

Adrian's Wall

A one act play
by
Bob Davidson

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Adrian's Wall - Bob Davidson

Cast:

Adrian - A fifty year old Scottish man.

Fiona - His forty year old Scottish sister.

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There's very little on stage. Maybe an armchair stage left next to a small table on which there is a radio. ADRIAN enters stage left and stands down stage...

ADRIAN – This is a story about walls. Not the folk that make the ice cream eh?... or that wee island up in Orkney. No, no, I'm talking about the other kind of walls, continuous narrow upright structures of stone or brick enclosing or protecting or separating a building or room or field or town etc... according to the dictionary. I'm surrounded by the damned things. Here, in my flat. And you know this... I'm not sure if they're protecting me or just enclosing me. Fiona, that's my wee sister, she would say that I am a prisoner in this flat. But I don't feel like a prisoner, no' that I've ever been in the jail ye understand it's just that I don't get out much. But it's enough for me. Two or three times a week I go out that door, go doon the stairs, go twenty five yards along the street to the Spar for a half loaf and a lump o' cheddar, maybe a pint o' milk, three bananas and some teabags. Then I walk back along the street, well, I suppose I scurry... aye I do, I scurry. I scurry back along the street hugging the wall, where it's safer, like a rat. Nip roond the corner intae the close, up them stairs, and back through that door. I slide in sideways so I don't have to open it too far. And I'm in.

I shut the door behind me and I lean wae my back against it and let my heid fall back until it rests against the wood and I take a deep breath and... and then I usually put the kettle on. And the radio. I dinnae hae a telly but the radio is ay on. A' day every day... I liked that... a' day every day. Notice I didnae say 24/7. I dinnae like that. I dinnae like this "no worries" rubbish either. I've got loads of worries. See a' they folk who keep saying no worries, well I doubt they cannae listen tae the radio. Do they no' ken what's happening in Syria and Yemen? Do they no' ken that the climate's changing that fast we're a' going tae either droon or get frazzled. Do they no' ken we're about to leave the European Union? Do they no' ken Scotland's future is in the balance? Do they no' ken that any minute ma wee sister is about to arrive here and nag me for sitting about in this flat a' day and could I no' get up off ma arse and get a job. No worries? Good grief... I've got hunders o' them. I'm Adrian by the way.

ADRIAN sits on the armchair. FIONA enters...

FIONA - Hello? Are you at home?

ADRIAN – No.

FIONA – Good, glad to hear it... where are you?

ADRIAN – Majorca... Em, what are you doing?

FIONA – Opening the curtains.

ADRIAN – Why?

FIONA – Let some light in.

ADRIAN – Why?

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FIONA – Because it's a beautiful day out there.

ADRIAN – And your point is?

FIONA – What's the matter, frightened you'll fade? You couldnae get any paler.

ADRIAN - Here, do I come to your house and footer wae your curtains?

FIONA – Adrian, I would love you to come to my house. Just once. Please? Come for Christmas. I only live three miles away.

ADRIAN – I don't like Christmas.

FIONA – I know you don't. I'm not desperately keen on it either. That's why I invited you. I know you wouldnae expect too much.

ADRIAN – It is the worst possible side of capitalism.

FIONA – Yea, you've said that before, but I'm not sure if it's the worst... Surely war's worse?

ADRIAN – Naw... naw, I don't think so. Christmas has got the edge.

FIONA – How d'ye work that out?

ADRIAN – Well, war affects the lives of millions. Christmas on the other hand ruins the lives of billions. Every bloody year.

FIONA – Och you're an old scrooge. Look at you. All you need is a night-shirt and a wee willy winkie hat like they used to wear in the days of that bastard, Dickens.

ADRIAN – Ha! That bastard Dickens, I liked that. Spoken like ma wee sister... Did you notice it was the ninth of November?

FIONA – I did.

ADRIAN – 30 years since the Berlin wall came down. Whole lot of stuff about it on the radio this morning.

FIONA - I heard it... I can remember that night.

ADRIAN - Can ye? You'd only be ten.

FIONA - I can remember. Well... I remember us a' huddled round the telly, mind that wee fourteen inch thing or whatever it was... and there was a roaring fire on. Dad was so pleased eh?

ADRIAN - Aye, he was. "At last there seems to be a bit o' common sense in this crazy world..." I can hear him say it right now.

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FIONA - Aye, "the world's finally coming to its senses." I think what I remember most, Ade, is that the four of us were so happy. I mind going to bed that night caught up in the thrill of it all and lying awake for hours planning my future.

