

Herbal Remedies

cast

CRUTCH one-legged man with a crutch; early forties; wearing a suit of clothes [matching jacket and trousers], shirt and tie. On inspection his clothes are shabby; but he is managing to survive and would pass in a crowd.

MATE: slightly older man, in his late forties; wearing a dark blue overcoat, crombie/cashmere style, shabby but not dirty. He got the overcoat from a secondhand store five years ago and has worn it on a daily basis ever since. He still thinks he looks smart. But he would not pass in a crowd. For one thing, he is in his bare feet. Who knows what happened to his socks nor shoes. He could have lost them in a game of cards or just woke one morning to find them gone. He uses his hands very expressively when talking

CLARISSA mid forties, dressed in overcoat, hat and shoes. But she is not "a bag lady"; she takes care of herself and her appearance; she may well be on the street but not for long, and has no intention of staying there

props park-bench

location a small park, a couple of trees, with sawn branches; these can be used by CRUTCH to rest occasionally

Lights DOWN ON CLARISSA UNTIL DIRECTED

CLARISSA ASLEEP ON PARK BENCH, AS DIRECTED
BUDDY AND CRUTCH WILL NOT NOTICE HER UNTIL DIRECTED

Sound MATE AND CRUTCH APPROACH, THEY ENTER IN THE MIDDLE OF A CONVERSATION.

MATE So if they say ye've got to do something, ye do it. Or if ye've no to do something, if they say that, so well...I mean... [SNIFFS]

CRUTCH What?

MATE Ye just go ahead and do it

ENTER MATE AND CRUTCH

LIGHTS

THEY NEVER NOTICE CLARISSA UNTIL DIRECTED

CRUTCH Aye, even if ye dont want to do it

MATE Absolutely, and we're no talking 20 piece dinner services here, we're talking about yer caboodle, yer entire kit and caboodle, the whole damn what-dye-call-it

CRUTCH Silver service?

MATE I would think so, silver service. Aye, why not. In saying that, I've never been fond of food anyway I mean I've got to be honest, have you?

CRUTCH Nah, no me

MATE I had a mate once, he liked the food, scabby horses and aw that ye wanti have seen him, he would've ett the lot, shoes and all

CRUTCH Jeesh

MATE Put your heid on the table and he'd take a knife and fork to it! A fucking gannet so he was. [MAKES A GESTURE WITH HIS HAND, LIKE A BIRD'S BEAK PECKING]

CRUTCH Peck peck peck, I know

MATE MAKING THE PECKING GESTURE, PUTTING ON A VOICE] I need it to stay alive he used to say I need it to stay alive, nyay nyay nyay.

CRUTCH Aye. And then he grabs yer cheese piece and runs

MATE Absalutely [STROLLS]

CRUTCH ANGRILY] That kind of guy dpoes my nut in!

MATE Aw he was murder but, telling you

CRUTCH NODS. PAUSE, THEN FROWNS] Who ye talking about by the way? Do I know him?

MATE Nah, before your time

CRUTCH FROWNS

MATE I just mean {SHRUGS} I knew him before I knew you

CRUTCH HUFFY] Aw I see

MATE Well, I mean...

CRUTCH STILL HUFFY] Naw, fair enough

MATE HANDS PALM UP, APPEALING] Cause I mean I didnay know ye at the time

CRUTCH SNIFFS] Naw I know ye didnay

MATE No back then [GLANCES AT CRUTCH, AND SHRUGS]

CRUTCH Aye well it isnay my fault

MATE It isnay mine either

CRUTCH Hh

MATE It isnay

CRUTCH Ah well whose is it then, God's?

MATE PUZZLED] God's?

CRUTCH LOOKS AWAY, IRONIC

MATE God's got nothing to do with it

CRUTCH Aye, I've heard that one afore

MATE No affa me ye huvnay That's the last thing. I wouldnay do that with the Lord's eh... [PAUSE] Naw, definitely. No in vain I wouldnay, I wouldnay take it in vain, that would be like well if it was God or what, know what I mean, talking about God, if that's what ye were doing...when ye were saying about the Lord

CRUTCH PUZZLED] Aye but God is the Lord

MATE ALSO PUZZLED

CRUTCH Our Lord I should say

MATE SLOWLY, CURIOSLY] That's right...Our Father who art the Lord

CRUTCH Exactly. I'm no a religious guy. At the same time I'm no an atheist [SNIFFS] Nothing against atheists, but I'm no one of them

MATE Aye

CRUTCH If that is what they want to profess

MATE Aye

CRUTCH Then so be it, so be it

MATE Same as myself. I'm like you

CRUTCH Like me? [FROWNS, STARES AT MATE'S LEGS, GLANCES DOWN AT HIS OWN ONE-LEG, SUSPICIOUS] You talking physically?

MATE GUARDED, GLANCES AT CRUTCH'S ONE-LEG] Physically... naw [PAUSE. SNIFFS] I'm talking metaphysically

CRUTCH RESPECTFULLY] Christ

MATE I would say I'm at home in the subject

CRUTCH Good on ye

MATE Aye well... [SHRUGS, MODESTLY, THEN RELISHING THE WORD] Met a physically... Once I met a physically... [SMILES, SWAGGERS A LITTLE] No danger. It's a great subject

CRUTCH ENCOURAGING] Aye... [WAITS FOR HIM TO CONTINUE]

MATE SWAGGERS A LITTLE] Mind you, I am a bit like you.

CRUTCH GLANCES SWIFTLY AT HIM

MATE Honest

CRUTCH Are ye?

MATE Well aye... [PAUSE] Am I no?

CRUTCH Dont ask me

MATE Aye but...I mean... [APPEALING, HANDS PALMS UPWARDS,

CRUTCH SNIFFS, TURNS FROM HIM

MATE PAUSE, SURPRISED] Have I offended you?

CRUTCH Me?

MATE I feel like I have

CRUTCH Ye huvny

MATE I have

CRUTCH Ye huvny

MATE Aye, I've offended ye

CRUTCH Ye've no offended me [TURNS AWAY

MATE Ah so I have then eh!

CRUTCH Have what, what ye talking about?

MATE FOLDS ARMS] That's alright

CRUTCH What's alright?

MATE If ye do it ye do it and if ye dont ye dont, and there's nothing ye can do about it

CRUTCH So?

MATE SHRUGS] So if I've offended ye I've offended ye

CRUTCH Ye've no offended me

MATE Are ye sure?

CRUTCH Of course I'm sure, if I was nay I would tell ye

MATE Honest?

CRUTCH Aye

MATE Okay

CRUTCH Aye [THEN ASIDE, WHISPERS] I would fucking tell ye alright

MATE PLEASANTLY] What did ye say?

CRUTCH Nothing. I was talking about if ye had, if ye had I would tell ye. No before. And no efitr either. Straight to yer face man that is how I would tell ye. Is that fair enough?

MATE Aye

CRUTCH I believe in that, if ye've got something to say then say it, dont beat about the bush

MATE Not at all

CRUTCH Say it to the guy's face

MATE Right

CRUTCH It's like how ye conduct yerself in this life. Ye try to do things the proper way, in the proper order, ye dont go all twisted, no if ye can help it, we're talking about the straight and narrow

MATE Aw aye I mean there's a right way and a wrong way, I agree with that. And if ye're gauny go the wrong way then I mean... [PAUSE] Go the wrong way. It's your decision. [WAGS FINGER] But dont you look to me!

CRUTCH Exactly

MATE Aye and dont drag the rest of us with ye either. Because we dont want to go down that path. We dont even know where the path leads! [HITCHES UP HIS TROUSERS]

CRUTCH Now ye're talking

MATE Ye fucking end up lost!

CRUTCH Yes, ye do, exactly, I agree

MATE Naw I mean... [SNIFFS] It's like I was saying there a minute ago about that guy, him I used to pal about with - oh away before your time - away way way back, and it was nay even as a pal I mean I would nay even call him a pal, no a proper yin, I would say he was just like what-dye-call-it, a good acquaintance

CRUTCH Right

MATE Aye, a good acquaintance

CRUTCH NODS] So what about him?

MATE Well, talking about the auld grub and that, the rations, the auld scan, the beef and onions, the steak and kidney, the auld mashed pofuckingtatoes, not to mention

let us say, the auld fish supper

CRUTCH Aye, sure, the grub, so what about it?

MATE What he always used to say... [COCKS HIS HEAD, GIVES CRUTCH A FLY LOOK]

CRUTCH IRONICALLY] So what did he always used to say?

MATE He said it was a necessity, that's what he used to say, a necessity... [WATCHING CRUTCH FOR THE EFFECT OF THIS

CRUTCH FROWNS] Grub?

MATE Aye

CRUTCH Hh!

MATE A necessity!

CRUTCH DISMISSIVELY] A necessity! [SHAKES HEAD] Make ye laugh that

MATE I know!

CRUTCH STILL NONPLUSSED] A necessity

MATE Him and his fucking necessities I mean I'll tell ye how bad he was man, he used to think shoes were essential! [ROCKS BACK AND FORTH ON HIS BARE FEET]

CRUTCH Pardon?

MATE Shoes!

CRUTCH SUSPICIOUS] Shoes? [STRESSES PLURAL

MATE Hah! I mean, shoes! Essential! Fucking...stroll on eh! [STROLLS]

CRUTCH GLARES AT HIM. MATE DOESNT NOTICE

MATE SHAKING HEAD] Shoes, huh!

WOMAN SNORES QUIETLY. CRUTCH DOESNT NOTICE

MATE GAZES UP AT THE SKY FOR A MOMENT, THEN] Naw, no kidding ye. (TAKES OUT HIS HANKIE, WITH A FLOURISH, GIVES HIS NOSE A WIPE, HITCHES UP HIS TROUSERS)

CRUTCH You trying to be funny?

MATE Funny? Naw [EXAMINES HANKIE BEFORE STUFFING IT INTO HIS COAT POCKET] What ye talking about?

CRUTCH INDICATES HIS CRUTCH AND ONE LEG) Fucking shoes, know what I mean?

MATE Not at all. Naw naw naw. I wasna meaning nothing like that.

CRUTCH I hope no.

MATE Never on a month of Sundays. Cross my heart [CROSSES HEART WITH LEFT HAND, RAISES RIGHT HAND ALOFT]

CRUTCH Cause that's what like it is with some folk, cause of the crutch and aw that, this is whit ye get, all the wee jokes and the sly innuendo. The rib ticklers.

MATE The auld rib ticklers eh

CRUTCH Aye well it doesna tickle my damn ribs I can assure ye. Ye can tell yer wee jokes from now until Kingdom come for all I care

MATE I would never do that. Never. I wouldna. I would never try and be funny about a guy's leg, specially if he's my mate and I mean if he's no got one. Not at all, that would be out of order.

CRUTCH Damn right

MATE SHRUGS] I was just talking about the way people go on and on about the necessities of life, as if they were the only things to think about.

CRUTCH I see...

MATE I mean there's more important stuff.

CRUTCH Sure there is.

MATE Ye talk about necessities, I mean what are necessities, that's what I'd like to know.

CRUTCH Exactly.

MATE And who could tell me? I would like to know that too. Let them come and say it, whoever they are, but they willnay because they dont even know themself

CRUTCH I know they dont

MATE It's utter hogwash, they wouldnay know what a necessity was, no a real yin

CRUTCH Arrogant swines

MATE There's necessities and there's necessities

CRUTCH Now ye're talking

MATE Take your leg...

CRUTCH GUARDED] what?

MATE Naw I mean as an example, as an example

CRUTCH STARING AT HIM

MATE I just mean as an example, in the metaphysical sense, no like as a kind of what ye might say real leg as in really real, as if it's a real thing in the natural world of physical objects, the material world... [SURREPTICIOUS GLANCE AT CRUTCH

CRUTCH ANGRILY] Aye... [LESS ANGILY, NODS] Yeh!

MATE RELIEVED SIGH] Ye're a bit jumpy this morning mucker int ye!

CRUTCH Jumpy!

MATE Aw sorry I mean I'm no eh... [POINTS AT THE MISSING LEG] I wouldnay eh... Jumpy, christ [SHRUGS] Know what I mean, I wouldnay!

CRUTCH CURIOUS] So what did ye want my leg for?

MATE Aw I didnay want it. Like I says, it was just an example [AIRILY] It was for the argument, I was just establishing my point

CRUTCH Fair enough, fair enough.

MATE So that's how I was using yer leg... [CARELESS WAVE TOWARDS CRUTCH'S LEG

CRUTCH What leg ye talking about? [INDICATES HIS ONE LEG] This yin?

