

CORBYN ISLAND

Translated and adapted from
'L'Ile des Esclaves'
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1 SCENE 1

(EVE, INGLIS, ALEX, TC and ISLANDERS)

(There is music at club volume. The stage is dark with disco lights going. The characters dance. The music is cut short by the sound of an explosion. Darkness)

2 SCENE 2

(INGLIS is at the rear of the stage with is back to the audience, TC is front stage facing the audience. INGLIS is dressed in eighteenth century fancy dress. TC wears a tracksuit. Natural light, we can see the set, on which are some rocks. Around the set are signs/slogans - 'WELCOME TO CORBYN ISLAND, COMRADE', 'MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE ARE ENEMIES OF THE PEOPLE', 'VIVE LE 99%', 'TWO JAGS BAD, ONE BIKE GOOD', 'KEEP UP THE MOMENTUM', 'IN JEREMY WE TRUST' etc)

INGLIS

(After sighing) TC!

TC

(With a hip flask in one pocket. We see a gun in the other pocket which is concealed from the rest of the characters)
Yes Boss!

INGLIS

What's going to happen to us on this miserable fucking island?

TC

It don't look good boss. I reckon we'll starve slowly and then die. I'm no Ray Mears and you definitely ain't Bear Grylls.

INGLIS

Anyone else survive? Imagine, everyone dead but us. (He gives TC a look) I'm starting to think they were the lucky ones.

TC

Even the ones that survived the bomb were probably drowned.

INGLIS
How do you know it was a bomb?

TC
Felt like a bloody bomb!

INGLIS
True ... What a fucking party!

TC
Yeah, thanks for inviting me.

INGLIS
End of season do ... More like the end of the club. And now I'm stranded here ... Me! Dave Inglis, English football legend ... in this fucking bollocks.

TC
Double winner! You're a proper icon aren't you?

INGLIS
(Smiles to himself smugly) Look, d'you think anyone else survived?

TC
Why don't we have a look, no harm in it. But let's have a drink first ... I've still got some Scotch, see?

INGLIS
(Going up to the 'Welcome to Corbyn Island' sign) What? Don't waste time! Come on, we've got to get out of this place. If I don't I'm fucked ... I'll never see Bishops Avenue again. You do realise where we are don't you?

TC
(Joining INGLIS) No idea Boss, where?

(INGLIS points at the sign)

TC (CONT'D)
(Reading aloud) Corbyn Island ... Bloody hell! I heard about that on Celebrity Big Brother. David Beckham said he was thinking of moving there ... He said he wanted to give up his peerage and everything.

INGLIS
Stupid prick!

(JEREMY enters at the rear of the stage. JEREMY is Jeremy Corbyn-ish. She is carrying an open tin of Co-Op own brand baked beans and a fork.)

INGLIS (CONT'D)
Wait. (Takes TC by the arm) This looks likes one of them Corbynites. The BBC said their rule is to kill all the bosses
(MORE)

INGLIS (CONT'D)
they meet ... Or make slaves of them.

TC
The BBC? I thought it was sold off to Sky?

INGLIS
Eh? The Breitbart Broadcasting Corporation.

TC
Well, if it's the Corbynites gaff I'm alright ... I'm not the boss.

INGLIS
That's right.

TC
Let's go and have a chat then.

INGLIS
What? What about me?! They might kill me! Doesn't that bother you?

TC
(Raising the flask and having a swig) Yeah, I'm bothered.

INGLIS
(Not picking up on his sarcasm) Follow me then.

TC
(Shouts) Hey!

INGLIS
What are you doing?!

TC
(Whistles)

INGLIS
Are you nuts? What are you doing?

TC
(Laughing) Why don't we make some new friends? It'll do you good.

INGLIS
(The first few words as an aside) The little fucker's taking the piss. (Aloud) This isn't the time to play silly buggers, follow me.

TC
But I'm tired, let's finish the bottle first.

INGLIS
Come on ... Please.

TC

Please! Well, well Mr Inglis, there's a first ... Must be the sea air gives you manners.

INGLIS

Let's get a move on ... If we walk along the coast we might find some of our friends.

(The ISLANDERS, EVE and ALEX join JEREMY at the rear of the stage. EVE is also in eighteenth century costume and ALEX is in casual office clothes. The ISLANDERS are dressed like JEREMY)

TC

Are you kidding? You reckon they survived a bomb, then the sea? Most of them were off their tits on coke and Jaegerbombs. Who cares what happened to our so-called friends, there's no friendship in football. I look after number one.

