

The Watchful Eye: EPISODE 6  
An audio drama told in 6 parts

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Scene 1.

<Fran is snoring loudly>

**Katherine** Wake up. You're snoring.

**Fran** Uh?

**Katherine** You're snoring.

**Fran** No I wasn't.

**Katherine** Yes, you were.

**Fran** I never snore.

**Katherine** You always do.

**Fran** I think you're lying.

**Katherine** There's only one liar around here, and it isn't me.

**Fran** Wow, starting a bit early with your *pity-me* act aren't you? Have you ever thought perhaps that's why you still live alone? The only men who want you are the kind who either walk all over you or are more pathetic than you.

**Katherine** (pause) You're the worst sister ever.

**Fran** Yeah, I'm okay with that.

**Katherine** I want you gone by the end of the day. If this is how you're gonna treat me, I don't care where you stay.

**Fran** Well, listen. I was thinking. First, we need to come up with a plan to get that twenty grand-

**Katherine** No, I'm not getting involved! I want nothing to do with it-

**Fran** Are you kidding? Look, if someone is willing to pay, then I reckon it's fair game! Where's the crime in that?

**Katherine** You're willing to risk your life with actual kidnappers for money?

**Fran** I am, yes. Come on, ten grand each. It can pay to fix that nose of yours-

**Katherine**            There's nothing wrong with my nose!

**Fran**                 Nooo, course not. That's why no one called Captain *Hook* at school then.

**Katherine**            I thought it was because I had scary hair.

**Fran**                 That's when they called you Beatle Juice. Captain Hook was because of your ludicrously large nose.

**Katherine**            Really?

**Fran**                 Yep.

**Katherine**            (hurt) I knew it was bigger than most, but (pause) is it really *that* bad?

**Fran**                 Let's just say I see it coming before you enter the room. But all that can be fixed with a bit of cash! You just need to help me come up with a plan to get that twenty grand, and all your hook-nose nightmares will be over!

**Katherine**            Yeah? And how can I trust you won't lie to me again?

Scene 2.

<Max is making breakfast. Bacon is sizzling in the pan>

<Max is humming to the tune on the radio>

**Ed**                    (coughs)

**Max**                 Morning mate. Sleep well?

**Ed**                    Terribly.

**Max**                 Oh, how comes?

**Ed**                    Just feeling a bit shit about this whole thing.

**Max**                 Yeah, I probably would too if I were you.

**Ed**                    I ruined our friendship for the sake of a woman. I don't know what I was thinking!

**Max**                 And not a very good one at that!

**Ed**                    Do you reckon you'll be able to forgive me?

**Max** Nah, probably not. You're a bit of a cunt really, ain't ya? I've got no time for cunts. Did you want red or brown sauce in your bacon sarnie.

**Ed** Neither.

**Max** (shocked) Neither? Who in their right mind has no sauce?!

**Ed** I'm not hungry.

**Max** Okay, more for me then.

**Ed** I've had Terry ringing me all morning.

**Max** Who's that?

**Ed** Terrence Harvey. You know!

**Max** No, I don't.

**Ed** He's the fucking gangster we owe a lot of money too!

**Max** Oh, right. What did he say?

**Ed** I didn't answer.

**Max** Yeah, I normally don't answer the phone before 9am either. Kinda rude I think. I'm glad he doesn't have my number.

**Ed** Max, I don't know what I'm going to do! I owe him a lot of money, and if I don't get it to him by the end of the day, I'm dead.

**Max** Yeahhhh. That's a shame.

*<awkward silence>*

**Ed** Come on, Max! Help me out here?

**Max** I'm gonna take it easy today – sort out the house. Find my phone. I was meant to have a meeting with the *life insurance* people today, but because Fran isn't actually dead, it seems there's no point now.

