

The Screen Practice [www.screenpractice.com.au](http://www.screenpractice.com.au)

THE HOURS

JULIA

I'm sorry, I know!  
I tried to get earlier, I tried, OK? Don't start!  
I know it's just incredibly busy  
because it's your party.

CLARISSA

Julia...how have you been doing?

JULIA

I'm fine.

CLARISSA

Come here.  
What have you been doing?

JULIA

Well, studying, mom.  
So...what should I do, chairs?

CLARISSA

No, let's clear off the desk first. We can take it to the bedroom.

JULIA

I bumped into Louis Waters.

CLARISSA

Oh, you did? Where?

JULIA

In the street. They're all here, aren't they? All the ghosts...  
All the ghosts are assembling for the party!  
He is... so weird.  
Oh, what? You can't see that?  
You can't see that Louis Waters is weird?

CLARISSA

I can see that he's sad.

JULIA

Mum, all your friends are sad.  
You've been crying. What's happening?

CLARISSA

All the day I looked around this room and thought  
I'm giving a party...  
all I wanna do is give a party!

JULIA  
And?

CLARISSA  
I know why he does it, he does it deliberately.

JULIA  
Oh, is this Richard!

CLARISSA  
Of course.  
He did it this morning...  
he gives me that look.

JULIA  
What look?

CLARISSA  
To say...  
your life is trivial.  
You...are so...trivial.  
Just daily stuff, you know, schedules and parties, and...  
details - that's what he means.  
That is what he's saying.

JULIA  
Mum, it only matters if you think it's true.  
Well? Do you? Tell me.

CLARISSA  
When I am with him, I feel  
Yes, I am living...  
and when I am not with him,  
yes, everything does seem sort of...  
silly.  
I don't mean with you, right! God!  
Never with you.  
Just all the rest of it.

JULIA  
Sally?

CLARISSA  
The rest of it.  
False comfort.

JULIA  
Because?

CLARISSA

If you say to me when were you happiest.

JULIA

Mum...

Tell me the moment you were happiest.

CLARISSA

I know! I know, it was years ago.

Yeah.

JULIA

All you're saying is...

you were once young.

CLARISSA

I remember one morning...

getting up at dawn...

there was such a sense of possibility!

You know? That feeling?

And...and I remember thinking to myself:

"So this is the beginning of happiness..."

"This is where it starts!"

"And, of course, there'll always be more."

Never occurred to me

it wasn't the beginning,

It was happiness.

It was the moment...