

# CUCKOO

SERIES THREE

**EPISODE 1: "BIRTH"**

SHOOTING SCRIPT

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1

**EXT. THE CITY OF SHANGHAI. DAY 1. 1600**

1

Huge skyscrapers loom above the Yangtze river delta.

DALE (V.O)

Dear Chief Ken, I am writing you  
from the city Shanghai in a  
country the local people call  
China.

2

**INT. SHANGHAI BUILDING, CORRIDOR. DAY 1. 1600**

2

Dale strides along the corridor, in an expensive business suit with a bag of groceries under one arm.

DALE (V.O.)

Sorry I took off at Christmas without saying goodbye. After Rachel decided not to be with me, I had a lot of thinking to do.

\*  
\*  
\*

Dale reaches his door, gets his keys to open his apartment.

DALE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Lichfield, England is often on my mind. But Lady Luck's been kind to me these six months. I have a place to live and a top job in the Shanghai business community. Yes, Chief Ken...

\*  
\*  
\*

3 SCENE OMITTED

3

4

**INT. SHANGHAI BUILDING, DALE'S APARTMENT. DAY 1. 1602**

4

Dale enters, cheerfully singing. The modest apartment is high up, with city views.

He takes his groceries to the kitchen. There is a photo of the Thompson family on the fridge. He picks up a letter addressed to Lichfield, UK, (the letter we are hearing read), and seals the envelope.

DALE (V.O.)

...I can say at last with  
absolute certainty that  
everything is going my way!

REVEAL three huge menacing Chinese thugs standing in his apartment. They are, in order of ferociousness, HWANG PENG, LIU HONG and WU LI. One of them has dreadlocks.

Dale looks up at them surprised, but not fazed. Inexplicably, he can talk to the Chinese gangsters in English, and still understand them when they talk in Chinese.

DALE

Oh hey guys! Good party last  
night? It was your birthday,  
right Hwang? Too much rice wine?  
You little tearaway!

\*  
\*  
\*

HWANG nods.

DALE (CONT'D)

(counts gangsters)  
Let's see. Three nice cool ones -  
coming right up.

\*

Dale gets beers from the fridge. Meanwhile, the gangsters draw themselves up to full height, taking out an array of terrifying weapons - nunchucks, blackjack, baseball bats.

CHINESE GANGSTER ONE

(SPEAKS ANGRY CANTONESE)

\*

SUBTITLE: "You fool around with Mr. Xi's Property! Now, you must pay the price!"

DALE

Oh! (WORRIED) I guess he found  
out, huh? Is he real mad?

The gangsters advance on Dale...

\*

DALE (CONT'D)

Guys, I just wanna say. I rate you all. You're great competitors. But we don't have to do this...

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

They attack with their deadly weapons.

To anyone else this would be terrifying, but Dale is incredibly agile, and remains cheerful throughout, evading their blows, and using his groceries to incapacitate them. During the fight, he may even use the one guy's dreadlocks against him.

Through the fight, he might say things like:

DALE (CONT'D)

That's so unfair, I taught you how to nunchuck.

DALE (CONT'D)

Oh dragon-style! Very nice, Hwang Peng?

DALE (CONT'D)

Well, should have known you'd jump right up and attack again - you have such spirit, Liu Hong.

At the end, two huge thugs lie unconscious on the floor. Only one is left: WU LI. Wu Li charges - mouth wide open in a blood-curdling scream.

Dale takes a lychee from his groceries and throws it straight down Wu Li's throat. Wu Li stops and chokes.

DALE (CONT'D)

OK, guys. Well, we'll laugh about this someday, but for now - maybe I should get on a plane.

One of the guys, almost unconscious on the floor goes for his gun. Without breaking a sweat, Dale steps on his wrist and incapacitates him. The gun goes off - a bullet hits the fruitbowl next to Dale. A very close shave.

DALE (CONT'D)

Yep. Let's go with 'plane'.

\*

He slips out. Close on Dale's letter - unsent, with the Thompsons' name and address...

**TITLE CARD: CUCKOO**

5

**INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, KITCHEN. DAY 2. 1830**

5

Lorna is heavily pregnant. She watches anxiously as Ken talks on the phone.

KEN

(on phone, panicked)

Forty minutes?! Listen mate, my wife is on the verge of giving birth and... Twenty minutes! OK. We can hold on till then.

(RELIEVED LOOK TO LORNA, THEN TO PHONE) Yep, I'll have a Prawn Jalfrezi. Mixed Meat Balti. Naans - garlic-keema-plain.

\*

DYLAN

Tandoori special.

KEN

(how did he forget?)

My MIND IS GOING! And a Tandoori special for four. Well remembered, Dylan.

\*

Lorna looks at him reprovingly. He puts the phone down.

KEN (CONT'D)

What? The bump's a week late.  
Curry helps induce labour.

\*

\*

LORNA

(amused)

We've had it three times this week, greedy guts.

KEN

I'm not being greedy here. This is one of the rare occasions the best way is also the tastiest way. And you need your energy. Be tough when the baby comes.

