

'RETURN TO HOTEL CALIFORNIA'

A Musical by Graham Morgan & Norman Jackson

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https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qlid7pG-izhn9bGSDSRx75S7_Z_Okt0KkTR5-0Zjcs4/edit

ACT 1 SONGS

SONG 1 Instrumental introduction is Hotel California

SONG 2 Identity (DUET)

SONG 3 It's just a natural thing ... (includes hotel california chorus) (DUET)

SONG 4 It happened suddenly (DUET)

SONG 5 If I could spend every day of my life with you (JOEY)

SONG 6 I need security (CHARLIE)

SONG 7 Can of Worms (JOEY)

SONG 8 Be careful what you wish for tonight (CHARLIE)

SONG 9 What have you done? (JOEY'S MUM)

SONG 10 Will you take me as I am? (I don't see it) (CHARLIE)

SONG 11 Hotel California (BAND)

SONG 12 Sunday Morning (DUET).

SONG 13 We both see the world the same way (DUET)

SONG 14 Climbing tress (DUET)

ACT 1 WHEN WE WERE YOUNG

(about 60 mins)

SUMMARY

Joey and Charlie are 18, single and living very different lives in leafy Surrey. Joey comes from a wealthy family while Charlie has a more modest heritage. They both love the music of the Eagles, a band from their parents generation, and quite by accident they meet at an Illegal Eagles concert and immediately fall for each other. After a whirlwind romance Charlie becomes pregnant and Joey & Charlie decide to get married against his parents' wishes. Helped by Charlie's mum and dad they elope to Gretna Green and get married at Hotel California. Charlie has her baby and life gets a lot tougher. Joey gets a job working all hours in a supermarket and they live in a cheap bedsit barely able to make ends meet. But they are happy and that's all the matters.

SONG 1 Instrumental introduction is Hotel California

NARRATOR *opening chords of identity*

It's 1995 the year that the [Internet](#) came into our lives for the first time Cosmonaut [Valeri Polyakov](#) returns after setting a record for 438 days in [outer space](#). The [Schengen Agreement](#), easing cross-border travel, goes into effect in several European countries.

But for Joey living in leafy Surrey he was more interested in the announcement that he would soon be able to watch films on something called a DVD.

Joey fancies himself, he knows' he's good looking and smart. His mum and dad are well off - dad's a city banker and he lives in a house on the banks of the river Wey in Ripley and attends a well known independent school not far from Guildford.

Mum is too busy to work - she's a woman who lunches and plays golf three times a week. Being an only child he is spoilt. He wears expensive designer clothes and he was given a red sports car for his birthday.

Joey seems to have everything. He is expected to go to university and his dad has ambitions for him to join him at the bank. He will of course inherit loads of money so he's not worried at all about the future. Life is for enjoying and he's going to enjoy every minute of it.

Meanwhile, only a few miles away in Woking, a girl called Charlie lives on the 10th floor of a high rise block of flats near the railway station.

Charlie is beautiful, she's warm, kind, friendly and funny and has lots of friends. Charlie left school at 16 and works as a secretary in an office.

She lives at home with her mum and dad. Dad works on the railways and mum cleans. Although they are not well off they are happy.

Like many girls Charlie dreams of marrying a handsome man and having lots of babies..As an only child she wants a big family.

SONG 2 Identity (DUET)

NARRATOR - *opening chords of 'Natural Thing'*

Joey and Charlie don't know it yet but they share a love of the Eagles music inherited from their parents. And as fate would have it, they both decide to go to the same Illegal Eagles concert at Dorking Halls where they happen to stand next to each other in the crowd.

They start chatting to each other, as teenagers do. She thinks he's cool, funny and very good looking. He thinks she's gorgeous, warm and friendly. As the band plays the opening chords of Hotel California, Joey pulls Charlie towards him and they start to dance and something magical happens.

SONG 3 Its just a natural thing (DUET)

NARRATOR *opening chords of 'it happened suddenly'*

They see each other every evening and over the next few weeks they fall madly in love with each other. Both know that they come from very different backgrounds. Joey knows that his parents, especially his mum, will not approve of their relationship so he doesn't tell them. Charlie has already told her mum and dad about Joey and they are delighted that she has found a nice young man.

SONG 4 It happened suddenly (DUET)

NARRATOR *opening chords to If I could spend every day of my life with you*
For the next few months Joey and Charlie see each other almost every day. Not surprisingly Joey's work at school began to suffer but it didn't seem to matter any more. He was in love and being with Charlie was all that mattered.

SONG 5 If I could spend every day of my life with you (JOEY)

NARRATOR - *talks over opening chords of security*

It's now 6 months after Joey and Charlie started dating. Charlie has always had romantic ideas about marrying a tall, dark, handsome man but never thought she's meet someone like Joey who fitted the bill so well.

