

And don't ever turn round and say I never gives you a choice.

(A defeated TERRY joins KAREN.)

TERRY Let's do it, Karen. Let's tell her straight away: now, right now.

KAREN (turning) No, Terry, no.

TERRY But I'll never get into Canada with a pervert label stuck all over me, will I? Well, will I?

KAREN This is all so stupid. There must be a way out.

TERRY (angrily) Look, I'm not being convicted of stealing a girl's suspender belt; I'm not having people say I'm abnormal. I've got my pride.

KAREN But there's Shirley and Tom. They'll tell the truth. And there's the clothing. We'll tell the police about the burnt clothing.

TERRY (fortornly as he sits D.L.) I won't stand a chance; not if they haul me off to the station. Remember the last time?

KAREN (quietly as she gazes at TERRY) What is it, Terry? Are you just looking for an excuse to stay? Don't you want to go? Would you rather wait for her to forgive you? For what you did twenty odd years ago? And to hell with me and the children. Is that it? Have you just been kidding me along about Canada?

TERRY (lame) No, but, Mum, she did say we'd be easing off on the housebuilding. Well, didn't she? And that's what was getting me down.

(KAREN sits on the sofa and looks at TERRY before turning to gaze bitterly at MUM.)

KAREN God, you've had a good anniversary, haven't you?

MUM (cheerfully) And it's not over yet.

TERRY All right, Mum. Get us out of it.

MUM What, so that Karen can give me the old two-fingers when I've done it, and rush home to pack? No, I now want an I.O.U. for five thousand two hundred and fifty quid.

(She opens her evening bag and takes out pen and paper.)

KAREN (staring at MUM) But that's Terry's money.

MUM It is: until I get the I.O.U.

KAREN But you gave it to Terry, told him to blow the lot.

MUM I bet he's sorry he didn't take Mum's advice?

KAREN (with a helpless gesture) Do as she says, Terry. Write it out.

MUM No, I'd prefer it coming from you, Karen; seeing as how you're the one who's got it stowed away.

(There is silence while TERRY and KAREN stare at each other.)

TERRY All right, write it out.

KAREN (taking up the pen) Will ink do, Mum? Or do you want it in blood?

(MUM chuckles as KAREN starts to write the I.O.U. Suddenly two almighty screams of horror from SHIRLEY are heard. KAREN, TERRY and HENRY rise in some alarm. HENRY goes into the hall.)

MUM (with a pained expression) I do hope this isn't one of her mannerisms. It's very off-putting.

(Another scream is heard.)

HENRY (coming D.C.) Sounds as if it's coming from your room.

MUM Oh, well, in that case, she probably came across my glass eye. I left it on the pillow.

KAREN You said you lost it in the bonfire.

MUM Don't start confusing the issue, Karen. I've just told you, I left it on my pillow.

TERRY Have you signed that I.O.U. yet?

KAREN (still gazing at MUM) What?

(She sits and writes out the I.O.U. Another scream is heard.)

MUM Yes, it sounds as if finding it has given her a little shock.

HENRY (gazing at MUM) You shouldn't have done that, Mum.

MUM Well, dear, by rights she shouldn't really be in my bed, should she? (To KAREN.) Done it yet, love?

(As KAREN gives her the I.O.U.)

Thank you. Very sweet of you.

(HENRY crosses D.L. A very worried-looking TOM enters the room as MUM puts the I.O.U. into her bag.)

MUM Still looking at my glass eye, is she?

TOM (troubled as he picks up the telephone and dials) I think it's given her a miscarriage.

KAREN (crossing to door) Oh, no! She must be frightened out of her wits.

MUM (to TOM) What do you think you're doing?