**Ed** (realising) Wait a minute, you *both* have life insurance, right?

**Max** Oh, yeah. I wouldn't leave the house without being wrapped up to the teeth in insurance. Pays out just

over *two-hundred-grand* each if we die. You just never know what's going to happen do you?

**Ed** (suspicious) No (pause) you can't be too careful, can you? Two-hundred grand *each*, you said?

**Max** Yep.

**Ed** Excuse me for a second will you?

**Max** Yeah, course. There are towels and stuff in the bathroom if you wanna have a shower. I'm not sure if you've noticed, but you smell quite bad.

**Ed** Oh, thanks. That's kind of you. Yes, I think I will have a wash, thanks.

**Max** Remember to use some soap, yeah? Don't be afraid to use a lot of it.

**Ed** Course.

**Max** Two rounds, if you can. Just to make sure.

**Ed** No problem.

**Max** And scrub really hard.

**Ed** I will.

**Max** Because mate, you stink.

**Ed** Okay, I won't be long.

**Max** And take your time. *Please?*

Scene 3.

*<Max starts to ringing the water in the bath. We hear him dialing a number. It rings>*

**Terry** (on the phone) It's about time. You know I don't like being ignored, Edward.

**Ed** Terry, I've got some great news. I've got your money!

**Terry** (on the phone, surprised) All of it?

**Ed** All of it. I just need a little extra time to kill a friend and his wife, and then the money will be-

**Terry** (on the phone) No, Edward. You pay me today or-

**Ed** But Terry- sorry, I didn't mean to interrupt. But, but- I'll pay you extra okay? More interest. If you just give me a few more days. I have a plan. I'll pay you three-hundred. That's an extra one on top of the two I owe you.

**Terry** (on the phone) Wait, let me do that math. (confused) One plus (pause).

**Ed** Two.

**Terry** Yes, two. One (pause) plus-

**Ed** Two.

**Terry** Two. Yeah. So (pause).

**Ed** One plus two equals three, Terry.

**Terry** Does it? Wait let me just check.

*<Silence>*

**Terry** Alright, it seems like you have bought yourself some more time. You have until tomorrow morning.

**Ed** No, Terry! I need more-

**Terry** Or I'll spread your nuts in my jam sandwich. Kiss-kiss.

**Ed** (to himself) Fuck.

Scene 3.

*<We hear Max making loud crunching eating noise and general satisfaction>*

**Max** Wow, I never thought of toasting the bread before, but this is mind-blowing. Oh, hey Ed. Guess what? I toasted the bread this time and (pause) what are you doing with that gun?

**Ed** Max?

**Max** Yes, Ed?

**Ed** I'm going to kill you. And then I am going to kill Fran.

**Max** Why are you going to do that Ed?

**Ed** Because I need your insurance money, that's why! It's obvious isn't it?

**Max** But I've just found out about this toast thing. Seriously, it's changed my whole outlook on life. 'Cos before I used to just have normal bread but-

**Ed** Max?

**Max** Yeah?

**Ed** Shut up, okay? I need you to shut up!

**Max** Seeing as you're the one with the gun, I'm going to do as you say, but normally I wouldn't shush for anyone. Except Fran's sister, Katherine, she can be quite scary. I quite like it, actually.

**Ed** Max!

*<A gun fire goes off, and we hear some debris hit the floor>*

**Max** Je-sus, mate! Look at what you've done to my ceiling! It's a good thing no one is upsta-

**Ed** (pause) What?

**Max** Is there someone upstairs?

**Ed** No. No, I don't know. Is there? How would I know?

**Max** Nah, you're probably right. Wait (pause) nah, I'm sure there's not. Fran's staying at Katherine's house, so we're all good.

**Ed** Right, now we've got that sorted. It's time to die-

**Max** Wait. Can I just finish this sandwich first? It really is de-lis- ARRRRRRRRGGGH!

**Ed** Whaa-

*<Max grants and slams the bacon sandwich into Ed's face – we hear the crunch. Ed struggles. Max continues to grunt and breath heavily. Ed finally relents as does Max>*

**Max** Right, are you gonna stop with all this nonsense about killing me? It's too early for all that (pause). Ed? (pause) Eddy? (pause) Oh, shit.

