

Duck Soup

Lost Boys and Fairies

Episode 3

"LOOK AT YOUR KIND FACE"

by

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DEVELOPED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF BBC DRAMA

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Jake in his pajamas sits on the sofa. Claire next to him. Llinos, social worker, on a chair opposite. Jake's face is furrowed, bemused. As though he's just been told he can't have any pudding. But then, after a moment:

JAKE
(casual)
How did he die again?

CLAIRE
It was an accident. The police aren't quite sure. But what we do know is that he fell over and hit his head.

JAKE
I fall over and hit my head all the time and I don't die.

CLAIRE
I know, love, but this was... it's incredibly unusual.

JAKE
It's stupid.

Jake gets up. Picks up his Switch. It lies next to his introductions book, open on a photo of Sandra - 'Here's Nanny and she can't wait to meet her new grandson' - and on the opposite page, Emrys: 'Here's Dad-cu. He's so looking forward to meeting you'. Jake starts playing Minecraft.

CLAIRE
I know this must be very hard for you, Jake...

JAKE
(without looking up)
What time is Dadi picking me up then?

Llinos and Claire exchange glances. Claire kneels next to him.

CLAIRE
Sweetheart. He won't be coming today.

Jake doesn't look up. He carries on playing.

2 EXT. GABRIEL'S HOUSE - DAY 26 - MARCH, 2022 2

Jackie walks down the garden path from Gabriel's unanswered front door.

CLAIRE (V.O.)
Dadi's going to be feeling really
sad about what's happened, isn't
he?

As she reaches the gate she looks back. Just in case. She sees the closed curtains twitch up in the bedroom.

But then they are still. Back to:

3 INT. CLAIRE'S LOUNGE - DAY 26 - MARCH, 2022 3

CLAIRE
So Llinos and I think we should
wait a bit before deciding what
happens next. Especially because we
think this will make you feel very
sad as well. And of course, we're
all hoping you'll be able to move
in with him as planned...

Llinos shifts uncomfortably. Claire isn't fazed. She'll do this her way.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
But we can't promise that right
now.
(beat)
Jake. Are you listening?

Jake doesn't look up.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
But whatever happens, I want you to
know that you're safe here. With
me. Does this make sense, Jake?

JAKE
(still not looking up)
Can I have my toys back?

CLAIRE
Your toys?

JAKE
They still have my toys. I want
them back. They're mine.
(MORE)

JAKE (CONT'D)

(beat)

I'm going to get dressed now.

Jake gets up, leaves, pads up stairs. Claire looks at Llinos.

CLAIRE

He doesn't believe us does he?

4

INT. MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL OFFICES - DAY 27- MARCH, 2022 4

Jackie, Llinos, Claire, Iwan and Llinos's Manager, MARY
(calm, assured) sit around a table.

MARY

Well the last thing we want is for
Jake to think they didn't want him
anymore. Do you think Gabriel might
consider some contact? A video
perhaps?

JACKIE

I'm sure he would but... I haven't
been able to speak to him directly
yet. Understandably...

LLINOS

Do we know how he's feeling about
Jake?

JACKIE

Jake's the last thing on his mind
right now.

LLINOS

Which is a bit of a concern...

JACKIE

(firm)

His partner's just died.

LLINOS

I know that but...

JACKIE

And he barely knows Jake so...

LLINOS

But still, I'm not convinced we
should allow any contact until
we're absolutely certain the
adoption's moving forward. This
will be hugely traumatic for
Gabriel...

JACKIE

Hang on now, Gabe's ability to parent isn't in question here. He was approved.

LLINOS

As part of a stable, loving, couple. But that's no longer the case, is it?

CLAIRE

But Jake needs to hear something from his Dadi otherwise...

LLINOS

We don't know for certain he'll actually be his Dadi now though, do we?

MARY

Alright. OK. This is...

(beat)

It's extremely touching to hear you talk so passionately about Gabriel and Jake. But we need to take some of the heat out of this, to work out what's best. So I'm going to suggest we take a little bit of time and space. Reconvene in a couple of weeks. After the funeral.

5 INT. GABRIEL'S BATHROOM - DAY 28 - APRIL, 2022 5

Gabriel by the his and his sinks. In a daze, he buttons his white shirt up - one, two, three, four - in the mirror.

CUT TO Gabriel fumbling with his black waistcoat buttons.

CUT TO Gabriel struggling with a black tie...

6 FLASHBACK: INT. GABRIEL AND ANDY'S BATHROOM - NIGHT 25 6

Andy puts his half-drunk champagne glass down on the window-sill and reaches over to Gabriel and delicately ties the knot on his colourful tie. There. Perfect.

7 INT. GABRIEL'S BATHROOM - DAY 28 - APRIL, 2022 7

Gabriel's hands frozen on his black tie. His eye on the half-glass of champagne on the window sill. Covered in mold.

SANDRA (O.C.)

Let me do that for you.

Sandra's there. In black. Small hat. Little veil. Tasteful. She takes over. She notices him looking at the glass.

SANDRA (CONT'D)

Do you want me to move that?

Gabriel shakes his head.

8

INT. DINING AREA - DAY 28 - APRIL, 2022

8

Sandra at the table in silence. Gabriel can't keep still. He's pacing.

GABRIEL

Can't believe he put money aside to pay for it. Knew I'd be shit in this situation...

(beat)

And he's right, of course. He's usually right.

(beat)

Trust him to look after me.

(beat)

Even now he's dead.

It hangs in the air for a moment.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Sorry I haven't been much help with the organising. I...

SANDRA

You sure you're alright with the chapel service?

GABRIEL

He's your son, Sandra.

SANDRA

He's your partner.

GABRIEL

(as if it hits him for the first time)

We never got married. We should have got married.

(beat)

Anyway. It's a good thing you took control. I'd have probably turned it into a musical.

9

INT. SALEM CHAPEL - DAY - X43

9

The Tribe rotate around Gabe and the coffin Bob Fosse style.

TRIBE

(singing jovially)

Andy dead! Andy's dead!

*We thought Gabe would be the one to
pop his clogs instead!*

*There's many times he's only held
on by a thread!*

*But the poor old fucker Andy went
and hit his handsome head!*

10

INT. DINING AREA - DAY 28 - APRIL, 2022

10

Gabriel's in his own world. Talking. Keeping busy. Spiraling.

GABRIEL

Do you think I should go and see
the coroner? After this is done?
See what's happening there? The
police have been so useless haven't
they? I mean, it can't have just
been an accident, can it?

SANDRA

Sit down would you, Gabe.

GABRIEL

I'm fine.

SANDRA

But I'm not. And you're getting on
my tits.

Gabriel is shocked. He sits.

SANDRA (CONT'D)

Sorry.

GABRIEL

Don't be. I'm getting on my tits as
well and I don't have any.

They sit in silence for a moment.

SANDRA

Is your Dad coming here?

GABRIEL

I told him to go straight there.
Didn't want him to feel...
uncomfortable, you know?

Sandra nods. Though she suspects it's Gabe who would have felt awkward with Emrys present.

SANDRA

And will Jake be there?

The question catches Gabriel off guard.

GABRIEL

Oh um... no. I don't think so. I think they said it wasn't a good idea. It would be too confusing because...

Gabriel trails off. Alerting Sandra to something she hadn't even considered.

SANDRA

(vulnerably)

He is still coming though, isn't he?

Gabriel's been dreading this question.

GABRIEL

I can't think about that right now, Sandra.

And Sandra nods. She knows it's complicated.

SANDRA

Of course.

But it suddenly triggers something overwhelming in her. She's suddenly emotional.

SANDRA (CONT'D)

My boy.

A knock on the door. They look at each other. They were expecting that knock, yet it still terrifies them.

Gabriel opens the door. Sandra behind him. Berwyn stands, holding a large black umbrella. His smile warm, kind, just right. Light drizzle. Not bleak. A sense of hope, of spring.

BERWYN

Your carriage awaits, my ladies.

And Gabriel steps out, and that's when he sees them...

12

EXT. GABRIEL'S HOUSE - DAY 28 - APRIL, 2022

12

All along the terrace, NEIGHBOURS stand outside their houses. Come to pay their respects. Couples, families, children smiling sensitively at Gabriel. That way people look at you, and it makes you want to cry. Along the path: Celyn and PERFORMERS/CLIENTELE from NEVERLAND huddled together: all shapes and sizes, magnificent: some in suits, some in heels, make-up; respectful but extraordinary costumes. Victoria Park has never seen such a sight. It's deeply moving. Sandra lifts her hand to her mouth, overcome by emotion. Gabriel just takes it in. With deep gratitude.

BERWYN

They wanted to walk with you.

Gabriel stoically walks down the path. Takes in their faces. The kindness of friends. The kindness of strangers. He smiles. Waves. Almost as if going to a party, not a funeral. He steps through the gate onto the pavement. Stops. It's the hearse. An UNDERTAKER stands respectably next to the vehicle behind it: Gabriel's carriage. But Gabriel can't stop staring at the floral wreath on the coffin: Andy.

A fragile moment. Berwyn steps towards him, cautiously. Leans down, gently kisses him on the forehead. It releases Gabriel. He smiles. Performance mode again. Steps into the car.

13

I/E. FUNERAL CAR - DAY 28 - APRIL, 2022

13

Berwyn sits in front. Sandra and Gabriel in the back. And they crawl down Ethel Street, towards Canton. On the pavements either side we see Celyn and the Neverland Tribe walking somberly alongside. PEOPLE have come to their doors. Some bow their heads, others look on with curiosity at the queer procession.