INGLIS

But I need you

TC

(With indifference) Course you do now that we're stuck here. Different story back home, eh? All those trophies won by players that I coached? Who is it ends up with the big pay cheque and golf days with Gary Lineker? You didn't want me bothering you and Gary then so I won't bother you now.

INGLIS

Fucking prick!

TC

Now you're talking like the boss again ... Sorry mate, I don't understand that lingo any more.

INGLIS

I AM the boss! And you're just a shitty little youth team coach who's lucky to HAVE a job after that scandal in 2016.

TC

Tabloid bollocks, nothing in it. I was a 'shitty little youth team coach', so were you once. Then you got all the breaks didn't you? At the club I was your 'slave' and you the boss, but you're not the boss over here. You'll see what it's like to be at the bottom. Goodbye old chap, I'm going to find my comrades, or should I say your future masters.

INGLIS

(In despair, running after him and pushing him back) Fucking hell! You cheeky twat, how could you be so ungrateful!
(Shouting) You don't deserve to live you selfish bastard.

TC
Easy feller, you already look half dead, don't give yourself
a heart attack.

3 SCENE 3

(JEREMY comes forward and motions
to the ISLANDERS. They rush up to
INGLIS, who they see ready to
assault TC)

JEREMY
(Motioning for the ISLANDERS to restrain INGLIS) Stop, what
are you doing?

INGLIS
(Sees EVE) Eve, sweetheart ... You survived!

EVE
(Coldly) No thanks to you.

INGLIS
You'd gone off with Diego, I couldn't find you.

EVE
Just drop it. I survived ok? Diego wasn't so lucky.

TC
Oh Shit! Not Diego!!

INGLIS
Yeah I know ... I was going to make 2 million on his
transfer.

JEREMY
Is money all you care for?

INGLIS
Not right now ... First I've got to teach this upstart a
lesson.

JEREMY
No upstarts here.

TC
God bless you sir.

JEREMY

No sirs here either comrade. What's your name?

TC

It's my name you're asking?

JEREMY

Yes, of course.

TC

I don't really have one.

JEREMY

Don't be silly, you must have a name?

TC

No! I've got nothing but nicknames. He calls me 'TC' or sometimes 'knobhead'.

JEREMY

'Knobhead'? But that isn't even a nickname. I know his type, straight out of the Tom Watson charm school. What about him, what's his name?

TC

Oh, just one name for him - Mr Inglis. Or Boss of course.

JEREMY

No bosses here. For now you can swap names. You be Mr Inglis, and you Mr Inglis, you be TC, or Knobhead.

TC

(Grinning. To INGLIS) Nice one, eh Knobhead?

JEREMY

In giving you his name I want to mend his ways rather than make you the boss.

TC

Yes, yes, mend his ways, that's good.

INGLIS

(Looking at TC) Wanker!

TC

Mind your language Knobhead.

JEREMY

(To INGLIS) TC, I can see you're angry so say what you like, get it out of your system. But don't forget you are now TC and this is Mr Inglis. You are to him what he once was to you. These are our laws and my job in the Republic is to make sure that they are enforced.

TC

What a job!

INGLIS
Me, the 'slave' of this prick?

JEREMY
Well, he was yours!

TC
Ahh, he should just do as he's told, I'll treat him fairly.

INGLIS
You said I could say what I liked. It's not enough, let me give him a slap.

TC
Comrade, he wants to give me a slap, I call on the Republic to protect me.

JEREMY
Don't worry, no one's slapping anyone, we're pacifists here.

ALEX
(To JEREMY) Excuse me, I escaped from the boat as well, don't forget me please. But I'm not a boss ... I'm one of the staff too.

JEREMY
No, no ... I can see that you're not one of the bosses. Let me deal with this and then I'll take care of you. TC!

TC
(Thinking that's he's being spoken to) Eh! At the moment I'm Inglis.

JEREMY
(Continuing) Yes yes, you know who I am don't you?

TC
Oh yes, a fine woman.

ALEX
And fair.

TC
A champion of the people.

