

THE CAGE

Written by

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Episode Two

Yellow Amends

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FADE IN:

Music Cue: WINDOWS, THOMAS DOLBY.

1

EXT. CASINO CAR PARK - NIGHT 2. 11PM

1

We're on full length LEANNE. She's directly under a light, leaning against the outside peeled paint wall of the casino in the car park. It's pure noir as the drizzle sleets in and she stares us dead in the eye.

A beat, then she explodes in silent frustration. It's pure self hatred head punching horror. She contorts. Slapping and punching at the top of her head with anger.

It stops just as quickly as it blew in. Deep breath, fuck. She pulls a too large, unbuttoned, black suit jacket a little tighter around her. She stares off to her left until we hear a distant police siren.

A beat, then the fire door opens and IRINA emerges from the casino. She's wearing a cleaning overall and looks up at the rain as the fire door closes behind her. A beat, then she notices LEANNE who manages to nod a greeting.

IRINA lifts her chin and takes up position on the other side of the fire door to LEANNE. LEANNE glances at her a couple of times as IRINA pulls a cigarette out of a pack and sparks up.

LEANNE settles, the two women lean against the wall. It's like a canvas behind them as the rain drizzles down. LEANNE shivers, fixes a couple of loose hairs, then looks at IRINA:

LEANNE

Can I have a drag?

IRINA stares at her a beat, reading her, then shrugs and passes the cigarette across at arms length.

We're close in on LEANNE as she studies the cigarette for a beat, then takes a drag. She holds onto the smoke for half a beat, then exhales to the sky before passing the cigarette back with a half smile and a nod which IRINA doesn't return. A long beat, then LEANNE leaks the smoke out. She clearly didn't enjoy it.

A beat, she stares at us then blinks. Suddenly the cracks show. She wipes her face and looks at the sky, then another wipe, deep breath, then a sob breaks the surface like a otter breaking bright water then heading deep again. She settles, another glance at IRINA, then:

LEANNE (cont'd)

State of me.

IRINA flatly stares at her a beat, then nods and looks away. LEANNE wipes and sniffs the pain away before a glance off.

LEANNE (cont'd)
[Soft] A fella. I've messed up, and
when I mess up I get panic attacks.
[Beat] Well, I get panic attacks
whether I mess up or not... but...
when I mess up [Long beat] they're
worse.

IRINA doesn't react. LEANNE looks away again, wrapping the
jacket tighter as she seemingly speaks to herself:

LEANNE (cont'd)
Like waves. [Beat, then to IRINA]
You're supposed to talk about it.
They reckon it helps. [Long beat]
But it doesn't.

There's a long beat of silence, then softly:

LEANNE (cont'd)
Me nerves are shredded.

IRINA softens. She manages a nod of understanding then looks
off towards where the siren has kicked off again.

LEANNE fires up her phone and we see the page that's already
loaded on the screen. She holds it out for IRINA to see and
then lowers it before she can. LEANNE scrolls as she talks:

LEANNE (cont'd)
I'm looking for a place and this
one has come up.

RESERVE £65000. 3 BEDROOM FLAT, L4. CHARMING 3 BEDROOM FLAT
IN THE HEART OF A VIBRANT NEIGHBOURHOOD...

She clicks on the link to the photos. The first photo
appears. It's a sixties build run down five storey building
with metal sheets across the windows on a few of the flats.
Her smile fades a little as she scrolls through the photos
before giving up and reading the description:

A TON OF POTENTIAL FOR THE RIGHT INVESTOR, THIS PROPERTY
PROVIDES A BLANK CANVAS WAITING TO EXPLODE WITH CREATIVITY.
SET IN THE HEART OF A VIBRANT AND UP AND COMING AREA
POTENTIAL ABOUNDS! AUCTION DATE June 14th 2026.

She checks the date on her phone. The auction is two weeks
away. She looks up into the sky.

LEANNE (cont'd)
Two weeks till the auction. Might
as well be twenty years. I'll never
afford it.

IRINA
What?

IRINA is now focussed on own her phone and hasn't heard.

LEANNE
[Beat] Nothing.

IRINA nods and looks back at her phone. Half a beat, then:

LEANNE (cont'd)
I'm just frustrated.

IRINA rolls her eyes and looks at her.

LEANNE (cont'd)
You know? When you're so close to
something, and then it gets... it
goes away... It gets taken from
you. It isn't fair.

IRINA tries looking at her phone, then sighs, then:

IRINA
Look, when something goes and you
want it badly enough, you after go
after it harder, or you just shut
the fuck up. Okay?

LEANNE doesn't understand:

IRINA (cont'd)
Hunt it down. Get it.

LEANNE considers, then nods. She fires up the phone again then lowers it half a beat thoughtfully with a glance at IRINA who is back to staring off. LEANNE flicks through the pictures in the listing again: Living room picture, then the kitchen. It isn't *too* bad.

A beat, IRINA flicks the cigarette away and goes back into the building without looking at LEANNE. The door clangs shut. Half a beat, then LEANNE dials a number.

CUT TO:

2

EXT. DANNY'S HOUSE - NIGHT 2. 11.15PM

2

KELLY sits in an old Fiesta. Her coat is wrapped around her and she is staring at Danny's place. Her phone buzzes and she rolls her eyes as she answers without looking at it.

KELLY
I said I'd call you if you anything
happened.

CUT TO:

3

EXT. CASINO CAR PARK - NIGHT 2. 11.15PM

LEANNE paces.

LEANNE
Have you seen him?

KELLY (O.S.)
You've rang me ten times Leanne. No
I haven't fuckin' seen him.

LEANNE leans against the wall. She's all out of ideas.

LEANNE
No lights even?

KELLY (O.S.)
No. Nothing. No lights. Nothin'.
Same as before. Car still here.
Living room curtains closed.
Nothing. Nada. Nowt.

CUT TO:

4

EXT. DANNY'S HOUSE - NIGHT 2. 11.15PM

4

KELLY puts a hand to her head, this is hard:

KELLY
Look, Lee, I can't stay here all
night. I've got work tomorrow. I
wanna help you but...

LEANNE (O.S.)
Stay as long as you can... please.
I need this so bad.

KELLY rolls her eyes and then:

KELLY
I wish you'd get better taste in
men.

CUT TO:

5

EXT. CASINO CAR PARK - NIGHT 2. 11.15PM

LEANNE stands, one hand on the fire exit, phone to her ear.

LEANNE
[Soft] So do I. Thank you.

She hangs up. A deep breath, then in she goes:

6

INT. CASINO, NIGHT 2. 11.20PM

6

Boom. The door opens and radiant LEANNE enters. The contrast is stark to what we saw outside. We follow her. The heat, noise and light of the casino floor, slamming into us. We follow, the contrast to the silence before is dizzying. The ringing of the slots. Cash dropping. Lights flashing. We look left and right. Raucous stag nights shouting at wins to our left. Mahjong players slamming tiles to our right.

LEANNE is heading back towards the cage at the rear of the casino. She expertly tosses the jacket to ONE OF THE CROUPIERS who catches it.

LEANNE

[To croupier] Stinks of perfume!
You're going to get battered!

She blows him a cheeky kiss and then smiles at a table of punters who nod and smile back to her. A waiter carrying high a tray of drinks heads towards her, swinging an inch out of her way as he passes. We spin and follow him as LEANNE heads confidently into the depths of the casino. It's Goodfellas.

CUT TO:

We follow the waiter for a beat then pull away, smoothly, ducking and diving out the way of bottle wobbling drunks. The place is electric purple with reflecting neon polished brass and chrome refracting light. Champagne in buckets whizzes past to private tables. We follow a bottle and linger for a second with the beautiful drinkers and their winnings. It's like a slick advert for the joys of casino life. In a breath and a spin we've moved on, brushing across the baize as dealers flick cards like sleight of hand magicians. We skim over the tables, a smooth continuous shot, from one to the other and then we're suddenly flying low over the roulette table as chips land with a clatter on the soft felt.

We swoop across the cards on our way to the bar then turn to the shadows to our left. There, deep in the darkness, we see ALAN. He's alone and in his cups, a few bottles lined up in front of him as he slouches in an armchair, bag on the chair next to him. His phone lights up on the table in front of him. He picks it up.

GARY: EVERY PENNY COUNTS, SO YOU COUNT EVERY PENNY.

ALAN looks around the casino then at a bag next to him, which he opens an inch or two. We see it is full of cash. He closes the top of the bag then rubs his eyes. A man tired of this shit.

We're barely on him then we're moving off. NING, sits at the Blackjack table, trapping her cards as the dealer flicks them across, and then to the other players.

NING seems apart from the fizz and pop of the scene. Her eyes aren't on the cards. Instead she looks left then she looks right, then a sly glance over her shoulder to the Mahjong players behind her before she finally glances at her cards and tosses them back to the dealer. Another shit hand.

She tosses the cards back resigned to her fate. Dead eyed, she stares at the baize for half a beat until someone taps her on the shoulder and snaps her out of her thoughts.

LEANNE with a tilt of the head and a half-smile of concern. Silently checking on NING in her loneliness. NING manages to lift her chin and nod a thin lipped greeting. LEANNE drifts away. No sooner is she gone, NING leans back from the table thoughtfully, drops her chin and folds her arms. We linger on her watching the game for a beat, then spin away again.

We move, across the roulette table that is being reloaded with chips, and then up and around until we see MATTY walking with one of the bar managers AMY. MATTY has his eyes on NING as Amy is shouting in his ear. MATTY looks concerned about NING, but then is all smiles to the other punters who cross his path. A cheeky wink here and there and a solemn nod to the pit bosses who watch him pass by. He makes eye contact with LEANNE who is chatting to a customer casually.

Something passes between them so fast it's barely a Higgs Boson of time before MATTY moves on, not missing a beat of his own conversation. He's the king of his castle and looks amazing. A punter grabs his arm and shows him a wad of cash and gloats in MATTY's ear. MATTY is soooooo smooth. He smiles and pats the guy on the arm but keeps moving without pause.

