

## **Collaboration**

Collaboration was written as an attempt to get an original script on TV.

In 2000/ 2001 I attended a scriptwriters course on a weekly basis based at Keele University.

It was an opportunity to learn through experience. We were all expected to be writing during the course. We would take in our writing to read out in the group, We would then comment on contributions. Collaboration was the first script I had written as an adult,

As a child I had written scripts but I had always thrown them away as not good enough.

I wish I had kept some as I would have loved to have kept some to read today.

## **Episode One - Me, You and Them**

**By Rachel Bramble**

### **Cast in order of appearance**

**Robot Lively** – a Mark II model

**Joshua** – A man in his mid 40's at the beginning of the story

**Vicky** - Joshua's partner also in her mid forties

**Simon** – The Editor

**Mark**- a Reporter

**Peter**- Social Work lecturer

**Jane**- Social Worker

**Kate**- Social Worker

**Bob**- a reporter aged 62 and 82

**Ted Malcolm**- A man in his early 50's

**Social Workers** and **Reporters** non speaking parts

## **Scene one**

A space age bedroom with lots of gadgets a woman and a man are asleep. A robot enters the room.

### **Robot Lively**

Good morning Vicky and Joshua it is nine o'clock precisely on a sunny day on the 28th August 2021

I have brought you the latest advertisement

### **Joshua**

Oh Lively go away.... its too early to start looking at ads... we need to have time to wake up.

### **Vicky**

*Looking directly at Joshua*

You chose him Josh

### **Joshua**

Well... Daisy was so drab and boring... I thought Robot Lively sounded much more fun for us

### **Vicky**

Lively, come here we might as well see the ad

### **Robot lively**

But if you're not in the mood then I'll leave it till later

### **Joshua**

Oh no... not only lively... but we have a robot who goes into the grumps

### **Vicky**

Show us the advert then lively

*Robot Lively puts the advertisement on you see an elderly woman dressed up like Madonna and a man as a Cartoon character*

### **Advertisement dialogue**

*Welcome to TV Dementia, care giving a total experience for your ageing relative.*

*You will have peace of mind, they will get pleasure in a virtual world reliving the most important times of their life. This leads to improved health and a longer life. Bring your relative to sample the delights of TV dementia care.*

*Helen likes to be Madonna and Bob really enjoys being cartoon characters.*

*The joint experiences of a couple with a vision, one a social worker, the other a journalist brought you the experience and a new world, a happy world of TV Dementia Care.*

*Come today and you will be happy tomorrow...*

**Joshua**

Switch it off Lively

*Robot lively switches it off*

**Vicky**

It's getting there but it's still a bit...

*She pulls a face*

**Joshua**

No... not quite right yet. You know, we've been working on this for seven years now

**Vicky**

What are you saying, are you not happy?

**Joshua**

Oh nothing

**Vicky**

Tell me

**Joshua**

I just remembered that's all

**Vicky**

What, what did you remember?

**Joshua**

20 years ago, when we first met, what a different world it was then, were we happier then than now?

**Vicky**

I don't think so, it was just a very different time.... things have moved on. There was a lot of anger and prejudice.... our two worlds were so separated. Your working world of social work was riddled with poverty, public ignorance and uncertainty. My world of the media was cocky, publicly so sure of itself privately uncertain.

No Josh. It wasn't a happier time then it was just different.

Just think how we used to live... in a time of the present not thinking of our own future where we would need you and other social workers to care for us. We just wanted a story... getting the story was the important thing but your lot wouldn't give us the story.

No Josh it was just a different time, a very different time.

**Joshua**

*He looks at Vicky with a serious expression*

But... are we doing the right thing... shouldn't people live in the real world? That's what we thought then.

**Vicky**

But Josh, what was the real world... sitting for hours in a chair... waiting for the next meal. We changed all that... we made people happy....they could choose to live today or yesterday...we just helped their memories.

**Joshua**

*He has a worried look on his face*

But was it right?

**Vicky**

People wanted it

**Joshua**

But did they really... or was it you lot... the media telling them that, that was what they wanted

**Vicky**

Oh Josh... I thought that we got over that blame many years ago... I thought we decided to work together to fight the prejudices and the ignorance... to tell the truth

**Joshua**

But what is the truth

**Vicky**

We are the living truth. Can you remember when we first met, at the conference?

**Joshua**

Yes, I never really knew why you went there. Why did you go to the conference?

**Vicky**

One morning my boss called me to the office.

## **Scene two**

A busy office. Sitting behind a large desk is a man aged about 40. There is a knock-on the door

**Simon**

Come in Vicky

*Vicky enters the room*

**Vicky**

You wanted to see me Simon

**Simon**

Yes. I've got a job for you, but I'm afraid nobody else wanted it. But I thought that you'd like the experience

**Vicky**

What is it?

