

DARK MONEY

Created & Written by
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-- EPISODE ONE --
"Shattered Dreams"

SHOOTING SCRIPT
11/10/18

1

EXT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. GARDEN. NORTH LONDON - DAY

1

Under the still waters of a SWIMMING POOL. The serenity is disrupted by a teenager cannonballing into the pool. This is ISAAC MENSAH (14, mixed race, Paul Pogba hairstyle). He is followed by his SCHOOL FRIENDS (same age) who also bomb into the water.

As Isaac holds his breath he watches his SCHOOLMATES jump out, leaving him under water. He decides to stay where he is - it's peaceful, beautiful.

Isaac feels his breath running out. He can't hold on much longer, but he doesn't want to leave this moment of peace. His survival instincts kick in. He desperately swims up to the surface and breaks the water, searching for his breath.

We see Isaac's pool party is in full swing. There's a barbecue, with music pumping and cold beverages aplenty. No one noticed what Isaac was doing. He gets out of the pool.

SUPER: OCTOBER 2018

Isaac's half-brother TYRONE MENSAH (14, black, similar Pogba hairstyle) lines up at the edge of the pool to do a backflip. Isaac's grandmother MAGGIE (66, black Ghanaian) lies on a sun lounger nearby. Isaac's mother SAMANTHA 'SAM' MENSAH (37, white, extensions flowing, flawless makeup) anticipates Maggie getting splashed and so warns Tyrone -

SAM
Be careful please.

A mischievous Isaac runs up and pushes Tyrone into the water. Maggie shrieks as the splash catches her. Isaac and his mates are in hysterics. Even Sam struggles to keep a straight face as she tells her son off -

SAM (CONT'D)
Isaac!

ISAAC
Sorry grandma. I couldn't resist.

Maggie sees the funny side and chuckles. Sam heads for the kitchen. With her back to the party she can release her grin.

2

INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - DAY

2

A large open-plan kitchen. EMMANUEL 'MANNY' MENSAH (37, black) observes the pool action from a kitchen island.

He's prepping some barbecue food while watching a Youtube video on his laptop. As a smiling Sam approaches from the garden he playfully shakes his head at her.

SAM

I swear I'm not laughing at your mum.

Sam sees Manny is watching a Youtuber chopping sweet peppers to add to a kebab skewer. Manny grabs his kitchen knife and follows the steps.

SAM (CONT'D)

That's cheating.

Manny grins and pulls her to his lips. Sam then sashays into the house, ensuring her husband gets an eyeful.

Manny's now alone. His grin fades. As the video continues Manny switches tabs to a showbiz website. On it are production images of big-budget Hollywood space western *VALIANT & SON*. Manny's enlarged one photo of the film's multi-millionaire American producer JOTHAM STARR (55, white). He has his arms around the film's leading stars MITCH COLNEY (45, white) and Isaac. The image's caption reads '***VALIANT & SON - coming autumn 2018 - stars young British newcomer Isaac Mensah***'.

Manny studies Jotham: from how his arm rests on Isaac, to how his hand grips Isaac's shoulder, to how he smiles.

Manny grows angrier as he analyses, so much so he doesn't realise he's squeezing the blade of the kitchen knife. Blood drips onto the marble counter.

CUT TO TITLES:

OPENING CREDITS

DARK MONEY

FADE IN:

3

INT. LONDON HEATHROW AIRPORT. ARRIVALS - DAY

3

SUPER: SEPTEMBER 2017

An anxious Manny stands with others waiting for the arrivals from a flight from Los Angeles.

CHERYL DENON (50, white) a British Associate Producer from YONDER STARR FILMS leads a tired Isaac (aged 13, in a modest tracksuit and with a neat afro) through arrivals. Manny holds up a sign for him to see - '*Isaac Mensah - future Oscar winner*'. Cheryl grins in agreement at this however Isaac is embarrassed. Manny bear hugs his son.

MANNY

Hey, you alright?

ISAAC

Yeah.

Manny bear hugs Isaac again - he really missed his son. Despite struggling to breathe, Isaac is pleased to be in the arms of his dad.

Manny pulls away to allow Isaac to say goodbye to Cheryl. Instead Isaac gathers his luggage and is eager to move on.

MANNY

Aren't you gonna say goodbye?

Isaac pretends that he forgot and without giving her eye contact says -

ISAAC

Bye.

Cheryl smiles to herself 'must be the jet-lag'.

CHERYL DENON

Isaac was absolutely amazing. The cast, director, everyone was impressed. Even the producer said Isaac was the best child actor he's ever worked with.

Manny's blown away by this praise. He swells with pride and shakes Cheryl's hand with gratitude.

MANNY

Thank you, thank you so much.

CHERYL DENON

No, thank you for giving us Isaac!

Manny turns and sees Isaac has already begun pushing his luggage trolley towards the exit. Manny gives Cheryl an apologetic look and catches up with him.

The radio plays as a cheerful Manny drives his son home. Isaac seems withdrawn and deep in thought as he slowly glides his finger up and down his mobile phone.

MANNY

So? You still haven't said how it went?

ISAAC

It was... fine.

MANNY

No exciting stories? Any juicy
Hollywood gossip?

Isaac shakes his head. Manny gives up for now and expresses his own excitement -

MANNY (CONT'D)

I'm doing my bit to get the teaser trailer views up. I've played it on my phone, my laptop, work computer, your mum's laptop, even Jess's laptop...

Manny chuckles to himself and glances over. Isaac didn't catch any of this, his mind is elsewhere.

Chesney Hawkes' '*The One and Only*' starts to play on the radio. Manny lets out a wistful whoop and turns up the volume. He mumbles along to the words he knows, trying to make his son laugh.

Isaac gives him a polite smile and then unlocks his mobile. He wants to show his dad something but Manny's too caught up in the song to notice.

MANNY (CONT'D)

Come, man! This was a big tune back in the day!

Isaac nods, clearly something Manny has told him before. He enjoys seeing his dad singing along and looking happy... and so Isaac locks his mobile.

5

INT. MANNY & SAM'S FLAT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

5

In the small kitchen a flustered Sam brings a tray of freshly baked cupcakes out of her oven. She wears an apron over her bank staff uniform. She carefully sticks a skewer into a cupcake and sees there's batter mix on its tip. She sticks the skewer into another cupcake and sees the same. She groans 'still not ready' and puts them back into the oven.

Her mobile vibrates on the counter. She checks and sees a text from Manny:

'On our way'

Sam's at panic stations. She whips off her apron and then is aghast to see cupcake batter mix has somehow ended up on her uniform.

6 **EXT. MANNY & SAM'S ESTATE. NORTH LONDON - NIGHT** 6

Manny parks his car and goes to the boot to unload Isaac's things. Isaac exits and slopes over. Manny looks concerned.

MANNY
You sure you're okay?

Isaac avoids Manny's gaze. Manny puts a hand of encouragement on his shoulder.

MANNY (CONT'D)
Hey?

Isaac eventually makes eye contact with his dad.

ISAAC
I'm just tired.

MANNY
You sure?

Manny studies his boy for a moment and then decides not to press him further. As he goes to take Isaac's luggage out of the boot Isaac awkwardly adds -

ISAAC
Just wish you was there with me.

Manny feels touched by this, followed quickly by guilt.

MANNY
Work wouldn't give me the time off
without stealing even more of my
wages. They already owe me -

Manny sees Isaac isn't interested in his workplace issues and stops himself. He apologetically ends with -

MANNY (CONT'D)
I promise I'll be there on the next
film.

Unbeknownst to Manny, entering the other side of the estate is an UNMARKED WHITE VAN. We see the Van's shady-looking occupants, a DRIVER and a PASSENGER (white, mid 40s, shaven headed) spying on Manny and his vehicle.

7

INT. MANNY & SAM'S FLAT - NIGHT

7

The place is in darkness. Manny lets Isaac go in first.

ISAAC

Mum? Jess?

Isaac scrambles for a light switch near the living room door. He presses it - the lights come on, revealing a gathering of FAMILY AND FRIENDS, including his sister JESS (19, mixed race), his grandmother Maggie and a 13-year-old Tyrone.

Centre stage is Sam. She's dressed nicely although it doesn't quite flatter her curves. Her makeup is a little rushed and heavy, in an attempt to cover her blemishes.

FAMILY & FRIENDS

SURPRISE!

Isaac is indeed surprised and not prepared for this. He shoots a look at his dad. Manny pretends he didn't know about this. Manny's cousin RYAN OSEI (27, black), Tyrone and other family members film Isaac's reactions. Sam's overjoyed.

SAM

My baby's home!

(hugs him tightly)

God, I've missed you.

(feels his sides)

You been eating properly?

(tickles his ribs)

I can feel your ribs.

Isaac squirms as he tries to resist - but then gives in and giggles. Sam points out her tray of cupcakes.

SAM (CONT'D)

Look what I've made.

Isaac sees the cupcakes and rubs his hands with delight.

ISAAC

That's what I'm talking about!

As he grabs one Jess slides up beside him...

JESS

Welcome home big head.

... and gives him a hug.

ISAAC

Y'allright?

JESS
I missed you!

ISAAC
(doubts)
Really?

JESS
Yeah. I had to do all the hoovering
and washing up by myself.

