

# **Waiting for a Train**

A play by

**David Muncaster**

# Waiting for a Train

*Authors Note:*

*This play covers a very serious subject but the overall tone should not be too sombre. Indeed the love of Vicky for Ester and Lucy for Pam should be taken as a sign that there is always hope and the atmosphere should generally be cheerful. The exception is the station announcer's speech at the end which should be deadpan. The statistics are courtesy of the Institute of Psychiatry, Kings College, London. Directors are at liberty to omit the last line if they wish.*

*The setting should be kept simple. It is established early on that the action takes place at a railway station so one or two artefacts that suggest a platform is all that is required.*

*Dedication: for Stacey.*

## ***Cast (in order of appearance)***

VICKY - aged 18 - 30

ESTER - aged 18 - 30

PAM - aged 35 - 45

LUCY - aged 16 - 20

STATION ANNOUNCER – any age or gender

## *Synopsis of Scenes*

Act One – A morning in summer

Act Two – The following day

*Time: The present*

*Setting: A rural railway station platform*

## Act One

*ESTER is dressed in blouse and jeans. One too many buttons on her blouse are undone.. She is tugging down on the waist band of her jeans then hiking up her thong. She bends forward and feels her behind to find that she has failed to achieve the 'whale tail' that she was after. VICKY enters. The pair interject their conversation with their own version of Waiting for Godot. No reference is made to this, it is obviously something they have done many times before.*

**VICKY:** Oh, so you made it then.

**ESTER:** Yeah.

**VICKY:** So?

**ESTER:** So what?

**VICKY:** So what happened to you?

**ESTER:** Nothing happened to me. I just got bored. All right? It's always the same when we go round to Simon's. He's never got enough booze in and he's never got anything else in.

**VICKY:** I thought you were packing that in.

**ESTER:** What? (*VICKY looks at her.*) Yeah, whatever.

**VICKY:** I told you. I saw a report.

**ESTER:** Vic. Everything is bad for you ok? A bit of weed isn't going to hurt me. It's almost legal for God's sake.

**VICKY:** But it's been linked to your... well there are side effects.

**ESTER:** I'm a big girl ok? I'm fine. And the point is there wasn't any, if you remember. Not whilst I was there anyway.

**VICKY:** Where did you stay last night then?

**ESTER:** That would be telling.

**VICKY:** You alright?

**ESTER:** Yeah. Course.

**VICKY:** I worry about you.

**ESTER:** Oh, get off.

**VICKY:** It's true, you need looking after you do. Where would you be without me eh?

**ESTER:** Whatever. Does this look alright? *(She bends over to show VICKY her attempted 'whale tail'.)*

**VICKY:** Sorry dear you're not really my type.

**ESTER:** Shut up! How's my thong?

**VICKY:** Well, looks clean from here but I don't want to get too close.

**ESTER:** Sod you! I'll do it myself.

**VICKY:** I should leave it; you look like a tart as it is.

**ESTER:** You what? *(VICKY indicates ESTER'S blouse.)* Oh, thanks *(She buttons the blouse up.)*

**VICKY:** *(Sitting and taking out her mobile phone.)* You know, it's a funny thing.

**ESTER:** *(Still fiddling with the waist band of her jeans.)* What?

**VICKY:** I got a message but I can't find it.

**ESTER:** *(Finally happy that she has achieved the look she was after.)* A message from who? *(She sits next to VICKY.)*

**VICKY:** Don't know do I? I can't find it.

**ESTER:** Perhaps it was a message from God.

**VICKY:** Do me a favour.

**ESTER:** Or from Simon.

**VICKY:** I doubt that. Last time I saw him he was using the *porcelain* telephone. *(They laugh.)* That's why he's never got enough booze in. He's such a light weight himself. *(She continues to try to find the message on her 'phone.)* So where did you go last night?

**ESTER:** Told you. Mind your own business.

**VICKY:** Oh, can you work this thing? (*She passes her 'phone to ESTER.*) Well you haven't been home, that's for certain. Unless you're wearing the same clothes two days running. Let me think, who else left the party...

**ESTER:** (*Passing VICKY the 'phone.*) Here, there's nothing on it.

**VICKY:** (*Putting the 'phone away.*) Perhaps it was a message from God then. Telling us to repent our sins. On second thoughts, the message was probably for you.

**ESTER:** Get lost.

**VICKY:** (*Standing and doing a bad impression of a vicar.*) Come my child. Jesus died so that you may live!

**ESTER:** You used to be into all that didn't you?

**VICKY:** (*Sitting.*) I wasn't!

**ESTER:** Yes you were. You kept the bible under your pillow, I saw it.

**VICKY:** I didn't!

**ESTER:** I saw it Vic! I bet you used to read it every night before you went to sleep.

**VICKY:** Get lost.

**ESTER:** Like a good little Christian.

**VICKY:** Bollocks. I'm going.

**ESTER:** Oh Vic!

**VICKY:** Well, stop being stupid then.

**ESTER:** Well get off if you like. If you're going to be in a mood.

**VICKY:** I can't. We've got to get into town.

**ESTER:** Oh yes.

**VICKY:** Yes.

**ESTER:** I'd almost forgotten.

VICKY: Don't worry Est. It'll be alright.

ESTER: Do I really need to go.

VICKY: It's for the best.

ESTER: But I'm fine.

VICKY: You are now, yes. But, well you're not always. You know that.

ESTER: Are you sure he's going to be there?

VICKY: What do you mean?

ESTER: I mean, what if we go all the way into town and he isn't there?

VICKY: Of course he will be there.

ESTER: But what if he isn't?

VICKY: You've got an appointment.

ESTER: So?

VICKY: You've got a letter telling you to come.

ESTER: Yes.

VICKY: So he'll be there.

ESTER: But what if he isn't?

VICKY: He will be.

ESTER: But what if he *isn't*?

VICKY: HE WILL BE!

ESTER: *BUT WHAT IF HE ISN'T?*

VICKY: Well... oh I don't know Est, we'll just have to go back tomorrow.

ESTER: And then?

VICKY: And then what?

**ESTER:** What if he isn't there tomorrow

**VICKY:** We'll keep going back until he is there. What's the matter with you? Why are you so convinced he's not going to be there?

**ESTER:** I'm not convinced he's not going to be there. I'm just saying that it's a possibility that's all.

**VICKY:** It's a possibility yes, but it's unlikely isn't it.

**ESTER:** Well, he wasn't there last time was he?

**VICKY:** We haven't been before.

**ESTER:** Yes we have.

**VICKY:** When?

**ESTER:** Yesterday.

**VICKY:** What?

**ESTER:** He wasn't there when we went yesterday.

**VICKY:** We didn't go yesterday.

**ESTER:** We did.

**VICKY:** Rubbish!

**ESTER:** No it isn't.

**VICKY:** We didn't go yesterday.

**ESTER:** So what did we do yesterday?

**VICKY:** Er...

**ESTER:** Well?

**VICKY:** I can't remember. Does it matter?

**ESTER:** Course it matters. What day were we supposed to go to see him?

**VICKY:** Today of course.

**ESTER:** You're sure it's not tomorrow.

**VICKY:** Yeah.

**ESTER:** But you just said we are going tomorrow.

**VICKY:** I didn't.

**ESTER:** Yes you did. You said, if he's not there today, we will go back tomorrow.

**VICKY:** Well OK, yeah. But he'll be there today.

**ESTER:** But what if he was expecting us yesterday?

**VICKY:** What?

**ESTER:** If he was expecting us yesterday, and we didn't show up, he may not be there today, or tomorrow, or ever again.

