

CUCKOO

SERIES THREE

EPISODE 3: "MUMS GROUP"

SHOOTING SCRIPT

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Happy perfect mums shop for baby products. But one lone figure stands out: KEN, baby SID strapped to his front in his baby harness. Sid's crying, Ken's tired and furious.

KEN

(to Sid)

What *is* your problem, you little gargoye?! Shut your trap! Shut it this instant!

*

A PIOUS MUM walks past, looking unimpressed. Ken smiles hi.

DALE runs up, dressed in his Armani suit.

DALE

Chief Ken, this will blow your mind. In fact, guess!

KEN

(tired)

You located the strollers.

DALE

I located the strollers!!! Check me out!!! I love my new job!!!

Dale grins joyfully at another mum, and she grins back.

2 INT. MOTHERCARE STORE, BABY STROLLERS SECTION. DAY 1. 1022 2

Ken and Dale stand perplexed in front of the wall of the store dedicated to baby strollers. There are loads.

KEN
(looks at price tag)
Or we could buy ME a hi-fi. *

DALE
Concentrate. Sid's gonna spend more time in his baby stroller than anywhere else. It's like the office was for you when you were a working man. *

KEN
(poetic melancholy)
Ah! Those happy days!

DALE
Show some leadership, Chief Ken!

KEN
(doesn't care)
This one with blue on it?

DALE
(appalled)
What? An aluminium frame?! *

KEN
(another at random)
Fine. That one.

DALE
(chuckles)
Sure! I'd like to see you lift THAT up a staircase!

KEN
(exploding)
THEN I DON'T KNOW, DALE! What's the difference?! What happened to when you just left them in a pram and listened to *Screamadelica*... *

JESS (O.S.)
Ken!

Ken turns round to see Jess, with her baby Eliza.

KEN
Jess! Not seen you since that time at the hospital.

JESS

The time I gave birth! And you...

*

KEN

That time, yes. How's motherhood?

*

JESS

Loving it. And Paternity Leave? How does it feel to be a feminist icon?

KEN

What can I say? I'm a hero to all women.

JESS

(surveying the strollers)
Ah, yes, the stroller debate. (SHE LIFTS ONE OFF THE SHELF) Marc and I went with this one. The Jill Cotterill. Durable, light, turns into a car seat.

DALE

She's a beauty!

*

KEN

And this horrific experience draws to a close! Jess, I owe you.

JESS

Don't be silly! You know what - I'm doing this mum's group thing with some of the girls from NCT. You should come.

KEN

Bloke at a mum's group. Could be a bit weird.

3 INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, LIVING ROOM. DAY 2. 1010 3

A few weeks later. Ken holds court to six mums at a coffee morning, bouncing Sid on his knee.

KEN

...And I said to the doctor. Hey sonny, what about *my* mastitis?

All the mums laugh their heads off. They all love Ken.

KEN (CONT'D)

Yes, it was funny. Now, cake o'clock. Jenny, do *not* shake your head at me. That baby weight is dropping off - you bloody deserve it. One second, ladies...

Ken moves off to the kitchen...

4 INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, KITCHEN. DAY 2. 1012

4

Dale is finishing icing a beautiful cake. Ken comes in.

KEN

Cake report, Dale. Come on - be swift.

DALE

This is it! This is the best darn carrot cake those girls will ever taste!

*

*

KEN

A masterpiece. And who knew mum's group would be so ace? Men among ladies. We get all the fun and gossip, but rise above the bitchy in-fighting.

*

*

DALE

Beth said your fruitcake was dry.

KEN

Ooh, that prissy little tart!

Lorna enters, in a tizzy.

*

LORNA

Left all the stuff for my meeting! How's your coffee morning going?

*

DALE

Tremendously! Ken has a foolproof system. I prepare the food, clean the house and wash up. Ken is the social face of the operation - occupying our guests, and checking the food is tasty.

*

LORNA

That sounds about right!

*

KEN

Don't knock the system, Lorn. The system works. (TO DALE) You, wash up. (TO LORNA) You - come and meet the gang!

*

*

5 INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, LIVING ROOM. DAY 2. 1014 5

They have arrived in front of the mums. Ken introduces Lorna to the mums, who wave hello.

KEN
Tasha, Beth, Jenny, Elaine, then
Jess you know.

*

LORNA
Hi everyone!

JESS
Oh, Ken, busted! Now Laura knows
about your daytime harem!

All the mums chuckle.

KEN
(a little embarrassed)
They're not a harem. They're just
some mums.

JESS
Well, I think we ALL want to thank
you for letting us borrow him,
Laura. With Marc off in Dubai, he's
the only male company I get!

LORNA
Well, I hope he hasn't been droning
on about history too much!

JESS
Why would you say that, Laura?
Ken's a fascinating intellect. I
hope you appreciate him!

KEN
(approving)
Yes.

LORNA
I do. And it's Lorna.

