

TWO BROTHERS  
• PICTURES •

# BACK TO LIFE

## SERIES 2

By

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Episode 3

Post Shoot Master Script - 14.05.21

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1 **EXT. SOUND MIRROR - DAY 5** 1

A few PEOPLE lay flowers around the Sound Mirror, busily preparing for something.

2 **OMITTED** 2

3 **EXT. CHURCH HALL - DAY 5** 3

MANDY walks past the church and stops. A memorial poster is pinned to the church notice board. A picture of Lara looks back at Mandy. They look at each other. Mandy turns and walks away.

4 **INT. MANDY'S HOUSE. SPARE BEDROOM - DAY 5** 4

MIRI gets dressed. It's painful but she dresses, defiant.

We hear a scream downstairs. It's Mandy's teenage daughter CERY'S.

CERY'S (O.S.)  
DAD!! What the hell has happened to my  
bike?? Does that mean I have to walk  
to the arcade? I fucking hate walking!  
Was it Miri?

Miri grimaces.

5 **OMITTED** 5

6 **INT./EXT. POLICE STATION - DAY 5** 6

MIRI enters the police station and comes to the counter where a POLICEMAN stands.

MIRI  
I need to report something, an  
incident... But whatever happens it  
cannot be to Tin-

TINA comes out.

TINA  
What you done now?

MIRI  
Oh no no no.

Miri crumples over the counter in despair.

MIRI (CONT'D)  
Is there anyone else I can talk to?  
Why is it always you?

\*

(CONTINUED)

TINA

Small town, small police station, and  
as I've said, Leonard's on paternity  
leave. For the next two weeks, it's  
the Tina Show.

MIRI

You should be in a show.

TINA

You think so?

MIRI

No.

Miri stands up and then realises she has paint on her boobs.

TINA

Yeah, that's wet paint.

MIRI

Oh-

TINA

Suits you. What do you want?

MIRI

Someone tried to ram me last night.

TINA

TMI.

MIRI

No on my bike, on the road at night!  
They tried to kill me, knock me off.

Tina gets her pen and pad.

TINA

Using what weapon?

MIRI

(despairing)

A car, what else could it be?

TINA

(realises she was being thick  
but covering)

Tennis racket, golf club, mobility  
scooter-

MIRI

They tried to run me over. In a car.  
It was terrifying-

TINA

Any witnesses?

(CONTINUED)

MIRI

No.

TINA

Interesting.

MIRI

What do you mean?

TINA

Convenient.

MIRI

The exact opposite.

TINA

Not convenient?

MIRI

Yes.

TINA

You look ok to me.

MIRI

I have a giant bruise on my arse-

\*

She starts showing her.

TINA

I could arrest you for that.

MIRI

Tina please. I know you hate me, but this happened and I thought I was going to die...

Something catches Miri's eye behind Tina. Across the room, MR BOBACK is leaving an office.

MR BOBACK

Good to see you, Derek. Love what you've done with the office.

Big false laughs.

Miri pales. Tina looks at her then turns around.

TINA

Oh yeah. Big man's back in town. His wife was missing Hythe, understandably. It was their home before someone grievously murdered their only child.

Mr Boback looks at Miri across the room, cold and dark. Miri is ashen. She pretty much backs out of the station.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: (3)

6

TINA (CONT'D)

What about the incident?

MIRI

Forget it.

Miri has gone.

Mr Boback approaches.

TINA

Sir Chief Inspector your highness.

MR BOBACK

What was that about?

TINA

Nothing apparently.

He goes to leave. She flashes him her badge.

TINA (CONT'D)

This badge is because of you.

MR BOBACK

Excuse me?

TINA

1999-2003. You were my mentor sir.

Mr Boback doesn't remember her.

MR BOBACK

Of course.

He flashes a smile.

MR BOBACK (CONT'D)

Join us in prayer later. Candlelit procession for my daughter.

TINA

It would be my honour, sir.

MR BOBACK

Good to see you again, Tuna.

TINA

Tina sir. Tuna is a fish.

But he has gone.

7 **EXT. POLICE STATION - DAY 5**

7

MIRI catches her breath. She looks up and sees Mr Boback's car. The car that ran her down. There's a slight scratch/scuff on the front of it.

