

Home Front

Episode 1

4th August 1914, Kitty Wilson

By KATIE HIMMS

Cast

Kitty	Ami Metcalf
Ralph/Shopkeeper	Nicholas Murchie
Adam	Leo Montague
Dieter	Joe Sims
Customer	Craig Els (RDC)
Cynic Man	Wilf Scolding (RDC)

RALPH Well I'm not sure.

KITTY What'll happen to all the Germans living here?

RALPH Well a great number of them have already left.

KITTY Yeh but not all of them. There's loads of them still here. Like like the pork butcher. Whatshisname. He's still here. Lived here for twenty thirty years or something. I mean what'll happen to him? Will he be arrested?

RALPH I've no idea Kitty.

KITTY Cos that's not fair is it? He's lived here for years. He's done nothing wrong. He's sold sausages and minded his own business and he's done nothing wrong.

RALPH Why are you so upset about the butcher?

KITTY And what about his kids? His kids who were born here. I mean will they be German too? What about his wife? I mean, she's English.

RALPH Is this butcher a friend of yours?

KITTY No. No. I just don't think it's right. That's all.

RALPH What isn't right?

ADAM (CALLING IN DISTANCE) Kitty! Kitty!

ADAM ARRIVING HAULING THE WASHING

KITTY Stop yelling! Sorry Reverend I don't know what he's

KITTY

What have you got to yell for?

ADAM

Cos I've brought the washing.

KITTY

So?

ADAM

So I didn't want you going off did ling off dl M

KITTY He hasn't got time to explain all that. You heard him.
 He's got a sermon to write.

RALPH The truth is Adam it's very complicated and I don't
 understand it myself. I believe it has something to do
 with Franz Ferdinand.

ADAM What's Franz Ferdinand?

SCENE 2**EXT. BEACH**

KITTY Well – say something.

DIETER Mein Gott.

KITTY What?

DIETER Mein Gott.

KITTY Dieter.

DIETER Was machen wir jetzt?

KITTY I don't know what you're saying.

DIETER Was machen wir *jetzt*?

KITTY Dieter.

DIETER Jah.

KITTY Speak English.

DIETER Was?

KITTY You're speaking German.

DIETER Das tut mir leid.

KITTY You're still speaking German.

DIETER Sorry! I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

KITTY What were you saying?

DIETER Nothing.

KITTY Do you blame me?

DIETER ... No.

KITTY You hesitated.

DIETER I didn't.

KITTY You blame me, don't you.

DIETER Course not.

KITTY You think I wanted this? You think I planned it or something?

DIETER No.

KITTY So why you being –

DIETER Because it's a shock, and I...

KITTY Sorry. Yeh. Sorry. I – I suppose I've had a bit of time. To get used to the idea. I know it's not what we planned, but it'll be alright. We'll be alright. Won't we?

DIETER The problem is...

KITTY What?

DIETER I want to go back.

KITTY Go back?

DIETER ... to Germany.

KITTY When?

DIETER Now. Today. Before the deadline.

BEAT

I've been thinking about it a lot. And it doesn't feel right. To stay.

KITTY What about me? What about the baby?

DIETER I didn't know about the baby did I?

KITTY Yeh but now you do.

DIETER I want to be in my own country. I want to go home.

KITTY Go then. Go. Don't mind me. I'll just throw myself off a bridge or something.

DIETER Kitty.

BEAT

KITTY I've got to go.

DIETER Go where?

KITTY Into town. Buy marzipan.

DIETER Why?

KITTY It's the vicar's birthday – cook's making a cake.

DIETER I'll come with you.

KITTY You don't have to.

DIETER I want to.

KITTY Kush! Kush come on we've got to go!

FX **THE DOG BARKS.**

Kush! Come on Boy. That's it.

KITTY PUTS KUSH ON A LEAD.

KITTY Good Boy.

DIETER Kush.

KITTY It's Indian. Vicar's wife grew up there.

DIETER It's a strange name for a dog I think.

KITTY Kush is some sort of God. It's not very Christian for a Vicar's wife.

SCENE 3 **EXT. BUSY STREET.**

DIETER Why's there such a long queue?

KITTY I don't know.

DIETER It's so busy.

KITTY Excuse me.

CUSTOMER Yes?

KITTY Do you know why's there such a long queue?

CUSTOMER It's people panicking.

DIETER What are they panicking for?

CUSTOMER Well they think all the food's going to run out don't they.

CUSTOMER Can't I get a half pound of sugar?

DIETER Can we just get marzipan?