Amy goes back to shouting in MATTY's ear and then everything slows as we zoom in tight on MATTY's face. The music stops. Something's wrong. MATTY listens to the silence and then boom we're back up to speed as MATTY spins and calls out to the operator on the roulette table (STEVE.) MATTY calls out over the crash and bang of the casino.

MATTY

STEVE?!

It's just loud enough. Perfect pitch. No stress. No shouting. Just enough to get STEVE to lift his head before he drops the ball into the already spinning roulette wheel. MATTY mouths 'faster' and spins his index finger with the tiniest of nods to the wheel. A beat, then STEVE gets the message, nods and then gives the wheel another spin to speed it up a fraction before he drops the ball. Happy, MATTY and Amy move on.

We peel away, drifting through the club. Flashing lights, garish carpet, until we're following a PUNTER who is holding a hand full of twenty pound notes and is obviously buzzing off his night.

He's heading to the cage at the back of the room and we hover at his shoulder as he waits for the TWO CACKLING DRUNK WOMEN, who are dressed to the nines, all cascading Thursday night hair, sparkle teeth and polished nails who are cashing some chips.

The casino as a living organism, firing on all cylinders.

The PUNTER with the twenties passes LEANNE. Her eyes are drawn to the money and the glamour and the glitz fade as she stands, a few metres from the cage, watching the money go over the counter.

She blinks herself out of it, then looks around just in time to see MATTY entering his office. She follows him.

7

INT. MATTY'S OFFICE - NIGHT 2. 11.30PM

MATTY lets the door swing shut behind him and the sounds of the casino fade away as he heads for his desk. As he flops wearily into his seat he rests his head back and closes his eyes. A beat, then LEANNE enters. He looks at her. Then the CCTV. She's all business.

LEANNE

It's busy tonight. How much are we taking?

MATTY

Whoa!!! Fuck! Steady. We need to think. Plan... We can't just...

He looks at the monitor and tails off as she speaks:

LEANNE

Plan? You were the one who was just dipping whenever you fancied...

He holds up a finger. She stops talking, noting him squinting at the screen, finger still raised. Confused for a beat, she heads slowly across. He uses the finger to point at the screen. LEANNE leans in.

MATTY

[Soft] Is that... Is that her?

The reception camera. NANCY, chatting to the front desk manager. A beat, then she sees it too.

LEANNE

Oh fuck...

He spins and looks at a wall planner.

MATTY

First Thursday of the quarter.

LEANNE running for the door as he smooths his shirt.

8

INT. CASINO - NIGHT 2. 11.32PM

8

LEANNE runs to the booth in the cage just in time before NANCY enters the casino floor. NANCY stops by the entrance and scans the room carefully taking it all in. A beat, then she enters proper and begins to patrol the floor, chatting to employees, taking in the punters, running her finger across dust traps and checking out the lighting. She has eyes everywhere as she passes NING who is sitting in a booth, an empty glass in front of her.

NING's lost in thought until she hears a peal of laughter from across the casino. She looks up. It's the Mahjong players. NING watches them, slapping down tiles, laughing and joking. One of the players, MAI (sixty something female) looks up and catches her eye. MAI looks away. A beat, then MAI heads to the bar.

NING stares at the table top in front of her for a beat, then suddenly grabs the empty glass off her table heads to the bar herself.

CUT TO:

9

INT. CASINO BAR - NIGHT 2. 11.34PM

9

MAI is waiting for the bar person KAREN who is slamming a pint down for another customer. NING arrives a moment later, and the two are positioned maybe four feet apart as they both stare straight ahead, MAI doing her best to ignore NING until she finally speaks.

NING

Mai.

MAI nods a greeting, keeping her eyes on KAREN. NING glances at the Mahjong game, then at MAI.

NING (cont'd)

How is your Sylvie?

MAI

She's okay.

NING nods. They both watch KAREN a beat, then:

NING

I was watching you guys playing.

MAI nods.

NING (cont'd)

You winning?

MAI just keeps her eyes on KAREN.

NING (cont'd)
I was thinking of coming over and
sitting in for a while?

MAI finally looks at her and stares flatly. A beat, then NING shrugs and they go back to KAREN watching. A beat, then NING breaks and turns to face MAI.

NING (cont'd)
So I can't come over? [Beat] I'm
not welcome? Still? I'm not
welcome?

MAI faces front. NING takes a step closer to her and drops her voice.

NING (cont'd)
How long are you lot going to keep
this up?

MAI stares straight ahead. NING can barely keep a lid on her frustration. She moves closer still. Hissing her words now.

NING (cont'd)
You should be thanking me... not
ignoring me.

MAI
I'm not ignoring you, I've just got
nothing to say to you, and neither
has anyone else on that table. You
need to understand that, because
until you do...

She tails off, a beat of weighing up saying the unthinkable.

MAI (cont'd)
We were grateful to you. Most of
us.

NING
I didn't do it for me.

MAI
But then that boy...

NING is about to plead her case, but KAREN arrives and MAI turns to her.

MAI (cont'd)
Rum and ginger please love. Can you
put it on the tab and send it over?

MAI indicates the Mahjong table and turns to go, then hesitates a beat, before looking back at NING.

MAI (cont'd)
He died in prison. That lad. He died.

Mai stares a beat, then:

MAI (cont'd)
And it didn't even make a difference. What you did? It didn't make one difference at all... except to him and his family back home.

MAI stares a beat, then goes back to the game. NING spins in the wind, thinks about calling after her, but instead turns to the bar and holds up a finger to attract KAREN's attention. She fails to do this and hangs her head.

10

INT. THE CAGE - NIGHT 2. 11.37PM

10

LEANNE is back behind her counter dealing with a customer, trying her hardest to look like she hasn't noticed NANCY heading for MATTY's office.

NANCY passes her, LEANNE breathes a sigh of relief, but then dies inside when she realises NANCY is holding the office door open and staring at her. NANCY points at her, then indicates the office: 'You in here now.'

Beyond NANCY LEANNE can see MATTY hovering near the door to welcome her.

Fuck fuck fuck. LEANNE manages to smile, but the second she looks away her eyes are panicking like crazy. Fuck. She manages to collect herself, smile and nod to the punter, then looks back at NANCY.

NANCY gestures again, this time impatiently that LEANNE should come to the office, then turns and enters it. Once she is out of sight. MATTY hovers by the door, then holds out his hands to LEANNE: 'Come on!' before he too heads into the office, the door swinging shut behind him.

The second he is out of sight, LEANNE almost swoons under the pressure. She steps away from the counter, and calls to AMY:

LEANNE
Amy? Cover the window please love.

AMY comes out from the back of the cage. She's counting cash. LEANNE eyes the money, then:

LEANNE (cont'd)
Nancy's here.

AMY just shrugs and takes over at the window.

11

INT. MATTY'S OFFICE - NIGHT 2. 11.40PM

NANCY is sitting behind MATTY's desk. MATTY is sitting opposite. NANCY is studying him as he squirms a little. A beat, he musters a thin smile.

MATTY

Have you been well Nancy?

She holds up her hand. He rolls his eyes and nods. Of course. He smooths his shirt again, then wipes his desk. All the while, NANCY stares at the floor until finally, she looks at an expensive wristwatch.

There's a timid knock at the door and KAREN the barmaid enters with a glass of gin, a small plate of sliced lime, and a bottle of bitter lemon on a small silver tray. She doesn't speak as she sets it down heavily next to a thin lipped NANCY who barely manages a nod of thanks. KAREN exits as NANCY pours a splash of lemon, then using sugar tongs, places three pieces of lime into the glass before tasting. Satisfied, she places the glass down and looks at MATTY.

NANCY

Four minutes?

He tilts his head.

NANCY (cont'd)

Four minutes wait for my drink.

He doesn't know what to say. She stares, then smiles, then:

NANCY (cont'd)

I'm very well thank you. You?

He squirms a little, then:

MATTY

Erm... Me knee's been playing up a bit but... you know... yeah. Good.

NANCY stares. A beat, then:

MATTY (cont'd)

Football. Years ago. Just... you know... it gets a bit...

He trails off and looks at the door.

MATTY (cont'd)

Where is she...?

NANCY

You look tired Matthew.

That brings him up short. He blinks and is about to speak when the office door bursts open and a flustered LEANNE enters. She goes to close the door behind her, but JESSIE, pushes in behind her. LEANNE hovers as JESSIE takes up station discretely standing to the side of the door. NANCY manages a half smile to her with a nod. JESSIE smiles back.

LEANNE is chaos, crashing about like a one man band falling down the stairs as she juggles coffee, a notebook, a laptop and a ledger. It's all barely in her hands as she tumbles her way to the seat next to MATTY. It's a wooden dining chair and it scrapes on the floor as she pulls it back.

LEANNE

Sorry.

NANCY

Five minutes.

LEANNE

Pardon?

NANCY

Since I arrived.

LEANNE

I was getting the...

She holds up the ledger. NANCY smiles and nods. LEANNE shoots MATTY a glance, then places the mug on the desk. NANCY notes that with a frown. LEANNE sees this and removes the cup, holds it a bit, then finally puts it on the floor. She settles. Catching her breath at last. NANCY watches her a beat, then:

NANCY

Ready?

LEANNE

Yeah. Yes. I am. [Beat] Yes.

A beat, then LEANNE remembers the notebook and fumbles it open and searches for a pen amongst the detritus on the desk. MATTY slides one across and she fumbles it until she eventually manages to expose the nib.

LEANNE (cont'd)

[Soft] Don't know what's wrong with me today.

NANCY

Just relax.

This has the opposite effect. LEANNE squirms, and then eventually looks up at NANCY. A beat then:

NANCY (cont'd)

It has to stop.

MATTY and LEANNE: subtle 'fuck'. A beat of staring, then finally:

MATTY
I'm sorry?

NANCY
Living here. In this office. It has
to stop.

LEANNE almost faints with relief as MATTY squirms.

