

DARK MONEY

Created & Written by
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-- EPISODE TWO --

"Valiant & Son"

SHOOTING SCRIPT

31/10/18

1 **EXT. ULC CINEMA RED CARPET. LEICESTER SQUARE - NIGHT** 1

The world premiere of *VALIANT & SON*. Premiere Guests walk up the carpet, greeting the film fans behind the barriers.

SUPER: OCTOBER 2018

Intense camera flashes from the Press - their lens all targeted on Isaac (now 14, Paul Pogba hairstyle). He looks debonair in a tailored designer suit. He forces a smile for the cameras, but it's all a bit much.

Manny, Sam and Tyrone (who has the same hairstyle as Isaac) are nearby watching on. Manny and Sam observe protectively. As Isaac does his photo call Manny notices...

... A glamorous middle-aged American couple (both white) striding down the red carpet. MIRA holds onto her silver haired husband's hand - JOTHAM STARR.

Sam notices Manny tense up, then sees the reason why.

Jotham is asked by the press to join Isaac in the photo call. He does so. Isaac looks uncomfortable, as does Sam - and Manny is angry.

Jotham gives their son a hug.

JOTHAM STARR
Hey Champ! How you doing?

Manny's fists ball up with hatred.

Jotham, Mira and Isaac pose for the press. Jotham puts his arm around Isaac, causing him to flinch slightly. Manny observes Jotham gripping tightly onto Isaac's shoulder, as he gives veneered smiles for the flash photography.

Sam sees Manny balling his fists. He mutters -

MANNY
I can't do this.

He moves towards Jotham. Sam's caught off guard... but then she smiles - pleased Manny is confronting Jotham.

CUT TO TITLES:

OPENING CREDITS **DARK MONEY**

FADE IN:

1A **EXT. ROAD NEAR THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY** 1A

As Manny's VW journeys down the road it passes a large billboard for *Valiant & Son*.

1B **I/E. MANNY'S VW GOLF / THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY** 1B

Sam parks in a bay. BEAT. Sam glances lovingly over to Isaac, who sits alongside her wearing his school uniform under his coat. He looks tense. Sam encourages -

SAM

You're doing so well. Keep going.

Isaac dismisses her with a groan and steps out of the car. A guilt-stricken Sam watches Isaac head towards the entrance.

1C **INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY** 1C

A bright, airy room. A nervous Isaac stares towards a window, wishing he was somewhere else. Opposite him is a THERAPIST (female, 50, white).

THERAPIST

When I was coming in this morning I saw a Valiant and Son poster on the tube platform.

Isaac gives the Therapist eye contact. He looks shy.

THERAPIST (CONT'D)

(sympathetic)

How does it feel knowing your face is all over town?

Isaac smiles modestly and then shrugs - unsure of how to answer.

THERAPIST (CONT'D)

Is it difficult to see?

Isaac doesn't know what Therapist means and remains silent. The Therapist tries a different approach.

THERAPIST (CONT'D)

Lyle Valiant looks like an interesting character. What kind of boy is he in the film?

ISAAC

He's... an adventurer.

THERAPIST
Is he strong, brave?

Isaac nods. The Therapist smiles warmly.

THERAPIST (CONT'D)
Would you say there are
similarities between you and Lyle
Valiant?

Isaac thinks hard - after what happened to him he doesn't see himself as brave, he feels like a coward. Isaac frowns with pained eyes. The Therapist picks up on this.

THERAPIST (CONT'D)
Does Lyle Valiant remind you of
what happened?

Isaac shoots a look to the window as he grips the arms of the chair, trying to control his anger. The Therapist continues the question.

THERAPIST (CONT'D)
... What happened with you and the
producer?

Isaac's had enough and storms out.

1D **I/E. MANNY'S VW GOLF / THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY** 1D

Sam sees Isaac storm out of the building. She checks the time - he's come out early. Sam jumps out of the car to meet him. He looks vexed.

SAM
What happened?

Isaac ignores his mum and keeps on walking towards the street.

SAM (CONT'D)
(pained)
Isaac?

2 **I/E. A BLACK CAB / NORTH LONDON HIGH STREET - DAY** 2

SUPER: TWO WEEKS PREVIOUSLY...

A pensive Manny sits in the back of a cab. In the palm of his freshly bandaged right hand is his mobile phone.

The cab turns off the high street and into a suburban road, lined with million pound detached houses, manicured lawns and premium cars parked outside their garages.

The CAB DRIVER (50, White) addresses Manny via the rearview mirror.

CAB DRIVER
Very nice houses around here.

MANNY
(didn't hear)
Sorry?

CAB DRIVER
Just saying the houses are very nice. You a sportsman? Or do you do that rap music?

Manny bites back at the stereotyping with -

MANNY
Nah, I'm the new leader of UKIP.

The Cab Driver looks confused - then realises Manny is joking and smirks.

3 **EXT. ISAAC'S HOUSE - DAY** 3

The Cab pulls up behind Manny's VW Golf and his new second-hand Porsche Cayenne. The vehicles are parked in front of his garage, beside a slightly overgrown front lawn.

Across the road, a nosey NEIGHBOUR (65, white) trims his already immaculate lawn. Manny catches his Neighbour staring and so waves hello. He waves back but Manny hurries to his door to prevent a conversation starting.

4 **INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - DAY** 4

Sam stands at the island counter in the large open plan kitchen. She is absorbed in putting her homemade cupcakes into individual boxes and sticking on labels that read '*Sammy's Delights*'.

Ryan watches curiously as he fixes the hood of the extractor fan. He can't help but cheekily comment-

RYAN
You sure you've got enough there?

SAM
These are for my friend's birthday party!

RYAN
How comes you've never introduced me to one of your friends?

SAM
You're far too young for any of them.

RYAN
Age ain't nothing but a number.

Sam playfully rolls her eyes at his cheesy response.

RYAN (CONT'D)
How's Jess? Ain't seen her in ages.

Sam puts on a brave face.

SAM
She's been busy with Uni.

Ryan can tell Sam is pretending to be okay about this.

RYAN
But you're still in contact, yeah?

SAM
Course!... We text... Which I know is not good enough...

Sam clearly misses her daughter. Ryan mulls.

RYAN
You should be careful, you know. If Isaac was my little brother, I'd be feeling a way. What he's doing is huge! Even I feel like I need to step up when I'm around him.

SAM
Really?

RYAN
The boy's got a multimillion pound film coming out and what am I doing? Odd jobs for clients that don't wanna pay full price!

SAM
(amused)
I'm staying out of that. That's
between you and your cousin.

5 **INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE - DAY** 5

Manny takes off his shoes and adds them to the bespoke shoe closet. He hears Sam and Ryan laughing and talking.

INTERCUT:

5A **INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS** 5A

Ryan eyeballs the cakes and cheekily asks -

RYAN
So... you gonna give me one to try?

SAM
No.

RYAN
(feigns hurt / mimics
Tyrone)
Is that how you're going on
Samantha? Alright, I'll remember
that.

SAM
(shudders)
Please, no Tyrone-attitude-ness.

RYAN
(amused)
Tyrone's cool, man.

SAM
I'm glad you're fond of him. Do me
a favour, take him with you when
you leave.

Ryan chuckles.

Manny's not impressed with Sam. He diverts to the garage.

RYAN
Kids like Tyrone need that hard
discipline. Less chat more *action*,
if you know what I mean?
(cheeky grin)
(MORE)

RYAN (CONT'D)

I know that might be a little different to how you might've been raised.

SAM

Where I was brought up no one was immune from a *clip round the ear*. Plus Tyrone's not my child to discipline... It's for Manny to do - but he doesn't do anything!

Ryan sees how stressed Sam is over Tyrone and so jests -

RYAN

Nothing at all? Not even -
(mimics Sam)
A clip round the ear?

Sam playfully throws a tea towel at Ryan. Ryan's happy he made her smile again.

6 **INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. GARAGE - DAY**

6

The space has been converted into Manny's 'man cave' and is filled with tech and entertainment products. As he sits in a lazy boy chair and tries to scratch an itch under his bandaged palm his mobile vibrates from a call. He checks the caller - it's 'Cheryl Denon'. Manny's heart sinks - his itch disappears. He contemplates whether to answer or not.

7 **INT. ST JUDE'S SECONDARY SCHOOL. ENGLISH CLASS ROOM - DAY**

7

A year nine English lesson. Isaac sits reading a passage from the play *Julius Caesar*. He reads as if he's giving a masterclass to the other pupils. His English teacher MR JOHNSON (white, male, 55) watches him with adoring eyes, forgetting everyone else in the room. His classmates aren't impressed by Isaac showing off.

ISAAC

*O, pardon me, thou bleeding piece
of earth, that I am meek and gentle
with these butchers!*

A pupil whispers something to his mate. They quietly snigger as they glance at Isaac. This distracts him.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Though-thou art the runs - ruins of
the nobl-est man that ever lived in
the tide of times.

A bored pupil exaggerates a yawn.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Woe to the hand that shed this
costly blood. Over thy wounds now
do I prophesy...

Isaac sees he has lost most of the attention of the room....

