

# **OLDENS BUT GOLDENS**

**BY**

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***CAST in order of Appearance***

<b><i>NURSE NANCY</i></b>	<b><i>AGE 20/40</i></b>	<b><i>Kind and caring and completely clueless.</i></b>
<b><i>NICK</i></b>	<b><i>AGE 25/30</i></b>	<b><i>Con man but not the brain of the outfit, gullible and easily lead.</i></b>
<b><i>DEBBIE</i></b>	<b><i>AGE 25/30</i></b>	<b><i>Wife of Nick and the brains of the outfit very sharp</i></b>
<b><i>ALICE</i></b>	<b><i>AGE 70+</i></b>	<b><i>Wise old bird, very clever and plays up to her son.</i></b>
<b><i>ALBERT</i></b>	<b><i>AGE 70+</i></b>	<b><i>Brains of the outfit and runs the operation.</i></b>
<b><i>GEORGE</i></b>	<b><i>AGE 50/70</i></b>	<b><i>Ex-Army rules and regulations and always by the book.</i></b>
<b><i>JOYCE</i></b>	<b><i>AGE 20/50</i></b>	<b><i>Young women disguised as old Lady</i></b>
<b><i>NURSE SYLVIA</i></b>	<b><i>AGE 30/60</i></b>	<b><i>Nasty piece of work.</i></b>
<b><i>NIGEL</i></b>	<b><i>AGE 20+</i></b>	<b><i>Alice's grandson, also local the Policeman</i></b>
<b><i>MR WITT</i></b>	<b><i>AGE 40/60</i></b>	<b><i>Councillor, Not as clever as he think he is</i></b>
<b><i>SANDY</i></b>	<b><i>AGE 20/25</i></b>	<b><i>Home help, special agent!!</i></b>

***The characters ages only apply to the characters, not the actors who play them. In the original cast, only 2 were over 40!!***

## Oldens But Goldens

This play is set in the living room of an old people's home. The time could be set from the 1980's to the present day.

The set is a normal box set with one door stage back centre and a secret door stage right. It is decorated with dated wallpaper and assorted pictures. Furniture consists of 5 separate sitting room chairs of varying shapes and sizing and a coffee table as you would see in a rundown old peoples home, a cupboard stage back right Joyce's chair is set back from the other 4 chairs stage back left.

Opening curtain enter Nurse Nancy with Nick and Debbie. Nick is disguised as an old man and Debbie pretending to be his daughter. Nick is staying in the home for 2 weeks as a temporary measure so Debbie can sort out his room and move him in to her house. This is what the home think is happening.

### ACT 1

NURSE NANCY, NICK AND DEBBIE ENTER THE LIVING ROOM. NICK IS DISGUISED AS AN OLD MAN. DEBBIE PRETENDS TO BE HIS DAUGHTER.

NURSE N.                      Finally this is the living room where everyone congregates. I hope it will be just like home Mr Allbright, all the chairs are nice and comfy.

NICK                              (*pointing to DEBBIE*) I hope they're better than 'ers.

DEBBIE                          Do behave Dad. I'm sure he'll be happy here while we sort things out at home. I was surprised you could fit him in at such short notice.

NURSE N.                      Yes, one of our residents left last week. It seems we keep losing them.

NICK                              So where do they bleedin' go then?

NURSE N.                      No, not lose as in lose .... taken away.

NICK                              What to the loony bin?!

DEBBIE                          Pack it in Dad, let the nurse explain properly.

NICK                              Why didn't she say it in the first place?

DEBBIE                          (*gives him a dirty look*) I'll swing for you in a minute.

NURSE N.                      No, don't do that. As I was saying, their families are taking them away and putting them into a home nearer to their own. I suppose they feel guilty in some way.

NICK She don't feel guilty. Dump me and forget me, that's what she's going to do.

DEBBIE No we're not and you know that. We just need a few days to get a room ready for you. He needs a downstairs room and a downstairs loo. Too much movement plays havoc with his incontinence.

NURSE N. Don't worry we'll look after him and make sure he doesn't run around too much.

