

CHAMPION

by

CANDICE CARTY-WILLIAMS

EPISODE 8

FINAL SCRIPT

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NEW PICTURES

Balloon

2nd Floor,
66-68 Margaret Street
London
W1W 8SR

Unit 9, Cliff Road Studios
6 Cliff Road
London
NW1 9AN

Tel: 0044 (0) 20 7078 8014

Tel: 0207 2099591

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1

INT. CEREMONY VENUE. ON STAGE - DAY 23.

1

We open on VITA on stage, dancers behind her.

MUSICAL MOMENT 1 - LOVE TO LOVE

VITA is performing a live vocal rehearsal of LOVE 2 LOVE with the DANCERS.

SOMEONE setting up stops putting out cutlery to watch VITA, totally amazed by her.

MAN (25) setting up, holding a TABLE CENTREPIECE walks into a table because he's watching VITA perform.

While the vocal runs on, we scan the PEOPLE SETTING UP, who are totally and completely transfixed on VITA.

The song ends; PEOPLE SETTING UP clap for VITA but she ignores them and looks up to the lighting team. Slightly annoyed, she shouts up:

VITA
The lighting cue at the beginning
of the second verse was off!

We see YEMI sitting in the middle of a huge, empty auditorium.

YEMI
(shouting up)
Let's run the full set again.

VITA and the DANCERS go back to their first position, ready to go. OUT on VITA who looks determined to get this right.

OPENING CREDITS

1A

INT. CEREMONY VENUE. BREAKOUT AREA - DAY 23.

1A

VITA is walking to her dressing room when she bumps into BULLA (and his boys), herded by an anxious STAGEHAND.

STAGEHAND
Please, we *really* need to do your
soundcheck...

BULLA spots VITA, who shoots him a dirty look.

BULLA
Well, well, well. If it isn't
little Vita Champion.

VITA
I go by Vita now, actually.

BULLA and his boys laugh at this.

BULLA

(mocking her)

"I go by Vita now, actually."

Being a Champion got too much for
you, yeah? The pressure? *Sad*. That
why big bro ran away?

VITA
Bosco didn't run anywhere.

BULLA
Where is he then?

OUT on VITA looking sad as STAGEHAND ushers BULLA away.

2

INT. CEREMONY VENUE. VITA'S DRESSING ROOM - DAY 23.

2

VITA is practicing one of the dance moves in the mirror when TAYO walks in, DUST BAGS in hand.

TAYO
Here she is!

VITA looks relieved to see TAYO.

TAYO (CONT'D)
I've got some options for-
(clocking VITA's anxiety,
how knackered she looks)
You need a break. Let's go eat.

VITA
I just need to run it a couple more
times.

LAURENT enters. TAYO and LAURENT hug hello.

TAYO
Can you help me convince this girl
to take a *break*?

LAURENT
Trust me, I've tried.

TAYO
Quick lunch. Come on.

VITA
(sighing, to LAURENT)
Fine, fine. Could you sort out the
second track? It's sounding delayed
to me.

TAYO
Meet you out front in 15, V.

TAYO exits.

LAURENT
Why don't I come? I can sort it out
when we get back.

VITA

I haven't seen Tayo properly in ages!

LAURENT

Yeah, and you haven't seen *me* properly unless we're working.

VITA

You're the person I see *most*.

LAURENT

Not outside the music stuff!

VITA

(exhausted)

All I do, all we do, is the music stuff. But after this show it'll calm down.

LAURENT

No, cause after this *show*, you're on tour.

VITA

Yeah, and you're coming with me!

VITA doesn't want to argue. She goes to him, kisses him on the lips.

VITA (CONT'D)

Look. We're both tired. But! We can do something nice later.

LAURENT looks at her as if to say 'yeah whatever' and exits.

2A

INT. CHAMPION STEADY RADIO - DAY 23.

2A

The back room, once with a table almost exclusively for dominoes, has been transformed into an actual working office. BERES is at his desk, working, a knock at the door.

BERES

Come in.

BERES looks caught out when PHILIP enters. He quickly puts a charming smile on his face.

BERES (CONT'D)

We didn't have a meeting?

PHILIP

Thought it might be best to drop in.

BERES

It's been a busy time.

PHILIP

Mmm except it hasn't really been,
has it?

BERES

How you mean?

PHILIP takes a seat opposite BERES.

PHILIP

When we invested in Champion Crown,
we understood that Bosco would be a
considerable part of it. But
instead, he's...?

PHILIP raises his hands in a shrug.

BERES

He'll be back, he'll be back! In
the meantime...

PHILIP

We don't have time though, is the
thing... Six months of nothing,
plus! He's breached his contract.

BERES goes to speak but PHILIP holds a hand up.

PHILIP (CONT'D)

Sometimes, these things don't work
out. Someone will get in touch
about recouping that advance we
gave you.

Panic flashes across BERES's face.

BERES

Look- Bosco will be back in a week.

PHILIP

A week?

BERES nods, falsely confident. OUT on PHILIP who looks
sinister and serious in a way we haven't seen before.

3

INT. CEREMONY VENUE. VITA'S DRESSING ROOM - DAY 23.

3

VITA, post-shower, is putting her EARRINGS in when her PHONE
rings with a FACETIME from HONEY. VITA quickly answers. We
see HONEY on the screen. Her background looks... rustic.

VITA

Where are you?

HONEY (FACETIME)

Girl? They've got me in the hills of LA recording with Kaytranada, it is *mad*. We've been up all night!

VITA

I miss you!

HONEY (FACETIME)

I miss you too, man! You need to come out here for a little melanin top up. Quick little two day visit. You're looking a little ashy, fam.

VITA laughs.

VITA

I wish I could, but I'm rehearsing all week.

HONEY (FACETIME)

Champagne problems, yeah? How's it looking though?

VITA

Yeah... almost there. I just have a few things I need to get *right*-

HONEY (FACETIME)

Don't be so hard on yourself! You're nominated for best newcomer because you are the best newcomer. Stand in that, man! You got this.

