

**Title:** The Waiting Room

**By:** Trudi Slaven

**Director:** David Crewe

**Genre:** Mystery/Drama

**Synopsis:**

Lisa is a woman who's spent her life in the grip of her 'bad habits'. But bad habits have a way of catching up with you. So she finds herself here, in an anonymous waiting room, for an appointment with... well, she doesn't know. There are two women already sitting on the uncomfortable chairs: Jade and Nan. They're hashing over an old argument as Lisa stumbles through the door, at which point they turn their attention to her. Who is she? Why is she there? What brought her to this point? And why is she so damp? Slowly, they tease out the unlovely details of her ruined life and it becomes clear that Jade and Nan are versions of her: who Lisa once was, and who she might still become. And the waiting room is a nowhere place - a point between something and nothing. Jade and Nan are there to lead her towards the decision Lisa must make. And it's a big one - her life depends upon it. What will she do?

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**Characters – (3 actors)**

**JADE** - Young woman, 20s.

**LISA** - Middle aged woman, 50s.

**NAN** - Older woman, 70s.

**Setting** A waiting room.

**Running time:** 13 minutes

JADE: 'Course, Mum didn't like him.

NAN: No fool, you're mother.

JADE: But that just made him more interesting.

LISA: It was after Darryl that I met Jonno.

NAN: And he was no better.

LISA: Well, no, he wasn't. How did you know?

NAN: You've got that... wounded look about you, luv.

LISA: Yeah well, Jonno took off. With my car. And my cousin.

JADE: Dirty bastard...

LISA: Only good thing Jonno did was give me Jessica. That's my daughter.

JADE: I've always loved that name!

*Lisa gets up from her seat, over to the unmanned counter. Behind her back Nan and Jade both get up in the same movement and move one row/a couple of seats closer to where Lisa was sitting*

LISA: Why hasn't anyone come out? Are we supposed to just sit here?

*Jade and Nan look at each other, then back to Lisa.*

NAN: They will. How old's your daughter now?

LISA: *[Moving back to her seat]* Oh, she's all grown up. Got a good job. In the city. I don't... I don't see her much. But she's doing real good.

JADE: I wanted a job in the city. Thought I'd look good in one of those power suits. 'Course, I would have been bored as bat shit working in an office.

NAN: Office work would not have been for you.

LISA: Oh, are you two here together? *Turning to Jade.* Are you helping your nan?

*Nan and Jade laugh.*