



A Good Girl's Guide to Murder

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Based on the novel by
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Episode 1

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1

FBI: EXT. LITTLE KILTON - SUBURBAN STREET - NIGHT A

1

An empty street. A spring night. The moment the STREET LAMPS come on one by one.

They illuminate pretty HOUSES draped in wisteria. Neat lawns line with frothing flowerbeds of hyacinth and lily of valley. A hand painted sign on a gate reads HONEYSUCKLE COTTAGE. A GARDEN GNOME peeks from behind the white picket fence.

The last street lamp flickers on and illuminates a GIRL.

She walks slowly, robotically along the pavement.

CLOSE ON: ANDIE BELL (17).

Her face is perfectly made up. Glossy pink lips, cat flick eyeliner, exquisite contouring. Her hair, blonde and blow-dried, the hint of a curl.

She wears a cropped white top, her tanned belly just peeking out above her jeans, white sneakers, perfectly white.

Andie's BLUE EYES are glassy, staring straight ahead.

As she passes the houses on the street Dark FIGURES move in the windows but no one sees her.

A fluffy, blue-eyed CAT watches her from a fence post.

Andie walks on. Her eyes are fixed straight ahead towards the FOREST at the end of the road.

She frowns and raises a hand to touch the back of her head. She starts to pick at something in her hair.

Andie moans and looks down. BLOOD on her fingertips.

We pan round to the back of her head. Matted hair and thick blood oozing down to a spreading stain on her white top.

Andie stumbles on towards the FOREST. She disappears into the darkness of the trees.

We hold on the great Beech trees standing sentry around the little town.

DARKNESS.

TITLE: 5 YEARS LATER.

2

EXT. LITTLE KILTON - MEMORIAL WALL - DAY 1

2

ANDIE BELL's smiling face has been memorialised in faded spray paint on a wall. Over the years, other messages have been sprayed on. *Where are You? Gone too Soon. RIP Beautiful.*

3 **EXT. LITTLE KILTON - VARIOUS - DAY 1**

3

Little Kilton. A chocolate-box town in verdant English countryside.

A pretty high street. A butcher, a baker, a cheese shop.

Pale stone cottages, golden in the sun, meander up a hill. Their front gardens trail with honeysuckle and roses.

A HORSE is tethered outside an ancient PUB.

BOYS in cricket whites walk through the village square.

THE BEECH FOREST circles the town. Dark and deep.

Nestled on a daisy strewn lawn, in a valley filled with birdsong is a pretty, Georgian, yellow brick SCHOOL.

A sign reads **LITTLE KILTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL**.

A SCHOOL BELL rings out.

A single, tired TEACHER in a rumpled suit emerges out of the front double doors blinking in the sun.

He lights a cigarette, drags deep and exhales.

Then he turns, sensing behind him, a gathering hum that swells to a ROAR. He dives out of the way just as...the doors burst open. A FLOOD OF STUDENTS pours out, whooping with joy.

Summer holidays have begun.

The students disperse across the lawns in a burst of energy. A girl in tennis kit whizzes past on a skateboard. A BURLY BOY hurls a rugby ball which lands in the middle of two boys performing a TikTok dance while a girl films them on her phone. They break apart laughing. Everything is bathed in the warm, late afternoon sun.

The STUDENTS continue to flow through the doors. We move upstream. In through the double doors.

4 **INT. LITTLE KILTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - DAY 1**

4

We join PIP FITZ-AMOBİ (17), as she closes her locker and clutches a stack of books to her chest - JANE EYRE and feminist theory mainly - she sets off determinedly, against the joyful flow of PUPİLS.

5 **INT. LITTLE KILTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - DAY 1**

5

PIP raises her hand to knock on a door marked MR WARD, HEAD OF ENGLISH. A handsome, bespectacled MAN carrying a cardboard box emerges and turns off the lights.

This is ELLIOT WARD (47). A flicker of impatience as he sees her. Then a warm smile.

ELLIOT
Pip, it's the holidays.

PIP
I promise it'll only take a second.

6

INT. LITTLE KILTON GRAMMAR - ELLIOT'S CLASSROOM - DAY 1

6

PIP sits in a chair in front of his desk frowning at some words written in a small reporters' notebook.

MR WARD sits opposite. He subtly glances at his watch.

PIP
(reading her notebook)
So it's between, '*Jane Eyre, first
feminist novel or classic example
of internalised misogyny?*'

She glances at him. He looks confused. She squints down at her notebook again.

PIP (CONT'D)
(proud)
Or... 'Is there an *Eyre* of misogyny
about Jane?'
(beat)
Or... I've changed my mind about
that one.

She looks up anxiously. Elliot smiles reassuringly.

ELLIOT
(gentle)
What is it that we're talking
about?

PIP
Oh my EPQ.

ELLIOT
Ah. You do know it's not due till
next year?

PIP
Uh huh. I just want to get ahead.
So what do you think?

Mr Ward tries to suppress a smile. Then he looks out the window, strokes his chin thoughtfully.

ELLIOT

An EPQ needs to demonstrate to your first choice university your passions outside of the academic world.

Pip looks alarmed.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)

I've known you your whole life and there's a lot more to you than just straight A's.

Pip looks doubtful.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)

Before you decide, I want you to consider the following questions.

Pip nods earnestly.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)

Who are you Pip? What defines you? And how would you like to *change the world*?

Pip scribbles them down in her notebook.

PIP

(nervous)

Okay.

ELLIOT

Now go enjoy yourself, it's the summer holidays.

Pip gets up and goes to the door.

7

EXT. LITTLE KILTON GRAMMAR - FRONT STEPS - DAY 1

7

PIP emerges from the double doors. On the school steps are Pip's friends. CARA WARD (17), in tennis kit, a racket slung over her back, ZACH CHEN (17) sombre and intense in black polo neck and glasses, and CONNOR REYNOLDS (17) in an old overcoat clutching an asthma inhaler. They're watching something.

CARA

(under her breath)

Just keep it short and sweet.

Pip crouches down next to them and follows their gaze.

The COOL KIDS lark about filming TikToks. ANT LOWE and DYLAN, two floppy haired white boys rap for the camera. RUBY FOXCROFT and STELLA CHAPMAN (all 17) suck on vapes nearby and chat.

LAUREN stands awkwardly nearby.

PIP
What's going on?

CONNOR
Lauren's asking Ant Lowe if he
wants to go to the Horror Movie
Marathon at the multiplex on
Saturday.

PIP
Has she broken up with Ollie?

ZACH
Ollie's in France all summer.

CARA
She seems to have frozen.

ZACH
It's like they can't even see her.

Lauren turns and glances, eyes wide with fear, at Pip and gang. They make gestures of support. Lauren nods, gathers herself. She touches Ant's arm. He stops rapping and turns.

CARA
She's speaking...

They watch. Lauren talks animatedly, with gestures.

CONNOR
(concerned)
Is she asking him?

They watch. Lauren is still talking. The other cool kids approach and stand around watching her.

PIP
Why is she still speaking?

Connor sucks anxiously on his asthma inhaler.

