



## CARRY ME HOME – PART TWO

by Keith Badham

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# **Carry Me Home - Part Two**

**An Audio Play**

**By Keith Badham**

## Scene One – Music - Change – Tears for Fears

Jack: I dunno. It's a funny old world isn't it? How many times in our lifetime do we say something small and insignificant that turns out to be life changing? I reckon we've all done it. "I do" (**Laughing**) That's the most life changing thing I ever said! That was a change for the better though...My Irene was one of life's good puns. Never heard anyone have a bad word about her, and they would have had me to answer to if they did. Best thing I ever did was to marry her. Anyway, back to the point...I may have ruined things for Mary. In fact, there's no "May" about it...I have definitely ruined things. Not deliberately of course, I would never do anything to hurt her. She's been off on "Compassionate leave" and comes back today. I don't know what to say to her.

Marsden: Mr Jones, how are we this morning?

Jack: Oh we are all Tickety-boo Mrs Marsden. How are you?

Marsden: Oh I am very much looking forward to seeing Mary of course. We've missed her

Jack: Me too

Marsden: Really? I am surprised given the circumstances.

Jack: Circumstances Mrs Marsden? I'm not sure what you mean

Marsden: I think you know perfectly well to what I allude. Never mind. I trust you and your sidekick will be attending the meeting later on

Jack: Oh we wouldn't miss it for the world, would we Arf?

Arthur: You what?

Jack: Never mind...You can count on us Mrs Marsden.

Marsden: 10.30 sharp

***(Marsden leaves as Betty arrives)***

Marsden: Good Morning Mrs Woodthough

Betty: Good Morning Mrs Marsden..You alright love?

Marsden: I'm Very well thank you, though I prefer Mrs Marsden.

Betty: What's got up her backside?

Jack: Charming

Betty: Sorry Love, you know I've always been more comfortable with the "Physical" side of life

Arthur: I wish you two would get a room

Jack: Oh you heard that alright didn't you? It's not me...It's her

Betty: He's just in denial Arthur. It's a while since he's experienced a real woman. He'll come round

Jack: No HE won't. The only thing that's turning is my stomach...Now Come on Arf. We've got to get a good seat for this meeting

Betty: Oooh. We can all cosy up together

Jack: Oh God in heaven help me

***End of Scene. Music Fade in Flirted with You All my Life – Vic Chesnutt***

***Music Fades***

**Scene Two**

Arthur: Well as meetings go, that was a shocker. What are we going to do now? The rest of the place will hate us. Permanent curfews, and "Designated Chaperones"...You know what that means don't you Jack...? Jack?

Jack: Eh?

Arthur: I said you know what that means?

Jack: Sorry Mate...Miles away, What means what?

Arthur: The meeting! "Designated Chaperones"...It means we can't go out without a babysitter

Jack: Oh that! Don't worry about it. We'll find a way

Arthur: And what did you think of that new woman, the new manager woman

Jack: She's just been brought in to do the dirty work that the fuhrer can't be bothered to do.

Arthur: Well I don't like it. I don't like change

Jack: You can't live without change Arf. Where would we be without change?

Arthur: I just don't like it. I feel uneasy

Jack: Oooh. Stand by your beds, the commandant approaches

Marsden: Gentlemen. Let me personally introduce you to Miss Difford. Miss Difford, these are the two gentlemen I was telling you about.

Difford: Eh?

Marsden: The two gentlemen who need, "Extra attention".

Difford: Oh right. How d'you mean? Are they mental?

Marsden: What? No, well...No. We will talk about this later

Difford: I'll keep an eye on them

Marsden: Come along dear. You can meet the others now

Arthur: Well that has made me feel even worse! "Special attention". What the hell does that mean?

Jack: It means my dear old chum, that we are winning

Arthur: How d'you work that out?

Jack: We've got them rattled! It's all part of the grand Plan Arf, don't you worry!

Arthur: Hello Mary love! How are you. Lovely to see you back

Mary: Hello Arf, Well I couldn't keep away could I ? You OK Jack?

Jack: ME? Yes, I'm fine...I'm just.....

Mary: ...Just.....

Jack: Arf, do me a favour, give us a couple of minutes

Arthur: Yeah...course mate

Mary: Is everything OK Jack?

Jack: Yeah, I mean no. I mean....I should be asking you that?

Mary: Oh I'm ok Jack, life has a way of things working out

Jack: But are you ok with me? I mean, after I dropped you in it?

Mary: Oh bless you. Of course I'm alright with you. Jack, you didn't make me do anything did you? I'm a grown up, I make my own decisions...

Jack: ....But I was, indiscreet. Its all my fault. Why aren't you angry with me?

Mary: Jack, now isn't the time or the place really, but let's just say...Well lets just say Steve was no Angel either

Pause

Jack: Look it's none of my business.

Mary: Oh look at you...you're genuinely upset by this aren't you?

Jack: Course I am, I know how precious it is to have an other half..

Mary: Listen, he's many things, but he is NOT my other half! I'll tell you all about it one day, but I'd better be careful with it being my first day back

Jack: Yes, of course. I'm sorry Mary love. For everything

Mary: I'm fine Jack. I've got the kids. Mum's helping out. If I need any male company I've got you and Arf haven't i? Talk of the devil

Arthur: Can I come back now?

Jack: Course you can mate

Arthur: Can't keep up with this lothario Mary

Mary: Eh?

Arthur: Well one minute he's chatting to you, and then he's flirting with Betty

Mary: Betty?

Jack: Oh leave it out. She's a nightmare

Mary: Well I think it's lovely, I'll put in a word for you

Jack: Only if the word is arsenic

Mary: (Laughing) That's a horrible thing to say!