Isaac warmly shrugs Jess off him. She playfully swipes the cupcake he was holding.

ISAAC
Oi, man!

Maggie interrupts by putting an arm around him and pointing to all the camera phones filming him.

MAGGIE
Promise me this new fame won't get
to your coconut.

ISAAC
I promise.

MAGGIE
Always honour your father and your
mother... And your grandmother.
Especially during these times of
rising gas and electricity bills.

ISAAC
Give me a few more years and you,
Mum and Dad will never have to
worry about bills again.

A touched Maggie gives Isaac a warm hug. Tyrone comes over and films himself with Isaac -

TYRONE
This be my superstar brotha, from
another motha, but the same papa.
Give a little *shout out* to my
followers.

Isaac gives a showbiz grin and a peace sign to Tyrone's mobile.

ISAAC
Yeah, *shout out* everyone watching.
It's good to be back!

Tyrone gives him an urban embrace.

TYRONE
Welcome home Mr Hollywood!

ISAAC
Y'alright Tyrone?

TYRONE
What you bring me?

ISAAC
(thinks)
Erm... erm... I bought a rubber
from duty free, if you want it?

Tyrone looks confused - then convinces himself Isaac means a condom. Pleased, he quietly repeats with a smirk -

TYRONE
Oh, a *rubber*.

ISAAC
(clarifies)
Yeah, it's one that goes on the end
of your pencil.

Tyrone smirk grows bigger. Isaac realises his response has increased the misunderstanding. Tyrone fists bumps him with gratitude...

TYRONE
You always look out for *man*.

... and bops off to the kitchen.

As Manny and Sam watch Isaac greet his other guests they share a loving embrace. They look happy and relieved that their son is back home.

Jess picks up a tray of party food on the counter. She watches with amusement as Tyrone casually swaggers in and goes to the refrigerator.

TYRONE
How much *paper* you think Isaac made
out there?

JESS

(mocks)

I dunno about '*paper*' but I'm
hoping he made lots of money.Tyrone's not amused at Jess mocking his slang and grabs a can
of coke out of the fridge. He feels it.

TYRONE

This ain't cold.

JESS

So?

Tyrone grabs a can that's further inside of the fridge.

TYRONE

This ain't cold either.

A curious Jess feels the can - it's lukewarm. She feels
around the fridge, it too is lukewarm. Worried, she opens the
freezer compartment - there's no ice, no frost. All the food
is soft or has melted. Jess exhales with annoyance.

8A

INT. MANNY & SAM'S FLAT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

8A

Isaac enters as another Guest is leaving. Isaac smiles at the
Guest apologetically.

ISAAC

Sorry.

He then shuts and locks the door. His smile instantly
disappears. He puts the lid down on the toilet and sits. He
then brings out his mobile phone and plays a video. As Isaac
watches the video he trembles with fear.WE HEAR from the video a door closing and an older male's
voice -

JOTHAM STARR (V.O.)

Hey Champ. Time to run your lines.

Isaac's then startled by rambunctious laughter coming from
his dad in the living room. He pauses the video and looks
towards the direction of his dad's laughter. He needs to talk
to him.

9

INT. MANNY & SAM'S FLAT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

9

The guests gather around Manny's laptop as he shows them a
teaser trailer for *VALIANT & SON*.

It shows: *a renegade framed for the murder of his wife, traveling the galaxy with his son (played by Isaac), in search of the killer, while being pursued by the 'Galactic Enforcers'.*

Manny gets irritated at Maggie talking to guests as the trailer plays.

MAGGIE

In my school nativity I played
Mary.

(points proudly to Isaac)

In my grandson's nativity he played
Joseph.

MANNY

Mum, let them watch the trailer.

MAGGIE

(points at Manny / annoyed
at being interrupted)

And in his nativity, he played a
sheep!

The guests giggle. Manny suppresses his grin as he corrects.

MANNY

No, I played shepherd number two. I
was the one that pointed out the
star.

An amused yet sympathetic Sam holds Manny's hand. He smirks back with pride -

MANNY (CONT'D)

The best damn shepherd number two
Courthill Primary has ever seen.

Sam kisses her husband.

Isaac appears in the trailer, Maggie raises her hands in delight.

MAGGIE

Look at my prince! I always knew he
was destined for greatness. From
the first time I held him in my
arms I knew he would -

MANNY

Mum, let them watch, please.

Maggie shoots daggers at Manny for silencing her. Jess enters and goes over to her mum.

JESS
Fridge's not working properly.

SAM
Eh?

JESS
Nothing's cold. And all the stuff
in the freezer has melted.

Sam goes to the kitchen.

A concerned Ryan enters the room with a pack of cigarettes
and hurries over to Manny.

RYAN
Cuz, there's some shady guys
outside eyeing up your car.

10 **EXT. MANNY & SAM'S ESTATE - NIGHT**

10

Manny rushes out of the block of flats with Ryan, ready for
conflict.

MANNY
HEY! What's going on?

The LEAD MAN shows his I.D. badge. These men are hired
ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.

LEAD ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
Are you Emmanuel Mensah?

MANNY
Yeah, now off my car!

The Lead Enforcement Officer points to the roof of his van.
On it are four cameras.

LEAD ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
You are being filmed, for your
safety and for ours. We've been
asked by the council to recover
payment for some vehicle
contraventions.

MANNY
Nah, you've got the wrong car mate.

The Lead Enforcement Officer points again to the cameras.

LEAD ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
Automatic number plate recognition.

Manny is handed over the notice. It's headed with 'REMOVAL OF GOODS NOTICE' and highlights 'penalty charge notices for unpaid parking fines' and 'being in a bus lane'. Embarrassed, Manny informs Ryan -

MANNY
I got this, you can go back up.

Ryan nods, gives the Enforcement Officers a disapproving look and heads back to the flats. Manny waits until Ryan is far enough away and then pleads -

MANNY (CONT'D)
Mate, please.
(testing Enforcement
Officer's response)
I can get you about fifty... or
maybe a hundred now.

The Enforcement Officer looks unimpressed.

LEAD ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
The truck to take your vehicle away
will be here in fifteen minutes.

MANNY
What truck? Nah, you can't take my
car.

LEAD ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
Then pay what you owe.

Another car pulls into the estate. Manny immediately recognises who it is. He rubs his face and puts on a chilled demeanour. Exiting the vehicle is Tyrone's mother SABRINA (33, black).

SABRINA
Hey?

MANNY
Hey.

Sabrina looks at the Lead Enforcement Officer.

MANNY (CONT'D)
I'll be up in a minute.

Sabrina can see the distress through Manny's smile.

SABRINA
What's happened now?

MANNY
(embarrassed)
Parking fines.

LEAD ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
Do you have the keys?

MANNY
Please, just - just give me a
moment.

A stressed Manny puts his hands to his head. BEAT. He looks at Sabrina, his last hope, and asks apologetically -

MANNY (CONT'D)
Would... you be able to help? I
swear I'll pay you back as soon as
I get paid.

Sabrina studies the scene and Manny's desperation. She tries to look hardline but Manny's eyes soften her. She concedes with a reluctant sigh.

10A EXT. MANNY & SAM'S FLAT - NIGHT

10A

Manny and Sabrina make their way along the walkway towards the front door. Sabrina looks hesitant.

SABRINA
How is he?

MANNY
Really good. He even looks like he
got a little tan.

SABRINA
No, not Isaac... your other son.

MANNY
(reassures)
Tyrone's been well behaved. He's
really happy Isaac's back.

They reach the front door. Manny goes to enter but sees Sabrina doesn't follow.

SABRINA
Tell Tyrone I'm outside.

MANNY
You can come in.

A nervous Sabrina stays put.

MANNY (CONT'D)
 At least quickly say hello to
 Isaac. He'd love to see you.

BEAT. Sabrina exhales and follows Manny inside.

11

INT. MANNY & SAM FLAT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

11

Isaac exits the toilet and sees Manny enter the flat with Sabrina. Isaac groans at the arrival of another guest and so rushes down the corridor to his bedroom without being seen.

Sam exits the kitchen holding a roll of bin liners. She sees Sabrina and gets tense. She stays where she is and spies on her and Manny.

Jess comes over to meet her dad.

JESS
 Everything okay?

MANNY
 (acting casual)
 Yeah, yeah.

Jess sees Sam in her peripheries.

SABRINA
 You okay Jess?

Jess smiles awkwardly and nods, staying loyal to her mum.

Sam now comes over. She puts on a welcoming smile. Sabrina returns the smile but the two clearly don't feel comfortable in each others presence.

SAM
 Sabrina, how are you?

SABRINA
 Good thanks.
 (re: Sam's appearance)
 You look... good.

SAM
 (plays modesty)
 Thanks... And you look well.

Sabrina smiles with appreciation then calls to Tyrone inside the living room.

SABRINA
 Tyrone? Come, get ready to go.

Sam takes Manny aside and talks quietly.

SAM
The car okay?

MANNY
Yeah-yeah. Just a misunderstanding.

SAM
Okay, well - the fridge's broken down.

MANNY
(weary)
Bloody hell.

SAM
(showing bin liners)
We gotta chuck things away before it stinks.

MANNY
Nah, nah let me have a look at it first.

Tyrone joins his mum.

SABRINA
(to Sam and Manny)
We're going now.

