

LOSERS

by

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A brief synopsis

An unnamed borough of London, now. There are riots going on nearby and a by-election has been called after the local MP was caught fiddling his expenses. When the play starts, we discover a record shop in a state of disarray and a man lying unconscious on the floor.

Lennon runs Revolution Records, a second-hand vinyl record shop that his (almost) half-brother Georgette wants to convert into a kitchen to upgrade the caff he runs next door. Mouss, a young lad from the nearby estate, is using Lennon as an outlet for some marijuana he has recently stolen.

The windows of both the caff and the record shop have been broken in the night during an altercation between rival groups of militants in the local by-election, and both the marijuana and the television have been stolen - meaning they won't be able to watch the England football team play their last group match in the World Cup: they need to win by two goals to get through to the next round...

Against a backdrop of civil unrest, shifting values, urban development and sporting disaster, Georgette sees himself as a representative of the entrepreneur culture, Lennon is awash in sixties nostalgia and idealism and opposed to the new spirit of the times. Mouss is caught between the two. But perhaps the two (almost) half-brothers are closer than they seem. The play asks questions about national identity, about capitalism, and about the image of the family.

The interior of a second-hand record shop in a borough of London. The shop window has been shattered and broken glass litters the ground downstage. Empty album covers for 33rpm vinyl records are scattered over the boxes of discs. Paint is peeling off the sign above the broken window reading "Revolution Records". Behind the counter centre stage a man lies unconscious, only partly visible.

The sound of footsteps off, on broken glass.

GEORGETTE (off) Oh fuck... Fuck it... Fuck them... Fuck the fucking little fuckers...
Ah fuck... Hang on...

More footsteps, then the sound of a man urinating into a toilet, then pulling the chain. It doesn't work. He tries again.

GEORGETTE (off) Oh for fuck's sake. Fuck it. Oh fuck... Wait a... Where's the fucking telly? Oh, for fucking... Fuck! ... Right... Hello? ... Yeah, the Riviera here... What? ...

Giorgetti, aka GEORGETTE, comes in talking on the phone. He sees the broken window, looks around at the disorder.

GEORGETTE No, I'm not in the fucking South of France, I'm in the fucking High Street by the fucking railway bridge, the fucking Riviera. If you ever stepped out of your fucking station onto the fucking streets, you'd have fucking seen it... Who's swearing? No-one's fucking swearing... Snack bar? It's not a fucking snack bar, it's a fucking coffee bar, or it was, now it's a fucking ruin, it's been fucking ransacked, they've nicked me fucking telly and god knows what, you'd better send a fucking car round. The Riviera, on the High Street by the railway bridge... oh and the record shop next door as well, smashed the fucking window... I don't fucking know, do I? Shouldn't think so, it's just a fucking load of old worn-out LP's, not fucking good enough for them bastards, they can't put 'em on their fucking i-pods...

He looks around and discovers the body behind the counter.

GEORGETTE Lennon?

He puts his phone down and takes a brief look at the body.

GEORGETE Oh fuck.

He picks up a cricket bat leaning against the counter, goes cautiously round the shop. He knocks over a pile of records and starts nervously.

GEORGETTE Agh!

He picks up the telephone.

GEORGETTE Hello? Hello? You still there? ... Yeah, yeah, I'm alright. No, the only thing is... now I'd like to report a murder... Yes, you heard me, m-u-r-d-e-r, redrum backwards, a murder, like on the telly, or a fucking homicide if you prefer ... How do I know? How do I fucking know? Cos I'm standing staring at a fucking dead body, that's how I know, laid out on the floor in front of me... Oh, interested now, are we? Funny that, all of a sudden I seem to have captured your fucking attention... Yeah, it's me brother, runs the record shop. Or ran it... Yes, I'll hold on... Nothing better to do, probably get me fucking throat cut while I'm waiting, not that they'd fucking care...

LENNON Mmmmnggh...

Pause

GEORGETTE Lennon?

LENNON Mmmnnnh...

GEORGETTE Fuck it, I thought you was dead... You haven't seen my telly, have you? ... *(to the phone)* Hello? ... Ah, good morning, officer, I er... No, no, I was just talking to er... Yes well, when I say murder... Yes, that's right, last week, I rang to report a gang of... saw them hanging round, told you they were up to no... and I was right... Well of course it's them... No, I don't live here, just my brother... Yes, he's... Well, it might be worth sending an ambul... Well, he might not strictly speaking be actually like completely er... but he's not at all well, I can tell you that, you'd better send an... Hello? ... Hello? ... Where's he gone, your...? ...Who, me? ... No no no, I'm not touching him, I'm not qualified, I don't wanna do him any more damage, do I?

Lennon sits up.

GEORGETTE Don't move. Tell me where it hurts. Are you in much pain?

LENNON Who me? I'm alright.

GEORGETTE Where did they hit you?

LENNON Who?

Lennon lays down again.

LENNON I'm going back to sleep.

GEORGETTE *(on phone)* I know it's the fucking police station, I'm the one who fucking called you in the fucking first place, remember? ... Well, send a fucking car at least, the Riviera, by the... what? ... Whatcha mean, short-handed? ... Riots? What fucking riots? ... I can't see it on the fucking telly, that's what I'm ringing about, remember? ... Yeah, the Riviera, by

the... Altercation? I don't know nothing about a fucking altercation... Whatcha mean, you know all about it? And what have you fucking done about it? ... What? I can't hear a fucking... Oh fuck, has it started? What time is it? ... Well, that's what I... Jesus, how many more times? I can't fucking watch it, can I? They've nicked me fucking telly! ... How're they doing? ... They'd fucking better, fucking bunch a... Had any chances? ... You mean they missed 'em, fucking bunch a... Alright, and what about me? You gonna send me a...? And what if they come back? ... There's a fucking gang of 'em, I told you... What? ... What fucking bill stickers? ... I know there's a fucking election on, what the fuck's that got to do with my telly? ... But bill stickers don't break windows, they'd have nothing to stick their fucking bills on, would they? Don't give me fucking bill stickers... there's a fucking gang of nignogs been hanging round for weeks now... What? ... Yeah, that was me. I called you up to tell you there was a fucking gang of... what? ... Who you calling a racist? ... Alright, *black youths* – there's a fucking gang of *predominantly* black youths – they're all wearing these fucking hoodies, you can't tell a fucking... could be fucking chinamen for all I fucking know. Or care. It's all the fucking same to me. Might be some very tall, dark chinamen but whoever they fucking are and wherever they fucking come from, they've been hanging around the High Street for a fucking week, so I called you to let you know that we were in for a bit of fucking trouble and what did you fucking do about it? Fuck all. So now I'm ringing to tell you thanks for your help, we've had the fucking trouble, now what are you going to fucking do about it? ... Oh really? Oh, well I'm glad to hear it! I'll tell Lennon that. He's lying on the ground here with his head caved in, he's going to be chuffed to the bollocks to hear they're good lads really! Here, Lennon, turns out they're harmless, those kids that kicked your head in! I bet you feel better already... I don't know, do I? Lennon, are you bleeding? ... Doesn't look like it, but hang on, hang on, that doesn't mean... what if he's haemorrhaging internally? He could be quietly bleeding to fucking death here for all you... Shh!

Georgette crouches down hiding behind the counter. Silence.

GEORGETTE Yeah, I'm still here, I heard a noise, I thought they'd come back... Yeah, well, you're not in my fucking shoes, are you? You're sat in front of the fucking telly watching the match, thanks for the fucking police presence, they've got knives and everything, the little fuckers... Oh alright, I'll pass them the phone then, if they jump me – that's really gonna scare 'em off, innit, having the police talk to 'em over the fucking phone! ... They're not... you've got bill stickers on the brain, you have... They're not fucking political, the only thing they fucking vote for is who gets kicked out of Big fucking Brother... What? ... SWP? Yeah, was playing for QPR last I heard, what's he got to do wi... socialist wo... the national what? ... Through my window? Good, I hope he dies in excruciating agony, teach him a lesson. And who's gonna pay for my fucking window? And me fucking telly, what's that then, a fucking contribution for the fucking election? ... What? What's happened, someone scored?... Ah... useless git... Right, you gonna send a car round then? ... Oh cos

you're all too busy, are you? Sitting there watching the fucking World Cup... Course I'm insured... Me come down to you? Fucking hell, I've got no fucking window left, they'll just come in and fucking help themselves... A list of...? Oh yeah... Well, I'll drop by a bit later on then, with me list... Don't kid yourselves, they won't win, they don't give a... They can't be fucked, they're all millionaires anyway, they've lost the will to win, they're all selling replica shirts and doing adverts for video games, don't talk to them about national pride, they don't even know the words to God Save The Queen. Even the white ones... Nah, they've got their excuses in already: they're on the other side of the world, they're all knackered, half of 'em are injured, it's too hot... That's right, keep the faith, tell me about it in an hour and a half. Ta ta.

He hangs up.

GEORGETTE Prat. Fucking hell. Good job public safety's a fucking priority, else where would we fucking be now? You alright down there?

LENNON Mmmnnh.

GEORGETTE Fucking hell...

Mouss enters.

MOUSS They not started yet?

Georgette knocks him to the ground and threatens him with the cricket bat.

GEORGETTE Fuck it, on your knees, you little bastard, don't fuck with me!

MOUSS What? Whassa...? No but it's me. Whassa madder widja? I ain't done nothing!

GEORGETTE Don't move, fuckhead! What've you come back for? What d'you want now? There's nothing left. You're out of luck this time, mate, I've just called the cops, they're on their way, they'll be here any fucking minute. You're fucked. Don't move.

MOUSS Wha...? Whatcha talking about? Can't you see who I am?

GEORGETTE Fucking thieving little fucking black bastard, whatcha done with my telly?

MOUSS No but, Georgette, it's me!

Pause

GEORGETTE How d'you know my name?

MOUSS It's me - Mouss. We're mates. Well I mean you know me. I listen to

records with Lennon and have a capucino in your caff. I'm round here all the time, you know me, you think I'm alright.

GEORGETTE I think you're...?

MOUSS You know me... You serve me coffee.

GEORGETTE And this is how you repay me?

MOUSS What?

GEORGETTE Nick me telly and then come back to see what's left?

MOUSS What? Here, where's your telly?

GEORGETTE How do I know? You taking the fucking piss?

MOUSS It's not here?

GEORGETTE What's it fucking look like?

MOUSS Looks like it's not there.

GEORGETTE Observant, that's what you are.

MOUSS Where's it gone?

GEORGETTE I don't fucking know, do I? It's been fucking nicked.

MOUSS Fuck.

GEORGETTE You can say that again. Look at this fucking mess...

