

ROY           Thirty three pounds.

GARETH       Thirty three?

ROY           For the Hillsbury Mechanicals amateur performance of Annie get your gun. Now, I'm not one to skimp as you know. But I can sit up in the Gods in the west end for that kind of money. See a real show. Not that what we do isn't a real show. No, no, no...far from it. It's...you know what I mean. But this was...The Hillsbury Mechanicals after all. Not the Ardleton Light Operatic. I'd expect it from them. Wouldn't you agree Cliff?

CLIFF         I suppose so.

ROY           Mmmm

CLIFF         Thirty three pounds is too rich for your blood then?

ROY           *(Chuckling)* I wouldn't have thought so.

CLIFF         But the Hillsbury lot worry you about their ticket prices?

ROY           Only because I...we have to consider what that means for us. Well...not *you* Cliff. Obviously. Not being a member of the Little Dingleby Dramatists.

CLIFF         I just wanted to take a year or two out Roy.

ROY           Good for you ol' chap.

GARETH       Don't knock him Roy, we need audience members from somewhere.

CLIFF         Thank you Gareth.

ROY           I'm just saying, with all the other companies increasing their tickets, we need to consider our position.

GARETH       Can't say I've ever had a problem with that.

ROY           Ardleton's ticket price last year was Twenty nine pound, Hillsbury, thirty three. Maybe LDD needs to do the same.

CLIFF         Well, it's probably a good thing to bring up at the AGM wouldn't you say?

ROY           Oh...I shouldn't have thought so. No. It's something for the Chairman to ponder and

think about.

GARETH So...something just for you then is it?

ROY I suppose yes! - Are you going to turn those sausages Cliff?

CLIFF *(Gritting his teeth)* I was just going to...Roy.

ROY Can't have a sequel to last years shenanigans can we?

*ROY raucously smacks CLIFF around the shoulder, laughing his head off, gripping CLIFF around his arms with no care for personal space. The sound of a parking car can be heard. Doors shutting in the distance. RAQUEL walks into the house*

GARETH It wasn't Cliff's fault.

ROY Quite right, quite right...How are things Cliff? You and Raquel still...

CLIFF We're back living together if that's what you mean.

ROY Good to know, good to know. Felt like it was touch and go for a while there. But I'm glad the marriage is...off the rocks as it were. It is off the rocks isn't it?

CLIFF *(Diverting)* You know, I should be getting you to do this Roy.

ROY Ah, the gentle art of barbecuing. A man's job...you did wash the grill before you used it?

CLIFF Of course

ROY Only it's the biggest thing for harbouring bacteria. -

GARETH Barbeque grills?

ROY *(Gravely serious)* Like you wouldn't believe. You use it at a big party like this, forget about it and then smoke it up again a year or two later, with little regard for the cleanliness. - Do you know what the most dangerous creature in the animal kingdom is?

GARETH Killer whale?

CLIFF Lion?

ROY Cholera.

GARETH You think Cliff is secretly harbouring the Cholera on his barbecue?

ROY *(Unnecessarily mysterious)* Stranger things have happened...

