

SCENE 4

ACT 1, SCENE 4

Dawn the next morning (Sunday, 27/10/68). The house is dark. There is no movement, no sound except perhaps a dawn chorus from a few birds. A large motorcycle is heard to approach and stop. PETE and MARY enter the street area of the stage. MARY is staying close to PETE, touching him whenever possible).

MARY: Thanks Pete, that was cool! It's a beautiful machine.

PETE: Yeah, it looks good, but I wish it handled a bit better.

MARY: *(Opening the door)* It felt fine to me - you ready for a coffee? Maybe some breakfast?

They enter the house, cross quietly to the kitchen. Music starts ("Will you love me tomorrow" by the Shirelles). MARY turns on the light, puts a kettle on and gets out bread, butter etc.. The whole house is a mess of empty bottles and glasses, full ashtrays and half-eaten snacks. In the lounge BRUCE, KEVIN, KEITH and HELEN are sleeping. BRUCE in a sleeping bag behind the sofa, KEVIN on a pile of cushions under the table, KEITH and HELEN under a blanket on the sofa.

MARY: So, would you like some toast, eggs, cornflakes or what?

PETE: Just the coffee will be fine, thanks.

MARY: You don't have to do anything this morning do you? Relax. Have something to eat. Help me clear this place up.

PETE: Well, I ... Oh - yeah, sure. OK.

BRUCE: *(groans)*

MARY: So - what will it be? *(opens cupboard)* Damn - no clean cups!

(BRUCE appears above the back of the sofa)

PETE: Toast. Toast will be great. I'll do it if you like, while you're sorting out the coffee *(He turns on the grill. MARY throws the bread to him and starts washing mugs)*

(BRUCE gets out of his sleeping bag and folds it up. SUE comes downstairs)

SUE: Good morning! Sleep OK?

BRUCE: G'day. Yeah, no worries.

(SUE starts picking up empty glasses, etc. After finishing with the sleeping bag, BRUCE does the same)

MARY: (yawns) Oh, god, I'm tired. I think I'll go and sleep for a few hours after breakfast.

PETE: Yeah. It's been a long night.

MARY: You must be pretty tired too.

PETE: Mmmm.

MARY: Why don't you sleep for a while, before you go?

PETE: Er, well, I've got some stuff to prepare before I get into the lab tomorrow.

MARY: (moving close to PETE) But you look so tired. You shouldn't ride all the way home without a rest. Come up with me - I've got a spare mattress in my room. Come up and sleep for a while.

PETE: I'm sorry (holding her hand) I can't.

(SUE enters the kitchen, puts the empty glasses in the sink. PETE moves away from MARY to check the toast. MARY moves back to the coffee.)

SUE: Good morning! Hello Mary. Hi, Pete - how are you? Are you going to stay for lunch?

MARY: Hi, Sue. Coffee?

SUE: Yes, please

(MARY pours three coffees)

PETE: Hi. No, I have to go. I was just telling Mary, I've got heaps of stuff to get ready for tomorrow.

(BRUCE enters, puts glasses and cups in the sink)

PETE: Hi!

MARY: Hi!

BRUCE: Any chance of a bit of that coffee? Me mouth's as dry as a Pommy's bathtub.

MARY: Yeah, no problem. (getting out another cup and pouring a drink) Pete's making some toast too, if you want some.

BRUCE: Ah, no thanks, I'll have to shoot through. Can I get coffee for the other blokes too? And a cup of tea for wotsername - Helen?

MARY: Sure. Here's your coffee. Gimme a couple of minutes for the tea (*starts to prepare four more coffees and three teas*)

BRUCE: Right-oh. I'll wake everybody up (*goes back to lounge, passing LINDA on the way*)

MARY: I might as well make drinks for everybody now.

PETE: Toast for you, Sue?

BRUCE: G'day.

SUE: Yes please.

LINDA: (*looking very hung-over - holds her head and grunts*)

SUE: You should rest for a while, Pete. You look really tired.

MARY: That's what I was telling him.

BRUCE *puts his coffee on the table, goes to the sofa*)

PETE: No, I'll be fine once I've got a bit of caffeine in me. Look, I'd really like to stay, but I can't.

(*LINDA enters the kitchen. BRUCE slowly lifts the blanket from the sofa to reveal KEITH'S head and HELEN'S feet*)

MARY: Hi, Linda!

SUE: Good morning!

LINDA: (*groans*)

PETE: I think she needs some coffee.

(*BRUCE pulls the blanket further and further back, revealing more of HELEN'S legs. MARY pours coffee. Music "The Israelites", Desmond Dekker*)

HELEN: Hey!

(*BRUCE drops the blanket but keeps his eyes on HELEN'S legs. KEITH half-sits and stares curiously at the legs in front of him, KEVIN sits up under the table*)

BRUCE: Come on you blokes, let's tidy this place up a bit and shoot through. Coffee's on the way.

PETE: Can I make you some toast, Linda?

KEITH: G'day, Bruce.
KEVIN: G'day.

HELEN: *(uncovering her head)* Hello, Keith.
(LINDA shakes her head slowly and points at the coffee)

KEITH: *(To HELEN)* Ah - g'day, er ... *(To BRUCE)* Jeez, what time is it, mate?

