

Audio file

[7628-FeverPitch.mp3](#)

Transcript

Speaker 1

How's your chicken?

Speaker 2

Good.

Speaker 1

How's your fish?

Speaker 2

Good.

Speaker 1

How's school?

Speaker 3

Okay.

Speaker 1

Paul.

Speaker 3

Okay.

Speaker 1

Good. How's your ice cream?

Speaker 3

Good.

Speaker 4

Let's do something different next time I'm over.

Speaker 3

Like what?

Speaker 1

Go swimming? Go and see a film? I'll think of something.

Speaker 5

I'm Miss Hughes. Not Miss, it's not Mrs. Ms., okay? Do you want to practice? Say it after me. Ms. Hughes. Come on. Ms. Hughes. Fine. Don't forget. Right. I'm going to start off today by telling you a few things that I like and a few things that I don't like.

Speaker 6

Yeah, all right, that's enough football.

Speaker 4

Now, of mice and men, how many have you managed to get all the way through it now? Stephen, you've got your hand in the air. You're not going to tell me you've read it. Yes, sir. What happens in the end? He shoots him, sir. Who shoots who? The little bloke. He shoots the big bloke.

Speaker 6

Is he right, sir? No, he's right.

Speaker 4

I'm leaving because there's no point in carrying on. If I've got Stephen Downey to read a book, then it's all over.

Speaker 6

There's no challenges left. My career can only go downhill from this point on. It's better be about the book, Robert.

Speaker 3

No, sir. It's about Alan Smith.

Speaker 4

Yeah, well, later. What about him?

Speaker 5

Mr Ashworth, have you got a moment? Look, I'm sorry, but the noise from here makes it absolutely impossible to concentrate next door. You'll get used to it. No, I don't want to

get used to it. I want to do some work. I don't want to have to listen to your moronic football chanting.

Speaker 6

Ouch, ouch! Right, I'll hold your hands up in the air. Offside, linesman! You're the linesman.

Speaker 5

My God.

Speaker 6

All right, now you've got to hold your hands up in the air and clap him. Show him he's done the right thing. We don't have linesman that game, sir. Well, applaud the referee then. Jesus, doesn't matter, does it?

Speaker 7

All right, that'll do for today.

Speaker 5

I was the naive and stupid new teacher and you were the cynical old hand, right?

Speaker 6

What?

Speaker 5

The snorting when I asked a question.

Speaker 4

Snorting? I was reading the football reports. I never listened to anything at staff meetings.

Speaker 5

My God, this has got to be opposed, this football stuff. If you're just pretending to be a yog for a bit of st bread.

Speaker 4

Is all this because my kids are enjoying their lesson the other morning?

Speaker 5

All kids enjoy a ride. Actually teaching them something is a lot harder.

Speaker 8

I've seen this film. You end up ***** on the carpet.

Speaker 5

Please, if we end up ***** on the carpet, then I will buy you a new carpet.

Speaker 8

Yeah, right.

Speaker 5

But I tell you...

Speaker 8

I knew it.

Speaker 5

I knew it. No carpets. He is an English teacher.

Speaker 8

Oh, God, not all this again. I mean, what about... Patrick Swayze. No one cares whether he read Byron or not. And he is the full Axminster.

Speaker 5

I'd want a brain as well. Eventually.

Speaker 8

I'm sorry, that's it. I'm going to measure up. I am off to Habitat first thing in the morning.

Speaker 5

Fine. If we end up ***** you can carpet the whole house. You can carpet the walls, the ceiling, the garden.

Speaker 9

Well, what's she like?

Speaker 4

She's just one of those women. if you like football, you must be a job, *****.

Speaker 9

Is she fit?

Speaker 4

Not that you'd prove her point or anything.

Speaker 9

What? have I done? It's a perfectly reasonable, straightforward question.

Speaker 4

She's not unattractive, but so what, you know. A, she hates me, B, I hate her, and C, what's the point of all that anyway? It's a waste of ***** time.

Speaker 9

Sounds promising then.

Speaker 5

It must be terrible being that miserable. Having to sit in a corner and scowl and pretend I only care about football results because the world's a terrible place. And what's the point of it all anyway?

Speaker 8

What is the point of it all? Who knows? Maybe it is football results. I don't worry about it though. He's a sad and lonely *****. Who cares what made him that way?

Speaker 4

Where's your brother?

Speaker 9

He's over there.

Speaker 6

Oi! Number 9! You're a donkey.

Speaker 4

You have a trial with someone, right?

Speaker 9

Yeah. Orient. They offered him contracts as well.

Speaker 4

What happened?

Speaker 9

Turned it down. Stupid. I said it was too risky.

Speaker 4

What's he doing now?

Speaker 9

Runs his own business. Computer something. It's only about 50 grand a year.

Speaker 4

I'd sort of 50 grand a year for a contract with Orient. So would I. Don't even like Orient.

Speaker 9

Neither do I.

Speaker 4

He gets it both ways though, doesn't he? Gets 50 grand a year, gets to play at a place with floodlights.

Speaker 9

Floodlights and a T-bar? I'd love to play at a place with a T-bar.

Speaker 4

Bit late now. Don't.

Speaker 9

Know. Stanley Matthews played first division football till he was 50.

Speaker 4

I bet the only money you like, you're not playing first division football when you're 50.

Speaker 9

No, it's the smoking.

Speaker 4

It's not the smoking, Steve. It's the crackers.

Speaker 9

Hold that. I've always wanted to do this.

Speaker 4

Anthropologists have always had a hard time with football. The trouble is you can only see what's on the outside. But there is an inside, believe it or not. We all have our reasons for loving things the way we do.

Speaker 7

He's here.

Speaker 3

Thanks for being so helpful. He's been ready for hours.

Speaker 2

No, I haven't. Yes, you have.

Speaker 3

What time will you be back, do you think?

Speaker 1

Six, 6 day.

Speaker 3

See you later then.

Speaker 1

OK.

Speaker 3

Have a nice time.

Speaker 1

See you later, sunshine. We'll do something special next time, then. You looking forward to it?

Speaker 2

What?

Speaker 1

The match.

Speaker 2

Yeah.

Speaker 1

Sounds like it.

Speaker 2

I'm not really a football fan.

Speaker 1

No. One day we'll find something you do want to do. Mum seems in good form.

Speaker 2

Yeah.

Speaker 1

Is she OK?

Speaker 2

Not really.

Speaker 10

What about the last time game last season? What about it? They were rubbish. They were ***** rubbish. Nah, they weren't that. They were ***** rubbish last year. And they were ***** rubbish the year before. I don't care, they are top of the league. They'll be ***** rubbish this year too. And next year. And the year after that. I ain't joking.

Speaker 6

I don't know why you come, Frank, honestly, I don't.

Speaker 10

No, you're living out, don't you?

Speaker 6

What do you reckon, me old son? You've been there as bad as Franks as they are.

Speaker 1

This is his first time.

Speaker 10

Well, I hope he knows what he's letting himself in for. Here, have a look at the number 8 this afternoon. John Samuels, his name is. Remember his face. Then, if you should happen to bump into him, send him to sod up the Spurs.

Speaker 7

Go on, give it a shove. Someone hasn't been eating their green time.

Speaker 1

What do you reckon?

Speaker 2

When's the next game?

Speaker 1

I don't know, a week after next, probably. Let's have a look. Yeah, Sunderland. They're away at Leeds next week.

Speaker 2

Can we come to the Sunderland game then?

Speaker 5

Will you be in England?

Speaker 1

I don't know. We'll see. Anyway, you might want to go somewhere different. If you're going to be a football fan, you have to think carefully about who you're going to follow.

Speaker 11

You ***** idiot.

Speaker 7

Show yourself.

Speaker 2

That was a brilliant goal, wasn't it, Dan?

Speaker 1

That was pretty good, yeah.

Speaker 2

What happened?

