

STARS

The horoscope musical



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Synopsis

Boy meets girl. A love story with a twist. Jack and Jill are flatmates but definitely not lovers. They put up with each other despite their different personalities and tastes. Jill is keen on astrology and uses the stars to help make decisions. One decision she's made is that any male of a certain Sun sign is definitely not for her.

Jack is not keen on astrology, which in itself causes conflict, but far worse, he's of that certain no-go Sun sign.

Some of us live by the stars. We plan our lives and make decisions according to astrological wisdom. But is astrology a science? And if so, does it work?

Jack and Jill go up the hill of life. Jack falls down and Jill comes tumbling after.

Stage Setting

One set, the interior of a contemporary lounge-room in the apartment/townhouse shared by Jack and Jill. It's modern and a mix of tidy [Jack] and busy [Jill]. A sofa is the main piece of furniture. Jill has a tailor's dummy she uses as a dress designer and Jack has a desk he uses for work. The front door is upstage hidden by a small wall, a bookcase perhaps. This hidden front-door is important as costume and thus character changes occur unseen as the play proceeds. There are exits to the bedrooms and opposite, to the kitchen.

Bookshelves

**Front door
hidden**

Window to garden

Desk

Telephone

Bedrooms

Door

**Kitchen
Bathroom**

Sofa

Tailor's dummy

Characters

JACK – 20-35, good-looking, trim, fit, healthy, obsessive, accountant

JILL – 20-35, good-looking, trim, fit, healthy, overbearing, fashion and theatrical designer

FATHER – Jill's father, 50s, amiable

KYLIE – Jill's 13 year-old kid-sister

RANDY – Jill's best friend's partner, 20-35

HONEY-PIE – boot-scootin', country and western neighbour, 20-35

CALVIN – zealot, missionary, 20-35

GRAN – Jill's grandmother, eccentric, bow-legged, 70

PETER – a plumber, untidy, ocker, 60

CHEERLEADER – an entertainer, 20-35

DANIEL – Jill's current boyfriend, 20-35

PRUE – Jack's current girlfriend, 20-35

Six roles for each actor. N.B. A dresser is vital!

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No. 1 Overture

[Curtain rises or lights come up during the short Overture. JACK is tidying the room, plumping cushions, straightening magazines, adjusting flowers, etc while JILL is working with material on the dummy creating a wondrous garment. She stops and looks at JACK]

JILL Hey, Mr Tidy. You'd make someone a lovely wife.

JACK *[Ignoring her remarks]* Tidy house, tidy mind. *[Admires effect]* Now, doesn't that look better?

JILL Anyone who walked in here right now would think we're a couple of happily-married lovers.

JACK *[Shocked]* Lovers!

JILL *[Lovey-dovey]* Our own little love-nest. The perfect married couple.

JACK *[Definite. Putting her right]* And boy would they be wrong!

JILL *[Polite mock]* Ahhhh.

No. 2 We're Just Good Friends

JACK *We share this flat, we halve the rent
We split bills fifty-fifty*

JILL *We both do chores, we cook and clean
We find it works out nifty.*

JACK & JILL *But there's no sharing of the marriage-bed
As Robinson Crusoe to Man Friday said.*

JACK *[Spoken as Crusoe]* Now let's be damn clear on this, Friday.

JILL *[Spoken as Friday]* Clear on what, Mister Crusoe?

JACK & JILL *We're just good friends
There's not a spot of rumpy-pumpy
We never have a perv, our modesty preserve
Regardless if s/he wants to jump me.
'Cos when for sex we both are gagging
We'll never set those tongues a-wagging
With one another we ain't shagging
We're just good friends.*

JILL *We share this pad, we give and take
And tolerate each other*

JACK *We fight of course, we're rather like
A sister and a brother*

JACK & JILL *But there's no sharing of the marriage-bed
As dear little Noddy and Big-Ears might have said.*

JACK *[Spoken as Big-Ears]* Now about the sleeping arrangements, Noddy.

JILL *[Spoken as Noddy]* What about the sleeping arrangements, Big-Ears?

JACK & JILL *We're just good friends
With not a hint of copulation
We'd never be so rash to contemplate a flash
Or give a pash, congratulation.
And even if for lust we're queuing
There's not a show you will be viewing
Because with him/her I sure ain't screwing*

We're just good friends.
[Dance break]

JACK *We share the bathroom, not the bath*
The door it has a lock on

JILL *Our bedrooms too are separate*
Forbidden there to rock-on.

JACK & JILL *Yes there's no sharing of the marriage-bed*
As Sherlock Holmes to Doctor Watson said

JACK *[Spoken as Holmes] I say, Watson, top or bottom bunk, old chap?*

JILL *[Spoken as Watson] By Jove, Holmes, I rather fancy the bottom.*

JACK and JILL *We're just good friends*
'Cos sex for us would make life tricky
With knickers out of view and nudity taboo
There's not a hope for even a quickie.
So even if my heart's a-thumping
And blood to certain parts is pumping
There's not a chance it's her/him I'm humping
We're just good friends.

JILL *[Song ends with tag allowing JILL to return to her dummy and JACK to his desk. They both work but she is thinking about astrology, her passionate hobby] Now don't forget I need your exact time of birth.*

JACK *[Not keen] Yes, all right.*

JILL I'll make your detailed birth chart and you'll learn so much about yourself.

JACK *[Now speaks to her] You're wasting your time. I read my horoscope, daily.*
[Goes to find newspaper]

JILL *[Scoffs] That's not astrology. A proper birth chart reveals the inner person. It tells who we really are which is often not what the world sees.*

JACK *[Searching paper] Here's my prediction. [Reading] "You may play a number of roles and face a momentous decision." See, that tells me everything. [Looks at her] What's it mean?*

JILL *[Threatens] I told you to take this seriously.*

JACK I am.

JILL Oh like when my cousin said her sign was Capricorn and you said yours was Church of England.

JACK It was a joke. *[Changes tack. Serious]* So you really can pick Mr. Right just by studying his birth chart?

JILL Of course. And I already know we'd never hit it off romantically.

JACK *[Joking, sexual overtones] There are other ways of testing one's suitability.*

JILL *[Ignores him and works on garment] Come and check out my latest stunning design.*

JACK *[Taking closer look] That seam's not straight.*

JILL *[Angry] Oh God! Will you stop nitpicking?*

JACK I'm paying attention to detail.

JILL Why so over-critical?

JACK Why overreact?

JILL *[She overreacts] Overreact!*

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JACK I give an honest opinion with one tiny criticism and you bite my head off.
JILL You'd criticise the sky for being too blue.
JACK Do you know you're a compulsive foot-stamper? *[She glares]* And you bellow.
JILL *[Bellows]* Bellow!
JACK And if you don't get your way there's hell to pay. *[MUSIC BEGINS]*
JILL *[Softer, please help me]* I can't help it, Jack. It's part of my make-up - from birth.
JACK *[Sick of this routine]* Oh change the record, please.
JILL *[Back to angry]* Listen, pal, my foot-stamping and living life-to-the-full is all due to just one thing.
JACK *[Histrionically sarcastic]* Don't tell me, you king of the beasts, you.

No. 3 Leo

JILL *I know what I want, I know who I am
Yes, I'm a Leo
I know how to lead and get out of a jam
Yes, I'm a Leo
I'm proud and I'm regal, creative and keen
I love glitz and glamour, as star of the scene
I'm witty, verbose and a fighter in close
Yes, I'm a Leo.
Vivacious and bright, give so generously
Yes, I'm a Leo
I'm socially bold [Spoken] I say, look at me
Yes, I'm a Leo
I'm loyal and faithful, laugh often and smile
I'm neat in appearance, survive storms with style
I radiate charm and can set off alarm
Yes, I'm a Leo.
It's true I'm not perfect*

JACK *[Spoken]* Ha!

JILL *I have failings and foibles and faults*

JACK *[Spoken]* You sure do.
[Sings] *You hate being ignored
And have constantly roared when you've not been adored*

JILL *You're a dolt!*

JACK *[Spoken]* See, it's true! *[Sings]* *Yes it's true you're no saint
Autocratic, dogmatic and more*

JILL *If I can't get my way then I'll make someone pay
I'm a Leo and lions they roar!*
[Dialogue during song]
As a Leo I expect to be in charge. I hate cheap, I love class. Gold is gorgeous both in colour and jewels.

JACK You're like that famous Leo, Mae West

JILL *[Imitates]* "It's better to be looked over than overlooked."

JACK And Dorothy Parker.

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JILL *[Imitates]* “Take care of the luxuries and the necessities will take care of themselves.”

JACK But the Daddy of all Leos was the leader of leaders, Cecil B. De Mille.

JILL *[Imitates]* “Low-key is not in our vocabulary.”

