



BEHIND THE WALL

BY

TOM KELLY

Extract

A SMITH SCRIPT

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BEHIND THE WALL

PLAY

Tom Kelly

August, 1963: Tommy and Maggie have a new council house and feel on top of the world when a secret from the past has them re-examining their lives in this mystery drama.

CHARACTERS:

TOMMY In his forties and working in the Tyne shipyards. Married to Maggie. They have no children.

MAGGIE In her thirties, she works part-time in a shop.

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SFX: PRE-SHOW SONGS FROM 1963.

1963: TOMMY AND MAGGIE'S LIVING ROOM OF THEIR NEW COUNCIL HOUSE.

SETTEE, SMALL COFFEE TABLE, SIDEBBOARD WITH FAMILY PHOTOS & RADIO

SFX: ON THE RADIO THE BEATLES, 'SHE LOVES YOU.'

TOMMY, STAGE CENTRE, SINGS ALONG IN A NEAR-ABANDONED WAY USING A BEER BOTTLE AS HIS MICROPHONE.

TOMMY SHE LOVES YOU YEH, YEH, YEH,
SHE LOVES YOU YEH, YEH, YEH,
SHE LOVES YOU YEH, YEH, YEH,
YOU THINK YOU'VE LOST YOUR LOVE
WELL I SAW HER YESTERDAY-YI-YAY
IT'S YOU SHE'S THINKING OF,
AND SHE TOLD ME WHAT TO SAY-YI-YAY,
SHE SAYS SHE LOVES YOU
AND YOU KNOW THAT CAN'T BE BAD,
YES SHE LOVES YOU,
AND YOU KNOW YOU SHOULD BE GLAD
SHE SAID YOU HURT HER SO/SHE ALMOST LOST HER
MIND
AND NOW SHE SAYS SHE KNOWS/YOU'RE NOT THE
HURTING KIND
SHE SAYS SHE LOVES YEH, YEH, YEH...

HE SHAKES HIS HEAD ALA BEATLES. MAGGIE ENTERS UPSTAGE OF TOMMY MOVES TOWARD HIM AND BEGINS TO SHAKE HER HEAD WITH HIM, SINGING TOGETHER

SHE LOVES YOU YEH, YEH, YEH
SHE LOVES YOU YEH, YEH, YEH

MUSIC CONTINUES AS TOMMY SINGS INTERMITTENTLY WHILE MAGGIE PICKS UP A NEWSPAPER.

TOMMY Maggie, its number one. (SINGING) SHE LOVES YOU YEH, YEH, YEH...

MAGGIE They're knocking down Hope Street.

TOMMY Happy days.
SINGING
SHE LOVES YOU YEH, YEH,
I bet this is Top of the Pops for ages.

MAGGIE Tommy, we nearly drowned with the damp.

TOMMY It wasn't that bad. SINGING DIRECTLY TO MAGGIE
AND YOU KNOW YOU SHOULD BE GLAD

MAGGIE I went to bed in me swimming costume.

TOMMY Don't exaggerate.

MUSIC CONTINUES UNDERNEATH DIALOGUE AS TOMMY SINGS
ALONG OCCASIONALLY BUT HE EVENTUALLY SWITCHES OFF THE
RADIO AND LOOKS TOWARDS MAGGIE.

MAGGIE What about the McCann's fights?

TOMMY Billy McCann thought he was Rocky Marciano. It wasn't modern
like this place. It was our first home. We were happy there.

MAGGIE Every Saturday night Billy would start, full of drink.
All because Sarah had a bairn to somebody else before she married
him.

TOMMY It was Tucker Taylor. He was killed on a tanker; it went down in
the Med.

MAGGIE McCann was an ugly bugger. Sarah had three bairns to him and she
had Bridget before them.

TOMMY Bridget was always in our place: she loved it.

FADE LIGHTS, MUSIC UP ON TOMMY, MAGGIE AND BRIDGET, 1958.

SFX: RADIO PLAYS THE EVERLEY'S 'ALL I HAVE TO DO IS DREAM'

MAGGIE AND BRIDGET SINGALONG.

