

DADDY ISSUES

EPISODE 2 - NORMAL MEN

Written by

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1

EXT. PRISON -- DAY -- JULY

1

Establishing.

2

INT. PRISON -- DAY

2

GEMMA (13 weeks pregnant) sits opposite CATHERINE as they have a hushed row.

CATHERINE

Fine. I'll ask Dad instead.

GEMMA

He's not even visited yet, but you're going to ask him to smuggle a phone, into prison, up his arse canal?

A beat. Catherine backs down. Bad idea.

CATHERINE

Yeah, what if he enjoyed it? You know what men are like. He'd be constantly coming in as an excuse to put God knows what up there.

Catherine thinks - mentally measures something.

CATHERINE (cont'd)

I do have some travel straightening irons that might fit?

Gemma puts her head in her hands.

CATHERINE (cont'd)

So how's...

Catherine flaps her hands up and down.

GEMMA

My pregnancy going? I mean it's out of my hands now isn't it? Just got to let the egg do its thing. Divide and conquer.

(then; to self)

Not sure that's right.

CATHERINE

You've told mum?

GEMMA

She sent a text saying 'Good luck, you'll need it', with a gif of someone blowing their own brains out.

They both sigh at their mum's lack of support.

CATHERINE

Well I hope daddy bear's loaded.
What you asking for? Total buyout
or monthly repayments?

GEMMA

It's a baby, not a BMW. And I'm
still not entirely sure who the
father is.

(off Catherine's look)

Once I've had the ultrasound, I
should be able to work him out from
the dates.

CATHERINE

You should be able to?

GEMMA

I won't be judged by a woman who
tried to have her fiance murdered.

CATHERINE

Tried and failed. How can it be a
crime if you don't achieve it?
That's what my girls say.

GEMMA

Your "girls"?

CATHERINE

Finally made it into the D-block
girl squad. We all look out for
each other, if we're having
menstrual cramps or need an alibi
because some evil bitch deserves a
cutting.

GEMMA

Please don't "cut" anyone while
you're on remand.

(then considers)

The support thing sounds great
though.

CATHERINE

You don't have a lot of that?

GEMMA

Nothing.

(realising)

Oh god, my girl squad is Dad, isn't
it?

CATHERINE

That's really funny.

GEMMA

It's really not. I need to find
some women.

A loud siren goes off. A BALD MAN visiting another inmate
HALSEY is handcuffed and thrown across the table by a GUARD.

A vape pen rests on the table between them.

HALSEY

(to the man)

I told you to stop putting stuff up
your arse.

(to a guard)

I told him to stop! I don't even
need a new vape pen. Oh Wayne you
prick.

Catherine gives Gemma a knowing look.

CATHERINE

Men.

TITLES: DADDY ISSUES

3

INT. GEMMA'S FLAT, KITCHEN -- DAY

3

Morning. Gemma is still in pjs and dressing gown as she goes to put her teabag in the bin - a bin that is beyond overflowing with rubbish.

GEMMA

(annoyed)

Dad!

Malcolm pops his head around the kitchen door. Gemma holds up the teabag - nods at the bin.

MALCOLM

Oh! Sorry Gemma.

Malcolm takes the teabag from Gemma and into another room. We hear the toilet flush. Malcolm reappears - all smiles.

GEMMA

That's going to block the toilet.

MALCOLM

Nonsense. I've put bigger fish than
that down the lavvie.

GEMMA

Goldfish are tiny.

MALCOLM

Not a goldfish. Derek had a pet koi
carp... for 24 hours.

(MORE)

MALCOLM (cont'd)

We had to chop her into thirds to
get her round the u-bend, but Diana
flushed away no problem.

Face from Gemma. But she doesn't ask further questions.

GEMMA

Well it's bin day. And you've not
put the bin out even though it's
one of your jobs. So now the bin
men...

MALCOLM

(correcting)

Bin people...

GEMMA

Won't have collected this...

She points to the bin.

GEMMA (cont'd)

Which means I need to take it to
the tip at lunchtime, which is when
I've also got a midwife
appointment.

