

# OPERATION MINCEMEAT

a new musical

by

SpitLip

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A note on casting:

The show is written to be performed by a cast of five, each taking one of the following central roles:

**CHARLES CHOLMONDELEY (M, 24)**  
**EWEN MONTAGU (M, 30)**  
**JEAN LESLIE (F, 20)**  
**JOHNNY BEVAN (M, 48)**  
**HESTER LEGGATT (F, 45)**

And multi-roling the rest of the characters as deemed fit.

The only rules are:

EWEN MONTAGU must be played by a woman.  
HESTER LEGGATT must be played by a man.

The gender swapping should not be pointed, exaggerated, or even acknowledged. It should simply be part of the fabric of the show. It's just more fun that way.

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## ACT ONE

### OVERTURE

*\*ding\* Spotlight on Montagu, feet up on a desk.*

### SCENE 1: BORN TO LEAD

#### SONG: BORN TO LEAD

**MONTAGU**

*So you dreamt of being a pilot  
But you never got to fly  
So you dreamt of sailing the seven seas  
But never got to try?  
Well, let Navy lads get soaking  
We'll all stay nice and dry  
We'll shout to all the soldiers "Jump!"  
And hear them shout "How high?"  
For we are made to give the orders  
While lesser men take heed  
For some were born to follow  
But we were born to lead*

**MONTAGU**

*Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to MI5!*

**ALL**

*"You're sure to save the nation"*

**MONTAGU**

*Nanny told me in my cot*

**ALL**

*"For your father gave you courage"*

**FLEMING**

*Also ponies*

**MASTERMAN**

*and that yacht*

**MONTAGU**

*My centuries of breeding*

**ALL**

*I know they'll fail me not*

**MONTAGU**

*For fortune favours bravery*

**ALL**

*And a fortune's what I've got  
Oh yes, some boys go to battle  
But we're a different breed  
For some were born to follow  
But we were born to lead*

*We are the masters  
We are the clever men who hold the reins  
For who needs guns when you've got brains?  
You'll see, forever after  
When all this war is done and fades to dust  
The world will turn and say to us  
That we were born to lead*

**CHOLMONDELEY**

*When I was a young explorer*

**REST: Yes!**

*I discovered a new breed of trout*

**REST: What?**

*It leapt into my kayak and just briefly knocked me out*

**MONTAGU: Sorry, what?**

*The feeling was quite magical  
When it slapped me on the mouth  
It made the local papers  
Rare fish attacks boy scout  
It's still my proudest moment  
Of that I have no doubt  
For some were born to follow  
But I was born to find trout*

**MONTAGU**

New to MI5, are you?

**CHOLMONDELEY**

Er, no - I've worked here for six years!

**MONTAGU**

Oh right!

**CHOLMONDELEY**

Yes - you're drinking out of my mug

MONTAGU  
Oh right!

CHOLMONDELEY  
It's got a picture of my face on it

MONTAGU  
(turning it round)  
Oh right!

CHOLMONDELEY  
Charles Cholmondeley, scientist

MONTAGU  
Ewen Montagu, Naval intelligence

CHOLMONDELEY  
I know

MONTAGU  
Of course you do

**MONTAGU**  
**Well we know who to call if there's a fish mishap**

**MASTERMAN**  
**Ladies better keep your eyes on this chap**

**TAR**  
**Come on men we've Hitlers to dispatch**

**MASTERMAN**  
**Quite right lads, but the problem is that;**

**MASTERMAN**  
***All of mainland Europe***  
***Is under Adolf's thumb***  
***So we're staging our invasion***  
***and the countdown has begun***

**TAR**  
***Our sights are set on Sicily,***  
***That stronghold of the Hun,***

**MONTAGU**

***But the island's packed with a  
Hundred thousand German men with guns***

**MONTAGU/CHOLMONDELEY/TAR/MASTERMAN**

***And if we cannot storm the beaches  
It's sure to spell defeat  
If the muscle men can't do it  
Call the masters of deceit***

*BEVAN enters*

BEVAN

Morning Military Deception.

CHOLMONDELEY

Oh, er, Colonel Bevan, Sir!

MONTAGU

Watch out boys, the big boss is here.

BEVAN

Gather round please. Now as we're all painfully aware, Hitler's boys have taken control of mainland Europe, which means the only route back in is through the islands to the South. So the next allied invasion target is Sicily. And the key to invading Sicily is *not* invading Sicily.

MONTAGU

Sorry what?

BEVAN

At least, that's what Hitler is going to think. We're going to convince the Nazis that we're headed for somewhere else instead. Sardinia, to be exact.

CHOLMONDELEY

Oh, a misdirection?

BEVAN

Exactly

MONTAGU

So we're going to win this war with a magic trick?

BEVAN

How else do we make 100,000 German troops disappear?



**BEVAN (Backed by military bodyguard types)**

*Sicily could turn the tide of the war but we **can't** just rock up and knock upon the door, For each **man** we've got they've got ten more, we'd be **slaughtered** before we even reach the shore*

*We need a **way** to reduce the danger, tip the **odds** in our favour, go to great lengths to*

***Drain** the strength of the Sicilian defence by **misdirecting** their dear dictator.*

***Gotta** make Hitler believe Sicily isn't where we're gonna be, gotta proceed with some*

***Dishonesty**, gotta deceive cos what I wanna see Is **hundreds** of thousands of Germans getting off our property*

*(-) So I need your brains to figure out **how** we sell a fake campaign,*

*Find me a **strategy**, use your grey matter to tactically*

***scatter** the enemy to the breeze, then once the **island** is unattended,*

*Once the **beaches** are undefended,*

*We send our **boys** in then we destroy them,*

*That's how **Sicily** is apprehended.*

**ALL:**

**So we've got to**

**Lie about where we strike**

**So we can fool the Reich**

**This plan is strictly need to know**

BEVAN

As of now, I'll be hearing your proposals. How do we get the German troops from Sicily to Sardinia?

**BEVAN**

***What this country needs is a genius plan***

**MONTAGU**

***What this country needs is a genius man, for some were born to follow***

**BEVAN: *Or there'll be no tomorrow***

**MONTAGU: *But we were born to lead,***

**BEVAN: *We are not heroes***

**MONTAGU: *We are the masters***

**BEVAN: *We play our parts***

**MONTAGU: *We are the clever men who hold the reins***

**BEVAN: *It's war***

**MONTAGU: *It's fun***

**BEVAN: *It's not a game***

**MONTAGU: *You'll see,***

**BEVAN: *We do our duty***

**MONTAGU: *Forever after***

**BEVAN: *Nothing more***

***When all this war is done and fades to dust***

***There's no applause or fame for us***

**MONTAGU: *But we were born to lead***

**MONTAGU** (backed by company)  
*Oh, brothers! Let's get winning!*  
*My mind shall set us free!*  
*Gonna win the war, champagne galore*  
*While I flick the hun the "V"*  
*I'll definitely get a knighthood*  
*And a Victoria Cross or three*  
*Look up victory in the dictionary*  
*There's a picture there of me*  
*We are the finest minds in England*  
*On that, we are agreed*  
*For some were born to follow*

**ALL**  
*Some were born to follow*  
*Some were born to follow*  
*But we were born to lead*

## SCENE 2: PREPARING TO PITCH

*Cholmondeley at the front of the queue waiting outside the closed door looking nervous.  
Masterman enters behind him.*

MASTERMAN  
Waiting to go in are you?

CHOLMONDELEY  
Yes I-

MASTERMAN  
Pitching an idea, are you?

CHOLMONDELEY  
Well I-

MASTERMAN  
Mustn't be nervous, you know!

CHOLMONDELEY  
No

MASTERMAN  
No. Time we gave these German rotters what for, what what!

CHOLMONDELEY  
What?

MASTERMAN  
What?

CHOLMONDELEY  
What?

MASTERMAN  
Exactly! So sorry old chap, do you mind if I quickly just check this um... *(gesturing at the door)*

CHOLMONDELEY  
No, no go ahead.

MASTERMAN

So kind. *(moving into 1st place, pretending to check something on the door)* Oh yes...fine  
British oak!

*Masterman settles into 1st place, begins humming*

CHOLMONDELEY  
Wait -

*Tar enters*

TAR  
John!

MASTERMAN  
Reggie!

TAR  
Going in first are you?

MASTERMAN  
Oh yes

CHOLMONDELEY  
Well, technically I was here first.

TAR  
Wonderful stuff, good man, and you are-

*Charles shakes Tar's hand.*

CHOLMONDELEY  
I'm... Charles, we've met before -

TAR  
Of course we have! Lovely to meet you

*Tar steps past Charles to talk to Masterman, taking his place in the queue*

TAR  
You'll never guess who else is pitching too? Ian Fleming.

MASTERMAN  
Oh he's not still banging on about his novel is he.

TAR  
The characters make no sense.

MASTERMAN

Hasn't one of them got a-

*Fleming enters*

FLEMING

He's got a golden finger!

CHOLMONDELEY

What?

TAR/MASTERMAN

Fleming!

FLEMING

Ian Fleming, part time novelist, part time spy. Pleasure to meet you,

*Noise of frustration from Cholmondeley*

FLEMING

What's up with him?

TAR

He's nervous as a pauper.

MASTERMAN

He's got no chance

TAR

It's like he's never even heard the Eton school motto

MASTERMAN

"Never trust the servants"?

TAR

No. The other one

FLEMING

"Horses can't inherit"?

TAR

No, the other one

MASTERMAN & FLEMING

"A loud boy is a good boy" Huzzah!

CHOLMONDELEY

Excuse me. My name is Charles Cholmondeley, I'm a scientist, I've worked here for 6 years,  
and well, I was here first!

FLEMING

Ah yes, you're the bug boy aren't you

*They all make the bug noises*

CHOLMONDELEY

Oh well actually, I prefer the term amateur naturalist

FLEMING

A naturalist really?

MASTERMAN

Perfectly understandable, we all enjoy dropping our trousers

*MONTAGU enters*

MONTAGU

Dropping your trousers again, John?

TAR/FLEMING/MASTERMAN

Montagu!/you old scoundrel etc

*Charles has planted himself, determined not to move*

MONTAGU

Sorry old boy, can I quickly pass the old?

CHOLMONDELEY

*(summoning all of his bravery)* There is a queue

TAR/FLEMING/MASTERMAN

Oooohh.

MONTAGU

Look, Charlie, it is Charlie isn't it?

CHOLMONDELEY

Well only my mother calls me-

MONTAGU

Now then Charlie, it doesn't really matter who goes in there first, you see I've already got the  
plan that's going to win us this war.

TAR  
I've got the perfect plan.

MASTERMAN  
My plan's the one.

MONTAGU  
It's simple...

TAR/MASTERMAN/MONTAGU  
We just kill Hitler!... Jinxies/Did you just say/oh my god/what are the chances

CHOLMONDELEY  
Well I think it's slightly more complex than that -

MONTAGU  
Fleming, you also planning on killing Hitler?

FLEMING  
Only if he's severely allergic to thrilling fiction!

MONTAGU  
Unfortunately, nobody cares about your angry little hero man

FLEMING  
Several publishers are interested!

MONTAGU  
I'm going to march through that door, grab Johnny Bevan by his sludgy, unfortunate lapels and  
say....

MASTERMAN  
What?

MONTAGU  
And say. Johnny... Picture the scene!

**SONG: GOD THAT'S BRILLIANT**

**MONTAGU [spoken]:**

So, Hitler's on the train and he's heading for the border  
We take out a porter that no-one will miss  
Now our boy's undercover  
He poisons the water

**TAR [spoken]:**

God, that's brilliant!  
But listen to this...

**TAR:**

*I've designed a new kind of missile  
So tiny it's shot from a pen  
It's full of airborne sedative  
Time to effect is relative  
But one whiff's enough to floor 10 grown men  
We'll shoot him en route  
Our pursuit will be fruitful and  
The Fuhrer is out cold*

**REST:**

*But what the hell happens then?*

**TAR:**

*So, Hitler's on the train and he's feelin' kinda tired  
He's drugged in a fug like a mental abyss*

**MASTERMAN:**

*Mein pants have been stolen!*

**TAR:**

*We'll trade them for Poland!*

**MASTERMAN/FLEMING/CHOLMONDELEY**

*God that's brilliant*

**MASTERMAN:**

*But listen to this!*

**TAR**

But I haven't got to the exploding socks yet!

**MONTAGU**

You've had a verse

**MASTERMAN:**

*I know a lady assassin  
She's lithe but impossibly strong*



*She's killed half of Moscow,  
She owns her own crossbow,  
A master of disguise  
who can speak any tongue  
She's stationed in Haiti,  
patiently waiting,  
But one call from me and she'll be ours for a song  
Sooooooooo*

**ALL**  
*Hitler's on the train, and he's coming back from Burma,*

**MASTERMAN**  
*Our girl hurls herself from a nearby tree  
She smashes through the window,  
disguised as a flamingo,  
In the whirl that unfurls*

**MASTERMAN/TAR/MONTAGU/FLEMING:**  
*she kills a guard or three,*

**MASTERMAN**  
*She raises up her knife,  
It's dripping blood from the slaughter,  
Hitler shits himself as she blows him a kiss*

**MASTERMAN/TAR/MONTAGU/FLEMING:**  
*His guards try to pour in, she barricades the door and -*

**ALL**  
*GOD that's brilliant,*

**FLEMING**  
*but listen to this....*

**MASTERMAN [spoken]:**  
If this is a man in a fancy suit

**FLEMING:**  
*All that we need is a swanky tuxedo*

**TAR [spoken]:**  
Fleming! Stop going on about your bloody novel!

**FLEMING [spoken]:**  
Several publishers are interested!

**MONTAGU [spoken]:**  
Your mother doesn't count.

**MASTERMAN [spoken]:**  
Come on boys, remember what Churchill said -

**ALL:**  
*If you want to beat them Jerries  
You gotta call upon the visionaries*

**TAR:**  
*Cos if you're in trouble*

**CHOLMONDELEY:**  
*Don't scream and shout*

**ALL:**  
*Call the English private school boys*

**MONTAGU:**  
*We'll sort it all out*

**ALL:**  
*It's time for ambition  
Time to show we've got vision  
We're the best brains in Britain,*

**ALL:**  
*Now listen to this!*

**FLEMING**  
*All we need is a shiny tuxedo*  
(MASTERMAN/MONTAGU [spoken]: Here we go!)

*And my design for a submarine car*  
(CHOLMONDELEY [spoken]: For god's sake!)

*About seven pretty ladies  
Aston Martins or Mercedes  
A base in a volcano and a laser cigar  
Some crocodile moccasins  
A watch with a garrotte in it  
A vodka martini waiting at the bar  
And there's our man who's a really famous hero  
He wears cool suits and he has a big gun!  
He has great adventures, ladies want to kiss him*

MASTERMAN [spoken]:  
I do like it when the ladies want to kiss me!

**FLEMING:**  
*GOD he's brilliant and his name is James!*  
[Spoken]  
I've even got a catch-phrase for him! 'The name's James.... James.'

MASTERMAN [spoken]:  
No!

CHOLMONDELEY [spoken]:

What? That's not a catchphrase - that's just...names

TAR [spoken]:  
It makes no sense!

MONTAGU  
James James? That actually makes me feel quite ill

MASTERMAN [spoken]:  
Come on now!

***Hitler's on the train***

**MONTAGU**  
***Or a boat***

**CHOLMONDELEY**  
***Or other vehicle***

**MASTERMAN:**  
***We send in an assassin***

**FLEMING**  
***Or a robot?***

**CHOLMONDELEY:**  
***That's illegal!***

**TAR:**  
***We shoot him***

**MONTAGU**  
***Or we stab him***

**FLEMING:**  
***And he's wearing a tuxedo***  
***He kills the guard, snogs the girl and says something cool***

**REST:**  
**No!**

**MASTERMAN:**  
***We tie him up***

**TAR**  
***Poison him***

**CHOLMONDELEY:**  
***I think this plan has veered off..***

**MASTERMAN:**  
***Bring him back to blighty***

**TAR:**  
***Steal his trousers***

**FLEMING:**  
***Blow his head off***

**ALL:**  
***Our victory's assured,***  
CHOLMONDELEY: What?  
***We go and win the war!***  
CHOLMONDELEY: No  
***God that's brilliant!***  
CHOLMONDELEY: Err  
***God I'm brilliant!***  
CHOLMONDELEY: Wait  
***God we're brilliant!***  
CHOLMONDELEY: No -  
***Now listen to this!***

### SCENE 3: DEAD IN THE WATER

*A BUZZER sounds. Everyone grabs their things efficiently and heads for the door*

MONTAGU  
Ok come on then boys!

*MONTAGU exits*

MASTERMAN  
Onwards to victory!

TAR  
Remember the motto!

MASTERMAN / FLEMING  
"A loud boy is a good boy!"

FLEMING  
Huzzah!

*Charles is about to go in but has to go back for his file*

CHOLMONDELEY  
Hang on wait I've forgotten my file -

*CHOLMONDELEY panickedly gathers up his things.*

TAR  
Why not save yourself the embarrassment Bug Boy and just pop it in the tray?

*They leave, closing the door behind them.*

### **SONG: DEAD IN THE WATER**

**CHOLMONDELEY:**  
***[Slow 'I know a lady assassin' tune]***  
***If I had a touch of that courage***  
***I'd be marching myself through that door.***  
***But it's part of my biology, to start with an apology***  
***And 'sorry' won't win us this war.***  
***If only things were different....if only I was different...***

***I wish I was a maggot,***  
***My insides ripe and liquified***

*I'd wait in the dark for it all to start then touch the sky*

*Cos when you are a maggot  
The parts are already supplied,  
I'd be born with the things to give me wings so I could fly*

*Another plan that's stuck on the ground before it's invented  
One more scheme gets rejected before it's even dissected  
Every inch forward I'm ten miles back,  
And that's that, dead in the water again*

*I wish I was a tadpole  
A slimy nascent thing  
No need to create I'd just mutate and then I'd swim*

*Cos if I was a tadpole, literally  
I could leap forward on a whim  
There'd be no red tape, I'd just take shape and develop limbs*

*One day I'll metamorphosize  
The scales will tumble from their eyes  
And thus shall end this wretched old routine  
They'll hear all these ideas of mine  
And realise that all this time  
There's more to me than they have ever seen*

*But until then, until then...*

*I wish I was a maggot, or a tadpole, or a termite, or a wasp. I don't know  
Something that could start small, pupate, grow legs, wings or gills to escape this hell  
that I'm living in.*

*Wait! Maybe I should think big, maybe like a lion or a blue whale. Hippopotamus?  
No! Don't be ridiculous. This is the problem. God! I wish that I could  
Change my life*

*Be the one who could hold onto their attention  
Blow their minds  
With ideas that defy human comprehension  
Make them say "Oh, Cholmondeley, you clever chap!"  
But I'm back, dead in the water again*

*Oh I don't know, maybe....I'll just pop it in the tray.*

**SCENE 4: THE BIG MEET**

*Montagu enters.*

MONTAGU  
Damn, damn damn DAMN

CHOLMONDELEY  
Oh, er...how'd it go?