(CONTINUED)

FUCK. It was him.

Then she sees MRS BOBACK in the car. Mrs Boback looks away in shame.

MR BOBACK comes out of the station and stands imposingly on the steps. Miri stands between them. Horrified. She bolts.

**TITLES: BACK TO LIFE**

8 **INT./EXT. OSCAR'S CAR / BILLY'S HOUSE - DAY 5** 8

MIRI is having a driving lesson with OSCAR. They haven't even started the car yet.

OSCAR  
Mirrors.

MIRI  
I think he was trying to kill me.

OSCAR  
You don't know it was him for sure, it could have been Drunk Philip -

MIRI  
It wasn't Drunk Philip.

OSCAR  
It's normally him. He's run over lots of cats.

MIRI  
It was Mr B... John. I can call him John 'cos I'm a grown up now. But I saw his car. It had my bum dent on it.

Miri starts the car and immediately stalls it. Silence. Oscar is gentle with her.

OSCAR  
Maybe now is not a good time. Shall I make us a hot chocolate?

MIRI  
I have to do this. My test is on Monday.

OSCAR  
Then you need to concentrate.

Miri nods. Determined to focus. Miri starts the car. Revs the engine.

OSCAR (CONT'D)  
He lost his daughter. Hold your nerve, they'll go back to Portsmouth after the vigil I'm sure-

\*  
\*  
\*

(CONTINUED)

MIRI

\*

The what?

Oscar has dropped another bombshell.

OSCAR

Clutch!! It's a memorial thing. Sound  
Mirror and candlelit walk to the  
church after. Nothing big...

MIRI

At the place of her death? Why is he  
doing this-

OSCAR

He's her father, if he wants to  
remember her to the town -

\*

MIRI

Or me to the town-

OSCAR

His only daughter, Miri!

MIRI

He has had nineteen years. Why is he  
doing this now?

\*

\*

OSCAR

He is grieving! Indicate-

\*

MIRI

No, he's a horrible man.

OSCAR

Stop it Miri! His daughter died! BE  
nice!

\*

Miri turns the car off.

MIRI

I am nice. I'm always nice. I'm so  
nice ALL THE TIME and I still get  
stalked by the police and run over so  
what's point?

Miri gets out of the car and slams the door.

OSCAR

Come back! I think we have  
marshmallows.

BILLY is getting into his van.

MIRI

(to Oscar)

Bye.

9 **EXT./INT. BILLY'S HOUSE / BILLY'S VAN - CONTINUOUS - DAY 5** 9

MIRI walks up and just gets into BILLY's van and puts her seat belt on.

MIRI  
Hi.

BILLY  
Oh, ok why not.

MIRI  
Oh my God. This town.

BILLY  
Bad day?

MIRI  
Do you ever wish you were someone else?

BILLY  
No. Quite like being me.

Billy indicates her paint stained boobs, panicked.

BILLY (CONT'D)  
What's that?

MIRI  
Paint.

BILLY  
Oh good I thought you were lactating.

MIRI  
I don't think it looks like that.

BILLY  
Doesn't it?

MIRI  
No.

Billy starts his van.

BILLY  
I've got a few things to do so if you wanna-

MIRI  
YES. Please take me anywhere. I'll do anything. Just get me out of here.

Billy drives away. Miri rolls down the window and takes in the air.



10 INT. MATTESON HOUSE. KITCHEN - DAY 5

10

CAROLINE is looking at a church newsletter. There is a notice about Lara's memorial and some voluntary preparations for the Ladies of Hythe Committee. It looms big. It makes her anxious. She puts it down and slices herself the smallest delicious slither of marzipan. Eats it. \*

She then wraps the marzipan carefully back up and places it back in the Tupperware. Mouthful finished, she reaches for the Tupperware again and starts to repeat the process. \*

OSCAR comes in. There is still a distance between them.

CAROLINE

How was she?

OSCAR

As long as she doesn't have to drive, she'll pass. \*

CAROLINE

No, I meant is she okay?

OSCAR

Oh. No. She's in a dither and thinks it was Lara's father in the car.

CAROLINE

What? He wouldn't do that.

OSCAR

Exactly.