Lauren continues to talk. The cool kids exchange glances.

ZACH
She's way too intense.

CARA
It's like when she did that Lady
Macbeth soliloquy. Only more.

ZACH
It's incredibly uncomfortable to
watch.

CONNOR
(relief)
She's stopped talking.
(beat)
He's saying something.

PIP
She's coming back.

Lauren hurries back towards them, sweaty and stressed. The gang cluster round.

CARA
What happened?

LAUREN
(pumped up)
It's a bit of a blur but I think I said 'Hey Ant, do you want to come to the movies with me on Saturday?'

Everyone looks a little confused.

CARA
Okay. That wasn't all you said. But anyway, what did he say?

LAUREN
He said he had a cricket match till five thirty.

There's silence.

ZACH
So are you going to the Horror Movie Marathon on Saturday?

LAUREN
I'm not completely sure.

8

EXT. LITTLE KILTON - SUBURBAN STREET - DAY 1

8

THE GANG stroll along the pretty suburban street. The street looks familiar. They pass pale stone cottages tangled in roses. Gardens overflow with Jasmine and Sweet Williams. A GARDEN GNOME peeks from behind a fence. At the end of the street is the FOREST.

PIP and CARA walk next to each other, the others slightly ahead.

PIP
Well, what do you think I should do it on?

CARA
Why are you asking me?

They turn the corner onto the high street.

8A **EXT. LITTLE KILTON - PATH ABOVE CHURCH - DAY**

8A

PIP and CARA walk next to each other, LAUREN, CONNOR and ZACH slightly behind, larking about.

PIP

Well, what do you think I should do my EPQ on?

CARA

Do we have to talk about school work on the first day of the holidays?

PIP

But it's important. Choosing a good project would help me get into my first choice university.

CARA

(sarcastic)
Oh, okay.

9 **EXT. LITTLE KILTON HIGH STREET - DAY 1**

9

The gang move past a run of colourful houses.

PIP

Because you're extremely smart, you're my best friend and you happen to know everything about me.

CARA

Okay let me think. What about 'Can we not spend the whole summer holidays talking about school work?' Discuss.

PIP

Technically it's still term-time but fine.

They catch up with the others.

LAUREN

(inspiring)

This is the last summer before shit gets real - before A-levels and university applications. We need to make it count. Let's do a pact to let our hair down, fall in love, get out of our comfort zones.

The gang nod uncertainly.

ZACH

Yeah.

(thinking)

I've always wanted to master Bach's Chaconne in D.

CARA

I wanna get super fit to ace the county trials.

LAUREN

Oh c'mon. I said out of your zones.

(beat)

Con?

Lauren looks at Connor hopefully.

CONNOR

(desperately)

I. Er.

He shrugs. Lauren glances at Pip.

LAUREN

I'm not even gonna bother asking you.

(depressed)

You are all DOOMED.

She stalks off. The rest of the group round a corner.

10

EXT. LITTLE KILTON - ANDIE BELL MEMORIAL - EVENING 1

10

They chat to themselves as they traipse past a church, down some steps and through a community garden. Andie Bell's face looks down at them from the memorial wall as they pass.

Pip turns to look at it. The wind blows, the ancient post-it notes flicker.

11

INT. PIP'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY 1

11

A period, farmhouse-style kitchen. Comfortable middle class chaos. JOSH (9) and LEANNE (45) are at the table doing homework, Pip's stepfather VICTOR (53) an energetic British/Nigerian peels vegetables, a pinny over his slick suit. PIP enters lost in her own thoughts and heads for the fridge. She opens the door and peers inside.

VICTOR

I checked the cameras at all the cash machines within a five mile radius and there he was at 3pm at the one by the shopping centre.

The fridge light illuminates Pip's face.

VICTOR (CONT'D)

Which *means*?

PIP

He was over a mile from where the robbery took place.

Pip takes some cheese and mayo from the fridge. Takes them to the side.

VICTOR

Which *means*?

PIP

He couldn't possibly have done it.

JOSH

I knew it!

VICTOR

Bingo!

LEANNE

Well done darling.

VICTOR

So after everyone telling me there wasn't a hope of getting him off, justice has finally been served and you know why?

Pip starts making a sandwich.

JOSH

Because you followed due process.

VICTOR

Exactly. Innocent until proven guilty unless - ?

JOSH

- you're a black man?

LEANNE

(worried)

Vic really?

VICTOR

That's right. Justice, as we all know, is not *colour* blind.

Pip opens a pack of crisps, opens her sandwich and sprinkles some inside. Puts the bread on top.

PIP

Have we got some of those posh crisps?

LEANNE

They cost a fortune. When you start earning your own money you can buy them.

(beat)

In fact, Linda Walker's catering company needs waitresses this summer. She's organising an extravaganza for the Hastings silver wedding anniversary party.

Pip squeezes the lid on her sandwich.

PIP

(humouring her)

Umm maybe.

She turns. Her magnificent sandwich on her plate.

LEANNE

What's that? Vic's making dinner.

Pip looks at him as if noticing for the first time.

PIP

A starter?

(beat)

I've got homework to do.

VICTOR

It's the first day of the holidays, what homework could you possibly have?

PIP

(breezy)

Just working out who I am and how I'm going to change the world.

VICTOR

Well first you need to walk the dog.

Pip sighs. Puts her sandwich back on the side and leaves the room.

12

EXT. LITTLE KILTON - THE SINGHS' STREET - EVENING 1

12

PIP walks down a street with Barney on the lead, she's deep in thought. She spots a gang of YOUNG TEENS who have gathered underneath a street lamp near a house.

A curtain moves in the upstairs window of the house and one of the boys turns and nudges another. Pip narrows her eyes. They're up to something. She crosses the road towards them.

Suddenly a BOY breaks away from the group and sprints towards the front door and HAMMERS his fists against it. Then he sprints away. The others scatter shrieking and laughing as they run down the street.

PIP
(shouting after them)
Hey idiots! You dropped your
communal brain cell!

PIP stares angrily after them. Then she turns to the house and her expression turns to sadness. The words SCUM FAMILY in faded spray paint are on the wall. A tangled garden. On the letter box, the name *The Singhs*.

PIP'S eyes gleam with an idea. She takes out her phone and types a message.

13

EXT. LITTLE KILTON - MEMORIAL WALL - EVENING 1

13

PIP gazes up at the faded mural of ANDIE BELL. A BLACK RIBBON tied in a bow is pinned to the wall. It flutters in the wind. She reaches her hand out to touch it.

Fingers over her eyes. Pip jumps.

CARA (O.S.)
There better be a good reason why
I'm not watching Love Island right
now.

And CARA is there, a coat thrown over her pjs.

PIP
There is.
(intense)
I've decided what I'm doing my EPQ
on. I'm going to solve the Andie
Bell case.

Cara lets out a groan.

CARA
Not this again! The Andie Bell case
is solved.

PIP
The whole world thinks Sal Singh is
guilty, but he never had a trial,
they never even found Andie's body.
It's not fair.

CARA
(matter of fact)
Except Sal confessed to her murder
and then killed himself.