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Which, like dumb mouths, do open
their ruby lips, to beg the voice
and utterance of my tongue

... and so directs the speech in anger towards his class. Mr Johnson is enraptured by Isaac's delivery.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
A curse shall light upon the limbs
of men! Domestic fury and fierce
civil strife shall cumber all the
parts of Italy!

More quiet giggling at Isaac and Mr Johnson. Isaac overhears someone say "*he'll be giving him head next*". Isaac halts and glares in the direction of this comment. Mr Johnson snaps out of his gaze and rebukes the other pupils -

MR JOHNSON
Settle down or you'll be going
through this scene again in
detention.

The pupils quieten. Mr Johnson looks at Isaac to continue, however his confidence is now knocked.

7A **INT. ST JUDE'S SECONDARY SCHOOL. OUTSIDE ENGLISH CLASSROOM 7A**
DAY

Isaac exits the class with the other pupils. A taller pupil TERRY pushes past him. Isaac eyeballs him.

TERRY
I keep seeing your ugly face
everywhere. Your film looks crap.

Isaac nods to Terry's hairstyle.

ISAAC
Your *trim* looks crap.

TERRY
Whatever Isaac. I hope your film
flops.

Terry promptly walks away. Isaac's fires back with -

ISAAC
Your mum flopped last night!

- But Terry doesn't hear. Isaac looks wound up.

8

INT. ST JUDE'S SECONDARY SCHOOL. CORRIDOR - DAY

8

A sour-faced Isaac greets his mates Hayden and LUCAS (14, black) at the foot of a staircase.

LUCAS
What's wrong with you?

Isaac shakes his head, not wanting to talk about it.

HAYDEN
You still coming to my birthday?

ISAAC
(teases)
Is it still a "sleep over" thing?

HAYDEN
(unamused)
You don't have to stay over.

ISAAC
Who else is coming?

HAYDEN
Lucas, Shaun and my cousin Mark.

ISAAC
Some sausage fest.

Hayden looks at Isaac to explain his reaction.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
All that *man* in your house. Sounds
gay. We need fe-males.

HAYDEN
Like who?

ISAAC
I dunno. Any one. As long as
they're peng.

Year Eleven Girls TASHA (16, black) and LEONI (16, white) walk past. Isaac calls to them.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Yo, sweetnesses?

The girls ignore Isaac and ascend the stairs. Annoyed at being ignored Isaac tugs Tasha's skirt.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Oi, I'm calling you.

Tasha whips around fiercely and confronts Isaac.

TASHA
What you doing?

ISAAC
Less of that, yeah? My boy's got a birthday party and I know how you two like to chill with the man-dem... and we wanna chill with you... you can get to know more about us... and we can get to know more about what's underneath that skirt.

Hayden and Lucas are shocked at Isaac. Tasha shoves Isaac away and marches up the stairs with Leoni. They give dirty looks to the boys as they go.

Isaac nods in the girls' direction and does a poor Cuban accent, mimicking *Manny* from the film *Scarface* when he was rejected by females -

ISAAC (CONT'D)
"Bitch. Lesbian".

Unamused, Hayden and Lucas glare at Isaac with disapproval and walk on. Isaac looks surprised at their reaction.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
What, you not seen Scarface?

9

INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - DAY

9

Sam watches anxiously as Ryan chomps on one of her cupcakes. He's really into it.

SAM
Well?

Ryan finishes the cupcake. Sam eyeballs him to hurry up and give her an answer. He stalls by licking his fingers.

SAM (CONT'D)

Ryan?

RYAN

They're terrible.

Sam playfully whacks Ryan's shoulder. He giggles and now praises her.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Isaac's lucky to come home to this everyday.

The front door is heard closing. Sam pauses and waits to see who might come in... it's Tyrone. She tenses up. Tyrone dumps his school bag on the floor and heads for the filtered water tap...

TYRONE

Greetings.

... and drinks from the tap. Sam smiles through gritted teeth.

RYAN

Sup' Tyrone?

SAM

(checks the time)
You're home early.

TYRONE

Fire alarm.

SAM

Really?

TYRONE

Yep.
(poor Cuban accent)
"I always tell the truth. Even when I lie"

RYAN

(amused)
Is that from Scarface?

Tyrone fists bumps Ryan, delighted he gets the film reference. Sam rebukes Ryan with her eyes.

Manny enters with urgency, holding his mobile. He's stopped by the sight of Tyrone.

MANNY
How comes you're home early?

TYRONE
(weary at repeating
himself)
Fire alarm.

SAM
Hi.

Manny apologetically kisses Sam's cheek.

MANNY
Hey.

Awkward BEAT. Sam then addresses Ryan.

SAM
Can you give us a moment?

Ryan nods then puts his arm around Tyrone and heads out the room with him.

RYAN
Remember you said you was going to
show me how to play that Fortnite
game?

TYRONE
(baffled)
Did I?

Sam waits until Ryan and Tyrone disappears and then with great concern -

SAM
Isaac stormed out of his therapy
session.

MANNY
(hasty)
Really? Well, he'll be okay.

Sam looks away, annoyed at Manny's rushed response. Manny picks up on this and responds with more care.

MANNY (CONT'D)
I'll talk to him later. Look, did
you get a call from Cheryl Denon?

Sam's thrown by this - the last thing she thought Manny would say. Her countenance drops.

SAM
I, I... Dunno, my phone's
charging... Why?

Manny shows his mobile. On the screen it shows a missed call from Cheryl Denon. Sam exhales wearily.

SAM (CONT'D)
Lemme check my phone.

Sam goes to leave the room.

MANNY
Hold up!

Sam stops. Manny shows his mobile is vibrating from another call from Cheryl Denon. Sam looks expectantly at Manny to answer. He stares back at his wife, unsure. Sam grabs his phone and heads out to the garden.

10 **EXT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. GARDEN - CONTINUOUS** 10

Manny follows Sam outside. Sam answers Cheryl's call -

SAM
... Hello?

INTERCUT:

11 **INT. YONDER STARR FILMS. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY** 11

An anxious Cheryl sits with her mobile to her ear. She seems confused by the female voice on the line.

CHERYL DENON
Hello...? Sorry, I think I've
called the wrong number -

SAM
It's okay Cheryl, it's Sam, I just
picked up Manny's mobile.

CHERYL DENON
(relieved)
Oh... oh, good, good. Er... how are
you Sam?

SAM
(stand-offish)
Fine.

CHERYL DENON
And Isaac?

SAM
Fine.

CHERYL DENON
Good... you'll probably see a
missed call from me on your mobile,
apologies for that... I touched
down in London this morning and...
would it be possible to visit
tonight to discuss *Valiant and Son*?

Sam's heart sinks.

CHERYL DENON (CONT'D)
I can come to you. I hear you've
moved into a new place?

Manny's desperate to find out what Cheryl is saying. Sam
looks back at Manny with dread.

As Cheryl waits for Sam's response she looks nervously over
her shoulder. Behind her is an intimidating EXECUTIVE of high
rank, who monitors Cheryl to make sure she follows orders.

12 **INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. MANNY & SAM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT** 12

Sam's sat on her bed fretting over the impending arrival of
Cheryl. Above the bed is a canvas photo from 19 years ago of
Manny and a heavily pregnant Sam, posing outside a registry
office on their wedding day.

Manny enters and sees his wife. He knows exactly what she's
feeling. He goes over and puts a hand on her shoulder. She
puts her hand on top of his with appreciation and unity.

13 **INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - NIGHT** 13

Isaac's at the table, worrying about what Cheryl Denon has to
say. Sam sweeps the floor, fretting over every particle she
finds.

As Manny fills a jug with water he observes Isaac looking
increasingly stressed. He catches his father's eye and so
feigns a yawn, trying to appear normal.

Tyrone saunters into the kitchen. Everyone goes silent. As he heads for the food cupboard the brothers greet each other pretending to be characters from Scarface.

TYRONE
(poor Cuban accent)
Hey, Manny!

ISAAC
(poor Cuban accent)
Hey, Tony!

Sam eyeballs Manny. He gets defensive.

MANNY
What am I meant to do, padlock my
DVDs?

Tyrone rummages through the cupboard.

SAM
What you up to?

TYRONE
Making cereal.

SAM
What, now?

Tyrone ignores Sam. She throws a look at Manny, demanding he makes Tyrone hurry up. Manny exhales, gets the milk from the fridge and hands it to Tyrone. He nonchalantly pours milk into an empty bowl and moves away from the cereal. Manny's puzzled. Tyrone answers -

TYRONE
I want hot milk.

This raises an amused smile from Isaac. Tyrone slowly bops over to the microwave and puts in his bowl. He intentionally takes his time to select a heating option.

MANNY
(warning)
Tyrone!

The doorbell rings. Manny, Sam and Isaac are startled. Tyrone thinks this is weird. As Sam heads for the door Manny interrupts the microwave, takes the bowl out and hands it and the box of cereal to Tyrone.

MANNY (CONT'D)
Just take it all upstairs!

14 **INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE - NIGHT** 14

Sam reaches the front door, composes herself and opens. Jess (now 20) stands on the doorstep. Sam looks surprised.

SAM
Oh. I didn't know you were coming.

JESS
(not impressed)
Didn't know I had to call ahead.

Sam gives Jess an apologetic hug. As she does she looks out to the street for any sign of Cheryl.

TYRONE (O.S.)
What's up Jess?

