What can you tell us, Kirsty, is that right?

MIX TO:

SCENE 94.            INT. ABCHURCH LANE.

INSIDE THE OFFICES, CROLL IS AS COOL AS EVER

CROLL                I'm so sorry, Marie.

MARIE                Thank you, Miss Croll.

CROLL                Your father was very dear to me.

MARIE                Really?

CROLL                I have worked for him for over ten years.

MARIE                He was your cash cow. You milked him. Then helped him over the edge.

CROLL                Marie, you're upset.

TROLLOPE            It was afterwards said by some of those who had seen her at the time, that Marie Mehmoud had shown a hard heart on the occasion. But the condemnation was wrong.

MARIE                Prepared your exit strategy?

CROLL                I never had funds in PowerCure. I never –

MARIE                I know, you'll be one hundred percent squeaky.

CROLL                    Would you mind if we talked about a few practicalities? You need to make a statement to the Press.

MARIE                    Why?

CROLL                    Anything else looks guilty.

TROLLOPE                The feeling which dominated her was one of awe rather than of broken-hearted sorrow. Those who depart must have earned such sorrow before it can be really felt.

MARIE                    What the hell am I guilty of?

CROLL                    The bonds he tried to shift, with the forged signatures. They're yours.

MARIE                    So?

CROLL                    You're hanging on to them while thousands of people have lost everything they invested in PowerCure.

MARIE                    I'm going to give it to charity.

CROLL                    That's good.

MARIE                    What do you suggest? Got a favourite good cause?

CROLL                    It doesn't matter, as long as you distance yourself from the money, from your father's dealings.

MARIE                    Pretend he wasn't anything to do with me, you mean?

TROLLOPE                And then for the first time she burst into tears.

MARIE                    (WEEPING) He was my father. He was my father.

CROLL                    It's essential you disassociate yourself.

MARIE                    He was my father.

CROLL                    I wish I knew what to say. To comfort you.

MARIE (TEARFUL ANGER) Comfort? When have I ever been comfortable? Constantly living in fear. Of this. That's why I wanted it all to end, I told him. That's why I wouldn't sign those documents.

CROLL He took it hard.

MARIE I went back, the next day, told him I would sign. By then he didn't want me to. He wanted it to end too. You know? He did.

CROLL Poor man.

MARIE (COLLECTING HERSELF) I think I'm going to be OK now.

CROLL So you've got what you said you wanted. You're free of him.

CUT TO:

TROLLOPE He almost knew that he had been wrong even to desire to see him. But when the door opened and Mr Montague entered, Wynford Hurtle's heart leaped within him, and he made a last great effort to be tranquil.

SCENE 95. INT. OLD COMPTON STREET: CAFFÉ NERO. DAY.

AS PAUL SETTLES INTO A SEAT

WYNFORD Come far?

PAUL Very funny.

WYNFORD I meant it.

PAUL Hetta said you wanted to see me.

WYNFORD Clever girl.

PAUL You mean you - ? *[didn't ask her to]*

WYNFORD She's forgiven you?

PAUL I should thank you for that.

WYNFORD You think I said anything nice about you? I just told her how cruel you'd been to me.

PAUL Wyn –

WYNFORD I told her how you made me grovel for every minute you spent in my company.

PAUL That's not –

WYNFORD You would have cut off your arm rather than take me on our little holiday.

PAUL You know that's nonsense.

WYNFORD I told her you ground me down. You trampled on me, you spat on me, you made it clear I was dirt. And now you don't even thank me.

PAUL Because it's not true.

WYNFORD But now you've got her, she'll soothe your poor little conscience. Tell you you're Such A Good Man.

PAUL (BREATH, SELF-CONTROL) Can I get you something? Espresso?

WYNFORD I'm not staying. It was just a place to meet. To see you one last time. That's enough now.

PAUL What are you going to do?

WYNFORD (STANDING) Return to the city of lost angels.

PAUL (STANDING) Goodbye, Wynford.

WYNFORD (CRACKING) I love you, Paul. I love you so much. Let me hold you.

PAUL ALLOWS HIMSELF TO BE EMBRACED

TROLLOPE            Of course Paul stood and of course he endured the caresses, with stiff constraint. All this was simply agony.

WYNFORD            (PUSHING HIM AWAY) Alright, you can go now. I'll never touch you again.

TROLLOPE            Paul Montague turned round and left without uttering a word.

WYNFORD WALKS TO THE COUNTER AND, KEEPING HIS VOICE AS STEADY AND BRIGHT AS POSSIBLE:

WYNFORD            Could I get a skinny wet latte venti triple extra shot?