JEREMY
(Flattered) Yes, that's right ... But don't interrupt me comrades, I'll lose my drift. When the Tory scum got in a second time and we true socialists, despairing of UK PLC - or should I say Former UK PLC - left Islington and came here, the first law that we made - strong message here - was that ANY bosses that chance brought to the island would be killed. Well, that was a bit hasty - even John McDonnell doesn't really endorse the death penalty and to be honest it was more of a gesture than anything else, so we amended the law. We decided to educate rather than have vengeance and we ruled that all bosses who came to the island would undergo moral
(MORE)

JEREMY (CONT'D)

reformation - it's a little idea we picked up from Chairman Mao. (Looks at INGLIS) We make you slaves so that you can learn. We humiliate you so that finding yourselves at the bottom of society you'll regret ever having been a part of the one percent. This lesson lasts three years, at the end of which we'll let you go home if we feel that you are ready. And if you don't improve we'll keep you here to work for us. This is our law. Profit from social justice, thank the fate that brought you here. You're in a bad way but we will heal you. Think of yourselves not as slaves but as the ethically challenged in search of enlightenment.

(The ISLANDERS applaud)

FIRST ISLANDER

Well said Jeremy!

JEREMY

(To FIRST ISLANDER) Thank you Jeremy.

FIRST ISLANDER

All for free! No joining up fee for this life course! (To SECOND ISLANDER) Isn't that right Jeremy?

SECOND ISLANDER

Yes Jeremy! We'll teach you a lesson you'll never forget.

INGLIS

(Confused) Eh? You're all called Jeremy?

SECOND ISLANDER

Of course! (Strikes a noble pose) But you have to earn the right to take on the name of Jeremy through virtue, and selfless work for the community. (Inglis makes the loco sign at his temple.)

JEREMY

(Turning to EVE and INGLIS) Back to business. Don't bother trying to escape, you will try and fail and make your situation worse. There's no weapons (TC pats his pocket and smiles), no mobile technology, no social media, no internet, no competitive sports and no meat. Just pure socialism and self-sufficiency where brother loves brother and sister loves sister. Hail Corbyn Island!! (Raises her hand in a salute, the ISLANDERS do too.)

ISLANDERS

HAIL CORBYN ISLAND!!!

TC

What a speech!

INGLIS

(Aside) Bloody hell, doesn't she go on.

JEREMY

(To TC and ALEX) As for you comrades, you will become free citizens. TC will live with the new Mr Inglis and this young girl will stay with this ... (he seeks the right term) This ... Woman. You have eight days to celebrate being a boss. After that we'll give you something useful to do, like everyone here. (To TC) You'll have to swap clothes to show who's in charge.

TC

(Feeling the gun in his pocket) Nah, I'm good ... but ... (He removes INGLIS' Rolex) I always fancied a Rolex. (He puts it on) Cheers Knobhead, very generous of you.

CORBYN

Very well. (To the ISLANDERS) Take the men away. (To the women) And you women can stay.

(TC, while leaving, makes eye contact with ALEX)

4 SCENE 4

(ALEX and EVE stay with JEREMY)

JEREMY

Fellow citizen - because from now on I see our island as your homeland too - tell me your name now.

ALEX

I'm Alex, this is Eve.

JEREMY

Alex?

ALEX

I've got surnames, would you like to know them?

JEREMY

Absolutely, what are they?

ALEX

I've got a list: Fool, Moron, Idiot, Fatso, Shitforbrains ...

EVE

(sighing) Cheeky cow!

ALEX

That's another one.

JEREMY

I'll take your word for it. Nothing shocks me. Eve, are you always this rude to your staff?

EVE

She's not really staff, she just helps me out. We're more like friends aren't we Alex? (ALEX pulls a face indicating that they're far from being friends.)

JEREMY

And that gives you the right to call her these names?

EVE

I've never thought about it, I say what comes into my head. This is the most stressful day ever. One minute I was partying, the next I was lying on a beach with seaweed in my hair. I can barely remember my own name let alone what I call her.

ALEX

Oh, it's difficult to remember now isn't it? Let me remind you how you usually talk to me, 'Do this. I need it now. Shut up, what do you know.' See, that's you. Now we're over here you've got to be polite - it's a foreign language for you isn't it? (To JEREMY) We must be patient, she'll learn in time ... I'll do my best to teach her.

JEREMY

You can start by swapping names (Looks at Alex) Alex, you're now Eve. (Looks at Eve) And Eve you're now Alex and are everything to her that she once was to you.

ALEX

Yeah, a slave in all but name.

JEREMY

(To ALEX) You just calm down dear. (ALEX pulls another face at being patronised) (To EVE) And you Alex, don't abandon hope ... Our laws are made to improve you not to punish you.

ALEX

Don't bother trying, she's a lost cause.

JEREMY

(To EVE) I can see you have a good heart. You HAVE a good heart don't you Alex? I'll ask Eve to think generously about the way you've treated her and to treat you fairly now that the shoe's on the other foot.

