

7072/ 1. EXT. SQUARE. 1934. NIGHT.

EastEnders
Episode 7072
(LIVE)
By Lauren Klee.

FRONT LOT

THIS EPISODE TAKES PLACE ON
WEDNESDAY 19TH FEBRUARY 2025.

[ALMOST DIRECT PICK-UP.

PRE-RX AT THE TIME OF THE
STUNT.

A SWEEPING SHOT TAKES IN THE
DEVASTATION ON THE SQUARE...

N/S FIRE FIGHTERS AND
PARAMEDICS IN MOTION,
ASSESSING THE SCENE / TREATING
THE INJURED (TBD), WHILE
AMBULANCES AND FIRE ENGINES
ARE PARKED ON BRIDGE STREET -

- BRIEFLY TAKE BEWILDERED,
GHOSTLIKE FIGURES OF JEAN,
RUBY, KAT, ALFIE, MO, HARVEY,
FREDDIE AND A SMATTERING OF
S/A'S MILLING AROUND, ALL
WRAPPED IN BLANKETS, BEING
GUIDED BEHIND A CORDONED OFF
AREA BY AN N/S FIREFIGHTER...

...BEFORE WE GO INTO THE
BARREL STORE AND FULLY
LIVE...]

CUT TO

7072/ 2. INT. VIC - BARREL STORE.
1934. NIGHT.

STAGE 3

[AFTERMATH OF THE BEAM
COLLAPSE; STACEY RUSHES TO
MARTIN'S SIDE, FINDS HIS FACE
WITH HER HANDS; A MASK OF
PAIN, TEETH BARED IN A
GRIMACE.

STACEY'S TONGUE IS GLUED TO
THE ROOF OF HER MOUTH, HER
MIND SKITTERS, SHE CAN BARELY
REMEMBER TO BREATHE -

BUT HE'S SCREAMING AND IT
UNLOCKS SOMETHING IN STACEY;
SHE FINDS HER VOICE -]]

STACEY:

It's okay, it's okay -

MARTIN:

Stace -

[MARTIN BITES DOWN ON HIS
SEARING PAIN.

STACEY REACHES OUT A HAND TO
MARTIN, WHO GRIPS IT FIRMLY,
FINGERS INTERLOCKING.

ON STACEY, EYES DARTING TO THE
EXIT, PANIC GRIPPING -]

STACEY:

Help!
(A BEAT, LOUDER)
Help!

(7072/ 2 continued)

[BUT HER CRIES ARE MET BY
DEAFENING SILENCE -]

CUT TO

**7072/ 3. INT. VIC - KITCHEN. 1935.
NIGHT.**

STAGE 2

[SONIA, BENT DOUBLE IN PAIN AS
A CONTRACTION COMES TO AN END,
WHILE BIANCA AND LAUREN HOVER,
UNSURE HOW TO HELP -]

SONIA:

I can't do this! I can't give
birth in here!

BIANCA:

You're gonna have to, Son.

LAUREN:

It's okay. Help is gonna be here
soon.

[LAUREN DARTS A LOOK TO BIANCA
- BE POSITIVE]

LAUREN:

Labour takes ages dunnit? You've
only just started, it could be
hours yet...

BIANCA:

I wouldn't bank on it. Bex popped
out in five seconds flat.

[SUDDENLY SONIA CAN FEEL A
CONTRACTION COMING ON AGAIN]

SONIA:

Oh God! Oh no!

[AND SONIA DOUBLES OVER IN
PAIN ONCE MORE]

(7072/ 3 continued)

BIANCA:

Right. Come on, Son. You've got this, right. Just breathe. Right, breathe...

[BIANCA STARTS TO RUB SONIA'S BACK, BUT SONIA TURNS AND ROARS IN HER FACE]

SONIA:

Get away from me!!!!

[ON BIANCA, STANDING BACK. QUICK GLANCE TO LAUREN; WEAK SMILE - WHAT ARE THEY GOING TO DO?]

CUT TO

7072/ 4. INT. VIC - BARREL STORE.
1936. NIGHT.

STAGE 3

[STACEY, WITH MARTIN, WHO IS
MOANING IN PAIN -]

MARTIN:

Stace, just get out of here,
before the whole place comes
down.

STACEY:

(FIRM)

No way. I'm not leaving you.

[MARTIN SCREWS UP HIS FACE.
THIS IS VISCERALLY HORRENDOUS]

MARTIN:

Tell the kids I love them,
please...

STACEY:

No, you'll tell 'em -

MARTIN:

And I love you, Stace -

STACEY:

Stop this... you're being silly.

MARTIN:

No, I love you. I always have.

STACEY:

I know -

[STACEY EYES THE BEAM TRAPPING
MARTIN]

(7072/ 4 continued)

MARTIN:

D'you love me?

[STACEY GOES TO THE BEAM,
WRAPS HER ARMS AROUND IT AND
ATTEMPTS TO HEAVE IT OFF]

MARTIN:

Stace...

[STACEY STRAINS TO LIFT THE
BEAM, BUT IT WON'T BUDGE. IT
DOESN'T STOP HER TRYING,
DESPERATION TRUMPING REASON]

STACEY:

Come on, come on... please...

[THWARTED, STACEY BREAKS OFF,
PANTING]

MARTIN:

Stace...

[STACEY LOOKS UP TO SEE
MARTIN'S EYELIDS FLICKERING.

PANICKED, STACEY RETURNS TO
MARTIN'S SIDE]

STACEY:

Martin? Martin - No... no... No,
no, no, no. Please, no. Please.
No, no. Please. No! Please!
Please! Martin! No!

[STACEY GROANS IN UTTER
DESPAIR, WHEN SUDDENLY,
THROUGH THE GLOOM, A BEAM OF
LIGHT]

(7072/ 4 continued)

STACEY:

Martin! Martin. They're here.
See? They're here. They're gonna
get you out of here any minute.
Okay?
(SCREAMING)
In here!

[ON MARTIN, LOOKING INTO
STACEY'S LIT UP EYES. HE NODS.
CLINGING TO HOPE]

CUT TO

7072/ 5. EXT. SQUARE GARDENS.
1937. NIGHT.

FRONT LOT

[BLUE LIGHTS STROBE ACROSS
LINDA'S FACE.

SHE TAKES IN THE DEVASTATION
OF THE VIC,

DENISE CROSSES.

THEY LOOK AT EACH OTHER;
SURVIVORS FROM AN APOCALYPSE.
A NOD OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT. THEY
LOOK BACK AT THE VIC. THERE
ARE NO WORDS]

DENISE:

I can't take it in.

LINDA:

Times like this... I miss Mick.

[LINDA'S FACE CRUMPLES]

DENISE:

Oh Linda -

LINDA:

(PULLING HERSELF TOGETHER)
I'm lucky. I know I am. I got my
kids, I'm still here.
(BEAT, MARVELLING AT THE
MAGNITUDE OF THIS STATEMENT -)
I'm still here.
(BEAT)
And do you know what, Denise? I'm
not wasting another second.

