

**HONESTY**  
**A play for radio by Thomas Baines**

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# HONESTY

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Colin is an ordinary hen-pecked husband who lives a very quiet life with his wife, Sandra. He is the type who, though likeable, is looked down upon by some as a boring mundane character. He is the type who would never even think about straying beyond the boundaries of respectably. However all that drastically changes one evening when he reluctantly goes to Arthur's leaving Do.

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## A SYNOPSIS

Colin is attending Arthur's office leaving Do, and it is obvious that he is the quiet reserved type of character who is the ready-victim there for the butt of harmless jokes from Geoff. They are in the Dolphin Inn, where Colin is coerced into having pints of beer. As the evening wears on he becomes interested in Pauline, an attractive woman there. Eventually she agrees to let him walk her home. None of his office friends see them leave together.

Their walk is interrupted by a car suddenly pulling up close to them – it is Johnnie, Pauline's boyfriend – a very jealous and angry Johnnie! A row and fight develops – both Colin and Johnnie are injured.

After Pauline leaves with Johnnie in his car, a limping Colin, clutching his injured fist, makes his way to the main street. But two yobbos try to mug him – he resists, and is only saved from serious injury by the intervention of three passing men – they are in fact three of his office friends from Arthur's leaving Do. ... A passing police car arrives on the scene, and as a result an ambulance is called for and Colin is taken to hospital – one of his friends, Geoff, travels with him. ... Because of Colin's injuries it is assumed that they were caused by the yobbos – Colin is very careful not to mention Johnnie and Pauline.

Colin's wife, Sandra, arrives at the hospital and is shocked to see the state he is in. Geoff informs her about what had happened between Colin and the yobbos. That incident results in everyone tending to treat Colin as a bit of a hero for defending himself against the muggers. Colin of course avoids any questions that would not detract from this being the sole cause of his misfortunes. He convinces himself that his honesty is not impaired by this – after all, he had not told any lies. But of course a totally honest man would not knowingly take part in such an innocently formed deception. ... His world of relative complacency is however rudely shattered by the sudden appearance of Pauline and Johnnie. They are there in order for his jaw to be treated – it was broken! ... Tempers flare and a fracas at once develops.

The play ends with Colin having been taken to a quiet room for his safety, where he reflects on his misfortunes caused by going to Arthur's leaving Do.

## SCENES

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## LIST OF CHARACTERS

|                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| First Waitress  | Young Woman           |
| Second Waitress | First Yobbo           |
| Arthur          | Second Yobbo          |
| Geoff           | First Policeman       |
| Colin           | Second Policeman      |
| Neville         | First Ambulance Man   |
| Eric            | Second Ambulance Man  |
| Pauline         | Sandra (Colin’s wife) |
| Pub Landlord    | Hospital Sister       |
| Johnnie         | Hospital Nurse        |
| Young Man       | Hospital Porter       |

*Actors can of course double-up on some parts.*

## SUGGESTED BACKGROUND SOUNDS

Various background sounds as described in the text.

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## Scene One – AT THE RESTAURANT.

*[The background sounds of a restaurant's kitchen are heard. ... After a few seconds the swishing sound of a swing door being pushed open is heard, and during the short time it takes to return to the closed position a faint background sound of a group of men giving a roar of laughter is heard.]*

*[Then:]*

**FIRST WAITRESS:** What's happening in there now?

**SECOND WAITRESS:** Oh, they've got round to the dirty stories part of the evening – it's the one whose 'leaving Do' it is, that's telling the latest. ... He didn't even stop when I went in - I think it's disgusting!

**FIRST WAITRESS:** You should be used to it by now, Norma – these men's leaving Do's are all the same. ... What's the tips situation likely to be?

**SECOND WAITRESS:** I suppose the usual twenty pee under some of the plates if we're bleedin' lucky!

**FIRST WAITRESS:** The skinny sods! ... If that one with the dickie bow tries to feel my bum again, I'll blee —!

**SECOND WAITRESS:** Now, Marg – it's par for the course being a waitress in a dump like this. ... Don't let it worry you – after all, they're due to vacate the room in less than half an hour.

