

DADDY ISSUES
EPISODE 5 - DEGLOVED

Written by
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GEMMA (32 weeks pregnant) and CHERRY sit at a table at a very lovely play cafe. Cherry's pre-school twins (boy and girl) are absolutely tearing up the toy area.

CHERRY

You need to think very carefully about where you take your kids. The soft play in town, for example, is absolutely disgusting.

GEMMA

How disgusting?

CHERRY

Crawling with germs and headlice and hypodermic needles. I once found a very small very dead octopus in the ballpit.

GEMMA

Jesus.

CHERRY

(nods)

Whereas this place is for rich wankers and their rich wanker kids.

Move to The twins terrorise a small boy BERTY (4; dark hair) dressed in brown shirt, black tie & black shorts.

CHERRY (cont'd)

Limp twat doesn't stand a chance.

GEMMA

You can't talk about someone else's child like that, even if he is dressed like a member of the Hitler Youth.

A woman ALLEGRA (30s; humourless, shouts at her husband in the car) storms over looking annoyed, carrying a chihuahua.

ALLEGRA

Your "children" are throwing things at Berty.

GEMMA

(to dog; sympathetic)

Poor Berty?

ALLEGRA

Berty is my son.

Cherry gives Gemma a look. *Told you.*

ALLEGRA (cont'd)

And now they've tricked him into eating playdough! That is a criminal offence.

GEMMA

Not sure it is. Unless eating playdough is part of a bigger heist the twins are planning?

Gemma stands to try and calm the situation while Cherry dials up the attitude.

CHERRY

So sod off back to Waitrose, eh?

BEN (O.S.)

Everything okay?

It's BEN with a baby strapped to his chest, changing bag on his shoulder, 100% doting family man. He recognises Gemma - his gaze turns to her large baby bump.

GEMMA

Ben?

1A **INT. PLANE -- FLASHBACK**

1A

V quick flashback to ep 1 sc 1 (No dialogue, just action).

Back on play cafe.

BEN
 (very quiet)
Shit.

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2 INT. PLAY CAFE -- CONTINUOUS

2

ALLEGRA
(to Ben; confused)
Do you know her, Ben?

Ben can't get the words out. Flustered. Gemma jumps in.

GEMMA
We know each other through work.
Gemma realises she has no idea what Ben's job is.

BEN
(relieved)
Yes! Gemma was involved with the takeover.

ALLEGRA
I don't recall you being mentioned.
What was your role?

GEMMA
(deadpan)
I was the getaway driver.

Panic on Ben's face. He needs to step in.

BEN
She was partnered with Sebastian Ford.

Allegra suddenly softens. Almost sympathetic.

ALLEGRA
Oh! Gosh. You worked with Seb? That must have been so difficult.

Gemma plays along. Serious. Trying not to smirk.

GEMMA
It was very difficult actually...

ALLEGRA
Allegra.

CHERRY
(under her breath)
My Dad used to drive one of those.

ALLEGRA
I never believed the awful rumours.
About Seb.

GEMMA
No? Well let me tell you --

Ben cuts her off. Unable to take much more of this.

BEN

-- It has been so great seeing you again Gemma.

GEMMA

Yeah it must be... what, about eight months?

On Cherry. Lightbulb moment. *This dude is the Dad.*

CHERRY

(loud)
Holy shit!

Gemma glares at Cherry. *Zip it.*

BEN

We should exchange contact details.

GEMMA

(unimpressed)
We really don't have to.

Gemma holds eye contact with Ben. She's taking the piss and he's almost enjoying it.

BERTY

Mummy!

Berty has had a carton of juice tipped over him. Ben passes Allegra the changing bag.

BEN

It's your turn to clean him up.

ALLEGRA

(annoyed)
It's your turn. I did the baby.

On Ben & Allegra. Brink of a row. Ben is very stressed but just about holds it together. Allegra folds first.

ALLEGRA (cont'd)

(quiet)
Cocksucker.

Allegra huffs off as Ben pulls Gemma by the arm for a word, covering the baby's ears with his hands. *Just in case.*

BEN

Is that?.. (*mine*)

GEMMA

Yes. Congratulations.

Ben pauses. Still processing.

BEN
(confused)
But I finished in the sink!?

Heavy sigh. She's not going to give him a lesson in pre-cum.

BEN (cont'd)
Please please don't say anything to Allegra. Do you want money? I can paypal you something right now?

