



# Home Front

## Episode 1

**4th August 1914, Kitty Wilson**

By KATIE HIMMS

### **Cast**

Kitty	Ami Metcalf
Ralph/Shopkeeper	Nicholas Murchie
Adam	Leo Montague
Dieter	Joe Sims
Customer	Craig Elms (RDC)
Cynic	Wilf Scolding (RDC)
Man	Michael Bertenshaw (RDC)
Woman	Rachel Shelley
Albert	Harry Myers

Directed by JESSICA DROMGOOLE

**TX Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> August 2014

EOS: 11'49  
EOM: 12'00

**(MUSIC – HOME FRONT SIG TUNE STARTS, CONTINUING UNDER  
TITLE AND SPEECH. 33 SECS IN TOTAL)**

**SCENE 1                      EXT. THE WINWOOD'S STREET.**

**KITTY HAS THE DOG KUSH WITH HER ON A  
LEAD.**

KITTY                      So what'll happen? If it gets to 11 o'clock tonight and  
Germany doesn't change its mind? What'll happen  
then?

RALPH                      Well then I imagine we will be at war.

KITTY                      And then what?

RALPH Well I'm not sure.

KITTY What'll happen to all the Germans living here?

RALPH Well a great number of them have already left.

KITTY Yeh but not all of them. There's loads of them still here. Like like the pork butcher. Whatshisname. He's still here. Lived here for twenty thirty years or something. I mean what'll happen to him? Will he be arrested?

RALPH I've no idea Kitty.

KITTY Cos that's not fair is it? He's lived here for years. He's done nothing wrong. He's sold sausages and minded his own business and he's done nothing wrong.

RALPH Why are you so upset about the butcher?

KITTY And what about his kids? His kids who were born here. I mean will they be German too? What about his wife? I mean, she's English.

RALPH Is this butcher a friend of yours?

KITTY No. No. I just don't think it's right. That's all.

RALPH What isn't right?

ADAM (CALLING IN DISTANCE) Kitty! Kitty!

**ADAM ARRIVING HAULING THE WASHING**

KITTY Stop yelling! Sorry Reverend I don't know what he's yelling for.

**ADAM ARRIVES ON MIC**

ADAM Hello Reverend.

RALPH Hello Adam.

KITTY                   What have you got to yell for?

ADAM                   Cos I've brought the washing.

KITTY                   So?

ADAM                   So I didn't want you going off did I.

KITTY                   Cook can take the washing. I've got shopping to do.  
The dog to walk.

RALPH                  And I've got a sermon to write so-

ADAM                   It's exciting, isn't it, Reverend.

RALPH                  What's that?

ADAM                   The war.

RALPH                  Ah yes, well, it is rather.

KITTY                   Well we don't know for sure that it'll happen.

ADAM                   Oh I hope it does. And I hope it goes on for years like  
that one in Greece. Troy was it? Was it Troy?

RALPH                  Er, yes Troy, yes, that's right.

ADAM                   Cos then I'll be old enough to fight in it, won't I.

KITTY                   Don't be stupid.

ADAM                   Reverend Winwood.

RALPH                  Yes Adam.

ADAM                   All this business with Germany . .

RALPH                  Yes?

ADAM                   How did it begin?

KITTY                   Adam.

ADAM                   What?

KITTY                    He hasn't got time to explain all that. You heard him.  
                              He's got a sermon to write.

RALPH                   The truth is Adam it's very complicated and I don't  
                              understand it myself. I believe it has something to do  
                              with Franz Ferdinand.

ADAM                    What's Franz Ferdinand?

RALPH                   He is - was a duke. An Austrian duke. Who was shot,  
                              shot dead. Along with his wife.

ADAM                    Oh.

**SCENE 2****EXT. BEACH**

KITTY Well – say something.

DIETER Mein Gott.

KITTY What?

DIETER Mein Gott.

KITTY Dieter.

DIETER Was machen wir jetzt?

KITTY I don't know what you're saying.

DIETER Was machen wir *jetzt*?

KITTY Dieter.

DIETER Jah.

KITTY Speak English.

