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BRIEF ENCOUNTERS

'Life's Like That'

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SC1. INT. EDITH'S HOUSE. LIVING ROOM. DAY. 10.30

[WE SEE A GROUP OF PEOPLE IN THE ROOM. AND AS THE CAMERA STARTS TO PAN, WE HEAR A VOICE TELLING US WHO'S WHO. THE FIRST PERSON TO COME INTO SHOT IS **MR GERALD WILKINSON**. HE IS IN HIS **SIXTIES**. HE IS WEARING A PINSTRIPE SUIT AND HORN RIMMED GLASSES]

EDITH (VO):

Dear Gerald Wilkinson, he's been my solicitor since he was wet behind the ears.

[THE CAMERA MOVES ON TO **MARGARET TOMKINSON**, SHE IS A LARGE LADY IN **SEVENTIES**]

EDITH (VO):

That's Margaret my next door neighbour, believe me her bark is a lot harsher than her bite.

[NEXT WE SEE **WALTER KNIGHT**; HE IS A BALDING MAN WITH A GROWING WAISTLINE. HE IS IN HIS **FORTIES**]

EDITH (VO):

That's Walter, he's my nephew, maybe his parents didn't give him enough attention when he was a child.

[**HORACE KNIGHT** COMES INTO VIEW. HE IS A HUGE, EVIL LOOKING CHILD IN HIS **EARLY TEENS**. HE HAS SWEETS, CRISPS AND A SMALL BOTTLE OF COKE IN FRONT OF HIM AND ALL HIS CONCENTRATION IS ON FINISHING THEM]

EDITH (VO):

That's Horace, Walters's son, eating as always.

[THE CAMERA MOVES ON TO **JACKIE KNIGHT**, SHE IS IN HER **FORTIES**. A SLIM WOMEN MADE UP TO THE NINES AND SHE SEEMS TO BE ENJOYING HERSELF]

EDITH (VO):

And this is Jackie, Walters's wife, well we all make mistakes!

[WE NOW SEE A COFFIN COME INTO VIEW THE LID IS OFF AND AS THE CAMERA MOVES TOWARDS IT WE CAN HEAR THE VOICE OVER]

EDITH (VO):

That's me lying there, I had a good innings; I passed away at the tender age of seventy-eight. That was long enough for me. What a last week I had.

[AS SHE FINISHES HER SENTENCE THE CAMERA
STOPS ON **EDITHS** FACE, SHE IS LYING AT PEACE]

CUT TO:

SC2. INT. EDITH'S HOUSE. KITCHEN. DAY 1. 15.30

[WE SEE EDITH POTTERING ABOUT IN THE KITCHEN. SOMEBODY TRIES THE BACK DOOR, IT'S LOCKED SO THEY BANG. WE SEE EDITH SHUFFLE OVER AND OPEN IT. HORACE IS STOOD THERE EATING A MARS BAR. HE STARTS TALKING WITH HIS MOUTH FULL]

HORACE:

It's Friday

EDITH:

Yes I know, come on through, you really should wear a coat or you'll catch your death.

[HORACE TUTS]

EDITH:

I'll go and get my purse

[EDITH GOES INTO A CUPBOARD TO RETRIEVE HER HANDBAG. WHILST SHE IS OCCUPIED WE SEE HORACE GO OVER TO A BISCUIT TIN, OPEN IT AND STUFF A HANDFULL OF BISCUITS INTO HIS POCKET. HE QUICKLY PUTS THE TIN BACK AS WE SEE EDITH STARTS TO TURN. HE PUTS HIS HAND OUT AS EDITH FUMBLES FOR CHANGE IN HER PURSE. AS SHE IS SEARCHING HORACE'S PHONE RINGS]

HORACE:

Hello, hello mam, I 'm just round Aunty Edith's getting my pocket money, yes, yes I know, no strangers and straight home.

