

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 4
"The Tiger Who Came To Tea"

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1 EXT. CHURCH - DAY 1

ORGAN MUSIC PLAYS: AN ENGLISH HYMN

A beautiful church in the morning light. We hear a service inside.

2 OMITTED 2

3 EXT. SOUND MIRROR - DAY 3

Jarring noise of seagulls screeching. We hear a phone call.

MAN'S VOICE (V.O.)
Where are you? I've got to take Phoebe
to karate.

We are at the path that leads to the SOUND MIRROR. MANDY is on her phone to her husband, MARK, hiding behind a wall. She is watching a MAN laying flowers at the base of the Sound Mirror. This is JOHN BOBACK.

MANDY
I am at the school. Early meeting.

MARK (V.O.)
Where's her sword thing.

MANDY
She doesn't need it, it's karate.
Fencing's on Tuesdays.

MARK (V.O.)
Do you know where her -

MANDY
You'll find it.

She hangs up. She looks intensely at the man by the Sound Mirror, ensuring she stays hidden.

4 INT. KITCHEN - DAY 4

CLOSE on a twee Hythe calendar on the wall. CAROLINE staring at it. The date is 5th November. OSCAR enters behind her.

There is a half-made cottage pie in a dish on the side - meat and vegetables done, raw potatoes still to mash.

CAROLINE
I normally cross it out. But she'll see it.

OSCAR
I'm afraid I have a migraine coming.
You're going to have to go alone.

Caroline is panicked.

CAROLINE
What?! Take a Nurofen.

OSCAR
It's a migraine.

Caroline does not want to go.

CAROLINE
Then we won't go - we'll all go another day.

OSCAR
No, Caroline. The whole point is it's today.

5 INT. MIRI'S BEDROOM - DAY

5

MIRI stands in front of the mirror above her sink in a towel. The edge of her strange bite mark scar is visible. She brushes her teeth blankly but intensely.

She can hear her PARENTS' muffled talking downstairs.

OSCAR (O.S.)
You take the cross country route. Be a beautiful drive. Take her mind off it all...

CAROLINE (O.S.)
If you're really going to stay behind then you could mash the potatoes.

Miri brushes harder so the brushing noise drowns them out.

6 EXT. SOUND MIRROR - DAY

6

MANDY watches JOHN BOBACK leave the Sound Mirror. Once he's disappeared she walks up to the Sound Mirror and looks at the flowers he has left; there is a note attached to them:

LOVE DAD x

Mandy destroys the flowers in anger, throwing them on the ground. She suddenly screams into the Sound Mirror. It echoes around her. Amplifying and reverberating. Merging with the screech of seagulls.

BACK TO LIFE EPISODE FOUR POST SHOOT MASTER 17.12.18 2A

TITLE CARD: BACK TO LIFE

7 EXT. MATTESON HOUSE - DAY

7

MIRI and CAROLINE exit the house and walk towards the car. Caroline is on edge.

CAROLINE

There's a lovely pub next to the care home. Michelin Star. We can go there after.

MIRI

Which one is she again?

CAROLINE

Your father's aunt.

Miri reacts.

MIRI

Oh. Thought she died.

CAROLINE

No. She refuses to. Old cunt. But she's family, so you visit. Like we visited you in... that place.

Miri looks at Caroline.

MIRI

You can say "cunt", but you can't say "prison".

CAROLINE

It's extremely rare for me to use the cunt word, and I only do with regards to absolute cunts.

Miri gives her a look.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

It's a lovely drive. And we're going to have fun.

MIRI

Feels fun.

As they get in the car...

ACROSS THE ROAD: SAMUEL from the amusement park is watching them.

8 INT/EXT. CAR - DAY

8

CAROLINE and MIRI drive through beautiful countryside. Miri is teaching her mother a game.

MIRI
Shark, shark, shark, shark...Mum you
have to say attack!

CAROLINE
Attack!