DIETER Was?

KITTY You're speaking German.

DIETER Das tut mir leid.

KITTY You're still speaking German.

DIETER Sorry! I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

KITTY What were you saying?

DIETER Nothing.

KITTY Do you blame me?

DIETER ... No.

KITTY You hesitated.

DIETER I didn't.

KITTY You blame me, don't you.

DIETER Course not.

KITTY                    You think I wanted this? You think I planned it or something?

DIETER                 No.

KITTY                    So why you being –

DIETER                 Because it's a shock, and I...

KITTY                    Sorry. Yeh. Sorry. I – I suppose I've had a bit of time. To get used to the idea. I know it's not what we planned, but it'll be alright. We'll be alright. Won't we?

DIETER                 The problem is...

KITTY                    What?

DIETER                 I want to go back.

KITTY                    Go back?

DIETER                 ... to Germany.

KITTY                    When?

DIETER                 Now. Today. Before the deadline.

**BEAT**

I've been thinking about it a lot. And it doesn't feel right. To stay.

KITTY                    What about me? What about the baby?

DIETER                 I didn't know about the baby did I?

KITTY                    Yeh but now you do.

DIETER                 I want to be in my own country. I want to go home.

KITTY                    Go then. Go. Don't mind me. I'll just throw myself off a bridge or something.

DIETER                 Kitty.

**BEAT**

KITTY I've got to go.

DIETER Go where?

KITTY Into town. Buy marzipan.

DIETER Why?

KITTY It's the vicar's birthday – cook's making a cake.

DIETER I'll come with you.

KITTY You don't have to.

DIETER I want to.

KITTY Kush! Kush come on we've got to go!

**FX** **THE DOG BARKS.**

Kush! Come on Boy. That's it.

**KITTY PUTS KUSH ON A LEAD.**

KITTY Good Boy.

DIETER Kush.

KITTY It's Indian. Vicar's wife grew up there.

DIETER It's a strange name for a dog I think.

KITTY Kush is some sort of God. It's not very Christian for a Vicar's wife.

**SCENE 3                      EXT. BUSY STREET.**

DIETER                      Why's there such a long queue?

KITTY                      I don't know.

DIETER                      It's so busy.

KITTY                      Excuse me.

CUSTOMER                Yes?

KITTY                      Do you know why's there such a long queue?

CUSTOMER                It's people panicking.

DIETER                      What are they panicking for?

CUSTOMER                Well they think all the food's going to run out don't they.

KITTY                      Do they?

CYNIC                      Cos of the war.

KITTY                      The war hasn't started yet.

CYNIC                      Well it's only a matter of time.

KITTY                      Don't say that. Please don't say that.

**A SHOPKEEPER COMES OUT OF THE SHOP TO  
ANNOUNCE**

SK                          I'm sorry ladies and gents but we're closing up shop.

**REACTION FROM QUEUE.**

SK                          Council orders. Council orders I'm afraid. Council orders. Everywhere's the same. Not my fault. I don't make the rules do I.

DIETER                      Why? Why is the council closing the shops?

SK                          Because people are buying too much stuff. Too much of everything.



CUSTOMER Can't I get a half pound of sugar?  
DIETER Can we just get marzipan?  
SK No you can't!  
CUSTOMER Where you from?  
DIETER Who?  
CUSTOMER You. You German?  
DIETER No I'm Swiss.  
CUSTOMER Swiss are you?  
DIETER Yes.  
CUSTOMER Suddenly everyone's Swiss.  
KITTY He really is Swiss actually. His great grandfather went  
and invented the cuckoo clock - didn't he?  
DIETER Er yes. Yes my great grandfather Otto Lipke.  
CUSTOMER Oh oh well that is impressive. Yeh.  
KITTY Let's go.  
DIETER Yes.

**THE QUEUE BEGINS TO DISPERSE GRUMBLING.**

KITTY We can try somewhere else.  
DIETER But they're all closing. Look. Look.

**FX FADE UP FAINT SOUND OF A BAND.**

KITTY Can you hear that?  
DIETER The music?  
KITTY Yeh.

