

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

BACK TO LIFE

SERIES 2

By

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Episode 1

Post Shoot Master Script - 14.05.21

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1 INT. JANICE'S OFFICE - DAY 1

1

CLOSE on MIRI. She is strong, bright and determined. Pause. JANICE is staring at her hair.

JANICE
What you done now?

MIRI
I found my crimper.

JANICE
You look like one of those animals-

MIRI
I love it.

JANICE
What they called-

MIRI
Janice-

Janice reads from a form.

JANICE
So, six weeks out. How are you coping
with life outside the facility?

MIRI
All good, I'm on it like a car bonnet.

JANICE
I ain't writing that down.

*

MIRI
Then just say. "All good".

JANICE
Are you currently in employment?

MIRI
You got me that trial at the
supermarket tomorrow-

JANICE
I know. It's a form Miri, Christ.

MIRI
Calm down.

JANICE
I didn't have any protein this
morning. Current living arrangement?

MIRI
I won't be there much longer.

*

(CONTINUED)

JANICE
Is the palace too big for you? Too
much hot water and gold leaf?

MIRI
The queen fucked my ex boyfriend.
Remember?

*
*
Janice nods. Oh yeah. Fair enough.

JANICE
Do you have a good support network? No
not really.

Starts writing. Miri jumps in, defensive.

MIRI
Yeah, I've got friends. Well, a
friend... Billy.

JANICE
Boyfriend?

MIRI
No, not. Yet.

JANICE
So you haven't even-

MIRI
No!! Please!

Janice puts down the form she is filling in.

JANICE
What about that girl... Mandy?

Miri shrugs. Janice eyeballs her.

MIRI
What about her?

JANICE
Have you seen her? Since?

MIRI
No. Don't intend to ever again.

JANICE
What would Michelle Obama do?

MIRI
What do you mean?

JANICE
What would she do?

MIRI

I don't know! Because I'm Miri
Matteson.

JANICE

Do you know the story about the
hamster under the carpet?

MIRI

If this is a dirty joke-

JANICE

No. Guy puts his hamster under the
carpet -

MIRI

Why would he do that?

JANICE

I don't know. But basically he can't
handle it, puts it there, trips up on
it. Dies.

MIRI

You're hangry-

JANICE

(looking for food)
Yes, I am. I need a sausage or
something-

*

MIRI

-And I haven't put a hamster under the
carpet.

JANICE

That's what you think.

MIRI

Oh my God. Get back to the form!

JANICE

Deal with it, or you'll fall over.

MIRI

I'm dealing with myself right now.
Things are good. Moving on.

JANICE

Excellent. Moving on. With no best
friend, a guy you like but you haven't
seen his cocky yet, no real job, and
you don't want to live in the palace
anymore, but you still live there...
Anything else?

*

MIRI

(plucky)

No that's everything. Thank you.

JANICE

And things could get worse.

*

MIRI

Or they could get better.

*

JANICE

In my experience they usually get worse. Much, much worse.

*

Miri rolls her eyes.

CUT TO...

2 INT/EXT. BOBACK HOUSE - DAY 2

2

A woman who we will soon learn is MRS NORAH BOBACK, 60s, is at the window. She waves and smiles at her husband, MR JOHN BOBACK, 60s, whose face we don't see. He's getting into a car and leaving.

We hear the car drive away. Mrs Boback's smile disappears. She hurriedly finds a packed bag hidden in a cupboard then rushes downstairs. It's clear she is running away.

JANICE (V.O.)

Sorry, I've got a deep sense of foreboding...

As she passes the hall mantelpiece, we linger on a picture of the perfect family: JOHN, NORAH and LARA BOBACK.

The family of Miri's victim.

3 INT. JANICE'S OFFICE - DAY 1

3

JANICE snaps herself out of it and continues talking to MIRI.

JANICE

Probably just my period.

*

MIRI

You need to eat something.

JANICE

I do. What is there?

Janice rummages in her drawer and pulls out a Pot Noodle. Miri senses what is coming...

JANICE (CONT'D)

It's not protein but I do love me some-

(CONTINUED)

MIRI

-Don't.

JANICE

Newdles.

HARD CUT

TITLES: BACK TO LIFE

3A **EXT. BEACH - DAY 2**

3A

Sweeping drone shots bring us past the Sound Mirror, past a lighthouse, and back to our bleakly beautiful setting...

