

4 O'CLOCK CLUB - SERIES 6

TX7 - CHAIR

Written by

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1 EXT. STREET - DAY 1 - 17:00

1

BELL, DEXTER and NERO are walking down a suburban street towards Bell's ex-wife's house. Bell is carrying an A4 manilla envelope. Dexter is looking at his phone in disappointment.

DEXTER

They said they'd get back by today.

BELL

Will you stop going on about your Festival? I've got divorce papers to deliver. Make sure you watch my back.

NERO

Just so you know, I ain't fighting your wife's new boyfriend.

BELL

You don't have to fight him - just keep him at bay while I deliver the papers. He's had it in for me ever since I said he looks like a shaved gorilla...

Suddenly Bell stops, seeing something off.

BELL (CONT'D)

Unbelievable! My massage chair!

Reveal a large massage chair sticking out of a skip in front of a suburban house. Bell hurries across the road and starts trying to pull it out. Dexter and Nero exchange glances.

BELL (CONT'D)

Don't just stand there! Help me!

Dexter goes over and helps Bell pull at the chair, which is quite wedged. Nero leans over to look in the skip. There's a box of hardcover books in there, which has split open, revealing a book with a photo of Bell on the cover. Nero reaches in and pulls one out.

Reveal the book is titled "SUPERHEAD: EDUCATION MY WAY, By Crispin Bell".

BELL (CONT'D)

My books!

He gives up on the chair and tries to pull out the box.

NERO

(reading)

"SUPERHEAD: EDUCATION MY WAY, By Crispin Bell"

DEXTER

When did you write a book?

BELL

In my heyday, obviously. I'd hardly
write a book about my life now.
Except as a horror story.

He is interrupted by the appearance of CJ, a 12 year old boy.

CJ

Hey! What are you doing? Tony says
you're not allowed in the house.

BELL

I'm not in the house. Daddy's just
rifling through Mummy's skip.

NERO

Whoa... Is this your kid?

BELL

(awkwardly)

This is Crispin Junior.

CJ

Don't call me that. It's CJ. And
I'm gonna get Tony.

BELL

Don't you dare! Crispin, I forbid
you to get that gorilla...

CJ

Tony!

Bell glances towards the house and panics.

BELL

Get the stuff! Quick!

He pulls the chair from the skip with Dexter helping. He and
Dexter carry it off before Bell screeches to a stop.

He runs back and grabs a box of books as TONY, an ordinary-
looking non-threatening man, emerges from the house.

BELL (CONT'D)

He's coming! Run!

Nero grabs the other side of the chair and hurries off with
Dexter while Bell hurries after them, then turns on his heel
and runs back to place the envelope of divorce papers in
front of the approaching Tony before running off again.

2 EXT. STREET - DAY 1 - 17:05

2

Cut to Dexter's car driving off with Bell's chair and a box of books tied to the roof. Books are spilling out of the box behind them as they drive. We hear voices from inside.

DEXTER (O.S.)

You never mentioned having a kid?

BELL (O.S.)

Well... I suppose you just never think to talk about them...

The car takes a sharp turn. One of Bell's books flies out of the box and lands at the feet of ANTHEA, a passing well-to-do looking woman. She bends to pick it up, interested.

3 INT. CARTER FLAT - KITCHEN - DAY 2 - 08:00

3

The next morning. Dexter is at the table, with a twin on his knee, surrounded by baby junk and looking at his phone. LIZZIE is searching around.

LIZZIE

Staring at your phone isn't going to make them ring you any sooner.

Dexter shakes himself out of his phone-based reverie.

DEXTER

Sorry. Did you know that Bell's got a twelve year old son at some private school? Seems embarrassed of him.

(looks at the twins)

Hope I don't end up like that with these two...

LIZZIE

Don't worry... I'm sure they'll be embarrassed of you.

She sees something on the table and leans over to pick it up.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)

Why's my timetable covered in milk?

DEXTER

Sorry. It's hard to get it all in their mouths...

His phone pings. He grabs it and looks at the screen.

LIZZIE

I have to get my return to work approved by Mrs Goodman tomorrow!

(MORE)

LIZZIE (CONT'D)

I'm suggesting I do Tuesday morning
and Wednesday...
(off his phone fixation)
Dexter!

He looks up at her, an incredulous grin on his face.

DEXTER

We're in....! The Urban Arts
Festival... We're going to Belgium!

Lizzie smiles, pleased for him.

LIZZIE

That's great! You deserve it.
(kisses him)
So, I'm thinking, if I do
Tuesday...?

Dexter leaps up from the table.

DEXTER

I've got to tell Nero!

He runs out of the room leaving Lizzie looking exasperated,
holding her milky timetable.

4 EXT. ELMSMERE - STAFF CAR PARK. DAY 2 - 08:30 4

Bell's caravan is giving off a mechanical hum and juddering.
AMBER, VIOLET and DARNESH are sniggering at the caravan's
violent vibrations. Ingrid is lurking nearby with her mates.

Nero walks past and grins at the vibrations.

NERO

That's either a heavy duty massage
chair or Bell's got poltergeists.

ISOBEL

Poltergeists don't exist.

INGRID

Oh yeah? Then how come my actual
bedroom always has stuff chucked
all over the floor?

