

BLACK

CUCKOO (V.O.)

...and they will see that we are
shadows who live in cloud, never
seeing the true world around us...

FADE IN:

SCENE 3/1 & 3/2 - DELETED

3/3

INT. NATWEST BANK. DAY 10.

3/3

Cuckoo in feverish close-up.

CUCKOO

And the students will learn to part
those clouds, to throw their gaze
beyond mortal things, to reach the
eternal part of themselves and
finally see the face of God.

We reveal Gemma, a bank advisor, sitting across a desk from
Cuckoo.

GEMMA

But primarily, it's a potato van.

CUCKOO

Well, my teaching is a vital part
of it.

GEMMA

I'm just going to put down potato
van.

CUCKOO

She's a beauty - but she needs some
cash to get her up and running -
that's where you come in.

GEMMA

Just a couple of questions. Mr.
Ashbrick...

CUCKOO

Cuckoo, please. Ashbrick is my
slave name.

GEMMA

OK...Mr Cuckoo - do you have any
experience with retail?

CUCKOO

Absolutely I do. While I was living in Sukhothai, Thailand, I was part of a company offering non-profit tours to students.

GEMMA

Right. Tours don't really count as retail.

CUCKOO

Slow down bank-lady - wait for the clever part. The tours were discounted. But then we took the tourists up the mountain, got them high and sold them pot for the rest of their stay! (PROUD) I know! Check out Donald Trump!

GEMMA

Well Mr. Ashbrick, I can actually offer you five thousand pounds at a comparatively small rate of interest.

CUCKOO

(grinning)

Awesome! (BEAT) Gemma, what's a "rate of interest"?

GEMMA

Interest is the amount we charge you for taking out the loan. It's how we make our money.

Beat.

CUCKOO

Money on top of the loan?

GEMMA

Yes, at a rate of four percent a year.

CUCKOO

Sorry. Money on top of the loan?

GEMMA

Everybody pays interest. It's how banks make money.

CUCKOO

So why don't people know about it? Why's it such a big secret?

GEMMA

They do know about it.

CUCKOO

(smug)

I somehow doubt that.

CUT TO:

3/3A **INT. NATWEST - LOBBY. DAY 10.**

3/3A

Cuckoo storms through the lobby. Gemma and a security follow to make sure he leaves.

CUCKOO

OK, listen up people! If you borrow money from these leeches, they will charge you something they call "interest".

GEMMA

Please, you're going to have to leave.

Cuckoo pushes over a bank display of a smiling cardboard bank lady.

CUCKOO

Fine, I'll leave. Take these fine people's money. Accumulate those bonuses. Blow them on expensive suits and great cocaine and lapdances. And maybe people will still admire you. But not this guy. This guy doesn't tango with bloodsuckers! Even hot ones!

He points at a very attractive teller. Then he walks out. Everyone is bemused.

CUT TO:

3/4 **INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, KITCHEN. DAY 11.**

3/4

It's very early on Saturday morning. Lorna and Ken bustling around, preparing for one of their regular trips to see Tony, Lorna's grandad. They are in their coats.

Ken puts a huge book into a decorative bag - obviously a present.

KEN

The Complete History of the Sheffield Steel Industry. Your Dad is going to *wet himself*. (OFF LORNA'S LOOK) Not like *that* time. In a good way.

LORNA

You've spent far too much on him.
You've already got the football
tickets.

KEN

It's his first birthday since your
Mum died - I want him to have a
good time.

CUCKOO

Aw, Ken. Just like me - do anything
to please your father in law.

We reveal Cuckoo sat in a corner chair, wearing only his
underpants and a Red Indian headdress. He is reading a big
book on REINCARNATION.

LORNA

Cuckoo you are ready to go in ten
minutes, aren't you?

CUCKOO

(engrossed)
Totally.

LORNA

Cuckoo. In ten minutes.

CUCKOO

Just call me when you're leaving.

CUT TO:

DELETED SCENE 3/4A

CUT TO:

3/4B

INT. THOMSON FAMILY HOME, HALL. DAY 11.

3/4B

Continuous. Ken walks out of the kitchen into the hall.
Rachel comes out of her room.

RACHEL

Dad, I've been thinking. Grandad's
got a bit of money hasn't he?

KEN

No. No. No, Rachel. Cuckoo is not
fleecing an old man to fix his van.
He can get a loan - take some
responsibility.

RACHEL

He doesn't want to prop up the one per cent. It's a matter of principle.

KEN

Principle!

Ken knocks on Dylan's door.

DYLAN (O.S.)

Don't come in!

CUT TO:

3/5

INT. THOMSON FAMILY HOME, DYLAN'S ROOM. DAY 11

3/5

Continuous. Dylan is dozing in bed in his boxer shorts.

