

EASTENDERS

EPISODE NINE HUNDRED AND SIXTY TWO

By

**RICHARD DAVIDSON**

SCENE 962/1. VIC UPSTAIRS. INT. DAY  
LIGHT. 17.00.

3A

[PEGGY'S IMMACULATE HAIR IS AS  
FLAWLESS AS HER MAKE-UP AND NAILS.  
EARLY FOR HER DINNER DATE, BAG AT THE  
READY, SHE PICKS UP HER SMARTEST HIGH  
HEELS AND MAKES HER WAY OVER TO THE  
WINDOW WHICH OVERLOOKS THE SQUARE...

...AS SHE RAISES A STOCKINGED FOOT TO  
SLIP THEM ON, PEGGY'S WORLD OF

SCENE 962/2. SQUARE. EXT. DAY LIGHT.  
17.00T/C.

*L*

SCENE 962/3. VIC UPSTAIRS. INT. DAY  
LIGHT. 17.00/T.C.

3A

[PEGGY DUCKS BACK BEHIND THE  
CURTAINS, EAGER NOT TO LET JACK KNOW  
SHE'S LOOKING]

CUT TO:

SCENE 962/4. PAT'S HOUSE. INT. DAY LIGHT.  
17.25.

2

**BILLY:** I'll nip over, check Peggy's ready. Meet us at the Vic.

**HONEY:** Deep breaths...

**BILLY:** Don't worry, everything's going to be fine.

[AND BILLY LEAVES]

**CUT TO:**

SCENE 962/5. BRIDGE STREET. EXT. DAY  
LIGHT. 17.28.

L

[WITH NIGHT DRAWING IN, STACEY'S PACKING UP HER STALL looking really down AS LITTLE MO WANDERS OVER FROM THE VIC. SHE LOOKS ROUGH, FEELS WORSE]

STACEY: Finished early, ain't ya?

LITTLE MO: Felt like the longest shift of my life. Peggy told me to go home.

STACEY: What is it with you today?

LITTLE MO: Went out with Jane last night.

STACEY: Yeah, I heard you come in. We all did.

LITTLE MO: Sorry about that.

STACEY: Good night was it?

LITTLE MO: From what I can remember. I ain't doing it again though.

STACEY: Gettin' to be a right little pair, you two.

LITTLE MO: I dunno about that. She's a good laugh.

**STACEY:** [BITTER] Well, enjoy it while it lasts.

[A BEAT. LITTLE MO CAN SEE STACEY'S UPSET]

**LITTLE MO:** Must be hard for you, I know, with Ruby gone. If you're feeling a bit lonely, maybe we could -

**STACEY:** [LAUGHS] Lonely? What makes you think I'm lonely?

**LITTLE MO:** Spend all your time with someone... when they go, leaves a big gap.

**STACEY:** We were mates for a bit. But truth is, she was a snooty cow from the off. Mates? I'd rather be on my own, thanks.

[A VOICE FROM BEHIND LITTLE MO..]

**OLIVER:** [OOV; BREEZILY] Hello!

[LITTLE MO TURNS TO SEE OLIVER STRIDING OVER FROM THE SURGERY, BRIEFCASE IN HAND, PLEASED TO SEE HER. LITTLE MO'S WORRIED, FEARING HE MAY HAVE HEARD ABOUT HER ESCAPADES..]

**LITTLE MO:** Don't say I been drinkin'. If he asks, I'm ill.

[LITTLE MO TURNS, WORRIED, TO FIND OLIVER BEHIND HER]

**OLIVER:** How are you?

[WHEN LITTLE MO SPEAKS SHE DIRECTS  
HER VOICE TO ONE SIDE TO PREVENT HER  
ODIOUS BREATH REACHING THE DOCTOR]

**LITTLE MO:** Fine. [SLIGHT BEAT] How are  
you?

**OLIVER:** Fine. Six o'clock and I'm all  
done for the day. Makes a nice change.

**LITTLE MO:** Great... [EMBARRASSED] Well  
then, lovely talkin' to you, I'd best get  
off.

[AND OLIVER WATCHES, BEMUSED, AS  
LITTLE MO SCUTTLES BACK TOWARD HOME.  
OLIVER TURNS TO STACEY]

**STACEY:** She don't feel too good...

**CUT TO:**



SCENE 962/6. PAT'S HOUSE. INT. DAY LIGHT.  
17.29.

2

[HALLWAY. KEVIN ENTERS PAT'S WITH AN AIR OF WEARIED RESIGNATION. THE TELLY BLASTS FROM THE SITTING ROOM. HE POPS HIS HEAD ROUND THE DOOR. CARLY'S SAT ON THE SOFA WITH A BOWL OF PASTA. SHE TURNS]

CARLY: Hiya, Dad, can we have a word about money?

KEVIN: You can have two. And you can probably guess what they are.

[KEVIN DUCKS BACK OUT OF THE SITTING ROOM..]

CARLY: [OOV] But, Dad -

[PULLS THE DOOR SHUT. IS THERE ANY CHANCE OF PEACE IN THIS HOUSE? LOOKS UP, SEES JACK, IN HIS FACE. HE CARRIES A BUNCH OF FLOWERS]

KEVIN: ...Alright?

JACK: Fine.

KEVIN: Can I help you?

JACK: Just waiting for Honey.

KEVIN: Right. [INDICATING HIS PREFERRED ROUTE TO THE KITCHEN, WHICH JACK IS BLOCKING] May I?

[AND JACK STANDS ASIDE, LETS HIM THROUGH. KEVIN WANDERS THROUGH TO THE KITCHEN. WE FOLLOW HIM IN. HE OPENS THE FRIDGE DOOR. LETS OUT A GRUNT OF ANNOYANCE]

**JACK:** Problem?

**KEVIN:** There used to be a bar of chocolate in here.

**JACK:** You must have mice.

**KEVIN:** Look, Jack, no offence, but I've spent all day talking to gormless punters, and -

**JACK:** [IN] You want to be left alone.

**KEVIN:** Yeah.

[BUT JACK DOESN'T GO. A BEAT. KEVIN LOOKS UP]

**JACK:** Keep a clear head, an' a tank full of diesel...

**KEVIN:** [CONFUSED] I'm sorry?

**JACK:** That's my advice.

**KEVIN:** [NON-PLUSSED] That's your advice for living, is it?... Always keep a tank full of diesel.

**JACK:**

SCENE 962/7. CAFE. INT. NIGHT. 17.35.