MONTAGU  
Fantastic, I adore failure

CHOLMONDELEY  
Oh dear

MONTAGU  
Damn

CHOLMONDELEY  
Well, I'm sure whatever the problem was -

MONTAGU  
The *problem* is that Johnny 'King of the World' Bevan can't see genius when it's staring him in the face.

CHOLMONDELEY  
What did he say?

MONTAGU  
Oh, some nonsense about attention to detail, I don't know, I wasn't listening

CHOLMONDELEY  
Right

MONTAGU  
What about you, did you get on any better?

CHOLMONDELEY  
Oh, well...in the end I... I didn't actually fancy going...

MONTAGU  
Oh Charlie, you didn't bottle it did you?

CHOLMONDELEY  
You all pushed in front of me! I couldn't very well just barge my way in there!

MONTAGU

So what? You're an Englishman aren't you? Tall, handsome, cracking set of teeth: that's a passport into any room in the world

CHOLMONDELEY

Not for me it's not!

MONTAGU

You're Airforce, aren't you? Use your training!

CHOLMONDELEY (*angry, frustrated*)

I didn't get through training!

MONTAGU

Why not?

CHOLMONDELEY

I'm...myopic.

MONTAGU

I don't-

CHOLMONDELEY

I can't... see things clearly. They wouldn't let me fly.

*Beat*

MONTAGU

So what's it called?

CHOLMONDELEY

Sorry, what?

MONTAGU

The idea, the pitch, the operation. What's it called?

*Beat as Charles squirms with nervous guffaws*

Charlie, if you can't even tell me...

CHOLMONDLEY

(*panicked*)

Operation Mincemeat.

MONTAGU



What a loud title.

*MONTAGU takes CHARLES' file. He starts reading*

CHOLMONDELEY

I just get into such a tizz when I try to... to explain myself. I get so obsessed with the details-

MONTAGU

So many diagrams.

CHOLMONDELEY

Yes, 26.

MONTAGU

Ok.

*He flips through desperately*

CHOLMONDELEY

I've always been like this. I remember when I was five I tried to measure out a 2 millimetre spread of jam onto my bread-

MONTAGU

How many graphs are there?

CHOLMONDELEY

Fifty eight.

MONTAGU

Too many!

CHOLMONDLEY

-And I got jam all over the ruler, and my homework, and the cat, which created what my mother called, without irony, a 'rather sticky situation'. *(he laughs)*

MONTAGU

*(confused)*

Hang on so this is a-

CHOLMONDELEY

Oh

*CHOLMONDELEY turns the file upside down in MONTAGU's hands*

MONTAGU

Oh I see

CHOLMONDLEY

Yes

MONTAGU

*(appalled)*

Which makes this a -

CHOLMONDELEY

Oh!

*CHOLMONDELEY turns the file again.*

MONTAGU

Oh thank god for that!

CHOLMONDLEY

Yes!

MONTAGU

So we'd have to find an actual -

CHOLMONDELEY

Yes

MONTAGU

Well. This is insane.

CHOLMONDELEY

Right, well, thank you for your time

MONTAGU

No. It's insane, but... it might work.

CHOLMONDELEY

Really?

MONTAGU

It's bizarre, it's disgusting, it's... borderline psychopathic Charles but... if you could get this through...

CHOLMONDELEY

Yes but I can't even look Colonel Bevan in the face without breaking into hives

MONTAGU

Well I can..... Soooo.

*MONTAGU gestures with his fingers to say "we could work together". CHOLMONDELEY is none the wiser.*

MONTAGU  
Look at my fingers Charlie

CHOLMONDELEY  
Oh! Well... that's... very kind of you but I -

MONTAGU  
Charles, you said it yourself, you are utterly devoid of flair

CHOLMONDELEY  
Er, don't think I did actually say that

MONTAGU  
But with your brains and my literally everything else

CHOLMONDELEY  
I-

MONTAGU  
I can smell the Victoria Crosses already

CHOLMONDELEY  
Look, I don't think that you and I would make a very good team quite frankly -

MONTAGU  
Charles, you can't see things clearly. I can. It's genius Charlie. The only question is, do you trust me?

CHOLMONDELEY  
I...don't know

MONTAGU  
Good enough for me! Bevan's in the building a little while longer, we've got work to do.

CHOLMONDELEY  
But we're not on the list

MONTAGU  
Charlie, lesson one, men like us, we don't need to be on the list. Come on.

MONTAGU exits

**REPRISE: DEAD IN THE WATER**

**CHOLMONDELEY**

*Perhaps it's time to change my fate and start pupating  
Not too late to grow limbs, sprout wings, and stop stagnating.  
Take a leap forward and don't look back...*

## SCENE 5: ALL THE LADIES

*A secret department in the depths of Mi5, all the hustle and bustle of wartime - agents are travelling quickly and efficiently, exchanging papers, stamping documents, it feels like a series of Rooms Where It Happens*

*Hester & Jean enter setting the office over the top of the conversation*

HESTER

Now then Miss Leslie, I trust you're quite settled in

JEAN

Oh yes, the girls have been very welcoming, thanks Mrs Leggett

HESTER

It's Miss, actually

JEAN

Is it really? Wowwww

HESTER

I'm sorry?

JEAN

Ever since I started working here my mother is always saying, "Jean, if you go and work in the War Office then you'll *never* find a husband" and hey... fingers crossed, am I right?

*She laughs. Beat. Hester stares at her. It is uncomfortable.*

HESTER

Today's schedule, take note please - in Conference Room 3 we have the briefing on the invasion of Sicily

JEAN

The invasion which *is* happening?

HESTER

Yes, then in Conference room 5 we have the meeting on the invasion of Sardinia

JEAN

Which *isn't* happening

HESTER

Yes, then in Conference room 6-

JEAN

Wait, the invasion isn't happening-

HESTER  
Exactly

JEAN  
Or the meeting isn't happening?

HESTER  
The meeting is happening about how the invasion isn't happening

JEAN  
Right

HESTER  
Right, then Colonel Bevan will want coffee

JEAN  
At least that's definitely happening

HESTER  
No, caffeine's bad for him, get him tea

JEAN  
OK

HESTER  
One tea, no coffee, meeting room 3, after the meeting about what's happening and before the meeting that's happening about what's not happening - can you make that happen?

JEAN  
I don't know what's going on

HESTER  
Welcome to the British government

*MERYL (Montagu), BERYL (Bevan) & CHERYL (Cholmondeley) enter*

MERYL  
All over my leg it was disgusting!

BERYL  
No, that's gonna stain!

CHERYL  
You'll have to put salt on that

MERYL

What am I going to say to him, that's my question.

HESTER

Ladies, settle down please - you have your assignments. Miss Leslie, Colonel Bevan will be needing that tea shortly.

BERYL

Oooh is he thirsty, Ms Leggatt?

CHERYL

Ooh, bet he's not the only one, Ms Leggatt.

*HESTER leaves*

JEAN

Tea? Is tea an assignment?

BERYL

In this place it is

MERYL

"Make me a tea sweetheart"

BERYL

"Type this up sweetheart"

CHERYL

"My lap is very comfy, sweetheart"

JEAN

They're just not taking this seriously!

MERYL/BERYL/CHERYL

Oh I know

JEAN

All those men out there, dying

MERYL/BERYL/CHERYL

(seriously) Oh I know

JEAN

Freeing up so many jobs

MERYL/BERYL/CHERYL

(elated) Oh I knowwww

JEAN

We're finally close to the action! We have to make the most of this, don't we?

**SONG: ALL THE LADIES**

**JEAN**

Oooooooo.

When I was a **girl** they thought I was crazy  
Cos I wasn't gagging for a man and a baby  
I set my sights on joining the navy but...

**MERYL/BERYL/CHERYL**

"This isn't the right kind of life for a lady"

**JEAN**

Okay. Guess it's a no-go  
Take my double X chromosome and go home  
And stagnate. Cook, clean and sweep the grate  
And just wait til somebody wants to procreate  
But wait a minute. What's that sound?  
War drums coming. Getting so loud  
And all of the menfolk are like

**BERYL**

"There's a fight

**MERYL**

"what fun!"

**CHERYL**

"Grab a gun"

**BERYL**

"kill the hun"

**MERYL/BERYL/CHERYL**

"there's a war to be won"

**JEAN**

like that they're overseas  
Creating job vacancies  
It's plain to see the way to get from A to Z



For us is filling up the factories  
And so let's go roll up our sleeves  
And show our expertise  
No more riding side-saddle  
It's time for our battle to start

**ALL**

Get in the system.

**JEAN**

Rip it apart.

**ALL**

All the ladies, on your marks get set  
Take this war for all you can get  
This conflict's our best opportunity yet  
Now the coast is clear and it's time to move on up!

**HESTER**

Ladies, what on earth is all this noise! Just be sensible for goodness sake. And JUST PIPE  
DOWN

**MERYL**

Pipe down

**BERYL**

Settle down

**CHERYL**

Simmer down

**JEAN**

Only thing that's coming down is the walls  
Cos all the men said

**ALL:** 'ciao'

so it's our time now

And we're gonna grab life by the b-

**HESTER**

Language if you please!!

**JEAN**

Sorry matron, but I'm sick of sitting, waiting  
So if there's a job going spare, I'll take it

**MERYL/BERYL/CHERYL**

Just gotta wait for a guy to die and vacate it

**HESTER**

Girls!

**CHERYL**

Now It's time to crash their party

**HESTER**

Girls!

**MERYL**

We're not gonna back down now are we?

**HESTER**

Girls!!

**BERYL**

Be a spy

**JEAN**

modern day Mata Hari

**ALL**

Rise from the bottom to the top, we're an army

**BERYL:** Step Up!

**CHERYL:** Sisters!

**JEAN:** Come on!

**MERYL:** Line up!

**BERYL:** Get up!

**CHERYL:** Misters!

**JEAN:** You're done!

**MERYL:** Time's up!

**MERYL:** Let's make progress

**CHERYL:** Get paid

**BERYL:** Oh yes!

**ALL**

Bid those boys goodbye!

Keep on 'til we're running MI5

**HESTER**

Youth!

**ALL**

All the ladies, on your marks get set

Take this war for all you can get

This conflict's our best opportunity yet

Now the coast is clear and it's time to move on

Ladies, on your marks get set

Take this war for all you can get

Cos the men aren't here

And that's the all-clear

To kickstart our careers and it's time to move on up!

**SCENE 6 - THE PITCH**

*MERYL, BERYL & CHERYL set up Bevan's office.  
Ad libs & general chatter from them over walkout music.*

HESTER  
Miss Leslie, a word please

JEAN  
Of course, is this about a special secret mission you might need a plucky young heroine for,  
because I *might* know someone who ticks all the -

HESTER  
Do you play Bridge, Jean?

JEAN  
Bridge?

HESTER  
Yes, wonderful game. Endless variety, countless permutations

JEAN  
That does sound nail-biting

HESTER  
Oh trust me it is, when it's been four hours in a grudge match with your nemesis, Sue Goggins,  
and you upend her master plan with a devilish three of clubs...(giggles) I've never felt more  
alive

JEAN  
That was so vivid

HESTER  
The point is, success always boils down to one thing: learning to play the hand you are dealt.

JEAN  
...OK...

HESTER  
No matter how much one might want to win, you have to accept that others may always hold the  
trump cards

*Beat*

Just be careful, Jean. That's all.

JEAN

How about poker? Risk it all to win it all?

HESTER

How about chess? Always consider the long game

JEAN

How about snakes and ladders? Putting your tail... in a position to...

HESTER

You've lost your way here Jean

JEAN

Yes, that's true, but the point is: tell Sue Goggins from me, nowadays we prefer our games a bit more exciting

HESTER

Trust me, I have nothing left to say to Sue Goggins.

*Bevan barrels in*

BEVAN

Hester, can I borrow you?

HESTER

Of course sir. Miss Leslie, the tea

JEAN

For the sake of our nation, ma'am

*JEAN exits*

BEVAN

New girl?

HESTER

Yes she'll need a little breaking in, but... there's something there

BEVAN

Well if there's anything to get out of her, you'll get it

HESTER

Thank you sir. Now Sir I've got on the line again, they said the deadline for the invasion is fast approaching, and you did promise them a deception strategy

BEVAN

Yes, I'm aware, thank you, I've been hearing pitches all morning. Honestly trying to get some genuine lateral thinking out of these men is like -

HESTER

Like getting blood from a stone?

BEVAN

Well I was going to say like getting good work from very underwhelming men

HESTER

Of course sir. I forget your distaste for figurative language. Also sir, I've got Ewen Montagu outside, he wants five minutes.

BEVAN

Montagu? Tell him he had his chance this morning.

HESTER

He says it's a new idea?

BEVAN

Christ, he hasn't got Ian Fleming in tow has he? Tell him for the last time we can't do a submarine car

HESTER

Well -

BEVAN

We've done the tests, it doesn't work

HESTER

Of course

BEVAN

The bottom of the Thames is littered with Aston Martins thanks to him.

*MONTAGU barrels in with JEAN hurrying after, and CHOLMONDELEY in tow*

MONTAGU

Johnny, so good to see you!

BEVAN

Montagu

JEAN

*(comes in with a tray of tea)*

I'm so sorry Sir, I tried to stop him.

MONTAGU

To be fair to her John she did, she gave it a damn good try!

BEVAN

Montagu -

MONTAGU

*(picks a cup off her tray and sips it)*

Don't be disheartened by this, I'm impossible to reason with

BEVAN

I'm not listening to another one of your half-arsed ideas

MONTAGU

This one is different, John, it's whole-arsed. If anything it is over-arsed.

BEVAN

If you bring Fleming in here -

MONTAGU

I am not working with that maniac, no it's someone new.

*(turns around, realises Charles is over by the wall)*

Charlie, what are you doing, get over here. Allow me to introduce Charles Cholmondeley -  
brilliant inventor, genius mind

BEVAN-

Yes I know, he's worked here for 6 years. It's not a good time, you're going to have to put it in  
the tray.

MONTAGU

John, look it's an incredible operation

BEVAN

And, knowing you, it's incredibly shoddily researched

MONTAGU

Ah no you see it's not, it's Charles's idea. Charles, tell Colonel Bevan, is your plan shoddily  
researched?

CHOLMONDELEY

Does a newt have a penis??

*Beat*

CHOLMONDELEY

No, no it doesn't

MONTAGU

Five minutes John. That is all we need. I'm telling you. This is the operation you've been waiting for.

HESTER

Sir, I've got Downing Street on the line again, requesting an update on the pitches?

BEVAN

Yes, right. ( *a moment of indecision*) Fine. Five minutes. What have you got?

MONTAGU

That is all we need. Allow us to present Operation Mincemeat.

**SONG: THE PITCH PART ONE**

**MONTAGU:** *Ladies and*

**CHOLMONDELEY:** *Hello!*

**MONTAGU:** *What? No! So*

**MONTAGU:** *Ladies-and*

**CHOLMONDELEY:** *Charles!*

**MONTAGU:** *Try again, here we go*

**MONTAGU:** *Ladies and gentleman, we are gathered today to present our plan*

**CHOLMONDELEY:** *Ladies and gentleman - oh, I don't know where I am*

**MONTAGU:** *a genius scheme (C: yes) a brand new team (C: uh huh)*

*We truly are a well oiled -*

**CHOLMONDELEY:** *Exactly.*

BEVAN

Well I think I've seen all I need to see

MONTAGU

John, wait, we-

BEVAN

You can show yourselves out -

CHOLMONDELEY

We need a corpse!

BEVAN

What?

MONTAGU

OK Charlie, really good stuff, just sit down forever now. I'll take it from here. (he looks at the hat in his hand) - it's really a two man demonstration but I will-

JEAN

Can I help?

HESTER

Miss Leslie

MONTAGU

Sorry, who are you?

JEAN

Jean. Jean Leslie

HESTER

I'm so sorry sir,

MONTAGU

Well I've always wanted a glamorous assistant, Miss Leslie so yes. Ok put this on and follow my lead. Johnny, picture the scene

## **THE PITCH PART TWO**

**MONTAGU:**

*What if a*

*British pilot **crashed** his plane and*

***Washed** ashore in the **south** of Spain*

*His **body** forgotten, **rotting** in the sun.*

*So we've **lost** our man, our **hideous** hero,*

*The **Spanish** get a whiff of him,*

**JEAN: Dios Mio!**

**CHOLMONDELEY:**

*And **then** -*

**MONTAGU:** *What*

**CHOLMONDELEY:** *oh?*

**MONTAGU:** *[to Charles] I'm sorry!*

**CHOLMONDELEY:** *No*

**MONTAGU:** *now you go!*

**MONTAGU:** You can do this Charlie!

**CHOLMONDELEY:**

*So they **find** our man*

**BEVAN:** *Yes, I **get** the gist*



**CHOLMONDELEY:**

and the **briefcase** we've fixed **to** his wrist

**CHOLMONDELEY/MONTAGU:**

Jam-packed with details **of** our next attack.

**MONTAGU** (spoken): If you see what we're saying

**BEVAN:**

But **how** does this send the Germans **to** Sardinia

**MONTAGU:**

Oh **Johnny**, I know that the **suspense** is killing ya!

**Relax**, and we'll tell you **all** that you need **to** know!

**CHOLMONDELEY:**

[Spoken] So, as you're aware...

**Spain** is rife

**CHOLMONDELEY:** with **German** spies

Who are **bound** to ummm

**JEAN:** materialise!

**MONTAGU/CHOLMONDELEY:** Right!

**MONTAGU:**

Once they know the **Spaniards** have our boy.

**CHOLMONDELEY:**

So our **Allied** 'Sardinian' **invasion** plans

**MONTAGU/CHOLMONDELEY:**

Will **fly** on the sly into **enemy** hands

Telling Adolf **exactly** where **to** go.

[Spoken **JEAN:** He'll go to Sardinia!

**CHOLMONDELEY:** Was that clear?]

**BEVAN:** They'll do background checks.

**MONTAGU:** We'll get his papers set

**JEAN:** We could fake his ID!

**MONTAGU:** You know I'm pleased we met

**HESTER:** Jean, that's enough

**JEAN:** You need me here to pick up the slack

**BEVAN:** If we could maybe get back on track

**MONTAGU/CHOLMONDELEY:** We'll rewrite history, our cadaver will be

**MONTAGU/CHOLMONDELEY:** As traceable and real as you or me.

**BEVAN:** And I trust that a body can be found

That will look to an expert freshly drowned? -

(MONTAGU and CHOLMONDELEY stop, abruptly. The music drops.)

MONTAGU

Now that is a good little question... That's one for you Charles I think. Off you go.

CHOLMONDELEY

Well, um....I could drown myself?

BEVAN

I see.

MONTAGU

Wait, John-

BEVAN

A deception like this has to be watertight Montagu, or they'll see through the entire thing.

MONTAGU

Of course-

BEVAN

And then it'll make it quite clear to the Germans that we're trying to shift them out of Sicily, which will tell them that's where we're really headed.

MONTAGU

We know all that, but-

BEVAN

No. Once we know you can source a suitable body, we'll talk.

CHOLMONDELEY

Absolutely, sir

MONTAGU

No, wait - John, you know as well as I do that we're running out of time here, if we wait to hit go until every tiny piece is in place, we will lose our shot entirely.

