

IT AIN'T ABOUT YOU
 IT AIN'T ABOUT THE LAW
 IT'S THREE THOUSAND FAMILIES
 UNEMPLOYED AND POOR
 DON'T LET THE BASTARDS
 GRIND YOU DOWN
 THE BASTARDS GRIND YOU DOWN
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Music No. 14a: STORM CLOUDS – Scene Change

SCENE FOUR

Hospital. RITA and EDDIE with flowers. EDDIE is carrying motorbike helmets.

EDDIE If you're quick, we can be home by two.

RITA Eddie?! Connie's got breast cancer, I'm not "gonna be quick".

EDDIE I din't mean it like that, just that, you know, my mum's got the kids until five, that'll give us a bit of time.

RITA On our own.

EDDIE Yeah. Go on. I'm alright. Exchange and Mart, and I'm on a promise!

(RITA kisses him, it feels like a promise. EDDIE sits and reads. RITA moves on to the ward and finds CONNIE, who is in a bed with a typewriter on her lap, tapping away painfully slowly. RITA shows the flowers, triumphantly.)

RITA Da, da!

CONNIE They'll take them away. There's bacteria in flower water.

RITA Don't drink it then!

- CONNIE I feel alright now, but they won't let me out.
- RITA You're in no fit state to go nowhere.
- CONNIE I was going to Redbridge. They've got to Sandra. She's been offered marketing work.
- RITA I was gonna tell you that.
- CONNIE Ford dealership Redbridge, today, three o'clock. Talk her out of it, Rita. I know solidarity sounds like a slogan. But it's all we've got.
- RITA Oh no. Today is not a good day.
- CONNIE Sandra doing cash work for Ford is not solidarity.
- RITA Alright, alright, leave it with me.
- CONNIE You can get a 145 –
- RITA – Eddie's here with the bike.
- CONNIE And The TUC conference. Saturday.
- RITA You can forget about that.
- CONNIE I want you to give my speech.
- RITA Piss off! The TUC?! I can't. Saturday is Graham's school concert, he's singing.
- CONNIE There'll be other concerts.
- RITA You're not a mother, Connie, you don't understand!
- CONNIE The reason women don't have their rights is 'cos they always put the children first.

(CONNIE *types slowly.*)

This is the speech. I'll have it finished by 1971 at this rate.

RITA You're a bully, Connie Riley, but I love you. I'll pick it up in the morning.

(RITA leaves. EDDIE stands, seeing her coming.)

RITA Eddie. Promise me you won't go into one.

EDDIE What is it?

RITA I need to get to Redbridge for three. Sandra's doing a promotion out there.

EDDIE What about the us?!

RITA And I can't do Saturday.

EDDIE It's Graham's concert day. He's singing.

RITA One of us gotta make a speech, at the TUC. Connie can't.

EDDIE And you're the only woman in the world who can?

RITA Eddie. This is important to me! It's about –

EDDIE – I know what it's about, but you're not listening to me! We need you. The kids need you.

RITA Eddie, this isn't the time.

EDDIE No, it is the time and it needs saying . . . I know you think I ain't bothered about important things like wot you are, and that I'm only interested in the bike and Millwall, but I'm trying to support you in this. Rita, I ain't out every night on the booze, I don't sleep around . . .

RITA Oh I married a bleeding saint, did I?

EDDIE I never hit you or the kids.

RITA You want me to be grateful for that? That, Eddie, is how it should be.

(RITA storms off. End of scene.)