

DARK MONEY

Created & Written by
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-- EPISODE THREE --
" All That Glitters... "

SHOOTING SCRIPT
08/11/18

1 **INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE - DAY** 1

Isaac bolts out of the kitchen and towards the stairs. Jess follows him out and tries to calm him down.

SUPER: JANUARY 2019

JESS
Isaac, wait! Let's talk.

ISAAC
People are gonna work out it was
me! They're gonna find out!
Everyone's going to know!

JESS
It'll be alright! It'll be alright!

Isaac sprints up the stairs. Jess goes after him.

2 **INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. OUTSIDE ISAAC'S BEDROOM - DAY** 2

Isaac's bedroom door slams shut just as Jess reaches it. She hears it being locked. An emotional Jess desperately knocks on the door.

JESS
Isaac, come on, open up... Please
Isaac?

2A **INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. ISAAC'S BEDROOM - DAY** 2A

Jess continues to call Isaac's name from the other side of the door as Isaac is on his laptop. He's on a Social Media website staring at the top ten *trending worldwide* list - Jotham Star's name is there. He clicks on the name. Post after post speculate '*who's the child actor Jotham abused?*' And there's one name that appears frequently... **Isaac Mensah.**

Isaac jolts away from his laptop. This is his worse nightmare.

CUT TO TITLES:

OPENING CREDITS **DARK MONEY**

FADE IN:

3 **INT. AVRIL ALLEN PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY (AAPAA). HALL - DAY**

An Ensemble of 14 to 16 year olds perform a dress rehearsal of ROMEO AND JULIET.

They're led by RUPERT (14, white) playing *Romeo* and HOLLY (precocious 13, white) playing *Juliet*.

Watching on from the stalls is the director and academy head AVRIL ALLEN (a young 70-year-old, white) and her guest - star pupil Isaac. He looks right at home.

4

INT. AAPAA. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE HALL - DAY

4

Manny walks next to a wall of photos of past productions as the dress rehearsal is heard in the background. Manny finds a photo of a young Jess and Isaac in action on stage. He smiles wistfully - 'simpler times'. Manny hears the rehearsal come to an end. Avril and Isaac are heard applauding and effusing. This is then followed by the sound of excited giggling and scampering feet.

A curious Manny drifts over to the entrance of the hall. He sees the Pupils rushing over to their coats on the stalls, grabbing their mobile phones and jostling to take selfies with Isaac.

5

INT. AAPAA. HALL - CONTINUOUS

5

Avril watches with pride as Isaac generously smiles for each selfie. Isaac spots that Holly isn't happy with the photo she took. He gives her a flirtatious smile and beckons her closer.

ISAAC

You can take another one.

Isaac puts his arm around her for the selfie. Holly blushes, she clearly fancies him.

6

INT. AAPAA. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE HALL - CONTINUOUS

6

CORDELIA ANDREWS (40, white) Isaac's agent, walks down the corridor towards Manny.

CORDELIA ANDREWS

Manny, sorry for keeping you waiting.

MANNY

Hey, no worries.
(nods to the hall)
I've been kept entertained.

CORDELIA ANDREWS

Shall we go to my office?

MANNY

It's okay.

Cordelia nods. She looks nervous.

MANNY (CONT'D)

Everything okay?

Cordelia gives Manny an apologetic smile. Manny looks anxious.

MANNY (CONT'D)

What is it?

CORDELIA ANDREWS

Valiant and Son. The sequel. The producers want to re-cast Isaac's role.

Manny's surprised by this.

CORDELIA ANDREWS (CONT'D)

I know this is not what you wanted to hear. The studio said they're keen to work with Isaac again and have offered an audition for a role in a teen comedy.

MANNY

Wait, forget about that new film for a moment. Did they say why they want to recast Isaac?

CORDELIA ANDREWS

With Lyle Valiant being three years older in the sequel they believe it's best to have an actor of similar age to play the role.

BEAT. Manny nods, he looks positive.

MANNY

Isaac will be relieved.

Cordelia now looks surprised.

MANNY (CONT'D)

Isaac's all about his education right now. He's conscious about how much time off school he's had over the years. And next year he'll be taking his GCSEs.

CORDELIA ANDREWS
(disappointed)
Of course, I understand. And it's
right that Isaac takes the time now
to focus on his education.

MANNY
Yeah, but... erm... to be honest...
I'm not sure if after he's finished
he'll want to return to acting.

Cordelia's hit by this news.

CORDELIA ANDREWS
Does Isaac want to quit?

Manny stands awkwardly, not wanting to lie, but not wanting
his son to remain in acting. Cordelia takes his silence as
confirmation. Perplexed and saddened she looks into the hall
where jovial laughter is being led by Isaac, who's perched on
the edge of the stage.

CORDELIA ANDREWS (CONT'D)
I don't know what to say. He
doesn't look like someone that
wants to quit.

MANNY
That's because he's an actor.

7 **INT. AAPAA. HALL - DAY**

7

Manny and Cordelia watch from the corridor as Isaac takes
questions from the Ensemble. The most enthusiastic pupil with
their hand raised is Holly.

AVRIL
Yes, Holly.

Holly gets bashful as she asks her question.

HOLLY
Two questions - what's it like
being away filming for so long and
two...
(cheeky grin)
Can I have a part in the Valiant
and Son sequel?

The Ensemble laugh as Avril gives Holly a look of warning.

AVRIL

Isaac, you may disregard the second part of her question.

ISAAC

Ah, I loved it out there. I was living the dream...

Isaac then remembers Jotham. He masks with -

ISAAC (CONT'D)

But it can be a bit lonely.. but at the end of the day I could jump on FaceTime and catch up with my family and that, so... yeah.

Avril chooses another student TIA (14, black).

AVRIL

Tia?

TIA

Because you were spending a lot of time on your own, how safe was it out there?

Some groans from her fellow students. She defends herself to them.

TIA (CONT'D)

I think Hollywood's alright, but my mum keeps talking about all those actresses that have come out and said bad things...

Tia lists some examples she's heard as the students disagree with her. As Isaac watches he loses his zest and looks nervous... as does Manny.

Avril silences the group and advises on what she perceives is too mature a subject for her students.

AVRIL

Well Tia, these things happen in all walks of life - not just Hollywood. And if we were all to stop taking on new endeavours because of the fear that something bad would happen, then no one would leave their home.

Avril looks at Isaac to agree. He stutters.

ISAAC
Yeah... yeah.

Isaac shrugs, not wanting to add anymore.

Manny quietly exhales - relieved at Isaac's brevity.

8 **INT. CASTING STUDIO. WAITING AREA - DAY**

8

Chiseled, tanned and contoured 18 to 28-year-olds wait to be called for their reality show audition.

In the middle of them is Jess.

CASTING ASSISTANT
Jess Mensah?

JESS
Yeah, that's me.

9 **INT. CASTING SUITE - DAY**

9

Casting for a reality show. Jess sits on her own in the middle of the large room. A camera on a tripod stands a couple of metres away. Way behind this sit the Producers. There's a live feed from the camera to a monitor on their desk. The lead Producer TRISH (38, white) speaks -

TRISH
Hello Jess, I'm Trish, one of the producers of this year's *Shacked Up: Ibiza*.

Jess tries to talk around the camera tripod to Trish.

JESS
Hi Trish!

TRISH
If you can look directly into the camera lens, we can see you here on our monitor.

JESS
Oh, okay.

Jess conducts the rest of her exchange towards the camera.

TRISH

We're gonna play a quick game called 'one minute' where I'll ask you a series of questions - for one minute - and you'll have to answer them as quickly as you can. Okay?

JESS

Sure.

TRISH

Great, let's begin.

A Producer starts a timer. Jess answers the questions quickly and with as much charisma as she can muster.

TRISH (CONT'D)

Where were you born?

JESS

London.

TRISH

Favourite colour?

JESS

Yellow.

TRISH

Favourite food?

JESS

Um, anything with Avocado.

TRISH

How many people you slept with?

Jess is shocked by this question - where did that come from? She smiles through the awkwardness, looking away from the camera.

TRISH (CONT'D)

Answer to the camera please.

JESS

(looking at camera /
reluctant)

Er... three.

