

Here Comes the Sun

By Leonie Thompson

CHARACTERS:

GEMMA, a female of around 40 years old

MARGARET, an older woman

AUTHOR'S NOTE:

** In order to heighten the anticipation of the result, two identical pregnancy test sticks should be available, and the actor playing the part of GEMMA should take one as she walks on stage, **without** knowing the result.*

EXTRACT:

SCENE:

*A kitchen table with two chairs, centre stage. Downstage stage left, is a pile of bags including a work laptop case and a handbag containing a mobile phone. They appear to have been thrown there in a hurry. A mug of hot tea has been left on the table. A toilet flushes off stage and **GEMMA** enters from stage left doing up the flies on her trousers. She is carrying a pregnancy testing stick* which she places on the table face down so that she cannot see the result.*

*She picks up a mug of tea which she holds with both hands, as if warming her hands. She moves downstage. She takes a sip of the tea and stares into space. A pause. **MARGARET** enters the stage from stage right. She is old, wears a baggy cardigan and slippers. She is carrying a pile of old board games. She carefully places the boxes on the kitchen table and sits down.*

MARGARET *(gesturing towards the pile of games)* I don't suppose that you want to...?

GEMMA *(realising that she is there)* What? No thanks. Not now. Just waiting.

MARGARET Waiting?

GEMMA For the result *(indicates the pregnancy test on the table)*. They don't take long. Actually, I think they are too quick—I need more time.

MARGARET Oh?

GEMMA Time to appreciate this moment of blissful ignorance. Before I know one way or another how my life might change. Or not.

MARGARET I see.

Silence

Do you remember our games?

GEMMA Of course, I do—that's why you are here, again.

MARGARET True.

GEMMA Every Saturday for almost two years, Mum would dump me at your house for a couple of hours.

MARGARET She was trying to earn some extra money working at the supermarket. You enjoyed our afternoons together, didn't you?

GEMMA They were the best. You were the only one that ever had the time for me. To talk and to listen. You never seemed to judge me or be annoyed by my questions or be angry like she was.

MARGARET Well, your mother was busy and did always seem to be rushing somewhere. I was retired and had the time. And Henry hadn't long died, so I was lonely.

GEMMA So was I. (*She sits at the table next to MARGARET*)