



ALMA'S not NORMAL

EPISODE 2

Written by Sophie Willan

SHOOTING SCRIPT

19.04.21

Production Office:
Expectation Entertainment Ltd
Blue 057, The Sharp Project
Thorp Road
Manchester
M40 5BJ

This document is highly confidential. In accordance with the Expectation Entertainment Ltd protection policy, personal information must not be disclosed to any unauthorised person who does not have a clear business reason to see it and must be kept securely at all times. Therefore, please do not print a hard copy of this document unless it is absolutely necessary and ensure it is not left on a desk, copied onto an unencrypted portable storage device or left in a place where it could be accessed by a third party. All copies of this document should be destroyed securely once the shoot or programme is complete.

1 EXT. VICTORIA ROAD TRAIN STATION - MANCHESTER - DAY 3. 12:05 *

MUSIC: "POINT OF VIEW" by DB Boulevard.

PRE-TITLES: "ALMA'S NOT NORMAL" as ALMA comes out of the station.

2 EXT. MANCHESTER CITY CENTRE - DAY 3. 12:15 2 *

MUSIC: "POINT OF VIEW" by DB Boulevard continues.

ALMA walks through Manchester, taking in all of it's reinvigorated glory. She arrives at a fancy apartment building and walks in.

3 INT. THE LOCKS APARTMENT - CORRIDOR - DAY 3. 12.18 3 *

MUSIC FADES OUT.

ALMA knocks on an apartment door. RAY-RAY answers. On a call, she gestures for ALMA to come in. ALMA follows her through a sparse, modern apartment and sits down opposite her at a glass dining table.

RAY-RAY
(on the phone)
Oh Dennis, you naughty boy!
(beat)
Gorgeous! She'll be with you by
8pm.

RAY-RAY puts the phone down.

RAY-RAY (CONT'D)
So... Alma is it?

ALMA
Yes.

RAY-RAY
We'll have to change that. You need something that says, "*Girl-Next-Door*" or "*Exotic Beauty*". Not, "*I'm odd*".

ALMA
Well, actually Alma means soulful in Latin and I've always felt -

RAY-RAY
Ruby. That works.

ALMA
 Could I not try something more
 exotic?

*
 *
 *

RAY-RAY
 No.

*
 *

ALMA is slightly offended but before she can respond, RAY-RAY
 cuts her off.

*

RAY-RAY (CONT'D)
 So, I know we spoke on the phone,
 but I want to be very clear... it
 is sex. There's a myth that it's
 just escorting lonely gentlemen out
 for dinner. It's not - the most
 you'll escort is a man's penis into
 various orifices. And I mean
 various, just last night a man...
 never mind... All I'll say is,
 you'll be relieved when you get an
 ugly one - least you know why he's
 there. If an attractive man wants
 to pay for sex, it's probably gonna
 be some freaky fucking shit.

ALMA
 (slightly startled)
 Right.

RAY-RAY
 But, the money's great. I used to
 be an escort, look at me now, run
 three businesses, own two houses.

A beat. RAY-RAY takes a drag of her fag and looks at ALMA
 intensely.

RAY-RAY (CONT'D)
 And I've made a fuck-load off
 Bitcoin.

4 INT. ANNE SUMMERS - BOLTON - DAY 3. 14:10

4 *

LEANNE and ALMA are in Anne Summers. ALMA is looking at
 lingerie. She picks up a nice lingerie set.

LEANNE
 What do escorts wear, then?

ALMA

Dunno. I suppose I need an outfit
that says I'm classy, sophisticated

-

LEANNE

And I'll shag you for money.

ALMA

Exactly.

LEANNE tries on a PVC rabbit mask with large ears. She likes
it. Keeps it on.

LEANNE

What did Billy Piper wear in Secret
Diary of A Call Girl?

ALMA

A suit I think.

LEANNE

She wears a suit to go have sex?

A beat. LEANNE turns to ALMA. She's got to say it...

LEANNE (CONT'D)

Are you sure you wanna do this,
Alma?

ALMA

Yeah, I am. At first it was just
about the money... But the more
I've thought about, the more I
realised, I'm up for all of it.
I've not had a shag since Anthony.

*
*
*
*
*

LEANNE

(now wearing a blindfold
and holding a whip)
Just go on "Tinder" like a normal
person.

LEANNE picks up an unfathomable sex toy and looks pleasantly
intrigued by it.

ALMA

Online dating, round here? No ta.

(beat)

I've only ever slept with fuckwits
from Bolton. I want to see the
world. I want see what other cocks
the world has to offer.

*

A stranger turns rounds as ALMA flings her arms in the air with abandon.

ALMA (V.O.)

As far as romance goes, I've not had the most desirable back catalogue.