Speaker 1

Well, it was a penalty and a goalie saved it, and then there was a big scramble, and then the man who missed the penalty had another go and score.

Speaker 2

Terry Neil.

Speaker 1

That's right.

Speaker 2

He's good, isn't he?

Speaker 5

Fantastic.

Speaker 1

Let's go.

Speaker 2

Why do we have to leave?

Speaker 1

Beat the traffic. We've got a long walk back to the car. We'll be stuck for hours.

Speaker 2

But then what's scoring?

Speaker 1

There's a remote possibility of that, yes, but it won't be this afternoon. It's a joke. You're going to be an Arsenal fan. You'll have to get used to jokes like that.

Speaker 2

I will.

Speaker 1

So, do you think he played the best? It's a lie.

Speaker 2

But Samos was rubbish, though, wasn't he?

Speaker 1

Oh, I don't think so. Scrap didn't understand what he was trying to do after the time. Anyway, they were on to him before he done anything wrong.

Speaker 2

I disagree.

Speaker 1

Oh, you do, do you? One afternoon of football, you're Kenneth Walton over.

Speaker 11

You won't make an Arsenal defence of them yet, hey, Robert.

Speaker 2

Yes, sir.

Speaker 3

Sir, you go out to Highbury next week.

Speaker 4

No. Of course I'm going. You want me to get your programme? It's cash in advance. I've been caught too many times before.

Speaker 3

No, it's not that. Can I come with you?

Speaker 4

That'd be a bit difficult. Well, to be brutally honest, unless it's just between you and me. I'll go to the pub first.

Speaker 3

Well, I can wait outside. I don't mind.

Speaker 4

I'll stand on the North Bank. You wouldn't see anything.

Speaker 2

Well, I could go down the front and meet you afterwards.

Speaker 4

Mum would love that.

Speaker 2

Sure, let me go on my own. She said they have to go on a responsible adult.

Speaker 4

There you are. Saturday's the one day of the week when I'm not a responsible ladder. I'll turn into someone your age. I'm not as sensible as you.

Speaker 3

I'm sure we'll have to find out.

Speaker 4

I'm sorry, Robert, I can't. No, not this week. Maybe some other time, eh? Next season when you're getting grown a bit? Get your programme. Cash in advance unnecessary on this occasion. Matter how we'll eat. Have one for free.

Speaker 3

Thanks.

Speaker 4

*****. *****. Really nothing to worry about. I mean, his handwriting is a disgrace to the human race, but he's very bright and he seems to enjoy the lessons.

Speaker 12

Oh, he does. He's always going on about you.

Speaker 4

Yeah, well, it's my infectious enthusiasm for Steinbeck's pro star, probably. Either that or something else.

Speaker 12

The football you mean? Robert thinks they might win the championship for the first time since 1970.

Speaker 4

1971.

Speaker 12

You've got to get things like that right, haven't you?

Speaker 4

Absolutely. Listen, did he tell you what happened after football training the other night? He asked me if I'd take him to the arsenal this Saturday.

Speaker 12

Oh, Mr Ashworth, I'm so sorry.

Speaker 4

It's all right. He just seemed very uptight about it.

Speaker 12

His dad and me are recently separated. It was his dad I used to go with.

Speaker 4

And you don't want to take him? Me.

Speaker 12

I don't know anything about it.

Speaker 4

I very much doubt if you care. Besides, I can tell you everything you need to know in about 5 minutes.

Speaker 5

She seemed to enjoy the Elizabethans, but when we moved on, she slipped back a little. She dropped four places. Was it 4? No, six in the tests, which I found a little disappointing, although I'm not really sure that she did.

Speaker 8

No, you see, she's got a heart set on a hairdresser's apprenticeship when she leaves school.

Speaker 3

Right.

Speaker 8

Thanks very much, then.

Speaker 4

So you come out of the tube station, you cross over the street, and in that entrance there you can buy unreserved seats, 7 quid.

Speaker 12

My ex can pay.

Speaker 4

He's A Spurs fan, isn't he?

Speaker 12

Yeah.

Speaker 4

I'll go for 12 quid seats and if I were you, sting the ***** for all you can get.

Speaker 5

Thank you so much.

Speaker 4

You've been really helpful. Hello, Mr Johnson. How are you?

Speaker 1

Evening. I suppose you're feeling pretty pleased with life at the moment.

Speaker 4

**** it.

Speaker 6

Would you like a lift? You don't know where I live. Yes, I do. Crouch ends on my way home.

Speaker 5

How about you?

Speaker 4

Arsenal.

Speaker 5

Inside the stadium or just nearby. You really are Mr. Popular, aren't you? All those queues at your desk.

Speaker 1

Sorry.

Speaker 13

What were you talking to Robert Perker's mother about all that time?

Speaker 5

I'm sorry.

Speaker 4

Paul Davis.

Speaker 5

Who's Paul Davis?

Speaker 4

Arsenal.

Speaker 5

Were we talking about him? Sorry, I wasn't listening.

Speaker 4

Arsenal.

Speaker 5

Yes, you said.

Speaker 4

No, I was talking to Robert Parker's mother about Arsenal.

Speaker 11

God.

Speaker 5

I'm in the wrong job. Well, I'm in the wrong life. I spent hours preparing for a parents' evening. No one could think of two words to say to me, and yet you come along and they're prepared to queue for ours, do your pearls of wisdom on next week's game against Wolves United.

Speaker 4

Just Wolves, no United. No, I'm sorry, it must seem unfair.

Speaker 5

Well, yes, it does, actually. It's next left.

Speaker 4

Maybe you're too uptight with them. Maybe you should just be yourself more. All those files and folders and what have you.

Speaker 5

That is me being myself. It's just here. Do you want a cup of coffee?

Speaker 3

OK. Well, you don't have to. I was...

Speaker 4

No, I'd like to. What are these for then?

Speaker 5

They're not for anything. They just look nice.

Speaker 4

They yours.

Speaker 5

No. Jo's, my flatmate. It's her place. She's away at the moment.

Speaker 4

No smoke.

Speaker 5

No. You can stay the night, though, if you want. I can't afford it.

Speaker 8

We might at least have the decency to run.

Speaker 5

Well, then we wouldn't be doing it together, would we?

Speaker 8

Cocky cow. It's nothing cocky. It's just a fact.

Speaker 5

Look.

Speaker 8

Okay, okay.

Speaker 5

I hate you. I owe you a new carpet. Well, not a carpet exactly. Maybe a new spare bed?

Speaker 8

You ***** a football hooligan. I knew it. I knew it.

Speaker 5

He's not a football hooligan.

Speaker 8

Oh, right, so he has read Byron then.

Speaker 5

He about to have done. Anyway, it doesn't really matter if he has him, does it?

Speaker 8

Who'd have thought it, Iron Knickers Hughes ending up with a job.

Speaker 5

He's not a job, and I'm not exactly ending up with him, all right? You want to bet? What are you up to?

Speaker 4

I'm starving. I was thinking of bringing him for a pizza.

Speaker 5

Have you read Byron?

Speaker 4

What?

Speaker 5

Have you read any of Byron's poems?

Speaker 4

Yeah. The Assyrian came down like a wolf on the fold and his somethings were gleaming in black and old gold crack.

Speaker 5

What are those?

Speaker 4

My Arsenal popster shorts. They're not my best ones, I was running out of.

Speaker 5

But you're willing to show them to another human being?

Speaker 4

I wasn't exactly showing them to. What do you want to know about Byron for?

Speaker 5

A bet.

Speaker 4

Did you win?

Speaker 5

I don't think so.

Speaker 6

Stay in line! Right, now push up, out, out, out. That's it, good lads! Offside, referee!
Upside! Ref.

Speaker 7

I reckon miles off.

Speaker 6

It's not my fault.

Speaker 7

Too good a coach for this level. What's the score?

Speaker 4

One all. If you count that poxy goal they just scored.

Speaker 14

Was it cup or league?

Speaker 4

Cup, quarter final.