KEN

I woke you up an hour ago.

DYLAN

I'm not going. Charlotte Brown's having a party. With an indoor pool.

KEN

Dylan...

DYLAN

Old boring man - hot pool full of foxes. Deal with it.

Ken swipes the covers off the bed.

KEN

You're coming.

DYLAN

OK, *if* I come -you have to get me some decks.

KEN

Nope.

DYLAN

Reasoned argument means nothing to you does it?

KEN

(patient, genuine)
Dylan, this is Grandad's first birthday as a widower. We are going to cheer him up, show him a good time. I'm sure it would mean a lot to him if you were there.

DYLAN

Said Hitler.

Ken looks at Dylan, leaves the room.

CUT TO:

3/5A

INT. THOMPSON HOUSE, HALLWAY. DAY 11

3/5A

Rachel is still there. Lorna walks by.

KEN

That boy is unbelievable!

RACHEL

To be fair to Dylan, there is nothing to do at Grandad's. It's just you and him sitting in a corner talking about football and eighties politics.

LORNA

That's true.

KEN

(blissful)

Yeah... I *like* Tony.

RACHEL

I don't know why we always go there anyway. Wouldn't it be better if he came here?

Lorna and Ken look at each other. A secret.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

(amused)

Oh my god, Nan's display bowl. You still haven't told Grandad.

Beat.

LORNA

(quite upset)

Why did you have to mention it?
You've gone and put me on edge.

She disappears into the bedroom. Cuckoo wanders up, still in his pants and headdress.

CUCKOO

Ken, do you have a tie I can borrow?

CUT TO:

3/5B

INT/EXT. CAR/ THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, DRIVEWAY. DAY 11

3/5B

Ken and Lorna wait in the car. Cuckoo and Rachel are making their way out of the house. Cuckoo dressed, but still in the headdress.

KEN

I hope he tones it down for your Dad. I don't want him upset on his birthday.

LORNA

I just know Dad's going to ask about the bowl. Mum loved that bowl. Kept it her whole life. Two weeks with me and... you know.

KEN

Lorn, just tell him you dropped it. You can't carry on like this.

LORNA

No way am I telling him. No. I'll just have to keep not inviting him round, and avoiding conversation as much as possible.

KEN

With your father. That's healthy.

LORNA

He's got a couple of decades max. I just have to keep him at a distance till then, then I can deal with the psychological fallout.

Cuckoo, Rachel and Dylan get in. Cuckoo has difficulty getting his headdress in the car. He finally manages it...

CUCKOO

Reporting for duty, Captain Ken.

DYLAN

Ready, mein Fuhrer.

KEN

OK, then. Let's hit the north!

CUT TO:

3/6

INT/EXT. THOMPSON FAMILY CAR, MOTORWAY. DAY 11

3/6

Everyone in the car. Ken driving.

CUCKOO

(sings)

Ninety-eight Tibetan monks on the
wall,
Ninety-eight Tibetan monks,
One lit his robes and burnt and
died
Seventy-seven Tibetan monks on the
wall
Seventy-seven Tibetan monks on the
wall...

KEN

This could get annoying.

RACHEL

(shouting CUCKOO down)

You're going to love Grandad,
Cuckoo. He's political - like you.

KEN

(excited)

He was a shop steward in the
miner's strike under Thatcher.

CUCKOO

That's great, Ken - but it's the
politics I want to know about.
Can't wait - it's going to be a
gloves off no holds barred debate
with the old guy.

DYLAN

You probably won't get to speak to
him anyway, Cuckoo. Dad always hogs
him all day.

KEN

(knows he does)

I don't!

Ken drives on.

3/7

EXT. TONY'S HOUSE. DAY 11.

3/7

A small terraced house in Sheffield. Ken's car pulls into the
drive.

Tony swings open the door, grinning. Tony is Lorna's Dad - in
his eighties, a bluff, northern guy.

TONY

(thick northern accent)

Greetings comrades!

Improvised greetings. Tony picks out Ken for special
attention.

KEN

Happy birthday, Dad.

TONY

(loves Ken right back)

Ken! Great to see you, mate.

Ken and Tony have a big hug - they're clearly very close.

TONY (CONT'D)

(to LORNA)

And how's my wonderful daughter?

Lorna is carrying some things in. She's all of a sudden very brisk and business like.

LORNA

Fine thanks Dad. Just get these indoors.

She walks straight indoors. Ken rolls his eyes.

Cuckoo is immediately waiting in line to hug Tony too.

CUCKOO

(profound moment)

Happy birthday Tony, I'm your new grandson.

He hugs him, takes a long happy sniff of Tony's neck.

