

**1: EXT. NELIUS AND LOVVIE'S PLOT. DAY:**

**IT'S SUNDAY MORNING ON LONG SUMMER TRAVELLER'S SITE  
ANDEVERYONE IS HOME. DOGS BARK, CHILDREN SHOUT AND PLAY.**

**NELIUS IS MENDING A CAR TYRE PUNCTURE. HE HITS THE IRON  
TYRE LEVER WITH A HAMMER SEVERAL TIMES. LOVVIE CALLS FROM  
THE OPEN TRAILER DOOR**

LOVVIE: Want a drink Nelius?

**HE STOPS WORK**

NELIUS: (OUT OF BREATH) Hey...?

LOVVIE: Juice or something?

NELIUS: Yeah... go on then.

**HE HITS THE TYRE LEVER AGAIN WITH THE HAMMER**

NELIUS: And next time be careful where you're driving.

LOVVIE: That's a slow puncture divvie. Said yourself the tube ain't got a nail in or nothing.

NELIUS: Slow puncture's gotta start somehow.

**SOMEONE PUTS RAP MUSIC ON SEVERAL PLOTS AWAY - LOUD**

NELIUS: Oh what?

**LOVVIE STEPS OUT OF THE TRAILER AND WALKS TOWARD NELIUS**

LOVVIE: That's Loopy Loo again. (SHOUTING ACROSS THE SITE) Turn that music down will ya!

NELIUS: Where's Hank William's when you need him.

LOVVIE: Puts mi teeth on edge.

**QUEENIE CALLS FROM HER TRAILER AT THE BACK OF THE PLOT**

QUEENIE: What's all that row?

LOVVIE: You can guess can't ya?

**QUEENIE APPROACHES**

QUENNIE: Her again.

NELIUS: You alright, aunt Queen?

QUEENIE: Not with that machine gun music I ain't.

LOVVIE: What I was saying.

QUEENIE: You got any idea what they're rokkering about in them songs?

NELIUS: Not a word.

QUEENIE: Bet your life it'll be mullorin somebody or stuffing drugs up their noses.

**SEVERAL VOICES ARE HEARD SHOUTING IN THE DISTANCE TO TURN THE MUSIC DOWN. AFTER A MOMENT THE VOLUME DECREASES**

QUEENIE: (SHOUTING ACROSS THE SITE) There's babies asleep on this site!

**NELIUS HITS THE TYRE LEVER AGAIN**

QUEENIE: How'd you get a puncture my boy?

LOVVIE: Don't start him on that.

QUEENIE: I thought Solomon and Charity'd be here by now.

NELIUS: This afternoon I reckon.

QUEENIE: On the next plot an'all.

LOVVIE: He's a married man now.

QUEENIE: A zebra don't change its stripes.

NELIUS: That's a leopard ain't it?

QUEENIE: Don't be a div. Leopard's got spots.

**LOVVIE LAUGHS**

**2: INT. LOVVIE'S TRAILER. DAY:**

## **NELIUS AND LOVVIE ARE JUST FINISHING SUNDAY LUNCH**

NELIUS: You get aunt Queenie her fags from the shop?

LOVVIE: Yeah. Eighty year old and still dragging on toovalos.

NELIUS: Waste of time stopping now.

## **CUTLERY ON PORCELAIN**

NELIUS: You're turning into a proper wife Lovvie. Can cook and everything.

LOVVIE: Dik here, cheek of the mush.

NELIUS: It was handsome, no word of a lie.

LOVVIE: I was bound to burn mi first one... or two.

NELIUS: Well if you can feed me all right you can do the same with a chavi.

## **NELIUS PUTS HIS CUTLERY ON THE PLATE**

LOVVIE: I dunno. What makes you think I'd be any good at it?

NELIUS: Learned to cook didn't ya?

LOVVIE: There's a bit more to bringing up a baby.

NELIUS: Trial and error like everything else.

## **SHE GETS UP**

LOVVIE: Here, give us your plate.

## **HE HANDS HER HIS PLATE**

NELIUS: You'll be a lovely mother. And you know it.

LOVVIE: I must admit I do get a tingle every time I think about it.

## **SHE TURNS TO GO BUT HE MOVES UP BEHIND HER**

NELIUS: Speaking of tingles...

## **HE PUTS HIS ARMS AROUND HER WAIST**

LOVVIE: What's ya doing?

**HE KISSES THE BACK OF HER NECK**

LOVVIE: Nelius!

NELIUS: No time like the present to start the new Arkley clan.

LOVVIE: (BREATHLESS) It's the... middle of the day...

NELIUS: When needs must...

LOVVIE: (GIGLING) Let go of me you radge.

**SHE STRUGGLES PLAYFULLY**

LOVVIE: I'll drop mi plates in a minute...

**THE SOUND OF A LORRY PULLING UP OUTSIDE – THEN THE SOUND  
OF COLONEL BOGEY BEING PLAYED ON THE LORRY'S HORN**

LOVVIE: (LOOKING THROUGH THE WINDOW) It's Sol and Charity!

NELIUS: He can't half pick his time.

**SHE BREAKS AWAY**

LOVVIE: Come on let's go and give'em a hand with the trailer.

**SHE PUTS THE PLATES IN THE SINK AND THEY HEAD FOR THE DOOR**

**3: EXT. OUTSIDE SOLOMON AND CHARITY'S PLOT. DAY:**

**SOLOMON OPENS THE LORRY DOOR AND GETS OUT**

SOLOMON: (JOVIAL) Here we are.

**CHARITY CLIMBS OUT OF THE LORRY**

CHARITY: (IMPRESSED) Made good time an'all.

SOLOMON: Said I would didn't I?

**SHE SURVEYS THE SITE**

CHARITY: Site's bigger than I thought.

**NELIUS AND LOVVIE STEP OUT OF THEIR TRAILR**

NELIUS: (CHEERFULLY) All right mush?

SOLOMON: Bruvver Boy!

**SOLOMON AND NELIUS ARE DELIGHTED TO SEE EACH OTHER AND  
START MOCK WRESTLING**

LOVVIE: Afternoon's a funny time to be moving.

CHARITY: You know what he's like.

SOLOMON: Can't drive on an empty belly.

CHARITY: With mi dad it was hook up and move first thing in the morning.

LOVVIE: Same with mine. Wanna get there soon as and suss the place out.

SOLOMON: Whereabouts on the plot do you want me to pull the trailer, doll?

CHARITY: Give us a chance.

SOLOMON: Come on let's get this trailer backed in.

**HE JUMPS BACK IN HIS LORRY AND STARTS IT UP**

#### **4. EXT. SOLOMON'S PLOT. NIGHT:**

##### **SOLOMON, CHARITY, NELIUS AND LOVVIE ARE SITTING ROUND A FIRE AT THE BACK OF THE PLOT**

CHARITY: You ain't supposed to have a fire on a plot here are you Lovvie?

SOLOMON: This sites gonna have some new rules now I'm on it.

LOVVIE: Warden might chinger ya.

SOLOMON: I'm already shaking in mi size tens. How's the calling round here Bruv?

NELIUS: You need a licence.

SOLOMON: Take oath.

NELIUS: Name badge an'all.

SOLOMON: (CHUCKLES) With a little smiley photo of yourself to prove who you is when you're knockin' at the door? Like being in the FBI innit?

NELIUS: You can get away with a bit of garden work. It's what I'm doing. Turfing, a few patios...

SOLOMON: Can I give you a hand for a few days till I'm sorted?

NELIUS: Yeah, 'course.

##### **THE FIRE CRACKLES**

NELIUS: You can't beat a bit of fire. Me dad always had one on the go. Been a long time since we had one here. I hadn't realised I'd missed it.

SOLOMON: So who's stopping on here then?

