

CUCKOO

SERIES THREE

**EPISODE 2: "KIDNAP"**

SHOOTING SCRIPT

05.06.2015

Written by  
Robin French & Kieron Quirke

**Roughcut Television (Cuckoo) Ltd**  
1st Floor Bedford House  
125-133 Camden High Street  
London NW1 7JR  
+44 (0)20 7284 6910

1 INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, KEN AND LORNA'S BEDROOM. NIGHT 1. 0300

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 Paulo 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

Oooh, 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 KEN  
Send! Send you evil bastard Send! Send!  
machine...! What's the time?

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 RACHEL (CONT'D)  
Oh bollocks! Whaaaat?! 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. 000111

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. 001B0

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

Yeeees. 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

Pffff. 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. \*

28 **SCENE OMITTED**

28

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 KEN  
I'm sorry? 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 crying Sid. Lorna cuddles up to Ken. A nice  
moment.

\*

\*

RACHEL  
Did anyone untie BEN?

\*

\*

\*

**END OF EPISODE**

\*