MANNY SAM
Okay, see you later. Tyrone, (energyless)
please behave at school and Alright, take care.
listen to your mum.

SABRINA
Where's Isaac? I just wanted to quickly say congrats.

MANNY
(to Tyrone / points to living room)
Ain't he in there?

Tyrone shakes his head.

MANNY (CONT'D)
Let me check his room.

SAM
(not wanting to be left with Sabrina)
Yeah, I'll help you.

Manny gives Sam an odd look, but she ignores and walks ahead of him towards Isaac's bedroom.

12

INT. ISAAC'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

12

The walls are filled with memories and milestones of Isaac's career to date. There are certificates and trophies he has won at his weekend drama school 'Avril Allen Performing Arts Academy' for '*Performer Of The Year*' and '*Gold Performer*'. Dotted around these are framed photographs Isaac has taken with the school's esteemed special guests; Sir Ian Mckellen, Dame Judy Dench, Idris Elba, Benedict Cumberbatch and Thandie Newton.

Isaac's latest addition to his walls of achievements is a large movie poster for '*Valiant & Son - Coming Soon*'.

There's a knock on Isaac's door followed by Manny and Sam poking their heads around it.

SAM

You okay?

Isaac is in bed. On his parents' entrance, he wraps himself tightly, hiding something from their intrusion. Manny's curious to know what it might be but then is distracted by Isaac's eyes looking red. Manny and Sam step over Isaac's open, unpacked suitcase. Isaac apologises for the mess -

ISAAC

Sorry.

MANNY

Don't worry. We'll sort it out tomorrow.

SAM

Yeah, and you can stay in bed. The guests will understand. Get some rest.

Sam kisses Isaac's forehead and goes to leave with Manny, but he now doesn't want them to go. He thinks... and then remembers -

ISAAC

Dad!

Manny turns back. Isaac points to his suitcase.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Check in the side pocket bit. I got something for you.

MANNY
(pleasantly surprised)
Something for *moi*?

Manny unzips the suitcase's inner compartment. He pulls out the first thing he feels - a large envelope. Manny gives Isaac a puzzled look.

ISAAC
Open it.

Manny opens and pulls out a copy of the *Valiant & Son* script. The front cover has 'To Lyle Valiant's Real Daddy!' and is signed by all the main cast of the film. Manny's speechless.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
You said you wanted your own one.
(disappointed Manny is
silent)
Well... it might be worth something
in future.

MANNY
No way am I selling this!

An emotional Manny leaps over to Isaac and hugs him. Sam sees the script and is moved.

SAM
Aw and you signed it too.

Sam joins in the hug.

MANNY
You make us so proud.

As Manny and Sam hold their son he lets out an involuntary whimper.

SAM
You okay?

ISAAC
Yeah... just tired, that's all.

His parents nod with understanding and head for the door again... But Isaac can't let them leave.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Wait!

Manny and Sam turn back around. BEAT. Isaac intakes a deep breath... and pulls his quilt away, revealing his mobile phone. He offers it to his dad.

Intrigued, Manny takes the mobile and sees on its screen is a 'play' symbol for a video.

MANNY

What's this, some exclusive behind the scenes stuff?

Isaac bursts into tears startling his parents.

SAM

Hey, what's wrong?

ISAAC

I'm sorry Dad. I'm sorry.

As Sam comforts Isaac a deeply concerned Manny presses play and watches **ISAAC'S VIDEO:**

Video plays footage recorded inside ISAAC'S FILM TRAILER. The mobile phone is being held by Isaac as he secretly films. WE HEAR a door closing and then the *Valiant & Son's* film producer Jotham Starr walk into shot.

JOTHAM STARR (V.O.)

Hey Champ. Time to run your lines.

Jotham's eyes seemingly glance briefly at the mobile phone camera, causing Isaac to place it down on the sofa. The camera lens is now focused on the ceiling of the trailer, where it remains throughout the playback. WE HEAR what sounds like a belt unbuckling and then Isaac's distressed voice -

ISAAC (V.O.)

I told you I don't like this.

JOTHAM STARR (V.O.)

Relax. You're doing me a massive favour.

ISAAC (V.O.)

But I don't want to. I don't.

WE HEAR what sounds like jeans being unzipped and falling to the floor.

Sam gasps in horror, pulls her son's face to her chest. Manny watches on, eyes bulging in disbelief -

SAM

Is... is this what I-I think it is?

Isaac nods in his mother's arms.

Manny grabs the mobile and fast-forwards on.

The footage is still focused on the trailer ceiling as WE HEAR Jotham say -

JOTHAM STARR (V.O.)
Good job. Be on your A game out
there, okay?

WE HEAR the sound of his footsteps, then the trailer door closing. WE SEE Isaac's tearful face pick up his mobile and stop recording.

Isaac lifts his head and glances apologetically at his father.

Manny's staring into space, dumbstruck, as rage fills his whole being.

13

INT. MANNY & SAM'S FLAT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

13

A shell-shocked Manny walks into the room where guests wait with warmth. He does his best to control his trembling.

MANNY
I'm sorry... Isaac's really tired
and has gone to bed.

Disappointed murmurs from the guests. Sabrina finds this odd and gives Manny an enquiring look. He somehow musters a reassuring smile.

MANNY (CONT'D)
Thank you all for coming.

13A

EXT. MANNY & SAM'S ESTATE - NIGHT

13A

Manny walks around his estate, angry with himself and at a loss of what to do about Isaac's revelation.

14

INT. ISAAC'S BEDROOM - DAY

14

Morning. Isaac lies in the middle of his bed, with his mother and father lying on either side. Each have a protective arm across him. They're both still in last night's clothes and are wide awake.

Manny catches Sam's gaze. They stare at each other in bewilderment 'did they really see what they saw last night?' Sam slowly withdraws her arm from Isaac and lightly walks out of the room. Manny now worries about the impact of Isaac's revelation on his wife.

15 **INT. MANNY & SAM'S FLAT. OUTSIDE BATHROOM - DAY** 15

Jess exits the bathroom as Sam approaches.

JESS
Did Isaac get drunk last night or something?

SAM
What? No!... He was telling us about all the fun he had on set and then, um, we... fell asleep.

Jess rolls her eyes, not impressed that her parents are still 'babying' Isaac. Sam enters the bathroom and locks the door.

16 **INT. MANNY & SAM'S FLAT. BATHROOM - DAY** 16

Sam grips onto the basin as she stares at herself in the mirror and contemplates Isaac's revelation. Her soul screams 'how did this happen to my baby?'

17 **INT. ISAAC'S BEDROOM - DAY** 17

Isaac pulls away from Manny's arm and rises. Manny watches his son yawn and stretch. He then takes a deep breath and heads for his luggage.

MANNY
Hey, you can go back to sleep.

ISAAC
I'm alright.

Isaac goes to his suitcase and begins to gather his dirty clothes. Manny closes the case, stopping him.

MANNY
Don't worry about that now.

Isaac leaves his case and goes to his wardrobe. He pulls out a crumpled white shirt.

MANNY (CONT'D)
What you doing?

ISAAC
Going school. Where's the iron?

MANNY
Nah, nah. You don't have to.

ISAAC
(smiles positively)
I want to.

Isaac's smile is infectious. Manny responds momentarily with his own smile. Isaac turns serious.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
About the video... Um... Can we
keep it between us? I don't want
anyone else to know. Not even Jess.

Manny nods in agreement. As he watches his son he gets emotional. He holds Isaac's face -

MANNY
As long as you know you didn't do
anything wrong. That - man is evil.
He won't get away with this. I
promise you.

Warmed, Isaac mimics his father by holding his face...

ISAAC
I know.

... then turns to rummage through his wardrobe.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
You seen my school tie?

Manny smiles to himself, proud at how well Isaac seems to be handling things.

18

INT. MANNY & SAM'S FLAT. KITCHEN - DAY

18

Sam enters, showered and refreshed. She sees Manny emerge from behind the refrigerator, gaffer tape and screwdriver in hand.

MANNY
Morning Babes. I spoke to my cousin
and he thinks it might be fixable.
He'll let me know when he can come
by.

SAM
Okay. I've called in sick so I'll
watch Isaac today.

MANNY
No need.

SAM
Huh?

Manny points with his eyes to behind Sam. She turns and sees Isaac dressed for school, pulling his bike with him. Sam shakes her head.

SAM (CONT'D)
No... no, no, no.

MANNY
He said he really wants to go.

SAM
(confused / to Isaac)
Do you?

Isaac nods. Sam turns on Manny.

SAM (CONT'D)
You're gonna let him?

Manny stays silent, not wanting to go against Isaac's wishes.

ISAAC
Bye Mum.

Sam's forced to let Isaac go. She gives him a tight squeeze.

SAM
Just... If you start to feel like
you can't hack it and want to come
home you call me okay?

Isaac nods and waves to his dad.

ISAAC
Bye Dad.

MANNY
Bye.

Isaac wheels his bike to the front door. His parents remain silent as they listen to the door opening - and then closing. Sam shoots daggers at Manny.

Isaac nervously wheels his bike away from home. As he gazes at the morning skyline, he wonders if he's making a mistake going to school.

20

INT. MANNY & SAM'S FLAT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

20

Manny attempts to be positive.

MANNY
He'll be fine.