Sam and Jess see a nosey Tyrone stroll up the stairs, with his bowl of milk and cereal.

15 **INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - NIGHT** 15

Manny and Sam watch from across the room as the siblings embrace. Isaac's happy to see Jess.

JESS
How you been?

Isaac nods he's okay. Awkward BEAT.

ISAAC
How's your place?

JESS
It's alright.
(playfully eyeballs the kitchen)
How's your place?

ISAAC
(smiles warmly)
It's... alright.

SAM
Do you want something to eat?

JESS
Nah, I'm not staying long. Just wanted a quick word... erm...
Honestly, I wouldn't ask this if there was like, another way...
(MORE)

JESS (CONT'D)
like, honestly I... It's um...
it's...

MANNY
Avril Allen would be
(mimics Avril Allen)
"most displeased" with all this 'um-
ing and er-ing'

Sam and Isaac are amused, but Jess is not. Feeling challenged she speaks out forcefully -

JESS
Can you lend me some money?

Manny and Sam's faces drop.

JESS (CONT'D)
Just a couple of hundred quid for
my rent.

MANNY
Why don't you stop being stubborn
and move home!

Sam steps in front of Manny to calm him. Jess ignores her father and continues.

JESS
Can you help your big sis out?

MANNY
You're unbelievable!

Jess turns on her dad.

JESS
You're going on like it's your
money. It's his money. He worked
for it, not you!

The doorbell rings and Manny freezes as does Sam. They look at each other, knowing who is at the door.

16

EXT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. GARDEN - NIGHT

16

A reserved Manny, Sam and Isaac sit by the pool with Cheryl. They are lit by the kitchen, where Jess sits stubbornly in her chair, waiting. Cheryl nods to Manny's bandaged hand.

CHERYL DENON
What happened?

MANNY
Cut it - cooking.

CHERYL DENON
(sympathetic)
Oh, sorry to hear that.

PAUSE. Cheryl looks at her surroundings.

CHERYL DENON (CONT'D)
This is a really nice house. I'm
glad some good came out of the
situation.

SAM
(irritated)
Some good?

CHERYL DENON
I didn't mean... sorry.

Cheryl takes a moment and starts again -

CHERYL DENON (CONT'D)
Um, as you know the world premiere
is around the corner. Personally
I'm absolutely delighted it's being
hosted here in the UK,
(to Manny)
at your prestigious movie theatre.

Manny gives Cheryl an impatient look. She shifts
uncomfortably at what she's about to say next.

CHERYL DENON (CONT'D)
However, unfortunately... and I
know this will be unwelcome news...
um... Jotham Starr will also be in
attendance.

Isaac exhales with foreboding. Manny buries his head in his
hands. Sam's in shock.

SAM
You're taking the piss, right?

Cheryl looks away as she shakes her head, feeling guilty. Sam
flips.

SAM (CONT'D)
But you lot said we wouldn't see
him again! Why's he attending?
What's he coming for?

Cheryl remains silent.

SAM (CONT'D)
Answer me!

Cheryl gives Sam eye contact and responds powerlessly -

CHERYL DENON
... It is his film.

Sam fumes. Manny puts a hand on her knee and glares at Cheryl.

MANNY
Anything else?

Cheryl looks extremely uncomfortable.

CHERYL DENON
Um... The press junket is all but
finalised -
(on Manny & Sam's blank
faces / explains)
The film's promotion across TV,
Internet, print etcetera.

Cheryl's hands quiver slightly as she shows Manny and Sam a press schedule on her tablet.

CHERYL DENON (CONT'D)
The schedule is pretty full on...
(attempts to humour)
So Isaac may need to contact school
to - 'call in sick'.

Manny and Sam are unamused. Cheryl refers back to her tablet.

CHERYL DENON (CONT'D)
The schedule has been arranged so
Isaac can warm up to the major
interviews. So he'll start with
local press and online, then in the
second block we have a range of
major interviews such as...
Chat:Tonight!

Manny and Sam react adversely to this.

SAM
Chat:Tonight!? No, that's way
too much.

MANNY
Whoa, I'm not sure about
that.

*

CHERYL DENON

Mitch and Leti will be there too,
so most of the questions will be
directed to them.

Manny & Sam aren't convinced and Isaac looks unsure. Cheryl
reluctantly informs the family.

CHERYL DENON (CONT'D)

I understand your concerns, but
this is set up as a 'key cast
invite'. If he doesn't appear...
there will be questions.

SAM

Then just say he's 'sick'. If it
can work for him missing school it
can work for bloody *Chat:Tonight!*

Cheryl gazes at the floor as she reluctantly reminds the
couple -

CHERYL DENON

I'm obliged to remind you that
Isaac is under contract.

Sam feels literally gagged. Manny tries to gauge how Isaac
feels. BEAT. Isaac shrugs and then exhales from the pressure.

ISAAC

I should do it... if I don't,
people might start talking.

MANNY

No one's going to start talking.

ISAAC

They might.

Manny and Sam see how fearful their son is. This sobers Sam
and she nods with understanding. Manny's refilled with guilt.

MANNY

Will that *man* be there?

CHERYL DENON

No, he's only scheduled to attend
the premiere.

MANNY

What's the plan in regards to us
and him and the premiere? The NDA
didn't specify how -

CHERYL DENON
(interjects)
Sorry, but I'm not allowed to talk
about the NDA.

SAM
Well we want to talk about that
bloody NDA!

CHERYL DENON
(scared)
I'm sorry... I can't.

Sam stands up and jabs her finger towards Cheryl. Manny half-
heartedly tries to pull his wife back to her seat.

SAM
Don't start that 'sorry' shit
again! You're not sorry!

Isaac's had enough and gets up. The adults look at him.

ISAAC
I'm gonna um, I'm gonna -
(can't be bothered to
explain)
I'mma leave you lot to it.

The adults look guilty as Isaac retreats to the kitchen.

17

INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - NIGHT

17

Jess watches a heated Isaac come in and slump into a chair.
He stares into space. BEAT.

JESS
Everything alright?

Isaac nods without giving eye contact. Jess's curious as to
what's wrong.

Tyrone bounces into the room with his empty bowl and box of
cereal. He takes a look at Cheryl outside.

TYRONE
Who's that woman?

Isaac doesn't hear, he's lost in thought. Jess answers for
him.

JESS
Some Hollywood exec, I think.

TYRONE

(teases)

This might be your chance. Get out there and get her digits.

JESS

I don't need her number.

TYRONE

Whaaat? So you don't wanna go Hollywood?

JESS

Young Tyrone, there's more to acting than Hollywood.

TYRONE

Yeah, obviously, cos there's also Bollywood and Nollywood.

Jess rolls her eyes, unimpressed at Tyrone's humour.

TYRONE (CONT'D)

But Hollywood, man... that's Champions League football right there! How you let Isaac beat you to it?

JESS

Beat me to what? Tyrone, just -
(dismisses)
do what you're doing, yeah.

TYRONE

(to Isaac)

Aren't you surprised that you're way ahead in the game than her?

Isaac comes out of his thoughts and gives Tyrone a quizzical glance.

TYRONE (CONT'D)

For example, like, if both of you were going for the Lyle Valiant part, who would've got it?

ISAAC

Lyle Valiant is a boy, so -

TYRONE

Alright, but if the part could've been a boy or a girl?

ISAAC
(doesn't believe this)
What? Nah, man.

JESS
You think Dad would've let me miss
the amount of school you did?

ISAAC
Yeah.

JESS
Trust me Isaac, if he did then that
would be my 'Hollywood exec' sat
out there.

Isaac responds with his own mocking laughter.

JESS (CONT'D)
(offended)
Excuse me?

Tyrone enjoys watching the tension simmer.

ISAAC
It took loads of hard work to get
Valiant and Son. Loads of
auditions. Loads! It's not luck!

JESS
Oh, get over yourself.

ISAAC
I thought you of all people would
understand what it takes.

TYRONE
(poor Cuban accent)
Tell her what it takes!

ISAAC
You need to be good! You need *real*
talent!

TYRONE
(poor Cuban accent)
Real talent!

JESS
No you don't.

ISAAC
(shocked)
W... what?

JESS

Don't get me wrong there's loads of amazing actors out there, but is that why you got *Valiant and Son*? Maybe it wasn't talent. Maybe it's your look? Polite, English and Mixed Race - to paraphrase Zendaya you're "Hollywood's acceptable version of a Black boy".

Isaac's offended. Tyrone looks at his brother and goads with -

TYRONE

Are you gonna have that?

JESS

I'm just saying maybe you got the film because
(eyeballs Isaac up and down)
they *liked* the look of you...

Isaac fumes at Jess's comments.

18

INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. GARDEN - NIGHT

18

Cheryl talks to Manny and Sam. Behind them in the kitchen Isaac can be seen squaring up to Jess.

CHERYL DENON

For press week Yonder Starr have agreed that I should be Isaac's publicity liaison officer. I'll be looking after Isaac during all interviews.

SAM

(to Manny)

Hang on, wasn't Cordelia going to sort out a publicity officer for Isaac?

CHERYL DENON

I've spoken to Isaac's agent. She agrees that it would be better if Isaac had a familiar face with him, that can help him stay 'on-message'.