MIRI
No - at the same time as me. Shark,
shark -

CAROLINE
You're not saying it!

MIRI
You say attack and I have to guess
when you're going to say it and say it
before you.

CAROLINE
Attack! Attack! Attack!

MIRI
(laughing)
No.

CAROLINE
This is a stupid game.

MIRI
You're lucky I didn't make you play
"nub nub Bolognese"

CAROLINE
What on earth? -

MIRI
We used to make up lots of silly
games, pass the time. Not much to do
in prison, so you get creative. Do you
know that I can make a Banoffee pie in
a kettle? I'll do it for you and Dad
one day. It's not bad actually.

The mention of prison hangs in the air. Miri's broken the mood.
Silence. Caroline checks her mirrors.

CAROLINE
There's a good hairdresser in
Petworth. Maybe we can stop off. See
if they can fit you in.

Miri looks at Caroline.

MIRI
Okay.

CAROLINE
What?

MIRI
So today is just a normal day?

CAROLINE
Well, it's not, it's bonfire night.
For most people.

MIRI
Wow.

Caroline's desperate to change the subject.

CAROLINE
Maybe you could get some highlights.
Might make you feel better if you made
/an effort.

MIRI
-It might make you feel better. That
stuff doesn't matter to me.

CAROLINE
It's just a thought.

Caroline turns on the radio. Miri turns it off.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
I want to listen to The Archers.

MIRI
Let's just talk.

CAROLINE
About what?

MIRI
Anything.

CAROLINE
We were talking. We finished.

Beat.

MIRI
Okay. Three hour drive. Brilliant.

Miri smiles and sits back and waits. Calmly watching her.

CAROLINE
What are you doing?

MIRI
Shh. That's chatting.

Pause.

CAROLINE
You're being childish.

MIRI
Shh.

CAROLINE
There's nothing to say!

MIRI
I know. I'm just enjoying this
comfortable silence.

Caroline is very uncomfortable. She puts the radio back on.

CAROLINE
I don't understand what you're doing.
Why are you getting at me? I'm trying
to take you for a nice day -

MIRI
Mum!

CAROLINE
Shit.

She's seen something run low across the road. A creature.
Caroline brakes and swerves but HITS it. The car comes off the
road into the ditch and hedge.

The Archers' theme tune merrily plays on.

9 INT. BATHROOM - DAY

9

OSCAR rushes in and hurriedly stands at the toilet to pee. It
stings. Another painful reminder of his wife's infidelity.

OSCAR
Fuck you, Caroline!

Burning pain. Then it's over. Oscar rises. Washes his willy
hand.

Then he spots Caroline's phone on the side. He picks it up.
Just then - the doorbell rings.

10 INT/ EXT. HALLWAY / MATTESON HOUSE - DAY 10

OSCAR hurries down and opens the door - still holding Caroline's phone. SAMUEL is there. In the appropriate energy company uniform.

SAMUEL

Hello, Mr. Matteson. I'm from Pilot Power, I need to check your meter -

OSCAR

No. Somebody came a few days ago -

SAMUEL

I know. But they gave an odd reading so I'm following up. Don't want an astronomical bill -

Oscar is not in the mood for a stranger.

OSCAR

That would be very unlikely, I have this entirely under control.

Oscar is about to shut the door -

SAMUEL

May I just say your recycling system out front is exemplary.

Oscar looks at him. Samuel really means this.

OSCAR

Thank you.

SAMUEL

If everyone put in the time you did - there'd be a lot more polar bears.

Oscar glows with pride.

OSCAR

It's the least a human can do.

SAMUEL

Did you know tea bags aren't compostable. Some brands contain syn-

OSCAR

Synthetic fibres! Yes. I learned the hard way. All those bags toxifying my compost bin -

SAMUEL

Don't go there. You are a leader of men. A Viking.

A new bromance has formed.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)
I'd love to just check -

OSCAR
Of course, come in.

Oscar opens the door and Samuel steps inside.