**Simon**

There's a conference being run by some social workers. Its to do with working with the media. They want to try to improve their public image.

**Vicky**

What kind of angle do you want me to get?

**Simon**

Well... really whatever you can get... they are getting a bit edgy at head office.. we're supposed to get on with them but ..well some of the crap they come out with they really need to get a life.

See what you can do. I'm planning it for page nine so its low priority... just have a good lunch and mingle ...you might find something....

I promise to give you crown court next week.. the Tomms case is due to be tried

**Vicky**

Simon you promised me the Malcolms case but you gave it to Dave

**Simon**

Well you were doing a good job with the school inspection and Dave was available.

*He moves towards her*

If only you'd relax a little, you're too tense.

Vicky moves away from him. The phone rings; Simon picks it up

Not now Lorraine... I told you I was busy. Tell him I'll call him back.

*He puts the phone down and moves towards Vicky again*

Where were we...Oh yes

*A young man bursts into the room*

**Mark**

*In an excited voice*

There's a siege at Kingsway GNB...one confirmed dead ...Its mine isn't it Si?

**Simon (to Vicky)**

Do your best we'll talk later

*Vicky leaves the room*

Now Mark, take George, and make sure you get some close up shots of the family especially the kids

*Vicky looks behind her*

**Vicky**

*Angrily talking to the air*

Bloody typical

**End of scene**

### **Scene three**

*Back in Vicky and Joshua's bedroom. Both are still in bed*

**Joshua**

That Simon bloke really treated you badly.. sounds as though he was a brute.. the women in my office wouldn't have put up with that

**Vicky**

Well we knew that you either got on through sheer determination and a load of good luck or well you know what I mean.... there was no way that I was going to let that creep dominate me. I saw too many women who were flavour of the month and then suddenly disappeared

**Joshua**

No wonder you became disillusioned

**Vicky**

Don't forget you did too

**Joshua**

I know but for totally different reasons ...and I lasted a lot longer than you did

**Vicky**

I know...don't rub it in

**Joshua**

This is our time, our lie in. I don't want to argue with you

**Vicky**

You never did.. you were just like the rest of them.. always wanting to keep the peace ..avoiding aggro at all costs.

**Joshua**

You talk as though we were a breed

**Vicky**

*In a jokey voice*

Well you were, weren't you?

*Enter Robot Lively*

**Robot Lively**

I heard an argument...should I activate a peace...under section 5b subsection 3 of the household rights ..quote, if an argument does commence another should intervene

**Vicky and Joshua**

Oh go away Lively, not now

**Robot Lively**

Section 22 also says...

**Joshua**

Please Lively.. go away we are fine

**Robot Lively**

I was only trying to help

**Vicky**

If you don't go now... I'll pull the D switch

**Robot Lively**

*In a grumpy tone*

I'm turning off my audio receptor..... goodbye

*Exit Robot Lively. Joshua and Vicky hug each other and burst out laughing*

**Joshua**

*Looking at Vicky with an embarrassed expression*

Don't you dare say a word

*Vicky just laughs and laughs then they both laugh*

**Joshua**

You remind me of Kate at the conference. It was supposed to be a serious business but well she just...

*Sadly*

Remember what happened to her

**Vicky**

Yes... she was very misunderstood

**Joshua**

But she still had a great sense of humour. She saw the funny side to things.

**Vicky**

But it was no use in the end

*Changing the subject*

Do you remember Bryan, we used to make fun of him

**Joshua**

Yes... He was what people used to joke about, he had the beard and wore the Jesus sandals.

**Vicky**

Didn't he also drive a 2CV?

**Joshua**

No he had a skoda

They look at each other and laugh

**Joshua**

The conference was intended to be a serious business. Most people were really committed. We wanted to change our image

**Vicky**

*Sarcastically*

You mean, you needed to change your image.

**Joshua**

Yes, we did, people were suffering because they wouldn't come to us because of who they thought we were.

Don't you remember the discussion in the workshop where we met. It was about understanding each other.

**Vicky**

And Kate stirred it up from the beginning

**End of scene**

## **Scene four**

A room with some chairs in a circle

A man sits nervously in one of the chairs

Enter two women

**Peter**

Welcome

**Jane**

Is this understanding each other?

