



**BOARDERS**

EPISODE FIVE -  
WOOP WOOP, THAT'S THE SOUND OF THE POLICE

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GOLDENROD AMENDMENTS

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**PRE-TITLES**

1 INT. ST GILBERT'S - MALTON HOUSE - OMAR AND RUPERT'S DORM. 1  
DAY 10.

Birds chirp as a ray of light beams onto Rupert's empty bed. The camera pans across to Omar's bed. On it, we find OMAR (big spoon) and RUPERT (little spoon) laying peacefully in the morning light. Suddenly, Omar farts. Omar stirs a little but doesn't wake. Rupert's eyes groggily open with the vibration on his back. He elbows Omar.

RUPERT

Did you drug me or something, what  
the -

OMAR

Huuuuuh?

(drowsy)

You had shrooms, remember...

(remembers)

Wait, did we fall asleep together?

Rupert clocks the broken glass on the floor.

RUPERT

(shoves him off)

Say a word to anyone and I'll nail  
your balls to the noticeboard.

OMAR

Of course I wouldn't.

Then we're on Rupert as he processes how to regain control. He hates the sympathy in Omar's voice.

OMAR (CONT'D)

Rupert...

Rupert slowly turns, a cheeky smile on his face now.

RUPERT

I just know you wanna slip one in  
and I can't be giving you such easy  
access.

Omar rolls his eyes and pushes him away, Rupert laughs.

OMAR

You wish... like I'd wanna touch  
*your* asshole when I know your  
bathroom routine.

**SOUND:** THE FINAL CALLING BELL.

As Omar turns, shower gel in hand. Rupert is already dressed. Rupert throws a can of deodorant at Omar and strides out. Out on Omar manically spraying deodorant over himself.

CUT TO:

2 INT. ST GILBERT'S - HEADMASTER'S OFFICE. DAY 10. 2

BERNARD is half naked in his office - struggling with a ridiculously broad shoulder pad contraption, humming a cheery tune - Hubert Parry's *Jerusalem*. His office intercom buzzes...

TIFFANY (O.S.)

Sir, I have Carol on line one.

He tuts and ignores it. The intercom buzzes again...

TIFFANY (O.S.) (CONT'D)

She says it's urgent.

He drops the knot he was tying and the shoulder pad contraption falls down, hitting his toe. He groans in agony-

BERNARD

Oh for f-

(he composes himself)

Now is not a good time Tiffany.

(to himself)

That woman will not ruin this day.

CUT TO:

3 INT. ST GILBERT'S - CLASSROOM/CORRIDOR OUTSIDE CLASSROOM. 3  
DAY 10.

FEMI enters and bumps straight into MS HARPER who was exiting, holding a box of over flowing coloured mini bags. Femi picks up a few that drop.

FEMI

Ah, Miss, sorry.

MS HARPER

(flustered)

It's okay. Sorry myself. Thank you.

She looks at her watch, spilling some more. Femi helps again.

FEMI

I'm looking for Mrs Falconer-

MS HARPER

Mrs Falconer is poorly. I'm covering her class. What is it?

(MORE)

MS HARPER (CONT'D)

Would you like to walk with me. I'm  
late for set up.

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FEMI

Sorry, I errr, I just wanted to talk about my essay?

Femi looks uncomfortable. Ms Harper waits expectantly but Femi says nothing. She can't wait.

MS HARPER

Come back between 6 and 7pm and we can chat then.

She rushes off, an excited pep in her step. Femi watches after her, a trail of bags behind her.

FEMI

What the-

SMASH CUT TO:

4

EXT. ST GILBERT'S - COURTYARD. DAY 10.

4

JAHEIM and LEAH are en route to assembly.

JAHEIM

(exasperated)

-actual fuck is going on in this backwards place now?

We see MRS GOODLOW across the courtyard, in full ammo gear and face paint with a very serious look on her face; stuffing a shit-load of guns into the bottom of two minibuses.

LEAH

Did you even *open* your school handbook? It's like, the most anticipated event of the year!

JAHEIM

(high voice)

Ooohhhh, is the Duke of Edinburgh coming to visit?

LEAH

You're an idiot.

Leah shoves him playfully, they both laugh.

JAHEIM

(jokingly)

Maybe its some *Midsommar*, *Wicker Man* shit. Human sacrifice and that.

They head off...

CUT TO:

5

INT. ST GILBERT'S - ASSEMBLY HALL. DAY 10.

5

Jaheim and Leah take a seat. CEREMONIAL ORGAN MUSIC plays quietly under everyone trudging in. They're unnerved by the music.

JAHEIM

Who's mixtape is this?

Everyone takes their seats as Bernard steps slowly down the aisle in full royal looking regalia. He places a large book - *The Carruthers Challenge Book of Champions* - down on a table before making his way to the lectern. He stands in front of the microphone and surveys the room until the students quieten. Think Beyonce.

JAHEIM (CONT'D)

(solemnly)

Bruh...this is some cult shit.

LEAH

Don't be dumb, it's gonna be fun.

JAHEIM

(extra wide eyed)

You mean death?

Bernard unsheathes his sword and points it to the hall of students. After an extremely long silence...

BERNARD

CARRUTHERS CHALLENGE - COMMENCE.

The SIXTH FORMERS erupt into applause, cheers, jaunts and whoops. We hold on Jaheim - *what the fuck is going on?*

JAHEIM

(serious)

They're actually gonna kill us.

He looks at Leah who, surprisingly, is also clapping, proper into it. She whoops and cheers - she's loving it!

CUT TO:

**TITLES: BOARDERS**

6

INT. ST GILBERT'S - ASSEMBLY HALL. CONT.

6

Bernard signals for the crowd to STOP and they do - it's the most in control we've seen him all season. Dare I say, he suddenly looks hot?

BERNARD

For generations, the Carruthers Challenge has showcased the very best of the future leaders of our country, who hail from our very own St Gilbert's.

Femi perks up - *future leaders ay?*

BERNARD (CONT'D)

They show us their endurance, their grit, their selflessness-

Omar and Rupert suddenly spill into the assembly hall. Both disheveled as hell and somehow looking guilty.

SPENCER

Nice of you to join us  
loverboyssss!

Everyone laughs. Bishop wolf whistles.

BERNARD

(to Rupert and Omar)  
I'll deal with you both later.

They find seats, separately. Rupert with SPENCER and BISHOP whilst Omar sits beside Jaheim and Leah - all eyes on them. Omar sniffs his pits discreetly as everyone settles.

BERNARD (CONT'D)

Ahem.  
(he looks at his cards)  
Just as Lord Carruthers did, by sacrificing his left foot to end the battle of Coventry.

Toby and Omar catch each other's eye.

OMAR

(mouthing)  
His foot?

Toby shrugs theatrically, Omar stifles a laugh.

BERNARD

Every single winner of the Carruthers Challenge has gone on to achieve a reputation at St Gilbert's that lives on way past their graduation. This is more than a competition. This is legacy.

Leah beams. Jaheim scoffs.

BERNARD (CONT'D)

This is the making of you.

It's almost as if he's talking directly to Jaheim.

BERNARD (CONT'D)

I encourage as many of you to take part as possible. So please sign the waiver and let us see what you're really made of.

He turns to Mrs Goodlow, waiting excitedly on the front row.

BERNARD (CONT'D)

Mrs Goodlow.

Mrs Goodlow takes to the lectern, even more serious than Bernard.

MRS GOODLOW

For those who are brave enough to compete, today will push you to your limits - both physically and mentally. You will have to overcome not just your opponents, not just your teammates... but yourselves.