11 EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

11

MIRI and CAROLINE peer over the animal which has been knocked to the side of the road.

MIRI
Shit. Oh poor thing!

Caroline is in shock - dazed.

CAROLINE
Oh Christ -

MIRI
Is it dead?

CAROLINE
The car, oh the car.

She looks at the car, clearly immovable.

MIRI
I think it's mostly dead.

CAROLINE
Oscar will be furious.

MIRI
Oh god - it blinked!

CAROLINE
How are we going to get there?

MIRI
It's still breathing. It's like ninety percent dead.

CAROLINE
If we're late she'll be such an old bag about it.

MIRI
Mum, we have to do something! It's in
pain.

CAROLINE
Oh dear. Yes.

Caroline looks at the animal.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Oh goodness.

MIRI
This is awful -

CAROLINE
We have to... Put it out of its
misery.

Miri looks at the animal.

MIRI
I can't. You do it.

CAROLINE
You do it.

Caroline looks at Miri. A very particular look.

MIRI (CONT'D)
What?

Miri realises her implication.

CAROLINE
Nothing. I didn't say anything.

MIRI
You so did.

CAROLINE
I didn't mean-

MIRI
I've killed before so I can kill
again?

CAROLINE
Don't be so silly.

MIRI
You're my mother. You're supposed to
be on my side and -

To end this conversation, Caroline has reached down for a log.
She SMASHES it down on the animal's head.

MIRI (CONT'D)
Holy shit.

Caroline catches her breath. For a beat they're both in shock.

CAROLINE
I had to do it. It was in pain.

MIRI
I can taste it.

CAROLINE
No you can't.

Miri stares down at the fox.

MIRI
Jesus Christ.

Miri tries to lift the animal.

CAROLINE
Leave it.

MIRI
No.

CAROLINE
We'll be late. Come on -

MIRI
We can't just leave it on the road-

CAROLINE
What are you doing?

MIRI
Burying it. Help me!

Caroline looks around. Miri starts to drag the animal. Reluctantly Caroline grabs the other side and they drag it into the wood.

12 EXT. FOREST - DAY

12

MIRI tries to bury the dead animal by covering it with sticks and leaves. CAROLINE fixes her face. Shakily applying lipstick with a cracked compact mirror. The shock of her first kill is catching up with her, but maybe make-up will help.

MIRI
Can you help me please?

CAROLINE

Sorry - yes.

Caroline helps Miri with the final stages of covering up the animal. Something is starting to stir deep within Caroline.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Sorry little fox.

They stand over the burial mound for a beat.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

I've never done that before.

MIRI

It was the right thing to do.

CAROLINE

Yes, but-

MIRI

Foxes are bastards anyway. They steal babies from bungalows. And chickens.

Miri frowns. That's not right. Miri wants to leave now. Caroline closes her eyes and starts to sing very, very softly - an English hymn (of choice).

She keeps going. Miri has to stay. And attempts to sing along with her.

BACK TO LIFE EPISODE FOUR POST SHOOT MASTER 17.12.18 11A

13 EXT. SOUND MIRRORS - OMITTED

13

14 INT. MATTESON HOUSE - DAY

14

CLOSE on OSCAR and SAMUEL's faces. They're peering at an unseen electricity meter. Samuel has a little torch.

SAMUEL

Ooh.

OSCAR

What is it?

Samuel is bullshitting but does so with confidence.

SAMUEL

Tick tock. Tick tock - this is faster than it should be.

Oscar frowns.

OSCAR

It's always like that.

SAMUEL

No.

Samuel clicks off his torch.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

There's energy being wasted somewhere in this house.

OSCAR

Absolutely not - I am vigilant -

Caroline's phone buzzes with a text. Samuel checks his phone.

SAMUEL

It is you.

OSCAR

It's my wife's.

SAMUEL

This is not a Viking's phone.

Samuel turns to reach for an amp meter from his bag. Oscar glances down at Caroline's phone.

The caller ID is just a mobile number.