Scene 4.

*<We hear typing on a keyboard>*

**Raymond** Friday, 16th of August. 2006. The Watchful Eye blog post #138. Loyal readers, I type to you today some regrettable news. After just over three years of reporting my heart out to you, I regretfully inform you that this will be my *last* blog post. I feel I can no longer serve you, the people, of Lewisham, whilst the corrupt and incompetent police force refuses to tackle the hard crime this town so sorely needs tackled. And that is why I'm making the career-transition into (pause) bakery. I will be opening up my new venture within the coming months, and a whole new adventure starts! It will be called *Burtie Bakes* in honour of my faithful companion, now deceased.

*<Raymond starts to cry>*

*<The typing starts up again>*

I've loved every minute of serving you all, I hope you respect my privacy, in this, a difficult time for us all. Signing off for the last time, Raymond Montgomery Etherington. P.S. Please follow my new blog at [www.BurtieBakes.blogspot.com](http://www.BurtieBakes.blogspot.com)

*<silence>*

*<Raymond suddenly blows his nose>*

**Raymond** And save (pause). Save? Why won't you- save?! Ah, bleeding hell! Why won't you fucking save?! You piece of junk-

*<Raymond starts to smash up his computer>*

Scene 5.

*<Phone ringing. And ringing. And ringing>*

**Charlie** That's your phone, I think.

**Barry** Is it?

**Charlie**            Yeah, I'm pretty sure.

**Barry**             Let me check *the-old-pocket*.

*<The ringing gets louder>*

**Barry**             Oh, yeah. So it is! Good work. One sec, let... Me...  
Just- Hello?

**Director**          (on the phone) Hi, is that Barry Sinclair, the  
actor?

**Barry**             (unsure) Yeah, who's that?

**Director**          (on the phone) This is the director you auditioned  
for the other day, I hope you don't mind me calling.

**Barry**             And I suppose you want to gloat about not giving me  
the job, eh? Well, fuck you! I didn't want your  
shitty little play anyway. It was just a walk on  
role, and I've got better things coming up, and I  
haven't got time for it anyway. So.

**Director**          (on the phone) Our lead has just dropped out, and  
you were my second choice, so I just wondered if you  
were still available?

**Barry**             (pleasant) Oh, yeah course! I mean, yes. I'd love  
to! Sorry, about what I just said, I didn't mean-

**Director**          (on the phone) That's okay Barry. Rehearsals start  
next week, but we need you to come in for a fitting.  
Can you do tomorrow afternoon?

**Barry**             Sure, sure I can.

**Director**          (on the phone) Great, let's say 1pm. Same place as  
the audition.

**Barry**             I'll be there! Bye.

**Charlie**            What was that about?

**Barry**             I got it!

**Charlie**            Got what?

**Barry**             The audition!

**Charlie**            What? The one you smashed the other day but then  
didn't get it, so you didn't want it?

**Barry**            Yep! That one.

**Charlie**          Ah, mate- that's terrific! I'm real chuffed for you.

**Barry**            Yeah, it's only amateur dramatics, but it's a start, isn't it?

**Charlie**          Sure is! We've all gotta start somewhere.

**Barry**            And who knows, maybe you'll get your penis sorted out and we'll both get what we want.

**Charlie**          Yeah, let's hope eh? I suppose you'll be off now then?

**Barry**            What do you mean?

**Charlie**          Well, you don't wanna be doing this investigating thing anymore do you? Now you're an actor. What if you get hurt? It could harm your career.