**Peter**

Yes, I'm Peter Jones the facilitator for this group

*They sit down next to each other and start whispering to each other.*

*More people enter the room in ones and twos. Vicky and Joshua enter at different times; all the twelve seats are filled up. Vicky sits next to Peter*

**Peter**

*Nervously*

Well at least we've got some people who want to take the conference seriously. I believe that we have three Journalists in our group. Its good to have you here

*Enter Kate*

**Kate**

Sorry I'm late Pete.. I got lost

*An extra chair is found for her shuffling everyone around*

**Peter**

Never mind you are here now

**Kate**

*In a sarcastic tone*

I hope we're going to have a bit of fun

**Peter**

*Ignoring Kate*

It would be helpful to find out who everyone is and what their particular interest is in relation to understanding each other. I'm Peter Jones and I am a Social Work lecturer and part-time consultant, my specialty is working with Older people.

**Kate**

Well we could have a whole conference talking about the image of Older people.

**Peter**

Yes Kate, I totally agree but that will have to be on another occasion

**Kate**

But surely we have to start somewhere, look at the way that the media generally portrays Older people. I know that I work with Children and Families but my Mother gets very annoyed.

**Peter**

*Ignoring Kate again looking towards Vicky who is sitting next to him*

Would you like to tell us who you are and why you are here?

**Kate**

*looking at Peter sarcastically*

This is the bit where we all forget who we are and what we do

**Joshua**

*Sitting next to Kate in a whisper*

Kate give it a rest

*Looking towards Vicky*

I'm afraid Pete and Kate get like this sometimes its all pretty harmless really.

*Everyone looks at Vicky*

**Vicky**

I'm Vicky Knight and I have all the jokes about shining armour. I am a reporter from the Sillington Chronicle. I have worked there for two years after leaving University. I was given this assignment by my editor and so that is why I am here.

**Peter**

*To Vicky*

Do you have a particular viewpoint on the relationship between Social Work and the media

**Vicky**

No not really I haven't come into contact with any Social Workers. all I know is that when my colleague was working on the Malcolms case that he had great difficulty getting any information from Social Services

**Kate**

I was the Social Worker on the case. We were not allowed to talk to the press. I thought it was stupid because what was getting reported was sympathy towards Ted Malcolm. There was a lot more.. but we weren't allowed to say and never can.

Confidentiality is such a difficult issue. How can anyone know why we decide things when we are controlled and silenced. I shouldn't even tell you that I was the Social Worker on the Malcolm's case.

**Peter**

I think that we should all agree that whatever is spoken about within this workshop does not go beyond this room

**Jane**

But how can we trust the reporters amongst us

**Bob**

We don't write about everything

**Jane**

What only the newsworthy

**Bob**

We have to concentrate on current news

**Peter**

We haven't finished introducing ourselves yet

**Kate**

Oh Pete does that really matter, what.. sorry whats your name

*Looking towards Bob*

**Bob**

*Looking at Kate*

Bob

**Kate**

What Bob is saying is crucial to understanding each other.. we need to know how we tick

**Jane**

Yes its important for us to understand the roots of our work. Bob

*Turning to him*

I'd like to know more

**Kate**

I'm sure we all would

*Everyone looks at Bob*

**End of scene four**

## **Scene five**

*Back in Vicky and Joshua's bedroom. Joshua is dressed Vicky is still in bed*

### **Joshua**

We'll have to make it up with Lively otherwise we'll get into such a muddle. He's so good at sorting out the other Robots when they have problems with their systems. He is the nearest we could get to being human

### **Vicky**

That's why we have been so successful because we got the robots to do the mundane jobs. I know it was political to start with but with the staff shortage.

### **Joshua**

Yes I know..You were saying about Kate

### **Vicky**

Yes she started looking foolish but she talked a lot of sense. Bob was fairly typical of his age group.

### **Joshua**

It was ironic that he ended up coming to TV Dementia care

### **Vicky**

He was sympathetic

### **Joshua**

It didn't appear that way...but we did have some lively discussion anyway

### **Vicky**

You always have to see things with your social work hat

### **Joshua**

No I don't

### **Vicky**

Oh..come on

### **Joshua**

Let's not argue...we'll have Lively in here sorting us out again

**Vicky**

Not unless he's turned his audio receptor on again. You know the discussion was going quite well. You were getting on with Bob..both of you were listening to each other.

**Joshua**

Yes.. I suppose there was a good sense of togetherness..and you looked gorgeous in your blue top

**Vicky**

I thought you were too busy with the discussion

**Joshua**

We had to size up the enemy

**Vicky**

Is that what you thought of us

**Joshua**

To start with yes...but well you all had a kind of charm..and I suppose it was quite exciting especially with the TV reporters like Bob

**Vicky**

You mean we were less glamorous?

**Joshua**

*Playfully*

I still fancied you..didn't I?