TEXT: "Come on baby. My dick is leaking. In a good way."

Oscar's winded.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)
I would like to check all the power
points and appliances.

Samuel turns back - Oscar suddenly reaches out for him dropping
Caroline's phone.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)
Oscar, don't worry. It will take a few hours, but I promise you I will get to the bottom of this.

Samuel's powerful and reassuring. Oscar nods. Samuel bends down and picks up Caroline's phone. It has a floral Cath Kidson case.

Samuel exits. He goes upstairs. He looks at the family photos on the way up. A little too interested.

15 EXT. ROADSIDE - DAY

15

MIRI is looking in the car for Caroline's phone. CAROLINE rummages through her purse, anxious.

MIRI
Maybe it's in the car. Fell out of your pocket.

CAROLINE
(stressed)
I don't wear things with pockets! I've never worn anything with pockets!

MIRI
What's wrong with pockets?

CAROLINE
Hips Miri! Oh God, where is it? I need it.

MIRI
It's fine. There's a pay phone down the road. I'll go-

CAROLINE
It isn't fine, nothing's fine.

MIRI
Is this about pockets again -

CAROLINE
I'm sure I had it.

MIRI
You probably left it at home.

CAROLINE
I didn't. I know I didn't!

Caroline sits down by the car. Miri looks at her.

MIRI
Mum, what are you doing?

CAROLINE
I am sitting down.

MIRI
OK. Right. Wait there. There's a phone box a minute away. I'll call the break down people.

(then)
Mum?

Caroline doesn't say anything. Miri walks off.

16 INT. KITCHEN - OMITTED 16

17 INT. MIRI'S BEDROOM - DAY (CONTINUOUS) 17

SAMUEL snoops. He goes to the sink and pulls some strands of Miri's hair out of the plughole. He places them in a tiny plastic bag. Like a professional.

Then he sees Miri's toothbrush. Even better. He picks it up. picks it up. Touches it with his finger. This is fascinating to him. He hesitates. Then starts to brush his teeth.

18 EXT. NATHAN'S FISH AND CHIP SHOP - OMITTED 18

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

19

NATHAN is below the counter. We hear the bell ring as MANDY enters off-screen. NATHAN looks up and Mandy is there.

MANDY
I need to talk to Miri.

NATHAN
Not here.

MANDY
Argh. I'll get a cod and chips.

NATHAN
It's ten in the morning.

MANDY
Are you judging me?

NATHAN
No, no -

MANDY
When you've got kids ten in the morning is two in the afternoon.
When's she coming back?

NATHAN
She's not, we're moving venue - got a truck. Gonna park it by the beach.

MANDY
You lasted long.

Nathan is hurt. Mandy goes to leave but then turns back.

MANDY (CONT'D)
Do you want to fuck me?

NATHAN
What? No.

MANDY
You look bored, I'm stressed, we both get something out of it.

NATHAN
I don't even know who you are.

MANDY
That's the whole - oh forget it.

Mandy leaves.

20 **EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY**

20

CAROLINE sits alone. Subdued.

MIRI returns from the phone box.

MIRI
They will be about two hours.

CAROLINE
What? That's ridiculous.

MIRI
It's not -

CAROLINE
Two women. In the middle of nowhere.
No phone. No supplies -

MIRI
We're in West Sussex. A Tory MP will
probably drive by and save us before
the breakdown service does.

Caroline nods.

CAROLINE
They say two hours. They mean four.

MIRI
Okay.

CAROLINE
If I'd known I would have brought a
book.

Miri eye rolls.

21 INT. KITCHEN - DAY

21

OSCAR holds the phone, his hand shaking. He clicks on the text
and types a reply.

"I'm very leaky too"

No that's not right, he deletes. Then:

"My fanny is hungry."

No, not sexy enough. Oscar closes his eyes. Tries to channel
it.

Then:

"My labia is moist and ready. For intercourse."

Satisfied he sends. And waits.