Suddenly Gabriel catches sight of something in the mirror. It can't be? He spins, looks through the window. Gasps.

BERWYN

(turning to Gabriel)

Ti'n OK?

BERWYN (CONT'D)
(turning to Gabriel)
[You OK?]

GABRIEL
(turns back, shocked)
It's my Dad.

Berwyn and Sandra turn to see Emrys walking stoically behind the car. Head bowed. A little away from the others. Alone. He doesn't know anybody. But he's come to show his respects. Gabriel dumbfounded for a moment as the car crawls on when...

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
Berwyn.

But Berwyn already knows.

BERWYN
(quietly to driver)
Mind stopping for a moment, drive?

The car grinds to a halt. Berwyn gets out. The procession stops slowly. Gabriel watches him approach Emrys. Emrys is embarrassed. Doesn't want this fuss. Shakes his head. But Berwyn is characteristically benevolent, kind, warm. He's such a gentle human. And Emrys yields. Berwyn offers him his arm, and surprisingly - to Gabriel at least - Emrys takes it. And Berwyn gently escorts Emrys to the car.

An awkward, quietly flustered Emrys gets in, next to Gabriel. Gabriel unsure what to say. Sandra smiles at Emrys kindly. And Emrys's eyes are wet:

EMRYS
I'm so very sorry, Sandra.
(beat)
He was such a wonderful boy.

And hearing these words from his Dad chokes Gabriel. He tries to repress the wave of emotion, but his hand on his knee begins to shake. Quietly, Emrys places his hand on Gabriel's, grips it tight.

CONGREGATION (V.O.)
(singing)
*Guide me, O Though great Jehovah
Pilgrim through this barren land...*

As the car moves off again slowly.

14 INT. CAPEL SALEM - DAY 28 - APRIL, 2022 14

The singing is extraordinary as Jackie arrives in the packed chapel. She sees Claire standing in the back pew, slips in next to her. Claire pats Jackie's hand. Jackie squeezes her hand back; but then doesn't let go.

CONGREGATION
*I am weak but Thou art mighty
Hold me with Thy powerful hand...*

Gabriel stands next to Sandra, Berwyn and Emrys at the front. He's watching Emrys sing beautifully, lost in the music, listening to his soaring harmony.

CONGREGATION (CONT'D)
(singing)
*Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me now and evermore...*

Gabriel closes his eyes...

15 INT. NEVERLAND - DAY - X44 - 2013 15

CROWD
(singing)
...evermore!

Packed club. International day. Not long after Andy and Gabe met. Scarves, face-paint, daffodil head-dresses. Or the Neverland fetish equivalent of them. Wales have beaten England. Fanny and Gabriel pints in hands sing with their Tribe and other supporters.

CROWD/CONGREGATION (V.O.)
Feed me now and evermore!

Gabriel notices Andy sitting watching, listening. Deeply moved. He's crying! It tickles Gabriel. He grabs his face between his hands, plants a huge kiss on his lips. And then they full-on snog. Drunk.

16 INT. VESTRY - DAY 28 - APRIL, 2022 16

Gabriel's half-way through eating a sandwich in silence, opposite Emrys. Munch, munch, munch. Berwyn next to Gabe. Sandra next to Emrys.

GABRIEL
Who puts gherkins in a sandwich?

SANDRA

I do.

GABRIEL

Oh. Sorry...

SANDRA

It's alright, love. I won't hold it against you today.

EMRYS

Very nice, Sandra. I must say I'm rather partial to a gherkin myself.

Gabe looks at Emrys. A thought hits him:

GABRIEL

How old were you when Mam died?

The question catches Emrys by surprise. But he's quick with his answer. Because it's when his life changed.

EMRYS

I was your age.

A simple fact. But it stuns him.

GABRIEL

(united by their loss)
I'm so sorry, Dad.

Emrys looks his son directly in the eye.

EMRYS

(breaking)
Me too.

Claire approaches. Gabe stands and Claire immediately throws her arms around him. Holds him for longer than he might expect, strokes his back. She lets go. They look at each other for a moment.

GABRIEL

How is he?

CLAIRE

Much like you I imagine. It's difficult for him to get his head round.

Gabriel nods.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

But take your time. Don't rush into anything. We can wait until you're ready.

Gabriel nods again. Feeling a pressure. In the pit of his stomach. She smiles kindly. Squeezes his arm. Walks away.

GABRIEL

Claire.

She stops, turns back.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Tell him...

But Gabriel doesn't know what to say.

CLAIRE

I will.

She nods. And off she goes.

17

EXT. VESTRY - DAY 28 - APRIL, 2022

17

Gabriel stares at an unopened packet of fags. Contemplating. A slippery slope. But fuck it. Surely it can be excused today? He rips the cellophane, throws one in his mouth...

JACKIE (O.S.)

Want a light?

Gabriel looks up. Jackie's smoking on top of a fire escape.

GABRIEL

I didn't know you smoked.

JACKIE

Neither did I.

She walks down, sits by him. Lights his fag. They inhale.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Well this is shit.

GABRIEL

Yep.

Another moment's silence.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Do we need to talk about Jake?

JACKIE

Not now.

GABRIEL

But...

JACKIE

We don't need to talk about it now.

GABRIEL

Ok.

(beat)

You're the social worker.

JACKIE

Not today, Gabe.

She leans her head on his shoulder. She's his friend. They continue to smoke.

EMRYS (O.C.)

(**Welsh-pronunciation**)

Gabriel?

Quite unconsciously, Gabriel throws his fag away, like a child. Emrys comes out. Sees the two of them.

EMRYS (CONT'D)

Oh. Sorry, I...

GABRIEL

You remember Jackie.

EMRYS

Yes. I remember Jackie.

He nods. Doesn't know what to say.

EMRYS (CONT'D)

I'll be off then.

GABRIEL

OK.

And Gabriel hugs him. It catches him by surprise. They haven't hugged in years. Emrys pats Gabriel's back awkwardly.

EMRYS

I'll leave you to it. I'm sure you two must have a lot to talk about.

(beat)

Though it's probably for the best...

Suddenly alert.

GABRIEL

What is?

Hard eyes on Emrys. It flusters him.

EMRYS

If the boy...

GABRIEL

Jake?

EMRYS

Um... yes. If Jake doesn't come anymore.

GABRIEL

Who said he wasn't coming anymore?

Emrys gets more flustered.

EMRYS

Oh, sorry I... I was just talking to Sandra and... I just assumed it would be too difficult...

A quiet rage is unleashed in Gabriel. But his response surprises him as much as anyone:

GABRIEL

(firm, cross)

He's still coming, Dad.

EMRYS

Oh! OK... I um... I've misunderstood that's all...

Jackie stands. Doesn't want to get into this.

JACKIE

I'll walk you out, Emrys. I'm leaving now too.

GABRIEL

Why do you think it will be too difficult?

JACKIE

Let's talk about this another time.

GABRIEL

No. I want to know. Why?

EMRYS

Oh, Gabriel I...

GABRIEL

Tell me. I'm interested.

He won't let this one go. Emrys has to answer.

EMRYS

Because...

Well, he's been through so much
already, hasn't he, poor dab?

And now, this.

(beat)

It'll be hard to fix him now.

Especially on your own.

They hold each other's gaze for a moment. A complex moment for Gabriel. Because he's so cross with his Dad right now; but also, what if he's right?

CUT TO Gabriel's alone sitting on the fire escape. Furious. He suddenly notices his fag on the floor. Still lit. He picks it up from the dirt. Draws on it, hard. Fills his lungs. And it feels GOOD.

18

INT. NEVERLAND - NIGHT 28 - APRIL, 2022

18

Gabriel downs a pint.

Gabriel downs another pint.

Gabriel sits at the edge of a booth. Next to Berwyn then Sandra, Celyn and his Tribe all deep in conversations. Ties have been loosened; jackets and hats abandoned. The table's full of empties. Music blares.

Gabriel's quiet. DRUNK. A still point at the periphery. Staring into the middle distance. Processing everything. Andy, Jake....

SANDRA

(turns from Berwyn to
Celyn)

So do you have anyone special,
sweetheart?

It's a triggering question for Celyn so they armour up.

CELYN

There isn't anyone special enough.

Celyn notices Gabe. A look of concern, confusion, love?
Gabriel catches their eye. Celyn smiles. But Gabriel gives
nothing back. He gets up suddenly. Slips away...

19 EXT. TAFFS MEADS EMBANKMENT/SUBWAY - NIGHT 28 - APRIL, 2021⁹

Gabriel stumbles home. At a lick. Up Taffs Meads Embankment.
Into the subway....

CUT TO Gabriel standing still. Swaying. Suddenly he gets on
the floor. Lies on his back. Looks up. Eyes wide. Mouth open.

Shit-faced. At the concrete. The lights. The mundanity of it all.

20 FLASHBACK: EXT. SUBWAY - NIGHT 25 20

Andy on his back. Eyes wide. Terrified. Blood pours from his head.

21 EXT. SUBWAY - NIGHT 28 - APRIL, 2022 21

A burst of birds take flight. Gabriel sits up, disturbed. Crawls on his knees. Staggered up. Stumbles away.

And as he walks, a dog walker, DENISE (50s, anorak, gentle), approaches with her COLLIE. She pays no attention to Gabriel. But then she stops. A few meters ahead of Gabriel. Something's caught her eye behind him. Something's not right. And now, she runs. Runs towards Gabriel. Runs passed him...

