



Home Front II

Episode 3

3rd December 1914 – Mrs Dorothea Winwood

By Sarah Daniels

Cast

Dorothea	Rachel Shelley
Gabriel	Michael Bertenshaw (RDC)
Mrs Grimes	Amelda Brown
Hilary	Craige Els
Isabel	Keely Beresford
Ivor	Alun Raglan
Ralph	Nicholas Murchie

Directed by JESSICA DROMGOOLE

PLEASE BRING HARD-SOLED SHOES TO THE STUDIO

TX Date: 3rd December 2014

1 **SCENE 1** **INT. VICARAGE. 6.30. PM**

2 **DOROTHEA IS IN THE HALLWAY**

3 **FX** **RALPH COMES DOWN THE STAIRS.**

4 RALPH: You look very elegant this evening, dear. Are you
5 going somewhere nice?

6 DOROTHEA: No, not especially. I'm going to the public meeting
7 about billeting – with you.

8 RALPH: There really is no need, you know. It will be
9 dreadfully dull.

10 DOROTHEA: Really? But then I only have your word for that.

11 RALPH: I can assure you.

12 DOROTHEA: I have found to my cost that your assurances are
13 worth less than nothing.

14 RALPH: (LOWERS HIS VOICE) Dorothea, Marieke is only in
15 the next room.

16 DOROTHEA: That is so typical of you. You care more about what
17 strangers think than your own wife.

18 RALPH: What on earth has brought this on?

19 DOROTHEA: What on earth could it be, do you imagine?

20 RALPH: I really have no idea.

21 DOROTHEA: Then you must be dense and hypocritical in equal
22 measure.

23 RALPH: I've never seen you like this. Are you quite well?

24 DOROTHEA: You made me a promise.

25 RALPH: And that was?

26 DOROTHEA: I'm sure you wouldn't want Marieke to be party to it.

1 RALPH: I'm dreadfully sorry my dear but I don't have time for
2 your riddles now, I'll be late.

3 DOROTHEA: We'll be late.

4 RALPH: And you made me a promise.

5 DOROTHEA: I beg your pardon?

6 RALPH: To love, honour, and obey

7 DOROTHEA: Are you suggesting we take this moment to discuss
8 our wedding vows?

9 RALPH: No, not now. I don't have time.

10 DOROTHEA: So do you mean that you're forbidding me to go a
11 public meeting?

12 RALPH: No.

13 DOROTHEA: Well, come on then, or we'll be late.

14 RALPH: Very well, if you insist on coming.

15 DOROTHEA: I do.

16 **FX** **RALPH OPENS THE DOOR**

17 RALPH: After you.

18 DOROTHEA: No, after you.

19 RALPH: I wasn't instructing you I was being chivalrous.

20 DOROTHEA: Like most things to do with the sexes you wouldn't
21 know how.

22 RALPH: I do so very much regret the day I let you hear Mrs
23 Pankhurst speak.

24 DOROTHEA: Ha, Mrs Pankhurst would be ashamed of me.
25 Thoroughly ashamed.

1 RALPH: She is only suggesting women get the vote not that
2 gentlemen should no longer hold the door open for
3 ladies.

4 DOROTHEA: If you were a gentleman I'd have no objection.

5 RALPH: I certainly hope you're not going to be like this all
6 evening, not in public.

7 DOROTHEA: You might not have had to promise to obey me but
8 you did promise to love and honour.

9 RALPH: I do.

10 DOROTHEA: Ha, I think you need to reacquaint yourself with the
11 English dictionary. You seem no longer to
12 understand the meaning of the simplest of words.