MATTY
No. [Beat] I'm not... I...

He glances at LEANNE who doesn't look back at him.

MATTY (cont'd)
I sometimes stay here... In the
office. But... Me mum... you know
me mum?

NANCY nods. He tails off.

NANCY
It'll stop. From now on. It'll
stop.

NANCY looks at JESSIE.

NANCY (cont'd)
See to it.

JESSIE nods. MATTY shoots her a look. NANCY turns back to MATTY and almost catches him. A beat, then:

NANCY (cont'd)
This was Andrew's office. **My**
Andrew. My husband. He was proud of
this office. Same as he was proud
of this casino. He built it. **We.**
Built. It. It should be respected,
and it will be respected.

MATTY
Yeah. It is. And it will be. I
promise. I'm sorry.

NANCY stares at him a beat, then nods thanks and opens her briefcase. She takes out her notebook opens it and places it down on the desk. She then takes out a long spool of dot matrix printer paper full of data from the case and places it next to the notebook before looking at MATTY.

NANCY
Drugs will also not be tolerated.

MATTY almost falls through the floor.

MATTY

No! Jesus. I... never... we...

LEANNE

WE??!?!?

MATTY

No... no not we! Me... I... Me...
haven't... I never... Would
never... Have never...

NANCY holds up a hand. He stops. She looks at the notebook,
then at him:

NANCY

The corridor leading to the
toilets. Two bulbs are out. It's
dark and two females were using the
gloom to take cocaine.

MATTY and LEANNE look at each, then her and nod furiously.

NANCY (cont'd)

I won't tolerate it.

MATTY

Fixed first thing.

He looks at JESSIE who rolls her eyes silently in a 'only me
working here?' way but then nods. MATTY looks back at NANCY
who has opened the notebook. She studies it, then looks up.

NANCY

The new barmaid?

MATTY

Karen.

NANCY

She puts pints on the bar like she
is ending an auction. It spills
beer, which wastes beer. Tell her
not to.

MATTY nods.

NANCY (cont'd)

Tell her now.

MATTY snaps alive, then looks at JESSIE who shakes her head
in disbelief and then nods, resigned to the task. She pushes
off the wall and exits. MATTY points at the now closing door.

MATTY

Done.

NANCY nods, then adjusts her reading glasses and picks up the
printer paper and studies the figures on it.

NANCY
And now, financial takings and
returns.

MATTY and LEANNE shift position fractionally. NANCY searches through the roll for what she is looking for, and at one point looks up from the paper to eye MATTY and LEANNE who both force a smile back. She adjusts her glasses again, and then finally, looks up.

NANCY (cont'd)
[Solemn] Takings through the cage.

She looks at LEANNE solemnly, then MATTY. The beat feels endless until NANCY breaks a smile.

NANCY (cont'd)
Up.

Up? MATTY Up? LEANNE

NANCY
Fifteen thousand.

MATTY
Fifteen?

She looks at the figures, then:

NANCY
Almost exactly.

LEANNE and MATTY look at each other, then NANCY, stunned.

NANCY (cont'd)
Bravo.

MATTY
[Beat] Thanks.

NANCY
Footfall has remained consistent,
so the staff need a pat on the back
for turning a higher return through
the tables.

MATTY
Absolutely.

NANCY
All in all...

She starts to scan the paper again before looking at them:

NANCY (cont'd)
Bravo.

LEANNE and MATTY smile at her and as NANCY suddenly starts to collect her things, they shoot a glance at each other.

NANCY (cont'd)
Which concludes this quarterly
review. Keep up the good work and
thank you.

Beat of silence, then LEANNE nudges MATTY who seems to wake up.

MATTY
I'll get you a taxi.

She points at the CCTV and they both look at it. We see GARY, standing next to the table of the booth that ALAN is seated in. We can barely see ALAN who is recessed in the shadows. GARY is staring into the camera, arms folded.

NANCY
GARY is here.

NANCY removes her glasses and drops them into her handbag, snaps it shut and then starts to collect her paperwork together.

12 **INT. CASINO - NIGHT 2. 11.55PM**

12

It looks like GARY is killing time as he waits for his mother, but he is in fact talking to ALAN who is seated behind him.

GARY
How many new lads did you get?

ALAN shifts, then coughs out:

ALAN
One.

GARY
One??

ALAN
One, and it's not a lad.

GARY stares. WTF? A beat, then:

ALAN (cont'd)
It's Neil's fiancé.

GARY
You havin' a laugh?

ALAN
You wanted family.

GARY
Posh and Becks? Them two have broke
up more times than J-Lo and
Batman... Fuck's sake.

He shakes his head and looks round the casino searching for
them as he speaks.

GARY (cont'd)
How's she doing.

ALAN
Not good.

He looks at ALAN.

ALAN (cont'd)
She keeps winning.

GARY hangs his head a beat, then:

GARY
Are you watching them for robbin'?

ALAN
He's family. You said...

GARY
Family robs too.

GARY fixes ALAN.

GARY (cont'd)
If he's staying on, he needs to
understand the penalty. Otherwise
there's no deterrent. Everyone
needs to know the penalty. Yeah?

ALAN gets the message and nods. GARY looks around. He's about
to go, but then suddenly stiffens and drops into the booth
eyes front, away from whatever it was that he just saw. ALAN
reads the move and makes to look out the booth but GARY
catches him with a shake of the head. They sit a beat, then:

GARY (cont'd)
How long has Ning been coming here?

ALAN
Ning?

GARY
[Hisses] What fuckin' Ning do you
think I mean??? Yes fuckin' Ning!
How long?

A beat, then ALAN shrugs:

ALAN

Dunno. Like, I mean, she's been here forever I think... she just comes.

He weighs it up, then:

ALAN (cont'd)

I am seeing a bit more of her lately though, so... yeah.

GARY

How often?

ALAN

Most nights.

GARY

And you didn't think to...?

ALAN

Dunno. I... no.

GARY

Fuck me.

A beat, GARY thinks about looking out the booth but changes his mind.

GARY (cont'd)

She play the tables?

ALAN

Yeah. Poker, bit of blackjack. Keeps herself to herself. Has a bevy and fucks off.

GARY processes this, then leans out a fraction to watch NING who is staring at her phone. He watches her a beat. He leans back in and stares at ALAN, then points at the bag.

GARY

Make sure them two start fuckin' losing. Alright?

ALAN nods/shrugs nervously. A beat, then GARY slides out the booth and heads for the exit. ALAN watches him, then sticks his own head out the booth. NING is staring at him. He retreats sharpish and takes a sip of beer. Fuck.

13

EXT. CASINO FRONT - NIGHT 2. 11.58PM

13

LEANNE is having a cigarette outside. GARY steps out to join her. He beams a smile at her and she shyly smiles back.

GARY

How are you mate?

LEANNE

I'm good.

GARY

I can see that, but I was wondering
how you were?

She laughs, he grins. She's suddenly a little bashful.

GARY (cont'd)

Was old Nancy on the warpath?

LEANNE

Your mum?

He rolls his eyes.

GARY

Me mum.

LEANNE

No. She's... you know?

GARY

A pain in the arse?

LEANNE

No!

GARY

I'll tell her you called her a pain
in the arse!

LEANNE

Don't you dare!

He smiles, then:

GARY

So how'd it go?

LEANNE

It was really interesting.

GARY

You really are lying now.

Despite herself, LEANNE smiles. GARY points to her.

GARY (cont'd)

There it is.

LEANNE

What?

GARY

The reason I come here.

LEANNE

The reason you come here is to run
your mum home GARY.

He laughs.

GARY

Bit of that as well like, yeah. I
can't help myself, I'm just a good
son.

He looks at her.

GARY (cont'd)

And a good fella.

LEANNE

Is that right?

GARY

Every day of the week. You should
try me. I'm ace... and so are you.

She's a little bashful.

GARY (cont'd)

So, anyway, I'll see you soon yeah?

GARY looks away, then back at LEANNE.

GARY (cont'd)

Hopefully?

LEANNE

Maybe.

GARY

I'll keep me fingers crossed.

LEANNE

[Beat] You don't give up do you?

GARY

Never give up me.

LEANNE

Does your wife?

He smiles again and then raises a finger of 'you got me
there' before heading back into the casino. A few paces, all
watched by LEANNE, then he looks over his shoulder.

GARY

My *ex wife*.

He holds up his left hand. No wedding ring. He winks, then
goes. LEANNE chews a lip as she watches GARY head back into
the casino.

14

INT. THE CASINO - NIGHT 2. 12.05AM

14

NING is sitting in her booth with a drink. She's doom scrolling with an occasional glance around. We cut to her phone and see she's on a dating app. Someone passes her shoulder, causing her to start, then look up. Whoever it is beats her to it, and slides into the booth opposite her.

GARY smiles at her across the table. Fuck.

GARY
Constable Ning.

A beat, then NING places her phone face down.

NING
Detective Sergeant Ning.

He holds up a hand of mock impressed apology then nods to the phone.

GARY
I saw you was looking for a bit of company, so I thought...

He holds out his hands. She just stares at him. A beat, then a shadow falls across his face as he leans forward.

GARY (cont'd)
[Soft] What the fuck are you doing in my mum's club?

It's matter of fact but the charm has gone. He dead eyes her and she dead eyes him back. A beat, then she shrugs.

NING
Why are you still selling drugs in China Town?

Touché.

GARY
Don't know what you're talking about.

They both look off but sit like gunfighters, aware of the slightest twitch from the other. A beat, then matter of fact:

GARY (cont'd)
I never bring trouble to me mum's club.

NING
You bring trouble wherever you go.

GARY
You bring a fair bit yourself.

She looks at him and he softens and leans in.

GARY (cont'd)
I don't bring trouble here.

He seems genuine. She shrugs and then it's her turn to look away. A beat, then:

NING
Whatever.

GARY
We had an agreement.

NING
Yeah, we did.

GARY
You're supposed to leave me alone.

She turns back to him.