Gabriel spins. Sees Denise running towards a body on the ground. Towards... Andy.

Denise kneels. Kneels in his blood. Not that she's noticed. She's taking in his limp body; his lifeless eyes. Her mouth falls open. A silent horrified gasp. Her hands open. Grasping for something to hold onto, but finding nothing. Should she touch him? In a daze, she scrambles for her phone in her pocket. Calls 9, 9, 9....

The dog barks. Barks. BARKS.

Gabriel blinks. And there's no one there, of course. Just silence. And the silence is unbearable.

22 INT. GABRIEL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 28 - APRIL, 2022 22

Gabriel throws open the wardrobe. Andy's clothes hang there. Starts pulling them out, quick. Throws them on the bed. No method. Just madness.

23 INT. GABRIEL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 28 - APRIL, 2022 23

Sudden silence. Stillness. Gabriel sits on the floor. Stares at the bed. At the chaos of clothes.

He looks down at the book he's holding in his hands: Welsh for Beginners.

The front door opens downstairs.

BERWYN (O.C.)

Gabriel?

Berwyn runs up the stairs. Walks in. Sees Gabriel. Walks to him. Sits next to him. Looks at the mess on the bed.

BERWYN (CONT'D)

Ddim heno, blodyn. Ddim heno.

BERWYN (CONT'D)

[Not tonight, flower. Not tonight.]

24 INT. GABRIEL'S BATHROOM - NIGHT 28 - APRIL, 2022 24

Gabriel sits in the bath. Hugs his knees. Motionless. Stares into the water. Berwyn kneels on the floor beside him. Gently pours water over him. A ritual of tender loving care. Berwyn sponges him. Light. Delicate...

25 INT. BATHROOM, BEDSIT, LONDON - NIGHT - X45 - 1986 25

Berwyn (21) sponges DANNY (19) in the bath. His body in the advanced stages of AIDS. Lesions; thinness. A ritual of tender loving care. Light. Delicate.

26 INT. GABRIEL'S BATHROOM - NIGHT 28 - APRIL, 2022 26

Suddenly, Gabriel turns to Berwyn. And then - quietly - as if he's just realised it for the first time:

GABRIEL

Mae 'di marw.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

[He's dead.]

BERWYN

'Dwi'n gw'bod, cariad.

BERWYN (CONT'D)

[I know, darling.]

Gabriel looks at Berwyn for a moment, blankly. Wondering what next? He turns his head again. Like before. Motionless.

27 INT. LOUNGE - DAY 29 - APRIL, 2022 27

Jackie's just arriving, her coat and bag still on. Gabriel follows her.

GABRIEL

Thanks for coming. But I thought it best to get the ball rolling because I think Jake should move in this weekend...

JACKIE

Woh. Woh.

GABRIEL

And I know you probably think it's too soon, but honestly, I'm fine...

JACKIE

Gabriel....

GABRIEL

Well, not fine, obviously, but well enough for Jake to come here because...

JACKIE

Gabriel! Let me take my bloody coat off first, would you, love?

GABRIEL

Sure. Sure. Of course.

Jackie takes her coat off. Sits down. Gabriel still standing.

JACKIE

Not sitting?

Gabriel sits. Looks at her expectantly. Jackie considers her words.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

(tentatively)

Thing is, Gabriel, I'm afraid we can't just plough on as if nothing's happened.

GABRIEL

Well, I understand that but...

JACKIE

Wait. Let me finish. I'm meeting Jake's team tomorrow to explore our options.

GABRIEL

OK... but make it clear that I want him to move in sooner rather than later because...

JACKIE
It's not as simple as that,
Gabriel.

GABRIEL
Why not?

She pauses. She knows what she is about to say will be difficult to hear.

JACKIE
We'll have to go back to panel.
I'll have to write an addendum
report...

GABRIEL
But I've already been assessed.

JACKIE
I know that, but... Your
situation's different now, isn't
it?

Gabriel stares at Jackie, the reality settling.

GABRIEL
You don't think I can do this on my
own either?

JACKIE
I didn't say that...

GABRIEL
(emotional)
Am I going to lose Jake as well...?

JACKIE
Hey. Hey...

She moves to sit next to him.

JACKIE (CONT'D)
We're not there yet. And I promise
you, I will do everything I can to
make sure that doesn't happen.

Gabriel tries to pack Jake's stuff into bags and boxes. But it's slow work. He keeps looking at everything, the weight of memory...

JACKIE (V.O.)

I'm afraid Llinos is going to have to come round next week to start collecting his things. He's been asking for them so...

He picks up the framed photo of Andy and Jake on Billy, and places it delicately on top of the bag.

29 EXT. GABRIEL'S HOUSE - DAY 29A - APRIL, 2022 29

Gabriel watches Llinos squash another box of Jake's toys into the back of the car. It's filled to the brim.

JACKIE (V.O.)

But hopefully, it will just be temporary. Just until we sort all of this out...

CUT TO Llinos driving away down the road. Billy the seal looking back through the rear window. Gabriel watches her disappear.

30 INT. GABRIEL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 29A - APRIL, 2022 30

Gabriel draws the curtains on the world. Crawls into bed.

JACKIE (V.O.)

But the best thing you can do after that, is rest.

31 INT. KITCHEN - DAY 30 - APRIL, 2022 31

Gabriel sits on a stool in the kitchen. In his pants. Surrounded by dirty dishes. The kettle boils. He doesn't move.

JACKIE (V.O.)

Do whatever you need to get you through the day.

He's looking at the oven.

JACKIE (V.O.)

Give yourself time to grieve. Whatever form that takes.

32 INT. KITCHEN - X40 - JANUARY, 2022 32

Andy cross-legged on the kitchen floor, looking through the oven window. Watching the cupcakes rise. He turns and looks at Gabriel behind him. Flashes his golden smile.

JACKIE (V.O.)
And for what it's worth, the best
piece of advice anyone ever gave me
about grief was....

33.OMITTED

34 INT. KITCHEN - DAY 31 - APRIL, 2022 34

Gabriel stares at an unopened bottle of Sauvignon Blanc.

JACKIE (V.O.)
There are no rules.

He reaches for it and opens it. Before he changes his mind.

Gabriel glugs down a huge glass of wine.

CUT TO Gabriel pouring another large glass.

35 EXT. GARDEN - DAY 31 - APRIL, 2022 35

Gabriel smokes in the garden. Glass of wine in hand. Swaying. Pissed. He inhales the smoke in. A long, long draw. Exhales. Boy, it feels so, so good.

36 INT. LOUNGE - DAY 31 - APRIL, 2022 36

Gabriel dancing to techno music in the house. Cigarette in hand.

CUT TO Gabriel topless now. Dancing, dancing, dancing. It's been years since he's been this drunk.

CUT TO Gabriel on the sofa. Holding his phone above his head. Trying to take a sexy photo. He sits up. Tries another angle. Sucks his tummy in.

CUT TO Gabriel stares at a very flattering photo on his phone.

CUT TO Gabriel uploading a new Grindr profile:
HORNYVICPARKBOY.

CUT TO that oh so addictive Grindr ping vibrating in his hand. He clicks on the message...

37 INT. PROSPECT PLACE, HALL - NIGHT 31 - APRIL, 2022 37

Gabriel, hammered, trips and stumbles down a corridor. Towards a door at the end. He pushes it. It swings open.

38 INT. HALL/LOUNGE, PROSPECT PLACE - NIGHT 31 - APRIL, 2022 38

Gabriel stumbles through a hallway into a plush lounge. Minimalist, big TV screen, glass table, grey velvet. Glass doors lead to a balcony over-looking the water. A MAN (Wiry, late 40s) in his pants inhales deeply from a bottle of poppers on the sofa. Lines of coke on the table. He looks at Gabriel and beams.

CUT TO Gabriel snorting a line of coke.

CUT TO Gabriel snorting another line of coke. There are more MEN there now.

CUT TO kissing, writhing, flesh. Gabriel's face. Dark desperation in his pursuit for pleasure as he tries to forget...

CUT TO Gabriel sitting in between the Wiry Man and another BOY (20s, thin in his briefs, white, pale) on the sofa. Boy prepares some Tina. He looks at Gabriel. Smiles.

Gabriel smiles back. A dangerous smile. Hell-bent on destruction.

CUT Gabriel holds one end of a belt around his arm. Looks into the Wiry Man's eyes - an intense stare - as he holds the needle to a vein in Gabriel's arm.

Gabriel nods. Man pushes the needle. Slowly. Erotically. An act of penetration. The gurgle of liquid. A rush.

And Gabriel succumbs, buckles to the pleasure: FUCK YES. Oblivion, my old friend. We hear the haunting piano introduction to *Mad World* featuring Gary Jules.

The world slows down around him as Gabriel sinks into the sofa...

39. OMITTED

40 MUSIC: INT. NEVERLAND - NIGHT 31- APRIL, 2022 40

Fanny, unlike we've seen her before. Sultry, dark, a haunting shadow version of herself.

FANNY AMPLE
*All around me are familiar faces,
worn out places, worn out faces...*

Celyn can't take their eyes off Fanny singing this song. It's as if she's channelling the pain and trauma of all their lives.

FANNY AMPLE (CONT'D)
*Bright and early for the daily
races...*

41 MUSIC: INT. LOUNGE, PROSPECT PLACE - NIGHT 31- APRIL, 2022 41

A low-lit room of anonymous bodies. Gabriel moving between bodies. A chem sex party in full swing.