(7072/ 5 continued)

[DENISE'S FACE FLICKERS;
LINDA'S WORDS HITTING HOME]

LINDA:

I've beaten myself up for so long. And it's gotta stop. From now on, I'm gonna let myself be happy.

[DENISE SMILES THROUGH TEARS]

DENISE:

Good for you.

LINDA:

And I - I think you should do the same.

[DENISE LOOKS ACROSS AT LINDA
SHARPLY]

DENISE:

Me?

LINDA:

Keanu... What happened was... awful. But we're not bad people Denise, and we've got to get on with our lives otherwise we might as well be in prison.

[DENISE NODS. BUT SHE'S SO
TORN. WANTS TO CONFIDE -]

DENISE:

But what if you're at a crossroads and you don't know what path to take?

[LINDA SIZES DENISE UP]

(7072/ 5 continued)

LINDA:

You really don't know?

[DENISE SHAKES HER HEAD; HER
HEART IS SO SPLIT]

LINDA:

(BOLD, DECLARING)
Risks ain't just for the young.
That's my advice.
(BEAT - PLEASED WITH THAT)
Might get a tattoo of that.
(BEAT)
Point is, don't be scared. Go for
it. For whatever you really want
and trust that if it goes tits
up, you'll survive. 'Cos we
always do.

[DENISE TAKES IN LINDA'S WORDS
- NOT SURE THAT'S REALLY
CLEARED THINGS UP FOR HER]

LINDA:

Failing that...

[LINDA RUMMAGES IN HER POCKET;
PULLS OUT A COIN AND GIVES IT
TO DENISE]

LINDA:

I mean, why not?

[DENISE TAKES THE COIN WITH AN
IRONIC LAUGH, BUT LINDA IS
DEADLY SERIOUS]

LINDA:

Life's random. Who lives, who
dies. There are no guarantees. So
why not toss a coin?

(7072/ 5 continued)

[DENISE LOOKS DOWN AT THE COIN
IN HER HAND. LINDA EYES HER.

AS LINDA GOES TO FLIP THE
COIN, DENISE IMPULSIVELY
PLACES A HAND OVER LINDA'S]

DENISE:

No, I know what I want to do.

[LINDA SMILES]

LINDA:

Good for you.

(BEAT)

I'm gonna go and hug my babies.

[LINDA HEADS OFF LEAVING
DENISE ALONE.

HER FACE REMAINS VEILED - WHO
HAS SHE CHOSEN - JACK OR
RAVI?]

CUT TO

7072/ 6. INT. CAFE. 1939. NIGHT.

STAGE 1

[RUBY, HER FACE TAUT WITH ANXIETY, SITS ALONE IN A CORNER, WHILE KATHY AND BERNADETTE GIVE OUT TEAS / COFFEES TO THE ASSEMBLED CROWD; YOLANDE, HONEY, BILLY, IAN, FREDDIE, HARVEY AND PATRICK, WHO'S SITTING NEXT TO HIS SUITCASE, HAT AND COAT ON]

BERNADETTE:

Here you go.

KATHY:

You look cold, Honey. Come on, drink up -

HONEY:

Thank you.

KATHY:

Alright, Bill -

BILLY:

I'm alright, Kath.

KATHY:

(NEXT IN LINE FOR TEA)
Harvey.

HARVEY:

Ta.

[KATHY TURNS TO A PALE FACED IAN]

(7072/ 6 continued)

KATHY:

Ian, are you okay, love?

[IAN NODS, AS A RILED UP JEAN
COMES IN, ALFIE CHAPERONING
HER, KAT FOLLOWING, ALL FRESH
FROM AN ENCOUNTER WITH A FIRE
FIGHTER]

JEAN:

(OOV - SHAKING OFF ALFIE, AS SHE
ENTERS)

Stop pushing me. I was just
talking to them -

ALFIE:

They're doing their best...

KAT:

(RHETORICAL)

What the hell has happened?

[PATRICK SHAKES HIS HEAD,
SHELL SHOCKED]

PATRICK:

It don't make any sense at all,
at all, at all...

KAT:

I've only been gone a few hours.

KATHY:

Is there any news?

JEAN:

No, they're just standing there,
poking around, doing absolutely
nothing -

(7072/ 6 continued)

ALFIE:

No, no, no. It's okay. They're assessing the danger, okay -

JEAN:

We all know it's dangerous!
That's why they should be in there, trying to get them out!

ALFIE:

No, Jean. We need to trust them, yeah!

JEAN:

Well, I'm gonna go back out -

HARVEY:

No, Jean, it won't help...

ALFIE:

No -

YOLANDE:

(CALMLY AUTHORITATIVE)
Jean - they're right. We're better off here, together.

FREDDIE:

Nan, come and sit down with us, please...

[JEAN GOES TO SIT NEXT TO
FREDDIE, WHO'S AT A TABLE WITH
YOLANDE]

YOLANDE:

Pray with me, Jean -

JEAN:

Yes.

(7072/ 6 continued)

[JEAN NODS, AND AS THEY BEND
THEIR HEADS, WE GO TO KATHY AS
SHE SETS A TEA DOWN BESIDE
RUBY -]

YOLANDE:

Heavenly Father, We ask for
courage to face these trials.
Give us the strength to overcome
fear and uncertainty, and may
your presence be our source of
comfort. Amen...

[AND WE REST WITH RUBY, HER
TEA UNTOUCHED, YOLANDE'S
PRAYER HAVING NO TRACTION IN
HER TRAUMATISED STATE]

CUT TO

7072/ 7. EXT. NO 27. 1941. NIGHT.

FRONT LOT

[WE'RE TIGHT ON DENISE,
STANDING ON A DOORSTEP. IT'S
UNCLEAR WHOSE HOUSE THIS IS.
SHE KNOCKS ON THE DOOR AND
THEN STANDS BACK, BRACING
HERSELF FOR WHOEVER IS ABOUT
TO ANSWER.

AN ANXIOUS BEAT...

AND THEN THE DOOR OPENS

AND IT'S JACK!!

A BEAT AS A WEARY JACK TAKES
HER IN]

1

DENISE:

Hey.

[JACK'S FRONT MELTS AWAY AND
HE STANDS ASIDE, GESTURES FOR
HER TO COME IN...

GO TO RAVI, WHO'S JUST LEAVING
NO.41 AND CATCHES SIGHT OF
THEM ACROSS THE SQUARE.

ON RAVI, FEELING THE BITTER
GUT PUNCH OF REJECTION AS HE
WATCHES DENISE STEP INSIDE
NO.27]

CUT TO

7072/ 8. INT. VIC - BARREL STORE.
1942. NIGHT.

STAGE 3

[STACEY WATCHES AS TWO N/S
PARAMEDICS AND SOME N/S
FIREFIGHTERS ARE WORKING ON
MARTIN, WHO IS BEING HOOKED UP
TO FLUIDS AND MORPHINE.]