DEBBIE You'll have to watch him (*looks at NICK*) he is a one with the ladies.

NURSE N. Oh I'd better warn the lady residents we have an old Romeo on our hands then.

DEBBIE More like a dirty old man.

NURSE N. That's not fair. I'm sure he's very charming.

DEBBIE You don't know him, he's more of a gigolo than a Romeo.

NICK Oi; stop talking about me as though I'm not here.

NURSE N. Who said that? (*Both women laugh*) I'm sorry Mr Allbright just my little joke. We like to have a happy atmosphere at the home.

NICK Well just remember I'm old and slow not deaf and stupid.

DEBBIE (*loudly*) We'll let the nurses decide that shall we.

NURSE N. (*looks at watch*) I'll let you get your father settled in, as I've got to help cook with dinner. Dinner is at eight or when you here the dinner gong. Nice to meet you .... (*Prompting a name*).

DEBBIE Jill.

NURSE N. Jill. You can visit as much as you like as long as it's not at meal times.

DEBBIE Yes I understand. You won't get anything out of him when he's eating.

NICK It's a good job you don't eat as much as you talk or you'd be auditioning for the Roly Polys.

NURSE N. I'll leave you two alone and I'll see you for dinner Mr Allbright.

NICK What was it... dinner at two bells! (*Sticks two fingers up*)

NURSE N. No, just one gong. (*Didn't realise the insinuation*) (EXITS)

NICK What's with all the dirty old man and the plays havoc with his incontinence lark?

DEBBIE Serves you right for going over the top with the old man routine.

NICK I'm supposed to be an old man and that is what I was doing, stupid!

DEBBIE Look stupid, you may have fooled old nurse sippy knickers but any more of that in front of the other residents and they will suss you right away.

NICK Give over, they're a bunch of lonely old has beens who just want someone to listen to them. I doubt they've got a bag of marbles between them.

DEBBIE I'm not so sure these days, just don't get so cocky I know what you're like, get on a roll and you think you're Lawrence Olivier hamming it up with the best of them.

NICK Look I know what I'm doing. I'll just keep my head down for two weeks while you sort out our disappearance and then goodbye England, hello Barbados. Now what could go wrong?

DEBBIE You just had to say that didn't you. May I remind you of Midlife Mutual Building Society – two years and LoseLife Life Insurance – eighteen months and last but not least your own granny's last will and testament – one year youth detention and a six month suspended sentence.

NICK That's not fair you can't blame me for gran's will, I was only seventeen and it was Dad who put me up to that one. Anyway I was unlucky with the other two.

DEBBIE No, it was your big mouth that got you put away. You just had to keep that (*pointing to mouth*) shut and you would have got away with it scot free both times.

NICK This time I've got an expert accomplice with me to iron out all the finer details and to stop me from messing up.

DEBBIE There's no need for sarcasm.

NICK None intended.

DEBBIE A compliment, now that's a first.

NICK Now who's being sarky.

DEBBIE Let's stop all this and get on with what we need to do before Barbados.

NICK I thought you were doing all that.

DEBBIE I am but you've got to find a place to hide the money while I arrange the rest.

NICK Why put it here?

DEBBIE Three reasons. One, who's going to look here as no-one knows you're here. Two, your case is here and I'll bring mine, then us and the money will go together. Three, if you get caught here with the money I'll just deny everything.

NICK You wouldn't would you?

DEBBIE What do you think?

NICK With my luck yes you bloody would.

DEBBIE Too right! With your record you are probably looking at seven years for this one.

NICK Thanks a lot, I'm married to a heartless cow who'd leave her husband in the lurch to face a seven year stretch rather than stand by him.

DEBBIE And you wouldn't, pull the other one. Anyway it's not going to happen, as long as you leave the Am Dram to the professionals and just play a quiet old man who's in a home while his daughter sorts out the move for him to stay with her, being the loving daughter she is.

NICK Alright, alright. I'll play the quiet old man and keep a low profile.

DEBBIE Any dodgy questions just cop a deaf'n and act stupid, hopefully you'll get away with it.