A response comes: A laughing face.

Oscar is a bit put out as he thought he had nailed it.

Then, from Dom:

"Coast Road Car Park. 30 mins."

22 EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY.

22

CAROLINE looks down the road. MIRI sits.

MIRI

It's been half an hour.

CAROLINE

I'm going to cancel my membership.

MIRI

Mum, sit down.

Caroline sits. She's very uncomfortable.

CAROLINE

I don't want to sit.

Miri's weary of this.

MIRI

Okay. This is awful.

CAROLINE

I know.

MIRI

Not the breakdown - this. Us. You've been weird with me since I got back and you know it.

CAROLINE

I don't know what you -

MIRI

Yes you do. And we are going to deal with it.

CAROLINE

Just -

Caroline walks away.

MIRI
Where are you going?

CAROLINE
I don't know.

Miri runs to catch up with her.

MIRI
No. We are having this conversation.

CAROLINE
Fine you were right, I thought you should kill it and I ended it's life to avoid that conversation. I think I might be a cunt.

Caroline is in self pitying defensive mode.

MIRI
No you're not.

CAROLINE
I am. I left you and your father when you were six. For a month.

MIRI
I know. We ate custard every night. It was quite fun.

CAROLINE
Sometimes I didn't put you to bed because I couldn't bear reading the Tiger Who Came to Tea.

MIRI
Okay...

CAROLINE
-Again and again and again-

MIRI
It's just a book.

CAROLINE
I hated that bloody tiger - he had no manners-

MIRI
Because he's a tiger.

CAROLINE
He couldn't get an erection.

MIRI
He was just there for tea.

CAROLINE

Your father. After you went away. He probably thought it was all my fault-

MIRI

Okay forget it.

Miri sighs and walks away to sit down.

CAROLINE

Where are you going? You wanted to talk.

MIRI

A real conversation. Not you whining in a wood.

CAROLINE

Why can't I do anything right?

MIRI

Because you don't do anything right. Do you know that I shared a room with a woman who said the word "beetle" twenty times a minute, for two years. No. Because you don't ask -

CAROLINE

I -

MIRI

Every time you came to visit me, you asked me about the bloody weather.

CAROLINE

So?

MIRI

'How's the weather Miri?' I was inside twenty three hours a day.

CAROLINE

I didn't know -

MIRI

It's a huge thing and we can never talk about it because you feel uncomfortable

Silence.

CAROLINE

The whispering. Being frozen out of the church committee. Having to go to the supermarket out of town at night to avoid the stares. Friends dropping like flies. No Christmas cards on the mantelpiece, no Christmas full stop – just two M&S turkey legs in front of the telly in the hope it will make it go faster! Years and years of nothing but me and him rattling around that sad empty house, waiting for you to come back – worrying about who you would be if you came back. And I don't ask you about it because I despise it. I want to pretend none of this ever happened. You ruined my life. Prison ruined my life. And I hated you. I have hated you.

Miri is quiet. Total silence. Her eyes filled with tears.

MIRI

Thank you.

Caroline is totally shocked.

CAROLINE

What?

MIRI

Thank you. For being honest with me.

Long silence. They both stare ahead.

23 INT. MIRI'S BEDROOM - DAY

23

SAMUEL is in Miri's Bedroom. This is the holy grail. He takes it all in. Strokes a picture with his fingers. He's about to open one of Miri's drawers when...

OSCAR (O.S.)

Hello?

Samuel quickly kneels down and pushes his amp meter into a plug. OSCAR enters.

OSCAR (CONT'D)

(flustered)

Got to go, got to meet someone...I'll only be twenty mins -

SAMUEL

Go. I have everything I need here.

Oscar exits. Footsteps down the stairs. Front door closes. Samuel exhales. Back to his investigation.

24 EXT. ROAD - OMITTED

24

25 INT. MIRI'S BEDROOM - DAY

25

SAMUEL methodically digs through Miri's possessions with speed and purpose. He takes pictures of everything. He is in his element - full detective mode.

