



BOARDERS

EPISODE TWO – BLACK EXCELLENCE

Created and written by

Daniel Lawrence Taylor

CHERRY AMENDMENTS

August 2023

Studio Lambert
1 Denmark Street
London

This script and all its contents, including but not limited to the storylines and characters depicted therein, contain sensitive information and are confidential and must not be disclosed, shared or disseminated in any way, by the person to whom it is given, to any other person or entity.

1

INT. ST GILBERT'S - HEADMASTER'S CORRIDOR. DAY 4.

1

Early morning. Energetic music plays (think *THE BLACKER THE BERRY* by KENDRICK LAMAR). LEAH, dressed in all black with a black backpack, creeps into the hallway and sets herself up in front of the Carruthers painting, emptying the content of her backpack onto the floor.

We're on a c/u of her face. It's unclear what she's doing to the portrait, but she does it with a smile on her face...

CUT TO:

2

OMITTED

2

1A

EXT. ST GILBERT'S - STATUE/DRIVE. DAY 4.

1A

JAHEIM - headphones on with the same song that soundscapes our first scene - walks along the drive, towards the statue, passing the playing fields to his right. He approaches TOBY and OMAR who have yet to see him coming.

Jaheim is still clearly affected from the night before's events as he places his backpack on, wincing from the pain. He takes a deep breath, puts on his game face meeting Omar and Toby-

JAHEIM

Wha' gwan you pagans!

TOBY

Damn, you look like shit! What happened?! I'm kidding, I know what happened. Everyone's talking about it.

Eyes watch Jaheim as they walk and talk. He feels uneasy, but tries to cover.

JAHEIM

Two two cuts and bruises. Minor.

As they walk and talk, we see a CLEANER with hazmat gloves and tongs placing dirty boxers and Y-fronts, left behind from the '*Running of the Balls*' into a bin-liner.

OMAR
(comforting)
I wouldn't worry about it.

TOBY
I would. Apparently there's a video
going around.

OMAR
(camaraderie)
We said we wouldn't watch it.

TOBY
Solidarity and dat... But
then curiosity got the better
of me. I can't believe man
pissed on you! But real talk,
if shit pops off again, I got
you.

TOBY
(alt line)
Solidarity and dat... But
then curiosity got the better
of me - bruddah, the
violation in that video?! But
real talk, if shit pops off
again, I got you.

JAHEIM
What use are you to me with your
Drake looking self?

TOBY
Yo, I'm light skin pretty but I'm
dark skin aggy.

Their attention turns to a fancy arse SUV parked haphazardly
by the statue. A BLACK LIVES MATTER sticker sits in the
window. STUDENTS and STAFF are forced to navigate their way
around the car. Jaheim, Toby and Omar lock eyes with the
woman - **CAROL WATLINGTON-GESE** (*50's, a Karen of sorts*) who
is leaning on her car, arms folded, obviously waiting for
Bernard. Impatient. Evidently means business.

OMAR
Anyone else just get a chill down
their spine?

There's a sense of foreboding as they reflect on Omar's
warning, then...

TOBY
I'd still smash, though.

Jaheim and Toby laugh. Omar catches eyes with Carol. It
doesn't feel good. They walk on as BERNARD crosses paths with
them to meet Carol.

BERNARD
Carol... Always a pleasure -
though, again, you really can't
park here.

She ignores him and pulls out her phone to show Bernard a picture of Rupert's injured face (*which he has been sporting since the rugby match in episode one*).

CAROL

One of your new scholarship students did this.

BERNARD

You'll be pleased to know that I've dealt with the matter.

CAROL

These kids were brought in to quiet the noise since the incident. It seems they're making more of it... particularly all over my son's face.

BERNARD

With all due respect Carol, it was your son's actions that were responsible for 'the noise' -

CUT TO:

3 EXT. VILLAGE HIGH STREET. NIGHT. **FLASHBACK. (NB SHOT AS 1/4)** 3

The *infamous* TIKTOK video plays again.

RUPERT is the boy pouring the champagne on the homeless man.

CUT TO:

4 EXT. ST GILBERT'S - STATUE. CONT.

4

CAROL

Rupert has shown *deep* remorse for his actions-

CUT TO:

5 EXT. STREET. DAY. **FLASHBACK.**

5

Rupert looking to camera.

RUPERT

(couldn't give a shit)

I'm sorry.

Pan out to Rupert giving an oversized publicity cheque to a homeless charity, whilst giving a forced smile to a flashing camera.

CUT TO:

6 EXT. ST GILBERT'S - STATUE. CONT.

6

CAROL

It is your actions that are responsible for *this*, and I hardly think *this*...

Pushing the picture further then further into Bernard's face.

CAROL (CONT'D)

...is the new and improved St Gilbert's image you were hoping for?

BERNARD

I understand your concerns Carol but I can assure you that the new scholarship students are showing themselves to be exceptionally gifted children whom I believe exemplify *everything* that St Gilbert's stands for.

CAROL

Well, I hope you're right. As seated chair, if I'm not happy, the board are not happy. And I'd hate for your role at St Gilbert's to be in jeopardy because of an ill thought-out 'scheme'.

BERNARD

The school's image and reputation is at the forefront of my mind, Carol.

(then)

Now, I'm sure you have a busy day ahead, so I won't keep you.

As Carol steps into her car. Bernard pulls out his phone and makes a call.

BERNARD (CONT'D)

Are Chelsea and Preeya ready?...
Well tell them to hurry up.

Bernard pops two IBS tablets.

CUT TO:

6A EXT. ST GILBERT'S - COURTYARD. DAY 4.

6A

Jaheim, Toby and Omar continue to walk and talk.

ABBY (O.C)

Toby! Hey!

ABBY, BEATRIX and FLORENCE approach. Florence catches an awkward eye with Jaheim as she takes in his beaten face. Abby is overly friendly with Toby.

ABBY (CONT'D)
How you doing?!

TOBY
(over the top)
I'm really well, Abby. Thank you
for asking. You look radiant today.

ABBY
(hushed)
Are you still good to hook us up?

TOBY
Of course. I'll even help you set
up the party. Got two two bits and
pieces to make it the night of your
lives. Trust.

ABBY
That would be amazing, thank you.

OMAR
What party?

FLORENCE

Sixth form have a *House House* Party
at the start of every year.

Omar raises an eyebrow - *House House* party?

BEATRIX

Just a house party in one of the
houses.

(to Jaheim)

It's gonna be fun. You should come.

TOBY

(butting in)

Of course he's coming. Jaheim is
always coming. He's very virile.

JAHEIM

What is wrong with you?!

CUT TO:

7 OMITTED

7

8 OMITTED

8

9 EXT. ST GILBERT'S - CLOISTERS. CONT.

9

Jaheim, Toby and Omar walk and talk as people bustle past.

JAHEIM

How come Abby's on it all of a
sudden?

TOBY

Man's just got that charm.

OMAR

He's gonna sell her drugs. He's a
drug dealer!

TOBY

(hushed)

Bro! What's wrong with you?

JAHEIM

These posho's don't know where to
get a lil' food from?

TOBY

The last guy graduated, so I saw an
opening and organised a lil'
delivery.

JAHEIM

So you getting on dat Escobar flex?

TOBY

Just a lil' weed, bro. Gummies.

Confidential

OMAR

It's still drugs!

TOBY

I ain't shotting. Just getting 'em for Abby and her friends so I can smash.

OMAR

Can't you "smash" from just you know - being who you are?

Toby rests a patronising hand on Omar's cheek.

TOBY

Promise me you'll never lose your innocence.

Jaheim puts his hand around Omar, and playfully ruffles him up.

JAHEIM

If it's gonna be as sick as Toby says, I'm sure you'll lose some of that innocence at the party!