NICK Stupid I can do, I'll just copy my Dad. Deaf, I suppose I'll take a leaf out of your Dad's book when you Mum nags him.

DEBBIE (*hears noises*) Now's your chance, just remember cock up and it's a seven year stretch or shut up and it's a lifetime stretch in the West Indies. See you later.

NICK Give me a kiss to keep me going until Barbados.

DEBBIE Just a quick one (*goes to give him a peck, NICK goes for a snog*).

*(Talking offstage then door opens. NICK and DEBBIE break from their clinch just in time as four residents ALBERT, GEORGE, ALICE and JOYCE enters the room.)*

DEBBIE                    Now you take care Dad and I'll see you in the week.

NICK                      Bye love, you make sure you come back.

DEBBIE                    Of course I will, you daft ape'ath *(EXIT)*.

GEORGE                   Ah new recruit or do I say prisoner. Welcome to camp misery. What's your name and number soldier?

NICK                      Er, Bill... Bill Allbright.

GEORGE                   So what regiment was you in then?

ALBERT                   Ignore the major, does that to all the new residents. He's harmless once you get to know him.

NICK                      I thought he'd put me on fatigues for a moment.

ALBERT                   Don't be daft man, this is a holiday camp with full board and the government pays the lot.

NICK                      You what? Cost me £350 a week.

ALBERT                   Oh you must have too much money in the bank. This council makes you pay the full whack unless you're broke.

NICK                      I'm only here for a couple of weeks until my daughter fixes me up at her place.

JOYCE                     That's what they all say. I've been here eighteen months and no-one came for me.

ALICE                     That's because you have no-one. *(To NICK)* Spinster you know jilted at the altar so she tells us, but she tells us all sorts. Mad as a hatter that one. I'm Alice by the way.

NICK                      I'm Bill.

ALICE                     So you're only here for a short while. We're all here for good. My Nigel put me here so he can keep an eye on me, says I get up to too much mischief on the outside.

NICK                      That's what my girl said. She said "Dad you're coming to stay with us so we can keep an eye on you. We don't want you burning the house down." It's my memory see, keep forgetting. Nearly burnt the kitchen down last month, left the kettle on the stove.

ALICE                     Boiled the thing dry.

NICK No, forgot it was electric!

ALICE Silly thing.

GEORGE So what were you in? Army, Navy or the RAF.

NICK None I'm too old.

GEORGE The war man, the war.

NICK Oh right. I wasn't, too young you see born in 1927, just missed it.

GEORGE Damn shame.

ALBERT What?! Lucky sod I'd say. Six years wasted fighting some loony, millions killed. It was a shame, a shame it ever started.

GEORGE Seeing off Hitler of anyone else who wanted to start is what we were doing. Fighting for King and Country, freedom and peace.

ALBERT Where has it got us? Still run by the Germans and the bloody Japs.

GEORGE Ah yes, but what if we'd lost? We'd all be talking their lingo as well.

ALBERT That's where we went wrong. Never should have given them their freedom. Too soft our lot, anyone's for a sob story.

GEORGE I'll have to agree with you there sir. We let them off the hook, should have gone for the jugular.

ALICE Well at least you're agreeing with each other but do you always have to talk about the war. Isn't there something else you can talk about?

GEORGE My good woman, if we wanted your opinion you would have been in the services.

ALICE My dear GEORGE, if I was in the services we wouldn't be having this conversation.

GEORGE And what do you mean by that?

ALICE I mean that I would have had you shot by now just to put you out of your misery you sad old warhorse.

ALBERT I'm sorry Bill, what must you think of us? We must stop bickering just this once and let you enjoy your two weeks here.



GEORGE                   *(takes Albert aside)* I see what you mean old boy; blood him in for the let down when no-one comes for him.

ALBERT                   Exactly. Now you two let's make up and show Bill some hospitality.

GEORGE                   Sorry old girl, no offence, just got carried away.

ALICE                    I wish they would. Pine coffin would do.

ALBERT                   Alice, a truce just for two weeks.

