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Me and Mrs Jones

By Oriane Messina

1 INT. GEMMA'S BATHROOM. MORNING 1

CHARLOTTE and JESS are in their school uniforms, GEMMA looks scruffy and is trying to tie her hair in a pony tail. They are all looking down the toilet. JESS is holding a fish bowl looking worried.

CHARLOTTE :

Sorry mum, I just thought Nemo would like to go for a swim somewhere new.

GEMMA :

I'm not sure he wants to swim in the sewage pipes Charlotte. JESS beckons the fish out of the toilet like you would a cat, sucking her lips making kiss noises.

JESS :

Come on Nemo. Come on...

GEMMA :

Oh mind out... (GEMMA plunges her hand down the loo)... Wrestling a goldfish first thing in the... Gotcha! GEMMA pulls her hand out fast and plops a goldfish into the fish bowl JESS is holding.

JESS :

(Kisses the fish bowl) Nemo... what an adventure you've been on!

GEMMA (CONT'D)

Right quick sticks or we'll be late.

MUSIC starts and they all exit to head downstairs...

INTO...

1A INT. GEMMA'S LIVING ROOM. MORNING. 1A

CHARLOTTE comes downstairs first heading for her lunch box at the bottom of the stairs.

CHARLOTTE :

Mum if Jesus hadn't died how old would he be now?

GEMMA follows her down the stairs.

GEMMA :

I don't know.... Coats on, grab your bags.

Me & Mrs. Jones - Episode One - Shooting Script - 17.05.2012
2.

CHARLOTTE :

Because you can't add up?

CHARLOTTE has opened her pack lunch in an attempt to eat it.

GEMMA :

No (slams CHARLOTTE'S lunch box closed) and can you not eat your pack lunch before school please.

GEMMA grabs bags, football kits and coats etc as JESS comes down stairs still holding the fish bowl.

JESS :

Poppy's getting a bosom bra can I have one?

GEMMA :

No.

CHARLOTTE :

You don't really need a bosom bra do you mummy?

JESS :

Can Nemo come to dads tonight?

CHARLOTTE goes out the front door followed by GEMMA.

INTO:

2 EXT. GEMMA'S HOUSE. MORNING. 2

The POST WOMAN is at the gate as GEMMA and CHARLOTTE come out.

GEMMA :

No. And don't drag your bag Charlotte.

POST WOMAN :

Morning Mrs. Jones.

She hands the post to CHARLOTTE there is a post card from China which CHARLOTTE looks at. JESS comes out the front door still carrying the fish bowl.

CHARLOTTE :

It's from Alfie in China mum!

GEMMA :

... now come on... Just get in please or we'll be late.

Me & Mrs. Jones - Episode One - Shooting Script - 17.05.2012
3.

As JESS talks they head down the path towards the car. The POST WOMAN is with them as they are herded by GEMMA who then heads to the front of the car.

JESS :

Is it today or tomorrow for Alfie in China mum? I mean it can't be tomorrow because that hasn't happened yet. Unless our brother is Doctor Who? Is he mum?

As GEMMA rushes to the front of the car CHARLOTTE starts to shout relentlessly from inside the car.....

CHARLOTTE :

Mum Mum Mum....!

GEMMA :

(Gets in the car) What?

CHARLOTTE :

I need to do my maths homework or Mrs Collier says I'll lose my golden time.

GEMMA :

You can do it at your dads tonight.

JESS :

Mum I like how the light makes the fur above your lip glow.

CHARLOTTE :

But its due in today.

GEMMA :

(She looks in the mirror at CHARLOTTE) Brilliant....

As she looks in her mirror GEMMA sees the POST WOMAN sitting between CHARLOTTE and JESS who has the fish bowl on her lap. As the TWINS chatter on GEMMA gets out the car and opens the door letting the POST WOMAN out. She then gets the fish bowl and puts it in the POST WOMAN'S hands.

CHARLOTTE :

Chloe Bryant is bringing her dad's pants in for show and tell today.

JESS :

Ergh that's disgusting.

CHARLOTTE :

I know - she'll get a penalty point for that.

Me & Mrs. Jones - Episode One - Shooting Script - 17.05.2012
4.

JESS:

I'm gonna close my eyes, I don't wanna see them.

CHARLOTTE :

I do.

JESS :

Eeerrrrghhhhhh...

GEMMA gets in the car and drives off leaving the POST WOMAN holding the fish bowl and looking confused.

CUT TO:

3 INT. JASON AND INCA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM 3

The bedroom is white with a large colour studio photographic portrait of INCA and JASON hanging above the bed. INCA is sitting at her dressing table with mirror and is vigorously rubbing lots of moisturiser on her arms.

JASON is in the bathroom brushing his teeth.

JASON (V.O)

Charlotte and Jess have got their football match tonight so I'll collect you at 4.30.

INCA rubs a dollop of moisturiser between her hands.

INCA:

I should be revising for my waxing exam this evening Jason. If you please you will speak to Gemma and arrange for otherwise.

JASON enters in a overly short Chinese Kimono, it is black with red dragons on it and is tied neatly. He is mid tooth brush.

JASON :

She'll go potty.

INCA starts to apply the moisturizer to her upper arms in big strokes watching herself in her dressing table mirror.

INCA:

It is very important I learn wax Jason, English women are having a lot of mighty big hairs. Gemma will understand my strong needs in this matter.

JASON :

Are you sure I can't change your mind?

Me & Mrs. Jones - Episode One - Shooting Script - 17.05.2012
5.

He puts a leg up provocatively on the end of the bed. She stops and looks at him. Pauses then squirts some moisturizer and starts an elaborate face buff.

INCA:

It will take more than the wolf sex to change Inca's mind.

JASON stands deflated in the small Kimono.

CUT TO:

4 EXT. LARGE(ISH) JUNIOR SCHOOL PLAYGROUND. MORNING 4
GEMMA pulls up at the school gates. The TWINS charge out of the car armed with art projects, lunch boxes etc. She

catches up with the twins in the playground to kiss CHARLOTTE who ducks to avoid her.

