

Scene 1

A nice living room with a table and computer stage right, a sofa stage left, a coffee table in the middle. A man 30 - 40 kneeling on the floor - there is a bowl of water on the coffee table. He is grunting and straining at it. A woman (his wife) enters unnoticed behind him.

Glen What on earth are you doing?

Tris It's an experiment on mind over matter.

Glen What mind over what matter?

Tris My mind over that piece of paper floating on the water - that's the matter. I am trying to move it with the strength of my will.

Glen Really Tris! Have you got nothing better to do?

Tris No - it's fascinating. I'm sure I got it to move towards me. Come on - give me a hand - you've got a good mind I bet both of us could move it.

Glen Look - I've had a busy day and all I want to do is flop down and have a drink.

Tris Oh go on Glen, just for five minutes - please.

Glen Oh alright - just for five minutes and that's all.

Tris Look - you sit here and if we can move it - it will be a breakthrough for mental science.

Glen Yes I'm sure it will be. What do you want me to do?

Tris Right kneel down by the side of me and concentrate your whole mental energy to moving that scrap of paper on the water.

Glen How long for?

Tris Well until it moves of course.

Glen Oh no. We could be here all night. You said five minutes.

Tris Alright - five minutes - but you must concentrate with all your strength.

Glen Yes alright - let's get on with it. Ready? *(they both kneel in front of the coffee table).*

Tris Go! *(They both stay quite still for quite a time - Tris starts grunting)*

Glen Why are you making that noise?

Tris It's the mental effort I put in. You can grunt if you like. *(They both sit quiet again - Glen lets out a big grunt and then falls back on the floor laughing)* Now look what you've done! You've spoilt it!

Glen *(Drying her eyes)* I'm sorry love - I was trying. I was pushing that bit of paper like mad.

Tris Pushing it? Pushing it? You silly cow! I was pulling it towards me.

Glen *(Shrieking with laughter)* I was pushing and you were pulling. We cancelled each other out.

Tris Right - we'll have to do it again and this time we both pull.

Glen Oh no. You said five minutes. I'm going to have a big cup of coffee, put my feet up and order a nice Chinky take away.

Tris Oh Glen - that's such a shame. I really thought we were getting somewhere.

Glen Tris - it never moved.

Tris That's because you were pushing and I was pulling.

Glen Rubbish! You could sit there for a week and nothing would move. I'm getting some coffee. *(She exits)*

Tris Perhaps you're right. There's a fresh brew in the pot, bring me one. I'd sooner have an Indian.

Glen *(Off)* What - to help you move that bit of paper?

Tris No - I'd sooner have an Indian than a Chinese take away. I fancy something a bit spicy.

Glen *(Returning with two cups of coffee)* Really? Well let me have a shower first and slip into something sexy and I'll try to oblige.

Tris You know what I mean.

Glen *(Kicking her shoes off and falling back onto the sofa)* Is that what you do all day?

Tris What?

Glen Silly bloody games with bits of paper.

Tris No- that's hurtful! You know I'm working on my digital mind interface.

Glen You're not still working on that! NASA and all the other mega organisations have not managed it. Why do you think you can?

Tris I tell you I'm getting there.

Glen Look Tris - I love you and support you in all that you do, but this is becoming an obsession. It's already got you the sack from a well paid job.

Tris We're alright for cash. We've still got royalties coming in from the software I've developed. It's not as much as I used to earn but it covers the bills and you earn a good salary, so really we're not much worse off than when I was working.

Glen It's not the money you know that. It's you lazing around all day playing silly games - it's such a waste. Why don't you ring Chris and ask for your job back? You were by far his best man. He'd have you back in a flash.

Tris No he wouldn't.

Glen What - just because you hit him?

Tris Yes.

Glen Look - Chris is a big man and it's been six months. He'll have forgotten all about it.

Tris He won't.

Glen Why not?

Tris Because he's a big man.

Glen I don't understand that.

Tris Well, you remember we were all gathered for a future projects meeting?

Glen Yes.

Tris Well I stood up and proposed the mind-computer link research.

Glen Really - for the fiftieth time?

Tris Thank you. Well I explained how it could help all those people who are paralysed from the neck down. Help them to lead a better life, to help them to talk and move things about. The benefits are endless. Do you know what that callous sod said?

Glen Yes - you have told me once or twice.

Tris He said, "Oh yes Tris, and how many of these vegetable carcasses are there in the world, not nearly enough to cover our research costs. So will you stop bringing this up and give us a proper profit-making idea."

