

CUCKOO

SERIES THREE

EPISODE 2: "KIDNAP"

SHOOTING SCRIPT

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1 INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, KEN AND LORNA's BEDROOM. NIGHT 1. 030D

Ken and Lorna fast asleep in bed. Ken is in the middle of a loud dream.

KEN

Dr Lucy Worsley? What are you doing here in this helicopter? (SEXY)
Oh.... Interesting... (SUDDEN) Go away, David Starkey! Go away! You have no place here!

KEN suddenly wakes up. Sid the baby is crying in the next room. Ken looks at the clock: 3am.

KEN (CONT'D)

You are joking!

He staggers out of bed like a Neanderthal. He glances at Lorna, who is wearing an eye mask, and ear plugs.

A sign above her head says 'KEN, DO NOT WAKE ME! WORK IN THE MORNING!'

KEN (CONT'D)

Jammy cow.

...and he heads off to get Sid.

2

EXT. LICHFIELD STREETS. DAY 2. 1000

2

The next day. Bleary eyed with tiredness, Ken lurches through Lichfield with Uncle Sid strapped to his front.

KEN

So Henry Tudor ascended to the throne, his Yorkish bride at his side. (SIGHS HAPPILY) That was Ken Thompson's expert guide to The Wars of the Roses. Your thoughts, baby Sid? Any comments? Questions?

*

Sid begins to cry.

KEN (CONT'D)

Oh, come on you little bastard - get a grip! (TO THE GODS) Why did I do Paternity Leave? Why?! (SUDDENLY CHEERY) Oh hello!

*

*

Ken has stopped in front of a shop window - High and Mighty. Ken's expression suddenly changes to one of delight. Sid's crying miraculously stops.

CLOSE in on Ken's face...

KEN (CONT'D)

I deserve them!

3 INT. KEN'S OFFICE. DAY 2. 1030

3

Rachel is on Facebook.

BEN crawls towards her, unseen, on his hands and knees. He gestures to a COLLEAGUE to shush! It's a brilliant trick... Then he jumps up and surprises Rachel.

BEN

Raaaaaargh!

RACHEL

(not moving her eyes from
the screen)

Hi BEN. Sorry - today is going very
slowly.

BEN

Ah, still upset about Dale? You
pined for him for ages. And then he
came back head over heels in love
with someone else. Hardcore.

RACHEL

I wasn't thinking about that
actually, but thanks for the
reminder.

BEN

No problem, and prepare to have
your day turned around, because
someone is getting A PROMOTION!
It's you.

Rachel is less dazzled than BEN hoped.

RACHEL

A promotion? I never applied for
anything.

BEN

(sotto)

OK. Cathy's retiring as office
manager. Jane wanted a settled
mother hen figure for the office. I
looked her straight in the eye and
said 'Rachel. The mother hen you
want is Rachel.'

RACHEL

BEN, I didn't ask you to...

BEN

Almost 8K more, the pension is
awesome, and there's a guaranteed
12 months full maternity, should
you ever settle down and have a
family. With somebody. So...
Whaddya think?

*
*
*

Rachel looks at BEN with utter disbelief.

4

EXT. KEN'S OFFICE. DAY 2. 1032

4

Seconds later. BEN comforts Rachel, who sobs uncontrollably. BEN is so confused he is tearful too.

BEN

Rachel, please! Please stop crying.
It's unfathomable! (PASSES TISSUE
PAPER) Actually that's got snot in
it. (GETS ANOTHER) Here's another.

*
*
*

RACHEL

I'm interesting, BEN! I've seen the
world! I've read Paolo Coelho. I'm
creative with complex feelings and
ideas. I don't want to be an office
manager!

*
*
*
*
*

BEN

(confused)

But you're an office assistant.
(OFF RACHEL'S LOOK) It's the way
the world works. I'm guessing Paulo
Coelho was once an assistant
inspirational novelist.

*
*
*
*

RACHEL

But what if I need more from my
life! What if I need to be
intrigued, motivated, enchanted...

BEN

Are we talking a sideways move into
HR?

*

Rachel looks at him with contempt.

RACHEL

No.

*
*

5

INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, KITCHEN. DAY 2. 1230

5

Dale is dressed in his Armani suit and sunglasses, cooking a delicious Chinese meal. Lorna is sitting working.

LORNA

Dale, when you were a businessman?
What area were you in exactly?

*

DALE

My boss Mr Xi insisted on secrecy in all his dealings. Little quirk of his. But I was across a few areas. Client-facing. Results oriented. Sorry if I'm bamboozling you with jargon.

LORNA

Just a little! Must say, it all sounds very impressive!

Rachel enters.