MATE WARILY] Well I wouldnay take sides I mean

CRUTCH FROWNS

MATE SHRUGS] I'm no talking about any leg in particular

CRUTCH But I've only fucking got one. [BRANDISHES THE CRUTCH, SARCASTIC, BUT NOT ANGRY] This is a crutch. Know what I mean, it's got nay toes.

MATE SQUINTS AT HIS CRUTCH] Huh!

CRUTCH Did ye no notice! It cannay bend at the knee and it doesnay wear fucking slippers

MATE PAUSE, SNIFFS] Nay need for the sarcasm

CRUTCH Ah well

MATE I wasnay meaning nothing

CRUTCH Sometimes that isnay enough

MATE HANGS HEAD

CRUTCH Sometimes everything's significant

MATE WARY] Everything?

CRUTCH Every wee leaf that flutters down off a tree, every drop of rain, every grain of sand

MATE NODS] It's like they're all real live human beings, wee wans

CRUTCH Well I wouldnay go that far

MATE Aw naw, that's aye a mistake. Moderation eh

CRUTCH Now ye're talking

MATE Moderation fits the bill

CRUTCH Of course it does, always did and always will

MATE Absolutely [GLANCES SIDEWAYS, THEN UP TO THE SKY. SNIFFS, SAUNTERS A PACE, HITCHES UP HIS TROUSERS]

CRUTCH Okay. So what were ye on about?

MATE Me? When?

CRUTCH There just now. Dont tell me ye've forgot

MATE Never!

CRUTCH So what was it?

MATE HUFFY] Nothing

CRUTCH IMPATIENT] Come on

MATE Naw, no for you

CRUTCH SIGHS] Sorry

MATE PAUSE] You're hell of a quick to pounce on people

CRUTCH Och I know

MATE It's like ye're lacking patience

CRUTCH I know that

MATE I'm saying it as yer mate

CRUTCH Och I know,

MATE Ye take the needle too easy

CRUTCH I know

MATE Ye're just too quick to fly at folk

CRUTCH It's like I take umbrage

MATE Aye. It's probably psychological

CRUTCH Definitely, that's exactly it [TAPPING HIS TEMPLE] It's all up here

MATE Although it might come from the other thing. [TURNS FROM CRUTCH AS
THOUGH DEEP IN THOUGHT, STARES DOWN AT HIS BARE FEET

CRUTCH SUSPICIOUS FROWN, PEERS AT MATE'S FEET

MATE But what's psychological and what's physical? The perennial question, the
one we'd all like to discover

CRUTCH Aye

MATE Know what I mean? [FROWNS AT HIM]

CRUTCH Eh... [PAUSE] Is it a kind of eaksy peaksy carry on?

MATE Naw, I wouldnay say that, it's more yer positive and yer negative.

CRUTCH I wouldnay be too sure. I think it depends [FROWNS AT HIS MISSING LEG]

MATE GLANCES AT THE MISSING LEG

CRUTCH Know what I mean

MATE Eh aye, aye [THEN FROWNS, SNIFFFS, SAUNTERS A STEP OR TWO] What was I talking about again?

WOMAN SNORES. CRUTCH DOESNT NOTICES

MATE GAZES UP AT THE SKY] What was I talking about?

CRUTCH Eh... Naw, it's gone, sorry

MATE TURNS TO HIM] My memory's fuckt man

CRUTCH So's mine, it went years ago.

MATE It's murder innit

CRUTCH People talk about losing their mind; well, I didnay lose it, it just took a walk.

MATE That's it. You've said it. And it's like ye're waiting for it to come back again

CRUTCH Right aye.

MATE SIGHS

CRUTCH See when I was at school I was a brainy cunt

MATE SHRUGS] Aw everybody's brainy at school

CRUTCH PUZZLED] Naw they're no

MATE No think so?

CRUTCH Well it's no what I think. Or you. It's to do with...well I mean if it's a fact, is it or isnt it.

MATE SCRATCHES HIS HEAD

CRUTCH Some folk are brainy and some urnay. And that's that. It's no like it's an opinion, it wasnay me that said it. It was other people [SHRUGS] That's that. It isnay a plus and it isnay a minus. I was just brainy. Some boys are good at plasticene or painting pictures or else running races, even ye might say sandcastles, my brother was brilliant at sandcastles. Mine aye collapsed. Or else the water ran ower the top of it. Ye were down at the seaside and ye turned yer back, in came the waves. I mean I never figured that but he did, whoosh But then when it came to the lessons, I could aye do them, questions to the teacher, chalking the blackboard. I was just brainy

MATE SMILES

CRUTCH What ye smiling at?

MATE I think everybody's brainy at school

CRUTCH Aw so ye're talking about yerself!

MATE Oh naw, I was never brainy. [LAUGHS] Ye kidding! Ho, I was a dumpling

CRUTCH PAUSE] So how d'ye mean then?

MATE SHRUGS] Just weans

CRUTCH Weans?

MATE Aye

CRUTCH I didnay know you had any weans

MATE Oh christ aye

CRUTCH Have ye?

MATE Oh aye, hoh

CRUTCH How many?

MATE PAUSE] A couple

CRUTCH IMPRESSED] Right...

WOMAN AGAIN SNORES QUIETLY

MATE NOW GLANCES IN HER DIRECTION BUT SEEMS NOT TO SEE HER] So what school did ye got to?

CRUTCH VERY SUSPICIOUS] Pardon?

MATE I just mean it in an ordinary way. It's no religion or nothing

CRUTCH I fucking hope no

MATE APPEALS] How long have we known each other?

CRUTCH GUARDED] A while

MATE It's a fucking while alright

CRUTCH So now ye want to know what religion I am?

MATE Not at all

CRUTCH Ye want to know if I'm a tim or a blue nose

MATE Naw naw, not at all [STARES AT HIM]

CRUTCH PAUSE] So what ye staring at?

MATE Nothing

CRUTCH Are ye trying to see if I look like one?

MATE One what?

CRUTCH Ah ye're a fly man eh?

MATE Who me, a fly man, ye kidding, I'm a fucking... [PAUSE, THINKING ABOUT IT] I'm no a fly man, that's a certainty

CRUTCH Real mates dont care what religion ye are. See these kind of questions, they dont ask them, what school did ye go to, what team d'ye support, what job d'ye work at, a real mate doesnay ask that kind of question

MATE Fucking right

CRUTCH Creed and colour and race, all that stuff. A real mate takes ye for what ye are [SNIFFS, HOPS A COUPLE OF PACES]

MATE I am a real mate

CRUTCH HUFFY SILENCE

MATE I am

CRUTCH SCOFFS] Aye are ye!

MATE GLARES FROM HIM TO AUDIENCE] Aye, and I would fight anybody that said different [BRANDISHES FIST & A POSITIVE SHAKE OF THE HEAD] Anybody at all. The fucking polis! If it was an entire posse of them. I'd take them on, I wouldnay care who it is; show us yer baton ya bastard I'll snap it in two! Fuck the polis, that's what I would say. They dont bother me. I wouldnay care who the hell it was, the armed forces, bring them all on - a mate's a mate and end of story. [POSITIVE SHAKE OF THE HEAD

CRUTCH Good on ye mucker

MATE HITCHES UP THE TROUSERS] Ye've got to stand up for what ye believe.

CRUTCH Aye and ye're no kidding

MATE I'm talking about in this life.

CRUTCH Aye

MATE Cause see if ye dont, there's naybody'll do it for ye

CRUTCH SURPRISE] Naybody

MATE Naybody, not one solitary soul, I'm talking about en ay body, ye're on yer

tod, and ye just have to get on with it. I'm talking about in this life, cause naybody'll do it for ye, not if ye're down and out, not here and not anywhere

CRUTCH FROWNS] No even yer mate?

MATE STOPS IN HIS TRACKS] Yer mate! Aw well aye...yer mate, yer mate's different

CRUTCH I bloody well think so

MATE Oh christ aye. Yer mate's yer mate

CRUTCH That's what I believe

MATE Me too. I've ayewis said it, and ayewis will say it. (STROLLS THEN NOTICES CLARISSA, ASTOUNDED; URGENT WHISPER) Heh look! A wummin!

CRUTCH ASTOUNDED] Jesus christ.

MATE CIRCLES CAUTIOUSLY, GAZING AT CLARISSA

CRUTCH HOPS SIDEWAYS, SHIFTS STANCE, PEERS AT HER] Fancy seeing a wummin.

MATE A wummin eh! Whoh...

THEY STUDY HER FOR SEVERAL SECONDS

CLARISSA MAKES NO MOVEMENT

MATE & CRUTCH EXCHANGE LONG LOOKS. AT THIS STAGE CRUTCH IS STANDING NEAREST TO CLARISSA

MATE LOUD WHISPER] Should we check her out. [PAUSE] What do ye think?

CRUTCH MAKES FACIAL CONTORTIONS, BITES FINGERNAILS

MATE Eh?

CRUTCH Oh christ [AGAIN BITES FINGERNAILS]

MATE WHISPERS] Silent as a lamb.

CRUTCH A woman isnay a lamb

MATE Nooooo

CRUTCH Whoh!

BUDDY Eh? what you think? Should we check her out?

CRUTCH I dont know

CRUTCH HOPS OFF A LITTLE WAY FROM THE CLARISSA ON THE BENCH. MATE IS NOW CLOSER.

BUT MATE DOES NOT NOTICE THAT CRUTCH HAS PERFORMED THE MOVE AND IT SHOULD PASS UNNOTICED

CRUTCH Is she dead?

MATE Couldnay tell ye

CRUTCH I cannay hear her breathing

MATE Neither can I.

CRUTCH Should we check her out?

MATE What?

CRUTCH Should we check her out?

MATE Oh I dont know, I dont know about that. Hoh!

CRUTCH PAUSE] Eh?

MATE SIGHS] I'm no sure

CRUTCH I'm no sure myself [NIBBLES FINGERNAILS.

MATE It's tricky

CRUTCH Fucking tricky alright, a wummin, know what I mean... [SIGNIFICANT NOD OF THE HEAD]

MATE Oh what... hh!

CRUTCH [GLANCES SIDEWAYS TO MAKE SURE THE COAST IS CLEAR, AND WHISPERS] They're aye a worry man know what I mean

MATE Aye and ye're no kidding. [WHISPERS, RHETORICALLY] When did you last see a wummin?

CRUTCH THINKS FOR A MOMENT

MATE [PAUSE] I'm talking about up close

CRUTCH My maw, my maw was the last time. And it was nay up close either

MATE Same with me

CRUTCH I thought you says ye were merrit?

MATE Oh christ aye. It was just... [NODS, SWAGGERS A LITTLE] It was one of these marriages [WINKS] know what I'm talking about

CRUTCH Oh aye...aye... Hoh! [BUT BAFFLED]

MATE Aye!

CRUTCH Mind you, they can have their good points [PAUSE] Dye think she'll have a handbag or a purse or something?

MATE Could nay tell ye

CRUTCH [PAUSE] Go and see

MATE Who me? Naw, get away

CRUTCH Naw, go ahead.

MATE You go ahead! How's it go to be me?

CRUTCH GESTURING] My fucking leg man know what I mean

MATE Aw... [NODS THEN SECOND THOUGHTS] What's yer leg go to do with it?

CRUTCH Plenty

MATE FROWNS, STARES AT THE MISSING LEG, COCKS HIS HEAD TO SEE IT FROM ANOTHER ANGLE. GAZES ACROSS AT CLARISSA THEN BACK TO CRUTCH, COMPARATIVELY] Aye but...

CRUTCH IRRITATION] I cannay kneel down ya fucking tube. [PAUSE] Ye need two legs for that carry on

MATE Aw! Aw right. [PAUSE. FROWNS] Fuck, aye, fair enough... [SIGHS. BRACING HIMSELF. GIVES A COUPLE OF SHRUGS OF THE SHOULDERS, TAKES A DEEP BREATH. PAUSE, THEN SIGHS.

CRUTCH POINTS CRUTCH AT CLARISSA, WHISPERS] Hurry up

MATE Aw man....

CRUTCH URGENT WHISPER] Come on

MATE RELUCTANTLY] Okay okay... [EXTREME CAUTION, STUDYING CLARISSA., CIRCLES THE BENCH, THEN KNEELS ON THE FLOOR BESIDE THE BENCH. HE TURNS AND GLANCES BACK AT CRUTCH

CRUTCH WHISPERS] Hurry up

MATE LEANS TO STUDY CLARISSA, NOT TOO CLOSELY, GLANCES BACK AT CRUTCH, AND RAISES HIS HANDS PALMS UPWARD] She's clean!

CRUTCH Clean! [BAFFLED]

MATE Aye

CRUTCH Feel her pulse!

MATE What?

CRUTCH Feel her pulse!

