

Gold Digger

Written by

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Episode Five

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PINK PAGES (Issued: 5th November 2018)

BLUE PAGES (Issued: 6th November 2018)

YELLOW PAGES (Issued: 12th November 2018)

Mainstreet Pictures / BBC One

He opens the card: 'Happy 25th. Can't believe you're all grown up. Love Dad'. Leo stares at the card, twists his head, sees: Julia cross into view behind in the hallway. Leo looks from his Mum to the card. The gulf between his parents clear.

LEO (O.S.) (CONT'D)
We're being ripped apart.

Coming in from the kitchen, apron about his waist, in help mode - BENJAMIN. He slips his arms about Julia, kisses her.

LEO (O.S.) (CONT'D)
And it's all his fault.

CUT TO: **TITLES**

Leo goes full pelt on his new bike, steaming down from the end of the drive. Patrick comes outside, shakes his head at his younger brother, stands in his path. A chicken of sorts. Leo pedals harder - only right at the last does he pump on the brakes, spin off to the side. He feels like a hero - but Patrick just looks at his birthday badge. Derisive -

PATRICK
Very Mad Max.

Belittled, Leo jumps off the bike, it falls to the gravel.

LEO
Like you could do better.

A challenge.

PATRICK
I've got responsibilities.

LEO
Who knew you'd become such a pussy
in your old age.

That decides it.

PATRICK
Fine. If anything happens, Della
gets guardianship of the girls.

LEO
(offended)
I'd make a great guardian.

PATRICK
In the no job, no flat, no seeming
plan sense?

LEO

I have a plan -

PATRICK

- 'Course. Pizza for the masses.
Thank goodness no one else has
thought of that.

Leo goes to dead arm Patrick but - misses. Patrick laughs, picks up the bike, dusts it down. Whilst he's doing this, Leo yanks off his birthday badge, pockets it. As his brother continues his OCD prep on the bike before he mounts, Leo sees - a knackered VW van pull in. From it emerges: a man who looks every one of his thirty-nine years. This is KIERAN. Holdall in hand. Thrown by the size of the house.

Taking advantage of Patrick's distraction, Leo walks up like the man of the house to Kieran.

LEO

Can I help you?

KIERAN

(with a Geordie accent)
Hope so. I'm looking for Benjamin.

Before Leo can reply, Patrick takes over - undermining Leo.

PATRICK

Sorry, and you are?

KIERAN

His brother.

A laugh of surprise bursts from Leo. Then a look to Patrick. We have him now.

Leo swaggers to the table, eyes set on Benjamin. Julia's pushing twenty-five candles into his homemade cake, decorated with an 'L'. Della dutifully helps. From inside we hear the squeals of Eimear's girls with her at the piano.

LEO

Benjamin, someone to see you.

And ushered out from the kitchen by Patrick, comes Kieran. Leo just looks at Benjamin. Sees the shock. The emotion.

BENJAMIN

...Kieran...

Kieran's eyes fill. He doesn't know what to say, lifts a hand as hi. Benjamin doesn't reciprocate. Kieran puts hand down, embarrassed. Seeing Julia's confusion, Patrick steps in.

PATRICK

Mum - this is Benjamin's brother.

BENJAMIN

(stammering it out)

Half. Half-brother.

LEO

Half. Whole. It's all the same.

Leo looks to Julia, waits for her explosion. It doesn't come.

KIERAN

Sorry to just...turn up. Got the address from your uni. Once I knew where you were I couldn't not come.

Benjamin swallows. Nods. Leo interjects, to Julia -

LEO

I could have *sworn* you told us Benjamin was an only child, Mum.

Julia twists around, looks to Leo. Then - shakes her head.

JULIA

You must have it confused.

Unsettling Leo. Julia walks over to Kieran. Gives him the warmest smile she can and then - extends a hand to him.

JULIA (CONT'D)

Lovely to meet you. I'm Julia.

KIERAN

Kieran. Nice to meet you too.

Leo's buoyancy's draining away. How is Benjamin getting away with this? Kieran awkwardly tries to connect with Benjamin.

KIERAN (CONT'D)

How've you, how've you been?..Big question, sorry.

(nods to Della)

Is this your wife?

Embarrassing Della and Julia in equal measure.

DELLA

Not so much.

It jolts Benjamin out of his shock. He pushes himself up to standing, trying to take control of the situation.

BENJAMIN

Julia's my...we're getting married.

Leo looks to Kieran, waiting for his outrage. But - to Julia -

(CONTINUED)

KIERAN

Even nicer to meet you then.

Leo elbows Patrick - what? Irritated, Patrick swats him off.

KIERAN (CONT'D)

(to Benjamin, moved)

I...congratulations.

LEO

Kieran here's a bit late to the party, wouldn't you say Benjamin?

BENJAMIN

We haven't seen each other in a while.

LEO

Define a while.

KIERAN

Seventeen years, give or take.

LEO

(blows out his cheeks)

Seventeen years. That's, well, that's Biblical...What happened?

A look passes between Benjamin and Kieran. Before Kieran can -

BENJAMIN

It was just...one of those things.

LEO

Now *that* is a detailed explanation.

Benjamin ignores Leo, walks up to Kieran. As if light -

BENJAMIN

We should probably go and 'catch up'.

LEO

Give him a hug then. Poor bloke's come all this way - from somewhere very far from Kent by the sounds of it...

A momentary loss of control from Benjamin. Furious at Leo. He fumbles Kieran into a hug. Kieran clamps on. The Day family look between each other, trying to make sense of it, apart from Julia. Staring at the embrace. Benjamin turns to Julia -

BENJAMIN

I'll be back in a bit.

Benjamin leads Kieran out. A silence settles. Then Julia's back in mum mode. Picks up the cake knife. Overly brightly -

(CONTINUED)

JULIA

We should sing. Della, help me
light the candles.

Della quickly fumbles for a lighter in back pocket.

LEO

Are you seriously going to pretend
that didn't just happen?

JULIA

I'm not pretending anything.

Leo gives an exaggerated shake of head. Looks to his siblings
for help. Della just focuses on trying to get a flame. So -

PATRICK

I have to be honest Mum, I've never
heard mention of this brother.

JULIA

Why would you have? You can just
about bring yourself to exchange
pleasantries with Benjamin.

Which shuts Patrick up, but Leo won't drop it.

LEO

Either way, it's hardly the most
attractive quality - not speaking
to your brother for half your life.
When you think about it, it's kind
of...psychopathic.

Julia just looks at Leo. As calmly as she can -

JULIA

It's not always easy...Family.

She sets the cake knife down, turns, walks off towards the
dining room. After a moment we hear the excitable cries of -

CHARLOTTE (O.S.)

Granny I can play Frère Jacques -

EIMEAR (O.S.)

- Let your poor grandmother have a
moment before you start haranguing
her, Lottie.

CHARLOTTE (O.S.)

What's ha-rang-in?

Julia's now inside, out of sight. We stay with our siblings.

PATRICK

Delicately done.

DELLA

I don't know why you can't think first, engage your mouth second.

The team of Della and Patrick. It makes Leo more belligerent.

LEO

The man's a liar. End of.

6 **EXT. DAY HOUSE - DAY 22**

6

Patrick packs up his car with much less OCD perfection than normal. In haste, slight panic. Leo is upset he's leaving, but can't show it so goes for mockery and aggression instead.

LEO

This is your solution? To leave?

Patrick untangles himself from the rear seats where he'd been shoving the kids 'car amusement' bags in the footwell.

PATRICK

I'm done trying to tell Mum things she doesn't want to hear. I've got my own family to worry about.

Stung, Leo tries to find a retort. Patrick strides off.

LEO

Newsflash - we're your family too.

Gets no response. Leo kicks a tyre. It hurts. He sees, fallen in footwell - Patrick's work phone. Gets it. A text from 'Heidi Work': 'Come back already. I need you inside me. X'. Leo stares in disbelief, whips head to where Patrick's gone.

7 **INT. DAY HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY 22**

7

Leo trudges in, pauses at the threshold as he sees:

By the stairs, facing up to them, Patrick's crouched, righting Charlotte's shoes, which she'd put on the wrong way. Lacing them up for her. Eimear struggles to get her jacket on with one hand, the other occupied with a grizzly Elsie.

PATRICK

Give Granny a hug goodbye.

Charlotte bounds off and in one deft motion, Patrick takes Elsie and helps Eimear into her jacket. But we stay with Leo, watching his face, staring in at his fallen idol.

EIMEAR

I had it under control. Just so you know.

(CONTINUED)

PATRICK
(with affection)
You have everything under control.
I'm utterly redundant.