3B **INT. MATTESON HOUSE. MIRI'S BEDROOM - DAY 2**

3B

MIRI finishes crimping her hair and checks herself in the mirror. She looks down at three digital pets, all different colours, sitting in a row.

*
*

MIRI

(muttering; pointing)

Eeny, meeny, miny, moe...

She looks at the one her finger has landed on lovingly and picks it up.

MIRI (CONT'D)

Hi Geri.

*
*

She clicks a button to feed it, popping it in her pocket. We hear a man's voice.

MR BOBACK (V.O.)

It's always there gently thudding in the background... You get used to it.

4 **GRIEF COUNSELLING SESSION - DAY 2**

4

A circle of people, all with name badges. They watch a man, 60s, talking. We reveal it to be MR BOBACK, who we saw driving away in Scene 2, and in the photo with Lara.

MR BOBACK

I'm okay. I play golf. Sail, keen swimmer. My wife and I go to church... We exist...

His face changes.

MR BOBACK (CONT'D)

And then you're hit, suddenly. Winded... And you can't believe you were ever okay. It's a life sentence.

5 INT. MATTESON HOUSE. MIRI'S BEDROOM - DAY 2

MR BOBACK'S voice continues over MIRI's morning routine. Miri finishes dressing. Proudly zipping up her generic green fleece - a supermarket uniform. Ready to go. New beginnings. As Miri tucks her sock into her plimsolls, she spots a picture on the floor. It's of her and a TEEN MANDY and LARA. She looks at it. Then uses her foot to push it under her rug. She can't handle it.

*
*
*
*
*
*

MR BOBACK (V.O.)

It's the rage I find the hardest. The fury that she gets to live, walk around, be free. Begin a life, when she took my girl from me. A life I created. She stole that...

She steels herself, determinedly positive. Then heads down stairs. She clutches a 90's boombox with double cassette.

6 INT. GRIEF COUNSELLING SESSION - DAY 2

MR BOBACK's face is contorted and angry.

MR BOBACK

I want to stop her, halt her, destroy her...

The others look worried. He feels the room. Smiles.

MR BOBACK (CONT'D)

But you can't do that can you? And you can't bring the dead back to life.

The room is a little uneasy. The Group Leader, AMY speaks.

AMY

Thank you for sharing um...

She looks at the gap where his name badge should be.

AMY (CONT'D)

Ooh, you don't have a name badge-

He stands up. He's got what he needed.

AMY (CONT'D)

Sir?

Mr Boback walks out of the grief counselling.

7 INT. MATTESON HOUSE. KITCHEN - DAY 2

MIRI makes herself some toast. CAROLINE enters. Then OSCAR. It's tense. Oscar surveys the mess Miri has made. Crumbs on the table.

(CONTINUED)

CAROLINE
You look nice.

Miri hums a chirpy ditty whilst ignoring them. Infuriatingly cheerful.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Have you got a new job?

Miri ignores her and loads her plate into the dishwasher. Oscar grimaces at her technique. Miri smiles sweetly at him whilst placing a plate at a weird angle. She is enjoying this.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Where are you off to?

OSCAR
Answer your mother.

Miri hits play on the boombox.

MIRI (PRE-RECORDED)
No.

CAROLINE
This is getting silly Miri.

Miri fast forwards the tape, counting to three.

MIRI (PRE-RECORDED)
You slept with Dom.

Oscar bristles. He is trying to bury this. Miri fast forwards.

MIRI (PRE-RECORDED) (CONT'D)
Your wife slept with Dom.

CAROLINE
(pleading)
I can't live like this. We can't. You haven't spoken to me in three weeks.

Miri ignores her.

OSCAR
This is ridiculous.

Miri presses fast forward to the next cue.

MIRI (PRE-RECORDED)
We are out of detergent.

Miri frowns and presses it again.

CAROLINE
Just talk to us!

Miri signals for Caroline to wait. Then...

(CONTINUED)

MIRI (PRE-RECORDED)
I will be leaving this house soon.

CAROLINE
What?

Miri has to speak now. She does it fast and with no eye contact.

MIRI
I'm going to be earning soon so... I'm going to get my own place. So we don't have to do this anymore. *

And with that Miri walks out.

