

## THE CRUISE

Cast: WAITER – extremely patient waiter  
SHARON BLACK – Common, good time girl  
TRACY GREEN – as above  
MRS. WHITE – overbearing older wife  
MR. WHITE – henpecked younger husband  
MRS. BROWN – women in a panic

WAITER (stands to the side of the stage waiting to welcome guests. Mrs. White and Mr. White enter arm in arm) Good morning madam. Good morning sir. (consults list on a clipboard) and you are.....

MRS. WHITE Mrs. White and Mr. White

WAITER Oh yes, here you are. This is your table here. (points to table at front of stage laid up for breakfast with 6 chairs at it)

TRACY (comes dashing on with Sharon following. Grabs Mr. White's arm in passing and whisks him off) Oh look Sharon, a man!!

SHARON Oh yes (grabs his other arm) Just what we need. Come on with us. We'll sit here (starts to sit down one either side of Mr. White) and have a nice cosy breakfast

WAITER Excuse me ladies but I'm not sure that this is your table

MRS. WHITE (bringing up the rear and grabbing Mr. White before he sits down) No and this isn't a man, it's my husband!!

TRACY (moves next to Sharon) Oh sorry I'm sure (to waiter) Is it alright if we sit here? (flutters eyelashes)

MRS. WHITE As long as you behave yourselves (All sit down together Sharon – Tracy – Mrs. White – Mr. White

SHARON (giving Mr. White the eye. Mr. White looks sheepish but flattered) He's your husband?

MRS. WHITE Yes

SHARON Are you sure?

MRS. WHITE YES

TRACY He looks a bit young for you

MRS. WHITE Don't be rude

SHARON You're old enough to be his mother!

MRS. WHITE Young lady I don't like your tone

TRACY How did you two meet then?

MRS. WHITE I was his father's secretary

SHARON Oh you married the boss?

MRS. WHITE When old Mr. White died it seemed the best thing to do for the good of the company you understand

TRACY Oh I'm sure

SHARON(to Mr. White) How long have you been married er.....

MR. WHITE Leonard. 6 months isn't it dear?

MRS. WHITE That's right dear (pats his hand) Actually it's the first holiday we've had since we were married. We've been so busy reorganising the business.

TRACY What to make sure you get what's due to you in case he dumps you for a younger more attractive women? (Mrs. White looks thunderous) So you're on your honeymoon then? That's nice innit Shar? (Sharon nods and smiles)

MRS. WHITE Yes, yes I suppose we are

WAITER (waiting patiently) Would anyone care to order breakfast before we start on the lunches? Perhaps you would like to see the menu?

SHARON Oh no I don't need a menu. Just bring me a great big fry up with loads of toast and jam and a huge pot of tea. I don't want any orange juice though, it always gives me indigestion.

TRACY Oo that sounds good. I'll have the same with extra fried bread

WAITER (looks at Mr. and Mrs. White) And the same for you sir and madam?

MR. WHITE Oh yes please

MRS. WHITE Certainly not. We don't want to clog up our arteries so early in the day. We will have a nice bowl of muesli with skimmed milk and a slice of wholemeal toast. No butter and a cup of weak black tea with a slice of lemon. That will be quite sufficient and very nourishing

WAITER Yes madam, certainly madam (exits)

SHARON You two know how to live don't you? Muesli! Even our hamster draws the line at that! Are you saving yourself for lunch?

MRS. WHITE Oh we don't eat lunch. Just a small portion of fruit at midday is plenty

TRACY Wow. How come you're not as thin as a rake then?

MRS. WHITE Do you mind. I'm big boned

TRACY Right

SHARON What do you do for fun then? Drink yourselves stupid?

MRS. WHITE The very idea. Alcohol never passes our lips does it Leonard? Spring water is what we drink. Very invigorating and very good for the complexion (Mr. White looks a bit downcast)

TRACY They're not going to make much money out of you two in the bars or the nightclubs are they?

MR. WHITE (miserably) Oh we don't go anywhere like that

SHARON What do you do at night then? You know after you've eaten your alcohol free dinner?

MRS. WHITE Oh we retire to our stateroom with a good book and the crossword. We like to keep our minds active don't we Leonard?

MR. WHITE Yes dear

TRACY (to Mr. White) You want to come and meet us one night, we'd keep you active wouldn't we Shar?

