

## IN DARKNESS AND IN SECRECY

### ACT ONE

*Pre Show Lighting - Light over the bed, casting shadow across the stage.  
Goes to BLACKOUT*

*MAGGIE enters the space with Dolly  
(Dolly is a rag doll dressed in a very plain bridal frock. About the size of seven year old.)  
Goes to bedroom area.  
Switches on bedroom light, which is placed on the floor.  
She hums - "Marble Halls"*

### SCENE ONE

*MAGGIE and Dolly are on the bed.  
Footsteps from above  
Maggie stops humming. Peaks through the curtain.  
Face light by bedroom lamp.*

*GOSSIP played by the other four or five actors.*

MAGGIE:                      Someone's out there Dolly. I heard them.

.

GOSSIP:                      There's something going on.  
GOSSIP:                      Oh yes. I know. I've been watching.  
GOSSIP(all):                Watching watching watching (*fade out*)

*Silence  
Humming - MAGGIE  
Footsteps  
MAGGIE:                      Sssh Dolly. Are they watching us?*

GOSSIP:                      Talk of the town  
GOSSIP:                      Best not to talk of it  
GOSSIP:                      I'm not saying a word  
GOSSIP:                      Nothing, not a thing, not a thing (*All, fade out*)

*Silence  
Humming  
Footsteps*

MAGGIE:                      (*calls out*) Who's there?

GOSSIP:                      All eyes on them now.  
GOSSIP:                      I'll be watching  
GOSSIP:                      No escaping it.  
GOSSIP:                      Watching  
GOSSIP:                      Not a word.

*Pause  
Footsteps  
GOSSIP:                      Ssh  
GOSSIP:                      laughs, giggles.*

*Pause  
MAGGIE:                      (*giggles*) I think it's a man. If it is he's come to the right place.  
GOSSIP:                      whistles, laughs maliciously yet softly*

*Footsteps leave*

MAGGIE: He's gone.

*She turns off the light.*

*Lights slowly up the bedroom space..*

*She comes out of the bedroom.*

*Other lights slowly up.*

*She is holding Dolly closely and stroking herself with Dolly's arm.*

*She sings and dances with Dolly.*

*JOE appears at other end. He watches her.*

*MAGGIE sings then realises she is being watched.*

MAGGIE: What are you looking at?

*Pause*

JOE: Where's your mother?

MAGGIE: Upstairs. Working!

JOE: Why aren't you with her?

MAGGIE: Because I'm down here!

*Pause. They watch each other. JOE exits.*

MAGGIE: Fool! *(She holds Dolly up and looks at her).* You look beautiful tonight. *(Starts to dance with Dolly).* The light in your eyes. You're the most beautiful girl here Dolly. Everybody's looking at you. Talking about you. You're the talk of the town. And here you are with me. All mine. I can't wait a moment longer; I just have to kiss you. Mmmm.*(kisses Dolly)* You are such a beautiful kisser.

*Keeps singing and dances Dolly to the steps and sits her down.*

MAGGIE: *(chastising)* The truth is Dolly you won't get a husband dressed like that. Look at your hair! Let me do something with it. You really should wash it more, or get it cut perhaps? *Starts brushing hair quiet vigorously* Don't whine. If you can't look after properly, you'll have no choice. Let me see if I can do something with it. Don't move dolly, stay still, sit up straight, shoulders back, don't look like a slouch.

*MAUREEN enters.*

MAUREEN: Maggie! What are you doing? You're supposed to be ready. You're not even dressed. What are you doing with Dolly? Put her away. Come on now Maggie. I told you to get ready. Look at your hair.

MAGGIE: *(holds up dolly)* "Please don't kill me. I promise to be good"

MAUREEN: Maggie! I told you to be ready.

MAGGIE: I am ready.

MAUREEN: And I told you to stop playing with Dolly. You're getting too old for that sort of carry on. You're not a simpleton.

*Maureen takes Dolly from Maggie.*

MAGGIE: Night night Dolly

*Maureen waves Dolly hand*

MAUREEN: 'Night night MAGGIE.

*Maureen throws Dolly on the bed.*

MAUREEN: What are you wearing?