GEMMA
Piss. Off.

Gemma walks away. *What a dick.*

BEN
Sorry! I'm just... it's a bit much.
Can I have your number?

Gemma pauses - unsure. But she relents.

GEMMA
Fine.

Gemma types her number into his phone as Allegra arrives.

ALLEGRA
Mummy's asked us to pop round. If you think you can get the Defender up her driveway without hitting anything this time?

Ben screws up his face. Determined to not lose it.

ALLEGRA (cont'd)
Good luck with the baby. Give our regards to Seb!

Ben and family leave. Gemma calls after them.

GEMMA
(very loud)
Will do. Even though all those rumours are true! Hashtag Believe Women.

Cherry gives Gemma a look of *What are you on about?* Gemma shrugs. *No idea. Made it up.*

Once they're gone...

CHERRY
Is kissing him like getting off with a giraffe?

GEMMA
That's your first question is it?

CHERRY

(shrugs)

Fine. What are you going to do?

GEMMA

Nothing. He's a liar and a cheat and judging from the size of that baby he was carrying, Allegra was pretty bloody pregnant when I met him.

CHERRY

Where did you meet him?

GEMMA

In a toilet.

CHERRY

Romantic.

GEMMA

There's no way I'll hear from him again.

Gemma phone pings. A message.

GEMMA (cont'd)

It's Ben. He wants to talk.

3 OMITTED

3

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

4

DEREK looks through a stack of DVDs as Malcolm makes a brew.

MALCOLM

I got those from the charity shop.
All things we used to watch with the
girls when they were little.

DEREK

Ballykiss Angel? Boring. Grey's
Anatomy? Boring. The Shining?

MALCOLM

It's about a little boy.

DEREK

Whose Dad tries to murder him with an
axe. Malcolm, you watched these with
your kids?

MALCOLM

I think so? It was a long time ago.

DEREK

Why not dig out your actual DVDs?

MALCOLM

Davina gave them to a cat shelter
before she got rid of the house.

(off Derek)

Not for the cats to watch. Cats only
really like snooker, don't they?

DEREK

Your wife gave away all your stuff?

MALCOLM

She left some of the girls bits in
the loft. Baby photos, toys... I was
meant to collect them but you know...

GEMMA (O.S.)

This box was outside the flat.

Gemma enters with a large soggy couriered box that has been
left outside the flats, plus a couple of letters.

GEMMA (cont'd)

Which I guess means you've not asked
Baris to fix the intercom yet?

MALCOLM

(re; DVDs)

I bought these for the baby!

GEMMA

My baby is not watching The Shining.
That's why Catherine's so messed up.

Gemma puts the box down and looks at the letters. One is from HM Prison Services. She gives it to Malcolm.

GEMMA (cont'd)

Dad, I know you find aggressive women terrifying but you have to visit her.

MALCOLM

Not this again.

GEMMA

I don't like going either, but at least take her a Christmas present. Big toblerone or something?

Malcolm is desperate to change the subject. He points at the courier box.

MALCOLM

It's for you... for the little one.

GEMMA

Stop buying random crap and just do the stuff I ask.

DEREK

Now Gemma, I do think you're being a bit tough on Malcolm.

Gemma shakes her head.

DEREK (cont'd)

I'm just saying I know how hard it is being pregnant.

GEMMA

Really Derek? Is your bladder the side of a peanut? Does your pelvis feel like it's about to snap in two? Are your tits so swollen it's like someone has strapped two kettlebells to your chest?

DEREK

No. But I do remember what a bitch my wife was.

She gives Derek a look as Malcolm cuts the parcel tape.

GEMMA

(softens)

What's in the box, Dad?

Malcolm tips the box out. Gemma stares at a HUGE pile of crumpled, heavily soiled, gross baby clothes on the floor.

MALCOLM

I got them from eBay. All this for a fiver.

(then; bright)

They just need a couple of goes through the washing machine and they'll scrub up nicely.

Gemma holds up a light baby grow that reads WORLDS BEST GRANDAD. It is covered in disgusting stains.

5 INT. ROMANTIC RESTAURANT -- NIGHT

5

Nice restaurant. Romantic. *Inappropriate.*

GEMMA

So Allegra's your girlfriend?

BEN

Wife.

She looks at his left hand. No wedding ring.

GEMMA

Oh. No ring? Sure.