ALICE                    OK. Just until Bill's stay is over.

NICK                     Don't stop on my behalf. It's better than the telly.

JOYCE                    My Ron was in the war and he wasn't demobbed until 1946.

NICK                     Do what?

ALICE                    Don't worry about Joyce she's always one or two conversations behind everyone else. Always talks about her Ron so we just ignore her. *(Whispers)* Being jilted I suppose makes you like that.

GEORGE                   Barking mad that one.

ALBERT                   Old and lonely that's the only problem, gets to us all one day.

ALICE                    That's why we all come here. The young ones just don't understand, we want company not just an hourly visit twice a week.

NICK                     I'm lucky, my Debbie wants me at home.

GEORGE                   Just wait until you break an ornament or spoil a good rug and then you'll see.

ALICE                    Getting in the way when visitors arrive or spoiling the grandchildren.

ALBERT                   What about giving good advice, it being rejected and then told not to interfere.

ALICE                    It's all a ploy to put you away for good.

NICK                     But that's what you wanted isn't it?

ALICE                    Yes, but on our terms. We're old not stupid. We can still make decisions on our own.

GEORGE                   Well most of us *(looks at JOYCE)*.

ALBERT She's not as daft as she looks, just a bit slow.

NICK Well I'll make sure she keeps to it, keep on me toes.

ALBERT What with your memory and track record, she'll have the council put you away before you can say accident.

NICK Nah, not with all the benefits she's getting for putting me up.

GEORGE Watch out old boy, she will have your pension if you're not careful.

NICK What pension?

ALICE Your old age pension.

NICK Oh that pension.

ALBERT There you go, you can't even remember your pension. You're getting one step closer to this home already.

NICK Give over, my Debbie's not like that, she gives me all my pension every Monday.

GEORGE So you let your Debbie get your pension. How much does she give you then?

NICK *(guessing)* £50.

ALBERT Oh dear, oh dear. How big is that case of yours?

ALICE She's started stage one.

NICK What do you mean stage one, there's more?

GEORGE You've got a lot to learn dear boy. Listen and learn, you've got to see the signs before it's too late.

ALICE If you can see the signs you can control your own fate, make sure you go where and when you want and not do what they want.

ALBERT Choose the home you want to go to and look after your own money.

NICK But honestly it's not like that. I'm only here for 2 weeks until we... she sorts things out.

ALBERT She's only said that to keep you quiet while she finds you a cheaper place.

GEORGE Maybe a council run place so she can keep all your savings.

ALICE If she's clever she could hide your money, get you on benefits and then transfer you into a home run by the council who will get the benefits and she keeps your money.

ALBERT It'll take more than a couple of weeks mind. So expect the "it's taking longer than we thought you don't mind staying another week or so until we've sorted things out do you?"

NICK What do I do if she says that?

GEORGE There's not much you can do about the extended stay. But while you're here there is plenty to do.

ALBERT We'll tell you when the time comes.

NICK Don't you mean if the time comes.

ALICE No, it's always when, you can count on that.

NICK You mean it's happened to all of you.

ALBERT Yes, but we were prepared for it.

GEORGE That's why we're called the escape committee.

ALICE Our record is the best in the country.

NICK You mean there is an O.A.P. network.

ALBERT We have about 150 agents around the country in specially selected homes.

NICK Give over, you're winding me up.

GEORGE Certainly not. We take this very seriously.

NICK So you look after every pensioner that ever goes into a home.

ALICE We have done for the best part of 10 years.

GEORGE We went country wide when Albert joined us 5 years ago. He saw what we were doing and with his networking skills started Operation L.O.M.A. (*aside to NICK*) Ex city gent you know.

NICK You can't help everyone though.

ALBERT A good 95% have managed to get what they want and the 5% we don't get to in time are causing havoc as we speak.

ALICE We make sure all the good homes are fully booked, and then when someone passes away we fill it with one of our members which increases the network. Soon every home in the country will have at least one of our members in it.

NICK Members, so you've got an O.A.P. society? Like joining the Co-op?

