

The Last Boy Scout

By Sam Freeman

A comedy about why the most likely person to kill a man is themselves.

Act One | Scene One

The present day.

A clearing in the middle of the woods. Sunlight breaks through the branches of ancient trees casting shadows on the ground below. Burnt and charred grass from a long extinguished fire.

A rough pathway leads into the clearing, made by overuse rather than intentional design. A stream's water gently trickling amid the undergrowth, the light catching the water where the foliage thins.

It is hot, the shade of the trees offering relief from the scorching sun. Birds sing intermittently and the lightest of breezes creaks branches.

Aled lies on the ground staring at the sky. He is in his early 50s, marginally overweight with thinning hair. He is dressed like a seasoned adventurer – rucksack under his feet – clothing appropriate for a weekend camping in the semi-wilderness. His eyes are closed and he breathes deeply with a zen-like deliberation.

There is a beautiful peaceful silence, until...

Tony *(offstage)* Aled?

Aled opens an eye and squints up at the sun.

Tony *(offstage)* Fuck me.

Tony enters. Also in his 50s he is drenched in sweat. He is dressed like a man 20 years younger (and from 10 years prior) and entirely inappropriately for the outdoors. His bag is a designer leather sportsbag (possibly fake), made for carrying things from a car boot to the gym and back again. He wears a leather jacket (that has seen better days and also possibly fake) and is a man desperately clinging to the fast-disappearing remains of his youth and firmly in denial about it.

Tony Fuck me.

I mean, fuck me.

Tony drops his bag with bittersweet relief.

Tony That hill. That. Hill.

It's got bigger. I'm sure of it.

There is no way, absolutely no way that hill was that big, absolutely no way.

Tony Fuck me.

Tony sniffs his armpits, recoils in horror before cracking open a can of lager he takes from his bag. It explodes sending foam down his arm which he greedily slurps.

- Tony I don't think I understood it, not then, certainly not now, this relentless obsession with the outdoors. What's so good about being outdoors? And don't say fresh air, there is no such thing as fresh air, fresh air is a myth created to make you believe you're 'enjoying yourselves', no, 'cleansing yourself' when you visit the great beyond, the wilderness, a myth to hide the fact that, when all is said and done, when it really comes down to it there's fuck all to see, and fuck all here to do. Can?
- Aled I'm good.
- Tony That hill though...
- Fuck. Me. Sideways.
- Don't get me wrong, I don't hate it in moderation, everything in moderation, lager in moderation, maybe, maybe a walk for an hour in some trees isn't horrendous, it's not, it's a refreshing change, makes you appreciate all the good things in life, in civilisation.
- It's taken me, 2 hours, 2 hours and 4 minutes to walk here, eighty, ninety percent of which I'd say was uphill and you know what, I guarantee you on the way back ninety percent of that trip will be uphill as well, it's ridiculous. It's obscene.
- And for what? This? This? It's not exactly scenic is it? Now we're here, we've made it. It's not... It's not the grand canyon, it's not overlooking the plains of the Serengeti, I can't see herds of wilderbeast across the plains, there aren't great glaciers or the lurking shadows of distant mountains... I can see trees, trees in lines, all the same, not even different types of tree, deciduous, trees as far as the eye can see. A tree-lined path up a hill filled with trees to what, this...
- Aled It's peaceful.
- Tony ...a clearing surrounded by fucking trees.
- Aled Or it was
- Tony We're not even the only people to have been here, it's not even our spot any more, did you see the rubbish on the path there?
- Animals, all of them, no consideration.
- It's not even that nice, it's not picturesque, not really, not any more, you know it was, then, maybe it was, for a clearing in the woods, not now, it's at best middling. I bet just inside the trees is a ring of teenage vomit, disguardved vodka bottles and used condoms.
- I can hear the motorway.
- I'd forgotten that. The frigging motorway.
- It's like the world is teasing me with a better option just over the horizon with no way to get there. We could walk I suppose, only thing to really do here. Could flag someone down if we needed, or just get it over with, put ourselves out of our misery and step in front of a lorry.
- I said it last week...
- Aled Yes.
- Tony ...and I'll say it again.