But she felt vulnerable..she was well aware of their different backgrounds and how Joey's parents would not approve of them seeing each other. She was also aware that Joey would soon be going to university. One way or another she felt she would lose him. She began to think that her future with him was not very secure so she raised the issue with him when they met that evening.

SONG 6 Security (CHARLIE)

NARRATOR - *opening chords can of worms*

It had all happened suddenly as it often does with young people, but passion has its consequences.. Charlie discovered she was pregnant.

Having gotten over the initial shock of discovering that she is pregnant she fell in love with the idea of getting married to Joey and being a mum without thinking about the practicalities.

But Joey is angry with her. As far as he was concerned SHE had thrown a spanner in the works. He is shocked and confused and wonders what to do. The thought of telling his parents makes him feel sick. He imagines the consequences of their carelessness, or had perhaps Charlie trapped him in this situation?

He doesn't like what he imagines. He's messed up big time - it feels like a can of worms has been opened.

SONG 7 Can of Worms (JOEY)

NARRATOR - *opening chords 'be careful what you wish for tonight'*

Charlie listens patiently to Joey but she's not impressed. For her it boiled down to a simple question - does he love her enough to want to spend the rest of his life with her. But she only wants him to marry her if he really wants to do and she will not stop him from walking away such is her nature. She puts him on the spot pointing out that this is the most important decision he has ever made.

SONG 8 Be careful what you wish for tonight

NARRATOR *opening chords to what have you done?*

Joey decides that he does want to spend the rest of his life with Charlie and he plucks up the courage to tell his parents. He had kept his relationship with Charlie a secret as he knew his mother would not have approved. People like them only married their kind and Charlie was definitely not one of his 'mothers kind.' Perhaps this was why he liked her so much.

Joey knew his mother would be angry but incandescent would be a better description of the way she reacted to the news that, not only did Joey have a girlfriend and she was pregnant, but Joey wanted to marry her. The idea that she would have a grandchild did not appeal to her at all. What would her friends at the golf club think? At the end of her rant she said if he married that girl she would cast him adrift without a penny.

SONG 8 What have you done? JOEY'S MUM & JOEY

NARRATOR *opening chords to Will you take me as I am?*

Charlie's mum and dad are not quite so angry. They don't like their daughter's predicament but they love her and when it has all sunk in they find the idea of having a grandchild very appealing. So Charlie feels supported by her mum and dad. She knows that Joey loves her but she is not sure whether he loves her enough to walk away from his inheritance to marry her.

She does not want to push Joey into marrying her so she meets him to find out whether they have a future together after he has told his parents.

SONG 9 Will you take me as I am?

NARRATOR - opening chords Hotel California

Joey has made his mind up - he is going to marry Charlie with or without his parent's blessing. His mum's ultimatum has left him in no doubt that they will have to go it alone.

Charlie sees an advert in Hello magazine for a hotel in Scotland offering a wedding package, complete with witnesses and 2 nights B&B all for £500. Spotting the hotel is called Hotel California she sees it as a good omen and decides this is where they must get married .

Charlie's mum and dad agree to cover the cost and so on a bright summers day they drive up the M6 in Joey's open top sports car to Gretna and get married that evening to the tune of their favourite song - the song that was playing when the first time they met.. Hotel California.

SONG 10 Hotel California

NARRATOR *opening chords to Sunday Morning*

Its 6 months since Joey and Charlie were married and they are on their own now with little money and their daughter Evie, who they both adore.

Joey left school and is now working in a supermarket..on the bottom rung of the corporate ladder - stacking shelves, manning tills, mopping floors, checking stock and dealing with complaining customers. But he's a hard worker and he vows that one day he will be the boss.

Its not the future Joey had imagined. getting home tired every night to a dingy bedsit. Life wasn't much fun anymore. All his mates had gone to university and the only thing he had to look forward to on a Saturday night was playing with Evie.

It's not the future that Charlie had imagined either. But she's not too bothered about not having any money. She is a devoted mum and stays at home to look after Evie. And she tries to make the flat look as homely as she can on their meagre budget. But she doesn't feel so glamorous any more. Life's a struggle but they are surviving and finding out how to make their way in a challenging world.

SONG 11 - Sunday Morning DUET

NARRATOR *opening chords We don't see the world as others see it*

Even though life is tough Joey and Charlie feel they have been through a lot in their first year together and their shared experience binds them together. They are happy with their decision to spend the rest of their lives together and they have made sacrifices to be together.

While they have little money they realise that they both seem to see, appreciate and value the same things in life and they want the same things for Evie.

SONG 12 We don't see the world as others see it DUET

Narrator *opening chords climbing trees*

As the New Year dawns Joey and Charlie now life is not going to be easy but they have proved to themselves that together they know they can face whatever the life throws at them. They can look ahead to the rest of their lives with hope and optimism.

SONG 13 - Climbing Tress DUET