CHARLOTTE :

Ergh that is gross mum.

JESS :

We're not six!

CHARLOTTE :

Don't hug us it's embarrassing!

GEMMA :

No it isn't - see.

We pan over to see TOM MARSHALL hug his overly confident 8 year old daughter POPPY goodbye, he lifts her from the ground.

GEMMA :

There's nothing wrong with a hug.

JESS :

Only poo heads hug.

GEMMA :

Jess, please don't say poo heads!

POPPY passes and hears GEMMA say 'poo heads'.

POPPY:

Excuse me Mrs Jones, can you not use the word poo on school property!

POPPY moves off as CAROLINE approaches she is one of the THREE NIGELLA WANNABES (women who once had careers but now are overbearing helicopter mums) and hears.....

Me & Mrs. Jones - Episode One - Shooting Script - 17.05.2012
6.

GEMMA :

(Shouts after Poppy) Poo.... No, hang on, I didn't say poo..

CAROLINE :

Morning Gemma, see you just made it

on time...

GEMMA :

What! Oh, Caroline, hi, I expect you're wondering why I shouted poo!

CAROLINE :

Not really.

GEMMA :

It wasn't me who said it first, I was just repeating it...

Before she can finish CAROLINE spots TOM and moves off towards him (not too far from GEMMA). Her fellow NIGELLA'S SUSIE and TANYA are already with TOM.

GEMMA :

Great.

GEMMA turns back to the twins for a hug.

GEMMA :

Hug please.

JESS :

Mum! Stop being a geeky loser.

GEMMA :

(Under breath) I'll pay you.

JESS/CHARLOTTE

How much?

GEMMA :

(Smiles) 50 pence?

JESS looks at GEMMA, arms crossed.

JESS :

Pound each or no hug.

CHARLOTTE :

And we want half up front.

GEMMA :

You two are so like your father.

GEMMA surreptitiously hands them some money and they hug

before CHARLOTTE and JESS run into school. GEMMA turns in surprise to see TOM standing behind her.

Me & Mrs. Jones - Episode One - Shooting Script - 17.05.2012
7.

She is a little flustered by him, mostly because she's aware of all the mums in the playground watching them.

TOM :

(Playful) Did you just pay your daughters for a hug?

GEMMA :

Of course not, don't be ridiculous! That was their lunch money.

TOM looks over at the TWINS holding lunch boxes at the school door.

TOM :

But they've got packed lun....

GEMMA :

They have yes but they... eat two lunches they've got some sort of high metabolic rate issue. It's a twin thing, which affects their... How can I help you Tom?
TOM summons up courage.

TOM :

Right, good, straight to the point, I like that. Gemma would you like to go out with me for a drink, slash, meal thingy tonight?

Before he can finish GEMMA grabs his lips and pinches them closed so he can't speak. They stand staring at each other. GEMMA holds his lips closed during the following.

GEMMA :

Oh! Sorry, I don't know why I did that - it was a nervous reaction to the drinks, slash, meal thingy -Why am I still holding your

lips? Oh no, I've been holding them for far too long people are....

GEMMA looks about her, realising everyone can see her holding his lips. She makes eye contact with CAROLINE standing with TANYA and SUSIE who gives her an evil look.

GEMMA :

OK, I'm going to let them go and we will pretend this didn't happen and we'll talk about the... PTA!

She releases his lips and tries to act casual.

Me & Mrs. Jones - Episode One - Shooting Script - 17.05.2012
8.

GEMMA :

Sooooo...?

TOM takes a pen from his jacket pocket, grabs GEMMA'S arm and rolls up her sleeve and starts writing his phone number on her arm.

TOM :

Ok look, I've talked to you about the PTA every day for a month when what I've really wanted to do was ask you out. Which I think you know....

The moment is broken by FRAN shouting.

FRAN (V.O.)

Watch where you're putting that sword Flynn.... Flynn!

FRAN approaches as TOM puts the lid on his pen.

TOM :

So call me Mrs. Jones. (Nodding acknowledgment at FRAN) Fran.

FRAN curtsies a bit. TOM leaves. FRAN who is in a business suit but has on bright spotty/patterned welly boots reaches GEMMA. FLYNN is brandishing a large sword as he runs to the school.

GEMMA :

(Looking at FLYNN) Oh no, is it

Roman day?

FRAN :

No.

TOM suddenly reappears and points at GEMMA'S arm (sleeve still rolled up) to unnecessarily explain.

TOM :

(Points at GEMMA'S arm) Sorry, sorry, I just wanted to explain I saw someone do that on a TV show, but it was on her naked thigh so - a bit sexier.

TOM smiles at FRAN and GEMMA and goes. FRAN grabs GEMMA'S arm and looks at the phone number.

FRAN :

The school DILF's phone number!

They look over at TOM getting into his Range Rover

Me & Mrs. Jones - Episode One - Shooting Script - 17.05.2012

9.

FRAN :

Ohhh Gem's result! He's super sexy, like a slightly porkier Antonio Banderas in Zorro.

FRAN sees the THREE NIGELLA'S looking over.

FRAN :

The Nigella Wannabes are going to hate your guts if you date their Tom. You know, I could have been a Nigella....

GEMMA covers her arm up and attempts to change the subject.

GEMMA :

If you hadn't got drunk at sports day and tried to seduce Mr.

Roberts. Interesting look you're sporting with wellies by the way.

FRAN :

Flynn buried all my shoes in the garden again.

TOM drives past the gates in his Range Rover and blasts the horn getting the attention of the whole playground. He waves over enthusiastically at GEMMA, FRAN waves over zealously back at him.

FRAN :

You're going to go out with him, right?

GEMMA :

He's not my type.

FRAN :

You mean he's not a self centred philanderer with a very small...
GEMMA holds FRAN's lips together.

CUT TO:

5 INT. GEMMA'S LIVING ROOM. MID - MORNING 5

GEMMA's living room has a lived in feeling. She is sat at her computer in the corner. There are family pictures of her with the TWINS and ALFIE scattered around. She dips a Mars Bar into her coffee. Suddenly JASON is stood behind her, leaning against the door frame. He is wearing a grey blouson leather jacket.

