

Harper Regan Chronology of Events

Years and dates are approximate

The play takes place in the late autumn of 2006 in Uxbridge and south Manchester.

- 1942** When Harper Regan's parents may have been born. Their ages are not mentioned, so I put them at 23 when they had Harper, based on Harper having been 23 when Sarah was born.
- 1956** Duncan Woolley is born (he is 50 in 2006 and calls himself Allison's "toy-boy" on p. 78).
Harper's parents meet. (Alison tells Harper she was 14 when she and Harper's father met.)
- 1963** Seth Regan is born. (He is 43.)
- 1965** Harper Regan is born. (She is 41.)
- 1977** Mickey Nestor, whom Harper accosted in a bar, is born. (He is 29.)
- 1979** Justine Ross, who provided care for Harper's father at Stepping Hill, the hospital where he died, is born. (She is 27)
- 1986** I am guessing that somewhere around this time, Harper's parents broke up. I'm basing it on Alison telling Harper she's grieved for Harper's father "for years and years and years" (p. 74). Harper's parents weren't married. Sometime after their split, Alison married Duncan Woolley.
- 1989** Sarah Regan is born. (She is 17.)
- Tobias Rich, whom Harper meets at a bridge overlooking the Grand Union Canal, is born. (He is 17.)
- Seb, James Fortune's eldest son, is born. (He is 17.) James is a man who Harper meets through an on-line personal ad.
- 1992** Charlie, James Fortune's middle son, is born. (He is 14.)
- 1998** Mark, James Fortune's youngest son, is born. (He is 8.)
- 2004** According to a recounting that Harper later shares with James Fortune on p. 63, Seth Regan is arrested on suspicion of taking pornographic photos of children after a friend of the family reports Seth to the authorities for taking photos of children playing in a little paddling pool in the park near their home. Harper thought he was at work. He would go home with the photos and upload them to his computer. The police came to their home and

confiscated his computer. When they charged him, they offered a plea bargain wherein he wouldn't have to go to trial, an option he took out of consideration for Harper and Sarah. He was listed on the Sex Offenders Register, defined on p. 26 of the glossary. Harper feels this is unfair; she tells James Fortune that Seth is innocent.

Seth loses his job and cannot get another one. The family decides to escape the unbearable scrutiny of the community and moves to Uxbridge, where there's a good job for Harper. Harper cuts off contact with her parents after he mother and father come to her and tell her that they believe Seth is guilty.

Harper presumably also cuts off contact with her former friends: Sarah tells her that when she went missing, she and Seth " ... tried to think of some friends you might have stayed with, but we couldn't think of *anybody*" (p. 89).

Later, on p. 95 of the script, she tells her daughter, Sarah, that the girls in the photographs were ten years old and suggests that Seth took them purposefully. She tells Sarah that he likely looked at them again and again after he uploaded them on his computer, that he liked them more than he said and that he'd think about them. Nevertheless, she didn't think he participated in any other activities related to child pornography.

Late Autumn, 2006

Saturday: Harper's father, who has diabetes, has a severe hypoglycemic attack. He is taken to Stepping Hill Hospital in Stockport, but is already comatose when he arrives. He remains in a diabetic coma for two days until he dies sometime **late Monday night or early Tuesday morning**

The Monday following Harper's father's attack, late afternoon after the workday is over: Harper asks her boss, Elwood, if she can take some time to see her father in the hospital. He refuses to allow it and tells her that she won't have a job to return to if she goes.

Monday night: Harper flies to Stockport and books into a hotel. She tells no one she is doing so.

Sometime late Monday night to early Tuesday morning: Harper's dad dies in his sleep, still in a coma

Tuesday, 10 o'clock in the morning: Harper goes to Stepping Hill Hospital to see her dad and learns he died the previous evening

Tuesday, 11 o'clock in the morning: Harper goes to a pub in Manchester, where she meets Mickey Nestor

After Sarah leaves the pub, she “wanders for hours”, then goes to an internet café and answers a personal ad, after spending some time before pushing “send”.

Tuesday afternoon: Harper describes to Seth on p. 100 that she meets James Fortune at the Great John Street Hotel in Manchester. James is an older, married man and father of three boys. He has trysts with women he meets on the internet. They have intercourse, and after James Fortune leaves, Harper tells Seth, “I had a shower and then I sat for hours on the stairs leading up to the mezzanine. The window was open. I could hear the sound of the street outside as people started going home from work. I sat there watching the street darken.”

Wednesday, 2 PM: Harper visits her mother, Alison Woolley, at her home in Stockport

Wednesday evening: Harper returns to Uxbridge

Tuesday, following Harper’s return: the day Harper’s father’s funeral is scheduled