TRISH

Favourite position?

Jess's smile wobbles. She struggles to maintain eye contact with the camera.

JESS
I dunno... I... dunno...

TRISH
Missionary, doggie style?

Jess looks appalled by the question. The Producers wait for her answer.

JESS
I'm not answering that.

Trish and her team aren't impressed. She trawls through Jess's application while asking monotonously.

TRISH
Rock or RnB?

JESS
RnB.

TRISH
I thought so. Beyonce or Rihanna?

Jess is relieved at the more casual question.

JESS
Oh, erm, Rihan- no Beyonce.

TRISH
What makes you angry?

JESS
Um, people spitting in public.

Trish finds something in Jess's application and smiles deviously.

TRISH
Any siblings?

JESS
Um, yeah. One brother... oh, and one half brother.

TRISH
Who do your parents love more?

JESS
What?... Er, sorry, I'm not answering that.

TRISH
Who gets more attention from the
opposite sex?

JESS
(getting annoyed)
I'm not answering that.

TRISH
(persists)
Who gets more attention from the
same sex?

JESS
This is dumb. I'm not doing this!

Jess gets up. Trish looks amused and winds Jess up with -

TRISH
You still got 21 seconds to go.

Jess gives Trish a middle finger and storms out.

9A **INT. CASTING STUDIO. WAITING AREA - DAY**

9A

A depressed Jess leaves the casting room and avoids eye contact with the eager auditionees waiting for their turn to impress.

10 **I/E. RYAN'S CAR / ISAAC'S HOUSE - DAY**

10

Ryan's car pulls up beside Manny's old VW, with Sam in the passenger seat (her extensions have gone and her appearance is more humble). Ryan sees she's hesitant to get out. He encourages her -

RYAN
You and Manny have been through
stuff before... whatever it is
you'll work it out.

Sam looks uncomfortable as she observes the big house.

SAM
It's not just Manny...

Sam stops herself from going any further. Ryan leans closer with concern.

RYAN
You can tell me.

Sam gives him a look of appreciation... and gets out of the car. Ryan gets she's not ready to talk.

Sam heads for the boot but before she can open it Ryan sprints out the driver's side and grabs hold of the boot, stopping her.

RYAN (CONT'D)
Ah-ah-ah. I've got this Milady.

Ryan gets Sam's luggage out of the boot. Sam smiles with gratitude.

SAM
Thanks for picking me up from the station.

RYAN
I'm offended you didn't let me pick you up from the convention.

SAM
What? Don't be daft. Birmingham's miles away.

RYAN
(playful)
It's alright Samantha. Keep batting away my kindness.

Ryan picks up her luggage and heads for the doorstep. Sam gets self-aware.

SAM
Ryan, it's fine.

Ryan ignores and continues. Sam follows Ryan to the doorstep and gives him a kiss on the cheek.

SAM (CONT'D)
Thanks again.

RYAN
You're welcome Milady.

Sam goes to unlock the front door.

RYAN (CONT'D)
Say hello to Mi-Manny.

Sam suppresses a smirk as she playfully points a warning finger at Ryan to stop.

11 **INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE - DAY** 11

Sam pulls her luggage into the house and shuts the door. The house is silent. She takes a breath and then calmly calls -

SAM
Hello?

BEAT. Shuffling is heard from the kitchen. The door opens - out comes Maggie. She uses a crutch to aid her walking because of an injured ankle.

MAGGIE
Hello Sam. How was your business trip?

Sam's stress levels spike.

12 **I/E. MANNY'S PORSCHE / ISAAC'S STREET - DAY** 12

Manny drives home. Isaac's on his mobile, viewing Holly's social media page. On it is a new post of a photo of himself posing with Holly and the other AAPAA students.

Manny anxiously glances at his son a few times as he builds confidence to say-

MANNY
Cordelia gave me an update with what's happening with the Valiant and Son sequel.

ISAAC
Yeah, and?

MANNY
They're... gonna re-cast your character.

This gets Isaac's fully attention. Manny smiles warmly.

MANNY (CONT'D)
Good news right? You never have to deal with that film again.

Isaac looks at his father in disbelief... that then turns into anger. Manny's oblivious as he drives.

MANNY (CONT'D)
Plus you can focus on your education. Get your grades back up to where -

ISAAC
They're re-casting me and that's
'good news'?

Manny looks extremely awkward - didn't expect this reaction.

MANNY
Not 'good' no, you're right. I
shouldn't say that -

ISAAC
That was my role! I'm Lyle Valiant!

Isaac puts his head in his hands - stressed.

MANNY
Well, with everything that's
happened, I didn't think you'd want
to go back.

ISAAC
Did you tell Cordelia that?

MANNY
(struggles)
I didn't say that - but I did
mention about school -

Isaac slams his hand on the dashboard several times.

MANNY (CONT'D)
Oi!

ISAAC
You had no right! It's my career!
That was my role!

MANNY	ISAAC (CONT'D)
And it's my role to raise	You let them take it from me!
you!	You don't care about <u>me</u> !

MANNY
How dare you! Course I care!

ISAAC
Just shut up yeah? I don't wanna
hear anymore.

MANNY
(stunned)
Who do you think you're talking to?

ISAAC
Just shut up and drive!

Manny grips the steering wheel tightly. He can't discipline Isaac - he hasn't got the moral ground to stand on. He keeps his eyes forward on the road as Isaac eyeballs him.

13

INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - DAY

13

Sam empties a suitcase of some of her baking equipment. Maggie browses through a baking trade show magazine that Sam attended. She tries to befriend Sam, but she's not interested.

MAGGIE

Did you have fun?

SAM

I wasn't there to have fun.

MAGGIE

I mean... did you make any business contacts?

SAM

Yep.

BEAT. Maggie changes tact.

MAGGIE

Are you hungry? I can make you something to eat?

SAM

(composed)

Maggie - why are you here?

MAGGIE

(slightly embarrassed)

I was hoovering my place... and I fell over the wire. I felt fine after I left the hospital but your husband insisted I stay here until I am more mobile.

Sam exhales and gathers her things to leave the room.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Sam?

Sam reluctantly turns around. Maggie talks sympathetically -

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

I hope I am not speaking out of place but... why don't you and Emmanuel go for counselling?

SAM
We're fine, thanks.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
For the past year I have seen
a dangerous deterioration
between you two.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
You know, I've had experience in
counselling people. I spent many
years on wards, sitting at the foot
of patients' beds, hearing them
speak about their regrets,
mistakes, fears -

SAM
I don't want to talk about my
marriage.

MAGGIE
Okay, well then let me tell you
about mine.

Sam sighs.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
About how pretending everything was
okay allowed Emmanuel's father to
'play the fool' with another woman.
You know what his father said when
we separated?

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
He said 'I didn't know you
cared'. Because I was silent.
Because I buried my head in
the sand.

SAM
(being polite)
Please Maggie, I don't want
to know about your personal
life.

Sam's heads for the exit. A sad Maggie calls to her -

MAGGIE
Whatever the problem, you can
overcome it. You've survived your
own husband 'playing the fool' with
that Sabrina.

Sam halts, Maggie's comment hit a nerve. Without looking back
she nods to acknowledge what was said... and also with a
touch of gratitude... then exits.

14 **EXT. JESS'S HOME - DAY** 14

A downbeat Jess reaches her doorstep. She gets her keys, goes to put them into the lock but they slip from her hand and crash to the floor. She curses under her breath as she retrieves her keys and finally opens the door.

As Jess enters we see an observer across the road, watching from the driver seat of their car... It's Dominic.

15 **INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE - DAY** 15

Manny enters with Isaac, who's in a foul mood. They're then startled by Sam standing at the foot of the stairs. She greets them with a warm smile.

SAM

Hi.

Manny awkwardly acknowledges.

MANNY

Hi... When did you get back?

SAM

About forty-five minutes ago. Ryan gave me a lift from the station.

MANNY

(miffed)

Oh... you could've tried me.

SAM

I thought you'd be at work.

MANNY

I wasn't. I had to take Isaac to Avril Allen's.