Ben bristles at what she's implying.

BEN

My grandfather was degloved aboard
The Prince of Wales.

GEMMA

Prince of Wales?

BEN

Battleship. Sunk by the Japanese
during the second World War.

GEMMA

Degloved?

BEN

It's where something catches on the
ring so the skin is ripped away from
the flesh, leaving just gristle and
bone...

He mimes the action then trails off, because it's gross.

BEN (cont'd)

None of the men in my family wear
them. It's sort of a fun tradition -
slash - horrible obsession.

GEMMA

(unconvinced)

That's why you don't wear a wedding
ring?

BEN

Also had a Great Uncle who was
degloved climbing Everest.

GEMMA

I was going to ask if there were any hereditary illnesses I should be aware of. Didn't expect most of the chat to be about fingers getting torn off.

BEN

(correcting)

Not the whole finger. Just the skin.

Ben remembers what's in his pocket. Takes out old photos.

BEN (cont'd)

I thought you might like to see these photographs. Of me. As a child. Give you some sort of indication of what you're carrying.

GEMMA

That is such a weird way of putting it, but thank you.

She looks through the photographs. One is of a large family in front of a massive house.

GEMMA (cont'd)

Woah. Big house.

BEN

(jokes; deflecting)

Too big. I once nearly starved to death playing hide and seek. They didn't find me for days.

Gemma laughs. Looks at another photo.

GEMMA

Berty looks nothing like you.

She slides the photos to Ben. He pushes them back.

BEN

Keep them.

(re; Berty)

He's all Allegra. She's got incredibly strong genes, mine didn't put up much of a fight.

Allegra. Gemma gets back to why she's there.

GEMMA

I'm not going to say anything to her.

BEN

That's very decent of you.

GEMMA

(annoyed)

I'm not doing it to be 'decent'. I
don't need the drama of blowing
someone else's life up.

BEN

Sorry.

Awkward silence. But loads of chemistry.

BEN (cont'd)

Shall I get us back onto horrific
hand injuries my family have
suffered?

WAITER brings their starters. Gemma tries to hide a smile.

GEMMA

Can I have my soup first?

6 **EXT. HIGH STREET -- LATER**

6

They walk up the High Street. Ben wraps his coat around her shoulders - it smells great.

GEMMA

That was the best forty five pound bowl of pasta I've ever had.

BEN

It's the least I could do.

GEMMA

Well, yeah considering the next eighteen years are on my watch... I'll let you know when the baby arrives.

BEN

Can I maybe send you some items to help out? Clothes? Pram? Nanny?

(then)

Joke. I think that's technically people trafficking.

Gemma laughs. Thinks about the pukey baby clothes piled up in her home. She types her address into his phone. He hails a cab.

GEMMA

My address. Inanimate objects only.

Awkward hug. *Sparks*. Gemma returns the coat as she gets in.

7 **INT. CAB -- CONTINUOUS**

7

On Gemma. She likes him even though it is a TERRIBLE idea.

8 **INT. GEMMA'S FLAT, LIVING ROOM -- LATER**

8

Gemma arrives home from her "date" with Ben.

MALCOLM

How was the film?

GEMMA

Better than I was expecting. Dad, do you have any pictures of me and Catherine as babies?

MALCOLM

No, sorry. I didn't take much with me after I found your mother humping that man who sells sponges door-to-door.

GEMMA

(disappointed)

Okay.

MALCOLM

I know where they are, in the loft of the old house. I can pop round and get them. I'm sure the new owners are lovely people.

9 **EXT. MALCOLM'S OLD HOUSE -- DAY**

9

Malcolm stand outside a normal looking three bed semi. The Moscrip family home. Malcolm rings the doorbell. A rough looking man KENNY (40s; wearing a tux) appears. Very angry.

KENNY

What?

MALCOLM

Kenny Tugger? I'm Malcolm Moscrip.

Kenny remains silent. Arms folded.

MALCOLM (cont'd)

You bought this house off me. Off my wife, Davina? You'd have dealt with her.

KENNY

(beat)

Mum!

AGNES (60s; dressed like a cruise ship singer) appears.

KENNY (cont'd)

This one said he used to own the house.

Agnes - like her son - just stares at Malcolm.

MALCOLM

My wife... I don't think she cleared out the loft before you moved in.

AGNES

We fucking know she didn't.