Something just clocked for Jaheim.

JAHEIM

(to Leah)

Sorry what we signing *waivers* for?

LEAH

Ssh.

MRS GOODLOW

The rules are simple. Find the Pip, retrieve the ceremonial boot and cross the line - unscathed. If at any point you are hit, you drop your weapon and you can only play defence. You may be a team but there can only be one winner. How you decide who crosses the line *with* the boot is none of my concern. Clear?

STUDENTS  
(in unison)  
CLEAR.

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JAHEIM

What the hell is a Pip?

OMAR

A ceremonial *wha*?

MRS GOODLOW

Good luck and to the victor, go the spoils.

The room erupts into massive whoops, cheers and foot stomping. Jaheim and Toby look to one another confused as fuck. Leah has determination across her face. *Oh it is on.*

FADE IN:

7

INT. ST GILBERT'S - ASSEMBLY HALL. DAY 10.

7

The assembly hall disperses. Leah and Jaheim are looking at the *Carruthers Book of Champions* - Each page has a bit of blurb and a picture of the winner. They look at last year's winner - Felix.

JAHEIM

Felix is defending his crown this year then yeah?

LEAH

Can you believe that these are all the *different* winners of the Carruthers Challenge.

We turn back to the book, as she flicks through more and more pages. Each page is a different white boy that all look like Felix and striking the same pose. The only real difference is the pictures turning from colour, to black and white as she flicks further through the years.

JAHEIM

Looks about white.

LEAH

Looks a little male-only too!  
(facing Jaheim)

We've got to get me across that line with that boot.

JAHEIM

We, don't have to do anything.

Jaheim and Leah walk and talk as they make their way out of the Assembly Hall.

JAHEIM (CONT'D)

I am not getting *anymore* involved in this higgidy haggedy system.

LEAH  
Higgidy. Haggedy?

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JAHEIM

You know this shit ain't for us. A Pip? And a dusty boot some random breddah chopped his foot off for? MUAD...

CUT TO:

7A

INT. ST GILBERT'S - HEADMASTER'S CORRIDOR - DAY 10.

7A

Leah and Jaheim head out into the corridor.

LEAH

He didn't cut his foot off *for* the boot, it was the boot he was wearing *when* he cut his foot off.

Beat. Jaheim stares at her blankly. Leah points to the portrait.

LEAH (CONT'D)

As in the motherfucker in the cotton picking painting... As in, the founder... Of. This. School.

Jaheim is distracted by a passing BEATRIX. They share a look - they've still not spoken since the fight in London.

LEAH (CONT'D)

Jaheim!

JAHEIM

I. Don't. Care. Leah.

(kisses his teeth)

Anytime I get involved in anything or *anyone* at this *rahtid* school, it blows up in my face. This place ain't getting shit else from me, bruh. I'm keeping my rass head down.

LEAH

But the prestige. Imagine one of our black faces in that book?!

Jaheim kisses his teeth, dismissing her and scans the corridor, he sees MABEL head towards the sign up table.

CUT TO:

8

INT. ST GILBERT'S - HEADMASTER'S CORRIDOR - CARRUTHERS CHALLENGE - SIGN UP TABLE. DAY 10.

8

Jaheim ushers Leah towards Mabel who is standing in the sign up line.

JAHEIM

You ladies should sign up together,  
topple the patriarchy and that.

Leah, eager to make amends, approaches Mabel.

LEAH

That's actually a wicked idea.  
(to Mabel)

How about it Mabz? Make this the  
year of the female? We could 100%  
win...if...

Mabel silently sidesteps Leah, rather cruelly, and signs up. Leah's face is a mix of shock and embarrassment - it's clear she's still in the dog house. With the pen still in her hands, she finally faces Leah.

MABEL

Oh. ...I've already got my team.  
Good luck though.

She gives Leah the pen and strides off. Leah is mortified. It's deepened by a loud laugh from the second sign up table. It's KOKU and two of his friends, DAVID and TOM.

As Koku bends down to sign them up, David and Tom pretend to bang him from behind. Koku pushes them away, laughing. As he turns, he catches Leah's eye, but just as cold as Mabel, strides past her without another word. Tom and David laugh the entire time - mocking.

JAHEIM

You fucked him innit?

LEAH

(embarrassed, still watching  
after Koku)

Jaheim!!!

Jaheim shakes his head - pity growing in him. He grabs the pen from her. He hasn't stopped kissing his teeth.

JAHEIM

(as he writes his name)  
You are *jarring* una!  
(off Leah's face)  
Don't get gassed, I'm not  
sacrificing my air forces for this  
stupid game... but... I'll help you  
get across that finish line.

LEAH

You're truly the best!  
(she looks around)  
What about Toby as our third?

They spot Toby, Omar and Femi at the other table, signing up together – strategising already.

FEMI  
There is no prize money, Toby.

TOBY  
Yeah, but the trophy is probably worth something, right?

FEMI  
...Maybe.

Toby sighs as he looks to his phone – a shit load of texts from Yelena. They read – **'Where's my money?'**, **'Money. Now'**, **'Money'**, **'Oi, money, now'**, etc.

CHEDDAR and Graham approach Femi.

CHEDDAR  
*Femi-Femi-Femininity.* Listen, Toes has the shits so Graham and I are looking for a third. You in?

FEMI  
(slightly dismissive)  
Nah, you're alright. I'm with these lot.

Femi turns his back on Cheddar and Graham and heads back to Toby and Omar. Cheddar and Graham look to one another surprised, but neither overthinks it.

GRAHAM  
Suit yourself.

Back to Jaheim and Leah.

LEAH  
Never mind that, then.

SOMEONE clears their throat O.S.

XIANG (O.S.)  
I can be your third.

Pan around to XIANG with a keen smile.

LEAH  
Errrr...

JAHEIM  
Oh, is that you yeah Xiang?!

XIANG  
I know I don't *look* impressive, or physically strong, or like I have endurance or speed, or...

JAHEIM

Get to your pitch Xiang...

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XIANG

But I actually *am* fast. And loyal.  
And I'm smart...and I've been at  
this school longer so I know all  
the rules...and I know where the  
Pip might hide.

JAHEIM

(exasperated)  
What is a Pip?!

XIANG

Please please please -

LEAH

Fine Xiang!

JAHEIM

Shit Xiang, shut up.

Jaheim looks to Leah. Their faces evoking an entire  
conversation: "should we?"

JAHEIM (CONT'D)

Yes?

LEAH

(out of options)  
...Yes.

XIANG

(excited)  
YESSSSSS!

Xiang beams up from between them.

CUT TO:

9

INT. ST GILBERT'S - HEADMASTER'S CORRIDOR. DAY 10.

9

Walking away from the sign up table, Beatrix chats animatedly  
to an uninterested ABBY and FLORENCE (still in her support  
boot), who are still not on good terms.

BEATRIX

You still haven't told me about the  
pool party. Gutted I wasn't there.  
God, I love shrooms! Bet it was  
stupid fun?

ABBY

(very obviously forced)  
It was fine.

FLORENCE

(dryly)  
Yeah, fine.

BEATRIX

I heard you hooked up with Toby...  
Again! Did you know about this Flo?

FLORENCE  
(couldn't give a shit)  
Yeah.

BEATRIX  
(enthusiastic, trying)  
Anyway, I think we should get the purple t-shirt for the challenge and call ourselves the Purple Prancers - cute right? God knows how or where I came up with it, but I love it, don't you?!

ABBY  
A whole day with zero classes and you still wanna do some organised shit?

