

Annie loses all speech when she says that name. It is still like a bee sting in her mouth. A short buzz for the red light makes her jump. The warning light changes to red

This cues a warrior-like Chris to storm into the spotlight with Annie

X Chris HOLD ON. HOLD ON A MINUTE WITH YOUR BLOODY BUZZER. *(She takes the stand)* Sorry but the OTHER delegate for Knapeley's got something to say and she's about to commit heresy. *(Loudly)* I HATE plum jam. I only joined the WI because it made my mother-in-law happy. End of story. *(Counting on her fingers)* I'm crap at cakes, I hate knitting — and in fact seeing it's unlikely George Clooney would ever come to Knapeley to give a talk on his collection of slightly-too-small swimming trunks, there seems very little reason for me to STAY in the WI. *Except* — SUDDENLY I want to raise money in memory of a man we all loved. And to do that I'm prepared to take my clothes off on a calendar. *(Beat)* And if you guys don't agree then I'm going to do it without council approval because FRANKLY, guys, some things are bigger than council approval. And FRANKLY if it meant we'd get — *(she gestures a "tiny amount")* — THAT-T much closer to killing off this shitty, cheating, sly, conniving, silent bloody disease that cancer is then God, I tell y'. I would run round Skipton market smeared in plum jam with a knitted tea cosy on my head singing *Jerusalem*.

There's a sudden snap back to full light

SCENE 2

The church hall. The following day

All the girls are on tenterhooks. A beat of silence

Jessie To which Central Committee replied...?

Annie "The WI does not 'do' nudity."

Jessie *(recoiling)* Sod them. I KNEW they wouldn't.

There's deflation in the room

Annie } *(together)* "But we DO do charity".
Chris }

The deflation instantly reverses!

Jessie *(fisting the air)* Bless them. I KNEW they would!

They all erupt in joy

Cora You're kidding? They overruled Marie?

Chris *(putting her arm round Annie)* "As long as it's done with decorum." Which unfortunately rules YOU out, Celia ...

Celia *(deadpan)* Oh aha.

Annie We have permission to call it an "Alternative WI Calendar".

Chris Which I have to say comes as one hell of a relief, because I've already had them printed!

Annie What?

Chris gets calendars and hands them out

When did you do this?

Chris The day before we went to London. I checked the deadlines. If we'd left it 'til AFTER the decision, we'd've missed the Yorkshire Show anyway.

Annie Wow. And did they donate it, the printers?

Chris No, no. Rod's got a company credit card. I put it down as "stationery".

They all open the calendars with trepidation

Cora Oh my ...

Jessie Ruth!

Hands fly to mouths all around. But there are shivers of pride in what they see

Celia Blimey, Ruth, you scrub up well.

Cora Good God, Jessie, you look like Jane Fonda.

Ruth *(shrieking and pointing)* CORA!

Cora Oh Christ you can see the tattoo.

Jessie What's he done with all the cellulite?

Celia It's still there, love. It's just in shadow.

Jessie Remind me to spend the rest of my life in shadow.

Celia *(searching)* Where's mine ...?

Chris *(pointing)* It's there! September!

There is a pool of quiet as they ALL arrive at September. Unwittingly they all simultaneously lower their calendars