



FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS
BY
WAYNE ROBERTS

Extract

A SMITH SCRIPT

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CHARACTERS

GEORGE

George Tyler

30+

Male

George started working for Henry as a mechanic when he was 18 and through hard graft has worked his way rapidly to become Henry's right hand man, although this has been partly through Henry's ability to manipulate George. Since Henry's heart attack George has been running the business, although Henry has kept him on a short leash and this has caused a few arguments with George feeling more like a puppet than a partner

HENRY

Henry Davenport

50+

Male

Henry has lived in and around Gainton for most of his life, apart from a brief spell in his late teens when he attended Cambridge University where he met his first love Margaret. After moving back to Gainton Henry started his own business, a simple garage that has over the years flourished into a high performance car specialist centre. Henry's health has not been the best since he suffered a mild heart attack 10 years ago, as such his business partner George Tyler runs the business with Henry being a sleeping partner but still holding the majority share and retaining the final decision on all major business deals.

MARGARET

Margaret Davenport

50+

Female

Margaret first met Henry at Cambridge university, they moved back to Gainton together and were married the following year. She supported Henry in the early days of his garage working on reception for him, but she took a step back to be a fulltime housewife and mother following the birth of their only child Jack. When Henry suffered his mild heart attack

SUZY

Suzy Davenport Nee Gower

20-30

Female

Suzy first met Henry through her work as a probation officer, working with Henry's son, Jack, who through a minor offence is on a suspended sentence. After a whirlwind romance with Henry they were engaged within a month which was only three weeks ago. Although she still works as a probation officer she is hoping to give it up as dealing with unsavory characters day in and day out does wear thin.

JACK

Jack Davenport

20-30

Male

Jack is the only child of Henry and Margaret. Having spent his life in the shadow of his successful father and being doted on by his mother, he has never really achieved much. A school drop out at 15 and several run ins with the law, Jack spends his time idly living off his father's money

REV JOAN-PAUL

Joan-Paul

40+

Female

Joan Paul, yes her mother was a fan, is the village vicar. She only turned to religion a 6 years ago after a traumatic and turbulent time in her life. She takes the word of the lord very seriously and looks down on others who he sees as sinful.

ROSE

Rose Davenport

50+

Female

A self made homeopath Rose spent her early years backpacking through asia learning the ways of her "art" on return to england she has lived most of her life on benefits doing homeopathy on the side. When Henry had his heart attack she took it upon herself to look after him and promptly moved into a caravan on his small estate, although she continues to practice her homeopathy she considers herself a full time carer, which Henry does not deny as she intimidates him.

ACT I

SCENE 1

A LARGE HEAD TABLE FOR A WEDDING IS SET, THERE ARE FLOWERS AND CANDLES ON THE TABLE ALONG WITH VARIOUS WINE GLASSES, PINT GLASSES AND BOTTLES.

GEORGE: *(Slightly drunk)* So now it's my turn. Well what can I say? Well first of all, of all the people in here I am the best man! I can't believe it's taken Henry this long to realise it, but after years of working for him he bloody well should have.

HENRY: George!

GEORGE IGNORES HENRY

GEORGE: Well onto the blushing bride, what can I say about her?

MARGARET: Bitch!

GEORGE: Yes bitch, no not bitch.

MARGARET: You were right the first time.

GEORGE: *(Confused)* Was I?

SUZY: Shut up Margaret.

MARGARET: Don't you tell me to shut up!

JACK: I agree with you, bitch!

SUZY: Shut up Jack.

MARGARET: Don't you tell him to shut up.

JACK: Yeah, you tell her mum.

MARGARET: Shut up Jack, don't get cocky.

HENRY: Ladies, ladies please, can we just let George finish his speech?

GEORGE: Speech? oh yes speech. Now where was I?

MARGARET: Talking about the bitch.

SUZY: I'm going to lay her out in a minute!

HENRY: Margaret!

REV JOAN-PAUL: Please, please people, violence and bad language never solved anything.

ROSE: You can stay out of this. You've done your job.

SUZY: Oh so you've piped up now as well.

ROSE: Hey what have I done? I didn't call you a...

REV JOAN-PAUL: Please do we have to keep repeating that word? I believe the word your really looking for is harlot.

ROSE: Sorry, but I try and help and I get shot down.

HENRY: (*Shouting*) Look can everyone just shut up!

ROSE: Henry you need to calm down, it's not good for you.

HENRY: (*Shouting*) Shut up!

EVERYONE GOES SILENT FOR AN AWKWARD PAUSE

Thank you. You may continue now.

ANOTHER AWKWARD PAUSE AS EVERYONE SLOWLY GLANCES EXPECTANTLY TO GEORGE

GEORGE: Oh, you mean me, right.

HENRY: (*Embarrassed*) George, I think you've had a bit too much to drink, perhaps you should finish off an sit down.

GEORGE: Fine, have it your way as always. So there you have them the, the bit... blushing bride and groom, all raise your glasses for Henry and Suzy, long may they be miserable together.

ALL: Henry and Suzy.

ALL RAISE THEIR GLASSES IN A TOAST,
MUMBLING AND GRUMBLING, AT WHICH
POINT HENRY STAGGERS, LETS OUT A MOAN
AND FALLS OUT OF SIGHT BEHIND THE
TABLE. EVERYONE STANDS AND LOOKS IN
SHOCK AND THEN FREEZES. THE GHOST OF
HENRY THEN STANDS.

HENRY: God I came over all funny, ms have been those
vol-au-vents earlier, I thought they smelt a
bit funny.

HENRY LOOKS AROUND AT EVERYONE FROZEN
IN DISBELIEF

What the bloody hells going on here?

HENRY LOOKS AROUND AND NOTICES HIS
BODY ON THE FLOOR.