JESS
What's Lorna, Laura?

LORNA
My *name* is Lorna.

JESS
What?! Oh God, I'm so sorry! How
embarrassing! Lorna. Lorna. Lorna.
Lorna. Not Laura. Lorna.

Wow. There is a weird energy here.

LORNA
OK. Back to work.

Ken and Lorna kiss each other goodbye. Jess starts to head back to the other mums, then turns to Ken.

JESS
By the way, save the 25th for
Eliza's Christening. Only right you
should be there, Ken. Seeing as you
were there at lift off.

*
*

KEN
Wh-aaaat?!

LORNA
How do you mean 'there for lift
off'?

Ken looks panicked (He hasn't told Lorna about holding Jess' hand during the birth of her baby).

KEN
What Jess means is that she was at
the same hospital as us when the
babies came. Blow me! What a
coincidence! (POINTED) Right, Jess?

*
*

JESS
(confused)
Right. Well, think about it!

Jess joins the other mums. Lorna pulls a face at Ken.

LORNA
She's a headcase.

KEN
She's OK.

LORNA
Nope, she's a headcase. Later!

*

She gives Ken a kiss goodbye and leaves. Ken smiles after her. As soon as he hears the door shut, his face darkens...

Ken walks straight up to Jess.

KEN
What in the blazes was that?
Obviously, Lorna doesn't know I was
there for Eliza's birth!

*
*

JESS
What?! You haven't told her?

KEN

No, I haven't told her. Because of you, I missed Sid's birth! If Lorna finds out, I'll be murdered in my sleep - keep it to yourself!

*
*

JESS

O-Kay. (BEAT) Well, this is a bit weird.

KEN

What do you mean weird?

JESS

Not telling your wife. I mean, so what? You held my hand while I gave birth - it was an act of kindness...

*
*

KEN

Yeah, plus you wouldn't let go of my hand.

*
*

JESS

So why act like it's some kind of conspiracy between us. (CRINGES)
No, you're being weird!

*

KEN

I'm not being weird. I'm being really very normal.

JESS

Ken, just to be clear, I am happily married to Marc.

KEN

(utterly blindsided)

Me too! Very happily! Not to Marc.
To Lorna.

*

JESS

Well then, please - tell your wife! Whatever problems you and Laura have, I don't want to be part of them. OK, lecture over.

And she heads back to the other mums. Ken looks baffled.

6 INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, DALE AND DYLAN'S BEDROOM. DAY 2. 1720

Dylan and Dale on their bunk beds. Dylan looks at his phone.

DALE

Ling is thousands of miles away, so
how come our love feels even
stronger? And if Love transcends
time and space, perhaps therein
lies the secret of the universe.
Sound right to you, Dylan?

*
*
*
*

DYLAN

Couldn't give a shit, mate.

*

DALE

What's that game you're playing on
your robot phone?

*

DYLAN

Not a game, you bell-end. It's
Tinder. (BEAT) Ah fuck, I just
LIKED a munter.

DALE

Tinder is a way to find romantic
partners?

DYLAN

No, it's for hunting willing
snatch. Check it out. So here we've
got some. 23 - ooh, older woman.
Only a hundred or so metres away
from us, Name Rachel... Aaargh!

Dylan throws his phone down in disgust. Dale picks it up.

DALE

That's mom!

DYLAN

(cowering, pale)
I flicked right, I flicked right.
Oh, these treacherous eyes!

Rachel comes in, open mouthed.

RACHEL

Dylan, why are you trying to hook
up with me on Tinder?

DYLAN

Your photo's like three years old.
You look completely different!

*

RACHEL

Yeah, right. So my face has
completely changed in three years
has it?

*
*
*
*

Beat.

*

DALE

Mom, you never said you were
electronically dating?

RACHEL

Yeah, put myself on there. Thought
I'd see what the fuss was about.

DALE

Well phew! Because I've been super
worried. I mean - seems like
there's been no one on the scene
since we got busy last December!
That is months and months!

*

DYLAN

How many dates you been on?

RACHEL

Well, in total - none.

DALE

What?! Get a move on, mom! Not
going to find a man mooching about
the house! Unless there are some
available guys round here - which
there aren't!

Rachel smiles tightly. Dale grins back, un-tightly.

RACHEL

Thanks Dale.

7 INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, KEN AND LORNA'S BEDROOM. DAY 2. 1722

Lorna enters, from work. Ken reads a history book on his bed.

LORNA

Phew! Longest day ever! And the
Briony and Tim saga continues!

*

KEN

(no memory)
Briony and Tim?

LORNA

From work! Do you not listen to
anything I say?

*

KEN

My love, your voice is music to me.
Just sometimes I don't focus on the
lyrics.

She gets on the bed and snuggles up to Ken. Ken thinks. It
has to be now.