ISOBEL

Because you're chronically untidy?

INGRID

Who asked you, Braniac?

Darnesh lays his hands on the caravan like an exorcist.

DARNESH

I cast you out, unclean spirit. Go
into the light!

Suddenly the vibrations stop. Darnesh looks pleased.

DARNESH (CONT'D)

It went into the light.

Suddenly The door swings open, revealing Bell in his
shirtsleeves. The kids scatter. As ISAAC marches up.

ISAAC

Oi! You can't keep a vibrating
caravan on school premises.

BELL

It's my massage chair.

ISAAC

Well get rid of it. That's a health
and safety nightmare, right there.

BELL

Fine. Move it into the office while
I decide what to do with it.

ISAAC

Shifting pulsating furniture ain't
in my job description...

BELL

It is now.

He ushers him grumbling inside.

5

INT. ELMSMERE - RECEPTION - DAY 2 - 08:32

5

Nero catches up with Polly as they enter school. He walks
alongside her, looking smug.

NERO

You're a brain box. What's Belgian
for "I'm gonna be a big star".

POLLY

Je suis un petit fromage.

NERO

Thanks - I'll remember that when
I'm headlining the International
Urban Arts Festival.

POLLY

I really hope you do.

Nero is surprised that Polly isn't more impressed.

NERO

Did you hear what I just said?
About an International Urban Arts
Festival?

POLLY

(unimpressed)

Yeah. So? You're not the only one
going.

NERO

(incredulous)

What? You're goin? You can't dance.

POLLY

Maybe I can. Maybe I'm a brilliant
dancer. Maybe I'm better than you.

NERO

Ha! Yeah. Very funny.

She smiles back at him, raising her eyebrows.

NERO (CONT'D)

No-one's better than me...

He hurries after her.

6

EXT. ELMSMERE - STAFF CAR PARK - DAY 2 - 08:35

6

Isaac is struggling away from Bell's caravan with the chair
when Bell's mobile rings. Bell picks up.

BELL

Yes, what?

7

INT. FREE SCHOOL OFFICE - DAY 2 - 08:36 - CONTINUOUS

7

Cut to Anthea, the lady who found Bell's book on the other
end of the phone conversation. She looks a bit taken aback.

ANTHEA

Oh... Sorry is that Crispin Bell?

8

INT. ELMSMERE - BELL'S CARAVAN - DAY 2 - 08:36 - CONTINUOUS 8

Hearing the well-to-do voice puts Bell on the back foot. He
scuttles back into the caravan for privacy and puts on a more
cultured attitude.

BELL

It is indeed. How can I help you?

9 INT. FREE SCHOOL OFFICE - DAY 2 - 08:36 - CONTINUOUS

9

ANTHEA

My name's Anthea Dean-Jones from
 The Aspiration Free School. I read
 your book last night and... Well,
 we're looking to appoint a
 visionary headmaster. I wondered if
 you'd be available today for a few
 of us to drop by? See you in
 action? That's if you don't mind
 being head-hunted...?

10 RAP SEQUENCE - 'IT'S TURNING AROUND'

10

A look of joy and disbelief passes over Bell's face. He turns to camera and...

BELL

I can't begin to tell you how
 life's been!
 Pretty rotten I've been lost in a
 whirlwind
 With no house, no money, no
 girlfriend...
 Lost all my pride hoped the world
 would end
 A caravan tramp sneaking to the
 boys' toilets
 To wash my pungent armpits in the
 morning
 And every day is like an earthquake
 When these horrible little brats
 give my home a shake!
 And it's safe to say it's all been
 humiliating
 But now it's finally turning around
 The tables turning and I'm earning
 my crown.
 It's time for a change and that
 change is now

I can't believe it's turning around
 (Turning round turning round
 around)
 But good grief it's around
 Round around around

I'll go from hobo to a head
 A table to a bed
 Bankrupt to boss instead...
 When I wrote that masterpiece
 I knew I was a winner
 A driven go getter
 But now it's getting better!!!

I can't believe it's turning around
 (MORE)

BELL (CONT'D)

But good grief it's turning around
(Ta na na na nana around)
I can't believe it's turning around
Turning round turning round around
But good grief it's turning around
Round around around

I've got to plan right so nothing
goes wrong
Turn things around
I shan't fail now.
I can't mess up
If I'm the king with a crown..
I've got to turn it all around.

11 INT. ELMSMERE - BELL'S CARAVAN - DAY 2 - 08:37 - CONTINUOUS¹¹

Bell goes back onto the phone as the rap ends.

BELL

Today would be wonderful.
Fantastic. I'll see you soon.

He hangs up and opens the door, grinning. Reveal CJ stood outside the caravan, holding two suitcases. Bell double-takes. His smile falls from his face.

CJ holds out a folded letter.

CJ

I fed Tony's stamp collection to
the dog. Mum says I have to live
with you now.

He looks the caravan over in disgust.

CJ (CONT'D)

Don't tell me you live in this
toilet...

12 INT. ELMSMERE - STAFF ROOM - DAY 2 - 08:45

12

Dexter is making himself a coffee when Nunn slides up.

NUNN

Alright Harris... Dexter.
(awkwardly)
I hear you've got some of your
musos into a festival this summer?
Nice little holiday for a few
teachers, I reckon, "looking after"
the kids.