Sam's not going to be drawn into an argument and so turns her attention to Isaac, expecting a 'hello'. Instead he just nods and heads upstairs. Sam's not impressed. She shoots a look at Manny for answers. He diverts -

MANNY (CONT'D)

How was the trade show?

Sam's irritated by Manny ignoring her question and so goes after Isaac.

16 OMITTED 16

17

INT. A SCHOOL CHANGING ROOM - DAY

17

Tyrone sits on a bench as around him boys are getting changed into their school's football kit. His mobile vibrates from a call from Isaac. Tyrone answers and talks quietly while making sure he doesn't get caught by his Coach.

TYRONE

Yes brudda?

ISAAC (V.O.)

You at home yet?

TYRONE

Nah, got football match.

ISAAC (V.O.)

(disappointed)

Oh.

TYRONE

Was you gonna come 'round? I'll
bell you when I'm done.

ISAAC (V.O.)

(trying to be casual)

It's cool. Have a good match, yeah?

The call ends. Tyrone wonders for a moment if his brother is okay then continues getting changed for his match.

18

EXT. JESS'S HOME - DAY

18

The doorbell rings. Feet are heard coming downstairs - the latch unlocks - the door is opened by Jess. She stands in the doorframe staring at who rang the doorbell - Dominic.

DOMINIC

Hi there.

JESS

(cautious)

Hi.

DOMINIC

My name's Dominic Nadesan. I'm an
investigative journalist.

Dominic hands her his business card.

JESS

(super cautious)

Okay.

DOMINIC
Sorry to bother you like this, but
I wanted to ask a few questions
about your brother.

JESS
(defensive)
What? Nah, no thank you.

Jess goes to close the door but is stopped by -

DOMINIC
I'm researching into your brother's
time on the set of Valiant and Son.

Jess pauses with curiosity over the 'serious investigation'
comment. She scrutinises Dominic.

DOMINIC (CONT'D)
It'll be best if I come inside.

Jess shakes off her curiosity and again turns cautious.

JESS
I don't think so. Jog on.

Jess closes the door on Dominic.

19

INT. ISAAC'S BEDROOM - DAY

19

Sam sits beside Isaac on his bed. There's an awkward silence.

SAM
You know, you can talk to me.

Isaac looks uninterested.

SAM (CONT'D)
I know a lot of time has passed and
you've grown... but memories might
still linger...

ISAAC
(challenges)
What memories?

Sam struggles to answer without being on the nose about the
abuse. Isaac seizes on this.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Maybe it's you that needs to talk
to someone.
(MORE)

ISAAC (CONT'D)

The only problem I've got is you
and dad controlling my life.

Sam looks puzzled. She again approaches delicately.

SAM

Is there a specific issue you want
to talk about?

ISAAC

Yeah. Dad stopping me from acting.

Sam looks surprised to hear this.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

That's why we were at Avril
Allen's. He was there trying to
kill my career.

SAM

He wouldn't do that.

ISAAC

Yeah? So why ain't I in the next
Valiant and Son film?

SAM

(shocked)

They're doing another one?

ISAAC

Don't try it. You knew about the
sequel and you and dad pulled me
out of it!

SAM

Isaac, I swear to you I didn't know
about a sequel. I had nothing to do
with you being replaced.

Not believing, Isaac heads into his en suite. Sam gives him a
moment then follows.

20

INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. ISAAC'S EN SUITE - CONTINUOUS

20

Sam enters and sees a defeated Isaac running water in the
basin. He splashes water on his face over and over again,
causing the area to get wet. Sam comes over and turns off the
tap. Isaac grabs his towel and hangs it over his head as he
drys his face, ensuring Sam can't see his tears.

ISAAC

I've flopped, innit?

Sam's hurt to hear Isaac talk like this.

SAM

What? No.

ISAAC

Everyone's gonna say I got replaced
because I was rubbish.

Sam puts a tender arm around her son.

SAM

No one will say that.

ISAAC

They will.

Sam pulls the towel off Isaac's head.

SAM

You were amazing as the young Lyle
Valiant. Now someone else is
playing an older version. People
will get it.

Isaac exhales, frustrated that his mum doesn't 'get it'.

SAM (CONT'D)

Would it help if we talked to
Cordelia, so you can hear it from
her?

Isaac shrugs dismissively and goes back into his bedroom.

21

INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. GYM - NIGHT

21

A sweaty Manny is going hard on the bench press. A knock on the door takes him out of his zone. He groans.

MANNY

Yes?

Sam enters with purpose, but then looks hesitant. The two regard each other. BEAT. Manny assumes he knows why she's here.

MANNY (CONT'D)

My mum had a fall so she's staying
here so I can watch over her.

SAM

I'm not here to talk about your
mum.

Sam gives Manny a stare - he immediately knows it's about Isaac. He steels himself.

SAM (CONT'D)
Isaac tells me you had a meeting
with Cordelia about his future -
without me?

MANNY
You weren't around, so -

Manny shrugs. Sam's not impressed by his response.

SAM
He says you were trying to pull him
out of acting.

MANNY
Cordelia was just informing me that
Isaac's going to be replaced for
the next Valiant and Son film.

Sam looks at Manny with suspicion.

MANNY (CONT'D)
I thought you'd be happy?

SAM
Isaac thinks he's failed! That he's
blown his career! How can I be
happy at that?

Manny looks confused.

MANNY
I don't get you two.

SAM
Of course you don't. You never
have!

MANNY
Look, I'm just trying to do the
best for Isaac. He starts his GCSEs
next year. I'm not allowing
anything to disrupt that.

SAM
He needs more than his education.
He needs our support. He needs to
be able to talk to us.

MANNY
I talk to him all the time.

SAM

But are you really listening to him? He's not happy.

MANNY

I disagree. I see a strong young man, who's left the past behind and is proving everyone wrong!

SAM

Doesn't mean he's forgotten or isn't still affected by what happened!

MANNY

You need to let what happened go.

SAM

How can I when you've forced me to live a lie!

Sam's had enough and leaves. Manny watches her go.

22 **I/E. MANNY'S PORSCHE / ISAAC'S HOUSE - NIGHT** 22

The Porsche pulls out of the drive. Sam cranks up some music in an attempt to drown out her thoughts.

As she drives she notices the moon, it shines brightly tonight, as if putting a 'spotlight' on her and asking the question - 'how long will you continue to live this lie?'

23 **EXT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. GARDEN - NIGHT** 23

Manny stands at the edge of the pool and stares at, desperate to wash away his pain and his *sins*. He dives into the pool.

Unbeknownst to Manny, Isaac is watching him from a window on the upstairs landing.

24 **INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. UPSTAIRS - CONTINUOUS** 24

Isaac watches his dad swim, still angry with him for not fighting for his acting career.

Isaac gets a thought, turns from the window and hurries downstairs.

25 INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. GARAGE - NIGHT 25

Isaac creeps inside and goes over to Manny's fridge and opens it. He takes a bottle of beer and stuffs it in his trouser pocket and hurries out of the room.

26 EXT. JESS'S FLAT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 26

Jess sits curled on the sofa staring at Dominic's card, worried and curious as to what he is investigating.

The doorbell rings, startling her a little.

27 INT. JESS'S HOME - NIGHT 27

Jess cautiously opens her front door... and then is surprised to see her mum.

Evening. SAM

Oh, hi. JESS

Jess and Sam share an awkward smile.

28 INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - NIGHT 28

Isaac peeks through the door, making sure the room is empty. He then light foots it to the kitchen cabinets. He sees his father is now sat with his back to him on the edge of the pool and wonders what Manny is thinking.

Isaac reaches his destination - a cabinet containing medication. He quickly searches... then finds what he's looking for - a packet of pills.

29 INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE - NIGHT 29

Isaac slips out of the kitchen and jogs towards the staircase, but is met by Maggie. She holds a plastic bag with a pack of nuts in it. Isaac puts his hands in his pockets to mask the beer bottle and the blister pack of pills.

MAGGIE
Oh Isaac, would you like some
cashew nuts?

ISAAC
No thanks Grandma.

MAGGIE
There's plenty here.

Isaac hurries towards the staircase.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
They'll be in the kitchen if you
change your mind!

Maggie smiles to herself at Isaac rushing away - 'teenagers'.