SAM
Yeah, the same thing you said when
he went out to America on his own!

Manny's cut by this comment. He angrily buries himself behind the refrigerator. He makes a racket as he attempts to 'fix it', taking his anger out on the appliance so he can talk calmly to his wife.

MANNY
He wasn't on his own.

Sam looks to the heavens in reflection. BEAT.

SAM
I've never liked any of this. Even
when Jess started I told you how I
felt about the industry. Then you
dragged poor Isaac into it and now
look!

A furious Manny grips a component tightly.

MANNY
I never forced Isaac into acting.

Sam holds her tongue - not wanting things to escalate. She changes tack.

SAM
Has he said any more this morning?

MANNY
Only that he doesn't want anyone
else to know.
(exhales)
What are we gonna do?

SAM
I don't know what we can do, if he
doesn't want anyone to know.

MANNY
So we just forget about it?

SAM MANNY (CONT'D)

No, that's not what I'm Continue as normal and let
saying. that man get away with what
he's done.

*

Sam's challenged, Manny's got a point. BEAT. Manny puts his tools down and holds his wife.

21

EXT. ST JUDE'S SECONDARY SCHOOL - DAY

21

Isaac stops his bike at a distance from the busy main entrance where boisterous pupils of different year groups take their time to enter. Isaac attempts to loosen up by rolling his neck and his shoulders. He does a breathing exercise, drawing oxygen deep into his stomach and exhaling for as long as he can. He then slowly continues riding.

As he rides closer to the entrance he mutters a tongue twister quietly to himself to loosen his tongue.

ISAAC

*She sells sea shells on the
seashore. She sells sea shells on
the seashore.*

He approaches a group of his School Friends who are munching on sausage rolls. Isaac projects his voice to them -

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Oi, you man?

HAYDEN (13, white) is the first to see Isaac and is surprised.

HAYDEN

My dayz!

Hayden and his mates are delighted to see Isaac. Each give him a joyful urban embrace. Isaac gets crumbs on his blazer. LUCAS (13, black) mock-dutifully brushes the crumbs off his mate.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)

Sorry Denzel, please forgive us.

Isaac goes for Lucas's sausage roll...

ISAAC

Break me off some of this.

... and splits the roll into two, taking the larger half for himself. Lucas is unhappy.

LUCAS

Nah, that's bullying, fam.

Isaac leads the boys into school.

HAYDEN

When did you come back?

ISAAC

Yesterday.

HAYDEN

How was America, man?

ISAAC

(nonchalantly shrugs)

Calm.

HAYDEN

Shut up, man.

ISAAC

Just working life, innit.

Obviously, when you grow up you'll know all about it.

Hayden throws his sausage roll at Isaac, but he skilfully ducks and then retaliates by chucking his roll at Hayden - catching him in the side of the head. Lucas is not impressed.

LUCAS

And then you dash it away. You owe me a pound.

Isaac giggles and rides off. His mates chase after him.

22

EXT. TRAIN STATION PLATFORM - DAY

22

As Manny sits on a bench he uses his mobile's web browser to scroll through images of Jotham Starr. They're photos of Jotham posing on red carpets, posing with beautiful actors and actresses, young and old - posing with Oscars, BAFTAs, Golden Globes and even a Razzie. Manny analyses this man with contempt - trying to figure out what kind of human is he, to do what he did. Is he even human?

A train pulls into the station and Manny prepares to board. The doors open, the carriage is packed with rush hour commuters. He sees all the carriages are standing room only. He sighs and squeezes on board.

23

INT. TRAIN CARRIAGE - DAY

23

It's sweltering and to make matters worse the heaters are running. An aisle passenger reaches over those seated to a closed window - tugs, but it's jammed and won't open. As Manny begins to perspire he examines his fellow commuters. All are in corporate attire. One sits working on their laptop. Another is highlighting figures on a document. The man closest to Manny takes up space as he turns the page of his Financial Times.

Manny feels small to be among them. Despite the heat he zips up his half-undone jacket to cover his polo shirt and goes to his mobile. Jotham's beaming face is on his screen. He gruffly closes the web window, accidentally elbowing the passenger next to him.

MANNY

Sorry.

A female is heard apologising as she shuffles through people towards Manny. He sees who it is - it's Sabrina. She's also in office wear. Manny puts his phone away.

SABRINA

(playful)

What you doing on *my* train?

MANNY

It's just a one off. I've got a meeting before work.

Sabrina looks intrigued.

MANNY (CONT'D)

It's nothing fancy.

(diverts things / quietens)

Thank you for yesterday. I swear I'll pay you back as soon as.

SABRINA

No worries.

(jest)

But I will be charging interest though.

MANNY

(playful roll of eyes
'typical Sabrina')

Why am I not surprised?

The two share a smile.

MANNY (CONT'D)
How was Tyrone this morning?

Sabrina groans, remembering the battle to get Tyrone to wake up. Manny encourages -

MANNY (CONT'D)
You gotta be firmer with him in the mornings. Be like my mum and
(demonstrates)
Clap - your - hands - when - you - speak - to - show - you - mean - business.

SABRINA
(polite smile)
I'd rather not be like your mum.

Manny nods with polite understanding, remembering Sabrina's past problems with his mum.

SABRINA (CONT'D)
Did he mention yesterday I had a phone call from his Head of Year?

A concerned Manny shakes his head.

SABRINA (CONT'D)
His behaviour is getting worse. His school work is sloppy. The backchat increases everyday.

Manny exhales with frustration.

SABRINA (CONT'D)
I've warned him, if he gets another detention to not bother coming home.

Manny doesn't approve of that. Sabrina looks like she regrets what she said.

SABRINA (CONT'D)
What else can I do? I can't take his attitude anymore.

Manny wishes he could offer for Tyrone to stay at his, but the flat's limited space and Sam, mean this is not possible. Instead, with guilt etched on his face he informs Sabrina -

MANNY
You're doing an amazing job.

Sabrina snorts dismissively. Manny grabs hold of her hand.

MANNY (CONT'D)
You are.

BEAT. Sabrina smiles with appreciation. The two momentarily regard each other. Sabrina then notices Manny's moist brow. She then takes a tissue from her handbag and pats it.

SABRINA
See, if you're riding *my* train
you've gotta come prepared.

Sabrina goes to unzip Manny's jacket but he stops her.

MANNY
I'm alright *Mum*, thanks.

Sabrina playfully hits Manny with her Metro newspaper.

24

EXT. YONDER STARR FILMS. FITZROVIA - DAY

24

Manny walks along the street with purpose and then arrives outside his destination, the UK headquarters of Jotham's film company. BEAT. He's at a loss for what to do next. He needs answers but doesn't know how to get them. He wants retribution but is unsure how to get it.

A bubbly OFFICER WORKER (24, white) exits the revolving doors for a cigarette. As she lights up she sees Manny watching her. She then worries he is a visitor to the company -

OFFICE WORKER
Were you coming in?

Manny thinks for a moment... he has no game-plan, he has to abort.

MANNY
Nah, nah.

The Office Worker nods and moves away to enjoy her cigarette. As she does she warily observes Manny from her peripherals, wondering what he is up to. Manny senses he's being watched and so... moves on.

25

INT. MANNY & SAM'S FLAT. KITCHEN - DAY

25

Sam empties a bag of ice cubes into a large bowl that has a pint of milk, a margarine tub and a yogurt in it. Beside her is her laptop and notepad. It's now filled with crossed-out solicitor names. As she reads the webpage of another law firm her mobile rings. The number does not look familiar. She answers -

SAM
Hello?... Yes, speaking?...

As Sam listens she fills with hope.

26 **EXT. LEICESTER SQUARE. LEICESTER SQUARE GARDENS - DAY** 26

Tourists mill around Manny as he sits on a bench trying to get his head together. He looks at the imposing, glitzy building ahead of him - ULC Cinema. Manny silently curses this place, the film industry and what it has done to his son. His mobile rings - it's Sam. He answers.

MANNY
Hi Babes?

INTERCUT:

27 **INT. MANNY & SAM'S FLAT. KITCHEN - DAY** 27

A heartened Sam paces around on her mobile.

SAM
I've got us an appointment with a solicitor.

MANNY
(surprised)
What?

SAM
We need to explore what our options are. The meeting's today at five-thirty. I've already said yes so please do what you can to make it. I'll text you the details. Love you.

Sam ends the call.

BEAT. Manny takes a breath, calms himself. He pops a Tic Tac and heads over to the cinema. As he does he unzips his jacket, revealing the emblem of ULC Cinemas on his polo shirt. This is his workplace.

28 **INT. ST JUDE'S SECONDARY SCHOOL. SCHOOL HALL - DAY** 28

Pupils sit on rows of chairs as on stage the HEADTEACHER (50, white) leads assembly.

Isaac's sat on the back row, slouched, trying to be small. He tunes out the Headteacher's nattering as he notices a graffitied erect penis on the back of the chair in front of him. The image causes Isaac to be uncomfortable. Suddenly -

HEADTEACHER
Isaac? Where are you?

The Headteacher is looking around the pupils for Isaac. Hayden points him out.

HAYDEN
He's here!

All the pupils turn around and stare at Isaac. The Headteacher smiles with warmth.

HEADTEACHER
Come up and share your experiences
in Hollywood!