13 **THEY GO**

14 **FX: THE DOOR CLOSES BEHIND THEM**

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1 **SCENE 2.** **INT. TOWN HALL. 7.00. PM**

2 **FX:** **CHAIRS SCRAPING, PEOPLE COMING IN**

3 **FINDING A SEAT, SITTING WITH FRIENDS**

4 **APPROXIMATELY A HUNDRED PEOPLE**

5 **TALKING IN THE BACKGROUND UNTIL THEY**

6 **ARE HUSHED.**

7 GABRIEL: (SHOUTS TO BE HEARD ABOVE THE DIN) Ladies
8 and gentlemen! A bit of hush if you please. Thank
9 you. And thank you to you all for turning out in such
10 number. I know not everyone who'd said they'd
11 come is here yet but, as we know, time and tide wait
12 for no man. So I think that perhaps we should make
13 a start. I'd like to welcome Sergeant Major Ivor
14 Davies who has come to talk to us this evening
15 about billeting.

16 **HILARY, RALPH AND DOROTHEA COME IN**

17 HILARY Sorry, sorry I'm late.

18 RALPH: Yes, sorry.

19 GABRIEL: Mr Pearce, Reverend and Mrs Winwood, please
20 come and sit up here on the podium with me.

21 **ALL THREE STEP UP TO SIT NEXT TO GABRIEL.**

22 GABRIEL: (ADDRESSING THE MEETING) Probably best if I
23 hand over to you without further ado - the Sergeant
24 Major.

25

1 IVOR: Ladies and Gentlemen thank you for turning out on
2 this cold night and in such numbers but your country
3 needs you, or more accurately those serving your
4 country need your hospitality. We are looking this
5 evening for those with a spare room, a spare bed or
6 a camp bed to volunteer to billet one of our boys.
7 Because here in Folkestone we are very short of
8 accommodation.

9 MAN 1: (SHOUTS) What about the Sandling Huts?

10 IVOR: Those that haven't already collapsed have been so
11 badly built the men are freezing in them.

12 MAN 3: (CALLS) But they've only just been built.

13 MAN 2: (CALLS) Wasn't Mr Pearce in charge of the work?

14 HILARY: As you may or may not remember, the Sandling
15 Huts had to go up very quickly because there was a
16 very sudden need.

17 MAN 3: (CALLS) What were they built out of then,
18 cardboard?

19 MAN 1: Back-handers more like.

20 HILARY: Gentlemen, please, the meeting started late and
21 we've got a lot to get through.

22 **FX** **HILARY LOOKS AT HIS NEW POCKET WATCH**

23 MAN 2: (HECKLES) Nice new pocket watch you've got
24 there councillor.

25 GABRIEL: (SHOUTING OVER THE JEERS) May I remind the
26 meeting that Mr Pearce did an excellent job of
27 getting the huts up so quickly.

28 MAN 1: Lining his pockets in the process.

1 GABRIEL: Those huts were never intended to be in service for
2 the worst of the winter weather and Mr Pearce is
3 now working hard on new sturdier accommodation.

4 IVOR: (OVER) But in the meantime please, please, if you
5 can provide a roof for someone who is fighting for
6 your country and your family, please come forward
7 and sign up now. I would add that there is financial
8 remuneration for those doing so but only those who
9 sign will find out what it is. We are keen that this is
10 an act of patriotism not greed.

11 MAN 3: Tell that to Hilary Pearce.

12 **FX: MUTTERS OF 'ALL RIGHT.' 'GOOD IDEA.'**
13 **'LEAST WE CAN DO' AS PEOPLE SHUFFLE**
14 **FORWARD TO SIGN UP TO THE SCHEME.**

15 GABRIEL: Ladies and gentlemen I propose we all now join
16 together in singing the National Anthem.

17 ALL SING: GOD SAVE OUR GRACIOUS KING, LONG LIVE
18 OUR NOBLE KING, GOD SAVE THE KING. SEND
19 HIM VICTORIOUS, HAPPY AND GLORIOUS,
20 LONG TO REIGN OVER US, GOD SAVE THE
21 KING.

