

Not saying we'd do that, but it makes you think we might be missing a trick.

**Henry** *has taken some money out of his wallet – offers it to Kenneth.*

**Kenneth** What?

**Henry** Here's a few bob, now fuck off.

**Kenneth** No come on.

**Henry** Bit deaf tonight Kenneth are you?

**Kenneth** What's her name?

*He slaps Kenneth round the head, not hard, but enough. Then puts the money in Kenneth's hand.*

**Kenneth** She has got a name?

**Henry** Course she's got a name.

**Kenneth** What?

**Henry** You remember the fights we had?

**Kenneth** What is it?

**Henry** You remember the fights?

**Kenneth** Course I do.

*He keeps his distance.*

You always won I know that, I don't want to fight you I just want to know her name, won't make any difference, will it, you telling me, just saying what she's called, will it? Will it?

**Henry** Sandra.

**Kenneth** Good name. Sandra.

**Henry** Yeah.

**Kenneth** You and her been doing it long then?

**Henry** We're not doing it.

**Kenneth** Oh right not doing it.

**Henry** Not yet, not so far. First time she's come round. Big moment you see? So I don't want some spotty bastard cluttering up the place, wearing his queer fucking coat of many colours.

You understand.

So.

Piss. Off.

*Beat.*

**Kenneth** You're going to let her see it like this?

**Henry** What?

**Kenneth** The flat.

**Henry** It's alright.

**Kenneth** You let her see it like this, she'll run a mile turn right round off she'll go.

**Henry**

**Kenneth**

**Henry** It was alright before you arrived.

**Kenneth** Come on.

I'll help.

I'll help you tidy.

**Henry** *doesn't move.*

**Kenneth** Come on.

I will, I'll help, then I'll go.

Promise.

*They tidy.*

**Henry's efficient at it.**

**Kenneth is slapdash.**

**Kenneth** Is she pretty?

**Henry** Yeah.

*Beat.*

Beautiful.

*They tidy.*

**Kenneth** Clever?

**Henry** Yeah.

**Kenneth** Legs?

**Henry** Up to here.

**Kenneth** Up to where?

**Henry** Where do you think?

**Kenneth** Nice figure then.

**Henry** She's a piece of work all round, I'm telling you.

**Kenneth** Classy?

**Henry** Bit posh yeah.

**Kenneth** Yeah.

**Henry** Middle class, you know, dresses up nice, every time I've seen her she's nice looking. Makes an effort, hair, and the face. You know. She's into all that anti-nuclear wotnot, and women. Talks a lot about women. She goes to groups. Protests.

**Kenneth** Where?

**Henry** University I think.

**Kenneth** She's a student.

**Henry** Yeah. She's political. All that.

**Kenneth** Thought you didn't like political women.

**Henry** I don't.

**Kenneth** Right.

**Henry** But you should see her knockers.

**Kenneth** Henry –

**Henry** Bloody marvellous. Size of footballs. More than makes up for the political nonsense she comes out with.

**Kenneth** You said that to her?

**Henry** Might've mentioned it yeah.

**Kenneth** What did she say?

**Henry** That I was a chauvinist.

**Kenneth** Bit unfair.

**Henry** I know. I told her, I'm not driving anyone around, they can drive themselves.

**Kenneth** That's not what chauvinist means.

**Henry** Bloody hell Kenneth you really think I'm a fucking thick bastard don't you?

*Beat.*

I know what it means.

Maybe I didn't go to Oxford University, but I'm not a bloody – no no don't leave those there.

**Henry** takes some dishes **Kenneth** has put in a cupboard and takes them through to the kitchen.

**Kenneth** What time's she getting here?

**Henry** Nine o'clock. What time is it now?

**Kenneth** Ten to.

**Henry** You going to bugger off then?

**Kenneth** Yeah, I'll finish this, then go off to my room.

**Henry** Your room?

**Kenneth** Leave you to it.

**Henry** You're not going in your room, you're going out.

**Kenneth** Got books to read I'll be fine.

**Henry** You're going to stay in there all night?

**Kenneth** They're long books lots of words you know me I'll be fine.

*Beat.*

**Henry** Alright. But you better stay shut up in there. I'm telling you.

**Kenneth** I will.

**Henry** Even if you want a piss. You do it out the window or something. In a bucket. Whatever. You stay put.

**Kenneth** Alright.

**Henry** Understand?

**Kenneth** Yeah.

*They tidy.*

Do you talk to him much then?

