

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 6  
"Sink or Swim"

SHOOTING SCRIPT  
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1 **EXT. CLIFF TOP - DAWN**

1

SHOT of the sea from the cliff top. Over the sound of the waves, we hear the crisp voice of the Shipping Forecast.

SHIPPING FORECAST (V.O.)  
Dover, Wight, cyclonic five.

2 **INT. POLICE STATION HOLDING CELL - DAY**

2

MIRI sits on the floor - back against the wall.

SHIPPING FORECAST (V.O.)  
Becoming north to gale eight. Severe  
gale nine later.

3 **INT. SCHOOL HALL - OMITTED**

3

4 **INT. PARENT'S BEDROOM - OMITTED**

4

## 5 EXT. MATTESON HOUSE - DAY

5

Close on OSCAR in the bedroom window. He looks ashen.

CAROLINE (O.S.)  
Happy Birthday!

OSCAR  
No it's not.

CAROLINE joins him at the window.

CAROLINE  
Oh.

NOW WE SEE WHAT THEY SEE:

Rubbish is strewn everywhere. Someone has emptied all the bins. And more. All the street's rubbish. There is a life-size effigy of Miri hanging from the tree. It has a blonde wig and a dress. It all looks awful.

## 6 INT. POLICE STATION CELL - DAY

6

MIRI paces. JANICE sits on the bench filling out a lot of paperwork while she talks.

JANICE  
I was midway through an extremely spicy new-dle soup and I got the call. Miri Matteson possible arson. Oh, and she shouted an old bag to death. I nearly threw up - sign this.

She hands Miri the paperwork and pen.

JANICE (CONT'D)  
Have you ever thrown up new-dles. I Did it in Singapore Airport in the nineties - one of them came out at full length. Very disconcerting.

MIRI  
FUCK NOODLES JANICE. I don't care. And it's not new-dle it's noodle.

JANICE  
That's what I said, new-dle.

MIRI  
Noo-dle. Noo-dle - oh forget it. I need to get home. It's my Dad's birthday.

JANICE  
Oooh.

MIRI

I've probably already ruined it with  
all this toss.

(then)

That should not have happened.  
I didn't do anything!

JANICE

Calm down. Good news - you didn't do  
anything.

MIRI

I KNOW.

JANICE

Bad news. It might take the community  
a bit longer to catch up.

She hands Miri her iPad. Miri takes it.

JANICE

You've made the front page.

Miri reads. The website of the local newspaper. She's the main story. The old photo of TEEN MIRI from the trial stares back her.

MIRI

Oh my God... none of it is true. And  
I'm not forty don't age me as well /

JANICE

- There's nothing wrong with forty. Or  
fifty -

MIRI

/as blaming me for everything that  
goes wrong in this town. Urghhh.  
"Doe-eyed manipulator." Jesus Christ -  
we're back to that -

JANICE

Okay -

MIRI

They'd never describe a man like that.  
This is all bullshit.

JANICE

You should go to the meeting and tell  
them that.

MIRI

What meeting?

JANICE

Oh God, Janice you prat. Forget I said  
it.

MIRI

Janice!

Beat.

JANICE

There's a community meeting at the  
school later. Concerned residents.

MIRI

Oh for fuck's sake!

JANICE

To be fair, there's a lot of bad juju  
since you came back.

MIRI

It's not my juju. If anyone actually  
asked me, or talked to me...

Janice looks at her, supportive.

JANICE

"This too shall pass". Probably.  
Hopefully. Sometimes it doesn't  
though. It gets worse which means it  
did pass - but it didn't get better.  
So in that case you wish it hadn't  
passed-

MIRI

(shut up)  
Alright.

We hear the door of the cell open.

**TITLE CARD: BACK TO LIFE**

7 EXT. POLICE STATION - DAY

7

JANICE and MIRI stand outside the station.

JANICE

(brightly)  
Anyway, you've got one friend.

Janice reaches into her handbag.

MIRI

Thanks Janice.

