

*The HOPKINS house, breakfast.*

HOPKINS            Snuggles?

LISA                Yes, darling.

HOPKINS            These eggs taste funny.

LISA                They're duck eggs.

HOPKINS            Why am I eating duck eggs? I'm not Albanian.

LISA                For a change, I've started buying whatever is one to the left of what I usually buy. That's why we've got no coffee but lots of Domestos.

HOPKINS            Let's go out for dinner tonight and we can talk then. I'm sorry, I have to go. I'm at head office today.

LISA                Mr. Buckton caned Perry yesterday. He can hardly sit down.

HOPKINS            What had he done?

LISA                He'd farted. In Latin.

HOPKINS            Impressive! Most people can't even speak Latin.

LISA                So you're quite happy for your son to be physically abused by a sadist?

HOPKINS            It's an expensive public school. I'd be disappointed if he wasn't getting abused. I remember one time we were playing Rugby at Rugby in Rugby. We lost seventy-three nil. To be honest, we were lucky to get nil. We were all given six of the best on the hand. *On the hand*. Now that does hurt. Bottoms are for girls. Now what have you got today darling? Tupperware Party?

LISA                I thought I'd wash up, do the ironing, polish off a couple of bottles of vodka and then set fire to the Women's Institute.

HOPKINS            Sorry darling, I've got to rush.

LISA                You weren't listening, were you?!

HOPKINS            Oh look, Snuggles, I'm sorry –

LISA                I just want to know what I'm supposed to do all day long in the middle of the Essex countryside.

HOPKINS            Don't start. Not now.

LISA                When is a good time to start?

HOPKINS            Look! I bought you a horse.

LISA                It doesn't like me!