

DETECTORISTS - SERIES 2

EPISODE FOUR

Written by

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SHOOTING SCRIPT

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1 EXT. ROADSIDE CAFE - DAY

1

Establishing shot of a Little Chef style roadside cafe.

Lance's yellow Triumph TR7 is parked in the nearly empty carpark.

2 INT. ROADSIDE CAFE - DAY

2

Lance and Andy are sitting at a table: empty breakfast plates, mugs of tea, their metal detectors propped against their chairs.

A large TV on the wall is showing the news. It's the novelty story at the end of the bulletin: an outside broadcast, the TV PRESENTER is speaking to camera.

TV PRESENTER

...but it was when he checked the hole again and his metal detector gave *another* beep that Kevin Beadle's fortunes were about to change.  
He's here with me now, Kevin tell us what happened next?

KEVIN BEALE is holding a metal detector.

KEVIN BEALE

Well I dug down again and uncovered a gold coin, Roman, very exciting.

TV PRESENTER

But it didn't end there did it?

KEVIN BEALE

It didn't Chris, I checked the hole again and, another beep, another gold coin.

TV PRESENTER

And Kevin ended up unearthing three hundred and fifty silver and gold Roman coins, worth in the region of a million pounds isn't that right?

KEVIN BEALE

That's right, they were purchased by the British Museum and the money will be split between me and the land owner.

TV PRESENTER

And am I right to think that you  
are very new to the hobby of metal  
detecting?

KEVIN BEALE

Indeed, yes, it was only the second  
time that I'd been out.

Andy and Lance are furious.

TV PRESENTER

I imagine you're hooked now though  
aren't you?

KEVIN BEALE

Absolutely Chris. Yes.

TV PRESENTER

Really got the bug.  
And before I let you go, is it true  
that when metal detectors find gold  
they do a little celebratory 'gold  
dance'?

KEVIN BEALE

That's right they do.

TV PRESENTER

Did you do a dance?

KEVIN BEALE

I did Chris, yes.

TV PRESENTER

Can we see the dance?

KEVIN BEALE

Oh I don't think so.

TV PRESENTER

Maybe another time.  
Thank you Kevin. Back to the  
studio.

Lance and Andy's faces barely conceal their hate and anger.  
They can't speak for jealousy. Andy, seething, sips his tea.

Eventually...

LANCE

Fucking bastard.

CUT TO:

3 EXT. ROADSIDE CAFE - DAY

3

Low angle on the back wheel of Lance's car as it accelerates away from camera. We hold on a crushed beer can in the foreground that has a wild flower growing through it.

TITLES:

**detectorists**

4 EXT. NEW PERMISSION, FIELD - DAY

4

Andy and Lance are detecting a few metres apart.

ANDY

I haven't been to a job interview in years.

(beat)

In fact I've never been to a job interview. I suppose I should just be myself.

LANCE

Are you joking? Don't do that mate, that won't help.

ANDY

Who should I be then?

LANCE

Someone else. Someone better.

ANDY

Cheers.

LANCE

Just try to be a bit more...  
(makes some sort of 'Pow!' gesture)

ANDY

What's that?

LANCE

Sparky.  
A bit less...  
(pulls a depressed expression)

ANDY

What's that?

LANCE

Morose.

ANDY

Bloody hell this is going to be a disaster. I told you Becky gave in her notice at work?

LANCE

Three times.

ANDY

I need to get this job or we'll be homeless. We'll have to move in with her mum.

LANCE

Oh that'll be nice. That's bound to go smoothly.

ANDY

I know.

LANCE

Have you been reading up?

ANDY

As much as I can. There's not much information out there.

LANCE

They play a lot of bridge in Botswana. It's practically the national sport.

ANDY

Oh well that's useful. That'll come in handy.

LANCE

And there's a big death metal scene. Mention the band Crackdust.

ANDY

So, bridge and Crackdust.

LANCE

Job's yours.

Lance gets a signal and starts to dig a plug.

ANDY

Have you seen Kate?

LANCE

Seeing her on Wednesday. She's coming to the flat for the first time. It's a big day.

ANDY

What you worried about?

LANCE

Well it'll be me, in my natural habitat. She'll get to see the real me. What sort of impression will she get?

ANDY

Hide the signed Linda Lusardi photo.

LANCE

It's already gone.

(beat)

You know? Will I live up to her expectations?

ANDY

I can't believe you've got a grown up daughter.