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

LORNA

Yeah. Ken, you know these new branches we're opening in Sutton Coldfield? Rachna asked today if I'd oversee them. Sort of head honcho.

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

KEN

Great news, gorgeous! Well deserved, might I say!

\*

\*

\*

\*

LORNA

Thanks Ken! They want me to start  
straight away.

KEN

Yes. (BEAT) Hang on.

LORNA

So I was thinking this time round -  
third time round - you might handle  
the baby duties. Take Paternity  
Leave.

Ken looks startled. Dylan perks up.

DYLAN

Oh this is jokes!

KEN

Paternity Leave? No, I don't think  
so!

LORNA

Interesting. Why not?

KEN

Well... (THINKS) Very late to  
decide! You've kind of sprung it on  
me!

LORNA

Right! Sort of like you sprang a  
baby on me. By lying about your  
vasectomy.

DYLAN

And that's the knockout!

KEN

Well, there are other  
reasons... which are momentarily  
elusive. (BEAT) In theory why not?  
Thing is - I would have to ask the  
other partners. And I am HUGELY  
important to the firm. A kind of  
king to them, in my humble way.

LORNA

Great! So you'll ask them tomorrow!

KEN

Sure, I will. I'll ask.

Lorna leaves the room. Pause. Ken looks torn and annoyed.  
Dylan sniggers.

DYLAN

(mimicking him)

Going to look after the baby.  
Going to give it its bockle and  
wear a pinny and be the "pwimawy  
cawer".

KEN

Shut it. I'm not even going to  
mention this at work. As soon as  
your mum sets eyes on that baby,  
and that oxytocin hormone starts a-  
flowin', all thoughts of Paternity  
leave will leave her mind. Just  
gonna ride it out.

DYLAN

Wow, sweet plan, Dad. Give me  
twenty quid or I'll tell Mum.

Ken sighs, gets out his wallet, and gives him twenty quid.

KEN

Dylan, when you go to university  
and leave this house...

DYLAN

Yes. What?

KEN

Nothing. Just a wonderful  
thought!

The doorbell rings.

6 INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, FRONT DOOR/HALLWAY. DAY 2. 1832 6

Ken opens the front door.

KEN

Finally. Yummy yum... Oh sorry,  
sir. Thought you were the  
curry...

There is a MAN at the door, wearing a beautiful dark Armani suit, a high lustrous Eighties quiff, carrying an expensive looking briefcase, and designer sunglasses.

He smiles and removes his sunglasses. It's DALE.

KEN (CONT'D)

Dale? What the hell?

DALE

Chief Ken! Long time no see!

They take a moment. Grin at each other.

7 EXT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, DRIVEWAY/BEN'S CAR. DAY 2. 1840 7

Ben and Rachel pull up outside the house.

BEN

Touchdown at Thompson Towers! And  
so concludes another mighty  
session in the drinking  
establishments of Lichfield!

\*

RACHEL

Thanks for being designated driver.  
Must be boring not drinking.

\*

BEN

You know me! Couldn't be boring  
if I tried.

RACHEL

Awww! So glad we stayed friends.

BEN

Best friends. Besties.

RACHEL

Could easily have been weird,  
with us almost being engaged...

BEN

Well, technically, we were engaged.  
You said yes.

\*

RACHEL

Yeah, but then I said no about ten  
seconds later.

BEN

Exactly. So we were engaged - for  
ten seconds. We were... (BREAKS  
OFF) This doesn't matter! The point  
is you're still the love of my  
life. It's just you're the FRIEND  
love of my life.

RACHEL

Feels right doesn't it. I think  
it's because it never really got  
that good for us sexually did it?

BEN

(sucks it up)

Yes.

Ken has come to the car from the house.

KEN

(calling out)

Rachel! (TO BEN) Hi Ben!

(MORE)

KEN (CONT'D)  
(TO RACHEL) You have to come in!  
Dale's back!

Rachel looks like she's been punched in the stomach. So does Ben.

RACHEL BEN  
Oh my god. Oh fuck off! \*

Ken heads back indoors.

RACHEL  
Ben, how do I look?

BEN  
Not your best. Maybe stay in the car. Wait until he's gone away again.

RACHEL  
I'm going in! Wish me luck! \*

BEN  
(pathetically)  
Yeah! You go girl! \*

Rachel skips in eagerly. Ben drops his head on the car horn. It sounds out loudly. Rachel turns.

BEN (CONT'D)  
(cheerfully)  
Have fun! \*

8           **INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, KITCHEN. NIGHT 2. 1900**           8

The family eat their massive curry together.

Rachel and Dale share a glance. Rachel's pretty awestruck by this change in him.

DALE

Oh my Lord! Yum, yum all in my tum.  
One thing I've missed while out in  
Asia. Good curry.

\*

LORNA

Dale, you look SO nice in your  
suit. Doesn't he, Rach?

RACHEL

Yep. Yep. Very nice.

