

# DARK MONEY

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

SHOOTING SCRIPT  
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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 advices 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 happened, 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!

ISAAC (CONT'D)

You let them take it from me!  
You don't care about me!

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) SAM  
He said 'I didn't know you (being polite)  
cared'. Because I was silent. Please Maggie, I don't want  
Because I buried my head in to know about your personal  
the sand. 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.

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 dries 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 steals 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.

SAM

Evening.

JESS

Oh, hi.

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... He was abused on set... and... the film company paid us 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

(jest)

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...

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

We're just trying to get to  
the truth.

SAM

I'll talk to you however I  
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  
(jesting 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 MONEY**

FADE OUT.