ALBERT No, no. There's just a small administrative fee to cover the costs of sorting everything out. Don't worry it doesn't come out of your pocket.

GEORGE No we take it from the greedy relatives. All the money that you've worked hard for stays in your pocket. We also let the government pay the council to look after you.

NICK What about her in the corner then? (*Points to JOYCE*)

ALBERT She was one that slipped through our net.

ALICE Yes, she was transferred eighteen months ago from one of the homes that wasn't networked.

GEORGE We don't know much about her. We just leave her to her own devices.

NICK So, what does L.O.M.A. stand for then?

ALICE Just a little ditty Albert made up. Stands for Leave Our Money Alone!

NICK That's a good one.

GEORGE Yes, every action group needs a code name. It may be funny but we are deadly serious. All O.A.P.s need our protection.

NICK So you three bickering is just a front for the nurses.

ALBERT Yes, but it does relieve the tension.

ALICE We're the best of friends really.

GEORGE Speak for yourself old girl!

ALICE Oh shut up you old buffer!

NICK Well you certainly had me convinced.

ALBERT Even I can't tell sometimes.

NICK When are you going to help me out then?

ALBERT So you're convinced it's going to be when and not if.

NICK Eh?

ALICE Your Debbie. Leaving you here for good.

NICK No, no it's just a contingency plan in case she does.

GEORGE It's pointless doing anything until we know for sure you are going to be left in a home.

ALBERT We don't want to waste time and resources if your Debbie is going to take you home.

NICK I suppose you're right. My Debbie is a good girl.

ALICE I'm afraid that's what they all say.

GEORGE We could be wrong this time.

NICK I know you are.

JOYCE My Ron's brother had to join the Army when the war ended. Two years he was in.

ALICE Yes, yes we know dear.

NICK Is she always like that?

ALBERT When the mood takes her, she can rattle on for ages, always about her Ron.

NICK Doesn't it get on your nerves.

GEORGE You get used to it after a while. Put up with far worse in the officers mess during the war.

ALBERT Don't worry, we'll get you out if Debbie doesn't.

ALICE Now who is in for a game of cards?

GEORGE Ah.... We're a four for bridge again.

NICK Bridge how the hell do you play that?

ALBERT Do you sense déjà vu friends?

ALICE Déjà vu number 30.

GEORGE As many as that or is it just coincidence?

NICK I don't believe this. We'll have a country run by rich O.A.P.s in homes playing bridge by the time you've finished.

GEORGE                   And why not, what's wrong with that? Maggie did it so why can't we? With us in charge we'll do a better job this time.

ALBERT                   I don't think we'll go that far.

ALICE                    Yes, let's not be silly. All we want is a good choice of homes run by caring staff and the opportunity to spend our money however we want.

GEORGE                   Here, here.

ALBERT                   Come on then, let's get a couple of hands in before dinner. We've got to get Bill up to scratch and then this evening we can have a proper game.

NICK                     Why not have a game of poker?

*Enter NURSE SYLVIA*

NURSE S.                Poker is banned in here, at least until all the day staff have gone home and I'm running the school, OK?

NICK                     Yeah, if you say so.

NURSE S.                So you're the new inmate, just a 2 week stretch is it? That's what they all say. Once you get to 70 they've had enough of you and that's when you come to us. We need somewhere to keep you lot in order.

GEORGE                 You haven't met the delightful Nurse Sylvia. She likes to tuck us up safely in bed at night...

ALICE                    ...And makes sure we're still alive in the morning.

NURSE S.                That's right I like to keep an eye on all my prisoners! I have to look after you, don't want you dying on me unnecessarily. Natural causes is what I want and that's what I get.

ALBERT                 It's alright we won't let you down.

NURSE S.                It's a pity you 4 are taking your time to go!

ALICE                    Sorry I'm sure, you could always bump us off. Oh but that wouldn't look good on your record.

NURSE S.                I could make an exception for you though.

GEORGE                 You'd have to kill us all.

NURSE S.                Don't tempt me. We could have a nice little flu epidemic which turns into pneumonia or meningitis that's a nice one for old people.

