

GRIME KIDS

Episode 3

DOUBLE BLUE AMENDS full script (clean) - 04.12.22

Written by

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Inspired by the DJ Target bestseller

2	OMITTED	2
3	OMITTED	3
4	OMITTED	4
5	OMITTED	5

7 **INT. KAI'S HOME - KAI'S BEDROOM - DAY**

7

Kai lies in bed. Waits until he hears Cyril go to the bathroom. Pulls himself out of bed.

8 **INT. KAI'S HOME - KITCHEN - DAY**

8

Kai gathers as many resources as he can to keep himself safely locked away in his room as long as possible. Turns to leave the kitchen. Bumps into Cyril wrapped in a towel. Kai drops the box of cereal. Coco Pops scatter everywhere.

CYRIL

The bloody boiler.

Cyril marches to the kettle. Fills it up. Puts it to boil. Cyril watches Kai sweep up the cereal in silence. Begins helping-

KAI

-Do you still love mum?

Cyril stops. Kai is searching. Reaching.

CYRIL

Of course I do...

Cyril turns to Kai. Knows what Kai is looking for.

CYRIL (CONT'D)

I would never have left if she didn't ask me to- I'm not blaming her- She just... She wanted me to be a different man than I was- A different man to the one she fell in love with, and I couldn't...

Cyril shakes off the heaviness. Takes the kettle-

KAI

-Do you wish you had stayed?

Cyril pauses.

KAI (CONT'D)

Like, I mean... Would you have come with me and mum to Bristol, if I didn't get sick?

CYRIL

I knew you weren't sick Kai.

Kai freezes.

CYRIL (CONT'D)

Not really. But, I also knew that if you needed me home that badly- enough to make yourself ill-

KAI

CYRIL (CONT'D)

I-

-Then home is where I-

KAI (CONT'D)

-I didn't *make* myself-

CYRIL

-You wanted me home- or you didn't want me with Dane and Shandra, so-

KAI

-So you did want to stay-

CYRIL

-Bottom line, I came home... so, it's time you let it go. You and your mother-

KAI

(angry)

-I *was* sick-

-The sound of the front door opening interrupts them.

9

INT. KAI'S HOME - CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

9

JANETTE (Kai's mum, Black, late 30s,) enters. Looks around at the mess.

KAI

Mum!

Janette squeezes him tight. A moment of awkwardness between the parents. Kai absorbs it.

CYRIL

I thought you had two more weeks of work.

JANETTE

(looking around)

I can see that.

KAI

What are you doing here?

JANETTE

Missed you.

Janette looks from Kai to Cyril. The weight of the conversation evident. Janette smiles through her worry.

JANETTE (CONT'D)

Everything ok?

CYRIL

Of course.

Cyril takes Janette's bag.

10

INT. BISHOP'S HOME - BISHOP'S BEDROOM - DAY

10

Bishop and Wayne watch the "Eastenders" omnibus and eat sausage sandwiches. A whistle interrupts. Bishop jumps out of his bunk.

11

EXT. OUTSIDE BISHOP'S BLOCK - DAY

11

Bishop runs out of the main door. Slows to a cool strut as he rounds the corner to Donnie. Rinse blasts from the car.

DONNIE

Wagwarn.

BISHOP

How did you know where I lived?

DONNIE

This is my manor you know?

Bishop nods. He does know. Donnie hands Bishop a sports bag.

DONNIE (CONT'D)

Don't look in it. Need a favour.

12

EXT. BOW - DAY

12

Bishop waits anxiously on a corner. Bag clutched tightly. Radio Barry plays his harmonica. Bishop listens. YOUNG MUM (very cockney, 20+, white, Donnie's sister), with a pram, approaches.

YOUNG MUM

Sorry I'm late. You Donnie's friend, yeah?

Bishop hesitates.

YOUNG MUM (CONT'D)

That for me?

Bishop isn't sure. Young Mum doesn't look like who he was expecting. Young Lady takes the bag. Reaches in. Bishop holds his breath. Young Mum pulls out a small Proibito bag. A pair of baby Prada shoes are inside. Young Mum gasps.

