

THE SCENE BEGINS IN THE KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM OF THE PARRY'S. JOE IS
POURING HIMSELF A CUP OF TEA, WHEN HIS WIFE COMES IN.

- JOE:** Cup of tea love?
- ENID:** Never mind tea, have you got that money back from that damn German?
- JOE:** He's not German love, that's his surname.
- ENID:** I don't care if he's Russian, have you got that money back?
- JOE:** I called round his house, but there wasn't any answer, the curtains were drawn. I think he was still in bed.
- ENID:** In bed! I could stay in bed if I borrowed money, instead of working for it. *(SIPPING TEA)* No sugar! Thirty-years married and you forget I take sugar
- JOE:** Anybody can make a mistake love.
- ENID:** Yes, don't I know it, lending that Dai German £80- £80!! What possessed you to do such a stupid thing?
- JOE:** *(IN A QUIET VOICE)* The stupid thing, was telling you.
- ENID:** What did you say?
- JOE:** He said he needed the money to send his mother to Lourdes -she's very ill you know.
- ENID:** Very Ill! She goes to tap dancing lessons on a Thursday night.
- JOE:** That was after she came back. Dai recons it was a miracle.
- ENID:** The only miracle will be you getting your money back.
- JOE:** I'll go this afternoon, and try and catch him in the betting office, if he's not there, I'll try and catch him in the Three Horse Shoes.
- ENID:** And don't stay too long in either place-and don't take any money with you, you can't be trusted, and you can call in the Job Centre, whatever they offer you, take it, why you had to give up that nice job in the abattoir, I don't know?
- JOE:** I don't like the sight of blood and I felt sorry for the animals.
- ENID:** You don't feel sorry for me stacking shelves in TESCO's, do you?

JOE I'd rather stack shelves than kill animals.

ENID: You don't do either now, rely on me to put the food on the table and give money to those Germans and they say we won the war.

JOE: I told you, they're not Germans, he was born in Treherbert.

ENID: I know where he comes from, I'd rather think of them as Germans, makes me feel better, his father was a bit of a crook if I remember rightly?

JOE: Died young, fell off the back of a lorry.

ENID: Fell off the back of a lorry!!

JOE: Little joke love, crook, fell off the back of a lorry- get it?

ENID: You're the only little joke around here, get me those weighing scales I haven't checked my weight today.

JOE: Perhaps you should stop taking sugar in your tea love?

ENID: Can't drink tea without sugar, anyway, I don't drink much, three or four cups can't hurt you . . I don't believe it! I've put on a pound since yesterday

JOE: Have you taken the change out of your pockets love?

ENID: Of course I have, do you think I'm stupid.

JOE: Perhaps it was that cream cake you had for supper and the trifle when we watched the film?

ENID: If you can't have a little treat now and again, what is life for I say?

JOE: It all adds up see love.

ENID: That's it!, no fish and chips -we're having lettuce for tea.

JOE: But I'm not slimming!

ENID: If I've got to suffer, you've got to suffer.

JOE: Anything else love?

ENID: Yes, you can go now, and don't come back until you have either £80 or a job. Well go on then, you've got your orders, I'm going for a nap, so don't go slamming doors when you've come back.

JOE: I never slam doors.

ENID: You do when you've got beer in you.

JOE: How can I buy beer if I can't take any money with me?

ENID: You can borrow some, like your friend does, oh! I forgot, you'll have £80 this afternoon?

JOE: Well, I can't guarantee that love, it will depend (*ENID CUTS HIM SHORT*)

ENID: It was meant as a joke!

JOE: You don't tell jokes very often love, caught me by surprise.

ENID: I'm going for a nap, try and give me some good news when I get up.

JOE: Yes, you go and have a nice nap love.

ENID: (*YAWNS*) Try and do something right for a change. (*LEAVES*)

JOE: Now, where's her purse, we'll call it danger money. (*JOE LEAVES*)

(*JOE COMES BACK AN HOUR OR SO LATER*)

JOE: I can't believe he did it, he's shit on me again, Enid is going to kill me, how am I going to explain this away (*REHEARSING HIS EXPLANATION*) It's like this see love, I asked him for the money and he gave me a mirror instead, thought you'd be pleased . . Bloody Germans! Mirror, mirror on the wall, who's the daftest.

ENID: (*CALLING FROM OUTSIDE THE ROOM*) Joseph, is that you?

JOE: Yes, love. (*LOW VOICE*) Think of something Joe and make it good.

ENID: (*ENTERS LIVING ROOM*) Did you get chips?

JOE: You told me not to get any.

ENID: Do you have to do everything I say.

JOE: No, did you have a nice nap love?