KEN (CONT'D)

So yeah - there's something I
should probably tell you. No biggy.
And no-one is at fault. Just
promise me you won't over-react.

LORNA

I will react the exact right
amount. What is it?

KEN

Well, remember when Sid was born?

LORNA

I think I recall it, yeah.

KEN

I ran into Jess while we were
waiting for Sid. And she grabbed my
hand and wouldn't let go until
she'd given birth.

Lorna looks at him. Silent.

KEN (CONT'D)

Which explains why I was late, and
missed Sid's birth. Like I said, no
biggy.

LORNA

No biggy?

KEN

Nooo biggy. (OFF LORNA'S LOOK) Is
this a biggy?

8 INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, HALLWAY. DAY 2. 1723

8

Rachel is walking through the hall.

LORNA (O.S.)
Jesus Christ, Ken!

Lorna storms through, Ken follows. Rachel ducks for cover.

KEN
Come on, it's not like anything
went wrong! Sid's great. You're
perfect and wonderful and the best
wife a man ever...

LORNA
Oh, shut your face!

*

Dylan enters the corridor and turns in the other direction.

LORNA (CONT'D)
You have no idea what I was going
through, what it takes to push that
thing out of you...

KEN
Well, that's not fair. May I remind
you I have seen it three times with
two... different... women. (BEAT)
Oh, shit.

9 INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, KITCHEN. DAY 2. 1725

9

Lorna storms in. Dale is in there.

KEN

Lorna, it wasn't my fault!

DALE

Hey Lorna... Hey Chief...

LORNA

Oh, it never is your fault is it?
Whoops, I shot a cat. Whoops, I
didn't get a vasectomy.

Dale looks around, alarmed. What are they shouting about?

KEN

OK, I'm not doing this. I'm not
turning this into one of those
arguments where we drag up
grievances from the past. LIKE YOU
ALWAYS DO!

Lorna narrows her eyes. Ken narrows his. This is a biggie.

10 INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, DYLAN AND DALE'S ROOM. DAY 2. 1730 10

Off-screen, Ken and Lorna continue to shout. Rachel and Dylan sit playing on their iphones. Dale comes running in.

DALE

What's happening?! Are Lorna and Chief Ken going to get a divorce?

DYLAN

This happens every couple of years. Believe me, it's worse when they make up.

*

RACHEL

Ugh! Mum singing all round the house.

DYLAN

Dad walking round like he's John Mayer because he's done it twice in a week.

*

*

DALE

(sees Rachel on her phone)

How's your robot phone dating going?

*

RACHEL

Hmm. Tinder is crammed with goons.

*

DALE

Well, I hope you'll give 'em a chance, little miss fussy!

*

*

RACHEL

Do you? Well, what about this guy? He's attractive. Maybe I should go round to his and have wild sex. Be OK with that, would you?

*

*

*

DALE

Absolutely doodle dandy!

RACHEL

Absolutely doodle dandy. (HER PHONE BEEPS) There - a match. And he wants to meet now. I'll head out shall I? If no-one has any objections.

*

*

DALE

None at all!

RACHEL

OK, then. See you in the morning. Or not!

She watches Dale for a second longer, then leaves.

DALE
(to Dylan, beaming)
I could not be happier for her!

11 INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, LORNA AND KEN'S BEDROOM. NIGHT 2. 2135

Later that night. Lorna lies facing away from Ken in the bed.

KEN

I've been thinking - maybe we
should get a Super King Size bed,
so you can lie even further away
and be even more ridiculous.

Lorna moves even further away.

LORNA

Just more comfortable like this.

KEN

I can't change what happened. I
never meant to upset you, Lorn, but
what can I do?

LORNA

Well, here's an idea - you can stop
meeting up with Jess. *

KEN

What? She runs my mum's group! *

Also, you don't get to veto my *

friends.

LORNA

Friends? As if! (UNDER BREATH) *

She's after you!

KEN

What? That's ridiculous!

LORNA

(mimicking Jess) *

"Such a fascinating intellect, Ken"

"Oh, hold my hand while I give

birth, Ken"

KEN

Lorna, get real! I'm greying, I'm *

out of shape, Jess is a young and *

highly attrac... (HAS MESSED IT UP

EVEN MORE) Fuck! I didn't mean

that! *

Lorna pulls more bedclothes towards her and moves even
further away in the bed.

KEN (CONT'D)

Sorry. There's a principle at *

stake. I am *not* backing down on *

this. Final word. *

Lorna moves further over, taking more duvet. Ken pulls some duvet back.

KEN (CONT'D)

OK, you win! I won't see Jess. I
surrender my dignity at your whim.
There's the patriarchy at work
again. God, I love ruling the
world. Now please come back to the
middle of the mattress.

*
*
*

LORNA

No idea what you're talking
about...

Close on Ken. He sighs. The duvet gradually slips off him,
and we hear Lorna fall on the floor. She gets up.

