

1 **CRUMPING THE DEVIL**

2 Cast:

3 [Opening credits - Olivia]

4 Maggie

5 Kev/"the Maniac", grandson

6 Bertha, the manipulative daughter

7 Barry, the bastard husband

8 Nursey

9 Morte

10 Satan

11 Jemma, the pregnant wimp daughter

12 Ted, the abusive bastard other husband

13 Spike, violent biker

14 OLIVIA Did you have any trouble finding it? What

15 do you mean, what kind of a place is it?

16 Why, it's a recovery ward, can't you tell?

17 MUSIC

18 AMBIANCE Hospital, beeps etc.

19 MAGGIE [talking on phone] I don't give a flying

20 rat's flaming anus how good a job he does -

21 Shall I roll past your garage and post

22 photos of what he did to his wife? Perhaps

23 I should leave a nice big bloodstain on your

24 doorstep with the words wifebeater scrawled

25 on the pavement - don't think I won't!

26 PATIENT [groan]

1 MAGGIE [up] Stuff it! [back on phone] Oh, yes!
2 [evil laugh] You come down here and say that
3 to my face - I'll call the press.
4 [delighted laugh] I can just see the rags
5 with you beating up a helpless gran in a
6 wheelchair. Tough guy!

7 SOUND DOOR OPENS, FEET COME IN

8 NURSEY Now, now - phone time's over. Time to say
9 goodbye to all your friends.

10 MAGGIE Bugger off, stay-puft.

11 NURSEY Yes, yes.

12 SOUND PHONE GRABBED AND HUNG UP FORCEFULLY

13 NURSEY Dear, dear - no need to drive up your blood
14 pressure. You need to stay calm, ducks, and
15 get your rest.

16 SOUND CURTAIN PULLED AROUND BED

17 MAGGIE I'm ordering prunes! Lots of prunes! Just
18 so you have to clean up the mess when they
19 come out the other end!

20 NURSEY My, my - but I'm not here all the time.

21 MAGGIE [snarled] I have your schedule memorized.

22 MUSIC

23 BERTHA Mother, you need to be rational about this.
24 This is your fourth hospitalization this
25 year - you've reached a point where you need
26 someone to look after you.

27 MAGGIE Visiting nurse comes by twice a week.

28 BERTHA [prompting] Barry!

1 BARRY What if you... fall?

2 MAGGIE I have this very special invention. It
3 allows me to magically contact help when I
4 need it.

5 BARRY Oh, what?

6 MAGGIE It's called a cellphone, you scrofulous
7 prick. I'll wear it on a lanyard if it'll
8 make you piss off. Now get your sorry arses
9 out of my sickroom.

10 PATIENT Go away.

11 MAGGIE See? Even that bastard hates you.

12 BERTHA No mother, we're not leaving until we get
13 this settled.

14 MAGGIE Nurse!

15 BARRY There is a button--

16 MAGGIE Fuck off - this annoys her more. Nurse!

17 SOUND DOOR OPENS, FEET COME IN SLOWLY

18 KEV H'lo Gran. [reluctant] Mum. [distasteful]
19 Barry.

20 MAGGIE Who the bloody buggery hell are you supposed
21 to be?

22 BERTHA Oh, heavens, her memory is going!

23 MAGGIE Don't get your hopes up, arse-face. Are you
24 trying to tell me the fruit of your loins--

25 BERTHA [gasp]

26 MAGGIE --has taken to running about dressed as sir
27 poncy de leon?

1 KEV I'm Hamlet.

2 MAGGIE [laughing wickedly] Go on! You? You can't
3 memorize the balance of your overdraft!
4 Come on then, soliloquize us!

5 KEV [chuckles] It's a sales promotion for a
6 mattress shop. To sleep or not to sleep,
7 all that bollocks.

8 BERTHA [muttered] I just don't know where he gets
9 this language from.

10 MAGGIE Oh, god - if you're truly that fucking
11 dense, I wish I was your father so at least
12 I'd have some slight glimmer of hope that
13 you weren't mine!

14 SOUND DOOR OPENS, NURSEY FEET ENTER

15 NURSEY Come, come - let's keep it all nice and
16 civil, there are other people in this
17 hospital, you know.

18 MAGGIE Well, there must be people somewhere, but
19 there's a couple of bastards in here.
20 Bugger off, knot-knickers.

