

SCENE 2

(As before, a little while later. RITA is clearing space for the bed, which will consist of a sleeping bag and an old-fashioned lilo. SAMUEL is trying to inflate the latter with a foot-pump)

SAMUEL This will work?

RITA It did last time. We bought it for our first holiday.

SAMUEL Ah.

RITA We've used to since. When Fleur had sleepovers.

SAMUEL There will be many heavy heads tomorrow.

RITA Mine included. When you said about 'Beware, beware' - that's Meredith to a tee.

SAMUEL Luck.

RITA What would your Dad say about me?

SAMUEL We have asked him too much.

RITA Please.

SAMUEL He'd say... she sits 'like patience on a monument, smiling at grief.'

RITA The Lilo's got two ends. I should have said.

SAMUEL May I open a window?

RITA Better not. Ian. I was wondering... You were saying about people sending you money... Last week there was this really strange e-mail. Here we are. *(Reading the e-mail off her mobile)* We are making this contact after a satisfactory information you are person to provide solution to our problem. We are project costing consultants to National Petroleum Corporation. We have tactfully raised values on selected jobs -

SAMUEL These are slippery people.

RITA They're not asking for money or anything.

SAMUEL They have plenty. Yes?

RITA Thirty-three million dollars.

SAMUEL But they need your help.

RITA They want to use our bank account. Something to do with exchange control.

SAMUEL Would you be sending thirty-three million dollars to someone you do not know and be thinking they give it back?

RITA They're paying us. Much more than I need.

SAMUEL Maybe one time they are seeing Petroleum Corporation from a taxi.

RITA They're not telling the truth?

SAMUEL We call this 419 fraud.

RITA How can it be when they're giving us money?

SAMUEL You will need to register with Ministry of Trade. A hundred dollars. You will pay.

RITA Maybe. Probably. Ok, yeah.

SAMUEL Now they will send you the contract - once you pay the lawyer's fee.

RITA This is getting expensive.

SAMUEL Your mind is buying you a bigger house.

RITA If that's the end of it.

SAMUEL You have the contract.. But small problem. Central Bank will not move until you dash their man some dollars.

RITA They'll keep finding excuses to make us pay more?

SAMUEL Everybody want dash in their country, and you will be finding there are many bodies. And where will they be when you say enough? Where are the snows of yesteryear?

RITA It's so obvious.

SAMUEL Your imagination does their work.

RITA We want to believe in these things, don't we?

SAMUEL Money freezes the brain.

RITA I suppose your frauds are different.

SAMUEL Mine?

RITA Like you were telling Ian.

SAMUEL To make you laugh. Just for you I will write an honest fraud.

RITA I'll finish the bed.

SAMUEL No need. 419 men tell lies. What we say must be too honest and say give us money now-now. This is what an honest fraudster would say.

RITA I'll get a pencil. Right.

SAMUEL We wish to inform you that we are not in any way associated with the National Petroleum Corporation and we shall be pleased to supply on request -

RITA Hold on. OK.

SAMUEL We shall be pleased to supply on request a banker's reference confirming that we do not have money to share with you. We are, however, desirous of -

RITA How do you spell that?

SAMUEL Put eager. Eager to become rich. We are willing to allow you to contribute to this desire. We guarantee to return fifty percent of your investment.

RITA That seems an awful lot.

SAMUEL You are thinking money so you read money.

RITA But fifty percent... I only get one on my housekeeping account.

SAMUEL Read what I have said.

RITA We guarantee to return fifty percent of your investment.

SAMUEL Yes?

RITA It's definitely fifty percent.

SAMUEL We return fifty percent.

RITA How can we afford... Oh.

SAMUEL You see? We are only saying we will give back half.

RITA And keep the rest?

SAMUEL The words allow us.

RITA No-one would fall for that.

SAMUEL Fifty percent makes a lot of belief.

RITA Could it make... oh... Twenty thousand?

SAMUEL Who can know?

RITA Gosh. When shall we start?

SAMUEL This is not for doing.

RITA Everyone says we should make our dreams happen.

SAMUEL It is not honest.

RITA You said it was.

SAMUEL Truthful honest. Not honest honest.

RITA It's because I'm a woman, isn't it?

SAMUEL Rita, you would be taking money that doesn't belong to you.

RITA It will once they've sent it. I need that money, Sam.

SAMUEL Money is not an important thing.

RITA It's freedom from Ian.

SAMUEL My Pa took me to watch them take down your flag. I thought the birds would sing forever. No.

RITA Do you want us back? Same with Fleur. She won't ever come home.

SAMUEL Canada is too nice.

RITA Is it?

SAMUEL They have snow.

RITA They have Fleur. I know it sounds selfish, but why can't I change things like she did? But I'm a woman com-

SAMUEL Oh, yes.

RITA What?

SAMUEL I am agreeing.

RITA Coming up fifty. I've been looking for a job. They want to know what I can do.

SAMUEL I cannot help you.

RITA I was only a kid in trouble. Surely I can get remission for good conduct?

SAMUEL I only wrote it for a fun.

RITA Why tell me it would work?

SAMUEL People are too foolish.

RITA Stupid Rita. Ha ha ha.

SAMUEL There are people who will be believing it. That is no reason to try.

RITA I've got to, Sam. But I need your help.

SAMUEL I have to say no.

RITA Please.

SAMUEL I am sorry.