1A

[JANE'S BUSILY WASHING UP BEHIND THE  
COUNTER, AND DR. OLIVER'S EATING A  
MEAL IN THE BACKGROUND AS WE COME IN  
ON STACEY, NURSING A CUP OF TEA,  
PHONE IN HAND]

**STACEY:** How d'you know he was lyin'?

**BRADLEY:** Pat saw you with Ruby earlier on. [BEAT] How was she?

**STACEY:** Fine.

**BRADLEY:** If you wanted to spend the evening with her, I'd've understood.

**STACEY:** Didn't spend the evening with Ruby.

**BRADLEY:** So why didn't you want to see me?

**STACEY:** Just didn't.

**BRADLEY:** Have I done something wrong?

**STACEY:** Yeah, you have.

**BRADLEY:** What?

**STACEY:** You chose the wrong girl. So why don't you just clear off an' try again?

**BRADLEY:** [FRUSTRATED] What is it with you? How can you be one thing one day, completely different the next?

**STACEY:** 'Cause that's how people are, Bradley. You think you know them, you'd trust 'em with your life, and then they go and change on you.

**BRADLEY:** You're not making any sense -

**STACEY:** Spell it out for you, shall I?  
Yesterday I was one person, today I'm  
different. Yesterday we was going out,  
today I couldn't care less if I never saw  
you again.

[AND STACEY GETS UP AND STORMS OUT...  
ON BRADLEY, CONFUSED AND UPSET]

**CUT TO:**

SCENE 962/8. VIC UPSTAIRS. INT. NIGHT.  
17.40.

3A

[SITTING ROOM. PEGGY'S PUTTING ON A NECKLACE AS BILLY WAITS]

PEGGY: You sure curry was a good idea?

BILLY: What's wrong with curry?

PEGGY: Just lookin' at a poppadom gives you the runs.

BILLY: [AFFRONTED] It doesn't.

PEGGY: Nothing to be ashamed of. Some people just ain't designed for it.

BILLY: I love curry.

PEGGY: Just don't go ordering anything too hot just to impress that man. You want a korma, you ask for a korma.

[AND PEGGY EXITS]

CUT TO:

SCENE 962/9. VIC DOWNSTAIRS. INT. NIGHT.  
17.41.

1A

[STRAIGHT IN ON JACK AS HE ENTERS WITH HONEY, it's moderatley busy early doors, and tracey & dawn are working the bar]

JACK: Not surprised she fancied a curry, be a pleasant cooling sensation after a day's fire breathing -

HONEY: [CHASTISING] Cut it out, Dad.

[JACK sees honey's worried, PUTS AN ARM AROUND Her..]

JACK: Don't worry, it'll be a wonderful night.

HONEY: So, you'll really try?

JACK: Have I ever let you down? [HONEY SHAKES HER HEAD] Come coffee and mints, she'll be eating out of my hand. [cont]

[JACK LOOKS UP, SEES PEGGY AND BILLY ENTER BEHIND THE BAR, billy punter side. JACK BEAMS OVER AND WAVES, PEGGY FORCES A SMILE AS BILLY WAVES BACK]

JACK: [cont] There she is. Little ray of sunshine...

[CUT TO PEGGY AS SHE TURNS AWAY TO THE OPTICS, AND THE SMILE FALLS FROM



HER FACE. SHE STARTS POURING HERSELF  
A QUICK GIN AS BILLY LEANS IN,  
CONCERNED]

**BILLY:** What's up?

**PEGGY:** He's doing it already.

**BILLY:** Doing what?

**PEGGY:** Mind games. Smiling an' noddin'  
like Lord of the flamin' Manor. He is so  
full of himself.

**BILLY:** [EXASPERATED] He's just being  
friendly.

**PEGGY:** Yeah? Think I haven't met men like  
him before?

**BILLY:** Peggy, we just want you to enjoy  
yourself tonight. Clean slate. Honey an'  
me, we just want one big happy family.

**PEGGY:** Well, that's absolutely fine by  
me, Billy. No problem.  
[cont]

[PEGGY KNOCKS BACK HER GIN]

**PEGGY:** [cont] I mean, I'll do my level  
best with him 'cause I appreciate what  
you're doing, darlin'. Only it ain't me  
that causes all the trouble.

[AND PEGGY AND BILLY TURN TO SEE JACK  
AND HONEY STOOD ON THE OTHER SIDE OF

THE BAR WITHIN EARSHOT. JACK THROWS  
THE 'CHARM' SWITCH TO 'MAX']

**JACK:** Peggy, you look lovely.

[... PEGGY CLOCKS JACK'S JEANS AND  
LEATHER JACKET]

**PEGGY:** And you look... comfortable.

**JACK:** Bought you these. Peace offering.

[JACK HANDS THE FLOWERS OVER. PEGGY  
SEEMS PLEASED]

**PEGGY:** Ta very much.

**JACK:** Be an honour if you'd allow me to  
escort you.

[A BEAT. COULD GO EITHER WAY]

**PEGGY:** Don't mind if you do.

[AND PEGGY HEADS OUT OF THE BAR.  
BILLY LEANS OVER THE BAR TOWARD  
HONEY]

**BILLY:** [PLEASED] D'you know what? I think  
this might just work out...

[AND HONEY SMILES, EXCITED.]

PICK UP ON KEITH, TURNING THINGS OVER  
IN HIS MIND, DARTBOARD END OF THE  
BAR.

DRAINS HIS PINT, CALLS OVER TO DAWN  
WHO'S JUST HANDED CHANGE TO AN NSE  
PUNTER]

**KEITH:** Another one in there please, Dawn.

[DAWN COMES OVER, UNSMILING]

[TENTATIVE] How's your mother?

