

T W O   B R O T H E R S  
P I C T U R E S

# BACK TO LIFE

By

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Episode 2  
"Mandy"

SHOOTING SCRIPT  
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1 EXT. SOUND MIRROR - DAY 1

Beautiful sunrise over the concrete sound mirror - imperious and alien on the cliff top.

We hear an old 999 Call.

CALL HANDLER (V.O.)  
Ambulance service?

A dog barks in the background of the call.

MALE 999 CALLER (V.O.)  
I'm at the beach. Below the... oh  
Christ.

2 EXT. MATTESON HOUSE - DAY 2

The house in the early morning light. Faint red stains of graffiti. We can still just make out the words. Fuck Off You Psycho.

CALL HANDLER (V.O.)  
Calm down sir and tell me what's  
happened.

MALE 999 CALLER (V.O.)  
Oh God. You have to send someone.

3 EXT. GARDEN - DAY 3

MIRI is on the swing on the tree at the end of the garden. In her pyjamas. Swinging. Deep in thought.

We're in her POV. As she swings up we see the morning light through the leaves. The old 999 call continues...

CALL HANDLER (V.O.)  
Try to breathe.

MALE 999 CALLER (V.O.)  
I can't go in. I can't swim.

Muffled breaths ramping up and up.

CALL HANDLER (V.O.)  
Are you still there?

Miri closes her eyes.

**TITLE CARD: BACK TO LIFE**

4 INT. MIRI'S BEDROOM - DAY 4

MIRI is now dressed for work in front of the mirror. An odd ensemble of her old nineties clothes and her mother's.

She hums Bananarama's 'Love In The First Degree' (or alternative track) very faintly.

Miri pulls down the corner of her top and we see the edge of an old scar under her collar bone.

It's small but pretty bad, round, like an old bite mark. She looks at it coldly, then covers it.

There's a photo of a TEEN MANDY on the floor. We PUSH IN on this.

5

**INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY**

5

We're now CLOSE on ADULT MANDY sitting in a doctor's office. A DOCTOR is taking her blood pressure. We hear the little pumps.

DOCTOR

How's your sleep?

MANDY

Patchy. But you know-

DOCTOR

Vitamin D?

MANDY

Yep.

We hear the blood pressure gauge release. Hissing air.

DOCTOR

(re blood pressure)

How's your stress lately?

MANDY

Same. Fine.

DOCTOR

How do you unwind

MANDY  
I have ways, normal stuff.

MANDY (ALTERNATIVE)  
A wank, but I can't always  
get there.

DOCTOR

Right. Just this is rather high,  
you really need to be careful-  
remember what happened last time.

MANDY

I know. It's all cool.

Mandy's lip twitches slightly.

6

**INT. HALLWAY / KITCHEN - DAY**

6

MIRI walks down the stairs.

OSCAR is by the door. He wears rubber gloves and scoops out faeces from a large box into a bucket. CAROLINE hovers nervously.

CAROLINE  
It's evidence.

OSCAR

It's compost.

CAROLINE

We need to keep a sample for the police.

OSCAR

Oh please fuck off Caroline.

MIRI

What's going on?

They both stop. Oscar has a hand full of faeces.

CAROLINE/OSCAR

Foxes/ faeces.

MIRI

What?

CAROLINE

Foxes' faeces.

MIRI

Do foxes shit in boxes now?

Miri suddenly notices her name handwritten on the box.

MIRI (CONT'D)

Did someone send this to me?

OSCAR

Probably just kids.

CAROLINE

It's really nothing to worry about.

MIRI

Someone did a shit, put it in a box, then queued up at the post office -

OSCAR

You can download your own postage labels now. They could have parceled it at home.

MIRI

Oh, well that's fine.

CAROLINE

It's all under control. We called the police -

OSCAR

Well, Tina is pretty hopeless but technically she is the police.

MIRI

(rattled)

Someone in this town hates me  
enough to graffiti the house and  
take a dump in a box.

CAROLINE

(positively)

No, no. Tina says it's probably  
more than one person.

MIRI

Great. So lots of people hate me.

CAROLINE

No. I don't mean - well yes. But  
isn't that less sinister somehow?

MIRI

No. It's my first day at work, I'm  
already nervous-

CAROLINE

Is that what you're wearing?

Miri's shred of remaining confidence falters.

MIRI

Yes. What?

Tiny pause. Miri looks anxious.

MIRI (CONT'D)

Don't look at me. Help me!

