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PREVIEW: WINGMEN

By

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Cast of Characters

M5 F5 Pianist:	(or recording)
MICK:	Pilot, brash, over confident and bullish
TOM:	Quiet, bookish desperate to ‘do his bit’
EDDIE:	Immature, overwhelmed and a follower
CLIVE:	Doctor, a quiet chap but more confident and assured than he appears. Had a relationship with ANNIE but has settled for DAISY.
COLIN (The Barman):	Assertive, tries to keep the peace, knows everyone.
SUSAN:	WAAF OFFICER but recognises that this can be an issue, takes while to rouse, protective. a Single Mother, we don’t know why.
JUDITH:	Confidence covers insecurity, strong willed and assertive.
ANNIE:	a very confident, forceful woman, slightly older than the others she is used to getting what she wants.
FLO:	a landgirl, brash and loud but ‘heart of gold’ type, she believes strongly in what is right.
DAISY:	Very much the English Rose type, Easily lead, stubborn to her own detriment. A bit naive.

Synopsis

3 young pilots attend a social event in the town near to their airfield towards the end of WW2. Their next flight will be their 13th mission and fears about fate, chance and inevitability weigh heavily, Mick is a chancer, reckless and devil may care, Eddie is immature, easily led and believes in fate while Tom is bookish, methodical and believes sticking to the rules will keep him alive. As the evening develops there is friction with the locals who have their own concerns surviving bombings and life.

Note

While ages for most characters would have been around early 20s, this has been staged with 16-18 year olds in all roles. The Doctor and Annie are a little older characters, probably early 30s easily achieved by costuming.

A few locations are specified, these can easily be changed, they are not critical to the story.

SCENE 1

A small village type hall decorated with flags and bunting. SR a bar runs along facing into the room, at the centre is a microphone at which a girl (Judith) is singing. Scattered around are 2 other women and a barman/waiter. DSR is an empty chair.

MUSIC - TILL THE LIGHTS OF LONDON SHINE AGAIN...

Remember that last night we danced together In our Piccadilly rendezvous Someday, sweetheart, we'll dance again together And those little dreams we dreamt will all come true For a while we must part But remember me, sweetheart Till the lights of London shine again And while I'm over there Think of me in every prayer Till the lights of London shine again I'll keep your picture near me A tender souvenir Now hold me close and kiss me And may God bless you, dear Don't you cry when I'm gone Wear a smile and carry on Till the lights of London shine again I'll keep your picture near me A tender souvenir Now hold me close and kiss me And may God bless you, dear Don't you cry when I'm gone Wear a smile and carry on Till the lights of London shine again.

As the song comes to an end the girl steps down and approaches 2 other girls ANNIE and SUSAN sitting SL.

JUDITH

Glad to see you could make it girls.

SUSAN

Every week Judith, we wouldn’t miss it... we all need a bit of cheering up

3 airmen enter, MICK, TOM and EDDIE, MICK is brash and loud a real flyboy, EDDIE is quiet and nervous while TOM is a bit geeky, glasses and studious looking. All 3 go first to the empty chair and salute it before TOM and EDDIE go to the table in the middle of the room and take a seat. MICK stands by them.

MICK

What a night that was, come on lads, it looks like we might get a quiet one... My round. *(He turns to TOM)* Sorry about that Jerry, I led him right onto your tail...Got the bastard in the end though.

TOM

Well Davie did!!! If you’d stayed in formation then that wouldn’t have happened...I was bricking myself you know.

MICK

..Course you were.

EDDIE

It’s taking chances like that that’ll be the undoing of you Mick. Didn’t you listen to anything in training?

MICK

Of course I did but I’m not good at following orders, can’t sit there waiting for them to come at me... got to have a go...you know.

EDDIE

You think you are special Mick but your type always end up hurting others...

TOM

How would you feel if it had been Sid you led him onto...

MICK

Ahhh! All’s well that ends well. You have to ride your luck a bit don’t you Eddie boy! Come on, it’s time we had a drink.

EDDIE

Don’t trust luck... 12 Sorties and we haven’t lost one of ours yet...It’s bad enough Sid’s gone...I don’t want to think of losing one of our class.

