

Lights up on the living room.

They all burst in. MARI first, then RAY, then BOO, LV and SADIE. They have loads of booze with them.

RAY What about that, then?

He starts opening drinks.

SADIE gets LV to the settee and sits her down.

MR BOO Marvellous. Oh my God. Tears down cheeks.

MARI screaming out.

RAY See 'em all standing up. *(He imitates applause.)*

MARI screaming out.

Here we go. *(He pops a shaken beer can, spraying everywhere.)*
Ale and everything all round.

They all get into the drinks, except SADIE, standing against the settee, and LV, sitting alone on the settee, staring out.

MR BOO Well, Ray, I can safely say your booking's assured down there. And have you, have you ever thought of the Monaco Club?

RAY Well, yes. Bloody, yes. Hey, Mari, we might be doing the Monaco Club an' all.

MARI screaming. She puts the Jackson 5 on, "I WANT YOU BACK". Starts jiving with SADIE, who just remains standing still, with one arm out, while MARI holds on to her arm and does it. SADIE looks ill.

(to MR BOO) Oh yes, Monaco for a bit, Mr Boo, I'll not say no, at this stage who would? But you know as well as me that soon not even the Monaco is going to be big enough for this.

LV, exhausted, hears this, starts shaking her head. No one can see.

Mr Boo...

MR BOO Do call me Lou.

RAY Mr Boo...

MR BOO Lou.

RAY Lou, let me tell you. This is the greatest act going, this. We'll be in London before Christmas, or the cruises or the telly. Take it, take it from me.

LV (shaking her head) Once...

MR BOO I hear what you're saying there Ray. But I hope you'll not forget where you got your start.

LV Once was said.

MR BOO What was that, LV? What's she on about? I can't hear her.

RAY is popping another bottle.

RAY Is Sadie all right?

MR BOO looks too. SADIE looks a bit ill, vacant, staring out. MARI stops dancing on SADIE's arm, and looks at her. Then to RAY.

MARI Sadie, Sadie May! She's all right. She's all right, aren't you?

She slaps SADIE on the back.

SADIE hiccups at this. MARI goes towards the bottle RAY is holding, they all turn away to pour. SADIE has a little dribbly sick down her blouse. But just remains standing where she is.

RAY We on for the whole week then, Lou?

MR BOO It's yours Ray.

LV passes out.

I've cancelled the Silverados and Gringo Hodges to have it free for you. I couldn't do nothing else, they were going mad in there.

RAY I know.

MR BOO Wouldn't leave me alone.

RAY I know. I saw.

MR BOO "When?" "When's she on again?" and all that.

RAY *(drinking)* Yes. Yesssss!

MR BOO *(to MARI)* You must be proud, Mrs Hoff.

MARI screams.

RAY By the way, Sadie's been sick.

MARI Oh, bloody hell. *(to SADIE)* Sadie! Sink and wipe. Sink and wipe.

SADIE *moves off on her own in the direction of the sink.*

MARI *pours herself another.*

MR BOO Well, Ray. *(He lifts the glass.)* To the rise of Little Voice.

RAY *(raising his glass)* Up tut' sky. Up tut' bloody sky.

MARI *turns just in time to lift her glass to join the others.*

Cheers!

MR BOO Cheers!

The phone rings. MARI picks the phone up. Screams down it. Puts it back down. Turns to see LV has passed out on the settee. Looks again.

MARI What's this? RAY! RAY!

RAY *comes over.*

Oh God, has the little bird bleated and died wi' all the shock!

Someone turns the record player right down.

RAY She's all right. Just the excitement, that's all.

MR BOO Loosen her clothes.

RAY *starts to loosen LV's clothes.*

MARI *(stopping him)* I'll do that.

She tries but is fumbling, too drunk.

SADIE *comes through, lifts LV and starts to carry her slowly upstairs.*

(taken aback) Oh, ay, ta, Sadie.

SADIE *goes slowly upstairs. RAY, MARI and MR BOO watching in silence, not moving, for as long as it takes for SADIE to carry her to her room.*

MR BOO "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth."
When, eh, when?

RAY Eh?

MARI *turns the record player back up. The lights blow.*

Blackout.