**Vicky**

*Smiling*

Yes..you were very sweet

**Joshua**

You'll make me throw up in a minute. ....

*Sadly*

It all went so well and then disaster struck..we were so unprepared

**End of scene five**

## **Scene 6**

*In a large room.*

*People are milling around chatting to each other. There is a row of tables with food and drinks spread along them and people are helping themselves*

*Peter is talking to Vicky and Joshua is nearby*

*Bob is also nearby*

*Kate goes towards Joshua holding a plateful of food*

**Kate**

Aren't you having something...it's a pretty good spread

**Joshua**

I'll get something in a minute

**Kate**

She's very pretty isn't she

*Looking towards Vicky*

**Joshua**

*Avoiding Kate's eyes*

Yes

**Kate**

Are you still with Sue

**Joshua**

*Casually*

Yes

**Kate**

She certainly is very pretty..perhaps if we had a romance between a social worker and a reporter we could sort all of this out.

**Joshua**

Well what about you with Bob then...

*Sarcastically*

You like the older man

**Kate**

I suspect he's married with four kids

**Joshua**

*Nastily*

That's never stopped you before

*Bob comes towards them with a plateful of food. Kate gives Joshua a dirty look*

**Kate**

*Whispering*

Don't you dare

*Joshua grins back at Kate and goes to talk to a group of people which includes Vicky*

**Bob**

*Smiling*

Its not as bad as I expected

**Kate**

*To Bob*

What isn't

**Bob**

*Laughing*

The food of course...what else do you think I was talking about

**Kate**

*Sarcastically*

When did you say you were retiring ?

**Bob**

I'm semi retired now... I just do bits

**Kate**

I suppose you're rich enough to do that....we have to go on to the end.... Or get burnt out

**Bob**

Our work has its risks ...its not all plain sailing

**Kate**

I think I'll get some more food

*She moves away from Bob towards the tables laid with the food. Joshua walks towards Bob*

**Bob**

Still no food...are you on a diet...you look thin enough

**Joshua**

I thought I would just wait until the queue had disappeared

**Bob**

That Kate is a lively one...

**Joshua**

She is...but she's also good at her job...she has brilliant assessment skills....you give her the gist of a case and she'll tell you accurately all the family dynamics

**Bob**

How old is she ?

**Joshua**

Early 30's I think...she has two youngish teenage kids ...why?

**Bob**

She'd make a good feature and would look good on TV

**Joshua**

I bet she'd love to do it...but by the time her bosses agreed to it and approved the format you'd be retired

**Bob**

That's exactly what we've been saying.....we give you an opportunity and...

*Peter comes towards them*

**Peter**

I thought it went well this morning I thought that we were getting a good level of understanding between us

*Joshua goes to get some food*

**Bob**

I was just saying to.....

*Looks towards Joshua*

that I think that we could work more with you but....

**Peter**

*Enthusiastically*

My colleagues and I in my department would be very interested in working with you...you see there is a national shortage of social workers and well... perhaps

**Bob**

*Looking towards Kate*

Well I was really thinking of someone like Kate. You know an actual Social Worker

**Peter**

*Looking miffed*

Well...er ..well I think we could be very helpful in an advisory capacity

*Enter Ted Malcolm*

**Bob**

*Ignoring Peter- looking towards the door*

Who's that...he looks very familiar

*Ted Malcolm walks past a number of people and heads towards Kate*

**Peter**

I don't know

*Changing the subject*

I really think that we could work effectively together

**Ted**

*To Kate in a loud voice*

Its alright for you being matey with these reporters..but they should know the truth about you

**Kate**

*Looking alarmed*

Ted...what are you doing here?

**Ted**

You are embarrassed by me .....you were all friendly before the court case

**Kate**

*Going towards Ted*

Look Ted lets go and have a chat

**Ted**

No...I've had enough of your little chats

*People start noticing the interplay between Ted and Kate*

No that's enough

*Ted pulls out a gun and shoots Kate. He drops the gun and doesn't move. Two reporters run towards him disarm him and push him to the ground*

*Ted shouts*

She made me do it

*People run from everywhere to help Kate*

*Bob who's standing near to Joshua takes his mobile out*

**Bob**

This is Bob.. Sally I need a photographer here at the conference.. quickly a social worker has been shot by a nutter

**Joshua**

*Grabbing the phone off him*

*Shouting*

You slime ball, what the hell do you think you are doing

**Bob**

Its Just my job mate

**Joshua**

*Angrily*

But don't you feel anything? Don't you care?