LORNA (CONT'D)

(sheepish)

Just going to get a glass of water.

She walks out, proud. Ken wraps the duvet all around himself,
so it'll be extra hard for Lorna when she comes back.

12 INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, KITCHEN. DAY 3. 0720

12

The next morning, Ken comes down to breakfast. A young man is sat at the table eating breakfast.

KEN

Erm...hello.

FREDDY

Hey, how's it kicking? You must be Rachel's... ancient housemate?

*

KEN

I'm her father.

FREDDY

Father? (THINKS) OK, well I'm Freddy, a... new friend of hers. We met last night, and then we... had a sleepover. Is this awkward?

*

KEN

Let us eat our breakfast in silence.

Lorna enters, still pissed off with Ken. She sees Freddy.

KEN (CONT'D)

His name's Freddy. Freddy and Rachel went on a date last night.

LORNA

Interesting. Did he hold hands with another woman while she gave birth?

KEN

Seamless segue! And thank you for sharing our marital disputes with our daughter's one night stand.

*

FREDDY

One night stand? Come on, I'm not that kind of guy.

KEN

So you're going to be boyfriend and girlfriend, are you?

FREDDY

I mean, I'm not really in *that* place right now...

Ken shakes his head.

Rachel and Dylan enter, and see Freddy. Dylan starts to chuckle.

DYLAN
No way! Rachel actually got laid!

*

RACHEL
Erm...Freddy?

FREDDY
Yeah, Freddy.

RACHEL
You're still here?

FREDDY
Breakfast - most important meal of
the day.

Rachel looks agonised. She mouths 'SORRY' to Ken.

Unseen by Freddy, Dylan starts to act out lewd sex manoeuvres
for Rachel's benefit. Rachel makes faces at him to stop.

Dale enters.

DALE
Chief Ken! Lorna! Mom! Hello
complete stranger, may I offer you
pancakes?

*

FREDDY
That's what I'm talking about.

DALE
So you must be a friend of
Rachel's?

FREDDY
Sort of. We met last night. On a
date.

*

DALE
(confused)
And you stayed over? With Rachel?
In her bedroom?

*

RACHEL
(trying to shut him up)
Dale - we slept together.

Dale suddenly punches Freddy in the face and he flies across
the room. Everybody looks at Dale, astounded.

KEN & LORNA
Dale!

DYLAN
Woah!

DALE
(genuinely confused)
Wow! What happened *there*? What did
I just do?

*

*

*

13 INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, BATHROOM. DAY 3. 0722

13

Dale comes in looking for the medical bag.

DALE

I'm so sorry, we'll get him cleaned
up in no time.

*
*
*

RACHEL

What the hell was that?

*

DALE

Weird huh! It's my training with Mr
Xi - I get these crazy reflex
reactions. (SHRUGS) Oh well, he'll
shake it off.

*

RACHEL

Dale, you were the one telling me
to start dating again!

*
*

DALE

Yes, you should!

*
*

RACHEL

Then why punch the first guy I
spend the night with? I thought you
- I mean - we had made it clear.
There's nothing between us.

*
*
*
*
*

DALE

What are you saying?

*
*

RACHEL

What I'm saying is - and can I add
that I don't really care one way or
the other. You were jealous. Of me
and him.

*
*
*
*
*

DALE

(chuckles)

No! I couldn't be. I love Ling. See
previous conversations.

*
*
*
*

RACHEL

Well, obviously there are some
suppressed emotions going on here.
Maybe deal with them. I can't have
this jealous ex in the house saying
he's not jealous when he so clearly
is. And I don't care either
way...So!

*
*
*
*
*
*
*

Beat. She leaves. Dale looks utterly confused.

*

14 INT. BABY YOGA CLASS. DAY 3. 1305

14

Ken, Dale and Sid are in class. The teacher makes them sing nursery rhymes as they rub oil on the babies.

DALE

Rachel has the wrong end of my
stick. Me - jealous? No way! Sure,
once I believed Rachel to be my one
and only eternal love. But that is
so eight months ago!

*
*
*
*

KEN

Yes, well. I'm looking forward to
seeing how this develops.

Jess enters, sees Ken and waves.

JESS

(awkward)

Hey!

Ken looks down at Sid and mutters to Dale, under his breath.

KEN

(conspiratorial)

OK. As soon as the class ends, we
are getting out of here.

*
*

DALE

Great! That was my idea too!

*
*

15 **SCENE OMITTED**

15

16

EXT. BABY YOGA CARPARK/KEN'S CAR. DAY 3. 1405

16

Ken and Dale walk across the carpark. *

Meanwhile, Jess hurries from the other side of the carpark towards them. She has to run a bit to catch up. She is KIND of chasing them, in the slowest way possible.

Finally, she gets to Ken.