EIMEAR
Not *utterly* utterly. There are some
areas I couldn't do without you.

Patrick nuzzles into her back, quick to be aroused.

PATRICK
And they are..?

EIMEAR
It's not for young ears.

PATRICK
(of Elsie)
She's not listening -

His mouth is on Eimear's neck, ear. Leo can't handle it any
more - backheels the front door. It slams. They spring apart.

EIMEAR
Nothing to see here.

Leo doesn't laugh, can't look at her - the guilt too much. He
goes to walk past, averting his gaze. Eimear catches his arm.

EIMEAR (CONT'D)
What's up?

LEO
(can't help it)
Ask your husband.

PATRICK
He's annoyed we're leaving.

Leo wants to rebut this. But looking at Eimear, can't.

EIMEAR
I did argue the toss if it helps
but you know your brother - once
he's his mind set on something,
then pity the poor fucker who gets
in his way.

Leo can't handle it. Walks past them, up the stairs. Turns
back before he's out of sight. Looks down to Eimear -

LEO
Eimear...Look after yourself, yeah?

She's touched and a bit confused. Leo hurries off -

8

INT. DAY HOUSE - BENJAMIN'S OFFICE - DAY 22

8

Leo enters without knocking first, everything wanting to burst from him.

LEO

You won't believe this but -

He pulls up, thrown to see Della's packing. It wounds him. She nods him on to finish his sentence but he waves it away.

LEO (CONT'D)

Patrick goes and you follow. Nice.

DELLA

Two words, bro. And they're words you won't be familiar with. Insufficient funds. I can't turn down a free lift home...Anyway you don't want to spend your birthday night with your dry old siblings.

He absolutely does but he'd never say.

LEO

You're right, can't think of anything worse.

9

EXT / INT. MARSHA'S HOUSE - DUSK 22

9

Leo tries to look casual as he waits, leaning against his new bike. He sees a scuff from where he dropped it earlier, bends to start frantically wiping it away with his T-shirt. It doesn't shift. The door eventually opens to reveal: TED. In the intervening months he's lost grip of his health regime.

LEO

You didn't come...

Ted doesn't answer this, just pulls Leo in for a hug.

TED

Happy Birthday, Leo lion.

Leo gives a small smile. Like a child.

LEO

I'd hoped the occasion might be enough to break you and Mum out of your big freeze, but...no dice.

Which irks Ted. Maybe he's been drinking, maybe not - either way, he deflects the question. Nods to the bicycle.

TED

She rides well, doesn't she?

(CONTINUED)

LEO

Yeah she...she's great.

TED

You haven't scratched her already?

LEO

(quickly stammers out)

It was Patrick.

Ted looks at Leo - doesn't believe him. In fast -

LEO (CONT'D)

Besides missing out on his pig-headed attempt to have a barbecue in March you also missed the latest absurdity with our resident toyboy.

Ted's jaw clenches.

TED

I thought I'd made it clear. I don't want to talk about Benjamin.

LEO

Trust me, you'll break your rule for this...I'm thinking you, me, birthday dinner at The Oak - I regale you with the story, you keep my glass filled, everyone's happy.

TED

I can't say it again. No more Benjamin, no more your mother, it's all...it's not good for me.

It hits Leo. His Dad still loves his Mum. Leo seizes on this.

LEO

The fat lady hasn't sung yet, Dad. There's still time to stop the wedding -

Ted fast pulls the front door shut behind him. Shushes him -

TED

Remember whose house this is...

Leo's chastened. Ted tries to soften it. Gives a weak smile.

TED (CONT'D)

Dinner, the two of us, sounds great. Just...not tonight.

Not even an excuse. It hurts Leo but he pretends it doesn't.

LEO

Sure, whenevs.

Ted hurries to his electric car, drives off. Leo gives a wave, doesn't get one back. Watches the car go. Now alone. Doesn't like it - so - hammers at the door knocker again.

Cali sits on a lounge, trying desperately to look relaxed but eyes set on: Leo, standing at the edge of the deck, smoking a spliff. Cali keeps going to ask, thinking better of it. Eventually -

LEO

Patrick is having an affair.

CALI

(absorbs it, then -)
But Eimear's so lovely.

Leo knows. Doesn't know what to say.

CALI (CONT'D)

And Patrick seems such a good husband.

LEO

Seems being the operative word.

CALI

Like father like son I guess.

Leo turns round to face Cali.

LEO

That's different. He wasn't just bored and randy like my shit of an older brother, he was...lost.

Leo takes a pull of his spliff. Holds it in before the exhale.

LEO (CONT'D)

You work all your life, give everything to your wife and your kids and then it's just like -
(dip snaps his fingers)
Boom. Retirement...Your use just...ends. All that doing the right thing comes to nothing, so when the *wrong* thing presents itself, eagerly might I add...

Cali can't suppress the outraged laugh that chokes from her.

CALI

Did you just describe my mother as 'the wrong thing?'

Leo grins at her. Comes over, offers spliff as apology and settles down onto adjacent lounge.

LEO

She produced you, which I consider one of her redeeming features, but - she also split up my parents.

CALI

Who were both faultless right?

LEO

Sure, *my* Mum could've paid him a bit more attention, but I guess she didn't know that *your* Mum was waiting to...ensnare him.

CALI

I see. So if it wasn't for the witchery of my mother, they'd still be together?

The joke ends here with Leo. He just gives a firm nod.

LEO

Yep...And thriving. We'd all be.

CALI

Well we might be able to test your theory soon.

He waits for her to speak. She grins, enjoying the power.

LEO

You can't just say that and then go all coy Roy. What do you mean?

CALI

I *mean* - they're sleeping in separate beds. The kiss of death.

Leo takes this in. Nods. Pleased. Takes the spliff, thinks.

LEO

Then maybe there's a way...
(to her, mischievous)
With a little helping hand.

CALI

Don't look at me.

Leo leans back, rests his head against hers. Quiet a moment.

LEO

You do realise that if our rents weren't together then, well...

He hands her the spliff, but doesn't release his own hand. So their fingers are touching. She doesn't let go either.

LEO (CONT'D)

There'd be none of that icky pseudo-stepkids vibe and we could...

Cali daren't allow herself to speak. Nods him on. He smiles a dangerous smile, leans in close, mouth only inches from hers.

LEO (CONT'D)

We could be more open -

And then his lips are on hers. Tongues, frantic -

Stillness. Their heads apart. In bed. Leo's face contorted with embarrassment. He has the duvet tight to his chin. Cali searches for something to say to make it better. Just as she turns to him, Leo hurries in with an attempt at breeziness -

LEO

I'm not even gonna say that's never happened to me before 'coz you *know* it's never happened to me before...

He drifts off. Wants to die. Cali replies simply, with love.

CALI

Leo - it's me.

And we see this makes it better for him. Tentatively, Cali nuzzles her head into his nook. Distractedly, Leo strokes her hair, but he's really thinking about his many failures. She feels the silence grow, knows him too well, distracts him -

CALI (CONT'D)

So this evil plan of yours...how can I help?

Getting what he wants always perks Leo up.

LEO

Keep your Mum busy for a day. Shopping, manicures, whatever mind-numbing activities you girls enjoy.

Cali gives him a nipple tweak, he gives a shocked ow.

CALI

Your understanding of the female species is second to none.

Leo chuckles, kisses the top of her head. Cali shuts her eyes, the bliss of being wanted and held by him. Leo's brain is whirring into action - a plan taking shape.

LEO

Then leave the rest to me...

12 **INT. DAY HOUSE - OPEN-PLAN KITCHEN - DAY 23**

12

Leo bounds in, properly dressed for the day for once. Takes in the scene: Kieran sitting with Julia and Benjamin over a fancy breakfast. He's not surprised, which tells us he knew about this. Either way, he has his mind fixed on the prize.

LEO

Rolling back the years over potted eggs. Is there any other way?

They turn, see him - Julia stands to fetch Leo a plate.

JULIA

There's more in the Aga for you.

LEO

You carry on. I only came to ask -

He leans over Benjamin to snaffle a piece of toast -

LEO (CONT'D)

Could I steal my mother from you tomorrow?

BENJAMIN

You don't need my permission.

Leo claps him on the back. Then directs a smile to Kieran.

LEO

Top man, your brother.

Kieran meets Leo's eye, gets his inference, but won't rise to the bait. Just nods - yes, he is.

13 **INT. JULIA'S VW / EXT. DAY HOUSE - DAY 24**

13

Leo sits in the passenger seat, Julia at the wheel pulling out of the drive. She looks in rear view at - Benjamin. Stood outside her house with Kieran. Leo reads her discomfort.