[WE SEE CHANGE FALL OUT OF EDITH'S PURSE; SHE PUTS THE PURSE DOWN AND STARTS TO PICK UP THE MONEY]

HORACE:

I better give her a hand, one second

[HE PUTS THE PHONE DOWN ON THE WORKTOP AND STARTS PICKING UP COINS. WHEN THEY HAVE ALL BEEN RECOVERED HE GETS HIS POCKET MONEY AND STARTS OUT OF THE KITCHEN FORGETTING HIS PHONE. EDITH PICKS UP HER PURSE. WE HEAR BINS TOPPLING AND A CAT SCREECH]

HORACE:

I'll see you next week then.

[HORACE HEADS FOR THE BACK DOOR IN A HURRY,
AS HE IS LEAVING MARGARET IS COMING IN
HORACE NEARLY KNOCKS HER OVER AS HE
PASSES HER]

MARGARET:

Edith Knight I'm going to kill that bloody cat of yours, he's been in the bins again, there's rubbish all over that yard.

CUT TO:

SC3. INT. JACKIE'S HOUSE. LIVING ROOM. DAY 1. 15.35

[WE SEE JACKIE AND WALTER SAT IN FRONT OF THE TELLY WATCHING A PLACE IN THE SUN. THE ROOM IS MODERN GAUDY WITH HUGE FLOWERED WALLPAPER AND LOADS OF PLASTER MOULDING. JACKIE IS SAT IN AN ARMCHAIR, ON A SMALL TABLE BESIDES HER ARE THE REMOTE CONTROLS, A BOX OF FERRERO ROCHE. SHE HAS THE PHONE AGAINST HER EAR]

JACKIE:

Horace, Horace... (TO WALTER) Has he just left his phone there?
(LISTENING) That sounds like Edith.

[SHE PICKS UP A REMOTE AND MUTES THE TELLY]

WALTER:

(ANNOYED) What're you doing?

[SHE PUTS A FINGER TO HER LIPS AND THEN GESTURES FOR HIM TO COME AND LISTEN]

CUT TO:

SC4. INT. EDITH'S HOUSE. KITCHEN. DAY 1. 15.38

[WE SEE HORACE'S PHONE ON THE WORKTOP,
STILL ACTIVE]

MARGARET:

Where have you been?

EDITH:

I had some things to sort out

MARGARET:

What things?

EDITH:

(IRRITATED) Things

MARGARET:

Private things?

EDITH:

(EXASPERATED) Oh for goodness sake, I was going to tell you anyway but since you're obviously itching to know, I've won some money and I just needed a walk to clear my head.

CUT TO:

SC5. INT. JACKIES HOUSE. LIVING ROOM. DAY 1. 15.39

[WE SEE WALTER AND JACKIE SHARE A LOOK THIS
SOUNDS INTERESTING]

CUT TO:

SC6. INT. EDITH'S HOUSE. KITCHEN. DAY 1. 15.40

MARGARET:

That's nice, about time one of us had a change of luck, the bingo hasn't been too fruitful lately.

EDITH:

It's a lot of money; don't you want to know how much?

MARGARET:

If you insist.

EDITH:

I've won...

CUT TO:

SC7. INT. JACKIES HOUSE. LIVING ROOM. DAY 1. 15.41

[WE SEE JACKIE AND WALTER LISTENING INTENTLY. THEN WE HEAR SOME INTERFERENCE ON THE LINE. THE PAIR DIDN'T HEAR THE AMOUNT SAID. JACKIE PUTS HER HAND OVER THE PHONE]

JACKIE:

(TO WALTER) How much did she say?

[WALTER JUST SHRUGS. WE SEE WALTER AND JACKIE LISTENING EXTRA HARD NOW]

JACKIE:

(WHISPERS) Come on you silly cow how much?

CUT TO:

SC8. INT. EDITH'S HOUSE. KITCHEN. DAY 1. 15.44

EDITH:

So what do you think?

MARGARET:

It's nice to win, but to tell you the truth I could take it or leave it. That type of money has a funny effect on people Edith. (PAUSE) Do you think it's going to rain?

