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We can hear a noise from inside a classroom - kids screaming and laughing, the teacher shouting to maintain order.

We see the ground floor classroom window open, and young Kyle, (11 year old mixed race boy), trying to climb out of it. The teacher, Mrs Collins, desperately clings onto his legs trying to pull him back inside the classroom, but he screams and shouts at her.

KYLE

Get off of me you dirty perv, or
my mum'll sue!

Kyle kicks his legs and escapes the clutches of Mrs Collins, and tumbles to the ground. His class mates cheer as he shoots off.

Title Shots of Haltham

Green. A magnificent green lawn, manicured like a baize. As the shot widens we see rather nice Victorian buildings set around a central grass quadrangle. A chapel and cloisters are at the far end of the splendid formal lawn.

The Headmaster, Anthony, 40's, emerges from his apartment and onto the quad. He looks around at the sun on the grass, and smiles. Everything is in perfect order. He strides towards his office, passing the boys walking around the path, (there is strictly no walking on the grass!) As they pass Anthony, they all happily say "morning headmaster". He is clearly popular.

Dom, 11, a pupil, looking dishevelled and late, hurries out of his 'house' and scampers after some other boys.

DOM

(as they pass)

Sir.

ANTHONY

Morning Robertson. How are you?

DOM

(with a smile)

Full of pent up anger and
resentment, Sir.

ANTHONY

And late for Latin.

Angela, the middle aged Head's secretary, sees him and trots to catch him up.

ANGELA

Headmaster.

(going through her
papers as she tries to
keep up with him as he
walks with purpose)

Remember you've the chairman of
the governors...

Anthony heads into the building that houses his office,
followed by Angela.

3 EXT. CLAMPMEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL. DAY 1

3

Kyle's mum, Candy, early 30's, has been summoned into
school.

MRS COLLINS

He's been there over an hour.

She stands under a tree with Mrs Collins, looking up. She
points up the tree to Kyle.

CANDY

(snaps to Kyle)

What the frig are you doing up a
tree?! Eh?

KYLE

Sitting.

CANDY

(to Kyle)

Don't be clever.

(to Mrs Collins)

He's being stupid.

(snaps at Kyle)

What you doing up a tree?

KYLE

(nodding towards Mrs
Collins)

I hate her. She's horrible.

CANDY

(turning back to Mrs
Collins)

He's showing off.

KYLE

You hate her too.

CANDY

(to Mrs Collins,
apologetically)

(MORE)

CANDY (cont'd)
I never actually said I hated
you...

KYLE
You said she'd got a nasty
streak.

CANDY
I'll get up there and give you a
dead leg in a minute.

MRS COLLINS
I've got thirty one other
children...

CANDY
(to Kyle)
I done...like millions of crack
pot things in my time, but I
never went up no tree in the
middle of a lesson.

MRS COLLINS
His behaviour is bordering on...

CANDY
(snappy)
Yeah alright love, you've made
your point!

Mrs Collins turns and sees lots of children and staff
watching out of the windows.

4

INT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. CHAPEL. DAY 1

4

The choir sing exquisitely. Anthony and Godfrey, Chair of
Governors, watch as Olivia conducts. (Olivia is Anthony's
beautifully presented wife.) Deputy head Charles hovers
just behind them.

GODFREY
(whispers)
You're a lucky man, Anthony.

CHARLES
Indeed you are, Headmaster.

ANTHONY
Nothing 'lucky' about it. Finest
choir in Europe...and every time
they sing, they remind the world
just how excellent our school is.

GODFREY
I meant your wife. We must get
you both across for supper.

ANTHONY
(striding off)
Trench warfare. Come.

Godfrey follows him out.

5 INT. CLAMPMEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL. MRS COLLINS OFFICE. DAY 1 5

Kyle stands, arms folded, looking petulant. Candy sits opposite Mrs Collins.

MRS COLLINS
I would be loathed to exclude him
permanently...

CANDY
It aint gonna happen again.
Let's...move on.

MRS COLLINS
He's got his secondary transfer
coming up! I know you've been
offered Clampmead...

CANDY
We've applied for Park Manor.

MRS COLLINS
Yes, well...that's unlikely in
the extreme...have you read the
Secondary Transfer Booklet?

CANDY
(suddenly frustrated)
Not being horrid love, you know
what I mean, but the Secondary
Transfer Booklet is a pile
of...old rancid poo, isn't it?
Parental choice, right? We get to
stick down our first, second and
third choice schools, right? Then
we're allocated Clampmead
Secondary. So where's the choice?

MRS COLLINS
Each school has their own
admissions procedure...

CANDY
I bet it does. Waste of ink.

MRS COLLINS
And it's Clampmead Academy now.

CANDY

(pointing at Kyle,
passionate)

What's he gonna be like after
five years there? Seriously,
what's it going to do to him?!
You know...I know...and sadly I
reckon even he knows, so you can
ram Secondary Transfer booklets
down my throat till they're
coming out me back side, but it
don't change nothing. Plug holes.
Me and him...

CANDY makes a loud, water being sucked down a plug hole, noise, which startles Mrs Collins somewhat.

6 INT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. CLASS ROOM. DAY 1

6

Godfrey is watching Anthony take a class of 16 year old for History. Each of the pupils is wearing blind folds. Anthony paces.

ANTHONY

You will all pass your history
exam. Each of you can fill up
several sides of A4 on the causes
of the first world war. But have
any of you understood what it
felt like? Lads your age lying in
rat infested trenches, the blood
of their dead friends drying in
their hair...

Anthony walks to the front of the class and presses play on his CD. The sound of bombs and gun fire echoes around the class room through the excellent surround sound system. This startles the boys and Godfrey alike.

ANTHONY

Dark...hungry...petrified with
fear.

Anthony opens up a Siegfried Sassoon poetry book. He reads as the guns boom.

ANTHONY

I knew a simple soldier boy Who
grinned at life in empty joy,
Slept soundly through the
lonesome dark, And whistled early
with the lark. In winter
trenches, cowed and glum, With
crumps and lice and lack of rum,
He put a bullet through his
brain. No one spoke of him again.

The boys are clearly captivated.

7

EXT. CLAMPMEAD ESTATE./INT BURNT OUT CAR. DAY 1

7

A sprawl of predominantly 60's and 70's council houses. There has been house building since, and many of the erstwhile council houses are now clearly privately owned, with their own additions and affectations, but the area is cheap and lots of the residents seemingly don't care about their estate, with abandoned cars and bags of rubbish strewn around.

CANDY is talking to old George, 80's, her grandfather, as she heads down her road and towards her house. (George lives in the block of flats opposite CANDY's road.) We see Kyle ahead, playing with a group of kids.

CANDY

Up a tree. Up a bleeding gum tree
more like. That's us.

GEORGE

Anything worth knowing, can't be
taught.

George nods sagely. CANDY looks at him.

CANDY

How's anybody ever get to know
anything then?!

GEORGE

He's alright, little Kyle. Stop
fussing. Fuss pot.

CANDY

Did you let him have a fag
yesterday?

GEORGE

It was a lug. That's all. Just a
quick draw...and it was a roll
up. They're not so bad for you.

CANDY

You're supposed to be his great-
grand-dad.

GEORGE

I am his great-grand-dad.

CANDY

He's eleven years of age for
gawds sake, grampie-George!

CANDY heads into her house.

CANDY

I wish I'd listened at school,
d'you know that? I used to take
the piss out of Sharmista
Chatterjee, but I bet she aint
living on the Clampmead! You
coming in for a toastie?

GEORGE

Got to see a man about a dog.

George taps the side of his nose.

CANDY

Until I was about fifteen, I
always thought you meant
that...and that one day you'd
come home with a dog for me. I've
had to live with disappointment
all my life!

CANDY disappears indoors.

8

INT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. FORMAL BOARD ROOM.

DAY 1

8

A governors meeting is taking place. All eyes are on Godfrey, as he looks at Anthony, who sits there basking.

GODFREY

I have had a little feed back
from the Independent Schools
Inspectorate, who said...
(reading)
"...Haltham is clearly an
excellent school, both
educationally and pastorally. The
school excels in almost every
department allowing each child to
reach their full potential."

Anthony looks around at the admiring faces. He sees Charles, his deputy, looking up at him. Charles tries to smile too.

GODFREY

I would like to publicly thank
our truly inspirational
headmaster, and thank him for
investing his life in our school.

The assembled applause. Anthony looks thoughtful.

9 INT. CANDY'S HOUSE. HALL/LIVING . DAY 1

9

Kyle is on the floor in the sitting room on the play-station with Eileen, his slightly over weight friend of 11. Candy sticks her head around the door.

CANDY

Your mum says she wants you home in ten minutes, Eileen. Kyle, I'm going work, mate. Love you.

Kyle nods.

CANDY

You've got crisps and a drink. Go to sleep reasonable, yeah? Do what nan says.

We follow CANDY as she heads towards the front door. Her mum, Ruth, is in the kitchen, having a cigarette and a glass of wine.

CANDY

Bye mum.

RUTH

Why can't you just say you're ill one night?

CANDY

Cos I've 'consolidated all my debts into one single monthly repayment'...if I miss a night's work, I don't get paid, they don't get their money and that's my credit rating down the pan, along with everything else.

RUTH

All I'm saying is, 'I've got a life too'.

CANDY

I need your help for a bit, mum.

RUTH

Maybe you need to find yourself a new fella.

CANDY

And why the hell would I want one of them?

CANDY goes. Ruth looks up as she hears the front door slam. She heads towards the sitting room.

RUTH

I wanna put a film on in a minute, Kyle. Say goodbye to that cobblers or the electric's going off.

Kyle and Eileen groan.

10 EXT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. CLOISTER. DAY 1

10

Anthony and Charles are walking along the corridor towards their respective offices. Charles sighs warmly as he looks around.

CHARLES

We have a lovely...floating along little life.

Charles looks at him clearly hoping to illicit a response.

ANTHONY

What on earth do you mean?

CHARLES

Well...it's hardly...and I mean this in a nice way...it's hardly a stretching, challenging existence. It's a lovely...

ANTHONY

(thoughtfully)

I have invested my life in this school.

CHARLES

To be honest, I'm glad they appointed you and not me. In fact, it's the best thing that never happened to me.

ANTHONY

(suddenly looking at him)

Are you saying it's a waste of a life?

CHARLES

No! Goodness, no! You're not one of those chaps who'd want to use his 'inspirational teaching methods' to make a difference! Fortunately!

Charles throws his head back and laughs. Anthony glares at him.

They arrive outside their respective offices. Anthony's door reads 'headmaster' Charles' door reads 'deputy'.

CHARLES

Your job at Haltham is to make
silk purses out of the silk, not
sows ears. Keep your head down
and take the applause.

And with this, Charles pushes his door and disappears inside his office. Anthony watches him disappear inside.

11 INT. OFFICE. NIGHT 1

11

Night. CANDY is a night cleaner. She is wearing rubber gloves and emptying bins. Her black co-worker, Lin, 30's, dusts desks in the large, open plan office.

CANDY

Do you sometimes feel
like...you're going down a giant
plug hole...?

LIN

Guess what? Nope!

Lin laughs.

CANDY

...like you're in that whirl
pool, and there's nothing to hold
onto...no sides...no
hope...you're being sucked
down...

LIN

Is this like a dream?

CANDY

(as she thunders about
emptying bins)

Ten o'clock at night till six in
the morning, for one hundred and
seventy four quid a week. Sixty
seven pound rent and rates,
twelve pound gas, eleven pound
leccy and seventy five pound loan
repayment. How much does that
leave me, Lin?

LIN

Plug holes and maths? White
people!

CANDY

...A nice nine squid for
everything else.
(scoffing)

CANDY heads off into another office.

12 INT. ANTHONY & OLIVIA'S APARTMENT. BEDROOM NIGHT 1 12

Olivia is in bed. She is texting and giggling. We see Anthony in the en suite, somewhat methodically brushing his teeth. He has an egg timer on the side to make sure he does his full three minutes.

OLIVIA

(giggling)

Sorry. Just Lucy. She makes me
laugh. L.O.L.

Anthony looks at her, puzzled. The three minutes is up and he heads into bed, picking up his book on the way.

ANTHONY

It was lovely today. Your choir,
by the way.

OLIVIA

Was Mr Godfrey suitably
impressed?

ANTHONY

He described it as mellifluous.
(half beat)
And described us as the perfect
couple!

OLIVIA

Fancy.

Olivia rolls over to sleep. Anthony looks at her for a moment.

13 EXT. CANDY'S HOUSE. CLAMPMEAD ESTATE. NIGHT 1 13

Night. A group of kids, including Kyle and Eileen, are running over parked cars and jumping on the roofs. There are no parents around and they are clearly running amok. This pack rule the roost on the estate after dark.

A resident, Mr Evans, comes out to remonstrate.

MR EVANS

I've had enough of this! You's
lot are doing my nut in!

They laugh and shout at him, so he has to beat a hasty retreat back inside his home. We catch a glimpse of Mr Evans as he disappears inside and he truly looks petrified and intimidated. We hear a police siren. The kids are on their toes and scattered to the four corners as the police car screeches into the estate.

