



FLOAT

EPISODE 1

TRANSMISSION SCRIPT - 29.08.21

by Stef Smith

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1 INT. POOLSIDE - EVENING

1

A run down community pool. The hum of florescent lights, the squeak of a trainer on tiles and the flash of a person in a red tracksuit with the words LIFEGUARD printed on the back.

The person turns around and it's JADE, an awkward 20-something, a soft spoken butch with short hair. She places her whistle on her lips and blows it.

JADE
(Shouting to NSE)
Everyone out. Pool's closed.

A wet foot climbing out the pool.

CUT TO:

2 INT. STAFF ROOM - EVENING

2

JADE opens her locker, all it holds is her jacket. She takes off her whistle and hangs it up. Straight-laced STEVE is also in the locker room. He opens his locker, grabs his jacket.

JADE
Night -

Steve leaves without acknowledging her.

JADE (CONT'D)
- Steve.

Steve's locker hasn't shut right and Jade notices that the inside is covered with photos of his friends and family. A stark contrast to Jade's bare one.

Jade pulls out an envelope from her pocket, on it is written the word - MUM. She places it in her locker and closes the door.

CUT TO:

3 INT. POOLSIDE - NIGHT

3

The poolside is much darker, with only some of the lights switched on. Jade stands at the deep end. She creeps her toes to pool's edge. She looks into the water. She is calm and stoic. It's peaceful.

The moment is interrupted by the buzz of a phone on vibrate. She pulls it out her pocket and instantly throws it in the pool and watches it drown.

On a slow exhale, she closes her eyes and leans forward.

CUT TO:

4

INT. IN THE POOL - UNDER THE WATER - CONTINUOUS

4

Splash! Jade moves down through the bubbles. She makes no attempt to swim to the surface. She stays as still as she can, floating under the water. She watches as the lights on the phone turn off.

Seconds pass when suddenly, a hand with pink nail polish grabs her by the chin. Jades eyes flick open. The hand pulls her to the surface.

CUT TO:

5

INT. IN THE POOL - ABOVE THE WATER - CONTINUOUS

5

A gasp for air! Bright eyed and loud mouthed COLLETTTE has recused Jade. Both are out of breath.

JADE

What are you doing!?

COLLETTTE

What are you doing!?

JADE

Leave me alone, Collette.

COLLETTTE

Are you kidding?

JADE

I said - leave me alone.

Enraged Jade pushes water into Collette's face to keep her away. Collette flinches but doesn't move. Silence falls.

COLLETTTE

Jade.

(BEAT)

What were you doing?

Jade is suddenly overwhelmed. Paralyzed by shock, the two of them just tread water.

CUT TO:

6

INT. POOLSIDE - NIGHT

6

Soaking wet and in silence, Jade and Collette sit poolside.

COLLETTE

You know I should really take you to the hospital or something.

JADE

I don't need a hospital. I just need... a towel.

(BEAT)

Can we talk about it tomorrow?

Collette hesitates.

COLLETTE

Okay. But.

(BEAT)

I'm gonna walk you home, just to make sure...just to make sure.

Okay?

JADE

Okay.

The women stay sitting there, staring off into the water.

CUT TO:

7

INT. POOLSIDE - MORNING

7

A woman swims laps. Jade stands looking at her trainers that are edging off the side of the pool.

LIAM

Careful, you'll fall in.

Lifeguard and geeky hiphop fan LIAM interrupts, Jade steps back.

LIAM (CONT'D)

I canny be assed to get wet this mornin. Just bought these.

Liam points at his ostentatious trainers, colourful, mingling.

LIAM (CONT'D)

Only took me three buses to get into town, cause they're in-store exclusives. I was a wee bit worried they'd make me look like a tool but - no worries needed.

(BEAT)

And I heard your news by the way.
Sorry.

JADE

What news did you hear?

LIAM

University. Dropping out. Having to move back. Glasgow is overrated anyway. Too many pigeons.

JADE

Do you think dropping out was enough to drive me back to this dump?

(BEAT)

Who told you?

LIAM

My Mum and then that wee bam Joshie D, wee Sharon that lived by the playing fields. You know what this place is like, news spreads like watery shite down a slope.

JADE

You're a real poet, Liam

Belarusian and polished AGNIESZKA arrives and walks along the pool side. She's wearing plastic covers over her shoes.

LIAM

There she is. Best swimmer this side of Stirling Castle. Best legs an'all.

She walks towards Jade and Liam, they watch.

LIAM (CONT'D)

Morning Agnieszka.

Liam's voice breaks with nerves.

AGNIESZKA

This is for you.

Agnieszka pulls out a small card.

LIAM

Me?

AGNIESZKA

No. Her. It's from your Grandad.

(BEAT)

He wrote it when I was on night shift, I said I would pass it on.

Jade takes the card, begins to open it.

JADE

Thanks. How is he?

AGNIESZKA

He's getting confused sometimes. Saying things.

Jade takes a gifted tenner out of the card.

JADE

What do you mean?

AGNIESZKA

Nothing. Now, I've got a personal best to beat. See ya.

Agnieszka leaves. Jade and Liam awkwardly stare.

JADE

Remember to breathe, Liam.

Liam takes a big gasp of air.

LIAM

She is just so - wow.

A fuming Steve appears at the other side of the pool.

STEVE

Jade? Can I see you in my office? Now!

On Jade - ah, shit.