LEO

Should we hide the silver?

Julia twists to him. Annoyed. Leo just laughs.

LEO (CONT'D)

It's a joke, Mum. Remember that thing we used to do?

JULIA

Well it wasn't desperately funny.

(CONTINUED)

LEO
My speciality.

She shakes her head with an affectionate smile at her baby.

JULIA
You're very...buoyant today.

LEO
Can't I just be excited to spend
time with you?

And now Julia feels guilty.

JULIA
Yes of course you can. And I'm very
pleased you suggested it...
(a moment, then -)
I know the last six months haven't
been exactly...Really I should have
been the one to, to make it right -

LEO
- Okay I think we have to seriously
manage your expectations of this
day trip. It's not some luxe spa.

JULIA
(with warmth)
Allow your old mum a little
sentiment...Whatever you might
think, I've missed you. I've even
missed nagging you...It doesn't
matter where we're going, I'd be
happy with corned beef sandwiches
in the car, so long as it's us two.

Any smart aleck response from Leo is killed by her visible
need. He gives his mother a smile but it falters as he thinks
of his plan to come. Nerves setting in.

Leo outstretches his arms to show off to Julia: the woodland
tourist attraction, trees as far as she can see.

JULIA
(softly, with nostalgia)
It hasn't changed at all.

As she stands admiring the view, Leo bounds to the back of
the car - checks his phone for the time - darts a glance
around. Then hauls a backpack on. Shuts the boot.

Into the car park, sticky from the effort cycling now takes -
Ted. The shock of both parent is equal.

The first time they've been in close proximity since the ill-fated kiss. Julia is first to look away. Ted dismounts, on the offensive.

TED

Was this your idea?

JULIA

No it was not *my* idea.

Both Julia and Ted look at Leo. He gives a charming shrug.

TED

Did you hear anything I said the other day?

LEO

I did actually.

Ted shakes his head, goes to wheel bike around to the exit.

LEO (CONT'D)

Is there any reason you're both avoiding each other?

Both freeze. Look at each other. Then away. Fill the silence.

JULIA

Avoiding? We're not avoiding each other.

TED

There's no avoiding going on, son.

Leo just smiles.

LEO

Good, then there's no reason you can't both spend the day with me.

Snookered.

Through the dense leafy green, find Leo, walking between his parents. It's undeniably beautiful here, Leo stopping to show Julia and Ted an eruption of wild mushrooms at a tree base. He's trying really hard, to be light, funny. It's not really thawing out either parent. But it only redoubles his efforts -

An upward scramble lies ahead of them. Mossy boulders, lots of mud. Leo sizes it up.

LEO

(derisively)

This felt a way bigger deal when I was six.

JULIA
(smiles at the memory)
You always insisted on Patrick
giving you a piggyback.

Instantly annoying Leo.

LEO
Not true.

Ted half-laughs at Leo's bolshy denial.

TED
I'm afraid your mother's right.
You'd plant your feet, cross your
arms and wait until Patrick
relented.

Julia laughs - she'd forgotten. Leo shakes his head, runs up the slippery path to prove a point. When he reaches the top he turns to look back at his parents - they're still half-smiling to themselves. It pleases him, gives him an idea.

LEO
It is *seriously* slippy. Dad give
Mum a hand up.

JULIA
I'm not that ancient.

Ted steps onto the slope, scuffs a boulder.

TED
Don't be stubborn.

He offers Julia his hand with a degree of gallantry.

And she doesn't take Ted's hand as she begins the climb. The lost cause of it all hits Leo.

He twists away, needs the comfort of - rolling up. His fingers give him away, tremble, tobacco falls to ground. Leo sighs, restarts. A slight cry behind has him turn, see:

Julia's waist being gripped by Ted, where he's obviously stopped her slipping over. After a moment Julia starts laughing, at herself, at everything, and Ted joins in. Leo just beams -

Leo's wide smile all we can see.

They come through a clearing to see: the main falls in all their cascading glory. Breathtaking. The three cluster together instinctively. For Leo, this is a moment of pure happiness.

They're sitting on a picnic blanket, having the packed lunch Leo's made. It's all very amicable. As Leo leaves his sandwich crusts, Ted hoovers them up. Their tradition.

LEO

Because I was in charge, instead of chunks of already browning apple...

JULIA

Are you denigrating my picnic skills?

Leo and Ted share a smile. Obviously her picnics were not the stuff of legend. Julia sees, gives Leo a jovial shove. Leo makes a 'ta da' noise as he pulls Rocky Bars from backpack.

TED

I haven't had one of them in years.

Julia takes this moment to check her phone. A voicemail. She moves away to listen to it. Leo sees his Dad clock this.

LEO

The biscuit of champions.

Ted just murmurs. Doesn't take the proffered Rocky Bar. Julia comes back over, puts phone away. Ted can't help himself.

TED

Benjamin checking up on you, is he?

LEO

(hurries in with -)
Mum - Rocky Bar?

Leo looks hopefully to his Mum, but she can't let it go.

JULIA

He's not *checking up* on me. We've got a lot to sort with the wedding.

Leo stops eating, on edge. Will his Dad be the bigger person?

TED

Of course, the big day gallops ever nearer...I haven't received my invite yet. I've taken to waiting by the postbox.

JULIA

It's a small affair. More of a party really. And to be honest, I assumed you wouldn't want to come.

Ted just looks at her. Playing his own game.

TED

Why's that?

Julia meets his gaze. Leo interjects, panic setting in -

LEO

Surely someone's going to help me
out with this caramel goodness...

Ted ignores this, but claps Leo on the shoulder. Using him -

TED

In the spirit of playing happy
families...

Leo twists from one parent to the other. Julia smiles at Ted -

JULIA

Consider yourself invited.

LEO

We should, we should head back,
we've got the meerkats at three -

TED

- Obviously I'll require a plus
one. For Marsha.

JULIA

(of course)

This isn't the first wedding I've
planned, although this one *does*
differ in that I'm actually allowed
to do what I like.

Aggrieved, Ted stands.

TED

You had the wedding you wanted.

Now Julia stands too. Leo's left sitting between them, not
knowing where to put himself. Looking like a lost child.

JULIA

No, I had the wedding *you* wanted.
Sorry, dictated. Which let's be
honest set the theme for everything
that followed didn't it?

LEO

Mum. Please.

TED

(triumphantly)

Thank you, son.

(to Julia, with malice)

Told you he was on my side.

It panics Leo. No safe place here. He pushes up to standing.

LEO

I'm not on a side, there's
no...side.

JULIA

(hurt, to Leo)
So you weren't picking a side when
you hid your father's affair from
me?

Utterly flooring Leo. Shock, guilt, shame. He can't look at
Julia, can't speak a moment. Manages to turn to his father -

LEO

Why did you tell her?

Ted has the good grace to feel bad. An apologetic shrug.

JULIA

Because he wanted to hurt me. And
guess what - it worked.

LEO

Mum, I...

Julia's done. Starts collecting her things.

JULIA

This was a bad idea.

TED

Finally we agree on something.

Leo can only watch helplessly as Julia starts walking off in
one direction, Ted in the other. Leo calls out with as much
forced cheer as he can muster -

LEO

Look we can reset, I know we can.
We just...take a few minutes out,
then wander back, feed the meerkats-

TED

- Enough with the bloody meerkats.
You're not five years old any more.

Ted stomps off through the woodland, Julia out of sight
already. Just a gutted Leo left in their wake. Not sure which
way to go - who to follow.

Leo keeps darting a glance across at Julia as she drives. She
resolutely doesn't look at him. So Leo vomits out the words.

LEO

I didn't want to see anything, I
didn't want to *know* anything,
believe me, Mum...When I thought
about telling you, I...I just
couldn't hurt you like that.

Julia sees that he's upset, just gives a tiny nod.

LEO (CONT'D)

Dad swore it was the last time. He
told me he was going to fix things
with you. Make it how it was.

JULIA

(a strangled laugh)
How it was?..How was it?

Leo just looks back at her. Utterly in earnest -

LEO

You were happy. You and Dad...
(waits for confirmation)
Not in a grim all-over-each-other
way, just...quietly working.

And now we know where we are. Back hearing his opening words.

LEO (CONT'D)

It made me feel safe.

Leo averts his gaze from Julia, twists to the window.

LEO (CONT'D)

Like our family was the one solid
thing...But now..?

His face clouds over.

LEO (CONT'D)

We're being ripped apart...
(with venom)
And it's all his fault.

Julia gives a tired shake of the head out to the road.

JULIA

Whatever you think went wrong, went
wrong long before Benjamin.

Silencing Leo. The ground shifting beneath his feet.

