

Seven Crosses

by
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FADE FROM
BLACK:

CAPTION:

This film is not a reflection on real life in Somerset.

MUSIC

CREDITS

The SOUND of digging.

1 EXT. FARM YARD - DAY 1

A loose leaf calendar is open at

7th July 2007 (7 - 7 - 7)

The breeze fans the calendar page, threatening to tear it from its binding.

The camera follows away in the direction of the wind -

across the wide open landscape of a Somerset dairy farm.

Rooks circle in the trees.

2 EXT. FARM FIELD - DAY 2

A muddy welly boot pushes an earth clad shovel into dark red soil as the camera -

PANS UP from the legs of MINNIE TUCKER, twenty six, mousy haired girl, drably dressed.

She stops digging.

The camera goes wide to reveal Minnie standing besides a life-size scarecrow holding a scythe.

MINNIE V.O
I didn't set out to be a
murderer

The lens settles on Minnie's clear green eyes -

MINNIE V.O
Foot and mouth disease has
destroyed the farm

Eyes straining across the field towards -

3 EXT. MOORLAND - DAY 3

MINNIE V.O
.... farmers in Somerset are a
dying breed

- A car winding its way up across -
the deserted moorland landscape of the Levels.

MINNIE V.O
... but I would rather die
than sell up our land.

4 EXT. FIELD - DAY 4

Minnie hoists her shovel on to her shoulder -
She smiles.

5 EXT. FARM HOUSE - DAY 5

The camera sweeps across a large farmhouse and farm
yard - run down - unkept.

A SIGN reads - HIGH MOOR FARM.

A B + B SIGN sways in the breeze.

The car pulls in - stops in the farm yard.

6 EXT. FARM FIELD - DAY 6

Minnie climbs a gate -

Scurries along a farm track towards the house.

7 EXT. FARM YARD - DAY 7

Some white sheets are hanging out on a line.

BEN - mid fifties - gets out of the car - goes
around - opens the passenger door.

8 EXT. FARM BARN - DAY 8

ERNEST TUCKER - twenty five - Minnie's simple
minded farm labourer brother - whittling with a
knife on a long piece of wood - is watching as -

9 EXT. FARM YARD - DAY 9

- Ben helps CAROLINE - early twenties - high-heeled
- city girl - out of the car

- and steers her clear of a muddy puddle in the
yard.

He takes her in his arms - starts kissing her.

10 EXT. FARM BARN - DAY 10

Ernest licks his lips.

Minnie puts a hand on his shoulder - he jumps.

Minnie looks - around the edge of the barn - at the
newcomers.

MINNIE
What you grinning at, Ernest?
Looking at things like that
will make you go blind.

ERNEST
She's pretty

MINNIE
She's a tart.

ERNEST
How'd you know that?

MINNIE
I can tell. Look at her. His
hands are all over her, and
she lets him. (disapproves)
Married tattooed on his
forehead.

Ernest grins wickedly.

ERNEST
They'll mess up the sheets,
Minnie. You'll have to boil
them. You going to let them
stay?

Minnie wipes her hands on her clothes.

MINNIE
Here!
(Hands him the spade)
(MORE)

MINNIE (cont'd)
Go and dig some potatoes for
tea. Don't come into the house
until I've shown them the
room.

Ernest lopes off around the back of the barn.

11 EXT. FARM YARD - DAY

11

Minnie strides into the farm yard.

MINNIE
(sweetly) You be looking for
bed and breakfast?

BEN
Do you have a vacancy?

Minnie gives Caroline a once over look.

MINNIE
I think we could do that.

Minnie goes into the house ...

Ben and Caroline follow.

12 INT. FARM HOUSE HALLWAY - DAY

12

Minnie takes a key from a hook.

CAROLINE
We live in London. Well, I do.
Ben lives in Surrey.

BEN
Everywhere's full up. This was
our last hope.

MINNIE
Cheddar's very popular with
the tourists. Those dark caves
attracts them from all over.
(smiles)
Will it be for just the one
night?

Ben and Caroline exchange a look - reveal the
uncertainty of their relationship.

CAROLINE
I think so. We're just on a
quick break.
(MORE)

CAROLINE (cont'd)
(looks around)
Its very dark?

MINNIE
We're having problems with the
wiring.

Minnie flicks a switch. The lights come on.

MINNIE
Let me show you your room.

Minnie leads Ben and Caroline

13 INT. FARM GUEST BEDROOM - DAY

13

.... into the guest room.

The room is bright and airy - in contrast with the
other parts of the house.

MINNIE
Its my grandparent's old room.

CAROLINE
Its lovely. Look at the view!

Caroline stares out of the window.

MINNIE
Its twenty five pounds a night
per person. What time would
you be wanting breakfast?

BEN
Nine o'clock would be fine.

MINNIE
Usually I start the cleaning
and laundry at nine. Is eight
o'clock suitable with you?

BEN
(slightly annoyed)
It'll have to be

MINNIE
That's a yes, then?

CAROLINE
Who's that????

14 EXT. FARM GARDEN - DAY 14

Ernest - with a basket of fresh potatoes - is standing below the window staring up.

He waves.

15 INT. FARM GUEST BEDROOM - DAY 15

Minnie is at the window.

MINNIE

That's my brother Ernest.

CAROLINE

He's got a lovely smile.

MINNIE

(off hand) One can't choose one's siblings. He's a bit slow, but he's all I've got, and I love him.

(turns towards the door)
Feel free to use the sitting room downstairs. Bathroom's across the way. Hot water goes off quickly, best to bath in the evening as its never hot before nine in the morning.

(after thought)
If you go out for the night, let me know. I'll tell my brother not to lock the front door.

Minnie closes the door.

16 INT. FARM KITCHEN - EVENING 16

Ernest is peeling the potatoes.

Minnie is frying some sausages.

ERNEST

Minnie ...?
(looking at ceiling)
Do you think they're doing it yet?

MINNIE

Probably ...

ERNEST
He doesn't deserve a nice
looking girl like that. You
think he's married?

MINNIE
He's married alright. I saw
the ring on his finger.

ERNEST
(jealous) Like Mark
Wainwright?

MINNIE
Lets not talk about Mark.

ERNEST
I hate Mark Wainwright. Why do
you let him come by the farm
when he feels like it?

MINNIE
I like company, Ernest.

ERNEST
You've got me.

MINNIE
I know I've got you. That's my
problem!

ERNEST
Because I can't manage on my
own?

MINNIE
When Gran and Grandad were
alive, I could get out, get up
to Bristol, enjoy myself.

ERNEST
I could go to Bristol with
you?

MINNIE
Bristol wouldn't be safe.
(mutters)
It would be a nightmare.

ERNEST
You don't have much faith in
me, do you, Minnie?

MINNIE
You can't be trusted, Ernest.

ERNEST

I know how to behave myself
when I want to.

MINNIE

That's a load of tosh! When I
take my eyes off you and you
go nuts!

Caroline enters the kitchen.

Minnie and Ernest dry up - shuffle awkwardly.

She is carrying a cellphone, charger, and packet of
cigarettes.

CAROLINE

Sorry to trouble you, but
could I charge my cell phone?
I can't find a socket that
works.

MINNIE

Certainly, my dear. Give it
here.
(takes phone and charger from
her)
Everything in this house is
shot to buggery.
(plugs into wall socket)
There we are ... you leave it
like that awhile and it'll be
charged before the cows come
home.

CAROLINE

You have cows?

MINNIE

We don't have no animals on
the farm no more. Foot and
mouth. Never recovered from
that.

Caroline looks out the window.

CAROLINE

Do you think it is going to
rain?

MINNIE

Might do

CAROLINE
I've only brought these stupid
shoes with me.

CU on Caroline's flimsy high heels.

MINNIE
I'll let you have a pair of
Wellingtons, my lovely.

ERNEST
Its rained a lot this summer.

MINNIE
(reprovingly) Ernest

ERNEST
(ignoring her) Can I have a
fag.

CAROLINE
Of course you can.

ERNEST
(accepts cigarette) Is your
car hired?

CAROLINE
Its Ben's.

ERNEST
You love him?