SAM

Oh, I get it. You're here to make sure he doesn't reveal to the world that your boss is a paedophile.

Manny puts his hand to his head at Sam enflaming things.

CHERYL DENON
(stressed)
No.... That's not it -

SAM (CONT'D)
That's what all this is
about, admit it!

SAM (CONT'D)
I've read the articles about
actresses coming out and exposing
these dirty old men. You're scared
Isaac's gonna do the same!

CHERYL DENON
I for one am proud of the women who
have found the strength and courage
to speak out.

SAM
Bullshit!

MANNY
(warning she might be
heard)
Sam, the neighbours.

SAM (CONT'D)
It's bullshit! It's all
bullshit!

CHERYL DENON
Sam, those men deserve everything
that's coming to them!

SAM
Including Jotham?

Even Manny waits for Cheryl's answer. PAUSE. Manny's
unimpressed with Cheryl's silence. Sam launches into Cheryl.

SAM (CONT'D)
You're all about protecting that
nonce and keeping your job!

CHERYL DENON
(drained)
Please Sam...

SAM (CONT'D)
The only reason we're not
breaking our NDA is because
of Isaac. We're not putting
him through that public hell.
But don't take that to mean
we've forgiven and forgotten,
because we ain't - and we
won't!

CHERYL DENON
(firm)
Look, we must all try to move on!

These words sting Manny. He takes the baton.

MANNY

Move on? Cheryl, there's no moving on. Not until he accounts for what he did.

Sam glances at her husband and nods - they're in accord.

Suddenly the moment is disturbed by the sound of glass smashing on the kitchen floor. Manny rushes to the kitchen.

19

INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - NIGHT

19

Manny hurries in to see Tyrone trying to pull Isaac away from Jess. Isaac and Jess are both in tears.

MANNY

What is this?

The teenagers fall silent. Sam sees the shattered remains of a drinking glass on the floor then shoots daggers at Tyrone.

TYRONE

Why you looking at me?

JESS

Because you caused all of this!

ISAAC

No, you caused all of this!

Manny's aware that Cheryl's watching from the garden.

MANNY

Calm down.

JESS

(not interested)

Just focus on your love child and your golden boy, yeah?

Jess directs her angry at Isaac.

JESS (CONT'D)

And you, don't call me or message me. I'm done with you!

ISAAC

I'm done with you!

Jess grabs her things and goes to leave. Manny hangs his head in defeat. Sam pleads -

SAM

Jess!

Sam observes Tyrone smirking at Jess's departure. This infuriates her. She approaches him.

SAM (CONT'D)

Think this is funny?

TYRONE

(deadpan)

It's hilarious.

MANNY

GO UPSTAIRS!

Tyrone belligerently steps over the broken glass as he goes.

TYRONE

(poor Cuban accent)

Say goodnight to the bad guy!

Sam shoots daggers at Manny and demands -

SAM

He needs to leave!

Manny looks unsure.

SAM (CONT'D)

I mean it! He has to go!

20 **EXT. ISAAC'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

20

An upset Jess walks away from the house. A little further down on the other side sits journalist Dominic Nadesan in his car. As Jess passes he consults his tablet. On it is a family photo of the Mensahs including Jess. He makes a mental note.

21 **I/E. MANNY'S VW GOLF / OUTSIDE SABRINA'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

21

Manny parks up and walks nervously to Sabrina's. He reaches the door... but has second thoughts about ringing the bell... but knows he needs to talk about Tyrone. He presses the buzzer.

22

INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. ISAAC'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

22

A master bedroom with an en suite bathroom and walk in wardrobe, containing everything a 14-year-old in 2018 would love to have, from a couple of widescreen TVs (one hooked to a console the other for television viewing) to glass cabinets filled with a collection of exclusive trainers. On the wall is Isaac's Lyle Valiant poster (from Epl).

Sam observes an intense Isaac using a marker pen to blot out the logo of one of his premium trainers. He's deep in thought, recalling the evening. Sam tries to encourage him -

SAM

I don't think you should give up on therapy.

ISAAC

Waste of time.

SAM

It can help.

ISAAC

No it won't.

SAM

How can you be so sure?

ISAAC

(annoyed)

I don't wanna talk, why won't you listen?

Sam goes to put an arm around Isaac but he moves away.

23

INT. SABRINA'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - NIGHT

23

Manny stares at wall photos of Sabrina and Tyrone. Sabrina teases Manny about his bandaged hand.

SABRINA

I heard you try turn Ainsley Harriott and nearly died.

MANNY

Yeah, something like that.

As Sabrina washes dirty dishes Manny helps to dry.

SABRINA

You coming from work?

MANNY

Nah, day off.

SABRINA

I commend your loyalty to that place.

MANNY

Is that a compliment or a diss?

SABRINA

It's a compliment! I mean, you're probably the first employee of ULC Cinemas that drives a Porsche.

MANNY

A second hand Porsche!... Plus I'm sure the chief exec has one.

SABRINA

Mmmhmm and when was the last time he served popcorn in one of his cinemas?

MANNY

Do we have to chat about that place?

SABRINA

But I had some fun times at ULC.

MANNY

I don't remember you ever having fun there.

Sabrina looks pointedly at Tyrone's baby photo. Manny looks embarrassed. Sabrina's finished the plates.

SABRINA

Now, I've got an early start tomorrow, so...?

MANNY

Yeah, sorry, sorry. Erm...

Manny pauses as he thinks of how to begin. Sabrina analyses him and assumes she knows why he's here.

SABRINA

What have you done to Sam? Or what you hiding from Sam? Or what -

MANNY

Nothing!

SABRINA

Is it Tyrone?

Manny's pride stops him from answering yes. Unsure, Sabrina tests Manny by offering to squirt some washing up liquid into his hands. Manny looks confused.

SABRINA (CONT'D)

Ready to wash your hands off him?

MANNY

No!

SABRINA

He told me your wife goes on at him
- a lot.

MANNY

Yeah, and when he's here aren't you
going on at him?

SABRINA

Yeah, about his school work, his
attitude to learning, not how he
'chews' or how loud he laughs.

Manny thinks for a moment then defends Sam.

MANNY

Well that pisses me off too. Along
with having to remind him to
shower, not put plastics in the
paper bin, not scraping his plate
properly before putting it in the
dishwasher.

She sarcastically offers him the washing up liquid again. Manny rejects it. BEAT. Sabrina carefully approaches Manny with -

SABRINA

Do you think with everything that's
happened to Isaac, it might have
made things at home more... tricky?

MANNY

(worried)
What things?

SABRINA

Just... his success. He's not a
regular kid anymore.

MANNY

(firm)
No, it's not Isaac's fault...
but... I'll be real with you...
(regretful smile)
... the money's an issue.

Sabrina shakes her head in disagreement.

SABRINA

But that money came because of
Isaac's talent. Then you bettered
yourselves. That's what everyone
dreams of.

An uncomfortable Manny shakes his head.

SABRINA (CONT'D)

There's nothing wrong with
financial reward. Be proud of it!

MANNY

Don't say that!

SABRINA

(amused)
Stop the modesty. You know you're a
role model right?

MANNY

(horrified)
What?

SABRINA

For all those fathers out there.
Showing what can happen when you
put your all into raising your
children...
(reflects on their co-
parenting journey)
Even if the circumstances aren't
ideal.

Sabrina looks for Manny to agree... however he seems
extremely uncomfortable at what she said.

MANNY

Look, I'm gonna go.

Sabrina looks concerned.

SABRINA

You can talk to me, you know?

Sabrina holds his arm and he averts her gaze. Sabrina believes there's something bigger going on. Before she can probe further Manny kisses Sabrina on the cheek with appreciation and heads for the exit.

24 **I/E. MANNY'S CAR / ISAAC'S STREET - NIGHT** 24

Manny dawdles towards home. Each house he passes causes the house's security light to come on, putting the 'spotlight' on him, as if judging him guilty.

25 **INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. MANNY & SAM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT** 25

The lights are off. Sam is in bed and illuminated by a messaging app on her mobile. Sam giggles quietly at a funny meme sent by Ryan. She messages him - '*thanks. I needed that x*'. Ryan responds with a smiley face and '*hang in there x*'

Manny enters. Sam turns serious and looks at him expectantly.

SAM
Hi?

MANNY
Hi.

Manny avoids eye contact as he gets dressed for bed. BEAT.

SAM
Did you talk to Sabrina?

MANNY
Erm... nah... She wasn't in.

Sam looks disappointed and sits up. Manny braces himself, expecting to be challenged, but instead she smiles to herself as she reminisces.

SAM
Remember when Jess used to put on plays with her teddy bears?... And that time she got Isaac involved... and drew all over his face with my eyebrow pencil that she stole.

Manny smiles with fondness.

MANNY
Ah, you talking about 'makeup-gate'?

Sam nods wistfully.

MANNY (CONT'D)

What was he meant to be again, a Zebra?

SAM

No, a lion. They were doing their version of The Lion king. He played Simba.

Sam remembers how innocent this period was. Her smile fades - she misses these simpler times. Manny puts his arm around his wife, feeling the same way.

