

HANGMEN AUDITION

ALICE

SHIRLEY. Morning. Do mental homes have visiting hours?

ALICE. You can get mental-home-visiting out of your head for a start off. I thought we heard the end of that Phyllis Keane palaver last night. I wouldn't let you go to *Burnley* on your own, let alone to a Burnley mental home.

SHIRLEY. She'll be all on her own with nutters.

ALICE. Oh aye. Sounds like me at opening time. Your dad's lost run of himself in paper. I knew he would. Won't hurt business, though, the likes of folk round here. Probably help business. They'd pay to watch a car crash if you could slow one down. They're just morbid.

Pause.

Two hundred and thirty-three.

Pause.

I'd stop you reading it if I didn't think you'd get ahold of it one way or t'other.