

He told her she was only thinking of herself

So she told him she'd brought him up sixteen years
and where was his father all of those years?
Ah, but he had things to do,
said Mike. I'd have bloody had things to do
and all if it weren't for bringing up you!
Carol told him. But you can see the attraction, can't you?
Mike's dad runs his own
garage now. He's got his own
Lotus Sprite or whatever it is, he pays Mike well over the odds
for the odds
he does there. This new son of his, six
years old, going about in his green cap and blazer. Six,
I ask you. He takes his silver serviette ring
to school every morning. His serviette ring!

So I said to Carol,
Carol,
I said, No amount of your
warning's going to help him - you're
just his mum! That's like he says,
she says.
'You don't know what it's like to have a dad
after all these years.' It's just I know what a so-and-so his dad
really is. That's how they are, I went. They won't thank you.
But give it a month and *then* they'll thank you
after they'll've fallen out. Always do. And it's sob
sob
back to mum. Look at me, I can't
get rid of mine since. Wish I could! Oh, she said, I can't
believe that.
Though she was laughing by then. Better inside herself and that.