ENID: No, kept on dreaming of Germans and weighing scales. What's that?

JOE: What's what love?

ENID: That, horrible thing.

JOE: Oh, that, it's a mirror love.

ENID: I can see it's a mirror, what's it doing here? Wait a minute, did you get that eighty- pounds back ?

JOE: Well, yes and no.

ENID: What do you mean, yes and no?

JOE: Cup of tea love?

ENID: Don't you tea me Joe Parry, that Dai German has palmed you off with this old mirror, has't he?

JOE: I wouldn't'say palmed off love, this is no ordinary mirror, it's very special.

ENID: It doesn't' look very special to me; you've done it again, let me down, that Dai German has conned you again. I'm going to have you committed.

JOE: No, really, this mirror is just what you need; he was so desperate to pay me the money he owes me, which he has't got, as it were.. He had to part with it.

ENID: Well, come on then, what does it do so special, besides show the reflection of a stupid man.

JOE: Right, what does it do, when I tell you, you won't believe me.

ENID: That I'm sure of, come on then, what does it do?

JOE: You want to know what it does. . Right!! Let me move these weighing scales out of the way . . That's it!

ENID: What?

JOE: This is a slimming mirror! The only one this side of Tonypandy, people would die to own this.

ENID: What do you mean, slimming mirror? How can a mirror make you slim? He's conned you again, how does it work? Not that I believe a word.

JOE: Well, It's to do with reflective rays, you know molecular absorption.

ENID: Well, everybody knows that, what do I do? Do I need sun glasses?

JOE: No, ultra violet plays no part in this, you're either taken in, or not, that is absorption- wise of course.

ENID: Let me sit in front, well, don't just stand there, switch it on.

JOE: I don't switch it on love, this is completely greenhouse friendly, and we'll have to be careful, it works on a hour to the pound, Dai told me that a woman fell asleep in front of this mirror, and all they found the next day was a pile of empty clothes.

ENID: Have I got to take my clothes off?

JOE: No, no love, too much exposure might crack it, you just sit there and I'll put the kettle on . .

ENID: I'd better check my weight before I start. Right jot this down, ten stone three pounds.

JOE: Now, you can only use this mirror an hour a day.

ENID: Well, that's not very long, it will take a week to lose half a stone.. Still, if it's guaranteed, pass me that magazine, I'll try half an hour now.

JOE: Let me see if these scales are adjusted right, **(LOW)** weight loss guaranteed.

ENID: How come I've never heard of these slimming mirrors, who makes them?

JOE: They're a by-product of the space mission, comes from the glass on the astronauts helmets, haven't you noticed how small their heads are when they take their helmets off?

ENID: Oh! Yes, their heads do look small.

JOE: Ten days in space and they couldn't get a hat to fit them when they got home.

ENID: Must have been very awkward if they had to go to a wedding.

JOE: Lost me there love?

ENID: You know top hat and tails.

JOE: Oh ai, I see what you mean; their hats would be resting on their shoulders.

(THERE IS A KNOCKING ON THE DOOR)

ENID: Answer that Joe, it's probably Mrs. Price, on the borrow again.

JOE: Let's pretend we are out, I don't mind giving her tea or sugar, but it's the gossip and tittle - tattle I can't stand the woman's a bloody menace, what she don't know she'll make up.

ENID: You can't do that, she knows we are in, anyway I want to ask her if it is true that girl from the chemist is pregnant.

JOE:: You as bad as her. **(OPENS DOOR)** come in Mrs. Price.

MRS PRICE: Sorry to trouble you, Jim's home in ten minutes and I'm right out of salt.

JOE: Salt? That's a new one.

ENID: Joe, go and get Mrs. Price some salt, there's something I want to ask you, in the strictest of confidence of course.

MRS PRICE: You know me, never one to gossip, what do you want to know?

ENID: You know that Mrs. Lewis's daughter, the one that works in the chemist?

MRS PRICE: Kylie..

ENID: Yes, that's her.

JOE: What do you want, low sodium or Saxa?

ENID: Don't interrupt Joe!

MRS. PRICE: Anything will do, he wants it for his lettuce.

ENID: On his salad?

MRS PRICE: No, for the slugs.

JOE: You've got pretty fussy slugs Mrs. Price, wanting salt on their lettuce?

MRS PRICE: No, no, Mr. Parry, it's to kill them.

JOE: Only pulling your leg Mrs. Price.

MRS PRICE: Proper joker your husband.

ENID: Oh, he's a joker alright, now, what I want to ask you is, Kylie Lewis, is she pregnant

MRS PRICE: Four months gone and her working in the chemist, disgraceful, and she's only sixteen.