CAROLINE

Did she see him?

OSCAR

No. She's paranoid, understandably. It's confronting that they're here.

CAROLINE

Yes. I mean he's not a pleasant man, as it turns out, but he's hardly a murderer.

It is confronting for them too.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

It was probably Drunk Philip, in the car.

OSCAR

Quite.

Beat. Caroline is anxious.

(CONTINUED)

CAROLINE

Should we go, tonight. To the vigil,  
show our faces-

OSCAR

I don't think it's our place.

CAROLINE

We have to do something. Everyone is.  
The Ladies of Hythe are doing the  
flowers.

OSCAR

Christian when it suits them. Ghastly.  
I'm so glad they booted you out.

Caroline is less glad.

CAROLINE

Hmmm.

OSCAR

Do you want to go for a coffee or  
something?

CAROLINE

Oh, yes! I'd love that.

An olive branch. How nice.

OSCAR

Good, because I'm prepping for my  
campaign. And I need to create the  
circumstances in which I can shine.

Oh.

CAROLINE

So I should-

OSCAR

Yes.

CAROLINE

Right. I'll make myself scarce.

Oscar nods and walks out. Caroline looks down at her church  
newsletter again.

11 EXT./INT. BILLY'S FAMILY HOUSE - DAY 5

11

MIRI and BILLY park up and get out the van. Billy puts on a  
suit jacket and gets out a present. They walk up to a door.  
Billy knocks. Miri suddenly realises he is wearing a suit. She  
is confused.

(CONTINUED)

MIRI

Why, what - you look smart.

BILLY

Thanks.

She looks at her surroundings. They are outside a very posh house.

MIRI

Where are we, what are we doing?

BILLY

My mum's house, it's her birthday?

MIRI

What? Billy? Oh my God. Shit shit shit. You didn't say. I am not ready to do that.

BILLY

You look great. Don't worry about it.

Then she looks at herself.

MIRI

My boobs. Look at me. Oh my god.

She jumps behind a pillar.

BILLY

It's fine, it's a flyby.

The door is opened by a CATERING EMPLOYEE.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Miri.

She stays there.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Miri.

At that point Billy's mum, GAIA, spots him from inside the house. A scream.

GAIA

AHHHHH!! He's here! He came!!

BILLY

Hi!! Happy birthday Mum!! This is Miri. Miri?

Miri jumps out, awkward.

MIRI

Boo! Happy birthday!

(CONTINUED)

GAIA  
What is this?

BILLY  
My friend Miri.

GAIA  
Ahhhhh!! Miri...

Gaia looks at Miri's outfit and paint-stained boobs. There are several other people in the background. All uber glammed up for this nice party.

MIRI  
I'm so sorry, I didn't know, I was...  
decorating. Billy didn't say-

GAIA  
Typical Billy, useless. Shall we find  
you something?

BILLY  
No she looks fine!

MIRI  
Oh God wow yes please.

BILLY  
Mum, don't-

GAIA  
Come with me.

Miri is led through the smart party and up the stairs. She looks back at Billy who shrugs.

12 INT. HOTEL - DAY 5 12

MR BOBACK is writing his speech for the memorial at the table.  
MRS BOBACK hovers nervously.

MRS BOBACK  
I thought it was just at the church.

MR BOBACK  
No.

Pause. She gathers courage.

MRS BOBACK  
It's just a little... morbid to start  
there. The church is her place of  
rest. Can't we just gather there? A  
procession is a bit much don't you  
think-

He looks at her darkly. She is frightened of him.

(CONTINUED)

MRS BOBACK (CONT'D)  
I said I was sorry. Let's just go home. This is making you upset. We don't have to put on this show-

MR BOBACK  
What show?

MRS BOBACK  
Please John-

MR BOBACK  
Our daughter's skull was smashed in. She bled to death on the rocks on the beach. And now they are trying to drag me down with them.

MRS BOBACK  
Just - please don't do anything stupid.

Mrs Boback is crying. He's disgusted by her.

MR BOBACK  
I can do this without you.

Silence. He returns to his writing.

