

CLASS

SERIES 1

EPISODE 2

"The Coach with the Dragon Tattoo"

By

PATRICK NESS

SHOOTING SCRIPT
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1 **INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - CHANGING ROOM - DAY 4; 15:45** 1 *

COACH DAWSON (huge, young, muscle-bound) dresses for practice in an EMPTY changing room. Quick shots as he puts on shorts, socks, trainers-

As he pulls his shirt over his torso, we see a TATTOO running down his back: it's that horrible leafy CELTIC BAND design, tinged green, and disappears under his waistband.

CUT TO:

2 **INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - COACH'S OFFICE - DAY 4; 15:46** 2 *

He grabs a coaching whistle, puts it around his neck, then stares into a small MIRROR. His eyes are a notable GREEN.

There are head shots of his FIRST & SECOND TEAMS in rows on the wall. RAM is in the first team.

COACH DAWSON
(pumping himself up)
You're in control.

One last look into those green, green eyes.

CUT TO:

3 **EXT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - FOOTBALL PITCH - DAY 4; 16:10** 3 *

A FOOTBALL TEAM in drills. Running through cones, passing the ball, kicking penalty goals. Coach Dawson watches.

COACH DAWSON
Faster than that!

RAM hangs back. He ties his shoe, surreptitiously pulling down the KNEE SOCKS he's wearing to cover his new ARTIFICIAL ALIEN LEG. Under the skin, lights flash and circuits fire.

COACH DAWSON (CONT'D)
Look alive, Singh!

Ram looks up, just in time to see a FELLOW PLAYER pass the ball to him. Nervous, he sets himself to take it and...

SENDS THE BALL flying to the sidelines. ASSISTANT COACH CARROLL (Scottish, young) goes after it.

Coach Dawson gives Ram a "what the hell was that?" look.

RAM looks sheepish.

Ram's dad VARUN watches, concerned, from the sidelines.

Coach Carroll throws the ball back in play. Ram moves to pass it to a ANOTHER PLAYER, but his artificial leg is wonky and he kicks it WILDLY awry again-

It rolls to the feet of Coach Dawson. He looks up at Ram.

COACH DAWSON (CONT'D)
Pretty lame, Singh.

Coach Carroll sidles up to him.

COACH CARROLL
His girlfriend is still missing,
maybe you could-

COACH DAWSON
Do I look like a counsellor?
(to Ram)
You face your demons and you
conquer them. If you didn't come to
do that...

Ram glances at his dad, who looks sympathetic.

RAM
I came to play.

COACH DAWSON
Could've fooled me.
(blows whistle)
Burpees! Get started!

The players groan as they start their Burpee drills (the very painful squat-pushup-leap combo), Ram slower than the rest.

ANGLE ON: Coach Dawson, to Coach Carroll.

COACH DAWSON (CONT'D)
Don't question me in front of the
players.

COACH CARROLL
(under his breath)
You need to lay off the 'roids,
man.

COACH DAWSON
What was that?

Coach Carroll raises his eyebrows, not backing down. Coach Dawson narrows his eyes. He blows his whistle. The players stop, exhausted.

COACH DAWSON (CONT'D)
We're done. Get the hell out of
here.

The players start to head toward the changing room. *

COACH DAWSON (CONT'D)
You think that effort deserves
showers? Go home.

They stare in disbelief, but he means it.

4 EXT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - FOOTBALL PITCH SIDELINE - DAY 4; 4 *
16:12 *

As they file off, Ram approaches his father but refuses to talk to him. Varun follows him off towards the car.

CUT TO:

5 EXT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - FOOTBALL PITCH - DAY 4; 16:13 5 *

Back on the pitch, Coach Carroll picks up the last of the cones and glances at Coach Dawson, who's looking into the air, breathing deeply, almost meditating, like he's savouring his power. Coach Carroll heads into the changing room. *

CUT TO:

6 EXT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - CAR PARK BY PITCH/VARUN'S CAR - DAY 6 5 *
4; 16:15 *

Ram goes to his father, who's trying to be sympathetic.

VARUN
Are you sure you should even be here-

RAM
I'm not talking about it.

VARUN
Rachel has only been gone a week- *

RAM
I'm not talking about it.

He shoves his kit in the car, then looks back to the pitch.

RAM (CONT'D)
(firmer)
I just want to play.

He stalks off back to the pitch, leaving Varun.

CUT TO:

7 INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - CHANGING ROOM SHOWERS - DAY 4; 16:17 *

Coach Carroll sets down the CONES in the kit cupboard. He exhales, holding one last cone thoughtfully. This is a nicer guy. He hears a door shut.

COACH CARROLL
(looking up)
You run them too hard. There's a limit to how much even a teenager-

He stops. It's not the Coach. The room still seems empty.

COACH CARROLL (CONT'D)
Coach Dawson? Tom?

He moves around to-

8 **INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - CHANGING ROOM SHOWERS - DAY 4; 16:18** *

The SHOWER AREA. It's creepily silent. He sees the VERY TAIL END of a TEAR IN SPACE/TIME closing, accompanied by a tell-tale SIZZLE sound. Did he just imagine that?

He turns, his eyes go wide. He SCREAMS as something leaps at him-

ANGLE ON: The cone he was carrying rolls to a stop on the shower floor as his scream is brutally cut off. In the blurry background, SOMETHING HUGE rips his skin entirely off.

A trickle of blood flows towards us. We SPIN AROUND and see RAM entering, unaware what's happened. Yet.

RAM (O.S.)
Is Coach Dawson here yet-

He sees the aftermath: a bloody skinned corpse, a pile of gore that's Coach Carroll's skin-

Ram RUNS, yelling, terrified, into the door of the toilets (the first he comes across)-

CUT TO:

9 **INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - CHANGING ROOM TOILETS - DAY 4; 16:19** *

Ram locks the door with a latch, then runs into a cubicle, locking that, too. He's crying with fear.

RAM
Not again. No, not again. No,
please. No.

CUT TO:

10 **INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - CHANGING ROOM - DAY 4; 16:21** 10 *

Coach Dawson enters. He hangs his whistle in his...

CUT TO:

11 **INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - COACH'S OFFICE - DAY 4; 16:21** 11 *

...office, staring at the HEADSHOTS of his squad. He moves the photo of RAM from FIRST TEAM to SECOND TEAM.

COACH DAWSON
Don't show up if you didn't come to win.

He exits back to the shower area...

CUT TO:

12 **INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - CHANGING ROOM TOILETS - DAY 4; 16:22** *

Ram looks up as he hears a SHOWER start. What the hell? He peeks out of the cubicle.

CUT TO:

13 **INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - CHANGING ROOM TOILETS - DAY 4; 16:23** *

Ram peeks out the toilet door, too. SOMEONE is in the showers. He sneaks over to it, peering round corners, sees-

The shower area completely clear, one shower running. No blood, no body.

COACH DAWSON (O.S.)
I said, go home, Singh.

Ram turns, stunned. Coach Dawson is wrapped only in a towel.

RAM
(stunned)
Did you see...?

COACH DAWSON
All I see is a player whose form
has dropped. Badly.

RAM
(sags)
But... Coach Carroll-

COACH DAWSON
(concerned)
Went home. Singh, you're my best
player, but I wasn't kidding, I'm
not a counsellor. I look forward to
getting the real you back, but for
now, you watching me shower breaks
about 17 laws.

Ram, speechless, gets a questioning look. Did he see
something? He backs away, leaving.

COACH DAWSON (CONT'D)
Come to play next time!

RAM
(still shaky)
I... I will.

Coach Dawson watches him leave, then turns into the shower
area, hanging up his towel.

C/U on a DRAIN with a BIT of GORE on it. Coach Dawson flicks it down the drain with his toe.

He watches as the GORE drains away. He grips his fist, over and over, like a tic.

COACH DAWSON
I'm in control. I'm in control.
(turns head slightly to
speak over his shoulder)
Not you.

We circle round to his naked backside (which we see, it's a sexy show): The Tattoo goes down the side of his bum and ends in a DRAGON'S FACE. As we watch, a DROP OF BLOOD falls from an exposed FANG and the EYE OF THE DRAGON blinks at us.

His tattoo is alive.

THEME MUSIC RISES – "The Age of the Understatement" by The Last Shadow Puppets.

TITLES.

CUT TO:

14 **INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - HALL - DAY 5; 08:50** 14 *

The final strings of the opening music blend into a violin note played by APRIL. With great seriousness, she finishes a SAD FOLK LAMENT. Breath of stillness, then:

TANYA
(sitting, watching)
Whoa.