CUCKOO (CONT'D)

And you smell GREAT.

CUT TO:

3/8

INT. TONY'S HALLWAY. DAY 11.

3/8

The Thompson family follow Tony into the house. A big fluffy white cat is in the hall.

TONY

(cat voice)

Who's this? It's Floxy isn't it?
Hello Floxy!

Tony picks up the cat and holds it up in front of his face. Kisses the cat on the face - too intimate.

KEN

(finds it gross)

Didn't know you bought a cat.

TONY

She belongs to a family up the road
- started visiting me a few months
back.

(MORE)

TONY (CONT'D)

You come to look after me, don't
you Floxy? Didn't you? Didn't you,
Floxy? Didn't you? Didn't you?

The family watch Tony - wow, he really loves this cat.

CUT TO:

3/9

INT. TONY'S LIVING ROOM. DAY 11.

3/9

The family sit with cups of tea. Ken, Rachel, Cuckoo. Lorna is hovering about. Tony is stroking Floxy the cat, he looks at Cuckoo.

TONY

So - you're the bloke who married
my little princess? I were right
surprised when I heard you got
married. You love her, Cuckoo?

CUCKOO

Oh my God, I love your
granddaughter beyond words. She is
my rock, my devil witch, my wildest
fantasy.

Lorna picks up an empty tea cup.

TONY

Not going to sit down and talk,
Lorn?

LORNA

No, Dad. Better get these washed
up!

Lorna moves off. Ken looks at her.

KEN

So - Tony - guess where we're going
this afternoon?

Ken gets out the tickets to the Sheffield Wednesday match.

TONY

(delighted)
You didn't?! Tickets to the Owls!
That's great news, Ken!

KEN

Thought we'd make a day of it!

TONY

Great!

Cuckoo has picked up a photo of Tony and Debra together in
their younger years.

CUCKOO

Is this your late wife, Tony?

TONY

Yes, that's my Debs.

CUCKOO

Aw - she's gorgeous. Or - as I believe you say in Sheffield - *dead* gorgeous.

Beat. Tony looks a little upset at the memory of his wife. Ken looks at Lorna - for fuck's sake!

KEN

Thought we could drive down the Fox and Star after the match - few birthday drinks... JESUS!

Ken jumps as he finds himself looking down the barrel of a gun. Pan out - it is Dylan, with an old rifle - pointing it at Ken.

KEN (CONT'D)

Dylan! Don't point that at people! What if it was loaded?

DYLAN

It's Grandad's Korean war rifle. I thought you liked history.

KEN

OK, I'm going to get the cake. I made banana cake - that's your favourite isn't it, Tony?

CUT TO:

3/10

INT. TONY'S LIVING ROOM. DAY 11.

3/10

A little later. Ken brings in Tony's home made birthday cake with lit candles. Tony is grinning.

ALL

Happy Birthday to You!
Happy Birthday to You!
Happy Birthday dear Grandad!
Happy Birthday to you!

The song ends. Cuckoo jumps up and grabs Tony.

CUCKOO

Come on everybody! Let's give him the bumps!

He starts to try and lift Tony. Ken comes over.

CUCKOO (CONT'D)

C'mon, the birthday bumps! It's his birthday! Don't you have that here? He'll be fine - Tony, we're going to be gentle.

Ken moves Cuckoo away.

KEN

Just sit down. And be less enthusiastic.

Cuckoo goes and sits in the corner. Floxy the cat jumps up onto his lap.

KEN (CONT'D)

So, shall I get you my present?

LORNA

Our present, Ken.

KEN

Yes, our present. Except I chose it. It's in the car. Tony - prepare to be very VERY surprised.

Ken goes out to get the present, grinning.

Over in the corner, the cat is staring into Cuckoo's eyes. Cuckoo stares back.

CUCKOO

Woah.

TONY

(looking at Cuckoo)
So - what does he do?

RACHEL

He's in potatoes.

Cuckoo continues to stare into the cat's eyes.

TONY

Nothing wrong with that. It's nice to see you happy, Rach. Wish Debs could have seen you settled.

RACHEL

Thanks Grandad.

A sweet moment.

CUCKOO

(deadly serious)
Tony, Lorna, Rachel, I have an announcement to make.

Everyone turns towards Cuckoo.

CUCKOO (CONT'D)

Tony, this cat - Mrs Floxy - is the reincarnated form of your dead wife Debra.

Silence. Everybody stares at Cuckoo.

Ken walks in with his present from earlier.

KEN

Ta-da!

Silence. No-one reacts to Ken.

KEN (CONT'D)

Everything OK?

LORNA

Umm... Cuckoo thinks the cat is my mum.

KEN

What? (SIGH) Tony, I'm sorry.

