

# **Salesman by Day**

by Owen Lewis

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**Salesman by Day**

**A play for two people.**

Cast

Adrian Taylor.....Salesman (45/50)

Stephanie Davis...Girl from pub (25+)

*This is a play for two characters a man and a woman the action takes place in a motel room in Northampton. Adrian Taylor has been on the road selling all his life and knows every Motel in the country and as he spends nearly all his time on the road. He also likes to pick up women and takes them to his rooms.*

*It is late at night we are looking at a seedy Motel room the pink neon sign is flashing through the window there is a bed, a dressing table and a chair. In stumble our two characters obviously they have been drinking and are giggly. They have a bottle of wine and intend to continue drinking. They touch each other a lot as they drunkenly stumble in.*

Adrian  
Sssssh

Stephanie  
(Giggles) Where's the light.

Adrian  
Hang on I think it's here somewhere (finds the light switch) here that's it, now we can see.

Stephanie  
Well this is a bit of a dump isn't it?

Adrian  
Do you mind? This is my home for the next two nights.

Stephanie  
Rather you than me. I mean look at this bed (she hits the mattress) it's made of concrete. And that chair must have come off the ark.

Adrian

Well it's cheap, that's the main thing.

Stephanie

Oh, I hope you're not?

Adrian

How dare you...course I'm not I am class on legs: Now to open this wine.

Stephanie

Yea crack it open I'll find the glasses.

Adrian

There are two in the bathroom. They are the only glasses in here, just take my toothbrush out and rinse them off will you.

Stephanie

Oh. *(Pause)* ewwww! *(She exits but is still in earshot and will answer form wings)*

Adrian

It's all I have, now where's the cork screw?

Stephanie

I don't know.

Adrian

I know you don't, I was being rhetorical.

Stephanie

Eh?

Adrian

Rhetorical; offering questions that need no answers.

Stephanie

Sounds silly to me, why would you do that?

Adrian

Well never mind why let's just find the corkscrew *(She re-enters)* where is it?

Stephanie

Is that one of those retty oracle things again?

Adrian  
Yes exactly.

Stephanie  
Well I have the glasses.

Adrian  
*(Actively searching for the corkscrew)* Well it might be a waste of time. I can't find the corkscrew anywhere.

Stephanie  
Here use this. *(She takes off her stiletto shoe and Adrian pushes the cork into the bottle with the heel.)* There you are we Northampton Lassies are nothing if not inventive.

Adrian  
So I see. Right where's those glasses?

Stephanie  
Probably going to taste a bit minty but here we are. *(Stephanie who is now seated in the bedside chair holds the glasses out for filling. Adrian obliges. He pours the wine and sits on the edge of the bed facing her.)*

Adrian  
Cheers.

Stephanie  
Cheers

Adrian  
So tell us about you; I want to know everything from the start. How old are you? Where are you from, originally, and that sort of thing?

Stephanie  
Oh that's unusual, most men just try to get me straight into bed it's nice to sit and chat a bit first.

Adrian  
I agree, I thought when I saw you in that bar tonight I thought, there's a girl with an interesting story.

Stephanie  
Did you? Did you really?

Adrian

Yes I did. I thought bet she's got loads to tell me.

Stephanie

Well I wouldn't say that but I will say that it is nice to chat. I was born on the 4 of December 24 years ago. I am a Sagittarius; I like meeting people and having a good time. I live at home with Cynthia and my Mum.

Adrian

Cynthia, so there are more of you at home?

Stephanie

Oh Yes you'd love Cynthia, beautiful fur coat and extremely bright eyes.

Adrian

She sounds lovely.

Stephanie

You'd think so until she dropped a dead mouse in your lap.

Adrian

Why on earth would she do that?

Stephanie

She's our cat.

Adrian

Oh I see. So you; your Mum and your cat?

Stephanie

Yes that's it. I knew my Gran on Mum's side but she died last year.

Adrian

And what about your Dad?

Stephanie

Never knew him.

Adrian

How's that?

Stephanie

He left when I was very little.

Adrian

Do you wish you'd known him?

Stephanie

No, why should I? He didn't want to know me did he? No, I hope he is dead. If he knew how we have struggled and gone without because the only money coming in was Mum's he would die of shame anyway.

Adrian

I agree; I knew both mine. Where were you born? I was born in Manchester but to be honest have no roots at all I have travelled around forever.

Stephanie

I was born here; never been tempted to go anywhere else.

Adrian

And what do you do? Work wise I mean?

Stephanie

I work in an insurance call centre processing claims. It's boring as hell but it's a living of sorts. I'm saving for a flat. I want one of the new one's on the river.

Adrian.