PARAMEDIC SKINNER STEPS BACK
TO SPEAK TO STACEY]

PARAMEDIC SKINNER:

I suggest you just keep him
talking and calm, yeah?

STACEY:

Okay.

[STACEY NODS; RELIEVED]

MARTIN:

(CALLING)

Stace? Are you there?

STACEY:

Yeah, I'm here. I'm here -

[STACEY GOES TO MARTIN'S SIDE.
SHE REACHES DOWN AND LACES HER
FINGERS THROUGH HIS]

MARTIN:

They've - they've given me
morphine or something. I feel
like I can cope with the pain.

(7072/ 8 continued)

STACEY:

That's good. That's good.

MARTIN:

Did they say anything about my legs?

STACEY:

No, no, they won't know nothing yet. Until the beam's off.

MARTIN:

What if it is bad, Stace... What if I'm like, paralysed... and they have to amputate -

STACEY:

- No, listen, they don't know nothing yet. You might be fine - and if you ain't, then we'll cope. Won't we?

[MARTIN NODS, REASSURED BY STACEY'S PRAGMATISM. HE SMILES]

MARTIN:

We?

[STACEY'S EYES DIP]

STACEY:

Yes, we.

[MARTIN LOOKS AT HER]

MARTIN:

I meant it, you know.

STACEY:

What?

(7072/ 8 continued)

MARTIN:

What I said. Before.

[STACEY'S FACE FLICKERS; KNOWS FULL WELL, BUT SHE WANTS TO HEAR IT PROPERLY]

STACEY:

What did you say before?

[MARTIN SMILES, HE INDULGES HER]

MARTIN:

I said. That I love you.

[STACEY HALF SMILES]

MARTIN:

And I don't mean I love you because you're the mum to my kids.

(BEAT)

I mean, I truly, madly, head over heels-ly, love you.

[STACEY'S EYES FILL WITH TEARS]

STACEY:

You sure that ain't the morphine talking? 'Cos you sound a bit off your face?

MARTIN:

Do you have to be such an idiot?

STACEY:

Yes. I do. Actually, yes. It's exhausting being me.

(7072/ 8 continued)

[MARTIN SMILES. STACEY LOOKS
AT HIM. HER EYES STILL
BRIMMING]

STACEY:

And you moaned about my timing
being off.

MARTIN:

What?

STACEY:

When I told you how I feel.

[MARTIN SMILES]

MARTIN:

Remind me. How do you feel?

[STACEY SHRUGS; COY]

MARTIN:

Stace, I've got a massive beam
crushing my legs here, so any
time you wanna jump in, girl -

STACEY:

I love you too.

[A BEAT AS THAT LANDS.

DESPITE EVERYTHING, IT'S
ROMANTIC]

MARTIN:

Do ya?

[STACEY NODS]

(7072/ 8 continued)

MARTIN:

You're not just saying that 'cos of this. Y'know, 'cos you feel like I need to hear it?

STACEY:

No -

MARTIN:

It's just before Christmas... when I kissed you, you didn't want to go there...

STACEY:

No. I know. And I regret it! I regret it so much! I should never have let you get back with Ruby.

[MARTIN REACTS TO RUBY'S NAME.]

A BEAT ON MARTIN. HIS FACE FALLS. INSECURITY STABS STACEY]

STACEY:

Do you love her?

MARTIN:

It's just... it's been nice, y'know, with Roman and we get on... but, truth is... of course I don't.

[STACEY NODS, RELIEVED. SHE FEELS GUILTY]

MARTIN:

I don't want to hurt her.

STACEY:

Me neither.

(7072/ 8 continued)

MARTIN:

Listen, when I'm out of here.
I'll tell her. I don't ever want
to be apart from you again...

STACEY:

Me neither.

MARTIN:

You mean that?

STACEY:

Course. Of course I do.

[A BEAT - MARTIN LOOKS STACEY
IN THE EYE]

MARTIN:

So... will you marry me?

[A BEAT ON STACEY]

STACEY:

What?

MARTIN:

Yeah.

STACEY:

You really are off your face.

MARTIN:

No. I am - I'm serious.

STACEY:

Martin, it doesn't feel right
talking like this until you've
spoken to Ruby.

[MARTIN NODS; SLIGHTLY
DEFLATED]

(7072/ 8 continued)

MARTIN:

Are you sure this is what it's about?

STACEY:

You know how I feel... I mean, us getting married again? It's just a party innit.

MARTIN:

It's not just a party.

STACEY:

So what is it then, 'cos I ain't changing my name -

MARTIN:

It's you and me, ain't it?
Showing the world how much - how much we love each other.

STACEY:

But you know, I know - what's it got to do with anyone else?

MARTIN:

(EARNEST)

Alright. I want to make a speech about you.

STACEY:

That sounds awful.

MARTIN:

Oh thanks.

STACEY:

No, not your speech. I mean, I don't want everyone looking at me.

(7072/ 8 continued)

MARTIN:

I'm sorry, what?

STACEY:

You know, I get a bit shy.

MARTIN:

Oh yeah, yeah. Stacey Slater -
known for her shyness.

STACEY:

Yeah. Unless I'm angry.

MARTIN:

So hold on, what you're telling
me, fifty percent of your
personality is just rage?

STACEY:

Yeah.

[STACEY LAUGHS]

STACEY:

You gonna make me angry on our
wedding day?

MARTIN:

I think I'm gonna have to, ain't
I?

STACEY:

Yeah.

MARTIN:

So... is that a yes?

[A BEAT ON STACEY; SHE FINDS,
TO HER SURPRISE, SHE ACTUALLY
MEANS THIS -]

(7072/ 8 continued)

STACEY:

Yes.

[ON STACEY AND MARTIN; GREAT
BIG SMILES, EYES GLEAMING,
SWEPT UP IN THEIR IMAGINED
FUTURE]

CUT TO

7072/ 9. INT.
VIC DOWNSTAIRS - KITCHEN. 1949.
NIGHT.

STAGE 2

[LAUREN, STEPPING BACK FROM A SHELF WITH SOME TEA TOWELS AND A BOTTLE OF BRANDY, WHILE BIANCA HOVERS AROUND SONIA, WHO'S PACING AND MOANING, IN THE MIDDLE OF ANOTHER CONTRACTION]

LAUREN:

Right okay. So, I found some kitchen towels... and some brandy...

BIANCA:

Nice one.

[BIANCA HOLDS HER HANDS OUT FOR THE BRANDY]

LAUREN:

No. Not to drink! It's for our hands - to sterilise them.

BIANCA:

Oh.

LAUREN:

(IGNORING HER)
What do we do now?

BIANCA:

Don't ask me. She's the nurse.

(7072/ 9 continued)

[THEY LOOK TO SONIA, WHO'S COMING TO THE END OF HER CONTRACTION; BROW SOAKED IN SWEAT, TOTALLY CAUGHT UP IN HER BODY]

LAUREN:

It looks lek she's getting close.

BIANCA:

Right. Get down there and have a look.

LAUREN:

What?

BIANCA:

Get down there and tell me what you see.