MINNIE
Ernest!

CAROLINE
(smiles) I don't mind.
(lights Ernest's cigarette)
I love Ben very much. He's
very caring, very loving.

ERNEST
(cutting) He's old enough to
be your father.

MINNIE
That's enough now! Take that
cigarette outside.

Ernest does as he is told - leaves.

Caroline smiles weakly ... puts her cigarette down.

MINNIE
Want a cup of tea?

CAROLINE
Yes, thanks.
(sits)
Its so peaceful here ...
compared to London.

MINNIE
It has its moments of drama.
What do you do up in London?

CAROLINE
I work for Ben ... his
personal assistant. Its very
exhausting. (laughs)
He runs me ragged.

MINNIE
I bet he does

Ben appears in the kitchen - goes to Caroline -
puts his arms around her - kisses her.

BEN
(whispers) Ready to go into
the village?

CAROLINE
I'm still tired from the drive
....

MINNIE
I'm just making her a nice cup
of tea. It won't take two
minutes. Take a seat.

Caroline squeezes Ben's hand - he sits.

CAROLINE
Sorry, I didn't catch your
name?

MINNIE
Minnie Tucker. Tucker by name,
Tucker by nature.

Minnie looks up -

Ernest is behind Mark - with a raised axe.

Ben sees Minnie's look ... swings around.

Ernest brings the axe down on Ben.

Caroline jumps up SCREAMS.

Ben drops to the floor.

MINNIE

Ernest!

Ernest's eyes are fixed on Caroline.

Caroline flees from the kitchen -

17 EXT. FARM YARD - EVENING

17

Caroline races to the car -

It is locked.

Ernest appears from the farm house with the axe.

Caroline runs from the car, across the yard.

Ernest chases after her.

Minnie appears from the farm house.

MINNIE

Ernest!

18 INT. FARM BARN - EVENING

18

Caroline runs into the barn -

Searches for somewhere to hide in the straw bales -

Hides.

Ernest enters - scans the barn.

Caroline's POV - Ernest drops the axe, picks up a pitch fork.

Caroline panics - jumps up.

CAROLINE

Leave me alone!

Ernest advances on her.

CAROLINE

What's wrong with you! What have we done wrong?

Ernest lunges at her - chases her across the hay bales -

Grabs her by the ankle -

Drags her down behind some bales -

CAROLINE O.S
Don't! Don't!

Ernest raises the pitch fork in one hand.

Minnie appears in the barn.

SILENCE.

Minnie scrambles over some bales, sees -

Ernest tossing aside the pitch fork - blood on his face.

Minnie looks down - puts her head in her hands.

19 EXT. FARM YARD - NIGHT 19

Car headlights go on -

MINNIE V.O
My brother always lets me down
and I always have to cover for
him

The car edges forward towards the barn.

20 INT. FARM BARN - NIGHT 20

Minnie drives the car into the barn -

MINNIE V.O
It has been like that since we
were kids.

Turns the engine off.

21 EXT. FARM FIELD - NIGHT 21

The SOUND of digging -

Minnie is shovelling the earth.

Ernest drops a body into a shallow grave.

Minnie is emptying Ben's wallet on the kitchen table - Caroline's purse lies already emptied.

Minnie begins to count the cash.

MINNIE
Why did you have to be so
brutal?

Ernest - with a cloth and bucket - is wiping the kitchen floor clean of blood.

ERNEST
He made me angry, Minnie. He
was too old for her!

MINNIE
I'm sick of your temper,
Ernest.

ERNEST
(laughs) You won't have to
clean the sheets.

MINNIE
You're disgusting. All you
ever think of is sex.

Ernest stops cleaning - sits on the floor - looks up.

ERNEST
Do you love me, Minnie?

MINNIE
What sort of question is that?

ERNEST
Do you love me?

MINNIE
You're my brother.

ERNEST
I wish you were my girlfriend.

Minnie turns around - glares at Ernest.

MINNIE
Ernest Tucker. You put those
thoughts back where they
belong in your trousers.

Ernest puts his hand on Minnie's thigh -
Minnie takes his hand in hers.

MINNIE
You know I love you, but there
are some things that brother
and sister shouldn't do.

ERNEST
Why? What's wrong with it?

MINNIE
Its not right. The bible says
so.

ERNEST
Which part?

MINNIE
All of it, Ernest! Ask the
vicar.

ERNEST
We don't go to church.

MINNIE
Grandad would be cross with us
if he were alive.

ERNEST
I'm sorry about Grandma, but I
don't miss the old tyrant. He
was horrible to us.

Minnie pulls Ernest between her legs and hugs his
head.

MINNIE
I do love you, Ernest. Its not
your fault that you are the
way you are.

ERNEST
You won't ever leave me, will
you?

MINNIE
Of course not.

Minnie looks at the money on the table - kisses
Ernest on the head.

Caroline's cell phone rings.

Minnie gets up - takes the phone - unplugs the charger. The phone continues to ring.

Minnie opens a cupboard -

In the cupboard are six other cell phones -

Minnie places the phone with the others - closes the cupboard.

Ernest is looking at the contents of the wallet and purse.

ERNEST

We don't like strangers in our lives, do we?

MINNIE

We need money to live, Ernest.

ERNEST

We have enough for now, don't we?

MINNIE

(lying) Yes, we'll be fine.

Don't you worry

(gathers the items on the table into a biscuit tin)

We have enough here to last us for awhile.

The biscuit tin contains money and credit cards.

23

EXT. FARM HOUSE - DAY

23

Minnie removes the B + B sign from its hooks -

Lays it behind a wall.

Ernest is sitting in the passenger seat of a dilapidated 4X4 vehicle.

24

INT. 4X4 VEHICLE - DAY

24

On Ernest's lap is a rolled up towel.

Minnie gets in the driver's side -

Kicks the old vehicle into life.

25

EXT. FARM YARD - DAY

25

The 4x4 leaves the farm yard -

Pulls out onto a country road.

26 EXT. MOOR ROAD - DAY 26

The 4x4 crosses the moor -

Heads towards a village at the foot of some hills.

27 EXT. VILLAGE - DAY 27

The 4X4 enters the village -

Rows of tourist shops -

Tourists browsing in windows -

28 INT. POOL - DAY 28

Ernest is sitting on the poolside - he has a partial fear of water.

Minnie is swimming in the pool.

She is a superb swimmer.

29 EXT. VILLAGE - DAY 29

Minnie and Ernest are eating ice cream cones -

Ernest's cone is dripping down his hand.

MINNIE

For God's sake, Ernest.

Minnie wipes his hand with her towel.

ERNEST

I'm not stupid, Minnie.

MINNIE

Did I say you were?

ERNEST

You treat me as though I am stupid.

MINNIE

Don't cause a scene or I'll take you back to the car right now.

ERNEST
Stop treating me like a child
... or I will cause a scene.

MINNIE
Is that a threat?

ERNEST
Yes, it is.

Minnie turns her back on him.

ERNEST
Don't be like that. Minnie???

MINNIE
Leave me in peace, Ernest.
Sometimes you make me so angry
I want to run away from you.

ERNEST
You've nowhere to go. Mum and
Dad are dead. Gran and Grandad
are dead. Everyone we know is
dead.

MINNIE
I can still enjoy the
sunshine. I don't have to be
miserable all the time.

30 EXT. VILLAGE PUB - DAY

30

Minnie and Ernest at a wooden beer table. Minnie is drinking a pint of cider - Ernest a pint of coke.

ERNEST
Why am I drinking coke? Why
can't I have a pint of cider
like you?

MINNIE
You're the village idiot.

ERNEST
All village idiots drink
cider.

Ernest picks up Minnie's pint and drinks it.

MARK WAINWRIGHT, mid-thirties, approaches them.

MARK
How's it going, sweetheart?
(squeezes her on the cheek)

MINNIE
(pleased) Hi, Mark. Haven't
seen you for awhile.

CU on his wedding ring on his left hand.

MARK
Commitments. You know how it
is? How's the brain, Ernest?

ERNEST
Alright, Mark.

MARK
Been behaving yourself? Not
causing your sister any grief?