ALEX

What?! Fuck that! I'll give her as good as she gave me.

JEREMY

Eh ... No need for that, let's be friends at least.

ALEX

You spoke of her heart (She points at her heart) I don't have a heart. Not for her. I'll have my fun with her and then if she begs enough I might forgive her.

EVE

(To JEREMY) What nonsense! Do I have to listen to this?

ALEX

Suffer in silence, it's all you deserve.

JEREMY

Come on Eve, no tantrums.

ALEX

No tantrums, she says! Get stuffed! I've been waiting for the chance to tell her what I think of her.

JEREMY

(Aside, to EVE) This needs to run its course but don't worry, it'll finish sooner than you think. I'm sure you'll be friends again soon. (To ALEX) Come on, let's talk about Alex, describe her for me, I want to hear all about her. If she can admit her faults and be willing to change then we'll have something to work with. Come on, what's she really like?

ALEX

What's she really like? This is a good game. Come on, I'm ready, ask me some questions, she's my specialist subject.

EVE

(Softly) Please, let me go, I don't want to listen to this.

JEREMY

But you must listen, it's how we do things here.

ALEX

Stay, listen ... It'll be good for you.

JEREMY

Vain; empty-headed; self-obsessed; this is what came to mind when I first saw you Alex. Does that sound like her?

ALEX

Vain. Empty. Self-obsessed. Is that like her? Does that sound like you?

EVE

Ok, you've made your point. Haven't you had enough now?

JEREMY

Ah! I see you're a little embarrassed. It's hitting the mark but this is just the beginning. Let's get some details. Tell me more Eve, how is she vain? How self-obsessed?

ALEX

How?! All the time! I don't know where to start. Listen. Eve is quiet, Eve speaks. She looks, she's sad, she's happy. Silence, speech, looks, sadness, happiness - it's all the same, no difference. It's quiet vanity, sad vanity, happy vanity. Self-obsession, jealous or curious. It's Eve - she's always vain or self-obsessed, one after the other, or both at

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)
the same time.

EVE
I've had enough of this.

JEREMY
What? We've only just begun.

ALEX
Eve gets up ...

JEREMY
Hang on, she's off again.

ALEX
... Has she slept well? ... Such slumber ... Has it made her beautiful, does she feel lively, sparkling-eyed? Quick! Get up, the day will be glorious! She must go out - for a walk, shopping, to lunch, to the studio. Her face must be seen, it must be seen the whole day through, it will be a pleasure for the whole world to see her face, she must show herself. Eve is beautiful, there's nothing to worry about.

JEREMY
Remember she's Alex now, you're Eve. (To EVE) She's getting the hang of this.

ALEX
On the other hand. Has Eve, oh Alex, slept badly? 'Someone bring me a mirror! Oh, look at me! I'm awful!!' However she looks at herself, she looks at herself from all angles, nothing works. She looks tired. The day is finished before it's begun, the face must be hidden. Eve will see no-one today, not even in the afternoon. Or at least let's keep the room dark if she MUST go to the office. But what if people come? What will they think of her face? They'll think she's got uglier, older ... Will she give her friends this pleasure? No, there's a cure for it all, you'll see. People ring for appointments, 'No Eve is very unwell, She's hasn't slept well, she hasn't slept for eight days, she mustn't go out .' Constant lies she has me talking, oh if you want to know how pitiful someone is ask their poor PA!

JEREMY
(To EVE) Be strong, learn from this story, reflect mindfully.

EVE
I could tell you some things about her too believe me.

ALEX
Yeah, you're good at telling people things aren't you? Finding their faults ... Shredding them in public. Well, it's my turn now. Nearly done but I've got a bit more if you don't mind.

JEREMY

Finish, finish, be my guest, we're listening.

ALEX

Do you remember an evening at the club? You were talking to Diego. I was at the bar near you and you were speaking quietly in the corner. You wanted to make a good impression in front of him. You were talking about someone he was shagging, 'Oh she's so pretty isn't she,' you said. 'Such small, dark eyes' and you opened your eyes wide, you flashed them, batted your eyelids. I laughed but you carried on, the idiot was sold, he says, (In an accent imitating 'Diego') 'Oh but they're nothing like your eyes Mrs Inglis, you have such beautiful eyes' 'Me? Really?' you said. 'Yes, you, Eve - there's nothing sexier than you in the whole club.' 'Carry on like that and I won't be responsible' you said, flicking your hair back and flashing your tits at him. And that was it, tongue in your face, hand down your arse and off you went. Ummm, where was I?