**Bob**

Look mate, I've been in wars, I've seen far worse than this

**Joshua**

*Angrily*

She has two young kids y'know

**Bob**

Its sad but

**Joshua**

It's the story isn't it

**Bob**

Of course I sympathise, who wouldn't. but I'm here, I have to do my job

**Joshua**

That's so cold

**Bob**

It might seem that way to you but I'm only telling the truth. I'll say she's got two kids and that she was only doing her job.

**Joshua**

But its only just happening

**Bob**

That's why its news.. because its just happening. Those stories you wanted to give us were old

**Joshua**

But what about people's feelings, the horror, pain, shock, sadness

**Bob**

We report so people share those feelings

**Joshua**

*Crying*

I don't understand

*Vicky comes towards him and puts her arm around him*

**Vicky**

*To Bob*

He does understand really

**End of scene**

## **Scene 7**

*Back to Joshua and Vicky's bedroom*

### **Joshua**

Its strange the circumstances of life. I don't think that Bob did ever really understand but he did support us later when we started TV Dementia Care. He didn't realise at the time that it was his insurance card.

### **Vicky**

His daughter has been great about letting him be in the ads ..we must make sure that when they film again that he looks a bit more dignified

Kate's tragic death had a real impact. In life she was just another Social Worker but her death happening as it did sent shock waves through the media.. people with a conscience began to speak out more.. people began to admit to a lack of understanding and co-operation.

### **Joshua**

But the thing was that it could have happened to several of us. I was lucky, but some of my colleagues had threats made against them; some had to have protection going in and out of their offices, and yet through out this they carried on working.

### **Vicky**

You make them sound as if they were martyrs

### **Joshua**

Well, I think that some of them were.. most people wouldn't put up with what they had to put up with on a regular basis

### **Vicky**

There were other people doing jobs of equal worth; what about the police, doctors and nurses they did and continue to serve the community

### **Joshua**

But did they get the same level of ridicule or being treated as if they were faceless interfering busy bodies

### **Vicky**

But many of us were treated the same way... you accused Bob of not caring and yet when you got to know him well you realised that behind that hard exterior that there was really a big softy

**Joshua**

I know, but there were others

**Vicky**

So you were all perfect

**Joshua**

Of course not

*Enter Robot Lively*

**Robot Lively**

I was bored and felt it was time that you treated me better

**Vicky**

I'm sorry Lively, I was worried that you had abandoned us

**Robot Lively**

Well I actually came to report that while I've been switched off Robot Billy has tried to act human

**Joshua**

Oh no what has he done now

**Robot Lively**

I believe that he has muddled up all of the programmes and Bob is currently wondering why he has a date with Doris Day. She will insist on getting him to sing and he really doesn't like it

**Joshua**

Oh is that all

**Robot Lively**

Oh no would you like the list

**Vicky**

I'm sorry Lively, I promise not to do it again

**Robot Lively**

You always say that

**The end**

## **Collaboration**

### **Core Characters**

#### **Joshua**

At the beginning he is 45 years old but is also represented at different younger ages through the series.

He is a sensitive person, rather quiet, a thinker and a bit of a worrier.

He has a strong moral base.

He is at times however able to talk passionately about things that matter to him, but sometimes he is too selective and jumps to conclusions.

His racial identity could be open to debate.

I had tinkered with the idea of both Joshua and Vicky having dual identity so that it adds to the not fitting in and therefore the attraction to each other.

I haven't thought about his family as for these episodes it doesn't feel relevant but could easily develop a family around him

#### **Vicky**

As a 45 year old she is a very strong person, she is very bright and able to think quickly and clearly Although she loves Joshua she can get irritated by his lack of certainty about things. In the episode about disillusionment her doubts could be expressed through manipulative actions causing her to be a bit of an outcast.

As a 25 year old she is a conformist but as she gets older she can become more rebellious.

She has a love/ hate relationship with Robot Lively

As with Joshua I have not given her a family but this can be developed especially perhaps her Mother.

#### **Robot Lively**

I'm not sure whether it is a he or she , although a friend says he is definitely a he.

Lively always wants to do the right thing and will tell Vicky and Joshua what the right thing is, but he is also loyal to them.

At times he is nearly human but at other times he is clearly a robot.

He is the senior Robot. Keeping all the other ones in order.

Some of the episodes like Disillusionment he will only have a minor role but he is to be there at the beginning of each episode to clearly show the setting of the future.

I hope that he would be a fun part to play and add some humour to balance the seriousness. He is the character for the public to love most.

Episode two of collaboration came easily it continued the story and seemed justified that Bob would be part of TV dementia care. Whilst I was writing it I found myself as a middle aged woman taking on the feelings Bob the retired man and had on several occasions to take myself physically away to get out of the character. It was a fascinating and frightening experience.