MATE ANGUISHED WHISPER) I dont want tae

CRUTCH Naw I know ye dont but ye've got to

MATE EXCRUTIATING] Naw

CRUTCH We got all difficult things in this life and that's one of them

BUDDY HANDS OVER HIS EARS] No

CRUTCH All these things we dont like, we've just got to do them, that's how come we're adults

MATE Aw please, have mercy

CRUTCH No, I'm standing firm on this one

.

MATE WRINGS HANDS] Dont ask me

CRUTCH ye've just got to square up to it [PAUSE] Come on

MATE Aw jesus christ [GINGERLY FEELS HER PULSE AT THE WRIST, SNIFFS, WRINKLES HIS NOSE)

CRUTCH What is she minging?

MATE Naw

CRUTCH Ye sure?

MATE SNIFFS] I dont think so. I would say she's bedraggled but. Oh christ aye. [SNIFFS] And she might be puggled! [SNIFFS AGAIN] Aye!

CRUTCH Well that explains it, a bevy merchant.

MATE SIGHS WISTFULLY

CRUTCH Is she breathing?

MATE Naw

CRUTCH She's deid then?

MATE I'm no sure

CRUTCH She's definitely no breathing?

MATE I dont think so. [PAUSE, EXAMINES HER AGAIN] Naw

CRUTCH Sure she's no, I knew it soon as I saw her. Ah well, see

MATE LOOKS TO HIM

CRUTCH If she hadnay been a bevy merchant she'd be alive and kicking this very minute.

MATE Absalootely.

CRUTCH Nothing surer

MATE GETS TO HIS FEET, MOVES AWAY FROM CLARISSA, SHOWS DISTASTE) I
dont like deid people do you?

CRUTCH I do not, They're bloody scary

MATE They are that. [HITCHES UP HIS TROUSERS]

CRUTCH Heh...

MATE GUARDED] What?

CRUTCH JERKS THUMB AT CLARISSA] Has she got any means of identification?

MATE STARES AT CLARISSA, COCKS HEAD] No that I can see.

CRUTCH What about in her coat?

MATE Pardon?

CRUTCH Her coat pockets, check inside her coat pockets!

MATE HORRIFIED] What!

CRUTCH SHRUGS] Aye

MATE STEPS AWAY] I'm no going into nay pockets

CRUTCH Come on

MATE Naw, no like what she is, a deid wummin. Not at all

CRUTCH Ah it'll be alright

MATE How do you know it's no you doing it. If something happens. Naw, I'm no going into nay pockets

CRUTCH I would do it

MATE Aye well go ahead, naybody's stopping ye

CRUTCH It's just I cannay bend down. Otherwise... [SNIFFS]

MATE GAZING AT HIM

CRUTCH SHRUGS] I would capsize man ower I would go

MATE PAUSE] Aw. Right. Aye

CRUTCH Good man. It's just to see her identification, that's all, if she's got her passport or whatever

MATE PAUSE] Yeh

CRUTCH Or else maybe what, a driving licence.

MATE A driving licence

CRUTCH Or else her pension book

MATE BEWILDERED] Pension book?

CRUTCH Could be

MATE K NOWING SMILE AND GLANCE AT CLARISSA] She's nay pensioner

CRUTCH Is she no?

MATE Oh naw. Nothing against pensioners, but she is nay wan I mean she's kind of... [GLANCES AT HER AGAIN, RAISES HIS EYEBROWS] She's nay pensioner.

CRUTCH What d'ye mean?

MATE WINKS AND SAUNTERS A PACE] She's nay pensioner [STOPS] Mind you, I've seen some pensioners in my day! Oh what! Ye know the auld saying!

CRUTCH I do not

MATE PAUSE. FROWNS

CRUTCH Check her pockets

MATE No way man, no way

CRUTCH Ah go ahead

MATE Naw

CRUTCH Before somebody comes

MATE I'm no going into nay pockets [TURNS AWAY]

CRUTCH STARES AT HIM

MATE EVENTUALLY, UNCERTAIN, LOOKS BACK SLOWLY] What happens if she...like...I mean... [STOPS]

CRUTCH What? [PAUSE] She's deid

MATE Aye but...

CRUTCH Nay aye buts if she's deid. Not if she is nay breathing, know what I mean man her soul has departed. So's her spirit [POINTS ALOFT WITH HIS CRUTCH

MATE LOOKS UP, AWED] Aye

CRUTCH Floating on high o'er hill and dale [MAKING FLOATING GESTURE WITH HIS CRUTCH] oer the far mountain tops

MATE POINTS TO THE SKY] Ye feel like waving dont ye

CRUTCH Mm

MATE All the dearly departeds! [WAVES] So long old buddy!

CRUTCH Aye... [SIGHS, GAZES AT CLARISSA] So she'll never know a thing

MATE SPELL BROKEN, LOOKS TO CLARISSA OVER ONE SHOULDER, THEN THE OTHER] Naw, I'm no going in nay pockets, I'm no doing it. [PLEADS] Aw dont ask me, dont ask me! [FOLDS HIS ARMS AND TURNS AWAY] I'm no doing it. [NOW NOTICES CLARISSA'S SHOES AND WHISPERS] Heh man, she's wearing shoes

CRUTCH Shoes, is she?

MATE Aye

CRUTCH WARILY] Naybody's knocked them yet? [GLANCES SIDEWAYS

MATE Naw. [ALSO GLANCES SIDEWAYS

CRUTCH That's a wonder [GLANCES AT HIS CRUTCH, THEN AT MATE'S BARE FEET, THEN TO CLARISSA'S SHOES]

MATE ALSO LOOKS AT HIS BARE FEET, WIGGLES HIS TOES. LOOKS AT CLARISSA'S SHOES, WIGGLES HIS TOES AGAIN. HITCHES TROUSERS THEN CLASPS HANDS BEHIND HIS BACK, STROLLS A LITTLE, WHISTLING CARELESSLY, THEN TURNS TO CRUTCH] Heh, did I ever tell ye about that missis of mine? [WINKS, JERKS THUMB AT

CLARISSA. WINKS AGAIN

CRUTCH FALLS INTO ROUTINE] Naw mucker, in what respect?

MATE See if she was here the now! [SWIFT GLANCE SIDEWAYS] Thank fuck she isnay. Oh beg pardon [APOLOGETIC LOOK TO CLARISSA, THEN BACK TO CRUTCH] No kidding ye man, see if my missis wis here the noo, see them shoes! They wouldnay be there cause she'd have swiped them. Telling you, that wife of mine's, she would've whipped them aff in a matter of moments.

CRUTCH DISTASTE] Aff a deid wummin?

MATE Whoh!

CRUTCH Surely no

MATE What, her! It's the God's truth man she had nay scruples. A total fucking tea leaf, a robber; a daylight robber.

CRUTCH Get away!

MATE She knocked stuff aff me tae

CRUTCH Yer ayn missis? [FROWNS AT CLARISSA

MATE Aye, she went in and out my pockets! A thievin bastirt so she was. Nay kidding ye, it was murder polis, ye couldni take her naywhere. I'm no talking shopping malls by the way! Wee grocer shops, that's what I'm talking about; fruiter shops, butcher shops, wallpaper shops, fucking barber shops, know what I mean, what ye gonni knock in a barber's shop! Everything she could lay her hands on, that's what. You name it, takeaway restaurants.

CRUTCH That's a pure showing up

MATE You said it

CRUTCH A humiliation

MATE Absalutely. Ye never knew where to look. Bad bastirt so she was.

CRUTCH GAZES AT CLARISSA] I suppose ye get females like that

MATE Aye but no if ye're merrit to them, know what I mean, it's alright if she's one of the boys

CRUTCH True, true

MATE Heh you I used to say, cut that oot, people are looking. But wid she wid she fuck. Lump a cheese here, a bag of totties there, fucking punna squerr sausage, a hauf dozen samosas. Up the jook it went. Then she'd come hame with that wee look on her face... [DISTASTE]

CRUTCH What kind of look?

MATE Smug. It was smug. I says it to her, I says, you're a smug wee besom [GAZES AT CLARISSA] Mind you, so then that was us, sitting doon tae a squer meal

CRUTCH FROWNS] What a real yin?

MATE Aye, pizzas or whatever, nachos, the lot, guaranteed. [LOOKS ABOUT] So that was one thing, ye were aye eating know what I mean, when I was merrit, I aye got my supper [FROWNS AT CRUTCH, THEN GLANCES SIDEWAYS, RUBS HIS HANDS TOGETHER]

CRUTCH Grub isnay everything!

MATE Not at all

CRUTCH Because it's at what cost? Is it your very marrow?

MATE Aye

CRUTCH Know what I'm saying man from the centre of your being

MATE Aye

CRUTCH Do ye sell yer soul? For what? A bowl of soup! No me man, naw, no way.

MATE TAPS HIS CHEST VIGOROUSLY] No me either.

CRUTCH Because that's the one thing I cannay go is thieves, I just want to vomity whewn

I hear they robber stories. I hate them, thieves. I do, I cannay abide them.

MATE Me neither

CRUTCH Ye get them everywhere

MATE Whoh!

CRUTCH And see wummin doing it!

MATE Absalootely, they are the total worst of the lot [FROWNS AT CLARISSA

CRUTCH No them all right enough

MATE Not at all

CRUTCH But some of them!

MATE Yeh

CRUTCH I'm just talking some

MATE Oh christ aye!

CRUTCH All it needs is one, then ye're tarred with the same brush. And they call it justice!

MATE SPITS IT OUT] Justice!

CRUTCH Well it wouldnay be me, that's all I can say

CLARISSA TURNS ONTO HER SIDE ON THE BENCH. BUT NEITHER MAN NOTICES

CRUTCH But that's wummin for ye: see scruples? Nayn at all, they havenay got any.

MATE Never did and never will.

CRUTCH I was married once myself.

MATE What! [ASTOUNDED] Were ye!

CRUTCH Oh fuck aye.

MATE Whoh!

CRUTCH I was

MATE Dear oh dear oh dear. I wouldna have credited that

CRUTCH FROWNS AT HIM

MATE Naw, just cause eh... cause eh... [SNIFFS] Were ye really?

CRUTCH Aye. Never again but never again.

MATE The auld marriage stakes eh! The old wedding bell blues

CRUTCH Whoh! Telling you. And the exact same when I had two legs

MATE SURPRISE) Was it?

CRUTCH Fucking worse if anything

MATE LOOKS CRUTCH UP AND DOWN] Well well well

CRUTCH PUZZLED, WATCHING HIM

MATE SUDDEN THOUGHT] Heh I've never asked ye this before and dont answer unless ye have to. But have you always had the one leg?

CRUTCH Naw fuck that's what I'm saying, I used to have the pair

MATE Did ye! Hh [NODS) So what happened?

CRUTCH Och...

MATE Tell us

CRUTCH I'd rather no, if ye dont mind

MATE PAUSE] Aw sure, sure (HANDS INTO POCKETS, STROLLS A MOMENT,

WHISTLES, THEN STOPS AND HITCHES UP HIS TROUSERS, TURNS TO CRUTCH] Did ye try and get it fixed ?

CRUTCH Pardon?

MATE Sorry, I was just eh... [BRIGHTLY] I meant afore ye lost it.

CRUTCH What d'ye mean lost it.] I didnay loss it

CLARISSA SNORES. BOTH MEN ARE TRANSFIXED. THEN STARE AT EACH OTHER

CRUTCH WHISPERS] She's no deid!

MATE Naw!

CRUTCH WHISPERS] That was a snore

MATE A fucking snore and a hauf!

CRUTCH I thought ye said she was deid?

MATE I did. I thought she was

CRUTCH Jesus christ

MATE It's a mystery to me! Her pulse wasnay there when I felt it

CRUTCH SHAKES HIS HEAD

MATE It wasnay

CRUTCH Ye sure?

MATE Yeh!

CRUTCH So where was it?

MATE I dont know.

CRUTCH STARES AT HIM

MATE PALMS UPWARD] Honest man I dont

CRUTCH Yeh, well [STOPS IN AMAZEMENT POINTS AT CLARISSA

CLARISSA SITS UP ON THE BENCH

MATE My God...

CLARISSA MAKES SMACKING SOUNDS WITH HER LIPS, LIKE SHE'S THIRSTY. NOW SHE SPOTS THE TWO MEN] Any of yous guys got a smoke? [LONG PAUSE] I'm no a bloody zombie

MATE Naw hen sorry

CLARISSA Ye got a smoke?

MATE Naw

CLARISSA Tch! [LOOKS TO HEAVENS] Mighta bloody known. [STARES AT THEM]

MATE We're skint

CLARISSA SIGHS

MATE SHRUGS] Sorry

CLARISSA YAWNS AND SCRATCHES] What day it is?