Oh I think I saw them on my drive in, Keystone mews? Isn't that their name?

Stephanie.

Yes

Adrian.

Mews always make me laugh, sounds something like a cat might do.

Stephanie

I never thought of that.

Adrian

What about boyfriends, you got one?

Stephanie.

Well no not really.

Adrian

What do you mean not really?

Stephanie

Just that there is a boy I see, but we have a very open ended relationship. I actually think he's gay but I let him struggle with that if and when he's decided, he'll be back or not. I'm not too bothered because it gives me the chance to have some fun too.

Adrian

Sounds good to me. (*Takes a sip of wine*) Hmm I have had better wine.

Stephanie

Told you it's the minty deposits in the bottom of these glasses.

Adrian

Ah well cheap and cheerful

Stephanie

What about you are you married?

Adrian.

Never been much point in staying married. I have been in sales for what feels like forever and I can't remember when I wasn't travelling. I was married once, funnily enough, she was called Cynthia too. Come to think of it the way she got her claws into my bank balance after I went, she was just like a cat. Anyway that was a long time ago.

Stephanie

Why did you leave her?

Adrian.

It all got a bit messy, what with me not being around to play the man of the house. And I didn't fancy her either.

Stephanie

Well, why marry her?

Adrian

It's just the way things were done in those days. Marriage was to suit everyone else but yourself.

Stephanie

Eh?

Adrian.

I mean other family members. Let me tell you what I mean. I went round to my fiancé's house. I was thinking about not marrying her, I had a nagging feeling it was a

wrong idea, anyway I'm sat there and this stupid row breaks out about whether the men would wear top hats or not, Bert, that was her Dad said he wouldn't be seen dead in one. I knew then that I had lost control of the event and it was more about what clothes they would wear as to whether their daughter would be happy for life. Anyway I couldn't upset their feelings and I felt morally obliged and went through with it. Was doing fine for the first four days and then, well.

Stephanie

Well? What do you mean well?

Adrian.

Well, don't get me wrong but on the fifth day I was caught in the shower with the Spanish maid, she had come to clean our honeymoon suite and the wife had gone for a walk on the beach. I couldn't resist this woman: Cynthia had forgotten her sunglasses and returned to the room. Oops anyway we tried to make a go of it but I was no good, I couldn't resist the thrill of playing away.

Stephanie

How can that be a thrill?

Adrian

It's the lack of demands and commitments you can have a wild passionate session and then bollocks that's it. Wham bam thank you Ma'am, as David Bowie once said.

Stephanie

Who's he?

Adrian.

Ha, ha I would imagine that even you would know who he was.

Stephanie

'Spose so. Here look at us chatting, my glass is empty.

Adrian

Oh have more please do.

*(He lifts the bottle and pours her more wine and tops his own up. She starts to study him through the glass with one eye closed)*

Adrian

What you doing?

Stephanie

Looking at you through a glass of wine.



Adrian  
Why?

Stephanie  
Just seeing what you look like a bit distorted.

Adrian  
And?

Stephanie.  
Don't know yet. I'll get back to you.

Adrian  
Fine... thanks. *(Pause)* So this boyfriend of yours?

Stephanie  
*(Interrupting quickly)* Friend, yes what about him?

Adrian  
Well friend then. Why do you think he's gay?

Stephanie  
Don't know it's just something a girl can sense.

Adrian  
Does it bother you?

Stephanie  
No not really, I hope he finds happiness, I really do. You see it was after what my Dad did; I have never really been too worried about a long term relationship I remember in the early days Mum would be in the kitchen and I could hear her sobbing and that was about him.

Adrian  
Maybe she loved him really.

Stephanie  
*(Harshly)* Doubt it.

Adrian  
Must have been a bit of casual then?

Stephanie

I don't know I wouldn't like to think of my Mum doing that.

Adrian

Well believe me, Mums are human too you know; and anyway why not? You're doing it.

Stephanie

How do you know what I am doing?

Adrian

Well you're here aren't you?

Stephanie

Yes but we are talking and enjoying each other's company aren't we?

Adrian

Well yes. (*Tease it out*) We are ....but.....

Stephanie

But?

Adrian

Yes, but, I was rather hoping.

Stephanie

Oh, were you?

Adrian

Well yes really.....more wine,

Stephanie

Yes please.

*(This has to be an incredibly awkward moment)*

Adrian.

Would you have liked to have known him?

Stephanie.

Who?

Adrian.

What?

Stephanie.

Who?

Adrian.

Your Dad?

Stephanie.

No I don't think so. He didn't want to know me so fuck him!

Adrian.

Well that's fair enough.

Stephanie

Yea.....?

Adrian

Yea.

Stephanie

What do you sell?

