

Scene 1.

Mum's front room.

Down centre stage. A comfortable armchair with a pillow on it, next to this is a small table, the table has a cup of tea on it and a TV (Radio Times) magazine and a T.V. remote.

Cindy stands centre stage and looks out at the audience for a few moments. She is only disturbed by her mother asking if she's day-dreaming again. Mother overstates that Cindy is a day-dreamer

MUM: Cindy! You haven't been listening to a word I've been saying. You've been in one of your day-dreams again. How could you leave your old mum!

CINDY: I'm only going out for a few hours!

MUM: What if I have a fall!?

CINDY: You won't!

Cindy fusses over her mother, making sure she is comfortable puffing up the pillow behind mother's back.

MUM: You don't care about me! All you care about is chasing after men!

CINDY: I'm not chasing after men!

MUM: Who did you say you was going out with?

CINDY: Oh, just a bloke from work.

MUM: You don't know who this chap is. What's his name?

CINDY: Dish.

MUM: That a funny name.

CINDY: That's what the girls call him.

MUM: And he's asked you out!

CINDY: Yes!

MUM: He must need his eyes examining!

CINDY: What!

MUM: Well lets face it. You're nothing to look at are you!

CINDY: That's a horrible thing to say!

MUM: You can't trust men, they're only after one thing. They just want to use you, then toss you aside, like a dirty nappy.

CINDY: It won't happen to me!

MUM: Don't you believe it!

CINDY: Mum!

MUM: What happened to Spike, he used to bring me flowers. Wasn't you happy living with him here. What was wrong with Spike?

CINDY: Don't keep going on about Spike! You know what was wrong with Spike! My black eye didn't just appear from nowhere!

MUM: Oh you do exaggerate! You told me at the time, you had fallen down the stairs!

CINDY: That's why I wanted him out of the house, because I was always falling down the stairs!

MUM: Well he was always good to me! (*Pause*). You begrudge doing the littlest thing for me!

CINDY: That's not true!

MUM: Stay in with me.

CINDY: I can't Mum. I need a boyfriend. I need real love.

Cindy turns away from mother and stares into the audience and goes into a day-dream.

MUM: What do you know about love! You're just a slip of a girl! (*pause*) Cindy Prichard! I'm talking to you!

Cindy comes out of her day-dream.

MUM: (*CONT*) You don't know the first thing about love!

CINDY: Yes I do!

MUM: I'm sorry to disappoint you, young madam, but love doesn't exist!

CINDY: Yes it does!

MUM: Only in your dreams!

CINDY: Sometimes I wish you was!.....

MUM: Dead! Go on! You might as well say it! You wish I was dead!

CINDY: That's not true!

MUM: Well, I'm going to bed. I know when I'm not wanted!

CINDY: Oh Mum! I wont go out then!

MUM: Please yourself.

Mother tries to get up, Cindy goes to help

MUM: No let me go! I might as well go up.

Mum shuffles along and exits stage right

Cindy decides not to go out, and takes her coat off and throws it over the chair and sits down.

Stacey enters stage left.

CINDY: Hello Stacey.

STACEY: Oh you look nice

CINDY: Oh do I?

STACEY: What's wrong?

CINDY: I'm not going.

STACEY: Why!?

CINDY: Oh its Mother again.

STACEY: Have you heard the rumours at work?

CINDY: What rumours?

STACEY: They're going to move the call centre to India.

CINDY: But I can't speak Indian.

STACEY: No, not us silly, we won't be going, just the firm.

CINDY: Oh I'd like to go to India and see the snow-bound peaks of the Himalayas. I'd like to swim in the Indian ocean and experience the

monsoons in May. Oh, I won't be going to India, and I won't be going on this date. *(long pause)* Just a minute, if we stay in, we are only going to watch the telly.

STACEY: That's true..

CINDY: So lets go to the party.

STACEY: Who's invited us out?

CINDY: Er, it was only that bloke Dish, from work, he said he would bring a friend for you.

STACEY: Dish from work!

CINDY: Yes. Why?

STACEY: Oh nothing.

CINDY: What is it?

STACEY: I can't say.

CINDY: Go on, tell me.

STACEY: Well, you wouldn't know, being new, but Dish is the office Romeo. He's had lots of affairs with the girls in the office.

CINDY: Well, Mum was right. Oh well its probably just as well I'm not going.

STACEY: No, you're right, you don't want to get hurt again.

CINDY: No, that's true. *(long pause)*. No, wait a minute. No, lets go, I want to teach this Dish a lesson.

Blackout

Scene 2.

Dish's flat. Settee down centre stage.

