

SENIOR MOMENTS

PART TWO

“Eggs and bacon”

SCENE 1

Curtains open to reveal the living room of a Victorian semi-detached bungalow. Stage right there is the front door and stage left there is an archway leading to the kitchen and bedrooms. There is a small two-seater settee stage right and two armchairs positioned either side of a coffee table centre stage. There is a fully working sash window on the back-centre stage wall with a view of the garden. Enter Bill and Doty SR. Bill is carrying a plastic carrier bag.

- Doty** Well I must say Bill, I did enjoy our morning walk. Erica was right, we should get out more.
- Bill** Yes, I love getting back to nature. The sounds of the birds chirping and the river flowing. Quite peaceful.
- Doty** And, then the hanky-panky on the farm, that was fun too.
- Bill** What hanky-panky? Where was I?
- Doty** The sky? Yes, and the blue sky. It was a lovely walk.
- Bill** Not sky, I said what hanky-panky, where was I?
- Doty** Yes, you were there too. God you are so forgetful sometimes. *(Kisses Bill on the forehead)* Now go and get breakfast started.
- Bill** I still can't believe you jumped over that hedge and stole these eggs from the farmyard.

Bill exits SL

- Doty** Well at least I didn't try to steal a pig for some bacon.
- Bill OS** Well I love bacon and one of those pigs would have kept us in bacon for months.
- Doty** You would have never managed to carry it home, not with your back.
- Bill OS** Well, it's just as well that I couldn't catch it then.
- Doty** But, it was funny watching you chasing after it in all that mud. *(Laughs)*

Bill enters briefly carrying a pair of kitchen tongs.

- Bill** Not half as funny as you, falling over the chickens when you were trying to steal their eggs.
- Doty** Well anyway, there is bacon in the fridge, beans and tomatoes in the cupboard. and what a stroke of luck that was, us finding those wild mushrooms.

Bill exits again.

- Bill OS** Yes, I can't believe all those hikers just looked and walked past them. Their loss is our gain.
- Doty** Well, take some paracetamol then.
- Bill OS** For what?
- Doty** Your pain. I expect you overexerted yourself chasing that pig.

Enter Bill SL carrying a fish slice.

Bill I'm not in pain. *(Realising)* Oh, no I said it was OUR GAIN. Not pain.
Dotty Yes It was a shame.
Bill Not shame or pain. I said it was OUR GAIN you deaf old bat.
Dotty I'm not too old to catch eggs.
Bill You don't catch eggs Dotty you find them.
Dotty I bloody chased those chickens for ages before they would lay any eggs. I'd say that qualifies them as being caught.

Bill exits SL. Erica enters SR

Erica Morning mum. *(Kisses her on the cheek)* I suppose dad is still in bed.
Dotty No he's in the kitchen cooking breakfast. *(Looking around the room)*
Erica *(Surprised)* Well that's a first. How did that happen?
Dotty He couldn't catch the pig, so he had to cook the breakfast. *(Looking around the room)*
Erica Pig? What pig. No in fact don't tell me, then I'll have plausible deniability. And what are you looking for?
Dotty That nature book on all the wildflowers and mushrooms and trees. I had it here yesterday, I'm sure of it.
Erica Honestly mother, you'd forget your head if it wasn't screwed on. I'll get it.

Erica exits SL and returns with the book.

Erica It was by your bedside. *(Hands the book to Dotty)* What do you want it for?
Dotty We went for a walk this morning at first light. We walked all the way down by the farm.
Erica Wow! I am impressed. No wonder you guys want a cooked breakfast. Good on you both. And how was it?
Dotty Very rewarding actually.
Erica See I told you it would be beneficial for you both to start walking a bit more.

Enter Bill SL

Bill Oh morning Eric. *(Kisses her on the cheek)*
Erica I hear you both went for a walk down to the farm.
Bill Yes, chasing the pigs and chickens for some exercise.
Erica Hmm yes. Well just remember that animal worrying is against the law these days.
Bill Oh don't be such a worry wart. Besides we couldn't catch them anyway.

Bill and Dotty chuckle.

Erica I always worry with you two. That's why I keep the police and ambulance service on speed dial.
Dotty How's the breakfast coming along Billy?
Bill Oh it's fine. Are you staying for some of our ill-gotten gains Derrick?
Erica Ill-gotten gains? No don't tell me. Plausible deniability. No, I'm not staying. I only popped in to make sure you had breakfast. And as it seems under control, I'll go and get the kids ready for school.
Bill OK more for us then.
Erica I'll pop in later after the kids have gone to school and I've had a chance to pop into the bank. *(Kisses them both)*
Dotty OK bye love.

Bill Catch you later Alligator.

Erica In-a-while dad.

Erica exits SR. Bill exits SL. Dotty sits at the table reading her book.

Dotty Now, where are they? (*Turning the pages of the book*)

Enter Bill with two plates of sausages, bacon, eggs, beans and mushrooms.