Does she call you Lance or Dad?

LANCE

Neither yet. She's skillfully avoided calling me anything. I'd obviously like her to call me dad, but I've got to give her space.

ANDY

I can't imagine it. Out of the blue like that.

LANCE

But it wasn't out of the blue for me. I've been imagining this for twenty years. All different ways it could pan out. Good and bad. I have to make sure this is one of the good ones and not muck it up.

Lance retrieves his target.

ANDY

What you got?

LANCE

(quite excited)

It's some kind of brooch. Nice condition. Still got some enamelling. And the original pin on the back.

ANDY

Yeah?

LANCE

Hang on. It's got an inscription! Latin!

He scrapes some dirt off and studies the brooch through his loupe.

ANDY  
What's it say?

LANCE  
Status... Quo.

ANDY  
Good work.

5 INT. ANDY AND BECKY'S HOUSE - DAY

5

A conversation between two rooms. Andy is preparing dinner in the kitchen. Becky is in the lounge with the baby.

BECKY  
Did you see that guy found the  
Roman hoard in Warwickshire?

ANDY  
No.

BECKY  
Million pounds they reckon.

ANDY  
Whatever.

BECKY  
It was his first time detecting.

ANDY  
Second. Whatever.

BECKY  
Ooh! You did see it! Are you  
jealous?

ANDY  
No, why should I be?

BECKY  
You are, you're jealous.

Andy caves.

ANDY  
Oh god! I can't stand it when other  
people find good things.  
You can't turn on the news these  
days without hearing somebody else  
has stumbled upon a hoard of  
ancient treasure. Some of them  
aren't even looking.  
(MORE)

ANDY (CONT'D)  
Everyone else is sliding around in  
Roman coins.  
I can't even watch Time Team  
anymore because I'm jealous.

Becky laughs.

BECKY  
Well you'll be safe in Africa. They  
don't get Time Team in Botswana.

ANDY  
I have to get the job first.  
To be honest Becks I'm bricking it.

BECKY  
You'll be fine.

ANDY  
And if I'm not?

BECKY  
Maybe I can retract my notice and  
carry on working.

They both know this would not be good.  
He comes to the door.

BECKY (CONT'D)  
They'll probably just talk through  
your C.V. And see if you have any  
questions...

ANDY  
I don't have a C.V.

She hands over a piece of paper.

BECKY  
I wrote you a C.V.

ANDY  
Did you?

BECKY  
Yes. So you might want to make  
yourself familiar with that.

ANDY  
I can't ride a horse.

BECKY  
They're not going to ask you to  
ride a horse are they? They won't  
have a horse with them.

ANDY

Why did you put I could ride a horse?

BECKY

Forget about that.

ANDY

And this paleontology course I attended on the Jurassic Coast...

BECKY

Yes?

ANDY

It wasn't so much a 'course'...

BECKY (CONT'D)

You got a qualification...

ANDY

...as a badge...

BECKY (CONT'D)

You learned a lot...

ANDY

...for cubs.

BECKY

To be honest I was struggling.

ANDY

Well I'm feeling so much better about it.

BECKY

You'll be fine. Relax.

ANDY

No, I'm all right. I'll give it my best shot. For all of us.

He goes back to the kitchen.

BECKY

I've heard you speak so passionately about archaeology. They'll see that passion, if you let them and I'm sure that will make up for your lack of experience.

ANDY

Yeah, definitely.

BECKY

You're so ready for something like this.

ANDY

Yeah?

BECKY

Yes. We both are.  
It's time to make some brave decisions and get our lives kick started... grab life by the horns... don't you think?... Andy?

ANDY

Yeah?

BECKY

Are you listening?

ANDY

Yeah, sorry. I can't decide whether or not to wash the salad.

Becky can't help but smile.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Do you think I should wash the salad?

BECKY

You know what? That's a decision you're going to have to make for yourself.

ANDY

Pardon?... Was that yes or no?

She switches on the TV.

6

EXT. GROUND ZERO - DAY

6

Sophie is sitting on the side step of the camper van with a mug of tea and no shoes.

Peter is poking at a camping stove with a kettle perched precariously on top.

PETER

How's your tea?

SOPHIE

Really horrible.

PETER

Yeah?

SOPHIE

Really horrible. It's got a flavour I can't put my finger on. I can't describe it.

He goes to the van to find something.

PETER

Sorry, that's the kettle, I use it  
for...

SOPHIE

Please don't tell me.

