

**“Right Time, Right Place”**  
**Act One**

**ACT ONE – SCENE ONE**

*The Café – a coffee shop in a seaside holiday town, it’s early Saturday morning as ANNIE EDWARDS enters. She is wearing sunglasses and is a little worse for wear after her anniversary dinner.*

*Her business partner KRIS HART is out in the kitchen.*

KRIS: Barbara! Good, you’ve finally got here! I don’t want to know why you’re late, just start on the tables and I’ll be out in a minute.

ANNIE: (*calling*) Barbara’s running late and Annie needs a coffee.

KRIS: (*entering*) What are you doing in here?

ANNIE: Barbara’s running late and I need a coffee.

KRIS: Why didn’t you have a coffee at home?

ANNIE: I need decent coffee, not that cheap junk that Rod buys.

KRIS: (*he smiles, goes to the machine and makes her a coffee – she shifts holding her head and he realizes something*) Why didn’t Barbara ring here?

ANNIE: She finds it difficult to talk to you.

KRIS: Why?

ANNIE: Perhaps it has a lot to do with the way you speak to her.

KRIS: I’m pleasant to her.

ANNIE: You talk to her as if she is one of your troublesome ex-students.

KRIS: You exaggerate.

ANNIE: No, it’s the reason I’m here passing on Barbara’s message.

KRIS: Why, didn’t you ring me?

ANNIE: I wanted to have a decent cup of coffee.

KRIS: Oh, I see.

ANNIE: Is it ready?

KRIS: It is when you tell me the sudden urge for decent coffee.

ANNIE: That's exactly what I'm talking about. You're always nagging.

KRIS: Unlike Barbara, I've learnt not to take you at face value. So come on give, what's so important that you had to get out of your Anniversary bed and down here at this hour?

ANNIE: God, it's dark in here. Why haven't you turned the lights on?

KRIS: Try taking your sunglasses off. Better?

ANNIE: No.

KRIS: Did Rod like his gift?

ANNIE: Almost as much as I liked mine.

KRIS: You're a wicked woman.

ANNIE: Yeah, yeah and don't I know it.

KRIS: So what's the gossip?

ANNIE: Gossip? Me?

KRIS: What's the important piece of information that you just couldn't wait to tell me?

ANNIE: I had dinner with Jamie.

KRIS: I thought you had dinner with Rod. You're not having an affair, are you?

ANNIE: I had dinner with both of them

KRIS: How adult.

ANNIE: Will you stop.

KRIS: Hold on a minute I need to get comfortable here (*he sits giving her the coffee*). Now, how did you end up having dinner with, Rod and this Jamie fellow?

ANNIE: Not this Jamie, the Jamie

KRIS: Oh. So it was him.

ANNIE: What?

KRIS: Are you talking about Jamie Saddler?

ANNIE: Yes.

KRIS: You're too late, I've already seen him.

ANNIE: What are you talking about?

KRIS: Last Thursday at the Resort, I take it that's where the three of you had dinner? What's he doing in town?

ANNIE: Didn't he tell you?

KRIS: I saw him, I didn't speak to him. Why the unexpected visit?

ANNIE: If my recollection is correct a partners' meeting or something. Am I making sense?

KRIS: A lawyer thing.

ANNIE: Do you want to know more?

KRIS: Why not, I've a few minutes to kill.

ANNIE: We were waiting for our drinks and I was casually glancing around the room and there was Jamie sitting across from us.

KRIS: You didn't make a beeline for his table, did you?

ANNIE: I smiled and nod and he smiled and nodded back.

KRIS: What was Rod doing while all this smiling and nodding was happening?

ANNIE: Reading the menu and complaining about the price of everything.

KRIS: So, how did you end up having dinner with Jamie?

ANNIE: He came to our table and asked, "Aren't you Annie Jacks?" and I said, "You know I was." I introduced him to Rod and I asked him to join us. We had a wonderful night; we talked, drank too much champagne, laughed and he paid for it all. Wasn't that sweet of him? He hasn't changed a bit. You were the main topic of conversation. I was amazed how much he knew about you. Have you spoken to him recently?

KRIS: Not since that awful day.

ANNIE: He wants to see you again.

KRIS: I don't want to see him.

ANNIE: Why?

