



FLOAT

EPISODE 2

TRANSMISSION SCRIPT - 29.08.21

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2.1 **INT. POOLSIDE - MORNING**

2.1

A pile of knackered floats sit stacked against a tiled wall.

A used plaster drifts across an empty pool.

A whistle hangs by its cord, abandoned on the lifeguards chair.

The only sound is the noise of the pump whirring.

2.2 **INT. STAFF ROOM - MORNING**

2.2

COLETTE opens her locker. She is serious and focused and dreading the day ahead.

A quick look behind her to check she is alone. Deep breath. She opens her bag and peers inside. Worry suddenly washes over her. A pregnancy test sits inside her bag.

JADE (O.S.)

You alright?

JADE has quietly walked in. Colette quickly closes up her bag.

JADE (CONT'D)

You alright? You look a little - serious.

Colette distracts herself by organizing her already organized locker.

COLETTE

I'm fine.

(BEAT)

You alright? I haven't heard from you since last week. I thought you might message me.

(BEAT)

Nevermind, tell me about your haircut?

Jade also starts getting ready to cover her anxiety.

JADE

I fancied a change. And I've been - busy.

COLETTE

For a whole week?

Colette stops faffing, stares at Jade. Jade doesn't know how to answer. Awkwardness hangs in the air. Silence. Tension.

A knock on the staff room door. The tension snaps.

STEVE (O.S.)
Everybody decent?

JADE
Yeah.

STEVE walks in, clip board in hand. The women smile, masking all the seriousness of those previous seconds.

STEVE
Morning all. Just a quick run down of the day. Jade you're on poolside supervising front-crawling kids. And Colette you're on Elderly Aqua Aerobics. We need eyes on those jumping geriatrics.

COLETTE
Got it.

STEVE
Great. Great. Nice new hair Jade. Edgy! And Collette, you're looking lovely today. Practically glowing.

COLETTE
D'you think?

STEVE
I know.

JADE
In all fairness it's florescent lighting in here so most things glow.

Steve rolls his eyes and gives Colette a peck on the cheek, and leaves. Both the women exhale, dropping their smiles.

COLETTE
So?

Jade hesitates.

JADE
I haven't talked. To anyone yet.
I'm sorry, I just...
(BEAT)
It's hard to...
(MORE)

JADE (CONT'D)

(BEAT)

When you don't know what to say...

Colette watches Jade stumble for something to say. The air turns silence. Colette can't help but soften.

COLETTE

I know. Maybe you could look online? See if you could talk to someone that way?

(BEAT)

I always think it's easier to talk when you're not having to look someone in the eye.

JADE

That's a good idea. I appreciate you being so - kind.

COLETTE

What else would I be?

JADE

Well we weren't exactly friends in school.

COLETTE

Maybe we've both just grown up a bit.

A smile. A spark. They look at each other, facades falling off them. There is something flirtatious in the air. But it is cut through by AGNIESZKA entering.

AGNIESZKA

Sorry. Morning.

Jade and Agnieszka clock each other. It's instantly tense, Jade turns away.

COLETTE

Hiya. I didn't think you were teaching today.

AGNIESZKA

I'm not teaching. I'm just here for a swim.

(to Jade)

Morning.

JADE

Hiya.

Jade quickly grabs her lifeguard jacket and leaves. Agnieszka watches, she isn't sure what to do.

2.3 **INT. POOLSIDE - AFTERNOON**

2.3

Jade is on poolside, her toes are nudging off the edge of the pool. She is lost in thought, remembering last week. We see a glimmer of her fragility.

A flash of her underwater.

Bubbles rising to the surface.

Gasps for air. The noise grows and grows. Panic.

LIAM (O.S.)

Ah what? You've got to be jokin.
Come here you wee waterproof
bastard.

Silence. Jade lifts her head up to see LIAM trying to use the big net to get a plaster out of the pool. Jade, breathes for the first time in minutes.

JADE

Do you want a hand?

LIAM

It's not as easy as it looks, but
bash on.

(BEAT)

Or maybe it's just another thing
that I'm shite at.

JADE

What is up with you?

LIAM

Fed up, man. See when the pools
like this empty...

The two of them look out at the empty pool. The only sound is the pump whirring.

LIAM (CONT'D)

It feels like life is happening
somewhere else. I mean at least you
got your chance at leaving.

JADE

Aye, And look where I've ended up
coming back to.

Jade shrugs, stares off into the water.

JADE (CONT'D)

Did you end up asking Agnieszka out?

LIAM

Still working on it. What about you? You fell in love with any locals yet?

JADE

Still working on it.

They almost laugh. She looks at Liam. There is a quiet tender trust forming between them.

JADE (CONT'D)

And the truth is - I'm not long... outta... being with someone.

LIAM

But I thought you were saying that -

JADE

[IN] I know. I know. I just, I didn't really fancy talking about *her*.

Jade checks Liam reaction and he just nods - nonplussed.

LIAM

Fair enough.

Agnieszka walks on poolside. Her and Jade hold each other's gaze. Jade is desperate not be left with her. She begins to walk away.

