

Extract from THE DOGS OF WAR by Tim Foley

DAD, MAM and FRANCES stand in the kitchen. The kettle is boiling.

DAD I'm going to put the kettle on

MAM She's already put the kettle on

DAD That's nice of her. We'll make everyone a cup of tea

MAM She's leaving

DAD Mam? You sit down now

MAM No

DAD Have you taken your smarties

MAM Yes

DAD Mam

FRANCES I shouldn't be staying, I've passed on my news now, I don't want to be –

MAM I wasn't sleeping. [*Beat.*] I just want to make that clear, perfectly clear, I want you to tell him I wasn't sleeping

DAD Mam, come on

MAM What?

DAD What does it matter?

MAM It matters to me

DAD Well what does it matter anyway

MAM Tell him I wasn't sleeping. Tell him I wasn't sleeping

DAD Your pills

MAM Tell him I wasn't sleeping

DAD Pills

MAM Took 'em

DAD Haven't. I can tell

MAM No you can't. You don't understand a fucking thing about me

DAD I know exactly what you're like. Sometimes you can be so spiteful Mam

MAM Can I

DAD You can Mam. Spiteful and ungenerous

MAM Ungenerous? Is this about the pension?

DAD No, this is about you

MAM This is about the pension. You think I sit on it, like a, a greedy little leprechaun. You know why I don't want to spend it?

DAD Let's get the biscuits out

MAM It's blood money, Dad. I spend that, I admit it, I need it

DAD We do need it

MAM No, but I admit that, I need it. Blood money. Crazy money. What they paid me to leave because I'm sick

DAD Yes. Because you're sick. It's a medical pension, that's what you do, that's what you get

MAM They paid me off

FRANCE John I should go

DAD No, stay, I don't

MAM What?

DAD I don't want to be alone

MAM You're not. I'm here

DAD I don't want to be alone with you. Not now. Now when you're like this

MAM I'm not. Dangerous

DAD I just

MAM I'm not gonna bite!

DAD We have to find those pills

MAM I'm not – She comes in here –

DAD Stop it Mam. [*Picks out empty medication tub from paper bag.*] This was full

MAM This is all about her, isn't it?

DAD No! Mam, this was full

MAM You want to fuck her?

DAD Mam

MAM You want to?

DAD Don't say that

MAM Ever since you set eyes on her. Couldn't if you wanted to. Got wood? Ha!

FRANCES Is she having an attack?

MAM I don't have attacks. Why do none of you see? Maybe I'm just like this.

 Maybe I attack, but it's not an attack, it's just me! Maybe I bite after all ey?

 Maybe I bite

DAD Mam. Where are the pills

MAM She comes in here –

DAD Mam

MAM Reigning havoc

DAD She's nothing to do with this

MAM Havoc

DAD Any of this

With each 'Havoc', MAM shouts louder and begins to shake.

MAM Havoc

DAD Let's calm you down

MAM Havoc

DAD Have a cup

MAM Havoc

DAD Have a cup of tea

MAM Havoc

DAD Have a cup of tea

MAM Havocuppatea! Havocuppatea!

The kettle clicks. MAM picks up the kettle and throws the scalding liquid at DAD's crotch.

DAD yelps.

FRANCES John!

MAM Not got wood now! [*Cackles.*] Not got wood!

DAD slaps MAM across the face. The cackling stops. MAM stares at DAD. The spell is broken.