

BBC

Home Front II

Episode 4

4th December 1914 - Jessie Moore

By Sarah Daniels

Cast

Jessie	Lucy Hutchinson
Adam	Leo Montague
Ernie	Sean Connolly
Hilda	Bella Hamblin
Isabel	Keely Beresford
Ivy	Lizzy Watts
Mickey	Ben Pettengell

Directed by JESSICA DROMGOOLE

PLEASE BRING HARD-SOLED SHOES TO THE STUDIO

TX Date: 4th December 2014

1 **SCENE 1.**

INT. MOORE'S BREAKFAST. 8.30. AM.

2 **JESSIE, HILDA AND ERNIE HAVE JUST**
3 **FINISHED BREAKFAST.**

4 JESSIE: Please can I get down?

5 ERNIE: In a minute, Jessie. Your mother and I would like a
6 word with you first.

7 JESSIE: Oh no not again! I said sorry for taking those
8 teacakes. I thought they were stale, honest.

9 HILDA: You'll turn into a teacake one day.

10 ERNIE: And if you want to eat our profits please make sure
11 they're not stale, otherwise we'll end up with a
12 doctors bill that we won't be able to afford.

13 HILDA: It's not about that anyway.

14 ERNIE: No. We think you're really doing well in the bakery –
15 one day it'll be all yours, you know.

16 JESSIE: Why? Where are you going?

17 ERNIE: We won't be here forever, love.

18 JESSIE: (UPSET) Don't say that. I don't even want to think
19 that!

20 HILDA: No, don't say that, Ernie. That's not what we wanted
21 to talk about either.

22 ERNIE: No, now that Henri and Ottoline have gone to
23 London -

24 HILDA: - But the pastries are still so popular with the
25 Belgians -

26 ERNIE: - One of us should learn to speak French.

1 JESSIE: Yes, that's a very good idea. Which one of you is
2 going to learn?

3 ERNIE: Actually we thought the best person would be you.

4 JESSIE: (HORRIFIED) Oh no! I don't want that! (CAJOLING)
5 Besides I can speak it enough. It's easy. They
6 point. I point. We say oui, non, point again. Un?
7 Deux? Trois? It's a piece of cake. (LAUGHS AT
8 HER OWN JOKE.)

9 HILDA: It would be good if you knew a lot more.

10 JESSIE: But everyone's saying the Belgians are going to
11 have to leave Folkestone so there's no point.

12 ERNIE: They say though, don't they, that study is 'a
13 discovery and a joy'.

14 JESSIE: Well, don't let me stop you. Please go and enjoy
15 yourselves.

16 HILDA: We'd like you to have that discovery and joy.

17 JESSIE: Whoever said that wasn't talking about children.

18 ERNIE: I think they were.

19 JESSIE: No Dad, when children want to enjoy themselves
20 they never say, I know, let's go and do some
21 studying.

22 HILDA: (CAN'T HELP BUT LAUGH) She's got a point, Ernie.

23 JESSIE: Can I go now?

24 ERNIE: Only if you promise us that you'll think about it.

25 JESSIE: (CALLS BACK AS SHE GOES, SING SONG) Yes,
26 Dad I'll think about it. I promise.

27 HILDA: (LAUGHS) Well, I'd say that was le fin of that.

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1 ERNIE: What?

2 HILDA: The end of that. No one can say we didn't try.

3 ERNIE: We didn't try hard enough. We're not doing her any
4 favours Hilda if we spoil her.

5

1 **SCENE 2.**

EXT. BEECH. 9.00. AM.

2 **ADAM, IN HIS SCOUT UNIFORM IS**
3 **'PATROLLING'. JESSIE RUNS UP TO HIM.**

4 JESSIE: Adam? Adam?

5 ADAM: Halt who goes there?

6 JESSIE: Me. Who do you think, you stupid idiot?

7 ADAM: You are in a restricted area, miss. You need to move
8 back and while you're at it watch your language.

9 JESSIE: (MOVING CLOSER) Why? What are you going to do
10 about it, numbskull?

11 ADAM: One more step.

12 JESSIE: Or what?

13 ADAM: I'll blow my whistle.

14 JESSIE: Go on then. (BEAT) No, I didn't think you would.
15 How would it look if you brought everyone running
16 for just a girl?

17 ADAM: What do you want?

18 JESSIE: I thought we could go to the pier.

19 ADAM: I can't. I'm on duty.

20 JESSIE: When are you off duty then?

21 ADAM: Not for ages. And actually, for your information, I've
22 put away childish things. There's a war on, don't you
23 know.

