

1/1

EXT. BEACH - THAILAND. NIGHT 1.

1/1

Young hippie-ish travellers assembled around a bonfire, with wine and spliff. Somebody is playing the bongos. A few people are wearing traditional Thai masks.

Rachel, a bespectacled, uptight looking eighteen year old from the Midlands, is by the sea with a very drunk Geordie English girl, Kerry.

Kerry has just vomited into the sea. Rachel is holding her hair back.

RACHEL

OK, try and time it with the tide.
That way it flows away from us.

KERRY

Where's Leanne?

RACHEL

Doing bad things to the tour guide.

KERRY

Ah-way! He was meant to be getting
me another drink! (BEAT) Thanks
Rach, you go back. I don't think
I'm going to be sick again.

Rachel makes her way back up towards the party. Behind her, Kerry immediately vomits into the ocean again.

Rachel is almost back at the bonfire, everyone is screaming and whooping. They all seem a lot drunker than Rachel.

CUCKOO (O.S.)

Your buddy OK back there?

Rachel turns behind her. A figure, wearing a traditional Thai mask, is standing, holding a burning fire-brand.

RACHEL

She's fine. She'll call when the
Indian Ocean's full. (OFF MASK) Is
that a khon mask? I read about
those!

The figure removes his mask and hands it to her.

For the first time, we see Cuckoo - a thirty year old traveller. He's intense, almost inspiring, but ultimately absurd.

CUCKOO

It's the Sky Spirit, Than. On this night, millions of years ago, according to the Thai people, he mated with the wolf goddess Mazu, and the fruits of their love were the ocean, the sand and the stars.

RACHEL

Sounds like a good session.

Cuckoo laughs. Rachel smiles.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Rachel.

CUCKOO

Hi. Rachel. They call me Cuckoo.

CUT TO:

1/1A

INT. THOMPSON HOUSEHOLD - RACHEL'S BEDROOM. DAY 2

1/1A

TITLES. Music: "Baby's Coming Back to Me" by Jarvis Cocker.

KEN - a large forty-something - looks round the door. He smiles.

Over the titles, Ken dusts down Rachel's old desktop (there are pretty stickers on the keys). He dusts her collection of Pokemon cards. And her bound copies of the New Statesman.

Finally, he stands by the wall, and puts up his piece de resistance: a photo/newspaper montage of Rachel's life thus far. As he hangs it on the wall, his little girl beams out at him on every photo, surrounded by her friends and her Mum and Dad.

Headlines from local press and school magazines read: 'STRAIGHT As', 'I'LL SECOND THAT MOTION - Local girl debate runner-up', 'BLOWING HER TRUMPET- Congrats to Rachel Thompson on her Grade 7'. Right in the middle is a letter from Bristol University: 'we are happy to accept...'

Ken grins.

CUT TO:

1/1B

EXT. MOTORWAY. DAY 2

1/1B

Complete contrast to Thailand. A grey, rainy day. An English motorway.

A Prius drives past - it has a Lib Dem sticker on the back window.

CUT TO:

1/2

INT. KEN'S CAR - MOTORWAY. DAY 2.

1/2

Ken and Lorna are a Midlands couple in their forties. They pass a sign saying "Heathrow Airport".

Lorna is singing along to Salt 'n' Pepa's 'Push It' on the radio. Ken is on the phone.

LORNA

(singing along)
Push it! Push it!
(sings with the
instrumental)
Rachel's coming home. Push
it! Push it! Rachel's coming
home.

KEN

(on phone)
OK, Dave but as your
solicitor I would advise you
let me have a look at it
first. OK, bye.

Ken hangs up, looks at Lorna exasperated.

KEN (CONT'D)

Lorna - I was on the phone!

But the rap section is about to start...

LORNA

(singing to Ken)
Salt and Pepa's here, and we're in
effect/ Want you to push it, babe
Coolin' by day then at night
working up a sweat...

Ken joins in...

KEN & LORNA

(singing along)
C'mon girls, let's go show the guys
that we know/ How to become number
one in a hot party show/ Now push
it. Push it real good!

CUT TO:

1/3

INT. HEATHROW AIRPORT ARRIVALS GATE. DAY 2.

1/3

Smash cut to Ken and Lorna quietly waiting for Rachel's plane.

LORNA

I hope she hasn't taken any drugs.

KEN

Bit rich - you used to shovel them back.