GARY (cont'd)
You were happy with it when it suited you. We both did well out of it.

She stares. A beat, then:

NING
I'm a copper. It's my job to enforce the law, stop crime, catch criminals, collate information, protect the innocent and... [Beat]
I'm just doing my job.

A long beat, then he leans forward.

GARY
Protect the innocent?

He smiles. She stares. He gets up from the table and leans in super close.

GARY (cont'd)
[Whispers] I know you.

He slides her phone towards her.

GARY (cont'd)
Be lucky.

He leaves. She watches him go, then pushes the phone away.

15 **INT. THE CAGE - NIGHT 2. 4AM**

15

The casino is winding down for the night. LEANNE is at the window and writing in the ledger. Every now and then she looks up and scans the room and then goes back to writing. A beat, then she sees MATTY, his shirt sleeves rolled up. It looks like he's been grafting hard.

He heads for his office. She finishes entering the figures and then slams the ledger shut.

16 **INT. MATTY'S OFFICE - NIGHT 2. 4.10AM**

16

MATTY at his desk with his head in his hands. LEANNE enters and he looks up.

LEANNE
Where've you been???

MATTY
Scrubbing that fuckin' carpet with
her pointing at the bits I missed.

LEANNE
So what are we doing tonight?

He's pained. He gestures to the CCTV.

MATTY
She's only just gone.

LEANNE
But she is gone.

MATTY
I know but...

She looks around, then pulls the chair NANCY was sitting in closer to the desk before sitting down and leaning in. Deep breath, then:

LEANNE
We should just carry on. If the
take is up we could...

MATTY
It feels weird with her just being
here.

LEANNE
You know I'm desperate? I've told
you that I...

An unfamiliar ring tone rings out. They both stare at each other thinking it is the other's phone. Half a beat, then MATTY remembers the burner in his pocket and pulls it out.

LEANNE, confused, stares at the cheap burner phone. MATTY is also staring at it nervously. His finger hovers, unsure whether to answer. The phone rings and rings. He looks at LEANNE who shrugs:

LEANNE (cont'd)
Answer it.

Deep breath, he does and puts the phone to his ear. A long beat of silence, then a rough scouse accent [PHONE VOICE]:

PHONE VOICE
Lad?

MATTY swallows it down. A beat, then:

MATTY
Erm... yeah?

PHONE VOICE
Is this the lad?

MATTY
Er... depends who you're looking for?

PHONE VOICE
You holding them tops?

MATTY winces. Fuck. He looks at LEANNE.

MATTY
The coke?

PHONE VOICE
Yeah man... who is this?

Fuck. MATTY puts the palm of his hand against his forehead as LEANNE watches on.

MATTY
Erm... yup. Yeah... I've got the erm... tops.

PHONE VOICE
I need a pick up.

MATTY
It's awkward at the mo mate.

PHONE VOICE
What's up?

MATTY
Problems.

PHONE VOICE
Wha' problems?

MATTY

Erm... could you call me back in a mo?

He doesn't wait for an answer and then kills the call. He tosses the phone onto the desk like it's a hot coal and they both stare at it a beat. Suddenly MATTY grabs the phone and fumbles the off switch until it dies before tossing it back onto the desk. A beat, then:

LEANNE

What was that?

MATTY flops back.

LEANNE (cont'd)

What's up?

MATTY

You think you've got problems.

LEANNE

I have got problems.

He looks at her.

MATTY

A fella who was going to break my legs made me hold a bag of drugs, and now he's going to break my neck because I've lost it.

She shrugs. Simple problem:

LEANNE

Buy some drugs and give him them.

He holds out his hands to indicate a big bag of drugs.

MATTY

Sound. Any chance you could lend me the money to buy this bag of drugs?

LEANNE

Fuck.

MATTY

Yeah. Thought not.

He lets out a long sigh. They both sit in silence for a beat until something occurs to her.

LEANNE

This fella? Is he hard?

He looks at her.

LEANNE (cont'd)
He could get my money back.

MATTY
What about me?

LEANNE
Then we can find your drugs? Me and you. Where did you lose them?

MATTY
I didn't lose them... they were taken from me.

LEANNE
Who by?

MATTY
Me daughter?

LEANNE
You've got a daughter?

MATTY
Of course I've got a daughter.

LEANNE
I thought you were gay.

MATTY
You can be gay and have a daughter!

LEANNE
So you are gay?

He looks around for a beat in exasperation, then back at her.

MATTY
No. I'm not gay.

LEANNE holds up her hands.

MATTY (cont'd)
She's me daughter. Alright? She was visiting... Listening to music and she must have started rooting round me bedroom when I went to the bog...

He tails off with a shake of the head. A beat, then:

MATTY (cont'd)
When I come out she was gone and so was the stuff these fucker's are ringing me about. [Long beat] She thought she was looking after me...

LEANNE watches him a beat, then:

LEANNE

Kids.

He nods. A beat, then:

LEANNE (cont'd)

So, let's go and ask where she's put them and then you're all square with your hard mate. Once that's sorted, I ask him for my favour.

MATTY doesn't understand.

LEANNE (cont'd)

He can break the neck of the bastard who stole me money. I'll drop him a few quid for his time like.

MATTY shakes his head in disbelief. It's her turn to shrug.

LEANNE (cont'd)

Listen... after what he's done to me... he's got it coming.

MATTY nods.

LEANNE (cont'd)

So where's your daughter?

MATTY

Bed. It's six in the morning.

LEANNE

But she's at your ex wife's?

MATTY

Sort of... ex girlfriend.

LEANNE

Romantic.

MATTY

I'm stressed here!

She holds up a hand.

LEANNE

Okay, let's go to your... ex whatever she was... and ask your daughter...

MATTY

Emily.

LEANNE

Emily, let's ask her where the drugs are.

MATTY

That's not happenin'.

LEANNE

Why?

MATTY

If my Trace gets on to that, she'll never let me see her again.

LEANNE

She won't know what you're asking.

MATTY

She'll know something heavy is going off if I turn up to speak to Emily.

LEANNE

You're just visiting your...

LEANNE trails off as she realises.

LEANNE (cont'd)

You don't see much of her?

MATTY

I'm tryin' to be better.

LEANNE stares at him a beat, then looks at her watch.

LEANNE

Let's go to her school then? You're her dad. Just say you need to speak to her for a few minutes. Tell them it's an emergency or something. When they get her out the class... Done.

He considers a beat, then nods. It might work. She smiles.

LEANNE (cont'd)

What school is it?

MATTY

What?

LEANNE

What school is it?

MATTY

Seniors.

LEANNE

Which one?

He waves a loose hand about.

MATTY

I... I dunno...

LEANNE

You don't know the name of your daughter's school?

MATTY

Yes. No. I did... juniors... but I don't know... this one... No.

LEANNE

Fuckin' hell MATTY.

MATTY

I don't go there do I!?

LEANNE

You should take an interest in her education!!!

MATTY

I do!!! She's doing history!!

LEANNE

They all do history you tit!!

A beat, then he nods and rubs his temples.

MATTY

Fair enough, yeah.

LEANNE

What can you tell me about the school other than the name?

He thinks for a beat, then:

MATTY

I don't know erm... red... red blazer with...

He indicates something on the lapel then looks at her.

LEANNE shakes her head, then:

LEANNE

We'll speak to my kids in the morning. They'll know. After that, we speak to your mate?

MATTY

Yeah.

A beat, then she glances at the time and rises from the desk.

LEANNE

Tonight though? Us?

She flicks her head to the ledger. He nods, and is about to speak when IRINA enters. They all stare at each other. It's weird. A moment, then:

IRINA
Toilet is blocked.

MATTY deflates, then rises from his desk wearily. IRINA waits at the door. LEANNE watches him go, then exits after them.

17

INT. ALAN'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - DAY 3. 8AM

ALAN is standing at the fridge drinking from a 2ltr bottle of milk. TAYLOR his girlfriend enters. She's a beautician, and dressed for work.

TAYLOR
Get a glass you!

He wipes his mouth and puts the milk back in the fridge before heading to the door.

TAYLOR (cont'd)
What's up?

ALAN
Nothin'.

He kisses her on the cheek and exits. She heads for the fridge, flicking the kettle on as she passes it. A beat, then he re-enters and flops into a chair.

ALAN (cont'd)
There's trouble at work.

She looks at him.

ALAN (cont'd)
Someone has been on the rob and he's sacked everyone.

TAYLOR
Who was it?

He shrugs and looks away.

TAYLOR (cont'd)
Was it you?

ALAN
No! Fuckin' hell!!

A beat, he's hurt, she softens.

TAYLOR

You should find out Alan. You should watch! If he stops trusting you...

ALAN

He's long stopped trusting me.

TAYLOR

But he gives you thousands of pounds to mind every night.

ALAN

That's not trust. It's a job.

She sits opposite. He's seriously down and she's worried.

ALAN (cont'd)

He's got no faith in me anymore.

TAYLOR

I'm sure he does.

ALAN

I used to be his number two and now... I'm just a bag man.

TAYLOR

Aww babe.

He shrugs it off sadly, then:

ALAN

The only one he's kept on is Neil.

TAYLOR

Your Neil?

ALAN

Yeah. And his fiancé.

TAYLOR

Jade???? Oh my god. It's worse than I thought.

ALAN

I'm gonna have to batter him.

TAYLOR

Neil? Why?

ALAN

To let him know what'll happen if we found out he was involved, or if he gets light fingers in the future.

TAYLOR

Poor Neil.

ALAN

Our Shirley will kill me.

He rubs his weary eyes as she watches.

TAYLOR

Is Gary going to be there?

He stops rubbing and looks at her then shrugs.

TAYLOR (cont'd)

His temper.

ALAN

Yeah, I know...

A beat of silence, then she leans in and takes his hands.

ALAN (cont'd)

You fuck up once with him and
you've fucked up forever.

She nods, he's breaking her heart. A beat, then he pushes up.

ALAN (cont'd)

You want a brew?