20

INT. DAY HOUSE - LEO'S BEDROOM - EVENING 24

20

Leo pushes the door shut hard. His room a mishmash. One wall carries prints from 'Fist of Fury' to 'Scarface', the other - Tibetan prayer flags, another - a surf board. The floor all abandoned expensive birthday presents, filmy water glasses.

Leo goes to call - 'Bro' - his face wrinkles with anger. Scrolls to 'Sis' instead. FaceTime. Della's face fills the screen: she's sat in a bar getting on it. No sign of Emily.

LEO

Mum and Dad - they were, they loved each other, didn't they?

DELLA (O.S.)

Ease me into the conversation why don't you.

LEO

But they did. I know they did.
(doubt creeping in)
Didn't they?

DELLA (O.S.)

Why don't you call Patrick, he loves a deep and meaningful.

LEO

I don't want to call Patrick. I'm calling you.

DELLA (O.S.)

O. Kay. It's just now's not a good time is all...Say hello to my baby brother everyone -

She spins the phone around: her DISREPUTABLE FRIENDS half-wave or just ignore Leo and vape all the harder.

LEO

I'm not your baby brother.

DELLA (O.S.)

It's a term of affection numnut and also, I'm afraid, factually correct. What's up with you?

LEO

Nothing, nothing's up...Took Mum and Dad to Becky Falls today -

A laugh of surprise cuts across him from Della.

DELLA (O.S.)

Why the fuck would you do that?

(CONTINUED)

LEO

What do you mean? We used to have fun there.

Della's distracted by a BLONDE arriving, bringing two beers - one for Della. As she passes it over, hands linger. Leo's need is visible and not being met. Finally she turns to him.

DELLA (O.S.)

By fun do you mean that it literally rained every time we went?..Dad kicking off about how expensive the cream teas were so we'd end up driving back hungry - one of us in tears. Usually you. Actually always you.

It upends Leo. He shakes his head, over and over.

LEO

You always do this you and Patrick, make out like everything was...like it wasn't the way it was.

DELLA (O.S.)

No, you're quite right, we all held hands at Becky Falls, made daisy chains and skipped through the woods singing Kumbaya -

He can't take the ruin of his memories. Hangs up, storms to his bed, yanks out a tea tray from under, replete with ready-made spliffs. Sparks up. Grabs his Beats headphones, tries to drown everything out with - 'Lu' by KeithCharles Spacebar -

Leo lies back on his bed. Smoking himself into oblivion. His eyes slowly flicker shut - until we're in darkness -

Caption: Twenty-Four Years Ago

Eyes blink open. Semi-darkness. Shapes of trees looming. And off, in the distance - blue lights start to strobe in. Illuminating the chubby flailing limbs of -

BABY LEO. His scream melds into the scream of approaching sirens. He's clutched to the chest of -

Julia, wild-eyed. YOUNG PATRICK and YOUNG DELLA grip onto her as she calls over the arriving emergency response. Spinning into view - noise everywhere - melding into the 'Lu' baseline-

CALI (CONT'D)

Don't be like that. Stay. We
can...we can watch a movie.

LEO

I don't want to watch a movie, I
want to have sex. That *is* what
young people do you know, we're not
some middle aged couple with our
cocoa and some subtitled bore off -
(laughs to himself)
We're not even a couple.

It cuts Cali to her core. She takes a moment to reply.

CALI

Why are you being so cruel?

LEO

What can I say? Comes naturally.

Cali fights the urge to cry. Leo feels instantly bad, looks
at the floor, about to apologise as - there's a knock -

MARSHA (O.S.)

Cali? Have you got someone in there-

Fuck. Leo quickly pulls shirt on but MARSHA enters before he
can exit. Tired, she just looks at Leo, then Cali, sees her
daughter quickly try to fix her face into a version of okay.

MARSHA (CONT'D)

(to Leo, as a lioness)
What's wrong with the front door?

LEO

I was...I was helping Cali out with
her job applications.

MARSHA

Your specialist subject.

The dig lands with Leo. He lifts his shoes up.

LEO

I'm just gonna - bounce.

He turns to give Cali a sorry, but she won't look at him -
shut down. He shakes his head, hating himself. Goes to leave -

MARSHA

Before you do, I'm sure you'll be
wanting to see your father. *Edward* -

Before Leo can get out, Ted enters. Closes the window, the
shoes in Leo's hand, Cali's upset. With disappointment -

TED

Don't you think you've caused
enough trouble today?

26 INT. VILLAGE PUB - NIGHT 24

26

Unable to cope with himself, his feelings, Leo's sat sinking his third pint. Demolished pork scratchings count as dinner. Behind, at the barely busy bar, Kieran's flirting with the BARMAID (35). Successfully, which further angers Leo.

He pushes up, taking his pint, knocking into a GRIZZLED OLD FARMER. Leo barely apologises, bowls forward to Kieran, sprawls his elbows on the bar, cockblocking his flirt.

LEO

I guess...all being well...you -
(jabs finger at Kieran)
You'll be my 'step-uncle'.

Kieran smiles at Leo. Leo tries to hop on a stool with masculinity, make himself bigger. Fails on both fronts.

KIERAN

I'd offer to get a round in, but
you seem kinda okay on that front.

LEO

Why are you fine with it, him being
with her? She's old enough to be
your Mum.

Kieran feels Leo's heat but just gives an easy shrug.

LEO (CONT'D)

You're seriously saying the age gap
doesn't bother you?

KIERAN

Just happy he's happy. However that
looks.

LEO

Fuckin' weird's how it looks.
There's your brother like some kind
of poster boy and then there's her -
hardly in the shape of her life -

KIERAN

- Nice way to talk about your Mum.

Leo feels instant shame. Slugs back the rest of his pint.
Kieran watches him, fast getting the measure of Leo.

KIERAN (CONT'D)

You look like you're on one.

(CONTINUED)

LEO
(defensive)
It's called having a drink.

KIERAN
(a little jab)
Not have any mates?

Cutting Leo to his core, he goes to stand. Kieran puts one strong hand on his shoulder, sets him back down.

KIERAN (CONT'D)
My bad. Let me get 'em in.

Leo shrugs, sure. Kieran gestures barmaid over with a smile.

KIERAN (CONT'D)
Same again please love.

Leo snorts at the 'love'. Kieran just eyes him up - getting the measure of him. Pints are set down - Kieran chinks his into Leo's and goes at it fast - Leo tries to keep pace -

26A

INT. VILLAGE PUB - CORNER AREA - NIGHT 24 (MONTAGE)

26A

Hands fast move jars to mouths, Kieran outstripping Leo as they drink the pub dry. Pints, to whiskies, to - absinthe. Leo's wild-eyed, unable to finish the absinthe shot. Sets it behind his arm so Kieran can't see that he can't handle it.

LEO
You gonna tell me then?

KIERAN
Tell you what?

LEO
Why you *really* stopped speaking to Benjamin?..And why you're so different to him. From the accent to well -
(eyes Kieran up)
Pretty much everything.

KIERAN
(shrugs, casually)
Different Dad's. Different schools.
Different mates.

LEO
And the seventeen year big freeze?

KIERAN
I didn't exactly lead by example and my brother he just...
(takes a moment, painful)
Wanted better. So left. I - stayed.

(CONTINUED)

LEO
(a hint of excitement)
What we talking, drugs, gangs?

KIERAN
All the above.

In his drunken stupor Leo all but says 'cool'. Just manages to stop himself. Kieran can see how impressed Leo is.

KIERAN (CONT'D)
Nothing to be proud of. I did shitty things to him, things family aren't meant to do...stole, lied...

LEO
(laughs)
Great stock we're marrying into.

KIERAN
That's me. Not my brother.

LEO
Because he's such an upstanding guy. Keeping you hidden away like some, some dirty secret.

It hurts Kieran. He takes a moment, stares into the bottom of his empty absinthe glass. Then looks back up at Leo.

KIERAN
I'd forgive him anything...He's blood. That's all we have in the end.

It gut punches Leo. The one thing he doesn't feel sure of. Leo throws back the half-finished shot of absinthe -

Head over the bowl, Leo hurls up a stomach's worth of alcohol. When everything's expelled, his head sinks against his chest a moment, despair, before - the smell hits him - and he's lurching unsteadily up, jamming on the flush. He wipes his hand against his mouth, tries to make it look like he hasn't just vommed up his guts, then steps out -

To find - Kieran waiting for him, with concern. Busted. The shame is huge for Leo.

28

EXT. DAY HOUSE - DRIVE WAY - NIGHT 24

28

Leo leans against Kieran's van, trying to stop everything spinning. Watches as Kieran takes his bike from the back of his van. Leo can't bring himself to say thanks for the lift.