**VICKY:** But... Whoa, hang on a minute, you just said that you reckon we were there yesterday.

**ESTER:** Well, I think we might have been. I can't be sure.

**VICKY:** Oh! Look. You've got an appointment for today OK? Not yesterday, not tomorrow, today. If, by the remotest possibility he doesn't happen to be there today they will make you another appointment. I was joking when I said we would go back tomorrow. If he's not there today, we'll make another appointment, you'll get another letter and we'll go back when...at the appointed time and date. OK? *(She stands up and paces up and down. ESTER starts to apply some make-up. After a while VICKY prods ESTER playfully on the arm.)* Darren!

**ESTER:** What the...

**VICKY:** Darren must have left the party about the same time as you!

**ESTER:** Do you mind. *(Referring to her make-up.)* Look at what you've done!

**VICKY:** *(Sitting.)* Darren eh. I suppose he's not bad looking. Not much of a conversationalist but I don't suppose that would trouble you.

**ESTER:** Darren who?

**VICKY:** Don't play the innocent with me. What's he like between the sheets then. Come on, tell your Auntie Vic.



**ESTER:** I didn't leave with Darren. If you must know I went to the pub.

**VICKY:** The pub?

**ESTER:** Yeah.

**VICKY:** The Crown?

**ESTER:** No.

**VICKY:** You sure?

**ESTER:** Yes! I wasn't buying. If it puts your mind at rest, the whole evening was hash free.

**VICKY:** So why go to the pub?

**ESTER:** Why not?

**VICKY:** Well, we'd got booze there. Not exactly drowning in it I grant you but it was there and it was free. What did you go to the pub for?

**ESTER:** So I could tell you a joke.

**VICKY:** What?

**ESTER:** This girl walks into a pub...

**VICKY:** *(Standing.)* Fuck you!

**ESTER:** I'm telling you a joke.

**VICKY:** Just fuck off. *(Pause)* What's the matter with you? I'm trying to be friendly here. Why are you being so... so evasive?

**ESTER:** *(Standing.)* Why are you being so nosey?

**VICKY:** I'm not being nosey. I've just got to keep my eye on you that's all. In case you go off the rails again. *(They look at the railway track.)*

**ESTER:** Oh, Funny!

**VICKY:** I didn't mean that.

**ESTER:** You fuck off. Just leave me alone will you?

**VICKY:** Ester, I'm sorry.

**ESTER:** I said FUCK OFF!

**VICKY:** All right. I will! (*VICKY exits. ESTER walks to the exit then returns and sits. After a moment VICKY returns*) Est. You OK?

**ESTER:** Yeah.

**VICKY:** Sorry.

**ESTER:** That's alright.

**VICKY** (*Sitting.*) Do you want to talk about it?

**ESTER:** Not really.

**VICKY:** Come on Est. I'm going to keep putting my foot in it otherwise. Let's get it out in the open.

**ESTER:** There isn't much to tell really. I decided to kill myself. I lay on the railway line. I waited. No train came. I got bored. I left.

**VICKY:** You wouldn't have really though would you. I mean, if you heard a train coming you would have got out of the way wouldn't you?

**ESTER:** Don't know really. I suppose so.

**VICKY:** But you weren't, like, ill at the time. Or really depressed or anything were you?

**ESTER:** Depressed? No, I suppose not. Bored really. Bored with life.

**VICKY:** That's no reason to kill yourself though. You wouldn't have done it would you? Come on Est, I need to know.

**ESTER:** I guess not. I just wanted to see what it was like, you know. Taking a risk like that. I don't know if I could have got out of the way if a train *had* come along. I was just after a thrill. That's all.

**VICKY:** (*Not believing.*) I can think of other ways to get a thrill. (*Pause.*) And was it? A thrill?

**ESTER:** Yeah.

**VICKY:** Really?

**ESTER:** At first yeah. It was a real turn on to be honest. I felt so excited. For about 30 seconds. After that I just felt like a prat, so I got up and left.

**VICKY:** And then you got arrested.

**ESTER:** Bastard isn't it. (*Laughs.*) There's camera's everywhere these days. I could have just gone home otherwise, and you or nobody else would know about it. Anyway. There's no need to worry. I'm not going to try it again so you don't have to watch me twenty four seven. OK?

**VICKY:** Yeah, OK. But we will have to tell him.

**ESTER:** Who? (*VICKY gives her a look.*) Oh.

**VICKY:** He'll know what to do.

**ESTER:** Instant diagnosis is it?

**VICKY:** Oh no. He considers.

**ESTER:** Contemplates?

**VICKY:** Consults his colleagues.

**ESTER:** His relatives.

**VICKY:** His partners.

**ESTER:** His finances.

**VICKY:** Then he'll decide what's best.

**ESTER:** In the course of events.

**VICKY:** And advise you of his recommended course of action.

**ESTER:** It's his job.

**VICKY:** It is indeed.

**ESTER:** So how do we come into this?

**VICKY:** I'm sorry?

**ESTER:** How do we come in?

**VICKY:** Through the door!

**ESTER:** Funny!

**VICKY:** Shh.

**ESTER:** What?

**VICKY:** Shh. The train's coming.

**ESTER:** I can't hear anything.

**VICKY:** *(After a pause.)* No. It was just the wind in the trees.

**ESTER:** You freak me out sometimes you know. You got anything to eat. I'm starved.

**VICKY:** Here. *(She produces a 'fun size' Snickers.)* Have a Mars Bar.

**ESTER:** That's a Snickers

**VICKY:** Oh. *(She rummages in her bag pulling out several Snickers before finding a Mars Bar and passing it to ESTER.)* Here you go.