NELIUS: Joby and Tilly are across the way. Tom and Isy down the bottom. Mick and Syl are over the back there. About a half a dozen more Romany and the rest is Irish.

LOVVIE: I could never see you settling down Sol. Wasn't the type.

SOLOMON: You're right there Lovvie girl. It took someone very special to get the reins on me.

CHARITY: What reins?

SOLOMON: But this girl here's knocked the fight right out of me.

### **SOLOMON PUTS HIS ARM ROUND CHARITY**

LOVVIE: You used to stop together?

SOLOMON: Yeah like we all did. I'd see her on a few sites but me dad wouldn't stay in one place five minutes so we didn't get to talk.

CHARITY: Then Sol's mum and dad pulled on Southampton site one day and that was it. We started chatting and-

SOLOMON: I couldn't let the chance go by. Now I'm an old married man.

NELIUS: We both are.

SOLOMON: And all the better for it.

### **5. INT. CHARITY'S TRAILER. NIGHT:**

#### **SOLOMON PUTS 'AIN'T TOO PROUD TO BEG' BY THE TEMPTATIONS ON THE CD PLAYER WHILE CHARITY IS IN THE KITCHEN HAVING JUST FINISHED THE WASHING UP**

CHARITY: Nelius and Lovvie seem happy enough.

SOLOMON: (SITTING DOWN) What d'you reckon to this place?

CHARITY: Chalet's roomy. Washing machine'll fit right in. And the bathroom's clean.

SOLOMON: Plots are big an'all.

CHARITY: Could almost have a garden at the back.

SOLOMON: You want me to rotovate it?

CHARITY: (DELIGHTED) Would ya? I always wanted to grow mi own flowers.

SOLOMON: Flowers? You wanna grow some veggies, save us some luvvo on scan.

CHARITY: Oh Sol.

### **SHE GOES TO HIM – SITS IN HIS LAP**

SOLOMON: Here, careful.

### **HE LAUGHS - SHE HUGS HIM**

CHARITY: I can sit in mi husbands lap if I want to, can't I?

### **THEY KISS**

SOLOMON: All this for a garden? If I'd known that I'd a'sorted you one out on the last site.

CHARITY: I hated that place. Dad called it Dodge City.

SOLOMON: Yeah, was a bit lively.

CHARITY: Does the postman come on here?

SOLOMON: (LAUGHING) What different do that make, we can't read?

CHARITY: I'm just wondering how rough it is. Postman wouldn't jel on the last place less he had a police escort. I hate feeling so cut off from everything.

SOLOMON: Ain't quite so bad here. Though I dare say the gavvers'll be round most nights checking number plates, seeing if anything's chordy.

CHARITY: I like this site.

SOLOMON: You ain't been here five minutes.

CHARITY: I know but... it's like a new start for us, innit?

SOLOMON: New start?

CHARITY: You know what I mean. Different people... I think the last place was the cause of most of our-

SOLOMON: (WITH A SLIGHT EDGE) Most of our what?

### **SHE CHECKS HERSELF**

CHARITY: I mean the plots were smaller, people was closer. I just think that's why we was... things was tough sometimes...

SOLOMON: You lost me.

CHARITY: Well...

### **SHE KNOWS SHE'S WONDERED ON TO DANGEROUS GROUND. SHE GETS UP AND MOVES AWAY SLOWLY**

CHARITY: It don't matter.

SOLOMON: No come on if you got something to say.

CHARITY: I ain't. I was just trying to-

SOLOMON: Trying to what?

CHARITY: (SLIGHT PAUSE) Nothing Sol, nothing.

### **6. INT. LOVVIE'S TRAILER. NIGHT:**

#### **NELIUS AND LOVVIE ARE HUDDLED TOGETHER WATCHING THE NEWS ON TV – THE SOUND IS PRETTY LOW**

LOVVIE: He ain't changed a bit has he.

NELIUS: Did you think he would?

LOVVIE: I'spose. I mean when you're married you lose something don't ya, gain something else. (SMILES) He still calls you Bruvver Boy.

NELIUS: We was like brothers one time. Families always moved about and stopped together. Dad's got on and our mother's were best of friends.

LOVVIE: I mean me and Sol was sort of close but you and him was like-

NELIUS: He never had no real brothers and neither did I. What d'you think of Charity?

LOVVIE: She's a bit quiet but I reckon I could get to like the girl. She don't seem his type though. I mean, well...

#### **WE HEAR THE SOUND OF RAISED VOICES OUTSIDE**

LOVVIE: Listen.

NELIUS: What?

#### **NELIUS TURNS DOWN THE TV. THERE'S AN ARGUMENT GOING ON NEXT DOOR**

LOVVIE: That's Sol and Charity.

NELIUS: Lovers tiff.

LOVVIE: (SMILES) We ain't had one of them in a long time.

NELIUS: That's cos you've learned your place.

LOVVIE: What!

#### **SHE PLAYFULLY THROWS A PILLOW AT HIM**

NELIUS: Lovvie! You could have took mi eye out with that pillow.

#### **LOVVIE MOVES TO THE WINDOW**

NELIUS: Are you ear wigging?

LOVVIE: I don't have to. The whole site can hear'em. Hark at it.

#### **THE ARGUMENT ON THE NEXT PLOT STOPS SUDDENLY**

NELIUS: Just a passionate couple that's all. Now come away from that winda. And speaking a'passion... where we earlier before we got so rudely interrupted...?

**7. EXT. OUTSIDE NELIUS'S PLOT. MORNING:**

**SOLOMON PULLS UP IN HIS LORRY**

SOLOMON: (SHOUTING) Lovvie? Is Bruvver boy about? Lovvie?

**LOVVIE COMES OUT OF THE CHALET AND WALKS TOWARD HIM**

LOVVIE: What?

SOLOMON: Bruv?

LOVVIE: Already gone to work.

SOLOMON: He's keen.

LOVVIE: Your blinds were down so he thought you was still a'bed.

**SHE OPENS THE GATE**

SOLOMON: Where you going?

LOVVIE: Get a pint of milk.

SOLOMON: Jump in I'll give you a lift.

LOVVIE: It's only five minutes walk. I'll ask Charity if she wants to come.

SOLOMON: Nah she won't.

LOVVIE: No?

SOLOMON: Got a bit of a headache or something.

LOVVIE: (SLIGHTLY CONCERNED) She alright?

SOLOMON: Yeah. Yeah... Took some aspros.

**REVVING HIS ENGINE LIKE A SPORTS CAR**

SOLOMON: Anyway, Bruv still working out Boxstead way?

LOVVIE: Far as I know.

SOLOMON: I'll see if I can catch him.

LOVVIE (SMILING) Drive carefully.

**HE LAUGHS AND DRIVES OFF**

**8. EXT. SOLOMON'S PLOT. MORNING:**

**LOVVIE IS WALKING SLOWLY ROUND CHARITY'S TRAILER. ALL THE BLINDS ARE DRAWN**

LOVVIE: (CALLING SOFTLY) Charity?

**SHE KNOCKS SOFTLY ON THE DOOR**

LOVVIE: Are you all right?

CHARITY: Why wouldn't I be?

**CHARITY'S VOICE SOUNDS SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT BUT IT COULD BE TIREDNESS**

LOVVIE: Sol said you've got a bit of a headache. I'm just jellin' to the shop. Can I get you anything?

CHARITY: No... thanks.

LOVVIE: You sure you're all right?

CHARITY: Yeah, I'm still in bed... Tired, that's all...

**LOVVIE LISTENS FOR A MOMENT**

LOVVIE: Okay. I'll leave you then. But come round for a cup a'tea and a chat when you're feeling better. I wanna know all about the girl who finally tamed Sol.

CHARITY: I'll see ya later...

