

The Mynah Bird

Extract from a story by Gillian Shearer

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Maist o the time the birdie seemed content wi his life. He'd watch the auld mannies suppin their pints and sumtimes he'd even join in (though the landlord warned fowk agin gaein it too much beer). Sumtimes it seemed as if the wee bird kent exactly whit they were sayin inna, cos it wid nod its heid and gae oot a wee caw as if laughin at their jokes.

Thursday nicht at the pub wis his favourite nicht cos aat's when The Sweeney cam oan the telly.

"Thon Jack Reagan thinks he's a richt big man!" the landlord wid scoff cos he'd been in the army and he kent a hing or twa aboot fechtin, he said. "Mair lik Big Daddy!" he'd joke, as Jack Reagan failed tae knock seven bells oot o sumbody.

When the theme tune cam oan the bird ayewis perkit up, and when it shouted, "Ye're knicked!" the mannies wid faa aboot laughin. When closing time came aroon, the landlord wid shout, "Time!" and the birdie wid reply, "Awright guv!"

Then the mannies wid spill oot intae the cauld and mak their wye up the brae, their coat tails flappin in the win lik sails.

... read the full story in POTB Issue 17