TONY

No, Ken, it makes sense.

Everybody looks at Tony - WTF?

TONY (CONT'D)

It does. I remember the day Floxy first came to see me. It was back in late February. Debra's birthday is in March.

CUCKOO

(wow)

No way!

LORNA

That's not that big a coincidence.

RACHEL

Didn't Nan love cats?

CUCKOO

That makes sense. And, Tony, look...

He holds up a picture of Debra, and the cat. Tony looks from one to the other.

CUCKOO (CONT'D)

(slowly, significantly)

About as similar as a cat and a woman can be.

TONY

God - you're right.

Tony is transfixed by the cat.

KEN

OK. Thanks Cuckoo. This is a fun idea but it's quite unlikely that this cat is Grandma?

CUCKOO

Unlikely, Ken, but not impossible.

KEN

Well, kind of impossible. I mean what actual proof is there?

CUCKOO

I feel it, Ken.

KEN

You *feel* it...

TONY

If only there were some way of knowing for sure.

Cuckoo pauses, then, confrontational.

CUCKOO

OK, you want proof, Ken? You got it.

CUT TO:

3/11

INT. SITTING ROOM. DAY 11.

3/11

Cuckoo is wearing his Red Indian hat. He stands by two saucers of milk. Each has a post-it note stuck to it. One says "I AM THE REINCARNATED SPIRIT OF DEAD DEBRA". The other says "I AM JUST A NICE WHITE CAT"

Tony stands on the other side of the room with Floxy.

CUCKOO

Honoured feline, if you contain the spirit of our beloved Debra, then please drink out of the left saucer. If not, drink of the right.

KEN

And this will prove what?

CUCKOO

It's a scientific test, Ken.

KEN

It's a wholly random experiment.
The cat cannot read.

CUCKOO

But Debra can! Give me some credit
here, Ken. OK, Tony, please release
the cat slash Debra.

Tony lets go of Miss Floxy and she walks straight to the
saucer that says she is Debra.

She manages to get the sticky part of the post-it note stuck
to her nose. She looks back at the room with the note stuck
to her - "I AM THE REINCARNATED SPIRIT OF DEBRA"

CUCKOO (CONT'D)

(looking Ken in the eye)
Oh my god. Some doubted - but now
we all see it's true!

Tony rushes up, grabs the cat, and cuddles and kisses it -
even more intimately. Gross.

TONY

She's come back to me, Ken. Debra's
come back to me. In the form of a
cat!

CUT TO:

3/12

INT. TONY'S HALLWAY. DAY 11.

3/12

A little later. Ken and Lorna look into the sitting room.
Cuckoo and Tony are making the cat a bed out of Debra's old
clothes.

Ken's present sits on the settee, unwrapped and unnoticed.

LORNA

They're making her a bed out of
mum's old clothes. Aw look, she
really likes it.

KEN

Why are you going along with this?

LORNA

Why not? Dad seems happy. He's
occupied and not asking me about
the bowl. What's the problem?

KEN

It's completely irrational Lorna.
We're atheists, remember.

LORNA

Yes, when it comes to God and church. But this is like Eastern stuff isn't it? Bit cooler. More funky. I can dig it.

Ken raises his eyebrows - not impressed.

Rachel bounds up.

RACHEL

Hey guys! Cuckoo's so sensitive to this kind of thing - it's like a sixth sense.

KEN

Rach - no - you got three A-levels in science. Don't tell me I'm the only rationalist in this family!

RACHEL

Hindus and Buddhists have believed in reincarnation for thousands of years, Ken.

KEN

Can it be 'Dad'? And longevity doesn't make it true. Religions are like Chart Number Ones - if they hang around a long time, that means they're particularly shit.

He advances into the living room.

CUT TO:

3/13

INT. TONY'S LIVING ROOM. DAY 11.

3/13

Continuous. Tony and Cuckoo are chatting happily. Tony is holding Floxy. Ken hovers in the doorway.

CUCKOO

Of course, the Egyptian goddess Bat was a cat. Ironically, because you'd think from the name that she was a bat!

TONY

Ha! You definitely would.

They laugh, delighted. They're really enjoying each others company.

KEN

Well, I don't know about bats and cats, but are you ready for the Owls, Tony?

(MORE)

KEN (CONT'D)

Thought we'd get up Hillsborough
early - get some good seats.

TONY

Ken - my wife's come back to me
from beyond the veil. I'm not about
to go to the football. That would
be right rude.

KEN

(huge disappointment)
Oh. (BEAT) It's just I got these
over a month ago to make sure we
got good seats. (BEAT) The tickets
did cost ninety pounds.

Cuckoo and Tony look at Ken - how pathetic.