SHARON Too right and not just your mind eh Trace? (both give dirty laughs)

WAITER (entering) Sorry for the delay with the breakfasts. Chef is having a little trouble with his oven. Would anyone like a bread roll to be going on with?

MRS. WHITE Certainly not. It'll spoil our appetites. In any case Leonard and I don't eat white bread. It's very bad for you

TRACY How did we know you'd say that?

MRS. BROWN (entering extremely flustered) OH has anyone seen my husband? He's disappeared. I can't find him anywhere. I'VE LOST HIM!!!!(sinks to a chair sobbing loudly)

SHARON That was careless of you wasn't it? (sees Mrs. White's dirty look ) Sorry. When did you last see him?

MRS. BROWN Last night in the bar at the top of the ship. We were sat in the corner having a quiet drink and he started ogling these two really common women who were laughing and joking with two men at the bar. They were obviously very drunk (peers at Sharon and Tracy) They looked a bit like you two. It was you two! What have you done with him?

TRACY Nothing!! We haven't got him!! The very idea

MRS. BROWN But you were there

SHARON Yes. Don't you remember Tracy? We were being chatted up by those two rugby players

TRACY I don't remember. I think I'd had a bit too much to drink

SHARON You do. You'd have to remember them two. 6 foot 4 in their socks with a personal hygiene problem and the I.Q. of a pork pie!!

TRACY Oh yeh. Mine was quite nice if I remember rightly (All through this Mrs. White is looking very uncomfortable and Mr. White is having a whale of a time)

SHARON Anyway what's all that got to do with you misplacing your hubby?

MRS. BROWN Because we had a row and I stormed off back to the cabin. I waited up for him but it got late and I was tired and I fell asleep. I didn't wake up until 7 o'clock this morning and when I did it was obvious he hadn't been back all night (starts to wail)

MRS. WHITE Oh now now. I'm sure there's a perfectly simple explanation. Have you reported it?

MRS. BROWN Yes I bumped into the Captain quite by chance and he said he would organise a search but I'm worried (starts to wail) that HE'S GONE OVERBOARD

SHARON Oh no!!

TRACY Surely not

MRS. WHITE No I'm sure that hasn't happened (to waiter) Tell her that couldn't possibly happen

WAITER Well actually madam that could quite easily happen. It has actually happened quite often (Mrs. Brown starts to wail again)

SHARON Oh cheers. You've been a big help. We won't be asking for your opinion again in a hurry

TRACY He's probably by the pool sleeping it off.

MRS. BROWN No he isn't, I've checked

SHARON Don't worry me and Tracy will go and look for him. We can usually track a man down can't we Trace? (Tracy nods) Is he good looking?

MRS. BROWN No

SHARON Oh well never mind. It's just that we'd probably find him quicker if he had had been. Right Tracy where shall we start?

WAITER (stepping forward with a note addressed to Mrs. Brown) Madam this note has just arrived from the Captain. Your husband has been found

MRS. BROWN (sobbing) Oh I can't read it. He's dead I know he is. Oh what am I going to do?

MRS. WHITE Calm down. At least if they've found him he can't have gone overboard. Give me the note (Mrs. Brown hands it to her and she reads it) Er no he's safe and well. He's having a cup of tea with the Captain at present

MRS. BROWN What happened to him? Where's he been?

MRS. WHITE Er it appears he.....er....got lost no doubt trying to find his way back to your stateroom

MRS. BROWN Yes but where's he been all night?

MRS. WHITE Er...he was found in one of the lifeboats

MRS. BROWN One of the lifeboats? What on earth was he doing in one of the lifeboats?

MRS. WHITE I'm sure I've no idea

MRS. BROWN Wait a minute was he alone?

MRS. WHITE Not exactly

MRS. BROWN Who was he with then?

MRS. WHITE It appears he was with two waitresses from the late night bar

MRS. BROWN TWO!!! He didn't have a headache last night then? Right that's it. I've been worried all night and all the time he's been dallying with two floozies from the late night bar!!! I'll show him. You (grabs the waiter by the arm) come with me (starts to march off)

WAITER Whatever do you want me for madam?

MRS. BROWN I want you to show me the best place for a man to go overboard!! (they rush off. The others look agitated)

CURTAIN