LEO

Can you not tell my mum about this?

Kieran nods, sets the bike down beside Leo.

KIERAN

Cold Chinese and a Coke and you'll be sorted tomorrow.

LEO

Sounds grim.

KIERAN

Trust me. I've had a lifetime of dirty hangovers.

Leo manages to mumble, to the floor -

LEO

Cheers.

KIERAN

(a half-smile at Leo)
Another bit of advice that you can choose to totally ignore...

Leo upturns his face - needs it.

KIERAN (CONT'D)

Don't make the same mistakes I did.
When I was your age all I seemed to do was prove people right about me.

See this land with Leo.

29

INT. DAY HOUSE - LEO'S BEDROOM - DAY 25 / NIGHT 25

29

Ashen from his hangover, Leo's forced himself to his desk and is googling his way through small business how-to's. The beginning of his mobile pizza oven strategy. Window open, sun pouring in, ashtray empty with pre-rolled spliff ready.

Time lapses from day to night, and again and again, as we - see the spliff untouched. There's Leo - looking more focused than we've seen him, assembling a mood board document -

30

INT. DAY HOUSE - OPEN-PLAN KITCHEN - DAY 26

30

Which becomes a printed-out business plan. Pored over by Julia.

(CONTINUED)

Leo at her shoulder, in an excited stream of explanation. Dressed up for the occasion - his old school tie tragically the smartest thing he owns.

LEO

I know you're going to say - what do we do out of festival season?..What *don't* we do, would be the better question.

He leans over his mum, turns the page to show - images of a mocked-up pizza van juxtaposed with freshers weeks, local fetes, weddings. Julia's never seen him like this.

JULIA

I have to admit, I'm impressed.

LEO

Impressed like, well done, or impressed like - I'll invest.

31

EXT. DAY HOUSE - BACK GARDEN - DAY 27

31

Leo works beside Kieran who's building the pizza oven. Kieran lobs Leo a trowel. Leo flips it in a showy way, drops it. Kieran chuckles. Leo laughs at himself, retrieves trowel. Looks up, sees: Benjamin watching from terrace. Frowning. When he sees Leo he gives a faux friendly wave. Leo returns it. All surface politeness. As over we hear the apology of -

JULIA (O.S.)

It's not a matter of trust -

32

INT. DAY HOUSE - LEO'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 27

32

Leo's swivelled around in his chair to face Julia who has set the business plan back down on the bed. He's in disbelief.

JULIA

- I just wonder whether it wouldn't be better for you to earn the start-up capital yourself. That way your enthusiasm won't...wane.

LEO

It won't. I'm serious about this.

JULIA

Like you were serious about the surf school?..The bike rental app?..Your poetry nights?

LEO

You're ridiculing me. Don't ridicule me.

JULIA

Darling, I'm not, I'm just trying -

LEO

- You were going to say yes earlier, I know you were. Now, miraculously, you've changed your mind...You spoke to Benjamin didn't you?

JULIA

Of course I did. He's my fiancé.

LEO

And he told you not to help me?
(sees it in her face)
Because he wants all your money for himself.

JULIA

Because he can see that by continuing to enable you, I'm doing you more harm than good.

LEO

Are you seriously taking his word over mine?

JULIA

Don't make this about Benjamin.

LEO

Everything's about Benjamin.
Everything's *been* about Benjamin since the day you met.

Julia goes very quiet. Tries not to let the wound show.

JULIA

I'm sorry I can't help you.

Rejection. He can't handle the hurt, goes full fury instead.

LEO

You know all my mates, *all* of them - went straight to London after uni, into flats, into having a proper life. But *I* came back. For you.

JULIA

You came back because it suited you. Which is what you always do.

The correction of history, the criticism - both cut deep.

LEO

Right.

And he turns, drags out a battered Samsonite from wardrobe, starts hurling things in. Julia just watches, unamused.

JULIA

So you pretend to move out and I give you what you want. How mature.

LEO

I'm not pretending.

JULIA

Don't be ridiculous. Where would you even go?

LEO

Where I'm wanted.
(hesitates)
Dad's.

Julia's face contorts with pain. Leo has to avert his eyes.

JULIA

Anywhere but there. Please.

LEO

What do you care? You've made it clear that you only need one thing.
(spits it out)
Benjamin.

SNAP TO BLACK:

Out of the darkness, a caption appears:

Part Two: 'Her'

33 **EXT. DAY HOUSE - TERRACE - DAY 22**

33

Julia's face all we can see. Eyes seeming to stare straight through us, a horrified fascination to her, as over we hear -

JULIA (O.S.)

I've never lied.

And now we see what she's looking at: Benjamin in the awkward hug with Kieran. Leo's trying to smirk and catch her eye but Julia keeps her gaze rooted on the brothers reuniting.

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

I've just...not said -

34 **INT. DAY HOUSE - BOOT ROOM - DAY 22**

34

Julia yanks the candles out of Leo's untouched birthday cake.

(CONTINUED)

JULIA (O.S.)

It's in the not saying that you
spare pain.

She looks at the pock-marks left in the cake. The ruin of it.

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

Protect.

Then of a sudden she just - dumps the whole cake in the bin.

35 OMITTED

35

36 **EXT. DEVON MOORS (HAY TOR) - EVENING 22**

36

Julia's feet all we can see, in wellies, stamping the ground
as she goes. In a ferocious mood. Taking no pleasure in what
we now pull out to see: the incredible landscape.

JULIA (O.S.)

What's wrong with that?

Julia reaches Hay Tor, alone now. Looks to where Benjamin
once was. Her face contorts with anger, pain. She could cry -

37 **INT. DAY HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT 22**

37

Now utterly drained of all emotion, Julia sits by the window
with a glass of wine. An Anne Tyler attempted and forgotten
by her. The slam of front door runs through her entire body.
She straightens up. Stands. Sits. Again. Until she's sitting.
Fixes her hair. Tries to be ready as - footsteps - then -

A furtive knock, in comes - Benjamin. Without any of the
confidence she's known him to have. He shuts the door behind
him. Grips the handle a moment, before turning to her. He
just stands. Lost. A silence yawns before Julia speaks. She
directs it to the window, watching him only in reflection.

JULIA

You said you were an only child.

Benjamin gives a pained nod. Knows. Goes to walk in, closer
to her. She stands, moves away to the other side of the room.

JULIA (CONT'D)

I had to stand there, pretend. In
front of, in front of all of them.

BENJAMIN

You didn't have to -

JULIA

(all tight anger)
- You think my kids need *any* more
excuse to be against us?

BENJAMIN

No, I know, I - thank you. And I, I
can explain. But first you have to
believe - I am so sorry.

Julia doesn't accept this. And then, almost to herself -

JULIA

It's the size of it that upsets me
most. It's not something small,
that I can just...it's - he's your
family, your flesh and blood.

She shakes her head. Forces herself to look directly at him.
Does all she can to keep the tremble from her voice.

JULIA (CONT'D)

If you can lie about that, you can
lie about anything.

Benjamin shakes his head over and over. Roots his eyes away
from her. In shame. Tries to begin his explanation.

BENJAMIN

I've spent my whole life trying to
get away from him. From...the past.

He kicks one foot against the other. To regain himself. Julia
doesn't display her usual patience, just looks at him.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

Coming down to London, it meant - I
could be who I liked, *say* what I
liked and I just, I found myself
telling people the easiest thing.
(awkward with it)
That I was an only child.

He tentatively lifts his head. Seeks out her gaze. It's
there, waiting for him - more critical than he's known it.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

The more I said it, the more it
stopped being a lie and became -
normal.

Julia can't help a snort of a laugh. He perseveres.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

So when I met you...And you were so
clever and cultured and far far
beyond my league, I just...I wanted
to keep up.

JULIA

Right, so this is on me?

BENJAMIN

No, I -

(shakes head, exasperated)

You wouldn't understand. That level of...shame. Of wanting to just, just claw at your skin until you don't exist any more.

This connects with Julia. Benjamin falters.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

I didn't have a choice. I did it to survive.

Julia looks down at her hands so he can't see the upset rise in her. Benjamin dares to come closer to her, tentatively.

JULIA

What does he want from you?

BENJAMIN

He wants to show me he's changed.

Julia absorbs this. Nods to herself. Then looks up at him -

JULIA

And you. What do you want?

Benjamin sighs. So much. Where to start. But -

BENJAMIN

I want you not to look at me like that.

JULIA

Like what?

BENJAMIN

Like I've...broken something.

Julia doesn't say anything.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

I can fix it. I can.