Aled You will.

Tony There are better places to come, better places to bring him, bring him, our alleged friend, in his hour of need I should add, of need, than this shithole.

Aled We voted.

Tony Another loss for democracy.
One word.

Aled No.

Tony Amsterdam.

Aled No.

Tony We could have gone to bloody Amsterdam – that'd have cheered him up. We could have spent a weekend, no, a week, a full week in Amsterdam, imagine, and he'd be happier after that I guarantee it. We'd all be happier.

Aled I'm not sure that's entirely...

Tony Strippers.

You know where I go when I feel a bit down, and I do, sometimes I feel a bit down, but when I do feel a bit down I don't go to some woodland, I don't look at trees or walk up shitting hills, I look at a twenty one year old's tits and I remember that there are good, beautiful things in this world and I feel better for it.

Aled The modern man.

Tony I'm sweating like a paedophile in a...

Aled It's exercise.

Tony It's unbareable. Instead of being somewhere, not even great, somewhere nice, somewhere air conditioned, I'm here, here, with you, and them.

Aled The weekend's not all about you you'll remember.

Tony And I'm not saying it is, I'm not.

I'm just saying that if my wife had walked out on me after twenty years I wouldn't want to be brought to the middle of bastard nowhere with three sad, overweight, balding blokes, no offence...

Aled None taken.

Tony ...to reminice about how it all went wrong. We had his stag weekend here for fuck's sake.

Aled It's cleansing

Tony ...and that was shit as well.

Aled It was alright.

Tony It's like returning to the scene of a crime.

Aled It's what he wanted.

Tony Exorcising the demons.

Aled Might be fun.

Tony Exorcising Lorraine.

Aled We're not going to talk about...

Tony We should have told him then...

Aled Right.

Tony Some of us did tell him then.

Aled Well....

Tony She's a terrible woman, always was, always has been, always will be.

Aled She wasn't all bad.

Tony And I'm not going to call her a whore.

Aled No.

Tony I'm not.

Aled No.

Tony I'm just saying she'd seen more cocks than a farmer.

Aled But you're not calling her a...

Tony No I am not.

Aled Well then.

Tony Well then indeed.

Pause

Tony I'm not saying she was ugly, she was a fox, there, I've said it, a bloody fox. She had, well, she had assets, ass-etts, you know? But for him? Lamb to the slaughter.

 Twenty years? Go back twenty years to this spot, there, just there and I'd stop it.

Aled You toasted their happiness.

Tony No. No. No. Well. No. Your memory Aled is playing tricks. I remember like it was yesterday, you and Alun stood there and toasted with cider...

Aled I don't drink cider...

Tony You raised a can and said you knew...

Aled I've never drunk cider.

Tony ...you knew that when you saw them together for the first time that it was a match made in heaven, like... like Charles and Diana, Charles and bloody Diana. I said not a word.

Aled He was tied...

Tony Not a peep.

Aled I'd forgotten.

Tony I let an atrocity happen that day and I stood by and said nothing. Now here we are, repeating history in sad memorial to our collective lack of foresight for our dear friend William, and rest in peace, his youth, cheers.

Farewell to the one we let down and left behind, farewell.

Aled He agreed it'd be good.

Tony It'd make me want to kill myself.

Aled Still it'll be a nice relaxing weekend.

Tony Belt round my neck and jump out of a tree.

Aled Might get his spirits up.

Tony Or drown, probably a bit shallow, I'd have to get one of you to sit on me, keep me under.

Aled Tempting.

Tony Either that or under a truck, bit of a walk though.

Lager?

Aled I've tea in the thermos.

Tony Fuck me, you want a beer inside you? A beer and then ideally shots.