**Barry**            I thought I could at least do this last one with you, you know? For old times sake.

**Charlie**          You really are the best.

**Barry**            I know. (pause) I really feel like in the movie version this is when they'd kiss, you know?

**Charlie**          Let's not though, yeah?

**Barry**            No, I mean. I didn't mean, us, right now. In the movie, you know?

**Charlie**          We're on a stake out. Things could happen any-

**Barry**            What? Do you see something?

**Charlie**          No, it's just the pain in my penis.

**Barry**            Oh, want me to take a look for you?

**Charlie**          No.

**Barry**            I don't mind.

**Charlie**          No.

**Barry**            (hurt) Fine. Just trying to help.

*<A van pulls up in the distance>*

**Charlie** (in pain) Who's that?

**Barry** (dismissive) Just some delivery driver, I suspect. I don't know.

**Charlie** Well, keep an eye on it, alright?

<The van stops and we hear a door open>

Scene 4. – continued

**Max** (calling) Come on out, kidnappers! I've got him-her. Here *she* is. I'm ready to make the swap for the twenty grand.

<Max opens the two doors at the back>

**Max** Ready to swap you for the twenty-grand ransom...  
(unsure) Ready when you are.

<We hear him pull a heavy body down the van>

**Max** Come and get *her*.

Scene 5. – continued

**Barry** Is that Max?

**Charlie** Who's Max?

**Barry** That guy. We've spent a fair bit of time with him over the last few days and then in the cell too. Surely you remember?

**Charlie** Oh, yeah course. What do you think he's doing here?

**Barry** Probably the same reason we are.

**Charlie** The twenty-grand? You think?

**Barry** Is that a body he's holding?

**Charlie** (disbelief) Surely not! Do you think it's the kidnap woman?

**Barry** Maybe! Makes sense if he's also here to collect the ransom. We should have got one too! We've got nothing to trade.

**Charlie** Oh, damn it!

Scene 6.

*<Some rustling in the bushes>*

*<Rodger struggles to stand still>*

**Nikki** Will you stop?

**Rodger** Sorry, I thought I was going to be sick.

**Nikki** Can you hold on for a minute? That's the guy who got arrested in the pub the other day.

**Rodger** Our mate who bought the round?

**Nikki** Yeah, and I think I see a body.

**Rodger** *Body?* Whose body?

**Nikki** I dunno. The woman, maybe. I can see a pair of red heels, but that's it, the van door is blocking the rest.

**Rodger** Is she alive?

**Nikki** I dunno! She's not moving though.

**Rodger** Does she need to be alive? To hand her back I mean for the insurance money? It's probably better if she's dead. Means we don't have to do it!

**Nikki** I'm properly confused now. Why is the guy who supposedly kidnapped his wife, but didn't, now dropping her off to us? Do you think he actually did kidnap her?

**Rodger** *Subverting expectations*, you might say! Remember? (pause) Nikki, do you remember when you-

**Nikki** But if we pay him the twenty-grand who do we send the new ransom too?

**Rodger** What do you mean?

**Nikki** Well, Rodger. Let me break it done for you. The only person who would pay us the ransom for the safe return of that woman, is the same man who is now dropping her off to us.

**Rodger** I see.

**Nikki** Do you?

**Rodger** Maybe not.

**Nikki** There is something really odd going on and I think we need to find out what. Right, put your mask on. Let's go.

Scene 6. – continued

**Max** Here we are, ready to make the exchange.

**Nikki** (calling) Stay where you are!

**Max** Hi. That's a funny looking mask.

**Nikki** (embarrassed) It's all they had left.

**Max** Is that...

**Nikki** It's Einstein. Albert Einstein.

**Max** Cooooool. Anyway. I've got the guy- *woman* you want. Do you have the twenty grand?

**Nikki** We do. But we've got some questions first.

Scene 7. – continued

**Barry** He's got a gun!

**Charlie** Who?

**Barry** Our mate, he's got a gun!

**Charlie** Fuck!

Scene 8. – continued

*<Two doors open>*

**Barry** Put the gun down right now!

**Max** Oh, hello again, fancy seeing you both again. What are the chances? (pause) Are you here for the ransom as well?

**Rodger** Wait a minute, are you the two police officers from the other night?

**Charlie** For the last fucking time, we are *detectives!*

**Barry** Aww, and this will actually be the last time too.

**Charlie** Oh, yeah. Aww, I'm quite sad now.

**Barry** Me too!

**Nikki** (pleading) We haven't got a clue what's going on detectives! This man tried to make an exchange with us for this woman, but we were just hanging around in that bush, weren't we Rodger? Just minding our own business.

