

ONSLOW

1

LIZ: Thank you, Daisy.
DAISY: I'll never learn all this.
LIZ: You will.
ONSLOW: *[off stage]* She won't.

A beefy, bare arm opens the curtain wider from inside and ONSLOW appears as LIZ disappears inside.

LIZ: Thank you, Onslow.
ONSLOW: No problem.
LIZ: Gentlemen are scarce hereabouts.

ONSLOW steps fully into view and lets the curtain drop back behind him.

DAISY: Why is it you never have any faith in me?
ONSLOW: Could it be because I once caught you behind a bus shelter with that noodle from Derby.
DAISY: Nottingham.
ONSLOW: You were certainly giving that impression.

He begins walking away. She follows and takes his arm.

DAISY: That was before we were married. Before you taught me what love is.
ONSLOW: Let go the arm, Daze, it's too early for that much body heat.
DAISY: *(Clinging on)* You used to think it was never too early.
ONSLOW: I used to think Bognor was in Russia.
DAISY: Some people still do.

They exit, right, as the curtain opens.

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2

DAISY enters, left. She moves to the front of stage and stares down over the hall as ONSLOW enters, left, all bare arms and chugging a can of lager.

DAISY: You get a sense of power standing here.
ONSLOW: You don't need power you've got me.
DAISY: I never see you using much.
ONSLOW: It's all in reserve. It's there if needed. I'm like your nuclear deterrent.
DAISY: We've had a few fallouts I know that. I'm not complaining. I enjoy it when we make up.
ONSLOW: Forget it. I've got a headache.
DAISY: You haven't got a headache.
ONSLOW: I'll get one.

DAISY: I love us acting together. I wish we had some big romantic scene.
ONSLow: We had one last Tuesday.
DAISY: It was the Tuesday before.
ONSLow: You've started counting?
DAISY: It's on my calendar.
ONSLow: You make me feel like I'm just a plaything.
DAISY: I wish you'd stop missing so many games. Am I less desirable than I used to be?
ONSLow: No, Daze. I can honestly say that. You were never all that desirable.
DAISY: Don't lie. You used it think I was mega-delicious.
ONSLow: You know this for a fact?
DAISY: You told me.
ONSLow: That was a ploy young men use when they're looking to go that extra mile.
DAISY: Darren Brocklehurst thought I was lovely.
ONSLow: He was from Chesterfield.

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3

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They turn to see DAISY who has entered, left, dressed as the Duchess. They stare at her.

DAISY: Well?
MILLY: You look splendid, Daisy.
DAISY: Thank you, Milly, and what do you think?
ON SLOW: I think it's amazing what technology can do these days.
DAISY: You don't like it.
ON SLOW: I like it. But I'm thinking if that's been there all the time why have I been living with this . . .
DAISY: Watch it!
ON SLOW: I am watching it. Can you keep it for afters? For leisure purposes.
DAISY: No, it has to go back.
ON SLOW: Could we keep it over the weekend?
DAISY: I'll get Chinese on it. You know how it splashes.
ON SLOW: We'll go ethnic. Fish and chips but no mushy peas.
DAISY: I don't know whether I can live without mushy peas.
MILLY: I think you could probably do anything, Daisy, the way you've transformed. You look every inch the duchess, your grace.
DAISY: (*Nose in air*) One does one's best.

She stalks towards ON SLOW. He backs a pace.

DAISY: What do you have in mind Big Boy?
ON SLOW: I told you. No mushy peas but when playtime's over just remember there's that sink full of all mucky pots.
DAISY: Oh, let yourself go. It's fantasy time.
ON SLOW: I thought we'd done that.
DAISY: Not since Brenda's wedding.
ON SLOW: Liverpool were playing. I wasn't at Brenda's wedding.
DAISY: You should have been. It was fun.
ON SLOW: Who with?
DAISY: Never you mind.

She goes to MILLY

DAISY: And look at this handsome creature.

MILLY smiles shyly.

ON SLOW: How much fun?
DAISY: It got better after half-time.
ON SLOW: Best we could do was a draw.
DAISY: Oh, we did better than that. You see how easily you could lose me.
ON SLOW: Not till you've cleared that sink.
DAISY: Some of the dishes are yours.
ON SLOW: I can't be washing up when I'm busy.
DAISY: I can't remember seeing you busy.

ON SLOW: It doesn't show. That's the thing about intellectual activity.
DAISY: It certainly doesn't show the way you do it.
ON SLOW: You can be wrestling with the deepest problems of the universe and people think you're just lolling about. Ask Milly. He'll tell you.
MILLY: I'm just a computer geek. Get me off that and I'm lost.
ON SLOW: You've got no view then on will the expanding universe result in total, dark emptiness?
MILLY: I can't say I have really.
DAISY: I love it when you're bluffing like that.

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