

4/1 **EXT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME. DAY 13**

4/1

Establishing shot. Early evening.

CUT TO:

4/2 **INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, KITCHEN. DAY 13**

4/2

Ken and Lorna are sat opposite each other. Lorna has a piece of paper in front of her - testing Ken on interview questions.

KEN

...and finally, Nina, I'd just like to stress, that just because I like conservation doesn't make me a Conservative!

He chuckles. Lorna applauds.

LORNA

Wow Ken, you are on top of this!
Nina is going to be so impressed!

KEN

Funny enough?

LORNA

(he wasn't)
YES!

KEN

OK - ask me another one.

LORNA

Oh, I think you're all set.

KEN

Come on, Lorn. If I'm going to impress at this interview I have to be across all the issues.
(beat of realisation)
Right - I get it - you're bored.

LORNA

No! Ken, you make local politics fascinating. That is why you are going to make a great Lib Dem councillor.

Cuckoo walks in. He is wearing a pinstripe suit of Ken's - massively too big for him.

CUCKOO

(amused)
Ken's going to be a politician?

LORNA

Yes. He's talking with the local secretary tomorrow!

CUCKOO

(to Ken, amused)
Since when did you like politics?

KEN

You know - always took an interest.

CUCKOO

Really? When I talk about it, you kind of glaze over. Oh, by the way, this is your suit.

KEN

No!

CUCKOO

I had a bit of a laundry crisis. And Ken, I just wanted to be completely up-front and say - I *am* commando under here.

Ken stares at Cuckoo.

LORNA

Tell you what, Cuckoo, why don't you take over here?

KEN

(sotto to Lorna)
What are you doing?

LORNA

No, no, it will do you good to perform for a different, young audience. (BEAT) Top marks from me - bye!

She thrusts the piece of paper into Cuckoo's hands and leaves the room briskly.

Cuckoo looks at the sheet, looks at Ken, looks at the sheet again.

CUCKOO

What do you think about parking policy in the area?

KEN

Well, Nina, forgive my language, but it's a ruddy shambles.

(MORE)

KEN (CONT'D)

I read a statistic the other day
that said forty percent of cars on
the high street stop for five
minutes or less and we have all
these meters...

Throughout this speech, Cuckoo's face just becomes more and more and more pained. Finally, hits the table.

CUCKOO

KEN, WHAT THE FUCK IS THAT?!

A stunned silence. Cuckoo staring at a dumbfounded Ken.

CUCKOO (CONT'D)

That was embarrassing. It was
negative, boring, frankly you did
not connect. (BEAT) You should
cancel the interview tomorrow.
You're not ready.

KEN

(really annoyed)
I'm going to go and catch the news.

He goes to leave the kitchen. Cuckoo blocks him.

CUCKOO

What is your name?

KEN

Cuckoo, get out the way. (BEAT) My
name's Ken.

CUCKOO

Ken what? Ken *Banana*?

KEN

Ken Thompson.

CUCKOO

Ken Thompson right. And do you love
this town of...where are we again?

He struggles. He can't remember the name of the town.

KEN

Lichfield.

CUCKOO

Ken Thompson, do you love
Lichfield?

KEN

Well, it's not that simple...

CUCKOO

It's simple! Do you love me and the little citizens of Lichfield? Yes or no. YES OR NO?!

KEN

Well... I suppose, yes.

CUCKOO

Then, you've got my vote.

Cuckoo lets Ken go. Gets out of his face.

CUCKOO (CONT'D)

There we go. Wasn't that hard huh?

(BEAT)

Leadership is simple, Ken. It's about being open with people.

Opening your heart - loving. Never judging. Never over-thinking. When you do that, people respond to you.

(BEAT, CATCHES HIMSELF) Sorry, am I being preachy?

Ken looks at Cuckoo. Not with love.

CUT TO:

DELETED SCENE 4/3

4/4

INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, LIVING ROOM. DAY 13

4/4

Rachel and Lorna watch Cuckoo walk away disconsolately.

RACHEL

Mum - I know this might sound hopelessly paranoid - but sometimes I worry that Dad and Cuckoo don't get on.

LORNA

Who? Cuckoo and your Dad? Oh no, men are always like this when they live together.

RACHEL

You know, if Dad and Cuckoo were to spend some proper time together, it would be like super-amazing. Dad could get to see everything I love about him.

LORNA

(idea)

Maybe we should arrange for them to do that.

She grins.

RACHEL

(intrigued)

What are you thinking?

CUT TO:

4/5

EXT. BUS STOP. DAY 14

4/5

Daytime. Dylan approaches Zoe at the bus stop.

ZOE

Are you going to Lauren Green's party on Saturday? Did she invite you?

DYLAN

(obviously didn't)

Umm...yeah?