VITA

You right, you right. Did I tell you that my tour has been extended to fourteen stops?

HONEY (FACETIME)

Fourteen? You see! Taking the world by storm.

VITA smiles, taking it in.

HONEY (FACETIME) (CONT'D)

How's Bosco?

VITA

Mum hears from him from time to time, but... we still don't know where he is, how he's doing...

HONEY looks over her shoulder, someone starts talking to her.

HONEY (FACETIME)
Shit, I gotta go. We're all gonna
eat. Trust me, Bosco's fine. Let it
be about you now.

HONEY laughs at someone offscreen. VITA looks lonely.

VITA
Call me soon, yeah?

HONEY (FACETIME)
Course, babe--
(to a person offscreen)
ooh yeah actually let's get sushi!

The call ends. VITA scrolls to her message thread with BOSCO.
Months and months of unanswered texts, voicenotes and
unanswered video calls.

VITA leaves a voicenote for BOSCO:

VITA (TO PHONE)
Big show's this week. This stuff is
crazy, Bos. I feel like everyone's
looking at me and I can't see
myself. I don't know, it's
stupid... Anyway...

She stops recording and lets the message send. Sees BOSCO
come online and go offline again.

4 **EXT. ARIA'S HOUSE - DAY 23.**

4

We see a 'SOLD' sign outside the house.

5 **INT. ARIA'S HOUSE. LIVING ROOM - DAY 23.**

5

The living room is bare. ARIA packs up bits and bobs.
CHANTELLE sits on the sofa holding a cup of tea.

CHANTELLE
I didn't ever think you'd leave
this house.

ARIA
I'm gonna miss this place, but...
It's time for me and Len to have a
fresh start.

CHANTELLE smiles at this.

CHANTELLE
I spent most of my teens here, you
know?

ARIA

You think I don't remember? You and Bosco always thought I couldn't hear you sneaking around? Cha.

CHANTELLE laughs.

ARIA (CONT'D)

Anyway, you can't be asking about my big move to Catford when you're off to New York?

CHANTELLE

(forced enthusiasm)

Yes! We're all very excited. Especially Milan. She's missing her dad, though.

ARIA

Chan, trust me, I've tried.

CHANTELLE

And what does he say?

ARIA

I keep telling him that all that stuff on the roof; it's forgotten, the police know it was just a mistake, but... he just keeps saying she's better off without him right now. Won't tell me where he is.

CHANTELLE

Am I... doing the wrong thing, taking her away?

ARIA

You need to do what you need for yourself, darlin'.

ARIA takes a sip of tea as CHANTELLE nods slowly as she takes it in.

ARIA (CONT'D)

You can't let your babyfather make decisions for *your* life.

A beat while ARIA processes what she just said, and CHANTELLE acknowledges the depth of the statement.

ARIA (CONT'D)

Anyway. To new beginnings.

Both women clink their teacups in sad celebration.

6

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY 23.

6

VITA and TAYO sit opposite each other as a FAN finishes taking a selfie with VITA, who has happily obliged.

TAYO
Eat up, eat up!

VITA has to be reminded to eat. Her mind is clearly elsewhere.

TAYO (CONT'D)
You're feeling good about everything though, yeah?

VITA
After a few more runs of-

TAYO
No, no, I mean about all of this.
Vita! The *artist* who dropped the
Champion name and became "a star"!

VITA laughs at TAYO's amateur dramatics.

VITA
I mean, life is just... different
now. And I never thought I'd be
okay with it, you know? All the
exposure and everything that's come
with it, but... yeah.
(bolstering herself)
The old Vita was scared of being
someone.

TAYO
You always had it in you, V.

VITA's distracted when MEMET enters the restaurant and is seated at the table next to them. He's distracted by the WAITER before he turns and sees VITA and TAYO.

TAYO (CONT'D)
Look who it is! Not Big Mem, the
hottest DJ in town?

MEMET laughs, stands up and hugs TAYO. He isn't quite sure how to approach VITA, so he hovers awkwardly before sitting down at VITA and TAYO's table. VITA looks down at the table. TAYO clocks the energy.

TAYO (CONT'D)
BRB, gonna go get the cheque.

AS soon as TAYO has gone, VITA and MEMET look at each other. Properly.

MEMET
You alright?

VITA
You alright?

MEMET smiles, trying to keep things upbeat even though how much he's missed VITA is painful.

VITA (CONT'D)

Yeah! How are you? You been good?

MEMET

I'm not doing as good as you, man!
I've been watching you take over
the world! Awards nominations-

VITA

(embarrassed)

Just the one.

MEMET

Big tour coming up-

VITA

Yeah, but... only small-ish venues.

MEMET

Performing at the Best British
Music Awards...

VITA goes to say something but stops.

MEMET (CONT'D)

(laughs gently)

Yeah, you can't say anything to
that one, can you!

A beat.

MEMET (CONT'D)

I'm really happy for you, V. You
deserve it all... Are you letting
yourself be happy?

VITA opens her mouth to speak, but stops herself. They share
a look that reminds her she can trust him still.

VITA

It's lonely, you know?

MEMET goes to put a hand on VITA's shoulder but stops
himself.

VITA (CONT'D)

And I just think... Bosco is the
one person who could understand
that. Who could help *me* understand
that. But he's not here. And I
dunno if he sees my messages, but I
send them anyway.

MEMET looks sad. But not about Bosco.

MEMET

Look- These last few months, I've had to really deep a few things... I'm sorry, V. I should never have chosen Bosco over you.

VITA doesn't want to get into this conversation.

VITA

That's all in the past now!

MEMET's eyes flicker with sadness, but he won't let that show.

MEMET

Exactly. In the past. And you're with that Laurent guy now?

VITA

...yeah.

MEMET

(laughing)

You moved on quick, init?

VITA

(shaking her head)

Nah, it wasn't like-

MEMET

I'm joking, I'm joking. It's cool.

VITA

And are you seeing anyone *now*?