ADRIAN - The future's looking good... mind dad said that? The future's looking good.

FIONA - Aye... And tomorrow's the tenth.

ADRIAN - And tomorrow's the tenth.

FIONA - Unbelievable eh? Thirty years.

ADRIAN - I know. One minute it feels like yesterday and then the next it's like a thousand years ago. I wonder what they'd think of it all?

FIONA - I'm quite glad they're not here to see it, Ade, to be honest. Imagine what dad would say about Trump's wall.

ADRIAN - God aye. I don't think he'd approve somehow.

FIONA – Who in their right mind would?

ADRIAN – Aye, well I said that about the EU referendum. No need to worry, I says, nobody in their right mind would vote to leave. And I was right, nobody in their right mind voted to leave. We're doomed. How could they do that? On about folk coming here taking oor jobs but they forget that we could equally go to the continent and work.

FIONA – Oh aye... you thinking of getting a job in Denmark?

ADRIAN – That was a bit below the belt Fiona, even for you.

FIONA – Or what about the Spar shop along the road? You're in it often enough, you've probably got shares in it.

ADRIAN – Fiona, it may have escaped your notice but I am rapidly approaching the sort of age that had I been working I would probably now be thinking of retiring.

FIONA – You're only fifty.

ADRIAN – Aye well I was always planning on retiring early. It's important to think ahead. I'm just kindo cutting out all that working stuff in the middle.

FIONA – Oh is that what you're doing?

ADRIAN - Aye.

FIONA - Well? Are you all set?

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ADRIAN - Set for what?

FIONA - Don't give me that. I know fine you haven't forgotten.

ADRIAN - Aw, Fiona, let's just forget it. It was just a daft idea. I think I'd rather just stay here, if that's a' the same wae you?

FIONA - But, Adrian this is our third attempt, and we haven't even got past the door.

ADRIAN - I know.

FIONA - It's okay. I got the car all fuelled up and everything, but it's okay. The border will be there another day. Do you fancy going for a walk in that case?

ADRIAN - What for?

FIONA - What do you mean what for? Does there have to be a reason? Just so we can get a wee bit of exercise, some fresh Perthshire air in oor lungs. So we can have a wee chat...

ADRIAN - ...we can chat here.

FIONA - A wee walk round the Inch before the last of the leaves are off the trees?

ADRIAN - Na.

FIONA - Oh go on.

ADRIAN - Na.

FIONA - I'll let you throw stones at the ducks...

ADRIAN - Na, it's November.

FIONA - What's that supposed to mean?

ADRIAN - It's cold.

FIONA - Put a jacket on.

ADRIAN - I don't think I've got a jacket.

FIONA - What?

ADRIAN - I gave all my jackets away. I put them in one of those charity bags that came through the letterbox.

FIONA - Oh Adrian, why?

ADRIAN - Well, I don't really need them.

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FIONA – Well you maybe don't need them in here but outside?

ADRIAN – I don't go outside, other than to the Spar and that only takes a couple of minutes. And it's quite warm in that wee shop, warmer than it is in here sometimes.

FIONA – What am I going to do with you?

ADRIAN – You don't have to do anything m'dear. I'm fine. I'm happy and how many people can say that?

FIONA – But there's a whole world out there, Adrian.

ADRIAN – I know there is, Fiona... I hear all about it on my radio. For instance I heard the SNP and the Greens have paved the way for another Scottish Independence referendum. Next year, Nicola's saying.

FIONA – I think it's too soon. I don't think we're ready.

ADRIAN – You're maybe right, but you're still for it?

FIONA – Of course I am but we're not ready. It's nothing to do with referendums. You can have as many of them as you want till you're blue in the face. It's the strength of feeling that counts. And I don't think that strength of feeling is there. Much as I'd like it to be Not quite yet. It should be so overwhelming that the vote is a mere formality.

ADRIAN - You're right but what can we do? All you and me can do is put a pencil cross on a bit of paper. What makes us want it do you think? What makes me Scottish?

FIONA - You eat a lot of porridge.

ADRIAN - Naw seriously... What makes me hope that one day Scotland will be an independent country? Where did that notion come from?

FIONA - Well I suppose the obvious answer to that is that you was born here.

ADRIAN - But some folk would say that I was born in Britain and could I not just be happy with that. What makes me want to see the difference? What makes me think I'm Scottish first, European second and a citizen of nowhere third?

FIONA - With no mention of Britain in there at all...