## **Collaboration, Episode 2 - Bob's Story**

**By Scamp**

### **Cast**

**Bob-** aged 82 and 62

**Joshua-** a man aged 45 and 25

### **Robot Lively**

**Vicky-** a woman aged 45

**Lorraine-** Bobs daughter

**Bjorn-** Lorraine's son

**Louise-** Bobs Wife

Robots

Older People

## **Scene one**

*Inside a room with white walls*

*Images of Doris day move around the walls*

*Bob sits in a comfortable chair gazing at the images. Connected to his fingers is a monitor. There is a small table with a drink on it*

*There is a dim but a warm colour lighting the room*

## **Scene two**

*A control room like a studio there are TV screens showing different rooms with older people in each of them*

*Robots control the different monitors*

*Enter Joshua and Robot Lively*

### **Joshua**

Where's Bob then?

### **Robot Lively**

He's in B6 today, Dawn had pre-booked D7 his favourite and so he wasn't very happy to start with.

### **Joshua**

Well he knows that he has to share

### **Robot Lively**

Our home assessment showed that as a particular individual that he was given a high degree of control over his environment

### **Joshua**

Do you mean that he was spoilt?

### **Robot Lively**

That is not a word in Robot vocabulary

### **Joshua**

Looks at the particular screen

He seems all right to me. Perhaps Doris Day is a nice change

**Robot Lively**

But look at his heart monitor..the reading is rather high

**Joshua**

That probably means that he just fancies her that's all

**Robot Lively**

I don't know what you mean

**Joshua**

I don't suppose you would that wouldn't be in your programming system either...  
would it?

**Robot Lively**

I believe that you are right there

**End of scene two**

### **Scene three**

*Back in the dim lit room known as B6*

*Bob who is sitting in the chair gets up and pulls the monitor from his hand*

*He knocks over a small table next to him with a drink crashing to the floor*

**Bob**

*Shouting*

Let me out of here....what are you doing to me

*The door opens and Joshua enters with Robot Lively*

**Robot Lively**

*Goes to put monitor back on Bob*

Bob .... You must stay calm

**Bob**

*Pulls away*

Leave me alone you mechanical know all

**Joshua**

*Going to Bob touching his arm*

Its all right Bob..Lively was only trying to help you

**Bob**

*Shouting*

Help...is that what you call it... leave me alone

I want Vicky where is Vicky...She understands me best

**Joshua**

She's gone out for the day with Sally

**Bob**

*Weeping*

I want Vicky

**Robot Lively**

Perhaps I should introduce a cylinder of anti anxiety chemical

**Joshua**

Sometimes you really do irritate me Lively

You mean a tranquilliser don't you

**Robot Lively**

You know that in 2016 that terminology was removed from the public system

**Joshua**

Lively forget it

*He turns to Bob*

Look Bob what's wrong

**Bob**

Its all of this..... its me I don't know who I am

**Joshua**

You are Bob Anderson an 82 year old man, who lives with his daughter and two grandchildren. You come here just for a change and because you enjoy being cartoon characters.

Unfortunately today the Robots have muddled the different programmes and you was introduced to Doris Day instead of Popeye

**Bob**

*Looking directly at Joshua*

But I don't know who I really am

Sometimes I think I do

But the memories are muddled

I see people...I know names... but its all muddled

*A Tannoy system announcement*

*Well ladies and Gentleman that is the end of your morning session We hope that you feel refreshed and ready for your lunch which will be served in 20 minutes in the dining room.*

**Robot Lively**

I will help you Bob

**Joshua**

No Lively leave Bob to me

**Robot Lively**

But the schedule says that you are with James today

**Joshua**

Lively Bob needs me more

**Robot Lively**

Vicky won't be happy

**Joshua**

She'll understand...I'll tell her when she comes back

Please Lively you charm James for me

**Robot Lively**

If you mean will I tell him a lie so that he is not distressed then I am not happy about it ...but I will

**End of scene**

## **Scene four**

*A dining room with 6 tables*

*Each table has older people sitting at it*

*There are a number of Robots serving the tables*

*In the corner of the room there is a Robot playing gentle music on the piano.*

*Enter Joshua supporting Bob he leads him to a table*

*Robot Lively enters supporting another elderly man and helps him to sit at the table*

**Joshua**

Here you are Bob

*Helping him sit down*

**Bob**

*Refuses to sit*

I don't want to be here. This is not where I live...