**LOVVIE SLOWLY WALKS AWAY**

**9. INT. LOVVIE'S TRAILER. NIGHT:**

**LOVVIE AND NELIUS ARE SLEEPING. THE SOUND OF RAISED VOICES AGAIN OUTSIDE, THEN SOMETHING BUMPING OR FALLING. LOVVIE BEGINS TO WAKE**

LOVVIE: Nelius...?

**SHE NUDGES HIM**

LOVVIE: Nelius, are you awake?

NELIUS: Uh...?

**THE SOUND OF A CRASH THEN GLASS SMASHING**

LOVVIE: (MORE AWAKE NOW) Did you hear that?

**THEN EVERYTHING GOES QUIET, NOT EVEN VOICES**

NELIUS: ...What?

LOVVIE: All that banging and crashing.

**THEY LISTEN - SILENCE**

NELIUS: Probably thunder.

LOVVIE: But I-

NELIUS: Go back to sleep Lovvie...

LOVVIE: But it sounded like-

NELIUS: Go to sleep...

**HE TURNS OVER LEAVING LOVIE ALONE IN THE DARK**

**10. EXT. A TOWN GARDEN. DAY:**

**THE SUN IS SHINING AND BIRDS ARE SINGING. NELIUS TURNS OFF HIS ROTOVATER HAVING JUST TURNED OVER THE GROUND IN THE GARDEN. SOLOMON APPROCHES WITH HALF A DOZEN ROLLS OF TURF ON A WHEEL BARROW.**

SOLOMON: This is about enough turf to finish the last bit.

NELIUS: I'll rake the rest of the ground level.

SOLOMON: Cushti.

**NELIUS STARTS RAKING THE GROUND WHILE SOLOMON ROLLS OUT THE TURF**

SOLOMON: Yeah, yeah, so, as I was saying, it was love at first bite.

**NELIUS LAUGHS**

SOLOMON: Seeing mi blood brand on her neck made a man of me. Know what I mean? Sort of made her mine for life.

NELIUS: (STILL CHUCKLING) That's a new one on me.

SOLOMON: Nah but seriously, you know- I think the world of her.

NELIUS: You're a one off mate.

SOLOMON: Not for much longer. A Chavvi's on the cards.

NELIUS: She expecting?

SOLOMON: Not yet but I'll soon get the job done. Sol Boy Junior. 'Ere, what a day that's gonna be.

NELIUS: The universe is waiting.

SOLOMON: How about you and Lovvie? You've been married twice as long as we have. What's the matter wiv ya?

NELIUS: Lovie's still thinking about it.

SOLOMON: What's there to think about? No powers of persuasion, that's your trouble. Here, pass us that spade, will ya?

### **SOL BEATS DOWN THE TURF WITH A SPADE**

NELIUS: You call that turf level?

SOLOMON: It's as level as it's gonna get for the luvvo they're paying us.

### **THEY LAUGH**

### **11: EXT. NELIUS'S PLOT. DAY:**

#### **LOVVIE IS SWEEPING HER PLOT WITH A LONG HANDLED BROOM WHEN CHARITY STEPS OUT OF HER CHALET CARRYING A BASKET OF WASHING**

LOVVIE: (CALLING OUT) Charity.

CHARITY: Hey...?

LOVVIE: You didn't come round for that cuppa the other day. You feeling better now?

CHARITY: Thought it was about time I cleaned mi things up and hang this washing out.

#### **LOVVIE WATCHES HER TAKE THE WASHING TO HER LINE. CHARITY TRIES TO LOWER THE LINE PROP BUT SEEMS IN PAIN**

LOVVIE: Need a hand?

CHARITY: (TRYING TO HIDE THE PAIN) ...Nah, I'm all right.

#### **CHARITY TRIES TO REACH UP TO THE LINE TO HANG A GARMENT OF CLOTHING BUT CAN'T. SHE WINCES.**

LOVVIE: Are you okay?

CHARITY: Lovie... I know you mean well but you should keep out of this.

LOVVIE: But surely-

**LOVVIE WALKS TOWARD THE FENCE**

CHARITY: No! Stay your side of the fence. Look, don't think I ain't grateful but... you have to stop there. This is a line you can't cross...

LOVVIE: What are you talking about?

CHARITY: I'll be all right once I get mi washing hung up...

LOVVIE: Alright. But... come round me Gran's trailer when you're done for a cup a'tea. She told me to ask ya. (SMILES) Wants to check you out I think.

**12. INT. QUEENIE'S TRAILER. DAY:**

**THE KETTLE IS BOILING**

QUEENIE: How'd you take it Charity?

CHARITY: Milk, one sugar thanks.

**QUEENIE STARTS MAKING TEA**

CHARITY: You've got some cushty old photos on your mantel piece aunt Queen.

LOVVIE: (POINTING TO PHOTO) This is mi Uncle Jake outside the boxing both at Barnet fair.

QUEENIE: That's some years ago.

CHARITY: Shirt off, gloves on.

LOVVIE: And that's me mum when she was six years old.

QUEENIE: We was stopping down the Red House Road, then. Pea picking.

CHARITY: (SMILING) And who's this in the sugar beet field?

LOVVIE: Grandfather.

QUEENIE: My Charley, God love him. I had to fight the rakli's off with a thistle on a stick, he was that handsome.

CHARITY: Bit like Sol. All the girls was after him. Dunno what he sees in me.

QUEENIE: When'd you two start sparking?

LOVVIE: Gran!

QUEENIE: Well, it's too late for blushes now.

### **LOVVIE CHUCKLES**

CHARITY: I was walking home from the pictures one day with the girls and him and a couple of mates pulled up in a van and offered us a lift.

LOVVIE: (MOCK HORROR) You didn't get in?

CHARITY: Course not!

### **THEY LAUGH**

CHARITY: But he was funny.

QUEENIE: Gift of the gab see, like Charley.

CHARITY: I think that's one of the things I love about him. He makes me laugh even when I'm boiling inside. And then he can be so gentle.

LOVVIE: (SURPRISED) Sol?

### **QUEENIE HANDS OUT THE TEA**

QUEENIE: Now here's your tea girls.

CHARITY: Ta.

LOVVIE: Thanks gran.

QUEENIE: And who wants a biscuit?

**13. INT. LOVVIE'S TRAILER. DAY:**

**SOFT COUNTRY MUSIC IS PLAYING AS LOVVIE STEPS INTO THE TRAILER**

LOVVIE: What's all this?

NELIUS: What does it look like?

LOVVIE: (SHOCKED AND DELIGHTED) You ain't telling me you cooked it?

NELIUS: Well I did get a bit of help from the Taj Mahal on Brandy Street.

**SHE LAUGHS**

NELIUS: But it's the thought that counts.

LOVVIE: And it's a lovely thought.

NELIUS: And that ain't all.

LOVVIE: Dinner, music, candles... What other surprises you got for me?

**HE TURNS HIS BACK AND UNCORKS A BOTTLE OF WINE**

LOVVIE: (LAUGHING) You really know your way to a girl's heart.

NELIUS: And don't tell anyone about this. Travellers'll think I'm as soft as a lump a'cheese.

LOVVIE: Your secret's safe with me.

**HE POURS THE WINE - SHE MOVES IN CLOSE TO HIM**

LOVVIE: This ain't got anything to do with the patter of tiny feet has it?

NELIUS: Would I be so devious?

**THEY CLINK GLASSES**

#### **14. EXT. SOLOMON'S PLOT. DAY:**

##### **THERE'S A KNOCK AT THE DOOR AND LOVVIE OPENS IT**

CHARITY: (SOFTLY) Lovvie.

LOVVIE: Mi gran asked me to bring these biscuits over as you like'em so much.

CHARITY: I know why you're here. I'll bet half the site's heard the rows.

LOVVIE: (SHE PAUSES SEEING THE BRUISES) Rows and arguments ain't nothing new on here. But them bruises on your arms are. Did Sol do that to you?

CHARITY: Sol would never hit me. He loves me.