24 JESSIE: For goodness sake. Stop being so serious. It's silly.

25 ADAM: I am doing serious war work.

1 JESSIE: What are you going to do if you see the Huns on the
2 horizon? Blow your whistle and then what?

3 ADAM: Get help.

4 JESSIE: You're the one who needs help. You've become
5 really boring.

6 ADAM: You could join.

7 JESSIE: But I can't can I? It's only for boys.

8 ADAM: You could join the girl guides.

9 JESSIE: All they do is learn to make cups of tea and look
10 after nosebleeds. No thanks. I want to do interesting
11 stuff.

12 ADAM: They do interesting stuff too.

13 JESSIE: How would you know?

14 **MICKEY COMES UP TO THEM.**

15 MICKEY: What you doing?

16 ADAM: This is a restricted area. Please keep out.

17 MICKEY: Make me.

18 JESSIE: (LAUGHS) Ha, you can't even get this squirt to
19 move, how are you going manage the boche.

20 MICKEY: Who are you calling a squirt?

21 ADAM: I can't stand around chatting to you two all day I've
22 got to patrol.

23 **ADAM STARTS TO WALK PURPOSEFULLY.**

24 **THE OTHER TWO WALKING ALONGSIDE.**

25 MICKEY: You look like a right haddock. That hat's like a
26 dunce's cap.

1 JESSIE: And you'd know all about those.
2 MICKEY: You want a bunch of fives.
3 JESSIE: You'd hit a girl?
4 ADAM: Course he would. There's nothing manly about him.
5 MICKEY: It's not me wearing a ladies scarf round my neck.
6 ADAM: That's for if someone breaks their arm. I can use this
7 to make a sling.
8 MICKEY: Shame you didn't know how to do that when you
9 broke your leg.
10 JESSIE: You can't put legs in slings, you imbecile.
11 MICKEY: (THREATENING) You want to test it?
12 JESSIE: I'm going.
13 ADAM: Don't leave me here with him.
14 MICKEY: (IMITATING) Don't leave me here with him.
15 ADAM: You're just jealous cos they wouldn't let you into the
16 scouts.
17 MICKEY: I can get myself into much better places than that.
18 **FX** **TAKES OUT A PACKET OF CIGARETTES FROM**
19 **HIS POCKET**
20 Smoke?
21 JESSIE: Where did you get those?
22 MICKEY: I can get anything I want, me.
23 ADAM: Anyone can find cigarettes. People drop them in the
24 street all the time.
25 MICKEY: I suppose. They don't drop these though.
26 **SHOWS THEM HILARY'S POCKET WATCH**

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1 JESSIE: Where did you get that watch?

2 MICKEY: That would be telling.

3 ADAM: Stole it.

4 MICKEY: No, I found it.

5 JESSIE: Liar.

6 ADAM: Even if you did find it, you should hand it in to the
7 police station.

8 MICKEY: What, and let one of the coppers keep it? Not likely.
9 Finders keepers. That's the law.

10 JESSIE: I still don't believe it.

11 MICKEY: Don't then. Plenty more where it came from.

12 JESSIE: Where?

13 MICKEY: Sandling huts.

14 ADAM: You have stolen from the king's army?

15 MICKEY: No, I'm telling you, it's all just laying around –
16 abandoned.

17 JESSIE: Come on then.

18 ADAM: Where are you going?

19 JESSIE: To have a look.

20 ADAM: What with him?

21 JESSIE: You can come if you want. Oh no I forgot you've got
22 important war work to do. See you later.

23 MICKEY: Ha ha. Mug.

24 **MICKEY AND JESSIE GO.**

25

1 **SCENE 3**

EXT. SANDLING HUTS. 11. 00 AM.

2 **MICKEY AND JESSIE ARE LOOKING AT THE HUTS.**

3 JESSIE: I think there are still men living in these.

4 MICKEY: Where are they then?

5 JESSIE: Probably marching or doing what they're supposed
6 to do.

7 MICKEY: But look lots of these huts don't even have locks on
8 them. They don't even shut properly.

9 JESSIE: My mum and dad don't lock their doors but that
10 doesn't mean people can come in and steal things.
11 (BEAT) I probably shouldn't have told you that.

12 MICKEY: Look more smokes.

13 JESSIE: Do you like them?

14 MICKEY: They're free. Why wouldn't I?

15 JESSIE: I mean to smoke?

16 MICKEY: Yes, don't you?

17 JESSIE: I've never had one. My Mum and Dad say they're
18 for grown-ups.

19 MICKEY: Oh and I suppose you always do what Mummy and
20 Daddy say.

21 JESSIE: No I don't!

22 MICKEY: Have one then.

23 JESSIE: We haven't got anything to light it with.

24 MICKEY: Go and look in those pockets over there.

25 JESSIE: No.

26 MICKEY: Scaredy cat!

1 JESSIE: You do it.

2 MICKEY: Alright. **(LOOKS IN COAT POCKETS, FINDS A**
BOX OF MATCHES, SHAKES MATCHES) Here.

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4 JESSIE: Are you going to have one?

