

ACT 1 Scene 3

Action takes place the following morning. CATRIONA goes over to the stove where a frying pan sits on top. JIMMY stirs and taps his cup loudly. GINA takes the pan over to JIMMY and serves him two fried sausages on his plate. There is soda bread sliced up on the table.

- Catriona:** There you go my master and keeper! Let me know if it's to your liking!
- Jimmy:** *(Sarcastic)* sausages...oh yummy! *(Pauses)* How's the head?
- Catriona:** Fine! Why?
- Jimmy:** Well...
- Catriona:** Jesus! Can I not let my hair down once in a while?
- Jimmy:** You were a little angry last night. Did something happen at the party?
- Catriona:** No, Dr Phil, nothing happened at the party!
- Jimmy:** Is it Brendan?
- Catriona:** Can you tell me what the hell is wrong with him?
- Jimmy:** I don't know *(Pause)* but he did notice you were a little bit tired and emotional last night.
- Catriona:** *(Adamant)* Four brandies! I'd four brandies last night!
- Jimmy:** But he was asking a lot of questions...
- Catriona:** *(barks)* what questions?!
- Jimmy:** All sorts. He queries everything. He is a bright boy you know!
- Catriona:** Takes after his mother!
- Jimmy:** He asked me last night, were we sexually active in the bedroom.
- Catriona:** *(shocked)* and what the hell did you tell him?
- Jimmy:** The truth of course. That we were, but never at the same time or in the same room!
- Catriona:** Jimmy! *(Pauses)* He has been acting weird lately. Ever since he started watching that sexy stuff on flicker nets, he has been speaking with an American accent and wearing trendy jeans.
- Jimmy:** *(Shocked)* Trendy jeans!
- Catriona:** The ones with the holes. He said he was going to get two matching pairs of jeans for both you and him next week in Galway.
- Jimmy:** Good god! I feel it's about time I have a little chat with the boy.
- Catriona:** No way José! I think you've done enough talking last night!
- Jimmy:** He has been a little pre occupied lately. It's like he is never around anymore.

Catriona: What are you on about? Sure didn't you meet him this morning in the hallway when you were on your way to the bathroom!

Jimmy: I did, didn't I?

Catriona: And that's another thing...close the blasted door when you are in the bathroom. You peed like a racehorse this morning.

Jimmy: It's not my fault that I have a massive bladder.

Catriona: (*Sneers*) Massive Bladder! I think your priority should be about your son right now! I think he is going through one of those phrases.

Jimmy: Don't you mean Phases, Darling?

Catriona: Isn't that what I said!

Jimmy: Hmm...I distinctly heard you use the word phrases.

Catriona: Oh shut up will ya! (*Pause*) Just the other day, I saw the eejit humming into the mirror, lashing on the aftershave.

Jimmy: It wasn't my Brut aftershave?

Catriona: How the hell would I know!

Jimmy: Because I seem to be missing my aftershave.

Catriona: You fool. I threw it in the bin weeks ago.

Jimmy: Why did you do that? It was my favourite aftershave. I used to always wear it to all those Bonnie Tyler concerts all those years ago.

Catriona: Smelled like cat piss to me. Oh you can forget about her! You used to make a fool of yourself at her shows!

Jimmy: Hmm...Bonnie used to say to me after the show that my Brut aftershave would make her go weak at the knees.

Catriona: Yeah the smell would knock a ram off a ewe.

Jimmy: I'm thinking if I wasn't a married man, Bonnie would be putty in my hands.

Catriona: What did I you tell you before about thinking?

Jimmy: When in doubt, keep your powder dry!

Catriona: Exactly and don't you forget it. Now shush be quiet. Here comes ducky for his breakfast. (*Pushes JIMMY towards the door*) now make yourself scarce. I'll talk to him!

Catriona: Ah good morning ducky!

Enter BRENDAN wearing torn jeans

Brendan: (*Speaks with an American accent*) good Morning pops! (*kisses Catriona on the cheek*) morning... mom!

Jimmy: Morning.

JIMMY exits. CATRIONA fills the fire with turf while BRENDAN sits down.

Catriona: Any plans for today, ducky?

Brendan: Well I have a lecture this morning, a dance recital in the afternoon and I'm having lunch in town.

Catriona: Son, you seem to be in good form this morning?

Brendan: And why wouldn't I?! Spring has arrived, the baby lambs are frolicking in the fields and the birds are chirping in the trees.

Catriona: Yeah and they are shitting everywhere again! *(Holds the frying pan)* breakfast?

Brendan: *(Excited)* Oh yes! Sausages! Yummy! *(Rubs his stomach)* Gina says breakfast is the most important meal of the day.

CATRIONA serves BRENDAN a few sausages from the frying pan

Catriona: Who's Gina?

BRENDAN ignores his Mother's question and carries on eating his breakfast.

Catriona: Knock, Knock! *(Knocks gently on BRENDAN's head)* do you want a cup of tea?

Brendan: No mom. I think I'll have an espresso.

Catriona: An Espresso?!!

Brendan: No Mom, It's pronounced Eesssssssspresso. There is no ex in that word.

Catriona: There'll be an 'X' on your forehead in a minute.

Brendan: Gina says it's the best way to set you up for the day.

Catriona: Or day dreaming of George Clooney as you take your morning shower.

Awkward moment as CATRIONA smirks to herself. She glances at BRENDAN smirking at her.

Catriona: Ah Ducky, if you don't mind me saying, you have been acting a little strange lately. Oh hell, I'll just come out and say it. Are you on drugs?