He finds a pair of Miri's teen plastic sunglasses. He studies them for a beat. Then suddenly puts them on and looks at himself very seriously in the mirror.

SAMUEL

My name is Miri.

He finds her box under her bed and starts to go through Miri's photos. He finds a photo of TEEN MANDY and TEEN MIRI.

Then he sees something in Miri's bin. He fishes out the mix tape. And pockets it.

26 EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

26

Back with MIRI and CAROLINE. They are quiet for a bit. Then Caroline looks at Miri.

CAROLINE

What can I do? What do you want me to do? To help you?

MIRI

Just be my mum. That's all.

A moment. Then Miri gets up and heads to the car.

CAROLINE
Where are you going?

Miri rummages in the car. She brings out an old bottle of water, the tin of travel sweets, old biscuits and a blanket.

MIRI
Picnic.

She lays down the blanket. Then hands Caroline the water.

CAROLINE
Delicious. That water's old-

MIRI
It's water.

CAROLINE
Yes.

MIRI
(fondly)
Dom and I used to have terrible shitty picnics when he first got his car.
This is slightly better.

Caroline absorbs the mention of Dom. Miri hands her mum a biscuit.

CAROLINE
So how did you do it?

MIRI
What?

CAROLINE
Banoffee pie in a kettle.

Miri smiles.

27 EXT. COAST ROAD CAR PARK - DAY

27

OSCAR arrives and scans the car park. Men, women - which one looks like they have the leaking dick?

Caroline's phone buzzes in his hand. Another text from the unnamed number. He turns round - and sees a car on its own.

This is him. Oscar strides toward it.

28 INT./EXT. DOM'S CAR/ COAST ROAD CAR PARK - DAY 28

DOM hurriedly flosses his teeth with his finger nail. Then sniffs his finger.

BANG BANG BANG.

OSCAR's banging on his driver's window. He looks terrifying.

OSCAR
My labia is moist!

DOM
Oh shit.

Dom tries to start the car. Oscar opens the door and yanks him out. Dom's still got his seat belt on. Something about his ex-girlfriend's father makes him oddly obedient.

DOM (CONT'D)
Mr. Matteson - hang on - my seatbelt.

Oscar pauses. He unclips it. Oscar then hauls him out onto the ground. A messy man scuffle for a few beats. Oscar tries to kick him. Dom holds on to his foot.

OSCAR
Let go.

Dom lets go and gets up.

DOM
Listen I'm sorry. It was meaningless-

OSCAR
"It" was my wife!

Oscar launches at him. Dom ducks and backs off.

DOM
Hang on! Wait. Wait!

He reaches for his phone and places it on the roof of his car. Out of harm's way.

DOM (CONT'D)
Okay. Let's do this. Sorry in advance for how much I'm gonna hurt y-

Oscar goes for Dom, who immediately runs away.

OSCAR
Who do you think you are?

Oscar chases Dom round the car park. Dom ducks behind the car. This is a very real and very shit fight. Neither is talented. But Oscar has fury on his side.

DOM
Fuck! HELP. I'm telling you I didn't-

OSCAR
Shut up you little twat.

DOM
Calm down -

Oscar manages to get a punch in.

DOM (CONT'D)
OW! That hurt!

Oscar keeps going for him. Dom slaps him and they sort of roll on the ground for a bit.

DOM (CONT'D)
Calm down, you're seventy!!

OSCAR
I am a Viking!

DOM
Ow! Seriously stop it!

Oscar pins him down. And sits on Dom - straddling him. He looks down at him coldly.

OSCAR
You always were a poisonous little jerk.

DOM
Okay, okay. I can feel your nuts on my nuts, man!

Dom frees a hand and punches Oscar on the cheek clumsily. Oscar gets up. He winces a bit in pain. He stands over him.

OSCAR
You stay away from my wife and my daughter. Or there will be more of this.

Dom says weakly from the ground.