LOVVIE: He might say he done it because he loves you.

CHARITY: (AFTER A PAUSE) Okay, but... I was talking back, being a right mouthy cow. And after all he's done for me, moving on the site and that. I should be more grateful.

LOVVIE: But-

CHARITY: Look, he's never done it before and he was really sorry after.

LOVVIE: All the same-

CHARITY: Lovvie don't worry, it won't happen again. I'm sure it won't. Tell your gran thanks for the biscuits but I've gotta get on now.

(SLIGHT PAUSE) Alright?

#### **15. IN. LOVVIE'S TRAILER. EVENING:**

##### **NELIUS AND LOVVIE ARE ALONE WITH THE RADIO ON IN THE BACKGROUND**

LOVVIE: You should have seen the bruises, great purple things they were, and they was the ones I could see.

NELIUS: You shouldn't go poking your nose in. What they do in that trailer is nobody's business but theirs.

LOVVIE: What am I supposed to do?

NELIUS: Let her sort it. She's married. She made her choice. She belongs to him now. You know how things are.

LOVVIE: Nelius!

NELIUS: Keep out of it, I'm telling ya. She said it's a one off didn't she?

LOVVIE: And what if it isn't?

NELIUS: All the more reason for you not to get caught in the middle of it. You remember meeting me uncle Whiskers don't ya?

LOVVIE: Beard down to his belly button? I ain't likely to forget.

NELIUS: Well he's driving along one day, happy as Larry, when he sees his newly wed daughter and her husband coming the opposite way. He puts his hand up to say hello but as they drive passed, the husband, who ain't clocked Whiskers, gives her a left hander in the mooi, busts her nose, her mouth the lot. Me uncle turns round, catches up with'em on the motorway, drags the husband from the cab and gives him the hiding of his life.

LOVVIE: Plenty good enough.

NELIUS: Then his daughter turns on him, tells her father it's none of his business, to stay out of it, and not to come near either of'um again. And that was the end of that father-daughter relationship.

LOVVIE: But it ain't the same-

NELIUS: If a girl'll turn on her own father for stepping in, what chance have you got hey, someone she don't even know?

## **16. CHARITY'S TRAILER. EVENING:**

### **CHARITY IS EATING**

CHARITY: How is it?

SOLOMON: (SILENCE)

CHARITY: The dinner? You've hardly touched it.

SOLOMON: What you been up to today?

CHARITY: Done the washing. Hosed off the plot. Cleaned the trailer, inside and out. Can't you see the difference?

SOLOMON: (SLIGHT PAUSE) You've been rokkin to Lovvie.

### **CHARITY IS STUNNED BUT TRIES TO STAY CALM**

CHARITY: What...?

SOLOMON: She been asking questions about us?

CHARITY: No she-

SOLOMON: What did'ya say to her?

CHARITY: I ain't said nothing.

SOLOMON: You reckon you can blow your nose on here without the whole site knowing about it? There's forty pairs of eyes on you every minute of the day. It's a kind of human surveillance. What else they gonna do with their time but stare out of the windows?

### **SHE'S TERRIFIED**

CHARITY: I take oath on-

SOLOMON: You should keep away from her. The boy's used to call her "hot Lovvie", did you know that?

CHARITY: No.

### **HE'S GETTING UP – SENSE OF IMMINENT VIOLENCE**

SOLOMON: I'll tell you what doll, them jeans don't leave much to the imagination do they?

CHARITY: (CLOSE TO TEARS) Solomon please-

SOLOMON: While you're up there why don't you pull them blinds down?

**SHE STANDS AS STILL AS STONE**

CHARITY: ...No Sol...

SOLOMON: Drop them blinds now dinnilo.

**AS MUCH AS SHE FIGHTS AGAINST THEM THE TEARS START TO FLOW AS SHE GOES ROUND THE TRAILER DROPPING THE BLINDS**

SOLOMON: Where'd you get them jeans from anyway?

CHARITY: I... you....

SOLOMON: I ain't seen 'em before.

CHARITY: Yes... you have. You... brought'em for me.

SOLOMON: Know what I think? I think our naughty neighbor's already teaching you bad habits.

CHARITY: No...

**ANOTHER BLIND DROPS**

SOLOMON: One blind left now sweet Charity. In the bedroom you go.

**SHE DOES WHAT SHE CAN TO STIFFLE HER SOBS BUT THEY ESCAPE ANYWAY. SHE MAKES HER WAY TO THE BEDROOM AND SLOWLY DROPS THE FINAL BLIND**

**17. INT. LOVVIE'S TRAILER. DAY:**

**LOVVIE IS DOING THE WASHING UP WHEN THE PHONE RINGS. SHE WIPES HER HANDS THEN ANSWERS IT**

LOVVIE: Yeah?

**CHARITY'S SPEECH IS SLOW AND BROKEN**

CHARITY: (V.O) It's me...

LOVVIE: (CONCERNED) Charity? What the matter? Where are you?

CHARITY: (V.O) I'm... in mi trailer.

LOVVIE: Your... Well why are you phoning me? Why don't you just come round?

CHARITY: V.O) I can't.

LOVVIE: Why not?

CHARITY: (V.O) Can you come here?

LOVVIE: Yeah... I'll be there in thirty seconds, all right?

CHARITY: 'Kay.

**18. INT. CHARITY'S TRAILER. NIGHT:**

**CHARITY SLOWLY TURNS TO HER AND LOVVIE GASPS IN SHOCK**

LOVVIE: ...What has he done to you?

CHARITY: You mustn't tell anyone Lovvie, you mustn't.

**CHARITY COUGHS AND PUTS A PIECE OF WHITE RAG TO HER MOUTH THEN TAKES IT AWAY**

LOVVIE: Show me that rag?

**CHARITY HANDS IT TO HER. LOVVIE NOTICES BLOOD ON IT**

LOVVIE: You're coughing up blood. We've gotta get you to hospital.

CHARITY: No!

LOVVIE: But-

CHARITY: No! Then he would kill me.

LOVVIE: You're hurt and you're hurt bad.

CHARITY: I... can't.

LOVVIE: Call your family, tell 'em to come and get ya.

CHARITY: And start a blood feud to last a lifetime? It ain't worth it.

LOVVIE: I thought them bruises weren't a one off. (SLIGHT PAUSE) Why does he do it?

### **CHARITY TURNS AWAY**

CHARITY: I dress like a slut, I'm lazy, don't clean enough, me cooking's terrible -

LOVVIE: But you dress in jeans and t-shirt most of the time. And you never stop cleaning and your cooking smells lovely from here. Even Nelius said so.

CHARITY: (EMBARRASSED) And I'm... I'm rubbish at... well, you know.

PAUSE

LOVVIE: That's a horrible thing for him to say.

### **LOVVIE SITS BESIDE HER**

LOVVIE: Does he... drink at home, in the trailer I mean?

CHARITY: I ain't ever seen him drunk.

LOVVIE: I know he's got a bad temper-

CHARITY: No worse than anybody else's.

LOVVIE: Then what... I don't understand.

### **LOVVIE IS TREADING VERY CAREFULLY**

LOVVIE: Could there be.... I don't know...

CHARITY: Another woman? Nah.

LOVVIE: Do you think it's something else?

CHARITY: I know it's something else.

LOVVIE: (WITH TREPIDATION) Go on.

CHARITY: When I'm... in pain. When I... cry. Well it... It does something to him.

LOVVIE: How'd you mean?

CHARITY: (EMBARRASSED AGAIN) You know.

LOVVIE: (CONFUSED) No, I ain't sure I... (IT STARTS TO DAWN ON HER) do you mean...?

CHARITY: Yeah. The more he hurts me, the more he wants me.

LOVVIE: Oh Charity. They're getting worse. The beatings. Well ain't they?

CHARITY: (SLIGHT PAUSE) ...What am I gonna do?