JANICE

(boundaries)  
No - not me. I'm your probation  
officer.

She gets out a post card of Hythe Church Graveyard.

JANICE (CONT'D)

I meant the man who got you out.

MIRI

What man?

JANICE

Foreign fella. He saw you on the  
beach. Gorgeous. Wanted me to give you  
this -

Miri takes the postcard and reads it. In Samuel's handwriting:  
"Meet me here today. Big News."

JANICE (CONT'D)  
I'd love a big bear like that. Very  
nice. Hairy. I know it's controversial  
but I do love a bit of back hair-

Miri has gone.

JANICE  
Miri?

8 EXT. MATTESON HOUSE - DAY

8

OSCAR is picking up the rubbish with CAROLINE. All of Oscar's  
carefully separated waste is mixed up. Caroline is removing the  
effigy from the tree.

CAROLINE  
This is too much. It's horrid. I  
thought it was getting better.

Caroline holds the effigy, almost impressed, checks the dress  
label.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)  
Someone's put a lot of effort into it.  
This is exactly what she wears. But  
ironed...

Oscar is immersed in the rubbish.

OSCAR  
Senseless fools.

He carefully separates some broken glass from a banana skin.

OSCAR (CONT'D)  
They can hate us -

He calls out to the world.

OSCAR (CONT'D)  
But don't punish the planet!

CAROLINE  
It's just our front garden darling.

Caroline adjusts the effigy's hair. Oscar picks up a tin can.

OSCAR  
Nothing's been rinsed.  
(then)  
Rinse your tins, whoever you are!

Beat.

CAROLINE

I think they've probably gone by now.

(then)

Look, don't let them in. It's your  
birthday. We're together as a family.

We're going to have a wonderful day.

Aren't we Miri?

Caroline makes the effigy nod.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

See?

Oscar nods. He manages a smile. He clears a little more rubbish  
then sees the local newspaper. They both stare at it. The paper  
is folded in half. TEEN MIRI'S trial photo stares back up at  
them.

Oscar's smile fades. Oh Christ.

9 EXT. HYTHE CHURCH GRAVEYARD - DAY

9

Establisher of the church and graveyard.

10 EXT. HYTHE CHURCH GRAVEYARD/ LARA'S GRAVE - DAY

10

SAMUEL waits furtively by Lara's tombstone. MIRI approaches.

MIRI

We could have met in a cafe.

SAMUEL

Were you followed?

He scans behind her.

MIRI

No. Why would I be?

SAMUEL

The truth is powerful, Miri. People will do anything to stop it coming out.

MIRI

Sorry, what people? Can you tell me what's going on?

He reaches for a notebook. It's filled with notes, photos and old press cuttings.

SAMUEL

As a detective, this has been one of my toughest cases, Miri. But the truth was right there all this time. I have fixed your puzzle, I know why Lara was angry with you that night.

This is all Miri has ever wanted to know.

MIRI

Tell me-

He hands her the book.

SAMUEL

You don't need me to tell you. You know already - don't you Miri?

MIRI

What are you talking about?

SAMUEL

Okay I will play. Lara was angry with you because she found out your secret. You were sleeping with her father. Mr. Boback.

He has just solved the greatest case of his career. Beat.

MIRI

What? No. No way.

SAMUEL

Yes.

MIRI

That's disgusting. I wouldn't-

SAMUEL

Yes you did-

MIRI

No! I would remember if I'd had sex with my best friend's Dad.

SAMUEL

You don't need to lie anymore.

MIRI

I'm not lying. I didn't sleep with an old policeman.

SAMUEL

Let me finish. Lara finds out you are  
scissoring with her Dad.

SAMUEL

Let me finish. Lara finds out you are  
scissoring with her Dad.

MIRI

Scissoring? What are you -

SAMUEL

Scissoring.

He mimes it.

MIRI

Wow.

SAMUEL

It's all in the book.