25A

INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. ISAAC'S BEDROOM - DAY

25A

Morning. Isaac's putting on his school tie as he watches a clip on his laptop of an interview on *Chat:Tonight!* He makes a mental note of how relaxed the Celebrity being interviewed is - legs crossed, constantly gesticulating and grinning at every opportunity. Isaac feels the pressure for his own interview later, so much so he struggles to do his tie properly. There's a knock on the door. Isaac sighs and pauses the clip.

ISAAC

Yeah?

A nervous Manny enters with a warm smile.

MANNY

You okay?

ISAAC

Yes.

Manny spots the *Chat:Tonight!* clip on Isaac's laptop.

MANNY

You still wanna do the interview?

ISAAC

Yep.

MANNY

What about the premiere?

Isaac hesitates then looks fearful. Manny senses why and reassures.

MANNY (CONT'D)

If you still wanna go you've got nothing to worry about, because I'll be right by your side, for the whole thing. And if he's got any sense he'll keep his distance.

Manny puts a firm hand on Isaac's shoulder.

MANNY (CONT'D)

Trust me.

BEAT. Isaac nods, absorbing what his dad said.

26 **INT. ST JUDE'S SECONDARY SCHOOL. MATHS CLASS ROOM - DAY** 26

Isaac's sat next to Hayden. The pupils are working on questions in an exercise book and being overseen by their teacher MISS JONES (45, white). Isaac stares at the sums in front of him but can't concentrate, he's stressing about his television interview later. He taps his pen on his paper as he stares at the wall clock - it's 12 o'clock. BEAT.

The Headteacher knocks the classroom door and beckons Isaac. He takes a deep breath and packs away his things.

MISS JONES

Take worksheets 2A and 2B with you, to do while you're away.

Isaac nods and stuffs the loose worksheets into his bag. He offers Hayden a fist bump. A resigned Hayden half-heartedly bumps his fist and checks -

HAYDEN

Sure you can't come tonight?

ISAAC

(apologetic)

Sorry, bruv. I can't miss my TV interview.

Isaac goes to the door. Miss Jones tells the class -

MISS JONES

Everyone wish Isaac luck!

The class give him half-hearted smiles with a few reluctant "good lucks" & "see you later". Hayden stays silent. Isaac sighs, let down by the lack of support.

27

INT. OUTSIDE MATHS CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

27

Isaac comes out of the room, playing the big shot. His Headteacher has a serious look on her face.

ISAAC

My car outside yeah?

HEADTEACHER

Yes, but before you go I just wanted to have a brief word. Tasha and Leoni from 11B informed me that you tried to lift up their skirts.

ISAAC

Whaaat? *Bare* lies!

HEADTEACHER

I also have witnesses that say you called them a 'bitch' and 'lesbian'.

Isaac struggles to mask his amusement at his Headteacher quoting Scarface.

HEADTEACHER (CONT'D)

You find that funny?

ISAAC

(sobers)

No Miss. But I didn't pull their skirts up... I only tugged on Tasha's, but like really quickly. It weren't even a 'tug' tug.

HEADTEACHER

What makes you think you can touch her in that way? You have absolutely no right to be touching pupils.

ISAAC

Listen yeah, I touched her skirt, not her leg.

(feeling aggrieved / to himself)

Damn, have skirts got feelings now?

The Headteacher restrains herself from going ballistic.

HEADTEACHER

I know you've got your big interview today so I won't disrupt that, but I will be following up with your parents tomorrow.

Isaac's had enough of listening and walks off.

HEADTEACHER (CONT'D)

Isaac?

28

INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - DAY

28

Manny carefully reads the North London Gazette's interview with Isaac titled - 'A Valiant Son - Isaac Mensah on going from Local Talent to a Hollywood Star'

As he studies the article he is distracted by his mum Maggie who's at the counter unloading her shopping trolley bag of containers of cooked Ghanaian food and a bunch of Plantain.

MAGGIE

The large container is for you. It has extra pepper in it.

MANNY

I told you about my blood pressure.

MAGGIE

Your blood pressure is up because you're living above your means.

MANNY

Mum, I love you but please stop.

Isaac enters the kitchen followed by a proud Sam and Isaac's Stylist HAYLEY (26). Isaac wears a designer blazer over a t-shirt and designer trainers. Manny and Maggie are impressed.

MANNY (CONT'D)

Check you, though!

MAGGIE

Wow-wow-wow-wow!

Isaac hugs his Grandma.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

I have something for you!

Maggie digs out of her trolley bag a bunch of semi-crushed carnation flowers and hands to Isaac.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

These are to say good luck for when your film comes out.

(MORE)

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

I thought these would be more appropriate than buying you more computer game vouchers.

An amused Sam stifles a smirk at the misshaped flowers. Isaac awkwardly holds the flowers.

ISAAC

Er... thanks Grandma.

Maggie spots Isaac's trainers and looks unimpressed.

MAGGIE

Is he going in trainers?

SAM

Yep. We want him to look 14 not 44.

MAGGIE

Don't you want him to look smart?

SAM

(irritated)

Well our professional stylist thinks he looks fine. Don't you Hayley?

Hayley looks between the two then gives an awkward nod. Maggie shakes her head, bewildered by this fashion choice.

MANNY

(checking the time)

Okay, the driver will be here soon.

ISAAC

Oh Dad, Tyrone texted me to say he's on his way home.

SAM

We'll probably be gone by the time he arrives. Maybe he can come to the next interview.

Isaac looks disappointed.

MAGGIE

(to Manny)

Shall I cook some plantain, since your hand is still wrapped up?

MANNY

(pleasantly surprised)

Okay, yes please.

SAM
No, there's no time for that.

MAGGIE
It's only because of his hand.

SAM
If anything I can cook them later.

MAGGIE
(doubtful)
You?

Sam looks deeply offended.

SAM
After twenty bloody years with your
son don't you think I should know
how to cook his food?

Maggie's now offended by Sam's tone. The front door is heard closing, causing Sam to quietly exhale - knowing it's Tyrone.

MANNY
Mum you want a lift?

MAGGIE
(pride bruised)
No thank you.
(hugs Isaac)
My prince, have a wonderful time.

Tyrone enters, slightly muddy from school football practice.

TYRONE
Hi.

Sam greets him with a forced smile. Maggie does the same. Isaac's delighted Tyrone's made it home in time and they slap palms.

MAGGIE
Tyrone, I brought some plantain.
Maybe your step mum will cook you
some later. God bless you all.

Sam rolls her eyes at Maggie undermining her. Maggie hurries out and Manny follows. Tyrone admires Isaac's attire.

TYRONE
Smart cazh' yeah? Can I still come?

ISAAC
Yeah, but you gotta be quick.

Tyrone pulls a can of deodorant from his bag.

TYRONE
Lemme just spray a little Lynx and
I'm good to go.

SAM
(not getting he's joking /
curt)
No! You'll go upstairs and shower!

TYRONE
I was joking! Damn.

Tyrone leaves the room and Sam eyeballs him. Isaac catches her and is offended for his brother.

29 **EXT. TELEVISION CENTRE - DAY** 29

A people carrier pulls into the 'talent entrance'. Out of the vehicle steps Manny, Sam, Isaac and Tyrone. Isaac takes in the building and psychs himself up. Tyrone rubs his shoulders like a boxing trainer.

Manny and Sam stare at the imposing building and feel intimidated. Manny slowly moves to hold Sam's hand, however she doesn't notice and instead hooks her arm around Isaac.

30 **INT. TELEVISION CENTRE. BACKSTAGE CORRIDOR - DAY** 30

A STUDIO ASSISTANT (24) leads the Mensahs to Cheryl Denon.

CHERYL DENON
Isaac you look fantastic.

Cheryl spots Tyrone and is surprised to see him.

SAM
(On Cheryl's surprise)
Sorry, I know I never mentioned -

ISAAC
(interrupts / to Cheryl)
I wanted my brother to come. Is
that alright?

Sam looks at Isaac, surprised at him interrupting her. Cheryl looks uncertain but nevertheless says -

CHERYL DENON
I'm sure it won't be a problem.
(to Studio Assistant)
(MORE)

CHERYL DENON (CONT'D)
Can you take Isaac's guests to
their seats? Isaac, I'll take you
to the green room.

MANNY
What's the green room?

CHERYL DENON
It's the lounge where all of the
show's guests wait to be called.

MANNY
I'm not sure about that.

SAM
Yeah, we should wait with him,
until he's called.

CHERYL DENON
There's absolutely nothing to worry
about. I'll be there with him.

SAM
(sotto)
We've heard that before.

MANNY
I'll go with Isaac.

SAM
No, I will go with Isaac.
(on Manny's reaction)
And you will stay with Tyrone.

Sam pierces Manny with her adamant stare. He falls back.

31 **INT. TELEVISION STUDIO. GREEN ROOM - DAY**

31

The Studio Assistant takes a selfie with Isaac, then scampers
away.

Isaac sits down in the middle of Sam and Cheryl. The
atmosphere is awkward. Sam keeps her coat on and arms folded
as Cheryl attempts to loosen up the atmosphere. She pours a
glass of champagne for herself and Sam. She offers to Sam -

SAM
No thanks.

Cheryl then offers to Isaac -

CHERYL DENON
Isaac?

Sam's aghast. Cheryl puts the glass on the table and smiles -

CHERYL DENON (CONT'D)
Just an attempt at humour. Sorry.