14 OMITTED

14

15 EXT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. QUAD. DAY 2

15

Anthony is standing looking at the dew on the flawless grass. It is too early for anyone to be about. He spots a lone piece of litter and picks it up.

16 EXT. CLAMPMEAD ESTATE. DAY 2

16

Dawn. CANDY and Kyle are heading out of the police station. Kyle's hand is bandaged.

CANDY

Don't talk to me. Don't say
nothing!

KYLE

It was just a caution. They don't
mean nothing. Nobody uses them
garages anyhow.

CANDY

So that means you can go and nick
things out of them, does it?

They walk on in silence.

CANDY

What was in this box thing
anyhow?

KYLE

Paint brushes. A load of old,
rock hard paint brushes.

CANDY

Weren't worth cutting up your
hand and getting nicked for then?

KYLE

Yes.

CANDY looks at him, puzzled.

KYLE

When we were breaking into the
box...we were all
so...excited...just at the
thought...

CANDY

Of it being stuffed full of
treasure?

KYLE

(nodding)

I was the richest man in the
world for about eight seconds. I
was going to buy you a car.

Kyle shrugs and then spits (fashionably) onto the pavement.

CANDY

I've gotta get you into Park
Manor or you're gonna end up...

KYLE

Like my dad?

CANDY

Exactly!

They walk on.

Candy and Kyle arrive home. Ruth is lying on the sofa. She sits up and shakes her head admonishingly at Kyle.

Candy picks up the post and starts to read it.

RUTH

I didn't get no sleep neither.
Chav central out there last night
it was. Shrieking and hollering.
That Scotch family had a fight
with the Vietnamese kiddies.

CANDY

(reading)

'Dear Sir/Madam, I am sorry to inform you, your son/daughter has not won a place at Park Manor...blah blah blah.'

Candy screws up the letter, frustrated to the core.

18

EXT. CLAMPMEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL. DAY 2

18

Candy is in the playground, talking in animated fashion to half a dozen or so other mums.

CANDY

So how comes we've all got Clampmead and none of us put down Clampmead? We all put down Park Manor, and when we don't get it, what do we do? We shrug our shoulders and go, 'oh well'. I aint shrugging my shoulders, I'm writing in to our M.P.

The other women start to laugh. CANDY is completely serious.

MANDY

You know where his kids go?

CANDY

I'm telling him everything needs burning down and starting again cos what we got now aint fair.

MANDY

You went Clampmead, Cand, I went Clampmead...

CANDY

Yes, so it's some other poor bugger's turn now.

MANDY

It's better than what it was when we was going there.

CANDY

Mandy, you and me both know that school is a little bit shit.

(determined)

Kyle's going Park Manor. I don't give a toss what they reckon. And if we all done the same, what can they do about it? Nothing mate.

(MORE)

CANDY (cont'd)

What we all need to do is to march our kids up to Park Manor and demand they set up another class. Let's take a bit of control for ourselves!

CANDY looks determined. They all look at her for a moment before Mandy starts to sing, 'Sisters, are doing it for themselves...' The others snigger.

19

EXT. PARK MANOR SECONDARY SCHOOL. DAY 3

19

Candy and Kyle are outside the school. The headmaster is talking to them. A journalist and photographer from the local paper are there too.

HEAD TEACHER

Unfortunately your son failed to satisfy the schools entry criteria.

CANDY

How do we know he aint got 'musical ability' though? Eh?

HEAD TEACHER

I realise not winning a place here is disappointing, and I'm terribly sorry...

CANDY

You're not terribly sorry though, are you? You're a bit sorry I'm making a nuisance of myself...calling in the Journal and that...Would you send your son to Clampmead Secondary?

HEAD TEACHER

That is not the issue here...

CANDY

Yes it is, mate! The local M.P's son comes here, and he lives eight miles away, and that is bang out of order.

HEAD TEACHER

I can see little point in carrying on this discussion any further.

CANDY

No, cos I'm spot on, and I've mugged you right off!

Candy turns and addresses whomsoever will listen...kids, parents, staff...but most pointedly, the journalist.

CANDY

And when Tony Blair's kids done their secondary transfer, where did they go? Did they go the local kharzi in Islington? Oh no mate, they went eleven miles to the London Oratory. I've done my research! Maybe Blair's kids was blinding at piano, who knows, maybe they play a mean ukulele, but I tell you what I'm coming to the conclusion of...and that's 'it's all a bit unfair to the bleeding core'. And yes, you can quote me on that.

The Head Teacher turns and heads back towards the school. Kyle looks mortified. The local journalist scribbles down notes, as his photographer snaps.

KYLE

I don't even wanna go here, I wanna go Clampmead with my mates.

CANDY

Shut your face and smile.

Freeze frame.

20

INT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. ANGELA'S OFFICE.

DAY 4

20

We see the photo. Anthony is studying the photograph of Candy and Kyle on the front page of the Journal, as the shot widens we see it is under the headline, 'Mum Risks Jail For Son'.

ANTHONY

(banging the paper)
Here we are! There's a sow's ear if ever I saw one.

CHARLES

Exactly.

Anthony lowers the paper and we see Charles, in his office. Angela is busying herself too.

ANTHONY

If her lad came here, I could get him into Oxford.

CHARLES

I think that specimen is beyond
even you, Anthony.

ANTHONY

You 'think'? Then you're wrong.
No one's beyond me, Charles.

CHARLES

Is that a fact?

Anthony looks at him for a moment before he heads off to busy himself with Angela.

21

EXT. PARK MANOR SECONDARY SCHOOL. DAY 5

21

CANDY is standing at the school gates with Kyle. This is day twelve of her one woman protest. Once again her path is blocked by LEA officials.

There is now a local news film crew in attendance filming events. We can see the 'regular' parents are fed up with the daily situation.

PARENT 1

(snapping at CANDY)
Why don't you find something
better to do?!

CANDY

What's it gotta do with you,
trappy?

Candy grabs Kyle and thrusts him in front of the cameras.

CANDY

Tell them all you want is an
education, Kyle.

KYLE

(reluctantly mutters)
All I want is an education.

REPORTER

So why do you want to come to
Park Manor?

Candy folds her arms and stands defiantly. We close in on Kyle.

22

INT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. ANTHONY'S OFFICE. DAY 5

22

Anthony is watching the local news bulletin. Kyle fills the screen. Charles stands by his side.

KYLE
(on the television)
I've heard the dinner ladies are
well buff.

Anthony laughs.

CHARLES
How profound.

ANTHONY
(pointing at the
television, still
laughing)
Even that lad, Charles.

CHARLES
(pointing to Candy on
the television)
Have you seen the mother!?

ANTHONY
I'm not saying it wouldn't be a
struggle...

CHARLES
'Struggle'?! No no no, Angela
passing her driving test was a
struggle.
(pointing at the
television)
That is impossible!

Anthony gives a little shake of the head.

CHARLES
And to be honest I doubt you'd
really enjoy the challenge...what
ever you say.

They hear the sound of the choir floating in through the window.

Charles heads off. Anthony picks up a prospectus. He opens it up and sees Charles' image on page 7 grinning back at him. He looks out of the window and sees Charles heading into chapel with a spring in his step.

There is a kerfuffle outside the school gates. A crowd of people, including the police, and lots of raised voices. Watching the kerfuffle from the safety of his car is Anthony.

We can see Anthony is unsure. He puts his hand into his bag and extracts a prospectus. He looks up and sees Candy, arms up high, handcuffed to the school gates singing, "I shall not, I shall not be moved..." whilst a policeman tries to saw through the handcuffs. He looks back down at the prospectus and the smiling image of some parents at an open day.

After steeling himself, he slots the prospectus into an envelope, and gets out of the car.

With her arms raised and back turned, all Anthony can see of Candy is her thong.

Parents are shouting at her as photographers snap away. Unseen, Anthony sticks the envelope into Candy's handbag, which is on the ground beside her, before heading back to his car.

23 A EXT. CANDY'S HOUSE. CLAMPMEAD ESTATE.

23 A

Kyle arrives home.

24 INT. CANDY'S HOUSE. LIVING. DAY 6

24

Candy and George are setting up Monopoly. CANDY has her duvet wrapped around her, having just got up. They hear the front door opening.

GEORGE

(calling)

Good man, Kyle. You're the
'boat'.

Kyle sticks his head round the door, and looks at the game.

KYLE

What's going on? It aint
Christmas.

GEORGE

Your mother wants us doing
quality things together so you
don't end up in the jail like
your dad. She researched it on
the interweb. Babsie I'm the
banker.

CANDY

I wonder why?

KYLE

I'm going for a pooh. Make sure
he don't short change my money,
mum.

Kyle heads off.

GEORGE

(as he sorts out the
money)

You've all got me down as a bit
moody. I've gone straight.

CANDY

You got form!

GEORGE

(putting his hands up)
I done the crime, I done my time.
Besides...

CANDY

'Besides' what?

GEORGE

(proudly)

I was a good little robber.

CANDY

You weren't that good, or you
wouldn't have missed every one of
my birthdays from four to
nineteen.

KYLE (O.S.)

She handcuffed herself to the
railings today, Grampie-George
and the old bill threatened to
take out an injunction. She's
gonna get an asbo before me!

CANDY

I've got an even better plan for
him.

And with this, Candy pulls out the Haltham prospectus.

CANDY

Some mickey taking parent dropped
this in my bag, but you know his
teachers are always going on
about how bright he is?

GEORGE

If only he'd shut up and listen,
yeah.

CANDY

Well I had a flick through and
Haltham do a scholarship for
bright pupils from the state
sector. What d'you reckon?

George is completely stunned.

Kyle comes back in, wiping his hand on a tea-towel.

KYLE

What you talking about?

George clicks his fingers, completely confident. We see Candy mulling it over. She lovingly wraps Kyle up in her duvet, before showing him the prospectus...a photograph of the magnificent school on the front.

25 EXT. HALTHAM COLLEGE PUBLIC SCHOOL. DAY 7

25

From photo to reality. We see CANDY looking around in awe. This knocks any other school she's ever seen into a cocked hat.

It is Open Day, and parents are milling around in all their finery, drinking champagne, listening to jazz bands etc.

All the pupils are there too, and there is a sophisticated carnival atmosphere. Candy clearly feels out of place. Olivia walks past and looks at her.

OLIVIA

Can I help you?

CANDY

It's a bit bloody nice here
innit.

Olivia looks a little taken aback.

26 INT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. ANGELA'S OFFICE. DAY 7

26

Anthony and Charles are looking at Candy out of his office window. Anthony turns back to Charles.

ANTHONY

(proudly)

I gave her a prospectus!

CHARLES

Why?

ANTHONY

To prove you wrong.

CHARLES

(incredulous)

But...her lad's not going to get
in, is he?!

ANTHONY

Why not?

CHARLES

'Why not?' Are you serious?

The two men stare at each other.

27

INT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. FUNCTION ROOM. DAY 7

27

The place is packed with new parents. Anthony, stands at the lectern, addressing them. We see CANDY entering at the back.

ANTHONY

...What we offer the pupils is something even greater than academic success. What we offer them cannot be judged purely on University entrance. We set our pupils on a path and point ahead. As George Bernard Shaw said..."I am not a teacher; only a fellow traveler of whom you asked the way. I pointed ahead-ahead of myself as well as of you."

We see Candy listening.

28

EXT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. CRICKET PITCH. DAY 7

28

All the parents, honoured guests and pupils have gathered for the annual staff v pupils cricket match. The scene is idyllic, with picnics all around the pitch, the school orchestra playing, and the sound of leather on willow and happy laughing, ringing all around.

We follow Anthony, in his cricket whites and padded up, as he smiles at parents. We can see he is searching for someone. He spots CANDY and approaches her.

ANTHONY

Hello...I'm the Headmaster. If there's anything I can help...

CANDY

I was supposed to bring my boy in...for the scholarship thing...but I can't see the point, really.

ANTHONY

Oh...well that's a shame.
(jokingly)
Was it something I said?

CANDY
(after a moment)
You haven't got a clue, have you?

ANTHONY
About what?

CANDY
All that bollocks in the
church...

ANTHONY
(correcting)
Chapel.

CANDY
...and all this!

ANTHONY
Cricket?

CANDY
This aint a real school.

ANTHONY
No?

CANDY
When I was a kid, I had a toy
farm yard. Didn't make me a
farmer, I was just playing at
it...like you are with teaching.

ANTHONY
Really...?

CANDY
I had no crap to clear up...just
like you aint. Here isn't
teaching! Listening to all that
self congratulatory bullshit that
went on in church, made me wanna
chuck up.

A wicket falls and a stunned Anthony is called into bat.

ANTHONY
You're clearly a woman who isn't
interested in looking any further
along the road than necessary.
You want to lead your life with
such limited horizons, fine. I
feel sorry for your children.

Anthony strides off towards the crease. Candy glares after
him.

CANDY

I feel sorry for yours, mate!