Pip stares at Cara arms crossed, stubborn.

PIP

Do you know how many people
confessed to the murder of Charles
Lindeburgh junior?

CARA

I have no idea who that even is.

PIP

Two hundred!! That's at least a
hundred and ninety nine false
confessions.

(persuasive)

C'mon you knew Sal too. He was head
boy, he was going to Cambridge, he
was debating champion three years
in a row. Sal was a good guy and
good guys don't kill people.

CARA

Well actually they do, all the
time.

There's a moment as they face off with each other.

CARA (CONT'D)

What *is* it with you and this case?

A flicker of something on Pip's face but she turns away to
fiddle with one of the post-it notes on the wall.

Cara watches her frowning.

CARA (CONT'D)

And if Sal didn't do it, then who
did?

PIP

I don't know yet but whoever it was
might still be out there.

The girls shiver and glance around at the deserted street.
Cara links arms with Pip. They turn away from the wall.

CARA

So how are you going to prove it?

PIP

By doing what I do best.

(pause)

My homework.

14

INT. PIP'S HOUSE - PIP'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 1

14

PIP stands in front of a blank cork board. Three coloured sharpies are clutched in her fist.

She pins up a photo of Andie Bell. We close in on it.

We pull out to see the same image, now pinned to a whiteboard in the background of a MISSING PERSON'S PRESS CONFERENCE.

YOUTUBE CLIP: ANDIE'S parents, DAWN and JASON and her sister BECCA, sit tear stained and tired behind a table. DI HAWKINS sits at the end. He speaks into a microphone. Another officer, young and dark haired, stands nearby.

DI HAWKINS

Andie was last seen driving away from her home on Church Street at approximately 10.30pm. CCTV footage from Little Kilton Square shows Andie driving past at 10.38pm.

GRAINY CCTV FOOTAGE of a CAR on the road.

A flicker and the road is empty.

The digital clock at the bottom of the image ticks by.

10.38 and 17 seconds, 18 seconds...

Pip holds two sharpies in her mouth as she draws a timeline in red on a giant piece of paper.

CUT TO:

YOUTUBE CLIP: A glamorous and grave NEWS REPORTER stands by the sign for LITTLE KILTON.

NEWS REPORTER

When Andie Bell failed to pick her parents up from a dinner party...

CUT TO:

PIP'S MURDER BOARD: We pan down the timeline.

NEWS REPORTER (V.O.)

...at the agreed time of 12.45am. Jason and Dawn Bell became concerned.

Pip adds the time 12.45am, Andie first suspected missing.

NEWS REPORTER V.O.

Police are appealing to members of the public who may have seen a blue van in the area.

PIP pins a photo of a blue van to the board.

CUT TO:

YOUTUBE CLIP: Close on JASON BELL'S FACE. A muscle in his jaw twitches with tension.

JASON BELL

We just want our girl back, we're completely broken and don't know what to do with ourselves. Andie was such a huge presence in our home. It's too quiet without her.

PAUSE on JASON BELL'S FACE.

Pip writes the word WAS on the board. Underlines it.

CUT TO:

YOUTUBE CLIP: The NEWS REPORTER stands in front of the forest. Behind her, blue and white police tape flickers.

NEWS REPORTER

(very grave)

It's been five days since Andie Bell went missing from her home.

(beat)

Late yesterday a body was discovered in woodland close to the village of Little Kilton. It is believed to be that of 18 year old Salil Singh, the boyfriend of missing teenager Andie Bell.

CLOSE ON: Pip's face. Her eyes glitter with tears.

PIP looks sadly up at the murder board that is now filled with photos, timelines, newspaper clippings, words scrawled.

MURDER BOARD: PIP writes *22nd April. Sal's suicide.*

OBSESSIVE CALLER (V.O.)

(radio phone-in)

There's no doubt in my mind that the Singh boy is guilty.

Pip sees a newspaper article with the headline BEAUTY and the BEAST with a picture of Sal looking sullen in a hoodie and Andie, angelic in white.

OBSESSIVE CALLER (V.O.)

On top of his confession, he had Andie's phone on him when he died and when they found her car his fingerprints were all over it.

We pan across the murder board.

HOST (V.O.)

Well, he was her boyfriend,
presumably he'd been in her car
before.

We continue to pan: past a MAP with various pins stuck in it.
Newspaper images of the BELLS' HOUSE cordoned off.

OBSESSIVE CALLER (V.O.)

And then there's the matter of his
alibi - or lack of it. His friends
said he left them at 10.30pm.

PIP opens NAOMI WARD'S INSTAGRAM.

Pip scrolls back to a series of shots of *SAL SINGH, NAOMI WARD, MAX HASTINGS* and *JAKE LAWRENCE*. They're in Max's TV snug. A neon sign of a naked girl in a martini glass hangs on the wall. A bright red sofa and plush cream carpet. NAOMI downs beer. MAX and SAL arm wrestle and JAKE shows the camera his open mouth, full of half-chewed crisps.

The date reads **April 19th 2019**.

Pip writes *10.30 - Sal left Max Hastings' House*.

Pip pins up hard copies of the photos from Naomi's Instagram.

OBSESSIVE CALLER (V.O.)

His brother saw him get in at
12.50am. That's over two hours he
can't account for.

Pip writes Ravi sees Sal come home - 12.50am

HOST (V.O.)

Two hours in which he had plenty of
time to murder Andie Bell and
dispose of her body.

Pip writes a question in red sharpie at the top of the murder board.

10.30-12.50 Where was Sal?

She looks at a picture of Sal from his yearbook. Dressed in a bright green hoodie, he's smiling, wide eyed and with his whole life ahead of him.

PIP (12) sits at her desk set in a corridor between racks of books. She's reading a novel. Occasionally she underlines something with a coloured pen and writes notes in the margin.

SAL (O.S.)
(sotto voce)
She's cold.

Pip stops reading, pricks up her ears.

SAL (O.S) (CONT'D)
(sotto voce)
Her blood is settled, and her
joints are stiff. Life and these
lips have long been separated.

Pip peeps through the shelves of books to see SAL SINGH (18) muttering quotes to himself from a tattered copy of Romeo and Juliet. He glances at the book then closes his eyes.

SAL (CONT'D)
(from memory)
Death lies on her like an untimely
frost upon...upon...

Sal frowns in frustration.

PIP
(Pip murmurs for him)
...Upon the sweetest...

SAL AND PIP
(in unison)
...flower of all the field.

A girl appears behind Sal, puts her fingers over his eyes. It's ANDIE BELL. Her blonde hair falls over his face as she leans down to kiss him with a sweet smile. Pip smiles too as she watches them.

ANDIE
(low voice)
Mrs Crocket's gone for lunch. No
one's here but you, me and a bunch
of books.

SAL
(mischievous)
You wanna test me on my
Shakespeare?

ANDIE
(smiling)
Nope.

They kiss again as Pip watches. Her smile fades a little as Sal lifts Andie onto the table. Pip's eyes widen as Andie's legs wrap around his waist. Sal's hands slide up inside Andie's T shirt and Pip drops her pencil case on the floor with a clatter.