MINNIE
He's been as good as gold.

MARK
Might be up your way later in
the week. Bring a bottle of
wine. You up for that?

MINNIE
That would be lovely.

Ernest growls.

MARK
You got a problem with that,
Ernest?

ERNEST
(meekly) No, no problem.

MARK
Good. Got to shoot ... moving
some bales to Wedmore before
dark. Do a bit of traffic
blocking with my tractor.
(laughs)
See ya.

Mark departs.

ERNEST
Tosser.

MINNIE
Mark's alright. His wife's a
minger though.

ERNEST
(loudly) Is that why you let
him put it in you?

MINNIE
Shut up, Ernest! You want the
whole pub to know???

ERNEST
That you're the village tart?
(quieter)
Mark doesn't care about you.
He's a dick.

MINNIE
(near tears)
Don't. He's nice to me.

ERNEST
He uses you ...

MINNIE
I love him.

ERNEST
(jealous) He doesn't love you.
(puts down the empty glass)
Cider's pretty good. Can I
have another?

Minnie scowls, gets up -

MINNIE
You are so horrible sometimes.

ERNEST
Heh, Minnie?

MINNIE
What???

ERNEST
You've got a pretty nice bum.

MINNIE
(embarrassed) Stop talking to
me like this. I'm your sister!

Ernest frowns.

Minnie goes into the pub.

31 INT. 4X4 VEHICLE - DAY 31

Minnie and Ernest are singing -

'One Man Went To Mo'.

They are happily drunk.

32 EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY 32

ASH - late twenties - a hippy hitch-hiker - is sitting by the side of the road smoking a spliff.

33 INT. 4X4 VEHICLE - DAY 33

Minnie and Ernest still singing 'One Man Went To Mo'.

34 EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY 34

ASH looks up - quints - stands up -

Puts his thumb out.

The 4X4 pulls up. Stops.

Ernest rolls down the window.

ASH
Are you going to Glastonbury?

MINNIE
That's in the other direction.

ASH
Is it?
(laughs)
I'm stoned.
(takes a puff on his spliff)
Where are you going?

MINNIE
Six miles up the road.

ASH
Six miles, eh? You look cool
people. Maybe I'll ride with
you? Want to smoke this?

Ernest throws Minnie a questioning look.

MINNIE
Alright

Ernest smiles weakly.

Ash picks up his small pack -
gets into the back of the vehicle -

35

INT. 4X4 VEHICLE - DAY

35

- pushing aside orange supermarket grocery bags.

ASH
I really appreciate this,
dudes. I was getting lonely
out there. (pushes forward his
hand)
My name's Ash.

MINNIE
Minnie ... Ernest.

ASH
I love your accent. Say 'Down
where the cider apples grow'.

MINNIE
(dialect) Down where the cider
apples grow.

ASH
It's beautiful!

ERNEST
Its bloody boring to us.

MINNIE
Don't mind Ernest. He hasn't
got a sense of humour.

ASH
Have some of this, mate. It'll
give you one.

Ernest takes the spliff.

ERNEST
Minnie won't let me smoke in
the car.

MINNIE
That's cigarettes, nob head.

Minnie takes it from him, takes a drag.

MINNIE
You in a hurry to get to
Glastonbury?

ASH
I've all the time in the
world.

MINNIE
We've bought some cider. Your
welcome to come home with us
... have a drink.

ASH
Cool. I just love parties.

36 INT. FARM GARDEN - EVENING

36

MUSIC.

Minnie - now wearing a colourful summer's dress -
is dancing cheek to cheek with Ash. They are
completely drunk.

Ernest - very drunk - is sitting on a chair
watching them.

ASH
Ernest! Your sister is
fantastic. I think I'm in love
with her.

Ernest shuffles - says nothing.

MINNIE
This is the most fun I've had
in eons!

ASH
The night is ours!
(Kisses her)
You ever been to the
Glastonbury festival?

MINNIE
The year of the great washout.
I went in my wellies. I was
completely covered in mud for
five days.

ASH

Don't you love music? I mean British music. Isn't it great these days?

MINNIE

When I was younger I wanted to be in a band. I had a really good voice. I'm getting on a bit now.

ASH

Maybe we could form a duet. I'm pretty cool with the guitar. I write a bit of this and that. We could busk our way across Europe.

MINNIE

I don't know

ASH

What are you frightened of?

MINNIE

Its the best offer I've ever had.

ASH

Then take me up on it.

MINNIE

(coyly) Let's have more cider.

ASH

Minnie

Minnie escapes into the farm house.

Ash approaches Ernest.

ASH

Alright, mate. You're quiet.

ERNEST

Tucker by name, Tucker by nature.

ASH

Good on you, mate. Its important to have roots. You were born here?

ERNEST

Bristol. Our parents died in a car crash when we were little. Our grandparents brought us up here.

ASH

You inherited all this when they died?

ERNEST

Minnie did. Its falling to bits. Its not worth much.

ASH

Its worth a fortune, mate. A place like this must be worth close to a million pounds.

Minnie re-emerges with some more bottles.

MINNIE

This is vintage cider! My grandad made from the orchard apples years ago.
(looks at Ernest)
Alright, bro?

ERNEST

He says this place is worth a million pounds.

MINNIE

(swigs cider) Probably is. But we'll never sell it. Its been in the Tucker family for hundreds of years, and we're going to pass it on to our own little Tuckers.

Minnie puts her arm around Ash and kisses him.

ERNEST

She's in love with Mark.

MINNIE

(ignores him) You want to see our orchard?

ASH

If Ernest doesn't mind.

MINNIE
Of course he doesn't mind.
He's so drunk he's falling
asleep.

Minnie leads Ash out of the garden.

Ernest turns away.

37

EXT. ORCHARD - EVENING

37

Its a beautiful evening - the grass in the orchard
is tall.

Minnie is leading Ash by the hand under the trees.

They stop - kiss -

Drop into the grass.

The light plays on the swaying grass.

Minnie and Ash are lying in the grass kissing.

ASH
You're a surprise.

MINNIE
You too.

ASH
I like your orchard.

MINNIE
I love it.

They kiss again -

Roll in the grass -

Hug and giggle.

Minnie removes her knickers.

MINNIE
I want you inside me.

ASH
Are you sure?

MINNIE
Yes. Its fine, you don't have
to be careful.

ASH
Are you on the pill?

MINNIE
Something like that. Please,
get on top of me.

Ash climbs on top of Minnie -
pulls down his pants - fumbles a little.

MINNIE
You're not in yet?

ASH
I know. Its the cider.

MINNIE
Don't worry. Let me help you.

ASH
You don't have to.

MINNIE
I want to
(her hand moves downwards)
There ... is that working?

ASH
Yes

MINNIE
I've done a lot of milking in
my time.

They both laugh.

Suddenly they both gasp. Minnie closes her eyes.

ASH
Is that what you wanted?

MINNIE
Yes

ASH
I really like you

MINNIE
I really like you too.

Minnie opens her eyes -

Ernest is standing over them with a piece of rope.

MINNIE
No, Ernest

Ernest wraps the rope around Ash's neck -

Pulls him off Minnie -

Drags him through the grass by the rope - winds the rope around a tree.

Minnie huddles in the grass holding her head.

Ernest is continuing to wind the remainder of the rope around Ash's throat.

Ash stops struggling.

Minnie is sobbing.

Ernest looms over her holding her knickers in his hand.

ERNEST
Why won't you do it with me. I
can give you a little Tucker.

Throws the knickers down on to her.

Minnie breaks down - cries.

38

EXT. FARM FIELD - NIGHT

38

Minnie is digging.

MINNIE
You are crazy! I'll never
forgive you for this. You are
not my brother. You are a
pervert... A low life piece
of scum. I should turn you in
... see that you get what is
coming to you! I don't care
about the others. Ash was a
decent man. You better watch
yourself Ernest Tucker or I'll
sneak up on you one night and
bash your brains out!

Ernest is crying.

MINNIE
Don't you feel sorry for
yourself, Tucker! You are
evil.

(MORE)

MINNIE (cont'd)
You know you are evil and I
won't keep covering up for
you.
(pauses)
Stick him in the hole!