**DAWN:** [SNAPS] Top of the world, what  
d'you expect?

[AND DAWN TAKES KEITH'S GLASS, MOVES  
TO FILL IT UP.  
DOOR OPENS, KEITH LOOKS OVER TO SEE  
MIKE ENTER, A SHADOW OF A MAN,  
CRUSHED. HE CARRIES HIS TRAVEL BAG.  
SEEING DAWN AT THE BAR HE GATHERS HIS  
COURAGE AND HEADS OVER]

**MIKE:** [GENTLY] Dawn...

[DAWN IGNORES HIM, CARRIES ON FILLING  
KEITH'S PINT. CATCH KEITH'S INTEREST  
AS HE LOOKS OVER. BACK WITH MIKE AND  
DAWN]

I'll be off soon. Can we talk?

**DAWN:** [COLD] Tried to talk yesterday. Now  
I'm working.

**MIKE:** Look, I know I let you down -

**DAWN:** Whatever gave you that idea?

MIKE: I was stupid, selfish, I know, but  
your Gran dying, it's made me see what's

SCENE 962/10. CAFE. INT. NIGHT. 17.45.

A

[JANE COMES TO COLLECT OLIVER'S PLATE. SHE SEEMS RATHER SLUGGISH]

JANE: How was that?

OLIVER: Delicious.

[JANE TURNS TO GO, BUT..]

Jane.

JANE: Yeah?

OLIVER: [AIMING FOR CASUAL] I was wondering if you knew what was wrong with Maureen. Stacey said she was ill.

JANE: I'd imagine she's got the same thing as me.

OLIVER: And what's that?

JANE: Banging headache. Chronic nausea. Overwhelming tiredness. Inexplicable feelings of despair... Basically, we got totally wrecked last night.

OLIVER: [SURPRISED] Oh, I see...

JANE: It's not big and it's not clever, I know, but I reckon we both needed to let our hair down.

[AND JANE LEAVES. OLIVER SMILES,  
PLEASED THAT MO'S EARLIER BEHAVIOUR  
NOW MAKES SENSE.]

DEANO POPS HIS HEAD ROUND THE DOOR,  
LOOKING FOR BRADLEY. HE'S STILL SAT  
REFLECTING ON STACEY'S OUTBURST.  
DEANO BREEZES OVER]

**DEANO:** Been looking for you. What you  
doing sat in here?

**BRADLEY:** Thinking.

**DEANO:** You don't want to do too much of  
that.

**BRADLEY:** Stacey just dumped me.

**DEANO:** Yeah?

**BRADLEY:** Come out with all this weird  
stuff about people changing day to day,  
and how she'd changed or something.

**DEANO:** Standard dumping tactic. She ain't

up, and you could pull someone half decent. Come on, buy you a drink.

[AND DEANO LEAVES. BRADLEY GETS UP AND SHUFFLES AFTER HIM, CROSSING WITH LITTLE MO AS SHE ENTERS WITH FREDDIE]

**LITTLE MO:** Oh, hello, Bradley. You alright?

**BRADLEY:** [MOROSE] Yeah, terrific.

[CONFUSED BY BRADLEY'S GREETING, LITTLE MO APPROACHES JANE AT THE COUNTER]

**LITTLE MO:** How you feeling?

**JANE:** Like an extra in a zombie film.

**LITTLE MO:** Me too. Look, you didn't pick up a purple scarf last night, did you?

**JANE:** That yours? Woke up with it wrapped round my head.

[JANE GIVES A LITTLE FLASH WITH HER EYES, LITTLE MO TURNS TO SEE SMILING OLIVER STANDING BEHIND]

**LITTLE MO:** [EMBARRASSED] Oh, hello Doctor.

**OLIVER:** Still feeling rough?

**LITTLE MO:** Yeah, just a bit under the weather.

**OLIVER:** Not still under the influence  
then?

[LITTLE MO FLASHES A LOOK TO JANE,  
WHO GIVES IT 'WHO ME?]

[GRINS] I'll see you later.

[AND OLIVER LEAVES. LITTLE MO PUSHES  
LAUGHING JANE, ANNOYED THAT SHE'S  
BEEN RUMBLED IN FRONT OF THE GOOD  
DOCTOR]

**CUT TO:**



SCENE 962/11. ARGEE BARGEE. INT. NIGHT.  
18.02.

L

[THE RESTAURANT'S BUSY WITH AN EARLY EVENING CROWD. BILLY, HONEY, JACK AND PEGGY HAVE SETTLED AT A TABLE AND ARE READING THROUGH THE MENUS. A WAITRESS HOVERS NEARBY. jack turns to her]

JACK: Chicken vindaloo for me.

PEGGY: [HE'S SO PREDICTABLE] Chicken vindaloo...

[BILLY LEANS OUT TO THE WAITRESS]

BILLY: I'll have one of them an'all.

[PEGGY SHOOTS HIM A LOOK]

BILLY: What? I like hot curry.

HONEY: [TO WAITRESS] Vegetable biryani, please.

JACK: [ALL INNOCENCE] 'Course it's well known that the female anatomy ain't geared up for the likes of your vindaloo -

PEGGY: [BRISTLING] Is that right?

JACK: Women have more sensitive taste buds.

PEGGY: You're quite the man of science, ain't ya?

**JACK:** [THROWAWAY] Or maybe you just got a lower pain threshold.

**PEGGY:** You what? I'd like to see you try child-birth, mate.

**HONEY:** [KEEN TO DEFUSE BREWING ARGUMENT] Shall we get a bottle of wine?

**JACK:** I'm just saying, most women seem to prefer mild curries.

**PEGGY:** Well I ain't most women.

**JACK:** [MUTTERS FROM BEHIND MENU] You got that right...

[PEGGY TURNS TO THE WAITRESS]

**PEGGY:** Lamb vindaloo, please, darlin'.

**JACK:** You sure you want to do that?

**PEGGY:** [POINTEDLY TO WAITRESS] And make mine hotter than his.

[BILLY AND HONEY LOOK AT EACH OTHER, CONCERNED. PEGGY LOOKS BACK TO HER MENU. AS FOR JACK, HE GLANCES AT PEGGY - LOVING IT]

**CUT TO:**

SCENE 962/12. PAT'S HOUSE. INT. NIGHT.  
18.05.

