

Home Front

Episode 4

7th August 1914 Ralph Winwood

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By KATIE HIMS

Cast

Ralph	Nicholas Murchie
Isabel	Keely Beresford
Alice	Claire-Louise Cordwell
Dorothea Waitress	Rachel Shelley

ISABEL No. Not at all.

RALPH

ISABEL A terrible thing just happened.

RALPH What? What was it?

ISABEL In the post office.

RALPH The post office?

ISABEL Yes a man died. A postman. He collapsed while he was speaking. He was just saying to the other man at the counter - about how many more letters there were. Already. Since the 4th. One moment he was standing up and the next moment he was on the floor.

RALPH

I think we ought to

SCENE 2 **INT. TEA SHOP**

ISABEL I do feel ridiculous.

RALPH Why?

ISABEL For making a fuss.

RALPH

RALPH Scones! Scones. Marvellous. Could you bring us a scone for my friend here?

WAITRESS Jam? Cream?

RALPH Definitely.

ISABEL Yes. Of course.

RALPH Good.

WAITRESS Is that everything?

RALPH Yes. Thank you. Thank you.

WAITRESS

ISABEL Why have you been eating so much cake?

RALPH Oh er it was my birthday.

ISABEL Yesterday was your birthday?

RALPH

ISABEL You kept that awfully quiet.

RALPH I was forty. If you must know. And it made me feel terribly old.

ISABEL

RALPH

ISABEL Yesterday was your fortieth birthday.

RALPH Yes.

ISABEL And your dog was shot.

RALPH

ISABEL so sorry.

RALPH

ISABEL I meant to say sorry before now.

RALPH Miss Graham.
fault. Just one of those things.

ISABEL
Unusual.

RALPH Kush.

ISABEL Kush th

Ralph It means deified hero.

ISABEL Goodness.

RALPH

ISABEL You do know that Freddie is absolutely mortified
you.

RALPH I do. And this morning he sent my wife the most
beautiful bouquet of gardenias.

ISABEL Did he? Oh go

RALPH Well I shall include Freddie in my prayers.

ISABEL

your dog. And on your birthday too.

RALPH LAUGHS SLIGHTLY

RALPH

Well apparently he had some assistance from the Macknade boy.

ISABEL

But he should never have let the Macknade boy get his hands on the gun.

RALPH

We live and we learn.

WAITRESS BRINGS THE TEA

WAITRESS

Here we go. Tea for two.

RALPH

Thank you.

ISABEL

Thank you.

RALPH

Shall I be mother?

ISABEL

Oh er yes.

RALPH POURS THE TEA.

RALPH

There you are.

ISABEL

Thank you.

ISABEL TAKES A SIP OF TEA.

ISABEL

Did you know that I was engaged once?

RALPH

Sorry?

ISABEL

I was engaged. Years ago now he

RALPH

Er yes I believe we do have some. In that cupboard in the kitchen.

ISABEL

We have several at the house but almost certainly not enough for an outing of twenty children.

ISABEL

But h

beach. And all kinds of good things to eat. Please let

SCENE FIVE INTERIOR. VICARAGE.

RALPH COMES HOME

DOROTHEA Hello dear.

RALPH Hello dear.

DOROTHEA Have you eaten anything?

RALPH No.

DOROTHEA Shall I fetch you something?

RALPH ?

DOROTHEA

RALPH Is it?

DOROTHEA Of course.

RALPH You know I forgot what day it was.

DOROTHEA

RALPH Sorry?

DOROTHEA Which would you prefer?

BEAT

DOROTHEA Ralph?

RALPH Do you know that a postman dropped dead in the

DOROTHEA How extraordinary.

RALPH I met her in the street and she was most distressed.
Absolutely white with shock. I thought she might have
fainted. So I took her for a cup of tea. It was the
Coronation Tea Rooms in the High Street you know
the one?

DOROTHEA Yes.

RALPH Well
leave her like that. In the middle of the street.

DOROTHEA Well of course.

RALPH

DOROTHEA Mind? Why should I mind?

RALPH That I took Isabel Graham for tea.

DOROTHEA LAUGHS SLIGHTLY

DOROTHEA You did the right thing. You did absolutely the right
thing.

(MUSIC HOME FRONT CLOSING SIG. 12 SECS USED IN TOTAL)