Speaker 14

How long left?

Speaker 4

15.

Speaker 14

I wanted to talk to you about a vacancy. Rosie Hunter's handed in a notice. I wonder whether you'd be interested in applying.

Speaker 4

End of year.

Speaker 14

Well, obviously not the most attractive offer you've ever had.

Speaker 6

Come on, Ben, get back with him.

Speaker 4

Sorry, sir.

Speaker 14

I haven't fired you with enthusiasm.

Speaker 4

Well, it's a lot of work, isn't it? What do I want to do more work for?

Speaker 14

More money.

Speaker 4

I've got enough to pay my rent. Not enough for my season taking a couple of records a month. Got no family?

Speaker 14

I'd like you to think about it.

Speaker 4

Sorry, Ted, as far as I'm concerned, nothing to think about.

Speaker 6

Come on, Sam! Put it away! Yes.

Speaker 4

Why is it that adults aren't supposed to go mad about anything? You've got to keep a lid on it. And if you don't, then people are apparently entitled to say what they like. You haven't grown up. You're A moron. Your conversation is trivial and boorish. You can't express your emotional needs, you can't relate to your children, and you die lonely and miserable. But what the hell? Every cloud is a silver lining.

Speaker 3

Not on your own. How many more times? You'll have to wait until your father's over again.

Speaker 2

Great, so I get to go to Ibury about 5 * a year.

Speaker 3

It's not my fault your father lives abroad. Try blaming him.

Speaker 2

Mum, they play 21 times a year, plus cup matches, that's... Mum, why is Crossroads a motel?

Speaker 3

What do you mean why is it a motel?

Speaker 2

Why is it just a hotel? Twenty-nine. That's if they get to the semi-final of the League Cup, the quarter-final of the FA Cup, and are drawn at home in every round.

Speaker 3

Because you can take your car there.

Speaker 2

You've got Europe. You don't know how many games in the Fairs Cup last season. That's another five games, and you don't even need to be drawn at home. Every round is home and away. Thirty-four games, and I can only go to five. Fives and thirty-five go $7 \frac{1}{7}$ of all the home games per. Drive me to a room. Paul, in a motel, you drive a car into a room. Say you only went to $\frac{1}{7}$ of your choral society rehearsals. They'd throw you out, wouldn't.

Speaker 3

They? Arsenal won't throw you out. They want your money. I've looked it up.

Speaker 2

I can catch the 1253 to Paddington. Be at Paddington by 136. Get the circle and district to Metropolitan 9 to Kings Cross. Then it's Caledonian Road, Holloway Road, Arsenal, third stop. Be there, 2:15, easy.

Speaker 3

Oh, for Christ's sake, go if you want to.

Speaker 2

Yes, thanks, Mum. Charlie, Charlie, Charlie, Charlie. Someone is looking at me.

Speaker 3

Don't come running to me if you get stabbed to death.

Speaker 2

I won't. Jimmy, I've been free.

Speaker 4

It's not easy to become a football fan. It takes years. But if you put in the hours, you're welcome without question into a new family. Except in this family, you care about the same people and hope for the same things. What's childish about that? Then that's a terrible foul by McClintock on Roadcastle. I'd be lucky to stay on the pitch after that.

Speaker 9

It wasn't that bad. It looked bad, I admit, but it was mistiming. It wasn't malicious.
*****.

Speaker 4

So that's a free kick to 1989 Arsenal and Davis takes it. And...

Speaker 6

Goal.

Speaker 4

And that's 1989 Arsenal 4, 1971 Arsenal nil. Poor Bob Wilson will be bitterly disappointed with that one.

Speaker 9

Oh, this lot would never beat the double team 4-nil at Sobuty. I just come crap at it.

Speaker 6

Well, you should have chosen to be someone else then. Who else used to play in yellow and blue away strip?

Speaker 9

Everton.

Speaker 4

What's it be Everton then?

Speaker 9

Okay, but this game's abandoned. I can't start suddenly pretending that John Lepford's Joe Royal. It'd do me head in. I have to start again. Nil, nil.

Speaker 4

Yeah, all right, go on then. Yes.

Speaker 5

What are you thinking about?

Speaker 4

Oh, stuff.

Speaker 5

What stuff?

Speaker 4

I was thinking about DH Lawrence, actually.

Speaker 5

Yeah? What about him?

Speaker 4

Well, well, about his books.

Speaker 5

What about his books?

Speaker 4

Just one sort of longest. And? Well, I couldn't remember.

Speaker 5

Well, which one did you think it might be?

Speaker 6

Well, it's just it. I couldn't decide.

Speaker 5

Between what and what?

Speaker 4

Well, Lady Chatterley's Lover.

Speaker 5

And...

Speaker 4

And I wasn't thinking about DH Lawrence at all.

Speaker 5

You're amazing.

Speaker 4

Thinking about Arsenal?

Speaker 5

I'm staggered.

Speaker 4

You know, we might win the league this year. We're halfway through the season and they're top and we're playing really well. I know they **** it up because they always do, but you're not impressed, are you?

Speaker 5

No, I am. I hope they win the league. I really do. It's just that... Why did you lie?

Speaker 4

I've got to vary the answers. I can't say Arsenal every time.

Speaker 5

I can't find any bread.

Speaker 4

Do I look like the sort of man who'd have a bread album?

Speaker 5

No, you look like the kind of man that has a Bullock Brothers album.

Speaker 4

I wouldn't put that on. It, you know, not the right mood.

Speaker 5

And what's the right mood?

Speaker 4

Well, I don't know, just, I mean, you know.

Speaker 5

What?

Speaker 4

Just something not as swearsy and loud.

Speaker 5

Of course, this is the most romantic thing you've ever said to me.

Speaker 4

Shut up.

Speaker 5

By the way, congratulations.

Speaker 4

On what?

Speaker 5

Two now, Gwen and Diggle. Goal in each half, top of the league. Nine games to go. George Graham sees no reason why Arsenal shouldn't bring the title back to Hubby for the first time in 16 years.

Speaker 4

Eighteen years.

Speaker 5

I'm sure he said 16.

Speaker 4

Oh, right, maybe I'm wrong. OK, 18, whatever.

Speaker 3

So when does it all end?

Speaker 4

May.

Speaker 5

And what happens then in the summer?

Speaker 4

Nothing boring. Just sit in the park and wait for the fixture list to come out.

Speaker 5

So what about this summer?

Speaker 4

Good point. I'll be in the charity shoe.

Speaker 5

That isn't the point I was making, Paul. I mean, we've been seeing each other. Well, we've been sleeping together for six months now, and we've never even planned a holiday together.

Speaker 3

It's a miracle if.

Speaker 5

We plan a weekend before Friday afternoon, and yet you know what Arsenal are doing for months in advance.

Speaker 4

They produce a fixture list.

Speaker 5

Well, I can do that for you.

Speaker 4

Give me a diary and I'll put some dates in it. Don't be daft.

Speaker 5

I've daft about it. I don't really see the difference. How about Saturday, October the 8th? Let's go away somewhere.

Speaker 4

I haven't got no season's fixture list yet.

Speaker 5

Yeah, because you know that you'll be seeing Arsenal next year, don't you? can't really say for sure whether you'll be seeing me.

Speaker 4

So what? Everyone's like that. you'll be seeing your sister next season.

Speaker 5

Sisters don't have seasons.

Speaker 4

Yeah, whatever. Look, I know where this is going and you're dead wrong. I'm capable of commitment and the long haul and all that stuff, and if it doesn't happen with you, that's because of you, not me. 21 years I've been going to Arsenal. 21 years.

Speaker 5

Paul, I don't know whether you've noticed, but Arsenal are a football team.

Speaker 4

You think there's a difference? Yes, I do. Well, that shows what you know about it.

Speaker 5

I look like Rocky. Joe, go back to the news a minute. What's here, the local news? I know. It looked like Rocky.

Speaker 8

Who looked like Rocky? What does Rocky look like? Who the hell is Rocky?