OSCAR

You look lovely.

She doesn't.

CAROLINE

You'll be wearing an apron anyway.

MIRI

Arghhhh... bye.

OSCAR

Good luck.

Miri exits.

As MIRI walks to work - BILLY waves to her shyly from his  
front garden.

BILLY  
Swish swash.

She turns.

MIRI  
Sorry?

Billy panics.

BILLY  
Saw you on the swing.

MIRI  
Were you watching me?

BILLY  
No. Yes. But not in a creepy way.

Miri doesn't have time for this.

MIRI  
Just secretly from a distance. I've  
got to go.

She walks off. Billy then sees OSCAR standing in the front doorway with the box.

BILLY  
Morning. I'm Billy -

Billy goes to extend his hand.

OSCAR  
I have... excrement on my hands.

BILLY  
Oh, don't we all, probably. If they  
tested us with a machine.

Beat. Billy grabs Oscar's hand and shakes it. Oscar is taken aback but goes with it. Then Billy sniffs his hand.

BILLY (CONT'D)  
(continuing to politely  
make conversation)  
Oh gosh yes. Is this... Yours?

OSCAR  
No! No.

BILLY  
No. Course not. Ha.

Oscar goes inside. Billy doesn't know what to do with his hand.

8           **EXT/INT. NATHAN'S FISH AND CHIP SHOP - DAY**           8

MIRI walks up to the shop. She pauses for a beat outside. Big day. Deep breath. First day. She goes inside. Nobody there.

MIRI

Hello?

She walks through the shop into...

9           **INT. NATHAN'S FISH AND CHIP SHOP - DAY**           9

No Nathan. MIRI waits, looking around.

Just then - NATHAN walks in from the back room. They both jump out of their skins. Nathan screams.

NATHAN/MIRI

Fuckingchristmas/Jesus Christ

It's embarrassing how frightened they both were.

NATHAN (CONT'D)  
Sorry.

MIRI  
No, I'm sorry.

NATHAN  
I didn't-

MIRI  
The door was-

NATHAN  
It's fine.

Deep breath. He composes himself. Nathan is holding a package, about to open it. The same size box as the one her parents were dealing with.

NATHAN (CONT'D)  
This just arrived.

Before he opens it, Miri kung fu knocks it out of his hands onto the floor.

MIRI  
Faeces!

NATHAN  
Napkins!

MIRI  
Oh god. Sorry.

Mortified. Miri picks up the box. It's addressed to Nathan, clearly a normal delivery. She hands it back to him. It's awkward.

NATHAN  
I don't know if this is a good idea-

MIRI  
No, it is. Please I really need a job. And I will work so hard -

He's wavering.

MIRI (CONT'D)  
Just see how I go today. One day.  
You said everyone deserves a second chance.

She looks at him pleadingly.

NATHAN  
I did say that.

MIRI

Yes you did.

NATHAN

Alright. One day. But it has to go well.

MIRI

It will.

NATHAN

Really, really well. No fuck ups. You can't shout "faeces" at customers.

MIRI

Oh God no. I know that.

NATHAN

Just customer service and fish and chip efficiency. Can you do that?

MIRI

Yes. Absolutely. One hundred percent. Two hundred percent!

NATHAN

(convincing himself)

Okay. Good.

They are both highly stressed now.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

How do you feel?

MIRI

(shitting herself)

Very, very relaxed and positive.

NATHAN

(also not relaxed)

Good. Me too. Excellent.

(then)

I could murder a coffee though.

He freezes.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Oh Christ. Fuck. Shit - sorry I -

MIRI

Oh no - please. Just a phrase.

This is awful. He nods.

NATHAN

It's weird. Because apart from  
that... you're like a normal  
person.

MIRI

I am a normal person.

He nods but doesn't agree. Then he exits to the back room.

10

**INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY**

10

CAROLINE has just finished a call. OSCAR enters from the garden; he has just been gardening.

CAROLINE

Spoke to Tina. She was eating an  
apple but she said she'd refer it  
to the sergeant later. I suppose we  
have to trust her.

Oscar goes to the book case and looks for a book.

OSCAR

This is not good.

CAROLINE

I know. It's all going to get  
dredged back up. I can feel it. Oh  
god. I don't think I can go through  
it all again.

OSCAR

I meant the caterpillar.

CAROLINE

What?

OSCAR

A bastard caterpillar has been at  
my tomato plants. Neither of them  
should be alive this time of year.