JESS

Wow, Ken! That's world class baby yoga leaving. *

KEN

Heeeey, Jess! So great to see you! Bye! *

JESS

I'm having the gang over. Wanna hang? I made a killer Pistachio tart. *

KEN

Well... *

DALE

That sounds delicious! And we have absolutely nothing on! *

KEN

Actually, Dale, we do have that thing. You know THAT THING.

He makes eye contact with Dale for a long time. Dale concentrates and seems to understand.

DALE

Oh I get you - that thing! No, Chief Ken, that thing is *next* Wednesday. This afternoon is completely free.

JESS

Great! Well come round then! *

KEN

Sorry Jess, I can't make it. (TO DALE) In the car. Now. Bye Jess! *

JESS

Which way you headed?

KEN

Through town. Bye!

JESS

Could I get a lift - it looks like
rain. (OFF KEN'S FACE) I don't want
Eliza to get drenched - seeing as
she is a three month old baby.

*
*
*

Ken thinks about his options. No, he has no choice.

KEN

(trapped)
Hop in.

She puts Eliza's carryseat next to Sid's identical carryseat
in the back of Ken's car.

KEN (CONT'D)

(to Dale)
We're just going to drop her home.
We do not mention this to Lorna.

Dale looks quizzical...

*

17 **EXT. JESS'S HOUSE, DRIVEWAY. DAY 3. 1420**

17

Ken pulls into Jess' drive. Jess is about to get out.

JESS

Sure I can't tempt you in? I've got
some eclairs in from Druckers.

*
*

KEN

(salivating)

Mmmm. (BEAT) No, can't come.

*
*

JESS

Suit yourself.

*

She gets out the car, taking Eliza's carryseat.

*

DALE

Are you insane? We are talking
about some of Birmingham's finest
Vienna patisserie!

*
*
*
*

KEN

Lorna says I'm not allowed to see
Jess. (OFF DALE'S QUIZZICAL LOOK)
No, I don't want to talk about it.

*
*
*
*

Ken is surprised to see Dale also getting out the car.

KEN (CONT'D)

Where the hell are you going?

DALE

These rules apply to you, not to
me! So I can still go and eat cake
and have the best time ever.

*

KEN

(murderous rage)

Traitor!

Dale follows Jess into the house. Ken sits there, grimly.
Then looks at Sid in the backseat.

KEN (CONT'D)

So you decide my lad. Obeying your
tyrannical power crazed mother or
being an adult person who gets to
decide on his own life. Who's the
Chief here?

18 **INT. JESS'S HOUSE, FRONT DOOR/HALLWAY. DAY 3. 1425** 18

Ken enters, and puts Sid's stroller down right next to Eliza's stroller in the hall.

JESS
Great! You changed your mind! *

KEN
Yep, where are the girls?

JESS
Oh, dunno - be here in an hour or
so. Dale, be a love, run and get *
some of that nice coffee from town. *
I invite people round for coffee - *
what do I forget to buy? Coffee! *

Dale starts to leave through the front door...

DALE *
OK, see you soon! *

JESS *
 (to Ken) *
Make yourself comfortable. Back in *
a sec.

Out on Ken. This situation is definitely weird. Is it fine?

19 INT. JESS'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM. DAY 3. 1430 19

Ken settles himself on the sofa. Jess comes back through and
plonks a glass of wine in front of him. *

JESS
There you go.

KEN
Wine?

JESS
Well, there's no coffee so...!
(MOVES OFF) OK, shower for me. (OFF
KEN'S EXPRESSION) Can't receive the
girls in yoga sweats, can I?

KEN
Maybe I should go and come back
later. *

JESS
Oh, I'll be back in two ticks. *
Don't worry, we've got a couple of
hours before the gang arrive.

KEN
Sorry. A *couple of* hours?

She disappears into the next room. Ken looks at the glass of
wine in his hand, looks at himself in a mirror. No, this
doesn't look good at all.

Ken hears the sound of the shower. He makes a decision, downs
his wine, and gets up to go...

But he's very surprised to see Jess, who has returned dressed
only in her robe and underwear. *

JESS *
Ken, you're not leaving are you? *

KEN *
No! Well, yes. Shouldn't you be *
wearing more clothes? *

She starts moving towards him. *

KEN (CONT'D) *
Why are you walking towards me? *
What's happening? *

JESS *
What's happening is you are going
to ravish me, you sexy giant old
man you. *

KEN

What? No! No ravishing will happen today. Or any day. I'm very disappointed in you.

*

JESS

Come on, I know you're tempted.

*

*

KEN

You are scaring me. I'm happily married. Anyway, you have Marc.

*

*

JESS

Oh come on - we both know Marc never existed.

KEN

Wh-at?

Close in on Ken's face, alarmed. From this point we don't see Jess.

KEN (CONT'D)

No! Do not do that. Stop it. Get away from me! You're mental!

*

*

JESS (O.S.)

Mental and naked.

KEN

(shielding his eyes)

I can't see anything. I'm leaving! Goodbye!