CAROLINE
What place? She can't afford anywhere. She'll probably end up in some god awful squat just to spite me.

OSCAR
She's not going anywhere. But we always knew this was temporary. She is an adult and we want her to have her own life.

(then)
Then we'll have this whole place to ourselves again.

Caroline nods. She wants to be happy about that. They both do.

OSCAR (CONT'D)
Just you and me and a well-stacked dishwasher.

Oscar is warmed by the thought. Caroline strains a smile.

8 EXT. SOUND MIRROR - DAY 2

8

We are close on the face of MRS NORAH BOBACK, a haunted quality to her.

We pull back and reveal her standing on the hill facing down towards the imposing Sound Mirror. Her phone rings in her bag. She reaches in and switches it off coldly.

She has a big coat and a small luggage bag. *

She starts to walk towards the Sound Mirror but it's hard to get close. She feels sick and emotional.

She stands and stares ahead.

We see LARA BOBACK at the Sound Mirror. And then she is gone.

9 **INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY 2**

9

MIRI is stocking shelves in her new uniform. She's nervous. She hears whispering.

Then one CUSTOMER gives Miri a nice smile. Miri feels better. Some people are on her side now.

Tap tap on her shoulder. She turns. It's PHIL SOLON, the little bully from Season One. He works here too.

PHIL
(re. customer)
She's lucky you didn't murder her.
Remember me? *

MIRI
Oh. Yes. I'm so happy that it's you.

Miri beams at him. They hate each other.

PHIL
Angela said I am in charge of you.
Your mentor slash namaste.

MIRI
Do you mean nemesis?

Phil nods quietly.

PHIL
I'm Angela's eyes and ears. So it's kind of up to me if you get the job or not.

MIRI
Yay. Congratulations on your hairy face. *

He hands her a huge heavy box of hamster food packets.

PHIL
Stack that. Pet food. Aisle thirteen.
But before you start - can you just go to the stockroom and ask Geoff for a "glass hammer."

He smirks.

MIRI
A glass hammer.

PHIL
Yup.

Miri stares at him. He thinks she has fallen for this.

(CONTINUED)

MIRI

Sure.

10 INT. MATTESON HOUSE. CAROLINE & OSCAR'S BEDROOM - DAY 2

10

CAROLINE puts on some make up at her dressing room table.

OSCAR enters with tea. The radio plays in the background.

OSCAR

There you are. I made tea.

CAROLINE

Oh. So did I. I couldn't find you.

She points to two cups next to her.

OSCAR

Four cups of tea. Ha!

CAROLINE

Ha ha. What fun.

Silence. They don't know how to handle this new togetherness. Caroline gets up and starts making the bed. Oscar helps her, they do it beautifully, like a well rehearsed dance.

OSCAR

More of this when Miri moves out,
quiet mornings together.

CAROLINE

Very quiet.

The bed is made. She forces a smile.

OSCAR

Wonderful.

They look at each other.

RADIO PRESENTER (V.O.)

*Efforts to remove the container of
rubber ducks, which sank off the Isle
of Wight, have finally been
abandoned...*

OSCAR

Oh blast.

Oscar turns up the radio.

RADIO PRESENTER (V.O.)

*After coast guards decided it was too
risky a mission...*

Caroline sees an opportunity to escape.

(CONTINUED)

CAROLINE
I'll make some more tea.

11 INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY 2

11

MIRI stacks the hamster food in the pet aisle, thinking of Janice's hamster under the carpet. She sees TWO WOMEN, arms linked, clearly besties.

FLASHBACK: MANDY sobbing inside the loo after her confession to MIRI.

MANDY
(sobbing)
I didn't want her to hate me.

Then MIRI screaming and banging on the door...

BILLY (O.S.)
Sorry, could you tell me where the washing powder is.

END FLASHBACK

MIRI turns.

MIRI
Oh god - sorry. I'm so sorry.

It's BILLY.

BILLY
It's me!
(whispered)
I'm pretending to be a customer. But I do actually need washing powder.

Miri beams. They are sweetly shy with each other.

MIRI
I don't know. I only just started.
Literally a few minutes ago-

BILLY
Oh God. I'm showing you up.
(then, louder)
I changed my mind. I don't want it anymore.
(to Miri)
But I actually do. I'll go somewhere else.

