

'RETURN TO HOTEL CALIFORNIA'

A Musical by Graham Morgan & Norman Jackson

version 09/02/17

ACT 2 SONGS

SONG 15 Hotel California (BAND)

SONG 16 Climbing up the Corporate Ladder (JOEY)

SONG 17 Real Life World Cafe (CHARLIE)

SONG 18 I'm doing something right (JOEY)

SONG 19 Water's Edge (CHARLIE)

SONG 20 We don't see the world the same way anymore (DUET)

SONG 21 Office Party (JOEY)

SONG 22 Atmosphere (DUET)

SONG 23 Momentary lapse (JOEY)

SONG 24 Infidelity (CHARLIE)

SONG 25 Sleeping in the rain (JOEY)

SONG 26 Night drive / car crash (CHARLIE)

SONG 27 There's a road we will take.. (DUET)

SONG 28 Return to Hotel California (DUET)

SONG 29 FINALE Tomorrow (DUET+ band)

ACT 2 MUDDLING THRO' THE MIDDLE OF OUR LIVES (about 60 mins)

SUMMARY

Joey and Charlie are now 44. Their two children have left home and they are rattling around in a 3 bedroom semi in Dorking. Joey has worked hard and moved up the corporate ladder so he is now only one rung below super store manager. Charlie is has gone back to work as a PA to help with the mortgage and is studying part-time for an OU degree. Everything seems okay on the surface but like so many couples struggling to bring up a family they don't spend so much time together. Its not that they don't like each other any more rather they are too busy to appreciate each other in the way they used to.

Joey doesn't mind trampling on anyone who gets in his way to becoming superstore boss - even his best friend gets pushed out of the way. Finally he gets promoted to the top job in his superstore but having drunk a bit too much he messes up at the office party and manages to throw his chance away. Charlie gets to hear of his indiscretion and throws him out. Joey wanders the streets and realises he's messed up big time and goes home to seek forgiveness. But a distraught Charlie has jumped in the car and sped into the dark night.. she takes a corner to fast and loses control ending up in a ditch.. She's shocked and badly shaken but has had a lucky escape. She calls Joey to let him know she has written off the car and he rushes to the hospital to tell her what he's finally realised. They both realise that they will face their tomorrows together...

MUSICAL INTRO - HOTEL CALIFORNIA then into

NARRATOR talks over chord introduction to Hotel California

Its 2016 and Joey and Charlie are now 44. They have been together for 26 years and have reached that mid point in their life where life can seem confusing as the projects they shared of building a home and bringing up a family are completed and new projects have yet to be brought into existence.

The children have left home and being by themselves again. is proving to be more difficult than they imagined.

But one thing still share is their love for the Eagles band.....

SONG 14 Hotel California

NARRATOR - talks over opening chords

Joey is working all hours to make the money he'd always wanted. He now has a big house with a big garden and a big mortgage, but they can now afford holidays that they would never have been able to afford in the past.

He is now only one rung below being the Manager of his super store and he is ruthless in pursuing his ambition. He really doesn't care about treading on the toes of people who get in the way

Even his best mate gets pushed aside when Joey finds out he has made a big mistake and he tells the boss. While no-one doubts that Joey is a hard worker his ethics leave something to be desired.

SONG 15 Climbing up the Corporate Ladder (JOEY)

NARRATOR - talks over opening chords

Charlie has been a devoted mum to her two children but now they have flown the nest . One has gone travelling to Oz with her boyfriend and isn't planning to come back, the other is living in Manchester.

She feels she has lost her most important purpose in life. She has started working as a receptionist in her local GP surgery but feels she needs to do more so she started a psychology degree with the OU. Every night she comes home and studies for a few hours which doesn't leave much time for Joey.

Coming to terms with this massive change in life is proving to be very difficult for Charlie.

SONG 16 - Real Life World Cafe (CHARLIE)

NARRATOR - talks over opening chords

After years of loyalty, working all hours, Joey is finally promoted to the top job he has always wanted. He is now the boss of his super store... the biggest and best store around.. He's got a big office, with a big desk, a PA who makes him tea whenever he wants it and a red Mercedes-AMG GT V8 sports car with the company logo on the side.

Joey rushes home to tell Charlie of his success but she is immersed in her own anxieties and feelings of neglect..Oh great she thinks it probably means he will work even longer hours and more weekends... His elation just makes her feel worse but she smiles and tells him how well he has done and how proud she is of him.

SONG 17 - I'm doing something right (JOEY)

NARRATOR - talks over opening chords

While Joey feels elated about achieving something he has worked for all his working life Charlie feels neglected

Joey's efforts to reach the top of the corporate ladder mean that he's often home late it seems to Charlie they are like ships that pass in the night, they are not so close anymore and she doesn't like it.. She never imagined that her life would come to this. She believes she has given her life to Joey ad their children and has asked only to be loved and cherished in return. She feels the time has come to reassess her life and explore a different future for herself: a future that doesn't include Joey.

SONG 18 - Water's Edge (CHARLIE)

NARRATOR - talks over opening chords

As their relationship deteriorates Joey and Charlie start rowing until one day it becomes clear that they don't see the world the same way anymore. While Charlie has known this for some time Joey has been so absorbed in work that he has failed to notice it and it comes as a shock to him when he realises it for the first time.