(off her silence)

Julia, I can. I'm not losing you.

His voice disappears, eyes filling -

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

You're...You're everything.

He tries to swallow the upset, but it chokes and he can't catch a breath. A panic attack coming on. Julia's torn up at the sight of him flailing, comes to his side.

(CONTINUED)

JULIA

Benjamin.

She waits for him to look at her. When he does -

JULIA (CONT'D)

Breathe.

(softening her tone)

It's okay.

She doesn't shift her gaze from his eyes, until - he's calmed down. When he's finally able to speak it's a desperate -

BENJAMIN

Is it?

And Julia - nods. His relief only has his tears flow faster.

38 OMITTED

38

39 **INT. DAY HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - DAWN 23**

39

With light beginning to filter through the curtains, find Julia in bed. By a sleeping Benjamin. Her eyes open, unable to sleep. Turning everything over in her mind. Benjamin's sucked out of a nightmare with a gasp. After a moment -

JULIA

Wanting to start over...That I can understand, forgive...

She swallows. Fixes her gaze on his eyes. Searching them.

JULIA (CONT'D)

But I need to know that's it. That there's nothing else...Anything else would destroy me.

Benjamin nods. Again. Again. It's a relief for Julia. She nods back. Has no words. He tentatively shuffles closer, kisses her. Softly. She needed that, more than he could know.

JULIA (CONT'D)

I want to get to know Kieran.

BENJAMIN

(a hint of sadness)

Me too.

JULIA

We should ask him to stay here.

Momentary panic on Benjamin's face, gone so fast Julia's not sure she even saw it in the first place.

BENJAMIN

You're too good for this world...

(as if with regret)

But he's not stopping - said he's work on back home...

Julia just looks at Benjamin. No way. A firmness to her -

JULIA

He is not going anywhere until I've spoken to him -

Julia welcomes Kieran in. He gives an awkward smile, thrusts into her hands a lurid mixed flower bunch from the garage. Behind her, Benjamin just gives a nod to his brother.

All nerves, Julia fusses with the presentation on a tray of ramekins of potted eggs - chorizo in one, wild mushrooms in another - basically she's gone to effort. She twists back, looking at Kieran and Benjamin sat beside each other. Kieran doing what little talking's being done. Julia hurries over. Sets the tray down. No one makes a move to start eating.

JULIA

(to Kieran)

Eat. Please. Else I'll just be inundating you with questions and everything will get cold.

Kieran gives her a smile as he dutifully helps himself.

KIERAN

Ask away.

JULIA

I, I don't know where to start.

Kieran indicates the breakfast spread -

KIERAN

Know how you feel.

Then he has a thought - reaches into his back pocket, pulls out a tired wallet. Reaches into a special compartment.

KIERAN (CONT'D)

This is us two, when we were bairns. Don't judge our barnets -

Pulls out a treasured picture which he hands to Julia. It's a Mid-Rise local authority block, name visible. Stood outside, proudly and seriously holding the handles of a pushchair - is seven-year-old Kieran. Inside - blond baby Benjamin.

JULIA

You were blond? *Blond* blond.

(as if a joke)

(MORE)

JULIA (CONT'D)

How many other things are there I
don't know about you I wonder...

Benjamin gives a weak smile - knows the jibe she's making.

KIERAN

Day after his tenth birthday, he
went dark. Like overnight. The fuss
he made...Tears and everything.

JULIA

Could I make a copy?
(off Kieran's nod)
Have you got any more photos?

KIERAN

Not a load, but yeah. Back at our
flat.

BENJAMIN

(surprised)
You're still...

A flicker of embarrassment from Kieran but then he puffs up.

KIERAN

Given it a lick of paint. Turned
our room into a weights room...You
weren't around to ask. Sorry.

And if the tension had been dissipating, that ends. Kieran
wants it to be better, hurries in with the next, to Julia -

KIERAN (CONT'D)

You'll have to come visit.

JULIA

I'd love to.
(turns to Benjamin)
See where you grew up.

Benjamin just nods at her. Giving very little away. Julia
twists back to Kieran, so many questions she wants to ask.

JULIA (CONT'D)

What was he like, as a child?

Kieran thinks about it through a mouthful. Swallows.

KIERAN

Always in his own head. Not like
me, chat to anyone. But my little
brother...

His eyes go to Benjamin, it's almost reverential, the next -

KIERAN (CONT'D)

He had this pack of felt tips, that went - I'm not kidding you - everywhere with him. I'd be playing football, look over and there he'd be, not more than six, sat writing these stories about King Arthur and dragons and, and stuff I'd never heard of.

Julia sees the struggle in Benjamin listening to this.

KIERAN (CONT'D)

I knew, even then that he'd...he'd be somebody. Leave us behind...
(as if light)
'Course I didn't think it'd be seventeen years.

She sees the pain flit across Kieran's face. Feels for him. It's this moment that Leo walks into. We've seen this from his perspective, but now we're with Julia. This is her story.

LEO

Rolling back the years over potted eggs. Is there any other way?

Julia looks up, thrown to see Leo. She immediately stands to get him a plate. Look after him.

JULIA

There's more in the Aga for you.

LEO

You carry on. I only came to ask -

Julia's eyes don't leave Leo as he leans over Benjamin to take toast - she's waiting for the sting. It doesn't come.

LEO (CONT'D)

Could I steal my mother from you tomorrow?

BENJAMIN

You don't need my permission.

Leo claps him on the back. Then directs a smile to Kieran.

LEO

Top man, your brother.

Julia sees Kieran nod at Leo, almost overcompensating. It unnerves Julia. She sees Benjamin's discomfort. Finds she can't look away, searching his face - as if for answers -

46

EXT. DAY HOUSE - STUDY - DAY 28

46

Julia's numbly working through some wedmin. The door shut - wanting peace. She comes across an RSVP that has her stop sharply. We see it: the name scrawled in an aggressive hand - 'Edward and Marsha'. A big tick on 'Accepting with pleasure'.

Julia hears a car pull in, but it doesn't interest her. She just shoves Ted's RSVP in the attending pile, +2's on the catering list. A burble of voices outside the window, then-

PATRICK (O.S.)

Mum -

Her whole face lightens. She looks up, barely audible -

JULIA

Leo -

But coming to the window isn't Leo. It's Patrick. A hungover Della by him. Benjamin behind, clearly having orchestrated their arrival. Julia swallows. Can't hide anymore.

47

INT. DAY HOUSE - OPEN-PLAN KITCHEN - DAY 28

47

Julia plays mum, pouring out stewed tea from pot. Della sits at the table, chucking down water in a desperate bid to detoxify herself. Patrick's too agitated to join her, stands.

PATRICK

Benjamin shouldn't have to call us.
I don't like being told about my
own mother by someone else.

DELLA

(defuses him)

But we're here now.

Patrick just nods. Yes. Della looks at him. Sit. He sits.

PATRICK

You want Leo to move back, I
assume, which won't be easy. The
way he is about Dad...Unless...

Della turns to Patrick. They clearly haven't discussed this. He takes a breath, forces it out before he loses his nerve.

PATRICK (CONT'D)

If he knew...about that night -

DELLA

- We need biscuits -

PATRICK

- If he knew, he'd come back.

(CONTINUED)

Julia's thrown off course. Feeling ambushed by Patrick. A silence settles on the table. Julia stares down at her tea.

PATRICK (CONT'D)
It's time he did, it's time...
(as delicately as he can)
Time you stopped lying to him.

JULIA
I've never lied.

And now we know where we are. Back at her beginning.

JULIA (CONT'D)
I've just...not said.

Julia speaks it as if it's a mantra, a way of living.

JULIA (CONT'D)
It's in the not saying that you
spare pain. Protect.
(searching her children)
What's wrong with that?

PATRICK
So much, Mum. All this silence,
this denial, it's a mindfuck. Not
just for Leo, who can't understand
why things are the way they are,
but for me, for us -

DELLA
- Don't speak for me -

PATRICK
- What, you're really going to play
the well-adjusted card?

It stings Della. She goes very small, quiet.

PATRICK (CONT'D)
Fine, so it's just me, turning it
all over again and again -
thinking, maybe it was a dream or
maybe I had it wrong and I *didn't*
see my Dad beat the shit out of my
Mum then try to kill himself -

Patrick has to snatch a breath. He looks between the two women, and takes another breath. Another. A relief to it. Whatever relief he feels is not reflected in the women.

PATRICK (CONT'D)
There. I've said it. And we didn't
all combust.

It's a devastating moment for Julia.

JULIA

I thought...
(swallows, then -)
I thought you didn't remember.

PATRICK

You wanted us not to. There's a difference.

