

1 BILL: Who asked you, you know-all-know-nothing.
2 MICKEY: Just saying.
3 BILL: Got any more smokes, you thieving toe-rag.
4 MICKEY: Na, you smoked them all yesterday.
5 BILL: Why don't you go out and see if you can get us some
6 more?
7 ALICE: He hasn't even had his breakfast yet.
8 BILL: That because there aint no breakfast to be had, you
9 dim-witted bint.
10 MICKEY: I'm going. (HE GOES)
11 BILL: And hurry up. (THEN, FROM THE PAPER) Oh listen
12 to this, you could not make this up. They're starting-
13 up something called a Bantam regiment. (STARTS
14 LAUGHING) You know what a bantam is? Yeah, I'm
15 talking to you - toothless boy.
16 JOE: A sort of cock?
17 BILL: A very small one. Oh look at this, they're now taking
18 men so short they belong in circuses. But my
19 scrawny, son who's more chicken than cock still can't
20 get himself signed up.
21 JOE: If I was chicken I wouldn't want to sign up, would I?
22 BILL: You think it'll make you a hero but first sign of the Hun
23 you'll be on your knees crying for your stupid mother.
24 JOE: Will you shut up with calling her stupid?
25 ALICE: Forget it Joe, I've had much worse.
26 BILL: Or what? Or what you toothless chicken?

1 **FX: BILL CHAIR SCRAPES BACK AS HE STANDS TO**
2 **SQUARE UP TO JOE**

3 Come on Mr big shot bantamweight show us what
4 you got.

5 JOE: We're not supposed to be fighting our own family.
6 We're supposed to be fighting the Hun.

7 BILL: (SNEERS, MIMICS) We're supposed to be fighting
8 the Hun. You, my son, you couldn't land a punch on a
9 cream bun, never mind the Hun, ha ha.

10 **JOE PUNCHES BILL IN THE FACE**

11 ALICE: Joe! No!

12 BILL: Little runt. Let me show you how it's done. (STARTS
13 PUNCHING JOE WHO TRIES TO DEFEND
14 HIMSELF)

15 ALICE: Leave him be Bill. Please.

16 BILL: (PUNCTUATING EACH WORD WITH A PUNCH)
17 Keep out of it.

18 ALICE: (TRYING TO PULL BILL OFF) Stop it. Get off him.

19 BILL: (TURN TO ALICE) Stay out of it.

20 ALICE: Leave the child alone

21 BILL He's not a child, is he? According to him, he's a man.

22 ALICE But Jimmy wasn't, was he?

23 BILL Shut it.

24 JOE Mum! No!

25 ALICE Didn't stop you breaking his arm.

1 (BILL PUNCHES ALICE IN THE FACE, NOSE
2 BREAKS SHE FALLS BACK)
3 JOE: Mum? Mum? Are you alright?
4 BILL: She asked for that.
5 JOE: Where are you going?
6 BILL: Out. And don't even think of going snivelling to that
7 money-grabbing quack while I'm gone.
FX BILL GOES SLAMMING THE DOOR BEHIND HIM

1 **SCENE 2. EXT HARBOUR. 10.30. AM.**

2 **MERVYN IS AT THE HARBOUR, PACKING FISH**
3 **FOR SALE WHEN JOE COMES UP.**

4 JOE: Couldn't spare us some of that ice? Could yer?

5 MERVYN: Si-si-sit down. (SCOOPING UP SOME ICE) I'll pu-pu-
6 put it on for you.

7 JOE: Oh it's not for me Merv. It's for Mum. She's much
8 worse than me.

9 **MICKY RUNS UP.**

10 MICKY: What's happened?

11 JOE: I think he broke Mum's nose.

12 MICKY: You left him there with her on her own?

13 JOE: No, he went out. She wanted ice for her face.

MERVYN: Here I'll put so-so

- 1 JOE: Just wondered.
- 2 MERVYN: (GIVES JOE ICE) Here.
- 3 JOE: (PUTS IT IN HIS MOUTH BUT SPITS IT OUT) Ahh!
- 4 Sorry, it hurts too much. Thanks though.
- 5 MERVYN: Here, take this cloth. Wi-wi-wipe your chops. You got
- 6 bl-bl-blood, blood, all over.
- 7 JOE: Thanks. (THEN) Oh, smells of fish.
- 8 MERVYN: Sor, sorry
- 9 JOE: Thanks, thanks, Merv. See you later.
- 10 MERVYN: Where are you off, now?
- 11 JOE: See if I can sign up.
- 12 MERVYN: Again?
- 13 JOE: It said in the paper today that they'll take anyone now.
- 14 MERVYN: Good lu-lul-luck then.
- 15 **JOE GOES**
- 16

1 **SCENE 3. EXT. TOWN HALL. 12.05 PM**

2 **HUMPHREY AND JOE COME OUT OF THE TOWN**

3 **HALL TOGETHER**

HUMPHREY: Ho

1 JOE: I never really went to school so I don't think that's
2 what's holding me back. I think it's my teeth.

3 HUMPHREY: If you don't mind me saying you don't look like you
4 have many left.

5 JOE: I don't.

6 HUMPHREY: I think they need their heads testing, turning you
7 down. I wouldn't want to go twelve rounds with you.

8 JOE: If only me old man thought that an' all.

9 MICKEY: (COMING UP TO HIM) Alright Joe!

10 HUMPHREY: I better make a move. It looks as though the heavens
11 are about to open and I've forgotten my umbrella.
12 Good day to you.