Speaker 5

Well, it doesn't matter. We've missed it now.

Speaker 8

Please don't tell me that Rocky is an Arsenal player.

Speaker 5

Yeah, David Rocastle.

Speaker 8

And how do you know what he looks like?

Speaker 5

I don't know. It sinks in after a while.

Speaker 8

Yeah, what else has sunk in? Do you know where they are in a championship cup and who their best goal hanger is and all that sort of thing?

Speaker 5

I'm not turning into a moron. Okay, so I know that they're top of the league. That's easy to remember. And I know that Alan Smudger Smith has scored most of the goals, but it doesn't... I'm going next week.

Speaker 8

You're going? Yeah. To a football match.

Speaker 5

Yeah, I thought I should.

Speaker 8

I tell you, girl, you better watch yourself. You know, soon after Tim and I split up, I woke up one morning and I realized that I could remember his batting average for the previous season.

Speaker 5

That's harmless enough, isn't it?

Speaker 8

No. It's all a sinister form of male manipulation.

Speaker 5

Rubbish.

Speaker 8

It's true. You get colonized. Your native culture gets driven out and it's replaced by stuff that you don't like and don't even want to know about. They're like bloody missionaries. They bore you stupid until you cave in and they **** **.

Speaker 2

Shut up. Did you get it?

Speaker 8

Yes.

Speaker 2

Can I see it?

Speaker 3

It's in my purse.

Speaker 2

Brilliant. Thanks, Mum.

Speaker 3

I'm going to do an extra hour tomorrow. I left the office at 12. I didn't get back till three.

Speaker 2

And I asked you what end you wanted and all that.

Speaker 3

No, I just said one please and they gave me that.

Speaker 2

How come have you got a ticket in the Reading end then? Had to get it off for tat, didn't I?

Speaker 7

How much that cost you?

Speaker 2

Five. You live in here, Linton? Well, near, yeah. How near is near? A place called Maidenhead. Maidenhead? Maidenhead in Parkshire, 2 miles down the road? More like 6.

Speaker 6

Bit nearer Reading than Arsenal, though, isn't it? You should be supporting your local team this afternoon.

Speaker 2

Excuse me, just seen someone I know.

Speaker 3

And was the ticket all right in the end?

Speaker 2

Just about, staying with a load of bloody country bumpkins at first, then I found Jenkins and all of them. Yes, they went stupid Jenkins, did you? What would you know about it?

Speaker 3

Well, you must have been sick when they equalised. I couldn't believe it when they said it was one hole on the radio.

Speaker 2

It was terrible. The place went mad. Just had to stand there and take it.

Speaker 3

Good old Pat Rice, though.

Speaker 2

He never scores, is he, Pat Rice? First of the season.

Speaker 3

We're good in the cups, aren't we?

Speaker 2

Well, now won't play. I wouldn't risk him. How long will it take to get to Birmingham from here?

Speaker 1

I don't know. A couple of hours, I guess. Maybe 3?

Speaker 2

But we'll be there by 2. Oh, sure.

Speaker 1

How would you feel if we did something different this afternoon?

Speaker 2

How do you mean?

Speaker 1

Well, I thought you might like to meet up with Jane and the kids for lunch. Maybe take them to the zoo or pictures somewhere. They've been over this week visiting their grandmother. They'd love to meet you.

Speaker 2

Don't mean instead of the game, do you?

Speaker 1

Well, we couldn't do both.

Speaker 2

You didn't get any tickets, did you?

Speaker 1

The tickets are waiting for us, aren't they?

Speaker 2

So you're telling me you've got tickets, but you want to go and see the Jungle Book or something? You're teasing me, aren't you?

Speaker 1

Look, we don't have to go to Arsenal every time I'm in London, do we? I would have thought we'd be on that stage now.

Speaker 2

Will never be beyond that stage. I thought you said you'd look after me.

Speaker 4

He says you didn't need looking after.

Speaker 15

Come on, Arsenal.

Speaker 7

You'll get used to it.

Speaker 5

I want to get used to it, thanks very much.

Speaker 4

He's gone on Liverpool Forest Games. I don't know, there's trouble or something. Hand kicked off yet?

Speaker 9

There you are. You heard about Hillsborough?

Speaker 4

This guy was just saying.

Speaker 9

There's a bloke with a radio up there reckons those people were hurt.

Speaker 4

Jesus, what happened? I don't know.

Speaker 15

Are you all right?

Speaker 11

Hustle.

Speaker 4

It is feared that at least 74 Liverpool supporters were crushed to death. Hundreds of others were forced onto the pitch...

Speaker 5

It's just so stupid.

Speaker 1

The Liverpool manager, Kenny Dalglish, and his opposite number, Brian Clough, were clearly appalled by the scenes. So stupid.

Speaker 15

The football match.

Speaker 3

I must have realised something like this was going to happen one day.

Speaker 4

One afternoon on the North Bank, you're an expert.

Speaker 3

Well, that's it then.

Speaker 4

That's what.

Speaker 3

Well, you can't go back now, can you?

Speaker 4

Of course we will.

Speaker 3

How can you?

Speaker 4

Because everyone else will. Because the game will go on, they'll even replay this one. This doesn't change anything.

Speaker 5

I just don't get you.

Speaker 4

No, you don't.

Speaker 7

It's not just me, you don't get us any of us.

Speaker 5

God, I hope the rest of them aren't as selfish and as bloody manipulative as you. What are you talking about?

Speaker 7

What the **** is selfish about watching a football team?

Speaker 2

It's all selfish, all of it.

Speaker 5

All those stupid little stories about how your mum's cats are called after great players and how she drove through the snow to get you a cup ticket. You stopped seeing your father when you didn't need him to take you to the games anymore and we're all supposed to understand because football's football. And when we think of Paul, we think of Arsenal. It makes me sick. I hated this afternoon.

Speaker 3

Do you want to know why?

Speaker 5

Because if you didn't give a toss about Arsenal, what are you left with? You pay 5 pounds to stand on the lump of concrete. You can't see anything. You're not even safe. And you can't complain because that would be letting the lads down. That would show that you didn't care enough.

Speaker 4

Well, at least you care about something, At least we're not all in night after night worrying about our lesson plans. Whether a scale of three might come up in Bournemouth. Perhaps one day you'll learn to care about something you can't tick.

Speaker 5

Thanks.

Speaker 4

I'm sorry. Football has meant too much to me and come to represent too many things. See, after a while it all gets mixed up together in your head. You can't remember whether life's **** because Arsenal is **** or the other way round. I've been to watch far too many games, spent too much money, fretted about Arsenal when I should have been fretting about something else. I've asked too much of the people I love. Okay, I accept all that. But I don't know. Perhaps it's something you can't understand unless you belong. But what about this? Three minutes to go and you 2-1 up in a semi-final. And you look around and you see all those thousands of faces contorted with fear and hope and worry. Everyone lost. Everything else gone out of their heads. And then the whistle blows and everyone goes spare. And just for those few minutes, they're at the centre of the whole world. The fact that you care so much, that the noise you've made has been such a crucial part of it, is what makes it special. Because you've been every bit as important as the players, and if you hadn't have been there, then who'd have been bothered about football, really? The great thing is that it comes around again and again. There's always another season. If you lose the cup final in May, well, there's the third round to look forward to in January. What's wrong with that? It's actually pretty comforting if you think about it. Every now and then, not very often, but it happens. You catch a glimpse of a world that doesn't work like that. A world that doesn't stop in May and begin again in August. Some stuff that just never comes back. And some stuff that just won't go away. And some stuff that you couldn't ignore even if you wanted to.

Speaker 15

Hello.

Speaker 4

It's me.

Speaker 5

Do you know what time it is?

Speaker 4

Yeah, no, sorry. Isn't you pregnant?

Speaker 5

Are these for me?

Speaker 4

Flowers.

Speaker 5

I suppose they were. Once upon a time. Thank you. Come on, Joe.

