

Pseudonym	Dialect Zone	Provenance	Sex	Age	Educational Level	Religion	Ch.7 Text No.
Carla Coyle (CC)	MUE	Aughnacloy, Co. Tyrone	F	52	Secondary school qualification	C	7.2.15

KPC How did you meet your man?

CC Tony, I met Tony at a dance. I was only sixteen.

KPC Huh!

CC And I only was sixteen.

KPC Baby snatching.

CC And I was supposed to go to Monaghan that night. Eh, there was a dance on and, em, the lights went off in Monaghan. The... though, that girl that I stayed with in Belfast...

KPC Evanna?

CC ... her sister was to take me...

KPC Mm-mm.

CC ... Josie, who I was very friendly with, and Josie would have been older than me as well. And, em, but the lights went off in Monaghan. And so I was sixteen that day, and I can remember I had a wee party and my friends and I, you know, it just shows you how innocent sixteen, like we went and we even slid down sort of f... not fields, but these stiles and, you know, we just had a bit of a day's craic.

KPC Aye.

CC And then it was, you know, ‘Gosh, I’m going to this dance tonight,’ and I’d never been to a dance, and my daddy wouldn’t let me go to dance. He was very strict. I was the oldest, and it took an awful lot of going, even right up to I was going...

KPC Mm.

CC ... was I to go?

KPC Mm.

CC I don’t know.

KPC Mm.

CC And my friend Josie, she crocheted me this terrible tank top.

KPC *[laughs]*

CC It was the wildest looking thing with a big, big thing in the... and I had to wear it, you know. Of course, I thought it was lovely. And, but anyway, there was no dance, and then we went up to my friend Maeve’s house and her sister, Ciara, was there with her boyfriend, and we said, we just got a prog of sweets and sat and ate them, and says, ‘We’ll have no dance tonight. That’ll help,’ you know.

KPC *[laughs]*

CC And the sister says, ‘Well, look, come on, there’s a dance up in Carrickmore.’ This was in The Gap, and this was the w... I mean, I didn’t even know where this was.

KPC Aye.

CC This could have been anywhere to me, you know.

KPC I know.

CC And I daren't go down and told my daddy that I was going to this Gap because that would have been like... I still hadn't went home now because we... have had got a bit of freedom...

KPC Mm-mm.

CC ... so I didn't go back to the house. *[laughs]*. Had these sweets and we were going well, and Maeve says, and Ciara says, 'Well, look, why don't we take you to the, eh, Gap?' and I says, 'Aye.' I, I was just...dead on

KPC Game on for anything?

CC ... dressed anyway, you know. Of course we had no money left because we'd spent it on the sweets, but she, you know, gave us some money and took us to... brought us to the dance. *[laughs]*.

KPC *[laughs]*

CC And that's where we went, and it was an awful place. Oh God, it was just like a, you know, it was a cattle market, and it was just... oh, it was horrible and I thought, 'Oh, this is awful. I'll never stick this,' again and, but then I met Tony and, eh, I got chatting to him and, *[laughs]*, had to laugh, he says, 'Apparently, if you bought somebody a mineral, that was it. That was your boy for the night.' *[laughs]*. Well, I didn't know that.

KPC *[laughs]*

CC And God love him, he hadn't the price of two minerals; he'd only the price of one. *[laughs]*.

KPC *[laughs]*

CC So that was my, eh, that was my... and he was telling me he was at school, he was at the Academy, and, em, what have you. And then, funny, on the Monday morning, we were down Irish street because this girl did photographs for *The Observer* or something.

KPC Uh-huh.

CC And we were going down Irish street, and who did I meet coming up? Only To... *[laughs]* Tony with his mates, with his school bag on the back, and I thought, 'That's very like that boy I.... That's very like that boy.' And it was, and we said hello to each other and I was very shy, and the next thing, he was sending notes to me and I was sending notes back, and it was all very, you know...

KPC Innocent?

CC ... innocent. And then he started to come up to see me, and I had to tell daddy then. Oh, he wanted to meet me at a dance again...

KPC Oh, right.

CC ... and I had to go again, so that was a big thing to get to another dance. And then we were to meet, he was to come up to Aughnacloy on the bus, and I had to tell daddy, because I mean, you couldn't just do that. And daddy was in bed. I remember going up and saying to him, 'Daddy, there's a boy coming up to see me tomorrow.' Well, he jumped up, and he says, 'Who is he?' and I told him who he was. 'What do you call him?' and I says, 'He's Hannon from Dungannon.' 'Is that Terry Hannon's son?' and I says, 'Aye'. 'Oh, that's alright.' And he knew him.

KPC He knew the daddy.

CC Aye, but I remember daddy, we were walking out the Aughnacloy Road, and daddy was coming home; he did the market in Cookstown.

KPC Mm.

CC And daddy come home, and I waved, and I says, 'That's my da.' My daddy didn't wave.

KPC Huh!

CC I went home that night and I says, ‘Daddy, why did you not wave? Why did you not wave?’ and he says, ‘Oh, I didn’t see you, I didn’t see you.’ But he did see us, you know.

KPC Of course he did.

CC He just didn’t want to, you know...

KPC To put in on your really?

CC Yeah, I suppose, just that was your oldest child as well and...

KPC Yeah.

CC ... you know, I suppose it is hard.

KPC Of course.

CC Uh-huh, you know.

KPC Yeah.

CC But, eh, that was how I met Tony.

KPC And when did he bring you home to meet his mummy and daddy?

CC Oh God, we went out for a good wee while, and then we broke up for about a year.

KPC Oh, right.

CC Uh-huh, we broke up for about a year. Well, it was coming into the winter. I suppose he was cute. How does he...?

KPC No bus up to Aughnacloy in the middle of the winter.

CC Uh-huh. Well, sometimes, sometimes he used to cycle it up too, so he was thinking, you know, ‘This is going to be a tough one.’ And he... it... now he would... he broke it up with me, and that was it, and I was heartbroken.

KPC Oh, I'm sure.

CC Oh, very heartbroken. Oh, I was heartbroken. My first...

KPC First love?

CC ... boyfriend. Aye.

KPC Really.

CC And, em, I can remember going home crying and all the rest. I'm sure mummy and daddy felt sorry for me, but that was it. We broke up for about a year, and then we started to chat to each other again on the street, maybe at school or what have you.

KPC Aye.

CC And then we... he just came back. You know, we just got back together, and then he said, 'I'm going... I'm taking my sister to the pictures in Armagh, and would you like to come, and I'll call up for you?' So he did, and then I went to his house, and there was a lot of people in his house that night. Oh, it was packed.

KPC Uh-huh.

CC Because our house would have been like that, and the McCartneys were in, Molly and Petie were in, and it was just a... And I was a very shy kind of wee girl com...

KPC Mm.

CC ... going in there, you know, and... but they were very nice. His mum, mother, of course, was a lovely woman, Minny.

KPC Mm.

CC She was lovely, and that was really the... and they always made you very welcome and...

KPC Aye.

CC ... they were very good people, anyway, you know.

KPC Aye.

CC Very nice people. Different, different from our house. It, you know, they were very outgoing; ours would be a more quiet reserved house.

KPC Yeah.

CC They were a very, you know....

KPC Corrigan house?

CC Corrigan house. And, eh, TH would have been wanting a wee drink. My dad didn't drink at all. Daddy was a pioneer...

KPC Mm.

CC ... so I never seen, never seen drink at all.