DALE

Mom, you're back! How was your day?

LORNA (CONT'D)

Hey Rach!

RACHEL

Fine. Yeah.

DALE

Hope you're hungry! It's Di Shui Dong ribs with braised eggplant.

RACHEL

Oooh, sounds tasty!

*

*

DALE

Always Ling's favourite!

RACHEL

(immediately dejected)
I'll have it in my room.

*

Rachel goes off to her room. Dale looks at Lorna.

DALE

Something's up with Mom. Since I got back from China, she's been acting real cold towards me. Why would that be, Lorna?

*

LORNA

(awkward)

Well, it can be hard can't it,
getting reacquainted with people
you've had a... thing with.

*

DALE

(chuckles)

Not in this instance! You see,
before I went away, Rachel said it
was wrong that I was in love with
her. So now I've found love with
Ling - who is incredible - my
friendship with Rachel should be
blossoming as never before!

*

*

*

*

*

*

Ken puts his head round the door, extremely cheerful, almost
giddy, with Sid still strapped to his front.

KEN

Hello there, my family!

LORNA

Ooh, someone's had a nice day! Sid
on good form?

KEN

Sid was his usual truculent self.
But Daddy has found something to
put a spring in his step!

*

LORNA

Really? What's that?

*

*

He enters, revealing his trousers - exquisitely cut bright
red corduroy. He prances round the room.

KEN

Ooh, tasty! Ruby red and bright as
a button. A colourful trouser for a
happy fellow! Who is this jaunty
gentleman peacocking his way round
the Lichfield scene? What do you
think?

Lorna stands stock still, appalled.

LORNA

Ken, you're having a mid-life
crisis.

*

KEN

Throw your eyes, my love, upon the
fine and rich fabrics.

*

*

DALE

Wow! Is that a traditional costume?

*

*

LORNA

Yes, Dale. As traditionally worn by
Laurence Llewelyn Bowen.

KEN

I am a shining star of manhood!

LORNA

Give them me. I'll burn them.

KEN

You will have to burn my legs then!
Because they're not coming off.

Rachel skips in, delighted.

RACHEL

Guys! It's like an omen!
Practically the first job to come
up and it's perfect!

KEN

You're looking for a job? Since
when?

RACHEL

Since I realised I couldn't spend
another day in that office full of
deadbeats.

KEN

You mean my office.

RACHEL

Yup. There's a new position at this
ace Human Rights charity - The
Pegasus Alliance.

LORNA

(to Ken)

Ooh! Doesn't Nina run that?

KEN

Yeah, that's Nina's. She speaks of
it relentlessly.

RACHEL

I'm making a start on the
application now. Oh yes, food!

She takes her plate of food, and disappears into her room.

Ken and Lorna look at each other, impressed. Lorna looks at
his trousers.

LORNA

Give them me!

KEN
Never!!!!

*
*

6 **INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, RACHEL'S BEDROOM. DAY 2. 1300** 6

Rachel writes her application. Flash cuts like a pretentious Arthouse movie about a writer at work.

Rachel listens to music as she does her job application on her laptop. It's just filling out boxes, just as boring as all job applications are.

Then a huge gap saying "Personal Statement". Rachel thinks deeply. Then as the music swells, she is moved. She starts to write very fluently, inspired...

7

INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, LIVING ROOM. NIGHT 3. 2000

7

The next day. Lorna sits on the couch, reading. Her eyes are full of tears. As she reads, she passes the next sheet onto Dale.

*
*

LORNA

Oh.... Oh!

She wipes her eyes. Beside her, Dale is crying too.

*

LORNA (CONT'D)

Rachel, that's hands down one of the most moving job applications I've ever read! Your desolate days after Cuckoo died, your nights of sleepless crying. Oh!

*
*
*
*

DALE

(quietly)

I don't think I'll ever be happy again!

*
*
*
*

RACHEL

(smug)

Appreciate that, guys. I did kind of put my heart and soul into it.

*

Ken walks in, with his red trousers on.

DALE

Chief Ken, read Rachel's job application! It will change your life.

*
*
*
*

RACHEL

(false modesty)

Dunno about that. Suppose it's got a bit more to say than your usual 'job application'.

*
*
*
*

LORNA

Ken, you will weep your eyes out!

*
*

DALE

It is the saddest book I've ever read. And I've read five books.

*
*
*

KEN

That good is it?

*
*

RACHEL

Any criticism - however small - gratefully received!

*
*

Ken takes the job application and holds it up to read. He can feel Rachel, Dale and Lorna's eyes on him.

He reads the first paragraph. A smile...

KEN

...wow, it's full on...

He reads on. His face suddenly darkens. It becomes the most critical face Ken has ever produced.

