

Extract from **Sing Yer Heart Out For The Lads**
By Roy Williams

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Characters

Alan
Mark

From ACT TWO

ALAN: ...Do you watch TV Mark?

MARK: (sarcastic) Once or twice.

ALAN: All of those chat shows they have in the morning. Trisha, Kilroy, Richard & Judy.

MARK: Is there a point coming?

ALAN: Any time they have some big issue to bang on about, they invite the general public, the great working class to have their say. Live debates, phone ins, big mistake. I shudder when I hear them speak. Cringe. They are so inarticulate, they cannot string two sentences together. And their arguments, their points of view, Jesus Christ! Its obvious they have never read a book in their lives. I've seen black people on those programmes as well son, and no offence, but it seems as though they've eating retard sandwiches. Have you ever felt that way about them?

MARK: No.

ALAN: Come on Mark, honesty. Play the game.

MARK: Yes.

ALAN: You hate the way they talk.

MARK: Yes.

ALAN: They're letting the side down.

MARK: Yes.

ALAN: Make your point, and make it well.

MARK: You gonna make yours?

ALAN: You want to be better than that, but, that can never happen. Not here.

MARK: Wat?

ALAN: Look at us Mark, (points at everyone) The white working class. Yu think it was an accident we are all as thick as shit? Britain needs people like Lawrie to do the crap jobs. It can't have everyone been a doctor or a lawyer, the economy would fall apart, and do you know who we're are going to blame for not getting ahead? You. Why? Because you're different, because its convenient, because its easier to blame you than it is to think about what's really going on , and the reason why we don't think, is because we can't, and the reason we can't is the hoo ray henrys made sure of it. Spin us a tale, put it in the tabloids, we'll buy it. We'll blame anyone thass different for our own shortcomings. They want us to fight, they want us to fight you. We'll fight, but not the way they think. This is our country, we made it, and we don't belong in the gutter, because they say we do.

MARK: But we do, yeah?

ALAN: You're dragging us down.

MARK: Gimme one good reason why I shouldn't wrap this cue stick round yer head.

ALAN: Because I can help you.

MARK: By sending me back to ware I come from? .

ALAN: If only.

MARK: Convince my brothers and sisters to do the same, work for you?

ALAN: Its not as uncommon as you think. Some of our European friends have had black and Jewish branches. We're thinking of setting up our own Ethnic Liaison committee.

MARK: Yer certifiable.

ALAN: Don't tell me you're happy wid the way yer lot carry on, especially round here.

MARK: I know how I feel, and yeah they make me sick to be black. All there doin is provin you and me right. But I don't want to be right. anymore, I want to be proved wrong. I'm sick of being angry.

ALAN: That's sappy talk.

MARK: I want to be who I want.

ALAN: So be it, don't wait for us. You have to make your own mark in this world son, no one else will do it for you.

MARK: (laughs) You sound like my dad.

ALAN: Wise man was he?

MARK: He thought he was.

ALAN: What did he do?

MARK: Bus conductor.

ALAN: How long?

MARK: Thirty odd years.

ALAN: And I bet he had to scrimp and save all his life.

MARK: Who doesn't?

ALAN: But that is not what he wanted when he came here I bet. Or are you telling me he left the sun and sea of the West Indies for the grey skies of London to be a bus conductor? The poor sod probably wanted to party all night, sleep with as many women as possible, and smoke loads of shit.

Mark bursts out laughing

ALAN: You looked at him, and you thought, no way am I ending up like that. But you are, it's still happening. No one is going to help you.

MARK: I don't want help.

ALAN: You all want it, you're lost without us.

MARK: I want a chance.

ALAN: But it's us white people that's pulling all the strings Mark. We'll decide how many chances you get. We're always going to be above you, that's never going to change, so stop wishing. Show me one white person who has ever treated you as an equal, and I will show you a liar. All this multiculturalism. Eating a mango once a year at the Notting Hill Carnival is still a long way from letting your kids go to a school that is overrun with pakis and blacks.

MARK: I'm English.

ALAN: No you're not.

MARK: I served in Northern Ireland.

ALAN: Oh please.

MARK: How English are you? Where do you draw the line as to whose English. I was born in this country. And my brother. Your white, your culture comes from Northern Europe, Scandinavia, Denmark. Your people moved from there thousands of years ago, what? You think cos I'm Black, I don't read books. Where do you draw the line?

ALAN: That is such a ridiculous question.

MARK: Answer me.

ALAN: The fact is Mark, that the white British are a majority racial group in this country, therefore it belongs to the white British. If that was the case, what you're asking, we'd all be putting ourselves back into the sea. Because that is where we all originally came from, isn't it?

MARK: Yer full of shit.

ALAN: We say that people of European, white European descent are entitled to settle in Britain. Or the rest of Europe, where they are. We regard our racial cousins, the Americans, Canadians, as British. They've been implanted there over the centuries, now why should we take a time on it? The fact is the majority of blacks haven't been in this country for centuries, a few yes, maybe but that's it. You've been here, predominately, in your own numbers, three generations at most. That gives you squatters rights. You have given nothing to Britain, and you have never served any purpose in British history.

MARK: Oh, so the fact that thousands of black soldiers died during the war is lost on you.

ALAN: Not as many as the Brits.

MARK: Or the fact that in the 18th century, there was a thriving black community, living right here?

ALAN: Not as many as the Brits.

MARK: With their own pubs, churches, meeting places. Or the fact that in 1596, there were so many black slaves over here, working for their white owners, putting money in their pockets, doing all the work, that Queen Elizabeth saw them as a threat and wanted them out.

ALAN: What are you on?

MARK: How many black roman soldiers were here, when they came over and built your roads?

ALAN: You're losing it.

MARK: Were you bullied at school Alan? Couple of black kids nicked your dinner money? Or did your wife run off with a big black man? And I mean big black man? Or was it your mum?

ALAN: If you're so smart son, how come you still haven't caught up with us?

MARK: Cos you love pushing us down.

ALAN: Well push us back. You've had thousands of years. What are you waiting for? Always some excuse. Can't you people take account for what you are doing to yourselves, instead of blaming us every five seconds?

MARK: You are to blame.

ALAN: If you cannot hold your own to account for what they are doing, then we will be left to take drastic measures.

MARK: Is that right?

ALAN: Lack of accountability creates anger Mark, look at all the hate in the world, and it will twist some people's logic, just like Lawrie's and flavour thought. Bad things are motivated purely by anger. You lot need to feel we will be held to account for what we've done, well we need to feel it from you first.

MARK: You don't have the right.

MARK: Because yer white.

ALAN: Whose the bigot now?

MARK: Go fuck yourself.

ALAN: Face it son, you are nothing but a ticked box.

MARK: You won't win.

ALAN: We already have.