BEATRIX  
It'll be fun. I bet you're up for it, Flo?

FLORENCE  
(re foot)  
Hello, I'm broken?!

BEATRIX  
We'll help you. Won't we Abz? It's the least you can do.

Abby goes quiet. That was fucking loaded.

BEATRIX (CONT'D)  
Plus, I've already signed us up, so that's that.

FLORENCE  
You've done what?

ABBY  
No you have fucking not.

BEATRIX  
Come ON, The three of us? FAB, together again? Ladies, we're unstoppable.

She snaps her fingers and takes off, Abby and Beatrix, silently and slowly, concede behind her.

CUT TO:

10

EXT. ST GILBERT'S - CARPARK. DAY 10.

10

Bernard, in his full regalia, struggles to get into CHELSEA and PREEYA'S car. Preeya is forced to help, while Chelsea talks -

CHELSEA

...It'll just be good to get you there early so we can do a few pieces to camera and have you greet the kids as they arrive.

As the car drives off, CAROL - whose vehicle is craftily parked behind another vehicle - appears from her car and heads into the school.

CUT TO:

11 INT. ST GILBERT'S - STANLEY'S OFFICE. DAY 10.

11

Stanley sits at his computer - it's on CAROL'S FACEBOOK PAGE - a picture of Carol and Rupert's dad on the screen, together and happy. He covers Rupert's dad's face and strokes Carol's face gently through the screen.

Carol floats into Stanley's office - homemade cupcakes abound. Stanley turns off his computer screen (which Carol notices) and scrambles to his feet - as if he's was preparing to leave.

CAROL

Darling, hiiii so glad I caught you; busy busy today I know, I know, I won't keep you long - I brought cupcakes-

Stanley reaches for the cupcakes, but Carol keeps hold. She has another request.

CAROL (CONT'D)

Do you have that list I asked for?  
Of the students who stayed on the grounds over exeat?

Stanley produces a piece of paper - the list. Carol reads the list as Stanley anxiously looks at the cupcakes, desperately wanting to take them, but has to wait until Carol has finished reading.

CAROL (CONT'D)

Just as I thought, mm mm - this is excellent, thank you, Stanley.

Carol grabs a pen from the desk and and circles three names before handing it back to Stanley.

CAROL (CONT'D)

If you could bring the following names to the main office.

She touches him gently on his shoulder and gives him an encouraging squeeze. He melts.

And with that, he's out. Carol waits a beat before, with a suspicious eye, switching his computer monitor on. She sees the photo of herself and her ex-husband. She strokes Rupert's dad's face through the screen nostalgically, before switching off the monitor and also leaving the office.

CUT TO:

12

EXT. ST GILBERT'S - CARPARK. DAY 10.

12

Eight or so teams of three are lined up in their school issued gym clothes - tracksuit bottoms and a top. Some wait outside, milling about whilst a few have boarded (including Felix and Mabel). There's lots of talking and laughter. Some kids sneak an early vodka.

The teams are - Omar, Femi and Toby (Orange team), FELIX, DANIEL and RYAN (Blue Team), Jaheim, Leah and Xiang (Red Team), Koku, David and Tom (White team), Mabel and her two friends JASMINE and SADIE (Yellow team), Abby, Florence and Beatrix (Purple team), Rupert, Spencer and Bishop (Green team), and RENFIELD, CYRIL and MAISIE (Brown team) - a group of SA's whose relevance will be apparent later.

We track down the line of the waiting teams before we land on Omar, Femi and Toby.

FEMI

(to Toby, tired)

...I doubt the trophy is gonna be solid gold.

DILTON - in his school uniform - passes Omar. He slows almost to confront Omar, but continues awkwardly on.

FEMI (CONT'D)

What was that about?

OMAR

Ugh, I might have...mmm, might have messed that one up, and my shot at the Raisinettes.

TOBY

Ooh, trouble in paradise.

OMAR

You know it wasn't like that.

FEMI

You know he likes you?

OMAR

I know. ...It's just...  
Two friends needed me and I had to make a tough call.

FEMI  
Him and...?

Omar signals towards Rupert. Toby wiggles his brows - impressed.

Omar gets flustered, even more so as he becomes aware of Florence, Abby and Beatrix in front of them in the line. Toby and Abby catch eyes.

OMAR

Don't be dumb, we just spent the night together... not like... we just, s...s..slept together. Like fell asleep at the same time like-

Toby cracks up, he knows what Omar means. Florence, overhearing, turns around at this point, a PURPLE shirt thrown over her shoulder.

FLORENCE

So you were with my boyfriend! He didn't pick up any of my calls..

TOBY

AND that walk of shame during assembly.

OMAR

Noo. It was...you know Rupert isn't gay and I would *never*, Florence.

FLORENCE

We're *joking* Omar - I swear you're blushing!

TOBY

Black people nah blush.

Florence turns back to her friends.

FEMI

(to Omar)

So what are you going to do about Dilton?

OMAR

(shrugs, defeated)

I dunno...might just leave it.

FEMI

(in Yoruba)

Ori e o pe.

FEMI

(translation)

You're stupid.

Toby, who understands, laughs. Femi is surprised.

TOBY

Yeah, I'm learning motherfucker.

FEMI

You proper wanted to be in the Raisinettes and you blew it off for *Rupert*?

TOBY

Just chat to him, innit.

FEMI

I'm with Toby. Apologise... I'm sure he'll understand.

Stanley appears. Carol lingers in the far distance.

STANLEY

Mr Staithes, Mr Adebayo and Mr Palmer-Grace must report to the main office immediately.

There's 'oohs' and 'ahhs' all round - the assumption that they're in trouble. We clock Abby and Leah who look on, wondering what's happening. Toby, Femi and Omar get out of the minibus line, confused. Florence, sceptical, heads over to Carol.

FLORENCE

Carol???

Carol embraces her tightly, as they walk and talk back to the minibuses.

CAROL

(laughing, too much)  
Florence. God, so beautiful! Turn eighteen and get married already so I can call you daughter.

FLORENCE

Um, I thought they stopped parents observing the challenge.

CAROL

Ah yes, of course, I won't be going anywhere near the field.

She takes a step closer to Florence and lowers her voice.

CAROL (CONT'D)

Well darling, you were probably in town during all of this commotion over exeat, but someone brought drugs onto school grounds and then there was a fire...

FLORENCE

Right.

CAROL

Nothing to worry your gorgeous little head about.

...And would you look at that? She's dropped her off right by Rupert. Carol admires them both - she pinches Rupert's cheek.

CAROL (CONT'D)

Couple goals, am I right?

She embraces them both one last time before ushering them to the front of the line. Florence is stunned for a minute before snapping to Rupert.

FLORENCE

What is your mum doing here?

RUPERT

Hi to you too, babes.

FLORENCE

I have a really horrible feeling about this hun, I think she knows about the shrooms!

RUPERT

(shrugs)  
Who cares.

FLORENCE

How do you think she found out? Do you think someone grassed?

Rupert shrugs again - a bit annoyed.

RUPERT

Who cares. The worst we'll get is a day on overs.

Florence ponders this for a moment.

FLORENCE

Well we should at least tell the others, right? Best if we're all on the same page, right?

RUPERT

On the same page? How do you know one of *them* didn't snitch?

FLORENCE

They wouldn't...

RUPERT

How do you know?

FLORENCE

Okay, well, Omar wouldn't. He's like one of your besties...right?!

Rupert scoffs.

FLORENCE (CONT'D)

You share a bloody bed...room,  
like...surely that counts for  
something?

She winces mid-rant, she knows she fucked up.

