

- HAROLD *(Looks at cupboard.)* It's certainly not moving.
- BARBARA Dockers, miners, train drivers, dinner ladies. I don't mind the TUC striking when the Tories are in, but we're Labour, they're pissing on their own doorstep!
- HAROLD What about management? They have to take responsibility. It takes two to tango.
- BARBARA Don't try and bamboozle me with choreography! I don't care that you're Prime Minister, Prime Minister. You've given me this job, you have to let me do it my way, or I'll turn on you, and you don't want that because I'm like a she-lion. And have you ever seen a she-lion drag down a wildebeest?
- HAROLD I'm from Huddersfield.
- BARBARA Get out.
- HAROLD I would if I could.
- BARBARA That door there! Men!
- (End of scene.)*

Music No. 9a: INTO THE BERNI INN

SCENE TEN

A Berni Inn. RITA and CONNIE sat at the table reading menus. MONTY is in the background laughing and drinking.

- RITA This menu's like reading the Karma Sutra. Everything sounds nice, but I can't picture any of it.
- (They laugh. CONNIE takes a couple of pills from a pot and washes them down with water. RITA sees this.)*
- RITA Headache?
- CONNIE Yeah.

RITA You're lying.

CONNIE Yeah.

MONTY (*Shouting.*) Oi! Garçon!

 (*WAITER goes over to MONTY.*)

RITA Why's Monty not sitting with us?

CONNIE He stays at the hotel next door.

RITA Hotel?! He only lives in Barking.

CONNIE You don't understand expenses, do you?

RITA So come on did you and Monty ever?

CONNIE Once. Scarborough, 1953, Labour Party conference.

RITA But only once. You learned your lesson, eh?!

CONNIE Yeah, don't drink and operate heavy machinery.

RITA Woo! It's all going off behind the curtains! Why didn't you ever marry?

CONNIE Monty?

RITA I dunno, he can't have been the only single fella in Essex.

CONNIE He was a good dancer, but I didn't love him and I'd already married the Labour Party, and a lousy husband he turned out to be.

RITA You was tryna change the world.

CONNIE I didn't want to be my mum. The drudge, the grind, low wages, factory work.

RITA Cheer up, Con, you can't be miserable in the Berni Inn! You done a lot. You got us a grievance procedure.

Music No. 10: SAME OLD STORY

CONNIE A grievance procedure is not changing the world.

CONNIE
YESTERDAY WHEN I STARTED OUT
I KNEW IT ALL, I HAD NO DOUBT
LIFE WAS THERE IN FRONT OF ME
“JUST BE WHO YOU WANT TO BE”

STARTED WORK WAY TOO YOUNG
SAME AS ALL THE BLOKES
WORKED OUR FINGERS TO THE BONE
MAKING DO BY MAKING JOKES

BUT NOW I'M OLDER, LOOKING BACK
IT DOESN'T SEEM SO FUNNY
SAME WORK, SAME HOURS
BUT HALF THE MONEY

IT'S AN AGE-OLD STORY
IT'S AN AGE-OLD TALE
STILL THE SAME OLD REASONS
THAT ARE THERE TO MAKE US FAIL

SECOND AT THE TABLE
PICKING UP THE CRUMBS
CHANGE IS ALWAYS PROMISED
BUT SOMEHOW NEVER COMES

I JOINED THE LABOUR PARTY
ON THE SHOULDERS OF THE GREAT
EMANCIPATED TEENAGER
WHO DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO WAIT

FIERCE, FEISTY, FULL OF FIGHT
A WARRIOR A DREAMER
THIRTY YEARS ON,
I'M STILL A UNION CONVENOR

YOU ALL SAID TO ME
 "STICK WITH IT, WE NEED YA"
 WHAT DID I ACHIEVE?
 THE GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

IT'S AN AGE-OLD STORY
 IT'S AN AGE-OLD TALE
 STILL THE SAME OLD REASONS
 THAT ARE THERE TO MAKE US FAIL

ALWAYS ON THE OUTSIDE
 KICKING AT THE DOOR
 LOOKS LIKE A GLASS CEILING
 FROM DOWN HERE ON THE FLOOR

CONNIE
 IT'S ALWAYS BEEN A WHISPER
 BUT CAN'T IT BE A ROAR
 ALL THOSE UNHEARD VOICES
 THAT WON'T TAKE NO MORE

WOMEN
 AAHH . . . (*etc.*)

OH, RITA, PLEASE WAKE UP
 I NEED YOU TO SEE
 IT AIN'T ABOUT THE MONEY
 IT'S EQUALITY

CONNIE This doesn't have to be just about C grade.

RITA What do you mean?

CONNIE If we got C grade tomorrow, we'd still be earning less than a man on C grade.

RITA Eighty-seven per cent. That ain't too bad.

CONNIE Did Martin Luther King ask for eighty-seven per cent of rights for black people?

RITA You know they shot him? I'm here to get C grade back, nothing else. Women have never had equal pay.

CONNIE What about your Sharon?

RITA She's six.

CONNIE And when she's twenty-six do you want her to be on eighty-seven per cent?

RITA She wants to be a doctor. Ha!

CONNIE She could be. Nothing changes if it isn't challenged.

CONNIE
 YOU CAN THE CHANGE THE STORY
 YOU CAN CHANGE THE TALE
 DON'T FALL FOR ALL THOSE REASONS
 THAT ARE THERE TO MAKE US FAIL
 WE HAVE TO MAKE IT OUR TIME
 CAN'T OUR TIME BE NOW?
 AIN'T GOT TIME FOR WAITING
 RITA MAKE IT NOW

(End of scene.)

SCENE ELEVEN

The management offices at Warley. Initially there are the three managers sat at a table. One of these is MR HOPKINS. MONTY, CONNIE and RITA arrive in the corridor outside this office.

Music No. 11: UNION SONG – Reprise

MEN / WOMEN
 BROTHERS AND SISTERS,
 COMRADES EVERYONE
 FIGHT FOR YOUR FUTURE
 AND THE UNION
 WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO MANAGEMENT (*manage-munt*)
 EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM'S
 A TOTAL . . .