Miri refers to his entirely full shopping trolley.

MIRI
What's all that?

(CONTINUED)

BILLY
I panicked. Wanted to be a realistic
shopper.

She smiles.

MIRI
Thank you for coming.

BILLY
I wanted to see you. In action.

MIRI
Here I am. Working in a shop.

Another shy pause.

BILLY
Well anyway, I should let you... Just
wanted to see you. Your face.

It's a bit weird. He realises.

MIRI
It's still here.

BILLY
Okay, well I guess you should. Work.

MIRI
Yes. Need to impress them so they
employ me properly.

BILLY
Right. Good luck.

MIRI
See you soon.

Billy walks away... Miri watches him go. Shit. Do something.

MIRI (CONT'D)
(blurting out)
SANDWICH.

That was very loud. Miri blushes.

BILLY
Sorry?

MIRI
We could, can we have, do you eat
sandwich? Can we eat sandwiches? At
lunch. Today?

BILLY
Oh um, sure. Yes.

MIRI

On the beach bench? We can eat them.
The sandwiches, not the bench. We can
share. The sandwiches... and also
bench.

This isn't smooth but Billy is very excited.

BILLY

I will make them. I will!

Now they both try and be cool.

MIRI

Ok.

BILLY

Ok.

MIRI

Ok.

BILLY

So see you at one?

MIRI

It's a date!

BILLY

No it's not, I'm newly widowed.

MIRI

I didn't really mean-

BILLY

I know.

He walks off. Miri smiles to herself. She has a sort of not-a-date date. She feels good. PHIL appears to ruin it.

PHIL

What did Geoff say?

Beat. Miri decides to play along.

MIRI

He said glass hammers don't exist.
Because they would break when you use
them.

Phil sniggers and walks off, really pleased with himself.

A budget hotel room. MRS BOBACK puts a passport and boarding
pass in the small safe.

She then takes her mobile and entirely dismantles it. Putting it in a plastic bag in the bin. She is afraid of something. *

She takes a framed photo out of her bag. A picture of LARA smiles at her. She smiles back. *

We see an insanely worn stuffed toy bunny on the side. She sits at a table with it and looks out to sea. *

13 INT./EXT. MATTESON HOUSE. CAROLINE & OSCAR'S BEDROOM - DAY 2 13

CAROLINE looks out of the window. She is watching OSCAR sorting the recycling.

CAROLINE

He's always got something to do hasn't he? So purposeful...

We pull back and see that Caroline is talking to the Miri effigy propped up on the bed.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

My only purpose is to be the town pariah.

(then)

I don't know why I'm talking to you, you hate me more than anyone.

She realises she's talking to a doll effigy. Refocuses.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

I wonder if he'll notice that I didn't rinse the tomato tin?

Pause. Oscar notices something in a tomato tin.

OSCAR

Caroline!

14 EXT. BEACH - DAY 2

14

BILLY and MIRI sit on a bench eating sandwiches. The sandwiches are sort of sticking to the top of their mouths. Causing them to speak funny.

They smile at each other and try very hard to swallow. A long funny beat as they struggle through this mouthful.

BILLY

Did you know that the average American will have eaten one thousand five hundred peanut butter and jelly sandwiches by the time they leave school.

MIRI

No.

(CONTINUED)

BILLY
I read that somewhere.

Pause. They both look out to sea again.

MIRI
We didn't have many sandwiches in
prison.

BILLY
Really? You'd think they'd be
everywhere.

MIRI
I know but... No.

BILLY
Oh!

Billy rummages in his pocket and then hands her a phone.

BILLY (CONT'D)
For you.

MIRI
Oh my God.

It's an old Nokia.

BILLY
Found it packing up.

MIRI
Billy!

BILLY
It's old but it'll do the job. And it
means we can stay in touch, you know.

MIRI
Thanks so much! Does it have Snake?

BILLY
Yes.

MIRI
Me and Mandy used to have
competitions... anyway...

BILLY
You can play it all the time now.

Miri is distracted. Billy notices the mood has changed.

BILLY (CONT'D)
Are you ok?

*

(CONTINUED)

MIRI
I'm fine.

BILLY
Is it the sandwiches, too gloopy?

MIRI
No no. Really it's all lovely.

Miri takes his hand and smiles. Bit forced.