Ken grabs Sid's baby stroller from the hallway and exits.

20 **EXT. JESS'S HOUSE, DRIVEWAY. DAY 3. 1445**

20

Ken gets out of the house, furious with himself. Dale runs up with a pack of coffee.

KEN

Get in the car. Now.

21 **EXT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, DRIVEWAY/KEN'S CAR. DAY 3. 1500** 21

Ken and Dale park in the driveway.

DALE

So Lorna was right. Jess WAS after you.

*
*
*

KEN

Yes. But Lorna had no right to try and control my life. I've acted entirely faultlessly but I'm also somehow massively in the wrong.

*

*

Ken's phone goes off. We see the name 'JESS' flash up.

KEN (CONT'D)

(to phone)

And you, my ex-friend, can bog off.
(TO DALE) Inside. And none of that accidental truth-telling you do.

DALE

I've shaken that out my system.
Hard to do business...

KEN

...Crime...

DALE

...in China without the odd porky pie. I'll use my old standby: we were in the market buying Lotus dumplings for the Dragon boat festival.

*

KEN

Or just go to straight your room and never speak to Lorna again.

DALE

You got it!

22 INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, FRONT DOOR/HALLWAY. DAY 3. 1505 22

Ken and Dale come in. Lorna is there to greet them.

LORNA
Hey you two! Good day?

Dale avoids eye contact with Lorna, and walks straight to his room.

Ken sets Sid's carry seat down in a certain place. *

KEN
(to Lorna)
Hey beautiful. (Re Sid) He's sleeping.

He puts him down. She puts her arms round his neck.

LORNA
Sorry we argued.

KEN
Me too.

LORNA
Maybe I was being over-sensitive
about Jess. *

KEN
Well, still, probably better I
don't see her. *

LORNA
Oh, you're still not bloody seeing
her! Have you seen her? *

KEN
No! *

LORNA
I appreciate it, love. *

KEN
No problem. *

They have a cuddle. Dylan walks in, then immediately walks out in disgust. *

DYLAN
Oh fuck, it's started. *

LORNA
Rachel's out. Dylan's playing
computer games.

KEN

Dale has volunteered to stay in his
room.

*

LORNA

Oh? So maybe we should open a
bottle, have a bit of Ken and Lorna
time...

*

*

KEN

Mmmm yeah! Love that kind of time.

*

Ken's phone rings. Jess again. Again he knifes the call,
smiles back at Lorna.

23 **INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, LIVING ROOM. DAY 3. 1605** 23

Ken and Lorna are watching TV.

KEN

Has it ever crossed your mind that
I'm like a faithful, non-alcoholic
Don Draper?

LORNA

You totally are! Five to go to
finish the Season...

*
*

Suddenly, Sid starts crying.

LORNA (CONT'D)

I'll go.

Ken stands up.

KEN

You sit down. Draper's gonna change
that nappy. Jesus, we're similar.

24 **INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, HALLWAY. DAY 3. 1606** 24

Ken cheerfully sings a tune to himself, he grabs Sid's
carryseat from the hall.

25 INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, SID'S BEDROOM. DAY 3. 1607 25

Ken sets Sid's carry seat down.

KEN

No in-depth analysis of the Arab
Israeli conflict for us tonight,
Sid.

*
*
*

He pushes up the hood of the stroller, grabs a towel.

*

KEN (CONT'D)

Change this nappy. A quick bath,
then sleep. Deal?

*
*

Ken stops in horror.

Jess's mixed race daughter, ELIZA, is staring back at him
from the cot. Ken looks in terror.

KEN (CONT'D)

Oh God! Oh God, no...

*

Lorna appears at the door.

LORNA

I'll do that. You take the weight
off.

KEN

Nah, you're all right.

LORNA

Ken, honestly. It's my turn. You
relax.

KEN

I don't want to relax. You relax.

LORNA

(coming towards him)
Let me change him.

KEN

(desperate)
No! You're stressed and it's
ruining our family life. Get in
that room, and chill the fuck out,
yeah?

Lorna stops next to the cot, very confused. If she looked
down now she would see Eliza in the cot - but she just looks
at Ken incredulous.

LORNA

I'll open another red.

Lorna stares at Ken. That's a bit weird. Ken stares at Eliza.
Eliza stares back. Ken is overcome with fear.

26 INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, HALLWAY/FRONT DOOR. DAY 3. 1608 26

Ken carries the carry-chair through, with the hood back up.
Lorna comes towards Ken, cuddles up, glass of wine in hand.

KEN

Taking him for a drive. Sooth him
before bed.

LORNA

But he's not crying...

*

KEN

But he's very worked up. I sense
it. As primary carer.

*

*

*

He leaves, the front door slams. Lorna looks confused.

27 INT/EXT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, DRIVEWAY/ KEN'S CAR. DAY 3. 161207

Ken switches on his mobile, which beeps with missed calls from Jess. He plonks Eliza's carryseat in the backseat, dials Jess' number.

