

GWENDOLYN

By Phoebe Johnson

Cast List

All characters are played by two actors.

All - a voice recording of both actors and an echo effect.

Frank Lancaster - a 50-year-old man, who is stronger than he seems and his love for Gwendolyn is his greatest strength, but also his greatest weakness.

Agent Gwendolyn Florence Lancaster - a 52-year-old woman, that loves Frank, but her loyalty to her work and sister is stronger.

Agent Poppy Darwin - a 35-year-old woman, who has had plenty of pain in her life, but it only makes her stronger.

Agent Daisy Holt - The Boss' fearless assistant. She is best friends with Poppy, and they have been practically inseparable since they were children.

Mr Edward Dart - a 67-year-old psychopath, who manipulates people in order to get ahead.

Agent Kyle Hill - once a loyal agent, his cunning father changed him into a pawn in one of his cruel games.

Scene 1- Gwen's disappearance

Frank stands alone on the stage.

All: May 25th, 4pm

Blackout.

Gwen is slaving away in the kitchen.

Gwen: Frank! Dinner will be ready in ten minutes!

Frank: (*from off stage*) Ok. I'm coming!

Gwen: (*From the bottom of the stairs*) Did you take out the bins last night?

Frank: Well...

Gwen: You forgot again?

Frank: Well...

Gwen: Come on Frank! They are overflowing!

Frank: Sorry, Gwenny.

Gwen: There is nothing that you can do about it now is there? Are you on your way down?

Frank: Yes, one minute!

Gwen: Ok. The carrots will be done in a minute.

Frank: Did you have that meeting tonight?

Gwen: Yes. I must leave in 10 minutes.

Frank: (rushing into the room) 10 minutes? I thought we would be having tea together!

Gwen: (Checking her watch) Sorry sweetie. I have no time. (Kisses him on the cheek) I will eat when I get back.

Frank: (Following Gwen around the house as she collected her keys, a magazine of the coffee table, a flask from the kitchen counter, a sandwich and finally her coat.) Do you really have to go to this thing?

Gwen: Yes, honey.

Frank: Can you at least eat with me?

Gwen: (Picking up her handbag) No, Frank. I love you. I'll be back in an hour and a half. Bye.

Gwen walks out.

Frank: Oh. Bye.

Frank sank into his chair and flicked on the television.

TV: And today a secret organisation has been revealed to be working without...

TV clicks off.

Frank: Uh. Not this again!

Scene 2- The police

All: 6pm

Frank: She should be back by now! She is never late. Maybe I'll call her friend Dolly. I'll look in the phone book! Ah! Dolly Fisher. Here she is.

He dials a number into a landline.

Voice: Hello?

Frank: Hello! Is this Dolly?

Voice: Sorry you have a wrong number.

The phone cuts off.

Frank: That's strange.

All: 8pm

Frank: Something is wrong. Where is she? Has something happened to her?

All: 10pm

Frank: I need to call the police. She would never be out for this long without explaining why.

All: Midnight.

Frank: The police said that it was too early to file a missing person's report. Maybe I should call again.

All: 2am.

Frank: I hope she is safe. Maybe I should go look for her.

All: 2:14am

Sirens blare. Red and blue lights flood the stage. A knock rattles the door.

Police officer: Open up!

Frank scuttles over to the door as fast as he could and scabbled to unlock the door. The door swung open with a creak.

Frank: Have you found...

Police officer: Frank Lancaster. You are under arrest for the murder of Gwendolyn Lancaster.

Frank: Wha... She's...

He dropped to his knees and tears trickled down his face.

The police officer clamped a pair of handcuffs around Frank's wrists.

Blackout

Scene 3- The greatest love story

Frank is back seated in his chair.

Frank: My dear Gwen. She was my high school sweetheart, my wife, my best friend and my one and only love. She will eternally be my beautiful Gwenny, my darling Gwenny... I remember the day I met her... I was a little boy in my first year of high school and she was a third year. I thought I had no chance with her, but I have loved her the minute I lay eyes on her...

Her glowing hair cascaded down her back like a silky brunette waterfall and her sparkly blue eyes glimmered in the sun. I remember her face lighting up as her friend handed her a big rainbow swirl lollypop. It was her birthday. She had a balloon in her hand and a new bracelet hanging from her wrist.

I will always love her. I can't imagine a day without her. I remember that day; the day that she finally noticed me. We were at a bake sale and we both reached for the same cake. Lemon drizzle. Our favourite. Her hand touched mine. It was like a spark of electricity. She looked into my eyes and smiled. We both stood there. Frozen. It was like time had stopped just for us. Nothing else mattered. We just stood there. Our hands touching. I paid for the cake and handed it to her. She smiled. After what felt like forever, I broke the silence. "Do you..." I began, but before I could finish, she said, "yes!" My heart nearly leapt out my mouth... She wanted to go out with me? She got out a pink pen and scribbled down her phone number on the cake wrapper. She opened my hand and placed it in my palm. Her hands were warm yet dainty and fragile. That night we walked home together. We talked the whole way home. When we finally reached her house, I lifted her head up and planted a kiss on her lips. She gently kissed me back before pulling away and stepping into her house. I couldn't believe it. I was tall for my age and my mum had always said that I looked older than I was, but I never thought that I would be kissed by a third year. My heartbeat so fast that I thought it might explode. That night, I wrote a poem. About me. And her. And how much I already loved her.