BILLY
Anna would always say never hold it
in. Let it out or it turns to poison.
She would fling open the bedroom
windows and roar into the night. Then
she'd shit in a box, which I'm not
suggesting, but if something is
bothering you-

*
*

MIRI
(snapping)
Nothing is bothering me. Please just
drop it.

Billy is gutted. So is Miri.

MIRI (CONT'D)
Sorry.

BILLY
It's cool. Got a garden to do anyway
so.

Billy gets up and walks off. Miri puts her head in her hands.
She then springs to her feet - charging off down the road in
another direction.

15 EXT. MANDY'S HOUSE - DAY 2

15

MIRI knocks on the door.

MIRI
Mandy!

16 INT. MANDY'S HOUSE. MANDY & MARK'S BEDROOM - DAY 2

16

MANDY is in bed. Depressed. Like someone who hasn't got out of
bed for a few weeks.

17 EXT./INT. MANDY'S HOUSE - DAY 2

17

MIRI knocks again. Mandy's husband MARK MUNTHER answers. Mark
is late 30s, well meaning, very afraid of his wife. He's also a
little wary of Miri.

MIRI
I need Mandy.

(CONTINUED)

MARK
She's... at school.

MIRI
I went to school, they said she was
off sick this week.

Mark shouts back into the house.

MARK
She went to the school and they said
you were off sick this week.

MANDY (O.S.)
Mark for fuck sake!

He realises he has blown her cover.

MARK
Shit.

Mark is the worst liar ever.

MARK (CONT'D)
I think she's at school.

Miri shouts into the house.

MIRI
MANDY!

MANDY (O.S.)
Tell her to go away!

MARK
Go away.

MIRI
I forgive you-

MARK
I forgive you.

18 INT. MANDY'S HOUSE. MANDY & MARK'S BEDROOM - DAY 2

18

CLOSE on MANDY in bed.

MANDY
No you don't.

Mandy pulls the duvet over her head.

19 EXT./INT. MANDY'S HOUSE - DAY 2

19

Back with MIRI and MARK.

MARK
No you don't.

(CONTINUED)

MIRI

I do. You've ruined the last eighteen years of my life and I'm not letting you fuck up the rest so I forgive you.

MANDY (O.S.)

Of course you don't. Shut the door Mark.

Mark looks nervously at Miri then shuts the door.

Miri is outraged.

MIRI

How dare you. I'm forgiving you!
MANDY!!!!

20 INT. JANICE'S OFFICE - DAY 2 (LATE AFTERNOON) 20

JANICE is at her desk, eating. Her phone rings.

JANICE

Yes?

21 EXT./INT. ROAD / JANICE'S OFFICE - DAY 2 (LATE AFTERNOON) 21

MIRI is charging down the road.

MIRI

I dealt with the hamster.

JANICE

What?

MIRI

I just forgave Mandy!! And she had the balls to not accept it.

We INTERCUT between Miri and JANICE.

On her screen, Janice has up the website for HYTHE HAPPY ALPACAS - a local Kent farm.

JANICE

Alpaca, you look like an alpaca.

MIRI

Excuse me but that is pretty extraordinary of me. It shows great strength of character.

JANICE

Oh god, why can't you get a therapist?

MIRI

I don't need a therapist.

(CONTINUED)

JANICE

I do.

(then)

Look you didn't mean it and she smelt it.

MIRI

Arrrgh!

JANICE

If you're going to forgive her then do it. You gotta Michelle Obama her good and proper, rise above. Or stay angry forever. Your bad-

MIRI

Her lie has fucked up my whole life. So I'm sorry I can't Michelle Obama her - and where was Michelle Obama when I needed someone to Michelle Obama me? Probably in America and anyway it's none of your business.

JANICE

It literally is my business. Think about it. Your best friend was manipulated by a bent copper when she was seventeen. Ninety percent of the women I deal with have been fucked up by men. And the men get away with it.

Miri knows Janice is right.

JANICE (CONT'D)

Honestly, if I didn't like cocky so much I would not have sex with men. Just to punish them.

MIRI

Janice!

JANICE

It's a quality poom poom!

Miri hangs up.

22 INT. MATTESON HOUSE. KITCHEN - DAY 2 (LATE AFTERNOON)

22

MIRI arrives home. OSCAR and CAROLINE are waiting for her. Caroline drinks a glass of wine.