SK

KITTY Watch the dog will you.
MAN Sorry Miss!
KITTY There's so many people. Why are there so many people?
DIETER They're here to see the soldiers.
KITTY What soldiers?
DIETER There.
KITTY Where?
DIETER Coming up the street.

FX A TOWN CRIER RINGS HIS BELL

A BAND IS PLAYING

WE HEAR SOLDIERS MARCHING.

PEOPLE CHEER.

WOMAN Company of Buffs. Don't they look handsome?

KITTY They do.

WOMAN I do like a man in uniform.

WOMAN CHEERS.

FX FADE UP THE MUSIC AND MARCHING MUCH LOUDER.

DIETER I want to go.

KITTY In a minute.

DIETER I want to go now.

KITTY But I want to see the soldiers. Good luck!

KITTY CHEERS.

DIETER **(whispers)** Kitty.

KITTY Yes?
DIETER I'm going.
KITTY You're going?
DIETER Are you coming with me?
KITTY Yeh alright yeh. Erm. Excuse me.

FX KUSH BARKS.

Excuse me. Sorry. About the dog. Sorry. Come on
Kush. There's too many people isn't there. Good boy.

**FX THE SOUND OF THE CROWD CHEERING,
MARCHING AND THE BAND PLAYING RECEDES
SLIGHTLY INTO THE BACKGROUND.**

KITTY What?
DIETER Those men could be going away tonight to kill
Germans. My friends. My cousins. My brothers.
KITTY Well your friends cousins brothers would kill them too!
DIETER Yes but I wasn't cheering them on was I.
KITTY If you were in Germany. You would be.
DIETER If I was in Germany I would be marching myself.
KITTY Is that what you want to do then? Even with the baby?
DIETER Why don't you come with me?
KITTY Where?
DIETER To Germany. If war is declared tonight we could go
tomorrow. We can marry when we get there. We
could live with my mother.
KITTY So I'd be in Germany on my own – well living with
your mother and a tiny baby – while you're off fighting

a war against England – and I wouldn't be able to understand a word anyone says-

DIETER You'd learn German-

KITTY I'd be the enemy-

DIETER Well that's what I will be here.

KITTY Yeh yeh that's true isn't it.

FX THE DOG BARKS.

What's the matter Kush? Mm?

FX THE DOG BARKS AGAIN.

Kush doesn't want you to go.

DIETER Is that what he said?

KITTY Yeh.

FX KUSH BARKS AGAIN.

DIETER Have you told your mother?

KITTY About the baby?

DIETER Yes.

KITTY No.

DIETER Your father?

KITTY Are you mad?

DIETER We should tell them before war is declared. We can tell them we're engaged. They might

KITTY Is it that simple?

DIETER I'm sorry - I don't have a ring. But I will get one. I promise.

KITTY I love you.

DIETER And I love you too.

KITTY I love the baby. And I haven't even met him.

DIETER Do you think it's a boy?

KITTY Yeh I do.

DIETER Can we call him Emil?

KITTY Isn't that a girl's name?

DIETER It's my father's name.

KITTY Emil. Okay. Isn't it a bit...

DIETER What?

KITTY German.

DIETER LAUGHS

I'm sorry. I don't mean it like that. It just might not be the best name for a baby. I mean a baby born – you know. Now.

DIETER He won't be born now. We have six months.

KITTY What if the war's not over then?

DIETER What if it never gets started?

KITTY That's true. It might not happen.

DIETER It really might not. So, now we tell your father.

KITTY Kush will like that.

DIETER

Yeah?

KITTY

He likes barking at the trains.

SCENE 4 FOLKESTONE HARBOUR STATION

FX SOUND OF TRAIN.

FX

DIETER Nobody voted him in. He is the king. Kaiser is like king.

ALBERT Well then you should get a different King shouldn't you.

DIETER You know it's Britain that is threatening to declare war on Germany.

ALBERT Yeh and why's that then? Because you've gone and declared war on France. And all we're saying. All we're saying is that we want you lot to respect the neutrality of Belgium. But you won't do that will you. You lot won't give us lot that assurance.

KITTY Dad –

ALBERT What?

KITTY It's not Dieter's fault.

ALBERT What isn't?

KITTY Everything with Germany and France and Belgium.

ALBERT I know. I know that.

KITTY Well you're saying it like it is. Dieter's done nothing wrong.

ALBERT What's the problem? We're about to go to war with
Germany.

DIETER We might not be. It might not happen.

KITTY Yeh Dad. Nothing's happened yet.

DIETER Nobody died.

ALBERT Not yet.

DIETER Maybe nobody will die.

ALBERT There's fat chance of that in a war is there.

DIETER What I mean is it might come to nothing.

ALBERT Yeah, it might. It might.