13 JOE: Yes, good day to you too.

14 MICKEY: Good day. Who was that toff?

15 JOE: Said his name was Grimes, Humphrey Grimes.
16 Seems they turned him down too.

17 MICKEY: They turned you down again?

18 JOE: Shut up. I feel like throwing myself off the pier as it is.

19 MICKEY: What did they turn him down for?

20 JOE: His school not being on a list or something. But he
21 seemed to think you could pay to get yourself in. Fat
22 chance of that for me.

23 MICKEY: If you had the money is that what you'd do with it.

24 JOE: Course. I want to join up more than anything.

25 MICKEY: Come with me but keep your mouth shut.

26 **THEY GO.**

27

SCENE 4. INT. PAWNBROKERS. 1.00. PM.

1 **5. EXT. STREET. CONTINUOUS.**

2 **JOE AND MICKEY WALK AWAY FROM THE**
3 **SHOP.**

4 JOE: Blimey, Mickey. Where did you get that watch?

5 MICKEY: I found it.

6 JOE: What, really?

7 MICKEY: Really truly hope to die.

8 JOE: Don't say that.

9 MICKEY: Well, finders keepers?

10 JOE: How much do you think it's worth?

11 MICKEY: What comes after a hundred?

12 JOE: 101?

13 MICKEY: No, lots after.

14 JOE: A thousand?

15 MICKEY: I reckon it's worth that.

16 JOE: I could buy my own battalion for that.

17 MICKEY: You're not getting it all.

18 *JOE:* I know, I know. I won't want it all! (THEN) I don't
19 think. I wonder how much it costs to get in the
20 army?

21 MICKEY: I thought the army was supposed to pay you.
22 Not the other way around.

23 JOE: Me too, but that Grimes must know what he's
24 talking about. His parents paid for him to go to a

- 1 JOE: Them with money can do anything they like.
- 2 MICKEY: Don't stop them getting killed.
- 3 JOE No, Esme said they brought that Freddie
4 Graham back in a box last week.
- 5 MICKEY: Yes, because they had the money to do it.
- 6 JOE: That's true. If I get shot out there, I'll rot out
7 there.
- 8 MICKEY: Maybe Solly will give us enough money to get
9 you into the army AND bring your body back.
- 10 JOE: (PLEASED) Really?
- 11 MICKEY: I reckon we can pretty much get what we want
12 when we get that sort of cash.
- 13 JOE: Except get rid of Dad. He'll still be there.
- 14 MICKEY: Don't tell him nothing, right.
- 15 JOE: Course not!
- 16

1 **SCENE 6.**

2 **JOE AND MICKEY COME IN. ALICE IS SITTING AT**
3 **THE TABLE.**

4 JOE: (WHISPERS) Is he back yet?

5 ALICE: No, not been back all day, thank God.

6 JOE: You look terrible.

7 ALICE: It's worse than it looks.

8 JOE: (UPSET) Oh mum.

9 ALICE: I'm joking, Joe.

10 JOE: How can you?

11 ALICE: It's no use dwelling on how terrible everything is. Just
12 makes it worse. Anyhow, how did you get on?

13 JOE: Refused again.

14 ALICE: I'm sorry, son.

15 JOE: I can't understand it. I don't have hardly any teeth left
16 now for them to worry about.

17 ALICE: Oh Joe, don't.

18 JOE: No use dwelling on it. Just makes it worse, eh?

19 **MICKEY COMES IN.**

20 MICKEY: Is he back?

21 ALICE: Not yet.

22 JOE: Did you get him any smokes?

23 MICKEY: Three.

24 ALICE: Well done. That should see him through till bed time.

25 JOE: Then it all starts again tomorrow.

1 MICKEY: You stink!

2 JOE: Must be the ice.

3 MICKEY The whole place stinks

4 JOE Don't go on about it, Mickey

5 ALICE He's right. It stinks to high Heaven. Your father's
6 turned this house into a living Hell. No wonder Jimmy
7 doesn't want to come home.

8 JOE Oh mum, 'course he would have, if he could.

9 ALICE Would he? Really? You can't wait to go, can you?

10 JOE To fight for my country.

11 ALICE I just wish we could all sign up, and leave your father
12 here to stew in his own juice

13 JOE: When I saw Mervyn down at the harbour he said they
14 weren't going out tonight cos of the storm brewing.

15 MICKEY: So?

16 ALICE: Yes, what's that got to do with the price of fish?

17 JOE: There was others, other boats though that were
18 preparing to go out.

19 MICKEY: What are you talking about?

20 JOE: I'm talking about using the money to bribe someone to take our
21 Dad out on a boat in a storm and push him overboard.

22 ALICE: (HORRIFIED) Joe! You can't even think like that, let
23 alone say it out loud. We'd all be hung.

24 JOE: We'd be free. And we'd bribe them to say it was an accident.

25 ALICE: Who? Bribe who? And with what?