She nods and watches him go.

18

INT. LEANNE'S CAR - DAY 3. 10.30AM

18

MATTY and LEANNE pull up outside EMILY's school. He leans forward and scopes the building a beat, then leans back nervously.

LEANNE

Go on then.

MATTY

Who do I ask for?

LEANNE

Your daughter.

MATTY

I don't know what class she's in...
I don't know her teacher...

He looks back at the school, then LEANNE.

MATTY (cont'd)

I feel a right twat.

LEANNE

That's because you are one.

A beat, then she kills the engine and unfastens her seatbelt. He's surprised, she looks at him.

LEANNE (cont'd)

I'm used to having to talk to teachers about me kids. Come on.

She's gone and in half a beat he follows.

19

INT. SCHOOL. CORRIDOR - DAY 3. 10.40AM

19

LEANNE and MATTY being escorted by a school Head (MRS HELBURY) down a corridor. MRS HELBURY is brisk and brusque as she leads the way.

MRS HELBURY

It's nice to finally meet you Mr Flynn.

MATTY is all forced airs and graces as he struggles to keep up.

MATTY

Yes you too.

LEANNE and MATTY almost skid into Helbury as she stops outside a classroom and turns to face them.

MRS HELBURY

I don't like to bring students out of class.

MATTY

No. Obviously... yeah.

MRS HELBURY

It causes drama.

MATTY

It is erm... an emergency and as I was saying to my erm partner...

LEANNE nods. MRS HELBURY studies them, then:

MRS HELBURY

The issues that EMILY suffers with, they're stress related so...

MATTY

Issues? What issues?

LEANNE

We'll bear that in mind.

MRS HELBURY stares at LEANNE a beat, then knocks on the door and enters the classroom leaving MATTY and LEANNE outside. The door closes. MATTY looks at LEANNE.

MATTY

What issues is she on about?

LEANNE

Ask your daughter.

He looks into the class and sees EMILY approaching, she looks like she is dying inside. MATTY turns back to LEANNE.

MATTY

You ask her about the issues. I don't know what to say to a girl.

LEANNE

She's not a girl, she's your...

The door opens. MRS HELBURY and a sheepish EMILY emerge. EMILY stares at LEANNE who smiles.

LEANNE (cont'd)

Hiya love.

MRS HELBURY

Are you okay to be left alone with your father Emily?

EMILY

Yes Miss.

MRS HELBURY

I'll be just down the corridor.

Helbury turns to MATTY and gives him the evil eye, then walks away. MATTY waits until she's out of earshot and then leads EMILY away from the door as he whispers.

MATTY

What did you do with the bag?

EMILY looks at LEANNE.

EMILY

Who's this?

LEANNE

I work with your dad.

EMILY

Selling drugs?

LEANNE and MATTY almost faint. MATTY shushes EMILY, then tries again.

MATTY
They're not mine.

EMILY
Then why've you got them?

MATTY
I'm... I had to look after them. I
didn't have a choice.

EMILY studies him, and then looks at LEANNE who nods. A beat,
then EMILY shakes her head.

EMILY
I don't believe you. [To LEANNE]
He's an addict. He lies. You should
know that if you're his girlfriend.

LEANNE
I'm not his girlfriend!!!

MATTY
Alright! I'm standing here you
know?

They all glance at MRS HELBURY who is watching from a
distance unhappily. A beat, then MATTY tries again.

MATTY (cont'd)
Look, if I don't get that bag to
the fella it belongs to... mate...
it won't be good for me.

He means it. EMILY looks at LEANNE who nods. A beat, then:

EMILY
I threw it in the brook.

MATTY can't believe it.

MATTY
Dagger Brook?

EMILY
I'm sorry... I thought... I didn't
think. I was angry so I threw it.

LEANNE
Where?

EMILY
By the old bridge. I... I'm sorry.
I didn't know... I thought...

EMILY looks like she might cry. LEANNE touches her arm
lightly to sooth her.

MATTY
I don't believe this.

LEANNE
Can you show us where?

EMILY nods.

MATTY
Come 'ed then.

EMILY
I can't.

MATTY
If I don't get that bag...

EMILY
If I leave school they'll ring mum.
It'll have to be after school.

MATTY considers then nods.

LEANNE
But you'll show us then?

A beat, then she nods.

MATTY
My 'eds battered 'ere.

LEANNE smiles to EMILY. It'll be okay. EMILY nods, then opens the classroom door. MATTY starts to walk away. A beat, then he looks back at EMILY who is halfway back into the class.

MATTY (cont'd)
Hey.

She looks. He points to MRS HELBURY.

MATTY (cont'd)
She said you've got 'issues'. What are they?

EMILY stares at him a beat, then:

EMILY
You.

She goes into class as the door closes softly behind her.

LEANNE and MATTY are sitting outside Danny's flat staring up at it. MATTY is nervous. They look at each other for a beat, then she sees PAUL approaching the car in the mirror.

LEANNE
Is this him?

MATTY twists, looks, then faces forward.

MATTY
He's gonna kill me.

LEANNE
Just don't mention it. He won't say
nothing in front of me.

MATTY is about to speak when the door opens and PAUL gets into the car. He looks at MATTY then LEANNE, then slaps MATTY lightly on the side of the head:

PAUL
Where the fuck have you been? I've
had lad's ringin' me every ten
minutes asking where's the drugs?

MATTY
I'm sorry but...

PAUL slaps him again. LEANNE twists in the seat and interrupts him, reminding him that there's money to be made.

LEANNE
That's his house, and that's his
car.

PAUL stares at the back of MATTY's head a beat, then looks at her. He nods, then leans forward and looks at the house, before pulling a police truncheon out of his jacket.

LEANNE (cont'd)
You gonna use that on him?

PAUL
That depends on him.

She shoots MATTY a look. He shrugs. PAUL twists in his seat to look up and down the street, before turning to LEANNE.

PAUL (cont'd)
Will he open the door to you?

LEANNE
I don't think so, not after what
he's done.

PAUL
Alright then. I'll open it. You
stay behind me. When you see him,
and only when you're absolutely
sure it's him, you let me know.
Okay?

She nods. PAUL looks at the house again, then back to her.

PAUL (cont'd)
Don't get in me way, because if you
do, you'll get hurt. Understand.

She nods.

MATTY
I'll keep her safe.

PAUL slaps MATTY on the side of the head again, then reaches for the door handle, then looks back at LEANNE:

PAUL
A grand?

She nods. He gets out. She looks at MATTY who shakes his head.

MATTY
*[Mimics] 'He won't say nothin' in
front of me'.*

He climbs out. A beat, then LEANNE follows.

21 **EXT. DANNY'S HOUSE - DAY 3. 11.40AM**

21

PAUL moves fast, the truncheon down at his side. MATTY almost has to jog to keep up as LEANNE trails at the rear. PAUL heads for the front door, tests the top and bottom for flex, glances through the front window of the living room, then takes a few steps back before he kicks the flimsy front door wide open.

MATTY follows a little too close as PAUL charges into the flat raising the truncheon as he goes. He catches MATTY a glancing blow on the bridge of the nose. MATTY reels, LEANNE pushes past, running to overtake PAUL. Once inside she starts to shout:

LEANNE (O.S.)
You robbin' bastard!!!

MATTY checks his fingers for blood, and then follows them in.

22 **INT. DANNY'S HOUSE. LIVING ROOM - DAY 3. 11.42AM**

LEANNE is shouting on the stairs as PAUL enters the living room from the back of the house. The room is empty except for an old leather couch, some paperwork, junk mail on the floor, and a roll of bin bags and an empty suitcase. PAUL scans the room.

MATTY enters, a trickle of blood from his nose as he takes in the scene too, just before a breathless LEANNE enters behind him. They both look at PAUL.

PAUL

Empty.

Fuck. A beat, then PAUL considers until:

PAUL (cont'd)

You two owe me a grand.

LEANNE

YOU DIDN'T DO NOTHING!!!

PAUL

You're paying me for what I'd do,
not what I did.

He stares at her a beat. MATTY nods.

NEIGHBOUR (O.S.)

Excuse me?

PAUL smoothly puts the truncheon behind his leg as they all turn to the door. An old lady (NEIGHBOUR) is watching them:

NEIGHBOUR (cont'd)

Are you the police?

MATTY and LEANNE exchange glances, PAUL smoothly replies:

PAUL

Yes love.

NEIGHBOUR

He's gone to Tenerife.

LEANNE

Danny?

NEIGHBOUR

Last night. Done a runner. Said not
to tell anyone.

PAUL

Well done.

LEANNE

How long for?

NEIGHBOUR

Forever.

LEANNE is rocked. We hear sirens in the distance. PAUL's eyes narrow, then:

PAUL
Let's let uniform deal with it.

He pushes LEANNE and MATTY past Neighbour and out the house.

23 **EXT. NANNA'S HOUSE - DAY 3. 4PM**

23

We're walking behind RUBY as she trudges home from school through the estate. She's scrolling on her phone, a million miles away as she turns onto the drive she glances up, then stops dead. Her expression totally flat. A beat, then she raises her phone and takes a photo. We don't see what of.

24 **EXT. STREET - DAY 3. 4.01PM**

24

PAIGE and THOMAS, in his school uniform, are walking down a suburban street. They are linking arms and in the first stages of a relationship as they scroll on his phone looking at social media. It's lovely comfy cosy and the first time we see THOMAS happy. A beat, then he gets a message off RUBY. He ignores it.

PAIGE
Open it.

THOMAS
It's our Ruby.

PAIGE
It might be important.

THOMAS
It's just our Ruby.

PAIGE
Thomas!

She gives him the look. He shrugs and opens the message. It's a photo of the front of their house. The words 'TOMMO IS A GRASS!' is daubed across the front of the house. He stops dead. PAIGE tilts her head, she's not seen the message yet.

CUT TO:

They're walking again but the energy has gone through the roof. He's super stressed and she is trying to calm him.