#### **19: INT. CHARITY'S TRAILER. DAY:**

**THE SOUND OF QUEENIE WRINGING OUT A WET RAG IN A BOWL OF WATER. QUEENIE'S SEEN IT ALL BEFORE AND KEEPS THE ATMOS RELATIVELY BRIGHT**

QUEENIE: Here, hold still.

#### **CHARITY GASPS AS QUEENIE DABS THE RAG ON HER FACE**

QUEENIE: The blood on your face comes from what you was coughing up. You ain't got no cuts and bruises there. Wouldn't know a thing to look at ya.

CHARITY: He don't hit me there.

QUEENIE: Something to be thankful for my lovely.

LOVVIE: He's clever all right.

CHARITY: Feels a bit better now aunt Queen.

QUEENIE: Right, let's have a look see under your jumper.

### **CHARITY LIFTS HER JUMBER**

LOVVIE: (A SHARP IN TAKE) Oh Gran...

QUEENIE: Gonna be all the colors under the rainbow in a day or two. Let me touch it.

### **QUEENIE TOUCHES IT AND CHARITY YELPS**

QUEENIE: You ought to go to the hospital really.

CHARITY: You know I can't do that.

QUEENIE: Couple a'cracked ribs at least I reckon. And who knows what's been knocked about inside.

CHARITY: No doctors.

QUEENIE: (SLIGHT PAUSE) Well, I've got some bandages in here, in mi bag.

### **QUEENIE GETS UP**

CHARITY: No Aunt Queen, I don't want no bandages. He might-

QUEENIE: Got to my girl, cracked ribs have to be bound tigh.

CHARITY: (FRANTIC) Hurry please, Sol could be back any minute...

### **QUEENIE OPENS HER BAG**

QUEENIE: Here. Here they are. Now this is gonna hurt a bit.

### **QUEENIE PICKS UP A PIECE OF RAG AND TWISTS IT INTO A RIGHT WAD**

### **CHARITY SCREAMS INTO THE RAG AS QUEENIE TIGHTENS THE BANDAGES**

**20. EXT. NELIUS'S PLOT. DAY:**

**NELIUS IS UNLOADING THE ROTOVATER AND TOOLS FROM HIS VAN.  
THE ROTOVATER'S ENGINE IS RUNNING SO THEY ARE SPEAKING  
OVER IT**

NELIUS: Here Lovvie, level these ramps to the wheels of the rotovater will ya so I can get it out the van.

**SHE TAKES THE TWO SHORT WOODEN RAMPS AND PLACES THEM  
CLOSE TO THE ROTOVATER WHEELS**

LOVVIE: That about right?

NELIUS: Yeah, looks it.

**NELIUS STARTS COMING DOWN THE RAMPS**

NELIUS: Watch out.

**LOVVIE MOVES ASIDE**

LOVVIE: Decent day's pay?

NELIUS: We need it the way things is going.

**HE PARKS THE ROTOVATOR TO THE SIDE OF THE PLOT**

NELIUS: Now come here. I think I've earned a smooch today.

**NELIUS MOVES IN BUT LOVVIE PULLS AWAY**

LOVVIE: No, don't.

NELIUS: What's up?

LOVVIE: Nothing.

**SHE PUSHES HIM AWAY**

NELIUS: You're dancing around something. What is it?

LOVVIE: (SLIGHT PAUSE) Charity.

**HE TURNS OFF THE ROTOVATOR**

NELIUS: That again.

LOVVIE: You should have seen the state of her this time.

NELIUS: We've been through this.  
LOVVIE: She was half mullored.  
LOVVIE: Gran patched her up as best she could.  
NELIUS: (DISMAYED) So now you've mixed old Queenie up in it.  
LOVVIE: I had to.

**NELIUS TAKES A SPADE, FOLK AND RAKE FROM HIS VAN**

NELIUS: D'you really think Charity's gonna thank you for this?  
LOVVIE: I can't look the other way.  
NELIUS: Nobody's asking you to.  
LOVVIE: You are.  
NELIUS: I'm telling you to mind your own.  
LOVVIE: It's too late for that.

**NELIUS STOPS**

NELIUS: What d'ya mean?  
LOVVIE: (SILENCE)  
NELIUS: Lovvie?  
LOVVIE: I went down the town today. There's a... there's a place... for... women like Charity.  
NELIUS: What d'ya mean women like...? You mean sort of... one of them-  
LOVVIE: A women's refuge centre.

**HE THROWS DOWN HIS TOOLS**

NELIUS: Oh my savior.  
LOVVIE: You ain't seen what he's done to her.

NELIUS: I don't care if he's cutting her with razor blades it's none of our business. I've told you before Lovvie, keep out of it. You're gonna make it worse for her, for yourself and for everyone else. You know the kind of reputation you'll get if you keep interfering on the site. You know what people are like. Why'd you wanna go around causing trouble?

LOVVIE: Can you have a word with Sol?

NELIUS: (INCREDOULOUS) Have a word, tell another man how to treat his wife? It's about the biggest insult there is. You know all this. You've been brought up with it as well as I have.

LOVVIE: I ain't been brought watching husband's beat their wife's half to death. Just cos it's mi culture or mi tradition don't mean it's right or can't be changed.

NELIUS: Look, I ain't all bad you know, I feel for the girl. Course I do. But mi hands are tied on this. It's how things is Lovvie.

**HE WALKS AWAY FROM HER**

**21. EXT. SOLOMON'S PLOT. DAY:**

**SOLOMON COMES OUT OF THE CHALET WITH NO SHIRT ON AFTER  
TAKING A SHOWER AFTER WORK. CHARITY IS SITTING IN THE  
DOORWAY OF HER TRAILER**

SOLOMON: These chalets've got decent showers I'll say that for'em.

CHARITY: Thought I might ride over and see mi mum at the weekend.

SOLOMON: So why the sudden urge to see your mum?

CHARITY: It ain't sudden. Haven't seen her for weeks.

**HE TAKES A SHIRT OUT OF THE CUPBOARD AND PUTS IT ON**

SOLOMON: You ain't mentioned it before.

CHARITY: I was thinking about it today that's all.

### **SHE SITS BACK DOWN BUT HER JUMPER RIDES UP A LITTLE**

SOLOMON: 'Ere...What's that?

CHARITY: What?

SOLOMON: That, under your jumper?

CHARITY: (SHE CURSES HERSELF) Oh, it's uh- that's uh-... I went to the shop and got a bandage. Mi ribs is-

SOLOMON: Oh, let's have a look.

CHARITY: It's all right. They're feeling- feeling better now.

SOLOMON: Turn round.

### **SHE DOES SO**

SOLOMON: Lift the back of your jumper up and careful what you show there's chavvies about.

### **SHE LIFTS THE BACK OF HER JUMPER**

SOLOMON: You put this on you say?

CHARITY: Yeah.

SOLOMON: You sure?

CHARITY: Course.

SOLOMON: Only... It's uh- it's done up at the back.

CHARITY: Hey?

SOLOMON: The pin. It's in the back.

CHARITY: I... I know.

SOLOMON: How come you pinned it at the back and not the front?

CHARITY: Well I... I run out of bandage. I had... had to.

SOLOMON: Let's see you reach it.

CHARITY: (SLIGHT PAUSE) What?

SOLOMON: You put the pin in the back. Show me how you done it.

CHARITY: I...

SOLOMON: Come on Houdini show me how you done it.

**SHE TRIES TO PUT HER HANDS ROUND HER BACK BUT WINCES IN PAIN. TRIES AGAIN BUT IT'S NO GOOD**

CHARITY: I... can't.

SOLOMON: What?

CHARITY: I can't reach it.

SOLOMON: (SLIGHT PAUSE) So if you didn't pin your bandage, who did?