LIAM (CONT'D)

Where you going?

Jade hesitates. Conjuring a lie. She keeps walking away.

JADE

I forgot my whistle. And I'd hate to miss out on the glamour of wearing a whistle.

Liam smiles as Jade slinks away. Agnieszka watches, knowing full well she is being avoided.

2.4

INT. STEVE'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

2.4

Colette stands outside Steve's door. Deep breath. She pushes it open. He is doing paper work.

COLETTE

Are you busy?

STEVE

Never too busy for you.

COLETTE

Well. I wanted to ask if it was possible, if I could get away early? I'm on till close and -

STEVE

[IN] I'm afraid I've already got Liam leaving early today. Something about his Mum's birthday or a funeral.

COLETTE

But what if I -

STEVE

[IN] I'm sorry. I would if I could but I can't, so I won't. Health and safety.

Steve clocks Colette's disappointment.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Hey. No need to look sad. I'm on till close too.

Steve moves close.

STEVE (CONT'D)

So, you'll have company.

They kiss. She places her hands on his face. It's tender, almost longing. We feel their care for each other. Colette looks Steve right in the eye, as if she is searching for an answer to a question she doesn't know.

STEVE (CONT'D)

You look like you might cry.

COLETTE

No. I'm not. I'm just...

STEVE

What?

COLETTE

Nothing. It's nothing.

STEVE

Well good. I hate to see you upset.
Come over tonight?

COLETTE

I can't. But tomorrow, maybe?

STEVE

Tomorrow, then.

Colette leaves Steve to his paper work. He is distracted and she can hardly keep herself together. Deep breaths.

2.5

EXT. SPORTS CENTRE - AFTERNOON

2.5

Jade is looking at her phone in her hand, unsure if she is brave enough to call.

AGNIESZKA

Your Grandad.

(BEAT)

He's not very good at keeping secrets.

JADE

You shouldn't sneak up on people like that.

AGNIESZKA

It's not like you gave me a choice.
You spent the whole week ignoring me.

JADE

You know my grandad's losing his marbles right?

AGNIESZKA

Yeah we both know he's not that far gone. He said the police were involved?

Silence. Dread falls on Jade.

JADE

All I was doing was trying to protect someone that I cared about.

(BEAT)

Please don't tell anyone.

AGNIESZKA

Well there is no reason for me to
tell anyone.

(BEAT)

Is there?

JADE

No. No. I...

(BEAT)

No.

Neither of them know how to finish the conversation. A tense heavy silence.

2.6

INT. STAFF ROOM - TOILET - AFTERNOON

2.6

Jade hides herself in a toilet. She is entirely overwhelmed. Trying to catch her breath. She hits the side of the cubicle.

Jade hits the side of the cubicle again. She goes to do it again but is interrupted and cuts through the noise.

COLETTE (O.S.)

You'll break that.

Jade stops mid-punch and gently places her hand on the wall.

JADE

Colette?

She checks under the door and sees that Colette is sitting on the ground of the next cubicle. Jade is a wash of embarrassment.

JADE (CONT'D)

What are you doing? You okay?

COLETTE (O.S.)

Is anyone ever okay if they're
sitting on a toilet floor?

(BEAT)

What are you doing hitting a door?

JADE

I just...

(BEAT)

I dunno.

Jade drops to her knees and moves so she is sitting back to back with Collette through the cubicle wall.

COLETTE

Long day?

JADE

Long life.

Colette lets out a small laugh. They both smile. Silence.

COLETTE

Why weren't we friends at school?

JADE

Because you were really cool. And I really wasn't.

COLETTE

I wasn't cool.

JADE

They literally used to call you Cool Colette. The only thing they called me was - dyke.

COLETTE

I'm sorry.

JADE

It was true.

(BEAT)

I'm not sure those sixteen year old boys were shouting it in an empowering way though.

(BEAT)

I think they were probably just arseholes.

COLETTE

Probably.

There is tenderness and vulnerability in air. The two girls sit in silence and stillness. Back to back.

JADE

So what's brought you to the bathroom floor?

COLETTE

Nothing.

JADE

Aye. A whole load of nothing.

(BEAT)

(MORE)

JADE (CONT'D)

Wasn't it you that said it was
easier to talk without seeing
someone's face?

Colette takes a moment. Sighs.

COLETTE

Promise not to tell anyone?

JADE

Promise.

From under the cubicle wall she passes a positive pregnancy
test. Jade takes it. Looks at it.

JADE (CONT'D)

I don't suppose that's good news
then?

Silence.

Jade gets up off the floor and pushes the door open of
Colette's cubicle. Finds Colette with makeup running down her
face. She kneels on the ground and wipes Colette's eyes. They
look at each other with such a tenderness. Jade then sits
next to her and puts her arm around Colette. Colette leans
into her.

They sit in silence. The two women move closer. They look at
each other.

COLETTE

I don't know what to do.

JADE

Me neither.

Their faces just inches apart. Breath on each other's skin.

END OF EPISODE