PAIGE (cont'd)
It's just words.

THOMAS
It's not just words!!

PAIGE

My dad will have paint in the garage. He's got a jet wash too, that'll...

THOMAS

I'm gonna get me head kicked in.

PAIGE

They're just trying to scare you.

He stops and explodes:

THOMAS

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND PAIGE!! [Beat]
On our estate? Something like that can get your house burned down.

PAIGE

Oh come on...

THOMAS

I mean it! [He takes a breath]
It's dangerous.

PAIGE

If Kendo was going to burn down your house he would have done it by now.

THOMAS

Is that supposed to make me feel better?

A beat, then they start walking again. A beat, then:

PAIGE

You could go the police?

THOMAS

What? And be a real grass?

He shakes his head, they walk on.

PAIGE

If you're scared of him...

THOMAS

I'm not scared of him.

PAIGE

No. Sorry.

THOMAS

I'd knock him out.

He's not even convincing himself.

THOMAS (cont'd)
I'll just get you home and then
I'll sort it.

She pulls him tighter. They walk on.

25

EXT. DAGGER BROOK - DAY 3. 4.01PM

25

EMILY, LEANNE and MATTY with his bloody nose are looking down at us from a bridge. A beat, then MATTY looks at EMILY.

MATTY
Where?

She points up stream.

EMILY
I just threw it as far as I could.

MATTY
Christ.

EMILY
I'm sorry.

MATTY
It's okay. Don't... it's okay. Stay
here and give us a shout if anyone
is coming.

He flicks his head to LEANNE and indicates she should come with him. They help each other down the embankment and find themselves standing on an overgrown river bank. MATTY is clearly nervous.

LEANNE
Give us your socks and kecks,
you'll need your shoes.

He stares at the water a beat, then looks at her.

MATTY
Will you go in?

LEANNE
Your wha'?

MATTY
Go in for me.

LEANNE
Don't be daft.

MATTY
I'm scared of water.

LEANNE
It's two foot deep.

He shakes his head and looks at the water again. A long beat, he's clearly fighting himself until he turns to her defeated:

MATTY
Please?

CUT TO:

LEANNE wades out of the water holding the backpack. MATTY grabs the backpack and then pulls her out the river. He hugs her tightly, then looks up at EMILY and gives her a thumbs up as he lifts the backpack high. She stares a beat, then walks away. He lowers his arms and watches her go as LEANNE sits down heavily on the riverbank.

26 **INT. LEANNE'S CAR - DAY 3. 4.15PM**

26

LEANNE driving, MATTY in the passenger seat. He's dabbing at his nose with a tissue.

MATTY
It's still bleeding.

LEANNE ignores him and turns the Fiat onto the drive. She slams on the brakes, causing MATTY to look up from his tissue and follow her astonished gaze.

TOMMO IS A GRASS!

MATTY stares a beat, then looks at her.

MATTY (cont'd)
Who's Tommo?

27 **INT. NANNA'S KITCHEN - DAY 3. 4.30PM**

27

LEANNE enters. Her clothes are still wet and she's freaking out. She's closely followed by MATTY who is still dabbing with the bloody tissue to his nose.

LEANNE
I'll kill him. I swear to god...

She yanks open the fridge door and leans in. A beat, then she holds out a piece of bacon for MATTY.

LEANNE (cont'd)
Put this on your nose.

MATTY
I'm not a turkey.

LEANNE

It'll take down the swelling.

MATTY

Steak. Steak takes down swelling,
not bacon.

She blows.

LEANNE

Do I look like I've got steak in me
fridge????!?!?!?!?

He shrinks back a little, then takes the bacon and studies it
as LEANNE flicks on the kettle chunnering away to herself:

LEANNE (cont'd)

The whole estate are gonna see it.
Whether it's true or not doesn't
matter...

MATTY takes a seat just as KELLY enters.

KELLY

[To LEANNE] The estate agent rang,
they said you can view the flat you
rang them about this avvie. You've
got till six to let them...

KELLY breaks off. She looks at MATTY, then LEANNE:

KELLY (cont'd)

What's going on?

LEANNE

Have you seen the front of the
house?

KELLY

Why are you wet?

LEANNE

Have you seen the front of the
house Kelly???!?

LEANNE fires up her phone. KELLY looks at MATTY who is
putting the bacon across the bridge of his nose. A beat, then
she exits the kitchen. RUBY enters. Looks at MATTY, then her
mum who is texting furiously. A beat, then RUBY asks MATTY:

RUBY

Tea or coffee?

MATTY

[Beat] Tea please.

Nanna enters. She too looks at MATTY with the bacon on his
face. A beat, then:

NANNA
How much is it love?

MATTY
Sorry?

NANNA
The milk?

MATTY looks at RUBY who gently ushers Nanna out of the room.
LEANNE shouts at the phone in her hand.

LEANNE
Answer your phone Thomas!

RUBY re-enters followed by KELLY.

KELLY
They must have done it when I was
upstairs with Nanna.

LEANNE ignores her and addresses RUBY.

LEANNE
Where's your brother???

RUBY shrugs.

LEANNE (cont'd)
I mean it Ruby! Where is he??

RUBY
I don't know! He said he was seeing
Paige today... that's all... look
on Find Your Phone maybe?

LEANNE looks at her own phone a beat, then holds it out to
RUBY.

LEANNE
Find him.

She means it. A beat, then RUBY takes the phone.

28

INT. PAIGE'S HOUSE - DAY 3. 5PM

28

PAIGE leads the way. The hallway of the house is amazing,
modern, chic. THOMAS follows PAIGE into the light and airy
kitchen that looks out onto the large garden.

He stands at the huge bifold doors that open onto the
outside. A beat, then he turns to look at PAIGE who is
standing behind the kitchen counter smiling at him.

PAIGE
Coffee?

He can do nothing but smile and nod. She starts to prep the drinks. He looks around the kitchen. There's a couple of iPads on the counter next to a backpack. THOMAS doesn't seem to notice them as he crosses to a Sonos sound system. PAIGE calls over her shoulder.

PAIGE (cont'd)
You want something? Pizza or something?

He nods as he takes it all in. She smiles.

PAIGE (cont'd)
Sit.

She indicates a bar stool at the counter. THOMAS sits. He could get used to this. PAIGE puts a couple of Le Creuset mugs down on the counter in front of him, and then starts to spoon some coffee into a cafetière. THOMAS picks up the empty mug and studies it, then watches PAIGE, about to fill the cafetière from the hot tap. It's like he's in Oz. He can't believe it.

The door bell rings and they both look towards it, then at each other. PAIGE shrugs, then heads to the front door. THOMAS, now alone, checks out the kitchen and blows out his cheeks. Fucking hell. He hears voices in the hall and turns just in time to see LEANNE wearing a Juicy tracksuit entering the room. She is on the warpath. He rises from the stool as she heads for him, followed by PAIGE.

LEANNE
What the hell do you think you're playin' at?

THOMAS
What d'ya mean?

LEANNE
Going missing when the front of our house looks like Banksy's got a cob on?

THOMAS
Keep your voice down...

That almost tips LEANNE but she remembers PAIGE is there. A beat, she turns a half circle, then looks at THOMAS.

THOMAS (cont'd)
How did you know where we was?

LEANNE
Look at your phone.

THOMAS
I have looked at my phone.

LEANNE

So was you just gonna sit here
playing mummy and daddy? Eh? You
should be at home sorting the front
wall and the trouble you've got
your family into.

PAIGE

My dad's got a jet wash.

LEANNE spins, lifting a finger about to rip into her. A beat,
then she takes in her surroundings. It's amazing. She half
lowers her finger. PAIGE manages a smile.

PAIGE (cont'd)

We were going to have coffee..?

A beat, LEANNE looks at THOMAS. He holds out his hands:
'Don't let me down Mum'. LEANNE takes a breath, then turns to
PAIGE.

LEANNE

No... no thank you... no.

She looks at THOMAS and gives him the eyes: 'up, now!' He
rises.

THOMAS

Mum, I'm sorry. I didn't...

LEANNE

Get your coat.

THOMAS

I didn't mean for this...

PAIGE

If you'd just listen to him...

LEANNE turns back to PAIGE to kick off, but pauses, looking
around for a beat, and then back at PAIGE, and then THOMAS,
then his feet.

LEANNE

This house is beautiful.

LEANNE starts to kick off her own shoes. She is suddenly a
little panicked, flustered.

LEANNE (cont'd)

There's white carpet in the hall
and you've got them shitty trainers
on...

THOMAS

Mum you're making a show out of me.

LEANNE
Get them off.

THOMAS
Mum, no.

SARAH, PAIGE's mother appears at the doorway wearing a heavy towelling robe. She's just woke up but looks amazing. LEANNE sees her, and then puts a flustered hand to her own hair.

SARAH
Is everything okay?

PAIGE
Oh hey mum, this is Thomas my friend, and this is his mum...

LEANNE
Leanne. Hello. We're going.

LEANNE is still kicking off her trainers. She almost stumbles.

THOMAS
No I'm not...

SARAH
You don't have to go on my behalf. Please! Paige, food. There's some melon in the fridge.

LEANNE
There's one here.

THOMAS scowls at his mum who snarls back. PAIGE doesn't notice as she goes to the fridge. LEANNE finally gets her trainers off.

PAIGE
Mum's been working nights at the hospital. [To her mum] I was going to do coffee.

SARAH
Oooh lovely.

SARAH ushers LEANNE to take a seat.

LEANNE
I told him to take his shoes off.

LEANNE picks up one of her own shoes.

SARAH
Oh god no! You don't have to...

LEANNE
He's got no manners.

THOMAS storms out the kitchen towards the front door.

LEANNE (cont'd)
Thomas!! Shoes!!!!

LEANNE heads off after him. Going halfway then remembering her other shoe. She's a mess as she heads back, almost curtsying as she picks it up, before turning to go. PAIGE and her mum: WTF?