DEXTER

Well, it's really all about the performance.

NUNN

Sure it is. Sure you'll be spending all your time at some poxy arts festival. Say no more.

(meaningful look)

So. You decided who you're taking yet...?

He smiles winningly and points to himself.

DEXTER

Look Graham, the thing is... I've already got all the volunteers I need, so-

NUNN

(taking the hump)

Oh I see. Spare me your excuses, Harris. I don't need you to get me a free holiday. Two can play at that game.

He stalks off, annoyed.

13 INT. ELMSSMERE - MAIN CORRIDOR NEAR LOCKERS - DAY 2 - 08:46 13

ELI, FLEUR and ELEESHA are at their lockers while Nero continues to harangue Polly.

NERO

Alright, if you're such a sick dancer, let's see your moves.

POLLY

Like those, you mean?

Reveal Eli is hopping from foot-to-foot.

ELI

It's not a dance; I need the bog...

He hurries off to the toilet.

Nero manoeuvres Polly into some space near the wall.

NERO

Let's start with somethin' simple.

He does a relatively simple but impressive move. Polly just looks on, amused but giving nothing away.

NERO (CONT'D)

Too easy? How about this?

He does something more difficult and impressive.

Suddenly Bell comes in, leading CJ.

BELL

Could your mother not even call me?

Nero is thrown by the sudden arrival of Bell. He stumbles into Polly, knocking them both into the nearby fire extinguisher.

The extinguisher goes off in a shower of powder.

14 INT. ELMSMERE - MAIN CORRIDOR OUTSIDE BOYS TOILETS - DAY 2 14
08:47

Eli comes out of the toilets. He stops in the doorway, hearing the jetting of the fire extinguisher off screen, and confused by a cloud of smoke-like powder. The sound of the extinguisher stops. He wafts his hand in front of him and steps into the cloud of thin smoke.

15 INT. ELMSMERE, MAIN CORRIDOR NEAR LOCKERS - DAY 2 - 08:48 15

Reveal Nero, Polly and Bell covered in powder. Awful beat. Bell turns angrily to Nero and Polly.

BELL

You two! Detention.

NERO

Aw Man!

Polly gasps as if this is the worst thing that's ever happened. Behind her, the others make themselves scarce.

POLLY

But... That's not fair! ~~I can't have detention, I~~

BELL

Fine. Then you can have a behaviour comment on your record.

Polly gasps as if that is much worse. Nero looks like he got off easy.

BELL (CONT'D)

And you can clear this up. And after that you can clean the entire school. For a week!

Polly glares at Nero.

16 INT. ELMSMERE - MAIN CORRIDOR OUTSIDE BOYS TOILETS - DAY 2 16
08:50

Eli is walking off with Fleur and Eleesha, glancing back.

ELI

Hey. Did you see what I did back
there?

FLEUR

(sarcastic gasp)

No. You know what must have
happened? It must have been one of
those split seconds when I wasn't
watching everything you do.

Eli flicks her. Fleur reacts in annoyed disbelief.

FLEUR (CONT'D)

Ow! Don't flick me!

He flicks her again.

ELI

This is important, listen; I was
stood right by the fire
extinguisher, right? But something
told me I had to get out of there.

FLEUR

Yeah, your bladder.

ELI

Exactly... It's like my body knew
something bad was going to happen
and took me out of the firing line.
To the safety of the toilet.

ELEESHA

You've got a psychic bladder...!

FLEUR

Have you two completely lost it?!

Eli turns and flicks her again.

ELI

Don't diss my psychic bladder.

ELEESHA

Yeah Fleur, be careful. Eli's only
just started exploring his power.
Who knows what he's capable of?

Fleur glares at them for a moment.

FLEUR

Unbelievable...

17

INT. ELMSMERE - BOYS' TOILETS - DAY 2 - 08:55

17

Bell is doing his best to wipe powder off his clothes, face and hair, using a paper towel while CJ mopes beside him. There is a trolley full of toilet supplies against the wall.

CJ

I don't want to go to this crummy school and I don't want to live with you.

BELL

Well, we don't always get what we want. Today's a big day for me, okay? I've got some important people coming to talk to me about a job.

CJ

(looking him up and down)
What as, a snowman...?

Bell produces a fiver.

BELL

How about I give you five pounds to behave? Would that help?

CJ

I don't want your money.

He snatches it anyway though, before Bell can put it away.

BELL

Just don't cause any trouble while they're here. I need this.

CJ

And you don't need me. Right?

18

RAP SEQUENCE - 'TEAR THIS PLACE DOWN'

18

CJ raps in a wannabe angry gangsta style.

CJ

It's like my life's been turned upside down
Why'd you think I walk around now with a frown
Used to be in a school with my crew at St Cuthburt's
Till my mum pulled me out the hood called the suburbs
Stripped me out of school and moved me somewhere much worse!
Why'd u do it mum?!
Was it cos of the divorce?
(MORE)

CJ (CONT'D)

You can't afford school tuition
How's that my fault!?
Now I'm stuck in this hell hole

I'm gonna tear this place down!!!
Cos this ain't for me
And it's plain to see
That it's paining me
I'm gonna tear this place down!!
U-huh
Ima tear this place down!
Yeah!
I'm gonna tear this place down!

