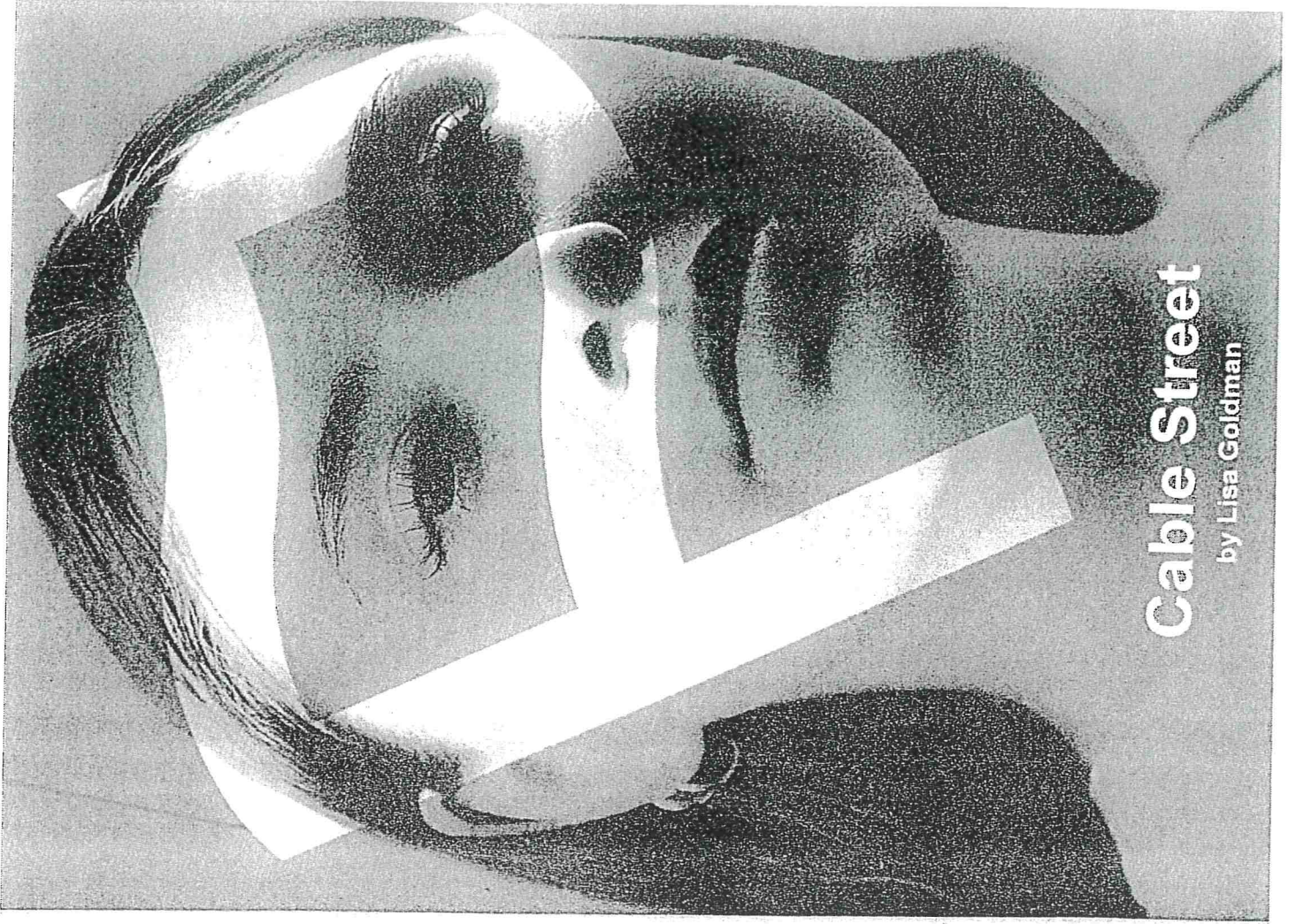


V.2.



Cable Street

by Lisa Goldman

The same hussle + bussle opening

Drum to introduce 3 "pairs"
Billy flicks his lighter

Straight into:

Eva	Picture a street
All	Cable Street
Kitty's Dad	A narrow street of shops and slums
Rosa	Jewish almost every one
Sam	From Poland
Eva	Ukraine
Anna	Russia
Sam	Us working-class Jews stick together
Anna	Like pickled herring and latke
Rosa	Chicken soup with matzah
Eva	Gefilte fish and horseradish

then straight into:

Kitty 1 gets out a blade. **Leah 1** *finches*. **Chorus 1** *finch too*.
Kitty 1 Can't be a doctor if you're scared of blood.
Leah 1 Not blood – pain. Finish the game!
Kitty 1 puts down her blade.
Kitty 1 Only cos you're winning.
Leah 1 It's marbles! The point is to win.

Eva ~~Picture a street~~

All Cable Street
Kitty's Dad A narrow street of shops and slums
Rosa Jewish almost every one
Sam From Poland
Eva Ukraine
Anna Russia
Sam Us working-class Jews stick together
Anna Like pickled herring and latke
Rosa Chicken soup with matzah
Eva Gefilte fish and horseradish

They see the beigel-seller coming with beignets in a basket.

Locals Cream cheese beigel (pronounced in the traditional way, long 'eye' sound – not 'bagel').

~~Burst of 'Beignets, who'll buy my beignets' from 'Beignets' by Max Bacon (1935).
 Locals dance or juggle beignets.~~

Kitty 1 pushes her marble, loses and grabs the black marble.
Leah 1 No, Kitty! Black one's mine. I won it fair and square.
Kitty 1 pushes Leah 1 who pushes her back.
Kitty 1 Didn't.
Leah 1 Did.
Kitty 1 (near tears) Black's my special one.
Leah 1 Don't play it then.
All Locals Let beignets be beignets
Leah 1 (relents) Give me the red – call it quits.

Kitty 1 offers her red marble. *They each kiss their own lucky marbles.*

Kitty 1 Love you, Black

Leah 1 Love you, Red. — Repeated by other Leah's

They make their marbles kiss each other: Sound of a huge yawn.

Kitty 3 Don't bloody tempt me.

Tenants They shall not pass. They shall not pass.

Bailiff Miss Grady, can you hear me?

Kitty 3 (shouts down from window) We ain't going nowhere, you thieving bastards! I got sick kids in 'ere what can't be moved. Now sling your 'ook.

Tenants cheer Kitty 3. She grins at Leah 3 who moves away.

Leah 3 They won't be cheering when I tell them who you are, what your fiancé did –

Kitty 3 Ex-fiancé.

Leah 3 picks up the Blackshirt uniform from the table.

Leah 3 Ex-Blackshirt too?

Kitty 3 So what if I keep Blackshirt friends? Don't mean I think the same. Do we always have to think the same as our friends?

Leah 3 looks towards the window desperate to get away.

Kitty 3 You broke the drainpipe – no way back.

Leah 3 sees that Kitty 3 is right.

Kitty 3 All those times I stood up for you. You just never knew.

She catches Leah 3's eye.

Kitty 3 Thought so, Leah, we ain't done.

She makes Leah 3's finger trace the scar on her face.

Kitty 1 and Leah 1 (aged eleven) play marbles on Cable Street in 1931.

Kitty 3 You're still my blood sister, girl.

Chorus (All) In more ways than one

Blood Sisters 1

~~Errors: I become Cable Street Locals. Children play street games, e.g. skipping with packing string, barrel hoop, ball games. Rosa and Eva scrub next-door steps, street.~~

Site: Cable Street, 1931

Leah 1 stares into Kitty 1's eyes. Leah 1 wears ugly glasses. Marbles sits between them, on a wet sunlit drain. A rainbow glistens there.

Kitty 1 Blood sisters, Leah. Now!

Leah 2 *races them towards her message.*

Kitty 2 What's this?

Kitty 2's *whole body lights up as she spies the message. Her eyes glitter.*

Kitty 2 (reads) 'I love you, Kitty.' (She pauses.) But I never told Billy me name.

Leah 2 He asked around

Kitty 2 Must've done.

Leah 2 *plays with Kitty 2's hair*

Leah 2 When you leave school, how will I still see you?

Kitty 2 'I love you, Kitty.'

Leah 2 I'll drag you back to Cable Street by your hair.

She pulls Kitty 2's hair too hard.

Kitty 2 Ow!

Leah 2 Let's run home before the tide gets us.

Kitty 2 One last paddle first.

They run into the Thames and kick water at each other, laughing.

Leah 3 I had you on a pedestal.

Kitty 3 So I was always going to fall.

Leah 1 and Kitty 1 (with kissing marbles) I love you so much it scares me.

Leah 2 He's not real though, this Billy - is he?

Billy strolls by, looking handsome.

Billy Yeah. He's real.

He winks at Kitty 2, who follows him.

Blood Sisters 2

~~Title: Cable Street, 1931~~

Locals Cable Street is a Jewish street.

Rosa So Kitty and her dad stand out like a pork butchers.

Leah 1 But Kitty would stand out anywhere. - *thinks Rose, my big*

Kitty's Dad strolls past Leah 1 and Kitty 1. *Something sad and broken*
about him.

+ *this... is Kitty's Dad.*

Dad Still sitting in the gutter with that specky Jew-boy?

He looks at Jewish Locals (Chorus 1) in their workers' caps and specs.

Dad S'pose there's not much choice round here.

Kitty 2 It's Leah, Dad, Rosa's sister. She lives downstairs.

Leah 1 I ain't smelly. You're smelly.

Kitty 1 Specky. He said 'specky'.

Leah 1 Oh

Dad *pushes Leah 1 playfully, but she loses balance and her glasses fall off.*

Dad Smelly now. Hehehe! (To Kitty 1) Where's its sense of humour?

Leah 1 (snivelling) You broke me glasses, stupid klutz.

Dad Life's a joke, did no one tell yer?

Kitty 1 Leah's me new best friend.

Leah 1 *looks excitedly up at Kitty 1 and smiles through her tears. Dad tips his hat.*

Dad I do beg your pudding, Leah. I'll explain to Rosa - don't fret so. Come to the pictures for free. I play piano at the Cable. Ginger'll let you in.

He walks off. Leah 1 shows Kitty 1 the broken glasses.

Leah 1 Rosa'll skin me alive.

Kitty 1 I'll bandage it for now.

She takes the pretty cloth that her marbles are wrapped in and turns it into a cute bandage for the cracked lens.