**ESTER:** Thanks. *(She unwraps and eats the Mars Bar.)* There's something I've got to ask.

**VICKY:** Oh?

**ESTER:** Yeah.

**VICKY:** Am I going to like it?

**ESTER:** Dunno.

**VICKY:** I'm not going to like it.

**ESTER:** The thing is... Honestly Vic. Do we have to go?

**VICKY:** Ah!

**ESTER:** I mean, what if we don't?

**VICKY:** But we agreed.

**ESTER:** I know but... (*Referring to the Mars Bar.*) God, this is disgusting. The more I eat the sicker I get.

**VICKY:** It's the opposite with me.

**ESTER:** What is?

**VICKY:** The first bite makes me feel sick but then I become accustomed to it.

**ESTER:** Well, that's the difference between you and me.

**VICKY:** No good if we're all the same.

**ESTER:** How boring that would be.

**VICKY:** We're individuals.

**ESTER:** Different tastes.

**VICKY:** Different habits.

**ESTER:** Different values.

**VICKY:** Different phobias.

**ESTER:** No use trying to fight it.

**VICKY:** We must accept who we are.

**ESTER:** We can't change.

**VICKY:** We shouldn't change.

**ESTER:** (*Offering VICKY the Mars Bar.*) Care to finish it?

**PAM** (*Off.*) COME ON YOU LITTLE SOD.

**ESTER:** What was that?

**VICKY:** Someone's coming.

**ESTER:** How do I look?

**VICKY:** You're fine.

*(They suddenly pick up their things and rush to the exit, dropping the Mars Bar in the process. ESTER returns and picks up the Mars Bar, then joins VICKY at one side of the stage. They stand and watch as LUCY is violently pushed onto the stage from the opposite side. She turns round and attempts to exit but is pushed back on by PAM who now enters carrying a shopping bag and camping stool and walks across the stage followed closely by LUCY who is wearing a baseball cap. On seeing VICKY and ESTER, PAM turns and pulls LUCY after her. She sets up the camping stool on the opposite side of the stage and sits. LUCY is holding several bags.. She sits by PAM's side on the floor but does not let go of the bags. VICKY makes to move across to them but is held back by ESTER.)*

**VICKY:** Let me go.

**ESTER:** Stay here.

**PAM:** Careful. She'll bite!

*(LUCY, who doesn't look in the least bit frightening, turns and smiles at VICKY.)*

**ESTER:** Do you think they're...

**VICKY:** What?

**ESTER:** You know. Do you think they're going to see him as well?

**VICKY:** I don't know. Ask them.

**ESTER:** You.

**VICKY:** *(To PAM.)* Er, excuse me but, are you...

**PAM:** What?

**VICKY:** Are you er...

**PAM:** Waiting for a train? Well this is a train station isn't it?

**VICKY:** Yes.

**PAM:** Well, rather answers the question doesn't it. I'm taking her for a job interview. She'll not go unless I take her myself.

**ESTER:** Ah.

**VICKY:** Doesn't she want a job?

**PAM:** Does anyone?

**VICKY:** Good point.

**PAM:** *(Standing.)* I'm Pam.

**VICKY:** *(Drawing closer with ESTER at her side.)* Hello.

**PAM:** Don't I know you?

**VICKY:** Oh I don't think so, we don't know anyone called Pam do we Est?

**ESTER:** Let me think. Pam. Er no, don't think so. I know a Sam.

**VICKY:** Oh yes, we know a Sam. But not a Pam, I don't think so.

**ESTER:** I knew a Dan once.

**VICKY:** Dan?

**ESTER:** Yeah Dan. He gave me the clap.

**VICKY:** *(Quickly.)* Er.. Ha, ha, yes, she's not from round here you know.

**PAM:** So. What did you want to ask.

**ESTER:** I'm sorry?

**PAM:** You were urging your friend here to ask me something.

**ESTER:** Oh, just...

**PAM:** Yes?

**ESTER:** It's just that we're going to see someone, you see, and I just wondered if you were going as well.

**PAM:** Going to see who?

**ESTER:** Well. This chap. Um. He's a pschi..

**VICKY:** *(Quickly.)* Never mind. Just a mistake. Don't worry about it.

**PAM:** I shan't.

**ESTER:** Anyway, you're not.

**PAM:** No.

**ESTER:** Just happen to be catching a train.

**PAM:** It's a free country.

**ESTER:** Yeah.

**PAM:** Anyone can buy a ticket.

*ESTER and VICKY look at each other.*

**ESTER:** Er, yeah.

**PAM:** Get up Lucy! (*LUCY stands.*) Sitting there on the floor like some tramp. May I introduce my daughter, Lucy.

**ESTER:** Hi.

**LUCY:** Hi.

**VICKY.** I'm Vicky. This is my friend Ester.

**LUCY:** Hi.

**VICKY:** Hi.

**PAM:** Hi.

**VICKY:** You're going for an interview?

**LUCY:** Yeah. That's right. (*Looking at PAM.*) A job in an office. Isn't that right mum?

**PAM:** I'm sure they don't want to hear...

**LUCY:** Working in a shop is no good. No prospects you see. What can you be? Shop manager? What use is that. No one cares that you daughter is a shop manager. People will just say 'Pam's daughter? She works in a shop' You could be the flipping chief executive of Sainsbury's, it wouldn't make any difference. They would still say you work in a shop. But if you work in an office you've got prospects you see. You can have a job title that no one understands so they think you must be important because you've got a job title that nobody understands. And working in a factory! Don't even think about it. Do you think my mum moved house so that I could go to a good school just to have me end up working in a



factory? You're having a laugh! I told her, there ain't any factories anymore, they're all in Pakistan, but she doesn't care anyway. So long as I have a nice job in a nice office with nice people, that'll be alright.

**PAM:** I told you she bites.

**VICKY:** *(To LUCY.)* Where do you want to work?

**LUCY:** Didn't you hear? In an office! *(She sits.)*

**VICKY:** Oh.

**PAM:** Have we missed this train? How long have you been here?

**ESTER:** Hours.

**PAM:** And the train hasn't been?

**ESTER:** Well, if it had we wouldn't be here would we?

**PAM:** Well, we can't wait all day. She has an interview to get to.

**VICKY:** We'd never had guessed.

*ESTER resumes her activity with the waistband of her jeans.*

**PAM:** Why do you young people do that. Why do you want to show off your knickers like that?

**ESTER:** It's a fashion statement.

**PAM:** That says what.

**VICKY:** I'm wearing a thong!

**ESTER:** Shut up.

**VICKY:** Well.

**ESTER:** It's just fashion alright? It just the same as wearing make-up.

**PAM:** Well, I always thought undergarments were just that. Under. I wouldn't let her walk around like that.

**ESTER:** It's a free country.

**VICKY:** She wears them to pull.

**ESTER:** I do not.

**VICKY:** You do. Were you trying to impress Darren last night. Waste of time if you ask me. He'd take anything he's offered. Unless... Oh, I know. It's for him isn't it?

**ESTER:** Who?

**VICKY:** Who we are going to see.

**ESTER:** Don't be stupid.

**VICKY:** God you tart Est! Considering what we're going for. And you've never even met the guy and you're after pulling him

**ESTER:** I'll swing for you in a minute.

**VICKY:** Come on, I'll 'ave yer (*The mood is jovial but PAM feels uncomfortable.*)

**PAM:** Well. Like I say, we can't wait all day. Come on Lucy, we'll leave these two to it and go to catch the bus instead.

**ESTER:** Oh don't go.

**VICKY:** I'm sure the train will be here any minute! The bus takes ages and it's such a walk.

**PAM:** Better we start now then.

**VICKY:** It's us isn't it? We disturbed you. Sorry. Look we'll go. Come on Est.

**ESTER:** What?

**VICKY:** We'll go and catch the bus.

**ESTER:** Why?

**VICKY:** Leave these people in peace.

**ESTER:** Why can't we go together?

**VICKY:** No its best this way.

**PAM:** Oh sit down don't be silly. Ok we'll wait.

**VICKY:** Are you sure?

**PAM:** Anyone would think you didn't like me. Sit down and we'll wait together. *(All four of them now sit.)* Mind you. We can't wait all day.