22 IVOR: Please come forward and sign up.

23 DOROTHEA: (TO RALPH) I think we should billet someone don't
24 you?

25 RALPH: I'll think about it.

26 DOROTHEA: We have that building at the bottom of the garden.

27 MRS GRIMES: Vicar, I'm wondering if I might have a quick word,
28 please?

1 RALPH: Yes, of course Mrs Grimes. (TO DOROTHEA)
2 Maybe we could wait until we get home to discuss
3 this properly?
4 DOROTHEA: Is that an order?
5 RALPH: If you'd give Mrs Grimes and me a moment, please
6 dear?
7 MRS GRIMES: Oh, Mrs Winwood's most welcome to stay. I'm not
8 after a private conversation with you Vicar –
9 RALPH: How can I help?
10 MRS GRIMES: It's my boy - Humphrey. We're hoping he'll get a
11 commission.
12 RALPH: Congratulations.
13 DOROTHEA: He must have gone to a good school.
14 MRS GRIMES: One of the best. One of the very best. But you know
15 academic credit alone doesn't make a man a leader.
16 I was wondering if you'd be prepared to give him a
17 reference, Reverend Winwood?
18 RALPH: Absolutely, I would. I'll put it in the post first thing
19 tomorrow.
20 MRS GRIMES: Oh thank you, thank you. Well, I suppose I'd better
21 go over and see if I can do my bit.
22 **SHE GOES.**
23 DOROTHEA: Do you even know her son?
24 RALPH: Of course.
25 DOROTHEA: I've never seen him in church.
26 RALPH: You don't have to be a practicing Christian to want to
27 give your life for your country.

1 DOROTHEA: No, but I expect it helps – believing in an afterlife.

2 RALPH: You talk as though you'd lost your faith.

3 DOROTHEA: Oh no. If I didn't think there was something better
4 after this, then I believe I should never get out of bed
5 again.

6 **ISABEL COMES OVER TO RALPH AND**
7 **DOROTHEA.**

8 ISABEL: Good evening.

9 DOROTHEA: Good evening, Isabel.

10 ISABEL: Thank you again for Freddie's service, Ralph.

11 RALPH: How are your parents bearing up?

12 ISABEL: You know Father seems almost back to his old self
13 but I've never known mother sadder.

14 DOROTHEA: I'm sorry to hear that.

15 ISABEL: Thank you too for coming, Dorothea.

16 DOROTHEA: I just couldn't not go.

17 ISABEL: Mother's been so touched by how many people have
18 paid their respects

19 RALPH: Maybe I should pay her a visit?

20 ISABEL: Oh would you, then you can give me a lesson.

21 RALPH: A lesson?

22 ISABEL: I've bought a car.

23 RALPH: Have you?

24 ISABEL: Yes, an Argyll and although the salesman showed
25 me how to use it, when I'm on my own in it, it seems

1 to bounce about like one of those bucking broncos
2 from the Wild West.

3 DOROTHEA: Are you sure you're asking the right person? When
4 Ralph's behind the wheel we are often over-taken by
5 snails.

6 ISABEL: Well, he has driven me to Hythe and back on several
7 occasions perfectly safely.

8 DOROTHEA: I dare say. If you'll excuse me.

9 **DOROTHEA GOES.**

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1 **SCENE 3.** **INT. THE HALL. 2 MINS LATER.**

2 **DOROTHEA GOES OVER TO IVOR WHO'S**
3 **SITTING BEHIND THE DESK TAKING DOWN**
4 **PEOPLE'S NAMES**

5 IVOR: So how many can I put you down for Mrs Winwood

6 DOROTHEA: Three.

7 IVOR: Three?

8 DOROTHEA: I think we should be seen to set an example.

9 IVOR: Excellent. Thank you. I know you have a nice big

10 vicarage.

11 DOROTHEA: Though it's probably draughtier than Sandling.

12 IVOR: I'm just wondering what else to put on the form in

13 terms of your suitability.

14 DOROTHEA: I'm sorry Sergeant Major Davies but I believe that I

15 am neither use nor ornament.

16 IVOR: Now I'm sure that isn't true, at all, not at all but I

17 meant what might be relevant for the sort of person

18 we send to lodge with you.

19 DOROTHEA: My husband can drive. (ADDS) After a fashion. But

20 we don't have our own car.

21 IVOR: I'll put that down all the same. Any languages?

22 DOROTHEA: Oh, I don't suppose this is of any use, but I can

23 speak Hindi. We both can.