FANNY AMPLE (V.O.)
Going nowhere, going nowhere...

42 MUSIC: I/E. NEVERLAND/OLD MAN'S CAR - NIGHT 31 - APRIL, 2022 42

Celyn outside Neverland running over to a parked car.

FANNY AMPLE (V.O.)
*Their tears are filling up their
glasses...*

They duck down look through the window. An OLD MAN looks out, embarrassed, ashamed. Celyn gives him a cheeky wink, gets in the car.

FANNY (V.O.)
No expression, no expression...

But as they drive away we can see the vulnerability and fear in Celyn's eyes.

43 MUSIC: INT. LOUNGE/ CORRIDOR, PROSPECT PLACE - NIGHT 31 - 43
APRIL, 2022

Suddenly Gabriel, completely out of it, staggers from the orgy. Wanting to escape.

FANNY (V.O.)

*Hide my head, I wanna drown my
sorrow, no tomorrow, no tomorrow...*

Into the hallway. Stumbles towards the bathroom door. Light from behind it bleeds into the darkness. Enticing. He throws it open. For a moment he's blinded, but steps through and sees...

44 MUSIC: INT. YOUNG GABRIEL'S BEDROOM - DAY - X3 44

Young Gabriel sitting on the bed in his chapel outfit. Sings straight to camera [to Gabriel], pleading:

YOUNG GABRIEL

*And I find it kind of funny, I find
it kind of sad...*

We move in slowly, then accelerate into his eye...

45 MUSIC: INT. TOILET CUBICLE, PUBLIC TOILET - DAY - X17 45

...and out again. It's Teenage Gabriel (school uniform) sitting on a toilet smoking a fag. Sings straight to camera.

TEENAGE GABRIEL

*The dreams in which I'm dying are
the best I've ever had....*

He gets down and kneels by the glory hole, labelled 'Heaven'. And now we see his eye from the other side. And it's frightened. We accelerate into his eye...

46 MUSIC: INT. BEDSIT, LONDON - NIGHT - X19 46

...and out again. It's Student Gabriel. Behind him, an indistinguishable mass of sweaty bodies, writhing. He sings straight to camera.

STUDENT GABRIEL

*I find it hard to tell you, I find
it hard to take...*

He hoovers up a line of coke on the table. We accelerate into his pupil as it dilates with the hit...

47 MUSIC: INT. PENTHOUSE FLAT, LONDON - NIGHT - X20 47

...and out again. Gabriel (29) lies back on a luxurious Queen-size bed, surrounded by other MEN, all broken from the night before. Dribble drools from his mouth. Everyone else asleep. But he's awake.

GABRIEL

*When people run in circles it's a
very, very...*

The Men all open their eyes and look straight to camera.

MEN

*Mad world.
Mad world.*

Eyes now wide from the incessant demons chattering in his head, the horror of his existence. We move slowly into his eye, then accelerate....

48 MUSIC: I/E. EMRYS'S CAR - DAY - X2 48

And out again into: sunlight as Younger Emrys drives. Non next to him. Non's turns around, smiles, offers a sandwich to the POV in the back.

NON

*Children waiting for the day they
feel good, happy birthday, happy
birthday...*

49.OMITTED

50.OMITTED

51.OMITTED

52 MUSIC: INT. YOUNG GABRIEL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT- X7 52

Young Gabriel crying in the Laura Ashley dress on his bed, singing desperately towards the camera...

YOUNG GABRIEL

*Made to feel the way that every
child should...*

52A MUSIC: INT. EMRYS'S BEDROOM - DAY - X7 52A

THWACK! THWACK! THWACK! Young Gabriel, in the Laura Ashley dress, over Younger Emrys's knee as his hand comes crashing down on his bottom.

YOUNGER EMRYS
(to camera)
Sit and listen...

CUT TO Emrys (older actor now) in the corner of the room. Cowering. Shaking. Not knowing what to do next.

EMRYS
(to camera)
Sit and listen...

53 MUSIC: INT. CUBICLE, PUBLIC TOILET - DAY - X17 53

Teenage Gabriel in the cubicle, sings to camera:

TEENAGE GABRIEL
*Went to school and I was very
nervous, no one knew me, no one
knew me...*

CUT TO Handsome Pristine Business Man smoking a fag with a wedding ring on his finger looking at him. We don't see his face clearly.

PRISTINE BUSINESS MAN
*"Hello, teacher! Tell me, what's my
lesson?"...*

He yanks Gabriel in and SLAMS the door shut.

CUT TO TEENAGE GABRIEL pinned against the door. Eyes wide. Scared.

TEENAGE GABRIEL
*Look right through me, look right
through me...*

53A MUSIC: INT. EMRYS'S HALLWAY/LOUNGE - DAY - X4 53A

Young Gabriel in the hallway, terrified, looks to camera:

YOUNG GABRIEL
*And I find it kind of funny, I find
it kind of sad...*

He looks through the narrow slit in the door at Non (Laura Ashley dress) on the floor, Younger Emrys kneeling beside her, Paramedics, blue flashing lights, confusion, chaos. But Non's looking towards him, singing...

NON

*The dreams in which I'm dying are
the best I've ever had...*

54 MUSIC: INT. PENTHOUSE FLAT, LONDON - NIGHT - X20 54

GABRIEL (TO CAMERA)

*I find it hard to tell you, I find
it hard to take...*

Gabriel (29) SLAMS Tina into his vein. The hit effects him immediately. He catapults backwards.

55 MUSIC: INT. NEVERLAND - NIGHT - X22 55

Andy (30s). Tie, tank-top. Cute in his geekiness.

ANDY (TO CAMERA)

When people run in circles...

Scenes smash cut together, accelerating to their climax...

56 MUSIC: INT. BEDROOM, PROSPECT PLACE - NIGHT 31 - APRIL, 2026

Back in present: Gabriel's POV as he's fucked by a Wiry Man between his legs. Empty. Hollow.

WIRY MAN

I find it kind of sad...

57 MUSIC: INT. GABRIEL AND ANDY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - X47 57

Gabriel's POV. Andy and Gabriel make love. Profound, emotional connection.

ANDY

(pleading)

*The dreams in which I'm dying are
the best I've ever had...*

Andy has a halo around him. Wings. He's an angel...

57A MUSIC: INT. GABRIEL AND ANDY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT- X47 57A

Cut to Andy's POV now:

GABRIEL

*I find it hard tell you, I find it
hard to take, when people run in
circles it's a very, very...*

58 MUSIC: INT. BEDROOM, PROSPECT PLACE - NIGHT 31 - APRIL, 2022 58

The Wiry Man morphs into the Pristine Business Man. And he's pinning Gabriel down. Gabriel's fighting to get him off.

PRISTINE BUSINESS MAN

Mad world...

Pristine Business Man morphs into:

SATAN

Mad world...

Gabriel freaks out. Pushes him off. And runs out of the room...

59 MUSIC: EXT. STREETS - NIGHT 31 - APRIL, 2022 59

Gabriel runs, frenzied, mad, full-pelt, looking for...

FANNY AMPLE (V.O.)

Enlargen your world...

60 MUSIC: INT. NEVERLAND - NIGHT 31 - APRIL, 2022 60

Gabriel, totally fucked, pushing his way through the crowd in Neverland. Faces looming, laughing, nightmarish. Fevered horror. Fanny hasn't seen him yet, continues to sing:

FANNY AMPLE

Mad world.

But now she sees him, as Gabriel collapses.

Fanny runs for him. As do his Tribe. Commotion. Shouts for help.

And the last thing Gabriel sees standing over him is Young Gabriel. Looking so very sad. He blinks, and now it's Jake. Staring at him. The same expression.

And then it goes dark.

The music seamlessly shifts into James Blakes' *Waves Know Shores*.

61 MUSIC SEQUENCE: I/E. TAXI - NIGHT 31 - APRIL, 2022 61

Gabriel in Fanny's arms in the back of a taxi. Kind Fanny. Sympathetic, no-judgement. Deeply, deeply concerned.

62 MUSIC: INT. ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY CUBICLE - NIGHT 31 - APRIL, 2022 62

Various procedural shots.

Gabriel examined in a gown. Fanny nearby.

DOCTOR clicks a series of answer to questions visible on an iPad: did you have penetrative anal, frontal or vaginal sex without a condom or with a broken condom: **yes**. What type of sex did you have? **Receptive anal**. Do you know if the person you had sex with has HIV? **I don't know**.

Were you sexually assaulted? Gabriel thinks. Was he? But he shakes his head: no.

Gabriel's finger pricked. An HIV test. To determine if he is safe to take PEP.

Gabriel reads through a PEP information leaflet. A long list of side effects.

63 MUSIC: INT. ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY WAITING ROOM - N31/DAY ~~32~~ - APRIL, 2022

Gabriel and Fanny are leaving. Gabriel holding his prescription. He is unsteady on his feet, Fanny escorts him when they see -

Jake. He's walking away from them with a plaster around his arm, crying. Claire by his side. Berwyn tries to stop him, but Gabriel rushes to him. Grabs his shoulder. Jake spins.

Except it isn't Jake it's another BOY (8) and his MOTHER. Gabriel's distraught. Didn't realise until that moment how much he wants to see him, as Fanny apologises on his behalf; he thought he was someone else...

64 MUSIC: INT. GABRIEL'S BATHROOM - N31/DAY 32 - APRIL, 2022 64

Gabriel swallows Truvada.

