Mamma Mia!

By Catherine Johnson (story and dialogue),
Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus (lyrics and music)

Note: this is a transcription of the movie version of Mamma Mia! (2008). The stage version is a little different.

Sophie sails to the mainland to post a letter.

Sophie: I have a dream
A song to sing
To help me cope
With anything
If you see the wonder
Of a fairy tale
You can take the future
Even if you fail.
(She posts 3 envelopes as she reads the names on them.)
Sam Carmichael.
Bill Anderson.
Harry Bright.

Bill is seen on his motorbike. Sam is seen ending a meeting with some Japanese businessmen. Harry is seen getting into a private taxi. Bill is making his way to his boat, the other two to airports.

Sophie meets her friends Ali and Lisa off the boat on Kalokairi. They all scream and laugh and exclaim “Oh, my God!”

Sophie: I missed you. Oh, no...

All three: We’re Sophie, Ali, Lisa! We’re the greatest, bestest mates!

Ali: I’m tough.

Lisa: I’m tall.

Sophie: I’m tiny.

All three: And we’re gonna rock this place. Yeah!

Ali and Lisa notice Sophie’s ring.
Ali: Sophie, it’s beautiful.

Lisa: I want one.

Ali: He did well, didn’t he?

Sophie: I’m getting married tomorrow. I’m so glad you’re here, because I have a secret and I can’t tell anybody else.

Ali: Sophie, you’re knocked up?¹

Sophie: No! No! No! Um. I’ve invited my dad to my wedding.

Lisa: You are joking!

Ali: You’ve found him at last?

Sophie: No! No, no, no, no, not exactly. Okay. You know what my mom always said when I asked about my father. It was a summer romance, and he’d gone long before she realized that she was expecting me.² And I’d always kind of accepted that that’s all I’d ever know. Well, I was ransacking some old trunks and I found this. It’s the diary she kept the year she was pregnant with me.

Lisa: Oh, Sophie!

Sophie (reading): “July 17th. What a night!”

Lisa: I don’t know if I want to hear this!

Ali: I do!

Sophie (reading): “Sam rowed me over to the little island.” That’s here. That’s Kalokairi. “We danced on the beach, and we kissed on the beach, and dot, dot, dot.”

Lisa: What?

Sophie: Dot, dot, dot! That’s what they did in the olden days.

Lisa: Stop it!

Sophie (reading): “Sam’s the one. I know he is. I’ve never felt like this before.”

Honey, honey, how he thrills me

¹ Knocked up = pregnant.
² Expecting me = pregnant with me.
Aha, honey, honey
Honey, honey, nearly kills me,
Aha, honey, honey
I’ve heard about him before
I wanted to know some more
And now I know what they mean
He’s a love machine
Oh, he makes me dizzy
Honey, honey, let me feel it
Aha, honey, honey
Honey, honey, don’t conceal it
Honey, honey
The way that you kiss good night
The way that you kiss me good night
The way that you hold me tight
The way that you’re holding me tight
I feel like I wanna sing
When you do your thing!

Lisa: So this guy Sam’s your father!

Sophie: The plot thickens.¹ “All this time, Sam’s been telling me he loves me, and now he’s announced that he’s engaged, so he’s gone home to get married, and I’m never going to see him again.”

Ali: Poor Donna.

Sophie (reading): “August 4th. What a night! Bill rented a motorboat, and I took him over to the little island.”

Lisa: Bill? Sophie, wait.

Ali: Hang on.

Sophie (reading): “Though I’m still obsessed with Sam, Bill’s so wild. He’s such a funny guy. One thing led to another, and dot, dot, dot.” August 11th. Harry turned up, out of the blue,² so I said I’d show him the island. He’s so sweet and understanding, I couldn’t help it and …”

All three: Dot, dot, dot!

Ali: Oh, my God!

They have all got back to Donna’ villa. Donna enters.

¹ The plot thickens = it gets more complicated.
² Out of the blue = unexpectedly.
Donna: Here come the bridesmaids.

Ali and Lisa: Donna!

Donna: Look at you! God! Stop growing! You sound like you’re having fun already.

Lisa: Oh, we are.

Donna: I used to have fun.

Ali: Oh, we know!

Sophie continues singing, as we see Sam and Harry attempting to catch the boat to Kalokairi.

Sophie: Honey, honey, touch me, baby
Aha, honey, honey
Honey, honey, hold me, baby
Aha, honey, honey
You look like a movie star
But I love just who you are
And, honey, to say the least
You’re a doggone beast.¹

Sam and Harry both shout after the ferry they’ve just missed.

Harry: Bugger!

Sam: My sentiments exactly².

Sophie, Ali and Lisa go to Sophie’s room.

Lisa: So, who is your dad? Sam, Bill or Harry?

Sophie: I don’t know.

Ali: But which one did you invite?

Sophie looks at them expressively.

Ali and Lisa: Oh, my God!

¹ Doggone beast = complete animal.
² My sentiments exactly = that’s just what I feel.
Ali: Do they know?

Sophie: Would you write to a total stranger “Please come to my wedding, you might be my father”? No. They think that Mom sent the invites, and with what’s in here, no surprise they said yes!

All three: Honey, honey, how you thrill me
Aha, honey, honey
Honey, honey, nearly kill me
Aha, honey, honey
I’d heard about you before
I wanted to know some more
And now I’m about to see
What you mean to me.

Back at the jetty on the mainland.

Harry: I’m trying to get to Kalokairi. When’s the next ferry?

Sam: Deftera.

Harry: What?

Sam: Monday.

Harry: Bollocks!

Sam: Yeah, my sentiments exactly. (Seeing Harry look at the invitation.) Bride or groom?¹

Harry: Bride, although I’ve actually never met her.

Bill: (From his boat.) Ahoy, there. You guys need a ride to Kalokairi?

Rosie and Tanya did catch the ferry.

Rosie: Excuse me, coming through. I have a senior citizen with me. Thank you. My mother needs a perch.

Tanya: Mother? We’re the same age.

Rosie: Yeah. Well, parts of us are. Oh. A sailor.

A man on the boat offers them a drink.

---

¹ Bride or groom? = are you on the bride’s side of the family or the grooms?
Tanya: No.

Rosie: Efharisto.¹

Tanya: Oh, he has your book!

Rosie: Oh ...

Man: Stavros, Stavros.²

Rosie: Stavros. (She signs the book.)

*Tanya screams when she sees a large fish.*

Rosie: It’s just a fish.

*Back in Sophie’s room.*

Lisa: You are so clever.

Ali: We’re going to look fabulous tomorrow.

Sophie: I want the perfect wedding, and I want my father to give me away.

Ali: Better be a wide aisle.³

Sophie: I will know my father as soon as I see him.

*Sky enters the room.*

Lisa: Sky! Come here, gorgeous.

Sky: Put me down! I’m getting married tomorrow.

Sophie: Please be careful.

Lisa: So?

Sophie: There are pins in the dresses.

Ali: What do you think?

Sky: Oh, yes!

¹ Greek for thank you.
² Stavros = the man’s name.
³ A joke: if Sophie has three fathers to walk her into the church, the church will have to have a “wide aisle.”
Sophie: “Oh, yes.” If you had your way, it’d be a three-minute wedding in jeans and T-shirts, washed down with a bottle of beer.

Sky: You make me sound so unromantic! I just thought we should save our money for travelling.

Sophie: Well, we’re not going anywhere yet. Anyway, please leave. We’re very, very busy.

Sky: I’m just getting some props for tonight.

Ali and Lisa: Ooh!

Sophie: For his bachelor party.

Ali: Why haven’t you told him you’ve invited your dads?

Sophie: Because he would say that I’d have to tell my mom.

Lisa: Donna’s absolutely gonna kill you when she finds out.

Sophie: By the time she finds out, it’ll be too late. I feel like there’s a part of me missing, and when I meet my dad, everything will fall into place.

---

Bill, Sam and Harry are on Bill’s boat.

Bill: More open!

Harry: I’m on it. I’m on it.

