

Porterhouse / Stanley

RUN FOR YOUR WIFE

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PORTERHOUSE. (*Chuckling.*) With them having so much in common though.

BARBARA. Don't tell me, bullocks!

PORTERHOUSE. Beg pardon?

JOHN. (*Pulls her back to bedroom door. Hastily.*) I'll be with you in a moment, darling. Less than five minutes.

BARBARA. And in that time perhaps you could resolve your future relationship with Stanley.

(*The above remark leaves Porterhouse confused as BARBARA exits into bedroom. JOHN looks round to Porterhouse.*)

PORTERHOUSE. (*To Stanley.*) His relationship with Stanley?

STANLEY. (*Confused.*) It's quite easy to explain.

JOHN. (*Quickly, to Porterhouse.*) Mrs. Smith and I were suggesting to the other Mr. Smith (*HE indicates Stanley.*) that he may care to have "Little Stanley" fostered with us here.

(*PORTERHOUSE looks at Stanley. STANLEY closes his eyes in anguish, moves to the chair DL and sits.*)

PORTERHOUSE. (*To John.*) Fostered?

JOHN. (*Hoarsely.*) Just a suggestion.

PORTERHOUSE. (*To Stanley.*) Are things as bad as that at home?

STANLEY. And getting worse!

PORTERHOUSE. (*To John.*) It might be the best thing for the little lad.

JOHN. (*To Porterhouse.*) Yes, I'll see you out.

PORTERHOUSE. (*Moving.*) Right.

*(Barbara's front DOORBELL goes. JOHN stops Porterhouse from moving.)*

JOHN. On second thoughts—I'm sure you'd like a cup of tea, Sergeant. *(Moves Porterhouse to L. end of settee.)*

PORTERHOUSE. Tea?

JOHN. *(Moves to door URC as HE speaks the following:)* Mr. Smith, why don't you take the Sergeant into the kitchen and put the kettle on while I open the front door and *(Becoming slightly hysterical.)* deal with whoever it may be. *(Exits into hall URC.)*

PORTERHOUSE. *(To Stanley.)* Cup of tea would go down very nice, actually sir.

STANLEY. *(Opens kitchen door.)* After you, Sergeant.

PORTERHOUSE. *(Moves into doorway.)* Rightio. *(To Stanley.)* We'll have a good old chat over a cuppa. You tell me all about your problems with little Stanley. *(Exits into kitchen DL.)*

STANLEY. *(Thinking of John—to himself.)* "Little Stanley" is likely to get arrested for bloody murder!

*(STANLEY exits into kitchen DL. JOHN returns from the hall URC in a state of shock. HE thinks for a moment and then hurries to the kitchen door and opens it.)*

JOHN. *(Calling urgently.)* Stanley!

STANLEY. *(Appears in kitchen doorway. Growling.)* Stanley's at bloody school!

*(STANLEY disappears. JOHN's face remains blank HE considers this.)*

JOHN. *(Calling, lightly.)* Stanley's father. Mr. Smith!

STANLEY. *(Appears. Curtly.)* What is it?