PETER

I've been thinking about those guys  
that came into the pub, the Dirt  
Sharks.

SOPHIE

Yeah?

PETER

What do you think they were after?  
Do you think they know something?

SOPHIE

No. They're idiots, they're just  
being nosey.

PETER

I'm wondering whether I should go  
and see them.

SOPHIE

Honestly, they're always hanging  
around. They're just afraid they're  
missing out on something.

\*

PETER

Even so, I feel a bit rude.  
Wouldn't mind apologizing. You  
don't have a number for them?

SOPHIE

No but they meet at the WI on a  
Thursday night.

As Peter moves some bags Sophie spots a metal detector case.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

You got a detector?

PETER

Oh yes, picked one up second hand.

She pulls over the case and unzips it.

SOPHIE

Wow it's a good one.

PETER

Yes, got a good deal on it.

SOPHIE  
You know how to use this?

PETER  
I'll figure it out.

She then also notices a pair of muddy boots but doesn't mention them.

She tries one more sip of tea and then throws the rest on the ground.

SOPHIE  
What will you do when you've found  
the plane? Will you go home?

PETER  
Well no, actually I was thinking of  
taking the detector on a tour of  
duty.

SOPHIE  
Where?

PETER  
Don't know, just drive and maybe  
visit some historic sites on the  
way.

SOPHIE  
Sounds nice.

PETER  
Come with me.

SOPHIE  
Really?

PETER  
You have plans for the summer?

SOPHIE  
Not really.

PETER  
Come with me then.

SOPHIE  
Okay.

They kiss.

Russell and Hugh walk up the gravel driveway of a suitably large house.

They have their metal detectors and Hugh is holding a carrier bag with a weight in it as if it's a bag of poo.  
As they approach the house Hugh tries to hand the bag to Russell.

HUGH

Can you give it to him?

RUSSELL

You found it. I'm not touching it.

HUGH

I'm not very good with authority figures.

RUSSELL

Well the mayor has no authority unless he's wearing his necklace. So don't hand that over until you've got permission to detect on his land. We're doing it for the club. We're on a mission.

\*

Russell leans in, rings the bell and then steps back behind Hugh.

HUGH

I can't get that image of the mayor out of my head, in the woods.

RUSSELL

I know. Try not to think about it. Try to imagine him fully clothed.

The door is opened by the mayor, in a grubby dressing gown, slightly too short.

HUGH

Hello sir. We're the detectorists.

MAYOR

The what?

RUSSELL

Metal detectors.  
We found your necklace.

The mayor glances down at their detectors and hops out of the house, pulling the door to behind him.  
He grabs the bag from Hugh.

MAYOR

It's called a Chain of Office and you took your bloody time. Is it all there?

HUGH

It might need fixing, I think a few  
of the links are broken.

RUSSELL

It must have been flung off with  
quite some abandon.

MAYOR

It got caught on a branch.

RUSSELL

That's right.

MAYOR

Good, well I'll phone Terry about  
the reward...

RUSSELL

Actually Mr. Mayor instead of a  
reward we were wondering if you  
would grant us permission to detect  
on your land.

MAYOR

What? No. Absolutely not. Out of  
the question.

RUSSELL

Oh.

MAYOR

Nothing to find there. No.

RUSSELL

(beat)

Well then we won't waste any more  
of your time.

\*

MAYOR

Good.

RUSSELL

One more thing though.

MAYOR

What?

RUSSELL

It's just that the local paper have  
been in touch asking whether we  
have any interesting stories.  
We know they'd be very interested  
to hear about your necklace and  
where you lost it.

HUGH

Could get a lot of attention. Could even go national or make the local TV news.

Terry says they like a quirky story...

RUSSELL

Especially one with a happy ending.  
(beat)  
So to speak.

The mayor has gone red in the face.

MAYOR

I see. Terry's idea is it? I knew he was bent, even when he was in the force he didn't play by the rules. And now this.  
There's a word for this.

RUSSELL

Is there?

Neither of them have a clue what the word could be.  
The mayor leans forward and hisses.

MAYOR

Have your permission then. I know what you're up to. I've been warned about you.

RUSSELL

Have you?

MAYOR

But he's one step ahead of you.

RUSSELL

Who is?

He turns to go back inside.

RUSSELL (CONT'D)

Well, thank you.

Hugh gestures to the bag.

HUGH

You might want to give that a wipe.