JULIA

Della, is he...do you...?

Della feigns a shrug. Goes to stand. Patrick puts a firm hand against the back of her chair to stop her.

PATRICK

We're having the conversation.

Fury flashes across Della's face but she stays silent. Julia looks at her, waiting almost hopefully. As if she'll be absolved. Della's silence exasperates Patrick.

PATRICK (CONT'D)

Of course she remembers, we were there together -

DELLA

(ferocious, broken)
- No. You went to get Mum. Left me on my own. With...with him. And I...I didn't do anything. Help. I just...watched him.

Patrick is devastated by this but it's Julia we're with. Torn apart at seeing her daughter's long-held guilt revealed.

JULIA

Darling you were only eight.

It doesn't change how Della feels.

DELLA

(to Patrick)
Conversation had. Now can I please be allowed to stand the fuck up?

Patrick removes his hand from the chair. Della gets up without meeting Julia's pained look. After a moment, Patrick follows Della to the cupboards. Julia stays sat. Horrified.

PATRICK

You never...you never said.

Della busies herself with fetching the biscuit tin. Looking inside. Only Ryvita. Julia forces herself up. Over to them.

DELLA

How many times, Mum. A Ryvita is
not a biscuit.

Julia takes the biscuit tin from her. Sets it down.

JULIA

I thought I was doing the right
thing. Not talking about it.
(has to believe it)
It was to keep you safe.

Neither child concur. The pain's physical and instant to
Julia. She's failed them as a mother.

JULIA (CONT'D)

I'm so...

She can't get the sorry out. Choking up. Della reddens -
hating seeing how upset they've made her. Feeling guilty.

PATRICK

I didn't tell you all that so you
can feel bad, I told you so it can
be different with Leo.

Julia turns it over. A moment or two passes. And then -

JULIA

I can't...I can't do that to him.
His father's his whole world.

PATRICK

He's not a child any more. None of
us are.

Julia just shakes her head. Over and over.

PATRICK (CONT'D)

Then Dad wins again.

We're in the doorway, looking in on: Julia sat on the floor
surrounded by old photo albums. Face clouding over at the
image she's looking at (which we don't see). Taken back -

Caption: Twenty-Four Years Ago

Beyond exhausted, Julia stares as the PARAMEDICS work on Ted
in the car. Administering CPR. He's still unconscious. She's
sat in the back of the ambulance, being tended to by a FEMALE
PARAMEDIC. A compress applied to the swelling above her eye.

PARAMEDIC

How did you come by your injuries?

Startling Julia. Her pause the confirmation the medic needs.

PARAMEDIC (CONT'D)

I've colleagues who can help.

Julia's gaze goes from Ted, to the door where Della and Patrick are huddled under the watchful eye of a STERN POLICEMAN holding Leo. Julia does the only thing she thinks she can. Lies.

JULIA

I fell.

She *will* hold this family together. Removes the paramedic's hand and compress from her face, pushes up to standing, out -

50

INT. DAY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY 28

50

The photo album falls shut. Julia can't swallow it down any more. A sob choking up, out of her. We leave her to it.

51

INT. DAY HOUSE - GARDEN ROOM - EVENING 28

51

'Mad Rush' by Philip Glass deafens from stereo. Julia trying to drown out the noise in her head, keeping busy by manically rearranging all of the book shelves in here. Piles and piles of books on the floor. She's going colour coded but not taking any joy in her task - it's more mechanical than that.

Benjamin walks in - watches her with fondness and worry, turns the music down. She snaps around. Sees it's him.

BENJAMIN

Are you upset with me for interfering?

Julia softens a little, shakes her head down to the books.

JULIA

It was nice. To know you cared.

BENJAMIN

(with a smile)

You should never, ever doubt that I care. That's...insanity.

It brings the trace of a smile to her face. Reassurance.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

Are we okay?

Julia looks up from the books, to seek out his gaze.

JULIA
(softly)
We better be.

52 **EXT. DAY HOUSE - EVENING 28**

52

Patrick's Range Rover has barely come to a stop before Julia's hurrying to meet it. Benjamin behind her, warier of what awaits. Julia deflates as only Patrick and Della emerge.

PATRICK
He wasn't in the listening mood.

JULIA
(manages a tiny smile)
You tried.

BENJAMIN
(fiercely protective)
Does he know how much he's
upsetting her?

Patrick just looks at Benjamin. Whatever happened with Leo, it's put Patrick in an even more terse mood.

PATRICK
Yes we equipped him with the facts.
Some of the facts...All he had to
say for himself was -
(deciding, then says it-)
He thinks you're exerting undue
influence on our mother's finances.

BENJAMIN
He thinks.

PATRICK
Fine, *I think, we think you're*
marrying our mum for her money.

Julia just swallows. No hiding from the baldness of the statement. Della goes to object. Sees the tension in Patrick. Can't do it to him. So just - goes into herself.

BENJAMIN
And there it is...out in the open.

Julia's disappointment clear. Benjamin just stares down Patrick. Then gives a nod to Della. Turns - walks past Julia - can't stand for any more of it. Julia twists, watches him disappear in, then twists back to her kids. And - makes her choice - turns to follow Benjamin. Patrick bitterly exhales.

PATRICK
Don't say we didn't warn you.

(CONTINUED)

Patrick goes and climbs back into his car, pulls seat belt on. Della left there. Not knowing where to go. What to do.

DELLA

Is everyone's family like this?

A bleak laugh comes from Julia.

JULIA

So I'm told. Hard to imagine, isn't it?

Patrick toots the horn. Gestures to Della, hurry up. Della's torn between brother and mother. As she heads to Patrick, she pulls up sharply, hurries back to her Mum. Low, in her ear -

DELLA

You deserve to be happy, Mum.

Julia needed to hear that so much. Smiles at Della, waves her off as Della gets in the car. As it departs, Julia turns back to her house, looks to her grounds, summer around the corner -

The window tells us: seasons have changed and we're now in the reddish leaf dump that is **Autumn**. Sat around the table: Julia, Benjamin and a VICAR (60). Coffee on the go but our focus is: Julia and Ted's decree absolute. Handed to vicar by Julia. As the vicar studies it, Julia's hit by nerves, fumbles for Benjamin's hand. Needing him. As over we hear -

JULIA (O.S.)

I *had* thought organising a dinner this close to the big day was a kind of madness. But my better and significantly wiser half persuaded me otherwise. Maybe we can call this...a new start -

Julia's mid-giving a toast. Beside her, sat as the head of the table - Benjamin. Gathered before them are the immediate family. One person is missing. Leo. The gap in the table is where Julia's eyes keep being drawn to. The keen observer will come to recognise this scene from episode one.

JULIA (CONT'D)

And if not quite that - then a chance to practice being civil to each other before we're all on public display -

A laugh from Della. Too loud to compensate for the strained silence. Julia lifts her champagne, and the cheers is done - eye contact completely avoided by all. Julia sits. Eimear stands, heads into the kitchen to fetch the food.

Julia looks from one son - Patrick - staring furiously at her luxury Southbank one-bed apartment brochure - to the space where the other son should be. She leans in to Benjamin.

JULIA (CONT'D)

You're sure we shouldn't wait for Leo?

BENJAMIN

He knew the time, he knew what a big deal this was for you. For us. So. His loss.

Julia gives a bright smile as if he's right. Eimear brings in a moussaka, cursing at the burn it gives her. Patrick helps. Food's served, consumed and as cross conversations murmur we see what Julia sees, taking in each face in turn:

From Della doing her supportive best by making awkward small talk with Benjamin, to Eimear soothing a visibly stressed Patrick, to the empty space where her baby should be.

Benjamin turns, leans into Julia, taking her hand.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

Somebody's glass is empty...Which is unacceptable.

Julia smiles, aware they're on show.

JULIA

Keep me pickled to get me down the aisle. I'm onto you, Mr. Greene.

Julia sees Patrick look to Della to share an eyeroll. Della pretends she hasn't seen her brother, which annoys him.

BENJAMIN

Busted...Patrick - would you mind grabbing us another bottle, they're in the garage.

Patrick has to physically force himself up.

PATRICK

(thick with sarcasm)
Can't be low on champagne what with everything we have to celebrate.

BENJAMIN

Thanks *mate*.

Julia watches her eldest as he walks out but he avoids her gaze. She can't let it stand, excuses herself, follows -

56 INT. DAY HOUSE - GARAGE - NIGHT 30

56

Julia stands in the doorway, breathing the space in. Looking at where Ted's car would have been, the memories of that night flooding back. Patrick turns from the fridge, sees her. For a moment they don't speak. Then Patrick is coming close, champagne in hand, dragging his courage from somewhere -

PATRICK

Mum - I'm sorry, but he's not a good man. There are so many things -

Julia puts her hand on his arm. Not a kind soft hand. A firm one. Holds his eye, and then - trying to control her voice -

JULIA

I will say this one last time, Patrick. Do not make me choose.