Leah 1 If I'm your 'blood sister', I won't be related to your dad, will I?

Kitty 1 Ain't his fault, Leah. He's got shell shock. Left for dead in the trenches he was. Buried alive for days. Then when he got sent back to the front, he had to shoot some German boy who was gonna bayonet him. I know . . . His hand got pinned straight through like Jesus - lucky he can still play piano. (She gives Leah 1 the bandaged glasses.) S'why he believes in miracles. Says I'm his little miracle.

Leah 1 *tries on her new glasses with a one-eyed pirate look.*

Leah 1 We off to the Cable then?

Kitty 1 After we do 'blood sisters'. Get there for the belly dancer in between the films. I can belly dance. Look!

She jiggles her belly. Leah 1 tickles her. Kitty 1 escapes, grins and pulls out the blade again.

Kitty 1 Ready now for blood sisters?

Billy. Blood Sisters (flicks lighter)
other Kitty's + Leah's stand

Rosa You'll thank me later.

Leah 2 Kitty . . . wait!

She runs after Kitty 2.

Rosa (calling after Leah 2) Milewski wants us on overtime –

Leah 2 (turns) Milewski can go fuck himself.

Anna shakes her head as Rosa wonders what 'fuck' means.

Eva But by the time Leah got outside

Kitty had gone.

Anna Leah looked around

Asked around

Both No one had seen Kitty

Eva Come back into work, girl. It'll come out in the wash.

She puts her arm around Leah 2, leads her back inside. Tired women work slowly by lamplight.

All Fasten down the lining

Hang the dresses high.

Head-Sisters 3

Anti-Cable Structure 1921

Kitty 1 grins, holding the blade.

Kitty 1 Ready? Kitty 2 - Ready Kitty 3 - Ready

Goes to cut Leah 1's arm.

Leah 1 No! (ALL LEAHS)

Kitty 1 Stop shaking and close your eyes.

They giggle. Leah 1 closes her eyes.

Kitty 1 Think of the blade like my fingernail.

She draws her fingernail across Leah 1's arm. Leah 1 screams. Kitty 1 laughs.

Kitty 1 That was my fingernail. Relax.

She stares at Leah 1's arm curiously before decisively cutting it. Leah 1 looks.

Leah 1 Kitty – I think there's too much blood.

Kitty 1 There is – yeah there is! You jerked away too suddenly.

Leah 1 No! Ow! Do yours, quick, do yours.

Kitty 1 presses her hand on Leah's arm to stop blood pumping out. Can't stop laughing. 4

Leah 1 Do yours!

Kitty 1 Stop squealin' or I won't kiss it better.

Billy: - Bloody Jews - Kitty 3 - Billy

Fire

Women scream as fire takes hold of Milewski's sweatshop. Screams. Flames. Rain.

Aftershock

Same night. Bethnal Green. Rain falls softly now. In Kitty 2's scullery-bedroom.

Kitty 2 comforts shivering Leah 2 on the bed, which doubles as seating.

Leah 2 I saw smoke drift past the window and when I looked out, this man stared back, black moustache, bright blue eyes lit up by flames. Behind him, fresh graffiti in white paint, dripping in the rain and half in shadow. But you could see enough to recognise 'Perish Judah' (Death to Jews).

Kitty 2 Thank God they never (hugs Leah 2 tight). Did you tell the police?

Leah 2 I tried. But Rosa kept shouting 'bout you.

Kitty 2 As if I'd hurt my Red.

Leah 2 S'why I had to warn you –

Kitty 2 Braving Bethnal Green for me . . .

Kitty 2 kisses Leah 2 boldly on the lips.

Kitty 2 You taste of rainy streets.

Leah 2 (tasting) And you've been drinking.

Kitty 2 Firewater – good for shock. Did a fireman lift you over his shoulder?

Leah 2 No! Back window was unlocked. I got us all out but the workshop's gutted.

Kitty 2 All that lovely silk and tartan, my favourite golden buttons. Wish I'd nicked more while I could . . .

Leah 2 pulls a handful of golden buttons from her pockets.

Leah 2 In a box by the window – I grabbed you some as I climbed out.

Kitty 2 smiles gleefully as if they were jewels. Puts them in sewing box.

Kitty 2 Love you, Peach. You should have nicked the lot! Take this off, it's too wet.

They peel off Leah 2's wet coat.

Message on the Edge

Leah 2 and Kitty 2 run barefoot and jump the tide at Tower Beach (by Tower Bridge).

Title: Tower Beach, March 1934

4 p.m. Bright afternoon. Soft lapping Thames. Birds and occasional ship horns. Kitty 2 and Leah 2 (both fourteen) search along the beach in their patched school uniforms.

Kitty 2 It'll be here somewhere. + Kitty 1 (energy)

Leah 2 It might not be like you're saying, Kitty, from just a glimpse of him in the shop.

+ Leah 1

Kitty 2 Leaning on the counter he was, getting an eyeful. Dad was there - Billy didn't care. Said he'd leave a message here.

Leah 2 Tide might've washed it away.

Kitty 2 Billy knows tides and school times.

Leah 2 Did he really say he'd leave a message?

Kitty 2 smiles shyly.

Leah 2 You never went in Billy's shop because there isn't a shop, there isn't a Billy and you never went to Bethnal Green.

Kitty 2 (about to cry) I did - I -

Leah 2 (sighs) All right. Let's split up and look for Billy's message. (Under breath.) Get it over with.

They split up and look at opposite ends of the beach. Leah 2 finds a reddish, heart-shaped stone and carves a message for Kitty 2 in the sand.

Leah 3 and Kitty 3 watch them, unseen, curious.

Leah 3 That message is how it started /

Leah 2 and Kitty 2 run back to each other.

~~Kitty 3 and Leah 2~~ No

Kitty 2 Leah

Leah 2 What?

Kitty 2 If I tell you a secret will you promise to keep it?

Leah 2 does their quirky secret 'promise' sign.

Kitty 2 Reason we was in Bethnal Green, we're moving there tonight.

S.

Leah 2 Liar.

Kitty 2 Doing a moonlight flit.

Leah 2 You're not.

Kitty 2 Rubi's priced us out.

Leah 2 You can't!

Kitty 2 S'only half an hour's walk.

Leah 2 But I ain't allowed round there.

Kitty 2 Bethnal Green?

Leah 2 Goyim gangs under the arches, waiting to grab yer bits 'n' pieces.

Kitty 2 laughs, grabs Leah 2 and tickles her. Leah 2 giggles.

Leah 3 I was the echo of your laughter.

Kitty 3 You were soft then - so soft-hearted.

Kitty 2's laughter turns to tears. Leah 2 wipes one and tastes it. Leah 1: Race you (they exit)

Kitty 2 Why am I the one crying?

Leah 2 I'm crying inside. You just can't hear it.

Kitty 2 Will you miss sharing me bed?

Leah 2 Will you?

Kitty 2 When it's cold, I will.

Leah 2 I won't miss you then cos you always nick the blanket.

Kitty 2 You take up all the space. How can someone so little take up so much space?

Leah 2 I need to stretch. When I sleep at mine with Rosa, it's top to toe and I have to lie like a board on my side or she says I snore.

Kitty 2 You do snore.

Leah 2 When did I -?

Kitty 2 Like the Thames murmuring. It's sweet. Wakes me up, then sends me back to sleep.

They look at each other and smile. Sound of an alarm horn

Leah 2 Tide's coming in.

Kitty 2 If you was Billy, what message would you leave me?

Leah 2 Let's look over there. I missed that bit of beach. Head start, cos you got longer legs.

Kitty 2 Alright.

Leah 2 *races them towards her message.*

Kitty 2 What's this?

Kitty 2 *'s whole body lights up as she spies the message. Her eyes glitter.*

Kitty 2 (reads) 'I love you, Kitty.' (She pauses.) But I never told Billy me name.

Leah 2 He asked around

Kitty 2 Must've done.

Leah 2 *plays with Kitty 2's hair*

Leah 2 When you leave school, how will I still see you?

Kitty 2 'I love you, Kitty.'

Leah 2 I'll drag you back to Cable Street by your hair.

She pulls Kitty 2's hair too hard.

Kitty 2 Ow!

Leah 2 Let's run home before the tide gets us.

Kitty 2 One last paddle first.

They run into the Thames and kick water at each other, laughing.

Leah 3 I had you on a pedestal.

Kitty 3 So I was always going to fall.

Leah 1 and Kitty 1 (with kissing marbles) I love you so much it scares me.

Leah 2 He's not real though, this Billy – is he?

Billy strolls by, looking handsome.

Billy Yeah. He's real.

He winks at Kitty 2, who follows him.

~~Blood-Sisters 2~~

Title: Cable Street, 1931

Locals Cable Street is a Jewish street.

Rosa So Kitty and her dad stand out like a pork butchers.

Leah 1 But Kitty would stand out anywhere.

Kitty's Dad *strolls past Leah 1 and Kitty 1. Something sad and broken about him.*

Dad Still sitting in the gutter with that specky Jew-boy?

He looks at Jewish Locals (Chorus 1) in their workers' caps and specs.

Dad 'S'pose there's not much choice round here.

Kitty 2 It's Leah, Dad, Rosa's sister. She lives downstairs.

Leah 1 I ain't smelly. You're smelly.

Kitty 1 Specky. He said 'specky'.

Leah 1 Oh

Dad *pushes Leah 1 playfully, but she loses balance and her glasses fall off.*

Dad Smelly now! Hehehe! (To Kitty 1) Where's its sense of humour?

Leah 1 (snivelling) You broke me glasses, stupid klutz.

Dad Life's a joke, did no one tell yer?

Kitty 1 Leah's me new best friend.

Leah 1 *looks excitedly up at Kitty 1 and smiles through her tears. Dad tips his hat.*

Dad I do beg your pudding, Leah. I'll explain to Rosa – don't fret so. Come to the pictures for free. I play piano at the Cable. Ginger'll let you in.

He walks off. Leah 1 shows Kitty 1 the broken glasses

Leah 1 Rosa'll skin me alive.

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Leah 1 If I'm your 'blood sister', I won't be related to your dad, will I?

Kitty 1 Ain't his fault, Leah. He's got shell shock. Left for dead in the trenches he was. Buried alive for days. Then when he got sent back to the front, he had to shoot some German boy who was gonna bayonet him. I know . . . His hand

got pinned straight through like Jesus – lucky he can still play piano. (She gives Leah 1 the bandaged glasses.) S'why he believes in miracles. Says I'm his little miracle.