MOUSS But I've come to watch the match, in I...

GEORGETTE Fucking hell.

MOUSS Wha'm I gonna do now?

GEORGETTE Whatcha think ya gonna do? You're gonna have to do the same as me, arentcha?

MOUSS What you gonna do?

GEORGETTE I'm not gonna watch.

MOUSS Oh, brilliant, that is.

GEORGETTE Got a better idea?

MOUSS Ain't you got another telly?

GEORGETTE Do I look like an idiot?

MOUSS Why?

GEORGETTE You think if I had another telly, I wouldn't've thought of switching it on?

MOUSS No but...

GEORGETTE What's written there?

He indicates his forehead.

MOUSS No but you might have had a spare one somewhere... wha'm I gonna do now?

GEORGETTE You're gonna bugger off, that's what you're gonna do now. You can go and stand in front of Radio Rentals and look at the tellies in the window.

MOUSS Radio what?

GEORGETTE You won't get the sound but you won't be missing anything...

MOUSS What's Radio Rentals?

GEORGETTE Don't need the two fuckwits to tell you what you're fucking looking at...

MOUSS But I'm meeting someone here...

GEORGETTE Meeting someone?

MOUSS Here. Well, next door.

GEORGETTE In my fucking caff?

MOUSS To watch the match.

GEORGETTE Who with?

MOUSS That blonde.

GEORGETTE What blonde?

MOUSS Good looking. You saw her yesterday.

GEORGETTE No, I didn't.

MOUSS She came in to the caff. Spoke to me. We left together.

GEORGETTE You and a good-looking blonde, don't make me laugh...

MOUSS It's true...

GEORGETTE Who are you trying to... You Mouss?

MOUSS See? You know me.

GEORGETTE I thought Mouss was the other one.

MOUSS In jeans, dead tight like, with a little white top in whatchacallit...

GEORGETTE What?

MOUSS With holes in... She came in, she asked for Mouss and you pointed to our table.

GEORGETTE I thought it was the other one... I see who you mean now. Pushy little bitch with a big arse and a lace thingamajig you could see right through.

MOUSS Lace, that's it.

GEORGETTE She wasn't blonde. What did she want with you?

MOUSS I've got a date with her. We're gonna watch the match together.

GEORGETTE She's not interested in football.

MOUSS No, but I am. What's Radio Rentals then?

GEORGETTE You don't know Radio Rentals? How long you been living here? You've got eyes in your head, haven't you? Look over there. Can't you see a fucking shop full of tellies in the window?

MOUSS That's not called Radio Rentals...

GEORGETTE Raise your eyes above the tellies and what do you see? A big red and yellow sign with Radio Rentals written on it. Am I right or am I right?

MOUSS No.

GEORGETTE What do you mean no?

MOUSS There's a big grey sign with Visions written on it.

GEORGETTE You're the one having visions, son, look at the fucking... Well, fuck me... When did they change that?

MOUSS It's always been like that.

GEORGETTE Visions. Fucking stupid name.

MOUSS No more than Radio Rentals.

GEORGETTE That's true. Bit classier actually. Sign of the times. Know what they're building up the road there?

MOUSS Up the road?

GEORGETTE Offices.

MOUSS Who's building?

GEORGETTE Good news, that is.

MOUSS Is it?

GEORGETTE It is.

MOUSS What the fuck's it to you?

GEORGETTE Know the old warehouses they've done up down by the recreation ground?

MOUSS No.

GEORGETTE They've painted it all white and put in glass doors and tiling and pot plants and a girl behind a desk to smile at the VIP's. You know what that is?

MOUSS What's the recreation ground?

GEORGETTE That's a TV studio, that's what that is. A production company.

MOUSS Yeah? What do they produce then?

GEORGETTE They produce fucking programmes for the fucking telly, that's what they produce.

MOUSS What sort of programmes?

GEORGETTE I don't know, the usual fucking junk for fucking ignorant fuckheads like you.

MOUSS Like what?

GEORGETTE Doesn't matter what, does it? That's not what counts.

MOUSS No but what though?

GEORGETTE That's not what counts.

MOUSS What counts then?

GEORGETTE What counts is that those arseholes are loaded. They're rolling in it.

MOUSS In what?

GEORGETTE Got more than they know what to do with. And those offices are the same.

MOUSS What offices?

GEORGETTE That they're building down the road... Know what there is in those offices?

MOUSS Birds.

GEORGETTE You know what there is?

MOUSS Talent.

GEORGETTE What are you, obsessed or something? What did she want, that blonde?

MOUSS The blonde? Nothing.

GEORGETTE She told you to meet her here, didn't she? It wasn't to watch the fucking footy, was it? What's she want?

MOUSS She likes me.

GEORGETTE You're kidding me. What does she see in you?

MOUSS Dunno.

GEORGETTE You screwed her?

MOUSS Maybe...

GEORGETTE You don't know...?

MOUSS Well, yes, but...

GEORGETTE Dirty bitch. I knew it. You'd never met her before?

MOUSS First time I seen her.

GEORGETTE You picked her up here, took her home and fucked her? All night?

MOUSS If you want...

GEORGETTE Not if I want, if she wanted. And she was up for it?

MOUSS Must have been.

GEORGETTE Dirty bitch. I bet she wore you out. You must be knackered. How you feeling?

MOUSS Not too bad. Could do with a coffee...

GEORGETTE There isn't any.

MOUSS Oh well, never mind...

Mouss heads for the toilet.

GEORGETTE Oy, where d'you think you're going?

MOUSS Have a piss.

GEORGETTE You can't, come back here.

MOUSS What?

GEORGETTE It's broken, you can't use it.

MOUSS Shit.

GEORGETTE Where you going?

MOUSS Have a look.

GEORGETTE You're gonna look at my broken bog? Stay here. Leave my toilet alone. You can go and pee against the wall like all the other dirty fucking immigrant bastards.

MOUSS No, it's alright.

GEORGETTE You don't wanna go now?

MOUSS No.

GEORGETTE Sure?

MOUSS Sure.

GEORGETTE How d'you manage?

MOUSS Manage what?

GEORGETTE With the bird.

MOUSS I did alright.

GEORGETTE No but really with a face like yours how'd you manage it?

MOUSS What's wrong with my face?

GEORGETTE There's some as like it, I s'pose.

MOUSS S'pose she was one of 'em then.

GEORGETTE Nymphomaniacs, like... She suck you off?

MOUSS Why wouldn't she suck me off?

GEORGETTE Ah, the dirty bitch. That's disgusting.

MOUSS Why?

GEORGETTE Give'm two thousand years of western civilisation, all the subtle charm of our culture and wit slowly distilled over the ages into the epitome of refinement and do they appreciate it? No, they'd rather have a big dick. What can I say?

MOUSS What's in them offices?

GEORGETTE What?

MOUSS You were gonna tell me.

GEORGETTE What's in the offices? What's in the offices? I don't fucking know, you've made me lose my... Wait a minute, hang on, hang on, here we go – you wanna know what's in them offices?

MOUSS Yeah.

GEORGETTE You don't know?

MOUSS No. I give in.

GEORGETTE In them offices they've got...?

MOUSS What?

GEORGETTE Br...?

MOUSS Broads?

GEORGETTE Broads? Whatcha talkin' about, broads? You been watchin' too much

telly, you have. All that fucking American stuff. I'm not talkin' about broads, I'm talkin' about bre...? Bre...?

MOUSS Breasts?

GEORGETTE Fucking hell. You've got a fucking one tracked-mind, that's your problem. Bre...? Bread...?

MOUSS Bread? And butter?

GEORGETTE Bread-wi-nners.

Pause

MOUSS Breadwinners.

GEORGETTE Breadwinners. Wage earners.

MOUSS Is that all?

GEORGETTE No, it's not all but it's all that fucking matters. Them fucking offices is full of fucking people earning loads of fucking money. They've got the dosh. That's what fucking matters.

MOUSS Oh. Yeah.

GEORGETTE Telly people. Rolling in roubles. Dripping dollars. They piss pesetas.

MOUSS What, foreign, are they?

GEORGETTE And that, my son, is good news. Good news for the honest burghers of this fair city.

MOUSS The what?

GEORGETTE Good for business. Cool for cats. Easy on the ears of the irrepressible entrepreneurs of this closely-knit commercial community in which I have the privilege of playing a part.

MOUSS What part?

GEORGETTE I've got a caff, ain't I?

MOUSS Yeah. Not in very good shape...

GEORGETTE Ah well... gonna need some work now, that's for sure.

MOUSS They broke the window.

GEORGETTE No respect, those little fuckers, but at least I'm insured. Needed a lick of

paint as it was but now... Now I might just seize the opportunity to go a step further...

MOUSS Where you goin'?

GEORGETTE Gotta make a list. Got a pen?

MOUSS Er... no.

GEORGETTE 'Ang on, 'ere we go... Right. There's the window to start with. Some berk come through me window.

MOUSS Yours, or this one?

GEORGETTE Both, by the looks of it.

MOUSS He come in through the window?

GEORGETTE A bill sticker.

MOUSS You seen 'im?

GEORGETTE Not me, the fuzz.

MOUSS What? They been 'ere?

GEORGETTE Knockin' each other about.

MOUSS The fuzz?

GEORGETTE Bunch a lefties. And righties.

MOUSS And the fuzz've been 'ere?

GEORGETTE Nah. They knew about it but if you think that's gonna get 'em up off their arse...

MOUSS You spoken to 'em?

GEORGETTE Who?

MOUSS The fuzz?

GEORGETTE Why?

MOUSS No, just asking...

GEORGETTE I just rang 'em, they're all glued to the telly, watching the fucking match. Fuck 'em. No skin off my nose. I'll just get on with me list and see with the insurance. Window. Large window. Two large windows. Counter.

MOUSS What's wrong with your counter?

GEORGETTE What's wrong with it is some stupid fucking fascist pig threw some stupid fucking lefty prat through me window and he fell on it, that's what's wrong with it. Need a new one.

MOUSS There's nothing wrong with it.

GEORGETTE Coffee machine.

MOUSS It's being repaired.

GEORGETTE I'm taking it to be repaired today, because it was damaged last night.

MOUSS No, it wasn't...

GEORGETTE Shut your mouth... Case of champagne...

MOUSS Champagne?

GEORGETTE No, two cases of champagne... Well of course, anticipating victory for the Three Lions...

MOUSS You said they was gonna lose...

GEORGETTE Whiskey, vodka, gin, various liquors for a private party, approximate value: a thousand quid.

MOUSS A thousand...?

GEORGETTE Nah, you're right, that's overdoing it a bit, let's say five hundred. Mustn't be greedy.

MOUSS I get it... You're gonna try and rip off the insurance company...