YOUNG MUM (CONT'D)

(speaking to baby in pram)

Look what Uncle D got ya.

Young Mum pulls £20 out of her purse.

YOUNG MUM (CONT'D)

'Ere. Thanks for doing my brother's dirty work. Tell 'im I forgive 'im, but mum's still pissed he missed Jaden's birthday dinner, so he better come by next week.

BISHOP

(refusing the money)

Oh. No.

YOUNG MUM

Go on. Take it.

BISHOP

I don't- It's... It's fine.

YOUNG MUM

(shrugging)

Suit yourself.

Young Mum pushes the pram away.

13

OMITTED

13

14 **OMITTED**

14

15 **INT. KAI'S HOME - KAI'S BEDROOM - DAY**

15

Kai sits on his bed. Wrapped in a towel. His clothes laid out on his bed. He hears his parents arguing in another room.

JANETTE (O.S.)
You've been back 5 minutes and
you've already seen your ex?

CYRIL (O.S.)
She's not an "ex"- I mean, she's
more than- I just- I've known her
my whole life, Jan.

Kai opens the door a crack. Sees his parents.

JANETTE
Excuse me?

CYRIL
It's been 5 years. Come on. It
doesn't need to be this hard-

-Janette storms past. Kai narrows the gap in the door.

JANETTE
-I knew coming back here would be a
mistake-

-A door slams. Kai falls back onto his bed.

16	OMITTED	16
17	OMITTED	17
17A	OMITTED	17A
18	OMITTED	18

18A OMITTED

18A

19 INT. PARKCROFT COMMUNITY CENTRE - DAY

19

Junior's eyes trace a large painting of his mum's face. His eyes go to the beer in her hands. Then the horse she rides. It's an intense, majestic, inappropriate interpretative painting, that garners uncomfortable looks and stifled sniggers. The reverend's blessing is muffled in the distance of his mind. The "amens" bring him back to the present. The hall is near full. People sit at tables. Plates of food piled high in front of them. Guests chomp on puff puff and patties laid out with other multinational food. Paul stands.

PAUL

We just wanted to say thank you for
all coming.

Paul looks out at the crowd. They're keen to hear more from him. No one more so than Junior. Junior stares at his dad with desperation

PAUL (CONT'D)

Yeah. Thank you.

Paul sits. Junior is frustrated. Grandad quickly stands.

GRANDAD

Erm... So... We know last year,
with the funeral being up North, by
her ma, many of you regretted not
being able to pay your respects.
So, we felt it was important to do
something for the community that
Aoife adopted as her own.

Grandad reaches for his drink. Changes his mind. Thinks.
Junior looks at the cup. Almost longingly.

GRANDAD (CONT'D)

It's difficult to know the right
way to do things here. Where I'm
from death isn't a whisper like it
is over here. It is loud- wailers,
radio announcements- present and it
is very much sure of its place in
the world. It doesn't hide... It
doesn't visit you alone at night,
or in the silence between the
laughter on a Saturday morning.
It's not lonely-making... Its
shadow doesn't sneak up on you
while you're by yourself. You *share*
death.

(MORE)

GRANDAD (CONT'D)

You greet and meet it as a
community. Then see it on its
way... Together...

(MORE)

GRANDAD (CONT'D)

I'm not ashamed to say I've needed you. All of you. We've needed you... More than we've known how to say. So... I hope that's what we can do here today... Be needy on each other. And see that shadow of death on its way.

Grandad is lost in Aoife's eyes. Gathers himself.

GRANDAD (CONT'D)

Now. Let us not be too melancholy, now. There's never been a wake in Dunadry that hasn't ended in a proposal or a brawl. We know how to celebrate life. And there's nobody that I know that celebrated life as hard, or as loudly, as my Aoife. So, raise your glasses.

The attendees obey.

GRANDAD (CONT'D)

To Aoife. To life and to death.

Aoife's name echoes across the hall. Grandad nods in gratitude. Junior's lips are the only ones that don't move. His head threatens to explode.