ZOE

She didn't. OK, you can come in with me as long as you get pills.

DYLAN

Brilliant! Pills?

ZOE

I'd do it myself, but my parents are watching me at the moment.

DYLAN

Umm...yeah?... I mean, it might be a *bit* hard, because my dealer got injured in a gangland shooting.

ZOE

Your dealer?

DYLAN

Yeah his name is...Tony Montana. Lives in Stourbridge. He's Cuban. He's good but he's stubborn.

Zoe looks at him - huh?

ZOE

I've got a different one. I'll text you his number.

Zoe moves off to her friends. A big kid grabs Dylan's jacket.

NEIL

Saw you sleazing on my girl.

DYLAN

You haven't been with Zoe since January 2011 - and anyway, she's my family friend, and I bagsied her when I was four. So, show some respect.

Neil slaps him. Dylan slaps back. Fight.

CUT TO:

DELETED SCENE 4/6

4/7

EXT. KEN'S OFFICE. DAY 14

4/7

Establishing shot. A small solicitor's office in the centre of town.

CUT TO:

4/8

INT. KEN'S OFFICE FLOOR. DAY 14

4/8

Ken is making himself a cup of tea in the kitchen area. A flamboyantly dressed woman suddenly turns up at reception and waves over.

NINA

Yoo-hoo! Ken!

KEN

Nina! So great to see you! Long time no see! How's life been since the... you know.

NINA

Oh, we're back together, Ken. We realised we loved each other, and now it's just him and me and our kid and his love-kid and my step-kid and my previous lover and it's like God, why did we have to make everything so complicated before?

KEN

Totally! Yeah!

CUT TO:

4/9

INT. KEN'S OFFICE. DAY 14

4/9

Nina sits opposite from Ken. She is laughing uproariously. Ken has just told a funny anecdote - he is loving it.

KEN

...so tell that to Rupert Murdoch!

They burst into laughter. This is going so great!

NINA

I didn't know you were so funny!

KEN

Well, I do my best.

NINA

And you're incisive. And intelligent, presentable - even rather dashing.

KEN

Stop it!

NINA

Though you should do something about that belly.

KEN

Yes. Yes.

NINA

All in all, hugely promising - between you and me you should see some of the other candidates!

She laughs.

KEN

(laughing along)
Hahaha.

NINA

I know I shouldn't say this. But the committee will go with my recommendation and you've pretty much got this in the bag.

Ken looks absolutely delighted.

NINA (CONT'D)

I'll follow up next...

Nina's phone goes.

NINA (CONT'D)

One sec.

Nina ducks out of the office, with her mobile.

Ken does a little victory dance.

Nina suddenly comes back in, a little emotional.

NINA (CONT'D)

Sorry Ken, I have to go. Some little thug at school has attacked my son, Neil. (SHE GROWS TEARFUL)

Ken reaches for his handkerchief and offers it. Really forced sympathy.

KEN

Oh that is horrible, awful - kids these days! How old's Neil?

NINA

Sixteen.

KEN

(brazen cheese)
I can really relate. My Dylan's the same age.

The receptionist comes in.

RECEPTIONIST

Mr. Thompson?

KEN

Not now, Shafali.

RECEPTIONIST

It's just the school called. Your son Dylan's been in a fight.

The penny drops. Nina immediately looks at Ken, wary. Ken smiles sheepish.

4/10

INT. HEADMASTER'S OFFICE. DAY 14

4/10

Rick the Headmaster sits at his desk. Ken and Nina sit together. Dylan and Neil sit shamefaced nearby.

HEADMASTER

Well, Dylan - can we hear your side of the story?

DYLAN

Er...yeah. Basically, Neil was being a massive prick, and then it turned out, he's not as hard as he makes out, and I kicked his ass.

KEN

(sotto)
Shut up, Dylan...

DYLAN

(proud)

I did though. Dad, I absolutely whupped him.

NINA

(emotional)

Oh God!(BEAT) Was this... racism?

KEN

What?

NINA

Neil's half Serbo-Croat.

KEN

Dylan, I am very disappointed in you. There is no excuse, no excuse at all for fighting in school. Although, at the same time, it's not the kind of thing we should take too seriously! Boys fight - it's only natural.

NINA

You think violence is natural, Ken?

KEN

No! I abhor it. It's completely unnatural.

DYLAN

He started it.

KEN

Shut up, Dylan. Dylan, you are grounded. For...the next four years.

DYLAN

But I go to University in two years!

KEN

Not anymore. You're *that* grounded.

NINA

Seems a bit extreme, Ken.

KEN

You're right. Dylan - I went too far - you're no longer grounded.

NINA

But he should be punished.

KEN

Exactly. And he will be. Don't you worry. Dylan, you are...