5 MICKEY: We can share one.

6 JESSIE: I don't want your germs.

7 MICKEY: My Dad says the smoke kills germs.

8 JESSIE: You first then.

9 MICKEY **(WITH CIGARETTE IN HIS MOUTH)** You just have
10 to pull as much smoke in as possible with a big
11 breath. **(HE STRIKES A MATCH, LIGHTS**
CIGARETTE, INHALES AND THEN COUGHS
12 **UNCONTROLLABLY)**

13

14 JESSIE: Are you alright? (MICKEY STILL COUGHING
15 UNCONTROLLABLY, DROPS HIS CIGARETTE ON
16 THE FLOOR) You dropped it. Quick! (JESSIE
17 STAMPS ON IT)

18 MICKEY: (STILL COUGHING) Don't put it out!

19 JESSIE: It could've set the place alight.

20 MICKEY: It wouldn't. The floor's too damp.

21 JESSIE: Just light another one.

22 MICKEY: No, I'm not going to waste any more.

23 JESSIE: I didn't want one anyway.

24 MICKEY: I need them, see.

25 JESSIE: (LAUGHS) What for? Coughing your guts out?

26 MICKEY: No for selling or trading for favours.

1 JESSIE: What sort of favours?

2 MICKEY: If my dad's about to take his belt off to one of us and
3 I can just offer him one of these, he soon forgets all
4 about it.

5 JESSIE: But you're taking them out of people's pockets.

6 MICKEY: They can always get more. They get given them free
7 you know.

8 JESSIE: What happens if they catch you?

9 MICKEY: They don't. If you want to take something, just take
10 it. Don't look around; that will make you look
11 suspicious. Just take it as quick as you can, and
12 make sure you have somewhere to hide it.

13 JESSIE: But it's wrong.

14 MICKEY: You can always tell yourself you're only going to
15 borrow it and that you'll give it back.

16 JESSIE: You can't give a smoked cigarette back, can you?

17 MICKEY: Well, no-

18 JESSIE: What about the watch? Are you thinking you're going
19 to give that back then?

20 MICKEY: No. It's my best thing. It's the most beautiful thing
21 I've ever seen and it mine now. I'm going to keep it
22 forever.

23 JESSIE: You can't even tell the time.

24 MICKEY: So? I just like looking at it.

25 **FX** **SOUND OF MARCHING COMING CLOSER.**

26 JESSIE: Listen.

27 MICKEY: They're coming back.

1 JESSIE: I thought you said it was abandoned.

2 MICKEY: Scarper. Quick.

3 **THE TWO OF THEM RUN AS THEY TROOPS**
4 **COME MARCHING BACK TO HUTS.**

5

1 **SCENE 4.**

OUTSIDE THE THEATRE. 11. 30. AM.

2 **IVY IS PUTTING UP A POSTER ABOUT**
3 **FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS/EVENINGS**
4 **OUTSIDE THE THEATRE AS JESSIE RUNS PAST**
5 **SHE KNOCKS OVER IVY'S POT OF GLUE.**

6 IVY: Oi, watch where you're going?

7 JESSIE: I'm sorry.

8 IVY: What are you running from?

9 JESSIE: (QUICKLY) No one. Nothing.

10 IVY: So you don't even have an excuse for knocking my
11 pot of glue over?

12 JESSIE: No, I am sorry. Please let me help you.

13 IVY: Alright. You hold this for me while I put what's left of
14 the glue on the board. (STARTS TO BRUSH GLUE
15 ON TO THE BOARD)

16 JESSIE: What is it?

17 IVY: Give it here. (STICKING IT UP) Thank you. It's a
18 poster for this year's pantomime. Is it straight?

19 JESSIE: I think so. Dick Whittington?

20 IVY: Yes.

21 JESSIE: But who are you going to get to be Dick? All the
22 young men have joined up.

23 IVY: In pantomimes the leading man is always played by
24 a girl.

25 JESSIE: What in a boy's part?

26 IVY: Yes.

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1 JESSIE: (REMEMBERING) Oh yes. Last year it was Jack
2 and the Beanstalk and Jack was a girl.

3 IVY: You know where she is now, The London
4 Hippodrome. I discover them but do they ever come
5 back and help me out?

6 JESSIE: Can I do it? I could do it. I know the story and my
7 dad has a spotted handkerchief I could borrow and
8 put at the end of a stick. That's what Dick has, isn't
9 it?

10 IVY: I'm sorry but I've already got someone to play Dick –
11 Vesta Tilley's understudy – Besides you're a bit
12 young.