GEORGETTE You're pretty quick on the uptake, ain't you? I'll have to keep me eye on you... Telly. DVD. Hi fi... They'll only fucking pay about half what it's fucking worth, always best to ask twice as much...

MOUSS Maybe that's why they only pay half... How long they been playing?

GEORGETTE Things are gonna change here.

MOUSS We'd have heard if they'd scored.

GEORGETTE In an up and coming area like this...

MOUSS They'd better bloody win. They fucked up in the other two games, now they gotta win to get out the group.

GEORGETTE With a booming local economy...

MOUSS Two-nil's not too much to ask...

GEORGETTE You have to move with the times...

MOUSS Against Lithuania.

GEORGETTE What you gotta do is anticipate the needs of the incoming residents...

MOUSS She'll be here soon. She's got dosh...

GEORGETTE I've got it all worked out in me head, the Riviera is about to embark on an extensive programme of expansion and... Who?

MOUSS The blonde...

GEORGETTE You're not telling me she paid you?

MOUSS She's mad about me, she'll be here soon.

GEORGETTE She's mad full stop if you ask me.

Pause

You seen Lennon recently?

MOUSS Why?

GEORGETTE Di'n't you find him changed?

MOUSS When?

GEORGETTE When you seen him. Recently.

MOUSS Who me?

GEORGETTE No, the queen of Lithuania.

MOUSS I ain't seen him recently.

GEORGETTE He's changed.

MOUSS He's a good bloke, your brother. A bit odd like, but a good bloke... They got a queen in Lithuania then?

GEORGETTE 'Ang on, who d'you think you are? Calling my brother odd. He's not odd... He's a bit thick, but he's not odd. Except now. Just recently he's been acting a bit odd. You noticed that, did you?

MOUSS I noticed it ages ago... It's cause of his debts...

GEORGETTE It is not because of his debts. Nothing new about that. He's always had debts. This is something else. I don't know what's wrong with him, he seems... happy.

MOUSS What's wrong with that?

GEORGETTE Has he said anything?

MOUSS What, recently? He told me about Ronnie Lane.

GEORGETTE What the fuck's that?

MOUSS It's this geezer he likes, was in a group that was sort of successful like, long time ago, in the States and everything, tours, top fifty, birds, dosh, they was doing really well, and this bloke gave it all up to tour round little villages in England in a big top and caravans and stuff with a bunch of mates nobody had heard of... And he lost his shirt.

GEORGETTE A mug, you mean...

MOUSS Yeah, bit barmy but sort of likeable according to Lennon...

GEORGETTE He likes losers. But that's not what I'm talking about...

MOUSS What you talking about then?

GEORGETTE I'm talking about politics.

MOUSS Are you?

GEORGETTE Since when has Lennon been interested in politics?

MOUSS Politics?

Pause

He's always been in favour of peace.

GEORGETTE He's always been in favour of being left in peace. As long as he doesn't have to shift his arse, he's happy. But since when has he been going to electoral rallies?

MOUSS You what?

GEORGETTE For the bleeding Socialist Workers Party.

MOUSS And there's another thing I don't get...

GEORGETTE Up until now he's never even voted for anyone...

MOUSS Lennon's your brother, right?

GEORGETTE And now he's a militant for a complete dead loss, the one party you can be sure'll never get anywhere, not in this country, might as well be working for the Raving Loony Party...

MOUSS And they call you Georgette cos your real name's some Italian thing...

GEORGETTE Giorgetti. What of it?

MOUSS So why don't they call him Georgette as well?

GEORGETTE Because they call him Lennon.

Pause

MOUSS Ah. So that's what, like a diminutive?

GEORGETTE How can it be a fucking diminutive?

MOUSS Why do they call him Lennon and you Giorgetti?

GEORGETTE Why d'you want'em to call us by the same fucking name? How would we know who they're fucking talking to?

MOUSS No but I was thinking about this the other day... If he's your brother...

GEORGETTE He's not my brother.

Pause

MOUSS But he's always saying my brother's pissing me off with this, my brother's getting me down with that...

GEORGETTE He's not my brother. He's my half-brother. He said I piss him off?

MOUSS You ain't got the same dad?

GEORGETTE No.

MOUSS Ah, that explains it then.

Pause

GEORGETTE And we ain't got the same mum either.

MOUSS Ah.

Pause

Hang on but then...?

GEORGETTE What? I told you, we're half-brothers. We grew up together.

MOUSS And your dad was called Giorgetti.

GEORGETTE You've got it.

MOUSS And his dad, Lennon.

GEORGETTE No. Lennon's not his name. We just call him that. Because of his glasses.

MOUSS Glasses?

GEORGETTE Them little round glasses. Like Lennon.

MOUSS That Russian bloke?

GEORGETTE What? John Lennon. Of the Beatles. You've heard of the fucking Beatles, haven't you?

MOUSS Yeah, he played me their records. Not bad.

GEORGETTE Well John, he used to wear them little round glasses, like Lennon does.

MOUSS But Lennon don't wear glasses.

Pause

GEORGETTE No, he doesn't any more. Must have grown out of it.

MOUSS You reckon he wears lenses?

GEORGETTE He told you about his debts?

MOUSS Not him. Lafayette.

GEORGETTE Who's that then?

MOUSS Big black fella.

GEORGETTE A big black?

MOUSS Bit scary.

GEORGETTE Dealer?

MOUSS Nah... Well, yeah, a bit.

GEORGETTE Not the one who broke Shifty Cyril's legs?

MOUSS He didn't break Shifty Cyril's legs. That was an accident.

GEORGETTE You call that an accident?

MOUSS In the tube. He fell off the platform.

GEORGETTE All on his own?

MOUSS He wanted to cross the track, he fell bad, that's all.

GEORGETTE Yeah but the reason Shifty Cyril wanted to cross the track was because the other bastard was running after him with a big fucking knife.

MOUSS Well, yeah.

GEORGETTE Lafayette, his name is?

MOUSS Yeah.

GEORGETTE And Lennon owes him.

MOUSS I didn't say that.

GEORGETTE You didn't say that?

MOUSS No.

GEORGETTE What did you say then?

MOUSS That it was Lafayette what told me he had debts.

GEORGETTE Know him well, do you, this Lafayette?

MOUSS I know him.

GEORGETTE I'd steer clear of him if I were you. He's violent.

MOUSS Yeah well, at the moment I'm steering clear of him.

GEORGETTE Oh yes? Why's that then?

MOUSS No reason.

GEORGETTE You're steering clear of him for no reason?

MOUSS I'm steering clear of him because he's violent.

Pause

GEORGETTE You don't deal?

MOUSS No.

GEORGETTE Not even a little bit on the side?

MOUSS No.

GEORGETTE You're not telling me you don't smoke?

MOUSS No but... like everyone else. That doesn't count.

GEORGETTE And that, you buy and you sell.

MOUSS No, not me.

GEORGETTE You give some to your mates, don't you? You give some to Lennon...

MOUSS Yeah, but that's just between mates. That's not dealing.

GEORGETTE And they pay you for it...

MOUSS Fucking better. I mean like we have an arrangement sort of thing. But that's not dealing, that's for personal consumption. That's not trafficking. And it's just weed, I don't do drugs.

GEORGETTE You'd fucking better not.

MOUSS Yeah.

GEORGETTE None of that in my caff. I don't want no trouble.

MOUSS Dead right.

GEORGETTE No fuzz, no dealers and most of all no fucking filthy addicts.

MOUSS And no bill stickers neither.

GEORGETTE That's right. I've had enough of all them deadbeats. I'm done with the fucking riff-raff from round here.

MOUSS You moving out?

GEORGETTE I'm thinking big. I've got ambition, I have.

MOUSS What you gonna do?

GEORGETTE The Riviera's going up in the world.

MOUSS Up where?

GEORGETTE It's gonna be a proper restaurant.

MOUSS Restaurant?

GEORGETTE Italian.

MOUSS What, like pizza?

GEORGETTE Pizza, pasta, insalata verde, mozzarella, osso bucco, fritto misto, tiramisu...

MOUSS What?

GEORGETTE Piped music, white tablecloths, buona sera signori, napkins in the glasses, candles in bottles, the bill on a plate... class, like.

MOUSS The Riviera can't be a restaurant.

GEORGETTE Articles in the press. Advert in the local paper. Plugs in the gossip columns.

MOUSS The Riviera can't be a restaurant.

GEORGETTE Why not?

MOUSS There's no kitchen.

Pause

GEORGETTE You're standing in the kitchen.

MOUSS Eh?

GEORGETTE I said you're standing in the kitchen.

MOUSS Wait a minute, right now I'm standing in "Psychedelic groups of the 60s".

GEORGETTE Well obviously, I'd have to expand.

MOUSS In Lennon's shop?

Pause

GEORGETTE I might point out to you that Lennon is on my property.

MOUSS The shop belongs to you?

GEORGETTE The property belongs to me. Lennon just has a lease.

MOUSS But what you gonna do with Lennon and his lease?

GEORGETTE I'm gonna kick him out.

MOUSS But you can't do that. It's all he's got.

GEORGETTE I'm still gonna kick him out.

MOUSS Wait a minute, you're his brother.

GEORGETTE Half-brother.

MOUSS You're his best friend.

GEORGETTE Who says?

MOUSS He does.

GEORGETTE He said that?

MOUSS Yeah.

Pause

GEORGETTE He said I was...

MOUSS His oldest friend.

GEORGETTE That's not the same.

MOUSS Yes, it is.

GEORGETTE I'm still gonna kick him out.

Pause

He can do the cooking if he wants.

MOUSS He's not Italian.

GEORGETTE He can't cook either but I'll take him anyway.

Pause

MOUSS He not here today then?

GEORGETTE Who?

MOUSS Lennon.

GEORGETTE What d'you want with him?

MOUSS Me? Nothing.

GEORGETTE Then what the fuck you doing here?

MOUSS I came to see the match. Ain't he here?

GEORGETTE Can't you see him there?

MOUSS Where?

GEORGETTE There.

MOUSS Shit. Whassa matter with him?

GEORGETTE Got beaten up.

MOUSS By Lafayette?

GEORGETTE No, not by Lafayette. What's Lafayette got to do with it? He doesn't go beating people up at random, does he?

Pause

Does he?

MOUSS I don't know, do I?

GEORGETTE He got beaten up by some bill stickers. Teach him to go into politics.

MOUSS Hey, Lennon, you all right?

LENNON Eurgh.

GEORGETTE Ask a stupid question...

LENNON She here?

GEORGETTE Who?

LENNON Where is she?

MOUSS Who?

LENNON What?

GEORGETTE Who's where?

LENNON She not here?