*[As she goes towards the door:]*

**FIRST WAITRESS:** Yes, all right. But I don't have to like it! ... Well, here goes!

*[As she opens the door and we follow her, the sounds from inside the dining room commence, with the voice of Arthur being heard as he finishes his dirty story with the end of its punch line:]*

**ARTHUR:** ... so as he put his trousers on he says to her: "By the way, it was a truncheon – I'm an under the cover policeman!"

*[This is immediately followed by a roar of laughter from his fellow office colleagues (all male) – some showing added appreciation of the story by banging on the table.]*

*[As the appreciation is heard to die away, the low background of general conversation is heard (now, and for the rest of the scene) – then the voice of Geoff comes to the fore:]*

**GEOFF:** That was really good! ... 'Old Arthur can certainly tell them!

**COLIN:** Yes! It was, Geoff. I —!

*[Interrupting in a disparaging way:]*

**NEVILLE:** Well, I for one, don't have any time for that kind of thing! ... I'm surprised at you, Colin – I didn't think you were the type who appreciated such carryings-on.

*[Clearly embarrassed:]*

**COLIN:** Well, em, em —!

**GEOFF:** Come off it, Neville. I thought it was Colin who's the straight-laced one – not you!

**NEVILLE:** I may appreciate certain types of jokes, but never the ones that include infidelity!

*[Slightly remorseful:]*

**GEOFF:** Oh, I'm sorry, Neville - I forgot about your divorce, it slipped my —!

*[He breaks off, for the Waitress has come to collect the dishes from their part of the table:]*

**FIRST WAITRESS:** Excuse me, please, while I collect the empty dishes.

*[In a perky way:]*

**GEOFF:** Be my guest, darlin'!

*[There is a brief pause, then:]*

**FIRST WAITRESS:** Oh! ... Listen, you! You keep your hands to yourself!

*[Feigning innocent surprise:]*

**GEOFF:** What are you on about? ... It wasn't me!

**FIRST WAITRESS:** Oh yes it was!

**GEOFF:** Honestly! It wasn't.

*[Then in a feigned surprised manner, he adds:]*

**GEOFF:** ... Well, in that case it could only have been 'old Colin here. ... Really, Colin! – I didn't think you were the type!

*[Obviously embarrassed:]*

**COLIN:** It-It wasn't me! ... I w-would never —!

**FIRST WAITRESS:** I know who it was! ... Thank God, you lot will soon be gone! ... I'm not clearing up until then!

*[All Sound slowly Fades-Out – Time Lapse. ... A brief period of silence is followed by the return of room's background sounds.]*

*[Then the voice of Geoff is heard addressing the assembly:]*

**GEOFF:** Listen, everybody! ... It's only half-past nine. Surely, we can't let 'old Arthur leave without having a round of the best bitter in town! ... I say let's go across to the Dolphin Inn!

*[There is a general hubbub of voices from the others – followed by:]*

**GEOFF:** Well, how about it?

*[Immediately there is a general chorus of approval – but he notices one who has not responded.]*

*[In a loud voice, that is clearly meant to embarrass:]*

**GEOFF:** And how about you, Colin – don't you want to come?

*[Obviously ill at ease:]*

**COLIN:** Well, em, em – I told Sandra that I wouldn't be too late.

*[Loudly:]*

**GEOFF:** Come-on, Colin – everyone else is going. ... I'm sure nobody here is going to spill the beans about you actually going into a pub!