3

[IN ON KEVIN, AS HE SITS IN THE



[KEVIN GETS UP, AND WE FOLLOW HIM OUT INTO THE HALL. CARLY POPS HER HEAD OUT OF THE SITTING ROOM DOOR AS HE PASSES]

**CARLY:** Don't need much, Dad -

[KEVIN SILENCES HER WITH A HAND, GRABS HIS COAT AND WALKS STRAIGHT OUT OF THE DOOR. PAT COMES INTO THE HALL, SWAPS A LOOK WITH CARLY - WHERE'S HE GOING?]

**CUT TO:**

SCENE 962/13. ARGEE BARGEE. INT. NIGHT.  
18.12.

L

[WINE'S BEEN BROUGHT TO THE TABLE, AND JACK'S EYES STRAY TO A SHAPELY PAIR OF LEGS AS A CUSTOMER WALKS PAST THE TABLE IN A SHORT SKIRT, BUT PEGGY'S WATCHING AND JACK KNOWS HE'S BEEN RUMBLED]

JACK: Beginning of March, and these young women, they got their pins out already.

PEGGY: Expect you're worried she might catch a cold.

JACK: [SMILES] Exactly right.

PEGGY: After all, you're old enough to be her father.

[CATCH A CONCERNED LOOK BETWEEN BILLY AND HONEY... BILLY STEPS IN]

BILLY: Bet it was cold in that car last night, eh?

JACK: With the heater turned up full, it's lovely. Everyone should have a bolt-hole, somewhere they can go to...  
[POINTEDLY TO PEGGY, BUT WITH A SMILE]  
Relax. 'Cause you'd be amazed how many people have trouble unwinding. [cont]

JACK: [cont] Walk about all day like tightly coiled springs, for years sometimes, and if they don't do something about it, they snap.

[AND PEGGY KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT JACK'S DOING... CATCH ANOTHER CONCERNED LOOK BETWEEN BILLY AND HONEY]

**PEGGY:** I never needed somewhere to run away to.

**JACK:** No?

**PEGGY:** [CONFRONTATIONAL] Always liked to meet the world head on.

**JACK:** [WITH A SMILE] And beat it into submission, I'll bet.

[PEGGY'S JUST ABOUT TO RETORT WHEN THE FOOD ARRIVES. HONEY AND BILLY ARE SO RELIEVED..]

**HONEY:** [QUICKLY IN] Mmmm. Smells good, doesn't it?

**BILLY:** Yeah, terrific.

[THE WAITRESS LAYS HONEY'S BIRYIANI DOWN IN FRONT OF HER]

**HONEY:** So nice to come out for a meal... to be honest, just getting out of Pat's house is a relief.

[THE WAITRESS PLACES PEGGY'S VINDALOO BEFORE HER. SHE'S CONCERNED, BUT WOULD RATHER EAT HER OWN HAND THAN SHOW IT]

**JACK:** Must be like living in a flamin' circus.

[BILLY GLANCES NERVOUSLY AT HIS CURRY  
AS IT'S PLACED BEFORE HIM]

**BILLY:** It ain't easy, that's for sure.

**JACK:** If you need your own space, I've got a little bit of money put aside. Ain't much, but it's enough for a deposit on a flat.

[SEE BILLY AND HONEY'S AMAZEMENT...  
AND PEGGY'S IRRITATION]

**HONEY:** Are you serious?

**JACK:** Totally.

[THE WAITRESS PLACES JACK'S MEAL  
BEFORE HIM]

**PEGGY:** I've got a better idea.

**JACK:** [MUTTERS] Thought you might...

**PEGGY:** Come and live at the Vic.

**BILLY:** What?

**PEGGY:** I'm rattling round above the Vic like a pea in a drum. Be nice to have a bit of female company... and you too, Billy, of course.

**JACK:** I'm offering them a place of their own. A refuge.





THEY TURN TO SEE THE COUPLE  
DISAPPEARING OUT THE DOOR..]

CUT TO:

SCENE 962/14. GEORGE STREET. EXT. NIGHT.  
18.15/T.C.

L

[BILLY AND HONEY ARE WALKING BRISKLY  
DOWN GEORGE STREET]

HONEY: Where we going?

BILLY: Vic. I need a drink.

HONEY: But we can't just leave them  
there.

BILLY: If we're not there, they'll be  
forced to talk. It's worked me and your  
dad, it'll work with them.

[AND BILLY AND HONEY TURN THE CORNER  
INTO TURPIN ROAD, HEADING BACK TO THE  
SQUARE]

CUT TO:

SCENE 962/15. VIC DOWNSTAIRS. INT. NIGHT.  
18.17.

3A

[THE VIC'S BUSY NOW AS KEVIN COMES IN, MAKES FOR THE BAR, FINALLY AN ANONYMOUS HAVEN AT THE END OF A LONG DAY. tracey asks what he'd like]

KEVIN: Peace, quiet and a pint of lager, darlin'.

[tracey pours his pint into his tankard.  
GO TO BRADLEY AND DEANO, SAT NEAR THE JUKEBOX. BRADLEY'S SUDDENLY WOKEN FROM HIS INERTIA AS STACEY COMES IN, WALKS TO THE PIANO END OF THE BAR. DEANO CLOCKS STACEY, SEES BRADLEY'S REACTION]

DEANO: Don't even think about it...

BRADLEY: Back in a minute.

[AND BRADLEY MOVES TO JOIN STACEY AT THE BAR.]

MEANWHILE PICK UP ON KEVIN AS HE STANDS AT THE BAR, TURNS TO SEE DEANO'S GRINNING FACE. AAARGH - IS NOWHERE SACRED?]

DEANO: I'll have a pint an' all Dad, if you're buying.

[GO TO BRADLEY AS HE STANDS BESIDE STACEY AT THE PIANO END OF THE BAR]

BRADLEY: You going to talk to me, or what?



[A BEAT. BRADLEY FINALLY SLOPES OFF.  
OUT ON STACEY, DETERMINED TO BE PURE  
STEEL.]