Over the following Miri flips through the book. Notes, photographs, diagrams - it's an intense investigative record. But just wrong.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

Lara bites you - savage rage - you push her back. Smash! She's dead. Then he tells you to stay quiet or you will die. Then you go to jail. And nobody ever knows that Chief Inspector Boback likes to swim in schoolgirl soup.

Miri firmly closes the book.

MIRI

I didn't sleep with him. None of this happened. I can see you've worked very hard but it's entirely wrong.

He looks at her carefully. To see whether she is lying.

SAMUEL

Hmmmm.

MIRI

What?

SAMUEL

Studying your face... OK.

He looks through his book.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

So I must have taken a wrong turn...

MIRI

Very, very wrong. Who are you? Who do you work for?

SAMUEL

(with great pride)  
Self-employed. Self-funded. Self-taught.

MIRI

Oh Jesus - sorry, Jesus.

(then)

I actually thought you were going to help me.

SAMUEL

I will. So now I must find Mr. Boback...

MIRI

No - just drop it. Go get a normal job.

(then)

Look, it's my Dad's birthday. I have to go home.

SAMUEL

Oh happy birthday.

MIRI

My Dad's not mine.

SAMUEL

Oh.

He looks down on her.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

You know, you English people. So silly-

MIRI

Excuse me?

SAMUEL

You British - you build a concrete mirror to hear the enemy coming. But with your own ears you don't always listen.

MIRI

That's not true.

SAMUEL

Yes it is.

He walks away.

11 **INT. PUBLIC TOILET - OMITTED** 11

12 **EXT. MATTESON HOUSE - OMITTED** 12

13 **INT. KITCHEN - DAY** 13

CAROLINE washes her hands. OSCAR makes tea. The effigy in the dress is on a chair at the table. There is a cup of tea in front of it. MIRI enters with the veggie box.

MIRI

I'm so sorry guys. Happy Birthday Dad.  
Not a present. It's your veggie box.

Caroline hugs Miri.

CAROLINE

It's not your fault. Your father wants  
to sue the police.

OSCAR

No I want to throttle Tina. Taking you  
in like that. You didn't do anything.

MIRI

Someone called them and said I did it  
so...

Miri spots her effigy at the kitchen table

OSCAR

Who?

MIRI

I don't know - and what is that?

CAROLINE

Well - you.

MIRI

What?

OSCAR

It was hanging out front. An effigy.

MIRI

Doesn't look anything like me.  
Firstly, I have a face...

CAROLINE

Yes but they dressed you well so  
that's something.

MIRI

Is it? Why is it sitting at the table?  
Did you make it a cup of tea?

CAROLINE

(Yes)

No. It was cold. And we didn't want to  
throw you away.

OSCAR

Ideally we'd shred you and use you as  
roof insulation.

CAROLINE

Oscar!

MIRI

Maybe you should keep her, she's a  
better bet than me right now.

CAROLINE

Darling. I'm sorry.

Oscar opens the veggie box. His face drops.

OSCAR

Oh God. No, no-

Caroline and Miri's hearts sink. Fearing something terrible  
like faeces.

CAROLINE

What's wrong darling?

He shakes his head darkly.

OSCAR

Potatoes. It's all potatoes.

They all peer into the box. It is in indeed all potatoes.

OSCAR

We've suffered enough.

Caroline and Miri exchange a look. Relieved.

CAROLINE  
(carefully)

I don't think it's personal. It's  
whatever's in season. Remember when  
Marion said she just got turnips.

MIRI

Now that's personal.

He nods.

OSCAR

Oh yes... Maybe I over-reacted.

Phone rings. Caroline exits to answer it.

MIRI

I'm so sorry I've ruined your  
birthday. And I haven't even got you a  
present.

OSCAR

You're my present. I've got you this  
year.

He gives her a really big hug, it's lovely.

Caroline re-enters from the hall.

CAROLINE

(loud whisper)

Cake's ready. Miri, I need two pairs  
of hands.

OSCAR

I can hear you darling.

Miri hesitates. She glances at the local paper.

MIRI

Maybe I should stay here. Hide from  
the witch hunt.

