

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 lap-dances. 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 gun 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!  
Hahahahaha!

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 chuck's 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**