BEVAN

That doesn't change -

MONTAGU

I have a contact. Alright? The top man in his field, he's a ....Charles, what do you call someone who's obsessed with dead people?

CHOLMONDELEY

Aunt Gladys?

MONTAGU

What?

CHOLMONDELEY  
Nothing

JEAN  
A coroner?

MONTAGU  
A coroner! Yes, thank you Jean. He's a coroner, (to Charles) obviously. Just give us the green light now and he will be the first port of call.

BEVAN  
But

MONTAGU  
Just give us a chance!

BEVAN  
Look I just don't think-

CHOLMONDELEY  
We'll work night and day sir

BEVAN  
I'm sure you-

JEAN  
Surely it's worth a try?

MONTAGU  
She's right John, what have you got to lose?

BEVAN  
The war?

MONTAGU  
Apart from that! You wanted bold ideas. This is your chance. Mincemeat is the plan that's going to get us into Sicily!

### **THE PITCH PART THREE**

**MONTAGU:**  
*We need to trick the Hun, get them off our tails  
Mincemeat is the plan that could tip the scales*

**CHOLMONDELEY:** *A Trojan Horse*

**JEAN:** *or rather Trojan corpse (M&C: Right!)*

**BOTH:** *The key to taking Sicily*

**MONTAGU, CHOLMONDELEY & JEAN:** *back by force*

**BEVAN & HESTER:** *To win the fight, it must be watertight*

**BEVAN:** *Find a body.*

**MONTAGU:** *Yes Johnny.*

**MONTAGU & CHOLMONDELEY:** *Now, give us the green light!*

**MONTAGU & CHOLMONDELEY:** *We've told you all you need to know.*

**MONTAGU:** *So just say yes and*

**MONTAGU & CHOLMONDELEY:** *then we'll go.*

**BEVAN:** *Fine! You have your orders.*

**MONTAGU & CHOLMONDELEY:** *What?*

**BEVAN, JEAN & HESTER:** *You have your orders.*

**MONTAGU & CHOLMONDELEY:** *Yes!*

**MONTAGU & CHOLMONDELEY:** *We have our orders! / BEVAN/HESTER/JEAN: You have your orders*

**BEVAN:** *Now go.*

*MONTAGU, CHOLMONDELEY and JEAN stare at each-other, amazed. MONTAGU shrugs, CHOLMONDELEY rushes in to embrace him. It is quite a surprise to both of them.*

MONTAGU

You will not regret this John!

CHOLMONDELEY

I can't believe he went for it!

JEAN

That was amazing

MONTAGU

And well done Miss Leslie, you saved our skin there

HESTER

Miss Leslie, with me, immediately

*She leaves, as she does:*

MONTAGU

We look forward to working with you.

JEAN

Yes!

CHOLMONDELEY

Do we?

MONTAGU

Well she's a better dancer than you Charles

CHOLMONDELEY

Well you haven't seen me tango -

MONTAGU

And I hope I never will. Come on my boy, let's go win a war!

**SONG: BORN TO LEAD REPRISE**

***MONTAGU & CHOLMONDELEY:***

***We are the finest minds in England, on that we are agreed.***

***For some were born to follow, but we were born to lead!***

**SCENE 7: HESTER THE SPY**

*HESTER & BEVAN are speaking on the phone*

HESTER  
Colonel Bevan?

BEVAN  
Ah, Hester, good. Look, we've finally had some information through from the captured German agent at the interrogation centre.

HESTER  
Oh good, he finally talked?

BEVAN  
Yes, he finally cracked, like a...

HESTER  
Like an egg under the farmer's boot?

BEVAN  
I was going to say like a spy undergoing very rigorous interrogation techniques.

HESTER  
Of course sir.

BEVAN  
He's given us a list of known Soviet spies in the country, one of which threw up a red flag (*he looks around to ensure no one's listening*) Montagu

HESTER  
Good lord! But he's -

BEVAN  
Not Ewen Montagu. It's his brother Ivor.

HESTER  
His brother is a Soviet spy?

BEVAN  
It would seem so.

HESTER  
And you just greenlit Mincemeat!

BEVAN

We're running out of time, Mincemeat is the only thing on the table that might help the invasion.

HESTER  
I suppose

BEVAN  
I want you to keep an eye on Montagu. Watch him. Find out if he's in touch with his brother.

HESTER  
Yes sir.

## SCENE 8: MAKING A MAN

*Montagu, Charles and Jean are gathered around the desk, a sort of celebratory opening speech*

MONTAGU

Ok. New home sweet home. Breath in that disgusting basement air.

CHOLMONDELEY

But Monty my allergies-

MONTAGU

Well it was this or the garden and- you don't like bees.

CHOLMONDELEY

*(Simultaneously)*

I don't like bees-

MONTAGU

So, here we go. His Majesty's finest, ready to turn the tide on Mr Hitler

*During the following Hester quietly enters and appears at Monty's side.*

*(gesturing to each of them)* We've got beauty, we've got brains, we've got - *(turns and sees her, his tone drops)* Hester. Hello old girl, will you be able to contain your excitement?

HESTER

You shouldn't sit on the desks

MONTAGU

There's that trademark passion. Ok Charlie! Your very own mission! Fate of the world, are you excited??

CHOLMONDELEY

Ha, does a newt have an anus?!

*Beat*

CHOLMONDELEY

...Yes, yes it does

MONTAGU

Why are you like this?

CHOLMONDELEY

I don't know



MONTAGU

Ok, between us we're going to create a fake pilot

CHOLMONDELEY

And plant our fake invasion plans in his briefcase

MONTAGU

Then his only job is to die tragically and wash up in Spain.  
The place is crawling with German spies desperate to get their hands on British intel.

HESTER

Miss Leslie, the tea.

MONTAGU

No no, stay where you are Miss Leslie. You are far too bright to make the tea.

CHOLMONDELEY

So, first things first, we need to locate a body

MONTAGU

Already got a lead

CHOLMONDELEY

And then we need to create a papertrail of his movements around London

MONTAGU

Bar crawl. Fantastic!

CHOLMONDELEY

*(panicking)*

And then we need to figure out a way of transporting him all the way to the town of Huelva off the coast of Spain?!

MONTAGU

Of course yes, we need all of that but first, we need to figure out who this man actually is

HESTER

Yes, the paper trail on an invented pilot has to be watertight-

MONTAGU

No I mean more his-

HESTER

We'll need parentage, birth certificate, official identification, oooh - it's going to take a lot of very complicated stamps

MONTAGU

Good stuff. Ok Charlie, my genius why don't you kick us off. So what is his name:

CHOLMONDELEY

Oh, a name, erm...

MONTAGU

So the name of a hero. Off you go.

CHOLMONDELEY

Right, ok.

MONTAGU

God-like... but humble

CHOLMONDELEY

Ummm

MONTAGU

Classic... but unique

CHOLMONDELEY

Ummm

MONTAGU

Take as much time as you need...

CHOLMONDELEY

Oh ok fine -

MONTAGU

but do it now

CHOLMONDELEY

T... tub?

MONTAGU

Tub? That's barely even a sound!

JEAN

How about Bill?

MONTAGU

Bill! Very good Jean. I like it! Bill. It's sturdy! But with dignity! Like a cow!

HESTER

Like a cow?

MONTAGU

Very good point Hester. So. Bill. William. What's he like? What's he... what's he got?

CHOLMONDELEY

Oh well. He's got... he's got a um...

**SONG: MAKING A MAN**

**MONTAGU:**

*A mind that is stronger than iron*

(CHOLMONDELEY: Yes, and also -  
MONTAGU:Shh )

*That shines like a light in the dark*

(CHOLMONDELEY: Ooh maybe he could have  
MONTAGU: Not yet - )

*And a body that could wrestle a lion  
Then deal out a witty remark,*

(CHOLMONDELEY: hahaha  
MONTAGU: Shhh )

*He has so very many astounding attributes*

**JEAN:** *He's noble and courageous*

**CHOLMONDELEY:** *he looks excellent in suits!*

**MONTAGU:** *Yes! A seamless blend of dreaminess,*

**HESTER:** *experience*

**CHOLMONDELEY:** *and genius*

**MONTAGU:** *These are the ingredients you need*

*When you're making a man*

*Making a hero*

*Quick as we can*

*The nation's in need*

*Of a marvellous man*

*A dependable dreamboat*

*A shining example of what humans can be*

*So we're making a man*

*Ok. Step one, thinking caps on*

*Gotta pull a fast one, fast on the Hun*

*Gotta find a corpse.*

**JEAN:** *A dead man?*

**MONTAGU:** *Of course*

**CHOLMONDELEY:** *Can we gather a cadaver from the local morgue?*

**MONTAGU:**

*Charles this is a secret mission,*

***We can't go raising any suspicion  
Luckily I know the perfect man  
To help us hatch this plan***

COCKNEY 1 (Cholmondeley): Welcome to London!

COCKNEY 2 (Jean): We're Cockneys!

COCKNEY 3 (Montagu): And this is what cockneys wear!

***COCKNEYS: Bodies, watcha know about bodies?***

MICHAEL UMBRELLA (a passerby): Nothing at all!

***COCKNEYS: Well if you need information about expiration***

***There's only one man that you should call***

***COCKNEY 1: He knows the ropes***

***COCKNEY 3: he knows the knives***

***COCKNEY 1 & 3: He knows all ways of ending lives***

***It's Spilsbury, Spilsbury, introducing Bernard Spilsbury***

***SPILSBURY:***

***So you say you want the perfect body (Spilsbury!)***

***I've got every kind that you could need (Sir Bernard Spilsbury!)***

***Old ladies to adolescents, in all stages of putrescence***

***So come inside and see what you can see***

***So don't delay or they'll decay***

***Come on fellas, step this way***

*They're joined by Morgue Assistants 1 and 2 (Bevan & Jean) who join in BVs*

***SPILSBURY:***

***Feast your eyes on all my lovely bodies (Spilsbury)***

***Take a look, I've quite the repertoire! (Sir Bernard Spilsbury)***

***From grandads to old biddies, young men to little kiddies***

***You want homicide or suicide or can't decide, well come inside and see!***

CHOLMONDELEY: Monty make it stop!

MONTAGU: Why is she sticky?!

***SPILSBURY***

***Mr Roberts, choked on a yogurt***

***Mr Beezles, mauled by weasels***

***If you're after buckets of gore***

***Here's Brian, he's basically a lung in a drawer***

MONTAGU/CHOLMONDELEY: No!

MONTAGU: No!

SPILSBURY: It's just Brian!

MONTAGU: STOP THIS!

***MONTAGU: Bernard we need a chap who's fresh,  
Of military age, with undamaged flesh,***

**CHOLMONDELEY:** *So if the Spanish do an autopsy  
They'll certify him  
MONTAGU/CHOLMONDELEY: drowned at sea*

**SPILSBURY:**  
*Have no fear I'll find your perfect body (BV:Spilsbury)  
I get skip loads of these stiffs each and every day (BV:Sir Bernard Spilsbury)  
I'll find your dear departed  
That we need to get things started  
Or my name isn't Bernard Spilsbury (BV: OBE)  
I'll find you your man!*

CHOLMONDELEY  
Monty I have a lot of questions-

MONTAGU  
Is that right Charles-

CHOLMONDELEY  
The first one being was any of that in any way legal?

MONTAGU  
It's a good question Charlie, and the answer is of course never mind.

CHOLMONDELEY  
Ohhh!

**MONTAGU:**  
*Step Two, leave a trail of clues,  
Pack a wallet with receipts so that we can prove  
That our Bill had a life, a man about town  
Who splashed his cash then drowned*

**JEAN**  
*And they will find that  
He dined at  
ALL: hottest joints with the coolest cats  
JEAN*

*The swinging spots with the hotsy tots  
WAITERS:*

*Oh the nightlife's such a thrill!*

**JEAN**  
*And they will all see  
Our boy he*

*has such a taste for finery*

**CHOLMONDELEY:** *he's dressed to impress,*

**JEAN:** *wouldn't settle for less*

**TAILOR (Bevan):** *34 round the chest*

**JEAN/MONTAGU/CHOLMONDELEY:** *(it's) only the best for Bill*

SHOESHINE BOY  
Ha'penny for me Guvnor?

MONTAGU  
What century are you in?!

SHOESHINE BOY:  
YAY!

MONTAGU  
Ok.

**MONTAGU:** *Step three, send Bill to sea*

**CHOLMONDELEY:** *Get him all the way to Spain in secrecy*

*So he can wash ashore and then win us the war*

**MONTAGU:** *Charles, my genius, take the floor!*

MONTAGU  
It's a good plan Charles, but if we're going to dump a body in the sea, we'll need the Navy's help. Time to get the approval of every fusty old Admiral in London.

CHOLMONDELEY  
Oh no.

MONTAGU  
Good luck

CHOLMONDELEY  
I don't know if I can do this Jean.

JEAN  
You can do this Charles, come on.

CHOLMONDELEY  
But they're all just so fusty!  
*(he enters presentation spotlight)*  
Admirals, let me present my idea for the world's first human thermos

**CHOLMONDELEY:** *Our Bill will sail by submarine*  
*In a giant thermos, a corpse canteen*  
*Vacuum packed and air tight through and through.*

**ADMIRAL PLUMP (Montagu): Chop chop!**

**ADMIRAL GOUT (Hester): We've got a lot to do!**

**CHOLMONDELEY: Suck out the oxygen so Bill won't rot**

**ADMIRALS: What?**

**CHOLMONDELEY: Add dry ice, and he won't get hot.**

**When he's on his quest**

**It's only the best for Bill!**

**ADMIRAL PLUMP: Well what's it made of?**

**CHOLMONDELEY: Stainless steel**

**ADMIRAL GUFF (Bevan): Won't it smell?**

**CHOLMONDELEY (slightly annoyed): That's why it's sealed.**

**ADMIRAL GOUT: What about the crew? Won't they know there's a corpse aboard?**

**ADMIRAL PLUMP: Bloody good question. / ADMIRAL GUFF: Good point**

**ADMIRAL GOUT: I forgot what I said / ADMIRAL GUFF: I dunno**

**JEAN: We could say that it's equipment, it's a top secret shipment,**

**It's need to know -**

**CHOLMONDELEY: Jean, that is brilliant!**

**ADMIRAL GOUT: I'm quite impressed**

**ALL: Only the best for Bill.**

MONTAGU

Thank you all so much for coming. Bye bye.

ADMIRAL GOUT

Is it time for my bath?

MONTAGU

*(Through gritted teeth)* Yes, I hope you drown in it!

ADMIRAL GOUT

What?

MONTAGU

LOVELY to see you Admirals

*(Admirals exit, one of them turning into HESTER)*

MONTAGU

Charlie! You were fantastic!

HESTER

Miss Leslie.

JEAN

*(ready for a scolding)* I know I shouldn't have done that-

HESTER

You did very well. Carry on.

MONTAGU

Jean! That was wonderful. I knew you were a bright girl, but I have to say you're really....you're really... Isn't she Charles?

CHOLMONDELEY

What?

MONTAGU

Just, you know, women! It's good stuff isn't it. It's just nice

CHOLMONDELEY

Oh Lord

JEAN

I could do more if you want-

MONTAGU

Yes, this is what Bill needs, a woman's touch.

JEAN

A woman's touch?

MONTAGU

Yes, a sweetheart, somebody back home.

CHOLMONDELEY

But he's only going to have his wallet on him, so how are we going to get all that across?

JEAN

He could be carrying a receipt for an engagement ring?

MONTAGU

Jean that is perfect! Right, go and buy us a diamond ring, price no object, something as beautiful as... *(gestures towards Jean)* well... something beautiful

*CHOLMONDELEY is looking in drawers for a file and can't find it.*

JEAN

Yes Sir *(JEAN exits)*

MONTAGU

You're a good girl!

CHOLMONDELEY



Monty-

MONTAGU  
Yes.

CHOLMONDELEY  
The map with the submarine's course to Huelva, have you seen it?

MONTAGU  
Oh it'll turn up.

CHOLMONDELEY  
I was sure that I, I definitely put it here-

MONTAGU  
Charlie it's fine. The crew have their orders, they're going to Spain Charles, it's not hard: you turn left at France and then it's straight on till you hear maracas

CHOLMONDELEY  
Monty, that document is confidential, if we've lost it we could get into serious trouble -

**MONTAGU**  
**Charlie, don't be so narrow minded**

CHOLMONDELEY: Well.....

**Stop fretting about guidelines and rules**

CHOLMONDELEY: This is important

**Remember, we're His Majesty's finest**

CHOLMONDELEY: *grunts*

**And regulations are for cowards and fools**

**CHOLMONDELEY**

**But Monty, we're responsible for how this thing is done!**

**MONTAGU**

**If we claim the final victory, who cares just how we won?**

**For when you write the book**

**My boy you're off the hook**

**So just be a man**

**Cos we're making a hero**

**ALL**

**Quick as we can**

**The nation's in need**

**Of a marvellous man**

**A dependable dreamboat**

**A shining example of what humans can be**

**Making a man**

MONTAGU

We're doing well Charles, but we still don't have a damn body

CHOLMONDELEY

Yes, I'm aware of that fact Monty

MONTAGU

I am going to call Spilsbury.

CHOLMONDELEY

No, please, please don't make me see that man again

MONTAGU

He can't get you here.

CHOLMONDELEY

Horrible wet hands

MONTAGU

This is the most secure building in England, there's no way he can find us here.

*Spilsbury & Morgue Assistants burst into the office*

**SPILSBURY**

***Lads look here, I've found your perfect body! (Spilsbury!)***

***Look what fate has landed in our lap! (Sir Bernard Spilsbury)***

***This homeless chap in Croydon***

***Accidentally ate rat poison***

***The perfect worm to bait our little trap!***

***MONTAGU: He's perfect.***

***CHOLMONDELEY: So he didn't drown***

***SPILSBURY: Don't worry about it***

***CHOLMONDELEY: Won't they suspect?***

***SPILSBURY: Ha! I doubt it!***

***Foreigners aren't great coroners, see?***

***And no-one in Spain is as clever as me***

***I've found your man, I've saved the day (BVs)***

***So fetch my fee and I'll be on my way! (BVs)***

***SPILSBURY & assistants exit***

MONTAGU

Really makes you wonder about the security of the building, doesn't it?

CHOLMONDELEY

Yes and has that blackboard always had a door-

MONTAGU

I don't want to talk about it, Charles

*JEAN enters*

JEAN

Gentleman, may I present, Major William Martin's briefcase complete with fake Sardinian invasion plans, official seals of approval and a picture of his gorgeous fiancée.

MONTAGU

Isn't that you?

JEAN

Stunning, isn't she?

MONTAGU

She certainly is

JEAN

Don't get any ideas, Bill's a very jealous man

MONTAGU

Jean, my heart

*HESTER enters*

HESTER

Sirs, I've finished your documentation, our pilot officially exists

MONTAGU

Hester you're a vision.

CHOLMONDELEY

Gosh that really is a lot of complicated stamps!

HESTER

Isn't it just?

MONTAGU

Well the good news is, we have found a body!

HESTER

You've found a body?

MONTAGU

Cooling in the freezer as we speak

HESTER

And who was he?

MONTAGU

Ah well, this is the best part! He was just some tramp

HESTER

Excuse me?