BRUCE: About nine-o'clock, mate.

PETE: Hey, it's nine-o'clock already.
(HELEN sits up. BRUCE sits down close beside her).

BRUCE: G'day Helen - sleep all right, didja?

MARY: Here you are, Linda.

PETE: I'll have to get away now. Thanks for the coffee - and the party *(puts down empty cup)*.

HELEN: Fine, thanks.

SUE: *(Giving him a quick kiss)* Goodbye Pete.

MARY: *(Giving him a longer kiss)* See you soon, Pete.

PETE: Bye! *(goes into the lounge)*.

BRUCE: G'day Pete - you going already?

PETE: Hi - yeah, got some work to do. See you again. *(picks up his guitar and exits to the street, where he meets SALLY. SUE puts mugs on a tray and takes them into the lounge)*.

BRUCE: Yeah - if there's a party, we'll be there!

LINDA: *(to MARY)* So - how was he?

PETE: *(To SALLY)* Hi - have a good time at the club?

MARY: Mmmm?

SALLY: Yes, it was great! Are you leaving already?

PETE: Yeah - work to do. Bye.

SALLY: Bye.

LINDA: Pete!

SUE: Here you are - good morning everybody (*hands coffee to KEITH and KEVIN*).

MARY: Mmmm?

KEITH: Thanks.

KEVIN: Jeez, I'm ready for this - thanks.

SUE: ...and tea for you, Helen.

HELEN: Oh, great - thanks.

LINDA: Come on, Mary...

KATHY (*MARY smiles. There is the sound of a motorcycle starting up and riding away. opens the door and looks out to where SALLY is still looking for her door key.*)
Music: *"Leader of the Pack" by the Shangri-las*

KATHY: Oh, hi Sally. Was that Pete just leaving?

SALLY: Yeah. Didn't you know?

KATHY: No, I thought he left last night.

SALLY: Oh ... Let's go in - I think I can smell toast.

(They both cross the lounge to the kitchen.)

HELEN/SUE/BRUCE/KEVIN/KEITH:
Hello/Good morning/Hey, How're ya doin?/G'day/G'day.

SALLY: Hello!

KATHY: (*In the kitchen*) How come Pete's just left? Where's he been all night?

MARY: Well, I guess we spent the night together.

LINDA: Ah-hah!

KATHY: What? You slept with him? But you can't, he's ... he's ... you don't even know him.

MARY: Hey, relax Kathy. We sang a few songs then we went for a ride on his bike. That's all. Anyway, why are you bothered? I thought you were just old friends.

HELEN: Do you know what time the first tube is from here?

KATHY: I'm not bothered. I don't care if he sleeps with all four of you.

LINDA: All together, or one at a time?

MARY: Linda!

KEITH: I reckon there'll be one from the Angel fairly early - or you could walk down to King's Cross.

KATHY: I don't care ... anyway - is it OK for him to stay here?

MARY: Sure.

LINDA: OK by me.

BRUCE: Don't worry about the bloody tube....

SUE: Yes, I like him.

SALLY: Why not?

BRUCE: ...we can give you a lift in the Kombi.

(COLIN appears on the street carrying supplies of beer)

SALLY: Hey - sorry about Geoff last night, by the way. He'd had a hard day.

SUE: That's OK Sally.

BRUCE: Where do you need to go?

MARY: We didn't mind. Those Australian guys weren't too happy, though.

HELEN: Highgate - Archway road.

LINDA: What happened?

KEVIN: Ah yeah - that's where Karl Marx is, isn't it?

SALLY: Oh - Geoff finally wanted to dance and two of the Australians were singing a song - I'm sure he didn't mean to interrupt them.

KEVIN: Highgate cemetery?

(COLIN rings the doorbell)

KATHY: Who can that be at this time of the morning?

SUE: I'll go and see (*goes to the front door*)

MARY: (*aside*) Maybe Pete's changed his mind. (*To SALLY*) And had Eric seen him before, d'you think?

KEITH: Jeez - it's a bit out of...

BRUCE: No worries - we can get you there.

SALLY: Yes - Geoff said it was probably when he lost his briefcase..

HELEN: Thanks.

SALLY: ... and he went to Islington Police Station to report it.

HELEN: I hate the underground on a Sunday morning.

LINDA: Who's Eric?

(SUE opens the door)

COLIN: Ah, yeah, g'day. Sorry I took so long - the blokes must be pretty thirsty by now.

SUE: What?

COLIN: Yeah, it looked like it was gonna be a great party - I hope I haven't missed anything.

SUE: What?

COLIN: But now I've got more grog we can really get the party going, eh?

SUE: Come in. (*They enter the lounge*) Hey everybody - Colin wants to get the party going again!

HELEN/BRUCE/KEVIN/KEITH/LINDA/MARY/KATHY/SALLY:

(*all looking more awake*) Bloody ripper!/Yes!/Gimme a beer, Col!/Yeah!/Party, party!/ Great idea!/I'll open some more wine/That'll be fun.....

(*Curtain*)