**ESTER:** Vic.

**VICKY:** What is it Est?

**ESTER:** Why doesn't she let go of them bags?

**VICKY:** I don't know. Ask her.

**ESTER:** And set her off again. Not likely.

**VICKY:** Well, I don't know do I? Ask *her*. *(Indicating PAM.)*

*PAM has been listening to this exchange with interest.*

**ESTER:** Excuse me.

**PAM:** Yes.

**ESTER:** We were wondering.

**PAM:** Yes.

**ESTER:** It doesn't matter.

**PAM:** Come on child, what is it?

**ESTER:** It's just. *(She mimics LUCY holding the bags.)*

**PAM:** I'm not with you.

**ESTER:** BAGS! WHY DOESN'T SHE LET GO OF THE FRIGGING BAGS?

**PAM:** Oh, why didn't you say so before. Let me see why could it be? Do you think she has been told not to let go of them? No that can't be it? That would be silly. No, there can only be one reason.

**VICKY:** And that is?

**PAM:** She's is trying to get round me. She's trying to be a cute little thing carrying mummy's bags for her and never letting go in case she loses them. Then I will be so

pleased with her I'll take her home and let her play in the room instead of taking her into town to *GET A JOB!*

**ESTER:** It's not that bad is it?

**PAM:** I'm sick of her round my feet all day. I just want her out of the way.

*LUCY whimpers.*

**VICKY:** Oh look at her. The poor thing. She's upset.

*ESTER takes a packet of tissues out of her handbag and offers them to LUCY who knocks them violently out of her hand.*

**ESTER:** You bitch!

**PAM:** I did say she bites.

**VICKY:** Are you OK?

**ESTER:** She bruised my arm.

**PAM:** She's proud you see. She's a good girl.

**VICKY:** But you want her out of your way.

**PAM:** She has to make her own way in the world.

**VICKY:** So you cast her aside.

**PAM:** I'm not. I'm taking her into town aren't I? I'm making sure she gets a good job. Gets a good start in life. Am I such a cruel mother?

*There is a pause.*

**ESTER:** Lovely day.

*VICKY suddenly gets up and leaves the stage calling as she goes.*

**VICKY:** I won't be long, save my place.

**ESTER:** Where are you going?

**PAM:** Where did I put my purse? (*She rummages.*)

**ESTER:** She can't help it you know. Bladder incontinence. Hope the toilets are open. Mind you, she'd be just as happy doing it in the bushes.

**PAM:** Oh God! Where's my purse?

**ESTER:** She must have been bursting.

**PAM:** Have you seen it?

**ESTER:** Come here.

**PAM:** What?

**ESTER:** Come here.

**PAM:** You want me to get up?

**ESTER:** That was the idea. *(PAM gets up and crosses to ESTER who puts her hand into PAM'S bag and pulls out her purse.)*

**PAM:** Oh. *(She sits next to ESTER.)*

*VICKY enters and kicks PAM'S stool away then paces about.*

**ESTER:** Oh. Better now?

**VICKY:** I told you to save my place! *(She places the stool back in its position and sits on it.)*

**PAM:** What's got into you?

**VICKY:** It was quite a simple instruction.

**ESTER:** I thought you were joking.

**VICKY:** God Est!

**ESTER:** Why are you bothered?

**VICKY:** I wanted a word!

**LUCY:** *(Suddenly.)* Mum. *(Standing.)* Come here. Let's go. The train isn't going to come. Let's go for the bus.

**ESTER:** *(After a pause.)* How do you know the train isn't going to come?

**LUCY:** Premonition.

**PAM:** Right, well, off we go then.

**ESTER:** Where are you going?

**PAM:** We can't wait here all day, we're going to get the bus.

**VICKY:** Adieu.

**PAM:** Adieu.

**ESTER:** Adieu.

**PAM:** Adieu.

**VICKY:** Adieu.

**PAM:** And Thank you.

**VICKY:** Thank you

**PAM:** Not at all.

**ESTER:** Oh yes.

**PAM:** Oh no.

**VICKY:** Oh yes.

**PAM:** Oh no.

**VICKY:** Ahem.

**PAM:** I seem to find departing difficult.

**VICKY:** But you must.

**PAM:** Yes, well. *(She prods LUCY and they both exit. VICKY and ESTER sit.)*

**VICKY:** Well that passed the time.

**ESTER:** It would have passed anyway.

**VICKY:** Well it made it pass quicker.

**ESTER:** Do you reckon?

**VICKY:** Yeah.

**ESTER:** Look, let's just go.

**VICKY:** What?

**ESTER:** Let's go.

**VICKY:** We can't.

**ESTER:** Why not?

**VICKY:** We have to wait for the train.

**ESTER:** Oh yes.

**VICKY:** My, haven't they changed

**ESTER:** What?

**VICKY:** Them two. Haven't they changed?

**ESTER:** Which two?

**VICKY:** Them two.

**ESTER:** But we've never met them before.

**VICKY:** Yes, but haven't they changed.

**ESTER:** (*Realizing that it's part of the game.*) Well, OK. Yes they have changed haven't they especially Lucy.

**VICKY:** Oh yes. Do you remember little Lucy?

**ESTER:** What a sweet little thing.

**VICKY:** How's she grown!

**ESTER:** She's just like her mum.

**VICKY:** Oh the poor thing, Don't say that.

**ESTER:** Oh, you are wicked.

**VICKY:** I'm only joking. She's a lovely woman. But my how she's changed.

**ESTER:** Barely recognizable.

**VICKY:** When you think what she's been through.

**ESTER:** Oh I know.

**VICKY:** You wouldn't wish it on anyone would you.

**ESTER:** Not even your worst enemy.

**VICKY:** But she's got through it though.

**ESTER:** Always was a battler.

**VICKY:** But she's changed though.

**ESTER:** Oh yes she has changed.

*There is an announcement over the station loudspeaker system.*

**ANNOUNCER:** This is an announcement for passengers awaiting the arrival of this morning's train. We regret to inform passengers that this service has been cancelled. The next service to depart from this platform will be tomorrow morning.

**VICKY:** Do you know how long we have been waiting here?

**ANNOUNCER:** We regret the delay in bringing you this announcement.

**VICKY:** It's a pack of lies. There never was a train and there won't be a train tomorrow neither!

**ANNOUNCER:** Normal service is expected to resume tomorrow.

**VICKY:** Bloody Network Rail!

**ANNOUNCER:** This morning's cancellation is due to a staff shortage suffered by the train operating company. Network Rail are not responsible for the cancellation of this service, but do apologize for any inconvenience caused.