13 INT. MATTESON HOUSE. HALLWAY / KITCHEN - DAY 5

13

CAROLINE walks down the stairs, dressed up. Red lipstick. She goes into the kitchen. OSCAR is there with a stack of leaflets. A happy man on a mission. \*

CAROLINE  
So I'm just going into town.

OSCAR  
Wonderful.

His phone beeps.

OSCAR (CONT'D)  
We've got another six followers. Hello Denise45. \*

Caroline is feeling left out.

CAROLINE  
I could bring you back a coffee or something.

He looks at her.

OSCAR  
I do hope you are taking your bamboo cup?

(CONTINUED)

CAROLINE  
I lost the lid.

He rolls his eyes and returns to his work. She leaves.

14 INT. BILLY'S FAMILY HOUSE. GAIA'S BEDROOM - DAY 5 14

MIRI stands awkwardly in this decadent bedroom. GAIA flicks through her clothes, occasionally holding something up to Miri and shaking her head.

GAIA  
What kind of look do you usually-

MIRI  
Anything, that's not this.

Gaia looks Miri up and down.

GAIA  
Good legs. Short torso.

She picks something out.

GAIA (CONT'D)  
I didn't know Billy had a new-

\*

MIRI  
We're not together. Well not-

GAIA  
How did you meet?

MIRI  
Over the fence... Neighbours.

GAIA  
I wasn't a fan of that witch.

MIRI  
She was different.

GAIA  
She sent me faeces.

MIRI  
Me too.

GAIA  
I didn't like it.

MIRI  
Me neither.

GAIA  
(darkly)  
If you ever did that to me-

(CONTINUED)

MIRI

I won't. I can't afford the postage.

Pause.

Gaia suddenly laughs. It goes on a little long. Miri has to join in. She is a hit!

GAIA

What do you do?

MIRI

Oh me, I well, I've just started a job. Supermarket, customer-

GAIA

Relations.

MIRI

Kind of. Yes, yes actually.

GAIA

Ooh for a big supermarket?

MIRI

One of the ones yes.

GAIA

Very impressive. Love a career woman.

MIRI

Well, I'm not really-

GAIA

Don't apologise for it, I hate it when women apologise. Own it.

\*  
\*

Miri is aware of a misunderstanding but doesn't correct.

MIRI

Ok. It's all... mine.

Gaia laughs as she heads to the closet to find an outfit.

GAIA

You are hilarious. I love scrubbing up a Plain Jane. I'm joking!

Miri doesn't feel like she is but laughs weakly.

15 INT. BILLY'S FAMILY HOUSE. STAIRS - DAY 5

15

MIRI is led down the stairs. She looks like a rich trendy business woman. Heavy red lipstick. Glam, but not her. GAIA is thrilled at her creation. BILLY looks up. It's like that makeover moment in every teen film. His girl is transformed. BUT...

(CONTINUED)

BILLY  
You look... different.

MIRI  
I know.

Miri is thrilled. Billy isn't sure.

GAIA  
(conspiratorial)  
Come and meet the spinster. Kidding!  
Sister. But she is a spinster. God I'm  
awful - don't tell her I said that.

Gaia leads her off into the party. Billy is left behind. A  
waitress, LENA, who is topping up glasses, watches Miri.

16 INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY 5

16

CAROLINE is shopping. She sees JANICE. Too late. Janice has  
seen her. They acknowledge each other. Janice is eating  
Frazzles.

JANICE  
There she is. Oooh. Joan Collins.

CAROLINE  
What?

JANICE  
I heard all about it. You're a dark  
horse, aren't you?

Janice offers her a Frazzle. This is not hostile.

CAROLINE  
Well...

JANICE  
I'm not judging. I love that shit.  
Dynasty, Real Housewives, Towie -  
everyone loves the diva.

CAROLINE  
Thank you. I suppose.

JANICE  
You look glam. Where you off to?

CAROLINE  
A meeting at the church.

JANICE  
Oh.

CAROLINE  
If they'll have me.

(CONTINUED)



Caroline is clearly nervous.

JANICE  
Do they hate you?

Caroline nods.

JANICE (CONT'D)  
Then bring biscuits.

CAROLINE  
Actually I...

Caroline shows her basket which has a packet of Hobnobs in.

JANICE  
Ohhh.

CAROLINE  
That ok?