Shyly, April puts away her music, liking the praise. Other students pack away instruments as well.

TANYA (CONT'D)
Was that classical?

APRIL
Folk song. A kind of lament.

TANYA
...so, not classical then.

APRIL
You've never heard of folk?

TANYA
Oh, I've heard of it. White men dancing in circles with scarves.

APRIL
(defensive)
Not *all* the time.

TANYA

What did you do, did you think,
"Playing the violin on its own
isn't going to alienate me enough
from my peers. What would be
better? I know. Folk!"

APRIL

(hurt)

Hey. I was trying to share
something. With a new friend.

Starts packing to leave.

TANYA

No, it's amazing, it's just...

APRIL

Not something teenagers are
supposed to do.

TANYA

Yeah. I guess we aren't supposed to
keep the earth safe from aliens
either.

APRIL

Maybe they'll never come back.

TANYA

Or at least not until after A-
Levels, anyway.

APRIL

(sighs)

What if they're teaching your A-
Levels?

CUT TO:

15 **INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - DAY 5; 08:51** 15 *

MISS QUILL and MR ARMITAGE walk quickly down a corridor
crowded with students.

MISS QUILL

A what?

MR ARMITAGE

An inspector.

MISS QUILL

...excuse me, a what?

MR ARMITAGE

The school is being inspected, Miss
Quill. Your class is part of this
school. Though your continuing
surprise at this fact is troubling.

MISS QUILL
I'm not a *monkey* to be jumping
through hoops-

MR ARMITAGE
All teachers are monkeys. Haven't
you been listening to the Education
Secretary?
(ignores her expression)
The inspector arrives today. He's
especially interested in improving
our science rating.
(wearily)
I'm sure you'll do us proud.

*

CUT TO:

16 INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - MAIN CORRIDOR/S - DAY 5; 08:52 16 *

Ram, at his locker, again surreptitiously checking his alien leg. He looks stunned, worried. Charlie comes up, school books under his arm.

CHARLIE
How's it feeling?

Annoyed, Ram flips down his cuff and stands.

RAM
Ask me again. Go ahead.

CHARLIE
I'm just wondering if you're okay-

RAM
We're not friends, dickface. I'm
not part of whatever losers-save-
the-world crew this is.
(softer)
I've got enough to deal with on my
own.

CHARLIE
But you don't have to do it alone-

Ram shoves Charlie's books out of his hands.

RAM
(harder)
Ask me again.

Slams his locker shut, leaving Charlie to pick up his books.

CUT TO:

17 INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - MISS QUILL'S CLASSROOM - DAY 5; 09:15 *

Our four (Tanya, Charlie, April and Ram) sit at their desks close to each other.

The INSPECTOR (bald, male, glasses, his clothes oddly formal, like Don Draper) watches and takes notes slowly, ominously, as Miss Quill hands back papers. She keeps glancing at him.

MISS QUILL
Abysmal. Abysmal. Slightly less
abysmal.

She reaches Ram's desk.

MISS QUILL (CONT'D)
Tell me, Ram, was there a great big
window of porn open as you typed?

APRIL
Be nice to him. His girlfriend
is... missing.

Ram's face flushes with anger, answers Quill.

RAM
Yeah, I was spanking myself off a
good one. Had to do the whole paper
with my left hand.

Miss Quill blinks at the defiance, genuinely surprised. Her eyes flick to the Inspector, who watches closely.

MISS QUILL
Don't think I won't put you in
detention, Ram, despite your...
circumstances.

CHARLIE
But he's got football practice-

RAM
(exploding)
Would you all just leave me alone?
I don't need anyone's help!

APRIL
That sounds like *such* a cry for
help.

That does it for Ram. He gets up, storms out of class.

Astonished, Quill looks at the Inspector. Who stares back, an ominous frown on his face. Then he begins writing again.

Miss Quill looks like she's thinking something, suspiciously.

MISS QUILL
Surprise quiz.

The class groans.

CUT TO:

18 **INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - ATRIUM - DAY 5; 12:20** 18 *

A set of steps where, in the hubbub of lunch, April, Tanya and Charlie eat together (April's in prim plastic, Tanya with a slice of pizza from the canteen, Charlie a slice of steak, burnt). They watch in the distance as Miss Quill argues (unheard) with Mr Armitage.

CHARLIE
(looking around)
Do you think they purposely forget?
Is that a human thing?

APRIL
You mean all the stuff at the Prom?

CHARLIE
This world was partially invaded
and we seem to be the only ones who
remember it.

TANYA
Coal Hill School has a body count
way above average. They've got to
know.

CHARLIE
And just choose not to see? What a
fascinating power.

TANYA
"Fascinating" and "power" are
interesting words.
(to April)
Do you actually think nothing else
will happen? That nothing else will
get... pooped out through the
Bunghole of Time?

CHARLIE
(shocked)
That's not what we're calling it,
are we?

APRIL
(shrugs)
Maybe it wouldn't be so bad. If
nothing else ever comes through the
space/time thing.

CHARLIE
We'd never get your heart back.

April puts a hand on her heart. They spy Ram walking across the green through the windows.

APRIL
Yeah, but if it's a choice between
that or people dying-

TANYA
Even if something does come through, how are we supposed to fight it? We're not superheroes.
(on Ram)
There's not even four of us anymore.

CHARLIE

TANYA
(surprisingly sharp)
Maybe you don't know what it's
like...

CHARLIE
Everyone I ever knew was murdered
except my greatest enemy.

APRIL
I'm sharing a heart with the
genocidal alien who did that.

TANYA
(beat)
Still.

She watches Ram head into a building. Beat. Beat.

APRIL
(guesses a name)
Membrane of Time?

CHARLIE
Chasm?

Fracture? APRIL

TANYA
Bunghole.

CUT TO:

19 **INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - CHANGING ROOM - DAY 5; 12:22** 19 *

Ram, head down, enters the changing room. He nervously looks around, but the room is empty, clean, no blood at all. He goes towards Coach Dawson's office. *

CUT TO:

20 INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - COACH'S OFFICE - DAY 5; 12:22 20 *
Coach Dawson is at his laptop in a tight short sleeve shirt -
the tail end of the TATTOO peeks out from under the sleeve.

RAM
Coach Carroll around? I was hoping
to do extra drills.

Coach Dawson spins around.

COACH DAWSON
Nope, he quit on me.
(eyeballs Ram)
Getting that a lot lately.

Ram sees the picture of himself moved down to Second Team.

COACH DAWSON (CONT'D)
Yeah, you see that, do you?

RAM
(accepting)
Way I been playing-

COACH DAWSON
Yeah, the way you been playing. You
used to have strength, Singh. You
used to have power.

Looks at Ram, hostile. Ram swallows, surprisingly modest.

RAM
I'll get it back. I'll earn my
place... I've got to.

Coach is pleasantly surprised, softens a little.

COACH DAWSON
I know about your girlfriend. But
this game isn't built on niceness.

RAM
I don't want it to be. I'm not
feeling very nice.

COACH DAWSON
Good. Bring that to practice today.
There isn't a third team, if you
get my meaning.

RAM
I do.

Beat, he looks back in the changing room. He stares around
looking for evidence. Still sees none. Did he see anything? *

RAM (CONT'D)
(almost to himself)
Football is all I've got left. I
can't lose it.

COACH DAWSON
Choice is yours, Singh. Go. And I
mean it: Don't screw up again.

Beat, then Ram nods and leaves. Coach Dawson watches him go, then looks under his desk. He opens a KIT BOX-

The grisly SKIN of Coach Carroll is folded inside. Coach Dawson sighs, worried. Does the tic thing with his fist.

CUT TO:

21 **INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - MAIN CORRIDOR - DAY 5; 12:28** 21 *

Ram, downbeat, walks down a deserted corridor as the bell rings, all other students disappearing into class. He sighs, stops, looks around, making a decision.

CUT TO:

22 **EXT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - BIN AREA - DAY 5; 12:35** 22 *

Ram has snuck out to the large rubbish bins behind the school. No one around. He takes out a CIGARETTE, lights it.

Hears a COUGH.

A plump FEMALE RUSSIAN CLEANER is also having a sneaky smoke. She smiles at him, caught. Then holds up a finger to her lips to indicate she'll keep the secret.

RAM
Ever feel like you're losing it?

CLEANER
I was an accountant in my country.
I already lost it.

They smile at each other. Then stop as they hear a faint SIZZLE, seeming to come from inside one of the large bins. Exchanging questioning looks, they open one-

It's dark inside, but they hear A CLATTER of bins- *

They turn around to see something HUGE (which we don't see fully yet) rising out from behind the bins. *

Simultaneously (comically) both Ram and the cleaner open their mouths in shock, dropping their cigarettes in tandem.

