



WHAT A PICTURE

by Kevin Broughton

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Characters:

POX - the delivery man. Broad Cockney Accent.

BELLAMY - the butler. Very superior attitude extremely posh.

JACK - well to do young socialite.

BETTY - JACK's sister. Debutante

DORA - the Lancashire Maid.

DONATELLO - Painter and decorator. Northern accent but not as broad as Dora.

ERIC - Donatello's young assistant - tries to sound gangsta.

ART DEALER - Very luvvy.

PC WOODCOCK - typical old English Bobby.

MRS LANGSTROTHER - Posh Landed Lady.

MR PERRIWINKLE - Posh man with a slight country twang to his voice.

VICAR - Very cheery and positive.

PERKIN - Precisely spoken solicitor.

**GRAMS****PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION PROMENADE**

POX: Blimey guvnor that's quite 'eavy that painting.

BELLAMY: I'm not a guvnor, I am a butler.

POX: Sorry Guvnor; any chance of a cuppa to quench me thirst?

BELLAMY: I'm sorry but due to a poor sugar cane harvest I couldn't possibly make it to your taste.

POX: All right, I'll just leave it here then.

BELLAMY: You can't just leave it there, the solicitor wants it kept safe.

POX: It'll be safe here, who's gonna nick it; the servants?

BELLAMY: (SIGH) Just put it in the drawing room; then you can pop down to the kitchen for a beverage.

**FX****SOUND OF PAINTING SCRAPING ALONG THE GROUND**

BELLAMY: Careful with it; and make sure that cover stays on it. I can't have your unworthy ocules catching sight of it before the grand unveiling.

**FX****SOUND OF DOOR 1 BEING OPENED**

POX: When's that gonna be then Guv'nor?

**FX****SOUND OF DOOR 1 BEING CLOSED**

BELLAMY: After the reading of the will tomorrow.

POX: Maybe I could get to see it then.

BELLAMY: Now listen here, the gathering to hear the will and to see that painting will be a select one. I can assure you that the name of Pox the Delivery Man will not be on the guest list.

POX: I just wanted to pay me respects to his Lordship.

BELLAMY: Yes, it was a tragic loss.

POX: Well I did warn him not to go metal detecting on Salisbury Plain.

**FX SOUND OF PAINTING BEING PUT ON AN EASEL.**

BELLAMY: There we are that'll be perfect. Now come on I'll take you down to the kitchen where you can have your cup of tea and crate of biscuits.

POX: Right you are Guvnor.

**FX SOUND OF DOOR 1 BEING CLOSED.**

(PAUSE)

**FX SOUND OF DOOR 2 BEING OPENED.**

JACK: Come on Betty, it's all clear.

BETTY: I'm not sure.

JACK: Come on, you can trust me, I'm your brother.

BETTY: That's not what mum says.

JACK: Yes, well... anyway let's get a sneak preview of this painting.

BETTY: All right, you grab that end then.

JACK: I have hold of it already.

BETTY: Well lift it up then.

BOTH: Oh my!

BETTY: Goodness, what is Grandfather doing; and who is that he's doing it with?

JACK: Mr Perriwinkle I think.

BETTY: We can't let mother and father see that.

JACK: Well we can't tell anyone. Grandad's last wish was that this painting should be revealed after the will was read.

BETTY: We'll have to think of something.

JACK: Quick cover it over again; I can hear someone coming.

**FX                      SOUND OF DOOR 2 BEING CLOSED**

(PAUSE)

**FX                      SOUND OF DOOR 1 BEING OPENED**

Dora:                      Oo 'eck what's this in 'ere now. There's always something to get in the way of me cleaning.

Look out for't picture he said, didn't say it were't size of a barn door.

Oh well, I suppose I'd best get... Oo look at that cobweb; it's like a Dutch sailor's hammock.

**FX                      SOUND OF STANDING ON A CHAIR**

(MAKES SOUNDS OF STRETCHING AND TRYING TO REACH)

**FX                      SOUND OF LAMPSTAND FALLING OVER**

Oo look out!

**FX                      SOUND OF CANVAS RIPPING**

Bugger.

**FX                      SOUND OF GETTING DOWN OFF CHAIR**

I'm going to have to do sommut about that.