Adrian

Oh that's so boring.

Stephanie

Tell me I'm interested,

Adrian

Well put it this way, every paper clip that's made into a chain, or every drawing pin that's ever pushed into a notice board, every staple that holds all the pieces of paper together in this town will have come from me. I am the office stationary salesman. You want brass drawing pins I can get them but unless you're buying them in the thousands they'll cost. But for you I can bring the price down to a manageable account price.

Stephanie

Oh wow, next time I need a thousand or more drawing pins I will call you instantly.

Adrian

Well do, although I am a very busy man, there's been a big push on acetates and toners and I have to follow the campaign or get swept away by the competition. (with irony) Oh yes the cut, thrust and parry of the office stationary world is truly amazing.

Stephanie

Well you want to try, Sun Insurance, my name is Stephanie, how may I help you today? Oh, the lamp post jumped in front of your car, or oh I see so this man you ran over was blocking the pavement you were driving down whilst on your mobile....Yes you want to try that..*(She laughs, he laughs, they laugh together and then stop as they look into each other's eyes)*

Adrian

You have beautiful eyes.

Stephanie

All the better to see you with my dear.

Adrian.

And do you like what you see.

Stephanie

*(5 beats)* More wine I think.

Adrian

Yes more wine.

*(As he pours the wine there is a brush of hands and a moment of silence as they look into each other's eyes. The wine is then poured and the mood changes to being more sensuous.)*

Stephanie

Cheers,

Adrian

*(More seriously)* Cheers.

Stephanie

So you left her; what then?

Adrian.

*(Still dreamily looking into Stephanie's eyes)* Eh?

Stephanie

I said you left her, what then?

Adrian

Well I don't know. The usual; more sellin'; more towns, more motels and more women. I really can't remember it's over twenty years ago now. God if I kept track on all my past conquests I would go mad. You must only ever live for the moment.

Stephanie

Is that what you're doing now?

Adrian

What?

Stephanie

Living for the moment?

Adrian

Yes I am - at the moment!

Stephanie

*(Titters)*

Adrian

I love your laugh. You know you are so easy to be with, I just feel so relaxed. *(Holds glass up)* To Stephanie; a beautiful, Northampton girl.

Stephanie

*(Raises her glass too)* To me. A dull and plain and ordinary Northampton girl!

Adrian

Don't say that, you are beautiful.

Stephanie.

Can I ask you a question?

Adrian

Sure, why not?

Stephanie

Where were you last night? I mean what town?

Adrian

I was in Corby.

Stephanie.

And were you raising your glass to a beautiful Corby girl.

Adrian

Oh what are you suggesting?

Stephanie

How can you find me beautiful when you've only just met me? Beauty is what's inside a person.

Adrian

Oh how's that then?

Stephanie.

Well there's a couple down our street and they have been married for fifty eight years, now I'm sure to each other they find themselves beautiful. We don't see that any more - we just see two old people but they love each other and their beauty holds them together.

Adrian

Yes either that or the fear of being alone, I would think the alien concept of being alone after so many years of commitment would be terrifying.

Stephanie

Cynic

Adrian

May be but I have been there and it ain't no fun.

Stephanie

You really don't have to judge everything and everyone by what's happened to you do you?

Adrian

It's all I know what else can I use?

Stephanie

Everyone is different, so it didn't work for you. That's your sad fault. How old are you?

Adrian

Eh?

Stephanie

I said how old are you?

Adrian

Thirty ,

Stephanie

Ha, if you are thirty , I am fifteen.

Adrian

Ok I'm forty (*Whispered and hurried*)...five.

Stephanie

Ha, at forty five you are still alone still picking up girls and still travelling. You need to slow down a bit.

Adrian

No I'm fine and anyway what are all these questions and observations about?

Stephanie

I just want to get to know you. There are times when a shag just isn't enough.

Adrian

Bit presumptive that, who said that I wanted a shag?

Stephanie

Pretty sure you didn't want to talk about photocopiers and staples all night.

Adrian

Hmmmmm, perceptive as well as beautiful.

Stephanie

That's what they tell me

Adrian

I imagine it is

Stephanie

More wine, more wine,

Adrian

Indeed.... for I am Bacchus?

Stephanie

Who the hell's he?

Adrian

He is the god of wine.

Stephanie

Well it shouldn't be a problem that this is our last bottle should it? You could magic some more up.

Adrian  
If only

Stephanie  
Well have you got a mini bar?

Adrian  
Ha, you are joking, on my wages, and anyway this is a Holiday Lodge we'd be lucky to get running water never mind a mini bar. No this is all we have left.

Stephanie  
And your godly powers?