LORNA

Shovel?! (BEAT) Actually that's pretty fair. (BEAT) Oh, where is she? There was a story in the paper. A girl tricked into taking a package through customs...

KEN

Lorna, come on...

LORNA

I'm just saying. I hope that's not happened. Rachel dragged off a plane, screamed at by guards - beheaded.

(suddenly waving
enthusiastically)

That's her! Rachel, Rachel yoo-hoo!

KEN

It *is* her! Rachel!

Rachel is coming through the arrivals gate with her rucksack. She looks transformed - braids in her hair, tanned and glowing with health. She runs up and hugs her parents warmly.

LORNA

Oh my god! Rachel-roo you look amazing!

RACHEL

Guys! Did you miss me?!

KEN

Yes! Do I get another shot?!

RACHEL

'Dad-joke!'

They all laugh and groan.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Well...here he is.

Rachel gestures to her side. Ken and Lorna look.

KEN

Sorry?

Cuckoo has walked up alongside Rachel. Cuckoo shakes Ken's hand, warmly, grinning.

CUCKOO

An honour, Ken. Just a great honour.

KEN

(confused)

Hi!

RACHEL

(equally confused)

Dad, this is Cuckoo. (BEAT)
Didn't you get my Facebook message?

KEN

(studying Cuckoo)

Er... No. I don't use it any more.
Nice to meet you though - what was the name?

CUCKOO

Cuckoo.

LORNA

And how do you and Rachel know each other?

CUCKOO

(confident)

She's my spouse.

Beat.

KEN

I'm sorry?

RACHEL

Dad! I got married!

Ken is momentarily frozen in horror. He looks at Lorna. She is also frozen in horror.

Cuckoo walks up to Ken, and looks straight into his eyes.

CUCKOO

Thank you. She's beautiful.

Cuckoo hugs Ken.

CUT TO:

1/4

EXT. AIRPORT. CAR PARK. DAY 2.

1/4

Rachel, Cuckoo, Ken and Lorna are carrying bags to the car.

RACHEL

It was this totally genuine Thai ceremony, all on a beach with this immense sunset. All the locals came and chilled and got their thing on...

CUCKOO

Rach - the forest monk...

RACHEL

Oh yeah! There was this enormous fat forest monk, with like no teeth and a really funny voice. He gave me away.

KEN

(it should have been him)
Great.

RACHEL

Except for the locals, my name is stupidly difficult to pronounce - so he was like:

(funny voice)

Rachel! Rachel! Rachel!

Rachel and Cuckoo laugh.

CUCKOO

(long sigh)

It was the perfect day. I just wish you guys could have made it.

CUT TO:

1/5

SCENE DELETED

1/5

1/6

INT. KEN'S CAR/ MOTORWAY. DAY 2

1/6

Further down the motorway. A sign signals "Birmingham".

KEN

So Cuckoo - how long have you been travelling?

CUCKOO

As long as I can remember. Though, my memory isn't what it used to be! Know what I mean, Ken!

Beat.

LORNA

And what about work? What's your line of work?

CUCKOO

I'm a spiritual ninja.

KEN

Oh. Wow. That's really great. And do you get... paid for that?

CUCKOO

I wouldn't accept payment.

KEN

No. Of course not.

Ken and Lorna look at each other. Who is this guy?

CUT TO:

1/7

EXT. HOUSE. DAY 2.

1/7

Establishing shot of the house. Ken's car pulls into the drive.

CUT TO:

1/8

INT. KITCHEN. DAY 2.

1/8

Lorna closes the door to give her and Ken some privacy. They both take a moment to breath and take stock.

KEN

OK Lorna, we should try and stay calm.

LORNA

How can I stay calm, Ken? What's she going to do? Where's she going to live? What about University? Oh, we should have sent her to private school.

KEN

What?! We couldn't afford it. Anyway, it's against our principles.

LORNA

It gives them confidence, Ken. Savvy! You don't see Boris Johnson coming back from Thailand married to a spiritual ninja.

RACHEL

Hey guys!

Rachel has walked in. Ken and Lorna immediately go back to smiley faces.

LORNA AND KEN

Hey Rach!

RACHEL

So... You like him?

KEN

Like him? We... love him.

LORNA

Yeah. I mean we don't know him yet, but I'm sure... in time...

KEN

One thing we would like to know - what are your plans? Where are you thinking of living?

Dylan (16), Rachel's brother, has entered. He glances at Rachel, grunts, goes to open a carton of juice.