Bill: That’s good. That’s it.

---

Rosie and Tanya are getting off the ferry, where Donna is meeting them.

Rosie: Come on, Cleopatra.

Tanya: My shoe!

Donna: Will you look at what the tide washed in?

Rosie: For one night.

Tanya: And one night only.

All three: Donna and the Dynamos!
They all scream and hug.

**Donna:** (To Tanya.) You, you look fantastic!

**Tanya:** You look like an old hippie!

**Rosie:** She looks fab.¹

**Donna:** (Looking at Tanya’s breasts.) These are new, though. Where did you get these?

**Rosie:** Husband number three!

**All three:** Dynamos! Dynamite! Sleep all day and … (whooping noise) boom all night!

**Tanya:** So, any men at this wedding? Gorgeous Greeks of independent means?²

**Rosie:** Here we go! Husband number four! He’s coming!

**Tanya:** No! Not for me, for her! For her, now that her book is a bestseller, and she’s got the whole world stuffing, what, mushrooms? Various vegetables? It’s time to find Mr. Right!

**Rosie:** Oh, please. Boring!

**Donna:** Great couple of role models you two are for Sophie! A serial bride³ and a little hermit over here!

**Rosie:** That’s me! I’m a lone wolf!⁴ (She howls like a wolf.) So, when are the lovebirds flying the nest?⁵

**Donna:** Oh, God! Who knows? You know, I do not know what’s going on in that child’s head sometimes. She wants a big white wedding, and she and Sky are making all kinds of plans for the hotel. Sometimes I think they’ll never leave.

**Rosie:** Yeah, but do you really want her to?

**Donna:** Well, I want what’s best for her. Of course not!

---

¹ Fab = fabulous.
² Of independent means = with lots of inherited money.
³ A serial bride = someone who keeps getting married again and again.
⁴ A lone wolf = someone who likes to be alone.
⁵ Flying the nest = leaving their homes (on the island).
They are now back at the villa and Sky appears.

Donna: Sky! Come meet my backup girls.

Rosie and Tanya: Backup girls, my ass!¹

Donna: He’s the leading man at tomorrow’s shindig.²

Sky: The lucky man.

Rosie: Hello.

Sky: You must be Rosie.

Rosie: I am.

Sky: How are you?

Rosie: Very well.

Sky: And you must be Tanya. I’ve heard so much about you.

Tanya: All bad, I hope.

Sky: Yes.

Donna: And all true.

Sky: Donna, here, let me get them.

Bill, Sam and Harry are still on the boat.


Bill: Yes, I am.

Harry: You know, your books are a godsend on dull business trips. Now, I may look like I’m pondering my securities,⁴ but in reality, I’m trekking across some remote corner of the planet.

---

¹ My ass! = no way!
² Shindig = big party.
³ Bloke = man.
⁴ Pondering my securities = planning my (financial) investments.
Bill: Well, you should try it for real sometime.

Harry: No, sadly, I’ll never be the spontaneous adventurer.

Sam: You’re a close friend of Donna’s?

Bill: No, I hadn’t heard from her for 20 years.

Sam: Really?

Bill: And then this invite, out of the blue.

Harry: You know, that’s a coincidence, neither had I.

Bill: Going about!¹

Sam: You got it!

Harry: Right. Wait... I’ve got it. Fine. Fine.

_Donna, Rosie and Tanya are climbing the steps to the villa._

Rosie: You should have brought the iron lung.²

Tanya: Why did I wear stilettos?

Rosie: Oxygen.

Tanya: *(Seeing the view.)* Oh, my God!

Sophie: Auntie Rosie!

Rosie: Hey, hey!

Tanya: Look at Sophie. She’s gotten so beautiful!

Rosie: Come here to me. Sophie Sheridan, you get more gorgeous every time I see you. You do.

Tanya: I bet you don’t remember me.

Rosie: Not with all that plastic surgery!

Tanya: Of course I do, Auntie Tanya. You haven’t changed at all.

¹ Going about! = Turning!

² Iron lung = a machine used to help ill people breathe.
Donna: Look at my baby, her whole life ahead of her.

Sophie: Oh, please, I’m getting married. I’m not joining a convent!

Donna: She’s feisty.

Tanya: I love that.

Rosie: Yeah. She’s a chip off the old block.¹

Donna: If she were more like me, she wouldn’t be getting married at 20.

Tanya: Or married at all.

Donna: Oh, I meant to get the laundry down before you came.

Rosie: Tanya’s going home!

Donna: And you’d think with all this new technology, they would figure out a machine that would make the beds.

Sophie: And if they did, you’d be going along behind it, making them again. I know you, Mom.

Donna: But I am good at modern ... Tell them about the Internets. He’s gonna put me on the line.

Sophie: Online.

Sky: I’m designing a website. I just think this place has so much potential, and no one knows we’re here. So, if I market it really, really well, then, hopefully, people will come flooding in.

Sophie: We just want this to be the ultimate romantic destination. This was once supposed to be the site of Aphrodite’s fountain, you know, the goddess of love. And if you drank the water, you were supposed to find true love and perfect happiness.

Tanya: I’ll have a glass of that.

Rosie: Yeah, I’ll have a bucket.

Tanya: Aphrodite’s spa?

¹ Chip off the old block = like her mother (made from the same material as her mother).
Donna, Rosie and Tanya go into the house.

**Rosie:** Well, I thought you didn’t want boatloads of tourists.

**Donna:** Oh, no, not boatloads, no. But, you know, a few more would be nice. Okay, now, the thing about the toilet, if it doesn’t flush right away, just go and come back in a while, and it should ... Nothing works around here, except for me. I’ve been running this hotel for 15 years, and I have never had a day off. *(She opens a shutter and it falls off.)* Oh, my God! Sorry.

I work all night, I work all day
To pay the bills I have to pay

**All:** Ain’t it sad?

**Donna:** And still there never seems to be
A single penny left for me
*(Don’t sit down there.)*

**All:** That’s too bad

**Donna:** *(It’s broken.)*
In my dreams I have a plan
If I got me a wealthy man
I wouldn’t have to work at all
I’d fool around and have a ball
Money, money, money
Must be funny
In a rich man’s world
Money, money, money
Always sunny
In a rich man’s world
All the things I could do
If I had a little money –

**All:** It’s a rich man’s world.

**Donna:** It’s a rich man’s world.

**Tanya:** A man like that is hard to find

**Donna:** But I can’t get him off my mind

**All:** Ain’t it sad?

**Donna:** And if he happens to be free
I bet he wouldn’t fancy me

All: That’s too bad

Donna: So I must leave, I have to go
To Las Vegas or Monaco
And win a fortune in a game
My life will never be the same
Money, money, money
Must be funny
In a rich man’s world
Money, money, money
Always sunny
In a rich man’s world
All the things I could do
If I had a little money
It’s a rich man’s world

All: Money, money, money, etc.

There is a small earthquake and a crack appears in the patio.

Tanya: What’s going on?

Donna: Do you feel it? The earth moved, darling. We’re falling apart here. Don’t think about it, come on. Let’s go have fun.

We see Bill, Sam and Harry arriving on the island, then return to Donna, Rosie and Tanya in the villa.

Rosie: Tanya’s packed for a world tour.¹ Oh, Donna. Donna! (Holding up Tanya’s G-string.) Does she wear it or floss with it?

Tanya: Floss you.²

Donna: Is it edible, Tanya?

Rosie: Oh, listen to this. “The world’s most luxurious moisturizer. Contains flakes of 24-carat gold and extracts of donkey testicle.”

Tanya: You’re just jealous.

Rosie: At a thousand dollars a dollop!

¹ A world tour = the sort of tour of many countries that successful pop groups do. Rosie’s point is that Tanya has brought a lot of stuff.
² A joke, meaning something like “fuck you!”
Tanya: Tell you, that’s the price you have to pay if you wanna drink before eleven o’clock in the morning.

Donna: And we do!

*Sophie sees Bill, Sam and Harry outside the villa.*

Sophie: Hi. May I help you?