Ernest dumps Ash's body into the shallow grave.

Minnie begins to cover the body up.

MINNIE
You lay one finger on me ...
Make one remark about my bum
... or even look at me the
wrong way ... so help me
Ernest Tucker, I will go
straight to the police. Are we
clear????

Minnie continues to shovel the heavy earth while
Ernest sobs.

39

EXT. VILLAGE CHURCH - SUNDAY

39

The church bells are ringing out for service.

Ernest is sitting on the church wall - whittling
another long piece of wood.

Minnie, wearing wellies, lays flowers on the grave
of her grandparents.

The REVEREND JOHNSON approaches.

VICAR
Hello, Minerva.

MINNIE
Reverend Johnson

VICAR
How's life at High Moor?

MINNIE
Miserable. I miss nan and
grandad.

VICAR
Such tragic deaths
(looks towards Ernest)
Any more clues from the
police?

MINNIE

No.

VICAR

Are you both coming in for the service this morning?

MINNIE

I'm not dressed for praying.

VICAR

God doesn't bar wellington boots from church.

MINNIE

I can't, sorry. It doesn't feel right.

The Rev puts her hand on her shoulder. Minnie shakes it off.

MINNIE

Don't, you filthy hypocrite. You want me to tell the Bishop?

VICAR

I'm sorry you feel this way, Minerva. You were always my favourite Sunday school girl.

The Vicar walks towards the church.

Ernest approaches.

ERNEST

Old pervert

Ernest puts his arm around Minnie's shoulders.

They turn and leave the churchyard.

40 EXT. POOL - DAY

40

Minnie is back swimming in the pool.

She is graceful and elegant.

Ernest sits watching her.

41 EXT. FARM FIELD LANE - DAY

41

The 4X4 stops on a lane near the farm house.

Minnie and Ernest get out -

Look over a hedgerow -

A tent is erected in a field.

Two, twenty something girls - PENNY and TINA -
emerge from the tent -

They wave.

Ernest waves back.

MINNIE
Who gave them permission to
camp in our field?

ERNEST
I did.

MINNIE
When did that happen?

ERNEST
They came to the farm house
this morning before we went to
the churchyard.

MINNIE
Why didn't you call me?

ERNEST
You weren't speaking to me
after last night.

The girls reach the field gate.

PENNY
Hiya! Thank you for letting us
camp here. Its brilliant!

Ernest and Tina exchange coy glances.

ERNEST
You want me to show you around
the moors. There's some great
walks.

TINA
We'd love that! Wouldn't we,
Penny?

PENNY

Of course we would. We're hot
for a good walk. (laughs)

ERNEST

This is my sister Minnie.
She's not much of a walker.
Her legs are too short!
(laughs)
(excited) We can take the
ridge walk. We'll be able to
see right across Somerset.

MINNIE

Let me park the car up.

ERNEST

No, Minnie, you don't need to
come with us.

MINNIE

You know I like a good walk,
Ernest.

ERNEST

I don't want you to come

TINA

Let her come.

MINNIE

(matter of fact) I'm coming
whether he likes it or not.
(to Ernest)
Wait for me at the windmill.

Ernest is irritated.

Minnie gets in the vehicle.

42

EXT. WINDMILL - DAY

42

Ernest and Tina are sitting in the grass.

Penny is leaning against the windmill looking into
the distance.

ERNEST

I've not met an Italian girl
before.
(thinks)
Can I come and visit you in
Bristol?

TINA

Of course you can. We can go
for a drink.
(flirty)
You can stay the night.

ERNEST

My sister doesn't like me to
do things like that. She gets
very jealous.

TINA

She's not your girlfriend
(studies him)
Have you got a girlfriend?

ERNEST

(embarrassed) No girls
don't seem to like me.

TINA

I like you.

ERNEST

Do you? I'm not very good
looking.

TINA

Yes you are. You are very ...
manly.

ERNEST

In what way?

TINA

You have strong shoulders ...
arms ... legs

She puts her hand on his inner thigh.

ERNEST

Lots of men have strong legs.

TINA

No they don't ... not like
you. Most men are soft.

Her thumb brushes his manhood.

ERNEST

(aroused) My sister thinks I'm
soft in the head.

TINA

Why does she think that?

ERNEST
I do silly things.

TINA
We all do silly things from
time to time.

She kisses him on the cheek. Ernest smiles.

CUT TO:

Minnie comes up the roadway towards Penny.

MINNIE
Where's my brother?

Penny looks around - no-one is there.

PENNY
He was over there with Tina a
minute ago. Something wrong?

Minnie starts to run up the pathway -

Turns a bend -

Ernest and Tina are each swallowing something.

MINNIE
(angry) Have you just given my
brother drugs?

TINA
No.

ERNEST
She gave me some chewing gum,
Minnie.

Penny catches up with them.

PENNY
What's wrong?

ERNEST
Don't you mind my sister ...
she's crazy. She thinks
everyone is trying to give me
ecstasy or LSD.

MINNIE
That's what's wrong with you!

ERNEST
Don't you go telling people
that!

MINNIE
Some hippy gave him magic
mushrooms when he was twelve!
He's never been the same
since.

ERNEST
Shut up, Minnie!

MINNIE
Its the truth!

Ernest runs off.

MINNIE
Ernest!

Minnie runs after Ernest.

Penny and Tina exchange glances.

The two girls follow after Minnie.

43 EXT. MOORLAND RIDGE - DAY 43

Ernest is climbing along a ridge.

The three girls chase after him.

44 EXT. MOORLAND CLIFF - DAY 44

Ernest is standing on the edge of a cliff.

Minnie comes running up.

ERNEST
Come any closer, Minnie, and
I'll throw myself off!

MINNIE
I'm sorry

ERNEST
Why did you do that in front
of Tina?

MINNIE
I said I was sorry

ERNEST
You always ruin everything.

Penny and Tina arrive - sum up the situation.

ERNEST
There's a nice view from here,
Tina.

TINA
I can see that, Ernest.

ERNEST
You don't get a view like this
in Bristol.

TINA
No You are very close
to the edge, Ernest. Why don't
you take my hand

ERNEST
Make Minnie go back to the
farm.

MINNIE
Ernest

ERNEST
Make her go, or I'm going
over.

MINNIE
Don't listen to him ... he's
bluffing.

Penny takes Minnie by the shoulders.

PENNY
Lets do what he says.

Penny leads Minnie away.

TINA
She's gone, Ernest take
my hand.

Ernest takes Tina's hand - leaves the cliff edge.

45

INT. FARM KITCHEN - DAY

45

Penny is putting on the kettle - Minnie is sitting
slumped in a chair.

MINNIE
I don't think you should stay
on in the field.

PENNY
Don't be silly.

MINNIE
What am I going to do with
Ernest?

PENNY
I think he is clinically
depressed. When did he last
see a doctor?

MINNIE
Doctors around here are
useless.

PENNY
That didn't answer the
question.

MINNIE
(abrupt) Look, my brother is a
nutter. You should clear off!

PENNY
Lets have a cup of tea. You're
at your wits end. Its
understandable. This farm is a
lot of responsibility. How old
are you?

MINNIE
Twenty six.

PENNY
My god. I'm your age and I
live in a bed-sit. I barely
scrape by. My mother thinks
that being a nurse ... its a
doctor I'm going to marry ...
but they're all so up their
own arses.

Minnie laughs.

SOUND of door Ernest enters.

ERNEST
Sorry

MINNIE
(under breath) Idiot

PENNY
A nice cup of tea will do you
good.
(pours)
Where's Tina?

Minnie throws Ernest a look.

Ernest looks from Minnie - to Penny.

PENNY
I hope you didn't throw her
over the cliff? (laughs)

Minnie holds her head in her hands.

TINA O.S
Hello?

Minnie looks up. Ernest gives Minnie a wicked
smile.

ERNEST
In here!

Tina enters carrying a bunch of wild flowers.

TINA
There you all are. Ma mia, its
very dark in here.
(goes to Minnie)
We picked these for you.

Tina puts the flowers on the table.

TINA
He's very sorry for upsetting
you. Give her a hug, Ernest.