OSCAR

You've done nothing wrong.

MIRI

Well -

OSCAR

Recently. Hold your nerve.

Caroline exits with Miri. We stay on Oscar. He stares at all  
his potatoes. Still a little rankled.

14 EXT. MATTESON HOUSE - DAY

14

MIRI and CAROLINE exit the house. Caroline hands Miri a shopping list.

CAROLINE

I'll pick up the cake - if you get these.

Miri stops. BILLY is standing by his van. It has fresh red graffiti on it: "I SHAG SYCHOS".

MIRI

Oh my God.

Miri walks towards him. Billy looks terrible.

BILLY

(re graffiti)

Yeah... not great.

MIRI

Ignore it. They can't even spell.

BILLY

But I didn't actually - with you.

MIRI

I know.

BILLY

That's just wrong. Me with you shagging. Urgh.

MIRI

Alright. Okay.

BILLY

Not that you're disgusting - but I did love her. I was young but I wasn't just some playboy, I'm not like that.

MIRI

Of course not-

BILLY

They're saying they don't want me at the funeral. Her family...

MIRI

Oh Billy. Oh God.

BILLY

I liked you. But I never would have been unfaithful.

He points to the writing on the van: "I SHAG SYCHOS."

MIRI

Oh God, look this is all because of  
me. Let me talk to them. I'll go round  
to every one of their houses one by  
one. I'll force them to understand.

That was a bit intense. He looks nervous. She mitigates it.

MIRI (CONT'D)  
Obviously, in a very unthreatening  
way.

He can't look at her now. Miri knows she's losing this.

BILLY  
I don't think there will be ice cream  
again.

They're both devastated.

MIRI  
(sadly)  
Okay.

They look at each other sadly for a beat. He gets into his van.  
Miri walks back to Caroline.

CAROLINE  
I can go on my own if you -

MIRI  
(defiant)  
No, no.

They get in the car.

15 INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

15

MIRI walks with gold helium balloons for Oscar - a number 7 and 0. She's looking for candles. DOM comes round the aisle. He still has a slightly black eye. He looks hungover. He stops when he sees her. Terrified. She gives him a look, thinking he's going to hit on her again.

MIRI  
No Dom.

Dom thinks Miri must know about his relationship with Caroline.

DOM  
Miri - oh shit. I'm so sorry. I'm so  
fucking sorry -

MIRI  
Please don't feel sorry for me.

DOM  
Sorry -

MIRI  
Stop it!

DOM  
OK, OK, OK.

MIRI

I was kind of expecting it, to be honest.

DOM

(vaguely appalled)  
Really? Wow. Why? Cos I wasn't-

He still thinks they're talking about Caroline.

MIRI

I was. I'm a shit magnet.

DOM

Came as a total surprise to me.

MIRI

Well, welcome to my life.

DOM

So you're OK. With it? Really?

MIRI

I've handled worse. Can we not talk about it. Please.

DOM

OK. OK - wow. You are so... amazing.  
It's inspiring really. And you're looking great for your age.

He points at the "70" balloons.

MIRI

Prison's really good for your skin.  
Anti-aging... Right...

They walk the aisle together, Miri is gathering things.

DOM

You do actually look... fit though. I still would.

MIRI

What are you doing?

DOM

I'm just saying what I feel about your face. And your tits.

MIRI

Is this really the only way you can  
talk to me?

DOM

What?

MIRI

Have you not evolved at all?

DOM

Uh... well -

MIRI

I'm not going to sleep with you. Ever.  
It's never going to happen. You're not  
my type anyway, and you are a married  
dad. With twins.

They walk in silence. Dom finally drops his shtick... Dom  
refers to his basket of nappies and loo roll.

DOM

My basket used to be so much sexier.  
Fucking twins...

MIRI

What are they like?

DOM

Small. One of them is crying at all  
times. My wife is always feeding them.  
The supermarket is a fucking holiday.

MIRI

You look awful.

DOM

You look like shit too.

