

**SYNOPSIS OF SPARROWS NEST**

October 1974: Mark Treadwell (17) attends a Labour election meeting where he joins up, bewitched by branch secretary Sarah Sparrow (29). She introduces him to life in the Labour movement while he seeks an opportunity to let her seduce him. The attraction becomes mutual, although Sarah is reluctant, trying to keep her stultifying marriage alive. As Mark becomes an activist, they get ever closer but bursts of passion are frustrated by her guilt and his inexperience. Meanwhile, we see the factional in-fighting at grass roots level through the newcomer's eyes and the funnier sides of 1970's life.

Sarah's husband, Bob, unable to connect with Sarah, becomes obsessed by a teenage girl, Angela. They have a brief affair with dramatic consequences for all concerned, including Mark and Sarah. Guilt and shame abound.

Mark avoids Sarah while she tries to come to terms with the fallout. Instead, he lusts after Maggie, their vivacious candidate in the local election campaign. After several attempts, he ends up in Maggie's flat but has he misread her signals?

As Sarah recovers her old vivacity and returns to political activity, she and Mark are both drawn independently to the ideas of *Militant*. At last, they fall into tune together.

Then tragedy strikes in Mark's family. He is thrown into emotional confusion. In the aftermath, he becomes closer to Linda, one of the Militants. Romance becomes as complicated as the battles within the Labour Party. By the end of the story, Mark and Sarah have both settled down, but a couple of surprise pregnancies raise new questions.