

# ROSE

## 1

*The French doors are opened, and ROSE enters out of breath and a little dishevelled. She leans against the door frame to catch her breath.*

**HYACINTH:**Rose?

**ROSE:** I know. It's unprofessional. Sorry I'm late. It's taken me fifteen minutes to disengage from a Mr. Wilkinson. He gets so emotional. You'd never believe he had his own business.

**HYACINTH:**Are you in this thing too?

**ROSE:** Wouldn't miss it, you get to wear such lovely clothes. *(She homes in on EMMET)* And he's a dish. *(She gives EMMET a hug then turns to MILLY.)* And who's this with a shy smile you could do wonders with?

**HYACINTH:**Come away, Rose. Mr Milson's hardly recovered from a bad divorce.

**ROSE:** Oh, there's a cure for that. Welcome back to playtime, Mr. Milson. Help is at hand.

*MILLY looks a bit overwhelmed but not displeased.*

**MILLY:** People tend to call me Milly.

**ROSE:** We'll soon take care of that.

**HYACINTH:**Rose! We're supposed to be rehearsing.

**ONSLOW:** It's been a while since she needed any rehearsing.

**ROSE:** You go with what you've got.

**HYACINTH:**So who's looking after Daddy? There's no wonder he's running loose.

**ONSLOW:** He was all right when we left. He was going through some old postcards.

*HYACINTH grabs ONSLOW and whispers through her teeth.*

**HYACINTH:**Don't mention the postcards.

**DAISY:** They were in his old kitbag. He found his wartime whistle.

**MILLY:** Really? Which service? I'm rather interested in things military.

**ROSE:** Me too.

**ONSLOW:** He was in the army.

**MILLY:** And in wartime. What memories. Where did he serve?

**HYACINTH:**Reading between the lines we think he was something rather secret and special. Of course, he never talks about it.

**ONSLOW:** He never stops.

**HYACINTH:**He hides his achievements behind a modest front.

**ROSE:** Has anyone got a brush? I've got bits of Mr Wilkinson all over. He does come off so.

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2

*ROSE enters, left.*

**ROSE:** Am I late?

**DAISY:** Where have you been all day?

**ROSE:** I had to break it off with my fiancé before his wife got home from work. I see Daddy's gone again.

**DAISY:** No, we took him to our Violet's. She's Daddy sitting. She can't go out because of Bruce anyway.

**ROSE:** How is Bruce?

**ONSLOW:** Wearing a dress but he seems happy.

**ROSE:** How's our Violet?

**ONSLOW:** Not so happy. He looks better in it than she does.

**DAISY:** So he should. He spends more on make up.

**ROSE:** Where's Milly?

**ONSLOW:** He's at the tea bar.

**ROSE:** I'll go and join him. We've both just ended a relationship. I think it's Fate.

*ROSE exits, left.*

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3

*ROSE enters, left, tugging MILLY by the hand.*

**ROSE:** Look what I've found.

**DAISY:** He wasn't lost.

**ROSE:** Oh yes, he was. A lonely spirit wandering in the wilderness. I'm going to bring him in from the cold.

*MILLY stands grinning shyly but quite happily.*

**ROSE:** And in return he's going to make me computer literate.

**ONSLOW:** You failed Lego.

**ROSE:** Bog off Onslow.

**DAISY:** Not so great at English either.

**ROSE:** I was otherwise emotionally engaged. This time (*Snuggling up to MILLY whose grin grows wider*) I'm going to concentrate.

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