DALE

Thank you, Lorna. Mr Xi had this  
suit made for me personally. Mr  
Xi is my new mentor. Oh, what a  
wise and inspirational man!

\*

\*

LORNA

Right. He's not...another cult  
leader is he...

DALE

(laughs)

Oh no, Lorna, I learnt my lesson  
on that one! I was so  
impressionable back then huh, you  
must have thought I was a real  
dope!

LORNA

We did not!

KEN

(sort of...)

Hmm?

DALE

No, Mr Xi is a successful business  
man. He worked his way up from the  
bottom, fought hard, and now has  
interests all over Shanghai. I  
guess he saw a kindred spirit in  
me. I worked for him almost six  
months and I learned a helluva lot.

\*

LORNA

(suspicious, digging)  
So, with everything so great out  
there - what brings you back to  
Lichfield?

DALE

(looks at Rachel)

Well, once a man has found  
success in his work, his  
attention turns to matters of the  
heart...

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

Lorna knows exactly what he's talking about. She glances  
significantly at Rachel too.

RACHEL

Dale doesn't have to go into this  
right now.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

LORNA

Well, you can stay as long as you  
like... Only, we're doing up your  
room for the baby, so you'll have  
to sleep in Dylan's room.

\*  
\*  
\*

DYLAN

*That isn't happening.*

KEN

Great! We can put the old bunk beds  
in there.

DYLAN

No. We can put the old bunk beds in  
your ass.

Dale slaps him round the face.

DALE

Insubordination!

KEN

(smiles approvingly)  
Good to have you back, Dale. (TO  
DYLAN) Move your bed out yourself.  
I am not touching your clammy  
mattress.

\*

9 INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, KEN AND LORNA'S BEDROOM. NIGHT 2. 21109

Ken and Lorna in bed.

LORNA

He's come back for Rachel! It's  
finally happening! Love is in the  
air, Ken!

\*  
\*  
\*

KEN

Well, she could do worse. Good lad  
is Dale. No brainbox - but he gets  
stuck in.

\*

LORNA

Wouldn't want Rach to move to  
China... Although it is a growing  
economy, I read.

KEN

I dunno. Rachel's in a rut right  
now. Maybe change would be good  
for her. And if it's Dale... who  
cares if he's her dead husband's  
son by a teenage one-night stand?

LORNA

...as the song goes!

They giggle.

10

**INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, DYLAN'S ROOM. NIGHT 2. 2115**

10

Dale is building the bunk beds at mega speed. Rachel appears at the door. Dylan is listening to music in his headphones.

Rachel appears at the door.

\*  
\*

RACHEL

Hey.

DALE

Hey! Me and Dylan are just buildin' up these beds, mom!

\*

RACHEL

Yeah, do you think it's time to drop the 'mom' thing? Now, you're back. And since we have had sex.

DALE

OK, mom. Guess I'll call you, Rachel. Or Rach. (THINKS) I like both!

\*  
\*

RACHEL

Dale, I've been thinking. Last time, you left so suddenly, and I felt we - you and me - had some... talking to do.

DALE

I'm so glad you said that! There's SO much to say isn't there?

RACHEL

Loads, yeah. SO maybe we could go out, do it properly? There's a neat, little Italian just popped up on the High Street.

DALE

Cool! What does he want?

\*

RACHEL

It's a restaurant not a person.

DALE

OK! Great idea! Really missed you, mom. (CORRECTS HIMSELF) Rach!

\*

RACHEL

Me too. Night.

DALE

Night.

Rachel leaves. Out on Rachel's face. She does a little excited dance.

11 EXT. LICHFIELD STREETS. DAY 3. 0910

11 \*

Ken and Lorna run into Jess, an attractive heavily pregnant woman in her late thirties.

JESS

Hey! How are my NCT homies?

KEN

Ah, Jess, good to see you!

LORNA

How's it going?

JESS

Oh, you know - ready to pop. And Mark's still in Dubai, so... yeah. Poor, deserted, pregnant Jess.

LORNA

Oh, it's a crying shame.

JESS

Well, he sends cheques. Maybe I should buy a man in! How much for this one?

Lorna laughs. Ken laughs.

LORNA

Too much for anyone. I sell by the pound!

Everyone laughs.

KEN

Ha ha... (ANNOYED) All right.

LORNA

We're actually overdue now. Hard not to get anxious about it...

JESS

Oh well, friend of mine swears the only thing that works is nipple stimulation.

KEN

Maybe we should try it.

JESS

Us? Ken, you are naughty!

KEN

No, no. Hell, no. I mean - Lorna  
and me.

JESS

(terrible embarrassment)  
Of course! Of course! You two are  
the sweetest! Could eat you up!  
Anyway, gotta run, bye! See you  
on the other side!

Lorna scowls as Jess goes away.

LORNA

She is the worst!

KEN

(fondly)  
I like her.

LORNA

Because she fancies you.

Ken looks at her. Smiles.

KEN

I love you for even thinking it's a  
possibility.

12 INT. KEN'S WORKPLACE, KEN'S OFFICE. DAY 3. 1000

12

Ken is at his desk. Ben appears at the door.