MIRI

That's better.

Dom is reflective.

DOM

You were always the cool one - I was just a little twat trying to stick my dick in everything. I still am...I think I might be a sex addict.

MIRI

No. You're just a sixteen year old in an old man's body.

DOM

Ouch.

(then)

I tried to find you yesterday. I was really drunk. So I couldn't.

MIRI

I was with Mandy.

DOM

Poor you, she's a stuck up asshole.

MIRI

Well apparently, you'd "jizz on anything."

DOM

Apart from her. Did she say that?  
See. Asshole.

They are quiet for a bit. Then:

DOM

Do you think we'd be together - if you hadn't -

MIRI

No.

DOM

(disappointed)  
No. Me neither.

MIRI

We would have been friends. You did make me laugh. You and your white Reeboks.

DOM

Oh no...

MIRI

The hours you spent, keeping them  
"fly."

DOM

Oh God. Don't.

(beat, relief)

I really thought you were gonna kill  
me.

He laughs. She half laughs.

DOM

Your Dad gave me a black eye, thought  
at the least you'd do the other one.

He laughs again. She stops laughing. Dom realizes this has been  
a huge misunderstanding.

MIRI

Why did my Dad give you a black eye?

HARD CUT TO:

16 INT/ EXT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

16

MIRI walks down the aisle. Basket in one hand, and carrying  
Oscar's 7 and 0 balloons in the other. DOM follows her,  
inadequately trying to apologize. She doesn't look at him.

We don't hear any dialogue in this scene. Just white noise.

CAROLINE is at the entrance. She sees Miri - and then Dom  
behind her. Caroline realizes what has happened.

The white noise becomes the Shipping Forecast.

SHIPPING FORECAST (V.O.)  
Moderate becoming rough, or very  
rough. Southwesterly gale force eight  
continuing and increasing.

As Miri exits, right past Caroline - Caroline tries desperately to talk to her. And pulls on Miri's arm.

Miri suddenly lashes out and thrashes her mother violently but harmlessly and ineffectively with the balloons.

She stops. She and her mother have slightly static hair.

A few SHOPPERS - including a MOTHER who holds her CHILD closer - all stare at Miri like she's a monster.

Miri turns defiantly and leaves. As she exits, she releases the balloons. They float gently up into the air.

As Miri leaves we hear the following conversation.

MARK (V.O.)  
Hello?

MIRI (V.O.)  
Hi, is Mandy there?

MARK (V.O.)  
No. She's out.  
(calling out to a kid)  
Don't point that at your brother!

MIRI (V.O.)  
I need to speak to her.

MARK (V.O.)  
She's at the school, she's always at  
the school.

## 17A EXT. BOBACK'S HOUSE - DAY

17A

We stay on Samuel throughout this scene. Samuel knocks on the door. After a few beats it opens.

SAMUEL

Hello Mr. Boback, I think we need to have a little chat.

## 17B INT. PARENT'S BEDROOM - DAY

17B

OSCAR is dressing in front of the mirror. He's wearing a dapper old suit - clearly a suit he used to wear in his prime. Bit tight, but it still looks good. He is very pleased with what he sees. He's had a bad day, but he's not going to let it take over today.

He hears the front door open and close. He hurriedly tucks in a pocket square and straightens his tie.

He turns and presents himself to the door. CAROLINE is there.

OSCAR

Thought 70 deserves a suit. Still fits. Most areas.

(beat)

Where's Miri?

Caroline looks distressed.

CAROLINE

Oh Oscar.

OSCAR

What's wrong darling?

CAROLINE (ALTERNATIVE)

You have to come with me.

## 18 EXT. MATTESON HOUSE - OMITTED

18

## 19 EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

19

Establisher.

## 20 INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR - OMITTED

20

21 INT. SCHOOL HALL - DAY

21

The community meeting is under way. A couple of dozen people. Concerned residents.

MIRI enters. MANDY stands on the raised stage. A CONCERNED RESIDENT is speaking.