Blackout

Scene 4- Guilty

All: 1 year later. May 12th, 11am.

Frank is centre stage, and all other characters are performed by a voice-over, overlapping creating a soundscape.

Judge: Frank Lancaster, you were charged with the murder of your wife, Gwendolyn.

Frank: I...

Judge: Silence in the court.

Frank: But... Please...I...

Judge: Please allow your Criminal defence solicitor to speak for you, Mr Lancaster.

Prosecutor: Frank Lancaster was seen on May 18th, 2016 with a blood-covered knife, soon after a man with his description was seen stabbing Gwendolyn Lancaster in an alley behind Derek's Bingo. Gwendolyn's sister, Poppy Garrets claims...

Frank: She didn't have a sis...

Prosecutor: ... that she was extremely worried about Gwen and was on her way to check on her, but when she arrived, no one was there. This is when she knew something was wrong. She called the police, and this is their report. (*hands a piece of paper to the judge.*) Poppy could not appear today due to an emergency, but we have a full hand-written claim from her. (*hands another piece of paper over*)

Defence solicitor: Frank was at home during the incident. How could he have been in two places at once?

Prosecutor: Have you got any way of proving that?

Defence solicitor: He was calling the police repeatedly on his home phone. How would he be doing this without being at home?

Prosecutor: During the 30-minute window in which she could have been murdered, there were no calls from his phone.

Defence solicitor: Frank did not leave. There is CCTV cameras outside his building. He didn't leave.

Prosecutor: The CCTV shows a man wearing Frank's custom-made coat, walking out of the building.

Defence solicitor: What proof do you have?

Prosecutor: We have six witnesses and twelve different angles of him at the scene from CCTV cameras in the area.

Judge: (*Gavel bangs*) Guilty.

Scene 5- Escape

Frank is sat in a cell. All alone, wearing prison overalls. He is holding a photograph. A tear trickles down his cheek.

All: June 21st, 10am

Frank: (whispers) Gwen, I will find the person that did this to us!

A prison guard unlocks the door and stands strongly in the doorway. They speak in a low voice.

Guard: Frank. Here are your things. Come with me.

Frank: But... why?

Guard: No time to explain. Come quick!

The guard guides Frank through a maze-like prison, every now and then ushering him to hide behind or up against a wall as another guard passes.

Frank: I have a feeling that...

Guard: Shush

Frank: ...you are not a guard.

Guard: Well, you got that right!

The guard looks around to check the coast is clear before removing her helmet and revealing to be Gwen.

Frank: You... you are... alive?

Gwen: Of course! You really doubted me?

She flicks her long wavy hair and smiles. She locks eyes with him as if they are about to kiss, but she then she breaks off from the moment and sweeps up her hair into her helmet and puts it back on.

Gwen: We have to get out of here!

Frank: Right. But what...

Gwen: Not now! No time for questions!

Gwen reaches down a hand and pulls a latch on the floor revealing a trap door.

Gwen: Go! Get in before anyone sees you!

Frank: Are you coming?

Gwen: I'm right behind you.

Gwen jumps down and they both disappear from sight. Blackout.

Scene 6- Sisters

All: June 21st, 1pm

Gwen switches on a light and walks into the room followed closely by Frank. Suddenly Frank's emotions burst out.

Frank: Why did they... think you were dead... and... where have you been? Do you really have a sister?... Why did... why di... why did everyone think I killed you? Why? Where have you been? What on earth is going on?

Gwen: For now, the less you know the better.

Frank: But...

Gwen puts a hand over his mouth.

Gwen: I can tell you this much: Poppy *is* my sister, and I am definitely *not* dead.

Frank: Did you really tell her all those horrible things about me?

Gwen: No. She knows that you would never do anything to hurt me, but we had to make sure that everyone thought that I was out of the picture and that you were in jail away from prying eyes.

Frank: Why? What are you not telling me?

Gwen: Frank, honey. There are some bad people in this world, and I needed for you to be kept away from them.

Frank: Who and why would they want us?

Gwen picked up a glass and handed it to him.

Gwen: Here, you must be thirsty.

Frank took the cup and drank cautiously.

Gwen smiled.

Gwen: Poppy! You can meet him now.

A woman similar to Gwen walked in.

Frank: This is Poppy?

Poppy: Yes.

Gwen: This is my younger sister.

Poppy waved at Frank and disappeared after him.

Gwen: There is a lot to explain.