They hug awkwardly.

PENNY
There! Everything's perfect
again.

46 EXT. FARM FIELD - DUSK

46

There is a light coming from inside the tent.

47 INT. TENT - DUSK 47

Penny and Tina are in sleeping bags. Tina is reading a woman's magazine.

PENNY
They're a strange pair.

TINA
I like Ernest, but he gives me the creeps.

PENNY
What about her? She's weirder than he is. Its hard to have a normal conversation with her.

TINA
Neither of them are big talkers.

PENNY
I think we should up sticks early tomorrow.

SOUND of a tractor starting up.

TINA
What's that?

PENNY
Its a tractor.

48 EXT. FARM FIELD - DUSK 48

A tractor enters the field.

49 INT. TENT - DUSK 49

Penny is on her elbows.

TINA
What would a tractor be doing at this time of night?

50 EXT. FARM FIELD - DUSK 50

The tractor is heading towards the tent.

CU on Ernest driving the tractor. He is singing 'One Man Went to Mo

51 INT. TENT - DUSK 51

Tina is now up on her elbows.
The tractor lights shine on the tent.
Penny and Tina give each other fearful look.
They scramble out of their sleeping bags -
Unzip the fly - flee from the tent as -

52 EXT. FARM FIELD - DUSK 52

The tractor flattens the tent. Stops.
Ernest cuts the engine.
Penny and Tina stand staring at the tractor.
Ernest descends with a flashlight in his hand - a
shovel in the other.
Shines the flashlight on Penny and Tina.

ERNEST
Are you alright?

PENNY
You almost killed us!

TINA
What are you doing, Ernest!

ERNEST
I came out to see you

TINA
You're crazy!

ERNEST
Don't say that, Tina. I love
you.

PENNY
Stay away from her!

Penny grabs hold of Ernest by her arm.

ERNEST
Out of my way, Penny.

PENNY
Run for it, Tina!

Penny kicks Ernest in the shin.

Both girls turn and run.

53

EXT. FARM WOODS - DUSK

53

Tina - then Penny - enter the woods.

It is dark and moody.

TINA
(whispers) Penny?

PENNY
(whispering) I'm over here.

SOUND of broken twigs underfoot.

PENNY
Stay where you are and I'll
come to you.

Tina is frightened. She backs up to a tree.

A twig SNAPS.

Tina turns

Ernest's flashlight illuminates her - blinds her.

TINA
Penny!

Ernest's shovel comes down on Tina.

THUD!

The flashlight goes off.

Penny is panicked - she starts to run between the trees.

Ernest runs after her.

Penny is light-footed - she keeps ahead of Ernest.

Ernest trips - falls on the forest floor - winds himself.

54 EXT. FIELD - DUSK

54

Penny emerges from the wood -

Climbs a gate -

Runs across wide ploughed field -

Keeps running -

There is no sign of Ernest.

Continues to run -

Climbs another gate - sees a light ahead

55 EXT. FARM HOUSE - DUSK

55

Penny runs towards the light - stops

In front of her is the Scarecrow.

PENNY
I'm going mad!

She leans on the scarecrow - pants for breath.

An arm of the Scarecrow moves.

Penny continues to catch her breath.

PENNY
I've got to get away

The Scarecrow scythe begins to move.

Penny senses the movement - slow starts to look upwards -

As the scythe blade comes down -

Slices Penny's SCREAM - as she falls dead.

Minnie - standing over the body in the Scarecrow's clothes - drops the scythe.

Ernest appears.

ERNEST
(disappointed) You've killed
her.

MINNIE
I never liked her very much.

56 EXT. FARM FIELD - NIGHT 56

The SOUND of digging.

57 INT. FARM KITCHEN - MORNING 57

The wild flowers are dead in the vase.

58 INT. FARM BEDROOM - MORNING 58

Minnie is lying in the double bed.

She is reading Tina's women's magazine.

59 INT. FARM BATHROOM - MORNING 59

Ernest is shaving.

He is WHISTLING 'One Man Went To Mo'.

60 EXT. FARM HOUSE - MORNING 60

Minnie's muddy wellies and a clod-clad shovel.

A fist knocks on the door.

61 INT. FARM BATHROOM - MORNING 61

Ernest stops whistling.

62 EXT. FARM HOUSE - MORNING 62

Minnie - dressed in Penny's clothes - opens the door.

Middle aged TV LICENSE INSPECTOR - looks at his clipboard.

TV MAN
Good Morning. High Moor Farm?
Tucker residence?

MINNIE
Yes

TV MAN
According to our records, you
do not have a TV license. May
I come in please?

MINNIE

No.

The TV man steps back - looks up.

POV - TV aerial.

TV MAN

It is a criminal offence not
to possess a current
television license.

Ernest shouts from indoors.

ERNEST O.S

What's going on?

MINNIE

Its the TV man. He wants to
come in.

TV MAN

I would just like to confirm
that you have a television.

MINNIE

We don't have a television.

TV MAN

Nearly everyone says that,
miss. I need to verify that
for myself.

ERNEST O.S

Let him in, Minnie.

MINNIE

No, Ernest.
(to TV Man)
We do not have a television.

TV MAN

If you do not let me in, miss,
I will have to return with a
police officer to gain
admittance.

ERNEST O.S

Just let him in, Minnie. Show
him we don't have a telly.

TV MAN

I think you should listen to
the young man, miss.

Minnie bends behind the door -
brings out a shotgun - levels it at the TV Man.

MINNIE
Look, I'm not in my best frame
of mind today. I would be glad
if you accepted the fact that
we do not have a television.

The TV Man backs out into the yard.

TV MAN
As you wish, miss. However, I
will have to report that I was
refused entry.

MINNIE
Do what you want. Now, clear
off!

The TV Man disappears out of the farm yard.

The SOUND of a car starting - driving off. Ernest
comes to the door.

ERNEST
Why didn't you just let him in
the house?

MINNIE
So you could whack him over
the head?

ERNEST
No, Minnie ... so he could see
we don't have a telly! Now
he'll be back with the police.
What if they start snooping
around?

MINNIE
What are they going to find?

ERNEST
The car in the barn!

MINNIE
Mark knows someone who fences
stolen cars.

ERNEST
(jealous) Mark! He's as
reliable as the weather.
(MORE)

ERNEST (cont'd)
He didn't show up last week,
did he?

MINNIE
Shut up, Ernest. He'll get rid
of the car.

63 INT. CAR IN FARM BARN - DAY

63

Minnie and Mark are shagging in the car.

Mark comes - he gets off Minnie - starts to button
up his pants.

MARK
I like it when I'm with you,
Minnie. You're a wild girl.

MINNIE
You're a wild man, Mark.

MARK
Must be the country in us, eh?

Minnie is straightening her clothes.

MINNIE
So could you get rid of this
car for me?

MARK
You still haven't told me
where you got it.

MINNIE
I don't want much money for
it.

Minnie hands him the keys.

MARK
Okay, I'll deal with it. Its a
nice motor ... maybe they'll
be more than a few quid in it
for you.

64 EXT. FARM YARD - DAY

64

Mark is at the wheel of Ben's car, leaning out the
window.

MARK
I'll come back for my car
later.

MINNIE
Okay, Mark. Thanks for your
help.

Mark puts his hand up her blouse, squeezes her tit.

MARK
I'll take it out on your arse
later. See ya!

The car speeds out of the yard.

Ernest is leaning against the house wall smoking a
fag and whittling on a long piece of wood.

ERNEST
He's a dick.

MINNIE
And you're not?
(takes the cigarette out of
his hand, stubs it out)
Go and dig up some potatoes
for tea.

65 INT. CAR - MARK'S - EVENING

65

Ernest is sitting in Mark's car playing with the
steering wheel.

Minnie knocks on the window - Ernest winds it down.

MINNIE
What are you doing in Mark's
car? I thought I told you to
dig up some taties?

66 EXT. FARM YARD - EVENING

66

Ernest gets out of the car. Sulks.

MINNIE
What's wrong with you? You're
in one of your depressed moods
again.

ERNEST
I don't want to dig any more
potatoes.