TOM

Stick to the rules Eddie, that way we protect each other...

MICK

Blimey, listen to you 2, look we’ve had a few hours kip now, let’s take advantage of the quiet, we’re all shattered so lets enjoy an evening out.

MICK heads to the bar. He waits while the BARMAN clears and heads back to his post. He scans the bar and his eyes settle on Susan, he gestures 4 at the barman.

SCENE 2

ANNIE

When are you back on?

JUDITH

In about 40 minutes. I think you have an admirer there Sue.

Judith nods over to the bar. On the other side of the room MICK has gone straight to the bar and is leaning up it next to CLIVE who has wandered over to it after the song. MICK is staring at SUSAN.

SUSAN

That’s all I need, I can’t get into anything with a junior officer...

JUDITH

I suppose not, glad I’m not in the WAAF, I prefer to keep my options open...

The girls all laugh...Susan fumbles in her handbag for a while before producing a compact and checking her lipstick for a moment. While she does so FLO enters and after looking briefly for a seat she approaches EDDIE and TOM and asks to join them (all silent)

SUSAN

Not too sure he’s what I’m looking for anyway... He’s more your type, love ‘em and leave ‘em.

JUDITH

What do you take me for?

SUSAN

Exactly what you are sweetie... Now tell me about that chap from last week.

JUDITH

Oh God him...*(sighing)* He looked a bit like Clive over there, but there the resemblance ends, he was no gentleman I can tell you that...very....er...Hands on shall we say.

SUSAN smiles and glances at CLIVE.

SUSAN

I doubt **you** were too traumatised and... I’m sure he got his come-uppance.

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MICK

(Turns to JUDITH) Hey love, I hope this isn’t your audience for tonight, right bunch of misfits...COME ON EDDIE, Why you looking so bloody miserable. BARMAN... Bring me another. *(DAISY, EDDIE, FLO, MICK)*

SCENE 15

SUSAN rises from her chair, she walks round to MICK and leans to speak quietly in his ear... He turns to stare at her then gestures her away. She leans in again and speaks, we hear the end of what she says.

SUSAN

...behaviour now or you will be on a charge.

MICK

(Stands and confronts her, DAISY tries to pull him back to his seat, he brushes her off) You can’t order me around, I’m a pilot...

COLIN (The Barman)

And she is a flight officer! I believe that means she out ranks you.

MICK looks at SUSAN scornfully.

SUSAN

By several ranks, Pilot Officer!!!

TOM has come back in during the above, he crosses the room and steps in, he drags at MICK’s arm...

TOM

Come on Mick, calm it down, we don’t want to get banned from here now do we...

MICK reluctantly allows TOM to pull him towards a seat. SUSAN calmly returns to sit but now sits where she can keep an eye on things. MICK can be heard all the time commenting that he is not going to take orders from a woman etc... MICK shrugs TOM away and storms out, TOM follows him. 36. 37. DAISY sits unsure now of what to do. BARMAN leaves SR. SUSAN follows the men out...

SCENE 16

FLO

Eddie, stop being an idiot. You make your own luck. You are a great guy, everyone likes you. Look at Mick, he’s always full of himself, over confident...but he rubs people up the wrong way, I take it that little display wasn’t unusual.

EDDIE looks down.

FLO

Look at me, Eddie! Look at me. Get yourself over there and ask her for a dance later, she'll say yes I bet. You've got yourself panicking because little silly things are going against you but that's not thinking straight...You're here in a lovely, well quite nice, hut with some mates and at a dance with a bevy of beauties *(she gestures around, this raises a smile).*

EDDIE

You have a point I suppose...It's just getting to me a bit.

FLO

What is?

EDDIE

It's been 12 flights since we passed out from training, 12 flights and every one of us is still here...Every night we come back and one or 2 are missing but not us...It's got to be one of us sooner or later, and lets be honest I'm not exactly lucky.

FLO

Maybe you are not, but Mick is rash and reckless, I've heard you say so yourself.

EDDIE

He is but he's lucky, he'll always be alright. I know, I know I should buck up. Perhaps I should do something rash, work my luck out.

FLO

Atta-boy.