Now my mum's sold the crib
And left me with my dad
Whose a total loser livin in a
caravan..
All my homies have gone
And it isn't nice!!
This new crib is a joke
I can't live my life!
In this portable dump with a
chemical bog!
Zero chance they'd ever wanna pimp
my ride!
Dad couldn't care less if I look a
right fool
Right in front of all the kids in
this whack school!
Now! I'm feeling stuck
And I can't be held
I do whatever it takes
Just to get expelled!
There's no way that I'm falling
face down!
I'm gonna rise up
And tear this place down!

19 SCENE DELETED

19

20 INT. ELMSMERE - CORRIDOR OUTSIDE MATHS CLASSROOM - DAY 2 - 20
09:00

Amber's class are queuing outside a classroom while Bell, who is slightly cleaned up but damp, introduces them to CJ - who is suddenly trying to act street.

BELL

Good news ladies and gentlemen, you have a new classmate. This is Cris-

CJ

CJ. They call me CJ, innit.

Bell glances at his watch, then at Amber, Violet and Darnesh.

BELL

You three. Introduce "CJ" here to
the wonderful world of Elmsmere.
Make sure he doesn't get into any
trouble...

He gives them a hard look then hurries off. As he does CJ
blows raspberries for every footstep he takes.

Bells stops, his back tensing. The raspberries stop. He moves
off. CJ continues the raspberry noises until he's round the
corner. The class are all amused.

AMBER

That was pretty funny.

CJ

Whatever. I'm outta here.

He walks up the corridor in the opposite direction to Bell.

DARNESH

He seems nice.

VIOLET

We can't just let him go.
(off their shrugs)
If he gets in trouble, Ding-Dong
blames us.

Amber thinks. Beat.

AMBER

Yeah, Darnesh, what are you
thinkin'? We gotta look after the
new kid...

They hurry after CJ. Darnesh looks confused.

21

EXT. ELMSMERE - STAFF CAR PARK - DAY 2 - 09:01

21

Bell hurries out of the main school doors, heading towards
his caravan, struggling out of his dirty suit jacket as he
goes. He puts his hand on the door handle then-

ANTHEA

Crispin...?

He turns. Reveal Andrea and her colleagues standing nearby,
having entered through the main gates, looking at him. He
swallows, pulls his jacket back on and puts on a smile.

ANTHEA (CONT'D)

I recognise you from your book...

(looks at the caravan)

Sorry, were you going to...?

BELL

What? This? Why would I be going into a thing like this? No, this is... This is a... toilet. Where we store toilets. Toilet apparatus.

(off their looks)

Listen to me, going on about school toilet storage when you've come all this way. Welcome.

He shakes hands. As he does so, the visitors notice the flakes of powder all over him.

BELL (CONT'D)

(motioning inside)

Should we adjourn to my office...?

He ushers them towards the school, Anthea noticing that she's now got powder on her hand.

22

INT. ELMSMERE - BOYS' TOILETS - DAY 2 - 09:02

22

Amber, Violet and Darnesh look around the toilet door.

AMBER

Hey, Kid. You gotta come back to class.

CJ

Why? I'm having jokes here.

Reveal that he's opened a huge pack of toilet rolls from the trolley of supplies and is stuffing paper down the plug holes. Meanwhile other sinks are filling up.

He turns on more taps. The earlier stuffed sinks start to overflow onto the floor. The others' eyes widen.

VIOLET

We've got to out of here...!

CJ smiles and throws toilet rolls to each of them.

CJ

Yeah. AFTER we've blocked the bogs.

Amber and Darnesh look at each other.

23

INT. ELMSMERE - MAIN CORRIDOR OUTSIDE BOYS TOILET - DAY 2 - 23
09:05

Bell is escorting his visitors towards his office.

ANTHEA

Can I ask; why do you have that powder on you?

BELL

(examines himself)

Oh this! This is just ordinary fire retardant powder.

ANTHEA

Do the children try to set you on fire?

BELL

Not yet...!

He forces a laugh and stops at the door to his office.

BELL (CONT'D)

Well. Here we are...

Anthea looks at the door.

ANTHEA

But... This says "Deputy Head". I understood you were the Head.

BELL

Did you? Of course. Of course you did. That's because... I AM the Head. Just thought you might want to look at this door...

He he gestures at the door in an attempt to showcase its qualities. Beat. He gives up.

BELL (CONT'D)

The head's office - my office - is just down here...

He leads them down the corridor. Suddenly Mrs Goodman appears around the corner. Bell panics.

BELL (CONT'D)

On the other hand, let me show you some other instances of my inspirational leadership. This way. I think you'll be most impressed with the way we've managed to... Quickly, come on!... The way we've managed to-

He hurries them away from Goodman, down a side corridor. Suddenly he slips over and disappears from frame.

Reveal Bell on the ground on a wet floor. Water is flowing from under the toilet door.

Mrs Goodman hurries up, looking concerned.

MRS GOODMAN

My goodness, Crispin - are you
alright?

BELL

Yes, yes, fine thank you...

He tries to get up and slips again. Goodman turns to Anthea.

MRS GOODMAN

I'm sorry I should introduce
myself.

BELL

No! No need for that...

MRS GOODMAN

I'm Mrs Goodman, the Head Teacher.