NICK I could report you for that.

NURSE S. Don't be silly. It's only my little game; you'll understand when you've been here a little while. Anyway, who's going to believe a silly old sod like you?

NICK Why do you keep saying when I've been here a while? I'm only here for 2 weeks while...

NURSE S. Your daughter sorts things out. We've got all your details. I'll show you 100 files with the same details on.

NICK But I'm different.

NURSE S. You know the drill (*to the others*), shut him up before dinner or none of you get any! (*EXITS*)

NICK Drill, we don't have to march before dinner do we?

GEORGE No, don't be daft man. It's these. (*All pull out bibs*).

ALICE (*Goes to cupboard and gets a bib for NICK*) We all have to wear one or we don't get dinner.

NICK You have got to be joking. There's no way I'm wearing a bloody bib for anyone. She can stuff her dinner.

ALBERT (*Puts one on JOYCE*) I'm afraid it's compulsory. No-one gets dinner unless we wear one. It's her idea of humiliating us because we're old.

ALICE Her little way to show she has control.

NICK Why not overpower her or report her to the authorities.

GEORGE Her son works here as a night porter.

ALICE If we tell the authorities, they might find out what we were up to.

ALBERT Let her have her little game as long as it doesn't stop us doing what we've got to do.

NICK Can't you get away from here into a nice home.

GEORGE That would defeat the whole object old boy.

ALBERT Anyway, our mission is nearly complete and we can close this old home down for good and go to a better home.

NICK What about Nurse Sylvia?

ALICE Don't you worry about her. We've got a nice surprise for her before we leave here.

NICK                                So when is your mission complete?

ALBERT                              You will be our last agent.

NICK                                Me?

GEORGE                             Yes, you old boy. In the next few weeks other agents will be put into the last remaining homes to complete the network for the whole country and then when an O.A.P. is put into a home we will be able to make sure they are fully trained up to live the rest of their lives in peace, comfort and wealth.

ALICE                                And you my friend will be the very last person to be trained as an agent for L.O.M.A.

NICK                                Look, I keep telling you ... oh what's the point?! If I'm here in 2 weeks I'll be one of your bloody agents.

GEORGE                              Good man.

ALICE                                It's for all our benefits and what have you got to lose?

NICK                                *(aside)* My bloody sanity for one.

ALBERT                              Now let's get your bib on and wait for the bell.

NICK                                It's alright I think I can do it myself.

JOYCE                                My Ronnie went to prison. Fraud I think.

ALICE                                Don't be silly Joyce. Your Ronnie went missing in action.

JOYCE                                No before the war. 1927, big insurance scam, got 5 years he did.

ALBERT                              Next you'll be telling us he was a master of disguise.

JOYCE                                He did like to dress up.

GEORGE                              Pack it in old girl, you'll put me off my dinner.  
*(Bell rings, all EXIT for Dinner) (CURTAIN).*



ACT 2 SCENE 1  
10 DAYS LATER

*(ALICE is with her grandson in the living room)*

- NIGEL                    Now is everything OK? I'm sorry I've not visited for a while but we've been busy at work recently.
- ALICE                    Not to worry dear, I've been a bit busy myself.
- NIGEL                    The Chief has uncovered a huge operation in the area. Fraud and deception running into hundreds of thousands of pounds, possibly even a million!
- ALICE                    That's nice for you dear.
- NIGEL                    It's the biggest case we've had for 20 years and he doesn't want to give it over to the big boys so we are all working on it.
- ALICE                    Have you been eating properly, you know what you're like when you're busy?
- NIGEL                    Yes Gran, we all eat at the canteen to save on time.
- ALICE                    You have to keep your strength up. You're looking a bit pale, are you getting enough sleep?
- NIGEL                    Stop fussing Gran, I'm a full grown man. I can look after myself.
- ALICE                    A good woman is what you need. You're not one of those funny men are you?
- NIGEL                    Gay, Gran. It's gay.
- ALICE                    You are aren't you? You just be careful you know what happens when you're one of them.
- NIGEL                    No, I'm not gay. I was explaining that's what they call homosexuals nowadays.
- ALICE                    It was poofs in my days.
- NIGEL                    Gran! It's a good job we're alone, you can't go around saying those things in this day and age.
- ALICE                    That's the trouble with this day and age. We have all these mini Hitlers running around telling us what we can and cannot do.
- NIGEL                    And the world is becoming a better and safer place, ridding it of prejudice.