KENNY

People who sell houses but leave loads of shit in the loft are scum. You... are scum.

MALCOLM

(quiet)

Yeah.

(then)

Can I go up and get a few boxes?

KENNY

No. Piss off.

AGNES

And get your FUCKING post redirected.

Agnes throws some mail at Malcolm and slams the door shut.

10 INT. GEMMA'S FLAT, KITCHEN -- NIGHT (OR DAY)

10

Gemma pulls washing from the machine and hangs it up on an airer. One of the items is a white baby grow with shit stains all over the bum and legs.

She pulls out a blue baby grow with stains around the neck. Sighs. Malcolm enters as she puts it in the bin

MALCOLM

These just need some elbow grease.

Malcolm gets both items from the bin and starts scrubbing them in the sink with a nail brush.

GEMMA

Have you arranged a date to visit Catherine? It's not as scary as you think it's going to be.

MALCOLM

I'm not scared of seeing my own daughter, Gemma.

He is scared. The door buzzes. Gemma presses the intercom.

GEMMA

Hello?

No sound. It's still broken. She looks at Malcolm.

GEMMA (cont'd)

(annoyed)

Dad!

Malcolm ignores her. Opens a drawer looking for something (*scissors*). Baby clothes hung everywhere. A chaotic mess.

11 **INT. COMMUNAL STAIRWELL -- MOMENTS LATER**

11

Gemma walks to the main front door. Heavy rain outside. As she approaches, she realises who it is. Soaking wet, puppy dog eyes - it's Ben.

12 **EXT. COMMUNAL DOOR -- CONTINUOUS**

12

Gemma opens the door. Big moment for Ben. In his head he's Mr Darcy/Hugh Grant/Ryan Gosling in The Notebook. He sighs.

BEN

I can't stop thinking about you.

Gemma is inscrutable for a beat. Then...

GEMMA

(withering)

Did your wife forget to pack your umbrella?

13 **INT. GEMMA'S FLAT, KITCHEN -- MINUTES LATER**

13

Gemma leads Ben into her flat. Malcolm stands at the sink fiddling with something.

GEMMA

Dad?

Malcolm turns round. He's holding the two unsoiled halves of the white and blue baby grows stapled together.

MALCOLM

Ta da! Obviously we'd sew them together before putting tiddler in it. The staples are a demonstration.

Malcolm is surprised to see Gemma and a very wet stranger.

GEMMA

Ben, this is my Dad, Malcolm. Dad, this is Ben...

(beat)

The baby's father.

Ben nervously holds out his hand.

BEN

Pleasure to meet you Malcolm.

Malcolm stares, open mouthed. Very surprised. He pauses.

MALCOLM

Would you like some kitchen roll for your hair?

14 INT. GEMMA'S FLAT, KITCHEN -- MINUTES LATER

14

Gemma and Malcolm talk in hushed tones as Ben sits in silence on the sofa.

GEMMA

Can you please just try and be a bit less weird.

MALCOLM

Eh?

GEMMA

Kitchen roll for his hair?

Malcolm gestures to the kitchen roll.

MALCOLM

He's wet and this is super absorbent.

BEN (O.S.)

I can go if this is a bad time?

GEMMA

(to Ben)

No.

BEN (O.S.)

Good. Because I'm quite cold.

MALCOLM

It's nice that I finally get to meet one of your boyfriends, though Gemma.

GEMMA

(hisses; very quiet)

He's not my boyfriend.

Move to Ben sits on the sofa, freezing cold.

BEN

I don't suppose you have a spare jumper I could borrow?

Back on Gemma looks at Malcolm. *Don't be weird.*

GEMMA

Dad'll have one.

15 OMITTED

15

16 INT. GEMMA'S FLAT, BEDROOM -- MINUTES LATER

16

Gemma gives Ben a jumper and towel. He takes his wet top off, stripped to the waist. She doesn't know where to look.

BEN

The nursery looks lovely.

GEMMA

My Dad decorated it.

Ben pulls on the jumper. It's very tatty with a hole in it.
Gemma is embarrassed by how cheap her life must seem.

GEMMA (cont'd)

He lives here with me. My mum left
and neither of us can afford --

Ben moves his hand to her cheek - takes a beat. Eye contact.
Unspoken consent. And then he finally kisses her.

They're interrupted by Malcolm entering with a tea tray.

MALCOLM

Oops! Sorry! You two keep going, I'll
just pop this on the bed.