Aled I'm good.

Tony You're not good. Noone has ever had the option of tea or beer and been good with tea.

Aled I'm fine with tea.

Tony We're celebrating Will's new found freedom, Lady Macbeth is gone, the witch is dead, or gone at least, you can't celebrate with tea.

Aled I'm fine and I'm not sure it's a celebration, not really...

Tony We need to toast, the king has returned from...from...

Aled The killing fields.

Tony Exactly, from the war and we must...

Aled I'm good.

Tony We're celebrating.

Aled We're waiting for the others.

Tony Oh come on.

Aled I'm fine.

Tony I don't see you for five years and what, you've given up on life?

Aled I'm good, really, I'm fine, better than...

Tony I think thou doth protest too...

Aled I don't.

Tony Thou doest?

Aled I don't drink.

Tony You what?

Aled I stopped.

Tony I beg your pardon?

Aled I don't...

Tony Oh I heard you, you don't, I don't know, you don't, drink?
When did this happen?

Aled Carol thought it'd be a good idea if we...

Tony Carol.

Aled Yes Carol.

Tony And do you do everything Carol thinks is a good idea?

Aled Mostly.

Tony If Carol said it was a good idea to jump off a cliff then.

Aled She wouldn't.

Tony Wouldn't she?

Aled No, and I'm not sure it's that big a...

Tony You're a traitor to the brotherhood.

Aled I'm fitter, healthier and happier than I've ever been.

Tony You didn't think to ask me.

Aled If it was a good idea?

Tony Yes.

Aled No.

Tony We could have turned this around, stopped this early.

Aled Five years ago.

Tony Unbelievable.

Aled After last time, we thought, I thought it best.

Tony Un-fucking-believable.

Aled It's healthy.

Tony It is not healthy.

So this is it then, this is what its come to, a night in a clearing with a t-total, reformed, did I mention balding, balding former legend...

Aled Ha.

Tony ..who's thrown his life down the drain because he wants to live a week longer...

Aled It's outrageous.

Tony ...and I'm the last man standing. It's tragic. If our younger selves saw us now they'd pity us. If your younger self, if Aled, aged twenty, whatever, walked into this clearing, he'd be ashamed. We've turned into our fathers, not even, we're a pale shadow of them.

Aled Everyone's greatest fear, everyone's greatest regret and everyone's inevitable fate.

Tony You're a poet now? You've lost it, that's the reality, you'll never shag anyone new again.

Aled Amen to that.

Tony Sex at our age, sober, it's a modern horror.

Aled It's a modern world. Maybe some nature will do you good?

Tony You know what'd have made it better though?

Aled Silent reflection.

Tony Amsterdam. Christ even Rhyl would have been better than this.

It's a tragedy. You're a tragedy, this whole fucking thing is a tragedy.

Tony takes a long drink from his can.

There is a brutally long pause.

Tony He'll be fine though, Will.

Aled He will.

Tony It's only divorce.

Aled Twenty years.

Tony That's what I told him.

Aled Twenty years.

Tony They'll both move on and meet new people.

Aled Twenty years.

Tony She might even get to shag a few of them.

Aled Sensitive.

Tony He needs to dip his pen in the ink.

Aled Right.

Tony That's what I told him. Get your end wet.

Aled Classy.

Tony Get back in the saddle, polish the, whatever you polish...

Aled The saddle.

Tony The sooner the better. Erase those memories.

Aled I imagine that went went down well...

Tony Least it went down...

No reaction.
Pause.

Tony The first one is always the worst. That's what I said.

Aled And the third?

Tony Divorce is like sex, the first time it's a bloody mess then every subsequent time it gets easier.

Aled The true romantic.

Tony And cheaper, they never tell you that, it's easier when you're giving up fuck all in gradually diminishing increments.

Aled I suppose it must be.

Tony It'll be a good change for him. They'd not had sex for six years I heard. I don't think I could go without sex for six years, longest I've gone is six weeks.

