

Kamal and Rachel (Act One, Scene Five, pages 25-27)

Rachel: It's like my memories get sucked into a black hole. And then, even the bits that remain are so fragmented, it's like... Have you ever bought a jigsaw puzzle from a jumble sale? Bits missing and bits from other puzzles finding their way in.

Kamal: So, you're saying the problem is not just what you have forgotten; what you remember is also unreliable?

Rachel: I get these... I don't know, flashes of memory, but it's like, like I've tried to fit the wrong pieces into the puzzle. Tried to force bits in just to complete the picture.

Kamal: So why now? Why have you waited until now to address this?

Rachel: Do you ever get to know your clients personally?

Kamal: Sometimes our subconscious likes to cherry-pick the memories we like, or we repress the ones we don't. Is there a part of you that wants to forget?

Rachel: No. Well. Maybe sometimes...

Kamal: Go on.

Rachel: I suppose I'm always worried I've done something embarrassing or... even worse.

Kamal: You must have a very low opinion of yourself.

Rachel: Why?

Kamal: You have periods of memory loss, and you assume that the blank spaces are filled with you doing something embarrassing, or "worse". Why not something kind or funny or intelligent? Are you capable of kindness? Humour? Intelligence?

Rachel: Yes.

Kamal: So, where are those puzzle pieces?

Rachel: I try my hardest to remember. But my memory tells me one thing and then evidence tells me something else. There was one time, when I was married: I got so enraged with my husband... I don't remember doing it, but I put a massive dent in the wall. It's there for all to see, what I'd done. But that's not who I am. I know it's not.

Kamal: Violence clouds the memory. And then you have to reconstruct it. Only, now the memory becomes susceptible to other influences.

Rachel: Your voice. It's very gentle. Is that your real voice or just for this?

Kamal: Can I get you some water?

Rachel: I've still got some, thanks.

Kamal: I mean – actual water. Even a small amount of alcohol impairs the memory. If you could manage to stop –

Rachel: You sound like my ex-husband.

Kamal: He's still a fixture, your ex-husband. Emotionally.

Rachel: He'd still be a fixture physically, if we'd have been able to have a baby. We tried. Tried for years. Did the IVF. Spent a fortune. We even tried the alternative therapies, you know? Reflexology, acupuncture, crystal therapy.

Kamal: Crystal therapy?

Rachel: You sort of lie there and someone puts glass beads on your forehead and plays the sounds of the ocean.

Kamal: And even that didn't get you pregnant?

Rachel: I know. Ovaries of stone.

Kamal: And this affected your marriage?

Rachel: It was my fault. Physically. My fault we couldn't... All that time, I lived with this empty space, here, where our child should have been. Tom and his new wife, Anna, they have a baby. Evie. All the things we'd planned to do together, he's doing with her.

Kamal and Rachel (Act Two, Scene Three, pages 60-61)

Rachel: Did you tell the police you and Megan were having an affair?

Kamal: We weren't having an affair.

Rachel: She had just admitted to Scott she was seeing someone. Right before she went missing on Saturday night.

Kamal: It wasn't me.

Rachel: I saw you kissing her, remember?

Kamal: It wasn't how it looked.

Rachel: Then how was it?

Kamal: Megan liked having someone she could talk to. About her art. About herself. Her husband, he didn't understand. I filled that space in her life. Perhaps we both confused it for something else.

Rachel: So, were you having an affair?

Kamal: She said she wanted to make things work with her husband. I went to hers that Friday morning to tell her that I found it too difficult to see her. I kissed her goodbye... and then I kissed her again. That's what you must have seen. Later, she turned up at mine. She said she wanted to finish what she had begun telling me in therapy. I thought I owed it to her.

Rachel: What did she want to talk about?

Kamal: Why can't you just leave her in peace?

Rachel: There are things about Megan that only you know. If the other man in her life wasn't you, then who was it?

Kamal: It's not relevant.

Rachel: Everything's relevant. They're saying she killed a baby. Did you know that? If you know something, you have to say. Otherwise, Megan will be one of those names, hers will be one of those stories that dies away, with no ending. Who are you protecting?

Kamal: I'm protecting Megan.

Rachel: It's too late for that! Who was he?