## **BARBARA CASTLE AUDITION #1**

Rita: (Angry.) Oi Barbra, we're not gonna get any help from you then?

(Barbara *stops.*)

Barbara: You're Rita O'Grady, aren't you?

Rita: I dunno. I don't know who I am anymore.

Barbara: (To driver.) Go on, Ted, I'll see you in a minute. I'm in a difficult position,

Rita, I've got to balance the trade figures, so I want you back at work, but

I'm also a woman.

Rita: Is that why you went into politics? To balance the trade figures?

Barbara: (Beat.) Come to Westminster, tomorrow. Let's talk it through.

Rita: Can I bring some of the other girls?

Barbara: Yes, why not. One o'clock. Tomorrow. (Barbara gives her a card.) Do you

want a lift? That's my Bentley.

Rita: No it isn't. It's my Bentley. I paid for it. As a taxpayer.

Barbara: You're right. Love. (Beat.) Can you give me a lift?

## **BARBARA CASTLE AUDITION #2**

Barbara: Sherry anyone!?

All: Oh, nice. / Lovely. / Please.

Barbara: Now girls, I'm going to do something unusual for a politician. I'm not going

to lie to you. I want you to go back to work. I've been talking to Ford

American who are offering you ninety-two per cent of the male rate.

Clare: Oh, that's great!

Rita: No, we ain't going back wivout equal pay.

Barbara: When I was young, like you, I thought I could change the world overnight.

I saw injustice all around me, lies, back-stabbing, nepotism, corruption – and that was just the Labour Party. But all my shouting, and banging tables, went

for nothing. Real change takes time. How do you eat an elephant?

Beryl: In a bagel!

Barbara: One bite at a time, and an awful lot of mastication.

Clare: Ooh! (Giggles.)

Rita: We came here today because you're a woman, and Labour.

Barbara: I can't do anything without the backing of the TUC, the men, and men don't

see equal pay for women as a priority.

Cass: I'm an optimist –

Rita: — Cass wants to be an airline pilot.

Beryl: Before she's thirty-five.

Barbara: That's fantastic. And when are you thirty five, Cass?

Cass: Tuesday. But I'm not giving up. Because, that's not an option is it, giving up.

Rita's right, we should all be working towards our ideal world.

Music No. 17: IDEAL WORLD

Barbara: Aye, the only problem with that, love, is that you don't live in an ideal world

– you live in the real world, where if you ask for everything you get nowt.

## BARBARA CASTLE MUSIC AUDITION