Sam doesn't appreciate Cheryl's humour.

The door opens and in come Isaac's fellow lead actors in *Valiant & Son* MITCH COLNEY (44, white American, rugged looks) and LETI ANDERSON (32, white American, model looks) and their entourage of assistants.

MITCH COLNEY
Isaac!

Mitch bear hugs Isaac.

ISAAC
Hi 'Dad'!

MITCH COLNEY
You been a good boy? Remember I
have spies "*all around the galaxy*".

Sam tries to smile through how uncomfortable she is with this exchange. Leti's next to hug Isaac.

LETI ANDERSON
Hello baby!

Leti then strokes Isaac's chest as she admires his stature.

LETI ANDERSON (CONT'D)
You're getting taller.

Sam steps closer to Isaac to be seen. Leti takes her hands off Isaac and attempts to flatter Sam.

LETI ANDERSON (CONT'D)
You must be his girlfriend?

SAM
Girlfriend? No I'm his mum, Sam.

LETI ANDERSON
Mom? No way! Isaac you never told
me your mom was so beautiful...
(spots Sam's heels)
... and has amazing Galobellas. You
must tell me where you got them
from.

The compliments causes a smile to grow on Sam's face.

32

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - DAY

32

Manny and Tyrone are sat in their seats. Behind them is an unoccupied seat. Tyrone's unimpressed by the set and covertly films it with his mobile.

TYRONE

This set looks budget.

Manny places a finger on his lips to Tyrone. He lowers his voice.

TYRONE (CONT'D)

It's like something built on,
what's that programme you showed
me, that you used to watch as a kid
- 'Black Peter'?

MANNY

Blue Peter. And put your phone
away.

Tyrone nods, but continues to secretly film.

The seat behind them gets occupied. Manny's shoulder is tapped. Manny turns around to see who it is - it's Dominic.

DOMINIC

Hello Mr Mensah. I don't know if
you remember me? I'm Dominic
Nadesan. We were in contact briefly
last year about a story you had.

Manny panics. The only thing he can think to say is...

MANNY

We're not interested, thanks.

... and turns back around. Dominic leans forward and whispers.

DOMINIC

Your story means a lot to me. I
have a young son too.

Tyrone gives Dominic an odd look, wondering what he's saying. On noticing this, Manny snaps back around and angrily repeats-

MANNY

I said we're not interested.

We hear "three" "two" "one" followed by the audience standing up in rapturous applause. Dominic encourages Manny.

DOMINIC (CONT'D)
People are breaking their silence.
You're not alone.

The CHAT SHOW HOST runs on to set and greets the audience.

Manny joins in with the clapping, blocking out Dominic.

33

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO. GREEN ROOM - DAY

33

A television screen shows a live feed of the Chat Show Host doing their opening monologue in the studio.

Mitch, Leti and Isaac are all preparing themselves to go in front of the studio audience. Mitch frets to his entourage about how his nerves are making him feel nauseous. Leti is given some smelling salts by her assistant to perk her up. Isaac quietly mutters to himself his favourite tongue twister, but is distracted by a nervous Sam and Cheryl.

ISAAC
She sells sea shells on the seashore. She sells sea shells on the seashore.

CHERYL DENON
You'll be asked a question about your first day on set... *

ISAAC
She sells sea shells on the seashore.

CHERYL DENON (CONT'D)
... then you can answer with your 'personal assistant - iPhone' material. The audience will love that.

ISAAC
She sells sea shells on the seashore. She sells sea shells on the seashore -
(getting annoyed)
Okay!

SAM
But if he asks you anything that makes you feel uncomfortable - don't answer, okay?

ISAAC
She shells she shells on the she-
(realising he's messed up)
AHH!

CHERYL DENON
(side glances Sam while reassuring Isaac)
You'll be fine.

CHAT SHOW HOST (V.O.)
Let's bring on some guests!

Isaac groans at not feeling prepared.

CHAT SHOW HOST (V.O.)

Later we'll be having a performance from The Youngers, but first I'd like to welcome to the sofa the cast of the latest Hollywood blockbuster *Valiant and Son*. First up, a stunning actress, model and philanthropist. Two time Golden Globe nominee - Leti Anderson!

Leti's entourage clap and whistle as she heads for the studio. Isaac watches the screen where Leti greets The Chat Show Host and then waves to the audience as she sits on the sofa.

CHAT SHOW HOST (V.O.)

Next, we have a ridiculously talented 14-year-old, who beat nearly five hundred other boys to win his first Hollywood film role. He puts the son in *Valiant and Son*, making his debut to the show, he's one of our own - Isaac Mensah!

Sam and Cheryl clap and shout their encouragement to Isaac.

34

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - DAY

34

Isaac appears on set. The audience gives him generous applause. Manny whistles with his fingers and Tyrone repeatedly screams "that's my dog!" to the amusement of Dominic.

Isaac greets the Chat Show Host and takes in the audience under the heat of the lights. They stare back with adoring eyes. It hits him - the feeling of being trapped. It drowns out all the sound around him. There's no escape. Things seem to slow down. He sees Leti warmly beckoning him towards the sofa. The Chat Show Host moves on to introducing Mitch. There's a small window of opportunity for Isaac to balk and flee. His confidence grows with this option, to take this route out...

... but then he sees his father. Manny mouths 'sit down'. Isaac's confidence to flee rapidly dissipates... and so he follows his father's instruction and sits down on the sofa.

35

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO. SOFA - DAY

35

Deep into the interview, The Chat Show Host asks Isaac a familiar question -

CHAT SHOW HOST
Now Isaac you play Mitch's son, the
courageous Lyle Valiant -

A still of Isaac in action as Lyle Valiant appears. The
audience whoops.

CHAT SHOW HOST (CONT'D)
Yes, whoop indeed.
(waits for the audience to
finish laughing)
What was it like for a 14-year-old
boy from North London to walk onto
the film set for the first time,
surrounded by all these stars?

Isaac appears in control as he mimics the Celebrity he
watched in the morning. He crosses his legs, grins and
gesticulates continually as he repeats his now well rehearsed
answer -

ISAAC
It was cool.
(nods to Mitch and Leti)
They're just normal people... but
more tanned.

CHAT SHOW HOST
I'm glad you said that and not me.

The audience laughs.

CHAT SHOW HOST (CONT'D)
And was there anything on set you
didn't expect or surprised you?

ISAAC
Erm... yeah - the amount of
assistants some of the cast had.
Some actors had a wardrobe
assistant...

Isaac struggles to remember the rest of his rehearsed answer.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Wardrobe assistant...

BEAT. Mitch and Leti just smile at Isaac. Manny watches
nervously. The Chat Show Host helps Isaac out -

CHAT SHOW HOST
I guess a Makeup assistant as well?

ISAAC

Yeah, a Makeup assistant... script assistant...

Isaac's mind freezes. Manny's on the edge of his seat, wishing he could prompt him. BEAT. The Chat Show Host helps out again -

CHAT SHOW HOST

But now you must have your own entourage of assistants?

ISAAC

Yeah... I mean no...

The audience titters, throwing Isaac further off. He panics and jumps straight to -

ISAAC (CONT'D)

I've got an iPhone.

The Chat Show Host looks confused. Manny winces at his son messing up the gag. Isaac rephrases.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

I don't have assistants. I have an iPhone... which is my assistant.

36 **INT. TELEVISION STUDIO. GREEN ROOM - DAY**

36

Sam watches the screen intensely as Isaac's joke falls flat. She casts a glare at Cheryl. She tries to be positive.

CHERYL DENON

He'll recover.

37 **INT. TELEVISION STUDIO. SOFA - DAY**

37

The Chat Show Host directs another question to Isaac.

CHAT SHOW HOST

To do what you do at such a young age must take bags of confidence. Where do you think you get that from?

Isaac's eyes widen - he doesn't know how to answer. His confidence is gone. Mitch covers for him and jests -

MITCH COLNEY

I'd say candy and Redbull.

The audience laughs. The momentary distraction allows Isaac to catch his breath.

INTERCUT:

38

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO. GREEN ROOM - DAY

38

Sam stresses over Isaac. Cheryl stands purposely behind her, to hide her similar feelings.

Manny stiffens in his chair, concerned at how long Isaac is taking to answer.

CHAT SHOW HOST

I've heard there's been a huge wave of support for you, particularly in North London where you're from. Apparently the cinemas in the area have sold out for opening night.

A 'woo' from the audience as the Chat Show hosts leads them in applause.

CHAT SHOW HOST (CONT'D)

You must come from a very supportive family?

Isaac thinks about what supportive family means. He frowns, as he considers the response to what he went through with Jotham. With Isaac not being forthcoming The Chat Show Host directs a simpler question to him -

CHAT SHOW HOST (CONT'D)

Who are the people in your life that have helped you get where you are now?

BEAT. This time The Chat Show Host doesn't help out. Mitch and Leti watch on, as do Manny, Sam and Cheryl. Isaac's on his own with this one.

ISAAC

Er... erm... honestly...

Manny and Sam look on expectantly. Isaac puffs out his cheeks from the weight of the answer.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

There's two people... First person is... my brother Tyrone.

Manny, Sam and even Tyrone look shocked.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
He helps keep me grounded.