JANICE  
Strong choice. You'll be fine.

Caroline feels a bit better.

17 INT. CHURCH HALL - DAY 5 17

A LADIES OF HYTHE meeting in progress. CAROLINE enters as LAURA is speaking.

LAURA  
So Lisa is in charge of the procession  
candles and distribution...

Caroline clears her throat. Everyone stops. Laura looks at her and then decides to ignore her.

LAURA (CONT'D)  
I will be providing moral support and  
the choir have agreed to lend us their  
voices.

Caroline braves it.

CAROLINE  
Hello ladies. I wondered if I could  
help with the preparations for  
tonight.

LISA  
I think with birthing the killer,  
you've done enough.

Ouch. Caroline takes this on the chin.

CAROLINE  
Lisa. How's the divorce?

(CONTINUED)

Lisa bristles.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)  
I won't attend. I just want to help in some way.

LAURA  
I thought we had made ourselves clear the other day.

CAROLINE  
Oh yes you did Laura, very. But I know this group was founded on Christian principles so I'm giving you all another chance to welcome me back. Like you welcomed Lisa back after she bonked the choirmaster.

Awkward silence. Lisa is furious.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)  
I've brought a little something for the group.

LISA  
Syphilis?

A few shocked giggles and a gasp. Caroline styles this out.

CAROLINE  
No Lisa. Hobnobs.

One of the members loves Hobnobs. This WOMAN pulls out a chair. Caroline walks over sits down. Victorious.

18 INT. BILLY'S FAMILY HOUSE. LIVING ROOM - DAY 5

18

MIRI is chatting to Billy's sister REHANNA. She is drinking champagne.

MIRI  
Your mum's very impressive.

REHANNA  
She likes you, that's a first. She doesn't usually like the people we like.

She looks sad. That's why she is a "spinster".

From across the room we hear GAIA's voice. She's got her arm around BILLY.

GAIA  
And he's a bloody gardener, which is great. If you don't want to own your own house or have a family, right Miri?

(CONTINUED)

Gaia raises her champagne glass to Miri who does it back, keen to stay in favour.

MIRI  
(disloyal)  
Right!

Billy looks at Miri.

GAIA  
I'm kidding! I love my boy. Look at his big ears!

She puts an arm around Billy who dutifully laughs.

REHANNA  
Mum says you're in corporate relations.

Ummmmmm... Why the hell not?

MIRI  
Yes.

REHANNA  
Nice, Like PR?

MIRI  
No. Yes. Like that.

REHANNA  
For who?

MIRI  
Supermarkets.

REHANNA  
You do PR for supermarkets? Wow.

She is impressed. Miri enjoys this feeling. She is also feeling a little tipsy from the champagne.

MIRI  
Yah. Work's work though isn't it at the end of the day. Old grindstone and all that.

REHANNA  
Tell me about it. Do you do long hours?

MIRI  
Oh the hours, non stop. Yeah. Wake up. A lot of PR, PR, PR, PR and then some public relations and I type a lot on my computer tap tap tappity tap tap, and the emails go ping all day long in my box.

(CONTINUED)

Rehanna is impressed.

REHANNA  
You in charge of a lot of people?

MIRI  
Yes so many. Sometimes I'm just like  
ahhhh 12345 how many people ARE you?

Billy approaches.

REHANNA  
Just hearing about Miri's job.

BILLY  
It's great isn't it?

MIRI  
Yes yes yes. In PR public relations  
for supermarkets. Tap tappity tap  
ping.

Billy looks bemused. His sister walks away.

MIRI (CONT'D)  
Got a bit carried away. You know.

BILLY  
Not really, you're different.

Billy is a bit disappointed by her. She is defensive.

MIRI  
This could be me, in another life. \*

BILLY  
Well, I like the nice one in the  
scruffy shirt with the paint boobs who  
stacks shelves. \*  
\*

This riles Miri.

MIRI  
The one who you threw into your  
terrifying mother's birthday party  
WITHOUT warning her? And anyway I  
shouldn't have to be nice for you to  
like me. I could be impressive, and \*  
different and have nice hair and  
clothes. From now on I'm going to own \*  
this.

BILLY  
Own what?