Bill: Sure, we’re here for the wedding. I’m Bill Anderson.

Sophie: Huh?

Harry: I’m Bright, Harry Bright.

Sam: Sam Carmichael. You are expecting us?

Sophie: Oh, my God. Yes!

Sam: You’re not Donna’s daughter?

*Sophie indicates that she is.*

Bill: I thought you looked familiar. Er, Sofia?

Sophie: It’s Sophie.

Bill: Well, Sofia is the Greek.

Sophie: Well, I’m named after a Sofia.

Bill: I used to have a great-aunt living on the mainland named Sofia.

Harry: Would you mind if we see our rooms before we see your mother?

Sophie: Sure.

Harry: It’s just that I’d quite like to freshen up before the big reunion.

Sophie: No! No! I mean, yes … but come this way. (She leads them through the cellars.) Come on!

*Meanwhile Donna, Rosie and Tanya are drinking together.*

Donna: Oh, my God! I gotta a crack in my courtyard. I gotta go fix it.
Tanya:   Hey, listen, Donna? Donna.

Rosie:   Sit down!

Tanya:   I know ... I know you’re going to make a fortune with web’s – “with web’s!” – with Sky’s site. I know you’re gonna make a fortune with Sky’s website, but … are you gonna be okay until then?

Rosie:   I think Tanya is offering to pawn her bling.¹

Tanya:   No, seriously, Donna ...

Donna:   Oh, my God!

Tanya:   Do you need a loan?

Donna:   No, sweet. Oh, God, I’m just whining, you know me. I don’t need to be taken care of.

Tanya:   Yeah, but are you being taken care of?

Donna:   What do you mean?

Tanya:   Are you getting any?²

Donna:   Oh, you mean … (She turns the drill on.) Down boy, down boy! No, it takes too much energy.

Rosie:   Yeah. Just more plumbing to be maintained, isn’t it?

Donna:   Yeah. Oh, God, I’m so glad that whole part of my life is over. You know, seriously. I do not miss it at all.

Sophie shows Bill, Sam and Harry into one of the outbuildings.

Sophie:   Then it’s just right here. Good.

Sam:   Where’s Donna? Hey! Okay.

Sophie:   Up you go.

They climb up to the upper floor.

¹ Pawn her bling = raise money by pawning her jewellery.
² Getting any = getting any sex.
Harry: Hmm. You know, I don’t want to seem ungrateful for the scenic tour, but might I be shown my room now?

Bill: Well, don’t hold your breath,¹ Harry, but I think this is your room.

Sam: Can we see Donna now?

Sophie: I sent the invites. My mom doesn’t know anything. (They groan.) Well, she’s done so much for me, and she’s always talking about you guys and the good old days, and I thought, what an amazing surprise for her that you are all gonna be at my wedding.

Sam: Hang on, Sophie. I can’t be here. The last time I saw your mother, she said she never wanted to see me again.

Sophie: But that was years ago! Please, it would mean a lot to me.

Sam: Why?

Harry: Listen, I can see that you’ve been to a great deal of trouble. But might I suggest (To Bill.) that we all reconvene on your boat?

Sam: Good idea.

Bill: No.

Harry: Why?

Bill: It’s an adventure, Harry. It’s good for you.

Sophie: Okay, when I sent the invites, it was a long shot² that you’d even reply. And now you’ve come all this way for a wedding. Surely there must have been some special reason for you to be here. Like a siren call, maybe?

Sam: You are a little minx,³ you know that? You’re just like your mother. I’m glad my boys haven’t met you. They’d never recover.

Sophie: You have sons?

Sam: Yes, two. And someday, I’d like to bring them here.

Sophie: Like you used to bring my mother?

---

¹ Don’t hold your breath = don’t stop breathing until you’re shown another room. This is a common idiom meaning “don’t expect anything to happen soon.”

² A long shot = unlikely.

³ Minx = confident, charming, seductive young woman.
They all hear Donna humming as she enters the building. The three men get up.

Sophie: No.

Bill: It’s Donna.

Sophie: No, no, no, no, no, no, no. Listen, listen, she can’t know. I’m going to go. Please stay. Promise me that you’ll not tell anybody that I invited you. Okay? Promise?

Bill: You got it, baby.

Sam: It’s a promise.

Harry: I might regret it, but okay.

Sophie: Okay.

Harry: There wouldn’t, by any chance, happen to be a trouser press on the island, would there?

Sophie climbs out through a window. Donna hears a noise upstairs and looks up through the trap door.

Donna: Harry? Bill? Ah!

I was cheated by you
And I think you know when
So I made up my mind
It must come to an end
Look at me now
Will I ever learn?
I don’t know how
But I suddenly lose control
There’s a fire within my soul
Just one look and I can hear a bell ring
One more look and I forget everything
Mamma mia, here I go again
My, my, how can I resist you?
Mamma mia, does it show again?
My, my, just how much I’ve missed you
Yes, I’ve been broken-hearted
Blue since the day we parted

---

1 I can hear a bell ring = my memories come back.
2 I forget everything = I forget all my resolutions (to get over you).
Why, why did I ever let you go?
Mamma mia, now I really know
My, my, I should not have let you go
I was angry and sad
When I knew we were through
I can’t count all the times
I have cried over you
Look at me now
Will I ever learn?
I don’t know how
But I suddenly lose control
There’s a fire within my soul
Just one look and I can hear a bell ring
One more look and I forget everything.

Chorus: Mamma mia, here I go again, etc.

Donna: Yes, I’ve been broken-hearted, etc.

Donna falls down in the room where the three men are.

Sam: You always knew how to make an entrance.

Donna: I’d better be dreaming. You’d better not be here.

Bill: You want me to pinch you,¹ Donna?

Donna: No! You keep your hands to yourself, Bill Anderson.

Harry: You probably don’t recognize me, do you?

Donna: Harry! It is you!

Harry: I’ve probably changed a bit, but you certainly haven’t. (Sam expresses agreement.)

Donna: Why are you here? What are you doing here?

Bill: I’m writing a travel piece.

Harry: I’m … I’m here on a spontaneous holiday.

Donna: Uh-huh.

Donna: I just dropped in to say hi.

¹ To pinch you. A standard way of confirming that someone is awake.
Donna: Okay. What is this?

Bill: It’s one of those serendipitous moments in life when three complete strangers share a common thought.

Donna: Strangers? You don’t know each other?

Sam: That’s generally the definition.

Donna: Okay, good, but who ... Why are you here? Who said that you could stay up in my old goat-house?

Harry: Didn’t catch the name.

Sam: Greek lady.

Harry: Well, she spoke Greek.

Sam: Yeah.

Bill: Or maybe she said we couldn’t stay in the old goat-house.

Harry: Yeah, maybe that was it, in Greek.

Donna: Yeah, that’s it, that’s it. You can’t stay here because I’m closed and I’m full. And I’m busy, I’m really ... I have a wedding, my ... Local girl’s getting married...

Sam: Donna. Donna, don’t worry about us. Bill here is used to roughing it. And ...

Bill: Harry here...

Harry: I’m spontaneous.

Bill: Spontaneous.

Donna: (To Sam.) What about you?

Sam: Just wanted to see the island. You know what it meant to me.

Donna: Okay, I’m gonna arrange for a boat to take you all back to the mainland.

Bill: I have a boat, Donna.
Donna: You have a boat? Good, get on it, and anchors away.  

Sam: Hey, Donna –

Sam, Bill, Harry: It’s good to see you.

*Rosie and Tanya are being served a drink at the bar.*

Barman: *(To Tanya.)* Now, baby, this should tickle your taste buds.

Tanya: Down, big fella. I’m old enough to be your mother.

Rosie: Grandmother.

Donna: Where’s Sophie?

Barman: I think she went down to the beach.

*Donna is obviously upset.*

Rosie: What’s up? Donna? Donna!

*Donna has shut herself in the toilet. Rosie knocks on the door.*

Tanya: *(Whispering.)* Talk to her.