MEMET

Nah. Nobody I meet quite matches up to this one ex I've got. Very special girl.

MEMET looks at VITA pointedly, sad but with a smile. TAYO returns.

TAYO

Right, let's get you back to rehearsals.

MEMET

Well it was nice to see you both.

VITA

You too.

Out on VITA, a smile sadder than we've seen in a long time.

7 INT/EXT. ARIA'S HOUSE. HALLWAY/DRIVEWAY - DAY 23. 7

ARIA opens the front door. BERES is standing there.

8 EXT. ARIA'S HOUSE. HALLWAY - DAY 23. 8

ARIA steps outside, sneers at BERES. He sickens her.

 ARIA
I told you, never, ever come to
this house *again*.

 BERES
What's this?

BERES points at the SOLD sign on the house.

 ARIA
Why is that your business?

 BERES
Because this was my home.

 ARIA
You never made this place a home
with me or the kids! It was just
somewhere for you to lay your head!

BERES moves past ARIA and walks into the hallway.

9 INT. ARIA'S HOUSE. HALLWAY - DAY 23. 9

ARIA turns to face him.

 ARIA
It's sold. Me and Lennox are moving
somewhere smaller, and guess what?

BERES's world is slipping away from him. We see that on his face.

 ARIA (CONT'D)
I'm going to use the rest of the
money to buy you out of the
restaurant. Money's what you came
here for, isn't it?

BERES scoffs.

 BERES
I came here to see where our son
was - the label are-

 ARIA
If I have to hear one more word
about your vanity project-

BERES

This is serious, Aria! This is my livelihood!

ARIA kisses her teeth.

ARIA

If I did know where Bosco was, I wouldn't tell you. Take the money and leave us all alone, Beres.

LENNOX comes down the stairs, shaking his head in disbelief.

LENNOX

I'm surprised you can show your face around here.

BERES

(snorts)

Where I show my face has nothing to do with you.

ARIA looks uncomfortable about the two of them being in the same place. She's harbouring quite the secret.

ARIA

It's time for you to go. We're running late.

LENNOX

We don't want to see you again. Take care of yourself, Beres.

BERES

And tek care of my wife, Lennox.

CRACK! LENNOX has had enough. He delivers a blow to BERES's jaw.

BERES goes to retaliate, his face contorted with rage, right up on LENNOX but just at the point of no return he stops himself. Looks to ARIA. Backs away, livid.

LENNOX

Like I said. Tek care of yourself.

BERES

I am going to find that bwoy.

BERES staggers out, livid. Out on ARIA looking at LENNOX, concerned about BERES's threat.

VITA, in her rehearsal wear, arrives home and throws herself on the sofa. Exhausted doesn't cover it.

LAURENT enters holding a TAKEAWAY BAG, scaring her.

VITA

Argh!

VITA sits up.

VITA (CONT'D)

I didn't know you were here! I said
I'd meet you later.

LAURENT puts the TAKEAWAY BAG down.

LAURENT

Yeah... I knew you'd be heading
home first. Thought we could eat
dinner here instead, have some
quality time...

LAURENT sits next to VITA and goes to kiss her neck. VITA
recoils.

VITA

Stop, stop! I'm all sweaty!

LAURENT stands up and huffs loudly.

LAURENT

I'm gonna go.

VITA

No, stay! I'm just really tired,
and-

LAURENT

Nah, save it.

VITA

Babe, don't be like that! It's been
a hard day, that's all. I'm gonna
shower then I'll come to yours
later, yeah?

LAURENT

(softening)
Make sure, you know!

VITA

I will!

LAURENT leaves. VITA picks up her PHONE. Her lockscreen is a
photo of her and BOSCO when young. Hold on VITA looking at
it.

12

INT. RUSTY'S HOUSE. RUSTY'S BEDROOM - DAY 24.

12

BOSCO enters as RUSTY sits at his computer and taps a few keys, loads up the beat him and BOSCO have been working on.

BOSCO goes and stands by the MIC set up in the corner of the room. RUSTY drops the beat and we hear it, tinny, through his HEADPHONES.

RUSTY
You ready?

BOSCO looks good to go.

BOSCO
Yeah, yeah!

BOSCO starts to rap. It's high energy, it's full of bravado, doesn't at all fit the beat.

RUSTY stops the beat.

RUSTY
Nah, nah, nah. That's not it.

BOSCO
(confused)
How you mean? This is cold.

RUSTY
Yeah, it's cold. But it's not you.

BOSCO
Not *me*? How can it not be me?

RUSTY
Cause you're spitting all the shit
you wanted to before you were
inside. You're not that guy anymore-

BOSCO isn't used to being seen like this. He steps away from the mic.

RUSTY (CONT'D)
Being in the can changed you, man.
Maybe not for the better, either.
But you can't be afraid of that.

BOSCO
(considering)
...but what if I don't like the
person I am now?

RUSTY
(with a big smile)
You gotta learn to like him. You're
stuck with him.

BOSCO
(nodding slowly)
Alright. Run that track again.

RUSTY runs the track, and we hear it through HEADPHONES again. BOSCO takes a deep breath before he begins.

We hear BOSCO spit the first four lines of EYES ON BOSCO, a track about why he went to prison; the paranoia of being in the public eye, having a knife on him because he didn't feel safe, his PTSD following prison. He thanks his sister for holding him down, apologises that he never saw her. And then, at the end... the reveal about his dad stealing his money.

13 **INT. RUSTY'S HOUSE. RUSTY'S BEDROOM - DAY 24.** 13

The song has been recorded. RUSTY is nodding proudly. BOSCO is about to upload it onto his TuneNation channel.

BOSCO and RUSTY embrace.

RUSTY
Welcome to the first day of living
your true life.

BOSCO uploads the track, nods. He looks... calm.

MONTAGE

MONTAGE of people BOSCO knows and loves being sent and listening to EYES ON BOSCO, which should join up seamlessly so that we hear the rest of the song.

