

SCENE 16

Lights up on the bed. John is asleep under the duvet. Steven has gone. Radio alarm goes off.

RADIO

“- report on this beautiful Sunday morning. I've got a request for Julie on her birthday. Julie, Derek says he loves you very much and that the last year and half have been the happiest of his life.”

Music: "Happy Birthday, Sweet Sixteen", (Neil Sedaka). John wakes slowly. Turns off the radio.

JOHN (*calling*)

Steven?

STEVE (*Calling from off*)

I'm getting breakfast. I'm afraid we had all the bacon yesterday.

JOHN

What time are your parents due back?

STEVE (*Calling from off*)

They're back. They're down here with me.

JOHN Shit!

STEVE (*Calling from off*)

Mum says if you make an honest man of me she'll help you choose the curtains.

JOHN (*smiles*)

You wanker. Wanker.

He dials the phone (landline) at the side of the bed as he examines a half empty bottle of baby oil.

JOHN (*to phone*)

Hi, Mum. Listen, I'm at Kevin's but I'll He rang? When?..... Oh, er ... well we had a bit of a row yesterday and I... I went and stayed at Dave's. Look, apologise to Dad for worrying him. I'll be home for lunch ... Look I must go, I'm on someone else's .. I mean Kevin's... er Dave's phone. See you later.

He puts down they phone.

WWWA JOhN AND STEVE - mornng after

54.

JOHN Shit. Shit!

STEVE, wearing a dressing gown, enters with a breakfast tray - toast, two mugs of tea, jars.

STEVE Marmalade or honey? You know, I was thinking about what you said about going away together this summer. What about Brighton? It would be -

He stops as he notices that John is trying to put his underpants on under the covers.

JOHN What are you doing?

JOHN Getting dressed.

STEVE

We've been making love all weekend and now you don't want me to see your willy?

JOHN

Just leave it alone, will you?

STEVE

It's you who can't leave it alone.

STEVE sits on the foot of the bed and starts to sort out the breakfast tray John comes forward on the bed and hugs Steven from behind. He kisses him on cheek

JOHN

Sorry. This is all so ... strange.

STEVE You'll get used to it.

JOHN

I won't... it's... not me.

STEVE Who is it then?

JOHN

Even if I got used to the... sex, I couldn't get used to the lying. Apparently Kevin rang last night.

STEVE Shit.

JOHN

I think I managed to squirm out of it with my mum. But I hated lying to her.

He takes Steve's hand.

JOHN

I'm scared. I've never had to cover up what I do before.

WWWA JOhN AND STEVE - mornng after

STEVE

What about Brighton pier?

JOHN That was different.

STEVE

Because you only came once that time?

JOHN There's no need to rub it in

STEVE Yes there is. Its good for the complexion.

JOHN What? Oh. Is it?

STEVE gets up off the bed.

STEVE This can't work.

JOHN Why?

STEVE Every time we make it you tell me you enjoyed it but wouldn't like to do it again and how you have too much to lose by being gay or make some crappy statement about how you prefer girls. Ramming your sexuality down my throat. And then you get horny again. And ram something else down my throat. Basically I don't know if you're coming or going or --

JOHN

I'm sorry. Please don't blow me out. Give me a chance.

Steve laughs.

JOHN What's the matter?

STEVE

If you knew how long ... how many nights ... and you're asking ME to give YOU a chance.

JOHN Well?

STEVE

Tomorrow night? If my parents are still away.

JOHN

Great. I'd better go now. Okay.

STEVE Thanks for ... coming.

JOHN Thanks for having me.

They laugh and embrace.

Lights fade. Music: Sinister chords return.