I love dropping names and broadminded folk

Yes, I'm a Leo

I love larger than life and a belly-laugh joke

Yes, I'm a Leo

I love with my whole heart, committed and yet

Should you try to cross me, I'll never forget

I'm fiery and warm and I love to perform

Yes, yes, yes - I'm a Leo.

[Song ends and Jack heads to his bedroom preparing to leave the apartment]

JACK Oh I forgot. Your father rang. He's gunna drop in tonight. *[In bedroom]*

JILL *[Back to her dummy. Not happy]* Great. What time?

JACK *[Calling]* And your latest boyfriend left a message.

JILL *[Peeved]* His name is Daniel.

JACK *[Enters]* Whatever. *[Exiting to front door]* Listen, I'm late for Pilates. I'll see ya.

[Exits via front-door then calls from off-stage] And don't make a mess.

[JILL makes face and mimics him mouthing "And don't make a mess". Hidden, JACK adds fake pot-belly, large sweater, bald wig or hat, glasses. Phone rings. JILL calls]

JILL Jack! That might be for you. *[Goes up to front door]* Jack! *[He's gone. She answers phone]* Hello? ... Katie, hi. ... *[Serious]* You sound terrible. ... He didn't. ... You're kidding. ... Are you sure? I mean did anyone actually see him? ... Look, I know this sounds crazy but he *is* a Scorpio. ... *[Arguing]* Katie, it's true. Your average Scorpio is a perfect example of ... *[Doorbell rings]* Hang on. There's someone at the door. *[JILL goes to door]* Dad! Hi!

FATHER *[Gushing]* Sweetheart. *[Sees phone]* Oh sorry, love.

JILL *[Enters room speaks to phone. FATHER follows]* Listen, my father's just arrived. I'll ring you back. Okay? ... Bye. *[Replaces phone. Hugs Dad]* Dad.

FATHER I just popped in to see how my little girl was getting on.

JILL Great to see you, as always. How's Mum?

FATHER *[Old romantic]* She grows more beautiful every passing day.

JILL *[Likes his romantic longevity]* Ahhh.

FATHER Just like you. *[She pats his midriff and he sits on sofa]*

JILL I'd make coffee only you'd insist on chocolate and looking at that waistline ...

FATHER Hey! So I love luxury and enjoy gracious living. It's who I am.

JILL And who you are is written in the stars.

FATHER Kindly note that I am not offended by your dig at my less than perfect figure. *[He relaxes even more]*

JILL Dad, you are almost *unoffendable*. You've got the world's longest anger fuse. Come on, when was the last time you lost your temper with me?

FATHER Well *you've* got a bad memory. We fell out big-time over that scratch on my new car.

JILL Dad, I was six years old!

FATHER Yeah but it was a big scratch.
JILL You're full of it, Dad. You're all bull.
FATHER *[Mock rebuke]* Oi, oi, language.
JILL You're a Taurus, Dad. *[MUSIC BEGINS]* And Taureans have one mission in life
– to relax! *[Dad falls off sofa]*

No. 4 I'm Horizontal

DAD *The world has many an eager-beaver rushing to and fro
Mountaineers on mountain tops and athletes on the go
But tucked away in comfy chairs in love with their TV
The Taurus types have made an art of inactivity.
[The intro to the chorus is repeated as DAD complains it is too fast]
[Spoken] Whoa, whoa, whoa. Not so fast. [Tempo slows] That's better.
I'm so laidback I'm horizontal
A plodder is who I be
I love to sit, I love to chat
I'm never in a hurry to do this or that
The spice of life is not variety
But good old familiarity
I'm so laidback I'm horizontal
And doing nothing's fine by me.
But Taureans they do more than just relax
They do
DAD We love money, wealth and status
JILL They do
DAD And beautiful things
JILL Taureans have a very low divorce rate
DAD And we love gardening
JILL You are an EARTH sign
DAD We can turn simple food into a feast
JILL Indeed you can
DAD And bargain clothes into a snazzy outfit
JILL I hate you
DAD We are loyal and domesticated
And we know quality from kitsch
JILL Yes you do
DAD But to boast of famous folk who are born Taurus
Is to boast alas in vain
Alongside Shirley Temple, Pope John Paul and Shakespeare
BOTH Are Adolf Hitler and Saddam Hussein.
*[Soft-shoe dance is performed. DAD does as little movement as possible – Taureans
don't exert themselves. It could be that JILL does all the snappy moves alongside her
hardly-moving father. Then repeat chorus with coda]**

[Song ends and JILL wants her father to leave. He's in no hurry]
FATHER Now listen Angel, your mother wants the latest news on your new boyfriend.

JILL *[Attending to dress on dummy. Mum's a stickybeak]* I'll bet she does.

FATHER *[Fishing for info]* And how are you getting on with that nice bloke, your housemate?

JILL *[Scoffing]* Jack! Get serious, Dad. No way is he my type.

FATHER Your mother says he'd make a lovely husband.

JILL Or wife. *[DAD confused. She indicates]* He's Mister House-Proud. Have a look.

FATHER Oh. *[Pause]* Ah, he's not ...

JILL I'm making up his birth chart and astrologically we clash.

FATHER *[Hasn't got a clue. Nodding]* Right.

JILL *[Faces him]* Look, Dad, I don't mean to be rude but I've got to finish this design.

FATHER *[Goes to and kisses her then exits]* I know, I know. And like you, it looks terrific. I'll see ya.

JILL Bye Dad.

FATHER *[Calling]* And please ring your mother. *[Exits]*

JILL *[Calling]* I will.
[FATHER changes back to JACK. JILL goes to phone]

JILL *[Muttering as she hits buttons]* I will. I promise. *[Speaks into phone]* It's me. Sorry about that. ... Don't worry. I'm sure he loves you. *[She wanders into kitchen and we hear saucepan and tap sounds. JILL changes to 13 year-old KYLIE – her sister in school uniform and plaits or pigtail]* ... I'm in the kitchen ... So what's the big deal? ... Forget it ... I've still got one outfit to finish. ... No, Dad's gone and Jack's out stretching his upper body. ... He's fitness mad that boy. No, forget the fitness; just mad. ... *[Happy]* But listen, my new fella's Daniel and we've really hit it off. We click astrology-wise and he's got great eyes. ... *[Cheeky]* Oh and that too. Look, gotta go. ... Will do. And don't worry. See ya.
[Front door opens and JACK enters with gym bag]

JACK *[Calling]* It's me.
[Goes to bedroom and off-loads gym bag. He bounces in and sees sofa cushions not right. He plumps cushions. He goes to kitchen end of sofa and bends over sofa. Schoolgirl KYLIE tip-toes in from kitchen and comes up behind JACK. She jabs him in the posterior and he gets a fright]

KYLIE Gotcha!

JACK *[Jumps]* Ow! *[He turns]* Kylie. What are you doing here?

KYLIE *[Almost nasty]* Why can't I be here? My sister lives here. I don't need your permission.

JACK *[Conciliatory]* Hey, chill! I was only asking.

KYLIE *[Smarty-pants]* I know what you're having for tea.

JACK *[Mimics back]* I don't think you do.

KYLIE Jill's gone to get a pizza.

JACK Not for me she hasn't. *[He sits on sofa]*

KYLIE Oh that's right. *[She sits next to him]* You live on hi-fibre filtered-water and low-fat rabbit food.

JACK Slight exaggeration.

KYLIE Did you know a lack of red meat lowers your sperm count?

JACK *[Looks at her but remembers to never show a child you're shocked]* Really?

KYLIE *[Indicating his shirt]* And that shirt is so uncool.

JACK Kylie, how old are you?

KYLIE *[Angry]* Mind your own bloody business. Asking personal questions is dead-set rude.

JACK You're right. I apologise.

KYLIE *[Moving closer]* Do you think I'm old enough for a boyfriend?

JACK *[Serious]* Actually I do. *[MUSIC BEGINS]*

KYLIE *[Angry again]* Just who the hell do you think you are? Telling me how to behave.

JACK Kylie! Stop being aggressive, abrupt and moody and so ... outspoken.

KYLIE *[Determined]* I'll be whatever I wanna be, buster. I'm an Aries.

No. 5 Live, Live, Live All You Can

KYLIE

*I am, I'm red, I've spoken
Me first! I win, you're broken
I'm quick, I'm rude, impulsive
Take risks, revenge, compulsive
I've got the energy, I'm the ram
And full of optimism, here I am.*

*Don't look back but live all you can
Grab the world and start shaking
Hate to lose and stick to your plan
Life's spick 'n span for the taking
I came, I saw, I conquered – a hit
Fiery, I speak out and get on with it, just
Don't look back, my way is the best
And live, live, live all you can.*

*Me first, I'm proud, just keep up with me
I'm loud, compete, beware jealousy
I'm rude, abrupt, with high energy
No fairies with Aries as you'll plainly see.*

[Dialogue over the music]

JACK I believe Leonardo da Vinci is an Aries.