Anthony almost breaks his stride but doesn't.

29

EXT. BRIDGE CLAMPMEAD. DAY 7

29

Kyle is standing on a fly-over bridge looking down at the dual carriage way as the cars thunder past below. He is with Eileen.

KYLE

When our cat died, my mum said we'd never get another animal.

EILEEN

You don't have to have it. Just my nan reckons she's getting too old to look after it.

KYLE

A budgie?!

They see a convertible car underneath, approaching.

KYLE

(pointing ahead up the dual carriageway)

There's one!

They both take aim, and attempt to flob into the convertible car as it passes underneath.

After flobbing, they both rush across to the other side of the bridge to see if there's any reaction from the driver.

EILEEN

Did we get him?

KYLE

I think he wiped his head.

EILEEN

Or it might have gone on the back seat.

They start to walk back down the road and towards Kyle's house.

KYLE

So, d'you just like keep it in it's cage all time?

EILEEN

My nan used to let it out for a
little fly around...until mum
bought the 'Stafi'.

The arrive by the burnt out shell of a car outside Kyle's house.

EILEEN

Shall we go for a drive?

Kyle nods and they get into the car.

30

EXT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. QUAD. DAY 7

30

Anthony, post cricket but still in his whites, is striding through the quad. Parents are departing the days festivities. He sees Candy is still there.

ANTHONY

I thought you'd gone off in a
huff?

CANDY

(nodding towards the
grass on the quad)

How much d'you spend a year on
keeping this grass nice?

ANTHONY

Are you frightened your son might
be happy here?

CANDY

Why would I want him to come here
and end up like you?

ANTHONY

Who do you want him to end up
like then? You?

(beat)

I think your boy should do the
scholarship exam.

CANDY

Do you?! Mate, you telling me all
the other kids that he'll be
competing against wouldn't have
been crammed for the last gawd
knows how many years?

ANTHONY

Bring him. I dare you!

And with this challenge, they hold each others stare.

31

INT. CANDY'S HOUSE. BATHROOM. DAY 7

31

Kyle is in the bath with the shower curtain yanked across. CANDY sits on the loo filling in the Haltham Application. George is looking over her shoulder.

GEORGE

Give you a lot of forms, don't they!

KYLE

Yes and you might as well bin them cos I aint going there. Now how about a bit of bleeding privacy?!

CANDY

(ignoring Kyle)
'Mother's occupation', I put
'office worker'...

GEORGE

Sort of true.

CANDY

And sort of crap. And for
'father's occupation'...

GEORGE

What d'you put?

CANDY

Chemist.

George laughs.

CANDY

Well he is doing an eight stretch for selling chemicals of a sort...

KYLE

Why can't I just go Clampmead!

CANDY

I got confidence in you.

KYLE

No, you just think you're too good for Clampmead. Nothing to do with me!

Candy carries on with the form.

32

EXT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. QUAD. DAY 8

32

Candy and Kyle stand in the quad, looking around. Kyle has a nice Ben Sherman on, a pair of chinos and nike trainers. They watch as incredibly smart uniformed boys, many with their musical instruments, head into the examination room.

KYLE

Let's just go home, mum, yeah?

CANDY

You can only do your best, I know that.

Candy goes to hold him. He suddenly looks quite lost and vulnerable.

33

INT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. EXAMINATION ROOM.

DAY 8

33

Kyle looks around the room and studies the faces of the other boys who are clearly working confidently. Kyle looks back down at his paper and struggles to answer a question.

It is a maths paper. We see Kyle thinking hard. One question has a triangle with two sides marked with 3cm and 4 cm. The third side merely has an 'x'. The question reads, 'Find x'. Kyle after a moments thought, circles x and writes, 'here it is'.

At the end of the paper, there is something called the 'Headmasters Bonus Question'. Kyle reads it...'How long is a piece of string?' After a moment, Kyle does a string like line on his paper, he writes...' (Not to Scale)' beside it.

34

EXT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. QUAD. DAY 8

34

CANDY finishes off a sneaky fag. She thinks about flicking it before she takes the dog end to the grass, sinks a stiletto heel in, and buries the butt in the hole, just as Charles approaches her.

CHARLES

We need more ashtrays in the quad!

Candy looks mortified.

CANDY

I'm just waiting for my son. He's got a test and that, yeah?

Charles nods.

35

INT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. CORRIDOR. DAY 8

35

Charles has come in from the quad and bumped into Anthony on his way down stairs.

ANTHONY

If I can inspire thick posh kids,
what makes you think I can't work
my magic on a common one?

CHARLES

He's not going to pass the
exam...

ANTHONY

Not only will he pass, he'll be a
Haltham success.

Charles shakes his head.

CHARLES

I wouldn't bet on it.

ANTHONY

I would.

CHARLES

Come on then.

Charles proffers his hand. A child walks past, eating a walnut whip just purchased from the Tuck Shop.

CHARLES

(shaking Anthony's hand)
Let's wager a...walnut whip, that
if he gets in, within one
term...by Christmas...he'll be
gone.

ANTHONY

(thinking on his feet)
I'll wager by Christmas...he'll
win the poetry competition and
give the Michaelmas Recital.

Charles scoffs.

CHARLES

That boy hasn't a hope in hell.
Walnut whip?!

The two men once again glare at each other. Anthony nods. They shake hands. Charles becomes aware of all the examinees coming down the stairs too. Anthony takes the opportunity of grabbing a moment with Kyle, who is on his own.

ANTHONY

Excuse me, young man. How did you get on?

KYLE

Piece of piss, mate.

Kyle walks off with a swagger. Charles smiles and heads out.

36 INT. OFFICE. NIGHT. 8

36

CANDY is cleaning. Lin is with her.

CANDY

We got apartheid in this country, Lin.

Lin laughs.

CANDY

Don't you laugh, I'm being serious. Okay, so it aint black's v whites...well it is, in the main, but that's by the by. Bloody great land of opportunity we live in, isn't it? Anyone can go Oxford University and that...except in the reality, us lot can't. Anyway, Kyle's going Clampmead, so you can all get off of my case now. I give up.

LIN

He failed, yeah?

CANDY moves away, fed up with her lot.

37 INT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. ANGELA'S OFFICE.

DAY 9

37

Angela is marking the multiple choice exam papers in her section of the office. Anthony comes in.

ANTHONY

Are you marking the exam papers already?

ANGELA

I thought I'd crack on while the phone lines were quiet.

ANTHONY

You look peaky. Go and take an early lunch.

ANGELA

I'm fine thanks. I've got an apple in my bag.

ANTHONY

Ahhh no, you see, it's a myth...an apple a day keeps the doctor away.

(taking the exam papers from her)

I'll mark them. You go and get a jacket potato.

This somewhat disarms her. Angela watches Anthony heading to his desk with the papers. She thinks she knows.

38 OMITTED

38

39 INT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. FORMAL BOARD ROOM. DAY 9

39

Charles and Anthony are with the education and finance committee meeting.

CHARLES

He passed?!

ANTHONY

Ninety two per cent. It is apparent to me the child has remarkable ability.

Charles looks stunned.

ANTHONY

We are very lucky...privileged in fact, to be a part of Haltham. I am proposing a gesture that befits our charitable status.

GODFREY

You want to give this one lad a full bursary?

ANTHONY

Being a part of the community isn't just every fourth Sunday opening up the swimming pool.

(MORE)

ANTHONY (cont'd)

We have a responsibility as a school, and I have a responsibility as Headmaster.

CHARLES

But don't we have a responsibility to our pupils?

ANTHONY

Kyle will enhance this school...

Anthony looks imploringly at Godfrey.

ANTHONY

I got your son into Oxford...and I'd like to give this lad the opportunity...

(half beat)

I'm asking you to back me on this, Godfrey.

Charles looks at Godfrey as if to say, on his head be it. Anthony senses this.

40

EXT/INT. CANDY'S HOUSE. CLAMPMEAD ESTATE. HALL DAY 9

40

Anthony is on the doorstep. He can't find a door bell or knocker so is forced to knock on the glass. This is all most unusual for Anthony. We see him surreptitiously wiping his hand, post knock. Behind him we see a smouldering car.

After a moment Candy opens the door and is clearly amazed to see Anthony.

CANDY

I thought you was someone from the catalogue people.

ANTHONY

Your telephone appears to not be working.

CANDY

Cut off.

ANTHONY

Well there you go.

CANDY

What is it? What d'you want?

ANTHONY

I'm willing to risk my not insubstantial reputation on your son. I'll put in the effort, but it will mean he'll have to too.

CANDY
(snaps)
Is that right, fella!?

ANTHONY
I'm offering your son a day place
with a full scholarship, Mrs
Jerome. Based on his potential.

Candy is gob smacked. She suddenly smiles sweetly at Anthony. Kyle arrives by his mothers' side.

KYLE
What's happened?

CANDY
(stunned)
You got in. I think.

KYLE
No I never.

ANTHONY
Yes you did.

KYLE
How?

Kyle looks hard at Anthony.

KYLE
I'm going to Clampmead.
(turning on his mum)
You said I was going to
Clampmead?!

CANDY
That's cos you told me you cocked
up. You never cocked up. He never
cocked up, right?

KYLE
I'm not going to a boarding
school...that's sick.

ANTHONY
He'll be offered a day place
scholarship on the understanding
he has a great deal of catching
up to do. He showed the potential
he has to offer.

CANDY
(proudly to Kyle)
You showed potential!

ANTHONY

Real potential. Which you can
watch whither and die,
or...water, and watch grow.

KYLE

He's taking the piss, mum.

CANDY

I think he might have better
things to do, as it goes, Kyle.
He's come round here...

ANTHONY

Exactly. You'll be doing your
catch up work over the summer
holidays...with me. Our secret.
Don't want anybody thinking I'm
showing favoritism.

Anthony smiles. Kyle doesn't.

41 EXT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. PUBLIC SCHOOL. DAY 10 41

The school is deserted because it's the long vacation.

42 INT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. ANTHONY'S OFFICE. DAY 10 42

Anthony sits behind his desk. Kyle is struggling with a
maths paper.

ANTHONY

You should have no difficulty
with any of those questions,
Kyle. That's if you were
concentrating this morning.

KYLE

I don't want to come here.

ANTHONY

There's the door. Any time you
want to go...go.

Kyle stays where he is. Anthony smiles to himself. Kyle
works on.

KYLE

(looking up again)
Why didn't you go on holiday with
your wife then?

ANTHONY

She's building mud huts...or
fixing a well...or something, in
Bolivia.

KYLE

Fair play.

ANTHONY

Duke of Edinburgh award scheme.
Work!

Kyle puts his head down and works.

43 EXT. STREET. DAY 10

43

Candy is walking down the street with Kyle

CANDY

Come on, how was it?

KYLE

School.

CANDY

Eh?

KYLE

It was like school...in the
holidays. Which is stupid.

Kyle looks out of the window.

44 INT. HALTHAM COLLEGE PUBLIC SCHOOL. ANTHONY'S OFFICE. 44
DAY 11

Anthony grabs Kyle's work and looks at it.

ANTHONY

Oh for goodness sake! What's this
mess!?

KYLE

What?

ANTHONY

What?! How thick are you? You've
even got the first part
wrong...look! Twenty three plus
twenty two...a simple addition!

(handing Kyle a clean
piece of paper)

Start again! I'm not having you
make me look a complete fool!

Kyle gets on with his work.

45 INT. HALTHAM COLLEGE PUBLIC SCHOOL. SCHOOL SHOP. DAY 12 45

Candy is looking at the prices of the uniform. She is clearly stunned by how much it all costs.

CANDY

If I...like...put some bits by,
can I come and pay for them
later?

The lady behind the counter smiles and nods.

46 INT. ANTHONY & OLIVIA'S APARTMENT. SITTING ROOM. DAY 12 46

Anthony sits behind his desk. Kyle looks at him.

ANTHONY

A car travels 100m in 5s. What is
its average speed?

Kyle scribbles down the answer.

ANTHONY

What does a horizontal line on a
distance-time graph represent?

Kyle thinks before writing down his answer.

47 INT. CASH CONVERTORS. DAY 13 47

Candy has arrived in the store with a box.

CANDY

Now don't muck me around, cos I
paid over three hundred notes for
this lot.

Candy empties the contents of the box onto the counter. It consists of her watch, rings, gold chains etc.

48 INT. CANDY'S HOUSE. CLAMPMEAD ESTATE. EARLY MORN DAY 14 48

Early morning. Kyle is in bed, fast asleep and looking somewhat angelic. CANDY and her mother are at the door, looking in. Candy has all his posh clothes ready.

CANDY

If I could stick him in aspic and
keep him like that for always...

RUTH

You aint doing him no favours,
you know that, don't you?

CANDY

What am I supposed to have done?

RUTH

You're an helicopter...hovering
over him. He don't want you
hovering over him. It's like that
cat you had.

CANDY

How?

RUTH

Kept him cooped up in here all
day long...never letting him out.

CANDY

Yeah, and what happened when I
did let him out? He got run over.