LAUREN:

Wh - Wh - Why can't you?

[BIANCA LOOKS A BIT SCARED]

BIANCA:

She's my sister.

LAUREN:

And she's my cousin. What's the family tree got to do with it?

BIANCA:

For God's sakes! Give me the brandy.

[LAUREN HANDS BIANCA THE BRANDY; A BEAT AND THEN SHE TAKES A GLUG. LAUREN GLARES AT HER - ARE YOU SERIOUS? BIANCA IGNORES HER]

(7072/ 9 continued)

BIANCA:

(PEP TALK TO SELF)

It's only a noony, Lauren. It's only a noony. If Mo can do this, so can I. Right -

[BIANCA KNEELS DOWN IN FRONT OF SONIA]

LAUREN:

Right. Alright, Sonia, you've got to listen to us, yeah! Let us help you. Just um - open your legs -

SONIA:

I'm not strong enough to be a mum again... not after he's ruined it all... I can't see a future...

[LAUREN LOOKS WORRIED.]

BIANCA POPS HER HEAD UP FROM BETWEEN SONIA'S LEGS AND CHUCKS BACK TO LAUREN SONIA'S KNICKERS.

LAUREN CATCHES THE KNICKERS - CHEERS - WHAT WILL SHE DO WITH THESE NOW?]

BIANCA:

Sonia - If anyone should be moaning about Reiss ruining their life, it should be me. Now, buck up and open your legs.

[BIANCA BENDS DOWN TO LOOK BETWEEN DISTRAUGHT SONIA'S LEGS]

(7072/ 9 continued)

SONIA:

No. I mean it! This was supposed to be my second chance. And look at it. This. Everything falling down, collapsing on us... it means it's not supposed to happen. I give up.

(SOBBED)

I give up!

[BUT BIANCA POPS HER HEAD BACK UP]

BIANCA:

No. You can't give up now. I can see the head!

[FROM A STILL DESPAIRING SONIA, BIANCA TURNS TO SHOCKED LAUREN AND BEAMS!]

CUT TO

7072/ 10. INT. NO 27. 1951. NIGHT.

STAGE 1

[JACK HANDS A NERVOUS DENISE A
GLASS OF WINE]

DENISE:

How're the kids?

JACK:

Bit shaken up, but they'll be
okay.

(BEAT)

Is that why you came over? Check
on them?

[DENISE LOOKS INTO HER WINE]

DENISE:

No. No, that's not the only
reason.

[JACK LOOKS AT HER - THEN
WHY?]

DENISE:

I feel safe with you Jack. And I
want to feel safe.

[A BEAT ON DENISE]

JACK:

What about Ravi? What about when
you want a bit of danger?

[DENISE LOOKS EMBARRASSED,
BACK-FOOT SUDDENLY. JACK FEELS
HE'S STUMBLED ACROSS THE TRUTH
AND IT HURTS. HE LOOKS AWAY]

(7072/ 10 continued)

DENISE:

No, no...

(BEAT)

No, look. It's not like that.
Ravi and me. It'd never go
anywhere. We're from like, two
different worlds. And I see a
future with you, Jack -

[DENISE GOES TO JACK...]

DENISE:

And our history. You know... That
runs deep. Baby, my feelings
haven't changed. I still love
you.

[JACK IS WARY]

JACK:

How do I know it's gonna be
different this time?

[DENISE SHRUGS; CASTING
AROUND]

DENISE:

We forgot to make time for
ourselves before. We're not just
parents, we're people in our own
right. And I want that passion
back. I wanna listen and I wanna
be heard. I want to get to know
you all over again.

[DENISE LOOKS UP AT UNREADABLE
JACK. SHE TAILS OFF, LOSING
CONFIDENCE. WHAT'S JACK
THINKING?]

DENISE:

Am I making any sense here?

(7072/ 10 continued)

[A LONG BEAT ON JACK;
BROODING, INSCRUTABLE... AND
THEN HIS FACE SOFTENS]

JACK:

Hello, my name's Jack Branning.
Nice to meet ya. What's yours?

DENISE:

You are such a massive dork, you
are...

[LAUGHING, JACK STEPS FORWARDS
AND STOPS DENISE MID FLOW WITH
A KISS. AND BOY IS IT A KISS.
SHE RESPONDS. A BEAT, AND THEN
THEY BREATHLESSLY PULL AWAY,
LOOK INTO EACH OTHER'S EYES -
AS THOUGH FOR THE FIRST TIME]

CUT TO

7072/ 11. INT. VIC - BARREL STORE.
1953. NIGHT.

STAGE 3

[STACEY, WITH MARTIN - STILL UNDER THE BEAM, AS THE FIRE FIGHTERS WORK IN THE B/G AND THE PARAMEDICS CONSULT / DISCREETLY CHECK MARTIN'S OBS IN THE B/G -]

MARTIN:

Here, all this, Ruby, maybe it's time for a fresh start? Leave London? Go abroad... sun, sea...

STACEY:

You're no good in the heat. You get grumpy. And the mosquitos like me too much.

MARTIN:

Fair enough. Or the countryside then? Get chickens...

STACEY:

Chickens?

MARTIN:

Yeah. I could go and cook you eggs every morning. All fresh and warm and that...

STACEY:

From the hen's bum?

(7072/ 11 continued)

MARTIN:

Yeah. Make you breakfast, nice cup of coffee. The simple life. Get away from all this - all the dirt and the crime and... exploding pubs -

STACEY:

I dunno. I like my eggs out of a box with a date on 'em. Plus we've got four kids and a grandkid in case you've forgotten

MARTIN:

But you reckon we can start afresh here, yeah?

STACEY:

Well let's face it, it's not gonna be afresh, is it? But, that's alright. That's what I want.

MARTIN:

Just the same old?

STACEY:

Yes.

[MARTIN GOES QUIET]

MARTIN:

You ain't gonna get bored?

STACEY:

No.

MARTIN:

Promise?

(7072/ 11 continued)

STACEY:

Martin, You know me inside out.
You know the bipolar me, the
mistakes I've made, the things
I've been through... Me and you,
we've shouted at each other,
we've hurt each other, and we're
still here. We still feel the
same. And that means the world to
me. I trust you. I can face life
with you there beside me.

(BEAT)

'Cos, let's face it, it ain't
easy, is it? There's always more
coming down the pipeline - I
mean, there's Mum, she ain't
getting any younger and the kids,
they're growing up - and they're
getting into God knows what, and
then there's bills...

MARTIN:

You're really selling the dream
here Stacey.

STACEY:

But that *is* the dream, Martin!
All those little bits that add up
to a life. And I'll look forward
to doing all that, 'cos I'll get
to do it with you. Eh?

(BEAT)

How's that sound?

MARTIN:

How's it sound?

STACEY:

Yeah. 'Cos I ain't perfect.

MARTIN:

Oh, I'm aware.

(7072/ 11 continued)

STACEY:

And you really do get on my nerves...

MARTIN:

Yeah, I remember...