MATE Day...? (BAFFLED GLANCE TO CRUTCH]

CRUTCH GLANCES AT HIS WRIST, BUT HE ISNT WEARING A WATCH, STARES SUSPICIOUSLY AT CLARISSA

CLARISSA NOTICES AND QUICKLY LOOKS HIM UP AND DOWN] What happened to your leg pal did it fall off?

CRUTCH What...

CLARISSA Yer leg, did it fall off?

CRUTCH I dont talk about my leg

CLARISSA SARCASTIC] Aw pardon me I'm sure

CRUTCH For all you know it was a female that caused it

CLARISSA SARCASTIC] Aw

CRUTCH Aye aw. So less of the sarcasm

CLARISSA Is that what ye thought it was

CRUTCH What's that supposed to mean?

CLARISSA Ha ha!

CRUTCH Hey, what you meaning

CLARISSA TO MATE] Sensitive wee sowel int he

CRUTCH Aye. Sensitive about my leg anyway [GLANCES AT MATE

MATE NODS

CLARISSA LOSES ATTENTION, SMACKS HER LIPS AGAIN

MATE Heh missis, you beviied?

CLARISSA ASIDE] Wish to christ I was

CRUTCH QUIET PRIDE) We've chucked the drink

CLARISSA ASIDE] Pair of fucking eejits

CRUTCH I beg yer pardon

MATE Never bother about her

CLARISSA TO CRUTCH] Did ye never try and get it sorted?

CRUTCH IRRITATED] Get what sorted?

CLARISSA WAVES HAND AT HIS CRUTCH] Yer thingwi, yer leg!

CRUTCH What makes ye ask?

CLARISSA Never you mind. Nosy bastard

CRUTCH Hey I beg yer pardon,

MATE OFFENDED] Oh!

CRUTCH nay need for language

CLARISSA I asked ye if ye ever tried to get it sorted.

CRUTCH SARCASTIC] What d'you think!

CLARISSA What do I think? Anything's possible, that's what I think

CRUTCH What do ye mean?

CLARISSA INDICATES HIS CRUTCH] So ye didnay try and get it sorted? I'm talking about with a doctor

MATE STEPS TO CLARISSA] I asked him that a wee minute ago. [AND TO CRUTCH] Sure I did?

CRUTCH FROWNS AT HIM

MATE TO CLARISSA] I did but

CRUTCH SNIFFS, DEFENSIVELY

CLARISSA So did ye get him to look at it?

CRUTCH GLANCES AT MATE

CLARISSA I'm talking about the doctor, no yer glaikit-looking mate here [LOOKS TO

MATE]

MATE That's a bit strong

CLARISSA IRONIC] Nay offence

MATE Nayn taken

CLARISSA TO CRUTCH] So ye tried to get it sorted?

MATE Aye. Course he did. (THEN TO CRUTCH) Eh?

CRUTCH SNIFFS

CLARISSA QUIETLY] Mm hh

MATE TO CRUTCH] Sure ye did?

CRUTCH SNAPS] That's my business.

CLARISSA SARCASTIC] Aw it's your business!

CRUTCH My business, aye

CLARISSA Ha ha!

CRUTCH What d'ye mean ha ha. You're damn right it's ma business. It's ma damn leg int it.

CLARISSA Huh

CRUTCH ANNOYED] It's me that's no got it

MATE TO CLARISSA] He's right there missis I mean you've got one. If ye didnay ye wouldnay. [SHRUGS] Ye huv but, so that's that

CRUTCH Aye [MAKES A FACE AT HER AND SNAPS] Unlucky eh

CLARISSA Aw I see, so it's like that is it. (GLARES FROM MATE TO CRUTCH) I bet ye if I had a buncha bloody testicles ye wouldnay be so carnaptious.

CRUTCH What d'ye mean?

CLARISSA And a sexist wee swine into the bargain.

CRUTCH [OUTRAGED] Never

CLARISSA Huh [FOLDS HER ARMS]

CRUTCH [TO MATE] Tell her!

MATE Ah ye're wrang there missis

CRUTCH I've never been sexist in my entire puff!

MATE [TAPS HIMSELF ON THE CHEST] And I'd be the first to know

CLARISSA Aw that's a good yin!

MATE Aye!

CLARISSA Rubbish!

MATE [LOOKS TO CRUTCH]

CRUTCH It's no rubbish. He's my mate

CLARISSA [MIMICS IN A GRATING WHINE] He's my mate.

CRUTCH [ANGRILY] Aye

CLARISSA Fucking girny gub the cat's auntie. Yez are aw the same

CRUTCH Naw we're no

MATE I wouldnay say he's a girny gub missis, he's just got trials and tribulations

CLARISSA Ach we've all got got them, trials and tribulations

CRUTCH [RIGHTEOUSLY] Some mair than maist

CLARISSA Only if ye believe what's in front of yer nose

CRUTCH BAFFLED PAUSE] What's that supposed to mean?

CLARISSA There's appearances and there's the things themselves, somethings is the appearances, other things aren't. [PAUSE] We're no all the genuine article

MATE But he is the genuine article. A hundred percent

CLARISSA Including his leg?

MATE Of course.

CLARISSA Huh

MATE FROWNS] What do ye mean?

CLARISSA It was you that said it pal

MATE Said what?

CRUTCH TO CLARISSA] I'm no wanting to listen to stuff about legs

CLARISSA Naw, you wouldnay!

CRUTCH I know I wouldnay. You mind yer ayn legs

MATE Absolutely [POINTS AT CLARISSA'S LEGS]

CLARISSA TURNS SIDEWAYS, SHIELDING HER LEGS] Here you!

MATE Oh pardon me

CLARISSA Ach yez are all the same.

MATE Naw we're no

CLARISSA One thing and one thing only

CRUTCH Not at all.

CLARISSA Ye see a woman and ye just think of that one thing. The whole fucking lot of ye,

CRUTCH Excuse you!

CLARISSA Ah!

MATE Ahem. We're no keen on language, no if it's like a female, if it's a female saying it [GLANCES AT CRUTCH] Eh?

CRUTCH SNIFFS. CLEARS THROAT

CLARISSA Perr a fucking eejits

CRUTCH People can have wider vocabularies

CLARISSA Fuck yer vocabulary

MATE Aw now wait a minute there

CLARISSA I'll speak how I want to speak and nay man's gauny stop me

CRUTCH I dont like anybody using language, it's no just wummin.

MATE Even himself, if he does it, he doesnay like it, he gies himself rows

CRUTCH RIGHTEOUSLY] Aye, all the time

MATE Especially if it's to do with sex

CLARISSA WEARILY] Aw here we go

CRUTCH FROWNS AT MATE

MATE BEWILDERED SHRUG

CLARISSA Look at the state of yez!

CRUTCH What!

CLARISSA Ever looked in a mirror?

MATE A mirror...!

CLARISSA Aye, if ye've got to ask!

CRUTCH BAFFLED

CLARISSA You know what I'm talking about

CRUTCH Naw I dont

CLARISSA Yes ye do

CRUTCH Ye're wrong

CLARISSA Aye, am I!

CRUTCH A hundred percent

CLARISSA Here we go with the hundred per cent stuff

CRUTCH HESITANT] Well no a hundred percent

CLARISSA TO MATE] See!

MATE SURPRISED

CRUTCH TO MATE] Well I'm a man, int I?

MATE Aye but...

CLARISSA Sex

CRUTCH TURNS HIS HEAD AWAY

MATE Sex! No my mate. He's a thinker!

CLARISSA DISMISSIVELY] A thinker!

MATE Honest missis. Sex is the last thing.

CRUTCH TURNS HUFFILY, HOLDS HEAD HIGH

CLARISSA IRONIC] Is that a fact!

MATE Aye

CRUTCH SURREPTICIOUSLY WATCHES THE OTHER TWO

MATE Me tae missis.

CLARISSA STUDIES HIM

MATE Sex is the last thing

CLARISSA Mmm

MATE Naw I mean that is one thing if eh...if...eh...eh... [SNIFFS, GUILTY MOVEMENTS]

CLARISSA STARES HIM INTO SILENCE

CRUTCH SURREPTICIOUS LOOK AT MATE

CLARISSA TO MATE] You got something to say?

MATE PAUSE. HANGS HEAD

CLARISSA FOLDS ARMS] I mighta known

MATE SIDEWAYS GLANCE TO CRUTCH

CLARISSA WALKS SEVERAL PACES, TURNS TO CRUTCH] Heh you, girny face, what did they say when ye presented yersel at the doctor's surgery?

CRUTCH I'm no telling you

CLARISSA What did they say to ye? [LONG PAUSE] Eh? [PAUSE AND TO MATE] What is he deaf!

CRUTCH Did you speak there?

CLARISSA The doctor's surgery pal... When ye presented yersel for examination...? What did they say?

CRUTCH What about? Ye mean my leg?

CLARISSA A KNOWING LOOK

CRUTCH Well eh... (SNIFFS, UNCOMFORTABLE

CLARISSA Eh?

CRUTCH Well... Uummm

CLARISSA What did the doctor say was wrang with ye? Did he say it was an unstoppable gangrene or what, a terminal infection; was it broken in ten places, was it just twistit out of recognition, poisoned beyond repair - what!

CRUTCH FIDGETS LIKE A NAUGHTY BOY, BITES NAILS

CLARISSA SARCASTIC] Was the break too wide to get mended?

MATE GAZES ACROSS, ALSO INTERESTED

CRUTCH NOTICES MATE] Ummm...eh...

CLARISSA You obviously didnay go to see nay damn doctor

CRUTCH Aye I did

CLARISSA Ha ha [to MATE] He didnay go to nay damn doctor

MATE I thought ye saw two specialist leg surgeons? the top men in the country

CRUTCH HANGS HIS HEAD

MATE Ye didnay?

CLARISSA Lazy swine, I bet ye he didnay even go to the hospital clinic when they telt him! Fucking men! Typical. Just bloody typical

CRUTCH It's nayne of your business

CLARISSA You better believe it

MATE TO CRUTCH] Did ye no go?

CRUTCH Nosy bastirts

CLARISSA TO MATE] So nayne wonder he lost the damn thing

CRUTCH I didnay loss it

CLARISSA Tch...!

CRUTCH I didnay loss it

CLARISSA Ye were feart to go to the hospital

CRUTCH Pardon?

CLARISSA Yeh, pardon! Pardon me till ye cut my leg aff

CRUTCH That isnay how it happened.

CLARISSA Huh!

CRUTCH I wasnay feart [AND TO MATE] I wasnay

CLARISSA Men!

CRUTCH TO MATE] It wasnay like that, honest

CLARISSA SHAKES HER HEAD SLOWLY

CRUTCH PLEADS TO MATE] It wasnay

MATE NODS FIRMLY, THEN TO CLARISSA] Naw now wait a minute here missis. [SHRUGS] Maybe he's no a man for hospitals... There's a lot of folk dont like hospitals

CRUTCH Yeh!

CLARISSA Huh!

MATE And no just men. We're talking here about all what's inside them. Yer nurses and doctors, disinfectant and needles. Aw that kind of palaver.

CRUTCH Aye!

MATE Bandages and splints, specialist surgeons and then yer matrons and all them nappies and bottle samples. Know what I mean [EXAGGERATED SHUDDER] bottle samples! A lot of people wouldnay go near a hospital. Not for love and not for money! (TO CRUTCH, FIRMLY) Is that correct mucker?

CRUTCH Aye!

MATE And even if they get there, they dont trust them. I'm talking yer ordinary people here. Anmd why should they trust them. I wouldnay [TO CRUTCH] Would you trust a hospital?

CRUTCH Never

MATE Absalutely. [AND TO CLARISSA] Know how?

CLARISSA IRONIC, FOLDS HER ARMS

MATE The class system

CRUTCH WAVES CRUTCH] Exactly!

CLARISSA HANDS ON HIPS] What ye talking about?

MATE Telling ye hen

CRUTCH The class system! That's it, that's the damn game we're talking about! I'm no letting naybody cut me up!

MATE Damn right

CLARISSA Aw I see

CRUTCH For what doth it profit a body! Nah, no me. Right to the bitter end!.

MATE ADMIRING CRUTCH, AND TO CLARISSA] See.

CLARISSA Ah!

MATE Naybody's cutting me up! That's what they say. I dont care if it is for the good of mankind or yer queen or country, yer royal princes and what have ye, naybody's taking my damn leg. They willnay do it for us so we willnay do it for them. That's yer class for ye. It's no like the auld days

CRUTCH It's the system, ye cannay beat the system, not the working man

MATE Never

MATE AND CRUTCH EXCHANGE STERN NODS.

CLARISSA HANDS ON HIPS] So?

CRUTCH So...?