**Henry** Who?

**Kenneth** Dad.

**Henry** He writes mostly.

**Kenneth** What does he say?

**Henry** What?

**Kenneth** When he writes.

**Henry** Him and Mum do a side each every other week. They check I'm alright. Get worried you know. He says how's things at work, I know what he means, he means am I making money. I write back and just say yeah Dad, yeah – everything

rosy. Everythings peachy as a picture, don't you worry.

**Kenneth** Says that to me too. 'All well and good you going on about Oxford, make sure you get yourself a job.' Wants me to go into the civil service when I graduate. I just laugh. That's as high as his imagination can reach. That's the pinnacle of ambition. Civil bloody service.

**Henry** Mum as well, every letter, how are things Henry? Any girls take your fancy yet? She thinks it's all tea parties and formal dancing. 'Take my fancy.' Bloody hell. If she knew.

**Kenneth** Worried you're queer, probably.

**Henry** Watch it.

**Kenneth**

**Henry** Nah. She doesn't even know what that is.

*Pause.*

**Kenneth** What about this one tonight then?

**Henry** Hard to tell. Bit mouthy. Wait and see.

**Kenneth** How did you meet?

**Henry** I was putting up a poster on the billboard, and I look down and there she is, staring up at me. I'm like 'Hello love'. She says I've been watching you. Big eyes. Says it you know – suggestively. 'I've been *watching* you.' I went a bit giddy if I'm honest. And she goes on, keeps on talking telling me about herself, turns out she works in this boutique, she's been watching all morning. She says she liked my shoes. I said they stop me falling off the ladder. We have a drink at the end of the day, met up a few times since then, you know, drink, pictures, the

preamble, and eventually last time I say why don't you come round mine, we'll have dinner.

**Kenneth** You haven't got anything in.

**Henry** I know, I'm aware of that. I wasn't thinking of the practicalities at that moment was I? But as a matter of fact she was, she says, 'You any good at cooking then?' I said 'As you mention it I don't know one end of a kitchen from the other but I'll have a go, I'll cook whatever you want, if you'll come over.' She liked that, and said it was alright, she'd bring the food and cook, if I got the drink.

**Kenneth** Perfect lady.

**Henry** Exactly.

**Kenneth** Looks better doesn't it?

**Henry** Suppose it does yeah.

*Beat.*

**Kenneth** A civil servant. Bloody hell. He doesn't have a clue.

**Henry** What then?

**Kenneth** A writer.

**Henry** What sort?

**Kenneth** A travel writer. I'm going to have a flat on the King's Road, full of ornaments, and carpets, collected from different countries and beautiful women, actresses, designers they'll all come over to visit.

**Henry** Believe it when I see it Kenneth.

**Kenneth** At Oxford they talk like this all the time, saying what they're going to do and how they're going to go about it, they tell you, I'm going to be a doctor, prime minister, I'm an *artist*, all these

clever bastards, when they say things like that, it doesn't sound stupid at all because you know, you look at them and you think yes, yes, they probably will be what they want to be.

**Henry** Rich most of them.

**Kenneth** You've just got to want it enough.

*The doorbell goes.*

**Henry** Right then.

**Kenneth** What?

**Henry** Off you go.

**Kenneth** What?

**Henry** In there.

**Kenneth** Hang on.

**Henry** That's what you said.

**Kenneth** I can't not *meet* her.

**Henry** I think you can.

**Kenneth** It'll be rude if I don't even say hello.

**Henry** No.

**Kenneth** I'll meet her and then bugger off. Promise. Say I've got all this work to do.

**Henry** . . .

**Kenneth** . . .

**Henry** You better put something on then.

**Kenneth** I'm sure she won't mind.

**Henry** She might not but I do. Scrawny little ferret running round the place.

*The doorbell goes again.*

At least do it up.