STACEY:

And there's your nose hair that's gonna need a little trim, if I'm gonna fancy ya.

MARTIN:

Oh right, so listen, if we're getting personal, then there's your morning breath...

STACEY:

Oi. My breath's fine.

MARTIN:

Not first thing it ain't.

STACEY:

No-one's is. That's normal.

MARTIN:

Oh right, so it's alright for you to go for my nose hair, but I can't suggest you brush your teeth once in a while.

STACEY:

Alright fine. I'll keep on top of it.

MARTIN:

Probably just need to floss.

STACEY:

Alright!

(7072/ 11 continued)

MARTIN:

And then - and then there's the whole flying off the handle thing...

STACEY:

Well that ain't gonna change any more than you being a sanctimonious git!

MARTIN:

Sanctimonious?!

STACEY:

Yes. That's right.

MARTIN:

I'm not even sure I know what that means.

STACEY:

Look it up, you'll find your name underneath.

[A BEAT. AND MARTIN SNORTS WITH LAUGHTER]

MARTIN:

Hold on - are we having a row already here?

STACEY:

No, we're just, I dunno, ironing out the wrinkles.

[STACEY LAUGHS, BUT HER SMILE VANISHES WHEN SHE CATCHES SIGHT OF THE PARAMEDICS AND FIREFIGHTERS TALKING TO EACH OTHER; SOMETHING ABOUT THEIR FACES MAKES HER UNEASY.]

(7072/ 11 continued)

MARTIN CLOCKS HER SHIFT IN
MOOD]

STACEY:

You still alright to marry me?

MARTIN:

Yeah. Yeah. I am actually.

MARTIN:

Do you think they're nearly done?

[STACEY SWALLOWS, HER MOUTH
DRYING OUT AS FEAR FLOODS HER
BODY]

CUT TO

7072/ 12. INT. CAFE. 2000. NIGHT.

STAGE 1

[RUBY, JEAN, HARVEY, IAN,
PATRICK, YOLANDE, BILLY,
HONEY, FREDDIE, KATHY,
BERNADETTE, KAT AND ALFIE ARE
SITTING IN TENSE, LOADED
SILENCE... SUDDENLY THE DOOR
GOES. EVERYONE LOOKS UP,
POISED FOR NEWS; CALLUM, AND
BEHIND HIM, JAY. THEY TAKE
THEM ALL IN, KNIFE CUTTING
ATMOSPHERE.

RUBY LOOKS UP AT CALLUM, FACE
DRAINING OF BLOOD, HEAD
STARTING TO SHAKE FROM SIDE TO
SIDE -]

JEAN:

What? What's happened?

CALLUM:

Look, I don't know details, but
one of the firefighter's has told
me that someone's in trouble in
there. They're trapped and the
team are working really hard to
get them out.

JEAN:

It's Stacey?

RUBY:

(SOTTO, RESIGNED)
No, it's Martin.

CALLUM:

I honestly don't know, they
didn't say...

(7072/ 12 continued)

KATHY:

It could be any of them...

JAY:

Is there anything I can do?

HONEY:

What can we do?

[JEAN LETS OUT A BREATH]

JEAN:

Well, at least they're together.

[SUDDENLY RUBY STANDS BOLT
UPRIGHT]

RUBY:

What? Martin and Stacey you mean?

JEAN:

Yeah...

RUBY:

That supposed to be some comfort?

[JEAN BLINKS UP AT A SUDDENLY
ENRAGED RUBY]

RUBY:

He shouldn't have gone back in,
he was fine! He was safe!

JEAN:

Well, Stacey's trapped, she needs
him -

RUBY:

- He's Roman's dad! Roman needs
him - I need him!

(7072/ 12 continued)

JEAN:

How can you be so selfish, at a time like this? Thinking of yourself...

RUBY:

How dare you!

IAN:

(COMMANDING)

This isn't helping!

[EVERYONE TURNS TO LOOK AT IAN]

IAN:

(BEAT, TO EVERYONE)

Us lot, being in here. We should be out there. On the Square - So that when Martin and Stacey, Sonia, Lauren and Bianca - when they make it out safe - which they will...

(BEAT)

We're there.

(LOUDER)

We are all there! Come on!

ALFIE:

He's right. Let's get everybody out there, yeah!

[FROM IAN'S DETERMINED FACE, WE GO TO RUBY AND JEAN. A BEAT, AND THEN THEY BOTH SIGNAL THEIR CONSENT WITH A NOD -]

CUT TO

7072/ 13. INT. VIC - BARREL STORE.
2002. NIGHT.

STAGE 3

[STACEY, COLLARING PARAMEDIC SKINNER, WHILE IN THE B/G THE N/S FIREMEN ARE SETTING UP A WINCH TO REMOVE THE BEAM FROM MARTIN'S LEGS]

PARAMEDIC SKINNER:

The firefighters are nearly there. It shouldn't be too much longer now.

STACEY:

There's - there's something you ain't saying...

[PARAMEDIC SKINNER HESITATES]

STACEY:

Just tell me!

[PARAMEDIC SKINNER GLANCES OVER AT MARTIN TO CHECK HE'S NOT LISTENING]

PARAMEDIC SKINNER:

Martin's at risk of something called crush syndrome.

STACEY:

What's that?

(7072/ 13 continued)

PARAMEDIC SKINNER:

The beam's been crushing his legs, so when they lift it off, the toxins that have been building up, they're gonna flood his system. This could cause kidney failure and ultimately a cardiac arrest.

STACEY:

What? Like a heart attack?

[STACEY CAN'T COMPREHEND THIS]

STACEY:

But you can do help him, cant you? You've got your machines and -

PARAMEDIC SKINNER:

- We're giving fluids and we're monitoring him really closely, but there might not be much - (we can do)

[STACEY BLINKS. UNABLE TO TAKE THAT IN]

STACEY:

But you - you have to fix it. It's your job.

PARAMEDIC SKINNER:

I'm sorry. I am.
(BEAT)
You should prepare yourself.
(BEAT)
You should say what you want to say.

[ON STACEY; THESE WORDS NOT REALLY MAKING ANY SENSE]

(7072/ 13 continued)

STACEY:

Say - Say what I want to say?

[PARAMEDIC SKINNER NODS;
TRYING TO CONVEY THE WEIGHT OF
THIS]

PARAMEDIC SKINNER:

Before the beam's lifted.

[STACEY FROWNS; SHE MEANS
BEFORE HE DIES. STACEY SHAKES
HER HEAD, PHYSICALLY REJECTING
THIS INFORMATION]

MARTIN:

(OOV)

Stace? Are you there?

[STACEY SUCKS IN BREATH.
SUDDENLY IT HITS HER. BHAM!]

MARTIN:

(OOV)

Stace?

[BUT SUMMONING SOME COURAGE
FROM SOMEWHERE, SHE GIRDS
HERSELF FOR THE BIGGEST
CHALLENGE OF HER LIFE SO
FAR... AND STEPS FORWARD,
CROUCHES DOWN BY MARTIN'S
SIDE]

STACEY:

Yeah. I'm here. I'm here.