Aled What time is it?

Tony And that was that fungal business.

He must wank himself silly. I would. If it'd been six years my internet history would be obscene, I'd put it in my will, in case of death delete my history first...

Aled Were they far behind you?

Tony ...incinerate my phone.

Aled They should be here by now.

Tony A mile maybe, behind me? Alun was talking at him last time I saw them. Maybe he's talked him to death. The worst way to go I think, dying from boredom. Then again he's probably used to it...

No reaction.

Pause

Tony Six years though.
Maybe it's a sweet relief.

Pause.

Tony Do you know what the worst part of it is?

Aled No, what is the worst part.

Tony It's ten years too late.

Aled How so.

Tony Ten years ago we'd be in our prime.

Aled Or twenty...

Tony Our prime.

Aled Did we even have a prime?

Tony It's all behind us now, every last shred. I look in the mirror, every morning and I see it, I see it all slipping away, every day I can look in the mirror and think, yesterday I looked better than today and today I'll look better than tomorrow.

Aled Really glad you could come along.

Tony It's a battle you see.

Aled Oh right.

Tony To be in the game, it's time, the world is against us, it's against me, it's taken you and it'll eat up and spit out William.

Aled Alun?

Tony Never even knew there was a game taking place.

Look, it's as simple as this... You don't want a beer?

Aled I can hold a can if it makes you feel better?

Tony It would.

It's as simple as this, look, I'm out on a Friday night, the same as we've always done...

Aled You've.

Tony Those who didn't give up. I've seen it all, the things I've seen and it's changing. When Will got married we were kings, we were lords, masters of all we surveyed...

Aled I'm not sure that's...

Tony ...we could walk into a pub, bar, club and heads would turn, eyes would register, they'd see me, us, they'd see potential, untapped potential...

Selfish.

Aled Oh?

Tony It's selfish what he's done, what you've done, bringing us all here. It's self flagellation, it's pity that's led us here. Selfishness, we could have been back there, the old gang again.

Aled Old

Tony A pint in every bar, I could have got him sorted in one night, port in the storm. There are women...

Aled Jesus, come on.

Tony Not prostitutes

Aled He wouldn't...

Tony ...escorts, they specialise, precisely in this, make you forget.

Instead I'm deprived, we're all deprived.

Aled Fine for me

Tony Precisely.

Pause

Aled I can't remember when I last went on the town... Ten years, maybe more?

Tony It's a different world. The rules have changed, you can't just chat, you can't just charm someone, be the life and soul. It's shallow, depraved and, well, it's shallow. People today don't want to be sold something, they don't want to learn the benefits, they don't even browse the options, they have options, they don't know about them but they're there. Instead they take the shiniest, newest, youngest thing off the shelf. Some sculpted bearded thing whose walked straight out of a catalogue, wears a t-shirt two sizes too small and and puts his hair in a bun.

Aled Looks.

Tony All about looks. It's not like when we were kids, where you could have...

Aled Depth.

Tony Personality. That's what they're missing, it's hi, bye, someone different tomorrow.

Aled We're better off out of it.