KYLIE *[Angry]* Well what if he is? I don't want his whacky ideas overriding mine.

JACK And Vincent van Gogh.

KYLIE Shut it will you? We Ariens ignore the sensibilities of others. All right?

JACK But surely not Doris Day?

KYLIE Stop trying to trick me. I hate losing and if I am I'll cry 'foul', 'you cheat' and 'unfair'.

JACK So was Houdini as rude as you?

KYLIE Who's Dini?

JACK No, *Houdini*.

KYLIE *[Louder, more aggressive]* Who's Dini?

JACK I think I'll let you have another pyrrhic victory.

KYLIE Good 'cos I hold grudges, like to take revenge and usually get what I want.

[The chorus is repeated and song ends with a coda. FX from kitchen]

JACK Your sister's back. Maybe she needs a hand to eat all that *[louder]* junk food!
[Doorbell rings]

KYLIE *[Exiting to kitchen]* If that's one of my boyfriends, I'm playing hard-to-get.
[KYLIE exits to kitchen where she changes to JILL wearing full-length dressing-gown and scarf over hair. JACK heads to front-door and changes to RANDY with new top and baseball cap – back-to-front? – shorts, sneakers]

KYLIE *[Offstage in kitchen. Sisterly chat]* Hey Sis, I reckon Jack's a spunk.

JILL *[Offstage in kitchen]* Are you still here?

KYLIE What's his sign?

JACK *[Upstage at front door]* Randy! Hi!

JILL Haven't you got any homework? *[FX Car horn]* That's Mum. Now go out the back way.

KYLIE Tomorrow, okay? You promised me a proper birth-chart. See ya.

JACK *[From offstage by front door]* Go through. I've left something in my car. *[Calling]* Jill, it's Randy.
[RANDY and JILL enter simultaneously, he from front door, she from kitchen. She pulls her dressing gown tighter around herself. She returns phone to holder]

JILL *[Surprised, a little nervous]* Randy?

RANDY Hi Gorgeous.

JILL Katie's not with you?

RANDY No, Babe. I wanted to see you. Alone.

JILL *[More nervous]* Why?

RANDY My God, even in that dressing-gown, you look a million dollars.

JILL *[Annoyed]* Randy!

RANDY What? Can't a guy pay a lovely lady a compliment?

JILL A compliment's fine. A come-on's not.

RANDY *[Sudden plea for help]* I'm desperate, Jilly. I need help. *[Big news]* My wife doesn't understand me.

JILL *[Scoffs]* Oh, pa-lease. That's the oldest line in the book.

RANDY I'm serious. I can't help myself. *[Guilty confession]* I'm a Scorpio.

JILL So?

RANDY Sex is a huge part of my life.

JILL Size isn't everything.

RANDY Come on, babe, I need help.

JILL Randy, go home and take a cold shower.

RANDY *[Changes tack]* I guess it's frustrating.

JILL What's frustrating?

RANDY Well there's you, a healthy, virile female with normal urges, living with a guy who's gay.

JILL *[Big shock]* What! Jack's not gay.

RANDY So why else would you shack up with him? You feel safe. Right?

JILL *[She's thrown. Could it be true?]* I'd like you to leave.

RANDY You waltz around in some low-cut, lacy bra and know it does nothing for Jack the friendly fairy.
[JILL is stunned not only by RANDY'S sleaze but also by the thought that JACK could be a friend of Dorothy's]

JILL *[Tries to bluff it out]* A little secret, buster. I speak from personal experience and Jack is all man. He knows how to satisfy a woman. *[What is she saying?]*

RANDY *[Changes to pathetic]* Oh, Jilly, I'm begging you. I hate being alone. Please help me.

JILL Grow up.

RANDY I need a friend. *[MUSIC BEGINS]*

JILL You need a shrink.

RANDY *[Ready to cry. He's a sook]* But nobody understands me.

No. 6 Come and Play With Me

RANDY *I'd really like a playmate, won't you come and play with me
There are lots of games I can recommend
And when we've hot and sweaty you can shower with a friend
I'll let you cheat and come first, you'll be thrilled I guarantee
Oh I'd really like a playmate, won't you come and play with me.*

JILL *[Spoken]* There's only one syllable in 'no', Randy. Speaka da English?

RANDY *I'd really like a partner, won't you come and partner me
We could play outside on the nice, soft ground
A swinging game of golf, why don't we play a round?
I'll let you grip my one wood, every stroke brings ecstasy
Oh I'd really like a partner, won't you come and partner me.
[Dialogue during song]*

RANDY Listen Babe, you know Scorpios have a deep relationship with their genitals.

JILL I design clothes, Randy, but never measure inside legs.

RANDY Scorpios are sexy, complex and mysterious.

JILL So channel all that passionate energy.

RANDY *[Willing to get started]* Okay. Name the position.

JILL Just think of famous Scorpios like Grace Kelly and Richard Burton.

RANDY I'd rather think of Bo Derek.

JILL You know Scorpios are prone to illness because they suppress emotion and harbour guilt.

RANDY *[Desperate]* Then let me release emotion!

JILL *[Warning]* Scorpios have a real sting in their tale.

RANDY *[Randy being randy]* I'll give you more than a sting!
*I'd really like a first-mate, won't you come and mate with me
On my great, big yacht you can pose, cavort
And then become the girl I have in every port
I'll let you splice my mainbrace, use a sextant expertly
Oh I'd really like a first-mate, won't you come and mate with
Mate and come with, come and mate with me!*

[Song ends and JILL is anxious for RANDY to leave]

JILL I don't care what the question is, Randy, the answer's no.

RANDY Not even a goodbye kiss.

JILL You've got five seconds before I demonstrate my self-defence skills. *[Gestures]*
And I topped the class in groin kicks. *[Ouch! RANDY suddenly less randy]*

RANDY *[Exiting to front door]* Don't fight it, Jill. Our signs are a perfect match.

JILL *[Angry, grabs and throws cushion]* Get out! Get out!
[RANDY exits in haste and door closes. RANDY becomes JACK. JILL goes to phone and rings KATIE, RANDY'S partner]
[Into phone, trying to cover her distress] Katie, hi, it's me ... I'm fine. How are you? ... Randy? No, why, what's he done now? ... *[She grimaces as she lies]* Well I'm sure he wouldn't cheat on you, girl. ... Listen, the reason I rang.
[Pause] Do you think's Jack's gay?

JACK *[Opens door. Calling]* I'm back!

JILL *[Minor panic]* Gotta go. Ring you later. *[She hits button then turns to face JACK who enters]* Jack?

JACK *[Stops and looks. JILL looks guilty. What's up?]* What? What's happened?

JILL Nothing.

JACK You look guilty.

JILL It's nothing. Look, can I ask you something?

JACK *[Goes to desk and looks for papers]* Anything except astrology and birth charts.

JILL It's kinda personal.

JACK *[Still looking]* I've lost the gas bill. It's not in my car

JILL Do you know anyone who's gay?

JACK *[Frustrated he can't find it]* A perfectionist never loses ... *[Stops looking]* what?

JILL *[Now embarrassed. Pointing, exiting to kitchen]* Ah, it's under the fridge magnet.
[In the kitchen, JILL changes to HONEY-PIE as she continues talking as JILL]

JACK *[Angry, follows her to kitchen. Stage is empty]* Do I know anyone's who's gay? What's that got to do anything?

JILL *[Changing into cowgirl, line-dancin' outfit with shirt, skirt, boots and hat]* Here's the gas bill.

JACK *[Enters with bill, puts in on desk, keeps talking]* You can't help yourself. You love to attract attention. And why are you interested in my gay friend?

JILL *[Anxious, interested]* Friend? Singular? You've never told me about him?

JACK What, so you can give him the zodiac third-degree?

JILL You're not ashamed of him I hope? *[Unseen, JILL moves to window]*

JACK *[Angry]* Ashamed of him? You pompous prat. First you stick your nose into my life as if you own me and then you have the gall to suggest I'm ashamed of my friend because he's gay. You *are* the perfect Leo. You have to boss everyone and everything.
[Tapping on upstage window. JACK looks around then calls back to kitchen]
 Did you hear something? *[More tapping and JACK sees HONEY-PIE at the window]*
 Oh no. *[Softer]* It's that yodelling Yankee cowgirl from upstairs.

HONEY *[Calling and waving]* Hi'yall!

JACK *[Going to door as HONEY moves from window. Calling in whisper back to JILL in kitchen]* Jill! Come and rescue me. Jill! *[No response so he goes to door muttering threats to his housemate]* I'll get you for this.

HONEY *[Door opens]* Hi Handsome.

JACK Honey-Pie!

HONEY Just call me Honey, honey. *[She enters and surveys room]* Oh my, this is the purdiest parlour I ever did see.