She crouches down, crimson in the face, shoves everything into her pencil case and hurries away.

At the door she glances back. Sal and Andie watch her, hands entwined, amused (but not unkind) looks on their faces. Sal raises his hand. Pip closes her eyes, mortified and ducks out the door.

16

INT. CARA'S HOUSE - CARA'S BEDROOM - DAY 2

16

PIP, CARA and LAUREN are in Cara's tiny bedroom. Emma Raducanu posters plaster the walls, the floor is a jumble of sports kit and clothes. Cara's doing keepy-uppies on a tennis racket. Lauren scrolls, bored.

CARA

Four hundred and ninety nine...and
500...

LAUREN

(bored)

So much for the summer of love.

Pip scrolls through Naomi's Instagram. The same photos from before.

FREEZE for a moment on her profile pic; NAOMI, CARA and ELLIOT WARD.

PIP

Hey Cara, is Naomi home?

CARA

Pip, no!

PIP

What?

CARA

Please don't talk to Naomi about
Sal.

PIP

(pleading)

Why not? She was with him the night
Andie went missing. She's a key
witness!

CARA

No way. It still triggers her.

PIP

(backing down)

Okay. Okay.

CARA
You do understand how sensitive
this still is Pip?

PIP
(distracted)
Course I do.

LAUREN
Oh. My. God.
(beat)
Ant Lowe has asked me to go to the
Hastings' party with him.

CARA
No!

Lauren screams and holds out her phone in evidence.

CARA (CONT'D)
What will you say?

LAUREN
Yes, of course!

CARA
Poor Ollie.

LAUREN
(breezy)
Ollie's in a soixante-neuf in Paris
as we speak and Ant is hot.

PIP
Ant's an idiot. He always says
pacifically when he means
specifically.

CARA
Don't listen to Pip. The last guy
she had a crush on has been dead
for like two hundred years.

PIP
Who?

LAUREN
Nikola Tesla.

CARA
Nikola Tesla.

PIP
Oh yeah. Well he was an incredible
inventor *and* he had a really
sensual mouth.

The other two stare at her.

PIP (CONT'D)
 (embarrassed)
 Anyway who wants snacks?

LAUREN
 Me.

Pip leaves.

17 **INT. CARA'S HOUSE - UPSTAIRS LANDING - DAY 2** 17

PIP walks down the landing. She can hear a strange distorted BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP. It's getting louder. She follows the sound to a door off the corridor. BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP. The door has a black and white sign with a bloody handprint and the words WARNING. PLEASE DO NOT FEED THE ZOMBIES. PIP pushes open the door and goes in.

18 **INT. CARA'S HOUSE - NAOMI'S BEDROOM - DAY 2** 18

PIP turns off the ALARM CLOCK and looks around the room. The blinds are down. It's dark. Pip flicks on a desk lamp, it illuminates an absolute tip.

Pip scans the cork board above the desk. It's covered in photos of Naomi and her friends. Summer days at the swimming hole, a school camping trip in a forest.

Every single picture has SAL in it.

Pip pauses on the picture of the swimming hole. Golden light, Sal squints at the camera. Naomi gazes at him, laughing.

BEEP BEEP. Pip jumps out of her skin. The Alarm has gone off again, loud and insistent.

Pip slams a hand down on it and hurries from the room.

19 **INT. CARA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY 2** 19

NAOMI wears a unicorn onesie. She's slumped dead-eyed at the kitchen table watching TikTok on her phone. PIP enters.

PIP
 Hey Gnome.

Naomi leaps out of her skin, drops her phone.

NAOMI
 Shit.

PIP
 You okay?

NAOMI

You scared me that's all.

Naomi picks up her phone. Her hands tremble. Pip goes to the cupboard and gets a glass. Fills it with water from the tap. She watches Naomi as she sips.

PIP

(brightly)

How's the job hunt going?

NAOMI

Still hunting.

She goes back to her phone.

NAOMI (CONT'D)

Did you guys take the Jammie Dodgers?

PIP

Er...

NAOMI

I saw Dad unpacking them earlier but they've vanished.

PIP

(matter of fact)

Things don't just vanish. They must be here. Keep looking.

NAOMI

Sometimes things do disappear.

(beat)

Y'know like hairbands, odd socks...

PIP

(frustrated)

With socks you simply check them on the way *in* to the washing machine and check them on the way *out*. It's not rocket science.

Naomi looks up. A flicker of admiration.

NAOMI

You don't give up on anything, do you Pip?

Pip opens her mouth. Then she closes it again.

PIP

Hey Naomi?

NAOMI

Mmm Hmm.

PIP

Did Cara tell you I decided to do my EPQ on the Andie Bell case?

Naomi's thumb freezes mid scroll. Her face is lit by her screen and Pip sees a muscle flick in her jaw.

NAOMI

(quiet, intense)

No.

PIP

I wondered if I could ask you a few questions?

Naomi looks alarmed.

PIP (CONT'D)

As you and Sal were so close and everything.

There's a long pause.

NAOMI

(quiet)

Sure. If I can remember stuff. Five years is a long time.

Pip glances at the door again, then takes her iPhone out.

PIP

Is it okay if I record it?

Not waiting for an answer Pip presses record on her iPhone. Takes out her notebook.

PIP (CONT'D)

(low voice)

Interview One: Naomi Ward, Sal's best friend. Could you tell me everything that you remember about the events of the night of Friday the 19th of April 2019?

Naomi hesitates, Pip smiles at her winningly. Naomi takes a breath.

NAOMI

We were all at Max's playing Super Mario Party. Sal left early.

Pip looks disappointed. She regathers herself.

PIP

Okay, so who is we?

NAOMI

Jake, Max, Sal and me.

PIP
What time did Sal leave exactly?

NAOMI
10.30pm. I remember cos we'd ordered pizza. Sal left just as the delivery guy arrived. He said he was tired.

CARA (O.S.)
(yelling from upstairs)
Pip! Where are you?

PIP
(yelling back)
Just coming.
(beat)
But he didn't get back home until 12.50.

She looks at Naomi, hungry for more.

NAOMI
I don't know what you want me to say.

PIP
It's just, the thing I can't understand is that Sal was a smart guy. If he'd killed Andie, you'd have thought he would have at least come up with an alibi.

Pip watches her. Naomi is about to say something more.

CARA
(yelling)
PIP!!!!

FOOTSTEPS approach and Naomi glances at the door but Pip stares at her, willing her to answer.

Then Naomi looks up. Straight into Pip's eyes.

NAOMI
(quiet)
Sal had an alibi.

Pip frowns, confused. Naomi looks away, a tear lands on her iPhone screen.

PIP
What was it?

The door opens. Pip tenses. She turns and sees ELLIOT enter the room.

NAOMI

Hi Dad.

He kisses Naomi on the head.

ELLIOT

Hey my love. How's The Internet?

NAOMI

Weird and depressing.

ELLIOT

So no change there.

PIP

How was tutoring?

ELLIOT

Boring.