MATE SNIFFS

CLARISSA So what happens then?

MATE AND CRUTCH EXCHANGE LOOKS

MATE They call in their shop steward

CRUTCH Aye

MATE They get them to test the equipment. Is that a sharp knife or what, is it blunt, where did ye get yer scalpels, yer ointments, what about that linen there, was that a job lot. Naw, never trust a doctor

CRUTCH It's no like he's a man of the cloth

MATE Not at all

CRUTCH Folk make that mistake all the time

MATE All the time. Me too, I would stand or fall by it

CRUTCH Yeh

CLARISSA So yez have got principles!

CRUTCH SNIFFS

MATE GLANCES AT CRUTCH

CLARISSA Eh?

CRUTCH RIGHTEOUS LOOK

MATE WARILY] Ah well I wouldnay go as far as that, principles.

CRUTCH Ye huv but

MATE I'm no so sure...

CRUTCH Aye ye huv

MATE Well so huv you

CRUTCH Aw well, maybe, I mean... [SHRUGS] Think so?

MATE Sure. [TO CLARISSA] You tae

CLARISSA You being cheeky?

MATE Not at all

CLARISSA STARES AT HIM

MATE Ye can tell it a mile away. [TO CRUTCH] Int she?

CRUTCH Whoh! Definitely

MATE INDICATES CRUTCH] And if he says it, know what I mean

CLARISSA Mmm [LOOKS CRUTCH UP AND DOWN

CRUTCH ATTEMPTS TO CONCEAL HIMSELF BY STANDING SIDE ON TO HER

CLARISSA Ye're self conscious pal int ye?

CRUTCH SNIFFS

CLARISSA Mind you, it isnay a bad point

MATE Not at all

CLARISSA It suits some people [STARES AT CRUTCH]

CRUTCH EMBARASSED

CLARISSA I didnay figure ye for self conscious

MATE I didnay either

CRUTCH GLARES AT HIM

CLARISSA Ye can see it

MATE I just thought he was grumpy

CRUTCH OFFENDED] Aw!

MATE Nay offence mucker but ye ur. It's one of yer traits

CLARISSA And no a very nice one. Some folk have got nice traits, you huvnay.

MATE GAZING AT CRUTCH] The wummin's right enough

CRUTCH You tae! Oh ya scoundrel!

MATE Ye are a grumpy bastirt but, and then tae... [SHRUGS]

CRUTCH What?

MATE Well ye've got other things, wee kind of... characteristics

CRUTCH Characteristics!

MATE Aye, just wee wans

CRUTCH What wee wans, what ye talking about, characteristics, I dont have any wee characteristics

MATE Ye do so!

CRUTCH Naw I dont

MATE Aye ye do man

CRUTCH Name wan!

MATE PONDERS] Ye bite yer nails

CLARISSA Aw a nail-biter!

CRUTCH That isnay a characteristic

CLARISSA Well what is it then?

MATE BACKING HER UP] Aye?

CRUTCH It's a habit

MATE Ye've got characteristics as well but

CRUTCH FROWNING

MATE Ye have

CRUTCH NOTICES CLARISSA STARING AT HIM] What, what is it?

CLARISSA JUST STARING AT HIM

CRUTCH WIDE-EYED] What... [NOW TO MATE] What is she staring at me for...?

MATE JUST LOOKS TO CLARISSA THEN BACK TO MATE

CRUTCH FEARFUL, TO CLARISSA] What?

CLARISSA NODS SLOWLY, THEN TAPS HER TEMPLE, AND SLOWLY] It's inside yer mind ye've got them. It's all in there, in through yer wee veins and yer toty wee coagulators [NOW WAVES HER FINGER AT CRUTCH, HYPNOTICALLY] and then yer channels and mebranes ohhh soo thin and scaly, and all yer corpuscles and all yer wee air bubbles and yer oxygen and fleshlike substances, and fleshy fleshy, oh so fleshy fleshy, these toty little crunchy bits so well seasoned, ye take wan pinch and then ye take two

CRUTCH IN DREAD

MATE STARING FROM CLARISSA TO CRUTCH

CLARISSA WAVES HER FINGER IN CIRCLES] And ye stir them and stir them and then ye mix them so finely oh so finely that it becomes merged and mangled, all merged and mangled and mair merged and then commingled, commingled

CRUTCH SHUDDERS] Oh man I dont like this

MATE WHISPERS ASIDE] It's strong medicine mucker but ye've got to take it

CLARISSA CONTINUES WAVING HER FINGER AT CRUTCH] And if ye dont watch it ye're gauny get all screwed up. Ye'll wind up all knotted and fankled, yer sinews and synapses, ye'll be all gristly bits and flaky skin.

CRUTCH SHUDDERS

MATE SHAKES HIS HEAD AT HIM] See!

CLARISSA CONTINUES ADDRESSING CRUTCH] And then that's you, a wizened old dried up old man, with not a drop of sap in yer entire body, the nurses'll be feart to lift ye up in

case ye fall down cause if ye dae ye'll just snap like a twig [SNAPS FINGER]. Nurses like a fit body on a man. When they lift up the blankets they want to see all the bits and pieces, all in their proper place. It's the quality of limb we're talking about here pal, no the quantity, yer actual legs are ten a penny, who's interested in them, naybody

MATE ASTONISHED] She's right

CLARISSA FOLDS ARMS

MATE The lassie's right enough

CRUTCH STARTLED] Lassie?

MATE Aye

CRUTCH GLANCES AT HER

MATE WHISPERS] She knows

CRUTCH SCARED] What?

MATE STARES AT HIM

CRUTCH What does she know?

MATE Whoh! Everything

CRUTCH Everything?

MATE Aye. No just in this life

CRUTCH AMAZEMENT] How can ye tell?

MATE Easy. [GAZES AT CLARISSA, APPROVINGLY, SMILES]

CLARISSA Who are you staring at?

MATE Who me?

CLARISSA It's not nice to stare

MATE Aw sorry, sorry

CLARISSA TO CRUTCH] You always been feart of hospitals? Eh?

CRUTCH PAUSE, THEN HANGS HEAD

CLARISSA That settles it

MATE I never knew that! I've known him for years tae! [LOOKS TO CRUTCH

CRUTCH It's true.

MATE You never says nothing to me!

CLARISSA FOLDS ARMS] It's the white coat syndrome

CRUTCH She's right.

MATE LOOKS ACCUSINGLY AT CRUTCH

CRUTCH I hate doctors with a vengeance. Ever since I was a boy

MATE What did ye have a bad experience like?

CRUTCH Aye

MATE That 's no so good.

CLARISSA He's got all the symptoms. It's classical

CLARISSA AND MATE SCRUTINIZE CRUTCH

CRUTCH STOPS BITING NAILS, SELF CONSCIOUS

MATE How does it start?

CLARISSA People are aye ill and no well ye see

MATE SURPRISE] So they are!

CLARISSA So then they see a doctor

MATE SURPRISE] Aye!

CLARISSA TO CRUTCH] But it's more than that. They've built up these bad associations, all since infancy, right from being a baby.

MATE Aye, christ! That's the first thing that happens! As soon as ye drop into this world ye get skelped on the arse - pardon me, the bottom

CRUTCH That's right

MATE I know!

CRUTCH ANNOYED] Skelped, aye, know what I mean, yer first breath and then it's bump, smack smack. What have I done? Nothing, ye just wake into life man and that's you

MATE Assaulted!

CRUTCH Aye!

MATE Absalutely

CLARISSA NODS

CRUTCH Because see when ye think about it, it's aye bad things that happen in hospitals! [SHRUGS] So then it puts ye aff

MATE Aye

CRUTCH Whoh!

CLARISSA TAPPING HER TEMPLE] It's all up here

CRUTCH Know something, I couldnay care less aboot doctors and hospitals, I've aye been happy tramping the fields in search of herbal remedies

MATE Herbal remedies?

CRUTCH Aye [GESTICULATING] I just go tramping the fields, know what I'm saying!

CLARISSA Ya bampot ye.

CRUTCH What?

CLARISSA Herbal remedies [POINTING AT HIS ABSENT LEG

CRUTCH Aye!

CLARISSA No for a broken leg!

CRUTCH You're just cynical. People can be cynical, that's a problem with this day and age

MATE Definitely

CLARISSA So what happens if yer crutch breaks?

CRUTCH That isnay the issue

CLARISSA Look pal ye dont even find herbal remedies in fields, it's forests

MATE [SURPRISED] That's right

CRUTCH Pardon?

CLARISSA Forests and woods, fucking wildernesses and swamps, the longest grass and thickest nettles, and yer weeds, that's where ye find herbs. No in fields - coos plabs is aw ye'll find there

MATE: [LAUGHS] Coos plabs!

CLARISSA [CUTS HIM SHORT] There's nothing funny about coos plabs

MATE [IMMEDIATELY SERIOUS] Naw

CRUTCH [GAZES WARILY AT CLARISSA

CLARISSA [TO MATE] Ever had wan flung at ye? [TURNS HER HEAD NOW TO LOOK AT

CRUTCH

CRUTCH GAZES BACK

CLARISSA NOW LOOKS TO MATE] Eh?

MATE STARTLED, TAPS HIMSELF ON THE CHEST, MOUTHS THE WORD 'ME'

CLARISSA Aye you pal, I'm talking to you. Ever had a coo's plab flung at ye?

MATE A coo's plab! [WORRIED LOOK TO CRUTCH]

CRUTCH JUST GAZING AT CLARISSA

CLARISSA NODS SLOWLY, TURNS TO CRUTCH AND WAGS HER FINGER AT HIM]
Now what you've got to learn – and you've got a lot to learn pal, you better believe it -
I'm gony say something to you, and you best listen close, I'm talking real close.

CRUTCH MOVES CLOSER TO LISTEN

CLARISSA It isnay just bad things that happen in hospitals [TAPS HER TEMPLE. PAUSE.
STARING AT CRUTCH] Ye follow me?

CRUTCH GAWPS AT HER

CLARISSA There's good stuff tae.

MATE ASTONISHED] Aye

CRUTCH GLANCES TO MATE, BACK TO CLARISSA

CLARISSA Now see here and listen. Get it into yer heid

MATE Aye

CLARISSA What about yer get-well-cards. What about yer cups of tea, and yer bouquets
of flowers. What about yer good night's sleep? You forget about that! Plus yer breakfast
in bed. Breakfast in bed! Then ye've got yer dinner, and yer supper, and a wee cup of cocoa
through the night, a wee bit of toast, then a conversation, if ye like conversations

MATE NODDING AWAY] Aye and yer hot bottles, sometimes they gie ye a hot bottle [GLANCES AT CLARISSA] It depends on the hospital

CLARISSA PAUSE] Hot bottles are tricky

MATE AWED WHISPER] Hot bottles are tricky... [GAZES AT CLARISSA, ADMIRING

CLARISSA TO CRUTCH] You've just had bad experiences pal but ye've had good wans as well. Eftir they skelped yer arse, what happened then?

CRUTCH I beg yer pardon?

CLARISSA I'm talking about yer birth

CRUTCH Aw, well, eh...

CLARISSA I'll tell ye what happened, they gied ye to yer mammy and then ye got a feed

MATE Aye!

CLARISSA And it was a breast feed [TURNS IN SOME DISGUST] I'm just guessing

MATE I stand by everything this lassie says! A hunner percent

CLARISSA FOLDS ARMS

CRUTCH MUTTERED ASIDE] Crawling bastirt

MATE: Naw! Just think back to all the times ye've been in hospital! It was for all bad things! And if it isnay you it's yer nearest and dearest, yer friends and family, yer kids and yer maw and da, all with their cancers and their heart attacks and strokes and what have ye, incurable diseases and poxes, infectious plagues and sexual whatever

CLARISSA Heh you!

MATE Sorry hen. Yer broken bones and that, yer tibulas and yer fibulas, aw yer appendix stuff and bad tonsils, know what I mean, infected yins

CLARISSA NODS

CRUTCH INTERESTED IN SPITE OF HIMSELF

MATE And then there's all the swarms of stuff, yer creepy crawlies, all them what-dye-call them viruses, all them we toty things, all furry and shuddery.

CRUTCH SHUDDERS

CLARISSA RAISES HER CHIN SLIGHTLY, GAZING OUT TO THE AUDIENCE, ARMS FOLDED: IMPERIOUS

MATE See when ye think about it... Have you ever been in hospital for anything good?

CRUTCH Naw

CLARISSA OVER HER SHOULDER] That's what I'm saying

MATE WHISPERS] Neither have I.

CRUTCH Mm [WARILY LOOKING FROM MATT TO CLARISSA]

CLARISSA GAZING BACK OUT AT AUDIENCE

MATE WHISPERS] What the lassie says, know what I mean mucker... [GIVES A WINK AND A NOD OF THE HEAD] She knows

CRUTCH PAUSE] Aye...