CUT TO:

SC9. EXT. EDITHS HOUSE. STREET. DAY 1. 16.39

[WE ARE LOOKING AT THE ROAD WHEN WE SEE A CAR PULL UP AND THE KNIGHT FAMILY GET OUT JACKIE GRABS HORACE'S WHO IS EATING A PACKET OF CRISPS, SHE LOOKS AT HIS FACE GETS A TISSUE FROM HER SLEEVE, LICKS IT AND WIPES HORACE'S FACE. HE STRUGGLES A BIT AND THEN GIVES IN. THIS DONE THEY HEAD TOWARDS THE FRONT DOOR]

CUT TO:

SC10. INT. EDITH'S HOUSE. HALL. DAY 1. 16.40

[WE ARE LOOKING AT THE FRONT DOOR. THE DOORBELL RINGS AND THEN THERE'S AN IMPATIENT KNOCK. WE SEE EDITH COME INTO VIEW.

NEAR THE FRONT DOOR THERE'S A MIRROR. EDITH HAS A QUICK LOOK, ADJUSTS HER HAIR AND OPENS THE DOOR.

STOOD ON HER STEP ARE THE KNIGHT FAMILY EDITH IS SHOCKED]

JACKIE:
Surprise!

WALTER:
Hello Aunty Edith.

[HORACE REMAINS SILENT, LOOKING SHEEPISH]

JACKIE:
Well aren't you going to invite us in?

[WE SEE EDITH JUST STAND BACK AND LET THEM IN]

CUT TO:

SC11. INT. EDITH'S HOUSE. KITCHEN. DAY 1. 16.41

[WE SEE EVERYBODY COME INTO THE KITCHEN
AND TAKE SEATS]

JACKIE:

We were just on our way to the caravan and Horace remembered that he'd left his phone here.

EDITH:

Yes, I think it's on the side there

[HORACE GETS UP AND RETRIEVES HIS PHONE. WE
SEE HIM DIAL, WATCH THE SCREEN AND TUT]

JACKIE:

Tell you what Walter; I could murder a brew before we set off.

EDITH:

I'll put the kettle on.

JACKIE:

Nonsense Aunty Edith, you sit your self down I'll sort that.

[JACKIE IS OUT OF HER SEAT IN AN INSTANT AS
EDITH STARTS TO GET UP. SHE PUTS A HAND ON
HER SHOULDER AND GENTLY BUT FIRMLY SITS
HER BACK DOWN. AS SHE IS POTTERING ABOUT
SHE IS TALKING OVER HER SHOULDER]

JACKIE:

So Aunty Edith has anything exciting happened in your life lately?

EDITH:

No, not really.

[WE SEE JACKIE GIVE WALTER A QUICK LOOK]

JACKIE:

I've just had a great idea, why don't we forget about Filey, and spend the weekend round here?

EDITH (VO):

Straight away I thought something's not right here, why all the concern? I mean for Jackie to give up a weekend in Filey to look after an ageing Aunt, I don't think so.

JACKIE:

It'll be great, we can catch up on what's been happening, we'll get a fish supper and tomorrow we can go out for the day.

EDITH:

I suppose...

JACKIE:

That's settled then.

WALTER:

Do you remember when we used to go to the bingo with Margaret.... do you still get down there?

EDITH:

Yes... not that it does us any good.

JACKIE:

(IMPATIENTLY) Walter do you want to get to the chippy then?

CUT TO:

SC12. INT. EDITH'S HOUSE. KITCHEN. DAY 1. 18.31

[WE SEE EDITH SAT AT THE KITCHEN TABLE
WHILST JACKIE IS POTTERING ABOUT THE
KITCHEN. EDITH IS FLICKING THROUGH A PHOTO
ALBUM. WE SEE JACKIE LOOK TO SEE THAT EDITH
IS OCCUPIED; SHE HAS A SNEEKY LOOK AT A
LETTER. SHE IS STARTLED WHEN EDITH LAUGHS]

EDITH:

Have a look at this one of Walter.