MALCOLM

Just pop it in number sixteen's.
She'll never notice.

GEMMA

Yeah I am going to do that,
obviously. But can you at least
empty it?

Malcolm starts to pull the liner from the bin. As he does so,
Gemma winces and holds her side.

MALCOLM

Is that the baby kicking?

GEMMA

Seriously?

MALCOLM

I don't know when they get legs,
Gemma, I'm not a doctor.

Malcolm shrinks back - *he didn't know* - as he struggles with
the bin bag.

MALCOLM (cont'd)

I didn't even know it was bin day.

GEMMA

It's on the calendar! Look.

Close on wall CALENDAR - bin day. As he looks, Malcolm pulls the bin bag free but splits it open. Kitchen waste spills onto the floor.

The smell hits Gemma. She dashes off to be sick.

4

INT. GEMMA'S FLAT, BATHROOM -- MINUTES LATER

4

Gemma finishes being sick into the loo.

She wipes her mouth and flushes. Water starts to fill up the bowl because it is blocked by the teabag.

GEMMA

No no no no no!

Gemma waits to see if it's going to flood. Instead the toilet bowl remains full of water and sick. A look of resigned frustration on Gemma's face.

5

INT. GEMMA'S FLAT, HALLWAY -- MOMENTS LATER

5

GEMMA

You've been here less than a month...

6

INT. GEMMA'S FLAT, KITCHEN -- CONTINUOUS

6

Gemma enters the kitchen to find Malcolm mopping up bin juice with his coat. This is her breaking point.

GEMMA

AAAAAGGGGHHHH!

MALCOLM

It's my coat Gemma! Don't worry.

(then)

Is it your hormones?

GEMMA

NO! It's you. Why can't you behave like a grown adult.

MALCOLM

Your mother never taught me.

GEMMA

How to be a functioning human being? That wasn't her job.

MALCOLM

Yes it was. Who else should have taught me what to flush down the toilet, or use to clean up bin juice?

GEMMA

(shouts)

Nothing but toilet paper and
literally anything but a fucking
coat.

Malcolm takes off his jogging bottoms and mops with them
instead. He's wearing grotty boxers, naturally.

MALCOLM

(attitude)

Better?

There's a knock at the door. Malcolm drops the attitude as
quickly as it came.

MALCOLM (cont'd)

Ooh. That'll be Derek, he's lending
me a book.

Malcolm says book like it's something much more impressive
than a book. Gemma pretends to smash her face into cupboard.

7

INT GEMMA'S FLAT, LIVING ROOM -- LATER

7

Derek sits on the sofa. He's wearing a hat with a feather in
it, a fake ponytail and has painted nails. Maybe even a weird
bit of facial hair.

Gemma - now fully dressed - stares at him.

GEMMA

What is going on?

DEREK

It's called peacocking and it's a
fantastic way to pick up women.

The book he brought is The Game by Neil Strauss. Gemma gives
Derek a hard stare.

GEMMA

Pick up women with no self esteem
from 2004?

MALCOLM

I think you look great, Derek.

DEREK

Thanks boss.

Gemma shakes her head and leaves them to it as she goes into
the kitchen to make her lunch for work.

DEREK (cont'd)

So Malcolm, how would you like to
be a hit with the ladies.

MALCOLM
Maybe? Eventually.

Derek isn't really listening.

DEREK
Then I have three words for you.
Close. Up. Magic. If you can
manipulate a ball into a cup, you
can manipulate a woman into your
bed.

Gemma pops her head back into the living room.

GEMMA
Dad! A word.

8

INT. GEMMA'S FLAT, KITCHEN -- MOMENTS LATER

8

GEMMA
(hushed)
Look, you know I tolerate... him.
But I also think it would be really
great if you made other friends.

MALCOLM
What's wrong with Derek?

GEMMA
He's dressed like a pantomime
pirate.

A frustrated cry from Derek.

DEREK (O.S.)
Fuuuuuuuck. Not again.

MALCOLM
He's my best mate.

GEMMA
But is he? Divorce is a big thing
to go through Dad. You need a
support network. Of normal men.