*[A little angrily:]*

**COLIN:** It isn't that at all! I prefer not to go – it-it's just not my scene.

**ARTHUR:** Please, Colin, make an exception just this once – after all, it is my leaving Do!

*[At first hesitatingly:]*

**COLIN:** Well, em. ... Yes, of course, Arthur.

**ARTHUR:** Good! ... Come-on, everybody – let's get going!

*[All Sound slowly Fades-Out – Then a brief period of silence (Time Lapse).]*

## Scene Two – OUTSIDE THE PUB

*[After a few seconds the background of the night sounds of the street outside slowly Fade-In.]*

*[Then footsteps are faintly heard as two of them walk with the others towards the pub.]*

*[Then said in a firm way:]*

**COLIN:** Look, Geoff! ... Why the hell do you have to keep taking the mickey out of me, especially in public!

*[Obviously both having stopped walking.]*

*[Sounding genuinely surprised:]*

**GEOFF:** I-I didn't know it upset you! ... You know me, it's just my way of having a little bit of fun – no harm was meant.

**COLIN:** But I find it so embarrassing – I do wish you'd stop it!

**GEOFF:** If that's what you want, then, all right. ... Mind you, I don't know what all the fuss is about. ... You know what your trouble is – you're too sensitive. You want to let yourself go now and again – have some fun for a change!

*[Geoff is heard to walk-on. ... After a few steps he stops, and obviously from a short distance away, he exclaims:]*

**GEOFF:** Come-on! Let's catch the others up – we're wasting drinking time!

*[There is a slight pause, then Colin is heard to give a sigh of exasperation before saying:]*

**COLIN:** All right, then.

*[All Sound slowly Fades-Out – Then a brief period of silence (Time Lapse).]*

### Scene Three – AT THE DOLPHIN INN

*[After a few seconds the background of the night sounds of the street outside slowly Fade-In.]*

*[The sound of two pairs of footsteps approaching are heard. Then the swing door of the 'Dolphin' is heard to swish open, and immediately we hear the background of pop beat music playing. (Note: This music and sounds of other customers in the pub, form the background sound during the time Colin is in there.)]*

*[Then:]*

**COLIN:** Good God – it's one of those places! ... Isn't it crowded? I was hoping we'd be able to sit.

**GEOFF:** Never mind that. ... The others have had to split up – let's join Neville over there near the toilets.

*[All Sound Fades-Out – Time Lapse. ... A brief period of silence is followed by the return of room's background sounds.]*

*[Then in a jocular way:]*

**GEOFF:** Hello, Neville! ... What are you doing stood here all by yourself? The others haven't given you the cold shoulder, have they?

**NEVILLE:** No! N-not at all! It's just that the room is so crowded that we had to split up into small groups. ... I found this place and waited for you two to join me.

**GEOFF:** Only kidding, Neville!

**NEVILLE:** Yes, well, em. ... Em, what's kept you two?

**GEOFF:** It's Colin, here – he wanted us to go to a massage parlour.

*[In an angry way:]*

**COLIN:** That's not true!

*[Continuing in an exasperated voice:]*

**COLIN:** ... Why don't you give it a rest for a change, Geoff!

**GEOFF:** So sorry 'old man! ... Just a bit of fun – no harm meant.

*[A brief pause, then:]*

**NEVILLE:** Oh, here's Arthur – he said he would get the drinks round organized.

*[As he gets close to them, Arthur is heard to say to people in his way:]*

**ARTHUR:** Excuse me, please! ... Thank you!

*[As he joins the other three:]*

**ARTHUR:** The rest have decided to have a kitty and keep it to beer only. ... Is that all right with you?

**NEVILLE:** Yes - that seems okay.

**GEOFF:** That's fine with me!

**COLIN:** Well, yes – that should be all right.

**ARTHUR:** Good! ... But I'll pay for the first round.

**GEOFF:** There's no need for that, Arthur – you paid for that round at the restaurant!

**ARTHUR:** No, I want to get one in! After all, it is my 'leaving Do', isn't it? ... I'll get pints of bitter for everyone. ... Eric's at the bar waiting to order – one of us will bring them round to everybody.

*[In a slightly hesitant way:]*

**COLIN:** If you don't mind, I prefer to keep to halves.

*[In a mildly bumptious way:]*

**GEOFF:** Really, Colin! Didn't you hear him say pints? ... Don't worry, if you get sozzled I'll make sure you get home safely – I'll even put Sandra in her bloody place for you, if you want!