Rosie: Chiquitita,³ tell me what’s wrong

Tanya: Oh, me. *(Singing.)* Oh, yes. I have never seen such sorrow

Both: In your eyes

And the wedding is tomorrow!

How I hate to see you like this

There is no way you can deny it

I can see

That you’re oh, so sad

So quiet

Chiquitita, tell me the truth

I’m a shoulder you can cry on

Your best friend

I’m the one you must rely on

---

¹ Anchors away = raise your anchors.

² Tickle your taste buds = excite your sense of taste. It’s a rather flirtatious thing to say.

³ Chiquitita = “little one” in Spanish. Björn Ulvaeus of Abba has explained that “It’s something you would say to a female friend, especially when you want to comfort her.”
You were always sure of yourself
Now I see you’ve broken a feather
I hope we can patch it up
Together
Chiquitita, you and I know
How the heartaches come and they go
And the scars they’re leaving
You’ll be dancing once again
And the pain will end
You will have no time for grieving
Chiquitita, you and I cry
But the sun is still in the sky
And shining above you
Let me hear you sing once more
Like you did before
Sing a new song, Chiquitita.

Donna: Try once more
Like I did before
Sing a new song.
(Speaking.) It’s her dad.

Tanya: Whose dad?

Donna: Sophie’s dad. Remember how I said it was Sam? Sam the architect, who had to go home to get married? I’m not sure that it was him, because there were two other … two other guys around the same time.

Tanya: Donna Sheridan. You shady lady.¹

Rosie: Why didn’t you tell us?

Donna: Well, I never knew that I would ever, ever have to. I never imagined I’d see all three of them in my old goat-house the day before my daughter’s wedding!

Rosie and Tanya: The old goat-house?

Rosie and Tanya run off to find the old goat-house.

Donna: No! No! Wait! Shoot! Rosie! Tanya! Wait a minute! Don’t let them hear you!

Rosie: There’s no one here.

¹ Shady lady = lady with dark secrets.
Tanya: (To Donna.) Are you sure?

Donna: Of course I’m sure! Do you think I would forget my daughter’s dads? They were all here. Sam Carmichael, Bill Anderson and Harry “Head Banger.”

Rosie: Not Harry “Head Banger”!

Donna: They must’ve gone back to their boat. I hope they run aground and drown. What are they doing here? It’s like some hideous trick of fate.

The local people all burst out laughing.

Rosie: (To Tanya.) It’s very Greek.

Donna, Rosie and Tanya enter the house.

Rosie: (To Donna.) Do they know about Sophie?

Donna: What, are they psychic? No! I’ve never told a soul.

Tanya: Oh, Donna, keeping it to yourself all these years.

Donna: It doesn’t matter … it doesn’t matter about me. The only thing that matters is that Sophie never finds out.

Tanya: Well, maybe she would be cool with it.

Donna: “Cool with it”? You don’t know my daughter. This would be like a bombshell.

Rosie: Donna, they’ve gone!

Donna: I don’t know that. I don’t know where they are. I don’t know why they’re here. And I have brought this all on myself because I was a stupid, reckless little slut!

Tanya: Whoa! Don’t you sound like your mother?

Donna: I do not!

---

1 Head Banger. Headbanging was a simple, violent kind of dancing done by heavy metal fans and punk rockers which involved swinging the head up and down.
2 Psychic = able to read people’s minds.
3 A soul = anyone.
4 A bombshell = a huge shock.
5 Slut = sexually promiscuous girl or woman.
Tanya and Rosie: Yes, you do!

Donna: Oh, my God, I do not.

Rosie: You do, it’s Catholic guilt! You’ve been living like a nun.

Tanya: Yeah, whatever happened to our Donna? Life and soul of the party, el rock chick supremo?

Donna: I grew up.

Tanya: Well, then, grow back down again.

Rosie and Tanya: Screw ’em if they can’t take a joke.

You can dance, you can jive, having the time of your life!
See that girl, watch that scene, diggin’ the dancing queen!

Friday night and the lights are low,
Looking out for a place to go
Where they play the right music, getting in the swing.
You come to look for a king.
Anybody could be that guy,
Night is young and the music’s high,
With a bit of rock music, everything is fine.
You’re in the mood for a dance,
And when you get the chance …

You are the dancing queen, young and sweet, only seventeen!
Dancing queen, feel the beat from the tambourine! Oh yeah!
You can dance, you can jive, having the time of your life!
See that girl, watch that scene, diggin’ the dancing queen!

You’re a teaser, you turn ’em on
Leave them burning, and then you’re gone
Looking out for another, anyone will do.
You’re in the mood for a dance,
And when you get the chance …

---

1 Catholic guilt = the sort of guilt encouraged by the Catholic religion. The suggestion seems to be that Donna’s mother was a Catholic.
2 Life and soul of the party = the central person in any party, the sort of person who makes a party go well.
3 El rock chick supremo = the supreme rock chick (female). Tanya says this in a Spanish-sounding way.
4 Screw ‘em = ignore them, don’t worry about them.
5 Diggin’ = digging = appreciating / enjoying.
6 Swing = rhythm.
7 Turn ’em on = excite them (sexually / physically).
You are the dancing queen, etc.

Bill, Sam and Harry are back on the boat, ready to sail round the island. Sophie, Ali and Lisa run down the jetty shouting "wait!,” “don’t leave,” etc. Sophie jumps into the water and swims to the boat.

Ali: Whoa, Sophie.

Lisa: Sophie!

Both: Sophie!

Bill: We’re gonna sail around the island. You wanna come?

Sophie: You promised you’d come to my wedding.

Sam: Er yes, well, your mother ejected us from the goat-house.

Harry: We thought we’d better get out of her hair.¹

Bill: Donna freaked out² when she saw us. What’s all that about?

Sophie: No. She’s just not even thinking straight. She’s so stressed about the wedding. You know, but she’s got no idea that you’re her lovely surprise. She’ll be so happy tomorrow.

Bill: You think so?

Sophie: (To Harry.) You took Mom’s guitar!


Bill and Sam: Head Banger?

Harry: I bought her this. It cost me ten quid³ plus my Johnny Rotten⁴ T-shirt. Your mother knew quite a rebel. I was studying in Paris when I met her. I hopped on a train, followed her to Greece, quite spontaneously.

I can still recall
Our last summer

¹ Get out of her hair = get away from her; put some distance between her and us.
² Freaked out = over-reacted; became emotional / angry.
³ Quid = pounds.
⁴ Johnny Rotten = the lead singer of The Sex Pistols, the legendary punk rock band.
I still see it all
Walks along the Seine
Laughing in the rain
Our last summer
Memories that remain
We made our way along the river
And we sat down in the grass
By the Eiffel Tower.

Sam: I was so happy we had met
It was the age of no regret.

All: Oh, yes!

Bill: Those crazy years, that was the time
Of the flower power.¹

Sam: But underneath we had a fear of flying –²

Harry: Of growing old –

Bill: A fear of slowly dying.

Sam: We took a chance
Like we were dancing our last dance.

All: I can still recall
Our last summer
I still see it all
In the tourist jam
Round the Notre Dame
Our last summer
Walking hand in hand.
Paris restaurants
Our last summer
Morning croissants
Living for the day
Worries far away
Our last summer
We could laugh and play.

Sophie: (To Harry.) And now you’re working in a bank
A family man, a football fan
And your name is Harry.

¹ The flower power = the peaceful, hippy philosophy.
² Fear of flying = fear of letting go, giving up everything to follow a dream.
Harry: How dull it seems!

Sophie: Are you the hero of my dreams?

Sky is looking for Sophie on the mainland.

Sky: Sophie! Sophie!

Sophie: Please, I have to go, but please come tomorrow, okay?

Harry: Absolutely.

Bill: We’ll be there.

Sam: It’s a promise.

All: Walks along the Seine
     Laughing in the rain
     Our last summer
     Memories that remain.

Sophie: Sky!

Sky: Where have you been? People have been arriving all afternoon. No one’s seen you.

Sophie: I’m sorry, I was around the island, I just ... I just lost track of time. Where’re you going?