Elliot goes to the fridge, takes out a sad looking microwavable carbonara.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)

Join us for dinner Pip?

PIP

Not for me thanks, Victor's making tacos. A whole Mexican feast.

Elliot glances a little sadly at his microwave meal.

ELLIOT

Oh okay. Que Hombre!

Pip grabs her coat and heads to the door. Elliot notices the open notebook on the table. He picks it up glances at it before flicking it closed.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)

Hey Pip don't forget your notebook.

Pip looks sheepish. Grabs it off him and heads for the door.

Elliot watches her leave.

20

INT. PIP'S HOUSE - PIP'S BEDROOM - DAY 2

20

PIP stares up at the murder board. Her eyes scan the photos of Sal's friends in Max's familiar TV snug. They are eating pizza. There's no Sal just NAOMI WARD, MAX HASTINGS, JAKE LAWRENCE.

She moves to Jake's Instagram. The last picture posted is from 2021.

JAKE LAWRENCE topless in a sweat lodge ceremony somewhere in a jungle.

She moves on and alights on MAX smiling, his blonde hair artfully tousled.

MAX HASTINGS INSTAGRAM

Pip types a message:

Hi, I'm looking into the disappearance of Andie Bell for a school project. I'm interviewing all key witnesses. Let me know your earliest availability.

She sends it and waits, impatiently tapping her foot.

Then she adds... *Please.*

Nothing. Back to his homepage. She clicks on the first one.

A picture of MAX HASTINGS topless with a six pack in a swimming pool in a tropical location.

#Outofoffice. #Sorrynotsorry. #digitaldetox. #unplugged.

Pip sighs. Chews her cheek, thoughtful. What now?

MURDER BOARD: Pip reads

Ravi Singh sees Sal get home at 12.50am.

Pip opens RAVI'S INSTAGRAM.

An Instagram graveyard, unused for years. The most recent photo is of RAVI and SAL beaming, arms slung around each other. Dated March 2019. Pip clicks on it.

She scrolls down the comments: *How does it feel to have a MURDERER for a brother? MONSTER. KILLER.*

Pip winces and clicks back to his home page.

RAVI and SAL leap into a swimming pool frozen in mid air.

Then she frowns and clicks on

RAVI and SAL smiling at the kitchen table, laden with food.

Caption: *Singh Brothers: The way to our hearts is through our stomachs.*

PIP stands at the BUS STOP holding a box of muffins. Barney is on the lead. She pretends to study a bus map.

Pip glances at her phone. It's 5.30pm.

She looks up again just as a BUS pulls up and stops.

Pip waits.

RAVI (19) gets off the bus and starts to walk down the road.

Pip sets off after him. He slouches along in front of her. Classic Atari T-shirt and baggy jeans. Pip keeps him in her sights, her mind racing as she works out what she's going to say. Closer and closer she gets until... she's neck and neck.

But before Pip can speak, Ravi turns to her and smiles.

RAVI
(friendly)
Hi.
(beat)
Do I know you?

Pip opens her mouth and then closes it. She's stumped. Her plan for what to say has dried up. Instead,

PIP
No. I'm just taking a walk.

Ravi glances at the box of muffins.

PIP (CONT'D)
With muffins.

RAVI
(amused at her weirdness)
O-kay.

They walk on. Pip frowns, focuses. She *must* talk to him. She glances at him. Readies herself...

RAVI (CONT'D)
Are you sure I can't help you with something?

He's looking at her with amused interest.

PIP
(losing faith in herself)
How do you know I'm not just heading this way?

Ravi peers at her again. A flicker of recognition.

RAVI
Do I remember you from school? You did that assembly dressed as Florence Nightingale.

Pip blushes. The ice is broken.

PIP
Emmeline Pankhurst... but, yeah
that was me.

RAVI
That explains it. I was wondering
why Florence Nightingale would
chain herself to the gym apparatus.

PIP
Yeah that didn't quite go as
planned. It took them two and a
half hours to cut me free.

He laughs and reaches down to pet Barney.

RAVI
Who's this handsome boy?

CUT TO:

22

EXT. LITTLE KILTON - THE SINGH'S STREET - DAY 3

22

RAVI and PIP walk down the street together. BARNEY trots next to them. They look happy and relaxed. Ravi eats a muffin. Pip watches him closely.

RAVI
Vanilla essence?

PIP
Yes!

He takes another bite.

RAVI
Hmm. A touch of nutmeg?

Pip's impressed.

PIP
You're good.

She thinks for a moment.

PIP (CONT'D)
Okay, did I use fresh or frozen
blueberries?

A long pause as he chews.

RAVI
Both.

She's *seriously* impressed.

PIP
You're a muffin genius.

RAVI
(a bit shy and pleased)
Why thank you.

Their eyes meet just for a second - a flicker of chemistry.

They're at his house now. They pause at the gate. Pip glances nervously at the darkened windows.

RAVI (CONT'D)
So, Pedestrian with Muffins, this is me.

PIP
(embarrassed)
I'm Pip and yeah, I know.

Ravi looks embarrassed.

RAVI
Of course.

PIP
I've actually been wanting to come by to talk to you about my EPQ and so these are kind of bribery muffins.

There's a pause. He's totally confused.

RAVI
Your what?

PIP
Yeah. I dunno if when you were at school you had to do an EPQ? Anyway, we do, which everyone's really annoyed about apart from me, and I was gonna do a feminist analysis of the gothic novel - but then I was like, what's something that *really* matters? Which is when I thought of the Andie Bell case.
(pause)
So, yeah, that's what I'm doing and I was wondering if I could ask you some questions.

She tails off. Ravi looks confused.

RAVI
You're *what*?

He looks at the muffins in her hands. Then at Pip. He's piecing this together.

RAVI (CONT'D)

Oh wow. I think you should go.

He turns and walks up the path towards his front door. Pip hurries after him.

PIP

But...

In the doorway he turns to her with fascinated horror.

RAVI

Are you even aware of how messed up that is?

She opens her mouth but nothing comes out.

He shakes his head with disappointment and shuts the door.

Pip stands on the doorstep, pink and mortified.

Then she turns and starts to walk off down the street.

23

EXT. LITTLE KILTON - FOREST - DAY 3

23

The BEECH TREES tower above PIP. The only sounds are Barney's panting and her footsteps. Pip looks around uneasily.

The woods are thicker now.

And then Pip notices something hanging from a low branch.

She reaches out and pulls at it. It's a BLACK RIBBON.

Pip glances around and spots another one, just off the path.

She sets off after it.

Pip glances back, the path has gone now but just ahead, another BLACK RIBBON. She can't resist.

Pip pushes through some bushes and stops dead.

A little way off, almost completely camouflaged by clinging ivy and brambles is a small gamekeeper's HUT. The wooden door opens and closes gently in the breeze.

Pip approaches. Pushes open the door and steps inside.

24

INT. LITTLE KILTON - GAMEKEEPERS HUT - DAY 3

24

PIP stands in the gloom. Dim light filters through a dirty pane of glass. It's cramped and dingy. The walls covered in graffiti - girls' names scratched into wood. On the floor, a mattress, a dirty blanket. Pip crouches down to look closer.