Leah 1 *tries on her new glasses with a one-eyed pirate look.*

Leah 1 We off to the Cable then?

Kitty 1 After we do 'blood sisters'. Get there for the belly dancer in between the films. I can belly dance. Look!

She jiggles her belly. Leah 1 tickles her. Kitty 1 escapes, grins and pulls out the blade again.

Kitty 1 Ready now for blood sisters?

Leah thinks at the blade. Chorus I sharp intake of breath. Leah holds out her arm.

Leah BLOOD sisters.

Sam, Leah's older brother. Recently sacked for leading the pockets

Friday night. Jewish Locals (Chorus 1) hold candles and one or more cardboard boxes with light inside. Leah 2 and big sister Rosa walk along the street.

1930s Yiddish jazz coming from a gramophone mixed with religious Shabbat chanting/singing.

Rosa (sung/spoken) + Rosa: Leah's sister

All (sung/spoken) On Friday night the candles burn

On Cable Street

Title: Cable Street, May 1934

Locals part to reveal... a small all-purpose living room/kitchen/bedroom - Leah 2's family seutlery? Jazz distant now. Steaming tin bath of washing balances on two wooden stools.

KITTY APPROACHES

Sam, Leah's older brother, has his feet up reading the Daily Worker when Kitty 2 enters in, wearing a beautiful red dress. Sam whistles admiringly.

Sam Ain't you the Queen of Bethnal Green! Wouldn't mind you on me arm at the dance tonight . . . in that fetching dress -

Kitty 2 'Fetching'!

She laughs at Sam, who joins in, embarrassed.

Kitty 2 Let Leah go back to school - you can take me to your dance. She was top of the class - wants to be a doctor -

Sam laughs bitterly at the idea and returns to his newspaper.

Kitty 2 Why ain't you proud, Sam? What about equality?

Sam I was fourteen when I started down the docks. Equality!

Kitty 2 You could work instead of Leah. Always jobs for Jews round here.

Sam Not when you've been organising workers. So sacked, broke

Rosa enters, taking off headscarf. She tuts at the tin bath where a scribbling boy and his half-submerged in soapy washing like a good intention.
 There's no money for school

Rosa (to Sam) You scrubbed Mr Johnson's smalls, yet?

Sam (groans) Rosa.

Rosa (ticks his chair) Don't make me work when you don't even care for Shabbat.

Sam I was up at five this morning on a picket line, spoke at a strike meeting, researched an article and before me fundraiser, I'm having a tea-break. Is that alright?

Kitty 2 Need a hand, Rosa?

Sam (pulls Kitty 2 back) Not in that dress!

Rosa looks at Kitty 2 properly for the first time. Leah 2 at doorway watches unnoticed.

Rosa Oy, oy. You nicked that cloth from work.

Kitty 2 Got it down the Lane.

Rosa Lying shiksa.

Sam (pulls Kitty 2 towards him protectively) Milewski can afford it → SEAM
Leah 2 What's Marlene Dietrich doing in our scullery? "Leah" PRESS
Kitty 2 lets go Sam's hand. Kitty 2 and Leah 2 move towards each other. STEAM

Kitty 2 Zank-you, dahling. Its 'fetching' ain't it, Sam, haha!

Leah 2 'Fetchin'! Haha! Shame on you, Sam, hahaha! 'Fetchin'!

She feels the dress fabric, holds Kitty 2's waist and twirls her. Sam winds up the old gramophone. He watches the girls, half-curious, half-jealous.

Rosa She gets a fine dress and we get our wages docked.

She stabs soapy clothes with stick, works the scrubbing board. Steam rises. Record begins.

Sam Come to the dance in that dress, Kit - you'll sell us a ton of raffle tickets.

Kitty 2 I will, but you know what I want in return.

Confused and jealous, Leah 2 breaks away from Kitty 2, nearly knocks the washing over.

Rosa Careful!

Kitty 2 (to Leah 2) Hey, Red! I'm doing it for you.

Leah 2 (to Kitty 2) If you go to the dance, I'm coming too.

Kitty 2 grabs and spins Leah 2. Rosa stares at her in fury. Leah 1 and Kitty 1 might also dance to amplify this moment. Rosa takes needle off the record. Dancing ends.

Sam I can't get everyone in for free. It's supposed to be a fundraiser for refugees escaping Hitler.

Kitty 2 I'd take their place in Germany any day.

Leah 2 And live in a police state? Don't be a schnook.

Kitty 2 Schnook yourself.

Sam (to Kitty 2) Hitler's burning books. Locking up lefties. Calling everyone who don't agree 'collaborators'.

Kitty 2 No. He's putting people back to work. Making things. Building dams and roads. Giving people hope again.

Sam *Daily Mail?*

Kitty 2 Everyone's saying it.

Lights up on Chorus 2 reading recognisable British newspapers, with pro-fascist and pro-Hitler headlines. Sam waves the Daily Worker at Kitty 2, with its anti-fascist headline.

Sam Not the Daily Worker. (To Kitty 2) We'll soon get your thinking straight.

Billy enters. Watches.

Billy A lot of lies get told

Kitty 2 Billy says –

Sam Who's Billy?

Leah 2 Two months and I've never seen him.

Billy leaving . . .

Kitty 2 Well I've seen him loads.

Billy turns back into the room.

Leah 2 Since when?

Kitty 2 Since he wrote me that message on Tower Beach.

Leah 2 But –

Sam Who's Billy?

Kitty 2 Just a boy.

Rosa Now she has the decency to blush.

Sam You carrying a torch for 'Billy'?

~~Kitty 2 Let's just say I wouldn't mind being tickled by his tache.~~

~~Leah 2 Sam tried to grow a moustache, but he couldn't get more than a bit of fuzz – could you, Sam?~~

~~Sam Shut up.~~

Kitty 2 ~~Billy's moustache is handsome. Virile.~~

~~Leah 2 shows at the word whistle. Billy leaves, puffed up. Rosa wrings out the washing.~~

Rosa If the girl talks like this at fourteen, where will she end up? Round the back of the alley with the shilling whores, that's where.

Leah 2 Rosa!

Sam (to Kitty 2) Come to the dance. Hear the truth from actual Germans.

Kitty 2 No one new should be let in – not 'til there's jobs for everyone here.

Sam Don't then.

Kitty 2 Nothing 'gainst your family –

Leah 2 Kitty! We're as British as you.

Kitty 2 Not really. Parents from Poland.

Leah 2 And yours from Ireland. Just 'cause your dad dropped the 'O' off O'Grady don't make you more British than us.

Kitty 2 But eastern European Jews are more like guests –

Leah 2

Rosa } No!

Sam }

Sam (to Kitty 2) Technically speaking, you're the guest. In our home.

Rosa An unwanted guest.

Leah 2 No.

Kitty 2 I'm Leah's guest – it's up to her.

All look to Leah 2 who is saved by the entrance of Ged and Pat – two Irish dock workers.

Pat Sam!

Sam Pat, Ged – What's up?

Ged puts a bag of coins and notes on the table. They all stare at it. Ged grins.

Ged We did a collection for you all round the docks.

Sam What?

Ged Seven pound, ten shillings and sixpence.

Rosa A collection?

Pat From the men.

Sam For me . . . ?

Ged For your family.

Leah 2 That's four months' wages.

Kitty 2 (whispers to Leah 2) You could go back to school.

Leah 2 looks hopefully at Sam as he shakes the men's hands, too choked up to speak.

Rosa We're not taking charity, Sam.
 Leah 2 But, Rosa -
 Rosa Don't I put food on our table?
 Pat It's solidarity, missus - not charity.
 Ged Sam took a hit for us on the docks . . . So we're taking a hit for him.
 Rosa *can't stop starting at Ged. He's a guy but what a guy!*
 Sam Rosa, make some lemon tea.
 Ged You're alright, Rosa . . . we're away to the Brewery Tap. You joining us, Sam? (*Meets Rosa's eye.*) Or maybe you'd like to -
 Rosa *locks Ged's eyes too long. Pat nudges Ged.*
 Pat It's their Sabbath.
 Rosa *breaks eye contact with Ged and picks up her headscarf.*
 Rosa See, even your Catholic friend knows. Sam likes to forget.
 Sam As if I could forget round here . . .
 Rosa (to Ged) We can't thank you boys enough.
 Ged *tips hat at Rosa. Then at Leah 2 and Kitty 2, then Rosa again.*
 Sam I'll never forget your goodness, not for as long as I live.
 Ged and Pat *leave. Sam wipes away a tear.*
 Kitty 2 Blimey!
 Rosa *ties on her headscarf.*
 Rosa I'll pray for you, Leah and Sam. (*Suspicious glance at Kitty 2.*) I'll just put this money somewhere safe.
 Rosa *takes money to other room. Sam puts on his jacket.*
 Kitty 2 Leah could go to school now.
 Leah 2 Let me go back to school, Sam. Please.
 Rosa (*calls offstage*) Sam!
 Leah 2 Please, Sam.
 Sam Coming! I'll talk it through with Rosa.
 Leah 2 and Kitty 2 Yes!
 Kitty 2 *kisses Sam's cheek. He blushes as he runs off.*
 Leah 2 When did you see this Billy then?

Kitty 2 Albert Hall.
 Leah 2 Who's Albert Hall?
 Kitty 2 It's a theatre, you schnook. With a big stage. Got friendly with Joyce in the shop, Billy's older sister. She gave me and Dad tickets. Billy's in uniform on the door.
 Billy *strolls back in.*
 Kitty 2 He's so handsome, Leah! Bright turquoise eyes, high cheekbones, slicked back hair.
 Leah 2 ~~And a virile tache?~~
 Kitty 2 When he smiled at me, I nearly wet myself.
 Leah 2 ~~pretends to laugh along.~~
 Kitty 2 Then on the stage, this man starts speaking and thousands of us were . . . well . . . I had tears running down me face.
 Leah 2 Better than pish running down your leg.
 Kitty 2 On about ex-servicemen he was, how they and the youth must look backwards and forwards and join hands to build a new Great Britain. And just at that moment, Dad reached out and held me hand and we were together, on the same side, like before they took Mummy away . . . (*Her voice catches. Kitty 1 and Dad hold hands in idealistic family scene with Billy and Joyce.*) Went back with Joyce and Billy after. Sat in their parlour.
 Leah 2 A parlour!
 Kitty 2 ~~Tea and sherry and Victoria sponge that Joyce made. Civilised it was.~~
 Leah 2 I thought you looked different, not just the dress but . . . (*She has to ask.*) Did Billy kiss you goodnight . . .?
 Kitty 2 Maybe.
 Leah 2 More than a kiss? No . . . What was it like?
 She *tries to hide her jealous agitation. Kitty 2 laughs, proud.*
 Kitty 2 Shall I show you?
 Leah 2 *nods, nervous but excited. Billy enters. It's as if he's in Kitty 2's memory in a different place/time. He doesn't watch their encounter or have agency.*
 Kitty 2 You be me.
 She *swaggers, Billy-like*
 So he starts like this . . .
 Billy and Kitty 2 You wanna be me girl then?

