

RITA I'm sorry. I didn't know.

MONTY She was a very private woman. Bit old fashioned in some ways. And she wanted to marry for love, I guess, and she knew that she didn't love me. So that's was it for her. Some people get hitched just not to be lonely, but she was a very principled, you might say, idealistic woman. A dreamer.

RITA That's got my name on it.
(An envelope.)

MONTY Yeah. That's for you.

RITA I think I know what it is.

MONTY I've read it. It's bloody brilliant.

RITA Is it? Oh Jeez.
(RITA takes the envelope.)

MONTY She put her whole life into that speech. *(Pause.)* I let her down, you know.

RITA No, Monty, no.

MONTY I've let all you girls down.

RITA How's that?

MONTY Rita, in a million ways.
(End of scene.)

Music No. 17b: SAME OLD STORY – Scene Change

SCENE TEN

A playground or park. EDDIE, STAN and BARRY are sat on the park bench.

BARRY D'you remember Len Wilson? Red hair, freckles, glass eye.

- STAN No. What he look like?
- EDDIE I know him. West Ham.
- BARRY His wife becomes Lord Mayor of Hornchurch so Len starts calling himself Lady Mayoress.
- EDDIE Why?
- STAN To get his expenses.
- BARRY He gets himself a handbag to carry all her stuff around, and because he's got a handbag, he gets himself matching high heels.
- EDDIE This is about me, you're having a go at me aren't you.
- BARRY What happened to Len?
- STAN He ended up having a sex change operation he didn't want.
- EDDIE Alright! Alright! What's your point, Stan?
- STAN Behind every powerful woman, there's a man waiting for surgery.
- BARRY Sort her out, Eddie. We've all got mouths to feed.
- (Enter RITA. She is carrying the speech envelope from the previous scene. EDDIE is there, seemingly alone.)*
- RITA I'm sorry I'm late.
- EDDIE I knew you'd be late.
- RITA Where are the kids? I'll take them.
- EDDIE They're coming back to Mum's.
- RITA The arrangement was that I'd pick them up from here.
- EDDIE Yeah, but being a mother to my kids ain't enough for you, is it? Saving the world –

- RITA – Eddie, I've got to do this. I've got a lot on my plate at the moment, but that won't last forever. I've got to do this.
- EDDIE Kids need looking after, feeding, washing, I dunno.
- RITA No, I know you, Eddie, it's cos you didn't have a clean shirt. Ironed the way your mother does.
- EDDIE Don't blame me, you done this.
- RITA You stole my kids away in the middle of the night!
- EDDIE It wasn't the middle of the night. It was the middle of the night when you got home and first noticed them missing.
- (A ball bounces across the stage, chased by SHARON.)*
- RITA Hiya m'love.
- EDDIE We're going back to Gran's.
- SHARON I don't want to go. Grandma licks her plate!
- EDDIE If you'd been through the war, you'd lick your plate.
- (Enter GRAHAM.)*
- GRAHAM Hiya mum.
- RITA Hi. Do you understand why I can't be at your concert?
- GRAHAM It's alright.
- EDDIE Come on, get your stuff, we're going.
- RITA You've got to go with your dad, babe.
- EDDIE Graham! Come on now!
- RITA *(To SHARON.)* It's just for this week, Sugar. I promise.
- EDDIE It's broken.
- RITA What's broken?

EDDIE Our marriage.

RITA You walked out.

EDDIE I didn't walk out, you did.

Music No. 18: WE NEARLY HAD IT ALL

RITA
I'M SUPPOSED TO HATE YOU BUT I DON'T
YOU WANT ME TO BEG YOU BUT I WON'T

EDDIE
I'M AT A LOSS –

RITA
I'M AT A LOSS TOO

RITA / EDDIE
SOMETHING WE AGREE ON

EDDIE
IS THAT IT? ARE WE THROUGH?

RITA Looks like it, doesn't it.

(EDDIE *exits.*)

RITA
I'M STILL HERE, I AIN'T GIVEN UP
I'M STILL A MOTHER AND A WIFE
BUT ALL THIS HAPPENED SUDDENLY
IT JUST DROPPED INTO OUR LIFE

I CAN'T LET ANYONE DOWN
SO WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
DON'T TURN YOUR BACK ON ME NOW
COS NOW'S THE TIME THAT I NEED YOU

I THOUGHT I HAD THE FUTURE
IN THE PALM OF MY HAND

I THOUGHT YOU WERE BESIDE ME
AND OUR DREAMS WERE ALL PLANNED

THOUGHT WE WOULD WE STAY TOGETHER
NOW THE WORLD'S COLD AND SMALL
THOUGHT THAT WE'D GROW OLD AND GRAY TOGETHER;
OH BABE, WE NEARLY HAD IT ALL

AND WHAT ABOUT OUR DAUGHTER
I WANT TO LOOK AT HER AND SEE
THAT HER FUTURE'S FULL OF HOPE
SO SHE DON'T END UP LIKE ME

I'M FINDING A VOICE FOR THE FIRST TIME –
I NEVER KNEW I HAD BEFORE
WELL IT STARTED AS A WHISPER

RITA / WOMEN
BUT IT'S GOT TO BE A ROAR

WE THOUGHT WE HAD THE FUTURE
IN THE PALM OF OUR HANDS
WE THOUGHT YOU WERE BESIDE US
AND WE HAD IT ALL PLANNED

WE KNOW LIFE ISN'T EASY
BUT WE COULD HAVE STOOD TALL
INSTEAD WE SEE THE MOMENTS
WHEN WE ALMOST HAD IT ALL

RITA
IT DON'T MEAN I DON'T LOVE YOU
IT DON'T MEAN I DON'T CARE
BUT I'LL SEE THIS THROUGH
WITH OR WITHOUT YOU THERE

(EDDIE and the KIDS are gone. RITA leaves. She takes the speech with her. End of scene.)