MIRI  
I don't know-

(CONTINUED)

Miri burps.

\*

BILLY  
You drunk?

MIRI  
I've had one champagne and I don't get  
what all the hoo ha is about, it's  
burpy.

\*

Gaia calls over.

GAIA  
BILLY!! Say hi to Aunty Shauna.

\*

BILLY  
I've got to say hi to Aunty Shauna.

\*

\*

Billy walks off, not happy with Miri. She is left alone. She  
has a sip of the champagne and spits it back into the glass.

19 **EXT. CHURCH HALL - DAY 5** 19

CAROLINE and the GROUP leave the meeting. Across the street  
OSCAR is rifling through rubbish and photographing the  
evidence.

LAURA  
I haven't got my glasses on but is  
that your husband?

CAROLINE  
Um...

LISA  
Oh, I thought it was a tramp-

Caroline bristles. Oscar looks up and sees Caroline back with  
the group. They acknowledge each other politely.

CAROLINE  
No. That's him. One man crusade to  
clean up Hythe apparently.

LISA  
(revolted)  
Good for him.

LAURA  
(disgusted)  
Each to their own.

CAROLINE  
Try living with it. Right. Anyone want  
a Starbucks? I'm not allowed them at  
home.

(CONTINUED)

The women are warming to Caroline as she heads off and a few follow. Oscar watches her. Disappointed she is getting involved with them again.

20 INT. MANDY'S HOUSE. HALLWAY - DAY 5 20

MANDY lets herself in. MARK is prattling in the kitchen.

MARK (O.S.)  
It keeps burning the edges but the middle is still gooey. It's a nightmare. I only bought it last Friday. It's meant to be top of the range. Top of what range? Going to get Mandy to take it back to the shop. She's better at returning goods than I am.

He laughs nervously. Mandy enters.

21 INT. MANDY'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS - DAY 5 21

MR BOBACK is sitting at the table with a burnt waffle in front of him. MANDY looks at MARK who grins. He doesn't know about Mr Boback and Mandy.

Mandy's aware of her daughter CERY'S, who is making snacks in the kitchen.

MANDY  
Homework. Now. Mark, make her.

Cerys gets something from the fridge and heads out. Mark follows.

Mr Boback stands up. Mandy is frozen.

MR BOBACK  
Good to see you, Mandy.

MANDY  
Why are you here?

Despite hating him, he scares her. She feels small.

MR BOBACK  
You're no doubt aware of the silly rumours going around. I'm sure you want to nip it in the bud as much as I do.

Mandy is shaking.

MANDY  
I'd like you to leave now.

MR BOBACK

It's my daughter's memorial tonight.  
In light of all this, I hope you can  
at least be respectful and stay away.

He leaves. After a beat Mandy walks after him.

22 INT. MANDY'S HOUSE. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS - DAY 5 22

MANDY and MR BOBACK in the hallway. This takes all the courage  
in the world.

MANDY

It happened. I was seventeen. You were  
the grown up.

Pause.

MR BOBACK

(calmly)

If you are going to pursue this  
version of events, go gently. It  
wouldn't be hard to dismantle you.

MANDY

What do you mean?

He exits and shuts the door. MARK appears behind Mandy.

MARK

Poor guy. Nice man.

MANDY

You let him in our house.

MARK

Yeah. He just dropped Cerys home so I  
offered him a waffle.

Mandy is paralysed - almost like her ears are ringing.

MANDY

What?

MARK

He saw her walking home, so he gave  
her a lift.

The ringing in her ears gets louder.

23 INT. BILLY'S FAMILY HOUSE. KITCHEN - DAY 5 23

There is one member of the catering staff sorting canapes. MIRI \*

MIRI

So sorry is there any juice?

(CONTINUED)

The girl looks up. They recognise each other...

MIRI (CONT'D)

Lena!

It's a total blast from the past.

LENA

Sshh, no one here knows.

MIRI

Me neither.

LENA looks at her outfit.

LENA

Wow, look at you.

Miri looks at down at herself.

LENA (CONT'D)

I didn't recognise you at first.  
You've changed so much.

MIRI

Well-

LENA

You have really turned things around.  
How?

Beat. She can't pretend.