ADRIAN - Exactly. I remember dad gave me a T-shirt. I'd have been about fifteen, you'd have been about four or five at the time. You were a wee case then, I'll tell ye. Anyway it was an "I'm backing Scotland" T-shirt with the old SNP logo on the front and I wore it proudly until I think it fell to bits.

FIONA - Is there no' a photo of you wearing at the seaside?

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ADRIAN - Aye... aye, it was on the beach at St Andrews. We were there for the day with the Norwoods, who were up fae England on holiday. Mind them? The Norwoods? They had twin boys... I think mum knew the dad... Peter was it? Anyway It was the first time I noticed the difference. It was the first time that I felt different. I saw me as being different to them. I liked them. They were fine. They were friends of mum and dad's and I was glad they'd come to visit, but I saw myself different to them. Whereas they saw me as being the same. I felt really possessive.

FIONA - About your T-shirt?

ADRIAN - You know fine what I mean. About ma country. This is mine, I remember thinking. I just had this awfy funny feeling that they were saying naw, this is ours. That was the start, I think. I didn't lay claim to what they had so I couldnae understand why they thought Scotland was either theirs or didn't exist at all. I think for me, that was the start of us and them.

FIONA - Identity politics I think it's called.

ADRIAN - I would like to go and see the border, Fiona, but maybe not today. Maybe some day soon though. I'm working ma way up to it.

FIONA - You realise to do that, you'll have to leave the house.

ADRIAN - Yes, I realise that.

FIONA - So, do you want to leave the house?

ADRIAN - Well, no, no' really but I cannae see it from here can I? I just thought I'd like to see it, that's all.

FIONA - It's quite a way off.

ADRIAN - I know.

FIONA - It will involve getting in the car and everything. Maybe putting shoes on?

ADRIAN - I know.

FIONA - Should we not just start with a wee walk? And have a think about it. We could maybe go for a few days...

ADRIAN - ...no

FIONA - ...get a couple of nights Airbnb?

ADRIAN - No! No... aw... just forget it.

FIONA - Oh why not? It would do you good.

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ADRIAN - No it wouldn't.

FIONA - You know what they say? Travel broadens the mind.

ADRIAN - I'm broadminded enough, thanks. I just wanted to go there and back in a day. That's possible is it no'?

FIONA - Of course it is. But I've come here to take you for the day and now you don't want to go. I filled a flask and made pieces and everything. I knew it would be a waste of time.

ADRIAN - Sorry, I didn't mean to waste your time.

FIONA - But if we spent a few days... sometime soon. I mean, it's quite a long way to drive. We'd see a bit more. Do a bit of exploring. Like a wee holiday?

ADRIAN - I'm not staying away overnight, Fiona. I am not staying in a bed and breakfast. I have to get back to the flat that same day. That's the deal, otherwise I don't go.

FIONA - Why, Adrian? The flat will be fine.

ADRIAN - It's too risky. I'm, I'm... well if you must know, I'm scared.

FIONA - I know you are, Ade, but try not to be. I'd be with you.

ADRIAN - I'm so frightened something might happen?

FIONA - Like what?

ADRIAN - I don't know. A car crash or something.

FIONA - A car crash?

ADRIAN - Yea, or anything... I don't know, it's too dangerous. Look just forget I said anything. I don't actually want to go. It was just an idea. It's fine. I'm happy here. I don't want to tempt fate by doing anything out of the ordinary and I'm not going to a bed and breakfast. I wouldn't want to go to the toilet in some strange house in the middle of the night or something. I've got very odd toilet habits. And I wouldnae know whether to flush and wake everybody up or just leave it without flushing which I just couldnae do. I'm not going. I don't want to go. I'll stay here. I'm fine. Thank you for making pieces. And for filling a flask.

FIONA - That's okay. Why don't we just think about going for it another day? Sometime soon. I could pick you up after breakfast We'll go down to Berwick have a wee look around, eat the pieces, drink the coffee and we'll be home by tea time. We don't even have to get out of the car. All we have to do in the meantime is think about it. We don't have to go, we just have to think about it. If we want. How does that sound?

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ADRIAN - Okay, I'll think about it.

FIONA - Good man.

ADRIAN - But I probably won't go.

FIONA - That's okay. You don't have to go. You don't have to do anything. You can stay here, where you're happy.

ADRIAN - Aw, I wish now I hudnae said anything. I can cope here, just. Then I start getting all these big fancy ideas...

FIONA - It's neither big nor fancy, it's fine...