[JACKIE COMES OVER TO THE TABLE LOOKING
BORED. WE SEE A PHOTO OF WALTER AS A CHILD
HE HAS A KNITTED BONNET ON, A LARGE DOUBLE
BREASTED COAT AND LONG SOCKS, HE HAS A
LOOK OF SHEER TERROR ON HIS FACE. IT COULD
BE HORACE THEY ARE SO SIMILAR]

EDITH:

He was such a cute child, I just wanted to hug him all the time.
(REMINISCES A SECOND) And so well behaved I could take him
anywhere.

CUT TO:

SC13. INT. EDITH'S HOUSE. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT 1. 20.30

[EVERYBODY IS SAT AROUND WATCHING TELLY,
AS WE HEAR THE EASTENDERS MUSIC SIGNAL THE
END OF THE SHOW]

JACKIE:

I don't know about you lot but I'm shattered, shall we get ready for bed
Walter?

WALTER:

I'll be up in a bit.

EDITH:

Oh before I forget I was digging around and I found this, I thought Horace
would like it.

[SHE REACHES AROUND THE ARMCHAIR AND
PULLS OUT A BATTERED TEDDY]

EDITH

It was Walter's.

[SHE HANDS IT TO HORACE WHO REFUSES TO TAKE
IT. HE LOOKS AT IT WITH DISGUST]

HORACE:

It's minging.

[WALTER GRABS THE TEDDY]

JACKIE:

I'll go and get the beds ready then.

EDITH:

I'll give you a hand.

JACKIE:

No, no it's okay, what's the point of us being here if we can't pamper you.
You just relax and watch a bit of telly.

[JACKIE GETS UP AND LEAVES THE ROOM]

CUT TO:

SC14. INT. EDITH'S HOUSE. BEDROOM. NIGHT 1. 20.45

[THE BEDROOM HAS FLORAL WALLPAPER. THE BED IS PUSHED AGAINST THE CHIMNEY BREAST, WITH A CABINET ON EACH SIDE. THE CABINETS HAVE LAMPS ON THEM AND ON ONE THERE IS A BOOK. THE OTHER WALL HAS A WARDROBE AGAINST IT WITH TWO SUITCASES ON TOP OF IT. WE SEE JACKIE HUNCHED OVER THE BEDSIDE CABINET, OBVIOUSLY SEARCHING IT. WE HEAR THE DOOR OPEN AND JACKIE BOLTS UPRIGHT AND TURNS AROUND. EDITH IS STOOD IN THE DOORWAY EYEING HER SUSPICIOUSLY]

JACKIE:

Err well... errr... I was looking for some sheets

[EDITH JUST RAISES AN EYEBROW]

EDITH:

They're in the airing cupboard on the landing.

[JACKIE WALKS PAST EDITH AS SHE IS LEAVING THE ROOM. WE SEE EDITH LOOK AT HER BEDSIDE CABINET]

CUT TO:

SC15. INT. EDITH'S HOUSE. GUESTROOM. NIGHT 1. 21.30

[JACKIE IS SAT AT A DRESSING TABLE. SHE IS APPLYING SOME SORT OF LOTION TO HER ARMS. THE ROOM IS IN NEED OF A LICK OF PAINT, WITH A WARDROBE AGAINST ONE WALL, A DOUBLE BED AGAINST THE OTHER. THE DRESSING TABLE IS IN FRONT OF THE WINDOW AND THERE ARE A FEW BOXES STACKED IN THE CORNER. WALTER IS SAT ON THE EDGE OF THE BED PICKING HIS TOES. HORACE IS SAT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BED, SPREAD IN FRONT OF HIM ARE VARIOUS SWEETS AND CRISPS. HE IS GREEDILY SWITCHING BETWEEN THEM STUFFING HIS FACE]

JACKIE:

You're a right pudding sometimes Walter, pay attention.

WALTER:

(IRRITATED) Pay attention to what exactly?

JACKIE:

Pay attention to the fact that we still haven't found out where Edith is keeping that money.

WALTER:

I am not going to steal money from my Aunty Edith!