**A MAN SHOVES PAST KITTY.**

**FX KUSH HOWLS AS THE MAN STEPS ON HIS FOOT.**

KITTY Watch the dog will you.

MAN Sorry Miss!

KITTY There's so many people. Why are there so many people?

DIETER They're here to see the soldiers.

KITTY What soldiers?

DIETER There.

KITTY Where?

DIETER Coming up the street.

**FX A TOWN CRIER RINGS HIS BELL**

**A BAND IS PLAYING**

**WE HEAR SOLDIERS MARCHING.**

**PEOPLE CHEER.**

WOMAN Company of Buffs. Don't they look handsome?

KITTY They do.

WOMAN I do like a man in uniform.

**WOMAN CHEERS.**

**FX FADE UP THE MUSIC AND MARCHING MUCH LOUDER.**

DIETER I want to go.

KITTY In a minute.

DIETER I want to go now.

KITTY But I want to see the soldiers. Good luck!

**KITTY CHEERS.**

DIETER **(whispers)** Kitty.

KITTY Yes?

DIETER I'm going.

KITTY You're going?

DIETER Are you coming with me?

KITTY Yeh alright yeh. Erm. Excuse me.

**FX KUSH BARKS.**

Excuse me. Sorry. About the dog. Sorry. Come on  
Kush. There's too many people isn't there. Good boy.

**FX THE SOUND OF THE CROWD CHEERING,**  
**MARCHING AND THE BAND PLAYING RECEDES**  
**SLIGHTLY INTO THE BACKGROUND.**

KITTY What?

DIETER Those men could be going away tonight to kill  
Germans. My friends. My cousins. My brothers.

KITTY Well your friends cousins brothers would kill them too!

DIETER Yes but I wasn't cheering them on was I.

KITTY If you were in Germany. You would be.

DIETER If I was in Germany I would be marching myself.

KITTY Is that what you want to do then? Even with the baby?

DIETER Why don't you come with me?

KITTY Where?

DIETER To Germany. If war is declared tonight we could go  
tomorrow. We can marry when we get there. We  
could live with my mother.

KITTY So I'd be in Germany on my own – well living with  
your mother and a tiny baby – while you're off fighting

a war against England – and I wouldn't be able to understand a word anyone says-

DIETER                    You'd learn German-

KITTY                    I'd be the enemy-

DIETER                    Well that's what I will be here.

KITTY                    Yeh yeh that's true isn't it.

**FX                    THE DOG BARKS.**

What's the matter Kush? Mm?

**FX                    THE DOG BARKS AGAIN.**

Kush doesn't want you to go.

DIETER                    Is that what he said?

KITTY                    Yeh.

**FX                    KUSH BARKS AGAIN.**

DIETER                    Have you told your mother?

KITTY                    About the baby?

DIETER                    Yes.

KITTY                    No.

DIETER                    Your father?

KITTY                    Are you mad?

DIETER                    We should tell them before war is declared. We can tell them we're engaged. They might even be happy.

KITTY                    But we're not and they won't.

DIETER                    Kitty Wilson. Will you marry me, Dieter Lippke?

KITTY                    Yeh. Yes! Course I will.

DIETER                    So now we're engaged.

KITTY Is it that simple?

DIETER I'm sorry - I don't have a ring. But I will get one. I promise.

KITTY I love you.

DIETER And I love you too.

KITTY I love the baby. And I haven't even met him.

DIETER Do you think it's a boy?

KITTY Yeh I do.

DIETER Can we call him Emil?

KITTY Isn't that a girl's name?

DIETER It's my father's name.

KITTY Emil. Okay. Isn't it a bit...

DIETER What?

KITTY German.

**DIETER LAUGHS**

I'm sorry. I don't mean it like that. It just might not be the best name for a baby. I mean a baby born – you know. Now.

DIETER He won't be born now. We have six months.

KITTY What if the war's not over then?

DIETER What if it never gets started?

KITTY That's true. It might not happen.

DIETER It really might not. So, now we tell your father.

KITTY Kush will like that.

DIETER

Yeah?