Isaac's heart stops. The moment feels like a nightmare. Hayden and Lucas nudge him up and lead cheers and 'braps' of encouragement. Isaac shakily makes his way towards the stage. Pupils clap and make positive comments like "that's my G!" "boss man!". Isaac manages a smile of gratitude. As he walks the Headteacher proudly states -

HEADTEACHER (CONT'D)
Here is an example of someone who
has married his big dreams with
hard work. I want you all to pay
attention to Isaac's story so you
can learn what it takes to achieve.

Isaac reaches the stage where the Headteacher gives him a hearty handshake. Isaac looks out to the sea of eyes. He thinks - 'they have no clue what I went through'.

HEADTEACHER (CONT'D)
Now. How was Hollywood?

ISAAC
... Erm... fine.

The pupils giggle at the brief answer.

HEADTEACHER
There's no need for modesty Isaac.
We are all so very proud of you.
Aren't we?

The pupils cheer.

HEADTEACHER (CONT'D)

Now, tell us, what was it like,
that first day you walked onto set
with all those stars?

The pupils gaze in anticipation for his answer. He glances at the teachers standing on the flanks - they watch on with adoring eyes. Isaac feels trapped - there's no escape.

He surmises 'they don't want to hear the truth'... And so... he does what he does best... He's an actor... so he 'acts'.

Isaac assumes a humble, but mature stance as he talks.

ISAAC

They're just people like us... But
just more tanned.

This gets a chuckle from some pupils.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Actually, I was more surprised by the amount of assistants some of the cast had. Like, one actor, who shall remain nameless, had a wardrobe assistant, makeup assistant, script assistant, a chef, a barber, a feng shui guy, a girl who dealt with his social media... oh, and a lady that looked after his chihuahuas - or "babies" as he called them.

The pupils and the teachers think this is hilarious.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

I got paranoid that the other actors thought I was weird because I only had one assistant.

HEADTEACHER

(intrigued)

Oh, so you had your own personal assistant?

ISAAC

Yeah,

(takes out his mobile)
my iPhone.

The hall is in hysterics. Isaac watches on, happy he has put smiles on faces, but it's taken its toll within.

29 **INT. ST JUDE'S SECONDARY SCHOOL. BOYS TOILETS - DAY** 29

Isaac rushes into a cubicle, closes the door and vomits into the toilet. He expels all he can. He feels he's betrayed himself by how he 'performed' in assembly, so much so it's made him sick. The heaving is replaced with quiet sobbing.

30 **INT. ULC CINEMA. MANAGER'S OFFICE - DAY** 30

On the walls are posters of past blockbusters for which the venue has held film premieres. Manny (the manager) is sat at his computer. A small security monitor flicks through CCTV footage of the cinemas screens. There are framed photos of himself with Isaac and Jess (at different ages) beaming as they pose with A-Listers in the foyer during premieres.

He types into a search engine '*Jotham Starr and children*'. Up come links to pages detailing who Jotham's children are.

Manny deletes and tries again with '*Jotham Starr sexual abuse*'. The search results corrects with: **Showing results for Julian Starr sexual assault**. Manny sighs... but then curiously glances at the links that have appeared.

He clicks on one - a tabloid newspaper website comes up. An unflattering picture of professional footballer JOLIAN STARR (22, white) entering court - '**Millionaire football jailed**' - **article by Dominic Nadesan**.

Manny takes in the key words like '**monster**' '**evil**' '**Justice served**'. Manny seems to be in agreement with Dominic's sentiments.

Manny reads Dominic's closing statement -

'...I wonder what horrors are yet to be uncovered in other industries?'

Manny nods - Dominic's right.

31 **EXT. ST JUDE'S SECONDARY SCHOOL - DAY** 31

School's finished and the pupils leave for home. Isaac walks with his hood up as quickly as he can to avoid conversation.

SAM (O.S.)
Isaac!

Isaac sees his mum jump out of Manny's car. He looks embarrassed.

SAM (CONT'D)
How was your day?

ISAAC
(shrugs)
Fine.

A MOTHER (38, white) hurries towards Sam and Isaac, followed by her shy DAUGHTER (11, mixed race).

MOTHER
Excuse me, are you Isaac's mum?

Sam nods.

MOTHER (CONT'D)
Hi, I'm Sally. I just wanted to um, congratulate your son for 'breaking into Hollywood'.

The Mother giggles warmly and Sam smiles back politely.

MOTHER (CONT'D)
I just wanted to quickly ask how Isaac got involved in acting? And if you have any tips?
(re: her Daughter)
Millie's done loads of plays when she was in primary school and now she's keen on getting some professional work. Aren't you?

Millie nods. Sam sees Isaac lower his head. He doesn't want to be part of this conversation. Sam's in an awkward position.

MOTHER (CONT'D)
Did Isaac go to a drama school?

SAM
Erm, yeah he did. But just on the weekends and the odd evening.

The Mother nods, impressed.

MOTHER
Is it alright if I get the details?

Sam's put on the spot. Should she encourage another mother to put their child in the same system that has hurt her own? There's no way she can do that. As the Mother unlocks her mobile to input the details Sam interrupts with -

SAM
I'm so sorry but I've got an appointment and I can't be late.

MOTHER
(disappointed)
Oh, okay.

SAM
But it was nice to meet you.

Sam hurries Isaac to the car.

MOTHER
Nice to meet you too!

Sam breathes a sigh of relief. Isaac is also relieved that his mum handled the situation.

32 **INT. ULC CINEMA. MANAGER'S OFFICE - DAY**

32

Manny enters and grabs his jacket from the back of his chair. As he puts it on he glances at the clock - it's 16:39.

He awakens his computer. On it is a page titled:

'Do you have a story to share?'

Below is a headshot of Dominic Nadesan (33, South Asian) and his contact details. Manny takes his mobile and dials Dominic's number. As he listens to his phone ring, his heart rate increases.

INTERCUT:

33 **INT. NEWSPAPER OFFICES. DOMINIC'S DESK - DAY**

33

Dominic's at his desk where his desk phone rings. He too has photos of his children on it (9-year-old girl & 5-year-old boy). He observes the unfamiliar mobile number on his caller display and lets the call ring for a few more beats before answering.

DOMINIC
Dominic Nadesan speaking?

Manny freezes momentarily - but then remembers he's doing this for Isaac.

MANNY
Hi, erm... I... I have a story.

PAUSE. Manny thinks the line's gone dead.

MANNY (CONT'D)
Hello?

DOMINIC
Yes, I'm here. What's the story
about please?

MANNY
It's a about... a producer.

DOMINIC
What kind of producer?

MANNY
(hesitant)
Of Hollywood films.

A surprised Dominic sits up and grabs his notepad.

DOMINIC
Hollywood?... Sorry, what is your
name?

MANNY
(nervous)
My name?... Um... Emmanuel... or
Manny, Manny Mensah.

Dominic types 'Emmanuel Mensah' in a search engine.

DOMINIC
Thank you for calling Manny.
(glancing at the caller
display)
Is the number you've called me on
the best number to reach you?

MANNY
Um, yes.

On Dominic's computer screen is a photo from an entertainment website of Manny with Isaac. Underneath is written '*Valiant & Son star with proud father Emmanuel Mensah*'

DOMINIC
Excellent. And what's this
producer's name?

There's a knock on Manny's door. Annoyed, Manny covers his mobile and shouts -

MANNY
I'm busy!

FARAH (O.S.)
(from other side of door)
Your son's here!

Manny's heart stops, thinking it's Isaac.

MANNY
(to Dominic)
I'll call you back.

Manny ends his call abruptly.

Dominic disappointed, but is comforted by having Manny's phone number.

Manny's door is opened by supervisor FARAH (25, South Asian). Behind her is Manny's son Tyrone (wearing his school uniform - tie short, shirt untucked). He holds his mobile which is connected to earphones (but he only uses one earphone). The tinny sound of a *trap music* beat plays.

Farah smiles amusingly at Tyrone.

MANNY (CONT'D)
Thank you Farah.

Farah leaves. Tyrone ogles her as she goes.

MANNY (CONT'D)
What you doing here?

TYRONE
Mum said if I got another detention
to not bother coming home.

MANNY
You got *another* detention?

Tyrone rolls his eyes, uninterested. Manny groans to himself.

MANNY (CONT'D)
I don't have time for this.

Tyrone sits down and starts to tinker with his mobile.

MANNY (CONT'D)
Don't get comfortable. I'm taking
you home!

Manny yanks Tyrone back up. He feigns he is hurt.

TYRONE

Ow, man!

34

INT. HIGH STREET - EVENING

34

Sam waits impatiently near a bus stop. She checks the time on her mobile - it's 17:35. She spots Manny across the street. He dashes across traffic to get to her.

MANNY

Sorry Babes. There was a last-minute thing at work.

Sam's not interested in his excuse and begins pacing up the high street. Manny follows.

Sam's eyes are focused up ahead at an office - D&Q SOLICITORS. The office comes into Manny's view. Nerves begin to bubble within.

The couple reach the entrance. Sam composes herself, opens the door and allows Manny to go in first.

35

INT. D&Q SOLICITORS - EVENING

35

Manny and Sam sit anxiously in a waiting area as they talk quietly.

An office door creaks opens. Solicitor MALCOLM DANVERS (42, black) pops his head out.