Lorna and Rachel look worried. But Ken remembers he's being watched, and smiles again.

Throughout this passage, Ken, Rachel, Dale and Lorna exchange significant looks as Ken is bad at faking approval.

He puts down the application.

RACHEL

Go for it. I can take a little constructive criticism.

*

KEN

When is the deadline?

*

RACHEL

Midnight.

*

KEN

(shouted panic)

Four hours?! We don't have enough time! We don't have enough time!!

Rachel looks slightly aghast.

8 INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, LIVING ROOM. NIGHT 3. 2345 8

Later. Tense atmosphere. Rachel anxiously watches the clock, as Ken taps away on her laptop.

RACHEL

Quarter of an hour to go. C'mon -
hand it in.

LORNA

Ken, how can it possibly need this
much work?

KEN

Don't blame me! I'm not the one who
wrote a job application in the
style of "Angela's Ashes".

RACHEL

Dad, it says they're looking for
someone creative.

KEN

Oh don't be so naive! 'Creative'
means someone who'll take less
money if they get to wear jeans.
(BEAT) There. It's ready. And now
rather stupendous if I say so
myself.

DALE

"I have good organisation and
experience of Excel" Oh, this is
good too!

RACHEL

Budge up - gonna upload it to their
server.

Ken gets off the computer, stands with Lorna. Rachel clicks
her mouse, staring at the screen.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Send. (BEAT) Why isn't it sending?!

9

INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, LIVING ROOM. NIGHT 3. 2359

9

Ten minutes later. Lorna, Ken, Dale and Rachel are all in a panic.

RACHEL
Send! Send you evil bastard
machine...! What's the time?

KEN
Send! Send!

LORNA
Almost midnight!

*

*

*

*

DALE
(terrible alarm)
Send! What's wrong with this
robot?!

RACHEL
This stupid bloody website.

LORNA
(looks at her watch)
Bummer. That's midnight.

KEN
No!

But...

RACHEL
(grinning)
It's sending! Oh thank God!

KEN
Well done, my darling!

*

*

They all hug in relief. But then the computer bleeps. Rachel reads the screen.

RACHEL
(reads off screen)
The deadline passed at midnight on
the twenty-first. We are no longer
considering applications.

KEN
Oh bollocks!

RACHEL (CONT'D)
Whaaaaat?! Fuck you!!

Rachel looks furiously at Ken.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
Thanks a bunch, Dad! You really
helped!

*

KEN
Come off it! That was no way my
fault!

She storms from the room. Lorna looks at Ken - ouch.

10 **SCENE OMITTED**

10 *

11 INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, RACHEL'S BEDROOM. NIGHT 3. 0001 11

Rachel is lying on her bed, depressed. Dale knocks on the door, comes in and sits by the bed.

DALE

You OK?

*

RACHEL

I just don't get it! Three years -
and not one thing has gone right
for me! Am I cursed?

*

*

*

DALE

What a run of bad luck. First your
husband died in the Himalayas. Then
that website froze. Double whammy!

*

RACHEL

Shut the door on your way out, OK?

DALE

Will do.

*

He sits down on the bed.

DALE (CONT'D)

You know what Mr Xi said whenever
some business decision or other
didn't go his way: (CANTONESE) 'ma
lau san dan hin tsha tal'. It means
when the advancing becomes tough,
the tough man starts advancing'.
See...

*

RACHEL

Dale, I don't know who's told you
you're a businessman, but as far as
I can tell all you do now is wear a
suit and sunglasses. Indoors.

DALE

I have skills. I can help you.

RACHEL

No. Unless you can make Nina take a
late submission for this job, you
can't.

*

12 **INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, HALLWAY. NIGHT 3. 0005** 12

The door shuts on Dale, he stands outside the door looking thoughtful.

13 INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, KEN AND LORNA'S BEDROOM. NIGHT 3. Q&BO

Lorna and Ken cuddle up.

KEN

You do your best to help them -
what thanks do you get? I mean -
Sid's the most direct - he just
goes ahead and defecates on me.

LORNA

Poor Rach. She was so bushy tailed
about that job.

*
*

KEN

In many ways, the job was her red
trousers. And what kind of evil
witch would deny someone their red
trousers...

*

LORNA

Ha!

KEN

Don't sweat it. I'll have a chat
with Nina. See if the old Thompson
silver tongue can persuade her.

*
*

LORNA

You vomited on her.

*
*

KEN

That was ages ago.

*

LORNA

You punched her in the face. And
you completely ruined her Christmas
concert.

*
*
*
*

KEN

Those were more recent. But
remember I am a charismatic
persuader of the opposite sex.