They break apart. Gemma looks at the tray. Two mugs of tea
and a plate of mini jacket potatoes in halves as a snack.

MALCOLM (cont'd)

(to Ben)

I made them myself. Yesterday.
They've been in the fridge but I like
them like that.

Malcolm backs out as Gemma sits heavily on the bed. This is
all just way too complicated.

GEMMA

You should probably leave.

BEN

I should... but I don't really want
to. Plus cold spuds are my favourite
food. Can't get enough of them.

He eats one. Gemma's heart melts a tiny bit.

17 **INT. LOCAL PUB -- DAY**

17

Malcolm and Derek sit with drinks.

DEREK

He sounds like a dick. Eating your weird snack potatoes without comment?

MALCOLM

He's everso nice actually.

DEREK

Shut up about Ben, we need to work out how to get into your old loft. Two words. Home. Invasion. I know someone who can lend us a battering ram. We smash in the front door of your old place, tie up Agnes and Kenny and take what's rightfully yours.

MALCOLM

It sounds a bit extreme.

DEREK

Yeah I thought you'd pussy out of that one, Malc. Back up plan, have you still got a door key?

MALCOLM

Yes.

Derek points to a poster on the pub wall AGNES AND KENNY TUGGER'S QUIZ NIGHT & KARAOKE. EVERY THURSDAY 8PM.

DEREK

We'll let ourselves in while they're out and grab your stuff from the loft without The Tugger's even noticing?

Malcolm nods. *Good idea.*

MALCOLM

There's quite a lot up there. We might need another pair of hands.

18 **EXT. DEREK'S CAR -- NIGHT**

18

Malcolm, Derek and Ben climb out of Derek's car and walk towards Malcolm's old house. No lights are on.

MALCOLM

Before we get to the pub, we thought
you might like to see the house Gemma
grew up in?

BEN

I want to know everything about her.

DEREK

You heard him Malcolm. He's well up
for helping with those boxes.

BEN

Err... what boxes?

19 **EXT/INT. MALCOLM'S OLD HOUSE -- MOMENTS LATER**

19

Malcolm opens the front door, checking the coast is clear. No one turns the lights on - Malcolm and Derek have torches.

19A INT. MALCOLM'S OLD HOUSE, LIVING ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

19A

Into the living room. A warm glow from the Christmas tree in the corner.

BEN

Why have you got torches? Should I have a torch.

DEREK

(hisses)

You don't get a torch.

Malcolm is caught in a wave of nostalgia as he sweeps the torch around the room.

MALCOLM

That's where Gemma had her little Wendy house. And that's where she lost her first tooth. Oh but they've take down the stone cladding. I spent months on that.

DEREK

Tasteless arseholes. Fuck Kenny Tugger and his whore mother Agnes.

BEN

Wait. Other people live here now?

MALCOLM

Yes.

MALCOLM (cont'd)

The Tuggers.

DEREK

The Tuggers.

*

BEN

(rising panic)

Do they know you're in their house?

DEREK

Of course not. Durh. Otherwise they'd call the police.

Ben tries to turn back to the front door but Derek grabs hold of his arm.

DEREK (cont'd)

Not so fast, matey. You're an accessory.

Ben starts to flap about - moving without control.

BEN

Oh my GOD! Burglary?

MALCOLM

They won't even know we've been here
as long as we don't move or break
anything.

Ben backs away from Malcolm and Derek, straight into a glass vase that he knocks off a sideboard. SMASH.

DEREK

What did he just say, you giant
bellend?

Ben turns to pick up the vase but he can't see what he's
doing.

BEN

Aagh!

Reveal there's a large piece of glass in Ben's hand.

BEN (cont'd)

What should I do? Should I pull it
out or leave it in?

DEREK

Bit late for that conversation, eh
Malc?

Ben pulls the glass out - bleeds everywhere (onto a rug) -
then wipes his bloody hands on his trousers. Total mess.

DEREK (cont'd)

I hope your DNA isn't on a register
somewhere?

MALCOLM

(to Ben)

Oh dear. We better be quick, then.

19B **INT. MALCOLM'S OLD HOUSE, STAIRCASE -- CONTINUOUS**

19B

Malcolm and Derek head up the stairs, torches lighting the way. Ben follows, tying a make-shift bandage round his hand.

Malcolm pulls the loft hatch down from the ceiling.

