

Oh my knitting, my stitching!

*(FANNY leans over the bed to retrieve the knitting and lets out a fart. Sound effects: fart sound. She retrieves the knitting and holds it up in horror.)*

I've dropped one.

**RENÉ.** Oh dear me, yes you have.

**EDITH.** Get the radio, René.

**RENÉ.** I cannot lift the bed with my back. You lift it.

**EDITH.** I cannot lift the bed!

**RENÉ.** Where are those airmen when you need them?

*(The BRITISH AIRMEN pop up from under/ behind the bed wearing night dresses.)*

**BRITISH AIRMEN.** Hello!

**RENÉ.** Right you two, lift the bed up.

**CARSTAIRS.** What?

**RENÉ.** Lift the bed up.

**FAIRFAX.** What's he saying?

**CARSTAIRS.** No idea old boy.

**RENÉ.** Lift the bed up.

*(RENÉ does it with actions showing them how to do it.)*

**CARSTAIRS.** Ah, morning exercises.

*(The BRITISH AIRMEN both do some exercises.)*

**FAIRFAX.** Up down, up down.

**RENÉ.** What are you doing you silly people? Lift the bed up!

*(The **BRITISH AIRMEN** finally realise what **RENÉ** wants and lift up the bed. **FANNY** falls out with a thud.)*

**EDITH.** Be careful with Mamma. She is a weak and ill old lady.

*(**FANNY** pops up and clobbers **CARSTAIRS** with her ear trumpet and collapses back down again.)*

**RENÉ.** A weak and ill old lady when it suits her.

*(**RENÉ** takes the radio from under the bed and switches it on. Sound effects: Static and whistling.)*

**RADIO.** *(In a French accent.)* Nighthawk, Nighthawk, London calling. Are you receiving me? Over.

**RENÉ.** *(To **RADIO**.)* Yes, yes Nighthawk receiving London loud and not very clear. Over.

**FANNY.** Help me. Help me!

**RENÉ.** *(To **FANNY**.)* Shut up!

**RADIO.** I beg your pardon? Over.

**RENÉ.** *(To **RADIO**.)* Not you, sorry. I was talking to the mother-in-law. Over.

**RADIO.** Ah, right! Now please listen. Abandon the hot air balloon escape, I repeat abandon the hot air balloon escape. The airmen will be picked up at the airstrip north of the town tomorrow. Do you understand? Over.

**RENÉ.** *(To **RADIO**.)* Yes. Received and understood. Over.

**RADIO.** Good luck Nighthawk.

**RENÉ.** *(To **RADIO**.)* What with the escape or the mother-in-law?

**RADIO.** Both. Over and out.