Me & Mrs. Jones - Episode One - Shooting Script - 17.05.2012
10.

JASON :

Enjoying a deep throat chocolate moment are we?

GEMMA :

(Startled with chocolate in mouth)
Jason! Blimey, you nearly gave me a heart attack! How many times can you please knock.

JASON :

The back door was open.
Besides, my kids live here I should be able to come and go as I want.

GEMMA :

Of Course, you're right. (She smiles, JASON seems pleased) So I guess I should have the keys to yours and Inca's so when the twins are with you I can just let myself in and out. I'm sure Inca will be happy with that arrangement?

He makes a face like "ok you win". GEMMA pushes past him into the kitchen and opens the washing machine. She takes out the washing and put it in the washing basket. Jason leans on the kitchen table and helps himself to a pear.

JASON :

Fine, I'll knock. Thing is Gem Gem, Inca's got a waxing exam tomorrow and she needs to meditate tonight so.....

GEMMA :

Oh no... no you don't... the girls are staying at yours tonight...

JASON :

Please, otherwise Inca will stealth wax me in my sleep again.

GEMMA opens the utility cupboard a clothes horse falls out which she wrestles with trying to get it out.

JASON :

I'll still see them at the weekend, Inca's doing Sunday lunch, Swedish style.

GEMMA :

As delicious as dry Ryvita pickled gherkins and cabbage sound you'll see them tonight.

Me & Mrs. Jones - Episode One - Shooting Script - 17.05.2012
11.

JASON :

Why? What difference does it

make?

GEMMA :

Because tonight Jason...I've got plans...to go out....

JASON :

Singles night at the Legion is it?
He laughs at his own joke and watches as GEMMA tries to pull out the clothes horse which has now got caught up with the long tube of the Hoover.

JASON :

Need a hand?

GEMMA :

Nope.
(getting more annoyed
with the clothes horse)
I've got a date.
JASON snorts.

JASON :

No you haven't.

GEMMA :

I have!
JASON takes over and pulls out the clothes horse and begins to set it up. It is complicated and for the rest of the scene he struggles with which bit goes where. GEMMA rolls up her arm to show TOM'S phone number written on it.

JASON :

What sort of lunatic writes his number on human skin?

GEMMA :

It's sexy. He would have done it on my naked thigh but I was...wearing trousers. It's Tom, Tom Marshall.

JASON :

The knob in the Range Rover?

GEMMA :

Yes. No! Tom is not a knob.

JASON :

His wife left him for the Asda
night supervisor. That qualifies
him for complete knobdom.

Me & Mrs. Jones - Episode One - Shooting Script - 17.05.2012
12.

GEMMA :

I left you for no one so what
does that qualify you for?
He puts up the clothes horse looking pleased with himself.

JASON :

Fine, I'll have the girls, but
don't wear those.
He points to granny knickers that GEMMA is now holding.

JASON :

Unless he's a pervy knob in a
Range Rover.
He gives the clothes horse a manly pat.

JASON:

(re clothes horse)
Glad I popped round now aren't
you?

GEMMA :

(smiles sweetly)
Love to Inca.
He throws her a look and exits and as he does so the
clothes horse collapses in on its self to the floor.

GEMMA :

(shouts after him)
Poo head!
She gives the clothes horse a kick, then looks at her arm
with the phone number on it.

GEMMA :

Right.

She marches into the kitchen

INTO:

6 INT. GEMMA'S KITCHEN. MID-DAY 6

GEMMA picks up the phone and is about to dial when she turns and grabs a bottle of Advocat from a kitchen cupboard and takes a swig. She does a 'yuck' face then recoils and chokes.

GEMMA :

Erghhh.... God.... Erghh

As she speaks we cut to....

CUT TO:

Me & Mrs. Jones - Episode One - Shooting Script - 17.05.2012
13.

7 INT. TOM'S LIVING ROOM. MID-DAY 7

TOM's house is a family home but with predominantly masculine touches. A photo of him and his daughter in Taekwondo outfits is on a table with the answering machine. TOM is standing in his full taekwondo kit going through various moves calmly, his answer machine clicks in and he hears....

GEMMA (PHONE MESSAGE)

(we hear choking /
gagging noises)

Ergh... sorry... Advocat went
down the wrong way.... I don't
normally drink during the day...
Just a quick shot for courage...
that's not important.. Anyway,
it's me..... Gemma.. Gemma
Jones... from the play ground...
you wrote on my arm.. But you
know that, so
(overly loud)
I will go out with you tonight...
goodbye.

(She thinks she's hung
up)

Oh no what have I done - oh no..
the phone what the....
(line goes dead)

The machine clicks off. TOM goes into a full on taekwondo display.

TOM :

Yes! Yes! Yes! Aaaaah.
He does a small bow.

CUT TO:

8 INT. BOUTIQUE DRESS SHOP. LUNCH TIME 8

GEMMA is in a changing area curtained off from the shop. She is holding a small slutty dress and looking at it. It's red and sparkly with holes in it all over the place.

GEMMA :

I'm not sure about this dress Fran.
There is no answer.

GEMMA (cont'd)

Fran! The dress, it's a bit...
small looking...

Still no answer so GEMMA'S head appears between the curtains that open out into the shop. She spots FRAN texting nearby.

Me & Mrs. Jones - Episode One - Shooting Script - 17.05.2012
14.

GEMMA (cont'd)

Fran!

FRAN :

What! Sorry, I'm just flirt texting
my dentist.

GEMMA :

Fran! This dress is... confusing.

FRAN :

Rubbish, it's the perfect mix of
educated sluttiness. Trust me.

FRAN pushes GEMMA's head back in the cubicle and resumes
texting. The camera stays with FRAN and we presume GEMMA is
changing into the dress.

FRAN (cont'd)

I thought you were going to
chicken out of this date with
Tom.

GEMMA (V.O.)

