

*PAWN takes the box off the table and dashes off left.*

*Filling in, MRS KING passes O'REILLY a cup. He takes it. She notices he is trying to pass her the one behind his back, she takes it and gives it to DAPHNE.*

MRS KING That was lovely... I mean...not for me. Thank you.  
Is there any coffee?

PAWN (*offstage*) Colonel, Colonel! Are you there?

COLONEL (*offstage*) Yes, here I am, Pawn.

PAWN (*offstage*) I think the others are waiting for you, Colonel.

COLONEL (*offstage*) Well, I'm just going in. Won't be another minute.

PAWN (*offstage*) I hear you've been washing your hands, Colonel.

COLONEL (*offstage*) Yes, that's right, Pawn. Washed me hands.  
And I had a bath as well. And a sauna. And that's why I've  
been so long. But now I'm going back in. So it's been nice  
talking to you.

*The COLONEL enters in more disarray than usual, with  
the false moustache on his left cheek.*

Here I am, old stick. Is the char ready?

MRS KING	} ( <i>together</i> )	{	Yes, come and have a cup.
DAPHNE			No, you've missed it.

O'REILLY Colonel, I must talk to you about a matter of the  
utmost importance.

COLONEL I'll get it.

*The telephone rings. The COLONEL answers it. Ringing  
continues. As he talks the COLONEL walks around the  
stage revealing that the telephone wire is not attached  
to anything.*

(*without pausing*) Hello, King here. Oh, it's you. Yes,  
everything's going according to plan. No, I can't say any