JACKIE:

SHHHH! Why would we steal from ourselves Walter? If it's going to be ours anyway there's nothing wrong in finding out exactly how much we're going to get. Help us plan for the future

WALTER:

I don't know Jackie... this is not right.

[JACKIE GIVES WALTER A STERN LOOK, BUT WALTER LOOKS DEFIANT. THE BREWING ARGUMENT IS NIPPED IN THE BUD WHEN HORACE SPEAKS UP]

HORACE:

Can I have some coke?

JACKIE:

No you can't! Now get to bed

CUT TO:

SC16. EXT. EDITH'S HOUSE. NIGHT 1. 01.30

[WE SEE EDITH'S HSE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE
NIGHT]

CUT TO:

SC17. INT. EDITH'S HOUSE. BEDROOM. NIGHT 1. 01.30

[WE SEE EDITH ASLEEP IN BED, THERE'S A NOISE THAT WAKES HER, SHE OPENS HER EYES BUT DOESN'T MOVE AND THEN WE HEAR THE NOISE AGAIN, SHE GETS OUT OF BED PUTS ON HER DRESSING GOWN AND GOES TO INVESTIGATE]

CUT TO:

SC18. INT. EDITH'S HOUSE. HALL. NIGHT 1. 01.32

[WE SEE EDITH COME DOWN THE LAST STAIRS AND
HEAD TOWARDS THE KITCHEN. THE NOISE IS
DEFINITELY COMING FROM THERE. SHE LOOKS
AROUND AND PICKS UP A BROLLY AS A WEAPON]

CUT TO:

SC19. INT. EDITH'S HOUSE. KITCHEN. NIGHT 1. 01.35

[EDITH OPENS THE KITCHEN DOOR AND LETS OUT A SHRIEK. SHE IS CONFRONTED BY THE SIGHT OF JACKIE IN HER NIGHTGOWN, HAIR IN ROLLERS AND A FACE MASK ON. JACKIE ALSO SCREAMS]

EDITH:

Jesus Jackie I thought you were a burglar.

JACKIE:

I was just looking for some Paracetamol.

EDITH:

There's a medicine cabinet in the bathroom, did you look in there?

JACKIE:

Is there... I didn't notice

[EDITH STANDS THERE LOOKING SUSPICIOUSLY AT JACKIE. EDITH LETS HER PAST AND THEN LOOKS AT THE SIDEBOARD SOMEONES BEEN RIFLING IT, WE SEE HER SHAKE HER HEAD AND THEN TURN OFF THE LIGHT AND CLOSE THE DOOR]

EDITH (VO):

She was definitely up to something.

CUT TO:

SC20. EXT. EDITH'S HOUSE. YARD. DAY 2. 09.30

[MARGARET AND EDITH ARE IN THE BACK YARD. EDITH IS HANGING THE WASHING WHILST MARGARET IS WALKING BESIDES HER WITH A BASKET. THEY ARE TALKING IN HUSHED TONES. WE JOIN THE GIRLS MID CONVERSATION]

EDITH:

... I can't be sure love, but it's almost as if she knows about the money.

MARGARET:

But how can she, you haven't said anything have you?

EDITH:

Of course not, you're the only person who knows. I wouldn't trust anybody else.

[THERE'S A PAUSE AS THE GIRLS CONTEMPLATE THE SITUATION]

MARGARET:

Have you put the cheque in the bank yet?

EDITH:

I haven't had a chance

[EDITH HAS FINISHED HANGING THE WASHING. MARGARET HANDS HER THE EMPTY BASKET AND SIGNALS THAT SHE IS GOING, EDITH NODS IN AGREEMENT AND HEADS TOWARDS THE KITCHEN AS SHE IS APPROACHING THE HOUSE SHE LOOKS UP AND SEES THAT THE GUEST ROOM WINDOW IS OPEN. AS SHE IS LOOKING UP WE HEAR WALTER SHOUTING]

CUT TO:

SC21. INT. EDITH'S HOUSE. GUESTROOM. DAY 2. 09.40

[WE SEE WALTER SEARCHING A SUITCASE. HE IS
LOOKING AGITATED]

WALTER:

Jackie! Jackie! Did you pack my comfortable undies?

