**Men Should Weep by Ena Lamont Stewart**

*The extract is from Act 1, Lily and Maggie are in the kitchen, taking. Edie has just told them that a classmate has nits.*

**Edie drifts around.**

Edie: Ma, I canna find the flannel.

Maggie: Noo, whaur did I lay it doon? I did Christopher before he went oat ta-tas ...

Lily: How you ever find onythin in this midden beats me.

5 Maggie Oh, here it is. It beats me tae sometimes. Edie, bend ower the sink till I scart some o

this dirt aff ye.

Lily D'ye no tak aff her dress tae wash her neck?

Maggie Awa for Goad's sake! It's no Setterday nicht.

Lily She's old enough tae dae it hersel. The way you rin efter they weans is the bloomin

10 limit. Nae wunner y're hauf-deid.

Maggie I'm no hauf-deid!

Lily Well, ye look it.

Maggie: I canna help ma looks any mair than you can help yours.

Lily The difference is, I try. Heve ye looked in the mirror since ye rose the morn?

15 Maggie: I havena time tae look in nae mirrors and neither would you if ye' d a hoose an a

man an five weans.

Lily: Yin o they days your lovin Johnnie' s gonna tak a look at whit he married and it'll

be ta-ta Maggie.

Maggie: My lovin Johnnie's still ma loving Johnnie, whitever I look like. **(Finishing off Edie)**

20 Comb yer hair noo,Edie ... l wonder whaur it's gottae?

**They both look for the comb.**

Edie: I canna find it Ma. Auntie Lily, could you lend us yours?

Lily: **(starting to look in her bag, then thinking better of it)** I didna bring it the night.

Edie: I've nae beasts, Auntie Lily.

25 Lily: Jist the same, I didnae bring it. Scram aff tae yer bed.

Maggie: Aye, Edie, get aff afore yer feyther comes in frae the library.

Lily: Oh, is that whaur he is?

**Edie takes down from wall key to the outside WC and goes off**

Maggie: Whaur else wad he be? He disna go tae the pubs noo.

30 Lily: Oh aye! I'd forgot he'd went TT.

Maggie: Ye ken fine he's TT; but ye jist canna resist a dig at him. He hasna been inside a pub

since Marina was born.

Lily: That's whit he tells you, onywey.

Maggie: My the tongue you have on you, Lily; it's a pity ye had yon disappointment; ye might

35 hev been real happy wi the right man and a couple weans.

**Lily holds out her sleeve and laughs up it.**

Lily: Dae you think you 're happy?

Maggie: Aye! I'm happy!

Lily: In this midden?

40 Maggie: Ye canna help havin a midden o a hoose when there's kids under yer feet a day. I

dae the best I can.

Lily: I ken ye do. I'd gie it up as hopeless. Nae hot water. Nae place tae dry the weans' clothes, nae money. If John wad gie hissel a shake ...

Maggie: You leave John alane! He does his best for us.

45 Lily: No much o a best. OK. OK. Keep yer wig on! Ye're that touchy ye'd think ye wis jist

new merriet. I believe ye still love him!

Maggie: Aye. I still love John. And whit's more, he loves me.

Lily: Ye ought tae get yer photies took and send them tae the Sunday papers! "Twenty-

five years merriet and I still love ma husband. Is this a record?"

50 Maggie: I'm sorry for you, Lily. I'm right sorry for you.

Lily: We're quits then.

Maggie: Servin dirty hulkin brutes o men in a Coocaddens pub.

Lily: Livin in a slum and slavin efter a useless man an his greetin weans.

Maggie: They're my weans! I'm workin for ma ain.

55 Lily: I' m paid for ma work.

Maggie: So'm I! No in wages- I'm paid wi love. (Pause) And when did you last have a man's

airms roon ye?

Lily: Men! I'm wantin nae man's airms roon me. They're a dirty beasts.

Maggie: Lily, ye're mind's twisted. You canna see a man as a man. Ye've got them a lumped

60 thegether. You're daft!

Lily: You' re saft! You think yer man's wonderful and yer weans is a angels.

Questions

1. Referring closely to the extract, explain why Lily is frustrated with Maggie in lines 1-27. 2
2. By referring closely to this extract, explain what Maggie's responses show about her character and/or her feelings about life. 4
3. Referring closely to this extract, analyse Lily's attitudes to men and/or love. 4
4. Lamont Stewart uses the relationship between the sisters Maggie and Lily to develop both characters. Referring to this extract, and to the play as a whole, discuss how the relationship between Maggie and Lily adds to your appreciation of the play. You should refer to **both** Maggie and Lily in your answer. 10

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| **Question** | **Expected Response** | **Max Mark** | **Additional Guidance** |
| 1 | 2 marks awarded for detailed/insightful comment plus quotation/reference.  1 mark for more basic comment plus quotation/ reference.  0 marks for quotation/reference alone.  (Marks may be awarded 2 or 1 + 1.) | 2 | Possible answers include:   * the house is untidy and disorganised   “ whaur did I lay it doon?”  “How you ever find onythin in this midden beats me.”  “It beats me tae sometimes.”   * Maggie is slapdash in her manner   “D'ye no tak aff her dress tae wash her neck?”  “How you ever find onythin in this midden beats me.”   * Maggie is over indulgent of her children   “She's old enough tae dae it herself”  “The way you rin efter they weans is the bloomin limit.”   * Maggie does not take good care of herself   “Nae wunner y're hauf-deid.”  “The difference is, I try.”  “Heve ye looked in the mirror since ye rose the morn?” |
| 2 | 2 marks awarded for detailed/insightful comment plus quotation/reference.  1 mark for more basic comment plus quotation/ reference.  0 marks for quotation/reference alone.  (Marks may be awarded 2+2, 2+1+1 or 1+1+1+1.) | 4 | Possible answers include:   * Maggie is easy-going and accepts his situation with humour. Without humour she would find the conditions utterly intolerable and deeply depressing. – “It beats me tae sometimes” * Maggie will not go to more effort than she needs to. It may be that Maggie does not have the energy left to be too scrupulous in the way that Lily would be. – “Awa for Goad's sake! It's no Setterday nicht” * This hot denial shows how much Maggie resents this accusation. She refuses to give into self pity or indeed consider her own situation. –“I'm no hauf-deid! “ * Maggie defends her appearance stoutly by inferring that she is so busy with her family that she does not need to be self indulgent or overly anxious about her appearance. –“ I havena time tae look in nae mirrors” * this is spoken with a firm authority which shows that Maggie feels quite secure, or wants to suggest that she is. – “My lovin Johnnie's still ma loving Johnnie, whitever I look like” * Maggie defends her husband and feels that Lily judges him too harshly. She is proud of John for going teetotal. – “ye jist canna resist a dig at him” * Maggie may feel that Lily is simply being spiteful and sees her attitude as bitterness because she, Lily, has never married and had children. – “My the tongue you have on you, Lily; ….the right man and a couple weans.” * The emphatic nature of this answer suggests that this is the truth. Maggie is happy with her family and her struggles. She knows nothing else. – “ Aye! I'm happy!” * There is a fatalistic acceptance of her situation here which may make the audience empathise with her. – “Ye canna help havin a midden … I dae the best I can” * Stout defence of John shows how united they are as a front, as well as how much Maggie refuses to criticise John's capabilities as a breadwinner, or his lack of helping the house. – “You leave John alane! He does his best for us.” * The simplicity of these statements shows Maggie certainty of these facts. Her relationship is strong and reciprocal. – “Aye. I still love John. And whit's more, he loves me.” * Maggie feels pity for Lily as she has not experienced the depth and strength of love that she has. – “I'm sorry for you, Lily. I'm right sorry for you.” * Maggie reclaims her children from Lily's bitter accusation and shows how important her family is to her. – “They're my weans! I'm workin for ma ain.” * Maggie finds Lily's sweeping generalisation ridiculous. – “ye're mind's twisted. ….You're daft!” |
| 3 | 2 marks awarded for detailed/insightful comment plus quotation/reference.  1 mark for more basic comment plus quotation/ reference.  0 marks for quotation/reference alone.  (Marks may be awarded 2+2, 2+1+1 or 1+1+1+1.) | 4 | Possible answers include:   * Lily suggests that men love with their eyes and that John will leave Maggie for someone better looking. This contrasts sharply with the deep abiding love that Maggie says John has for her. – “Yin o they days your lovin Johnnie' s gonna tak a look at whit he married and it'll be ta-ta Maggie.” * Lily does not trust men, perhaps through her experiences of working in a pub. – “That's whit he tells you, onywey.” * Lily makes a joke out of Maggie's suggestion that she would have been happier married with children. Lily may be pragmatic about this-she is independent-or she may just be covering up her own real disappointment. – “**Lily holds out her sleeve and laughs up it.”** * A man's role is to provide for his family, according to Lily, and Maggie's desperate plight is down to him. She suggests that John could make more of an effort. – “If John wad gie hissel a shake ...” * The disbelief in Lily’s tone here suggests that she does not really believe in a strong loving and enduring marriage. This suggests a cynicism and a deep mistrust of men. –“ I believe ye still love him!” * The man is seen to have the upper hand here. Lily's use of the word ‘slavin’ shows that she thinks Maggie is subservient and looked down upon. She also judges John as useless as he is not earning what he should nor helping enough with the children. – “slavin efter a useless man” * Lily asserts her independence, but also shows her isolation. Her job is a barmaid has perhaps given her more of an insight into the world of working-class men at this time the Maggie has. She does not trust men. – “Men! I'm wantin nae man's airms roon me. They're a dirty beasts.” * Lily is scornful of Maggie’s staunch defence of her husband and family. She may feel that Maggie is either deluded or not wholly honest about John and her situation. – “You' re saft! You think yer man's wonderful and yer weans is a angels.” |
| 4 | Candidates should discuss the relationship between Maggie and Lily. | 10 | Reference could be made to the following:  Commonality:   * Lily and Maggie lead different lives and each feels pity for the other. * Lilly tries to draw her sister’s attention to her faults though Maggie rarely lessons.   Extract:   * Maggie feels pity for her sister that she does not have a husband and a family of her own. * Maggie will defend her husband and children even to Lily who is closest to her.   Rest of text:   * Lily’s support of the family both emotionally and materially in terms of food and medicine is key to their survival. * Lily's great involvement in the Morrison’s family life is a mutually supportive one; Lily is part of a family and is protected from the loneliness and isolation she may feel by living alone. * Lily uses typically hard words and plain speaking to defend Maggie and fight her corner during confrontations, such as those with Isa, Lizzie, John or Jenny. This can be contrasted with Maggie's rather helpless habit of ‘raking’her hair. * Lily’s support of Maggie and her family shows her nurturing side. * Maggie depends on her sister and does not take her for granted. Yet, despite this dependence, she firmly asserts her own opinions on her family life. Lily will always be an outsider to this aspect of Maggie’s thinking and personality. * Lily and Maggie are very different people; Maggie is easy going, slapdash, and does not plan ahead whereas Lily is the opposite; Lily judges harshly yet shows tenderness and kindness in the support she provides for the family. * Lily also sees that some of Maggie's problems are brought on by Maggie herself-Lily shows her frustration with this in the play, yet still shows her unfailing support for her sister. * Lily does not expect Maggie to be assertive in a meaningful way, apart from her verbal battles with Lily and with her neighbours. This is what makes Maggie's confrontation of John's double standards at the end of the play so interesting. * Often in the play, Lily tries to open Maggie's eyes to the motives and actions of those around her. Yet she conceals the knife that Alec threatened Isa with from Maggie in order to protect her feelings. * Lily supports Maggie's confrontation of John at the end of the play, the Maggie's response shows again her solidarity with her husband. |