You see, when I was twelve years old, our mother went missing. Poppy was only two, but she was devastated. She needed a mother, and I was too young to provide that kind of care for

her. We went to stay with our aunt and then I started searching. I looked in newspaper articles and asked everybody she ever knew, if they had seen her, but after 3 months there was no sign of her. Every night I sat by a wishing well and prayed that she was okay. One day, I was sat there, and a hand went round my mouth. I didn't know what was going on. I screamed and cried, but no one could hear me. Suddenly, I woke up and I was confused and didn't understand, but my mother was stood over me. She was the one who had taken me. She told me that she had to get me out of the open, because much like our situation, some people were after her. She took me to this very room and begged me to go home and forget about her, but my sister and I needed her. I wouldn't give up. I just couldn't. I told her that we weren't able to live without her, but she told me that it was too dangerous for her to return. I was scared. I didn't know how to make a life without her. She put a blindfold on me and carried me away to stop me from ever returning, but I knew that I couldn't give up. Every day, I searched for her, but I had no luck. 6 months later, I was out searching, calling her name and a guy strolled up to me. He told me to stop saying that name and I froze. I questioned him. "You know my mother?" I exclaimed. "Knew," he corrected. I was like, "knew? What do you mean *knew*?" He told me... he told me that... that she died a month after I saw her, but he said that I seemed fearless just like her and offered me a job. He told me that Poppy and I would all be valuable assets to the company. At this point, I hadn't even mentioned her names and I instantly knew something was strange about this. "But Poppy is only three years old!" I questioned. He explained that that is exactly what he meant and that infants are always important parts in this sort of operation. He told me that my mother had sent him to watch over us before she passed, and he had been checking on us every day. He told us stories of what our mother had done, and I couldn't believe my ears. All those years until 6 months before anyway, I thought she was just an ordinary mum, but in fact she was an agent in a top-secret organisation. After all that I had been told I couldn't refuse; a couple of days later, we all started work and we have done ever since.

Frank: Wha... what do... you do here then?

Gwen: That doesn't matter now.

Frank: But...

Gwen: Shush. We have no time for this. We need to get out of here.

Gwen yanks Frank through a door and out of sight.

Scene 7- Dart and Hill

A man in a suit runs onto the stage holding a gun. When he notices that the room is empty, he stops and stands up straight looking embarrassed and an older man strolls onto the stage, looking unimpressed.

Hill: I could have sworn that they were in here!

Dart: I swear, this is the last straw. You are fir...

Hill: Just give me one last chance I will find them. Please?

Dart: Hill, *do not* let me down again.

Hill: I... I am sorry. I won't boss.

Dart: Good. Now get searching!

Hill runs off stage followed by Dart.

Frank: (from off stage) Gwen, they're gone. Wait. Gwen?

Frank comes back onto the stage.

Frank: Gwen? Where did you go?

Poppy: Chill! She is fine. She has told me that we need to go to see the boss. She will meet us there.

Frank: What on earth is going on here? And who is "The Boss"?

Poppy: I can't tell you.

Frank: Come on!

Poppy: No. You aren't ready yet.

Awkward silence.

Poppy: It is time to go.

Frank: Go where?

Poppy: Stop asking so many questions!

Frank: Sorry.

Poppy struts out of the room, followed by Frank.

Scene 8- The boss

Daisy sat at a desk doing paperwork - Poppy walks in.

All: 25th June, 6pm

Poppy: Hi Daisy!

Daisy: Hi! How are you?

Poppy: Great! I've missed you!

Daisy: Me too! Take a seat.

Awkward silence. There is the tapping of feet and Daisy's pen tapping on her desk.

Small beep.

Daisy: He will see you now.

Poppy: Thanks Dai! (*Whispering*) I'll call you later!

Daisy: (*still whispering*) And by the way, Gwen is already in there.

Poppy: Okay, thanks!

Daisy walks into a dark room with a spotlight on her.

A booming voice fills the stage.

The boss (voiceover): Agent Poppy, is this really important?

Poppy: Yes sir.

The boss: You are one of my best Gwendolyn; I trust your gut. If you think that this is worth my time, it must be serious.

Gwen: Dart and Hill are still after us. We left before they saw us, but it was a close one.

The boss: Are you sure? I thought that they gave up on finding us ions ago.

Poppy: I am sure sir.

The boss: Ok. I will send a troop after them. Don't worry.

Gwen: Yes sir.

The boss: Agent Poppy, protect the man. He will be defenceless against Dart. Gwendolyn are you on track?

Gwen: Yes sir.

The boss: Take him to his sleeping quarters.

Poppy: Yes.

The boss: Now!

Poppy: Yes sir.

Poppy and Gwen exit.

Poppy and Frank walk onto the stage.

Frank: What was that about? What is the big deal about Dark and Hop?

Poppy: Dart and Hill!! All you need to know is that they are dangerous and need to avoid them at all costs. Once they captured me and they would ha...

Frank: Poppy continue!

Poppy: Sorry!

Frank: *(Now starting to get frustrated about all the secrets.)* Oh, come on!

Poppy: Here we are! Frank, make yourself at home. Do not try to contact anyone on the outside: the phone only allows calls to me or Gwen. Sleep tight. You have a busy day tomorrow.

Frank: What? You are just gonna leave me here for the night? Where are you go...

Poppy: Bye, Frank.

Frank: But...

Poppy: *(whispering to Frank)* I would recommend locking your door.

Frank: Oh, ok.

Poppy exits.

Poppy: *(Turning back to Frank.)* Goodnight.

Frank: Bye, Poppy.

Frank is alone on the stage. He walks into the room and sits on the bed.

Scene 9- Hidden

All: June 26th, 6am

Gwen runs on stage and bangs on Frank's door.

Frank: What... *(yawn)* time is it?

Gwen: *(out of breath)* They are coming!... Run! Now!

Gwen grabbed Frank and ran.

Gwen: STOP! Get in here!

Gwen gestured to an alcove and then shoved Frank in.

Gwen: (At a whisper.) Wait here!

