

The Ship Has Sailed

a ten minute drama

by

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Scene 1. Interior. Josh and Sophie are present. Play opens in a village pub called "The Ship Inn." It is closing time. Barmaid Sophie is stacking glasses on the shelves. Bar keeper Josh sits down at the bar.

JOSH: Fancy a lock-in?

SOPHIE: Everyone's gone. (Looking around)

JOSH: I was kind of talking about you and me.

SOPHIE: Any excuse to get a free drink, haven't you had enough? You can barely walk.

JOSH: I live here; I don't need to walk far.

SOPHIE: Well I don't.

JOSH: Could you get me a whiskey and water please?

SOPHIE: (Fills glass up for Josh and places it on the bar) I have never seen anyone drink so much in one night.

JOSH: Are you having one?

SOPHIE: (Gets herself a glass of wine then takes a sip) Only one then I need to phone a taxi.

JOSH: You can have the spare room if you like?

SOPHIE: No thanks.

JOSH: You don't really seem happy.

SOPHIE: I'm fine; I'm just not drunk like you.

JOSH: You look fed up. All day you have looked fed up, you can tell me.

SOPHIE: I hate it when you get like this; you have been doing it a lot.

JOSH: (Laughs) I didn't know you cared.

SOPHIE: I don't but I'm doing all the work whilst you're like this.

JOSH: So you don't like me? (Laughing again)

SOPHIE: Not even a little bit. (Grinning)

JOSH: Is it because you don't find me attractive?

SOPHIE: (Finishes the rest of her wine) I'm not having this conversation with you.

JOSH: Well I insist.

SOPHIE: You can't even talk properly right now.

JOSH: You hate me. (Shaking his head and holding his drink)

SOPHIE: You're just drunk.

JOSH: You're unhappy.

SOPHIE: You are making me uncomfortable.

JOSH: God, don't be like that!

SOPHIE: (Phones for a taxi) Hello, it's Sophie from the Ship Inn, do you have a taxi available?

JOSH: Talk about eager to go.

SOPHIE: (On phone) I guess that will do, thanks. (Hangs up)

JOSH: How long?

SOPHIE: (Puts on coat) Fifteen minutes.

JOSH: Sorry if I chased you off and I probably will be in the morning.

SOPHIE: I won't be here in the morning.

JOSH: But you're down to work tomorrow. (Confused)

SOPHIE: Not any more.

JOSH: (More confused) You are supposed to ask for a day off.

SOPHIE: I'm not coming in tomorrow because I quit.

JOSH: You can't, I need you.

SOPHIE: No, you need to get through your hang over.

JOSH: I need you because I am under-staffed.

SOPHIE: (Grabs her handbag and stands by the door) Sorry can't help.

JOSH: Look, I'm sorry. Please don't quit.

SOPHIE: I can't handle you any more or the way you change from one personality to the next.

JOSH: (Stands up and staggers over to Sophie) I promise, I won't drink while I am working, if it helps you.

SOPHIE: You need help.

JOSH: Don't manipulate me, I am not that bad.

SOPHIE: Well good luck with the new staff.

JOSH: What do you want me to do? (Staggering around)