21 BERTHA [gasp, then affronted noises as she leaves]

22 SOUND FEET STORM OUT

23 NURSEY Dear, dear. Poor old Maggie's being
24 deserted by everyone.

25 MAGGIE Your turn, then isn't it, blancmange?
26 Shuffle off and fetch something, would you?
27 ...Like a stick?

28 NURSEY Tsk Tsk. You really need to--

1 MAGGIE You, hey you in the tights. You stay.
2 [beat] Gotta catflap in those bonbon
3 knickers?
4 KEV No, gran.
5 NURSEY [psst, then confidential] Young man, you
6 haven't brought her any alcohol have you?
7 KEV No - no! What sort of grandson would that
8 make me? No bottle on me anywhere,
9 [leering] want to pat me down?
10 NURSEY [oblivious] No, no! Five minutes, then
11 visiting hours are over.
12 SOUND HER FEET LEAVE, DOOR SHUTS
13 MAGGIE [hushed] You did bring me something, didn't
14 you? You are aware I think you're the least
15 worthless of all my pathetic offspring?
16 SOUND PLASTIC BAG OUT OF POCKET
17 KEV Love you too, gran. I remember how much you
18 complained last time of not being able to
19 find a place to light one up, so I baked you
20 some brownies.
21 MAGGIE You? Baked?
22 KEV I'm a sensitive new age type of bloke. I
23 can make a mix.
24 SOUND OPENING PLACTIC BAG
25 MAGGIE [sniffs] Nice. You didn't skimp on the
26 "spices."
27 SOUND TAP ON THE DOOR
28 NURSEY Time's up!

1 KEV Stuff em somewhere. Size of that cow, she
2 probably snaps up everyone's sweeties.

3 MAGGIE I think she just eats patients--

4 SOUND DOOR OPENS

5 MAGGIE [louder] --mostly the males.

6 KEV [wincey noise] Ooh...

7 MUSIC

8 MAGGIE [into phone, trying to be quiet] --the
9 Maniac left me a mobile. Have you tracked
10 down Python yet, then? [beat, then getting
11 loud] Sod it! I thought you bastards had
12 better legal these days!

13 SOUND QUIETLY DOOR OPENS, SLOW FOOTSTEPS ENTER

14 MAGGIE There must be someone there whose tattooes
15 run more than knickers deep! [beat] Fine,
16 I'll call the--

17 SOUND CURTAIN SWEPT ASIDE SUDDENLY

18 MAGGIE [gasp] Bugger me!

19 SOUND MUFFLED VOICE AS SHE HIDES THE PHONE,
20 BEEPING, TRYING TO TURN IT OFF

21 MORTE Madame? I believe you are expecting me.

22 MAGGIE Riiight. Middle of the night, hospital
23 room. Must be the stripper. Where's your
24 music?

25 MORTE [startled] Um, no, I--

1 MAGGIE Well, you can't be a doctor - they've all
2 gone home. We're in the hands of the
3 sadists and the diapers.

4 MORTE The what?

5 MAGGIE Nurses and interns. Look, It's late and I'm
6 a bit too knackered to abuse you properly,
7 so tell me who you bleeding think you are so
8 you can sod off!

9 MORTE [trying to get his spooky back on] I'm...
10 death.

11 MAGGIE Pull the other one - it spits.

12 MORTE No, really. I'm... death.

13 MAGGIE Always thought you'd be Welsh. So what are
14 you doing swotting around here? I'm not
15 dead. The infernal pinging thing says so.

16 MORTE But you are old [spooky] ...and dying.

17 MAGGIE [getting mad] So they keep fucking telling
18 me, but I've never been one for following
19 orders. If you're really the angel of
20 death, why are you wearing such a for-fucks-
21 sake ugly suit? And where's your bleeding
22 scythe? Can't be death without a jolly
23 great scythe, can you, now?

24 MORTE Oh, please - this is the 21st century.

25 MAGGIE First piece of sense to come out of your
26 festering gob, you git. Now bugger off -
27 I'm knackered, but I'm not ready for the tip
28 yet.

29 MORTE You will see me again tomorrow.

1 MAGGIE Tell you what - you come back during
2 visiting hours and I'll get my bastard son-
3 in-law to drop in. All I have to do is wave
4 money anywhere within ten kilometers of my
5 Jemma and that bastard appears like bleeding
6 magic.

7 MORTE But I--

8 MAGGIE Him you can take, with all my heartfelts.
9 If you're not going to make yourself useful,
10 though, you can piss off and stay there.

11 SOUND FISHES OUT THE PHONE AND DIALS

12 MORTE [affronted, huffy] You're not supposed to
13 have a mobile in the hospital.

14 MAGGIE Fuck off. [into phone] Spike?

15 MORTE You have a friend named Spike?

16 MAGGIE [into phone] No, that's not a cop - just
17 some prat trying to sell me life insurance.
18 Are you Spike?

19 MORTE You're really going to just ignore me?

20 MAGGIE Hold on. [hand over phone] Sorry, didn't
21 mean to leave you hanging like that. You're
22 right, I should finish with you before
23 making my calls. So if you would kindly
24 FUCK OFF? Good. [back to phone] God,
25 these bleeding salesmen. They're like some
26 damn pet pekingese - no balls but still
27 won't stop humping once they get a grip on
28 your leg.

