

CHARACTER: Marie (f) - around 40-50ish

DESCRIPTION: Marie has gradually built the current 'Marie' around herself over the years as a defense mechanism. She went to her Oz, Cheshire, and found Oz didn't want her. She came back scorched. The WI is a trophy to her, which justifies her entire existence. There is a lingering part of Marie that would love to be on that calendar. Ideal car – something German and well-valued. Ideal holiday – a quasi-academic tour of somewhere in Persia advertised in a Sunday Supplement which she could then interminably bang on about.

MARIE/CHRIS

MARIE Perhaps the Pre-Raphaelites had figured out it might look slightly-

CHRIS (frowning slightly) Sorry, Marie, do go on.

MARIE -embarrassing.

CHRIS Is that - 'embarrassing' to us, or to you?

MARIE Both.

CHRIS Marie, maybe our calendar sums up the spirit of WI better than a load of wet bridges.

MARIE More than the natural beauty of this country?

CHRIS Yes. That's Yorkshire by the way. The country you loved so much you went to live in Cheshire.

(Beat)

MARIE And well done for staying here, Chris. Well done for staying put in the flower shop. Which is of course what all this is all about, isn't it? Really? The golden girl who was Dorothy in *The Wizard Of Oz*. The girl who everyone thought would be a weather girl. The girl who performed in the pencil skirt at the French Evening and got all the lads' tongues lolling and ended up in a flower shop on

the Skipton Road and is now just desperate for a bit of the front of the stage again? Not a whole play, by the way. Not the hard work, line-learning – God, that takes following things through. No, it’s just the little front-of-curtains – *(putting her arms out)* “Pow”! The little shot of “look at me, I’m doing t’ai chi!” “Pow! I’m organizing a vodka night.”

(Every word is true and CHRIS knows it.)

CHRIS (Swallowing hard.) I am doing this–

MARIE TELL me that's not what makes your heart beat faster about this calendar Chris Harper/tell-

CHRIS - for John Clarke I am doing this-

MARIE Tell me.

CHRIS -and because of him and because he would have laughed his bloody socks off-

MARIE Tell me.

CHRIS And because I can hear that laughter now-

MARIE TELL ME!