KITTY

He likes barking at the trains.

**SCENE 4**                      **FOLKESTONE HARBOUR STATION**

**FX**                              **SOUND OF TRAIN.**

**FX**                              **DOG BARKING.**

**KITTY AND DIETER ARE CALLING UP TO THE  
SIGNAL BOX**

KITTY                      Dad!

**FX**                              **THE TRAIN PASSES.**

KITTY                      Dad!

**ALBERT STICKS HIS HEAD OUT OF THE SIGNAL  
BOX.**

ALBERT                      What you two doing here?

DIETER                      We need to talk to you!

ALBERT                      What?

KITTY                      We need to talk to you!

DIETER                      Can you come down please?

ALBERT                      I can't leave the signal box.

KITTY                      Can we come up?

ALBERT                      Against regulations. Unauthorised personnel.

KITTY                      Dad!

ALBERT                      It's true.

KITTY                      Never used to be true when we were kids.

ALBERT                      Well you're not a kid any more are you.

DIETER                      Please Mr Wilson – it's important.

**ALBERT COMES DOWN THE STEPS OF THE  
SIGNAL BOX. HE CROSSES THE TRACKS.**

ALBERT Listen. Listen you two. I don't think it's a wonderful idea for you to be seen out and about together. Not for today and not for the foreseeable.

KITTY But it's not like he's a soldier. Like he's in a uniform.

ALBERT But everyone knows that he's a German.

KITTY Well the Royal Family are German. Aren't they? Aren't they all German? People aren't going to start hating them.

ALBERT Things are different if you're the Royal Family wouldn't you say?

KITTY Well yes but-

ALBERT At this present time we have no idea how people are going to react to ordinary Germans. Ordinary German lads walking down the street with ordinary English girls. So in light of that. I would prefer it. And I appeal to you in this matter Dieter. If you could not be seen together in the streets of Folkestone.

KITTY But Dad.

ALBERT It's not personal Dieter – do you understand me?

KITTY Dad!

ALBERT Dieter?

DIETER I understand.

KITTY I don't.

ALBERT You should never have voted him in is. Whatshisname. Your Kaiser.

DIETER I didn't vote him in.

ALBERT Well somebody did. And now look.



DIETER                      Nobody voted him in. He is the king. Kaiser is like king.

ALBERT                     Well then you should get a different King shouldn't you.

DIETER                     You know it's Britain that is threatening to declare war on Germany.

ALBERT                     Yeh and why's that then? Because you've gone and declared war on France. And all we're saying. All we're saying is that we want you lot to respect the neutrality of Belgium. But you won't do that will you. You lot won't give us lot that assurance.

KITTY                        Dad –

ALBERT                     What?

KITTY                        It's not Dieter's fault.

ALBERT                     What isn't?

KITTY                        Everything with Germany and France and Belgium.

ALBERT                     I know. I know that.

KITTY                        Well you're saying it like it is. Dieter's done nothing wrong.

ALBERT                     I never said he had.

KITTY                        You like him. You think he's a good person. You said so.

ALBERT                     That was before all this kicked off.

KITTY                        But he's still the same person.

ALBERT                     Course he is. Course he is.

KITTY                        Well then what's the problem?

ALBERT                   What's the problem? We're about to go to war with Germany.

DIETER                   We might not be. It might not happen.

KITTY                    Yeh Dad. Nothing's happened yet.

DIETER                   Nobody died.

ALBERT                   Not yet.

DIETER                   Maybe nobody will die.

ALBERT                   There's fat chance of that in a war is there.

DIETER                   What I mean is it might come to nothing.

ALBERT                   Yeah, it might. It might. But I can't stand around all day trying to read the tealeaves with you two. I should be in that box.

**ALBERT HEADS BACK TO THE SIGNAL BOX.**

KITTY                    But Dad we. We haven't told you –

ALBERT                   And Dieter.

DIETER                   Yes?

ALBERT                   Don't come round the house no more. Not til this is all over.

**(MUSIC - HOME FRONT CLOSING SIG FADES UP AT 11'48. TOTAL OF 12 SECS USED)**