A footfall outside, prompts a bark from Barney.

Pip glances up just in time to see a GIRL, flit past the window. Pip gasps.

Blonde hair, white cropped top.

Pip hesitates then heads for the door.

25

EXT. LITTLE KILTON - FOREST - DAY 3

25

PIP looks around. A glimpse and the GIRL disappears into the trees.

PIP

Hey.

She pushes through foliage, her eyes scanning the forest. Every now and then, the glimpse of blonde hair up ahead and then...nothing. She's gone.

Pip stops. The forest is silent, empty.

PIP (CONT'D)

Hello?

Nothing.

Pip looks around anxiously. The path is nowhere to be seen.

But up ahead. A single black ribbon.

26

EXT. LITTLE KILTON - FOREST CLEARING - DAY 3

26

Pip emerges into a clearing surrounded by a circle of Beech Trees. BARNEY sits by a huge FIRE PIT, dug into the centre. Tree stumps are dotted around with the remnants of a party - beer bottles and cigarette butts.

It's eerily silent. Pip glances around.

A breeze rustles the trees and Pip follows the sound, up, up and then she gasps.

Hundreds of BLACK RIBBONS hang from the branches above her head. They move gently in the wind.

Pip shivers, crouches down to clip on Barney's lead.

As she does, the sense of being watched. Pip turns slowly and sees the girl standing in the shadow of a twisted Beech tree. It's ANDIE BELL.

Pip stares in horror. Barney breaks from her and runs to the girl. She crouches down to pet him.

When she stands up it's not Andie after all. It's Andie's sister BECCA BELL (21). She's in running gear. Her face flushed.

BECCA

Cute dog.

(pause)

Sorry did I scare you? I'm Becca.

PIP

It's okay, I just thought you were someone else.

BECCA

Don't worry. People always used to get us confused.

Becca jogs off into the trees. Pip pauses, glances round at the woods with a shiver and then walks off in the other direction.

27

INT. PIP'S HOUSE - JOSH'S BEDROOM - DAY 3

27

PIP lies on the floor next to Barney. She's on her phone. LEANNE is finishing a bed time story. JOSH is just dropping off. BARNEY snoozes on the floor. Pip scrolls through images of BECCA BELL posed with her fluffy cat MONTY. As Pip looks Max Hastings 'likes' the photo.

Pip frowns thoughtfully.

LEANNE

...and Barney was awarded the Nobel Peace prize for services to humanity. The first Bearded Collie ever to do so. He made the cover of Time Magazine that year and guess what three words were printed underneath his photo?

PIP

(autopilot)

Stay Beardy Folks.

LEANNE

Stay Beardy.

Leanne leans down and kisses Josh. He's asleep.

LEANNE (CONT'D)

Your Dad used to tell you that one, only it was Beetle the Wonderdog back then. Don't tell Josh.

PIP

I don't remember.

Leanne looks at her a little sadly.

PIP (CONT'D)
 (changing the subject)
 I've been thinking about what you said about getting a job and I think you're right. I need to get out in the real world. Would you ask Linda if she still needs waitresses for the Hastings' silver wedding party?

Leanne sees that Pip wants to move on.

LEANNE
 Of course. I've got book club with her tomorrow. I'll ask her.

Pip thinks for a moment.

PIP
 Maybe ask if she needs two. Cara's really keen as well.

28

INT. MAX HASTINGS' HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY 4

28

CARA groans as she peeps through the french windows. PIP and Cara are dressed as silver stars. They hold trays.

CARA
 There are people from school here.

PIP
 I didn't know there was a whole Stars of the Silver Screen theme.

CARA
 Is yours chafing?

She wriggles.

CARA (CONT'D)
 Mine's really chafing.

PIP
 Listen there was no other way, Max wasn't responding to my messages. I just need to ask him one thing and then we can go.
 (persuasive)
 C'mon. It's fun. We're undercover.

CARA
 Just for the record, I think this is a really bad idea.

PIP
Objection noted but overruled.

She pushes open the doors to the garden.

29

EXT. MAX HASTINGS' HOUSE - GARDEN - DAY 4

29

PIP and CARA emerge from the french windows into a dazzling garden party. The vibe is a little bit Truman Capote's Black and White Ball. Guests dressed as Hollywood royalty. Cocktail dresses and black tie suits with understated flourishes of costume - cigarette holders, silk gloves or a Holly Golightly sleep mask.

With a nod, Cara and Pip split up.

Pip makes her way across the lawn towards the band. She passes LAUREN who whispers to ANT LOWE. He's ignoring her and staring off towards STELLA CHAPMAN. Then PIP turns to her right and there, standing beneath a trellis arch is MAX HASTINGS dressed as JAMES BOND locked in intense conversation with NAOMI WARD, who drains a glass of champagne and reaches for another.

Pip continues through the crowd but the band plays a different tune and her tray now holds six fizzing glasses of champagne. She pushes her way through the throng past JASON and DAWN BELL.

Pip scans the room. Max Hastings is on the dance-floor with his GRANDMOTHER. He holds her close, twirls her round.

Then the crowd surge around them and they disappear. When the crowd move back, Max's granny is sitting on a chair fanning her face. Max is gone.

Pip puts down her tray and looks around.

She spots Max disappearing into the house. She follows him. A good looking DARK HAired MAN in his late twenties, watches her go.

30

INT. MAX HASTINGS' HOUSE - DOWNSTAIRS CORRIDOR - DAY 4

30

PIP walks down a corridor. At the end a door is open, a neon light flashing. Pip's eyes widen as she recognises the naked girl in a martini glass sign from Naomi's Instagram.

PIP stands in the doorway and looks inside. The TV snug. The red sofa, the cinema screen TV, the plush cream carpet.

Pip shivers, it's quiet, empty, slightly spooky.

JASON BELL (O.S.)
(furious)
Where are you?

Pip turns to see a man with his back to her in the hallway. He's hunched over his phone behind the stairs. His body rigid with tension. Pip freezes.

JASON BELL (CONT'D)
You need to come right now!
(beat)
Because I'm *telling* you. Becca!
Becca! Fuck.

He hangs up. Then he slams his hand against the door in frustration. Pip jumps. Jason turns and notices her. He smoothes his hair and smiles grimly to cover his fury.

JASON BELL (CONT'D)
Daughters eh?

And then he's gone.

Pip waits a moment and then looks around. She notices a door ajar. A light on. Steps leading down. Pip steps inside.

31

INT. MAX HASTINGS' HOUSE - WINE CELLAR - DAY 4

31

PIP enters the gloom of a large ill-lit wine cellar. A cobwebbed corridor lined with shelves of dusty bottles of wine leads off into darkness.

THWACK. Pip peers into the gloom.

Somewhere, she hears the sound again THWACK.

PIP
Hello?

No answer.

She walks a little way along. Turns a corner down a creepy corridor. THWACK. It's louder now.

Pip emerges into a dusty room.

MAX HASTINGS sits on a chair. Next to him is a magnum of champagne. He throws darts at a board on the wall. Thwack.