Caroline controls herself.

CAROLINE

Oscar -

OSCAR

Sodding global warming.

CAROLINE

I am talking about the threats to  
this house.

OSCAR

That caterpillar is a threat. It  
could destroy -

CAROLINE

We can buy bloody tomatoes from a  
shop.

OSCAR

Hothouse tomatoes. Flown in.

CAROLINE

Oscar -

OSCAR

Wrapped in plastic.

CAROLINE

Yes, smothered in plastic. Who cares? I'm talking about our family.

OSCAR

By twenty fifty there will more plastic by weight in the ocean than fish.

CAROLINE

Can you stop worrying about the fucking planet for one second and listen to me.

OSCAR

What's more important than the planet?

CAROLINE

(desperate)

ME! FUCK THE FUCKING PLANET. I USED TO BE YOUR PLANET.

They both look shocked by this outburst. Caroline leaves. We hear the front door open and close.

11

**INT. NATHAN'S FISH AND CHIP SHOP - DAY**

11

No customers yet. Tense. MIRI is trying very hard. NATHAN over-explains.

NATHAN

So this is the till.

MIRI

It's lovely.

NATHAN

It's just a till.

MIRI

Yes it is.

NATHAN

This is called an iPad. Touch screen. You touch it.

He touches the screen.

MIRI

Yeah, I know.

NATHAN

Oh. Didn't know if you had them in -

MIRI

Did a course.

NATHAN

Good to know. So the customers will come in through-

MIRI

The door, yeah.

NATHAN

Maybe you'll say "hello, how are you?"

MIRI

Fine thank you.

NATHAN

I wasn't asking you-

MIRI

No, I was being them.

NATHAN

Right. They might say they are fine, they might not be fine, maybe they'll just say "do you sell meat pies?" And you'll say no - fish -

MIRI

Why meat pies? -

NATHAN

Bear with me -

MIRI

Sorry -

NATHAN

Because this used to be a pie shop and there's some residual confusion about that.

MIRI

/OK

NATHAN

-Would you like to try the fish?

MIRI

I guess I should if I'm selling it.

NATHAN

No, this is still the hypothetical.

MIRI

Right.

NATHAN

(concerned)

It's not cooked yet.

Gestures to some uncooked fish.

MIRI

I know I wasn't-

NATHAN

Raw fish makes people very sick

MIRI

Well, sushi-

NATHAN

So. When it is cooked, you can offer samples. And say "nice isn't it?" And if they say yes -

MIRI

I think I can probably feel my way with some of this stuff. I'm pretty good with people -

Door opens, in walks DOM. Miri flushes red with embarrassment. The last person she wants as her first customer. She goes silent.

DOM

Hi.

Silence.

NATHAN

I'm Nathan, this is my shop, this is Miri.

DOM

Hi Nathan. Hi Miri.

They both look at Miri.

MIRI

Hi how are you, it's not cooked yet. Goodbye.

NATHAN  
It will be. Cooked. Though.

DOM  
Not eating. Came to check it out.  
So nice to meet you. I'm gonna be  
heading to the bench on the high  
street at lunch. Hoping a girl I  
used to know will meet me there.  
Used to be our special place.

Nathan just thinks he is over sharing.

NATHAN  
Alright. Have fun.

MIRI  
(quietly)  
She won't come.

NATHAN  
(kindly)  
Aah I'm sure she will.

Dom turns back.

DOM  
Yeah I think she will.

Miri shakes her head.

MIRI  
Nope.

DOM  
I think she will want to hear what  
I have to say.

NATHAN  
What do you have to say?

DOM  
Big things.

NATHAN  
Crikey, I'd want to hear-

MIRI  
/She will be busy at lunch.

DOM  
Doubt it. She doesn't have any  
friends.

MIRI  
That's not very nice

DOM  
Yeah but it's true

NATHAN

Is it true?

MIRI

Yes but. Doesn't mean she's not busy.

NATHAN

(as though Miri is  
psychic)

What do you think she's doing?

MIRI

Maybe meeting Janice.

NATHAN

Who is Janice?

DOM

Yeah. Who is Janice?

MIRI

I don't know.

NATHAN

Can you just see it? In your head.

Miri stares at Dom.

MIRI

Yes I can.

NATHAN

What else can you see?

MIRI

Lots of stuff.

DOM

She'd be silly not to meet me.

MIRI

Well then she's silly.

DOM

No she's not.