ALICE Now I've gone and done it.

NIGEL Done what.

ALICE Put your soap box out for you.

NIGEL Well... you started it.

ALICE And I'll finish it. Now let's start on another subject. When are you going to get another girl?

NIGEL My social life has been put on hold until after this case is finished. The Chief's orders, all leave cancelled, overtime in abundance.

ALICE Such a nice girl your last one, Anne wasn't it? How did you let her go?

NIGEL Annette, and I didn't, I had to put her away.

ALICE Now why did you do that?

NIGEL I caught her and her fiancé robbing my house. OK.

ALICE Better luck next time, we'll be more careful in choosing the next girl.

NIGEL OK, if you want, but not until this case is finished.

ALICE Whatever you say dear.

NIGEL We haven't got much time as the operation is closing down. It seems they're just tying up loose ends and getting rid of any evidence. They're very clever this lot. We only found out by chance.

ALICE Really, do go on ... what are they up to?

NIGEL I can't say too much, but we're very close to catching them. I don't want to give anything away now.

ALICE What do you think I am, a gangsters mole? I'm an old aged pensioner whose grandson is a copper.

NIGEL You never know who's listening.

ALICE Now you're getting paranoid. It's an old people's home.

NIGEL No, I'm sorry Gran, it's too important, anyway, you'll soon find out when the Chief and I are in the papers handcuffed to the villains. The biggest shock this town has ever had.

ALICE It will be. *(Pauses)*. I think you'd better go, I'm getting tired.

NIGEL OK, I'll pop in again when I've got some free time.

ALICE Whenever. You can see yourself out.  
*(NIGEL EXITS). (ALICE goes over to cupboard opens secret compartment pulls out mobile phone and starts dialling).*

ALICE Dolly, this is Maisie, problems at base, spread the word. I'll let you know when it's all clear *(ends call, puts phone back and closes cupboard) (EXITS).*  
*(NICK and DEBBIE enters)*

NICK You've got to get me out of here. This place is a nut house. In 4 days time I'm going to be recruited as a special agent in an O.A.P. secret army who are going to take over all the old age people's homes in the country and possibly the world if the Major has his way.

DEBBIE What are you babbling on about?

NICK This is no ordinary old people's home. It's a training camp for O.A.P.'s to screw the government and stop their kids from nicking their savings.

DEBBIE Don't be daft, you're getting carried away.

NICK It's all true and to top it all they're going to do away with Nurse Sylvia.

DEBBIE Be serious or I'll leave you in here.

NICK No don't, I'm not kidding. See this *(pulls out bib)*. We've got to wear these at dinner times because of Nurse Sylvia. That's why they're going to do her in, in some way.

DEBBIE You're serious aren't you! Somebody's got to you haven't they? What have you done this time?

NICK Nothing I swear. All I told them was I was only here for 2 weeks and that was it.

DEBBIE Come on you must have said more.

NICK They kept on saying that you were planning to put me in a home permanently and that this was the beginning and I'd better start preparing for it. That's when they started telling me about taking over all the old people's homes in the country. The best part was how they claim all the benefits from the government and hide all their savings for themselves.

DEBBIE Bloody hell, that's a better scam than the one we pulled off.

NICK Not quite. 1- You have to be old and 2- you have to have had some savings.

DEBBIE Well you've got some now. Maybe we could clear the money their way.

NICK No, I'm way ahead of you there. A pension book ... I haven't got one and they'll need that to sort out all my details. As soon as they find out I haven't got a pension they'll know I'm a fake. That's why I need to get out of here.

DEBBIE Why? If they've got a scam going they can't shop you. Not if they don't want to get shopped as well.