JEAN

Monty!

MONTAGU

Spilsbury found him on the streets, no family, no-one to raise the alarm when he's gone, he's perfect

CHOLMONDELEY

For our purposes, he means.

HESTER

But he must *have* family - we need to find out, don't we?

MONTAGU

Why?

HESTER

They could provide information - his medical records

MONTAGU

Ah, no Spilsbury's given us everything we need to know

HESTER

You must at least know his name? Who was he?

*Small pause. Monty is irritated now.*

MONTAGU

I'll tell you who he was, Hester, he was Major William Martin, brave and beloved pilot who crashed his plane fighting for this country

HESTER

Don't you care?

MONTAGU

Yes. I care about the mission, Hester, I care about saving a lot more lives than one tramp

JEAN  
Monty!

*BEVAN enters holding a diamond ring, furious*

BEVAN  
Where is Montagu?

MONTAGU  
Hello Johnny.

BEVAN  
What the hell am I doing here with an engagement ring?

MONTAGU  
Asking me the question that will change our lives forever?

BEVAN  
Montagu! I did not hand you his majesty's cheque book so you could spend hundreds of pounds on jewellery

MONTAGU  
Yes

BEVAN  
Cocktails.

MONTAGU  
I know

BEVAN  
Theatre tickets!

MONTAGU  
The things I do for this country!

BEVAN  
You are out of control!

MONTAGU  
Johnny, we need the receipts for Bill's wallet, alright?

**BEVAN:**

*[-] Do you really think you're working independently  
[-] Or that your little team's the only thing that's under me?  
The notion that you're more than a drop in the ocean of the hundred  
Plans I have in motion is enough to earn demotion.*

**MONTAGU:** *Oh my god*

*[-] Montagu this war is bigger than you,*

**MONTAGU:** *Please  
Stop acting like I don't know what to do -*

**BEVAN:**  
*You're making a mockery of this whole damn operation*

**MONTAGU**  
*You're making a mess of every decision that you're making*

**BEVAN**  
*You're making a spectacle*

**MONTAGU**  
*Well you're making it difficult to be sensible*

**BEVAN**  
*You're making it about you cos you're bloody egotistical*

**ALL**  
*Oh. My. God.*

**MONTAGU**  
*John, wait! Just let me explain.  
Picture the scene:*

**MONTAGU:**  
*A bachelor residing in Oval*

*JEAN: here's his lease agreement  
Soon to make his way up the aisle*

*CHOLMONDELEY: they'll tie the knot next summer  
To celebrate his recent betrothal*

*JEAN: a sparkling diamond ring  
They spent the night in London in style*

*CHOLMONDELEY: one night on the town  
He took his girl to dinner and the latest West End show*

**JEAN:** *She said he looked so handsome in his suit from Savile Row*

**MONTAGU:** *One last night of celebration before he leaves to save the nation*

**CHOLMONDELEY:** *Delivering the plans for our Sardinian invasion*

**HESTER:** *With a never-ending paper trail*

**MONTAGU:** *A cover story that can't fail  
We made him up then made his life come true  
Believe in Bill and they'll believe him too  
We've made you a man*

MONTAGU  
So? What do you think?

BEVAN  
It's good. It's...believable. Although I do think it's missing one thing.

MONTAGU  
What?

BEVAN  
He needs to be carrying a letter

CHOLMONDELEY  
A letter?

BEVAN  
From his fiancée, from this girl he loves. Soldiers don't go off to war without a reminder of why they're fighting in the first place.

*Montagu is briefly reminded of his own family, somewhere far away. Touches his wedding ring, oddly tender for just a moment*

MONTAGU  
Quite right. I like it.

**MONTAGU:**  
***And they'll see it there in writing***  
***That our Bill he went down fighting***  
***For his love, his life and his democracy***

**ALL:**  
***So we're making a man***  
***Making a hero, quick as we can***  
***The nation's in need***  
***Of a marvellous man***  
***A dependable dreamboat***  
***A shining example of what humans can be***

*BEVAN exits*

**ALL:**  
***God that's brilliant, really brilliant, God that's brilliant***  
***They'll never see it coming***  
***God that's brilliant, really brilliant, God that's brilliant***  
***So daring and so cunning***  
***Seamless blend of dreaminess experience and genius / Oh my god***

***These are the ingredients you need  
When you're making a man***



**SCENE 9: LOVE IS A BIRD**

**SONG: LOVE IS A BIRD**

CHOLMONDELEY

Thank you for er, agreeing to help me with Bill's, er-

JEAN

Not at all

CHOLMONDELEY

I can't say I have much experience in writing...er...

JEAN

Writing love letters?

CHOLMONDELEY

Ha! Yes! Love, eh? Tricky business, the art of wooing. To woo and...be wooed in return.

JEAN

Don't worry, Charles, I've got this

CHOLMONDELEY

Gosh, so have you been... wooed before then?

JEAN

'Have I been wooed?'

CHOLMONDELEY

Yes.

JEAN

Oh I've been wooed Charles. I've been wooed all over London.

CHOLMONDELEY

(impressed) Really?

JEAN

I can barely set foot out of my door without getting wooed from all sides.

CHOLMONDELEY

Oh! Well go on then!

JEAN

I will!

*Beat as she thinks, then, confidently*

Dear Bill!

*pause*

CHOLMONDLEY  
I just got chills

JEAN  
Really?!

CHOLMONDELEY  
Consider me wooed madam.

JEAN  
OK OK, Dear Bill

**JEAN**

***Love. Love is a bird! (Cholmondeley: Oooh!)***  
***Gathering twigs and then building a nest in my heart! (Cholmondeley: Ahhhh)***  
***And just like a BIRD! It is singing a song that is sweeter than strawberry tart!***  
***(Cholmondeley: lascivious chuckle)***

**CHOLMONDELEY & JEAN**

***SING ME A SONG! And fill it with romance and hear our two hearts sing along!***  
***My darling stay strong!***  
***For I know above all***  
***That although there's a war on***  
***That nothing can ever go wrong!***  
***Like a bird!***

*Hester walks in*

HESTER  
Oh dear!

CHOLMONDELEY  
Well I think that is fantastic.

HESTER  
Is that really how you think people write to each other?

JEAN  
We just thought

HESTER

You can't just charm your way through this I'm afraid, it has to feel real.

CHOLMONDELEY

We're trying our best.

HESTER

Some things have to come from experience

CHOLMONDELEY

Give us a break Hester!

*A moment. He has never been this way with Hester before*

CHOLMONDELEY

I just mean...well, none of us here are experts in this now, are we?

HESTER

And how would you know that?

CHOLMONDELEY

What?

HESTER

I'm just saying this isn't the first war that some of us have lived through.

JEAN

Maybe you could help?

HESTER

No no...

CHOLMONDELEY

Well, if you've done this before?

HESTER

Yes, but a long time ago

JEAN

Please?

*She considers*

HESTER

Fine, give it here. I'm sure between you you can...

"Dear Bil"... Bill has two 'L's.

JEAN  
(to Charles)  
I told you!

*CHOLMONDELEY grunts in frustration*

HESTER  
Look, when you're writing to someone you love, far away, you want them to... I'd imagine you want them to feel as normal as possible. As though they're going to come home, and it's all going to go back to how it was before.

JEAN  
OK... so... how?

HESTER  
Well, you start... you start... with news

**SONG: DEAR BILL**

HESTER:  
*Dear Bill.*  
*I'm afraid I've not got long to write; I'm off to Mary's, you know how she feels about Bridge night....*  
*It's been a few days. I thought that I'd send a few lines.*

*Next door's greyhound came into the garden this morning*  
*I think he likes the roses*  
*They're doing fine, I used some twine to tie them up*  
*And rein them in*  
*I hope they'll bloom next Spring*  
*But you'll see that for yourself.*  
*I'm following the instructions you left in your note*  
*"Please devote all your time to their care"*  
*And I have done, I swear*  
*Well, except for the talking.*  
*I'm not going to do that,*  
*Because talking to roses is mad and you knew that*  
*When you whispered sweet nothings to flowers to make my dad cross*  
*And me laugh*  
*And it did.*

*Why did we meet in the middle of a war?*  
*What a silly thing for anyone to do?*

*Your sister sends her love, of course, and your mother,*

*..is the same as ever  
Diana's piano is getting much better  
Well, I say better, I really just mean louder  
But as she tells me that's pretty much the same  
Well it makes a change from all of the noise and the sirens - and sometimes from all of the silence -  
With six rounds of Jingle Bells, and We Wish You A Merry Christmas  
Even though it is June  
And it's been a long summer  
But she wants to be perfect, for her older brother  
She hopes you'll be home again soon. (No.)  
She knows you'll be home again soon.  
And it's fine. And we're fine.  
It's nice to watch her get better with time.  
I suppose they just miss you.  
I know, they just miss you  
And I'm not going to argue with that.*

*And why did we meet in the middle of a war?  
What a silly thing for anyone to do?*

*And I'm trying my best to write everything down  
To fill in the gaps so that when you're around  
It'll be like you've never been gone  
As if you'd been here all along  
Because you can't just miss out on the songs*

*And to tell you the truth, Tom your roses aren't thriving  
Without you they're dull - don't worry, they're surviving*

*But I've tried all the tricks that you put in your note  
And I've watered the soil till it started to float  
And no, I've not talked to them, I'm not going to talk to them.  
There's something you have, that I just don't have  
And since you're off gallivanting, it's only fair that you know  
That, your roses, quite frankly, were the first things to go  
And no you're not gallivanting  
I don't mean gallivanting  
It's just frustrating for you to be right  
when I have to do both the sides of this fight  
But it's good to hear you, even just in my head*

*And the roses just miss you  
I know they just miss you  
And I'm not going to argue with that.*

*There's so much to do when you come back.*

*And I know that they say that it's all 'for a cause'  
Our brave boys out fighting a war to end wars  
But it's like they don't see  
That when you're far from me  
Our roses don't get the conversation they need  
Which just seems unfair  
I'm stuck here and you're there  
I suppose I just miss you  
I know I just miss you  
Even now I still miss you  
And why did we meet in the middle of a war?  
What a silly thing for anyone....*

JEAN

Hester, are you-

HESTER

*(in an attempt to snap out of it)*

When do you need this completed by?

JEAN

I, er-

CHOLMONDELEY

We're taking the body to the docks tonight

HESTER

Right

CHOLMONDELEY

The submarine are holding their departure until... they get Bill

HESTER

...That's good of them

CHOLMONDELEY

*(uncomfortably)*

Yes

HESTER

I expect they've got rather a lot to worry about already

CHOLMONDELEY

*(even more uncomfortably)*

...Yes

*Beat*

HESTER  
I'll get it to you in an hour

CHOLMONDELEY  
Very good

*A slightly awkward linger, then he exits, Jean hands Hester the letter. She wants to say something, she's not sure what to say*

JEAN  
Thank you... for doing this

HESTER  
If it gives those boys a fighting chance, I'm glad to do it.

## SCENE 10: THE DOCKS

### **SONG: SAIL ON BOYS**

**DOUGLASS (Cholmondeley)**

*Find a girl and build a home son  
So my father said to me  
But the winds, they bear me onwards  
And they call me to the sea*

### **SUBMARINERS**

*Not for me, the plough and furrow  
Not for me the feather bed  
Not for me the farmer's daughter  
To the waves, my heart is wed*

*If it's down, it's down together  
If it's up it's up as one  
So sail on boys, through stormy weather  
Soon the journey will be done*

*Most of the submariners go about their business. CAPTAIN BILL JEWELL, a no-nonsense naval man with absolutely no time for aristocratic idiots, is presiding over them. MONTAGU and CHOLMONDELEY enter. This is very much not their comfort zone, but that's never stopped MONTAGU before...*

MONTAGU

Ahoy there, laddies! What's this, a keel? That's a splendid keel. And what do you call that?

JEWELL  
Ropes.

MONTAGU  
Correct

JEWELL  
You must be Montagu

MONTAGU  
Captain Jewell, a pleasure to meet a fellow Navy man.

JEWELL  
Aye.

MONTAGU  
Not like this one - he's what you and I would call a real land-lubber.



JEWELL  
Indeed.

MONTAGU  
Doesn't understand the thrill of the wind in your hair, the fish in your... hands.

JEWELL  
What?

MONTAGU  
What a life, eh - the open sea.

JEWELL  
It's a submarine.

MONTAGU  
The submerged sea.

CHIEF WALKER (Bevan)  
Captain, we're about ready to head out.

JEWELL  
Thank you Walker. Let's get that cannister stowed on board.

CHOLMONDELEY  
*(emotional, sending off Bill)* Just be careful won't you? Please just look after him-

CHIEF WALKER  
Him?

CHOLMONDELEY  
It! I mean it! The weather equipment. I just get very emotional when I say goodbye to weather equipment.

JEWELL  
You alright, son?

CHOLMONDELEY  
Does a newt fear death??

CHIEF WALKER  
What?

CHOLMONDELEY  
I just don't know.

JEWELL

Don't worry lads, we'll take it from here. You'll receive word when we've done our part.

MONTAGU

With our brains and your spectacular singing voices, there's no way this can fail.

JEWELL

I suppose we'll find out. If there's nothing else.

CHOLMONDELEY

Good luck.

JEWELL

Gentlemen.

*MONTAGU and CHOLMONDELEY exit.*

**JEWELL**

***So sail on boys, through stormy weather***

***Soon the journey will be done***

**SCENE 11: GARGOYLE CLUB**

*Monty and Charles are in a grubby East End pub THE MILKY PIG. Mary Piggles cleans glasses behind them.*

MONTAGU

It's just surprising Charlie that's all.

CHOLMONDELEY

Why?

MONTAGU

The bees are the heroes of the garden. Friend to flower and tree.

CHOLMONDELEY

Trust me Monty once you've angered a swarm, they never forget.

MONTAGU

So much to learn about you Charlie. Another here or should we move on?

CHOLMONDELEY

Monty, please, it's already so late

MONTAGU

No, we've just sent Bill off to war, London demands our celebration!

CHOLMONDELEY

I'm really rather tired.

MONTAGU

No no, I promised my brother we'd meet him at the Gargoyle Club - but first, I get the feeling you've never done a bar crawl before

CHOLMONDELEY

Your brother?

MONTAGU

Dear Ivor, odd chap, fun though - celebrated filmmaker but tight as anything. That's the thing about communists Charlie, they're all for equality until it's time to settle the tab

CHOLMONDELEY

I don't really feel in the mood-

MONTAGU

We bloody DID it Charlie! Tonight, this city is ours - wonderful drinks, fantastic views, beautiful  
w- (*he looks at Mary Piggles*) - tables and chairs

CHOLMONDELEY

Monty - have we done a bad thing?

MONTAGU

What?

CHOLMONDELEY

Bill, I mean.

MONTAGU

Bill?

CHOLMONDELEY

He was a man, a person, and we just used his body like...

MONTAGU

We gave that man a purpose Charles

CHOLMONDELEY

I know, I just

MONTAGU

He'd be thanking us if his mouth wasn't full of ice

CHOLMONDELEY

It just feels wrong!

MONTAGU

God, Charlie can we please just enjoy ourselves! Please, just for tonight? Look, the world is...a  
mess, Charlie. Small flashes of joy, it's all any of us can hope for

CHOLMONDELEY

Yes. You're right, I'm just... scared

**SONG: JUST FOR TONIGHT**

**MONTAGU:**

***Charlie, when the world is such a mess***

***It's hard not to feel depressed***

***Getting stressed by what may come in time***

***But life is much more pleasant,***

***When you're living in the present***

***So let's raise another glass and feel sublime***

***For come the dawn our plan might fall to bits  
When Adolf gets his claws in it  
And yes we broke the law a bit, that's right  
But at least until tomorrow comes  
Why not believe that we have won?  
And maybe have a little FUN, Charlie, let's live it up tonight***

*We enter CLINKY'S, a sexy lounge cocktail bar, complete with two cocktail waiters/punters.  
montagu knows everyone, it's all very sexy and cool*

**MONTAGU**

***So just for tonight let's be winners  
Who finally did something right  
Our plan is signed, sealed, delivered  
And tomorrow it could all go wrong  
So Charlie, let's live it up tonight***

**CHOLMONDELEY**

But what if the sub gets hit by the Germans or they realise our documents are fake?

***THE BIG BAND COME IN! OH YEAH WE'RE AT A PARTY NOW AT BABY SAM'S BRASS  
BONANZA!***

**MONTAGU**

***Oh Charlie why do all this fretting  
Read the room boy! Clock the setting!  
It's no life if you're forgetting to live***

**CHOLMONDELEY**(spoken)

*I find it helps me feel prepared*

**MONTAGU**

***To what? Just dwell on being scared?  
I say to hell with that hot air, man and give yourself***

**MONTAGU**

***Some credit where there's credit due  
Who made this plan?***

**CHOLMONDELEY:** *I did.*

**MONTAGU:** *Yes you!*

***So celebrate your greatness, grab a gin!***

**WE SPIN INTO A LINE OF MEN AT A URINAL**

***You're too full of brains a-plenty  
For your glass to feel half empty***

**So let's get another bottle**

**BOTH: fill the damn thing to the brim!**

**TURBO BAR CRAWL! - A SUPER QUICK MONTAGE OF DIFFERENT BARS USING  
CHOLMONDELEY'S LINES TO TRANSITION BETWEEN THEM**

**MONTAGU**

**Just for tonight be a hero (BVs: Just for, for tonight x2)**

**CHOLMONDELEY: I'm not sure that's me**

**MONTAGU**

**Who might have beaten the Reich (BVs: Just for, for tonight x2)**

**CHOLMONDELEY: I'm just a bug boy, you see**

**MONTAGU**

**With a fantastical scheme so Charles (BVs: Just for, for tonight x2)**

**CHOLMONDELEY: Tomorrow, it could tumble down!**

**(BVs: Tomorrow it could tumble down)**

**MONTAGU**

**Exactly!**

**ALL: Let's live it up tonight! (Let's live it up tonight) Hey!**

*We cut to the submarine HMS Seraph, Jewell & Submariners*

*(NOTE: From now until the end of the act, we cut instantaneously between the club and the submarine, through use of lighting, sound and - of course - hats.)*

CHIEF WALKER (Bevan)

5 degrees down, keep 180 feet

DOUGLASS (Cholmondeley)

Captain, this cannister, sir?

JEWELL

You mean the weather equipment, Lieutenant.

DOUGLASS

Come on Captain, since when did we become underwater postmen?

JEWELL

We have our orders

*DEPTH CHARGE/siren noise*

JEWELL

What was that?

BOSON (Jean)

We've registered a depth charge sir

CHIEF WALKER  
Enemy sub incoming

DOUGLASS  
Change course, Captain?

*ANOTHER CHARGE*

DOUGLASS  
Captain?

*We are in a calypso club, **MAMA MARACAS!**, absolutely banging, silly*

**MONTAGU**

***It's your moment! Let's embrace it!  
Victory so close we can taste it!  
And some sweet release is what the people need!  
Trust me Charles, there's no point living  
If we cannot go down swinging!  
Drop your bombs, we're off to dance until we bleed!***

*We're outside a thumping club, **THE GARGOYLE CLUB** queuing for the exclusive VIP smoking area guarded by a bouncer. Ivor (Hester) and Hel (Jean) - glamorous, Russian - are already smoking.*

MONTAGU  
(to bouncer) EXCUSE ME!