30 **INT. ISAAC'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

30

Isaac enters and quickly locks the door. He grabs his mobile and resumes a Whatsapp conversation he is having with Holly.

As he does he gets a bottle opener from inside his socks drawer. On his mobile screen:

Isaac: *Where u now?*

Holly: *In my bedroom?*

Isaac: *Snap! Wanna FaceTime?*

Holly: *k*

A deviant smirk comes across his face. He pops a couple of pills and washes down with beer.

31 **INT. JESS'S FLAT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

31

Jess brings over a bottle of wine and a single mug. She pours wine into it for her mum.

SAM
You sure about applying for reality
shows?

JESS
I'm broadening my options.

Sam tries her hardest not to look disappointed.

SAM
But... all those years at Avril
Allen... to end up on what, Love
Island?

JESS

What about all those years at Avril
Allen, to end up studying flippin'
Media? How does that make sense?

SAM

(peacemaker)

Alright, alright.

Awkward BEAT. Sam diverts things to the wine.

SAM (CONT'D)

You not having one?

JESS

(shakes her head)

Got another audition tomorrow.

Sam thinks to herself then shudders.

JESS (CONT'D)

What?

SAM

Just imagining what it would be
like if you did get onto one of
those shows. They're brutal you
know? Suppose they make you out to
be a bitch?

JESS

Don't worry, I've got a game plan.
Plus *Black Twitter* will have my
back.

Sam and Jess chuckle... Jess's laughter turns into whimper.
Sam looks concerned.

SAM

Was it something I said?

Jess shakes her head. She looks ashamed.

SAM (CONT'D)

Talk to me.

BEAT. Jess glances at the mug and raises a depressed smile.

JESS

My little brother bought you a
house and I can't even give you a
proper glass to drink from.

Sam puts an arm around Jess and comforts her.

JESS (CONT'D)

Even look at the parts he got at
Avril Allen. Simba, Aladdin, Oliver
Twist...

SAM

Darling, don't compare
yourself with Isaac.

JESS (CONT'D)

... then look at the parts I
got.

(gives up)

He's always been a better
actor. I get why you love him
more.

SAM

Don't say that.

JESS

Alright - 'like' him more, 'prefer'
him more.

SAM

Look, your father and I love
you both equally.

JESS (CONT'D)

He's had this huge success
and what have I done? Just
rejection and failure,
rejection and failure -

Sam tries to hold Jess tight but Jess pulls away, wanting to
be alone.

JESS (CONT'D)

You don't need to do that. Look...
you can go.

SAM

I don't want to.

Jess folds her arms and looks away, waiting for Sam to follow
her wishes. Sam feels guilty for Jess feeling this way.

SAM (CONT'D)

Jess, you're being unfair on
yourself. Not everything is as it
seems with Isaac.

Jess remains in her stance, uninterested.

SAM (CONT'D)

And... what you think is success,
well... It isn't -
(ashamed)
It's all a lie.

A curious Jess glances at her mum. Sam cannot lie anymore.

SAM (CONT'D)
Something happened while Isaac was
filming... H-he w-was abused on
set... and... the film company paid
us t-to keep silent.

Jess is in shock and total disbelief. Sam's flooded with
guilt and shame -

SAM (CONT'D)
The house... the car... the
clothes... everything... it's all
been paid for by the money.

Jess looks horrified.

32

INT. ISAAC'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

32

Isaac is now topless in front of his laptop, in a FaceTime
call with Holly. He nervously asks -

ISAAC
Hey... you like what you see?

Holly gasps at seeing Isaac topless and avoids looking at his
torso. Isaac smirks, knowing full well what he is doing.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
You gonna leave me here getting
cold?

Holly doesn't understand. Isaac gestures for her to take off
her top. She smiles nervously.

HOLLY (V.O.)
I can't.

ISAAC
Why not?

HOLLY (V.O.)
Doesn't feel right.

ISAAC
But it's my birthday soon.

HOLLY (V.O.)
When's your birthday?

ISAAC
Next month.

Holly giggles dismissively, frustrating Isaac. He increases the pressure.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
When I hook you up with Hollywood's
top casting directors you're gonna
have to do more than this.

HOLLY (V.O.)
(concerned)
Really?

ISAAC
Yeah. Like suppose you had to do a
screen test for a film where you
have to sleep with someone. You'd
have to show what you're working
with first, before you get the
part.

As Holly absorbs this Isaac piles on even more pressure.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Don't you want to make it in
Hollywood?

HOLLY (V.O.)
Yeah.

ISAAC
(gestures to her top)
Then come Babes. It's just me.

We stay on Isaac as he focuses on Holly's reluctant actions. His eyes widen with satisfaction as he gets his wish. Then through the laptop Isaac hears -

HOLLY'S DAD (V.O.)
(horrified)
Holly? What the hell are you
doing?... Who's that?

Isaac immediately closes his laptop. His heart pounds, fearful Holly's Dad saw him.

33

INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - DAY

33

Sam sits nervously in her dressing gown, knowing she needs to tell Manny about confessing to Jess. Manny comes in. He's dressed for work. He grabs a cold cup of coffee that's on the counter.

SAM
Is Isaac ready for school yet?

MANNY
Not sure.

SAM
(re: coffee)
Do you want me to warm that up?

MANNY
(checks time - he's
running late)
Nah, it's alright... But thanks.

Manny grimaces as he downs the cold coffee. As he drinks -

SAM
Can I have a quick word before you
go... Um, last night I caught up
with Jess -

A sprightly Maggie enters.

MAGGIE
Good morning!

MANNY
Morning.

Sam quietly exhales with frustration. Manny waits for her to continue. The noise of Maggie filling up the kettle further annoys Sam.

SAM
We'll talk later.

34

EXT. ST JUDE'S SECONDARY SCHOOL - DAY

34

Isaac rides towards the main entrance. Just as he gets near he sees a familiar face across the road - Jess. He looks surprised and confused to see her here. She beckons him and he rides over to her.

ISAAC
What you doing here?

Jess grabs her brother and hugs him tightly. Isaac sees some pupils watching and gets embarrassed. He carefully peels his sister off.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
'Llow it Jess, man.

Jess smiles warmly at him.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
You alright?

Jess nods and just stares lovingly at her brother. He gets worried.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
You're freaking me out.

JESS
(playing casual)
I was in the area... thought I'd
pass by... how often do we get to
see each other?

Isaac nods and relaxes a little.

JESS (CONT'D)
Everything alright?

ISAAC
(shrugs lethargically)
Yeah... Just tired.

The distant sound of the school pips for the start of classes is heard. Isaac looks at Jess apologetically.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
I can't be late again.

Jess nods with understanding and hugs him once more. As she pulls away Isaac can see she's desperate to ask him something... But she can't do. She playfully orders him to -

JESS
You best get to school!

Isaac smiles warmly and cycles away. Jess exhales at failing to address why she was here. She watches her brother ride into school. Seeing him maturely getting on with life moves her... however she needs answers.

35

INT. ULC CINEMA. FOYER - DAY

35

Manny empties 'fresh' popcorn into the popcorn counter. Farah approaches him.

FARAH
Boss, you've got a visitor!

Manny looks over and sees Jess following behind Farah. He's pleasantly surprised.

MANNY

Hey princess! What you doing here?

Jess gives her dad a cold stare. Manny looks concerned.

MANNY (CONT'D)

What's happened?

JESS

You know what happened... the lies... the money... Isaac.

Manny's eyes widen with panic - Jess knows.

36

EXT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. GARDEN - DAY

36

Sam is on her mobile to Cordelia.

SAM

To be honest Cordelia being dropped from Valiant and Son came as a huge shock for Isaac. He's devastated...

Sam hears the doorbell. She goes to see who it is.

Maggie, who's in the kitchen, sees Sam is busy on the phone. She gestures warmly to Sam to stay in the garden and mouths "I'll get it" then heads to the front door. Sam continues her mobile conversation.

SAM (CONT'D)

Well, Isaac's a little bruised by everything so it's better we all meet up...

(feels slightly irked)

I know what his father said but...

(surprised)

What teen comedy?... No, he didn't mention that...

(furious with Manny)

Let's get something in the diary ASAP.