Bell's face falls, closing his eyes as the last of his hope
deserting him as Anthea gives him a sharp and disapproving
look. When he opens his eyes he sees CJ looking on and
tittering from around the corner. He jerks back out of sight,
but too late. Bell's eyes narrow.

24

INT. ELMSMERE - BOYS' TOILETS - DAY 2 - 16:00

24

It's after school. Goodman is talking to Isaac, who is
mopping the toilets.

MRS GOODMAN

How are you Isaac? Not blaming
yourself for leaving a trolley full
of toilet rolls in temptation's
way?

ISAAC

Eh?

MRS GOODMAN

Good. I want you to know you can
always ask for help.

ISAAC

I don't want any.

Nero and Polly come in, miserably - dressed in overalls.

MRS GOODMAN

Mr Bell has kindly arranged for
Nero and Polly here to give you
some support this week. I'm sure
you'll have everything back under
control in no time...

She pats his shoulder supportively as she leaves. Isaac turns suspiciously to Nero and Polly. Nero sighs and holds his hand out for the mop. Isaac pulls it back, protectively.

ISAAC

Oh no. You don't get the mop. You
get to clear up that lot...

He points into the stalls. The toilets are all overflowing with soggy bog roll.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Better get some rubber gloves...

25

INT. ELMSEMER - CARETAKER'S CUPBOARD - DAY 2 - 16:05

25

Polly is inspecting disgusting-looking rubber gloves and gauntlets while Nero is having a good look around Isaac's other tools. Polly glares at Nero.

NERO

Can you stop givin' me evils?

POLLY

I'll stop glaring at you when I
stop pulling things out of toilets
because of you.

Nero takes Isaac's keys off his desk and spins them on his finger, enjoying her annoyance.

NERO

This ain't so bad. And it wouldn't
have happened if you hadn't told me
you could dance.

POLLY

I never said I could dance. Dexter
wants me to sing at the festival.
(off his surprise)
I'm a good singer!

NERO

Didn't realise we was doin' a swot
opera.

POLLY

Shut up... We won't get to go after
this anyway.

NERO

Say what?

26 INT. ELMSMERE - CORRIDOR OUTSIDE GOODMAN'S OFFICE - DAY 2 26
16:07

Nero is striding down the corridor, followed by Polly.

NERO

Since when have kids with behaviour
comments been banned from trips?

POLLY

It's one of Mr Bell's new things;
no privileges for six weeks if you
get a comment on your record.

She suddenly stops as Nero stops by the school office and
pulls Isaac's keys from his pocket.

NERO

Well. Better set my record straight
then, hadn't I...?

He unlocks the door, leaving the keys in the lock.

NERO (CONT'D)

Keep watch.

He slips inside. Polly gasps, practically having a seizure.
She whispers after him.

POLLY

I will not keep watch! I... Nero,
that's the office - come out of
there! I forbid you to do this...
Nero...?

She glances around nervously.

POLLY (CONT'D)

I'm going to tell...

There's a noise down the corridor. She squeals in alarm and
dives into the room after Nero as Isaac rounds the corner.

27 INT. ELMSMERE - SCHOOL OFFICE - DAY 2 - 16:08 - CONTINUOUS 27

Polly pulls Nero down behind Bell's massage chair as Isaac
passes. Beat.

NERO

You can let go now.

Polly looks down and realises that she's holding on to him
very hard. She recoils, looking cross.

POLLY

NOW look what you've done! I'm an
accomplice.

(MORE)

POLLY (CONT'D)

An accomplice to school record
tampering! This'll go on my school
record!

Nero holds up her record.

NERO

No worries, I'll tamper with it...

He starts to write on it. Polly lunges for it.

POLLY

Give that back...!

NERO

Won't take a minute. I done mine
already.

POLLY

No! I will not be a party to-

She grabs for it. The two of them fall onto Bell's massage chair, then crash into the file shelves, which are full of box files. The files fall off, spilling papers everywhere.

They look at each other and run from the room.

Beat. Polly runs back in and desperately tries to tidy up. Nero runs back in and pulls her out again, leaving the door open.

28

INT. ELMSMERE - CORRIDOR OUTSIDE GOODMAN'S OFFICE - DAY 2 28
16:09 - CONTINUOUS

Nero and Polly run from the school office.

CJ appears just as they're around a corner. He stops in the open office door and looks inside at the devastation. He notices the keys in the lock and pulls them out.

Bell appears from another direction talking on his phone.

BELL

Thank you Anthea. I'm so sorry
about the misunderstanding earlier
today. I really appreciate you
giving me another chance, I won't
disappoint you, I promise...

He stops, seeing CJ ahead, stood at the office door.

BELL (CONT'D)

Crispin! Back to the caravan. The
school is out of bounds after-

He stops, seeing the devastation inside.

BELL (CONT'D)
Did you do this...?!

CJ glares at him. Bell snatches the keys from his hand.

CJ
(glares at him)
What do you care what I do? You
don't even want me here!

BELL
Crispin, I-

CJ
(turns and runs off)
My name's CJ!

Bell looks down at the keys in his hand and thinks. He
glances both ways, closes the office door and locks it - and
hurries off.