Ken looks at Nina. Nina looks back at Ken.

NINA

I don't know - grounded for a month?

KEN

(to Dylan)

You are grounded for a month - buster. Suck on that!

He looks at Nina. Time to rebuild bridges.

KEN (CONT'D)

OK, well, I think we're about done here. Nina, can I walk you to the car park?

NINA

Ken - the whole councillor thing - you and I would have to work closely together and this does make it awkward.

KEN

It is not awkward! Come on, it will be a story we tell - how one of our sons decked the other and we all laughed afterwards!

NINA

Perhaps I was a little hasty offering it you outright.

She walks out. Ken looks bereft - he has obviously lost the position. Behind him...

DYLAN

Am I seriously grounded for a month?

KEN

No. (BEAT) How DID you beat him?

DYLAN

It was all very quick. But basically, I targeted the nads.

CUT TO:

DELETED SCENES 4/11, 4/12, 4/13

4/14

INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, KITCHEN. DAY 14

4/14

Dylan's phone begins to ring beside him. It's a very loud ring. Lorna and Rachel look at Dylan. Dylan looks at the phone scared.

LORNA

Answer it.

DYLAN

Nah - can't be bothered.

The phone continues to ring.

RACHEL

I'll answer it.

She reaches towards it. But Dylan has already picked up. Rachel and Lorna watch him talk.

DYLAN

Hello. Oh, it's you mate! - can't talk now, but... Oh, OK, well I heard you were selling... Playstation games and I was hoping to buy some before Saturday night. No, not fast, speedy sort of arrogant Playstation games, more kind of fun, 'woo, this is great' and hugging each other sort of games. Collect them tomorrow. Great.

He puts the phone down.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

He sells Playstation games.

Ken comes in from work. His back is giving him jip. Lorna looks worried for him.

KEN

Hey Lorn. My back's killing me.

LORNA

I'll ask Steve to drop round some of those super-strength painkillers. Dylan said what happened with Nina.

KEN

Well, what can you do? This is life. Fate gives with the one hand, and with the other it pulls out your intestines and douses them with acid.

He sits down.

CUCKOO

Oh Ken.

Cuckoo comes up and starts to massage Ken.

CUCKOO (CONT'D)

I do not enjoy being right all the time.

KEN

OK. One - I have asked you never to massage me. Two - you weren't right - I put in a great interview.

CUCKOO

No Ken, you put on this fake performance - you didn't show her your true honest self. The world saw that and punished you.

KEN

(furious)

Shut up!! Shut up!!

RACHEL

Dad!

LORNA

Ken!

CUCKOO

Ken! I'm not trying to be controversial. I'm just saying if you'd only listened to my wise advice then you would not have suffered such a humiliating defeat today.

KEN

I did not fail. It was bad luck.

CUCKOO

Brought on by your own cynicism. Smile and the world smiles with you Ken. Frown and the world gets you down.

KEN

(furious)

I'm going to read my book.

He heads out. Cuckoo follows him.

CUCKOO

Ken! (BEAT) Ken!

Rachel and Lorna look worriedly at each other.

CUT TO:

DELETED SCENE 4/154/16 **INT. KEN AND LORNA'S BEDROOM. DAY 14**

4/16

Ken sits on the bed. Lorna comes in and sits with him.

LORNA

There's no need to take it out on Cuckoo.

KEN

I feel bad enough, without the outpourings of karmic drivel.

LORNA

Now, you've made Rachel paranoid that the two of you don't get on.

KEN

Wow - mad - I'm worried about her. (BEAT) Lorna, I accept I shouldn't have snapped. I just need to stay out of Cuckoo's way for a couple of days

LORNA

Yeah. (BEAT) I arranged a girl's night out for me and Rachel. To give you and Cuckoo time to bond.

KEN

You did what?

LORNA

Rachel and me are going round to Connie's. You and Cuckoo are going to have a lovely evening - just the two of you, and you're going to reassure your daughter.

Out on Ken's face.

CUT TO:

DELETED SCENE 4/174/18 **INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, KITCHEN. DAY 15**

4/18

Dylan has just got back to an empty house. He enters, looking pretty pleased with himself.

He takes out four pills in a plastic sachet.

Ken comes in very suddenly, holding his back. Dylan puts the pills away - but Ken has seen them.

DYLAN

Oh. Hi Dad. I thought you went shopping.

KEN

Mum, went without me - my back was killing. Are those Steve's painkillers?

Dylan stares at Ken.

DYLAN

What?

KEN

The tablets in your hand, Dylan.

DYLAN

There aren't any tablets in my hand.

KEN

Yes there are. Open your hand.

Dylan holds out his hands with the two pills.

KEN (CONT'D)

Are those the pills that Steve dropped round for me?