Speaker 6

And chocolates.

Speaker 4

No, it's come just at the right time for me. I'm not getting bored with all that stuff. You can only spend so much time playing Sebutio. It's time to move on. I think having a kid's a brilliant idea.

Speaker 5

It wasn't really an idea.

Speaker 4

Well, it might as well have been. It's perfect. It's not just, it's not just a baby, it's, you know, it's you as well. I think we're good together.

Speaker 5

I thought that was Miss Gene Brodie.

Speaker 4

No, I was wrong. I've been thinking about this. You're George Lane. The Arsenal manager.

Speaker 5

And that's good, is it?

Speaker 4

It's brilliant. You're careful and organised and... Methodical and all that sort of thing. That's why we work. I need somebody like that. And you need somebody like me. The opposite. Work well as a team, not even as a team. It's a club.

Speaker 5

Boy, you do talk some terrible nonsense.

Speaker 4

It's not nonsense. It's the truth. It's all working out. Wife and baby, that'll do me.

Speaker 5

Who said anything about a wife?

Speaker 4

Well, we'd want to do it properly, wouldn't we? What about Liam? If it's a boy. OK, it's the name of the greatest Arsenal player ever, but it's a nice name, isn't it? And the job better apply for that now.

Speaker 5

Ted.

Speaker 4

Asked me if I wanted to apply for Rosie's Head of Year job and I said no, but now brilliant, perfect timing. We'll need a bit more money because we'll need a house, or at least somewhere with a bit more room.

Speaker 5

Paul.

Speaker 4

Ted will be pleased anyway. Liam, brilliant.

Speaker 5

Paul.

Speaker 4

We can still live near the ground, because it's cheap there. No one wants a football stadium on their front doorstep. See, except me, I'd pay extra. I won't tell the estate agent that. Mortgage wife, kid. Cool.

Speaker 5

Paul, listen, none of this is real. You'll behave. Nothing like a little kid. Jesus, I'm impregnated by a 12 year old.

Speaker 4

Thanks. Thanks very much. Sorry about that. No problem, sir. Sorry, you're saying?

Speaker 5

Paul, this is exactly what I mean.

Speaker 4

No, that was just a one-off. It's never happened before. I promise it won't be a regular feature of life.

Speaker 5

Paul, I haven't made-up my mind what I'm doing about this yet. Do you understand?

Speaker 4

Yes. No, not really.

Speaker 5

I can't see this working out. Well, this is my last chance. Don't be silly. What does that mean?

Speaker 4

I don't know. It's just what it feels like.

Speaker 5

So are you prepared to be a one-parent family? Because I'm not, and I have a feeling if we go through with this, then one of us is going to have to be.

Speaker 4

No way. That'd be brilliant.

Speaker 14

I don't think I've been since George Easton was in the team before my time. he was a lovely player. Lovely. That's what you don't get anymore. Languid and thoughtful and elegant.

Speaker 4

You should come and watch Tony Adams.

Speaker 14

How can I help, anyway?

Speaker 4

I've changed my mind about that head-of-year job if it's not too late.

Speaker 14

No, excellent. I'm very pleased. I've had a couple of applications from other members of staff, but I'd be very glad to add your name.

Speaker 4

Thank you.

Speaker 14

Any particular reason for the change of mind?

Speaker 4

Well, there is, actually, yes. Miss Hughes is pregnant. Sarah Hughes, history.

Speaker 14

Yes, of course. I didn't... I mean, she... How does this affect you?

Speaker 4

Oh, sorry, no, I left a bit out. No, I'm the father. I should have told you that straight away, shouldn't I, really? Anyway, yes, we're having a baby.

Speaker 14

I haven't heard this one.

Speaker 4

You're only for me now.

Speaker 14

I'm sorry, Paul. I can't share your joy at the moment. Sarah's only been with us for 5 minutes. Already one of my members of staff has knocked her up. I mean...

Speaker 4

No, well, it's all right. I mean, I'm intending to marry her and everything, and we won't embarrass the school.

Speaker 14

You already have embarrassed the school. How on earth are we supposed to talk to kids about responsibility and contraception and the rest of it, when the staff themselves... Words fail me.

Speaker 4

I thought you'd be pleased.

Speaker 14

About which part? The clandestine affair? The accidental pregnancy.

Speaker 4

Well, not those bits, maybe, but me applying for the job. I mean, that's good news, isn't it?

Speaker 14

Are you a complete fool, Paul? I'll talk to you later.

Speaker 6

Yeah, man. OK, Calm down. Now, listen, I want you to take your foot off the gas a little bit in the second-half. This is embarrassing. I mean, what's the fun of beating a team 15 and 20 nil? It's brilliant fun. Just take it easy, just knock it about a bit.

Speaker 5

You're like vultures.

Speaker 4

Now go on.

Speaker 5

Come, let's go.

Speaker 4

Oh, hi. We're winning 8-nil. 9-nil.

Speaker 6

Calm down.

Speaker 5

Are you a complete fool?

Speaker 4

No, you need to see Ted. He's not best pleased with this, is he?

Speaker 5

Well, who else are you going to tell? The kids? I mean, maybe we could recreate what we did in school assembly. We could go through the rubbish, find the Juricks that split and bring it in and show everyone.

Speaker 2

What do you think? You're playing it? I could lose my job.

Speaker 4

Well, they can't cite you for getting pregnant.

Speaker 5

Look, I haven't been here long enough for maternity leave.

Speaker 4

Well, the union will help.

Speaker 5

Look, none of this is the point, Paul. The point is the...

Speaker 6

How many more times am I going to tell you a lot about playing to the whistle?

Speaker 5

Call me later, OK?

Speaker 6

**** Oh, come on, you useless shower. This lot of crap get stuck in.

Speaker 8

I'm not a psychologist, but I'd suggest that taking up smoking the week you find out you're pregnant indicates a certain ambivalence towards the pregnancy on your part.

Speaker 5

He's given up. Paul.

Speaker 8

It's the first thing in the morning.

Speaker 5

Yeah. So, we're both making it clear where we stand. I start drinking and smoking and he's given everything up. This is horrible. I don't really care how much damage it's doing to me.

Speaker 8

So if everything's as bad as you make out, how come you're not applying for jobs in pit lockery?

Speaker 5

I know Paul's gone completely mad. I know, it's just that it kind of rubs off on you somehow.

Speaker 4

I'll tell you, Steve, it makes a difference the way you think about things.

Speaker 9

Right.

Speaker 4

Well, like today, right? I want us to win.

Speaker 9

Right, I'm with you so far.

Speaker 4

And I think we will.

Speaker 9

Well, that's new. Home to Norwich would usually be predicting what, two-nil defeat? Nil-nil, maybe? If he was really on top of the world.

Speaker 4

If we don't, it's not the end of the world.

Speaker 9

No. Still 4 games left, 12 points to be won.

Speaker 4

No, that's not what I mean. I mean, if we don't win the league this season, I'll cope because of Sarah and the baby. You know, because when you've got nothing else going on, Arsenal fill all the gaps. And you'd end up getting in a state about losing to Spurs

when really you should be getting in a state about yourself. Well, we will win today. Suns out, I'm going to be a father. Alan Smith's back. Five-nil. No trouble.

Speaker 7

Let's go.

Speaker 4

You see, everything's happening at once and it's brilliant. You stick with me, kids.

Speaker 6

No way we won't win the league now.

Speaker 7

Oh, it's all you, is it?

Speaker 9

Nothing to do with George or Smithy or Rocky or me buying a bloody sugar mice before every game.

Speaker 4

Well, that's what it feels like. Don't you ever get feelings like that?

Speaker 9

Yeah. I felt brilliant the day we got knocked out of the League Cup by Walsall. Do you remember that? Got a pay rise. Got off with Carolyn Walsh the night before. That lot of ***** notice is what I took, though.

Speaker 4

Well, that's it. See, some must have got it, some of us haven't.

