

Marlene is drinking Isabella's brandy.

So off I went to visit the Berber sheikhs in full blue trousers and great brass spurs. I was the only European woman ever to have seen the Emperor of Morocco. I was seventy years old. What lengths to go to for a last chance of joy. I knew my return of vigour was only temporary, but how marvellous while it lasted.

Act Two

Scene One

Joyce's back yard. The house with back door is upstage.

Downstage a shelter made of junk, made by children. Two girls, Angie and Kit, are in it, squashed together. Angie is sixteen, Kit is twelve. They cannot be seen from the house. Joyce calls from the house.

Joyce Angie. Angie are you out there?

Silence. They keep still and wait. When nothing else happens they relax.

Angie Wish she was dead.

Kit Wanna watch *The Exterminator*?

Angie You're sitting on my leg.

Kit There's nothing on telly. We can have an ice cream. Angie?

Angie Shall I tell you something?

Kit Do you wanna watch *The Exterminator*?

Angie It's X, innit.

Kit I can get into Xs.

Angie Shall I tell you something?

Kit We'll go to something else. We'll go to Ipswich. What's on the Odeon?

Angie She won't let me, will she?

Kit Don't tell her.

Angie I've no money.

Kit I'll pay.

Angie She'll moan though, won't she?

Kit I'll ask her for you if you like.

Angie I've no money, I don't want you to pay.

Kit I'll ask her.

Angie She don't like you.

Kit I still got three pounds birthday money. Did she say she don't like me? I'll go by myself then.

Angie Your mum don't let you. I got to take you.

Kit She won't know.

Angie You'd be scared who'd sit next to you.

Kit No I wouldn't.

She does like me anyway.

Tell me then.

Angie Tell you what?

Kit It's you she doesn't like.

Angie Well I don't like her so tough shit.

Joyce (off) Angie. Angie. I know you're out there. I'm not coming out after you. You come in here.

Silence. Nothing happens.

Angie Last night when I was in bed. I been thinking yesterday could I make things move. You know, make things move by thinking about them without touching them. Last night I was in bed and suddenly a picture fell down off the wall.

Kit What picture?

Angie My gran, that picture. Not the poster. The photograph in the frame.

Kit Had you done something to make it fall down?

Angie I must have done.

Kit But were you thinking about it?

Angie Not about it, but about something.

Kit I don't think that's very good.

Angie You know the kitten?

Kit Which one?

Angie There only is one. The dead one.

Kit What about it?

Angie I heard it last night.

Kit Where?

Angie Out here. In the dark. What if I left you here in the

dark all night?

Kit You couldn't. I'd go home.

Angie You couldn't.

Kit I'd / go home.

Angie No you couldn't, not if I said.

Kit I could.

Angie Then you wouldn't see anything. You'd just be

ignorant.

Kit I can see in the daytime.

Angie No you can't. You can't hear it in the daytime.

Kit I don't want to hear it.

Angie You're scared that's all.

Kit I'm not scared of anything.

Angie You're scared of blood.

Kit It's not the same kitten anyway. You just heard an old cat, / you just heard some old cat.

Angie You don't know what I heard. Or what I saw. You don't know nothing because you're a baby.

Kit You're sitting on me.

Angie Mind my hair / you silly cunt.

Kit Stupid fucking cow, I hate you.

Angie I don't care if you do.

Kit You're horrible.

Angie I'm going to kill my mother and you're going to watch.

Kit I'm not playing.

Angie You're scared of blood.

Kit puts her hand under her dress, brings it out with blood on her finger.

Kit There, see, I got my own blood, so.

Angie takes Kit's hand and licks her finger.

Angie Now I'm a cannibal. I might turn into a vampire now.

Kit That picture wasn't nailed up right.

Angie You'll have to do that when I get mine.

Kit I don't have to.

Angie You're scared.

Kit I'll do it, I might do it. I don't have to just because you say. I'll be sick on you.

Angie I don't care if you are sick on me, I don't mind sick. I don't mind blood. If I don't get away from here I'm going to die.

Kit I'm going home.

Angie You can't go through the house. She'll see you.

Kit I won't tell her.

Angie Oh great, fine.

Kit I'll say I was by myself. I'll tell her you're at my house and I'm going there to get you.

Angie She knows I'm here, stupid.

Kit Then why can't I go through the house?

Angie Because I said not.

Kit My mum don't like you anyway.

Angie I don't want her to like me. She's a slag.

Kit She is not.

Angie She does it with everyone.

Kit She does not.

Angie You don't even know what it is.

Kit Yes I do.

Angie Tell me then.

Kit We get it all at school, cleverlogs. It's on television. You haven't done it.

Angie How do you know?

Kit Because I know you haven't.

Angie You know wrong then because I have.

Kit Who with?

Angie I'm not telling you / who with.

Kit You haven't anyway.

Angie How do you know?

Kit Who with?

Angie I'm not telling you.

Kit You said you told me everything.

Angie I was lying wasn't I?

Kit Who with? You can't tell me who with because / you never -

Angie Sh.

Joyce has come out of the house. She stops halfway across the yard and listens. They listen.

Joyce You there Angie? Kit? You there Kirty? Want a cup of tea? I've got some chocolate biscuits. Come on now I'll put the kettle on. Want a choccy biccy, Angie?

They all listen and wait.

Fucking rotten little cunt. You can stay there and die. I'll lock the back door.

They all wait.

Joyce goes back to the house.

Angie and Kit sit in silence for a while.

Kit When there's a war, where's the safest place?

Angie Nowhere.

Kit New Zealand is, my mum said. Your skin's burned right off. Shall we go to New Zealand?

Angie I'm not staying here.

Kit Shall we go to New Zealand?

Angie You're not old enough.

Kit You're not old enough.

Angie I'm old enough to get married.

Kit You don't want to get married.

Angie No but I'm old enough.

Kit I'd find out where they were going to drop it and stand right in the place.

Angie You couldn't find out.

Kit Better than walking round with your skin dragging on the ground. Eugh. / Would you like walking round with your skin dragging on the ground?

Angie You couldn't find out, stupid, it's a secret.

Kit Where are you going?

Angie I'm not telling you.

Kit Why?

Angie It's a secret.

Kit But you tell me all your secrets.

Angie Not the true secrets.

Kit Yes you do.

Angie No I don't.

Kit I want to go somewhere away from the war.

Angie Just forget the war.

Kit I can't.

Angie You have to. It's so boring.

Kit I'll remember it at night.

Angie I'm going to do something else anyway.

Kit What? Angie come on. Angie.

Angie It's a true secret.

Kit It can't be worse than the kiten. And killing your mother. And the war.

Angie Well I'm not telling you so you can die for all I care.