14 **INT. CHAMPION STEADY RADIO - DAY 24.** 14

ASHLEY is playing a current song when someone sends him a link to BOSCO's song. He takes his HEADPHONES off, presses play.

15 **OMITTED** 15

16 **INT/EXT. MEMET'S CAR - DAY 24.** 16

MEMET is driving, listening to EYES ON BOSCO.

17 **INT. CEREMONY VENUE. IN AUDIENCE - DAY 24.** 17

YEMI is listening to EYES ON BOSCO as we see VITA rehearsing on the stage.

18 INT. CHAMPION STEADY RADIO. BACK ROOM - DAY 24. 18

BERES is sitting at his desk, listening to EYES ON BOSCO through speakers. He looks sick as we get to the BERES stealing money reveal.

18A INT. CEREMONY VENUE. ON STAGE - DAY 24. 18A

VITA has just finished rehearsing yet again. Goes to get her TOWEL to wipe her face when she sees her PHONE lighting up with notifications about BOSCO's track. VITA immediately presses play. YEMI watches on.

19 EXT. ARIA'S HOUSE - DAY 24. 19

ARIA is walking out of her house when MEMET approaches her, looking sad but urgent. ARIA looks confused as MEMET takes his PHONE out to play ARIA the song.

20 INT. CEREMONY VENUE. VITA'S DRESSING ROOM - DAY 24. 20

VITA has paused rehearsing as she listens to EYES ON BOSCO finish playing on her PHONE. She goes to the message thread she shares with BOSCO. In her message thread to BOSCO, types: **I'm so proud of you.**

VITA's eyes widen as the three typing dots appear! BOSCO is replying! She waits. Then, the dots stop. VITA sighs.

MONTAGE ENDS

21 **EXT. ARIA'S HOUSE - DAY 24.** 21

ARIA hands back MEMET's phone. She wipes away tears. She looks angry.

MEMET
I think I know where he is.

22 INT. CEREMONY VENUE. ON STAGE - DAY 24. 22

VITA is rehearsing yet again, but she's clearly distracted. She forgets a dance move, she trips into a DANCER, she drops the MIC. VITA yells in frustration at herself.

YEMI rolls her eyes.

YEMI
Okay, can we all take five?

YEMI clears the stage and heads over to VITA as the dancers exit.

YEMI (CONT'D)
Where's your head at?

VITA
I'm fine.

YEMI
(deep breath)
I heard Bosco's song.

VITA
I should have known what was going on with Dad, I should have stopped it.

YEMI
Whatever your dad did, your brother just needs his own space. You can't help him Vita. These past months, I've watched you step into yourself and look at what you've done!

VITA
It's not like I haven't been worrying about him, though.

YEMI
Jesus Christ, Vita, open your eyes! Is he worrying about you? This is your biggest performance yet and he's finally found it in himself to release a new song?

VITA
Nah, Bos isn't like that.

YEMI
Isn't he? Because somehow, he's managed to not just step into the limelight again, but take yours too.

OUT on VITA, trying to work out if YEMI's words are true.

22A **OMITTED**

22A

23 **INT/EXT. ARIA'S CAR/CEREMONY VENUE - DAY 24.**

23

ARIA pulls up outside the space where VITA is rehearsing. She spots YEMI smoking outside.

24

EXT. CEREMONY VENUE - DAY 24.

24

YEMI smiles a charming smile as ARIA approaches.

YEMI
Come to wish Vita luck for
tomorrow?

ARIA
No, I've come to get her.

YEMI
(holding her smile)
Get her for what? Vita is in there
rehearsing, Aria.

ARIA
Her brother needs her.

YEMI
Needs her?

ARIA takes a step back so that she can take a good look at
this woman. Who does she think she's talking to?

ARIA
Can you show me where she is,
please?

YEMI
Do you think that's a good idea?
This is her big break!

ARIA
Yes, and her brother is her *family*.

YEMI
(shaking her head)
I'd heard about your career before
I'd met you, you know.

ARIA looks taken aback, embarrassed. She can't find the
words.

YEMI (CONT'D)
(softly)
If you go in there and tell her
that her brother needs her, she
will leave those rehearsals and
leave behind the most incredible
opportunity in the process.

ARIA breathes in deeply. She turns and leaves, gets in the
car and drives off.

25

INT. DETECTOR RECORDS. PHILIP'S OFFICE - DAY 24.

25

BERES and DAWN sit down opposite PHILIP.

PHILIP

When you said Bosco would be back
in a week, I didn't think you meant
he'd be 'dropping' a new song
outside of his contract.

BERES goes to speak but PHILIP cuts him off.

PHILIP (CONT'D)

Eyes On Bosco is everywhere. Every
streaming service, every bloody car
I walk past is blaring it, and
guess what?

BERES sighs.

PHILIP (CONT'D)

We can't capitalise on it and we've
missed the boat on promo. So
someone *else* is earning our
royalties. And guess where that
money has to come from?

DAWN looks uneasy and BERES looks immediately anxious.

BERES

I will fix this.

PHILIP

I'm not sure you can.

An uncomfortable pause.

PHILIP (CONT'D)

It seems obvious to us that even
before Bosco disappeared, he wasn't
very well. We've all been very
hopeful he would get better, but
unfortunately...

BERES

I will speak to the boy, we'll-

PHILIP

I need you to think about how this
looks, Beres. The reputation of
Champion Crown, and *us*, more
importantly, is very much at stake
here.

BERES doesn't know what to say. DAWN jumps in-

DAWN

That can all be *fixed!* It'll all be
fine, Bosco-

PHILIP puts a hand up to stop DAWN from talking.

PHILIP

Bosco isn't the first star to have
these sort of... troubles. And
Detector Records would be happy to
lend... support to Champion Crown
to help deal with the problem.

DAWN

Support? Support how?

PHILIP

(to BERES)

Well. If Bosco isn't in his right mind, then there are places he could go... to be... looked after.

BERES

(confused)

How you mean?

