

ACT II

MUSIC 12: ENTR'ACTE

Scene 1 – Village Green

(Entr'acte music reveals COLIN, ROD and DENIS statues, stunned. DENIS and ROD have full pints, COLIN's is half empty and he has a wet bottom on his shirt. MARIE enters with a beer towel.)

MARIE

There we are... there we are.

(Gives it COLIN to wipe.)

Bit of a shock, I know! I'd suggested '12 views of Yorkshire Bridges.' Not surprised you spilled your pint, me dropping that in the conversation. I sort of presumed your wives would've discussed doing a nude calendar beforehand but hey! As I know to my cost you can never be quite sure what your partner is up to! Anyway! Lovely chatting. Best get home.

(They stand, stunned.)

COLIN

Has your wife mentioned anything at all regarding / a...

ROD

Colin. Don't panic, ok? They're never gonna do a nude calendar.

DENIS

Oh cryin' out loud no. No.

COLIN

No. NO. God 'course they – no.

(A beat of thought.)

COLIN

I mean-

MUSIC 13: GIRLS (VILLAGE GREEN)

JESS. MY JESS. THE THING THAT YOU HAVE TO...OK.

(Breathes in.)

YOU NEVER QUITE SEE HER UNDRESS.

IT'S IMPRESSIVE.

SHE'S THERE FULLY-CLOTHED

YOU POUR TEA, THEN LOOK UP

AND SHE'S THERE IN A NIGHTDRESS.

IT'S NOT THAT WE NEVER..

DENIS & ROD

No no.

See each other in...
(Gestures loosely.)

COLIN

ROD

'In the -' er..

Right.

DENIS

COLIN

SOME SITUATIONS. IT'S JUST..
WE TEND TO DO NUDITY MORE
ON A 'NEED TO KNOW' BASIS

DENIS

WELL CELIA -
WHEN WE MET
LONDON-DUSSELDORF
AS AN AIR HOSTESS SHE WOULD REVEAL-

COLIN

(Nods.)

Yes.

DENIS

NOT TOO MUCH.

COLIN

(Shakes head.)

No.

DENIS

TO A MARK

ROD

Absolutely.

DENIS

THE SAME WAY THAT IN THE FILM 'JAWS'
YOU NEVER SEE ALL OF THE SHARK.
(Lost in a moment.)
AND NOW YOU FEAR THE GIRL WHO WALKED THROUGH LIFE
LIKE SHE WAS WALKING THROUGH AN AIRPORT
BROUGHT BACK UP HERE SHE SLIGHTLY...HIDES HER WORTH.
SHOULD YOU EVER BRING AN ANGEL DOWN TO EARTH?

ROD

Look lads my wife, ok, she has these ideas one minute, next minute-
(Gestures 'evaporate')
Believe me, by tomorrow she'll be plannin' a charity sky dive. Come on, Den.

(ROD and DENIS go off.)

COLIN

AND MINE, WHO TAUGHT KIDS FOR FIFTY ODD YEARS
TO BE WHAT THEY DREAMED THEY COULD BE
DOES CROSSWORDS EACH NIGHT BY THE FIRE
HER CLASS NOW, ALAS,

DENIS (OFFSTAGE)

(Calls.)

Colin!

COLIN

- ONLY ME

MUSIC 13A: DISMAYED DANNY

(DANNY wanders out, sits legs in river.)

DANNY

'Can anyone see my nipp-'oh for gods' sake.

(JENNY appears. She offers drink.)

S'alright. I don't.

JENNY

Y've just seen y'r mum get her gongs out on a hill.

(He still doesn't. 'Suit yourself'.)

Tell y' what though. Won't stop her telling you how you should behave. S'like mine. Havin' a car crash
of a marriage doesn't stop her givin' relationship advice.

(DANNY is drawn down to sit by her.)

DANNY

Serious? D' your mum say that t' you an' all?

MUSIC 14: PROTECT ME LESS

JENNY

(Swallowing 'er yeah'.)

Mg! First thing she said when we came down off the hill was-

JENNY

'Jennifer?'

MARIE

Jennifer?