MIRI

-she's trying to focus on a new job  
right now. And anyway, you are  
married-

NATHAN

Are you married?

DOM

Yes but-

BACK TO LIFE

EPISODE TWO

POST SHOOT MASTER

17.12.18

13A

NATHAN

Fuck me.

MIRI

She feels very stupid for thinking  
you wouldn't be.

NATHAN

Will my business thrive?

DOM

She'd love to hear the full story.

MIRI

No, she wants to move on with her  
new life.

NATHAN

What with Janice?

MIRI

No

DOM

If she doesn't come she will always  
wonder what I had to say.

MIRI

You're not listening to her.

NATHAN

THEN WHO IS JANICE?

DOM

I'll wait for her anyway.

MIRI

You are wasting your time she's not  
going to meet you.

NATHAN

She might.

MIRI

She won't.

DOM

She will.

MIRI

Oh my God, stop being such a dick!

DOM

I'm not being a dick!

MIRI

You are. You're pissing her off and  
you need to get the message into  
your stupid thick sausage head and  
leave her the fuck alone.

Silence. Dom and Nathan look shocked. Dom exits. Nathan looks at Miri. He is unsettled. Miri is mortified.

NATHAN

You can't swear at customers.

MIRI

I'm sorry. Won't happen again.

He exits. She's left feeling stupid. He comes back in and looks at her. Meaningfully.

NATHAN

Will my business thrive?

MIRI

Yes. I think it will.

NATHAN

Really?

MIRI

150 percent.

Nathan seems relieved and exits.

12

**INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY**

12

OSCAR sits at a desk reading a gardening book.

The phone rings. He doesn't like being interrupted but picks up.

OSCAR

Hello.

13

**INT. CORRIDOR - DAY**

13

TIGHT on MANDY. We can't quite make out where she is.

We INTERCUT between Mandy and OSCAR at his desk.

MANDY

Mr. Matteson. I need to talk to  
Miri.

OSCAR

Who is this?

MANDY

It's Mandy.

Beat. Oscar stiffens.

OSCAR

Ah. Caroline?

MANDY

Listen, I've pulled a few strings  
and I've got her a job.

OSCAR

She's already got one.

MANDY

Already?

OSCAR

New fish and chip place.

MANDY

Oh for fuck -

OSCAR

I know. We all miss the pie shop  
Mandy.

MANDY

Did she get my flowers?

OSCAR

Ah... yes.

MANDY

And?

OSCAR

Look, you hurt her deeply. I don't  
think she's quite ready for you  
yet.

MANDY

She'll get there.

Mandy hangs up.

OSCAR

She may not - oh. Hello? Oh... it  
appears that you have already  
gone... Well.. I'm going to go now  
too..

(slightly put out)

Goodbye.

Oscar puts the phone down. Unsure if he did that right.

14

INT. NATHAN'S FISH AND CHIP SHOP - DAY

14

MIRI alone in the shop. Not knowing what to do. She tidies an  
already neat pile of napkins.

NATHAN enters. Stressed. Still no customers.

MIRI

A few people did look in the  
window...

Nathan nods.

MIRI (CONT'D)  
It'll take time.

NATHAN  
Yup.

MIRI  
Word of mouth.

He is jittery.

MIRI (CONT'D)  
We could put some balloons outside.  
People love balloons.

Nathan doesn't like that.

NATHAN  
It's fish and chips. In a seaside  
town. We shouldn't need -

He looks at her. Miri flushes self-consciously. She assumes  
he's thinking she's putting people off.

NATHAN (CONT'D)  
Maybe take your lunch break.

MIRI  
But I haven't really worked yet.

NATHAN  
It's a legal requirement.

Nathan is tense.

MIRI  
OK.

She takes her apron off and leaves. This isn't going well.

15 EXT. HIGH STREET - OMITTED

15

16 EXT. BEACH FRONT - DAY

16

MIRI sits alone on a bench. Two TEENAGE GIRLS on the bench  
next to her - texting and gossiping. Best friends. Miri  
watches them. They don't see her.

She feels so alone.

Miri looks at her watch. She's still got ages. Time is  
crawling by.

She eyes a phone box on the other side of the road. She nips  
across.

The phone box is old and shitty. Miri fishes for money in her  
handbag. She's got 50p. She gets out her Probation Officer,  
Janice's, contact card.

Miri puts the coin in the phone box and dials Janice.

16A INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

16A

JANICE answers the phone.