**Rodger** Oh, yeah. Sure. Minding our own business.

**Barry** Our intelligence has informed us that some sort of deal was going down here this morning.

**Nikki** No, no- deal. No deal to do with us, at least.

**Rodger** We don't know nothing about no deal.

**Max** I was here to collect the twenty-grand ransom, and I reckon these two are the ones who are gonna pay me.

**Barry** Is that true? Are you two (pause) what's your mask meant to be? Santa Claus?

**Nikki** (embarrassed) It's Albert Einstein.

**Barry** Who?

**Nikki** He was a german-born theoretical physicist who developed the theory of relativity.

**Barry** (unsure) Right.

**Charlie** Anyway! Hand over the cash, or they'll be trouble to pay.

**Nikki** We don't have no cash.

**Rodger** Only a cheque.

**Nikki** Rodg- shh!

**Rodger** Sorry.

**Charlie**           Cheque is fine. Is it made payable out to cash?

**Rodger**           Let me check. Get it? (pause) Check. *Cheque.*

*<Rodger pulls a piece of paper out of his pocket and unfolds it>*

**Rodger**           It says my name. Rodger Quincy. That's me.

**Nikki**            You made it out to *you*?

**Rodger**           Who else would I make it out too?

**Nikki**            To cash! *Cash!* Bloody idiot. Now they know who you are!

**Rodger**           Oh, course. Yeah. I didn't think about that. Sorry.

**Charlie**           Okay, *Rodger Quincy.* Hand over the cheque to me and we won't ask where you got it from.

**Rodger**           (cocky) And what if I said no?

**Charlie**           (to Barry) When did people stop obeying authority, eh? There's no respect in this country anymore.

**Barry**            Society is going down the tubes, Chaz. I've been saying it for years.

**Charlie**           It really is. (calling out) Okay, listen up! If you don't hand over the cheque right now, I'm going to blast away every single one of you with this gun-

**EVERYONE**        \*Gasps\*

**Max**             No, don't do that! I'm not keen on dying just yet.

**Nikki**            Okay, we'll give you what you want, just don't-

**Rodger**           Go on then, I *dare* you-

*<Suddenly three gun fires ring out>*

*<Silence>*

**Barry**            You were right! They were shots fired, not cars back firing like I thought. They do sound similar though.

**Charlie**           They do indeed.

**Barry**            Was that the first time you shot someone?

**Charlie**           It was.

**Barry**                    Three-in-one. Nice. Proper professional too. Bam, bam, bam. Just like that.

**Charlie**                    Thanks.

**Barry**                    What are we going to do now?

**Charlie**                    I'll get the cheque, it's blown away into the bushes. You start loading the van with the bodies. We'll dump them somewhere near the canal.