Tyrone grins from ear to ear as he whispers in delight with a poor Cuban accent -

TYRONE
Say hello to my little friend.

ISAAC
The second person is... my big sister Jess.

Manny and Sam look even more shocked. Where has this come from? And how could he omit his parents? Mentioning Jess brightens up Isaac's countenance.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
We actually began acting together at a weekend drama school - shout out to Avril Allen Academy!

The audience chuckles.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
She's done the sensible thing and went to Uni but I look up to her... And to be honest I think she's a better actor than me.

The audience 'awws'

LETI ANDERSON
That's so, so sweet.

MITCH COLNEY
To be honest, my older brother is a better actor than me. That's why he went into politics.

As the audience laughs Manny and Sam look crestfallen.

39

INT. JESS'S FLAT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

39

Jess is rapt on the sofa with her flatmates CARLA (21, white) and CLEO (20, black). On the TV is *Chat:Tonight!* playing moments just after Isaac's comments about his sister. Jess sobs tears of joy as her flatmates comfort her.

CARLA
Aw, you must be so proud.

Jess nods and goes to speak but is too overcome with emotion. Her friends hold her tight.

40 **I/E. MENSAHS CHAUFFEURED CAR. ISAAC'S STREET - NIGHT** 40

Manny looks in the rearview mirror and observes a tired and glum Isaac sat behind him. His eyes are on his social media page. On it are tagged photos of his mates having fun at Hayden's birthday party. One photo's caption: '*the only man-dem I need*'. Isaac wishes he went. Manny then catches Sam's eye in the mirror - she's glaring at the sleeping Tyrone.

41 **INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE - NIGHT** 41

The family enters. Isaac swiftly takes off his shoes and heads upstairs without saying a word.

MANNY

Isaac?

Tyrone sniggers quietly. Manny snaps at him.

MANNY (CONT'D)

Get to your room!

Tyrone goes upstairs. Sam puts her hand to her head. She's looking distressed.

SAM

I told you the chat show was a bad idea... He hates us... I don't blame him.

Manny puts his arm around Sam and tries to reassure.

MANNY

No he doesn't.

SAM

You can't still think he should attend the premiere.

MANNY

Why shouldn't he? That's as much his film as it is anyone else's. He deserves to celebrate his hard work.

Sam nods but still looks unsure. A weary Manny heads towards the kitchen. We see that he too now looks unsure.

42 **INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. ISAAC'S BEDROOM - DAY** 42

The next day. Isaac's designer jacket, trousers and trainers lie crumpled on the floor. He lies in bed reading a text from Jess -

'Hey, saw you on Chat:Tonight! - thank you x'

Isaac texts back with a smiley face emoticon.

42A **INT. THEATRE. AUDITORIUM - DAY** 42A

We see Jess's mobile resting on top of her bag. It vibrates and shows a new message received from 'Lil Bro'.

We then see where Jess is. She's on stage alongside thirty sweaty 18 to 26-year-old auditionees. They all try to smile while catching their breath after finishing a dance routine. They all wear stickers with their audition number on it. Jess grins desperately towards the Judges, who are deliberating in the stalls. Finally a Judge (white, male, 59) takes a microphone.

JUDGE

Can numbers 25, 11, 5, 28, 8, 10,
17, 3, 12, 13, 2, 31 and...
(double checks with other
judges)
Number 4, please step forward.

Jess excitedly looks down at her number, refreshing her mind that she is number 4! She joins the others that have stepped forward. They wait with bated breath.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Thank you front row, you're free to
leave. Back row, congrats, we'll be
seeing you tomorrow.

The front row looks crushed - none more so than Jess.

43 **EXT. ULC CINEMA. LEICESTER SQUARE - DAY** 43

Morning. Above the cinema's sign a giant LED videowall digital display poster for the world premiere of *Valiant & Son* is being erected.

Manny, in his work uniform, sips coffee as he observes his son on the poster. It's a bittersweet moment for him.

JESS
(covers)
Yeah, I just woke up. Had a mad one
last night.

ISAAC
(mimics their dad)
Is that what we sent you to Uni
for?

Isaac's joke causes Jess to smile and she leads him inside.

47

INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - DAY

47

Tyrone eats his breakfast while his mobile plays *drill music*
out loud. A panicky Sam hurries in -

SAM
Have you seen Isaac?

Tyrone doesn't hear her because of the music. She shouts -

SAM (CONT'D)
Where's Isaac?

TYRONE
He went to his sister's.

SAM
You lying?

TYRONE
(offended at being doubted
& so winds up)
Actually he went to Wakanda!

Tyrone turns up the volume to the music to drown Sam out. She
could throttle Tyrone - but instead snatches his mobile and
turns it off.

SAM
Have some respect!

Tyrone snatches back his mobile.

TYRONE
You have some respect!

Tyrone can see Sam wants to curse him out. He goads her.

TYRONE (CONT'D)

Go on.

(on Sam holding her
tongue)

You best stay silent. Especially
cos my brother told me what's
really going on around here.

Sam steps back thinking Tyrone refers to Jotham. She probes -

SAM

And what's going on 'around here'?

TYRONE

Spending out the money he earned.
Buying this house, the car -
(points to her hair)
your *dead* extensions. I told him to
call Childline or something but he
didn't, cos he's a nice guy.

Sam pulls out her mobile.

SAM

I'm calling your father!

TYRONE

Call him! Ain't gonna change the
fact that Isaac hates you.

Sam's hit by this. She glares at Tyrone, 'he must be lying'.

SAM

I want you out of this house!

TYRONE

(not bothered)
It won't change the facts. And
using him for -
(pointing to the house)
all of this, that's actually abuse!
You're abusing him!

Sam slaps Tyrone across the cheek. Tyrone holds his cheek and
looks at Sam with fear. She can't believe what she's done.
She sees how frightened Tyrone is and reaches out to him -

SAM

Tyrone?

Tyrone flees from Sam towards the front door. Sam looks to
the sky with dread.

48 **INT. ULC CINEMA. MANAGER'S OFFICE - DAY**

48

Manny's at his desk. On the wall in front of him is a framed *Valiant & Son* poster. Supervisor Farah hands him a guestlist for tonight's premiere.

FARAH

I forgot to say, I saw Isaac on *Chat:Tonight!* You must be so proud.

MANNY

(awkward)

Yeah. Is this the confirmed list?

FARAH

Yep. Enjoy tonight.

Farah goes to leave.

MANNY

Thanks. And even though I'll be on the red carpet I'll still be keeping a beady eye on things!

Farah chuckles as she exits. Manny scrolls through the names until he sees who he was looking for - Jotham Starr.

49 **INT. JESS'S FLAT. KITCHENETTE - DAY**

49

Jess fries an egg in too much oil as she talks to Isaac.

ISAAC

Even from backstage you can hear the audience breathing - like they're sucking all the air out of the place. I got mad lightheaded.

Jess takes the fried egg and places it in between two slices of bread, making a sandwich. She passes it to Isaac. Despite the grease he's grateful to his sister and tucks in.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

And the press stuff is *jarring*. The same questions over and over again.

JESS

(amused)

Ah, the price of success.

BEAT.

ISAAC

Had any new auditions recently?

JESS

A few but -
(shakes her head)
I'm not sure I can keep playing the
'rejection game'... kinda trying to
find a part time job.

Isaac looks surprised.

JESS (CONT'D)

My student loan's nearly dry.

Isaac smiles warmly. He goes into his pocket and gets his
wallet... and pulls out £200. Jess looks confused.

ISAAC

It's the two hundred you asked for.

JESS

Whoa... Isaac, I can't -

Isaac stubbornly places the cash firmly in his sister's hand.

ISAAC

And secondly... can you come to the
premiere? I can pick you up.

Jess is overwhelmed... But after this morning's rejection
she's feeling down about everything industry-related. She
answers with appreciation -

JESS

I'd love to but -

Jess shakes her head, no.

JESS (CONT'D)

But thank you for asking.

Isaac's disappointed she can't come to the premiere but happy
she's getting on with life.

50

INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - DAY

50

Manny and Sam sit at the table. On it is the bouquet of
flowers that were delivered for Isaac. Envelope unopened.

SAM

I did try to talk to him calmly,
but you know how Tyrone can be.

Manny gives Sam a look of doubt. She takes offence.

SAM (CONT'D)

What?

MANNY

You sure you didn't kick him out?

SAM

Why would I do that?

MANNY

I heard you talking to Ryan about how he should take Tyrone with him when he leaves.

SAM

(under pressure)

That was just a joke.

The front door is heard closing. Manny exhales with exasperation and advises Sam -

MANNY

Don't go too hard on him.

SAM

Manny? He groped someone.

MANNY

We don't know that for sure.

In walks Isaac. All smiles from Manny.

MANNY (CONT'D)

Hey.

Isaac nods. Sam pushes the bouquet over to him. Isaac sees it's addressed to him and says with dispassion -

ISAAC

More flowers.

MANNY

How's Jess?

ISAAC

Alright.

SAM

Sit. There's something your dad and I need to talk to you about.

Isaac cautiously sits. Sam looks at Manny to start. Nervous, he avoids the big issue and goes with -

MANNY
Tyrone's gone back to his mum's.

ISAAC
(surprised & disappointed)
What?

Manny looks to Sam to give the reason.

