

1. INT. NURSERY OFFICE DAY 8AM

It is a beautiful spring Monday morning. We see a country lane leading to an entrance in the hedgerow with an old sign which reads 'The Nursery.' We see around the nursery and hear the birds singing, slowly making our way to the hub of the nursery (the nursery office) where **Pink** is lying back on his chair with his feet up on the desk, asleep. He is holding a copy of a book 'Dahlia's to Die for' and there is an electric fan blowing toward him. It is an oscillating fan with the breeze from the fan 'lifting' the 'tufts' of his cheek-hair with each pass. After a few passes, the big old-fashioned black telephone on the desk rings.

PINK

(startled, but suddenly wide-awake and enthusiastic with a kind of musical intonation to the pronunciation of the company name)

Good morning Pink and Blue

No reply, line goes dead. Silence. Puzzled, **Pink** puts down receiver.

PINK

(continues perusing book, humming to himself)
Ah yes, that's...

Telephone rings

PINK

Good morning Pink and Blue The Nursery

No reply again. Silence. Perplexed, he stares directly at the receiver, then puts it down.

PINK

(continuing to peruse the book, humming)
Now, where was I...

Telephone rings

PINK

(annoyed)
Pink and Blue....Hello!

No reply, he slams down receiver

PINK

(irate and looking angrily at his watch)
And where's Snapshut!

BLUE (O.O.V)

(shouting through to the office from potting area)
Problems Mr Pink?

PINK

(shouting back)
Pesky line keeps on going quiet.

Blue walks into office.

BLUE
Crikey Mr Pink. It's unlike you to be swearing - especially at this early hour.

PINK
Quite, Mr Blue. Doesn't *that* just show you what a ticklish problem we have here.

BLUE
Certainly does Mr Pink.

Pink gets up and begins to fill the kettle at the sink in the corner.

PINK
Tea?

BLUE
(seriously)
I think we both know that's exactly what's needed at this juncture.

PINK
(nodding)
Indeed. Have you seen Len the landscaper this morning?

BLUE
No, thought he'd be here by now.

PINK
Indeed.

Kettle starts to heat. Telephone rings again. **Pink** and **Blue** stop dead in their tracks, looking at each other stony-faced over the ringing phone, they simultaneously look down at the phone then back at each other.

PINK
(pointing at phone)
Would you, Mr Blue?

Blue picks up the receiver with deliberation.

BLUE
(with same musical intonation as Pink)
Good morning Pink and Blue The Nursery

WOMAN (V.O)
(unintelligible babble)

Pink looks at **Blue** excitedly

BLUE
Yes madam.

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WOMAN (V.O)
(unintelligible babble)

BLUE
No madam.

WOMAN (V.O)
(unintelligible babble)

BLUE
Well, yes - we are a nursery as you've rightly been informed but no, not a children's day nursery madam.

Pink exhales in disappointment.

WOMAN (V.O)
(manic unintelligible babble)

BLUE
No no madam.

WOMAN (V.O)
(more manic unintelligible babble)

BLUE
Actually, pink and blue refers to our names, not the colours of the nursery.

WOMAN (V.O)
(very short burst of unintelligible babble)

BLUE
That's right. Mr Hadley Blue, that's me.
(with seriousness)
And my established colleague Mr Vaughan Windle-Pink

pink sits up straight with pride

BLUE
Oh, and er...not forgetting our own very important compost mixer Mr Warwick Snapshut.

WOMAN (V.O)
(unintelligible babble)

BLUE
A wholesale nursery specializing in the production of trees and shrubs for the commercial market with the (affected emphasis) *occasional* retail sale madam.

WOMAN (V.O)
(short unintelligible babble)

BLUE
Never mind. Good-bye madam.

Blue puts the receiver down extremely slowly and gently as if she may have more to say.

Pink is drinking his tea.

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BLUE

Oh Mr Pink. I need that tea.

Pink passes **Blue** his tea.

PINK

There you go Mr Blue - it's a STRESS-BUSTER!

BLUE

(slurping tea contentedly)

You're right there Mr Pink...you're so right.

2. EXT. BOUNDARY OF NURSERY/BLUE'S GARDEN GATE DAY 8.10AM

The nursery premises borders Blue's house and garden. A heavy-duty impenetrable fence divides the two along with a prison-like steel door as the only means of access. **Mrs Blue** (Blue's wife), a large formidable woman pounds up to the door from the garden side - she is seen from the rear (her face is never seen). She slide back the huge steel bolts of the door which make an alarming noise. She then puts a huge metal key in the lock and turns it whereupon the door creaks open.

MRS BLUE

(Bellows frighteningly with a deep voice)

Hadley!

Silence as she waits impatiently. She inhales so deeply as to throw her head back in order to shout even louder.

MRS BLUE

Hadley!

3. INT. NURSERY OFFICE. DAY 8.15AM

Both **Pink** and **Blue** are startled by the terrifying summons of **Mrs Blue**. They simultaneously bang down their respective cups.

PINK AND BLUE

(simultaneously panic-stricken)

Mrs Blue!

PINK

Oh wah!

BLUE

(downhearted)

Mmm

PINK

(head in hands to **Blue**)

Please go and see to her - post-haste!

Blue gets up and scuttles out of the office. pushes his tea away in abhorrence as his stomach is churning. **Len** steps into office unseen by **Pink**.

PINK

(to himself)

Who'd have a wife. Who'd ever have a wife.

LEN

(puzzled)

Mr Pink?