Andy enters the reception area of a university building and approaches the desk.

ANDY

Hello. I've an interview at 10.30  
Andy Stone.

RECEPTIONIST

They're running about half an hour  
behind, are you okay to wait?

ANDY

Sure.

RECEPTIONIST

Take a seat.

She points to a waiting area where three other hopefuls are sitting along a wall.

Andy takes a seat and starts to flick through a brightly coloured celebrity magazine. As he does he checks out the other candidates. They all look like proper archaeologists: A WOMAN IN HER TWENTIES, vest top, dreads and piercings, and TWO BLOKES WITH FULL AND IMPRESSIVE BEARDS. Andy self consciously lifts a hand to his face and feels his smooth cheek. He notices their hands. All three have filthy fingernails. He looks at his own hands, his fingernails are spotless. He decides to do something about it and gets up.

ANDY

(to receptionist)

I'm going to get some fresh air.

9

EXT. UNIVERSITY - DAY

9

Andy exits the building and walks a short distance to a flower bed. He bends down and grabs a handful of earth and starts to rub it into his fingernails. As he does he spots something in the earth which he picks up and examines. We don't get a clear look at what he's found (or maybe we do (it's bits of clay pipe)) but he starts to see more which he collects and puts in his pocket.

Suddenly he looks up to see a man watching him with a slightly disgusted expression. (We will soon find out this is MICHAEL TENDAI).

ANDY

Morning.

The man continues into the building leaving Andy feeling stupid.

10

INT. UNIVERSITY - DAY

10

Later and it's just Andy left waiting, going through the motions of reading a magazine. A door opens and a man, ROBERT KINGSNORTH, appears.

KINGSNORTH  
Andrew Stone?

ANDY  
Yes.

KINGSNORTH  
Sorry to keep you waiting, do you  
want to come through?

Andy follows the man into the room.

11 INT. UNIVERSITY - DAY

11

Kingsnorth joins another man at a desk. We recognise Michael Tendai as the man who was watching Andy outside, and Tendai, clearly recognizing Andy, just stares as Kingsnorth does all the talking.

KINGSNORTH  
I'm Robert Kingsnorth and this is  
Doctor Tendai from the University  
of Gaborone, have a seat.

Andy sits.

KINGSNORTH (CONT'D)  
Doctor Tendai is overseeing the  
excavations at Toutswemogala.

ANDY  
Right. Yes.

Kingsnorth looks through Andy's meagre C.V. He looks for another page. There isn't one.

KINGSNORTH  
Is there another...?

ANDY  
No, that's it I'm afraid.

KINGSNORTH  
Right.  
Newly qualified I see.

ANDY  
Yes.

KINGSNORTH  
Not much experience in the field.

ANDY  
Not yet no.

KINGSNORTH

Right.

How much do you know about  
Botswana?

ANDY

Um... I believe bridge is very  
popular...

They don't react.

ANDY (CONT'D)

The card game.

KINGSNORTH

I meant *archaeology* in Botswana.

ANDY

Right yes, it sounds fascinating.

KINGSNORTH

What does?

ANDY

Archaeology.

KINGSNORTH

Yes.

How much have you studied the Iron  
Age?

ANDY

I wrote a thesis on the Stirling  
Hoard.

KINGSNORTH

Stirling Hoard, the gold torcs?

ANDY

Yes.

KINGSNORTH

Found by a metal detector?

ANDY

Yes.

KINGSNORTH

What are your views on metal  
detectors?

ANDY

I think, as long as they stick to a strict code of conduct, then metal detectors, people using metal detectors provide a valuable service and recover a lot of archaeology that would otherwise be lost to the plough.  
 Hobbyists get a bad press but the vast majority are law abiding, experts in their field and passionate about history.

TENDAI

You're not a metal detector are you Mr. Stone?

ANDY

Detectorist... no.

12

EXT. UNIVERSITY - DAY

12

Andy is by the flower bed we saw him at earlier speaking on his mobile. He is distressed.

ANDY

Oh god! And then I asked him if he was into death metal!  
 Curse Lance and his pub-quiz trivia...  
 I know... but baby, it was awful, when I shook their hands at the end they recoiled because mine were so cold and clammy. They physically recoiled!

Just then he sees Doctor Tendai come out of the building.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Hang on Becks... Doctor Tendai!

Tendai turns round.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Sorry, I just wanted to say I wasn't picking up cigarette butts.

TENDAI

Excuse me?