KEN (CONT'D)

Dylan, your sister's back from Thailand.

DYLAN

(reluctant)

All right, Rach. See the Amazon?

RACHEL

No, Dylan, I didn't see the Amazon bec...

DYLAN

Missed a trick there then didn't you...

RACHEL

(showing her ring)

I did get married.

DYLAN

(withering)

So?

Rachel looks taken aback.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

What? I'm supposed to congratulate you? Anyone can get married. I could get married. Congratulate me!

RACHEL

But you didn't get married.

DYLAN

But I could. So fuck off.

And Dylan walks out.

KEN

(to RACHEL)

So...plans?

RACHEL

Oh yeah - Cuckoo and I were thinking we *could* - Dad, I'm not making any promises - stay here with you. I could switch uni. Somewhere local.

Behind Rachel, Lorna covers her face. Ken remains stoic.

KEN

Excellent.

RACHEL

Then, in three years, when I'm qualified - we're going to build a leper colony in a violent war-torn failed state where Westerners won't go because it's too dangerous.

KEN

OK.

RACHEL

Cool. That's sorted then.

She smiles and skips out.

Ken goes over to Lorna, gives her a massage.

KEN

(fighting back the pain)

It's going to be fine, Lorn. (BEAT) Bit sudden, bit of a shock - but we'll get used to it, in fact, I'm starting to feel much more relaxed about it already. (BEAT) Yeah, it's fine. No biggie.

CUT TO:

1/9

EXT. HOUSE. NIGHT 2.

1/9

Establishing shot of the house in the evening.

CUT TO:

1/10

SCENE DELETED

1/10

1/11

INT. DINING ROOM. NIGHT 2.

1/11

Ken, Lorna, Dylan, Rachel and Cuckoo are eating.

CUCKOO

You know the fishermen of Phuket have a saying: 'When a woman passes forty, her food is her love-making'. Very tasty, Lorna.

LORNA

Thanks, Cuckoo!

CUCKOO

What is this?

LORNA

Oh, it's Lamb Noisettes.

CUCKOO

(indicating)
No. This!

LORNA

It's a jacket potato.

CUCKOO

(like it's a foreign word)
"Jacket potato". Sensational! Wow!

They eat while they search for conversation.

DYLAN

So. What's with the stupid name?

CUCKOO

Sorry?

DYLAN

Why have you got such a stupid name?

KEN

Dylan! (TO CUCKOO) Dylan wants to know if Cuckoo is your real name?

CUCKOO

Absolutely! (BEAT) Oh I get it, you mean my birth-name. My birth-name is Dale Ashbrick.

DYLAN

Dale Ashbrick?

CUCKOO

That's right. You see, some years back...

RACHEL

Not this bit.

CUCKOO

...I was boating the Moctezuma river with a couple of Huichol Indian dudes, and...

RACHEL

Cuckoo! Not this bit.

CUCKOO

Come on, your mum and dad are people of the world.

Cuckoo looks back to Ken and Lorna and grins broadly.

CUCKOO (CONT'D)

And I'd just taken a triple dose of the hallucinogen peyote - you with me, Ken?

KEN

(disbelieving)

Yes.

CUCKOO

Right! So I'm in the river, I'm buzzing like a handsaw - and that's when I realise - I am not a person. I'm all people.

LORNA

I'm not sure I understand.

CUCKOO

I am *all* people. I am Dale Ashbrick. But I am also you, Lorna.

He points at Lorna, his hand quite close to her face.

CUCKOO (CONT'D)

(pointing accordingly)

And I am you, Dylan.

And I am you, Rachel, my wife.

(pointing at Ken's face)

And I am you, Ken.

KEN

Well, obviously not literally...

CUCKOO

(passionate)

I'm not sitting here bullshitting you, Ken. I am you. And I am *in* you. I am right deep inside you.

A moment. Ken is agog. Rachel looks concerned.

CUCKOO (CONT'D)

Anyway, that day I realised -
since I was all people, it didn't
matter what my real name was.

DYLAN

If it didn't matter, why did you
bother changing your name?

CUCKOO

What? (BEAT) Well, I guess I was
high.

CUT TO:

1/12

INT. SITTING ROOM. NIGHT 2.

1/12

A little later. The family stand around. Lorna is filling
up the wine glasses for a toast.

KEN

Rachel, Cuckoo, I suppose I
should say a few words...

RACHEL

Ooh! Actually Dad, Cuckoo was
going to make a toast...