MALCOLM
Are you friends with any normal
women?

On Gemma. No.

GEMMA
We're not talking about me.

MALCOLM
Derek's going through a divorce.

GEMMA

But he's not normal.

Derek pops back in with a velvet bag. He discretely tips something from the bag into the unlined bin.

DEREK

(coy)

I got the fake mouse and the real mouse mixed up.

Gemma looks at Malcolm. *Not normal.*

8A

EXT/INT. HEALTH CENTRE -- LATER

8A

Gemma walks into the health centre, clutching her side.

9

INT. HEALTH CENTRE, TREATMENT ROOM -- LATER

9

Gemma's midwife ROCHELLE hands her a prescription as Gemma clutches her side.

ROCHELLE

This is for your UTI. How are you feeling about everything? In yourself?

Gemma pauses.

GEMMA

Err... okay? I guess. How am I supposed to be feeling?

ROCHELLE

Excited? Happy? Nervous? Scared?

GEMMA

Oh yeah all of those. Maybe not happy. Who's happy, eh?

Rochelle frowns.

GEMMA (cont'd)

I saw on the news women having babies in literal warzones and they seemed fine.

ROCHELLE

I don't think they are fine. I think they're deeply traumatized.

GEMMA

Well what I'm saying is I'm not in a warzone so I should be fine? According to the news.

Rochelle reads between the lines.

ROCHELLE

We run a coffee morning here on
Thursdays for mummies-to-be to find
friends. Two mummies got on so well
they're getting married next year!

GEMMA

(jokes)

I bet the daddies weren't happy?

ROCHELLE

No. They tried to sue us.

GEMMA

Oh...

Rochelle pushes a flyer towards Gemma.

ROCHELLE

There's a flyer if you're
interested?

GEMMA

(lies)

I have loads of friends.

ROCHELLE

Really? What are their names?

GEMMA

Cheryl, Nadine, Sarah, Kimberly
and... err I can't remember the
other one.

ROCHELLE

Nicola?

GEMMA

Nicola! Yes.

Gemma gives an innocent smile. Then takes the flyer and puts it in her bag.

GEMMA (cont'd)

I will take this. Thank you.

10

INT. WAREHOUSE -- SAME TIME

10

Builders trade warehouse. Malcolm wears a high-viz vest as he does a stock take. He's approached by a SUPERVISOR.

SUPERVISOR

Malc. Boss needs you to go customer
facing.

(MORE)

SUPERVISOR (cont'd)

A ropey Korean buffet has knocked out the entire front office.

MALCOLM

What about Jamie? He likes talking to "outsiders".

SUPERVISOR

He likes showing them his extra nipple too.

MALCOLM

He's got a thripple?

SUPERVISOR

Which is why Jamie no longer works here. So get on with it? Unless you want some shifts cutting next rota?

Out on Malcolm. Social anxiety already bubbling.

10A

EXT/INT. PHARMACY -- LATER

10A

Gemma arrives prescription in hand.

11

INT. PHARMACY -- CONTINUOUS

11

Gemma queues for the pharmacy counter when she bumps into a woman CHERRY (20s; long nails, hair extensions, head to toe fast fashion). Old school frenemy. Gemma zeros in on her.

GEMMA

Cherry? Hey.

CHERRY

Gemma. Moscrip.

GEMMA

(breezy)

Great to see you. How have you been?

Moment on Cherry. Biting back tears.

CHERRY

That's a pretty fucking cruel thing to say Gemma.

GEMMA

What? Why?

CHERRY

Don't pretend you don't know.
Everybody knows.

GEMMA

I honestly don't.

But Cherry isn't listening - lets it all out.

CHERRY

He left me and the kids. Lance left
me for a much younger woman.

GEMMA

How much younger?

CHERRY

She's sixteen!

Gemma pulls a face. *Gross.*

CHERRY (cont'd)

You know these rugby guys, they can
have anyone they want.

GEMMA

(confused)

Can they? Rugby players?

CHERRY

He was doing a special visit to the
children's home and she just hooked
her claws in.