MATE Women's business.

CRUTCH WHISPERS] Women's business...

MATE Cause that's what we're talking about here. And that is what's went wrang, that is our tragedy, if ye want to talk about tragedy, know what I mean man, that's ours

CLARISSA GLANCES BACK OVER AT MATE

MATE SMILES, GIVES HER A WEE WAVE

CRUTCH WHISPERS] Do ye mean in this life?

MATE SIDE OF THE MOUTH] Aye...

CLARISSA PRETENDS NOT TO BE LISTENING. AT THE SAME TIME SHE STRIKES A POSE, ONE HAND ON HIP: STATUESQUE

MATE GAZES ACROSS AT CLARISSA, ADMIRING HER

CLARISSA NOTICES, STRIKES ANOTHER POSE

CRUTCH WHISPERS] I wonder what the lassie's name is?

MATE Clarissa.

CRUTCH Clarissa... [STARES AT HER] Clarissa... [SLOWLY] How do ye know?

MATE I'm just guessing

CRUTCH Whoh...

MATE [A WINK AND A NOD OF THE HEAD] Know what I mean?

CRUTCH Whoh... aye.. I think ye might be right

MATE Women [AWED WHISPER] They're bewitchers and beguilers.

CLARISSA LOOKS IN THEIR DIRECTION, SERENELY

MATE Take yer herbal remedies, and all the rest of it, yer scented grasses and yer fancy connils, the embroidered cushions and yer soap and bubble stuff, then yer swamps and yer bushes. Yer floors and yer golden buttercups, aw that gemm, fancy wallpaper, yer rhododendron bushes. Know what I mean? What does it all add up to!

CRUTCH GAPES AT HIM

MATE I'm talking all that stuff. Pin cushions! Know what I mean, pin cushions! What's a pin cushion?

CRUTCH GAPES AT HIM IN SOME CONSTERNATION

MATE WHISPERS] Women's business

CRUTCH Pardon? [SNEAKS A LOOK AT CLARISSA]

MATE It's aw that squishy stuff...

CRUTCH Aye

MATE WINKS] That feminine malarkey.

CRUTCH Aye

CLARISSA WATCHING THEM NOW, BUT THEY DONT NOTICE

MATE What age are you by the way?

CRUTCH Nayn of your damn business

MATE I'm just asking

CRUTCH What age are you?

MATE SMILES] That isnay the point.

CRUTCH Well how d'you like it?

MATE I dont mind. It's you but

CRUTCH Me?

MATE Aye. What age are ye?

CRUTCH PUZZLED, WHISPERS] No in front of the lassie

CLARISSA CALLS TO CRUTCH] What's up pal?

CRUTCH GUILTILY] Nothing

CLARISSA Ye're a worrier int ye?

CRUTCH It's him that's the worrier, no me

CLARRISA TO MATE] Are ye?

MATE Who me? [SNIFFS] That depends

CLARISSA Huh!

MATE It does

CLARISSA Everything depends pal. That's what makes the world go forwards instead of backwards

MATE & CRUTCH LOOK AT EACH OTHER. MATE HITCHES UP HIS TROUSERS

CRUTCH WHISPERS INAUDIBLY TO MATE

MATE LISTENS, NODS, THEN TO CLARISSA] That's God's job

CLARISSA IRONIC] God's job!

CRUTCH TO CLARISSA] He aye brings God into it

MATE What! Aw you! Ya sleekit wee... Heh that was him it wasnay me. I just said it. It was him thought it. He does it to me all the time

CRUTCH Aye to prove a point.

MATE But that isnay how God's there ye know just so you can prove a point

CRUTCH How is God there then?

MATE Just cause he wants to be

CRUTCH Aye right

MATE He is

CRUTCH Naw he isnay

MATE Aye he is

CRUTCH He isnay

MATE Aye [INTERRUPTED

CLARISSA SUDDENLY] Stop that

CRUTCH Sorry

MATE HANGS HEAD

CLARISSA Ye have to stop this. Right now. All that next life mumbo jumbo. [WAGGING FINGER] Wake up. Ye've got to wake up and get on with things. [LOOKS AROUND] This right here. This is what we've got. No more no less. [GESTURES AT CRUTCH] You tae!

CRUTCH Me?

CLARISSA Ye're no a Martian

CRUTCH What's that supposed to mean!

MATE The lassie's right

CLARISSA WAGGING HER FINGER AT CRUTCH Have ye ever thought about flinging away yer crutch?

MATE ASTONISHED] Jesus christ!

CRUTCH AWED WHISPER] I could never do that

CLARISSA Yes ye could

CRUTCH I couldnt [PAUSE] I would just fall down

MATE Naw ye wouldnay

CRUTCH But I would

CLARISSA ye wouldnay

CRUTCH But I've only got one leg

CLARISSA So what?

CRUTCH PAUSE] I would fall down

MATE STEPS FORWARD] Naw ye wouldnay. [SELF RIGHTEOUSLY] I would catch ye

CRUTCH Would ye?

MATE Need ye ask?

CRUTCH Thanks mucker

CLARISSA SHAKES HEAD] Yez're going at a tangent

CRUTCH Beg pardon?

CLARISSA WAGGING HER FINGER AT MATE] You stay out of this

MATE HUFFY POUT.

CLARISSA Stop that!

MATE RAISES EYEBROWS

CLARISSA WAGS FINGER AT CRUTCH] If ye fling away yer crutch ye'll hop

CRUTCH Will I?

CLARISSA Course ye will.

CRUTCH Aye but...

CLARISSA Stop all this negativity.

MATE CALLS] Him and his aye but!

CLARISSA IGNORES MATE, WAGGING FINGER AT CRUTCH] And if ye fall down ye'll just crawl till then ye find something to hold onto, then ye'll climb back up again

CRUTCH Honest?

CLARISSA I've got nay doubts about that whatsoever. Ye're that kind of man

CRUTCH UNCERTAIN FROWN

MATE DELIGHTED] She's right!

CLARISSA You better believe I'm right

MATE SUDDEN FROWN AND BACK A PACE

CRUTCH What?

MATE GRIMLY] Mmm. [SHAKES HEAD]

CRUTCH What's wrang?

MATE Ah naw, naw, nothing.

CRUTCH Get it out?

MATE SIGHS] It's just...eh... I hate saying this but

CLARISSA Stop! [INTERRUPTING HIM WITH A WAVE. THEN TO CRUTCH] Never bother about him, he'll just come out with hypothetical stuff

MATE DELIGHTED] Aye! How did you know?

CRUTCH Is she right?

MATE Absafuckinglootely, I was all set to gie ye an aye-but, a for-instance, know what I mean, if one thing happens what about another thing, if ye set it in motion, is it gony kick off something else, and what is that something else gony be and is it gony kick off another something [EYES WIDENING]

CLARISSA And so on and so forth and round and round the rugged rock the ragged rascal

ran [EXASPERATED SIGH, TURNS FROM THEM]

MATE It's true. Right hand up [RAISES HAND] And then it was like everything was gony come into it. I dont know where I was going, but I'll tell ye something, I'm gled I've come back.

CLARISSA Bloody typical

CRUTCH WHISPERS ASIDE] Ye're no just trying to get in with her cause she's female?

MATE Cross my heart! [CROSSES HEART AND RIGHT HAND UP. THEN GIVES AN ADMIRING LOOK TO CLARISSA

CLARISSA GLANCES BACK AT THEM

CRUTCH TO CLARISSA] Dont believe him! I know his gemm. I can read him like a book

MATE Naw naw. Naw. [CROSSES HEART, RIGHT HAND UP]

CRUTCH You just want to get aff with her

MATE AFFRONTED] Me!

CRUTCH NODS TO CLARISSA, JERKS THUMB AT MATE] He's charming ye, I know him of old. That's the way he operates.

MATE RIGHTEOUSLY] Oh no, not at all

CRUTCH Ye dae so

MATE LOOKS AT HIM

CLARISSA A charmer?

CRUTCH Whoh!

MATE TO CLARISSA] Dont listen to him

CRUTCH He just wants to get aff with ye

MATE TO CLARISSA] It's no like that!

CRUTCH Think we're daft!

CLARISSA STARES AT MATE

MATE NOW AVOIDS HER STARE

CRUTCH See?

MATE ANNOYED GLANCE AT CRUTCH. PAUSE. THEN HANGS HIS HEAD

CRUTCH to CLARISSA) I telt ye! He's an open book him. A wee wean could read him. [QUICKLY] That's if it was a wee boy, if the wean was a wee boy. If it was a wee lassie it would be different, a wee lassie might no know. No unless it was a man instead of a wummin, know what I mean, then the wee lassie would know, she would just go Aha! dont trust him, dont trust him. Because women read men and men read women.

CLARISSA Hmm

CRUTCH ye've got to watch him

MATE GLARES AT HIM

CRUTCH See that! He's looking daggers at me! That's cause he knows it's the truth!

MATE Naw it's no, it's cause it's lies, it's lies

CRUTCH It isnay lies

MATE Aye it is

CRUTCH You're just wanting to lumber her cause she's a wummin

MATE OFFENDED LOOK

CRUTCH That's what it is

CLARISSA to MATE) Is that right?

CRUTCH Know what I mean, it's just ancient history

MATE FROWNS, THEN RELAXES AND STANDS TWIDDLING HIS THUMBS, SNEAKS A LOOK AT HER.

CLARISSA Huh [TURNS AWAY FROM THEM, GIVES A WEARY SIGH] Just like all the rest

MATE WAGS FINGER AT CRUTCH) And if he had baith his legs he'd be the very same!

CRUTCH AGGRIEVED] What!

MATE Aye ye would, ye would. If you know me I know you. Two can play at that gemm

CRUTCH Aw they can can they!

MATE So it's no just me. Honest missis. Dont let him fool ye. If he knows me I know him. He might be a grumpy buggar but he isnay deid and buried. No yet anyway. He's like all the rest as well. [PAUSE] Look, look at him

CLARISSA TURNS TO SEE CRUTCH

CRUTCH HANGS HIS HEAD. BUT ONLY FOR A MOMENT, THEN GLARES AT MATE) Wait a minute you, what's having baith my legs got to do with it?

MATE What?

CRUTCH Ye says if I had baith my legs. What's that go to do with it?

MATE Aw nothing, nothing.

CRUTCH There's nothing wrang with wan leg. [LOOKS AT CLARISSA] Honest

MATE Not at all

CLARISSA PAUSE. GAZES AT THEM, LOOKS THEM UP AND DOWN, STEPS TOWARDS THEM

MATE AND CRUTCH BECOME UNCOMFORTABLE BENEATH HER GAZE

CLARISSA PROLONGS THIS NOW, AS THOUGH INSPECTING THEM ON PARADE.

MATE RUNS FINGER UNDER COLLAR OF HIS SHIRT, CLEARS HIS THROAT

CRUTCH WHISPERS] Oh man, I telt you to wear a tie...

MATE ASIDE] I didnay think

CLARISSA SEES MATE'S BARE FEET, FROWNS

CRUTCH WHISPERS] Help ma boab, yer feet...

MATE WHISPERS] Aw naw [WIPES EACH OF HIS FEET ON THE CUFFS OF HIS TROUSERS

CRUTCH CLEARS THROAT] He aye gies them a clean. Dont ye...

MATE Oh jees aye, regular

CLARISSA Mm

CRUTCH There's a smashing wee pond ower there! [JERKS THUMB OVER SHOULDER]

MATE Aye. Ye can paddle. Full of swans mind you. And Puffins

CRUTCH They're no Puffins

MATE Ye sure?

CRUTCH I keep telling ye

MATE Aye but they've got these wee sticky out chests

CRUTCH I know, but that's they other ones, they what-d'ye-call-thems, they're eh...them ones with the... [TAILS OFF, LOOKS AT CLARISSA, FIDGETS]

MATE ALSO LOOKS TO CLARISSA

CLARISSA SIGHS

MATE GLANCES AT CRUTCH; CLEARS THROAT, ABOUT TO SPEAK

CRUTCH WHISPERS] Sssh

MATE WHISPERS] Aye but I was just gauny...

CRUTCH WHISPERS] Dont.

MATE PAUSE, THEN BRIGHTLY] Ah well... [SAUNTERS A FEW STEPS. SNEAKS A
LOOK AT CLARISSA. WHISTLES A CHEERY WEE TUNE. STOPS, GLANCES BACK AT HER

CRUTCH RAISES HIS CRUTCH AND EXAMINES IT FROM TOP TO BOTTOM, PEERS DOWN
ITS LENGTH LIKE A TELESCOPE; LOOKS DOWN AT HIS ONE LEG, TRIES A HOP WITHOUT
THE CRUTCH

CLARISSA SUDDENLY] I dont darn socks ye know!