CUCKOO

(shaking his head)
Oh Ken.

Out on Ken's face.

CUT TO:

3/14 **EXT. TONY'S HOUSE. DAY 11.**

3/14

Early evening - a pleasant summer evening.

CUT TO:

DELETED SCENES 3/15, 3/16

CUT TO:

3/17 **INT. LANDING. DAY 11.**

3/17

Ken trudges upstairs, bored. He sees Dylan, in an upstairs
bedroom. Dylan has the gun - he is aiming it out the window
at the back garden.

He pulls the trigger of the rifle - no shot comes out.

KEN

Dylan, don't play with that gun.

CUT TO:

3/17A **INT. UPSTAIRS BEDROOM. DAY 11.**

3/17A

Continuous.

DYLAN

They think the cat is grandma - I mean - Jesus.

KEN

(surprised)

So there is one rationalist in the family.

DYLAN

People don't come back after death. There is nothing afterwards, no 'point' or 'meaning' to life. That's why you should chill out about hurting people and get on with accumulating money, possessions, and sexual partners.

KEN

Hmmm.

Ken looks at Dylan - at least he's a bit on his side.

KEN (CONT'D)

Would you... would you like to come to the pub?

DYLAN

The pub?

KEN

The Fox and Star - great little pub in town. Be good to get out of here.

DYLAN

Is this a trick?

KEN

No.

DYLAN

You're going to take me to the pub and buy me drinks?

KEN

Yes. I'm going to buy you a limited number of drinks.

Dylan looks surprised and pleased.

DYLAN

I'll get my phone.

Dylan leaves.

Ken is now alone. He gives a world weary sigh.

Ken picks up the gun. He looks through it, admires it.

He points the viewfinder out the window, at the back garden - just like Dylan was doing.

He sees Floxy the cat in the garden.

KEN

Bloody cat.

He trains the gun on the cat. He's playing like a little boy. He makes a few 'gunshot' sounds. He smiles. This is better.

He pulls the trigger.

The guns goes off. Bang!

The cat is dead on the grass outside. Red blood. White fur.

Ken looks utterly shocked.

DYLAN

(at the doorway)

Did you just...shoot the cat?

Ken turns to see Dylan, standing in the doorway, he has seen everything.

KEN

There were bullets in this. Didn't you check?

Dylan shakes his head. They look at each other, horrified.

Dylan comes to the window. They look out - suddenly, Tony and Cuckoo walk into the garden. Oh shit.

CUT TO:

3/18

EXT. GARDEN. DAY 11.

3/18

Continuous. Tony and Cuckoo take a seat on the garden furniture - facing away from the cat corpse.

TONY

So it's like a fast food van - but it's also like a spiritual counselling centre.

CUCKOO

You have a fast mind, Tony - you were onto that one like a fucking jackal.

Ken appears - he has his old sports bag with him.

TONY

Hey Ken. Did you hear a loud noise
a second ago?

KEN

Yes. Yes, I did Tony. Car back
firing. Unmistakable.

TONY

Seemed to come from out here. Out
back.

KEN

Hahahaha! No! You and your old
ears! Just going to the shed.

TONY

Why?

Beat.

KEN

Ern...Memories. Great memories.
(BEAT) Remember that time we tidied
up the borders?

TONY

No.

KEN

It was simply phenomenal.

CUCKOO

What's with the sports bag, Ken?

KEN

You know what? I have literally no
idea why I picked this up!
Hahahaha!

Tony and Cuckoo look at Ken stony faced as Ken fake laughs.

KEN (CONT'D)

You guys get on with it.

Ken smiles and starts to behind them, where Floxy the cat is
bleeding into the grass...

TONY

(turning)

Ken, have you seen Floxy?

Tony's eye-line is right in the direction of Floxy's dead
body. Surely he will see it...Ken is frozen with terror.

KEN

...No?

Tony suddenly turns back round, and carries on talking to Cuckoo. Phew.

As Tony and Cuckoo talk, we see Ken grimace - as he packs the dead cat into his sports bag. A couple of legs won't fit in.

TONY

Anyhow, this van. I've got a bit saved away. I'd be happy to help out.

CUCKOO

Don't give *me* your money, Tony - you should be out there - spending it on bridge, and daytime drinking - you may not have long left.

TONY

Take the money. You're part of the family now. And it's the least I can do for you, after you reunited me with Debra.

Beat.

CUCKOO

I shall remember this moment always. My philosophical potato van will forever be in your debt, and when in future people thank me for my food and my teaching I will say to them don't thank *me*. Thank Tony. And me.

In the background, Ken has finally managed to pack the cat in the bag. He stands up - he did it.

TONY

That means a lot. See you, Ken.