Adrian  
Ah, I was told never to misuse them. It's like a martial art. You don't become a God unless you agree to never use the power you have learned.

Stephanie  
Well why would you bother learning them?

Adrian  
Ah it's not for mere mortals to question that!

Stephanie.  
Eh?

Adrian  
Never mind.

Stephanie.  
All these big words, it's doing my head in. What's the time?

Adrian  
I don't know, hang on, (*looks at watch he has trouble focussing on it*) It says twenty to one.

Stephanie.  
I never heard it.

Adrian.  
Never heard what?



Stephanie.

Your watch, speaking.

Adrian.

It didn't speak.

Stephanie.

You just said it did.

Adrian.

Eh what you on about?

Stephanie

You just said your watch said it's twenty to one.

Adrian

Oh; ho ho.

Stephanie.

I should have been in comedy. I would have been brilliant.

Adrian.

Hmm maybe.

Stephanie.

Are you sure there's no more booze?

*(She looks into the bedside cabinet)*

Adrian.

You won't find anything in there!

*(She pulls out a really old pair of y fronts. They are a thousand wash grey.)*

Stephanie

Yours, I suspect?

Adrian

Well I always travel with a spare pair.

Stephanie

Well by the look of these they started travelling independently long before you were born and if they were any more disgusting I think they could walk off on their own.

*(She throws them at his head.)*

Adrian.

Oi, I'll have you know they are my best Calvin's.

Stephanie

My God if they are your best I would hate to think what your worst were like.

Adrian.

What's all this about then eh? Did I say in the Bar come back to my room; I need someone to laugh at my underwear?

Stephanie

Can't remember but I would have been there like a shot. You can tell a lot by what underwear a man wears.

Adrian

Oh yes?

Stephanie

Yes.

Adrian

Oh, so what do they say about me?

Stephanie

Well they say you live alone, you have no-one to cook and clean for you. You throw all your washing in the machine at the same time, just like a typical man. You would like to keep a small dog called Chalky but it's not fair to leave him home whilst you travel. You have a few friends but never see them choosing instead to text them and drop the occasional e-mail. And you need a good woman to back you but you haven't got one at the moment and probably won't get one, seeing as you never stay in one place for more than a minute.

Adrian

Well I'm staying here for more than a minute aren't I?

Stephanie

Yes but be honest, am I right or wrong?

Adrian

Wrong! I want to call the dog Mr. Skeffington. So there you are not as clever as you first thought eh.

Stephanie  
Close enough.

Adrian  
Anyway what makes you an authority on Men's underwear?

Stephanie  
It's a woman thing, you wouldn't understand. Now what else have we got in here?

*(She continues to rummage in his bedside cabinet. She finds a bible.)*

Adrian  
Do you mind that's my private space?

Stephanie  
No I don't mind at all. Oh what's this? Don't tell me you have God travelling with you?

Adrian  
What?

Stephanie  
Well this Bible, what's that doing here?

Adrian  
Well it's not mine.

Stephanie  
Oh no it belongs to someone called Gideon.

Adrian  
Oh, a Gideon Bible. They are left in every public room in England you know, hotels, hospitals, prisons etc.

Stephanie  
Why?

Adrian  
I don't know.

Stephanie  
Well who are they?

Adrian

They are the *Gideons*.

Stephanie

Sounds mad to me; that must be millions of Bibles.

Adrian

Guess so, never really thought about it.

Stephanie

Well why would they do that anyway?

Adrian

Don't know to help the weary traveller I reckon.

Stephanie

You ever read it?

Adrian.

Oh yes most nights; I read a few chapters.

Stephanie

Do you?

Adrian.

No!

Stephanie

Ha, ha very funny,

Adrian.

I have absolutely no interest. Bloody rubbish.

Stephanie

It's a daft thing to do if you ask me.

Adrian.

I agree.

Stephanie

So who pays for these bibles?

Adrian

Don't know but there is better ways of spending your money that's for sure.

Stephanie

Oh, what are we going to drink, I am dying of thirst.

Adrian

It's amazing that you can drink as much as we have and still be thirsty.

Stephanie

That's the funny thing about booze, we never just take a drink of alcohol because we are thirsty.

Adrian

Do you know what, alcohol is responsible for about thirty five per cent of all made up stories?

Stephanie

No, is it?

Adrian

I don't know, I made that up.

Stephanie

Oh ha ha !

*(Pause for contemplation hold it until the atmosphere becomes uncomfortable)*

Adrian

Ah...

Stephanie

Ah what?

Adrian

Ah...I'm glad you're here that's all.

Stephanie

Me too. I want to know all about you.

Adrian

Steady on

Stephanie

What do you mean steady on?

Adrian

Well I'm a here today gone tomorrow kind of guy.