28A EXT. ELMSMERE - TRANSITION DAY - TO NIGHT - TO DAY 28A

Another day commences at Elmsmere. Kids start arriving for
school.

29 EXT. ELMSMERE - MAIN CORRIDOR OUTSIDE BOYS TOILET - DAY 3 29
08:30

The corridor is quiet. Eli is heading into the toilet. Fleur
catches up to him.

FLEUR
Going to drain your clairvoyant wee
bag again?

ELI
Don't mock my psychic bladder. It
keeps me safe with its toilety
shelter.

FLEUR
Maybe. Or maybe your bladder's evil
and it's CAUSING disasters while
you're on the toilet. Did you think
of that?

ELI
(unsure)
No... My mystic bladder wouldn't do
that.

FLEUR
Just sayin'...

She flicks him on the face. Eli goes into the toilet, looking uncertain. As soon as he's gone Fleur hurries to the Music Store room and opens the door, glancing back sneakily.

30 INT. ELMSMERE - SCIENCE CORRIDOR - DAY 3 - 08:31

30

Dexter hurries to catch up with MISS HIGGINS.

DEXTER

Alia... Just wondered if you were still interested in coming to the Arts Festival?

MISS HIGGINS

Sorry Dexter. I've said I'll do something else.

DEXTER

What's going on? You're the third person to drop out this morning.

MISS HIGGINS

(awkward)

Yeah. It's just Graham's got this inter-schools sports trip to Barbados, so-

DEXTER

Nunn's doing a trip to Barbados?! Since when?!

MISS HIGGINS

Well, this morning, I-

DEXTER

(fights down his anger)

Unbelievable. Unbelievable!

He turns and strides off, looking for Nunn.

31 EXT. ELMSMERE - MAIN CORRIDOR OUTSIDE BOYS TOILET - DAY 3 - 31
08:32

There is a crashing and banging noise as Eli comes out of the toilet. He frowns and turns up the corridor.

Reveal Fleur's legs sticking out of the Music Store room. Eli's eyes widen. He hurries up the corridor and looks into the room.

Reveal Fleur lying under a pile of instruments as if they've fallen on top of her. She points at Eli in angry accusation.

FLEUR

YOU MADE THIS HAPPEN...!

Eli looks really worried.

32 INT. ELMSMERE - CORRIDOR - DAY 3 - 08:33

32

Polly catches up with Nero.

POLLY

Nero... What are we going to do
about yesterday?

Nero gives her a blank look. Polly takes him urgently to one side, whispering.

POLLY (CONT'D)

I'm talking about - (vandalising)

NERO

Then stop talkin' about it before
someone hears you...

Polly looks really upset, Nero relents slightly.

NERO (CONT'D)

No-one saw us. Relax. We got away
with it.

He smiles winningly, but Polly looks even more ashen. Nero turns, following her gaze.

Reveal Isaac being lead out of his cupboard by a sorrowful-looking Mrs Goodman. Polly stops her as she passes.

POLLY

Miss - what's happened?

GOODMAN

Someone vandalised the school
office last night.

POLLY

What's that got to do with Isaac?

GOODMAN

Get to your classes please.

Goodman and Isaac keep walking.

Polly looks at Nero. Now he looks horrified.

POLLY

The keys!

33 EXT. ELMSMERE - STAFF ROOM - DAY 3 - 08:34

33

Nunn is making a coffee. Dexter appears in the foreground like a gunslinger. Nunn turns and sees him, stopping.

DEXTER

I know what you're doing.

NUNN

So I called a mate who teaches PE
in Barbados. I can't help it if
your helpers would rather lie on a
beach than hang out at some Belgian
prance-a-thon, can I?

DEXTER

You will not beat me. I'll get
enough volunteers.

NUNN

Oh will you...?

They eyeball each other. A teacher walks past. Beat. They
both run after her with clipboards, jostling each other.

DEXTER

How would you like a trip to
Belgium?

NUNN

Barbados. Come to Barbados...

34

EXT. ELMSMERE - PLAYGROUND - DAY 3 - 08:35

34

Eli catches up to Eleesha and Fleur.

ELI

Did you hear what happened to
Isaac?

ELEESHA

Yeah, someone broke into the office
and trashed it.

FLEUR

Someone... Or something... Think
about it - an office gets trashed
behind a locked door. No normal kid
could have done that. It's almost
like it was someone with...

ELEESHA

(gasps)

Special powers...!

FLEUR

Just what I was thinking...

ELI

No. No, don't, don't say it.

ELEESHA
Your evil bladder...!

Eli looks horrified. He swallows hard, accepting the obvious.

ELI
You're right. First the fire
extinguisher, then those
instruments, now this. My psychic
guts are out of control.

FLEUR
I think you need to confess before
someone else gets hurt...

She puts a supportive hand on his shoulder. Eli nods,
resigned.

35 EXT. ELMSMERE - PLAYGROUND - DAY 3 - 08:36 - CONTINUOUS 35

Across the playground, Polly is talking to Nero.

POLLY
Nero. We can't let Isaac take the
blame. They could sack him.

NERO
You think I'd just stand by and let
that happen? We gotta tell them it
was us.

POLLY
US?! It wasn't "us"; it was you. I
was trying to stop you.

NERO
You want me to take the rap?

POLLY
I want you to tell the truth.
That's all. But leave out the part
where I was there.