RUTH

Cos he didn't know what a
bleeding car was! He'd only ever
seen one on the tele!

CANDY

I don't care what you think, why
shouldn't I want the best for
him?

Kyle starts to stir. CANDY goes and sits on the bed. Ruth
heads off.

49

INT. ANTHONY & OLIVIA'S APARTMENT. SITTING ROOM DAY 14

49

Olivia is home and is sorting out the washing from her
suitcase. Anthony watches her.

OLIVIA

(with her head in her
suitcase)

I can still smell Bolivia.
Everything was so...vibrant and
exciting...so completely
different to...

ANTHONY

I'd say I'd had a successful
summer too.

OLIVIA

(used to him)

You're talking about your bursary
boy, I take it?

ANTHONY

You felt good about yourself
building your mud huts, I feel
good about myself allowing this
boy to...

OLIVIA

Fine. And there wasn't a mud hut
in sight, but...point taken.

ANTHONY

You look younger.

OLIVIA

Well I'm not. I'm six weeks
older. If this boy of yours did
so well in his entrance exam, why
does he needs all this extra
tuition?

ANTHONY

I sexed up his result a bit. I
could see the boy was a smart
cookie, even if Charles couldn't.

Anthony stops talking, but he realises he's said too much
to stop now.

ANTHONY

I transposed a couple of figures.
He got 29...not 92 per cent.

OLIVIA

What did you do that for?

ANTHONY

To prove Charles wrong, of
course!

OLIVIA

Do you always have to win?

ANTHONY

Yes.

Olivia looks at him without passing comment.

50 INT. HAIRDRESSERS. DAY 14

50

Candy watches as Kyle is given a respectable hair cut.

HAIRDRESSER

You want me to cut in some Nike ticks at the back?

CANDY

No, mate. College boy!

Kyle isn't happy.

51 INT. CANDY'S HOUSE. HALL/LIVING . DAY 15

51

Candy, George and Ruth all clap and cheer an embarrassed Kyle as he comes down the stairs in his new Haltham School uniform.

KYLE

We're getting a cab. I'm not being seen out like this!

CANDY

You're joking! The amount I've spent on that clobber, I want every bugger in the world to see you!

Candy hugs him.

52 EXT. PARK MANOR SECONDARY SCHOOL. DAY 15

52

Candy is purposefully walking Kyle past Park Manor, in his Haltham uniform. She senses a few of the parents looking at her.

CANDY

Yeah! You see that? Haltham, mate. So you can stick your two-bob, tin pot school, right where the sun don't shine.

They stare at her like she's mad, as she strides off proudly with Kyle.

53 EXT. HALTHAM COLLEGE PUBLIC SCHOOL. DAY 15

53

Candy and Kyle watch as the other day boys are dropped off in their smart cars. They stand around somewhat awkwardly, until they see Anthony approaching.

ANTHONY

Welcome, welcome, Kyle. Your official first day.

CANDY

He looks the business, don't he?

ANTHONY

Prep finishes at eight so...he'll see you then.

Anthony smiles and heads off with Kyle. Candy watches them go. She sees another mother, Mrs Willoughby, struggling to get her son's double bass out of the boot of her Range Rover. Mrs Willoughby is super model skinny, and clad head to toe in designer gear.

CANDY

Eight's late, isn't it?! I gotta go work at nine!

Mrs Willoughby tries not to catch her eye.

CANDY

His old school, we used to hang around the school gates nattering, go someone's house for a coffee, and next time we looked at our watches, it was time to get back up the school to pick the little sods up!

Mrs Willoughby half smiles and her and her son and the double bass head into the school.

54

EXT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. QUAD. DAY 15

54

Anthony and Kyle are walking across the quad. We see Olivia and Charles watching them from a distance.

CHARLES

Who does your husband think he is?

OLIVIA

I wish we were back in Bolivia.

Olivia picks up his hand and plays with it, and the 'love token' cotton band they both have around their wrists.

We see Anthony and Kyle disappear inside the building.

55 INT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. CORRIDOR. DAY 15 55
Anthony and Kyle enter the building. Anthony immediately and somewhat furtively, looks back out onto the quad and at Charles and Olivia. He watches them both playing with each others hands and bracelets. The shock on his face is all too apparent. We see Kyle clocking Anthony clocking Charles and Olivia.

56 INT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. CLASS ROOM. DAY 15 56
Kyle is now in a Latin class. The teacher is writing the imperfect verb on the board. All the boys seem to understand. Kyle tries his hardest to concentrate.

56 A INT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. ANTHONY'S OFFICE. DAY 15 56 A
Anthony is alone in his office. He looks ashen and somewhat shell shocked as he struggles to come to terms with what he has just seen.

57 INT. CANDY'S HOUSE. KITCHEN. DAY 15 57
Candy is sitting on the kitchen work surface, as Ruth makes herself some toast, and George is sitting down reading the paper.
Candy jumps off the work surface and goes and sits down by George. She is unsettled and after the briefest of moments, she's up again, and off upstairs.
Ruth looks at George and shakes her head.

58 OMITTED 58

59 INT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. CLASS ROOM. DAY 15 59
Geography class. The boys listen to the teacher reading. Kyle is lonely.

60 INT. CANDY'S HOUSE. HALL. DAY 15 60
Candy has prepared a Kyle's favorite tea...chicken kiev's and chips! She sees Kyle hears the front door opening and excitedly puts the tea on the table. Kyle comes in, wearing his school uniform. He looks at her before heading straight upstairs. We are left on Candy's disappointed face.

61

INT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. RAQUETS COURT. DAY 16

61

Kyle is watching boys playing racquets. Dom is playing. He shouts up.

DOM

So how do you like it here, Chav?

KYLE

I don't. Next question?

DOM

How lonely is your one brain cell?

Some boys laugh. Others don't get involved. Kyle heads out.

62

EXT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. PUBLIC SCHOOL. DAY 16

62

Kyle has climbed a tree and is sitting up it. Anthony walks past.

ANTHONY

How you doing, Kyle?

KYLE

Yeah.

ANTHONY

Tilt your head back and look at the sky.

KYLE

Why?

ANTHONY

Because what ever problems you think you've got...you look up at the sky, and they'll seem...small in comparison.

Kyle tilts his head back and looks up at the sky.

KYLE

(looking at the vastness of the sky)

Whenever I look at the sky, I think...if you go up and up and up...where does the world end? Is there an end? It can't go on for ever, can it? So there must be an end, and if there's an end...

(looking back down at Anthony)

(MORE)

KYLE (cont'd)

...then I have to shake my head
at the bigness of everything.

We see Kyle and Anthony both looking up at the sky. In the distance we see Olivia watching them.

63 INT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. CLASS ROOM. DAY 16

63

Maths. Simultaneous equations. Kyle is staring hard at the board, but none of it makes complete sense to him. We see Dom turn and smirk.

CHARLES VO

I'm just worried this isn't
really about the child.

64 EXT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. DROP OFF/PICK UP. DAY 16

64

Godfrey and Charles are walking across the quad.

GODFREY

What d'you mean? What on earth
else is it about?

CHARLES

Oh nothing. Forget I even said
anything. It's just one can't
help wondering whether this is
more about Anthony, than any
educational philosophy he might
hold.

GODFERY

Don't talk such bunkum.

Charles tries to smile. Godfrey shakes his head.

65 EXT. CLAMPMEAD BRIDGE. DAY 16

65

Kyle and Eileen are looking over the bridge. Silence.

EILEEN

I wish we could have stayed at
juniors for always. Don't you?

Kyle shrugs.

66 INT. OFFICE. NIGHT 16

66

Candy is spraying and polishing. We see Lin emptying bins. There seems to be a distance between them.

67

INT. CANDY'S HOUSE. KYLE'S BEDROOM. DAY 17

67

Early morning. Kyle is at the kitchen table, eating Weetabix whilst clearly struggling over homework. Candy, who has just returned from work, comes in.

CANDY

Shall I wake up George and get him to come and help?

KYLE

He's not going to know what simultaneous equations are, is he? He's thick like me.

CANDY

Were you listening in class?

KYLE

I don't understand any of it. Any lesson. It's all...why have you made me go to that school, mum?

CANDY

Because...you're brilliant.

KYLE

Then how comes I don't understand what they're going on about half the time?

Kyle drops his head onto the table. We see the agony on Candy's face.

CANDY

(hugging him from behind)

Never give up, Kyle. You never give up, and you'll see.

Kyle looks up at his mum who is bursting with passion.

KYLE

But they're all so...rich!

CANDY

That's alright, isn't it?

KYLE

'Cept I feel like a rag arse pauper when they're giving it plenty about ipods and xboxes when all I got is George's moody MP3 player...that don't work but I haven't dare tell him.

Candy takes this in.

68

INT. HALTHAM COLLEGE CLASS ROOM. DAY 17

68

A physics class for year 7's, (11-12 year olds). There are about ten boys in the class and it is very ordered.

We see Kyle sitting at the back of the class in his new, smart school uniform. He doesn't look at ease or happy as the teacher, Charles, writes something on the board.

CHARLES

So, what happens to a moving object if the forces on it are balanced?

She looks around at the sea of hands. Kyle's hand is not up.

CHARLES

Thomas?

THOMAS

It keeps moving.

CHARLES

And what happens to a moving object if the forces on it are unbalanced?

He looks around at the sea of hands. Kyle stares ahead, no hand raised.

CHARLES

Dom?

DOM

Does it stop?

CHARLES

No. Kyle Jerome?

KYLE

It speeds up in the direction of the unbalanced force.

Charles is clearly taken aback. In a funny sort of way, so is Kyle, having got it right. Dom glares at him.

69

INT. ANTHONY & OLIVIA'S APARTMENT. SITTING ROOM. DAY 17 69

Anthony is sitting behind his desk. Olivia is there.

Olivia heads off. Anthony watches her go. After a moment, the phone in Olivia's bag sounds a text coming through. Anthony thinks for a moment before getting up and picking up her phone. There is a moment where he struggles with his conscience...should he read it. He decides to. He sees the text is from Charles and he reads it.

"I've got a free period. Meet me in chapel?" Anthony thinks for a moment before pressing reply and typing..."I'm coming over now. Take your shirt off."

70 INT. HALTHAM COLLEGE PUBLIC SCHOOL. CHAPEL. DAY 17 70

Charles is in the chapel. There is a knock at the door. Charles quickly starts to unbutton his shirt as Anthony comes in.

ANTHONY

Oh?

CHARLES

(quickly readjusting and thinking quickly)

Sorry, bloody fly...bug...went down my top. Gone now. Thought it was a wasp.

ANTHONY

Did you know the common wasp...*Vespula vulgaris*... will attempt to invade honeybee nests to steal their honey?

Before Charles can react, Anthony disappears. His fears confirmed.

71 EXT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. DROP OFF/PICK UP NIGHT 17 71

End of the day and Kyle is heading out of the school. Dom follows him and out to the pick up/drop off/visitors parking area.

DOM

I suppose you're off to steal from the lockers?!

KYLE

Yeah that's right mate. 'Cept I don't want nothing you've got!

DOM

Is it true your mother's a prostitute?

Kyle glares at him.

DOM
And that's how she's able to pay
your school fees?

KYLE
Shut up.

DOM
I guess your father was her pimp,
yes?

After a moment, Kyle takes out a coin.

KYLE
Heads or tails?

DOM
(lost)
What are you going on about?

KYLE
Heads or tails?

DOM
Heads.

Kyle flicks the coin high. As Dom tilts his head up to watch the coin, Kyle takes the opportunity to thump him on his exposed jaw.

KYLE
Good night.

Triumphantly, Kyle heads out of school, unaware his pencil case has fallen out of his pocket.

Charles has seen this. He is observing from a little way off.

Dom composes himself, sees Kyle disappearing out of school and scampers off.

Charles heads towards the scene and picks up Kyle's pencil case. He takes out a compass.

He checks about carefully before embedding the compass viciously into the side of the car, several times. Godfrey comes hurrying outside.

GODFREY
Is everything alright, Charles?

CHARLES
Not really, I'm afraid, Godfrey.
It would appear our errant knave
has taken his anger out on my
car.

Charles extracts the compass and holds it aloft as if evidence for Godfrey.

CHARLES
Just seen him running off.

GODFREY
Well, we can't have that! I shall have to talk to Anthony.

Charles looks at Godfrey and shrugs.

72 OMITTED

72

73 EXT. GARAGE. NIGHT. 17

73

Kyle and half a dozen or so friends, are on the roofs of the garages. There is a locked garage, and the kids are attempting to break in, by bashing a hole in the roof. Eileen is with them.

TREVOR
Pass me that brick.

Trevor gets handed the brick and starts to bash it down on the roof, trying to make a hole.

TREVOR

(continuing to bash a
hole)

If there's a car in here, I'll be able to get it started. You won't grass on us, will you Kyle?

KYLE

What you saying that for?

TREVOR

Well, now you're a geek, we can't tell what you'll do, eh Milan?

Milan sniggers. Kyle is none too happy.

MILAN

Shall I go get my grand-dad's axe?

