

'Sweet Desserts'

A murder mystery
Dinner event

by
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CHARACTER NAME	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	AGE	GENDER
Brian	The rock god	40+	M
The Side	Brummie bases	40+	M
Rick	Progressive rock artist	40+	M
Stevie	Californian rock chick	40+	F
Karen	The bands manager	40+	F
(Doubles up as police inspector)			

SCENE 1 TRACK ONE

Stage area set up with full band kit inc drums and PA. Across the back of the stage is a large banner with the words 'Sweet Desserts' across it, there is dry ice and smoke and lights. Onto the stage stroll the band (minus a drummer). The lead guitar plays a loud power chord.

BRIAN

Hello everyone!! We're just going to finish our sound check and we'll.... Where the f... where's Nobby? He hasn't even set up his bloody drum kit? Jesus!

THE SIDE

He's probably swapped it... again.

RICK

Swapped it, again?

THE SIDE

Yeah he swapped his drum kit for a motorbike when we were in the Isle of Man, back in, 71, he'll turn up just in time you'll see.

STEVIE

Where's the sound engineer?

BRIAN

Apparently we can't afford one so...

STEVIE

What do you mean, we can't afford one of course we can bloody well afford one?

RICK

No, that can't be right I mean our last album went platinum.

BRIAN

Yes, well that was quite a while ago Rick. (ASIDE) why do you think we're doing a gig in Hastings!

THE SIDE

Even so, look at all the world tours we've done, we can't be that broke.

STEVIE

Jesus, where's Karen. This is just a joke!

Stevie storms off stage. The rest of the band shrug shoulders and walk off leaving Brian alone.

BRIAN

Sorry about this, I'll er... I'll be right back.

From off-stage we can hear a blazing row, improvised, between the band. We can hear Brian say 'Well we'll just do it without the drums!!! The band slunk back on, but it is clear there is bad feeling between Stevie and most of the others. They take up their positions.

BRIAN

Ladies and Gentlemen and 'Sweet Hearts and Souls' welcome to the launch of our album Creampies - The Best of Sweet Desserts'... Volume 5, a one, a two a one two three four...

The band strike up SONG ONE. End of song.

KAREN

Oh my god! Oh my god!!! Oh Gooood!!!!

The band all stop playing.

BRIAN

What the hell... Karen, what the f...?

KAREN

It's Nobby...

BRIAN

Oh don't worry about it Rick can do some drum stuff on his keyboard...

KAREN

No... Nobby, is dead!

Rick plays a horror chord.

RICK

Sorry, my fingers slipped.

THE SIDE

He's what?

KAREN

Dead. D.E.A.D. Dead.

BRIAN

Are you sure, I'm not being funny, but sometimes he just seems that way.

KAREN

They found him face down in the hotel swimming pool... so yes I think he is dead.

STEVIE

Poor Nobby.

THE SIDE (AIMED AT KAREN)

That is so heavy...

A moments silence.

RICK

Soooo Rock-n-Roll, though.

STEVIE

Seriously! Have some respect.

KAREN

Yes, he's dead!

RICK

I'm just saying, you couldn't get much more rock and roll: Johnny Burnette, Shorty Long, Dennis Wilson, Jim Hodder...

BRIAN

No, overdose is Rock-n-Roll.

THE SIDE

Janis Jopin, Hendricks all the greats man

STEVIE

Heart-attack!

ALL

What?

STEVIE

The biggest killer of musicians is heart failure or heart attack.

RICK

Maybe he had a heart-attack whilst drowning?

KAREN

He didn't drown!

BRIAN

I thought you said he was dead in a swimming pool?

RICK

He could have slipped and banged his head.

STEVIE

More likely to have been a heroin overdose in the sauna.

KAREN

He was stabbed to death with a pair of his own broken drum sticks, the lucky ones he always carried around with him...

RICK

Not very lucky then... sorry, I'm just saying.

The side leaves the stage and tries to put his arm around Karen.

THE SIDE

You alright there Karen?

Karen shrugs him off.

KAREN

Will you stop pawing me Side, you're always pawing me!

THE SIDE

I was just being a shoulder to cry on Karen.

KAREN

It's not your shoulder I'm worried about, listen Side just give it a rest, I've told you, not now, not ever, alright sweetie.

BRIAN

Bloody hell, Nobby, gone. I can't believe it.

RICK

A legend.

BRIAN

You can say that again, Melody Maker said he was dead six years ago, they published his obituary and everything. Turned out he wasn't dead he was just in an alcoholic coma.

THE SIDE

Do you remember that drum solo he did on Oslo, three hours thirty five minutes.

BRIAN

Yeah! We went and had a meal.

THE SIDE

And that time he ate dog for a bet.

RICK

You've toured in Korea?

THE SIDE

No Ore Village.

They laugh. *Can be replaced by a local place known to be a bit rough.

STEVIE

Well that's that then.

Stevie begins to take her guitar off and The Side takes her lead.

BRIAN

Hey!!! Hey, what are you doing?

Brian barrs the way trying to stop the band from leaving.

STEVIE

Well we can hardly play with Nobby bobbing about in a the hotel pool now can we?

BRIAN

I think, it's what Nobby would have wanted.

Stevie is incredulous.