*[Angrily:]*

**COLIN:** Bugger off, will you!

*[There are a few seconds when nobody speaks, then:]*

**ARTHUR:** Em, would a ten pound kitty be all right.

*[After a brief pause:]*

**NEVILLE:** Y-yes.

**GEOFF:** That will be fine.

*[After a further brief pause:]*

**ARTHUR:** How about you, Colin?

**COLIN:** Oh, I'm sorry, Arthur – yes, of course!

**ARTHUR:** Well, em, I'd better go to Eric. ... Pay the kitty money when one of us brings the beer.

*[As he goes away, he is heard to say to people in his way:]*

**ARTHUR:** Excuse me, please! ... Thanks!

*[Then after a brief pause:]*

**GEOFF:** I think I'll go for a jimmy riddle.

*[Then after he has moved a few paces, he shouts back in his old cheerful way:]*

**GEOFF:** If I'm not back by the time the beer arrives – come and get me!

*[After a further brief pause:]*

**COLIN:** I, em, I don't like this type of place. I prefer one where I can sit down and am comfortable – not having to stand in a crowd, trying to avoid having the drink spilt.

**NEVILLE:** Yes, I agree – but the others don't seem to mind. In fact, some people prefer standing – heaven knows why.

**COLIN:** By the way, I-I had a word with Geoff as we left the restaurant – that's what really delayed us.

**NEVILLE:** What about?

**COLIN:** About the way he keeps taking the mickey out of me!

**NEVILLE:** I wouldn't worry too much about it - there's always one of his type about – I find it best to ignore them. ... Though I must admit there are times when he tends to make me laugh.

**COLIN:** But I find it so embarrassing, especially when he does it in public!

**NEVILLE:** What did he say when you told him?

**COLIN:** Well, he kind of apologized. But he said he thought I was too sensitive.

**NEVILLE:** Perhaps you are – but so what! I for one wouldn't want you to be any other way, Colin. You are also one of the most decent and honest people I know.

*[Obviously slightly embarrassed:]*

**COLIN:** Well, em ... I don't think I'm —!

**NEVILLE:** No, I really mean it! I can truthfully say that of all the people I know, you are one of the few who I can completely trust – I can never imagine you being deceitful or dishonest in any way. ... Oh, I'm sorry, Colin - I seem to have embarrassed you. That wasn't my intention at all. Perhaps your embarrassment is part of your sensitivity. ... I could never imagine Geoff being embarrassed about anything!

**COLIN:** I don't know about that – he went a bit quiet after I just told him to bugger off.

*[In a thoughtful way:]*

**NEVILLE:** Yes – yes, he did.

**COLIN:** What annoys me, is the fact that his type can say the most outrageous things, and always get away with it – not that I hate him or anything like that – he can be very understanding and helpful at times.

**NEVILLE:** Yes, I suppose you're right. Perhaps his antics are all part of an act – we're all actors in one way or another.

**COLIN:** That business with the waitress – of course it was him that touched her! But I was the one who was made to feel guilty. I just stood there not kno...

*[He lets out a sigh, then continues:]*

**COLIN:** ... Oh, let's drop the subject – after all, we're supposed to be enjoying ourselves here.

**NEVILLE:** If that's possible in our cases. ... Oh, here's Eric with the drinks.

*[As he gets close to them, Eric is heard to say to people in his way:]*

**ERIC:** Excuse me, if you don't mind, please! ... Thanks!

*[As he joins the other two:]*

**ERIC:** Here you are, gentlemen! ... I'm serving the drinks for this round. Arthur's staying at the bar – it's too good a place to risk losing.

