

(The living room. A sofa and chairs; a surface of some sort for ornaments and knickknacks; a small pile of cds. A photo of a young girl blown up poster size is on the wall.

JULES enters. He pauses to switch the light on and off several times. **PENNY** and **TAMMY** follow him in. They watch him as he wanders round the room, touching the furniture)

JULES You know the first thing I did when they got me to Luanda? Switched on the light. Mid-afternoon in Africa and I switched on the bloody light. First time for six years I had a switch.

PENNY I'll put the kettle on.

JULES That can wait. I just want to look at you all.

TAMMY Inspection.

*(She forms a line next to **PENNY** and poses)*

JULES Look at you, Tams - I've a woman for a daughter now. Isn't she pretty?

TAMMY Dad!

JULES It's true.

TAMMY Mum?

JULES She don't change. (**PENNY** is crying) What's this about?

PENNY I'm so happy.

JULES We're all happy.

PENNY I've lost six year to that bloody Front. It's not fair.

JULES That's history now. (*He tries his chair*) I'm back.

PENNY You look it and all.

(Silence)

JULES Yeah.

(He starts to drum with his fingers, something he will always do in the house when under stress)

TAMMY Mum was like... *(She mimes someone staring at a phone in disbelief)* when Donny rang.

JULES Donny?

PENNY From the Foreign Office.

TAMMY Useless prat.

PENNY He got Dad out.

TAMMY Six years, Mum. Leaves on the line? Wrong sort of snow?

PENNY Dad's back.

TAMMY Some shady deal.

JULES There were no deals.

TAMMY It'd be like hush.

JULES There were no deals. That's fact.

PENNY Give Donny credit.

TAMMY Only because you were nag-nag squared.

JULES You?

PENNY I wanted that phone call.

TAMMY And what did you do when it came? Worry what's in the freezer.

PENNY I thought Dad might be hungry.

JULES They fed me OK. A dead hostage is no hostage.

PENNY Don't say that.

(More silence)

TAMMY I was how's Dad and Mum was all where's Luanda?

PENNY I didn't know.

JULES The Front wanted the release across the border.

PENNY I was trying to look it up, but the internet was down and Tammy was too busy praying to sort it.

TAMMY I had to give thanks.

PENNY Tammy goes to church now.

JULES Right.

TAMMY It's not a disease, Dad.

JULES I've met people who do religion. *(He walks round the room, touching the furniture to familiarise himself with it again)* Home again.

TAMMY Home again, jiggedy-jig

PENNY I kept seeing you in some horrible prison with rats and...

JULES Hammock in the forest. Hut when I was lucky. But no straying or...

(He mimes someone shooting)

PENNY Don't!

JULES It's over. *(He moves a china figure back to where it was six years ago)* Where's the crinoline lady?

PENNY She broke.

JULES Broke?

TAMMY I was dusting.

JULES Oh.

(Silence)

PENNY I've so much to tell you.

JULES I bet.

PENNY Yeah. *(Silence)* The apple tree died.

JULES Tams loved picking those apples.

(More silence)

TAMMY You should have seen Mum at the airport. She was

like dab, dab with her make-up.

PENNY I was not.

TAMMY You were. She was so stressed.

PENNY It'd been a long time. I thought you might forget that.

JULES I counted every day of it, Pen.

PENNY I mean... I'm six years older. You hesitated when you saw me.

JULES You're imagining things.

TAMMY You did, Dad.

JULES I was probably thinking what I looked like.

PENNY You're still my hero.

(She flings herself at him. He tries lifting her up. He's not strong enough. They end up toppling into a chair)

TAMMY Should I be leaving?

JULES Don't be silly.

(He ruffles her hair)

TAMMY No!

JULES What's up?

TAMMY I don't like you messing my hair.

JULES You used to.

TAMMY It's like I'm still a kid.

PENNY Girls grow up, Jules.

JULES I missed that.

PENNY Lucky you.

TAMMY Mum!

PENNY Wait until you have kids.

JULES I bet she breaks hearts.

TAMMY I'm so not like that.

JULES Your Mum when she was your age. Talk about bees round honey.

PENNY Don't you believe him.

JULES True.

(More silence)

TAMMY Mum's the local hero.

PENNY Weepy old me?

TAMMY I didn't see you cry much.

PENNY I didn't let you.

JULES That's over.

PENNY The things we could have done together.

JULES We'll soon pick up the threads again.

TAMMY Except I'm seventeen.

JULES Ancient.

(TAMMY gives him a playful punch. JULES takes up the stance of a bare knuckle fighter. TAMMY touches his knuckles with her own fist. JULES collapses back in his chair - an old routine that makes them both laugh)

PENNY It wasn't nice without you.

TAMMY It was worse for Dad.

JULES That don't matter now.