BEN

Ken, how goes it down the old  
Thompson ranch?

KEN

Not bad, Benjamin.

\*

BEN

(fishing)  
So Dale's back!

\*

KEN

They're going for dinner  
tonight...

BEN

That's so great - good to see  
they're wasting no time.

\*

KEN

OK, Ben...

BEN

What?

KEN

Hope this doesn't sound too  
direct, but drop this pathetic  
charade. Get some distance, mate.  
You're just hurting yourself.

\*

BEN

Don't get you, Ken. Why would it  
hurt spending time with your  
bessie mate? THIS is hurting  
myself.

\*

He grabs a staple gun and staples his own arm.

BEN (CONT'D)

Ow! Jesus! So I won't do that.  
But hanging out with Rachel? No  
problem there. (BEAT) Where are  
they having this date tonight?

\*

KEN

New Italian on the high street.

BEN

Solid. They do a carbonara to die  
for.

\*

13 INT. KEN'S WORKPLACE, COMMITTEE ROOM. DAY 3. 1530 13

Ken is at the head of the table. He has his feet up on the desk, totally comfortable. He's bouncing a ball against the wall, and not even bothering making eye contact.

Jane sits at the other end. All the other partners are turned towards Ken, as towards the Sun King.

KEN  
(catching the ball)  
Yeah! So if I can sum up here:  
Adrian cocked everything up and now  
they're suing us.

ADRIAN  
Not a great result, Ken. But I gave  
it a hundred percent.

KEN  
(SARCASTIC) Well, as long as you  
tried. Guess muggins here will have  
to bail you losers out again.

ADRIAN  
Would you, Ken?

KEN  
(finishing)  
My pleasure. OK, meeting over.

Everybody's about to get up to leave.

BEN  
Wait everybody!... Er, Ken aren't  
you forgetting something?

KEN  
No, Ben. Don't think I am.

BEN  
(rolls his eyes)  
Come on all of you - sit down! Ken,  
you drongo, you forgot to ask for  
Paternity Leave...

KEN  
(look of worry)  
What are you doing?

BEN  
Don't worry. Lorna texted me to  
remind you. So, everybody, Ken  
really, really wants six months  
paid leave to look after his baby.

Everybody turns to look at Ken, astonished.

JANE

You do realise you're meant to give six weeks notice? That is really putting us in a position.

\*  
\*  
\*

Ken reads the room. It's not going to happen - brilliant.

KEN

Aw! So, it's impossible. A hard blow. Well, Ben, probably text Lorna and say I was turned down. Great, so...

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

JANE

On the other hand... It *would* be an inspiring example to the female workforce. I think I like it.

\*  
\*  
\*

ADRIAN

Jane, are you on crazy pills? We can't do without Ken. He's the Big Daddy. The Grand Old Duke of Law. He makes it rain like bloody nimbostratus.

\*  
\*

KEN

Looking at this objectively, I do see Adrian's point.

\*

JANE

Oh I don't know. We're big boys and girls. We can handle it.

\*

BEN

We'll be FINE.

He gives Ken a thumbs up. Got your back, partner. Ken panics.

KEN

Brave words, guys. But let's not be cursory. Adrian, maybe unpack what you were saying.

\*  
\*

ADRIAN

Well, I don't know...

KEN

You do. Come on. Why SHOULDN'T I go on Paternity Leave? Say something, you wet!

\*  
\*

ADRIAN

Er... Ken's the rainmaker.

KEN

You've said that one.

JANE

Let's just vote. All those for  
Ken's paternity leave!

\*

Jane, Ben and one other partner put their hands up.

JANE (CONT'D)

Three for. And against?

Adrian and one other partner put their hand up.

Ken sees the way the wind is blowing. Desperate, he sticks  
HIS hands up.

ADRIAN

Three against. (REALISES KEN IS  
ONE OF THEM, CONFUSED) And Senior  
Partner has casting vote...?

The whole room looks at Ken in total confusion.

JANE

Ken, are you voting against your  
own paternity leave?

He looks around. Everyone thinks he's being VERY strange.

KEN

Must have got confused. Obviously,  
I'm voting for it. Because that's  
what I want.

\*

JANE

Great, so Ken's taking Paternity  
Leave. While he's away, I suppose  
I'll have to take the reins.

\*

\*

\*

\*

Almost immediately, everyone's chair now faces away from him  
and towards Jane.

\*

\*

\*

JANE (CONT'D)

Fantastic! OK, well I suppose, see  
you in six months, Ken!

\*

\*

\*

She walks out the room, does a little skip of joy. Ken looks  
at Ben: you utter tit.

\*

\*

14

INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, LIVING ROOM. DAY 3. 1620

14

Lorna is hugging Ken as Rachel and Dale come downstairs.

\*

LORNA

Aw, I love you! (SEES RACHEL AND DALE) Guys, it's official! Once the baby's popped, Dad's going to be primary carer.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

DALE

I don't know what that is, but congratulations Chief Ken!