***We made it! I'm meant to meet my brother here  
The great artiste owes me a beer  
(to Cholmondeley) He's broke, I don't know how his films get made***

**IVOR (to Hel)**  
***With my comrades overseas  
I find that money grows on trees  
Just sell a secret and you'll see that loose lips will get you paid.***

**MONTAGU**  
*Ivor!*

**IVOR**  
*Brother have you got something for me?*

**MONTAGU**

*This one will make us rich but its off the books*

**IVOR**

*Lets take a look*

**CHOLMONDELEY**

*Monty!*

**MONTAGU**

*Just keep it out of sight.*

**ALL**

***Charlie my boy grab each small flash of joy***

***There's disaster ahoy but tonight!***

*We head into the heart of the **CONCRETE MONKEY***

***ALL: Just for tonight we're the victors / CHOLMONDELEY: My plan won the war***

***ALL: Who've come to settle the fight / CHOLMONDELEY: I've socked Adolf on the jaw!***

***ALL: He is the man who tricked Hitler / CHOLMONDELEY: That's right***

***ALL: Tomorrow we will know the score, so everyone, let's live it up tonight!***

**DOUGLASS**

*Stay the course?! That's madness!*

**ANOTHER CHARGE**

**COXON (Montagu)**

*Maintaining 180 feet*

**DOUGLASS**

*We need to divert, we can't plough into a fight for the sake of some delivery job!*

**JEWELL**

*We don't have a choice*

**CHIEF WALKER**

*Sir?*

**JEWELL**

*We're under direct orders: head straight to Spain and surface*

**COXON**

*Surface?!*

**BOSON**

*What the hell is going on?*



*We are in CLUB PROPER, BANG BANG BANG*

**ALL:**

***We're the best, there's no defeating us  
Our charisma and our genius  
So drink up let's get delirious  
(Only for tonight) Hey, hey, hey, hey!  
Tomorrow we could die, but right now  
We're celebrating, taking a bow  
So raise a glass and shout it out loud  
(Just for tonight we are...)***

**DOUGLASS**

Well, he's the strangest weather equipment I've ever seen

**COXON**

And we're just supposed to leave him out there?

**JEWELL**

Those are our instructions.

**DOUGLASS**

Do we even know his name?

*Pause as they all look at Bill*

**CHIEF WALKER**

Ready to give the order, sir?

*JEWELL is still looking*

**JEWELL**

*(he snaps out of it)*

Aye. Float him out, close the main access hatch and then we'll dive. Thank you for your service, son.

*The sailors remove their hats out of respect and watch the body as it floats out to sea*

**JEWELL**

***If it's down, it's down together,  
ALL (joining one by one)  
If it's up, it's up as one  
So sail on boys, through stormy weather  
Soon the journey will be done***

***If it's down, it's down together, / CHOLMONDELEY: Just for tonight  
If it's up, it's up as one / CHOLMONDELEY: Just for tonight***

*So sail on boys, through stormy weather / CHOLMONDELEY: I will believe  
Soon the journey will be done / CHOLMONDELEY: That I was born to lead!*

*JEWELL: If it's down, it's down together / MONTAGU & OTHERS: Just for tonight we are  
heroes / CHOLMONDELEY: Some were born to follow*

*JEWELL: If it's up, it's up as one/ MONTAGU & OTHERS: who might have beaten the  
Reich / CHOLMONDELEY: But I was born to lead*

*JEWELL: So sail on boys, through stormy weather /MONTAGU & OTHERS: with a  
fantastical scheme and Charles*

*ALL: Tomorrow we'll make history*

*MONTAGU & CHOLMONDELEY: so let's live it up*

*ALL: Yes!*

*JEWELL: If it's down, it's down together / MONTAGU: Just for tonight we're the victors /  
CHOLMONDELEY: Some were born*

*ALL: Burning with destiny's light / CHOLMONDELEY: I was born to lead*

*JEWELL: So sail on boys, through stormy weather /MONTAGU: We're braving danger and  
death*

*ALL: And yes tomorrow we could all be gone, if a single thing goes wrong, for all we  
know we don't have long,*

*So fill em up, let's live it up tonight*

*BEVAN: Gentlemen, we have a problem*

*ALL: Live it up tonight!*

**BLACKOUT**

## ACT TWO

### SCENE 1: DAS UBERMENSCH

*A dark stage. An air raid siren sounds.*

*5 NAZI OFFICERS enter, swastikas, boots, the entire ensemble, ready to give the K-Pop inspired dance number of their lives.*

*The entire below song is done as a modern boy band track - seductive, exciting, both dangerous and utterly ludicrous.*

#### **SONG: DAS UBERMENSCH**

*(Reich on the mic)*

*(Air raid siren, huge bass)*

**Pre-record MC: People!**

**Aryan People!**

**You are about to witness the ASCENSION OF MAN.**

*(Reich on the mic. Thi-thi-third-third Reich on the mic)*

*(Reich on the mic. Thi-thi-third-third Reich on the mic)*

**NAZI 1 (Montagu): Girl, you know you got me looking at you**

**And you're looking just a little confused**

**With all of those opinions and conflicting views,**

**NAZI 2 (Hester): yeahhhh**

**NAZI 3 (Cholmondeley): Girl don't you wanna be like us?**

**(BV: like us)**

**No choice, no decisions, no fuss?**

**Take a dash of Fascism fill your cup it's great.**

**NAZI 2: Ooooh.**

**ALL: Slip off that democracy.**

**NAZI 2: Ooooh.**

**ALL: Let us take ze lead**

**NAZI 2: Oh. The less choice you have, the more you feel free.**

**NAZI 4 (Bevan): This is the Reich on the mic, the Ubermensch in ya brains**

**Adding adrenaline to the Aryan blood in your veins**

**NAZI 1: With our fascism fashion, yo we've got style for days**

**And you know ALL: Deutschland Uber Alles is our favourite phrase!**

**NAZI 5 (Jean): We are the future, society's engineers**

**Ridding Germany of vermin, we are pushing frontiers**

**NAZI 2: Now watch as every single enemy of truth disappears**

**NAZI 3: And did we mention that this Reich will last a**

**ALL: thousand yeeeeaaaars**

**ALL: Hands up for the Fuhrer, all night!**

**Goose step to the left, jump to the far right**

**ALL: It's the Reich! It's the Reich! And we're going all night**  
**ALL: Funf, vier, drei, zwei, eins (PRE-RECORD: BOOM GOES THE DYNAMITE)**

**ALL: Das Ubermensch. Das Ubermensch**

**ALL: We got that special intense kinda tension**  
**We'll climb so high you can't deny OUR ASCENSION**  
**We're taking Man to another dimension**  
**So right now you'd better stand to attention**

*The NAZI OFFICERS bring out TORCHES, waving them over the following*

**NAZI 2: Hands up: (NAZI 1: HANDS UP!)**  
**NAZI 2: Hands up: (NAZI 1: HANDS UP!)**  
**NAZI 2: Hands up: (NAZI 1: HANDS UP!)**  
**NAZI 2: Hands up (ALL: GET YOUR HANDS UP!)**  
**NAZI 2: Hands up: (NAZI 1: HANDS UP!)**  
**NAZI 2: Hands up: (NAZI 1: HANDS UP!)**  
**NAZI 2: Hands up: (NAZI 1: HANDS UP!) NAZI 4: Hey!**

*The track stops, as one of the NAZI OFFICERS shines his torch in an audience members' face.*  
*The others follow his lead, until all 5 menacing soldiers are silently taking in the audience member. The mood shifts entirely, from a parody boy-band song to a genuine reminder of what this uniform represents.*

*The torches snap off one by one as the NAZI OFFICERS decide to leave their chosen individual alone, for now at least. We launch back into the track.*

**Pre-record MC: Now watch me break it down -**  
**NAZI 1: Das Ubermensch on the path, ALL: We stunning!**  
**NAZI 3: You'll soon be under the Reich ALL: We running!**  
**NAZI 4: You think we're bad-ass? ALL: You ain't seen nothing!**  
**NAZI 2: Democracy, ALL: you won't see us coming!**

**ALL: Hands up for the Fuhrer, all night!**  
**Goose step to the left, jump to the far right**  
**ALL: It's the Reich! It's the Reich! You must bow to our might.**  
**ALL: Funf, vier, drei, zwei, eins BOOM GOES THE DYNAMITE!**

## SCENE 2: BEVAN'S UPDATE

*BEVAN stands alone, delivering the following as if presenting to a room of Generals*

BEVAN

Really? Whose side are you on? Now then. Gentleman, we have a problem.

### SONG: BEVAN'S UPDATE

**BEVAN:**

*We've just received an intercept of news from the Reich  
It seems that Hitler and his boys are getting ready to strike  
And if they trap us in Africa then our plans get scrapped  
So we need to get busy hitting Sicily stat  
The invasion date is set, we've got to prep, we've got to step up our  
Attempts to lessen pressure, eliminate the threat  
To find a way to get his men redeployed  
If we don't act soon our boys will be destroyed  
We have a plan in place to dodge defeat  
A bit of misinformation we call Operation Mincemeat  
(-) The plan is underway  
(-) The team are keen to say  
They're resolute we'll absolutely  
Get the good news any day*

*CHOLMONDELEY and MONTAGU enter. CHOLMODELEY looks harassed, MONTAGU seems  
as relaxed as ever*

**CHOLMONDELEY**

*Stressed? Of course I'm stressed!  
We don't know if they've found him yet  
Oh god, I'm feeling ill  
Monty, where the hell is Bill?*

**MONTAGU**

*Charles, relax, I'll see us through  
Or my name's not Ewen Montagu  
Charles you can trust me as you know*

*The three of them wait by a phone, as HESTER and BEVAN appear elsewhere*

HESTER  
Colonel Bevan

BEVAN  
Yes?

HESTER

Sir. I wanted to give you an update on the Montagu situation

BEVAN

Go on

HESTER

I've had word that he met up with his brother a few nights ago at the Gargoyle Club.

BEVAN

And?

HESTER

I wasn't there so I can't say for sure but...

BEVAN

But what?

HESTER

There appears to have been a few inconsistencies when it comes to filing, sir. The odd document appears to have gone walkabout.

BEVAN

What?

HESTER

I'm sure it's probably nothing.

BEVAN

If he's out passing around classified documents we need proof.

HESTER

Indeed.

BEVAN

Find a way to get close to Montagu, find out what's going on

HESTER

Sir I'm not sure I'm the right person for this kind of-

**BEVAN**

***You have your orders now go***

*HESTER AND BEVAN exit.*

**SCENE 3: WILLIE WATKINS**

CHOLMONDELEY

Monty - our man in Spain? What's his name again?

JEAN

Haselden

CHOLMONDELEY

Haselden. Yes. Right. And you're absolutely certain that he knows what he's meant to be doing?

*HASELDEN enters, dripping with sweat under the next line*

MONTAGU

Absolutely - old Haselden is a truly reliable- if bafflingly sweaty - man.

CHOLMONDELEY

But we should have heard by now. He's supposed to call us the second that body washes ashore in Huelva!

MONTAGU

Charlie I'm telling you, that clammy little beauty will be in touch any moment now.

*Haselden picks up the phone. Our London phone rings.*

MONTAGU

Fantastic stuff.

CHOLMONDELEY

(answers phone) Hello.

HASELDEN

This is Haselden here in Huelva calling for London.

CHOLMONDELEY

London receiving. It's him!

MONTAGU

Haselden - about bloody time, how is sunny Spain?

HASELDEN

*(sweating visibly)* It's hot, sir.

MONTAGU

Is that right. Is this a courtesy call or is there something you want to tell us?

HASELDEN

I'm afraid I've got some news sir.

MONTAGU

(to Cholmondeley) This is it! (to Haselden) Go on.

HASELDEN

An allied pilot has crashed, sir.

MONTAGU

Oh that is fantastic news!

HASELDEN

Just off the coast of Huelva, sir

MONTAGU

That is wonderful.

HASELDEN

Yes, he's just popped out for some sangria sir.

JEAN

Sangria?

MONTAGU

What do you mean sangria?

HASELDEN

So sorry, should have explained. Bit of red wine, bit of fizzy pop, dash of fruit. Very refreshing on a summer's day.

MONTAGU

No. Not the drink Haselden, the pilot! Isn't he dead?

HASELDEN

Oh it's worse than that sir. He's American.

**SONG: THE BALLAD OF WILLIE WATKINS**

**WILLIE**

***So I was up there flying high in style***

***Right over Spain***

***But then I feel something***

***There's a thudding***

***And then suddenly - WHAT??***

***Hot dog! The plane is stalling***



**Jeez Lousie! I think I'm falling  
And that big old ocean's calling out...  
But.....**

**CHOLMONDELEY**  
I've got a bad feeling about this

**WILLIE**  
***I, I got a good feeling!***

**HASELDEN**  
***An American pilot***

**WILLIE**  
***I'm feelin' good about this crash***

**HASELDEN**  
***He's crashed in Huelva***

**WILLIE**  
***Cos though drowning is not too appealing***

**HASELDEN**  
His name is Willie Watkins

**WILLIE**  
***I do so love to cause a great big splash***

**HASELDEN**  
And he's very loud

**CHOLMONDELEY**  
I've

**MONTAGU: Charles, wait -**

**CHOLMONDELEY:**  
***I've got a bad feeling***

**MONTAGU**  
***Keep it together***

**CHOLMONDELEY**  
***Our plan is going down the drain***

**MONTAGU**  
***It's a bump in the road***

**JEAN**  
***The Germans will be disbelieving***

**MONTAGU**  
***Keep breathing***

**CHOLMONDELEY**  
***When they hear two pilots crashed in neutral Spain***

**MONTAGU**  
***Pilots crash all the time, it's fine***

**WILLIE & MONTAGU**  
***(Oh) I feel fine and dandy***

**JEAN**  
*I think he needs a physician*

**MONTAGU**  
*Missions hit these snags all the time*

**CHOLMONDELEY**  
*It's a bad sign!*

**WILLIE**  
*Cos when your plane goes down and you can't see land  
You'll soon be lying on the sand  
So cut loose, ya goose!  
And keep on feeling fine!  
Skoo-ba-dee-deet-n-dat-n-doo-doo*

**MONTAGU**  
*Charles, please stop dry heaving*

**CHOLMONDELEY**  
*This could sink the mission*

**MONTAGU**  
*Well this is war, things never go quite to plan*

**WILLIE**  
**Ba-dow!**

**JEAN**  
Where the hell's our man?!

**HASELDEN**  
*Huelva for London*

**JEAN**  
*London receiving*

**WILLIE**  
*A skee-ba-doo-ba-doo-ba-dooby*

**HASELDEN**  
*Another pilot's washed up on the sand.  
And he's dead this time!*

**JEAN & CHOLMONDELEY / MONTAGU**  
Phew! / Yes!

**MONTAGU**

**See, Charles - the plan is working [like I knew it would]  
Bill's arrived, our efforts weren't in vain**

HASELDEN  
But they smell a rat!

MONTAGU & CHOLMONDELEY & JEAN  
What?

HASELDEN  
**Two planes crash in the very same spot  
They're chopping Bill open to see what's what!**  
A coroner's coming, the top man here in Spain

CHOLMONDELEY  
**Oh God**

WILLIE  
**Oh I**

MONTAGU  
**Charlie, it's fine**

WILLIE/MONTAGU  
**I've gotta good feeling**

CHOLMONDELEY  
An autopsy!

WILLIE  
**I'm feeling / good about this corpse**  
MONTAGU

**I'm feeling good about this corpse**

MONTAGU  
**Sure Bill's skin has slowly been peeling**

CHOLMONDELEY & WILLIE  
**Congealing.**

MONTAGU  
**But he'll be ruled a drowning, Spilsbury swore!**

CHOLMONDELEY  
[to Montagu] And you trust that man?

MONTAGU & WILLIE  
Of course!

WILLIE & MONTAGU  
**So what's the use in fretting?**

**CHOLMONDELEY & HASELDEN**  
**Oh God I'm sweating!**

**WILLIE & MONTAGU**  
***There's no telling what another day will bring!***

**CHOLMONDELEY & HASELDEN**  
**I need a drink!**

**WILLIE, CHOLMONDELEY, HASELDEN & MONTAGU**  
***For there could be a hole in the boat***  
***And who knows if you'll sink or you'll float***

**MONTAGU**  
***Nice***

**WILLIE**  
***Thanks***

**WILLIE & MONTAGU**  
***(But) everything will work out swell if we keep on feeling -***

**JEAN**  
Haselden, get to that autopsy and make sure they think he drowned!

**WILLIE & MONTAGU / HASELDEN & CHOLMONDELEY**  
***- Fiiiiiine! / Aaaaarrggghhhh***

**MONTAGU**  
Jean can you get some work done please?

**WILLIE**  
***Good night!***

**SCENE 4: SPILSBURY'S A NUT!**

CHOLMONDELEY

So let me get this straight. A different pilot has crash-landed

MONTAGU

Yes

CHOLMONDELEY

In the exact place we planned

MONTAGU

Yes

CHOLMONDELEY

On the exact date we planned

MONTAGU

Pretty much

CHOLMONDELEY

And he's also an Allied soldier?

MONTAGU

Yes

CHOLMONDELEY

And HE IS ALSO CALLED WILLIAM?!

MONTAGU

You really couldn't write it, could you?

CHOLMONDELEY

How? How can this possibly have happened?!

JEAN

OK, let's think logically, what can we do to help the situation?

CHOLMONDELEY

Yes

MONTAGU

Ooh, go for a lavish dinner and see what happens next?

JEAN

No, I meant, what else didn't we plan for?

CHOLMONDELEY

Oh god!

MONTAGU

Charlie, don't you worry, it's all going to plan!

CHOLMONDELEY

What if they realize Bill didn't drown?

JEAN

Our body is water-tight, right?

MONTAGU

Water-logged, but Spilsbury sorted the entire thing

JEAN

Did he ever give you his medical records?

MONTAGU

I'm sure they're in there somewhere.

JEAN

Let's look for them.

CHOLMONDELEY

Yes that might help, Monty, don't you think?

MONTAGU

Darling Jean, that is pointless

*HESTER enters*

HESTER

Excuse me gentlemen

MONTAGU

Hester, what a joy

HESTER

I was hoping to have a word with Mr Montagu

MONTAGU

It will have to wait unfortunately old girl. Jean, let us head out in time for happy hour.

JEAN

Oh, that's OK

MONTAGU

But we must Jean, remember our country demands it!

JEAN

But... why?

MONTAGU

Why what?

JEAN

Well, we don't need any more receipts? Bill's gone. The restaurants and stuff... we don't need to do that anymore?

MONTAGU

Well, no we don't need to but we can still-

JEAN

I think we should carry on working

CHOLMONDELEY

Yes, absolutely.

MONTAGU

Sorry, working on what exactly?

CHOLMONDELEY

On making sure we haven't done anything wrong!

MONTAGU

We are the finest minds in England! We don't make stupid mistakes!

*BEVAN enters*

BEVAN

You've made a stupid mistake!

CHOLMONDELEY

What?