19C INT. MALCOLM'S OLD HOUSE, LOFT -- MINUTES LATER

19C

The loft is all beams and plasterboard. A few bits of MDF nailed down for heavier items but essentially the inside of a roof piled up with boxes and bin bags.

Malcolm and Derek walk on the beams. Ben stands on the ladder - halfway through the hatch - not enjoying this.

Malcolm sweeps a torch around. It's a total mess.

MALCOLM

Exactly as I left it.

19D **EXT. CHERRY'S HOUSE -- NIGHT**

19D

Establishing

20 INT. CHERRY'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM -- SAME TIME

20

Xander and Cherry frown at Gemma. They're worried.

GEMMA

Sure he has some baggage. Although with Ben it's more like a shipping container... that's got a wife, five kids and a Chihuahua in it.

XANDER

Five!?

GEMMA

The three older ones are at boarding school.

CHERRY

Do you think he has a thing for pregnant women?

GEMMA

I'm not going into details but he's certainly not put off by it.

Her quip annoys Xander. He's rattled for the first time.

XANDER

You can't have a relationship with him. He's got a family. And a shit dog.

GEMMA

It's a very cute dog and that's his decision to make, not mine, and certainly yours.

XANDER

What is he, ten years older than you? I just think it's a bit sordid.

GEMMA

(angry)

Twelve. It's the best offer I've had so far.

XANDER

So you're happy to tear a family apart?

GEMMA

I'm trying to build a family. With the father of my baby.

Xander shakes his head.

XANDER

I just didn't think this is who you
were.

Gemma is furious at this judgement.

GEMMA

Get the fuck out of here. Seriously.
Fuck off.

Gemma holds a hard look, as Xander leaves.

21 **INT. MALCOLM'S OLD HOUSE, LOFT -- LATER**

21

Malcolm and Derek look through boxes when Malcolm spots something tucked away on the corner.

MALCOLM

My old "man corner". Ben, come here.

Ben makes his way to the corner, tripping over crap, trying to balance on the beams. Dust and cobwebs in his mouth, hand still bleeding. He bangs his head on the eaves.

MALCOLM (cont'd)

Let me give you some advice. There will be times when it all gets a bit much. Especially if you and Gemma go on to have more sprogs.

BEN

More? Err...

MALCOLM

Being a Dad is amazing, but also fucking awful. Sometimes you'll feel the misery in your bones, and when that happens you'll want a little corner where you can take yourself off and just block it all out. A little space in the loft, with a dog bed, where you can bury those feelings deep down inside.

Reveal Malcolm's man corner is a dog bed. Derek joins them.

MALCOLM (cont'd)

It's too low in here for the likes of us to sit in a chair. But you can have a nice lie down. And it's worth getting a bucket for your man mess.

A look of total horror as Ben spots a steel bucket.

MALCOLM (cont'd)

Don't worry. I emptied it before I moved out. I think.

Malcolm inspects the bucket.

MALCOLM (cont'd)

It's empty now! Oh and that's a picture of Mr T I pinned up. You know, as inspiration.

DEREK

Fun fact about Mr T. I thought he'd died of bowel cancer.

BEN

How is that a fun fact?

DEREK

Do you want me to push you through
the loft hatch?

Before they can argue - a noise downstairs. Agnes and Kenny
are back.

AGNES (O.S.)

*The sodding government ruining my
evening again. I was just about to do
Dont'cha by the Pussycat Dolls.*

They freeze. Derek quickly moves to the hatch and pulls up
the ladder, sealing them in as she speaks.

KENNY (O.S.)

*The Government aren't responsible for
power cuts mum.*

The three men all look at each other. Acknowledging just how
fucked they are at this moment.

DEREK

(quiet)

If they do come up I've just found
this extra strong garden twine.

Derek holds up the twine and yanks it.

22 **INT. CHERRY'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM -- MINUTES LATER**

22

GEMMA

What was that all about?

CHERRY

Babe, you must know --

Cherry is interrupted by Gemma's phone ringing. MALCOLM

23 INT. MALCOLM'S OLD HOUSE, LOFT -- SAME TIME

23

MALCOLM
(whisper)
Hiya Gemma.

Intercut conversation

GEMMA
Why are you whispering.

MALCOLM
We're stuck in the loft of the old
place. Me, Derek and Ben.