Ernest runs off into the depths of the farm yard.

CUT TO:

Minnie looks up to an old hayloft.

MINNIE
Ernest! I now you're up there!

67

INT. FARM HAYLOFT - EVENING

67

Minnie climbs up to the loft -

Finds Ernest with a horde of items taken from his victims.

ERNEST
I'm scared

MINNIE
There's nothing to be scared of.

ERNEST
What if they took us away from this place?

MINNIE
Us Tuckers are going nowhere.

ERNEST
Give me a hug, sis.

Minnie hugs Ernest. They cling to one another - heads resting on each other's shoulder.

Ernest's hand goes into the back of Minnie's blouse - begins to wander up her back.

MINNIE
What are you doing, Ernest?

ERNEST
Feeling your skin. You've got lovely skin.

MINNIE
(relaxing) You think so?

ERNEST
Doesn't Mark tell you?

MINNIE
Mark doesn't talk to me very much.

ERNEST
I like talking to you, Minnie.

MINNIE
Do you, Ernest? Sometimes I'm
a bit bossy with you.

ERNEST
(laughs) Yeah ...

MINNIE
I don't mean to be.

ERNEST
I don't mind. Just sometimes I
wish

MINNIE
Wish what, Ernest?

ERNEST
You told me you loved me

MINNIE
I do love you. I love you more
than anyone else in the world.

Ernest's other hand touches the skin of her belly -
his fingers edge into the top of her knickers.

MINNIE
(weakly) Don't do that, Ernest
.....

ERNEST
I love you, Minnie

MINNIE
(weaker) Please, Ernest, don't
...

MARK O.S
(loudly) Minnie!

Minnie pulls away from Ernest abruptly.

MINNIE
It's Mark!

68

EXT. FARM HAYLOFT - EVENING

68

Mark is looking around the yard.

MARK
Minnie!

69 INT. FARM HAYLOFT - EVENING 69

Minnie jumps up, straightens her clothes -

MINNIE
You're not here.

She goes to the hayloft hoist doorway.

70 EXT. FARM HAYLOFT - EVENING 70

Mark looks up.

MARK
I can't find the keys of my
car. I'm sure I left them in
the ignition.

MINNIE
I've got them. I'll come down.

71 INT. FARM HAYLOFT - EVENING 71

Minnie turns on Ernest.

MINNIE
Give me the keys, Ernest.

ERNEST
I don't have them

MINNIE
Give me the keys or else ...

ERNEST
Else what? I'm not frightened
of you, Minnie.

MINNIE
You bloody well should be!

Minnie glares at Ernest - he hands over the keys.

72 EXT. FARM HAYLOFT - EVENING 72

Minnie greets Mark with a hug. He pushes her off.

MARK
Careful, the wife's waiting in
the yard to follow me back.

73 EXT. FRAM YARD - DAY 73

MARK'S WIFE is waiting in a beat up run-around car.

74 EXT. FARM HAYLOFT - EVENING

74

Minnie hands him his keys. Ernest watches from above.

MARK
I got a thousand for that car.
Its only fair you have half.
(gives her a wad of cash)

MINNIE
Thanks, Mark.
(Not interested in the money)
When will I see you next?

MARK
I've a day off Friday. I'll
swing by and we can go for a
drink.

MINNIE
Alright

Mark departs around the barn.

Ernest is hovering in the hayloft hoist doorway.

ERNEST
He's not much of a lover boy,
is he? A thousand pounds for
that car? More like five
thousand and he gives you five
hundred.

MINNIE
Shut up!

ERNEST
He's playing you for an idiot.
Now you know how I feel.

Minnie, upset, runs back towards the farm house.

75 INT. FARM HOUSE SITING ROOM - NIGHT

75

Minnie is watching television.

She is laughing at some comedy show.

The screen flickers in her face.

She is happy.

76

EXT. FARM HOUSE - DAY

76

Another fist on the door.

Ernest opens the door, toothbrush still in his mouth - sees

- Fifty something, Electricity Board INSPECTOR.

ELEC INSPECTOR
I'm here to cut off your
supply.

ERNEST
Sorry

ELEC INSPECTOR
Your electricity. I have a
court order. (hands Ernest a
sheet of paper)

ERNEST
(looking inside) Minnie!

77

EXT. FARM HOUSE ROAD - DAY

77

An Electricity Board van races away.

78

INT. FARM HOUSE KITCHEN - NIGHT

78

The kitchen is lit by candles.

Minnie - in dressing gown - is looking at the court order.

Ernest is flicking switches. Nothing works.

ERNEST
What are we going to do,
Minnie?

MINNIE
Use candles until we get the
supply reconnected. The wiring
was shot anyway.

ERNEST
What are we going to do for
cooking?

MINNIE
The cooker is gas.

ERNEST

We can't live like this.

Minnie is pulling cash out of the biscuit tin.

MINNIE

Its seven hundred pounds to get reconnected. I'll go into Bristol tomorrow and pay cash.

ERNEST

You can't leave me on my own.

MINNIE

For once, Ernest, you'll have to look after yourself.

ERNEST

You're a useless housekeeper. Gran would never have had us cut off.

MINNIE

Gran didn't have to live with supermarkets robbing farmers blind. They're the cause of the empty fields and the slaughtering of the dairy business. An 'cause we're farmers, we can't even get housing benefit or the dole. (stares at him) That's why we're broke, Ernest. That's why our cupboards are bare. That's why we have to rob good honest people. Its not our fault.

ERNEST

I don't like it, Minnie. I'm tired of eating taties.

MINNIE

(comforting him) Don't you worry, bro, I'll take care of everything. I'll bring back some nice prime steak from Bristol.

79

EXT. FARM HOUSE - MORNING

79

Minnie, dressed smartly, - driving out of the farm house gate - stops -

Ernest is putting the B + B sign back up.

MINNIE
You stay away from people
while I'm gone. You promise?

ERNEST
I promise, Minnie.

MINNIE
(leans out)
Give me a kiss.

Ernest leans forward and kisses Minnie on the
cheek.

MINNIE
Sweep out the barn and the
yard. It'll give you something
to do.

Minnie dries off.

Ernest watches the 4 X 4 cross the moors.

80 EXT. FARM HAYLOFT - DAY 80

Ernest is sweeping - looks up to the hayloft.

He leans the brush against a wall -

Goes into the hayloft.

81 INT. FARM HAYLOFT - DAY 81

Ernest is lying in some straw reading a men's
magazine.

He is studying each of the pictures with a look of
wonder.

SOUND of a car pulling up.

Ernest hides the magazine - gets up - goes to the
hoist doorway.

82 EXT. FARM YARD - DAY 82

A car is sitting in the yard.

NORMA, an attractive forty-year old women wearing
shades, gets out of the car.

She lifts her shades - looks about.

83 INT. FARM HAYLOFT - DAY 83

Ernest turns from the hoist door - plonks himself onto the floor.

ERNEST
Stay away from people, Ernest
....

84 EXT. FARM HOUSE - CONTINUOUS 84

Norma is knocking on the door.

85 INT. FARM HAYLOFT - DAY 85

Ernest is descending the loft ladder.

ERNEST
You promise me, Ernest

86 EXT. FARM YARD - DAY 86

Norma is back in the yard -

Wandering - searching for life.

NORMA
Hello! Is there anyone
about????

Ernest, bush in hand, appears from around the barn.

NORMA
(waves) Hello.

ERNEST
Can I help you?

NORMA
Your sign says you do bed and
breakfast?

ERNEST
Is it just for the one night?

NORMA
I'm looking to stay a couple
of nights. Would that be
possible?

ERNEST
(smiles) If you survive the
first night.

Norma laughs.

NORMA
I don't mind basic ... as long
as I get a cup of tea in the
morning.

Ernest leads Norma towards the farm house.

87 INT. FARM HOUSE KITCHEN - EVENING 87

Minnie enters carrying bags of grocery shopping.

There is the SOUND of music.

She slaps a large rump steak on to the kitchen
table.

88 INT. FARM HOUSE SITTING ROOM - EVENING 88

Minnie enters, sees -

Ernest has his feet up on the table and is smoking
a cigarette.