PINK

(startled)

Ooh! Morning Len. You're late.

LEN

had to dump off a couple of lads at the rectory. Doing the hedges for them.

PINK

Ah. Tea? Usual, milk, no sugar?

LEN

Yes please.

Pink gets up and starts to make tea.

4. EXT. NURSERY YARD. DAY 8.20

Blue runs across the nursery yard

5. EXT. BOUNDARY OF NURSERY/BLUE'S GARDEN GATE. DAY 8.21AM

MRS BLUE

(still annoyed)

Are you there Hadley?

BLUE

(out of breath, trying to pacify)

With YOU Mrs Blue.

Blue arrives at the gate as **Mrs Blue** is walking away from him towards her and blue's house.

BLUE

Er, problem, Mrs Blue?

MRS BLUE

(without looking back, nonchalant)

I won't be here lunchtime. Going to town. Martha's picking me up. There's some cold macaroni cheese still in the pot...

BLUE

(sheepishly)

But it'll be congealed...

MRS BLUE

You can swallow it quickly!....anyhow, I won't be here.

BLUE
Great!

Mrs Blue stops dead in her tracks as if insulted.

MRS BLUE
What!

BLUE
I mean...the macaroni...great!

Mrs Blue continues walking towards the house. **Blue** turns around and before he has taken a couple of steps **Mrs Blue** has miraculously got back to the gate, slams it shut, frantically slides the bolts and turns the key.

BLUE
(quietly to himself)
Macaroni! Cold!

6. EXT. NURSERY YARD. DAY 8.22AM

Warwick Snapshut cycles into the yard and notices **Mrs Blue's** departure.

SNAPSHOT
(alarmed, to **Blue** as he walks back across the yard)
Mrs Blue around?

BLUE
Morning Snapshut

SNAPSHOT
Morning Mr Blue

MRS BLUE (O.O.V)
(shouting)
You're late, Snapshut

SNAPSHOT
(cowering)
Sorry madam.

MRS BLUE
(angrily)
Don't call me madam!

SNAPSHOT
Sorry madam I mean Mrs Blue.

Sound of **Mrs Blue** slamming her house door hard in temper.

7. EXT. IN BARN OUTSIDE OFFICE. DAY 8.24AM

Blue approaches the office door.

BLUE

(shouting ahead)
Snapshut's here Mr Pink.

PINK (O.O.V)

Snapshut's here when he's mixing compost Mr Blue and there's not much of that going on at the moment.
(calling)
Snapshut!

Snapshut runs in from the yard to the compost mixing area taking off his bicycle clips as he does so.

SNAPSHUT (O.O.V)

(mixing compost)
I'm mixing Mr Pink, I'm mixing.

8. INT. COMPOST AREA. DAY 8.25AM

Snapshut is seen frantically mixing compost with the accompanying sound of a huge shovel scraping on the concrete floor of the mixing bay as he mixes. The barn houses the office which has a window overlooking the barn and the compost area is a small room without any windows and having just one single light-bulb hanging crudely on a wire.

9. EXT. BLUE'S DRIVEWAY ADJACENT TO NURSERY ENTRANCE. DAY 8.30

A car pulls up outside the entrance to the drive of **Blue's** house. It's **Mrs Blue's** friend **Martha**, a pleasant, middle-class lady. She beeps her horn. **Mrs Blue** strides out up her drive and opens the passenger door to **Martha's** car.

MRS BLUE

(depressed in greeting)
Martha.

Mrs Blue gets in the car. Closes the door. **Blue** is seen loitering behind some bushes near to the car, watching, unnoticed, for **Mrs Blue** to go.

The car pulls away. As it passes the nursery entrance, **Blue** turns away as if to make out he is pulling some weeds. **Pink** is seen at the window of the office studiously watching the proceedings. he has a cup of tea pressed hard to his lips with the saucer held close to his chin in anticipation.

Snapshut is seen to purposefully stop mixing compost whilst he listens intently to the car pulling away.

There is a moment of eerie calm after the last sounds of the car are heard to diminish whereupon **Pink** slurps the tea pushed to his lips, **Snapshut** continues mixing, and **Blue** stands at ease, lights up a slim cigar. All are at ease.

10. EXT. ROAD TO TOWN. DAY 8.32AM

Martha is driving **Mrs Blue** to town. They are seen from the rear of the car.

MARTHA

(cheerfully)

So. How are things at the nursery?

MRS BLUE

(downbeat, monotonal)

No better.

MARTHA

Did you get that old shed dismantled in your back garden? I know it's been driving you mad.

MRS BLUE

No.

MARTHA

(struggling to make conversation)

Oh dear. Still, hopefully it'll happen soon.

MRS BLUE

Hmmm!

Martha indicates and turns right at a 'T' junction. They drive off into the distance. Silent.

11. INT. NURSERY OFFICE. DAY 8.40AM

The office window is open. **Blue** is leaning into it from the outside continuing to smoke his slim cigar while watching and listening to **Pink** who is on the telephone. **Pink** is talking to his friend **Aubrey Lumsden**.

Aubrey Lumsden like **Pink** also lives alone. He is around 45, rather portly, slightly introvert odd character with an odd sense of humour. Intelligent. Talks in a very pronounce, monotonal, logical manner.

Snapshot is mixing peat making a lot of noise with the scraping of his shovel on the concrete floor.

Len is silently drinking his tea.

PINK

(into telephone receiver)

I said *dinner*, Aubrey.

AUBREY (V.O)

(puzzled)

Vaughan, who's sedinna?