OSCAR

Sit down.

Miri reaches for the boombox. Oscar holds it up. He has removed the batteries. Miri sighs.

(CONTINUED)

OSCAR (CONT'D)
Sit.

Miri sits.

OSCAR (CONT'D)
When you load a dishwasher it is of
utmost importance that you maximise
the capacity. A plate at an angle uses
up three places -

Miri sinks onto the table. What a shit day.

MIRI
Not now Dad...

Caroline refills her glass.

OSCAR
Whilst you are still living in this
house you need to live by our rules.
And it is our responsibility to the
planet to load it properly.

MIRI
Man in Hythe is stacking his
dishwasher correctly. It's going to
unmelt the Arctic.

This is too much for Oscar.

OSCAR
Miri Matteson you are worse than a
teenager, you are the terrible twos!!

Miri is aghast. Caroline tries to diffuse.

CAROLINE
Oscar -

OSCAR
No! I've had enough. We understand you
are angry, but it's been three weeks.

MIRI
I'm not like you Dad. I can't just
pretend nothing happened. What is
wrong with you?

Gut punch for Oscar. Caroline drains her glass.

OSCAR
I'm not pretending. I am moving
forward.

MIRI
Okay. But it's not normal.

OSCAR

Your mother and I cannot continue to live in such a hostile environment.

MIRI

Me neither!

OSCAR

GOOD.

MIRI

Good!

CAROLINE

(a bit drunk)

GOOD!!

OSCAR

You spoke about second chances and everyone making mistakes, maybe you should listen to yourself and stop being such a sulky... twat.

Everyone is surprised Oscar has used that word, including him.

Miri storms out.

CAROLINE

Twat?

OSCAR

(panicked)

What is a twat?

23 INT. MATTESON HOUSE. MIRI'S BEDROOM - DUSK 2

23

MIRI flops on the bed. Picks up her phone and calls Billy. His phone is off. She fiddles with her digital pet, feeds it, kisses it and puts it down. Miri lies back. Defeated.

*
*

24 INT. MATTESON HOUSE. CAROLINE & OSCAR'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 2 24

CAROLINE and OSCAR lie in bed on their phones. Oscar is Googling "Twat".

OSCAR

I thought it was a trendy word for idiot. I had no idea it was gynecological.

Pause.

CAROLINE

Are we okay?

OSCAR

Why wouldn't we be?

(CONTINUED)

CAROLINE
Well...

OSCAR
We're marvellous. Everything is
marvellous.

He pats her leg like she's a pet. Caroline leans over a little
drunkenly.

CAROLINE
Talking of gynaecological...

Oscar resists-

OSCAR
But Miri's right, one man and his
dishwasher does not a movement make.
We need community action.

CAROLINE
What?

OSCAR
There are no local environmental
groups in this town. Not one. It's
pathetic.

Caroline lies back. Bit lost.

OSCAR (CONT'D)
Social media, here I come.

Oscar goes back to his phone.

25 OMITTED 25

26 EXT. MATTESON HOUSE / BILLY'S HOUSE - DAY 3 26

MIRI leaves for work. CAROLINE is looking at the post and OSCAR
is putting the bins out. They all ignore each other.

Oscar and Caroline share a look and go inside.

MIRI thinks about going to see Billy but decides against it.
She walks off instead.

27 INT. MATTESON HOUSE. HALLWAY - DAY 3 27

Back with CAROLINE and OSCAR.

OSCAR
Right. I'm going to have a shower.
Then I'm going to design my logo.
"Make Hythe Clean".

Caroline looks a little sad and trapped.

(CONTINUED)

OSCAR (CONT'D)
What are you going to do?

CAROLINE
Oh. Busy busy.

Oscar heads upstairs. Caroline stands alone in the hallway.
Nothing to do. She tries to tidy. There's nothing to tidy.

The eyeless Miri effigy stares at her.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
What?

A clock ticks, tick tock fucking clock. Deafening boredom. She makes a decision and heads upstairs...

28 INT. MATTESON HOUSE. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY/ BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS - 28
DAY 3

...and CAROLINE walks into the bathroom. A shower is running.

OSCAR (O.S.)
Arghhhh.

CAROLINE (O.S.)
Sorry didn't mean to frighten you.