OMAR

I'm not going. I don't really do parties. They always end up (re Jaheim and then Toby) 'fighty' or... 'druggy' ... No shade.

TOBY

Breddah. You can't just sit in your room by yourself. Especially since Femi ditched you.

OMAR

He didn't ditch me. Plus, amazing news - The Raisinettes are real! Like actually real, this time. I saw a sign.

JAHEIM

Where?

CUT TO:

10

EXT. ST GILBERT'S - CLOISTERS. **FLASHBACK (NB SHOT AS 1/50)** 10

Omar sees a passing butt cheek sprint by with the RAISINETTES EMBLEM (ink pot and quill) tattooed on it.

CUT TO:

11

EXT. ST GILBERTS - CLOISTERS. CONT.

11

OMAR

(embarrassed, covering)

Um... it was on a phone case, or
maybe it was a flask?... Doesn't
matter.

(MORE)

Confidential

OMAR (CONT'D)

Point is, I know they exist. Now I gotta let them know I exist.

Toby takes over the embrace, placing his arm around Omar and gesturing to passing boys.

TOBY

Omar, friend, you're messing around with societies and shit when there's all this fresh untapped dick for the taking.

OMAR

Not everyone is here for a shag fest.

TOBY

Do not compute, my guy.

Jaheim clocks everyone rushing in the opposite direction.

JAHEIM

Yo, What's going on?!

CUT TO:

12

INT. ST GILBERT'S - HEADMASTER'S CORRIDOR. DAY 4.

12

Jaheim, Toby and Omar enter to see students gathered around the Carruthers portrait, giggling and taking pictures. As we punch in, we see the portrait as is, but the face is alternated. Carruthers' face covered over with the slave boy's face, and the slave boy's face covered over with Bernard's face. The words: '*What if it was the other way round?*' sprayed across it. Students gather and laugh.

JAHEIM

Rah!

LEAH

(pleased)

I know, right?

JAHEIM

Nah, I meant your handwriting. Were you drunk?

LEAH

Taking the piss, yeah? Last I heard, you were getting pissed on.

LEAH (ALT)

Messing with me, yeah? A change from getting messed up?

*

TOBY
(pulling out his phone)
Wait until you see the video.

Jaheim slaps Toby's phone out of his hand.

LEAH
You should tell Bernard.

JAHEIM
For *my* benefit or for *yours*?

LEAH
You can dead the whole ting now, yu
know. It'll just cause you more
problems in the long run.

JAHEIM
(re the portrait)
You're one to talk.

LEAH
Mine isn't a foolishness.

TOBY
Looks to me like you both love
drama.

OMAR
(to Toby)
Says Pusha T!

LEAH
What's he talking about?

TOBY
Nothing. Shut your mouth, man.
(Same intonation as
before with Omar)
Leah, friend, you're messing
around with all this stupidness
when there's all this fresh
untapped dick for the taking.

LEAH
How can I be chasing dick when we
got this to contend with!

Points to portrait.

LEAH (CONT'D)
Plus, the closest thing to my
melanated African King in this
place is one of you lot, and I'd
rather die sexless and alone than
to let any one of yous near
my 'pumzy'.

OMAR
(points)
What about Koku?

Omar points towards a gaggle of boys. We see a glimpse of someone that could resemble an "African King" but Leah's view is obscured. Once the crowd dissipates, there's no one there.

LEAH
Please don't play with me or my fertile eggs.

Omar looks confused - he was right there. The room suddenly falls silent. Bernard is stood in the doorway. He and Leah exchange a tense look. Jaheim looks to Leah - playfully enjoying the fact that she's the one in the shit for once.

JAHEIM
(smug, playful)
If you were looking for his attention, I think you got it. Good luck.

Bernard enters and surveys the 'work'. He looks to Leah and walks towards her. Leah braces for the backlash. He stands directly in front of her. The school bell rings. Then-

BERNARD
Get to class, everyone.

Bernard exits. As he leaves, the corridor fills with laughter and applause. Leah receives pats on the back.

TOBY
I think you broke him.

Leah looks worried - *has she gone too far?*

CUT TO:

13

INT. ST GILBERT'S - CLASSROOM - HISTORY. DAY 4.

13

MS HARPER hands out essays as STUDENTS pile in.

MS HARPER
(to everyone)
Hurry up. You're late.

Femi takes his essay and sits. It reads C. CHEDDAR and GRAHAM have both received A*. He heads back to Ms Harper.

MS HARPER (CONT'D)
Femi. Or should I call you King of the Balls?

Ms Harper points to the forgotten paint on Femi's neck.

FEMI
Oh, yeah. Right. Thanks.
(then)
(MORE)

Confidential

FEMI (CONT'D)

Miss, I just wanted to double check
that this was correct?

MS HARPER

Yes, that's right.

FEMI

It's just that this is gonna take
down my average.

MS HARPER

What can I say. Do better. Everyone
take your seats! I will not ask
again!

FEMI

Maybe I can go at this one again,
Miss? I feel I can do better.

MS HARPER

It doesn't really work like that,
Femi.

FEMI

(pleading)

Please, you don't understand. I
can't go away with a **C**. I just
can't.

MS HARPER

Okay. I want it back Monday
morning. If I can see an
improvement, I might be able to
move you up to a **B**. Only this time.
Make it worth it.

FEMI

Thank you, Ms Harper!

CUT TO:

13A

INT. ST GILBERT'S - CLASSROOM - BIOLOGY. DAY 4.

13A

Jaheim sees several students watching the video of him
getting beaten up by Rupert and his boys on their phones.
Toby clocks Jaheim's annoyance.

TOBY

You know everyone is gonna forget
about it in a few weeks.

JAHEIM

I ain't letting it slide.

TOBY

Meaning...

Jaheim's phone flashes up with Malachi's name and a message, 'we're all set for Saturday'. Toby puts two and two together.

TOBY (CONT'D)

(concerned)

You bringing the mandem?!

Confidential

MACKERS

Am I interrupting, Mr Staithes?

TOBY

A little bit sir, I'm just helping
my fellow classmate here.

MACKERS

I'm more than capable of leading my
own class thank you Mr Staithes.

(continues the class)

*As I was saying, this, of course,
blocks the production of chemicals
known as prostaglandins, which are
involved in pain transmission...*

TOBY

(hushed)

Bro.

JAHEIM

Man pissed on me.

JAHEIM

* (alt line)
You know what him and his
boys did, yeah?

TOBY

(genuine concern)

I know Malachi is your day one
but... that breddah's different.
Feds are always involved when dem
mans is about.

JAHEIM

(assured)

So?

TOBY

Listen, if you want my advice-

MACKERS

Mr Staithes. Clearly you know more
than I do so why not put together a
paper which you can present to the
entire class on Monday morning.
2000 words.

TOBY

That's alright Sir, I'm more than
happy to just listen.

MACKERS

3000 words.

TOBY

No, Sir, I just meant-

MACKERS

4000 words.

TOBY
(knows better)
...On what, Sir?

MACKERS
Surprise me.

Toby looks pissed as everyone begins to giggle. The door opens - Felix, enters.

FELIX
Are Palmer-Grace, Marsham and Staithes in this division?

Jaheim, Toby, Omar and raise their hand.

FELIX (CONT'D)
They are to attend the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion office at 13:00 on the bill.

They look to one another confused - *where the fuck is that?!*

CUT TO:

14 INT. ST GILBERT'S - CORRIDOR. DAY 4.

14

TOBY
See what your little madness did?!

LEAH
(re Jaheim)
My madness? Have you seen the madness on this breddah's face?

OMAR
You did deface school property.

LEAH
It was pritt stick and washable spray paint.

FEMI
(in Yoruba)
Ohunkohun ti mo ba se lati le ya kuro lara yin, ko si le se

FEMI
(translation)
No matter how hard I try, I can't get away from you people.