PINK

No. not SEDINNA

AUBREY (V.O)

Vaughan, there's a hell of a lot of interference on the line,
I can't...

PINK

(shouting towards the door)

Snapshut! Stop. Just for a minute will you.

Snapshut stops mixing suddenly. Len finishes up his tea and
silently nods to **Pink** and slips away quietly.

PINK

(into phone)

How's that?

AUBREY (V.O)

Well, the interference has certainly gone. What did you do,
tap the receiver?

PINK

(shaking his head and moving the conversation
on)

Yup.

AUBREY (V.O)

I find that usually does the trick. Mind you, there are
occasions when...

PINK

Yes yes, um, about dinner?

AUBREY (V.O)

Middle of the day stuff or evening-type stuff?

PINK

Pardon?

AUBREY (V.O)

DINNER! Middle of the day or evening stuff!?

PINK

Ah right yes, evening.

AUBREY (V.O)

You're inviting me over to dinner...at your place...time?

PINK

I thought perhaps early evening. The Mesbury Morris Men are
doing a bit of a late turn down at the Bakers Arms and I
thought we could go down for a mosey.

AUBREY (V.O)

(low pitch, saucy)

Public house...have a mosey!

PINK

Well, what do you say?

AUBREY (V.O)

(suddenly upbeat, returning to normal pitch)

Is it a roast?

PINK

(confused)
A roast. What?

AUBREY (V.O)

Your evening type stuff...DINNER!

PINK

Oh yes. It is indeed.

AUBREY (V.O)

Will the gravy be of a nice medium consistency?

PINK

(slightly irritated)
Y-E-S. At least as medium as I can get it Aubrey.

AUBREY (V.O)

In that case, will we have a gravy boat each?

PINK

Um, I think I can conjure up two.

AUBREY (V.O)

And will we be partaking of desert?

PINK

No, I'm afraid not.

AUBREY (V.O)

Then there'll be no need to worry about lumpy custard and its possible consistency then?

PINK

(at the end of his tether)
Nope!

AUBREY (V.O)

Good!

PINK

That's a date then. Shall we say seven?

AUBREY (V.O)

Well you've said it. All that remains is for me to say it...

(higher pitched voice)

Seven!

PINK

Seven it is then. Bye Aubrey.

AUBREY (V.O)

(formal and serious)

Good-bye. See you at seven. Looking forward to the meeting with my very own gravy-boat. Thank you very much.

Pink hangs up the receiver. Leans back in his chair to relax and

looks at **Blue** who is still leaning into the office window, smoking.

PINK
(raising his eyebrows, in a whisper)
Aubrey.

BLUE
I gathered Mr Pink.

PINK
(shouting)
Snapshut, you may carry on.

Snapshut is heard to continue mixing compost. **Blue** turns and heads towards the yard.

12. INT. AUBREY LUMSDEN'S HOUSE. DAY 8.45AM

We see around the single room in which **Aubrey** lives/eats/sleeps. he is seated at a very large desk. We see him from the rear. There is cigarette ash everywhere - the place is a complete mess. He is smoking with the telephone receiver still in his outstretched hand. he is talking to it.

AUBREY
(excited, low-pitched voice, slowly and drawn out)
Public house...mosey at the morris...seven o'clock...graaaaavy boaaaaaat!

He replaces the receiver over-carefully.

AUBREY
(formally, to himself, back to normal pitch)
Thank you very much.

He draws heavily on his cigarette, looks up at the ceiling and exhales very contentedly.

13. EXT. NURSERY PLANT BEDS. DAY 11AM

Blue is setting up a sprinkler system in the middle of a bed of shrubs.

PINK (O.O.V)
(shouting)
Mr Blue. Coffee time!

BLUE
(to himself, looking at his watch)
That time already!
(shouting back to **Pink**)
With you in a jiffy sir.

Blue connects a hose to the sprinkler pipe and turns on the tap.

the sprinkler starts to 'pulse.' He walks toward the office.

14. INT. NURSERY OFFICE. DAY 11.05AM

Pink, sitting at his desk, swivels around in his chair and bends over low to look in the bottom drawer of the filing cabinet. His back is toward the door.

Aubrey wearing a straw boater opens the office door and enters the office.

PINK
(looking through the drawer)
Your coffee's on the window ledge.

AUBREY
But I don't drink coffee at this hour.

PINK
(puzzled)
Mr Blue?

AUBREY
I'm afraid you're wrong again

Pink turns around in surprise.

PINK
Aubrey!

AUBREY
Correct! Not coffee but tea.! Not Mr Blue but Mr Lumsden!

PINK
I didn't think you were coming over today? Thought you were keeping yourself to yourself this week?

AUBREY
I am...was...ran out of twiglets...hence the emergency...
(low-pitch voice, drawn out)
Supermarket expedition!

PINK
Ah Ha. Well the kettle has just this minute boiled...tea?

AUBREY
(back to normal pitch)
That would be splendid.

Pink pours a cup of tea. **Blue** enters the office accompanied by **Snapshut**.

SNAPSHUT
(in greeting to **Aubrey**)
Mr Lumsden.

AUBREY
Snapshut.

BLUE

Good morning Aubrey. Isn't it a lovely day. Feels good to be alive, doesn't it?

AUBREY

I'm sure that will be the case once I've got my twiglets.

BLUE

Oh, I see...on a twiglet-mission?

AUBREY

(low-pitch, cheeky)
Twiglets!