Stephanie

Well I'm here today aren't I? I'll be gone tomorrow. I am not looking for anything.

Adrian

Good that's my kind of girl.

Stephanie

I get the impression that you are a bit scared of commitment?

Adrian

Why?

Stephanie

Well from what you have said right back to the marriage story with Bert and the Top hats to now; and your footloose and fancy free image just suggests that you don't want to know.

Adrian.

I have not really thought about it very much, I just keep going. I have things that keep me busy and just do them really.

Stephanie

*(She holds her glass out)* More wine please.

Adrian

Certainly.

Stephanie

Did you have girlfriends at school? Amongst your class mates I mean?

Adrian

That would have been hard at an all boy's grammar school.

Stephanie

Oh I see, mind you it might have suited you.

Adrian

What are you trying to say?

Stephanie

Nothing really, I don't s'pose.

Adrian

Anyway you are so nosey aren't you?

Stephanie

No just making conversation.

Adrian

Fine.

Stephanie

What do you do when you're not working I mean how do you spend your time? You must have some mates somewhere?

Adrian

If I don't work I don't eat. You know? I don't have time for friends of any nature really; I am just either on my way to a client or doing a deal with a client or heading back from a client to the office.

Stephanie.

Where is your office?

Adrian.

Milton Keynes. In the land of the concrete cows.

Stephanie

Concrete cows?

Adrian

Oh yes you would have had to have been around in the seventies to understand that observation.

Stephanie

Well what does it mean?

Adrian

It was said that when they built Milton Keynes it was a bit concrete and a bit ugly, so they put concrete cows in the fields to give it a rural feeling. They were painted black and white and stood there never moving in their fields.

Stephanie

Sounds stupid to me.

Adrian

Well at least they were trying.

Stephanie.

*(Ironically)* Yea brilliant.

Adrian

Anyway let's hear about your boyfriends?

Stephanie

After some more wine perhaps.

Adrian

Hey go steady we haven't got any more once this lot is gone.

Stephanie

Well what do you need to know?

Adrian

If you weren't with that *puzzling* boy-friend would you be interested in having a long term relationship, you know marriage and kids and stuff?

Stephanie

No I can't be bothered. There's just so much you have to do that you don't want to, to keep a relationship going. I have always chosen wrong ones too. I am a rotten judge of character. They are always losers or criminals and have me completely fooled. We are just getting comfortable with each other and the police step in or a wife or another girl. *(Pause)* No I always get it wrong.

Adrian

Why?

Stephanie

Don't know, I often think about it but I have no idea why I get it so wrong.

Adrian

Well I'm no shrink but I reckon it's to do with your own self esteem.

Stephanie

What do you mean by that?

Adrian

Well look at yourself. You are a good looking girl; great body, lovely face, gorgeous hair and a winning smile.



Stephanie  
Oh don't.

Adrian  
There you are; see you can't even take compliments. It all goes with a low self-esteem.

Stephanie  
Hang on you said you were no shrink.

Adrian  
Yes?

Stephanie  
Well how do you know what my self-esteem is like?

Adrian.  
I can tell it's written all over your face.

Stephanie  
Oh a right smart arse then, aren't you?

Adrian  
Just observant.

Stephanie  
Oh right.

Adrian  
Some music would be nice. I haven't got any though.

Stephanie  
Yea I love music.

Adrian  
Who are you into?

Stephanie  
I love James Blunt and Jack Johnson.

Adrian  
Oh those moody singer songwriter types. I like the Eagles and Emerson Lake and Palmer.

Stephanie  
Who the Hell?

Adrian  
Oh yes the age gap thing, never thought of that. Yours seem a bit slow and romantic.

Stephanie  
Yes I guess so. Good for smooching to.

Adrian  
Smooching?

Stephanie  
Yes, you know what I mean by that surely?

Adrian  
Yes I do. Just didn't see you a smoocher that's all.

Stephanie.  
Oh I am; bit of slow music, nice wine and away I go.

Adrian  
Perhaps it is a shame that we haven't got any music then.

Stephanie  
I know let's put that old telly on eh? BBC2 run job finder all through the night and they play music.

Adrian  
Hmm not the kind of music I would really enjoy I don't think.

Stephanie  
Oh go on turn it on.

Adrian  
I would if I knew where the remote was.

Stephanie  
Well I don't know do I?

Adrian  
Have a look behind you in that drawer is it in there?

Stephanie

I don't know 'ang on.

Adrian

Have a good look.

Stephanie

*(Looking through the drawer)* Can't find it. Oh look more booze. *(She pulls out half a bottle of whisky from the back of the drawer)*

Adrian

How the hell did that get there?

Stephanie

You were hiding it from me.