MOUSS Doesn't look like it.

LENNON What's the time?

GEORGETTE You in pain?

LENNON Am I in pain? Is it morning?

GEORGETTE Wait a minute...

LENNON She wasn't at the meeting... Didn't answer her phone...

MOUSS Who we talking about?

LENNON Must have dozed off.

GEORGETTE What are you saying?

LENNON Slept on the floor.

MOUSS So they didn't beat you up?

LENNON Me head's a bit...

GEORGETTE I thought you was dead...

LENNON Back aches a bit...

GEORGETTE I was in a right old state...

LENNON But I've been sleeping on the floor so...

MOUSS You're alright then?

LENNON ... only to be expected, really. Other than that, yeah, I'm alright. Good sleep.

GEORGETTE Fuckin'ell.

LENNON I was looking for that 45...

GEORGETTE Fuck it, he's not even hurt...

LENNON Had a bit of whiskey...

GEORGETTE You been at my whiskey?

He goes behind the counter, finds a bottle of whiskey, almost empty, and shows it to Lennon.

GEORGETTE How many times?

LENNON What?

GEORGETTE How many times have I told you?

LENNON No but this was a bit of an emergency... You weren't here so...

GEORGETTE So what?

LENNON A nice little blues number and a wee dram to drown me sorrows...

GEORGETTE You do it on purpose.

LENNON Why does love got to be so sad?

GEORGETTE You do it on purpose to humiliate me in public. But that's over now. Understand? I'm in charge now. You think you can piss me about? You've got another think coming.

He goes out.

LENNON Yeah yeah yeah...

MOUSS Has he gone?

LENNON *(loud, to Georgette)* You there?

Pause

Georgette?

Pause

You gone?

MOUSS He's gone. Where's me money?

LENNON Hang on... *(loud)* Oy, dimwit, can you hear me?

Pause

He's gone. Won't be long.

Lennon takes Georgette's phone and punches a number.

MOUSS For the...

LENNON *(to Mouss)* Bit early for that.

MOUSS You sold some, aintcha?

LENNON *(listening to phone)* Shit. *(To answering machine)* Yeah, hello beautiful, Lennon here, how're you doing? I didn't see you yesterday at the meeting. No problem, no problem – well, it was a bit boring but... I hope there's nothing wrong, is all. As you didn't call either... well, I know I'm not that easy to get hold of, and of course you're free to... you don't have

to... But now you can reach me at the caff, it'll be me who answers, so... feel free. Feel free to call me because there's something I've got to tell you. Well, I think you probably have a little... but I've got to tell you what's happening to me because... Because since I've got to know you I've, well I've... I mean I think there's hope for me yet. For me and for the whole world too because I see now that perhaps I'm not the only one who thinks that, well, who thinks that maybe everything isn't completely fucked... and well it does me good to see that there are people like me who believe in mankind... and in this particular instance in, well, in me. Ha ha... and, you know, that coming from a beautiful girl like you it well... it's like sunshine after rain, it's like a flower opening in my heart, it's like... well, it feels good. Call me.

He hangs up and remains lost in thought, looking towards Mouss.

MOUSS My money.

LENNON *(low)* There's a problem.

MOUSS What?

Pause

There's a problem? With the...?

GEORGETTE *(off)* What's your problem?

LENNON *(to Georgette)* Nothing. *(Loud, to Mouss)* Here, have a listen to this...

Lennon takes out a 45rpm single and puts it on the record player. We hear "Debris" by the Faces.

LENNON What do you think of that?

Pause

GEORGETTE *(off)* Fucking awful.

LENNON The Faces. B-side of "Stay With Me", their biggest hit. *(low)* When I came in last night: gone.

MOUSS Fuck.

Mouss goes to look in the toilet.

GEORGETTE *(off)* Don't use the lav. It's broken.

Mouss freezes.

LENNON *(loud)* What happened?

GEORGETTE *(off)* Dunno. Doesn't work.

LENNON *(low)* You better gimme some more.

Pause

MOUSS *(loud)* That Ronnie Lane?

LENNON Recognize the voice, did you?

GEORGETTE *(off)* Sounds like a cat being strangled.

LENNON I found it in the end.

MOUSS You found it?

LENNON The record.

Pause

MOUSS *(low)* What about my money?

Pause

(loud) That Rod Stewart on backing vocals?

LENNON Well done, son. You know your classics. Listen to the words.

MOUSS Don't get it.

LENNON "I went there and back, just to see how far it was. And you, you tried to tell me, but I had to learn for myself." Understand?

MOUSS No.

GEORGETTE *(off)* Doesn't mean anything.

MOUSS Where's he been?

Pause

LENNON No, but it's an image like. A metaphor. He's talking about love, see. He's saying that love is like a journey: even if you end up going nowhere, you've got to go to find out what it's like.

MOUSS Oh. Right.

Pause

GEORGETTE *(off)* That's deep, that is.

LENNON Shut up. *(To Mouss)* Understand?

MOUSS Yeah...

LENNON You don't understand. No experience. See, it's like he says: you gotta learn for yourself. Learn from your mistakes... Except first you've got to recognize your mistakes. I dunno what I've done wrong with Layla...

MOUSS Leila? The one with the scarf works at Tesco's?

Georgette comes back in.

GEORGETTE Embracing Islam now, are we?

LENNON No no no...

GEORGETTE He's all for a multiracial Britain, he is. As long as he can fuck it.

LENNON Shook me up a bit though. I wasn't expecting it.

MOUSS What?

LENNON What's happened to me. Alright so last night I had a little bout of the blues but, you know how it is, that's all part of it. Generally speaking I'm flying like a bird, I'm over that big blue moon, I'm swimming in a sea of joy.

GEORGETTE Gawd 'elp us.

MOUSS Swimming in what?

LENNON May as well face up to facts: I'm in love.

GEORGETTE Again?

LENNON What d'you mean again? First time in ages.

GEORGETTE What about Barbara then?

LENNON Barbara was nothing serious. It couldn't last, she didn't like the Stones.

MOUSS Who's Barbara?

GEORGETTE It lasted ten fucking years...

LENNON Cos we were clinging to an illusion but deep down I always knew it could never work.

GEORGETTE Oh yeah? You'd still be clinging if she hadn't run off with the bloke from the garage. Another of your brilliant ideas that was, buying her a new car

radio for her birthday.

MOUSS Who's Barbara?

LENNON Forget Barbara. It's over with Barbara. Leave her to her Phil Collins and her Celine Dion and let's move on.

GEORGETTE And this new one, has anybody told her you haven't a penny to your name and you consider work to be a four-letter word?

LENNON You can't understand. But for me... it's like I'm waking up from a long sleep. I'm coming back to life.

GEORGETTE Oyoyoy... Who is she?

LENNON You don't know her.

GEORGETTE She's never been round here?

LENNON She's busy at the moment. With the election.

MOUSS The election.

LENNON That's how we met.

GEORGETTE I'm beginning to understand.

LENNON We have similar convictions.

GEORGETTE Yeah yeah, we all know your convictions.

LENNON Yes well, contrary to popular belief, there are still some people with values.

MOUSS I think I'll go and watch the match.

LENNON Oh yeah, what time is it? No more excuses, they've got to win this time.

MOUSS They've got to win two nil.

GEORGETTE Dream on, they're fucked.

MOUSS Or three one.

LENNON Or four two. Like in sixty-six.

Pause

Bet you anything you like they win three nil.

GEORGETTE A bet?

LENNON Anything you like.

GEORGETTE Alright.

Pause

LENNON I'm not betting with you. Put the telly on.

GEORGETTE Fucking hell. Tell me, hawkeye, haven't you noticed anything?

LENNON What?

GEORGETTE Look around you.

LENNON No but I was gonna tidy it all up, it's on me agenda, I'm gonna have a big clea – hang on, what's happened here?

GEORGETTE Ah, so you're not totally blind as well as stupid?

LENNON Someone's broken me window.

MOUSS The bill stickers.

LENNON Them fascists?

GEORGETTE Them and your pals from the SWP. Had an altercation apparently. Then they trashed everything and nicked me telly.

LENNON You're kidding me.

GEORGETTE Do I look like I'm kidding? Redistribution of wealth, it's all part of the programme.

LENNON Ah shit...

GEORGETTE You took the words right out of my mouth.

MOUSS Right, I'll be off then.

GEORGETTE You still insured?

LENNON Erm...

GEORGETTE You really are such a stupid bastard.

Pause

(to Mouss) Well go on then. Whatcha doing standing there gawping like a fucking goldfish? Fucking hell, no wonder the country's in crisis, with all the fucking energy we've got here...

MOUSS Yeah, I'm gonna get going.

Pause

See you.

Pause

GEORGETTE You going or what?

MOUSS Yeah.

Pause

I'm going over the road.

Pause

I'm off.

Pause

Yeah, see you later.

He goes.

GEORGETTE Well then?

Pause

What've you got to say for yourself?

Pause

LENNON Nothing.

Pause

What you want me to say?

Pause

Bit early for me.

Pause

Slept on the floor.

Pause

Not feeling so great.

Pause

But I'll be alright... don't worry about me.

Pause

Has it started yet? The match?

Pause

I haven't got it.

Pause

I haven't got your money.

Pause

GEORGETTE You haven't got it?

LENNON No.

GEORGETTE Then let me have the lease.

Pause

LENNON No but I'm gonna get it.

Pause

I'm gonna get it.

GEORGETTE You're gonna get it?

LENNON I'm gonna get it.

GEORGETTE When?

LENNON Soon.

GEORGETTE How soon?

Pause

LENNON Hard to say.

GEORGETTE Tomorrow?

LENNON Tomorrow no. Don't think so. Tomorrow I can't promise you anything.

GEORGETTE So. Not tomorrow. When then?

LENNON Hard to say.

GEORGETTE It is not hard to say.

Pause

Thursday? Friday? It's easy to say. Try it.

Pause

Saturday?

Pause

LENNON What day is it today?

Pause

GEORGETTE Today is Tuesday.

Pause

LENNON Tuesday?

GEORGETTE Tuesday.

LENNON Tuesday... Well then, maybe this weekend.

Pause

GEORGETTE All of it?

LENNON No, not all of it. Some of it.

GEORGETTE Some of it?

LENNON Well, yeah. Some of it.

GEORGETTE How much?

Pause

LENNON Well that's... hard to say.

GEORGETTE You can't tell me how much?

LENNON Not exactly.

GEORGETTE You can tell me when but you can't tell me how much?

LENNON Not exactly. And when I say this weekend...

GEORGETTE What?

LENNON Well, that's not completely...

GEORGETTE Oh yes it is.

LENNON Might be a bit later...