Gavin (who has small piece of newspaper stuck on his face from where he has cut himself shaving, and a large can of anti-perspirant in one jacket pocket and a bottle of aftershave in the other) is looking out at the audience into an imaginary mirror and combing his hair (in a non-vanity way) Gavin touches his face in funny ways. Dish is standing next to Gavin talking to him. Gavin is not listening.

DISH: She's just so beautiful. I really love her.

Gavin has not heard a word Dish has said. Gavin is nervously getting ready. He gets the bottle of aftershave out of his pocket and splashes loads of aftershave over his face and it hurts, he shows his pain. Next Gavin pulls out the can of antiperspirant from out of his pocket.

GAVIN: Mum uses this stuff to kill flies round the house.

Gavin sprays the deodorant under his arms, then around the room. Dish coughs.

DISH: Be careful, your going to kill us both.

GAVIN: Can I have your little black book?

DISH: Yes. Of course you can. I have no further use for it.

Dish takes out his little black book from his inside pocket and gives it to Gavin. Gavin looks at the little black book with awe, and quickly pockets the little black book in his pocket containing his toiletries.

GAVIN: What time is it?

DISH: You asked me that 10 seconds ago.

GAVIN: Maybe they're not coming.

DISH: They're coming.

GAVIN: Do you think she'll like me.

DISH: Well if she doesn't, there isn't a lot you can do about it.

GAVIN: Do I look alright.

DISH: You're fine.

GAVIN: I'm not to sure what to say to mine.

DISH: Just say hello, and ask her if she would like a drink.

GAVIN: You've had lots of women.

DISH: Well that's all going to change.

GAVIN: Is this going to be another one of your conquests.

DISH: Do you believe in love at first sight?

GAVIN: Ere....

DISH: The moment she walked into the office, I knew she was the one.

GAVIN: Oh I wonder what mine will be like?

DISH: I'm sure you have seen her, she works on the floor above us.

GAVIN: To think we may have brushed past each other. Like ships in the night, and now we are finally going to meet. I hope I don't bump into her and sink.

DISH: Oh, you'll be alright. Just be yourself.

GAVIN: Be myself.

DISH: Just remember, she's just a woman, you're just a man.

GAVIN: I'm just a woman, she's just a man.

DISH: You might like each other, you may not.

GAVIN: No.

DISH: Just remember you're ok.

GAVIN: Just remember you're ok.

DISH: And a lot of women would be happy to go out, with you.

GAVIN: A lot of women would be happy to go out with me. A lot of women would like to go out with me. *(Gavin struts about, repeating the lines)*

Gavin struts around doing a funny walk, until he bumps in to Stacey who has just entered stage left with Cindy. Stacey is smitten by Gavin and visa-versa. They stand looking into each others eyes for a few seconds. (Dish looks at Cindy with a loving look. Cindy looks at Dish with hatred).

GAVIN: *(stuttering)* Oh, you have arrived. Would you like a drink.

STACEY: Yes please.

Gavin looks surprised.

GAVIN: You would. Great. Fantastic. I'll get you one.....

Gavin exits stage right to fix Stacey a drink.

DISH: Would you like a drink Cindy.

CINDY: No!

DISH: Oh? Would you like to sit on the settee then?

CINDY: No! I don't think that's a good idea! I've met your type before!

DISH: What!

CINDY: Yes! You know what I mean! I don't like being used and then tossed aside like a dirty nappy! You're not doing that to me, I know all about you and your reputation!

DISH: But.....

CINDY: Don't you but me! You men are all the same! Just after one thing! Isn't that right Stacey!

(Stacey, smitten by Gavin is looking towards where he exited)

STACEY: *(to Dish)* Oh yes! Just after one thing!

DISH: That's not true!

CINDY: This is not a party. Its more like a funeral, if you ask me!

DISH: I just thought it might be more intimate if I just invited Gavin.

CINDY: Well you and Gavin, can have your intimate party, and I hope you will be very happy! We only come to check out the talent, and we're not impressed! So drop dead!

(Gavin enters holding a "Only Fools and Horses" type drink, large wine class with coloured umbrellas, cocktail sticks, cherries on top and gives it to Stacey)

STACEY: Thank you.

Stacey goes to drink the drink

CINDY: Don't you dare drink that, Stacey! We're going!

Stacey gives the drink back to Gavin then Cindy and Stacey exit.

GAVIN: *(calling after them)* Does anybody fancy a kebab!

Scene 3

Mum's house. Comfortable armchair with a pillow on it, next to this is a small table, the table has a cup of tea on it and a TV (Radio Times) magazine and a T.V. remote. The scene is now dimly lit. Perhaps a shaft of light coming from the stairwell (stage

right), across the stage. Cindy enters stage left. Cindy does some tidying up, puffs up the pillow, tidies the table. We hear a bell ring. Cindy exits stage left. Returning walking backwards with Dish moving towards her.

