

## Coconut Republic

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### Word counts:

Intro - 98 words

Scene - 499 words

Outro - 49 words

### Intro

Three British engineering employees- crafty Northerner Colin, polished diplomat Jonathan and eager Scottish planner Claire- go to a Caribbean dictatorship to win a natural gas contract from larger-than-life dictator Ramon and his right hand man Guerra. Santa Cassilda is an island where the USSR still exists and whether you're promoted or 'disappeared' depends on El Presidente's mood- the group must tread carefully. As special guests they are carefully handled. Their suspicions that all is not what it seems are confirmed when they escape the palace. While trying to explore the island they are kidnapped by rebels.

1 INT. REBEL HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

1

Rebels sit with rifles. Jonathan, Colin and Claire are on the floor handcuffed to the same radiator. The Rebel LEADER - a man in army fatigues - is pacing smugly.

LEADER

English?

CLAIRE

I'm Scottish actually.

COLIN

(Muttered)

Barely. You're from Edinburgh.

LEADER

I do not speak Scottish, only English.

Jonathan shushes Claire.

JONATHAN

Yes, we speak English.

LEADER

You bourgeoisie scum! You are here to strip the flesh from Santa Cassilda, and eat the bones! You hypocrites, you relish your democracy, and yet you worship your King Reagan and Queen Thatcher of Capitalism.

Colin mouths 'What?'.

LEADER(CONT.)

We know the tyrant will pay a handsome ransom for you pigs. A ransom that will pave the way to the future!

He gestures grandly to a fax machine.

LEADER(CONT.)

Already our Brotherhood looks to tomorrow! In only 7 or 8 minutes our ransom demand will be at the palace! Observe!

The paper jams in the machine several times, then goes through.

LEADER(CONT.)

If we do not receive a reply by dawn,  
you will be shot.

He leaves. There's a tense silence.

CLAIRE

Colin? Why did you bring so many  
beans?

COLIN

That's what's on your mind?

CLAIRE

I've been thinking about it since the  
airport. Why bring twenty tins of  
beans to the Caribbean?

COLIN

They're not beans.

CLAIRE

What are they then?

COLIN

Homebrew malt. Add water and yeast and  
you get beer. I put the bean labels on  
the cans so customs doesn't know.  
Nobody cares about baked beans.

JONATHAN

Jesus, Colin, are you homebrewing here  
as well? It's not even a dry country!

COLIN

I'll be damned if I'm going six months  
without a proper pint!

JONATHAN

Did you not learn your lesson from  
Saudi Arabia with those tins of

He does air quotes.

JONATHAN(CONT.)

"sticky toffee pudding!"

Another silence.

CLAIRE

So... you two have worked together

before?

JONATHAN  
Yes, a couple of times.

CLAIRE  
So... you said earlier you both worked  
in Kazakhstan?

Colin and Jonathan instantly look away from each other.

COLIN & JONATHAN  
(Quietly)  
Yeah.

CLAIRE  
So what was that like?

Neither answer.

CLAIRE  
So...

JONATHAN  
(snaps)  
Claire, shut up! I can't think of a  
way out of this with your incessant  
nattering!

COLIN  
It's not her fault! Leave her alone.

CLAIRE  
(Upset)  
Well I'm nervous! I've never been  
chained to a goddamned radiator by  
armed rebels before!

Jonathan looks sheepish.

COLIN  
I have actually been chained to a  
radiator by armed rebels before.

JONATHAN  
Honestly?

COLIN  
The Philippines. It's always a  
radiator for some reason.

CLAIRE

Well what happened then?

Santa Cassildan soldiers burst in and shoot the rebels.  
Jonathan screams.

COLIN

That happened, actually.

Guerra marches in.

GUERRA

Ah good, you are still alive!

Two soldiers free the trio.

JONATHAN

How did you find us?

CLAIRE

Did you trace the fax?

Guerra pulls a large tracking device from Claire's pocket.

JONATHAN

How did you not notice that?

Claire stares blankly.

COLIN

(amused)

Exactly like the Philippines.

**END.**

Outro

The trio learn that their escape, kidnap and rescue were all a plan to expose- and exterminate- the rebels, and at the palace awaits a lavish party in their honour. Although shaken, they decide to accept their situation- as if they get a choice- and toast to the adventure.