MALCOLM DANVERS

Samantha Mensah?

Sam and Manny rise.

SAM

Yes.

Malcolm beckons the couple over.

36

INT. D&Q SOLICITORS. MALCOLM'S OFFICE - EVENING

36

Sam and Manny enter the mahogany wall panelled office.

SAM

So sorry we're late.

MALCOLM DANVERS

And you must be Emmanuel?

MANNY
Yes, pleasure to meet you Sir.

MALCOLM DANVERS
(chuckles)
Call me Malcolm.

Malcolm briefly checks his notes, as Sam brings out her own notepad of scribbled notes.

MALCOLM DANVERS (CONT'D)
Now in your enquiry you asked what the options are in regards to your son and an allegation he has against a film producer?

SAM
Yes.

MALCOLM DANVERS
And to clarify, this incident took place in America?

SAM
Yes.

BEAT. Malcolm gives the couple a look of pity. Sam and Manny look confused why... they then find out -

MALCOLM DANVERS
With regret I have to inform you that if you're looking to pursue any kind of legal claim against this producer there is nothing that can be done here in the UK.

Sam and Manny look shocked.

MANNY
What? How?

MALCOLM DANVERS
Because the alleged offence took place in the U.S. British police have no jurisdiction and so will not be able to formally investigate.

MANNY
That's crazy.

Malcolm gives Manny a sympathetic look. BEAT.

MANNY (CONT'D)
So what, that's it?

Sam puts a calming hand on Manny and refers to an alternative option she's written in her notes.

SAM
What about a 'civil case'? I've
read about them online. Can't we do
that?

MALCOLM DANVERS
Indeed, but that would have to be
in America, through the U.S.
Courts.

SAM
Fine, we'll do that then.

Manny nods in agreement.

MALCOLM DANVERS
I should warn you, there is no
legal aid in America. You would be
responsible for the legal fees in
order to sue. And they are terribly
expensive.

Manny's angered that money is needed to get justice. Sam
frantically searches through her notes for another
alternative... but can't find any. She looks stressed. Manny
puts a hand on her back and takes the baton -

MANNY
Alright, say we could raise the
money to go out to America, then
what?

MALCOLM DANVERS
The American legal system is very
aggressive.

MANNY
(dismisses)
I don't care about that.

MALCOLM DANVERS
But they will care about you - and
your wife, other siblings, your
wider family, close friends. Your
family's credibility will be
targeted, whether you pursue a
criminal or civil case.

(MORE)

MALCOLM DANVERS (CONT'D)
They will dig up all manner of dirt
on everyone you love.

MANNY
Hang on, what does my family have
to do with what happened to Isaac?
We're not the criminals, that *man*
is!

MALCOLM DANVERS
The aim of the defence team will be
to make Isaac feel like he is the
one on trial - not this producer.
He'll have to sit in court, day
after day and essentially be
accused of lying.

Manny and Sam don't like the sound of that. They hold hands.

MALCOLM DANVERS (CONT'D)
Does anyone else know about what
happened to Isaac?

MANNY
No. Erm, it's just us. We think
it's best to keep things private.

Malcolm nods with understanding and then -

MALCOLM DANVERS
You should know that in the U.S.
contempt of court only fetters
people from publishing material
about the case in the jurisdiction
in which the trial is happening. It
does not protect against people
publishing details of your son here
in the U.K. or even social media.

Manny looks horrified by this prospect. A defeated Sam closes
her notepad.

Manny and Sam exit and stop outside the door. They're both
despondent. They glance at each other and then... hug -
united in their pain... This gives them new vigour.

SAM
I'm gonna contact that pathetic
excuse of a chaperone Cheryl Denon.
(MORE)

SAM (CONT'D)
 She looked us in the eye and said
 she would look after Isaac. She's
 got to answer for herself.

Manny nods in full agreement. The couple move on, holding hands as they walk.

38

INT. MANNY & SAM'S FLAT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

38

Jess (on her tablet) and Isaac (on his mobile) are sat at either ends of the sofa as the TV plays. BEAT and then -

JESS
 You still haven't told me what
 happened in America.

Isaac's startled by this question, he tries to play it cool.

ISAAC
 What do you mean?

JESS
 Did you behave yourself?

ISAAC
 Course.

JESS
 You sure? I know all about
 Hollywood... And the parties.

Isaac looks uncomfortable.

JESS (CONT'D)
 You drink out there?

Isaac gives Jess a perplexed look.

JESS (CONT'D)
 You can tell me.

ISAAC
 No!

JESS
 Is that 'no' you're not telling me
 or 'no' you didn't drink?

ISAAC
 I didn't drink out there!

JESS

Good.

(with love)

If you did I would've slapped you up so hard.

This causes Isaac to smile briefly and he relaxes a little.

JESS (CONT'D)

Girls?

Isaac tenses up again.

JESS (CONT'D)

You get off with anyone?

ISAAC

No!

JESS

(teases)

Is that 'no' you're not telling me or 'no' you didn't get off with -

An annoyed Isaac groans heavily, cutting off Jess. She grins sensing something.

JESS (CONT'D)

Tell me.

Jess puts an arm around him.

JESS (CONT'D)

Did you kiss someone?

Isaac begins to look upset. Jess believes Isaac's had a 'holiday romance' and gets excited.

JESS (CONT'D)

They're American, yeah?... Was it someone you *really* liked?... Is that why you're sad?... You miss them?

Isaac shoves Jess away.

ISAAC

SHUT YOUR MOUTH!

JESS

Who the fuck you pushing?

Isaac balls his fists and threateningly repeats -

ISAAC
SHUT YOUR MOUTH!

Jess is startled. The front door is heard closing. Manny and Sam hurry into the room.

MANNY
What's going on?

Isaac storms out of the room.

SAM
Isaac?

We hear Isaac's bedroom door slam shut. Manny and Sam look at Jess for answers. She ignores their stares and instead asks -

JESS
When's the fridge getting fixed?

Sam glares at Jess and then goes after Isaac.

JESS (CONT'D)
It's a serious question.

Manny rebukes Jess with his eyes. She returns to her tablet.

39

INT. ISAAC'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

39

Sam enters. Isaac has his face down in his pillow, sobbing.

SAM
Hey? What happened?

Isaac doesn't respond. Sam sits on the edge of his bed.

SAM (CONT'D)
What did Jess do?... What did she say?

Isaac looks pointedly at Sam and asserts -

ISAAC
Nothing.

SAM
You sure?

ISAAC
YES!

Sam's taken aback by Isaac's aggression. It compounds her own guilt.

40

EXT. MANNY & SAM'S ESTATE - DAY

40

Ryan's white builder's van is parked beside Manny's car.

41

INT. MANNY & SAM'S FLAT. KITCHEN - DAY

41

Ryan examines the broken-down refrigerator while Manny makes himself toast.

RYAN

Be honest Cuz, what did you do?

MANNY

Nothing. Sam was the one who told me about it. You should ask her!

RYAN

(holding pieces of gaffer tape)

And this?

An embarrassed Manny makes up a story.

MANNY

There was a pipe that was hanging down. I was trying to reinforce the water flow to see if it helped.

Ryan looks amused but Manny insists -

MANNY (CONT'D)

I done that after it had broke down. After.

Manny searches his bowl of ice cubes for margarine but there is none. Instead he pours some vegetable oil on his toast and tries to spread it. A lethargic Jess enters.

JESS

Hey, Ryan.

RYAN

Greetings Miss Jess. You seen what your daddy has done back here?

MANNY

(playful)

Oi!

Manny tries to be extra nice to his daughter. He offers her toast with vegetable oil on it.

MANNY (CONT'D)
Hungry?

Jess frowns and shakes her head no.

MANNY (CONT'D)
How about a cup of tea?

Not wanting to seem moody Jess reluctantly nods. Manny pops a teabag into a mug and pours water from the kettle. Manny grabs a pint of milk from the bowl of ice cubes. Manny 'pours' it into the mug, however the content is mostly frozen. Lumps of frozen milk splash into the mug. Jess looks disgusted...

JESS
Actually Dad, I'm alright. I'm in
the shower.

... and leaves. Ryan giggles. Manny chuck's an ice cube at him. The doorbell rings.

MANNY
Oh Jess, get that please!

JESS (O.S.)
I said I'm going in the shower!

Manny sighs and goes to answer the door.

42 INT. MANNY & SAM'S FLAT - DAY 42

Manny opens the door. Standing outside is an anxious Cheryl Denon. Manny's startled to see her.

CHERYL DENON
Hello Manny.

43 INT. MANNY & SAM'S FLAT. LIVING ROOM - DAY 43

Manny, Sam and Cheryl are sat on the sofa. The atmosphere is tense as the family listens to Cheryl talk in a controlled manner.

CHERYL DENON
In all my years working with Yonder
Starr and directly with Jotham I
have never witnessed anything...
untoward.

Manny raises his eyebrows in surprise.

CHERYL DENON (CONT'D)
 I'm being 100% with you. And I've
 looked after many young actors over
 the years. Anyone that's given off
 even a whiff of potential danger
 I've been there to nip it in the
 bud. None of them have lasted.

SAM
 What, the child actors?

CHERYL DENON
 No, I mean those that might have
 wanted to take advantage of my
 young actors.

