

END OF TIME



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Cast List

- Blake Price (m) An ambitious and power hungry young man who becomes the controlling, driven and domineering owner of Pharmco, a multi-national drugs company. He does not age after 40 years old.
- Angela (f) Blake's protective and loving mother in her late fifties to early sixties..
- Sarah (f) Blake's down-to-earth first wife who ages from her 20s to late 50s
- Lilly/Bindy/Carrie-Ann (f) Blake's young model wives who are all played by the same actress in different blonde wigs. Each comes across as a bimbo but none are as dumb as they first appear.
- Flora (f) Blake's female neighbour then housekeeper who is hardworking, pushy and mouthy. She ages from late twenties to mid-sixties.
- Dora (f) Blake's other female neighbour then housekeeper who is hardworking, slightly dim but well tuned to other's emotions. She ages from late twenties to mid-sixties.
- Karl (m) Blake's friend who is best man at his weddings. He appears to be kind-hearted and generous but turns out to be the ultimate pragmatist. He ages from thirties to sixties.
- Gallery Owner (m) Obsequious art salesman well versed in the necessary flannel who will make a substantial living from Blake. He ages from mid forties to sixties.

Total 8 = 3 Male 5 Female

END OF TIME SCENE LIST

ACT ONE

I	1 st May 2021	Price Manor.	Blake's wedding to Bindy Belle.
II	23 rd April 1992	Harrington Manor.	Blake's wedding to Sarah Hart.
III	1 st Sept 1997	Harrington Manor.	Blake's business conference.
IV	31 st Dec 1999	Harrington Manor.	Blake is entertaining clients.
V	February 2000	Price Manor.	Moving in.
VI	1 st April 2000	Price Manor.	Blake's wedding to Lilly Crawley.
VII	July 2012	Price Manor.	First visit of Gallery Owner and Blake takes Timeless pill.

ACT TWO

I	1 st May 2021	Price Manor.	Blake's wedding to Bindy Belle.
II	Winter 2024	Price Manor.	Another visit from Gallery Owner.
III	Summer 2026	Price Manor.	Karl's wedding anniversary.
IV	Winter 2028	Price Manor.	Another visit from Gallery Owner.
V	May 8 th 2029	Price Manor.	Flora and Dora's last day.
VI	July 2029	Price Manor.	Blake's wedding to Carrie-Ann Carter.

End of Time

The stage setting is the very tasteful but sparse drawing room at Price Manor. A chaise longue stands in front of a set of large double doors behind which Blake's fifth wedding party is taking place. To one side is a patio door and to the other is a door to another room. When the date changes something indicative of the time is put onto stage eg laptop for 2012.

ACT ONE

SCENE 1

It is 2021. Sir Blake Price, the multi-billionaire owner of drug company Pharmco is getting married for the fifth time. Karl, as best man, takes up his designated place in the spotlight at the front of a darkened stage. He speaks in an upbeat way.

KARL: Ladies and Gentlemen, may I have your attention please. My dear Ladies and Gentlemen it is a pleasure and the utmost privilege to welcome you all to Price Manor for the wedding of the Millennium. I am sure you will all fondly remember this date of 1st May 2021 as the day of the most exquisite wedding. The wedding of Sir Blake Price to Miss Bindy Belle. My dear friend I would like to add my congratulations to the many that you have received today. I doubt this beautiful young lady could have found a more distinguished and successful groom and to you the new Lady Price on behalf of all of us here I would like to say how radiant a bride you are and how happy you have made your groom. Please raise your glasses in a toast to the bride and groom. The bride and groom. Sir Blake would now like to say a few words himself. Thank you.

Karl exits and lights up.. Flora and Dora, both mature housekeepers, sneak backwards through the double doors into the lounge carrying empty trays. As they enter the sound of the wedding party can be heard.

FLORA: 'Ere Do. Let's just pop in here for a moment. We can get away from that pompous lot and rest our weary feet.

DORA: Good idea Flo. Lovely weddings are hard work! My feet are killing me.

FLORA: My legs are killing me.

DORA: My back is killing me.

FLORA: My neck is killing me.

DORA: He's got a lot to answer for that Mr Price...I mean (*slowly*) Sir Price...

FLORA: It was when he was awarded an honour!

FLORA & DORA: Boom, boom.

They both laugh.

DORA: Flo you are funny.

FLORA: We'll have to stop doing that joke. It's been six months.

DORA: Six months, now that is a Sir Price.

Dora doesn't get the reaction she expects.

FLORA: Yes. Definitely time to stop. (*holds her back*) Ouch!

DORA: Let's sit down. There's plenty of time while he does the same old speech. Come and take the weight off those old legs.

Dora goes to help Flora along but gets a dig in the ribs for her trouble.

FLORA: Speak for yourself. My legs aren't old they're mature.