GEMMA

I'm so sorry Cherry. Hey, why don't
we have a mad night out, just like
in the old days.

Gemma glances at her prescription.

GEMMA (cont'd)

(whispers)

Shit. No.

(then)

Or a daytime soup?

CHERRY

We've never gone out together.

GEMMA

We've been in the same place at the
same time. Might cheer you up?

CHERRY

I thought you only hung out with
people you were shagging?

GEMMA

That's the old me. I've actually
been listening to a lot of feminist
podcasts.

(MORE)

GEMMA (cont'd)

(laboured)

Friendzies before Menzies.

Gemma is trying too hard. Cherry changes gears. Maybe Gemma is useful.

CHERRY

Alright, look Tamika Chase is having a party on Saturday at Alfredo's. I need a wingman to help me get laid and you are the expert.

GEMMA

I'm choosing to take that as a compliment. Although Tamika Chase was a real bitch at school. She super-glued you to a tin of peaches.

CHERRY

A catering sized tin of peaches, Gemma. That's another reason why I don't want to go by myself.

GEMMA

It's gonna be a great night. We'll get you laid, I'll reconnect with the Neville Senior lot.

Cherry gives Gemma a look. *Not sure.*

CHERRY

I'll get us some coke.

(then)

We'll need it to take the edge of the bullying.

Cherry leaves. Gemma turns to hand her prescription to the Pharmacist. It's XANDER (ep 1), who overheard their conversation. He looks at the prescription.

XANDER

I wouldn't recommend taking these and cocaine at the same time.

Gemma blushes. Xander gets the antibiotics.

GEMMA

My coffee hero. Thank again for that, you're a lifesaver...

XANDER

Xander. Yeah, buying coffee, using the de-fib, all part of my training. That's nine pound sixty five...

He holds eye contact. *Chemistry.* He's definitely flirting.

XANDER (cont'd)
Gemma. Unless you're exempt?

Gemma is exempt because she's pregnant. She reaches for her Maternity Card - about to tell him - but changes her mind.

GEMMA
I am fully employed and fit thank you. Apart from...

She points to the bag of antibiotics. Xander smiles.

XANDER
Take the whole course, even if it does clear up sooner.

GEMMA
It will. There's barely an infection in my urinary tract at all.

Gemma winces at her small talk.

12

INT. WAREHOUSE, FRONT OFFICE -- SAME TIME

12

Malcolm fidgets as STUART (50s; normal but has been through a tough time) storms in. Before Stuart can see Malcolm, Malcolm ducks behind the counter.

STUART
Right, who's actually in charge here? Cos I've got three building projects I'm managing, all waiting on those bloody tiles I ordered weeks ago.

On Malcolm behind the counter.

MALCOLM
Are you looking for someone to shout at?

STUART
I was. But less so now it's just you here hiding under a counter.

MALCOLM (O.S.)
I'm not hiding I... dropped something. A good coin.

Malcolm pops up.

MALCOLM (cont'd)
Found it!

Stuart is surprised - and pleased - to see Malcolm.

STUART

Malcolm Moscrip? Stuart. Your Gemma
was at school with my girl.

MALCOLM

Stuart? Wow, you look so different.

STUART

I lost eight stone, and had my
entire jaw rebuilt. And I got
contact lenses! How are you? Still
playing five-a-side?

Stuart mimes kicking a ball.

MALCOLM

Not with my knees.

STUART

What about that pub band?

Stuart mimes playing the drums.

MALCOLM

I sold my drumkit. Davina wanted a
pagoda.

STUART

Oh. Pagodas are nice.

MALCOLM

She didn't get one in the end...

(beat)

I should probably be straight with
you Stuart, my wife left me.

Stuart exhales. He can totally relate to this.

STUART

Mine too! Sucks doesn't it. Did
yours become a lesbian?

MALCOLM

I don't think so.

STUART

Loads of them have, Malcolm.
Hundreds of them.

Stuart leans on the counter, a confident man holding court.

STUART (cont'd)

I blame the contraceptive pill. You
know they never tested it properly?
I'm pretty sure that why so many
middle aged women have become
lesbians.