13 JESSIE: Don't you ever have children in it?

14 IVY: Well, ye-es, but have you ever been on stage
15 before?

16 JESSIE: Once. I got a prize.

17 IVY: (IMPRESSED) Really? What part were you playing?

18 JESSIE: It was for a drawing I did of the burning bush in
19 Sunday school.

20 IVY: So you haven't ever acted?

21 JESSIE: I did have to look pleased when the prize was a
22 book about Moses taking the tablets when actually I
23 was really disappointed.

24 IVY: I'm afraid that hardly counts. Not just anyone can
25 act, you know. It's a skill and a talent.

26 JESSIE: I'm sure I could do more acting.

27 IVY: Umm, well, you'd have to audition.

1 JESSIE: (NOT WANTING TO LET ON THAT SHE DOESN'T
2 UNDERSTAND) Oh, what's that?

3 IVY: If you'll excuse me I have got things to do.

4 JESSIE: Yes, so have I. Bye.

5 **JESSIE RUNS OFF IN THE DIRECTION OF**
6 **HOME.**

7

1 **SCENE 5.** **INT. MOORE'S. 3.00. PM.**

2 **FX** **DOOR BANGING AS JESSIE COMES IN.**

3 JESSIE: (OFF) I'm back.

4 HILDA: Now we are rather springing this on her, Miss

5 Graham. So it would be as well to prepare yourself

6 for an outburst.

7 ERNIE: She won't mean to be rude, but she is headstrong.

8 ISABEL: I understand.

9 JESSIE: Oh hello. Sorry I didn't know we had company.

10 ERNIE: Remember what we were saying this morning-?

11 HILDA: And please don't get cross, you'll thank us when

12 you're older-

13 ERNIE: Yes, it's about the French lessons.

14 JESSIE: Oh yes. What about them?

15 HILDA: Miss Graham could give you a lesson now, if you're

16 in the mood?

17 JESSIE: Oh. (THEN) Yes, All right.

18 ISABEL: There, well that was settled easily.

19 ERNIE: Wonders will never cease. Let me show you into the

20 front room.

21 JESSIE: I'll do that Dad. Just through here, Miss Graham.

22 **AS THEY GO THOUGH TO THE FRONT ROOM.**

23 ISABEL: You could call me mademoiselle.

24 JESSIE: What about Graham?

25 ISABEL: Oui. Mademoiselle Graham.

26 JESSIE: No, I meant what is Graham in French?

1 ISABEL: Not every word can be translated, especially proper
2 nouns

3 JESSIE: What's French for Grey?

4 ISABEL: Gris.

5 JESSIE: Then it must be Gris-jambon. Grey ham. And my
6 name would be Jessie Plus.

7 ISABEL: More?

8 JESSIE: Yes.

9 **THEY BOTH LAUGH.**

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1 **SCENE 6**

MOORE'S FRONT ROOM. 3.05. PM.

2 **JESSIE AND ISABEL SIT OPPOSITE EACH
3 OTHER**

4 ISABEL: So Jessie I thought we'd start with some simple
5 vocab. Je m'appelle-

6 JESSIE: Miss? Would it be alright if I asked you a question
7 first?

8 ISABEL: Of course.

9 JESSIE: Is the word 'audition' French?

10 ISABEL: No, I don't think so. It comes from the Latin, *auditio*,
11 *auditus* – to hear.

12 JESSIE: It means - to hear?

13 ISABEL: Now it's used to mean a sort of test for an actor to
14 demonstrate his suitability for casting.

15 JESSIE: What sort of test do you have to do for an audition?

16 ISABEL: Usually you learn a piece of work to perform.

17 JESSIE: What? Any piece?

18 ISABEL: Often the manager will be looking for someone who
19 is unusual and stands out from all the others in some
20 way. Why do you want to know?

21 JESSIE: I Just wondered.

22 ISABEL: Now I really do think we need to make a start. Oh,
23 and before I forget you might be interested to know
24 that Mademoiselle de Lisle is going to give a lecture
25 at the language school next week.

26 JESSIE: Oh I'm sorry but I don't think I can go.

27 ISABEL: I haven't even told you which evening yet.

1 JESSIE: Well, you see my Mum and Dad don't like me going
2 out in the evening.

3 ISABEL: That's a shame. Mademoiselle De Lisle is such a
4 good performer and it's about Joan of Arc.

5 JESSIE: Oh was that the one who was burnt to death on
6 purpose?

7 ISABEL: It should be very dramatic.

8 JESSIE: Really?

9 ISABEL: Yes, Mademoiselle De Lisle has lantern slides as
10 well. Now we really do need to get on with the
11 lesson.

12 JESSIE: Oui, Mademoiselle. Oui.

13