



NEXT OF KIN

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NEXT OF KIN

A MONOLOGUE

A HOSPITAL

A BED AND A BED TABLE ON WHEELS WITH A MUG, GLASS AND JUG OF WATER

ARCHIE IS IN BED. SLIGHTLY PROPPED UP WITH PILLOWS. INFIRM. 60-80

HE HAS A MOBILE PHONE UNDER HIS PILLOW.

ALTHOUGH HE DOESN'T MOVE MUCH HE IS ALERT AND LOOKS AT THOSE WHO SPEAK TO HIM OR WHOM HE SPEAKS TO. HE HAS A GRUFF EAST LONDON ACCENT.

GAPS BETWEEN LINES INDICATE SOMEONE ELSE IS SPEAKING, THOUGH WE DO NOT HEAR THEIR WORDS

ARCHIE

Nurse? Nurse?

Alright. Been waiting. Seems I'll have to wait a bit fucking longer then.

Alright. Sorry. Sorry. I don't usually swear.

I come from Dagenham you know. They all swear down there. Dagenham.

But not me.

As a rule.

Usually.

PAUSE – He reaches for his mug.

Nurse? Nurse? Can you pass me my tea?

I can't reach.

I tried.

Right. Ok.

PAUSE – He watches some new nurses arrive on the ward

What you leaning on the bed like that for?

Who are you then?

Night staff?

What are you doing talking about me quietly for then? Speak up so I can hear. It's about me after all. Or don't you want to tell me?

I don't remember you last night.

Did you?

Cut up my chicken?

Oh right, yes. Yeah. You looked different last night didn't you?

Bit kinky.

Well that's what I think. Kinky. A bit kinky.

Yeah, well, you never know.

What? Next of kin?

Didn't I tell you?

No, the wife is dead. No kids.

My sister.

Nah, she hasn't been here.

No, not even once.

Only seen her twice. Once when she got married and once when she got divorced.

There you are then.

PAUSE – The nurses move off and he reaches for his mobile phone and dials a number.

That you?

What?

No, I'm still here.

What?

No, I'm still here.

Where?

In the fucking hospital!

Yeah I thought I was coming out today. But I'm not.

I said I'm not coming out today.

What? No, I'm not.... Turn the fucking TV down I can't hear a fucking word.

No, I'm not coming out today.