

CALLBACK - MUM & JAMES

Tiny Treasures by Kevin Dyer, a cutting from Act III

Audition side – Mum

Callback side – Mum and James

START

MUM:

Jamie! Come see me.

He goes to her.

JAMES:

I'll make you some tea.

MUM:

You look tired, love.

JAMES:

I'm fine, slept bad; bit of a dream, that's all.

MUM:

Is Katy up?

JAMES:

Not yet.

MUM:

Is her uniform clean?

JAMES:

Yeah. You're awake early.

MUM:

Yes, feel a bit better: you get a bit of your old Mum back today.
Got your lunch money?

JAMES:

Yeah.

MUM:

Don't eat pizza every day.

JAMES:

I don't. I'll get you a tea, and your egg sandwich. I'm gonna be late
- (Calls) 'You up yet, Katy?' I've got to go the corner store; I forgot
to buy milk after school yesterday.

MUM:

Sorry about yesterday - all the trouble with the tablets.

JAMES:

It was no trouble.

MUM:

Yes it was; Katy told me about it.
Sorry you had to do all that – sorry you've got a useless Mum.

JAMES:

You are not useless.

MUM:

And I understand why... you hate me.

JAMES: Wha? I don't.

MUM: I heard you, last night. Banging the table.

JAMES: I didn't!

MUM: I heard you.

JAMES: It wasn't anything to do with you. We've got this project in drama, I was just practising.

Beat.

MUM: It's all right, love; sometimes I hate myself.

JAMES: Don't say that. I'm gonna get your tea.

MUM: Also... you talking to Katy last night, it wasn't a homework thing was it?

JAMES: ...

MUM: I need to know things, Jamie; it's my job, a Mum's job. It's not right if you try to do everything. Understand?

JAMES: Yeah but...

MUM: What about your PE shorts?

JAMES: They're fine.

MUM: Katy told me you needed a new pair.

JAMES: Sniffy's gonna lend me some; I'll get some new ones on Saturday.

MUM: You're a good boy, Jamie, do you know that?

JAMES: 'You say so.

MUM: If I ask you to do something for me, will you do it?

JAMES: Yeah. But I gotta get Katy moving, don't want to be late today.

MUM: So you'll do it then? Cos you always make me promise - to go out, drink my juice, take my tablets yeah?

JAMES: Mum. (Tapping his watch) Time. Katy. School.

MUM: So now my turn to ask you. You promise?

JAMES: OK. Cool.

MUM: Right... go get the blue suitcase from under Katy's bed.

James lays the suitcase on the floor by Mum's bed.

JAMES: (Puzzled) It's got stuff in it.

MUM: 4 pairs of pants; 4 T-shirts; 4 sweaters; lots of socks; toiletry bag; pack of cards-

JAMES: You don't like cards.

MUM: Two pairs of jeans. One pair of decent trousers and your retro shirt for the club.

JAMES: Club? What club?

MUM: All you need to put in is your headphones and a jacket.

JAMES: Wait a minute... It's my stuff isn't it? You making a joke?

MUM: Press the 'Play again' button. (She does, like a game) Beep. All you need to put in is your headphones and a jacket.

JAMES: I'm not going; I can't.

MUM: No such word.

JAMES: Yes there is. Who put all this in here?

MUM: Not me, must've been the suitcase fairy.

JAMES: Katy?! She can't even pack her own bag. Yesterday I had to come back for hers.

MUM: She had stuff on her mind yesterday. Boy stuff. And in my experience if all that goes wrong when your head is full of boy-stuff is you forget your school bag then you've got nothing to worry about.
You can't do everything Jamie.

JAMES: I don't.

MUM: Can't try to then.

JAMES: I can't go. I threw the form away.

MUM: Katy got Sniffy to drop his off.

JAMES: What is this?

MUM: And he says you're making some weird excuse why you can't go.

JAMES: No.

MUM: You told him you've got some family thing on.

JAMES: Yeah well...

MUM: Yeah well, you haven't, have you? So listen to me, pal: you can go. I am not being the excuse for you not doing things you want to do.

JAMES: What about my fish?

MUM: Katy'll take 'em for a walk.

JAMES: Very funny.

MUM: Or take 'em with her when she goes swimming to the community centre. She'll be in one lane doing her laps; Snoopy will be in the one on her right; Toto in the one on her left.

JAMES: Mum!

MUM: I can see 'em now, Snoopy and Toto both doing doggy paddle.

JAMES: Mum!!!

MUM: They're only fish.

JAMES: What do you mean 'only'?

MUM: Do you want two facts?

JAMES: No.

MUM: One, I am not going to hospital. Two, you are going to Wales.

END