MONTAGU

Hello Johnny, yes it's not ideal there'll be an inquest into the body, but -

BEVAN

What?

MONTAGU

Haselden's got the whole thing all under control!

BEVAN

There's going to be an inquest now?

MONTAGU

Well, yes, I thought that was what you were... What are you talking about?

BEVAN

Then it's even worse than I thought.

CHOLMONDELEY

What is? What's going on?

BEVAN

It's in all the papers. You really haven't heard?

MONTAGU

Heard what?

**SONG: SPILSBURY REPRISE**

**COCKNEY 2** (*Jean*): *It's still London!*

**COCKNEY 1** (*Cholmondeley*): *We're still cockneys!*

**COCKNEY 3** (*Montagu*): *But we've got new information!*

**COCKNEYS**: *Spilsbury, remember Bernard Spilsbury?*

**MICHAEL UMBRELLA** (*Bevan*): *..No*

**COCKNEYS**: *There's been a slight alteration in his reputation,*

**COCKNEY 2**: *The nation's irate*

**COCKNEY 3**: *I'm quite upset.*

**COCKNEY 1**: *He spits out errors*

**COCKNEY 3**: *He pukes up lies*

**COCKNEYS**: *He's the kind of conman we despise*

*It's Spilsbury, Spilsbury, that phoney Bernard Spilsbury!*

**SPILSBURY**: *I thought I knew everything about bodies (BV: Spilsbury)*

*My fall from grace has taken me by surprise (BV: that conman Spilsbury)*

*So what I used to bluff (COCKNEY 1: Disgrace)*

*When I didn't know my stuff (COCKNEY 2: That face!)*

**ALL**: *But now the scales have fallen from our eyes*

*SPANISH MORGUE. HASELDEN is joined by a Spanish coroner DR POBIL*

HASELDEN



Ok Hasleden old boy, you can do this. You can do this. Just make sure they think he drowned. Make sure. They think. He drowned. Under no circumstances whatsoever can you let on that this is all a load of - Buenas dias, Doctor!

POBIL

Ah. Senor Haselden si?

HASELDEN

Yes from the British consulate. Lovely to-

POBIL

I have my initial findings from the autopsy of William Martin?

HASELDEN

Oh yes William. What a nice, believable name.

POBIL

There are some strange things about this body that I don't quite understand

HASELDEN

Oh good!

POBIL

There are no broken bones - which is strange for a man crash landing into the sea.

HASELDEN

Well the, the... the sea is famously soft, so...

POBIL

And there is no sign of bleeding.

HASELDEN

He's British. We hate to make a fuss.

POBIL

And the skin shows a strange yellowish discolouring which I have only seen in cases of poison-

HASELDEN

It's make-up! Isn't it. Kids today, eh? It's a different world!

POBIL

Yes, but I do think a toxicology report should be requested -

HASELDEN

Erm...You know, I am actually getting a bit parched. If we could just hurry this up and register a drowning. Sangria?!

POBIL  
Sangria?

HASELDEN  
Bit of red wine, bit of fizzy pop, why has no-one heard of it!

POBIL  
It just doesn't look like a normal drowning

***SPILSBURY: I used to be revered by everybody (BV: Spilsbury!)  
But it turns out that I am a fraud (BV: Sir Bernard Spilsbury!)  
My character's under fire,***

***COCKNEY 3: he's a scoundrel***

***COCKNEY 1: and a liar!***

***ALL: And everything he says should be ignored***

*All 5 spin back round again to transform back into MONTAGU, CHOLMONDELEY, JEAN,  
HESTER and BEVAN. Ta da.*

MONTAGU  
And he seemed like such a good guy.

BEVAN  
We need to get that briefcase back, I cannot have our invasion exposed because you trusted  
the opinion of a fraud.

MONTAGU  
Wait, hang on -

BEVAN  
Cholomondeley, start the communications now.

CHOLMONDELEY  
Erm, yes sir -

MONTAGU  
You're not seriously suggesting we stop this entire -

BEVAN  
Who was our corpse?

MONTAGU  
What do you mean?

BEVAN  
You know what I mean, how did our corpse actually die?

CHOLMONDELEY

He was poisoned

BEVAN

So they do a full autopsy and that comes out -

MONTAGU

It won't!

BEVAN

It will shine a light on the entire deception.

MONTAGU

You're overreacting

BEVAN

We need to check his medical information.

MONTAGU

Whose?!

BEVAN

The dead man we've thrown in the ocean Montagu! If Spilsbury's assessment can't be trusted  
we need to know there's nothing in that body that goes against our story

MONTAGU

There isn't

BEVAN

Not that I'm not reassured by your medical opinion, Montagu, but I'd rather have a professional  
take a look. Get me the medical records.

MONTAGU

John for god's sake

BEVAN

Now, Lieutenant Commander

MONTAGU

Well I... can't, so

*Beat*

BEVAN

Why not?

MONTAGU

Because, we-

BEVAN

We have the family's consent, don't we, we have his medical records?

MONTAGU

There weren't any medical records

BEVAN

There weren't any records?

MONTAGU

Look he was a tramp from the streets. Spilsbury found him-

BEVAN

So we don't have legal permission to use this body?

MONTAGU

No, but-

BEVAN

We didn't find his family-

MONTAGU

What if they'd have said no?

BEVAN

Then we wouldn't have done this!

MONTAGU

Yes, exactly!

BEVAN

Montagu!

MONTAGU

It's better this way, alright, no paperwork tracing him, no-body is looking for him

BEVAN

Oh and how do you know that?!

MONTAGU

Because he doesn't matter!

BEVAN

I'm shutting you down. This entire operation is out of control

MONTAGU

It's called a calculated risk, Johnny, you might have heard of it, it is in fact our job

BEVAN

It's called negligence, Montagu, and you know it

**RAP: I CALL ABORT**

**BEVAN:**

***[-] I can't believe that I believed you when you promised me***

***[-] That you'd behave if I gave you autonomy***

***[-] I base decisions on the facts not your hypotheses,***

***The evidence is telling us this isn't time to stand at ease.***

***You lack documentation, you have no substantiation,***

***it's a total speculation with the future of our nation.***

***You're trusting in a nutjob***

***You met at daddy's yacht club***

***Endangering our boys who are just about to gear up.***

***[-] Your planning's far too slack,***

***[-] Sir Bernard is a quack,***

***Last resort, I call abort,***

***You need to get that briefcase back.***

MONTAGU

John, we do not need to stop -

BEVAN

Instruct your man in Huelva to recover the briefcase.

MONTAGU

John, this is crazy, we-

BEVAN

You have your orders.

MONTAGU

John...!

*BEVAN exits, followed by JEAN and HESTER. MONTAGU and CHOLMONDELEY are left, aghast. MONTAGU can barely make eye contact with his friend. Who's in control here?*

CHOLMONDELEY

Monty, what are we going to-

MONTAGU

*(he'll never concede)*

You heard what the man said. Get Haselden on the line.

*MONTAGU storms out, leaving JEAN to pick up the phone and start dialling.*

JEAN

(on phone) London for Huelva? Haselden?...Haselden? Where could he be?

**SCENE 5: THE BRIEFCASE**

*We cut back to the autopsy in Spain, with HASELDEN and DR POBIL*

HASELDEN

Alright then Haselden old boy, you can do this, you can do this. Just make sure the Spanish take the briefcase. Make sure. They take. The briefcase. You can't let his majesty down again. Not again. Not after Helsinki.

POBIL

Ah Senor Haselden, here again?

HASELDEN

Who doesn't love the morgue on a hot Spanish day?

POBIL

You are a diligent man, Senor. Now, when it comes to William Martin's effects

HASELDEN

Yes

POBIL

We have a wallet, with a lot of receipts.

HASELDEN

Sounds authentic

POBIL

and... this briefcase

*POBIL reveals Bill's briefcase, HASELDEN does his best not to react. His best isn't great.*

HASELDEN

Oh. A briefcase.

*STEVE (Jean), a jovial assistant enters, clutching a phone*

STEVE

Excuse me, Mr Haselden? Sorry to interrupt but there's an urgent phone call for you from London

HASELDEN

Can you just tell them I'll call them back Steve?

STEVE

Alright then

HASELDEN  
Alright then!

*STEVE exits*

POBIL  
Now, I know I'm supposed to run this through official channels but technically this is British property and I would hate for it to, how you say, fall into the wrong hands. So perhaps you would just like to...take it now?

HASELDEN  
Hmm?

*Steve enters, on the phone*

STEVE  
Sir? London are still on the line, they say it's very pressing.

HASELDEN  
Can you tell them I know my instructions, I'm dealing with it Steve!

STEVE  
Alright then

HASELDEN  
Look doctor, this briefcase has been recovered by the Spanish government, so I don't think that I could...

POBIL  
Yes, but to put it delicately, Mr Hasdelden, it contains some documents which look rather...importante.

HASELDEN  
*(feigning ignorance, badly)* Does it?

POBIL  
Yes. And I'm pretty sure the British Government would want to keep these away from any German spies.

HASELDEN  
Who can say what the British really want?

STEVE  
The British really want to speak to you. They said something about a briefcase?

HASELDEN  
Can you tell them I know my instructions, I'm dealing with it Steve!



*Hasleden tries to give Pobil briefcase, gives him the phone instead, fans himself with his hat*

POBIL  
(into phone) Hola?

HASELDEN  
Look Doctor, we're all friends here aren't we? And if there's one thing everyone knows about friends, it's that they keep hold of each other's briefcases -

*Notices he's given Pobil the phone base, grabs the briefcase from Steve and offers it to Pobil.*

...so if you could just take this back we'll get out of your hair-

*Juan (Montagu) enters, carrying another telephone*

JUAN  
Hola

HASELDEN  
Oh no

POBIL  
Hola Juan

HASELDEN  
Oh cripes

JUAN  
El telefono

POBIL  
El telefono? Tengo el telefono!

Juan  
El... otro... telefono. Es Londres.

POBIL  
Londres?

HASELDEN  
Londres?

STEVE  
London.

HASELDEN  
London?!

*Pobil takes the receiver of the second phone*

POBIL  
Hola London!

HASELDEN  
That'll be for me!

POBIL  
Que.

*Haselden takes the second phone receiver*

HASELDEN  
Hello London, everything's ship-shape, tip-top, hold please!

*Haselden passes the receiver to Steve, tries to give Pobil the briefcase but Pobil's hands are full*

HASELDEN  
Oop, no room at the inn! *(fans himself w Steve's hat)*

STEVE  
Gosh it's complex isn't it?

POBIL  
No, no, no es complicado

HASELDEN  
*(passing the briefcase to Pobil)* No no, easy as pie, all done. Well thank goodness that's figured out. *(as Juan goes to leave with the briefcase)*

POBIL  
*(calling Juan back)* No no no!

HASELDEN  
No thanks to you, Steve!

POBIL  
Para los Ingleses!

*Haselden takes the hat from Pobil's hand*

HASELDEN

Oo thanks very much! *(he puts Steve's hat on Pobil's head, takes one receiver from Steve)*  
Hello London, all under control *(swaps receivers)* Like I said, no need to panic, all under control  
- *(the briefcase passes back to Steve)* NO! Stephen, you absolute menace, bring that back!

*The two pairs have lines simultaneously:*

STEVE POBIL  
(laughing) It really is complex isn't it! No entiendo que pasa con este hombre!

*The two pairs turn and laugh at each other then turn back*

HASELDEN / JUAN  
(stressed) Steve will you get it together (laughing) no entiendo que esta  
for once in your life! pasando!  
POBIL  
Los ingles son locos.

*They turn and laugh again*

POBIL  
(*laughing, bewildered*) Please just take the briefcase senor!

HASELDEN  
(*laugh-crying*) Believe me Doctor I wish I could!

STEVE  
(*laughing*) It really couldn't get more complex!

*JOSE (Hester) enters carrying a birthday cake.*

JOSE  
(singing) Cumpleanos feliz, cumpleanos feliz...

*Everyone except Haselden enjoys the celebration.*

HASELDEN  
No! Absolutely not! Many happy returns, but GET OUT!

*JOSE exits, sad*

HASELDEN  
ALRIGHT!! Hats on! (*puts his hat back on, everyone else does the same - he means business*)  
Now I hate to be a STUFFY **SUSAN**, but if I'm not **mistaken** according to

(yanks Juan back into the group) section **5** (hangs up phone) paragraph **8** (hangs up other phone) of **international** (Pobil and Juan try to leave) **military** (pulled back) **law**, (land Bundle 1) neutral countries such as **Spain** (out of bundle - wrong item) recovering any (into Bundle 2) items in their **territory** (out of bundle - wrong items) must keep **hold** (into Bundle 3 - things are swapped) of said items, and **not** (out of bundle 3 - holy shit, he's done it!) give them back, no matter what.

*They do a final hat swap.*

POBIL

Alright then, Mr Haselden. You are an extremely honourable, if bafflingly sweaty man, Adios Senor. Juan.

*Haselden breathes an enormous sigh of relief.*

HASELDEN

Haselden, you absolute smasher, you really pulled it out of the bag with that one eh Steve. Boy oh boy, are London going to be proud of you.

### **SONG: HASELDEN'S GOT A GOOD FEELING**

***HASELDEN: I, I got a good feeling!  
I'm keeping this whole plan on track!  
I've got some good news to report***

*CHOLONDELEY and MONTAGU have entered, on the phone back in London*

***CHOLMONDELEY: Haselden, urgent, mission abort!***

***HASELDEN...what?***

***CHOLMONDELEY: Everything will work out fine, we just need that briefcase back!***

***HASELDEN:.....well there might be a slight issue with that.***

*HASELDEN exits, looking crestfallen.*

**SCENE 6: THE BLOODY TEA**

*In London, CHOLMONDELEY puts the phone down. MONTAGU looks*

MONTAGU  
Well?

CHOLMONDELEY  
We're too late - they've already taken it

MONTAGU  
*(gleeful)* Yes! Thank God for that

CHOLMONDELEY  
Bevan's going to be furious!

MONTAGU  
He can be as furious as he likes, it's happening, he's just going to have to bend over and-

*BEVAN and HESTER enter, neither of them in any mood for nonsense*

MONTAGU  
Johnny!

BEVAN  
Tell me

CHOLMONDELEY  
I'm sorry Sir. It's already with the Spanish Government

MONTAGU  
Shame your cross little speech earlier wasn't a bit shorter, or we might have got there in time

BEVAN  
You're on thin ice Montagu. There's really no way to retrieve it?

CHOLMONDELEY  
I am so sorry, sir.

MONTAGU  
Stop apologising Charles, the plan is working! Just a few more days-

BEVAN  
We don't have a few more days, tens of thousands of our men – and not just our men – Americans, Canadians, every democratic nation in this war are waiting to invade Sicily

MONTAGU

The Germans will leave that island John, we're going to clear the path - trust me, it'll be more like a beach holiday than a-

BEVAN  
These men's lives are not a joke!

MONTAGU  
I-

BEVAN  
I want daily reports from now on. Let me know if anything changes.

MONTAGU  
God!!

*BEVAN exits. CHOLMONDELEY is visibly upset*

CHOLMONDELEY  
Oh God! What have we done?

MONTAGU  
We're alright

CHOLMONDELEY  
Monty - what have we done??

MONTAGU  
You're alright Charles!

*HESTER rolls her eyes. JEAN enters*

JEAN  
Did we get the briefcase back?

HESTER  
We did not

JEAN  
Oh God

HESTER  
But luckily Mr Montagu has absolute faith

MONTAGU  
Well somebody has to! For goodness sake, we've had one tiny set back, and you've all got faces like the sky is caving in.

JEAN

*(gently scolding, is it a joke or isn't it?)*

But Hester was right about the body, you can't deny that

*Beat*

MONTAGU

What?

JEAN

Just... when she said we should have known who the body was... that's... what Colonel Bevan meant, right?

*The mood shifts. MONTAGU is obviously taken aback by JEAN's frankness, and both HESTER and CHOLMONDELEY can see that it was the wrong thing to say*

MONTAGU

*(carefully)* Oh right. Well, thank you for clearing that up

HESTER

*(warningly)* Alright Jean, back to work

JEAN

No, I just... mean...

MONTAGU

No no, it's... good actually, having my job explained to me by... by the girl from the typing pool

JEAN

I'm only trying to help

MONTAGU

Help! Sweetheart, you said it yourself! The dinners, the drinks, it's all done!

JEAN

But I didn't mean to -

MONTAGU

We've had a lot of fun, but I think it's about time we all got back to our real jobs so. Thank you for everything Miss Leslie. I'm sure there's a lot of filing to be done.

CHOLMONDELEY

Monty.....

MONTAGU

Mmhmm.

*Pause. He bottles it.*

CHOLMONDELEY  
We need to hurry.

MONTAGU  
Yes

CHOLMONDELEY  
We've not long until it'll be too late for the Germans to move their troops before our boys invade!

MONTAGU  
Absolutely Charlie

CHOLMONDELEY  
So we need all hands on deck!

MONTAGU  
Of course we do

JEAN  
What can I do?

MONTAGU  
Right now, Jean, best thing would be... a cup of tea

*Beat.*

JEAN  
But you said that I was-

MONTAGU  
What?

*She looks at Charles. He doesn't - can't? - do anything*

JEAN  
OK

MONTAGU  
Thank you so much. Ok Charlie, plan is back on. Hester, I need you too, you've had donkeys years with the embassy, and of course there's that sparkling charm of yours

HESTER



Yes Sir

*MONTAGU and CHOLMONDELEY exit.*

JEAN

Can he... just do that?

HESTER

He can

JEAN

But it's not fair

HESTER

No

JEAN

So what, I'm back to being the girl who makes the tea?

HESTER

You're still here Jean, and as long as you're here, you-

JEAN

What's the point in being here if I'm not doing something that's actually useful. God, I should never have opened my stupid mouth, you were right, I always have to... push things

HESTER

Yes, I can see that's quite clear

JEAN

But I just wanted to...(she gestures to the effect of "shake things up", before giving up) How do you do it, how do you keep quiet when they're all so...urgh.

HESTER

There's more than one way of getting things done, Miss Leslie.

*Beat*

And it all helps. Even the tea.

JEAN

I know. I just can't help wanting to... make noise, you know?

HESTER

I do.

*They look at each other. Beat. Something undeniably funny occurs to her*

JEAN  
Do you want to know the saddest part?

HESTER  
Alright

JEAN  
I imagined the medals

HESTER  
...I'm sorry?

**SONG: USEFUL**

**JEAN**  
*I imagined the medals they'd give me when this was all through*

HESTER  
You imagined the...?

**JEAN**  
*Medals, I know*

HESTER  
Right

**JEAN**  
*And then Winston goes*

HESTER  
Winston Churchill?

**JEAN**  
*"We'd be lost without you"*

HESTER  
Right, and where is this?

**JEAN**  
*the palace*

HESTER  
Oh of course

**JEAN**  
*And I'd bow and salute, the king knows we're the reason we've won*

HESTER  
Oh the King's there is he?

**JEAN**  
*And there's so many medals*

***And the crowds they'd assemble and demand to hear just what we've done***

HESTER

And Mr Churchill says...