*[There is a slight pause as Neville and Colin take their drinks from the tray.]*

*[Then:]*

**NEVILLE:** Thanks!

**COLIN:** Thanks, Eric!

**ERIC:** Where's Geoff! ... He was stood here with you, wasn't he?

**NEVILLE:** He's gone to the Gents – he shouldn't be —! ... Oh, he's coming now!

*[Geoff joins them:]*

**GEOFF:** Just in time!

*[After a very brief pause:]*

**GEOFF:** Thanks, Eric! ... Cheers everyone!

*[A pause as he takes a drink of beer, then:]*

**GEOFF:** Aaahh! That's good – in fact it's great! ... Come-on you two - taste yours!

*[Another brief pause as they both take a drink of beer.]*

*[Then in a mischievous way:]*

**COLIN:** 'The best bitter in town?' ... It taste's bloody awful!

*[The others laugh.]*

*[Then:]*

**NEVILLE:** Well, Eric, we'd better give you the ten pounds kitty money.

*[All sound slowly Fades-Out – Time Lapse. ... A brief period of silence.  
... Then after a few seconds the room's background sounds slowly Fade-In.]*

*[As he joins the other three:]*

**ERIC:** Here you are, then – round number two! ... Put the empty glasses on the tray and take a full one.

*[All Sound slowly Fades-Out – Time Lapse. ... A brief period of silence.  
... Then after a few seconds the room's background sounds slowly Fade-In.]*

*[As he joins the other three:]*

**ARTHUR:** I'm the waiter this time. ... Let's have your empties then take your pints.

*[A brief pause, then said in a jocular way:]*

**GEOFF:** Come-on Colin – drink up! ... We can't have Arthur standing here all night with your pint.

**COLIN:** Sorry, Arthur! I'll finish it now.

*[A brief pause, then:]*

**ARTHUR:** Thanks, Colin! ... I won't hang around, my pint's waiting for me on the bar top.

*[As he goes away, he is heard saying to people in his way:]*

**ARTHUR:** Sorry to bother you again. Thanks!

*[A brief pause, then:]*

**GEOFF:** I tell what, Colin – you must be beginning to like the beer now.

**COLIN:** Perhaps I am.

**GEOFF:** You must be! You must have gulped half a pint in one go when you drained the glass for Arthur – and without pulling your face!

**NEVILLE:** I must admit I'm getting to rather like it.

*[Then after a further brief pause:]*

**GEOFF:** Hey! Have you noticed the talent in this place – there's some real crackers here! ... Look at that one over there – what a figure!

**COLIN:** Where – which one?

**GEOFF:** That blonde with those two other women.

*[Sounding interested:]*

**COLIN:** Oh, yes!

**GEOFF:** Look at her glancing at us! She knows we're looking at her – she's enjoying it. ... What do you think, Colin – isn't she a stunner?

*[Obviously interested:]*

**COLIN:** She certainly is! I could really fancy her!

*[Somewhat shocked and annoyed:]*

**NEVILLE:** Really, Colin! I didn't think you were like that!

*[Suddenly clearly ill at ease:]*

**COLIN:** But-But I didn't mean —!

*[Interrupting:]*

**NEVILLE:** As for you, Geoff! What would Margaret say if she knew you carried on like this?

*[At once serious and concerned:]*

**GEOFF:** Good God, Neville! You don't think that I would ever bother with another woman, do you? ... It-It's just the drink – only a bit of fun.

**NEVILLE:** I'm glad to hear it.

**GEOFF:** Of course that's all there is to it – it's the same with 'old Colin here - isn't it, Colin?

**COLIN:** Yes, em, th-that's all it is – the drink. ... There's no harm in it.

*[In a jocular way:]*

**GEOFF:** Well ... I'm mean to say, could you ever imagine Colin here seriously thinking of having it off with another woman – I ask you!