MAGGIE: Brigid gave it to me.

MAUREEN: Well, it might be fine for Brigid but I don't like it.

*Pause. Maggie looks at her pleadingly. Maureen smiles*

MAUREEN: Leave it on then. Look at your hair! Sit down while I try and get some order into it.

*She starts working on Maggie's hair.*

*Jo enters the bar area. He turns the lamp up. Gives the bar a wipe down and then pours himself a drink. He stands at the bar facing out towards the table. Action and conversation happens simultaneously at both ends of the space.*

MAUREEN: You really should wash it more, or get it cut perhaps?

*Maggie protests*

MAUREEN: Don't whine. If you can't look after it properly you'll have no choice. Let me see if I can do something with it. Don't move Maggie, stay still, sit up straight, shoulders back, don't look like a slouch.

*Maureen does Maggie's hair vigorously*

*George enters the bar*

JOE: Evening George.

GEORGE: Joe.

JOE: Whiskey?

*George nods*

GEORGE: You're quiet tonight.

JOE: No good for business.

*Pause*

GEORGE: No.

*They drink.*

MAGGIE: You're hurting me!

MAUREEN: For goodness sake girl!

*Continues doing hair but less vigorously*

JOE: Not working tonight?

GEORGE: Two days off

JOE: It's a good life for some.

GEORGE: Working underground?

*Pause. The men drink.*

MAGGIE: who's in the pub?

MAUREEN: Probably just George.

MAGGIE: and Joe.

MAUREEN: Don't argue with him tonight Maggie.

*Pause*

MAGGIE: Anyone else?

MAUREEN: No

MAGGIE: *(sighs heavily)*

*Maureen continues doing Maggie's hair throughout scene*

*JOE pours two more whiskeys*

JOE: Where's Maureen? She should be down here helping.

GEORGE: You're not busy!

JOE: I know I'm not busy.

GEORGE: Well, what are you complaining about?

JOE: *(annoyed) drinks*

MAUREEN: Let's just try and keep the peace.

MAGGIE: I can't wait till we leave here.

MAUREEN: Well it's still a way off yet.

MAGGIE: I don't know why you married him.

MAUREEN: Don't be cheeky.

GEORGE: *stretches and yawns*

JOE: Late night?

GEORGE: That's right.

JOE: Brigid?

*Heard from above*

BRIGID: Goodnight sir.

GEORGE: Work.  
JOE: Early one tonight then?  
GEORGE: That's my intention Joe.  
*JOE smiles*  
JOE: How's your drink then?  
GEORGE: Still going.

MAUREEN: *(licks fingers, wipes face)* Too much make up!  
MAGGIE: Mum!  
MAUREEN: Makes you look cheap.

GEORGE: You ought to get Maggie singing in here more. She's good for business

MAUREEN: I just want something better for you love.

JOE: What sort of business?  
GEORGE: Careful Joe. She's my special girl.

*Pause. Maureen is still fussing with the hair*

MAUREEN: Opportunities I never had

JOE: She needs to pull her weight.  
GEORGE: Get her singing then.  
JOE: Lot of rot, all this singing business!

MAUREEN: Just leaves JOE to me.

GEORGE: She livens the place up!

MAUREEN: You look beautiful. Come along.

They smile and enter the bar.

## **SCENE TWO**

*GEORGE smiles as soon as he sees them and moves towards them.*

GEORGE: *Well look who's here? My two favourite ladies.*  
MAGGIE: Hello George.  
MAUREEN: George.  
GEORGE: *(takes her hand and kisses it)* You're looking as beautiful as usual Margaret Tatham..  
MAGGIE twirls.  
GEORGE: *Come and say hello to me.*

*He pulls her onto his lap.*

*MAGGIE giggle, sits momentarily on his lap and then gets up and moves to the bar.*

MAGGIE: What are you drinking George?  
GEORGE: Whiskey is my poison, if I can't have you!  
JOE: Give it a rest George.  
GEORGE: Can't a man enjoy the innocent pleasure of a beautiful girl Joe?  
JOE: There's plenty of other beautiful girls available here George.  
GEORGE: True enough, but can they sing?  
JOE: We don't engage them to sing.  
MAUREEN: Watch yourself Joe.