DOM
You're lucky I don't fight pensioners.

Oscar casually swipes Dom's new mobile off his car roof as he walks off. It hits the ground - we hear a screen break. This kills Dom. He pulls himself to his feet.

DOM (CONT'D)
That was. Argh. So unnecessary. Fuck.

Oscar walks away the victorious hero. He throws his head back, closes his eyes, and bellows like a Viking.

29 INT. KITCHEN - DAY

29

SAMUEL is feasting - tons of food from the fridge and he's drinking one of Oscar's bottles of beer.

Suddenly MANDY appears at the garden door. Samuel jumps.

Mandy enters.

MANDY
Is Miri here?

SAMUEL
No.

MANDY
Mr. and Mrs. Matteson?

SAMUEL
Nobody here. Just me.

Mandy notices he's wearing Miri's teenage plastic coloured sunglasses on his head.

MANDY
Who are you?

SAMUEL
I am here to fix things.

Samuel goes to get another bottle of beer from the fridge.

MANDY
Drink on the job do you?

SAMUEL
Sometimes. When it's going very well.

Samuel smiles. Mandy notices the old photo of TEEN MANDY and TEEN MIRI on the table. He picks it up.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)
Such good friends all of you. You and Miri and of course poor Lara.

Mandy's face pales.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)
But even the very close friends have secrets. Don't they Mandy?

Mandy goes to snatch the photo, he moves it.

MANDY
How do you know my name?

SAMUEL
I think I better go now.

He picks up the cottage pie and goes to leave. As he passes her, she suddenly reaches out and grabs his arm.

She's really strong. It hurts him - but being Samuel it's all part of his big investigation.

MANDY MANDY (ALTERNATIVE)
Don't fuck with me. I'm a head teacher. Don't fuck with me. *

She lets go. He walks off calmly with the beer and cottage pie. Mandy is rattled.

30 EXT. ROAD - OMITTED 30

31 EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY 31

MIRI and CAROLINE sit on the blanket.

CAROLINE
They've forgotten us. Two hours my arse.

Long pause. Miri pulls out an old tissue from her pocket.

MIRI
Come here.

Miri cleans something off Caroline's face.

CAROLINE
I thought you said it doesn't matter.
How you look.

MIRI
(kindly)
It matters to you.

They smile. A genuine mother daughter moment.

CAROLINE
You're a sweet girl. You always were.

This means a lot to Miri. Caroline hesitates then ventures a real conversation. It's hard for her.

They both keep looking out through all this. In order to have this difficult conversation both understand there is no eye contact.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
I know you wouldn't have done anything
unless... You and Lara. You were such
good friends. Why was she so angry
with you? It's never made sense.

MIRI
It's a rabbit hole. I can't even.

CAROLINE
I know darling.

A beat.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Such an awful, awful mess.

MIRI
We weren't the only ones who suffered
though-

CAROLINE
No of course. That poor man. To lose a
child. Unthinkable.

Caroline puts her hand on Miri's. They still have each other.

Just then - a car drives by and unhelpfully honks its horn
without stopping. Caroline's annoyed. She stands and shouts
after it.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Shut up! Bloody Tory scum!

MIRI
Mum, you're a Tory.

CAROLINE
(still shouting)
Yes I know!

The MECHANIC'S VAN arrives.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Oh thank god. Hello, hello!

They head off to meet him.

31A EXT. CHURCHYARD - DUSK

31A

Deserted churchyard. A lone figure at a grave. It's MANDY.

MANDY
Another year, you're not missing much.
Mark's still a bell end. But he's tidy
which helps. With having kids and
stuff. God, I just bored myself.

We now see the headstone. It's Lara's grave.

MANDY (CONT'D)
Miri's back. But you know that. You're probably haunting the shit out of her.

Mandy's voice breaks a little.

MANDY (CONT'D)
Sometimes I miss you. Then I remember what a bitch you were. And I still miss you.