Sky: It’s my stag do.¹ My last night of freedom –

Sophie: Huh?

Sky: – which is how some people might see it, but for me, it’s the last night before the greatest adventure of my life.

Sophie: You know how I said I wanted to find my father?

Sky: Soph, we’ve been over this a million times. You don’t need a father, you have a family.

Sophie: And you’ll never leave me, right?

Sky: Are you kidding? You have turned my world upside down.

¹ Do = party, celebration.
I wasn’t jealous before we met
Now every man that I see is a potential threat
And I’m possessive, it isn’t nice
You’ve heard me saying that smoking was my only vice
But now it isn’t true
Now everything is new
And all I’ve learned has overturned
I beg of you –

Sophie: Don’t go wasting your emotion
Lay all your love on me

It was like shooting a sitting duck
A little small talk, a smile and, baby, I was stuck
I still don’t know what you’ve done with me
A grown-up woman should never fall so easily
I feel a kind of fear
When I don’t have you near
Unsatisfied, I skip my pride
I beg you, dear –

Sky: Don’t go wasting your emotion
Lay all your love on me.

Sky’s friends: Don’t go sharing your devotion
Lay all your love on me
Don’t go wasting your emotion
Lay all your love on me.

Girls: Don’t go sharing your devotion
Lay all your love on me.

*It is now the evening, and all Sophie’s friends are having a party. Tanya’s voice is heard, amplified, from inside the house.*

Tanya: Ladies and no gentlemen, presenting, for one night and one night only...

Rosie: Because that’s all we’ve got breath for.

Tanya: (Speak for yourself, you old bat!) The world’s first girl power band, Donna and the Dynamos.

---

1 And all I’ve learned has overturned = all my ideas have been transformed.

2 It was like shooting a sitting duck = it was easy.

3 I skip my pride = I am no longer proud.
Donna, Rosie, Tanya: Super Trouper\(^2\)
Lights are gonna find me
But I won’t feel blue
Like I always do
’Cause somewhere in the crowd, there’s you

I was sick and tired of everything
When I called you last night from Glasgow
All I do is eat and sleep and sing
Wishing every show was the last show,
Wishing every show was the last show.

So imagine I was glad to hear you’re coming
Suddenly I feel all right
And suddenly it’s gonna be
And it’s gonna be so different when I’m on the stage tonight
Tonight the Super Trouper
Lights are gonna find me.

Sam, Bill and Harry are approaching.

Sam: Our song.

Harry: Your song?

Bill: It’s my song.

Donna, Rosie, Tanya: Smiling, having fun
Feeling like a number one
Tonight the Super Trouper
Beams are gonna blind me
But I won’t feel blue
Like I always do
’Cause somewhere in the crowd, there’s you.

So I’ll be there when you arrive
The sight of you will prove to me I’m still alive
And when you take me in your arms
And hold me tight
I know it’s gonna mean so much tonight

---

1 Girl power. There was much talk of “girl power” in the 1990s, especially because of the great success of The Spice Girls.
2 Super Trouper. *Super Trouper* was the name of the Abba album on which this song first appeared. “Super troupers” were the large coloured spotlights Abba used in their stage shows. This song is about “the stresses and strains of touring [as a band].”
Tonight the Super Trouper
Lights are gonna find me
Shining like the sun
Smiling, having fun
Feeling like a number one
Tonight the Super Trouper
Beams are gonna blind me
But I won’t feel blue
Like I always do
’Cause somewhere in the crowd, there’s you
Super Trouper lights
Are gonna find me.

Sophie: (To Donna.) I can’t believe you!

Rosie: (To the three men.) Excuse me! Hello. This is a hen party. Women only!
Thank you.

Sam: Okay.

Donna, Rosie and Tanya are heading back into the house.

Donna: Why are they here, then, if it’s not to ruin Sophie’s wedding?

Tanya: But I thought you weren’t so keen on this wedding.

Donna: I don’t want them spoiling it. They have no right to turn up like this. What have they ever done for their daughter, huh?

Rosie: Donna, Donna, they didn’t know she exists.

Donna: Well, they didn’t need to know, did they? I’ve done a great job with Soph, all by myself, and I won’t be muscled out\(^1\) by an ejaculation!

Sophie’s friends are still partying and they seize Bill and Harry.

Girls: Is there a man out there?
Someone to hear my prayer?
Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!
A man after midnight
Won’t somebody help me
Chase the shadows away
Gimme! Gimme! Gimme! etc.

Sophie finds Sam alone.

\(^1\)Muscled out = displaced, pushed to the side.
Sophie: Hi.

Sam: Hi. I think I should explain to Donna that I come in peace.

Sophie: Oh, no, really. You should wait … you should wait until she has a few drinks in her first. Really.

Sam: Good idea. Good idea. What you drew on the boat … This is good. This is really good. Why don’t you pursue this? You have a real talent here.

Sophie: *(Sighing.)* I have enough to do here.

Sam: Is that really your dream? Running the villa with Donna?

Sophie: She just can’t do it by herself.

Sam: Do you know, I drew this whole place up¹ on the back of a menu one night. I always dreamt I’d come back here.

Sophie: What kept you?

Sam: What’s your mother said about me?

Sophie: She never mentioned you.

Sam: Sophie? What am I doing here?

Donna, Rosie and Tanya are back in the house.

Donna: Some air in here. Somebody up there² has got it in for me. I bet it’s my mother.

Tanya: Oh, and wasn’t she a ray of sunshine.³

Donna: I’m gonna go get them out of here.

Rosie and Donna both show that they think this is a bad idea.

Tanya: You go in there guns loaded,⁴ there’s gonna be questions. Help me out of these boots.

---

¹ Drew this whole place up = designed this whole place.
² Up there = up in heaven.
³ Wasn’t she a ray of sunshine = wasn’t she a happy sort of person (who brought happiness to others).
⁴ Guns loaded = aggressively, on the attack.
Rosie: Come on, then.

Tanya: All that fricking yoga’s made my feet bigger.

Rosie: Now, listen, listen. What we’re gonna do is, we’ll get them plastered tonight, and then tomorrow, Tanya and I will take them fishing.

Tanya: Fishing? Oh, please.

Rosie: What do you suggest we do with three men?

Tanya: Well, then, now, that takes me back. ³

Sophie’s friends are still partying. Harry escapes from them and meets Sophie.

Girls: Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!
A man after midnight
Take me through the darkness
To the break of the day.

Harry: Hello.

Sophie: You okay?

Harry: I’m fine. Fancy Donna having a grown-up daughter!

Sophie: Do you have any children, Harry?

Harry: Well, I have the dogs, Lucy and Kipper. That’s the extent of my relationships. I’d have loved a daughter. I’d have spoiled her rotten. Is your father here?

Sophie: I don’t know. I don’t know who my father is.

Sophie’s friends pull her away to where Bill is dancing.

Girls: Is there a man out there?
Someone to hear my prayer?

Bill: This is fantastic! How on earth did Donna get money to buy this place?

Sophie: She was left some money by the old lady she looked after when I was little. Sofia, that I’m named after.

¹ Fricking = a politer version of “fucking.”
² Plastered = drunk.
³ Takes me back = reminds me of old times.
Bill: My great-aunt Sofia?

Sophie: I guess.

Bill: I always heard her money was left to family. How old are you?

Sophie: I’m 20.

Bill: Will you excuse me a minute? I’m sorry.

Sophie: Bill! Bill, wait. Why did your great-aunt leave my mother money?

Bill: I don’t know!

Sophie: All my life, there’s been this huge unanswered question, and I don’t want any more secrecy!

Bill: What do you want from me?

Sophie: Bill, please! Are you my father?

Bill: Yes. I think so. Yes.

Sophie: You know what comes next?

Bill: Oh, you’re not going to tell me that you have a twin sister, are you?

Sophie: Will you give me away tomorrow?

Bill: Give you away?

Sophie: No! Our secret until the wedding.

Bill: Cute. Oh, God.

Sophie: Okay.

