

# JAMES CONNOLLY

*James Connolly, international socialist and leader of the Irish Citizen Army, disappeared from his headquarters at Liberty Hall on January 19, 1916. In this extract from BLOOD, a play by Larry Kirwan, he is being held captive by Patrick Pearse and Sean MacDermott, leaders of the outlawed Irish Republican Brotherhood.*

PEARSE Mr. Connolly, I hear the jokes whispered about me as I walk down a corridor and there are times when I wish I was more accomplished in the social graces. But I am what I am and I will not allow this opportunity to pass because of your petty faction fighting. We are going to strike a mortal blow against the enemy.....

CONNOLLY Yeah, sometime around the turn of the century!

PEARSE No, now!

MACDERMOTT Watch yourself, Pearse!

CONNOLLY When, man, when?

PEARSE Soon!

MACDERMOTT I'm warnin' you - he's milkin' you!

PEARSE No one will use me! Can't you see that the old earth of Ireland needs to be redeemed by the blood of its youth.

CONNOLLY It's the same old story! Men like you sit at home on your fat arses and send out the youth to get slaughtered.

PEARSE That's where you're so wrong! I'm not asking the youth of Ireland for a sacrifice. I'm demanding it of you and Sean.....and myself.

CONNOLLY I've got a wife and a family at home waitin' for me. I make enough sacrifices for them by livin'! So you take your bloody theories back to the Gaelic League. I want to live for Ireland - not die for it....

*(He looks up at the clock.)*

Your time is up. Goodday, gentlemen.

*(He walks to the door. MacDermott kicks back his chair, leans against the table and aims the gun at him.)*

MACDERMOTT One more step and I'll blow you to kingdom come.

CONNOLLY My bollocks, you will!.....