**ESTER:** Well. That's that then. *(She stands and pulls up the back of her thong.)*

**VICKY:** Will you leave that bloody thing alone. Who the hell are you trying to impress?



**ESTER:** No one. There's no one to impress is there, cos we ain't bloody going nowhere!

**VICKY:** We'll come back tomorrow.

**ESTER:** What's the point?

**VICKY:** The Announcer said the train will come tomorrow.

**ESTER:** And you believe that?

**VICKY:** What else is there to believe.

**ESTER:** Jesus!

**VICKY:** Well, yes, we can believe in Jesus.

**ESTER:** Come here (*She sits.*)

**VICKY:** Yes, we'll come back tomorrow.

**ESTER:** But what about the appointment?

**VICKY:** We'll re-arrange it for tomorrow.

**ESTER:** We could get the bus.

**VICKY:** It's too late to go for the bus now. We'll go tomorrow.

**ESTER:** Come here. (*VICKY sits next to her and they huddle together*)

**VICKY:** How long have we known each other?

**ESTER:** All our lives.

**VICKY:** We've done everything together.

**ESTER:** Do you think we might have been better if we had gone our own way?

**VICKY:** I can't be certain.

**ESTER:** No, nothing is certain.

**VICKY:** No.

**ESTER:** Well. Shall we go?

**VICKY:** Yes. Let's go. (*They do not move.*)

**Curtain**

## Act Two

*VICKY enters and notices ESTER'S jeans on the ground. She picks them up and examines them then drops them to the ground. She looks off the wing and paces around in an agitated manner. She sits, then gets up and kicks the jeans off to the side. She then sits again, takes out her mobile phone and starts to compose a text message. ESTER enters wearing a dress.*

**VICKY:** We meet again.

**ESTER:** Leave me alone.

**VICKY:** What is it Est?

**ESTER:** Just leave me alone will you.

**VICKY:** What's go into you? *(Pause.)* Est?

**ESTER:** Don't leave me.

*VICKY crosses to ESTER and hugs her.*

**VICKY:** I'll never leave you Est. What's the matter? Where did you go last night?

**ESTER:** It doesn't matter

**VICKY:** *(Lifting ESTER'S face.)* Look at me Est. What is it? What's wrong?

**ESTER:** I saw you. I was watching you. You kicked my jeans away like you were kicking me away. Sit down and text your mates, you don't need me anymore.

**VICKY:** I was texting you, you idiot. To see where you had got to. Look. *(She shows ESTER the phone).* What's the matter Est? Has something happened? *(ESTER nods.)* What?

**ESTER:** After you went yesterday. I thought I'd just hang around here for a bit and I fell asleep, and when I woke up they were all around me.

**VICKY:** *(Understanding.)* How many?

**ESTER:** Ten of them.

**VICKY:** I wish I had been here.

**ESTER:** You couldn't have done anything, there were too many of them.

**VICKY:** I could have stopped them from coming. They never come when you are with me do they? Only when you are on your own. If I had been here you would have been OK.

**ESTER:** You do believe me don't you Vic?

**VICKY:** (*Hesitates.*) Yes, of course. Did they taunt you and tease you like before.

**ESTER:** No it was much worse. Much worse.

**VICKY:** Do you want to tell me?

**ESTER:** When I woke up they were just standing looking at me, and I said 'what do you want' but they didn't say anything they were just looking at me, then I noticed that they were all wearing bowlers hats and then I knew what they wanted.

**VICKY:** Oh Est.

**ESTER:** So I just closed my eyes and waited for it to be over. I don't remember anything else.

**VICKY:** Where did you sleep last night Est?

**ESTER:** At home.

**VICKY:** How did you get there?

**ESTER:** I don't remember.

**VICKY:** What happened to you trousers?

**ESTER:** They cut them off me. They had scissors.

*VICKY fetches the trousers and holds them up.*

**VICKY:** They're not cut Ester. They haven't been cut off you, you've taken them off yourself.

**ESTER:** What are you saying?

**VICKY:** I want to help you Est.

**ESTER:** You don't believe me, I knew you didn't.

**VICKY:** I believe you see these boys Est. I know they are real to you.

**ESTER:** They were here. Right here!

**VICKY:** And they were wearing bowler hats, white boiler suits?

**ESTER:** Yes.

**VICKY:** Come here (*They hug and VICKY hands ESTER the jeans which she folds and sits with them on her lap. VICKY sits beside her.*) We should have gone yesterday.

**ESTER:** Is he good Vic?

**VICKY:** He's great. I promise.

**ESTER:** Will he stop them coming?

**VICKY:** Yes.

**ESTER:** And he'll make me happy.

**VICKY:** You'll be happy if they stop coming won't you?

**ESTER:** Yes.

**VICKY:** Then he'll make you happy.

**ESTER:** And will you be happy.

**VICKY:** Yes, I'll be happy.

**ESTER:** We'll both be happy.

**VICKY:** Yes Est. We'll both be happy.

**ESTER:** I want us to do everything together. I'm useless on my own. I couldn't even kill myself.

**VICKY:** Don't talk like that.

**ESTER:** It's true. I lay on that track but then I chickened out. I would have gone through with it if you had been with me.

**VICKY:** What makes you think I would have let you?

**ESTER:** We could do it together. A pact!

**VICKY:** Cheers!

**ESTER:** Wouldn't it be good?

**VICKY:** OK. Let me get this straight. You're suggesting that we lie there next to each other on the track and wait for the train to come. Is that it?

**ESTER:** Yeah.

**VICKY:** And then what?

**ESTER:** Then the train comes and it's all over.

**VICKY:** You mean we are all over. All over the sleepers.

**ESTER:** Young lovers die together.

**VICKY:** We're not lovers.

**ESTER:** I love you.

**VICKY:** I love you Est, but we're not lovers.

**ESTER:** Sick of the world and want out. What do you think Vic? We could do it now.

**VICKY:** I'll tell you what. I agree. We'll do it. One condition though. You lie behind me.

**ESTER:** Why?

**VICKY:** I want the train to hit me first.

**ESTER:** Does it matter?

**VICKY:** Of course it matters.

**ESTER:** Why?

**VICKY:** What happens if the train driver sees us? Imagine it. Driving along, he sees something on the track ahead, he slows down, it can't be, it is, he slams on the brakes, the passengers get thrown into the backs of the seats in front of them, the train screeches to a halt, there's a jolt, he jumps out of his cab, he sees that he came

so close, he nearly stopped in time, he hit the first body but stopped before he hit the second one.

**ESTER:** Oh no!

**VICKY:** It could happen Est. I don't want to be left one my own. I've got to go first.

**ESTER:** No, I've got to go first. You can't leave me.

**VICKY:** Well one of us has to be second.

**ESTER:** Not me.

**VICKY:** Not me. Well, that's that then. It would never work.

**ESTER:** Nice idea though.

**VICKY:** Lovely idea Est. One of your best.

**ESTER:** It does have a flaw though. Apart from what you just said.

**VICKY:** Does it?

**ESTER:** Oh yes.

**VICKY:** And what is that, pray tell.

**ESTER:** It supposes that at some point in the next millennium there's a chance that a friggin train might come past here!

