

FRANK

Now I don't mind. Two empty seats at the dinner table means more of the vino for me. But Julia - Julia is the stage manager type. If we're having eight people to dinner she expects to see eight. She likes order - probably why she took me on - it gives her a lot of practice - and having to cope with six instead of eight was extremely hard on Julia. I'm not saying that I needed any sort of apology - you don't turn up, that's up to you, but...

RITA

When I told Denny we were going to yours we had a big fight about it.

FRANK

I'm sorry. I didn't realise. But look, couldn't you have explained? Couldn't you have said that was the reason?

RITA

No. Cos that wasn't the reason. I told Denny if he wasn't gonna go I'd go on me own. All day I was thinking' what to wear. I tried on five different dresses. An' all the time I'm trying to think of what I can talk about. An' I can't remember anything. Then it took me ages to find your house. I walked up your drive an' I saw y'all through the window, sippin' drinks,' talkin' an' laughin'. An' I couldn't come in.

FRANK

Of course you could.

RITA

I couldn't. I'd brought the wrong sort of wine. I knew I'd bought the wrong stuff. But I didn't know which was the right wine.

FRANK

Rita, for Christ's sake: I wanted you to come along. You weren't expected to dress up or buy wine.

RITA

If you go out to dinner, don't you dress up?" Don't you take wine?

FRANK

Yes, but..

RITA

Well?

FRANK

Well what?

RITA

Well you wouldn't take sweet sparkling wine, would y'?

FRANK

Does it matter what I do? It wouldn't have mattered if you'd walked in with a bottle of Spanish plonk.

RITA
It was Spanish.

FRANK
Why couldn't you relax? It wasn't a fancy dress party. You could have come as yourself. Don't you realise how people would have seen you if you'd just - just breezed in? Mm? They would have seen someone who's funny, delightful, charming...

RITA
But I don't want to be charming and delightful: funny. What's funny? I don't wanna be funny. I wanna talk seriously, with the rest of you. I didn't want to come to your house to play the court jester.

FRANK
You weren't being asked to play that role. I just - just wanted you to be yourself.

RITA
But I don't want to be myself. Me? What's me? Some stupid woman who thinks she can learn? Well, she can't do that but let's bring her in because she's good for a laugh.

FRANK
If you believe that's why you were invited, to be laughed at, then you can get out now. You were invited because I wished to have your company and if you can't believe that then I suggest you stop visiting me and start visiting an analyst who can cope with paranoia.