CUT TO:

5 PHOTO MONTAGE - PM 4 5 *

A flurry of images of fuck-wits that ALMA has slept with - one could be a clown that we get no context on. We show them slowly at first, then speed up, before landing on a photo of ANTHONY. *

6 INT. ALMA'S FLAT - FLASHBACK 7 - 1986 6 *

ALMA and ANTHONY are screaming and hitting each other. It turns into a passionate kiss/shag. *

ALMA (V.O.)

Me and Anthony, spent most of our time, fighting, shouting or shagging for the first few years. It was strangely thrilling. *

7 INT. ALMA'S FLAT - FLASHBACK 8 - A YEAR AGO 7 *

ALMA and ANTHONY are sat on the couch watching "Love Island". There's a gorgeous couple on it. ANTHONY looks over at ALMA, who's obliviously eating a packet of biscuits. *

ALMA (V.O.)

Then it just stopped. He started requesting sexual favours as casually as asking for a brew.

ANTHONY

Can I bum yer' tonight? *

ALMA not looking away from the tele.

ALMA

You'll have to be quick. Strictly's on.

ANTHONY waits for ALMA to finish her biscuit. Unaware she's being watched, ALMA drops a crumb on her boob, picks it up and eats it. ANTHONY gressed out, loses patience. *

ANTHONY

Well, come on... put the biscuits
down and get your knickers off,
will yeh.

*

ALMA groans and takes her knickers off. She gets into doggy
style position and he pounds away. ALMA looks bored and picks
up another biscuit.

ALMA (V.O.)

He never once asked me what *I*
wanted.

ANTHONY pounds away and ALMA, bored, takes a bite of her
biscuit.

*

CUT TO:

8 INT. ANNE SUMMERS - BOLTON - DAY 3. 14:12

8

*

ALMA is now also wearing a PVC rabbit mask.

ALMA

(earnest/defensive)

Listen, this is a fresh start for
me! I'm gonna earn a fuck load of
money and have lots of exciting new
sexual adventures... Without the
heartbreak.

A beat. LEANNE, still wearing her PVC rabbit mask, still
manages to pull judgmental face.

LEANNE

Becoming a prostitute is the worlds
worst rebound, Alma.

9 INT. ZEE'S CAR - OUTSIDE POSH HOTEL - DAY 3. 16:25

9

*

ALMA is drinking a small bottle of Prosecco in the backseat.
ZEE - a small, round Asian man with a cheeky, fun face - is
driving. They pull up outside a posh Hotel.

*

ZEE

Listen love, I've driven loads of
girls on their first jobs. It's
gonna be fine, trust.

ALMA

(looks stressed, but
trying to calm down)
You're right aren't you.

(MORE)

ALMA (CONT'D)
(shaking her shoulders and
pumping herself up)
I'm just a sexy, fabulous, woman of
the world, making some money - Some
mular!
(to Zee)
Do I look okay?
(looks in the rear view
mirror)
I feel odd. I think I'm sweating.
Do I look clammy to you? There's a
fine line between a glow and clam
int there.
(still looking in the
mirror)
I just need to calm down. I feel
like a fish.

ALMA starts deep breathing. ZEE looks perplexed.

ALMA (CONT'D)
(eyes closed, deep
breathing)
You are a goddess. You are a
sensual woman of the world!

ALMA takes a deep breath and opens her eyes.

ALMA (CONT'D)
Ready!

She grabs another small bottle of Prosecco out of a box of alcohol and condoms on the seat next to her. She pops it in her bag.

ZEE
Now when you go in, just walk with
purpose and confidence passed the
ushers and the reception. Don't
hesitate.

ALMA
Okay.
(under her breath)
Purpose, confidence.

ALMA gets out of the car.

ALMA (CONT'D)
(under her breath)
Purpose, confidence. Purpose,
confidence. Purpose -

THE USHER on the front door looks at her and smiles. ALMA panics reverts her eyes.

ALMA (CONT'D)
(under her breath)
Fuck, fuck. Fuck.

USHER
Can I help you?

ALMA
Yeah. I just...
(searching)
...need a wee.

USHER
Okay, are you staying in the hotel?

ALMA
No.

USHER
Well there's public toilets in the library just across the road.

ALMA
Great, thanks.

In a state of immobilized panic, ALMA walks passed ZEE's car, without looking at him and straight into the library. ZEE looks confused.

CUT TO:

10 INT. LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS - DAY 3. 16:28 10 *

ALMA is sat on a beanbag in the children's section of the library drinking the small Prosecco from her bag next to a CHILD and PARENT who are reading a book. They throw ALMA the odd suspicious/concerned look.

11 INT. ODESSA CAFE - THE NEXT DAY - DAY 4. 12:05 11 *

LEANNE is aggressively kneading pizza base dough.

