

## Friends

A telephone call is being made.....

Hello.....is that you Jane? (intermittent sobs)

Pause – Jane replies but the audience doesn't hear her

He's gone. He's left me.

Pause – as above

Well – it's Saturday so we were a bit late getting up. I thought George was a long time in the shower, and when he came down he had this bag with him – the one he uses for conferences when there is an overnight stay. He had this look on his face, I'd never seen it before. I asked him what was going on and he just came out with it.

He said that we were over and that he was leaving me (more sobs) I mean how could this happen to me? Of course I asked him why. I thought we were OK together but not for him apparently. He said that he had been feeling like this for some time.

Pause – as above

I am finding it very difficult to be calm Jane. My life has just been turned upside down. I mean every couple has its ups and downs but whenever he has been late home from work for some reason he brings me flowers and is very loving. I thought the odd argument was just because he was overworked and tense from all the pressure. You must have seen that in the office with what is expected of senior managers these days. I think they have been asking a lot with all these reports he has had to produce lately. I expect you have had to type some of them. Come to think of it

there have been several evenings lately when he was quite late and seemed very tired when he came in.

Pause – as above

He wasn't going to give me a particular reason, but of course you do wonder if there is someone else. When I asked him about that, I could see in his face that he couldn't lie. He said there was somebody, he hadn't looked for it to happen. It just did. Naturally I asked who it was but he wasn't prepared to say. I asked if it was anybody I knew but he wouldn't tell me that either. I asked how long it had been going on. He said not very long, just a few weeks. Come to think about it, there was something different about him when he came back from that last conference in Cambridge. I think you went to that one didn't you? Did you notice anything going on? Sorry, of course, I know you would have said if you had any concerns, being such a good friend.

Pause – as above

Well, it's going to take a while to accept this, but he's not coming back, even if he tires of his new lover. She'll soon get tired of some of his trying little habits, like shouting every time he comes through the door.

Pause – as above

The sound of a key in the lock and a man's voice calling out –

Jane! Jane darling! I've done it. I've told her.....