

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 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 CERYS.

CERYS (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?

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)

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)

7 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.

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...

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.

Ummmmm... 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.

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-

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 CERYS, 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.

(CONTINUED)

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
walks in, deflated after her row.

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?

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.

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)

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25 CONTINUED: 25

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