There's a knock on the kitchen window. Sam turns and is horrified to see Maggie standing next to a drawn Cheryl Denon.

37

INT. ULC CINEMA. CINEMA SCREEN 1 - DAY

37

Manny and Jess sit on stage with the cinema screen behind them. Jess eyeballs her dad, waiting for answers while he stares into the empty auditorium. His mind races, trying to figure out how to respond. Jess gets impatient.

JESS
I'm waiting.

MANNY
It's a very complicated situation.

JESS
TELL ME THE TRUTH!

Manny covers Jess's mouth to quieten her. She shoves his hand away. Manny now trembles uncontrollably. She looks sickened.

JESS (CONT'D)
So you and mum took money - to stay
quiet - about what Jotham Starr did
to Isaac?

Manny hangs his head in a lowly manner as he corrects -

MANNY
He made Isaac do things to him - he
didn't do things to Isaac.

JESS
What difference does that make?

Manny hangs his head in shame. Jess looks disgusted.

JESS (CONT'D)
Didn't you even try to tell the
police or something?

MANNY
We looked into pressing charges,
but it would've meant Isaac having
to go to America, stand in court
and go through the events over and
over again.

JESS
So, you preferred to get paid
instead?

MANNY
No!... I thought this route would
be the quickest way to end
things...

(MORE)

MANNY (CONT'D)
so that Isaac wouldn't go through
any more pain.
(pleads)
But I'm-I'm gonna put the house on
the market. I'm gonna sell the
Porsche...

JESS
It's not about all of that! You've
let this man get away with it!

Manny's heartbroken to see his daughter disappointed in him.

JESS (CONT'D)
But I can't.

A determined Jess gets up. Manny tries to hold onto her...

MANNY
Jess, please -

... but she shrugs him off.

JESS
No, that's my little brother! I'm
not letting Jotham Starr get away
with it!

Manny watches her go, wondering what she intends to do.

38 **EXT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. GARDEN - DAY**

38

Sam glares at a contrite Cheryl.

SAM
I have nothing to say to you.

CHERYL DENON
I apologise if I've come at a bad
time. I did try to call.

SAM
I know you did, but I don't want to
speak to you.

Cheryl nods with understanding.

CHERYL DENON
Is Isaac home?

SAM
Nope.

CHERYL DENON

Manny?

SAM

No, now what do you want?

CHERYL DENON

(takes a breath)

I know Isaac not being recast in the sequel to Valiant and Son would have come as a huge shock.

SAM

(cold)

It was.

Cheryl nods then defends herself -

CHERYL DENON

I wasn't involved in the decision process... Once I heard a sequel had been greenlit I tried to get the studio to better protect Isaac from Jotham. Their answer was to replace Isaac. And so... I handed in my notice.

Cheryl looks at Sam, she feels morally healthier. However she's met by an unsympathetic glare.

CHERYL DENON (CONT'D)

Okay... I'll make my way out... but again, I just wanted to apologise from the bottom of my heart for failing your son.

Sam examines Cheryl. She seems 100% honest, but Sam's in no mood to forgive.

SAM

Feeling better now, yeah? Go on, skip away and live the rest of your life guilt-free! Isaac will be alright. He'll just have to deal with your failures for the rest of his life.

CHERYL DENON

(reassures)

No... I'll be carrying my mistakes to the grave.

Cheryl's frankness moves Sam. Cheryl heads for the kitchen.

SAM

How did you let it happen?

Cheryl turns around remorsefully.

CHERYL DENON

You're not the only one to regret
signing an NDA with Jotham.

Sam looks surprised at this. She never thought Cheryl would
have signed an NDA.

SAM

And this other kid? Whoever gets to
play Isaac's role, aren't you
scared for them?

CHERYL DENON

(powerless)

There's nothing I can do.

SAM

(furious)

Oh, come on! Are you gonna let this
guy continue to do what he's doing?

An ashamed Cheryl flees to the kitchen to leave.

CHERYL DENON

I'm sorry.

SAM

Really Cheryl? After everything
that's happened, you're burying
your head in the sand? Is that the
best you can do?

Sam sees her mobile vibrating from a call from Manny. She
answers it, still heated from her conversation with Cheryl.

SAM (CONT'D)

Hello?

INTERCUT:

38A **INT. ULC CINEMA. MANAGER'S OFFICE - DAY**

38A

An angered Manny talks to Sam on his mobile.

MANNY

You told Jess about Isaac?

Sam's caught off.

SAM

... Yeah.

MANNY

And you didn't think to discuss
this with me first?

SAM

I tried this morning, but your mum
came into the room.

MANNY

Leave my mum out of this.

SAM

I'm not bringing your mum into
this!

MANNY

Look, what we gonna do? Cos Jess is
extremely pissed off and wants to
do something about it.

SAM

I don't blame her for being pissed
off. I'm pissed off too!

MANNY

What, with me?

Sam stays intentionally silent. Manny takes this as a yes. He
doesn't want to talk anymore...

MANNY (CONT'D)

I'll see you when I get home.

... and abruptly ends the call.

39 **OMITTED**

39

40 **INT. SABRINA'S HOUSE. TYRONE'S BEDROOM - DAY**

40

Tyrone has a gaming headset on as he plays a *shoot 'em up*
game on his console. Isaac (in school uniform) goes through
social media pages on his mobile. On his wall is an official
Valiant & Son film poster.

ISAAC

If you saw how this girl was on
man. I could've told her to jump
off a cliff and she would of.

Tyrone doesn't hear, he's too engrossed in his game. Isaac's annoyed at having to share Tyrone's attention so waves Holly's social media profile in his face. This blocks Tyrone's gaming vision causing his character to die.

TYRONE
Isaac, man!

ISAAC
She's got friends. I'm sure they're all easy too. Light work, bruv!

TYRONE
(surprised by Isaac)
Where's this *playa* come from?

Isaac smirks. Sabrina knocks the door and enters.

SABRINA
Isaac, I'm making curried chicken, is that alright?

ISAAC
Yeah...

Isaac rubs his temples and squints.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Do you have anything for headaches?

The doorbell rings.

SABRINA
Let me quickly see who that is and I'll bring you something.

Sabrina hurries out the room. Tyrone screws his face at his mum giving Isaac special treatment.

41 **INT. SABRINA'S HOUSE - DAY**

41

Sabrina opens the door and sees Manny. He looks troubled.

SABRINA
Hey. You okay?

MANNY
Yeah, yeah.
(smells the food aroma)
Mmm that smells good.

Sabrina lets Manny in and reports -

SABRINA

Isaac says he has a little headache
but hopefully he should be alright.

MANNY

Course he'll be alright.

SABRINA

Just letting you know.

(jests)

In case you have to inform his
celebrity doctor or something.

MANNY

(playful)

Behave.

Sabrina hurries to the kitchen.

42

INT. SABRINA'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - NIGHT

42

Manny watches Isaac enter wearing one of Tyrone's baseball
caps. Tyrone follows, trying to take it off him.

TYRONE

You can take the blue one!

ISAAC

(holding Tyrone off)

Nah, I wanna borrow this one.

Isaac places a blister pack on the counter.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Thanks.

Sabrina nods and glances at the pack. It seems like much less
than what she expected to receive back.

The boys take their plates of food.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Have you got any chia seeds?

Tyrone playfully claps the back of Isaac's neck.

TYRONE

Stop being *bougie*!

As the boys trot out of the room Sabrina sees that Manny
looks sad.

SABRINA

What's with the frown?

Manny avoids eye contact.

SABRINA (CONT'D)

Manny?

Sabrina thinks it's Sam related. She teases -

SABRINA (CONT'D)

In trouble again?

MANNY

Sabrina...

Manny halts himself. Sabrina's curious as to what he's going to say.

SABRINA

Yes, that's my name.

MANNY

Things are not what it seems...
with Isaac.

Sabrina looks confused. Manny gives her eye contact. He looks intense.

MANNY (CONT'D)

There's something I need to tell
you.

Sabrina looks worried.

42A

INT. SABRINA'S HOUSE. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

42A

Isaac and Tyrone eat their dinner. Tyrone's really enjoying it, smacking his lips as he eats. Isaac observes with amusement. Tyrone clocks he's being watched.