Speaker 9

All I can say is we must have had a pretty ***** life for the last 18 years, given our record.

Speaker 4

Well, maybe I haven't had it all the time, but I'll tell you, I've got it this season in spades. Did you go?

Speaker 5

Yeah, it was a great one.

Speaker 6

Mum, we're mad.

Speaker 5

She wants to get a season ticket next year.

Speaker 7

Can I have a quick word? Sure. We're just talking about the rows of Norwich.

Speaker 14

Yes, saw it on TV. I thought of you both. Very impressive.

Speaker 5

It's good that Alan switched back, isn't it, sir?

Speaker 14

Run along. I just wanted to say I had a word with the governors. They'll be happy to interview you for head of year.

Speaker 4

Oh, thanks, Ted. Ted, I'm not planning to make a habit of this, if that's what you're all worried about. This really is something out of the ordinary for me.

Speaker 14

Just be prepared, OK? School governors can be a funny watch.

Speaker 5

You're kidding. No way.

Speaker 4

Can't afford anywhere else.

Speaker 5

M5's not the only place in the world, you know.

Speaker 4

Come on, Sarah, you know that's not true.

Speaker 7

You can hardly hear anything, most games.

Speaker 4

How often do they play?

Speaker 10

Once a month, something like that.

Speaker 4

Right.

Speaker 5

Do they leave much mess?

Speaker 4

No, they're as good as gold, most of them.

Speaker 7

Shall I leave you to take a look around on your own?

Speaker 4

Thanks.

Speaker 5

What is it with you? Why does it matter how close to the ground you live, as long as you can come to the games?

Speaker 4

When I was a kid, I read in this programme or book or something a little story about what used to happen around here on cut final days of Arsenal were playing. I used to have this procession through the streets and all the women and kids used to dress up in fancy dress and leave the men who were going to Wembley down to the station. I lived in Maidenhead. What do we have there, really?

Speaker 5

Money, decent schools, holidays abroad, enough food.

Speaker 4

Yeah, you're right. Yeah, I was lucky. I was ruthless too. I didn't have anything like that. I had nothing I could be proud of, nothing I can look back on now and feel sentimental about, except telly programmes and pop music and stuff. It was different here. Anyway, it's close to the tube. It's 50 minutes from the west end, it's not far from school.

Speaker 5

I'm sorry, Paul, I'm not prepared to indulge your fantasies. It seems to me the best thing for you would be to get a lot further away, not a few yards nearer.

Speaker 4

It doesn't feel like that.

Speaker 5

Tough.

Speaker 7

Is there a problem?

Speaker 15

No.

Speaker 5

It's a lovely house, really. It's just the view. Tell me again what was wrong with that place in Crichton Avenue?

Speaker 3

You know, the one with a garden.

Speaker 5

I'm talking to myself. Somewhere a bit further north, anyway, in Bounds Green.

Speaker 7

Watford.

Speaker 5

How about Darlings and a laser team? They could support them.

Speaker 6

Yes.

Speaker 5

I think you know you did a really good this season.

Speaker 4

So, Paul. Confident. Sorry, not about the job. About what's going on down the road. Arsenal. My boy tells me you're a fan. Oh, right. Well, so far so good. Season ticket holder? Yes. Whereabouts? North Bank.

Speaker 6

Right, shall we...

Speaker 4

Who do you think we should sign? Think we need a new striker? I have to say, Paul, I'm delighted we didn't get Kerry Dixon. Never hated it. Ray. Ray, I think we should...

Speaker 6

Sorry, Ted.

Speaker 4

Once you get going, it's hard to stop, Paul. I think we know all about your teaching abilities.

Speaker 7

Can I ask what extramural activities you're involved in at the moment?

Speaker 4

I'll give you one guess. Paul's just coached the under-14s to the cup final, haven't you, Paul? My Nigel thinks you should be the next England manager. Sounds as though that might be a more suitable position than head of year. Yeah, well, I did the school play last summer and... Who've got the final, Paul? Parkside? Any good? Pretty good, yeah. And I've been very much involved in the pastoral side of things as a form teacher. And we understand that...

Speaker 7

You're an expectant father.

Speaker 4

Yes. That's one of the extramural activities you forgot to mention, Paul. Chatting up other members of staff. More than chatting them up. You've got good taste, I'll give you that.

Speaker 7

As we reach the final Saturday of the week's season, we're still not sure of the destiny of the Barclays League title. Arsenal are favourites, their five-point lead gives them the upper hand, but both sides must keep winning. For instance, defeat for Liverpool at Wimbledon this afternoon and a win for Arsenal against Derby. Hello. The Gunners could clinch a title on Wednesday when they meet Wimbledon.

Speaker 4

No, just watching Satan Greasley. Yeah, home to Derby. Thank you. right. Yeah, I wasn't really expecting it to be honest. I mean, it didn't go brilliantly, did it? Did she? Yeah, well, I think she'd make a very good head of year. Yeah. Well, look, thanks. Yeah, thanks for letting me know. No. I'd have swapped it for three points this afternoon anyway.

Speaker 6

Cheers, Ted.

Speaker 9

When was the last time you felt this nervous about a league game?

Speaker 4

1971, I should think.

Speaker 9

Two home wins could be champions Tuesday night. Imagine. What are we going to do?

Speaker 4

Drink, I expect.

Speaker 9

Yeah. I can't think about it in better night, otherwise I can't sleep. Champions! You have to tell you about everything you ever said about it.

Speaker 4

Yeah, I will. Tuesday night. This is the worst day of my life. Eighteen ***** years and they blow it on the last weekend of the season.

Speaker 9

Come on, Paul, it's only half time. It's only one nil.

Speaker 4

Doesn't matter. They've blown it. Knew they were, didn't they? Useless *****.

Speaker 5

I am sorry.

Speaker 4

Yeah, thanks.

Speaker 5

How are you feeling?

Speaker 4

Sick. Just wasn't expecting it, you know, not today anyway.

Speaker 5

They had to tell you sometime.

Speaker 4

Tell me what?

Speaker 5

What have we been talking about?

Speaker 4

I know what I've been talking about. What have you been talking about?

Speaker 5

The job. The job.

Speaker 6

You think I'll be this upset about a stupid poxy job interview? We lost at home to Derby today. We've blown it.

Speaker 5

God, Paul, when are you going to wake up to yourself?

Speaker 6

Wake up to myself? I'm bloody awake. I wish I wasn't.

Speaker 4

I want to go to sleep for the next 10 seasons.

Speaker 5

Seasons? I am sick. To get by hearing about bloody seasons. We live our lives in years, Paul, you know, January through to December.

Speaker 4

Not all of us.

Speaker 5

Yes, all of us, even you.

Speaker 4

Understand what today meant to me. Do you know how long I've been waiting for this?

Speaker 5

Yes, I do, actually.

Speaker 6

18 years. 18 years, 18 ***** years. I wanted Arsenal to win the league longer than I wanted to do anything. And after that stupid little head of year, for about two weeks, do you honestly think I care about that more?

Speaker 5

No, of course not. No, I know that you care more about whether one team scores more than another team at a football match. You really thought I came here to comfort you about that.

Speaker 4

I did for a moment, yeah. I credited you with some imagination. I honestly thought you might understand how I was feeling.

Speaker 5

But it's only a game.

Speaker 6

Don't say that! Please! That is the worst, most stupid thing anyone could say. But it quite clearly isn't only a game. I mean, if it was, do you honestly think I care this much? Eighteen years! Eighteen years! Do you know what you wanted 18 years ago? Or 10? Or 5? You want to be head of year at a North London comprehensive? I doubt it. Dad, if you've wanted anything for that long. And if you had, and if you'd spent three months thinking that finally... Finally, you were going to get it. And just when you think it's there, it's taken away from you. I mean, I don't care what it is, a car, a job, an Oscar, a baby. Then you'd understand how I was feeling tonight.