PINK

(to **Blue**)
Your coffee's in the window Mr Blue.
(to **Snapshut**)
Yours is by the kettle.

SNAPSHUT

Thanks Mr Pink.

Snapshut and **Blue** retrieve their coffee. **Pink** removes a tea-bag from a cup.

PINK

Sugar Aubrey?

AUBREY

Um...ooh...sugar...um...

Aubrey shifts awkwardly from one leg to another while staring upwards at the ceiling.

AUBREY

Um...is your toilet operational?

PINK

Yes, fully. Did you want sugar?

AUBREY

I'm afraid I just can't make decisions on a full bladder. I'll come back to you on that one Vaughan.

Aubrey takes off his straw boater and places it with extreme care and precision on the corner of **Pink's** desk, goes to walk away, looks back at the straw boater and goes back to it, just to move it an inch. He then briskly and silently walks out of the office to the toilet.

PINK

(to **Blue**)
Did you check on the Taxus Baccata Fastigiata Aureomarginata?

BLUE

No Mr Pink. It quite slipped my mind.
(to **Snapshut**)
Snapshut, run down to the beds and have a

count up on those Taxus will you?

SNAPSHOT

Yes, Mr Blue.

Snapshot gulps down all his coffee and runs out of the office.

BLUE

(to **Pink**)

How many do they want?

PINK

Well, initially, about thirty but I've got a gut feeling they're going to *up it!*

BLUE

Good

SNAPSHOT (O.O.V)

Which Taxus was that?

Sound of Aubrey flushing the toilet.

BLUE

(shouting over the flushing toilet)

Taxus Baccata Fastigiata Aureomarginata.

Aubrey enters the office.

AUBREY

Two. The Golden Irish Yew.

PINK

Pardon?

AUBREY

(geticulates drinking tea)

Two sugars. Golden Irish Yew...Taxus Baccata Fastigiata Aureomarginata!

Pink puts two sugars in tea.

PINK

(stirring)

There you are Aubrey, two sugars.

Pink passes **Aubrey** the tea.

AUBREY

(formally)

Thank you very much.

Silence as they slurp their drinks.

AUBREY

(low-pitched, cheeky)

Taxus!

Silence, broken by the sound of **Snapshot's** voice.

SNAPSHOT (O.O.V)

There are twenty-five Mr Blue.

PINK

Cows' udders Mr Blue. We can't fullfil...is he right? I mean, has he counted correctly? Mr Blue we can't fulfil!...

BLUE

Go steady Mr Pink. I'll go and check.

(shouting)

Snapshut, don't move, stay exactly where you are!

Blue runs out of the office.

AUBREY

(slow and deliberately)

So...we have a Taxus shortage.

PINK

(glumly)

Indeed.

AUBREY

A dearth of Taxus.

Aubrey and **Pink** sip their drinks simultaneously in silence. They both look glum.

AUBREY

Taxus shorfall.

Still sipping their drinks. **Aubrey** holds a cigarette packet up to his mouth like a walkie-talkie

AUBREY

(into cigarette packet)

Calling all Taxus. Calling all Taxus. Calling all Taxus.

Pink nervously sips at his coffee.

AUBREY

Taxus, come in please. Taxus.....

15. EXT. PLANT BEDS. DAY 11.10AM

Blue arrives running and out of breath to the plant beds where he finds **Snapshut** absolutely motionless and in a strange position.

BLUE

(puzzled)

Snapshut?

SNAPSHOT

(remaining motionless)

Mr Blue?

BLUE

(puzzled at Snapshot's frozen stance)
Why are you standing like that?

SNAPSHOT
You said stay exactly where you...

BLUE
Oh...ok...stand at ease Snapshut.

Snapshut relaxes, brushing himself down.

BLUE
Right Snapshut. Where are the twenty-five?

SNAPSHOT
(pointing)
Right here Mr Blue.

BLUE
(pointing at plain yews)
Here? These are plain yews, not golden Irish.
(pointing at the golden Irish yews)
The golden Irish are over there)

SNAPSHOT
What? Oh!

Blue bounds over to the Golden Irish Yews.

SNAPSHOT
Sorry Mr Blue.

BLUE
(counting, pointing)
No matter...six...seven...ten...twenty,three,four...thirty-
five...forty...fifty...sixty, sixty-one sixty-two. There!
Panic over Snapshut. Let's go and inform Mr Pink of the good
news.

Blue strides off with **Snapshut** in pursuit.

16. INT. NURSERY OFFICE. DAY 11.15AM

Pink and **Aubrey** stand holding their cups to their mouths with one hand, and their saucers to their chests with the other, in anticipation of bad news as **Blue** and **Snapshut** enter the office.

BLUE
Good news Mr Pink.

PINK
(concerned)
Oh?

BLUE
Sixty-two.

PINK

What a blessed relief!

Pink and **Aubrey** slurp their drinks simultaneously with relief and plonk them down on the desk together.

AUBREY

Taxus alert over.

(to **Snapshut**)

Fortuitous error Snapshut - well done!

PINK

That's the best number you've uttered all day Mr. Blue.

(to **Snapshut**)

Snapshut! Carry on mixing!

SNAPSHUT

Yes, Mr Pink.

Snapshut leaves the office.

AUBREY

(in 'bingo-calling' manner)

Two little ducks, twenty-two. Golden Irish Yew...sixty-two!

Pink sits down utterly relived, this is an ordeal for him!

PINK

Sixty-two.

AUBREY

Bingo!

Blue downs the rest of his coffee in one, looking rather stressed.