DORA: Mature like stilton...Cheesy, sweaty with blue veins running throughout. Uggh!

FLORA: What did you say?

DORA: Nothing love, nothing. (*Awkward pause*) This is his most spectacular wedding yet. Must have cost a fortune.

FLORA: Loved the champagne geyser.

DORA: The gold painted doves.

FLORA: The diamond encrusted arbour.

DORA: The...(*thinks*) wow! Yes... Amazing.

FLORA: Wife number five. Can you believe he's been married five times?

DORA: Yes!

They both laugh.

FLORA: They're all the same. All blonde, blue eyed, gorgeous models. Except Sarah of course.

DORA: All similar in character too.

FLORA: Do you think so?

DORA: You must have noticed.

FLORA: Can't say I've ever thought about it.

DORA: What was wife number two like?

FLORA: Number 2 was Lilly Crawley.

DORA: Yes and what was she like?

FLORA: Lilly was blonde, blue eyed and gorgeous.

DORA: And her personality?

FLORA: Sweet, kind, obliging...

DORA: And?

FLORA: With hidden steel.

DORA: And?

FLORA: A bit dim really. Although I did wonder whether she was as dim as she made out.

DORA: Wife number 3?

FLORA: Brianna Head.

DORA: What was she like?

FLORA: Brianna was blonde, blue eyed and gorgeous.

DORA: Personality?

FLORA: Sweet, kind, obliging...

DORA: And?

- FLORA:** A bit dim, but I'm sure that was only on the outside. That girl had hidden depths.
- DORA:** Are you beginning to see a pattern? Wife number four?
- FLORA:** Candice Hayward.
- DORA:** And?
- FLORA:** Candice was blonde, blue eyed and gorgeous, sweet, kind, obliging and yes, she seemed a bit dim but could hold her own when she needed to.

They both laugh.

- DORA:** We could go on. He's forever marrying the same woman and then when it doesn't work out....
- FLORA:** It's her fault, never Blake's.
- DORA:** (*looking around*) Hush Flo.
- FLORA:** Well it's true.

They both laugh.

- FLORA:** What a fool! Should never have left Sarah.
- DORA:** They're meant to be together.
- FLORA:** He's too daft to see that.
- DORA:** Sarah's the clever one.
- FLORA:** She wasn't clever enough to hang on to him though was she?
- DORA:** Flo! She tried her hardest. He's not an easy man to live with.
- FLORA:** I wouldn't want to be shackled up with him, not for all his money and luxurious lifestyle.
- DORA:** Me neither.
- FLORA:** Wasn't rich when he married Sarah was he?
- DORA:** No way. Their wedding was a bit different to this.
- FLORA:** You can say that again.
- DORA:** Do you remember their wedding, a bit different to this wasn't it?
- FLORA:** Yes Dora. I remember...

SCENE 2

Time rewinds to 1992. Freddie Mercury's Barcelona plays. Flora and Dora cross the stage backwards and find dark wigs which they put on. They move around the room briskly to show themselves as younger women. They clean and dance to the music and have a spat about who can fire the best arrow.

- FLORA:** Admit it Do. I make a better archer than you.
- DORA:** No way Flo.
- FLORA:** Way Do, way.
- DORA:** No way. You'd miss the Olympic flame even if it was the size of this house.
- FLORA:** 1992 Olympic archery champion Flora McGuinness.

DORA: You've got to be kidding.

Dora moves downstage to snatch away Flora's imaginary bow as Blake and Sarah enter through the double doors in smart casual clothes. The wedding party doesn't make much noise when the doors are open. Sarah and Blake do not notice Flora and Dora who are too embarrassed to speak initially. Blake is playful, energetic and can't keep his hands off Sarah. It is clear that they have a lot of fun together.

SARAH: Harrington Manor is amazing.

Blake quickly closes the double doors behind them.

BLAKE: Privacy at last Mrs Price.

Blake points to the chaise.

BLAKE: Let's get some use out of this room as we've paid for it.

SARAH: Typical Blake. Thinking about money even on our wedding day.

Blake moves towards Sarah.

BLAKE: I wasn't thinking about money. Come here.

Blake chases Sarah around the chaise.

SARAH: Do I have to?

BLAKE: Yes, you must obey me now.

SARAH: Obey? Me? You've got to be kidding!

BLAKE: Come here Sarah Price. I've always wanted to do it on a chaise.

Blake coaxes Sarah onto the chaise and they get amorous. Flora gives a loud cough.

FLORA: Excuse us Blake, we were just leaving.

DORA: Sorry, we were having a quick break.

BLAKE: Flora, Dora! God. How embarrassing. We were getting a bit carried away.

SARAH: You were getting carried away.

BLAKE: Newlyweds huh?

Blake is about to get off the chaise.

FLORA: Stay there. Don't mind us. We have our romantic interludes too. You should've seen Dora at the Toffington wedding here the other week.