Jason drove me to it.

FRAN :

Yeah well he'd drive me to binge drinking and self harming.

GEMMA opens the changing room curtain to reveal she has the dress on but it's over her own clothes - it looks insane as she obviously doesn't have it on right.

GEMMA :

I look like Noddy.

FRAN :

I quite fancied Noddy when I was little - he had his own car.
(looking at her) It might help if you took your other clothes off.

GEMMA :

Fine.

A resigned GEMMA closes the curtain. FRAN resumes texting as a SNOOTY SHOP WOMAN walks past and hears.

FRAN :

And I'll need to bring you up to date on this Centuries sexual practices.

A nervous GEMMA pops just her head through the curtain. We can't see her body but she's wriggling a bit during the following, we assume trying to get the dress off.

Me & Mrs. Jones - Episode One - Shooting Script - 17.05.2012
15.

GEMMA :

What! (Under her breath) I assumed sex had remained pretty much the same over the Centuries.

FRAN :

Who was the last man you slept with?

GEMMA tries to think.

GEMMA :

Er...was it?...no...er. It could have been...er..

FRAN :

It was Jason wasn't it?

GEMMA :

Yes.

GEMMA goes back into the changing room. We stay on FRAN.

FRAN :

Men over 40 need to see flesh to make the effort. Nowadays people don't even go on dates, they just hook up for a quickie between 'Attenborough's Blue Planet' and 'Newsnight'.

GEMMA (V.O.)

(sounds hot and bothered) Really?

FRAN :

Yeah, Attenborough's shows were responsible for at least three of my best ever sexual encounters. You can learn a lot from the animal kingdom.

GEMMA'S head appears through the curtain, she looks a mess - obviously been struggling to get out of the dress.

GEMMA :

I'm going to cancel.

GEMMA disappears back into the changing room and we go with her, she is still trying to get out the dress.

FRAN (V.O.)

Look, Tom's really nice. You deserve some fun Gems..

GEMMA :

(To self) Houdini would struggle with this...

Me & Mrs. Jones - Episode One - Shooting Script - 17.05.2012
16.

FRAN pops her head into the cubicle....

FRAN :

Does bosoms have one or two 'o's'

(sees GEMMA) Oh!

FRAN takes her head out the curtains and we see her stop the SNOOTY SHOP ASSISTANT as she walks past.

FRAN :

Have you got any scissors, we may have to cut her out of the Educated Slutty.

CUT TO:

9 INT GEMMA'S LIVING ROOM. AFTERNOON 9

GEMMA is in the living room with facial hair removal cream on her upper lip. She is watching an animal documentary - two bears are wooing, we hear them growling. Unannounced her son ALFIE and his mate BILLY enter carrying rucksacks - they watch the TV before speaking.

ALFIE :

(To BILLY re bears)

Reminds me of you mate.

GEMMA :

Alfie! You're not supposed to be back for another four months!

(suddenly worried)

Are you in trouble?! Is it drugs? (checks his arms) Have you been expelled from China?

ALFIE :

It's not school mum. They don't chuck you out of China for smoking behind the bins. Oh yeah, this is Billy, I said he could stay a few nights.

BILLY :

Hi. I think there's...

(motions to his upper lip)

something on your.....

GEMMA :

Oh no!

GEMMA wipes the hair removal cream off her upper lip.

ALFIE :

Billy saved my life in China.

Me & Mrs. Jones - Episode One - Shooting Script - 17.05.2012

17.

GEMMA :

Saved your life?

ALFIE :

Yeah, I fell off the Great Wall
into his arms.

BILLY :

It was quite romantic really.

GEMMA (CONT'D)

I thought you were going to be
away "discovering yourself" until
Christmas.

ALFIE :

Nah, I "discovered myself" in a
week. Turns out I'm actually
fairly shallow.

(sits on sofa and looks
at the tv)

Man those bears are really going
for it...

GEMMA tries to turn the TV off only to turn it up as the
bears growl. Finally she pushes the right button and mutes
it.

BILLY:

(to Gemma)

If it's a problem me staying I
can just...

ALFIE :

Nah mum's cool about stuff like
this aren't you mum?

GEMMA:

(unconvinced)

It's fine. Oh its so lovely to have you home lets celebrate with a - Tom!

ALFIE :

What's a Tom?

GEMMA :

I have a date with a Tom - no wait I'll cancel.

ALFIE :

Don't do that mum, we're gonna go out anyway, right, need to grab a shower if I'm gonna work the Alfie magic tonight.

(to BILLY)

Make yourself at home mate.

Me & Mrs. Jones - Episode One - Shooting Script - 17.05.2012
18.

ALFIE goes. BILLY looks at the TV. The bears are still on.

BILLY :

Once they've mated the male walks away and might never see the female again.

GEMMA :

I've met a few of those in my time. Well, when I say a few I mean - well - anyway, better get ready.

CUT TO:

10 EXT. FOOTBALL MATCH. SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS - AFTERNOON 10
JASON and INCA stand freezing to death on the sidelines of a children's football match. It is bleak. Girls run around, their parents shout. JESS stands in goal not that into the match while CHARLOTTE runs about furiously. INCA shivers in her bright coloured 'going out' tight red/fuscia dress and high heels, her hair long and shiny looking. She looks totally pissed off.

INCA:

(brrrs like a horse
pointedly for
attention)

The thing is Jason, because I am
so slim I feel the cold much
more. Plus apart from my head I
am completely hairless; like an
otter.

(pouts)

I should be revising for my
waxing exam Jason.

JASON :

I know love - and to show my
appreciation I will let you wax
any body part you like when we
get home.

She smiles seductively at him. We see TOM is wildly
cheering on POPPY standing with CAROLINE, TANYA and SUSIE.

TOM :

Good team work Poppy. That's the
spirit!

CAROLINE :

Poppy's such an amazing little
person Tom. A real credit to your
parenting skills.

Me & Mrs. Jones - Episode One - Shooting Script - 17.05.2012
19.

TOM :

Thank you.