CINDY: What are you doing here?

DISH: I followed you.

CINDY: Why?

DISH: Because I didn't want to let my dream slip away.

CINDY: Your dream?

DISH: I'm in love with you.

CINDY: In love with me?

DISH: Yes.

CINDY: But, you don't know the first thing about me.

DISH: I want to find out.

CINDY: How can you, you've only know me a short while.

DISH: I feel I've know you for ever.

CINDY: You could be a mad axe man, for all I know.

DISH: My heart aches for you.

CINDY: I can't believe what you're saying.

DISH: I've never found anyone I wanted to spend my life with. Until now.

CINDY: You're having me on.

DISH: That's just it, I'm not. Please give me a chance, let me prove my love for you.

CINDY: How could you do that.

DISH: I don't know. This is the first time I've felt this way.

CINDY: Oh I don't need this in my life.

DISH: I want you.

CINDY: Go away, I don't want to see you again.

Dish starts to exit stage left.

CINDY: No wait. Come back. I have to be careful who I fall in love with. I was excited when you asked me out. In fact I was over the moon. I was looking forward to seeing you. But when Stacey told me about your reputation, I just saw red.

DISH: I love you.

CINDY: Well that might be, but we will have to see how things go.

DISH: Can I kiss you...

CINDY: Yes...

Dish kisses Cindy. They turn as Dish sits on Mother's chair pulling Cindy onto his knee. They embrace. Suddenly there is a shadow of an old woman coming down the stairs, she puts on the light and starts on her daughter.

MUM: I thought I heard a noise?

Mum spots the courting couple.

MUM (CONT) I thought I'd brought you up better than that!

CINDY: But Mum we wasn't!

MUM: You're no better than a prostitute!

CINDY: Prostitute!

MUM: How dare you use my house as a knocking shop!

CINDY: We wasn't!

MUM: Haven't you got any decency! Get out of my house! Get out!

CINDY: Oh don't you worry we are going! For years I have looked after you! Well now it's my turn to have a bit of happiness! You old cow!

MUM: Oh! How dare you! *(Mum puts a hand on her chest and pretends to having a heart attack)*

CINDY: And don't pretend you're having a heart attack again!

Blackout

Scene 4.

Dish's flat. Settee centre stage. Dish and Cindy enter stage left.

DISH: You're like an asylum seeker, asking for asylum.

CINDY: Will you grant me asylum.

DISH: Of course I will.

CINDY: I can't believe what I said to Mum.

DISH: She shouldn't have said those things.

CINDY: Oh, she just an angry old woman. Its not been easy, with my father running out on her like that.

DISH: No.

CINDY: I just don't know what the future holds.

DISH: Well, you'll be with me.

CINDY: I meant work wise, the call centre's moving to India.

DISH: I know.

CINDY: I don't know how I'm going to get another job. I've got no qualifications.

DISH: I'll support you.

CINDY: I don't want that, living off you, I want to support myself.

DISH: You could go to college.

CINDY: Me go to college?

DISH: Yes. What are you interested in?

CINDY: Well. Nothing. Well that's not true. I did use to work in a hairdressers, when I first left school and I always wanted to become a stylist.

DISH: Well there you go then, you could go to college to become a hairdresser.

CINDY: I couldn't.

DISH: Yes you could! Just follow your dream. Yes go to college.

CINDY: Well it would be hard at first.

DISH: As long as we are together.

CINDY: I'll go down to the college first thing in the morning and enrol. *(pause)*
You would really do this for me?

DISH: Yes, because I love you.

CINDY: My last partner wouldn't have allowed it.

DISH: What was he like?

CINDY: Do you really want to know.

DISH: Only if you want to tell me.

CINDY: Spike. That was his name. He was a Hells Angel.

DISH: A Hells Angel?

CINDY: Yes. Mum even let him move in with me. At first he treated me like a princess. I used to have a good social life. Then he started saying, "you wouldn't want to go out with your friends, if you really loved me. You'd just want to stay with me all the time." So I stopped going out with my friends. Then he started hitting me.

DISH: Oh no.

CINDY: Then he would cry and say he was sorry, and that it wouldn't happen again. But it did. *(pause)* I used to just lay in bed dreaming about being with someone who was kind and gentle, with someone who would take care of me. With someone who'd love me. *(Cindy looks at Dish)* I guess you're that man.

Cindy kisses Dish.

Slowly fade lights. While we hear loud sounds of fire works going off.