Malcolm is an agreeable man, so agrees.

MALCOLM
Definitely.

STUART
I'm joking! That's an insane thing
to think. Haha.

MALCOLM
Yes. I don't think that.

STUART
Hey I've started this little group
for men having a tough time. We do
some boxing in the park - great for
the old black dog. Fancy coming
along Saturday morning?

MALCOLM
That sounds really good.

A beat. Stuart smiles.

MALCOLM (cont'd)
I love dogs.

13 OMITTED 13

14 OMITTED 14

15 **INT. GEMMA'S FLAT, LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT** 15

Gemma and Malcolm sit down to dinner. Curry and rice. A
normal looking ketchup bottle sits on the table.

MALCOLM
They tried to give me some keys at
work today.

GEMMA
No! You hate that.

MALCOLM
I'm not a keys person Gemma. First
they give you keys, then you're on
the call list when there's a break
in, and before you know it you're
on the hook for corporate
manslaughter.

GEMMA
Yeah, that's the usual order of
events.

MALCOLM

Ooh but, I did make a friend.

GEMMA

(genuine)

Someone brought their dog in?

MALCOLM

Not a dog, although there was a bit of confusion. No, a man. He's really great. His wife left him too so we've got loads in common. Both miss the Wimpy. Neither of us like stinging nettles. Loads in common.

Gemma smiles. Pleased for Malcolm.

GEMMA

I made a friend today as well,
Cherry from school?

Malcolm shakes his head. No idea who she is.

GEMMA (cont'd)

We didn't really get on... but she's a mum now so, might be useful?

Malcolm suddenly remembers. Grabs the ketchup bottle.

MALCOLM

(arch)

Would you like some ketchup with that, Gemma?

GEMMA

With my curry?

Malcolm's face falls a little.

GEMMA (cont'd)

Sure.

Malcolm acts as if he's going towards the plate and then turns the bottle towards Gemma and "squirts" her instead. A piece of red silk flies out the end - it's a trick bottle.

GEMMA (cont'd)

(unimpressed)

Did you buy that off Derek?

MALCOLM

Yes! Good isn't it? Real talking point with the ladies.

Reaction from Gemma.

16

EXT. BOXING CLUB -- DAY

16

Malcolm arrives at a scruffy looking boxing club.

16A

INT. BOXING CLUB -- LATER

16A

Malcolm, Stuart and some middle aged men stand in pairs boxing.

Stuart holds the mitts while Malcolm throws light punches. Zero sense of violence from any of the men.

STUART

C'mon Malcolm, show me that rage. Get in touch with how Davina made you feel.

MALCOLM

She made me feel horrible which is why I try hard not to think about her at all.

STUART

Malcolm!

MALCOLM

Derek says the best way to get over someone... is to make someone else cry. Shift the pain from you onto them.

STUART

That's seriously toxic. Who's Derek?

MALCOLM

(quiet; embarrassed)

A friend.

STUART

I'm throwing Tam a big 25th tonight. She's had a tough year with her mum leaving... and her boyfriend passed away suddenly. You'll come? Bring Derek if you want, sounds like he needs some male support too.

Malcolm can barely catch his breath. He's not used to the exercise.

MALCOLM

I will. Thanks mate.

STUART

Keep the gloves. They're a good fit.

Malcolm smiles. He's met a nice man and they're getting on!

17

EXT. FANCY WINE BAR, CAR PARK -- NIGHT

17

A group of party attendees hang in the car park waiting for birthday girl's arrival - including Gemma.

Gemma - looking hot - approaches Cherry who has a massive glass of wine in her hand. Cherry wears a white mini dress.

GEMMA

Nice dress.

CHERRY

Cost four hundred quid. I need four hundred quid worth of dick tonight babe.

GEMMA

That's quite a lot of dick, I'm not making any promises.

CHERRY

I should warn you, Tamika hasn't really forgiven you for that Ross Beakfield stuff.

GEMMA

What Ross Beakfield stuff?

CHERRY

You stealing him off her.