*
*

LORNA

Oh are you? (FLIRTY) What are you
going to persuade me to do?

KEN

(sexy)

I can think of a few things.

LORNA

Good. Well, tell me them in the
morning.

She rolls over in bed, puts on her eye mask, and settles in
for sleep.

KEN

Lorna! You started that one!

LORNA

I know. Sometimes I'm all talk.

She falls asleep instantly.

In the next room, Sid starts crying. Out on Ken's annoyed face.

14

INT. PEGASUS ALLIANCE, RECEPTION. DAY 4. 1600

14 *

Ken (with Sid) waits, wearing his red trousers. He is dozing off. The other people in the waiting room have noticed his red trousers, which are incredibly garish.

Nina comes out of her office and greets Ken with a smile.

NINA

Hello Ken! And baby too! Golly gosh, look at those trousers! Not going to miss you in a hurry! Getting any problem from bulls? Hahahaha!

*

KEN

None yet! I've been avoiding the bull farm!

NINA

HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA! The bull farm! I love them. They really make your gorgeous long legs stand out.

*

*

KEN

They are without question the most splendid trousers in the world.

15

INT. NINA'S OFFICE. DAY 4. 1604

15

Ken enters, Nina looks at him, delighted.

NINA

So what brings you here? I haven't seen you since you ruined the Christmas Concert.

*

KEN

Yes, I am truly sorry about that concert. And of course, still sorry about the punch and the vomit.

*

*

*

NINA

Forgiven! You know me I'm not the sort of person to bear grudges! Now what do you want? I imagine I will grant it!

*

*

*

KEN

OK. Well, Rachel was making an application for the job at your charity. And funny story, she tried to send it in last night, but Gordon BENNETT - your website was frozen, it wouldn't send.

*

*

*

NINA

Such a shame! So now she's missed the deadline!

*

KEN

Yes. So I thought I'd bring you a hard copy. (PRESENTING IT)
Sometimes the old fashioned way is best!

*

He laughs, hands her the application, but Nina's face has frozen. She's not taking the application.

NINA

Ken, I can't accept applications past the deadline.

KEN

Well, yes, but she did try to hand it in before the deadline so...

*

*

NINA

Yeeeess. But I can't give *Rachel* special treatment - everyone knows you and I are the closest of friends...

*

*

KEN

Do they?

NINA

So sorry. But it would be immoral
of me to read it.

*

KEN

Nina - who would know?!

*

NINA

(pious as hell)
I would know.

Ken puts the application on her desk.

KEN

Well, it's there if you change your
mind.

*

NINA

(calls after him)
I won't. Byeee.

16 INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, LIVING ROOM. DAY 4. 1720

16

Rachel is hanging with BEN. KEN enters with Sid, in his red trousers. BEN is wearing exactly the same shirt as Ken.

RACHEL

Dad!

BEN

I like those trousers, Ken - lord,
I do.

KEN

Of course you do.

BEN

Mind if I buy a similar pair?

Ken looks at BEN's shirt - exactly the same as his.

*

KEN

I mind. Do not. (To Rachel) Rach,
bad news, love. Nina was completely
unreasonable.

*

*

RACHEL

(crestfallen)

Oh, well. Thank you, universe.

KEN

(cuddles her)

Sorry. I gave it a go. (HE YAWNS)
Well, Sidney's sleeping. I'm going
for a kip. But first, how about a
Wall's Magnum? Proven to salve all
career disappointment.

*

RACHEL

Ooh yeah!

KEN

Want one, BENjamin?

BEN

Plain chocolate, Ken. The almond
ones give me hives.

17 INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, DALE AND DYLAN'S ROOM. DAY 4. 1725 17

Ken opens the door. Dylan is on his phone.

KEN
Choc-ice, Dyls?

DYLAN
(not looking up)
Yeah. Bring me one.

KEN
Where's Dale?

DYLAN
Dunno. Running?

KEN
One chocolate-coated ice cream
coming right up!

18 **INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, KITCHEN. DAY 4. 1727** 18

Ken opens the door that links the kitchen to the garage. His eyes open in shock...

19

INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, GARAGE. DAY 4. 1728

19

REVEAL: there's a WOMAN TIED TO A CHAIR with a plastic bag over her head.

Dale is sitting nearby. He smiles and creeps over to Ken.

DALE

(whispered)

Chief Ken! Just a little something I'm doing for Rachel. It's Nina!

KEN

What? Whaaaaaat?! Dale, what have you done, you lunatic?!

DALE

Gonna be a while till she wakes up, but when she does... I RECKON she'll consider Rachel for that job after all!

Ken looks stunned. He closes his eyes.