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

RACHEL

That's really cool, dad. See you later!

\*  
\*  
\*

Rachel and Dale go off together.

\*

LORNA

(to KEN)

You are quite something, Ken Thompson. What other husband would just drop his career like that because it was the fair thing to do?

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

KEN

True. I'm a great guy. (BEAT) Having said that - now I've shown my willingness to do Paternity Leave, maybe that's enough. Maybe it's time to ask the question - what happens if I in fact don't do Paternity Leave. Would that better? Maybe it would!

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

Lorna slowly lets go of the hug.

\*

LORNA

Ken, grow up. Just because you take time off to look after your own child does not make you less of a man.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

DYLAN

I dunno - he's already had his balls lopped off. Pattern emerging.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

KEN

It's not that, it's just...(SMALL VOICE) I like being Senior Partner. Also, you're better at child-care, you've had loads of experience.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

LORNA

Because I did everything with  
Rachel and Dylan!

KEN

And what a great job you did! Look  
at this strapping boy... (HE GRABS  
DYLAN) With his place to do media  
studies, and his... sly mind.  
Doesn't it make you wanna do it all  
over again?

The doorbell.

LORNA

You are not getting out of this.

15

**SCENE OMITTED**

15

16 INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOUSE, FRONT DOOR/HALLWAY. DAY 3. 162316

Ken opens the door. Steve has his medical bag with him, and walks in immediately.

STEVE  
Well hello there, Ken! Lorna! \*

KEN  
We're busy. Go away. \*

STEVE  
Not a social call, Ken. As your family doctor, I'm here to check on my patient. (HE SMILES AT LORNA, BEAT) Haven't seen you two much since Connie ran off again! You know, I'm just up the road now. Come round. Check out my new hot-tub. Got it half price - the previous owner drowned in it. \*

He begins to delve in his bag. \*

KEN  
Steve, we're using a doctor at the hospital. \*

STEVE  
Tsk. Not gonna trust those quacks at the so called "hospital" are you, Ken. (AS IF TELLING A RIDICULOUS ANECDOTE) I was *kicked out* of the hospital for alleged malpractice. They won't let *me* within 20 yards of the place. So there we go. That's how stupid hospitals are! (SMILES) Let's have a look.

He looks at Lorna's belly. \*

STEVE (CONT'D)  
(as he listens)  
OK. In my professional opinion, this baby could be coming out any day now! (EARNEST) Am I right? \*

LORNA  
It's a week late. We're getting a bit anxious. \*

KEN  
Don't encourage him. \*

STEVE

A while back now I rejected  
Western notions of medicine, got  
into Eastern methods:  
reflexology, acupuncture, ancient  
science. Lorna, I have a trick to  
get that baby out of you like a  
rat from a trap.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

LORNA

Does this method involve you  
touching me in any way?

STEVE

(chuckles)

No. (BEAT) I mean I could. (OFF  
HER FACE) But no, fine without.

\*

LORNA

Can't hurt! I'll read Marie  
Claire while you get on with it.

\*  
\*

STEVE

(formally)

Thank you for this opportunity.  
(TO HIMSELF) You're back, Steve.  
You're back!

\*  
\*  
\*

17

**INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOUSE, LIVING ROOM. DAY 3. 1624**

17

Lorna reads her magazine, absorbed. Steve is wearing a purple bib over his normal clothes, and dangling a large sword in one hand. He down a tumbler of whiskey.

\*  
\*

STEVE

Rah! And we begin!

\*

He hands the sword to Ken.

\*

STEVE (CONT'D)

OK, so hold that pointing to the sky like you're at Giza or Karnak. It's your job to align the energy fields. Align them, Ken. Align the energy fields.

\*

Ken holds the sword upright in his right hand. What the hell is this? Lorna looks at Ken and giggles.

Steve stands looking at Lorna.

STEVE (CONT'D)

OK, Lorna. Look at me.

Lorna looks at him. He moves his head to the left, making a quiet, strange noise. Lorna keeps eye contact.

He moves his head to the right.

He makes series of judo-like moves over Lorna, then a gesture of power towards her belly.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Hip. Si. Bin. YAH!!!

A silence. Lorna looks apprehensive then disappointed.

KEN

You blew my mind, Steve.

\*

LORNA

(giggling)

Oh, you silly beggar, you're just not... OH MY JESUS CHRIST!!

\*

Lorna's waters have broken.

LORNA (CONT'D)

Ken, it's happening. Come on!  
It's happening!

KEN

Oh Christ. Where are my keys?

STEVE  
(whispered to himself)  
Victory.

Ken rushes out. Lorna stumbles to get her coat. Steve looks genuinely shocked by his own power.

STEVE (CONT'D)  
Victory!!!!!!

Out on Steve's villainous face.

18 EXT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOUSE, DRIVEWAY/KEN'S CAR. DAY 3. 162618

Ken's bundles Lorna into his car, while on his phone.