Rupert looks to Spencer and Bishop who are laughing. They're out of earshot so they're clearly laughing about something else, but it's enough to make Rupert paranoid.

RUPERT

(coldly, hushed)

I'm not fucking five years old, so  
I don't have any "best friends".  
He's a roommate, at best.

Florence clocks Rupert's hushed tone - all in aid of Spencer and Bishop. She rolls her eyes.

FLORENCE

I didn't mean...I just meant...

RUPERT

I don't know what Omar's been  
telling you but I was high as hell  
on those mushrooms-

FLORENCE

Omar hasn't told me anything. So  
why don't you relax. And god forbid  
I assume you have a friendship with  
someone who actually gives a shit  
about you.

She pushes onto the minibus leaving Rupert behind. Spencer and Bishop did see *this* which causes them to laugh at Rupert.

SPENCER

(dry)

Trouble in paradise?

It's enough to make Rupert bristle. He walks off in a huff.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

(shouts, annoyed)

Where're you going?! We can't  
compete without you! Rupert!

CUT TO:

13

EXT. ST GILBERT'S - CLOISTERS. DAY 10.

13

We see Carol watch the minibuses drive away. She stands directly in the middle of one of the arches and crosses her arms. As the minibuses pull off, a police car pulls into the school drive. Shit just got real.

CUT TO:

14

EXT. FIELD. DAY 10.

14

All our competing students - now minus the Orange and Green team - are putting on their cammo jump suits, helmets, goggles, coloured arm bands, etc.

Bernard stands on a podium in front of the participating students. A few teachers (SAs), are also in attendance to help. They all wear matching cammo outfits with an arm band labelled 'STAFF'. Preeya and Chelsea are filming, dressed in their usual attire, not fit for the outdoors.

Bernard takes a step forward and The Pip - a YEAR 7 in long socks and breeches, shirt and bands round the neck (should look proper old school) kneels before him and presents a scroll. He clears his throat-

BERNARD

HEAR YE HEAR YE. FROM PIP'S HAND TO JOURNEYS END, YOU MUST EVADE THE WRATH OF THINE ENEMY AND CROSS THE LINE AT EVENTIDE.

JAHEIM

(to Leah)

What the fuck does *that*-

He's interrupted by the blowing of a large old horn and then the Pip, looking worried as shit, scurries out of the field. He holds the boot over his head.

JAHEIM (CONT'D)

(somber)

Toby was right - cult shit.

XIANG

The Pip is the fastest year 7 in the school - it's brutal for them, they get absolutely battered.

LEAH

But they're like *children* children.

XIANG

(solemnly)

They've got the boot.

Two teachers hand out bags of coloured pellets as Mrs Goodlow walks around double checking helmets and goggles. Some kids stretch, some are doing burpees to warm up. One kid has a bulletproof vest on.

MRS GOODLOW

NO HEADSHOTS. NO HEADSHOTS.

She motions eyes to the students with two fingers then presses a button on her phone - as Bernard watches the warm ups, suddenly, a drone rises from THE PODIUM behind him, the propellers ruffling his hair as it hovers in the air. Bernard looks confused, what the hell- he looks to Mrs Goodlow, she's grinning with an over-enthusiastic thumbs up.

The drone flies off. It's too late to stop her. Jaheim is the only one interested in how Mrs Goodlow operates the drone. Leah sees Koku in the distance.

Suddenly, A LARGE, PURGE-LIKE SIREN RINGS. As everyone takes off-

BERNARD  
(pleased as hell)  
Let the games begin.

CUT TO:

15

EXT. ST GILBERT'S - CLOISTERS. DAY 10.

15

Carol stands looking impatiently at her watch as we see BARRY, (50s sloppier *NICK FROST* in *HOT FUZZ*), sat in his car, finishing a bacon roll in one hand whilst replying to text messages in the other. He eventually steps out of his car and heads towards her.

BARRY  
So... what's it this time? Benzos?  
Opium? There's a cocaine shortage  
so it can't be that.

He takes one look at Carol's very stern face and his own face drops.

BARRY (CONT'D)  
...They're taking the ketamine from  
the horses again?

CAROL  
There was a fire Barry, they're out  
of control, these kids.

BARRY  
Wow, they're cooking meth then-

CAROL  
We need to nip it in the bud now,  
before it escalates.

Carol walks into the school with determination. Barry follows. They cross paths with Stanley who has been looming off-screen the entire time.

STANLEY  
Do you need anything else from me?

Carol ignores him and continues on.

STANLEY (CONT'D)  
(too keen)  
Well give me a shout if you do...  
I'm about...

Stanley shares a look with a passing Barry, eyeing him up and down - *why has Carol replaced me with this chomp?*

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CUT TO:

16 EXT. WOODS - THE CHALLENGE. DAY 10. 16

C/U of Felix, Ryan and Daniel who are relentlessly shooting PAINTBALL PELLETS at the STUDENTS. (note - a tight on our three as they shoot, with groans and pangs of pain heard off screen).

CUT TO:

17 EXT. WOODS - THE CHALLENGE. DAY 10. 17

Xiang, Jaheim and Leah trudge through the woods - the sound of pellet fire and groans in the background. Xiang is leading - he has fashioned hiking sticks out of two very flimsy branches.

LEAH

And as soon as I see that bitch boy, I'm aiming for dick and balls.

JAHEIM

Damn Leah.

Even Xiang mouths 'Damn Leah' - but doesn't dare to vocalise it.

JAHEIM (CONT'D)

Dick and balls? That's a low blow.

LEAH

Yeah well, he's a prick and you shouldn't be backing him.

JAHEIM

I don't know that fool from Adam...I'm just saying...dick and balls...damn.

LEAH

All you breddah's think with your dicks and as soon as *that* gets wet, you miraculously and audaciously lose any sense and logic you might have had.

JAHEIM

Leah, for real...what are you on about?

LEAH

I'm talking about how you *boys* act one way until you get what you want and then it's a complete 360.

XIANG

180.

Leah gives him a look.

XIANG (CONT'D)

... I think.

JAHEIM

Nah, I dunno what Koku did to you that deserves future impotence yeah, but 100 percent, that guy showed you who he was from day. That bruddah is from a different world. Everyone here is. I know, trust me. So if you're looking for someone to understand you, you're looking in the wrong place, G.

Beat as Leah digests this, looking at Jaheim who is clearly speaking from personal experience. Then-

LEAH

(taps gun)

Different world or not - still dick and balls.

XIANG

It's easier to hold someone else accountable than yourself so...

Another beat.

JAHEIM

(too loud)

OKAY XIANG WITH THE BARS!

XIANG

Sssssh.

LEAH

Sssssh.

They pause for a moment, trying to see if they've been heard, before continuing on. Both heavy in thought about what the other said. Xiang rolls his eyes - fed up with this debate.

XIANG (CONT'D)

Can we just be quick and quiet?! I think I know where the Pip is.

LEAH

NO! I saw Koku's fat head go this way, let's take them out!

XIANG

I thought you wanted to win? Sounds like you've got other intentions.

LEAH

(fumbling)

Yeah but, well YEAH but like, obviously we have to take out the competition, right?

JAHEIM

Sounds like you're not holding yourself accountable!

XIANG

He's got a point.

Leah stops dead in her tracks and stares at them - furious and embarrassed for being called out. She storms off. Jaheim gives Xiang a smug look of victory, but Xiang shakes his head at him, and takes off after her. As Jaheim follows-

JAHEIM

What did I do?

CUT TO:

18

INT. ST GILBERT'S - CLASSROOM. DAY 10.