Nero sighs heavily and nods his assent.

36 INT. ELMSMERE - MUSIC CLASSROOM - DAY 3 - 08:40 36

Close up of Dexter looking desperate.

DEXTER
Please. It's just supervising kids
abroad. I know you'd be brilliant.

Reveal ISOBEL stood in front of his desk.

ISOBEL

Mr Harris, I am child. I can't be legally responsible for my peers.

DEXTER

Yes - but - you're sensible... and Nunn's got everyone going to Barbados and... I'm desperate.

ISOBEL

Plainly.

(leans in)

Get a grip Mr Harris. Get a grip.

She leaves. Dexter buries his head in his arms. Lizzie enters with her new timetable, looking pleased.

LIZZIE

Just seen Goodman. My return to work is now written in stone.

(frowns at his face)

Are you okay...?

DEXTER

Not unless we can get the twins to supervise a Belgian field trip...

He passes his clipboard for volunteers. Lizzie looks at it.

LIZZIE

Dexter, this trip... It's on my work days.

(off his confusion)

Tuesday and Wednesday. I TOLD you.

You can't go, you're doing the child care.

DEXTER

But-

Nero enters. Polly hangs about in the doorway.

NERO

Dex? Can have word? It's about the office getting trashed-

DEXTER

(preoccupied)

If you've got any info on who did it, take it to Mrs Goodman. She'll make sure they get expelled.

NERO

Expelled...?!

DEXTER

It's breaking and entering. Of course they'll get expelled...

Nero looks totally mortified. He turns to camera and...

37

RAP SEQUENCE - 'ROCK AND A BAD PLACE'

37

NERO

What.. Am.. I... Gonna... Do?
 Wanted to hit the trip so I broke
 the rules
 I stole the keys
 Trespassing in the room
 Changing records and for the record
 I'm such a fool
 Isaac gettin shift for somethin he
 didn't even do
 Should I confess if I confess then
 I'll be ridiculed
 Getting expelled
 Arrested right in the school!
 Everybody lookin at me like some
 imbecile

 I'm stuck between a rock and a
 baaaad place
 Any direction ends in disgrace
 I'll lose it all even my faaaaan
 base
 No escape from a rock and a bad
 place.

POLLY

This is awful I've broken the rules
 I'd never thought I'd learn to know
 What that feels like
 Since I never even broken a nail
 Now I've knocked over shelves
 Like some lawless criminal
 I can't blame it all on Johnson
 I was there too
 With a guilty conscience
 Nero's used to being in the bad
 books
 He can take the rap
 And he can add it to his antics..
 Is that right though?
 To let him take the blame
 While I get off scott free
 Is that really me?
 Is that right though?
 To let him take the blame
 While I get off scott free?

NERO

What do you do when you're stuck
 Do you just give up or do u let
 someone else take the rap!?
 Like blab! Never that - I'm Nero to
 the Johnson
 (MORE)

NERO (CONT'D)

I'm like Sherlock to a Watson
And I'm down to solve a problem
I got it stuck - get it unstuck
like grease
I ain't staying in between a rock
and bad place

NERO & POLLY

I'm stuck between a rock and a
baaaaad place
Any direction ends in disgrace

ISAAC

And I don't want to be disgraced
No escape from a rock and a bad
place.

NERO & POLLY

I'm stuck between a rock and a
baaaaad place
Any direction ends in disgrace

NERO

And I ain't gonna be disgraced
Gotta escape from a rock and a bad
place.

He grabs Polly and hurries out into the corridor.

38

INT. ELMSMERE - CORRIDOR OUTSIDE MUSIC CLASSROOM - DAY 3 - 38
08:42 -CONTINUOUS

Polly whispers urgently to Nero as he leaves.

POLLY

What are you doing...?

NERO

Change of plan. I'm gonna get Isaac
off without dropping anyone in it.

39

INT. ELMSMERE - RECEPTION - DAY 3 - 08:45

39

CJ is walking along with Amber, Violet and DARNESH.

AMBER

Nice toilet stunt yesterday.

CJ

Believe. This school ain't seen
nothing like me. I'm gonna tear
this place to the ground.

Amber and Darnesh are clearly impressed. CJ basks in their
admiration, every inch the bad boy.

Suddenly INGRID appears beside them.

INGRID

Hey, Turkey Twist, I heard Ding-Dong's your dad.

CJ

(suddenly defensive)
No he ain't.

INGRID

So how comes you got the same name
as what he's got?

CJ

What, "Mr Bell"? I ain't called Mr
Bell. I'm CJ, innit.

INGRID

Yeah for Crispin Junior, like
you're a little tiny headmaster or
something.

CJ

I ain't no tiny headmaster!

INGRID

AND I heard you went to some swotty
privatist swot school for private
swots.

CJ

Yeah? Well I heard YOU went to a
pig farm for a brain upgrade.

Amber and Darnesh make "Ooooo" noises. CJ has scored a point.
Ingrid leans in like she means business.

INGRID

Well I heard you went to a
something for a whatever and all
you got was a thing. Suck it up,
posh boy.

She walks off. CJ calls after her.

CJ

I ain't posh! I'm this school's
nightmare. You know who trashed the
office last night? That was me!