DYLAN

No.

KEN

Then what are they?

Long Beat. Dylan thinks this through.

DYLAN

They're the pills Steve dropped round for you.

Ken takes them from him.

KEN

Right. Thanks.

Ken walks out. Dylan looks bereft.

CUT TO:

4/19

EXT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME. DAY 15

4/19

It's now Saturday evening.

CUT TO:

4/20

INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, KEN AND LORNA'S BEDROOM. DAY 13/20

Lorna is getting ready to go out. Rachel comes in, also dressed up.

RACHEL

Where's Dad?

KEN

Hi Rach!

Rachel looks down and sees Ken lying on the floor. His back is still agonising.

RACHEL

Back still bad?

Lorna heads towards the wardrobe, stepping over Ken in her heels.

KEN

Lorna, watch...watch... Don't step on me!

LORNA

I am *not* going to step on you.

She opens the wardrobe. The door hits Ken in the head - hard.

KEN

Ow! Lorna!

LORNA

It was an accident. Honestly, you're being such a grumpy socks!

KEN

I have a right to be grumpy, Lorna. The forces of destiny are amassed against me.

RACHEL

Aw, well, Cuckoo will cheer you up. He's got sick plans for you two tonight.

KEN

He must shelve them.

RACHEL

Dad, please make an effort for once.(TO LORNA) How *do* you put up with him?

LORNA

I ask myself that every day!

Rachel and Lorna laugh - both amused. Lorna opens the wardrobe. Hits Ken hard in the head again.

KEN

Ow!

CUT TO:

4/21 **INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, HALLWAY. DAY 15**

4/21

Lorna is by the door, waiting to leave. Ken is standing there in pain to see them off.

LORNA

Come on, Rach! I said we'd be at Connie's by eight!

Rachel and Cuckoo come out of their room. Rachel gives her Dad a hug goodbye.

RACHEL

Bye Dad! And remember what I said.

KEN

Oh, we're going to have a magical evening together.

CUCKOO

Totally, Ken. We're going to really connect tonight. You're going to learn a lot.

Rachel nods - message received. Rachel and Lorna leave. The door closes.

CUCKOO (CONT'D)

I've just got one question to start with, Ken - why do you lack confidence?

Ken looks at Cuckoo - not impressed. Ken walks to his bedroom, and shuts the door.

CUT TO:

4/22 **EXT/INT. CONNIE'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR/HALL. DAY 15**

4/22

Lorna and Rachel have arrived at Connie's house.

RACHEL

Oh God, I hope they're getting on.

LORNA

They will, Rach. Now just forget about it.

(MORE)

LORNA (CONT'D)

We're gonna have a girls night! We are going to let our hair down - and listen to Madonna, and have a wild and crazy time.

RACHEL

(amused)

Yeah.

Connie has opens the front door.

CONNIE

Hi! Hi! Come in, you two! Ready to party?

LORNA

Woo - girl's night! Just the girls having fun together!

Lorna stops. Connie's 19 year old son Zeb is approaching - slightly portly, with spiky hair and clothes too cool for his fat frame. He has an air of total entitlement.

CONNIE

Guess who came back from university today?

ZEB

Sup, Lorna.

CONNIE

It's my Zeb! Isn't this a surprise, Rachel?

Connie winks at Lorna. Lorna looks at Connie - what the hell? Rachel looks at Lorna - what the hell?

ZEB

(throatily)

Hey Rach!

RACHEL

(not pleased)

Zeb.

CONNIE

Go on, Zeb! Give Rachel a kiss hello - you haven't seen her for almost a year! (BEAT) He's grown so tall, hasn't he, Rachel - like a strong oak.

Rachel looks at Lorna - this is really fucking weird. Thanks a bunch.

CUT TO:

4/23 **INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, KEN AND LORNA'S BEDROOM. NIGHT 15** 4/23

An hour later. Ken is lying on his bed in his room, reading his Niall Ferguson. Bliss.

A knock at the door.

KEN

(calling out)

I'm reading!

CUCKOO (O.S.)

I made dinner!

KEN

(calling out)

I'll come and get mine later!

Beat.

The door swings open. Cuckoo is wearing a chef's hat and a sarong.

CUCKOO

Ken, I slaved over this beautiful repast - we're going to enjoy it together.

Ken looks annoyed - does he really have to?

CUT TO:

4/24 **INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, KITCHEN. NIGHT 15**

4/24

Ken and Cuckoo are eating Cuckoo's Thai curry.

CUCKOO

Isn't this awesome? Just the two of us. How often does this happen?

KEN

Not often no.

CUCKOO

Hey, we could investigate our pasts. What were you like as a child? I bet you were naughty huh?

KEN

Not especially no. Finished! That was delicious, thank you *so much*.