TREVOR

He's got an axe?

MILAN

(with a shrug)
Just in case.

TREVOR

Go on then.

Milan starts to scamper off the roof.

74

INT. OFFICE. NIGHT 17

74

Night. CANDY is emptying bins. She is working industriously and diligently.

We see Lin looking at her. CANDY senses she's looking at her differently, but carries on with her work.

LIN

(eventually)

Someone reckons it's cos you don't want him going round with black people.

CANDY

(stunned and hurt)

Well that's crap. He's mixed race himself!

LIN

And maybe you like the white half
best.

CANDY gets on with her work. She can bite her tongue no longer.

CANDY

So I should just let him...waste
his life away and end up in
prison, yeah?

LIN

So everybody on the Clampmead
ends up in prison, do they?

CANDY

Maybe I should risk my son, for
you, eh Lin? That'd be being a
good mum, eh?! At the moment he's
only flobbing into cars from the
bridge...what happens when he
lobs a lump of concrete over and
kills someone?

LIN

Well why don't you go and move
into the middle of a field then?
Build a great big wall all around
yourself, so you won't have to be
contaminated by any of us lot
from the Clampmead!

CANDY, frustrated, heads off.

75

EXT. GARAGE. NIGHT 17

75

The kids are still on the roof of the garages. Kyle has the axe and is swinging it madly down onto the roof, and has successfully made a large hole. He swings the axe with frenzy as if purging himself. When the hole's big enough, they all dive down to look in through the hole.

76

INT. GARAGE. NIGHT 17

76

The garage is empty save old newspapers and rats. We look up and see the disappointed faces of the youngsters looking down in through the hole.

(We hear celestial singing.)

77

INT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. CHAPEL. DAY 18

77

Anthony is at the back of the chapel listening to the school choir and watching Olivia conduct.

Charles and Godfrey come into the chapel and sit next to Anthony.

CHARLES
(whispers)
I don't need this.

Charles hands back a cheque to Anthony.

ANTHONY
For the damage to your car.

CHARLES
It's insured.

Anthony won't take the cheque. Charles rips it in half and puts it in Anthony's pocket.

CHARLES
He has apparently abandoned his studies for another afternoon.

ANTHONY
Has he?

CHARLES
Other members of staff were rather insensitively muttering about your 'feral child'.

Anthony gives a little shake of the head.

GODFREY
I just hope for your sake you haven't over stepped the mark, Anthony.

Anthony looks at Godfrey as the choir sing. Godfrey goes. Charles rests a reassuring hand on Anthony's shoulder. Anthony freezes and all but glares at it.

CHARLES
Go and see the mother and let's draw this farce to a close.
(half beat)
It's only a walnut whip after all, Anthony.

Anthony glares at Charles. Charles gets up and goes.

78

EXT. SHOP. STREET. DAY 18

78

CANDY and Kyle are walking down the road towards the little Primo Saver shop. Kyle has his Haltham uniform on, much to his embarrassment.

CANDY

If you throw the towel in now,
you'll regret it for ever.
Because you'll never know.

Kyle heads on towards the shop. He sees Grampy George outside with Mr Patel who is barring his way.

GEORGE

He's bloody barred us! The whole family! Reckon's Kyle nicked his axe or some such nonsense.

George starts to dance like a boxer.

GEORGE

Someone better tell him who he's messing with!

79

EXT. SHOP/INT CAR. DAY 18

79

Anthony is driving along.

80

EXT. SHOP. DAY 18

80

Candy, George and Kyle are shoo-ed away from the shop. Mr Patel stands blocking the doorway as he shoo's.

MR PATEL

Get off my pavement.

Some kids, (on their way home from Clampmead School), and a few mums have gathered to watch.

MR PATEL

This bit is my pavement!

GEORGE

No it aint! It's council!

Milan comes out with his mum, Sue, and brothers and attempt to drag old Mr Patel back inside the shop.

MILAN

Get inside, grand-dad.

MR PATEL
(pushing Candy)
Off my pavement.

CANDY
No. I'm staying on the pavement.
What you going to do about
it...axe me to death?

MR PATEL
How can I, when that bloody thief
has got my axe!

A couple of kids try to get past and into the shop.

MR PATEL
One bloody school kid only! Read
the sign. And everybody off my
pavement, now!

Mr Patel tries his damndest to shove everybody off the pavement outside his shop, but the more he does this, the more people provocatively stand on it. CANDY makes a real show of standing and dancing on it.

Mr Patel attempts to brush people off the pavement with his broom.

81 EXT. SHOP/INT CAR. DAY 18

81

Anthony is driving along. He sees the kurfuffle outside the shop, and sees Candy dancing like a mad woman on the pavement.

Candy sees him, and is clearly embarrassed. She grabs Kyle and they head off down the road.

82 EXT. SHOP. DAY 18

82

CANDY, with Kyle in tow, head off down the road at a lick, back towards their house. Anthony follows them in his car.

ANTHONY
(calling out through the
window)
We need to have a chat about the
damaged car, don't we, Kyle?

CANDY
What damaged car?

ANTHONY
Kyle damaged a car.

KYLE
No I never.

ANTHONY
You were seen, Kyle.

CANDY
(snaps)
Do you have to follow me like
that?! You look like a kerb
crawler.

Anthony stops the car. CANDY doesn't break step, so Anthony is forced to jog down the road after them. Anthony catches up with them and they stop talking.

ANTHONY
Pretty stupid thing to do, wasn't
it, Kyle?

KYLE
What?

ANTHONY
Oh, so now we have five minutes
of 'who guv, what guv, me guv?'
do we?

CANDY
Listen, twat head...

ANTHONY
No, you listen...for once! It
doesn't seem to matter how much
we bend over to help...

Before Candy can explode, they become aware of Eileen hurrying towards them with a bird cage.

EILEEN
(pointing at the large
over head power cables
that are all around the
estate)
There's just been a big thing on
the tele about them.

CANDY
What?!

EILEEN
They make us stupid.

CANDY
Eileen...?

EILEEN

It was on the tele. And we get cancer. My house is right underneath, so definitely the budgie's moving in with you, Kyle. If they can do that to humans, imagine what they can do to budgies.

She hands the cage to Kyle. CANDY shakes her head, Anthony is completely lost.

CANDY

(serious, to Anthony)
Just cos we come from the Clampmead, don't make us all bad.

Suddenly Anthony's car screeches past, with Trevor behind the wheel, whooping with joy and shouting abuse out of the window at them.

CANDY

Although he is.

Candy walks on.

83

INT. CANDY'S HOUSE. LIVING. DAY 18

83

Anthony is sitting down in the sitting room on his own. He looks around. Candy comes in.

CANDY

Me and you need to get a few things straight...

ANTHONY

Yes, firstly you need to get your head out of the sand and realise...

CANDY

You're the one with your head up your arse, chum!

We get a glimpse of Kyle sitting on the stairs listening.

ANTHONY

Is that what you think, is it? Kyle's let me down badly, and your defending him is condoning his bloody awful behaviour.

CANDY

And what 'awful behaviour' are you referring to?

ANTHONY

(glaring at her)

You don't think I've rather put
my neck on the line for you?!

CANDY

No mate! I think Kyle passed your
test and you rather wanted him at
your school.

Kyle comes into the room and looks at Anthony.

KYLE

(calmly and chillingly
quiet)

Why should I bother with lying
about a bit of damage to a car?
And if that physics teacher says
he saw me doing it, he's the liar
I'm afraid.

Anthony and Kyle look into each others eyes.

ANTHONY

(troubled and unsure
about what he says)

So why would 'that physics
teacher' make it up?

Kyle shrugs and goes upstairs again. Candy and Anthony
stare at each other...and there is a feeling of calm after
the storm.

CANDY

You see Kyle as...different, and
that's not right.

Anthony gets up and heads out.

Anthony emerges from the house. He looks around, lost,
trying to determine which way he should go. After a moment
he heads off with purpose. Before changing his mind and
walking in the opposite direction. As he does, a car comes
shooting towards him and rams on it's brakes. He suddenly
realises it's his own car, with george behind the wheel.

GEORGE

(leaning out of the
window)

Never nick from a nicker!

George throws the ignition keys to a stunned Anthony.

86 OMITTED

86

87 INT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. ANTHONY'S OFFICE. DAY 18

87

Anthony is sitting behind his desk. Dom stands in front of him. Charles stands by the door. Angela is busy in the background.

ANTHONY

I understood you were there when
Kyle damaged the car?

CHARLES

Yes.

DOM

No sir. That's what I'm saying.

CHARLES

Or are you just defending a chum
because you don't wish to be seen
as a snitch?

DOM

I don't even like him, sir. We
were fighting, his pencil case
fell out of his pocket. That's
the only reason it was there by
the car...Kyle had gone...and I
was the only one there.

CHARLES

I know what I saw! Anthony, this
is ridiculous...

Anthony doesn't look up at Charles but keeps his eyes fixed on Dom. This infuriates Charles.

ANTHONY

(to Dom)

If you were the only one there,
are you saying it was you?

DOM

It wasn't me. But it wasn't Kyle either. You always taught me to tell the truth, and I've told it now. So it's up to you.

Anthony can see he is passionate and honest. Anthony looks at Charles, who is squirming.

88 EXT. CANDY'S HOUSE. CLAMPMEAD ESTATE/INT. BURNT OUT CAR. 88
DAY 18

Kyle and Eileen are in the car.

EILEEN

Pie tonight. For my tea.

KYLE

With chips?

EILEEN

Potatoes and gravy.

Kyle looks in his rear view mirror, sees Anthony's car parking up, and Anthony getting out. Kyle gets out of the car. Anthony sees him.

ANTHONY

Hello Kyle.

KYLE

I'm excluded so I don't have to say hello back.

ANTHONY

I owe you an apology. And your mother. Is she in?

Kyle points to his nan's house, next door to his, where there is a balloon tied to the open front door. Anthony heads towards the house.

89 EXT. THE GREEN. DAY 18

89

In the small back garden, seemingly hundreds of friends have gathered for Ruth's birthday. A bouncy castle takes up most of the space. A barbecue has been assembled near the house and smoke rises.

George and Ruth are dancing to the music that blasts out of the open windows of the house.

GEORGE

Fifty years and nine months ago
today...your mother raped me!
(genuflecting)
God rest her soul!

RUTH

I don't look fifty though. I look
about twenty.

GEORGE

Me an all. Twenty three tops.

RUTH

(nodding to Candy)
She looks older than both of us!

They laugh and watch as Anthony comes round the corner and sees Candy. Anthony hurries to her with his planned speech in his head.

ANTHONY

(rueful and humbled)
I know it wasn't Kyle...who
damaged the car. I'm sorry I
didn't listen to you in the first
place. Please accept my
sincere...

CANDY

(stopping him mid flow)
And the humiliation is complete!
Strip me off, roll me in custard
and get the entire world to throw
rotting fish entrails at me.
Nothing could be worse than you
witnessing one of my mothers
barbeques!

ANTHONY

I've come to say sorry.

CANDY

You've come to say what?

ANTHONY

Sorry.

CANDY

And that makes everything
alright, does it? You falsely
accuse my son...

ANTHONY

You're right. I've made a fundamental error. It is inexcusable.

CANDY

Too right, mate.

Candy stares at him. He looks back, feeling the shame. Ruth arrives and thrusts a tin of lager into his hand.

RUTH

There y're mate. A tin of wife-beater! Let's get on it!

Ruth is whisked away by her sisters.

ANTHONY

Shall I stay for a drink, or...

Candy shrugs. Anthony nods thinking she wants him to go, and starts to head off.

CANDY

Mind you, you have seen me doing my war dance outside Primo Saver.

ANTHONY

(turning back)
That's true.

CANDY

How did it look?

ANTHONY

Personally, I'd prefer to be stripped naked, rolled in custard...

CANDY

Yeah, alright mate!

90 EXT. CANDY'S HOUSE. CLAMPMEAD ESTATE/INT. BURNT OUT CAR. 90
DAY 18

Kyle and Eileen are still in the car.

A stolen car speeds onto the estate. Kyle looks and sees Trevor and another couple of his friends are in it. They screech to a halt and open the back door. Kyle gets out.

TREVOR

Get in.

KYLE

Where you going?

TREVOR
He hasn't pulled the shutter's
down on the offie.

KYLE
Eh?

TREVOR
We're gonna ram raid it. Get it!

KYLE
I got my nan's...

TREVOR
(aggressively)
Get in, you pussy!

Kyle, clearly reluctantly, gets in. They speed off. Eileen is left on her own.

91 EXT. RUTH'S HOUSE.

91

We return to the party...

ANTHONY
My school needs boys like Kyle.
And parents like yourself.

CANDY
What am I like?

ANTHONY
I saw you on the local
news...hand on heart, I thought
you were a complete nightmare.

CANDY
That's charming, eh?

ANTHONY
However, I have come to see that
all your...shrill...noise, is
borne out of a love for your
child.

CANDY
Did you really see me on the
news?

Anthony nods.