**Joshua**

I know.. You are only here for a holiday

**Bob**

You mean to give my daughter a break

**Joshua**

Please Bob sit down and we will talk after lunch

**Bob**

It will be too late then. Because I will be like them

*Pointing at some of the older people*

**Joshua**

Bob you need to eat

**Bob**

*Pushing Josh roughly*

Leave me alone

**Joshua**

*Pleadingly*

Please Bob

*Bob pushes Joshua and he falls to the ground*

*Two robots and Robot Lively rush towards Bob the two restrain him*

**Robot Lively**

Joshua you were wrong I should have handled him

*He injects something into Bobs arm*

*Bob relaxes and is led peacefully to a chair*

**Joshua**

Lively you shouldn't have done that

**Robot Lively**

You know the rules in relation to violence

**Joshua**

But he will never forgive us

**Robot Lively**

Rules are rules

**Joshua**

We will never agree about that will we

**Robot Lively**

*Looking at Bob*

Look Joshua he is peaceful now. We are supposed to keep people calm

**Joshua**

I could have calmed him

**Robot lively**

You can talk to him now he is calm

**Joshua**

But he won't know me...you know the drug does that

**Robot Lively**

You can talk to him through his history programme

**Joshua**

But then I am controlling him and his past

**Robot Lively**

That was the contract

His daughter comes for him this afternoon. She will not want to cope with his anger

*They both look across at him*

*The piano player continues playing quiet tunes and the older people eat their food in silence*

**End of scene four**

## **Scene five**

*An entrance hall outside the dining room*

*Joshua is standing next to Bobs daughter Lorraine and her son Bjorn aged 8 years*

**Joshua**

Hi Lorraine how are you

**Lorraine**

I'm fine thanks

*Bjorn starts fiddling with some ornaments on a table in the hall*

Bjorn leave those things alone they belong to Josie...she won't be very happy if you break them.

I saw Robot Lively and he said that Dad had been rather unsettled

*Bjorn fiddles again*

Bjorn... I told you to leave them alone... go and talk to granddad and then you can play in the garden

*Bjorn goes into the dining room to see Bob*

He said he gave him a jab to calm him down but that you weren't happy about it

**Joshua**

Well the law says we have to protect ourselves but.... I have known Bob so long and he didn't mean to hurt me.

**Lorraine**

But you said that he has done it before

**Joshua**

Yes...but its just frustration... we don't seem to be able to get his programmes right... I often see him in tears... we are supposed to create calm and happiness but sometimes I wonder

**Lorraine**

But Josh you know what the alternative was.. we wouldn't be allowed to have him at home at all... I want to know my dad in his last few years.

**Joshua**

Could we work together on his programme... you said that you were not in a rush to go home..Lively could get one of the Robots to play with Bjorn they would like that for a change. When its quiet I often see them trying out children's games

**Lorraine**

It must get trying for them sometimes working with all these old people and they work so many more hours than the humans

**Joshua**

Watch out Lorraine you will be getting like me

**Lorraine**

What do you mean?

**Joshua**

Treating them the same as Humans... Vicky is always reminding me that they are Robots and do not have the same rights..... but didn't people say the same about black people when our parents were children.

**Lorraine**

Vicky is very good at what she does and I wouldn't say a word against her as your partner ... but I sometimes wonder how you got together.. I know you are very happy but her views are often so different to yours... where is she today

**Joshua**

Oh she's gone for a girl's day out with Sally. She said that she won't be back til quite late....when Bob had his flip he was asking for her... These old journalists seem to stick together

*Bjorn rushes out towards Joshua and Lorraine*

**Bjorn**

Granddad is asking for Louise ...Mum who is Louise?

**Lorraine**

She is your gran... my mum she died a long time before you were born when I was a kid.... Go and tell granddad we will be there in a minute

**Bjorn**

OK

*He goes back into the dining room.*

Lorraine and Joshua follow Bjorn

**End of scene**

### **Scene six**

*In the dining room*

*Bob, Robots, Robot Lively, Lorraine. Joshua, Bjorn, Older people same set*

*Lorraine goes towards Bob*

**Lorraine**

Hi Dad

*Gives him a kiss*

How are you?

*Bob looks into thin air and doesn't respond*

**End of scene**

## **Scene seven**

*In a dining room same set as episode one*

*Bob, Joshua, Vicky, and people from the conference*

*Lots of people buzzing around*

*Kate is lying on the floor surrounded by people*

### **Bob**

*(Aged 62), on his mobile*

Where is the photographer I asked for

### **Joshua**

How could you how could you

### **End of scene**

## **Scene eight**

*Back in the dining room*

*Same set and people as scene six*

### **Lorraine**

Dad its me Lorraine

*Bob looks into thin air*

Dad its me... don't you know me

*Bob looks straight through Lorraine*

### **Joshua**

Lively quick get Bob to a TV room

### **Lively**

But they are all pre booked

### **Joshua**

Just find one ....that's an order

*Bob looks into thin air*

### **Lorraine**

*Getting tearful*

Dad...Oh Josh I didn't want it to be this way... we promised him to be with Mum

### **Joshua**

*Shouting*

Lively this is an emergency...get that room now

### **Robot Lively**

OK

*Bob continues to look into thin air*

*Two Robots come and put him into a wheel chair*

**Joshua**

*To Lively whispering*

How much did you give him

**Robot Lively**

The blue dosage

**Joshua**

Oh no you fool he had been changed to yellow he has had a build up... We will have to get his super stimulation programme going

**Lorraine**

Is he going to be alright?

