

MAGRIT I made sure he never took it off. I stuck tae him like glue. Wi were wi wan another the whole night. They were aw sayin whit a devoted couple wi were ... if they'd only known.

DOLLY Oh he's a nice fella your Peter.

MAGRIT Aye if ye take him the right wey ... by the throat.

(Enter Andy. Definitely guttered. Sways unsteadily to centre stalls)

ANDY Yes ... yes ... (whoop, breathes out trying to appear sober). Right then. Now ... (deep breath). Z/ivrything ... y'know ... workin awright.

MAGRIT ... Apart fae you dae you mean?

ANDY Cause (Glasgow drunks hand signals). Zai's what ah'm here for ... now then ... z'ivrything awright?

MAGRIT (This speech should be done with heavy irony to the audience or she sings "Isn't it wonderful to be a woman).

Isn't it wonderful tae be a woman. Ye get up at the crack o' dawn and get the breakfast oan, get the weans ready and oot the hoose lookin as tidy and as well dressed as ye can afford. Then ye see tae the lord high provider and get him oot, then wash up, finish the ironin, tidy the hoose and gie the flair a skite oer. Then it's oot tae yer ain wee job, mebbe cleanin offices, servin in a shop or washin stairs. Then it's dinner time. Well it is fur everybody else but no us cause we don't get dinner. By the time yer oot and run home, cooked something for the weans, yer lucky if you feel like something tae eat. I know I don't and even if I did ... the dinner hour's finished, so it's back tae yer work; that is efter ye've goat in whatever yer gonnae gie them for their tea, and efter yer finished yer work, ye'r back up ... cookin again and they'll tell ye the mince is lumpy ... or the chips are too warm ... then they're away oot. The weans tae play ... the men tae have a drink, cause they need wan ... the souls ... efter pittin in a hard day's graft, so ye've goat the hoose tae yersel and what dae ye dae, ye tidy up again don't ye? Mer ironin, light the fire, wash the dishes and the pots etc. etc. and then ye sit doon. And what happens ... ye've jist sat doon when the weans c

MAGRIT  
(continued)

up. "Gonnae make us a cuppa tea and something tae eat" ... What dae ye's want tae eat? ... "Och anything Ma" ... D'ye want some o' that soup? ... "Naw" ... A tomato sandwich? ... "Naw" ... A couple o' boiled eggs? ... "Naw" ... A piece on spam? ... "Naw" ... Well what d'ye's want? ... "Och anything at aW". So ye make them something tae eat then ye sit doon and finally have a wee blaw ... a very wee blaw ... cause it's time tae go tae the steamie. Ye go tae the steamie, finish at nine o' clock and get the washin hame. Ye sort it aw oot ... and get it put by and then sometimes mebbe take stock of yer life. What are we? ... skivvies ... unpaid skivvies ... in other words we are ... used ... but ye think tae yersel, well even if I am being used ... I don't mind ... cause I love my family and anyway it's New Years Eve. I can relax and jist enjoy masel ... and any minute noo the weans'll be in an ma friends'll be comin roon wi black bun, shortbread, dumplins, a wee refreshment and I can forget aw ma worries even if it's jist for a night and the weans arrive and ye gie them shortbread, sultana cake, ginger wine and there is jist one thing missin, the head of the family. The door bell goes, ye open the door, and what is staunin there, ready to make the evening complete ... that's right ... your husband, your better half ... the man who was goin to make you the happiest woman in the world and (gently) what does he look like ... that (Andy).

DOLLY Who were ye talkin tae?

MAGRIT Masel.

ANDY So ... z'a ... wis sayin girls ... everything aw right doon here ... know ... cause ... that's what I'm here fur.

MAGRIT Oh is that what your here for? We were wonderin.

ANDY Oh don't be like that Magrit ... I mean ... it's nice tae be nice ... n'at right Dolly ... I mean it is ... in'tit nice tae be nice?

DOLLY Certainly is Andy.

ANDY Dolly ... this is between you and me ... I mean this is no fur the managements ears ... (lowers his voice). Ah've hid a wee drink ... but that's between you and me. Y'know (still whispering) that's eh ... that's our secret ... schhhhhhh (he smiles at everyone).