29 MORTE Well, I- I-I- never!

1 MAGGIE Spike? Great - what would it take to get
2 some help with a problem?

3 SOUND MORTE'S FEET STORM OUT, DOOR OPENS AND
4 SHUTS.

5 MAGGIE Nice! Hold that thought, and I'll ring you
6 back tomorrow - that twat's just gone to
7 grass on me to the warden.

8 MUSIC

9 AMB HOSPITAL ROOM - NOT SO URGENT. NO PINGING
10 THING.

11 SOUND TAP ON DOOR, THEN DOOR OPENS WITHOUT WAITING

12 SOUND WHEELCHAIR BEING PUSHED IN

13 JEMMA [weak, hopeful] Hello? [down] Mum.

14 MAGGIE [trying to be calm and quiet] Jemma.

15 NURSEY Here we all are then.

16 SOUND DOOR SWINGS SHUT

17 NURSEY Ready for a nice little family chat.

18 MAGGIE Just ignore her. [deep breath] They say
19 you're going home soon.

20 JEMMA I'm all right. [she's not]

21 MAGGIE I'll see to it, someone drops around and
22 keeps an eye on you.

23 JEMMA I'll be careful. [not very convincing]
24 Won't walk into any more... doors.

25 MAGGIE [getting a bit annoyed] Won't walk into any
26 more fists, more like.

27 JEMMA [upset, "not in front of the nurse"] Mum!

1 MAGGIE She's heard worse. Haven't you, snowball?

2 NURSEY [affirming, acerbic] From you alone.

3 MAGGIE [snort of laughter, then serious] So, when
4 can I kill him?

5 JEMMA What?

6 MAGGIE That cocksucker husband of yours.

7 JEMMA Mother!

8 MAGGIE You can't say you don't want him dead.
9 Bertha keeps pissing on and on about my
10 hospital record - you're leagues ahead of
11 me. Between the times he's knocked you up
12 and the times he's knocked you down, it's
13 amazing they don't just name a suite for you
14 and give you your own key.

15 JEMMA [crying] He doesn't mean to--

16 MAGGIE [losing it] Doesn't mean to! What, he was
17 cleaning his swotting great fist and it went
18 off!?! Or the other part - dearie, you get
19 preggers every time that arsehole even wanks
20 in your direction. You'd be much better off
21 without him.

22 JEMMA He loves me.

23 MAGGIE Oh, god - we are not having this discussion
24 again.

25 JEMMA And we have eight children to look after -
26 nine, soon.

27 MAGGIE [softer again] It's all right then?

28 JEMMA [barely able to talk] Yes.

1 MAGGIE Jems, that son of a syphilitic whore punched
2 you - punched a pregnant woman, let alone a
3 pregnant woman he claims to care for - in
4 the bloody stomach.

5 JEMMA [breaks into tears]

6 NURSEY Oh, look at the time. Come along Maggie,
7 musn't be late on your pills!

8 MAGGIE [yelling as they leave] Get it through your
9 sodding thick skull - He DID MEAN IT!

10 MUSIC

11 SOUND NIGHT, PINGING, ETC.

12 SOUND MAGGIE MUNCHING ON SOMETHING

13 SOUND DOOR OPENS, SLOW FOOSTEPS (two sets)

14 SOUND PLASTIC BAG RATTLES AS IT'S HIDDEN

15 MAGGIE [sucking stuff out of her teeth] Who's
16 there?

17 SOUND CURTAIN PULLED ASIDE

18 MAGGIE [disgusted noise] Oh, it's just you. Piss
19 off.

20 MORTE I told you I would return.

21 MAGGIE And take my soul blah blah blah. I have you
22 sussed, you wanker.

23 MORTE Sussed? I already told you - I'm death.

1 MAGGIE Right. And I have a daughter who would like
2 nothing more than to have her dear old mum
3 babbling on about meeting death in the flesh
4 - all so she can have me declared non compos
5 and shoved away in some shithole of a home
6 while she sends all my odds and sods to
7 auction "on my behalf". Piss off, and tell
8 her she can piss off too.