Bill What are you looking for?

Dotty Those mushrooms. I just wondered what they were called that's all.

Bill Well, I told you they're not poisonous because if they were, they would have been covered with spots or blotches. Nature has a way of warning us if they are no good.

Dotty Yes. I suppose you are right. (*Notices the breakfasts*) Say these look great. Thank you darling.

Bill You deserve it my queen. Especially after you bravely fought those chickens for the eggs. (*Laughs*)

Dotty It was a shame you didn't catch that pig though. We'd have saved a fortune on bacon.

They both laugh and eat their breakfast as the lights dim to blackout.

SCENE TWO

Bill and Dotty are sat in their armchairs. Dotty is reading the book.

Bill You're not still looking for those mushrooms, are you? I told you they are not poisonous; we'd be dead by now.

Dotty I'm just curious that's all. They did look a kind of reddish in colour.

Bill Well I'm going to have a nap. Wake me if you find them.

Dotty OK I will.

Dotty continues to read the book but is soon disturbed by noises coming from the kitchen. (No sound effects needed)

Dotty Bill there is something in the kitchen. (*Pauses*) Bill! (*Pauses*) Oh, I'll go and look for myself.

Enter Erica SR

Erica Hi mum. You both OK?

Dotty Oh, Erica. No, I'm not. Go and see what all the noise is, in the kitchen please?

Erica Noise?

Erica exits SL and returns.

Erica There is nothing in there. But I did notice you haven't done the dishes from breakfast.

Dotty Yes, yes. I'll do them later. Are you sure there is nothing in there?

Erica Yes, I'm sure. You must have had a bad dream or something mum. Why don't you try to have another nap? You must be exhausted after all that walking this morning.

Dotty Yes. I suppose I must have nodded off while reading that book.

Erica *(Looks at Bill)* Look at him. He could sleep for England.
Dotty That's pig chasing for you.
Erica Well while you and dad are having a nap, I said I'd fetch Monica from a coffee date with Gary. So, I'll bring her back with me after the bank so she can look after you both.
Dotty *(Settling down in her armchair)* OK love. See you later.
Erica *(Kisses Dotty)* You try and have a nice nap then.

Erica exits SR. Dotty starts to sleep but is woken with a start by the noises in the kitchen again.

Dotty Oh now what?

Dotty exits SL and comes back running and stands on her armchair.

Dotty *(Shouting)* Bill, there's a pig in the kitchen.
Bill *(Still sleepy)* Yes, it is a big kitchen.
Dotty Not Big. PIG!
Bill *(Still sleepy)* That's not nice. Cow!
Dotty *(Screaming)* BILL THERE IS A SODDING PIG IN THE KITCHEN!

Bill wakes with a start.

Dotty *(Screaming)* THAT BLOODY PIG YOU CHASED THIS MORNING HAS FOUND OUT WHERE WE LIVE!
Bill Where? I can't see it.
Dotty It's in the sodding kitchen. Go and ask it what it wants.

Bill sees Dotty standing on her armchair.

BILL *(Shocked)* My God woman. What have you done to your hair? And what are you doing with that knife?
Dotty What knife? Just go and sort out that bloody pig in the kitchen, will you?

Bill reluctantly exits SL keeping his eyes on her. Dotty starts to see chickens everywhere and grabs the phone from the coffee table.

Dotty *(Into phone)* Hello operator? Yes, can you connect me with animal control please. Yes, I'll wait. *(Pauses)* Hello yes, I need help urgently. There is a rabid pig and loads of chickens running around my bungalow... Yes, that's right... 4 Sycamore Terrace... Please hurry my husband went into the kitchen ten minutes ago after the pig and he hasn't come back yet. I think the pig must have eaten him. Hurry!

Dotty ends the call and places the phone back on the coffee table. Enter Bill carrying a large wooden rolling pin.

Bill There is nothing in the kitchen. *(Scared)* Why are you dressed as a clown Dotty? You know how I hate clowns. And what are you going to do with that knife?
Dotty What did you say? Thank God the pig never ate you. I can't hear a word you're saying for all these bloody chickens. Say that again.
Bill What bloody chickens. *(Louder)* And there is no pig in the kitchen either. I'm sorry Dotty but I think you need help.

Dotty What?
Bill Do you want some help?
Dotty Yes please, Bill.

Bill grabs the phone from the coffee table while Dotty is distracted with her chickens.