18

We circle in on Toby. A dim light hovers over his head as Carol hovers over him, watching him, hard. It's an intimidation tactic. Toby seems unfazed by it as he leans back in his seat and stares between Barry and Carol. Carol starts to speak but Barry clears his throat, shutting her up. He steps forward.

BARRY

So you're aware, this isn't an interview. Just a chat. You're free to leave at anytime.

TOBY

(loving it)

As a young black man, I'm well versed in such proceedings.

Barry begins his investigation masked as a "chat", trying to avoid being accusatory-

BARRY

It's come to my attention that there's been a fire on school grounds and we suspect it's due to the manipulation of illegal substances.

Toby stares at him blankly.

BARRY (CONT'D)

We're talking about meth. Now if someone was cooking up meth, I'd want to know if it was for personal use or distribution?

Toby's face is hilariously confused.

TOBY

Bruh...what are you on about? Meth is that that white people shit?

Carol slams her hands on the table. Underneath is a small bottle of weed oil. She reveals the bottle as if it'll make Toby crumble.

CAROL

We are talking about the weed. Marijuana. Ganja. Green.

Beat. Toby bursts out laughing.

TOBY

Is that, *weed oil*?

CAROL

The fact that you know what it is isn't helping your case here young man. This is an arrestable offense!

Beat. More laughter from Toby. Barry is embarrassed.

CUT TO:

19

INT. ST GILBERT'S - WAITING AREA. DAY 10.

19

Meanwhile, in the waiting area (adjoining classroom), Femi and Omar are nervous. They can't hear anything going on inside the interrogation room. Omar has now sat down whilst Femi paces.

OMAR

Why do you reckon we're here? Do you think it's because of the weed... or the shrooms... Could it be the fire?

Each possible conclusion hits Femi hard.

FEMI

Argh! I can't believe you've gotten me into this.

Omar raises his head in disbelief.

OMAR

Sorry, what?

FEMI

I wouldn't be here if you lot weren't so-

OMAR

So *what*, Femi?

FEMI

I shouldn't even have been there.

OMAR

Sorry for extending an invite.

FEMI

Sorry for tryna bond with you people.

Omar scoffs.

OMAR

"You people" yeah?

(beat)

It don't matter how many polo shirts you buy, Femi, you'll never be one of them. That's why they bailed on you.

This time Femi scoffs, cruelly.

FEMI

Bailed on me?...

(he looks around the room)

Sorry, where's your mate, Rupert? Funny how him and his girlfriend - who brought the drugs - aren't here but you are. But you're making out like *I'm* the naive one...?

Femi's got a point. The atmosphere intensifies.

CUT TO:

20

INT. ST GILBERT'S - CLASSROOM. DAY 10.

20

We can tell Toby has been on a roll.

TOBY

...And are you aware that there's about 5000 users of opiates and *crack* in this town alone, which is *double* the national average...but you wanna talk about weed?!

Barry folds his arms and gives Carol an annoyed look.

CAROL

It's still a class B drug-

TOBY

And *this*? Not even like, pack pack,  
but some medicinal shi-stuff? By  
the looks of it? I wouldn't know.

He puts it back down on the table and awaits an answer.

CUT TO:

21

EXT. WOODS - THE CHALLENGE. DAY 10.

21

Leah is still in a strop as they march on. Xiang is second.  
Jaheim lags way behind, fiddling on his phone.

Leah turns around to see him on his phone, she kisses her  
teeth.

LEAH

You're so full of shit Jaheim, you  
said you would help me win this.

JAHEIM

(not looking up)

These games are rigged man, you  
were never gonna win with-

LEAH

Shocker, same shitty attitude  
you've had all term. Why are you  
here if you won't even try?

JAHEIM

Ay shut up man and come here.

He waves his phone at her, a proud grin on his face.

JAHEIM (CONT'D)

What I was saying, is this game is  
made for them man born into this  
shit. Them man with this type of  
set up in their garden.

(he shows her his phone)

I'm just tryna make the game fair  
babylove.

He hacked the drone. We can see on his phone the live feed  
from a drone flying over the woods above - he's found Koku,  
David and Tom trekking through the woods in their white t-  
shirts.

JAHEIM (CONT'D)

And it looks like your boy Koku is  
not far from us.

LEAH

What did you...Jaheim, you hacked a  
drone?? I could kiss you.

They take off, now Jaheim leads the pack.

CUT TO:

22

EXT. WOODS - THE CHALLENGE. DAY 10.

22

Meanwhile...Florence, Abby and Beatrix are ahead of the pack. They are more comfortable with the outdoors than anyone else we're following. Florence leads which has Abby turning to Beatrix -

ABBY

Is her foot even broken?!

Beatrix dare not answer.

Florence is the first to reach a crossroad. She immediately starts going left. Abby thinks otherwise.

ABBY (CONT'D)

I think we should go right. We can gain high ground.

Abby starts walking right. Beatrix is left in the centre, helplessly looking to both her friends, not knowing which way to turn.

FLORENCE

Last year the Pip was found by the river.

ABBY

Okay, so?

FLORENCE

That's where they always go, this isn't news.

ABBY

Maybe shit is different now, deal with it. Let's try something else and be done with this.

FLORENCE

Oh, why? So you can get back to your new best friend and swap fucking haircare secrets.

They're circling each other now. Abby gasps, offended.

FLORENCE (CONT'D)

Get over yourself Markle.

ABBY

You can't say shit like that.

FLORENCE

I always say shit like that, but suddenly it's a problem. I'm a bitch, I'm insensitive...ignorant.

ABBY

You are ignorant.

BEATRIX (O.S.)

(hushed)

Girls...

FLORENCE

How? Name one ignorant thing I've done, ever, to you?

ABBY

I'm not sitting here tallying your indiscretions Florence.

FLORENCE

Well clearly you are, Abby, because you've been acting like a little bitch ever since you remembered you were bl-

ABBY

I dare you to finish that.

FLORENCE

Go on, one ignorant thing.

ABBY

Okay, when you said that stupid joke about Jaheim's dick taking out a village.

FLORENCE

That was Beatrix!

Abby stares daggers at Beatrix.

BEATRIX

He was wearing grey fucking shorts! I know a prominent dick outline when I see one.

Beatrix is smug, gotcha there. Abby takes a deep breath, then-

ABBY

(to Florence)

You call me exotic looking whenever I put on eyeliner. You say my hair is wild when I haven't straightened it-

BEATRIX (O.S.)

GIRLS...

ABBY

You asked me once if I knew  
Swahili...SWAHILI Florence.

Beatrice walks between them, as they are now face to face.

BEATRIX

I'VE FOUND THE FUCKING PIP!

They all look at her hands, which holds the Pip by his neck.

FAB suddenly snap into Charlie's Angels mode, guns pointed at the Pip, who cowers where he stands.

PIP

Please don't shoot!

FLORENCE

That depends on one thing.

ABBY

Where's the boot?

BEATRIX

Bitch.

The Pip raises the boot above his head in concession.

FADE TO:

23

INT. ST GILBERT'S - CLASSROOM. DAY 10.

23

Carol and Barry argue in whispers as Toby, confident, sits quietly in the background.

BARRY

Weed, Carol? Really?

CAROL

He basically admitted to-

BARRY

(gesturing with his hand for  
her to shush)

Abububbuh.

Then slowly turns to face Toby with a sheepish grimace. Toby opens NOTES on his phone.

TOBY

Remind me of your badge number,  
kind sir.

CAROL

Barry, trust me. Let's cut this one  
loose. I know I can get something  
out of one of the other ones.