Speaker 4

But there isn't, and you don't, so...

Speaker 5

What? So **** *** go home, leave you alone.

Speaker 4

Whatever.

Speaker 5

I'll tell you something, Paul. There isn't anything that I've wanted for 18 years, because I was a kid 18 years ago. And if I did still want the same things, I think I'd gone wrong somewhere, because actually I don't want to marry David Cassidy. I don't want bigger ****. I don't want to do well and my moccas. Now stop worrying about all of that kind of thing, and maybe you should try.

Speaker 4

Maybe there's a big bit of you that's gone missing somewhere. Maybe everyone should want something they've always wanted.

Speaker 5

I don't know what I've been thinking of.

Speaker 4

How do you mean?

Speaker 5

We've both been pretending that this is possible, and it's not, is it? It's wife and kids and la de da, life's great, stuff. It's not on any of it, is it? All it took was one bad football result, and the whole thing has collapsed. We're now back to life is **** so what's the point?

Speaker 4

What is the point?

Speaker 5

I don't think that Arsenal's home form is a sturdy enough basis for marriage and parenthood, do you?

Speaker 4

No. Not even this season.

Speaker 5

Trying to give him a surprise enema.

Speaker 4

Hello. Yeah, just having a night in. Yeah, I know. They were awful. Yeah, She's fine. She says hello.

Speaker 5

Look, Mum, I've got to go because supper's on the table.

Speaker 4

I'll call you tomorrow.

Speaker 15

Bummer.

Speaker 5

Mr. Ashworth, the play was supposed to start 5 minutes ago. We've been waiting for you. It's no good talking to him, Miss. He's got the hump.

Speaker 3

Have you had a row?

Speaker 4

Shut up, Holly.

Speaker 6

Okay, everyone, in stock.

Speaker 5

How did Arsenal get on last night?

Speaker 8

You have a look. Oh, sorry.

Speaker 5

Hey Drew, 2-2.

Speaker 8

What does that mean?

Speaker 5

You know, apart from bad. It means they have to beat Liverpool away to win the championship.

Speaker 8

Now, I've heard of Liverpool. They're famous for being good, aren't they? Gary Lineker, Peter Shelton, all that lot. So ask and I've got no chance then.

Speaker 5

No, none whatsoever, it says here.

Speaker 8

Do we really care that much?

Speaker 14

And finally, I probably don't need to tell you that the final of the South Hertfordshire Schools Cup competition takes place here this afternoon at 4.30. I'm sure you'll join me in wishing Mr Ashworth and the boys the very best of luck. Not, of course, that they'll need it. Now, I know that many of you will be anxious to get home to start your homework, but Those who feel they can spare the time and wish to lend their vocal encouragement will be most welcome. Thank you.

Speaker 2

How are we doing? He's in one note, playing ****. How long to go? Almost finished.

Speaker 7

Come on, somebody.

Speaker 6

Good boy, Robert.

Speaker 15

Sorry, sir.

Speaker 4

I don't need to say anything. I wasn't going to say anything.

Speaker 3

I should never have taken her.

Speaker 4

No one else had the guts.

Speaker 3

Yes, I'm stupid as well as useless.

Speaker 4

It doesn't matter. You've had a brilliant season.

Speaker 3

It's not what I'm going to remember, though, is it?

Speaker 4

Anyway. If you had to choose between winning this afternoon and Arsenal winning tomorrow night, where would you go for?

Speaker 3

Tomorrow night, of course.

Speaker 4

There you go, then.

Speaker 3

What, you're telling me Arsenal are going to win two-nil at Anfield?

Speaker 4

I can't promise, can I? I mean, there's a chance, isn't it? You've done your bit, you missed the penalty. If that's what it takes, then it'll be worth it.

Speaker 3

Yeah, of course.

Speaker 13

What can I say? She's walking away from what we've seen. What can I do still loving you? It's all a dream. How can we hang on to a dream? How can it really be the way it seems? What can I do? She's saying we're through With how it was What will I try? I still don't see why She says what she does How can we hang on to the blue? Can it really be the way it's in?

Speaker 7

Good luck, sir. Good luck, Jay, sir.

Speaker 2

It'll be great, they've got nothing to worry about.

Speaker 5

No chance, sir.

Speaker 2

I'll get stuck, sir.

Speaker 5

Hi. Off to watch the big match. Yeah, I just came to wish you could live, that was all. Thanks. The boys in my GCSE set were trying to explain it to me. You have to win 2-0, is that right?

Speaker 4

Yeah.

Speaker 5

That's possible, isn't it? You've got no chance tonight, sir.

Speaker 2

Shut up.

Speaker 5

Is it right you've handed in your notice?

Speaker 4

I need more money, child support.

Speaker 5

We could have managed between us.

Speaker 4

It would be a bit awkward, wouldn't it, working in the next room to the absent father of your child.

Speaker 5

Maybe. Well, I'll be thinking of you tonight.

Speaker 4

You want to watch?

Speaker 5

I'm not sure. One of my fifth formers is having an end of school party and I've been invited along, amazingly enough. But I'll try. It doesn't matter.

Speaker 4

It's only a stupid game.

Speaker 7

The teams occupying first and second place in the championship. Head-to-head, the last match of the season for the league championship. The Anfield Roar welcoming and intimidating as we join our commentary team of David Pleat and Brian Moore. Thank you, Elton. Good evening, everybody. Arsenal on the pitch?

Speaker 4

We should be there.

Speaker 9

Yeah, well, you were the one who said it wasn't worth the hassle.

Speaker 4

Didn't know it was going to be the title decided, did I? Anyway, imagine all those scouts that are celebrating. I'll be down here with my own people. Person.

Speaker 9

Thank you. Oh, sorry.

Speaker 5

I thought you were a football fan, Duncan.

Speaker 7

Yeah, I am, so I can't stand Arsenal.

Speaker 5

Sounds like an old joke. It's not a joke. How about you, William?

Speaker 15

Nah, I hate football and Arsenal.

Speaker 5

Yeah, but don't you even want to know how they're getting on? Nope. Go on, I'll let you go. I wouldn't mind, you know.

Speaker 4

Helen, do you mind if this year sticks the TV on? I think you want to sign the football score.

Speaker 5

No, I don't really.

Speaker 4

I was just wondering why?

Speaker 6

Go on if you must, but just find out the score, okay?

Speaker 5

Still nil, nil, first half.

Speaker 3

There he is, my mate Ricky Thomas. Shut up, Mum. He's useless. I like him. Shows what you know, doesn't it?

Speaker 7

They outplayed them. Most of it, it was cup-tie, but had to be content with them.

Speaker 6

Miracle of modern technology.

Speaker 7

You bear it hasn't got an aerial enough. Positive charge there by Adams, but it falls for Wheeler.

Speaker 3

Oh, hello, love. I was wondering who'd dare in tonight. You're joking, aren't you? Your brother will have the phone off the hook.

Speaker 6

He's already flicked on the corner, and it would be dangerous to give away...

Speaker 3

No score.

Speaker 6

Particularly early in the game.

Speaker 3

No, not really. They don't look like they're going to let one in, though, either. Hold on.

Speaker 7

Tangling with Whelan. Michael Thomas getting to the byline. This could be danger for Liverpool here.

Speaker 4

That was it. That was our chance.

Speaker 9

No, there'll be others.

Speaker 4

You reckon I don't?

Speaker 7

And Arsenal within a whisker of getting the goal they so desperately wanted early in this game.

Speaker 4

Let's go, Al.

Speaker 9

You kidding?

Speaker 4

Let's go and get Hammer.

Speaker 7

Forget all about it.

Speaker 9

I'm watching till the end.

Speaker 7

John do that. Sorry.

Speaker 9

Sit down.

Speaker 4

There's no point. Not for a minute. I'll just stay till half-time.

Speaker 6

And everyone's looking very closely at him at the moment. But he's beginning to get the mood of this game.

Speaker 4

He's beginning to see what they've got to say.