*MAGGIE takes his drink back*

GEORGE: So Joe was saying that you're going to sing tonight Maggie.

*Joe goes to speak but Maureen speaks over the top of him.*

JOE: I did...(not)

MAUREEN: I've been telling him if she sang more we'd have more customers.  
JOE: That's right hey Maureen. Always thinking how to get a bit more money.  
MAGGIE: Better then not thinking at all.  
GEORGE laughs.  
MAUREEN: Maggie!  
GEORGE: She's onto you Joe.  
JOE: Well she'd better get onto a bit of work.  
GEORGE: Don't you go anywhere. You come and sit with me first. I've got something to show you.

*Maggie sits with George and he takes his bag of rocks out of his pocket.*

JOE: I don't pay her to sit down  
MAUREEN: You don't pay her at all  
JOE: Well she needs to earn her keep  
MAUREEN: I earn enough for both of us.  
JOE: You've spoilt her. She wanders around up there like she's royalty while the rest of us are down here slaving  
MAUREEN: Slaving?! The only one slaving around here's been me.  
JOE: Can't a man have a rest and a drink in his own pub? Did you hear that George? A man can't even have a quiet drink in his own pub.  
GEORGE: Don't you involve me Joe!

*GEORGE and MAGGIE continue with their conversation  
MAUREEN moves to pick up glasses. JOE follows her.*

JOE: If I were you Maureen I'd get her working upstairs as soon as possible.  
MAUREEN: Mind your mouth  
JOE: You mind yours  
MAUREEN: You're drunk and dull Joe  
JOE: I'm just speaking the truth  
MAUREEN: You're speaking rot.  
JOE: That might be so. But I still own the business.  
MAUREEN: And don't we all know it.

*BRIGID enters. She goes to the bar.*

MAUREEN: Brigid. Everyone finished then?  
BRIGID: Yes.

*She pours a drink.*

JOE: Another night of satisfied customers aye Brigid?  
*Pause.*  
BRIGID: Yes. And how are you going with satisfying the customers down here Joe?  
MAUREEN: Ignore him love, he's on the grog.  
JOE: (*grabs Brigid's hand*) And you'll be paying for that?  
BRIGID: A thousand times over Joe. A thousand times over.

*BRIGID takes her drink and sits at the other end of the performance space.  
GEORGE looks over. They nod.*

GEORGE: Enough of Joe's woes.  
JOE: You're a poet now.  
GEORGE: Enough! A song.  
JOE: I'm the boss!  
GEORGE: Up you go.  
MAUREEN: Yes! A song Maggie!  
BRIGID: Liven the place up.  
JOE: I said I was the bloody boss here!

*(Speak over JOE's protests)*

*GEORGE picks MAGGIE up and places her on the bar.*

GEORGE: ladies and gentlemen, would you please welcome Miss MAGGIE Tatham.

*MAGGIE sings - "Scrumptious Young Girls" \**

*BRIGID plays up to MAGGIE during the song, getting her to be cheeky, pulling her shirt low etc. MAUREEN pretends to be shocked but is radiant when her MAGGIE sings.*

*At the end of the song everyone applauds even JOE (only briefly) and GEORGE helps MAGGIE down.*

GEORGE: (Kisses her hand), You're going to be bloody famous Maggie.  
MAUREEN: You'll give her a swell head George.  
GEORGE: She deserves it.

*MAGGIE giggles and reaches over and kisses his cheek.*

JOE: Can't see any new customers George.  
MAUREEN: Come on Maggie. Come and help me upstairs.

*She takes MAGGIE by the hand and they exit. MAGGIE blows GEORGE a kiss.  
Awkward pause. JOE watches GEORGE and BRIGID watching each other.  
Finally he moves.*

JOE: I don't think anyone else is coming in tonight. I'll go and close up the front.