JADE

For fuck's sake.

CUT TO:

Steve stands in front of Jade and Collette, in a shower cubical with a desk in it. Steve's temporary office.

STEVE

So, why don't you tell me why Danny-the-Janny found you both dripping wet walking away from a locked building.

COLLETTE

We were just kidding about.

STEVE

More like trespassing. How did you even get in?

COLLETTE

She got locked in.

(BEAT)

I used the spare key you keep at mine.

STEVE

Collette. Here, in this place of work - I am your boss, not your boyfriend and as Chief Lifeguard the buck stops with me.

JADE

Lest we forget.

STEVE

(to Jade)

And if you think you're too good for this job, well you can go and find another. Because after barely a week of working here I shouldn't have to call you into my office.

JADE

This isn't your office, this is a shower cubical you've put a desk in. And a monkey could manage this place.

COLLETTE

[IN] Jade. Can we speak a minute?

CUT TO:

Collette locks the door in the tiny cubicle. She and Jade are pressed up against each other.

COLLETTE

Don't ditch this job, Jade. There isn't another in twenty miles of this place. Unless you fancy working in the butchers. And with that hair cut I'm guessing at very least you're a vegetarian.

JADE

But I can't do it.

(BEAT)

I can't do it any more. Not this job. Not nothing.

(BEAT)

Cause I've fucked it all right up. I've fucked it all up. I flunked out of Uni, moved back to my Mum's and I'm in so much debt. Then there's all this...

COLLETTE

What?

Jade shakes her head, keeps hold of her secret.

JADE

I just wish I could start again. As someone different. Somewhere different.

COLLETTE

Look, it's shit round here. I know. Nothing to do but gossip and get wasted. But I'm getting out of here, one day. And you are too.

(BEAT)

There is more to life than this.

Collette reaches for Jade's hand. Steve knocks the door.

STEVE (O.S.)

What are you doing in there?

COLLETTE

I'll deal with him. It's nothing a slushy won't fix.

Steve knocks the door again.

COLLETTE (CONT'D)
(Shouting to Steve)
Alright. Alright. Don't get your
tampon in a twist.
(to Jade)
We'll get of here. I know it.

CUT TO:

10

EXT. SPORTS CENTRE - AFTERNOON

10

Collette and Steve are having blue slush-puppy drinks.

STEVE
What were you even doing here last
night?

COLLETTE
Came back to find my phone.

STEVE
And what? Fell in the pool?

COLLETTE
Something like that.

STEVE
You should watch it around that
girl, she is weird.

COLLETTE
Well. I like weird.

STEVE
And I've been thinking.

Steve suddenly grabs Collette.

COLLETTE
Sounds dangerous.

STEVE
How would you feel about us moving
in together? It's nearly been a
year and I swear the only good
thing about me being kicked out the
Navy is - you.

COLLETTE
Yeah. Well, it's sweet, Steve -

STEVE

[IN] And before you think it - I want you to know I'm not a fanny like the other fellas in my family. I'll treat you right. I promise.

Steve's care is clear and it makes Collette hesitate.

RADIO (O.S.)

Steve? Steve?

Steve takes his walkie-talkie out of his pocket

STEVE

10-4, Steve here.

RADIO (O.S.)

Code brown. We got a floater in the kid's pool.

STEVE

(to the radio)

Roger that.

(to Collette)

Duty calls. I'll see you later.

Steve plants a kiss on Collette's cheek. Collette is left, a sharp darkness falls on her. Deep breath.

CUT TO:

11

INT. POOLSIDE - AFTERNOON

11

Jade is poolside watching aqua-aerobics. Collette appears on the poolside, walks to Jade.

COLLETTE

I've been thinking we should speak about what happened last night.

JADE

Why? Won't be long before everyone knows and just thinks I'm mental.

COLLETTE

You're not mental. You're just - sad or scared or stuck or I don't know, but I know you're not mental.

(BEAT)

And I won't tell anyone but only if you promise to go to the doctor.

Jade nods. And Collette holds out a mobile phone.

COLLETTE (CONT'D)
And here's your phone.

JADE
What? My phone is knackered.

COLLETTE
That was my phone you threw in the pool. I thought I'd lost it, that's why I came back.

JADE
Shit. Sorry.

COLLETTE
[IN] No. I'm glad I came back. I'm glad I picked up the wrong one.

Collette types in her number and hands it back to Jade.

COLLETTE (CONT'D)
And here is my number. If you want to talk. Okay? About anything. And promise you won't ever try -

JADE
[IN] I promise.

Collette walks away. Jade checks her phone. She types a yellow heart next to Collette's name and presses save.

CUT TO:

12

INT. STAFF ROOM - EVENING

12

Jade walks into the staffroom where Steve is packing up. Jade opens her locker to find the envelope with MUM written on it. Holds it for a moment then tares it up. She goes to stuff the paper in her pocket where she finds the card from her Grandad. She takes her chewing gum out of her mouth and sticks her Grandad's card to the inside of her locker door. She looks at it. A moment of hope.

Her phone buzzes. It's a message from Agnieszka that's reads:

Your Grandad said something, about the real reason you moved back.

Jade is confused. Then a second message arrives that reads:

I know what you did.

STEVE
Remember and leave the building
tonight. Will ya?

JADE
Yeah. I will. Night, Steve.

Jade closes the message. Ah, shit.

THE END