17. INT. POTTING AREA IN BARN. DAY 2PM

Pink is standing by the large potting bench. He is watching an elevator moving peat from out of the compost mixing room onto the potting bench. The elevator is positioned so that nothing can be seen of the mixing operation inside the potting room.

Blue enters the mixing area.

PINK

Good afternoon Mr Blue. Did you have a nice lunch?

BLUE

(ambiguously, holding stomach)

Oh yes, macaroni Mr Pink.

Pink stops the elevator as the bench is full of compost.

PINK

Ah, that can be delicious Mr Blue.

BLUE

I'm sure it can Mr Pink. I'm sure it can.

Pink goes into the office. **Blue** prepares the potting bench with pots and plants as he hears the two part-time potting girls arrive by car in the yard. They are heard to get out of the car and two doors are closed. They are heard to walking across the gravel in the yard towards the barn. **Blue** looks over in anticipation as they enter the potting area in the barn.

BLUE

(turning around in mock surprise)
Ah, afternoon girls. How are you both today?

VERITY

Oh, we're happy Mr Blue.

FRANCIS

Exceedingly!

BLUE

(slightly embarrassed)
Great!

VERITY

What are we potting today then?

Both girls take off their coats.

BLUE

I thought we'd have a change today, to break the monotony of all those prickly little hollies.

VERITY

Thank God for that.

FRANCIS

I'll second that!

Blue fetches a tray of plants.

VERITY

And instead, Mr Blue?

BLUE

(putting tray of plants on the bench)
These lovely little fellows. *Cornus Stolonifera Flaviremea*.
(slightly embarrassed)
Er...yellow dogwoods.

Blue picks one of the plants out of the tray.

FRANCIS

(happy)
Brilliant! Easy little re-pots.

Verity nods in happy agreement.

BLUE

Well it is Monday. You need a good start to the week girls, don't you?

VERITY

(Looking through her eyelids seductively at **Blue**.)

It's a great start Mr Blue.

Verity sensuously caresses the yellow stems of the plant that **Blue** is holding. **Snapshot** eyes appear through a small hatch-like opening of the mixing area. He is unseen by anyone present. He is silently watching.

VERITY

Such lovely yellow stems Mr Blue.

BLUE

(slightly awkward, unconsciously aroused)
Aren't they just....

Francis also caresses them with the back of her hand, gently.

FRANCIS

So good to the touch...mmmm...

Blue is transfixed for a moment. **Snapshot's** eyes get closer to the opening. **Pink**, from nowhere, appears standing at the doorway to the office looking at the situation.

PINK

(purposefully blunt)

Haven't you got those girls potting yet Mr Blue? (Looking directly at **Snapshot's** eyes)
Snapshot!

Snapshot's eyes immediately vanish and he is heard to be mixing. **Verity** and **Francis** giggle knowingly.

BLUE

Er...yes no yes Mr Pink.

(to girls)

Ok girls, so you know what to do. Don't forget to give the roots a bit of a haircut as usual.

Blue walks over to the office, enters and closes the door behind him.

VERITY

We won't Mr Blue.

PINK

(shouting from office)

You make sure you keep mixing Snapshot!

SNAPSHOT (O.O.V)

(scurrying about)

Yes, yes Mr Pink.

Snapshot continues mixing. **Verity** and **Francis** look at each other and giggle as they start their potting-up.

Blue is sat at his (smaller) desk opposite **Pink** who is sat at his large desk concentrating on some paperwork. The telephone on **Pink's** desk rings. **Pink** looks up staring blankly at the wall but doesn't answer the phone. It continues to ring. **Blue** looks concerned but says nothing.

PINK

Nature calls Mr Blue.

Pink gets up and moves towards the door. The telephone continues to ring.

PINK

(to **Blue** as he leaves the office)
Shan't be a jiffy.

Pink closes the door behind him. **Blue** gets up and answers Pink's ringing phone.

BLUE

The Nursery, Pink and Blue.

AUBREY (V.O)

Oh just the pink please. Six points would be handy.

BLUE

Oh, hello again Aubrey.

AUBREY (V.O)

(munching twiglets loudly)
Afternoon Hadley(munch munch) and a pleasant one it is too.

BLUE

Twiglet mission succesful then?

AUBREY (V.O)

(low-pitched, cheeky)
Twiglets ahoy!

BLUE

Ah ha.

AUBREY (V.O)

Is Vaughan handy?

BLUE

Er, well...he'll only be a couple of minutes, nature calls.

AUBREY (V.O)

(low, cheeky)
Moisture release!

BLUE

Would you like to hang on a minute?

AUBREY (V.O)

You said he'd be two?

BLUE

Well, you know...

AUBREY (V.O)

Do you know, the most incredible thing happened to me today, after I left you this morning...

BLUE

Really.

AUBREY (V.O)

Yes, I'd been to the supermarket and successfully obtained a significant quantity of twiglets...well, enough to keep me off of the streets for a few days anyway, and then I dropped in to my usual watering-hole - you know - the coffee shop in the basement of the ladies lingerie shop - you know, the one with the really steep, sexy spiral staircase that...

BLUE

(trying to move on)
And?

AUBREY (V.O)

Well, as you know, I've been going there religiously, once a week for about fifteen years. I always order the same thing - cup of coffee and a cheese scone - they are delicious - you know - I may have mentioned...

BLUE

Yes yes you have!

AUBREY (V.O)

...the ones cooked with mustard.

BLUE

Ah ha.