Ken gets up. Cuckoo looks disappointed.

CUCKOO

I thought we could bond tonight.
Confide. Completely expose
ourselves to each other.

KEN

Oh - I *wish* I could - the thing is,
mate, my back is just agonising -
and I really want to finish my
book. Probably better if I go to my
room. You - stay here - and chill
out, man. Kick back. On your own.

He stands up.

KEN (CONT'D)

Aagh.

A shock of back pain. He gets a glass of water, picks up his
pills, takes two of them - and leaves.

Beat. Cuckoo looks really disappointed.

CUT TO:

4/25

INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, LIVING ROOM. NIGHT 15

4/25

Cuckoo sits in the living room, a little disconsolate. He
puts some music on.

CUT TO:

4/26

INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, KEN AND LORNA'S BEDROOM. NIGHT 15 4/26

Ken hears the music. He grins to himself. He starts to read
his Niall Ferguson book.

CUT TO:

4/27

INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, KEN AND LORNA'S BEDROOM. NIGHT 15 4/27

Some minutes later. Music playing in living room. Ken looks
up from his book. He is looking around him. He is starting to
feel a little weird.

CUT TO:

4/28

INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, LIVING ROOM. NIGHT 15

4/28

Cuckoo is reading "Virgo - your love year".

CUT TO:

4/29 **INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, KEN AND LORNA'S BEDROOM. NIGHT 15** 4/29

About twenty minutes later. Ken is still lying on his bed. He looks at his slippered foot. His foot is tapping with the music. This is a bit weird. He pulls a funny face.

CUT TO:

4/30 **INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, KITCHEN. NIGHT 15** 4/30

Ken enters and finds Cuckoo in the kitchen.

KEN

Er...Cuckoo. Did you spike the food?

CUCKOO

I did not. I told Rachel I'd keep away from Class As till I got my permanent visa.

KEN

I...feel sort of...*high*.

CUCKOO

You *look high*. What did you take?

KEN

Only the painkillers.

He indicates the packet. There are two more pills in there. Cuckoo grabs them, and tastes.

CUCKOO

Oh yeah, that's MDMA.

He puts the whole pill in his mouth and chews.

CUCKOO (CONT'D)

(dog with wasp face)

Oh yes. This is good stuff. Dutch. They got a lot of sweet labs near Hoogezand-Sappemeer. Oh check that aftertaste - going on, on...yep.
(BEAT) Ken we are in for a big one.

Cuckoo looks at the other pill. He knocks that one down too.

KEN

(baffled)

I haven't been high since Thatcher went out. (BEAT) It must have been Dylan! Dylan! That's weird - I feel no anger at all.

CUCKOO

Relax Ken. We're going to have a fantastic evening.

KEN

Cuckoo - whatever happens, we have to make sure we don't do anything stupid.

CUT TO:

4/31 **EXT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, DRIVE. NIGHT 15**

4/31

A little bit later. Steve has parked, and is now walking up the drive

CUT TO:

4/32 **INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, HALLWAY. NIGHT 15**

4/32

Ken opens the door to Steve. Steve is quite surprised because Ken is grinning, topless, and glistening with oil.

KEN

Steve! Lorna's out. Cuckoo's been giving me a lovely massage.

STEVE

Hi Ken. Here's those painkillers.

Steve looks in. Cuckoo waves - he is also topless.

CUCKOO

Steve, man! It's tiny little Steve!

KEN

(looking at Steve
intently)

Steve, it is great to see you.

STEVE

Yeah? Having a good time?

KEN

Hey - do you want a massage?

STEVE

No, you're all right. I have my judo class.

KEN

He's got magic hands. I don't mind sharing - honestly, I feel like I've been greedy.

He laughs. Cuckoo laughs too.

STEVE

See you another time, Ken.

Steve leaves.

KEN

Bye Steve! Bye! Safe journey! (TO HIMSELF) Great guy.

He walks back in to Cuckoo.

CUT TO:

4/33

INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, LIVING ROOM. NIGHT 15

4/33

Ken and Cuckoo are dancing in the middle of the living room. to 'Geno' by Dexy's Midnight Runners.

CUCKOO

Holy shit! Who is this band? I love them.

KEN

Dexy's Midnight Runners. They're actually reuniting this year.

CUCKOO

We should go! We should totally go!

KEN

What?

CUCKOO

Come on, when was the last time you saw them?

KEN

About twenty years ago. I haven't got tickets.

CUCKOO

(intensely)

Let's get them now. Let's go on the internet - and get them now.

Ken stares at Cuckoo - OK.

KEN

That's a superb idea.

Ken gets his iPad. He starts looking for the tickets.