GEMMA

Did I? I don't remember that at all.

Gemma is interrupted by a red sports car screeching to a stop in the car park (with no respect for parking bays)

Everyone cheers as TAMIKA (20s; confident mean girl) climbs out of the drivers side. She wears a birthday sash and badge, probably a tiara. Glitter cannons explode.

TAMIKA

(points to self)

Tamika Chase is in da house! Let's get this fucking party started.

Tamika spots Cherry and points to her.

TAMIKA (cont'd)

Cheryl? Park the "bitch machine" for me. Any scratches and I will rip your hair out, I swear.

(then)

Love you, babe. Mwah.

Cherry gives a limp smile and takes the keys from Tamika. Tamika eyeballs Gemma as she walks into the pub.

GEMMA

We're gonna have a brilliant night.
As long as she doesn't glue any of
us to tinned goods?

CHERRY

She might do that.

Cherry downs the huge glass of wine. Terror in her eyes.

GEMMA

Maybe... I should park the car?

18

INT. FANCY WINE BAR, BAR -- LATER

18

Table in the corner loaded with birthday presents and bottles of champagne. Big banner that reads HAPPY BIRTHDAY TAMIKA. Balloons etc.

Gemma sips a tonic water, still maintaining a look of 'I'm honestly enjoying this' as Cherry chats - now pretty drunk.

CHERRY

It's true babe, Lance is the only
man I've ever let climax inside me.

GEMMA

Did you say that in your wedding
vows? Or just get it embroidered on
a cushion?

Cherry ignores Gemma - in her own head.

CHERRY

Since having the kids my life has
become so... boring? And tiring.
And boring.

On Gemma. This is going to be her life.

GEMMA

Is it really that bad?

CHERRY

I just get sick of hanging around
with mummy-friends, talking about
lego and nits.

Tamika once again stares at Gemma from across the room, as she approaches Stuart and Malcolm who are deep in conversation. Stuart tries to give Tamika a hug but she shakes him off. Gemma spots Malcolm.

GEMMA

Why is my Dad here?

CHERRY

That's your Dad with Tam's Dad?

GEMMA

That's Tamika's Dad? Oh bollocks.

Derek appears. He's still dressed like a full on twat. He zeros in on Cherry.

DEREK

I'm Derek, friends call me Big D.

GEMMA

I bet they do.

Derek ignores Gemma turns towards Cherry. Holds out his hand.

DEREK

Hey... are you my appendix? Because I have no idea what you do but I feel I should take you out.

Cherry looks at Derek as if he's a piece of shit. Waves her hand in his face.

CHERRY

Nope.

Cherry stumbles off. Derek opens his mouth to say something to Gemma.

GEMMA

I'll pretend that didn't happen.

A tiny moment of bonding between the two.

DEREK

Thanks.

19

INT. FANCY WINE BAR -- LATER

19

Malcolm and Stuart chat in another part of the bar.

STUART

I just don't think there's enough support for anyone in crisis. Us fellas included.

MALCOLM

(nods)

When Davina left I was in a really terrible place.

STUART

Mentally?

MALCOLM

Yeah and the room I ended up in...
let's just say there were a lot of
"stains".

Derek approaches having shaken off his rejection.

DEREK

Slagging off my gaff again Malcolm?

MALCOLM

No, no... It was a palace. Really
miss it. Have you met Stuart?

Derek looks Stuart up and down. Unimpressed.

STUART

Malcolm was telling my about your
bedsit for divorced men.

DEREK

I expect you'll turn up one day
with a suitcase full of chinos.

STUART

Unlikely. My company pulled in half
a mill last quarter.

Derek pulls a face. What a cock. He takes Malcolm to one side
as Stuart moves off.

DEREK

Look mate, there are bags of women
here tonight.

MALCOLM

I was having a nice time talking to
Stuart. He's nice.

DEREK

Who likes nice men? No, these hoes
are primed for you to make a move.
You know what you need to do?

MALCOLM

(unsure)

Get the eggs out?

DEREK

Get the fucking eggs out.

MALCOLM

Are you getting the eggs out?