KRIS: It's nice of him to ask after me, and I'm glad you all had a wonderful evening, but he's here for his lawyer thing, not to see me.

ANNIE: Two birds with one stone. Aren't you listening? (*slowly*) He wants to see you again.

KRIS: I'm an after thought.

ANNIE: God's teeth! He's an old friend and what you do when an old friend turns up unexpectedly is you have coffee and conversation. You exaggerate a little about what you've been doing to since you last met. I take it you still think of him as a friend?

KRIS: That's what he was.

ANNIE: I know you two didn't part on the friendliest of terms.

KRIS: On the contrary, we parted on the most amicable of terms. He made it perfectly clear that having any kind of a friendship with a, now what was the word he used – oh yeah poof, was not in his best interests. I said that was fine with me, being friends with a self deluding dead shit was not in my best interests.

ANNIE: Wouldn't you like to find out why he did it?

KRIS: I know why he did. He's a prick and the realization of what he was, was too much for him?

ANNIE: But you were really close.

KRIS: Too close as far as he was concerned.

ANNIE: All right, so you finally made love with your best friend and that sent you into an orbit of ecstasy and him into a tale spin of terror that his family would find out what you'd got up to. Mind you, I never understood why it took you two so long to get round to doing it.

KRIS: It wasn't from lack of trying on my part. We did come close a couple to times but he'd always backed off. That's the way our friendship went. It was all on his terms. But that night – wow – it was different. He made the right moves. If I were of a suspicious nature I'd swear that it wasn't the first time he did it.

ANNIE: How did he explain it away?

KRIS: Gee mate, I was so drunk last night I can't remember a thing.

ANNIE: He didn't say that, did he?

KRIS: (*shrugs*) To the last cliché.

ANNIE: Just think of it, a cup of coffee could get at the truth.

KRIS: Forget it.

ANNIE: Every relationship you had, before David, was measured against Jamie. I often thought even David got some unfair measurements. It should be of some interest to you to find out if all that measuring was worthwhile.

KRIS: What are you talking about?

ANNIE: At university, you'd meet some guy and for about four and a half minutes you'd be 'in love'. Then the word relationship would rear its ugly head and before I knew it he's too needy, too demanding or not the right one. Well, my sweet, the right one's back in town and wants to see you again.

KRIS: They had nothing to do with him.

ANNIE: They had everything to do with him. Jamie's here and wants to talk to you. If you see him again and nothing happens it'll be sad but finally finished. If you see him again and sparks fly (*she smiles*). Either way you're going to come out ahead.

KRIS: What happens if sparks fly?

ANNIE: Fantasy becomes reality.

KRIS: Annie, have you ever played 'the what if game'?

ANNIE: Do we have to play word games right now?

KRIS: When you ask yourself 'What if I was rich?' 'What if I was beautiful?'

ANNIE: That's one 'what if' I don't have to worry about.

KRIS: For most of my adult life I've played the 'what if game' about Jamie. 'What if he hadn't left?' 'What if I met him again?'

ANNIE: What if you let him know that you still like him? What if he still likes you?

KRIS: What if I don't see him and he simply disappears like the last time. I'm starting to get my life back in to some kind of order, and you want me to relive all my teenage angst's for a cup of coffee. Annie, please I am begging you, let it go. Things are too complicated for me at the moment.

ANNIE: You're home alone and living with your mother.

KRIS: And I'm happy to be here.

ANNIE: I've invited him for coffee.

KRIS: Oh, sweet Mother of God, why?

ANNIE: Because I knew you wouldn't do anything about it.

KRIS: You're bloody well right I wasn't going to do anything about it.

ANNIE: He asked me where he could get in contact with you.

KRIS: And, under the influence of numerous bottles of champagne you had to tell him.

ANNIE: The champagne had nothing to do with it.

KRIS: I'm contented with the way things are, at present.

ANNIE: You've been out of sorts for the last two months.

KRIS: Seeing him again isn't going to make me feel any better.

ANNIE: I think he wants to apologize.

KRIS: What makes you think that?

ANNIE: What he said, what he didn't say?

KRIS: Tell him to put it in an email and save both of us the price of a cup of coffee.

ANNIE: He doesn't know your email address.

KRIS: Good.

ANNIE: What will one cup of coffee cost you?

KRIS: More than I can afford.

ANNIE: What?

KRIS: The complication you so blithely dismissed.