[\*NEXT SECTION TO BE FILMED  
SEPARATELY]

PICK UP ON KEITH AS HE APPROACHES  
DOWNCAST MIKE. MIKE LOOKS UP, SAYS  
NOTHING. KEITH SITS BESIDE HIM. A  
LONG BEAT]

**KEITH:** I ain't proud of what I said to  
you yesterday.

[MIKE DOESN'T RESPOND]

I don't like you but I am sorry about your  
mum.... Buy you a drink?

[AND WITHOUT A LOOK TO KEITH, MIKE  
SLIDES HIS EMPTY BEER GLASS ACROSS  
THE TABLE. KEITH PICKS IT UP AND  
LEAVES FOR THE BAR]

**CUT TO:**

SCENE 962/16. ARGEE BARGEE. INT. NIGHT.  
18.19.

*L*

[THE ARGUMENT HAS BEEN PUT ON ICE AS

SCENE 962/17. VIC DOWNSTAIRS. INT. NIGHT.  
18.20.

1A

[ON STACEY AT THE BAR WITH AN ORANGE JUICE. dawn's changing an optic, the fresh bottle waiting on the bar, cap off. stacey quickly takes the bottle



**KEVIN:** You don't want that.

**DEANO:** So I reckon Carly should give up the bed for a while. I mean, your job's going well at the car lot, Carly ain't got nowhere else to go... We could be living like this for months.

[AND THE HORROR OF THAT SCENARIO HITS KEVIN FULL IN THE FACE. HE DRAINS HIS PINT AND MAKES TO LEAVE]

Where you going?

**KEVIN:** To find an oasis in life's scorching desert...

[AND KEVIN EXITS, LEAVING DEANO BEMUSED. HE TURNS TO BRADLEY, EYES LOCKED ON STACEY]

**DEANO:** [FRUSTRATED] What is it with everybody tonight?

[\*next section to be filmed separatley]

[GO TO KEITH AND MIKE]

**KEITH:** So where you gonna go?

**MIKE:** Are you really that interested?

**KEITH:** 'Course. May not like you, but I care about them two kids of yours. Even Dawn. They're gonna want to know where their Dad is.

**MIKE:** [WITH A GLANCE TO DAWN] Wouldn't be so sure about that.

**KEITH:** She's mad about you, that one. Think she'd give you the cold shoulder if she wasn't?

**MIKE:** You keep on slappin' the people that love you, sooner or later they're gonna slap you back. [TURNS TO KEITH] Never wanted to steal your family, Keith. That was never my plan.

**KEITH:** Yeah, well, looks like it's no more my family now than it was yours.

**MIKE:** Wouldn't be so sure about that.

**KEITH:** [HOPEFUL] No?

**MIKE:** You've marked your cards with Rosie, good and proper, but she ain't the type to hold a grudge forever. I mean, she welcomed me back, didn't she?

**KEITH:** Yeah, I s'pose she did. [WITH A NOD TO MIKE'S BAG] Wherever you end up, take care, eh?

**MIKE:** Yeah. I will.

[AND KEITH GETS UP AND EXITS, LEAVING MIKE TO REFLECT ON HIS TROUBLES.]

PICK UP ON BILLY AND HONEY AS THEY ENTER AND MAKE FOR THE BAR, BUOYED BY THEIR DISCUSSION ON THE WAY HOME]

**BILLY:** ...Any bad feeling, they'll have got it out their system by now.



SCENE 962/18. GEORGE STREET. EXT. NIGHT.  
18.22.

*L*

[... AN IRATE PEGGY AS SHE STORMS OUT OF THE RESTAURANT, FOLLOWED BY JACK, PULLING ON HIS COAT AS HE FOLLOWS HER]

**JACK:** Oh, come on Peggy, no need to take it like that -

[AND PEGGY CARRIES ON WALKING. JACK FOLLOWS HER, A WICKED SMILE ON HIS FACE - HE'S enjoyING THE TUSSELE]

**CUT TO:**

SCENE 962/19. VIC DOWNSTAIRS. INT. NIGHT.  
18.23.

3A

[BRADLEY'S LOOKING OVER, BURNING.  
STACEY GLANCES BACK, SEES IT.  
STACEY'S STILL CLOSE TO JAKE]

STACEY: Buy me a drink?

JAKE: I'm sorry?

STACEY: A drink.

JAKE: You're underage.

STACEY:

[A LONG BEAT AS HONEY AND BILLY THINK ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES. THEN AS ONE, THEY DOWN THEIR DRINKS AND HEAD FOR THE DOOR..]

**CUT TO:**

SCENE 962/20. TURPIN ROAD. EXT. NIGHT.  
18.24.

L

[PEGGY'S WALKING DOWN TURPIN ROAD,  
JACK BESIDE HER, AN UNWELCOME  
COMPANION. THEY'RE APPROACHING THE  
TURNING INTO BRIDGE STREET..]

JACK: I reckon we could be mates, you and  
me.

PEGGY: Yeah?

JACK: Yeah.

PEGGY: [COOL] And what makes you think  
that?

JACK: You got spirit.

PEGGY: Listen, I wouldn't be your mate if  
you was the last man on earth.

[AND PEGGY TURNS TO SET OFF AGAIN,  
BUT STUMBLES. JACK DARTS FORWARD TO  
CATCH HER]

JACK: You alright?

PEGGY: Bloomin' heels!

[PEGGY BENDS DOWN, PICKS UP THE HEEL  
THAT'S SNAPPED OFF HER SHOE]

JACK: It's a sign.

**PEGGY:** It's a sign alright. Sign I should have stayed back home.

**JACK:** Or maybe it's a sign that our evening ain't meant to be over.

[JACK NODS TOWARD THE SIGN FOR SCARLET'S, GLOWING IN THE DARKNESS]

**PEGGY:** You gotta be jokin'.

**JACK:** Fancy some absinthe myself. You ever tried absinthe?

**PEGGY:** Run a pub, don't I? An' I don't much like it.

**JACK:** Nah, but strong for a dainty little thing like you.

**PEGGY:** [BRISTLING] Right. Get yourself inside. I'll drink you under the table, then carry you home over my shoulder.

[AND PEGGY STRIDES TOWARD SCARLET, LOPSIDED WITH HER MISSING HEEL. JACK WATCHES HER GO..]