*Back at the party, the boys are joining the girls.*

All: People everywhere  
A sense of expectation hanging in the air  
Giving out a spark  
Across the room your eyes are glowing in the dark  
And here we go again  
We know the start, we know the end
Masters of the scene
We’ve done it all before
And now we’re back to get some more
You know what I mean
Voulez-vous\(^1\)
Take it now or leave it
Now is all we get
Nothing promised, no regrets
Voulez-vous
Ain’t no big decision
You know what to do
La question c’est voulez-vous
Voulez-vous.

**Sophie:** (To Sky.) Go dance with Mom!

_Sophie is going to join Bill, but Sam pulls her aside._

**Sam:** Sophie, come here. I know why I’m here. Why didn’t Donna tell me? How long have you known I’m your father?

**Sophie:** What? Not long at all. Sam, listen to me. My mom doesn’t know that I know. So can we wait until after my wedding?

**Sam:** Who’s giving you away tomorrow?

**Sophie:** Nobody.

**Sam:** Wrong. I am. Our secret till then.

**All:** Voulez-vous
Take it now or leave it
Now is all we get.

**Sky:** (To Sophie.) Are you okay?

**Sophie:** I can’t breathe.

**All:** Voulez-vous
Ain’t no big decision
You know what to do
La question c’est voulez-vous
Voulez-vous.

_Harry bumps into Sophie._

---

\(^1\) _Voulez-vous = “do you want?” in French._
Harry: Oh, my God! I’m your father!

Sophie: Harry!

Harry: Now, that’s why you sent me the invite. You wanted your old dad to walk you down the aisle. Well, I won’t let you down. I’ll be there.

All: Voulez-vous
Take it now or leave it, etc.

As the dance continues, Sophie hears the various words spoken to her by Bill, Sam and Harry in her mind. She faints. Everyone rushes towards her with cries of “Sophie,” “Give her some space,” etc.¹

The next morning, Donna, Rosie and Tanya are waking up in the villa.

Rosie: (To Tanya.) Come on, Mother, rise and shine.

Donna: I was tossing and turning all night. Those three guys are still loose on this island. We got to do something.

Rosie: Donna! Donna! Donna! Donna. It’s all under control.

In another room, Sophie, Ali and Lisa are waking up.

Sophie: I have been tossing and turning all night. I’ve got three dads coming to my wedding, and I have to tell two of them they’re surplus. Only, which two?

Ali: It’s all under control.

Rosie: I’m taking Bill and Sam fishing...

Ali: We’re each gonna go off. We’re gonna grab a man, interrogate him, swap notes and decide.

Rosie: And Harry’s talked Tanya into water sports. (Tanya moans.) Oh, God. Nurse, donkey testicles, quickly!

Rosie prepares to sail out to Bill’s boat. Bill encounters Harry on the boat.

Bill: You …

Harry: No, after you.

¹ In the theatre, this is where the interval comes.
Bill: No. No.

Harry: Go ahead, please.

Bill: No, no, no, no, you first.

Harry: I want to get something off my chest.¹

Bill: Me too.

Harry: Last night, I discovered something wonderful. It was a wake-up call,² a way to look at myself and what I really want out of life.

Bill: Last night? You didn’t know? You didn’t even suspect that you were...

Harry: Well, no. Of course not. That’s always been a secret.

Bill: Oh. And now we ... say it out loud?

Harry: No! No! No! It’s absolutely hush-hush.³ I mean, for now. All will be revealed tonight.

Rosie is now on the boat and listening to the conversation.

Bill: Talking of revelations, last night ...

Harry: You and the little lady? I think I know what’s going on.

Bill: No, you don’t. You don’t.

Harry: It’s obvious. I saw it from the moment you clapped eyes on⁴ each other.

Bill: You’re kidding! I’m gonna level with you,⁵ Harry. I don’t think I can do this. Well, she’s a wonderful girl, but can I take her on in my life?

Harry: Bill, where’s your spontaneity?

Bill: It’s this ... this family, you know?

Harry: You don’t have to marry her!

¹ Get something off my chest = reveal something that’s troubling me.
² A wake-up call = a realization that there was something wrong or missing in my life.
³ Hush-hush = secret.
⁴ Clapped eyes on = saw.
⁵ Level with you = be frank with you.
Bill: What?!
Rosie: Coo-ee!
Bill: Hey! Right in time for breakfast. We’re serving up the works¹ here.
Rosie: Oh, think you just did.
Bill: Sunny-side up² Lox³ or ham?
Rosie: I’ll just er, er … I’m just gonna ...

Back at the villa, Donna is cleaning up after the party. Sophie walks past.

Donna: What a mess. (To Sophie.) Hey!
Sophie: What?
Donna: You okay?
Sophie: Yeah. I’m fine. I’m fine.
Donna: Woa, Sophie.
Sophie: What?
Donna: Last night, you and Sky ... What’s wrong? Tell me. Tell me what’s wrong.
Sophie: I don’t know what to do.
Donna: You know what to do. You don’t have to do anything. It’s not too late, I can still call off the wedding. Everybody will understand.

Sophie: Call... Call off the wedding?
Donna: Isn’t that what you want?
Sophie: No. No. No, that’s what you want.
Donna: No!

Sophie: Yes! God!

¹ The works = everything, a lot.
² Sunny-side up = a way of cooking eggs, frying them on just one side.
³ Lox = salmon.
Donna: Sophie!

Sophie: You just ... You have no idea. You never had a wedding. You never did the marriage-and-babies thing. You just did the baby thing. Well, good for you.

Donna: You know, I don’t know why you’re going off on me\(^1\) now! I really don’t!

Sophie: Because I ... God! I love Sky, and I want to be with him!

Donna: Good! Great.

Sophie: And I don’t want my children growing up not knowing who their father is. Because it’s just ... It’s crap!

*Sophie goes into the house. Sky and some of his friends arrive drunkenly singing “Voulez-vous” and playing the bagpipes.*

Donna: Okay, okay, Sophie’s gonna have an absolutely beautiful wedding, right? You’re supposed to be helping me. You guys ... He’s got to get ready.

*Donna puts the bagpipes in the house and, on the way out, meets Sam.*

Sam: I see you kept my bagpipes.

Donna: They’re supposed to ward off\(^2\) unwanted visitors.

Sam: Well, you don’t need bagpipes to do that.

Donna: What are you doing here, Sam?

Sam: This is our dream, remember? Villa on the island?

Donna: Yeah. Well, this is my reality. Hard work and a crippling mortgage. Shoot! And a hotel that’s crumbling around me.

Sam: Look, I’ll help ... Let me have a look at this...

Donna: No, that’s all right, I can deal with my own disasters.

Sam: Why didn’t you tell me it was Sophie getting married?

Donna: Well, I didn’t think it was any of your business.

---

\(^1\) Going off on me = exploding at me.

\(^2\) Ward off = keep away.
Sam: Why is she getting married? Settling down on the island? I mean, if it was up to me, I’d be telling her to go get a life.¹

Donna: Yeah.

Sam: She’s a bright kid.

Donna: I know. I know. But, you know, my daughter has a mind of her own.

Sam: Oh, yeah. I see that. I see that. But she’s so young.

Donna: I know.

Sam: I mean, does she know what she really wants? You see, I think part of her just wants to let you know that she isn’t going to leave you alone here on your own.

Donna: What do you mean?

Sam: Donna, look. I have two grown children. I know something about letting go. If Sophie felt you were okay on your own, would she want something different for herself?

Donna: Okay, here’s the thing. I love being on my own. I really do. You know, every morning, I get up and I thank God that I don’t have some middle-aged, menopausal man telling me how to run my life. You know, I’m free and I’m single. And it’s … it’s great.

Sam: Where are those happy days?
They seem so hard to find
I try to reach for you
But you have closed your mind
What ever happened to our love?
I wish I understood
It used to be so nice
It used to be so good
So when you’re near me, darling
Can’t you hear me? SOS
The love you gave me
Nothing else can save me SOS
When you’re gone
How can I even try to go on?
When you’re gone, though I try
How can I carry on?