JACK *[Polite mimic]* Well shucks, Honey, that sure is right neighbourly.
HONEY *[She's not listening]* Where's that gorgeous girlfriend of yours, Miss Jilly?
JACK *[Loud for JILL'S benefit]* She's hiding.
HONEY Did I say my zodiac sign is Libra?
JACK *[Definite]* And she's *not* my girlfriend
HONEY *[Takes a seat]* You know I find it real easy to fall in love.
JACK *[How can he get rid of her]* You don't say?
HONEY *[You could be next, sailor]* And being a Libran, I do it so often. *[She stares at him]*
JACK Great. *[Pause]* Unfortunately I'm busy this afternoon.
HONEY We Librans love making people happy. We detest conflict.
JACK *[He's keeping his cool - just]* Fascinating.
HONEY We are, however, inclined to sit on the fence a lot.
JACK *[Standing giving a hint]* Well don't let me keep you from your favourite pickets.
HONEY *[Leaning towards him, intimate secret]* You know I'm a chocoholic?
JACK *[Sitting reluctantly]* I didn't. Is that painful?
HONEY And I love little animals.
JACK *[Softly]* Woof, woof.
HONEY *[Suddenly serious]* But I really am worried. I mean, how long should I stay? Should I sing something? And if so, when? *[MUSIC BEGINS]* So many decisions.
JACK Well the sooner you start, Honey, the sooner you can go.
HONEY *[Suddenly happy]* Oh, you're so right. Thank you, honey.

No. 7 The Procrastination Way

HONEY *Laid-back and almost lazy
 That's what they say I am
 Shy, unpretentious, never licentious
 Hate to be in a jam.
 Charming and really quite clever
 Creative, I overflow
 But when it is time for action
 The pressure it starts to show.

 I hate making decisions
 I hate to make a choice
 When I can put off the choosing
 Then does my heart rejoice
 True, I can see all positions
 Balance is my forte
 But faced with a show-down, I'd rather go down
 The procrastination way.
*[Dialogue over music. HONEY looks worried]**

JACK Is there a problem, Honey-Pie?
HONEY *[Concerned]* I can't decide. Should I go onto the next verse?
JACK *[Indicating]* Take it away.
HONEY *Conflict? I won't abide it*

*Violence? It's not for me
Bit of a hoarder, can't stand disorder
Love watching my TV
Children and pets are welcome
People I handle well
But having to pick my favourite
Puts me on the road to hell.*

[Dialogue during song]

JACK You seem to like music, Miss Honey-Pie.
HONEY Sure do. And my favourite composer is Mister George Gershwin.
JACK Fascinatin' Libra.
HONEY Just as s'wonderful as the lubbable, clubbable Groucho Marx.
JACK *[Awestruck]* Groucho Marx! May I have your picture?
HONEY *[As Groucho]* I could give you my footprints but they're upstairs in my socks.
JACK *[Putting arm around HONEY]* Honey, are you really a horse doctor?
HONEY *[As Groucho]* Marry me and I'll never look at another horse.
JACK *[As Groucho]* Time wounds all heels.
HONEY *[As Groucho]* I can remember Doris Day *before* she was a virgin.
JACK *[As Groucho]* I don't like this play.
HONEY *[As Groucho]* But we're in it under adverse conditions.
BOTH *[As Groucho]* The curtain is up! *[Laughter, dance, repeat chorus with coda]*

[Song ends. JACK walks HONEY to front door where both change. HONEY back to JILL and JACK to missionary CALVIN]

JACK *[En route to door. Politely sarcastic]* Why Miss Honey, it's been real purdee havin' you pop by. Don't you be no stranger, now.
HONEY Oh my, Mister Jack. I'm missin' you already.
JACK *[Calling]* Y'all have a nice day, now. Bye! *[Door closes. HONEY is running behind set en route to kitchen remembering to duck below the window. JACK is changing to religious type with perhaps light overcoat, glasses and wig]* My godfather. I've smiled so much in the last five minutes, my teeth ache. *[Doorbell rings. Upset]* Oh not again! *[As he opens door. Angry]* Listen Honey ... *[Apologetic]* Oops, sorry, mate. I thought you were someone else.
CALVIN *[Played by JACK. Monotone?]* Good afternoon, sir. My name is Calvin and I am serious and dedicated with a very strong sense of purpose.
JACK Congratulations. We gave last week.
CALVIN I probably lack the ability to laugh at myself but
JACK Don't tell me. You're from some religious sect?
CALVIN Not a sect, sir, but from the true faith of life beyond the stars.
JACK Really? Would you like to come in?
CALVIN *[Surprised]* I'm sorry?
JACK I'm inviting you inside.
CALVIN Oh, I'm not sure.
JACK Not sure?
CALVIN It's just that in fifteen years no-one's ever said that before.
JACK I have a friend who is fascinated with heavenly bodies.
CALVIN Well, thank you. Yes, I will come in.

JACK Unfortunately I've got another appointment, ah with my trick cyclist. *[Calling]* Jill, someone to see you. *[To CALVIN]* Just go right in.

CALVIN Oh, thank you.

JILL *[Entering from kitchen]* We're going to have to stop yelling at one another. *[Stops as CALVIN enters]* Who are you?

CALVIN Good afternoon, madam. My name is Calvin and I am serious and dedicated with a very strong sense of purpose.

JILL Don't tell me. You're from some religious sect?

CALVIN Not a sect, madam, but the true faith of life beyond the stars.

JILL *[Thinks it's a trick]* All right, so you're a friend of Jack's. Nice try.

CALVIN *[Handing her a booklet]* This will explain how you can find everlasting peace and happiness beyond the stars.

JILL *[Cursory look at booklet, handing it back]* I don't think so.

CALVIN But your friend said you were fascinated with heavenly bodies.

JILL He meant astrology. Now if you don't mind ...

CALVIN I don't believe you.

JILL *[Tense pause]* Tough. Now would you mind leaving?

CALVIN Astrology is mumbo-jumbo whereas *my* belief in the stars is real.

JILL You believe what you like, pal, but in thirty seconds my mumbo-jumbo can describe your personality down to your socks 'n jocks.

CALVIN Impossible. You know nothing about me.

JILL When's your birthday?

CALVIN January 6.

JILL The same as Sherlock Holmes. *[MUSIC BEGINS]*

CALVIN Who?

JILL I bet you're complex, cautious and cruel.

CALVIN *[Shocked. She's right]* How dare you!

JILL You complain, carry on and enjoy your own company.

CALVIN *[More shock]* That's outrageous! *[Admission]* But how did you know?

JILL Try adding a little heart to your head, Goat-Features!

No. 8 This Is Serious

CALVIN *My sign is Capricorn which means I'm often serious
I like hard work and work long hours
I'm intense and so mysterious
I'm determined and persistent
And love to fix things when they're broke
But in my complex, introverted way
There's precious little time to joke.*

*If you were to form a line of all the people in the world
And all such folk were lining up to give someone a hug
Then I would be there at the end of the line
I'm the least likely person to give anyone a hug
It's not because I'm heartless or mean or not up to the task
But because I hide my innermost feelings
And I don't know how to ask.*

*My sign is Capricorn which means I set my standards high
I'm sensible, love solitude and on me you can rely
I complain about imagined burdens
And fear of rejection makes me glum
I cannot deal lightly with a problem
And I still live at home with my Mum. [Dialogue during song]*

- JILL** *[Excited]* Calvin, I've just had a fantastic idea.
- CALVIN** *[Wary, worried]* Please, I'm an introvert.
- JILL** *[She's keen]* Let's meet by the river at midnight and go skinny-dipping!
- CALVIN** *[Horrorified]* Ahhh!
- JILL** Come on, get excited. Let go and let it all hang out
- CALVIN** *[Really worried]* No. I can't. A rush of adrenalin makes me nervous.
- JILL** *[Changing tack]* So who are your favourite Capricornians?
- CALVIN** *[Recovering, this is safer ground]* Stephen Hawking and Nostradamus.
- JILL** *[Stirring]* Oh Calvin. Why not Dolly Parton and Elvis!?
- CALVIN** *My sign is Capricorn, a sign described as somewhat cold
I like to learn of other folk; on my young shoulders is a head quite old
I'm disciplined and then respect same
On the surface I'm uptight and forlorn
But under my skin is a different soul
I'm a rock-like Capricorn.*
- BOTH** *But under my/your skin is a different soul
I'm/You're a rock-like Capricorn.*
- [Song ends. CALVIN is confused. Astrology may not be so dumb after all. He is being ushered to the door. Neither believes the other]*
- CALVIN** I'm so glad I've been able to enlighten you.
- JILL** What matters is you've discovered astrology.
- CALVIN** You're sure you won't take one of my booklets?
- [FX Vacuum sounds from the bedroom. By front door CALVIN changes back to JACK]*
- JILL** *[Strong]* No, Calvin. Why don't you tell someone who cares? Bye. *[FX Door closes. Vac sounds continue. JILL re-enters heading for bedroom]* Oh Gran. You promised you'd stop doing this.
- GRAN** *[JILL is now in bedroom off-stage and speaks as her grandmother]* Oh, hello, darling. *[FX stops]* I'm just doing my weekly clean.
- JILL** Gran, I do love you but ...
- GRAN** I only do this because I'm so protective of my family.
- JILL** Of course you are. You're a Cancerian.
- GRAN** Your grandfather says I don't know where to draw the line between helping and smothering.
- JILL** I'm afraid you've just crossed it. You're cleaning Jack's room.
- GRAN** *[Upset]* Oh dear. Will he be upset?
- JILL** Upset? He makes his bed with a ruler and spirit-level.
- GRAN** *[Panicking]* Goodness. I can't remember where things go.
- JILL** Never mind, you can ask him in person.
- GRAN** *[Agitation increasing]* What?

JILL But whatever you do, don't let him into his bedroom.

JACK *[Enters upstage pokes head around corner, looking]* Has he gone? *[Pause]* Jill? Has that Calvin lunatic gone?

GRAN *[Enters from bedroom]* No, I'm still here.

JACK *[Surprised and a touch embarrassed]* Missus G. Hello. What are you doing here?

GRAN *[Moving into room]* I just popped in to see my granddaughter.

JACK *[Teasing, wagging finger]* You haven't been re-arranging Jill's room again have you?

GRAN *[Too loud]* No! *[Tries to cover up making light of things]* Of course not. Would I do something like that?

JACK *[Polite tease]* I think we both know the answer to that. *[Pause]* I need to change so if you'll excuse me.
[Heads to bedroom. GRAN steps in his path forcing JACK to stop]

GRAN *[Again too loud]* No! *[Again forced to soften]* I mean. Why don't you sit down and I'll make us both a nice cuppa tea? *[Another pause]* Jill's having a lie-down. We don't want to disturb her. Do we?

JACK *[Uncertain but being guided to sofa]* No, but Jill and I have separate rooms.

GRAN I don't know why. A one-bedroom place would be much cheaper. And cosier

JACK *[Goes to complain but she's gone]* Missus G!

GRAN *[Heading to kitchen]* Jill's making something very special for tea. *[supper]*
[Exits to kitchen]

JACK *[Calling]* That'll be the main course following her extra-large pizza entrée.
[Pause. JACK rises, tip-toes towards bedroom. He almost makes it as GRAN re-enters]

GRAN *[Snaps]* Jack! *[He freezes and turns sheepishly]* I told you Jill's trying to rest.

JACK *[Coming back]* Missus G, there's something you need to know.

GRAN *[Mock shock]* You're sleeping with Jill?

JACK *[Doubly shocked]* No! No! We're flatmates, we're not ... Whatever made you say that?

GRAN *[Going to him, all friendly]* I have a sixth sense, an instinct for knowing someone's ideal partner. She's gorgeous, you're gorgeous. And I bet you're both at it like rabbits. *[JACK is gobsmacked. Sitting beside him]* Did you know I can be full of surprises?

JACK *[Still taken aback]* I do now. *[MUSIC BEGINS]*

GRAN According to my granddaughter and *[nudge, nudge]* your lover, I am what I am because of the stars. I'm like a crab, tenacious and slow to move then *[Grabs his arm giving him a start, speaking quickly]* suddenly I move with amazing speed.

JACK *[He does believe her]* I believe you.

Song No. 9 Home Is Where The Heart Is

GRAN

*I'm a crab, I'm a crab, with exterior tough
But my heart's good as gold, so sensitive
My compassion flows free, mixed with generosity
To my family I everything give.
Just to care for my children, why it's simply the best
I mother them and smother them in my lovely nest
See my home, see my kids are on my family crest
I'm a crab, I'm a crab, I'm a crab.*

*I'm a crab, I'm a crab and a hoarder first class
I collect and I keep lots of stuff
In my basement it grows, from my attic it flows
Junk I love but there's never enough.
Just to sit in a comfy chair is my time well spent
With a doggie or moggie, it's a perfect event
Give me sets, give me pets and I'm simply content
I'm a crab, I'm a crab, I'm a crab.*

[Dialogue during the song]

- GRAN** Being a loving parent is so important. Look back in Cancerian history. That great ruler, Julius Caesar, so loved his family he created special laws just for them.
- JACK** Pity they didn't watch his back.
- GRAN** Then there's royalty and King Henry the 8th.
- JACK** Well he was a great collector – of wives.
- GRAN** And Princess Diana. Look what she did to love and protect her boys.
- JACK** Replaced by Camilla, another star born under Cancer.
- GRAN** Of course there are many famous Cancerian carers like ... Pamela Anderson.
- JACK** She welcomed everyone to the bosom of her family.
- GRAN** And O.J. Simpson.
- JACK** Oh yes, it's said O J was *very* close to his family.
- GRAN** So, *now* you know why I'm here.

*I'm a crab, I'm a crab with my heart on my sleeve
I'm the first one to laugh or to cry
I seldom seek the limelight and I sulk if you're right
But see me run when a bargain's there to buy.
Just to cook something special at Christmas each year
How I plan it then man it with love and good cheer
To my heart, to my home let my loved ones draw near
I'm a crab, I'm a crab, I'm a crab.*

[Song ends with perhaps JACK resting head on GRAN'S shoulder. FX kettle whistles from kitchen]

- GRAN** Oh there's the kettle. Will you make the tea, Jack? I'll just say goodbye to the sexy babe in your life. *[She exits to bedroom. Stops at door]* Jill has two lumps but *[nudge, nudge]* I'm sure you know that already. *[Smiles and exits where she changes back to JILL]*
- JACK** *[Thinking aloud]* Why do people think Jill and I are lovers. We *hate* each other's annoying habits. My nit-picking drives her nuts and when she's ignored, her temper-tantrums send me wild. *[Exits to kitchen. FX kettle stops but pots, cups being moved etc. are heard. JACK steps into overalls and is suddenly angry as tap explodes]* Oh bloody hell! Jill! *[Louder]* Jill! This tap's gone ballistic! There's water everywhere! *Jill!*
- JILL** *[Calling from bedroom]* Turn the water off at the main.
- JACK** *[Calling from kitchen]* What? Oh, bugger!
- JILL** *[Louder]* Turn the water off outside.

JACK *[Under stress. Hasn't heard her. Calling]* I'll turn it off outside.

JILL *[Still calling]* And I called the plumber this morning.

JACK Ha! Plumbers never turn up. *[FX doorbell]*

JILL *[Enters and moves quickly to kitchen. Sees mess]* Oh dear. *[FX Doorbell again. JILL re-enters and goes to front door]* Yes?

PETER *[Full of beans, happy-go-lucky]* Plumber, love.

JILL You're kidding. What happened to the plumbers' code? Never arrive when needed.

PETER *[Laughing]* Or on time.

JILL *[She leads plumber into room and towards kitchen]* We've got a busted tap and there's water everywhere. *[She stops and turns to see PETER admiring poster or book]* The flood's in here.

PETER Paris, hey? One day I'm gunna go to France.

JILL You can swim there soon if you don't fix this tap.

PETER I hate sitting still. Y'know what I mean?

JILL *[Tension rising]* Look, please, the tap is leaking.

PETER *[Extends hand]* Call me Peter. Peter the plumber. I'm as friendly as a puppy. *[They shake hands. He looks in kitchen]* No leak in here, love.

JILL *[Looks]* Oh my flatmate's just turned off the main.

PETER *[Wandering back inside]* Well, no hurry then. *[Admiring dummy]* So, what's this?

JILL *[Not happy]* It's a dummy, Dummy.

PETER *[Not aware of her anger]* I'm always searching. I start things and never get 'em finished.

JILL Now he tells me.

PETER Apparently it's in me make-up. I listen but don't hear. And me concentration is not real flash.

JILL And your Sun sign is Sagittarius. *[MUSIC BEGINS]*

PETER The theme song of my life is "Don't fence me in". And I'm good at making promises but hardly ever keep 'em.

JILL *[She knows all about him]* And your gossip has a habit of becoming fantasy.

PETER Would you believe I'm a Sagittarian?

JILL I would.

PETER And people I meet all seem to like me.

JILL *[Pretend. Opens her arms]* Darling.

No. 10 That's Who I Am

PETER *I'm an optimistic type, an extrovert so sweet
And often quite gregarious admired by all I meet
Lucky too, I always seem to land upon my feet
But that's the kind of guy I am, so friendly and upbeat.
I'm clumsy though and often late, I say just what I think
I'm blunt, can give offence to those who push me to the brink
I love to talk and arguing to me is meat and drink
But that's the kind of guy I am, my Sagittarian link.*

*Travel, adventure are deep inside me
Danger, risk-taking mark my pedigree
What's round the corner I just have to see
Travel, adventure is my fantasy.*

*I'm an ambidextrous type, can handle every part
But sometimes fail to finish tasks which I've been known to start
I need to do things my own way like Monsieur Bonaparte
But that's the kind of guy I am, forgiveness I impart.
I love to exercise and need complete variety
I find that boredom is the pits, it brings on misery
And claustrophobia I know will be the death of me
But that's the kind of guy I am, a Sagg-i-tarr-i-e!*

[Dialogue during song. He's serious, she's tongue-in-cheek]

PETER Can you imagine the world without that great Sagittarian, Gianni Versace?

JILL I'd have to buy another handbag.

PETER Or where would we be without Walt Disney and Steven Spielberg?

JILL You mean, no Mickey or ET?

PETER Then the two musical giants who towered over all - Ludwig van Beethoven and Francis Albert Sinatra.

JILL Fly me to the Moonlight Sonata.

PETER Mind you, for every good guy, there's always a baddie. Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin.

JILL Yeah but who's the crook?

PETER My favourite Sagittarian is a real lady. She had perfect manners, loved justice and let her mind roam free – Miss Jane Austen.

JILL Ah, but you're proud and prejudiced.

[They dance and repeat the chorus. Song ends. Taking PETER into kitchen]

JILL Peter, there's someone I'd like you to meet.

PETER *[Going to kitchen]* No worries. 'Spose I'd better take a look at y'tap.

JILL *[Offstage in kitchen, does introductions]* Peter, this soaking wet individual is Jack. Jack, meet Peter the plumber.

JACK *[In kitchen. Big sneeze]* Ah choo!

JILL *[JILL enters lounge and crosses to bedroom. As she crosses]* I'll leave you two boys to clean the mess.

[Offstage, JILL changes to CHEERLEADER and moves to front door]

PETER You been swimming, mate? I thought the idea was to change first. *[Laughs at his own joke]* I fell off a roof last week and have a guess where I landed?

JACK Ah ... choo!

PETER You're right. In the swimming pool. Deep end too. That's me all over. Always landing on me feet. Now, let's have a look at y'tap. Okay?

JACK Ah choo!

PETER You need medical help, mate. *[Intimate]* Get y'flatmate to rub y'chest. *[Laughs]*

JACK *[Enters rubbing hair with towel and heads to bedrooms]* Very funny.

PETER *[FX Pre-recorded]* She can rub mine, any time. *[Another laugh]*

JACK *[Exits to bedroom just as doorbell rings. Re-enters]* Go away!

[Doorbell again rings. JACK goes to door and opens it]
CHEER'L *[Sexy]* You ordered a pick-me-up?
JACK What!?! No!
CHEER'L You don't look well. I've got just the right medicine. *[MUSIC BEGINS]*

No. 11 Cheerleader's Two-Step

JACK *[Being pushed into the room by CHEERLEADER carrying small non-working music machine, pom-poms and stick/rod. JACK could fall onto sofa – safely – and be under the spell of CHEERLEADER]* I didn't order anything! I'm not sick! Hey! Hey!

CHEER'L Relax, big boy. I'll have you up and about in no time.

JACK *[Spellbound]* No!
[CHEERLEADER goes into exotic dance routine with JACK helpless. He's under her spell. CHEERLEADER begins slowly building intensity. JACK is part scared and part hooked. CHEERLEADER unbuttons her jacket and faces upstage suddenly throwing open her jacket for JACK. The climax sees JACK leaping to his feet on sofa calling loudly]

JACK Stop the music!
[MUSIC STOPS and JACK backs away. CHEERLEADER is not happy and re-buttons her uniform. CHEERLEADER dressing and collecting machine]

CHEER'L *[Angry]* What's y'problem? I don't bite!

JACK I'm not sick but you are.

CHEER'L You have to be sick, matey, to book the Cheerleader stripper-gram!

JACK Stripper-gram! I didn't book anything!

CHEER'L *[Showing credit card slip]* Funny that 'cos here's your credit card payment.

JACK *[Looks at slip]* That's not me. That's the perv in number seven.

CHEER'L *[Thrown]* Seven! *[Checks her notes]* This looks like a one.

JACK Learn to read, bimbo.

CHEER'L *[Preparing to leave]* All right, so you're gay. I'm sorry I disturbed you.

JACK Wait a minute! Hey! *[She stops]* Why does everyone think I'm gay?

CHEER'L You need to ask?

JACK Yes.

CHEER'L You're home alone, a stunning babe rocks in, starts to strip, you stop the show and you're straight?

JACK Yes!

CHEER'L *[Starting to exit]* Could've fooled me.

JACK *[Desperate to stop her]* Look, I am. I know I am.

CHEER'L How?

JACK How?

CHEER'L Prove to me you fancy a female.

JACK Ah ... I live with a woman in a platonic relationship ...

CHEER'L *[Exiting]* I rest my case.

JACK *[Calling, desperate. Admits the truth]* But I find her attractive.

CHEER'L *[Stops, comes back to him]* Whereas she thinks you're gay?

JACK Maybe. I don't know. Look, she's into horoscopes and our birth charts clash.

CHEER'L Well that's it. Don't bother. *[MUSIC BEGINS]*

JACK Don't bother?

CHEER'L Buddy, if it's written in the stars, it's real.
JACK [*Shocked*] You don't believe that astrology crap.
CHEER'L Of course. It's easier to love many than just one.

Song No. 12 A Very Private Person

CHEER'L *I may be friendly, I may be cold
I may be oh so kind
But I act so well that very few can tell
My innermost emotions or what's really on my mind
I may be whacky, I may be warm
I may be quite aloof
But buried in the hype is Aquarius the type
With a heart that's bullet-proof.*

*I'm a very private person
And I guard my privacy
You will seldom know my thinking
Or get to know me intimately
Oh sure I make heads turn when entering a room
An exhibitionist that's me
But I'm a very private person
With Aquarian privacy.*

*I never cry at teary films
I hate things crude or rude
I love to own the latest phone
I'm eccentric and quite shrewd
I cultivate the life I really want
Into which few can invade
I have a definite goal, it's to camouflage my soul
Underneath this masquerade.*

[Dialogue during song]

JACK So tell me, are there any famous Aquarians with a private, private life?
CHEER'L Heaps. Take Charles Dickens. He went to extraordinary lengths to guard his privacy. And what do we know of Mozart?
JACK Well he was certainly both eccentric and brilliant.
CHEER'L And the genius hid his true emotions just like Charles Darwin and Abraham Lincoln.
JACK They were independent and totally honest.
CHEER'L Great intellectuals. They were inventive and creative but very private people.
JACK So, do you know any famous Aquarians?
CHEER'L Of course. How's this for a trio? Yoko Ono, Germaine Greer and Oprah Winfrey. World famous achievers with that famous all or nothing attitude.
JACK You can certainly describe them as being totally honest.
CHEER'L Great Aquarians. And I'm one of them too!

[Song ends. JACK escorts CHEERLEADER to door]

JACK Thanks for the visit and the lecture. I'm sorry; I don't know your name.

CHEER'L Names are not required in this business.

JACK Well, anyway, thanks.

CHEER'L I'm sorry your flatmate's zodiacal sign and yours don't mix.

JACK Maybe yours will.

CHEER'L Ha! Nice try. See ya.
[She exits and returns to bedroom to re-appear as JILL. JACK re-enters and does a short version of CHEERLEADER'S dance before he crosses to kitchen. He could hum CHEERLEADER'S Two-Step/Song finally exiting to kitchen to change into DANIEL]

JACK *[Offstage in kitchen]* Peter, how's it going?

PETER All fixed, mate.

JACK I took your advice and called the local self-help line.

PETER Oh yeah. Any good?

JACK Pretty revealing actually. *[Suddenly shocked]* How much? Sheebers! Do you take plastic?

PETER Take everything, mate. Out in me van. Come on.
[Phone rings. Pause then JILL enters and answers it]

JILL Hello ... Daniel, hi. ... No, nothing. We've just had a mini drama with the plumbing but ... What, now? Well sure. ... *[Crossing to kitchen and looking]* No, he's not here. Why? *[Intimate]* What did you have in mind? ... A surprise? ... Sounds interesting. Okay, see you soon. Bye. *[Hangs up. Happy, could even dance around as she quickly tidies room and checks her hair, etc. Thinking aloud]*
 Daniel has a surprise for Jill. *[Wiggles finger]* Diamond ring? Two weeks in Paris? I'd settle for a dirty weekend in Lorne. *[or other local resort]*
[She sits on sofa and mimes her reply. Mock surprise] Daniel! For me! I don't know what to say. *[Mimes embracing him]* Thank you. *[Mimes passionate kiss which is interrupted by doorbell. She scampers to door and opens it]*

DANIEL Jill, hi!