**JACK:** And I'll bet you just could, darlin', I'll bet you just could...

[AND JACK FOLLOWS PEGGY TOWARD SCARLET, LOVING IT]

**CUT TO:**



SCENE 962/21. VIC DOWNSTAIRS. INT. NIGHT.  
18.26.

3A

[IN ON STACEY AT THE BAR AS DAWN  
LEAVES TWO GASSES THEIR WHISKIES ON THE  
BAR AND GO TO GREET A FRIEND AS HE  
ENTERS. STACEY SWIPES THE WHISKIES,  
DOWNS THEM AND MOVES OFF TOWARD JAKE.  
BUT AS SHE'S ABOUT TO SIT, BRADLEY  
CATCHES HER ARM]

BRADLEY: Why are you doing this?

STACEY: I'm not messing about with little  
boys no more.

[STACEY SHAKES HERSELF FREE OF HIS  
GRIP AND HEADS TOWARD JAKE.

[\*NEXT SECTION TO BE FILMED  
SEPARATELY]

GO TO ROSIE WHO'S FOUND MIKE]

ROSIE: You can't go.

MIKE:

[MIKE'S HEAD FALLS INTO HIS HANDS.  
ROSIE LAYS A COMFORTING HAND ON HIS  
SHOULDER]

**ROSIE:** Come back to ours. You've got a  
bed for as long as you need it.

[OUT ON MIKE WEIGHING UP HIS OPTIONS.]

PAT ENTERS, FINDS DAWN COLLECTING  
GLASSES BY THE DOOR]

**PAT:** Dawn, you seen Kevin in here  
tonight?

**DAWN:** Yeah, one drink and he left.

**PAT:** [CONCERNED] I dunno what's got into  
him. I've made dinner...

[AND PAT LEAVES..]

**CUT TO:**

SCENE 962/22. JACK'S VAN. INT. NIGHT.  
18.27.

*L*

[AND WE SEE KEVIN, CHEERFULLY  
OBLIVIOUS, TUCKED UP WITH A BAG OF  
CHIPS AND A CAN OF BEER. PAPER IN  
HAND, CALMING MUSIC PLAYING GENTLY IN  
THE BACKGROUND, HE COULDN'T BE  
HAPPIER..]

CUT TO:

SCENE 962/23. SCARLET. INT. NIGHT.  
18.31.

2 A

[AT THE BAR, JACK'S FLIRTING WITH THE  
NISE BARMAID AS SHE POURS OUT TWO  
MEASURES OF ABSINTHE. BUT THEIR  
FLIRT IS CURTAILED AS PEGGY REJOINS  
THEM, AND LOCKS EYES WITH THE

**JACK:** [cont] That hurt.

[AND JACK PEERS BACK OVER THE BAR,  
GAWKING AT THE BARMAID]

**PEGGY:** [HIDING HER AMUSEMENT] Don't!  
Acting like a dirty old man.

[BUT JACK TAKES ANOTHER PEEK. TURNS  
BACK, SEES PEGGY'S SMILING DESPITE  
HERSELF]

**JACK:** So you can do it then?

**PEGGY:** What?

**JACK:** Smile.

[AND PEGGY'S SMILE DISAPPEARS]

**PEGGY:** I smile when I got something to  
smile about. That one was a mistake...

[BUT AS PEGGY TURNS TO THE BAR, SHE  
BEAMS. NO MISTAKING THAT - SHE'S  
STARTING TO ENJOY HERSELF]

**CUT TO:**

SCENE 962/24. GEORGE STREET. EXT. NIGHT.  
18.39.

*L*

[BILLY EMERGES FROM THE ARJEE BHAJEE  
TO FIND HONEY WAITING NERVOUSLY FOR  
NEWS..]

HONEY: Well?

SCENE 962/25. SCARLET. INT. NIGHT.  
18.41.

2 A

[THE MUSIC'S BEEN CRANKED UP A NOTCH, AND A COUPLE OF BRAVE SOULS HAVE STARTED DANCING. JACK AND PEGGY LOOK TO EACH OTHER AND, AS IF SYNCHRONISED, PICK UP THEIR SHOTS OF ABSINTHE AND KNOCK THEM BACK. LOOK TO EACH OTHER AGAIN. HINT OF A SMILE. ANYONE BACKING DOWN? NO. JACK NODS TO the nse barmaid, STANDING NEARBY, AND SHE POURS THEM BOTH ANOTHER SHOT. THEY'RE A WEE BIT PISHED.]

A NEW TRACK BLASTS OUT - 'YOU REALLY GOT ME' BY THE KINKS. JACK'S EARS PRICK UP]

JACK: [SUDDENLY SERIOUS] D'you want to dance with me?

PEGGY: Are you pulling my leg?

[THEY BOTH KNOCK BACK ANOTHER ABSINTHE]

JACK: You're uptight -

PEGGY: I'm what?

JACK: Uptight.

PEGGY: Up-tight!?! [A LOOK, OUTRAGED] Up-tight!?!

JACK: You're too bothered 'bout what other people think.

**PEGGY:** I'll show you who's uptight!

[PEGGY KICKS OFF HER HEELS, GRABS  
JACK BY THE ARM]

Come 'ere you!

[OUT ON GRINNING JACK AS PEGGY YANKS  
HIM TOWARD THE DANCE-FLOOR. AND WE  
GO OUT ON PEGGY AND JACK, SHAKING IT  
UP ON THE DANCE FLOOR]

**CUT TO:**



SCENE 962/26. VIC DOWNSTAIRS. INT. NIGHT.  
18.43.

3A

[GO TO STACEY AS SHE SITS BESIDE  
JAKE, GLANCES COOLLY OVER TO BRADLEY.  
THEIR EYES MEET, AND SHE SHUFFLES  
TOWARD JAKE WHO'S STUDIOUSLY TRYING  
TO IGNORE HER]

STACEY: You look lonely.