CUCKOO

Do you mind, Dad?

KEN

No, please.

Everyone stands up and holds their glasses for a toast.
Dylan immediately downs his glass.

CUCKOO

OK. OK. Mum, Dad - I made this
speech on our wedding day. And I
would like to make it again now,
with clothes on and you, our
family, present.

He removes a piece of paper from his pocket.

CUCKOO (CONT'D)

What can I say about Rachel? Your
only daughter. Rachel is unique.
She's loving. She's enthusiastic.
She's... adventurous: always
seeking new things - new ways of
doing things. This girl's the kind
of girl who says yes to everything.

Ken is getting more and more uptight during the speech, repressing his rage. He is holding his glass tighter and tighter.

CUCKOO (CONT'D)

She can be fiery - oh God -
sometimes you just can not hold her
down. But she's generous - so
generous: she just gives and gives
and gives. She's frisky, never
stand-offish, brave, always
welcoming, and finally - grateful.

Ken's glass smashes in his hand.

CUCKOO (CONT'D)

To Rachel!

ALL

To Rachel!

CUT TO:

1/13

INT. KEN AND LORNA'S BEDROOM. NIGHT 2.

1/13

Ken is sitting on the bed, looking bleak. Lorna skips into the room, cheerful.

LORNA

Well, thank God! I should never
have doubted Rachel.

KEN

What?

LORNA

Yes, he's a little unconventional -
but he is winning, and inspiring,
and profound. That speech! Oh! I
felt sixteen again.

KEN

You actually like him?

LORNA

He reminds me of... who's that
author I like?

KEN

(long-suffering)
Jane Austen.

LORNA

Yes! And do you remember that
book, the one I really...

KEN

"Pride and Prejudice".

LORNA

Yes! And there was one particular character I confess I had a bit of a crush on...

KEN

Mr. Darcy.

LORNA

That's the one! Cuckoo reminds me of Mr. Darcy!

KEN

Really? I have to say, I didn't see it that way. I found him a bit... vapid.

LORNA

(disbelieving)

What?! Were we at the same dinner?! You funny, funny man!
(BEAT) Come on grouchy, you never like anyone at first.

Ken grits his teeth.

KEN

You're right. I'm judging too quickly. I'll take him out in the morning. We'll have some fun.

And he switches the light off. Beat.

In the darkness, from Rachel's bedroom - through the wall - they can hear:

CUCKOO (O.S.)

Yep. Yep. Yep. Yep.

The unmistakable creaking of the bed.

CUCKOO (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Yep. Yep. Yep. Yep.

KEN

Lorna?

LORNA

Yes.

KEN

Can you hear that?

CUCKOO (O.S.)

Yep. Yep. Yep. Yep.

Ken switches the light on, and sits up. This is not cool.

CUT TO:

1/14

INT. KEN AND LORNA'S BEDROOM. NIGHT 2.

1/14

Later. Lorna is reading. Ken sits, furious. Cuckoo's 'Yeps' continue from next door.

KEN

Am I *allowed* to go and stop them?
Is that allowed?

LORNA

Come on, Ken - she's married.
Remember when you and I were like
this!

Ken smiles.

LORNA (CONT'D)

(cheerfully)
I mean - not exactly like this. It
never lasted anything like as long!

Beat.

KEN

(peevied)
Good night.

He switches the light off. They settle down...

LORNA

We'll move them to Dylan's room
tomorrow. I'll buy him something -
soften the blow. (BEAT) Ken...

KEN

Yes, darling?

LORNA

(whispered)
Do you think he's got a big one?

Beat.

KEN

Please go to sleep.

CUT TO:

1/15

SCENE DELETED

1/15

1/16

INT. KITCHEN. DAY 3. (LATE MORNING).

1/16

Rachel and Lorna are obviously on their way out. Ken is making two cups of tea.

LORNA

We'll be back about four.

Ken nods. Rachel has now gone into the hallway. She gives her Dad a kiss.

RACHEL

You boys have a good time!

LORNA

(conspiratorial)

Good luck!

Lorna exits. Ken looks determined.

1/17

INT. RACHEL AND CUCKOO'S BEDROOM. DAY 3.

1/17

Ken enters, with the tea. Cuckoo is naked, asleep in the bed, his dignity barely preserved by the duvet.

KEN

Cuckoo! I thought we could take the car, drive up and look at Cannock Chase. Get to know each other.
(BEAT) I brought you a cup of tea.
(BEAT) Wakey, wakey!