GEMMA
What? I ask you to not be weird and
this is where you end up? Fucksake.

MALCOLM
I wanted to get some photos for you!
But the Tuggers wouldn't let me in.

GEMMA
The Tuggers?

DEREK
(chips in)
Massive A-holes who bought the house.

MALCOLM
They came back early and now we're
trapped.

GEMMA
Slow down. You, Derek and Ben are in
the old loft and the new owners don't
know you're up there?

MALCOLM
I don't think so. Ben lost quite a
bit of blood in the living room
though so who knows.

GEMMA
Is he okay?

Malcolm looks at Ben who is very much not okay.

MALCOLM
Yeah. He's big lad isn't he? He's
probably got more blood than most to
start off with anyway, so he can
afford to lose a drop or two. Will we
get into a lot of trouble?

GEMMA

For breaking into someones house,
bleeding all over their carpets and
stealing things from their loft?
Yeah. That is on the criminal end of
things.

(thinks)

Right. Don't make a sound. I'm coming
over.

23A **EXT. MALCOLM'S OLD HOUSE -- LATER**

23A

Kenny unloads his karaoke PA system from his car.

24 **INT. MALCOLM'S OLD HOUSE, LOFT -- SAME TIME**

24

Ben's panic is overwhelming. He starts to hyperventilate -
crouched down.

DEREK

You know what's good for a panic
attack? Breathing into a bag.

BEN

Oh okay. Thanks.

Derek gets out a plastic bag and attempts to put it over
Ben's head. Ben flaps about trying to get Derek off him.

25 **EXT. MALCOLM'S OLD HOUSE, FRONT GARDEN -- NIGHT**

25

Cherry lowers Gemma to the ground.

CHERRY

Is this going to work?

GEMMA

Hope so. I can't cope with my Dad and Ben being in prison as well.

Cherry knocks. Porch light comes on as Kenny opens the door.

CHERRY

My friend has gone into labour.

KENNY

Why is she on my patio? That's trespassing.

CHERRY

She's having a baby.

KENNY

Not on my patio she isn't. I don't want any of that muck on my patio. It'll attract the foxes.

Agnes joins Kenny at the door.

AGNES

What's going on?

KENNY

Silly bint is having a baby on our patio. I said to her, that'll bring the foxes out.

AGNES

Kenny Tugger you little rotter.

Agnes strides over to Gemma and Cherry. Gemma gives it the full "in labour" performance.

AGNES (cont'd)

Let's get you inside luvvie?

GEMMA

Err no. I really wanted a gravel birth. So can you both come out here for a bit?

KENNY

(ignores her)

Shall I get that stretcher, mum?

Cherry and Gemma share a look. *Stretcher?*

GEMMA

I can stand, thanks.

Cherry helps Gemma inside, with Agnes and Kenny following.

26 OMITTED

26

27 **EXT. MALCOLM'S OLD HOUSE, LIVING ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER** 27

Gemma, Cherry, Agnes and Kenny enter the living room. Agnes spots the vase and blood.

 AGNES

 What the fuck has happened here?

THUD from the roof. Everyone moves to the staircase.

28 **INT. MALCOLM'S OLD HOUSE, LOFT -- SAME TIME**

28

Ben and Derek have a mild tussle along a beam.

DEREK

Malcolm, we should just leave him
here to die. Survival of the fittest
and all that.

Ben shoves Derek.

BEN

What is your fucking problem?

29 **INT. MALCOLM'S OLD HOUSE, LANDING -- SAME TIME**

29

Gemma, Cherry, Agnes and Kenny hear the men fighting above.

DEREK (O.S.)

You're not good enough for her.

Suddenly Ben's foot smashes through the ceiling. Beat.

GEMMA

(to Kenny)

Do you take paypal, Kenny?

30 INT. GEMMA'S FLAT, BEDROOM -- NIGHT

30

Gemma and Ben lie on her bed. His hand properly bandaged.

GEMMA

Six thousand pounds!

BEN

And three stitches. Honestly not the worst night out I've had. Plus I got to know Malcolm. He's odd but lovely.

GEMMA

He is. I'd rather not be living with him, but he has been great since...

She points to the baby bump. Ben smiles. He has a surprise.

BEN

So I've made some calls and there can be a flat ready for you next month, if you want it? So you're all settled by the time the baby's born.

GEMMA

Flat?