**Barry**                    You're the boss.

*<we hear the gravel footsteps of Charlie walking away>*

**Charlie**                    (to himself) Come (pause) come here. Come- gotcha!  
(calling) Got it, Baz!

*<We hear a fast car coming towards the car park. It starts beeping>*

**Charlie**                    Baz?

*<The car gets closer and closer>*

**Charlie**                    (screaming) Barry! Watch out-

*<The car slams into Barry, sending him flying>*

**Charlie**                    Nooo!

*<The body falls to the floor. The car comes to a screeching stop>*

**Charlie**                    What have you done?

Scene 7. – continued

*<Katherine is breathing heavily>*

**Katherine**                (panicked) What have you done?

**Fran**                        (cold) Deserves him right for running me over. Or was it the other one?

*<Gun fire rings out, smashing the car windows, and denting the car>*

**Katherine**                Argh! Fran (pause) Fran! Oh my god-

*<The firing continues>*

**Katherine**                (calling) Stop! Please stop-

<A car door opens>

Scene 8. – continued

**Katherine** (calling) Stop firing! Please. Stop!

<The firing stops>

**Katherine** (calling out) I had nothing to do with this!

**Charlie** You've killed *him*!

**Katherine** No- no, I didn't. I wasn't driving! I didn't know she was going to do that-

**Charlie** He was going to be a star! And you- you took that away from him!

**Katherine** That's not true! Listen to me. I didn't do anything. Please-

**Charlie** (snivelling) Come out with your hands up.

**Katherine** Do you promise not to shoot me?

**Charlie** I can't make promises I don't want to keep!

**Katherine** Well, in that case, I'm not coming out!

**Charlie** (to himself) Oh god, *seriously*?

**Katherine** I don't want to die and I haven't done anything wrong!

**Charlie** Yes- yes, no need to keep repeating yourself.

**Barry** (struggling) Charlie?

**Charlie** Barry!

<Charlie runs over to Barry>

**Charlie** Baz, are you okay? You're bleeding really badly, pal. From the head, your arms, your legs, pretty much everywhere you're bleeding.

**Barry** (struggling) I know, I know. This truly is the end, Chaz. My one *true* friend.

**Charlie** Come on, don't say that! You're not going to die.

**Barry** (struggling) I think now (pause) is my time to go.

**Charlie** No! We're going to get you some help.

**Barry** (struggling) Charlie... Charlie? I can see the darkness, Charlie. It's coming close. I'm walking towards it.

**Charlie** No! Stay away from the darkness. The darkness is no good! Come back to the light.

**Barry** (struggling) I'm going... Into... The-

*<Barry lets out a deep breath>*

**Charlie** (crying out) Nooooooo! Baaaaaa-ry!

*<Charlie sobs and sobs, which eventually dies down after some time>*

**Barry** Did I get you?

**Charlie** (surprised) Barry?

**Barry** Did I really get you?

**Charlie** You're alive?!

**Barry** Course! I'm fine. Just some cosmetic damage, I think. There goes my career as a leading man.

**Charlie** You, fucking, cunt.

**Barry** I was just acting, weren't I?

**Charlie** That was going too far! You properly had me-

**Barry** Oh, come on, lighten up! I've been practising my death breath. Pretty good, eh?

*<Charlie gets up and walks away>*

**Charlie** (distant) Fuck you.

**Barry** Where you going? Come back.

**Charlie** (distant) No.

**Barry** (calling) But I still need an ambulance! (to himself) Fuck. (to Katherine) Oi you, hiding behind the car that run me over.

**Katherine** Me?

**Barry** Yeah, can you call me an ambulance please?

**Katherine** Sure! Sure, I can do that. And you won't shoot me if I come out?

**Barry** No, no. I'm not going to shoot you. I need an ambulance, don't I? I can hardly move.

**Katherine** Okay, yeah. I'm coming out then.

**Barry** Hurry up, I'm bleeding to death here!

**Katherine** (cautious) Don't shoot, okay? Remember I didn't do anything wrong. Here I come-

<Silence. Then foot steps>

<Two gun shots ring out and Katherine falls to the floor>

**Charlie** Wow. That plan worked like a treat!

**Barry** I knew it would! We had it all figured out, didn't we? You know, you're not such a bad actor yourself. Your crying was totally believable.

