

*ADVICE a 10 minute play 2023*

4 characters

Vera - older woman - married to Bert

Bert - older man - married to Vera

Kim - late teenage girl

Phil - man in early 20's - fancies Kim

Stage set - very simple - one side is a café table and two chairs and the other side is a bar leaner - no background required - lights fade from one side to the other depending on who is talking - others stay on stage

Curtain opens to the men at the bar leaner having a beer

Phil - Bert, how do you know what woman are talking about - it's all a mystery to me?

Bert - (shaking his head sadly) Well its like this mate - you can't. You think you do, you think you have nailed it then - na mate, it all turns to custard.

Phil - And here was me thinking that when I was as old as you I would have all the answers.

Bert - Na mate its not an age thing - I tell you - just the other night me and the misses had a pleasant evening and I thought - well you know what I thought ( leering suggestively) up those stairs for a bit of .....

Lights out and then lights on ladies side

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Vera - slap and tickle he was after - no romance at all - I tell ya - what I wouldn't give for a bit of romance - you know - candle lit dinner at some fancy restaurant - me in my posh frock and Bert smiling at me and hanging on to my every word - like I was someone important - like his bookie or his mates at the pub.

Kim - that's the sort of evening out Phil and I have - its beautiful (sighs ) we will never end up like you two.

Vera - Ha !! thats what I thought 40 years ago - he would wine and dine me, bring me flowers for no particular reason and gaze into my eyes when he spoke to me, open the car door for me - all that lovely stuff ( wipes a tear from her eyes)

Kim - and now - how bad has it got?

Vera - well now days he thinks making an effort for me is putting his teeth in before he talks to me.....

Lights out and up on mens side

Bert - conjugal delights - that's what I thought would happen - hell I even put my teeth in so we could talk for a while - you know to warm her up a bit.

Phil - wow no effort then - and here was me coming to you for advice on how to stay happily married for 40 odd years - maybe I should be giving you advice - you know - how to spice things up a bit

Bert - no mate - I like my food plain - meat and 3 veg - that's what I want Vera to cook

Phil - not food spice - you silly old bugger - romance spice!!!!

Bert - what do I need to romance her for now?? I did that 40 years ago and we have had a good life together, the kids are off our hands and we own the house outright - no mortgage, bit of spare cash for me at the bookies and the pub, we are doing alright.

Phil - come one man - wake up - romance Vera once in a while - you will be happy with the results I can guarantee you.

Bert - do ya recon? She wouldn't laugh at me - do you think I am not too old to make an effort for her again? You know there is no fool like an old fool.

Phil - mate - you invite her out to a flash restaurant and give her a night to wear her posh frock and make sure you tidy yourself up a bit - keep your teeth in all night - trim your nose hair and the ear hair too - clean your finger nails as well.

Bert - aawwe really??

Phil - yes really - and clean the car and really let her see how much effort you are making - bet you its home run hARRY at your house that night.

Bert is scowling as the lights go off and on to the ladies side

Ladies change of cardy and or scarf

Kim - well vera I havnt see you in a week or so - and look at the state of that smile - did you win the lottery and not tell me?

Vera - was better than wining the lotto let me tell you - my Bert found romance again and I mean romance with a capital R.

Kim - ooohh come on you - spill the beans.

Vera - well early last week Bert came home one evening and said that he would like to take me out for a "date" (fingers in the air like speech marks) And I was to get my posh frock cleaned and book into the hair dresser and we would go out for a meal in this flash restaurant. Do you know he even trimmed his nose and air hair - took years off him it did. He cleaned the car as well. !!

Kim - bugger me - that's sound like he is made so much effort. Wow I am impressed.

Vera - so was I - he treated me like royalty - held the car door open for me and opened the door at the restaurant and held it open for me instead of barging in front of me to get in first - hell he even complimented me on looking so nice. We talked and laughed through out the whole evening and didn't drink so much so he could drive home. Was like our dates when we were courting - oohhh it took me back a few years I can tell ya.

Kim - sounds like a wonderful evening - and when you got home???

Lights down on ladies up on men

Men are leaning on the bar with a beer each - change of shirt each

Bert is grinning from ear to ear - drinks his beer and wipes his mouth on the back of his hand.

Phil - well you look like the cat who got the canary mate - took my advice did you ??

Bert -that I did mate - and bless you for the advice - I can pick my nose better now that I trimmed all that hair from my nose and can pick at my ears better now too. (laughs his head off)

Phil - come on mate - what about your "date night"( holds his hands up to indicate speech marks)

Bert (grinning again) - worked a treat mate - held the car door open for her and held the restaurant door for her as well - told her she looked as beautiful as ever and actually we had a lovely time - I even held back on the grog so I could drive her home, it felt so much like our courting days I almost drove her home to her parents house ( both men laugh)

We got back to our place, parked in the garage and thought I would give her a little kiss or two before we got out of the car - well that was great but her leg somehow let the hand brake off and the car rolled back and dented the garage roller door. By this time I had my hand down the front of her dress so I didn't even get angry.....so we got out of the car and made our way upstairs holding hands.

Phil - come on man - don't keep me waiting - what next?

Bert - were you listen at the window? - that's what she said

Both men laugh together

Phil - mate - come on

Bert - well to tell the truth we were puffing a bit by the time we got to the top of the stairs so while we caught our breath I slipped a little blue pill in my mouth ( had them handy see) and kissed her again and again and

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Lights down on men and up on ladies

Vera - I was fair swooning at all the passion and couldn't wait to get my knickers off and tripped in my hurry and by the time I'd fallen on the bed he was on top of me and as he had already taken his little blue pill and had a very large stiffy the poor thing bent double as it hit my thigh - so he is

rolling around on the bed groaning and moaning and the bloody nosey buggers next door called the police as they said unusual noises were coming from our house, said they had never heard that kind of noise coming from our house for years. Anyway after getting rid of the police Bert was still standing to attention so we had shut the windows really tight and had a

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Lights down on the ladies and up on the men

Good laugh about it all but you know our generation, we are not ones to let things go to waste - after all I had got 5 pill - was a lovely weekend I can tell ya.