GEORGETTE No. This weekend is this weekend. It's not the weekend after. It's Saturday or Sunday. It is definitively this Saturday or this Sunday.

LENNON Yeah but when I say this weekend...

Pause

GEORGETTE When you say this weekend, that means Saturday or Sunday. This coming Saturday, or this coming Sunday, you are going to give me some of what you owe me.

LENNON Yeah well, I can't promise anything.

Pause

GEORGETTE You've just contradicted yourself.

LENNON Yeah well, it's a bit...

GEORGETTE What? It's a bit what?

Pause

LENNON It's a bit early for me.

Pause

Why d'you wanna close my shop?

Pause

GEORGETTE There aren't any customers, for your shop. Nobody knows your fucking shop. It costs more than it brings in.

LENNON It doesn't cost anything.

GEORGETTE It doesn't cost you anything. And it doesn't bring anything in. You break even. But you're forgetting the rates. You're forgetting the electricity, the water, the phone. You forget all that cos it's me that pays for everything.

LENNON You had the phone cut off.

GEORGETTE I had the phone cut off cos you never paid the bills. It's me that pays for everything.

Pause

And then you start saying I've taken everything off you. If I'd taken a tenth of what you owe me you wouldn't be here. You'd be out on the street. So stop talking rubbish, face up to the facts and sign the lease over to me.

LENNON But how am I supposed to live, without my shop?

GEORGETTE How d'you live with it? It doesn't bring anything in, your shop. It's a bottomless pit, your shop. It's a ruin. Is it my fault?

LENNON No but I'm not blaming you for anything...

GEORGETTE I should fucking well hope not. Blaming me for it now...

LENNON No but...

GEORGETTE You'll be calling me selfish next.

LENNON I didn't say that...

GEORGETTE After all I've done for you. Gratitude? Never heard of it.

LENNON It's not that...

GEORGETTE What is it then? What is it if it's not that?

LENNON You don't understand.

GEORGETTE I don't understand?

LENNON No, you don't understand.

GEORGETTE What don't I understand?

LENNON This shop, it's more than just a shop.

GEORGETTE It's less than just a shop. It's not even a proper shop. A shop is meant to sell things. It's meant to sell things and you make a living out of it.

LENNON That's not what my shop's about.

GEORGETTE That's what I've just been telling you.

LENNON It's a lot more than that.

GEORGETTE It's a lot less than that. You make bugger all out of it.

LENNON It's a whole mindset. My shop's got soul.

Pause

GEORGETTE Soul?

LENNON Soul.

GEORGETTE He's getting religious on me now. Can't you see that your shop's just a load of worn-out old records that nobody wants? It's a refuge for old hippies who've got nothing better to do. A hostel for deadbeats talking crap amongst themselves cos they're so fucking hopeless they can't even pull a bird. Your clientele is just a load of wankers. And broke wankers at that.

LENNON That it? You done?

GEORGETTE Don't you understand the times are changing? I'll tell you something that might surprise you: the sixties are over. The seventies too. Both of them. For quite a while now. Not only are they over but the only people who remember them are old farts like you. And they've already got all the records they need. You've missed the boat there. You've missed several boats. For one thing, records are a thing of the past. Even CDs are yesterday's news. Now they get it all for free on the internet. Nobody buys records any more. That's progress for you. You have to learn to

adapt. You have to study your market and draw your own conclusions. Like me. You take me for a fool but you'll see. You'll see what's going on round here. Cos I know a good thing when I see it. I've got a nose for these things. I keep my eyes and ears open. I see what's going on. Things are changing round here. In five years' time you won't recognize this place. There'll be wine bars, Japanese restaurants and antique shops. They'll have swapped the pitbulls for fucking chihuahuas. And there'll be those who don't wanna know. And those who know how to adapt.

- LENNON And you know how to adapt?
- GEORGETTE Know who I had in my caff the other day?
- LENNON Who?
- GEORGETTE That bloke from the telly.
- LENNON The bloke in Radio Rentals?
- GEORGETTE No, not the bloke in Radio Rentals. And you might care to know that it's not called Radio Rentals any more, it's called Visions.
- LENNON Is it? ... Oh yeah, you're right.
- GEORGETTE Course you never even noticed. But that's a sign, that's what that is. That's a foretaste of things to come.
- LENNON I liked it better before.
- GEORGETTE It's not a question of liking it or not liking it, it's there for all to see. That's the way it is nowadays. It's the market economy asserting itself. And there's nothing you can do to stop it.
- LENNON So what did he want from you, this bloke?
- GEORGETTE What bloke?
- LENNON The bloke from Radio Rentals.
- GEORGETTE No no no, I'm talking about the bloke who's always on the telly, on them wotsit shows, the big fella...
- LENNON Wotsit shows?
- GEORGETTE The big berk who does all those...
- LENNON What, the big fella?
- GEORGETTE As I stand before you now.

LENNON He came in your caff?

GEORGETTE Makes you think, dunnit?

LENNON Did he speak to you?

GEORGETTE Course he spoke to me.

LENNON What'd he say?

GEORGETTE He said: "A coffee, please."

LENNON No? Get away.

GEORGETTE I kid you not.

LENNON Unbelievable.

GEORGETTE Told you the area was evolving.

LENNON He said "a coffee, please" just like that, nothing else?

GEORGETTE Not bad for a start.

LENNON For a start, no. A bit off-hand but still...

GEORGETTE I thought that at the time. Anyway he's nothing like he is on the telly.

LENNON No?

GEORGETTE Nothing like.

LENNON What's he like then?

GEORGETTE Well, to start with, he's not big.

LENNON Isn't he?

GEORGETTE Not at all.

LENNON The big berk isn't big?

GEORGETTE That's the telly for you: little screen, so everyone seems big on it.

LENNON Oh yeah?

GEORGETTE Scientific.

LENNON I never knew that.

GEORGETTE So naturally it attracts short-arses. All the little fellas want to be on the telly.

LENNON But why do they let them?

GEORGETTE I dunno. If you ask me they look out for their own.

LENNON How's that?

GEORGETTE Common sense. The little fellas look big so long as they're among themselves. Put a big fella next to them and they're fucked.

LENNON So the big berk's not big.

GEORGETTE Nope. If he was standing here in front of you, you'd say he was little.

Pause

LENNON You sure it was him?

GEORGETTE I'd recognize him anywhere.

LENNON Well well well. So... is he a berk then?

GEORGETTE Oh yes. He may not be big but he's definitely a berk.

LENNON That's reassuring.

GEORGETTE "A coffee, please" he says to me.

LENNON Yeah... Mind you, that's not as daft as all that, if he wanted a coffee. Is this before you sent the machine in for repairs?

GEORGETTE Well yeah, otherwise he'd never have got his coffee. It was Friday he was here. He had his coffee alright. And you know what he said to me, the big berk?

LENNON What?

GEORGETTE He said: "Fucking awful coffee."

LENNON He didn't?

GEORGETTE He did. Just like that. In front of everybody.

LENNON He wasn't completely in the wrong there.

GEORGETTE No, the coffee was fucking awful but that's no reason to say so in front of everybody.

LENNON There were other people there then?

GEORGETTE No.

Pause

LENNON Has he been back since?

GEORGETTE Not yet.

Pause

What are you up to with that kid?

LENNON What d'you mean?

GEORGETTE If you can't beat 'em join 'em, that it?

LENNON What?

GEORGETTE Made you deaf already.

LENNON You wouldn't understand.

GEORGETTE What? What wouldn't I understand? What's this thing I haven't understood?

LENNON You don't believe in anything.

GEORGETTE So what?

LENNON So you wouldn't understand.

GEORGETTE Oh yeah? Since when do you have to believe in something to understand it? You become a guru? A guru for ageing hippies and peaceniks stuck in the sixties? The sect of the old farts. Have to listen to the Beatles and smoke joints all day. It's alright, not too demanding as religions go, could be worse. But of course it doesn't exactly appeal to women, so you have to make do with little nignogs.

LENNON What's the matter with you? The kid likes the music, that's all. I guide his listening. It makes me feel good to help broaden his mind, to see that he appreciates my values.

GEORGETTE Your values?

LENNON It's not just the music, it's a whole state of mind. Because this music was made by people who believed in something. We thought everything was possible, we thought we were going to change the world. Alright it didn't quite work out as planned but at least we believed and the kid, well the

kid understands that. He appreciates it. For once in my life I'm doing something worthwhile. I'm opening doors. I'm transmitting my knowledge.

GEORGETTE But is that all you're transmitting? How does he live?

LENNON He lives with his parents, I think. On the estate over the common.

GEORGETTE He doesn't work?

LENNON Don't think so, no.

GEORGETTE He's not a student?

LENNON No.

GEORGETTE So he's a drug dealer.

LENNON No he isn't.

GEORGETTE He your supplier?

LENNON I don't do drugs.

GEORGETTE You smoke, don't you?

LENNON Oh, a little bit now and then but nothing...

GEORGETTE And not just tobacco?

LENNON I don't call that a drug.

GEORGETTE What do you call it then?

LENNON In Amsterdam anyone can buy it.

GEORGETTE Are we in Amsterdam? Funny, I don't see any tulips.

Pause

So the kid is your supplier?

LENNON Not at all.

GEORGETTE How long have you known him?

LENNON A month or two.

GEORGETTE Yeah. And for about a month or two this place has been smelling curiously of tulips.

LENNON No it hasn't...

GEORGETTE Anyway a kid like that, if he's hanging round here, it's for one of two reasons. Either it's sex or it's money. Or both. But as you've got nothing to pay him with...

LENNON Whereas you can afford it.

Pause

GEORGETTE What's that supposed to mean?

LENNON Nothing... But as far as I know you haven't got a girlfriend. You live all alone like a jerk.

GEORGETTE I do not live all alone like a jerk. I live all alone like a prince. I live all alone like a man of property. I live all alone because I don't want to be harassed. It's my choice. I can have women whenever I want them. No shortage of 'em in my caff. Whenever I want one I can have one. But I don't want one. Not in my house. They leave their mess everywhere, you can never get in the bathroom, they're a fucking nuisance.

LENNON I like a woman's presence.

GEORGETTE You live like a pig anyway.

LENNON I've been thinking about it recently, realized what I've been missing. And if you must know I haven't ruled out the idea of a kid.

GEORGETTE Fucking hell.

LENNON No but it's what life's about. It's what life's about, you know. I wasn't ready before but now... No but not right away...

GEORGETTE Gawd help us... She's broke too of course?

LENNON Who?

GEORGETTE Your little muslim girl.

LENNON She's not muslim. She's from Fulham.

GEORGETTE She's got a muslim name.

LENNON She hasn't got a muslim name. Her name's Bridget. Bridget Broadbent.

