

S... get that make-up done
 Linda Why? It doesn't matter!
 Maureen Oh God, Linda! — I feel naked going out there with any
 make-up. Don't know I was dead late for work once an' I had out
 the house forgetting to put my eye shadow on an' mazzie. I had out
 way, work, I felt dead weird without knowin' what I had all the
 I had out without puttin' any knickers on when I got to work
 I looked in the mirror I saw it was my eye shadow an' mazzie that
 was missin' — that's what was making me feel so addressed. I had to
 borrow some make-up from online Golightly — I shot the photo
 an' lashed some on. It was fine then. It was only when I was
 walkin' back to the yard I realized — I didn't have any knickers
 on! So that's why I doesn't it?

The others, including Linda, laugh

Linda *(reluctant; opening her bag)* Oh for Christ's sake — go on, I'll
 do my make-up, I'll see y' out there.
 Carol Linda, we're your mates, aren't we? Y' don't think we'd desert
 y' on your hen night, do y'?
 Linda You're not deserting me. I'll come an' find y' when I'm ready.
 Bernadette We'll go out when we're all ready.
 Carol That's us — we always stick together, don't we?
 Linda Why don't y' all come on my honeymoon as well?
 Bernadette We would Linda love, but I'm afraid if I was there, you
 wouldn't get a look in.
 Linda Look... I am a big girl now y'know. I can find me way out of the
 Ladies' an' onto a dance floor.
 Bernadette Linda — it's your hen night, we stick with you.
 Linda Y' mean until some feller wants to take you outside, Berni? Then
 you'll be off like a flash.
 Bernadette Well — a girl's got to have a bit of fresh air now and then,
 hasn't she?
 Linda Oh is that what you call it — fresh air?
 Bernadette Listen love — with some of them, that's all it feels like!
 Carol What are you like! Does your husband know what you get up
 to?
 Bernadette He doesn't care! I was comin' out tonight, he said, "what
 time will you be in?" I said, "well, if I'm not in bed by midnight, I'll
 come home!" *(She laughs)*
 Linda Well you'd better watch out tonight, Berni. You're might have a
 bit of competition.
 Bernadette Ooh! From who? Not... The-Bride-To-Be?

Linda Why not? It's my last fling, isn't it?

Jeers from the others

Frances If you don't get a move on, Linda, your last fling'll soon be
 flung! Come here. *(Taking comb and beginning to do Linda's hair)* Go
 on, you lot — there's no point all of us waitin' round.
 Carol Yeh, come on, we'll get the drinks in.
 Frances Get us a Bacardi an' lime.
 Linda Get me a pint of lager will y' Berni?
 Bernadette Linda, no! This is a hen night — not a stag night.
 Linda All right, I'll have a pint of mild!
 Bernadette Linda!
 Linda Well all right, get me a fuckin' snowball! In a ladies' glass, with
 a lovely little cherry on the top.
 Maureen Ah — I think I'll start with one of them as well Lind'.
 Bernadette Come on. We'll see y' in the bar. Come on girls... *(She sings
 "That's The Way" as she leaves the Ladies')*

Maureen and Carol follow Bernadette, also join in with the song

Linda *(sigh)* Jesus, what're they like!
 Frances And you, what's wrong with you tonight?
 Linda Nothin' it's just... Oh come on, hurry up, I wanna get out there
 an' just — get lost in it.
 Frances Music?
 Linda Yeh.
 Frances It's great the way it gets to y', isn't it — music?
 Linda Like you can come out sometimes an' feel really shitty, can't
 y'? — But as soon as you walk into that music — bang; it's like
 everything changes.
 Frances It makes y' feel special doesn't it?
 Linda *(beat; sigh)* I get lost in music. I become someone else.
 Frances Yeh I'm like that.
 Linda D' y' know if it wasn't for music — I wouldn't be getting'
 married tomorrow.
 Frances Oh Linda!
 Linda Fran — I'm tellin' the truth. Me an' Dave were dancin' this slow
When A Man Loves A Woman it was. I heard this voice whisperin' in
 my ear, like it was part of the music, sayin', "will you marry me?" So
 I said yeh. *(Beat)* But I think it was the music. I think I might have said
 "yeh" if I'd been dancin' with Frankenstein.
 Frances Linda don't be stupid.

Linda When the music ended I looked up an' there was Dave, beamin' down at me, talkin' about getting' married — an' I'm wonderin' what he's on about! Then I remembered. And the next thing y' know, I'm here, tonight — an' tomorrow I'll be married.

Frances Are you tellin' me you're havin' second thoughts?

Linda (*beat*) Oh come on — that'll have to do — I just wanna get out there an' dance myself stupid. After tonight I might never have the opportunity again.

Frances For God's sake, Linda — you're gettin' married, not gettin' locked up!

Linda (*making a final check in mirror*) Y' do get frightened though, y' know. I mean if it was just gettin' married to Dave it'd be okay — he's all right Dave is. But it's like, honest, it's like I'm getting' married to an entire bleedin' town.

Frances A town?

Linda It's like — I marry Dave... I marry everything else at the same time. Like, I could sit down now an' draw you a chart of everythin' that'll happen to me after tomorrow.

Frances D' y' know something Linda? You're my best mate, but sometimes — you don't half talk shite.

Linda (*laughing*) I know, I know, I know. An' you just keep tellin' me Fran.

As they exit

An' do you know what I keep tellin' myself? Well, at least after tomorrow I'll be the proud owner of my own hoover, my own telly, my own front room — an' more fuckin' coffee beans than they've got in Brazil!

The pair of them laughing as they exit

The Link *up in the Gents*, *Lady* *ing a swig from the quarter*
Scotch

Eddy Hey, Dave... D' you want a drink, Dave? (*Laughing*) Can't y' hear me Dave? Jesus! Y' wouldn't be... bomb went off would y'? But that's your fault Dave. I can't blame me. Y' don't *have* to drink do y' see, y' don't *have* to do anythin'. (*Beat*) ... Dave, the US...! An' you could've been... You should've been... with me. Not with a... Y' can't travel when... too much baggage weigh... down. (*Beat*) She's okay... I suppose, your one... Linda. She's all right. But round...!