ANNIE: What about it?

KRIS: David's arriving tomorrow to talk, and I need your help.

ANNIE: What have you two got to talk about?

KRIS: The sale of the house.

ANNIE: Anything else?

KRIS: There is always something else when David's involved.

ANNIE: A little romance or is he getting all he wants from Jason?

KRIS: Neither is of interest to me.

ANNIE: What will interest to you?

KRIS: David's signature on a contract so we can sell the house and I can finally get him out of my life.

ANNIE: I hope for your sake that's the reason for his visit.

KRIS: If he's coming all the way up here, he's not coming for the drive.

ANNIE: You should keep your options open.

KRIS: What?

ANNIE: If it doesn't work out with Jamie you could always try getting back with David.

KRIS: I've got a better idea; you meet up with both of them.

ANNIE: How can I help?

KRIS: Don't leave us alone together.

ANNIE: Why don't you want to be alone with him?

KRIS: You really don't need to know that.

ANNIE: Why don't you want to be alone with David?

KRIS: The one thing that was great between us was the sex. Through all our many trials and tribulations that was the one constant. That's why I've been 'out of sorts' for the past two months. Does that make me some kind of slut? He knew exactly how to romance the hell out of me till I didn't know which way was up, and then, how to use it to his advantage. He's going to try it again. I just know it. I don't want to be fighting him off for the rest of the weekend.

ANNIE: I would've thought you be keen to know if you're finally over his charms.

KRIS: I am. (*Annie smiles*) Why are you smiling?

ANNIE: You don't sound too convinced.

KRIS: I am over him; I just don't want to test my resolve right now.

ANNIE: Where's he going to stay?

KRIS: I was hoping he could stay with you.

ANNIE: I'd be happy to put him up, but Nathaniel's arriving home sometime today.

KRIS: Anything wrong?

ANNIE: Just a visit for his old mother's anniversary.

KRIS: That's nice.

ANNIE: Why can't David stay at your place? I know your mum wouldn't be too happy about it, but she'd be pleasant to him for one night.

KRIS: I don't think Willy would be pleasant to him.

ANNIE: Sharing a bedroom with your brother is not an option.

KRIS: Being in the same town with him is not an option.

ANNIE: Your family didn't think much of David?

KRIS: An understatement.

ANNIE: This brings me back to my question.

KRIS: I'll book him a room at The Resort.

ANNIE: God, you're awful, booking him into the most expensive place in town. I can hear him now; "I can't afford to stay there."

KRIS: "What! Do you think I'm made of money?" *(they both laugh)* Yes, booking him into The Resort is definitely the best place for him to stay for one night.

ANNIE: And if he wants to stay longer?

KRIS: Then, he'll have to pay extra. That should send him back to Jason in a hurry.

ANNIE: I'll chaperone, under one condition.

BOTH: Have coffee with Jamie.

KRIS: Not this weekend.

ANNIE: David's not coming until tomorrow.



KRIS: And I'm working today. What's the rush?

ANNIE: I think he's going home on Monday morning.

KRIS: Well, it looks like I won't have time to see him.

ANNIE: You could make time.

KRIS: I'm not good at doing two things at once. I can see David or Jamie, not both. Seeing David is important right now.

ANNIE: A feeble excuse.

KRIS: But, an honest one.

ANNIE: You're not making this easy.

KRIS: Then give it up.

ANNIE: Never!

KRIS: Well, you have a problem.

ANNIE: That you can solve.

KRIS: No. That you can solve.

ANNIE: But, I told him to come here this morning.

KRIS: I suggest you get on the phone and tell him that we're out of coffee.

ANNIE: I haven't got my mobile with me.

KRIS: Try the landline.

ANNIE: Just meet him.

KRIS: *(Kris smiles and shakes his head)* Seeing I'm now working for two at the present, I'll be out the back cutting and slicing. When Barbara arrives do direct her to the kitchen. Assure her that not one uncivil word will pass my lips. There's cooking sherry in the cupboard out here if you need a hair of the dog. *(He heads off to the kitchen)*

ANNIE: Bitch!

KRIS: Lush! Don't forget to make that phone call. You can use the phone over there.