Then the cleaner SCREAMS as LEAFY CLAWS grab her and lift her in the air. She REACHES OUT FOR RAM-

But he backs away, terrified, hiding in the narrow space between two bins. The cleaner screams again-

It's brutally cut off and RAM gasps in horror as some blood hits his face-

FLASHBACK: Rachel's death, her blood hitting his face-

Back by the bins, he stares in shock as the CREATURE throws the Cleaner's skin into the bin and passes the narrow aperture where he's hiding, dragging the skinned corpse.

It's body is leafy, like a CELTIC TATTOO...

It moves along, not seeing Ram. Ram tucks back into the bins, hiding as deep as he can, squeezing his eyes firmly shut.

CUT TO:

23 EXT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - BIN AREA - DAY 5; 15:30 23 *

Bell rings to end school. Ram still hides, clearly for hours. From a distance, he can hear students leaving. Slow, terrified, he makes his way out from behind the bins.

CUT TO:

24 INT. TANYA'S FLAT - KITCHEN - DAY 5: 15:50 24 *

Tanya enters with her school stuff, sets it down on a TABLE.

TANYA
Mum?

No one home. Downbeat, she grabs an apple and heads to:

25 INT. TANYA'S FLAT - TANYA'S BEDROOM - DAY 5: 15:51 25 *

She enters, flipping on her laptop, looking thoughtful while it boots up, taking a bite of the apple.

She opens a MESSAGING PROGRAM. She hovers over Ram's name, then clicks on it and starts a message.

--"I can help you with the homework--"

She types more which we can't see, then clicks "send".

She sighs, then opens another program:

--"UNIT Mainframe Hack"

Below a process is running, "Attempt 27,642". That number rapidly rises as Tanya's program does its work...

CUT TO:

26 INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - CHANGING ROOM - DAY 5: 15:55 26 *

Water from a shower head. Ram steps underneath, washes the dried blood from his face and neck.

A bell rings. He jumps a little. Other PLAYERS start noisily arriving. Ram buries his face in the hot water.

CUT TO:

27 EXT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - FOOTBALL PITCH - DAY 5; 16:15 27 *

Ram tries to play with the TEAM, but he's a step behind and misses tackles and shots. When he does get one, he sends it far away from the PLAYER he was passing it to. Play halts, Coach Dawson very displeased.

Ram sags, still in shock.

CUT TO:

28 INT. STREET/ VARUN'S CAR - DAY 5; 17:12 28 *

Ram drives home with his dad. Ram looks pointedly out the window. Varun is struggling with what to say.

VARUN
There's no reason to lose hope
about Rachel, son-

RAM
She's dead.

VARUN
You don't know that.
(off Ram's silence)
She might have just run away-

RAM
(suddenly shouting)
Stop it! Stop it, stop it, stop it!
Can everyone please just fucking
stop it!

VARUN
Language, son-

RAM
None of you know what it's like!
Stop trying to make me TALK ABOUT
IT!

Then, shockingly to them both, he bursts into tears. Varun tries to comfort him with a hand on Ram's shoulder. Ram shrugs it off and just stares out of the window, crying.

CUT TO:

29 **INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - CHARLIE'S BEDROOM/APRIL'S FLAT - APRIL'S BEDROOM - EVENING 5; 18:30** 29 *

Charlie does his homework on his bed. He looks over at THE CABINET OF SOULS, his face ambiguous. He looks back to his phone, types in "Are surprise quizzes legal" as a search term-

It rings. FACETIME call from April. Cut back and forth between their BEDROOMS.

 APRIL
Hey. What's up?

 CHARLIE
Nothing. Just studying.

 APRIL
Does she give you any extra tutoring in physics?

 CHARLIE
Would you want extra tutoring from her?

April laughs, though Charlie – in his alien way – was being completely serious. Long beat, then:

 APRIL
I've been thinking-

 CHARLIE
That at the prom, it felt like we were part of something bigger?

 APRIL
Yes! But-

 CHARLIE
Our lives in constant, thrilling danger-

 APRIL
Well, that's not what I-

 CHARLIE
Fighting evil at huge personal cost-

 APRIL
Would it all have to be evil?

 CHARLIE
Always riding the knife edge of tragedy-

 APRIL
Actually, I was wondering if Ram is ever going to talk to us again. But maybe it is for the best if nothing else happens.

Charlie's door opens. Miss Quill, holding a print-out.

MISS QUILL
I think we're in terrible danger.

CUT TO:

30 **INT. RAM'S HOUSE - RAM'S BEDROOM - EVENING 5; 18:35** 30 *

Drained, Ram opens his computer, unmotivated. He sees a message waiting from Tanya. He rolls his eyes, but opens it:

"I can help you with the homework. And I won't make you talk about anything. At all."

Ram looks thoughtful, surprised.

CUT TO:

31 **INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - CHARLIE'S BEDROOM - EVENING 5; 18:36** 1 *

Charlie looks unimpressed. He glances up from a print-out.

MISS QUILL
I couldn't find *anything* about him online.

The print-out is a picture of the Inspector, name at the top-

CHARLIE
"Paul Smith."

MISS QUILL
At first, I thought he was an evil designer of casual coats and gifts... but I guess that's somebody else.
(louder)
But this one, *this* Paul Smith, he's nowhere to be found!

CHARLIE
Maybe he's a normal citizen. You can't look everyone up.

MISS QUILL
Yes, you can. Have you SEEN what this species puts about themselves online? *So* much genitalia-

APRIL (ON PHONE)
He's probably just buried under all the zillion other Paul Smiths.

MISS QUILL
Who asked you? Did none of you see his clothes?

Baffled silence. She starts enumerating points on her hand.

MISS QUILL (CONT'D)
His jacket was made this year-

FLASH of the Inspector's collar, a modern one.

MISS QUILL (CONT'D)
You can tell by the collar, but the
stitches in his trousers-

**FLASH of the Inspector's trouser hem, with an old-looking
pattern.**

MISS QUILL (CONT'D)
-were at least forty years out of
date. I looked them up. His
spectacles-

FLASH of the Inspector's glasses.

MISS QUILL (CONT'D)
-had no curvature to the lenses.
They were costume. And his hands-

FLASH of the Inspector's hands.

MISS QUILL (CONT'D)
-which he uses all day to write,
had no writing callous on his
second finger.

Back to the room as Charlie stares.

APRIL (ON PHONE)
You noticed all that?!

MISS QUILL
My life in the Quill Resistance
depended on noticing things. Now,
my life depends on keeping you
alive, Prince, and this is how I do
it.

CHARLIE
(beat)
And you're sure it's not just
because he gave you a bad report?

Miss Quill angrily snatches the paper out of Charlie's hand.

MISS QUILL
Fine. You and your little team go
pretend to save the world. I'll
stick to saving you from boring old
death.

Leaves, angry. Beat, as Charlie watches her go, non-plussed.

APRIL (ON PHONE)
Are we a team, though?

CUT TO:

32 **INT. TANYA'S FLAT - TANYA'S BEDROOM/RAM'S HOUSE - RAM'S
BEDROOM - EVENING 5; 18:40** 32 *

Ram and Tanya talk schoolwork over their laptops.

 TANYA

Think of a wave as being like a
rumour. You can't actually *see* the
rumour, you can only see the effect
it has as it passes through matter.

 RAM

(*morose, shut down*)
You talk like someone's really
smart Nan.

 TANYA

You're the one paying *me*. You don't
like it, find someone else.

Ram says nothing. Tanya sighs and closes her book.

 TANYA (CONT'D)

O-kay. What about non-Quill
subjects? Maths is *ridiculously*
easy this year-

 RAM

Why aren't you making me try to
talk about it? About Rachel.

 TANYA

Because talking about it didn't do
me any good. Not at first, anyway.

 RAM

...You?

 TANYA

My dad died almost two years ago.
Stroke. He was fine at dinner,
never woke up the next morning.

 RAM

I didn't know that.

 TANYA

You didn't ask. The point is, I
didn't know what anyone wanted me
to say. So I didn't say anything.
Until one day, I did.

Ram takes this in, looks upset again. Long silent beat.

 RAM

I can't go through it again, Tanya.

He trails off. There's something in how he said it.

 TANYA

Ram, did something happen?

RAM
I saw something. At first, I
thought I was imagining it, like
PTSD or something but... It was
horrible. Really horrible.

TANYA
Horrible we-can-tell-an-adult or
horrible we're-going-to-have-to-
figure-it-out-by-ourselves?