TYRONE

What?

Isaac mimics Tyrone, exaggerating how he smacks his lips. Tyrone's offended. He elbows Isaac.

TYRONE (CONT'D)

I don't eat like that!

Isaac elbows him back...

ISAAC

Yes you do!

... causing Tyrone's fork to fall on the floor. Isaac laughs.
Tyrone groans.

TYRONE

What's wrong with you, man?

Tyrone picks up his fork and sees it's now dirty.

42B

INT. SABRINA'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - NIGHT

42B

A stressed Manny holds his head and Sabrina looks in shock.
He's told her about Jotham.

SABRINA

You need to expose that paedophile.

MANNY

(feeling fragile)

Please, I've already had Jess
shouting at me about this.

SABRINA

Something needs to be done!

MANNY

(snaps)

What don't you people get? It's not
that simple!

SABRINA

Have you thought about what Isaac
must think, seeing all these other
Hollywood types exposed but his
abuser is still walking free?

MANNY

If this got out it would destroy
Isaac!

SABRINA

But it's not Isaac's fault.

MANNY (CONT'D)

He doesn't need that kind of
attention. He couldn't handle
that. He's only 14!

SABRINA

No, you don't need that kind of
attention. You don't want people to
know about the money.

MANNY

Because it will ruin everyone's
life - even yours!

Sabrina's not buying this.

MANNY (CONT'D)

You'll be questioned by your
family, friends, work colleagues,
neighbours, the media - everyone
will be asking 'Where were you?'
'Why did you allow it?'

Manny and Sabrina are interrupted by the sound of knocking on
the kitchen door.

SABRINA

Yeah?

The door slowly opens. Tyrone enters holding his dirty fork.
He gives his parents a suspicious glance.

TYRONE

I dropped my fork.

Sabrina goes into the cutlery drawer and pulls out a fork.
Tyrone exchanges forks, gives his parents a final look then
leaves. Sabrina closes the door behind him. Manny and Sabrina
look worried, wondering what Tyrone has heard.

43 **INT. SABRINA'S HOUSE. OUTSIDE KITCHEN - NIGHT**

43

Tyrone slowly walks away from the kitchen, new fork in hand
puzzled and concerned about what he heard.

44 **INT. SABRINA'S HOUSE. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

44

Manny's fast asleep on Sabrina's sofa. Sabrina watches him,
happy he is getting some rest. Her thoughts then turn... she
watches him warmly... wishing he wasn't just visiting - but
staying. She takes a blanket and lovingly puts it over the
father of her child.

44A **INT. A COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT**

44A

Dominic sits working on his laptop. He feels a presence
standing over him. He looks up to see a nervous Jess. He's
delighted.

DOMINIC

Jess, thank you so much for coming.

Jess forgoes the pleasantries and gets straight to it.

JESS

I want you to destroy Jotham Starr.

Dominic's surprised at Jess's directness. He pulls out a chair beside him for Jess to sit, but she doesn't take it. She warns -

JESS (CONT'D)

You must protect my brother. Don't be putting his picture in the paper. Or mine, or my family's. You understand?

DOMINIC

That won't happen. Every day we run stories where we successfully hide the identity of contributors -

JESS

(interrupts)

I don't care about anyone else. I need you to swear to me or this ain't happening.

DOMINIC

Jess, my aim is to only expose the evil that producer has done, not Isaac.

Jess eyeballs Dominic. He responses sincerely -

DOMINIC (CONT'D)

I swear to you.

BEAT. Jess looks appeased. She takes a seat and instructs Dominic.

JESS

Now, this is what I want you to say...

45

INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. MANNY AND SAM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

45

Sam's in bed, on her laptop going through old photos of herself, Manny and their children. She receives a text from Isaac:

'i'm staying at Tyrone's'

Sam sighs and throws her mobile to the other side of the bed.

She goes back to the photos. One nostalgic photo raises a smile. It's of Manny dressed up as Father Christmas, with a cheerful Sam sat on his lap. A 5-year-old Isaac and an 11-year-old Jess watch on in hysterical laughter.

Sam turns to another photo from the same day, Manny still dressed as Father Christmas. This time he is handing out presents to Isaac... and a 5-year-old Tyrone. Kneeling beside him is Sabrina looking tickled pink.

Sam's smile fades. Her eyes go to herself in the background of the photo, where she's hiding her displeasure of Sabrina being there behind a glass of Baileys.

Sam recalls this day, remembering her unhappiness. Nine years later, she's still unhappy.

46

INT. SABRINA'S HOUSE. TYRONE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

46

Isaac lies in a sleeping bag on the floor as Tyrone gets into bed. He watches Isaac suspiciously as he tinkers on his mobile. His mind swirls with what he heard his parents talk about in relation to Isaac.

TYRONE

Oi?

ISAAC

Hmm?

TYRONE

... everything okay?

ISAAC

Huh?

TYRONE

Acting-wise. I heard dad talking to mum about stuff.

ISAAC

Oh -

(groans)

Dad, just wants me to quit acting.

TYRONE

(suspicious)

Why?

ISAAC

GCSEs.

Tyrone mulls over Isaac's answer... however that doesn't quite satisfy.

TYRONE

So... nothing else going on?

ISAAC

Nah. I'm just out here *living my best life*.

Tyrone continues to watch Isaac from his bed. He's not convinced.

47 **INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. MANNY AND SAM'S BEDROOM - DAY** 47

The next day. The shower in the en suite is heard running. Sam awakes on her bed. She fell asleep beside her open laptop. She glances at Manny's side of the bed and sees it's not been slept in. She's extremely unhappy.

48 **INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - DAY** 48

Sam sits at the table, waiting for Manny to come down. We hear Manny's feet coming towards the room. There's a PAUSE... then he enters. He pulls an insincere apologetic face.

MANNY

Morning. I fell asleep on Sabrina's sofa. But I dropped Isaac off at school, so everything's all good.

Sam watches Manny, shocked he thinks she will swallow this.

MANNY (CONT'D)

I would've called you if I was planning to stay, but I genuinely fell asleep.

SAM

On her sofa?

MANNY

Yeah.

Sam doesn't believe a word of this.

SAM

We got an important meeting with Cordelia this afternoon, so Isaac will need to leave school early.

MANNY
(surprised)
When was this arranged?

SAM
Yesterday. I would've told you then
but you decided to sleep with
Sabrina -
(pretends she made a
mistake)
I mean, sleep at Sabrina's.

Before Manny can fire back a bubbly Maggie enters, singing to herself.

MANNY
CAN YOU KNOCK?

MAGGIE
(taken aback)
Knock before entering the kitchen?

MANNY
Can't you see we're talking?

MAGGIE
How can I see that behind the door?

Maggie waves her hand at Manny dismissively and storms out at his rudeness. Sam shakes her head at Manny shouting at his mum. Manny turns his attention back to his wife.

MANNY
After all these years, you're still
holding-

SAM
(interrupts / furious)
Your fucking 14-year-old kid
reminds me everyday what you did!

Manny looks spent of ideas of how to tackle this subject.

MANNY
How many more years do I have to
say sorry?

Sam gives him a look of disdain.

SAM
I don't want your 'sorrys'. I don't
want anything from you. I've had it
with your lies and you trying to
control people.

MANNY

(scoffs)

Lies? Controlling people?

SAM

You didn't tell me or Isaac about that teen comedy audition.

MANNY

The last thing Isaac needs is to be involved in another film!

SAM

Says the man who got him involved in acting.

MANNY

Yeah, that's it, blame me. Because obviously you had no part to play.

SAM

Look, instead of making decisions behind Isaac's back why don't you try talking to him. And then supporting him with whatever he wants to do!

MANNY

Suppose he says he wants to do another film, we let him and then - oh - he gets abused again? Then what?

SAM

But now we know the potential dangers. We know what to look for. We can be there to protect him.

MANNY

(dismisses)

I'll be damned if I let him do another film! You hear me?

Sam's had enough. She gives up on Manny.

SAM

I don't want to do this anymore.

MANNY

Good, at least that's one thing we can agree on.

Manny and Sam come to an unfamiliar territory. They both look shaky.