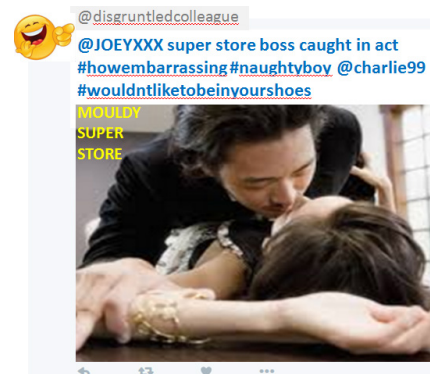
SONG 19 We don't see the world the same way any more (DUET)

NARRATOR - talks over opening chords and party sounds in the background

Christmas is looming and Joey, in his new role as boss, wants the works party to be the best one ever. But Charlie doesn't feel much like celebrating so she decides to stay at home.

Joey decides to really let his hair down. It's a jolly occasion and he has a few drinks more than he should. The office vamp spots this and throws herself on him. Unfortunately, he falls for the flattery and is easily led astray. She suggests that they might sneak off for a bit of hanky panky and in the moment he succumbs to his lust

But the man he piped for the bosses job, who he had recently reprimanded for not meeting his targets, has been watching the scenario unfold. He sees an opportunity to get his own back and seriously embarrass his boss. He gives them a few minutes before pushing open the door to catch them at it. Mobile phone at the ready he snaps a photo and before Joey can straighten his tie the photo has been posted on twitter copied to Joey's wife Charlie and Joey's boss.



SONG 20 Works Party (JOEY)



@regionalmanager

@JOEYXXX @regionalmanager says you are no longer super store boss #youvebeensacked

NARRATOR - talks over opening chords

Joey is named and shamed his reputation is in tatters and he has embarrassed his super store so his regional manager sacks him ... also via twitter. His public humiliation is complete.

But his main concern now is to hide Charlie's mobile phone so she can't see what he has been up to. But his vengeful colleague want's his pound of flesh. He has already sent Charlie a text telling her to chec k out twitter to find out what her erring husband has been up to.

A dishevelled Joey arrives home. He senses she knows as soon as works through the door. At first Charlie doesn't say anything but as you can imagine the atmosphere wasn't not good.

SONG 21 Atmosphere (DUET)

NARRATOR - talks over opening chords

Joey sense that he has crossed the line and their relationship will never be the same again. He deeply regrets what he's done and is remorseful. He hopes that by admitting his weakness Charlie will forgive him.

SONG 22 Momentary lapse (JOEY)

NARRATOR - quiet

But Charlie is not in the mood to forgive him. After trying to make small talk Charlie tells him in no uncertain terms what she thinks of him and what he has done.

SONG 23 Infidelity (CHARLIE) When the last words are sung she shouts **Get out!**

NARRATOR - talks over opening chords and the sound of a storm

Joey is not surprised he is being asked to leave. He opens the door.. its pouring down and he trudges out into the rain...and reflects on the mess he has got himself

into.. getting soaked feels like the right sort of punishment for what he has brought on himself and Charlie. Its the low point in his life. He contemplates a miserable as he trudges through the rain

SONG 24 Sleeping in the rain (JOEY)

NARRATOR - talks over opening chords and the sound of a storm

Charlie is angry and distraught. Her whole life seems to have crumbled in the space of a few hours. She feels the need to get out of the house and breathe the cold night air on her so she can think more clearly. She jumps in Joey's sports car and speeds off into the night. Its raining and the windscreen wipers can hardly clear the screen. The road is dark as they live out in the country. The headlights pierce the darkness suddenly a fox runs out into the headlights..She slams on the breaks and loses control. The car is upside down in a ditch. Charlie is badly shaken and bruised but not hurt.



Another motorist raises the alarm and soon the emergency services are there. She is taken to hospital with sirens blazing.

SONG 25 Night drive / car crash

NARRATOR - talks over opening chords

Charlie calls Joey from the hospital. He is shocked and overwhelmed with guilt feeling that he must have been the cause of her accident.

He arrives wet and dishevelled at Charlie's bedside. She has a few cuts and bruises and her arm is bandaged but she is glad he has come and she smiles at him weakly.

As he sits by her bed holding her hand he thinks of the life they have spent together and tells her why she means more to him than anything else. He tells her that he's deeply sorry for what he's done and that he can't live without her. He asks her to give him a second chance to prove to her what she means to him.

Charlie has also been thinking about their future while she has been lying in the hospital bed. She is deeply touched by what he has said and she decides that, after all they have been through together, he deserves another chance.

Suddenly the future looks so much brighter for Joey as he imagines them back together again.

SONG 26 There's a road we'll take.. JOEY

NARRATOR - talks over opening chords

Like so many couples Charlie and Joey got into a muddle in the middle part of their lives, but they have worked through it and rediscovered that love, affection and the need to care for each other runs very deep.

In reflecting on their life together they both decide that they needed to return to Hotel California in Scotland which was the starting point for their married life and rediscover the reasons they embarked on their journey together.

SONG 28 Return to Hotel California (DUET)

NARRATOR

So the Joey and Charlie's story does have a happy ending. They have reconciled their differences and rediscovered their love. They have decided to go forward into a new life together.

SONG 29 Tomorrow (DUET+ band)