JEAN

*He says -*

*Yes, it's all true, though you'd never believe it*

*They did what they could do, and though you'd never see it*

*They worked and they prayed and it wasn't in vain*

*They knew pain could be strength and that strength could be pain*

*They forced enemy forces to fly*

*They banished the planes from the sky!*

*And they did something useful*

HESTER

Well I look forward to the radio broadcast

JEAN

What about you?

HESTER

What about me?

JEAN

What's the dream scenario?

HESTER

Miss Leslie

JEAN

How about a statue?

HESTER

For goodness sake

JEAN

'Here lies Hester Leggett'

HESTER

Oh good, I'm dead

JEAN

What is wrong with me?!

**HESTER**

***Perhaps just a small plaque***

**JEAN**  
*Go on*

**HESTER**  
*Something tasteful and small*

**JEAN**  
*Of course*

**HESTER**  
*Nothing over the top, people don't stand and stop*

**JEAN**  
*Cos just one look, and their tears start to fall*

**HESTER**  
*Oh Lord*

**JEAN**  
*I can see it, with flowers, pride of place in a garden*

**HESTER**  
*A garden?*

**JEAN**  
*Or a grand royal park*

**HESTER**  
*Ah thank you*

**JEAN**  
*And it's silver*

**HESTER**  
*Gold*

**JEAN**  
*Gold, and it shines*

**HESTER**  
*Or dazzles?*

**JEAN**  
*Boldly! And they'll see you did more than your part!*

**HESTER**

***"For Hester, who served her nation"***

**JEAN**

**Yes!**

***A timeless inspiration!***

**HESTER**

Jean!

**JEAN**

You are!

**JEAN**

***And they'll say it's all true, though you'd never believe it  
She did what she could do, and though you'd never see it  
She worked and she prayed and it wasn't in vain  
She knew pain could be strength and that strength could be pain  
She forced enemy forces to fly  
She banished the planes from the sky!  
And she did something useful.***

**HESTER**

Yes, we've done good work.

**JEAN**

***And you can't ask the people who can do all of that  
To just go home and pace through the rooms of a flat  
Feeling she's travelled right back to the start  
Stuck at home with her mother  
Feeling useless and smothering  
the light that kept out the dark***

**JEAN**

I hate that he just sees me as some... silly little woman

*Beat*

**HESTER**

That might be exactly what we need

**JEAN**

What?

**HESTER**

Jean, this can go no further but... we think there's something strange going on between Montagu and his brother

**JEAN**

What do you mean?

HESTER

It's possible he's passing government secrets to our enemies. Until he drops his guard and starts talking, we can't know

JEAN

He's not going to talk to me, he hates me, I'm the last person he'd talk to!

HESTER

There's more than one way of getting things done Miss Leslie. You might be the ideal candidate.

JEAN

Wait, so you think that if I went up to him, apologised profusely, told him he was right all along, that I'm a pointless little fool and could I buy him lots of drinks and ask him lots of personal questions and you're absolutely right, that will definitely work

HESTER

Indeed.

*Beat*

HESTER

You can do this, Jean. And... we need you to.

JEAN

OK.

HESTER

Even if dear Winston never finds out about it.

*Beat. Jean is excited*

**JEAN**

***So you're saying... no medals?***

**HESTER**

***No medals***

**JEAN**

***No statues, no plaques, no flowers for Hester and Jean?***

**HESTER**

***I don't think that it's people like you or me***

***That the crowds come to see.***

***And if there's one thing I know***

***It's that I'm no good with things that need help to grow***

**JEAN**

*I'm afraid I disagree  
You've done a pretty good job with me*

HESTER  
Thank you

JEAN  
Thank you

**JEAN**

*I think that when people meet in the middle of a war  
It feels like it means something more.*

**JEAN & HESTER:** *So who needs a medal, it's this that we'll keep fighting for*

**JEAN**

*That we'll keep fighting for!*

**HESTER:** *And yes it was true, though they'd never believe it*

*[JEAN: They'll say it's all true, they'll never believe it]*

**HESTER:** *We did all we could do, and if they'd never see it,*

*[JEAN: We did what we do, and they'll never see it]*

**HESTER:** *We worked and we prayed and it wasn't in vain*

*[JEAN: And we'll keep on going]*

**HESTER:** *We knew pain could be strength and that strength could be pain*

*[JEAN: even though they'll never know we]*

**BOTH:** *forced all their forces to fly!*

*We banished their planes from the sky!*

*And they'll see that we were useful*

*And if they don't, we'll know we're useful*

*What matters is that we do something useful.*

HESTER  
Back to work Miss Leslie

JEAN  
Yes Ma'am

**SCENE 7: ACT AS IF**

*MONTAGU and CHOLMONDELEY storm in, ready for business, phone in hand*

MONTAGU

OK Charlie that briefcase is safely stuck in Spain, now we just need to get it to the darling  
Fuhrer.

CHOLMONDELEY

Yes but how do we do that?

MONTAGU

Unfortunately Charlie, there is quite literally only one man for the job.

*CHOLMONDELEY is dialling, HASELDEN appears, phone in hand*

HASELDEN

Haselden here.

CHOLMONDELEY

Yes, hello Haselden, we need you to put the word out that we need that briefcase back.

HASELDEN

Yes I know, I'm sorry I failed you Sir but rest assured, I will get that briefcase back this time.

CHOLMONDELEY

No Haselden wait -

HASELDEN

No matter what!

CHOLMONDELEY

Haselden, hang on / I don't mean for

HASELDEN

Come hell or high water, I will not rest until that briefcase is back from the Spanish and in British  
hands!

MONTAGU

*(Grabbing phone)* Haselden, we DO NOT want that briefcase back!

HASELDEN

What?

MONTAGU

Absolutely imperative you do not retrieve it!



HASELDEN  
What?!

MONTAGU  
You just need to make it look like you want it back, so the Germans start sniffing around and try  
and get it for themselves

HASELDEN  
Look, I love a puzzle as much as the next man -

MONTAGU  
Mmhmm

HASELDEN  
I live for my Sunday sudokus

MONTAGU  
That's great

HASELDEN  
but I have to admit I am struggling here.

MONTAGU  
*(rolling his eyes at Charles)* it really is quite simple Haselden. You just need to lie

HASELDEN  
*(like it's a bafflingly new idea)* Lie!

MONTAGU  
Okie dokie.

HASELDEN  
Right!

MONTAGU  
Lovely to chat

HASELDEN  
And um-

MONTAGU  
Oh my god!

HASELDEN  
If they don't believe me?

MONTAGU

Then lie harder man! After all, you're a genius.

**SONG: ACT AS IF**

**MONTAGU (on the phone)** You **just** need to  
**Be** more **deceiving**, Make them **believe** that **whatever** is in the  
**Files** has the **British** scared, the **British** worried, The **British** doing our  
**Best** to hurry to **get** those files back, or the **Germans** have us **beat**  
 That that **briefcase** holds the **key** to a British defeat.

***MONTAGU: Act as if you do when you don't***

**HASELDEN: What?**

**CHOLMONDELEY:** *Act as if you will when you won't*

**HASELDEN:** *I don't follow...*

**MONTAGU/CHOLMONDELEY:** *We'll win, sure enough, with the old double bluff  
Just act as if you do when you don't*

**MONTAGU:** *Oh god, what an idiot!*

**CHOLMONDELEY:** *Monty!*

**MONTAGU:** I mean really,

*It's not that bloody complex, the man's a complete fool*

**CHOLMONDELEY:** *You just called him a genius*

**MONTAGU:** Yes I lied. He's just a tool.

*And for tools to get moving, then falsehood's the fuel,*

*For when you need a moron to tackle a task,*

*You call him a genius and he'll do what you ask*

***During the following we see Cholmondeley and Montagu in one location, Haselden sidles up to a Mysterious Stranger in Spain. Haselden is twitchy and nervous, and very obviously lying.***

**MONTAGU, CHOLMONDELEY, JEAN & HESTER:** *Act as if you do when you don't*

**HASELDEN** [to stranger] *Some files have gone astray*

**MONTAGU, CHOLMONDELEY, JEAN & HESTER:** *Act as if you will when you won't*

**HASELDEN** [to stranger] *We need em back without delay*

**MONTAGU:** *It may sound dramatic but*

**MONTAGU/CHOLMONDELEY:** at least they'll think we're panicked

***ALL: Act as if you do when you don't***

**MONTAGU:**

***Right well I'm off***

**CHOLMONDELEY**

***Erm should you really be taking that?***

**MONTAGU**

## Why shouldn't I?

**CHOLMONDELEY**

*Well secrecy, procedure, unless I'm very much mistaken that's the rules!*

**MONTAGU:**

*Charles the rules are but a trifling inconvenience, and they don't apply to us, you should know, you're a genius*

**CHOLMONDELEY:**

*Gasp!*

**MONTAGU**

*Anyway must dash, Jean awaits me at the Ritz, but can you check if the sweatiest spy in Spain is out fooling Fritz?*

**HASELDEN:** *I don't suppose you've heard all those rumours flying around about a briefcase full of secrets from a pilot wot drowned?*

*Well I might know where it is in a mortuary down town.*

*I just hope nobody takes it.*

**MYSTERIOUS STRANGER (Hester):** *Was?*

**HASELDEN:** *I said I hope nobody takes it.*

**MYSTERIOUS STRANGER (Chomondeley):** *Was?*

**HASELDEN:** *I said I hope nobody takes it coz the Brits don't want it found.*

**MONTY:** *Jean!*

*Lights up on a different location Monty and Jean are in a bar enjoying a cocktail*

**JEAN:** *Monty. Hear, hear*

**MONTAGU:** *You agree?*

**JEAN:** *Course I do, you've got it quite right. It's not insane to say our brightest brains should have free rein to do as they like*

**MONTAGU:** *Exactly!*

**JEAN:** *You're a maverick, you mustn't be held down. Now,*

*Spill the beans. Tell me your dreams. - Shall we get another round?*

**MONTAGU:** *I've probably had enough*

**JEAN:** *No! You've been under such strain! So let's loosen up*

**MONTAGU:** *and booze it up.*

**MONTAGU & JEAN:** *We need more champagne*

**CHOLMONDELEY:** *We need more time*

**MONTAGU/JEAN:** *We need more booze*

**MONTAGU:** *More wine*

**CHOLMONDELEY:** *More time*

**CHOLMONDELEY / JEAN / MONTAGU / HESTER:** *We just need some*

**HASELDEN: NEWS!**

*I'm at the German Ambassador's Ball*

**Others:** *FALALALALAAAA*

**HASELDEN:** *D'you mind, I'm on a call?? It's the talk of the whole dancefloor.*

*It's happened! The thing we planned for! The Germans have taken the briefcase!*

**ALL (apart from Haslenden): YES**

*MONTAGU: Right now Activate our spies in Berlin*

*HESTER: I'll brief the embassy*

*MONTAGU: They took the bait, now let's reel them in / CHOLMONDELEY: Yes / JEAN: I'll call the ministry*

*CHOLMONDELEY: But Adolf must believe it*

*MONTAGU: Oh Charlie he'll believe it*

*ALL (except Bevan): Let them believe it!*

***We are in the offices, Bevan, Montagu and Charles looking stony-faced***

**BEVAN: Cholmondeley.**

**CHOLMONDELEY Sir**

**BEVAN: Montagu**

**MONTAGU: Johnny boy**

**BEVAN: what's the news?**

**CHOLMONDELEY: Well the briefcase has gone to Berlin for review**

**MONTAGU: So the top brass have seen it**

**CHOLMONDELEY: Are they moving their troops?**

**BEVAN: NO.**

**MONTAGU: What the deuce?**

**BEVAN: If they've had it for days and there's been no movement we have to conclude they've worked out it's a ruse**

**CHOLMONDELEY: Oh god!**

**MONTAGU: They don't have a clue Jon, our work was pristine**

**BEVAN: Well there's only one other option, they've been told our whole scheme**

**CHOLMONDELEY: What?**

**BEVAN: Either they've worked it out or there's a leak in your team.**

*(spoken) So tell me, Is there a leak in your team?*

**MONTAGU: No of course not**

**CHOLMONDELEY: ...No**

**BEVAN: Well in that case**

**I'd probably start *praying if I were you***

**Because if *all* of this *fails* then it's *down* to you *two***

**ALL:**

*Act as if you*

*Act as*

*Act as if*

*Act as if you do when you*

MONTAGU  
*(slips out, panicked)*  
Don't do that Charles!

CHOLMONDELEY  
What are you talking about Monty?

MONTAGU  
That...that buzzing around me, all the time.

CHOLMONDELEY  
I just wanted to -

MONTAGU  
I know what you want, you want some reassurance from Father, but I've been reassuring you for months now and frankly I've got more important things-

CHOLMONDELEY  
Monty, what if they don't believe what's in the briefcase? Or what if there is -

MONTAGU  
Charlie I don't know! I don't know. What do you think I can...? Father's tired, alright.

*MONTAGU takes a suspicious looking file from the desk and makes to leave.*

CHOLMONDELEY  
What is that?

MONTAGU  
It's nothing.

CHOLMONDELEY  
But that shouldn't leave the office-

MONTAGU  
You do trust me, don't you Charles?

**BEVAN/HESTER/JEAN:** *Act as if you do when you don't*

**CHOLMONDELEY:** *Of course*

**BEVAN/HESTER/JEAN:** *Act as if you will when you won't*

**MONTAGU:** *There's a good man*

**HESTER/JEAN:** *The British are scared, The British are worried, The British are doing their Best to hurry [Jean repeats underneath following]*

*The following builds to a (truly fantastic) climax*

**BEVAN:** *There's still every chance this could fail*

**HESTER:** *Some files are missing sir*

**BEVAN:** *If you're wrong*

**HESTER:** *Where have they gone?*

**BEVAN:** *The invasion's derailed.*

**BEVAN/HESTER:** *So I'd probably start praying if I were you*

**BEVAN/HESTER:** *Because if all of this fails then it's down to you two*

**ALL:** *Act as if you do when you don't*

**CHOLMONDELEY/JEAN/HESTER:** *Please god, we need this*

**ALL:** *Act as if you will when you won't*

**CHOLMONDELEY/JEAN/HESTER:** *Let them believe it*

**ALL:** *Soldiers die if we don't lie so*

**ALL:** *Act as if you do*

*Act as if you do when you*

*Act as if you do when you don't*

*Act as if you do when you don't*

*Act as if you will when you won't*

*Act as if you will when you won't*

**BEVAN/CHOLMONDELEY:** *Oh god, I can't stand it. It's not going to plan*

**MONTAGU/JEAN/HESTER:** *There's so much at stake when you're making a man*

**ALL:** *Disaster awaits if they see through our sham*

*So act as if you do*

*Act as if you do*

*Act as if you do*

*Act as if you do*

*Act as if you do when you don't*

**SCENE 8: JEAN CONFRONTS CHARLES**

CHOLMONDELEY

Monty I- Monty?

*Charles realises the room is empty then sees Monty's briefcase left on the desk. He stares at it, then, checking the coast is clear, heads over to the desk.*

*Beat.*

*He makes up his mind - he's gonna open it, goddamn it!! Just as his fingers touch it, Jean bursts in.*

JEAN

Charles, I was just heading out, do you need-

*Charles jumps out of his skin, hiding the briefcase behind his back.*

CHOLMONDELEY

What? No? I wasn't! What?...Hello!

JEAN

Are you alright?

CHOLMONDELEY

What?

JEAN

You jumped!

CHOLMONDELEY

Yes! Just...practising

JEAN

Practising...jumping

CHOLMONDELEY

Absolutely, you never know!

JEAN

Right, very true. Can't stay, Monty and I are trying out a new restaurant, lots of figs, apparently figs are very in.

CHOLMONDELEY

Well at least you'll both be regular

JEAN  
You're standing weird

CHOLMONDELEY  
No I'm not

JEAN  
Yes you are

CHOLMONDELEY  
No. This is just how I stand

JEAN  
Wait, what's... (she gestures to him)

CHOLMONDELEY  
Nothing

JEAN (pointing)  
Is that a bee?

CHOLMONDELEY  
Oh god they found me.

*Charles turns round, showing the briefcase, which she immediately grabs*

JEAN  
This is... Monty's briefcase

CHOLMONDELEY  
Is it...? Oh well I didn't... what a pickle.

JEAN  
Charles, why are you hiding Monty's briefcase?

CHOLMONDELEY  
I don't! I'm not... we'll just put it back

*He grabs the handle, but Jean doesn't let go. They hold the briefcase between them and stare at one another.*

JEAN  
Or we could... open it

CHOLMONDELEY  
We can't



JEAN  
Why not?

CHOLMONDELEY  
*(taking briefcase back)*  
Jean, an Englishman does not *peep* at another man's briefcase. What next, put his trousers on?  
Climb into bed with his wife?!

JEAN  
You *know*, don't you?

CHOLMONDELEY  
Know what?

JEAN  
You know that he steals things

CHOLMONDELEY  
No I don't

JEAN  
You know he's been talking to his brother

CHOLMONDELEY  
*(genuinely confused)*  
His brother?! What's his brother got to do with anything-

JEAN  
His brother, Ivor, the communist spy!

CHOLMONDELEY  
The.... the what?

JEAN  
Charles, did you see Monty give him anything from this office

CHOLMONDELEY  
Give...him...

JEAN  
If he's passing secret files to our enemies-

CHOLMONDELEY  
Now, hang on

JEAN

- we have to tell Bevan, I've been trying to watch him, but-

CHOLMONDELEY  
This is ridiculous-

JEAN  
Charles, answer the question

CHOLMONDELEY  
Monty would never do anything like that

JEAN  
Charles!

CHOLMONDELEY  
Of course not! We have fascists bashing down our door Jean and you want to start a row about some missing files!

JEAN  
We are following someone we don't know that we can trust!

CHOLMONDELEY  
I trust him!

*Charles heads back to the desk*

JEAN  
Look, I know that this is scary. But... if people like us just blindly follow orders, the fascists won't need to bash the door down Charles, they'll have already won  
*Beat*

CHOLMONDELEY  
Well, I suppose we could just -

*Charles opens the briefcase, just as HESTER bangs through the door holding a menu. Charles jumps.*

HESTER  
Jean-

CHOLMONDELEY  
Jesus Christ

HESTER  
Is this menu exclusively figs?

JEAN  
Hester, Charles knows

CHOLMONDELEY  
Jean!

HESTER  
Knows what?

CHOLMONDELEY  
I have never known anything in my entire life

JEAN  
About the brother

HESTER  
The brother!

CHOLMONDELEY  
Look, he was a nice guy, we had a few drinks

JEAN  
You *met* the brother?!

HESTER  
What happened, Charles?

CHOLMONDELEY  
I don't... I

HESTER  
Charles, it is imperative that you tell us the absolute truth, right now

CHOLMONDELEY  
I just... I

*MONTAGU bashes in. CHARLES leaps into the air.*

MONTAGU  
BRING ME YOUR FIGS- bloody hell, Charles that was a good jump!

CHOLMONDELEY  
Thank you

MONTAGU  
You been practising?

CHOLMONDELEY  
A little

MONTAGU  
Jean sweetheart, better be off. Hester! Menu, fantastic! Figs ahoy, we will certainly both be regular.