DEREK

We can't both gets the eggs out,
we'd look really weird. No, I'm
actually trying my hand at ghosting
this evening. Apparently chicks go
mental for ghosting.

MALCOLM

Ghosting?

DEREK

I'm ignoring every single woman
here. Ghosting them all. They love
it.

A woman at the bar clocks Derek - he turns his head away in a
theatrical manner.

DEREK (cont'd)

See Malc. I'm the master.

20

INT. FANCY WINE BAR -- SAME TIME

20

Tamika holds court with her minion LIV as Gemma approaches,
keen to build bridges for Malcolm and Stuart's sake.

GEMMA

Tamika!

Liv folds her arms. Bags of sass.

LIV

Gemma. Moscrip.

GEMMA

(to Tamika)

Just wanted to say Happy Birthday,
Tam. Our Dad's seem to getting on
really well, so...

TAMIKA

Loads of fucking loser dickheads
love Stuart. He's a beacon for the
pathetic.

GEMMA

Okay. I see you lot haven't changed
much since school?

LIV

We haven't. My boyfriend says I
still look fifteen.

GEMMA

Is your boyfriend on the sex
offenders register?

Liv tries to not look insulted.

LIV
(to Gemma)
Hope you got Tam something amazing.
You owe her after all.

Gemma shrugs. Doesn't know what they're on about.

TAMIKA
(to Liv)
Babe, when your daddy gets you a
red sports car for your birthday it
doesn't matter what the chaff
brings in.

Face from Gemma - genuinely puzzled. She then spots Malcolm. He's doing a trick for an ATTRACTIVE WOMAN. Making an egg come out of his mouth.

GEMMA
Oh no.

21

INT. FANCY WINE BAR -- MINUTES LATER

21

The Attractive Woman moves away from Malcolm - almost angry at him - as Gemma approaches.

GEMMA
So Dad. Silly question but why are
you making hard boiled eggs come
out of your mouth?

MALCOLM
Derek says everyone loves eggs.

GEMMA
No they don't. Vegans don't.

MALCOLM
I'd argue they loves eggs more than
an ordinary person. I'd be over the
moon if someone handed me a free
egg, Gem.

GEMMA
That's been in their mouth?

MALCOLM
You can give it a rinse?

GEMMA
If I buy you a drink will you stop
making eggs come out of your mouth?

MALCOLM
(shrugs)
I can try.

22

INT. FANCY WINE BAR, BAR -- MINUTES LATER

22

Gemma waits at the bar to order, when she's shoulder barged by Tamika.

GEMMA
Ugh. Come on then. Tell me what this is all about.

TAMIKA
Ross. Beakfield.

An intake of breath. *Not Ross Beakfield.* All eyes on Gemma and Tamika.

GEMMA
What about Ross Beakfield?

TAMIKA
You dated him.

Tamika reaches into her bag, pulls out a cordless glue gun.

Whispers of "glue gun" go round. Gemma is baffled because glue guns aren't that threatening. But everyone else reacts like Tamika has a knife.

GEMMA
For a week. Ten years ago.

TAMIKA
And you slept with him.

Tamika waves the glue gun. A few in-takes of breath.

GEMMA
I barely kissed him.

On Tamika. This is news to her but she styles it out.

TAMIKA
Well I was in love with him and you stole him from me. And now I can never tell him, because he's dead.

Everything stops. Even the music stops. Long pause until Gemma breaks the silence.

GEMMA
I don't think he is.

TAMIKA

He is! His mum texted me four months ago saying he had passed away very suddenly and his number was no longer in use.

Liv and Cherry share a look. Cat's out the bag.

GEMMA

I heard he moved to Basingstoke four months ago because you'd been stalking him.

Stuart and Malcolm who'd been watching the whole thing, approach the girls.

STUART

He wasn't your boyfriend?

TAMIKA

He was! The truth that I choose to live by is that he was my boyfriend, Stuart.

(to Liv)

Why didn't you tell me?

Liv looks at the floor. Glass of red wine in her hand.

STUART

He's not dead? But we held that mini wake?