DORA: Flo, don't.

FLORA: Let's just say that Barry the barman pulled more than pints!

DORA: Flo, how could you? I'm a married woman. I'd never be unfaithful to Don.

SARAH: Of course not.

DORA: I wasn't, so there Flora.

FLORA: I know what I saw on that chaise.

On hearing this both Blake and Sarah stand up quickly in disgust. Flora and Dora face each other off.

DORA: You saw nothing, that's what you saw.

FLORA: I saw something alright.

DORA: Oh no you didn't.

FLORA: Oh yes I did.

DORA: Oh no you didn't.

Blake doesn't know how to handle the situation and becomes exasperated.

BLAKE: Ladies please!

SARAH: Dora, Flora it's been so kind of you to help out today. We couldn't have afforded this beautiful venue without the help of friends like you.

FLORA: It's been our pleasure Sarah.

DORA: That's what neighbours are for.

SARAH: You are the best neighbours anybody could wish for. We're ever so grateful. Aren't we Blake?

BLAKE: Yes. How do you fancy being housekeepers when I buy this place?

FLORA: You want to buy this?

DORA: Harrington Manor?

FLORA: That would cost loads.

DORA: And loads.

FLORA: And loads.

DORA: And loads.

Flora and Dora both laugh and all is forgotten.

FLORA: Wow.

DORA: Wow.

BLAKE: One day this will all be mine. You'll see. Blake Price, lord of the manor.

FLORA: I don't doubt it Blake.

DORA: Not for a minute.

Blake struts around like a lord of the manor.

BLAKE: I'm going to make a great lord.

Sarah is a little embarrassed.

SARAH: Who knew my husband was so driven.

FLORA: We knew he was ambitious.

DORA: But not that ambitious. Fancy being rich enough to buy Harrington Manor.

BLAKE: Price Manor, ladies, Price Manor.

FLORA: Price Manor, get him. Blake's moved in and is warming his bottom by the fire already.

BLAKE: You bet. You've got to dream big in this world.

DORA: A Manor is one hell of a dream.

BLAKE: I'm part way there.

All their mouths drop.

BLAKE: Stage one is complete. I've moved to the trading floor and intend to make a manor load of money. Enough money to buy this and a majority share in an interesting company I've got my eye on.

FLORA: Wow.

DORA: Wow.

SARAH: You have got it all worked out. (*cheekily*) Where does our marriage come into all of these plans?

BLAKE: Our marriage is the foundation of everything. Without your support I wouldn't have made it to the trading floor. Are you with me Sarah?

SARAH: Yes, you know I am and always will be.

Blake hugs Sarah.

BLAKE: Thank you. I need to know that you share the dream.

SARAH: I certainly couldn't dream a better house than Price Manor.

BLAKE: Do you share the whole dream Sarah?

SARAH: (*slight pause*) Yes, of course. I'm with you Blake.

Blake smiles at Sarah and is about to kiss her passionately when he is interrupted by Flora's cough.

FLORA: We've intruded too long.

DORA: Yes we should be clearing up.

BLAKE: Thank you.

SARAH: Thanks Flora. Thanks Dora. You've both been so kind. (*jokingly*) You'll get that job here when we move in.

FLORA: Just imagine that... Flora and Dora housekeepers of Harrington Manor.

DORA: The housekeepers of Harrington Manor.

BLAKE: Price Manor, ladies, Price Manor.

They all laugh.

FLORA: Sorry, yes of course, Price Manor.

DORA: Goodnight Sarah, good night Blake.

Flora and Dora look conspiratorially at each other.

FLORA: (*with a wink*) Enjoy your wedding night!

BLAKE: We will ladies, I can assure you of that. Watch out for the fireworks.

FLORA & DORA: Oooh!

Flora and Dora chuckle as they exit.

SARAH: Fireworks, now there's a promise.

BLAKE: A firework spectacular.

SARAH: I'm looking forward to that.

Blake moves towards Sarah.

SARAH: Before we light your blue touch paper, there's something I want to give you.

Blake is intrigued.

BLAKE: And I you!

Blake and Sarah begin to get amorous again.

SARAH: Stop side-tracking me. I have something for you. I hid it under here earlier.

Sarah pulls out a present from under the chaise.

SARAH: This is my wedding gift to you.

BLAKE: (*panicking*) A wedding gift, but you said no wedding gifts, you said we couldn't afford wedding gifts. I haven't got you a wedding gift.

SARAH: I know. I'm sorry. I just saw this and thought you'd like it.

Blake tears the paper open to find a mounted Matisse-like print of two entwined figures.

BLAKE: I love it. Thank you. When we move in I'll put it...(moves to fireplace) right here. Was it very expensive?

SARAH: No, it's just a cheap print. The cost isn't important is it?