*JOE exits..*

GEORGE: He's getting worse  
BRIGID: He's got it in for Maggie.  
GEORGE: Oh yes.  
BRIGID: I keep an eye on her.  
GEORGE: She's growing up fast  
BRIGID: Yes

*Pause*

BRIGID: So...  
GEORGE: So... Do you have any more business tonight then?  
BRIGID: Depends on who's asking.  
GEORGE: Well...  
BRIGID: Yes?  
GEORGE: I was thinking.  
BRIGID: What were you thinking George.  
GEORGE: I think, you might know, what I was thinking.  
BRIGID: Might I just. Well, I'm not a mind reader George.  
GEORGE: It's not my mind I want you to think about.  
BRIGID: Is that so?  
GEORGE: Yes.  
BRIGID: Well, perhaps we could retire and think about, what you're thinking about  
GEORGE: Perhaps  
BRIGID: Oh George, you're so bold.  
GEORGE: Would you like it any other way?

*Lights fade in bar area as they exit.*

*They move to the bedroom area.*

*Soft lighting over bed area.*

*They move to the bed and lie down.*

*Throughout the following scene GEORGE and BRIGID can be heard softly.*

*Their sounds are playful and loving, whispers and giggles.*

### **SCENE THREE**

*MAGGIE comes back in to the bar.*

*She is humming. "Marble Halls"*

*She enjoys having the pub to herself, drinks left over drinks, singing. Playing to a pretend audience..*

*JOE returns. He sits at his stool and watches her.*

*MAGGIE is oblivious to JOE..*

*She has her back to the bar and moves down the space and sings.  
She enjoys using the space and plays at being a "singer"  
Turns sharply.*

MAGGIE: What are you looking at?  
JOE: You  
MAGGIE: Well don't!  
JOE: I thought you liked the men looking at you? Part of the show isn't it?

*MAGGIE continues to sing*

JOE: Isn't that why you wearing those clothes? They're whores clothes you know?  
You're more like a whore Maggie than a singer. So I'm looking at you. It's what  
you like isn't it?

*MAGGIE sings louder*

JOE: I asked you a question!

*JOE slams his fist down*

JOE: Stop singing and answer my question!

*MAGGIE ignores him and continues to sing more loudly. Turns her back on Joe.*

*Can hear GEORGE and BRIGID giggling*

*JOE moves to her and grabs her by the hair.  
She stops abruptly*

JOE: Now. That's better. I asked you a question.  
MAGGIE: Let go of me or I'll scream  
JOE: (pulls out his knife) You scream little Maggie and I'll cut your fucking voice box out!  
Pause  
JOE: Answer the question. Do you like men looking at you?  
MAGGIE: Yes  
JOE: Yes what?  
MAGGIE: (starting to cry) Yes, I like men looking at me.

*Pause*

*Giggles from other room  
He taunts her with the knife.*

JOE: I know that you do

*Pause*

*Giggles  
Pushes her down on the table.  
Starts to touch her*

JOE: And I like looking at you. Oh yes. Very much  
*Pause.  
Giggles*

JOE: You're not so brave now are you? Not so smart.  
MAGGIE: Please don't Joe. Please.

*MAGGIE starts to whimper.  
Giggles from other bedroom*

MAGGIE: Please Joe. Don't.  
JOE: No Maggie. No. It's time to start behaving like a big girl. All this singing is getting you no-on.  
Time to start earning your keep Maggie

*Pause*

*Giggles from the other room.*

*He starts to undo his belt.*

*Can hear her sobs, punctuated with giggles and JOE's breathing.*

BRIGID's voice:           What are you doing?

GEORGE's voice:        Getting the whiskey.

*As JOE is about to lower his pants GEORGE walks back into the room.*

GEORGE:                 What are you doing?

*Jo, shocked, turns around. MAGGIE scampers under the table and hides.*

GEORGE:                 What's going on?

*GEORGE grabs JOE*

GEORGE:                 What are you doing?

JOE:                      Nothing! Nothing different from what you're doing.

GEORGE:                 What? Get your pants on you fool!

*JOE pulls his pants on while GEORGE still holds him.*

JOE:                      Let go of me

GEORGE:                 No!

JOE:                      She's a tease.

GEORGE:                 She's your daughter!

JOE:                      She's not. She's her mothers daughter, so I'm treating her likewise!