[MARTIN LOOKS AT STACEY; SEES
HER FEAR]

MARTIN:

What is it?

(7072/ 13 continued)

[STACEY IS TOO CHOKED TO
ANSWER]

MARTIN:

What did they tell ya?

STACEY:

(THIN)

It's - it's okay. It's okay.
They're nearly there.

MARTIN:

They're nearly there?

[STACEY LOOKS AT MARTIN. YEAH.

BUT MARTIN CAN SEE RIGHT INTO
STACEY'S SOUL; KNOWS SHE'S
FOUND OUT SOMETHING
DEVASTATING AND IS TRYING TO
PROTECT HIM. TERROR WASHES
THROUGH HIM.

BUT SEEING STACEY STRUGGLING
TO KEEP HER PANIC AT BAY,
MARTIN REACHES OUT AND TAKES
HER HAND]

MARTIN:

Hey. Hey...

[STACEY LOOKS AT MARTIN. HIS
FEAR DROWNED OUT BY AN
OVERWHELMING INSTINCT TO
PROTECT HER]

MARTIN:

Do you - do you wanna hear my
speech, then?

STACEY:

What speech?

(7072/ 13 continued)

MARTIN:

From our wedding. Don't - don't tell me you're getting cold feet already -

[MARTIN SMILES; BUT THE TONE HAS SHIFTED. THE HUMOUR FAILS TO LEAVEN THE MOOD. BOTH UNDERSTAND THAT MARTIN'S MOST LIKELY NOT GETTING OUT OF THIS ALIVE. BUT HE'S DETERMINED TO BE STRONG, NOT TO RUIN HIS LAST, PRECIOUS MOMENTS WITH STACEY. THEY WILL BOTH CONTINUE THIS PRETENSE -]

MARTIN:

I would say, no pressure... that... "I have loved this woman from the very first moment I saw her..."

STACEY:

You dirty perv. I was sixteen!

MARTIN:

The second time then.
(BEAT)
"I thought she was the sexiest thing I'd ever clapped my eyes on".

STACEY:

And I thought phroaaaw. He's alright...

MARTIN:

You gonna keep heckling my speech?

STACEY:

Sorry.

(7072/ 13 continued)

MARTIN:

"It's always been Stace. Because she feels like home and adventure all wrapped into one. I feel like I've travelled the world just by staying right here, in Walford. And, listen to me, I know we are gonna make it this time, and we are gonna be in here in the Vic celebrating our anniversary in forty years time".

[STACEY SMILES, SILENT TEARS
STREAMING DOWN HER FACE]

STACEY:

You'll be eighty and I'll be seventy six!

MARTIN:

You wearing a cardi...

STACEY:

No way! I'm not gonna be like your mother! I'm gonna be more like Kat. I'm gonna get more glam with age and have a little leather mini and - my boobs out...

MARTIN:

Can't wait... Maybe I'll dig that vest out.

STACEY:

Oooofff. Don't get me going Martin. We ain't alone.

MARTIN:

What I wouldn't give for one night with you, Stace...

(7072/ 13 continued)

STACEY:

Hold that thought.

[BEAT ON MARTIN. TEARS IN HIS EYES]

MARTIN:

Come on, gis a kiss at least.

[A BEAT ON STACEY. SHE TRIES TO COMPOSE HERSELF, WIPES HER EYES. A DEEP BREATH. AND THEN SHE BENDS DOWN AND TENDERLY KISSES MARTIN.

THEY PART, BUT THEIR FACES REMAIN CLOSE. MARTIN SUDDENLY CRACKS -]

MARTIN:

I love you so much Stacey, I mean it, you're everything I've ever wanted.

(BEAT)

You are everything to me, you know... And I still can't believe someone like you would want me. I'm the luckiest man in the world. I really am.

[TEARS RUN DOWN STACEY'S FACE.

IN THE B/G PARAMEDIC SKINNER RETURNS FROM TALKING TO THE N/S FIRE FIGHTERS.

STACEY LOOKS UP; HER FACE TIGHTENING]

(7072/ 13 continued)

PARAMEDIC SKINNER:

The firefighters have set up the
airbag now, so we're ready to
lift off the beam.

STACEY:

(LURCHING)

Now?

MARTIN:

(IN, FOR STACEY)

Hey, it's gonna be alright...

[STACEY LOOKS DOWN AT TODD. A
BOLT OF DREAD IN HER HEART]

STACEY:

Right.

[ON STACEY, STEPPING BACK FROM
MARTIN... THE FIRE FIGHTERS
ARE ABOUT TO START WINCHING
OFF THE BEAM, PANIC CLUTCHING
-]

STACEY:

(BEAT)

Just one more.

[AND STACEY RUSHES BACK TO
MARTIN'S SIDE AND PLANTS ONE
MORE KISS ON HIS LIPS.

ONE MORE KISS...]

CUT TO

7072/ 14. INT.
VIC DOWNSTAIRS - KITCHEN. 2005.
NIGHT.

STAGE 2

[TIGHT ON SONIA, GRITTING HER TEETH, SUMMONING ALL HER STRENGTH AS SHE PUSHES HER BABY OUT. LAUREN AND BIANCA, STATIONED BETWEEN SONIA'S LEGS, HELP TO GUIDE OUT THE BABY, AS SONIA GIVES ONE LAST PUSH]

LAUREN:

That's it, that's it...

BIANCA:

Son, just one more push. Come on. Blow. Blow like you're blowing that trumpet!

LAUREN:

You are doing so well.

BIANCA:

It's coming!

LAUREN:

OhmyGod!

[THE BABY SLIPS OUT AND BIANCA SWADDLES HER IN THE BAR TOWEL]

LAUREN:

Look, you did it!

[SONIA PANTS, CONSUMED BY EXHAUSTION, SHOCK AND GRIEF]

(7072/ 14 continued)

BIANCA:

Look at her, Son... look at what you did!

[BUT SONIA LOOKS AWAY; SHE CAN'T BEAR TO. SHE CAN'T BEAR TO SEE HER OWN CHILD. SHE'S FLOATING ON THE CEILING. BARELY IN THE ROOM. NOT CONNECTING WITH ANYTHING.]

LAUREN:

She's so beautiful...

[ANOTHER BEAT. SONIA STILL LOOKING AWAY. TEARS IN HER EYES...

BACK TO BIANCA, WHO SUDDENLY LOOKS TO LAUREN WITH CONCERN]

BIANCA:

(HISSED)

Why's she going blue? Why's she this colour? What does this mean?

LAUREN:

I dunno...

BIANCA:

She's not crying...

[SONIA IS STILL TOTALLY DISCONNECTED, GLASSY EYED... SHE CAN'T HEAR... CAN'T FEEL... THEIR WORDS FLOAT IN THE B/G]

BIANCA:

Sonia. Sonia... We need your help!

(7072/ 14 continued)

LAUREN:

Sonia! I don't know if your
baby's breathing!

BIANCA:

Sonia!