*

KEN

Please let this not be real! (OPENS EYES) Bollocks.

*

*

Rachel walks in.

*

RACHEL

Dad, don't promise ice-cream and not deliver...

KEN

Ssssssh!!

Rachel sees Nina. She looks at Dale, who grins and gives her a thumbs up.

RACHEL

(utterly confused)

What!?! Oh my god, Dale, what's she...!?

KEN

Dale kidnapped Nina.

RACHEL

Dale! What?! What do you mean - what?!

DALE

(proudly)

Hi, Rach! It's a fail-safe business technique I learned.

(MORE)

*

DALE (CONT'D)

Step one - put your intended business partner in a room with a bag over their head. Step two - they'll do pretty much anything you want! Like give you the job of your dreams!

RACHEL

You kidnapped Nina - for me?!

DALE

You're welcome, Mom! We'll get down to negotiations just as soon as the chloroform wears off.

Ken and Rachel stare at Dale.

KEN

Chloroform?! Dale, we could all go to prison. Kidnapping is against the law!

DALE

Not if you're doing it for business purposes.

KEN

No, that's exactly as illegal!

*

Dale pauses and thinks, shrugs it off.

DALE

I think you must be wrong, Chief Ken. Because Mr. Xi did kidnappings all the time. And if they were illegal, that makes him a criminal, which he always insisted he wasn't.

Rachel and Ken look at each other. Realisation is dawning.

KEN

(loud)

Dale, you have done a bad thing today! You have done a very very bad thi...!

NINA

Ken? Is that you?

Everyone freezes. Ken looks very alarmed.

NINA (CONT'D)

It was! It was definitely you, Ken. I'd recognise your voice anywhere.

KEN

Err... Yes... Hi.

NINA

Oh God! Where are we? Have you been
kidnapped too?

Ken looks from Rachel to Dale to BEN in panic.

KEN

Yes. I've been kidnapped too. I
have no idea by whom or why but...
Aaargh - I'm being dragged off! I'm
being dragged off!

Ken indicates the next room. The others follow him.

NINA

Ken, what's happening? What's to
become of us? KEN?!

20

INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, KITCHEN. DAY 4. 1730

20

Ken, Rachel and Dale enter. Ken closes the door. Nina's voice can be heard tinnily from the kitchen table.

NINA (o.s.)

What are they doing to you?! Don't hurt him!!

Ken looks at the baby monitor, which is broadcasting Nina.

DALE

It's vital to track negotiations at all times. I improvised with Sid's baby monitor. How neat is that?

KEN

Very far from neat. In fact, you've probably ruined all of our lives. How the hell do we get out of this?

*

He paces. This is a fix.

RACHEL

Dale, what sort of business did Mr Xi run exactly?

DALE

Oh, all sorts. Clubs, casinos, security services to local businesses. Oh yeah, and he shipped a helluva lot of poppy extract!

*

*

Rachel and Ken look at each other.

RACHEL

(gently)

Dale, I think Mr. Xi might have been a gangster.

DALE

(laughs)

Right! And I suppose Chun Pat was a gangster and Sen Yi! And all my fun Triad buddies!

Ken groans.

KEN

Dale, honestly, I despair.

*

BEN walks in...

BEN

Ah Ken. Addendum re. the Chocolate Ices. Almonds are a no go, but I'd say a big yes to one of the minty ones.

*

*

KEN

Bigger fish at the moment. Dale's
kidnapped Nina, she's tied up and
drugged in the garage.

*
*
*

BEN laughs.

BEN

You got me, Ken. Digging your big
boy banter.

*
*

NINA (o.S.)

(on the baby monitor)
Please! Someone! Help me!

BEN stares at the monitor, starts to have a panic attack.

BEN

This is a crime! I'm present! I'm
implicated! The Law Society will be
furious! (TURNS ON DALE) I have to
get out of here, get away from the
whole pack of you!

*
*
*

RACHEL

BEN, please stay.

BEN

(folds pathetically)
OK, I'll stay.

KEN

We need a plan here, people!

*
*

DALE

Well golly gosh, Chief Ken. If
you're so worried, why don't we
just take Nina back?

*
*
*

KEN

Nina thinks I've been kidnapped
too. So, if we put her back, the
first person the police are going
to investigate is me.

*
*
*

DALE

For what? It's not illegal...

*
*

KEN

IT'S ILLEGAL!

*
*

Dylan comes in.

DYLAN

All right losers! Where's my
glorified choc ice?

Nina wails from the baby monitor.

NINA (O.S.)
Ken! What are they doing to you?!

RACHEL
(to Dylan)
Dale kidnapped Nina. For me.