CONCERNED RESIDENT ONE  
...A dead old lady on a lawn. Arson.  
Bricks through windows - this town  
isn't safe now she's back.

MANDY  
Okay Lisa -

Another CONCERNED RESIDENT raises a hand.

CONCERNED RESIDENT TWO  
What's next? She should be locked up.  
She's unstable.

MIRI  
No I'm not.

Everyone turns. Miri sees DOM sitting nearby. Sheepish.

MANDY  
Oh Christ.

Miri walks forward. Mandy stops her.

MIRI  
What the fuck are you doing here?

MANDY  
(whispering)  
I'm sorry, I chair the residents'  
committee -

DOM  
My wife makes me come to these things.

MANDY  
She wasn't talking to you.

Dom is pissed off.

DOM  
Ooh sorry Miss.

MANDY  
Shut up Dom.  
(then, to Miri)  
Go to my office, calm down-

MIRI  
I've been calm and it doesn't work!

Miri pushes past Mandy and walks forward to the front of the meeting.

MIRI (CONT'D)  
I'm pretty angry right now so I may not come across very well which is annoying because I'm actually very, very, very polite and stable. Aren't I?

She looks over at Mandy.

MANDY  
(quick and diplomatic)  
Can be.

MIRI  
That woman - Anna - had a heart attack. I did not set fire to the truck - someone threw a brick at me.  
(Gesturing at her wound)  
Look -

CONCERNED RESIDENT TWO  
Can't see anything.

MIRI (CONT'D)  
I'm really not a bad person. I'm a good person. Well, a good person who did a terrible thing. But we all do terrible things. We do. Come on.

Silence. Then NATHAN stands up. He's been lurking at the back.

NATHAN

I set fire to my truck. It was me.

People turn.

MIRI

See! (realising) What, that was you?

NATHAN

And then said it was her. What a bastard.

MIRI

I helped you.

NATHAN

I know. I just did it. For the insurance. And I thought they'd believe that you did it because you killed someone -

MIRI

Yep - got that.

NATHAN

Anyway I'm not going to claim it now So don't tell the police... I don't want to get into trouble.

CONCERNED RESIDENT ONE

We are here to discuss the release of a violent psychopath into our town.

CONCERNED RESIDENT TWO

And the parking on Dickson street.

CONCERNED RESIDENT ONE

There's a separate committee for that.

(then)

She is evil. This is a community of decent god-fearing people.

CAROLINE has entered at the back with OSCAR.

CAROLINE

Shut up Lisa. You spent last summer screwing your choirmaster.

The concerned resident looks immediately guilty. The MAN next to her looks up - shocked.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Oh. Didn't see you there, Martin. Well now you know.

CONCERNED RESIDENT ONE  
You can talk. Everyone knows what  
you've been up to.

MANDY  
Keep it civil -

CAROLINE  
She's right. But I'm here to make  
amends.

OSCAR  
We all have sins. All of us.

CAROLINE  
I'm sorry I hurt you.  
(then, to the room)  
I hurt my daughter.

MIRI  
Yes you did!

OSCAR  
And I had chlamydia.

CAROLINE  
Because I gave it to him.

Nobody knows how to react to this. Dom raises a hand.

DOM  
Because I gave it to her. And maybe a  
couple of other people. Go get  
yourselves tested-

MIRI  
Can we try to stay on topic please.

Oscar looks round the room. Some people look guilty.

CONCERNED RESIDENT ONE  
See, you're all poison. Why don't you  
just move?

CAROLINE  
Why don't you move?

MANDY  
Guys, come on!

CONCERNED RESIDENT ONE  
I just remortgaged.

MIRI  
Nobody has to move.

CONCERNED RESIDENT ONE  
Why? Because you want to kill us all?

OSCAR  
I'll kill you all before she does.

MIRI  
He doesn't mean that.

DOM  
He might.

OSCAR  
I do.

MIRI  
You don't.

OSCAR  
Graffiting our house, effigies,  
shitting in boxes.