MATE AND CRUTCH GLANCE AT HER, THEN AT EACH OTHER, HOPE RISING

CLARISSA WAGS HER FINGER] And I dont fucking sew either let me tell ye!

CRUTCH Naw naw

CLARISSA I dont

MATE Perish the thought

CLARISSA I'm telling ye now, under no circumstances.

MATE Aw nay problem there missis [TO CRUTCH] Eh mucker?

CRUTCH Naw. [SHRUGS. MORE FIRMLY] Not at all.

CLARISSA And I dont cook. Now that is one thing I dont do

MATE Absalutely

CLARISSA I'm just no into it, pots and pans and all that crockery stuff, I cannay be
bothered with it

MATE We're the same, int we?

CRUTCH STERNLY] Food's the last thing.

MATE PROUDLY] We never eat!

CLARISSA Aw I eat. I fucking eat aw right.

MATE Do ye?

CLARISSA I just dont fucking cook it, that's all

MATE Whoh! [ADMIRINGLY]

CLARISSA Oh naw, I like my grub

CRUTCH PUZZLED GLANCE AT MATE

MATE SHRUGS

CLARISSA WAGS FINGER AT THEM] And I dont dae sexual activities

MATE RAISES HIS HAND] The very idea!

CLARISSA Mind now! Nay hanky panky

MATE RIGHTEOUSLY] Aw please, please...

CLARISSA I'm warnin ye [DIRECTS IT TO CRUTCH]

CRUTCH We dont dae sexual activities either

MATE Right hand up [CROSSES HIS HEART]

CLARISSA CONTINUES LOOKING

MATE RAISES HIS RIGHT HAND ALOFT] You tae!

CRUTCH WAGGLES HIS CRUTCH SKYWARDS]

CLARISSA And another thing, I take a drink

MATE RIGHTEOUSLY] Oh naw ye dont

CLARISSA Aye I dae, some folk call me a boozebag

MATE A boozebag!

CRUTCH Aw now that's just a slander

MATE I defy anybody to call ye that! A boozebag! [GLANCES LEFT AND RIGHT, AND SHADOW BOXES] Who said that! Anybody said that and they're deid! [STOPS, CHALLENGING GLARE AT AUDIENCE]

CLARISSA Aye and I smoke like a chimney

MATE Dae ye? We used to smoke but we've chucked it, just like the bevy. [FIRMLY] Alcohol makes a big man small

CRUTCH We chucked it a while ago.

CLARISSA So?

CRUTCH I'm just saying.. [STOPS,

CLARISSA I know ye're just saying but what's it got to do with me? You chuck what ye want to chuck but dont bring me into it

MATT Oh naw, never. [TO CRUTCH] The lassie's right enough. [NOW TO CLARISSA] I think what he means eh...my buddy here I mean, we would cerry ye if ye get drunk [WINK AND NOD OF THE HEAD TO CRUTCH]

CRUTCH Yeh!

CLARISSA Mm

MATT Do ye get drunk?

CLARISSA Certainly I get drunk, if and when... [STARES AT CRUTCH'S LEG. FROWNS] Sometimes I'm moroculous?

MATE Are ye...? [GLANCES AT CRUTCH

CLARISSA Who does the heavy lifting?

MATE Me

CRUTCH But I help

MATE Of course ye do.

CLARISSA STROKES HER CHIN, STUDIES CRUTCH] Mmm

CRUTCH ASIDE TO MATE] What about dowts? cigarette dowts?

MATE Aye, show her what ye can do with a dowl!

CRUTCH EXCITED. LOOKS ABOUT GROUND] Can ye see any?

MATE Naw

CLARISSA There's nay dowts. I've already looked

MATE Aw jees that's a pity. See what he does, he's got the knack with the crutch there, if he sees a dowl, he can just gie it a flick with the crutch and up it comes [DOES ALL THE ACTIONS] it flies up in the air, then he catches it in his mouth! Right in his mouth

CRUTCH PROUDLY] I do.

CLARISSA IMPRESSED] Right in his mooth?

MATE He never misses

CLARISSA Tip first?

MATT Aye

CRUTCH MODESTLY] It's true, if there's a dowl in the vicinity I'll get it.

MATE No just the immediate vicinity. I've seen him dive into puddles. And he

doesnay even smoke! [WINKS TO CRUTCH]

CLARISSA RUBS CHIN, CIRCLES WHILE LOOKING THEM UP AND DOWN

MATE AND CRUTCH STRIKE A POSE, EACH AFTER HIS OWN FASHION

CLARISSA I like my sleep.

MATE Oh aye, of course! [SHRUGS TO CRUTCH] Wummin

CRUTCH Taken as read

CLARISSA So I need my peace and quiet.

CRUTCH Definitely

MATE Absalootly

CLARISSA And somewhere to lie down. [SEES BENCH, PAUSES] Mm [STUDIES BENCH]

MATE AND CRUTCH STARE CURIOUSLY

CLARISSA MUSING] Mind you, I dare say we could take this.

MATE FROWNS. RAISES RIGHT HAND

CLARISSA RUBS CHIN] A wummin can stretch oot on a bench like this

MATE STERNLY] D'ye mean like...knock it?

CLARISSA LOOKS AT THEM LIKE THEY ARE STUPID

CRUTCH Aye but that's thieving

CLARISSA SIGHS] Ey a snag with you perr

CRUTCH Plus it's a memory bench, know what I'm saying!

MATE Aye

CRUTCH Ye have to respect these things

MATE Yeh

CRUTCH HOPS TO BENCH, POINTS AT MEMORY LABEL] In memory of Alfred McAllister, now with the angels, who walked here often and enjoyed his rest. His loving family.

MATE Loving family...

CLARISSA WAGS FINGER] You just think about the living. Forget all that memorial malarkey

MATE It isnay malarkey, it's a nearest and dearest

CRUTCH READS LABEL AGAIN] Now with the angels who walked here often

STERNLY] Oh...

CLARISSA I'm no into angels, ethereal being things, santa clause and that gossamer wing stuff. [PATS BENCH] This here's a good bench. A carpenter made it and he made it for folk to use

MATE SHUFFLES FEET, RAISES EYEBROWS, GLANCES AT CRUTCH, SNIFFS AND HITCHES UP HIS TROUSERS, SHAKES HIS HEAD AT THE BENCH, CLEARS HIS THROAT SIGNIFICANTLY AT CRUTCH, TURNS HIS BACK ON THEM, HANGS HIS HEAD

CLARISSA BAFFLED

CRUTCH Oh yeh... [NODS SADLY, SIGHS] My mate there, he dint want to tell ye, see it's a long story. Once upon a time he was merrit, but see his wife, she was a hell of a wummin for knockin stuff

CLARISSA APPROVINGLY] Was she?

CRUTCH Eywis gaun to the thieving gemms, I mean she was a gangster.

CLARISSA LOOKS AT MATE WITH RENEWED INTEREST

CRUTCH It was like Bonnie and Clyde with that pair.

CLARISSA Now ye're talking!

CRUTCH A wild wild wummin! He couldnay get to sleep for polis sirens. That's how he winded up with them what-ye-call it - discrepancies, physiological discrepancies

CLARISSA What? [GLANCES AT MATE

MATE TO CRUTCH] I wouldnay put it like that, it doesnay sound very pleasant [WHISPERS] Ye'll put her aff!

CRUTCH RAISING CRUTCH ALOFT] Confess it. You were ashamed, you were embarassed, I'm talking neighbours here!

MATE Well aye... [TO CLARISSA] It's true

CLARISSA Aw fuck the neighbours! I'm no into that palaver. If it's your house it's your hoose. If ye want to burn it doon ye burn it doon

MATE AND CRUTCH AMAZED

CLARISSA And I dont care if it's the top flat ye stey. Who cares about neighbours...? [STARES MISCHIEVOUSLY, NOW RUBS HER HANDS]

MATE GRINS

CRUTCH FROWNS, THEN RELAXES

CLARISSA Eh? I'm asking. Who cares?

CRUTCH CANNOT THINK OF AN ANSWER

CLARISSA AND MATE BOTH GAZE AT HIM

CLARISSA So who are these so-called neighbours?

MATE Eh...

CLARISSA Is it they keeping-up-with-the-Jones's type of people?

MATE Aye!

CLARISSA Aah...

MATE Three-car garages and all that stuff, we only had a two-car wan. So that was nay good enough, oh naw, people scoffed

CLARISSA Scoffers! [BRANDISHES FIST]

CRUTCH Aye...

CLARISSA What I'd do to them!

CRUTCH Oh me tae, me tae, I damn well hate them, I just cannay abide them. [NODS AT HIS LEG, GESTURING WITH THE CRUTCH] I get it a lot because of this, even just walking down the street and ye see it, this...this... space; that's all it is, ye look down and ye see it, it's just a space. Oh am I floating! Sometimes ye think that! And then come the scoffers, the jeerers, the ridiculers. [BRANDISHING THE CRUTCH]

MATE CROSSING HIS HEART] I'm a witness to that, I've seen it with my ayn eyes! Get yer judge get yer jury, I'll swear that oath. [RAISES RIGHT HAND] Just gie us the book. If ye've got one that is. If naybody's knocked the damn thing, know what I mean, this day and age, is nothing sacred, if they knock yer bible

CRUTCH TO CLARISSA] That was that exwife of his! What she done, oh man, she just went ower the score. And he's the wan that suffered, that guy there, it gied him all sorts of psychological hang-ups.

MATE Physiological

CRUTCH Physiological, aye. He couldnay go near a wummin for years

MATE NODS, THEN GLANCES FURTIVELY AT CLARISSA

CLARISSA SEES HIM AND GLARES

CRUTCH Years.

CLARISSA UNCONVINCED] Mmm

CRUTCH And it meant that when it came to thingwi like eh...I'm talking eh well.... [CLEARS THROAT]

CLARISSA AND MATE GAZE AT HIM, EXPECTANTLY

CRUTCH Like eh...well eh I mean...what I'm saying...

CLARISSA What?

CRUTCH Eh... [GLANCES AT MATE]

MATE MAKES A FACE AND TURNS AWAY, LEAVING CRUTCH HIGH AND DRY

CLARISSA What ye talking about?

CRUTCH Eh...

CLARISSA Ye trying to hide something?

CRUTCH Not at all

CLARISSA Is it about him! [POINTING AT MATE]

MATE Me?

CRUTCH Naw

MATE I've got nothing to do with it

CRUTCH HISSES] It was your missis

MATE My missis...what's my missis got to do with it?

CRUTCH PAUSE. ABOUT TO SAY SOMETHING, HALTED BY CLARISSA

CLARISSA WAVES HER RIGHT FINGER, SLOWLY, WITH CONTROLLED MENACE

MATE AND CRUTCH STARE AT THIS FINGER AS THOUGH MESMERISED

CLARISSA If there's one thing I cannay go in a man it is dishonesty. I wouldnay call it lies,

I wouldnae dignify it with the name. Outright dishonesty, now there is a sin, there is a sin

CRUTCH AND MATE HANG ON EVERY WORD

CLARISSA WAVING THE FINGER SLOWLY] The very first time a man lies to me, once he starts with all the dissembles and the distortions, these medacious deceptions... Ohh... [MENACING] I cannay abide it, I cannay abide it. I'll just...! [SHE CLENCHES HER RIGHT FIST] Mmm. At the very very least I'm out that door, I am fucking offski! And you better believe it!

MATE CROSSES HEART AND HOLDS UP HIS RIGHT HAND] That's one thing we dont dae is tell lies.

CRUTCH SALUTES WITH SPARE HAND] As God is my judge.

CLARISSA STUDIES HIM, THEN TO MATE] Dont tell me he's religious!

MATE Eh... [FROWNS]

CLARISSA Ye'll no catch me in nay church, I dont care what it is, births, deaths or marriages. Oh naw, nayn of that humbling and prostrating yerself routine. I'm a wummin and I stand up for my rights and my rights are women's rights, fuck you and yer religion.

CRUTCH AND MATE BAFFLED LOOK TO ONE ANOTHER

CLARISSA What one is it is it christian or muslim?

CRUTCH Pardon?

CLARISSA LOOKS FROM ONE TO THE OTHER] Is it a sectarian divide?

MATE Oh naw naw naw, we're no into that, the colour of a man's fitba jersey

CRUTCH We dont care what school he goes to, protestant or catholic

MATE Absalootly. If he's good enough to know you then you're good enough tae...I mean...if it is him

CLARISSA And what about her?

CRUTCH Pardon?