¹ Go get a life = realise her full potential (elsewhere).
Donna: You seem so far away though you are standing near
You made me feel alive but something died, I fear
I really tried to make it out
I wish I understood
What happened to our love?
It used to be so good
So when you’re near me, darling
Can’t you hear me? SOS
And the love you gave me
Nothing else can save me SOS.

Both: When you’re gone, etc.

Donna goes to see Sophie, but decides not to disturb her, as Sophie is with her friends. Meanwhile Harry and Tanya are out on a pedal boat.

Harry: Donna must be tearing her hair out, doing this wedding on her own. What would the father of the bride normally do?

Tanya: Pay. Though my dad drew the line at my third.

Harry: I see. Excuse me.

He jumps into the water.

Tanya: Harry? Harry!

The barman from the day before climbs onto the boat.

Barman: Tanya! Let’s pick up where we left off last night.

Tanya: Last night never happened. I’ve drawn a veil over last night. Oh, my God. Look at the time. I’ve got work to do.

Barman: Work?

Tanya: A little repair and renovation.

Barman: Come on. You don’t mess with a masterpiece.

Ali: Oh, ignore him, Tanya, he’s all mouth and no trousers.

Barman: Tanya can’t ignore the chemistry between us.

---

1 Tearing her hair out = really stressed.
2 Drew the line = stopped.
3 Don’t mess with a masterpiece = don’t change something that’s already wonderful.
Tanya: Little boys who play with fire get their fingers burned.

You’re so hot, teasing me
So you’re blue
Well, I can’t take a chance on a kid like you
It’s something I couldn’t do
There’s that look in your eyes
I can read in your face that your feelings are driving you wild
Oh, but, boy, you’re only a child
Well, I can dance with you, honey
If you think it’s funny
But does your mother know that you’re out?
And I can chat with you, baby
Flirt a little, maybe
Does your mother know that you’re out?

Barman: Take it easy!

All: Take it easy. Better slow down, boy
That’s no way to go
Does your mother know?

Barman: Take it easy

All: Take it easy. Try to cool it, boy
Play it nice and slow
Does your mother know?

Tanya: Come on, boys.

I can see what you want
But you seem pretty young
To be searching for that kind of fun
So maybe I’m not the one
Now you’re so cute I like your style
And I know what you mean
When you give me a flash of that smile
But, boy, you’re only a child
Well, I can dance with you, honey, etc.

All the boys fall down. Tanya leads the girls away.

Girl: Boy down! Boy down!

Tanya: Yo, girls. We done good.
Donna is setting out the tables for the wedding reception.

Donna: Yes, any colour. Doesn’t matter. There’s no plan, God knows there’s no plan. It looks great, though.

Carlos: Ella, Donna, where would you like this?

Donna: Carlos, get the meat out of the heat. Put a cover on that thing. That’s beautiful. And tell.. Ione, help him get the ... (Harry arrives.) Harry, what are you doing here?

Harry: Hello. I just wanted to give you this.

Donna: I don’t mean here, here. I mean, why are you on this island?

Harry: I realized –

Donna: What is this?

Harry: Now, I realised you’ll have had to tighten your belt¹ a bit over the years, bringing up Sophie on your own, and I just wanted to make a small contribution to the wedding.

Donna: I can’t accept this. I can’t ...

Harry: No. No.

Donna: Harry, I can’t.

Harry: No. No.

Donna: Harry!

Harry: No, you’ll have to catch me first. (He runs off.)

Sky and his friends are decorating some boats. Sophie comes to see him.

Sophie: Sky!

Sky: What’s the matter?

Sophie: You have to help me.


¹ Tighten your belt = economize.
Sophie: I’ve done something completely insane. All my dads are here for our wedding, and they all think they’re giving me away.

Sky: All your what?

Sophie: I read Mom’s diary, and I have three possible fathers.

Sky: But how are they here now?

Sophie: I invited them. I thought that I would know my dad right away, but I didn’t. I just ... I have no idea. And now, my mom is gonna kill me, and you ...

Sky: Hold on. Hold on. You invited these guys and you didn’t tell me?

Sophie: No, I thought you would try to stop me. I know I messed up.

Sky: Sophie? Is that what this whole big white wedding is about? You finding your Dad?

Sophie: No. No!

Sky: I wanted to take a boat to the mainland with a couple of witnesses. And you insisted on this sodding circus so you could play Happy Families.

Sophie: It’s about knowing who I am. And I wanted to get married knowing who I am.

Sky: That doesn’t come from finding your father, that comes from finding yourself. And the irony is, I was travelling to find myself. I put everything on hold for you. Because I loved you and I wanted what you wanted. Now, I don’t know.

Sophie: You don’t know if you love me?

Sky: Of course I love you. I just wish you’d told me.

*Sam arrives as Sky leaves.*

Sam: Is everything okay? Sophie, what’s wrong?

Sophie: Not now, Sam.

Sam: Yes, yes, yes, now. Because I’m supposed to be giving you away. And how can I when I know you’re not really gonna be happy?
Sophie: I’ve heard all this from my mother, and I think she knows me better than you do.

Sam: I know. But I’ve done the big white wedding, and believe me, it doesn’t always end in “happy ever after.”

Sophie: That is you. That’s not me. Okay? I love Sky more than anything in the world. And I … Did you feel that way before you got married?

Sam: No.

Sophie goes back to the villa to find Donna.

Donna: Hey, aren’t you supposed to be getting dressed? Where’s Ali and Lisa? I thought they were going to help you.

Sophie: Will you help me?

Donna: Mmm-mmm. Wait. It’s okay, it’s okay. We have time.

Schoolbag in hand
She leaves home in the early morning
Waving goodbye
With an absent-minded smile
I watch her go
With a surge of that well-known sadness
And I have to sit down for a while
The feeling that I’m losing her forever
And without really entering her world
I’m glad whenever I can share her laughter
That funny little girl
Slipping through my fingers all the time
I try to capture every minute
The feeling in it
Slipping through my fingers all the time
Do I really see what’s in her mind?
Each time I think I’m close to knowing
She keeps on growing
Slipping through my fingers all the time
Sleep in our eyes
Her and me at the breakfast table
Barely awake
I let precious time go by
Then when she’s gone
There’s that odd melancholy feeling
And a sense of guilt I can’t deny
What happened to those wonderful adventures
The places I had planned for us to go?
Slipping through my fingers all the time
Well, some of that we did
But most we didn’t
And why, I just don’t know
Slipping through my fingers all the time
I try to capture every minute, etc.

Sophie: Do you think I’m letting you down?

Donna: Why would you even think that?

Sophie: Well, because of what you’ve done. I mean, the Dynamos, raising a kid, and running a business all on your own.

Donna: Well, honey, I didn’t have a choice. I couldn’t go home, you know. When I got pregnant, my mother told me not to bother coming back. And I wouldn’t have had it any other way. My God, look at what we’ve had.

Sophie: Will you give me away?

Donna: Yeah.

Both: Sometimes I wish
That I could freeze the picture
And save it from the funny tricks of time
Slipping through my fingers.

*Sophie sets off to the wedding chapel.*

Donna: Schoolbag in hand
She leaves home in the early morning
Waving goodbye
With an absent-minded smile.

*Sam arrives and detains Donna.*

Sam: Donna! Donna. I need to talk to you about who’s giving Sophie away.

Donna: That would be me.

Sam: But ... What about her dad?

Donna: Her dad isn’t here.
**Sam:** It’s what she wants. She told me she wants her father here. What if her father wants that, too?

**Donna:** What? Sam, don’t do this now. I can’t hear this now!

**Sam:** Donna, listen to me. This is about us.

**Donna:** I don’t wanna talk
About things we’ve gone through
Though it’s hurting me
Now it’s history
I’ve played all my cards\(^1\)
And that’s what you’ve done, too
Nothing more to say
No more ace\(^2\) to play
The winner takes it all
The loser standing small
Beside the victory
That’s her destiny
I was in your arms
Thinking I belonged there
I figured it made sense
Building me a fence
Building me a home
Thinking I’d be strong there
But I was a fool
Playing by the rules
The gods may throw the dice\(^3\)
Their minds as cold as ice
And someone way down here
Loses someone dear
The winner takes it all
The loser has to fall
It’s simple and it’s plain
Why should I complain?
But tell me does she kiss
Like I used to kiss you?
Does it feel the same
When she calls your name?
Somewhere deep inside
You must know I miss you
But what can I say?