CAROLINE :

(Touches his arm) No thank you,
for being such a positive male role
model.

We go back to JASON and INCA. JASON is looking annoyed at
TOM.

JASON :

That's the guy that's going out
on a date with Gemma tonight.

INCA :

Which one?

JASON :

The one who looks like a knob.

INCA looks over at TOM talking with the THREE NIGELLA'S.

INCA :

He's a handsome knob.

JASON :

No he's not.

They both look over at TOM as the NIGELLA'S laugh, touching
his arm.

INCA :

He looks like he could really

give the good sexual

experiences. Oh! I am knowing, I

will see if Gemma wants me to

give her the body wrap, she can

lose inches off her torso.

CHARLOTTE scores by getting past POPPY. JASON jumps up and
down shouting too much, pointedly over at TOM.

JASON :

That's my girl! Well done. My

flesh and blood, from these

loins! Go Jess!

TOM looks over nonplussed at JASON shouting.

INCA :

It was Charlotte who scored.

INCA walks off, her heels sink in the mud.

CUT TO:

Me & Mrs. Jones - Episode One - Shooting Script - 17.05.2012

20.

11 INT. GEMMA'S HOUSE. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT 11

BILLY is sat on the sofa unpacking his dirty clothes from his rucksack.

ALFIE is on GEMMA's computer with "Facespaces.com" up.

ALFIE :

(looking at screen)

Oh yes! Get in! I've been sexypoked by that fit Thai bird I met in Bangkok.

BILLY :

(looks up)

And you're OK with that?

ALFIE :

She was hot.

BILLY :

She was a he.

ALFIE :

Shut up! She was all woman.

BILLY :

You were pissed out of your brains on Thai whiskey.

So.

ALFIE :

She had all the right bits.

BILLY :

On the outside maybe.

ALFIE :

Jealousy is a terrible thing my friend.

BILLY :

Her name was Ken!

BILLY heads for the kitchen with his dirty clothes.

ALFIE :

I don't care, I'm sexy poking back - then lets get totally mullered.

CUT TO:

12 INT. GEMMA'S HOUSE KITCHEN. NIGHT 12

GEMMA is looking at her reflection in the kettle. She

bouffants her hair up so it's enormous.

Me & Mrs. Jones - Episode One - Shooting Script - 17.05.2012

21.

GEMMA :

Brilliant, I look like a
scarecrow...

She grabs a clip and frantically smoothes her hair down
clipping it to one side.

GEMMA :

Great, now I look like Hitler.

She piles her hair onto her head, it now just looks like a
large nest.

GEMMA (TO SELF)

Hi I'm Gemma and I have a family
of rats living in my hair.

Defeated she slumps on the counter.

GEMMA :

It's just a date... pull yourself
together.

BILLY enters carrying the washing Gemma springs up from
counter.

GEMMA :

(Slightly desperate
tone)

How do I look?

BILLY :

You look...

GEMMA :

...like the Fuhrer...?

BILLY :

No.

GEMMA :

Like I should cancel and just
have an early night?

He laughs.

BILLY :

No. You look nice. Kind
of....Cameron Diaz - Charlie's

Angels not Shrek obviously.

GEMMA :

Are you just saying that so you can take advantage of my washing machine?

Me & Mrs. Jones - Episode One - Shooting Script - 17.05.2012
22.

BILLY :

Absolutely, I've got a weakness for a triple A+ graded 1400 spin washing machine with 12 wash programmes, reduced creasing option and a 29 minute quick wash.

GEMMA :

Wow, you know your stuff.

BILLY :

Two summers working at Croydon's premier electrical store has its uses when it comes to impressing the ladies.

GEMMA :

I bet it does.

She laughs. He motions towards the washing machine. She nods and puts on some earrings again using the kettle as a mirror as he loads the machine.

GEMMA :

I feel like a teenager on a first ever date.

BILLY :

That's a great feeling isn't it. The bit just before your first kiss - you both know it's going to happen but you don't know when and your hearts pounding and...

GEMMA :

Oh no!

BILLY :

What?

GEMMA :

I should've shaved both my legs.

BILLY :

You only shaved one leg?

GEMMA :

Work deadline trying on 14
dresses ... prodigal son
returning... sort of took my mind
off what I was doing.
(suddenly looks up)
Contraception!

BILLY :

What?

Me & Mrs. Jones - Episode One - Shooting Script - 17.05.2012
23.

GEMMA :

My one shaved leg, I'll use it as
a form of contraception. It'll
put him off.
BILLY stands up and they are now facing each other.

BILLY :

I think I'd find it kind of
intriguing. "The woman with the
one hairy leg."
She laughs and picks up her bag and goes into the living
room. BILLY looks at the washing machine. He pushes the
button on the machine to start it.

CUT TO:

13 INT. GEMMA'S LIVING ROOM. NIGHT 13
GEMMA goes into the living room finding ALFIE mucking about
on her computer.

GEMMA :

Alfie! My work's on that, be careful.

ALFIE :

Chill, I know what I'm doing.
The door bell goes.

GEMMA :

Oh no... I'm not... Do I look OK?

ALFIE :

(doesn't look up)
Yeah, fine.
GEMMA goes to the door and lets in TOM.

GEMMA :

Tom hi, come in.
He comes into the living room.

TOM :

Wow! You look...
(searching for right
word)
Super!

GEMMA :

Thanks. This is my son Alfie
just back from travelling the
world. Alfie this is Tom.
Me & Mrs. Jones - Episode One - Shooting Script - 17.05.2012
24.
ALFIE doesn't even look up from the computer.

ALFIE :

Alright mate.

TOM :

He's your son! Wow... big. I
didn't realise you and Jason had
been together so long.

ALFIE :

(snorts) That muppet isn't my
dad.

GEMMA :

Alfie! I had Alfie waaay before I met Jason... I mean not waaaay way. I'm not that old... I mean I'm oldish, obviously but not... I was really young when I had Alfie.... I mean not young as in "headline in the Daily Mail" young just.....

(panic plea to Alfie)

Did you say something?