[AND SUDDENLY THEIR WORDS
PUNCTURE SONIA'S
CONSCIOUSNESS.

HER EYES COME INTO FOCUS AND
SHE LURCHES UP]

BIANCA:

Sonia, do something!

LAUREN:

Sonia, please! Please, please!
Your baby's gonna die. Please.
She's dying!

[ON SONIA; PARALYSED WITH
SHOCK.

AND THEN HER MATERNAL INSTINCT
KICKS IN AND SHE REACHES OUT
HER ARMS -]

SONIA:

My baby...

[AS FRANTIC BIANCA LIFTS THE
TINY BUNDLE ONTO SONIA'S
CHEST, WE GO OUT ON A
DESPERATE SONIA; CAN SHE SAVE
HER BABY?]

CUT TO

7072/ 15. INT. VIC - BARREL STORE.
2006. NIGHT.

STAGE 3

[FIRE FIGHTERS PUSH THE CHOCK
INTO POSTITION]

FIREFIGHTER:

All clear!

[STACEY HOLDS HER BREATH AS
THE BEAM STARTS TO MOVE.
MARTIN WATCHES AS THE BEAM
LIFTS OFF HIS LEGS... HE CRIES
OUT IN AGONY]

STACEY:

Stop! Stop...

[PARAMEDIC SKINNER HOLDS UP A
HAND AND THE FIREFIGHTERS
PAUSE-]

PARAMEDIC SKINNER:

Martin, that pain is just the
blood flowing back to your legs,
okay.

[MARTIN CATCHES HIS BREATH,
LOOKS TO STACEY, RESOLUTE]

MARTIN:

It's alright. Okay do it.

[MARTIN NODS- PARAMEDIC
SKINNER LOOKS TO THE
FIREFIGHTERS]

PARAMEDIC SKINNER:

Keep going.

(7072/ 15 continued)

[THE BEAM IS LIFTED CLEAR OF
MARTIN. PARAMEDICS TEND TO
MARTIN. THE HEART MACHINE
REMAINS STEADY]

PARAMEDIC SKINNER:

That's it Martin. You're doing
really well.

[THE PARAMEDICS EXCHANGE AN
ENCOURAGED GLANCE. MARTIN
WATCHES, DESPERATE FOR NEWS]

STACEY:

Is he okay?

PARAMEDIC SKINNER:

We need to keep monitoring him,
but he's doing well so far...

[MARTIN LOOKS UP AT STACEY,
DESPERATE TO REASSURE HER]

MARTIN:

I told you I'd be alright, didn't
I?

[AS THE PARAMEDICS CONTINUE TO
CHECK MARTIN OVER, STACEY'S
RIGID MASK OF FEAR GIVES WAY
TO RELIEF...]

STACEY WEEPS TEARS OF RELIEF;
MAYBE THIS HELL IS ALL ABOUT
TO BE OVER SOON]

CUT TO

7072/ 16. INT.
VIC DOWNSTAIRS - KITCHEN. 2007.
NIGHT.

STAGE 2

[DESPERATE SONIA, RUBBING HER
INERT BABY WITH THE TEA TOWEL,
TEARS ROLLING DOWN HER CHEEKS]

SONIA:

Come on, come on, give us a cry,
you can do it, come on...

[AS A HORRIFIED BIANCA AND
LAUREN WATCH ON - POWERLESS TO
CHANGE THE COURSE OF THE
TRAGEDY UNFOLDING IN FRONT OF
THEM]

SONIA:

Come on, breathe for mummy...
breathe.... please...
(BEAT)
Please don't die, please don't
die, please... please... come on,
come on -

[BUT STILL NOTHING FROM THE
BABY. HER HEAD HANGS BACK. HER
WHOLE BEING SWALLOWED BY AN
UNBEARABLE BLACKNESS.

LAUREN AND BIANCA LOOK AT EACH
OTHER IN DESPAIR.

A BEAT.

AND FINALLY THE SOUND OF A
BABY CRYING...

(7072/ 16 continued)

BIANCA TURNS TO EMBRACE
LAUREN, EMOTIONS CASCADING
FROM BOTH OF THEM]

BIANCA:

She's crying!!!!

[IN THE B/G N/S PARAMEDICS
BEGIN TO CLIMB IN THROUGH THE
HATCH]

BIANCA:

(TO PARAMEDICS)

Well, you bleedin' took your
time!

[AS WE GO OUT ON SONIA'S FACE,
TEARS OF UTTER RELIEF AND JOY
AS SHE LOOKS DOWN IN WONDER AT
HER BABY]

CUT TO

7072/ 17. INT. VIC - BARREL STORE.
2008. NIGHT.

STAGE 3

[STACEY, CALMER NOW, WATCHING
AS THE PARAMEDICS PREPARE TO
MOVE MARTIN ONTO A STRETCHER.

MARTIN LOCKS EYES WITH STACEY.
SMILES. SHE SMILES BACK AND
MOUTHS 'I LOVE YOU'. IT'S ALL
GOING TO BE OKAY.

A BEAT. AND THEN SUDDENLY
MARTIN'S EYES CLOSE...

...THE HEART MONITOR STARTS TO
DIP AND THE PARAMEDICS UP
THEIR URGENCY -]

STACEY:

Martin? Martin!

PARAMEDIC:

Skinner!

STACEY:

What's happening?!

PARAMEDIC SKINNER:

He's in arrest...

STACEY:

What's happening?! No... No...!

PARAMEDIC SKINNER:

Martin! Do you hear me?

STACEY:

No... No... No... No... No...!

(7072/ 17 continued)

[STACEY INSTINCTIVELY TRIES TO
GO TO MARTIN'S SIDE, BUT
PARAMEDIC SKINNER BLOCKS HER
PATH]

PARAMEDIC SKINNER:

We're going for a charge.

PARAMEDIC:

Charging -

PARAMEDIC SKINNER:

Clear -

[STACEY MELTS BACK AS THEY
ATTEMPT TO RESUSCITATE MARTIN
OFF SCREEN]

PARAMEDIC SKINNER:

Shocking...
(BEAT)
No response

STACEY:

No...

PARAMEDIC SKINNER:

Okay and again...

PARAMEDIC:

Charing...

PARAMEDIC SKINNER:

Clear... Shocking...

PARAMEDIC:

It's no good.

PARAMEDIC SKINNER:

Start CPR.

(7072/ 17 continued)

PARAMEDIC:

Starting CPR -

STACEY:

No... No... No... No... No!!

PARAMEDIC SKINNER:

Martin!

[- WE'RE ON STACEY'S MOBILE
FACE AS THE LOVE OF HER LIFE,
FATHER OF HER KIDS, HER ROCK,
EBBS AWAY BEFORE HER EYES -]

CUT TO

7072/ 18. EXT. SQUARE. 2009. NIGHT.

FRONT LOT

[LILY IN THE TOP WINDOW OF
NO.30 LOOKS DOWN TO THE VIC.