9 SATAN [explosive laugh]

10 MORTE See? I told you.

11 MAGGIE Told me what? You're not making sense, the
12 curtain is laughing like a drain, and I'm
13 not that stoned.

14 SOUND CURTAIN OPENS FURTHER WITH A DRAMATIC SWEEP

15 MORTE She surely is the most frightful woman I've
16 seen in years.

17 SATAN I like it.

18 MAGGIE And who are you supposed to be? Revival of
19 the Rocky Horror show?

20 SATAN [laughs harder]

21 MORTE He's the devil.

22 MAGGIE Well I knew he wasn't a doctor - not dressed
23 like that. [sigh]

24 SATAN [laughing subsides]

25 MAGGIE Are you done? I wouldn't want to waste a
26 good insult on you when you can't hear it
27 properly.

28 SATAN [chuckles, but stops himself] Go on.

1 MAGGIE Dressed like that, you look like Sir Elton
2 John vomited all over you.

3 SATAN [chuckles]

4 MAGGIE And I suspect that'd be rare, since he's
5 probably got a strong gag reflex.

6 SATAN [a moment, then a gasp as he gets it, then
7 uproarious laughter]

8 MAGGIE Told you it was a good one. [joins in]

9 MORTE I don't get it.

10 MAGGIE Oh, god. You need to loosen the fuck up.
11 [evil chuckle] Here. Have a brownie.

12 MORTE A brownie? Ooh. Chocolate is my weakness.

13 SOUND RATTLE OF PLASTIC

14 MAGGIE Death and chocolate - imagine that. How
15 about you, Gary Glitter?

16 SATAN Well, if you're offering.

17 [They munch for a minute]

18 MORTE Interesting [licks his lips, speculatively]
19 ...aftertaste.

20 MAGGIE Old family recipe. The maniac bakes them
21 for me. Don't tell the nurse - she's
22 already thirteen stone.

23 MORTE [snorts] Oh goodness!

24 SATAN [giggles uncontrollably]

25 SOUND CELL PHONE RINGS

26 MAGGIE Scuse me for a minute, will you?

27 [they murmur assent]

1 MAGGIE Fine. [annoyed] I'll try and get out of
2 here too, then shall I? No I bloody well
3 can't talk them into letting her stay--
4 MORTE --to [uncomfortable] "do it"--
5 SATAN Just say "fuck."
6 MORTE [affronted] No.
7 SATAN Come on, I dare you.
8 MAGGIE Shut up or piss off. I'm almost finished.
9 [into phone] Saturday night, then? Call me
10 Thursday, same time, and I'll say where.
11 Brilliant.
12 SOUND PHONE OFF
13 MORTE So is it?
14 MAGGIE Is it what, arse-face?
15 MORTE Is it a man or a woman?
16 SATAN He means who are you talking on the phone
17 about?
18 MAGGIE I've got some friends of a--
19 MORTE --questionable moral character?
20 MAGGIE Well, they do call themselves the Bastards
21 of Carnage, so that might be a clue -
22 Anyway, I've arranged will ... have a talk
23 with ... my daughter's oozing sore of a so-
24 called husband.
25 MORTE And you don't want him to be able to--
26 MAGGIE And they won't be as kind as a veterinarian.

1 SATAN Well! [lip smacking noises] Have you any
2 more of those brownies?

3 MUSIC

4 AMB MAGGIE'S ROOM

5 KEV I hear they're letting you go?

6 MAGGIE They have to get sick of me eventually.

7 KEV Are you doing all right? Really?

8 MAGGIE Healthy as a horse. [sighs] One of those
9 swayback cartoon nags with glue factory
10 stamped on them. You know what your evil
11 bitch of a mother is trying to do to me?

12 KEV Would it be so bad?

13 MAGGIE Et tu, wanker?

14 KEV No! I'm really just curious.

15 MAGGIE Well, quite apart from the horrors of loss
16 of control over your life, the fact that
17 they will likely frown on my extensive
18 collection of filthy artwork, and having to
19 obey people whose nappies I might have
20 changed, it's the piss.

21 KEV Piss?

22 MAGGIE At your age, piss is still romantic.
23 Getting yourself well and truly pissed,
24 pissing in the snow, nasty piss-scented
25 alleys where you buy happy little packages -
26 piss hasn't lost its shine.

27 KEV Oh?

1 MAGGIE By the time you get old, piss is the thing
2 you fear the most. Your own, someone else's
3 - fuck death, fuck the devil, if there was a
4 sodding god of piss we'd all be sacrificing
5 virgin sheep to him just to make him stay
6 the fuck away. That's what those places
7 are, Kev. [solemn] They are where piss goes
8 to die. The smell, the damp, the feel in
9 the air. As long as I can still hold my
10 water and get myself in and out of the
11 bogatory, it's my bleeding right to look
12 after myself.

13 KEV [serious] All right.

14 MAGGIE [fierce again] Next time you feel yourself
15 getting curious, darling beast, just swot on
16 down to the crystal lights retirement
17 complex - you won't even have to go inside,
18 just stand downwind and have a good long
19 whiff.