Sam joins Manny in raising her eyebrows to this.

44

INT. MANNY & SAM'S FLAT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

44

Isaac lurks outside the living room, listening in on the adults conversation.

CHERYL DENON (O.S.)
 What I don't understand is why
 Isaac didn't mention anything to me
 while we were shooting.

MANNY (O.S.)
 What do you expect him to do? He's
 13! He was scared!
 (annoyed / to himself)
 I should've been out there with
 him.

SAM (O.S.)
 It's not your fault.

Isaac's startled to see Ryan, staring at him from the kitchen. Isaac styles it out like he was making his way to his bedroom all along.

45

INT. MANNY & SAM'S FLAT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

45

Cheryl approaches sensitively with -

CHERYL DENON
 What did Isaac actually say? Did...
 he say he was raped?

MANNY
 No!

CHERYL DENON
Did he say he was touched
inappropriately?

Manny scratches his head. His breathing doubles.

MANNY
... Yeah, no, well... He didn't do
things to Isaac...
(takes a breath)
He... made Isaac do things to him.

CHERYL DENON
... What things?

Manny shakes his head as the video replays in his mind.

CHERYL DENON (CONT'D)
Manny?

Manny can't talk - his whole being refuses to go *there*. Cheryl gets frustrated.

CHERYL DENON (CONT'D)
I'm here to help, but I need to
understand exactly what it is Isaac
is claiming Jotham done to him...
If Isaac is being hundred percent
honest.

SAM
ARE YOU CALLING MY SON A LIAR?

CHERYL DENON
No. But these things could easily
descend into Isaac's word against
Jotham's. Especially when there's
no proof.

SAM
Oh, we've got proof!
(To Manny)
Haven't we.

Sam and Cheryl look at Manny to answer. He looks extremely
uncomfortable... he eventually nods.

47

INT. ISAAC'S BEDROOM - DAY

47

Isaac's sat on his bed, biting his nails as he worries about what is being said in the living room. He's then startled by a knock on his door.

ISAAC

Yeah?

An apprehensive Manny enters.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

I didn't want anyone else to know.

MANNY

I know, but she might be able to help.

(delicately)

Would it be possible for you to... tell her what happ-

Isaac vehemently shakes his head.

MANNY (CONT'D)

(desperate)

But we can't let *him* get away with-

Isaac again shakes his head. Manny at a loss of how to handle this. BEAT. A pained Manny closes his eyes and accepts his son's wishes...

MANNY (CONT'D)

Okay.

... and goes to leave. Isaac feels for his dad. He exhales and unlocks his mobile phone.

ISAAC

You can show her.

Manny turns back around to see Isaac offering his mobile phone. Manny stares at the phone with fear. Isaac makes clear-

ISAAC (CONT'D)

But I don't want anyone else to know.

Manny nods and his hand quivers as he takes the phone from his son. He feels heavy with responsibility.

48

INT. MANNY & SAM'S FLAT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

48

Manny enters holding Isaac's mobile. On seeing Isaac's mobile Sam gets tense. Manny goes straight over to Cheryl and plays the video. He keeps the mobile screen in Cheryl's vision and away from his own eye line, to observe her reaction.

We see the horror on Cheryl's face as she witnesses Jotham enter Isaac's trailer and as she hears the sound of his belt unbuckling and trousers falling to the ground. The bubble she had of her colleague has been burst.

She can't watch anymore. She pushes the mobile away and holds her head. She struggles to compose herself - she's been shaken up.

CHERYL DENON

Okay... um, firstly, er -

She starts to hyperventilate as tears of guilt fall. She's failed Isaac immeasurably.

CHERYL DENON (CONT'D)

I'm so, so sorry.

Manny and Sam are uninterested in Cheryl's feelings. Sam gets up and makes a pointed remark.

SAM

I'm going to check on my son.

Cheryl watches Sam leave then glances at Manny. He stares back coldly.

MANNY

You promised Isaac you'd look after him. You let him down.

Cheryl looks devastated.

48A

INT. UCG CINEMA. MANAGER'S OFFICE - EVENING

48A

Manny's at his desk, calculating the box office numbers but struggling to concentrate. His mind keeps replaying the Cheryl meeting. He's then further distracted by a reminder coming up on his mobile - '**Meeting Dominic Nadesan'**

49

EXT. LEICESTER SQUARE. LEICESTER SQUARE GARDENS - EVENING 49

An anxious Manny sits on the bench facing his workplace, his mind replaying Isaac's plea to not tell anyone else about the abuse.

Across the gardens Dominic Nadesan enters the area, takes a seat on a bench and opens his tablet. Manny prepares to go over to him... but can't. Manny notices his legs trembling. Can he trust Dominic with Isaac's story? Does he want his son in the papers? Can he go against Isaac's wishes?

Manny's mobile vibrates from a text message. He sees it's from Dominic

'I'm sat near the ULC cinema'

Manny sees Dominic looking around and so lowers his head. He can't go through with this. Manny replies to Dominic's text -

'I made a mistake'

Manny presses send then turns off his mobile and exits the gardens.

He picks up his pace, not turning back and hoping Dominic hasn't seen him. But then he hears -

TYRONE (O.S.)
Manny!

Manny's startled but then relieved to see Tyrone (in his school uniform and mobile earphone wire dangling) traipsing towards him. He gives his dad a cheeky grin.

MANNY
(rebuking)
Manny?

TYRONE
Just joking.

Manny registers Tyrone's wearing his school uniform.

MANNY
What you doing here?

Tyrone puts on an innocent face. Manny exhales heavily - Tyrone's in trouble again.

Manny escorts Tyrone to Sabrina's maisonette. They make their way up the path to the front door and a security light comes on.

MANNY
Got your key?

Tyrone sighs and nervously searches for his key, stalling for time. Suddenly, Sabrina opens the door before Tyrone can find them. She gives him a disapproving look.

SABRINA
Yes, what do you want?

TYRONE
... I'm sorry.

SABRINA
That's not what I asked?

MANNY
Sabrina-

SABRINA
No Manny, he can't keep taking
liberties with his teachers and
with me!

Sabrina holds her resolve - she doesn't budge - she's had enough. Manny's got no choice but to say to his son -

MANNY
Tyrone, go get some things, you're
staying at mine.

Tyrone and Sabrina look surprised.

MANNY (CONT'D)
Go on.

Tyrone enters his home.

51

INT. MANNY & SAM'S FLAT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

51

Sam sits in her work clothes in front of the TV and is about to drift off to sleep. She's awoken by the front door closing. Feet are heard slowly making their way to the living room. A nervous Manny appears in the doorframe and he's holding rucksacks.

MANNY
Hi.

SAM
Hi

Sam then sees who the rucksacks belong to, as Tyrone now appears at the entrance.

SAM (CONT'D)
Oh... hello Tyrone.

Sam looks pointedly at Tyrone's rucksacks and his dangling earphones then back at Manny.

MANNY
Things are a bit difficult at home.

A stressed Sam exhales heavily.

MANNY (CONT'D)
(to Tyrone)
Go to Isaac's room. I'll bring the air bed.

Tyrone goes.

SAM
(quietly)
We don't need this now!

MANNY
Just for tonight.

Sam's furious. However, before she can say anymore her mobile rings - it's Cheryl. She shows Manny her mobile screen. They're both hit with nerves.

MANNY (CONT'D)
Do you want me to take it?

Sam shakes her head and answers the call.

SAM
(on phone)
Hello?

INTERCUT:

52

EXT. YONDER STARR FILMS - NIGHT

52

Cheryl is on her mobile.

CHERYL DENON
Hi Sam. Jotham's team would like to meet you and Manny first thing tomorrow. Is that doable?

Manny looks at Sam impatiently for info on what Cheryl is saying. She answers on their behalf.

SAM
Yeah, we'll be there.

53

INT. MANNY & SAM'S BEDROOM - DAY

53

Morning light shines through the partially closed curtains. Manny and Sam lie silently in bed, back to back. Both have hardly slept. The silence is broken by Manny exhaling heavily then rising. Sam remains as she is, listening to Manny exiting the room. Once the door closes Sam rises and takes in her own deep breaths, focusing on the morning ahead.

54

INT. MANNY & SAM'S FLAT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

54

Isaac's sat on the sofa (in his pyjamas) with his parents as he sends the abuse video to his dad's mobile.

ISAAC
Is he gonna be there?

MANNY
To be honest, I don't know. But however long it takes, he will pay.

The video is sent to Manny's phone. Manny exhales with a heavy heart - he wishes he could just erase the video. He gives his son a loving embrace for showing courage, but really it benefits him more than Isaac. Sam kisses Isaac's forehead and the parents depart.

55

INT. MANNY & SAM'S FLAT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

55

Manny waits by the front door as Sam puts on her coat and handbag. She finishes and there's a PAUSE. An anxious Manny asks -

MANNY
Ready?

A similarly anxious Sam pauses for a few beats then gives Manny eye contact and nods.

Manny opens the door. He puts aside his own nerves and offers his hand to support his wife. Sam takes his hand and they walk out together.

55A INT. TRAIN CARRIAGE - DAY 55A

Manny and Sam ride the packed carriage in silence. The tension builds within. Their hearts rates feel in rhythm with the speeding train.