- Tony It's a sad state, it's all about the cover not the book, they're not interested in what's on the pages, they don't even read the chapter titles, it's Dan Brown, that's what clubbing is, it's Dan fucking Brown.
- Aled And you're the bible.
- Tony I'm not Dan Brown, at worst I'm, I'm Stephen King, Tom Clancy.
- Aled Maybe they want something, simpler.
- Tony Or simple. Truth be told they don't know what they want, they've not checked out the options, not properly, they've not even given the options a second-glance. They don't understand what the mature man...
- Aled ...Old...
- Tony ...mature man brings that you don't get elsewhere. I've experiences. I've seen things, done things, if my bed could talk.
- Aled It'd be in counselling.
- Tony Exactly.
- What they don't understand, what they don't realise is that it's about personality and personality only gets better with time. Like wine or whiskey.
- Aled Aged 20 years in an oak cask.
- Tony Bull seamen.
- Aled What?
- Tony I use bull seamen. The seamen of bulls. It's rejuvenating, takes off fifteen years.
- Aled Seamen.
- Tony It's the proteins. I'm not saying it's not grim, but this face, if I'm going to play the game, their game, this is my calling card, I don't get to look through the window let alone through the door unless this gets me there, without this Tony junior doesn't go swimming.
- Aled Swimming?
- Tony Doesn't jump in the honey pot, take a dip in the...
- Aled I get it.
- Tony But for William. Married for twenty years, nineteen of those, probably twenty unhappily. He might never get laid again. The only thing he'll have to look forward to is the sweet relief of death.
- Silence, Tony noisily slurps the last of his can of lager and promptly opens a new one.**
- Aled How's the kids?
- Tony Barely see them.

Aled Oh.

Tony Birthdays and boxing day, best for everyone. Yours?

Aled Steffan is eighteen, Gwen is sixteen.

Aled takes photos from his wallet

Tony God when we were their age..

Aled Steffan on the right

Tony Looks like you just with hair.

Aled Gwen and Carol.

Tony Gwen's, grown up, must be fighting them off.

Aled They're both reassuringly sensible.

Tony She got Carol's hips, and her, well..

Aled Or at least I think they are, you never really know do you?

Tony Wouldn't know, I'm just a walking chequebook, not quite sure what it buys me, silence, keeps their mothers at bay, the hyenas and the snakes quiet.

Aled Best for everyone.

Tony Jaden likes golf, that's what I get, I get to know that Jaden likes golf, Marie has two boyfriends of whom her mother prefers one but doesn't disapprove of having two, Jack, well, I don't know anything about Jack, I think he's devoted himself to computer gaming and rampant masturbation and that leaves Claire...

Aled Emma.

Tony Emma, exactly, who just like her mother thinks I'd a dickhead and she's only nine.

Aled They grow up so fast.

Tony She sent me a text, Mum and I think you're a dickhead, apparently parental respect goes out the window when you merely pay for everything.

Aled Kids can be cruel.

Tony It's worth it though, the freedom, for Marie's sixteenth we had this party, there's Jan and Colin with Marie and Jaden, Alice and Toby with Jack, Derek and Malorie with Claire...

Aled Emma.

Tony Emma, and there's me, and we're sat round and I see them, these women who've faded, whose looks have deserted them, who garden and make jams, with their husbands with vacant eyes, and I think, the real winner, the real winner is me. I've got what they all want, freedom.

Aled A pioneer.

Tony A pioneer for the brotherhood.

Alun *(offstage)* Aled?

Aled Up here.

Tony In 20 years time they'll realise how good I had it.

Alun *(offstage)* Aled?

Aled Up here Alun.

Tony Apart from this of course, this weekend will be one they put down to an error of judgement.

Alun enters the stage closely followed by William.

Alun is in his early 50s but dressed like a much older man. He is kitted out like an overweight elderly commando, with khaki shorts and combat fatigues. His rucksack dwarfs those of the other men and had a huge assortment of gadgets attached to the outside. He is holding a compass and has, around his neck, a map contained in a plastic rain proof holder.

William is (unsurprisingly) also in his early 50s and is dressed entirely appropriately for walking a relatively short distance, he has a moderate backpack that is tidy and well packed. He should be unexpected, not quite the broken man Tony has described. He is a man without desperation.

Between them they carry a bag that contains camping equipment. It drops to the floor with the reassuring noise of tent pegs colliding and canvas exhaling air.

Alun Made it.

William Thanks for the help.

Aled We strode off rather.

Tony Didn't want to cramp your style.

William In the woods.

Tony You took your time.

Alun We did it the old fashioned way.

William It looks the same.

Alun Bring back those skills, the old map and compass.