20 MUSIC

21 AMB NIGHTTIME AGAIN

22 MAGGIE [anxious sigh, then fretting] What is the
23 bloody holdup? I said--

24 SOUND PHONE BUZZES, TURNED ON

25 MAGGIE Finally! Took your goddamn time, didn't
26 you? [beat] So Jemma phoned you - God, how
27 I spewed forth such a spineless cow, I've no
28 idea. [beat, then disgusted] Oh, right,
29 the bloody money - that's the only thing you
30 give a shit about, isn't it?

1 MAGGIE Don't bother, you mealy mouthed two faced
2 prick! I know just how much you care for
3 your wife - I've seen the sodding medical
4 charts. [beat] Blah Blah Blah. Blah Blah
5 Blah. Course you have a problem - you're
6 still fucking breathing. I am planning on
7 fixing that, you know. [beat] [chuckles
8 nastily] Wouldn't you like to know? I'll
9 tell you when, though - give you something
10 to stew about, you arsehole - Saturday
11 night. You'd best watch your step, cause
12 you may not realize it, but I have friends
13 in low, low places, and they just love an
14 excuse to beat some bastard to holy fuck and
15 back! [beat] What do you mean, how are
16 they going to find you? They're probably
17 already watching you. Run if you want, but
18 unless you find some way to get me first,
19 they will get you.

20 SOUND PHONE SHUT OFF

21 SATAN Was that really a good idea?

22 SOUND QUIET FOOTSTEPS APPROACH

23 MAGGIE What, impressed?

24 SATAN Yes and no. I like your intensity, but you
25 shouldn't have warned him.

26 MAGGIE Betcha I know what I'm doing.

27 SATAN [seriously] Let me think about it.

28 MAGGIE So, what's the pitch tonight? And where's
29 the undertaker?

1 SATAN He's a very busy entity. He's already
2 wasted rather a lot of time trying to
3 impress you.

4 MAGGIE Why impress me - isn't he fucking all-
5 powerful death? Doesn't he just whisk
6 people off and bobs your uncle, you're hip
7 deep in the bleeding river styx?

8 SATAN Styx? Well, I'm impressed--

9 MAGGIE [dismissively] Beer mat trivia. So it's
10 just you and me tonight, is it? Pity - I
11 haven't had a really good threesome since
12 1968.

13 SATAN [chortle]

14 MAGGIE Right, laughing boy. Either you dropped in
15 for more of the maniac's brownies, or you
16 want something from me, and I don't fancy
17 myself so fucking entertaining that I'd drag
18 you away from the torture telly.

19 SATAN Torture?

20 MAGGIE Bleeding heart chat shows and those so-
21 called game shows where people swallow foul
22 things that haven't even taken them to
23 dinner and a picture first.

24 SATAN [sigh] Bloody hell - it's getting so hard to
25 frighten people these days. You say you'll
26 stick a red-hot poker up the bum and half
27 say "been there, done that".

1 MAGGIE Well, I've been and done around in my time.
2 Are you planning to try and scare the crap
3 out of me?

4 SATAN Really, I just follow Morty around, since
5 once he lets on he's coming for someone,
6 it's usually a piece of piss to get them to
7 agree to sell their soul...

8 MAGGIE [bark of laughter] A bit like when a bloody
9 great hurricane hits and all the bastard
10 insurance salesmen clean up selling storm
11 coverage?

12 SATAN A bit. So. You selling?

13 MAGGIE Blunt, aren't you?

14 SATAN I feel we've gone a bit beyond a sales pitch
15 here.

16 MAGGIE So? I sell my soul and you - what? Give me
17 my greatest wish? I assume immortality is
18 only on the high shelf - the one you can't
19 ever knock down enough sodding bottles to
20 win.

21 SATAN What do you want?

22 MAGGIE [thinks, then] No. Two reasons. First, I
23 still believe you're some starving artist
24 Bertha paid to come round and chat me up.
25 Second, I might have a mouth like a public
26 urinal, but I still read my classics.
27 Monkey's Paw? Nothing good ever comes from
28 a bad deal.

1 SATAN It's not my fault if people don't take time
2 to read the small print.

3 MAGGIE You ponder enough, there's always a way to
4 bugger the customer. If nothing else - just
5 send the damn thing round unassembled, with
6 instructions in fucking Parsi.

7 SATAN [laughing again] I do like you.

8 MAGGIE Can't say you're the worst bastard I've had
9 to deal with in my whole sodding life.

10 SATAN Tell you what - just to prove that I am what
11 I claim to be, how about a freebie?

12 MAGGIE I draw the line at giving up my favors for
13 anything less than a fiver.

14 SATAN [chuckling] No, I mean I'll do something for
15 you. No strings. Cross my heart.

16 MAGGIE You're not planning to bugger me on this?

17 SATAN What would it get me, until I get a
18 signature on the dotted line? It can't be
19 anything huge - I'll not cure cancer or feed
20 the world's hungry--

21 MAGGIE Sod the hungry. Too many bloody people
22 clogging up the sewer we call the world
23 anyway.

24 SATAN --or make you healthy.

25 MAGGIE [grim] Yeah, right.

26 SATAN Something short term and simple.

1 MAGGIE I got it. And if you do it, I promise to
2 take under consideration that you might
3 actually be the bleeding king of the
4 underworld. Right?