Glen Yes, yes and then you hit him - you've told me all this.

Tris But he's a big man.

Glen You keep saying that. What has it got to do with anything?

Tris Well, it's a bit embarrassing.

Glen I don't see why. Not many men dare take a swing at Chris.

Tris Well you know - he's so tall.

Glen You keep saying that.

Tris Well you see, I was so angry I wanted to hit him but i thought if I punched him in the nose he'd kill me.

Glen Ah - so where did you punch him - in the stomach?

Tris Not exactly.

Glen For goodness sake Tris - where did you hit him?

Tris I know now it was a cowardly thing to do.

Glen Oh Tris - you didn't! Not in his wedding tackle?

Tris Well - like I said - he's very tall.

Glen What did he do?

Tris Well it was quite interesting really. I was ready to leg it, but he fell down like he'd been pole-axed and lay there groaning and holding himself, if you know what I mean. Then suddenly he was sick all over the carpet. If any man were to assault you Glen that's where you should.....

Glen Yes, yes I know all that. So then he sacked you.

Tris Well obviously not there and then, but he did let it be known that if he ever saw me again he'd put me in hospital for some time and you know Chris, he is a man of his word. So I accepted that as a form of dismissal.

Glen It's been six months and I knew nothing of this.

Tris Well, I was rather embarrassed.

Glen I should think you were. Poor Chris. Nobody else has mentioned it. They just said you hit him and that was that.

Tris Well Chris let it be known that he wouldn't be happy with anyone who repeated the story. He was rather forceful about it.

Glen I bet he was. He didn't want people to know he was felled by one blow from a wimp like you.

Tris I resent that. I was standing up for a principle.

Glen You just lost your temper and you're lucky Chris didn't kill you. I understand it all now. I saw Chris's wife Mandy about a month ago, she was pregnant. I said it was lovely to see her and congratulated her on being pregnant. She looked daggers at me and said, "no thanks to your vicious husband and waddled away. I thought at the time it was a funny thing to say - now I understand.

Tris So now you see that Chris wouldn't give me my job back even if I wanted it. But my research into the mind transfer is going so well. I had a bit of a breakthrough recently. If I had someone to try it out on I'm sure I could make a lot of progress - and there's another thing....

Glen I don't want to hear it Tris. You just carry on playing, but I don't want to know.

Tris It's not playing. I'm making real progress, but I need someone to try it out on. Perhaps Wendy or Sarah could help.

Glen Stop going on and ring for the Chinky. The number for Wong's Restaurant is by the phone.

Tris Right dear - the usual then? *(She closes her eyes and lays back)*
Right the usual then. *(Blackout)*

Scene 2

There are takeaway cartons, plates etc. all over the set)

Glen *(Off)* Tris? What are you doing?

Tris I'm here. You're a bit aggressive this morning. *(She enters)*

Glen I'm sorry, I've got a busy day ahead. I've got a meeting with a Mr. Bulstrode, a new customer, I'm trying to make an impression.

Tris You look great.

Glen I've left a list on the fridge door. You'd better go to Sainsburys.

Tris Tesco's is nearer.

Glen Go to Sainsburys

Tris Right, right Sainsburys it is.

Glen I suppose your harem will be here soon.

Tris Now don't start that again. Sarah and Wendy are just chums, they come for coffee and biscuits every morning otherwise I wouldn't open my mouth all day.

Glen If you say so, but that Wendy is after you, so beware and stick to coffee and biscuits.

Tris I don't know what you mean. What else could there be? *(She gives him a knowing look)* Now Glen, you know I'm not like that.

Glen Oh yes - what was last night then? I'm still trying to get the special fried rice out of the bed.

Tris Ah well yes - I'm like that with you - but not with anyone else.

Glen You didn't even let me finish my pork balls.

Tris Yeah - I'm sorry about that, but I get lonely and frustrated sitting on my own all day.

Glen Yes that's what I'm afraid of. I'd better not find biscuit crumbs in the bed.

Tris Now don't be silly. Off you go and I'll whizz round to Tesco's.

Glen Sainsburys! You won't get what I want at Tesco's.

Tris Sorry, sorry I mean Sainsburys.

Glen Right - well give me a kiss and I'll be off.

Tris *(Gives her a long, passionate kiss).* Don't suppose there's any chance of you having the morning off?

Glen No! Now get off *(She laughs)* You're insatiable - that's why I don't like leaving you with those boring, old tarts around here.

Wendy *(Off)* Coo-ee - it's only me - Wendy.