JAHEIM
What's he saying?

TOBY
Why you looking at me like I speak Nij?

LEAH
Ain't you the polyglot?

FEMI
Nothing. I didn't say anything.
Just- I don't need this right now.

CUT TO:

15 INT. ST GILBERT'S - DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION OFFICE 15
CONT.

They enter a stationary room which has been made into an office. Inspirational black quotes and an obscene amount of smiling black faces hang on the walls. It feels more creepy than motivational. PREEYA and CHELSEA (*late 30s/40s, Shoreditch-chic, look out of place, PR vibes*) enter with iPads.

PREEYA
Hi there.

FEMI
Are we being expelled? Cos I had nothing to do with the vandalism of the portrait.

TOBY
Rah, you detached *quick*. Proper op innit!... But snap, me neither.

PREEYA
We thought it was ingenious.

LEAH
Really?

PREEYA
Bernard thought so too. It wasn't his first reaction, mind. But after we reminded him why you're here, he got right onboard.

Toby puts his hand up.

CHELSEA
Yes?

TOBY
(super polite, dry)
Sorry, who the hell are you and what is this creepy arse place?

PREEYA
We are Preeya and Chelsea.

CHELSEA

I'm Chelsea. She's Preeya. And we
are the Diversity, Equity and
Inclusion team.

Confidential

PREEYA

We've been asked to be a little more 'hands on' as there are concerns that you're struggling to adapt...

FEMI

(worried)

Why would you think that?

They look to Jaheim's battered face.

JAHEIM

(deflecting)

...I fell.

Toby laughs. Jaheim playfully pushes him.

LEAH

Sorry, just to clarify - I'm not in trouble for the portrait?

CHELSEA

God no. If anything, we want more of it. We want to keep the conversation going. St Gilbert's has got to shift its cultural dial. We understand you're starting an Afro Caribbean Society in the library? We'd like to move your inaugural meeting to the Assembly Hall.

PREEYA

We've already advertised it.

All of their phones beep. **Split screen** - We see a cheesy Twitter post with the phrase 'What if it was the other way round?'.

CHELSEA

It's just one of the many ways we'll help you show the world the black excellence you'll become here at St Gilbert's.

TOBY

(raises hand, dry)

What if some of us have already achieved black excellence?

Chelsea clicks on a folder labelled **TOBY** on her iPad.

CHELSEA

Toby - accepted on your language skills, achieving an A* in GCSE Spanish, French and German. Impressive.

Toby smiles.

CHELSEA (CONT'D)

...You're now taking Japanese but
currently at foundation level?

TOBY

I've just taken it up, so-

Confidential

CHELSEA

That's not exactly excellent, is it? It's actually quite poor.

(scrolls on iPad)

Ms Kaneko's first Japanese club is tomorrow evening at 7 O'clock. I think we'll sign you up for that.

TOBY

(*oh shit*)

Saturday night doesn't really work for me. Plus I've already been given another essay to write, so-

CHELSEA

(ploughing on, ignoring)

We plan to capture you and your black excellence at all times. Whether that be your activism or music, Leah. Your incredible art work Omar.

(to Toby)

Your languages...

(to Jaheim)

Your engineering or sportsmanship or your-

(to Femi, flicks through iPad)

...We must admit, Femi. We know you're black but we are struggling to figure out what you're actually excellent at.

TOBY

(shame)
Bruh.

JAHEIM

(shame)
Bruh.

The bell goes.

CHELSEA

(to Femi)

I'm sure it'll come.

(to all)

Thanks for your time everyone. We look forward to working with you all.

They all pile out whilst Omar lingers.

PREEYA

You okay there?

OMAR

Just wanted to say, if you want to show my *black excellence* on the school socials, feel free.

Omar hands over a few of his comics from his folder and leaves. Preeya and Chelsea survey Omar's Muscular man/machine drawings...

CHELSEA
God, that kid is weird.

CUT TO:

16 EXT. ST GILBERT'S. DAY 5.

16

The grand exterior of the school fades from day into night and then day again as we hear-

CUT TO:

17 INT. ST GILBERT'S - MALTON HOUSE - HALLWAY. DAY 5.

17

Mackers banging his signature pot and spoon together to wake the house.

MACKERS (O.C.)
Wakey, wakey chaps! I loathe
teaching on a Saturday as much as
you hate learning on one!

CUT TO:

18 EXT. ST GILBERT'S - RUGBY PITCH - SIDELINES. DAY 5.

18

There's a small gaggle of people stood around the sides. A few benches. The PLAYERS are stood on the sideline. MRS GOODLOW gives a pep talk to the players.

MRS GOODLOW
...Right, we pummelled these pricks last year. If we don't do the same today, I swear to god I'll murder each and everyone of you in yer sleep, is that clear!-

ALL
Yes coach!

Rupert raises a hand.

RUPERT
Why's Jaheim kitted up?

FELIX
Not today Rupert.

RUPERT

Franklin got benched after his
scrap with Pinchers? Surely, after
what Jaheim did during trials-

CUT TO:

Confidential

19 EXT. ST GILBERT'S - RUGBY PITCH. DAY. **FLASHBACK (SHOT AS 19 1/33).**

Jaheim jumps up and punches Rupert *hard*, sending him to the floor - it's violent and a statement.

JAHEIM

Who the fuck do you think you're dealing with?!

CUT TO:

20 EXT. ST GILBERT'S - RUGBY PITCH - SIDELINES. CONT. 20

FELIX

What the hell is wrong with you?

RUPERT

I'm just saying, it seems a little unfair, no? Rules are rules...

MRS GOODLOW

Everyone on the pitch. Get yourselves warmed up. Jaheim. You're benched.

As everyone runs onto the pitch, Jaheim sits on the bench. Chelsea and Preeya approach Jaheim holding a DSLR

PREEYA

We thought you were starting?

JAHEIM

I've been benched.

CHELSEA

We'd still like to get a little something for the socials.

They take an unflattering picture of Jaheim on the bench before posting it on insta. The words **#ManOfTheMatch #BlackExcellence** are typed across the bottom.

Jaheim's phone pings - he looks at the post.

JAHEIM

Well that's fucking sad.

CUT TO:

21 EXT. ST GILBERT'S - RUGBY PITCH. DAY 5.

21

Rupert throws a gloating wave to Jaheim, as he warms up with the rest of the team.

Jaheim looks down the field and clocks Abby, Beatrix and Florence sitting on another bench. Beatrix sees him. It appears they share a smile. Beatrix gets up and heads towards Jaheim. Simultaneously Jaheim gets up and heads toward her. Beatrix stops, anticipating a chat-

BEATRIX

Hey.

JAHEIM

Hey.

Jaheim however doesn't slow his pace and continues on, sitting next to Florence. Beatrix is left open-jawed. Abby too clocked the cringe exchange.

ABBY

Annnnd awkward...

Abby gets up to leave.

Jaheim and Florence.

JAHEIM

Enjoying the match?

Florence doesn't respond.

JAHEIM (CONT'D)

You ignoring me?

FLORENCE

I know what you're trying to do and
I want no part in your dick
swinging game with Rupert.

JAHEIM

Is it cos you know I'd win? I
saw what my man was packing
when he pissed on me. It
weren't much.

JAHEIM (ALT VERSION)

Is it cos you know I'd win?
He walks through the showers
with such confidence for
someone with such a small
dick.

*

Florence conceals a laugh.

JAHEIM (CONT'D)
What you laughing at? Me
getting pissed on or your
man's small dick? Have I
touched a sore point?

JAHEIM (ALT VERSION) (CONT'D)
~~What are you laughing at? Me~~
~~getting pissed on or your~~
~~man's small dick? Have I~~
~~touched a sore point?~~

From a distance, we see Florence and Jaheim laughing with one another, which Rupert clocks and he's pissed! So does Beatrix who's sitting on the end of the bench - she doesn't look pleased!