[JACKIE COMES INTO THE ROOM WITH A
TOILETRIES BAG, SHE WAS GETTING A WASH]

JACKIE:

Which ones?

WALTER:

The brown ones.

JACKIE:

I don't know everything's in the suitcase. Horace are you awake yet!?

HORACE:

No!

WALTER:

Jackie, they're not here.

JACKIE:

Well wear the ones that are there! Horace get up!

[WALTER PULLS OUT A PAIR OF HOMER SIMPSON
BOXERS FROM THE SUITCASE LOOKS AT THEM
WITH DISGUST AND FLINGS THEM BACK IN]

HORACE:

Alright! Alright! What about the top up for my phone! (SITS UP) You promised. I don't know why Aunty Edith didn't just turn it off; even she must know how a mobile phone works.

JACKIE:

(HORRIFIED) SHHHHHHH!

[SHE RUSHES OVER TO HORACE AND SLAPS HIM
ROUND THE HEAD]

HORACE:

Owww! What was that for?

CUT TO:

SC22. EXT. EDITH'S HOUSE. YARD. DAY 2. 09.45

[WE SEE EDITH STOOD UNDER THE OPEN WINDOW
WITH A CONFUSED LOOK ON HER FACE]

EDITH (VO):

Now I had an inkling of how she knew. I thought life's too short for all this rubbish, if they want the winnings that bad, they can have them, at least I'd get some peace and quiet.

CUT TO:

SC23. INT. EDITH'S HOUSE. KITCHEN. DAY 2. 11.30

[WE SEE EDITH PUTTING HER COAT ON AND GETTING READY TO GO OUT SHE OPENS A CUPBOARD, LIFTS A LARGE DISH AND RETRIEVES A LETTER FROM UNDERNEATH IT. THIS SHE PUTS IN HER BAG AND THEN PUTS THE BAG ON THE TABLE; SHE CHANGES HER MIND AND PUTS THE BAG ON THE WORKTOP. SHE HAS A QUICK LOOK ROUND TO SEE NOBODY HAS SEEN HER AND HEADS FOR THE BACK DOOR. AS SHE IS LEAVING SHE SHOUTS]

EDITH:

I'm just nipping out for my constitutional, make yourselves at home!

[AFTER A BEAT WE SEE JACKIE COME INTO THE KITCHEN, SHE NOTICES THE HANDBAG IMMEDIATELY SHE HAS A QUICK LOOK OVER HER SHOULDER AND GOES OVER TO THE HANDBAG. SHE HESITATES A MOMENT AND THEN GOES TO THE BACK DOOR TO MAKE SURE IT'S LOCKED. IT ISN'T SO SHE LOCKS IT.

SHE GOES BACK TO THE HANDBAG, OPENS IT AND STARTS SEARCHING. THE LETTER EDITH PUT THERE IS THE FIRST THING SHE TAKES OUT. SHE STARTS READING. WE SEE HER EXPRESSION CHANGE]

JACKIE:

Walter! Walter!

[WE SEE WALTER AMBLE INTO THE KITCHEN]

WALTER:

What's the matter?

[JACKIE JUST HANDS HIM THE LETTER.

WE CAN NOW SEE THE LETTER OVER WALTERS SHOULDER. IT'S FROM THE READERS MONTHLY AND SAYS THAT EDITH KNIGHT HAS WON £200,000 IN THEIR PRIZE DRAW. AT THE BOTTOM OF THE LETTER IS A CHEQUE MADE OUT TO EDITH TO THE AMOUNT MENTIONED]

WALTER:

I don't understand

JACKIE:

(ANGRY) It's obvious isn't it? She hasn't won a penny. The silly old bag!