MIRI

No, no, I really haven't. This isn't  
me. I borrowed it all.

\*

LENA

Oh ok! That totally threw me off.

Miri burps.

MIRI

And I keep burping. First drink in  
eighteen years.

Lena laughs.

LENA

Stop now.

Lena gets her a water.

LENA (CONT'D)

When did you get out?

(CONTINUED)



MIRI

Six weeks ago. You must have been out  
for-

LENA

Three years in Jan.

MIRI

How is it?

LENA

Slow, ok, good and bad, hard.

MIRI

It is hard isn't it. Does it get any  
easier?

LENA

Some days.

They smile.

LENA (CONT'D)

I always wanted to say thank you.

MIRI

What for?

\*

LENA

You stood up for me with those other  
girls, no one else did.

MIRI

Oh no no-

LENA

There are a lot of arseholes in the  
world so you remember the ones that  
aren't.

\*

Miri hears this.

LENA (CONT'D)

Do you miss it? Sometimes I miss it.

MIRI

I know what you mean.

LENA

It took me ages to sleep when I got  
out. So quiet...

MIRI

I'm still getting used to that.

(CONTINUED)

LENA

Yeah. Anyway I'm glad those aren't  
your clothes that really freaked me  
out. I thought where the hell is Miri?

They smile at each other. Then REHANNA comes in, talking to a  
member of the CATERING STAFF, so they separate. Miri hears GAIA  
in the background.

GAIA (O.S.)

And I was like, get your pecker out of  
that Billy!! It's a sofa not a woman!!

Big laugh. Miri peers round and sees BILLY looking dejected.  
She looks at herself in the mirror and sees how silly she  
looks. She takes off the earrings and wipes at her lipstick. \*

24 INT. BILLY'S FAMILY HOUSE - CONTINUOUS - DAY 5 24

MIRI approaches GAIA and BILLY. Gaia is holding court.

GAIA

And he was a year from qualifying and  
he gives it all up to push a lawn  
mower around-

BILLY

Landscape gardener-

GAIA

Trim some bushes!

Big laugh.

BILLY

You cut them back to make them grow-

GAIA

He'd be a top surgeon on Harley Street  
raking it in-

BILLY

I never wanted that-

MIRI

I think gardening is a lovely job. You  
breathe life into something.

Billy looks at her. She smiles at him. A silent apology.

GAIA

So be a doctor.

MIRI

But he didn't want to be one. And you  
should be proud he has an extensive  
knowledge of... botany which is quite  
complicated-

(CONTINUED)

GAIA

Oooh botany.

MIRI

I think it's an amazing thing to know about.

\*

GAIA

Well that's very generous of you. But seriously, get your act together to keep this one or she'll nab someone better.

MIRI

There is no one better. I'm the lucky one.

Gaia laughs.

GAIA

He knows I'm teasing.

MIRI

It's not funny. Billy is a catch, he's kind and he's made me feel special, normal, even when I'm actually really not... And I'm not an important career woman at all. The only PR I know about ends in ISON.

\*

Beat while everyone tries to work it out.

MIRI (CONT'D)

Just Google me - "Miri Matteson". Long story.

A scream at the back of the room as someone Googles her.

MIRI (CONT'D)

Actually don't 'cos they paint it wrong.

Another person Googles and screams. Miri ploughs on.

MIRI (CONT'D)

But my point really is that your son is the catch. So you should be so proud of who he is and stop being such a bastard / cunt.

\*

Gaia stares Miri down. It is an intense and powerfully terrifying stare that she doesn't break. Silence. Miri is losing her confidence. At that moment the cake comes out led by REHANNA who hasn't heard anything.

REHANNA

Happy Birthday to you...

(CONTINUED)

Nobody dares join in. Gaia keeps staring at Miri.

REHANNA (CONT'D)  
Happy Birthday to you...

Miri weakly joins in.

MIRI  
Happy Birthday dear Gaia/Mum Happy  
birthday to you.

Miri sings all the way to the end. Under Gaia's powerful stare.

MIRI (CONT'D)  
Hip hip-

Gaia shakes her head.

MIRI (CONT'D)  
(almost inaudible)  
Hurray.