CUT TO:

4/34

INT. CONNIE'S LIVING ROOM. NIGHT 15

4/34

Rachel, Lorna, Connie and Zeb are eating together.

CONNIE

So, I was saying to Zeb, after he finished with that last girlfriend of his, what was she - Zeb - a model?

ZEB

A lab assistant.

CONNIE

That's right. You know, you may have *thought* she was the one...

ZEB

I didn't.

CONNIE

But at this early age - you don't know, do you? You can't know! Don't you think, Rachel?

RACHEL

Erm... no. I think you can know - if it's real love.

Connie smiles.

CONNIE

Come on, Rachel. Have some more drink.

Connie pours Rachel a huge glass of wine. Rachel shrugs, and takes a massive swig.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

Didn't you and Zeb snog once at a party?

Rachel splutters on her drink.

LORNA

Connie!

CONNIE

We can talk about it here, can't we? I mean, we're all friends, just chatting and having chemistry.

RACHEL

Yeah. Maybe when we were fourteen.

ZEB

Fifteen, babe. You were fifteen.

CONNIE

Lorna - think this would be a
really good time to get the dishes.

She winks at Lorna and gestures her into the kitchen.

Lorna mouths at Rachel.

LORNA

(sotto)
I'm sorry.

CUT TO:

4/34A **INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, LIVING ROOM. NIGHT 15**

4/34A

Ken and Cuckoo. Ken has found the tickets on his iPad.

CUCKOO

Oh my god - we're going to see the
Dexies!

KEN

The tickets are over two hundred
pounds.

CUCKOO

Get them.

Ken starts ordering tickets.

Beat. Ken gets out his credit card.

CUCKOO (CONT'D)

And we should buy a drum kit.

Ken looks at Cuckoo and nods - yes, what a wise thing to say.

KEN

We should buy a drum kit.

CUT TO:

4/35 **INT. CONNIE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN. NIGHT 15**

4/35

Connie and Lorna in the kitchen.

LORNA

Connie - this was supposed to be a
girl's night. Zeb is a boy.

CONNIE

Yes, but then I thought - obviously
Cuckoo's not fitting in chez vous.
And maybe Zeb is the honey to lure
her away from that dreadful hippy.

LORNA

I don't want her lured away. I like Cuckoo.

CONNIE

(passionate)

He owns a potato van. My Zeb is going to be a Marine Biologist!

LORNA

She's married, Connie.

CONNIE

(sly, confident)

We'll see.

She grins and goes to peek at them.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

She'll never be able to resist my Zeb. He's *gorgeous*.

CUT TO:

4/36

INT. CONNIE'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM. NIGHT 15

4/36

Continuous. Rachel and Zeb.

ZEB

Mum said you got married.

RACHEL

Yep.

ZEB

You disappoint me, Rachel. I could never agree to anyone tying me down.

RACHEL

Well, I wouldn't worry about it. Has anyone ever wanted to?

ZEB

Touche! (BEAT) You know our mums always kind of wanted US to get married. Maybe there's something in it.

RACHEL

Maybe - except for the fact you're a total dick.

ZEB

(grins)

No. I *have* a total dick.

Zeb leans back - and starts singing quietly, but intensely.

ZEB (CONT'D)
(sexy, intent)
Bet you wish your husband was hot
like me. Bet you wish your husband
was a freak like me - don't you?
Don't you?

RACHEL
(calling out)
Mum, we're leaving!

CUT TO:

DELETED SCENE 4/37

4/38

INT/EXT. POTATO VAN/ ROUNDABOUT. NIGHT 15

4/38

Ken and Cuckoo are driving Cuckoo's potato van round a roundabout, with Cuckoo in the passenger seat. They are listening to Dexy's Midnight Runners -Breaking Down the Walls of Heartache. Cuckoo is laughing. Ken is laughing too. They are having a great time.

CUCKOO
Drive round it again!

KEN
Again? We're meant to be picking
Dylan up!

They drive round it again.

CUCKOO
And again! And again!

They set off round it again, laughing, delighted.

They almost crash.

But they react delighted.

CUT TO:

4/39

INT/EXT. POTATO VAN/TEENAGE PARTY HOUSE. NIGHT 15

4/39

Cuckoo and Ken are in the potato van, which is parked near to where Dylan's party is happening. They can see the party house, flashing with lights and music.

CUCKOO
Let's go.

KEN

I don't know. There's this little voice in the back of my head saying - you know - they're all sixteen, and I'm forty-five, and I'm high on drugs. Maybe this is a bad idea.

CUCKOO

Ken, you work so hard. You deserve this.

KEN

I *do* deserve this, don't I?

Absolutely banging party music.

CUT TO:

4/40

EXT. TEENAGE PARTY STREET. NIGHT 15

4/40

Party music. Ken and Cuckoo burst out of the van - two hip guys heading for a party, doing their coolest fuck you walks.

