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1

EXT. CLAMPMEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL. DAY 1

1

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.

1A

EXT. HALTHAM COLLEGE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

1A

Title Shots of Haltham

2

EXT. HALTHAM COLLEGE. QUAD. DAY 2

2

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.

17

INT. CANDY'S HOUSE. LIVING. DAY 2

17

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. Bagsie 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 flobbering, 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.  
DAY 11

44

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 flobbering 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.

84

EXT. CANDY'S HOUSE. CLAMPMEAD ESTATE. DAY 18

84

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.

85

OMITTED

85

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 barbeque 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'are 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.  
DAY 18

90

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-inging a th-ong.  
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 stupidity.

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 on 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  
wronged. 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