MANNY (CONT'D)
Let's just get this Cordelia
meeting out the way, then...

Manny struggles to end his sentence, so Sam does it for him.

SAM
Go our separate ways?

MANNY
Yeah.

SAM
Good.

49 **INT. ST JUDE'S SECONDARY SCHOOL. BOYS TOILETS - DAY** 49

Isaac stands by the basin. He's on his mobile reading an entertainment website article that has an exclusive on the new Lyle Valiant.

Vexed, he grabs a packet of pills from his blazer pocket. He pops a couple of caplets in his mouth. He drinks from the tap and swallows. He looks unsatisfied and so pops three more into his mouth.

As he drinks from the tap again, his former mate Hayden enters. He looks concerned at seeing the empty blister packet on the basin. Isaac barks intimidatingly at him.

ISAAC
What?

HAYDEN
Didn't say anything.

ISAAC
You best not.

50 **EXT. ST JUDE'S SECONDARY SCHOOL - DAY** 50

Isaac exits through the school gates. He takes Tyrone's cap out of his school bag and puts it on. He then sees Manny's Porsche. Inside are his parents. Sam gives him a wave. Isaac doesn't respond and sombrely enters the car.

51 **EXT. AAPAA. CAR PARK - DAY** 51

Isaac's the first to get out of Manny's car, followed by Sam and Manny. The tension between them is palpable.

52

INT. AAPAA. CORDELIA'S OFFICE - DAY

52

Manny, Isaac and Sam take their seats in front of Cordelia, who gets distracted by Isaac's cap.

CORDELIA ANDREWS
Thank you all for coming in.

Sam spots Cordelia glancing at Isaac's cap.

SAM
Maybe you should take that off
inside.

She goes to take it off but Isaac blocks his mum's hand.

ISAAC
Don't touch my cap.

CORDELIA ANDREWS
(trying to divert things)
Isaac, how have you been?

Isaac jabs his fingers towards Cordelia.

ISAAC
Look, I don't care what these two
have been saying behind my back,
but I ain't quitting acting, I
ain't taking a break, I ain't
stopping!

MANNY
(rebuking) Isaac!

SAM
Don't talk to her like that!

Cordelia takes a measured approach to Isaac's outburst.

CORDELIA ANDREWS
Quite a greeting. We'll get to your
career later but first, I need to
talk to you and your parents about
Holly Maguire.

Isaac recoils. Manny and Sam are unfamiliar with the name.

CORDELIA ANDREWS (CONT'D)
Holly's parents informed me of a
video call you had with her -

ISAAC
(feeling aggrieved)
Ah, here we go.

Manny and Sam look bewildered. What is going on?

ISAAC (CONT'D)
What they saying?

SAM
What did you do?

ISAAC
What did *I* do? Why you coming at me?

MANNY
Isaac?

ISAAC
It's always *me*, innit!

SAM
(to Cordelia)
What happened?

CORDELIA ANDREWS
Holly's parents claim that Isaac forced their daughter into doing lewd acts during a video call -

ISAAC
That's bullshit, man!

SAM
Isaac!

ISAAC
There's no point me being here. You lot are gonna blame me whatever I say.

Isaac storms out.

MANNY
Isaac!
(to Cordelia)
Sorry.

Cordelia sees Sam is rooted to her seat.

SAM
Tell me exactly what he's meant to have done.

53 EXT. ISAAC'S HOUSE - DAY

53

Manny's Porsche arrives home. He exits with Sam escorting Isaac out of the car and into the house.

54 INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

54

Manny's stunned to see an emotionally bruised Maggie standing with her suitcase and handbag.

MAGGIE

Emmanuel, help me take my luggage outside. The cab man will be here any minute.

MANNY

What? Where you going?

MAGGIE

I thought being here I could have helped both of you. But instead you threw my offer back in my face.

MANNY

Oh, Mum, come now -

MAGGIE

There's nothing more to discuss.

The horn of a cab is heard. Maggie gives Isaac a hug.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

My Prince, be a good boy.

Maggie takes what she can and takes it outside.

MANNY

Mum? Look I'm sorry for shouting at you okay?

Manny looks to Sam for help. She looks away with indifference and leads Isaac into the kitchen.

SAM

Come on.

55 INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - DAY

55

Sam and Isaac are sat around the kitchen table, avoiding each other's gaze. A depressed Manny eventually enters and joins them. BEAT. All three are tense, nervous and hesitant to speak first... Sam breaks the ice.

SAM

After we're finished talking you're gonna call up Cordelia and apologise.

ISAAC

I weren't sitting there to listen to lies about me.

SAM

So you didn't do anything to that girl?

Isaac refuses to answer and goes to walk off. Manny holds him firmly and pushes him back down into his seat.

SAM (CONT'D)

You touch her?

ISAAC

It was a FaceTime call!

SAM

What did you make her do?

ISAAC

Nothing!

SAM

Don't tell me 'nothing'!

ISAAC

I did NOTHING!

MANNY

So this girl is making it all up?

ISAAC

Yeah! She's just angry cos she got caught stripping on camera. And no - I didn't make her do it.

MANNY

Did you encourage her?

ISAAC

No!

SAM

So she somehow appeared on your FaceTime and made you watch her take off her clothes?

ISAAC
Why you talking to me like that?

MANNY SAM

We're just trying to get to I'll talk to you however I
the truth. like!

ISAAC
Can't you see, she's just *hatin'* on
my career! She probably just wants
money. How much do you think it'll
take to shut her up?

Sam's horrified. She looks at Manny and sees that his stubborn love for Isaac has caused him to not register what he has just suggested. Sam gives up.

SAM
I can't do this.

Sam gets up to leave. Isaac watches his father watch his mum go without saying a word. Isaac looks extremely awkward. BEAT. Manny goes to hug him but Isaac stops him and gets up.

ISAAC
I'm... I'm going Tyrone's.

Isaac hurries out the room, leaving Manny all alone.

56 EXT. RYAN'S STUDIO FLAT - NIGHT

56

The space is messy like a student dorm room. Ryan opens his door and is shocked to see a distraught Sam, with her suitcase.

RYAN
Wha-what happened?

Sam shakes her head, too overwhelmed to talk.

57 INT. SABRINA'S HOUSE. TYRONE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

57

Tyrone and Isaac are playing a console game as they talk.

TYRONE
You know you can trust me, yeah?

ISAAC
Yeah. And you can trust me.

TYRONE
So... what happened in America?

Isaac startled by the question. He attempts to jest -

ISAAC
I made a hundred million dollar
movie, bruv.

TYRONE
Yeah, but what *really* happened?

Isaac doesn't understand.

TYRONE (CONT'D)
Behind the scenes.

ISAAC
(jests again)
Loads of pranks.

Tyrone throws down his control pad to the floor and gives
Isaac his full attention.

TYRONE
Isaac, stop it.
(softer)
What went down out there, man?

Isaac goes pale with fear. Tyrone takes the control pad away.

TYRONE (CONT'D)
Talk fam. I'm here.

BEAT. Isaac looks at his brother - his eyes start to well up.

ISAAC
Just something dumb, with some guy,
the producer of the film.

TYRONE
What he do to you?

ISAAC
Nothing!

TYRONE
Hey, it's me, you can be real.

ISAAC
He didn't *do* anything to *me*.

BEAT. Tyrone thinks about how Isaac responded then wonders -

TYRONE
You do something to him?

Isaac stays silent - it speaks volumes to Tyrone.

TYRONE (CONT'D)
You did innit?

BEAT. Isaac defends himself.

ISAAC
He forced me to bruv.

TYRONE
To do what?

Isaac looks to the ground, embarrassed and scared. He feels the intensity of Tyrone's stare, demanding answers.

Isaac responds... by balling his right hand and briefly shaking his fist. Tyrone looks confused.

TYRONE (CONT'D)
What's that mean?

Isaac takes a breath and reluctantly does the motion with his fist again. Tears of shame flow from his eyes. Tyrone realises Isaac is mimicking masturbation.

TYRONE (CONT'D)
He made you -
(nods to Isaac's fist)
Just like that?... On him?

ISAAC
He used to talk before... Like,
stuff...