ALFIE smiles at his mum, he's not helping her out. He pulls the plug on the computer.

ALFIE :

Nope you carry on, you're doing really great.

ALFIE relaxes back in his chair as BILLY comes in.

TOM :

Gosh two man sons?

GEMMA :

No, this is Billy. He's Alfie's friend. He saved his life

(after thought)

It wasn't drugs related.

TOM and BILLY shake hands.

TOM :

I once saved someone.

GEMMA :

Really?

Me & Mrs. Jones - Episode One - Shooting Script - 17.05.2012
25.

TOM:

(with pride)

Well, when I say someone, it was more of a dog - But it was an old lady's dog and she said he was more of a son to her than her son

had been. Anyway he fell in the pond and got into distress, little legs, and I ... well, I paddled in and saved him. They all stare at TOM blankly as he smiles broadly.

CUT TO:

14 INT. JASON AND INCA'S DINING ROOM. NIGHT 14
JASON and INCA'S dining room is minimalist and not exactly child friendly. It's quite sterile and there are awful sculptures dotted around. The twins and JASON are sat at the dinner table. Relaxation music plays, pipes and whale sounds.

JESS :

What's that noise?

INCA comes into the room holding large dinner plates.

INCA :

Whales who are relaxing.

INCA puts down the plates and we see that there are tiny portions of health food in the centre of them. It looks to be a beansprout and tofu based dish. It looks awful.

CHARLOTTE :

What is this?

INCA :

Tofu and beansprouts.

JESS :

Ergh puke.

JASON :

No not puke, now eat it up girls.

He takes a mouthful then winces then smiles lovingly at INCA.

JASON :

Mmmmm yummy.

JESS:

But Dad I thought we were having burger and fries?

INCA :

I'm sorry Jess but I don't allow meats in the house.

CHARLOTTE :

But we had burger and fries with Dad last time we were here.

INCA :

Excuse me?

JESS :

When you were at your spray tan class.

JASON:

(to Jess)

Don't be daft love, we don't do hamburgers - remember? Or any form of corporate food.

INCA :

Are you lying to Inca?

JASON :

No, I promise. They've got it wrong. I would never let a Quarter Pounder down my digestive tract.

INCA:

(to JASON stern/annoyed)

I have decided which body part of yours I am going to wax.

JASON looks nervously at the girls who stifle a giggle.
CHARLOTTE and JESS eat using small mouths like rabbits.

CUT TO:

15 INT. THAI RESTAURANT. NIGHT 15

We look through the window of 'Bangkok House' Thai restaurant. GEMMA and TOM are sat at a small bar waiting

for their table. They have Mai Thai cocktails.

GEMMA :

These are lovely.

She sucks long and hard on the straw.

TOM :

Steady there cowboy, they're strong.

She laughs, then does a hiccup.

Me & Mrs. Jones - Episode One - Shooting Script - 17.05.2012
27.

GEMMA :

Been a long day, I needed that.

TOM :

You look really stunning Gemma.

GEMMA :

Thank you.

TOM :

I knew you could.

GEMMA looks at him slightly shocked.

TOM:

(embarrassed)

I mean, you always look good, you just look more good now.

GEMMA :

Thanks, thing is you get too used to slobbering around in jogging bottoms, sometimes I forget I've got a waist.

TOM laughs and takes a gulp of his cocktail he seems very relaxed now.

TOM :

Yeah, I've seen you in those jogging bottoms at the school gates every morning sporting that big old Marmite moustache.

He laughs, GEMMA looks at him blankly.

GEMMA :

(upset)

Marmite moustache?

TOM:

(oblivious to response)

Yeah, it's either Marmite or
Chocolate spread.

GEMMA :

(flatly)

It's Marmite.

TOM :

(pleased with self)

Thought so.

TOM smiles at her long and hard. She smiles back. He smiles
again. She smiles again.

Me & Mrs. Jones - Episode One - Shooting Script - 17.05.2012
28.

TOM :

I like your teeth.

CUT TO:

16 INT. BUS - NIGHT 16

ALFIE and BILLY are sitting on the top deck of a bus
chatting. ALFIE is spouting crap looking in the bus window
and adjusting his clothes to look 'perfect'. BILLY has his
feet nonchalantly up on the seat in front next to ALFIE'S
leather jacket.

ALFIE :

You know mate, travelling the
world and all its orifices has
really opened my eyes. It's
helped expose the real me...

BILLY :

Yeah, well, my advice, keep the
real you covered up if you wanna
pull tonight..

FROSTY GIRL and CUTE GIRL get on the bus dressed for a night out. They sit near ALFIE and BILLY on the bus.

ALFIE :

Aye! Aye!...

ALFIE leans over to them to introduce himself.

ALFIE :

Ladies, I'm Alfie, this is Billy.
He's a bit like my Sherpa. We
just got back from travelling the
world.

FROSTY GIRL :

(unimpressed)

Really?

CUTE GIRL smiles at BILLY.

ALFIE :

Oh yeah. Tell them Billy.

BILLY :

China, Borneo, Phuket. Alfie was
just telling me how he's a
changed man since Thailand.

FROSTY GIRL :

(sarcastic)

Sex change?

Me & Mrs. Jones - Episode One - Shooting Script - 17.05.2012
29.

CUTE GIRL and BILLY laugh.

ALFIE :

(to Frosty Girl
seriously)

You're funny, I like you.

FROSTY GIRL looks slightly taken aback by this.

ALFIE:

No, I meant changed as in my
outlook's changed. I'm kinda now
looking for someone who's my
intellectual equal. Like...

BILLY :

Paris Hilton?

ALFIE:

(ignores Billy and
stares intently at
Frosty Girl)

Someone I can share things with
like....

BILLY :

STDs?

ALFIE:

(ignores Billy)

Experiences. A woman with
intelligence, knowledge, you
know, a big brain.

BILLY:

Which would obviously mean a big
head.

CUTE GIRL smiles at BILLY

ALFIE :

(unsure)

Right sure, a big head.

FROSTY GIRL :

(defensive)

Are you saying my heads too big?