**SHE FIGHTS BACK TEARS**

**22. EXT. NELIUS'S PLOT. DAY:**

**NELIUS IS IN THE CHALET AND QUEENIE AND LOVVIE ARE IN THE TRAILER WHEN SOLOMON WALKS ONTO THE PLOT**

LOVVIE: Pass us that basket over, will ya?

NELIUS: Okay, do I look like a laundry, mate?

SOLOMON: Lovvie, I wanna word with you.

**NELIUS COMES OUT OF THE CHALET**

NELIUS: Easy boy you'll cause a riot.

SOLOMON: I'll cause more than that if you don't keep your woman away from mine.

NELIUS: Steady on Sol. What's this about?

SOLOMON: As if you didn't know.

**NELIUS TAKES A STEP CLOSER TO SOLOMON**

NELIUS: You got something to say?

SOLOMON: Yeah. I got plenty.

NELIUS: Then say it to me.

**LOVVIE OPENS THE DOOR OF HER TRAILER WITH QUEENIE BEHIND HER**

SOLOMON: Keep her away from Charity.

**LOVVIE STEPS OUT OF THE TRAILER AND MOVES TOWARD THEM**

LOVVIE: I could say the same to you.

NELIUS: Lovvie.

LOVVIE: Don't take his side.

SOLOMON: No harm Bruv but this ain't right and you know it.

LOVVIE: I'll tell you what ain't right-

SOLOMON: You'll tell me nothing.

LOVVIE: If I was Charity-

SOLOMON: Well you ain't.

LOVVIE: I'd put a knife in you while you slept.

**QUEENIE STEPS OUT OF LOVVIE'S TRAILER**

QUEENIE: Will you lot keep it down? You'll have the whole site on here.

NELIUS: She's right we'll have an audience in a minute and none of us wants that.

LOVVIE: Especially you Sol.

**SOME TRAVELLERS HAVE ALREADY COME OUT OF THEIR TRAILERS TO SEE WHAT'S GOING ON**

NELIUS: Sol, you'd better-

SOLOMON: If you don't keep her away from me and mine there's gonna be trouble.

## **NELIUS SQUARES UP TO SOLOMON**

NELIUS: What kinda trouble you got in mind?

SOLOMON: You better keep your woman in order Bruv I'm telling ya.

LOVVIE: Nelius are you just gonna let him speak like-

NELIUS: Leave it Lovvie.

LOVVIE: Leave it? Oh I don't think so. I ain't even started yet!

## **SHE STORMS OFF**

### **23. INT. QUEENIE'S TRAILER. NIGHT:**

#### **QUEENIE HANDS LOVVIE A CUP OF TEA AND SITS DOWN**

LOVVIE: Thanks Gran but I could do with something stronger.

QUEENIE: Tea'll do you more good than anything else.

#### **LOVVIE TAKES A SIP**

QUEENIE: You should have listened to Nelius first off.

LOVVIE: (SHOCKED) You ain't taking his side?

QUEENIE: It ain't about taking sides. It's showing respect.

LOVVIE: But what Sol's doing ain't right.

QUEENIE: You know better than that my girl. Charity's gotta find her own way.

LOVVIE: You an'all.

QUEENIE: There's always trouble for them that comes between man and wife.

LOVVIE: And when he's killed her?

QUEENIE: You can't fight her battles for her Lovvie.

LOVVIE: I've gotta say what I think.

QUEENIE: There's a time and place and it ain't in front of a site full of Travellers. You've gotta sharpen up my girl and not take too long about it.

**25. INT. LOVVIE'S TRAILER. NIGHT:**

**THE TV IS ON BUT NEITHER LOVVIE OR NELIUS ARE WATCHING IT.  
THERE'S AN ATMOSPHERE AND THEY'RE SITTING APART**

LOVVIE: (GENTLY) Nelius?

NELIUS: Yeah?

LOVVIE: I... look I've been thinking.

NELIUS: Halleluiah.

LOVVIE: I'm serious.

NELIUS: So am I.

**SHE PICKS UP THE REMOTE CONTROL AND TURNS DOWN THE TV**

LOVVIE: I reckon I've been making things worse for everyone by... you know.

NELIUS: No. You tell me.

LOVVIE: (TAKES A BREATH) By trying to sort Charity's problem's out for her.

NELIUS: (SURPRISED) Yeah?

LOVIE: You're right, I should have just left'em to it.

NELIUS: Why the about turn?

LOVVIE: I was wrong. I know it. Can't that be enough?

NELIUS: You change like the wind.

LOVVIE: You've just gotta let people sort out their own lives.

NELIUS: (SLIGHT PAUSE) It's right, Lovvie. Babe, I don't like it either but... Travellers is Travellers. You know I'm right, don't ya?

LOVVIE: Yeah, I reckon.

NELIUS: Too good hearted that's your trouble. Come here.

**SHE CUDDLES INTO HIM**

**25. INT. LOVVIE'S TRAILER. NIGHT:**

**LOVVIE AND NELIUS ARE BOTH ASLEEP WHEN THERE IS A LOUD KNOCK AT THE DOOR**

LOVVIE: (BLURRY EYED) What...

**ANOTHER LOUD KNOCK**

SOLOMON: (FROM OUTSIDE) Open the door Lovvie. Now.

NELIUS: I don't believe. Not again.

**NELIUS AND LOVVIE GET UP. NELIUS OPENS THE DOOR WITH LOVVIE AT HIS SHOULDER**

SOLOMON: (COLD AS STEEL) Look, where is she Lovvie?

LOVVIE: I don't know what you're talking about Sol.

SOLOMON: Charity's gone. You know she is.

LOVVIE: I ain't got a clue what you're talking about.

SOLOMON: I'll find her. And when I do-

NELIUS: You heard what Lovvie said. She don't know nothing about it. Now I've gotta go to work and I don't intend losing any more sleep.

SOLOMON: This is your doing Lovvie.

## **NELIUS SHUTS THE DOOR**

SOLOMON: (SHOUTING FROM OUTSIDE) It's all down to you.

### **26. EXT. LOVVIE TRAILER. DAY:**

#### **LOVVIE'S PHONE RINGS**

LOVVIE: (FRANTIC) Charity? I've been looking for you everywhere!  
Where are you?

### **27. INT. CAR. DAY:**

#### **LOVVIE AND CHARITY HAVE JUST LEFT THE HOSPITAL**

CHARITY: That's the first and last time I'm going hospital.

LOVVIE: Good job you did. Two broken ribs, four stitches over your eye,  
another three in your mouth and-

CHARITY: One of me teeth went through me lip.

LOVVIE: Blood an'all when you went to the toilet?

CHARITY: Cakka's ladjin.

LOVVIE: That'll be from the bruised kidney.

CHARITY: I shouldda just gone to an undertaker, cut out the middleman.

LOVVIE: Don't be daft.

CHARITY: It's what I'll need when Sol finds me.

LOVVIE: He won't find you.

CHARITY: You think?

LOVVIE: You had to leave. But how you got out that trailer without waking him-

CHARITY: (TEARING UP WITH FEAR) This time I thought... I really thought he might... after I got out that door I just run for mi life. I didn't even feel any pain till I got in the hospital.

LOVVIE: He's messed you up good and proper this time. So much for not hitting you in the face.

### **LOVVIE PULLS OVER AND TURNS OFF THE ENGINE**

CHARITY: Where are we?

LOVVIE: It's a women's refuge centre.

CHARITY: (SCARED AND UNSURE) A what?

LOVVIE: Least you'll be safe.

CHARITY: But... you gone doolally? Dordy...

LOVVIE: Look, nobody'll know you're here cept me. And they don't let men in.

CHARITY: I can't live in here.

LOVVIE: It won't be for long.

CHARITY: I ain't ever slept in brick before.

LOVVIE: Just a few days that's all. Till I think what to do next. Shall I tell your family?