CUT TO Gabriel swallowing two Raltegravir.

CUT TO Gabriel vomiting in the toilet.

He catches sight of the champagne glass on the window sill.
Rest his head on the toilet in guilt and shame.

And then it comes... the racking sobs. An animal keening.
Gabe no longer in control; a body battered by the waves of
grief.

The howl catches him by surprise. Doesn't sound human.
Distressing. A shudder of catharsis; a huge release he can't
stop...

And then he feels a quiet hand, stroking his back.

Andy sits there. In his dressing gown. Calming his lost boy.

Music sequence ends.

65 INT. GABRIEL'S LOUNGE - DAY 33 - APRIL, 2022

65

Gabriel sits across from a grave looking Jackie.

GABRIEL

You were the one that said there
are no rules.

JACKIE

But I didn't think you'd end up in
A & E, for goodness sake!

Gabriel looks down ashamed. Jackie is passionate, fast,
fierce.

GABRIEL

They will understand won't they?
After everything I've been through?

JACKIE

But this isn't just about you,
Gabriel! It's about Jake! And what
he's been through. Because
whatever's happened to you, he's
been through a hell of a lot worse!

(MORE)

JACKIE (CONT'D)

The only thing that matters to them is whether or not you can be trusted to take on a boy with Jake's needs. On your own. Because what's to say the next time life throws a curve ball - and there will be many, believe you me - that you won't fall off the wagon again, with Jake in your care?

GABRIEL

It won't happen again. I promise.

JACKIE

It can't happen again. But the problem now is panel will need at least two years stability after your relapse before they'll approve the match..

GABRIEL

But it wasn't a relapse, it was...

JACKIE

It was a relapse. Your default position to stress...

GABRIEL

To grief.

JACKIE

Your default position was to use again.

GABRIEL

(bewildered)

Two years?

JACKIE

Yes. And I've got to be honest with you, Gabe... I'm not sure Jake will still be waiting for you in two years time.

This lands in Gabriel's heart like a hammer-blow.

GABRIEL

But I want to be his Dad. I can be his Dad. I...

JACKIE

But they'll have to look into other options.

(MORE)

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Especially when there's no
guarantee you'll even be able to
prove to us -

GABRIEL

To us?

JACKIE

Yes, Gabriel. To us.

(beat)

Look. All you can do is sort
yourself out. Whatever it takes.
Grief counselling, therapy,
completely quit the booze if you
have to, if that'll help you stay
away from the drugs. And or God's
sake, find other coping mechanisms
for dealing with stress. And in the
meantime, we've agreed it would be
a good idea if, as well as
letterbox contact, you recorded
Jake a short video message.
Something acknowledging how
difficult this has all been. We
need to make absolutely sure that
he knows that this isn't just some
elaborate lie; that you've rejected
him...

GABRIEL

(taken aback)

Is that what he thinks?

JACKIE

That little boy has had no reason
to trust anyone so...

GABRIEL

So - what? He thinks we're making
it up? That we - I - that I don't
want him anymore?

(beat)

Oh, god. Does he not want me
anymore?

Jackie inhales. The moment has come to say:

JACKIE

It's only fair that you know: he's
asked us to look into other
adopters.

This desperately wounds Gabriel.

GABRIEL

So what's the point in me fighting
for him then?

JACKIE

Because he's not capable of knowing
what he wants. He's just a little
boy, Gabriel. He's already lived
through an immense amount of
trauma, loss, rejection. And now
this. In his head, he was supposed
to have two Dads, but one died, and
then the moment he suffered that
loss, another catastrophic loss:
the other one didn't show up
either.

GABRIEL

But that's because...

JACKIE

I'm just saying what it will feel
like to him. But he can't know what
he needs. He's a child. So don't
take it personally. But only you
can decide if there's a point
fighting for him, when you may well
not succeed in the end. Only you
can decide if you think there's
something worth fighting for.

66

INT. DINING AREA - DAY 33 - APRIL, 2022

66

Gabriel sits around the table, looking at Berwyn and Sandra.
Waiting expectantly. They're both looking serious.

GABRIEL

You think it's hopeless, don't you?

SANDRA

I don't know.

(beat)

But I've already lost my son. So
I'd never forgive you, if you
didn't give it your best shot.

Gabriel looks over at Berwyn as well. And now he smiles too.

BERWYN

And you're not going to be on your
own are you, you twat?

And they throw themselves around him and squeeze the life out of him.

67 EXT. GARDEN - NIGHT 33 - APRIL, 2022 67

Gabriel sits. The tail-end of his cigarette alight in his hand. Staring at his phone. At the contact 'Dad'. Trying to muster some courage.

He presses call. Holds it to his ear. Trying to calm his breath. But it kicks into answer machine straight away -

And Gabriel hangs up immediately. Doesn't leave a message.

He sits there for a moment. The shame of cowardice kicks in.

And then his eyes fall on the packet of fags.

He stamps his fag out...

68 INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT 33 - APRIL, 2022 68

Gabriel throws his packet of fags in the bin.

Gabriel dumps an overflowing ashtray in the bin.

CUT TO Gabriel emptying bottles down the sink: half a bottle of wine, gin, vodka...

CUT TO Gabriel throwing bottles into the recycling.

69 INT. GABRIEL'S BATHROOM - NIGHT 33 - APRIL, 2022 69

Gabriel walks into the bathroom. Faces the glass of champagne. Grabs it.

70 INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT 33 - APRIL, 2022 70

Gabriel drops the champagne glass in the bin. Closes the lid.

71 EXT. VICTORIA PARK - DAY 34 - MAY, 2022 71

Gabriel jogs around the park. Totally going for it. He even looks like he's enjoying it...

72 INT. CHURCH HALL - DAY 35 - MAY, 2022 72

Gabriel sits in a circle of people. An AA meeting. As he speaks we see that Berwyn too is part of the circle.

GABRIEL

..and if I stay off the fags, then I'll stay off the booze, then I'll stay off the drugs, then I'll stay off the sex, so if the only way I can do that is to come here every week, then that's what I've got to do and...

73 INT. JAKE'S BEDROOM - DAY 36 - MAY, 2022 73

Gabriel is high energy. Recording a video of himself on his phone.

GABRIEL

...if you're feeling anything like I am at the moment, you'll be feeling very sad and confused. Because this is an incredibly strange and difficult situation. But I want you to know that I really haven't stopped thinking about you and...

74 INT. CLAIRE'S LOUNGE - NIGHT 36 - MAY, 2022 74

Jake sits next to Claire. She's holding her phone, playing Gabriel's video.

GABRIEL (ON VIDEO)

I still love you very much. And I hope, more than anything, that I'll get to see you again, very soon.

(beat)

Oh, and give my love to Billy for me!

The video ends. Claire looks at Jake. But Jake shows nothing. He picks up his Switch and starts playing immediately.

75 INT. THERAPIST'S LOUNGE, THERAPIST'S HOUSE - DAY 37 - JUNE 5 2022

Sharon sits opposite Gabriel.

GABRIEL

So I'm feeling great, actually. I mean, I know it's early days, but I have so much energy, you know? Is that weird? Honestly. I feel like I can do anything. As if And's love, is carrying me along on a ginormous wave. Like I can actually fly. And I've been thinking, just because there's five stages of grief, that doesn't mean we *all* have to go through every single one of them, does it?!

SHARON

And what are those stages?

GABRIEL

Well, denial, anger, bargaining... I am just reading the poster behind you, you do know that, don't you?

Gabriel nods to a colourful poster: Denial, anger, bargaining, depression, acceptance. He grins. Ever the joker. But Sharon doesn't buy it.

SHARON

And where are you on that spectrum, Gabriel?

GABRIEL

That's the thing. I don't think I'm on it anymore.

SHARON

OK, but if you had to put yourself somewhere, just as a thought-experiment, where would that be?

GABRIEL

Honestly. I'm not on it. Because all I want to do is start our family. My family. And I've never felt so hyped! I've got so much energy and love I could burst. And I want to be able to focus that love somewhere. Which is why I'm doing everything I can to prove that I can parent Jake. And I've never felt so strong and ready and willing and... invincible, actually. Invincible. That's how I feel. Yes invincible. So there you go, Sharon - ha!

(MORE)

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

- I'm not on the spectrum am I? In fact, I'm shitting all over your spectrum. Because invincibility's not anywhere near that spectrum, is it?!

SHARON

It is Gabriel.

GABRIEL

No it isn't.

SHARON

It is. Look again.

He peers closer.

GABRIEL

Oh yes, sorry. Duh. It's acceptance, isn't it!

SHARON

No, Gabriel.

(beat)

It's denial.

Gabriel lets this sink in. He's still in the first stage. And then:

GABRIEL

Oh.

(beat)

Fuck.

76 INT. THERAPIST'S LOUNGE, THERAPIST'S HOUSE - DAY 38 - 76
FEBRUARY 2023

Months later. Sharon in same position except a different dress. Gabriel sits, and he's raging. RAGING.

GABRIEL

How do you think that made me feel?
I mean, can you believe that? Can
you actually believe that? How can
his death be deemed as...

77 INT. CORONER'S COURT - DAY X48 - FEBRUARY, 2023 77

CORONER (50s) at the front. LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES facing her. Gabriel, Sandra, Berwyn sit forward in anticipation.

CORONER
...a death by misadventure.

78 INT. THERAPIST'S LOUNGE, THERAPIST'S HOUSE - DAY 38 - 78
FEBRUARY, 2023

Direct continuation: Sharon and Gabriel as before.