OSCAR (O.S.)
What are you doing? Oh gosh. But it's the morning! Ooohhh.

CAROLINE (O.S.)
We've got the house to ourselves. We can do whatever we want!

OSCAR (O.S.)
There is soap on my-

CAROLINE (O.S.)
Doesn't matter.

OSCAR (O.S.)
How do we do it, I'm standing up!

CAROLINE (O.S.)
Like this.

OSCAR (O.S.)
Good god.

A little fumbling. Then we hear Caroline cry out in pain.

OSCAR (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Caroline!!

29 INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY 3

29

MIRI stacks shelves conscientiously. She hears PHIL over the tannoy.

PHIL (O.S.)
Miri Matteson to aisle four. Miri
Matteson to aisle four.

Miri turns and is suddenly faced with MRS BOBACK. She is shaking. So is Miri.

MRS BOBACK
.... I want to know - I need you to answer something. Stay back.

Miri stands frozen.

MRS BOBACK (CONT'D)
Was my husband... with Mandy?

Miri nods.

MIRI
I think-

MRS BOBACK
Was he?

MIRI
Yes.

MRS BOBACK
Ok.

She knew this. She just needed someone to say it out loud.

MRS BOBACK (CONT'D)
He had me put on Valium. I was mad.
Apparently... I met him when I was sixteen.

MIRI
Christ.

Mrs Boback nods. Miri is sickened.

MRS BOBACK
You were all so young. Babies really.

Miri wishes they weren't in the middle of a supermarket.

MIRI
Please don't think me existing is me forgetting what I did-

(CONTINUED)

MRS BOBACK

I have hated you for so long. Despised
you. Wished terrible things for you.

MIRI

I'm sure.

MRS BOBACK

But I can't do that anymore...

Miri absorbs this.

MRS BOBACK (CONT'D)

Have you ever wanted to disappear?
Start again.

Miri nods FUCK YES.

MRS BOBACK (CONT'D)

We all owe it to Lara to finally live
our lives.

Miri nods. She understands. Mrs Boback composes herself. She turns to leave. Then with quiet intensity:

MRS BOBACK (CONT'D)

I was never here do you understand?

Miri is confused but nods.

Mrs Boback leaves. Miri is winded. She takes a minute to compose herself. Then she realises what she needs to do.

Miri starts to walk out. PHIL appears, blocking her.

PHIL

Leaving before your shift's up? Not great for a trial week. Angela is going to hate that-

Prison Miri eyeballs him. She is not taking any more shit.

MIRI

Okay. Do you want to do this?

PHIL

What?

MIRI

This.

PHIL

Whatever.

MIRI

Because I am not doing it yet. But I can start.

*

(CONTINUED)

PHIL

Oooh. I'm scared.

He is a bit.

MIRI

I'm adept at dealing with conflict in a confined space. I did it for eighteen years. When I was in prison for murder.

Phil goes quiet.

MIRI (CONT'D)

So if you want me to be your enemy, I can start. Now. Do you want that?

Phil swallows hard.

PHIL

No.

MIRI

What are you going to tell Angela?

PHIL

That you were focused and punctual and never left early.

MIRI

(brightly)

Good. See you soon you stupid little cunt.

Miri walks away. Phil looks like he might plop on the floor.

CAROLINE stares blankly ahead, OSCAR beside her.

CAROLINE

It's ovarian cancer. Or stomach. And I'm going to die.

OSCAR

Let's not -

CAROLINE

My daughter hates me. I've got no friends, no purpose. At least chemotherapy will give me somewhere to be once a week.

OSCAR

Caroline!

A tired young doctor, DR LEILA JOSHI, enters with Caroline's chart.

DR LEILA JOSHI

Mrs Matteson? So it looks like your chlamydia was left untreated for too long and you have developed Pelvic Inflammatory Disease.

OSCAR

So she's not dying?

DR LEILA JOSHI

No. But you do need to take it easy. Especially at your age.

CAROLINE

Sorry?

DR LEILA JOSHI

You need to take antibiotics and refrain from intercourse.

Oscar looks visibly relieved.

OSCAR

We will do that, Doctor. Thank you.

Dr Leila Joshi leaves.

OSCAR (CONT'D)

Well at least your twat is okay. It just needs a rest.