Tony It's one path.

Aled Slightly more overgrown than back then.

William More litter.

Alun I was saying to Will that kids don't have these skills anymore.

Tony What skills?

William Maps.

Alun Maps and compass, able to traverse the wilderness.

Aled I think the kids do orienteering in school.

Tony It's not exactly the wilderness though, is it, here? I can hear a motorway.

Alun Can you?

Aled Did you stop?

William We came the long route.

Aled Long route?

Alun Not as direct as I hoped.

Aled Drop your bags lads.

Alun We circled in rather than a straight line.

William It's hot.

Tony Obscene.

Alun Like insects do.

Tony You got lost.

William Never.

Alun No, no, no.

William Not at all.

Alun No.

Aled No?

Alun We misplaced the path.

Tony There's only one bloody path.

Alun We wanted to check out the scenery.

Tony It's a path through the trees. There's nothing here but trees, did I miss something, a waterfall perhaps? Maybe a mountain range hidden in the undergrowth?

William It was bracing. Still, made it.

Aled Bracing.

William Refreshing. Good to get out of the city. That's right Aled?

Tony Just what you need, the great outdoors.

Alun Exactly.

Aled Bracing

Tony Beer?

William May as well.

Alun Where will the tents be?

Aled I was thinking we pitch in the corner, plenty of space for a fire, away from the stream.

Alun The flood risk.

Tony The only flood risk is from me pissing myself

Alun I've a storm alarm, bought it especially.

Aled We can hang it off Tony's belt.

William Alun's discovered army surplus.

Alun Really is quite tremendous.

William You should get him to tell you about it.

Aled Yeah.

Tony I'm good.

Alun Anything you want, half the price of the highstreet so long as you want it in combat colours.

Aled And who doesn't want that.

Alun Well the army apparently, only reason why they'd have so much surplus.

Tony You drinking Alun?

Alun I'm glad you asked.

William Look now we're here...

Alun I brought, let me find it...

Alun starts to remove the contents of his rucksack to find something seemingly at the bottom.

William I wanted to say, well, say...

Aled Camouflage suits you though, you blend in.

Tony You've not forgotten anything then?

William I know coming here was...

Alun You know the motto.

William A surprise.

Tony I do not know the motto.

Alun Course you do.

William Scouts.

Tony That was, we were kids, I don't think I knew it then.

Alun Don't help him, it'll come back.

Tony Be The Best

Aled Not unless we were in the SAS.

Tony Fuck knows then.

Aled Closer.

Alun Be. Prepared.
Drinking.

Alun has pulled out a half litre canister made of stainless steel with some camouflage.

Tony Vodka?

Alun Water purification. It's what they used in Afghanistan.

Tony Jesus fucking Christ.

Alun Special forces issue.

Aled Just like us.

Tony We're all set to invade a country then

Alun Put half a litre of contaminated water in this end.

William Like urine.

Tony Belgium?

Alun Exactly, like urine, I could urinate in this end, up to half a litre

Tony I think we could take Belgium.

Aled Sounds delightful.

Alun You shake it, and, and the other end. If you look.

Alun passes the water filter to Tony who looks at it with disinterest.

Tony Piss shake.

Alun Pure water.

William Pure.

Alun Not even a hint of urine.

Aled Halleluha we're saved.

William So this weekend...

Tony Hold on.

William ...I really appreciate....

Tony Wait a...

William ...you all coming...

Alun Not even a hint of yellow.

Aled Right..

William ...I know me and Lorraine's split...

Tony Not even?

Alun No...

William ...must have taken you by...

Aled Clear.

William ...surprise.

Aled Sorry Will did you?

Alun They used it in Iraq as well I think.

William I wanted to say...

Alun In the desert.

Tony In the desert?

Alun Oh yes.

Tony Lots of water filtering needed in the desert.

William It's really quite important.

Aled Go ahead.

Alun It's really quite clean.