DYLAN
(loves it)
Mate, that's extreme! Cool, well
I'll be in my room.

KEN
No sit down. (DYLAN SITS) Think.
There has to be a way out of this.
Otherwise, Dale will be sent to
prison, and BEN and I will lose our
livelihoods.

BEN
Imagine NOT being a lawyer. I
can't. I really can't.

DYLAN
Ha ha! Dad's getting disbarred!

KEN
Yeah. And when that happens, you
can forget about University -
because we won't be paying for it.

DYLAN
(scowling)
All right! No need to be a dick
about it!

NINA (O.S.)
Please no-one hurt Ken! He looks
big but he's delicate!

The doorbell rings.

21 **EXT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, DRIVEWAY. DAY 4. 1732**

21

Ken opens the door. It's Steve.

KEN

You. What do you want?

STEVE

Just being a friendly neighbour,
Ken. We've had complaints. A woman
wailing. Clearly audible from
behind those bushes.

KEN

Who was listening behind the
bushes?

STEVE

I... cannot divulge my sources.
(SOFTER) Seriously, Ken, what's
happening? (WHISPERING) Is it
Lorna?

*
*
*
*
*

KEN

Um... yes.

*
*
*

STEVE

Say no more! Bit of Fifty Shades in
the garage. Nothing could be more
natural or beautiful. Can I...

*

KEN

No.

STEVE

I didn't finish.

KEN

You were going to ask to watch.

STEVE

Yes, I was. So...

Ken slams the door. Steve looks rueful.

22 **INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, HALLWAY. DAY 4. 1733** 22

Ken turns back to see Rachel, BEN and Dale standing there looking lost.

NINA (O.S.)

Ken! Don't give up hope, Ken! I'm here for you!

KEN

We have to shut her up.

23

INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, GARAGE. DAY 4. 1845

23

The bag is ripped off Nina's head. She sees Ken in a chair alongside her.

BEN, Dale and Rachel stand in front in black clothing, all wearing masks of the Bee Gees.

NINA

Ken! Thank God!

RACHEL

(Australian accent)

Hey! Be quiet there, mate!

BEN

(worse Australian accent)

Yeah, you bloody stay there.
Otherwise I'll put you on the
Barbie, you cactus.

NINA

One of them's Australian, and the
other is...I have no idea! (BEAT)
What did they do to you? Where are
we?

KEN

It's impossible to say.

BEN

(Australian accent)

You stop complaining, you Pommy
bastard. Or I'm gonna put you on
the Barbie...you cactus.

NINA

Ken, don't provoke them. (TO THE
CAPTORS) Please, what do you want
from us? Why are you doing this?

The three figures can't think of a response.

NINA (CONT'D)

You must have taken us hostage for
a reason!

The three figures still can't think of anything.

KEN

(to TERRORISTS)

OK. Here's how I see it. Me and my
very close friend Nina are trapped
here...

(significantly)

(MORE)

KEN (CONT'D)

So why don't you go talk among yourselves, and work out how we're going to resolve this situation?
Yeah?

*

BEN

(no Australian accent)
Good plan, Ken. (AUSTRALIAN ACCENT)
Sorry, I mean bonza.

*

A beat. The terrorists get the message, and shuffle out...

*

NINA

Jeepers, Ken. How do you remain so brave and masterful? It was like you were giving them orders.

*

KEN

Well, you can't show fear. First rule of being kidnapped by enigmatic terrorist vigilantes.

*

NINA

They've left us alone. That was a mistake. Now we can talk, work things out between us. Now, let's see... looks like we're in the garage of a suburban house...

*

*

*

*

KEN

Or a bunker. Or a locker. Let's not jump to conclusions.

NINA

Seems unlikely. I mean, that's a Ripper Skateboard there - Neil has one of those. So, if I had to guess, I'd say this was a family home, and there was a son around about Neil's age...

KEN

Stop guessing, Nina. Everything here is a trap to make us think the things they want us to think. Believe nothing. Trust no-one.

NINA

You're right. Oh, Ken! Heaven help our souls!

She looks really pained. Ken looks desperate.

24

INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, KITCHEN. NIGHT 4. 1900

24

Rachel draws on the small kitchen blackboard. Dale, BEN and Dylan help her brainstorm ideas for getting out of this fix.

*
***RACHEL**

OK. So far, we have three ideas.
Number one - 'convince Nina it's
all a dream...'

*

DALE

My favourite!

*

RACHEL

Number two - something to do with
fridges. Yeah, that never
developed. And number three - kill
ourselves and frame HER for the
murder. Thanks, Dylan.

*

DYLAN

Not all mine. I saw it on CSI.