Ken turns as he enters the house.

KEN

See you! See you, Tony.

Coming out of the house, Lorna and Rachel suddenly surprise him.

RACHEL

Hey Dad, What's with the sports bag?

KEN

I have no idea.

Ken suddenly notices that the dead cat's white tail is coming out of one side of the bag.

Throughout the scene, he negotiates his position to keep it out of view of Rachel and Lorna.

KEN (CONT'D)

What am I like?! Anyway, I'm going to take Dylan to the Fox and Star. (BEAT) Dylan! Dylan, mate!

RACHEL

Actually, I wouldn't mind a drink...

LORNA

Yeah, that would be nice.

KEN

You can't come.

TONY

Why not? Be nice to get out of the house. We can all go. Take Debra too. Debra! Where is she?

KEN

I dunno! Where is she?!

Tony looks stunned.

KEN (CONT'D)

I mean, I think I saw her heading off over the wall. Going home to the neighbours I imagine.

TONY

Well then - she'll have to miss out.

KEN

Tony - you should probably wait. I mean - she never liked you drinking. And you should wait with him Lorn - and Cuckoo and Rachel can keep you company. That's decided then.

TONY

Debs won't begrudge me a jar at the Fox. Besides she always goes back for her meals at six.

KEN

Fantastic!

Out on Ken's face...

CUT TO:

DELETED SCENES 3/19, 3/20

CUT TO:

3/20A **EXT. FOX AND STAR PUB, CARPARK. DAY 11**

3/20A

Ken drives into the carpark. Everybody gets out.

Ken eyes a skip in corner of the carpark. That could work.
Dylan approaches.

DYLAN

(sotto)

If I keep this a secret, you have
to buy me decks.

KEN

Fine, fine. I'm going to need time
to dump the cat. You're going to
need to keep them distracted. Can
you do that?

CUT TO:

DELETED SCENE 3/21

CUT TO:

3/22 **INT/EXT. FOX AND STAR PUB/ CARPARK. DAY 11**

3/22

Tony and Ken are at the bar giving a big hug to the old
barman, LENNY.

TONY

Great to see you, mate!

LENNY

Like old times!

Ken and Tony carry the drinks back to the table (A table next
to the window looking onto the carpark).

CUCKOO

Wow - isn't today just the best?!

KEN

Yeah! OK, everyone's got a drink. I
am just going to use the
facilities.

Ken leaves. He looks at Dylan meaningfully. Dylan nods - it's
up to him.

He looks around the other four. They are enjoying their
drinks, relaxing, looking around.

DYLAN

So, if I can have your attention -
what do people think of the new
Rihanna album?

RACHEL

Haven't heard it.

CUCKOO, TONY & LORNA

Me neither.

Lorna sees Ken through the pub window.

LORNA

I thought Ken was going to the loo.
What's he doing out there?

She knocks on the window to get Ken's attention.

Ken, caught in the act, gives her a big grin and a thumbs up,
then wanders around innocently.

DYLAN

Hey watch this. My beermat sticks
to my glass. Grandad look?

Tony looks.

TONY

I've not much life left son, please
don't waste it.

LORNA

(still looking out the
window)
Why's he out there, the silly
thing?

CUCKOO

Ken has been acting super-strange.

LORNA

I'm going out there.

She gets up.

DYLAN

Mum stop.

They all look at him.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

I've been beginning to ask
questions about my sexuality.

All four of them turn to look at Dylan. Lorna sits down.

TONY

(baffled)
What?

CUCKOO

(impressed)
Wow!

LORNA

(excited)
Aw Dylly, go on.

CUT TO:

3/22A **EXT. PUB CAR PARK. DAY 11**

3/22A

Ken sees that the gang aren't looking through the window at him anymore.

Ken makes a run for the car. Opens the boot, gets the old sports-bag.

He runs to the (full) skip and chucks the bag up there on top of the other rubbish.

He breathes a sigh of relief.

CUT TO:

3/22B **INT. FOX AND STAR PUB. DAY 11**

3/22B

Dylan still talking. He can see Ken has finished.

DYLAN

So after a lot of soul-searching, I came to the conclusion that I am not gay - and never have been. But I was really glad to have questioned it. And I wanted to share that with you, my family.

RACHEL

You wanted to share the fact you're not gay and never were.

DYLAN

Wow. Such a relief to get it out there.

Tony screws up his face. What was that about? Lorna looks a little puzzled. Cuckoo is nodding, clearly moved.

CUCKOO

Dylan, that was incredibly beautiful. I'm so honoured that you shared that.

(MORE)

CUCKOO (CONT'D)

(OFF EVERYONE'S FACES) Come on guys, give the little guy some props- that took some guts!

Ken comes in.