Speaker 9

Doing OK, aren't we?

Speaker 6

And what's the use of OK?

Speaker 4

Might as well be losing 8 nil.

Speaker 9

I don't think that's really true, Paul, is it? So if you want to win a game two-nil, you've got more chances if it's nil-nil at half-time than you have if you're eight goals down. Do you see where I'm coming from?

Speaker 6

You're living in cloud cuckoo land. Join the real world.

Speaker 9

In the real world, it's nil-nil at half-time.

Speaker 4

Might as well be 8-nil.

Speaker 9

Jesus, Paul, you need medical help. You've got some kind of disease that turns people into miserable *****. Anyway, are you staying?

Speaker 4

No. Just a couple of minutes to the second-half.

Speaker 7

Winterburn and Richardson behind it. Adams has made a darting little run in there. And Smith! Yes! Liverpool players are surrounding the referee.

Speaker 4

He's going to disallow now. You watch bloody typical. Bet you anyone you like.

Speaker 7

But he's coming across to have a word with the linesman now. A crucial decision here. Ronnie Whelan looking on there. The goal's been given. Yes.

Speaker 6

Isn't that just like Arsenal?

Speaker 4

They need two, so they score one just to get us all going.

Speaker 9

What, you want them to score the second one before they scored the first one?

Speaker 7

And what a game we have now. Breakthrough by Arsenal, their fans are delighted... Merson, Richardson, a chance here, Thomas.

Speaker 2

Told you, it's useless.

Speaker 7

Suddenly Thomas totally unmarked deep inside the little...

Speaker 6

I've had enough, I'm off.

Speaker 9

Good. ***** good riddance.

Speaker 4

You coming?

Speaker 9

No.

Speaker 6

It's my flight.

Speaker 9

Yeah, will you try getting me out of it?

Speaker 7

And Hanson will get it back. Quarter of an hour left.

Speaker 5

They've scored.

Speaker 6

OK, listen up, everyone.

Speaker 15

Oh, God, there's not a lot to say now.

Speaker 2

Sasha! basically, Miss Hughes, we had a whiff around and bought you a thank you present. Was that it?

Speaker 15

That's right.

Speaker 5

Brief and little balls. Thank you.

Speaker 2

No, wait, there's a bit more.

Speaker 5

Well, we didn't like you at first. You gave us too much work. But we really enjoyed it and we thought we'd pass our exams because of you, so you must be a good teacher.

Speaker 2

Oh, yeah, and Scott, who?

Speaker 5

Isn't here because he's at home watching football, said to tell you that you're like George Graham because we all respect you, because you push us hard and get results.

Speaker 7

Hi, Bridley. Whereabouts? Just around the corner from the arsenal run. I don't want to go up now.

Speaker 8

Not tonight.

Speaker 6

Not now.

Speaker 3

He's in Liverpool or football. I know that, love, but I'm taping it soon. And if I go up there now, they'll give the game away. Either they'll be doing their nut, I'll be as quiet as a grave.

Speaker 5

Yeah, but you can go in and out in no time before the final whistle.

Speaker 8

Come on then.

Speaker 5

You're an Arsenal fan then?

Speaker 6

I used to be when I was a kid. Charlie, Jules and all of them. I don't go anymore. I bloody love him to win tonight. I bloody love him.

Speaker 7

Remember, Arsenal need two goals at the moment they have won. If it stays this way, Liverpool will be champions for the 19th time.

Speaker 4

We shouldn't even turn the TV on this evening.

Speaker 7

But will it stay this way?

Speaker 6

And what do we think would happen?

Speaker 4

I don't reckon I'll be able to carry on after this. I won't be able to pick myself up. Or to get this close. Might I listen to you?

Speaker 7

Me.

Speaker 4

You said we had a chance.

Speaker 7

Well, we did. We do.

Speaker 6

Oh, you're pathetic. We're practically in injury time already.

Speaker 4

I might start supporting a team who never wins. Orient or someone. At least you know where you stand. Don't lay yourself open to situations like this. You believe that?

Speaker 9

Well, you're on your way out. Why don't you see what they want when you're down there?

Speaker 7

One minute to go. McMahon has got the word from the cop, obviously. But nobody knows quite how much time the referee will have on.

Speaker 6

This is awful. It's like the end of the world or something.

Speaker 7

Thinking away if Arsenal are to lose the championship. Having had such a lead at one time, it's somewhat poetic justice that they have got the result on the last day, even though they're not to win it.

Speaker 9

Oh, shut up, please.

Speaker 6

Will you please, just ***** *****. You have arrived here in the worst 60 seconds of my life and I really don't want to see you.

Speaker 4

Why Oscar?

Speaker 6

And what sort of Bert would do that? He'd just about forgive an alien visitor from the planet Tharg, but even then you'd have...

Speaker 7

Where are you going?

Speaker 9

You merge. You might miss something.

Speaker 7

Adams is after his man. But Barnes will not be denied. Yes, he will by Richardson moment ago, down and injured. Streaming forward now in surely what will be their last attack? A good ball by Dixon finding Smith for Thomas. It's up for grabs now.

Speaker 11

Thomas.

Speaker 7

An unbelievable climax to the league season.

Speaker 4

How much injury time is it?

Speaker 9

We've had two minutes already.

Speaker 4

You watch me go straight up the other end of school now, see if they don't.

Speaker 6

I knew we'd do it. I just, I had this feeling.

Speaker 7

You're a live *****.

Speaker 6

No, no, no, honestly. No, no, no, on the surface, there's all that negativity in doubt, but on the inside, you've got to believe, haven't you? I am sorry. No, no, thank you. I would have missed it for the world.

Speaker 15

Paul.

Speaker 6

Is he yours? The guy I work with. He's enjoying himself.

Speaker 2

Yeah.

Speaker 6

I've never seen him so happy.

Speaker 4

When I think back to the 26th of May, 1989 now, It's impossible to explain exactly what happened to either of us. Well, three of us if you count the team. I do know this. My relationship with Arsenal changed that night. It was as if I jumped onto the shoulders of the team and they'd carried me into the light that had suddenly shone down on all of us. And the lift they gave me enabled me to part company with them in some ways. We still see each other all the time and I still love them and hate them all at the same time. But I have my own life now. My own successes and failures aren't necessarily linked up with theirs. That's got to be a good thing. I suppose.

Speaker 5

Life's never going to be this good again, is it?

Speaker 4

Oh, **** *. Don't start with me.

Speaker 5

No, I'm not. I mean it. You don't get any... What's his name?

Speaker 4

Michael Thomas.

Speaker 5

Yeah, you don't get any Michael Thomas moments in real life, do you?

Speaker 4

You don't get many of them in football either. See, I'm not in such a state, am I? I didn't need saving after all. What?

Speaker 5

Let's not get carried away. You're still a tragic human being.

Speaker 4

Tragic? Do we look particularly tragic tonight? I didn't see Tim and Miss Jean Brodie's leaping around the streets in fits of ecstasy. All too busy writing out tomorrow's lesson plans. I think they've got to darn their surgical stockings.

Speaker 5

Well, have you come across the term lesson plan? You've never planned a lesson in your life.

Speaker 4

No, that's because I've got better things to do with it.

Speaker 5

Oh, is that right? Is George Graham really horrible?

Speaker 4

Am I?

Speaker 5

No reason.

Speaker 4

Has somebody else noticed the resemblance?

Speaker 5

Yeah.

Speaker 4

My performance.

Speaker 6

He has the reputation of being mean and dour and unapproachable and...

Speaker 11

I think I'm going back. To the things I learned so well in my youth. I think I'm returning to those days when I was young enough to know the truth. Out there are no games to only pass the time. No more electric trains No more trees to climb But being young and growing older is no sin And I can play the game of life to win I can recall a time Wasn't a

shame to reach out to Now I think I've got A lot more than just my toys to land Now
there's more to do And watch my sailboat fly And every day can be A magic