Ram looks at her, thoughtfully.

CUT TO:

33 EXT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - BIN AREA - NIGHT 5; 19:30 33 *

Ram waits in the shrubbery, a good distance from the bins.
He's got a BASEBALL BAT. He takes out another cigarette but
before he puts it to his lips, he has memory FLASHES:

-The cleaner being skinned alive-

-Rachel's blood on his face-

He throws the cigarette away. Tanya arrives, looking around
as if she's been followed.

TANYA
Do you have *any* idea what the
discipline of a Nigerian parent is
like? I'll be lucky not to wind up
in a convent if she catches me.

RAM
(nods to the bins)
It was over there.

TANYA
Definitely alien?

RAM
First time, I just saw... gore and
grossness, but this time... It
killed that woman.
(relives the shock)
She seemed really nice. She was
just sneaking a fag and that
thing...

TANYA
Skinned her alive.
(beat)
You were *smoking*?

RAM
Are you serious?

TANYA
You're an athlete. How can you do
something that-

RAM
Because that's totally the issue here, Tanya! What are we mixed up in? How are we supposed to handle people being skinned alive?

TANYA
Miss Quill is meant to help us-

RAM
Yeah, her and the Happy Super Best Sparkle Team. You really think April and Charlie are going to have our backs?

TANYA
(hesitant)
Maybe.

Tanya waits. And waits some more. Looks over at the bins.

TANYA (CONT'D)
Are we going to go over there or are we just going to wave from a distance?

CUT TO:

34 EXT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - BIN AREA - NIGHT 5; 19:32 34 *

The BINS are all OPEN, lids up. Tanya looks around.

TANYA
There's nothing here, Ram. It's clean.
(frowns)
In fact, it's *really* clean.

RAM
(upset)
It happened, Tanya, and I didn't do anything. I just hid. I let it kill her.

TANYA
Do you honestly think you could have stopped it?

He angrily pounds his alien leg with a fist.

RAM
I don't think I can stop anything any more.

TANYA
You were going to kick it to death?

Ram looks up to her, despondent.

RAM
I know. It's selfish. People are dead. *Rachel* is dead.

TANYA
...and *Rachel* and football were everything you were.

RAM
I'm not one of those guys who gets spotted at age 5. I have to *work*. And I do. I work and work. My mum and dad drive me anywhere I need for it. My dad has never missed a single practice, much less a game.

TANYA
And you don't want to let them down.

RAM
Rachel and football were where I used to go to get away. And now there's nowhere. Nowhere to hide from this... this black hole that wants to drag me down into it.

TANYA
...you saved April from being taken by the Shadow Kin.
(off his look)
You said you didn't think you could stop anything anymore. But you stopped them from taking her. And you did that hopping on one leg.

He looks up at her, a glimmer of hope? She sighs.

TANYA (CONT'D)
Oh, for God's sake, Ram, I'm fourteen, I'm not a therapist! I'm three years younger than our entire year! All I wanted to do was have actual friends. And then this happened and I thought-

She stops as they hear FOOTSTEPS. They freeze, Ram gripping the Baseball Bat. The footsteps are coming from around the corner. They back against the bins. Tanya holds up her fists.

TANYA (CONT'D)
My skin is my best feature. No alien is getting that.

Ram raises the bat to clobber whatever's coming-
But FLINCHES away as it comes around the corner-
It's COACH DAWSON. Who jumps when he sees them.

COACH DAWSON
What the hell are you DOING?

RAM
Sorry, we thought you were-

Coach Dawson eyes the baseball bat, then eyes Tanya.

COACH DAWSON
I can't wait to hear the end of
that sentence.

RAM
There's... There's weird things
about, Coach...

COACH DAWSON
Are you high, Singh? Is that why
your form has dropped?
(on Tanya)
And what are you doing on school
grounds, little non-sports person
who I've never seen but whose name
I'll be only too happy to learn?

TANYA
I doubt you're supposed to be here
either.

COACH DAWSON
I'm a teacher. I work here.

TANYA
(defiant, skeptical)
Is a coach really a teacher?

Ram is shocked at Tanya's bravado. Coach Dawson gets an unpleasant smile. He leans down to Tanya's level.

COACH DAWSON
If I never see you again, little
madam, my life will improve a good
thirty, thirty-five percent.
(to Ram)
And you. What a disappointment.
(lets that sink in)
Get out of here, both of you.
Wouldn't want anything "weird" to
find you.

He waits for them to leave. They do, looking back. We follow them out for a moment.

RAM
Don't tell the others.

TANYA
Ram-

RAM
Maybe I am cracking up.

Pushes ahead.

We return to the Coach. When they're gone, his face changes, threatened. The TATTOO swims out from under his sleeve, the dragon face and fang still glistening. His fist tics.

COACH DAWSON
This is getting out of control. We
agreed-

The TATTOO roars, an ugly sound from the surface of his skin.

COACH DAWSON (CONT'D)
Fix it. *

CUT TO:

35 INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - QUILL'S CLASSROOM - DAY 6; 09:30 35 *

Another quiet class, struggling with the work Quill has set. Tanya watches Ram, who still won't look at her or the others. He seems downtrodden, scarily inward.

The INSPECTOR is back, calmly malevolent. Quill sits at her desk, increasingly agitated. She stands, suddenly, and THROWS A VERY HEAVY STAPLER AT HIM.

He catches it, almost casually, barely blinking. He holds it motionless for a moment, then calmly sets it down and resumes his writing. Quill rushes to him.

MISS QUILL
Who ARE you? What are you doing
here? What do keep writing? WHY
DON'T YOU TALK?

He looks up, beat, then starts writing again. Miss Quill's eyes open wide, she opens her mouth to shout-

CUT TO:

36 INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - HEADTEACHER'S OFFICE - DAY 6; 14:00³⁶ *

Mr Armitage raises his eyebrows as he reads the Inspector's report. Miss Quill sits across from him, unabashed.

MR ARMITAGE
I don't even understand some of
these swear words.

MISS QUILL
He was purposely provoking me.

Mr Armitage stares at her for a moment.

MR ARMITAGE
You know, I'm not even supposed to
get these reports. But amazingly,
he hasn't requested your immediate
dismissal. He wants to observe you.
Again.

(MORE)

MR ARMITAGE (CONT'D)
(gets a thought)
Maybe he likes you.

MISS QUILL
Oh, please, no one likes me.

MR ARMITAGE
(surprised)
I like you. You're a pain in my
bottom but at least a fresh kind of
pain. For a Headteacher, that's
almost *marriage*.

Smiles warmly, it's not creepy, he's being nice. Miss Quill
double-takes, considers this for a fraction of a second, and,
for the first time since we've seen her, looks vulnerable for
just a flash. But she recovers:

MISS QUILL
No, there's a... whiff around him.
I'm telling you, he's *evil*.

MR ARMITAGE
He's from Ofsted. Of course he's
evil. But do at least try not to
get us put into special measures.
(gets a fearful look)
The Governors wouldn't like that.

CUT TO:

37

EXT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - ENTRANCE - DAY 6; 15:32

37

*

Tanya walks with Charlie and April. Students and teachers end
the day around them, getting into cars, etc.

CHARLIE
But you didn't see anything?

TANYA
No, but he wasn't lying. He didn't
even want me to tell you about it.

April glances at Charlie at this.

APRIL
He's been really upset. Maybe he
thinks he saw something-

TANYA
(surprisingly sharp)
That's what he said, but people
don't do that except in movies. And
even then it's only stupid white
girls.

April looks genuinely horrified she might have upset Tanya.

APRIL
Are you *mad* at me?

TANYA
No, I just... What are we supposed
to do? Aren't we supposed to be
working this stuff out together? I
thought we'd be...

Tanya trails off.

CHARLIE
(to Tanya)
You are lonely.

TANYA
Yeah, because that's how people
talk to each other.

APRIL
We're your friends, Tanya. I played
the violin for you.

CHARLIE
You play violin?

APRIL
Folk music, mainly.

Beat, as Charlie stares at her, then takes out his phone and looks up "folk music."

TANYA
Meanwhile, Ram is really suffering
and Miss Quill is horrible and I'm
having no luck hacking into UNIT-

APRIL
Hacking into what?

TANYA
See? We're almost helpless! At
least I'm trying to do something.

CHARLIE
(looking at phone)
Why do they all dance in a circle?

APRIL
But this is the first you've told
us! And it might not even be real!

Tanya, frustrated, sees Mr Armitage re-entering the school.

TANYA
The Headteacher, he's your friend,
right?