What the... That's me! What's going on? I
look..., but I can't be... Suzy? George?
Margaret? I can't be dead?

HENRY SLUMPS INTO HIS CHAIR

Oh great, just my bloody luck, of all the days
for this to happen, I mean look at her

HE LOOKS AT SUZY

Tonight, tonight that was going to be all mine.
Why me? Why now? I had everything going for me.
I felt fine. How did this happen?

HENRY STARTS TO WALK AROUND THE
FROZEN SCENE

It must have been one of these, these so called
friends and family, but which one? What could
any of them possible have against me? I need to
try and think what happened here today...

FADE TO BLACK

ACT I

SCENE 2

EARLIER THE SAME DAY, THE HEAD TABLE HAS NOT YET BEEN SET AD IS JUST COVERED IN A TABLE CLOTH. ROSE ENTERS CARRYING SOME FLOWERS IN A BASKET ACCOMPANIED BY JACK.

ROSE: Well I thought the ceremony was quite traditional, wouldn't you agree?

JACK: It was just a wedding.

ROSE: Just a wedding? that's your fathers big day.

JACK: So? Just cause he's getting hitched I shouldn't have to be jumpIng for joy.

ROSE: Youth of today, got no sense of occasion have you.

JACK: I can't see it lasting long.

ROSE: What makes you say that?

JACK: Well come on, isn't it obvious?

ROSE: That depends on your perspective.

JACK: He's old enough to be her father, hell some places round here he's old enough to be her grandfather.

ROSE: Well they say love is blind sometimes.

JACK: Whatever.

ROSE: Well I'd better get these tables sorted, I've no idea what your father would do without me looking after him.

JACK SLUMPS DOWN ON A CHAIR AS ROSE BEGINS TO ARRANGE SOME FLOWERS ON THE TABLE. REV JOAN-PAUL ENTERS

Ah reverend, such a lovely service.

REV JOAN-PAUL: We do as we must for the lord.

ROSE: Yes quite.

REV JOAN-PAUL: We are not one to question the vulgarities of people, one is here to serve the word.

ROSE: Erm OK, nice day for it though.

REV JOAN-PAUL: The lord in his judgement has seen to provide the happy couple with this day.

JACK: What the hell are you talking about

REV JOAN-PAUL: I'm sorry, follow you I do not?

JACK: You're talking like Yoda?

REV JOAN-PAUL: Yoda?

JACK: Yeah, the little green guy from star wars?

REV JOAN-PAUL: I'm sorry, I am not familiar with this star wars?

JACK: Not familiar? Where have you been for the last thirty years?

REV JOAN-PAUL: (*Sternly*) That is of no concern of yours? The lords work requires commitment.

JACK: Oh for gods sake!

JACK STORMS OFF STAGE.

REV JOAN-PAUL: Please don't blaspheme in that way.

ROSE: Oh ignore him, he's always had a chip on his shoulder.

REV JOAN-PAUL: I suppose we all have our crosses to bear. Those flowers are looking wonderful.

ROSE: Thank you.

REV JOAN-PAUL: Are you a florist of some sort?

ROSE: Me, oh no I do this as a hobby.

REV JOAN-PAUL: I can tell. So what do you do?

ROSE: Me, I'm a homeopath.

REV JOAN-PAUL: Really?

ROSE: Yes, I have been for years.

REV JOAN-PAUL: Well I must say you are brave to admit it.

ROSE: I started when I was young, travelling through Asia.

REV JOAN-PAUL: Did you have a bad experience or something?

ROSE: Bad experience?

REV JOAN-PAUL: In Asia? I hear there are some strange ones there, is that why you became a homeopath? I mean the bible is against the whole thing but I wouldn't go as far as to calling myself a homeopath, In fact In some parishes It's practically encouraged.

ROSE: Pardon?

REV JOAN-PAUL: For me the bible say's Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve. But I suppose I'm just old fashioned like that.

ROSE: No, a homeopath not a homo... you know home remedies, herbal mixtures that sort of thing.

REV JOAN-PAUL: Oh, I must apologize, sorry, I don't get out much and the world is a mystery to me. Excuse me.

REV JOAN-PAUL EXITS EMBARRASSED
PASSING MARGARET ON THE WAY

MARGARET: Ah Rose there you are, I've been looking for you.

ROSE: Margaret, I must say I'm surprised you came today.

MARGARET: I'm here for Jack, not that slime ball Henry.

ROSE: Still, I'm surprised.

MARGARET: I felt a strange compulsion to be here, Just one of those things I had to see, not because I wanted to of course, just some sort of morbid curiosity. Like a car crash, you know you shouldn't look but you can't help slowing down and having a good gawp.

ROSE: Rubber necking?

MARGARET: Well we never did anything like that but it could be something kinky she's into.

ROSE: Pardon?

MARGARET: Rubber and stuff, I bet she has whips and chains too.

ROSE: What?

MARGARET HAS HER BACK TURNED AS
SUZY ENTERS

MARGARET: It's probably what she used to ensnare

him. ROSE: Er Margaret.

MARGARET: Dirty little trollop, oh the thought of her and him together makes my skin crawl, it's an abomination, he's old enough to be her father.

ROSE IS TRYING TO INDICATE TO
MARGARET THAT SUZY IS BEHIND HER BY
USING ELABORATE HEAD GESTURES, SUZY
HAS HANDS ON HIPS AND IS LOOKING
VERY ANNOYED

Are you feeling alright? Is there something wrong with your neck.

MARGARET REALISES THAT SUZY IS
BEHIND HER

Ah I see. As I was saying these East Enders plots get worse and worse and bear no resemblance to real life. Oh hello Suzy I didn't see you there.

SUZY: Yeah I bet.