SCENE 17

ANNIE has returned with CLIVE, they are still talking. BARMAN returns SR with a couple of bottles (or a crate)

ANNIE

I know you think that Daisy will see through him but I think you need to get over there and sort things out while he’s out of the room... She’s a gullible thing and he’ll need to win now...

CLIVE

Do you think so?

COLIN (The Barman)

He’s definitely got his dander up Clive, I don’t think that Daisy knows about your mother either...Daisy is a softy at heart, she wouldn’t be like this if she knew but with what’s going on she will feel sorry for him... that's a dangerous thing with a chap like that.

During this conversation MICK strides back in, clearly now worked up he sits with DAISY and wraps an arm around the back of her chair...

CLIVE

God he’s got a nerve...

ANNIE

He doesn’t know she’s not available...He reckons he’s in there.

COLIN (The Barman)

Now Annie don’t go...

ANNIE

Got a reputation too that one. Our Edie had a roll with him the other day...Or so I’m told.

CLIVE

He’s a letch that’s for sure. He was talking to me earlier, wanted Judith then but she left.

ANNIE

So he set his sights on Daisy *(she unknowingly re-enacts his machine gunner action).*

As she says this MICK places his hand on DAISY’s knee, she doesn’t move him away, after a few seconds he begins to slide his hand up a little.

ANNIE

Looks like he’ scored a hit!

CLIVE

Right. That’s too much now...

He pushes away from the bar and approaches MICK and DAISY.

XX No Character Assigned XX

No text provided

SCENE 18

CLIVE

Come on Daisy, we’re going.

MICK

Oi... Who the bloody hell do you think you are...

CLIVE

You’ve said quite enough. Daisy...

MICK

Piss off. She’s been with me all night...

CLIVE

She’s my fiancé!

DAISY

Clive....

CLIVE

Daisy, we’re leaving. Now.

MICK steps in.

MICK

(To ANNIE) Would you like to come and take your boyfriend back...before he does something stupid.

CLIVE shoves him.

MICK

You can have that one for free.

DAISY

Mick... don’t...

TOM

Mick, calm it down.

CLIVE

Or what? Eh?

There is a prolonged pause as the two men size each other up. MICK lunges with a drunken flail. EDDIE and TOM jump in to restrain him. CLIVE backs up towards ANNIE. He realizes that he's overstepped. ANNIE hold onto him. MICK breaks free, striking TOM.

MICK

Get off me... 'four-eyed little git.

TOM'S GLASSES HIT THE FLOOR, SHATTERING.

EDDIE

Oh hell Mick!

MICK has broken free of his restraint. COLIN picks up the glasses.

TOM

Oh god... Eddie, help me to fix...

They are interrupted by a blaring siren. The scene freezes into a momentary stunned tableau.

MICK

Here we go again then boys...

MICK leaves. TOM reluctantly follows stumbling over stuff. EDDIE begins to follow then hesitates, walking over to JUDITH.

EDDIE

I've been looking at you all night... Would I... I mean would YOU like to dance... perhaps next Saturday, when we're back from this...*(gestures Towards where the others have gone)*

JUDITH nods, smiling. EDDIE smiles back, then runs out of the door. CLIVE, ANNIE and DAISY are left on stage.

ANNIE

Well this is quite uncomfortable!

CLIVE looks at her, then DAISY.

CLIVE

Please... Leave it alone.

HE MAKES TO LEAVE.

ANNIE

Clive...

DAISY storms out.

Clive looks again at Annie.

ANNIE

Go...

does, glancing back at ANNIE as he goes.

ANNIE shrugs, picks up one of the airmen's abandoned drinks, takes a swig and leaves.

Set returns to initial state...It's days later...

JUDITH comes to centre stage, places the microphone and begins to sing...

We'll Meet Again...

COLIN mops the lads table at the back and picks up a cap. It is EDDIES...

LIGHTS... LAMP C ON EDDIES CHAIR UC

He walks to the front, sets SIDs chair straight and places another alongside it. He places EDDIEs cap on the Table. He returns to the bar and picks up a pint which he paces in front of EDDIE's hat.

COLIN (The Barman)

This ones on me Eddie...

He salutes.

LIGHTS... FADE TO BLACK.

End



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