No response. Ken creeps forward. He sees a pair of Rachel's knickers somehow actually stuck to a wall.

He refocuses. He leans over to touch Cuckoo...

KEN (CONT'D)

Wake up, Cuckoo...

He touches Cuckoo. Cuckoo sits up and stares at Ken.

CUCKOO

Get out! Kuma Dadaio! Kuma
Kakaio! Kuma Mamako! Get. Out.
Get! Out!. Kuma Mamako! Kuma
Kakaio!

He slaps Ken round the face. Ken looks astonished.

CUT TO:

1/18

EXT. HILL. DAY 3.

1/18

Later. Ken and Cuckoo are sat on the bonnet of Ken's car, looking over a beautiful view of the Pennines.

CUCKOO

Ken - I am so embarrassed by what happened. I'm always like that when I'm woken. You know - grouchy.

KEN

Water under the bridge.

CUCKOO

I'm not an early morning sort of person. I think - because I have so many profound thoughts, the brain needs time to rebuild.

Ken nods. He looks out over the view and sighs. He is very emotionally connected to this place.

KEN

My late father used to take me up here in the late eighties. He was very old Left. Black Country through and through. Me, I was one of those New Romantics. Surprised you, huh? Yeah, I had the long hair and the eye-liner...

CUCKOO

Can I stop you there, Ken?

KEN

What?

CUCKOO

You're not holding my attention.

KEN

OK. Right. I just mean - it's a beautiful view isn't it? I've done a lot of thinking here.

CUCKOO

Yeah. I suppose it's a question of perspective. Because when you've spent two months yak trekking in the Himalayas, things like this just look a bit shit.

An uncomfortable silence.

CUT TO:

Lorna, Dylan and Rachel are sat at an indoor cafe inside a shopping mall. Rachel and Lorna are having a cup of tea. Dylan is looking at his new games console.

DYLAN

It's totally beautiful. I keep
pinching myself - you know?
Thanks, Mum!

LORNA

You already thanked me, Dylly.

DYLAN

(getting a bit tearful)
I know, but... it's just - I'm
always locked up inside my head,
you know, thinking about existence
and shit. I know I'm being bad but
I can't stop my brain and even with
all that, you still love me and
look after me. Mum, you're amazing!

And he hugs his Mum - he's almost crying with emotion. This
is a very confused teen.

LORNA

Oh, Silly-Dylly-woo-woo! (BEAT) I
need you and Rachel to swap
rooms.

Dylan sits up straight, looks utterly betrayed.

DYLAN

You are fucking shitting me.

RACHEL

It's only a room, Dylan.

DYLAN

It's my room! I've worked on it!
It's got ambience!

RACHEL

Is 'ambience' the new word for
'smells of wank'?

DYLAN

I don't wank! I don't!!
(to Lorna)
Mum, I have never wanked!

LORNA

Of course you haven't, darling.
(BEAT) Do it for me. Do it for
mum.

Dylan looks lost and surrounded.

CUT TO:

1/20

INT. PUB. DAY 3.

1/20

A cute Lichfield Pub. Cuckoo and Ken are having a pint.

KEN

So, I was wondering... you know, father-in-law to son-in-law... what are your plans? As far as money goes...

CUCKOO

Well, Rach and I have got a very simple philosophy on this. You don't need money, when you've got love.

KEN

Good. But, you do need some money - or, you can't eat.

CUCKOO

I ate today. I didn't have any money today.

KEN

Yes, because Lorna made food for you to eat.

CUCKOO

May good people like Lorna give me food to eat every day of my life - Inshallah.

Beat.

KEN

Rachel mentioned you're writing a book.

CUCKOO

About my political philosophy. It's going to be the most important book of the 21st century. Could turn into something - if I hole up at yours for a few years, make sure I sleep properly - keep my brain strong.

KEN

Right, but you can't expect us to put you up indefinitely.

CUCKOO

Ken, I'm a great believer in society.

KEN

So am I.

CUCKOO

Awesome. So in the most basic human societies, you would have hunters. People like you. Guys who were good at the basic stuff, you know. 'There food. There money. Go get. Ugh.' But then there would be the thinkers too. Now they weren't good at hunting - like I'm not good at jobs. But they would eat the food provided by the hunters and in return think up something really cool for the future and shit. That's me. (POINTS TO HIMSELF) Thinker. (POINTS TO KEN) Hunter. (RE-POINTS TO KEN) Hunter. (POINTS TO HIMSELF) Thinker.