ADRIAN - ...oh, I'll just go down to the border. Fiona can take me in the car. It'll be easy. I'm sorry, I forget what I'm like. How can folk just get on a plane and fly to France or somewhere. Imagine going all the way to Australia. Gee whiz, it makes me no' weel just thinking about it.

FIONA - Well don't think about it. Don't think about anything. You're here aren't you? Look around, you're at home.

ADRIAN - I have nightmares that I'm living in some other house. Have I told ye that before? I've had them loads of times and I keep thinking, when I'm in the middle of the dream, that I cannae remember moving out of here. I'm thinking and thinking, when did that happen? I cannae remember selling the flat or being evicted or whatever. And I'm in this strange house wae stairs all over the place and weird looking windows. You have to climb out a window and go up a stair onto the roof and I end up in this gully bit on the roof where there's lead flashing between the slates and I'm slipping and my heels cannae get a grip and slide down towards the guttering and I look in through a skylight window and mum and dad are there sitting at a table and I'm just so glad to see them but I just cannae work out where the hell I am. And I wake up and I'm crying. I wake up and I'm actually crying, just sobbing ma heart out and then I realise I'm here and the relief is just...so amazing, oh god... and I feel so good that I'm here. I ken it's a shitty wee flat... but it's ma ain four walls... I've had that dream dozens o' times.

FIONA - Right! Come on. Shoes on.

ADRIAN - Whut?

FIONA - We're going. Third time lucky, Adrian. Get yer shoes on.

ADRIAN - I don't have a jacket.

FIONA - There's a spare coat o' mine in the car.

ADRIAN - It'll no' be in ma colour.

FIONA - It is actually. It'll go beautifully with your eyes. Come on! Chop chop...

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She takes off his slippers and begins putting his shoes on him...

ADRIAN - How long will it take?

FIONA - Oh, I don't know. Two and a half hours down. Two and a half hours back that's five hours. If we leave now and had a couple of hours down there we'd be back by five.

ADRIAN- That's good. That's good because I always have my tea at five.

FIONA - Well that sounds perfect then. Now, do you need the loo before we go.

ADRIAN - I can't do it, Fiona. I'm sorry.

FIONA - Walls, Adrian, can be demolished. Bulldozed. Climbed over. From Berlin to Belfast. The Middle East to the great bloody wall of China. There's always a way if you look for it. Now, do you need the loo before we go?

ADRIAN - Aw, Fiona, do we have to do this.

FIONA - Yes, Adrian, we do. Do you need the loo before we go?

ADRIAN - Yes, it would probably be wise. I had a mug of coffee before you get here.

FIONA - Well off you go then... Go on... and don't lock yourself in there.

The lights begin to fade...

FIONA - *(singing as ADRIAN exits)* It's now or never...

When the lights come back up they are in the car... Adrian is wearing one of Fiona's most feminine coats.

FIONA - Right, seat belt on.

ADRIAN - Aw do I have to?

FIONA - Yes. It's the law.

ADRIAN - When did that come in?

FIONA - Shall we go?

ADRIAN - Aye, I think so. Promise you'll turn around and drive home if I dinnae feel comfy?

FIONA - I might.

ADRIAN - Fiona?

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FIONA - It's okay, I'm on your side but it's a cracking day for a run down to the border. Let's just give it a go.

ADRIAN - You've got the wipers on.

FIONA - What?

ADRIAN - The wipers, you've got the wipers on. It's not raining.

FIONA - Would you like to drive?

ADRIAN - I can't drive. I mean, I don't know how to... I haven't got a licence.

FIONA - So how come you know so much about wipers all of a sudden? There, I've switched them off. Is that better?

ADRIAN - Oh wow... look there's the Spar.

FIONA - I can maybe drop you off there when we get back.

ADRIAN - Yea, I need bananas. That would be good actually, or we can get them now?

FIONA - We'll get them when we come back.

ADRIAN - Good. Remind me when we get back that I need bananas. I usually buy three at a time. One that's almost ready to eat. Mostly all yellow. I don't like it when they go brown. So I usually have a yellow one which I eat with my porridge the day after. I also buy one which is mostly yellow but with maybe a slight hint of green. Just that wee bit firmer than you would maybe eat within twenty four hours and I have that one with my porridge the day after tomorrow. Then I also buy a third one which to be fair is still mostly yellow but has a slightly stronger hint of green... lookout, big truck!

FIONA - It's okay I see it.