Horrendous guilt. Then, a creeping paranoia.

MANDY (CONT'D)
I still can't sleep. But you know that.

Wind or an animal rustles behind her and snaps her out of it.

MANDY (CONT'D)
Anyway...

She leaves a spliff on the grave. And leaves.

32 EXT. COASTAL ROAD - DUSK

32

We can see the car, with CAROLINE and MIRI inside, drive along a beautiful coast road at sunset.

MIRI (O.S.)
Shark shark shark...

CAROLINE /MIRI (O.S.)
Attack!

MIRI (O.S.)
Yes!

Beat.

CAROLINE (O.S.)
I still don't get it.

MIRI (O.S.)
Wait 'til I teach you nub nub
Bolognese.

Caroline laughs. She is game.

CAROLINE (O.S.)
Oh god. I'm actually incredibly curious.

33 EXT. MATTESON HOUSE - NIGHT

33

OSCAR sits on the front step - battered and exhausted. The weary warrior. The house lights are out.

CAROLINE and MIRI drive up. They get out. Everyone looks terrible.

Oscar rises.

CAROLINE

What are you doing out here? Is that blood?

OSCAR

Oh. Yes. Got into a squabble with a rose bush. I'm sorry -

Caroline suddenly grabs him and gives him an enormous kiss. He's a little surprised.

CAROLINE

It doesn't matter. You're here. We're all here.

She also embraces Miri and they hug as a family.

MIRI

And Mum beat the shit out of a dead fox.

CAROLINE

Miri -

MIRI

It happened. I'm telling people.

Oscar looks at Caroline.

OSCAR
You look awful.

CAROLINE
(triumphant)
I know.

They all head inside.

34 **EXT. GARDEN - NIGHT** 34

MIRI, CAROLINE and OSCAR eat trashy burgers, chips and milkshakes in the garden. Starving from their collective emotional day. They watch fireworks in the distance.

35 **INT. MANDY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT** 35

Fireworks noise in the distance. MANDY lies in bed, hand below the duvet - half-heartedly masturbating. Her husband MARK is fast asleep next to her. His snoring annoys her.

She tries to concentrate. Closes her eyes. The fireworks climax outside. Mandy definitely doesn't.

She gives up.

36 **INT. PARENT'S BEDROOM - NIGHT** 36

OSCAR and CAROLINE lie in bed - very close to each other.

37 **INT. MIRI'S BEDROOM - NIGHT** 37

MIRI gets into bed and lies back. Something crackles in her pillow case. She sits up, feels inside it, and brings out an envelope.

"Miri" is written on it in Samuel's handwriting.

She looks around her room. Unsettled. She looks back at the envelope. And opens it...

Inside is a police badge with a note attached by a piece of string: "Honourable guy, huh?"

38 **EXT. CHURCHYARD - OMITTED** 38

39 **EXT. SOUND MIRROR - NIGHT** 39

SAMUEL at the sound mirror. His tent is pitched. Our tiger sits by a small campfire eating the cottage pie.

He is also listening to Miri's mix tape on a small modern cassette player.

He is listening to the end.

LARA (V.O.)
Wait wait. Shh. My Dad's back. Can you
smell smoke?

We hear deodorant spray.

JOHN BOBACK (V.O.)
Lara?!

TEEN MANDY AND TEEN MIRI
(V.O.)
Hiii Mr. Boback.

Samuel rewinds. And replays.

JOHN BOBACK (V.O.)
Lara?!

TEEN MANDY AND TEEN MIRI
(V.O.)
Hiii Mr. Boback.

Another rewind.

JOHN BOBACK (V.O.)
Lara?!

Samuel pauses his machine.

SAMUEL
(teen girl impression)
Hiii Mr Boback.

He adjusts his pitch. Like a singer trying to find his tone.

SAMUEL
(a little lower)
Hii Mr Boback.

Satisfied. Samuel smiles to himself. And finishes the last of the cottage pie. As expected, it's delicious.

THE END