JEREMY

(To EVE) Sounds like she's got quite a list.

ALEX

And I have to put up with all this shit on a zero hours contract. Sitting at home waiting for Her Majesty to Whatsapp me. The last time I was at my Nan's funeral and she's, (She mimics EVE's middle class accent) 'Alex, darling. Crisis! Drop what you're doing, I need you right now. Lorraine Kelly's having a meltdown over her new kitchen and she's gone all GlasWEgian on me. You know how to talk to people like that, don't you Alex?'. 'People like that!' Patronising cow!

EVE

I won't stay, you'll have to force me to stay. I won't take any more.

JEREMY

Yes, I think that's enough for now.

ALEX

What?! I'm not finished, there's plenty more.

JEREMY

That's enough Eve, you can let me deal with her now. Let's take a little walk Alex (she takes EVE by the arm and guides her across the stage a little), I've got something to tell you.

ALEX

(Catching up with them) Tell her to be nice at least. Goodbye dear friend! Did you enjoy those little stories? Another time I'll tell you about how she stops wearing her designer gear sometimes and just puts on some leggings and a baggy old jumper to go to the supermarket to show how she's got the common touch. It's just a piece of bullshit for the tabloids. As soon as she gets home it's 'Put this lot away darling'

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

while she changes back into her Dolce & Gabbana. But still people say, 'Look how she dresses, so simply, there's not a shred of vanity in her.'

JEREMY

But I asked you to finish.

ALEX

Ok, I'm going. Soon we'll have another chat, there's lots more where that came from. How she goes to the gym and struts around ignoring people like she doesn't know them from Adam. She keeps her nose turned up, you know, but she's a gossip ... Soon as she gets back to the office it's, 'You should have seen old so and so, hasn't she put on weight since her husband ran off?' She pretends she's classy but she's the worst two-face of all.

JEREMY

Enough!

ALEX

Alright, I'm done. For now. But what about ...

JEREMY

(Holding up a finger) Enough!!

(ALEX leaves)

5 SCENE 5

(JEREMY and EVE)

JEREMY

I know that hurt but it's for your own good.

EVE

You self-righteous scumbag.

JEREMY

We're honest. We wish to show you the error of your ways, that's all. You'll see the light soon and then all you have to do is complete a little task.

EVE

More nonsense!

JEREMY

This one's easy. I must report back to the committee on who you are and what you've said. Do you recognise what Eve said as the truth?

EVE

Me? Recognise that load of crap?!

JEREMY

I believed her, and I'm sure our comrades will too so be careful. If you agree with her it will go a long way to making your life easier here. On the other hand, if you don't I'll have to see you as beyond help and act accordingly. It's a difficult choice isn't it? Think hard.

EVE

You'll let me go? Really?

JEREMY

Yes, I guarantee it ... If you mend your ways of course.

EVE

Soon?

JEREMY

Without doubt.

EVE

Well, in that case you can tell your Socialist friends that I agree with everything she said just to get out of this.

JEREMY

What! You want me to lie?

EVE

Really, the rubbish you expect me to agree to - it's political correctness GONE MAD!

JEREMY

It's humiliating I know but that's the point. (Holds up a copy of Mao's 'Little Red Book'.) Other people have been re-educated at a much greater cost. Think hard, the price of freedom is truth and sincerity. Come on, don't you see the truth in her description?

EVE

You want complete agreement?

JEREMY

But of course - it's for your own good.

EVE

Well.

JEREMY

Yees

EVE

I'm young.

JEREMY

I didn't ask you how old you were.

EVE

I'm a good person.

JEREMY

That isn't exactly the impression I've got so far.

EVE

I admit that I have some faults.

JEREMY

You're getting there. You see how badly you behaved don't you?

EVE

I think so, yes.

JEREMY

Ah, that's what we want - you find your former self rather laughable don't you?

EVE

You could say that.

JEREMY

Excellent! I'm happy, comrade. Go and join Alex, I'll give you back your real name already to give you a sign that I keep my word. Don't be impatient. Show some repentance for your former ways and I promise the moment you're waiting for will arrive.

EVE

(Scornful) A politician's promise?! (She leaves). (TC and INGLIS arrive)

6 SCENE 6

(TC, INGLIS and JEREMY)

TC

(Beer in hand and dancing to the music in his head) No no, no no no no, no no no no, no no there's NO LIMITS! I'm so happy comrade! The Republic's beer is marvellous. I've drunk plenty of it because I'm a changed man since I became the boss. I'm even thirstier than I was before! God bless the booze, the hops, the hipsters, and the ethically sourced bottles of our fucking amazing Republic!