APRIL
(embarrassed)
Mr Armitage? I wouldn't say friend-

TANYA
Let's ask him about missing
cleaners, then. At least find out
how real it is.

CUT TO:

38 INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL – HEADTEACHER'S OFFICE – DAY 6; 15:45⁸ *

Mr Armitage has paused in his packing to leave for the day.
Tanya, April and Charlie wait expectantly.

MR ARMITAGE
As a matter of fact, we did have a
cleaner not show up this morning.
(frowns)
Why?

Tanya opens her mouth to answer, but has nothing. Turns to April and Charlie.

TANYA
I didn't think this through.

APRIL
Is there anything... weird about
her not showing up?

MR ARMITAGE
How did you know it was a her?
What's going on, you three?

The three look shifty.

CUT TO:

39 INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL – CHANGING ROOM – DAY 6; 15:46 39 *

The changing room is full of BOISTEROUS football players, ready to head out onto the pitch. Coach Dawson writes on his clipboard. As the players leave:

COACH DAWSON
Start with ten laps, then I want to
see side-to-sides. All laziness is
punished!

They leave, he's alone in the changing room. He heads to a locker to change his shirt. As he opens the locker door, we see RAM.

RAM
Coach?

COACH DAWSON
My God, if it isn't my own personal
broken record.

CUT TO:

40 **INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - HEADTEACHER'S OFFICE - DAY 6; 15:50** *

Mr Armitage leans back on his desk.

MR ARMITAGE
Have to say, I'd be surprised to
find any of you three up to
mischief. Especially you, April-

APRIL
(unconvincingly)
I can be mischievous.

MR ARMITAGE
So, I'm on your side here. You can
talk to me. I know all teachers say
that, but we mostly actually mean
it.

He crosses, waiting. None of them know what to say until:

APRIL
You probably aren't going to
believe this but-

CHARLIE
April!

APRIL
What? We can't just-

She stops at the sound of the telltale SIZZLE. She looks up, her eyes widening. April's and Charlie's, too.

ANGLE ON - Mr Armitage. A LARGE WAXY, LEAFY DRAGON CREATURE RISING UP BEHIND HIM-

MR ARMITAGE
Can't just what?

CUT TO:

41 **INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - CHANGING ROOM - DAY 6; 15:52** 41 *

Coach Dawson has his shirt off, changing it.

COACH DAWSON
I'm sorry, but you've run out of
chances.

RAM
Have I ever complained?

COACH DAWSON
What?

RAM
Have I ever refused even once to do
one of your stupid punishments?
Have I ever questioned you?

COACH DAWSON
(thoughtful)
...No.

RAM
That's because I want to learn. I want what's best. From me. From everyone out there. I need to be on a team. That's who I am.

Coach Dawson turns. HIS BACK IS BARE, no tattoo to be seen.

COACH DAWSON
What's your point, Singh?

CUT TO:

42 INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - HEADTEACHER'S OFFICE - DAY 6; 15:54⁴² *

Mr Armitage is up, facing the DRAGON, which hisses at him.

MR ARMITAGE
(not turning, to the kids)
Get out! Run!

April grabs for the door, but a WAXY ARM bangs it shut. The DRAGON lowers its head over Mr Armitage very threateningly.

CUT TO:

43 INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - CHANGING ROOM - DAY 6; 15:55 43 *

As before.

RAM
This is the most important thing in the world to me. *This*. Football. I know everyone says that but-

COACH DAWSON
Yeah, everyone *does* say that. *I* used to say that. Even when *I* was a skinny little runt. So *I* worked to make it true.
(serious)
I took control.

RAM
That's what *I* want to do. And *I* know *I've* been off. And maybe it's because of Rachel-

COACH DAWSON
Singh-

RAM
But maybe you could give me some tutoring? I could... get my form back. Get better.

Coach Dawson is intrigued, then reaches for a stack of CONES.

RAM (CONT'D)
I've always respected you. Even
when you've been a total dick.

Coach Dawson hardens.

CUT TO:

44 INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - HEADTEACHER'S OFFICE - DAY 6; 15:56⁴⁴ *

Mr Armitage shields the three kids. The Dragon approaches,
claws out. Then it SPEAKS, in a terrifying rumble.

DRAGON
...*There is hunger...*

TANYA
What?

DRAGON
...*There is anger...*

APRIL
Is there also happiness, maybe?

But the Dragon lurches forward, grabs Mr Armitage and-
OFFSCREEN it skins him alive while our three scream-
The Dragon drops the skin of Mr Armitage to one side and
takes his body in the other. It leans down to the kids-
Slowly, it sniffs them. Then it looks back up and ROARS. The
kids SCREAM. And it-

DISAPPEARS into the open-again TEAR IN SPACE/TIME.

CUT TO:

45 INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - CHANGING ROOM - DAY 6; 15:58 45 *

Coach Dawson, still shirtless, slams the locker door shut and
turns to Ram.

ANGLE ON - Coach Dawson's bare back as the TATTOO reappears,
as if gliding up from his waist (Ram can't see it)-

He slips his shirt on over it as it rises while he's talking-

COACH DAWSON
You know, Ram, maybe this is the
universe's way of saying sport
isn't for you.

The very tip of his TATTOO peeks out from under his sleeve,
moving there as if gliding into place-

Catching Ram's eye. He blinks. What did he just see?

COACH DAWSON (CONT'D)
Now, go home, I've got people who
aren't having breakdowns to coach.

He picks up the cones and leaves, leaving Ram to go.

ANGLE ON – Coach Dawson pausing at the door to go outside.
The TATTOO has swum up by his ear and seems to be WHISPERING
something. Coach Dawson looks angry and leaves.

CUT TO:

46 **INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - QUILL'S CLASSROOM - DAY 6; 16:00 46 ***

Miss Quill stares down from her desk. Tanya, Charlie and April sit before her in shock. Beat. Beat.

TANYA
Well... what do we do?

MISS QUILL
"What do we do?" "What do we do?"
So when Quill is besieged by an
actual threat, it's: "Oh, school
inspections are a normal part of
the process." But when one tiny
alien comes running after you-

CHARLIE
It skinned our Headteacher.

This stops Quill.

APRIL
(nauseated)
Excuse me.

Heads offscreen. We hear her vomiting. Beat. Quill relents.

MISS QUILL
All right. Fine.

CUT TO:

47 **INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - HEADTEACHER'S OFFICE - DAY 6; 16:06 47 ***

They stand at the open doorway to Mr Armitage's office. It's SPOTLESS. Like nothing has happened at all.

APRIL
We're not making it up.

MISS QUILL
Of course not. Young people never
play pranks on authority figures.

Turns to leave. Charlie stops her.

CHARLIE
Hey! The Doctor said you were
supposed to help us. You're my
protector.

MISS QUILL
I am!
(unhappy)
But who's mine?

She leaves.

TANYA
We really are on our own.

CUT TO:

48 **INT. RAM'S HOUSE - RAM'S LIVING ROOM - DAY 6; 17:00** 48 *

Ram sits in front of his laptop. There are unopened MESSAGE REQUESTS from Tanya. There's a DING as another comes through. He ignores it.

His dad comes in from the kitchen. *

VARUN
Your mum made fajitas for dinner.
You should keep your strength up.

RAM
For what? I'm off the team.

This sinks in.

VARUN
Only for now, I'm sure-

RAM
I don't want to talk about it.

Beat. Then Varun, not knowing what to do, shuts the door and leaves him there. *

Another DING from Tanya. Ram still ignores it. MUSIC OVER "A Day Like Today" Tom McRae (chorus: "I wish I could comfort you"):

49 **INT. APRIL'S FLAT - APRIL'S BEDROOM - EVENING 6; 18:00** 49 *

April runs her hands over her violin, lifts it to play, can't. Feels her beating alien heart.

CUT TO:

50 **INT. TANYA'S FLAT - TANYA'S BEDROOM - EVENING 6; 18:01** 50 *

Tanya tries getting Ram again. Her UNIT program is still running, unsuccessfully, up to 92,101 attempts.

CUT TO:

51 **INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - QUILL'S CLASSROOM - EVENING 6; 18:05²** *

Quill sits at her desk, marking papers. She looks up, vulnerable, fearful again, to the empty desk where the Inspector sat. She goes back to her papers.

CUT TO:

52 **INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - CHARLIE'S BEDROOM - EVENING 6; 18:05²** *

Charlie has also got his laptop open on the table. No one has tried to contact him. He's DRAWING THE DRAGON on an art pad in front of him.