AUBREY (V.O)

Well, today, I ordered my usual coffee and a cheese scone. It was all duly prepared as usual as I stood at the counter and paid for it - the assistant - you know - the one that's like a horse, but a *nice* horse...

BLUE

(impatient)
Yup.

AUBREY (V.O)

She passed me the coffee and the cheese scone to put on my tray, which I did as usual...

BLUE

(looking at his watch, impatiently)
So... what was incredible? It seems so normal?

AUBREY (V.O)

That's the funny thing. I got to my usual table - you know, the one

AUBREY(V.O) AND BLUE

...as far away from the counter as possible..

AUBREY (V.O)

22

...and put down my tray. No sooner had I sat down I noticed immediately that I had not one but TWO cups of coffee on my tray!

BLUE
(very disheartened)
Oh dear!

AUBREY (V.O)
Yes. That's waht I thought. What an extraordinary thing eh?

Pink enters the office.

BLUE
Yeah, um, Mr Pink is back in the office.

AUBREY (V.O)
Releved of his excess moisture no doubt.

BLUE
(nodding to **Pink**)
Here, I'll pass you over.

Blue passes the receiver to **Pink**.

BLUE
(quietly to **Pink**, covering the receiver)
It's Aubrey again.

PINK
Aubrey?

AUBREY (V.O)
Feeling suitably emptied?

PINK
(embarrassed)
Yes.
(moving on)
So what's the problem, Aubrey?

AUBREY (V.O)
Well, I just thought I'd let you know about an extraordinary thing that happened today.

PINK
(Eager to know)
Oh?

Blue looks at **Pink** on the phone and leaves the office. **Pink** anxiously glances at his watch.

AUBREY (V.O)
Well, after purchasing a significant quantity of twiglets this morning I decide to call at the coffee shop - you know - the one in the basement of the ladies lingerie shop.....

Blue walks across the yard to the company delivery vehicle (a drop-side transit-type pick-up. He lifts the bonnet and is checking the oil as **Martha** and **Mrs Blue** pass by on the road in the car returning from their trip to town.

As the car passes, **Mrs Blue** is seen to fix a sinister stare on **Blue** as he looks up from under the bonnet.

The car is heard to pull up outside **Blue's** drive next to the nursery entrance but out of view. We hear a door open and **Mrs Blue** getting out onto the gravel. **Blue** 'cocks' an ear to listen.

MARTHA (O.O.V)

Ok. Nice to see you again - we'll do it again sometime.

MRS BLUE (O.O.V)

(downbeat, slowly and drawn out)

Cheerio.

We hear the car door slam. Car pulls away. **Mrs Blue** is heard to heavily 'plod' across the gravel to her front door. She opens it and closes it firmly.

Blue finishes checking the oil and closes the bonnet. **Pink** walks over to him from the office (barn)

PINK

Mrs Blue's back then?

BLUE

(resigned)

Yes, Mr Pink.

Blue lights up a slim cigar. **Pink** gets out a long slim old-fashioned pipe from his inside jacket pocket.

BLUE

(offering a light to **Pink**)

Light Mr. Pink?

PINK

Oh, please.

Blue lights **Pink's** pipe. **Pink** puffs to get it going.

PINK

(between puffs)

You know - for me - well - - I don't know what you think - but - for me - - - - this is the - best - time of the - day.

Blue leans on the side of the truck, listening, relaxing, smoking with **Pink**.

BLUE

(exhales smoke)

Ah ha.

PINK

(between puffs)

Well, you know - we've got the morning stuff - out of the way - Snapshut's got plenty of er - - compost mixed - and he's still mixing - the girls are potting - - and - - and I feel thoroughly refreshed after lunch - - looking forward - to the challenges - - that the afternoon - - - may bring - - - .

BLUE

All is well with the world Mr Pink.

PINK

All is well Mr Blue. You've hit the nail on the head there sir...

Pink takes a long puff on his pipe.

PINK

...all is well with the world.

We hear the birds singing, the sun is shining while **Pink** and **Blue** have a quality moment puffing together in silence, soaking up their idyllic world.

MRS BLUE (O.O.V)

(shouting from behind the fence)
Hadley!

Both **Pink** and **Blue** are startled. **Pink's** pipe 'jerks' and straightens as he straightens and tenses with alarm.

PINK

(nervously quick)

Mr Blue, you'll find me back in the office with immediate effect.

Pink strides off to the office quickly.

MRS BLUE (O.O.V)

(shouting)
Hadley! Are you there!?

BLUE

With you Mrs Blue. Successful trip to town Mrs Blue.?

MRS BLUE (O.O.V)

What time do you want dinner?

BLUE

Any time to suit Mrs Blue.

MRS BLUE (O.O.V)

No time...SUITS!

Mrs Blue is heard to 'stomp' back across the gravel to her house.

BLUE

(sheepishly)

Around five-thirty?

We hear **Mrs Blue's** front door slam shut.

BLUE
 (to himself)
 Five-thirty it is then.

Blue puffs on his cigar, deep in thought.

20. INT. POTTING AREA. DAY 3.30PM

Francis and **Verity** potting-up plants at the potting bench. We hear **Snapshut** mixing from the compost area. **Pink** opens the door from inside of the office and stands in the doorway.

PINK
 (shouting)
 Snapshut!

Snapshut is heard to stop mixing.

SNAPSHOT
 Yes, Mr Pink?

PINK
 Afternoon tea's ready. Would you take it round?

SNAPSHOT
 Right-O Mr Pink.