(MORE)

CAROL (CONT'D)

I promise there's more than weed at  
play here - we just have to find  
it.

CUT TO:

24

INT. ST GILBERT'S - CLASSROOM. DAY 10.

24

Femi is clearly nervous, sweating profusely, avoiding all eye contact. The setting has shaken him, and Carol and Barry pick up on this immediately. They both circle his seat like sharks.

CAROL

There's no need to be scared.

FEMI

I'm not scared.

He's terrified.

FEMI (CONT'D)

I just don't know why I'm here.

She does the same slamming of the little bottle onto the table. Barry starts to roll his eyes until he notices Femi's reaction to the bottle. He's confused and scared - he doesn't know what this bottle is. It was the reaction they were hoping to get from Toby. Carol pounces on this, she sits gently on the edge of the table.

CAROL

(compassionate)

I get it. No snitch no stitch,  
right? But we want to get this  
sorted out quickly and internally -  
it's how we do things here at St  
Gilbert's. No one needs to know.

She leans forward.

CAROL (CONT'D)

Or we call your parents. What do  
you say?

Femi is about to crack.

CUT TO:

25

INT. ST GILBERT'S - WAITING AREA. DAY 10.

25

Omar's leg is still shaking something serious. Rupert suddenly appears in the doorway - slight perspiration shows he's been on the hunt.

RUPERT

What the fuck did you say to  
Florence?

Omar's head springs up at Rupert's voice - hopeful - which immediately disappears when he sees Rupert's face. Omar kisses his teeth.

OMAR

What?!

Rupert is sat by him in a flash, trying to intimidate. He grabs Omar's shoulder.

RUPERT

Why have you been running your  
mouth to her-

OMAR

Rupert, I don't have time for you  
right now, I'm about to be  
questioned by the police -  
presumably over your girlfriend's  
drugs. So, chill.

He shrugs off Rupert's attempt at strong-arming him and moves seats. The first time Omar has been truly dismissive of Rupert. Rupert doesn't like that. Tactics change.

RUPERT

THE POLI-shit...sorry bro, I didn't  
know. You alright?

He sounds truly concerned.

CUT TO:

26

EXT. WOODS - THE CHALLENGE. DAY 10.

26

Koku and his team have FAB surrounded, boot in sight. But FAB aren't letting up that easy, guns drawn, they shield the boot between them.

KOKU

We don't want to ruin your pretty  
little outfits, so why not give up  
the boot-

Suddenly - in a mid shot - Koku, then David, followed by Tom double over in agony. As we pan down, we see red blotches around their crotches. They've all been shot in the dick and balls! Leah emerges from the bushes victoriously.

Jaheim and Xiang appear, guns drawn on Florence, Beatrix and Abby. They're cornered.

LEAH  
(to Koku)  
That's what you get BITCH.

KOKU  
(through the pain)  
So busy shooting at me, didn't  
realise you got shot too...

LEAH  
What?

Leah turns to see she's been shot in the back with yellow  
paint. Mabel appears solo.

LEAH (CONT'D)  
Mabel!

MABEL  
(passive aggressive)  
Hi.

LEAH  
You shot me! Wha gwan?!

MABEL  
Nothing 'a gwan' Leah... it's a game.

LEAH  
Yeah, right! Clearly this is about  
that fat-headed bellend, Koku?

MABEL  
If you were thinking about other  
people, rather than just him, maybe  
you wouldn't've been shot.

LEAH  
So it is about that limp-cock arse-  
prick?

KOKU (O.S.)  
I'm right here.

Reveal Koku listening to the whole exchange.

LEAH  
(nonchalant)  
I know.

Koku walks off in a huff.

LEAH (CONT'D)  
Mabel. I apologised.

MABEL

Barely. You said let's talk about it later and we never did, because you were too much about you and your shit, you didn't think to check in on how I felt.

LEAH

Oh, well I'm sorry that I was trying to cleanse my body of the Uncle Tom I let inside of me!

MABEL

Again... All about you!

LEAH

Jesus Christ, Mabel. No offence, but my god you're needy.

MABEL

Wait, me? Needy?

LEAH

Yes, YOU, needy.

JAHEIM

Leah, she doesn't matter. I haven't been shot yet, get the boot!

MABEL

I drop everything and bail you out..and **I'm** needy?

She takes a step closer to Leah, as if to intimidate. She points her gun to the floor. We hear the sound of her gun going off. Reveal she's shot herself in the foot, eliminating herself.

MABEL (CONT'D)

(quietly, sadly)

Fuck you, Leah.

Leah looks to Mabel - she went too far and she knows it.

LEAH

Mabel, wait! I didn't- (mean it).

She's already gone.

XIANG

(to FAB)

Just give me the boot and nobody gets hurt.

BEATRIX

Here you go, I don't really give a shit.

FLORENCE

What?! It was your idea to play this game!

BEATRIX

I just wanted us to spend some time together, but instead, all we've done is assassinate one another's characters and I HATE IT! You are both selfish, self-centered little hags and it stops, NOW. Stop being little SHITS and apologise!

ABBY

(half-hearted)  
Sorry.

FLORENCE

(half-hearted)  
Sorry.

BEATRIX

(points gun at them)  
PROPERLY!

FLORENCE

I'm sorry... *Really*... I was just upset because... it was like you found Leah and all of a sudden we didn't matter anymore.

ABBY

Just because me and Leah are friends doesn't mean that you two are not my bitches anymore.

Florence is touched.

FLORENCE

I didn't mean any of those things. I'd never say anything to hurt you. I can just be an insensitive arse-wipe sometimes. ...You're the most beautiful girl I know.

Abby is genuinely touched.

ABBY

I'm sorry I've been distant. ...And I'm sorry about your foot.

FLORENCE

It's fine. It's not like you did it on purpose...

Abby goes silent - *she did*. Florence clocks it, but she loves her even more for it.

FLORENCE (CONT'D)

(laughing, genuine)

Abby, you cow!

(then)

In all honesty, it's not even really broken.

ABBY

We know.

BEATRIX

Yeah, we gathered.

FLORENCE

(teary)

I love you, bitch...

ABBY

(teary)

I love you too, slag...

BEATRIX

(also teary)

And I love both, you whores.

The three embrace - it's emotional AF. FAB are together again.

XIANG

...Sooo, we can have the boot?

JAHEIM

Xiang, bro. Shut up.

Jaheim looks to Beatrix. The pair share a look. It's awkward - *their last interaction was their fight in London.*

JAHEIM (CONT'D)

...If you guys ain't playing anymore, and you know... we are...it'd be nice if you did give us the boot, *but* don't feel you have to... sure we could just find another one... but it would be nice to have the um... one you're holding...yeah...

Beatrix struggles to conceal a smile as Jaheim bumbles his way through the awkward ask. She eventually chucks Jaheim the boot, desperately trying to keep a serious face.

JAHEIM (CONT'D)

Thank you.

They share a smile. A possible connection is back.

FELIX AND CREW (O.S.)

CARRUTHERS. CARRUTHERS. CARRUTHERS.

XIANG

Guys... I think we should leave.

They leave. Abby, Florence and Beatrix embrace again. It's emotional as hell. Then-

FELIX  
Hello girls...

Felix, Daniel and Ryan surround our huddled girls, guns loaded.

CUT TO:

27 EXT. WOODS - THE CHALLENGE. DAY 10. 27

Jaheim, Leah and Xiang run through the woods as we hear a cacophony of gun fire and screams from FAB.

FLORENCE (O.S.)  
Ow! Alright Felix, we fucking get it!