CUT TO:

53 **INT. RAM'S HOUSE - RAM'S BEDROOM - EVENING 6; 18:05** 53 *

MUSIC FINISHES: Ram clicks through pictures of him and Rachel. His eyes well, but he shakes the tears away. He sits back, sad as he's ever been. Makes a decision and DINGS Tanya. Her face pops up immediately.

RAM
When did you know the time was right? To start talking?

CUT TO:

54 **INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - CHARLIE'S BEDROOM - EVENING 6; 18:05⁴** *

Charlie finishes his drawing of the dragon, looks at it, troubled. His computer DINGS. He looks up, surprised. It's April. He accepts.

APRIL (ONSCREEN)
I should've told you I played violin.

CUT TO:

55 **INT. RAM'S HOUSE - RAM'S BEDROOM - EVENING 6; 18:08** 55 *

As before. Ram and Tanya on the computer.

TANYA (ONSCREEN)
I talked to my brothers. Which I didn't expect, but...

RAM
But they knew. Because the same
thing had happened to them.

TANYA (ONSCREEN)
Yeah. And it wasn't, like, big
group hugs or anything. We'd play
Xbox and Alex would say, "Remember
how bad dad was at this?" and
Graham and Damon would say, "Yeah,"
and I'd say, "Yeah," and we'd laugh
and we'd keep on playing.
(she shrugs)
It'd be a little better. Not very
much. But a little.

This sinks in for Ram. Long sad beat.

RAM
I miss her.

TANYA
I know.

CUT TO:

56 INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - CHARLIE'S BEDROOM - EVENING 6; 18:10⁶ *

As before. April is playing the same sad lament we heard at
the start. Surprised at himself, Charlie wipes away a tear.

CHARLIE
(as she finishes)
Wow. That was... Wow.

APRIL
(bashful)
You don't think it's... like,
desperate or something?

CHARLIE
I thought it was beautiful.

APRIL
Yeah, well, you're an alien.

CHARLIE
I'm a Prince. We're bred to have
good taste.

APRIL
I don't know, have you seen Prince
Andrew?

CUT TO:

57 INT. RAM'S HOUSE - RAM'S BEDROOM - EVENING 6; 18:12 57 *

As before.

RAM
She was funny. And smart. And...
All I see when I close my eyes is
her dying.

TANYA (ONSCREEN)
I just saw Mr Armitage skinned
alive.

He looks up, surprised.

CUT TO:

58 INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - CHARLIE'S BEDROOM - EVENING 6; 18:13⁵⁸ *

As before.

CHARLIE
What do we do?

APRIL (ONSCREEN)
You're the Prince. What do you
think?

CHARLIE
I may have impeccable taste but
I've been pretty sheltered.

APRIL (ONSCREEN)
You've seen genocide. You've seen
monsters.

Charlie picks up the drawing and shows it to her.

CUT TO:

59 INT. RAM'S HOUSE - RAM'S BEDROOM - EVENING 6; 18:15 59 *

As before.

RAM
You saw it? Why didn't you say?

TANYA (ONSCREEN)
I've been trying to all evening!
You wouldn't answer! *

RAM
Tanya!

TANYA
April and Charlie saw it, too. We
were all there.

Ram doesn't answer.

TANYA (CONT'D)
We've all been through the same
thing. Again.

CUT TO:

60 **INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - CHARLIE'S BEDROOM - EVENING 6; 18:17** *

As before.

APRIL
Maybe we should show it to Miss
Quill-

Stops as there's an audible DING on April's end.

APRIL (CONT'D)
Hold on. That's Tanya.

She clicks on her laptop.

CUT TO:

61 **INT. RAM'S HOUSE - RAM'S BEDROOM - EVENING 6; 18:20** 61 *

As before. On his screen, April pops up next to Tanya.

APRIL
Hey, Ram. How are-

RAM
Enough, April. You saw it?

APRIL
Yeah, it was-

RAM
What did it look like?

CUT TO:

62 **INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - CHARLIE'S BEDROOM - EVENING 6; 18:12** *

There's another DING. Charlie accepts and now ALL FOUR OF
THEM are connected, talking through their laptops. We CYCLE
through their rooms as necessary.

APRIL
Show Ram the picture.

Charlie holds up his drawing.

TANYA
Wow, that's really good.

RAM
That's what killed the cleaner.
Have you seen it before, Charlie?

CHARLIE
I haven't seen every alien. The
universe is unimaginably big.

APRIL
Would it be in that database you're
hacking, Tanya?

Angle On: the UNIT hack attempts on Tanya's computer. It's
passed 100,000.

TANYA
Hacking isn't as easy as people
think.

CHARLIE
But you were smart enough to write
it. That's very clever.

TANYA
(bashful)
I... downloaded it from Reddit.

Ram still studies Charlie's drawing. His eyes go wide.

RAM
Oh, shit.

TANYA/CHARLIE/APRIL
What?

RAM
(to Charlie)
Cover its head with your hand.

Charlie does. It suddenly looks like a CELTIC TATTOO. Ram is
crestfallen but also furious.

RAM (CONT'D)
Of course. Of course, you idiot.
(to the others)
I know where we gotta go.

CUT TO:

63 INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - DUSK 6; 19:00 63 *

The school is empty. Miss Quill walks down a corridor,
muttering to herself.

MISS QUILL
"Oh, please, Quill, help us with a
skin-peeling dragon. We're just
little asses of smart who don't
even know what evil looks like."

Stops as she sees COACH DAWSON crossing a distant corridor,
something tucked under his arm in large plastic bag. Miss
Quill watches him go.

MISS QUILL (CONT'D)
Not *unhandsome buttocks*.

She turns – and is stopped by the INSPECTOR!

CUT TO:

64 EXT. COAL HILL SCHOOL – FRONT – DUSK 6; 19:03 64 *

April and Charlie wait out front, breath visible in the cold.

CHARLIE
Well, you got your wish. Something
came through the tear.

APRIL
It wasn't *my* wish. Why would it be
anybody's wish? Even a Prince.

CHARLIE
A Prince... is just an agreement,
isn't it? We all agree that
someone's a Prince and so he is.
But if no one is left alive who
thinks you're a Prince...

APRIL
It's okay. No one ever thought I
was a Princess. Not even my dad.

CHARLIE
So he wasn't a king?

APRIL
(bitterly)
No, he was *not*. He was a musician.
He's not part of our lives.

CHARLIE
...was he a *folk* musician?

April looks up, surprised, caught.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
So you hate him, but you play his
music.

APRIL
I'm trying to take it back from
him. I'm trying to make it mine.

Ram DRIVES up, parking his car near them. He gets out. *

RAM
Where's Tanya?

APRIL
Not here yet.

CHARLIE
But we are.

RAM
(unimpressed)
Yeah, that's great.

CUT TO:

65 INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - DUSK 6; 19:05

65 *

Miss Quill and the Inspector.

MISS QUILL
Enough. *When you make your aggressive move – and you will – then you'll regret ever thinking you could inspect Miss Quill.*

He doesn't respond. It's a little awkward.

MISS QUILL (CONT'D)
(cracking)
Oh for God's sake, *what?* What do you *want*?

He *still* doesn't say anything, but takes out his pad and writes a word down on it. He turns to show it to her.

It says "You."

Beat, as she takes this in.

MISS QUILL (CONT'D)
(eyebrow raised)
Really?

Suddenly she's on him, kissing him violently, slamming him into the wall with the aggression of it. He's clearly surprised.

CUT TO:

66 EXT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - FRONT - NIGHT 6; 19:10

66 *

As before. Tanya comes running up, out of breath.

RAM
Finally.

TANYA
Can I just stress again how much more I'm risking than any of you? My mum would punish God if he snuck out.

APRIL
We're all here. What do we do?

RAM
We find Coach Dawson.

CHARLIE
Who's Coach Dawson?

RAM
Yeah, we're all on the same team.

CUT TO:

67 **INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - NIGHT 6; 19:12**

67 *

Miss Quill and the Inspector in a passionate embrace. She pulls away suddenly. He looks at her, still surprised.

MISS QUILL
(testing him, pushing him,
but also surprisingly
truthful)
You've no idea how alone I am. I'm
trapped here. I literally *can't*
leave.
(beat)
And I quite liked the Headteacher.
Not that anyone asked.

He's still staring at her, silent.

MISS QUILL (CONT'D)
So maybe you're perfect. Someone
who won't ask me anything at all.

Then she notices an odd taste on her lips from the kiss. She glances at him.

He looks like he's finally about to say something. Then he looks beyond her, his eyes widening. She turns.

The LEAF DRAGON! Standing over them, ready to strike.