GABRIEL
I mean 'Misadventure'. What the fuck? It makes dying almost sound fun, doesn't it? As if we're all missing out.

Sharon looks at him curiously.

SHARON
Are you clear what 'misadventure' means, Gabriel?

GABRIEL
The unintended consequence of an intentional act.

SHARON
Right.

GABRIEL
I've learnt it off by heart now. It's etched on there in blood...

SHARON
Strong words.

GABRIEL
Strong feelings, Sharon. Because right now all I want to is catch the fucker who performed that intentional act which unintentionally killed my Andy and 'unintentionally' kill him as well.

SHARON
OK...

GABRIEL
But don't worry, I won't be able to do that because...

79 INT. LOUNGE - DAY - X49 79

FAMILY LIAISON OFFICER sits opposite Gabriel.

FAMILY LIAISON OFFICER
...we have very little to go on,
I'm afraid. Our only hope is if
somebody comes forward in the
future.

80 INT. THERAPIST'S LOUNGE - DAY 38 - FEBRUARY, 2023 80

Direct continuation: Sharon and Gabriel as before.

GABRIEL
Come back '*Crimewatch*' all is
forgiven.
(beat)
I thought I saw Dad on '*Crimewatch*'
once. For a split second I thought
he'd robbed a bank in Milton
Keynes. I even checked the calendar
to see where he was that day.

SHARON
Do you want to talk about your Dad?

GABRIEL
No. You're alright.

81 INT. THERAPIST'S LOUNGE, THERAPIST'S HOUSE - DAY 39 - JUNE 2023 81

Months later. Sharon listens to Gabriel. He talks incredibly
fast as though he's on coke (he isn't). He's bargaining.

GABRIEL
But Andy didn't deserve it though,
did he? He was a saint. If anyone
was going to die first, it should
have been me. But now I find myself
wondering if that's why he died.
Because he was a saint. Only the
good die young and all that. Or if
Andy's death was a punishment from
God for *my* past behaviour? And I
don't even believe in God! And then
I feel even more guilty because
I've somehow managed to make Andy's
death all about me again. He can't
even be centre stage in his own
demise. Poor bugger. And then all I
want is to hear him tell me I'm
being a self-centred egotistical
twat again.

(MORE)

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

So I find myself pleading with They upstairs - because if there is a God they're probably non-binary, right? - I find myself saying things like: if I promise to stop masturbating can I please wake up from this nightmare and find Andy coming out of the shower like Bobby Ewing in Dallas.

(beat)

Is any of this normal?

82 INT. THERAPIST'S LOUNGE - DAY 40 - SEPTEMBER, 2023 82

Clock says 11:05. Gabriel sits in stunned silence. Utterly depressed. Not saying anything.

CUT TO clock saying 11:30. It looks like Gabriel hasn't moved an inch. He looks at Sharon, questioningly.

SHARON

This is all perfectly normal.

Gabriel sighs. Sharon leans in.

SHARON (CONT'D)

You know this process can take years, don't you, Gabriel?

And Gabriel gives another long sigh.

83 MUSIC: INT. JAKE'S BEDROOM, CLAIRE'S HOUSE - DAY 41 - FEBRUARY, 2024 83

Claire walks into Jake's bedroom.

CLAIRE

Jake. Have you seen my...

She stops. Jake's on his bed. Hugging Billy the seal, sucking his thumb and watching Gabriel's video on her phone.

GABRIEL (ON VIDEO)

... and I want you to know that I really haven't stopped thinking about you and I still love you very much. And I hope, more than anything, that I'll get to see you again, very soon.

(beat)

Oh, and give my love to Billy for me!

He presses play again. As Claire smiles quietly to herself and slips out of the room.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Hi, Jake. It's Dadi here.

84 MUSIC: EXT. OGMORE BEACH - DAY 42 - FEBRUARY, 2024 84

Berwyn and Gabriel climb up to the top of the dunes. Look back out over the ocean and the setting sun. No one else about.

GABRIEL (V.O.)

I don't know about you but I'm finding this so sad and weird. And sometimes all I want to do is...

Gabriel screams as loud as he can. As long as he can. Exhilarated. Berwyn laughs. And then, so does Gabriel. Music ends.

85 INT. LOUNGE - DAY 43 - MARCH, 2024 85

Jackie sits opposite Gabriel.

JACKIE

You've come a really long way.

GABRIEL

I don't feel like I have.

JACKIE

You have. You're financially solvent...

GABRIEL

Only cause Andy ignored me and paid the life insurance anyway.

JACKIE

You've clearly demonstrated how committed you are to being the best Dad you can be to Jake.

86 INT. KITCHEN - DAY - X50 86

Gabriel methodically following a cake recipe book as he beats eggs in a bowl with another hand.

Cut to Gabriel sitting cross-legged on the floor watching his cake rise.

87. OMITTED

88 INT. LOUNGE - DAY 43 - MARCH, 2024

88

JACKIE

Which is why... we think it's time
we took it back to panel.

GABRIEL

What? Really?

JACKIE

Really. That is, if you still want
Jake?

GABRIEL

Yes. Yes! Of course I still want
Jake but...

JACKIE

Which is excellent news, because
Jake wants you as well. He's been
asking for you.

GABRIEL

(emotional)

He has?

JACKIE

He has.

GABRIEL

Fuck off.

JACKIE

Don't say that to panel will you?

GABRIEL

Oh my God. Thank you.

JACKIE

Well, you should thank Llinos too.
She's adamant this is the right
plan for Jake. But she's really had
to fight for it.

GABRIEL

(moved)

Really?

JACKIE

It's not a done deal though. Just because you want it; just because he wants it, doesn't mean panel will think it's a good idea...

89

INT. BROD CAFE - DAY 44 - MARCH, 2024

89

CLAIRE

Of course it's a good idea. And I've said as much from the beginning. No one else has stepped forward, have they? I can't keep him indefinitely...

Claire sits opposite Gabriel. She stirs sugar in her tea. Down to earth. Matter of fact.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

And I always knew Jakey would come back on board eventually. Think about it. Life's dealt him a series of shit cards over and over again. Malcs and I were the only adults he trusted until he met you and Andy. I said you were going to be his Dads; you said you were going to be his Dads, but then it didn't happen. So no one in his life up until now have kept their word. But NOW, one of those Daddies wants to keep his word. One of those Daddies wants to keep his promise. And yes, it will take time to rebuild his trust. But it's a bloody good start. Because eventually that boy will grow up knowing that despite everything you went through, you refused to turn your back on him. You kept your promise. You came back. So you bloody well fight for this, do you hear me?

Gabriel nods obediently in the force of Claire's whirlwind.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Because you're one step ahead of those social workers. We're all making it up as we go along. But you know, instinctively, that this is the right thing to do.

(MORE)

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

So stand your ground and bloody
well fight for it...

90 INT. CORRIDOR, BUSINESS PARK - DAY 45 - APRIL, 2024 90

Gabe sits, anxious. All nerves and agitation. Jackie comes out. She looks serious.

JACKIE

They're ready for you.

Gabriel gets up.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Just be prepared... they won't go
easy on you in there.

Gabriel nods. Scared. But Jackie takes both of his hands; looks him in the eye. And smiles: she believes in him. With all her heart.

91 INT. MEETING ROOM, BUSINESS PARK - DAY 45 - APRIL, 2024 91

Gabe in front of the same PANEL as episode two. But unlike that 'performance', this is a moment of truth.

STEVE

(serious)

So I suppose in the end, it comes down to a matter of balancing risk. Is it better for Jake's well-being to remain in the care system, denied the parent he's been asking for, with all the pain and rejection that will bring? Or, are we perhaps risking more if we approve this match, because if you can't cope as a single adopter, Gabriel, Jake's suffering could end up being greater.

GABRIEL

(quietly powerful)

Of course it's a risk. Believe you me, for the last few months it's the first thing I think about when I wake up. The last thing I think about before I sleep. If I sleep. And like most of you, I've had so many doubts. What if I fail Jake? Again. How can I know that fighting for this is the right decision?

(MORE)

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

But that's the point. I can't. How can I possibly know what's right? How can you know? It's impossible. This isn't science. These are emotions. Relationships. Vulnerabilities. We're all just humans trying to figure out how to get through life. So we can't know. But we can feel. All we can ever do is go on the information we have, and what that does to our guts. Our heart. Here.

(he puts his hand on it)

I've messed up a lot, yes. But, my God, the intention to love him...

(gets emotional)

And love him... and love him is there.

He catches Jackie's eye for a moment. She's trying her best not to cry; but he feels it. The connection. The will. Her love.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

(pushes through)

And not just me: I have the most extraordinary support network who love Jake as well; and who, despite my flaws, love me too; and they want this to work out. More than anything. I have my village. And so, my gut's crying out that this is, in all probability, the best thing for Jake. That love is the best thing. But you're right: it is a risk. And it's scary. And you have to listen to your own gut. But... if I'd listened to my fears about all the things that could go wrong in my life I would never have come out... I would never have met Andy... I would never have met Jake. And, yes: approving us might be the wrong decision; but it might also end up being the best thing that's ever happened to the both of us.

Gabriel, walks down the corridor. Hands on the back of his head. Breathes in and out.

CUT TO Gabriel leg twitching, anxiously.

CUT TO STEVE comes out. Nods. Kindly, but doesn't give anything away. It's time to go back in.

92 A INT. MEETING ROOM, BUSINESS PARK - DAY 45 - APRIL, 2024 92 A

Gabriel looks back at the panel. Terrified.