KEN

What have I missed?

RACHEL

Dylan came out as heterosexual.

KEN

I've long suspected it. You know what, Dylan - for being so candid and brave - I'm going to buy you some decks.

Dylan grins.

CUCKOO

Awesome. You deserved that, buddy.

Lorna is looking at Ken, baffled.

LORNA

Today has been strange.

CUT TO:

3/22C **EXT. PUB CAR PARK. DAY 11**

3/22C

Ken and the family get into the car and drive away.

We focus on the skip. The bag - perched on top of the other rubbish, starts to tumble down...

It falls on the tarmac.

CUT TO:

DELETED SCENE 3/23, 3/24

3/25 **INT. TONY'S HOUSE, BEDROOM. NIGHT 11.**

3/25

Ken and Lorna are getting ready for bed.

LORNA

Well, I can't remember enjoying a trip to Dad's so much! Whatever you say about this cat, Ken, she's brought him out of himself...

There's a knock on the door. Tony is there, looking a little helpless.

TONY

The Dixons called - the cat's owners. Say they haven't seen her all evening.

LORNA

Dad, I'm sure it's fine. Cats go walkabout all the time.

TONY

You're right. Night night.

Lorna shuts the door.

LORNA

Aw! Silly old man, worrying about nothing.

KEN

Well, yes Lorna. Except that the cat's never coming back - because it's dead.

LORNA

What? How do you know?

KEN

Because I shot it. Accidentally. With Tony's gun.

LORNA

You 'accidentally' shot it with a gun? Where's the body?

KEN

In a skip at the Fox and Star.

LORNA

I don't know what to think, Ken. I mean in a way, you've killed my mother.

KEN

Well, not really.

LORNA

But in a way. When are you going to tell Dad?

KEN

Hmm - I was thinking - never. Because he'd hate my guts.

LORNA

Oh come on, you have to tell him. You know I hate telling lies.

KEN

Didn't seem to bother you with your mum's bowl.

LORNA

That was pottery - this is the death of a family member. I'm going to tell him.

KEN

Then, I'll tell him about the bowl.

Lorna narrows her eyes. Ken narrows his. They stare at each other meanly.

KEN (CONT'D)

Are you finding this blackmail stand-off sexy?

Lorna stares back at him. Maybe...

LORNA

You are way off.

CUT TO:

3/26

INT. TONY'S HALLWAY. DAY 12

3/26

Morning. Tony, Lorna, Ken, Dylan, Rachel, Cuckoo. Tony puts the phone down.

TONY

That was the Dixons again. No sign of her this morning. They're fairly sure something's happened.

RACHEL

Oh Grandad.

LORNA

Don't worry. I'm sure she's not dead.

Ken looks at Lorna - she's a rubbish liar.

TONY

The Dixons are convinced. She's never been out this long before.

LORNA

OK, in that case I'm certain we can rule out foul play. Some accident. Nothing to do with anyone.

CUCKOO

Doesn't seem right. She was such a wise, responsible animal. We should look into this.

KEN

Absolutely we should. (BEAT) But you know - this is just a mad crazy thought - but maybe, maybe this is what Debra wanted to happen. Maybe she just came back from heaven, as a cat, just to see you, Tony. Just wanted to reconnect for a short time, before she went up to heaven.

TONY

You think?

KEN

Yeah. And as soon as you knew it was her, and got the chance to say goodbye properly - she went.

Everybody is looking at Ken - this could be true.

CUCKOO

What? Are you serious?

KEN

It could happen - perhaps her soul isn't strong enough to inhabit a cat for such a long time.

CUCKOO

Her soul wasn't *strong* enough? What!? That makes no sense.

KEN

You know what Cuckoo, I feel it does.

LORNA

I feel it does too.

DYLAN

Yeah. Me too.

CUCKOO

What? Oh come on!

TONY

No, Cuckoo. Ken and Lorn are right. Maybe she just came to give me a message. Maybe I should just accept that she's gone.

Cuckoo looks down at the table, defeated. Ken, Lorna and Dylan share a look. It's all over.

CUT TO:

3/27

EXT. TONY'S HOUSE, DRIVEWAY. DAY 12

3/27

The Thompson Family are just about ready to go - they are packing the last things into the car - while Tony stands there, hugging family members goodbye.

A family appear in the drive. This is the Dixons - Floxy's owners. A mum - and a few kids. They live on Tony's street. ANNE DIXON (the mum) looks flustered and excited.

TONY

Anne?

ANNE

We just remembered. We had Floxy microchipped when she was a kitten.

KEN

What's going on?

TONY

Sorry, Ken - this is Anne Dixon. Floxy's owner.

ANNE

We can track Floxy or what's left of her. Online. But our connection's down.