CANDY
My mum says I made a complete tit
of myself and my grand-dad said
you could see my thong.

ANTHONY
Thong as in pants?

CANDY
No, as in th-ing a th-on.
Yes, of course thong as in pants.
What the hell other sort of thong
is there?

ANTHONY
Then yes, I saw your thong.

CANDY
And did I look little and fat
even though I was wearing my
heels?

ANTHONY
Yes.

CANDY
Steady. Don't get fresh!

Anthony almost smiles.

92 EXT. OFF LICENSE/INT. CAR. DAY 18

92

Trevor has pulled up a little way down the road to the
Primo Saver/off licence. He starts to rev the car.

TREVOR
Ready?

All the others nod and pull up their hoods. Kyle doesn't.

KYLE
We shouldn't do this...not
here...not to Milan's...

Just before Trevor shoots forward, Kyle opens the door and
gets out.

TREVOR
Where you going?

KYLE
We can't keep doing this, Trevor!
This is supposed to be...our
home!

Kyle walks off.

TREVOR
(shouting after him)
You come back here or you're
dead! Come back here, Kyle!!

Kyle doesn't turn back.

92A EXT. STREET. DAY 18

92A

Kyle is standing on the bridge looking down, thoughtfully.

93 EXT. THE GREEN. DAY 18

93

The party is in full swing. A few aunties are on the bouncy castle, clearly in drink, and taking great joy at flashing their knickers to the kids below who scream in horror.

We see Anthony and Candy eating charred burgers. George comes over with another tin of lager for Anthony.

GEORGE

Look at my girls, eh? Is it any wonder I turned to crime.

ANTHONY

I ought to be going.

GEORGE

She wants you to stay.

CANDY

Only cos I need you to help Kyle with his Latin translation.

GEORGE

And...she thinks you're bunk up material.

Candy looks ashen - she can not believe what George has just said.

CANDY

(shamed)

George, I wonder if you could do us all a favour and...

She whispers something in his ear.

GEORGE

Fair play.

George goes.

ANTHONY

Two questions, if you want me to help Kyle with his Latin, does this mean he's coming back to school?

Candy nods.

ANTHONY

And...what's bunk up material?

Anthony looks at her, trying to remain expressionless.

Suddenly Ruth and her sisters grab Anthony and force him up onto the bouncy castle. Ruth's three sisters hold Anthony and they all bounce him madly.

Kyle arrives in the garden, looking sweaty and dishevelled. He heads across to his mum and hugs her, before he notices Anthony, somewhat reluctantly being forced to wildly bounce.

KYLE

Has Grampy George been giving him
wife beater?

Candy nods.

95

EXT. THE GREEN. DAY 18

95

Candy and a dishevelled Anthony are sitting outside on garden furniture. The party goes on around them but they have found a quietish corner.

CANDY

How long you been married?

ANTHONY

Nearly ten years.

CANDY

So how comes you haven't got any kids?

ANTHONY

Too busy.

Anthony tries to smile.

ANTHONY

There are only so many hours in the day.

CANDY

You went to boarding school, right?

ANTHONY

I was sent away at seven.

CANDY

You see...I think that's odd. What kind of mum did you have?

ANTHONY

She wasn't exactly a loving mother like you.

CANDY

I dunno about that.

ANTHONY

You see I don't think it would be a disaster if Kyle boarded.

CANDY

Shut uppa your face!

ANTHONY

I mean it actually. Boarding would give him a chance to really focus on his studies, without...

CANDY

Me?!

ANTHONY

He'll always have you. And that
makes him one of the lucky ones.
Boarding can be like having two
families.

CANDY

Boarding?! What Kyle, my Kyle?
Fitting in with that lot?

ANTHONY

They're not all filthy rich. Some
of them are...

Candy gives him a look of 'pull the other one'...then takes
his hand and leads him off.

96

EXT. PARK. DAY. 18

96

Anthony and Candy are walking along.

ANTHONY

(after a moment)

I guess in a funny kind of way
I'm still boarding! It taught me
to build a wall around myself for
protection...and I'm not sure
that's good. If you stop people
getting in to harm, you also stop
them getting in to...

Anthony pointedly stops talking. There is a moment between them.

97

EXT. CLAMPMEAD ACADEMY. DAY 18

97

The place is deserted, but still manages to look desolate.

Anthony and Candy stand looking at the somewhat dilapidated buildings.

CANDY

(pointing)

That was my form room. The one
with the broken window.

ANTHONY

When a window gets broken and you
replace it immediately, no more
windows get broken. You leave it,
and eventually all windows get
broken.

CANDY

You got a little expression for
all occasions, haven't you? I'll
show you smokers corner.

She takes his arm and starts to steer him round the side of the building.

CANDY

(looking around)

Can you see why I didn't want
Kyle to come here?

ANTHONY

(nodding)

But it's a shame, isn't it?

CANDY

While good teachers like you keep
going to work in good schools
like yours, shit holes like this
are going to get worst and worst.

Anthony lets this sink in as Candy leads him round the side of the school.

CANDY

(pointing to the bike
sheds)

And there...was where Darren
Keilly titted me up and I bit his
ear'ole.

ANTHONY

Memories, eh?

She smiles and she turns and looks at him. There is a moment between them.

Candy hugs him. There is a moment when it looks like they might kiss. Anthony defuses the moment by kissing her nose and turning away. She knows he bottled out.

97A INT. ANTHONY & OLIVIA'S APARTMENT. BEDROOM NIGHT 17 97A

Anthony is reading, Olivia is texting.

OLIVIA

It doesn't recognise 'Dioralite'.

ANTHONY

(flatly)

Oh.

OLIVIA

I've got a friend who's had a few drinks, and I'm advising them to take a Dioralite before they go to bed.

ANTHONY

Let them suffer.

OLIVIA

What do you mean by that?

ANTHONY

(looking at her
pointedly)

You make your own bed, you lie in it.

After a significant beat Anthony returns his attention to his book.

98 INT. CANDY'S HOUSE. KYLE'S BEDROOM. NIGHT 18 98

Kyle is getting into bed. Candy is with him.

CANDY
He thinks you should board.

Kyle nods. Candy stares at him.

KYLE
I can't give it my best shot, can I? Not if I'm coming back here and getting up to stupidness.

CANDY
But how do I...what do I do without you?

KYLE
I'm nearly twelve.

CANDY
That's not old.

KYLE
But it's not young either.

Candy hugs Kyle.

99

EXT. CLAMPMEAD ESTATE/INT. CAR. DAY 19

99

Candy and George are in the burnt out car. George is wearing his drivers gloves.

GEORGE

What you mean he just kissed your schnoz?!

CANDY

He was nervous. He's only...forty four. But he's 44 in posh years...that's only about 11 in common years.

GEORGE

You wanna watch the posh ones.

Candy touches George's hand.

CANDY

Me and you can look after each other from now on, eh, Gramps?

George nods. They are both trying to be brave.

100

INT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. DORM. DAY 19

100

Anthony and Kyle are in the dorm, looking around.

ANTHONY

This will be your bed, Kyle. If that's okay?

KYLE

I am gonna give it a right go here, sir.

ANTHONY

Good. And I'm going to give
it...a right go too.

Anthony smiles. Kyle notices Dom lying on his bed.

101 INT. CANDY'S HOUSE. KYLE'S BEDROOM. DAY 19 101

Candy is in Kyle's bedroom, lying on the bed, looking up at
the ceiling, thoughtfully.

102 OMITTED 102

103 OMITTED 103

104 INT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. CLASS ROOM. DAY 20 104

Anthony is taking a history lesson. We see Kyle's hand shooting in the air to answer a question.

105 INT. PETROL STATION. DAY 20 105

Candy is working hard at her second job.

106 INT. HALTHAM COLLEGE RAQUETS COURT. DAY 20 106

Kyle and Dom are practicing racquets.

DOM
well played.

Kyle's phone rings. He sees it is his mum and presses 'reject'.

107 INT. PETROL STATION. DAY 20 107

An exhausted looking Candy is sorting the sweets out on the shelves, when the door opens and Anthony comes in.

ANTHONY
Hello stranger!

CANDY
You haven't left your keys in the ignition? You know what they're like round here!

ANTHONY
Once bitten, twice shy.

They both look at each other, neither sure what to say.

ANTHONY
Kyle said you were working here...and as I was passing...

CANDY
(whispers)
It's cheaper up Tesco's...the fuel.

ANTHONY
I know. I'm not filling up...just thought I'd pop by to say hello.

CANDY

Trying to get a bit of extra
money so Kyle can...you
know...have all the things...

ANTHONY

Don't work too hard.

CANDY

All work and no play make Candy
even duller!

ANTHONY

You're hardly dull.

Anthony attempts to put a friendly arm on Candy's shoulder.
Candy quickly tidies the shelves.

CANDY

How's Kyle? I haven't heard from
him for a couple of days.

ANTHONY

Fine.

CANDY

I think he's a bit embarrassed of
me. And who can blame him? What
must I look like waddling around
school in my Esso apron?!

ANTHONY

Kyle's gone up a maths set!

Candy looks delighted.

CANDY

Tell him how proud I am. And tell
him...tell him to call me if he's
not too busy.

ANTHONY

So, how are you?

CANDY

Me? Yeah, good. You?

ANTHONY

I've actually missed your dulcet
tones around the place.

CANDY

I miss you too.

Candy suddenly looks mortified at what she's said. She
wants the ground to open up and swallow her.

Anthony also blushes. They stand there in silence, making it even more agonising for Candy. A customer comes in.

CUSTOMER

Pump three and some numpty's
blocking the exit.

Anthony looks out of the window and realises he's the 'numpty'. He scurries out to move his car.

108 INT. HALTHAM COLLEGE TBC. DAY 21

108

Kyle is opening a present. It is an Ipod from his mum. He puts it to one side and carries on with his homework. Anthony comes up behind him and looks over his shoulder.

ANTHONY

Submitted a poem yet, Kyle?

KYLE

No point.

ANTHONY

Every point. Give it a go. All anonymous so no need to feel embarrassed about sticking your pen in your heart.

Kyle gives a little shake of the head. Anthony starts to head off but walks into Charles.

CHARLES

(nodding to Kyle)

You've lost your walnut whip but
in your usual way, you're
clinging on for dear life.

ANTHONY

I haven't lost the bet yet,
Charles.

Anthony walks off leaving Charles smiling after him.

109 OMITTED

109

110 INT. CANDY'S HOUSE. KYLE'S BEDROOM. DAY 21

110

Candy is in Kyle's bedroom. There is no-one there to wake up this morning. She looks around and sees the budgie in its cage. She opens up its door to let him have a fly around the room. She lies down and Kyle's bed and watches it fly around.

111 INT. CANDY'S HOUSE. HALL/LIVING. DAY 21

111

Candy is coming down the stairs in her Primark ballgown. George is coming in through the door. He is holding a bunch of flowers.

CANDY

What you doing here?

GEORGE

Anthony sent these flowers for you so I thought I'd bring them over.

Candy looks gob smacked.

CANDY

Did he?!

GEORGE

Only joking. But hear the excitement in your voice!

CANDY

He completely isn't my type.

GEORGE

I bought them flowers to tell you I'm a bit proud of you.

He hands her the flowers.

CANDY

Did you get them from my garage?

GEORGE

Yes.

CANDY

Did you pay for them?

GEORGE

Of course I did!

(half beat)

You told me it's all CCTV-ed up so I got no bleeding choice.

CANDY

Do I look alright?

GEORGE

Why you so bothered about what you look like if you don't fancy him?

We see Candy, looking slightly embarrassed.

GEORGE

Anyway, first date, no more than
having your tits felt!

CANDY

It's not a date it's a 'new
parents supper'...so I doubt
there'll be an opportunity for
him to have a go on my boobs.

GEORGE

You never know with teachers.

CANDY

(blurting out as she
heads into the sitting
room)

Lin's send me to Coventry.

GEORGE

(following her in)

I wish I'd had the opportunity
you're giving Kyle, I wish I'd
give your mother the opportunity,
I wish she'd give you the
opportunity...

CANDY

I'm just...so lonely.

Candy looks like she might cry. George holds her.

GEORGE

(voice breaking)

Me too.

They cling onto each other.

112

INT. HALTHAM COLLEGE PUBLIC SCHOOL. FUNCTION ROOM.
NIGHT 21

112

A casual supper for new parents. A couple of dozen or so
are sitting round a table...all in smart casual, apart from
Candy who has turned up in a Primark ball-gown.

MRS FILLS

Are you going away for Christmas?

CANDY

We're staying in doors.

MRS FILLS

Not ski-ing?

CANDY

I get vertigo on me bike, so I
wouldn't thank you for standing
on the top of a mountain and
slipping down.

MRS FILLS

Oh!

Mrs Willoughby leans over to join in for a moment.

CANDY

(turning back to Mrs
Fills)

And I'm working Christmas eve.

MRS FILLS

What do you do?

CANDY

I'm in the petroleum industry.

Some boys come in to take away the plates. Kyle is amongst them. Candy is desperate for him to look at her and smile, but he keeps his head down.