ANNIE: All right, all right. *(he exits as she takes out her mobile phone the lights fade)*

**ACT ONE – SCENE TWO**

*The Café, ten minutes later ANNIE has her head on the table as JAMIE SADDLER bursts in.*

- JAMIE: What was that phone message all about?
- ANNIE: Holy good night! What are you doing here?
- JAMIE: Kris can't see me this weekend, bullshit!
- ANNIE: Jamie, he's being difficult.
- JAMIE: Even more difficult than I am at present?
- ANNIE: Things are a little complicated right now.
- JAMIE: He is here isn't he?
- ANNIE: Out the kitchen doing things with knives and a chopping board and making one hell of a racket.
- JAMIE: I'm here and he's here, it seems as good a time as any for coffee and conversation.
- ANNIE: Oh shit!
- JAMIE: I'm grateful for all you're doing.
- ANNIE: You remember that.
- JAMIE: You don't look too good.
- ANNIE: You do. How can you be so bright eyed after last night?
- JAMIE: A bracing swim and a healthy breakfast. Are you going to get Kris?
- ANNIE: You don't give in easily.
- JAMIE: Nothing's changed.
- ANNIE: This'll take some delicate negotiations. Have a seat and I'll see what I can do. Can I get you anything?
- JAMIE: Black coffee.
- ANNIE: Why don't you sit out on the terrace and hopefully he'll bring it to you? *(Jamie crosses to the terrace and sits at a table Annie goes to the kitchen area)* Kris! Will you get out here, now? Please!

KRIS:           *(entering)* You shouted.

ANNIE:         Jamie's here.

KRIS:           Which part of I didn't want to see him this weekend did you not understand?

ANNIE:         He's on the terrace and wants a coffee.

KRIS:           Well you know how the coffee machine works.

ANNIE:         God, he's good looking.

KRIS:           Don't change the subject.

ANNIE:         I'm merely stating the obvious.

KRIS:           I hope you and your good looking friend enjoy the coffee.

ANNIE:         Ah, so you think he's good looking.

KRIS:           *(sarcastically)*. Sizzling! Will that be all? I've things to do in the kitchen.

ANNIE:         It's a start.

KRIS:           A non start.

ANNIE:         Are you going to make him a coffee?

KRIS:           No. I'm not seeing him this weekend. *(he exits)*

ANNIE:         Why did I start all this? *(she goes to the coffee machine; Kris stands just out of sight, she continues to talk to Kris)* Now that he's here, I would have thought you would at least make him a cup of your special brew.

KRIS:           You thought wrong.

ANNIE:         You can get a better look at him from here.

KRIS:           I can see all I want to see from here.

ANNIE:         Why are you in hiding?

KRIS:           Because.

BOTH:          I'm not seeing him this weekend.

ANNIE:         Look, he's here and you're in there drooling.

KRIS:           Who's drooling?

ANNIE: Wouldn't you like to greet him holding a freshly brooded coffee that you've made with your own fair hand?

KRIS: No!

ANNIE: I'll make it and you take it out to him.

KRIS: No, you make and you take it out to him.

ANNIE: If you do this one thing for me, I'll do all your shifts for the next two weeks.

KRIS: Playing your desperation card.

ANNIE: Kris please, all I'm asking you to do is to talk to the guy, I'm not asking you to sleep with him.

KRIS: We tried that and he didn't like it.

ANNIE: You'd think I was asking you to relive the whole nightmare.

KRIS: That's exactly what you're doing.

ANNIE: You're being childish.

KRIS: For one of the few times in my life, I'm being adult.

ANNIE: I'll make sure he's gone by Monday.

KRIS: How can you guarantee that?

ANNIE: I'll escort him out of town.

KRIS: That'll be worth seeing. I'll think about it. *(he goes into the kitchen)*

ANNIE: Oh, he'll pay big time for that. *(she sighs and finishes off making the coffee and crosses to Jamie)* One black coffee, can I get you anything else?

JAMIE: No, thank you. This is a great position. You said last night that you've had this place for five years?

ANNIE: I'm amazed you remember anything that was said last night.

JAMIE: I've never been drunk enough to forget what I said or did.

ANNIE: How interesting.

JAMIE: Did you find Kris?

ANNIE: The complication's still there.

KRIS: (*standing behind her*) What complication?

ANNIE: Thank God.

KRIS: Annie why didn't you tell me Jamie was here?

ANNIE: It must have slipped what's left of my mind.