STEVE

Thank you, Gabriel, for everything you have shared with us. We've had to think really hard about this. It is a high risk decision.

(beat)

But we've come to the unanimous decision to approve the match.

And Gabriel begins to break down...

STEVE (CONT'D)

Yo've got a brilliant support network, Gabriel.

(looks at Jackie)

And you've got a good 'un there too...

And Jackie breaks (emotionally and professionally), and throws her arms around Gabe.

And Gabriel looks over to Llinos. Trying to repress emotion, but failing. Because she wanted this for Jake as much as they did.

93 EXT. GABRIEL'S CAR, CAR PARK - DAY 45 - APRIL, 2024 93

Still emotional, Gabe opens the boot of the car. He throws his bag in and suddenly notices a bag stuffed near the back. He reaches for it. Opens it: it's Emrys's coat.

94 I/E. GABRIEL'S CAR - DAY 45 - APRIL, 2024 94

Gabriel sits in the car. The bag and coat on the passenger seat. He takes a deep breath. And phones his Dad. Emrys answers:

EMRYS (ON PHONE)

Gabriel. Ti sy 'na?

EMRYS (ON PHONE) (CONT'D)

[Gabriel. Is that you?]

GABRIEL

Ie.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

[Yes.]

EMRYS (ON PHONE)

(desperate)

Ble ti 'di bod?

(beat)

Ti'n olreit?

EMRYS (ON PHONE) (CONT'D)

[Where've you been? You alright?]

GABRIEL

Ydw.

(beat)

O'n i jyst ishe gweud 'tho ti bod

Jake yn dod ata i.

(beat)

Ma nhw'n fodlon i fi fabwysiadu fe.

(beat)

Ar ben 'yn hunan.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

[Yes. I just wanted to tell you that Jake is coming to me. They're happy for me to adopt him. On my own.]

Silence.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Dad?

95 INT. EMRYS'S HALLWAY - DAY 45 - APRIL, 2024

95

And we're with Emrys now. And he's welling up. He's absolutely choked. He's so relieved. He can't speak. He puts his hand on his heart.

96 I/E. GABRIEL'S CAR - DAY 45 - APRIL, 2024

96

But Gabriel is unaware of this. All he hears is silence. And he thinks that silence speaks volumes.

Gabriel hangs up.

97 INT. EMRYS'S HALLWAY - DAY 45 - APRIL, 2024 97

And Emrys is left alone. Deeply confused by what's just happened. As lonely; as lost. And the pain is unbearable.

98 I.E. GABRIEL'S CAR - DAY 45 - APRIL, 2024 98

Gabriel's left a little breathless. Full of emotion.

His phone starts ringing again: 'Dad'. He contemplates answering when -

The passenger door flies open. He cancels the phone call. Jackie gets in. Chucks the coat and bag over to him. High as a kite. Doesn't notice Gabriel's state.

JACKIE

Just one more thing.

Gabriel shakes it off immediately. Switches on the performance.

GABRIEL

Will there ever not be just one more thing?

JACKIE

Welcome to parenting! We need to talk about meeting birth mum...

Gabriel rolls his eyes. Stuffs the coat in the bag and throws it on the back seat.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

You've agreed, Gabe. And she's come a really long way in the last year.
(MORE)

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Committed to getting herself clean.
Moved area for a fresh start. She's
been through a lot too...

GABRIEL

I don't really care what she's been
through. Jake's my priority.

JACKIE

And that's exactly why you should
meet her. You'll be able to answer
his questions about her in the
future.

This lands. Jackie proceeds tentatively.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

I understand it's difficult, but
she supports this. She recognises
she can't care for Jake and wants
him to have a forever home. And
it's anonymous. We don't give your
name...

GABRIEL

But she'll have seen my face. What
if she comes looking for me and...

JACKIE

That's very unlikely. She doesn't
live anywhere near here. And she
hardly leaves home. Llinos wouldn't
have suggested it if she had any
safeguarding concerns, and she
knows her better than anyone. Think
how well I know you...

GABRIEL

God. I need to get out more. You're
now my most significant
relationship.

JACKIE

(smiling)

Not for long.

(beat)

We'll control everything. We'll
agree on the questions you ask each
other beforehand. Things you'll
want to know about Jake. And she'll
want to know about...

98 A INT. EMRYS'S KITCHEN - DAY 45 - APRIL, 2024 98 A

Emrys sits by the table. He's writing a card. He's paused.
Reading what he's written: To Jake, Welcome to the family...

JACKIE (V.O.)
...well you. The kind of life
you'll be able to give him.

He considers for a moment, and then signs it: Love, Dad-cu.

98 B I.E. GABRIEL'S CAR - DAY 45 - APRIL, 2024 98 B

GABRIEL
OK, OK... When?

JACKIE
We'd like it to happen during
introductions.

GABRIEL
Seriously? Won't there be enough
going on?

JACKIE
I know but... if we don't do it
then or soon after, birth parents
often go AWOL. She'll be grieving
Jake after all.
(pointedly)
And we can never underestimate the
impact of grief, can we?

It gives Gabriel pause for thought. Jackie senses she's got
him. And so she gives one final push:

JACKIE (CONT'D)
Just think how nice it will be one
day, when you'll be able to say to
Jake: I met your mum once.

99 INT. MEETING ROOM, FAMILY CENTRE - DAY 46 - APRIL, 2024 99

Gabriel and Jackie sit by a large rectangle of tables. Water
bottles. A formal space. They're staring at Becky (20s) who's
arrived suddenly. Becky speaks at the rate of a speeding
train: a survival mechanism she's learned to activate when
terrified and vulnerable.

BECKY

I didn't know if I was supposed to come in or not but they said at the desk that Llinos was already here but they obviously got that wrong didn't they cause she isn't here is she? And fuck. I shouldn't have come in yet, should I? I should have waited outside and now this is really weird and...

JACKIE

Becky. It's fine. You're very welcome. I'm sure Llinos will be here any moment...

BECKY

Wouldn't bet on it. You know as well as I do that social workers are a fucking waste of space.

(beat)

Where's your social worker?

JACKIE

I am the social worker.

BECKY

Oh. Fuck. Really? You don't look like a social worker. You have a nice face.

JACKIE

Thank you.

BECKY

I thought you were his, you know, special friend or something. I was offered. They offered me one too but I didn't want one. No one else's business is it? This. It's just mine. Ours. Shit. Sorry. I'm sure you're not a waste of space.

(to Gabriel)

Is she a waste of space?

Gabriel shakes his head. At a loss what to do in the face of her bluster. She's not at all what he expected.

BECKY (CONT'D)

Good. Good. That's good then.

(explodes out, over-compensating)

Bit bloody formal this here is, isn't it?

(MORE)

BECKY (CONT'D)

And what's with all the bottles of water? Honestly, they fine you for screwing up the recycling, but then they go and give you all this plastic shit.

Llinos enters surprised/relieved to see Becky.

LLINOS

I thought we were meeting in reception?

BECKY

But you weren't fucking there were you? And I've been making a right tit out of myself. Came charging in like a paedophile in a playground. Anyway. You're here now, aren't you? We sitting down or what?

They all sit almost without thinking such is her force. Llinos tries to regain control.

LLINOS

OK. So. Really this is an opportunity for you to share any information you have about Jake. You've had the questions from the adopter, haven't you, Becky?

BECKY

Doesn't he have a name?

LLINOS

Yes. But as discussed he'll be known as the adopter.

BECKY

Why? In case I look him up on Facebook or something and kill him?

LLINOS

Nobody's suggesting...

BECKY

Because the 'adopter' makes him sound like Robocop or the Terminator or something.

LLINOS

It's what we agreed.

BECKY

Alright, alright. I get it.

She spasms involuntarily: to expel some of the tension.

BECKY (CONT'D)
They're good questions.

GABRIEL
Um... thank you.

BECKY
You're welcome.

JACKIE
And the adopter's had your
questions too, so...

Gabriel nods, still utterly bewildered.

BECKY
Thought they were shit, did you?

GABRIEL
Sorry?

BECKY
I said yours were good. You said
nothing. Rude.

GABRIEL
Oh, no I...

BECKY
I'm joking, mun. God you're all so
fucking touchy.

LLINOS
Becky, why don't you go first?

BECKY
No. Let Robocop go first. Seeing as
he's hardly said anything.

LLINOS
(warning)
Becky...

BECKY
Alright. Alright. Over to you...
adopter.

Gabriel's speaks quietly, a rabbit in the headlights again.

GABRIEL

Um... I just wanted to know why you chose his name? Why did you decide to call him Jake?

For a moment, Becky looks vulnerable.

LLINOS

Take your time, Becky. It's OK to be upset.

BECKY

I'm not upset. I...

LLINOS

Take a moment if...

Becky sits forward suddenly.

BECKY

I don't need a fucking moment!

(beat)

It's cause I like Joseph, innit? The musical. I was in it when I was in school. Couldn't sing for shit but could dance the tits off anyone else. But I didn't want to call him Joseph, cause of Stalin, so I settled for Jacob instead. It's a stronger name anyway. And I wanted him to be strong. I want him to be strong.

(beat)

Is this alright like?

LLINOS

It's great, Becky, I'm sure G...

BECKY

HA! You nearly said his name then, didn't you?!

Llinos looks flustered.

BECKY (CONT'D)

Keep your knickers on! I'm not going to try and guess. Next question.