CUCKOO

(loudly)

Anyone ever tell you you're really tall, Ken?

KEN

(loudly)

Yes! Sometimes yes!

4/41

INT. TEENAGE PARTY HOUSE. NIGHT 15

4/41

Dylan and Zoe. Zoe is looking at her watch.

ZOE

I'm still not feeling anything.

DYLAN

The dealer said they were made to look like Nurofen to avoid detection. Yeah - sure it's subtle - but I'm really feeling the music and I have this strong urge to touch people.

Dylan reaches out, and starts to massage Zoe. She lets him.

Neil appears at Dylan's shoulder, with five of his mates.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Neil?

NEIL

On your own Dylan.

He pushes Dylan. Dylan looks at Neil - not sure what to do.

NEIL (CONT'D)

I believe to make things square -
I'm going to need to give you a
massive kick in the nads. Lads,
hold him.

Neil's friends grab Dylan, and pin him back - so that Neil
can get a clear run at Dylan's nads. Neil takes a few steps
back.

DYLAN

No! Don't do it!

NEIL

(laughing)

What you gonna do? Call your daddy?

Neil's gang all laugh - Dylan is completely outnumbered.
Dylan gulps. He is about to be kicked very hard in the nads.

Suddenly Ken and Cuckoo enter the party. Ken has undone
several buttons on his shirt and is pumping the air - a huge
monster of a party.

KEN

LET'S DO THIS!!!

Neil looks dumbfounded. Ken runs over.

KEN (CONT'D)

Party - woo! Excellent!

He skips happily over to Dylan - and Neil's friends - and
gives Dylan a massive hug. Dylan breathes a sigh of relief.

DYLAN

Dad? I never ever thought I'd say
this - but I'm happy to see you.

Ken hugs him.

KEN

Zoe - it's you!!

He hugs Zoe. Zoe and Dylan look at each other.

ZOE

Is your Dad high?

DYLAN

(nodding)

Yep - I think so.

KEN

(looks around, beaming)
Hey - this is a nice place. Who's
is it?

DYLAN

It's...Lauren's mum and Dad's.

KEN

Yeah! You're right. I think I've
been for a dinner party here once.
We had cous cous.

Ken sees Cuckoo gesturing him away.

CUT TO:

4/42

INT. TEENAGE PARTY. NIGHT 15

4/42

Ken is walking through the party, having a great time. Two
underage teenagers are practically having sex.

KEN

(cheerful)
Hey you two - get a room!

Ken hugs another teenager.

Ken gets up to the DJ booth. He turns off the music, while
Cuckoo connects their mp3 player.

KEN (CONT'D)

Ladies and gentlemen!

The teenagers turn to look at Ken and Cuckoo - who now
proclaim to the crowd in the manner of Drum n Bass MCs.

CUCKOO

Come on my people!

KEN

We are your new DJ's - and we're
here to rock this party right off!
I'm DJ Ken - and this is DJ Cuckoo.

CUCKOO

And we're going to play a sick tune
that's going to make all you bros
and all you teenage hos mess all
your shit right up!

KEN

Check it!

Ken presses play. "Seven Days Too Long".

The whole crowd love it. Ken and Cuckoo jump onto the dance floor and dance. Now the party is going off.

Ken dances like the party king. He sings along.

He grabs Neil and his friends - and makes them dance too.

Ken rips off his shirt and punches the air, gurning like a maniac.

Cuckoo starts jumping on a sofa. Ken, now with his shirt wrapped around his head, jumps onto the sofa. He goes straight through it, falls over and stays down. That looked painful.

Oh my God. Everyone looks worried.

ZOE

He's hurt. Turn off the music.

Someone turns off the music.

Suddenly, Ken jumps up, blood on his forehead, but he is still grinning. Everybody cheers.

The music goes back up. Ken laughs - and lifts the whole sofa above his head.

Everybody is cheering. Ken is the hero of the whole party.

DELETED SCENE 4/43

4/44

EXT. OUTSIDE DYLAN'S PARTY. NIGHT 15

4/44

Cuckoo and Ken are sitting on the wall outside the party. They are both still off their tits.

CUCKOO

...And that was my first time.
Under the skies of Djibouti. We
pulled up our grass skirts and went
our separate ways. I to my colony.
Her to her hotel. Him to Zimbabwe
and his Presidential duties.

KEN

I love Lorna. I want to text her
and tell her she's my one and only,
and I want another baby.

He reaches for his phone and texts.

KEN (CONT'D)

Cuckoo, when we're sober again, you
do promise that we will remain best
friends.

CUCKOO

I promise, Ken. And we will get mashed every Saturday night.

KEN

You are on.