56 EXT. YONDER STARR FILMS - DAY 56

Manny leads Sam towards the building. Sam takes in the company's name displayed over the doors as they enter.

57 INT. YONDER STARR FILMS. RECEPTION - DAY 57

The state of the art reception area has a large TV screen with an animation of the company's logo on constant loop.

A bubbly RECEPTIONIST (28, white) works at the desk. She greets Manny and Sam warmly.

RECEPTIONIST

Good morning.

MANNY

Morning. We have a meeting with...
um...

SAM

(helps Manny out)

We're here to meet Cheryl Denon.

RECEPTIONIST

Okay. If you just sign in for me
please.

The couple sign the guestbook.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)

If you take the lift to the fifth
floor someone will be there to meet
you.

SAM

Thank you.

Manny and Sam go over to the lifts and press the button. The lift pings and Manny allows Sam to get in first.

58 INT. YONDER STARR FILMS. FIFTH FLOOR - DAY 58

Sam and Manny exit the lift onto the plush floor. Along the walls are posters of their films.

One of these posters is '*Valiant & Son - Coming Soon*' - the same as Isaac has in his bedroom. Manny and Sam look very uncomfortable seeing this. They're then met by an enthusiastic OFFICE RUNNER (21, black, female).

OFFICE RUNNER
Mr and Mrs Mensah?

SAM
Yes.

The Office Runner shakes their hands.

OFFICE RUNNER
Hi, I'm Monica. Follow me please.

The Mensahs follow the Runner.

OFFICE RUNNER (CONT'D)
Would you like tea or coffee?

SAM
No, thanks.

MANNY
Yeah, no thanks.

A curious Sam has to ask -

SAM
How long have you been working here?

MONICA
It's only my second week.

SAM
Okay. And how you finding it?

MONICA
I absolutely love it here!

There's a brief glance between Sam and Manny at Monica's response.

They reach their destination - a conference room. She opens the door to allow the Mensahs to enter.

OFFICE RUNNER
Just in here. There's water on the table should you need any.

SAM
Thank you Monica.

Sam leads Manny into the room. They are presented by a long table, surrounded by Jotham Starr's intimidating AMERICAN & BRITISH LAWYERS and members of his PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM. They all gaze stony faced at the couple, except for Jotham's Manager BRETT HUNTLEY (40, white, American). He puts on a far too broad veneer smile as he shakes their hands.

BRETT HUNTLEY

Hey, good morning. Lovely to meet you both. Do take a seat.

Manny and Sam nervously take their seats. The Lawyers analyse their every movement. Manny and Sam feel very uncomfortable.

MANNY

Is Cheryl on her way?

BRETT HUNTLEY

Cheryl won't be joining us.

Manny and Sam look surprised and then worried.

The Lawyers constantly check through online and paper documents about their family, passing them around the team.

BRETT HUNTLEY (CONT'D)

She informed me that you showed her a video of the alleged abuse by my client. Can we see this video?

BEAT. Manny anxiously unlocks his mobile and readies Isaac's video for viewing then passes it to the nearest Lawyer.

They watch some and pass it on. The next Lawyer does the same and so on. Each analyse and scrutinise. Each one's posture changes after viewing, from arrogance to being morally conflicted.

59

INT. YONDER STARR FILMS. OUTSIDE CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY 59

Manny has his ear pressed to the closed conference room door. A worried Sam, sat on a chair along the corridor urgently beckons him away.

SAM

(whisper)

You're gonna get caught!

A determined Manny ignores Sam and listens intensely. He hears the muffled voices of the lawyers muttering blunt comments between themselves "zero penetration" "suggestion of masturbation?" "mutual masturbation?" "the boy remains clothed" "his penis is unseen" "limited visuals" "effective audio" "no evidence of video editing".

The voices go silent. Manny hears shuffling towards the door and so sprints over to Sam and acts casual. Brett exits the room and smiles.

BRETT HUNTLEY
You can come back in now.

59A

INT. MANNY & SAM'S FLAT - DAY

59A

Isaac (dressed for school) opens the front door. A Post Man hands him a large cardboard tube parcel. Isaac sees it's addressed to him.

INTERCUT:

60

INT. YONDER STARR FILMS. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

60

Manny and Sam's hearts race. They're agitated, scared, tired, drained and now - pessimistic. All eyes are on them.

BRETT HUNTLEY
Can you confirm the individuals
that are aware of the complaint?

SAM
Just us.

BRETT HUNTLEY
Please be specific.

SAM
Just myself and my husband... And
Cheryl.

BRETT HUNTLEY
No one else?

SAM
No one else.

Brett, The Lawyers and PR Team turn their fierce gaze to Manny, requesting he also confirms. He holds his nerve -

MANNY
No one else.

The lead American and lead British Lawyer nod to Brett. He and the PR team exhale with disappointment. He mutters a weary "here we go" to himself and points to an unopened briefcase. An American Lawyer undoes the lock and takes out the prepared legal documents inside.

60A **INT. MANNY & SAM'S FLAT. LIVING ROOM - DAY** 60A

A curious Isaac pulls out a large poster from his parcel. He lays it out on the floor, revealing a stunning promotional poster of him posing in costume as Lyle Valiant.

INTERCUT:

60B **INT. YONDER STARR FILMS. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY** 60B

Brett lays the legal documents in front of Manny and Sam.

BRETT HUNTLEY
Hundreds of individuals, including
your son, have poured their heart
and soul into making *Valiant and
Son*. This is not just Jotham's
movie, but their movie too. And we
owe it to them to ensure their work
isn't tarnished.

Manny and Sam look slightly conflicted as they think about
the number of people involved in making the film.

BRETT HUNTLEY (CONT'D)
The fact is... this video shows
nothing.

MANNY
(aghast)
What?

BRETT HUNTLEY
We see Jotham entering, we see the
ceiling of the trailer and then
later we see Isaac ending the
video.

SAM
You can hear what's going on!

BRETT HUNTLEY

(ignores)

What happens next should not be construed as an admission of guilt, but intended to avoid litigation and bring about peace.

INTERCUT:

60C INT. MANNY & SAM'S FLAT. LIVING ROOM - DAY 60C

A tense Isaac sits on the sofa, staring at the Lyle Valiant poster on the floor. BEAT. He undoes his school tie - he doesn't feel like going school anymore.

60D INT. YONDER STARR FILMS. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY 60D

Brett slides over a non-disclosure agreement to the parents.

BRETT HUNTLEY

This is a non-disclosure agreement. You may be familiar with some elements of it from what Isaac signed before filming, agreeing to not reveal plot lines to the press, etcetera. But this one pertains to this video and my client's alleged actions.

MANNY

(realising what this is)

No, no - you won't silence us! You hear me?

BRETT HUNTLEY

We too will sign an agreement to ensure the complaint brought to our attention will not have an adverse effect on Isaac's chances of featuring in future movies.

Brett slides another agreement to the Manny and Sam.

MANNY

We don't care about future movies. We wanna know what you're gonna do about your boss! Eh? You hear me?
 (throws his hands up)
 He's not even listening.

BRETT HUNTLEY (CONT'D)

(ignores & continues)
 We'll amend Isaac's promo obligations meaning he won't now be contractually committed to do the full global press tour. However, we will need him to continue with what's been planned around the UK premiere, so as not to arouse suspicion from the media. We'll also ensure that Isaac and my client's paths will never cross again.

Brett takes the last agreement doc.

BRETT HUNTLEY (CONT'D)

And finally... we hope that this will in some way help bring closure for Isaac.

Brett slides the doc over. Manny refuses to look at it, preferring to glare at Brett. Sam glances down on the paper and then immediately puts her hand to her mouth and yelps. She starts to tremble. Worried, Manny glances at the paper. It states the family are being awarded £2,500,000.

BRETT HUNTLEY (CONT'D)

We will also need you to provide certification that Isaac has permanently deleted or destroyed any electronic or physical material pertaining to the alleged event.

Brett takes off the cap of a pen and slides it over to the parents.

BRETT HUNTLEY (CONT'D)

The sum offered only stands for the next five minutes.

61

INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - DAY, OCTOBER 2018

61

We PICK UP Manny at the counter, his hand bloody from squeezing the blade of his kitchen knife. Manny runs his index finger along the wound as...

INTERCUT:

62 **INT. YONDER STARR FILMS. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY, SEPT 2017** 62

... he runs his index finger under the sum being offered. Manny's dumbfounded.

BRETT HUNTLEY (O.S.)
 Again, this should not be construed as an admission of guilt. And note, if you breach your non-disclosure agreement, you will be sued. Not just to recoup the money paid but for substantial damages.

Manny scrutinises Brett and the figure as...

INTERCUT:

62A **INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. GARDEN - DAY, OCTOBER 2018** 62A

Isaac sits alone on the pool edge. There's sadness in his eyes.

62B **INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. MANNY & SAM'S BEDROOM - DAY, OCTOBER 2018**

Sam sits on her bed, overwhelmed with guilt.

63 **INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - DAY, OCTOBER 2018** 63

Manny's heart rate increases, his breathing now rapid and heavier - drowning out all the sounds around him. His soul screams "this is not right" "this is wrong" "this is like blood money", but this is not blood money - this is...

CUT TO BLACK:

CAPTION: DARK MONEY

FADE OUT.