ALFIE:

What? Umm. No, yeah, sort of -
but you know, in a good way -
like a Bratz doll - I mean not
plastic or.. what I'm trying to
say is ... Billy, what am I
trying to say?

Me & Mrs. Jones - Episode One - Shooting Script - 17.05.2012
30.

BILLY :

I think what you're trying to say
is can you buy these two ladies a
drink in town for being a dick on
the bus?

The girls laugh. The boys are in.

CUT TO:

17 INT. THAI RESTAURANT. NIGHT. 17

GEMMA and TOM are now seated at their table and their
desserts are being served.

TOM :

(thank you nod to
waiter)

Khorb koon ka.

The WAITER does a little bow and leaves.

TOM :

Thong yib - pinched golden egg
yolks for you and sang kha ya fak
thong - Thai custard with pumpkin
for me.

GEMMA :

Yummy.

GEMMA tucks in. TOM doesn't he looks at bit perturbed.

TOM :

Gemma I...

TOM stops GEMMA looks up and smiles.

GEMMA :

What's wrong, not lusting after
my pinched egg yolks are you?

TOM :

Have I been a bit over the top?

GEMMA :

What?

TOM :

I think possibly I've been trying
too hard this evening and I think

I might be coming over as a bit
of a knob.

GEMMA :

No...

Me & Mrs. Jones - Episode One - Shooting Script - 17.05.2012
31.

TOM :

It's just it took me so long to
pluck up the courage to ask you
out, and then you said yes and
now we're here and I feel...

GEMMA :

I've had a really lovely evening
Tom. It's nice to feel like a
grown up again, I'm glad I said
yes.
She smiles. He smiles. She smiles.

TOM :

You really do have great teeth.

CUT TO:

18 INT. TRENDY BAR. NIGHT 18

BILLY is stood at the bar with the Manager, RACHEL, 30's
and cool. They are watching ALFIE who is chatting to FROSTY
GIRL.

RACHEL :

So you're mates with our Alfie
then?

BILLY :

Yep, four months intercontinental
mayhem ending with him being
chased out of China by an old
woman with a broom.

RACHEL :

Sounds like Alfie - what had he
done? Broken her heart?

BILLY :

She had three daughters.

RACHEL :

(knowing)

Ah.

BILLY :

Three broken hearts and one
broken broom. She was a bit of a
ninja granny.

RACHEL :

So you thought here was a safer
bet?

Me & Mrs. Jones - Episode One - Shooting Script - 17.05.2012
32.

BILLY :

That and we ran out of cash. Do
you need anyone?

RACHEL :

Sexually no, I've just turned
lesbian.
She smiles over at MEGAN her partner clearing tables.

BILLY :

Right, congratulations. But I
meant work wise.

RACHEL :

You worked a bar before?

BILLY :

2 months in Portugal, 3 months in
Goa, 3 days in China.

RACHEL :

3 days?

BILLY :

The Ninja granny ran us out of
town.

RACHEL :

Since you're a mate of Alfie's, I shouldn't even entertain the idea but... I'll give you a trial run tomorrow.

BILLY :

Cheers.

We look over at ALFIE who is with FROSTY GIRL and she's proudly sticking her breasts out and ALFIE has his hands on them in a 'matter of fact' way, as if analyzing them somehow.

FROSTY GIRL :

Well, what do you think?

ALFIE:

(matter of fact)

You're right they do feel kinda natural.

FROSTY GIRL :

Told ya.

BILLY and RACHEL smile.

Me & Mrs. Jones - Episode One - Shooting Script - 17.05.2012
33.

BILLY :

(to RACHEL)

You better get your broom.

CUT TO:

19 EXT. DOORSTEP GEMMA'S HOUSE. NIGHT 19

GEMMA and TOM are standing on her doorstep. She is rummaging for her keys in her bag, she hands her bag to TOM to hold while she carries on rummaging in it.

GEMMA :

I should have a key round my neck

I can never find anything in this

bag. It's a bottomless pit.

She brings out a doll's torso, football cards and a pair of socks which she hands to TOM.

GEMMA :

Well, apart from the doll's head,
the football cards and the socks
of course.

(ALTERNATE ITEMS: Trump cards, Math attacks cards, conkers,
doll's leg, stickers, plastic necklace, broken tiara, play
figure, mouth organ, empty juice carton)

This is now the moment on a date where a couple might kiss -
or might not - so there is a bit of an awkward atmosphere
as they both know this.

TOM :

So....

GEMMA :

So err....

TOM :

You fancy another date sometime?

GEMMA :

Er...yes. That would be nice.

TOM goes to kiss her on the lips, only she goes to kiss him
on the cheek - the result is he kisses her on the ear hole.

GEMMA :

Sorry.

TOM :

Sorry. I'm rushing things.

Me & Mrs. Jones - Episode One - Shooting Script - 17.05.2012
34.

GEMMA :

No, it's fine just caught me off
guard. But I'm on guard now, so
you could try again, maybe. If
you wanted to...

He goes to kiss her again, this time they kiss.

GEMMA :

(whispers)

I can't feel my feet.

TOM:

(whispers romantically)

I know what you mean.

GEMMA :

No, I mean I really can't feel my feet, I think you're standing on them.

TOM :

What! Oh sorry.

BILLY comes round the corner and walks straight in on them.

BILLY :

Oh sorry, sorry, don't mind me carry on. Hello Tom.

He fumbles for his key, trying not to interrupt. It's a squeeze on the step.

GEMMA :

Where's Alfie?

BILLY :

Still sampling some of the local delights.

They all stand awkwardly on the doorstep.

BILLY :

Right I'll leave you to it.

They all stand awkwardly again.

BILLY :

Bye.

TOM :

Bye.

BILLY lets himself in.

GEMMA :

Hold the door. Thanks again Tom, see you at school.

Me & Mrs. Jones - Episode One - Shooting Script - 17.05.2012

35.

GEMMA and BILLY go in and close the door leaving a confused TOM. He puts the doll's head and football cards on the window ledge and posts the socks through the letter box.