PHILIP

Well, you wouldn't want everyone thinking what he said about you in that song was true, would you? You're a smart man, Beres.

(BEAT)

I'll leave you to think about it.

PHILIP exits, leaving BERES and DAWN. DAWN looks very uncomfortable...

DAWN

You can't let them do this. Your son is many things. He's selfish, he's stupid, my God the boy can be reckless, but he's not mad. Don't let these people paint him like that.

BERES is tapping his hands anxiously on the table while he thinks.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Are you hearing me?

BERES ignores DAWN. Still tapping his hands on the table.

DAWN (CONT'D)

You want to put away Bosco to what, salvage the reputation of Champion Crown? Something you built on his *name*?

BERES

Maybe this is a way of protecting the boy from himself.

DAWN

The only thing he needs protecting from is you. Leave him *alone*.

BERES

Leave him *alone*? That's my son.

DAWN

Only by name, Beres. Not by nature.

BERES kisses his teeth, angry.

DAWN (CONT'D)

I won't be part of this, B. Not any
more.

DAWN exits! Out on BERES looking resolute that whatever he's
going to do is the right thing.

26 **EXT. RUSTY'S HOUSE - DAY 24.**

26

ARIA parks up outside RUSTY's block. She looks all the way up. Looks at the address on her PHONE before making her way into the building.

27 **INT. RUSTY'S HOUSE. BEDROOM - DAY 24.**

27

BOSCO, still looking well, is sitting on the sofa playing PLAYSTATION with RUSTY's little brother. The room is full and busy.

SOMEONE enters and the room goes quiet. BOSCO looks up, looks towards the door. His laugh drops and his eyes soften when he sees it's his mum. ARIA's here.

ARIA looks over at BOSCO, tears filling her eyes.

 RUSTY'S BROTHER
 Why have you paused the game?

 BOSCO
 I'll be back.

BOSCO smiles, stands up. BOSCO follows ARIA out of the room.

 RUSTY'S BROTHER
 Make sure, you know.

28 **INT. RUSTY'S HOUSE. LIVING ROOM - DAY 24.**

28

ARIA sits opposite BOSCO at the kitchen table. She looks around.

 BOSCO
 How did you know I was here?

 ARIA
 That boy won't stop looking out for
 you.

BOSCO nods, slowly. Regret on his face.

 ARIA (CONT'D)
 You're looking well. Which girl has
 been feeding you up here?

 BOSCO
 Rusty's mum knows how to throw down
 in the kitchen...
 (beat)
 How's things back home?

 ARIA
 Well. Your dad found out I'm
 selling the house.
 (MORE)

ARIA (CONT'D)

You can imagine how that went. And then, Lennox punched him in the face.

BOSCO

(laughs)

Nah. You're lying.

ARIA

I didn't know he had it in him! He sends his love, by the way. He misses you too.

BOSCO

Yeah, I miss him as well.

ARIA

(surprised)

I never thought I'd see the day. What they putting in the water up here?

BOSCO laughs again. ARIA puts a hand on BOSCO's.

ARIA (CONT'D)

I heard your song, Bos.

Silence from Bosco.

ARIA (CONT'D)

I wish you'd spoken to me before things got that far.

BOSCO

(sighs)

I didn't know how, Mum. You and Dad never taught me to talk. All I knew was how to rap. How to perform. How to get on that stage and pretend nothing was wrong. You can't be surprised that when I stepped off that stage, it's still there. I took that with me.

ARIA removes her hand from BOSCO's, looks down at the table.

ARIA

You seemed like you could handle it. He *told* me you could handle it, and I... I believed him.

ARIA wrings her hands.

ARIA (CONT'D)

And please, believe me, I had no idea what was going on with the money-

BOSCO cuts her off.

BOSCO

I know. But where were you when he was pushing me, over and over?

ARIA

I was always there! I always made sure you were clothed, fed, I always made sure you had everything you wanted!

BOSCO

Dad made me his moneymaker and you made me your golden boy! And the pressure of that, of being all of that, to both of you, it was worse than being in prison sometimes. It made me someone I should never have been. I was selfish- And Vita...

Pause, her name hangs in the air between ARIA and BOSCO.

ARIA

What about Vita?

BOSCO

I treated her *badly*, Mum - we all did. And now she's finally, finally doing her own thing and she's flying. And she could never have done that with me there. Because she would have carried on putting me first, just like you and Dad taught her to do.

ARIA looks ashamed.

ARIA

I've been wrong about a lot of things lately but I know that girl needs you.

BOSCO

Nah, she needs to be on her own.

BOSCO again says nothing.

ARIA

Come home, Bos. We all miss you. Vita misses you.

BOSCO

You know what, Mum? I feel like whenever I've told people I need more time, they don't hear me. I'm not ready. I'm getting there, but I still need to get my head straight.

ARIA
(softly, sadly)
And what about your daughter? They
fly next week, and you can't even
call her?

BOSCO looks down at the table.

ARIA (CONT'D)
Vita's performing tomorrow.

BOSCO
I know.

BOSCO looks her straight in the eyes and says nothing. He
would love to see VITA but he's convinced his re-appearance
would hold her back again.

BOSCO (CONT'D)
I'm not ready, Mum. Not yet.

ARIA realises he won't change his mind.

ARIA
Whenever you're ready to come
home... we'll all be waiting.

They stand and hug.

BOSCO
Bye, Mum.

Out on BOSCO, who looks like a man who is sad but resolute.

29 **OMITTED**

29

30 **INT. VITA'S FLAT. KITCHEN - NIGHT 24.**

30

VITA is at the kitchen table, scrolling through social media
on her PHONE. The BLOGS have picked up not just BOSCO's song,
but the CONTEXT. We see articles that are calling BERES a
thief, a con artist, a liar. LAURENT enters.

LAURENT
What you looking at?

VITA shows LAURENT what she's looking at.

LAURENT (CONT'D)
-when you coming back in the
studio?

VITA is confused.

VITA
Are you not seeing this stuff?

LAURENT shrugs.