ENID: Do they know who the father is?

MRS. PRICE This is where it gets interesting.

JOE: Tea Mrs. Price?

MRS PRICE:No thank you, I'll have to be going.

ENID: What do you mean, interesting?

MRS PRICE:They say, old man Bynon the chemist is the father, what do think of that?

ENID: Never! He's got to be eighty.

MRS PRICE:They say he has been eating those Viagra tablets like if they were Smarties, Mrs. Evans his cleaner said, low dusting is right out of the question.

ENID: Well, well, I'll have to get Joe some.

JOE: (*CHOKES ON HIS TEA*) I hope you mean Smarties?

MRS PRICE:Oh well, I'd better be going If you don't mind me asking, why are you sat in front of this mirror?

ENID: This is no ordinary mirror, it has special features.

MRS PRICE:Oh yes, like what?

ENID: It's a slimming mirror, you can lose a pound in an hour, I'm so excited, and I've been trying to lose weight for years.

MRS PRICE:Where did you get it from?

JOE: Can't say, comes under the official secrets act, Enid shouldn't have told you.

MRS PRICE:No need to worry, I can keep a secret, all you got to do is stand in front of it and you lose weight, I could lose a few pounds myself, how does it work?

ENID: It's made from Astronaught's helmets.

MRS PRICE:Astronaught's helmets... Whatever next.

JOE: The glass from the helmets, that is.

MRS PRICE:It must be worth a lot of money?

JOE: Priceless, it only came to me by chance, he didn't want to part with it.

MRS PRICE: He? Anybody I know?

ENID: It was.. (*JOE CUTS HER SHORT*)

JOE: A passing American on holidays can't say much more, official secrets you know.

MRS PRICE: Mums the word, well, I'd better be off.

JOE: Don't forget your salt.

MRS PRICE: Astronaut's helmets, whatever will they think of next. (*SHE LEAVES*)

JOE: And if she can keep a secret, I'll eat my.. Probably tell everyone we've got an astronaut living here.

ENID: Why make such an elaborate story anyway, you got it legitimately.

JOE: Well, that's it, where did Dai German get it from?

ENID: Oh, yes, he could have stolen it from an astronaut or something.

JOE: Probably fell off the back of a rocket.

ENID: How long have I been sitting here?

JOE: About twenty minutes or so.

ENID: Let's see if I've lost any weight, I've lost a pound! Joe look, I've lost a whole pound!

JOE: Good god, so you have, that's your quota for today love.

ENID: Just another ten minutes!

JOE: No we can't take the risk., a pound a day is the limit.

ENID: I suppose your right... I'm starving; all this slimming is making me hungry. Go and get some fish and chips, here take this, and because you've done something right for a change, you can have a couple of pints out of the change.

JOE: Can I? Thanks love; I'll be about an hour.

ENID: Well! go on then, before I change my mind.

JOE: Right then I'll be off. (*JOE LEAVES*)

ENID: What's the harm in another ten minutes, in two weeks, they'll think there's a Paris model living here, part-ex that Joe for a newer model, can't believe he's done something right for a change.

(THERE IS A KNOCK ON THE DOOR)

ENID: Damn! Who the devil can that be? (*OPENS THE DOOR*)

DORA: Sorry to trouble you Enid, but I'm collecting on behalf of Famine Relief.

ENID: You'd better come in Dora; I'll get my purse, not that I can afford much, what with Joe out of work.

DORA: So that's it?

ENID: What?

DORA: The slimming machine Mrs. Price was telling me about it, and it looks like an ordinary mirror, have you tried it yet?

ENID: Oh yes, I lost two pounds earlier.

DORA: And all you have to do is sit in front, like this?

ENID: Oh yes, it's completely automatic; it's made from astronauts helmets you know.

DORA: Astronauts helmets, you wouldn't think it possible.

ENID: There you are (*PUTS MONEY IN HER TIN*)_fifty pence is all I can afford.

DORA: You know, I think in this short time, I feel lighter, my arms feel lighter.

ENID: Very likely, it's very powerful.. One woman sat too long in front of it and completely disappeared.

ENID: It's all right, she was on it hours... fell asleep...Tragic.

DORA: Perhaps you should get an alarm clock?

ENID: Got many more calls to do?

DORA: No, I'm only doing this street. (*THERE IS A KNOCK ON THE DOOR*)

ENID: Who can this be? (*OPENS DOOR*)

JOAN: Enid, I wonder if, so it's true, you have got a slimming mirror.

DORA: Yes, I've only been here a few minutes and I feel lighter already.

JOAN: Move over Dora, let me have a try, you don't mind Enid?

ENID: Be my guest.