---

\(^1\) Played all my cards = done and said everything I want to do and say.

\(^2\) Ace = often the winning card.

\(^3\) Throw the dice = play games with us humans.
Rules must be obeyed
The judges will decide
The likes of me abide
Spectators at the show
Always staying low
The game is on again
A lover or a friend
A big thing or a small
The winner takes it all
I don’t wanna talk
’Cause it makes me feel sad
And I understand
You’ve come to shake my hand
I apologise
If it makes you feel bad
Seeing me so tense
No self-confidence, but you see
The winner takes it all
The winner takes it all
The game is on again
A lover or a friend
A big thing or a small
The winner takes it all, etc.

Donna arrives at the wedding chapel.

Ali: Donna!

Lisa: There you are!

Ali: It’s okay.

Donna: They’re my best shoes.

Lisa: Panic over! Here she is.

Donna: Oh, God.

The band starts to play and Donna leads Sophie into the chapel.

Donna: (To Sophie.) I love you.

Priest: Welcome to Sophie and Sky, and to all your friends who have gathered together this evening. And welcome, especially, to Donna, who represents your family. We are all here together in this glorious ...
Donna: *(Standing up and interrupting.)* And welcome too ... to Sophie’s dad. *(To Sophie.)* I have to tell you. He is here.

Sophie: I know. I invited him.

*Sam, Bill and Harry all stand up.*

Donna: You couldn’t have. I don’t know which one it is. *(Suddenly realizing.)* Oh, my God! That’s why they’re all here!

Sophie: I’m sorry. Sorry. I just ... Please, please forgive me! Please forgive me. Please.

Donna: I don’t know. Can you forgive me?


Donna: Oh, Soph. And I haven’t slept with hundreds of men.

Sam: Am I getting this right? Sophie may be mine, but she may be Bill’s or Harry’s?

Donna: Yeah, yeah. That’s right. And don’t get all self-righteous with me, because you have no one but yourself to blame.

Sophie: Yeah, if you hadn’t just dumped my mother and gone off and married somebody else...

Sam: Hey, hey, wait a minute! I had to go home. I was engaged. But I told Lorraine I couldn’t marry her, and I came right back.

Donna: You ... You ... Why didn’t you call me?

Sam: Because I was crazy enough to think that you would be waiting for me. Only when I arrived, they told me you were off with some other guy. So, Lorraine called me an idiot and married me to prove it.

Harry: Sorry, can I just ... can I just … Might I just butt in?

Donna: Oh, Harry, don’t... It’s all right. You don’t have to.

Harry: No, no, I just wanted to say it’s great to have even a third of Sophie. I never thought I’d get even that much of a child. Donna, you were the first girl I ever loved. Well, actually, you were the last girl I ever loved. Now, this gives me an excuse to come here much more often.
Sam: We can find out if you want, but I’m with Harry. Being a third of your dad is great by me.

Bill: By me, too. I’ll take a third.

Rosie: (To Tanya.) Typical, isn’t it? You wait 20 years for a dad, and then three come along at once.

Priest: Dearly beloved ...

Sophie: No! You know, I have no clue which one of you is my dad, but I don’t mind. Now, I know what I really want. Sky, let’s just not get married yet.

Sky: What?

Sophie: You never wanted this anyway. I know that. Let’s just get off this island and just see the world. Okay? All right?

Sky: I love you.

*Sky carries Sophie out of the chapel.*

Priest: Donna, do I take it the wedding is cancelled?

Donna: I’m not entirely sure what’s happening right now.

Sam: Hang on. Why waste a good wedding? How about it, Sheridan? You’re going to need someone to boss around on this island of yours.

Donna: Are you nuts?1 I am not a bigamist.

Sam: Neither am I. I’m a divorced man who’s loved you for 21 years, and ever since the day I set foot on this island, I’ve been trying to tell you how much I love you. (Getting down on one knee.) Come on, Donna. It’s only the rest of your life.

I can’t conceal it
Don’t you see?
Can’t you feel it?

Women: Say I do!

Sam: Oh, yeah.

---

1 Nuts = crazy.

Sam: Donna, please show it
You love me
And you know it.

Women: Say I do!

*Sam holds up a ring.*


*A few minutes later it is Sam and Donna who are married.*

Priest: I now pronounce you man and wife.

Donna: I’m so happy!

*Later, everyone is at the wedding banquet outside.*

Sam: Here’s to us
One more toast
And then we’ll pay the bill
Deep inside both of us
Could feel the autumn chill\(^1\)
Birds of passage\(^2\)
You and me
We fly instinctively
When the summer’s over
And the dark clouds hide the sun
Neither you nor I’m to blame
When all is said and done
In our lives
We have walked
Some strange and lonely treks
Slightly worn

Sam and Donna: But dignified

Sam: And not too old for sex.

Rosie: Yeah!

Sam: Clear-headed and open-eyed

---

\(^1\) The autumn chill = ourselves getting older.

\(^2\) Birds of passage = birds that move from one place to another as the seasons change.
With nothing left untried
Standing calmly at the crossroads¹
No desire to run
There’s no hurry any more
When all is said and done.

All: Standing calmly at the crossroads, etc.

Bill: *(To Rosie.)* That’s not for me. I’m a writer. A lone wolf.

Rosie: If you change your mind
I’m the first in line
Honey, I’m still free
Take a chance on me.

Bill: Sorry. *(He moves away.)*

Rosie: *(Following him.)* If you need me, let me know
I’m gonna be around
If you got no place to go
If you’re feeling down.

Speech! I’m gonna make a speech, everybody.

If you’re all alone
When the pretty birds have flown²
Honey, I’m still free
Take a chance on me
Gonna do my very best
And it ain’t no lie
If you put me to the test
If you let me try
Take a chance on me
Take a chance on me.

Sam: Go, Bill!

Rosie: We can go dancing

Bill: We can go walking

Rosie: As long as we’re together
Listen to some music

---

¹ Standing calmly at the crossroads. I.e. knowing which way to go – not being confused by the different possibilities.
² Pretty birds have flown = when the attractive, single women have all gone.
Bill: Maybe just talking

Rosie: You’d get to know me better

Harry: *(To his new boyfriend.)* ’Cause you know I’ve got
So much that I wanna do
When I dream I’m alone with you

**Harry and Boyfriend:** It’s magic!

Rosie: You want me to leave it there

Bill: Afraid of a love affair

Rosie: But I think you know
That I can’t let go
If you’re all alone
When the pretty birds have flown
Honey, I’m still free
Take a chance on me

Bill: Gonna do my very best
And it ain’t no lie
If you put me to the test

**Both:** If you let me try
Take a chance on me!

**All:** Take a chance on me,
Take a chance, *etc.*

*There is another small earthquake and a geyser erupts through the courtyard.*

**Donna:** It’s Aphrodite!

**All:** Mamma mia, here I go again
My, my, how can I resist you?
Mamma mia, does it show again?
My, my, just how much I’ve missed you
Yes, I’ve been broken-hearted
Blue since the day we parted
Why, why did I ever let you go?
Mamma mia, now I really know
My, my, I should not have let you go.
Sophie is now leaving the island.

Sophie: I have a dream
     A song to sing
     To help me cope
     With anything
     If you see the wonder
     Of a fairy tale
     You can take the future
     Even if you fail
     I believe in angels
     Something good in everything I see
     I believe in angels
     When I know the time is right for me
     I’ll cross the stream
     I have a dream
     I’ll cross the stream
     I have a dream.

The story ends here, but the show is extended by two further songs, “Dancing Queen” and “Waterloo.”