Note on Text

The sections should be played in the order given but the scenes can be played in any order within each section.

There are random scenes, see at the end, which can happen any time.

The characters are different in every scene. The only possible exception to this are the random Depression scenes, which could be the same two people, or the same depressed person with different others.

This text went to press before the end of rehearsals and so may differ slightly from the play as performed.
THE CHILD WHO DIDN'T KNOW SORRY

You have to say you’re sorry.
I’m not sorry.
But you know you hurt him. You have to say you’re sorry.
I don’t feel sorry.
You have to say it.

CLIMATE

I’m frightened.
Just walk instead of driving and don’t take so many hot baths.
I’m frightened for the children.
There were those emails those scientists, I can’t remember the detail
no it didn’t make any difference in the end
no I think you’re right, most scientists all agree it’s a catastrophe.
The question is how bad a catastrophe.
It’s whether they drown or starve or get killed in the fights for water:
I’d choose drowning.
Are you really not going to take it seriously?
I don’t know how to.
I don’t know how to.
The sentence beginning ‘On the 21\textsuperscript{st} of May. . ’

Yes, I’ve got it.
I’m afraid that’s going to have to go.
Why is that?
The Ministry of Defence considers it a breach of security.
It’s not classified information.
That is nevertheless their view.
About thirty.
Let’s hear the next one then.

But I am your wife.
You look like my wife.
That’s because I am. Look, even that little birthmark behind my ear. Look.
Yes, I see it.
It’s me. Darling sweet, it’s me. I’m here.
No, she’s gone. They’ve all gone.
Who’s gone?
Everyone I know. Everyone who loved me.
No, I love you.
LOVE AND INFORMATION

I don’t want you to love me, I don’t know you.
There’s things only we know, aren’t there. That day on the beach with the shells. You remember that?
Yes, of course.
And cabbages. Why is cabbages a funny word, we’re the only ones who have cabbages as a joke because of what happened with the cabbages. Cabbages is a joke, yes?
Cabbages was a joke I shared with my wife. I miss my wife.
But I am... Let me touch you. If you’d see what it feels like to touch me. If we made love you’d know it was me because there are things we like to do and no one else would know that, if I was a stranger pretending to be her I wouldn’t know those things, you’d feel you were back with me, you would I know, please.
You disgust me. You frighten me. What are you?

DECISION
I’ve written down all the reasons to leave the country and all the Reasons to stay.
So how does that work out?
There’s things on both sides.
How do you feel about it?
No, I’m trying to make a rational decision based on the facts.
Do you want me to decide for you?
Based on what? The facts don’t add up.
I’d rather you stayed there. Does that help?
THE CHILD WHO DIDN'T KNOW PAIN

But what is it?
Pain is pain, it’s just
if I pinch
aah, get off. But if I pinch you
nothing
nothing at all
but stop because I get bruises.
How come you don’t
I never did when I was a baby
you were born like
yes and I used to chew my fingers
you mean chew?
and they got bandages put over or I’d chew them to the bone
because you know how babies
put everything in their mouth
I’d put myself in my mouth because I wasn’t any different.
And if you fell down
I threw myself down
because it didn’t hurt
jumped down a whole flight of stairs because that was a quick way
and you were all right
boke both les and once when I went swimming there were rocks under the water and when I came out my legs were pouring blood because I hadn’t felt so you can’t feel anything emotions I feel feelings but physical
not pain, no.
And why not?
because there’s no signal going up to my brain
from your legs
from anywhere to my brain to say there’s damage, it’s hurting
so you never know what hurting is
so tell me what it’s like.
Hurting is well it’s pain, it’s like uncomfortable but more, it’s
something you’d want to move away from but you can’t, it’s an
intense sensation, it’s hard to ignore it, it’s very

but why would you mind that?

because it hurts. But no, sometimes pain’s all right if it’s not bad
like if your gum’s sore and you keep poking it with your tongue
or you might cut your finger and you hardly notice, yes if you’re
doing something exciting, soldiers can lose a leg and not even
know it.
that’s like me
yes but why, what is it?
if someone’s tortured if they give them electric shocks it’s
unbearable or if they’ve got cancer sometimes they want to die
because my uncle

yes but I still don’t know what it is about pain
it’s just pain
but what is it?
You’ve been unhappy?
Yes
if someone you love doesn’t love you, you thought they loved
you and they don’t
yes
or you’ve done something you wish you hadn’t done it’s too late
now and you’ve hurt someone and there’s nothing you can do to
put it right
yes
does that help?
So it’s like being unhappy but in your leg?
But it’s also just what it is, like red is red and blue is blue.
But red isn’t red, it’s waves and it’s red to us.
So there you are, that’s what it’s like.
Can I pinch you again?

EARTHQUAKE
Have you seen the earthquake? There’s this building my god you think things are solid but
they just break.
Yes I’ve seen it.
Imagine being in it, imagine you’re lying on your back and there’s this wall a few inches
above your face and you can’t sit up even an inch and if you do it might come down on you.
And the air running out, you keep trying to get a deep breath but you can’t breath deeply
enough because very soon there’s going to be no more oxygen. And if you were injured if
you’re in pain while all that’s going on and where are you family are they dead or in agony
and will anyone come to get you out and how many hours or days, I’m just so upset by it.
But you don’t care.
LOVE AND INFORMATION

I can’t say I feel it, no. You really feel it?
I cried. Of course I feel it. I cried.
Ok.
And imagine the wave coming, imagine hearing it coming and running away and you can’t get away, it came fast did you see how fast it came?
Yes, I saw it.
You’re not upset though.
That black wave with the cars in it was awesome.