CANDY

That's my boy. And I love him.

MRS FILLS

(pointing to student)

That's mine...and he's a bit of a
shit. He's all distraught because
I happen to have a love life.

CANDY

Oh?

MRS FILLS

I don't see why it has to be
mothers that are made to feel
guilty.

Anthony and Olivia come in, arm in arm, carrying some more wine. They are warmly greeted. Mrs Fills smiles.

MRS FILLS

Hello Headmaster...and Mrs
Headmaster!

Candy scrutinizes Olivia.

ANTHONY

I think we have stumbled upon the
land of Bohemia!

Everyone laughs apart from Candy.

OLIVIA

Lovely to see you all again. Now
I've managed to purloin a couple
of rather fine reds from my
husbands extensive cellar.

ANTHONY

Not that extensive any
more...thanks to the new parents
supper.

People laugh and clap.

MRS FILLS

(to Candy)

She's awfully good value. Do you
know Olivia?

CANDY

(disappointed)

She's so...glamorous.

Candy picks at her dinner. Olivia working her way around
the table arrives beside Mrs Fills and Olivia.

OLIVIA

Lovely to see you again, Mrs
Fills.

MRS FILLS

We were just saying how well you
looked.

Olivia turns and smiles at Candy.

OLIVIA

(to Candy)

How well I look?! Nonsense, look
at you in your...special frock!

Olivia carries on around the table. Candy, feeling
embarrassed and over dressed, gets up and heads out. Olivia
stares after her.

Candy has nipped outside for a fag. She looks a little
tearful. Anthony arrives outside.

ANTHONY

Saw the smoke. Thought it must be
you!

CANDY

(snaps)

Oh did you!? None of you's lot
smoke, I suppose!

ANTHONY

I know it can't be easy for
you...

CANDY

Oh what with me being all poor
and from the Clampmead and that?

ANTHONY

I didn't mean...

CANDY

Maybe we don't all have perfect
lives with perfect little
families.

ANTHONY

Now don't start getting all
shrill again.

CANDY

You think this is shrill, wait
till I take off my stiletto and
have your eye out with it.

ANTHONY

(snapping back)

And because you're poor and from
the Clampmead, you think you're
the only one with problems? Maybe
my life's not as perfect as you
think!

CANDY

We're not your play things! Kyle
is who he is, I'm a cleaner and
petrol station assistant and
grandpa's a ex con!

ANTHONY

What's that got to do with
anything?!

CANDY

Cos your wife's so glamorous and
I can smell diesel on my hands
even after scrubbing them with
carbolic!

Candy walks away.

114 INT. HALTHAM COLLEGE DORM. NIGHT 21

114

Kyle is lying on his bed. Dom is lying on his.

KYLE

Could you believe what my mum was
wearing? She looked like the
fairy from the Christmas tree!

DOM

How far away are your family?

KYLE

Clampmead.
(this clearly means
nothing to Dom)
It's only a bus ride. What about
you?

DOM

Slightly complicated.

KYLE

Where you live?

DOM

My father's in Hong Kong...he's a
corporate lawyer, and my mother
lives in the South of France with
a property consultant.

KYLE

So where do you go?

DOM

Christmas my father's coming to
England and we're staying in a
hotel near Gatwick.

Kyle isn't sure what to say, so tries to smile.

115 OMITTED

115

116 INT. CANDY'S HOUSE. KITCHEN. DAY 22 116

Candy is in the kitchen in her dressing gown. George and Ruth are there. Candy is clearly a bear with a sore head, but George and Ruth haven't noticed yet.

CANDY

There's nothing to tell!

RUTH

I can't see any 'hickies' on her neck.

Candy thunders around getting her cereal out.

GEORGE

Here, I hope you didn't shame the good name of our family.

Ruth and George laugh.

116 A INT. HALTHEM COLLEGE PUBLIC SCHOOL. DORM. 116 A

Kyle is sitting quietly at his desk, working away at his poem. He screws up his piece of paper in frustration.

116 B INT. HALTHEM COLLEGE PUBLIC SCHOOL. CORRIDOR. 116 B

A large box, like a sort of ballot box, has been erected in the corridor. 'Michaelmas Poetry Competition' emblazoned on the front. We see boys posting their poems. From the far end of the corridor we see Anthony watching.

116 C INT. HALTHEM COLLEGE PUBLIC SCHOOL. DORM.

116 C

Kyle finishes his poem. He is clearly not sure about it, but after a moment, gets up and heads out with it.

116 D EXT. HALTHEM COLLEGE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

116 D

Kyle is walking across the quad. He passes Anthony.

KYLE

Yes sir.

ANTHONY

(puzzled)

Yes sir...what?

KYLE

I have entered the poetry competition...for what its worth.

ANTHONY

Have you phoned your mother?

KYLE

Have you?

Kyle walks off, Anthony watches him go.

116 E INT. HALTHEM COLLEGE PUBLIC SCHOOL. CLASS ROOM.

116 E

Anthony carries in the poetry competition box. Two English teachers (judges) are sitting at their desks and watch as Anthony breaks the seal on the box and empties the entered poems out.

ANTHONY

Good luck chaps, and may the best man win!

Anthony heads off. Suddenly seemingly out of the shadows, Charles emerges.

CHARLES

Oh of course, the poetry competition! Do you need a hand?

Charles comes over and peers at the entries.

CHARLES

(clearly disappointed)

Are they all typed!?

ANTHONY
(suddenly re-emerging)
Why of course Charles. We
wouldn't want anyone recognising
the hand writing, would we?

Anthony leaves.

117 INT. CHARLES' BEDROOM. DAY 22

117

Charles and Olivia are lying in bed, cuddling.

OLIVIA

God I love you. I just want to curl up small and live for ever in your chest hair.

CHARLES

(looking at her)
What a weird thing to say.

OLIVIA

I'm just...letting you know how much I love you. Again.

CHARLES

Oh yes. Ditto likewise.

OLIVIA

Wouldn't it be great if I could leave Anthony and we could be together for ever? Live in a cottage with cats and kids!

CHARLES

Yes, but as discussed, while Anthony's headmaster, that's impossible.

(kissing her head)
Shame really.

OLIVIA

He'll be headmaster for...eternity!

CHARLES

Well, yes. He's so...bloody perfect...never does anything other than by the book.

OLIVIA

I know something he didn't do by the book. His bursary boy. His surrogate son.

Charles looks at her.

CHARLES

What about him?

OLIVIA

Transposing the kids mark. Kyle
got 29% not 92%.

Charles can hardly believe his ears.

OLIVIA

Wouldn't you like me to curl up
really small and live for ever in
your chest hair?

CHARLES

(getting out of bed and
pulling on his clothes,
now distracted)

Yes yes. Whatever.

Olivia looks at him. Their post coital bliss moment,
broken.

118 EXT. HALTHAM COLLEGE QUAD NIGHT 23

118

The Michaelmas Function. The quad is lit by candle light and looks stunning. Tea-lights illuminate the paths and large, flame lights illuminate the buildings. A chorister soloist serenades the parents and dignitaries as they head towards the champagne reception in the function room.

Candy comes in, **she looks stunning, but vulnerable.** Anthony heads across to her. *

ANTHONY

Thanks for coming.

CANDY

I came for my son.

ANTHONY

Of course. Of course.

CANDY

Where is he?

ANTHONY

I've got him serving.

*

*

*

*

*

CANDY

(looking around)

It is pretty perfect in your
world, you can't odds that.

ANTHONY

Well I hate to shatter your
illusion but my life is far from
perfect.

CANDY

Wanna swap?

ANTHONY

Yes.

*

*

CANDY

I wish I'd brought my apron.

*

*

Candy notices Olivia all over Charles, somewhere in the
distance

*

*

ANTHONY

(blurting it out)

My wife's been having an affair
with my deputy but my sense of
duty means I say nothing, keep my
head down, and strive to make the
school... 'perfect.' It's all
pretend.

*

Candy looks stunned. Anthony is whisked off somewhere by a
parent.

*
*
*

119

INT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. FUNCTION ROOM. NIGHT 23

119

The rather splendid room is packed with parents, teachers
and dignitaries. Candy enters nervously. A few heads turn
and comment. Candy puts on a brave face, she searches the
room for Kyle amongst the several boys who are offering
round trays of champagne glasses.

*
*
*
*
*

Charles claps his hands twice.

*

CHARLES

Top table boys!

*
*
*

Anthony, who has been collared by a parent, extricates
himself and heads across to her, she is still looking for
Kyle.

*
*
*
*
*

CANDY

(nervously)

At Kyle's primary I was the
Father Christmas, and the whole
kit, including beard, cost me two
squid from Woolies.

*

ANTHONY

I bet you looked stunning.

CANDY

Taking the piss?

ANTHONY

A little.

CANDY

That's alright then. He's not
here. I wanted him to be proud of
me.

*
*
*

ANTHONY

He will be proud of you. Who
wouldn't?

*
*
*

We sense the tears welling up. Anthony sees her looking round at the other parents, who are indeed giving her little glances. Candy doesn't want to cry in front of the other parents and Anthony senses this. He puts his arm around her and steers her gently to the exit.

*
*
*
*
*

CHARLES

Do I not like that, Mr Godfrey.

GODFREY

What?

CHARLES

Oh nothing. It's probably quite innocent anyhow.

Charles smiles. Godfrey looks at Charles and Candy disappearing.

119 A EXT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. CORRIDOR. NIGHT 23

119 A *

As they come into the empty corridor, Candy tries to compose herself. They look into each others eyes. Anthony moves her fringe from her eyes. He kisses her on the cheek. She kisses him on the cheek back. Anthony moves forward and kisses her gently on the mouth.

*
*
*
*
*

120 INT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. ANTHONY'S OFFICE. NIGHT 23

120

Anthony opens the door and leads Candy in. Once inside, he holds her for all he is worth.

CANDY

I can't actually breathe.

ANTHONY
(loosening his grip
slightly)
Sorry.

CANDY
I'll forgive you.

He goes to kiss her, she responds but neither is sure which way to tilt their heads and their noses crash.

ANTHONY
Sorry.

CANDY
Come here.

She grabs him and kisses him, he responds hungrily, and they tumble onto the sofa, but he lands on her with a bit of a thump and causes her to cry out.

ANTHONY
Sorry.

CANDY
You're alright. You just winded
me, that's all.

ANTHONY
I'm a little out of practice.

CANDY
And there's me thinking you were
some kind of lounge lizard.

She has to hoist up her skirt to straddle him, and she kisses him again.

121 EXT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. QUAD. NIGHT 23

121

Charles emerges from the function room, clearly looking for Anthony and Candy.

122 INT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. ANTHONY'S OFFICE. NIGHT 23

122

Anthony and Candy are still in the same position, and still merely snogging on the sofa.

ANTHONY
I am permitted to tell you
that...I'm very fond of you?

CANDY

I know that, mate. I've known
that since you first set eyes on
me.

ANTHONY

Really?

CANDY

There's like this green ectoplasm
that dribbles out of a fella's
mouth whenever they fancy me. I'm
the only one who can see it...

Anthony stares at her before realising she is taking the mick. They kiss again. The passion increasing.

Unseen by them, the door pushes open and Charles looks in. He stares at them, aghast, before retreating into the corridor, pulling the door behind him. The noise of the door shutting causes Anthony to jump with a start.

ANTHONY

What was that.

CANDY

What?

The moment of passion is broken.

123

EXT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. QUAD. NIGHT 23

123

Charles is striding across the quad. A spring in his step. He hides when he sees Anthony emerging from his study building. Godfrey emerges from the function room and grabs Anthony.

GODFREY

There you are. Come on, I need
you.

And with this, he whisks Anthony back inside with him.

Charles re emerges and stands on his own, wondering what to. Candy emerges from the building housing Anthony's office.

CHARLES

Can I suggest, you gather your
son and go home.

CANDY

What you talking about, mate?

CHARLES
What I'm talking about is fraud!

CANDY
I aint a fraud.

CHARLES
It's theft! To pretend your son
has won a scholarship, you are
stealing the school fees.

CANDY
But he did win a scholarship.

CHARLES
But he didn't win a scholarship!

CANDY
(stunned)
He was chosen because...

CHARLES
...Of his lack of ability!
Anthony, in all his arrogance,
thought, 'give me any stupid
child and I will work my
miracles'.

Candy stares at him.

CHARLES
It was a bet.

CANDY
Shut up mate.

CHARLES
He had a bet he could get your
son to blend in here. A boy so
lacking in...anything. That was
the challenge.

CANDY
You're one sad bloke.

CHARLES
He bet me a walnut whip, that he
could turn your son from a street
yob, into a public school boy.
You didn't actually think he
liked you, did you?

Charles heads back into the function room. Candy is left on
her own.

Anthony is standing on the stage.

ANTHONY

As tradition dictates, the
Michaelmas Poetry Prize winner,
chosen by the English
department...will now recite his
winning poem.

Polite applause. The head of English hands Anthony an envelope. We see Candy coming in at the back.