CUCKOO

(smiling, proud)

You're not afraid anymore, Ken. You finally understand: smile at the world - the world smiles back.

Suddenly, Ken notices. There's a car parked up on the side of the road, and waiting inside is NINA.

KEN

Look! Nina!

Ken looks at Cuckoo. What should he do?

CUCKOO

(smiling mentor)

You're ready, Ken. Go to her.

Ken gets up unsteadily and advances to the car.

CUCKOO (CONT'D)

(to himself, benign)

He's going to be great.

4/45

INT/ EXT. NINA'S CAR/ TEENAGE PARTY STREET. NIGHT 15

4/45

Nina is waiting quietly in her car. Radio 3 is playing in the background.

Ken opens the door. His shirt is undone and there's blood on his forehead.

KEN

NINA!!!!

NINA

Ken? No, don't get in.

KEN

I'm getting in!

The dishevelled, enormous sweaty Ken climbs in alongside Nina. His very presence is making her uncomfortable.

KEN (CONT'D)

Sorry I'm a bit sweaty! Nina - is this classical? Come on, it's Saturday night!

He changes the radio channel - finds a house music station.
Nina is staring at him.

NINA

I'm picking Neil up. I'd prefer to wait on my own.

KEN

I'll wait with you! We can talk.

NINA

(exasperated)

Ken! We have nothing to talk about.

KEN

(earnest)

We do. We do!

Ken looks Nina in the eye intensely, while he thinks what the hell he's going to talk about...

KEN (CONT'D)

Nina, listen. I love the Lib Dems. And I love Lichfield. And I love the council. And I love you. There we go - I said it.

NINA

Well, that's all very well Ken but after what happened?

KEN

Nina, there are all these forces in the world trying to divide us, trying to convince us we're not all the same. (BEAT) But WE'RE not going to let them. We're the Liberal Democrats.

NINA

That's very heartfelt Ken. (BEAT)
Look, I might have over-reacted, so...

Suddenly, Ken vomits all over Nina.

Nina sits there covered in vomit. Oh dear.

Beat.

KEN

It's all right. I have a tissue.

Ken gets a small tissue from his pocket and starts to wipe Nina - ineffectually with the napkin.

CUT TO:

4/46 **INT/EXT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, LIVING ROOM/ DRIVEWAY. NIGHT 15/46**

Rachel is watching TV. Lorna comes in with a cup of tea.

LORNA

I'm so sorry. I had absolutely no idea what Connie was planning.

RACHEL

Mum, *nobody* takes me and Cuckoo seriously.

LORNA

Rach - I do.

RACHEL

But Dad doesn't like him. Think about it - it makes sense. That's why Dad never wants to spend time with him, and tries to avoid talking to him.

LORNA

What? Are you crazy! Dad **LOVES** Cuckoo. He thinks he's the absolute best! Big big fan.

Rachel looks at Lorna, sceptical.

Suddenly a car-horn goes outside. Rachel and Lorna go to the window and pull aside the curtains.

Dylan is getting out of the car. Behind him, Ken and Cuckoo carefully get out the front seats. They walk to the door, arms wrapped around each other shoulders.

CUT TO:

4/47 **INT. HALLWAY. NIGHT 15**

4/47

Rachel and Lorna come into the hall to see Cuckoo and Ken entering.

CUCKOO

Hey Rach!

Ken turns to Rachel.

KEN

Rachel. You have married the best man in the universe. You hear me? The best man in the universe!

Ken smiles at Rachel. She smiles. What a wonderful moment of fatherly approval.

4/48

INT. KEN AND LORNA'S BEDROOM. NIGHT 15

4/48

Lorna and Ken getting ready for bed. Ken is sat on the bed in his pyjamas, tapping his feet, and drumming with his hands.

KEN

I'm not sure I'm very sleepy.

LORNA

We can cuddle.

KEN

OK!

He gets into bed. They cuddle.

KEN (CONT'D)

You're so beautiful!

LORNA

I liked my text message. (BEAT)
Though it is a no to the extra
baby.

KEN

Lorna - I was sick all over Nina
Morgan.

LORNA

Right. That's pretty bad isn't it?

KEN

No, no! She was fine with it. I
gave her a big hug, and she
definitely said it was fine and I
should carry on with my evening.
It's fine. (BEAT) It's fine.

Lorna switches the light off.

Ken lies there, his foot and fingers in rhythm to the
imaginary dance track still pumping in his head.

A moment of anxiety. He resets to cheerfulness again.

KEN (CONT'D)

It's fine.

Beautiful shot conveying time passing - Ken stays in the same
position. The lights on his face change as dawn comes. Ken
remains awake, trying to think positively.

Suddenly, his face changes.

KEN (CONT'D)

Oh bollocks.

THE END