

Look Back in Anger Audition Sides - Initial Auditions

JIMMY

Did you read Priestley's piece this week? Why on earth I ask, I don't know. I know damned well you haven't. Why do I spend ninepence on that damned paper every week? Nobody reads it except me. Nobody can be bothered. No one can raise themselves out of their delicious sloth. You two will drive me round the bend soon – I know it, as sure as I'm sitting here. I know you're going to drive me mad. Oh heavens, how I long for a little ordinary human enthusiasm. Just enthusiasm – that's all. I want to hear a warm, thrilling voice cry out Hallelujah! (*He bangs his breast theatrically*) Hallelujah! I'm alive!

I've an idea. Why don't we have a little game? Let's pretend that we're human beings, and that we're actually alive. Just for a while. What do you say? Let's pretend we're human. (*He looks from one to the other*) Oh, brother, it's such a long time since I was with anyone who got enthusiastic about anything.

CLIFF

CLIFF. I don't think I'd have the courage to live on my own again – in spite of everything. I'm pretty rough, and pretty ordinary really, and I'd seem worse on my own. And you get fond of people, too, worse luck.

ALISON. I don't think I want anything more to do with love, any more. I can't take it on.

CLIFF. You're too young to start giving up. Too young, and too lovely. Perhaps I'd better put a bandage on that – do you think so?

I'm wondering how much longer I can go on watching you two tearing the insides out of each other. It looks pretty ugly sometimes.

ALISON. You wouldn't seriously think of leaving us, would you?

CLIFF. I suppose not.

ALISON

HELENA. I don't understand your part in it all. Why? That's what I don't see. Why did you –

ALISON. Marry him? There must be about six different answers. When the family came back from India, everything seemed, I don't know – unsettled? Anyway, Daddy seemed remote and rather irritable. And Mummy – well, you know Mummy. I didn't have much to worry about. I didn't know I was born, as Jimmy says.

I met him at a party. Everything about him seemed to burn, his face, the edges of his hair glistened and seemed to spring off his head, and his eyes were so blue and full of the sun. He looked so young and frail. I knew I was taking on more than I was ever likely to be capable of bearing, but there never seemed to be any choice. Well, the howl of outrage and astonishment went up from the family, and that did it. Whether or not he was in love with me, that did it. He made up his mind to marry me.