Pause

 That's not muslim.

GEORGETTE Bridget?

LENNON Bridget.

GEORGETTE That's not what you said just now.

LENNON Her name's Bridget but I call her Layla. After the song.

GEORGETTE What song?

LENNON Di di di di di di di, dum dum dum dum. Eric Clapton.

GEORGETTE Don't know it.

LENNON Yes you do. Everybody knows it. He wrote it for George Harrison's wife. Fell head over heels for his best friend's missus.

GEORGETTE So whose missus is yours?

LENNON Dunno, I've never met him.

GEORGETTE Then why the fuck don't you call her Bridget like everyone else?

Pause

 And of course she's as skint as you are.

LENNON She's not complaining.

GEORGETTE She's not complaining, I am. I'm the one you owe.

LENNON I can't borrow from her, I don't know her well enough yet.

GEORGETTE You're fucking her, aren't you?

Pause

 Aren't you?

LENNON Mind your own business.

GEORGETTE Fucking hell, he's not even fucking her. What good's she to you if you can't get anything out of her?

LENNON You wouldn't understand.

GEORGETTE Why wouldn't I understand? You think I'm stupid or something?

LENNON I don't think you're stupid.

GEORGETTE What's written there?

LENNON I don't think you're stupid, I think you're cynical. You don't believe in

anything. You don't know what it means to share an ideal.

GEORGETTE If that's all she'll share with you I should give her the push. No point in hanging around living in hope.

LENNON I enjoy her company. She's an intelligent girl.

GEORGETTE What's she doing with you then?

LENNON Maybe she likes me.

GEORGETTE Maybe you're deluding yourself more like. Have you seen yourself recently? Better get a new pair of glasses.

LENNON She doesn't worry about that.

GEORGETTE No? What does she worry about then? No, because frankly you're not exactly Brad Pitt to look at, you're broke, you're seriously out of fashion and you're no fucking Einstein neither, so I'm finding it just a little bit difficult to imagine what she sees in you. Unless she's as ugly as you. Bit of a dog, is she?

LENNON Hardly. She's a good looking girl. Petite but perfectly proportioned. And bright with it. She came to talk about the election.

GEORGETTE What fucking election?

LENNON The by-election. Old whasisface got caught fiddling expenses so his seat is up for grabs.

GEORGETTE And what's that to you?

LENNON You're right, I wouldn't normally be all that bothered but this is what Layla explained to me, you see...

GEORGETTE Layla, aka Bridget Broadbent from Fulham...

LENNON People are fed up with the old guard, whasisface on the one hand and the other lot on the other, makes no difference really, six of one half a dozen the other, so there's a void there now and the trouble is, there's this bloke's stepped in, forget his name, nasty piece of work, like slightly to the right of Hitler only a bit crafty like, doesn't come straight out with it, scare people, he's a bit of a smoothie and people are listening. Layla says according to the polls he's in with a real chance, so I mean well, we can't just sit back and let him clean up, can we?

GEORGETTE Can't we?

LENNON We have a duty as citizens.

GEORGETTE Do we? What do we have to do then?

LENNON Talk to people. Show them the error of their ways.

GEORGETTE So who have you talked to apart from Bridget the midget?

LENNON Well, I mentioned it once down the Slug and Lettuce. And I've spoken to the lad.

GEORGETTE Fat lot of good that'll do.

LENNON And I've been to meetings.

GEORGETTE To see the girl.

LENNON Well, that too, yeah. She enjoys talking to me, we get on really well, go down the pub after the meeting, come back here, smoke a bit if you must know, but well, there's something there, electricity, call it what you will, she likes me and I, well... I feel good, I feel young at heart, fleet of foot, like I'm walking on air, I feel like I could break into song.

GEORGETTE Gawd help us.

LENNON D'you remember one day, oh ages ago, when we were kids, we woke up before everyone else and we got up and went out into the garden, really early, the sun hardly risen, the air still a bit chilly, the leaves dripping with dew, the silence, the morning light... like a new world?

GEORGETTE The house in Coronation Road?

LENNON Yeah.

GEORGETTE Before my dad left?

LENNON Think so, yeah. Or maybe just after.

GEORGETTE Why are you telling me this?

LENNON Because that's how I feel when I'm with her.

GEORGETTE Oh yeah?

LENNON Yeah.

Pause

GEORGETTE Yeah, I remember that.

LENNON No, I've got it wrong. I was on my own. You weren't there.

Pause

Great feeling.

Pause

GEORGETTE Well, I'm fucking there now.

Pause

LENNON Oh yes. You're there now. And I'm here.

GEORGETTE So? You're alright here, aren'tcha?

LENNON Yeah. I'm alright.

Pause

GEORGETTE What?

LENNON I didn't say anything.

GEORGETTE Fucking nerve.

LENNON I didn't say anything.

GEORGETTE It's the way you say it... I paid a fucking lot of money for that house. I worked hard for it. It's thanks to me your mum had enough to live on.

LENNON Except she died.

GEORGETTE Alright, she died, she died, that's not my fucking fault, is it? And need I remind you that you got everything, after she died, you inherited the lot, what did I get? Fuck all.

LENNON I had nothing left after the funeral.

GEORGETTE It's not my fucking fault if in this fucking country you don't even have the fucking right to fucking die without paying fucking taxes. And anyway it's not true. You had plenty left over. I paid a lot of fucking money for that house.

Pause

Without me you would have both been in the shit.

LENNON So what am I in now?

Pause

GEORGETTE Oh and fuck it, she wasn't even my mother, I don't know why I did all that for the two of you.

Pause

LENNON You were glad to be with us, weren't you?

Pause

You were glad to have found a family.

Pause

It was your choice to stay with us after your dad left.

GEORGETTE Yes.

Pause

Yes. I said. I was glad to be with you. And I ran this caff that was going down the plug-hole and I bought you out for a very good price and I left you the shop and then I paid your debts and I looked after your mum. She was alright in that place. They looked after her alright. Your shop's worthless. Let me have the lease and I'll hire you as a cook.

Pause

You can't cook but that doesn't matter. Nobody cares about that. I'm going upmarket, it's not the food that counts, it's the decor.

Pause

You can keep your room upstairs, nothing much would change.

Pause

What have you got to lose?

LENNON My soul.

Pause

GEORGETTE Nothing much, then.

Pause

Nothing of any importance.

Pause

LENNON No but I'll pay you back.

Pause

I'll pay you back.

GEORGETTE Wanna bet?

Pause

Let's have a bet: if you pay me back everything you owe this weekend, you win.

LENNON What do I win?

GEORGETTE The bet.

LENNON And if I can't?

GEORGETTE If you can't, you let me have the lease.

Pause

LENNON I'm not betting with you.

GEORGETTE Why not?

Pause

LENNON I'm not betting with you. You've taken all I own like that.

GEORGETTE No, I haven't.

LENNON You've taken everything.

GEORGETTE I haven't taken everything. You've still got the lease.

Pause

LENNON I'm not betting with you.

Pause

I've lost everything with your bleeding bets.

GEORGETTE You have not lost everything with my bleeding bets. You've lost everything with your fucking shop. You've lost everything because in all your lifelong lazy life you've never got around to doing a fucking day's work.

LENNON You've taken everything.

GEORGETTE Didn't have much choice, did I? Nobody gave me anything. Why should you have everything?

LENNON I'm the oldest.

GEORGETTE No, you're not. I am.

LENNON I was there first.

GEORGETTE And I'm there last. That's balance for you.

Pause

I paid your fucking debts. You lost everything all on your own. If you're still here it's thanks to me. Without me you'd be out on the street.

Pause

You'd be out on the street. You'd starve. You'd be living like a tramp. You'd die like a tramp. If you're still here it's thanks to me.

Pause

Pause A thankyou wouldn't hurt.

Pause You never pay anything. You talk about respect but you don't respect anyone. You talk about love your neighbour but you treat 'em like shit.

Pause

LENNON Couldn't we bet on the match instead?

GEORGETTE We can bet on the match as well. If England lose, you let me have the lease.

LENNON And if they win?

GEORGETTE If they win, everyone'll be happy.

LENNON If they win, you write off my debts?

GEORGETTE No no no... No, hang on: yes. Yes yes yes, that's it: if England win, I write off your debts. Which means you don't pay me back this weekend, so you lose the other bet. And you let me have the lease.

Pause

Alright?

LENNON Well no, that's not alright. I can't win. I lose whatever happens.

Pause

I don't think much of that.

Pause

Anyway I'm gonna pay you back.

GEORGETTE When?

LENNON Soon.

Pause

A bit this weekend and the rest later?

GEORGETTE Let's simplify. If England don't get through to the next round, you let me have the lease. If they get through, you pay me back what you can this weekend and the rest later on.

Pause

Do we have a bet?

Pause

Two-nil. Or what it takes to get through.

Pause

LENNON Alright.

GEORGETTE You agree?

LENNON Yes.

GEORGETTE If they lose, you let me have the lease.

LENNON Yes.

GEORGETTE If they draw too. Even if they win one-nil. If they're knocked out, you let me have the lease.

LENNON Alright.

Pause

GEORGETTE That's a bet?

LENNON That's a bet.

Pause

 No, but they're gonna win.

Pause

 They're gonna win.

Pause

 Don't you think?

Pause

 Don't you want them to win?

GEORGETTE If they lose, you let me have the lease.

LENNON Unless I pay you back.

GEORGETTE Unless you pay me back this weekend. Right, I'm off to the police station to declare me damages.

Pause

 See you later.

LENNON See you.

GEORGETTE Need anything?

LENNON I'm alright, thanks.

Pause

GEORGETTE You're not gonna change your mind?

LENNON No.

GEORGETTE If they're knocked out, you let me have the lease.

Georgette goes out. Lennon waits a moment, then takes the phone and starts to punch a

number. Georgette comes back, takes the telephone from his hands and goes back out with it.

Noise off. Mouss rushes in and hides behind the counter.

LENNON Ah, it's you. Have they scored yet?

MOUSS You haven't seen me.

Pause

LENNON Yes I have. Why are you squatting down behind my counter? What are you playing at?

MOUSS Shut it.

LENNON Alright... You looking for something? You're in the Tamla Motown there, see if you can find some Smokey Robinson, you should like that, it's good stuff.

MOUSS Act as if I'm not here.

LENNON Alright... So what's the score in the football?

MOUSS Stop fucking talking to me... One-nil at half-time.

LENNON Ah, well that's not bad at all. They're half-way there. More of the same in the second half and the job's done.

MOUSS What?

LENNON Just as well I accepted his bet.

MOUSS One-nil for Lithuania.

LENNON For Lithuania?

