

A COCK AND BULL STORY

By Rod

This sketch is based on Peter's three denials of Jesus in Matthew 26: 69-75; Mark 14: 66-72; Luke 22: 55-62 and John 18: 16-18 & 25-27. It attempts to set the scene in a contemporary setting. The 'danger' of Peter's position in early Jerusalem is missing but it does highlight how Christians often shy away from standing up for their faith when challenged even in an unthreatening environment.

CAST

Barmaid Standing behind bar. (Could be barman)

Steve Close friend of Jenny. Perhaps they are married but this is not essential.

Jenny Close friend of Steve, etc

Pete Has a strong northern accent.

N.B. Steve and Jenny could be two girls or two men if necessary – with a little rewriting of the dialogue/choice of drinks etc

On stage is a bar. Barmaid is not behind it, but is 'looking' towards the outside to get a view of what is happening. There are loud noises from off stage, perhaps with a police siren or whistle blowing to signify some sort of disturbance outside.

Enter Steve followed by Jenny. The latter is looking over her shoulder, interested in what is going on outside. Steve is more interested in getting a drink

Jenny Well, what an altercation. I wonder what that's all about?

Steve Where do you want to sit, Jen?

Jenny Oh, let's go to the bar, Steve. I always feel you're more in the heart of the action.

Steve Right you are. *[They cross to the bar]*

Barmaid Good evening, folks. What can I get you?

Steve What are you having, Jen?

Jenny A white wine spritzer, please.

Steve One of those for the lady and a G and T for me please.

Barmaid One white wine spritzer and a G and T coming up. Would you like ice and lemon, sir?

Steve Yes, please. *[Barmaid prepares drinks. Steve turns to Jenny]* Ah, this is lovely. It's been a hard day.

Jenny I wonder who that fellow is.

Steve The one we saw outside, you mean?

Jenny Yes, he looked as if he might have been one of those religious fanatics.

Barmaid *[With drinks]* Here are your drinks. That's £3.20 please. *[Steve gives £5 note. Enter Pete, urgently. He looks agitated, perhaps furtive]*

Pete A pint of John Smith's, lass, and make it quick.

Jenny *[To Steve]* I wonder what he was being arrested for. Do you think he was an al-Qa'eda terrorist?

Steve More likely for causing a disturbance of the peace. There was quite a crowd gathered round him.

Barmaid *[Handing change to Steve]* I think they call him 'JC' but if you want to know more about him you'd better ask Pete here. He was in here with him last night. *[To Pete]* Isn't that right, Pete?

Pete What's that?

Barmaid You were in here with that JC fellow last night.

Pete I don't know what you're talking about. I just came in here for a quiet pint – if you don't mind. *[Turns his back on others]*

Barmaid *[Shrugs shoulders]* Please yourself.

Pete I usually do.

Jenny *[To Steve]* That's strange. I'm pretty sure I saw this 'Pete' in the crowd surrounding JC. He looked as if he might have been one of his followers.

Steve *[Looking at Pete who is turning to receive his pint from barmaid and paying for it]* Yes, I think you're right.

Jenny *[To Pete]* Excuse me, but are you sure you don't know JC? We saw you with him out on the street.

Pete *[Angry]* Are you deaf or something? I don't know the man. Okay?

Jenny Okay, keep your hair on. *[To Steve]* How peculiar.

Steve 'Methinks he doth protest too much'.

Jenny Me too. And did you notice the accent that JC had when we overheard that altercation with the police?

Steve *[With knowing nod]* Northern – just like our friend Pete here.

Jenny Exactly.

Steve *[To Pete]* Look, er, Pete, Jenny and I are just interested to find out more about why this JC character was arrested. We know you're a friend of his: there's no point denying it – your accent gives you away.

Pete *[Very angry]* Look, for the love of might, will you leave me alone. I tell you once and for all – I don't know the man. Right?

Steve Right. But why you insist on telling us this cock and bull story I can't imagine.

Pete Wait. Did you say "Cock and bull"?

Steve Yes, "Cock and bull". Why?

Pete *[Quietly. Subdued]* I've just remembered something somebody said to me.
[Hangs his head in shame]

THE END