Amber and friends wince, looking off. CJ looks round. Reveal
Nunn stood right beside them.

NUNN

Wow. A free holiday in Barbados and a public confession from the Deputy Head's son. Could this day get any better?

He claps a hand on CJ's shoulder.

NUNN (CONT'D)

Come on, Crispin. I'm going to enjoy this...

He leads CJ off towards Goodman's office.

40 INT. ELMSMERE - CORRIDOR OUTSIDE GOODMAN'S OFFICE - DAY 3 40
08:50

Bell is passing Goodman's office with Anthea.

BELL

I'm so pleased you've allowed me this second chance...

Goodman pops her head out of her office.

MRS GOODMAN

Crispin, I wonder if-
(spots Anthea)
Oh, hello again.

BELL

Erm, this is Anthea. I think you met briefly yesterday?

ANTHEA

We're interested in headhunting
Crispin.

GOODMAN

Gosh, how exciting.
(to Anthea)
Could I borrow him for a minute, if you don't mind...?

Bell smiles apologetically at Anthea and invites her to follow him into Goodman's office...

41 INT. ELMSMERE - GOODMAN'S OFFICE - DAY 3 - 08:51 - CONTINUOUS 41

Isaac is sat in front of Goodman's desk. Bell suddenly looks guilty when he sees him. He turns to Anthea to explain.

BELL

Ah. A disciplinary matter. A room got vandalised and Isaac was apparently the only one with keys.

ISAAC
But I never done nothing.

BELL
Bizarre. Well, it looks like we'll never know who was responsible, so why don't we just leave it there...

He tries to lead Anthea out of the room, only for the door to open admitting Nunn, who is towing CJ with him. Bell's eyes widen as he sees CJ.

NUNN
Got a bit of news for you lot about the office getting smashed up.

BELL
How about we leave this for another day?

NUNN
Mrs Mopp here didn't have anything to do with it.

CJ looks sullenly up at his dad. Bell steps forward.

BELL
Me. I did it. I smashed up the office.

GOODMAN
What? Crispin? But... Why?

BELL
Why? Good question.
(swallows, thinking)
The divorce has been very difficult. I had to take my frustration out on something, so I chose some... shelves.

ANTHEA
Thank you for your time, Crispin. I think I've seen enough...

She walks out. Bell tries to go after her.

BELL
No, but- Please, I-

CJ
Dad, stop. I know you're trying to help, but it was me. I smashed the office. This school's rubbish. Expel me.

NUNN
(grinning)
Oh dear...

Bell glares at Nunn.

BELL
Something amusing you Graham?

NUNN
Just enjoying the show, Crispin.

BELL
Really? Well perhaps you'll enjoy
me cancelling your ridiculous
Barbados trip.

The smile falls from Nunn's face.

NUNN
What? But- You can't! I already
booked my penthouse...

BELL
"Oh dear".

Suddenly the door bursts open, admitting Eli.

ELI
I got a confession; it was me who
trashed the office. I have an evil
psychic bladder. I need help.

GOODMAN
I'm sorry, what's going on? Which
one of you vandalised the office?

Suddenly there is a loud smashing and crashing noise from
nearby. Everyone jumps in alarm.

42 INT. ELMSMERE - CORRIDOR OUTSIDE GOODMAN'S OFFICE - DAY 3 42
08:52 - CONTINUOUS

The teachers hurry out of Goodman's office to the office next
door, from where the sounds are emanating.

GOODMAN
It's coming from in there...

Bell opens the door to the school office.

43 INT. ELMSMERE - SCHOOL OFFICE. DAY 3 - 08:53 - CONTINUOUS 43

Reveal Bell's massage chair vibrating violently and crashing
around the office under its own steam, smashing everything as
it goes.

Everyone gawps. Goodman turns to Bell.

GOODMAN
Was your chair in here last night
when the office got vandalised...?

A look of realisation creeps over everyone's faces.

ISAAC
I said that thing was a health and
safety nightmare...

44 INT. ELMSMERE - CORRIDOR OUTSIDE GOODMAN'S OFFICE - DAY 3 44
08:54 - CONTINUOUS

Cut to reveal Nero and Polly watching from around a corner.
They move back out of sight, leaning on the wall.

NERO
See? We framed the chair. No-one
gets busted, everything's frosty.

POLLY
I have to admit, that was pretty
sweet.

Nero smiles at her turn of phrase.

NERO
See? You stick with me, you learn
to play by your own rules...

Polly looks like she's coming round. Suddenly Dexter rounds
the corner with Lizzie.

DEXTER
Nero? Polly? What are you two doing
out of lessons?

NERO
Hey, Dex, we was just... erm...
gettin' in some extra practice. For
the festival.

Nero does a fancy dance move. He looks at Polly, raises his
eyebrows.

POLLY
Er, yeah... <SONGS A SCALE
UNCONVINCINGLY>

DEXTER
(frowns)
The festival's off, I'm afraid. I'm
double-booked.

NERO

Aw what?

DEXTER

Sorry Nero. The twins have to come
first. Now get back to lessons...

They look miserable and head off. Dexter calls after them.

DEXTER (CONT'D)

And guys...? Behaviour comments for
both of you. For bunking off class.
And lying to a teacher.

Polly glares at Nero.

POLLY

I really need to keep away from
you...

END