She then ran back to where she came from. Moments later, Hill ran straight across the stage and Dart limped across. He stopped in front of the alcove but doesn't see him and carries on.

A few seconds later, Poppy walks in.

Poppy: Good morning!

Frank: Good mor...

Poppy: I just got an alert! They want you me report to headquarters urgently!

Frank: Why what is going on?

Poppy: It doesn't say!

Frank: Hmm weird...

Poppy: Oh, but I probably should by keeping an eye out for Dart and Hill. They could be back any second.

Frank: Ok... Where did Gwen go?

Poppy: She'll be back soon.

Frank: Ok.

Poppy: Are you okay, Frank?

Frank: Yeah... Well... No?

Poppy: What's wrong?

Frank: I am just worried about Gwendolyn

Poppy: What about her?

Scene 10 - Poppy

Poppy: I wasn't always like this. I used to be strong and confident and get all the best assignments. I was a brave leader. I headed my own division, and I was at the top of the organisation, but it all fell apart in one day. I was out working and suddenly, I got tased out of nowhere. I felt as if

my body was being turned inside out and back again. I was helpless. Limp. Unable to move. My career was unravelling before my eyes. There was no way that I would ever be able to undo this. I was kidnapped and tied up. For days, I was stuck. Unable to move. It was pitch black. Darker than black. I was parched and hungry, but I still had no feeling. My heart pounded in my chest. I wondered whether I was in a coma or even worse: dead. After what felt like months, despite it only being 72 hours, I felt myself being taken away. Away from this world. Away from everything, but all of a sudden, I could hear a voice. That was the first time I ever heard him. Mr Dart.

Never had I felt more useless. An agent. A great one at that. Paralysed. Lost. Terrified. I felt the cool of a blade brush against my neck. I braced myself for him to slice into my skin and get it over with, but it never came. Just as I was about to give up, I felt Gwen rooting for me. I felt her hope and belief urging me to persevere. I was alone, but not at all at the same time. Her voice whispered into my ears. "Poppy you can do this!" "Come on Poppy!" "You are never alone!"

Suddenly, I had all the strength in the world. I tackled him to the ground with my legs and pinned him down with my knee in his neck. I sliced through the ropes around my hands with his dagger. Despite getting free, despite my perseverance, despite all that I have done for them, when I returned to headquarters, ... I was stripped of my title and everything I had was given to... my older sister, Gwen. That day I learnt a valuable lesson: life is not fair.

Scene 11 - Hill

Frank and Poppy were huddled in the alcove. There is a beep.

Poppy: (out of breath) Hill is... Hill... is...

Frank: Hills is what?

Poppy: Hill is dead.

Frank: What?!? But... how? Wait wasn't he one of the bad guys anyway?

Poppy: Well not exactly. He was once an honourable man. He was sweet and kind and he would have done anything to make the world a better place. You see, one day, I got kidnapped.

Frank: By who?

Poppy: Mr Dart. He is a horrible man... He even... killed his own wife!

Frank: Oh.

Poppy: After I got captured, Kyle or Hill- as you know him- went searching for me. We always knew that he liked me, but we just didn't know how much. The only problem was that, when I escaped, he... well he didn't know. We tried to contact him, but he didn't answer any calls and his alerts weren't going through. I looked for him, I did, but... it wasn't enough. By the time I realised what had happened, it was too late...

Frank: Dart had found him?

Poppy: Dart had found him.

Frank: But why did Hill just submit to him?

Poppy: He found out the truth.

Frank: About what?

Poppy: About who his father was.

Frank: Who?

Poppy: Dart... He was raised by his sister and she begged us all not to tell him.

Frank: What happened?

Poppy: When Kyle found out, he thought that we had betrayed him by hiding the truth and Dart manipulated him into working for him.

Frank put his arm around Poppy.

Poppy: It... *(voice breaks)* ...was all my fault! He is dead, because of my stupid mistake. *My mistake.*

Frank: I'm sure it isn't *your* fault!

Poppy: I'm going to call Daisy to find out what happened.

Frank exits. Half the stage goes dark

Poppy takes phone out of her pocket. She fiddles with it for a second or two until it starts ringing. She puts it to her ear until Daisy answers. The full stage is lit up again.

Poppy: Hi. Is this Daisy?

Daisy: Yes. Are you ok?

Poppy: Yeah... Yes... but... Um... I was just wondering if you know how it happened.

Daisy: Well Gwen was fighting Dart and well she just shot him.

Poppy: No! She can't have done!

Daisy: It could have been an accident.

Poppy: But that is impossible! She never misses and Gwen wouldn't do that.

The phone call ends. Daisy's half of the stage goes dark. Poppy falls to the ground and puts her head in her hands. Frank walks on. Stage is lit up.

Frank: Are you okay?

Poppy: Daisy says Gwen shot Hill.

Frank sunk down next to her.

Poppy: But I am sure she didn't do it.

Frank: Me too.

Blackout.

Scene 12 - Goodbye

All: June 26th, 10.45am

Gwen: I don't know whether I should tell him.

Daisy: You can't!

Gwen: He almost knows anyway!

Daisy: You aren't serious!

Gwen: I am!

Daisy: Do I need to hit you over the head with a frying pan?

Gwen: Maybe?

Daisy: We must focus on Kyle right now!

Gwen: How is he doing?

Daisy: He's fine. Be more careful next time!

Gwen: But...

Daisy: He is hurt, and it is your fault.

Gwen: It wasn't me. He...

Daisy: Gwen just admit it. You screwed up big.

Gwen: I'm sorry!

Daisy: That isn't good enough. Boss is mad at you. Really mad.

Gwen: He's fine, so... it's fine.

Daisy: Maybe... it's time you turn in your gun.

Gwen: Are you saying that... I am fired?

Daisy: Well... I was more thinking that you should retire.

Gwen: So ... yes then? I am only 55! Not 70!

Daisy: I am sorry, but you aren't as sharp as you used to be.

Gwen: What does that mean?

Daisy: Gwen! Stop being so difficult! Either you retire or you are fired! You would never have missed a shot like that a few years ago!

Gwen: NO! Please! I...

Daisy: I will miss you, Gwen. I am sorry.

Gwen: I didn't miss! It wasn't me! It was La...

Daisy: Gwen, it's fine. You are getting older. Everyone makes mistakes. Bye.

Gwen: I will just find someone else to work for!

Daisy: You know you can't do that, Gwen. Goodbye.

Scene 13 - More Questions

All: June 26th, 11.25am

Frank: Where are we going?

Beep

Poppy: I just got an alert.

Frank: What does it say?

Poppy: Gwen wants to meet us.

Frank: Is she ok?

Poppy: *(to Frank)* Don't worry. She is stronger than you think.

Frank: That's what I am afraid of. I mean... we are both in our 50s and even though we have been together for a long time, she has kept so much from me.

Poppy: She has wanted to tell you.

Frank: I guess so.

Poppy: Maybe you just need to talk to her.

Frank: How? Since she went missing, I haven't been able to get a word in.

Poppy: She loves you and she had to keep it a secret for our safety. I owe my life to her. She has been like a mum to me. She taught me everything I know and provided for me. She got me into the organisation and despite her best efforts, they told her that she could never ever tell you.

Frank: Ok... I guess so. Thank you for being so kind to me Poppy.

Poppy: It's kind of my job.

Frank: What is your job?

Poppy: Well, I have to arrange...

Beat

Frank: Yes?

Poppy: Sorry I can't tell you that.

Frank: Why?

Poppy: The first rule of the organisation is to never tell anyone your role in the organisation or the role of the organisation.

Frank: What is the organisation called then?

Poppy: OTTSOUK

Frank: Oh. What does it mean?

Poppy: It means Organisation of... Wait. You aren't allowed to know this.

Frank: Sorry

Poppy: No, I am sorry.

Scene 14 - Dart & Daisy

All: June 27th, 1pm

Frank: Poppy, what is wrong?
Poppy: I just got an alert... It's Daisy..
Frank: What's wrong?
Poppy: Dart.
Frank: What has he done now?
Poppy: He has her..
Frank: What? Who has he... g... got?
Poppy: Daisy... Dart has Daisy.
Frank puts his hand on her shoulder.
Frank: We will get her back, Poppy. Don't worry.
Poppy: How? Dart is not any ordinary criminal. He is something different. He has done this many times and he *will* succeed.
Frank: This time he won't.

Scene 15 - Daisy

I remember. I was 4. My parents told me that it was time that I start. I was confused. What was I starting? They said that I was special. They told me that I was different. They talked for so long, yet they didn't seem to *tell* me anything. I had no idea what was going on. We got in the car and they strapped me in. I asked where we were going and they said, "You'll see, Princess." They seemed excited and happy. I didn't know what was going on, but whatever it was, made me excited. After we had been in the car for a while, we drove into a tunnel. It was dark. I couldn't see what was happening, but somehow, we ended up in a room. My dad helped me out the car and my mum was talking to a man. I had never seen this man before, but my parents seemed good friends with him, so when he offered me a high five and gave him one back. They then led me into a bright coloured room and in the corner, there was another little girl. My mum told me to stay there for a few minutes while they sorted something out and that I should go say hi. The girl was younger than me, but she seemed friendly. I asked her what her name was, and she told me that she was called Poppy. From that moment on, we were friends. She told me everything she knew, but even though we had been there for a year, she was still only three, so she hadn't really been told anything. The next day, I was given my first assignment and I never looked back. Poppy and I were raised together. We worked

together, we played together, and we cared for each other when no one else seemed to. We have a connection like no other. We know each other's secrets, each other's fears and no matter what, we have each other's backs. Nothing is more perfect than the love between best friends.

Scene 16 - Going solo

All: June 27th, 2pm

The stage is split into two. Frank and Gwen are on the phone to each other.

Frank: Hi.

Gwen: Oh. Hi Frank. Is this important?

Frank: Yes.

Gwen: Can I call you back?

Frank: Dais...

Gwen: Hold on.

Gwen puts her phone down on the table in front her and shoots her gun towards a figure to which you can only see their shadow projected onto the cyclorama. Gwen picks the phone back up.

Gwen: What were you saying?

Frank: You know what? It doesn't matter. I'll go find her myself.

Gwen: Find who...?

Frank's side of the stage goes black.

Gwen: Frank? Frank? Frank?!?

Gwen presses a button on her wrist.

Gwen: Hi. I need the rest of the day off. Sorry. Bye.

She runs off stage.

Frank enters.

Frank: How am I even going to start looking for her? I promised Poppy, but how am I going to find Daisy without any leads? What do I know about Dart?

1) He is a horrible person.

2) He has a son named Kyle Hill.

- 3) Kyle didn't know who his father was until Poppy went missing.
- 4) He kidnapped Poppy once and she escaped. Oh, and that was the end of Poppy's career as she knew it.
- 5) Wait... Poppy escaped. I need to talk to Poppy, right now!

Scene 17 - Rekindle the fire

Gwen runs onto the stage.

Gwen: Frank? Frank?!?

Frank: Gwen? What are you doing here?

Gwen: I could tell that something was upsetting you on the phone. What's wrong?

Frank: Daisy is missing.

Gwen: Wait. Daisy?

Frank: Yes.

Gwen: She has been online.

Frank: What?

Gwen: She has been sending unusual messages.

Frank: Unusual?

Gwen: Yes. Come back inside.

Frank follows Gwen through a door. Gwen leans over a desk and uses a mouse and a series of clicking on the keyboard.

Gwen: Yes. The last one said, "Hey, I am getting a new elbow every night," and the one before that said that she was going to, "eat apples, but only if they are pink".

Frank: Maybe they are coded?

Gwen: *(She types on the keyboard quickly.)* No. They don't follow any of the code patterns in the system.

Frank: Could it be inverted?

Gwen: What do you mean?

Frank: A few years ago, I was watching this programme about codes and there was this technique where they would use a regular pattern, but then they switch the digits around to create an anagram.

Gwen: An anagram?

Frank: Yes.

Gwen: The nouns are "elbow", "night", "apples" and "pink". So, they don't really have any obvious anagrams.

Frank: Well. Elbow could be an anagram for below and night could be thing?

Gwen stands up straight.

Gwen: It just seems a bit far-fetched? Don't you think?

Frank: Yeah... Ok. How are we going to find her then?

Gwen looks back at the computer and clicks the mouse.

Gwen: Well. We have a list of old hideouts that Dart has operated at in the past. He doesn't usually revert back to his past hideouts, but he might have done this time. It is possible.

Frank: It's worth a try. I promised Poppy.

Gwen: You *promised* Poppy?

Frank: Yes. She is heartbroken. You of all people should know that Daisy is her best friend.

Gwen: B... but... y... you can't guarantee that we will find her. Poppy was lucky, but she was the only person to ever get away.

Frank: Gwen. Be optimistic.

Gwen: Frank, you are new to this. If I have learnt anything, it is that you should never make promises, because you cannot guarantee anything.

Frank: But we can't give up on Daisy!

Gwen: Frank, stop!

Frank: But Daisy has been kidnapped and you don't seem bothered!

Gwen: Frank. Of course, I am bothered! ... I just can't.

Frank: Well. What are we going to do then?

Gwen: Please.

Frank: Wait. What is going on? Did something happen?

Gwen: Frank. In life, if you set your expectations too high, you will only be disappointed.

Frank: I'm going to look for her. You can come, if you want to or else, I will leave without you.

Gwen: Be careful.

Frank: I will.

Scene 18 - Gwendolyn

Gwen: Wait... I'm coming with you. You aren't an agent. You have no experience and there is no way that you will be able to outwit Dart.

Frank: Thanks for having faith in me.

He turns her back on her and starts to walk away.

Gwen: Frank, stop. I'm not saying that you are incapable, I'm just saying that I worry. *(beat)* 4 years ago, Dart kidnapped my best friend, Ella. She was kind and beautiful... You met her once, at my 40th birthday party. Remember?

Frank: Yeah. She was nice.

Gwen: Anyway, I tried. I tried to help her. I spent over a year trying to find her and all I got was dead-ends, problem after problem. Two weeks after the case finally closed, I found her special ring outside in the woods. The ring, that she told me that she would never take off, the ring, that was her most prized possession, the ring, that I gave her almost exactly 12 years before. *(beat)* I never found her, Frank.

Gwen sinks to the floor and puts her hands over her face.

Frank sits down next to her and puts his arm around her.

Scene 19 - Retirement

Gwen and Frank are stood up in the centre of the stage.

All: June 27th, 6.30pm.

Frank: She was last seen in her office this morning at 11am.

Gwen: And at 2pm, it was confirmed that she was officially missing.

Frank: So, Dart swooped in between 11am and 2pm.

Gwen: Exactly... *(beat)* Frank. I have something that I have to tell you.

Frank: What is it?

Gwen: Yesterday, Daisy told me to retire.

Frank: What? Why?

Gwen: Because they think I shot Hill.

Frank: Wait! You didn't?

Gwen: Of course, I didn't. I never miss. My bullet hit the wall behind him. Someone else shot him. Daisy was told to fire me as soon as word got out that it was me.

Frank: Wait do you think that Dart was responsible for the death of his own son?

Gwen: Death?

Frank: Yeah. Poppy got an alert saying that Agent Kyle Hill had passed away.

Gwen: But... he still alive.

Frank: What?

Gwen: He is sat in hospital with a mild bullet wound.

Frank: Why were we told that he was dead?

Gwen: I don't know...

Scene 20 - Frank finds out

Frank: Wait. Gwen. What are these?

Gwen: I don't know. What are you looking at?

Frank: This!

He shoves the papers into her.

Gwen: Oh. *(beat)* I...

Frank: Why didn't you tell me?

Gwen: You know why!

Frank: But...

Gwen: No Frank. There is no way that I could tell you. If they found out, I would be in prison and I am not exaggerating. There wasn't any leeway. I am sorry, but there was no buts.

Frank: I just wish that you hadn't been lying to me for our whole lives. I wish that you could have told me that your

mum went missing or even when your best friend went missing. I wish I could have known that you were an agent for some organisation. I wish that you could have told me that you have a sister named Poppy and I wish you didn't have to frame me for your murder and send me to jail before you could even be remotely honest with me. Your husband of 32 years. I married you when I was 18 and I have been loyal to you ever since. I know that you were bound by law, but it hurts that you couldn't tell me *anything*. Most of what you have said, over the last 30 years, were lies.

Gwen: Frank. That's not fair.

Frank: No, Gwen. Life's not fair.

Awkward silence. Gwen turns around and glances at the computer again. She notices something on the screen.

Gwen: Wait, look at this!

Frank: What?

Gwen: Daisy just pinned her location on the database.

Frank: Really?

Gwen: Yes!

Frank: Where?

Gwen: 15 minutes away. In a basement of an old parking garage?

Frank: Is it registered on the system as one of Dart's old bases?

Gwen: No!

Frank: Can we go *now*?

Gwen: We better hurry. She could be taken somewhere else at any second.

Frank: Ok. Let's go!

Scene 21 - My hero

All: June 27th, 7pm.

Frank: Where is she?

Gwen: She isn't going to be kept in plain sight, Frank.

Frank: How are we gonna find her then?

Gwen: Trust me. She *is* here.

Frank: Could...

Gwen: Shush.

Gwen ducked down behind a wall and dragged Frank down after her. She crept off the stage and left Frank behind.

Frank: *(whispering)* Gwen, were are you going? Gwen?

Daisy stumbles onto the stage as if being pushed. There is a sound like a door bolting shut.

Daisy: Please! Let me out!

Voice: Be quiet.

Daisy: Why do you want *me*?

Voice: You're special, Princess.

Daisy: What? I'm not special! Please. Let me out!

Frank: Pst.

Daisy: Who's there?

Frank: Me.

Daisy: Wait. Frank?

Frank: Yes.

Daisy: What are you doing here?

Frank: I came with Gwen to find you!

Daisy: How did you find me?

Frank: We saw the location pin you sent.

Daisy: Thank goodness! I couldn't get a connection and I thought that it wouldn't send.

Frank: Well, good job it did!

Daisy: Thank you for coming. *(she smiles)*

Frank: I promised Poppy after-all!

Daisy: Come on! Let's get out of here!

Frank: Right. There is a gap between that wall and the wall behind it. We can squeeze through it, but we need to be quiet.

Daisy: Great. Right behind you!

Scene 22 - Gwen? Gwen? Gwen?

All: June 28th, 1am

Frank: Gwen? Where are you? Gwen? Gwen?

Daisy: Did you find her?

Frank: No. She just disappeared!

Daisy: Was she ok?

Frank: What do you mean?

Daisy: I mean after I had to tell her to retire. Did she take it well?

Frank: She told me that it was a mistake. Someone else shot the bullet.

Daisy: Wait. Was she telling the truth?

Frank: I don't see why she would lie.

Daisy: Maybe we could prove her innocence and get her reinstated!

Frank: Really? You can do that?

Daisy: Of course.

Frank: She would love that!

Daisy: Where could she be?

Frank: The thing is that I don't know this place very well.

Daisy: Maybe I could ask Poppy. Oh. Wait. Have you told people that I am ok yet?

Frank: Oops. No. Sorry. I don't have a phone on me.

Daisy: I need to tell Poppy now! She must be worried sick.

Scene 23 - Hi

As the start of the scene, Poppy is on one side of the stage and Daisy is on the other. Gradually, they get closer and closer in proxemics until they hug.

All: June 30th, 11.13am

Daisy: Hi.

Poppy: Daisy?

Daisy: Yes. *(a tear trickles down her cheek)*

Poppy: You're ok!

Daisy: Yes.

The two hug.

Poppy: I can't believe it. I don't know what I would do without you. *(Poppy starts crying too.)*

Daisy: Me neither!

Poppy: Are you okay?

Daisy: Yes. I was scared for a while there. I was worried that I wouldn't be found.

Poppy: *(to the audience) (Daisy is stood in a freeze frame)* Friends always find each other. No matter what, they end up together. Barriers are just obstacles that you can jump over with a little help from a friend, but what if you don't have a friend to lift you up? What will I do then? *(Daisy fades off the stage. The lights go dark and she leaves.)* Without friends to hold you up, what stops you falling over. Friends are your foundation. What do I do without you?

Scene 24 - Discovery

All: June 30th, 1pm.

Frank: Gwendolyn!

Gwen: Oh, hi.

Frank: Where did you go? Why do you keep disappearing?

Gwen: I...

Frank: What a surprise! You can't tell me anything.

Gwen: I'm sorry.

Frank: Listen. I spoke to Daisy.

Gwen: What? Is she okay?

Frank: Yes. She is a little shaken, but she is much better.

Gwen: Good.

Frank: But that isn't my point. I spoke to her and told her that there was another shooter; it wasn't you. She said that she trusts you and that she would get you reinstated.

Gwen: Really?

Frank: Yes.

Gwen: Thank you!

Frank: I still don't know what you are doing here, but it makes you happy and I want you to be happy.

Gwen: Frank, I can never tell you what I do, but I can tell you this: I will always love you and I am sorry for all the lies.

Frank: I...

An alert sound fills the stage. Red strobe lights fill the stage. Projected on the cyclorama, there is a warning.

Frank: What is going on? Gwen?

Gwen: *(calmly)* Run!

Frank: What?

Gwen: *(urgently)* Run!

Frank: What's going on?

Gwen: Dart is here.

Frank: Wha...

Gwen: He is mad and he's coming for you Frank.

Frank: What? Why me?

Gwen: Because you love me.

Frank: And? Wait. Is that why you sent me to prison?

Gwen: He targets the family of every agent in the OTTSOUK. He was coming close to finding you and I couldn't let him. Daisy and Poppy were exceptions. It isn't usually that easy to find his victims.

Frank: What am I going to do?

Gwen: Run.

Frank: But where to?

Gwen: Run and never stop.

Frank: But...

Gwen: He took my grandparents, my mum, my dad, my best friend and he tried to take my sister; he isn't having you too.

Frank: But where do I go?

Gwen: You can't go anywhere. You can only pass through.

Frank: Like a ghost?

Gwen: No. You can spot ghosts.

Frank: How then?

Gwen: You will get daily funds from us and you will use it to survive and disappear. You will fade into crowds and you will never visit the same place twice. You will interact with barely anyone and you would trust no one.

Frank: But...

Gwen: (*shushes him and puts a vertical finger across his mouth*) There is no time.

Frank: I would rather die and spend my last moments with you, than spend my life without you.

Gwen: That isn't an option, Frank.

Frank: Why?

Gwen: Please.

Frank: I'm not going anywhere without you.

Gwen: Please go.

Frank: Let me join the organisation. I will fight for justice with you. Please.

Gwen: It doesn't work like that Frank.

Frank: Why not?

Gwen: Frank. Please go. (*now pleading*) Please.

Frank: Gwendolyn.

Gwen: You need to go. Please.

Frank: I'm not going. You are just doing what your mother did to you. She left you and when you found her, she begged you to leave, but you didn't give up.

Gwen: Yes, Frank and how did that turn out? She died, Frank. I looked for her and gave away her position to Dart. He found her and she was never seen again.

Frank: But what if you never left?

Gwen: Then I would have been killed too.

Frank: But what if you had joined the organisation back then. What if your mother protected you and had taken you into the OTTSOUK earlier? What if she had welcomed you and taught you everything she knew? Gwen. You know I am right.

Gwen: Frank. We have fought against Dart time and time again and yet we have never been able to come even slightly close to taking him down. Why do you think we are any different from the others that he has slaughtered?

Frank: We trust each other with all we have got and we don't need to push each other away.

Gwen: Frank. You need to go.

Frank: Please don't do this.

Gwen: Sorry.

Gwen walks away from him towards the end of the stage. Frank chases after her.

Frank: Please, let me come with you.

Frank grabs hold of her hand.

Gwen: Frank. This doesn't have to be hard. Just let go.

Frank: I will never let go of you, Gwendolyn.

Gwen: But you have to.

Frank pulled out a pair of handcuffs and attaches his wrist to a pole or gate nearby in one swift motion.

Gwen: Don't do this.

Frank: I love you.

Gwen: But... what will you do now if Dart comes?

Frank: If you feel you need to do this, then fine, but I'll see you soon.

Gwen turns to leave.

Gwen: Goodbye, Frank.

Frank: Don't count on it.

Gwendolyn notices that Frank has escaped his handcuffs.

Gwen: How did you...?

Frank: A simple set of handcuffs are easy to escape.

Gwen: But how?

Frank: When you love someone, you find a way.

A tear trickles down Gwendolyn's cheek. Beat. She put her arms around him.

Gwen: Come on.

Frank: Really?

Gwen: Hurry before I change my mind.

Scene 25 - Together

Gwen: I need to make some calls.

Frank: Ok.

Frank exits. Half the stage goes black.

Gwen: Hi. Is this Daisy?

Daisy appears on the dark half the stage and it is lit up.

Daisy: Yes, this is Daisy. How may I help you?

Gwen: This is Gwen.

Daisy: Oh. Hi Gwen. Is everything ok?

Gwen: Well, no. Frank wants to come with me. I know that it's a risk, but do you think that it's a possibility?

Daisy: Gwen. We talked about this.

Gwen: He declined the offer, Daisy.

Daisy: But, you said that it would work.

Gwen: When you love someone, you find a way.

Daisy: What do you mean, Gwen?

Gwen: I mean that he refused to go anywhere without me and to be honest, I don't want him to.

Daisy: Gwen! Frank is good. He saved me, but we have no room for new agents and he is too old to start training.

Gwen: Then I have to go with him.

Daisy: But...

Scene 26 - The last straw

All June 31st, 9am.

Gwen: You have to go.

Frank: But what about...?

Gwen: I'm coming with you.

Frank: So... does that mean that you are retiring?

Gwen: We'll see.