STEVIE

What Nobby wanted was a line of coke the length of a marathon and a dozen naked women waiting for him at the finish line. I don't think Nobby wanted was us playing half a dozen *'best of'* hits.

BRIAN

I think you're wrong Stevie, Nobby would have seen this as a fitting tribute...

STEVIE

I'm out of here!!!

KAREN

Nobody is going anywhere!!!!

Stevie turns vicious.

STEVIE

Oh yeah!!! And whose gonna stop me, your only our bleeding manager, not god,!

KAREN

The police said nobody is to leave!

Stevie stops dead as do the rest of the band.

THE SIDE

Why?

KAREN

Because, Nobby was murdered and they think the murderer is still around. So nobody is to go anywhere, band members, roadies, groupies (audience) press or record company suits, everyone stays.

A moment of thought.

STEVIE

Fine, well I don't have to staying on stage do I.

Stevie walks off, followed by Rick, Karen walks off, The Side is unsure who to follow, in the end he trails after Karen.

BRIAN

So what about the record launch?...

Brian realizes he is on his own as the rest of the band has either left the stage or is in the process of going.

BRIAN (to audience through mic)

Right, well, er, look thanks for coming and... well we'll, be signing autographs and selling our album... in er a bit. Till then keep it 'Sweet!!! Sweet Desserts'

Brian walks off.

SCENE 2 TRACK TWO (CONTINUES STRAIGHT ON ACROSS THE ROOM)

The Side is drinking from a Jack Daniels bottle, Rick has a bottle of expensive champagne.

RICK

All I'm saying is, you look pathetic... it's like watching a baby seal waiting to be clubbed to death, before having it's pelt ripped off and leaving it's bloody corpse on the fresh white snow.

THE SIDE

That is offensive on so many levels, firstly I am vegetarian and secondly Karen and I have this bond which is hard to define in purely conscious terms.

RICK

What does that even mean?

THE SIDE

It means... well, it means, look I don't know what it means. Do you think she'll ever come back to me?

RICK

I think come back might be over egging it somewhat from what I heard you weren't even a rebound from Brian and Nobby and more of a cry for help. Sorry.

THE SIDE

That's a bit harsh Rick.

RICK

"The Study of philosophy is not that we may know what men have thought, but what the truth of things is."-- Thomas Aquinas. Truth hurts mate... a toast, to women, you can't live with them and you can't kill them... well not legally.

THE SIDE

Cheers.

Enter Karen, Brian and Suzi.

RICK

Enter the dragon. Hello ladies do come and join us.

BRIAN

I was just saying, I still think Nobby would have liked us to play and it would be like, like a tribute to the best drummer in...

STEVIE

I'm not playing any sort of gig whilst one of the band is floating in a pool, tribute or no bloody tribute.

KAREN

Well actually, contractually...

STEVIE

You can take your 'contractually obligated' speech and screw it up and shove it where the sun do'nt shine, 'cept in your case, you still think the sun shines out of your fanny.

The side is trying to get Karen to sit next to him, Rick shakes his head and Karen takes another seat.

THE SIDE

Ladies, Ladies please. One of our own has been snatched from us, a brilliant light has gone out and he was taken, too young...

STEVIE

He was forty two he's not a bloody member of the 27 club.

RICK

The what?

BRIAN

The 27 club, Brian Jones, Alan Wilson, Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin and Jim Morrison...

THE SIDE

Still!! His drums will be forever silent now...

STEVIE

They usually were that's why we had to use session drummers all the time.

BRIAN

Bloody hell Stevie, show a little respect, you were an item at one point.

STEVIE (TO BRIAN)

I also had sex with you and I don't respect you either!

THE SIDE

(LAUGHS) Nice one.

STEVIE (AIMED AT KAREN)

At least I didn't marry the idiot.

RICK

Let he without guilt cast the first stone.

The Side lobs a bread roll at Rick's head.

RICK

Prick!

Rick lobs one at Brian who is furious.

KAREN

Will you two grow up!

THE SIDE

Sorry Karen.

RICK (IN MOCKING LOW TONE)

Sorry Karen...

Rick mimes clubbing a seal to death, much to the confusion of everyone except The Side who lobs another bread roll at Rick.

STEVIE

When exactly did the murder take place?

KAREN

The police think it must have been a couple of hours ago, sometime after you all signed in to the hotel and what was supposed to be the sound check... A sound check which you somehow managed to do with Nobby missing or so it seems.

RICK

We always did Karen he was never bloody on time.

KAREN

You lot had better sort out some alibi's because they will want to know where each of you were for the last three hours.

STEVIE (TO KAREN)

And what about you?

THE SIDE

Can I just say something...

BRIAN

If this is going to be a tedious eulogy...

THE SIDE

I was just going to ask if there was a vegetarian option? I mean it smells like a bloody abattoir in here.

RICK

And can I just ask, are we paying for this meal...

KAREN

Rick, you really are a tight f-ing git!

THE SIDE

Yeah Rick... actually are we paying for this...

KAREN

JESUS!!! I'll go and check!

She gets half way out when she suddenly rounds on them.

KAREN

Just in case you forgot, Nobby is dead, the man who you played alongside for what twenty years!!! I just thought I'd mention it, you bunch of.... Twats!!!

Karen storms out.

THE SIDE

I'll just see if she's alright...