Pause

You mean we're losing?

MOUSS Yes.

Pause

LENNON Oh shit.

MOUSS They've gotta score three now. If they don't let any more in.

LENNON Ouch.

Pause

But then, when you think about it, three goals is not that much to ask. They'll come out in the second half with a sense of injustice. Their pride will have suffered. They'll be stung into action.

MOUSS I'm not counting on it.

LENNON Trust me.

MOUSS I'm still not counting on it.

Pause

You bet with Georgette?

LENNON Yes.

MOUSS On the match?

LENNON Yes.

MOUSS You crazy? He's gonna take your shop.

LENNON No no, he's not a bad bloke at heart.

MOUSS Yes he is.

LENNON In his heart of hearts he's not a bad bloke.

MOUSS He's a racist.

LENNON Yes but that, you don't want to take him literally.

MOUSS How d'you want me to take him?

LENNON That's just his sense of humour.

MOUSS What's funny about it?

LENNON No but that's just his way. He likes unfunny humour.

MOUSS He threatened me with a baseball bat. That's not my idea of humour.

LENNON Didn't know he had a baseball bat.

MOUSS He took yours.

LENNON I haven't got a baseball bat.

MOUSS What's that then?

LENNON He took that? Shit, I hope he hasn't damaged it.

MOUSS He was going to hit me with it.

LENNON Well, I hope he didn't. Worth a fortune, that is.

MOUSS A fortune? For an old baseball bat?

LENNON It's not a baseball bat. Don't you know anything? It's not a baseball bat, it's a cricket bat. And not just any old cricket bat. Look.

MOUSS Someone's scribbled on it.

LENNON It's not scribble, it's an autograph. Can't you see?

MOUSS Can't read it.

LENNON It's signed Mick Jagger! Mick's a big cricket fan. I paid a lot of money for this.

MOUSS Oh yeah?

LENNON Worth a fortune, that is.

MOUSS How d'you know the bloke who sold it you didn't just scribble on it with a biro then say it was signed Mick Jagger?

Pause

LENNON No, he's not like that, the bloke who sold it to me. I trust him.

Pause

 No but that's his signature...

MOUSS Didn't stop your brother from nearly bashing me over the head with it. He's violent. And he wants to make a mug out of you.

LENNON He had a difficult childhood.

MOUSS So what?

LENNON So he's developed this hard shell to protect himself.

MOUSS I don't give a fuck about his childhood. Everybody's got problems. Motherfucker messes with me I whup his ass. I don't ask him about his fucking Oedipus complex.

LENNON Has no-one ever told you you live in London, not Baltimore? We don't talk like that here.

MOUSS Sure we do. You're just old-fashioned, is all.

LENNON So you're gonna whup my brother's ass? Whipped a lot of asses, have you?

Pause

MOUSS No but, he'd just better watch it, that's all.

Pause

He wants to take your shop. He wants to kick you out.

LENNON Yeah but well... let him dream.

MOUSS But what if you lose your bet?

LENNON He can't.

MOUSS Can't what?

LENNON Kick me out of my shop. He knows he can't.

MOUSS Why not?

LENNON Because I won't go.

Pause

You sure you wanna stay down there? Doesn't look very comfortable.

Pause

I said I'd play you some John Martyn, didn't I? Hang on, ought to be some somewhere around here... You'll like it, sort of a folky bluesy Scottish alcoholic type of thing... Oh look, there's Georgette talking to that... whatshisname?... the big black guy...

MOUSS I'm not here. You haven't seen me.

LENNON What's his name? He's not a bad sort...

MOUSS Is he coming over?

LENNON No, nothing for him here. He's into hiphop.

MOUSS He's not coming?

LENNON D'you want me to call him over?

MOUSS No no, let him go!

LENNON I tried hiphop. I gave it a chance. It's not bad, there's some interesting stuff there but well for me it just lacks heart. Maybe it's me but there doesn't seem to be any real feeling in it... Ah, Nick Drake, d'you know him? Made three albums, nobody took any notice, got depressed and did

himself in. Thirty years on he's a cult hero, fat lot of good it's done him but still... Where's me John Martyn got to?

MOUSS Has he gone?

LENNON Must be round here somewhere. See, for me that's what counts in music. I'm not into the technical stuff. Rock music's pretty simple really, but when they're into it, when they're putting their soul into it, playing their hearts out, well...

MOUSS Has he gone?

LENNON But since the eighties, well, apart from a few survivors... Dylan, Neil Young, Van Morrison... Who?

MOUSS Lafayette.

LENNON Lafayette, that's it. It was on the tip of me tongue... Springsteen's another one, he's got heart. There are a few decent new things now but well, it's not the same any more, the spirit's gone. It's just turned into a big machine, it's all about money...

MOUSS Has he gone?

LENNON You got a problem with him?

MOUSS What's he doing?

Pause

LENNON He's gone.

Mouss gets back up.

MOUSS Everyone's got a problem with him.

LENNON I haven't... No, for me rock'n'roll died on the 8th of December 1980 on the streets of New York.

MOUSS Stay away from him, ok? If he comes back, don't say anything. And if he asks, you haven't seen me for weeks, alright?

LENNON I keep the flame burning. So people remember. It didn't last long but it was a beautiful dream all the same...

MOUSS Understood?

Mouss goes into the toilet.

LENNON For kids like you, in the world we live in today, it's important. It's

important that someone tells you... What does he want from you?

MOUSS *(Off)* Fuck!

He comes back out.

What are you playing at?

LENNON What?

MOUSS Is it you?

LENNON Is what me?

MOUSS Is it you who's got it?

LENNON No, it's not me. Isn't it you?

MOUSS No, it's not me! There's nothing there.

LENNON I told you.

MOUSS Isn't it you? You can't have smoked it all?

LENNON No, there was loads left.

MOUSS Loads?

LENNON Loads. Well, quite a bit.

MOUSS And where is it now?

LENNON I dunno.

MOUSS But it can't just have, fuck... You're still gonna give me my share?

LENNON Your share of what?

MOUSS The fucking money! 80% of the selling price till the cost is paid off, then 50-50 for the rest. No pissing about. That's what we said.

LENNON Well yeah, but I haven't got it any more. I can't sell it now, can I?

MOUSS But you sold some, right?

LENNON A bit. You'll have your share of that, don't worry about that.

MOUSS How much?

LENNON Well, a little bit, I'd have to look it up.

Pause

Must have written it down somewhere...

MOUSS How do I know you didn't sell it all? How do I know you didn't sell it all and now you're keeping the dough for yourself?

Pause

LENNON Now there you disappoint me.

Pause

MOUSS You've still gotta pay me.

LENNON How much did you pay for it?

MOUSS Eh?

LENNON How much did it cost you?

Pause

MOUSS You just have to sell what you've got.

Mouss goes back into the toilet to resume his search.

LENNON But I haven't got any.

MOUSS *(Off)* Says you... You think it might of fallen in the water? Can't see. Did you look at the bottom of the whatsit?

Georgette appears in the doorway. Mouss continues muttering to himself.

No but who's fucking brilliant idea was it to stash it in the bog of a fucking caff that the world and his wife use ten times a day? And then he's all surprised when it fucking disappears... Fuck it, it hasn't fallen in the water... Fucking brilliant...

He comes out of the toilet and sees Georgette. Silence.

GEORGETTE *(to Lennon)* We're agreed then? If they lose, you let me have the lease.

Pause

LENNON I told you, they're going to win.

GEORGETTE Yes but if they lose, you let me have the lease.

LENNON Yeah yeah.

GEORGETTE Only they're not doing all that well at the moment.

LENNON They haven't scored?

GEORGETTE *They* haven't, no. Things are not looking good.

Pause

Merciful really. For once they won't go out in the quarter finals after losing to the Germans on penalties.

Pause

Two nil down with a quarter of an hour to go. They've got to score four goals.

MOUSS Fuck.

Pause

GEORGETTE You've stopped watching, have you?

MOUSS Who, me?

GEORGETTE No, the South Korean goalkeeper.

MOUSS The South Kor...?

GEORGETTE What d'you think you're doing?

MOUSS No, I was just looking like, see if I could fix it...

GEORGETTE You a plumber?

MOUSS No but...

GEORGETTE But what?

MOUSS Sometimes there's not much wants doing.

GEORGETTE And what wants doing in this case then? In your considered opinion?

MOUSS In my opinion?

GEORGETTE Yes.

MOUSS I dunno.

Pause

GEORGETTE (*Sniffing, to Mouss*) Can you smell something?

MOUSS What?

GEORGETTE You neither?

LENNON Me?

GEORGETTE Can't you smell it? I thought it was coming from the bog but no. It's coming from here. It's the smell of someone taking the piss.

Pause

What do you take me for? What's written there?

LENNON No but...

GEORGETTE No but I can't read it in the mirror, it's back to front, what's written there?

MOUSS Nothing.

GEORGETTE Must be something, everyone's taking me for a fucking fool.

Pause

MOUSS *(to Lennon)* It's him.

LENNON What's him?

MOUSS Him.

GEORGETTE What's me?

Pause

MOUSS It's him what took it.

GEORGETTE Oh yes? Took what?

LENNON Yes, what's he taken?

Pause

MOUSS No but look at him. You can see he knows all about it.

GEORGETTE All about what?

MOUSS He's just fucking with us. He's found it and now he's keeping it for himself. He's fucking with us. He's fucking us over. You can see.

Pause

He's fucking us over. He's gonna sell it himself and keep all the money. Then he's gonna kick you out of your shop.

LENNON You wouldn't do that, would you?

GEORGETTE What do you think?

Pause

LENNON You wouldn't do that.

GEORGETTE I should have done.

Pause

I should have. But I couldn't. I couldn't because I never found anything. I never found anything because I never looked. And I never looked because I'm the biggest fucking mug in town. Because it never entered my mind that my own brother would risk me being thrown in jail for a lousy fucking drug deal I knew nothing about. Without even offering me a share of the profits.

Pause

Do you hate me?

LENNON Course not.

GEORGETTE Then it's even worse. You despise me. Do you realise the risk I was running, with your fucking little business in my fucking bog?

LENNON You weren't running any risk...

GEORGETTE Don't you know I called the cops just now? I tried to get them to come over here. What would it look like, if one of them went out for a piss and stumbled on your fucking shit instead?

MOUSS They'd of realised you knew nothing about it.

GEORGETTE Did someone ask you for your opinion?

MOUSS No but...

GEORGETTE Then shut it. You're the one that started all this shit.

MOUSS Me? I never done nothing.

GEORGETTE Shut your face. You've sewn discord in a happy family.

MOUSS What?

LENNON Well, that's pushing it a bit...

MOUSS I tried to help him, I did.

