WILLIAM. Ha! Did you? How did you think of that? That’s fucking brilliant. That’s fucking genius is what that is.

Can I tell you something Bennett?

No other animal in the work places its behaviour via a third person. Did you know that?

BENNETT. Did I know what?

WILLIAM. If a monkey steals another monkey’s nuts he doesn’t go and get a third monkey to sort him out. If a cat shits on another cat’s tree that cat doesn’t go and tell a big huge third cat and get him to sort the first cat out. Does he? No. Of course he doesn’t. Only human beings do that. I hate it. You spar at Tanya. Tanya should have stabbed you or something. She didn’t. She rang home and told her dad. It’s pathetic. As far as I’m concerned that means you’re free to do whatever you want with her. Batter her. Shoot her. Rape her. She’s the only one who should be able to stop you.

Don’t you think?

Don’t you think Bennett?

Everybody’s being really fucking quiet today.

Don’t you think, Nicholas, shouldn’t Bennett be allowed to rape Tanya now?

NICHOLAS. No.

WILLIAM. What?

NICHOLAS. I said no. He shouldn’t. That’s horrible. That’s a crazy idea.

WILLIAM. What did you say? (He looks at him for a long time.)

NICHOLAS. I said that’s a crazy idea.

WILLIAM. Don’t say that.

NICHOLAS. We can’t operate like —

BENNETT. Don’t, Nicholas.

NICHOLAS. We can’t control a community —

BENNETT. Nicholas be quiet for God’s sake.

WILLIAM. Ah! That’s quite sweet. He’s protecting you look.

I don’t want to talk about this any more.

(He shoots Bennett twice. He dies. Cissy screams. She tries to stop herself. There is some quietness. Some stillness for a while.)

Can you smell burning?

Something’s burning. Can you smell?

NICHOLAS. No.

WILLIAM. Here. Nicholas.

NICHOLAS. What?