TONY

Oh, I don't have internet. Sorry.

KEN

Such a shame.

RACHEL

Dad does! On his smartphone.

KEN

Oh - I don't think it's working.

RACHEL

He's rubbish with technology. Give it here.

Rachel grabs Ken's iPhone. Ken looks worried.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Silly Dad. It's working fine.

Rachel and Mrs. Dixon start loading information into it. Meanwhile, Ken looks at Lorna, looks awkwardly at the Dixon family.

KEN

(to TONY)

You know we really should try and get on the road. Sunday traffic here can be murder. I mean death. Accidental murder - it's not like people intend it.

RACHEL

(still engrossed)

Wow! It says Floxy's on the move - wow, she's going very fast.

Ken looks very confusedly - at Lorna - huh?

RACHEL (CONT'D)

She's very very close and she's coming this way.

Rachel holds up the phone screen to everybody. We can see a red dot moving on a google maps page.

Ken and Lorna look at each other, very confused.

TONY

Debra's coming back, Ken!

CUCKOO

Awesome!

RACHEL

Aw, Granddad, she's just been off on her adventures.

A car pulls up in the drive. Lenny gets out - the barman from last night.

TONY

Len!

LENNY

Hiya Tony. Ken - I found your sports bag in the carpark - thought I'd bring it back for you.

Lenny has the sports bag - he dumps it on the drive. Ken looks alarmed.

RACHEL

(looking at iPhone)

She's here! It says here or very very near.

LENNY

What's going on?

TONY

Missing cat. She must be hiding.
Come on out Debra!

LENNY

Oh, I'll help. Come on out, puss,
puss.

Everyone starts making cooing noises for Debra. Ken and Lorna share a look. Lorna starts making cooing noises.

KEN

Well, let me get this bag out your
way first. Just put it in the boot.

He leans down and takes the bag, only to find Cuckoo has grabbed the other handle.

CUCKOO

It's OK, Ken. I'll look after that
for you.

KEN

No. I'd rather take it myself, if
that's OK.

CUCKOO

Relax, Ken. I've got it.

Cuckoo wrenches at the bag. The sports bag jingles. Beat.
Cuckoo shakes the bag again - the same bell.

TONY

That's a cat bell!

CUCKOO

Ken - what have you got in here?

KEN

Cuckoo - give me the bag now. We
need to get on the road or we'll
hit traffic.

ANNE

What's that in the zip?

Anne can see some white fur poking through the zip. Ken grabs it from Cuckoo, but Cuckoo holds onto it. They are both now holding the bag.

KEN

Give me the bag, Cuckoo.

ANNE

It's fur!

TONY

Fur? Like cat fur?

KEN

You're...way off...because that happens to be a Russian hat.

CUCKOO

We got to get this bag open!

Cuckoo tries to open the bag. Ken tries to wrench it off him - a tug of war.

The family look on confused as Cuckoo and Ken tug on either side of the bag, both determined to win.

They're both straining hard. Ken loses his grip, and falls. Cuckoo starts to try and open the bag.

Ken grabs the bag again - they start to tug of war again...

Finally, the old bag rips apart in the middle. Floxy's bloody corpse plonks out onto the drive.

KEN

Wow! What the hell is a dead cat doing in my bag?

TONY

Ken?

KEN

Hang on a second there Tony. I'm just trying to work out how on earth this happened.

TONY

Ken - did you kill Debra - then try to hide it?

Ken wrestles. No, he's lost.

KEN

OK, Tony, fair dos - I had an accident - with your gun.

Tony looks at him, outraged. Cuckoo puts his arm around Tony - and shakes his head at Ken. One of the Dixon's children - a little girl - begins to sob.

Lorna leans into Tony.

LORNA

(soft, whispered)
Dad, I dropped mum's bowl.

TONY

That's fine, Lorna.

Lorna backs away. She does a mini air punch.

LORNA
(to herself)
Yes!

CUT TO:

3/28

INT. KEN'S CAR. NIGHT 12.

3/28

It is dark. Ken is driving down the motorway. The whole of the rest of the family are asleep.

CUCKOO
Tony will get through this - he's strong. But if you don't mind me saying so - I think it was a bad decision of yours to murder the cat.

KEN
Well, it was an accident.

CUCKOO
There are no accidents. You did what you thought was right - which was to shoot and kill a cat.

KEN
No, I didn't mean to do it.

CUCKOO
Well, obviously subconsciously you did.

KEN
Let's have the radio.

He switches on the radio. Cuckoo blabbers on, but Ken switches the volume so high, Cuckoo is drowned out.

"Killer Queen" by Queen. Ken drives on, not enjoying the implication of the song.

THE END