ANDY

Earlier. When you saw me out here. I wasn't picking up cigarette butts.

TENDAI

Oh.

ANDY

Clay pipes.

TENDAI

Pardon?

Andy fishes a handful of clay pipe from his pocket.

ANDY

I just saw some clay pipes in the flower bed.

Tendai bends forward to look.

TENDAI

What are they?

ANDY

Broken bits of clay pipe. People used to smoke them.

Tendai takes them.

TENDAI

How old are they?

ANDY

Well these are Victorian but this one is early 18th or even late 17th century.

TENDAI

How can you tell?

ANDY

The older ones had thicker stems and much smaller bowls because tobacco was so expensive.

TENDAI

And you found these just here?

ANDY

Yes.

TENDAI

Can I keep these?

Andy is obviously reluctant but agrees.

ANDY

Yup.

TENDAI

Thanks. Bye.

ANDY

Bye.

TENDAI

Oh, what was the name of that band  
you like?

ANDY

Crackdust.

TENDAI

Crackdust. I'll check them out.

On the other end of the phone we hear Becky's raucous laugh.

13 INT. SCOUT HALL - EVENING

13

It's the beginning of the weekly meeting of the DMDC.  
All the gang are there except Peter, and are sitting  
themselves on foldy chairs.Terry is talking to Russell as he moves to the front to start  
the meeting.

TERRY

A maverick yeah?

RUSSELL

He didn't actually use the word  
'maverick' no, he said you never  
did play by the rules.

Terry is obviously well chuffed with this.

TERRY

Yeah, he's basically saying I was a  
maverick. Sometimes you have to  
throw away the rule book and go  
with a hunch. I wasn't in the  
business of bureaucracy and red  
tape, I was in the business of  
catching criminals.  
That was back when I had my  
Cortina.  
Eh Shelia?

SHEILA

What's that love?

TERRY

The old Cortina?

SHEILA

Oh! Yes. And your leather jacket.

She pictures him back then.

TERRY

Right! Don't know how many of you heard that but we have some good news. Due to the brave efforts of Russell and Hugh we now have permission to detect on the mayor's land.

LOUISE

Whoa, has that land ever been searched before?

LANCE

Never, virgin land.

LOUISE

How many acres?

HUGH

Five hundred.

LOUISE

Come on!

LANCE

So the rally is on?

TERRY

Can't see any reason why not.

SOPHIE

Hang on, aren't we forgetting something? This was supposed to be about finding Peter's grandfather, finding the crash site.

TERRY

Well it's funny you should say that. Has anyone seen Peter?

SOPHIE

I saw him this morning.

We cut to various eyebrow-raised reactions to this.

TERRY

Is he coming this evening?

SOPHIE

Said he was.

Terry holds up a piece of paper.

TERRY

Because I have in my hand a piece of paper that needs some explaining.

LANCE

What is it Tel Boy?

TERRY

This is the licence to excavate  
the crash site from the ministry of  
Defence.

\*

ANDY

Bloody hell. That was quick.

TERRY

Exactly. Why?

Because they have full records of  
the crash and there are no human  
remains on board.

SOPHIE

It's already been excavated?

TERRY

No, the plane's never been touched, there was no need to. All the crewmen parachuted to safety and were captured two days later trying to steal a boat at South Woodham Ferrers. So what I'd like to know...

\*

LANCE

What's he up to?

ANDY

What's he looking for?

VARDE

\*

Gold.

All eyes turn to Varde. No-one's heard her speak before.

\*

Pause.

TERRY

What's that Varde?

\*

VARDE

\*

Well there's always rumours on the internet, conspiracy theories, most of which are completely spurious but one persistent story is of a German bomber carrying gold bullion that's supposed to have crashed in Essex in 1941. There's no real evidence that it ever existed but the more the theories are repeated the more credence they gather until they are accepted as fact...

TERRY

Yeah alright Varde, let someone else get a word in.

\*

Who else knew about this gold bullion story?

Hugh, and a couple of others put their hands up.

RUSSELL

So hang on, is he lying? Is he a treasure hunter?

SOPHIE

No! That's rubbish. Varde just said it's completely untrue!

\*

LANCE

She didn't say it wasn't true, she  
said that there was no real  
evidence. Didn't you Varde?

\*

Varde nods.

SOPHIE

You lot are obsessed with gold.

RUSSELL

Come to think of it. The mayor was  
acting suspiciously, like he knew  
something we didn't.