*Shakes JOE*

GEORGE:                 What's got into you?

JOE:                      She's nothing better than a whore.

*Shakes him harder.*

GEORGE:                 Say that again and I swear I'll kill ya

JOE:                      Whore! Like her mother!

*GEORGE grabs him by the throat and is starting to choke him when BRIGID enters, arranging her clothes.*

BRIGID:                 George! What are you doing?

GEORGE:                 I'm killing him!

BRIGID:                 Stop it!

GEORGE:                 I'm going to kill him!

BRIGID:                 Get off him!

*BRIGID grabs GEORGE by the arms and tries to pull him off.*

BRIGID:                 *(screams out)* Let him go!

*She bites George on the arm and he drops Joe.*

GEORGE:                 What are doing woman?!

BRIGID:                 You where choking him!

GEORGE:                 He was trying to interfere with her!

BRIGID:                 And you're trying to murder him?!

*MAUREEN enters*

MAUREEN:                What's going on? Brigid?

GEORGE:                 I'm teaching him some manners!

MAGGIE:                 *(comes out from under the table)* Mumma!

*MAUREEN holds her.*

MAUREEN:                What's happening here George?

GEORGE:                 This pig was hurting her.

JOE:                      She's a tease!

GEORGE:                 You speak again and I swear I'll kill you Joe Tatham.

BRIGID: Let it go George!  
GEORGE: He deserves it to be killed! He's a filthy old bastard!  
BRIGID: He's a drunk!  
GEORGE: He's a dead man!  
MAUREEN: Stop yelling! We'll have everyone down here. Brigid, get him out before I kill him!

*BRIGID takes JOE by the arm and drags him out.*

JOE: I did nothing wrong!

*GEORGE goes for him on the way out but BRIGID pulls him out  
Things are silent except for a faint sobbing.  
Maureen rocks Maggie and tries to comfort her.  
GEORGE is awkward. Unsure of what to do or say.*

GEORGE: sshh sshh. He's gone now.

*GEORGE paces.*

MAUREEN: Shush now Maggie. It's over. He's gone.  
*Maggie still sobs*

GEORGE: I'll look after you. I'll protect you Maggie.

*Pause.*

GEORGE: I promise. He won't touch you.

*Moves to touch Maggie. She flinches.*

*Maureen pats her.*

MAUREEN: They're strong words George.

GEORGE: I mean them.

MAUREEN: I'm sure you do.

GEORGE: It's happened before hasn't it?

MAUREEN: Enough George. Enough.

*Maureen stands and tries to get Maggie up.*

MAUREEN: Help me George.

*They take her to the bed area and place her on the bed. MAUREEN holds her.*

*MAGGIE sobs.*

MAUREEN: Thank you George

GEORGE: I can help.

MAUREEN: Thank you. We'll manage.

*Pause*

GEORGE: I'll come back in the morning?

MAUREEN: Yes, come back in the morning.

GEORGE: I'll kill him Maureen, I really will

MAUREEN: George enough. Go now. Have a drink at the bar if you want.

GEORGE: Tomorrow?

MAUREEN: Yes. Tomorrow.

*GEORGE leaves and goes to the bar area*

*MAGGIE sobs more and MAUREEN rocks and comforts her.*

*MAUREEN sings to her.*

*The sobbing eases.*

*The song is heard softly throughout the rest of the scene*

*MAUREEN gets out Dolly for MAGGIE.*

*BRIGID comes in and joins GEORGE at the bar.*

*They sit in silence. BRIGID holds his hand.*

*He keeps his head down.*

*BRIGID moves closer and puts her arms around him.*

BRIGID: Sometimes you scare me.  
*He puts his head on her chest. She pats him like a baby.*  
BRIGID: I locked Joe in the back room. He'll sleep it off.  
BRIGID keeps her arms around him.  
BRIGID: Poor George. Poor old Georgie Porgie.  
*BRIGID kisses his head.*  
Pause  
BRIGID: I know you're a good man George Graham.  
Pause  
BRIGID: Come with me.  
*She takes him by the arm and leads him out.*  
*Fade to BLACKOUT*