JEREMY

Bravo! Enjoy yourself comrade. Are you happy Mr Inglis?

TC

Yes, as a child! I can do what I like. He complains sometimes but I order him to be happy. (He jumps in front of INGLIS and dances) No no, no no no no ...

JEREMY

It makes me happy to see you enjoying yourself.

TC

I know how to party alright.

JEREMY

Excellent! I'm charmed to see that you're friends with TC too. You didn't have too much to complain of back at work?

TC

What! I wanted him to go fuck himself most of the time but now that I'm here ... (Looks at his beer) All is forgotten, I've let it go.

JEREMY

Very touching, it's good to forgive and forget. You haven't given him a hard time?

TC

A hard time! Oh, the poor feller. I might have been a bit hard, now that I'm the boss, but I've been reasonable.

JEREMY

I can see you mean no harm. (To TC) Tell me something - what was he like as a boss? Did he lack a sense of humour, have any bad tendencies?

TC

(Laughing) Ah! Comrade, you're having a laugh aren't you?

JEREMY

So he was a nice man?

TC

(Stoneface) No, seriously, are you having a laugh?

JEREMY

Let's laugh together.

TC

(To INGLIS) Do you promise to laugh too?

INGLIS

(In a low voice) Are you mugging me off? What are you going to say?

TC

Let me speak ...

JEREMY

It's not a trivial matter, I asked the same question of Alex about her boss.

INGLIS

Really? And she told you all sorts of horrible shite to make you feel sorry for her I bet.

JEREMY

Yes, she did.

TC

(Eagerly) I'll give you some more. This one's got everything. Job, car, wife, kids. Still wants more. Extravagant misery, that's his line. He's a twat. Mean when he should be generous. Greedy when he's getting a cut. Gets a brown paper bag from all the agents in any transfer. Money, money, money, any way he can get it is what matters to him. Sucks up to the chairman, shits on the staff. Plays the good old English pro, drinks his 'Super Tuscan Wine' by the pint to show how fucking English he is. And then the women - thinks he's God's gift and doesn't realise it's just another one on the make. Is that enough? (To INGLIS) No, I won't carry on dear old friend, don't worry.

JEREMY

Another one in the net! (To INGLIS) All you have to do is agree that he told the truth.

INGLIS

Me?

JEREMY

Yes, you. Eve did earlier ... Believe me it will do you more good than you can imagine.

INGLIS

(Sarcastic) Oh really? (Thinks) If that's the case I might be persuaded.

TC

Agree, you know it's all true.

JEREMY

You must agree to everything or nothing.

INGLIS

You want me to call myself a greedy, corrupt, sex-addicted, arse-licking, bullying bastard? A laughing stock?

JEREMY

Why not, if the cap fits?

INGLIS

Yeah alright. (Aside) If it means I can get out of this shithole.

JEREMY

All of it?

INGLIS

Yes

(TC laughs out loud)

JEREMY

You've done the right thing, you've shown strength of character. I'll be back, you'll soon have some good news (She leaves).

7 SCENE 7

(ALEX, INGLIS, TC, EVE)

(ALEX and EVE arrive.)

ALEX

What are you laughing about Mr Inglis?

TC

Old Billy big bollocks ... Just made a laughing stock of himself.

ALEX

Really? That's nothing. If you want to see a self-confessed slapper look at my new PA.

TC

(Looking at her) Slapper eh? I know I would ... Anyway, enough of them, what shall we do now that we're part of the metropolitan élite?

ALEX

Oh, you know ... We should discuss something serious, what's your opinion on President Ivanka? Do you think she's a feminist?

TC

What are you on about? I don't do politics.

ALEX

Mmm, tell you what, I've got an idea ... We need a bit of peace.

TC

Really? Your wish is my command. (To INGLIS and EVE) You heard her, sling your hooks.

INGLIS

You've got no right to order me about.

TC

Oh, it's not me comrade, the Republic demands that you sling your hooks. You heard her, give us some peace. But don't go too far, I might want another drink.

(INGLIS and EVE drop back)

TC (CONT'D)

Alone at last ... Come on then, how about a bit?

ALEX

What?

TC

Come on ... While we've got some time to ourselves.

ALEX

That's not what we're here for.

TC

I know but all this power's making me horny.