KEN

(to phone)

Ben, Rachel's not picking up -  
would you swing by the  
restaurant, get her to the  
hospital? Thanks mate.

LORNA

Ken! Hurry!

Ken gets in the car. Steve runs out.

STEVE

Be fair, Ken - let me finish the  
job. I'll deliver it. Freebie.

The car drives off.

\*  
\*  
\*

STEVE (CONT'D)

(shouting after them)

Call the baby Steve! Call it Steve!

19 **INT. ITALIAN RESTAURANT. DAY 3. 1700**

19

Dale and Rachel are on their dinner date.

DALE

You would love the food! There's a dish called Chicken Chop Suey. You have never tasted the like!

RACHEL

Makes me miss travelling, listening to you.

DALE

Travelling's fun! You should do it more.

RACHEL

Who would I go with? (BEAT) So - you heading back to China soon?

DALE

Well, it kinda depends on what happens now I'm here.

Beat.

DALE (CONT'D)

I wanted to talk to you about Christmas.

RACHEL

We have to talk about Christmas.

DALE (CONT'D)

Oh! Spooky! You first!

RACHEL

No, you. Just say what you feel.

DALE

I was so cut up when you said we couldn't be together. See - I was taught to believe that each person on earth is given only one love. It was so confusing! I had to go away, work it out.

RACHEL

And did you? Work it out?

DALE

Well sorta. (THINKS) I suppose I just got to believe in second chances.

RACHEL

Second chances are good.

She smiles shyly. He smiles back.

\*

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DALE

Great! (BEAT, LOOKS AT HER) I have  
fallen for a truly special girl.  
Someone who's beautiful. And kind.  
And clever. And funny.

\*  
\*  
\*

RACHEL

(flirting, loving it)  
Oh yeah? What's her name, this  
girl?

DALE

Ling. She lives in Shanghai, China.

RACHEL

Who the fuck is Ling? I mean -  
(NICELY) Ling?

\*  
\*

DALE

She's Mr. Xi's daughter. We fell in  
love but Mr Xi was not cool with  
it, so he had me chased out of  
town. Now, I've got to lie low till  
Ling talks her dad round. Then I'll  
go back to China and we'll be  
together forever!

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
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\*  
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\*  
\*  
\*

RACHEL

Right. So you're in love with Ling.  
And you're only here to hide out  
from her dad. This is great!

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

DALE

I knew you'd be happy! I mean -  
think - there I was, last  
Christmas, following you round like  
a lovesick puppy! But now it can be  
Dale and Mom - friends again,  
without even the faintest hint of  
weirdness! Wait, what did YOU want  
to say about Christmas?

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
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\*

RACHEL

Erm... I wanted to say...

Suddenly a shout from the other side of the room.

BEN

Rachel! Stop!

Ben is walking quickly over to them. Rachel turns - so  
grateful - for being bailed out.

RACHEL

Ben!

BEN

Stop it! You have to stop this  
immediately. Your mum's waters  
broke. Come on! Wrap it up. Stand  
up, Dale.

RACHEL

Yeah, let's go now. Ben, can you  
give me a lift? I'll pay up.

\*  
\*

Rach runs off to pay the bill. Ben looks at Dale with  
hatred.

BEN

(I hate you)

Yeah, would take you too. It's  
just I only have space for one in  
the car.

\*

DALE

(cheerfully smiling  
back)

That's OK! I'll jog! Race you  
there!

\*  
\*

And he runs off.

\*

20 **INT. HOSPITAL, CORRIDOR (KEYPAD). DAY 3. 1705** 20

Ken stands outside the Maternity Corridor which is accessed via a door with a keypad. He can't remember the code.

He looks at a code on his hand written in biro. He types in \*  
the number, and goes in. \*

21 INT. HOSPITAL, LORNA'S WARD. DAY 3. 1706

21

Ken enters. Lorna is tucked up in a hospital bed. Dr Stokes is looking at her scans.

KEN  
Everything OK?

DOCTOR STOKES  
All on course. But looking at these scans, you might be in for the long haul. Another four hours would be my guess.

She moves out. Ken and Lorna breathe a sight of relief. Rachel comes in, with Dale soon after.

\*

RACHEL  
Hey Mum! Everything all right?

\*

DALE  
Phew, these suits were not made for long distance running! Did a baby come yet?

\*

\*

LORNA  
You're all in plenty of time. How was your da...

RACHEL  
Dinner! Our friendly dinner. It was fine. Really good and fine. Let's stop talking about it!

\*

LORNA  
(smiling)  
OK. Well, look at us, all on time. Got my whole family around me. (REMEMBERS) Dylan! (TO KEN) You'd better call him, get him over here.

\*

Ken looks at his phone.

KEN  
No reception. Be back soon as.

Ken gives her a kiss and moves off.

DALE  
I'll stay here, Ken. Guard your babymother.

\*

Dale puts his arm round Rachel. Rachel's finding it hard to be in the same room as Dale.

RACHEL  
Might also get some air.

\*

Dale gets some stuff out of his bag for Lorna.