We intercut between MIRI and Janice.

JANICE

Hello, Janice speaking.

MIRI

Janice, it's me. Miri Matteson.

JANICE

Hello? Hello? The line's bad...

MIRI

It's Miri. I started my job. I just wanted to talk to someone.

JANICE

I can't hear you... I'm guessing that's Richard, I'm on my way, 10 mins. Just had to get some tampons, and I want a large double vodka on ice, I don't care if it's lunchtime.

MIRI

It's Miri -

JANICE

My day has been jokes. Not funny ones. Messed up people sucking me dry. Everyone wants a piece of me, I'm not a therapist, I'm a woman you know? I'm done, I'm going to quit and open a beach bar in the Dominican Republic, have some me time, join me-

MIRI

Sorry, Janice, it's me-

JANICE

If that isn't Richard... then Whoops. Forget it all.

Janice looks at her mobile for the first time, and sees it's not Richard.

MIRI

Miri. Miri Matteson!!

JANICE

Oh man it's not Richard. Shit.

The phone starts beeping.

MIRI

Oh God. It says it needs more money. I just put 50p in!

JANICE

Miri -

16B EXT. BEACH FRONT - DAY

16B

The phone cuts out. MIRI hangs up. And turns around. DOM is there.

DOM

I knew you'd come.

MIRI

You said meet on the high street.  
This is the beach.

DOM

So this is just a coincidence.  
Okay.

MIRI

It is a coincidence.

DOM

A very sexy one.

MIRI

You think this is sexy.

Dom shrugs. Miri starts eating her sandwich in a very unsexy way.

MIRI (CONT'D)

How about now?

Dom holds up his hand to block her face.

DOM

Not bad. I can frame out face and just look at your tits.

MIRI

Dom. Seriously. What do you want?

DOM

I wanted to explain what happened the other day.

MIRI

When you flirted with me and then pretended not to know me in front of your family -

DOM

I'm sorry. What was I supposed to do?

MIRI

Something less twatty.

DOM

Okay. I get it. Totally. But when I opened the door and saw you... It was like I forgot my life for a second and I was eighteen again.

Miri felt that too.

DOM (CONT'D)

Sounds stupid.

MIRI

Not completely.

Dom senses an opportunity.

DOM

I never wanted to be tied down.

MIRI

Well, you fucked that up--

DOM

I know. I'm married -

MIRI

With kids.

DOM

I know, Christ, everything is about them. It's like I'm invisible.

(then)

But you - you see me. My Miribee. You make me feel... free again.

He takes both her hands and gives her a meaningful look. Deep into her eyes.

MIRI

Oh my God...

DOM

What?

MIRI

You make me feel free now let's go do it in the Holiday Inn?

DOM

I didn't say that!

MIRI

That's what you meant.

DOM

I'm just being honest about what's happening between us. (MORE)

DOM (CONT'D)  
There is a sexy energy. You know it.

MIRI  
Good bye Dom.

She walks off.

DOM  
The Holiday Inn has a great breakfast. And free Wifi.

Miri is determined to resist. But he's got to her a little bit.

17 INT. JANICE'S OFFICE - OMITTED 17

18 INT. THE BRITANNIA PUB - DAY 18

CAROLINE sits at a table outside with a glass of wine. A bit lost. She's been crying.

She impulsively grabs her phone. Then texts slowly with her glasses on.

The text appears. It's all caps. She keeps going:

TEXT: IT'S ME. I AM AT A LOOSE END. WILL WAIT IN THE USUAL SPOT.

Caroline hesitates. Then sends. She then looks in a compact mirror, wipes away her tears and puts on some lipstick.

19 INT. NATHAN'S FISH AND CHIP SHOP - DAY 19

MIRI is getting a bike helmet on

MIRI  
Thanks for trusting me with this.

NATHAN  
Yeah... they asked for you.

MIRI  
What?

Miri remembers the box of shit and is anxious.

NATHAN  
So it's Mrs. Munther. Head Teacher of Cressfield School.

MIRI  
Oh. Cressfield?

NATHAN  
Yeah, do you know where that is?

Miri nods.

MIRI  
I went there.

NATHAN  
Oh right. With the person you -

MIRI  
Everyone went there. It's fine.

NATHAN  
This time, when you're talking to the customer...

MIRI  
It will be so much better. I promise.

She gives a thumbs up and exits

20      **EXT. SEAFRONT - DAY**      20

MIRI rides along the seafront. Wind in her hair. A feeling of freedom creeping in. It is wonderful.