25 INT. BILLY'S VAN - DAY 5 25

Long tense silence between MIRI and BILLY. Miri is back in her own clothes.

MIRI  
It was a stunning cake. Very ornate.

Billy is deathly silent.

MIRI (CONT'D)  
I'm really sorry. I was a total dick.  
With the clothes and PR. And calling  
your mum...

\*  
\*

Silence.

MIRI (CONT'D)  
Billy I'm so, so sorry. I should have  
kept my stupid mouth shut.

Silence.

MIRI (CONT'D)  
But I didn't like how she spoke about  
you-

BILLY  
Shut up.

His voice is shaky with something that looks like rage. It's awful.

BILLY (CONT'D)  
That was the best thing anyone has  
ever done for me. Beyond the best.

(CONTINUED)

Oh. Miri looks at him. His emotion is not anger. He is moved beyond belief.

They continue in silence. Miri is hugely relieved. She smiles.

MUSIC.

26 **EXT. SOUND MIRROR - DUSK 5** 26

A GROUP gather. Candles are lit. People pay respect to MR BOBACK and MRS BOBACK. They start the walk, candles flickering in the dusk light.

27 **INT. MATTESON HOUSE. KITCHEN - DUSK 5** 27

OSCAR and CAROLINE sit opposite each other, eating dinner. Both engaged in their respective pursuits. Oscar checks his phone for "Make Hythe Clean" updates. Caroline has a pad and pen and works hard at a church flower rota. Oscar looks at her, deeply disapproving. She smiles at him defiantly.

28 **EXT. MANDY'S HOUSE - DUSK 5** 28

BILLY pulls up in his van with MIRI.

29 **INT. BILLY'S VAN - DUSK 5** 29

BILLY and MIRI sit in the van.

BILLY  
What are you doing tonight / later?

\*

MIRI  
Crimping my hair? / Feeding Geri? /  
Probably playing snake?

\*

\*

BILLY  
I want to take you on a date. Proper  
date.

Miri beams.

30 **INT. MANDY'S HOUSE. HALLWAY - DUSK 5** 30

MIRI lets herself in. Mandy's daughter CERYS is about to go out.

CERYS  
Dad fixed my bike. Don't borrow it  
again.

MIRI  
Course not. Sorry.

Cerys leaves. Now MARK appears from upstairs, concern etched on his face.

(CONTINUED)

MARK

She's in a real state. I don't know  
why. That Boback guy came round.

MIRI

What?

MARK

Must have brought back memories about  
the whole dead Lara thing.

\*  
\*

Miri clocks this. Mark doesn't know about Mandy and Mr Boback.  
She heads upstairs.

31 **OMITTED** 31

32 **EXT. HYTHE - NIGHT 5** 32

MR and MRS BOBACK lead the ATTENDANTS of Lara's vigil through  
the town holding candles.

We hear hauntingly choral music...

33 **INT. MANDY'S HOUSE. MANDY & MARK'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 5** 33

MANDY sits on the floor, broken, she talks to MIRI though we  
can't hear. Miri sits next to her, listening with an arm around  
her.

34 **INT/EXT. MANDY'S HOUSE. HALLWAY - NIGHT 5** 34

MIRI hesitates for a beat before borrowing Cerys' bike. She  
leaves the house and rides off.

MR BOBACK (PRE-LAP)

Thank you all for coming here tonight.  
This community means so much to me and  
my wife. We have missed you all. We  
come here to commemorate our beautiful  
girl. Taken from us, in a violent act,  
too soon. She was my universe. Our  
universe. There are people who want to  
poison my daughter's memory with lies  
and slander.

Miri cycles through the dark. An urgency.

35 **EXT. CHURCH GRAVEYARD - NIGHT 5** 35

MR BOBACK addresses the assembled VIGIL.

MR BOBACK

I trust - I trust you will rise above  
it as we will and focus on Lara.

We see MIRI standing at the back, watching him. His voice  
darkens. He eyeballs her.

(CONTINUED)

MR BOBACK (CONT'D)

This community has got us through the  
darkest of times and with your  
continuing support we will make sure,  
we are not dragged into the darkness  
again.

She holds his gaze confidently. She will not be bullied by him.

\*

**END OF EPISODE THREE**