ALEX

Oh yeah?

TC

Yeah.

ALEX

Not interested. But what about Eve, what do you think?

TC

Oh! (His eyes light up) I see ... Tasty! What do you think of TC?

ALEX

I see what you're thinking!

TC

Yes! You get off with TC and I'll have your old boss. That'd suit me. I haven't had a squirt in weeks.

ALEX

(She pulls a face) It'd be a laugh, they could do a lot worse than us the state they're in now.

TC

Exactly, we'd be perfect for them.

ALEX

Alright. Tell Inglis to come here. Tell him how he'd be better off with me. Before I was just a lowly PA and now look, I'm one of the most important people on the island. I'm a catch! Pure luck, but isn't it luck that rules everything?

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

No-one gets anywhere on merit nowadays, it doesn't matter what they say. I'm beautiful and young, he'd be lucky to have me.

TC

You return the favour - get Eve to come to me, I know she's not picky.

ALEX

I will, I'll call her. Look, get lost for a while ... Talk to Inglis, I want him to beg me, make him grovel.

TC

He'll do it if you want him to, he's weaker than you think. Just give him a little encouragement though. And you, talk me up, show that there's more to me than meets the eye

ALEX

Don't worry, I'll sort it. (She calls EVE) Alex!

(TC leaves and EVE arrives)

8 SCENE 8

(ALEX and EVE, who comes quietly)

ALEX

Get a move on, I don't like being kept waiting.

EVE

Yes?

ALEX

Come here, listen. A little bird's told me that someone's taken a fancy to you - Mr Inglis.

EVE

Which one?

ALEX

Which one? Are there two of them? It's the one who just left me.

EVE

Eh? What do you think I'd be interested in him for?

ALEX

You weren't so picky back in London! You'll think yourself lucky to have him, understand?

EVE

What now! When will this shit end? (She looks up)

9 SCENE 9

(TC and EVE)

(TC arrives, waving at ALEX as she leaves. He takes EVE by the hand)

EVE

What do you want with me?

TC

(Laughing) Hasn't someone told you?

EVE

Just leave me alone.

TC

Come on - look into my eyes and guess what I'm thinking.

EVE

Think what you like, it's none of my business.

TC

Can't you guess?

EVE

No.

TC

Don't lie, someone told you how I feel. You should be happy.

EVE

What a mess!

TC

I know you think I'm a bit daft don't you? But you'll get over it. I love you, I have done for years, I just didn't know how to tell you before.

EVE

You?

TC

Yes! What could be better? You're so beautiful, you must feel something for me.

EVE

Just when I thought things couldn't get any worse.

TC

(Looking at her hands) What beautiful hands! Be nice to me, I only want good things for you.

EVE
You're mad.

TC
Mad about you.

EVE
I'm only worthy of your pity. I'm pitiful.

TC
Who told you that? You're wonderful ... You're worthy to be a queen but there's no kings around here and I'm the next best thing. So what do you say?

EVE
I think you're simple.

TC
(Aside) The ice queen's melting.

EVE
Don't heap insult onto injury just because I'm that jumped up cow's lackey. God knows what Grazia will make of this! Look, you can do what you like now that you're in charge. In that case show some mercy ... You've won, be happy, don't be cruel. I've had enough. What have I done to be treated like this? Just leave me alone.

TC
(Defeated) I don't know what to say.

(EVE leaves as INGLIS arrives)

INGLIS
What's going on?

EVE
Don't ask.

10 SCENE 10

(INGLIS and TC)

INGLIS
Eve told me you wanted to speak to me. What do you want? Have you got some fresh shit to dish out?

TC
I've got nothing to say to you my friend except that I command you to love the new Eve, that's all. What do you say to that?

INGLIS
You can't ask me to do that!

TC

Oh really? I think I just did!

INGLIS

(Aside) She told me this nonsense would soon be over but she was lying. (To TC) That's the absolute fucking limit! That's it, I'm going to top myself.

TC

But that would ruin everything. Listen, I forbid you from topping yourself just to spite me. Now your natural causes, fair enough, you can die of that.

INGLIS

You'll get yours TC. There's something called karma.

TC

Karma for what? For having had to work under you all these years?

INGLIS

For your treatment of me. We're like brothers! I kept you at the club through thick and thin because you were a mate. I thought you were my mate.

TC

(Hurt) Who told you we weren't mates?

INGLIS

You're not behaving like a mate.

TC

What because of this? A bit of bants? Isn't that what it was when you were taking the piss out of me in front of the lads? 'Just a bit of bants TC, now fuck off and get a round in.'