Adrian

No I didn't know it was there.

Stephanie

A likely story.

Adrian.

No I really didn't. That's a brilliant find. Let's finish off this crappo wine and tuck in eh?

Stephanie

I don't like whisky very much.

Adrian

Hey it's better than nothing. Anyway you just have to learn how to drink whisky. Soon as you've done that you'll find it is a wonderful drink. Half a bottle eh? Throw it over.

*(She does so)*

Adrian

Oh Bells, my favourite. *(He reads of the cap)* "Afore ye go!" Drink up that wine let's get these glasses washed and have a proper drink.

Stephanie

I'll mix mine with water.

Adrian

God; that ought to be illegal.

Stephanie

What?

Adrian

Drowning your drink. You have to savour the taste.

Stephanie

Even if the taste is crap?

Adrian

Oh there's just no telling some people. Have you finished your wine?

Stephanie

Yes here. *(She passes the glass to him. Adrian leaves with the glasses and goes to the bathroom to wash them out)*

Adrian

*(Calling from the bathroom)* Now for a proper drink eh?

Stephanie

Still not found the remote though.

Adrian

Never mind after drinking this lot I will provide the music myself.

*(Adrian re-enters)*

Adrian

Now where is that bottle?

Stephanie

Here.

Adrian

Good now for a drink.

Stephanie

Not too much for me eh.

*(Stephanie hands the bottle to Adrian and he pours two generous measures into the glasses.)*

Stephanie

Hey steady on. I said just a little one for me.

Adrian

Oh don't be such a wuss, get it down you.

*(Adrian sits on the bed very near to Stephanie and they clink glasses.)*

Adrian

Cheers

Stephanie

Cheers.

Adrian

Well this is pleasant. Just me and you and a half bottle of whisky and the night ahead.

*(He lets his hand fall onto her knee and she doesn't move.)*

Stephanie

Oh I could never be an alcoholic if they have to put up with this taste every day.

Adrian

Oh believe me they get used to it very quickly.

Stephanie

I can't see why.

*(Adrian starts running his hand up and down her leg.)*

Adrian

Mmmmmm? Stockings or tights?

Stephanie

Eh?

Adrian

I was just trying to guess stockings or tights.

Stephanie

And?

Adrian

Oh tights I can tell.

Stephanie

Well done - go to the top of the class.

Adrian

I knew it.

Stephanie

Oh you are clever aren't you?

Adrian

I think so, yes.

Stephanie

I don't think I have ever worn stockings.

Adrian

Well you should, men love them.

Stephanie

Well why don't they wear them then eh?

Adrian

You know what I mean!

Stephanie

Yes I know what you mean.

Adrian

Good

Stephanie

This is nice isn't it?

Adrian

Yes it is.

Stephanie

Where is this dance you promised me?

Adrian

You couldn't find the telly remote.

Stephanie

You said you were going to sing to me as we danced.

Adrian

I was only joking. I don't think you'd want to hear me singing that's for sure.

Stephanie

Don't put yourself down I shall be the judge of that.

*(Adrian takes her glass off her and puts it down on the bedside cabinet along with his own and takes her by the hand and they stand up. She is a little wobbly at first.)*

Stephanie

Oh dear I feel a little bit tipsy.

Adrian

*(Putting his hands on her waist)* Relax, just follow what I do.

*(\*He starts to sing....."Every Time we say Goodbye." C.Porter)*

Stephanie

You know what you said about your singing?

Adrian

What?

Stephanie

That it was not very good.....

Adrian

Oh yes.

Stephanie

Well you were right... it's unique to say the least!

Adrian

Shush...just move with me.

*(She does and they slow dance with Adrian limping his way through the song. They stop and very slowly after looking at each other for a while they kiss)*

Stephanie

Oh that was nice.

Adrian  
Yes it was. And there's more.

Stephanie  
What now?

Adrian  
If you are a good girl.

Stephanie  
Don't say that please.

Adrian  
What?

Stephanie  
Be a good girl.

Adrian  
Why?

Stephanie  
I don't like it. That's all.

Adrian  
Ok, ok, easy. Come and sit with me.

*(He leads her back to the bed but holds onto her this time)*

Stephanie  
What are we doing on here?

Adrian  
Just having a rest. *(He picks up the whisky again and hands Stephanie's glass to her)*  
Cheers.

Stephanie  
*(Stephanie was visibly shaken by the good girl comment but is now starting to relax again.)* Sorry about that....Cheers.

Adrian  
So my little Northampton girl.



Stephanie  
That's me.

Adrian  
That was lovely and I want some more.

Stephanie  
Well you may have to wait whilst I get to know even more about you.