ALMA gets a "Pot Noodle" out of her bag, peels off the lid and pours boiling water over it.

LEANNE
Well, you're gonna have to get a normal job then aren't you?

LEANNE is still intensely kneading her dough. It looks a bit like she`s having a fight with it.

ALMA.

Urgh.

“Pot Noddle” in hand, ALMA waves her fork around.

ALMA

I don't think I'm meant for normal working life, me, Leanne.

ALMA takes in a huge mouthful of “Pot Noodle”.

ALMA (CONT'D)

(mouth full of noodles)

I feel like I've been born in the wrong social bracket. I should be a Baroness or a Kardashian.

LEANNE rolls her eyes at ALMA and keeps kneading.

LEANNE

What about that job at Sub N Go?

ALMA

I'm unemployable, Leanne.

LEANNE

(defeated)

That's true, I love you Alma and even I wouldn't employ you.

(shouts to Bill)

Bill, would you employ Alma?

BILL pokes his head round the corner.

BILL

No, I bloody wouldn't. I wouldn't employ you either, if I had the choice again.

LEANNE

(to Bill)

That's very hurtful Bill. I bring a lot to the table.

LEANNE thinks for a second. A lightbulb moment.

LEANNE (CONT'D)

That's a point though Alma. You don't have to tell the truth when you're applying for a job.

(MORE)

LEANNE (CONT'D)

I told Bill, I had a degree in
hospitality management.

BILL

(grumbles)

Yeah, I were hoodwinked.

LEANNE

By the time he found out my whole
C.V was a lie, I'd already won him
over with my magnetic personality.

BILL grunts.

LEANNE (CONT'D)

I can pretend to be your employer
reference. I had my cousin's
boyfriend's dad, pretend to be
mine.

Bill looks up incredulously.

BILL

I spoke to him for half an hour
on't phone.

(to himself as he walks
off)

Cheeky bastard.

A beat.

ALMA

(deflated)

It wasn't just about the money. I
wanted the sex and adventure.

LEANNE grabs her phone and starts typing furiously.

ALMA (CONT'D)

What you doing?

ALMA huffs at the lack of response from LEANNE. She lights a
fag.

LEANNE

Right, there you go.

(hands Alma her phone)

You've got a "Tinder" profile now.

ALMA

Oh, for fucks sake!

LEANNE

That's all the sex and adventure
you need.

ALMA

Is it?

LEANNE

Oh, yeah. It's wild out there.
Trust me. Someone sent me *this*
before breakfast!

LEANNE shows ALMA her phone. ALMA yelps.

ALMA

Oh my god... What *is* that?

LEANNE

We're not sure. Are we Bill?

BILL

(shouts/traumatised)

I DONT WANT TO TALK ABOUT THAT
PICTURE AGAIN, LEANNE!

LEANNE

He's too soft for it. You gotta be
brave to whether the sexual storm
of "Tinder."

12

EXT. WEATHERSPOONS - DAY 5. 11:05

12

*

ALMA, JOAN, LIN and JIM are sat in the smoking area of
Weatherspoons.

*

*

JOAN

Tinned what?

*

*

ALMA

"Tinder" - online dating.

*

*

LIN

Online dating? You don't need that
shite. You've just got to find
someone who digs your bag of weird.
Don't you Jim?

*

*

*

*

*

We zoom over to JIM who is sniffing a pepper shaker. He
sneezes. LIN rolls her eyes, exasperated.

*

*

LIN (CONT'D)

He's not who I saw myself with. I
thought I'd be with someone more
like Sid Vicious, me.

LIN looks over at JIM disappointedly. JIM is taking the
criticism without flinching.

LIN (CONT'D)

He smokes too much for start. And
his lack of self-esteem effects his
posture.

JIM

(agreeing sadly)
Does yeah.

LIN

But we're happy as clams aren't we
Jim?

JIM

As clams. Yeah, Lin.

JOAN looks unimpressed at the prospect of settling for
someone like JIM.

JOAN

(to Alma)
So tell me more about this Tinny.

ALMA

You can request a Dick Pic. It's a
dead normal thing to ask
apparently.

JOAN

Really?

ALMA

Yeah.

JOAN

Like a *try-before-you-buy?*

ALMA

Yeah.

JOAN

Fabulous! Women have had to endure
disappointing penises for far too
long.

LIN and ALMA share an eye-roll at JOAN.

ALMA (V.O.)
Grandma likes to speak in Feminist
sound bites.

CUT TO:

13 EXT. JOAN'S CAR - BOLTON - FLASHBACK 9 - 1990`S 13

We pan through 90's Bolton to see JOAN speeding down the
road.

ALMA (V.O.)
It started with her divorce and got
more intense when she discovered
90's feminism.