Jack: She's a nightmare. She keep using, well, inappropriate comments. Innyerendo or whatever it's called

Arthur: Well I'm of the opinion that you are encouraging it

Jack: Stop it, it's not funny. Anyway, what's the deal with this new manager woman?

Mary: Oh Miss Difford....I'll fill you in later, but just watch yourselves! I've got to dash. See you two later

Arthur: See you later love

Jack: yes, see you later Mary, it's lovely to have you back, and.....thanks

Pause

Arthur: You alright mate?

Jack: Me? Yeah. Just see so much of Irene in her

Arthur: Betty?

Jack: What? NO! Mary you clot!

Arthur: (Laughing) I know, I was teasing you mate. In what way though?

Jack: Oh, you know. That stoical sense of calm. No matter what life throws at her, she seems to be able to cope with it and still keep a smile on her face. Us men, we think we have the monopoly on bravery don't we? But we don't know were born really. My Irene, brought up our kids and managed the house while I was out at work all the hours god sent. Never moaned once. When I got back, she'd always have a smile for me. I just worry that I took it all for granted. I can still see her eyes you know. The first time we met, and she looked at me. Well....I was gone. Lost. I just melted, and never recovered. You just know don't you? We were inseparable after that. Used to annoy my mates, but it was pure love. Nothing else. I can see those eyes every night when I put my head on the pillow. They smiled. Even as we got older and the wrinkles and crows feet wrote their tales on our faces. They eyes never lost that youth...that beauty. When she.....went.....Died....I could still see her. All over the house. In her chair, in the garden watering her geraniums, in the kitchen moaning about the mess I'd left. It went on for years. It was like being haunted, but in a good way. It was like she'd never gone. I could hear her laughing at the telly, crying at her soppy books, and telling me off for whatever I'd been doing, but always with a little grin. That little hint of a smile that just let me know she loved me, in spite of everything. I lost that the day I moved in here. Nothing familiar here, and she stopped haunting me. It's one of the reasons I hated coming here. That was the day I lost her. (Pause) Then Mary started, and it was like she was here to replace her...nit in that way...but when she tells me off...she's got that same hint of a smile, that same look in her eyes. It's beautiful you know Arf? You probably think I've lost my mind, but You know, I truly think she's an angel.

(Sound of Arthur snoring)

Jack: Oh for Christs sake Arf...I was talking to you!

Arthur: Mmm what?

Jack: I was talking to you

Arthur: Oh sorry mate....must have drifted off...What were you saying?

Jack: It beggars bloody belief ...I pour my heart out and you are snoring like a bloody wart hog

Arthur: Sorry mate, it happens to the best of us

Betty: Oooh he looks all stressed....Does he need a nice relaxing massage do you think Arf?

Jack: Leave it out, we were having a private conversation actually

Betty: You can confide in me anytime. I'm VERY open minded Jack

Arthur: Oh so's Jack love. Some days he'll have Brown bread, and others he'll have white

Betty: Oooh he can butter my crust anytime

Jack: Will you two stop it! Come on Arf. It's time for our afternoon constitutional.

Arthur: Come on then Casanova

Betty: See you later handsome

***End of Scene - Music – Angel – Kirsty Maccoll***

### Scene Three

Difford: I don't care what you think should happen, this is what Miss Marsden has told me, and this is what is happening

Jack: Oh be reasonable! We are both adults who are perfectly capable of looking after ourselves. This is a breach of our human rights

Arthur: Legally, I'm not sure that's entirely true Jack

Jack: Shut up Arf, I'm handling this

Difford: If you do not step away I am afraid I will have to arrange for you to be restrained

Jack: Restrained? I'm in a bloody wheelchair! What are you going to do? Put a wheelclamp on me

Difford: I will use whatever means necessary

Marsden: What is going on here?

Jack: This woman, you are a woman aren't you? This woman is trying to stop us from going out today Miss Marsden.

Difford: That is not an accurate representation of the facts Miss Marsden

Jack: Are you an android? Are you human? If I tap on your head will there be a hollow metallic noise

Difford: REFRAIN from making any physical contact with me Mr Jones, or I shall be forced to restrain you!

Arthur: Best do as she says Jack. We don't want to cause trouble

Marsden: Mr Jones. You were very clearly informed that the more vulnerable of our residents were to be chaperoned on any external jaunts.

Jack: Yes.

Marsden: So I do not see what the problem is

Jack: Oh, I see...You think WE are vulnerable!?

Marsden: Correct

Jack: We have been looking after ourselves very nicely thank you

Marsden: Well the local constabulary would not necessarily agree with your summary of the situation Mr Jones, and we wouldn't want to cause them further upset would we?

Jack: Apparently not.

Marsden: So, in order for you to go out today, you will have to accept that you will be accompanied by your new permanent chaperone

Jack: And who is that

Marsden: (Calling) Mrs English? (pause) Mrs English ..... JACKIE?

Jackie: Yeah?

Marsden: Are you ready to accompany Messrs Jones and Rowe on their daily exercise?

Jackie: Eh?

Jack: Oh you ARE joking?

Marsden: I've never been more serious Mr Jones. Mrs English here will ensure that you will not get into any unforeseen difficulties each day won't you Mrs English?

Jackie: Eh?

Marsden: Excellent. That's settled then. Now get your coat on Jackie and keep an eye on these two. I wouldn't want either of them to come to any harm

Jack: This is an outrage!

Arthur: Calm down

Jack: Wait till my family hear about this

Arthur: Jack!

Jackie: Yeah?

Jack: Not you!

Jackie: Oh

Jack: Come on then, lets go....No....You get off. Arf always pushes me! And don't stand as close to us