

Tryptych

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The Son

Set Design:

Smart black shoes and shirts, bomber jacket on the top of a shirt.

Seats (tube pattern) close together with empty ones too. Black out with spotlight. Sound of the train. Sat close together, A's leg almost touching C's leg. C is slumped, in a slightly jarring way, leaning against a pole.

Music: Gymnopedie No. 1 (00 – 1.50)

A & B are sat on opposite sides of the tube. A is eating fried chicken, in a quite neanderthal type way. They have both had a skinful of beer and shots. There is a strong aroma of chicken on the train, A is hunched over slightly, inanely grinning to himself as he eats.

C is a female, sat to the left on A, asleep – or at least with her eyes closed. She is plugged into her phone, with earphones on.

A: 'Johnny fucking shit himself, didn't he.....'

Silence

More eating

A: He FUCKING shit himself d'int he.....

.....when they all come.....

....he fucking shat himself'

Silence

B starts to eat his own fried chicken. Looks around

C remains asleep

A Munching gleefully

He FUCKING ran off.....ahhhhhh.....

laughs

so funny

laugh

e' fackin' rannn off

B: *fidgets*

Yeah

C immobile

A emboldened by silence and his power

Nightmare.....

.....no way

fucking cunts

B: Shhhhhhhhhhhh

A silence – grins

A Chicken stinks dunnit, eh

B silence

A: it's Fuckin' rank

B: *inaudible tut*, I know

A: *laughs* Eh, he fucking shat his load didn't he? Shat himself badly

B: Stop swearing man

A silence

B: *aggrieved*

what's your problem - I don't know why you have to swear

A: What? *Laughing*.

B: eating chips

A: appealingly

But, when he saw, there, on the platform, he FUCKING shat it

B: Jesus.....will you stop swearing. Why do you have to do it

A: What?

B: I tell you what, what would Mum say? I don't know why you have to swear?

A: What?

B: There's people here man, they don't wanna hear you swearin'

A: *Looks around imperceptively – glancing to the side.*

A: It's 5 past 12.

B: *silence (eats chicken)*

A: It's 5 past 12.....it's late init

B: I just don't know why you have to swear like that

A: *silence*

A: I done so much money,

B: Me too

A: I done a ton (*looking in wallet – nothing left*).....Yeah over a hundred.....

B: I spent one fifty

A: I'm walking from the station.

B: So many shots man....*smiles to himself shakes head*.....I've got to pay for my little girl's party tomorrow.

A: Huh?

B: Her birthday, init' I gotta pay for the hall and that.....you know.....the entertainer and that

A: A clown?

B: What? (disinterested)

A: You gettin' one, for her, init'?

B: I've gotta sort out the music 'n all

A: For the clown?

B: What you on about? I'm not getting' no clown man. She wants Justin Beiber
init'

A: oh

B: I can't fuckin' afford that

Silence

B: Finishes his chicken and rolls up the paper

C wakes and thumbs through her phone

A: Rayner's Lane bruv,

They stand up and amble over to the doors

Doors open

B: It's freezing (walks away)

A: (shouting after him)

Get back ok, yeah, bruv, take it easy alright. Yeah, later, nice on. Oi, oi

*B walks away and A is left cheering a little on the platform. He puts his hands in
his pockets, hunched shoulders, looking left and right....*

Gymnopedie No. 1 (3.20 – end)

C remains asleep

Fade

The Mother

Music: Gymnopedie No.2 (from 40 Secs – for a brief spell)

C is at one table, on her own.

A and B are sat together on another table. They are in a pub. Drinks are on the table. C has a soft drink and A and B have pints. A and B are a young, kooky studenty, couple. C is a middle-aged woman

C Talking to somebody off stage

C: Ohhhh - Is that Fish & Chips?

.....

C: It is.....great.....that's what I've gone for too.

.....

C: Do you.....I've only ever had fish & chips once before.....I just thought I would have it today

.....

C looks out of the window

A:But there might be sharks there.

B: Sharks are alright, they get enticed, due to over-fishing, they're are actually quite placid

A silence

B: They are friendly.....we should go

A: I wouldn't feel safe though – the sharks.

Pause

A: What about the bubbles too, when you re-surface. Do the bubbles get into your blood?

They look into their pints

A: What is the edge of a bubble made of?

B: Huh?

A: *Still looking into her pint.* You know, the very edge of a bubble. *Makes a curved shape with her hand.*

B *Thinks* It depends whether it's in air or liquid.....An air bubble distinguishes between the inside and the outside of the bubble. Do you know what I mean.....?

A *confused*

B If you think about it.....a bubble in air.....right?

A: yeah

B: A bubble in air.....

A:do you mean, like a bubble that you blow

B: ...Yea, like a child's bubble

A: right

A: A bubble that is in air, it has *air* on the inside, a film of liquid, and then air on the outside, there is an edge.....right?

A: Yea.....see what you mean

B: But a bubble, in the sea, in liquid, err, I mean, an air bubble in the sea, right?

A: Yeah

B: An air bubble in the sea, it's just air, isn't it, just air, and it rises and pops on the surface

A:or it gets in your blood

B: silence.

C's Fish and Chips arrive.

Gymnopedies No 2 (2.23 to end)

The Spirit

Music: Gymnopedies No. 3 (from start to 0.56)

A & B – couple in bed, A is typing on his laptop and there are breakfast things around. A mobile phone is on a bedside table

C – a person not present (whom has texted A)

B: So, what did she say?

A: *reading the phone*.....Well, you can't tell her right?

B: Of course.....we don't have to do it

A: *laughing*

B: Go on – what does she say?

A: *Looking at her phone*.....Should we do it about Simon?

B: Ok

A: Well he cancelled first of all.

'He said it would take 2 hours to arrive because there were problems on the road'

Silence

A.....no?

B: Carry on (mildly irritated)

A: And then.....errrm (scrolling through the messages)....so she's meeting him tomorrow

B: Hmmmmmm

A: Maybe we should say that she met him the day after instead....

B: Just say it (louder)

A: errrrm – (sigh) I've heard it all before really

Pause

A: She said she's in love with him, he's 'sooooo gorgeous'

B: Are you reading the text or is this your view? (little exasperated)

A: This is from her text

B: ok

A: She says she's on 'cloud 9 and he feels the same'

B: Awwwwwww

A: 'We've been dancing all night'

pause

B: Yes, is that the text? (grabbing the phone, reading from the text) 'Are you ok, did you stay with him?'

Hmmmm.....Is that it? (handing the phone back)

A: No reply yet (putting the phone down)

B: *typing into the laptop the question and pointing to it*

A: *(Reading): 'Do you think this is ok?'* (laughs)

Keep it to yourself and don't ever show it to anyone

B: Nobody will be that interested (closing the laptop)

Music: Gymnopedies 3 (2.13 to end)

Fade.