



SWINGING

BY

NICOLAS RIDLEY

Extract

A SMITH SCRIPT

This script is protected by copyright laws.
No performance of this script -IN ANY MEDIA – may be undertaken
without payment of the appropriate fee and obtaining a licence.
For further information, please contact SMITH SCRIPTS at
info@smithscripts.co.uk

SWINGING

by Nicolas Ridley

SWINGING

Cast:

- SONIA married to
- WILL
- INGRID married to
- NIGEL
- GERALDINE married to
- IVO
- NANCY married to
- GARETH

Setting:

- Saturday evening in suburbia
- Nancy and Gareth's house in Paradise Close
- Outside the front door and the front room

Props:

- A table set upstage centre
- On the table are arranged 2 sets of playing-cards: 4 Kings and 4 Queens face down
- A pair of fluffy handcuffs

Sound effects:

- Party music (from the next room)

SWINGING

SONIA and WILL enter together and stop outside 'the front door'.

SONIA: Go on then, Will. Ring the bell.

WILL: Right.

WILL does not move.

SONIA: Getting cold feet?

WILL: *(unconvincing)* No.

SONIA: Well then?

WILL: If you're so keen, Sonia, you ring the bell.

SONIA: Okay. I will.

SONIA does not move.

WILL: }
 }
SONIA: } *(together)* Listen, if you'd rather –

SONIA: Rather what?

WILL: If you'd rather forget all about it, I'd understand. I know it's a big step for someone like you.

SONIA: Meaning what exactly?

WILL: Well, you've never been exactly 'adventurous' when it comes to this sort of thing.

SONIA: You're not suggesting I'm the one with inhibitions, are you? It wasn't me who used to insist on turning off the lights.

WILL: That was twenty-two years ago. Besides, you said doing it in the dark was romantic.

SONIA: It's not romantic coming to bed in your bed-socks.

WILL: I feel the cold. You know I do.

SONIA: Listen, there's no shame in it. You're shy. A bit prudish. You always have been. But please don't pretend it's me. I'm still up for it.

WILL: Are you?

SONIA: (*unconvincing*) Yes. I am. Very much.

WILL: Right then.

WILL steps forward and is about to ring the bell when GARETH opens the front door.

GARETH: Ah, Will, Sonia. There you are. I'd begun to wonder if you'd had second thoughts.

WILL: }
} (*together*) No, no. Not at all.

SONIA: }

GARETH: Everyone's here. By 'everyone', I mean Ingrid and Nigel, and Geraldine and Ivo. You met them all at the Edens' leaving party, didn't you?

WILL: I spoke to Nigel and Ivo.

SONIA: And I talked to Ingrid and Geraldine.

GARETH: It was that sort of party, wasn't it? Men on one side of the room, women on the other. Well, you'll certainly have a chance to put that right tonight. We're all delighted you've decided to give our 'mixed doubles' evenings a try. Especially now that Adam and Eve have left the neighbourhood. Sorry. Our little joke. We used to call the Edens 'Adam' and 'Eve'. Now they've gone, we're in need

of new blood. Figuratively speaking, Sonia. This is Paradise Close, not Transylvania.

NANCY enters.

Ah. Here she is. My lovely wife, Nancy.

NANCY: Good evening, Sonia. (*appraising*) And you must be the husband.

GARETH: Now, Will, Sonia – it's all very simple. Drinks and nibbles next door. We spend a little time 'getting to know each other' and then, when you're ready, you come in here and take a card. Kings on the left, Queens on the right. So, Will, you'll come in and take a King – the King of Clubs, say – and then later you'll find who has the Queen of Clubs. And you, Sonia –

NANCY: (*interrupting*) I think they have the idea, Gareth.

GARETH: So. I take my card like this (*takes card*), look at it and then hide it away until all the cards have gone. There's only one rule. What goes on in the bedroom, stays in the bedroom. Come with me, Will. I'll introduce you to Ingrid and Geraldine.

GARETH and WILL exit.

SONIA: I have to admit I'm a bit nervous.

NANCY: Really? Why's that?

SONIA: I've never attended a wife-swapping party before.

NANCY: (*severe*) This is not a wife-swapping party, Sonia. This is swinging. The whole concept of 'wife-swapping' is too suburban for words. Too 'Ruislip'. Too 'androcentric'. (*explanatory*) 'Andro' meaning 'Male'. This is not about facilitating the male need for multiple partners. It's about empowering couples - and particularly women. Opening them up to changes and possibilities. Allowing them to enjoy the breadth of experience traditionally denied them by a patriarchal society.

NIGEL enters.

That's right, isn't it, Nigel? I was telling Sonia. This evening's all about empowerment.

NIGEL: Oh, yes, Nancy. Absolutely.

NANCY takes a card and exits.

Hi. I'm Nigel. Ingrid's husband.

SONIA: I'm Will's wife.

NIGEL: We didn't meet at the Edens' party, did we? We're going to miss them at 'mixed doubles', you know. Adam and Eve were our stalwarts. I doubt if they'll find anything similar in Budleigh Salterton.

SONIA: *(agreeing)* I doubt if they will.

NIGEL: *(sudden)* You see I'm searching for my inner sex god. It needs to be released. I'm a firm believer in Tantric sex. Have you ever seen the erotic sculptures at Khajuraho?

SONIA: I can't say I have.

NIGEL: No, neither have I. That's why I come here. Every month. Religiously.

SONIA: And?

NIGEL: Nothing yet. My sex god's in there somewhere. I know it is. Maybe you'll be the one to set it free?

IVO enters.

Ah, Ivo. Have you met Sonia?

IVO: Hello, I'm Geraldine's husband.

NIGEL takes a card and exits.