JAKE: [IRRITATED] You what?

STACEY: Are you?

JAKE: Sorry?

STACEY: 'Cause maybe I am too.

JAKE: Look, Stacey, I've had my share of  
psycho women and I'm not Dennis. I don't

**DEANO:** I don't know how that bloke does it.

[DEANO TURNS TO SEE BRADLEY'S IN A STATE]

Just look away, mate.

[BUT BRADLEY CARRIES ON STARING AS, ALERTED BY THE FRACAS, DAWN COMES OVER TO JAKE AND STACEY]

**DAWN:** Get her out of here, would you? Peggy comes back and finds her like this, I'll get it in the neck.

[JAKE GIVES DAWN A LOOK. DOES HE HAVE TO? REALISES HE DOES. TURNS, GRABS STACEY BY THE ARM AND GUIDES HER SWIFTLY AND FIRMLY TOWARD THE DOOR.

BACK WITH BRADLEY AND DEANO. BRADLEY STANDS, PULLS ON HIS COAT, BURNING WITH RAGE]

**DEANO:** You have got to be kidding...

**BRADLEY:** Can't let this happen.

**DEANO:** He'll kill you.

**BRADLEY:** So?

**DEANO:** She's a slapper, Brad, a tart.

**BRADLEY:** [TURNING ON HIM, STEELY] No, Deano, she ain't!

[AND BRADLEY STRIDES TOWARD THE DOOR.  
DEANO MAKES TO FOLLOW..]

CUT TO:

SCENE 962/27. SQUARE. EXT. NIGHT.  
18.45/T.C.

L

[PICK UP ON ANGRY BRADLEY, AS HE EMERGES FROM THE VIC TO SEE JAKE TRYING TO FROG-MARCH STACEY TOWARD THE SLATERS]

**JAKE:** Just walk straight, will you?

[BUT STACEY CAN'T. JAKE SCOOPS ONE ARM OF STACEY'S ROUND HIS SHOULDERS]

**STACEY:** [ANNOYED] Will you leave me?

**JAKE:** Yeah, right, that'll work. I'm taking you home.

[JAKE LIFTS STACEY ALMOST OFF THE GROUND. AND THAT'S ENOUGH FOR BRADLEY. HE PACES TOWARD THEM AS DEANO EMERGES FROM THE VIC]

**STACEY:**

**JAKE:** [cont] What on earth?

[BRADLEY STANDS]

**BRADLEY:** Keep your filthy hands off her!

[JAKE CAN'T HELP BUT LAUGH AT THE  
LUNACY]

**JAKE:** You seriously thought I was  
interested? I've got a jacket older than  
her.

CUT TO:

SCENE 962/28. MILLERS' HOUSE. INT. NIGHT.  
18.47.

2

[HALLWAY. KEITH FOLLOWS ROSIE INTO  
THE HALL, CARRYING SOME CHILDRENS'  
BOOKS]

ROSIE:

**MIKE:** [STANDING] It's alright, Rosie.  
Leave us to talk, eh?

[AND RELUCTANTLY ROSIE LEAVES,  
CLOSING THE DOOR BEHIND HER]

**KEITH:** All worked out really well for  
You, hasn't it?

**MIKE:** My mum died... Yeah, it's been a  
top week.

**KEITH:** Said I'm sorry 'bout your mum but  
that don't give you the right to ruin our  
lives. You said you were going.

**MIKE:** Rosie offered me a place to stay.

**KEITH:** Yeah, well we all know you got  
Rosie eatin' out your hand.

**MIKE:** I didn't mess up your relationship,  
Keith.

**KEITH:** You took her away from me!

**MIKE:** You really think she'd have come if  
you'd been looking after her?

**KEITH:** I want you out tonight... Her  
offering you a place to kip, she's doing  
that 'cause she feels sorry for you. Only  
I know how your mind works. Door opens a  
crack, you boot it wide open. But just you  
remember this: Rosie may have left with  
you, but she came back to me. She chose  
me. And you'd better remember that.



**MIKE:** That what you really think? She chose you? She chose the kids, Keith. The kids.

**KEITH:** You're lying...

[ROSIE BARGES IN. OBVIOUSLY BEEN LISTENING AT THE DOOR]

**ROSIE:** I said no more arguments!

**MIKE:** Ask her. Go on, ask her.

[KEITH TURNS TO ROSIE. SHE CAN HARDLY BEAR TO MEET HIS EYES. KEITH DOESN'T NEED TO ASK HER ANYTHING - IT'S WRIT ALL OVER HER FACE. HE BURSTS FROM THE ROOM. FOLLOW HIM OUT AS HE STUMBLES WILDLY TOWARD THE FRONT DOOR]

**CUT TO:**

SCENE 962/29. VIC DOWNSTAIRS. INT. NIGHT.  
19.05.

1A

[HONEY AND BILLY STAND WITH DAWN AT  
THE BAR, THEIR FEARS THREATENING TO  
SPILL OVER..]

BILLY: And they definitely haven't come

**PEGGY:** I ain't talking to you, Billy.  
Running off an' leaving me with a git like  
that.

**HONEY:** Where is he?

**PEGGY:** Well, I said I'd beat him home,  
and I bloomin' well did.

[AND JACK ENTERS, OUT OF PUFF]

Took your time, didn't you?

**JACK:** Gave you a ten second head-start.

**PEGGY:** Oh, what a gent you are. I been  
standing here a minute.

[AND PEGGY STARTS MOVING TO TOWARD  
THE BAR. JACK FOLLOWS HER, PASSING AN  
AMAZED BILLY AND HONEY. HE KISSES HIS  
DAUGHTER..]

**JACK:** [FLEETING TO HONEY] Hello,  
darlin'...

[...BUT KEEPS ON MOVING]

**PEGGY:** [TO JACK] Fancy a night cap?

**JACK:** [WITH A GRIN] Think you've had  
enough, don't you?

**PEGGY:** If I didn't know better, I'd say  
you sounded a bit uptight.

**JACK:** And I'd say you were coming across  
a bit full of yourself...

SCENE 962/30. BRANNINGS' HOUSE. INT.  
NIGHT. 19.07.