LAURENT
You're the one who's been on me
about getting everything right for
tomorrow!

VITA's had enough of him.

VITA
I can't do this anymore.

LAURENT looks confused.

LAURENT
What d'you mean? Can't do what
anymore?

VITA
This is all... it's been really
nice, this past few months,
honestly, but... it's work, and I'm
just so busy at the moment, and I
think you need someone who has more
time for you.

LAURENT looks sad.

LAURENT
Someone who has more *time* for me?

VITA
Yeah. It's only gonna get worse,
the more I have to do-

LAURENT
But I'll be with you, I'll be right
there with you-

VITA
I don't want you to be! You've been
next to me for the past few months!

The sadness on LAURENT's face turns to nastiness...

LAURENT
Ah, so it's been a using ting?

VITA
Using? What?

LAURENT
Who is it that's practically been
living with you, making songs with
you, getting your album together?

VITA
But I didn't ask for that!

LAURENT

You still took it though, didn't you?

(beat)

You always used to talk about your brother being selfish and look. You're more like him than you think. But... what are you without him?

VITA

Huh?

LAURENT

Without your brother performing your shit, and now me producing for you on tap, what have you got?

VITA looks like she wants to cry. LAURENT sniggers.

LAURENT (CONT'D)

You know what? Cool. It's done. But you're not taking any of my music with you.

VITA

But, I worked on it too, you can't do this!

LAURENT

I think you'll find I can. And if you *do* use any of my beats, or my melodies-

VITA

Your melodies? Have you lost your mind? Laurent, the awards ceremony is tomorrow!

LAURENT

(shrugging)

You're a clever girl. I'm sure you'll figure something out.

VITA looks at him, crestfallen. LAURENT pulls out his keyring, takes the key to her flat out and throws it at her. She catches it, stares at LAURENT as he leaves, in shock.

LAURENT (CONT'D)

Don't let the door hit you.

31

INT. VITA'S FLAT - NIGHT 24.

31

VITA videocalls HONEY from the home studio. HONEY picks up.

VITA

Where are you...?

We see that HONEY is indeed in a very swanky first class lounge with a glass of CHAMPAGNE in her hand.

HONEY (FACETIME)
Business Lounge - West Coast to
East Coast, baby! What's up? Isn't
it late over there?

VITA
Yeah... I... Honey, I don't know
what to do!

HONEY (FACETIME)
What's happened?

VITA
I broke up with Laurent and he said
I can't use any of the music we've
been writing for the show, and I've
been-

HONEY (FACETIME)
Okay, relax, relax. Take a breath.

VITA
But I don't have any music, Honey!
People are gonna know I'm an
imposter, that I'm a fake, that I
don't have anything for myself-

HONEY (FACETIME)
Who's been telling you this shit? -
Look, how long have you got til you
soundcheck?

VITA
If I don't sleep? Like, 8 hours?

HONEY
Looks like you ain't sleeping.
Here's what you're gonna do...

32

INT. VITA'S FLAT. STUDIO - NIGHT 24.

32

VITA is by herself. She's got the SONGBOOK out and she's on the LAPTOP, composing a song. An actually quite good beat is playing out and she's singing some of the lyrics. It's a mad moment and she's killing it, but she doesn't quite believe it. She stops and puts her head in her hands.

VITA looks at her PHONE. It's 4am. She opens up her message thread with BOSCO and sends a voicenote:

VITA
Hey Bos. It's 4am here so you're
probably asleep.
(MORE)

VITA (CONT'D)

And you probably won't listen to this even if you were up, but... I don't know how you did this. It's not the music - I love the music. It's everything else. *That's* what's hard. There's so many people around me all the time, but it's so lonely. I'm so, so lonely.

VITA sends it.

33

INT. RUSTY'S HOUSE. RUSTY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 24.

33

BOSCO, tossing and turning. Looks at his PHONE when it buzzes with VITA's message. BOSCO listens to the voicenote. He looks like it's a hard voicenote to have heard.

34

INT. CEREMONY VENUE. VITA'S DRESSING ROOM - DAY 25.

34

VITA arrives in a fluster. She hasn't slept, but has a gigantic reusable COFFEE mug in her hand. YEMI is already waiting.

YEMI

You're late.

VITA is putting her stuff down, taking her coat off etc.

VITA

I know, and I'm sorry, but Laurent has fucked me *massively*. But I think it's gonna be fine, I've got a plan, and the new song is on here-

VITA takes a USB out of her bag and puts it on the table.

YEMI

New song? What d'you mean?

VITA

Laurent and I broke up and now he isn't letting me use any of the music we made together.

VITA looks at YEMI, expecting sympathy. Wrong!

YEMI

We have been rehearsing for weeks! You can't just turn up here and hand me a USB-

VITA

Listen to what's on there first.

YEMI snatches the USB STICK up and heads out of the room, passing a GLAM SQUAD, carrying more DUST BAGS of clothes, who are entering.

35 INT. CEREMONY VENUE. VITA'S DRESSING ROOM - DAY 25. 35

VITA is made up. YEMI enters the room.

 YEMI
 You are very lucky. The new music
 will work, but you need to get down
 there and rehearse it with the
 dancers, *now*.

OUT on VITA looking relieved.

36 VITA AWARDS SHOW PREP - DAY 25, MONTAGE: 36

VITA is awards show ready. We see a montage of her in the pre-ceremony build up.

VITA being interviewed. VITA in front of the flashing cameras. VITA signing autographs.

And through all of it, VITA looks lonely. She manages to check her PHONE. Nothing. We see that she's already said: **It's the awards show tonight.** He hasn't replied. She messages BOSCO one final time: **Bos. I need you.**

The GLAM SQUAD descends.

37 INT. CEREMONY VENUE. CORRIDOR - DAY 25. 37

VITA, dressed and ready, walks down the corridor, mirroring BOSCO in Episode One. She looks stressed.

BULLA and his boys are coming the other way down the corridor.

 BULLA
 Don't forget who bussed you,
 "Vita".