5 SATAN Ask and it shall be done.

6 MAGGIE Right. Now you have to wait until I say
7 "done" before you go swotting off and do
8 this - I want every bloody condition met.

9 SATAN [very serious] Very well.

10 MAGGIE With no harm to either of them, in the
11 immediate or long term, I want something to
12 happen that will keep Jemma in hospital
13 until Sunday. Can you do me that?
14 Suspicious skin condition, something - and
15 this is the part that if you fuck me I will
16 find a way to rip your bollocks off - it has
17 to be something that won't hurt the baby.
18 Right, uh... [thinking, then] Fuck. Done.

19 SATAN [dead serious] I see. Agreed. [beat, then
20 a bit hesitant] You wouldn't happen to have
21 any of those brownies, would you?

22 MUSIC

23 SOUND WHEELING DOWN A HOSPITAL HALL

24 NURSEY Doctor says you're just about well enough to
25 leave.

26 MAGGIE [snarl] Lovely.

27 NURSEY Probably tomorrow - just in time for the
28 weekend.

1 MAGGIE [snarl] Can't think of anything that would
2 brighten my day more.

3 SOUND DOOR OPENS

4 BERTHA Oh! Here she is.

5 MAGGIE Oh, bollocks, who decided to shit all over
6 my parade?

7 BERTHA Mother!

8 MAGGIE Technically. Can you at least keep your
9 festering gob shut until this pelican gets
10 me settled? It's humiliating enough to be
11 jumbled around like someone's sodding
12 laundry, but to have an audience is just the
13 bloody capper.

14 BERTHA Mother, this is too important to wait.

15 MAGGIE Fine. Talk.

16 BERTHA I brought you the brochures--

17 MAGGIE [somewhat muffled] Talk over. Fuck off.

18 BERTHA Mother! You must admit you need care. You
19 can't--

20 MAGGIE I can! You'll never get an agreement from
21 me to being stuck in your fucking P-O-W
22 camp, and if you even think about trying to
23 prove me incompetent, I will change my will
24 and put Jemma in charge.

25 BERTHA [indignant] Jemma! She doesn't --- She has
26 too many... children... to look after!

1 MAGGIE [smug] And a bastard husband who will go
2 through the bulk of my money in a week or
3 two, slick as snot.

4 BERTHA Besides, Jemma's going to be a bit longer
5 here herself. Some weird rash has cropped
6 up that they want to keep for observation.

7 MAGGIE [at a loss] Really? [swallows, then her
8 beligerance returns] Devil only knows how
9 that happened. Right. Now, I'm tired and
10 you need to PISS OFF.

11 BERTHA This is not over!

12 SOUND FEET STORM OUT, DOOR SLAMS

13 NURSEY And what's wrong with a little care?

14 MAGGIE You.

15 MUSIC

16 SOUND NIGHTTIME

17 MAGGIE All right, you pouffy bastard - come out.

18 SATAN [tsks] Names?

19 MAGGIE Endearments, darling beast. So what did you
20 do to my idiot daughter?

21 SATAN You asked for a skin disease - I gave you
22 one. Shouldn't even be much scarring.

23 MAGGIE Scars she's used to. I'll send her a bloody
24 great tub of aloe vera. Or will it to her.
25 I meant to ask, when can I expect another
26 visit from lord stick up his bum?

27 SATAN Death? About a week. Maybe less.

1 MAGGIE And then--?

2 SATAN [final, agreeing] And then. You ready to
3 sign on?

4 MAGGIE I'll read the bloody fine print first.

5 SATAN [chuckling, evilly] You may not have time -
6 there's a helluva lot of fine print.

7 MAGGIE [chuckles evilly back] Hand it over.

8 SOUND HUGE SHEAF OF PAPER HITS THE TABLE WITH A
9 THUD

10 MAGGIE Bugger me!

11 SATAN There may be an easier way.

12 MAGGIE Than buggering me? What's that, then?

13 SATAN A bet.

14 MAGGIE A bet?

15 SATAN You suggested it yourself last night. I
16 asked if you know what you're doing, and
17 you--

18 MAGGIE [considering, then quietly] I spoke very
19 loosely.

20 SATAN The devil is in the details. [laughs]

21 MAGGIE How do I prove I won, and what do I get?

22 SATAN What you get - hmm - I'll get Morty off your
23 back, for, say, ten years?

24 MAGGIE Is that all?

25 SATAN Who do you think I am, bloody Oprah?

26 MAGGIE That has to come with two things--

1 SATAN I said--

2 MAGGIE I have to be in at least as good health as I
3 am now the entire time - no fucking coma for
4 ten years - and abso-fucking-lutely no
5 bloody nursing home. I'll live on the kerb
6 before I'll--