*Beat*

Why do you all look weird? There's my bloody briefcase, hand it over Charlie

*A silence, stillness. Jean looks at Charles. Charles is absolutely frozen.*

MONTAGU  
Charlie?

CHOLMONDELEY  
I'm thinking

MONTAGU  
Think faster please my little genius, places to -

CHOLMONDELEY  
STOP CALLING ME A GENIUS!

*Beat*

MONTAGU  
What is the matter with you? *(he realises what's happening)* Look, I'm sorry about before, I was being an ass- and sorry about the father thing, bit weird - but you can't hang onto my property. Charlie?

*Beat.*

*Charles opens the briefcase, Monty chases him round the desk. As he goes, Charles grabs a file from the briefcase, hides it behind his back and throws the case back on the desk. Monty goes for the case, as Charles backs off to the other side of the stage*

MONTAGU  
What the hell's next? Are you going to climb in bed with my WIFE?

*Charles reveals the file in his hands. Monty sees it. The mood suddenly shifts.*

MONTAGU  
Wait that's my... Give that back. I am your senior officer Charles, just give it back.

*Beat*

CHOLMONDELEY

I saw you, Monty. That night at the Gargoyle club. I saw you give this to your brother

JEAN

I knew it!

HESTER

My God

MONTAGU

My private files are none of your damn business.

CHOLMONDELEY

I thought we were a team

MONTAGU

Of course we're a team

CHOLMONDELEY

Then how could you do this?!

MONTAGU

I am issuing you an order, Lieutenant! Charlie, you can trust me, alright, just give it back.

Charlie...Charlie?

*Monty goes to grab the file, but Charles crosses behind Hester and Jean, secretly passing Hester the file as he goes. Hester crosses to the desk, whilst Jean distracts Monty by pretending to have the file behind her back. Charles and Hester hurry to the desk, as Jean joins them, leaving Monty alone on the other side of the stage. Charles opens the file at a random page and reads.*

CHOLMONDELEY

"Exterior: night. A handsome man steps out from the shadows accompanied by a tall, lolloping sidekick. Ewen Montagu is as rugged as he is brave, and as the camera pans it reveals his exceptional physique"?

*Beat. Charles, Hester and Jean turn as one to look at Monty in disbelief.*

MONTAGU

He sounds like a nice man.

CHOLMONDELEY

It's...

MONTAGU

It's a first draft, you can't judge it on-

JEAN

What is it?

CHOLMONDELEY

It's a film script

HESTER

What?

MONTAGU

Look, it's a little bit early

CHOLMONDELEY

"Operation Mincemeat: a tale of bravery"

MONTAGU

When this thing triumphs, people will want to hear this story.

JEAN

Oh my God

CHOLMONDELEY

Wait, lolloping sidekick, who's the lolloping sidekick??

MONTAGU

Doesn't really matter about that. The point is we can't let this story fade into the background!

HESTER

That's exactly what we have to, that's the job

MONTAGU

But it's inspiring!

JEAN

Not if it doesn't work!

CHOLMONDELEY *(suddenly realising)*

Oh my god! Your brother

MONTAGU

Yes

CHOLMONDELEY  
The film-maker!

MONTAGU  
Well yes, you know the artist's eye, I wanted to get a bit of feedback, I didn't go into any details obviously, it's all very rough.

CHOLMONDELEY  
This is a terrible idea!

MONTAGU  
It's not that bad

CHOLMONDELEY  
What could possibly be worse than turning this, all of this, into a film?!

MONTAGU  
At least it's not a bloody musical.

HESTER  
Where are the files, Montagu?

MONTAGU  
I've been archiving them for research. What did you think, that I was shuttling them to Adolf at every tea-break?

HESTER  
Charles, thank you for bringing this to our attention

MONTAGU  
I was careful, alright?

CHOLMONDELEY  
I thought... you were... risking this mission because you were a double-agent

MONTAGU  
What?!

CHOLMONDELEY  
But instead...you are risking this mission Monty

MONTAGU  
Only in a very small-

CHOLMONDELEY  
But because... you're an amateur film-maker!

MONTAGU  
*(as abashed as he's ever going to get)*  
Well.. I mean... that's better, isn't it?

CHOLMONDELEY  
...Is it?

*Pause*

*BEVAN ENTERS*

BEVAN  
Oh good, you're all here

HESTER  
Colonel Bevan

BEVAN  
Just a second, Hester

HESTER  
Sir, some news has emerged

MONTAGU  
No it hasn't, for God's sake

*A beat, he is clearly just about containing something, he looks at them*

BEVAN  
We've just had word.  
Hitler is moving troops out of Sicily

*beat*

JEAN  
What?

BEVAN  
A lot of troops

CHOLMONDELEY  
He's...

BEVAN  
According to Bletchley, 90,000 of his men are currently leaving Sicily and headed straight for-



MONTAGU  
Sardinia

BEVAN  
Yes

JEAN  
Oh my God

HESTER  
Oh my God

MONTAGU  
Wait, wait, wait was it us? Did we do it - we didn't do it- or we did - we didn't- did we, or ?

BEVAN  
At this point it's almost impossible to say exactly who or what-

MONTAGU  
Oh my God, he's almost smiling!

BEVAN  
There are a lot of factors at play....

MONTAGU  
But did we do it Johnny? Did we do it?

BEVAN  
... We did it

*They explode!*

MONTAGU  
I KNEW IT!

BEVAN  
As much as I hate to admit it, Montagu-

MONTAGU  
I'm a genius!

JEAN  
We actually did it.

CHOLMONDELEY  
I can't believe this

HESTER  
I need a gin

MONTAGU  
What do we know, Johnny, what do we know??

BEVAN  
Well we know the Fuhrer himself insisted on the drastic redeployment of troops.

HESTER  
God, that's

MONTAGU/JEAN/CHOLMONDELEY  
Brilliant.

*(underscore starts)*

BEVAN  
After receiving secret documents, from the body of a drowned British pilot  
which revealed the full extent of the Allied invasion plans.

MONTAGU/JEAN/CHOLMONDELEY/HESTER  
God that's brilliant.

BEVAN  
Which means Sicily is ours for the taking.

MONTAGU  
Oh my God

BEVAN  
Charles, congratulations.

CHOLMONDELEY  
Thank you, sir

BEVAN  
Everyone in fact

MONTAGU  
Charlie! My little genius! Fathers never been prouder

CHOLMONDELEY  
*(he is still unsure what to make of this man now)*  
Er, yes, thank you Monty

MONTAGU

And will someone get this woman a gin!

HESTER  
Please!

MONTAGU  
Drinks all round!

**SONG: FINALE**

**CHOLMONDELEY** - I can't believe they bought it

**MONTAGU** - Oh, Charlie, don't complain. It seems our Bill succeeded on his little trip to Spain

**CHOLMONDELEY** - But we gambled so much on it. My god, are we insane?  
We bet the whole war on a stolen corpse

**MONTAGU** - Quite right. Where's that champagne?

**CHOLMONDELEY** - Monty, our men could have been massacred if we did not succeed

**MONTAGU** - Look Charlie some were born to folloooooow

**CHOLMONDELEY** - DON'T YOU SAY IT

*(Making a man tune)*

**MONTAGU** - Listen here, my good man. We're going to be heroes!

So who gives a damn if we broke a few rules

Hitler fell for our sham, and we've nothing to fear, so

Come celebrate how we played the Nazis for fools

**CHOLMONDELEY** - But what happens then?? Our gamble was crazy

When people find out...

**MONTAGU** - Charles, the people will cheer for the marvellous men and dependable ladies  
They'll talk about Operation Mincemeat for years.

MONTAGU  
Wait and see, Charles

BEVAN

Yes Mr Churchill Sir, I'm pleased to report that the allied invasion of Sicily was a success.

**BEVAN**

*You see, - Adolf believed all the **lies** that we spread*

*Using a **dead** man's **documents** we **turned** his head*

*We forced their **forces** to fly - so when our boys arrived*

*There was **minimal** resistance, the **majority** survived*

*On **both** sides, - the lack of **loss** was spectacular*

*And Operation Mincemeat avoided a massacre.*

*So Montagu and Cholmondeley for saving our nation*

*I'm **awarding** them the highest **military** commendations*

MONTAGU  
You see, Charles?

*Cos when you write the book.*                      **[BEVAN: I never doubted them]**  
*My boy you're off the hook*                      **[BEVAN: My best and boldest men]**

***ALL: The lies get hidden, sins forgiven.***  
***All your misdeeds fade from vision***  
***When you write the book you're off the hook!***

CHOLMONDELEY  
Wait, wait, wait. That's it, that's the moral?

MONTAGU  
Yes it is.

CHOLMONDELEY  
What? "So long as you're in charge you can do whatever you like, forever"?

MONTAGU  
Ahhh.

HESTER  
We can't end it like that.

JEAN  
Yes, what about all the stuff that happened after?

BEVAN  
True

HESTER  
Ooh I believe they call it... A glitzy finale

CHOLMONDELEY  
A glitzy finale?

HESTER  
A glitzy finale

CHOLMONDELEY  
We have our orders.

MONTAGU  
Let's go!

**MONTAGU**

*So, Step one, thinking caps on,  
Then toss 'em in the air cos the war was won,  
The Nazis retreated, evil defeated,  
It's really quite surprising that you're still all seated  
Let's celebrate that we won in the end,  
With a little help from our American friends  
So don't begrudge it, let's blow the budget  
Willie, take us home!*

*WILLIE enters, flanked by his SHOWGIRLS*

**WILLIE (the chorus BV):**

*I, I got a good feeling (Girls: USA!)  
I'm feeling good about this war (Girls: We came and saved the day!)  
Sure Fascism sure took a beating  
But that ain't no reason for them to feel sore (Nazis: La da da!)  
Yes you have been defeated - Look at these guys!  
They're losers but they just don't mind  
Cos when the chips are down and you've lost your way  
There's a home for you in the USA  
So don't mope ya dopes,  
Cos we're all feeling fine!*

**NAZIS: Make America Great Again!**

**WILLIE**

Ha ha. Hot damn! Darn tootin! Life's pretty swell now we've all stopped shootin'. But look, here's a letter from that sweaty feller. So off to Huelva we go!

*Segue Haselden says bye to Willie*

**HASELDEN:**

*Oh life is tough in sleepy Spain  
Where we have chosen to remain  
With a platter of tapas and croquet in the sun! [STEVE: It's a nightmare sir]  
HASELDEN: Well if we're feeling hot,*

*STEVE: who needs a beer?*

*POBIL: A bit of wine and fizzy pop*

*HASELDEN: What's that?*

*ALL (PLUS CHORUS?) : Sangria!*

*BOTH: We're not going back, well fancy that,*

*STEVE: We're immigrants!*

*HASELDEN: No. We're British.*

*STEVE & HASELDEN: We're expats*

**HASELDEN**

I wonder what's going on in England?

**COCKNEY 3 (Montagu): Back to London!**

**SHOESHINE BOY (Hester): It's the future!**

**COCKNEY 1 (Cholmondeley): But these are the only hats we've got**

**COCKNEY 2 (Jean): Oi!**

**COCKNEYS & SHOESHINE BOY: Would you know, this Fleming fella  
Has gone and written yet another hot best-seller**

**FLEMING:**

**So he's wearing a shiny tuxedo**

**COCKNEYS: Wow!**

**And then he shoots a baddie with his big gun**

**COCKNEYS: Kapow!**

**Martini good sir?**

**COCKNEY 1: Make it shaken not stirred!**

**Then he snogs a sexy lady**

**ALL: with full tongue!**

**COCKNEY 3: My word he's a genius!**

**COCKNEY 1: The best writer since Jesus!**

**ALL: God that's brilliant,**

**FLEMING: But listen to this -**

**SHOESHINE BOY (Hester)**  
**Ha'penny for me guvnor?**

**ALL**  
**What century are you in?**

**SHOESHINE BOY**  
**Yay!**

**FLEMING**  
**Listen up boys, here's a lesson on being useful**

*Throughout the following, JEAN is passes files to her MI5 WORKERS*

**JEAN**

**Now that I have proved I'll fight for my nation**

**I'm here with a clear declaration:**

**We're saving the day**

**So keep your earl grey**

**Cos sarge you're in charge of your own hydration**

**Yes the fight will not end here**

**But we will shout our message clear:**

***We make our own luck  
We never give up  
Got a taste of this life and right now we do not give a-***

HESTER  
Miss Leslie! Language!

JEAN  
Sorry Ma'am! (about Bevan) He's here, go

HESTER  
Colonel Bevan.

BEVAN  
Hester. Sorry I'm late.

HESTER  
That's ok Sir. The briefing doesn't start until two.

BEVAN  
My new girl she's not...well, she's not you.

HESTER  
Thank you, sir. Actually Sir, I asked your new girl to put something in your calendar this week

BEVAN  
Of course, what is it?

HESTER  
It's... dinner.

BEVAN  
With...?

HESTER  
Me. I thought it about time.

BEVAN  
Well I... very good. Carry on.

**JEAN/HESTER/MERYL/CHERYL:**  
**All the ladies, on your marks get set.**  
**Take this world for all you can get.**  
**We're making a change and we're not finished yet.**  
**Now the coast is clear and it's time to move on up**

**ALL:** But what about Monty?

**MOVIE CHORUS 1: Lights!**

**ALL:** Move on up

**MOVIE CHORUS 2: Camera!**

**ALL:** Move on up

**MOVIE CHORUS 1: Action!**

**ALL:** Move on up, move on up, move on up

*MONTAGU appears in the most ostentatious way possible, in full Union Jack glitz, backed by the MOVIE CHORUS. Full throttle glitzy finale vibes abound.*

**MONTAGU**

*I'll tell the story of our perfect body [BV: Oooh Monty!]*

*Now I'm going down in history [BV: Ooh Monty, you're so clever!]*

*People through the ages, [BV: Brave]*

*On silver screens and stages, [BV: So brave]*

*They'll see my genius clinched our victory because*

**CHORUS**

*Just for tonight you've watched heroes!*

*Who taught the world how to win [JEAN: We taught the world how to win]*

*So let the champagne and cheese flow*

*Cos its*

*All down to one man*

*It's thanks to his great plan*

*That is when England decided to make him our King!*

*MONTAGU, now crowned and sceptred, flies into the air.*

**HESTER: ALL HAIL THE KING!**

**MONTAGU**

Here ye, here ye!

*He suddenly drops halfway to the floor.*

**MONTAGU**

Mummy, no! Well this is very unfortunate – Is the sign ok. As long as the sign's ok. CUT!

**MONTAGU**

Ok I don't know whose fault this is...Deborah...but you all look pretty silly right about now. RESET please, we will go for another take immediately. We're making a movie here people, except for Deborah who's making a pig's ear of everything she touches but can't be helped.

Right, where oh where is the actor playing Cholmondeley?



*Monty sees Michael Umbrella.*

MONTAGU

Oh there he is. Sorry, remind me of your name.

TUB

Tub.

MONTAGU

Tub?

TUB

Yeah it's a name.

MONTAGU

It's a beautiful name, Tub. Now Tub wonderful stuff you're doing there but on the next take I will need more abject adoration

TUB

Ah Christ man, all these tiny specific notes! If you want such an accurate replication why don't you just get the real guy to do it himself, huh?

MONTAGU

What, you mean Charlie?

*TUB magically transforms into real CHOLMONDELEY*

CHOLMONDELEY

Absolutely not, Monty, I don't want any part of this film of yours

*He transforms back*

MONTAGU

He wasn't quite right for the part in the end

TUB

The part of... himself?

MONTAGU

Exactly, not believable.

TUB

Right. What's he doing instead?

*MONTAGU shrugs.*

*TUB more slowly transforms into the real CHOLMONDELEY. He looks at MONTAGU then the audience.*

**CHOLMONDELEY:**

*I'm afraid I cannot tell you what I went on to do [Monty: Who knows?]*

*Cos where I go is need to know, I won't give one clue [Monty: Back to me!]*

**CHOLMONDELEY:** *So don't ask me to tell you, it's classified*

**MONTAGU:** *Soon praises will be due*

**CHOLMONDELEY:** *So you won't hear my name or what I became*

**MONTAGU:** *To Ewen Montagu,*

*Cos when the clever clogs are the captains, we're certain to succeed,*

*For some were born to follow*

**CHOLMONDELEY:** *Every inch forward, must be discreet*

**MONTAGU:** *But we were born to lead,*

**CHOLMONDELEY:** *You may not see us*

**MONTAGU:** *We are the masters*

**CHOLMONDELEY:** *Behind the scenes*

**MONTAGU:** *We are the clever men who hold the reins*

**CHOLMONDELEY:** *We work*

**MONTAGU** *We win!*

**CHOLMONDELEY:** *But not for fame*

**MONTAGU:** *You'll see*

**CHOLMONDELEY:** *We do our duty*

**MONTAGU:** *Forever after*

**CHOLMONDELEY:** *Without a fuss*

**BOTH:** *And when this war is done and fades to dust*

**MONTAGU:** *History will remember us*

**CHOLMONDELEY:** *We made a change and that's enough*

**CHOLMONDELEY:** *No one needs to know*

**MONTAGU:** *The world needs to know know*

**BOTH:** *How we were*

**ALL:** *Making a man, making a hero*

*Quick as we can, the nation's in need*

*Of a marvellous man, a dependable dreamboat*

*A shining example of what humans can be,*

*Making a man*

*All five on stage, we all look at Bevan, who is more than ready to wrap this whole thing up*

BEVAN

And that's about it, Sir. Who was he? Who was who? Oh the man who... wasn't Major Bill Martin? Now that the mission is a success, I doubt anyone will ever really need to know.

HESTER

But luckily, Montagu's stolen files were the starting point to solve one final mystery.

CHOLMONDELEY  
His name was...Glyndwr Michael

**CHOLMONDELEY**

***A gardener come from Cardiff to London (JEAN: out of desperation)  
Born on the wrong side of the tracks (BEVAN: a life lived on the line)  
No family left to mourn him or wonder (HESTER: just a lonely soul)  
What happened when he fell through the cracks (MONTAGU: a man of no renown)***

*During the following, the 'characters' are gently shed, and the rest is performed just as the five actors themselves.*

**CHOLMONDELEY**

***The history books are sure men like Bill Martin won this fight  
But to forget the ones behind him, well, it never seemed quite right  
Though it took 50 years to get it  
And a government to let it  
In Huelva a memorial now stands,  
Looking out across the sea, upon the sands  
It reads:***

*From here,*

ACTOR PLAYING JEAN (as themselves)  
*"For Glyndwr Michael;*

ACTOR PLAYING HESTER (as themselves)  
*Who Served as Major William Martin*

ACTOR PLAYING CHOLMONDELEY (as themselves)  
*The man who never was"*

***CHOLMONDELEY ACTOR: If it's it down, it's down together  
CHOLMONDELEY ACTOR & MONTAGU ACTOR: If it's up, it's up as one  
CHOLMONDELEY, MONTAGU & BEVAN ACTORS: So sail on boys through stormy  
weather  
ALL: Soon the journey will be done***

***If it's it down, it's down together  
If it's up, it's up as one  
So sail on boys through stormy weather***

*A moment of purest stillness and glory as we all look out unto the night together!!!*

***Soon the journey will be done!***

**BLACKOUT**

**THE END**