MINNIE
What the hell are you doing??

ERNEST
Being the man of the house.

MINNIE
Who told you that you were the
man of the house???

ERNEST
Norma.

MINNIE
Who the hell is Norma??

ERNEST
Our new guest. She's very
sophisticated. Paid fifty quid
in advance. Didn't you see her
car?

MINNIE
Where is she?

ERNEST
Having a bath.

MINNIE
There's no electricity.

ERNEST
The gas boiler still works.

Minnie looks up towards the ceiling -

The camera pans up -

89 INT. FARM BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS 89

- comes to rest on -

Norma in the bath surrounded by candles.

She is smoking the same kind of cigarette as Ernest.

90 INT. FARM GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT 90

Norma, in a dressing gown, is counting a wad of money.

KNOCK at the door.

Norma opens the door - it is Minnie.

MINNIE
Sorry to disturb you.

NORMA
Not to worry, dear. You're Ernest's sister?

MINNIE
I have to apologize for the power failure.

NORMA
That's alright, darling. We all have problems paying our bills from time to time. The candles suit me just fine.

MINNIE
I'll leave you to it.

NORMA
No, dear, come in, have a drink with me.

Norma picks up a half full bottle of whiskey - pours Minnie a measure into a teacup.

NORMA
You're a bit young to be
running a B+ B, love.

MINNIE
I'm not very good at it.

NORMA
Nonsense. The house sells
itself.

MINNIE
How did you find us?

NORMA
You were the last on the list.

MINNIE
We're always last on the list.

NORMA
You're the furthest from the
village, its natural. Anyway,
I prefer it out here on the
moors. Its cosier. Cheers,
darling.

MINNIE
Cheers

Minnie looks at Norma broodingly.

MINNIE
Are you here on business?

NORMA
Stress relief, darling. I had
to get away for a few days.

MINNIE
(curious) From London?

NORMA
That's right, luv. Things
haven't been going too well
with my business recently. Not
well at all.
(sits)
To tell you the truth,
darling, I'm not going back to
it. My sodden partners are
bloody awful to me.
(drinks)
Anyway, I'm here, and they can
all themselves
(MORE)

NORMA (cont'd)
(looks up)
Another, darling?

Minnie holds out her cup.

NORMA
It's a sorry business, really.
I haven't put much thought
into it. Just got in my car
... took off.
(smiles)
And this is where I've landed.
The west country moors! My
head is full of city shit, but
my heart is pure clean
country.
(looks at Minnie)
I do go on a bit.

MINNIE
That's alright. I go on a bit
myself sometimes.

NORMA
I have you as quiet and
serious, darling. Not mouthy
like me. (pulls herself
together)
Right ... its been a long day.
Must get my beauty sleep.

MINNIE
Will you be wanting breakfast
in the morning?

NORMA
Just a cup of tea. Can you
knock and leave it outside the
door?

MINNIE
(smiling) Certainly, Norma
.... (puts her hand on the
door knob) Good night, then.

NORMA
Good night, darling.

Minnie closes the door.

91

INT. FARM HOUSE LANDING - NIGHT

91

The door to the guest room opens -

Norma carrying a candle in one hand, a loo roll in her other hand - crosses the landing towards the bathroom.

The door to Minnie's bedroom is slightly ajar.

Norma pauses - looks into the room

POV - Minnie and Ernest are sleeping naked in the same bed -

Ernest has his arm around Minnie's waist.

Norma pulls the door to - it creaks.

92 INT. MINNIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 92

SOUND of toilet flushing.

Ernest's eyes open.

93 INT. FARM HOUSE LANDING - NIGHT 93

Norma goes back into the guest room -

Closes the door quietly.

94 INT. MINNIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 94

Ernest starts to rise.

Minnie puts out an arm to pull him back.

MINNIE
Its the middle of the night,
love.

Ernest puts her arm back under the covers -

Goes to a corner - picks up an axe.

Ernest exits - closes the door behind him.

MINNIE
(stirring) Ernest?

She searches for him with her hand - finds him missing - sits up.

MINNIE
(calls out) Ernest???

The SOUND of muffled VOICES, followed by a SCREAM.

The SOUND of feet on the landing.

Minnie quickly gets out of bed - throws on her dressing gown -

95

INT. FARM HOUSE LANDING - NIGHT

95

Minnie comes out of her room - listens.

The SOUND of loud VOICES - flickering candle light from the kitchen -

Minnie descends the stairs -

96

INT. FARM KITCHEN - NIGHT

96

Minnie enters the kitchen just as -

Norma stabs Ernest in the chest with a kitchen knife.

Ernest HOLLERS in pain. He is still holding the axe.

NORMA

Get him to stay away from me!

MINNIE

Ernest???

Norma is gripping tightly to a small hold-all.

NORMA

You're not getting my money.
No-one's getting my money!

MINNIE

What money???

NORMA

Don't come it with me, you little tart. Sleeping with your own brother ... its disgusting. I've done some men in my time ... but your own brother ... that takes the biscuit.

MINNIE

Put the knife down!

NORMA
Are you kidding me, darling?
The moment I put this knife
down ... I'm a gonner.
(looks at Ernest)
Get lover boy to drop the axe!

MINNIE
Ernest ... let go of the axe.

ERNEST
No she's hurt me.

MINNIE
Drop the axe, Ernest!

Ernest lets go of the axe - it CLATTERS on the floor.

NORMA
There's a good boy. We know
who wears the trousers in this
house.
(waves knife)
Step back from the door.

ERNEST
She's really hurt me, Minnie.

NORMA
You tried to chop my head off,
you bloody moron. Its
laughable. I'm from the East
End, darling, I've seen more
chopped heads than Marie
Antoinette.

Norma waves the knife viciously close to Minnie.

Minnie backs away from the door - lets her into the hallway.

97 INT. FARM HALLWAY - NIGHT

97

Norma is backing up the hall to the front door.

NORMA
When I get away from here, I'm
going to make a call, and some
of my best mates are going to
pay you a visit.

MINNIE
They won't be welcome.

NORMA

What? You going to put up the no vacancy sign? They won't be needing a bed for the night. Right, give me my fifty quid back!

MINNIE

Dream on. We don't do refunds.

NORMA

Really - then I'll just take this as a souvenir.

Norma picks up the shotgun by the front door.

MINNIE

That's my Grandad's shotgun.

NORMA

I like it. It would look good on my wall at home.

MINNIE

I killed him with it.

NORMA

(disbelieving) Did you, darling?

MINNIE

I blew his head off.

Minnie has begun to advance on Norma who is reaching for the door.

Minnie produces a key -

MINNIE

That door is locked. We lock it every night.

A look of panic enters Norma's face. She drops the knife, levels the shotgun.

MINNIE

It isn't loaded.

Norma bends to pick the knife up again -

Minnie leaps forward grabs her by the hair. Norma drops the shotgun.

MINNIE
(shouts) Ernest! Help me!

Ernest pushes in - also grabs Norma by the hair.

Norma's hair comes out in Ernest hand.

ERNEST
Her hair's not real!

MINNIE
The bitch is a fake as her
tan!

NORMA
You swines ... I'm going to
kill you!

Norma is still clutching on to the hold-all -
swinging it at Minnie and Ernest.

MINNIE
We're going to kill you first.

Minnie and Ernest wrestle Norma face first to the
floor -

98

INT. FARM KITCHEN - NIGHT

98

- drag Norma by the heels into the kitchen.

MINNIE
The oven!

ERNEST
What????

MINNIE
Turn on the gas!

Ernest reaches out - turns the gas on.

NORMA
You don't know who you are
dealing with!

MINNIE
Hold her down!

Ernest holds Norma down as Minnie puts an orange
supermarket plastic bag over her head.

MINNIE
Open the oven door!

Ernest leans out - opens the oven door.

NORMA
You bastards! I can't breathe!
Get this bag off my head!

Norma manages to pull the bag off her head as
Minnie and Ernest force her head into the oven.

NORMA
You're gassing me! You
bastards are trying to gas me!

Norma starts to cough - Minnie and Ernest start to
cough -

Norma starts to wriggle -

Her feet kick on the kitchen floor -

Minnie and Ernest continue to hold her down.

