

Title: I Aint No Cuckoo

By: Sally Bartley

Director: Ben Campbell

Genre: Comedy

Synopsis:

James and Moira return from holiday to find a stranger living in their home. Moira's mother is missing and Curtis, the annoying stranger seems to have settled in for the duration. Slowly but surely the twisted plot unwinds, but one question still remains – whose house is it anyway?

Characters – (3 actors)

Moira - Female, 55-65

James - Male, 55-65 Moira's husband

Curtis - Male, 30-45, the American

Setting A lounge with drinks table, chair, sofa and coffee table.

Running time: 15 minutes

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James moves to the side table and fixes a couple of drinks. He takes them to the sofa, sits, closes his eyes and sighs deeply. Curtis enters and stops short, regarding James, puzzled.

JAMES *(Hearing the movement but not opening his eyes)* I've got your gin here.

CURTIS *(He speaks with an American accent)* Well thanks, honey. But I'm actually a Bourbon kind of guy.

James jumps awake, stands and turns towards Curtis.

JAMES Who the hell are you?

CURTIS I was about to ask you the same thing.

JAMES What? I meanwho *are* you?

CURTIS Not that it's any of your business, but my name is Curtis.

JAMES Curtis?

CURTIS Yes. Curtis.

JAMES I don't know any Curtis.

CURTIS And yet, I remainCurtis.

JAMES You can say your name as many times as you like. I still don't know who you are.

CURTIS Oh, I won't say it again. Now is the moment for you to tell me your name, I think.

JAMES My name is James, and this is my house.

CURTIS I don't think so.

JAMES Clearly. But you'd be wrong. You bloody Yanks think you own the world. Well, not on my watch, matey, not on my watch.

CURTIS I don't see why my nationality makes any difference.

JAMES You wouldn't. That's the problem. This is *my* house.

CURTIS No. This is *my* home.

Pause. They regard each other angrily.

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MOIRA You see, actually Please don't get mad, butMum still owns the house.

Pause

JAMES She can't! We've been paying the mortgage for the past twenty years and now we've paid her out! The last hundred grand – she signed it over to us. I remember it distinctly.

MOIRA No. That didn't actually happen.

CURTIS Well, this is awkward.

JAMES Will you stop saying that.

Pause

Moira? Are you telling me we paid her and she didn't sign?

MOIRA No.

JAMES For God's sake – just tell me what's going on! Did we or did we not pay her a hundred thousand dollars to take over the Title?

Pause

MOIRA We did not.

Pause

JAMES Have we been paying the mortgage for twenty years?

Pause

MOIRA We have not.

Pause

JAMES I I don't get it. I saw the money leave our Account. The money definitely left our Account.

MOIRA (*Miserably*) ,Oh yes.