21      **EXT. PUB - OMITTED**      21

22      **EXT. CRESSFIELD SCHOOL - DAY**      22

MIRI rides towards the school. She stops. All good feeling ebbs away. She parks the tricycle and takes out the food bag.

No kids. Closed for half term.

Miri approaches the front door. Locked. She buzzes then speaks into the intercom.

MIRI  
Food delivery.

The door buzzes. Miri pushes it open and goes in.

23      **INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR - DAY**      23

MIRI enters. Nobody around. She feels nervous.

MIRI  
Hello?

Silence. She walks on.

24

**INT. SCHOOL HALL - DAY**

24

MIRI tentatively enters the school hall. Vast. Empty of chairs and people.

Miri walks on into the hall. She has an audio memory. She hears a room of teenagers singing a school hymn - 'Dear Lord and Father of Mankind'.

It's a bit overwhelming. She is totally lost in her memories. The door suddenly opens behind her.

Miri jumps and turns. It's MANDY.

MIRI  
Oh for god's sake.

They stare at each other for a beat.

MANDY  
I thought you were gonna be more butch and have corn rows.

MIRI  
What the fuck are you doing here?

MANDY  
I'm the head teacher.

MIRI  
What?

MANDY  
Yeah.

MIRI  
You got suspended three times.

Mandy shrugs.

MIRI (CONT'D)  
You were awarded "most likely to be fingered in science." - Mrs. Munther... did you marry Mark Munther?

MANDY  
Things change and he's tidy and very - just fuck off.

MIRI  
Happily.

Miri walks the other way toward a side door.

MANDY  
Miri - we need to sort this out.

MIRI

No way.

MANDY

Listen to me -

MIRI

No.

MANDY

Please Miri -

Miri flips her off.

MIRI

Goodbye Mandy.

Miri pushes the door. It's locked. Her dramatic exit is ruined.

MANDY

It's locked.

MIRI

I was just checking and I'm glad it is.

Miri starts to walk back.

MANDY

All I've done since you got out is try to help you. I got you a job -

MIRI

You didn't visit me. Or even write to me once.

MANDY

I know.

MIRI

I wrote you so many letters.

MANDY

I was having a hard time.

MIRI

I was having a great time. In prison. In my cell.

Miri's voice echoes around the hall.

MANDY

I know and I'm sorry. But I was eighteen -

MIRI

So was I. Then I was nineteen,  
twenty, twenty-one-

MANDY

Alright. I'm here now. And I am so  
fucking sorry. You of all people  
know that life is short and really  
hard so let's not waste any more of  
it not being friends. We were so,  
so good at it. And you need me, I  
know you do.

Miri looks at her.

MIRI

Oh my God - you need me.

MANDY

No. No.

MIRI

You do. You're lonely.

MANDY

I'm not.

MIRI

Lonely and getting old.

MANDY

I'm very, very happy!

MIRI

Good, because it's too late.

Miri walks off again towards the main door. Mandy stands in the way of the exit.

MANDY

Who else have you got?

MIRI

I need to get back to work.

MANDY

To your job in a fish and chip  
shop.

MIRI

Fuck off Mandy.

MANDY

You wanted to be a vet or Jools  
Oliver.

MIRI

You wanted to marry Keanu Reeves  
and live in Barcelona, and you're a  
head teacher in Hythe married to  
Mark fucking Munther. Move.

(Prison Miri)

Get. Out. Of my way. Now.

MANDY

What you going to do, kill me?

This is the most hurtful thing to say.

MIRI

I hate you.

MANDY

I'm sorry. I shouldn't have -

MIRI

If this job wasn't everything to  
me, I would kick you so hard in the  
fanny for that.

Miri drops the fish and chips bag on the floor and shoves  
past Mandy about to exit through the hall door.

Before Miri can get through Mandy calls out. A weird way of  
compensating.

MANDY

The Bobacks moved away.

Miri stops but she doesn't turn back.

MANDY (CONT'D)

No one knows where, but they're not  
on Western Road anymore. I thought  
you'd want to know.

MIRI

I could have looked that up.

MANDY

You haven't got a fucking phone.

(then)

And it wasn't in science, it was  
most likely to get fingered full  
stop!

Miri exits.

Mandy watches her go, then looks at her phone as she receives  
a text from an unknown number:

BE CAREFUL MANDY

(Alternative text): ARE YOU IGNORING ME, MANDY?

