

THE PIANO

a man sits at a table reading the
newspaper. anna enters, sheepish

ANNA: Hi Giles

GILES: Morning

ANNA: You sleep OK?

GILES: Fine thanks. [pause] You?

ANNA: Oh yes. Fine thanks.

GILES: Good [He goes back to reading his paper]

ANNA: Giles

GILES: Yes

ANNA: You know your... piano?

GILES: Yes

ANNA: Your... prized-possession piano

GILES: Yes

ANNA: Your... prized possession, constantly played,
Steinway Grand piano

GILES: Yes

ANNA: There's a bit of a problem with it

GILES: Problem! What problem?

ANNA: With the black keys...

GILES: What about them?

ANNA: They've gone

GILES: What?

ANNA: They're not there anymore

GILES: What do you mean?

ANNA: They seem to have disappeared in the middle of
the night

GILES: Disappeared?

ANNA: Yes. Gone missing

GILES: What? Stolen?

THE PIANO

ANNA Well, um... the thing is, about 2 o'clock last night I came down to get a drink of water. I was just turning off the kitchen light when I heard this whispering coming from the dining room

GILES We've been burgled?

ANNA No, no. That's what I thought at first. But when I listened more closely I realised that all of the voices had either sharp or flat accents. It was the black keys Giles. They were talking.

GILES Talking?

Anna Yeah

Giles What do you mean talking?

ANNA Talking. To each other

GILES What?

ANNA Yeah

GILES Saying what?

ANNA Well, I'm afraid you're not going to like this Giles, but they were calling you an arsehole

GILES Eh?

ANNA Yes. A talentless arsehole. They said they didn't go into the piano business to play the Coldplay songbook over and over again and that as far as they were concerned the relationship with you was over

GILES What!

ANNA I'm sorry Giles

GILES This is crazy

ANNA I know

GILES I treated them really well

ANNA Apparently not. At one point the D flats said they had hardly been touched in the whole time they'd been here

THE PIANO

GILES Coldplay hardly use D flats

ANNA They felt neglected

GILES This is awful

ANNA I know

GILES Awful

ANNA I think E sharp was the ringleader of the whole thing. Sounded like E sharp

GILES Which octave?

ANNA Third

GILES Oh that little bitch. Well that figures

ANNA She said that when you bought the piano you told the salesman you'd be playing mainly Chopin's nocturnes and Beethoven's sonatas and that as far as the keys were concerned they'd been brought into your house under false pretences, only to find your real affections were stronger for a third party

GILES What third party?

ANNA The name Chris Martin was mentioned

GILES Oh please. They have no appreciation of modern day genius

ANNA I'm just repeating what they said

GILES It has to be classical does it to be any good?

ANNA Don't shoot the messenger Giles

GILES Well I wonder if they know that one of the chord progressions in Yellow is almost identical to Mahler

ANNA Is it?

GILES Something like that

ANNA I thought that was Yesterday by the Beatles

GILES Well it's the same principle

ANNA No, The Beatles are in a completely different league to Coldplay Giles

THE PIANO

GILES Whose side are you on?

ANNA I'm not on anybody's side. Calm down

GILES I can't play bloody Rachmaninov

ANNA Chopin

GILES Whatever. It's all hard

Pause

Did they say where they went?

ANNA I think they've gone to your mother's

GILES Typical

ANNA At one point I heard one of them say they
don't ever want your fingers on them again

GILES Don't worry. I don't need them. I've still got
the whites. There's plenty of stuff I can do
with whites. "I Will Survive"

ANNA Um, no that uses a G sharp

GILES Very funny. Oh sod it, who cares. Listen I
think I need some air. I'm going to go for a
drive. Do you wanna come?

ANNA Ah... Yes... Um... Giles...

GILES What?

ANNA About the car wheels...

[Black out]