

## 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.