BEA & NICK #1 (-1-)

SCENE 4: INT. NICK AND BEA'S FLAT

Nick's wife BEATRICE ("Bea") is at the sink doing dishes as Nick enters.

BEA

<HUMMMING...>

NICK

Hello, Bea darling...

He gives her a warm hug and a kiss.

NICK

Mmmm. Smells delicious. What is it?

BEA

(over her shoulder)

I'm boiling your underwear. Trust me, you don't want that.

Nick, who was about to take a sip off a spoon, pours it back in.

BEA

It would have been soup but just as I was going to market the landlord turned up demanding the rent -

Nick has just ladled himself a cup of water from a wooden bucket.

BEA

...which means we couldn't afford the well rights so I got river water.

Nick pours the water back in. Bea vomits into a bucket.

NICK

And now you're sick. That does it. We're dipping into the savings.

Nick goes to the SMALL WOODEN CHEST on the mantelpiece...

BEA

NO!!

She practically dives across the room and puts herself between him and the wooden chest.

BEA (CONT'D)

We agreed, Nicky, we <u>never</u> take money out of here! <u>Ever</u>! This money is for the country home where we can raise a family up proper. Now, I know things are tight, but that's why I was thinking I should get a part-time job.

NICK

A job?

BEA
I'd be a hell of a lot more convincing than those little boys pretending to be women. Couldn't you see me as Richard's French Queen?
(thick French accent)
"I hate ziss English cooking! Je' voudrais un croissant, du camembert, vive la France -- hee-haw-hee-haw!"

NICK
I have no idea what you just said. And you know it's illegal to put women on stage.

NIGEL
And also our play's been cancelled.

NICK
Not *cancelled, Nige*. That's such a negative way to put it. I mean, yes, we are no longer doing Richard the 2nd but only because we've come up with... something *better*.

BEA
Oooh, what is it?

NICK
Can't say. Don't want to jinx it.
(holding her, comforting her)
But, I'm telling you, Bea -- it's gonna be a hit, and I'm gonna get you outta this dump and into that country home - and everything's gonna be *great*.

BEA
Oh, I can't wait. (she hugs him) See, I knew you'd come through. Even though everyone says you're rubbish, I don't listen.

NICK
Aww, that's swee-- wait, what? Who says I'm rubbish?

BEA
Oh, nobody important. The butcher, the neighbors, my parents. But...

NICK
Your parents?

END

BEA & NICK #2

Nick turns and bumps into a man who is hurrying across stage carrying a burlap sack (it's Bea).

NICK
Oh! Sorry, sir.

BEA (LOW VOICE)
No worries, mate... just somethin' we men do, bump into each other and what not...

She's about to continue on when...

NICK
Bea? Not this again...

BEA
Had you for a minute, didn't I?

NICK
What are you doing? I <u>told</u> you to cut this out!

BEA
I know, but they were looking for good strong men to break down the stage and haul the wood away.

Bea vomits into her burlap sack.

NICK
You're still sick?

BEA
Actually, I was gonna tell you about that when you got home. You know how I've having these wild mood swings?

NICK
No.

BEA
YES YOU DO! - I TOLD YOU ABOUT THEM!!!
(feeling her stomach)
Well, there's a reason for it.

NICK
Oh God, you've got the plague.

BEA
No. I'm *pregnant*.

NICK
You <u>sure</u> it's not the plague?

BEA
No! Isn't it wonderful?

She hugs him.