INGLIS

I might have been a bit out of order.

TC

A bit?

INGLIS

But I made up for it.

TC

Really?

INGLIS

Didn't I need to give you a leg up? You wouldn't have been on this end of season trip if it wasn't for me.

TC

And what a trip! I suffered along the way, plenty suffered. Your 'friendship' was a curse.

INGLIS

You ungrateful little bastard. You should be helping me, showing some loyalty. What about the glory days? We've just won the fucking double mate, we'll be in Europe next season.

TC

(Thinks) Yes, you're right. I do owe you some loyalty in spite of everything. Well, go, I'm bigger than you, I forgive you. I'll ask them to free you and if they don't want to I'll treat you as a mate anyway. I'm not like you, I couldn't be happy while you suffered.

INGLIS

(Approaches TC and gives him a hug) That's more like it! Ok, we're quits, forget about the stuff at the club and let's get back to how we were in the old days. I know I didn't deserve to be your boss.

TC

Yeah, you did. You were better than me weren't you? If I'd been as talented as you maybe I wouldn't have been any different. I should be saying sorry to you.

INGLIS

Sweet.

TC

Yeah, it's all right. (He gives the watch back to INGLIS)

INGLIS

What are you doing?

TC

I didn't earn this.

INGLIS

I'm welling up.

11 SCENE 11

(ALEX, EVE, TC, INGLIS)

ALEX

(Entering with EVE, who is crying) Get gone, I can't put up with your wailing any more. (Lower to TC) What's that mean Mr Inglis? Why have you given him his watch back?

TC

(Tenderly) We've made up.

ALEX

Explain.

TC

I was out of order.

ALEX

But what about our plan?

TC

In the end I just want to be a good man, isn't that the best plan? We'll all say sorry and be happier for it. If we just say sorry to each other we'll all be crying with happiness.

EVE

Dear Alex what an example for you!

INGLIS

He's an example to all of us! I'm touched, proper touched.

ALEX

Ah! What a perfect example. Here we've got two bastards who mistreat us, despise us in public and are proud of it. Who look at us like worms and then are happy to find us 100 times more honest than them. That's shit, to have merit weighed in money and titles. Where would you be if we had to judge you any other way? Why should we pardon you? Because you're rich? No. Got lovely big houses? No. You give us a measly hand out every now and then? I don't bloody think so! So what is to be done? Now let's see, Jeremy says, 'Have good hearts', that's what we should do. She'll give you the lesson that you deserve and everything will be hunky dory. You think you should be proud of yourselves for saying sorry to us. You should die of shame.

TC

Come on, be nice and give them a break. They're sorry and they'll make it up to us. All's forgiven eh?

ALEX

(Mocking) All forgiven eh? (She turns on him) You spineless prick. Go back to your booze, I've had it with you.

EVE

(Sadly) Alex, I'm sorry, I abused my authority, I admit it. Let's calm down and have a cup of tea or something.

ALEX

(She takes the gun from TC's pocket) Sorry doesn't cut it sister. (Brandishing the gun) Who do you think planted the bomb eh?

TC

(Confused, improvising) Drop it Al ... We don't need to go through with it, let's all be friends eh? Look they're sorry!

(DOUGGIE the director comes onto

the stage)

DOUGGIE

(With script in hand) Stop! Stop! STOP! What on earth are you doing?! That's not in the script.

ALEX

I'm not following the script any more. (She snatches the script from him and throws it in the air.) We've been following the script for too long.

DOUGGIE

But this isn't the end - you're supposed to make up!

ALEX

Oh really? (She shoots him between the eyes) Anyone else want to make up?

12 SCENE 12

(Enter JEREMY and the rest)

JEREMY

What do I see? Are you reconciled comrades? Let me shake you by the hand ... (He sees that things aren't as they should be and sees the DOUGGIE on the floor) Wait a minute - what happened to Douggie?

ALEX

Douggie didn't like the new ending.

JEREMY

But Eve, comrade, violence won't solve anything. Equality makes for happiness.

ALEX

You can shove your equality up your arse. In the land of the pacifists the armed woman is queen.

EVE

You bitch!

ALEX

God stand up for bitches, we're the only ones who get things done! On your knees Jezza, you're next.

JEREMY

But can't we talk about this ... Let's not be too hasty!

ALEX

Enough talking you self-righteous windbag. Welcome to the dictatorship of the precariat. Things are going to change around here.

(CURTAIN)