14 MONTAGE SEQUENCE: SEVERAL IMAGES AND CLIPS TO SHOW JOAN'S 14
FEMINIST JOURNEY - FLASHBACK 10 - PM 5 - 1990`S

ALMA (V.O.)
She'd drive topless on hot days...

PHOTO IMAGE: YOUNG ALMA and JOAN are in the car. JOAN is
topless, smoking.

ALMA (V.O.)
Beep her horn at men.

PHOTO IMAGE - PT 1: JOAN hanging out the car, topless, cat-
calling a group of anxious looking builders.

ALMA (V.O.)
Because...

CLIP - PT 2: C/U on JOAN's mouth saying the following:

JOAN
If men can do it, why can't we?!

CLIP - PT 3: Of "The Karma Sutra" image with MUSIC.

ALMA (V.O.)
She had the "Karma Sutra" on VHS.

PHOTO IMAGE - PT 4: JOAN is in the living room demonstrating
a sex pose.

ALMA (V.O.)
She'd show it to anyone who popped
round.

PHOTO IMAGE - PT 4: We pan out of the photo to reveal the POSTMAN, waiting for JOAN to sign for a package and looking scared. *

ALMA (V.O.) *

She used to work as an "Anne Summers Party Host" too. *

PHOTO IMAGE - PT 5: JOAN surrounded by sex toys, pulling flamboyant pose. *

ALMA (V.O.) *

So the house was always full of sex toys. *

SEVERAL PHOTO IMAGES OF DIFFERENT SEX TOYS. *

ALMA (V.O.) *

I once opened up a box of keyring cocks with faces on. *

PHOTO IMAGE - PT 5: KEY RING COCK WITH A FACE ON. *

ALMA (V.O.) *

And gave them to all my friends at school... *

PHOTO IMAGE - PT 6: A SCHOOL PHOTO that we could super impose YOUNG ALMA into (?) *

ALMA (V.O.) *

...because I thought they were Beaker from "The Muppets." *

PHOTO IMAGE - PT 7: BEAKER FROM THE MUPPETS. *

END OF MONTAGE *

15 EXT. WEATHERSPOONS - BACK TO PRESENT DAY - DAY 5. 11:08 15 *

JOAN *

No woman gets an orgasm from shining the kitchen floor. *

LIN and ALMA share another mocking glance. JOAN clocks it. She's hurt - slightly embarrassed too. She takes a beat, then decides to say something. *

JOAN (CONT'D) *

Don't start ganging up on me you two. I wont come again. *

ALMA *
We're only teasing. *

JOAN *
(unexpected amount of *
resentment) *
Well, it's a bit early for that, *
don't you think. *

LIN *
(top-trumping Grandma`s *
resentment) *
Alright *Mum*, no need to bring us *
all down on our *second* meeting in *
nearly a *decade*. *

ALMA gives LIN a stern look. LIN realises she's overstepped. *
She calms down. JOAN looks a bit pissed off. She lights a fag *
despondently. *

ALMA searches for something to defuse the tension. *

ALMA *
Shall we go in? Bit cold intit? *

LIN *
There's too many people wi beards *
in there. *

This brings grandma out of her sulk. *

JOAN *
I agree. People with beards *
shouldn't be allowed to eat in *
public. *

LIN nods in agreement. *

ALMA *
Alright you fascists. *

JOAN *
I prefer the outdoors anyway. It's *
the Nicaraguan Shepherd in me. *

ALMA rolls her eyes and groans knowingly. LIN looks baffled. *

LIN *
You what? *

ALMA *
She did "Ancestry.com" last year. *

JOAN

You can trace us all the way back
to the mountains of Nicaragua...
And I tell you what, I think that's
alot of our trouble. We're not
meant to be here.

ALMA and LIN exchange a mocking glance. JOAN is deadly
serious.

JOAN (CONT'D)

We should be on a mountain, playing
the marimba.

LIN

Maybe, I should take you back to
the hospital wi' me.

ALMA and LIN laugh. JOAN looks playfully disgruntled.

16 GV'S OF BOLTON / TIME LAPSE OF 24 HOURS - DAY 5 INTO DAY 6 16

MUSIC: UPBEAT TRACK (TBC)

CUT TO:

17 INT. ALMA'S FLAT - DAY 6. 09:12

17

ALMA is in her pajama's having just got up when she hears a
loud rapping at the door. She answers it. It's JOAN in a
panic.

JOAN

Stop everything you're doing! I
need all your focus on my "Tinder"
profile.

JOAN wafts into the house, dramatically.

JOAN (CONT'D)

I've not been off the thing! I've
got dates coming out of my ears.
I ended up in a Salsa club last
night! Nearly had another partial
prolapse!

ALMA grimaces. JOAN storms into the living room. ALMA follows
her looking miffed.

ALMA

You what? I've not even had one
swipe right yet!