ANTHONY

Ladies and gentlemen, this years
winning poem is entitled...
(opening the envelope
and reading)
'To see the sky'.

The camera pans around the sea of faces. We close in on Kyle who looks genuinely stunned.

ANTHONY

Could the poet kindly make
himself known.

A shocked but delighted Kyle steps forward to applause. Candy looks stunned. Kyle takes to the stage. Anthony beams and hands Kyle his poem. We see Charles looking sick.

ANTHONY

(encouraging)
Read it out, boy.

KYLE

This is dedicated to...my mum.

An 'ahhh' in the audience. Kyle looks at his mum and nods with significance.

KYLE

'Like flour through the fingers
whilst baking a cake, The snow
falls through the skeletal tree.
I lie on the frozen ground and
catch snow flakes with my eyes. I
am not crying, it's the snow
flakes. I close my eyes and see
my mother baking a cake. Her face
as warm as summer. It's my
birthday and I have no father. I
open my eyes and see the sky.
Without my mother I could not see
the sky. I would only be able to
see as far as my coffin lid.'

As Kyle performs, we travel around the faces in the hall, from Candy, to Anthony and Charles.

At the end, tremendous applause. When he knows Candy is watching them, Charles pointedly hands Anthony a walnut whip.

CHARLES

(whispers)

Well...you won the bet, fair and square, Anthony.

Anthony looks at him. Charles puts the walnut whip in Anthony's hand.

CHARLES

Maybe you could get your common tart to bite the top off for you!

Charles nods to Candy and gets Anthony to hold aloft the walnut whip for her to see. Anthony stares at Charles, the penny dropping.

Candy strides with purpose across to Anthony.

CANDY

(not softening her voice at all)

You horrible, horrible bloody horrible...man! You lied and cheated to win yourself a walnut whip!

Anthony looks a little taken aback. He allows himself a little glance at Charles before trying to placate Candy.

ANTHONY

Candy...

CANDY

Don't you 'Candy' me, you snivelling little toad. You can stick as many knives in my heart as you want, it's been so badly damaged in the past it's beyond repair, but why lie and tell me my little Kyle's won a scholarship when he hasn't?! Just so you can 'win' again?

The row is now attracting a lot of attention.

ANTHONY

It wasn't like that.

CANDY

(screams)

It never is! You cheated my son's mark...and cop off with me...just to win a walnut whip!?

This last shriek has certainly attracted Godfrey's attention. Charles sidles across to him. All eyes are now on Candy.

CANDY

I'm common, you know that Headmaster. You want a grope, you only had to ask.

And with this, she moves towards the stage, grabs a mortified Kyle and heads out, as the throng part and stare at her in horror, as she goes.

CANDY

(turns to deliver her parting shot)

Look at this place...with all you holier than thou people with your silly bloody names for everything...your preps and tuckers and minors and majors! It's all bullshit...a tart in a tiara don't make her a princess...isn't that right, Mrs Headmaster?

Candy and Olivia make eye contact.

CANDY

Don't look at me like butter wouldn't melt. And as if I'm some dirty slag when all along it's you. Everytime Anthony's back's turned you're up Charles' apartment with your knickers round your ankles before anyone can say 'I'm the choir mistress don't you know.'

(turning back to the audience)

CANDY

Put crazy paving out there instead of that perfect lawn, and people won't think the school's as good! How sad's that? Everything's bullshit but you lot shut your eyes and keep your fingers in your ears, and the real world won't be able to touch you!

Candy goes. A general murmur builds up. We focus in on Charles and Godfrey.

GODFREY

What on earth has been going on,
Charles?

CHARLES

I'm not wholly sure?

GODFREY

This is no time to defend your
friend Charles.

Godfrey heads towards Anthony who has remained rooted to the spot.

GODFREY

I will be calling an extraordinary governors meeting tomorrow where I will need you to explain yourself, Anthony.

Anthony nods and heads out. Charles allows himself a little satisfied smile.

125 INT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. ANTHONY'S OFFICE. NIGHT 23

125

Anthony is sitting numbly on a chair.

126 INT. CANDY'S HOUSE. KYLE'S BEDROOM. NIGHT 23

126

Kyle is lying in bed. There is a knock at the door and Candy comes in.

She sits down on the bed and strokes his hair.

CANDY

I wish I'd just...listened to you.

KYLE

Am I going Clampmead now, mum?

Candy nods and starts to cry.

KYLE

What you crying for? I wanted to go to Clampmead in the first place.

CANDY

I've let you down badly.

KYLE

You haven't.

CANDY

(devastated)

I have, mate. I couldn't see!

(MORE)

CANDY (cont'd)
Cos I wanted it all to be right,
and...I wanted it to be right so
much...I made it all wrong!

KYLE
Nothing's wrong.

CANDY
I've made us a laughing stock.
They was all laughing at us when
we went there, and now they'll
all be laughing at us when we go
back to Clampmead with our tails
between our legs.

KYLE
Nobody's laughing, and if they
are, I don't even care, because I
know! I know what it's like
to...open that box and find
treasure.

Candy looks up at him, quizzically.

KYLE
Anthony might have cheated to get
me in, but when I got there, I
did okay, mum. I swear I done
okay. I won the bloody poetry
prize. Did you like the poem?

CANDY
Oh, mate! It was brilliant.

KYLE
It's the first thing I've ever
won.

He hugs his mum letting her know she's important. The door opens and George comes in.

GEORGE
Oi, family love ins, I'm invited!

George joins in with the hug.

127 OMITTED

127

128 INT. OFFICE. NIGHT 24

128

Candy is cleaning. Somewhere else in the building, we can hear office Christmas parties going on. We get glimpses of them through windows and doors, as Candy walks along with her hoover.

As she opens an office door, there are a couple on the sofa having sex.

As she shuts the door on them she hears the man say, "don't worry, it was only the cleaner."

Candy goes on her way.

129 INT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. ANTHONY'S APARTMENT. DAY 25 129

Anthony is dressed and is looking out of his window. ANGELA knocks on the door and steps inside.

ANGELA

Okay?

ANTHONY

Is the hangman ready, Angela?

(heading towards the
door)

Dead man walking.

He goes to leave but stops

ANTHONY

Thank you, Angela.

She links his arm and they head out.

130 INT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. OUTSIDE BOARD ROOM DAY 25 130

Anthony and Godfrey walk along the corridor.

GODFREY

I've spoken to the other
Governors, Anthony...we don't
want to let you go...we won't be
letting you go, Anthony...I'm
sure...but you can see...we need
to...

(as if secretly)
...all you've got to do is
apologise.

Godfrey winks and smiles to an expressionless Anthony.

131 OMITTED 131

132 INT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. FORMAL BOARD ROOM. DAY 25 132

A full Governors Meeting has been called, and the Governors sit around the large table. Anthony is there, and all eyes are on Godfrey as he stands and addresses the assembled.

GODFREY

Many thanks for your attendance,
fellow Governors...

GODFREY

I know how busy you all are
so...thank you once again. I have
spoken to you all individually,
we know why we're here. Anthony,
you know why we're here. We need
an explanation and an apology.

Anthony gets to his feet.

ANTHONY

I've spent my life at boarding
school. Never once have I thought
about what went on outside,
outside these four walls. That
was until I offered Kyle Jerome a
place. Initially a stupid selfish
act. I didn't even consider what
it might be like for Kyle, or, if
our pupils and teachers would be
happy to share their privileged
school with someone like him. I
am proud to say that the boys and
staff, on the whole, have been
magnificent. Boys like Kyle wont
dilute this school, they will
enhance it. I am going to say
sorry Godfrey, but not to you.
The only people I owe an apology
to are Kyle and his mother. Here
is my letter of resignation.

Anthony places the envelope in front of Godfrey and calmly
walks out of the room.

132 A INT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. CORRIDOR.

132 A

Charles has been ear-oling at the door. On hearing movement he quickly sits down on a chair. Anthony emerges. The two men stare at each other for the briefest of moments, before Anthony disappears. Godfrey calls Charles in.

132 B INT. HALTHAM COLLEGE PUBLIC SCHOOL.FORMAL BOARD ROOM. DAY 21 B

Charles comes into the room.

CHARLES

Last night I slept not a wink.
Never before has a man been so
wrongs. All I care about is the
school...our school. If an
innocent man needs to fall on his
sword, then I shall fall on my
sword, but...a woman has lied,
cast a slur on my character and
humiliated me beyond belief. I
put my hand on my heart and
declare...I have had no affair.

133 EXT. CLAMPMEAD ESTATE/INT. BURNT OUT CAR/RUTH'S HOUSE . 133
DAY 25

Kyle and Candy are in the car.

CANDY

I've been a crap mum, but I'll
try and be better.

Candy strokes the back of his head.

KYLE

You're not crap, mum. You never
have been. You talk crap, yes!

CANDY

I'm a helicopter...that's what
nanny reckons...always hovering
over you, never letting you...I
should have thought more about
you and not about me.

KYLE

You taught me I could do
anything. And so did Anthony.

CANDY

You can make it at Clampmead, you
know. You really could.

KYLE

I know. I can. And I will.

Anthony's car pulls up behind them. He gets out and
approaches them, and speaks to Candy through the broken
back window.

ANTHONY

I know. I know what you're going
to say.

Candy looks at him, somewhat sceptically.

ANTHONY

I was stupid...how everything
started. But I don't regret a
single thing.

CANDY

I want you to just...go quietly now, and stop...

We see Anthony's eyes well with tears. Ruth and George emerge from her house, arm in arm.

CANDY

Everything's a big, fat disappointment...

ANTHONY

(trying to explain)

It started off a...challenge.

CANDY

Bet! You can say 'bet'.

ANTHONY

Whatever it started up as...it ended up with...something else.

CANDY

I'll never like you. I could only ever hate you. I want you to go.

ANTHONY

You've changed...everything.

Kyle stares at Anthony.

KYLE

You taught me to look up at the sky, Anthony. But all along, you was only ever looking down at the gutter. We want you to go away, and leave our world in peace, mate!

Anthony starts to walk away. George goes up to him.

ANTHONY

(to George)

I ought to go.

GEORGE

And that's it, is it? That's all the fight you got in you?

Anthony gives a little shake of the head and gets into his car.

GEORGE

(leaning into Anthony's car)

So it was all bullshit, yeah?

(MORE)

GEORGE (cont'd)
Cos you want something bad
enough, you'll fight for it.

Anthony starts up the engine.

134 EXT. CLAMPMEAD ESTATE/INT. BURNT OUT CAR. DAY 25 134

We see Candy watching Anthony's car pull away from the estate. We see regret in her eyes. We see Kyle noticing it.

135 INT. ANTHONY'S & OLIVIA'S APARTMENT. SITTING ROOM. DAY 26 135

Anthony is taking certain books from the bookshelf and putting them into his bag.

Olivia watches him.

ANTHONY
I'm sorry...how it's all worked out.

OLIVIA
(bravely)
No worries.

ANTHONY
I've wasted your time.

OLIVIA
I guess I've wasted yours too.

ANTHONY
Look, if you and Charles...you know...you shouldn't waste any more time. I don't want you to think you owe me anything.

Olivia looks at this somewhat changed Anthony.

OLIVIA
Was it just a marriage of convenience?

ANTHONY

I thought we were a good pairing...professionally. I didn't think anything else particularly mattered.

OLIVIA

I thought I loved you...at the start.

ANTHONY

I didn't want it to end like this...but it has to, Olivia...and I so want you to be happy. You deserve a happiness I could never give you.

Anthony allows himself a little smile.

And with this, Anthony heads out.

136 EXT. HALTHAM COLLEGE QUAD. DAY 26

136

Dawn. The grass in the quad, capped with dew, looks perfect. Anthony emerges from his apartment and stands looking at the sweep of grass.

He sees Charles watching him from a window.

Anthony walks across the dewy grass for the first (and last) time. When he gets to the other side he looks back at the footprints scored in the dewy grass and smiles.

He disappears, and we are left looking at the footprints in the grass.

137 EXT. CLAMPMEAD ACADEMY. DAY 27

137

A large group of parents and pupils are gathered at the gates at the start of the day.

Candy and Kyle approach the gates. People turn and look at them. We see Lin and Mandy in the throng.

Their way appears to be blocked by angry faces.

Candy and Kyle, unperturbed, head towards the gates. The throng part, like the Red Sea.

Candy and Kyle walk in, heads held high.

Lin smiles and after a beat, claps her. A lone clap initially, but after a moment, others join in.

Candy and Kyle allow themselves a smile.

END CREDITS

Coda

138 EXT. CANDY'S HOUSE. CLAMPMEAD ESTATE. DAY 27

138

Candy and George are walking Kyle home from school. They are laughing and happy.

As they walk up the their front door, we notice Anthony sitting in his car outside their house. They seem to not notice.

139 INT. CANDY'S HOUSE. HALL. DAY 27

139

Candy, George and Kyle come in. Kyle heads into the kitchen with George.

Candy turns and looks at the car outside through the frosted glass, before sliding down the door with a huge smile on her face.

The End