CUT TO:

28 INT. ST GILBERT'S - WAITING AREA. DAY 10. 28

Rupert now sits across from Omar, watching his every emotion.

RUPERT  
I can't believe they're still getting away with this shit.

OMAR  
Getting away with what?

RUPERT  
The whole strip search thing, right? Clearly that's what is happening in there.

OMAR  
(gulps)  
I...I...I don't know, I've never been stopped by the police before!

GOTCHA. Rupert moves a seat closer to Omar.

RUPERT

Look, if I know school policy...and I *know* school policy, they've already searched your room looking for the drugs and obviously found nothing. So-

Omar omits a guttural groan.

RUPERT (CONT'D)

Come on, the easiest thing to do is just show them, that you've got nothing on you.

OMAR

How do I do that?!

RUPERT

Okay, like, unturn your pockets so they know nothing's there.

Omar complies.

RUPERT (CONT'D)

See...nothing there. Tsk, ahhh, I guess you could have inside pockets - okay, take off your jacket.

Omar complies.

CUT TO:

29

EXT. FIELD. THE CHALLENGE. DAY 10.

29

Bernard watches on with excitement as wounded SIXTH FORMERS return to the finish line, which is lined with a dozen or so students in school uniform, applauding their efforts. Bernard pulls Sadie towards him. She's covered in blue paint.

BERNARD

How was it? Did you find the Pip?

Sadie bursts out crying.

BERNARD (CONT'D)

Tears of joy!

Bernard's phone rings.

BERNARD (CONT'D)

Hello... Well, I'm in the middle of nowhere Tiffany, of course I'm going to be hard to reach... What?

Bernard leaves, his jovial demeanour drops instantly. He heads back with pace. A few teachers are left confused.

CUT TO:

30

INT. ST GILBERT'S - CLASSROOM. DAY 10.

30

Femi is still shitting himself.

FEMI

No please don't call my parents...I don't do drugs.

CAROL

Yeah, but how do we know you're telling the truth? *Someone* had drugs on school grounds over exeat. So we have to call your parents, so we can get a drug test authorised.

FEMI

Drug test ke?! Nah please, I'll get sent to Nigeria.

CAROL

Unless...

(Femi is listening)

Well, unless we find who this actually belongs to, we *have* to assume it's you!

FEMI

(in Yoruba)

Kii ñe emi. Ati pe kii ñe eyikeyi ninu wa. Sugbon o je gbogbo awñ ti a ju. Ati ki o Mo ti ji a English esee. Ati pe ko si ñnikan ti o fñran meeee.

FEMI

(translation)

*It wasn't me. And it wasn't any of us. But it was all of us too. And I stole an English essay. And nobody likes meeeee.*

CAROL

(to Barry)

Google what he just said.

BARRY

Errr, yeah on it...what was the first word?

CUT TO:

31

INT. ST GILBERT'S - WAITING AREA. DAY 10.

31

Things have escalated.

RUPERT

And your trainers, dealers always  
hide drugs in their trainers.

Rupert stifles a snigger as Omar unties his laces and kicks  
his trainers off quickly.

RUPERT (CONT'D)

Socks too.

As Omar starts to take his socks off, he catches Rupert  
stifle another snigger. He suddenly realises how ridiculous  
it all is.

OMAR

(testing)

But they'd see an outline with my  
socks on, right? I probably don't  
need to do all this?

RUPERT

Nah mate, these days dealers have  
all sorts of hidden compartments.  
Socks off - it's for your own good.

Omar scoffs. He takes his socks off, but then flings them  
directly in Rupert's face.

OMAR

What else?

RUPERT

Err-

OMAR

T-shirt too, right? And shorts?  
(Rupert stops smiling)  
Oh isn't it funny anymore?

He strips to his boxers and takes a step closer to Rupert,  
who suddenly feels uncomfortable.

OMAR (CONT'D)

Ain't this what you want, Rupert?  
Because I can't think of any other  
reason you'd do all this except  
wanting to see my dick, huh?

RUPERT

You're a fucking weirdo.

OMAR

No I'm a fucking idiot. Ignoring  
what everyone says about you.

RUPERT

Yeah, what's "everyone" saying?

OMAR

That you're a sociopathic pathetic knob. And that's without anyone knowing about your messed up daddy issues.

RUPERT

Funny that. *I'm* the sociopath with daddy issues...yet you're the fucking loser who could just about get **me** to be his mate.

This time, Omar takes a step back.

OMAR

If playing with me is how you get your sad little rocks off, then get your fill.

RUPERT

I did. Thank you.

Omar is a little thrown - angry, sad - the words cut deep and the switch-around was fast. Rupert leaves with a smug smile on his face. Carol and Barry opens the door to reveal Omar, left alone, in his boxers, staring after Rupert.

Bernard runs in shortly after.

BERNARD

What the hell is going on here?!

He sees Carol, then baulks at a uniformed Barry behind her.

BERNARD (CONT'D)

Carol...what have you done?

Carol starts to answer, but decides not to. So, after a beat of deep thought, she bursts into tears.

CUT TO:

32

EXT. WOODS - THE CHALLENGE. DAY 10.

32

Jaheim, Leah and Xiang remain hidden. The finish line in sight.

XIANG

Shit! The quickest route crosses paths with Felix, but if we take the longer route, they'll beat us there and batter us before we've even crossed the line. We're screwed.

JAHEIM

Bruddah, what's with all this bad juju negativity you're spreading?!

XIANG

I'm just being real, Jaheim!

JAHEIM

Yeah, well I ain't come this far to lose yu'know.

Leah smiles to Jaheim, loving how invested he is!

XIANG

Well we will lose because Felix is watching... he's always watching!

(a thought)

I'm just gonna run. Gimme the boot!

Xiang tries to grab the boot from Jaheim, pushing him over in the process. Jaheim desperately tries to keep hold of it.

JAHEIM

Yo, have you lost your bloodclart mind?!

LEAH

Xiang, bro, chill!

CUT TO:

33

EXT. WOODS - THE CHALLENGE. DAY 10.

33

FELIX POV - he *is* watching! He and his teammates watch as Jaheim, Xiang and Leah fight over the boot. It *appears* as if Xiang finally gets hold of it, places it under his top and bolts for the finishing line, which is in sight.

Felix, Daniel and Ryan run out and trip him up, sending him crashing to the ground, face down. They train their guns on him.

FELIX  
(cocks gun)  
Well, well, well. We've caught  
ourselves a whopper!

Leah appears, walking full pace, gun trained on them.

LEAH  
I have blown off three dicks today,  
and I will blow another three...  
Wait, no, that's not what I meant.

FELIX  
(re paint splatter)  
You're out, remember? ...If you  
shoot us, your whole team will be  
disqualified.

Leah, annoyed, is forced to lower her weapon. Felix smiles,  
then flicks Xiang onto his back with his foot.

FELIX (CONT'D)  
Oh, and you're right... I am always  
watching.

XIANG  
(smiles)  
I know...

Xiang smiles before revealing he's holding one of Jaheim's  
trainers.

XIANG (CONT'D)  
Well yippekiyay, motherfuckers!

Felix looks to Jaheim as he cripples across the finish line  
- one foot in a trainer, the other in the ceremonial boot.

Teachers, losing teams and spectating students clap like  
crazy for Jaheim as he removes the boot and lifts it above  
his head triumphantly.

CUT TO:

34

INT. ST GILBERT'S - HEADMASTER'S OFFICE. DAY 10.

34

It's Carol's turn in the hot seat.

BERNARD  
THE POLICE Carol?!