GEORGETTE Oh yes?

MOUSS I tried to help him earn a bit of money cos otherwise you was gonna take his shop.

GEORGETTE Oh yes? How much has he earned then? Rolling in it now, is he?

MOUSS For the moment he owes me for what he lost but...

GEORGETTE He owes you money?

MOUSS Well yeah...

GEORGETTE Good luck to you, mate. I wouldn't count on it if I were you.

Pause

MOUSS *(to Lennon)* You've still gotta pay me.

GEORGETTE Don't try and complicate things. *(to Lennon)* Trust him, do you? You can't trust them. Thieving little buggers. Their word means nothing.

LENNON You don't trust anyone. You've gotta give people a chance. Especially the young ones.

GEORGETTE They just rub you up the right way. They know all about that. Smile and smile, sweet talk you, make you think you're their friend. Then they stab you in the back.

LENNON No they don't.

MOUSS He's the one does that. He's talking about himself. He's going to take your shop. He's the one's got the shit, you can see.

Pause

GEORGETTE What do you think?

LENNON I don't know. You say it's not you. You say it's not you. And I know it's not me.

Pause

GEORGETTE So?

LENNON Who's left?

MOUSS Er... nobody.

Pause

A portable phone rings.

LENNON What's that?

MOUSS Hang on.

Mouss takes a phone from his pocket and looks at it.

Don't know who it is.

GEORGETTE If you don't answer you never will.

MOUSS Yeah? ... Oh, yeah... Yeah, yeah, I'm here now but there's no telly...

GEORGETTE The tart from last night?

Mouss moves further off.

MOUSS No but they might get... Yeah yeah, I can wait here but we've got a little problem with the... I'll have to drop by my place first... No no, it's alright, plenty left but not here... But I can go and... we could meet at my place if... Alright alright, I'll stay put but... Er yeah, he's here too, yeah... No, he's not going anywhere...

LENNON Who? You talking about me there? Who is it?

MOUSS We stay here... alright.

LENNON Give me that! ... Layla? What...? Don't hang up! ... Shit...

Silence

GEORGETTE Boy, you sure know how to pick 'em.

LENNON How d'you know her then?

MOUSS I don't know her.

GEORGETTE He made her acquaintance last night.

LENNON How come she's got your number?

MOUSS I just met her yesterday, that's all.

GEORGETTE That's right.

LENNON Here?

MOUSS In the caff.

LENNON Was she looking for me?

MOUSS No...

GEORGETTE Wouldn't quite say that, no.

LENNON We were supposed to go to the meeting together, she must have got it mixed up... What did she say to you?

MOUSS She just wanted some shit, that's all.

GEORGETTE Oh, that's all she wanted, was it?

LENNON But she could have all she wanted, she only had to ask me...

MOUSS What do we do?

LENNON What d'you mean, what do we do?

MOUSS She's coming here.

LENNON She's coming here now?

MOUSS What we gonna do?

LENNON Oh well that's alright then...

MOUSS It's not alright. She's coming to buy and we've got nothing left.

LENNON She wants to buy some?

MOUSS What do we do?

LENNON You can nip home and get some.

MOUSS She don't want me to.

GEORGETTE Why not?

MOUSS She told me to stay here.

LENNON Why?

GEORGETTE She didn't want to meet you at your place?

MOUSS She's coming here.

LENNON How would she know where he lives?

GEORGETTE Because she just spent the night there.

Pause

MOUSS I didn't say that.

LENNON What does he mean?

MOUSS Dunno.

LENNON Have you slept with her?

MOUSS I just brought her home with me to sell her some shit, that's all.

LENNON Wasn't it you that said she was coming down here to meet you cos she couldn't get enough of your dick?

MOUSS I never said that... It's him trying to stir up shit, that's all. I ain't done nothing. I didn't know who she was.

GEORGETTE You ain't done nothing or you didn't know who she was? It's not quite the same thing.

LENNON Did she mention me?

MOUSS She just said she'd had some off you.

LENNON Why would she go looking for you when she could have all she wanted with me?

GEORGETTE Yes, now why would she do that?

MOUSS It was just a bit of business.

GEORGETTE Why bother with a little retailer when she can get it wholesale straight from the supplier?

Pause

MOUSS No but I'm not a supplier...

GEORGETTE No? Who'd you buy it off?

Pause

You must've bought it off someone, eh?

Pause

LENNON Well? You must've bought it off someone. You didn't...?

Pause

Oh no. No no no no no.

Pause

But that would mean you lied to me.

MOUSS No but...

LENNON If you didn't buy it...

MOUSS I bought it, I bought it...

LENNON I don't owe you for it.

MOUSS I bought it, it's just that...

LENNON What? It's just that what?

MOUSS It's just that I haven't paid for it yet.

GEORGETTE Oh yeah, and what does your supplier have to say about that? Or perhaps
he hasn't actually been informed of this little transaction?

Pause

LENNON Oh fuck. Not Lafayette?

Pause

 Oh fuck.

Pause

MOUSS No but he doesn't know...

LENNON Well of course he doesn't know, otherwise he'd be down on us like a ton
of bricks and we'd need more than a cricket bat to defend ourselves.
Even signed Mick Jagger. I should fucking well hope he doesn't know.

Pause

 And what are you up to with Layla? Did you have an appointment with
her yesterday?

MOUSS No no, nothing like that. I just came round like I always do but you
weren't here, so I had a coke in Georgette's caff, I was just about to...

LENNON A coke? You drink coca cola?

MOUSS Yeah.

LENNON That filthy muck?

MOUSS I like it.

LENNON It's just water with a bit of sugar and some chemicals. You're paying for
the advertising and you're supporting American colonialism.

MOUSS I like it.

LENNON Christ, I thought I'd passed on some principles. You haven't learned

anything.

MOUSS Hang on, you're not me dad... I've got me own principles, ta very much.

LENNON You've got principles?

MOUSS Yeah.

LENNON Go on then, tell me what they are, these principles that you've got.

MOUSS The principles I've got?

LENNON Yeah, what are they?

Pause

MOUSS Nobody does me over.

LENNON Nobody does you over. That's not a principle.

MOUSS No? What is it, then?

LENNON It's not a principle. And anyway you're the one that tried to do me over.

MOUSS Yeah well, hold on, it's not as if you ever actually paid me or anything...

LENNON You've not been straight with me. You've been lying from the start.

MOUSS I never lied to you.

LENNON Yes, you did!

MOUSS I never lied to you, it was just business.

LENNON I'll give you fucking business – you steal shit from a fucking psychopath and use me to sell it for you – I could have got fucking killed, couldn't I? And I s'pose it's business too to come back here on the quiet and take back what you'd given me then insist I fucking pay for it? And to sell it to my fucking girlfriend, is that business too? And chat her up behind my back? *(He takes the cricket bat and raises it above his head, ready to hit Mouss)* You know what I think of your fucking business? I shit on it! I don't want your fucking business! I don't want to see your fucking face in here again, you dirty little...

He freezes. Pause. He lowers the cricket bat.

MOUSS Go on! Say it! Finish your fucking sentence! Hit me! Let's see your fucking principles! I've had my fill of your fucking principles and your shitty music!

LENNON What's come over me?

MOUSS And she ain't your girlfriend neither. She's with another bloke. She just thinks you're a laugh.

LENNON I don't feel well.

Pause

I should never have listened to you. Should have stayed pure. You're just working for the system. They put the pressure on till you fit in the mould. Get you to conform, think only of profit. I should know by now. Don't listen. Don't compromise... Don't do anything.

GEORGETTE Well we can certainly rely on you for that.

Pause

MOUSS And she can tell you it's not me what took the shit. I just sold her what I had at my place, that's all. She can tell you that. She's coming here now.

LENNON She's coming here?

MOUSS She wants us to wait for her here.

LENNON Why?

Pause

GEORGETTE Isn't it obvious?

LENNON What?

GEORGETTE She had an appointment with you yesterday, is that right?

LENNON We were gonna see each other at the meeting.

GEORGETTE But you didn't see her at the meeting, did you? She came here. You, you've got an appointment with her now?

MOUSS Here.

GEORGETTE But she isn't here.

MOUSS She's coming now.

GEORGETTE Really?

MOUSS She just called.

GEORGETTE To check you were here.

MOUSS Yeah.

GEORGETTE Not at your place.

Pause

MOUSS What d'you mean?

GEORGETTE Nothing.

Pause

LENNON What are you insinuating?

GEORGETTE Nothing. But I suppose she knew all about your little hidey hole in my bog?

Pause

LENNON No no no no no. No, she may not be in love with me, fair enough, but she's not like that. She wouldn't do that to me. She's got principles.

GEORGETTE *(to Mouss)* What do you think? You needn't worry anyway. Cos even you can't be stupid enough to let her see where you stashed your stuff, can you?

Pause

“And she's buying a stairway to heaven.”

Mouss heads for the door.

LENNON No, don't go, wait here, she's on her way over. Don't listen to him. He always thinks the worst of people. He never gives them a chance. Don't listen to him. Trust me.

Mouss goes out.

LENNON Come back! She'll be here soon, she's on her way over.

GEORGETTE Forget it. She's a scheming little bitch. She's not a girl for you.

Pause

And he's just a lying, lazy little layabout like the rest of 'em. He was using you.

LENNON Do you think he's gonna meet her at his place?

GEORGETTE I don't know about that. I think he's more likely to run into Lafayette.

Silence

LENNON Reckon the match is over?

GEORGETTE Should be.

LENNON Haven't heard anything.

GEORGETTE No.

LENNON Not a good sign.

Pause

GEORGETTE I thought of something for you.

LENNON What?

GEORGETTE I was thinking you could sell your records on the internet.

LENNON D'you reckon?

GEORGETTE You could keep 'em in my garage and send 'em off through the post. You could reach a whole new clientele. Sell 'em like antiques, call 'em rare discs. Collector's items. Put the price up. Might work. You put them in a catalogue. Put it on the internet and the world's your oyster.

Pause

I'd even let you advertise in my restaurant.

LENNON Need a computer for internet, don't you?

GEORGETTE I'll get you one.

LENNON I wouldn't know how to work it.

Pause

GEORGETTE Let's go and see if the match is over. If they lose, you let me have the lease.

Pause

That's what we said.

LENNON Yeah yeah.

Pause

No but I'll pay you back.

Pause

GEORGETTE Fucking hell.

LENNON I'll pay you back. I'll pay you back.

Pause

GEORGETTE Shall we go?

LENNON Where?

GEORGETTE Radio Rentals.

LENNON I' m gonna wait here.

Pause

GEORGETTE She won't come.

LENNON You never know.

Silence. Slow fade. Curtain.