Adrian  
Oh yes, like the psychiatrist's couch eh?

Stephanie  
A bit like that. Let's ask each other questions. I won't ask you anything I wouldn't answer and you won't ask me anything you wouldn't answer.

Adrian  
Ok

Stephanie  
I want to go first.

Adrian  
Go on then.

Stephanie  
Okay. So tell me about your mum what was she like?

Adrian  
She was a busy woman; of course she didn't work but stayed home to look after me and my Dad. It wasn't really done for women to work in those days. Tell me about yours?

Stephanie  
Well my Mum is a nice lady. She used to work as a bar maid in the very pub we met in tonight but left when she fell pregnant with me. She kept a good house and I didn't want for anything. We share all our secrets and sometimes our clothes. I have been told I look like her a little when she was younger. What about your father?

Adrian  
Oy what about the rules?

Stephanie  
Told you about mine, I just wondered about yours.

Adrian

Didn't know much about him; he was a Salesman by day and a complete mystery by night. Very rarely there and hardly spoke when he was. I think he was busier elsewhere if you get my drift. He was killed in the end on the Severn Bridge on his way to South Wales for an appointment. The wind blew his car into the path of an oncoming tanker and he was crushed to death. He was dead at the scene and that was him. Yours is a mystery man too though isn't he?

Stephanie

I don't ever want to see him or know him or for him to find me. In fact he's as good as dead to me and I hope that he is.

Adrian

What did he do to you this man?

Stephanie

Enough. Let's not talk about him eh?

Adrian

Ok sorry. Clearly a sore point.

Stephanie

It really is thanks .

Adrian

Has your Mum shown any sign of ever wanting to get married or meeting someone else?

Stephanie

No she hasn't she has never shown any interest. Saturday nights are a big bag of sweets and family TV for her and have been for as long as I can remember. It's as if her whole life has been spent in punishment for her one mistake with this man; who - ever he was.

Adrian

I guess she must have loved him.

Stephanie

Funnily enough it's not one of those things you discuss with your Mum.

Adrian

I suppose not.

Stephanie

Hateful bastard. It's all so long ago now though.

Adrian

That was a bit harsh wasn't it?

Adrian

Wonder what kind of a father I'd be?

Stephanie

Hopeless I reckon, if you were to carry on, on the road like you do.

Adrian

Ouch...that hurt.

Stephanie

Well could you see yourself settling down after living like this for so many years?

Adrian

Suppose not, no.

Stephanie

Told you so.

Adrian

Maybe it would have been a different story if I had. Perhaps I would have been at home caring for my little bundle of fun. There might have been roses around my cottage door and a garden and a lovely wife who cared for me and kept us all happy.

Stephanie

So if that was what you wanted why didn't you go for it?

Adrian

Like father like son. It just didn't happen. The first job I had on the road was selling lady's tights for the same company as my Dad. I was eighteen. I had a mark one escort and thought I was king of the road. It was so exciting in those days. A girl in every town; lots of nooky and lots of hotels. I was like an international spy. I really kept women guessing. I was a bit of a bastard too. If they had known I was selling tights to newsagents I think they wouldn't have been nearly as interested as I wanted them to be.

Stephanie

I might have been.

Adrian

Well you would have been alone on that one.

Stephanie

Don't know a lifetime's supply of free tights is an exciting prospect for a girl.

Adrian

You'd have never known that's what I did.

Stephanie

What did you tell the women?

Adrian

Sounds silly now...

Stephanie

Oh go on tell me?

Adrian

Okay. I used to say I worked for the government but it was hush-hush and I wasn't allowed to tell anyone what it was that I did. That brought the women flocking.

Stephanie

Did you ever get to Northampton?

Adrian

Oh yes once a month. I would say that I was working for the local Army camp on governmental business. It was brilliant the women just queued up for me.

Stephanie

Well here we are again. At least I know what you do. Eh?

Adrian

Oh yes I gave up all that shit ages ago. I just think now if women are interested they know the score. If they ain't they know the door.

Stephanie

Ha poetry.

Adrian

And you? Score or Door?

Stephanie

Still here aren't I?

Adrian

Oh yes. (*They kiss again long and slow.*) I wonder if I lift this Duvet cover you may like to slip in and I could join you.

Stephanie

Whatever could you mean?

Adrian

What do you think I mean?.

Stephanie

Aha as I thought.

Adrian

And?

Stephanie

And! I am not easy you know.

Adrian

Oh I never said you were. Do you think I would have you in my room if I thought you were just easy? I like a bit of class.

Stephanie

Oh class eh?

Adrian

Of course, I don't like easy girls. There's no challenge.

Stephanie

So I am a challenge to you am I?

Adrian

No don't get me wrong.