~~Kitty 2 kisses Leah 2 fully on the lips. Leah 2 is shocked but aroused. She kisses Kitty 2 back with passion. Kitty 2 is shocked and amused.~~

~~Billy and Kitty 2 You're a good kisser.~~

~~Leah 2 Is that Billy talking or you?~~

~~Billy and Kitty 2 It's me.~~

~~Kitty 2 And then he -~~

~~Kitty 2 grabs Leah forcefully, kisses her, hands all over her. Leah 2 gasps, scared, excited. Record ends - click of needle.~~

~~Kitty 2 (seductive) See, you'd have just let him, my dirty little Jew girl.~~

~~Leah 2 blinks, overwhelmed with emotion. Pushes Kitty 2 angrily away.~~

~~Leah 2 Don't you ever call me that!~~

~~Kitty 2 takes needle off the record.~~

~~Kitty 2 S'what Billy called me.~~

~~Leah 2 Billy . . . ? But why?~~

~~Billy laughs and leaves the stage.~~

~~Kitty 2 Just a joke. I dunno. Cause I grew up ghetto? Hey, Leah, I never meant to hurt you. You know I love you, Red. Come 'ere . . . the look on your face . . . like a little monkey.~~

~~Pulls her back into her very gently. Twists Leah 2's hair and kisses her nose. As their mouths open to kiss, the scene changes.~~

~~Milewski's Sweatshop~~

~~Chorus 1 create Jewish-garment-workshop.~~

~~Rosa On Cable Street there's those who sweat~~

~~Leah 2 And also those who sweat us.~~

~~The women look up at ceiling - Milewski's office upstairs. A looming shadow appears elsewhere. Eva jumps.~~

~~Eva When Mr Milewski calls you upstairs,~~

~~That's the day you got to be scared.~~

~~Anna Who'd be a workshop girl?~~

~~Rosa The fastest sets the pace.~~

~~Anna Cutters cut the cloth~~

~~Eva Machinist runs the seams~~

~~Worker 1 Presser steam presses~~

~~Leah 2 Button-holer sews the buttons -~~

~~Anna Cut~~

~~Eva Seam~~

~~Worker 1 Press~~

~~Rosa Steam~~

~~Leah 2 Button-holer sews the buttons~~

~~All Faster faster faster~~

~~Hang the dresses high~~

~~Rosa This seam is crooked~~

~~They all blame one another, point the finger~~

~~Eva Cutter's fault~~

~~Rosa Presser's fault~~

~~Anna Machinist's fault~~

~~All Leah's fault. Habaha~~

~~Rosa Tear it up - start over~~

~~Anna (to Leah 2) Milewski would be happy to be rid of you, believe me -~~

~~Eva (to Leah 2) Slowing down the line.~~

~~They look at Kitty 2 who has her head down, seriously speedy and accurate. Leah 2 grins.~~

~~Leah 2 Goy sews good, Jew sews bad - the world is upside down.~~

~~Anna and Eva laugh. Rosa doesn't. As Leah 2 passes with dresses they say to her:~~

~~Anna Clever girl, getting Kitty the job.~~

~~Eva Only reason Milewski lets you stay . . .~~

~~Rosa looks ashamed of Leah 2 - Kitty 2 looks up.~~

~~Kitty 2 Hey, sis, you doing overtime tonight?~~

~~Leah 2 While there's work. You?~~

~~Kitty 2 nods and smiles. Leah 2 sits next to her.~~

~~Kitty 2 Mummy was a tailor~~

~~She taught me two things.~~

~~If you sew you'll never starve.~~

~~And if you can't do it right, do it fast.~~

~~All If you can't do it right do it fast.~~

~~Fasten 'em fast, fasten 'em fast~~

~~Kitty 2 I could quite fancy myself in that red and black tartan.~~

Leah 2 I could quite fancy you in it too.

Rosa (*shocked*) Leah!

She storms off.

Kitty 2 Untangle those threads, Leah. Then I'll help you with the buttons.

Leah 2 *untangles threads by Kitty 2's feet. Workers out of earshot now.*

Kitty 2 Careful in front of Big R.

Leah 2 Who cares? She's so religious – no one I choose would be right –

Kitty 2 But we're not . . . I mean . . .

Leah 2 What?

Kitty 2 Last night was a laugh. But I mean, that would be . . .

She joins Leah 2 *under the table to show her how to untangle threads.*

Kitty 2 We're best friends, it just kind of –

Leah 2 *You touched me first –*

Kitty 2 I know

Leah 2 So don't make out –

Kitty 2 I wanted to . . .

Leah 2 I wanted to –

Kitty 2 We fit together.

Leah 2 Always did

Kitty 2 So soft. Your lips. Like eating a peach –

Leah 2 *smiles*

Leah 2 When did you eat a peach?

Kitty 2 I could eat you now. Peachy. All of you.

They giggle.

Leah 2 We can stay extra late, be alone. Tell Milewski we'll finish something while
he's out playing cards.

Kitty 2 You're naughty!

Leah 2 You're hungry . . .

Kitty 2 When I kiss Bill, his bristles scratch me.

Leah 2 I hate to think of you kissing Billy.

Kitty 2 I love to think of you hating me kissing Billy.

Leah 2 ~~checks that the other women aren't looking.~~

Leah 2 ~~Kiss me now.~~

~~Kitty 2 Not now, crazy peach –~~

Rosa returns.

Rosa Kitty . . . ? (*Sees her.*) Kitty! Mr Milewski wants to see you. Now.

Leah 2 *makes a sympathetic face at Kitty 2 who leaves. Rosa turns on Leah 2.*

Rosa I don't want you seeing that shickster any more.

Leah 2 She's my sister.

Rosa I'm your sister. That guy sits here like butter wouldn't melt, and it all gets blamed on you.

Leah 2 I earn my keep – I'll see who I want.

Rosa *lowers her voice so the other women can't hear.*

Rosa I thought you wanted to go back to school?

Leah 2 When I'm back at school then fine, control me like you love to do. But you'll never stop me seeing Kitty.

Rosa *looks skyward.*

Leah 2 There is no heaven, Rosa.

But Rosa is listening to Kitty 2 and Milewski shouting upstairs. A crash. Door slams.

Leah 2 Oh no . . .

Rosa Her ma's meshuggah, Dad's a schlump, no one to teach her right from wrong.

Kitty 2 *emerges looking shaky, but defiant. Picks up her bag and coat.*

Leah 2 What's up?

Kitty 2 *Someone snitched. – said I'd been taking fabric*

Rosa *looks away. Kitty 2 and Leah 2 look shocked and deeply hurt.*

Leah 2 Rosa!

Rosa You steal from him then expect him to pay.

Kitty 2 Yes, I expect the old lech to pay. I took the cloth as payment for what he tried to do. (*To Rosa.*) I thought you was my family.

Kitty 2 *storms out.*

Leah 2 (*to Rosa*) ~~Hate you.~~

Billy: *Duty little Jew Girl™*

Billy
Stands
(righter)

Rosa You'll thank me later.

Leah 2 Kitty . . . wait!

She runs after Kitty 2.

Rosa (calling after Leah 2) Milewski wants us on overtime —

Leah 2 (turns) Milewski can go fuck himself.

Anna shakes her head as Rosa wonders what 'fuck' means.

Eva But by the time Leah got outside

Kitty had gone.

Anna Leah looked around

Asked around

Both No one had seen Kitty

Eva Come back into work, girl. It'll come out in the wash.

She puts her arm around Leah 2, leads her back inside. Tired women work slowly by lamplight.

All Fasten down the lining

Hang the dresses high.

Blood Sisters 3

Title: Cable Street, 1931

Kitty 1 grins, holding the blade.

Kitty 1 Ready?

Goes to cut Leah 1's arm.

Leah 1 No!

Kitty 1 Stop shaking and close your eyes.

They giggle. Leah 1 closes her eyes.

Kitty 1 Think of the blade like my fingernail.

She draws her fingernail across Leah 1's arm. Leah 1 screams. Kitty 1 laughs.

Kitty 1 That was my fingernail. Relax.

She stares at Leah 1's arm curiously before decisively cutting it. Leah 1 looks.

Leah 1 Kitty — I think there's too much blood.

Kitty 1 There is — yeah there is! You jerked away too suddenly.

Leah 1 No! Ow! Do yours, quick, do yours.

Kitty 1 presses her hand on Leah's arm to stop blood pumping out. Can't stop laughing.

Leah 1 — Do yours!

Kitty 1 Stop squealin' or I won't kiss it better.

ALARM

Fire

Women scream as fire takes hold of Milewski's sweatshop. Screams. Flames. Rain.

transition = Billy → Left, Right, left, Right
Left → let's MARCH.

Same night. Bethnal Green. Rain falls softly now. In Kitty 2's scullery-bedroom.

Kitty 2 comforts shivering Leah 2 on the bed, which doubles as seating.

Leah 2 I saw smoke drift past the window and when I looked out, this man stared back, black moustache, bright blue eyes lit up by flames. Behind him, fresh graffiti in white paint, dripping in the rain and half in shadow. But you could see enough to recognise 'Perish Judah' (Death to Jews).

Kitty 2 Thank God they never (hugs Leah 2 tight). Did you tell the police?

Leah 2 I tried. But Rosa kept shouting 'bout you.

Kitty 2 As if I'd hurt my Red.

Leah 2 S'why I had to warn you —

Kitty 2 Braving Bethnal Green for me . . .

Kitty 2 kisses Leah 2 boldly on the lips.

Kitty 2 You taste of rainy streets.

Leah 2 (tasting) And you've been drinking.