She sees his surprise. Horror. Can't bear it - so turns - walks out. We stay on her face this time, see how much this has cost her. How much she wants to turn around and hug him. Somehow she forces herself to keep walking, not turn, out -

57 INT. DAY HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT 30

57

The tablecloth's red wine ringed, napkins scrunched up - but for Patrick's OCD aligned one, candles dripped down. It tells us that it's later. If the general state of inebriation didn't anyway. Into the room comes - Kieran. Smart hair cut, new clothes - looking like he's got sorted in the interim.

His arrival is a visible shock to Benjamin.

Kieran steps aside to reveal: Leo stumbling in beside him. Stoned, but there. Julia could cry for happiness.

KIERAN

Sorry to just pitch up -

JULIA

- No it's, sit down, sit down.

Patrick's gaze goes to his feckless brother. Maybe there's even a hint of jealousy about his new bromance with Kieran.

PATRICK

Good of you to show.

A flash of fury on Leo's face at Patrick's hypocrisy.

LEO

Can't all be perfect, can we, bro.

(CONTINUED)

JULIA
(fast, to defuse)
You're here now, that's the main
thing -

Remembering her manners, to Kieran too -

JULIA (CONT'D)
Both of you.

Julia starts fussing, pulling them out chairs, making them a
space at the table. All to the silent horror of - Benjamin.

Julia holds Kieran tight in an embrace as she sees him out
for the night. Benjamin's stood on the outside of this. As
Julia disengages from him - squeezes his arm -

JULIA
Thank you.

Kieran waves it away.

KIERAN
He's a good lad, Leo. I like him.

JULIA
Me too.

BENJAMIN
(interrupts)
Why didn't you call ahead?

KIERAN
Wanted to tell you in person.

BENJAMIN
Tell me what.

KIERAN
Leo's Dad's agreed to back his
venture - which means...
(with pride)
I've got me a job.

BENJAMIN
A job where?

KIERAN
Here of course.

Benjamin says nothing. No warm congratulations. Nothing.
Julia sees this - sees the desperate need in Kieran.

KIERAN (CONT'D)

I thought, I hoped it'd give us a chance to, to properly get to know each other again.

Aware of Julia's eyes on him, Benjamin smiles with a nod.

58A

INT. DAY HOUSE - UPSTAIRS LANDING - NIGHT 30

58A

We're behind Julia, following her as she approaches her closed bedroom door with two water glasses for bed. She opens the door with her elbow, then steps inside -

59

INT. DAY HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT 30, CONT.

59

Still behind Julia as she takes a few paces in, then stops dead at what she sees: Benjamin hurriedly packing a suitcase.

JULIA

What are you doing?

He looks up, sees her. The words pour from him.

BENJAMIN

I want us to elope.

It's a crushing moment for Julia. Now she can't deny it to herself any more. Something is off with Benjamin. She doesn't say anything. Just carefully sets the water glasses down. Benjamin gets to his feet, comes over.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

Imagine it, just us, having our wedding the way we want. Then we hole up in your villa...get back to how it was when we first met.

Julia struggles to find the words. After a moment.

JULIA

This is...odd behaviour.

BENJAMIN

I prefer...impulsive.

JULIA

Our wedding is in two days. Two days, Benjamin. Everything's ready, all the money's been spent -

BENJAMIN

- I thought you didn't care about money?

JULIA
(like ice)
Tell me what's really going on.

Benjamin tries to feign a laugh.

BENJAMIN
And who said romance is dead?

JULIA
It's nothing to do with that. This
is about Kieran coming back.

BENJAMIN
No it's, it's not, it's...

JULIA
There's something you're not
saying. I'm not an idiot, although
people consistently treat me like
one.

Benjamin blows his cheeks out. His faux cheer vanishing.

BENJAMIN
Okay I...I looked around the table
tonight and I thought...who here is
happy for us? I've kept hoping it'd
change, that by the time we got
married there'd be, maybe not love
for us, *me*, but at least - I don't
know - goodwill. But there's none.

He takes her hands.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)
So. You and me. What do you say?

Julia slips her hands out of his grip. No.

JULIA
I say...It looks a lot like running
away.

She sees the truth of this in Benjamin's face.

A flurry of people traipse across back garden - all for the
house wedding party set-up - FLORISTS, with armfuls of
flowers, SERVING STAFF carrying crates of plates, and a
visibly stressed MALE PARTY PLANNER directing them all
onwards. We pull back -

JULIA

Patrick and you have it under control, don't you?

DELLA (O.S.)

A version of, yes. But back to my original question - where are you? Benjamin's just rung for you.

Julia goes very still and quiet.

JULIA

We're not meant to speak before the wedding. Tell him that and...tell him I'm there, with you.

DELLA (O.S.)

Sure. But, well, you're not.

JULIA

(snaps, without thinking)
Then lie. I'm sure it's not beyond you.

DELLA (O.S.)

(injured)
What's going on? Are you okay?

Julia can't handle it. So hangs up. Looks around her. Sees, at the end of the road, the local pub. A good place to start.

Julia approaches cautiously. Spilled out pub door: TWO BARELY UPRIGHT WOMEN (30's) smoking, drinking, having a laugh.

JULIA

Sorry to disturb you, but I wondered if you knew a Benjamin Greene, used to live over there?

And Julia indicates the block where she's come from.

FEMALE DRINKER

Never heard of him. Sorry, love.

Julia's spirits deflate. Another strikeout. This all starting to feel like a waste of time, she nods her thanks, trudges in-

Football flags flutter, a couple of GRIZZLED DRUNKS occupy their usual spots with their usual tankards.

The presence of anyone new, and anyone non-local, is a cause for brief interest. Then it's back to watching the sports on the TV. Julia gets to the bar, leans on it. The day catching up with her. Lifts her sleeve, sees her nice coat covered in bar stick. The LANDLORD (65) comes over. A bit of a throwback to another time, but a jovial one.

LANDLORD

What we having?

JULIA

Gin and tonic. Please.

LANDLORD

Single or double.

JULIA

Double. Definitely a double.

He fetches it - as he does so - with sympathy -

LANDLORD

Don't tell anyone, but I have been known to pour a triple if it'd help?

She shakes her head with a faint trace of a smile.

JULIA

I need to head home soon.

LANDLORD

Home being?

JULIA

Devon.

LANDLORD

Very nice. Very...green. What you doing all the way up here then?

A moment passes. Julia can't quite find the explanation.

JULIA

I don't know any more.

He hands the drink over. She goes to get out her wallet. He waves it away. His kindness is almost too much in the moment.

JULIA (CONT'D)

Thank you, I...

(not very hopeful)

You don't know a Benjamin Greene, do you?

LANDLORD

'Fraid not. Like to think I know most folk 'round here...Perils of the job.

JULIA

(snatches on this)
What about Kieran Hyland, his brother?

Recognition flashes across his face.

LANDLORD

Everyone knows Kieran. For better or worse. But his brother was Sean.

For a moment, Julia's not sure she's heard him right. Then she fast fumbles for her phone, pulls up her most recent photo of: Benjamin grinning as he tastes wedding canapés.

JULIA

It's Benjamin. This is Benjamin -

And she shows him her phone. He looks, pulls it closer.

LANDLORD

(whistles through teeth)
Bugger me...Still, I'd change my name too if I were him.

Julia just stares at the man. Pulls her phone back.

LANDLORD (CONT'D)

Who is he to you?

JULIA

(almost defiant)
I'm marrying him tomorrow.

There's no concealing his surprise.

LANDLORD

After what he did?

And we're off the image of a smiling Benjamin -

Benjamin the boy. Aged 15. In school photo. Hair curly. Face solemn. Julia's hand comes into view, gently tracing the outline of his face, then fast withdraws as if burnt.

She's sat at a table away from the other patrons. G&T untouched. The landlord hovers in doorway, feeling for her. Julia can't see anyone, anything but what's in front of her:

A faded newspaper clipping. Folded in half, showing Benjamin's schoolboy image. She makes herself unfold it, see the entire page. Shudders anew at the sight of it. And we follow her gaze, to -

The newspaper headline screaming, 'Boy Killer Jailed for Shopkeeper Murder'.

The words start to blur at the edges. And then, the momentary peace, of shutting her eyes - taking us into - blackness -

END OF EPISODE FIVE