

BETRAYAL PRODUCTION JOURNAL
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BETRAYAL TIMELINE

1968 Scene 9, Robert and Emma's house	
1971 Scene 8, Jerry and Emma's flat	
1973 Scene 5, Hotel room in Venice	
1973 Scene 7, Restaurant, Jerry and Robert lunch	1973 Scene 6, Jerry and Emma's flat
1974 Scene 4, Robert and Emma's living room	
1975 Scene 3, Emma and Jerry's Flat	
1977 Scene 2, study in Jerry's house	1977 Scene 1, A pub, drinks with Jerry and Emma

ORDER OF EVENTS RATIONAL

Pinter's decision to write *Betrayal* out of order, almost backward, was made to further the main theme of the play of infidelity. In much of literature, we see infidelity begin in blooming love and/or passion. The audience experiences new feelings of love or lust with the characters and is invested in the couple's story. By the end, the audience might be sad or upset to see the relationship end. I believe Pinter wanted the complete opposite to this. He wanted the audience to feel the betrayal. Pinter's ordering, also, makes it Emma's story instead of Jerry and Robert. Instead of two best friends betraying each other it is about Emma who is struggling to decide between two important people. The ordering shows where she ended up and how she got there, making it her marriage story. Rather than (if it were done in chronological order) focusing on the choices that Jerry made and how they ended, affected his relationship with Robert and Emma.

INCITING EVENT AND END EVENT

The inciting event that pushes off the play is Robert and Emma's decision to divorce. I believe this is true because of the reason Emma decided to call Jerry for a drink. Initially, Emma says that she doesn't know why she called Jerry. However, later she admits that she called because she'd been up all night and she wanted to see him. She was up late because Robert and her were fighting about their affairs. The line, "the whole thing's finished" indicates the beginning of their divorce (pg. 21). Without the fight and decision to separate, Emma might not have called Jerry to meet, and then the play wouldn't have been able to introduce the two's story

as lovers. The end event of the play is Emma's acceptance of Jerry's advances on page 118. If Emma denied Jerry's advances and stayed true to her marriage then an affair never would have begun. However, because she confirmed her feelings to Jerry, an affair was born and the betrayal was carried out.

STRUCTURE OF EVENTS

- Emma and Robert decide to divorce.
- Jerry and Emma separate.
- Jerry and Emma relinquish the flat.
- Emma discloses her affair to Robert while in Venice.
- Emma becomes pregnant.
- Emma accepts Jerry's advances.
- Emma and Robert get married.

LIST OF GIVEN FACTS

- It is London in 1974.
- The scene takes place in Robert and Emma's house.
- Ned is Robert and Emma's son.
- Ned is 1 or 2 years old.
- Ned is in bed.
- Casey had a wife named Susannah.
- Casey left Susannah and is living around the corner from Emma and Robert.
- Casey is writing another novel.
- Robert is a publisher.
- Jerry is a literary agent.
- Jerry is Casey's literary agent.
- Jerry has two kids and a wife named Judith.

QUESTIONS

- Why was Jerry over at Casey's for tea?
- Why did Jerry decide to stop by Emma and Robert's house?
- Where is Charlotte in this scene? Is she also in bed?
- Why did Casey leave Susannah?
- What are Robert's true thoughts about the sexes?
- What are Jerry's true thoughts about the sexes?
- Does Casey have three children?
- What is it in Casey's book that makes Emma think it's dishonest?
- What does Jerry think of Robert's opinion that Emma cannot go to squash and lunch with them?
- Why hasn't Jerry and Robert played squash for so long?
- Does Emma believe that Jerry deserves the trip to New York?

BACKSTORY

- Jerry has a close relationship with Robert and Emma's children.
- Jerry and Robert haven't played squash together for years.
- Robert knows that Jerry and Emma are having an affair.
- Jerry does not know that Robert knows that he and Emma are having an affair.
- Robert is having an affair with another woman.
- Emma eventually goes on to have relations with Casey.
- Judith often gets called for late nights at the hospital.
- Jerry is going to New York the week after the scene takes place.
- Emma and Jerry are married.
- Emma and Jerry often talk about books together, and share opinions on them that Robert doesn't always agree with.

SUPERWANTS

Robert wants to have control of his family.

Jerry wants Emma to love him.

Emma wants to have agency.

The beginning of the scene Robert is in a position of power, it is his home and he begins the baby conversation, giving him a higher scenic status. There is a constant struggle seen in Robert throughout the scene of him trying to gain control. For example, on page 54 the characters are discussing Casey's writing. Everytime Robert tries to talk about Casey's work, he gets cut off by Emma or Jerry. He finally achieves his want on page 58 when he is able to take control of his wife through and deny her lunch with Jerry and himself.

Jerry often quickly shifts the conversation to move away from saying anything hurtful to Emma, to achieve his want. He doesn't want Emma to be upset with him. He purposefully chooses not to engage further with the discussion on page 55 which calls him out for not remembering Emma's thoughts on Casey's writing. He also chooses not to engage with the squash and lunch argument and says "I haven't played squash in years", then a pause (Pg. 58). The pauses after Jerry's lines are very important because they show that Jerry is clearly choosing Emma's feelings over Robert's friendship. When Jerry announces he's going to New York he tries to justify and avoid questions from Emma.

Emma wants agency, asking questions and involving herself to be heard, but she doesn't get that. Instead, she is interrupted by Robert asserting his control, again. Emma wanting agency moves through the conversation about Casey, to the end. She asserts her opinion about Casey's writing which starts a power dynamic between Robert and Jerry. Emma wants to be involved with what the two men in her life are interested in and asks to watch squash. At the end of the scene Robert is on the top of the pyramid and won power with Emma crying in his arms.

SCENIC ACTION ANALYSIS

Emma, Robert, and Jerry fight for love or control of one another as they keep up an ongoing mirage.

Scene Four is about the relationship between the three characters but with a different dynamic, Robert is aware of the affair. This scene is about who holds the power. The seemingly meaningless conversations about babies, Casey, and squash are to indicate to the audience that Robert and Jerry's relationship has developed through activities and interests, and Emma and Jerry's relationship developed on emotion. Jerry's decision to stop by their house proves that he is still fighting to see Emma and wants her love. Robert fights for control of Emma with the knowledge of her affair. He uses his and Jerry's relationship to try and pry Jerry from his family. Emma has affection for both men but struggles to keep up the image of a normal relationship with Robert knowing about the affair. Her action at the end of the scene shows how hard she fights throughout the scene to keep her love in both partners, without destroying her family.

ACTION ANALYSIS SENTENCE

A married woman struggles with desire as she lies to and betrays her cheating husband and lover.