DALE

I ran by the supermarket on my way over. Snacks. Magazines. I thought you might like some moisturiser - the aircon in these places can be terrible.

Lorna looks impressed.

22 INT. HOSPITAL, CORRIDOR. DAY 3. 1707

22

Rachel steps out into the hospital corridor fighting back tears. Ben is waiting there.

BEN

How's your mum?

RACHEL

Good. Be a few hours.

BEN

Rachel? \*

Rachel is starting to cry. She can't help herself.

RACHEL

Nothing's going to happen between me and Dale! \*

She sobs, and falls into his arms, tearful.

BEN

(trying to contain his delight)

Whaaaaat? Oh shit the bed!!!

RACHEL

I wasted all that time thinking about Dale, and he met someone as soon as he set foot in China! \*

BEN

Dale's got a girlfriend in China! \*  
And he's over you! Massive \*  
bummer! Pissed off right now! \*

RACHEL

He's madly in love with her! \*

BEN

Hey! You'll bounce back. And now you're single and carefree! Although you should consider getting into another serious relationship before too long. \*

RACHEL

You're the best, you know that? (GIVES HIM A HUG) I'll call you. \*

Rachel trots back to Lorna. \*

BEN

(calling after her)

OK, bye bestie! \*

23 INT. HOSPITAL, CORRIDOR. DAY 3. 1710 23

Ken's staring at his phone, which doesn't have reception.

KEN

Obey me, you bastard!

\*

JESS (O.S.)

Ken!

\*

It's Jess in a hospital gown.

KEN

You're here too!

\*

JESS

Looks like it's popping at last!  
Marc missed his plane back from  
Dubai. Work again. Pretty good  
indication where *his* priorities  
lie. Yeeeeow!

\*

A big contraction. Ken's a little bit put out.

JESS (CONT'D)

(recovering)

That was a big one. So your  
wife's in too...

\*

\*

KEN

Yeah. Lorn's got a few hours to  
go. Looks like you're going to  
beat her to it. Well done!

\*

JESS

Ha! Yes! I suppose have a fast  
vagina!

\*

KEN

Ha! Congratulations!

\*

Suddenly a huge contraction comes over Jess.

JESS

Raaaaargh!

She grabs Ken's hand. It's a vice-like grip, and Ken can't  
get out of it...

KEN

What? What's going on?

JESS

(intensely, in pain)

What do you think is going on?

It's coming! I need you to get a  
doctor!

KEN  
(SHOUTS IN PANIC) Doctor! We need  
a doctor!

Ken looks at his hand, trapped in Jess's vice-like grip.

KEN (CONT'D)  
Maybe if you let go of my hand I  
can fetch someone.

JESS  
For FUCK'S SAKE, Ken. Just keep  
shouting.

A medical team burst in. They start moving Jess into a room  
for the birth, but Jess doesn't let go of Ken's hand.

JESS (CONT'D)  
Aaargh!

MIDWIFE  
OK. This one's coming fast! I'm  
going to need the extractor  
ready. No worries, Mrs Price,  
we'll see you through this easily  
enough.

JESS  
Raaargh. Fuck you all!

MIDWIFE  
That's the spirit!

KEN  
(meekly)  
Erm... Doctor, could someone help  
me release this hand. I'm not  
supposed to be here.

MIDWIFE  
Someone calm the father please.  
He's panicking.

KEN  
Er yes, but you see, I'm not the  
father.

MIDWIFE  
(not looking up)  
Mr Price, I assure you this is  
far from uncommon. How about we  
get your wife through this and  
save the soap opera till later?

JESS  
Aargh! Aargh!

\*

\*

\*

KEN

Oh right. OK. Just be quick. I  
need to be out of here in a  
couple of hours.

Jess screams. Ken grimaces - stares at his hand, crushed in  
Jess' vice like grip...

24 **INT. HOSPITAL, LORNA'S WARD. DAY 3. 1716** 24

Rachel and Dale sit on either side of Lorna's bedside. Lorna is sitting up in bed dozing. Her eyes suddenly open.

LORNA

Oh my goodness, it's happening!  
It's happening! Where's the  
doctor? Where's Ken? Get Ken!

DALE

I'll find him, Lorna. I promise.

Dale sprints off. Rachel holds Lorna's hand.

25 **INT. HOSPITAL, CORRIDORS. DAY 3. 1725** 25

Action movie music runs through the final sequence. Dale runs through the corridors, he stops a passer-by.

DALE

Really big guy. His face looks sort of like a really angry eagle.

A patient points the way.

26 INT. HOSPITAL, JESS'S BIRTHING ROOM. DAY 3. 1730 26

Surrounded by doctors, and Ken, Jess strains to give birth. Close on Ken's hand, still kept in Jess' vice like grip. Ken looks terribly distressed.

JESS  
MOTHER!!!! FLIPPER!!!

Crying. A baby emerges into the world.

MIDWIFE  
It's a girl!

Ken looks down at the mixed race baby. Jess looks up at him.

JESS  
I really appreciate it, Ken. I just needed someone there for me.