*

BEN

Well, I have an idea. But you're
not going to like it.

*

RACHEL

Go on then!

*

BEN

OK, well, every minute we leave
Nina in your garage, we become more
complicit - and this is a serious
offence. So I'm not saying I like
this idea, but what if we handed
Dale into the police? And he took
the rap for it all. Seeing as it's
all his fault.

*

*

Beat.

DALE

Wow! Kudos to BEN! I knew there was
a way out! You brainy box! (HIGH
FIVES BEN) I'll just go to jail!
How long will that be?

*

BEN

Five...Ten years.

*

DALE

Pfffff. I'll be out before you can
say lickety-split!

*

RACHEL

Dale, you don't want to go to jail.

DYLAN

Yeah, you know what happens to
athletic young men in jail?

DALE

Are they made to do gymnastics?
Because I LOVE gymnastics!

They all look back at him.

BEN

So, sorted! Now Dale, when you give
yourself up remember you take
absolutely all the blame for
everything...

RACHEL

No, stop. There has to be another
way.

BEN

Dale's fine with it! So, I'm going
to make a phone call. (OFF RACHEL'S
LOOK) I know it's hard, Rach, but
you'll thank me when Dale is in
jail and we are not in jail.

He reaches for the house phone. Rachel grabs it. BEN reaches
in his pocket for his own phone.

RACHEL

Dale, stop him! Quick, stop him!

*

*

*

25 **INT. THOMPSON FAMILY, RACHEL'S BEDROOM. NIGHT 4. 1910** 25 *

A few minutes later. BEN is tied to chair with a handkerchief in his mouth. Rachel looks very guilty.

RACHEL

BEN. I know this is tough. But you do understand don't you?

BEN shakes his head. Rachel walks out the room, looking a bit * guilty... *

25a **INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, KITCHEN. NIGHT 4. 1912**

25a *

Rachel walks in.

*

RACHEL

*

All I wanted was a job that played
to my talents, where I could help
the world. Now I'm stuck in the
same boring job and half the people
in my house are tied to chairs.

*

*

*

*

*

*

DALE

*

You're right. Jeez, I am *really*
starting to regret kidnapping Nina
now. (BEAT) This is all my fault.

*

*

*

*

RACHEL

*

(comfortingly)

*

Yeah. It is.

*

DALE

*

Just we've hardly talked since I
got back from China. I wanted to
show you we're still friends.

*

*

*

RACHEL

*

Aw, we are, Dale. Of course we're
friends.

*

*

Baby Sid starts crying. Rachel and Dale look at each other -
they have to do something.

*

*

26

INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, GARAGE. NIGHT 4. 1914

26 *

Ken and Nina still tied up next to each other.

NINA

Why is that baby crying? What are
they doing to it?!

*
*

KEN

It's probably nothing. We just need
to stay quiet and maybe, in our
hearts, prepare to forgive our
captors.

*
*
*
*
*

NINA

This could be the end, Ken. Thank
you for being here for me.

*
*
*

KEN

Aw, I had no choice.

*
*

NINA

No, you've been wonderful. In fact
(PANG OF GUILT) Oh god, Ken, I have
a confession to make.

*
*
*
*

27 **INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, KITCHEN. NIGHT 4. 1915** 27

Dale is now holding Sid, who is crying. He's swaying the baby *
and singing to it. Rachel sits worrying.

DALE

That's better, huh, Uncle Sid? (TO
RACHEL) I used to do a lot of the
babycare on the Ashram.

Sid is becalmed. Rachel smiles. On the baby monitor. *

NINA (O.S.)

It's about Rachel. The thing is I
didn't really mind that Rachel
handed her application in late...

Rachel turns and listens. *

29

SCENE OMITTED

29

30 **INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, GARAGE. NIGHT 4. 1922**

30

Ken and Nina. Continuous.

*

KEN

Oh! Well, that's excellent news!

NINA

I wasn't straight with you, Ken.
And I owe you the truth. Rachel's
just not good enough for the job.

*

KEN

O-kay?

NINA

This is a prestigious position and
what we're looking for is a go-
getter. Rachel skipped university
and seems to have just sat around
on her arse ever since. (AMUSED) I
mean, frankly we expect a certain
standard of applicant and she is
way off! Ha!... Ah! That feels
better.

*

*

*

KEN

Yeah. Must be nice to get it out in
the open.

*

31 **INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, KITCHEN. NIGHT 4. 1923** 31

Rachel sits listening; her poor little heart breaking.

RACHEL

Wow!

DALE

Rach, I'm sorry.

RACHEL

No, it's OK. Look at us - you thinking you were a businessman, and me thinking I can have any kind of future when it's already past rescuing. Couple of idiots!