**Charlie** Maybe we should go into doing a double act.

**Barry** (sincere) I would love that.

<Awkward silence>

**Barry** But Chaz?

**Charlie** Yeah, Baz?

**Barry** I *do* still need that ambulance!

**Charlie** Oh, fuck, sorry! I'll call dispatch now.

<Running footsteps and a car door opening>

**Charlie** Come in, dispatch. I am in urgent need of an ambulance, our location is-

**Dispatch** Is that you, Charlie?

**Charlie** Err- yes. We really need immediate assistance. Barry has been run over and-

**Dispatch** I'm not falling for your pranks, Charlie. Now get off the line.

**Charlie** What? No! He really has been run over. I'm pretty sure he's broken every bone in his body!

*<silence>*

**Charlie** Hello? Dispatch? (pause) Fuck sake!

*<The car door slams closed>*

**Barry** (calling) What's going on?

**Charlie** Dispatch thinks I'm pranking them!

**Barry** Ha-ha! This would make for a very elaborate prank.

**Charlie** I'll go and check if the pub has a phone. One sec.

*<Footsteps as Charlie runs away>*

Scene 9.

*<Charlie tries the front doors, but they are locked>*

**Charlie** (to himself) Damn it.

*<He kicks the door>*

**Jude** Oh, they're always late opening up on a Friday, dear.

**Charlie** Huh? Oh, is that so.

**Jude** I normally sit out here for a good half an hour before someone remembers to unlock the door.

**Charlie** Great story.

**Jude** Is there something I can help you with? You look a bit panicked dear.

**Charlie** Sure, would you mind letting my friend ride that great big dog of yours to the hospital-

*<The dog aggressively barks loudly twice>*

**Charlie** On second thoughts.

**Jude** (concerned) Has someone been hurt?

**Charlie** Just a few people dead, a few bones broken, lots of blood loss, but no one actually hurt-hurt.

Scene 10.

*<Applause. It grows louder. And louder still>*

*<It dies away as we go backstage>*

**Barry** (calling out) Congratulations everyone! What a fantastic opening night, you were all so terrific, phew-

**Everyone** You were great, Barry! Amazing! You were the best! What a night. Well done.

**Barry** (surprised) Charlie?

**Charlie** Hi, Barry.

**Barry** What are you doing here? I didn't know you were watching.

**Charlie** I thought I'd surprise you.

**Barry** You should have warned me!

**Charlie** Nah, I didn't want to add to the pressure of your first night.

**Barry** So what do you think? I missed a couple of lines, but I don't think anyone noticed.

**Charlie** (unsure) It was great! Really, really great. I loved it.

**Barry** Yeah? Aw, thanks. I'm glad you liked it. Decent crowd too.

**Charlie** Yeah, must have been, what? Fifty or so.

**Barry** I reckon, yeah. The theatre fits five-hundred so we're hoping for a bigger turn out the more word spreads, you know? That's how theatre works.

**Charlie** I'm sure it's going to be a great success.

**Barry** What are you doing now?

**Charlie** I'm working actually, yeah. A big case. Long nights, long days.

**Barry** Oh, cool. That's great.

**Charlie** Yeah. But (pause) you know, someone's got to do it.

**Barry** (awkward) Yeah.

**Charlie** Anyway, I only popped out to see your play, so I gotta get back. We're interrogating this chap down at the station who runs the biggest trafficking ring in Europe. A real piece of work he is.

**Barry** Wow!

**Charlie** Yeah.

**Barry** Great (awkward pause). Come here-

*<The two squeeze tightly>*

**Barry** It was great to see you.

**Charlie** You too.

**Barry** Don't be a stranger, okay?

Scene 11.

*<Two large stage doors swing open. We hear traffic>*

**Charlie** (calling) Taxi!

*<A car pulls up beside the road. A door opens>*

**Taxi Driver** Where to, mate?

**Charlie** (sad) You choose.

**Taxi Driver** That's not how this works!

**Charlie** Just drive.

**Taxi Driver** (pause) Have you been crying?

**Charlie** No. I'm just acting.