MIRI  
That was someone else.

OSCAR  
I'll kill them too.

MIRI  
She's already- forget it.

NATHAN  
Does anyone have an phone charger?

VARIOUS RESIDENTS  
Sit down/shut up.

Mandy suddenly shouts angrily.

MANDY  
SHUT UP! SHUT UP! All of you!

Her head teacher voice gets everyone's attention.

MANDY (CONT'D)  
You are all awful. All of you. Christ -  
This whole town is full of sad, narrow-  
minded, pathetic arseholes. I should  
have left when I could.

(then)  
I'm chair of this committee and I'm  
telling you Miri Matteson is not  
dangerous. She didn't kill the old  
lady - she didn't steal your hanging  
baskets. And she hasn't joined Isis -  
Sue.

Mandy indicates an ELDERLY WOMAN in the front row. Miri stares at her. Seriously? The woman shrugs.

MIRI

No - and I didn't have an affair with the dad of the girl I killed, which someone accused me of today. Please I am not a bad person, I'm not.

DOM

Thought it was Mandy who was shagging him.

Mandy looks horrified. Miri is shocked.

MIRI

What?

DOM

Right Miss High and Mighty?... I mean that's what I thought was going on-

MIRI

What she slept with..?

Miri looks at Mandy who looks horrified. Mandy runs out. Miri follows.

DOM

Whoops... But anyway, about this whole Chlamydia thing. It incubates, so you don't always know you have it. Lisa.

Silence.

22 INT. PARENT'S BEDROOM - OMITTED 22

23 INT. SCHOOL TOILETS - DAY 23

MIRI enters. Mandy is locked in a cubicle.

MIRI

Mandy?

We hear stifled sobs.

MIRI (CONT'D)  
Is that true. Were you sleeping with  
Mr Boback?

IN THE CUBICLE: Mandy is distraught.

MIRI (CONT'D)  
Answer me?

Beat.

MIRI (CONT'D)  
Please.

No response. Mandy's crying.

MIRI (CONT'D)  
I'm not angry, I just want to know if  
you're OK...

Nothing.

MIRI (CONT'D)  
(gentle)  
OK. If you can't speak do that thing  
we did at school, remember? Is my name  
Miri?

Loo roll appears under the door.

MIRI (CONT'D)  
Yes. Great. Is my fringe terrible?

Loo roll appears under the door.

MIRI (CONT'D)  
Yes it is, thank you.

Beat.

MIRI (CONT'D)  
OK... Was what Dom said true, were you  
sleeping with Mr Boback?

A beat and then a piece of toilet roll comes under the door

MIRI (CONT'D)  
Christ Mandy. Oh my god. Why didn't you tell me?

Mandy sobs.

MIRI (CONT'D)  
Did Lara know? Did she know the night she died?

A piece of toilet paper comes under the door.

MIRI (CONT'D)  
Yes? Then why was she so angry with me? Did she think I knew about it?

No toilet paper. Miri slowly connects dots.

MIRI (CONT'D)  
She didn't think it was me did she?  
(then)  
Did she think I slept with her dad?

Mandy has her head in her hands.

MANDY  
I didn't want her to hate me.

MIRI  
Did you lie and tell her it was me?

Mandy sobs. Miri suddenly bangs on the cubicle door.

MIRI (CONT'D)  
Mandy! Did you lie and tell her I was sleeping with her Dad?!

Another piece of toilet paper appears under the door.

Miri is winded. Mandy sobs. Miri bangs at the cubicle with both hands.

MIRI (CONT'D)  
So none of this had to happen. None of it.

Miri wants to claw the door down. Mandy is sobbing inside.

MIRI (CONT'D)  
I'm going to fucking kill you, get out of there, come out and face me you fucking wimp! Mandy!! Mandy!!

Mandy cowers. Miri slams herself against the door. Finally giving up, she storms out of the loo.

24 INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR - DAY

24

MIRI walks away in pieces.