*
*
*
*

She switches the baby monitor off. Looks lost in thought.

32

INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, GARAGE. NIGHT 4. 1930

32

Ken and Nina are quiet. They haven't spoken for several minutes. Nina suddenly spots a receipt on the ground.

*

NINA

Ken! It must have fallen out of the bag they put on my head!

*

She indicates the plastic bag - a receipt next to it.

*

KEN

A receipt? Oh I wouldn't bother...

NINA

I think I can read it. Yes, it says "One pair of cherry red trousers, waist 44"...

She looks at Ken.

KEN

Hmm. Yes. Quite interesting.

NINA

Those sound very much like your trousers, Ken.

KEN

Really? Which ones?

NINA

The ones you're wearing now.

*

KEN

That's...

*

NINA

Very odd for the kidnappers to use your shopping bag. (BEAT, THINKS) Unless we were in your house. (BEAT, THINKS) Ken, I think this is your garage!

*

KEN

No. This is not my garage.

NINA

Ken, what's going on?

*

KEN

Nina, I swear to you that this is not my garage. (OFF HER LOOK) I bloody swear to you! This is not my garage!

Suddenly the garage door starts opening (mechanically).

Lorna starts to drive her car into the garage. The car emergency brakes right in front of the two chairs

Lorna gets out the car.

LORNA

What are you doing tied up there,
you drongbats!

NINA

That's Lorna! Ken, this IS your garage! It's YOU, YOU'VE kidnapped me!

Ken is stumped. But Rachel appears.

RACHEL

Wrong, Nina. Really wrong.

NINA

Rachel?

RACHEL

Nina, maybe my CV's rubbish. But you said I'm not a go-getter - well how go-getting is this? I kidnapped you.

*
*
*
*

Beat. Everybody looks stunned.

NINA

I'm sorry?

KEN

What?

RACHEL (CONT'D)

I had to get your attention somehow. And if taking you hostage is what it takes for you to consider my application, then I don't regret it.

*
*
*
*

NINA

Rachel, kidnapping is a crime.

RACHEL

Exactly! Kidnapping is a crime. It's happening to women and children - in North Korea, Nepal, Somalia, Haiti. And we should be fighting it. Side by side. Because after all, as a lot of people often say, sometimes to fight a crime, you've got to commit a crime yourself.

*
*
*
*
*

DALE

That's a beautiful thought.

*

RACHEL

I am your go-getter, Nina. Give me
that job. Or bloody hell, I'll just
have to keep kidnapping you until
you do. There.

*

Beat. Nina is looking at Rachel.

NINA

Rachel, I don't know what to say. I
am finding it very hard to process
your logic, but...I love it! Wow,
that is the bravest job request
I've ever received. You've got the
job!

*

*

RACHEL

Great! Wow!

KEN

Yeah!!! Hell yeah!!!

NINA

Ken, I suppose you were in on this
all along!

*

*

KEN

I suppose I was! Yes, definitely.

*

NINA

Ken, I always thought of you as a
comedian rather than an actor - but
it looks like you can do both! Well
done! Well done, group hug! Group
hug!

They all hug. By the door, Dale smiles and watches content.

DALE

(to himself)

It worked. Like I always knew it
would.

33

INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, LIVING ROOM. NIGHT 4. 2005

33

Rachel and Dale sit in the living room, eating magnums. Dale is reading about Triads on the computer.

DALE

Wow! So I spent six months furthering the interests of an international criminal organisation.

RACHEL

Must make you rethink your whole China experience. Everything you did. Everyone you met.

DALE

You are right there. (BEAT) Except Ling. I remain as in love with her as ever.

Lorna and Ken come in, eating magnums.

LORNA

Dale, wait. Ken and I had a chat.

KEN

Thing is, I could do with some help with Sid. And you obviously can't be trusted out of my sight, so...

LORNA

We thought - how do you fancy being Sid's nanny?

DALE

A nanny? Is that a real job?

KEN

Sure it is. You'd live with us - exactly like you're doing now. And you'd help me look after my darling heir and crap-factory.

DALE

Wow! How much would I earn?

KEN

Fifty quid a week.

DALE

Fifty quids a week? No way!! I'm rich beyond my wildest dreams!!

Sid starts crying.

KEN

You can start now.

DALE

Roger that!

*

KEN

And you can do the night shift
tonight! I'll get some kip.

*

DALE

Cool! I'll stay up! This is like a
sleep-over except I'm utterly
alone! Night guys!

He runs off to cry on Sid. Lorna cuddles up to Ken. A nice

*

*

RACHEL

Did anyone untie BEN?

*

*

*

END OF EPISODE

*