VITA ignores him, walking a little quicker back to her dressing room.

38 OMITTED 38

39

INT. CEREMONY VENUE. VITA'S DRESSING ROOM - DAY 25.

39

VITA is trying not to panic. Where is everyone? She sits on the sofa, then curls up into a ball, tries to regulate her breathing.

YEMI enters.

YEMI

What's up now?

VITA sits up.

VITA

What if I mess this up?

YEMI comes and sits close to VITA.

YEMI

Vita. This is the most important night of your life. Keep your head straight. Don't let *anything* distract you.

Then: the door opens and in bursts TAYO and... HONEY! YEMI doesn't look best pleased to see HONEY.

VITA bursts into tears as she sees them. YEMI rolls her eyes.

HONEY

That's not the reception I wanted!

VITA jumps up as they pull her into a hug.

VITA

I thought you were on a plane to New York?

HONEY

What, and you believed me? I'm not letting you go out there without seeing me first!

VITA starts crying again.

HONEY (CONT'D)

Come on, don't ruin this beat!

TAYO passes HONEY a BOX OF TISSUES. HONEY grabs one and starts dabbing at VITA's face gently so as not to ruin her make up. YEMI pulls TAYO aside while HONEY tends to VITA's face. YEMI looks pissed off.

TAYO

What's wrong with you?

YEMI
(ignoring TAYO, raising an
eyebrow)
You're on in thirty. Yes?

VITA
(nods)
Yep.

YEMI leaves the room, but not before shooting HONEY a dirty look.

HONEY
Who's she looking at like that?
(to TAYO)
You better tell your girl to mind
out, you know.

TAYO has been here before.

TAYO
We should take our seats. V, we'll
see you afterwards.

TAYO goes off after YEMI to try to talk to her.

HONEY
You're gonna kill it.

VITA
Am I?

HONEY
Yes! You are! Come on man. Show
them what south London girls are
about.

VITA
(slightly panicked)
This song I'm doing... I think
we've got enough time to turn it
into a duet if you-

HONEY
(smiles, shaking her head)
You don't need me, V. This is your
moment and I *promise* you, you've
got this.

ARIA and LENNOX arrive. They're both amazed by what they see as they walk in. A slight sad smile from ARIA that turns into a happy one.

41 INT. CEREMONY VENUE. SIDE OF STAGE - NIGHT 25. 41

VITA looks terrified. YEMI is next to her, looking pissed off. AWARDS COORDINATOR comes over.

AWARDS COORDINATOR
Good to go?

YEMI
She is.

VITA is led into a darkened area of the stage as we hear:

MERCEDES JONES
Now, next up, we have a singer
who's risen through the ranks, and
the charts, at lightning speed. So
of course, she's nominated for Best
Newcomer tonight...

*

42 INT. CEREMONY VENUE. DARKENED STAGE AREA - NIGHT 25. 42

CROWD applauds as VITA takes her place in front of THREE
BACKING SINGERS. We're with her. We hear her heart beating in
her ears.

MERCEDES JONES
...But before that, she's here with
a very special performance. It's
VITA, EVERYBODY!

*

Audience applauds again.

43 INT. CEREMONY VENUE. AUDIENCE - NIGHT 25. 43

ARIA and LENNOX applaud and cheer, standing to their feet as
ANOTHER AWARDS COORDINATOR brings TAYO and HONEY over to
their table.

ARIA sees them and smiles. LENNOX sees them and gives two
very enthusiastic thumbs up. We see PHILIP too, two tables
along. Arms crossed.

44 INT. CEREMONY VENUE. ON STAGE - NIGHT 25. 44

The stage is set. It's dark. We hear these opening words,
said in VITA's pre-recorded voice:

VITA (PRE-RECORD VOICE)
A phoenix rises from the ashes of
what came before. A symbol of
rebirth, hope, renewal, progress,
the end of oppression, the phoenix
is the beginning of something new.

THEN, backing track kicks in! The lights come on, and we see VITA standing, resplendent, at the top of the stairs. She descends and takes her place in the centre of stage as dancers surround her.

VITA goes to sing, but she misses her cue. Close up of the dancers looking confused but knowing how to work it. The band go round the opening again as the backing singers exchange worried glances. But then, VITA gets it back. But, she looks flat. She looks sad, despite the upbeat song.

44A INT. CEREMONY VENUE. AUDIENCE - NIGHT 25. 44A

We see ARIA and LENNOX stand up, encouraging VITA from their seats.

44B INT. CEREMONY VENUE. ON STAGE - NIGHT 25. 44B

VITA continues on, until... Enter BOSCO! The crowd react to him bounding on as he grabs a MIC from the floor.

VITA looks at BOSCO and tears of relief fill her eyes. She goes to step out of the spotlight and leave her brother to take the moment, but he pulls her back as he raps and she regains her place in the song.

45 INT. CEREMONY VENUE. AUDIENCE - NIGHT 25. 45

PHILIP gets his PHONE out, starts making a call as he rushes out of the audience.

46 INT. BERES' PENTHOUSE - NIGHT 25. 46

We cut to BERES, smoking alone in his house when we see a call come in from PHILIP. He listens and, as instructed by the call, turns the TV onto the ceremony. He sees BOSCO and jumps up, grabs his COAT and leaves, TV still on.

47 INT. CEREMONY VENUE. ON STAGE - NIGHT 25. 47

BOSCO continues to rap as VITA can't believe her eyes, moving
in time to the music.

48 INT. CHANTELLE AND MARK'S HOUSE - NIGHT 25. 48

CHANTELLE is packing, surrounded by boxes as MILAN watches the ceremony.

MILAN
Look, Mummy! It's Daddy!

CHANTELLE
(absent-mindedly)
No, Milan, it's Aunty Vita!

MILAN
Nooo, it's both of them!

A huge smile spreads across CHANTELLE's face as she sees BOSCO onstage.