Caroline looks at him appalled. Oscar reassures her.

OSCAR (CONT'D)

We can watch more documentaries.

Caroline cries.

OSCAR (CONT'D)

Or something else... Caroline! You should be happy.

CAROLINE

That's it now. That's what we are doing. Waiting to die!

OSCAR

(utterly flummoxed)

No we're not. We're together. What do you want?

CAROLINE

I don't know!!

Oscar suddenly erupts in anger.

(CONTINUED)

OSCAR

Fuck you Caroline! I gave you
everything! Forgave you everything!
What more do you want from me?

Horrible silence. He hasn't forgiven her yet.

31 EXT./INT. MANDY'S HOUSE - DAY 3

31

MIRI has real drive. Like she has to do this to kill a demon,
almost aggressive. She bangs on the door. MARK opens it.

MIRI

Is Mandy in?

MARK

No. Nope. She's not.

MIRI

You are a terrible liar Mark.

She storms past him.

32 INT. MANDY'S HOUSE. STAIRS - CONTINUOUS - DAY 3

32

MIRI storms up the stairs as MARK shouts after her.

MARK

Hang on!

MIRI

No.

33 INT. MANDY'S HOUSE. MANDY & MARK'S BEDROOM - DAY 3

33

MANDY is under the covers as MIRI comes in.

MIRI

I saw her. Mrs Boback.

Mandy peers out.

MIRI (CONT'D)

She wasn't with him. She knows.

MANDY

Christ.

Mandy puts the covers up over her face again. Miri pulls them back.

MIRI

No. We're doing this. You're right.
I don't forgive you.

Massive pause. Miri is emotional but holding it together.

(CONTINUED)

MIRI (CONT'D)
I can't. I probably can't.

Mandy looks like she is going to cry.

MIRI (CONT'D)
Because I don't know how to.

MANDY
I understand.

MIRI
Because what you did-

MANDY
(deep shame)
I know.

MIRI
But we have to work it out. For Lara.
We can't waste any more time. And I
can't waste any more of my life.

Mandy nods.

MIRI (CONT'D)
And also I need somewhere to stay
before I kill my fucking parents.

Relief overwhelms Mandy.

MANDY
(very emotional)
Of course, whatever you need. Thank
you Miri.

It's a bit awkward. Normally they'd hug.

MARK suddenly storms in with a raised waffle maker. A war cry.
Mandy and Miri look at him.

MARK
Oh right sorry. I misjudged the
situation. I thought she was going to-

MANDY/MIRI
No! Fucking hell Mark.

Beat.

MIRI
Can I just say you really took your
time.

MANDY
Yeah-

MIRI
If I had come up here to...

MARK
Yeah I know sorry. I was a bit nervous. It was my first time. And I didn't know what to use... as a weapon.

Mandy stares at him and the waffle maker in his hand.

MANDY
And you chose a waffle maker?

MARK
I panicked.

Mandy rolls her eyes.

MANDY
Mark, make up the spare room.

MARK
Oh who for?

Mandy and Miri look at him.

MARK (CONT'D)
Her, really? Fuck. Oh. Right. Really?
Okay.

34 INT. MANDY'S HOUSE. SPARE BEDROOM - NIGHT 3

34

MIRI walks in with a bag of her stuff, starts to unpack into one spare drawer. Her phone beeps with a VOICEMAIL. It's JANICE.

JANICE (V.O.)
(cheerily)
So apparently that little shit Phil Solon told Angela you were 'focused and punctual'... Gave you a real rave.
So congratulations the job is yours!

Miri is delighted!

MIRI
Yes!

*

35 INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT 3

35

We hear a bath running...

MRS BOBACK is in a big bubble bath. Sort of at peace. She closes her eyes.

She is listening to an anti-anxiety meditation tape.

(CONTINUED)

CALMING TAPE (V.O.)
*Close your eyes. And gently focus on
your breath. Good. And now breathe
in... And then out. In... and slowly
out.*

We are close on her face... She is finally relaxing.

She breathes out slowly and opens her eyes.

She suddenly sees MR BOBACK sitting on the chair.

She is terrified. The calming tape keeps going.

CALMING TAPE (V.O.)
*With each out-breath let all your
fears and worries ebb away... You are
warm. You are safe. This is your safe
space.*

END OF EPISODE ONE