BEATRIX
What the fuck?!

FLORENCE
You're unusually chipper for a guy
who's outnumbered.

JAHEIM
I kinda like my odds, yu know.

FLORENCE
Well they're shit odds. I'd cash
out.

JAHEIM
But on a real, how many times has
he given you chlamydia?

Florence can't help but laugh at Jaheim's audacious behaviour. Rupert continues to watch on causing him to run into the back of Felix.

FELIX
Are you fucking blind, you simp?!

Rupert shifts, embarrassed - Jaheim is getting to him.

CUT TO:

23

EXT. ST GILBERT'S - RUGBY PITCH. CONT.

23

As the players continue to warm up - stretching, running up and down the field, etc - we see Rupert (who is holding the ball) whisper to SPENCER, who goes long with a smile on his face, anticipating a throw from Rupert. Rupert throws the ball and intentionally 'misses', which hits Jaheim *hard*. Jaheim stands his ground to Rupert's surprise-

JAHEIM

Do that again and see what happens?

RUPERT

(cocky)

You know what happens. Or do you want a repeat?

JAHEIM

Time and place, my guy.

This kid wants more? WTF! The two size each other up, before Mrs Goodlow breaks them up.

Bernard watches from the sidelines and whispers something to Mackers - pointing to Rupert and Spencer.

MRS GOODLOW

You're out too. ...Go!

Rupert heads towards the bench, but-

MRS GOODLOW (CONT'D)

...Not to the bench, the lockers.
Don't want you stinking up my
sidelines.

Mrs Goodlow indicates to another player - FELTCHER (weedy, yet ken) on the sidelines.

MRS GOODLOW (CONT'D)

Feltcher. Time to put your big boy pants on. You're in. ...Put down your asthma pump first! Jesus wept!

Rupert - fuming - heads towards the building (presumably the locker rooms). He and Jaheim exchange looks from afar, as Felix berates him as he leaves. Although inaudible, it's clearly heavy handed.

JAHEIM

(shouts, smiling)

Bye, friend.

Rupert boils. As Rupert walks off, Jaheim's phone beeps with a voice-note.

MALACHI (O.C)

*Man like Jaheim! Adenuga's baby
mudder is having contractions so
said we can't use his whip just in
case he needs it t'go hospital, so
we won't be reaching for the
madness. Next time though, yeah.*

Jaheim turns 'white'. He looks shooketh.

CUT TO:

24

OMITTED

24

25 OMITTED

25

26 INT. ST GILBERT'S - MALTON HOUSE - OMAR'S DORM. DAY 5. 26

Omar is heading back to his room when his room mate FRANCOIS walk past him carrying his things.

OMAR

...Are you... moving out?

Omar enters his room to see Rupert unpacking his things.

RUPERT

Bernard felt that you'd be a good influence on me. Can I take one of these shelves?

OMAR

...Yeah, sure.

Before Omar has a chance to clear it, Rupert begins to push an entire shelf of Omar's things into the bin. He looks Omar straight in the eyes as he does it - all to make room for a single book.

RUPERT

Thanks.

We hold on Omar expression of despair.

CUT TO:

27

INT. ST GILBERT'S - CLASSROOM - JAPANESE CLUB. DAY 5.

27

Early evening. Toby enters the Japanese club being held in a sedate, wood panelled classroom. He has a shit-load of bags. There's about four other kids. Chelsea and Preeya are again on hand to snap a pic.

TOBY

(re his lame surroundings)
Fuck my life.

Toby takes a seat, placing the bags of equipment beside him, before pulling out his science exercise book. **TOSH (16, Japanese, über keen)** appears beside him.

TOSH

(indicating for him to
move his bag)

Sorry, could you-

Toby looks confused as there's a shitload of empty seats. He moves his bag.

TOSH (CONT'D)

Hi, I'm Tosh.

Toby ignores her. She looks at the science book.

TOSH (CONT'D)

You know this is Japanese club,
right?

TOBY

(concentrating)

I'm multitasking.

TOSH

You're probably wondering, 'but
you're Japanese. What you doing,
here?'. Who doesn't like extra
points. Might as well exploit what
I'm good at, right?! ...What's with
all the bags? -

TOBY

(dismissive)

I have a girlfriend.

Tosh looks confused. MS KANEKO enters.

MS KANEKO

Minasan, konbanwa.

ALL

Konbanwa, ojosan.

Ms Kaneko clocks Toby's science book, she closes it and takes it away without breaking her stride/introduction.

MS KANEKO

I'm super excited that you've all joined this voluntary evening class. I hope you're as thrilled as I am.

Everyone smiles except Toby.

MS KANEKO (CONT'D)

I want this to be as immersive as possible so this will be the last time you'll be hearing me speak in English for the next three hours-

Toby raises his hand.

MS KANEKO (CONT'D)

Staithes-san

TOBY

Sorry, it sounded like you said that this class is three hours.

MS KANEKO

(ignoring, Japanese)
sanroku peeji ni idete
kudasai.

MS KANEKO

(translation)
Please turn to page 36.

Everyone opens their textbook. Toby walks to the front of the class and speaks with Ms Kaneko in a hushed voice.

TOBY

Ms Kaneko. Quick question. Have you ever been in love?

Ms Kaneko stares back blankly.

TOBY (CONT'D)

Okay, well you're putting at risk the greatest love I've ever known. ...Okay, "love" might be pushing it, but this lighty - jeez - she's beautiful, smart, did I mention beautiful. I made a promise to her, and if I don't follow through... I can't let this be the one that slips away. Please, I beg, lemmme leave.

Silence, then-

MS KANEKO

(Japanese)

Moshi ima watashi ga itte iru koto o kurikaeserunara, anata wa kono kurasu o A de sotsugyō sa semasu.

MS KANEKO

(subtitles)

If you can repeat back to me what I'm saying to you right now, I'll let you leave this class with an A.

Toby looks clueless.

Confidential

TOBY
Ummmm.... Yes?

MS KANEKO
Take a seat Mr Staithes.

Toby returns to his seat PISSED!

CUT TO:

28 INT. ST GILBERT'S - MALTON HOUSE - OMAR AND RUPERT'S DORM. 28
DAY 5.

Omar sits at his laptop with his headphones on. His laptop open and the Raisinettes quill and ink symbol prominent on the screen. Meanwhile, he flicks through the #RunningOfTheBalls thread on his phone - zooming in on bare arse cheeks in the hope of finding the emblem! Nothing! Suddenly a flash goes off. Omar turns to see Rupert taking a picture of him looking at bums!

OMAR
It's not what it looks like.

RUPERT
It's exactly what it looks like,
you devious dirty little pig.

OMAR
What you gonna do with that?

RUPERT
I don't think that's any of your
business.

OMAR
There's a secret society-

RUPERT
Snort!

OMAR
A secret society that-

RUPERT
Snort!

Omar gives up and heads out of the room. We linger on Rupert who goes through Omar's things. He finds his comic book...

CUT TO:

29 INT. ST GILBERT'S - LIBRARY. DAY 5.

29

Omar alone in the library. Femi appears.

FEMI

Wherever there are books there is
Omar.

OMAR

You say it like its a bad thing.
Our education isn't gonna fall in
our laps.

Femi looks through the "books" in front of Omar.

FEMI

These comic books on the
curriculum?

OMAR

I'm surprised you remember who I
am. Where's your Rah'scal mates?
Fox hunting?

FEMI

Gotta make friends. Make this place
feel like home. Maybe you should do
the same.

OMAR

(defensive, light)
I like my own company.

FEMI

I know you Omar. I know how you get
fixated on things, isolating
yourself from everything and
everyone. Same at Harrison's. Same
here.

(then)

Why don't you come to the party
with us?

OMAR

(cheeky)
Will I need a gilet?

TOBY

No. But eat something first. These
posh boys drink vodka like water.

OMAR

What time you heading over?

FEMI

I gotta finish Harper's essay
first.

OMAR

Femi, it's due on Monday...

FEMI

I know. Hey, do you remember when
we used to do pizza essays?
(MORE)

Confidential

FEMI (CONT'D)

You'd do a couple of slices, I'd do a couple of slices, we'd combine it and none of the teachers would clock.

OMAR

I've already done mine.

FEMI

Right... Can I have a look at it?...

Omar clocks what's happening.

OMAR

I've already handed mine in. Sorry. I better go. See you at the party?

FEMI

What? ... Yeah... Okay.

As Omar leaves, he turns back to Femi.

OMAR

You know what I remember most about those pizza essays? I'd do my slices, and then you'd come up with excuses as to why you hadn't done your slices... then I ended up writing two essay. I'll see you later Femi.

CUT TO:

30

EXT. ST GILBERT'S - COURTYARD. DAY 5.

30

Jaheim sits on the steps trying to call Malachi. Nothing. He leaves a voicemail.

JAHEIM

Breddah! Wha gwan?! Call me back!

Jaheim sits uncomfortably.

GUS (O.C.)

Man like Jaheim!

Jaheim is surprised to see GUS.

JAHEIM

Emergency visit. Must be bad.

GUS

I brought you some Morley's.

Jaheim eagerly takes the bag of chicken and chips.

JAHEIM

It's cold.

GUS

You ain't heard of a microwave?

Jaheim tucks into the cold take away nonetheless. Gus looks at Jaheim's face - more bruises.

JAHEIM
(cheeky grin)
Boys being boys.

GUS
I'm hearing more than that.

JAHEIM
From who?

GUS
From people who are concerned about
you.

JAHEIM
Or themselves.

GUS
Meaning.

JAHEIM
Meaning, Leah...

GUS
It was actually Toby.

Jaheim is surprised.

JAHEIM
You know he pissed on me?

JAHEIM
(alt line)
You know what he did to me?

GUS
Okay, so you get your revenge. Then
what? Back to London and the same
shitty school by Monday? The same
one that you were too bright for?
Or shotting, maybe?

JAHEIM
It's funny how you're concerned
about me retaliating but less about
how I am. How much you get paid per
student you enroll?

GUS
Watch your mouth.

JAHEIM
Even if I wanted to do something, I
can't. Malachi and dem can't make
it. If I knew you were coming up, I
would've told them to get a lift
with you.

GUS
I know you're angry. But Rupert
will come out of this just fine.
(MORE)

GUS (CONT'D)

Fuck, he'll be all our Prime
Minister in twenty years.

(MORE)

Confidential

GUS (CONT'D)

But you... You need to remember
who's at home for you.

JAHEIM

You know he's gonna fuck me up.

GUS

We could go see the Headmaster?

Jaheim just looks at him - It's a no.

GUS (CONT'D)

Do you think Rupert would afford
you the same loyalty?

Silence. *It's still a no from Jaheim.*

GUS (CONT'D)

Okay. Then- this is not the best
advice from a guardian but... I'd
just take the beating, rude boy.

JAHEIM

Again? He ain't gonna stop.

GUS

He'll get bored. The fun bit is the
retaliation. Don't give him that.

Gus goes to take a chip. Jaheim playfully pushes him away.

CUT TO:

31

INT. ST GILBERT'S - ASSEMBLY HALL. DAY 5.

31

The room has been set for Leah's inaugural ACS meeting. It feels less like the beginning of a revolution and more like a W.I gathering. But no one is there. Leah sits twiddling her thumbs.

LEAH

(to herself)

Kill me now.

MABEL is sitting loyally at the front.

LEAH (CONT'D)

Mabel... Wha gwan? Where is
everyone?

MABEL

(sheepish)

People were really keen, so keen, I
mean, unbelievably keen-

LEAH
(get on with it)
Get there quicker-

MABEL
...but then they realised it
clashed with the *house* house party.

LEAH
(beyond embarrassed)
Why didn't you tell me?!

MABEL
I didn't want to say anything
because you were so excited! We can
still go ahead...!

LEAH
What? Me, you and the creepy PR
twins?

MABEL
PR? I thought they were a
diversity, equity and inclusion
team?

LEAH
What DE&I team walks around with a
DSLRs and a press pack?

Reveal Chelsea and Preeya, as they fiddle with said camera
and press pack.

LEAH (CONT'D)
They ain't trying to do shit,
except pretending to show how
inclusive this place is.

Leah looks livid as she reflects. Mabel puts a reassuring hand on Leah's shoulder. Then-

PREEYA (O.C.)
We'd still like to snap something
for the socials.

Chelsea and Preeya are now in front of Leah and Mabel. *How the fuck did they get across the room so quickly and quietly!*

LEAH
Yeah, I'd prefer if you didn't-

Silence. Then FLASH!

CUT TO:

32

INT. ST GILBERT'S - HEADMASTER'S CORRIDOR. DAY 5.

32

Leah, escaped from Preeya and Chelsea is stood looking at the portrait. All traces of Leah's 'protest' have gone, the glass gleaming brightly. Carruthers - the figure in the portrait - looks on, staring directly at Leah. It looks as if he has a smug smile on his face which causes Leah to bristle. She knocks on Bernard's door. Nothing. Her knock becomes harder knocks that soon become frustrated bangs!

LEAH
Bernard, open the door you-

Mabel - holding a pack of sherbet bonbons - appears and pulls a furious Leah away.

MABEL
Breathe... Take a bonbon... Now eat
it.

Leah complies to all three commands. It weirdly calms her down.

MABEL (CONT'D)
Every movement starts with a
handful of people.

LEAH
I'm not trying to start a movement.

MABEL
Neither was Rosa Parks, but she was
the piston that got the civil
rights train moving!

LEAH
(playful)
Okay my keen white friend, slow
your roll.
(MORE)

LEAH (CONT'D)

There will be no marches or black
berets. I'm just wanting to be
listened to, that's all.

Confidential

MABEL

Well I'm listening.

LEAH

(touched)

...Thank you.

Mabel gives Leah an affectionate hug. Leah pulls out of it.

LEAH (CONT'D)

Ooh, too keen.

MABEL

Sorry. Right. Sorry.

CUT TO:

33 INT. ST GILBERT'S - MALTON HOUSE - FEMI AND CHEDDAR'S DORM 33
DAY 5.

Femi is sat at his desktop computer whilst his RAH'SCAL mates pre game in the background.

CHEDDAR

Espresso martinis?

FEMI

What?

(points to his work)

Um... no. I gotta-

CHEDDAR

Mate. You don't want to miss this party. I've heard it gets proper frisky!

FEMI

Yeah. Well, I gotta complete this or I'm screwed.

CHEDDAR

Wouldn't it be easier to just buy one?

FEMI

Buy what?

The Rah'scals look at each other and laugh. Femi looks genuinely confused. Cheddar leans over him and starts typing.

CHEDDAR

Here, use my account. Type in the subject matter here, urgency - 12 hours - spacing per page, word count, style, number of sources, voila.

FEMI

Is this that AI thing?

Confidential

CHEDDAR

School has software to pick up on that shit. This is done by boffins on the other side of the world trying to feed their families.

FEMI

Thirty quid a page?

CHEDDAR

A gift from, ton ami.

He kisses him on the forehead.

CHEDDAR (CONT'D)

Send it, then meet us there.

The Rah'scals raucously leave whilst Femi debates it.

CUT TO:

34

INT. ST GILBERT'S - CLASSROOM - JAPANESE CLUB. DAY 5. 34

Toby looks at the clock. It's now after 7pm. He's pissed!

TOBY

Miss, we're kinda running late-

Ms Kaneko ignores Toby.

MS KANEKO

(Japanese)
Doko ni sunde imasu ka?

MS KANEKO

(Subtitles)
Where do you live?

TOMMY

Um.... I um.... I....

Toby scrolls insta and sees pictures of Abby dancing in her figure hugging dress, hot as hell! Desperate and broken, he stands and gives Ms Kaneko's questions and TOMMY's answers.

TOBY

(Japanese)
Namae wa nandesu ka?
Watashinonamaeha Tommy.
Genkidesu ka? Watashi wa
daijōbu, soshite anata wa?
Doko ni sunde imasu ka?

TOBY

(Subtitles)
What is your name?
My name is Tommy. How are
you? *I am fine, and yourself?*
Where do you live?

TOBY (CONT'D)

(to Tommy, English)
Where do you live, Tommy?

TOMMY

Um...Hertfordshire...

TOBY
(Japanese)
Watashi wa hātofōdoshā ni
sunde imasu. Nani o suru no
ga tanoshidesu ka? Watashi wa
sakkā, eiga, soshite
tomodachi to no kōryū o
tanoshinde imasu. Mō itte mo
īdesu ka?

TOBY
(Subtitles)
*I live in Hertfordshire. What
do you enjoy doing? I enjoy
football, the cinema and
socialising with friends. Can
we go now?!*

MS KANEKO
(impressed)
I think we can call it a day-

Toby grabs his things and legs it.

CUT TO:

35 INT. ST GILBERT'S - CATLEY HOUSE - LEAH AND ABBY'S DORM. 35
DAY 5.

Leah enters. Abby is touching up her make up.

ABBY
How was your event?

LEAH
Wasn't as lively as I would've
hoped.

ABBY
Maybe don't hold a political event
on the same night as the first
party of the year?

LEAH
It would've helped if I had the
most popular - *black* - girl in
school on my side...

Leah coughs over the word 'black'. Abby raises an eyebrow.

ABBY
How would that have looked? The
Headmaster's daughter standing
beside his biggest critic?

LEAH
(shocked)
Sorry, d'you wanna rewind and
come again?!

Abby just stares at her, with a hint of a smile.

LEAH (CONT'D)
Why didn't you tell me he was your
dad?

ABBY

It wasn't a secret. I told you to drop all this crap, not to protect my dad, but because no one gives a shit. Your no show event proved that.

Abby's words hit home a little too hard, leaving Leah deflated. Leah sits deflated. Abby takes pity on her.

ABBY (CONT'D)

Look, forget about my dad. Why don't you take the night off, Mandela. Come out with us. Get drunk. Meet some boys. Nothing melts your troubles away like good dick.

LEAH

I don't drink. Plus, no one here is my type.

ABBY

What's your type?

LEAH

Tall, dark and handsome... heavy emphasis on the 'dark'.

ABBY

What about Koku?

LEAH

Who the fuck is this Koku breddah?!

ABBY

Right, put something sexy on. And none of those inspirational black bullshit t-shirts.

Leah shakes her head.

ABBY (CONT'D)

Just a few drinks.

LEAH

(relents)

One.

ABBY

Things don't get fun until after the third. Whether you have any more after that is completely up to you!

CUT TO:

36

INT. ST GILBERT'S - HEADMASTER'S CORRIDOR. NIGHT 5.

36

Abby, Florence and Beatrix walk down the hall, slow mo, like the bad bitches they are. All that's missing is a wind machine. Leah tags along. Looking good but not as done up.

The slo mo sequence pauses as they all take off their high heels, desperate not to make a sound as they sneak past Stanley's office.

They struggle to hold keep hold of their heels, bags, and illicit alcohol, dropping shit as they sneak past. They shush one another as they go.

CUT TO:

37

INT. ST GILBERT'S - THE CRYPT. NIGHT 5.

37

The party is in full swing. Toby is at the centre of it all, playing the consummate host and DJ, whilst handing out glow sticks and body paint.

Abby, Florence, Beatrix and Leah enter.

LEAH

(re the crypt)

Not exactly a *house* house party'?

BEATRIX

We liked the tradition, not the location.

Abby hands Leah a drink.

ABBY

(doctorly)

Annnnd drink this for me, please.

LEAH

I'm alright.

ABBY

What did we just talk about?!

Leah tries to take a sip but Abby lifts the tip of the glass with her index finger, forcing Leah to drink it in one.

ABBY (CONT'D)

There's a good girl.

Rupert appears and kisses Florence.

FLORENCE

Can you not piss on anyone
tonight?

RUPERT

Can you not flirt with anyone
tonight?

FLORENCE (CONT'D)

(ALT LINE)

No fisticuffs tonight, please.

RUPERT

(ALT LINE)

No flirting with other men tonight,
please.

FLORENCE

Jaheim came and sat next to me.

RUPERT

Whatever, I don't care.

FLORENCE

(loving it.)

You 100 percent care.

Rupert kisses her territorially. Florence likes it - *this is their game.*

Confidential

At that moment, Rupert clocks Jaheim arriving, but stays on his best behaviour.

Jaheim clocks Beatrix. He waves. Beatrix, who blatantly sees the wave, purposefully ignores him and turns to the first person she sees - Cheddar - and starts to dance with him. He can't believe his luck!

CHEDDAR

Hi, I'm Cheddar.

BEATRIX

Yeah, I know.

CHEDDAR

And you must be- beautiful.
Cinzano?

Beatrix rolls her eyes. But engages nonetheless to spite Jaheim.

BEATRIX

Sure. Why not?

LEAH

(to Abby)

Can't believe that line worked!

Jaheim watches with envious eyes. Florence approaches Jaheim.

FLORENCE

Can I have a word?

JAHEIM

Yeah, sure.

As Jaheim walks off with Florence, Beatrix watches them, necks her drinks as Cheddar dances around her. Jaheim walks past Toby.

TOBY

You ain't come to start a madness,
have you?

JAHEIM

I know you told Gus.

TOBY

Believe it or not, I actually did
it for you, bro.

Jaheim continues walking with Florence. They head off, passing Omar who has surprisingly arrived solo. He feels like a loose part. He clocks Femi chugging beer from a shoe. They exchange a look. Omar is finding the whole thing overwhelming. He decides to leave, but bumps into **DILTON (16, South Asian, charming)** who's carrying drinks. They spill over both of them.

DILTON

Shit, I'm so sorry! Your shoes!

OMAR

It's fine. They're Marks and Sparks, so they're pretty durable.

DILTON

And the glasses?

OMAR

Um... Just Specsavers.

DILTON

Granny chic. I like.

Omar smiles and hands over some tissues.

DILTON (CONT'D)

Thanks.

As they wipe down, Omar clocks that Dilton's flies are undone.

OMAR

Um... You're flying low.

DILTON

I'm not making the best first impression, am I? Well, now that you've seen my willy... I'm Dilton. I think we're in the same art class.

OMAR

Oh. Nice to meet you. Omar.

DILTON

Oh, mate, I saw your work. So dope.

OMAR

Really? They posted it?!

Omar excitedly takes out his phone to check the school socials.

DILTON

They? ...No, this was on Rupert's page. Odd how he "curated" it, but-

OMAR

What you talking about?

Dilton pulls out his phone and shows Omar. It's his work on TikTok but Rupert has written crude comments and doodles over them.

OMAR (CONT'D)

Oh. Thanks. Very funny.

Omar walks off upset.

DILTON

Wait, mate, I was being serious.

Omar is already gone.

We hone in on Jaheim and Florence. He's avoiding eye contact.

FLORENCE

Nervous to talk to me now?

JAHEIM

It's your friend I'm looking to talk to. I think I pissed her off.

We look across to see Beatrix half-heartedly dancing with Cheddar, who's giving back a lot.

FLORENCE

Maybe because you were flirting with me earlier. No wait, that was just to piss off my boyfriend...

JAHEIM

Seems like you're flirting with me to get my head kicked in?

She steps in unusually close to Jaheim. Jaheim tenses as Rupert keeps a close eye.

FLORENCE

Call it pay back.

JAHEIM

Well... If it's gonna happen, might as well get a move on, innit.

He lightly kisses Florence on the lips which Rupert clocks - He's pissed! Jaheim makes a quick exit with Rupert, Spencer and Bishop close behind. Florence smiles to herself. Bea looks to her.

FLORENCE

Oh come on, Bea. He kissed me.

They go back to dancing together.

We watch Jaheim hustle past Toby who is by the sound system. Toby puts on a banger of a tune as the black lights turn on, lighting up the body paint everyone has drawn on themselves. He produces **gummies** from his pocket, Abby gives him a massive hug. He places one on Abby's tongue.

TOBY

Allow me.

YELENA approaches.

YELENA

How much?

TOBY

Oh, nah. I ain't shotting. This is
a um... personal stash.

Confidential

YELENA

I'll pay for the whole hockey team.

Yelena pulls out a wad of cash. Toby's eyes light up as he debates whether he wants to be a dealer. Then-

TOBY

Would you like a receipt?

He hands her a shit-load of gummies.

TOBY (CONT'D)

Yo, DJ! Pull up and come again,
ruuuudeee bwooooy!

Toby - who is the DJ - reloads the tune! He is the ultimate hype man as the hockey team get HIGH!

CUT TO:

38

EXT. WOODS. NIGHT 5.

38

Jaheim is now running for his life. Rupert, Spencer and Bishop are close behind.

RUPERT

Oi, Brixton! You're gonna die
tonight, you know that right?!

Jaheim runs straight into the road and is almost hit by a car! As his eyes adjust to the blinding headlights, he hears-

MALACHI (O.C.)

Man like Jaheim!

As the men step out the car, Jaheim is surprised to see MALACHI Anton and Ray.

MALACHI (CONT'D)

Adenuga lied. Baby weren't coming.
It was gas. Would've got here
sooner but this dickhead can't read
a SatNav.

ANTON

Don't blame me, it's your shitty
phone. Who has an android?!

Rupert appears surprised.

MALACHI

Is this the breddah?

Jaheim pauses and shares a look with Rupert.

MALACHI (CONT'D)
Yo, Jaheim?...

Jaheim still stays silent. His future dictated by his answer. Then...

JAHEIM
Yeah.

Rupert's heart sinks.

JAHEIM (CONT'D)
But...

A hesitation...

MALACHI
But what? Jaheim?

JAHEIM
But let's get out of the road.
(indicates to Rupert's
boys)
You mans can go.

No one moves.

MALACHI
He's only offering once, yu know.

Spencer and Bishop awkwardly leave. Jaheim smiles as Rupert is left alone and outnumbered - shit.

MALACHI (CONT'D)
How you doing, bro?

RUPERT
I'm good. How are you, bro?

Malachi smiles before punching Rupert in the stomach *hard*. Rupert gets up. He's standing his ground.

MALACHI
Watch how my man a puff out his
chest. You ten foot tall, yeah?

Rupert stands his ground. Malachi can see this ain't gonna be straight forward. Then-

MALACHI (CONT'D)
Anton, get the petrol.

Rupert and Jaheim both look shocked as Anton pulls a petrol can from the boot. Shit just got real!

CUT TO:

39

INT. ST GILBERT'S - THE CRYPT. NIGHT 5.

39

Florence, Beatrix and Abby are doing their 'hot AF' dancing. Meanwhile, Leah is drunk AF and dancing her little face off. Everything suddenly goes **slow mo** as Leah finally lays her eyes on the elusive beautiful black man - **KOKU (jock-like, very handsome)**. Leah tries to head towards him but is stopped by Abby.

LEAH

Hold this.

ABBY

Yeah, I think you may be a little too tipsy for any male interaction.

LEAH

What happened to 'nothing melts your troubles away like good dick'.

ABBY

What happened to you having one then leaving?

Leah has already gone. Toby appears having heard everything.

TOBY

(shrugs)

You tried.

Leah approaches Koku who is stood with his archery mates.

LEAH

Hi.

KOKU

Hi.

Leah notices a hand brace on Koku's hand.

LEAH

Oh god, what happened to your hand?

KOKU

Oh, nothing. I'm part of the archery team and sometimes it gets a little R.S.I-ey

LEAH

No way! That's so cool. I hope you're okay.

KOKU

Yeah, it's fine. It doesn't hurt or anything-

LEAH

Would you like me to kiss it
better?

KOKU

Sorry?

Confidential

LEAH
I'm Leah by the way.

KOKU
Oh, I'm-

LEAH
Beautiful.

ABBY
(shaking her head, to
Toby)
What is she doing?

LEAH
I've been looking for you all day.

KOKU
Really? Do we know one another?

LEAH
We can.

KOKU
Are you flirting?

LEAH
Do you want me to be flirting?

KOKU
... I don't know.

LEAH
Well guess what?... I'm flirting.

TOBY
(bemused)
Jesus Christ.

Leah throws Toby the finger and pulls Koku away towards the door to exit.

CUT TO:

40 EXT. ST GILBERT'S - ROAD. NIGHT 5.

40

Anton passes the petrol can to Malachi. Jaheim pleads with Malachi.

JAHEIM
Malachi, what the fuck?!

MALACHI
Bruddah, we ain't gonna kill him.
Just a likkle third degree and dat.

Malachi pulls on a balaclava.

MALACHI (CONT'D)
If you're staying, you best put on
a bally.

JAHEIM
I ain't putting on a bally.

RAY
(holding phone, landscape)
I'm filming ultra wide so you're
definitely gonna be in shot.

Malachi douses Rupert in petrol. He gags.

JAHEIM
Come we just bang him up. Tek his
money-

RUPERT
I've got money.

MALACHI
I got my own money, my guy.

Malachi pulls out a fifty and tries to light it.

MALACHI (CONT'D)
These plastic ones don't burn as
good as the paper notes did.

RUPERT
(pleading to Jaheim)
Jaheim.

JAHEIM
Malachi, bro. You really wanna go
back inside for a minor like this?

MALACHI
My man ain't gonna talk.

JAHEIM
Course he's gonna talk!

MALACHI
Then we dead him!

ANTON
(trying to draw attention)
Oi, you man-

JAHEIM
Bro! How you chatting so casual
bout it?

MALACHI
Don't 'bro' me, why you acting like
a pussy!

ANTON

You man-

MALACHI

If I don't follow through, I look like a dickhead. Now put on the fucking bally!

ANTON

Oi, you man! Look!

They turn to see Rupert in floods of tears, although desperately trying to fight them back. A beat. They all suddenly start laughing!

JAHEIM

My man's bawling!

MALACHI

Man thought we were gonna light him up for real! Dickhead!

They're laughing in Rupert's face. It's humiliating.

MALACHI (CONT'D)

Anton, check he ain't pissed himself.

ANTON

(checks)

Man's had a lil wee wee!

MALACHI

I told you he'd piss himself.

RAY

(to Anton)

You owe me money.

ANTON

Nah, that's petrol, bro.

ANTON (CONT'D)

(to Rupert)

Is it piss? Don't lie.

RUPERT

(ashamed, sotto)

It's not piss.

ANTON

'Course he's gonna say it's not piss.

RUPERT

(cutting through)

Can I go?!

MALACHI

What you say?

Confidential

RUPERT

Can. I. go?

MALACHI

Yes, you. Can. Go.

Rupert gets up to leave.

MALACHI (CONT'D)

I like your trainers.

Rupert takes off his trainers and hobbles back.

JAHEIM

That shit is always funny!

MALACHI

A lie!

(then)

You want a lift back?

They head to the car, leaving Rupert's trainers exactly where he left them.

CUT TO:

41

INT. ST GILBERT'S - HEADMASTER'S CORRIDOR. NIGHT 5.

41

Leah and Koku - who have stumbled into the corridor - are kissing. They're really going at it. Mid-kiss, Leah catches eyes with Carruthers in the portrait. She cracks on defiantly. She then catches eyes with the 'slave-boy' who stares at her as if he's judging her. Leah pauses, like she's gonna be sick.

KOKU

You okay?

LEAH

Um... Yeah. Sorry, you know when you think you're gonna throw up-

They continue to kiss. Leah suddenly is sick MID-KISS, which results in Koku with a mouth full of sick!

KOKU

FUCK!

A camera flash goes off!

ALT: Mid-kiss, and unbeknownst to Leah and Koku, a light shines on them. Are they being filmed?!

CUT TO:

42 INT. ST GILBERT'S - MALTON HOUSE - JAHEIM AND XIANG'S DORM.42
NIGHT 5.

Jaheim, Malachi, Ray and Anton enter. Anton is scrutinising the video - trying to sway the lost bet.

RAY

(to Anton)

Check the splash pattern. If it was piss, it would blotch.

Malachi takes in Jaheim's surroundings.

MALACHI

So this you, yeah?

JAHEIM

It ain't all that. Impressive to look at but the whole place smells of damp.

MALACHI

Hundred bag education, *free*, and he's complaining bout damp. Like my man's yard weren't full of it.

(then)

You should be proud of yourself.

King Jaheim. The rose from the concrete. We are mere mortals in the presence of greatness and dat!

Malachi heavy handedly rubs Jaheim's shoulder and has a stern look in his eye. There's a tinge of jealousy in his delivery.

JAHEIM

This is all dead now, innit. You know that breddah's gonna squeal.

MALACHI

He's one a dem ones?

JAHEIM

Ain't no shame in snitching to save yourself. It's how these rich boys run. You don't watch the news?

MALACHI

Guess it's back to being a gutter rat like the rest of us now!

They laugh hysterically. Jaheim laughs too but it doesn't ring as true as the sad realisation seeps in. XIANG enters.

XIANG

Hi, I'm Xiang. Are you guys students here?

MALACHI

I think you know we're not Xiang,
which makes me think you're not
being very welcoming.

Xiang feels uncomfortable in the space.

XIANG

I'll come back later.

MALACHI

Yeah, you do that, Xiang.

Malachi throws a can at him, forcing him to leave. They laugh some more. All except Jaheim.

CUT TO:

43 INT. ST GILBERT'S - MALTON HOUSE - OMAR AND RUPERT'S DORM. 43
NIGHT 5.

Rupert returns to his room battered and bruised. Omar is sat on his bed. Still pissed with Rupert, he tries to not give a shit. The stench of petrol however is A LOT. He notices Rupert removing bloodied socks. He's in a lot of pain.

Omar ignores it and leaves. After a beat, he returns with a medical bag. He pulls out some antiseptic wipes which he hands to Rupert. Rupert reluctantly accepts. Rupert wipes and winces.

OMAR

Real dick move with my comic book.

We hold on them as Omar watches Rupert.

CUT TO:

44 INT. ST GILBERT'S - MALTON HOUSE - CORRIDOR. DAY 6. 44

Monday morning. We see Mackers banging his signature pot and spoon together to wake the house.

MACKERS

Wakey, wakey chaps! Only six more days until your next day off!

CUT TO:

45 INT. ST GILBERT'S - CLASSROOM - BIOLOGY. CONT. 45

Toby and Omar enter. Toby is patted on the back by everyone - the man of the night, as people refer to him as 'PUSHA T'. Omar looks at him shaking his head.

OMAR

(mimic)

"I'm not shotting. Just a bit of weed to smash".

TOBY

(unnerved by the attention)

What can I say - hobby turned into a business.

OMAR

If it's this out in the open, you know word is gonna get to the Headmaster. When he finds out you were selling drugs at school, you're screwed.

A pause for thought on Toby's face, then-

MACKERS

Mr Staithes. Ready to blow us away with your special assignment?

TOBY

Um... Why not, sir.

Toby steps to the front.

TOBY (CONT'D)

Even through all the enhancements in technology, the human brain still hides a plethora of secrets. The influence of the brain over the body in some aspects is inexplicable...

As Toby continues to talk we-

CUT TO:

46

INT. ST GILBERT'S - THE CRYPT. DAY 6.

46

We see STANLEY walking through the crypt, discovering the remnants of last nights party.

TOBY (O.C)

...And if one is capable of creating the right mood, ambience, and the belief that something is what one says it is, it has the ability to trick the body as if it was receiving the true chemical...

Stanley finds, glistening under plastic champagne flutes and cigarette butts, a gummy on the floor followed by another. Then beside it, a Haribo style packet of 'yummy scrummy gummy bears'.

CUT TO:

47

INT. ST GILBERT'S - CLASSROOM - BIOLOGY. DAY 6.

47

TOBY

...This is what we refer to as the Placebo effect.

Toby has a massive grin on his face.

CUT TO:

48

INT. ST GILBERT'S - HEADMASTER'S CORRIDOR. DAY 6.

48

Jaheim, in his own clothes, with a bag at his feet, sits in silence. Rupert exits the office and then leans back insid-

RUPERT

(to Bernard)

Oh, if you need any more information about the events of last night, Sir, do let me know.

Bernard calls from his office-

BERNARD (O.C.)

Mr Marsham.

RUPERT

(hushed)

Guess it's back to Brixton.

Rupert walks off with a smile. Jaheim head into the office. He's bricking it.

CUT TO:

49

INT. ST GILBERT'S - HEADMASTER'S OFFICE. CONT.

49

Jaheim takes a seat. Silence.

BERNARD

Why did you want to attend St Gilbert's, Mr Marsham?

Silence.

BERNARD (CONT'D)

That wasn't a rhetorical question.

JAHEIM

Gus thought-

BERNARD

Not Gus, you! Why did you want to attend my school?

JAHEIM

(sotto)

It was an opportunity.

BERNARD

Opportunity for what?

JAHEIM

For... better life... future. Just, bettereverything.

BERNARD

So why have you *pissed* it away?

Jaheim doesn't have an answer. His screw face/bad boy persona has completely slipped away.

BERNARD (CONT'D)

It may surprise you but this scholarship is bigger than you.

(MORE)

BERNARD (CONT'D)

It concerns everyone. Especially me. And if you look bad, I look bad.

Jaheim looks puzzled - *what's going on?*

BERNARD (CONT'D)

So, despite your persistent need to press your self destruct button, you shall remain at St Gilbert's.

Jaheim looks surprised.

BERNARD (CONT'D)

To keep you out of trouble, you will report to the library at 5.30am each morning as well as attending special solo classes in the evenings.

(holds out his hand)

Phone-

Bernard takes Jaheim's phone before pointing to the landline.

BERNARD (CONT'D)

All communication home will be done on this phone under my supervision. And if you believe that my keeping you at St Gilbert's will give you some kind of power or leverage that you attempt to exploit, I assure you that I will continue to add to your extracurricular endeavours, ensuring that you die of over work and exhaustion before you are expelled from my school. The scholarship programme will be a success, Mr Marsham. Whether you like it or not.

Jaheim is stunned into silence.

BERNARD (CONT'D)

Now, get out.

Jaheim stands and walks towards the door. He pauses at the door, unsure if this is good news or bad, before he finally leaves.

END.