He drinks a swig of his pint, not noticing he's left foam all over his nose. He grins at Ken. Ken is not amused.

KEN

OK, I'm going to have to pick you up on a few things...

CUT TO:

1/21 **INT. HALLWAY. DAY 3.**

1/21

Ken and Cuckoo enter, there is a terrible tension between them. Lorna and Rachel come out of the sitting room.

LORNA

Hellooo!

RACHEL

Did you have a nice time?

Ken immediately heads to their room. Lorna can tell something is wrong. She follows Ken. Rachel, baffled, looks at Cuckoo - what happened?!

CUT TO:

1/22 **INT. KEN AND LORNA'S BEDROOM. DAY 3.**

1/22

Ken is lying down on the bed, which has lots of pillows and cushions on it.

LORNA

What's wrong, Ken?

KEN

Nothing is wrong! I'm fine. I
just want to spend some time on
my bed relaxing!

Ken's still not comfy. He seizes the pillow behind him and
throws it across the room. Then another. Then another.
Beat.

LORNA

No, I can tell something's wrong.

KEN

He refuses to work, Lorna!

LORNA

Who? Cuckoo?

KEN

Of course, Cuckoo - who else
would I mean?

LORNA

Mr. Dunn from work.

KEN

Mr. Dunn. What?

LORNA

You're always complaining about
him! (SHE LAUGHS) 'Dunn Nothing',
that's what you call him! (SHE
LAUGHS) Anyway, I thought you
were most likely talking about
Cuckoo but Mr. Dunn was a
possible alternative.

A knock on the door.

RACHEL (O.S.)

It's Rachel. I'm coming in.

LORNA

I think your father wants some
privacy.

Rachel bursts in. She looks furious.

RACHEL

Did you tell Cuckoo he had to get
a job?

KEN

No!

LORNA

(to Rachel)

No!

KEN

Well... yes!

LORNA

(to Rachel)

Yes, he did.

KEN

You weren't there, Lorna!

LORNA

(to Rachel)

I wasn't there. Don't blame me.

RACHEL

You've got no right to interfere in my life like that!

KEN

Interfere?!

RACHEL

Yes! Interfere!

KEN

You've brought a man I have never met before into my house: he's never going to leave, he expects me to pay his way! By comparison with that, what I did is not interfering, it is... a gentle grope. Or if what I did *is* interfering, then what you've done is like... a rape. You have raped your mother and me.

Beat.

LORNA

Rachel, ignore your father, you haven't raped me.

RACHEL

Well, you don't have to worry about Cuckoo and me paying our way. Because *I'm* going to get a job.

KEN

You can't. You're going to university.

RACHEL

Not any more I'm not. You need someone to pay the rent. Cuckoo needs to concentrate on his book. So it has to be me.

KEN

Don't be stupid! You don't have to pay rent.

RACHEL

Even better. I can put some money aside - and Cuckoo and me can get a place of our own. Away from you!

She turns on her heel and leaves.

A few seconds later, she brings in the collage Ken made her from her bedroom and dumps it on the bed. Ken looks bereft.

CUT TO:

1/23

INT. RACHEL AND CUCKOO'S ROOM. DAY 3.

1/23

Cuckoo is sat on the bed. Rachel is fuming next to him.

RACHEL

I hate him.

CUCKOO

You don't. You love him. (SIGH)
You know, I thought when I went to Thailand, I'd left it all behind. This obsession with money. Your Dad can't seem to understand that to work - to do even a day's work - would be to betray my deepest ideals.

RACHEL

You don't have to worry about it. I'll work. I'll look after you.

CUCKOO

But you're not a hunter, either, Rachel. Why should you make that sacrifice? Ken is a hunter - he's been hunting for years. (BEAT)
Maybe your Dad's right. After all - in many ways, all I've ever done is travel and party - maybe I'm being arrogant to think I'm the one guy who can change this crazy messed up world.

RACHEL

Baby, I don't want you ever thinking like that. You're a genius.

CUCKOO
(she's talking sense)
I know. I know. You're right.

CUT TO:

1/24

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT 3.(DUSK).

1/24

Ken is sat in the half-light, putting back the photos and newspaper clippings into a scrapbook - a section marked Rachel. He lingers over each one.