PIP (CONT'D)
(nervous)
Hi.

His eyes rake over her.

MAX HASTINGS
(little smile)
You've been stalking me.

Pip eyes him coolly.

PIP

Technically, a stalker is someone who subjects their victim to *repeated* harassment or unwanted attention.

MAX HASTINGS

O-kay.

Pip looks irritated.

PIP

I need to ask you some questions.

MAX HASTINGS

(beat)

It's time for the speeches.

Pip glances at her phone.

PIP

We have 3 minutes and 55 seconds. I've set a timer. It won't take long.

Max reaches into his suit pocket, pulls out a silver hip flask, unscrews the top and takes a swig.

MAX HASTINGS

So what are you going to do for me?

PIP

Sorry?

MAX HASTINGS

Quid pro quo y'know?

(pause)

I tell you what. For every question I answer you have to take a shot.

PIP

I don't drink.

MAX HASTINGS

Well *that's* boring.

He takes another swig. Then mimes his mouth being zipped up.

Pip glances at her phone. 3 minutes, 20 seconds. She groans.

Max grins, grabs a shot glass from the shelf and pours a shot into it. He pulls up an empty wine box and places the shot on it.

Then he pulls up another chair and pats it for her to sit down.

Pip sits.

MAX HASTINGS (CONT'D)
What do you want to know?

Pip gets her phone out of her pocket and presses record.

PIP
(ignoring him)
August 3rd interview with Max
Hastings.

She places her phone on the side.

MAX HASTINGS
(amused)
Is this like an interrogation?

PIP
Okay so on Friday, the 19th of
April 2019, Sal, Naomi and Jake
were at your house playing Super
Mario Party.

Max flicks the torch round to illuminate his face.

MAX HASTINGS
It was Fifa but carry on.

Pip frowns but pushes on.

PIP
What time did Sal leave?

He nods at the shot.

MAX HASTINGS
Down the hatch.

Pip knocks it back and coughs. Max laughs. Refills the glass.

MAX HASTINGS (CONT'D)
10:30pm
(beat)
I don't know what you want. It was
a standard Friday night. Me and
Jake played Xbox and got pissed.

Pip looks up.

PIP
What about Naomi?

MAX HASTINGS
(slip up)
Naomi was M.I.A.

Pip narrows her eyes. Max looks shifty as he refills her
glass. Passes it to her.

PIP
(confused)
What was she doing?

He nods at her to drink. She does.

MAX HASTINGS
I dunno. Taking a nap, taking a
dump, fuck knows.
(beat)
Listen I gotta go watch my parents
pretend they've been happily
married for 25 years.

PIP
(blurting it out)
Naomi told me Sal had an alibi.

Max freezes.

PIP (CONT'D)
What was it?

He lights another cigarette. He sweeps his blonde hair from
his eyes.

MAX HASTINGS
We were Sal's alibi.
(beat)
He made us lie for him.

Pip looks stunned.

MAX HASTINGS (CONT'D)
The day after Andie went missing,
Sal asked us to tell the police
he'd stayed at my house until
12.15. He said he didn't want them
wasting time on him when they
should be out there finding Andie.
We went along with it.

PIP
But then you told the police the
truth?

Max nods at the shot. Pip drinks. He refills.

MAX HASTINGS
Yeah.

PIP
What changed your mind?

Pip reaches out and takes a shot on her own. Max smiles. She
wipes her chin.

MAX HASTINGS

It's a crime to lie to the police
and anyway, things were getting
real. Andie hadn't just shown up.

He gets to his feet. Pip stands up, a little unsteadily and
picks up her phone.

PIP

Did you like Andie?

They're at the bottom of the stairs now. Max's face is a
little too close and he stares right in her eyes.

MAX HASTINGS

I didn't know the girl, like
literally never spoke to her.

(beat)

What are you trying to prove by
doing this?

PIP

That Sal's innocent.

MAX HASTINGS

You really think that?

PIP

Don't you?

Max pauses, genuinely thoughtful.

MAX HASTINGS

The Sal I knew? No way he could
have killed her. But he confessed
to it then he swallowed a bunch of
pills and put a bag over his head.
I mean you don't do that for
nothing do you?

Pip's phone ALARM goes off. Max turns and walks up the
stairs. Pip stands in the dark and absorbs his words. Then
she takes a breath and follows.

PIP enters. A hushed CROWD is gathered around the dance
floor. Pip looks around for CARA and sees her and Naomi on
the other side of the lawn. Naomi is in tears, staggering
drunkenly, Cara is trying to soothe her.

Pip frowns but her path is blocked. TOBY HASTINGS clasps a
microphone in one hand. He's mid speech.

TOBY HASTINGS

People say that money can't buy you
love but they clearly haven't met
my beautiful wife.

The crowd laughs. VALERIE HASTINGS beams. Pip eyes JASON and DAWN BELL nearby. She doesn't notice the buff man, watching her. He approaches.

TOBY HASTINGS (CONT'D)

No seriously. I'm a very successful
man. I have everything I could want
but none of it would mean a damn
thing without my Valerie by my
side.

Pip wriggles in her star costume. She's feeling woozy. She glances around and spots Naomi staggering drunkenly on the edge of the lawn. She turns and looks directly at Pip. Pip smiles, but Naomi just stares through her.

DARK HAired MAN

It's always nice to see true love
isn't it? A bit of old school
romancing.

Pip jumps. The dark haired man stands close to her.

DARK HAired MAN (CONT'D)

Sorry Pip, I didn't mean to scare
you.

His muscular frame is squeezed into a black-tie suit. His charming white smile doesn't quite meet his eyes.

PIP

That's alright.

She glances at him. He's watching Mr and Mrs Hastings.

Pip doesn't know what to say. She turns to leave. Then he leans in close.

DARK HAired MAN

A word to the wise.

(beat)

I've heard you're a bit of a nosy
parker and you know what happens to
nosy parkers don't you?

Pip looks at him in horror and shakes her head.

He reaches out, very slowly, and pretends to steal Pip's nose. Then he pokes his thumb between his fingers, chuckles and disappears into the crowd. Pip watches him go, mouth open, one hand touching her violated nose.

TOBY HASTINGS

So my darling, after 25 years of
being my life partner, would you
dance our first dance one more
time?

The band strikes up 2 BECOME 1 by The Spice Girls. Mrs
Hastings twirls into his arms. The crowd whoop.

Cara touches Pip's shoulder.

CARA

Naomi's wasted and acting weird.
I've put her in the car. Lauren's
stormed off in tears. We need to
go.

PIP

(slurring)

Dark forces are at work here. A
good looking man just tried to
steal my nose.

Cara's eyes narrow at Pip.

CARA

What good looking man?
(beat)
Are you drunk?

PIP

(slurring)

Nonono. I only had five tiny, teeny
drinks. Like thimbles.

She holds finger and thumb an inch apart.

CARA

Okay, let's go.

Pip links arms with Cara.

PIP

(confiding)

So, I have two key witnesses who
confirm Sal lied about his alibi -
which obviously doesn't look great.
But...