7 SATAN Done.

8 MAGGIE And if I lose?

9 SATAN I get your soul - immediately.

10 MAGGIE So the bet is I know what I'm doing - how do
11 I prove I won?

12 SATAN What are you trying to accomplish?

13 MAGGIE Oh, no - I'm not giving you any chance to
14 play silly beggars with my plans. Suffice
15 to say that after Saturday night I will
16 still be the one smiling?

17 SATAN Hmm - give me a few more of those brownies
18 and you have a deal.

19 MUSIC

20 SOUND DOOR OPENS, WHEELCHAIR ENTERS

21 MAGGIE Jems?

22 JEMMA [weak, but better than before] Yes?

23 MAGGIE They say you're to stay here a few more
24 days.

25 JEMMA It's this bloody rash. [itching noise]

26 NURSEY Now now, you know you're not supposed to--

1 MAGGIE [weary] Bugger off Moby Dick. Jems, I'm
2 going home now, they say, and - uh - this
3 weekend should be bloody interesting.

4 JEMMA [dull] Of course, mum. You have someone to
5 look in on you? Bertha?

6 MAGGIE Only if I want to sign my away my soul.
7 [laughs uncomfortably] Nah, I've talked Kev
8 into roughing it with me for the weekend.

9 JEMMA [a bit disbelieving] Oh. Yeah. Good.

10 MUSIC

11 KEV [muffled, nervous, on the phone] Of course
12 this is her bloody mobile! She's asleep.
13 [beat] Fuck no, I won't! You can haul your
14 own bleeding carcass in here and do your own
15 dirty work. [beat, sarcastic] Ri-i-ight.
16 No, you don't understand - I'm rather fond
17 of the old bag-- [beat] Well, yeah, there
18 is a toady element to it, but we get on,
19 gran and me. I'd just as soon have her
20 around a while longer. [beat] Ain't
21 impossible, innit? She is meeting her
22 solicitor next-- [beat] Oh, you didn't know
23 that yet, did you? [beat, then cowed]
24 Y-yeah, I know-- No! No, don't go to the
25 cops. I'll-- [beaten] I'll leave latch up,
26 then, shall I?

27 MUSIC [very ominous]

28 SOUND DOOR OPENS VERY CAREFULLY. SOUND OF GENTLE
29 WHEEZY BREATHING. SLOW CREAKING FOOTFALLS.

1 TED [muttering] Stupid bloody old cow. Have my
2 guts for garters will she? Hah!

3 SOUND CREEPING GETS CLOSER TO THE BREATHING.

4 TED Once we've got your fucking money, you old
5 bitch, Jemma'n me'll be just bloody fine.

6 SOUND LIGHT SWITCH TURNED ON

7 MAGGIE [casual, off in a corner] Oh, right.
8 Tickety-bloody-boo.

9 TED [whirling] You insane bitch! [unsure]
10 Wait! If you're over there in the shadows,
11 then who's in the sodding bed?

12 SOUND BEDCLOTHES FLUNG BACK

13 KEV [flamey] 'elo, luv!

14 TED What kind of bloody game are you playing?

15 MAGGIE Hmm. Red Rover. Red Rover, red rover, send
16 the donkey's scrotum over.

17 TED Two to one? The mummy and the weasel. I
18 can take the both of you! [yells and runs
19 at her]

20 SOUND RUNNING FEET, BROUGHT TO A SUDDEN HALT

21 TED [urk]

22 SOUND BODY DROP

23 SPIKE [chuckles nastily] No, me old son, I think
24 you've got that ass-backwards. Hasn't he,
25 lads?

26 SOUND DOORS OPEN, SEVERAL SETS OF HEAVY FEET ENTER

27 BIKERS [agreeing noises, laughs.]

1 SOUND SLAP OF FIST INTO HAND, CHAIN RATTLES

2 KEV You mind, gran? Not my thing.

3 MAGGIE [kindly] Nah, go ahead, you ponce. I'll be
4 right here. Better than a jolly great
5 football riot.

6 KEV [off] Yeah, but guess who gets to hose out
7 your kip?

8 SOUND FEET SCUTTLE OUT OF ROOM

9 TED [panicking] Someone'll hear!

10 MAGGIE Not bloody likely. I made dead cert of
11 that. Amazing what free dinner coupons will
12 do to get people to vacate for the night.
13 Course, police'll chalk them up to the same
14 burglars who broke in here - luckily Kev and
15 I stopped in for dinner with Bertha.