CLARISSA Yer female. What school does she go to? What foot does she kick with?

MATE AND CRUTCH EXCHANGE BAFFLED LOOKS

CLARISSA SIGHS, FOLDS ARMS] Changes are needed.

MATE Oh aye...

CLARISSA This ignorance does my heid in, it's gauny have to stop,

CRUTCH It will stop, definitely, I hate ignorance

MATE There's nothing worse

CRUTCH It's just the thieving

MATE Aye, that's what we cannay go [SWAGGERS BRIEFLY]

CRUTCH BRANDISHES THE CRUTCH] Under no circumstances do we take what rightfully belongs to another. No the goods and no the chattels. The property of another living human being. That to me is sacrosanct.

MATE RIGHTEOUSLY WAGS FINGER] Sanctosanticity

CRUTCH The theft of property. No way.

CLARISSA MUTTERED ASIDE] My god

CRUTCH DOESNT HEAR HER] If something belongs to other people then it doesnay belong to you.

MATE Amen to that, a bushel for one and a peck for the other; an easy divide for a fifty fifty split

CLARISSA FROWNS AT THE PAIR, SCRATCHES HEAD

MATE RAISES RIGHT HAND] And I'll stand or fall by that!

CRUTCH Good on ye mucker [TO CLARISSA] It's just the wey ye're brought up. Some are brought up one way, some another

MATE Aye and it is nay their fault!

CRUTCH Not at all. It is just how some of us... [SMUGLY] Know what I mean

MATE PAUSE] We've got it easier

CRUTCH FROWNS] Well I would nay say that, I'm talking right and wrong, some of us know and some of us dont, it's an interior thing, a personal kind of illumination

MATE That's it

CRUTCH AND MATE FACE CLARISSA

CLARISSA STROLLS FORWARD TO EXAMINE THEM, HANDS BEHIND HER BACK, AS THOUGH ON PARADE, BUT SLOWLY] Just look at yez. Yesmen to the core

CRUTCH AND MATE GLANCE AT EACH OTHER, BEMUSED, BUT THEY STAND STILL WHILE CLARISSA EXAMINES THEM

CLARISSA MUTTERING] Hmm, the wey they're brought up, I might've known

CRUTCH Pardon?

CLARISSA WAGS FINGER AT HIM] Dont blame yer maw and da. [CIRCLES ROUND THEM].

CRUTCH AND MATE FROWN BUT STAND THERE

CLARISSA HANDS BEHIND BACK. INSPECTING AGAIN. SIGHS] Men. Men men men. Prop up the system at all costs. Safeguard the status-quo. Let the bosses walk all over ye. Blame each other and blame yer maw, blame yer da, even blame yer weans! Same auld story. Save face at all costs. Will it ever change? Will – it – ever – change!

CRUTCH AND MATE HANG THEIR HEADS

CLARISSA What did property ever do for you?

CRUTCH RAISES HEAD

CLARISSA DIRECTLY TO HIM] Eh? What did property ever do for you?

CRUTCH Well eh... [SNIFFS]

MATE TO CRUTCH] Wan thing I will say, the wife and that, I never went short of a bite to eat. There was aye food on the table

CRUTCH I thought ye didnay care about food?

MATE Well just sometimes

CLARISSA FOLDS HER ARMS] Mmhh

MATE I'll no deny it and I cannay deny it [CROSSES HEART] there was aye grub on the table. [NOD OF THE HEAD] Aye and a couple of floers in the jug !

CLARISSA Now ye're talking!

MATE And then too connils, she loved connils

CRUTCH Connils?

MATE Aye, fancy wans, they had sweet smells. Ye were aye breathing in and sniffing it. [DEMONSTRATES, SNIFFS] Oh what is that ye would go, what is that. Then it would hit ye. [SNIFFS TWICE] My my, what a beautiful aroma!

CLARISSA FOLDS ARMS] Yes!

MATE Aromatics! Plus she had a wicker basket. And ye put yer auld claes into it! It was like yer dirty linen, yer simmits and yer eh let us say undergarments, yer undergarments, plus yer socks and all that

CLARISSA Good on her

MATT Then too, ye had yer cushions, she had one on every cherr! Embroidered yins. Even in the cludgie!

CRUTCH Embroidered cushions in the cludgie!

CLARISSA GREAT ADMIRATION] She was a woman!

MATE She was that [NODS, HOISTS UP TROUSERS, POINTS TO HIS FEET] And I ey had a perra shoes. I cannay deny it [CROSSES HEART AND RIGHT HAND UP] Good shoes tae! And all sorts of socks, socks socks socks, everywherr ye looked. Wooly yins. Just the job for winter, the auld feet and that, a perr of thick wooly sock.

CRUTCH LOOKS SUSPICIOUSLY AT HIM

CLARISSA A man need wooly socks. I'll no deny it!

CRUTCH AMAZED

MATE No kidding ye mucker, ye cannay beat a pair of wooly socks, that's what I always say! Even with the wan fit, know what I mean, the likes o yersel, you must like a sock?

CRUTCH PAUSE. HOLDS HIS GAZE

MATE I'm talking now and again [SHRUGS] if it's the right one

CRUTCH WARILY] I do like a sock, aye

CLARISSA GAZES AT BOTH, A KNOWING LOOK

MATE Know what I mean mucker, socks are good, nay aye-butts there

CRUTCH Oh definitely, I wouldnay say otherwise, yer snell winds and frosty mornings, it does get freezing. I wouldnay deny it, even if I wanted to, and I dont want to. Why should I. Why should anybody. If they do they are just being stupid and they should know better. I dont care what anybody says, if ye know better ye know better. And ye stand up for it. I'm talking this life

MATE Spot on mucker

CRUTCH No any other

CLARISSA Mmm

MATE AND CRUTCH GAZE AT HER.

CLARISSA HAS ARRIVED AT A CONCLUSION. SHE WALKS A COUPLE OF PACES, AWARE OF THEM WATCHING

CLARISSA SUDDENLY TO CRUTCH] Does your crutch skid on ice surfaces?

CRUTCH ASTONISHED

CLARISSA WAGS FINGER] One question and one question only. Gie me an aye or gie me a naw!

CRUTCH SURPRISED] Aye!

MATE CLAPS HIS HANDS THREE TIMES

CLARISSA Thought so

CRUTCH My God!

MATE MARVELLING, TO CLARISSA] See missis he's ey been a sceptic

CLARISSA DISMISSIVELY] Huh!

MATE TO CRUTCH] Ye have!

CLARISSA FOLDS ARMS] I've nay time for sceptics. One thing I've learned in life, ye need to get by. And it's a day-by-day scenario. So yer sceptic's oot the windi, I'm talking nowadays, the here and now

MATE The material present. You better believe it... [FROWNS AT CRUTCH AND HITCHES UP HIS TROUSERS] It's all roundabout.

CRUTCH HOLDS UP HIS CRUTCH] My sceptical days are past

CLARISSA I hope so, I REALLY HOPE SO, I TRULY DO.

CRUTCH SALUTES] Ye can rest assured

CLARISSA WALKS TO HIM AND STARES INTO HIS EYES

CRUTCH [HOLDS THE SALUTE] Honest.

CLARISSA [NODS, SLOWLY, AND TURNS TO MATE] You tae?

MATE [CROSSES HEART] Right hand up and hope to die. Perish the thought. Mind you, I never was wan in the first place. I was nay. [TO CRUTCH] Tell the lassie

CRUTCH It was just me, I was the sceptic. He was ey a kind of... eh... [SQUINTS, FROWNS]

MATE A non-sceptic!

CRUTCH [GREAT DISTASTE] Aye

CLARISSA I'm suspicious of non-skeptics

CRUTCH Oh he's no wan now. Int ye no?

MATE Not at all [RIGHT HAND UP. THEN HE LOOKS AT HIS RIGHT HAND, CROSSES HIS HEART WITH HIS LEFT HAND AND LOWERS HIS RIGHT SLOWLY]

CLARISSA [WATCHING HIM, STROKES CHIN, STUDIES THE TWO MEN UNTIL THEY BECOME SELF CONSCIOUS AND START FIDGETING. LOOKS TO THE BENCH, CIRCLES ROUND IT] AYE, a wummin could stretch oot on a bench like that

MATE [SNEAKS A LOOK TO CRUTCH, JERKS HIS THUMB AT THE BENCH, RAISES EYEBROWS, SIGNALS A QUESTION.]

CRUTCH [PAUSE, THEN SIGHS AND NODS]

MATE [SMACKS HANDS TOGETHER] Right ye are missis, we'll take the bench.

CLARISSA Him tae?

CRUTCH [RAISES CRUTCH ALOFT] Me tae, aye. It's no as if I dont like benches. Rest the leg and aw that, know what I mean, if the grass is wet and there's puddles about.

MATE [NODS] Especially muddy yins

CRUTCH That's right.

MATE Then tae if it's a memory yin. I would like it if it was me, if it was thingwi

CRUTCH Mister McAllister

MATE Aye... [LOOKS UPWARDS] Ye can imagine him, looking down

CRUTCH EXCITED] Aye, just, on ye go lads, gieing ye a wee wave

MATE Have a seat! That's what he'd be shouting

CRUTCH Aye

CLARISSA WATCHES THEM

MATE SNIFFS, TO CLARISSA, PRETENDS INDIFFERENCE] So is it a deal then?

CLARISSA PONDERS THEN SIGHS] Och I suppose so [STRETCHES AND YAWNS,
SCRATCHES HERSELF]

MATE That's great!! Great. That's just great!

CLARISSA SIGHS, GAZES TO AUDIENCE] It's a wummin's lot

CRUTCH AMAZED, TO MATE] From now on we'll be a threesome!

CLARISSA TURNS SHARPLY) Mind noo, there'll be nay hanky panky!

MATE Cross my heart and right hand up! [CROSSES HEART, RIGHT HAND UP]

CLARISSA What about yer pal?

CRUTCH WAGGLES HIS CRUTCH] Me as well... Clarissa...if I can call ye that.

CLARISSA Clarissa!

CRUTCH Aye [SALUTES]

CLARISSA What do ye mean Clarissa? [GLANCES LEFT TO RIGHT]

CRUTCH Is that no yer name?

CLARISSA Who telt ye it was?

MATE SURREPTICIOUS LOOK TO CRUTCH, HOLDS HIS HAND UP TO HIS MOUTH

CRUTCH Eh...

CLARISSA SHARPLY] Who was it telt ye!

CRUTCH Eh... [SIDEWAYS GLANCE TO MATE

MATE SHEEPISHLY] It was me

CLARISSA STUDIES HIM

MATE HANGS HIS HEAD, THEN SLOWLY LOOKS AT HER

CLARISSA Well?

MATE I just guessed it

CLARISSA IRONIC] Ye just guessed it!

MATE I'm a good guesser

CLARISSA RUBS HER CHIN] Do ye bet the horses?

CRUTCH He doesnay gamble

CLARISSA Aw for fuck sake

CRUTCH FROWNS AT MATE

MATE I used to. [HANGS HIS HEAD] No noo but

CLARISSA SUDDENLY] Did I tell yez I dont waash claes?

MATE Ye did

CRUTCH We're independent guys.

CLARISSA Mm [STILL PONDERING]

MATE AND CRUTCH WATCH HER

CLARISSA GIVES A DEEP SIGH, AND NODS]

MATE AND CRUTCH HEAVE SIGHS OF RELIEF

CLARISSA My decision is made

MATE AND CRUTCH MOVE EXCITEDLY TOWARD HER

CLARISSA RAISES HER RIGHT HAND] Dont get carried away

MATE AND CRUTCH STOP IN THEIR TRACKS

CRUTCH Never! Never!

CLARISSA WAGS FINGER AT BOTH] And nay cuddles, I hate cuddles

MATE TAKEN ABACK

CLARISSA What is that, a snag?

MATE RIGHTEOUSLY] I like my cuddles

CLARISSA Ah well ye're getting fucking nayn affa me

MATE LOOKS SIDEWAYS AT HER, HITCHES UP HIS TROUSERS

CRUTCH CHEERILY] Are we having a trial period?

CLARISSA I dont dae trial periods. [SITS ON THE BENCH AND SWINGS UP HER FEET, TUCKS IN HER SKIRT]

CRUTCH AND MATE MOVE TO THE BENCH, ONE TO THE TOP ONE AT THE BOTTOM

MATE SMILES TO CRUTCH] Here we go, eh!

CLARISSA Mind noo, nay shoogling!

MATE Ye can rely on us Clarissa!

MATE REACHES TOWARD THE BENCH. CRUTCH JUST LOOKS AT IT, PUZZLED, GIVES A SIDEWAYS LOOK TO THE AUDIENCE.

LIGHTS OUT EVENTUALLY