ADRIAN - God they're huge eh? And that one I eat the day after the day after tomorrow. And then on that day, the day after the day after tomorrow I would usually buy three new bananas along similar lines. And today is that day. So remind me when we get back that I need bananas.

FIONA - Will do.

ADRIAN - What's that big place?

FIONA - Eh, it's a school...

ADRIAN - How long has that been there?

FIONA - Ten years or so.

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ADRIAN - I think you're in third.

FIONA - What?

ADRIAN - I think you're in third gear. Your engine's revving quite high. Look it's doing three thousand revs. You're only doing thirty five.

FIONA - Is that better?

ADRIAN - Yea, thanks. Look it's only doing half the revs. It's kinder to the engine and you'll be using less fuel. Less emissions. Kinder to the environment.

FIONA - Thank you. Are you going to be like this all the way to Berwick?

ADRIAN - Actually, it's not kinder to the environment at all. There hasn't been a car invented yet that's kind to the environment. There's just varying degrees of being unkind to the environment.

FIONA - I know... We should have gone by train.

ADRIAN - You should get an automatic

FIONA - What?

ADRIAN - And then you'd always be in the right gear.

FIONA - What was I thinking about? We should have gone by train. Shall we turn back and go by train?

ADRIAN - No, I don't like the toilets on trains. Very messy. No, you're doing a great job of driving, Fiona. I'm enjoying myself.

She bursts out laughing... they sit in silence for a long time and ADRIAN falls asleep. After another long time she nudges him...

ADRIAN - Woa... where am I?

FIONA - In the car.

ADRIAN - Oh yea.

FIONA - Look.

ADRIAN - Oh wow. Is that the new bridge? Oh wow, thanks for waking me up. That is superb eh? And there's the auld Forth Road Bridge. And The Forth Brig. That is lovely. You know Fiona I didnae think I'd ever see that again. It's beautiful eh? It's so... so Scottish looking. Mind that time we came doon to see the castle? What kind of car was it we had again? A Renault Five I think it was. Was it a Renault Five? Think

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so. Anyway we were going over the bridge and the car hit a bump and I farted and you started giggling and you giggled that much you wet yourself?

FIONA - That is not what happened.

ADRIAN - Aye it was and how do you ken? You'd only be six or seven at the time. There's no way you can remember.

FIONA - I cannae remember the actual day but I can certainly remember mum and dad talking about it years after. We were coming *back* over the bridge and we'd been eating chips and the car hit a bump and I threw up and it was *you* that wet yourself.

ADRIAN - No I didnae.

FIONA - Yes you did.

ADRIAN - No, wait a minute I remember now. I was needing the toilet but mum couldnae stop and so I had to pee intae a lemonade bottle... was that no' it?

FIONA - Naw, I think that was a totally different trip altogether. Was that no' the time we went to Oban? Was granny no' with us or something and you didnae want to pee in the bottle cos she was always trying to grab your willy?

ADRIAN - Naw she used to do that when I was just a wee boy. That would be before you were born Fiona. I used to hate getting in the back of the car wae her. She was an old pervert. Always trying to shove her hand up ma shorts. The auld besom.

FIONA - It's all so long ago isn't it?

ADRIAN - Yep. It's like another life time ago. It's funny how I can still remember that though, especially when you consider how much I've forgotten.

FIONA - Yea. I sometimes wonder if any of it did actually happen? I think if it did, it maybe all happened to two totally different people. Not us. It was the tenth of November wasn't it? The day after the wall came down? That mum discovered the lump?

ADRIAN - Yea. So much for dad and his prediction that the future was looking good. A matter of hours and it was looking pretty bad.

FIONA - He wasn't to know.

ADRIAN - No, none of us were.

FIONA - How long was it between her getting one breast removed before she had the second one done? I can't remember.

ADRIAN - I think it was about a year was it no'? It was definitely one, then a while later the second one. God they wurnae half brutal back then. Mair butchery than surgery.

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FIONA - Yea, she probably would have survived today.

ADRIAN - Aye, well.

FIONA - How did you do it Ade?

ADRIAN - What?

FIONA - After dad died? How did you manage? You looked after mum so well. I was hopeless.

ADRIAN - No you weren't.

FIONA - Aye I was... all that personal care stuff?

ADRIAN - You'd only just turned twelve had you not?

FIONA - Yea, but I couldn't do that... even now. Taking her to the toilet and everything. Washing her and feeding her and kidding on with her. And being with her when she died. I wasn't able to do that either. I remember in the last few days praying that I would just go to sleep one night and in the morning it would all be over. Remember what dad used to say to her? It's alright for you. You've got the cancer, I've got the worry.