1 A

[STACEY SITS AT THE KITCHEN TABLE,  
BLOTTO, WHILST BRADLEY MAKES HER A  
HOT CHOCOLATE IN THE BACKGROUND]

STACEY: I've been a cow.

BRADLEY: Yeah, you have.

STACEY: You're angry.

BRADLEY: Yeah, I am.

[BRADLEY PLACES A HOT CHOCOLATE IN  
FRONT OF STACEY]

Hot chocolate. My Mum used to make it for  
me.

STACEY: Bet your mum'd tell you to steer  
well clear of me.

BRADLEY: Yeah, she would. But then she  
married my dad, so what she says don't  
count for much.

[AND BRADLEY GIVES STACEY A SWEET  
SMILE. SHE DRINKS]

CUT TO:

SCENE 962/31. VIC UPSTAIRS. INT. NIGHT.  
19.10.

1A

[UPSTAIRS IN THE SITTING ROOM, THE ATMOSPHERE HAS CHANGED. THE LIGHTS ARE DIMMED AS PEGGY AND JACK SIT CLOSE ON THE SOFA, ENJOYING A FINAL DRINK]

JACK: Enjoy yourself?

PEGGY: Might have done. You?

JACK: Might have done. [HALF-BEAT] We might have to do this again sometime.

PEGGY: Thought you didn't make plans.

JACK: Don't as a rule.

PEGGY: Simple as that, eh? Jack the Lad. Keep on movin'. Nothing between you and the stars.

JACK: That's the general idea.

PEGGY: And you never get lonely? All those long starry nights?

JACK: Sometimes. But that's the price you pay. You can be lonely, you can be bored. Know which one I prefer.

PEGGY: And that was why you bought the car was it? Drivin' around, lookin' for adventures, excitement.

**JACK:** No, no, that was...[A BEAT. DIRECT, BUT NOT UNKIND] I didn't buy the car 'til after Jan died.

[A BEAT. PEGGY FEELS AWFUL]

**PEGGY:** Oh, Jack, I'm sorry.

**JACK:** Don't worry, you weren't to know. Jan died when Honey was a baby. Every now and again, I just needed to get out the house.

**PEGGY:** I'm sorry.

**JACK:** No need. Long time ago now.

**PEGGY:** Must've been hard, her dying that young. You must've missed her.

**JACK:** Yeah, I did. What about you, get lonely in this place, do you?

**PEGGY:** Sometimes.

**JACK:** Maybe Billy and Honey should come live here, if that's what you'd like.

**PEGGY:** Yeah, I would.

[JACK HANDS PEGGY HIS EMPTY GLASS. HE STANDS, PEGGY STANDS. JACK HOLDS OUT A HAND FOR PEGGY TO SHAKE..]

**JACK:** Well then, thank's for a wonderful evening.

**PEGGY:** Thank you.

[PEGGY LINGERS A LITTLE TOO LONG OVER LETTING GO OF JACK'S HAND. THEIR EYES MEET. JACK LEANS...AND KISSES HER. PEGGY RESPONDS, BRIEFLY...

...THEN BREAKS OFF. A LOOK, THEN JACK SMILES. HE MOVES IN AGAIN. THERE'S A DEEPER KISS... TOO DEEP! PEGGY GENTLY PUSHES HIM AWAY]

[NOT SHARP] I said a drink, not bed and breakfast.

[JACK GRINS, GOES TO THE DOOR, TURNS]

**JACK:** Said it before, I reckon you and me could be mates.

**PEGGY:** [SMILES] Not if you were the last man on earth...

[JACK EXITS WITH A GRIN. PEGGY LOOKS THOUGHTFUL - COULD HE BE MORE THAN A MATE?]

**CUT TO:**



SCENE 962/32. BRANNINGS' HOUSE. INT.  
NIGHT. 19.12.

3A

[BRADLEY AND STACEY SIT AT THE TABLE]

BRADLEY: [TENTATIVE] Maybe we could try again.

STACEY: No.

BRADLEY: Booked a date with Jake?

STACEY: I don't like Jake.

BRADLEY: No?

STACEY: I like you.

BRADLEY: [PLEASED] So come out with me.

STACEY: If I like someone, it don't work.

BRADLEY: 'Cause people leave, people change, that it?

STACEY: That's right. And I ain't goin' to be soft no more.

BRADLEY: Can't live your life like that, Stace. Yeah, people are nice one minute, nasty the next, they up and leave without a goodbye...people change and people leave.

[BEAT. BRADLEY LOOKS INTO HER EYES]

But what if I promise , here and now, to  
be the one thing in your life that don't..

[WHEN BRADLEY REACHES OUT, STACEY  
DOESN'T HESITATE TO LET HIM HOLD HER.  
THERE'S A KISS. STACEY LOOKS AT HIM]

I'm mad about you, Stace.

[AND LOOKING INTO HIS STRONG, KIND  
FACE, STACEY'S SO MOVED, SHE PULLS  
HIM CLOSE, CLINGS ON FOR DEAR LIFE..]

**CUT TO:**

SCENE 962/33. VIC UPSTAIRS. INT. NIGHT.  
19.15.

1A

[PEGGY'S SITTING, THINKING ABOUT JACK, ABOUT THEIR EVENING TOGETHER. SHE GETS UP, EXCITED, A SCHOOL-GIRL AGAIN. APPROACHES THE WINDOW, EXACTLY THE PLACE WHERE SHE STARTED...

...AND PEGGY LOOKS DOWN ON THE SQUARE]

CUT TO:

SCENE 962/34. SQUARE. EXT. NIGHT.  
19.15/T.C.

*L*

[...WHERE JACK IS CROSSING BACK TO  
THE VAN, TURNS TO SEE PEGGY...AND  
BLOWS HER A KISS]

CUT TO:

SCENE 962/35. VIC UPSTAIRS. INT. NIGHT.  
19.15/T.C.

3A

[PEGGY SMILES, FINALLY CLOSES THE  
CURTAINS...]

[...AND CAN'T RESIST HUGGING HERSELF,  
WITH A SMILE]

FADE OUT