Out of curiosity, he turns to the section marked 'Dylan'. One clipping: 'Boy Eats Whole Lego X-Wing - Doctors Impressed'. A picture of Ken with a young Dylan looking incredulous.

Dylan comes to the door.

DYLAN

I tried my new room. I don't like it.

KEN

Give it a bit longer than two hours, eh Dylan?

Lorna comes in. She switches on the overhead-light.

LORNA

Ken! Why are you sitting in the dark?

KEN

Just thinking.

DYLAN

This Cuckoo guy is ruining everything. Why can't you just pay him off? Send him back to Thailand.

LORNA

Dylan, he's Rachel's husband! And we all love him.

DYLAN

You'd be doing him a favour. Why does he want to be here anyway - living with you and married to Rachel who, I don't want to be rude but... *is a massive dog.*
(BEAT) Give him some money, and he'd be out of here. I would be.

Ken looks at Dylan with interest.

LORNA

I'm going to pretend you never said that. Cuckoo's family now - he's part of our lives. This is the man who will father our grandchildren, be there for us in old age, carry your father's coffin. Tell him, Ken... Ken?

Lorna's speech has only made Ken look more desperate, more thoughtful...

KEN

What?... Oh yes, Dylan. That's a ridiculous idea.

CUT TO:

1/25 **SCENE DELETED**

1/25

CUT TO:

1/26 **INT. BANK. DAY 4.**

1/26

Ken is at the counter. The teller is counting out cash, putting it in an envelope. Ken looks around furtively, puts it in his pocket.

CUT TO:

1/27 **SCENE DELETED**

1/27

CUT TO:

1/28 **INT. HALLWAY. DAY 4.**

1/28

Ken enters from the bank.

KEN

Anyone home?

There are strange noises coming from Rachel and Cuckoo's room.

Ken pauses for a moment, takes a deep breath, and knocks.

CUT TO:

1/29 **INT. RACHEL AND CUCKOO'S ROOM. DAY 4.**

1/29

Ken enters. Cuckoo is in deep concentration, listening to whale music.

CUCKOO

Hey Ken. It's whale music. Wait,
wait...

He smiles, satisfied.

CUCKOO (CONT'D)

I love that bit.

He turns the music off.

KEN

OK. (BEAT) I've been thinking about
our conversation yesterday.

CUCKOO

We argued - and in that white heat
of emotion we discovered a lot
about ourselves. *Hakuna Matata*. No
harm done.

KEN

Thank you.

CUCKOO

You're welcome. Hey, you look tense
- do you want a massage?

KEN

No. Cuckoo, I've been thinking.
About what we said yesterday. I
came away with the sense that your
world and my world are two very
different places.

CUCKOO

Pretty different, yeah!

KEN

Yeah! And I respect that.
Totally... man. (BEAT) So - in my
world - very different to yours -
Rachel had very good prospects, she
was going to university which she'd
worked very hard for...she was very
excited about going.

CUCKOO

Ken, I love your daughter.

KEN

And then I thought about you. You
must miss Thailand, eh?

CUCKOO

A little, sure.

KEN

Must be hard. Cooped up in this house. Far from your true roots. (BEAT) And I thought, maybe, if you had some money, you'd be able to find a different way, your own way... And maybe Rachel would be happier too.

CUCKOO

I completely understand.

Ken pushes across the envelope. Cuckoo picks it up, looks at the money. He opens his mouth in surprise - it's a lot of money.

KEN

She's a special girl. She's going to need a guy who can support her in her dreams, her ambitions. You've got to make a sacrifice, Cuckoo. The money's just to help you along.

Cuckoo thinks long and hard, he has tears in his eyes. He takes the money.

CUCKOO

Thank you, Ken. (BEAT) Hari Vishnu.

He shakes Ken's hand, and walks out. Ken breathes a sigh of relief.

CUT TO:

1/30 **EXT. LICHFIELD STREETS. DAY 4.**

1/30

Cuckoo is walking through the streets of Lichfield, deep in thought. This is epochal for him.

He passes a jacket potato van.

KEN (V.O.)

Rachel, there's no easy way for me to say this. Cuckoo told me this morning, that he was considering...

RACHEL (V.O.)

What?

1/31 **INT. KITCHEN. NIGHT 4.**

1/31

Ken is talking to Rachel. Very intimate.

KEN

Leaving you. Going back to Thailand. Without you.

RACHEL

No.