William Everyone.

Aled Hold on.

Alun What?

Tony How do you know there's not even a hint of urine?

Pause

Alun Sorry.

Tony You said not even a hint, not a hint, that's what you said, so, how do you know?

Alun I...

Tony Have you pissed in this?

Alun Not directly.

Tony What does that mean?

Alun I have not pissed in it directly.

Tony How have you pissed in it?

Alun I put it in a jug first.

William Never mind.

Tony A jug.

Alun I didn't want to dribble.

William I'll have a beer I think.

Aled I think you should stick to beer too Alun.

William has taken out a beer and passes it to Alun

William Thanks

Alun Not even a hint.

William We're only here a night, I think we'll do without filtering any water. On our little adventure.

Alun Not a hint.

William You not got a drink Aled?

Aled Bottled water.

William Filtered?

Aled Fresh from the tap at home.

Tony You know he doesn't drink.

Alun Who

Tony This coward.

Aled Come on.

Alun Why would he?

Tony Why, why would he?

William Five years isn't it?

Aled Nearly.

Tony You knew.

William Knew what?

Tony About him, t-total, this disgrace of an ex-legend giving up the booze?

William Yes. Since, you'know.

Aled Last time.

Alun Oh yes, that.

William Been a good thing.

Tony Fuck me.

Aled But that doesn't mean you can't drink.

Tony This is exactly what I was scared of.

Aled Have an extra one on my behalf.

William He won't need any encouraging to do that.

Tony Amsterdam.

Aled No.

William What?

Tony Two words. Bloody Amster-fuckin'-dam.

Aled No.

William Nice here though.

Tony Exactly. He knows, he knows...

Alun Knows what exactly.

Tony He knows.

William Great museums.

Tony Y'what?

William The Rijksmuseum, something like that.

Alun He's right.

Aled Exactly, the museums.

Alun My top five museums...

Tony No.

Alun Number five

Aled Nature's what we need, taming nature...

Alun Yes, as Aled said.

Tony Taming. Nature.

Aled That's what we decided. We all agreed.

William I went there last year with...

Alun Number five is in Belgium funnily enough.

Tony What's funnily enough.

Alun There's Anne Frank's house as well.

Aled Anne Franks.

Tony You're joking.

William We were right to do this. Memories from Amsterdam.

Tony We had your stag night here, not too many memories here?

William This is different

Tony How is this different?

William I went to Amsterdam last year, funnily enough, and I've been...

Aled Come on Tony.

William ...meaning to say...

Tony No. No. No.

Alun Belgian Frite Museum in Bruges.

Aled What was that like?

Alun The museum?

Aled Bruges.

Tony Please no.

William Lorraine and I went two years back.

Aled You did.

William Christmas markets.

Alun I've been to Anne Frank's house twice.

Tony Noone cares Alun.

Alun It's very emotive.

Tony What are you talking about?

Alun It's must see.

Tony No. It is not must see. It's something you can see, it's something a guide book suggests you see, it is even, near the sea...

Alun Canal.

Tony ...and I'm sure for, for some people, it's something that you might go and see, but must see, must see, I don't think so.

Aled Too late now.

William It's nice here though.

Tony It is...
I dispair, honestly, dispair.

Aled Look, it seems to me, look, we're here now, Tony, we're here, it's one night, let's have a few beers like we used to, I drink water.

William Which is okay Tony.

Aled Which is okay, thank you.

Alun We could.

Tony No Alun.

Aled Let's make the best of this, this is us, just us, it's... it's a...

William A re-stag do.

Aled Whatever the hell that it, whatever this is, it's, it's a break, with friends and, well, we make the best of it.

Alun Agreed.

William Agreed.

Pause, they all stare at Tony.

Tony Fine. Agreed.

William takes cans from Tony's bag and hands them round to

everyone except Aled.

William

To us, back together again.

All

Cheers

They all open their can's which promptly explode.

Blackout.