

BARBARA You're saying no to ninety-two per cent?

RITA I'd say no to ninety-nine per cent.

BARBARA You're tough, Rita, but you've got a real fight on your hands because you'll never change Government policy without the backing of the TUC.

RITA I'm going to Eastbourne, to the TUC.

BARBARA I'll see you there, then.

**Music No. 17a: INTO THE HOSPITAL**

RITA Come on, girls.

Girls See you, Barbara. / Bye. / Thanks, Barbara.

BERYL I could murder a pint. Anyone?

CLARE What was all that in there about eating elephants?  
god's / christ's / pete's

BERYL Oh Clare, for fuck sake.

*(They're out the door. End of scene.)*

SCENE NINE

*The hospital. The screens around CONNIE'S bed are open but there is no bed there. MONTY is in the bedside chair, praying, in a secular kind of way. Enter RITA, carrying some fruit and a magazine.*

RITA Where's Connie? *(Beat.)* Monty?! Oh, no. No, no, no!

MONTY We was talking. She seemed quite chipper. She smiled at me, and I was talking, and I held her hand, and then I realised she'd gone. *(Beat.)* I loved her.

RITA Yeah, we all loved her, Monty.

MONTY No, no. I loved her. I asked her to marry me, 1956. We had a thing, but it weren't love, not for her it weren't.

- 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.