TERRY

So is that it?  
Are we being taken for a ride?

Just then everybody winces as the scout hall door squeaks  
loudly open and in walks Peter. He stops in the doorway as  
everyone is looking at him.

PETER

Um... hello?

TERRY

(trying to be arch)  
So, don't want us disturbing your  
grandfather do you?

PETER

What's that Terry?

TERRY

Your grandfather? Want him to be  
left in peace?

PETER

Yes... That's right.

TERRY

Why's that? Is he watching telly?

PETER

Sorry I...

SOPHIE

Terry, I don't think he...

TERRY

Spot of Sudoku? Doesn't want to be  
disturbed?

PETER

What are you...?

LANCE

I don't think he knows, Terry.

TERRY

What's that?

PETER

Knows what?

TERRY

That your grandfather didn't die in  
the plane crash?

PETER

What?

TERRY

Oh.

Terry, the wind gone from his sails, feebly offers the paper  
which Peter reads.

TERRY (CONT'D)

So you didn't know?

PETER

No.

TERRY

Oh. Well. Um...

Congratulations. Your grandfather  
isn't dead.

(beat)

Well he might be by now of course  
but uh... he didn't perish in a  
plane crash. Not this one anyway.

SHEILA

This calls for a celebration.

PETER

(terse)

Does it Shelia? Does anyone else  
want to crack open some champagne?

Terry swiftly steps up...

TERRY

Quick word Peter...

...and takes Peter to one side. He says something very softly  
and quietly to Peter who nods and they turn back.

PETER

I'm so sorry Sheila, I didn't mean  
to snap at you.

SHEILA

Oh that's all right.

PETER

I was just... this isn't necessarily good news for me. If my grandfather survived the war then it means he made a conscious decision not to come home to his family.

TERRY

Oh right yes. Didn't think of that.

(pause)

Still... All right to dig it up now?... For the rally?

14

EXT. SCOUT HALL - EVENING

14

Peter is walking to his van, agitated. Sophie is close behind.

SOPHIE

Peter, he didn't realize.

PETER

I know, I know but god. I came asking for help and he's just turning it into a circus.

SOPHIE

He didn't know he was going to discover that.

PETER

I know. I've to figure out where this leaves me. I've got to think.

SOPHIE

Shall I come?

PETER

No. I'll call.

He gets in and drives away. She watches him go.

15

INT. LANCE'S FLAT - DAY

15

Lance pours stout from a can into two glasses and hands one to Kate.

KATE

You're a what?

LANCE

A metal detectorist.

She looks blank.

KATE

Are you on some sort of register?

LANCE

It's a hobby. We go out looking for metal.

Nothing.

LANCE (CONT'D)

Buried metal. Gold and stuff.

KATE

Treasure?

LANCE

Well, if you want to put it like that, but we don't think of...

KATE

Pirate treasure?

LANCE

Not pirate treasure no...

KATE

Have you found any?

LANCE

What gold?

KATE

Yes.

LANCE

No.

KATE

What's the best thing you've found?

LANCE

Let's... why don't we... I've got a surprise...

He opens a cupboard and reaches in.

LANCE (CONT'D)

Here. I've been meaning to give you this...

Lance hands Kate a small present wrapped in bright paper. She tears open the paper to reveal a small teddy.

LANCE (CONT'D)

I bought it for you when you were born.

(MORE)

LANCE (CONT'D)

Well, when I thought you were born.  
It's a bit late.  
I saved it.

She laughs.

KATE

Thanks. I like it.

LANCE

You'd have probably appreciated it  
more back then.

KATE

No, I like it.

Lance gets another parcel from the cupboard, this time  
wrapped in Christmas paper.

LANCE

And this is your Christmas present  
for that year. It's not much. I was  
a bit skint.

She smiles and opens a small box containing a silver chain  
and pendant.

KATE

Wow. I can't believe you saved them  
all this time.

LANCE

Oh that's not it...

He takes another present.

LANCE (CONT'D)

This is your first birthday...

And another...

LANCE (CONT'D)

Second...

Two more...

LANCE (CONT'D)

And your Christmas presents from  
those years, here's your third  
birthday...

They are starting to pile up now and Kate is a little  
overwhelmed.

KATE

Wait, wait, wait. Slow down a bit.

(pause)

(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)

You've bought me a birthday and  
Christmas present every year?

LANCE

Yes.

KATE

That's over forty presents.

LANCE

Yes.

She kind of slumps.

KATE

This is amazing Lance but I'm  
freaking out.

LANCE

What do you mean?

KATE

I don't think I even own forty  
things.

Lance takes an envelope from his back pocket.

LANCE

Well open this at least. The  
presents can wait.

KATE

What's this?

LANCE

Open it.

She opens the envelope and takes out a cheque for what is  
obviously a large sum of money.

LANCE (CONT'D)

It's your child maintenance. I put  
it aside every month until you were  
eighteen. And it's been gaining  
interest all that time...

KATE

I can't accept this.

LANCE

What do you mean? It's already  
yours. It's always been yours. I'm  
not giving you anything you didn't  
already own. You just didn't know  
about it.

KATE

Lance...

LANCE

Call me dad.

KATE

No!

Lance is taken aback.

KATE (CONT'D)

I can't yet. Sorry. This is all too  
much at the moment. I've got to go.

She leaves the cheque on the table, grabs her coat and  
leaves. Lance calls after her,

LANCE

Wait, just open your sixteenth  
birthday present.

He goes to the cupboard and reaches in.

LANCE (CONT'D)

I've been looking forward to giving  
you this one...

He pulls out what is clearly a giftwrapped metal detector.

LANCE (CONT'D)

It's the best one...

But she's gone.

16

INT. ANDY AND BECKY'S HOUSE - MORNING

16

Andy is gathering together baby and metal detecting  
equipment. It's a props nightmare.  
Becky shouts from upstairs.

BECKY (V.O.)

Postman!

Andy glances towards the window.

BECKY (V.O.)

You might hear about the job today.

ANDY

Yeah, I wouldn't hold your breath.  
You should have seen the beards on  
the other applicants.

BECKY

A beard and BO does not an  
archaeologist make.

ANDY

Goes a long way towards fitting in  
though.

The letter box clatters and some post falls onto the mat. Andy goes to pick it up. He sees a letter addressed to him and hurriedly opens it, reads. In the background we see Becky come down the stairs with baby Stanley.

BECKY

Is that it?

He stuffs it into his pocket.

ANDY

No. Magazine subscription thing.

Beat. Does she believe him? Okay.  
She hands Stanley over and kisses his head.

BECKY

Have a nice day with daddy. Say  
hello to uncle Lance.  
Don't listen to any of their  
bullshit.

ANDY

We don't talk bullshit.

BECKY

Yes you do.

ANDY

We talk about all manner of  
philosophical issues. We are at one  
with the Earth when we're out  
there. Operating on a higher plain.  
We put the world to rights.  
Art, religion, science, you name  
it.

(beat)

Life.

Andy and Lance are detecting a few metres apart. Andy has  
Stanley in some sort of papoose or sling.

\*

LANCE

Hear about old Rod McLynn?

ANDY

What about him?

LANCE

Dead mate.

ANDY

How?

LANCE

Fell in a vat of boiling soup.

ANDY

What?

LANCE

Yep. He worked over at Billingsgate Foods. In charge of soup. Fell in.

ANDY

Bloody hell.

LANCE

I know. Grim.

Beat.

ANDY

Do you know what flavour?

LANCE

Dunno, but for some reason I'm imagining tomato.

ANDY

Yeah. Me too.

LANCE

He was a legend, Rod McLynn.

ANDY

Didn't people say that he had metal detecting shoes? That he was constantly detecting?

LANCE

Oh there was a lot of stories about Rod. Legend has it he didn't have any batteries in his detector. That's how he got the nickname 'Divining Rod'. He used to detect at the end of each day for loose change on Wimbledon Common.

Andy laughs.

LANCE (CONT'D)

What?

ANDY

Wimbledon Common.

LANCE

What about it?

ANDY

Well, it's not a real place.

LANCE

Not real?

ANDY

It's fictitious, it was made up for  
the Wombles.

LANCE

No it wasn't.

ANDY

Yes it was...

(starts to sing)

'Underground, overground,  
wombling...'

LANCE

Yeah I know the Wombles live there  
but that doesn't mean it's not a  
real place.

ANDY

You believe in Wombles?

LANCE

No of course I don't. The  
fictitious Wombles live  
fictitiously on the real life  
Wimbledon Common.

ANDY

Really?

LANCE

Google it.

Andy takes out his phone and taps for a few seconds. Holds it up in the sky.

ANDY

No signal.

LANCE

Google it later.

END CREDITS.