The little door of the mixing room creaks open. **Snapshut**, rather too self-consciously aware of the girls, walks to the office, trying not to make eye-contact with them. The girls are fully aware of this and both stare at him mischievously.

Snapshut walks up to the office door. **Pink** hands him the tray with the drinks, pointing as he speaks.

PINK
 There you go Snapshut. Take the tray. Those two are milk, no sugar for the girls, and that one's for Mr Blue in the yard. Yours is the black mug as usual.

SNAPSHOT
 Thank you.

Snapshut takes the tray, walks over to the girls, head down, embarrassed, looking up with just his eyes.

The girls are only too ready and waiting much to **Snapshut's** dismay.

VERITY
 (pouting)
 Warwick! Good afternoon! Finally out in the daylight at last!

SNAPSHOT
 (mumbling)
 Afternoon Verity.

Verity takes her tea. **Francis** takes a step toward **Snapshut** in a provocative manner, running her fingers through her hair as she does so.

FRANCIS

(sesually)

What have you got for me, Warwick Snapshut?

SNAPSHUT

(mumbling, nervously quick)

Tea milk no sugar.

(pointing)

That one.

FRANCIS

(taking her cup)

Mmm...thank you.

Aubrey enters the barn. He walks towards the office door and both **Verity** and **Francis** stare at him without really acknowledgment, he makes a crude hand gesture to them as he speaks but doesn't look at them (his 'cupped' hand outstretched, with his fingers wiggling).

AUBREY

(low-pitched, leering manner)

Girlies!

Aubrey opens the door of the office, enters and immediately leaves with his hat on.

AUBREY

(to **Pink** as he leaves the office without looking back)

Forgot me boater!

(to girls, again the gesture without acknowledging them.)

Girlies!

(to **Snapshut**)

Snapshut!

SNAPSHUT

Mr Lumsden.

Aubrey strides off and disappears. **Snapshut** glows 'red' in the face, he makes off quickly to the yard with the tray. **Verity** and **Francis** relaxing, sitting on the potting bench. They are able to hear the conversation in the yard between **Blue** and **Snapshut**.

SNAPSHUT (O.O.V)

Your tea Mr Blue.

BLUE (O.O.V)

Afternoon tea already. Thank you Snapshut. Are the girls alright?

SNAPSHUT (O.O.V)

(embarrassed at the mention of the girls)

Er, yes Mr Blue...I think so...I...

Girls giggle.

BLUE
Good.

CUT TO:

21. EXT. NURSERY YARD. DAY 3.32

Blue and **Snapshut** sip their tea.

BLUE
Are you ok for peat in there?

SNAPSHUT
Oh yes. There's enough for today and tomorrow in there I think.

BLUE
Good.

A faint sound of jingling bells is heard in the distance as **Big Wuffer**, a morris-dancing friend of both **Aubrey** and **Pink** approaches by way of walking along the road.

Big Wuffer is tall, mid-forties, well-built, hairy(long hair and beard) with deep, gruff voice. He is wearing the full morris-dancing kit.

BLUE
(to **Snapshut**)
Listen!. What's that?

SNAPSHUT
What's what Mr Blue?

BLUE
Jingling, that jingling...it's getting louder!

SNAPSHUT
Ah yes. I can hear it. Sounds like...bells.

BLUE
Mmm.

Blue and **Snapshut** stand waiting in anticipation as the bells get louder and louder until **Big Wuffer** walks round the corner of the hedge into the yard.

BLUE
(surprised and delighted)
Big Wuffer!

Big Wuffer walks over to greet **Blue** and **Snapshut**.

BIG WUFFER
Hullo.

BLUE
(to **Big Wuffer**, shaking his hand)

It's been an absolute age! Where've you been all this while big boy?

BIG WUFFER

Oh, out and about.

BLUE

(to **Snapshot**)

This is Big Wuffer Snapshot.

(to **Big Wuffer**)

Big Wuffer, Snapshot..our compost mixer.

SNAPSHOT

(sheepish, a little in awe)

Hello Mr Wuffer.

BIG WUFFER

(laughing a little)

Ha ha. Hullo Shipshape.

(to **Blue**)

Where's Vaughan?

BLUE

He's in his usual abode - the office - give him a knock and surprise him.

BIG WUFFER

Right -O.

Big Wuffer walks over to the barn.

22. INT. POTTING AREA. DAY 3.34PM

Big Wuffer walks into the batn potting area and **Verity** and **Francis** look over to him and smile.

BIG WUFFER

(in greeting)

Ladies.

VERITY

Mr morris man!

Big Wuffer knocks on office door. **Pink** opens it.

PINK

(surprised and delighted)

Big Boy! What! ... Delighted to see you!

BIG WUFFER

Hullo.

PINK

What brings you this way at this hour? And why are you in kit? Come in, sit down - tea?

Big Wuffer steps into the office and closes the door behind him. The girls chuckle to each other as they continue to pot up.

23. INT. OFFICE. DAY. 3.35PM

Big Wuffer sits in the large comfortable guest-chair. **Pink** re-boils the kettle.

PINK
As I was saying, Why the kit?

BIG WUFFER
I've been in kit all day, well, since the dawn, we danced it in.

PINK
Danced it in?

BIG WUFFER
Yup.

PINK
But it isn't May day?

BIG WUFFER
I know but we just felt like it.

PINK
Not naked this time eh?

BIG WUFFER
Nope. That's reserved just for May day for sure.

PINK
(making tea)
Ah well, fine. Sugar?