**NEVILLE:** No, not really. ... I'm sorry for having misjudged you both.

*[Quietly chuckling, he continues:]*

**NEVILLE:** ... Especially you, Colin – I must be sloshed to ever imagined it of you – you of all people!

*[After a pause:]*

**GEOFF:** By the way, have you heard that 'Old Jackson's office could be asked to lose five people?

*[Obviously surprised:]*

**NEVILLE:** Never! ... Where did you hear that?

**GEOFF:** Well, it's true! ... Do you know who told me - it was ...

*[All Sound Fades-Out – Time Lapse. ... A brief period of silence. ...  
Then after a few seconds the room's background sounds slowly Fade-In.]*

*[As he joins the other three:]*

**ARTHUR:** Here's the pints – my turn again. ... I've never known it so crowded in here.

**COLIN:** You can say that again!

**ARTHUR:** It's a pity we can't all stand together.

**COLIN:** Yes, but nevertheless —!

**GEOFF:** Come-on Colin! ... Don't stand there again with your half-empty glass – finish it and get the full one off the tray!

**COLIN:** Yes, all right.

*[There is a brief pause, then an incident:]*

**COLIN:** Whoops!

*[Immediately followed by a surprised voice:]*

**PAULINE:** Oh!

**COLIN:** Oh, I'm terribly sorry! I didn't know you were there! ... Are you hurt?

**PAULINE:** N-No! - I'm all right, thanks. ... I was just passing as you stepped back into me.

**COLIN:** I-I was just lifting the pint off the tray when the glass caught the edge and spilled - that's what caused it. ... Are you sure you're okay?

**PAULINE:** Yes, I'm positive, thanks.

*[As she continues on her way:]*

**PAULINE:** Don't worry – it usually happens in crowded places like this.

*[A brief pause, then:]*

**GEOFF:** It's that dolly bird we were looking at before. ... I tell what, Colin – you should be all right there if you play your cards right!

*[Obviously embarrassed:]*

**COLIN:** I-I don't know what you're on about!

**GEOFF:** Hey, look! She's looking back at you! ... Perhaps she wants you to go in the Ladies with her!

*[He, together with Neville and Arthur, is heard to chuckle.]*

*[Then, evidently slightly amused:]*

**ARTHUR:** Yes, she did seem to take an interest in you, Colin.

**COLIN:** I wouldn't dream of —!

**GEOFF:** Don't worry, 'old man. Nobody's suggesting that you would even think of going off the straight and narrow – but with the looks she's giving you, even Neville here would be tempted if it was him!

*[Quickly adding in a slightly perturbed way:]*

**GEOFF:** Em – not, not as though any of us here would dream of going after her sought. ... But that kind of look could turn a man's head if he's not careful.

*[A brief pause, then:]*

**COLIN:** If you'll excuse me, I need to go the Gents.

**GEOFF:** Leave your drink with me – we can't have you trying to do it one-handed, can we?

**COLIN:** Yes, all right.

*[Another brief pause, then:]*

**GEOFF:** By the way, what if your girlfriend comes back this way and asks where you are – what should I tell her?

*[He, together with Neville and Arthur, is heard to chuckle.]*

*[Slightly annoyed as he walks away:]*

**COLIN:** Oh, very funny! ... You should be on the stage.

*[A brief pause, then:]*

**ARTHUR:** Ere! Look, there's room at the bar next to Eric! ... Let's get over there – it's better than standing here.

**NEVILLE:** What about Colin?

**GEOFF:** Don't worry – he'll soon find us. ... If he doesn't, then there's an extra pint for somebody!

*[It is then that the voice of the pub's landlord is heard shouting in the background:]*

**LANDLORD:** Last Orders, ladies and gentlemen, please! ... Let's have your last orders!

*[All Sound slowly Fades-Out – Time Lapse. ... A brief period of silence. ... Then after a few seconds the room's background sounds slowly Fade-In.]*