Stephanie

Just another notch on the bed post I bet.

Adrian

No Sophie.

Stephanie

(*Angrily corrective*) Stephanie.

Adrian

Oh, Yes, Stephanie. No, I respect you and your freedom of choice.

Stephanie

You just called me by the wrong name.

Adrian

It was an accident. I was thinking of my poor little niece Sophie who is ill in hospital at the moment.

Stephanie

Oh yes and what's wrong with her then?

Adrian

She's diabetic and her inhaler was stolen, oh it's a terrible story.

Stephanie

And that's a terrible lie. Look I know what you are after and I know why I am here and so do you.

Adrian

No it really is true. She has only got a little while to live and she is on my mind all the time. I want to try and visit her before she slips away into the kingdom of heaven.

Stephanie

Adrian.... That is the cheesiest piece of crap I have ever heard.

Adrian

My poor little Sarah; just lying there with her world closing down.

Stephanie

Oh its Sarah now is it?

Adrian

Sarah, Sophie, how can it matter? The truth is she isn't long for this world and I worry.

Stephanie.

Rubbish you Pratt.

Adrian

You have no heart, you really don't.

Stephanie

It's just that I want you to slow down a bit and savour the evening. I don't believe I will ever see you again and I just want things to be special. That's all.

Adrian

Well pass that little bottle over here let's have another drink first.

*(Stephanie passes the bottle over and Adrian recharges their glasses.)*

Adrian

Cheers.

Stephanie

Cheers *(She takes a sip and shudders)* God I hate whisky!

Adrian

Hey don't look a gift horse in the mouth we were going to be stuck on tea and coffee if the good fairy hadn't left us this bottle.

Stephanie

I am beginning to think that wouldn't be too bad a thing.

Adrian

I can't see how!

*(Stephanie gets up and wonders around the room)*

Stephanie

So this is it eh. This is what you have spent the last god knows how many years living eh?

Adrian

Yes this is it.

Stephanie

Do you get lonely?

Adrian

No I don't think I do. No time for that. I am free to come and go as I please;

Stephanie

Yes but no stability; just you, forever more. I think that would drive me mad.

Adrian

What having me forever more, how hurtful. (*Mock hurt*)

Stephanie

No you silly arse you know what I mean.

Adrian.

Well I like it.

*(He takes off his jumper and there is a tattoo clearly visible on his right arm it says P.T.F.C. For ever more.)*

Stephanie

Oh you have tattoos.

Adrian

Tattoo! Singular please.

Stephanie

What does it mean?

Adrian

It means Partick Thistle Football Club.

Stephanie

Aren't they Scottish ?

Adrian

Yes they are, I was interested in them as a boy, God knows why and now I just regret it. Probably have it removed one of these days.

Stephanie

Any piercings?

Adrian

What do you think I am, a pin cushion?

Stephanie

They can look a bit like that can't they?

Adrian.

Yes what about those spikes that stick out of the lip. What are they about?



Stephanie

Don't know but I imagine it getting in the way when it comes down to it?

Adrian

So not tempted yourself?

Stephanie

No I am not. Tattoos, piercings, you can keep them I am not interested at all.

*(Stephanie's mobile phone rings)*

Stephanie

Oh, hello who on earth is that at this time of night? *(The ringing stops)* Ah well never mind they can call back.

Adrian

Why didn't you answer it?

Stephanie

They can call in the day I don't take calls this late at night. If anyone is awake now they are clearly up to no good.

Adrian

We're awake right now!

Stephanie

Exactly.

Adrian

Well we're not....up to no good.

Stephanie

Yet!

Adrian

Oh I say. Sounds interesting.

Stephanie

Play your cards right.

*(She sits beside him on the bed and looks closer at his tattoo.)*

Stephanie

That is really messy did you do it yourself?

Adrian

No, it cost me a fortune.

Stephanie

Well why is it fading like that?

Adrian

It's old, it's had better days: Stuck with it at the moment though.

Stephanie

They say things about you don't they?

Adrian

Mine says I was an idiot when I was younger. Not even sure I knew where Partick Thistle was.

*(Phone rings again)*

Stephanie

God they are keen. I'm not answering it.

Adrian

Switch it off then.

Stephanie

I can't if I do I have to take it to the shop to switch it back on again. It's going away next week to be fixed. *(Shouting at bag)* Stop phoning me up.

Adrian

Who on earth can it be anyway at this time of night?

Stephanie

I don't know. They will leave a message.

Adrian

Anyway never mind about that come and sit by me let me admire you.

Stephanie

Don't know what there is to admire.

Adrian.

Stop running yourself down I told you are a very lovely looking girl.

Stephanie  
And you need new glasses.