Gabriel feels giddy. Out of control, faced by this whirlwind.

GABRIEL

I wanted to ask about his Dad...
um, his birth Dad... Liam. How did
you meet?

BECKY

Off my tits on Molly in a drum and
base club.

100 INT. NEVERLAND - NIGHT - 2013 - X22 100

Gabriel and Andy dance the night away with wild abandon. Andy
now topless, covered in glitter, skin glistening with make-up
and sweat. A letting go. The exhilaration of love.

101 INT. MEETING ROOM, FAMILY CENTRE - DAY 46 - APRIL, 2024 101

Direct continuation:

BECKY

Promised me the world. Then utterly
destroyed it. Ha! Go on. Ask me the
next one.

GABRIEL

OK. Um... When did he... when did
Jake start speaking and walking?

BECKY

That's actually two questions but I
won't hold it against you. God,
right one you've got me here,
Llinos. Thought you said he was
intelligent!

GABRIEL

Oh um...

BECKY

I'm JOKING. God. Lighten up. Hope
you're more fun with Jake. Anyway.
Jakey took his first steps at 15
months. February 14th. Just as *Call
the Midwife* was starting....

(hint of emotion)

I don't forget anything, see. I
remember everything. EVERYTHING.

(beat)

Jake bloody loves *Call the Midwife*,
by the way. You'll need to watch it
with him. I thought nuns were cunts
before I watched that.

(MORE)

BECKY (CONT'D)

(matter of fact)

And his first word was 'Mam' I think.

The word lands in the space like a missile. For both of them. And something shifts in the room. Jackie notices this.

JACKIE

(to Gabriel)

Um...Your next question?

GABRIEL

(suppressing emotion)

Um... Your happiest memory of him?

BECKY

I think... I think it was seeing him for the first time...

But suddenly it's Non sitting across the table.

NON

'Mabi gwyn i.

NON (CONT'D)

[My beautiful baby.]

Gabriel blinks. It's Becky again.

BECKY

Couldn't believe how much love I felt for this strange pink wrinkly thing that had literally just mutilated my fanny. But I did. I loved him. More than I've loved anything before or since. Ever will again maybe.

Gabriel nods, moved.

He pauses for a moment, looking at her. As if seeing her for the first time.

BECKY (CONT'D)

What you staring at?

GABRIEL

Nothing I um...

JACKIE

(to Gabriel)

Your last question?

GABRIEL

Um...yes... what do you hope he achieves?

BECKY

More than I have.

Silence. They hold each other's gaze for a split second. A desperately sad one.

LLINOS

I think it might be nice if you...

BECKY

(shakes it off)

I've got nothing else to say. I want to ask my questions. That's your last question, isn't it, adopter?

GABRIEL

Um... yes.

BECKY

Thank you. So...

She sits forward. Performance mode again.

BECKY (CONT'D)

What I want to know is... will he have other close family around?

GABRIEL

Um... his Nan's not too far away and she really can't wait to meet him.

BECKY

That's good. Cause you'll need help, you know? It's hard doing it on your own. Although I was actually dead chuffed when I heard he was going to a single man. You didn't think I would be, did you, Llinos? But I was, wasn't I? Cause I'm his only Mami then, see. And I think it'll be good for him. He needs to know that not all men are complete and utter dick-heads.

(beat)

Why you doing this on your own, anyway by the way? You gay?

GABRIEL

Um... yes, actually.

BECKY

Cool. I'm cool with that. My nan's a lesbian and she's a total legend. Much better at life than the rest of us. I was hoping Jake might end up with her but her arthritis is bad so...

GABRIEL

Why's your Nan a legend?

BECKY

Because... no! Wait! That's not on the list. Is he allowed to ask questions that aren't on the list?

LLINOS

We've time. If you want to answer.

BECKY

Alright then. But don't be surprised if I go all parkour on my questions as well, alright? Nan's a legend because she was the only one that gave a shit that my Dad was a fucking arse-hole.

GABRIEL

I'm so sorry to hear that.

Becky looks at Gabriel. As if seeing him for the first time.

BECKY

So why you single? I mean you're hardly a munter. Haven't met the right one yet, have you?

GABRIEL

Um... no. My um... my partner. He died.

BECKY

Oh. Right. God. What happened?

GABRIEL

Um... we're not actually sure. He was probably attacked. Anyway, he fell. Knocked his head. And...

Silence.

BECKY

Shit. Sorry.

GABRIEL

(represses emotion)

It's OK.

BECKY

It's not OK. That's fucking sad.
Llinos, get the man a tissue.

GABRIEL

I'm fine honestly.

BECKY

Get the fucking man a tissue I
said.

Llinos puts a pack of tissues at the centre of the table.

BECKY (CONT'D)

You cry if you want to. Absolutely
nothing to be ashamed of. And make
sure you teach Jake that too. Fuck
me, if Liam had learned to cry then
we wouldn't be in this fucking mess
in the first place.

(beat)

What was his name? Your partner?

GABRIEL

Andrew. Andy. His name was Andy.

BECKY

Andy. That's nice.

GABRIEL

(suddenly realising)

Oh, shit. I shouldn't have...

BECKY

Oh fuck. Sorry. I... I wasn't tryin
to trick you or nothing I...

GABRIEL

No I know that. I...

BECKY

I genuinely wanted to know what
your partner was called because...
Well he would have been his Dad as
well, wouldn't he? Lucky boy. Not
just one, but two nice dads to keep
him safe. I mean look at you.

(MORE)

BECKY (CONT'D)

(beat)

Look at your kind face.

Becky fights emotion Gabriel pushes the tissues towards her. She ignores them.

BECKY (CONT'D)

(defensive, can't go there)

Anyway...

She picks up her paper to read her questions. But her hands are shaking, her emotions are getting the better of her.

BECKY (CONT'D)

Will you... will you...?

She can't get her words out. Her voice breaks. It's finally too much. She hands the paper to Llinos. Looks at her pleadingly. Desperate. A child herself, admitting defeat.

Llinos reads quietly, trying to hide her own emotion, but it's there. We feel it.

LLINOS

Will you take him on holiday?

GABRIEL

(looks at Becky, kindly)

Yeah. Yeah. Course I will. I love ... Andy and I loved traveling. There's loads of places I'd like to share with him.

Becky nods. Pleased. She's never been on holiday. She looks at Llinos again.

LLINOS

It's the last question.

Becky nods.

LLINOS (CONT'D)

Do you have a garden?

The question surprises Gabriel.

GABRIEL

Oh! Um... Yes. We have a... I have a front and back garden. And I've just got a trampoline in the back cause I know how much he likes that. But there's also a park over the road. There's loads of places to play.

And Becky nods happy. It's what she wanted.

Llinos steps forward to end the meeting but -

BECKY

Actually. Can I ask one more question?

Llinos nods: of course.

BECKY (CONT'D)

You will...?

But again. She can't get her words out.

BECKY (CONT'D)

You will...? Fuck's sake!

(beat)

You will love him wont you?

And Gabe looks Becky directly in the eye. Strong. Meaningful.

GABRIEL

I already do.

BECKY

(she's caught by surprise by that)

Oh.

(pushes through emotion)

Good. Because I love that boy too see. And I want him to have a good life. I want him to be happy. And you will let him know that, won't you? You will let him know that I loved him? That he was loved. That it wasn't because I didn't love him.

(beat)

God. Look at you. Look at your kind face.

Silence. Stillness. Gabriel's totally moved.

GABRIEL

He takes after you, you know.

Becky scoffs.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

No. It's true. He's bright. Funny. So funny. And loving. You should be really proud of that.

Becky holds his gaze for a moment. Silence.

LLINOS

Um... I have a camera if you want to take a... we always think it's nice if there's a photo. Of the two of you. Together. For Jake.

BECKY

I don't have to put my arm round him or nothing?

LLINOS

No just standing next to each other's fine....

Gabriel and Becky stand next to each other awkwardly.

BECKY

I feel like a right fucking pleb.

LLINOS

No. It's lovely.

Llinos takes the photo.

LLINOS (CONT'D)

Thank you.

BECKY

Anyway, we should go now, innit Llin? Christ, I could do with a drink. And you'll have things to do I imagine...

(realising)

Fuck. Course you fucking do. What an idiot. Anyway. OK.

(beat)

Goodbye, Robocop.

Gabriel considers.

GABRIEL

My name's Gabriel.

Becky recognises the significance of this offer. And it touches her to the core. She smiles. A beautiful smile.

BECKY

Thank you.

And she leaves. Llinos follows. Gabriel watches them go, disoriented, affected. He looks at Jackie, eyes brimming with tears. And she's trying her best not to cry either.

102

I.E GABRIEL'S CAR - DAY 47 - APRIL, 2024

102

Gabriel in the front seat behind the wheel seemingly overwhelmed. Takes a deep breath...

Now Gabriel smiles, and looks over to his passenger seat. We see Andy, sitting. Smiling back at Gabriel. Ready? Gabriel nods. And then they both turn around and see...

Jake belted in the back. Grinning from ear to ear. He gives a giant double-thumbs up.

And Gabriel nods. He's ready. He starts the ignition. And we see the car is parked outside Claire's house. Claire waves in her doorway. And there's Billy the Seal, taking pride of place, on the parcel shelf looking back at her through the rear window. Gabriel presses play on the music system. We hear the introduction to 'Where Do You Go To, My lovely?'

And Gabriel begins to drive Jake home.

Forever.

End of Series

(Credits: Where Do You Go To, My Lovely?)