TYRONE
And then you just done *that* to
him?... You didn't try knock him
out or anything?

ISAAC
(trembling)
I was on my own out there, bruv.

Tyrone analyses his brother... Then asks -

TYRONE
How many times?

Isaac buries his head in his arms and rushes his answer -

ISAAC

Three times and that was it.
Nothing else, nothing else, I
swear.

Tyrone watches Isaac sob. BEAT. Tyrone gets up and sits back down on his bed. Isaac lifts up his head to see where his brother went. Tyrone looks unimpressed.

TYRONE

We can't hang out no more.

Isaac's confused.

TYRONE (CONT'D)

You're gay, innit. I can't be
dealing with that.

Isaac freezes in shock at Tyrone's comment. It slowly sinks in - he's being abandoned by his only friend.

58 **EXT. ISAAC'S STREET - NIGHT**

58

Isaac rides slowly home, each house he passes causes the security light to come on. Tears stream down his face. He feels ashamed and worthless.

59 **INT. JESS'S FLAT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

59

Jess reads a text message from Dominic:

'Article out tomorrow - Dominic x'

Jess nods with nervous anticipation.

60 **INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

60

Isaac enters with his bike. Manny comes from the kitchen.

MANNY

You okay?

Isaac avoids looking at his father, to hide he's been crying.

ISAAC

Yeah.

Isaac hurries upstairs. Manny watches him with concern and guilt.

61 EXT. ISAAC'S HOUSE - DAY

61

The next day. The winter sun shines brightly on Jess as she makes her way to the front door. She notices only Manny's VW is parked outside. She rings the doorbell.

62 INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - DAY

62

A shattered-looking Isaac leads Jess into the room.

JESS

You not going school?

Isaac shakes his head. Jess looks intrigued by how tired Isaac looks.

JESS (CONT'D)

What time did you go bed?

Isaac shakes his head, he doesn't remember.

JESS (CONT'D)

Alright, I won't keep you up long.

Jess gets nervous. She looks to the table.

JESS (CONT'D)

Let's sit down.

ISAAC

Why?

Jess doesn't have an answer. Isaac looks suspicious.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

What you up to?

Jess takes a deep breath.

JESS

I know about Jotham Starr.

Isaac's weary countenance drops further. Jess reassures -

JESS (CONT'D)

It's okay. I'm not here to talk about it, or how mum and dad have dealt with it. I just wanted to give you this.

Jess brings a copy of a newspaper from her bag and hands it to Isaac. He sees the front cover, which has a photo of Jotham Starr and the headline -

HOLLYWOOD SUPREMO JOTHAM STARR ACCUSED OF CHILD ABUSE

JESS (CONT'D)
We've got him Isaac. He's going
down.

Isaac is shaken by the newspaper. He frantically turns to the page where the article is and scans the words.

JESS (CONT'D)
That sick man thought he could get
away with what he done, so I
exposed him to the world!

Panic arrests Isaac's being.

ISAAC
No, no, no, no, no, no.

As Jess watches her brother she realises - she may have made things worse. She now panics.

JESS
There's no pictures of you. Your
name's not mentioned.

Isaac bolts out the room with the newspaper, startling Jess.

JESS (CONT'D)
Isaac?

63

INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE - DAY

63

Isaac rushes out of the kitchen and towards the stairs. Jess follows him out and tries to calm him down.

JESS
Isaac, wait! Let's talk.

ISAAC
People are gonna work out it was
me! They're gonna find out!
Everyone's going to know!

JESS
It'll be alright! It'll be alright!

Isaac sprints up the stairs. Jess goes after him.

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

64

Isaac slams and locks his door before Jess can reach it. He heads for his laptop as an emotional Jess desperately knocks on the door.

JESS (O.S.)
Isaac, come on, open up... Please
Isaac?

Jess continues to call him as he does a search on social media for the article. He sees on the side bar that Jotham Star is *trending worldwide*. He clicks on his name. Post after post speculate who the child actor Jotham abused might be...Post after post speculate '*who's the child actor Jotham abused?*' The most frequent name linked - **Isaac Mensah**.

Isaac jolts away from his laptop. He's in a nightmare. It's all too much to take. He searches frantically in his pocket and pulls out an unopened blister pack.

65 **EXT. CAMPION MOTORS - DAY**

65

A forecourt of a second hand car dealership. Manny nervously answers a mobile call from Jess as he watches a sales assistant do an examination of his Porsche.

MANNY
Hello?

INTERCUT:

66 **INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. OUTSIDE ISAAC'S BEDROOM - DAY**

66

Jess talks to her dad on her mobile.

JESS
Dad? I'm at yours but Isaac's
locked himself in his bedroom.

MANNY
(confused)
Huh? What's going on?

JESS
Jotham Starr is in the paper, about
what he done to Isaac.

Manny's heart momentarily stops.

JESS (CONT'D)
But Isaac doesn't get mentioned by
name -

Manny abruptly ends the call and rushes to his car.

JESS (CONT'D)
Dad? Dad?

The Sales Assistant looks perplexed.

MANNY
Sorry, I've gotta go!

Manny jumps in and starts his engine.

67 **INT. RYAN'S STUDIO FLAT - DAY**

67

Sam folds up a duvet that she used while sleeping on the sofa. Her mobile vibrates from a call from Manny. She stares at it. BEAT. She steels herself and answers -.

SAM
Hello?

INTERCUT:

68 **I/E. MANNY'S PORSCHE / ISAAC'S STREET - DAY**

68

A fearful Manny talks to Sam via his carphone loud speaker.

MANNY
I need you at home!

SAM
(concerned)
What's happened?

MANNY
Jotham abusing Isaac is in the
papers!

SAM
What? How?

MANNY
Just get home!

69 **EXT. ISAAC'S HOUSE - DAY**

69

Manny's car screeches up to the garage doors. Manny leaps out of his car and rushes into his home.

70 **INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS**

70

Manny enters and sees Jess at the foot of the stairs. Her makeup has run from her tears.

JESS
He won't listen to me Dad.

MANNY
(grave)
What have you done?

Jess gets choked up and can't speak. Manny rushes past her and up the stairs.

71 **INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE. OUTSIDE ISAAC'S BEDROOM - DAY**

71

Manny reaches Isaac's door. He takes a moment to compose himself then knocks.

MANNY
Isaac? It's me. Can I come in?

No response. Manny knocks again.

MANNY (CONT'D)
Isaac? Let me in so we can talk about it.

No response. Manny knocks more impatiently.

MANNY (CONT'D)
Isaac?

Manny presses his ear to the door. It sounds quiet inside. Manny's heart rate increases, worried for his son.

MANNY (CONT'D)
Isaac, if you don't open up I'm gonna force it open.

No response.

MANNY (CONT'D)
Okay, you've been warned.

Manny exhales... then barges the door with all his might. It flies open... he then sees the worst thing imaginable -

MANNY (CONT'D)

ISAAC!

72 **I/E. A CAB / TOWARDS ISAAC'S STREET - DAY**

72

Sam sits at the back looking at the road ahead. An ambulance with its blue lights on speeds past them. Sam keeps an eye on it as it pulls away in the distance... hoping it doesn't turn into Isaac's street... But as she watches she gets a bad feeling. She whispers -

SAM

Please God, no. Please God, no.

She glimpses the ambulance make a sharp turn into Isaac's street and lowers her head with dread.

73 **EXT. ISAAC'S HOUSE - DAY**

73

Sam's cab parks behind the ambulance. Sam jumps out and runs towards the opened front door. A couple of neighbours watch on with curiosity.

74 **INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS**

74

Sam rushes through the opened front door. She sees Jess in bits. She then sees Paramedics carefully transporting an unconscious Isaac on a stretcher down the stairs.

SAM

Isaac? Mummy's here!

The Paramedics keep Sam at arm's length.

SAM (CONT'D)

Is he going to be alright?

Sam spots Manny following behind the stretcher.

SAM (CONT'D)

Manny, what happened?

Manny gives Sam eye contact. He looks destroyed.

SAM (CONT'D)

WHAT HAPPENED?

CUT TO BLACK:

CAPTION: DARK MON£Y

FADE OUT.