28A OMITTED

28A

28B **EXT. RIVER MERSEY / EXT. CAMPUS BENCHES - DAY 3. 5.05PM**

MATTY is staring at the Mersey. A beat, he calls TRACE.

MATTY
Hey Trace... is Emily there? I need
to talk to her. She walked away
from me today.

TRACE is sat with her coffee keepcup.

TRACE
Why did she walk away from you
Matty?

MATTY tries to find the words, but silence.

TRACE (cont'd)
She walked away where? She walked
away... why?

MATTY
I can't.

He takes a deep breathe.

TRACE
I know you went to the school. They
rang me. You can't tell me that
either?

He shakes his head.

TRACE (cont'd)
Who was it you was with then?

He stares at the floor. A long beat.

MATTY
Please.

Long beat.

TRACE

I don't understand you.

A beat.

MATTY

I'm worried about her.

TRACE

There's a first.

MATTY

Don't start.

She shakes her head, but then softens.

TRACE

I shouldn't have said that... she's okay. She texted.

MATTY relaxes. A beat.

MATTY

Did you know she's got 'issues'?

TRACE

She's a teenage girl Matty. They **are** issues.

MATTY

Are they bad?

TRACE

They are to her.

He looks away a beat, then:

MATTY

Is it 'cos of the way I am?

She considers, then:

TRACE

Amongst other things.

MATTY

I'm sorry.

TRACE

You don't have to be sorry Matty, you just have to stop being a tit.

MATTY

(soft)

Easier said than done.

They both smile. A beat.

MATTY (cont'd)
I don't want you to think I don't
care.

TRACE
I know you do.

He nods, but doesn't know what to say next.

TRACE (cont'd)
You there?

MATTY looks out to the water.

MATTY
Where?

TRACE
New Brighton?

MATTY
No.

TRACE listens to the silence, then:

TRACE
You are.

MATTY
I'm not... How'd you always know?

TRACE
I can hear it in your voice.

He smiles again sadly. A beat, then:

MATTY
Just thought I'd pop over.

TRACE
You only go there when you're sad.

MATTY
I should move here.

She waits a beat.

TRACE
You can talk to me you know?

MATTY
I know.

TRACE
When it gets to you, the
memories... I'm still here for you.
Just because we're not together
doesn't mean... I can listen.

MATTY looks off a beat, then goes to speak, then shuts down.
TRACE waits, straining to hear if he is still there.

MATTY

It's like it's just on the edge of
my vision. I know he's there. I
know it's going to happen again but
if I'm quick... I don't look at it.

TRACE

Oh love.

MATTY

It's stupid.

TRACE

No it isn't.

MATTY

I hear it though. The water and the
shouting and sometimes... I can
feel it dragging, the water.
You know that feeling?

TRACE

[Soft] Yeah.

MATTY

I feel that.

He takes a deep breath and seems to come out of a trance.

TRACE

You were a kid.

MATTY

I was a knobhead.

TRACE

You still are a knobhead, but you
were a kid knobhead then.

He shakes his head. A beat, then:

MATTY

Thanks.

A long beat.

MATTY (cont'd)

I try though.

TRACE

I know.

MATTY

Tell her I try.

TRACE
I already do.

MATTY
I love her.

TRACE
She loves you too.

He looks away a long beat.

TRACE (cont'd)
Look after yourself knobhead.

MATTY
You too.

29 **INT. LEANNE'S CAR - DAY 3. 5.10PM**

29

LEANNE is driving in silence as THOMAS sulks. A beat, then his phone pings. He pulls it out and looks at the screen.

LEANNE
Is that her?

THOMAS
Yeah.

LEANNE
Well don't answer it.

THOMAS
Why not??!

LEANNE
Because she's trouble that's why.

He is seething. He thinks about replying to the text, but instead, still holding the phone, he folds his arms and sulks. LEANNE mutters:

LEANNE (cont'd)
I don't believe you.

THOMAS
What have I done?

LEANNE
Have you just woke up???

He looks out the side window. A beat, then:

LEANNE (cont'd)
I've got me boss Matty whitewashing
the front of the house because of
you.

THOMAS

It's not my fault.

LEANNE

If that isn't bad enough, you've spent the afternoon smoking weed.

THOMAS

We never smoked weed...

She tightens her grip on the wheel and looks at him:

LEANNE

Don't test me. It smells like Bob Marley's vest in 'ere.

He shrinks a little, she goes back to the windscreen.

LEANNE (cont'd)

But even that... even that I can take... but you bring all of this shit to my house. The house your twelve year old sister and your dementia suffering Nan lives in.

THOMAS

I haven't done nothin' wrong!!!

LEANNE

Don't try to worm out of it! You know what you did is wrong!

THOMAS

Don't you dare to try to tell me what's right and wrong!!

LEANNE

What?

He seethes a beat, then mutters:

THOMAS

You rob from work.

LEANNE

What???

THOMAS

And we're gonna be made homeless.

LEANNE

Eh?? Wha'??

THOMAS

You heard me!

LEANNE

Who told you...?

THOMAS

I've seen the letter mum. Don't try
and lie to me. It is in the box
with all the money in your
wardrobe.

LEANNE's mouth opens and closes until:

LEANNE

That's my savings.

THOMAS

Yeah whatever.

She looks around, searching for an out, until:

LEANNE

I just want you to set an example
for your sister...

THOMAS

[Explodes] It's not my job!!!!
Alright? None of this... I'm just a
kid! It's not my job to look after
them! It's your job!

He is steaming, and his fury has shocked LEANNE to silence.
He lowers his tone a fraction as he goes back to staring off.

THOMAS (cont'd)

I'm just a kid. I shouldn't have
all this shit to worry about...

He looks at her. He's on the verge of tears. She reaches out
a hand to him but he shakes his head and looks away. She
glances at him a couple of times, then:

LEANNE

There's a place... I'm going to see
it now... come with me? We'll own
it... it'll be okay. Just us three?
You, me and Ruby.

He looks at her a beat, then looks away. They drive on.

30

EXT. SHELAGH'S HOUSE - DAY 3. 5.30PM

30

A taxi pulls up at the bottom of the drive. A beat, then
MATTY climbs out carrying the backpack of drugs. He's got
paint on his hands, face and trousers.

He turns to walk up the path and stops. NING is sitting on
the doorstep. She stares at MATTY, bruising on his nose with
a little dried blood, then:

NING

What happened to you?

MATTY

What are you doing here? How did
you get my address?

NING holds up her warrant card and it stops MATTY dead. Fuck.

31 **EXT. RUN DOWN BLOCK OF FLATS - DAY 3. 5.30PM**

LEANNE's Multipla pulls up outside a rundown, four story block of flats built sometime in the seventies/eighties. The ground floor flat has steel plates over the windows.

THOMAS peers at the flat in disbelief.

CUT TO:

We're in the car. LEANNE in the driving seat, THOMAS, still sulking. A man in an old suit emerges from the communal entrance (MR CHARLES) He's limping badly. He lifts a hand. LEANNE nods back.

THOMAS

I'm not living here.

LEANNE

It's not up to you.

LEANNE grabs the door handle and pulls it open:

LEANNE (cont'd)

Come.

She's gone. THOMAS sits a beat looking at the flat, then climbs out the car.

32 **EXT. RUN DOWN BLOCK OF FLATS - DAY 3. 5.30PM**

LEANNE and THOMAS approach MR CHARLES who is visibly grimacing as he walks towards them. LEANNE notices he is wearing one slipper as he limps over.

MR CHARLES

Me feet are killing me.

THOMAS and LEANNE both look down at his feet, and then up as MR CHARLES holds out a front door key and a torch.

MR CHARLES (cont'd)

Show yourselves round? It'll take
me ten minutes to get up there with
these feet.

Beat, then LEANNE takes the torch and the key. LEANNE stares at the flat a beat, nods to herself, then sets off towards the flat. THOMAS watches her go, then turns to Charles.

THOMAS

What's up with your feet?

MR CHARLES

Agony. Pure agony.

MR CHARLES hands THOMAS the estate agent A4 sheets of information about the flat. THOMAS looks at them, then shakes his head as he follows his mum.

33

INT. RUN DOWN BLOCK OF FLATS - DAY 3. 5.30PM

LEANNE enters the communal entrance. It is minging. We can see black mould and cracked plaster crunches underfoot as she heads for the front door of one of the flats which has a steel sheet on it. THOMAS enters the hallway just as LEANNE sets about finding the right key for the lock.

It's gloomy. She hands the torch to THOMAS.

THOMAS

Mum we're not living round here.

LEANNE is fighting with the lock.

LEANNE

Shine the torch.

He does as instructed. A beat, then the lock clicks, she looks at THOMAS, then takes the torch from him and heads into the darkness of the flat. A beat, then he follows.

34

INT. SHELAGH'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY 3. 5.40PM

NING is standing inspecting some photos in frames on a cabinet. She picks one up, three young lads laughing. MATTY stands by the door watching her. The drugs backpack held across his chest.

NING

You?

MATTY

And me brother and his mate.

She squints closely at the picture, then:

NING

When?

MATTY

1997.

She inspects the photo, then points to another of MATTY in a tux looking amazing as he holds a gold plate at a poker table. Despite himself he smiles:

MATTY (cont'd)
London, 2010. Private members
casino. Top end stuff. One of the
members gave me the plate after I
worked an entire weekend
tournament. It was real gold. The
plate? Worth a fortune.

NING
You were good?

He shrugs.

NING (cont'd)
Where's the plate?

MATTY
God knows. Long gone.

NING
You lost it?

MATTY
It was just a plate.

She stares at him, then indicates that he should sit.

MATTY (cont'd)
It's my house.

NING
It's your mother's house. Sit.

He sighs, then sits, the backpack held tighter. NING sets the
photo down, then turns faces him:

NING (cont'd)
I think you're stealing from the
casino.

MATTY
What???? No! Fuck no. Me? No
chance.

NING
You're a gambling addict.

MATTY
Doesn't mean I'm...

NING
You probably are though.