A CROWD HAS GATHERED OUTSIDE
THE VIC -

FROM ANOTHER DIRECTION, SUKI,
EVE, VINNY, PRIYA, NUGGET,
AVANI AND RAVI ARRIVE... (N.B
RAVI WILL BE HERE TOO IF
DENISE DOESN'T PICK HIM)

WE SEE BERNADETTE, FINGERS
LACED WITH FELIX. TOGETHER.

PATRICK HOLDING HANDS WITH
YOLANDE, CHELSEA BY THEIR
SIDE.

KIM WITH HOWIE, HUGGING PEARL,
DRAWING DENZEL IN TO JOIN
THEM. YOLANDE NOTICES NIGEL
STANDING ALONE AND USHERS HIM
OVER, AS WE GO TO -

- LEXI HOLDING HANDS WITH JAY
ON ONE SIDE, CALLUM THE OTHER.
BESIDE THEM, PENNY, RICKY AND
AMY. HE PULLS HIS SISTER IN
FOR A RARE HUG.

LINDA WALKS THROUGH THE CROWD
TO FIND HER FAMILY -]

LINDA:

Johnny! Johnny!

(7072/ 18 continued)

JOHNNY:

Mum!

[JOHNNY IS WITH GEORGE,
ELAINE, GINA, ANNA, JUNIOR AND
KOJO EMERGE FROM THE MARQUEE;
JOINING BILLY AND HONEY.

BILLY, PUTS HIS ARMS AROUND
JANET; HONEY, RESTING HER HEAD
ON WILL'S SHOULDER. HARRY
JOINS AND WATCHES ON.
AND ONTO EMOTIONAL JEAN,
AWAITING NEWS OF STACEY, WITH
HARVEY, KAT, ALFIE, ZACK AND
TOMMY. WHILE FREDDIE CONSOLES
A DISTRAUGHT MO.

KATHY, PETER, IAN AND LOUIE,
WAITING, HUDDLED TOGETHER,
TENSE, BUT DETRMINED TO BE
POSITIVE...

THE PARAMEDICS APPEAR
ESCORTING SONIA, BIANCA AND
LAUREN (BODY DOUBLES) TOWARDS
THE AMBULANCE]

KATHY:

(SMILING)

Look, it's Lauren, Sonia and
Bianca!

[A COLLECTIVE GASP OF JOY.
PETER HOLDS LOUIE TIGHTLY NEXT
TO HIM -]

PETER:

See, I told you Mum would be
safe, didn't I...

[SONIA GETS INTO AMBULANCE]

(7072/ 18 continued)

HONEY:

(LIGHTING UP)
And Sonia's had her baby!

ALFIE:

Sonia's had her baby, everyone!

[AND AS THE CROWD EXPRESS
THEIR RELIEF AND JOY, RUBY
TURNS HER ATTENTION BACK TO
THE BARREL STORE.

SEEING HER, JEAN TAKES IN HER
ISOLATION AND CROSSES OVER,
SLIPS A HAND THROUGH HER ARM
AND HOOKS HER INTO HER SIDE.
TOGETHER, THEY LOOK TO THE
BARREL STORE. WAITING FOR NEWS
OF STACEY AND MARTIN -]

CUT TO

7072/ 19. INT. AMBULANCE/STAGE 1.
2010. NIGHT.

STAGE 2 / STAGE 1

[SONIA, SITTING IN THE BACK OF
THE AMBULANCE, AS AN N/S
AMBULANCE DRIVER CLOSES THE
DOOR SO SHE'S COCOONED WITH
HER TINY NEW BORN BABY]

SONIA:

Hello little one.

(BEAT)

I ain't gonna lie, it's bonkers
here. But don't be scared... 'Cos
Mummy's here.

CUT TO

7072/ 20. INT.
BARREL STORE/MENTAL HEALTH UNIT.

2010. NIGHT.

STAGE 3 / STAGE 2

[PARAMEDICS WORK ON MARTIN]

SONIA V/O:

(OOV)

And for all the darkness.

STACEY:

Come on Martin, come on...! Come on!

[PHIL, TAKING IN HIS SINGLE
BED IN A SINGLE ROOM. TEARS
BRIMMING. SO VERY ALONE]

SONIA V/O:

(OOV)

Even when you think that life has
ground to a halt, and you can't
go on...

CUT TO

7072/ 21. INT. NO 27. 2010. NIGHT.

STAGE 1

[DENISE CUDDLED UP IN THE ARMS
OF JACK ON THE SOFA]

SONIA V/O:

(OOV)

There's always something magic
round the corner to keep you
going...

CUT TO

7072/ 22. EXT.
SQUARE GARDENS / INT. AMBULANCE /
STAGE 1.
2011. NIGHT.

FRONT LOT / STAGE 2 / STAGE 1

[TEAR STAINED BIANCA AND
LAUREN JOIN THE GATHERED
CROWD.

LAUREN HUGS LOUIE AND PETER
TIGHT.

BIANCA HUGS KAT.

PEOPLE REACT WITH RELIEF AND
JOY. SEE GEORGE, ELAINE,
BILLY, HONEY AND LINDA JOIN IN
CONGRATULATING THEM ON THEIR
SURVIVAL.]

SONIA V/O:

(OOV)

And the thing about living round
here - is you're always gonna be
surrounded by family, blood or
not, like it or not.

BIANCA:

(OF SONIA)

She was just so brave!

KAT:

I love you, B!

[A BEAT ON IAN. HE TURNS TO
KATHY]

IAN:

It's going to be alright, Mum.

(7072/ 22 continued)

KATHY:

Yeah -

SONIA V/O:

(OOV)

And the people, they have such
courage...

[WE SEE JEAN AND RUBY, EYES ON
THE BARREL STORE.

GO TO SONIA IN THE AMBULANCE,
WITH HER BABY]

SONIA:

(IN VISION)

So welcome to the world Julia.

[WE GO BACK TO THE SQUARE
WHERE THE CROWD WAIT
EXPECTANTLY.]

SONIA V/O:

(OOV)

It's - it's all about to begin.

[BILLY HAS HIS ARM AROUND
HONEY.

LAUREN RESTS HER HEAD ON
PETER'S SHOULDER.

SUDDENLY A GUTTURAL WAIL FROM
THE BARREL STORE SHATTERS THE
SILENCE, AS OUR CHARACTERS ALL
REACT TO THE TRAGIC SOUND;

HEARING HER DAUGHTER'S VOICE,
JEAN MOUTHS 'STACEY', RUBY
DROPS TO HER KNEES IN DESPAIR.

(7072/ 22 continued)

IAN'S FACE TWISTS IN AGONY,
WHILE OTHERS LOOK TO EACH
OTHER HOPING FOR SOME COMFORT,
ONLY TO BE MET BY THEIR OWN
BLANK HORROR REFLECTED BACK -]

CUT TO

7072/ 23. INT. VIC - BARREL STORE.
2011. NIGHT.

STAGE 3

[STACEY, VISCERALLY SOBBING
ONTO MARTIN'S CHEST; HIS LIFE
IS OVER]

FADE OUT