CUT TO:

20 INT. GEMMA'S HOUSE. NIGHT 20
GEMMA follows BILLY into the house.

BILLY :

I'm really sorry for interrupting
your...

GEMMA :

It's fine. Got to keep them
wanting more.

BILLY :

Mind if I make a coffee?

GEMMA :

No go ahead.
BILLY goes into the kitchen. GEMMA kicks off her shoes and
goes over to the computer.

GEMMA :

No!
She tries again. She is now panicking.

GEMMA :

No no no!
BILLY comes back into the living room.

GEMMA :

No!!!

BILLY :

Everything alright?

GEMMA :

I need to send my work. It won't
turn on!

BILLY :

Let me look.

GEMMA :

Do you know what you're doing?

BILLY :

Trust me I used to be a big nerd.

Me & Mrs. Jones - Episode One - Shooting Script - 17.05.2012
36.

GEMMA :

How big?

BILLY :

NHS specs and acne big.

GEMMA :

Do it.

BILLY goes up to the computer. He looks at it.

GEMMA :

What's wrong with it?

BILLY :

Shhh...

She looks away as BILLY looks closely at it then looks at the wall and puts the plug in and turns it on, it comes on.

BILLY :

There we go.

GEMMA :

Oh thank you, thank you!

She hugs him.

BILLY :

It was just unplugged. It's the first place us big nerds look.

You'd be surprised how many...

Suddenly he stops speaking and they realise that he is still holding her. They both look at each other. The moment is broken when the back door opens and JASON comes in with the twins holding a bucket. GEMMA and BILLY step away from each other. JASON doesn't see them he is too caught up with ushering the sick kids in.

JASON :

Gemma! The kids have been
throwing up all over the place.
Inca has beansprout puke in her
hair extensions. She's in a
terrible state.

GEMMA runs to the kids. BILLY goes in to help.

GEMMA :

Beansprouts?

JESS :

She made us eat green stringy
stuff mum.

And with that JESS throws up all over BILLY's trousers.

Me & Mrs. Jones - Episode One - Shooting Script - 17.05.2012
37.

GEMMA :

Oh no! Sorry Billy.

BILLY :

It's fine.

CHARLOTTE then throws up in the bucket.

JASON :

Ergh this is disgusting...

GEMMA :

(to Jason)

Get out!

JASON :

It's not my fault.

GEMMA :

It never is.

(to Billy)

You better get cleaned up,
there's fresh towels in the
bathroom.

BILLY passes JASON on his way upstairs.

JASON :

(to Billy)

Who are you anyway?

GEMMA :

Not now Jason.

GEMMA heads upstairs with the twins

JASON :

Got yourself a toy boy? What

happened to the knob?

(shouts up the stairs)

Couldn't he rise to the occasion?

He laughs at his own joke then realises he's alone in the living room.

JASON :

Alright, I'm leaving.

CUT TO:

21 INT. HALLWAY. NIGHT 21

BILLY is in a towel coming out the bathroom having had a shower. GEMMA is coming out of the twins room. They stop in front of each other.

Me & Mrs. Jones - Episode One - Shooting Script - 17.05.2012
38.

BILLY :

Got the sick off.

GEMMA :

Good. Sorry about that.

BILLY:

I just spent 4 months with your son, so am kinda used to it.

She seems a bit awkward with him in just a towel. We hear the front door open and giggling. It's ALFIE and the girl coming in. GEMMA looks panicked. Without thinking she shoves BILLY back into the bathroom as Alfie and Frosty Girl go past snogging.

ALFIE :

What's your name?

FROSTY GIRL :

Sam.

ALFIE :

Sam, short for...?

FROSTY GIRL :

Samantha.

ALFIE :

Just checking.

She pushes Alfie against his bedroom door which is opposite the bathroom and starts snogging the face off him.

CUT TO:

22 INT. BATHROOM. NIGHT 22

GEMMA and BILLY are standing close together by the bathroom door. They whisper. Billy seems amused by the ridiculousness of her actions. He's being playful and non-predatory during the following.

BILLY :

What are you doing?

GEMMA:

Shhh. I didn't want Alfie to see us together.

BILLY :

Together in the hall?

GEMMA:

What? Yes, well you've got no top on, he might - have got the wrong idea.

Me & Mrs. Jones - Episode One - Shooting Script - 17.05.2012
39.

BILLY :

The wrong idea about what? That I'd just had a shower?

GEMMA :

Yes...no

(realizes what she's
done)

I may have slightly over reacted.

BILLY :

To me having a shower?

GEMMA :

No, to Alfie seeing us, he might
have thought we were up to no
good.

BILLY :

Why?

(laughs)

Do you usually get up to no good
with his friends?

GEMMA:

(embarrassed)

No! Absolutely not. Never. How
could you even insinuate...

BILLY :

I didn't.

GEMMA :

Shhh!

They stand close, silently. They hear ALFIE'S bedroom door
open and FROSTY GIRL giggle as the go in slamming the door.

GEMMA :

He's gone.

BILLY :

Phew! Because God forbid he
should have caught us innocently
chatting in the hall but us holed
up chest to chest in the
bathroom, no problem there.

He smiles. Then they both laugh but trying to keep it
quiet. Clearly there is a spark between them.

BILLY :

Good night Mrs. Jones.

GEMMA :

...Good night.

Me & Mrs. Jones - Episode One - Shooting Script - 17.05.2012
40.

They look at each other. There is a beat, like they are both holding their breath. Then the moment is broken.

BILLY :

Good night.

GEMMA :

Night night, mind the bed bugs
don't bite.

BILLY leaves. GEMMA glances at herself in the mirror.

GEMMA:

(to her reflection)

Mind the bed bugs don't bite?

Really?

She slides down the wall and sinks to the floor.

GEMMA :

So, you snog a man you hardly know
on your doorstep, then drag a half
naked young man into your bathroom.
Well done Mrs. Jones.

END.

Me & Mrs. Jones - Episode One - Shooting Script - 17.05.2012