MUSIC PLAYS

25 **INT. DOM'S CAR - OMITTED**

25

26 **INT. KITCHEN - EVENING**

26

OSCAR and CAROLINE slow dance in the kitchen together. They hold each other tight.

27 **INT. SUPERMARKET - EVENING**

27

JANICE looks at a packet of noodles in her hands.

JANICE

New-dle. Noo-dle. New-dle.

28 **EXT. WHEREVER WE WANT - OMITTED**

28

29 **EXT. SOUND MIRROR - EVENING**

29

MIRI walks down the path toward the sound mirror. She has not been here since the night. This is huge for her.

She sees it looming in front of her. She feels sick. But walks on.

Finally reaching it. She stops in front of it.

Emotions rise. Terrible memories. The sound of the sea and wind all around her.

She kneels down. Suddenly exhausted. She closes her eyes.

The screech of the seagulls reverberates in the sound mirror.

30 **EXT. ANYWHERE CONVENIENT - OMITTED**

30

31 **EXT SOUND MIRROR - OMITTED**

31

32 **EXT. SOUND MIRROR - OMITTED**

32

33 **EXT. BEACH - NEXT MORNING**

33

MIRI sits on the sand. She hugs her legs and looks out to the sea.

In the distance, we see BILLY approaching... He sees Miri and walks towards her. He holds the remnants of two ice creams. Miri looks up. She's shattered. Can't quite believe it's him.

BILLY

I saw you. I got these but they  
melted.

MIRI

Thank you.

Miri smiles and takes them.

MIRI

What changed your mind?

BILLY

A big walk... Realising how little we  
all are. And then I saw you on the  
beach all hunched up like a turtle and  
thought everything's gone a bit shit.  
We both need an ice cream. What are  
you doing?

MIRI

Sitting.

BILLY

Yes you are. I'm standing.

MIRI

Yes you are. Well done.

BILLY

Thank you.

MIRI

You want to? -

He is hesitant, then he sits.

BILLY

You look sad.

MIRI

I am a bit.

He nods.

MIRI

None of it needed to happen.

Billy isn't sure what she means.

MIRI

None of the last twenty years. And my  
best friend died hating me for  
something - and I can't tell her it's  
not true. Which is an awful feeling.

Silence.

BILLY  
She will know. Now.

Miri looks at him.

MIRI  
How?

BILLY  
I think when you die you become part  
of everything. The sea... air. So you  
must know everything. Right?

Miri looks out at the water. Thoughtful.

MIRI  
I don't know. Maybe. That would be  
nice

Pause.

BILLY  
That's why they don't let dead people  
do pub quizzes.

She smiles despite herself. Then.

MIRI  
I just want to start my life and it's  
like I'm not allowed.

BILLY  
Rubbish. This is it.

MIRI  
What?

BILLY  
Your life. It's happening, now. Look  
at that.

They look out at the sea. The light is beautiful on the water.  
Miri smiles.

Beat, Billy takes her hand. It's sweet. Miri hasn't had this  
intimacy for twenty years. It's overwhelming.

BILLY  
It's quite big your hand.

MIRI  
Maybe yours is small

BILLY  
It's like a flipper.

MIRI  
No it isn't.

BILLY

Gosh. Long fingers. Good for getting things out of bottles...?

MIRI

I honestly haven't tried.

BILLY

Well. Something to look forward to.

Miri smiles. Billy smiles. They hold hands and look out to sea.

They sit in silence. There's hope.

MUSIC: Cover of 'Cherry-Coloured Funk' by The Cocteau Twins.

## 34 EXT. SOUND MIRROR - DAY

34

The sound mirror looks beautiful in the light.

We pull closer. We now see there's a body slumped by its base.

It's SAMUEL. Dead.

And we...

FADE OUT

## 35 EXT. SOUND MIRROR - DAY - ALTERNATE FOR SC34 TBD IN EDIT

35

The sound mirror looks beautiful in the light.

We pull closer. We now see there's a body slumped by its base.

It's MANDY. Dead.

And we...

FADE OUT

THE END