

A quick one in the pub

2

A country music style opera

Version: 5.9.14

*Keith and Sharon are seated
independently at the bar*

Cast

In order of appearance

Keith A middle aged factory worker

Sharon A single lady in her twenties

Ann Keith's wife

Setting

All the action takes place in the most public part of a local pub. There is some back-room or dark nook and a door to the street.

①,②,③ etc. indicate the tunes used.

FIRST DRAFT FOR INFORMATION ONLY

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KEITH

To everyone ①

Another working week is at an end
Wages in my pocket ready to spend
My trouble is that at my time of life
I don't get out much without the wife
Perhaps I ought to get a girl friend

It's not as if my missus is too bad
I fondly think of all the fun we've had
But it's the same thing every week
So a frisky girly I will seek
And try my luck at being jack the lad

SHARON

To everyone ①

Another relationship is at an end
Too many times the rules he's tried to bend
He couldn't keep his hands to himself
My boyfriend thinks he's Omar Sharif
He's just been seen snogging my best friend

I've just received this really awful text
It's final as another life he wrecks
He's sneaking out with that Basildon Blond
I suspected but now it's confirmed
I'm not sure what I'm going to do next.

3

KEITH and SHARON

To each other ②

K Are you lonesome tonight
 S Are your trousers too tight!
 K Can I buy you a new Babycham
 S I fancy your style
 K Shall we kiss for a while
 S We could if you keep up this charm

K Let's find a place to caress
 S I should have worn my best dress
 K It's one of those things that can happen
 S It's not that I'm fretting
 K So let's get down to petting
 S And we'll have a glorious evening

*Keith and Sharon creep off round the back
 Ann bursts through the street door*

ANNE

To everyone ①

Have you seen that no-good man of mine
 Rumour's are he's latching all the time
 If he wants he can be here all the day
 But I won't have the bastard playing away
 If I find him out there'll soon be a crime

I thought he ought to get my news
 It's time the lazy bugger heard my views
 I've had some luck and it's working out
 I'm so happy that I could shout
 I don't think I'd want to be in his shoes

We've had to work for everything we've got *In confidence*
 But even so we haven't got a lot
 Now I'm overflowing with glee
 I've just won the national lottery
 Perhaps I'll go and buy myself a yacht.

4

Ann leaves

Keith comes back into the limelight

KEITH

To everyone/himself ③

Love her - What do I think? Do I love her?
 Loves me - What do I think? Does she care?
 Need her - Is it that bad? Do I need her?
 Does she need me or is this simply a fleeting affair?

Worth it - What do I think? Is it worth it?
 Resist it - Should I be strong and not break
 This darling has rekindled all my desires
 I can't tell if I'm making a silly mistake.

Shall I - What do I think? Shall I?
 Should I leave my good wife all behind?
 Would we be better off sticking together
 Or do I run off with the first girl that I find.

Conscience - I can't get rid of my conscience
 But my feelings are trying to get me to cheat
 @@@

Sharon comes back

SHARON

To Keith ①

Stop your prattle. It's time you must decide
 Get a grip my heat won't be denied
 Don't now tell me you love your spouse
 I don't know who's the bigger louse
 So get your act together cut and dried.

Now's the time for you to make a break
 Stop thinking that it's all a big mistake
 It really is all for the best
 Feelings are feelings but undressed is undressed
 So let us really make the bedsprings shake.

AUDIENCE

You'll be lonesome tonight
 If you don't re-unite
 And your missus finds out what you're at
 She has just let us know
 That she's in the dough
 And here you are being a pratt

You will just have to tell her
 You're a one woman feller
 And you would dream of playing around out of spite
 Now's your chance to be good
 We all think that you should
 Go back to your missus tonight

To Keith ②

They say it's necessary to adjust
 But the way they've treated us ain't just
 So casually do they break our trust
 That I'd like to resign in disgust.

But we all know the factory's had it
 And soon the whole thing will go bust
 What's the sense of having workers idle
 And letting all the machines turn to rust

The workers are being led to slaughter
 At the shrine of global trade
 But what no one seems to think of
 Is how the hell that I'll be getting paid.

KEITH

I've been working in the factory
 For more years than I can recall
 Now we've got a letter telling us
 That they're going to sack us all

We have worked throughout the sweaty heat of summer
 And braved the freezing factory in the snow
 Now our labour isn't wanted
 And all of us have no where else to go

Loyalty and craftsmanship counts for nothing
 In today's upturned economy
 But surely there is somebody who is thinking
 How can honest people earn a wage

To everyone ④

ANN

Oh hello Keith I've found you in your lair
 Which is your floozy with the chestnut hair
 There's a few things I've got to say to her
 About being a matrimonial saboteur
 And warnings about you that I'll share.

Don't worry that her pretty clothes I'll tear
 Don't worry that I'll spit and swear
 I'll just tell her about your slippery skin
 You clothes fall off so easy you can sin
 Shut your mouth! or interrupt me if you dare.

*Ann returns
 To Keith ①*

SHARON

To Ann ①

You're right, you only have to make a glance
 Your bloke he doesn't wait for a second chance
 Let's face it he won't earn a mint
 In fact the lecher's always skint
 So best of luck with your romance

You've only gone and hit it on the nail
 He's nothing but a typical lying male
 As soon as he sees those dark brown eye
 He thinks he's Tarzan telling lies
 And spending all your cash on ale

ANN

To Keith ①

Don't you think you can crawl back to me
 You're a two-faced chancer that's plain for all to see
 Now here's some news you will think is great
 Listen close I'll tell you straight
 With my cash I'll buy the factory

KEITH

Speaks to audience

Isn't that great ladies and gentlemen. *Tries to get reaction*
 What a wonderful woman
 A happy ending

ANN

Oh no it isn't *Spoken with great glee*

ANN

To Keith ①

Don't think that I will take you back
 Things for you are looking rather black
 I brought the factory because
 You're the worker and I'm the boss
 And I'll be the one to give you the sack

-- End --**Music**

- ① Generic - 'limerick' (Hurry lines 3 and 4)
- ② Are you lonesome tonight
- ③ Specially composed (Rhythm of 'Crazy')
- ④ Specially composed [Try Rainbow At Midnight or Johnny Guitar]

Notes

This has been designed to be performed in a real real pub. Note those last three words. A bar is a place where people go to drink, a restaurant is a place where people go to eat but a pub is a traditional community meeting place. When considering the suitability of a particular venue you must make sure that you will be playing to a bunch of sociable regulars.

What doesn't appear from this printed page is the contribution of the musicians. Not only are they important for driving the songs but also in setting and tweaking the mood.

- The line-up is up to you to decide.
- They will need to be well rehearsed and coordinated with the singers
- You can use the band to warm-up the audience and get one of the musicians to warn the audience what is about to happen and wrap the thing up.
- You should program-in instrumental breaks and opportunities to show off or otherwise have a good time.
- There are a couple of spots where the band could do extended instrumentals which, depending on the feeling on the night, could add to the richness and colour of the presentation.