CHARITY: I told ya!

LOVVIE: If trouble kicks off they'll just have to deal with it.

CHARITY: It ain't only that. Mi dad never did like Sol. Mi mum neither. Dad said he was too cocky for his own good. Warned me against

him. I went against their wishes. Mum said 'don't come crying back here when he turns ugly, which he will'.

LOVVIE: She didn't mean it.

CHARITY: The thought of her seeing me like this... I can't Lovie. I just...

LOVVIE: At least have a think about it.

CHARITY: (SLIGHT PAUSE) And you'd better watch out an'all.

LOVVIE: Me?

CHARITY: Sol's gonna be after your blood.

## **28. EXT. LOVVIE'S PLOT. DAY:**

**LOVVIE IS HOSING DOWN HER PLOT WHEN SOL APPROCHES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DEVIDING FENCE. LOVVIE EXPECTS TROUBLE**

SOLOMON: You're doing a good job with that hose Lovie girl. But I'm a cleaner down thanks to you.

LOVVIE: Nelius'll be back in a minute.

**HE NONCHALANTLY LEANS ON THE FENCE**

SOLOMON: (SMILING) I'm glad Charity's all right.

LOVVIE: (SLIGHT PAUSE) You've heard from her?

SOLOMON: No, but I know you've seen her and she must be all right or you wouldn't be standing here like this.

**LOVVIE CARRIES ON HOSING**

SOLOMON: Look, we lost it a bit the other day didn't we? Bad blood don't do nobody no good. Hey, let's bury it. We've been friends for too long-

LOVVIE: You think she's coming back don't ya?

SOLOMON: I'm her husband. Where else she gonna go?

LOVVIE: She might surprise you.

SOLOMON: She might surprise *you*.

LOVVIE: This is the second time you've been on my plot uninvited.

SOLOMON: Technically I ain't on your plot. I'm still my side the fence.

LOVVIE: Why don't you go-

SOLOMON: Look I'm trying be civil, make up and mend. But if you won't-

LOVVIE: I've said all I'm gotta say to you.

PAUSE

SOLOMON: I'll find her in the end you Lovvie. We both know it. So why don't you save us all time and tell me where she is?

#### **NELIUS PULLS UP IN HIS VAN**

NELIUS: You all right Lovvie?

LOVVIE: Yeah.

SOLOMON: (SMILES) Bruv.

LOVVIE: But Sol was just going, weren't ya?

SOLOMON: Things to do, places to go. And people to see.

#### **HE WALKS AWAY**

NELIUS: How long you think before he finds her?

LOVVIE: He won't look there.

NELIUS: He's put a price on her head you know.

LOVVIE: (INCREDOULOUS) I don't believe it.

NELIUS: Offered a 'finders fee' for anyone who sees her and tells him where she is.

LOVVIE: He ain't all there.

NELIUS: Somebody'll catch sight of her sooner or later and tell him where she is. Bound to.

LOVVIE: Look, I'm sure she's got the strength to stay away.

NELIUS: You really think so?

## **29. INT. WOMEN'S REFUGE CENTRE. DAY:**

### **LOVVIE AND CHARITY ARE IN CHARITY'S ROOM. LOVVIE IS TAKING CLOTHES OUT OF A BAG AND LAYING THEM ON THE BED**

LOVVIE: So there's two pairs of trousers, a skirt, a couple of t-shirts-

CHARITY: Thanks for this Lovvie. Packing a bag before I left was about the last thing on mi mind.

LOVVIE: Should keep you going for a while. But if you need anything else let me know.

### **LOVVIE GLANCES ROUND THE SPACE**

LOVVIE: This ain't a bad kenner.

CHARITY: I laid on the floor last night.

LOVVIE: (SURPRISED) What for?

CHARITY: The bed's too soft and bouncy. Not like a trailer. Turn over on that and you're bouncing. It's like trying to sleep on a trampoline.

### **LOVVIE LAUGHS**

CHARITY: And I must be 30 feet off the ground.

LOVVIE: It's only the second floor.

CHARITY: Much higher mi ears'll pop. And that ain't all.

### **CHARITY WALKS TO A DOOR AND OPENS IT**

CHARITY: That's mi toilet.

LOVVIE: I think it's what Gorgias call 'on suite'.

CHARITY: There's nothing 'sweet' about that. On my life Lovvie how can they live like it?

### **LOVVIE SITS ON THE BED**

LOVVIE: It won't be for long.

CHARITY: (SLIGHT PAUSE) How's Sol?

LOVVIE: Well, to look at him you'd think he didn't have a care in the world. But underneath he's about as stable as a cut snake.

CHARITY: And twice as dangerous...

PAUSE

LOVVIE: Have you changed your mind about getting in touch with your family?

CHARITY: That's a call I'm dreading.

LOVVIE: So you are gonna make it?

CHARITY: They'll find out sooner or later anyway. (SMILES) Mi mum's gonna do her nut. I can see it now. (PUTTING ON HER MOTHER'S VOICE) 'I told you his people were rubbish... I told you he weren't no good and never would be. But you didn't listen to me...'

### **THEY LAUGH**

CHARITY: For all mi complaining about this place, it was the right thing to do, to come here. I do feel better somehow.

LOVVIE: It's gonna be alright.

CHARITY: Yeah. Yeah I think it is.

### **30. EXT. WOMEN'S REFUGE. DAY:**

#### **CHARITY IS JUST OUTSIDE THE DOOR**

REFUGE WORKER: Are you okay there Charity?

CHARITY: I'm just going for a walk. I need some air

REFUGE WORKER: Okay, call me if you need anything.

#### **CHARITY SHUTS THE DOOR AND STARTS DOWN THE STREET TO THE SOUND OF CARS PASSING AND PEOPLE WALKING BY**

SOLOMON: (SINGS) 'The minute you walked in the joint.'

#### **SHE STOPS DEAD. SOLOMON IS SITTING ON A WALL BEHIND HER**

SOLOMON: 'I could see you woz a girl of distinction, a real mind bender... good looking, so refined...'

#### **HE JUMPS DOWN FROM THE WALL**

SOLOMON: 'Well wouldn't you like to know what's going on in my mind...?'

#### **CHARITY IS SCARED TO DEATH BUT SOL IS ALL SMILES**

SOLOMON: From Sweet Charity. You know- Mi favourite film. You know that.

CHARITY: Sol...

SOLOMON: Where you going in such a rush?

#### **HE MOVES TOWARD HER**

CHARITY: Don't come near me...

SOLOMON: I ain't gonna do nothing. Look, I've been worried sick about you that's all.

CHARITY: (SLIGHT PAUSE) Worried?

SOLOMON: Course worried.

CHARITY: I don't think you've ever worried about me.

SOLOMON: Three days and nights.

CHARITY: (SLIGHT PAUSE) How'd you find me?

### **SOL IS LOOKING AT THE BUILDING**

SOLOMON: I ain't ever heard of a Traveller woman coming to a place like this. Lovvie's a slippery one and no mistake. But she ain't slippery enough to know when she's got a tiger on her tail. She should use her rear view mirror more when she comes to see you.

CHARITY: Last time Sol I thought you was gonna... you frightened me...

SOLOMON: (REMORSEFUL) I know and I'm sorry.

PAUSE

CHARITY: What?

SOLOMON: I'm sorry. Look, I know I done wrong. Look, I've learned mi lesson. I won't ever do it again.

CHARITY: I ain't coming back.

SOLOMON: You've got to Char.

CHARITY: No.

SOLOMON: I ain't no good without you. I never was.

CHARITY: I can't.

SOLOMON: (SLIGHT PAUSE) Let's walk. Look, I don't... I don't like standing outside this place.

CHARITY: No.

## **SHE DOESN'T MOVE**

SOLOMON: Oh, come on. Please. Look, all I can think about is you. It's getting silly. And dangerous. I've been stumbling about like Mr Magoo, bumping into lamp-posts and all sorts.