MIDWIFE  
Maybe Daddy would like to cut the umbilical cord?

KEN  
(baby is mixed race)  
Daddy? For God's sake.

JESS  
Go on, Ken. If you'd like to.

KEN  
Nah. No way. Well, gotta shoot.  
Bye.

Ken leaves sheepishly. All the medical staff are looking at Ken like he's a monster...

27 **INT. HOSPITAL, LORNA'S WARD. DAY 3. 1735** 27

Lorna is in labour...

LORNA

Oh, my god, I think it's coming!  
Where's your dad?!

28

**INT. HOSPITAL, CORRIDOR/VENDING MACHINE. DAY 3. 1740**

28

Ken is walking down the corridor, looking distinctly sheepish.

He sees a chocolate machine. He definitely deserves some.

But when he pays and chooses, the bar containing the chocolate rotates, but no Twix drops.

KEN

No! Damn you!

He puts some more money in the machine. His phone starts going off in his pocket. All his texts and messages have through at once. He looks at the phone. Horror!

KEN (CONT'D)

No! No! Noooooo!

He starts to sprint off down the hospital corridor... But hears the sound of a chocolate bar dropping into the bin.

He runs back, grabs the Twix and sprints off again.

29 **INT. HOSPITAL, CORRIDORS. DAY 3. 1745** 29

Action music. Dale runs, trying to find Ken.

DALE

(running down the  
corridor)

Ken! Ken! (TO PATIENTS) Have you  
seen a really huge man? His name  
is "Chief Ken". I gotta find him.

30 **INT. HOSPITAL, CORRIDORS (KEYPAD). DAY 3. 1750** 30

Ken runs through the hospital corridors, looking for the maternity wards - but all the corridors look the same.

Finally, he sees the door with the keypad. He tries the door. He needs the code. He looks at his hand, where it was written. Jess' grip has wiped the number off.

KEN

What's the code? What is the  
bloody code, Ken you muppet! Let  
me in! Lorna, I'm here! Let me  
in!

He bangs on the door.

KEN (CONT'D)

(to self)

OK. Calm down. Start from scratch.  
(TYPES ON KEYPAD) 1111. No. 1112.  
No. 1113. (STARTS RANDOMLY TYPING)  
Any number. Any number.

He types furiously.

31

**SCENE OMITTED**

31

32 **INT. HOSPITAL, CORRIDORS. DAY 3. 1753** 32

Dale is still running, desperate to find Ken.

DALE  
(shouting )  
CHIEF KEEEN!

33 INT. HOSPITAL, CORRIDOR (KEYPAD). DAY 3. 1756 33

Ken is still at the keypad

KEN  
7256. 9247. 4747...

The midwife approaches.

KEN (CONT'D)  
Oh thank God! Please I need to get  
to my wife!

MIDWIFE  
Of course! It's Ken, right?

KEN  
Yes. Thank god.

MIDWIFE  
I'll take you to her.

Ken follows the nurse down the corridor, and into a ward.

34 **INT. HOSPITAL, JESS'S BIRTHING ROOM. DAY 3. 1800** 34

Ken enters the ward. Jess is breastfeeding her baby.

JESS

Ken! You came back!

KEN

No! Not you! Not bloody you!

And he turns round and runs off again.

35 **INT. HOSPITAL, LORNA'S WARD. DAY 3. 1810** 35

Lorna is mid-labour. Rachel is there beside her, holding her hand.

The baby emerges. A beautiful baby boy!

RACHEL

You did it! Well done, mum!

Ken finally arrives out of breath. Dale arrives seconds later.

DALE

Chief Ken! I went looking all over!

LORNA

Ken!!? Where the hell were you?

KEN

Bad phone reception. Sorry love.

LORNA

Ken, I...

KEN

Shhh! Let's just enjoy the moment!

The doctor hands the baby to Ken, he holds the baby in his arms for the first time.

KEN (CONT'D)

Number three, eh? Finally - I have a son!

LORNA

Erm, what about Dylan?

KEN

Oh yeah, Dylan.

Everyone is happy.

36 INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, KEN AND LORNA'S BEDROOM. NIGHT 3. 2120

Lorna and KEN are in bed. Ken brings Lorna a glass of water.

KEN

He's asleep! Here's that water. And if there's anything else you need, just ask.

LORNA

Wow, I feel like a princess. And all I had to do was push a ginormous baby out my lulu.

KEN

Eleven pounds, eh? Big like his dad. (SIGHS) I wasn't sure about this Paternity Leave. But seeing the lad now...Anything he needs I shall provide. You did your share with Dylan and Rach - now, it's my turn. (A SMILE BETWEEN THEM) Love you.

LORNA

Love you too.

They snuggle down to sleep. The baby starts wailing.

LORNA (CONT'D)

Primary carer.

KEN

I'll start tomorrow.

LORNA

Nope. Starting now.

KEN

You're still off work...

LORNA

Go and get him.

KEN

This is SO unfair.

Ken gets out of bed...

**END OF EPISODE**