MISS QUILL (CONT'D)
Oh. They weren't kidding.

It moves to strike, but they're already running-

CUT TO:

68 **EXT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - LOT OUTSIDE SHOWERS - NIGHT 6; 19:168** *

Our four walk to the changing room. There's a light on inside. *

RAM
It's a tattoo.

TANYA
What is?

RAM
(to Charlie)
Your picture. The Coach has a
tattoo exactly like it. I should've
seen it before but...

The others blink at him.

APRIL
...the thing we saw wasn't a tattoo-

RAM
(angry)
Neither was the thing I saw. But
we're all here now. And it's time
to do something, right?
(looks to the others)
That's what you all want, yeah?
That's what this is supposed to be.
We're supposed to deal with what
comes through.
(to Tanya)
There's no going back to the life
before. So let's go find the Coach.

CHARLIE
Is that him?

They turn. Coach Dawson is there, surprised.

CUT TO:

69 **INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - MAIN CORRIDOR - NIGHT 6; 19:18** 69 *

Miss Quill and the Inspector RUN down a corridor, pursued by
the LEAF DRAGON. Miss Quill runs fast, like her alien self-

Is surprised when the INSPECTOR runs past her-

CUT TO:

70 **EXT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - LOT OUTSIDE SHOWERS - NIGHT 6; 19:20** *

As before. Coach Dawson stares at them, the package under his
arm dripping blood.

APRIL
Oh my God. Is that... Mr Armitage?

She walks offscreen and vomits again. Coach Dawson stares
them out, his fist tic going.

TANYA
(beat, to the others)
Okay. What's the plan?

Looks at the others. Who look back at her.

TANYA (CONT'D)
So we came here without a plan. Why
am I not surprised?

RAM
I've got a plan.

CUT TO:

71 **INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - NIGHT 6; 19:25** 71 *

Miss Quill and the Inspector burst through a door, shutting it behind them, only just stopping the Leaf Dragon. They push a desk in front of it and back away.

The door EXPLODES OPEN, the Dragon easily knocking aside the desk. Quill turns to the Inspector.

MISS QUILL
I'm out of ideas.

The Dragon enters the room, lurching forward, CLAWS out. Miss Quill looks from it to the Inspector. Thinks.

MISS QUILL (CONT'D)
Well, maybe not. Sorry.

She takes a step backward and to the side, comically placing herself right behind the Inspector.

Leaving him in the path of the dragon. His eyes widen in horror as it GRABS HIM.

CUT TO:

72 **EXT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - LOT OUTSIDE SHOWERS - NIGHT 6; 19:27** *

As before. Ram steps forward to confront Coach Dawson.

CHARLIE
So what are we talking about here?
A sentient tattoo? An alien tattoo?

RAM
It comes off his body. It kills
people. Skins them.

Coach Dawson pulls up his sleeve, revealing HIS TATTOO.

COACH DAWSON
(defiant)
You mean this one?

CUT TO:

73 INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - NIGHT 6: 19:28 73

As before. Miss Quill watches as the Dragon picks the INSPECTOR up. He opens his mouth to scream but before he can-

IT SKINS HIM ALIVE—

ANGLE ON: Quill's face in surprise as there's a flash of light. She looks down to see the Inspector's SKIN thrown past her and COGS, GEARS AND CIRCUITRY roll by her feet.

MISS QUILL
He was a robot?

The LEAF DRAGON, angry, growls at her.

MISS QUILL (CONT'D)
Oh, damn.

CUT TO:

74 EXT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - LOT OUTSIDE SHOWERS - NIGHT 6: 19:30⁴

As before. Ram, growing angrier, confronts the Coach.

RAM
I don't know what exactly's going on, adults never tell us *any* important shit, but I know you're right in the middle of it.

COACH DAWSON
Ask yourself what you want more,
Singh: Do you want to be wrong...
Or do you want to be *right*?

TANYA
Still waiting to hear that plan.

RAM
I used to look up to you. I did.
You pushed me. You made me better.
And you were the right kind of
scary. A block in the road you
forced me to climb over. But now, I
stand here in front of you-

COACH DAWSON
(sneering)

RAM
No, I am afraid. That's what I just
realised. I am afraid.
(hardens)
But I'm gonna kick your ass anyway.

Suddenly, Miss Quill dives through the middle glass pane of the door from the school. She runs for Charlie.

MISS QUILL
(to Charlie)
I have to get it to attack you!

CHARLIE
What!?

MISS QUILL
It's the only way I can fight it!

The LEAF DRAGON bursts through the entire door-frame,
shattering it – and stares at them all. Sees Coach Dawson.
Who smiles up at it, defiantly.

TANYA
I don't think it's the one on his
body, Ram.

COACH DAWSON
No. Not the one on my body. *That-*
(nods at the Leaf Dragon)
Is her mate.

The TATTOO on his body has turned down his arm and is CALLING
FOR HER MATE with a plaintive roar.

Quill reaches the kids, turns to look at the Dragon.

MISS QUILL
The Inspector was a robot.

No one listens to her.

MISS QUILL (CONT'D)
Sure. Why not? It's only Quill. Who
cares if she kissed a robot?

CHARLIE
You kissed him?

MISS QUILL
Oh, now you listen.

ANGLE ON: RAM and COACH DAWSON, both watching the Dragon.

COACH DAWSON
(to the Dragon)
You can't have her. You can *never*
have her. She's mine.

RAM
What did you do?

COACH DAWSON
(turning to Ram)
I was nothing. Weak. The players
wouldn't even take me seriously.

CUT TO:

75 **INT. FLASHBACK - COAL HILL SCHOOL - MAIN CORRIDOR - DAY Y 75 ***

Coach Dawson reads his clipboard as he walks, alone. He's *much* thinner than before, a pipsqueak (body double from behind). The TEAR IN SPACE/TIME opens behind him. He cries in pain and falls.

COACH DAWSON (V.O.)
I felt her one day. Burnt into my
flesh. Some kind of accident in how
she travelled here...

The female LEAF DRAGON comes through the tear right as he passes, the flash burning him and BINDING HER TO HIS SKIN.

He sits up, stunned, sees the tattoo swimming around his skin, looking for a way out.

COACH DAWSON (V.O.)
She was trapped on me, I don't know
how, but suddenly... I had dragon
blood running through my veins.

His eyes flash with the same green colour as hers. He flexes his arms; the muscles are STRONGER, BIGGER.

COACH DAWSON (V.O.)
All doubts were gone. I was bigger,
stronger.

He looks up, sees the MALE LEAF DRAGON emerging-

COACH DAWSON (V.O.)
And when her mate came looking-

But it hesitates to attack him.

COACH DAWSON (V.O.)
I knew he'd never do anything to
risk her harm.

CUT TO:

76 **INT. FLASHBACK - COAL HILL SCHOOL - CHANGING ROOM - DAY Y 76 ***

Coach Dawson stands over a SKINNED CORPSE as the male LEAF DRAGON watches.

COACH DAWSON (V.O.)
But there was a price. She had to
feed. He had to feed her.

Coach Dawson PUNCHES his fist into the chest cavity of the corpse. The DRAGON TATTOO swims down his arms, licking the blood that's on the surface of his skin.

CUT TO:

77 EXT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - LOT OUTSIDE SHOWERS - NIGHT 6; 19:35 *

As before.

COACH DAWSON
But I have it under control. She
only eats what she needs-

RAM
You're killing people!

COACH DAWSON
(gritted teeth)
I have it under control.
(beat, some regret)
Though I'm sorry that you all have
seen so much.

He puts his fingernails on the tattoo and turns to the Dragon.

COACH DAWSON (CONT'D)
Kill them.

There's general alarm, then Miss Quill rolls her eyes and steps in front of them.

MISS QUILL
Yes, yes, I know, Miss Quill fights
to the death so you all can live.

She puts herself in a defensive stance, though it looks hopeless. There's nowhere to run. The dragon rears up-

RAM (O.S.)
You're just going to take that?

Everyone stops, looks at Ram, who's looking up at the dragon.

TANYA
(sotto voce)
Okay, now would be a great time for
that plan, Ram.

RAM
(to the dragon)
You're going to let him do that to
you?

COACH DAWSON
He doesn't have a choice. He needs
my skin intact or she dies.

We see "intact" hit on Ram's face.

COACH DAWSON (CONT'D)
(he turns to the dragon)
And if you don't kill these kids
right now-

He lifts his arm and scratches across the tattoo with his fingernails, drawing blood. The tattoo dragon SCREAMS. The huge Leaf Dragon ROARS in anger-

Furious, it heads towards the kids, hiding behind Miss Quill-
Except for Ram.