BEN

I wanted it to be a surprise. It won't cost you a penny. Yours for as long as you want it. Forever?

Gemma stands up. She only just realising what's on offer.

GEMMA

And where will you live?

Horror on Ben's face. He thought they were on the same page.

BEN

I'll be there every other weekend.

Gemma leaves the room. He follows her.

31 **INT. GEMMA'S FLAT, KITCHEN -- CONTINUOUS**

31

Gemma pours herself a glass of water.

BEN

And Allegra takes the children to
Switzerland for six weeks in the
summer, so I'll be around loads then.
(jokes)
You'll be sick of the sight of me.

32 INT. GEMMA'S FLAT, LIVING ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

32

Malcolm is in the living room. He doesn't want to get in their way so sneaks into the kitchen as Gemma enters.

BEN

We can make it work!

Wherever Gemma and Ben take the argument, Malcolm tries to remain out of sight in the next room or behind furniture.

GEMMA

With me as your bit on the side? I can't believe I was this stupid.

BEN

You know what stupid is? It's staying here in this pokey flat with your Frankenstein baby clothes and broken intercom and... your Dad.

GEMMA

Oh! You think this - my life - isn't good enough for your baby?

Not quite what he meant, but they're in an argument now.

BEN

Well it isn't.

On Malcolm who hears this and is crushed. It's what he fears too, deep down. Ben tries to take the heat out.

BEN (cont'd)

You don't have to do this alone.

Gemma pauses. Looks at her Dad hiding next to the sofa.

GEMMA

I'm not alone.

Ben shakes his head. One last push to change her mind.

BEN

Gemma, I am offering you a way out. Please don't be a...a...a silly bitch about this.

Malcolm comes charging out from whatever position he was in.

MALCOLM

No one speaks to my daughter like that.

This is a different Malcolm from the one we met in ep 1. Ben instantly back pedals knowing he's massively over stepped.

BEN

I'm sorry, I'm sorry. I was angry.

MALCOLM

Out.

Malcolm grabs Ben's injured hand. It's incredibly painful.

BEN

Agh. Malcolm. Please don't deglove me!

MALCOLM

Get out.

Malcolm pulls Ben towards the door then shoves him towards it. Ben looks back at Gemma. She's disappointed and heart broken.

BEN

I really care about you, Gemma.

(pathetic)

My wife is horrible!

Malcolm ushers Ben out of the flat and shuts the door.

33 **INT. GEMMA'S FLAT, LIVING ROOM -- LATER**

33

Gemma sits on the sofa with a cup of tea. Malcolm joins her.

GEMMA

I knew he was married with kids and I
still pretended it would work out.

MALCOLM

It's probably for the best. He'd have
wanted to call the baby Humphrey or
something. Hey, you've not had a look
at these yet.

Malcolm opens the box from the loft - shows Gemma pictures of
when she and Catherine were young. They look happy. Malcolm
gets an old plastic baby doll he's had hidden.

MALCOLM (cont'd)

Oh and I found this. Do you remember
how much you loved Dolly Wiggins?

GEMMA

Dolly Wiggins belonged to Cat, Dad.

Malcolm frowns. He knows what he needs to do.

33A **EXT. PRISON -- DAY**

33A

Malcolm arrives on foot. He has a bag with him.

34 INT. PRISON -- LATER

34

Malcolm sits nervously. As soon as Catherine joins him at the table he can't contain himself - blurts it all out.

MALCOLM

I'm so sorry Catherine. I'm so sorry
I failed you as a father.

CATHERINE

It's fine. I wasn't that bothered
about you visiting.

MALCOLM

For you to end up in this place. Me
and your mother... we let you down.

CATHERINE

Oh my god Dad you are being so
embarrassing.

Catherine looks around at her fellow inmates.

MALCOLM

Can you ever forgive me?

CATHERINE

Yes. As long as you shut up.

Malcolm calms down. Blows his nose and remembers he has a
present for her.

MALCOLM

I've got something for you... Dolly
Wiggins.

Malcolm produces the doll for Catherine. For a moment
Catherine drops the hard act. Genuinely thrilled.

CATHERINE

That's amazing. Thank you Dad!

Catherine checks the guards aren't looking then rips the head
off the doll.

CATHERINE (cont'd)

There's nothing in here. Why the fuck
have you brought this in if there
are no drugs in her head?

Out on Malcolm. A disappointment to his child once again.

End of script