Brendan: What?!! No Mom.

Catriona: You better not be lying to me.

Brendan: I'm not. Honestly

CATRIONA goes over to the shelf cabinet in the corner of the kitchen and opens up a couple of pill bottles.

Catriona: I tell you one thing sonny boy, there will be no one and I mean no one *(pauses)* taking drugs in this house!!!

CATRIONA takes a handful of each, she quickly swallows them both.

Brendan: *(raises his voice)* the only drug I'm on; is the drug of love and I'm addicted.

Catriona: Fecking Viagra, I knew it.

Brendan: No I am in LOVE! Her name is Gina.

Catriona: (*Exasperated*) who is this Gina one?!

Brendan: Gina! GINA! I told you! I met her last week in University! For the first time in my life, I'm in love!

Catriona: Love my Granny! You don't even know what love is!

Brendan: Oh please you know nothing about the science behind the magic dust particles that we call love.

Catriona: (*Goes berserk*) that's it. Stop speaking in that bloody accent! (*Clips around him the head again*)

Brendan: Owwww! (*Whines*) That hurt mammy.

Catriona: Good (*Pauses*) Dust particles!

Brendan: Gina says it's wrong to raise your hand to your child especially on the head.

Catriona: Oh did she now?! This Gina has a lot to say for herself!

A furious JIMMY enters

Jimmy: What the hell is going on in here? (*To Catriona*) Is this your idea of talking to him!

Catriona: Ducky has found himself (*gags*) a girlfriend!

Brendan: She is an English Rose!

Jimmy: Why this is fantastic news?! What's her name?

Catriona: (*Sneers*) her name is Gina.

Jimmy: When are we going to meet the lovely Gina?

Brendan: Well, ye will be getting the opportunity to meet her next Wednesday. I have invited her to dinner.

Catriona: (*shocked*) what?!!! Without my permission?!

Brendan: (*Goads his mother*) problem Mother?!

An angry CATRIONA paces the kitchen floor

Jimmy: What your only child is trying to say...would you mind or object to Gina coming for dinner?

Catriona: Mind? Why would I mind?

Jimmy: Because you always get stressed when you have strangers come to visit the house.

Catriona: Stressed? You're having a laugh! Me never!

CATRIONA goes over to the stove and starts poking the fire violently with the poker. She then fills the stove with turf frantically.

Jimmy: Go easy there with the turf. We're going to run out of it with the speed you're putting it in. We'll have none left for the winter.

Brendan: (*Excitedly gets up*) Gina says she can't wait to meet the woman who brought me into the world. She said I was special, when the stars aligned with Saturn's planet. I was born three weeks after Jupiter left the shadow of Uranus.

Catriona: Oh you were special alright...I have an eight inch scar left down there as a reminder of ya!

Jimmy: It's true. She has blamed me ever since!

Catriona: I suppose, I'd better rustle up something nice for her ladyship, then. I was thinking Chicken Goujons?

Brendan: (*hesitates*) uh uh she doesn't eat chicken goujons.

Catriona: Woo back up there, sonny boy! Stall the ball; what do you mean she doesn't eat chicken Goujons?

Brendan: I don't know how to say this (*Pause*) she is a Vegan!

Catriona: A what?!

Jimmy: (*Mocking*) a vegan, darling! She doesn't eat meat.

Brendan: There are specific foods she doesn't eat.

Catriona: I'm sorry, but does this "Gina" know we're not running the Ritz?

Brendan: Of course Mammy.

Catriona: So what do you suggest I should make her ladyship for dinner?

Brendan: Well vegans mainly avoid foods like dairy, meat, poultry, eggs or seafood.

Catriona: What's left? Grass!

Brendan: She eats chickpeas, oats, seeds; cous cous.....vegans love Tofu!

Catriona: To what?

Brendan: (*Shakes his head and sighs*) Japanese mammy Japanese!

Catriona: Oh so, she has a Japanese mother has she?!

Jimmy: Tofu is a type of food, Darling!

Brendan: Gina is wonderful, mammy. This past week with her has been heaven. Was it like that when you met Daddy for the first time?

Jimmy: I had a motorcycle back then. (*JIMMY animatedly mimes being on a motorbike*)

Catriona: Go easy. (*Chuckles*) It was a Honda 50.

Jimmy: The girls used to go crazy for me. They would hold onto me tight around the waist...with their legs.

Brendan: Were they keeping you warm daddy?

Catriona: Keeping him warm! Huh! Only sluts would have gotten on the back of your father's motorbike. I refused to go out with father until he got a car!

Gina: Oh Gina has a car. I really can't wait for you to meet her!

Catriona: Oh yes; I can't wait to meet her too!

Jimmy: *(to Brendan)* Look, I'm sure we will find something suitable for Gina to eat on Wednesday night. *(To Catriona)* Isn't that right?

Catriona: Oh, I'll find something suitable alright!

Brendan: I better get going, got a lot of activities today.

Jimmy: Son, what about your breakfast?

Brendan: Ah, I'm ok daddy. I'll grab a mocha chino in town.

Catriona: A mocha what?!

Jimmy: *(Mocking her)* it's a hot drink dear.

Brendan: See you later Alligator! *(Puts on sunglasses, smiles and exits)*

Jimmy: In a while crocodile!

Long pause. CATRIONA Looks towards the Kitchen door

Catriona: I tell you one thing for nothing; I'm definitely hiding the good biscuits on Wednesday night!

End scene