KEN

Yes. He said he could never feel at home here. He told me to tell you that he loved you, but that being with him wasn't your...*path*. He wanted you to go to university, work hard, set yourself up in a good career, marry someone nice - maybe a doctor, or a lawyer - someone with a steady income, local, maybe a Villa supporter.

RACHEL

Cuckoo said that?

KEN

I may have embellished. I was emotional at the time. It was just so sad to see him go.

Rachel breaks down in sobs.

CUT TO:

1/32

INT. SITTING ROOM. NIGHT 4.

1/32

Rachel is crying. Lorna and Ken are comforting her. Dylan is enthusiastically playing games on the telly, oblivious to the others.

LORNA

(to Ken)

Is that a bonfire in the garden?

KEN

(to Lorna)

He left some of his stuff.
Couldn't leave it lying around.
Rach would find it too painful.
(to Rachel)
You'll be all right darling...

RACHEL

I won't...

KEN

You will.

RACHEL

I won't.

DYLAN

She might not be.

LORNA

Dylan!

DYLAN

I'm just saying. I mean, she's been married now. Kind of used goods. If we were living in a Muslim state, we'd probably have to stone her.

Rachel cries some more. Ken and Lorna look daggers at Dylan. Dylan shrugs.

KEN

Rachel, however much you love Cuckoo, your Mum and I love you just as much. I know you're going to get through this. Because whatever's wrong, I will do anything, *anything* to make sure you're OK.

Rachel looks at her father, tears in her eyes. He has got through to her. A lovely moment.

CUT TO:

1/33

INT. SITTING ROOM. NIGHT 4.

1/33

Later. Time for bed. Ken goes to draw the curtains on the front of the house, looks out over his front drive. His kingdom is safe again.

As he goes to draw the curtains, the security light comes on. Ken looks quickly to see who's coming. But it's the cat. Ken smiles. Then, as the cat walks away. A figure appears in the security light.

It is Cuckoo. He is pushing a potato van.

CUT TO:

1/34

EXT. DRIVE. NIGHT 4.

1/34

Ken runs out into the drive.

KEN

Cuckoo, what are you doing here? I thought we had a deal.

CUCKOO

We did, Ken. And here it is! You likey?

Rachel comes running out the house, with Lorna.

RACHEL

Cuckoo. You're back! Oh my god! Where have you been?

CUCKOO

Your father was right. If I'm not willing to work to support you, I don't deserve you.

RACHEL

What? (BEAT) What's this?

CUCKOO

It's a potato van. I'm going to sell jacket potatoes. Who knew? You can sell them from a van! It's ideal.

RACHEL

You're going to sell jacket potatoes?

CUCKOO

That's if you'll give me the recipe, Lorna.

LORNA

Sure, yes.

RACHEL

What about your book?

CUCKOO

(winking at Ken)
There's always weekends.

He admires the Potato van. It is three wheeled - it is old and in bad nick.

CUCKOO (CONT'D)

Only cost ten thousand quids.

KEN

Ten thousand pounds?!

CUCKOO

Yes, Ken. A steal. Do you want to look inside?

He opens the door - the door swings off, onto the driveway.

Beat.

CUCKOO (CONT'D)

Yeah. The guy warned me. Door's a little cranky.

He starts putting the door back on.

RACHEL

Cuckoo - where did you get the money?

CUCKOO

Dad gave me it.

RACHEL

Dad?

CUCKOO

(putting his arm around Ken)

Looks like my father in law and I are in business together!

LORNA

You gave Cuckoo ten thousand pounds to set up a business?

Everybody looks at Ken. There's nothing he can do.

KEN

Yep. Surprise!

LORNA

Ten thousand pounds?

KEN

(pushing on)

You know, because I was on at him about getting a job.

RACHEL

But why did you tell me he'd gone to Thailand?

KEN

Erm...

LORNA

And why burn all his stuff?

CUCKOO

He burnt my stuff? Why *did* you do that, Ken?

Long, awful pause. Lorna, Rachel and Cuckoo stare at Ken.

KEN

TO MAKE IT AN EVEN BIGGER SURPRISE!...

(MORE)

KEN (CONT'D)

Come on you three - indoors! I reckon I've got a bottle of champagne somewhere!

Lorna and Rachel start to go in.

LORNA

(affectionate)

You funny, funny man.

Rachel and Lorna go in, delighted. Cuckoo stops beside Ken. He hugs him, warmly.

The door of the van falls off again.

Pan out to see the potato van - in the close.

THE END