

Naked (2)

(Fine Line, 1993)



Screenplay by Mike Leigh

Directed by Mike Leigh

Characters: LOUISE (Lesley Sharp)

JOHNNY (David Thewlis)

NOTES: JOHNNY has been in LOUISE's house in London since the previous afternoon (*see previous scene*). He has had sex with LOUISE's roommate, Sophie, and LOUISE suspects it. LOUISE is JOHNNY's old girlfriend from Manchester; she doesn't know why JOHNNY has appeared, and he's not telling. In fact, he's belligerent toward her. He has a persistent, unexplained cough.

INTERIOR. LOUISE AND SOPHIE'S HOUSE—DAY

Downstairs, in the living room, a little after daylight. JOHNNY is sitting in an armchair, reading a book (James Gleick, Chaos). He is wearing only his overcoat and he is smoking. LOUISE hands him a mug of tea. He takes it without looking at her. She sits on the sofa and takes one of his cigarettes.

JOHNNY: Oh. 'Ave a fag.

LOUISE: Yeah. Thanks. I will. (*she lights it and settles back on the sofa*) What're you readin'?

Pause. She picks up SOPHIE's bodice and examines it.

JOHNNY: Will you stop fuckin' about and fidgetin' in my peripherals—I'm tryin' to concentrate.

LOUISE is holding the bodice in front of her face.

LOUISE: She's got a very little waist, Sophie, an't she? (*she peeps at him over the top of the bodice*) She's got little tits an' all. (*she throws down the bodice*) Are you not cold?

JOHNNY: I'm readin' about the Butterfly Effect.

LOUISE: What's the Butterfly Effect?

JOHNNY: Every time a butterfly flaps its wings in Tokyo, this old granny in Salford gets a bilious attack.

LOUISE: What happens if a butterfly flaps its wings in Salford?

JOHNNY: That's not the point.

LOUISE: Oh, is it not? What are you doin' in London, Johnny?

JOHNNY: What are you doin' in London?

LOUISE: I've told you what I'm doin' in London.

JOHNNY: You've told me nothing.

LOUISE: The last time I saw you, I told you—

JOHNNY: (*he throws down the book*) Fuckin' hell! Were you born irritatin'? What have you come downstairs for anyway?

LOUISE: I fell asleep with the window open. I was cold. I came down. I 'ad a pee. I've made some tea. I'm 'ere. All right?

JOHNNY: What was that? The greatest story ever told?

LOUISE: I live 'ere. (*pause*) So what 'appened? Were you bored in Manchester?

JOHNNY: Was I bored? No, I wasn't fuckin' bored. I'm never bored. That's the trouble with everybody—you're all so bored. You've 'ad nature explained to you and you're bored with it. You've 'ad the living body explained to you and you're bored with it. You've 'ad the universe explained

to you and you're bored with it. So now you just want cheap thrills and like plenty of 'em, and it dun't matter 'ow tawdry or vacuous they are as long as it's new, as long as it's new, as long as it flashes and fuckin' bleeps in forty fuckin' different colors. Well, whatever else you can say about me, I'm not fuckin' bored!

LOUISE: Yeah, all right.

JOHNNY: So, 'ow's it goin' for you?

LOUISE: It's a bit borin', actually.

JOHNNY: Are you not enjoyin' yourself? (*LOUISE shakes her head*) Have you made many friends?

LOUISE: No.

JOHNNY: 'Ave you got, erm, a goblet or something, because me heart's bleedin'.

LOUISE: When are you goin' back to Manchester?

JOHNNY: When are *you* goin' back to Manchester?

LOUISE: I'm not goin' back.

JOHNNY: Why not?

LOUISE: You know why not.

JOHNNY: Do I?

LOUISE: I thought you said you never wanted to see me again.

JOHNNY: I don't ever wanna see you again, so will you fuck off back upstairs?

LOUISE: Why are you such a bastard, Johnny?

JOHNNY coughs.

JOHNNY: Monkey see, monkey do.

LOUISE: And what does that mean?

JOHNNY has a short bout of coughing.

JOHNNY: Oh, this fuckin' cough.

LOUISE: Mm. A butterfly must 'ave flapped its wings.

He coughs again.

JOHNNY: So, have you got to get up for work now, yeah?

LOUISE: No. It's too early. I'm going back to bed.

He coughs. LOUISE gets up and leaves the room. His cough continues.