ADRIAN - Yea... poor devil.

FIONA - She was heartbroken when you dropped out of Uni.

ADRIAN - I know she was. I think she had high hopes for her wee boy. But I had to. I had to look after her eh? She'd have been chuffed that you went though.

FIONA - I wish you'd come to my graduation.

ADRIAN - I know... I'm sorry.

FIONA - I couldn't have done it without you.

ADRIAN - Well I had to look after ma wee sister. Didn't I? I mean... naebody else would have ye... Are we no' nearly there yet?

FIONA - We are actually. One mile to go to the border according to the last sign.

ADRIAN - Good. I need a wee. All that talk about peeing in bottles. Can we stop and I'll have a quick one at the roadside?

FIONA - Really, shall we not see if we can find a toilet?

ADRIAN - No, no. Just stop when ever you get a chance, I'll go behind a tree.

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FIONA - Here's the border here... there's a lay-by... I'll pull in.

ADRIAN - Right I won't be a minute. Wait, wait are we still in Scotland or have we crossed the border?

FIONA - What difference does it make? Do you need to go or not?

ADRIAN - Well I don't want to pee **on** England. I don't want it to be taken as a political point. I don't want to be compared with Churchill when he peed on the Siegfried Line.

FIONA - Nobody could ever compare you, my sweet brother, with that old warmongering fool. This is Scotland, up to that wee section of wall and England starts at the sign.

ADRIAN - Which sign?

FIONA - The sign that says England.

ADRIAN - I was only kidding. Be back in a minute.

She stares out to sea... he returns.

ADRIAN - Is this all there is? I was expecting more.

FIONA - Such as?

ADRIAN - I dunno. Border posts, with a barrier that they raise after they've checked your passport and travel documents.

FIONA - Oh god no! We've had enough of that sort of thing thank you very much... There's a burger van.

ADRIAN - We'll gi'e that a miss a think... But how do people know where the actual border is?

FIONA - Well is it not obvious? Look, sign saying England and if you turn around that one says Scotland.

ADRIAN - Yea I get that, but that's just for when you're on the road. What about over by those trees over here... or those fields?

FIONA - I've no idea Adrian. Maybe it's not that important over in the fields.

ADRIAN - Of course it's important. If you're going to have a border or boundary then it has to be marked out.

FIONA - What, so the sheep can tell what country they're in?

ADRIAN - What?

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FIONA - Look, Adrian... look at the gulls. Look at those two pigeons. They have just flown from what is obviously England into Scotland and I bet they neither know or care what country they're flying over.

ADRIAN - But it isn't about pigeons, or seagulls or sheep. It's about us. It's about Scotland. It's about where the rest of the world ends and where Scotland begins.

FIONA - Look Adrian I know that that over there is England because the sign says so. Without the sign, I wouldn't have a clue.

ADRIAN - That's my point.

FIONA - It's also mine. What I'm saying is without the sign that bit of the planet over there looks pretty much like this bit of the planet over here.

ADRIAN - I know! That's why it needs something to show which bit is which. I thought there was a wall on the border?

FIONA - Hadrian's Wall? No that's actually a bit further south.

ADRIAN - What? Well, what's the point in that? That is so stupid. Why have it in a different place from the border? I mean who ever thought that was a good idea? He was an idiot, whoever it was... I've a good mind to build one.

FIONA - Brilliant idea, Ade, you do that. That would show them! Wall building is certainly back in fashion, but do you not think there's enough of them already?

ADRIAN - Just a wee token wall maybe?

FIONA - Adrian Trump?

ADRIAN - Do not compare me with that idiot.

FIONA - I don't think you'd actually manage... bearing in mind you can hardly wash your dishes.

ADRIAN - Aye, I could.

FIONA - Adrian, even if you were the boss of Balfour Beatty you wouldn't manage to build a wall.

ADRIAN - I could.

FIONA - How?

ADRIAN - Some... bricks.

FIONA - Bricks?

Adrian's Wall - Bob Davidson

ADRIAN - Yea, bricks and I'd probably try and get a shot of a wheel barrow.

FIONA - For carting around the bricks?

ADRIAN - Yea, obviously. And I'd need a map.

FIONA - To show where the border is?

ADRIAN - Ye-es!

FIONA - Uh-huh? And where would you start?

ADRIAN - Em... I think I'd start down there. Down at the coast. Aye... it makes sense to start at the coast and work my way across.

FIONA - Of course it does. Perfect sense. And what about the bricks? Where do you get them?

ADRIAN - Dunno... I wouldnae want to use new bricks...

FIONA - ...the environment?

ADRIAN - Exactly. It would have to be re-cycled bricks. Who knows? There's probably a fermer doon there right now thinking "A think it's aboot time I demolished that auld brick built shed o' mine. The auld neep shed."

FIONA - Aye... A ken it fine. It's time it was doon oot o' there... He might even give you a shot o' his tractor and bogie...

ADRIAN - A wee grey Fergie maybe?

FIONA - Ideal.

ADRIAN - Then I'd just build a wee wall. Maybe one brick high. One brick wide.

FIONA - Not quite visible from space then?

ADRIAN - No, no... in actual fact you'd have to be careful and no' trip over it. But it would be there. Winding its way fae the coast up to this lay-by.

FIONA - Would you have a death strip? Border guards? Look out posts?

ADRIAN - Och dinnae, Fiona, you're spoiling ma fantasy.

FIONA - The Stasi?

ADRIAN - No. Everybody knows we don't need the Stasi now. When it comes to gathering information on folk, they were complete amateurs compared to Facebook and Google.

Adrian's Wall - Bob Davidson

FIONA - So? You're up to the lay-by. What about the A1?

ADRIAN - Ah!

FIONA - Cannae build a wall across the road.

ADRIAN - No, that would be silly. Some daft bugger would drive into it. I would just have to paint a line across.

FIONA - That's not a wall.

ADRIAN - No, but we have to be sensible.

FIONA - Ah yes, that's very important. Uh-huh, and where would you live when you're doing all this?

ADRIAN - Em... in a tent, I think. Be handy for moving about.

FIONA - God it's years since I've been in a tent. Remember when we went to Glencoe?

ADRIAN - I certainly do. Rained the whole time. Day and night. For four days.

FIONA - Didn't stop the midgies.

ADRIAN - Nothing does.

FIONA - I think that's the only time I can remember mum and dad falling out. Dad wanted to go home and mum wanted to stay. It'll clear up in a minute, she kept saying. I'm bloody sure it wullnae, dad shouted and started taking the tent down with us all still in it. Do you remember that? Mum was always happy when she was out in the rain. Soaking wet. Didnae bother her at all. Mind she used to go out for walks and she'd come back totally drookit wae her hair a' in a mess? Then dad flung the tent in the boot o' the car and we drove off leaving the picnic chairs and the stove behind. *(She suddenly remembers)* That's when I threw up in the car!! And you *did* wet yourself. I remember now.

ADRIAN - Yea, I remember now too. I thought it wouldnae make any difference as I was wet already. It was the steam that was the giveaway.

FIONA - *(laughing)* You are disgusting. Honestly! So! To get back to Adrian's wall. You paint a line across the A1 and then what?

ADRIAN - I dunno... just work ma way, what is it, south west?

FIONA - Following your map...

ADRIAN - ...following ma map.

FIONA - Any media attention?

Adrian's Wall - Bob Davidson

ADRIAN - Yes, probably. The local paper at first.

FIONA - Maybe a wee bit on local radio... and then... the tabloids! "Emperor Adrian builds wall single handed!"

ADRIAN - Aye, and a photo of me and ma barry.

FIONA - "Well I feel if we are to be an independent country, said Adrian Cameron, fifty of Perth, we need a well defined border."

ADRIAN - "And otherwise I would just be sitting about on ma arse a' day in my flat, and thought it would be a good laugh." I think it would have to be the telly after that eh?

FIONA - Yea I think so. Probably something like The One Show. Or maybe just the news.

ADRIAN - Do you know who I think they'd send to interview me...? Fiona Bruce.

FIONA - What is it wae you middle aged men and Fiona Bruce? Do yous all fancy her or what?

ADRIAN - I don't fancy her... but I think she might hae a wee fancy for me. She looks like one of those woman that would like touching me. Just on the erm like. But that's a sign. Check her out on yer phone, Fiona. See if she's married. I don't think she is. It'll be on Wikipedia... And then I think there would maybe be... a book deal. And talk of a movie.

FIONA - A logical step. Would you write the book yourself or get a ghost writer?

ADRIAN - Oh a ghost writer every time. If I wrote it, folk would keep asking me to re-write it and change it and chop it all about and everything and that would just totally hack me off.

FIONA - Fair dos, and the film? Who would play you?

ADRIAN - Em... James McAvoy would be the obvious choice.

FIONA - Aye well, there is an uncanny likeness. And me?

ADRIAN - Lily James, I think.

FIONA - Oh yea, she's lovely. And I think McAvoy and James would be good together.

ADRIAN - Talking of you. What are you doing all this time? Are you helping me with the wall or what?

FIONA - No... I'm stuck in the house.

Adrian's Wall - Bob Davidson

ADRIAN - Eh?

FIONA - Aye, I cannae get out for all the reporters and the paparazzi.

ADRIAN - The bastards. How long has this been going on?

FIONA - Ever since you hit the headlines. All wanting to interview the famous wall builder's sister.

ADRIAN - I hope you didnae speak to them.

FIONA - No, not a word.

ADRIAN - I'll get you out of there, Fiona. Dinnae you worry.

FIONA - But how? There's dozens o' them.

ADRIAN - I'll send up a chopper wae a couple of body guards.

FIONA - Where are you going to get the helicopter?

ADRIAN - Eh... the TV company!

FIONA - Oh yea. They'll have a wee one lying about eh? And a couple of those big bruiser body guard types wae nae necks and their heids a' shaved. They'll land in the car park across the road from me and whisk me away to, to... where?

ADRIAN - To... to... where? That's a good question. Eh... to join me as I do the live televised crossing of the M74.

FIONA - Precisely. Another painted line?

ADRIAN - No, no I don't think so. This time it'll be brick sized, hard wearing, rubberised tiles, about an eight of an inch thick, bonded to the tarmac and kindly sponsored by Tunnocks, the folk that make the caramel wafers.

FIONA - Sponsored by or made by?

ADRIAN - Eh, sponsored by.

FIONA - Okay... In front of the assembled crowd, comprising of?

ADRIAN - Nicola Sturgeon...

FIONA - ...and Sean Connery.

ADRIAN - Is he still alive?

FIONA - I think so. Just the two of them?

Adrian's Wall - Bob Davidson

ADRIAN - Em... Aye, I think so. Dinnae want too many folk there...

There's a moment or two of silence...

FIONA - You've gone all quiet. Are you okay?

ADRIAN - I can remember when you were born, Fiona. Dad took me to see you and mum the next morning. I couldn't believe how tiny you were. Just this wee, tiny, vulnerable thing. All wrapped up in a white blanket. Like a wee bug in a rug. There's a photo somewhere of me holding you. One day old you were, in PRI. I was scared stiff in case I dropped you or I broke you. I can remember being fascinated with your wee fingers. Perfect wee fingers on perfect wee hands. Thinking, how on earth can this ever grow into a woman. This wee bundle on my lap. But here you are. You've done it.

FIONA - Here we are. We've both done it.

ADRIAN - It's amazing that any of us make it to adulthood when we're so dependent and so fragile. But make it, we do...

FIONA - Most of us.

ADRIAN - Most of us. But you know, even as adults we're so dependent and so fragile. We're just the same. We're just the same as we always were, just a bit bigger. That's all. I always hoped you'd maybe meet someone... when you were at University. A nice guy or woman on your wavelength?

FIONA - Yea? Why's that then?

ADRIAN - Because you deserve it, Fiona.

FIONA - It's okay. I'm happy, and how many people can say that? And besides, I had to look after my big brother. I mean, nobody else would have you. Remember what dad used to say? You only see the daffodils bloom so many times.

ADRIAN - You only see the autumn leaves so many times.

FIONA - Are you ready to finish your wall?

ADRIAN - No.

FIONA - You've still got that wee bit to do between the M74 and the west coast.

ADRIAN - I think I'll leave a gap. I think I'll leave it open. I don't want to complete it. It was always my intention to leave a gap. I never set out to build a wall to keep people in. Or to keep people out.

FIONA - You always let me in.

Adrian's Wall - Bob Davidson

He breaks down...

FIONA - Hey...

ADRIAN - I just wanted to mark the border of a country that I thought was different and was open and welcome to anyone from anywhere to come and go as they please. A country with a free and fair society where you'd be looked after, no matter who you were or where you come from.

FIONA - Look at the birds, Adrian. Look at them... flying back and forth across that border, in sheer blissful ignorance.

Adrian has composed himself...

Guess what I've got?

She produces a banana from her bag.

Correct shade of yellow?

He nods.

Shall we go home soon?

He nods.

ADRIAN - And Fiona, I think I'd like to come to yours for Christmas.

Lights fade.