**Joshua**

We are going for the super programme

**Lorraine**

But you know what happens if he requests that one

**Joshua**

I know...Vicky will go mad at me... but it's the only way to get him back

**Joshua**

Lively it's the SuperProgramme

*They push Bob out of the room*

**End of scene eight**

## **Scene nine**

*Bob is in the TV room sitting in a comfy chair with lights flashing around the room. He is wired to a receptor.*

*He gets up and walks around the room*

*Returns to the chair*

## **Bob**

Louise darling don't do that now come and sit with me

## **End of scene**

## **Scene ten**

*In the control room*

*Robot Lively, Joshua, Bob and Louise and another Robot*

*They are watching Bob as a vision of Louise appears in front of Bob and on all of the walls*

**Joshua**

Its working

**Lorraine**

Thank god... I thought I had lost him this time

**Robot Lively**

Joshua ...This is the fifth time... the contract says only six and then no more

**Joshua**

Damn the contract... if we can bring him back I'll do it twenty times

**Lorraine**

But Josh I don't want you to get into trouble

**Joshua**

Bob's a friend besides its time the law was changed anyhow

Look at Bob he is happy

As long as we get a good report back from him we will be OK

We'll do it together shall we Louise

**Louise**

Yes I'd like that

**Joshua**

Lively we'll leave him for another twenty minutes

**Robot Lively**

You are pushing it a bit aren't you

**Joshua**

Don't worry ...it will be OK

*To Lorraine*

Lets go and have a drink. We'll see you later Lively

*Exit Joshua and Lorraine*

*Lively continues to monitor Bob*

**End of scene 10**

**Scene 11**

*In the Hall way*

*There are some old people and Robots wandering around*

*Enter Vicky in a rushed state*

**Vicky**

*To a Robot*

Where's Lively or Josh

**Robot**

Lively is in C10 with Bob

*Vicky runs up the hall throwing the coat at a stand*

**End of scene 11**

## **Scene 12**

*The monitor room Lively and two other Robots*

*Enter Vicky*

**Vicky**

Lively what happened?

**Robot lively**

I gave him some blue and he was supposed to have yellow

**Vicky**

Never mind about that now...what has Bob said

**Robot Lively**

We haven't talked to him yet... Joshua and Louise were going to do that.

**Vicky**

OK where are they?

**Robot Lively**

Having a drink

*Vicky goes to a microphone*

**Vicky**

*Through the microphone*

Josh... contact me in C10 now

Lively how long as he had

**Robot Lively**

37 minutes

**Vicky**

You better stop then

I'll go in and see him.

**End of scene 12**

## **Scene 13**

*In the TV room C10*

*Bob sits looking into thin air Vicky goes and sits next to bob*

**Vicky**

Bob... You Ok?

*Bob sits looking into thin air*

How was Louise today was she busy or did you have a chance just to sit and chat

*Bob continues to look into thin air*

*The door bursts open and enter Joshua and Lorraine*

**Louise**

Hi Vicky...did you have a good day out

**Vicky**

It was fine... I've been talking to Bob but he hasn't responded

*Bob continues to look into thin air*

**Joshua**

Lively gave him the wrong dose

**Vicky**

I know he told me... you took a risk giving him so long an awareness dose

**Joshua**

But Vicky its Bob... I had to do the best I could for him... Haven't you forgotten our twenty year history

**Vicky**

Of course not ...that's why I came back early because I thought Bob may not talk to you...I didn't know that Lorraine was here.

**Joshua**

Look at Bob

*Bob looks towards Vicky and Joshua and smiles*

**End of scene 13**

## **Scene 15**

*Bob sits looking at a hologram of Louise and smiles*

**Joshua**

Vicky.... Bob is happy

**Vicky**

How do you know?

**Joshua**

Just look at his eyes

*Enter Louise and Bjorn*

I'm sorry Louise, He's gone. He's with your Mum now

**Louise**

But he's happy Josh...it's where he wants to be.

*Bob continues to smile at Louise. The others leave and Bob smiles.*

**The end**