CHARITY: I can't see any bruises.

SOLOMON: That's coz they're all on the inside.

## **A CAR GOES PASSED – HE TAKES A STEP CLOSER**

SOLOMON: Look. I cry meself to sleep every night. Take oath I do. Look- And I've been neglecting you. I know that now. When's the last time I took you to the pictures? Or out to get a decent dinner.

CHARITY: I don't care about-

SOLOMON: I'm a div, pure and simple.

## **HE TAKES ANOTHER STEP CLOSER - HIS IN TOUCHING DISTANCE**

SOLOMON: But tell ya the truth I'm just standing here thinking up excuses to see you dressed up again. You take my breath away when you're dressed up you know that. Your hair done all cushti and smelling lovely. You knock me to pieces doll. I can't help meself.

## **A LORRY GOES PASSED**

SOLOMON: Like Piccadilly Circus here innit. Look, the river ain't far away.

CHARITY: You ain't gonna talk me round.

SOLOMON: I just wanna spend some time with ya that's all. Oh come on, do I have to get on mi knees and beg like when I proposed to ya?

CHARITY: You wouldn't. Not here.

## **HE GOES DOWN ON ONE KNEE**

CHARITY: Get up you radge, people're watching!

SOLOMON: Well say yes then. And put a wiggle on I'm getting covered in doggy doo down here.

**31. EXT. RIVERSIDE. DAY:**

**BIRDS ARE SINGING AND A LIGHT BREEZE BLOWS THROUGH THE TREES AS THEY WALK TOGETHER**

SOLOMON: It's cushti here.

CHARITY: Pretty.

SOLOMON: Like you.

**HE IS FULL OF REPENTANCE**

SOLOMON: Look, I've said I'm sorry.

CHARITY: I know what you said.

SOLOMON: It won't happen again.

CHARITY: You said that an'all.

SOLOMON: (APPEARS CLOSE TO TEARS) I'm... I'm lost Charity. Without you I... I just ain't no good....

CHARITY: The thing is Sol, I don't believe you. And I don't think I ever will again.

**HE STOPS**

SOLOMON: You know, I can understand you feeling this way now. Course I can. I ain't some monster with no feelings you know. But in time you'll come to see I'm right.

CHARITY: Sol-

SOLOMON: Coz you see girl, we belong together you and me. Them vows we took weren't just for Christmas. You're mine. You need to understand that. I behaved bad, you left me, fair enough. Maybe I deserved it, but I've done mi penance and you got your own

back. So now you've gotta stop messing about and come home with me.

CHARITY: Look Sol-

SOLOMON: And I ain't gonna lay a hand on you for walking out, not this time. (TAKES A BREATH) See, mi love for you is so deep, so true and endless... I'll die for you in a heartbeat. Yeah, I'll give mi life for you, spend the rest of it behind bars if I have to. What I'm trying to say is... Don't you never, not ever, leave me again. You do, and no matter where you go, what you do, I'll find you, yeah, they'll be no hiding place from me, and when I do... My feelings for you are out of control doll. You know, that's how much you mean to me...

### **32. INT. LOVVIE'S CHALET. DAY:**

**NELIUS IS WASHING HIS FACE IN THE SINK AND LOVVIE IS TAKING WASHING OUT OF THE MACHINE WHEN WE HEAR THE SOUND OF A LARRY PULLING UP IN THE DISTANCE. NELIUS GRABS A TOWEL LOOKS OUT OF THE WINDOW AND SEES CHARITY GETTING OUT OF SOLOMON'S LARRY**

NELIUS: Lovvie...

LOVVIE: What now?

NELIUS: The happy couple have just returned.

LOVVIE: (SLIGHT PAUSE) No!

#### **SHE LOOKS OUT OF THE WINDOW**

NELIUS: You've done all you can.

LOVVIE: He'll kill her Nelius this time I know he will.

NELIUS: Leave it Lovvie.

LOVVIE: I can't. I just can't!

**SHE RUNS OUT**

**33. EXT. SOLOMON'S PLOT. DAY:**

**LOVVIE RUNS TOWARD THEIR PLOT AS SOLOMON HELPS CHARITY OUT OF THE LORRY CAB**

LOVVIE: Take your hands off her!

SOLOMON: Oh dik here.

CHARITY: Lovvie leave it.

LOVVIE: He ain't hitting you again. Why have you come back? You had a chance to get away from him.

CHARITY: He's promised not to touch me.

**LOVVIE IS ON THE PLOT NOW**

LOVVIE: And what do you think that's worth?

**NELIUS CALLS BEHIND LOVVIE**

NELIUS: Lovvie.

LOVVIE: No Nelius I can't stand by and let him beat the girl to death.

**OTHER TRAVELLERS ARE GATHERING NOW AND CHARITY BECOMES AWARE OF THEM AND GETS EMBARRESSED**

CHARITY: Lovvie. Dik at the Traveller's acoi.

LOVVIE: I don't care. Let'em gorp.

CHARITY: You're showing me up. It's none of your business.

NELIUS: Cakka Lovvie.

QUEENIE: What's going on here again?

SOLOMON: Do as you're told Lovvie.

**NELIUS TRIES TO PULL HER AWAY**

LOVVIE: (TO SOL) Do you know what a man like you is worth?

CHARITY: (GETTING ANGRY) Lovvie please.

SOLOMON: Why don't you tell me in front of all these people?

LOVVIE: I'm gonna do more than tell ya. I'm gonna-

**CHARITY LASHES OUT AND SLAPS LOVVIE'S FACE. LOVVIE GASPS AND IS STUNNED**

CHARITY: I told you...

LOVVIE: Charity what... what did you hit me...? I was only trying to...

**CHARITY GRABS LOVVIE'S ARM AND TAKES HER A FEW STEPS AWAY SO NO ONE ELSE CAN HEAR**

CHARITY: Listen Lovvie... All this has only made things worse.

LOVVIE: (CLOSE TO TEARS) You don't mean that. You had a chance, a you had a way out.

CHARITY: There is no way out for me, now. There never was. You've got to leave it now Lovvie. For my sake.

SOLOMON: Charity?

CHARITY: (SLIGHT PAUSE) Coming Sol.

**CHARITY GOES TO SOLOMON LEAVING LOVVIE HURT AND HUMILIATED**

QUEENIE: I tried to tell ya-

LOVVIE: I was only-

NELIUS: You'll get no sympathy from me. You don't interfere in people's business.

LOVVIE: And when he... when it happens again, then what?

NELIUS: The girl's made her bed.

LOVVIE: What, so life goes on?

QUEENIE: Yeah, life goes on, Lovvie girl.

**34. INT. LOVVIE'S CHALET. DAY:**

**THE WASHING MACHINE WHIRLS IN THE BACKGROUND**

NELIUS: Perhaps we can get back to normal again now.

LOVVIE: (SOFT AND LOW) Normal, what's that?

NELIUS: You know, you and me... Not all Travelling men are bad you know.

LOVVIE: (SMILES) I think I got lucky.

NELIUS: I'll go along with that.

LOVVIE: Oi!

**SHE PLAYFULLY HITS HIM – HE PUTS HIS ARM ROUND HER**

NELIUS: I'm the lucky one, Lovvie.

LOVVIE: (AFTER A PAUSE) Nelius, if we're gonna start a family I want us to bring our children up to respect each other and other people.

NELIUS: We will.

LOVVIE: And if there's disagreements between'em-

NELIUS: They'll talk it out, and argue the toss-

LOVVIE: But they won't cut the blood out of each other.

NELIUS: They just need to be brought up right that's all.

LOVVIE: Straight and strong.

NELIUS: And we'll show'em how.

LOVVIE: Yeah. (SLIGHT PAUSE) We'll show'em how...

**THE END**