**VICKY:** It is rather late isn't it. I do hope it doesn't get cancelled again.

**ESTER:** (*Mimicking VICKY'S voice.*) Oh you *do* hope. Yes I *do* hope so as well.

**VICKY:** Very funny.

**ESTER:** Why should it be cancelled anyway?

**VICKY:** Yesterday. Don't you remember?

**ESTER:** I forget things.

**VICKY:** Pam and Lucy. Do you remember them?

**ESTER:** I remember a little bitch that slapped my hand.

**VICKY:** Ah! That was Lucy.

**ESTER:** And a woman who didn't know when to go.

**VICKY:** Pam.

**ESTER:** That was here, yesterday?

**VICKY:** That's right.

**ESTER:** I feel like I've spent my whole life in this lousy dump.

**VICKY:** It's not exactly the Lake District is it?

**ESTER:** What?

**VICKY:** It's not exactly the Lake District.

**ESTER:** Who's talking about the Lake District?

**VICKY:** I am.

**ESTER:** But, why?

**VICKY:** I'm just comparing it to here.

**ESTER:** Why?

**VICKY:** Well, because it was nice there wasn't it?

**ESTER:** How should I know?

**VICKY:** You were there!

**ESTER:** I wasn't.

**VICKY:** Course you were. School trip. Youth Hostel. You must remember.

**ESTER:** Well I can't have enjoyed it much if I was there. Hasn't exactly left an impression.

**VICKY:** We had a great time.

**ESTER:** Maybe you did.



**VICKY:** You're really difficult sometimes you know. I don't know why I bother.

**ESTER:** Maybe we should stop seeing each other then.

**VICKY:** Have you forgotten just now? 'Don't leave me Vic'. You always come crawling back.

**ESTER:** Well, if you want rid of me why don't you just murder me then. Like the other.

**VICKY:** What? *(Pause)* What other?

**ESTER:** Like all the others. Millions of them. Millions of others.

**VICKY:** Jesus! *(She walks to the edge of the platform and stands a while to calm down.)* We all have our crosses to bear. *(She walks back to ESTER.)* Why must we bicker?

**ESTER:** Perhaps we should stay silent.

**VICKY:** I'd like to see that.

**ESTER:** Then let's at least talk nicely, if we can't be quiet.

**VICKY:** OK. I can't see either of us being able to go long without speaking.

**ESTER:** We talk so much so that we don't have to think.

**VICKY:** I suppose so.

**ESTER:** Or hear.

**VICKY:** You're probably right.

**ESTER:** All the dead voices.

**VICKY:** Dead voices?

**ESTER:** Millions of them.

**VICKY:** Ah.

**ESTER:** Like leaves rustling.

**VICKY:** Right.

**ESTER:** Don't you think so.

**VICKY:** Yes.

**ESTER:** So say something.

**VICKY:** What?

**ESTER:** Say something about the voices.

**VICKY:** Like what?

**ESTER:** The sound.

**VICKY:** Oh. Like um, like sand shifting?

**ESTER:** No. Like leaves.

**VICKY:** OK. What do they say?

**ESTER:** They all speak at once.

**VICKY:** Saying the same thing?

**ESTER:** They whisper.

**VICKY:** What do they whisper?

**ESTER:** Each has its own voice

**VICKY:** You mean like, they each have their own story?

**ESTER:** They talk of their lives.

**VICKY:** To have lived is not enough?

**ESTER:** They must speak.

**VICKY:** To be dead is not enough?

**ESTER:** It is not enough.

**VICKY:** They sound like the wind in the railings?

**ESTER:** Like leaves.

**VICKY:** Like litter being blown along the track?

**ESTER:** Like leaves.

**VICKY:** Do you hear them now?

**ESTER:** (*Listens.*) Not at the moment.

**VICKY:** More of an Autumn thing isn't it. Leaves?

**ESTER:** What are we doing here?

**VICKY:** What?

**ESTER:** What are we doing here?

**VICKY:** Waiting for a train.

**ESTER:** Then we wait.

**VICKY:** OK.

**VICKY:** I know. Sing something!

**ESTER:** Oh please!

**VICKY:** But we can't just sit here in silence.

**ESTER:** Why not?

**VICKY:** Because of the voices.

**ESTER:** What voices?

**VICKY:** Your voices!

**ESTER:** Oh, those voices.

**VICKY:** So we can't just sit in silence.

**ESTER:** Don't be afraid of the voices.

**VICKY:** I'm not afraid of the voices.

**ESTER:** What?

VICKY: I said *I'm* not afraid of the voices.

ESTER: Neither am I

VICKY: Well, that's OK then.

ESTER: Good.

VICKY: But we can't sit in silence.

ESTER: Why not?

VICKY: This is your fault, this.

ESTER: What is?

VICKY: I don't know. Maybe I'm just afraid to think.

ESTER: Ah!

VICKY: Do you think that you might be prophetic?

ESTER: I like that.

VICKY: Some sort of visionary?

ESTER: It could be true.

VICKY. You put this idea in my head.

ESTER: Better than being a fucking looney.

VICKY: You planted the seeds.

ESTER: Very poetic.

VICKY: And now you've pissed on them...

ESTER: Maybe not.

VICKY: ...before they could grow.

ESTER: Cheer up Vic.

VICKY: I thought I was on to something then.

**ESTER:** Sorry to disappoint. Oh, then mental homes are full of warped geniuses. That's the romantic vision isn't it? Not true I'm afraid. They're just full of schizos like me.

**VICKY:** You're not going into a home. I won't let them.

**ESTER:** But if he says...

**VICKY:** He won't. This is silly talk. Let's talk about something else.

**ESTER:** We could have an argument.

**VICKY:** We would fall out.

**ESTER:** Or a quiz. What's the capital of Italy?

**VICKY:** I don't know.

**ESTER:** Neither do I. Not a quiz then.

**VICKY:** We could talk about God.

**ESTER:** God!

**VICKY:** Or nature then.

**ESTER:** What do we know about nature?

**VICKY:** How about... holidays.

**ESTER:** OK.

**VICKY:** Right. Where are you going on holiday this year?

**ESTER:** Where do you fancy?

**VICKY:** Spain.

**ESTER:** OK. We'll go there then.

**VICKY:** Right.

**ESTER:** Next topic?

**VICKY:** I can't think of one. It's not easy this is it?

**ESTER:** Let me have a think. *(She takes out her phone and is pressing buttons as though sending a text message. VICKY does the same and they are happily engaged in this activity for a couple of minutes. They then each put away their phones.)*