SAM
He just felt it was time.

ISAAC
But he's meant to be coming to the premiere.

MANNY
(sympathising)
I know.

Isaac exhales heavily. Sam gets straight to it -

SAM
Also, I had a call from your Headteacher today.

ISAAC
Whatever she said is lies.

SAM
You don't know what I'm going to say yet.

MANNY
Let him talk.

SAM
No, I'm going to talk first! Now, what's this about you 'inappropriately touching' someone?

ISAAC
What? I didn't touch anyone. My hand just brushed this girl's skirt by mistake. That's all.

SAM
Is that the truth?

ISAAC
(distressed)
You don't believe me?

MANNY
Why would you ask him that? He just told you what happened.

SAM

So why's his Headteacher calling me
up then?

As Sam and Manny argue Isaac distracts himself with the envelope from his bouquet of flowers...

MANNY

We shouldn't be jumping to conclusions.

SAM (CONT'D)

She wouldn't have called if it wasn't something serious.

SAM (CONT'D)

I'm not jumping to conclusions!

MANNY

It's probably some girl trying to get him in trouble.

... Isaac opens the envelope and reads the card inside.

SAM

Why would she do that?

MANNY

Maybe she's jealous of him. Or just wants attention.

Isaac mulls over the message in the card... then takes it and the flowers across the room... towards the gas cooker.

SAM

"We shouldn't jump to conclusions"
"Maybe he just wants attention" You sound just like Jotham's lawyers!

MANNY

(disgusted)
That's low.

SAM

They accused Isaac of lying!

MANNY

That's different and you know it!

Manny and Sam are stopped by the sound of clicking. They see Isaac has put the flowers and card on top of the gas hob and is trying to set them alight. Manny and Sam sprint over and pull the items away. Sam grabs her son.

SAM

Isaac! What are you doing?

Manny sees the card's handwritten message - *'to my Little Valiant - enjoy tonight! Love Jotham Starr & all the team @ Yonder Starr x'*

Isaac breaks free of his mum and rushes out the room. Manny hands the card to Sam and goes after him. She gasps in disbelief at Jotham's brazenness.

51 **INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. ISAAC'S BEDROOM - DAY**

51

Manny follows Isaac into the room.

MANNY

Hey?

Isaac ignores Manny and opens his laptop.

MANNY (CONT'D)

I know you want to appear strong in front of your mum, but you don't have to with me.

Isaac clicks on a desktop folder, then clicks on another folder within this and so on, as Manny speaks.

MANNY (CONT'D)

We don't have to go to the premiere.

Isaac clicks on the final folder and finds a video file. He clicks it open. It's a copy of the secret video he took of Jotham coming into his film trailer. Manny panics and dives over his son to press pause.

MANNY (CONT'D)

You made a copy? Isaac... we, we could be sued!

Isaac looks at his father with shame 'is that all you care about?' Manny tries to explain.

MANNY (CONT'D)

It's just, if this fell into the wrong hands...

ISAAC

You promised me he wouldn't get away with it... but he's getting away with it.

Manny lowers his head in failure. BEAT. Isaac challenges him.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

But he'll be there tonight. There's still tonight.

SABRINA (CONT'D)

But trust me, trust me, you touch
my son again - I will hurt you.

Sabrina heads to her car. Tyrone checks with her -

TYRONE

Am I still allowed to go?

Sabrina nods reluctantly as she gets into her car.

SAM

I thought you said she wasn't in?

MANNY

When?

Feeling betrayed Sam doesn't answer. She pushes past Manny and gets into the waiting people carrier. He realises Sam refers to the night he went to Sabrina's but lied that she wasn't in.

54 **INT. MENSAHS PEOPLE CARRIER TO PREMIERE - NIGHT** 54

The occupants are all silent, deep in thought - Sam worrying Manny might be cheating on her with Sabrina, Tyrone pleased with his mum warning Sam and Isaac mentally preparing for another 'performance'. Manny observes his son then puts a reassuring hand on his knee.

55 **EXT. ULC CINEMA RED CARPET. LEICESTER SQUARE - NIGHT** 55

Isaac exits his people carrier and Cheryl Denon leads him to a group of press photographers. Manny, Sam and Tyrone exit the people carrier and watch Isaac pose for press photos.

By the barriers is a journalist of similar build and hairstyle to Dominic. Manny fears it's him... the person turns around and Manny is relieved to see it's not Dominic.

Jotham arrives on the red carpet with his wife Mira. He strides past the Mensahs towards Isaac. Manny and Sam watch as Jotham hugs their son then poses for photos with him. Manny sees Isaac flinch as Jotham puts his arm around.

Sam sees Manny ball his fists as he mutters -

MANNY

I can't do this.

He makes a bee-line for Jotham. A surprised Sam smiles that he's confronting Jotham.

Cheryl sees and panics.

CHERYL DENON
Manny? MANNY!

Cheryl darts through the red carpet crowd and intercepts him.

CHERYL DENON (CONT'D)
Manny, let me escort you inside.

Cheryl leads Manny by the arm towards the cinema entrance and beckons Sam and Tyrone to follow.

56 **INT. ULC CINEMA. FOYER - NIGHT**

56

Cast & crew and celebrities mill around. An uncomfortable Sam observes as an excited Farah takes a selfie with Manny and Isaac. She reviews the photo and teases Manny-

FARAH
Boss, you look like a black James Bond.

MANNY
Alright, now back to work.

Farah mouths thank you to Isaac and hurries away. Tyrone directs Isaac to some people wanting selfies.

Manny retreats to his wife's side for some respite - but she then alerts him that Jotham is nearby. He's just finished a conversation and is looking for who next to schmooze with. His eyes mistakenly fall on the Mensahs. They stare back with intensity. Jotham pretends it's the first time he has seen them. He smiles broadly and strides over.

Manny sucks in some confidence and steps forward to meet Jotham, protecting Sam from his presence.

JOTHAM STARR
Hey Manny, how are you?

Jotham grabs Manny's formerly bandaged hand and shakes it vigorously, asserting his authority. Sam's extremely uncomfortable seeing this handshake. Manny does his best to mask the pain caused by the grip and begins to speak... but Jotham talks over him.

MANNY
Jotham my family & I demand -

JOTHAM STARR (CONT'D)
Isaac's by far the best child actor I've ever worked with. * *

Manny's thrown by Jotham's praise of Isaac.

JOTHAM STARR (CONT'D)
Such a talented little guy.

Manny's stumped by this. Jotham continues rapidly.

JOTHAM STARR (CONT'D)
When I look at Isaac I see an
artist who not only is dedicated to
his craft but knows the value of
respect for others. This is
testament to your parenting. Mira?
Mira?

Manny's mind is in a spin, trying to work out why Jotham is
saying this. Is he playing mind games? Jotham's wife comes
over.

JOTHAM STARR (CONT'D)
This is Manny, Isaac's dad.

Sam's greatly disappointed to see Manny now shaking Mira's
hand.

JOTHAM STARR (CONT'D)
(to Mira)
Such warm, down to earth folk.
(to Manny)
God bless you all and enjoy the
movie.

Jotham takes Mira's hand and swiftly moves on. Manny's
desperate to restart his speech... but Jotham glides away to
other guests. Manny stands there bewildered at the moment he
had with Jotham. His big moment's now over and he did
nothing.

He turns to Sam, looking for understanding. She responds with
a look of disdain and turns her back on him. Manny's eyes
lead to Isaac. He saw the interaction with Jotham. He looks
betrayed.

Manny then grimaces from a pain in his palm - the hand that
shook Jotham's. The wound has reopened. Blood has begun to
seep through the flesh of his palm.

57

INT. ULC CINEMA. CINEMA SCREEN 1 - NIGHT

57

Jotham's in the middle of introducing his film. He's flanked
by Mitch and Leti. Isaac has zoned out, his body is present
but his mind has shut down.

Sam, Isaac and Tyrone sit in the centre of the room. There's
an empty chair next to Sam where Manny should be.

Sam looks distraught as she watches Isaac having to stand beside his abuser.

JOTHAM STARR

I'd like to thank all of you for coming to watch our labour of love.

58 OMITTED

58

58aA **EXT. LEICESTER SQUARE. LEICESTER SQUARE GARDENS - CONTINUOUS**

A distraught Manny flees from ULC Cinema, towards a side street. Blood seeps from his hand. He takes off his tie and tries to wrap it around his reopened wound. But this is futile - it can't stem the flow or his guilt.

JOTHAM STARR (V.O.)

I particularly would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the fantastic crew and outstanding cast, led by the amazing Mitch Colney, the fabulous Leti Anderson... and Hollywood's newest heartthrob Isaac Mensah.

Behind Manny the videowall of *Valiant & Son* shines brightly.

58A **INT. ULC CINEMA. SCREEN 1 - CONTINUOUS**

58A

The audience gives exuberant cheers, applause and wolf whistles at that comment. Sam looks like she could throw up.

Jotham gazes at Isaac... Then puts his arm around him.

As Isaac watches the excited crowd he goes pale. He feels like a lamb to the slaughter. His eyes find his mother. Tears flow down her cheeks - but he couldn't care less. Isaac's convinced this is all his parents' fault.

CUT TO BLACK:

CAPTION: DARK MONEY

FADE OUT.