JILL That was quick. *[Sound of quick kiss]* Come in.

DANIEL *[Follows her into room, he carrying large gift- box with ribbon]* You look great.

JILL Thanks. So what's this big surprise?

DANIEL *[Indicating box]* Oh just a little something for you.

JILL Wow! I can't wait.

DANIEL *[Serious]* Look, I've become very fond of you, Jill, and I'd like to think you might feel the same.

JILL *[Demure but excited]* I do. *[Pause]* So, what's next?

DANIEL *[Pause. Will he propose?]* Well, I'd ... *[He moves closer then just as they're about to kiss, he retreats a little]* I'd love a drink.

JILL Oh sorry. How about a beer?

DANIEL Coffee'd be great.

JILL *[Heading to kitchen]* Coffee it is. *[Calling]* We had a plumber here before. The place is still a mess.

DANIEL *[Looking around]* And your flatmate's not here?

JILL *[Re-appears in doorway]* Don't worry about him. He knows when to disappear. *[She smiles then returns to kitchen. Sounds of cups, etc. DANIEL suddenly grabs box and disappears into bedroom. Pause. JILL calls]* So how's work? *[Pause]* Daniel?

DANIEL *[Calling from offstage]* Just need your loo.

JILL *[Calling]* Okay. *[Pause. She appears in doorway carrying simple wooden/cane tray with plastic cups, plastic plates, biscuits, etc. Calling]* Daniel, the bathroom's out here.

DANIEL *[Calling]* Pardon?

JILL If you need the bathroom, it's ... *[Shocked]* Mother of pearl! *[She drops the tray and the contents fall everywhere – no liquids, powders]*

Blackout – INTERVAL

ACT TWO

No. 13 Entr'acte

[Lights up with no-one on stage. We repeat the last few seconds of the first act]

DANIEL *[Calling from offstage]* Just need your loo.

JILL *[Calling]* Okay. *[Pause. She appears in doorway carrying simple wooden/cane tray with plastic cups, plastic plates, biscuits, etc. Calling]* Daniel, the bathroom's out here.

DANIEL *[Calling]* Pardon?

JILL If you need the bathroom, it's ... *[Shocked]* Mother of pearl! *[She drops the tray and the contents fall everywhere – no liquids, powders]*
[DANIEL appears in the doorway and strikes a pose. He is wearing a stunning evening gown – his size and definitely his colour]

DANIEL *[After audience reaction is reduced]* I thought you'd like a surprise.

JILL *[She's not surprised, more in shock]* What the hell are you wearing?

DANIEL *[Sweeping into room as elegant model]* I knew you'd like it. Oh, Jill, the game of love is a real adventure. Let's play.

JILL *[Still gobsmacked]* You wear frocks?

DANIEL *[Re-assuring her]* Come on and lasso me, baby. *[Spins around]* What do you think? Isn't it gorgeous?

JILL You're ambidextrous? *[She means transvestite]*

DANIEL *[Suddenly serious]* But don't worry; underneath this gown I'm every inch a man.

JILL *[She's not excited]* Great. So you don't want me in hard hat and overalls?

[MUSIC BEGINS]

DANIEL *[Excited]* Let's go, doll. I'll do somersaults to keep you happy. Sex is a mental sport and I thrive on adventure and role-playing.

JILL Of course. You're a Gemini!

Song No. 14 Try Everything Once

DANIEL *I've got a wit that's quick, a chat-up line that's slick
Here's the trick [Spoken] Try everything once
I've got a drive to speak, new facts to seek
My technique? [Spoken] Try everything once.
I hate routine and boredom and I love variety*

I've got yin and yang in abundance, so bring on diversity

I've got a tale to tell, a line to sell

Break that spell [Spoken] Try everything once.

[Dialogue during song]

DANIEL Geminis love the foreplay, the verbal run-up more than the actual love-making. A perfect example is Miss Marilyn Munroe.

JILL *[Imitating Marilyn]* Husbands are better at sex when betraying their wives.

DANIEL Geminis are lively, quick-witted and love one-liners. The great Bob Hope.

JILL *[Imitating Bob Hope]* They are doing things on the screen today the French don't even put on their postcards.

DANIEL With our dual personalities, we're great at doing more than one thing at a time – just like Kylie.

JILL *[Imitating Minogue]* I should be so lucky, lucky, lucky, lucky.

DANIEL Geminis are adventurous and love telling stories as did Sir Arthur Conan Doyle with his famous Sherlockian detective.

JILL *[Imitating Holmes]* Watson, this is definitely *not* elementary.

DANIEL We are great communicators and who else but a Gemini could invent the World Wide Web?

JILL You seem to use your hands a lot to express yourself.

DANIEL *[Using hands]* Exactly, so come closer and let me express!

I love to play a part, new things to start

There's an art [Spoken] Try everything once

I love to find a way, kind things to say

It's easy, hey [Spoken] Try everything once.

I hate the straight and narrow but I love the social scene

I've got dual personalities, as the prancing, dancing Queen

I love to give a shock, live round the clock

Check the frock

BOTH *Try everything once!*

[Song ends. DANIEL is all agog. He heads to bedroom]

DANIEL You're an angel, Jill. And just think, our frocks can hang side by side.

[He exits to bedroom to remove dress]

JILL *[Talking aloud as she picks up coffee tray and plastic cups and saucers]* Stay calm, Jill. This may well be a dream. Men! Ha! They can dump you, use you, cheat on you and ... *[Angry as she storms into kitchen with tray etc]* have a much nicer wardrobe!

[We hear her banging the tray and being angry in the kitchen. Phone rings]

JILL *[Yells]* Go away! There's no-one here.

[Phone keeps on ringing a few times then we hear the answering-machine play its message – pre-recorded]

FX *[JILL'S voice]* Hi, you've reached Jack and Jill. We've just popped out to fetch a pail of water so please leave a message. Bye. *[Sound of beep]*

[DANIEL, clutching box, tip-toes from bedroom and exits quickly to front-door. He changes back to JACK – his final change – and re-enters via kitchen]

- FX** *[Female astrologer's voice – pre-recorded]* Greetings. This is Tara your astrology guru with today's reading for ... *Leo*. A hectic day with lots of coming and going. Possible family contacts and domestic problems in the kitchen or bathroom. *[JILL screams in frustration]* Don't be surprised if someone close to you is not exactly who or what they seem. Surprises are just around the corner. And remember, the answer to all our problems is written in the stars. Bye. *[Another beep and the machine stops]*
- JACK** *[Confronts JILL in kitchen]* Jill, have you seen this plumbing bill? It's ... *[She walks out on him via the back door]* Hey! Jill! Where are you going? Jill? *[Pause. Angry, coming into lounge but calling back]* Well don't speak to me. See if I care. *[Tidies room. Talking to himself]* It's time, young Jack, you had a good, hard look in the mirror. Sort yourself out, my son. *[Doorbell rings. JACK goes to answer it. Shocked]* Prue! What's happened? *[Anguish]* Oh, Prue! *[Moments later JACK enters carrying PRUE or at least having to hold her up as she staggers in and collapses on sofa]*
- PRUE** *[Is she drunk or drugged?]* I shouldn't have done it.
- JACK** *[Distressed]* What have you taken? *[Gently shaking her]* Prue! Tell me! Oh God!
- PRUE** *[Still slurred speech]* Life is there to be lived.
- JACK** You're crazy! *[Going to phone]* I'm ringing an ambulance.
- PRUE** *[Instantly sober. Snaps]* Don't you dare! *[JACK stops and turns]*
- JACK** *[Angry, distressed]* Oh Prue, not again.
- PRUE** Why not? It's the only way to get your attention. You obviously don't love me.
- JACK** We've only been dating for three weeks.
- PRUE** *[Correcting him]* Two weeks, five days, six hours and ... *[Checks watch]* fourteen minutes.
- JACK** There's no need for this.
- PRUE** I'm confused.
- JACK** *You're confused?*
- PRUE** I'm a dreamer. I need escapism and without love, I feel lost. *[MUSIC BEGINS]*
- JACK** I'm sorry. But what's wrong with you.
- PRUE** They say it's called Pisces!