BACK TO LIFE      EPISODE TWO      POST SHOOT MASTER      17.12.18      25A

25      INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR - OMITTED      25

26

**EXT. WESTERN ROAD - DAY**

26

MIRI cycles back to town. She gets to a turning for Western Road. She's apprehensive. She comes to a stop at a big smart house. It's very grand with big gates. She goes up to the gates and stares in.

AN EIGHTEEN YEAR OLD GIRL pokes her head out of one of the windows and lights up a fag. She is pretty. She looks at Miri. Nods. Then someone calls from inside and she flicks the cigarette and slips back in.

CLOSE on Miri. Deep in thought. QUICK AUDIO POP: the sound of TEEN GIRLS laughing.

Suddenly a FLOCK OF SEAGULLS screeches. It snaps Miri out of it. She gets back on her bike and rides away.

27

**INT. NATHAN'S FISH AND CHIP SHOP - DAY**

27

Balloons tied outside. MIRI comes back in. Several customers. A small queue. NATHAN looks stressed. She gets her apron on and gets to work.

MIRI

Sorry.

(sotto)

It's busy.

NATHAN

Yeah, 'cos of you.

MIRI

What?

NATHAN

People love a balloon.

MIRI

So I can come back tomorrow?

NATHAN

Yeah. I think so.

He smiles at her. Miri's relieved and happy. She turns to the next customer.

MIRI

Hello, how can I help?

SMASH.

A brick comes through the window. Miri is covered in shattered window glass. And has a nasty cut on her head.

Miri freezes. Everyone's looking at her.

NATHAN  
Shit the bed. Are you okay?

We're on Miri. Voices of customers around her.

CUSTOMERS (O.S.)  
Bloody hell/ Oh god, she's  
bleeding/ call an ambulance.

MIRI  
Sorry, I'm so sorry.

Miri is utterly shaken. She runs out.

28      **EXT. STREET - OMITTED**      28  
29      **EXT. BEACH CAR PARK - DAY**      29

MIRI finds herself in the beach car park. Blood dripping down her face. She doesn't know what to do. She feels people looking at her. Suddenly BILLY sees her. He's sitting in his van reading.

BILLY  
Hello?

She jumps..

BILLY (CONT'D)  
Billy. From next -

MIRI  
I know.

Billy suddenly sees her cut.

BILLY  
Christ, what-?

MIRI  
Oh. It's fine. It's nothing.

BILLY  
You look like Carrie-  
Go on. Get in.

She gets in his van. She is shaken.

BILLY (CONT'D)  
Shall I take you to hospital?

MIRI  
No no. It's shallow. I think.

She touches the blood. Ouch.

BILLY  
I have plasters, in the door wotsit  
thing.

MIRI  
Thanks. Sorry, to interrupt your -

BILLY  
No, I was just watching the sea.

MIRI  
Can we just drive somewhere. Else.

BILLY  
OK.

He starts the engine. The van moves away.

30

**INT/ EXT. CAR/ DUNGENESS CAR PARK - DAY**

30

CAROLINE sits in the car. She is furiously wanking DOM off  
but to no avail.

DOM  
Bit higher-

CAROLINE  
Like this?

She keeps going

DOM  
Had a few beers last night so...  
This car looks clean.

CAROLINE  
Oscar hoovered it.

DOM  
Right. Good to bring him into this.

Caroline stops. They give up.

DOM (CONT'D)  
Sorry. It was working earlier

They are quiet for a bit, then..

DOM (CONT'D)

Must be strange having her back. In the house. I haven't stayed at my parents' for years. It's so weird. To see her. I mean, she looks older but it's still her. Her little face is still in there. We used to do everything together, mad.

Caroline can't bear this.

CAROLINE

Oh God I can't do this.

DOM

What? Ohhh, I won't talk about her anymore. Start over. We were getting somewhere.

Caroline is done.

CAROLINE

I have to make supper. I should never have come here.

He reaches out for her.

DOM

Technically, nothing happened.

She nods.

DOM (CONT'D)  
Do you want to stay and watch the sunset with me?

CAROLINE  
Don't be ridiculous.

She leans over and opens his door. He gets out.

31 **INT / EXT. VAN/ DESERTED BEACH - DAY**

31

BILLY and MIRI have now parked. Somewhere else - maybe outside of town. There's a shed selling ice creams nearby.

They sit in silence.