JESS (O.S.)

Ken! I've been calling and calling!

*

KEN

I'm driving her over now. Don't move! I'll be ten minutes tops.

Ken hangs up. Suddenly, Lorna opens the passenger door and sits down next to Ken.

LORNA

Might as well keep you company. But let's make it a short drive.

Bollocks. He needs a change of plan...

KEN

Just gonna get something from inside.

With Lorna still in the front, Ken opens the back door, and drapes a blanket over the baby carryseat to conceal Eliza.

KEN (CONT'D)

There we go. Sid's sleepy blanket. He will be sooooo cosy. Just got to get something from the house.

*

*

*

28 INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, HALLWAY. DAY 3. 1612

28

Ken stands in front of Dale. Ken is hyperventilating, in a state of utter panic.

KEN

What the hell? What the hell, Dale?

*

What am I going to do?

*

DALE

Calm down! I don't want to have to slap you. Ken, snap out of it!

Ken suddenly screams. Dale slaps him really hard.

DALE (CONT'D)

Now, you listen to me. I did swaps like this my whole time with Mr Xi. Then it was suitcases of money! Now it's babies. Same principle.

*

*

*

KEN

What...!

*

DALE

Here's the plan. I run to Jess' house, take her baby to the Leisure Centre carpark - that's where we meet you. All you got to do is keep Lorna from looking at Sid. You can do this, Chief Ken. Hey!

He looks into his eyes, motivational. This has the desired effect. Ken's confidence returns.

KEN

I can do this. I can swap these babies!

DALE

I know you can.

Dale slaps him hard again.

DALE (CONT'D)

(OFF KEN'S OUTRAGED EXPRESSION) For luck!

29 **EXT. LICHFIELD STREETS. DAY 3. 1615**

29

Action movie music begins. Dale runs through the streets to save the day, every inch the action hero.

30 INT. KEN'S CAR. DAY 3. 1620

30

Ken is driving along.

KEN

This is nice isn't it! Lovely
afternoon out driving. You know
what I really fancy?

LORNA

(flirty)

No. What?

KEN

A little stop and a sit in the
leisure centre car park.

*

LORNA

What? It's horrible. It's just
skateboarders and drug-addicts.

*

*

KEN

Come on! Whaddya say? Like a couple
of courting teenagers. Parked in
the car. Outside the leisure
centre.

*

*

*

Lorna is charmed.

LORNA

All right, fine, you weirdo! How's
Sid?

*

*

She begins to turn.

KEN

(panicking)

Ignore him. Ignore that baby!
(CALM) This is us time. Not
thinking about Sid. Not even
looking at him.

*

LORNA

OK. You old romancer.

Ken smiles at her. Then grimaces to himself.

31 **EXT. JESS'S HOUSE, DRIVEWAY. DAY 3. 1630**

31

Jess opens her door to see Dale.

JESS

Where's my baby! Give me my baby
now!

*

DALE

(action hero)

Jessica, we're gonna get your baby.
Just stay calm. Also, here's your
coffee from earlier. (HANDS OVER
THE COFFEE) Let's go!

*

*

*

They get in Jess's red Prius.

*

32 INT/EXT. KEN'S CAR/LEISURE CENTRE CAR PARK. DAY 3. 1635 32

Lorna and Ken sit in the car.

LORNA
This is nice.

Beat.

LORNA (CONT'D)
OK, bored now. Let's go home.

KEN
Nah! I'm loving this. Let's hang.
Let's chat. Hey, what's going on
with your work-buddies, Tom and
B...

*
*

LORNA
Briony and Tim?

KEN
Hell yeah! Those guys!

LORNA
Well, Siobhan thought she wasn't
invited to the Christmas party,
but...

Ken watches Jess pull into the carpark in Jess's red Prius.
Jess and Dale park on the opposite side of the carpark.
Really exciting action music plays... but Lorna's only mildly
interesting monologue about Briony and Tim continues on the
audio track at all times. Helen, this is down to you...

33 **INT/EXT. LEISURE CENTRE CAR PARK/ JESS'S CAR. DAY 3. 1640** 33

Action movie music begins. Dale looks at Jess.

To the music, Dale gets out with Sid and his carryseat. Dale expertly moves across the carpark with Sid's carryseat, weaving round cars, like an action movie hero.

A skateboarder almost hits him.

Another skateboarder almost hits him. He dodges expertly.

He catches Ken's eye.

34 **INT. KEN'S CAR. DAY 3. 1641**

34

Ken surreptitiously nods to Dale.

LORNA

...when in fact she just didn't
open the envelope! Anyway, I'm
blathering...

*
*

KEN

Seriously. I live for this shit.
More, please...

*

*

LORNA

OK, well,...