BLAKE: I couldn't have chosen better myself. I'm no art lover but this reminds me of us.

SARAH: I thought so too.

BLAKE: Did you Mrs Price?

SARAH: Indeed Mr Price, lord of Price Manor.

Blake and Sarah settle down on the chaise.

BLAKE: This lord's present to you will be a massage every day of our honeymoon.

SARAH: How lovely.

BLAKE: Don't expect to see too much of Paris Mrs Price. No more than you can see out of the hotel window.

SARAH: I wouldn't want it any other way. We can practice making a baby.

BLAKE: Sarah, we've only just got married.

SARAH: Only teasing Blake. Babies have been pencilled in for next year.

BLAKE: We'll see. Don't make any assumptions.

SARAH: (*jokingly*) Me, would I make assumptions?

BLAKE: (*serious*) Don't joke. This is important. We can have the baby talk later but not for a good few years. I need to concentrate on my career.

Sarah is visibly hurt.

SARAH: Blake...?

BLAKE: Sorry. We shouldn't be talking about this now. We'll talk about it on honeymoon.

SARAH: Ok. I love you.

BLAKE: Love you too. Let the fireworks begin.

There is an awkward pause. Blake goes to put his arm around Sarah just as his mother Angela enters.

ANGELA: There you are. I thought I might find you hiding in here. Is everything alright?

BLAKE: Great. Everything's great mother. How are our guests?

Angela is not convinced but plays along.

ANGELA: Uncle Fred and Auntie Sheila are happy drinking champagne but the cousins could do with some livening up. They all seem to have run out of conversation.

BLAKE: They're not really getting on are they?

ANGELA: No. I've run out of embarrassing stories from Blake's childhood.

SARAH: We'd better go back in then.

BLAKE: If we have to.

ANGELA: We'll wind things up in about an hour. You must both be very tired.

Sarah and Blake look at each other and grin.

SARAH: Tired, oh yes, I'm tired.

BLAKE: Ever so tired.

SARAH: Come on then husband.

ANGELA: Can I borrow him for a moment?

SARAH: Of course. I'll go and liven things up.

BLAKE: Be with you in a minute. Can you take the picture?

SARAH: Of course.

ANGELA: How lovely! That could be the two of you.

Blake and Sarah smile at each other. Sarah exits.

BLAKE: What is it mother?

ANGELA: Precious.

BLAKE: Don't call me that. It's embarrassing.

ANGELA: I haven't had a chance to speak to you properly.

BLAKE: About what?

ANGELA: There's a few things I need to say on this important day.

BLAKE: Mother, please.

ANGELA: Blake!

BLAKE: God, that takes me back. I feel about five now.

ANGELA: Sorry, this wasn't meant to be heavy...I just wanted to say, while I've got the chance, that Sarah is a great girl.

BLAKE: I know that.

Both Blake and Angela maintain a distance from each other.

- ANGELA:** I mean, she's so right for you. Hold on to her and work hard to keep your relationship strong.
- BLAKE:** Has this got anything to do with my father?
- ANGELA:** No, well...
- BLAKE:** It has, hasn't it?
- ANGELA:** I know you must miss him, especially today.
- BLAKE:** I don't miss that feckless bastard.
- ANGELA:** Blake! He's still your father.
- BLAKE:** Why would I want the man who called me a waste of space at my wedding?
- ANGELA:** He's your father.
- BLAKE:** He's dead as far as I'm concerned.
- ANGELA:** I failed you. I should have helped you keep contact. I'm sorry.
- BLAKE:** You've never failed me mother, never. He's the one that failed us both.

Angela is choked up but keeps herself very controlled.

- BLAKE:** I will keep my promise to protect and look after you for as long as you
- ANGELA:** You've got other responsibilities now.
- BLAKE:** You're my first responsibility. Since that loser left there's nobody else to look after you.
- ANGELA:** You've done a great job.
- BLAKE:** Why can't I do anything about...about it?
- ANGELA:** Nobody can. It's nature's way. You cannot control everything Blake. Life doesn't go on forever.
- BLAKE:** I can't accept that. I can't accept there is nothing I can do.
- ANGELA:** I'm so sorry.

Blake and Angela are still at a distance and do not physically comfort each other. There is an awkward pause

- BLAKE:** *(taking control)* Come on, let's go and entertain the guests. You can tell them the story of when I covered your best dress in nail varnish.
- ANGELA:** I'd forgotten that...What were you doing with nail varnish? You never did say.

Blake ushers Angela out.

- BLAKE:** Another time mother, another time. Let's go and enjoy the rest of the party.

Blake and Angela exit and leave the double doors open. The sound of laughter and clinking of glasses and then Blake and Sarah saying goodbye to cheers and good luck wishes. There is a short pause and then the sound of fireworks.

- SARAH:** Oh Blake!
- BLAKE:** Oh Sarah!