Norma's feet stop kicking - twitch - go lifeless.

Minnie switches off the oven.

99 EXT. FARM FIELD - NIGHT 99

SOUND of digging.

Minnie lifts her shovel.

MINNIE
Throw her in!

Ernest does as he's told.

Minnie starts shovelling in the hole.

100 EXT. FARM HOUSE - MORNING 100

It is a beautiful sunny morning. The birds are
singing.

101 INT. FARM KITCHEN - MORNING 101

The rump steak is frying slowly on the gas stove.

102 EXT. FARM YARD - MORNING 102

Minnie, in Norma's clothes, comes out of the
farmhouse clutching the hold-all. Ernest follows
on.

ERNEST
How much is in the bag,
Minnie?

MINNIE
Fifty thousand pounds.

ERNEST
What are you going to do with
it?

MINNIE
Take it down the bank - open
an account.

ERNEST
That's a lot of money. What if
they ask where it came from?

MINNIE
We sold some land for
building. That's what
everybody else says.

Minnie gets in the 4 x 4.

MINNIE
I might not be back in time
for Mark, so if he gets here,
show him the car in the barn.

ERNEST
What if he asks questions.

MINNIE
Play the village idiot.

ERNEST
Can I have some cider then?

MINNIE
If you keep your mouth shut.
(leans out)

Ernest kisses her on the mouth - smiles.

MINNIE
(smiles back) You're getting
bold, Ernest Tucker. Don't let
that steak burn.

Minnie drives off.

103 EXT. VILLAGE - DAY 103
Minnie posts a letter.

104 EXT. VILLAGE CHURCH - DAY 104
Minnie goes into the church.

105 INT. VILLAGE CHURCH - DAY 105
The Vicar is changing the hymn numbers.
Turns around -

VICAR
Minerva! Good to see you back
in the house of God.

MINNIE
Reverend Johnson

VICAR
What's the matter, Minnie.

MINNIE
I've come to tell you that I
think that it was wrong what
you did to me when I was
twelve.

VICAR
Minnie

MINNIE
I was a child and I believed
in Jesus. I haven't had a good
night's sleep since you
fiddled with me.

VICAR
(offended) I didn't fiddle
with you, Minerva!

MINNIE
You bloody did! You put your
thing up me! I was twelve
years old!

VICAR
You were fully formed ... a
little woman.

MINNIE

At twelve!
(sits in a pew)
I've written a letter to the
Bishop of Bath and Wells.

VICAR

Telling him what?

MINNIE

Everything ... and the names
of the other girls.

Minnie smiles - gets up.

VICAR

That's it, then.

MINNIE

That's it. If I was you, I'd
kill myself before everyone in
the village wants to.

Minnie leaves the church.

106 EXT. FARM YARD - DAY 106

Minnie drives the 4x4 into the yard.

Mark's car is parked up.

107 INT. FARM GARDEN - DAY 107

Mark has Ernest in a head lock.

Minnie emerges carrying a crate of cider.

MARK

Just showing young Ernest here
a headlock.

MINNIE

Ernest. Get the bottle opener.

Ernest does as he's told - goes into the house.

MARK

Well, my lovely
(touches her up)
You not happy to see your old
dog, then?

MINNIE
Of course I am.
(puts her arms around him)
I'm always glad to see you.

MARK
More than that brother of
yours is.
(takes out DVLC paper)
Here, who's this Ben Middleton
then?

MINNIE
Ben who?

MARK
He was the owner of that car I
sold for you. Friend of yours
is he?

MINNIE
No

MARK
I don't like it, Minnie. One
car maybe ... but now you've
got another one in the barn
you want shot of?

MINNIE
Could you?

MARK
This is over my head, love.
What's going on?

MINNIE
Its all innocent, really.

MARK
Try me?

108 INT. FARM BARN - DAY

108

Mark is reaching into the glove compartment of
Norma's car - pulls out some documents.

MARK
Norma Sheringham?

Ernest is propped against the barn door drinking a
bottle of cider.

MARK

Another friend of yours? This is a pretty classy car, darling.
(takes her by her cheek)
Maybe you should level with me?

MINNIE

You're hurting me, Mark.

MARK

Has he got something to do with it? He's crazy enough.

MINNIE

Leave Ernest out of this.

MARK

He's a half wit.

MINNIE

Don't talk about him like that.

MARK

You're not much better, sweetheart. I only come here for a bit of how's your father. I don't come 'cause I like you.

ERNEST

Stop being horrible to her!

MARK

Then tell me the truth! Where did you get the car?

MINNIE

It was left here!

MARK

(laughs) Left here? This is an expensive car. People don't leave expensive cars for the likes of you to sell.

ERNEST

Let's show him, Minnie!

MARK

Show me what?

ERNEST
The Seven Crosses.

Ernest draws Minnie a look.

MARK
What's the idiot on about? All
I care about is where this
motor came from.

MINNIE
Ernest ... get my shovel and
we'll show him.

109

EXT. FARM FIELD - DAY

109

Minnie and Mark, followed by Ernest carrying the
shovel, cross the field

MARK
You've buried her?

MINNIE
She died in the kitchen. So we
put her to rest.

MARK
Why haven't you told the
coppers?

MINNIE
They wouldn't understand.

MARK
If she just keeled over and
died, they would?

110

EXT. VEGETABLE PLOT - DAY

110

Minnie, Mark and Ernest come upon a secluded
vegetable plot at the bottom of the field.

MINNIE
Ernest grows his potatoes
here.

ERNEST
Soil's the best on the farm.

Six rough made crosses stand at the end of the
potato rows.

Mark mentally counts each one.

MARK
What are these then? You're
dead dogs?

MINNIE
That's right. (pints) This one
is Ben Caroline Ash
.... Tina

ERNEST
Penny

MINNIE
... and Norma.

MARK
(smirks at Minnie) Lots of
bitches, eh?

Minnie smiles weakly.

MARK
There's six crosses
(perplexed)
You said there were seven
crosses?

Ernest brings the shovel down on Mark's head.

Mark falls to the ground groaning.

Ernest brings the shovel down again.

SILENCE.

CUT TO:

Minnie thrusts her shovel into the earth.

Ernest places a newly whittled cross in line with
the six other crosses.

111 EXT. FARM FIELD - DAY

111

The rooks leave the trees and circle in the sky.

The breeze shakes the grass all across the
moorland.

The Scarecrow bends limply against the skyline.

Minnie and Ernest walk arm and arm back across the
field towards the farm.

112 EXT. FARM HOUSE - SOME DAYS LATER 112

A hand of a Policeman knocks on the door.

Millie opens the door.

MILLIE
Yes?

A POLICE CONSTABLE and the TV Man stand on the
doorstep.

TV MAN
Miss Minerva Tucker? I have a
court order granting me the
right to enter your dwelling.

Minnie leans behind the door - pulls out a piece of
paper.

MILLIE
No need ... we have a TV
licence ... You want to
inspect it?

The TV Man's face falls. The Constable smiles.

113 EXT. FARM HOUSE - DAY 113

Minnie is driving the 4x4 out the farm yard -
stops.

MINNIE V.O
I am grateful to Ernest.
Without him I wouldn't still
have the farm.

Ernest is taking down the B + B sign.

MINNIE V.O
Now, Ernest and I go
everywhere together. Together
we are safe.

Ernest smiles, gets in the 4x4

114 INT. FARM BARN - DAY 114

Norma's and Mark's cars are covered over with
tarpaulins -

bales of hay on top of them.

MINNIE V.O
Together we are safe from the
world, safe from what anyone
thinks about us.

115 EXT. PUB - DAY

115

Minnie and Ernest are drinking cider outside a pub.

ERNEST
This is good cider, Minnie.

MINNIE
I'm glad, Ernest. You've got
to keep your reputation up as
the village idiot.

ERNEST
That's right, Minnie. And you
as the village tart.

On a wall is a missing person's poster with Mark's
photo on it.

Under the table Ernest's hand is on Millie's thigh.

They both smile at one another -

They sip their pints of cider.

END CREDITS: