

NOT LIKE US

A Play in One Scene.

by

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SYNOPSIS

A mother is horrified when her daughter wants to marry
an outsider.

Cast of Characters

HELMUTA: A tired, bedraggled woman of 35+
BODDA: Her daughter, aged 15+

Scene

The hut where the two women live.

Time

400 A.D.

SETTING: We are in a small, dirty hut. Or on a bare stage.

AT RISE: Helmuta is seated on stump, doing some house-hold chore. Bodda enters. Each woman is dressed in what we would call rags. Neatness and cleanliness have yet to be invented.

BODDA
Hello, Mother. Can I talk to you? It's important.

HELMUTA
Sure; what's on your mind?

BODDA
Well, I've met a boy....

HELMUTA
A boy? You mean a man? You're thinking of getting married?

BODDA
Yes.

HELMUTA
Who to? What's his name?

BODDA
His name is---Tankred.

HELMUTA
Tankred? Tankred? What kind of Saxon name is that?

BODDA
Uh, Mom---he---he isn't Saxon.

HELMUTA
Not a Saxon? He's not a Saxon? Then, what is he? He's not a J-U-T-E, is he? Bodda, tell me he's not a Jute.

BODDA
No, no; he's not a Jute.

HELMUTA
Then---Odin help me---he's not a---don't tell me he's a....

BODDA
Yes; yes, he is. And he's smart and handsome and hard-working---and I love him!

HELMUTA
But, he's---he's a....

BODDA
I know that. And I love him.

HELMUTA
Bodda; I beg you; don't do this.

(BODDA exits slowly; HELMUTA calls after her.)

If not for my sake, think of your children. Not pure Saxon---no, no, my grandchildren will be mixed blood. Half breeds! Mongrels, that's what they'll be. You---a pure Saxon---married to a---to a....Think of the shame! They're not like us, those Angles. You know what your children will be called? Anglo-Saxon! Can you live with that, missy? Your children will be Anglo-Saxons!

BLACKOUT