**VICKY:** Well?

**ESTER:** Well what?

**VICKY:** Did you think of something?

**ESTER:** About what?

**VICKY:** About what we could talk about.

**ESTER:** Can't we just carry on from where we left off?

**VICKY:** I think we had come to a bit of a standstill.

**ESTER:** Well, let's go back to the beginning then.

**VICKY:** I can't remember that far back.

**ESTER:** Well try.

**VICKY:** Let's see. Um, you came in and er... Oh yes we hugged and we were happy.

**ESTER:** Happy?

**VICKY:** Yes. Or sad. And we were waiting and um... Oh my God Est! The track.  
**THE TRACK!**

**ESTER:** What about it?

**VICKY:** Don't you remember?

**ESTER:** What about the track.

**VICKY:** Yesterday it was bare. Now there are leaves. There are **LEAVES ON THE LINE!**

**ESTER:** It must be autumn.

**VICKY:** From summer to autumn in a single night?

**ESTER:** That's if we were here yesterday.

**VICKY:** Of course we were here yesterday.

**ESTER:** How are you so sure?

**VICKY:** Because. Well, you know, Pam, Lucy. Your jeans.

**ESTER:** All yesterday you mean?

**VICKY:** Look at you hand. You see? Bruised. That's what Lucy did.

**ESTER:** Hmm

**VICKY:** And your jeans. See you left these here last night.

**ESTER:** Let me see those jeans again. (*VICKY picks them up and shows them to ESTER*) They're not mine.

**VICKY:** What?

**ESTER:** They're not mine. Mine were Next, those are Levi.

**VICKY:** So what happened to yours? (*Dawning on her.*) Oh. You went home in them.

**ESTER:** No.

**VICKY:** No?

**ESTER:** It's obvious. Someone has swapped my ripped jeans for these.

**VICKY:** Why would they do that?

**ESTER:** To hide the evidence.

**VICKY:** Wouldn't it be easier to just through them away?

**ESTER:** No. You see, this way they can say I was lying. They can say they didn't cut off my jeans.

**VICKY:** Oh Est! So they just happened to have a pair of jeans in your size with them did they? So they thought they would abandon a perfectly good pair of jeans here on the platform.

**ESTER:** Don't forget that they took mine.

**VICKY:** Why do you suppose they did that?

**ESTER:** Perhaps they preferred cut up Next to perfect Levi. I don't know.

**VICKY:** I hope the train comes soon.

**ESTER:** What?

**VICKY:** The train.

**ESTER:** Ah. Got anything to eat?

**VICKY:** *(Rummaging in her hand bag.)* Only Snickers.

**ESTER:** No Mars Bars?

**VICKY:** You had the last.

**ESTER:** Give it here then. *(She eats the Snickers).* So what do we do now?

**VICKY:** You could try on the jeans.

**ESTER:** Why:

**VICKY:** It would pass the time.

**ESTER:** Ok. Whatever. *(She struggles to take off her shoe.)* Help me will you? *(VICKY helps ESTER remove her shoes then picks up the jeans.)* First the left. *(She puts the left foot in.)* Then the right. *(She puts the right foot in.)* That's it *(ESTER stands and pulls up the jeans under her dress.)* They fit!

**VICKY:** What a surprise!

**ESTER:** Thanks for your help. We make a good team, you and me.

**VICKY:** Are you going to do them up?

**ESTER:** No, they're fine. Sit down. *(VICKY sits and ESTER sits beside her.)* You're a good friend. *(VICKY puts her arm round ESTER who rests her head against VICKY'S shoulder.)* I'm so tired.

**VICKY:** Have a rest then. *(She stands and gently lowers ESTER'S head so that she is lying using VICKY'S bag as a pillow.)* Have a rest. *(VICKY paces around the platform. Suddenly ESTER sits up with a start.)*

**ESTER:** Oh my God!



**VICKY:** What is it?

**ESTER:** A dream.

**VICKY:** A bad dream?

**ESTER:** The train was coming.

**VICKY:** I wish!

**ESTER:** I couldn't move. I was glued to the track.

**VICKY:** Oh. There. It was just a dream.

**ESTER:** I can't sleep.

**VICKY:** Well, just stay calm then.

**ESTER:** OK. I'll try. I'm sorry. Look! *(She walks off and returns with LUCY'S baseball cap.)* I didn't see this before, she must have dropped it.

**VICKY:** Try it on. See if it suits you.

**ESTER:** No. You try it. *(VICKY puts on the cap.)* Perfect!

**VICKY:** How do I look?

**ESTER:** Hideous!

**VICKY:** More hideous than normal?

**ESTER:** No about the same.

**VICKY:** Well that solves our problem doesn't it?

**ESTER:** Does it?

**VICKY:** Now we can play a game.

**ESTER:** What game:

**VICKY:** Pam and Lucy. You be Pam. I'll be Lucy.

**ESTER:** You know, I think these might be Pam's jeans.

**VICKY:** (*Pretending to be carry a lot of heavy bags.*) Go on then.

**ESTER:** What do I do?

**VICKY:** Curse me!

**ESTER:** What?

**VICKY:** Have a go at me.

**ESTER:** Oh. 'You stupid child. Hurry up with those bags'.

**VICKY:** Put me down.

**ESTER:** 'She's useless this one. She would sit about all day watching TV if it wasn't for me'.

**VICKY:** But I'm going to get a job *in an office*.

**ESTER:** (*Sighs.*) I'm bored!

**VICKY:** Well you think of something to do then.

**ESTER:** Mindless abuse always amuses me.

**VICKY:** You moron!

**ESTER:** You cow!

**VICKY:** Ugly bitch!

**ESTER:** Thicko!

**VICKY:** God, you stink!

**ESTER:** What did you brush your hair with? A rake?

**VICKY:** (*Giggles.*) That's what my mum used to say to me.

**ESTER:** Go on!

**VICKY:** What? Oh yes, er, spotty!

**ESTER:** Minging!

**VICKY:** Fuckwit!

**ESTER:** Chav!

**VICKY:** What's that?

**ESTER:** A chav?

**VICKY:** No, you idiot, the sound.

**ESTER:** I can't hear anyth...the train's coming!

**VICKY:** Halleluiah!

**ESTER:** Have we got everything?

*They rush around making sure that they are ready as the sound effect of the train approaching gets louder and then stand there dumbfounded as the effect turns into that of a train passing then disappearing into the distance.*

**VICKY:** Guess that wasn't our train then.

**ESTER:** That's it, I'm going.

**VICKY:** No Est. It won't be long now. We gotta go you know. We've got to go and see him.

**ESTER:** But how long Vic. We've been waiting ages.

**VICKY:** It won't be long Est, I promise. I know. Pilates!

**ESTER:** Go on.

**VICKY:** Come on. It will pass the time. Come on, breath. *(They take deep breaths whilst stretching their arms out in a traditional exercise way.)* Now, sit down. *(They sit facing each other. VICKY raises her knees, puts her hands behind her head and pulls her head forward to her knees, lies back down then repeats. ESTER follows suit and they both repeat a number of times.)* Slow, fluid movements.

**ESTER:** Get you.

**VICKY:** *(Stopping.)* That's the secret to it, no jerky exercises.

**ESTER:** *(Who has also stopped.)* Like you know something about it. The most exercise you ever get is go to the newsagents to buy a Mars Bar.

**VICKY:** Oh, I don't know.

**ESTER:** Apart from horizontal exercise that is!

**VICKY:** Ha! Coming from you!

*They laugh. The mood suddenly changes as PAM and LUCY enter. PAM is wearing dark sun glasses and is being led by LUCY who has bruising around the face. They are carrying all the same paraphernalia as before.*

**LUCY:** Come on mum. *(Seeing ESTER and VICKY.)* Oh, hello. You here again as well? *(She set up the stool and sits PAM down on it. To VICKY.)* She's not so well today.