BIG WUFFER
Three. I need my energy for tonight.

Pink puts in three sugars and passes it to **Big Wuffer**.

PINK
Yes, um, you're doing a late one down at the Bakers Arms tonight aren't you?

BIG WUFFER
Yup.

PINK
I'm coming down for a butcher's myself.

BIG WUFFER
Yeah, I know.

PINK
Oh?

BIG WUFFER
Bumped into Aubrey earlier today.

PINK
Ah ha.

BIG WUFFER
Yeah. Went into one about some *extraordinary* happening with cups of coffee or something...women's knicker shop...I...er...

Big Wuffer being confused, shrugs his shoulders and puffs, then takes a slurp of his tea.

PINK
Yes, yes I know!

BIG WUFFER
He also mentioned something about a roast - at your place?

PINK
That's right, we're having that tonight before we come down to see you.

BIG WUFFER
Said there'd be plenty for me too with a gravy boat each or something?

PINK
Ah, did he?

BIG WUFFER
Mm Mm.

PINK
(caught off-guard)
I...er...well...Do you want to come over for dinner before the dance?

BIG WUFFER
That would be great. What time?

PINK
About seven. You're dancing at nine I believe?

BIG WUFFER
Yeah, with a little drinkie beforehand.

PINK
Fine, seven it is then.

BIG WUFFER
(pointing over his shoulder to the door)
Are your girls out there coming...and Shipshape?

PINK
Haven't mentioned it...hang on...

Pink opens the office door. **Blue** is leaning on the potting bench drinking his tea with an eye on the girls. **Snapshut** is mixing.

PINK
Girls?

They look over, still continuing to pot.

PINK

Do you fancy coming down to the Bakers Arms tonight. Big Wuffer here will be doing a bit of a turn with his chums?

VERITY

Why not. Try anything once, won't we Francis?

FRANCIS

(grinning)

Certainly will.

PINK

Good. What about you Mr Blue?

Both girls look over their shoulders at **Mr Blue** hoping he'll come.

BIG WUFFER

Ah, I'd love to but...

(looks over towards his house)

...not at the moment unfortunately. I'll get a bit of watering done instead.

VERITY AND FRANCIS

Ooooh!

BIG WUFFER(O.O.V)

(shouting from office)

And Shipshape?

PINK

(shouting toward mixing room)

Snapshut!

Snapshut stops mixing.

SNAPSHUT (O.O.V)

Yes, Mr Pink?

PINK

Are you coming down to the Bakers tonight to see Big Wuffer here do his stuff?

SNAPSHUT (O.O.V)

Er, no Mr Pink.

PINK

Why on earth not?

SNAPSHUT (O.O.V)

I've got to dye mum's hair.

PINK

(to himself, perplexed, shaking his head)

Dye mum's hair?

Snapshut resumes mixing.

BIG WUFFER

(as **Pink** closes the door, sarcastically)
Dye mum's hair!

24. INT. SNAPSHOT'S HOUSE. BATHROOM. NIGHT 9PM

Snapshot is wearing see-through plastic gloves. He looks stressed as he works the dye into his mother's hair. They are in complete silence.

25. EXT. OUTSIDE THE BAKERS ARMS. NIGHT 9PM

There is great merriment at the Bakers Arms. We see the morris-men cheering and dancing - **Pink** is cheering them on, supping his beer and puffing on his long, slim pipe.

26. INT. THE BAKERS ARMS. NIGHT. 9PM

Inside there is similar merriment. There are several morris-men drinking, larking about being generally bawdy. They all seem to know **Aubrey** and **Pink**.

Aubrey is sitting at the bar with a pint and a bowl of twiglets to himself.

MORRIS MAN

(to **Aubrey** so all can hear)

Aubrey, are you still popping in to that ladies' underwear place?

The morris-men let out a loud cheer at this.

AUBREY

(eating a handful of twiglets)

Funny you should mention it!

MORRIS MAN

Oh?

AUBREY

Do you know, the strangest thing happened to me today...

(he munches more twiglets)

at that very establishment.

MORRIS MAN

Really?

The Morris-men gather round, intrigued.

AUBREY

Well, I'd just bought myself a significant quantity of twiglets...

General amusement and laughter at this from the morris-men

AUBREY

...when I decided to go for a coffee and my usual cheese scone at the said ladies' lingerie establishment....

More hilarious laughter from the morris-men.

A MORRIS MAN

(puts his pint in the air and shouts)
Knickers!

More hilarious laughter from the morris-men.

AUBREY

So anyway, I ordered my coffee and a cheese....

FADE OUT.

**28. INT.EXT. MOVING SHOT FROM THE BAR SCENE OUT TO THE NURSERY YARD.
NIGHT 9.10PM**

We gradually move away from the merriment of **Aubrey's** story at the bar of the Bakers Arms, across the bar, out of the door, past the dancing, then pulling back further across the fields. We are now seeing the scene from a distance (from the nursery yard) where the scene looks and sounds a small glow of cosy jollity.

We pull back slightly more and see **Blue**, alone and quiet, in the moonlight, leaning on a post, smoking a slim cigar, with the gentle, therapeutic sound of the irrigation system 'pulsing' steadily. **Blue** looks across to the scene at the Bakers Arms in the distance with a certain yearning.

Pulling back a little more we see the silhouette of **Mrs Blue** against the moon, silently watching **Blue**, arms folded in annoyance of **Blue's** obvious hankering after the good time at the pub. **Blue** is unaware of her presence.

FADE OUT

END.