BARISTA             Eat in?

WYNFORD            To go, please. Time to go.

CUT TO:

SCENE 96.            INT. CARBURYS'. DAY.

ROGER                You look so happy.

HETTA                Do I?

ROGER                It makes me realise.... (HE DOESN'T WANT TO FINISH)

HETTA                Realise what?

TROLLOPE            That Hetta loved the younger man and did not love him, and that if Roger loved the girl it was his duty as a man to prove his love by doing what he could to make her happy. What did love mean if not that?

ROGER                I want to see you as happy as this forever.

HETTA                That's really sweet of you.

ROGER                How's Paul getting on? Is he in any trouble?

- HETTA He resigned from PowerCure weeks before the crash. And he wrote to the Company Secretary outlining his concerns. He's fine. But broke.
- ROGER Did he lose everything?
- HETTA He didn't have much, beyond the patent, but it's certainly all gone.
- ROGER He should come back and work for me.
- HETTA You wouldn't. (SHE REALISES) Would you? Would you really?
- TROLLOPE What could be the devotion which men so often affect to feel if it did not tend to self-sacrifice on behalf of the beloved one?
- ROGER You too. Why don't you?
- HETTA Thing is – thing is – I'll be needing maternity leave soon.
- ROGER (A BODY BLOW BUT HOLDING IT IN) Right. That's OK. We do a good package, actually, full pay for three months, six months at half pay.
- TROLLOPE As to his love for Hetta, and his old hopes, and the disappointment which had so nearly unmanned him, Roger said not another word.
- AND MIX INTO:
- MAGAZINE Spotted yesterday emerging from talks with Goldman Sachs, Paul Montague (below) and Otis Ferry (right) – they are rumoured to be about to announce a new business venture. Or will PowerCure's magic patent have one more chance?
- TROLLOPE In time, the inquest was held. In such cases it is for the jury to say whether the unfortunate one who has found his life too hard for endurance, has or has not been mad at the moment.

SCENE 97.            INT. MEHMOUDS'. DAY

AS THEY WALK THROUGH AN ECHOING ENTRANCE HALL:

MARIE                    Thanks for coming with me.

FLEX                     I was called as a witness anyway. (SHOCKED BY THE  
EMPTY ROOM) It's all gone.

MARIE                    Of course.

FLEX                     Have you had to sell everything?

MARIE                    If we owned it in the first place. It was all sham, all rented or  
borrowed or.... Turns out Baba didn't own a thing.

FLEX                     Know the feeling.

MARIE                    Except he pretended. You don't, Flex. You are who you  
are.

FLEX                     That's sounds suspiciously like a compliment.

MARIE                    Don't worry, I'm not coming on to you.

FLEX                     No, no, I didn't think you – I mean, I did wonder when I got  
your text. Then I thought: No.

MARIE                    No.

FLEX                     No.

MARIE                    When does the plaster cast come off?

FLEX                     The face or the neck or the arm?

MARIE                    Are they all separate?

FLEX                     Apparently my cheekbones will come out better than they  
were before. Something to do with the softening.

MARIE                    And you'll be able to see alright?

FLEX As good as. This eye tends to wander when I get tired but I can learn to keep it under control, they say.

MARIE Maybe I shouldn't've asked you to -

FLEX It's fine. Happy to help.

MARIE If you let yourself, you really are good underneath.

FLEX (QUIETLY SURPRISED) Do you think so?

MARIE I know you never loved me.

FLEX I wouldn't go that far.

MARIE Flex.

FLEX Alright.

A MOMENT

FLEX I wanted to.

MARIE Well, that's nice.

FLEX I thought, you know, like an arranged marriage, it would come.

MARIE Could it ever, do you think?

FLEX You're very nice, you know.

MARIE I think we should stop talking about this.

FLEX I'm sorry.

MARIE (BRIGHT, CHANGE OF SUBJECT) What are you going to do now?

FLEX Didn't I say? I'm going to be a Unicef Goodwill Ambassador.

MARIE                    That's great.

FLEX                     They say they need someone to go to a place called Helmand. You don't happen to know where that is, do you?

MARIE                    Isn't it – ?

FLEX                     It sounds like the mayonnaise. That comes from Spain, doesn't it? Wouldn't mind a bit of sun.

CUT TO:

TROLLOPE                And for a week, the name of Mehmoud was hateful. But after that, a certain amount of whitewashing took place. In time, it came to be said of him that he had been more sinned against than sinning and that he would have done very wonderful things. There was even talk of a monument. So before long full restitution of fame was made to the name of the departed because that is the way we live now.

END OF SERIAL