He shakes his head with an unconvincing shrug then stares at
the fireplace. She stares at him a beat, then takes a seat in
an armchair opposite. He falls silent. Something isn't right.

NING (cont'd)
I could take you in right now if I
wanted to, but you're no good to me
if you're arrested.

He's confused for a beat, then uncertain:

MATTY
Listen, you're out of order. I
think you should go.

She simply stares at him a beat, then taps her nose.

NING
You're bleeding again.

Fuck. He dabs and sees he is, and then digs in his pocket for
the bloody tissue.

NING (cont'd)
Tilt your head back.

MATTY
I'm gonna get blood on me Ma's
couch.

NING
Tilt it back and pinch the bridge.

He is dabbing.

NING (cont'd)
Pinch it.

He does as he is told. A beat of silence, then:

NING (cont'd)
You're going to do a job for me.

He looks at her.

NING (cont'd)
Tilt back.

He tilts. His mother enters.

SHELAGH
Tea?

She looks at the bloody tissue, then:

SHELAGH (cont'd)
Don't you dare get blood on that
settee Matthew.

He looks at NING over the tissue.

MATTY

Upstairs.

She nods.

35

INT. RUN DOWN BLOCK OF FLATS - DAY 3. 5.42PM

It's like a horror film as LEANNE and THOMAS make their way through the flat inspecting rooms by torch light.

THOMAS

Why are we even here?

LEANNE

It could be nice.

THOMAS

It's terrible.

LEANNE

Bit of work yeah, but the price...

THOMAS

The area though?

LEANNE

It's handy for the buses.

He stops. He's had enough.

THOMAS

Mum.

She stops and shines the torch on him.

THOMAS (cont'd)

It is a shit hole.

LEANNE

Don't swear.

THOMAS

I'm not living here.

LEANNE

Bit of paint.

THOMAS

No.

LEANNE

We don't...

THOMAS

No.

LEANNE

THOMAS, *we don't have a choice.*
Don't you understand? We're going
to be homeless. We could be split
up This is the only...

THOMAS

How could I bring Paige here? She
lives in a mansion Mum. How could I
let her see us here? It's bad
enough where we are now, but this
place? I'd sooner be in care.

LEANNE doesn't know what to say. A beat, then she softens,
reaching out to touch his face as she speaks softly:

LEANNE

A house... a home... it's not the
place, it's the people you're
sharing it with. It's not bricks
and mortar, it's love and laughter.

He stares at her a beat, then:

THOMAS

That's written on the wall behind
me isn't it.

She blinks. He moves his head a few inches and we see one of
those 'live love laugh' stickers on the wall with the exact
words she just used. A beat, then:

LEANNE

It's good though... as a thing... I
think it's good.

A beat, then he looks at the floor, then chuckles.

THOMAS

Can't believe you were trying to
get away with that.

Despite herself she smiles. She softens, then cups his cheek
gently.

LEANNE

Can we think about? Talk about it
at least? As an option?

He shakes his head, then shrugs. She smiles.

MR CHARLES (O.S.)

How's it going then?

They both turn to look at MR CHARLES who is standing in the
darkness just outside the room. He sniffs the air, then looks
at his slippers.

MR CHARLES (cont'd)
Have I trod in something or was
that smell already in here?

THOMAS shakes his head.

LEANNE
When is it going to auction?

MR CHARLES
End of the month, but the vendor is
open to offers before that time.

A beat, then she nods.

LEANNE
Right, okay, that's good.

36

INT. MATTY'S BEDROOM - DAY 3. 5.45PM

36

MATTY is pacing the room, his nose bleed forgotten, a roll of
toilet tissue in his hand. NING sits by the stereo watching.

MATTY
A gangster?! He owns taxis. He's
not a gangster. His mum and dad
were shady back in the day but they
went legit before the old man died.

NING
Gary Packer has a series of front
businesses, one of which is taxi
driving, yes.

MATTY
I've known him for years.

NING
You've been acquainted for years.
You don't *know* him.

MATTY paces some more, then stops and looks at NING.

MATTY
What's this got to do with me?

NING
He's laundering drug money through
the casino.

MATTY
He doesn't... he only comes in when
his mum does her figures meeting
once a quarter. Other than that we
never see him.

NING

People play with his money for him.

MATTY

Yeah but... but then he's losing the money... I mean... that's what happens in a casino. People lose money. It doesn't make sense?

NING

You don't lose if you own the place. His dirty money goes into the casino bank account, that way he can take it out clean.

MATTY paces, dabs his nose and then looks at NING.

NING (cont'd)

You're not seeing it because you're too busy stealing it.

MATTY

I told you...

NING

I've been watching you for months.

MATTY

But you don't know for sure...

NING

So you are?

MATTY

No! I'm... no!

A beat, then he looks at the floor.

NING

[Softly] Either way, you have legal obligation to report suspected money laundering. You're going to lose your licence. The casino will lose their license. [Beat] People will lose their jobs... there's even a chance...

MATTY

What?

NING

A court may think you're complicit in the crime.

MATTY

What???

NING
Serious jail time.

His nose drips. He wipes it away, and then looks at NING.

NING (cont'd)
I just want Packer. I don't want
you. I just want him.

MATTY holds the back of his hand to his nose. For a second he thinks it through, but then his resolve hardens and he shakes his head.

NING (cont'd)
Well then, you're under arrest for
possession of class A drugs with
the intent to supply.

MATTY's soul leaves his body. WTF. He looks at the bag of coke on the floor and then NING. A beat, then she pulls a small baggy of coke out of her pocket.

MATTY
What's that?

NING
It's the coke that fell out of your
pocket just then.

He almost smiles.

NING (cont'd)
Once you're locked up, I'll come
back with a section 18 warrant and
turn this house over just for fun.
How do you think your mum will like
that?

Fuck. MATTY eyes flick to the drugs bag again, then back to NING in the blink of an eye. A beat, then he nods:

MATTY
Alright. Okay. Alright.

37

EXT. NEIL'S FLAT - DAY 3. 8PM

37

NEIL emerges from his flat. He's smartened up a fraction. White untucked shirt, black trousers. He wheels his bike out the flat, and then down the stairs. He tucks his trouser leg into his sock and is just about to get on the bike when:

GARY
Hey. Dickhead.

NEIL spins. We see ALAN and GARY looking like emissaries of death.

CUT TO:

38 **INT. BACK OF ALAN'S VAN. CASINO CAR PARK - DAY 3. 8.10PM**

NEIL is curled on the floor in the half light cast by the interior light of the van. ALAN is kneeling next to him as GARY sits on a camping chair watching on.

GARY
Who was robbin'?

NEIL sobs. He's had a beating. A beat, then ALAN punches him in the kidneys. NEIL writhes. ALAN raises his fist again.

GARY (cont'd)
Was it you?

NEIL
Lad I swear down lad, it weren't me!

GARY looks at ALAN: 'hit him again?' ALAN holds out his hands:

ALAN
Our Shirley mate. She'll go off her head...

GARY erupts and starts to batter NEIL around the van with punches and kicks. ALAN puts his hands on his head.

ALAN (cont'd)
Gary. Gary!! Gary!!!!!!!

GARY breaks off and looks at ALAN who gestures to NEIL, who is curled up on the floor: 'Please?' GARY is blowing hard. A beat, then he nods, and settles back. NEIL whimpers.

GARY considers for a long beat, then shakes his head at ALAN.

GARY
Get him back to work.

GARY climbs out the back doors of the van. Half a beat, then NEIL lifts his head and relaxes a fraction. ALAN considers, then punches him.

39 **INT. LEANNE'S CAR. THE CASINO CAR PARK - DAY 3. 8.20PM**

LEANNE kills the engine and sits in the half light. She leans back and closes her eyes, enjoying the peace for a beat. There is a sudden knock on the window that shocks her back to life.

She looks, GARY in the half light, ALAN's van parked across the car park behind him. GARY smiles, and gestures she should put the window down. She does.

GARY
Sorry, didn't mean to scare you.

LEANNE
You okay?

He smiles and nods, looks off a beat, then back at her.

GARY
I wanted to grab a minute with you
if that's okay?

She nods. She isn't scared or intimidated. She shrugs. Go on.

GARY (cont'd)
I feel daft.

LEANNE
What?

GARY
I want, I mean... I'm not normally
like this.

LEANNE
Like what?

GARY
A kid.

She smiles. She's enjoying the moment. He smiles too, then:

GARY (cont'd)
Okay, erm... Look, I would like to
ask you... out on a date.

LEANNE
Tonight? Not tonight. I'm working.

GARY
Not tonight. Obviously. No. Me mum
would kill me if you took a sickie.
But, you know, another time maybe?

LEANNE
Oh I don't...

She looks off. A beat, then back to him.

LEANNE (cont'd)
Alright... yeah.

She laughs. He laughs. There's an awkward silence, it's like he wasn't expecting a positive reply.

He looks away towards NEIL and ALAN who are now walking towards the casino. NEIL hunched, but moving relatively okay. They ignore GARY, and LEANNE barely notices them. He looks back at her all smiles, then past her.

GARY

New gaff?

She doesn't have a clue. He points to the sheet the estate agent gave THOMAS. It's lying on the passenger seat. She looks at it, then him.

LEANNE

I... it's erm... we need to find a place quick.

GARY

Looks lovely.

It doesn't look lovely. She picks up the ad and studies it.

LEANNE

It's what we can afford so...

GARY

I've got places all over the city.

She looks at him.

GARY (cont'd)

Flats. Houses. The lot. Nice ones.
If you need a place, I can sort it.

She's lost for words for a beat, then:

LEANNE

[Softly] I don't know... But... but
thank you. I need to...

She trails off. She can't believe it. He smiles. She smiles.

GARY

I'll bell you about that date soon.
Yeah?

He taps the door frame then walks away towards the road. She watches him go, then shakes her head. Finally things are looking good.

Music cue: THOMAS DOLBY, AIRWAVES.

FADE OUT: