

1 **INT. HOSPITAL - LARGE ROOM - DAY (09:15)**

(HARRY, NGOZI, CAM, PAIGE, STEVIE)
(NS STAFF)

We're in a self-defence class. Various NS STAFF MEMBERS are present alongside STEVIE, JODIE, PAIGE, NGOZI and CAM.

HARRY is leading the class and STEVIE has volunteered to help him demonstrate how to escape a rear choke hold. They've been over it a few times so STEVIE knows what to do but HARRY is still talking through the moves as STEVIE does them with him.

HARRY

So remember, when you feel the arm coming round your neck...

HARRY gets STEVIE in a rear choke hold.

HARRY (CONT'D)

Bring your chin to your chest, grab the wrist and step to the side using your other hand to strike the groin.

(to STEVIE, light, as she mimes the move)

Watch it.

(Back to business)
They bend over, you bring your elbow up and bam...

STEVIE performs the action of elbowing HARRY in the face and then escapes his grip and moves off.

HARRY (CONT'D)

Thanks, Doc.

As HARRY talks we see the various gathered medics, all listening keenly, faces etched with a mixture of concentration and concern.

HARRY (CONT'D)

Now you want to avoid violence if you can but the most important thing is getting yourself to safety. This is just one of the techniques we'll be looking at over the next few sessions.

HARRY sees an NS POLICE OFFICER enter looking for him.

HARRY (CONT'D)

(to the medics)

So, let's buddy up and practise the moves we just went over.

HARRY moves to the NS POLICE OFFICER while people pair up.

JODIE and PAIGE make a pair while NGOZI and CAM make another.

NGOZI
(to CAM)
What do you want to do, shall we take it
in turns? Do you want to try being the
man first?

CAM
I... I am the man.

On to PAIGE and JODIE. PAIGE places her arm around JODIE's neck.

PAIGE
That alright, I'm not hurting you am I?

PICK UP: STEVIE watching everyone, pleased she made this happen
but there's an anxiety she can't seem to shake. HARRY approaches.

STEVIE
You mind if we go over that move again? I
just want to make sure I've got it.

HARRY
(Cautious)
Ray McKenna was let out for his mother's
funeral today.

STEVIE
Couldn't happen to a nicer bloke.

HARRY
Stevie...

STEVIE
I'm sorry the woman lost her life but I
don't have a single ounce of sympathy for
the psycho that attacked Ryan.

HARRY
He absconded. He's on his toes. I thought
you should know.

STEVIE's blood runs cold.

CUT TO TITLES:

2 **INT. RASH'S LIVING ROOM - DAY (09:20)**

(RASH, RIDA, ASHOK)

RASH talks at RIDA as they enter the room where ASHOK is reading.

RASH
Remember to keep the front door locked so
he can't wander off.

RIDA takes in the pristine room.

RIDA
Wow, so this place is always just
immaculate, yeah?

RASH
I'm trying to keep things simple for Dad.
No clutter or things he can fall over.
Although, to be honest I've always been a
bit-

RASH (CONT'D) RIDA
Minimalist. Uptight.

RIDA (CONT'D)
(Corrects quickly)
Minimalist, yes. Exactly.

RASH
Dad, there's someone here to see you.

RIDA
(jumping in, keen)
It's Rida! I came round for tea last
week.

RASH
She's one of the nurses from work. She's
going to keep you company today.

ASHOK
I'm a grown man, I don't need looking
after.

RIDA
Don't worry, we're gonna have some fun,
me and you.

RASH is unnerved by this statement, but tries to play it cool.

RASH
It's not good for him to be over-
stimulated. Best to stick to his routine
as much as possible. Mid-morning nap then
an early lunch around ten past twelve,
always at the table, never in front of
the TV.

RASH is clearly anxious as he prepares to leave Ashok.

RASH (CONT'D)
I've written everything down in the folder in the kitchen. What he likes to eat, what he doesn't like, his allergies, his whole routine. I know it feels like a lot but... I need this to go well.

RIDA
And it will. We'll muddle through, won't we, Uncle?

RASH
(Can't help himself)
No, no, you don't need to muddle through, that's why I made the folder. He likes his routine, it keeps him calm.

RIDA
(Reassuring)
Rash, I've got this. We're good.

On RASH, hoping that's true.

CUT TO:

3 **INT. ED. STAFF ROOM - ADMIN/CUBICLES - DAY (09:40)**

(MAX, DYLAN, STEVIE)
(NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS, NS FEMALE PATIENT, TYLER MACKINNON, NS ELDERLY FEMALE)

With the news about RAY still fresh in her mind, STEVIE is making her way through the ED to begin her shift, but she's spooked. Her eyes dart and scan, looking for Ray amongst the many faces in the busy ED. She takes in the uniformed police presence too.

The atmosphere is edgy, chaotic. The waiting area is busy, an NS RELATIVE is arguing with the NS RECEPTIONIST. NS PARAMEDICS wheel in a belligerent NS PATIENT. A scream of agony can be heard from a distant cubicle.

Edgy, STEVIE jumps at a loud crash in cubicles - a trolley has been pushed over, contents scattering, as PAIGE and CAM steady a drunk NS FEMALE PATIENT (20s). We stay with STEVIE as she continues on her way, trying not to let anyone see that she's shaken.

She passes DYLAN working at the desk as MAX approaches.

MAX

Dylan, I need your appraisal form on my desk by end of play.

DYLAN hears him but says nothing.

MAX (CONT'D)
Dylan...?

DYLAN

Appraisal form. Got it.

DYLAN continues at the desk/computer.

MAX
Is there a problem?

DYLAN ignores him and MAX is further irritated.

MAX (CONT'D)
Dylan!

DYLAN
Donna sends her regards.

MAX
(Curveball)
Donna?

DYLAN
I spoke to her last night.

MAX
How is she?

DYLAN gives him a look.

MAX (CONT'D)
Come on, Dylan... Can't we just put the whole Donna thing behind us and forget it ever happened.

DYLAN feels exposed, embarrassed to have his feelings for Donna highlighted. His reacts with petulant defensiveness.

DYLAN
Glad she meant so much to you.

DYLAN moves off.

MAX is left frustrated by his poor choice of words.

Nearby, STEVIE is trying to concentrate on something at the desk when a belligerent drunk man in chairs (TYLER MACKINNON, late forties/early fifties) starts kicking a swing door repeatedly and annoyingly. STEVIE jumps, on edge.

MAX
Can someone check if that guy's on the naughty list please?

Annoyed by how rattled and weak she feels, STEVIE approaches MAX.

STEVIE
Can you manage without me today?

MAX looks at her, concerned but reluctant to lose her.

MAX
This about Ray McKenna? Harry filled me in. There's no reason to think he'll show up here.

STEVIE
'Don't think I'll forget you' he said.
That's a reason.

MAX
Stevie...

STEVIE
I'm sorry. I wouldn't normally ask...

MAX knows he can't push it.

MAX
Okay. I'll make some calls, get some cover sorted.

STEVIE
Thank you.

MAX

Okay, well, while I've still got you...

(Hands her a tablet)

The patient in 2 has abdominal swelling
and needs assessment and referral
onwards.

MAX leaves her to it.

On STEVIE, scanning her surroundings, on edge as she gets to work.

CUT TO:

4 **INT. KOFI'S FLAT - DAY (10:00)**

(JAN, KOFI)

(NS PARAMEDIC)

JAN and an NS PARAMEDIC are with KOFI OPOKU - a young gay black man in his late 20s. His apartment is sleek, minimalist, spotless - save for a smashed up glass coffee table and some shelves that have been knocked over.

KOFI has heavy bruising to his face (fractured cheekbone). His breathing is shallow due to pain in his ribs. He's full of forced bravado, trying to play it all down despite his clear discomfort.

JAN examines him (eg. feels round his head, down his c-spine, shines a torch in his eyes) as she tries to discern what happened.

JAN

And you said you did this when you fell?

KOFI

(Nods)

Hungover. Lost my balance.

JAN looks at the coffee table and shelves and then back at KOFI, who forces a smile through his pain. Something isn't right.

JAN

Your breathing's quite shallow. Does it hurt when you inhale?

KOFI

Big breaths, yeah. Probably pulled a muscle.

JAN doesn't believe him, but needs to tread carefully. She turns to her NS PARAMEDIC.

JAN

(to colleague)
Could you nip out and grab the response from the truck, love? We need to get his pain under control.

The NS PARAMEDIC heads out. JAN turns to KOFI - one to one.

JAN (CONT'D)

Kofi, love... These facial injuries... you look like you went a few rounds with Tyson Fury... And if you fell into that table you'd have cuts from the broken glass... I can't do my job if I don't have all the facts...

KOFI knows she's on to him, seems to let his guard down.

KOFI

Went out for drinks, invited some people back. One of the guys got a bit heavy.

JAN

So you were in a fight? Okay, do you know how many blows to the head you took?

KOFI

You don't have to report it or anything, though, right? The whole patient confidentiality thing...

JAN

All I care about is getting you to the hospital to get fixed up.

KOFI

And... will they report it?

JAN

Any particular reason you don't want the police involved?

KOFI looks self-conscious.

JAN (CONT'D)

Only in my experience that usually means there's been some kind of illegal activity, like... oh I don't know... drugs, maybe? And if that's the case I need to know what you've taken so I can make sure we don't give you anything that's gonna kill you.

KOFI takes this in. The look on his face tells us she's spot on.

JAN (CONT'D)

So... Shall we take it from the top?

On JAN, no-nonsense.

CUT TO:

5 **INT. ED. RECEPTION/STAIRS - DAY (10:05)**

(STEVIE, CAM, JODIE, RASH, IAIN, ZAHID)
(NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS, RAY, NS NOT-RAY, AHMED)

STEVIE is trying to maintain a professional facade but she's on high-alert, scanning the faces around her as she approaches the chairs to call on a patient. Game face for the patients.

STEVIE
Eilidh Hyatt?

As the NS PATIENT stands, her arm wrapped in an ice-pack, STEVIE smiles a greeting but it fades quickly when she sees RAY pass nearby. Her heart stops.

STEVIE (CONT'D)
(to NS PATIENT, distracted)
'Scuse me a moment...

STEVIE is already walking away from her NS PATIENT following RAY, but when she sees him turn up ahead she realises it's someone else (NS NOT-RAY). She's annoyed with herself for being so rattled. She returns to her patient, covering her anxiety as best she can.

STEVIE (CONT'D)
(to NS PATIENT)
Sorry about that. It's just this way.

STEVIE leads her patient to cubicles. Can she really handle this?

PICK UP:

RASH as he comes out in preparation to meet a pre-alert. As he waits, dons gloves, etc, he overhears JODIE and CAM talking as they work at the desk.

CAM
No, I'm just trying to help you see it a bit differently, that's all. It's not like Rida did it deliberately...

RASH's ears prick up at the mention of Rida.

CAM (CONT'D)
It was a one time mistake and nothing happened.

JODIE
So you're saying I'm the problem?

CAM
No, I'm not taking sides.

RASH can't help himself - needs to know more to quell his anxiety about Rida. He interjects, faux light curiosity.

RASH
What's this? Flatmate trouble?

CAM
Rida left the door open yesterday. But she's apologised, no one came in, it's all good.

RASH
The front door?!

JODIE prepares to move off and CAM follows.

CAM
Honestly, I'm not taking sides.

JODIE
Alright, Switzerland.

As the nurses leave, RASH is left alone and his face falls - his concerns about Rida growing. He takes out his mobile phone and pulls up her number to make a call, but he's thwarted when:

IAIN approaches with AHMED SOURA (17) on a trolley.

IAIN
This is the pre-alert, seventeen year old Ahmed Sora. RTC car versus tree travelling approx 40-50mph, probable head injury, vomited once on route. Kev's got his mate Zahid.

RASH
Straight through to Resus for a full handover, please.

NS KEV, a paramedic is following with ZAHID MUDAWI (17). He's sitting up, much more animated than his friend. RASH clocks this, clocks the attitude.

RASH (CONT'D)
(to NS KEV)
Refused immobilisation at scene?

NS KEV nods.

RASH (CONT'D)
(to NS KEV)
Police en route, are they?

Before KEV can answer, ZAHID cuts across:

ZAHID
We ain't talking to the feds, man. We
didn't do nothing wrong.

On RASH - this guy is gonna be a handful.

CUT TO:

6 **INT. CUBICLES 3 - DAY (10:10)**

(DYLAN, LAUREN, JODIE)
(MACKENZIE, NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

JODIE is assisting DYLAN with MACKENZIE FLEMING (5) who's with his older sister (slash unwilling babysitter) LAUREN FLEMING(17). She constantly has her phone in her hand, if not in front of her face. MACKENZIE is scared and shy, and clings tightly to a dinosaur toy that he's brought with him while DYLAN is looking in his mouth and listens to his chest with a stethoscope.

DYLAN

And did you see him swallow it?

LAUREN

Well no, but one minute he's playing with those stupid little lego people and the next he's coughing and spluttering and one of them's lost a head, so... Doesn't take a genius.

DYLAN doesn't know what to make of this girl, much to JODIE's amusement.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

He's always swallowing stuff. Buttons, pennies... Right bloody pest sometimes. I'm sure he just does it for attention.

JODIE

(re: dinosaur toy)
Who's this guy? Does he have a name?

MACKENZIE is shy, doesn't answer.

JODIE tries again.

JODIE (CONT'D)

Does he make any cool noises?

LAUREN

(Not looking up from phone)
Not anymore, thank god.

JODIE takes this as sibling antagonism and smiles kindly at poor MACKENZIE.

DYLAN

Right, well... the good news is that there doesn't seem to be any obstruction to your brother's breathing, and he can swallow fine so I would hope the object will make its way through his digestive system. He should pass it in a day or so.

LAUREN is engrossed in her phone - not listening.

JODIE

Lauren...

LAUREN

Yeah.

DYLAN

Your brother should be fine.

LAUREN

So I took him all this way for nothing?

(annoyed to MACKENZIE)
I'm supposed to be filming a make-up tutorial for Kaylah's socials today!

DYLAN

Well, I would like to send him for an X-ray, just to make sure it *is* lego and not a coin of some kind. Might be a bit of a wait though, I'm afraid.

No response.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Did you hear me? About the X-ray?

LAUREN doesn't look up from her phone as she responds:

LAUREN

Yeah, you do you, doc.

DYLAN is thrown. He looks to JODIE who is grinning, and gives him a little knowing shake of the head - let it go. DYLAN moves off.

DYLAN

Okay, right...

JODIE

(Kind, to MACKENZIE)
I'll be back in a bit, okay?

JODIE follows DYLAN.

DYLAN

Is there a guardian? Responsible adult of some kind?

JODIE

Parents have been called, mother's on the way.

DYLAN

Good. Keep an eye on him. Something tells me he won't be getting much TLC from his sister.

JODIE

She's just being a teenager. Haven't you ever been so wrapped up in drama with your friends that you couldn't tear yourself away from your phone?

DYLAN

I didn't have one.

JODIE

A friend or a phone?

DYLAN

A phone. Obviously.

JODIE

Obviously. Yes. Of course. I wasn't... I didn't mean...

DYLAN

(Amused)
I'll go and order that X-ray, shall I?

JODIE

Yes, please.

They share an amused smile before going their separate ways.

CUT TO:

7 **INT. ED. CUBICLES 3 - DAY (10:15)**

(STEVIE, JAN, KOFI)
(NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

STEVIE looks over her shoulder, edgy and wary, as she enters the cubicle where JAN is waiting with KOFI.

STEVIE

Hi, my name's Stevie, I'm one of the consultants.

JAN

This is Kofi Opoku, 28 years old. C-spine cleared at scene. Involved in an altercation at home. He's got facial injuries with a possible fracture to his zygoma and breathing is shallow due to possible rib injury. Resps are 20, sats of 96%, tachy at 105 and BP 130/80. He's been GCS 15 throughout. He's had 1 gram of IV paracetamol.

As JAN speaks they help KOFI ease himself onto the bed slowly due to his rib injuries. STEVIE eyeballs his facial injuries and scans for signs of injury elsewhere.

STEVIE

Okay... Thanks Jan.

JAN

(to KOFI)
You take care, love.

JAN indicates she wants a word with STEVIE. They move to one side as an NS NURSE continues hooking KOFI up to monitors, etc.

JAN (CONT'D)

(Hushed)
Doesn't want police involved because drugs were taken. Could be a flight risk so I wouldn't push it.

STEVIE

Do we know what the drugs were?

JAN

Cocaine and MDMA.

STEVIE

Right. Thank you.

JAN exits and STEVIE gets back to her patient.

STEVIE (CONT'D)

So, I'm going to ask you some more questions and examine you from head to toe, okay?

KOFI nods, nervous, anxious about what she might find and the questions that might follow.

STEVIE begins her full ABCD examination.

STEVIE (CONT'D)
Do you mind taking off your shirt for me?

KOFI tenses. STEVIE clocks it, intrigued.

STEVIE (CONT'D)
Is that okay?

KOFI
It's a bit cold, I'd rather not.

STEVIE
I just need to have a wee listen to your
chest. Won't take long

BEAT. KOFI begrudgingly undoes a couple of buttons on his shirt.

STEVIE suspects this is as much as he's going to allow, and - intrigued - she manoeuvres the stethoscope in so she can listen to his chest.

As STEVIE listens she notices scratches on his neck. Bruising too. On STEVIE, intrigued.

CUT TO:

8 **INT. ED. RESUS - DAY (10:18)**

(DYLAN, RASH, ZAHID, CAM, AHMED)
(NS STAFF, NS DOCTOR, NS NURSE, NS PATIENTS)

RASH and CAM are treating AHMED, one of the teenage joyriders.

His mate ZAHID is being assessed by an NS DOCTOR in the next bed.

NB. The ATMIST handover from the ambulance crews is over.

ZAHID is - as we say in Glasgow - as wide as the Clyde (wide boy). He is stable, suffering cuts and bruises and a gash on his head.

AHMED bore the brunt of the impact but he's relatively lucid and able to talk.

Under the dialogue that follows RASH, CAM, NS DOCTOR and other NS COLLEAGUES are working away efficiently on both patients - attaching monitors, removing clothes so they can be examined properly, putting on name bands, taking bloods and getting IV morphine for pain.

DYLAN enters.

DYLAN
Okay Rash, where are we?

RASH
This is Ahmed, involved in an RTC along with his friend who is with Jamie.

DYLAN looks across to where the NS DOCTOR (Jamie) and NS NURSE are treating ZAHID.

RASH (CONT'D)
Ahmed here appears to have taken the worst of the collision. We need to clear them both before the police can talk to them.

ZAHID
Ain't got nothing to say to the cops, man.

RASH and DYLAN ignore ZAHID.

RASH
Ahmed vomited en route so I'd like to get him booked in for a full trauma CT.

DYLAN
Yes, good.

DYLAN looks to ZAHID.

DYLAN (CONT'D)
I suspect his friend will need one too.
(Looks to RASH)
(MORE)

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Right, well you seem to have everything under control so why don't you take the lead on this one.

RASH

Okay. Could you check Airways and Breathing for me please?

DYLAN gets on with that.

ZAHID calls across as the NS DOCTOR and NS NURSE continue his assessment.

ZAHID

So you gonna tell the police to do one or what? We ain't in no fit state. Look at him--

(gestures to AHMED)
My boy is bust, man, he is done out. And I didn't even get a good look at the driver.

RASH senses the guy is at it but bites his tongue.

CAM

(re: AHMED)
BP 110/60.

DYLAN

Are you saying there was someone else in the car? Were they injured?

ZAHID

(Stifles a grin)
I don't know, doc, it all happened so fast innit. I think he had like ginger hair, though.

AHMED grins. He's weaker than ZAHID but plays along, still cocky.

AHMED

Massive head too.

ZAHID

Yeah, it was massive, man.

(to AHMED)
Was his eyes two different colours?

AHMED

Yes, bro.

ZAHID

And he had one leg shorter than the other. That must be why he crashed!

Both ZAHID and AHMED find this hilarious, but AHMED isn't able to laugh quite as heartily as ZAHID.

RASH
(to CAM re: AHMED)
Can you get a second large line in; FBC,
U&Es, clotting and cross match 4 units,
please?

RASH looks at the two young men - disapproving of their attitude.

CUT TO:

9 **INT. ED. CUBICLES 3 - DAY (10:20)**

(STEVIE, KOFI)

(NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

STEVIE is checking KOFI's blood pressure.

STEVIE

Got some nasty looking scratch marks on your neck there. We'll need to get them cleaned up. Bit of bruising too.

Self-conscious, KOFI says nothing.

STEVIE (CONT'D)

My colleague said you got into a fight at home...

KOFI

We were just messing around a bit. House party got out of hand.

STEVIE

Any pain in the throat or difficulty swallowing?

KOFI

No.

STEVIE shines a light in his eyes.

STEVIE

Were there any serious blows to the head? Any loss of consciousness?

KOFI

No.

STEVIE

Any dizziness, nausea, vomiting, any confusion...?

KOFI

Just usual hangover stuff.

STEVIE

Do you have any pain or injuries anywhere else?

KOFI

No.

He's lying and STEVIE reads it.

STEVIE

I'd like to get an X-ray of your cheekbone to assess the extent of the damage so we can decide on the best course of treatment.

(MORE)

STEVIE (CONT'D)

And given the fact that you were in a physical fight and there's damage to your ribs I'd like to examine your abdomen and possibly do an ultrasound if that's ok?

KOFI is reluctant but tries to cover it with lightness.

KOFI

Broken ribs just need time to heal, right? Can't you just fix my face, give me some pain killers and send me home?

STEVIE

Well I'm concerned about the possibility of internal injuries so I need to rule that out. We'll just get you into a hospital gown while we wait for the ultrasound machine, okay?

KOFI
Do I really need to wear one of those awful gowns? They're not the most flattering are they?

STEVIE notes his reluctance with interest, suspecting something more is at play.

STEVIE
Have you seen what I'm wearing? The gown really would make it much easier to do my examination.

KOFI's faux breeziness is giving way to anxiety.

KOFI
No, I don't want to wear it, please.

KOFI begins to get agitated.

KOFI (CONT'D)
Please.

STEVIE knows she needs to take this slow.

STEVIE
It's okay, it's okay. We can take this at your pace.

Beat. STEVIE looks at KOFI trying to keep himself together. She treads very slowly, very carefully.

STEVIE (CONT'D)
Kofi... The bruises on your neck look like finger marks. As though you've been... strangled. Is there something else going on, here? Something you don't want me to see?

KOFI says nothing, can't make eye contact.

STEVIE needs to gain his trust, reassure him.

STEVIE (CONT'D)
I know you're scared, Kofi, but whatever it is... you're safe here. I can help you. It's just you and me. If you're in pain I can help you...

KOFI knows he needs her help. Slowly he stands and - moving gingerly, in pain all over - he removes his shirt.

STEVIE registers angry carpet burns on his chest and elbows and bruises on his lower and upper arms - the kind of marks made by hands holding someone down with force. STEVIE also clocks serious bruising on his abdomen and ribs.

KOFI turns his back on her. STEVIE takes in bruising on his back as he undoes his belt/trousers. She sees bruising on either side of his waist that suggests he was held down. As KOFI lets his trousers fall STEVIE sees more bruises and scratching on his inner thighs.

STEVIE takes it all in, troubled as she comes to suspect what may have actually happened to him. STEVIE knows she has to be very gentle and calm. She takes a moment, speaks softly, tenderly...

STEVIE (CONT'D)
I'm sorry but I need to ask... Were you sexually assaulted?

Tears begin to fall as KOFI remembers.

KOFI
I thought he liked me.

KOFI breaks down.

A beat as STEVIE absorbs the heavy confirmation. She knows she needs to be here for him.

CUT TO:

10 INT. ED. ADMIN/ CUBICLES - DAY (11:00)

(STEVIE, PAIGE)

(NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

*

STEVIE approaches. To NS STAFF:

*

STEVIE

Anyone seen Max?

(No joy)

If you see him can you tell him I need a word?

PAIGE approaches with a tablet.

PAIGE

Stevie, can you take a look at these results? I'm thinking catheterise and run a urinalysis.

STEVIE scans the tablet.

STEVIE

Top marks. Oh and chase CT results for the guy in 3, the lorry driver. We need to clear that bed.

PAIGE

Who should I follow up with? You said you were leaving early.

STEVIE

Uh no, change of plan.

STEVIE (CONT'D)

I'm needed here.

On STEVIE as she moves off, determined.

CUT TO:

11 INT. ED. RESUS - DAY (11:02)
(RASH, ZAHID, AHMED, PAIGE)

RASH is checking results on a tablet as he talks on his mobile phone.

RASH
(Into phone)
No, I'm not checking up on you. Just
wondering how things are...
(listens, pleased)
Okay, cool. I should probably get back to
work but I'm here if you need me. Thanks,
Rida. Bye.

RASH hangs up, reassured by the chat.

ZAHID
(calling across)
Hey, doc! You got something more
important to do than fixing up my friend
here?

RASH comes over to AHMED, who is less animated than before.

[NB: By this point, ZAHID and AHMED are both in hospital gowns.]

RASH
Hi Ahmed, we've got some results back.
Your CT has come back showing a bleed on
your spleen.

AHMED
(Weak)
Is that serious?

RASH
It can be. The surgeons are deciding if
you need surgery or interventional
radiology. I'll update you as soon as
they've made a decision.

AHMED
Thanks.

RASH moves off.

AHMED puts his head back. Is he resting or deteriorating?

ZAHID, sitting on the next bed, sees RASH leaving and calls out.
NB. He still has temporary dressings on from the ambulance.

ZAHID
What about me, man?

RASH
(Checks tablet)
Your CT came back completely clear so I'm happy to discharge you once we've glued that head wound. The police will want to speak with you before you leave. As soon as I've cleared you for interview.

ZAHID
Actually, do you know what, Doc....

ZAHID lies down on his bed for effect (NB. He can't see Ahmed).

ZAHID (CONT'D)
... I'm starting to feel a little dizzy and my eyes are all blurry.

RASH
(Dismissive)
Very good.

AHMED
(weak)
I'm gonna be sick.

A worried RASH goes straight to AHMED as ZAHID continues messing around, assuming his friend is playing along with him.

ZAHID
Yeah, me too, man. I think you must have missed something on them scans, Doc. Best do them again, yeah?

ZAHID is amused by his own bants.

RASH
(Ignoring ZAHID)
Ahmed, I'm just gonna feel your abdomen again. Let me know if it hurts, okay?

ZAHID
My abdomen feels a bit dodge too, innit.

RASH palpates AHMED's upper left abdomen.

AHMED cries out in pain and ZAHID sits up, looks over, realises he's not faking.

ZAHID (CONT'D)
Is he alright?

RASH
(to NS NURSE)
Abdomen's rigid. Can someone find a consultant and bleep the on call surgeon?

AHMED suddenly starts to deteriorate (he faints, BP drops and becomes tachy). Alarms start beeping.

ZAHID's bravado evaporates. He looks scared.

ZAHID
Ahmed...

RASH urgently puts the back of AHMED's bed down.

PAIGE is with an NS PATIENT and hurries over to help RASH.

PAIGE
What've we got?

RASH
CT showed free fluid in the abdomen, suspected splenic lac. We were waiting for surgery but it must have ruptured.

PAIGE
BP's dropping, he's tachycardic.

RASH
Let's activate the major haemorrhage protocol. Grab the O neg from the fridge and set up TXA. We need to stabilise him for theatre.

ZAHID watches in terror as the medics hurriedly prep AHMED for theatre.

CUT TO:

12 INT. ED. CUBICLES 3 - DAY (11:15)
(STEVIE, KOFI)

STEVIE is putting away the portable ultrasound machine.

STEVIE
The ultrasound shows that there are no internal injuries, which is very good news. We'll get you across to CT for your cheek and your ribs as soon as they're ready.

KOFI
Thank you.

STEVIE
I'm also gonna prescribe a course of PEP for you. You know what that is?

KOFI nods, shades of shame returning.

STEVIE (CONT'D)
Just to be on the safe side, okay? There might be some side effects... nausea, vomiting, fatigue, headaches... And you'll need to make a follow-up appointment at a sexual health clinic as well, okay?

Beat. The weight of it all brings KOFI to tears full of anger and shame.

KOFI
I've never even brought anyone home before.

STEVIE takes a beat. There's something she needs/wants to raise but she needs to take her time. Softly, softly.

STEVIE
I know you may not want to press charges or have anyone else examining you, but... at a later date you might change your mind...

KOFI
(Quick)
I'm not talking to the police.

STEVIE
And you don't have to. But it's important you know what your options are, okay? We work with a brilliant team of people who are trained to help in situations like this. They can gather the forensic evidence and keep it until you decide you're ready.

KOFI

I don't even know his name! You really think they'll care when they find out I invited a stranger into my home?! They'll think I asked for it.

STEVIE feels for him.

STEVIE

Well, you didn't.

KOFI is clearly distressed.

STEVIE (CONT'D)

Whether you report it or not... that's your decision. But if you go home and wash the evidence away, you lose the power to choose. You don't need to decide now. Take some time to think about it.

KOFI

I can't. My mum's on her way in.

STEVIE

And she doesn't know...?

KOFI

Told her it was a break-in. When I came out her only issue was... She was worried it would make my life harder.

KOFI fights tears knowing it'll prove her right and break her heart.

STEVIE ponders for a moment.

STEVIE

If you want me to put a call in to the sexual assault team, I can have someone keep your Mum out the way till that's all done. Totally up to you.

KOFI considers.

KOFI

She can be a handful.

STEVIE

So can I.

They share a warm smile. Beat. Then KOFI takes a breath - courage.

KOFI

Okay. Make the call.

On STEVIE, pleased.

CUT TO:

13 INT. ED. RECEPTION / CHAIRS - DAY (11:20)

(STEVIE, HARRY, TYLER)
(NS RECEPTIONIST, NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

STEVIE is talking to the NS RECEPTIONIST at the reception desk.

STEVIE
Mrs Abena Opoku. Can you direct her to
the relatives room and then find me?
Cheers.

STEVIE leaves the desk and heads back towards cubicles. She spots HARRY nearby, asks in passing:

STEVIE (CONT'D)
Any sign?

HARRY
You'll be the first to know.

Reassured by HARRY's confidence, STEVIE continues on her way. As she passes the waiting area, TYLER MACKINNON (late 40s/early 50s) - large, loud and drunk - tries to get her attention.

TYLER
You! Are you a doctor?

STEVIE jumps at this, and quickens her pace.

STEVIE
You need to speak to reception.

TYLER
(Following)
I need to speak to a doctor!

STEVIE
We're very busy, someone will see you as
soon as possible.

TYLER
I've been waiting here for hours! Will
you stop!

TYLER reaches out to grab her arm to stop her walking away from him. Already on high alert, STEVIE spins, alarmed.

STEVIE
Get your hands off me.

The outburst draws looks from NS PUBLIC and edgy STAFF alike.

HARRY approaches.

HARRY
Step back, sir.

TYLER knows he's overstepped and is immediately (drunkenly) contrite. He puts his hands up in surrender.

TYLER
I'm sorry, sorry, sorry. I'm sorry.

HARRY
I need you to calm down and take a seat in the waiting area. Any further aggression towards staff members and you'll be ejected from the department, do you understand?

TYLER backs off, embarrassed to be put in his place so publicly.

HARRY (CONT'D)
(to STEVIE)
Beer for breakfast. Someone's winning at life. You good?

STEVIE offers the slightest nod as she turns and hurries off towards the Ladies toilets, shaken.

CUT TO:

14 INT. ED. WOMEN'S TOILETS - DAY (11:22)
(STEVIE)

STEVIE charges in. Heart racing. Hands shaking.

STEVIE kicks a bin in anger - frustrated as much by her own perceived weakness as at the situation itself.

CUT TO:

15 INT. ED. CUBICLES 3 - DAY (11:23)

(LAUREN, JODIE)
(MACKENZIE, NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

JODIE comes to Cubicles 3 to check on NS MACKENZIE and his sister LAUREN while they wait for their mother to arrive.

She enters to find LAUREN covered in her brother's vomit.

LAUREN
(Horrorified)
Oh my god, are you for real? Did you seriously just vom on me?!

MACKENZIE lies in the bed, upset.

JODIE hurries to him.

JODIE
Hey, you're okay, little guy. We'll get you cleaned up, don't worry.

JODIE picks up the toy dinosaur, which has fallen to the floor. She notices that the battery compartment is empty.

LAUREN
(re: her clothes)
I cannot believe this.

JODIE notes MACKENZIE's pale complexion and low energy. She checks vitals.

JODIE
(to LAUREN, concerned)
Are you sure it was a bit of lego he swallowed earlier?

LAUREN
I was deep in a group chat with Kaylah and Melody so I didn't see it with my actual eyes but he was annoyed that I took the battery out of his stupid dinosaur 'cos he wouldn't shut up.

As LAUREN rants JODIE feels MACKENZIE's forehead and chest for fever and sweat. Her suspicions confirmed.

JODIE is urgent but calm so as not to scare MACKENZIE.

JODIE
Mackenzie, did you swallow the battery
from your dinosaur? The little silver
circle?

LAUREN
(Sudden concern)
Wait, what?

JODIE
(to room)
Can someone get Dylan for me please?

On LAUREN's growing concern (and guilt) as she looks at her sick little brother.

CUT TO:

16 INT. ED. WOMEN'S TOILETS - DAY (11:24)

(RAY, STEVIE, HARRY)
(NS NURSE)

STEVIE is by the sinks, trying to calm down and get her head together. Deep breaths.

She hears the door open and looks up to find RAY standing before her. STEVIE freezes. Silence as they stare at each other. What's he gonna do to her? A beat, and STEVIE bolts for the door.

RAY
Wait!

But RAY's faster. He gets there first, blocks the exit. No way out. RAY has the air of a desperate man. Edgy. Unpredictable.

STEVIE tries to be strong despite her fear. Turns on her bodycam.

STEVIE
I am turning on my body cam. Anything you say or do will be recorded.

RAY
I just want to talk to you.

STEVIE
Let me out.

RAY
Not until you listen to me.

STEVIE
I have a patients out there.

RAY
(Shouting)
WILL YOU JUST SHUT UP AND LISTEN TO ME.

STEVIE is scared into silence.

RAY (CONT'D)
(Desperate, urgent)
You need to tell them what happened...
Tell them I wasn't in my right mind.

STEVIE
Tell who?

RAY
The police. The judge. They're trying to put me away for this.

An NS NURSE enters to use the toilets but she stops in her tracks when she sees RAY and STEVIE in a stand-off. Recognising RAY, the NS NURSE rushes out before he can stop her.

STEVIE is ever-so-slightly galvanised knowing that help is on its way. But she's still in real danger.

STEVIE
The police will be here any second...

RAY
You need to tell them it was a mistake. I was in shock.

STEVIE
You assaulted a kid who was just trying to do his job! It wasn't a mistake, it was an unprovoked attack.

RAY
You provoked me! You kept pushing Mum to the back of the queue. You could have saved her and you didn't.

STEVIE
And I am truly sorry about that. But we don't come to work to be punched, kicked and spat at. What you did was unforgiveable. Ryan needs to live with the consequences and so do you!

RAY snaps and goes for her just as HARRY slams in with NS BACKUP and grabs RAY.

HARRY
Up against the wall, move it. Hands behind your back! Stay still!

STEVIE is breathless, shaken as she watches HARRY overpower RAY and put him in handcuffs.

On STEVIE, shook up but relieved to have been saved by the zero tolerance measures.

CUT TO:

17 **INT. ED. RESUS 3 - DAY (11:30)**
(DYLAN, LAUREN, JODIE, MAX, MACKENZIE)
(NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

DYLAN has joined JODIE as they treat MACKENZIE with some urgency.

LAUREN is no longer engrossed in her phone, full of worry.

DYLAN
X-rays have confirmed it's a battery. We
need to get it out before it burns
through his stomach.

LAUREN
(Scared)
I just wanted the noise to stop.

DYLAN
(to JODIE)
He's going to need an endoscopy. Can you
page someone from paediatrics to come down and
we'll need to try and insert a cannula.

DYLAN looks to a terrified LAUREN.

DYLAN (CONT'D)
Can you try and talk to him, keep him
calm and still?

LAUREN
(overwhelmed)
How? What do I say?

JODIE
(to MACKENZIE)
What kind of dinosaur is he? Do you know?
I bet you do.

LAUREN
(Trying)
Course he does, he knows them all, don't
you?

DYLAN tries to take hold of MACKENZIE's hand to insert the line
but the little boy resists, pulling his hand away and crying.

MAX has been drawn by the cries of distress.

MAX
Everything okay?

DYLAN puts his feelings about MAX aside for the sake of the
patient. He gestures for MAX to join him.

DYLAN
Button battery ingestion.
I need to get a line in for the
anaesthetist.

MAX knows what needs to be done. He approaches.

MAX
So this is the kid with the dinosaur...?
I was hoping I'd get the chance to meet
you.

MAX pushes through his own pain as he lowers himself to talk to MACKENZIE.

JODIE
This is Lauren, his big sister.

MAX looks up at LAUREN, who is clearly terrified.

LAUREN
This is all my fault. He's so scared.

MAX
(to MACKENZIE)
That's okay. We all get scared sometimes,
especially when we don't feel good.

On JODIE's reaction.

MAX (CONT'D)
(to MACKENZIE)
But these doctors and nurses, they just
want to help you feel all better, okay?
Doctor Dylan needs to attach something to
the back of your hand with a little
needle. But Jodie here, she's already put
some magic cream on your hand that means
it won't be sore at all. Do you think we
could give it a try?

JODIE takes MACKENZIE's hand for DYLAN to insert the cannula but as DYLAN brings the needle close MACKENZIE reacts and pulls his hand away, scared and upset.

MACKENZIE
No!

MAX
How about if your big sister holds your
hand? Would that help?

MAX looks to JODIE, who moves back. LAUREN tentatively steps in and takes her brother's hand.

LAUREN
Everything's gonna be okay, I promise.

MAX
We're gonna try that again. Do you think
you can keep your hand super still?

LAUREN

Tell you what? If you can do this, I'll let you come into my room any time you want...

MAX gives DYLAN the nod.

MAX

That sounds like a good deal.

DYLAN

Okay, we're good.

MAX

(to MACKENZIE)

Good job. You were very brave.

JODIE

Well done, Lauren.

DYLAN

Let's chase that paeds anaesthetist. Theatre say they're ready so let them know we're on our way up.

(to MAX)

Thank you.

As NS COLLEAGUES buzz around, MAX stands up from his crouched position and is clearly in some pain. His kindness has cost him.

DYLAN and JODIE both clock it, concerned. They both see the other one looking and realise they both know MAX's secret.

MAX is aware that they've noticed as he exits without a word.

CUT TO:

18 EXT. ED. MAIN ENTRANCE - DAY (11:35)

(CHARLIE, STEVIE)

(NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

STEVIE is outside getting some air and getting her head together after Ray.

CHARLIE exits and makes a beeline for her when he spots her. He has been looking for her ever since he heard what happened.

CHARLIE

I heard about Ray, are you alright?

STEVIE

Yeah, I'm grand.

CHARLIE

You should go home. I can have a word with Max...

STEVIE

Take more than Ray McKenna to stop me.
But thanks.

(Business as usual)

Any news on Kofi Opoku's CT?

CHARLIE

He's over there now.

STEVIE

And the kid with the ankle injury?

CHARLIE

Discharged.

STEVIE

Good. What's next?

CHARLIE looks at her with concern.

STEVIE (CONT'D)

I'm fine.

CHARLIE

There's a facial lac in cubicle 4 but I can give that to Dylan when he's free.

STEVIE

Well I'm free now.

CHARLIE

It's the guy playing footsie with the door earlier. Drunk, lairy middle aged white guy.

STEVIE

I know the type. I can handle it.

STEVIE heads for the door.

CHARLIE
You sure?

STEVIE
Let me know when Kofi Opoku's results are back.

STEVIE heads off, determined to push her encounter with Ray out of her mind and get back to work.

CUT TO:

19 **INT. ED ADMIN/ CUBICLES - DAY (11:45)**

(RASH, NGOZI, TYLER, STEVIE, CAM)
(NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

NGOZI is on the landline at the desk when RASH passes on his phone, looking worried. He's just answered a call from his father.

RASH
(Into phone)
Hey, Dad, everything alright?
(listens, worried)
Okay, okay, calm down. I can't hear you.
(listens)
Yeah, that's Rida. She's not a stranger, she's a friend. She's there to help. Can you put her on? Dad?

RASH is frustrated as the call ends - Ashok hung up/got cut off. He fumbles to find Rida's number in his contacts and is about to call her when NGOZI approaches looking serious.

NGOZI
Rash...

RASH
Can you give me a minute?

NGOZI
Keller just called about your patient, Ahmed Soura...

RASH looks at NGOZI's serious expression, realises something bad has happened.

GO TO:

STEVIE in a cubicle with TYLER. She's checking his eyes with a torch.

TYLER is still grumpy about his wait.

TYLER
Fell on my way home from the pub last night.
(points to his wound)
Flamin' thing won't stop bleeding.

STEVIE
You on any blood thinners?

TYLER
Nah.

STEVIE
Been drinking this morning?

TYLER
That a crime?

STEVIE
Any loss of consciousness or vomiting
after you fell?

TYLER
No.

STEVIE takes the rudimentary dressing off his head wound to examine it. As she does so it bleeds so she tucks a small waterproof inko sheet into his shirt to protect it. As she does so, she notices several small old scars on his face and neck.

STEVIE
Got some old scars here. Do you fall over
a lot?

TYLER
Few shrapnel wounds, that's all.
Occupational hazard.

STEVIE
You in the army?

TYLER
(Closed down/introspective)
Not that brave.

TYLER isn't willing to say anymore.

STEVIE registers this and moves on.

STEVIE
Right, well, your obs are all normal, no concerning red flags so I don't think we need to bother with a CT scan. We'll get that head wound cleaned and closed up for you, okay?

STEVIE makes to leave.

TYLER
Any chance I can have a few sleepers and all?

STEVIE
That's a question for your GP.

TYLER
I can't get a bleeding appointment. Two week wait, they said; it's a joke!

STEVIE
I'm sorry to hear that but I can't go around prescribing sleeping pills to anyone who wants them.

TYLER
I've got a prescription. Check my records!

We go with STEVIE as she exits the cubicle. She sees CAM nearby.

STEVIE
Cam, can you take some blood for that guy? LFTs, U&Es, clotting.

CAM
Sure.

STEVIE
And check his GP records for his meds history with sleeping pills. These chancers are ten a penny looking for a quick score.

CAM
Will do. Kofi Opoku's CT results are waiting for you on the system and his Mum wants to talk to you.

STEVIE
She's here?

CAM
She's with him now.

STEVIE is annoyed with herself as she remembers she was supposed to deal Kofi's mum. She grabs a tablet from the desk and hurries to get to Kofi.

CUT TO:

20 INT. ED CUBICLES 3 - DAY (11:46)

(STEVIE, KOFI, ABENA)
(NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

STEVIE enters KOFI's cubicle with a tablet.

His mother ABENA is with him.

STEVIE
Kofi, hi.

KOFI
(Heads up)
This is my Mum.

STEVIE
(Knowing)
Right, yes.
(to ABENA)
I'm Stevie, one of the consultants.

ABENA smiles politely as STEVIE turns back to KOFI.

STEVIE (CONT'D)
I've got the results of your CT here. Are you happy for me to proceed?

ABENA
Of course he's happy, I'm his mother.

STEVIE
I have to ask.

KOFI
It's fine.

STEVIE
(re: tablet)
Okay. So the CT indicates that you do have a cheekbone fracture, which can be managed in a few ways. Someone from the maxillofacial team will want to review you to determine if you need surgery.

ABENA
If I ever find the people who did this to you, so help me god... When can I take him home?

STEVIE
Depends how long it takes the surgeon to come and see him.

ABENA
And then we can go?

STEVIE needs to find a way to stall her long enough for S.A.R.C.

STEVIE
Uh, just a couple more things to deal with first.

ABENA
What things?

STEVIE
A few tests I'd like to run.

ABENA
What tests?

ABENA clocks another look between STEVIE and KOFI.

ABENA (CONT'D)
What are you not telling me?

STEVIE looks at KOFI, not sure what to do.

ABENA (CONT'D)
(Worried)
Kofi...?

Beat. KOFI decides to come clean. It's really not easy for him.

KOFI
It wasn't a break in. I was... I was assaulted. By a man.

ABENA
What man?

KOFI
I met him at a bar. Took him home.

ABENA
(Processing)
Do you mean you were... (raped)?

KOFI
I'm so sorry, Mama.

KOFI gets emotional. ABENA envelops him in a huge mummy hug.

STEVIE
I'll give you two some space.

STEVIE removes herself, pleased that KOFI has support.

CUT TO:

21 **INT. ED. RECEPTION - DAY (12:10)**

(PAIGE, TEDDY, CONTROL, JODIE, DYLAN)
(NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

TEDDY and PAIGE walk and talk - a snatched conversation - as he is leaving after taking a patient through to Resus.

PAIGE has a tablet in hand, checking results as they go.

PAIGE

So I know we talked about slowing things down, just being Teddy and Paige for a while, but I was thinking, for a laugh, we could have an engagement party?

TEDDY spots JODIE over PAIGE'S shoulder, prays she doesn't come over.

PAIGE (CONT'D)

Not like a *party* party, but chill, just like drinks at the Anchor.

TEDDY

Uh, yeah, if you want.

PAIGE is slightly thrown by his apparent indifference.

PAIGE

I mean we don't have to set a date or anything...Las Vegas?

TEDDY musters a laugh at the joke but PAIGE can sense his unease.

TEDDY

The Anchor's closer.

TEDDY's radio comes to life.

CONTROL

(through radio)
Control to all units. We've got a Cat 1, motorbike accident. Additional crew required.

TEDDY

(into radio)
3006 to Control. On our way.
(to PAIGE)
Gotta go. See you later, yeah?

TEDDY can't disappear fast enough.

On PAIGE - that was weird.

PICK UP: JODIE is busy (e.g. restocking a trolley) when DYLAN passes filling in something on his tablet.

JODIE

Oh, Dylan, Mr Jacobson wants to speak to you about his blood results.

DYLAN

Wonderful.

JODIE

The broken foot from cubicle one has gone to CT...

DYLAN

Excellent.

JODIE

And lovely Janet Madden from the care home - no-one can get a line in because her veins are shot so your skills have been requested.

DYLAN

I'll be right there.

DYLAN makes to move off.

JODIE bites a bullet. Direct as ever.

JODIE

So you know about Max then.

DYLAN looks at her.

JODIE (CONT'D)

I saw the look on your face earlier when he was struggling with little Kenzie.

DYLAN

Yes. I'm not sure he'd appreciate us discussing it though.

JODIE
I don't really care, to be honest.

DYLAN doesn't know what to say to that.

JODIE (CONT'D)
Could you maybe talk to him? About his
situation... his health. He's driving
himself into the ground.

DYLAN
I don't think-- (that's a good idea).

JODIE
(IN)
Please. He respects you. He might listen
to you.

DYLAN
He doesn't. I've tried. Nothing's
changed.

JODIE
What if it did, though? I mean, what if
there was a chance that it might?

On DYLAN, curious. What is she getting at?

CUT TO:

22 INT. ED. ADMIN/CUBICLES - DAY (12:15)

(STEVIE, TYLER)
(NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

STEVIE is finally cleaning TYLER's head wound ready to close it.

STEVIE
Sorry it's taken so long to get this
done.

TYLER
Thought it'd be below your pay grade.

STEVIE
All hands on deck.

STEVIE goes fishing.

STEVIE (CONT'D)
So, the shrapnel wounds...

TYLER
I'm a photographer.

STEVIE
I'm guessing we're not talking weddings
here...

TYLER doesn't expand. Beat.

STEVIE (CONT'D)
Sorry. Didn't mean to pry.

TYLER reluctantly offers up an explanation in the hope it will
close it down.

TYLER
War zones.

STEVIE
Wow. Tough gig. Must've seen some heavy
stuff.

TYLER says nothing, but his expression speaks volumes. He has.

STEVIE continues probing.

STEVIE (CONT'D)
I checked your GP records. You were
prescribed a course of sleeping pills
recently. Should still have plenty left.

TYLER reacts, cynical. He knows where this is going.

STEVIE (CONT'D)
And your blood results indicate that your
liver function isn't quite what it should
be.

TYLER
This the bit where you tell me I'm not getting my pills cos you think I'm some kind of addict?

STEVIE
I'm concerned about damage to your liver. Between the pills and the alcohol--

TYLER
(IN, Snapping)
I can't sleep. How many times do I have to say it?!

STEVIE tenses at the raised voice. She steps back but stands firm.

STEVIE
Has your GP looked into what might be causing your sleep problems?

TYLER laughs to himself, exasperated by the predictable futility.

STEVIE (CONT'D)
Mr MacKinnon...

TYLER
(Snapping/desperate)
JUST GIVE ME THE PILLS!

TYLER snaps in frustration, swipes something nearby.

STEVIE moves to activate her body cam but doesn't turn it on because TYLER stops in his tracks, clocking the fear in her eyes. It sobers him instantly.

TYLER (CONT'D)
I... I'm sorry. I didn't mean to...
(scare you). I'm sorry.

TYLER grabs his coat and exits the cubicle, horrified by himself.

STEVIE
Mr MacKinnon...

STEVIE hurries after him as he makes for the exit.

STEVIE (CONT'D)
Mr MacKinnon, wait... I haven't finished with your head.

TYLER
(Not stopping)
I'll live, I've survived worse.

STEVIE
Have you? Survived?

TYLER turns, upset with himself.

TYLER

I never meant to scare you. I'm not a violent man. I've seen enough senseless bloodshed in my time.

STEVIE

And I'll bet you're still seeing it. Whenever you close your eyes. Or hear a car backfiring...

TYLER is wary.

STEVIE (CONT'D)

That cut on your head will get infected if you don't let me close it up. Please... come back in.

TYLER is hesitant but allows STEVIE to lead him back to the cubicle.

On STEVIE, pleased to have got through to him, but the job's far from over.

CUT TO:

23 **INT. ED. CUBICLES 3 - DAY (12:20)**

(RASH, ZAHID, IQRA, HARRY)

RASH is trying Rida on the phone but it goes to voicemail. Frustrated he hangs up as he approaches ZAHID in a cubicle. He's carrying equipment for closing the head lac.

RASH takes a breath before approaching a pensive ZAHID.

RASH

(Harried)

Right, let's get that head lac closed up, shall we? Sorry we had to move you out of Resus. We needed the space.

ZAHID

What's happening with Ahmed?

All the previous bravado has gone, replaced by anxiety and fear.

RASH stalls, unable to break the news.

RASH

I can check for you once we're done here.

ZAHID

Can't you check now?

RASH

(Stressed)

I really need to get this done.

ZAHID

It was just meant to be a laugh. He's supposed to be starting college in a few weeks. He gonna be fit for it or what? What sort of recovery we talking?

RASH

Uh, well...

ZAHID sees Ahmed's girlfriend IQRA AZIM (17) with an NS NURSE.

ZAHID

Is that Iqra?

RASH

(looking round)
Who?

ZAHID

Ahmed's girlfriend. What's she doing here? I never called her.
(starting to panic, fearing the worst)
Where's Ahmed?

RASH

The surgeons will be down soon, they can talk to you, maybe with Ahmed's parents?

ZAHID

No, you're here, you talk to me. Where is he?

(Beat)
ANSWER ME!

RASH flinches.

RASH

I'm sorry, I really shouldn't discuss another patient.

Exasperated ZAHID calls out to IQRA.

ZAHID

Iqra! Iqra, over here.

IQRA looks up and sees ZAHID. Her face darkens.

RASH tries to contain ZAHID.

RASH

Okay, let's just calm things down, shall we?

ZAHID
I'll calm down when you tell me where he is.

IQRA suddenly appears.

ZAHID (CONT'D)
Iqra, what they saying?

But IQRA spits in his face and lunges at him.

IQRA
You did this. You killed him. You killed him.

RASH intervenes to pull her away.

RASH
Please, stop.

As RASH pulls IQRA away, ZAHID struggles with what she said.

ZAHID
What do you mean I killed him. Where is he?

IQRA
He's dead. Because of you.

IQRA goes for him again.

HARRY appears, drawn by the commotion. He helps RASH remove IQRA.

HARRY
Alright, take it easy.

IQRA
(to HARRY)
Get off me.

HARRY takes IQRA away.

RASH goes to ZAHID to check on him.

RASH
Are you okay?

But ZAHID pushes RASH, who stumbles but holds his balance.

ZAHID
You were supposed to help him!

RASH
We did everything we could.

ZAHID
No you didn't. I saw you, out there on your phone. Who were you talking to, your girlfriend? Planning want to have for dinner while my best mate was dying?!

ZAHID pushes RASH in the chest again.

RASH feels extremely self-conscious at this suggestion, aware he's been a bit distracted and feeling guilty about it.

ZAHID (CONT'D)
It's not good enough. He deserved better
than you!

Pushed to his limit by life and work, RASH has to resist biting back. He takes a breath and steps away.

CUT TO:

24 INT. ED. ADMIN / CUBICLES - DAY [CONTINUOUS]

(HARRY, IQRA, MAX, JODIE, DYLAN)
(CAM, NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

HARRY is trying to guide a sobbing IQRA through a busy reception area towards the relatives room.

HARRY
I'll ask a nurse to take you to the relatives room, get you some sweet tea...

IQRA angrily shrugs him off.

IQRA
I don't want tea. I want him to pay for what he's done.
(Increasingly upset, shouting)
Why should he get to walk out of here when Ahmed can't?! It's not fair.
(Smaller, broken)
It's not fair.

HARRY feels for her, moved by her tears.

HARRY
I know.

MAX steps in to help, kind.

MAX
Let's go somewhere quiet.

IQRA
Don't touch me!

As MAX makes to guide IQRA turns and pushes him away and he bangs into the desk.

Various colleagues react, shocked, including JODIE, DYLAN and CAM and any other regs we can have. Looks of concern all round.

HARRY
Right, enough. I think it's probably best you go home now.

IQRA doesn't apologise, too wrapped up in her own grief and anger as HARRY leads her away assertively.

All eyes still on MAX. DYLAN and JODIE go to him.

JODIE
Are you okay?

MAX's pride is trying to mask his discomfort but he's struggling.

MAX
I'm fine. Stop fussing.

DYLAN
Let's get you upstairs.

MAX
I said I'm fine.

MAX rejects their help, but the pain is bad and he's struggling. He's aware of everyone's eyes on him. It's humiliating.

MAX (CONT'D)
Cam... Give me your hand.

CAM does as instructed and helps MAX walk away as JODIE, DYLAN and the team watch, concerned.

MAX stalks off towards the stairs/ his office, embarrassed by everyone watching.

JODIE and DYLAN share a look - their earlier conversation hanging in the air.

On DYLAN, knowing he has to do something.

CUT TO:

25 **INT. ED. ADMIN/CUBICLES - DAY (12:30)**

(TYLER, STEVIE)

(NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

STEVIE finishes fixing a clean dressing on TYLER's head - job done.

TYLER

Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Ukraine...
Pills are the only thing that blurs the
pictures, turns the volume down.

STEVIE

Self-medicating isn't a long term
solution.

TYLER's heard it before.

STEVIE (CONT'D)

There are people you can talk to. Today.
I can call a mental health nurse to come
and see you.

TYLER

I'm not gonna sit in front of some
toddler who's read a few psychology books
while they talk to me about mindfulness
and art therapy. That stuff doesn't help.

STEVIE

Have you tried?

TYLER

What are they gonna say to make me feel
better about watching soldiers I've spent
months with getting shot and killed while
they pull childrens' bodies out of
rubble...?

STEVIE takes in the enormous weight of this.

TYLER (CONT'D)

The pills... they help.

STEVIE

There's nothing wrong with taking the
prescribed dose when you need it. But if
you continue the way you're going you'll
do irreparable damage to your liver. And
that's a whole other set of problems.

TYLER

Tell me something I don't know.

On STEVIE, challenged. Can she get through to him?

CUT TO:

26 INT. ED. CUBICLES 3 - DAY (13:00)

(RASH, CAM, ZAHID)
(NS MR & MRS SOURA, NS POLICE)

RASH makes his way to a cubicle, trying to get through to Rida on his mobile again. No joy as her voicemail message kicks in. Again. RASH hangs up without leaving a message. Again.

He passes CAM.

RASH
Cam, have you heard from Rida recently?

CAM
Weirdly, no. She usually sends me hourly videos about this guy who rescues street dogs in Thailand but...
(Realises he's waffling)
Uh, short answer. No, sorry.

CAM continues on his way, oblivious to the fact he's added to RASH's worries.

RASH approaches ZAHID's cubicle. He enters to find ZAHID standing by the curtain, much more subdued than we've seen him. He's grim-faced and heavy with guilt as he watches Ahmed's grieving NS PARENTS (MR & MRS SOURA) being taken to the Relative's Room.

ZAHID
Do they know I was there too? Ahmed's parents?

RASH looks across to NS MR & MRS SOURA.

RASH
I believe so, yes. Zahid, I'm sorry for walking away earlier.

ZAHID barely takes this in. He is watching the grieving parents - the consequences of his actions.

RASH (CONT'D)
But I've come to let you know that you've been discharged. If you start experiencing any symptoms over the next couple of days, come and see us or talk to your GP.

ZAHID nods but his mind is on other things. He sees NS POLICE OFFICERS waiting.

ZAHID
Them police... They here for me?

RASH
They're waiting to speak to you.

ZAHID takes this in. He thought so. He looks at the NS POLICE and NS MR & MRS SOURA.

ZAHID
Scary, innit... One bad choice and...
Everything's bust. It's all gone.

RASH thinks about his own choices. Rida.

ZAHID (CONT'D)
What do I do?

RASH
You're the only person who can make that
decision. I guess it just comes down
to... what you can live with.

RASH departs.

On ZAHID, looking at the NS POLICE - a decision to make.

CUT TO:

27 INT. ED. ADMIN/CUBICLES (STUDIO 8) - DAY (13:15)

(STEVIE, TYLER)

(NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS, NS FEMALE PATIENT, NS NURSE)

STEVIE is giving instructions to an NS NURSE about an NS FEMALE PATIENT as she leaves their cubicle.

STEVIE
(to NS Nurse)
FBC, U&E's, amylase and a chest x-ray,
please.

STEVIE is updating her tablet as the NS NURSE heads off. Another NS NURSE passes and hands STEVIE a post-it with a phone number written on it.

STEVIE (CONT'D)
Thank you.

STEVIE heads for TYLER's cubicle.

STEVIE (CONT'D)
Mr MacKinnon...

She holds up the post-it note.

STEVIE (CONT'D)
This is the number for a support group
run by veterans for veterans.

TYLER goes to object but STEVIE stops him.

STEVIE (CONT'D)
I've spoken to a paramedic colleague
who's ex-army and he assures me that
you'd be more than welcome despite never
having served.

TYLER
You're looking very pleased with
yourself.

She is.

STEVIE
I'll do a deal with you. If you take this
number and agree to think about talking
to them... I will personally call your GP
and ensure that they send you an urgent
appointment to talk about your
prescription. I'm also gonna ask them to
check your blood regularly to keep an eye
on your liver. Deal?

STEVIE hands him the post-it note.

TYLER looks at her - will he agree?

STEVIE (CONT'D)
Not a toddler or psychology book in
sight. What do you say?

TYLER takes the post-it note from STEVIE.

STEVIE (CONT'D)
Good man. I'll go sort out your discharge
and call your GP.

STEVIE exits the cubicle, allowing herself a small smile of
satisfaction at the chink of hope for her patient.

We go with her as we:

CUT TO:

28 INT. ED. CUBICLES 3 - DAY (13:17)

(STEVIE, ABENA, KOFI)
(NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

STEVIE's joy at helping Tyler is short-lived when she sees KOFI leaving (walking slowly, in pain) with ABENA. She hurries to them.

STEVIE
I haven't discharged you yet.

ABENA
We're going home.

STEVIE can sense the mother is taking control from her son.

STEVIE
(to KOFI)
But the team from SARC will be here any minute.

ABENA
He won't be needing them.

STEVIE
Kofi...?

ABENA
I won't have my son violated or humiliated or judged by anyone else.

ABENA leads KOFI out. STEVIE follows.

STEVIE
No-one's judging him. The team are very respectful.

ABENA
You think his father will respect him when he finds out what happened? His brothers? His colleagues?

STEVIE
(appeals)
If you just let them gather the evidence...

ABENA turns, fierce, challenging.

ABENA
The police don't care about evidence. Not when it comes to people who look like my son.

STEVIE
We've got the scans and my notes...

ABENA
Do you know how many times he got picked up by the police when he was a teenager?
(MORE)

ABENA (CONT'D)
For riding his own bike? Hanging out with his friends? How many times he was followed around shops? People like my son don't get a fair hearing. I won't have him forced to talk about what happened over and over. And for what... for everyone to find out what happened to him?

STEVIE looks at KOFI as he looks down in shame at this.

ABENA (CONT'D)
To treat him like a victim. I don't want that to be what people see when they look at him.

STEVIE
Kofi...

KOFI
Mum's right. I just want to forget about it. Thanks for all your help.

STEVIE feels powerless as she watches KOFI walk away supported by his mother. On STEVIE, sucker-punched.

CUT TO:

29 INT. ED. CLINICAL LEAD'S OFFICE - DAY (13:30)
(MAX, JODIE, DYLAN)

MAX is alone in his office. He's struggling as he knocks back some pain killers.

There's a knock at the door and DYLAN enters with JODIE in tow.

MAX sees them and knows why they are there.

MAX

What's this? An intervention? You two had a pow wow then?

JODIE

You need to stop being so pig-headed and stubborn.

MAX

You know your bedside manner could do with some work.

DYLAN

She's right, Max. You can't go on like this. You're sick.

MAX

What do you want me to do? I'm out of options.

JODIE

(Beat, bites bullet)
What if you weren't?

DYLAN is wary as MAX looks at her - where is she going with this?

JODIE (CONT'D)

I've registered as a donor. There's a chance I could be a match.

MAX

(Quick, stern)
No.

JODIE

Just listen...

MAX

Absolutely not, that is not happening.

(Softer)

I would never ask you to do that.

(turns on DYLAN)
Did you know about this?

DYLAN

Only since this afternoon.

JODIE

You are literally dying in front of me. I can't stand by and do nothing.

MAX

Then don't. You have a job to do. Go do it.

A stand off between MAX and JODIE as they glare at each other, a battle of wills.

JODIE gives a cynical scoff, shakes her head and exits.

DYLAN

Stubborn and pig-headed. She's got your number.

MAX

(IN, shuts it down)
I don't want you talking to her. About my condition.

DYLAN

I don't need to. She's a smart girl. She has eyes. She can see how sick you are. Everyone can. Everyone but you.

MAX is all too aware.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

You were struggling today when you were helping that little boy. It was the simplest of tasks and you had to push through.

MAX

(Defensive)
Which I did.

DYLAN

Yes but at what cost?

MAX

I've told you before, I have good days-- (and bad days).

DYLAN

(IN, heard it all before)
And bad, yes. When was the last time you had a good day?

MAX can't hide the truth.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

If you continue to push yourself as you are, your body will fail and you will die.

MAX can't escape this reality. DYLAN overcomes his hurt pride to be honest.

DYLAN (CONT'D)
And believe it or not there are people
who don't want that to happen. Your
mother, Jodie... Me.

MAX is taken aback by this admission from his old friend.

DYLAN (CONT'D)
I don't always like you, Max, but I do
care about you. You're one of my oldest
friends. And as your friend I'm telling
you... things need to change. You can't
go on like this.

DYLAN exits, leaving MAX to brood.

On MAX, knowing DYLAN is right and he has to do something.

CUT TO:

30 INT. ED. ADMIN / CUBICLES - DAY (15:00)
(STEVIE, PAIGE, JODIE, CAM)

STEVIE is on the phone, standing down SARC.

STEVIE
(into phone)
I need to cancel a referral. Yep, I'll hold.

Nearby, PAIGE and JODIE talking as they sort paperwork.

PAIGE
All I suggested was an engagement party, it's not like I wanted to start picking out venues...

JODIE
He's probably scared it's going to be all wedding chat from now. He's just being a bloke. It's their stupid little lizard brains.

PAIGE
How was he when I was away? Did he seem... happier without me around?

JODIE does not want to talk about events while Paige was away.

JODIE
Well I don't know Teddy that well really but I do know that he's mad about you.

PAIGE
Suppose I did spring it on him earlier. Maybe I'll suggest we go to the pub tonight, have zero wedding chat.

JODIE
Good plan.

PAIGE
You want to come?

God no!

JODIE
No. No, I can't. But thanks.

PAIGE is buoyed by her friend.

JODIE ignores the gnawing guilt in her gut as she heads back to work, passing STEVIE, still on the phone.

CAM passes STEVIE.

CAM

Max wants to see you in his office when
you get a chance.

STEVIE

Just when I thought today couldn't get
any better.

On STEVIE - that's all she needs.

CUT TO:

31 INT. RASH'S LIVING ROOM - DAY (15:30)

(RASH, RIDA)
(ASHOK)

RASH hurriedly lets himself into his apartment.

RASH
Hello?

He hears music coming from the living room (song TBC). He follows it to find ASHOK and RIDA dancing together. They are both beaming and enjoying themselves.

RASH takes in the scene, equal parts shocked and amused.

RIDA and ASHOK see him and continue dancing.

RIDA
(Bright)
Hey! How was your day?!

RASH
Uh, yeah, you know...

RIDA
One of those, was it?

RASH takes in the mess of his apartment.

RIDA (CONT'D)
Sorry I haven't had a chance to tidy up.

RASH
(Pointed but light)
Or respond to messages.

RIDA
Yep, my bad. Won't happen again. He had a bit of a wobble earlier so we've just been focussing on getting to know each other. Turns out we both love a bit of a boogie, don't we Uncle?

RASH can't help but laugh at how happy his father is.

RIDA (CONT'D)
I know a dance party's not exactly part of the routine...

RASH
Well... maybe it should be.

RASH smiles, amused, as RIDA and ASHOK continue to dance.

On RASH, relaxing for the first time today. Maybe this will work out after all.

CUT TO:

32 INT. ED. CLINICAL LEAD'S OFFICE - DAY (15:35)
(STEVIE, MAX)

STEVIE enters MAX's office, assuming she's in trouble over her appraisal form.

STEVIE
Look, if this is about my appraisal form,
I haven't done it so...

MAX
I'm gonna be stepping down as clinical
lead for a while. Got some personal stuff
to take care of.

Not what she was expecting. Her mind goes to his kidney.

STEVIE
You okay?

MAX
(Shrugs it off)
I've spoken to management about who I
think should cover CL and they agree...

Beat. STEVIE realises what he's saying.

MAX (CONT'D)
I know we're over-stretched, underfunded
and hemorrhaging staff in every
department...

STEVIE
Not much of a sales pitch.

MAX
You've been through it these last few
months...

STEVIE
We all have.

MAX
And today's been a lot...

STEVIE thinks of Ray, of Tyler, of Kofi...

MAX (CONT'D)
So if it feels like too much...

STEVIE
[IN]
Why me?

MAX

Clinically you're an exceptional doctor and you've shown real leadership in pushing for this to be a safer place to work. On a personal note you've been a rock for me. Picking up the slack. Practically doing the job already. But if you need more time to think-- (about it).

STEVIE

(IN)
I'll do it.

MAX

You sure?

STEVIE

I won't let you down.

On STEVIE... backing herself.

END OF EPISODE