CUT TO:

SC24. INT. EDITH'S HOUSE. HALL. DAY 2. 14.30

[WE SEE EDITH COME IN THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR. AS SHE ENTERS THE HALL WE SEE SOME SUITCASES. EDITH LOOKS AT THEM, STARTS TO TAKE HER COAT OFF AND HEADS TOWARDS THE KITCHEN]

CUT TO:

SC25. INT. EDITH'S HOUSE. KITCHEN. DAY 2. 14.31

[AS SHE ENTERS THE KITCHEN WE SEE THE KNIGHT FAMILY SAT AROUND THE TABLE. JACKIE IS DRUMMING HER FINGERS ON IT, WALTER IS MAKING HIMSELF BUSY WITH THE READERS MONTHLY MAGAZINE, HORACE IS EATING]

JACKIE:

(SARCASTICALLY) You're back are you?

EDITH:

(CONFUSED) Yes, why are there suitcases in the hall?

JACKIE:

'Cause we're leaving

EDITH:

(SURPRISED) Sorry

JACKIE:

I'm sorry Edith; sorry that our gesture was treated with such contempt

EDITH:

What're you going on about Jackie?

JACKIE:

(WOUNDED) We cancel our holiday so we can give you some company, and how do you treat us? By abandoning us and flouncing off to god knows where.

EDITH:

But I just had to see my solicitor.

JACKIE:

Oh really, it wouldn't be about this would it.

[SHE PRODUCES THE LETTER]

EDITH:

Where'd you get that? That's private.

JACKIE:

Your precious cat knocked your handbag off the side. (SNEERING) If you'd gone to tell your solicitor you'd won a load of money, here's something for you to think about this isn't worth the paper it's written on.

EDITH:

(CRESTFALLEN AND RATHER UNCONVICNGLY)I knew it wasn't a real cheque.

JACKIE:

(SNEERS)Did you, did you really?

[SHE SLAMS THE LETTER ON THE TABLE, STARTLING EVERYBODY, PUSHING IT ACROSS TO EDITH]

JACKIE:

Well good luck when you take it to the bank, we're off.

EDITH:

(PLEADING) Walter.

[WALTER JUST LOOKS AT HIS AUNT WITH A LOOK OF SYMPATHY ON HIS FACE, SHRUGS AND GETS UP AND LEAVES. JACKIE GRABS HORACE BY THE SHOULDER AS HE IS TRYING TO GET THE LAST SPOON INTO HIS MOUTH AND DRAGS HIM OFF. EDITH IS LEFT SAT ON HER OWN]

EDITH (VO):

That wasn't about me leaving them, that was about the money. It saddens me when people put so much emphasis on money. You come into this world with nothing and you leave with nothing...

CUT TO:

SC26. INT. EDITH'S HOUSE. LIVING ROOM. DAY 2. 15.30

[WE SEE EDITH SIT IN HER FAVOURITE ARMCHAIR.
SHE CALLS NELSON WHO OBLIGINGLY JUMPS INTO
HER LAP. SHE STARTS TO STROKE HIM AND
SLOWLY CLOSES HER EYES]

EDITH (VO):

... and what happens in between can't be about money. (SADLY) But you know what really disappoints me? Walter, I really did expect more of Walter

CUT TO

SC27. INT. EDITH'S HOUSE. KITCHEN. DAY 2. 09.30

[WE SEE A CLOCK TICKING ON THE WALL THE
CAMERA TURNS TO SHOW MARGARET COME INTO
THE KITCHEN VIA THE BACKDOOR]

MARGARET:

Edith... Edith.

[SHE GOES OVER TO THE KETTLE AND PUTS IT ON.
WE SEE HER GET THE MUGS READY AND THEN SHE
THINKS WHERE'S EDITH, SO AFTER ADDING THE
SUGAR SHE GOES TO LOOK FOR HER FRIEND]

CUT TO:

SC28. INT. EDITH'S HOUSE. LIVING ROOM. DAY 2. 09.32

[WE SEE MARGARET OPEN THE DOOR TO THE
LIVING ROOM]

MARGARET:

(ANGRY) There you are, why are you leaving the back door open if you're
sat in here... I've put the kettle on, anyway where are the family grim?