RAM
You're going to do this forever?
You're going to grieve forever?

The Dragon roars furiously. Ram steps in front of it.

TANYA
Ram! No!

RAM
(to the Dragon)
Kill me. Do it. I want to die.

TANYA
THAT'S A VERY BAD PLAN!

Ram opens his arms, looks up into the Dragon's face.

RAM
I'll bet you want to die, too. But at least I've been *trying*. At least I've been fighting. I've even been fighting *this asshole*, just like you! What have you done? Let him set the rules for you?

The dragon regards him, then:

DRAGON
...she is trapped...

Ram blinks, turns to Tanya.

RAM
You didn't say it could talk.

TANYA
Yeah. Sorry.

RAM
(to the Dragon)
So she's trapped. Maybe you're never getting her off his body. But I'm never getting Rachel back either. Or my leg...
(emotional)
And I'm serious. I don't care. Skin me. I don't want to keep seeing the things I've seen. I don't want the future to keep feeling impossible.
(hardens)
But at least I tried.

DRAGON
...she is trapped...

RAM
Yeah, you said that. So what?
That's the new reality. What are
you going to do about it?

The Dragon looks at Coach Dawson.

COACH DAWSON
I'll harm her. You know I will.

RAM
He won't kill her, though.
Otherwise, you'll kill him.

COACH DAWSON
It's a standoff.

RAM
But why does it have to be a
standoff on *your* terms?

The Dragon looks at Ram, curious.

DRAGON
...terms...

RAM
God, you *stupid thing!* Don't you
know what we do with skin in this
world? Haven't you ever heard of
LEATHER?

Everyone stops as they decipher this.

RAM (CONT'D)
These shoes! This belt! You know
what they're made of? Skin!

DRAGON
(likes the sound of this)
...Leather...

COACH DAWSON
(panicking now)
No. No, no-

RAM
Make a chair out of him or
something.

TANYA
Or a handbag.

APRIL
Hey, that's not funny.

MISS QUILL
It's a little funny.

RAM

(to the Dragon)

You'll never have her back the way
you want. But at least you'll have
her. And maybe... maybe you can
find a way to make the new reality
work.

(shrugs)

I'm done. Kill me. Or don't. Just
decide.

The Dragon looks back and forth to Ram and Coach Dawson.
Settles on Coach Dawson. Who immediately starts backing away.

COACH DAWSON

No. No, wait, I swear I'll-

Raises his hand to scratch his tattoo again-

But his arm is GRABBED by a leafy claw of the Dragon, who
grabs his other arm, holding him up by them, lifting him from
the ground.

The TATTOO DRAGON slides up his skin and comes into contact
with the Leafy Dragon's touch. There is a PURRING of love.

COACH DAWSON (CONT'D)

Wait! We can talk about this! I-

The Dragon slaps a leaf around his mouth, shutting him up. It
looks back to Ram. Then the TEAR IN SPACE/TIME opens up
behind it and it takes a screaming Coach Dawson into it.

It's gone.

Beat, as they all take this in.

77A

INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - NIGHT 6; 19:37

77A

*

Our four walk along the corridor back towards the main
school, Miss Quill slightly apart from them.

*

*

CHARLIE

We did it. We stopped the dragon.

RAM

(angrily)

"We?"

APRIL

But... is this what we do now? We
kill people?

TANYA

He killed a lot of other people.

APRIL

And that makes it okay?

MISS QUILL
I'm okay with it.

APRIL
That's not really proof.

RAM
And we still have no idea what that
was?

No one answers.

RAM (CONT'D)
So we're just as blind and stupid
as we were before.

TANYA
We still did it, though. We stopped
it.

RAM
(thoughtful)
I just... I thought it would feel
better.

He walks off, away from them. Tanya goes after him.

TANYA
Ram, wait!

April and Charlie watch them go.

APRIL
We killed somebody.

CHARLIE
We killed a bad guy.

APRIL
(hugs herself)
I don't think I want to kill
anyone, Charlie. Even bad guys.
Can't we just send them back
through the bunhole of time?

CHARLIE
Please say we're not calling it
that...

He puts an arm around her and they leave. Miss Quill watches
them go in disbelief.

MISS QUILL
Is no one going to ask about the
robot?

CUT TO:

78 EXT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - FRONT - NIGHT 6; 19:38 78 *

Tanya catches up with Ram.

TANYA
Wait! Jesus, Ram.

He stops but doesn't look at her.

TANYA (CONT'D)
You meant what you said. You didn't
care if it killed you.

RAM
But it didn't. It left me with the
rest of my stupid life, didn't it?

TANYA
Yeah. Yeah, it did.

They regard each other. She doesn't say anything. Long beat.

RAM
You're still not going to make me
talk, are you?

She just shakes her head.

RAM (CONT'D)
(beat)
Lift back to your house?

She nods.

CUT TO:

79 INT. APRIL'S FLAT - APRIL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 6; 20:30 79 *

April is back in her bedroom, playing the same lament on her violin. She stops, thoughtful.

Her phone buzzes. She looks at it.

It reads "DAD".

She stares for a second, then declines the call and returns to her violin.

CUT TO:

80 INT. TANYA'S FLAT - TANYA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 6; 20:38 80 *

Tanya flips on her light and wakes her laptop. The UNIT hack program is still running, past 150,000 attempts now.

Hesitating a moment, she reaches forward and turns it off.

TANYA
We're on our own.

CUT TO:

81 **INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - NIGHT 6; 20:39** 81 *

Miss Quill sits at the table, looking at some robot debris from the Inspector's death. Sees something written on a cog.

MISS QUILL
"The Governors".
(looks up)
Oh, my. That's new.

CUT TO:

82 **EXT. RAM'S HOUSE - BACK GARDEN - NIGHT 6; 20:40** 82 *

Ram has lined up ten footballs with a bottle on a stump as a target. He kicks one ball. It goes wide. He kicks another. Wide of the target again. He kicks a third-

It just nicks the BOTTLE. Varun steps out to watch him.

VARUN
Is it a physical thing, son?
Because we can check with a doctor.

Ram kicks another. It goes *wildly* wide. He stops, his back still to his dad. He looks down at his leg.

Decision.

RAM
Dad? Can I talk to you about something?

CUT TO:

83 **INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - CHARLIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 6; 20:45** 83 *

Charlie in front of his laptop. No one's chatting. He waits. He looks down at a drawing he's doing: RAM standing before the Dragon, with April, Tanya and himself off to one side.

He clicks April on the messaging. She answers. They just look at one another for a moment.

CUT TO:

84 **INT. TANYA'S FLAT - TANYA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 6; 20:47** 84 *

Tanya is trying to raise Ram, but no answer. April calls. Tanya answers. Charlie pops up, too.

APRIL (ONSCREEN)
Can we talk to you?

TANYA
About what?

CHARLIE (ONSCREEN)
About what happened today.

APRIL (ONSCREEN)
About what to do next. How to make
a proper plan, a better plan, so
that no one has to die.

CHARLIE (ONSCREEN)
About how to be a proper team.

Tanya considers, then nods.

CUT TO:

85

EXT. RAM'S HOUSE - BACK GARDEN - NIGHT 6; 20:50

85 *

Ram stands with his alien leg up on a patio seat. He's
clearly just finished telling a shocked Varun everything.

RAM
You don't have to believe it. You
don't have to believe *any* of it.
But it's what's been happening.

Varun looks up to him.

VARUN
A rip in space and time? Dragons?

RAM
It's what I've seen.

Ram starts to cry again, the tears coming slow but strong.

VARUN
(kindly)
Hey. Hey, son.

He hugs Ram. He looks down at Ram's leg, the circuits and
lights firing. Ram continues to cry. Varun, a little stuck at
what to do looks down at the remaining line of footballs.

VARUN (CONT'D)
Hey, let's, uh... Son, son.

Ram, teary, looks at him.

VARUN (CONT'D)
(re the footballs)
Remember when I used to do that for
you?
(smiles)
(MORE)

VARUN (CONT'D)
You were so small, you sometimes
fell over them.

Ram gives a teary laugh.

VARUN (CONT'D)
(serious)
But you got better.

Ram looks at him.

CUT TO:

86 **EXT. RAM'S HOUSE - BACK GARDEN - NIGHT 6; 20:55** 86 *

All the footballs are lined up again. Varun watches as Ram kicks one. Then another.

His face is serious, Varun supportive, as Ram kicks another. And another.

Faster and faster. Into camera. Until with a final kick, the football comes straight to us and we cut to black.

VARUN (O.S.)
Yes!

END CREDITS.