

Mother Kelly and Joe Audition piece

JOE: Mind if I join you?

MOTHER KELLY: I suppose there is room on the stoop for two.

JOE: Listen, about last night-

MOTHER KELLY: I shouldn't have snapped at you like that. It's just... Your dad wasn't always the easiest person to be around. I know how much it hurt you kids when he left but I'd be lying if I said there wasn't part of me that hoped he'd never come back. It wasn't easy getting by without him, course, but I tried to keep our heads above water.

JOE: You did more than that for us, mum. I do miss him, though.

MOTHER KELLY: Of course you do. It's complicated, though. Sometimes I think he was two different people; he loved you and Marion; always had the best stories and games, but he liked his drink too. He'd spend the milk money on the horses and sometimes if things hadn't gone right... Look, he wasn't an easy man. You're a nice boy, Joe; I'm very proud of you, I am, but in the pub last night-

JOE: You don't want me to turn out like him?

MOTHER KELLY: I just want you to be the best parts of him. And until last night you never disappointed.

JOE: I'm sorry, mum.

MOTHER KELLY: Things are different with Henry; uncomplicated. I think there's a lot to be said for that.

JOE: You really love this fella, don't you?

MOTHER KELLY: I think so. But what do I know about love?

JOE: Well, you've been married seven times.

MOTHER KELLY: Exactly.
Now, what's all this fuss I've heard about you and some girl?

JOE: She's not just some girl, mum; it's Nellie.

MOTHER KELLY: You found her again?

JOE: Yeah, but I've messed it up, lied to her. She doesn't even know it's me, really.

MOTHER KELLY: All you can do is apologise. Try and explain.

JOE: I'm scared it won't be enough. That I've blown it for good.

MOTHER KELLY: Maybe it won't be enough. Lord knows I heard enough apologies from your old man that meant sweet Fanny Adams. And if he walked through that door tomorrow I wouldn't know whether to throttle him or embrace him. She don't owe you her forgiveness just 'cause you're sorry. But it won't be ruined for good, Joe. She'll forgive you when she's good and ready, but you need to respect that.

JOE: Thanks Mum. Anyway, forget my love life, we've got your wedding to think about.

MOTHER KELLY: Don't you worry about that. Let's just make sure everyone behaves themselves, eh?

JOE: I'm off the booze now. Scout's honour.