[EDITH DOESN'T ANSWER. AS MARGARET GOES
OVER AND TOUCHES HER SHOULDER. EDITH'S
HEAD DROOPS TO ONE SIDE. EDITH IS DEAD.
NELSON IS STILL SAT IN HER LAP]

MARGARET:

Oh no.

CUT TO:

SC29. INT. EDITHS HOUSE. LIVING ROOM. DAY. 10.35

[WE ARE BACK AT THE FUNERAL. THE KNIGHT FAMILY IS SAT AT THE DINING TABLE. MR WILKINSON IS STOOD AT THE HEAD OF THE TABLE. IN FRONT OF HIM IS A THICK FILE AND A LEGAL PAD. HE TAPS THE SIDE OF HIS GLASS AND CLEARS HIS THROAT SOMEWHAT THEATRICALY]

MR WILKINSON:

Miss Knight was quite insistent about settling these arrangements. It's uncanny but she came to see me the day she passed away, referring cryptically to," recent events", she asked me to make a few amendments to her will. Anyway Miss Knight's first instruction is that a home should be found for her beloved cat Nelson. So if we can settle this matter we can move on.

[HE LOOKS UP TO SEE EVERYBODY JUST LOOKING BACK AT HIM]

MR WILKINSON:

Ladies and gentlemen until we find someone to look after the cat I cannot continue.

[THERE FOLLOWS AN AWKWARD SILENCE.
FINALLY WE SEE MARGARET PUT HER HAND UP]

MR WILKINSON:

Yes.

MARGARET:

I'll look after him.

[JACKIE WHO IS SAT NEXT TO WALTER LOOKS AT HIM AND WHISPERS]

JACKIE:

(WHISPERS) Sucker

[WALTER GLARES AT HIS WIFE. MR WILKINSON MAKES A NOTE ON A LEGAL PAD, LOOKS UP AND GIVES MARGARET A LITTLE SMILE]

MR WILKINSON:

Now secondly Miss Knight being quite fond of the old fellow, instructed that whoever volunteered to look after Nelson would also inherit her house and all its contents...

[WE HEAR A THUD AS JACKIE FAINTS. WALTER GRABS A GLASS OF WATER OFF THE TABLE AND SPLASHES JACKIE'S FACE. JACKIE WAKES SPLUTTERING]

JACKIE:

(FURIOUS) That was our house Walter!

[MR WILKINSON LOOKS AT JACKIE AS IF SHE'S SOMETHING THE CAT DRAGGED IN]

WALTER:

(FURIOUS) Jackie for once in your life just shut up and listen!

[A MURMUR GOES UP AMONGST THE MOURNERS]

MR WILKINSON:

Can we continue? Thank you. Finally about a week ago Miss Knight contacted me to deal with a separate matter, asking me to handle the arrangements for her lottery win...

[WE HEAR A THUD. JACKIE'S FAINTED AGAIN WALTER THROWS THE REST OF THE WATER ON JACKIE'S FACE BUT THIS TIME WITHOUT ANY LUCK. HE GIVES UP]

MR WILKINSON:

Yes quite, anyway we just received a cheque for one hundred and seventy-five thousand, seven hundred and eighty-six pounds. I'm instructed that these winnings are to go to...

[A MURMUR STARTS. MR WILKINSON LOOKS UP LIKE A CROSS SCHOOL TEACHER. THE MURMUR DIES]

MR WILKINSON:

... To got to and I quote, "the only person who couldn't give a damn about the money", Mrs Margaret Tomkinson.

[THERE IS A COLLECTIVE GASP. WALTER IS DUMBFUNDED. ALTHOUGH JACKIE IS OUT OF IT WE SEE HER BODY JERK WHEN THIS IS MENTIONED]

CUT TO:

SC30. INT. EDITH'S HOUSE. LIVING ROOM. DAY. 11.00

[WE SEE EDITH AT PEACE, LAID IN HER COFFIN SHE
HAS A SMILE ON HER FACE]

THE END