BILLY  
Do you like ice cream?

MIRI  
Yes.

BILLY  
It brings out your eyes. Not ice cream.

Billy struggles to think of a better thing to say.

BILLY (CONT'D)  
The stains on your face, the red with the blue. It's actually really good on you. Sorry that's not very romantic. Not that this is meant to...

Billy dries up. Miri can't help but smile.

MIRI  
I know.

BILLY  
Wait here.

He jumps out and goes toward a small ice cream van/shop on the sea front. Miri touches her head and looks at the blood on her fingers.

She then looks out at the sea and the sun starting to set. It's soothing.

Billy returns to the van with two enormous ice creams.

BILLY (CONT'D)  
Best in Kent.

Miri can't believe it. She could cry.

MIRI  
I haven't had one of these for  
years.

BILLY  
Christ why?

Beat.

MIRI  
Diet. Long diet.

BILLY  
I tried a diet once. The one with  
the milkshakes, but I got confused  
and had them as well as eating  
everything else, put on 2 stone in  
4 weeks. Nightmare.

The sun sets. They watch it and eat their ice creams. Miri  
savouring every mouthful.

MUSIC PLAYS: 'How Sad, How Lovely' by Connie Converse.

BILLY (CONT'D)  
Day can't be that bad if it ends in  
ice cream.

Miri looks at him.

MIRI  
Thank you. For making me feel  
normal.

She takes a huge bite of ice cream.

32

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

32

CAROLINE comes back in and closes the door softly. OSCAR  
enters.

OSCAR  
I can't believe I didn't realise.

For a beat, Caroline thinks he might know where she's been.

CAROLINE  
What?

OSCAR  
The caterpillar.

CAROLINE  
Oh god...

OSCAR

It's harmless. One of the good  
guys.

He sees she looks upset. He suddenly hugs Caroline.

OSCAR (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry. I get fixated on things,  
the wrong things. You are my  
planet. Of course you are. You and  
Miri.

We see her eyes fill up with tears as he holds her. Big  
guilty tears.

33

**INT/ EXT. VAN/ DESERTED BEACH - DUSK**

33

BILLY and MIRI finish their ice creams.

BILLY  
We used to - I used to live in  
Deal. Moved here a month ago. Where  
were you before?

MIRI  
Uh... Everywhere.

She licks her fingers.

BILLY  
Do you want to go for a walk? When  
I've had a bad day. I like to do  
that. Makes you realise how little  
you are. In a nice way. Bit of  
perspective.

MIRI  
Yes. I'd love that.

BILLY  
We could wander up the cliff?  
There's this really cool spot. That  
goes up to the Sound Mirror.

Miri freezes.

BILLY (CONT'D)  
Do you know what they are?

MIRI  
No.

CUT TO:

34

**EXT. SOUND MIRROR - DAY/ DUSK**

34

QUICK POP: the Sound Mirror. Miri remembers it well.

CUT TO:

35

**INT/ EXT. VAN - DESERTED BEACH - DUSK**

35

We're back with MIRI and BILLY in the van.

MIRI

I actually need to get back.

BILLY

They were these pre-radar things.  
Built them in the war to hear the  
enemy coming.

Miri closes her eyes.

CUT TO:

36 EXT. SOUND MIRROR - DAY/ DUSK

36

QUICK POP of the Sound Mirror again.

CUT TO:

37 INT/ EXT. VAN - DESERTED BEACH - DUSK

37

We're back with MIRI and BILLY in the van.

BILLY

I went there the other day.  
Apparently, it's where some girl  
bludgeoned someone to death...

Miri exhales really slowly. Fuck.

BILLY (CONT'D)

She lured her there. Just the two  
of them on the cliff at night. Then  
smashed her head in against the  
edge. Imagine that.

Long pause. Billy imagines it.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Like a horror movie.

MIRI

(quietly)

That's not the version I heard.

BILLY

Oh?

CLOSE on Miri's face.

Suddenly we hear the 999 call again. More whimpering. Muffled  
breaths. Ramping up and up.

CALL HANDLER (V.O.)

Hello? Sir, can you hear me?

We hear the sea crashing in the background.

MALE 999 CALLER (V.O.)

There's a body. Floating in the  
water face down.

CALL HANDLER (V.O.)

Where are you?

MALE 999 CALLER (V.O.)  
There's two girls up on the cliff.  
I think they pushed her.

Sound and visuals cut out suddenly. Screen goes black.

**THE END**