CAROL  
Barry's hardly a SWAT team.

BERNARD  
They're kids...

CAROL

There was a fire Bernard...drugs!

BERNARD

There's always drugs! This is a private school, not a bloody monastery. I told you I have a handle on it.

CAROL

No you don't. I've got half a mind to call the board-

BERNARD

Yes, and tell them you had three underaged kids questioned without parental knowledge or authorisation.

That shuts her up.

BERNARD (CONT'D)

Get the *hell* out of my school.

Carol snatches her bag off the floor and walks to the door without another word. She stops at the door:

CAROL

It's only a matter of time before everyone else sees what I can. Then you're gone.

With one last dirty look, she's out.

Bernard exhales deeply, gathering himself, trying to calm himself. He buzzes the office intercom.

BERNARD

Send him in, please.

A few beats go by then there's a timid knock at the door. It's Omar. He sits down quietly, broken - fully clothed now. There's a few beats of silence. Omar stares down at his hands.

BERNARD (CONT'D)

Omar... I don't have the words.

Omar shifts uncomfortably.

BERNARD (CONT'D)

I'm sorry... what Mrs Watlington-Geese did was despicable, and I plan to get to the bottom of it.

OMAR

I don't want anyone to know about this... it'll just blow back on me.

BERNARD

I wouldn't let that happen. Why don't you leave the matter with me. I promise you, it will be resolved in a timely and *discreet* manner.

OMAR

Can I leave now?

Bernard nods. Omar leaves. Bernard sits deep in thought.

CUT TO:

35

EXT. ST GILBERT'S - CARPARK. DAY 10.

35

The minibuses have pulled up and the Carruthers Challenge participants exit the minibuses singing the school anthem. A gaggle of students have gathered to see who the winner is.

Jaheim exits the minibus and holds the trophy up high which garners cheers from all. A beautiful moment for Jaheim. He turns to Xiang.

JAHEIM

Thanks for letting me cross the  
line with the boot, bro.

XIANG

Only one winner. Glad it was you.  
Enjoy this moment!

Jaheim lifts the trophy up which causes the crowd to cheer  
even louder.

In amongst the celebration, they see a police car leaving the school grounds.

LEAH

Why the hell were the police here?

Jaheim looks just as concerned.

LEAH (CONT'D)

And you still haven't heard back from the boys?

Jaheim shakes his head no.

LEAH (CONT'D)

Why don't this feel right Jaheim?

Abby - having heard Leah - heads into the school, determined.

CUT TO:

36

INT. ST GILBERT'S - HEADMASTER'S CORRIDOR. DAY 10.

36

From Bernard's office, Omar bumps into Dilton - who doesn't stop walking.

OMAR

(tentative)

Hey...

Dilton turns around, but then pretends to look for someone behind him.

DILTON

Oh, you mean *me*? Sorry, I thought you were talking to Rupert, I just wasn't sure where he was.

The thought of Rupert hits Omar hard.

OMAR

Dilton, I'm honestly so sorry.

DILTON

Nothing to apologise for right..'cause *I* was the absolute twat, leaving my fate in the Raisinettes on you.

OMAR

It meant a lot to me too. More than you could ever know.

DILTON

Well, I don't know. And I don't believe you.

Omar watches him walk off, plucking up the courage to follow him, follow his heart. He doesn't.

CUT TO:

37 INT. ST GILBERT'S - LIBRARY. DAY 10. 37

Femi sits, surrounded by Rah'scals who are engrossed in his story.

FEMI

Then I told that fat fuck, to get out my face 'cause I ain't no snitch.

CHEDDAR

Legend!

They all respond to this in varying cheers and slaps on the back. Femi steals a glance at the library clock, it's 6:50pm. He returns his gaze to his mates and continues his story.

INTERCUT WITH:

38 INT. ST GILBERT'S - CLASSROOM. DAY 10. 38

Ms Harper sits in the empty classroom. She checks her watch, waiting for Femi.

CUT TO:

39 INT. ST GILBERT'S - HEADMASTER'S OFFICE. DAY 10. 39

Bernard is at his desk busying himself. It's not clear if he's really working or just trying to tune out Abby.

ABBY

Why were the police here?

Bernard stays quiet.

ABBY (CONT'D)

Toby, Omar and Femi weren't at the Challenge. Why?

BERNARD

That's none of your concern.

ABBY

Well I am concerned. They're my friends.

BERNARD

Yes and they are *my* students. Was there anything else, Miss Ashford?

Abby scoffs - *pathetic*. Bernard defiantly holds her gaze. She crosses paths with Stanley, Chelsea and Preeya who appear as if they've been summoned.

Bernard holds up the vial.

BERNARD (CONT'D)

How did Carol get hold of the vial?

STANLEY

(lies really well)

No idea, Sir.

Preeya looks to her iPad.

PREEYA

Well first things first, we should get Omar's parents on the phone.

CHELSEA

We thought it might help for Preeya and I to speak with them first. From a PR standpoint, it's important that we contain this.

BERNARD

Omar has decided that he does not wish to draw attention to the matter, so it's best if we don't take it any further. Let it be a relief to us all.

Preeya and Chelsea look to one another with dread. Bernard clocks it.

PREEYA

(tentatively, re her iPad)

The school *is* currently going through a difficult chapter... we think adhering to all policies and protocols would probably be best, B.

Bernard tries to keep his annoyance under control. It's not what he wants to hear.

BERNARD

(reluctant)

...Fine. But after the fundraiser.

PREEYA

That's weeks away.

BERNARD

Without donations, the school cannot function.

(MORE)

BERNARD (CONT'D)

It certainly can't support our new scholarship students. The last thing I need right now is the donors getting a whiff of *another* shitstorm.

PREEYA

(concerned)

PR aside... We just saw Omar- ...We should at least contact the L.A.D.O-

BERNARD

My job is the wellbeing of the children. Not yours.

PREEYA

(pulls back)

Of course...

BERNARD

(to Stanley)

Stanley. Before the fundraiser I want you to enter every dorm room and confiscate every piece of contraband you find. I don't want to find so much as a cough drop on school grounds by the time you're done, do you hear me?

Stanley nods.

STANLEY

Maybe we should take away their phones... Turn off the internet? Stop them contacting their dealers?

BERNARD

Why not?

A surprised look from Chelsea and Preeya.

CHELSEA

B, I know things can feel like they're closing in on you, but you are hurtling towards a head on collision.

BERNARD

This is an incredibly difficult, turbulent position we are in, all of us, but it is my job to steady the ship.

(beyond genuine)

Omar's wellbeing is and will always be a priority and I *promise you all*, that the issue will be resolved.

(MORE)

BERNARD (CONT'D)

...But, for now, we must ensure the fundraiser goes off without a hitch. Is. That. Clear?

CUT TO:

39A EXT. ST GILBERT'S - CRICKET GREEN. DAY 10.

39A

Leah approaches Omar.

LEAH (O.S.)

Omar, where have you been all day?  
What happened?

OMAR

Can we just leave it.

LEAH

I can call Gus.

We can see Omar has had enough. He snatches Leah's phone from her hands.

OMAR

Listen to me, for once. Listen to what I want. I'm not a child... it's none of your business.

LEAH

I know, sorry, but-

OMAR

Leave. It. I'm fine! I'm fucking fine. Leave me alone.

He hangs up the phone and throws it back to her.

Omar storms off, out of sight of Leah. He pauses, struggling to catch his breath, completely out of sorts, hellbent on trying to keep it together. It's heartbreaking to watch...

40 OMITTED

40

**END.**