JOAN'S phone beeps. She's got another swipe right.

JOAN
Ooh, another one!

A beat. She reads it.

JOAN (CONT'D)
Oh.
(disappointed)
Dog lover.

ALMA
What's wrong with a dog lover?

JOAN
I don't want to make love to a man
who's emotionally involved with an
animal.

ALMA rolls her eyes. Then picks up the SubNGo application.

ALMA
Will you read these interview
questions to me?

JOAN
What is it?

ALMA
I'm applying for a job at SubNGo.

JOAN
Oh, fabulous Alma!

JOAN reads the questions, then clears her throat ready to perform.

JOAN (CONT'D)
Why do you want to work for SubNGo?

ALMA
Because I like sandwiches?

JOAN looks unimpressed.

CUT TO:

18 INT. ALMA'S FLAT - FAST-PACED COMEDY MONTAGE - DAY 6. 09:30.8 *

ALMA and JOAN are stood up, pacing around, manically brainstorming.

ALMA

Because SubNGo is a sandwich shop
with a dream!

JOAN

Yes!

ALMA

Because I'm not afraid to make a
butty thats a bit out there!

JOAN

Because you've been making
sandwiches for yourself for years!

ALMA

Yeah! I've made sandwiches before
and I'll make 'em again. So why not
do it professionally?!

JOAN

You're passionate about bread!

ALMA

I've always loved sandwiches and I
see myself -

A beat.

CUT TO:

19

INT. SUBNGO - BOLTON TOWN CENTRE - DAY 6. 11:45

19

*

ALMA is in the middle of an interview at SUBNGO with GREGG
the Supervisor.

ALMA

- as someone who could make
sandwiches here.

GREGG

Great. And where do you see your
career going?

ALMA

Well, I see myself as a bit of a
Julie Walters really. Start on the
stage, before I know it, I'm in
films... "National Treasure" by
fifty.

GREGG

I mean, as a Sandwich Artist.

ALMA

Oh! Of course!

(beat)

Well, eventually, I see myself...
doing what you're doing.

(points at Gregg`s Special
Supervisor badge)

Get myself one of *those* funky
little numbers.

GREGG looks suspiciously at ALMA then back down at his list
of questions.

GREGG

Here at SubNGo, we're a global
family and every person brings
something unique. What do you think
you bring to the SubNGo family?

ALMA

Well.

(beat/searching)

I'm a Libran, ascending to Scorpio.
So, quite unique.

(hand gestures of "The
Scales")

I have the tranquil charm of a
Libran. But, the drive of a
Scorpion, unafraid to blaze her own
trail...

(suddenly panics)

I mean... a trail that blazes...
within the rules of a corporate
structure, of course.

GREGG

We're not corporate... we're a
family here.

(stares at her
thoughtfully)

Okay... Lets start with a couple of
trial shift.

ALMA

Fabulous! You won't regret this.
You're getting the best of an air
and a water sign with me. Best of
both! Like the bread! OOH,
sandwiches!

GREGG looks confused. ALMA looks delighted with herself.

20

INT. ODESSA KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS - DAY 6. 13:15

20 *

LEANNE has a fag hanging out of her mouth, whilst she butters bread, manically. ALMA is on "Tinder" looking stressed.

ALMA

Is this message alright... "*Hi Gaz* -

LEANNE winces.

LEANNE

He's called Gaz? You don't want to shag a Gaz, do you?

ALMA waves her away.

ALMA

"Hi Gaz, cool snake..."

(looks up, explains to
Leanne)

He's got a pet snake you see.

LEANNE

Is *Snakey Gaz* really the man for you Alma?

ALMA

(intensely)

I can't lose him, Leanne. He's my only match.

LEANNE

Alright, fair enough. How about... "*Hi Gaz, cool snake*"... and then you know something a bit sexy.

ALMA

A bit sexy?

LEANNE

Yeah.

ALMA

Should it be snake related.

LEANNE

Definitely.

ALMA

How about: "*Hi Gaz, cool snake, looks very big, I can't wait to see it in person.*" Aubergine emoji. Snake emoji. Hand covering face emoji.

LEANNE

Yeah, great, something like that.

LEANNE looks away thinking of what to say to GAZ.

ALMA

I've sent it.

LEANNE

You've sent it?! We were just in the spitballing phase Alma. We weren't in the *sending* phase.

ALMA

Shit. Was it not right? How do you deletes messages on "Tinder"?

LEANNE

You can't.

ALMA

What do you mean you can't?! That's fucking ridiculous! Someone should do something. Start a petition!

LEANNE

Give us that here. I'll sort you out.

LEANNE grabs ALMA's phone again.

ALMA

What you doing? Stop!

LEANNE ignores ALMA and keeps typing.