16 KEV [yelling from off] We had a sodding flat on
17 the way.

18 MAGGIE [threatening] Doesn't that just take the
19 biscuit? Now Ted. If you take this like a
20 good little mountain of elephant dung,
21 quietly and repentant-like, they might leave
22 you alive.

23 SOUND PUNCHING COMMENCES

24 TED [grunts] Hey! Why--?

1 MAGGIE [incensed] Why? Hold up. [starting low,
2 and mounting] Three broken wrists - that's
3 why. A cracked fucking pelvis - that's why.
4 A broken collarbone - that's why! Thirty-
5 bloody-seven sodding black eyes, and that's
6 only the ones I counted myself - that's why!
7 Punching your fucking pregnant wife in her
8 stomach [ragged breath, then almost a
9 whisper] That. Is why.

10 SOUND PUNCHING COMMENCES AGAIN

11 MUSIC

12 SOUND HOSPITAL HALLWAY, ANNOUNCEMENTS, WHEELCHAIR
13 APPROACHES

14 NURSEY [distasteful, but trying to hide it] Oh,
15 goodness, are you back?

16 MAGGIE No fear, yeti. We're just visiting, aren't
17 we?

18 KEV Right. We're family.

19 NURSEY That's sweet. Well, just a minute then.
20 He's not really up to much. Poor fellow.

21 SOUND DOOR OPENS, PINGING MACHINES INSIDE

22 MAGGIE I know. [pouring on the melodrama]
23 Apparently he was coming by to bring some
24 flowers - since I'd just got out of hospital
25 - and surprised some burglars or something.
26 [sounding almost teary] But for the grace
27 of the almighty, that could have been us -
28 couldn't it, Kev?

29 KEV Worth every bite of mum's pork au poivre.

1 MAGGIE [sharp] Shh. [teary] Tragic.

2 NURSEY [softening] See, I knew you had it in you.

3 SOUND DOOR SHUTS

4 MAGGIE If only she had it in her more often, she
5 wouldn't be such a tight-ass knicker-
6 twisting sodding git.

7 TED [muffled by tubes and such] uh?

8 MAGGIE Good night. What a mess.

9 TED [alarmed] uh!

10 MAGGIE Don't call reinforcements just yet - we're
11 merely here to deliver a message.

12 TED [shuddering] um?

13 MAGGIE It boils down to this, my evil bastard
14 sonofabitch in law. Quite apart from being
15 ready to kill you should anything untoward
16 happen to either of us here, my friends plan
17 to visit anything you do to Jemma upon you.
18 And I do mean anything. If you get anywhere
19 near her, even with a freindly weapon, you
20 better be ready to take every single
21 bleeding stroke you give.

22 SOUND WHEELCHAIR ROLLS AWAY

23 MAGGIE I'll send round some vaseline.

24 SOUND DOOR OPENS

25 MUSIC

26 SOUND TELLY ON LOW, MAGGIE TAPPING FURIOUSLY AWAY
27 ON COMPUTER

1 MAGGIE Bastards! Fucking evil empire bastards!
2 They just wait until I'm in hospital, and
3 change the rates on me again!

4 SATAN [clears throat]

5 MAGGIE One minute - I have to update my sodding bid
6 structure. Again.

7 SATAN What?

8 MAGGIE Business. And... there. Good for now.

9 SATAN Well, um. [a bit cowed] The bet.

10 MAGGIE You have to admit, I got my bloody way.

11 SATAN Yes. Very well too.

12 MAGGIE So I win, do I?

13 SATAN Oh... yes. You're very impressive. I'd
14 almost offer you a job myself.

15 MAGGIE Come back in ten years, [fondly] you ponce.
16 So what, do we shake on it or somesuch?

17 SATAN Frankly, I'm rather fond of my fingers.

18 MAGGIE [laughs] You have my oath I won't bite...
19 This time.

20 SATAN Right, then.

21 SOUND HESITATE, THEN A HANDSHAKE

22 MAGGIE Go on then. I'm far too bloody busy to be
23 swotting around all day with the likes of
24 you.

25 SOUND TAPS A FEW KEYS

1 MAGGIE [to computer] What does that wanker bloody
2 mean he forgot to pay me? [aside] There's
3 some brownies there. Drop round any time.
4 [back to computer, then fading out] Dammit!
5 Dammit it all to bloody buggery arse-face
6 fucking donkey scrotum hell!!!

7 CLOSER

8 OLIVIA Now that you know how to find us, you'll
9 have to come back. Maybe next week? Don't
10 be a stranger - we have enough of those
11 already...

12