Song No. 15 Give Much More

- PRUE** *Soppy sentimentalist, nostalgia's in my veins
I'm old-fashioned, secretive and suffer many pains
Practical is what I ain't, though honest, vague and kind
I'm prone to nervous tension and cannot make up my mind.
You'll often see me sitting on the fence
Just looking for my self – self-confidence.*
- I live in a dream world, I give much more than I ask
I find it so hard to believe in myself, I think I'm not up to the task
I hate feeling so vulnerable and respond by wearing a mask
You see I'm easily taken advantage of as I give much more than I ask*
- Torn between wanting to do something that's valuable*

*And running away to the secretive world of my dreams
Torn between helping those folk who are less fortunate
It's easy to see how I come apart at the seams.*

[Dialogue during song]

JACK *[Trying to cheer her up]* So tell me about some famous Pisceans.
PRUE *[Distressed]* Oh we're such emotional creatures. We're ever so difficult to understand. And we definitely need discipline in our lives.
JACK Any famous examples?
PRUE Simple criticism can make us feel awful and produce all sorts of aches and pains.
JACK *[Mild reprimand]* But you haven't given any names.
PRUE *[Over-reacts]* And now you've made me feel sick.
JACK I understand you are fond of the odd tippie.
PRUE *[Blurts out]* Elizabeth Taylor and Liza Minnelli.
JACK Oh, are they Pisceans?
PRUE We love luxury and react badly to prescription drugs.
JACK Well is there anything you *do* like?
PRUE Foot massage. Our feet are crucial. Have you seen what's at the end of Cyd Charisse's legs?
JACK Her feet?
PRUE And Michelangelo. He must have been worried sick about David's feet.
JACK *[Puzzled]* Tootsie trauma, huh?

[Chorus is repeated. Song ends. Both JACK and PRUE are exhausted. They flop on sofa. JILL has given up the role-playing]

JACK I'm bushed.
JILL *[Speaking as JILL but dressed as PRUE]* Me too.
JACK I've been on the go for the last two hours.
JILL *[Unbuttons her dress]* I feel as if I've been half a dozen different people.
JACK It's your fault.
JILL *[Stands to step out of her dress revealing JILL'S outfit underneath]* My fault?
JACK It's your obsession with astrology.
JILL *[Ripping off her wig and fluffing her hair]* I am not obsessed.
JACK *[Taking dress and wig and exiting to bedroom]* And how many times do I have to ask? Will you please put away your things.
JILL *[Calling]* I'm obsessed? Who is it can't have one single thing out of place?
[MUSIC BEGINS]
JACK *[Returning]* I can't help being tidy. It's who I am.
JILL Yes but some might argue regular vacuuming of the fluff from your navel is going just a tad too far.

Song No. 16 Every Little Bit of Lint

JACK *My zodiacal sign is Virgo, I'm witty, modest and discrete
So careful with wealth and more so with health
I cannot abide deceit
I very, very rarely lose things, so fussy and neat my mind
It's true that you could describe me*

As the must-dust, rust-bust kind.

*Cleanliness is next to Godliness with tidiness the Trinity
Put everything in place, of dust see not a trace
A case of being orderly
Fastidiousness becomes the fashion
And with perfection we must never, ever stint
So infiltrate, extricate, confiscate, eradicate
Every little bit of lint.*

JILL [Mocking] *So infiltrate, extricate, confiscate, eradicate
Every little bit of lint.*

JACK *Precise so much I am a pedant, a critic's work is never done
I count it my cause to fossick for flaws in every thing and everyone
This fussiness I deem a virtue, an obsession I can't repress
Examine my room, desk, car and clothes
There's not the slightest sign of mess.
Cleanliness is next to Godliness with tidiness the Trinity
Put everything in place, of dust see not a trace
A case of being orderly
Fastidiousness becomes the fashion
And with perfection we must never, ever stint
So sweep away, heap away, bleep away and keep away
Every little bit of lint.*

JILL [Mocking] *So sweep away, heap away, bleep away and keep away
Every little bit of lint.*

[Dialogue during song]

JACK Well-ordered, well-organized, legible, clear handwriting – that's a Virgo.

JILL Who?

JACK Peter Sellers.

JILL Inspector Clouseau – neat and tidy?

JACK Perfectionist, fussy, bordering on obsessive, rarely looks their age.

JILL Who?

JACK Sean Connery.

JILL James Bond keeps getting replaced because he looks too old!

JACK Shyness, lack of confidence, looks after the pennies.

JILL Who?

JACK Mother Teresa.

JILL Okay, if you say so. Who else?

JACK Sophia Loren, Hugh Grant, Michael Jackson and ...

JILL And?

JACK [Proud] Mickey Mouse.

JILL Well *he* certainly doesn't look his age.

JACK *Cleanliness is next to Godliness with tidiness the Trinity
Put everything in place, of dust see not a trace
A case of being orderly
Fastidiousness becomes the fashion
And with perfection we must never, ever stint*

*So intersect, disconnect, disinfect and re-direct
Every little bit of lint.*

BOTH *So intersect, disconnect, disinfect and re-direct
Every little bit of lint.*

[Song ends and they don't know what to say. Quiet time. Tell the truth time]

JILL I've got something to tell you. *[Pause]* Daniel and I – we're no longer an item.

JACK *[Genuinely sorry and interested]* I'm sorry. Was it something he did?

JILL Don't ask.

JACK *[Pause]* Well, actually that's ditto with me and Prue.

JILL You've split? *[JACK nods]* Oh, I'm sorry.

JACK And don't ask. *[Pause. Changes tack. Curious]* Hang on. You always check the birth chart of your latest lover. You said Daniel and you were a perfect zodiac match.

JILL We are.

JACK Then how come you broke up?

JILL *[Looks at him]* I could never love a man who looks better in a dress than I do.

JACK *[Amused and shocked. Mouth opens. JILL nods]* Daniel's a cross-dresser?

JILL Your size too.

JACK *[Purses his lips]* Ooooo.

JILL Astrology is a very exact science. I must have miscalculated something.

JACK And it's never wrong?

JILL Never.

JACK So if two people are astrologically incompatible, those same two people could never, ever fall in love?

JILL With each other you mean?

JACK Yes. *[Pause]* Like us for example.

JILL *[She looks at him then changes the subject]* Jack, I'd like to ask a personal question. And if you agree to answer, I insist you tell the truth.

JACK Oh, thanks. So now I'm a liar.

JILL Please. I'm serious.

JACK *[Bogart]* The truth will out, kid. Shoot.

JILL *[Pause]* Are you gay? *[Suddenly apologetic]* Not that it matters if you are.

JACK *[Pregnant pause. Mock serious]* I am ... but only on alternate Tuesdays. *[Pause. She realises he's pulling her leg so hits him]*

JILL You rat!

JACK Ow! *[She then thinks it was too hard and immediately and gently rubs the spot]*

JILL Sorry. I didn't mean to hurt you.

JACK *[Is enjoying the rubbing]* A little lower.

JILL *[Lower voice]* Sorry. I didn't mean to hurt you. *[They laugh. Pause. Referring to his sexuality]* I couldn't believe it when people said you were gay.

JACK *[Curious and angry]* Which people?

JILL *[Pause. Confession time]* I didn't want to believe it.

JACK *[Time for his confession. Serious]* So you did notice me looking at you?

JILL *[JILL looks at him and nods]* I did.

JACK *[Pause. Confession]* I liked looking.

JILL *[Pause. Confession]* I liked you looking.
[They look at each other, pause then slowly lean forward and kiss briefly and gently. They fall back to their former positions. Perhaps now not even looking at one another]

JACK You know what this means, don't you?

JILL Another happy ending.

JACK I meant your astrology.

JILL Love is the centre of most Leo's lives. But this is weird.

JACK Weird and wonderful.

JILL I drew up detailed birth charts. Not only are we not compatible, I saw nothing about love sneaking under the radar.

JACK *[Mock serious]* Love conquers all.
[MUSIC BEGINS. They gently send up one another]

JILL *[Mock rebuke]* Oh you're not going to sing?

JACK Think of it as a type of foreplay.

JILL Well can you speed up the tempo?

JACK Romance is never rushed, my darling.

JILL I know. But we can only bask in the afterglow if we've had the before.

Song No. 17 Love Has A Mind Of Its Own

JACK *They say it makes the world go round and conquers everything
It won't decay or fade away yet makes a sad heart sing
But what is it? How much is it? And is it really true?
That one can never find it, they say "it" will find you.*

JACK & JILL *Your parents may make an arrangement
Your buddy set up a blind date
You try a singles' club and then your local pub
All part of your search for a mate
Your Sun sign will have a prediction
Revealing your future unknown
But life can be full of surprises
As love has a mind of its own.*

JILL *They say it's all you ever need, the greatest of all themes
Can cost a heap and make you weep then dominate your dreams
But where is it? And when will it invade my longing heart?
Don't bother to start searching there is no place to start.*

JACK & JILL *It's gotta lotta wit to hit you unexpected
It's gotta lotta grunt, your front will be affected
[Dance break]
Your parents may make an arrangement
Your buddy set up a blind date
You try a singles' club and then your local pub
All part of your search for a mate
Your Sun sign will have a prediction
Revealing your future unknown
But life can be full of surprises*

STARS 31

As love has a mind of its own.

[Curtain falls as final notes are sung]

Song No. 18 Curtain Calls

Song No. 19 Payout

The End

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