24 IVOR: Really? How unusual.

25 DOROTHEA: Not if you'd spent a lot of time in India.

26 IVOR: No, I suppose not. So I'm putting you down for three,

27 not all Indians of course.

1 DOROTHEA: Would it matter?

2 IVOR: Not to them maybe.

3 DOROTHEA: Sergeant Major, you don't need to be a church-goer
4 to know that in the eyes of God all men are equal.

5 IVOR: That's me told. Next please?

6

1 **SCENE 4.** **EXT. LEES. 9.00.PM**

2 **DOROTHEA AND RALPH ARE WALKING HOME.**

3 DOROTHEA: So it's come to this, has it? The man of the cloth, he
4 that has been called by God to preach the word -
5 isn't speaking to his own wife.

6 RALPH: I'm holding my own counsel because I am so
7 angered I don't know what to say.

8 DOROTHEA: That makes a change. I suppose I should count my
9 blessings.

10 RALPH: And what do I count?

11 DOROTHEA: It wouldn't be such a bad idea to start with your sins.

12 RALPH: What have I done? Dorothea? Please just tell me.

13 DOROTHEA: You promised me. You gave me your word that you
14 wouldn't be seen together with her in public.

15 RALPH: And I haven't been.

16 DOROTHEA: Ralph, please don't be deliberately obtuse.

17 RALPH: I wasn't. I know she was at the meeting tonight – but
18 the whole town was there – it would have looked odd
19 if she wasn't.

20 DOROTHEA: I'm not talking about tonight – though I will admit that
21 was partly, no mostly why I insisted on
22 accompanying you. I am talking about the day
23 before yesterday!

24 RALPH: The day before yesterday? But that was Freddie's
25 funeral.

26 DOROTHEA: At last.

27 RALPH: Oh, so that's why you insisted on being there?

1 DOROTHEA: You promised me.

2 RALPH: But it was Freddie's burial. Isabel is his sister, and I
3 am the vicar. What else could I have done?

4 DOROTHEA: Got a curate.

5 RALPH: One can't just get a curate at a moment's notice.

6 DOROTHEA: But one can just break one's promises any time one
7 likes.

8 RALPH: So that's why you deliberately disobeyed me and
9 signed us up to billeting three soldiers.

10 DOROTHEA: I thought one of us might as well try and show some
11 Christian principles.

12 RALPH: But how are we going to manage, now with Kitty
13 gone, and where are they going to sleep?

14 DOROTHEA: We can get a new under-maid and we have the
15 outhouse.

16 RALPH: That's in an even worse condition than the Sandling
17 huts.

18 DOROTHEA: Then why don't you do it up, and get a curate to
19 carry on with your duties in the parish.

20 RALPH: The parish can't afford for me to have a curate for
21 one thing.

22 DOROTHEA: We'll use some of my money then.

23 RALPH: Your money?

24 DOROTHEA: The money I brought into this marriage.

25 RALPH: We were saving that for a rainy day.

26 DOROTHEA: If we hadn't had so many rainy days the outbuilding
27 wouldn't be in such a state.

1 RALPH: Dorothea, I am sorry. I am so sorry that I've vexed
2 you in such a way. I confess to being two short
3 planks where the fairer sex is concerned.

4 PASSER BY: Evening Reverend Winwood, Mrs Winwood.

5 DOROTHEA: Good evening. You're named well. Win – wood. It
6 just needs a D in the middle. Thick and full of wind
7 just about covers the extent of your character.

8 RALPH: Please just spell it out to me and then I'll do my
9 utmost to try and ensure neither of us has to endure
10 another evening like this.

11 DOROTHEA: As you know, I don't mind what you do with Isabel
12 Graham just so long at no one and, I mean not a
13 living soul, sees you. And that you never let her
14 know I know.

15 RALPH: I agree. I give you my word.

16 DOROTHEA: That no longer means anything to me. The first thing
17 you're to do when we get in is to swear on your life
18 on the bible.

19 RALPH: I will not allow the word of God to be used in
20 blackmail.

21 DOROTHEA: For once, Ralph, you are the person in this marriage
22 with no choice.

23