35 INT/EXT. KEN'S CAR/ LEISURE CENTRE CAR PARK. DAY 3. 1642 35

Dale is walking round Lorna and Ken's car, as low to the ground as possible. Ken watches him, very worried. Lorna's monologue continues over the top.

Eliza suddenly cries.

LORNA
Probably wants his bottle.

*

Lorna goes to open her side door.

KEN
Where are you going?!

LORNA
Gonna get Sid in the front. Give him a cuddle.

*

*

KEN
(about to be found out)
No! This is our time. Let her cry.
(CORRECTING HIMSELF) Him cry. My
god, Lorna, you're so beautiful.

He suddenly full on snogs her.

While he is snogging her, Dale reaches the door of Ken's car, opens it as silently as possible, and reaches to take Eliza. Dale expertly swaps the carryseats, fixing all the clips brilliantly and quickly. Then slams the door.

LORNA
Ken, what's got into you?

Wow. That was pinpoint. Ken looks back at the backseat to see Sid. He breathes a sigh of relief, they've got Sid back!

36 **EXT. LEISURE CENTRE CAR PARK/JESS'S CAR. DAY 3. 1645** 36

Dale carries Eliza over to the red Prius and places her in the back, slams the door. Job done!

The Red Prius moves off.

To reveal: Jess in an identical Red Prius in the parking space directly behind it.

Oh shit. Dale has put the baby in a stranger's car.

37 INT/EXT. LEISURE CENTRE CAR PARK/ KEN'S CAR. DAY 3. 1647 37

Ken watches in alarm from the other side of the carpark. Dale stands there, dumbfounded. Jess gets out of her car and screams at the driver, who is pulling away towards the carpark exit.

Ken sees its up to him now. He races out of his car, trying to intercept the rogue Red Prius before it's too late. Dale also runs to help try and stop the car.

*
*

LORNA

Ken? Where are you going?!

Ken weaves between cars like a man possessed. He cuts through a hedgerow and cuts off the Prius at the mouth of the car park. Arms flailing, he jumps in front of the moving vehicle - which just manages to stop in time.

The other driver gets out of his car.

DRIVER

What the hell are you doing?

KEN

Sorry, sir! It's just - you have a baby in the back of your car.

DRIVER

I definitely don't!

*

KEN

You do. Dale here put him there.

*

DALE

(running up)

Hey, how's it going? So sorry about this.

*
*
*
*

He gets Eliza from the back and hands her to Jess.

*

JESS

Thank God! My little girl. My little girl!

She slaps Ken hard.

JESS (CONT'D)

And don't bring your stodgy sponge to my Mum's group again!

*

DALE

Ouch! Talk about below the belt!

*

KEN

(shouting after her)

How dare you! That sponge was light as a feather.

The driver is beside himself with confusion. Lorna has approached.

*

DIVER
(confused)
What the hell is happening? Going
around putting babies in people's
cars. That is not on!

KEN
Sir, if you will just calm down for
a second. I can explain everything.

LORNA
I bloody hope so.

Ken turns and sees Lorna, holding Sid.

KEN
OK. Well, thing is I saw Jess this
afternoon...

LORNA
Ken!

DIVER
Who's Jess?

KEN
And I know you told me not to...

DIVER
I didn't.

KEN
No, this is principally for Lorna's
benefit now...

DIVER
Who's Lorna?

KEN
This is Lorna. She's my wife.
Anyway, I went to Jess's, and Sid
and Eliza...

DIVER
No mate, stop, sorry. I am way
behind.

*

KEN
(to LORNA)
Please can I tell you in the car?

Lorna takes pity on him...

38 INT. THOMPSON FAMILY HOME, LIVING ROOM. NIGHT 3. 1830 38

Ken and Lorna enter. Rachel is in the background on the sofa.

LORNA

All I'm saying, Ken, is I was right. That mad bitch did fancy you.

KEN

OK, you were right. In future, I will remember I am irresistible to all women. It's their incredibly well kept secret.

They have a cuddle.

LORNA

How quickly did you run out of that house?

KEN

Like Usain Bolt. (BEAT) Wine?

Lorna watches him go, and looks very smug.

Across the room, Dale sees Rachel as she comes in.

DALE

Rachel. Watching Ken and Lorna today has taught me how destructive jealousy can be. Their marriage seems OK now - but it was touch and go for a while.

RACHEL

What are you trying to say, Dale?

DALE

About this morning. I now accept that somewhere deep down I must have residual feelings for you. But, do not worry, I will not let those feelings affect our friendship. I will crush them using the immense power of my mind.

RACHEL

(sly smile, the victor)
Oh, well, good luck with that.

DALE

So we're OK?

RACHEL

Absolutely doodle dandy.

And Dale moves on...

Rachel sits on the sofa and smiles a smug smile. She notices *
Lorna on the other side of the sofa, looking equally smug. *

Rachel goes back to her own smug thoughts. They sit there: a *
smug pair. *

END OF EPISODE