NICK The trouble is I don't know whether it's illegal or not. They haven't told me what they do and I don't intend staying to find out.

DEBBIE I suppose you're right for a change.

NICK Thank you. Now is everything all set for getting me out by Saturday?

DEBBIE A slight hitch I'm afraid, your passport has run out.

NICK You what? How could you...

DEBBIE ... Only kidding.

NICK Don't do that. Just make sure I'm out of here by Saturday or its goodbye Barbados.

DEBBIE Don't worry, I've only Bristol, Derby and the London offices to close down and we're home free, leaving the shop here to take all the flack while we're quietly disappearing into the sunset.

NICK What about the staff?

DEBBIE Gave them 2 weeks paid holiday, by the time they come back Insure World will not have existed.

NICK No loose ends?

DEBBIE Of course not! Once their policy runs out they renew it with someone else. The only losers are the claimants which is possibly 5%.

NICK And it will take months to find out that they have been conned.

DEBBIE                   And me, you and the company will be gone.

NICK                     Exactly. So we'll have no more talk of doing a deal with the O.A.Ps.

DEBBIE                   It did sound good though.

NICK                     You've been the one to say keep it simple so practice what you preach.

DEBBIE                   OK! If you want to get out of here in time, I had better make a move.

NICK                     Alright but be careful.

DEBBIE                   I should be saying that to you with all these loonies in here.

NICK                     Just be back by Saturday, that's all I ask.

*(Both EXIT).*

*(Enter ALBERT, GEORGE and ALICE).*

ALICE                    I don't believe it! The biggest case my grandson is going to solve is putting his mother away.

GEORGE                   You don't know that old girl.

ALICE                    It sounded real enough to me, everything he said fitted in with what we are doing.

ALBERT                   Tell me again, what did he say?

*(During conversation JOYCE enters and quietly sits in chair).*

ALICE                    He said he was working on a case to do with fraud and deception. He was lucky to discover it, as the operation is closing down. All the loose ends were being tidied up and he was finding it hard to get new leads. Oh, he said we were very clever.

ALBERT                   But did he have any names or idea of what the deception involved.

ALICE                    He wouldn't say, didn't want to discuss any further details as he was too close to solving the case.

GEORGE                   But how does this implicate us?

ALICE                    Because he tells me everything, so it must have something to do with this home and doesn't want me to gossip in case I blow his cover.

ALBERT Yes, but he doesn't know you're already involved.

ALICE Exactly! So the more he finds out, it will all point to me, his grandmother? What a mess!

GEORGE I still can't see that all this is pointing to our operation?

ALICE What other scam is going on in this town involving half a million pounds?

GEORGE You've got a point there.

ALICE Well just to be on the safe side I've put Dolly on full alert.

ALBERT And she has contacted the rest?

ALICE Of course.

JOYCE That new man reminds me of my Ron, Looks a bit of a rascal to me.

GEORGE Good God, woman where did you spring from?

JOYCE Did I tell you my Ron was in prison.

ALBERT Yes, 1927.... FRAUD!

GEORGE And he liked to dress up!

JOYCE Nearly got away with it. Only made the one mistake!

ALICE Look! Forget Ronnie and his dressing up, we have more important things to discuss.

GEORGE Sorry old girl.

ALBERT There's not much we can do at the moment; let's halt Operation L.O.M.A. until we get more information about what Nigel knows.

GEORGE We need to interrogate him without him realising.

ALICE That will be easy! I fooled him into thinking I was a Maggie Thatcher lover who hasn't a clue about the outside world.

ALBERT You had better give him a call to ask him over. Any old sob story will do.

ALICE What would you expect from a silly old pensioner?

GEORGE Tell him you are thinking of writing a new Will that will bring him over pretty damn quick.

ALBERT

Yes, tell him you're leaving everything to the Police Benevolent Fund!

ALICE

We don't want him over that quick. We need a contingency plan just in case they are nearer to finding out than we think they are.

GEORGE

Let's discuss this over a good old bottle of gin.

*CURTAIN*