Bill *(Into phone)* Hello, yes, ambulance please... It's my wife she has gone crazy... She is dressed as a clown with a huge kitchen knife... and she thinks she is surrounded by pigs and chickens... Yes, 4 Sycamore Terrace. Please hurry... what? Well how the hell should I know... OK I'll ask her. *(To Dotty)* How many chickens are there Dotty?
Dotty I count five... no six, the bloody cockerel has turned up too. *(To the chickens)* Shut up. Oh no you don't, get down.
Bill *(Into the phone)* It's worse than I thought; one pig five chickens and a cockerel. Please hurry. *(Hangs up the phone. To Dotty)* Now help is on the way.
Dotty I know, I called them a while ago.
Bill No I called them just now.
Dotty No I called them. *(To chickens)* Get down you little beggar.
Bill Don't get angry Dotty. Put down the knife. No one is going to hurt you.
Dotty These bloody chickens won't stop attacking me. Why don't you help me?
Bill I would if I could darling.
Dotty Then why don't you?
Bill Because I can't. There are no chickens and I ain't coming anywhere near you until you put down that knife.
Dotty Bill, if I had a bloody knife, I would not have a problem with these bloody chickens. And we would have plenty to roast over the next couple of weeks.
Bill But there are no chickens. And furthermore, why are you dressed as a clown?
Dotty *(Shrieks)* WHAT! Are you crazy? I'm wearing the same clothes as when we got up.
Bill Oh yes. Sure, you are. *(Pointing)* You thought it would be funny playing dress up while I was asleep. Didn't you? You know clowns scare me.

Dotty swings her arm trying to hit his pointed finger away.

Bill Don't you try to stab me with your knife.
Dotty I don't have a knife. My God, if I wasn't surrounded by chickens, I give you a belt around the ear.
Bill *(Pointing)* And if you weren't so scary in that clown outfit and big knife, I'd give you what for my girl.

The doorbell rings. Bill answers it.

Bill Ha! It's the men in white coats, coming to take you away to the funny farm.
Dotty WHAT? *(To the chickens)* Get down you little...

Enter two men in white coats. Man #1 is carrying a large net on a pole and Man #2 is carrying some rope.

Man #1 No sir we are from animal control. *(Looks at Dotty puzzled)*
Dotty Oh, thank god. Just in the nick of time.
Man #1 We do try and get here as fast as we can when there is an emergency madame.
Man #2 Where are the pigs and chickens sir? We were told they are running around the bungalow.

Dotty opens her arms and points them to the floor.

Dotty Well duh! Are you blind or something?

Man #1 There is no need for name calling madame. We are professionals.

Man #2 Just show us where the chickens and pigs are, and we can do our jobs.

Dotty opens her arms and points to the floor around her in disbelief.

Bill I keep telling her there are no pigs and chickens. But while you are here can you get that bloody clown costume and knife away from her. She is scaring me.

Man #2 You are scaring me sir. What knife? I can't see any knife.

Dotty *(To chickens)* Get off me you little sod.

Man #1 I was nowhere near you madame. I am a happily married man.

Man #2 Married anyway.

Man #1 bashes Man #2 on the foot with the bottom of the net pole. Man #2 limps around the stage nursing his foot.

Man #1 Sir, are there or aren't there any pigs and chickens running around this bungalow?

Dotty Yes, here they are.

The two men ready themselves.

Man #1/Man #2 Where?

Dotty Right here.

Bill I told you there aren't any. She's one sandwich short of a picnic today.

Man #1 Sir, do you know it is an offence to make fraudulent calls to animal control.

Bill I didn't call you.

Dotty I called you. Now will you do your jobs and get rid of these bloody chickens. And there is a huge rabid pig in the kitchen.

Man #1 and Man #2 rush off SL. The doorbell rings again. Bill exits SR and answers it. Bill enters SR with two female paramedics.

Bill Oh thank goodness. You are just in time. Please can you help her. She is the one in the clown outfit surrounded by chickens. But be careful she has got a huge knife.

The paramedics look at Dotty who is smiling at them. They then give Bill their attention.

Medic #1 It's OK sir. Why don't you sit down and have a rest? You seem very stressed.

Bill Yes, thank you I do feel a bit funny this morning.

Dotty He's stressed. What about me? What about all these bloody chickens.

The paramedics help Bill to his armchair. Enter Erica, Monica and Gary.

Erica *(Looking worried)* What on earth is going on here? I saw the ambulance outside and rushed in.

Dotty Careful Eric there's a huge man-eating pig in the kitchen. And watch out for all the chickens too.

Erica What! Where?

Enter the animal control SL. The paramedics attend to Bill, bending over him so he can see down the front of their overalls.

Erica And, who are you?

Man #1 We are from animal control madame.

Erica shrieks and joins her mother on the armchair. Monica leaps into Gary's arms.

Erica Bloody hell. There *is* a man-eating pig?

Man #2 No madam there is not.

Man #1 And never has been.

Erica *(To Dotty)* Then why are we in the armchair?

Dotty It's not the pig. It's all these bloody chickens. *(Shouting at the chickens)* GET DOWN!

Erica jumps down from the armchair and looks at Dotty. Monica stands.

Dotty Oh not you love. That cockerel is getting a bit over amorous with my leg.

Monica What cockerel and what pig? Would somebody tell me what on earth is going on here. And why is Bill sat there looking down the front of the paramedics overalls?

The paramedics notice Bills gaze. Bill looks at them a bit sheepish.

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