**FX                      SOUND OF MOBILE PHONE BEING USED**

Eh Danotello, how are doing me little petal?

(PAUSE)

Well tell 'im to put surgical spirit on it. Now listen I've got a bit of painting for you, but it's urgent so can you pop round straight away?

(PAUSE)

Oo gradely, I'll see you then; 'bye love.

Right, come on Dora; you'd best make yourself scarce.

**FX**

**SOUND OF DOOR 2 BEING OPENED AND CLOSED  
FOLLOWED BY FOOTSTEPS**

DORA: (SURPRISED) Ahhh!

JACK: I say, steady on Dora.

DORA: Oh 'eck sir, you gave me a right fright. I fair jumped out of me skin and back in again.

BETTY: Is everything all right?

DORA: Of course it is; I just want everything right for tomorrow.

BETTY: Yes, we all do; have you finished in that room?

DORA: Uh, well yes, but I shouldn't go in there before the unveiling tomorrow.

BELLAMY: Everything all right sir?

JACK: Yes I think so.

BELLAMY: It's just that I heard screaming you see sir. In my years of service I've known few screams in this house that weren't down to childbirth or the beginning of a crisis.

BETTY: Well rest assured Bellamy all is well; we just startled Dora.

DORA: And not many people have done that since 't crew of HMS Belfast.

JACK: While you're here Bellamy, make sure no-one goes into the drawing room. We have to go out for a while and we want it all neat when we return.

BELLAMY: Very well sir, and when will that be?

JACK: Not until later, so there is no need to wait up for us.

BELLAMY: Very well sir, I shall endeavour to fill my evening in other ways. Should you need me I will be at the lodge.

**FX**

**SOUND FOOTSTEPS WALKING OFF QUICKLY**

BELLAMY: There they go; always in a rush.

DORA: Well it's a good job in this case, because I need to tell you something.

BELLAMY: Is it rude?

DORA: No it's nothing like that.

BELLAMY: Oh well, you'd better tell me anyway.

DORA: I've had a bit of a mishap.

BELLAMY: Really? Do we know the father this time?

DORA: No, not that, an accident.

BELLAMY: Oh dear well...

DORA: I've made a slight tear in't painting.

BELLAMY: (RELIEVED) Oh good, (REALISES WHAT SHE SAID) Eh oh no, what're we to do?

DORA: Don't worry, just keep everyone out 't drawing room. My nephew is a painter and he's coming to fix it.

BELLAMY: Are you sure that'll be all right.

DORA: Oh of course it will, he's a very talented young man.

BELLAMY: (NOT CONVINCED) Very well, since we have no choice.

**GRAMS**

**PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION - PROMENADE**

**FX**

**SOUND OF DOORBELL RINGING THEN THE DOOR OPENING**

DONATELLO: Hello Auntie

DORA: Ooh there you are come on in; and who's this little cherub you have in tow?

DONATELLO: This is my assistant.

ERIC: I is very pleased to be making your acquaintance.

DORA: Good to have you along petal. Now listen, we've only got a few hours, I have to leave at 6 o'clock. I rarely stay later than that, and I don't want to arouse suspicion.

DONATELLO: I hope this isn't too big a job.

DORA: Oo no need to get your kippers in a codpiece; your mum speaks very highly of you.

**FX**                    **SOUND OF A DOOR OPENING**

DORA: In you go; the painting is under the cover.

DONATELLO: Painting! Wait a minute, I....

DORA: I know it's not as good as painting your own; just get in there, you're as bad as your uncle.

**FX**                    **SOUND OF A DOOR CLOSING**

(PAUSE)

ERIC: What sort of painter does she fink you is?

DONATELLO: I thought she knew.

ERIC: Okay what is you wanting; matt emulsion or gloss finish?

DONATELLO: Somehow I don't think it's going to matter much.

ERIC: Go wiv emulsion then, it'll be easier to clean the brushes.

DONATELLO: Right then, let's get this cover off and see what we can do.

**FX:**                    **SOUND OF COVER BEING REMOVED**

ERIC: That is very ... artistic.

DONATELLO: It would be that bit she ripped.

ERIC: Not the best part of the picture to be touching up.

DONATELLO: Okay, let's get a grip.