ALMA (CONT'D)

There's no point Leanne. I won't get a date.

LEANNE

(without looking up; types
furiously)

Yes you will.

ALMA

I'm not like you Leanne. You have a sexual magnetism that permeates *through* "Tinder". I don't.

LEANNE passes ALMA her phone.

LEANNE

I've got you a date for tonight!

ALMA

Oh my God!

LEANNE

And two pending.

ALMA

You're a machine! I've got a job.
I'm dating. I'm a normal human
being! WOOHOO!

ALMA and LEANNE cheer loudly at this. BILL pokes his head round.

21 INT. A RESTAURANT - EVENING 6. 20:25

21 *

ALMA is on a date with a creepy man, JAY, who's in the middle of a seemingly long speech. ALMA looks unimpressed.

JAY

But, my real passion is taxidermy.

ALMA

What's that?

JAY

The art of preparing, stuffing and
mounting the skins of animals with
life-like effect.

ALMA is taken aback by this. She tries to be polite.

ALMA

Right, well that sounds...
(searching/accidentally
pictures it; responds too
honestly)
Well... fucking 'orrible to be
honest, Jay.

JAY

(offended)
It's *preserving* animals. It's an
art form.

ALMA

(creeped out; wraps it up)
Okay.
(changes subject)
So, your profile picture? When`s
that actually from? 'Cos you look
quite... different now?

JAY
(innocently)
Do I?

ALMA
Well, yeah... you had hair and your
face was less...
(does slight gesture with
hands to suggest
'droopy'. Realizing its
too rude, she changes the
subject)
Have you been on "Tinder" long
then?

JAY
Not long no.
(smugly)
But, I've got to be honest, I'm
going on a lot of dates. So don't
be getting jealous.

JAY laughs.

ALMA
Oh, I wont.

JAY
I'm really enjoying it actually. I
went on a lovely Salsa date with a
very sensual woman called Joan, the
other day.

ALMA spits her drink out, horrified.

ALMA
Joan?!

JAY
Toe-to-toe in animal print she was,
which of course, as a taxidermy
enthusiast, that's a big turn on
for me.

ALMA
Oh my God! I think you went on a
date with my Grandma!

JAY seems unfazed and amused by this. ALMA is horrified.

JAY
Really? Wow... How fun!
(beat)
Do you fancy pudding?

ALMA

No!

22 INT. SUB N GO - DAY 7. 07:02 22 *

TRIAL SHIFT DAY ONE.

GREGG is stood by the counter hunched over, looking vacant. ALMA enters, wearing a yellow T-Shirt with a giant cartoon sandwich on with a speech-bubble, saying 'Eat Me'. She is holding a yellow hat.

ALMA

So, I think I can just about cope with this...

(points at the cartoon sandwich on the t-shirt)
...masochistic sandwich on the front here... but the hat...

ALMA holds up the yellow hat that has another cartoon sandwich on the front, saying, 'Toast Me', with a sexually intense stare.

ALMA (CONT'D)

I suffer from very bad hat hair. If I put a hat on, even for a second, that's it, I'm ruined.

HARD CUT TO:

23 INT. SUBNGO - BOLTON TOWN CENTRE - DAY 7. 07:10 23 *

C/U on ALMA wearing the hat, looking miserable.

GREGG

Firstly, the floor needs mopping. Clean the surfaces, sort the store cupboard and then clean the oven.

ALMA groans shamelessly.

24 INT. SUBNGO - BOLTON CENTRE - MONTAGE - DAY 7. 07:15-12:05 24 *

MUSIC: TBC

A short montage of ALMA slogging away doing tasks while GREGG picks his nose and eats a sandwich, etc.

25 INT. SUBNGO - BOLTON CENTRE - DAY 7. 12:15

25 *

The sandwich shop is empty. ALMA, knackered, comes out from cleaning under the oven. She takes off her gloves and goes to the muffin tray, picks up a muffin and takes a bite out of it. GREGG sees this. He is furious. ALMA is obliviously eating her muffin.

GREGG

What the hell are you doing?

ALMA looks confused.

ALMA

I'm eating my muffin Gregg.

GREGG

Well, you have to ask me. We have a sandwich shop to run.

ALMA

Okay. Would you mind, during this mad rush -

Quick PAN over to empty SubNGo.

ALMA (CONT'D)

- if I took a break, Gregg?

GREGG

And you're not supposed to just TAKE food.

ALMA

I thought I was allowed one muffin a day?

GREGG

You have to ask. I'm afraid I'm gonna have to put another sad-face on the board, Alma.

ALMA eats her muffin and watches GREGG as he draws a sad-face, with a strange amount of detail, under ALMA's name on the 'Employee Behaviour' board.