TAMIKA

(to Liv)

I had R.I.P Ross Beakfield tattooed on my...

(points to crotch)

kitten.

Liv shakes her head. Tamika is humiliated.

TAMIKA (cont'd)

Oh my god.

(to Gemma)

I will fucking glue you, Gemma Moscrip. One day, when you least expect it, I will glue you.

GEMMA

To what?

Gemma is the only person who has ever stood up to Tamika.

Tamika throws down the glue gun and grabs the red wine from Liv. In a fit of impotent rage she throws the wine over the front of Cherry's £400 dress and storms off.

Gemma picks up the glue gun. Puts it in her bag.

The party starts up again. Music back on. Chatting resumes. Malcolm and Stuart get back to their conversation.

23

EXT. FANCY WINE BAR, CARPARK -- LATER

23

Gemma and Cherry walk through the wine bar carpark.

CHERRY

(to Gemma in awe)

You were so cool, even though she threatened to glue you!

GEMMA

You know that isn't a thing?

(then re; dress)

Will it wash out?

Cherry shrugs - swigs from an open bottle of champagne.

CHERRY

Want some?

GEMMA

I can't. I'm pregnant.

CHERRY

What?

GEMMA

Yeah. Not sure how many weeks. I've got my scan on Monday.

Cherry turns to face Gemma and gives her a huge warm hug.

CHERRY

Babe that is amazing news. Why didn't you say anything earlier?

GEMMA

I thought you wouldn't want to hang out.

CHERRY

I didn't want to hang out, but I do now! You are so lucky. Having a baby is like being lovebombed by your own DNA.

GEMMA

I'm still trying to get my head round it. Who I should tell...

CHERRY

... What you can and can't do. Any advice babe, I am here for you.

GEMMA

Thanks.

Gemma smiles at Cherry's kindness, as Cherry links arms with her. Then a plan forms.

GEMMA (cont'd)

I know one thing I can still do.

Cherry raises an eyebrow as Gemma turns her focus to Tamika's car.

23A INT/EXT. FANCY WINE BAR/CAR PARK -- MINUTES LATER

23A

Malcolm and Stuart walk from the bar into the car park looking for the girls.

STUART

Now you've got my number, give me a call anytime, if you want to rant about the ex?

MALCOLM

Or I find a stubborn patch of nettles?

Malcolm and Stuart approach Stuart's car. Stuarts face falls. On the bonnet written in glue and glitter is CUNT with an arrow pointing to the drivers seat.

Gemma holds the glue gun. Big grin. All her work.

STUART

My car?!

On Gemma. A flicker of doubt.

GEMMA

Your car?

STUART

(furious)

Malcolm! What has your daughter done to my car?

GEMMA

Tamika said it was her birthday present.

STUART

I let her drive it as a present. Jesus Christ. My car.

Stuart climbs in, starts the engine.

STUART (cont'd)
Where's the nearest Jet Wash? I
can't have it dry like this.

Malcolm knocks on the window.

MALCOLM
Will you want those boxing gloves
back, Stuart?

STUART
Yes Malcolm.

Malcolm's face falls. Stuart is no longer his friend.

GEMMA
Sorry, Dad.

24

INT. WAITING AREA, HOSPITAL -- DAY

24

A new day. Gemma sits in the hospital waiting room. Every expectant mother has someone with them apart from Gemma.

She thinks about the enormity of going it alone. Then...

MALCOLM (O.S.)
I got you a hot chocolate.

GEMMA
(surprised)
Dad!

MALCOLM
You'd put the scan on the calender.

Gemma smiles at him - touched by his unexpected thoughtfulness - as a Rochelle approaches.

ROCHELLE
The sonographer will see you now
Gemma.

GEMMA
Is it okay if my Dad comes in?

ROCHELLE
Of course.

They all walk towards the scan room. Gemma squeezes Malcolm's arm.

GEMMA
Thanks for coming. Hey, do you want
to get lunch together afterward?

MALCOLM
Already got mine, thanks.

Malcolm produces a manky looking hard boiled egg from his pocket and pops it into his mouth.

End of Script