MARK enters and sees CHANTELLE, smitten, and MILAN, entranced, as they watch the screen. It truly hits him then that he will never match up to BOSCO in their eyes.

49 **INT. DAWN'S HOUSE - NIGHT 25.**

49

DAWN, enjoying a WALLS VIENNETTA as she watches the ceremony, is smiling proudly as she wipes tears from her eyes.

DAWN
Those two.

50 **INT. CEREMONY VENUE. ON STAGE - NIGHT 25.**

50

Then, someone else runs out onstage as the outro plays. It's MEMET! VITA laughs, she can't believe it. *

MEMET goes to take the DJ's place as BOSCO's rap comes to an end. We hear a familiar sound.

It's the opening horns of CHAMPION TO THE WORLD. BOSCO smiles. He holds the mic to his mouth, says to the band:

BOSCO
You lot know this one, right?

They nod, start to play along to the instrumental as MEMET reduces the volume of the track. BOSCO turns to VITA, holds the mic to his mouth again and says:

BOSCO (CONT'D)
It's all you, sis. The best song
you ever wrote.

VITA smiles at him before rapping CHAMPION TO THE WORLD, NOTE PERFECT. It's an incredible moment. The crowd are on their feet.

They embrace. Tickertape falls. *

51 **INT. CEREMONY VENUE. AUDIENCE - NIGHT 25.**

51

QUICK CUTS of everyone who's proud of VITA: HONEY is whooping loudly, dancing and rapping along. TAYO is screaming at the stage. LENNOX is up on a chair as he dances.

LENNOX
That's my girl!

ARIA is wiping tears from her eyes.

51A INT. CEREMONY VENUE. ON STAGE - NIGHT 25.

51A

MEMET looks down at VITA and smiles as she turns to look at him and smiles back.

52 INT. CEREMONY VENUE. ON STAGE - NIGHT 25.

52

The song ends, and BOSCO runs off, leaving VITA to receive the applause she deserves as TICKER TAPE flies out and across the stage and audience.

53 INT. CEREMONY VENUE. SIDE OF STAGE - NIGHT 25.

53

VITA runs off and into BOSCO's arms as the audience cheer for her.

VITA
I can't believe you came!

BOSCO
Couldn't let you down, V. Not again. Not anymore.

VITA
Thank you.

BOSCO
Nah, thank you. We'll chat properly, but. You know. *Thank you.* For everything.

BOSCO squeezes VITA's shoulder as MEMET joins them. VITA hugs him too.

VITA
Are you the one who got him here?

MEMET
Nah, that was all Bos. He called me up and told me we needed to show up for you. He didn't need to tell me twice.

VITA grabs MEMET and kisses him. MEMET, shocked, steps back and looks at BOSCO, his hands up. BOSCO smiles at them.

BOSCO
You two lovebirds do your ting, man. Don't let me stop you.

ARIA and LENNOX come rushing up.

ARIA

V! V! I'm so proud of you!

ARIA pulls VITA into a huge hug as BOSCO spuds LENNOX, who is elated.

LENNOX

Well done, son.

BOSCO

Had to do the right thing at some point.

53A **OMITTED**

53A

54 **EXT. CEREMONY VENUE - NIGHT 25.**

54

VITA exits the venue, AWARD in hand! She won, too! BOSCO's arm around her. She can't believe she's got her brother back.

ARIA and LENNOX are behind, followed by MEMET, still chatting about how amazing the performance was to TAYO and HONEY.

HONEY

You know you just shelled it in
front of the nation, right?

FANS are outside, taking pictures of whoever is leaving the venue.

BULLA is having his picture taken by fans and while BULLA'S BOYS stand behind and hype him up.

LENNOX

Where we going now, kids? The night is still young!

VITA

The afterparty! It's at...

VITA trails off when she sees BERES jump out of his car. Behind him, exiting their respective vehicles are POLICE OFFICERS, and PHILIP with A MAN WE DON'T KNOW (an approved social worker with an ID lanyard). BOSCO's face falls when he registers BERES. He looks scared.

ARIA

What are you doing here? I told you to stay away from us.

BERES

I had to tell them everything, Aria.

BOSCO looks confused.

VITA

Tell *who* everything?

BERES

The bwoy is not well.

ARIA

Bosco is fine! What are you on about? What's going on?

VITA

So *now* you recognise that he's not okay? He's gonna be good, Dad, as long as he stays away from *you*.

PHILIP steps in front of BERES.

PHILIP

We're going to take Bosco somewhere he'll be safe. Where we can work out how to help him.

BOSCO looks panicked. BERES looks at his son.

PHILIP (CONT'D)

That song you put out was a cry for help. Your Dad made that clear to us.

ARIA looks at the POLICE, PHILIP and the MAN as BERES heads over to PHILIP.

ARIA

Why are all these police here? And who is this?

BERES

You never, ever, mentioned the police...

PHILIP

They've come to take Bosco away. For his own safety.

LENNOX

You what?

ARIA

For his own *what*?

As everyone tries to make sense of what's going on, the POLICE move towards BOSCO. It's loud, it's messy, and people are still watching on. EVERYONE in the family tries to protect BOSCO, but the POLICE move them out of the way.

BERES

(to PHILIP)

Look. Maybe this is a step too far.

TWO POLICE OFFICERS restrain BOSCO as he tries with all his might to escape their hold. He's crying, shouting:

BOSCO

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS, DAD?

BERES grabs PHILIP and tries to reason with him.

BERES

Look, look, just stop all this. You can have your money back, you can have what you want.

PHILIP

It's too late for that.

PHILIP turns and leaves, gets into a car. ARIA gets close to BERES, whispers in his ear:

ARIA

I'm going to make sure that you regret this for the rest of your life.

She looks terrifying. She's not her usual angry self. Instead, she looks like she's quietly planning his murder. We leave the scene on VITA, who is crying, reaching out for BOSCO as he's carted away, but AN OFFICER holds her back.

VITA

Don't worry, Bos! It's gonna be
okay! I'm gonna get you back!

END OF EPISODE.