**VICKY:** You mean...

**LUCY:** Yes. I thought you would have realised. What with... *(She indicates ESTER.)*

**VICKY:** You mean it's her?

**LUCY:** You didn't think it was me did you?

**ESTER:** What's she saying?

**VICKY:** Just that she's taking her mum to see him as well.

**ESTER:** My man?

**VICKY:** Yes.

**ESTER:** Pam?

**VICKY:** Yes.

**ESTER:** Oh!

**VICKY:** *(To LUCY, indicating the bruising.)* Did she do that?

**LUCY:** She doesn't mean it. She doesn't know what she is doing. I've stopped her supply. Cannabis. She went mad. It's about the only thing she lives for these days. She thought I was going to get her some yesterday, so she finished of her stash. I don't know what is worse, having her drugged up to the eyeballs but calm and relaxed or clean but comatose.

**VICKY:** Er, well. So, the job interview?

**LUCY:** I can't get a job. It's a full time job looking after her. People don't know. Most of the time she's right as rain, especially in public, but once she gets home...

**VICKY:** Did you get there yesterday? We gave up.

**LUCY:** (*Shakes her head.*) As soon as we left here she started begging me not to take her. I've been through it all with her, she knows she has to go, but she was making such a fuss there is no way I could get on a bus with her. It's easier when she's like this. At least I don't have to fight with her.

**ESTER:** You hurt my hand!

**LUCY:** You were getting on my nerves.

**ESTER:** I was only trying to help.

**VICKY:** You were upset. You were crying.

**LUCY:** I was stressed. I didn't want to have to explain everything to you.

**ESTER:** Still a nasty thing to do.

**LUCY** (*To VICKY.*) You been to see him before?

**ESTER:** It's me that's going.

**VICKY:** (*Ignoring her.*) No. I've heard he's good though.

**LUCY:** Let's hope so. (*They move out of ESTER'S earshot.*) Is it depression with her as well?

**VICKY:** Sometimes. She gets hallucinations or dreams or whatever as well. Obsessed with *The Clockwork Orange*. She thinks they going to come after her.

**ESTER:** Hello Pam, how are you? I might as well talk to you because I am apparently not part of the conversation over there and, after all we do have something in common don't we. We're both loony tunes so to speak.

**LUCY:** Quite common that. Living out a fantasy existence.

**VICKY:** She never really seems to get depressed. I mean, not like your mum is now. But she's tried to kill herself so there must be something there.

**LUCY:** Have you asked her why she wants to kill herself?

**VICKY:** Of course. But she just says it was because she was bored or something.

**ESTER:** Have you been on your holidays this year? We were thinking of the lake district you know. It's always so beautiful, don't you think? Or Spain.

**VICKY:** I'm not even sure she's actually done it. It's not like she's taken an overdose or something.

**ESTER:** (*Screaming at VICKY.*) YOU MAKE ME WANT TO DIE!

**VICKY:** Est!

**ESTER:** I HATE YOU. I'M GOING TO KILL YOU. (*She lunges at VICKY and pushes and prods her throughout the following lines.*) You think you're such a hero don't you? Makes you feel good doesn't it. You, doing your bit. Helping your schizo friend 'recover'. Most people would have just walked away, but not you. You're such a fucking saint! Well, here's a surprise for you. I DON'T NEED YOU! Get it? I'm sick of you hanging around me. Go and find yourself another charity case. Maybe Pam here would appreciate your 'friendship' Or maybe you could just get yourself a fucking life. (*She makes another lunge for VICKY but LUCY tries to pull her away and in the ensuing struggle ESTER'S jeans, that she is still wearing under her dress and has not done up fall round her ankles. She breaks free from LUCY but trips over her jeans and falls to the floor. The scene is pathetic slapstick. She sits up, puts her head between her knees and sobs loudly*)

**VICKY** (*Gently.*) Est. It's Ok. I'm here. I love you.

**ESTER:** (*Through her sobs.*) Do you?

**VICKY:** You know I do.

**ESTER:** I'm sorry.

**VICKY:** That's OK.

**ESTER:** I love you Vic.

**VICKY:** I'd do anything for you.

**ESTER:** You're never there.

**VICKY:** I'm always here for you.

**ESTER:** No. You're never there when I need you. You're never there when they come. You leave me. I can't cope on my own.

*PAM starts to sob.*

**VICKY:** You go off on your own. Look at the other night. You left the party and I didn't even know you had gone. I want to look after you Est but you've got to help me to help you.

**LUCY:** (*To PAM.*) Come on mum. It's Ok.

**PAM:** Are you there Lucy?

**LUCY:** Yes, I'm here mum.

**PAM:** Don't leave me..

**LUCY:** No mum. I'll stay with you.

**ESTER:** I don't want to be alone.

**VICKY:** I'm here Est.

**ESTER:** Don't leave me.

**VICKY:** I won't leave you Est.

**ANNOUNCER:** This is an announcement for passenger awaiting the arrival of this morning's train. We regret to inform passengers that this service has been cancelled. The next service to depart from this platform will be tomorrow morning.

**VICKY:** I don't believe it. I don't fucking believe it! YOU SAID THAT YESTERDAY!

**ANNOUNCER:** We regret any inconvenience this may cause passengers.

**VICKY:** Admit it. There never has been a train has there?

**ANNOUNCER:** Reliability on this service is running at 99.8%.

**VICKY:** Except for the 0.02% of times I want to catch the bloody thing.

**LUCY:** Come on then mum.

**PAM:** Are we going?

**LUCY:** Might as well. Come on up you get.

*PAM stands.*

**VICKY:** Come on Est. Up you get. (*ESTER stands. Her jeans round her ankle.*)  
And pull your trousers up! (*she does and they laugh.*)

**ESTER:** Will we come back tomorrow?

**VICKY:** Yes Est. We'll all come back tomorrow.

**ESTER:** What if the train doesn't come tomorrow?

**VICKY:** It will come.

**ESTER:** But what if it doesn't?

**VICKY:** Then we'll *all* lay on the track.

**LUCY:** OK. Let's go then.

**VICKY:** Yes. Let's go.

**PAM:** OK.

**ESTER:** OK.

*Nobody moves.*

**ANNOUNCER:** (*In a station announcer voice.*) Toward the end of the twentieth century psychiatrists started to believe that there is a link between the schizophrenia and cannabis. Now many believe that up to 80% of the cases reported in inner city areas are related to the use of the drug. Experts regard the recreational use of cannabis as the number one problem facing mental health services.

Loneliness is often cited as a reason for suicide but in many cases the victim has a wide circle of friends and a loving family. People who have been unsuccessful in their suicide attempt have commented that they just felt terribly lonely at the time, though solitude is something that they often seek. Forty percent of people diagnosed with schizophrenia attempt suicide. One in ten are successful. Nearly a quarter of a million people in the UK suffer from schizophrenia. *The actors leave the stage.*) Don't go. Don't leave me.

**Curtain**