26 INT. SUBNGO - BOLTON TOWN CENTRE - DAY 7. 12:45

26 *

A CUSTOMER walks in and ALMA goes over to serve her.

CUSTOMER

Hi there, have you got anything healthy?

ALMA

Not really. I mean look at Gregg.

ALMA points towards GREGG who's in the corner, yawning, hunched, looking generally unhealthy.

ALMA (CONT'D)

He eats two a day.

GREGG starts to listen into ALMA's conversation. ALMA, unaware, holds up the bread they use at Sub N Go.

ALMA (CONT'D)

(leans in; gossips)

We can't even legally call this bread, bread anymore.

GREGG shakes his head at ALMA and draws another sad face on the board. ALMA looks confused.

27 **OMITTED** 27 *

28 INT. WHITEHORSE PUB - NIGHT 8. 20:45 28 *

ALMA and LEANNE are in the pub, dressed up. LEANNE is on a mission, in pep-talk mode.

LEANNE

Right, forget internet dating. It didn't work. We're gonna do things the old fashioned way... Get you hammered, find a bloke you *don't* particularly fancy, sleep with him anyway and see if he grows on you over time. You have the pick of the litter tonight -

*

We pan across the bar to see an eclectic bunch of odd bods.

ALMA

Bit of runt litter, Leanne.

LEANNE

Some of the best shags I've had, have been with the ugliest of men. Him for example...

PAN over to a slightly CHUBBY BUILDER eating a pickled egg.

LEANNE (CONT'D)

Behind that doughy exterior is a lion of a man... trust me.

LEANNE raises her eyebrows. ALMA raises her eyebrows back.

LEANNE looks around, she spots an okay looking BLOKE.

LEANNE (CONT'D)

What about him?

ALMA

He's not awful.

LEANNE

Great start. Now give him a smile.

ALMA looks at him. He looks back. She smiles. But, then gets nervous and mimes a weird 'Helloooo' with a half wave. He looks confused. She panics.

ALMA

Oh, no. Sorry! I was just saying hello... I thought you were someone else... Sorry! You look like my cousin. Sorry.

ALMA deflated, turns back to LEANNE.

LEANNE

What the fuck was that?

ALMA

I just panicked. And to be fair, he does look a bit too much like my cousin to have sex with.

LEANNE sighs.

LEANNE

This is what happens after years of going out with an abusive cunt, like Anthony. They chip away at your self esteem till you can't even smile at strangers. You were never like this until you met him. Well, no more of this! It's time to embrace your fabulousness, Alma!

*

ALMA

Is it? I'm not sure it is.

LEANNE

It is!

(beat)

I'm hot! Say it with me; I'm hot!

ALMA
 (building a little
 confidence)
 I'm hot.

LEANNE
 I'm sexy!

ALMA
 (more confident)
 I'm sexy.

LEANNE
 And everyone wants to fuck me.

The SONG playing on the jukebox ends abruptly, but ALMA doesn't realize.

ALMA
 (confident and shouting)
 AND EVERYONE WANTS TO FUCK ME!

ALMA and LEANNE look at each other amused. *

ALMA (CONT'D) *
 Right, let's get shitfaced then! *

ALMA downs her drink. *

29 INT. COUSIN LOOKALIKE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 8. 23:25 29 *

ALMA is getting it on with COUSIN LOOKALIKE. She stops for a second, keeping hold of his face with both her hands she pulls it away to look at him properly.

ALMA
 You do look a lot like my cousin.

She squints as she considers whether it's too weird. Then decides she doesn't care.

ALMA (CONT'D)
 Fuck it.

She carries on snogging him. The room, is slightly more feminine than you'd expect. She knocks over a picture of a Flamingo on the wall. She scrambles to put it back on the wall, pauses to look at the picture.

ALMA (CONT'D)
 (looks at the picture)
 I like that.

Then hangs it back on the wall and reconvenes getting it on with COUSIN LOOKALIKE.

COUSIN LOOKALIKE gets stuck in straight away and starts pounding away enthusiastically. ALMA is spanking him to try and get more out of this flailer.

COUSIN LOOKALIKE
Oh yes, yes, yes, YES!

After 10 seconds, COUSIN LOOKALIKE has cum. Leaning over ALMA and looking straight into her eyes.

COUSIN LOOKALIKE (CONT'D)
Sorry.

ALMA
Well, can you keep going?

COUSIN LOOKALIKE
It's just... well.. I don't think I can because... I feel guilty... I've got a girlfriend you see.

ALMA pushes COUSIN LOOKALIKE off her.

ALMA
What?!

COUSIN LOOKALIKE
I'm sorry...I just... I couldn't help myself, but now... I feel really guilty.

ALMA jumps up and stomps around, getting dressed.

ALMA
So, not only are you a shit shag and a boring piss-ant, you're actually a shit boyfriend to someone too!
(beat)
You should of paid me for that.