Kitty 2 Firewater — good for shock. Did a fireman lift you over his shoulder?

Leah 2 No! Back window was unlocked. I got us all out but the workshop's gutted.

Kitty 2 All that lovely silk and tartan, my favourite golden buttons. Wish I'd nicked more while I could . . .

Leah 2 pulls a handful of golden buttons from her pockets.

Leah 2 In a box by the window — I grabbed you some as I climbed out.

Kitty 2 smiles gleefully as if they were jewels. Puts them in sewing box.

Kitty 2 Love you, Peach. You should have nicked the lot! Take this off, it's too wet. They peel off Leah 2's wet coat.

~~Kitty 2 Let's snuggle in bed, warm you up a bit.
 They jump into bed like the old days, smuggle under the sheet and blankets.
 Leah 2 I won't get nothing for me overtime now and the money was all for you.
 Kitty 2 I'll get a job, lovely girl, you'll see--
 Leah 2 But no workshop'll take a thief.
 Kitty 2 looks stung. Leah 2 tries to make amends.~~

Leah 2 We could set up a market stall for your dresses. All sorts come to the Lane these days.
 Kitty 2 Billy's family might need a hand in their grocer's shop.
 Leah 2 (cajoled) One day I'll take you to Albert Hall. Get tickets for the speaker who made you cry. What did you say his name was?
 Kitty 2 Come 'ere.
 Leah 2 Tell me.
 Kitty 2 sighs.

Kitty 2 He's some aristocrat who's for the workers. Been a Labour MP and a Tory MP, set up his own party ...
 Blackshirts march on. Billy caught up in them, a tell-tale white paint stain on his boot.
 Leah 2 Not the British Union of Fascists? Not Oswald bloody Mosley -?
 Kitty 2 Billy said you'd be prejudiced. S'why I couldn't say.
 Leah 2 looks at Kitty 2, horrified.
 Leah 2 I ain't sharing you with a Blackshirt!
 Kitty 2 Am I telling you what to do?

Blackshirts march off. Leah 2 shivers. Kitty 2 holds her lovingly, sees something.
 Kitty 2 Look! Your rusty stains are still on the mattress.
 Leah 2 (laughing) Urgh, Kitty.
 Kitty 2 Something to remember you by.
 Leah 1 and 2 and Kitty 1 and 2 Blood sisters.
 Leah 2 If we opened the door, we might still be on Cable Street!
 Kitty 2 Nothing beyond this bed matters, only me and you.
 Leah 2 Wish that was true.
 Kitty 2 Let's make it true.

Mosley
 Stands +
 Dominates
 Scene
 "whisper"
 left
 Right
 left
 Right
 left.

Leah 2 But -
 Kitty 2 pulls the covers right over them. Unseen kissing.
 Leah 2 Oh ...
 Billy enters, white paint still on boot. He stares in disbelief at the moaning, giggling bodies moving under the blankets. He takes out his knife.
 Billy Kitty?
 Bodies freeze under blanket. Kitty 2 sticks her head out of the covers first.
 Kitty 2 We was just keeping warm.
 Billy Be a man, show your face.
 Leah 2 pokes her head out.

Billy Jew girl?
 Leah 2 You?
 Kitty 2 protects Leah 2 from Billy. Joyce and Dad enter behind.
 Joyce Billy, drop that knife.
 Leah 2 'Billy'??
 Dad moves into military mode. Disarms Billy and pins him down with speed and strength.

Leah 2 He set fire to Milewski's.
 Kitty 2 No!
 Billy Let me go. She'll grass me up.
 Kitty 2 realises the truth. Helps Dad hold Billy down. Leah 2 grabs damp coat.
 Leah 2 Come on, Kitty.
 Dad (to Leah 2) Run, Specky, run.
 Billy (to Leah 2) You snitch an' I'll slit your throat like a kosher cow -

Leah 2 Please, Kitty -
 Kitty 2 Run!
 Leah 2 runs. Billy is noisily trying to break free.
 Dad Joyce, help us out -
 Joyce joins Dad and Kitty 2 sitting on Billy.
 Billy Joyce, you lump, whose side you on? She'll go straight to the cop shop.
 Leah 2 keeps running.

Rehearsal

Chorus 1 and 2 A Chorus is not just a Chorus. A Chorus must be trained.

Reds (Chorus 1) *salute with clenched fists.*

Reds Left right left right left right left

Blackshirts (Chorus 2) *give fascist salute*

Blackshirts Right left right left right left right

Statements

Blackshirts and Reds *softly march on the spot upstage. Kitty 2 and Leah 2 are on Tower Beach. Sounds of wind and rough waves.*

Kitty 2 That fire was sparked by Billy's passion for me, so if you want to blame anyone –

Leah 2 What's happening to us?

Kitty 2 We're alright.

Leah 2 I haven't stopped loving you –

Kitty 2 Nor me.

Leah 2 But to be with you, it's like I have to stop loving myself.

Kitty 2 *Please* withdraw your witness statement.

Leah 2 What statement? Copper told me to fuck off home to me red Jew brother.

Kitty 2 *laughs with relief and throws her arms around Leah 2 who doesn't respond.*

Kitty 2 Thank God! I mean . . . I'm just glad Billy's life's not ruined. He is a bit wild but –

Ship's alarm. Leah 2 extricates herself.

Leah 2 Is that all you wanted?

Reds and Blackshirts *continue marching, take the stage.*

Olympia

Title: Olympia, June 1934

Reds Left right left right left right left

Blackshirts Right left right left right left right

Blackshirts and Reds

They ignore us until

they need us to fight
So now we'll show them
what being a hero
looks like.

Blackshirts With our Union Jack

Reds With our red flag

Blackshirts and Reds We'll take what's ours
Our human right
Tonight.

Reds *disappear into the audience to become Hecklers. Fanfare. Trumpets. Uniformed Blackshirts hold up a big Union Jack. They have British Union of Fascist flags too – lightning in a circle. Oswald Mosley steps forward. He gives fascist salute. Blackshirts return the salute.*

Mosley Parliament is paralysed. What we need is a government, free of opposition, free of self-serving parasites. Leadership – but not tyranny. A fascist revolution.

Heckler 1 What about democracy?

Spotlight picks out Heckler 1. Blackshirts pull Heckler 1's arms behind his back and beat him.

Mosley We will deal with Jewish international finance that exploits the world. We will deal with those in the Conservative Party who take their inspiration from the Italian Jew Benjamin Disraeli.

Doll (Heckler 2) *stands up bravely.*

Doll Even your flag is a flash in the pan! (BUF symbol is lightning in circle.)

Some laughter. Blackshirts move in to crush Doll who dodges them deftly.

Mosley And here, tonight, we will deal most forcibly with razor gangs from Jewish East End ghettos who seek to violently disrupt our meeting. Communists inspired by that German Jew Karl Marx –

Doll And you're inspired by Mussolini and Hitler. / Fascism means murder!

Blackshirts *grab Doll finally and beat her senseless. Sam is Heckler 3.*

Sam Fascism means murder. Fascism means war!

The Blackshirts – one of whom is Billy – move in to crush Sam. Pull his arms behind his back and beat him viciously. Police help fascists beat and eject Hecklers. An orgy of violence.

Reds *rescue Sam; place him on chair in family scullery. Rosa removes Sam's ripped-up jacket.*

Leah 3 and Kitty 3 watch from 1939.

Kitty 3 We missed the main event, didn't we?

~~Reds and Blackshirts~~ (Chorus 1 and 2) stop and turn to the audience...
Chorus 1 and 2 — We were the main event.

↳ Left, Right → Repeated.

Torn

Leah 2 tends to Sam's wounds. Rosa holds up Sam's ripped suit jacket.

Rosa How am I s'posed to mend this?

Leah 2 S'like wild animals ripped you open.

Sam Doll heckled first — got beaten to a pulp.

Leah 2 (shocked) Lovely Doll who read Mum's tea leaves?

Sam She never saw this coming.

Leah 2 Sam!

Sam Went disguised in twin set and pearls — came out on a stretcher.

Leah 2 Fuck.

Sam Head blown up like a balloon.

Rosa What's 'fuck', what does it mean, this word you keep saying?

Leah 2 and Sam laugh in spite of themselves. It hurts his broken ribs.

Sam Ow!

Leah 2 tends to Sam, still laughing.

Tattoo

Billy and Joyce's parlour. Billy is drinking whisky with Joyce. Kitty 2 enters.

Billy Salute Mosley or you can't come in.

Billy Billy...

Billy She needs to prove her loyalty, Joyce. She won't say 'Perish Judah'.

Kitty 2 No, I won't.

Billy Been in the ghetto, stink of garlic.

Kitty 2 Don't like that common talk.

Billy Don't you like your common job in our common shop with our common talk? How common are those jobs, Joyce? (Relents.) Look what I got yet.

Kitty 2 inspects Billy's scabby arm. He's had a tattoo

Billy and Sam } Ow!

In scullery Leah 2 is washing Sam's gaping wounds with stinging antiseptic. She and Kitty 2 look up and meet each other's gaze across the space.

Kitty 2 and Leah 2 } Don't want it going septic.

Billy (joking) You do spell Kitty with one 't' don't yer?

Kitty 2 (elated) When the scab comes off — ?

Billy You'll see 'I love Kitty'. This tattoo shows how much.

Kitty 2 grins then anxiety crosses her face. Billy notices.

Billy If we stop courtin', the sailor says he'll turn it into a snake.

Joyce Courtin' are yer now? Little Brother

Kitty 2 tickles Billy — they giggle like children. Kitty 2 smiles at Joyce. Her new family.

Billy Living on Cable Street. Enough to turn anyone fascist.

Kitty 2 No — I loved living on Cable Street.

Billy You what?

Kitty 2 watches Leah 2 bandage Sam's wound.

Kitty 2 It was hard sometimes, not being a Jew, the way some of 'em'd look at me. But me and Leah, we... Getting thrown out of where I was happy. That's what ain't right.

Billy Oh. → Leah 1 + 3 stand near Leah 2

Kitty 2 watches Leah 1 and Kitty 1 play a slapping/clapping game — sweet to violent.

Joyce Evicted by a Jew.

Kitty 2 True.

Billy And chucked out of your job by another Jew.

Kitty 2 In me own country.

Billy S'why I was protecting you.

Joyce Kitty understands, don't you love?

Kitty 2 Great Britain is me birthright and I support what Mosley's doing to protect it. But there are good Jews and bad Jews — like with all people. You only hate 'em, Billy, cos you don't know 'em. That's why I won't say 'Perish Judah' or do your PJ salute. But I will say 'Britain First'.

Billy What's the difference, love?

Torn (continued)

Leah 2 bandaging Sam, Rosa trying to mend his torn jacket.

Rosa The Jewish Chronicle has best advice. Keep your head down. Don't disrupt their meetings.

Leah 2 No! Jews need to fight back.

Sam The whole working class needs to fight back. It's an attack on us all.

Rosa I can't fix this. (Rosa discards Sam's jacket.)

Sam But the only ones standing up to Mosley are the Communist Party.

Leah 2 So how do I join? (Repeat x2) as transition

Rosa looks at Leah 2 in horror. Sam smiles at Leah 2.

ENERGY - REPEAT, left Right, left etc
Eviction 2

Title: Whitechapel, September 1st 1939

Tenants' chant of 'They shall not pass' continues soft beneath

Barriff (through megaphone) Miss Grady. We have police reinforcements. We're breaking down the barricade. Coming in.

Leah 3 They'll soon have the door open. Where's Mosley's lot when you need 'em, eh? Where's your fascist Tenants' Defence? (Looks down.) Oh, what's Sam doing here? (Steps back from the window.)

Kitty 3 He organised this protest. I thought that's why you came.

Leah 3 No, we're not (speaking) ... Sam's defending you?

Kitty 3 Working-class solidarity ...

Leah 3 Like you showed us at Cable Street? Must love that Britain's only taking a few thousand Jewish refugee children -

Kitty 3 That's -

Leah 3 Must be in heaven with our Tory national government and royal family chock-full of Nazi sympathisers.

Kitty 3 Got any grub, girl? I'm starving. Show me solidarity, come on.

Tenants They shall not pass

They shall not pass

Leah 2 looks at her bag, unsure, desperate to escape.

Kitty 3 Each gives what they can and takes what they need. Ain't that the definition of communism?

Leah 3 (sighs) I been on night shift, Kitty. All done in.

Kitty 3 (smiles, knowing) And even if you could get out, you won't sleep for hours after seeing me.

1936: Blackshirts march around the stage banging drums. Leah 1 struts in the other direction with her bandaged-up glasses and bandaged-up arm. Cable Street Jews hold the same cardboard house(s) as before. Broken window(s) now boarded-up like Leah 1's bandaged glasses.

Leah 3 turns to see her younger self. Leah 2 - now sixteen years old.

16

Petition

Title: September 1936, Cable Street

Leah 2 giving a confident off-the-cuff speech on plinth/chair at a street corner meeting. Sam is selling the Daily Worker. Anti-fascists (Chorus 1) pass petitions around the audience as if they are spectators in the street scene.

Leah 2 The Board of Deputies of British Jews says, 'Stay indoors if Mosley marches. Behave and nothing bad will happen.' But it is happening!

Beaten-up Jewish Man stumbles in. Anti-fascists run to help him.

Jewish Man They came out of nowhere, five Blackshirts. Kicking and punching me.

Sam runs to him to get intel.

Leah 2 If five fascists can do this, what will 5,000 do? The Labour Party says 'avoid fascist gatherings'. But how can we avoid their graffiti on our streets, on our walls, on our front doors? Their megaphones on lorries, blaring hate into our homes? Their beatings in dark alleys and at meetings?

Jewish Man Atta girl!

Sam and some others put on knuckle-dusters, go to beat up the Blackshirts who did this.

Leah 2 The police don't protect us! Nor do the Board of Deputies. So we've formed our own Jewish People's Council to organise resistance. If you want to stop Mosley marching through the East End, sign our petition to the Home Office. We have

She puts a petition into her basket. Bell rings as she enters Billy's family grocers.

to stand up, stand as a community

Tick REPEAT: left/Right

Billy's family grocer's shop. The Red Kitty 2 in overall, serving on her own.

Leah 2 Jam please.

Kitty 2 looks up, amazed to see Leah 2, older and cuter. Checks reflection. Smiles.

Kitty 2 Red or black?

Leah 2 Guess. Can I have it on tick?

Kitty 2 gets red jam.

Kitty 2 We don't do tick ...
 Leah 2 'No tick for Jews.' I did see the sign. (Flirty, playful.) But you look like such a giving sort o' girl.

Kitty 2 *puckers her lips, blows a kiss. Puts jam in Leah 2's basket. Sees petition, takes it out.*

Kitty 2 Taking a risk - carrying that round 'ere.
 Leah 2 I was hoping that maybe you'd sign it.
 Kitty 2 *looks at Leah 2, surprised.*

Leah 2 Our Jewish shops've got ever so popular - Blackshirts just can't keep away.
 Kitty 2 Heard there'd been some trouble.
Baby starts to cry out the back.

Leah 2 Thought you might stand shoulder to shoulder with your old neighbours.
Baby's crying gets louder. Kitty 2 hands back petition, unsigned.

Kitty 2 (calling) Is he alright, Joyce?
 Billy (calls from back) Yeah.

Kitty 2 (to Leah 2) Me baby.
 Leah 2 Mazel tov.

Kitty 2 Ta. (Smiles.) His name's Jack.
 Leah 2 Can I see him or -
 Kitty 2 Best not to - right now.

~~Leah 2 reads sadly:~~

Leah 2 Why don't you bring Jack to Cable Street one night? Come for tea.
 Kitty 2 Miss me do yer?

Leah 2 Let beigels be beigels? Rosa's out most Wednesdays.
 Kitty 2 Can't do Wednes -

~~Leah 2 Or down the Lane one Sunday?~~
 Kitty 2 Why didn't you come when you knew I was pregnant?

~~Leah 2 Pregnant by that murderer.~~
 Kitty 2 Then leave me alone forever.

~~They both want to cry. Kitty 2 reaches out to touch Leah 2's hand.~~

Leah 2 You know it's wrong for fascists to march through Jewish streets.
 Kitty 2 Free speech.

She tries to pull her hand away but Kitty 2 won't let her.
 Kitty 2 Mosley just wants to solve the unemployment crisis. Three million unemployed in Britain and three million Jews.

Leah 2 There's 300,000 Jews in Britain not three million. You just added a nought.
~~Kitty 2 I read it.~~

Leah 2 With your eyes shut? You drop an 'O' from your name to make you sound less of an Irish immigrant then you add it to the number of Jewish immigrants!

Kitty 2 Oh oh oh! (Lets go of Leah, sticks up her hand.) Miss, I got the answer, miss!

Leah 2 A third of British Jews are in the East-End - that's why it seems a lot to you. Jews can't help getting paid less. Unionisation is the answer. Working-class solidarity.

Kitty 2 Shut up, Leah. Shut up. Just shut up.

Leah 2 Free speech, eh? (Beat.) 'Mosley go home.' That's what we'll say. Stepney is our home. It was never his. Mosley lives in a big posh house, full of servants.

Kitty 2 I wouldn't mind a big posh house.

Leah 2 *notices a rag doll, dressed as a female Blackshirt. Leah 2 looks from doll to Kitty 2, genuinely confused. Kitty 2 picks up the doll before Leah 2 can. Kitty 2 makes doll dance.*

Kitty 2 Nothing personal, Leah, but Jews are taking over the world. Out for themselves, that's what it is. We're out for the nation.

Leah 2 We're all human - where we're born is chance. Should that decide our chances in life? We need a world revolution. Save us from nationalism, poverty and war.

Kitty 2 But you got to admit, the black shirt is a sharp look.

Leah 2 *stares at Kitty 2 in shock.*

Leah 2 You ain't joined the fascists? I don't believe you.

Blackshirts Bang your drum, Kitty
 Bang your drum

Kitty 2 I bang me drum for the orchestra.
 Cute in the uniform. Pure.
 Just a dab of lipstick
 Perfect poster girl for Mosley
 S'pose that's why they chose me.
 I might be a mum-but I still got it.
 -Don't take it so personally-

Blackshirts Bang your drum, Kitty
 Bang your drum

Leah | Kitty's 1 + 3
 ~ BLOOD SISTERS ~

Under percussion. Seductive, persuasive.

Kitty 2 The Fascist corporate state will recognise homemaker and mother as a career. It will remove the immigrant competition from cheaper female labour. Give women more spending power. It's not about hate or blaming anyone for our plight, but it is about putting British women first.

Leah 2 *takes the jam from her basket, slams it on the counter.*

Kitty 2 Leah . . .

She grabs at Leah 2. But Leah 2 pulls away, devastated. Shop bell rings loudly - like in a boxing ring.

REPEAT: Left, Right etc

Defend the Jewish East End!

Title: Cable Street, September 1936 = SPOKEN

Anti-fascists collect petitions from audience. Leah 2 waves her petition.

Leah 2 In forty-eight hours, 100,000 of you signed this petition. Thank you. Thank you.

Doll Go home, Oswald Mosley!
Leave our streets alone

Sam But the Home Office ignore us. License Mosley and his Blackshirts to march through Stepney.

Jewish Man Protected by 6,000 police

Survivor Ten of us can fit in Mrs Joseph's cellar. We'll save you a place, Rosa.

Rosa Survivors of the pogroms find places to hide
Trauma carved on their faces like warnings.

Anti-fascists War with the fascists marches towards us.

Leah 2, Anna and Sam *with buckets of whitewash, graffitiing the roads and walls.*

Ged Dockers collect debris in sacks for days.

Pat Plan our blockade against Mosley's parade.

Leah 2 We build resistance / together

Anti-fascists Together

Ged Dockers
Anna Garment workers
Pat Railway workers
Doll Tenants' groups
Eva Jewish groups
Sam Socialists

Worker 1 Anarchists

Kitty's Dad Ex-servicemen

Leah 2 And our Stepney Branch of the Communist Party

Leah 2, Doll and Sam *complete their graffiti. The graffiti words can also be spoken.*

Sam 'All out on Gardiner's Corner!'

Doll 'All out on Cable Street!'

Leah 2 'No pasarán!'

All 'They shall not pass.'

Doll We won't let Mosley and his Blackshirts march.

Sam Thousands coming by bus or train
for the solidarity march with Spain
will instead face British fascists!

Leah 2 Come to Aldgate East

Many Defend our streets

All Defend the Jewish East End!

The Battle of Cable Street

Title: Cable Street, Sunday 4 October 1936 = SPOKEN

Chorus 1 (Locals & Reds); Chorus 2 (Blackshirts & Police). Chorus speaks in unison.

In a corner, Kitty 1 and Leah 1 (bandaged-up) play marbles.

A banner hangs on Cable Street: 'Remember Olympia. They shall not pass'
Ged, Pat and Locals *reinforce barricade of mattresses, tables and chairs.*

Sam A crisp, cold October day.

Doll Perfect protest weather.

Chorus 1 First off, the ex-servicemen's peaceful march
gets beaten up by police.

Doll How dare they?

Leah 2 Angry locals gather.

Chorus 1 By 2 p.m., it's rammmed at Gardiner's Corner

Chorus 1 You can't see the end of the crowd

Leah 2 Not down any street.

Leah 2 climbs: as Leah 3 did at start of the play

Leah 3 Shinned a lamppost -
thought I saw you
with my lot -

but it wasn't. Thought if you were here
you'd have a chance of seeing me.

~~Dick (to Leah 2)~~ Get down before the police nab yer, silly mare.
~~Kitty 3~~ Said I'd go, but me heart wasn't in it
~~Billy~~ got arrested last minute
~~Left me in the shit as usual.~~

Billy held by two Police.

Billy Promise me you'll march, girl - bang your drum for me.

Kitty 2 I can't drum and carry Jack.

Billy Mum'll mind Jack. Promise me.

~~Kitty 3~~ So there's me, Joyce and the other girls
on Royal Mint Street where the money's made.

Blackshirts Watching Mosley in his military hat,
his Blackshirts on parade.

~~Kitty 2 (to Joyce)~~ Mosley cuts a dash close up,
glad we come, lining up, prepped for fun

Blackshirts Bang your drum, Kitty
Bang your drum
Come on, Kitty, bang your drum

Kitty 2 Me Blackshirt girls are rum
Full of anti-Jewish jokes
but no more than anyone.

Blackshirts (chanting at Leah 2) Britain awake. Go home, Jew.

Leah 2 jumps down from lamppost but remains centre stage.

Protestors are forced back by Police batons.

Doll Mounted police attack us
push through and scatter us

Police Bang bang bang

Chorus 1 Shoulder to shoulder

Doll Felled by random baton blows

Leah 2 Rip up the paving stones!

Chorus 1 (chanting) 2, 3, 4, 5 - we want Mosley dead or alive!

Leah 3 Irish dockers, bearded Jews, women and their kids
Pushed up on the pavement in the police baton charge
Against the shaking department store

Kitty 3 I hear glass crash

Leah 3 A screaming crowd falls through
Leah 3 and Kitty 3 I wonder if one of them is you.

Leah 2 is hit by a Police baton, then dragged away under.

Leah 3 Blood a surprise, little river on me face
Taste the salty red, my head is lead
As comrades drag me from the battle
I think I see two girls
throwing marbles
One black, one red.

~~Leah 1 and Kitty 1~~ run and mine throwing their marbles at mounted police horses.

~~Leah 1~~ Horses hooves flying

~~Kitty 1~~ Poor coppers fall.

~~HQ - a egg - Sam gives orders.~~

Leah 2 At the first aid post, I get patched up, then to HQ

Sam Cable Street is Mosley's only way
So we need you lot at the barricades.
Police'll clamber over the top
You find ways to make 'em stop.

Sam, Ged and Pat are together:

Ged Irish dockers man the barricades

Sam We'd never have done it alone.

Pat Our pick axes pull up cobblestones

Sam People bring what they're able - chairs, tables -

All To the barricades

All To the barricades

Ged Missiles fly across the stack
of corrugated iron, furniture and paving

Pat As the police climb up

Pat The missiles send them flying

Sam Smashing glass, lobbing bricks

All They shall not pass

All They shall not pass

Pat Half-filled lemonade bottles

Ged Shook and thrown, they explode

All Mosley go home!

Leah 2 I hope you change your mind last minute
join me on Cable Street.

As Protestors add stuff to the barricade, Police remove it. But Police are outnumbered.

Leah 3 A familiar face framed by an open window
above the barricade

Leah 2 Rosa!

Eva We get pans of boiling water

Anna Rotten veg

Rosa Full chamber pot

Eva And out of the window we throw the lot - **BIG PHYSICAL**

~~Rosa runs at the window with a big-chamber-pot.~~

Anna Drown the police in piss

All They shall not pass!

Rosa God forgive me.

~~She throws it right over the Policeman's head. From the top of the barricade,
Ged calls -~~

Ged Good shot, Rosa!

Rosa's careworn face lights up.

Anna The police run for shelter.

Eva Run into the lock-ups.

Rosa (calls) Lock 'em in boys!

Ged We will, Rosa, we will.

~~Eva and Anna look at Rosa in shocked-delight.~~

Doll The coppers who cracked our heads
to beat us back

All beat a path for Blackshirts to march,

Doll now, shamefaced, surrender their helmets
(with) hate still in their hearts . . .

~~Leah 1 and Kitty 1, with the police helmets on sticks. Hang their trophies high on
the street.~~

~~Policeman 1 Come on, boys, let's get out-of-here. I ain't taking on tooled-up docters.~~

~~Policeman 2 Or those Yid bitches: (Shouts at the women-) Animals!~~

Ged We let them slink away, what else to do?

Doll They'll go straight now, arrest and beat
some poor innocent Jewish boy as punishment
for our resistance.

News comes through police megaphones.

Policeman 1 The fascist march has been called off. Please return to your homes.

Leah 3 No one believes it, so they have to keep saying it.

Police 1 and 2 Go home. Go home. Go home.

~~Kitty 2 marches off, banging her drum, followed by the Blackshirts and Police.~~

Sam When they've gone

the cry goes up

We've won

We've won

We've won

Blackshirts

Half past four. Getting dark.

Blackshirts retreat through the City

Shattering Jewish shop windows on their way.

Police 1 Police do nothing, secretly applauding.

Sam There's still time for us to march. Get the banners ready!

Leah 2 Any Blackshirts on the streets won't stand a chance.

Sam and Leah 2 pick up banner: lead march of Reds.

Blackshirts Come on Kitty - bang your drum!

Reds We'll bash the fascists' heads in Bethnal Green until they crack like
eggs.

REPEAT UNTIL DRUM

~~Other Protestors including Eva, Rosa, Anna and Ged stay celebrating on Cable Street.~~

Anna Singing

Anna and Eva The streets are ours

Rosa Cafés overflow with stories

Of our glories and absurdities.

Ged People hugging, laughing, drinking

Ged and Rosa Dancing

They cheer as the disciplined march of Reds passes.

Leah 3 Crowds cheer us all through Stepney

But Bethnal Green's a different beast

Near Kitty's street, English flags,

Fascist slogans, hostile glares

Or running scared -

Leah 2 Oh -

Leah 2 *transfixed by Kitty 2 - lets banner pole go. Another comrade picks up it, marches on.*

Sam Come back, Leah - no breaking rank.

Outside a dress shop, Kitty 2 in Blackshirt uniform with Joyce, banging drum. Hard Rhythmic.

Kitty 3 I'd had enough of Reds marching down our street
Fascists booing,
Police between 'em

Kitty 3 and 2 Too many shouting men.

Kitty 2 Joyce, let's stay here a bit
Have a laugh and a cigarette.

Billy That Jew girl still chasing you, Kit?

~~Kitty 2 sees Leah 2. Joyce laughs. Kitty 2 slowly, provocatively bangs her drum.~~

Leah 3 ^{THEN}
It's as if time stands still
All that I love and hate wrapped up in one.
Your sweet face in a uniform so wrong
Your eyes lock mine and I see red.

connect all 3 pairs.

Leah 3 *watches Leah 2 charge at Kitty 2, roaring. They move in slo-mo.*

Blackshirts C'mon, Kitty - bang your drum

Leah 3 I push you hard against sheet glass.
Me and you
Nowhere else to go.
It splinters as you fall through
As I let you go.
And even as I hate you,
I'm jealous of the shop dummies lying next to you.

Kitty 2 *rises, framed by the shop window, her face pumping blood.*

Kitty 2 (to Leah 2) Don't you ever fucking look at me again.

She collapses into the arms of Joyce and another Blackshirt. Police pin Leah 2's arms behind her back - punch her and drag her away.

Back at the celebrations, Protestors dancing. Ged and Rosa raise their glasses of beer to one another, romantic and hopeful.

Eva We can stop living in fear now.

Ged If people get organised, what can the bastards do?

Rosa My little sister's in a police cell. But on Cable Street she's a hero.

All (raise g/asses) To Leah!

Anna I heard she beat up ten Blackshirts.

Rosa No, just one. That shickster, Kitty Grady.

Eviction 3

~~Whitechapel, 1 September 1939 = Spoken~~

Kitty 3's room. *The banging and crashing outside of police removing barricade. Tenants shouting. Leah 3 stares at Kitty 3's facial scar.*

Kitty 3 You don't know your own strength.

She motions Leah 3 to help her move table to block the door. Leah 3 rolls her sleeves up revealing a long scar on arm from 'blood sisters' episode.

Kitty 3 Bet you're still paying off the fine -

Leah 3 Got expelled for it an' all.

Kitty 3 Schnook.

They put down the table.

Leah 3 I'm sorry for the scar, Kitty.

Kitty 3 Why? Don't you fancy me no more?

Leah 3 (stares at her) It just makes the rest of your face look extra beautiful.

Kitty 3 *smiles. Kitty 2 and Leah 2 dance into the space, inseparable.*

Kitty 2 Wind yerself around a girl, that's what you do.

Leah 2 When we're together, the world is our own.

Kitty 3 *holds out her hand to Leah 3.*

Kitty 3 Can't we just make a Hitler - Stalin pact?

Leah 3 That pact is why I resigned from the Party. S'why Sam's not talking to me ...

Kitty 3 You never did? Leah the Red ...

Leah 3 I'm still Red. But Stalin ain't. Trusts the Führer more than his own Politbuero.

Kitty 3 Seems like they're cut from the same cloth to me.

Leah 3 In a world that's coming apart at the seams.

Kitty 3 *opens her sewing box.*

Kitty 3 They can't do it right but they don't 'alf do it fast.

Kitty 1 *grabs a BUF card from sewing box.*

Kitty 3 Bailiff can 'ave my membership card an' all.

Kitty 1 *rips it up, throws it like confetti over herself and Leah 1, playing at newlyweds.*

The "They Shall Not Pass" sequence from *State*

Kitty 3 It went with the scar for a bit but I've had it with the fascists. They ain't er defending me are they?

Leah 3 decides. Takes food out of her rucksack.

Leah 3 I got beignets and strawberry jam in 'ere. Must be your lucky day.

Leah 1 and 2 } Let beignets be beignets.

Kitty 1, 2 and 3 }

Kitty 3 Why didn't yer say . . . ?

Leah 3 breaks up two plain beignets. All Leahs and Kittys come for beigel and jam.

Loud crash through door downstairs. Miss Grady (Shouted)

Kitty 3 They're in.

Kitty 3 looks at Leah 3 in panic. Checks children still sleeping. Boots running up the stairwell.

Leah 3 There's a room going opposite mine - I could pay first week's rent.

Kitty 3 stares at Leah 3

Kitty 3 Still love me do yer?

Leah 2 I loved you, Kitty Grady, from the moment I set eyes on you . . .

Leah 1 From our first game of marbles

Kitty 1 To our fight against the bailiff

Leah 2 But I'm scared you'll suck the life from me, that my love will never be enough for you. And if I don't feed you, keep you safe, you'll suck life from the whole world. Oh, Kitty Grady.

Kitty 2 Oh

Leah 1 Oh

Kitty 1 Oh

They shall not pass

Loud banging on Kitty's door: Police, Tenants, Bailiff crammed into a corridor.

Police Miss Grady, open this door at once or we'll -

Sam (to Bailiff) Can't we just talk about it?

Leah 3 shouts through the door.

Leah 3 I'm a nurse at the London Hospital and we've got two little ones with flu in 'ere. So you can't take the bed! Make yourself useful - bring some milk and bread.

Things go quiet behind the door: Kitty 3 takes Leah 3's hand.

Kitty 3 Thank you.

Bailiff We're coming in. Stand clear.

Kitty 3 Fuck.

Leah 3 holds Kitty 3 protectively - they can't stop looking at each other.

Sam We're here for you, Kitty . . . And Leah . . .

Tenants (chant) They shall not pass

Leah 3 and Kitty 3 (about to) kiss like long-lost lovers.

Blackout.

Bailiff (through megaphone) Miss Grady. We have police reinforcements. We're breaking down the barricade. Coming in.

Leah 3 They'll soon have the door open. Where's Mosley's lot when you need 'em, eh? Where's your fascist Tenants' Defence? (Looks down.) Oh, what's Sam doing here? (Steps back from the window.)

Kitty 3 He organised this protest. I thought that's why you came.

Leah 3 No, we're not (speaking) . . . Sam's defending you?

Kitty 3 Working-class solidarity . . .

Leah 3 Like you showed us at Cable Street? Must love that Britain's only taking a few thousand Jewish refugee children -

Kitty 3 That's -

Leah 3 Must be in heaven with our Tory national government and royal family chock-full of Nazi sympathisers.

Kitty 3 Got any grub, girl? I'm starving. Show me solidarity, come on.

Tenants They shall not pass

They shall not pass

Leah 2 looks at her bag, unsure, desperate to escape.

Kitty 3 Each gives what they can and takes what they need. Ain't that the definition of communism?

Leah 3 (sings) I been on night-shift, Kitty. All done in.

Kitty 3 (smiles, knowing) And even if you could get out, you won't sleep for hours after seeing me.

~~Disturbed Leah 3 pulls the piece of paper from her pocket.~~

~~Leah 3 I didn't know...~~

~~Kitty 3 And if you did know?~~

~~Leah 3 (reads) Three kids. How could I know?~~

~~Unhitches dress from the chair.~~

~~Kitty 3 What is it with you and windows?~~

~~Leah 3 Let's not.~~

~~Kitty 3 Just saying. What's wrong with the door?~~

Leah 3 Tenants Defence got a bit keen with the barricade. Getting in 'll take the police at least half hour.

~~She puts her bag on the table. Cloaks Kitty 3's sewing box, a black shirt being mended. Shaking her head, she goes to the bed.~~

~~Leah 3 (gentle) Hello, Jack. I'm your nurse. Just checking.~~

~~Feels their foreheads, takes pulses. Sees Kitty 3 watching her nervously.~~

Leah 3 Got a problem with me touching 'em?

Kitty 3 in disbelief. Their eyes light on the black shirt. Leah 3 gets up.

Leah 3 How long they been like this?

Kitty 3 Last night.

Leah 3 How's the baby?

Kitty 3 Hold her if you want.

Leah 3 reaches out to feel baby's temperature with a different hand.

Leah 3 Normal.

She now reaches for Kitty 3's forehead, professional, not intimate. Kitty 3 flinches, maybe even screams. Leah 3 withdraws, shocked.

Leah 3 and Kitty 3 Sorry.

Kitty 3 I'm normal too.

Leah 3 I never (meant) -

Kitty 3 Leave it, Leah. I'm just hungry. You know how jittery I get...

~~She looks hopelessly at Leah 3's bag. Outside more Police and another Bailiff.~~

Tenants They shall not pass.

They shall not pass.

Leah 3 moves to the window and nervously looks down (at audience).

Leah 3 Two bailiffs and ten police. Blimey, how much rent d'you owe?

Kitty 3 (laughs) Landlord's the crook - it's him they should be after.

~~The girls are close enough to touch - they breathe each other in, not looking at each other.~~

~~Kitty 3 Uniform suits you. Starchy. Bossy.~~

~~Leah 3 smiles in spite of herself. Goes to bag for medicine. Kitty 3 follows.~~

~~Kitty 3 Hope you micked that medicine. I can't pay for it. Beave me some.~~

~~Leah 3 For the boys, yeah.~~

~~She hands the medicine to Kitty 3.~~

~~Leah 3 One spoonful each - every four hours.~~

Kitty 3 (gentle) Look at me, Leah. Please.

~~Leah 3 Keep them warm. Lots of.~~

Kitty 3 Look at me!

Outside, chanting continues soft under dialogue. Leah 3 goes back to the window.

Tenants They shall not pass. They shall not pass.

Kitty 3 sits on bed, spoons medicine to her sleepy boys. Outside, Bailiff on police megaphone.

Bailiff Miss Grady. You must vacate the premises now. If you do not, police will enter the building to physically remove you and take away your children.

~~Jack (fervently) Mummy...~~

~~Kitty 3 Shush, Jack. Sleep now...~~

Bailiff Miss Grady, can you hear me? If you do not heed this eviction notice...

Kitty 3 Tell him, Leah. Tell him me kids are dying in here.

~~Jack Mummy...~~

~~Leah 3 No one's dying, Jack.~~

~~Kitty 3 (wakes Jack's hair) I'm just pretending, love - to make the bad men disappear. Here...~~

~~Jack's father wakes up again. Kitty 3 approaches Leah 3.~~

~~Kitty 3 Tell 'em me kids are too sick to move. You're a nurse - they'll listen.~~

~~Leah 3 Fight your own battles.~~

~~Kitty 3 could push Leah 3 out the window.~~

~~Kitty 3 Don't bloody tempt me.~~

~~Tenants They shall not pass. They shall not pass.~~

~~Bailiff Miss Grady, can you hear me?~~

Kitty 3 (*shouts down from window*) We ain't going nowhere, you thieving bastards! I got sick kids in 'ere what can't be moved. Now sling your 'ook.

Tenants cheer Kitty 3. *She grins at Leah 3 who moves away.*

Leah 3 They won't be cheering when I tell them who you are, what your fiancé did —

Kitty 3 Ex-fiancé.

Leah 3 *picks up the Blackshirt uniform from the table.*

Leah 3 Ex-Blackshirt too?

Kitty 3 So what if I keep Blackshirt friends? Don't mean I think the same. Do we always have to think the same as our friends?

Leah 3 *looks towards the window desperate to get away.*

Kitty 3 You broke the drainpipe — no way back.

Leah 3 *sees that Kitty 3 is right.*

Kitty 3 All those times I stood up for you. You just never knew.

She catches Leah 3's eye.

Kitty 3 Thought so, Leah, we ain't done.

She makes Leah 3's finger trace the scar on her face.

Kitty 1 and Leah 1 (*aged eleven*) *play marbles on Cable Street in 1931.*

Kitty 3 You're still my blood sister, girl.

Chorus (All) In more ways than one.

~~Blood Sisters~~
END

~~Chorus 1 become Cable Street Locals. Children play street games, e.g. skipping with packing string, barrel hoop, ball games. Rosa and Eva scrub next-door steps/ street.~~

~~Title: Cable Street, 1931~~

~~Leah 1 stares into Kitty 1's eyes. Leah 1 wears ugly glasses. Marbles sits between them, on a wet, sunlit drain. A rainbow glistens there.~~

~~Kitty 1 Blood sisters, Leah. Now!~~

Kitty 1 gets out a blade. Leah 1 *flinches*. Chorus 1 *flinch too.*

Kitty 1 Can't be a doctor if you're scared of blood.

Leah 1 Not blood — pain. Finish the game!

Kitty 1 *puts down her blade.*

Kitty 1 Only cos you're winning.

Leah 1 It's marbles! The point is to win.

Eva Picture a street

All Cable Street

Kitty's Dad A narrow street of shops and slums

Rosa Jewish almost every one

Sam From Poland

Eva Ukraine

Anna Russia

Sam Us working-class Jews stick together

Anna Like pickled herring and latke

Rosa Chicken soup with matzah

Eva Gefilte fish and horseradish

They see the beigel-seller coming with beignets in a basket.

Locals Cream cheese beigel (*pronounced in the traditional way*); long 'eye' sound — not 'bagel').

Burst of 'Beignets, who'll buy my beignets' from 'Beignets' by Max Bacon (1935). Locals dance or juggle beignets.

Kitty 1 *pushes her marble, loses and grabs the black marble.*

Leah 1 No, Kitty! Black one's mine. I won it fair and square.

Kitty 1 *pushes Leah 1 who pushes her back.*

Kitty 1 Didn't.

Leah 1 Did.

Kitty 1 (*near tears*) Black's my special one.

Leah 1 Don't play it then.

All Locals Let beignets be beignets

Leah 1 (*relents*) Give me the red — call it quits.

Kitty 1 *offers her red marble. They each kiss their own lucky marbles.*

Kitty 1 Love you, Black

Leah 1 Love you, Red.

They make their marbles kiss each other. Sound of a huge wave.