Pip waves a finger at Cara.

PIP (CONT'D)

It's weird, there are like a
million discrepancies about their
accounts of that night. Max said
they were playing Fifa, but Naomi
said they were playing Super Mario
Party.

(MORE)

PIP (CONT'D)

Naomi said she was there the whole evening but Max said she was M.I.A.

She trails off. Cara is staring at her.

CARA

You spoke to Naomi?

PIP

(nervous)

I'm sorry. We were in the kitchen and I thought I'd just ask her a few things.

CARA

But I asked you not to. I specifically asked you not to.

PIP

Did you know that Naomi and the others lied for Sal?

She's speaking too loud. People turn to look.

CARA

Yes.

PIP

So why didn't you tell me?

CARA

(beat)

It was five years ago and everyone except for you wants to forget it ever happened.

PIP

It's a key piece of information and you're my best friend.

Cara stares at her in disbelief.

CARA

(lowered voice)

Are you *for real*? I didn't tell you cos I didn't want you stirring everything up again.

PIP

But it's important.

CARA

To *you*.

(cold)

That's the weird thing, you're totally happy to fuck everybody's life up just so you can carry on playing detective.

PIP
(shouting)
I'm not playing!

She looks around and sees that the party has stopped. Everyone's staring at her. A few people snigger.

Pip turns and storms across the garden towards the exit.

33 **EXT. LITTLE KILTON - SUBURBAN STREET - DAY 4** 33

PIP brushes tears away as she walks determinedly down the quiet street.

34 **FB3: INT. LITTLE KILTON HIGH SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - DAY A** 34

The corridor is empty. 12 year old PIP kneels by her locker stuffing books into her back pack. She hears the FLAP of the double doors as they close. She looks up.

ANDIE BELL hurries towards her. She wears a white crop top and jeans.

Pip watches Andie approach. She seems nervous, glancing back over her shoulder. She's tear stained, her eye make up in streaks down her face.

As Andie draws level with Pip she pauses. Turns to look at her directly and raises her finger to her lips. Then she ducks into a fire door. The door closes behind her. The corridor stands empty again.

Pip frowns. That was weird. She turns back to her locker and takes out a few books.

The double doors go again. Pip looks up.

SAL SINGH hurries towards her, dressed in his blue hoodie. He looks tousled, a bit sweaty.

SAL
Hi.

PIP
Hi.

SAL
Have you seen Andie?

Pip hesitates. Her eyes dart to the floor. Then back to Sal.

Sal takes a step closer, smiles reassuringly at her.

SAL (CONT'D)
Hey, it's okay. I just need to speak to her about something.

Pip swallows, looks in his clear, kind eyes. Then she nods towards the fire door.

PIP
She went in there.

Sal sprints off down the corridor. Pushes open the fire door and disappears.

Pip stands in the quiet of the empty hall.

35

EXT. LITTLE KILTON - THE SINGHS' HOUSE - DAY 4

35

PIP looks up at the dark mystery of the SINGH'S HOUSE.

She takes a breath and knocks on the door.

Footsteps approach. The door opens. NISHA SINGH (50) peers out apprehensively. When she sees Pip, her eyes widen with amusement.

NISHA
Hi.

PIP
Hi. I've got important information
for Ravi.

Mrs Singh eyes her star costume.

NISHA
From a galaxy far, far away?

PIP
(confused)
Er, no I live on Martinsend Way.

NISHA
Come in.

Pip hesitates. Looks at the dark doorway. Then she steps inside.

36

INT. RAVI'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY 4

36

PIP stands in the hall and looks around. To her surprise, the house is warm and welcoming.

NISHA
(calling upstairs)
Ravi?

A beat and then RAVI appears.

NISHA (CONT'D)
(amused)
She has important information.

Nisha heads off towards the kitchen.

Ravi appears. He looks at Pip and a tiny smile flickers on his face and then it's gone.

PIP
(beat)
There's something I came to tell you.

RAVI
Is it that you've completely lost your mind?

PIP
What?

He gestures at her. She looks down at her costume and rolls her eyes.

PIP (CONT'D)
(drunk)
Oh, I'm a silver of the star screen.

RAVI
(sarcastic)
Okay.
(beat)
But why are you here?

PIP
I came to say sorry. I want you to know that it wasn't just a school project for me, I've always believed Sal was innocent.

Ravi puts his finger to his lips and glances anxiously down the corridor but his parents aren't there.

RAVI
(low voice)
And so you thought you'd ride in, like some kind of white knight, come to save us.

PIP
(low voice)
A *white knight*?

She blushes with humiliation. He means white saviour.

PIP (CONT'D)
I didn't think that!

They stand in silence for a second. Pip, utterly dejected.

PIP (CONT'D)

And look maybe this was all just a stupid mistake. I should never have done this in the first place.

She turns towards the door.

RAVI

Hey.

Pip pauses.

RAVI (CONT'D)

Why do you think he was innocent?

Pip hesitates. Ravi looks vulnerable, hopeful.

PIP

(passionate)

He *has* to be innocent.

(calmer)

I knew Sal and he was just...a good person. He would never have done anything to hurt her.

Ravi's eyes search her face. Then he nods.

RAVI

Come. I've got something to show you.

He turns and starts to walk up the stairs. Pip kicks off her shoes and follows him. Photos of Sal and Ravi line the walls. Sal winning the debating cup, Sal as head boy, Ravi and Sal, arms round each other on a football pitch.

Onto the landing and through a doorway.

37

INT. THE SINGH'S HOUSE - SAL'S ROOM - DAY 4

37

Ravi turns on a bedside lamp and illuminates a room.

Pip looks around and takes in the surroundings.

It's dark. Piled high with boxes. The belongings of the boy who once lived here, parcelled up, in stasis. On the back of the door she sees Sal's blue hoodie.

Ravi opens a drawer. Inside is an ancient looking iPhone and a charger. He takes out the phone, turns it on and then hesitates, looks down at it, his face suddenly full of emotion.

RAVI
(quiet)
It's Sal's.

Pip's eyes widen.

He scrolls through.

RAVI (CONT'D)
Read this.

He passes the phone to Pip. She looks at it. Then up at him.

PIP
The confession.

Pip looks at Ravi. Something about his expression is strange. She looks down at the phone again. She scrolls back, scanning the other messages.

We read: ***Andie pls call evry1 worried***

We read: ***Where r u***

We read: **MESSAGE to DAD. *It was me. I did it. I'm so sorry.***

PIP (O.S.) (CONT'D)
(soft voice)
It was me. I did it. I'm so sorry.
(beat)
(under her breath)
The grammar.

She looks up. Ravi's looking at her closely.

PIP (CONT'D)
The last text, the punctuation is perfect, but the others...

RAVI
(interrupts)
Sal was the smartest person I knew but he texted like an illiterate.

PIP
He didn't write the confession.

Pip looks at Ravi, fear and excitement on her face.

PIP (CONT'D)
So if he didn't write it, who did?

He looks at her, deadly serious

RAVI
I guess that's what we need to find out.

End of Episode.