Glen Speak of the devil..... *(Wendy enters)*

Wendy Oh hello Glen - I thought you'd be gone.

Glen Obviously.

Tris She's just going. Bye dear. *(He gives her a peck on the cheek)*

Glen Yes - right - see you tonight. Sainsburys.

Tris Have a good day. *(Glen exits)*

Wendy What about Sainsburys?

Tris Oh I've got to go to Tesco's to do the weekly shop today.

Wendy But she said Sainsburys.

Tris Yes she always does and I always go to Tesco's - it's nearer. She never notices. You're early today.

Wendy Not that early - it's gone ten.

Tris So it is, we had a bit of a late night you see. *(He starts to clear up)*

Wendy So I see. *(She helps to clear it onto a big tray)*

Tris That's better. *(He exits with the rubbish)* *(Off)* I'm glad you came early - I've got a big favour to ask you.

Wendy Really? Something intimate I hope.

Tris *(Entering)* I suppose it is a bit - well - personal.

Wendy *(Getting interested)* Tell me more.

Tris I never told you this, but I've got a bit of an obsession.

Wendy Really? How long has this been going on?

Tris Oh - for some years. Mind you, it's got a lot worse of late. I'm afraid I just can't get it out of my mind. I've got to the point where I must do something about it or I shall explode.

Wendy Oh I know how you feel what with Colin being away for months at a time.

Tris No - I don't think it's the same thing at all.

Wendy No I suppose not. It's much more intense with men isn't it?

Tris What is?

Wendy Obsessing about it. Why don't you confide in me. I can assure you I'm very ready to help.

Tris You musn't mention it to Glen.

Wendy I wasn't going to.

Tris She's so fed up with it. She gets angry if I even mention it.

Wendy Oh I see it all now. You must be very frustrated. It's a cruel thing to do to a fit man in his prime. I hope you don't mind me saying that.

Tris Eh? No - not at all. So you would be prepared to help then? I know it's an imposition but I can assure you I would be most grateful.

Wendy Now don't worry - I told you I would. Do you want to go into the bedroom?

Tris Oh no - you stay here - I'll go and get my equipment.

Wendy Equipment?

Tris There's not a lot. That's the beauty of this system - it's all so portable.

Wendy Suddenly - I'm not altogether sure about this Tris.

Tris Oh don't let me down now Wend - I've been waiting for months to try this out. It's quite painless - well - I think it is. I haven't had anyone to try it on yet of course.

Wendy No - now I think about it - I'm very busy today. Perhaps another time, I've got to go.

Tris Don't worry I quite understand. What I do is quite revolutionary. I'll ask Sarah when she comes. She's always up for anything isn't she - adventurous wouldn't you say?

Wendy Sarah? Well no more adventurous than I am.

Tris You know her - she's game for anything. We'll wait for her to come round and see what she says.

Wendy No – hang on – I said I'd do it and I will.

Tris Great! You won't regret this Wendy. I'll go and get my gear.

Wendy Right. Shall I get undressed?

Tris What?

Wendy Well – you know – or anything.....

Tris No that's not necessary. It should work with clothes on or off. *(he exits)*

Wendy *(to herself)* What am I letting myself in for? I didn't think Tris was kinky like that. Still – bless him – if Glen won't help him and lets him get all frustrated I feel it's my duty – as a friend. *(She lays back on the sofa)*

Tris *(Off)* Here I come – ready or not.

Wendy Oo-er. *(She closes her eyes)*.

Tris Here we are then. It won't take long to get it ready. Made yourself comfortable I see. I'm afraid you'll have to set up straight for us to get the best effect..

Wendy *(Sitting up)* Will I?

Tris Yes – well at least I think so. As I said, I haven't tried it out before. This will be the culmination of a long felt dream.

Wendy Really?

Tris *(Fiddling with the laptop and wires)* Oh yes – I must have first started thinking about it when I was at Uni. Glen's right. It has become an obsession. It's why I lost my job at JB Associates trying to push this principle on to some of the people there.

Wendy What you're saying is – they weren't very keen on the idea.

Tris No – no imagination – that's the problem. I told them – this would bring so much pleasure and satisfaction to thousands. It could change peoples' lives, bring back that personal communication that is missing, in short, to give people guaranteed fulfilment.

Wendy Really? Well I'm all for that – we all need fulfilment and satisfaction – I know I do.

Tris I'm glad you feel like that Wendy. You will be the first of thousands to try it. What a thing to tell your grandchildren about eh?

Wendy

Well – perhaps not.