*[Then in a puzzled way:]*

**COLIN:** Wh-Where the heck have they got to?

*[As she approaches him:]*

**PAULINE:** You look lost! ... Where have your friends gone to?

*[Surprised:]*

**COLIN:** Oh! I'm sorry – I didn't see you coming. ... I don't know what's happened to them.

*[A brief pause, then:]*

**PAULINE:** Look! There they are – over there at the bar.

**COLIN:** Oh, yes – thanks. ... Em, by the way, I'm very sorry about what happened before.

**PAULINE:** Don't worry about it. ... I got the impression they were teasing you about it.

**COLIN:** No, not real... ... Well, one of them did make a joke about it.

**PAULINE:** What did he say?

*[Obviously ill at ease:]*

**COLIN:** I'd-I'd rather not say.

**PAULINE:** You can tell me – I'm broad-minded!

**COLIN:** Em, no - no, I rather not if you don't mind!

*[After giving a little chuckle:]*

**PAULINE:** Very well, then. ... I thought you were the shy type when you and your friends kept looking at us girls before.

*[Obviously embarrassed:]*

**COLIN:** But we weren't real—!

**PAULINE:** Which of us were you interested in?

*[After a pause, then giving a distinct sigh of resignation:]*

**COLIN:** As-As a matter of fact, it's you!

**PAULINE:** Why?

*[Now determined:]*

**COLIN:** Why? ... Because you're the most attractive woman in the place!

*[In a delighted way:]*

**PAULINE:** Oh! You-You've left me speechless.

*[A brief pause, then:]*

**PAULINE:** What are you and your friends doing here tonight?

**COLIN:** Well, we all work in the same office – it's the leaving Do for one of them. ... Do you usually come here?

**PAULINE:** I'm here with Jennifer and Caroline – it's our weekly night out together – we're telephonists at the Council offices. ... By the way, my name's Pauline.

**COLIN:** Oh, em, I'm Colin.

*[A brief pause, then:]*

**COLIN:** Oh, can I get you a drink. The landlord's shouted for last orders, but there should be time.

**PAULINE:** No thanks - I've had my limit for the night.

**COLIN:** Are you sure?

**PAULINE:** Yes. ... But don't let me stop you joining your friends for a last one.

*[Hurriedly:]*

**COLIN:** No! I-I don't want to.

**PAULINE:** I wonder why not?

**COLIN:** Be-Because I prefer to be with you.

*[A brief pause, then:]*

**COLIN:** I-I wonder if, em, I could take you home. ... I'm afraid I haven't brought the car with me.

*[A sudden hardening of her attitude:]*

**PAULINE:** And what about your wife? ... I suppose you are married, are you?

*[He is uncertain of himself and on the defensive:]*

**COLIN:** Well, em, yes, yes I am – but —!

**PAULINE:** I want nothing to do with a married man – I've got enough trouble as it is!

*[Then with a quieter and more conciliatory tone:]*

**PAULINE:** Look, you seem to be a decent enough bloke. So why don't you forget me and go home to your wife. After all, you've had a few drinks – it's probably that that's making you feel this way.

*[He is initially resolute:]*

**COLIN:** It isn't the beer, I would still fancy you if I was stone-cold sober. ... I've never even thought of stepping out of line before, even though my home life isn't all that goo...

*[He at once becomes firm and self-reproachful:]*

**COLIN:** ... Oh, what the hell! Just look at me – how could I think that a smashing-looking woman like you could ever fancy me? It's bloody ridiculous!

*[After a brief pause:]*

**COLIN:** Oh, em, I'm sorry. I-I don't know what you must think of me. I feel such a bloody fool!

*[Another brief pause, then in a mischievous way:]*

**PAULINE:** Tell me – did you back into me on purpose?

**COLIN:** No! ... But if I'd known, I would ha—!

**PAULINE:** If I let you take me home, there's to be no funny business. ... Do you understand?

**COLIN:** Yes! Yes, I promise.

**PAULINE:** All right, then. It's not far, so we can walk. But only to the end of the street where I live. ... Wait here while I go and tell my friends.

**COLIN:** If you don't mind, I'll wait just outside the front door.

**PAULINE:** Okay. I'll see in a few minutes.

*[All Sound slowly Fades-Out – Then a brief period of silence (Time Lapse).]*