MAGGIE DREAM, DREAM, DREAM, DREAM...
WHEN I NEED YOU IN THE NIGHT

WHEN I NEED YOU TO HOLD ME TIGHT
WHENEVER I WANT YOU ALL I'VE GOT TO DO
IS DREAM, DREAM, DREAM, DREAM, DREAM

MUSIC CONTINUES QUIETLY UNDERNEATH THE DIALOGUE

MAGGIE LOOKING OUT Sing up Bridget.

TOMMY And drown out Maggie.

MAGGIE I've got a lovely voice.

TOMMY For a strangled cat.

MAGGIE Take no notice Bridget, he's going out in a minute. We'll get rid of
him. Then we'll have a proper sing-song.

TOMMY AS MAGGIE MOUTHS HIS WORDS TO BRIDGET
I'm going to the club, I'll not be late.

TOMMY EXITS LOOKING BACK TOWARD MAGGIE AND BRIDGET

SFX: BILLY McCANN

I'll have a drink when I want. Shut up. I'll make you shut up.

MAGGIE TO BRIDGET

Don't worry Bridget. You're with me. LOOKING UP. As long as
he only shouts at you. I'll make sure that's all he does. Please don't
cry. I hate to see you upset. I wish I could take your pain.
LOOKING OUT. I love a coal fire. It makes you feel as warm as
toast. Close your eyes Bridget. When I was your age, I used to sit
beside me Granny and search for faces in the coal fire. She
would say, "If you look hard enough you'll see all the people
you've ever known." Keep your eyes shut. Feel the warmth.
Now you'll see my face and I'll see yours. Keep your eyes shut
tight now. I'll always be with you.

MAGGIE SINGS, 'ALL I HAVE TO DO IS DREAM.'

WHEN I NEED YOU IN THE NIGHT
WHEN I NEED YOU TO HOLD ME TIGHT
WHENEVER I WANT YOU ALL I'VE GOT TO DO

IS DREAM, DREAM, DREAM, DREAM

TOMMY ENTERS UPSTAGE OF MAGGIE AND BRIDGET

MAGGIE You're back early.

TOMMY I couldn't be bothered going to the club. Here are some flowers for the two most beautiful lasses in the world.

MAGGIE TAKES THE FLOWERS, AND THEN HANDS THEM SLOWLY TOWARD BRIDGET AS THE LIGHTS FADE

SFX: REPRISE OF 'ALL I HAVE TO DO IS DREAM.'

MAGGIE AND TOMMY NOW

TOMMY You brought Bridget up.

MAGGIE I loved every hair on her head.

TOMMY Cancer took her.

MAGGIE I've still got her photo in me purse.

TOMMY A crying shame.

MAGGIE That we didn't any bairns of our own?

TOMMY That as well. PAUSE But we're here now. A new house.

TOMMY BEGINS TO SWITCH THEIR HOUSE LIGHTS ON AND OFF.

With electricity on tap.

MAGGIE Better than a gas mantle.

TOMMY CONTINUES TO SWITCH LIGHTS ON AND OFF.

MAGGIE Stop it. It might be a new council house but fuses still blow.

TOMMY This is going to be a great home.

TOMMY PUTS ON THE RADIO

SFX: THE SEARCHERS, 'SWEETS FOR MY SWEETS' UNDERSCORES THE DIALOGUE.

MAGGIE It's a pity it had to be with you.

TOMMY Cheeky bugger.

TOMMY CHASES MAGGIE ROUND THE ROOM AND EVENTUALLY GRABS HER

MAGGIE Cut it out you daft sod. Stop it.

LIGHTS BEGIN TO FADE, TOMMY GRABS MAGGIE AND KISSES HER

MAGGIE Your hands are freezing.

SFX: MUSIC UP LOUDER, THE SEARCHERS, 'SWEETS FOR MY SWEETS'

THEY KISS

THE LIGHTS AND MUSIC SLOWLY FADE

SFX: TELEPHONE RINGS.

LIGHTS SLOWLY RISE.

MAGGIE ANSWERS THE PHONE

MAGGIE We did live there. I understand. 'It will be in the papers?'
There is no need to call round. We will be alright.
My husband is with me now. Thank you. Goodbye. It is awful. .
TO TOMMY That was the police. Our old house has been
demolished. The newspaper was there at the time. It'll be in the
paper tomorrow. Everybody will know round here that we lived
there.