A beat. ALMA is about to walk out.

ALMA (CONT'D)
Actually, I want my taxi fare.

ALMA puts her hand out angrily.

COUSIN LOOKALIKE reluctantly picks up his wallet. He gives her a tenner. She keeps it open defiantly.

He eventually gives her all the money in his wallet. As she turns to leave, she notices the Flamingo picture again.

ALMA (CONT'D)

I'll have that flamingo too.

She takes the picture off the wall and storms out.

30

INT. SUBNGO - BOLTON TOWN CENTRE - DAY 9. 09:25

30 *

ALMA comes in late, her uniform a mess, no hat. ALMA is trying to catch her breath.

GREGG

Your late. No hat?!

ALMA

I'm sorry - fuck. I'm knackered. I ran. I -

ALMA tries to get her breath back.

GREGG

You know what I should do, don't you?

GREGG raises his eyebrows and gets the marker pen threateningly. ALMA doesn't respond.

GREGG (CONT'D)

I should finish off that half face. That's what I should do.

GREGG starts to flirt with his pen near the board. ALMA is annoyed by this. GREGG changes his mind.

GREGG (CONT'D)

But, I'm gonna be kind to you.

ALMA

It's not kind though, is it? If you finish that half a face, that completes the three sad faces and you'd have to let me go and you'd no-one to work for free on the degrading list of tasks you've given out, under the condescending title of 'sandwich artist' would you?

GREGG is frozen unsure how to respond and what to do next. A beat.

GREGG

I'm gonna do a quarter of a face.

ALMA

Just do the full fucking face,
Gregg.

GREGG

Well, I might.

ALMA

Well, do it then.

GREGG

Well, I'm gonna do the eye.

GREGG starts to slowly draw an eye on the other half of the sad face. ALMA gets impatient and impulsively grabs his pen off him.

ALMA

Here. Let me help you, Gregg.

She aggressively draws the rest of the face, then a big knob on the forehead with a sign that says 'I'm Gregg'.

A beat. They stare at each-other for a moment, unsure what to do next.

GREGG

I think you should leave.

ALMA

Fine.

ALMA grabs a muffin and her bag and walks to the door.

GREGG

I want my muffin back.

ALMA

It's not *your* muffin though is it
Gregg?

GREGG

You didn't finish your shift. So
you don't get another muffin.

ALMA throws the half eaten muffin at GREGG.

ALMA

You know, if you died tomorrow,
this SUBNGO "family" of yours,
would replace you within a week!

ALMA storms out.

31 INT. RAY-RAY'S APARTMENT - DAY 9. 11:45 31 *

ALMA is in RAY-RAY's apartment, halfway through chatting.

RAY-RAY
So, what's the sudden change of
heart about?

ALMA
Well, I got a job at SubnGo and
joined "Tinder."

RAY-RAY
That'll do it.

RAY-RAY takes ALMA in for a moment.

RAY-RAY (CONT'D)
You're an actress aren't you?

ALMA
I want to be.

RAY-RAY
Well, that's all this job is.
You're playing a part for a very
intimate audience.

ALMA thinks about this for a beat. Then smiles.

ALMA
It'll be the best paid acting job
I've ever had.

32 INT. ZEE'S CAR - DAY 9. 18:52 32 *

We can only see ALMA's shoulder as ZEE turns to face in the
backseat.

ZEE
You ready?

ALMA
Yeah.

33 EXT. POSH HOTEL - MANCHESTER - DAY 9. 18:53 33 *

MUSIC: "PRETTY FLAMINGO" by Manfred Mann.

SLOW-MOTION as ALMA steps out of the car, now channelling her glamorous alter-ego RUBY. She's wearing a fur coat, a nice dress, a wig.

She struts up the hotel steps and passed the USHERS with the performative confidence that she lacked before.

We follow her in SLOW-MOTION through the hotel to MUSIC:
"PRETTY FLAMINGO" by Manfred Mann.

34

INT. POSH HOTEL CORRIDOR - DAY 9. 18:58

34

*

MUSIC: "PRETTY FLAMINGO" by Manfred Mann.

LONG SHOT: the CAMERA positioned next to a lift, looking down the barrel of a long corridor in a posh hotel.

ALMA comes out of the lift and into shot, sideways on. She turns her back on the CAMERA and walks further away, along the corridor. We hear her heels clapping against the marble flooring. She turns towards a door at the end of the corridor.

MUSIC: "PRETTY FLAMINGO" by Manfred Mann pauses, while ALMA knocks on. We hear the door open.

ALMA
(to client/side on to
camera)
Hello, I'm... Ruby.

MUSIC: "PRETTY FLAMINGO" by Manfred Mann, continues to play to CREDITS.

END OF EPISODE TWO