20	OMITTED	20
21	OMITTED	21
22	INT. PARKCROFT COMMUNITY CENTRE - DAY	22

Bernice and Reggie stand behind the serving table. Dish out food. Wayne sleeps on a chair nearby. Covered by a coat. A half-read book by his head. Bayo's family eat at a table.

TEMI

(quietly, to Bayo)
She's being dramatic. It's just a meeting. No one's fired her.

BEBI

Don't try it.
(to Bayo)
(MORE)

BEBI (CONT'D)

She just wants to go solo.
(to Temi)
Admit it.

TEMI

Duos aren't really a thing.

BEBI

Simon and Garfunkel. Sonny and
Cher. Hall and Oats. The Righteous
Brothers.

TEMI

Are any of them even black?

BEBI

What has that got to do with-
Fine... KCi and Jojo. Ike and Tina-

TEMI

-And we all know how that turned
out... It's just a first meeting.

Temi flicks business card belonging to 'Dillon O'Brien - A&R'
in her hand. Stares at it as if it holds the key to all her
dreams.

22A

INT. PARKCROFT COMMUNITY CENTRE - BATHROOM - DAY

22A

Junior takes calming breaths in the mirror. Reluctantly downs
a stranger's drink abandoned by the sink. Waits for the
soothing effect.

23

EXT. OUTSIDE COMMUNITY CENTRE - DAY

23

Junior frees himself from aunties offering their condolences
and observations of his growth and handsomeness. All alleged
reasons his mum would be proud. Junior approaches the boys.

BAYO

(to Junior)
You ok?

BISHOP

Course he's not.

BAYO

Just asking.

DANE

(to Junior)
Suit looks sick.

BAYO

Proper.

JUNIOR

Thanks...

BAYO

Can't believe it's been a year.

BISHOP

Someone told me that time moves faster as you get older, 'cause your heartbeat slows down. 'Cause more things happen between each beat, your life flashes before your eyes faster.

BAYO

Rah.

DANE

Yeah... So... You two are fired from cheering up duty.

BISHOP

(to Junior)

My bad.

JUNIOR

It's cool.

They boys search their minds for distractions or comfort.
Reggie steps out

24

EXT. ESTATE - DAY

24

Kai and Cyril lug heavy DJ equipment. Kai spots Dane, Junior and Bayo sat on a wall outside the memorial. Nerves hit. Cyril sees Dane. Sees the look of worry on Kai's face.

CYRIL

Go on.

Cyril takes a bag from Kai. Hands him the old decks. Cyril approaches the community centre. PERSON 1 & 2 play Dominos outside.

PERSON 2

Rah. You back, yeah? Rich Tea in the house.

Daps and spuds people excited to see the return of DJ Rich Tea. Cyril laps up the attention-

PERSON 2 (CONT'D)

-Actually, it's my mum's 60th next month. We've been looking for a DJ-

Cyril's mood quickly shifts. He hates how small they see him. How dare they suggest the one and only DJ Rich Tea play a retirement birthday. Cyril tries to cool his annoyance.

CYRIL

I should go set up.

Cyril smiles politely. Slips away.

25

EXT. OUTSIDE PARKCROFT COMMUNITY CENTRE - BACK - DAY

25

Kai approaches. Dane braces himself. Kai hands Junior a card.

KAI
From my mum. She's sorry she
couldn't make it. She's not well.

Junior takes the card reluctantly. Dane's ears prick at the mention of Janette's return. Kai spuds Bayo and Bishop.

KAI (CONT'D)
(handing decks to Dane)
Here.

Dane is ready to reject it. Looks to Junior. Not wanting to cause a scene, takes the decks.

BAYO
What's that?

KAI
Dad's old decks.

BAYO
Sick!

Bayo jumps off the wall. Snatches the case. Opens it. They all wow at the sight of the buttons, knobs and switches.

BAYO (CONT'D)
Finally. Now we can rehearse.

BAYO (CONT'D)
(to Kai)
You got bars right?

Kai hesitates.

BAYO (CONT'D)
Obviously he's got bars.
(to Kai)
We're meeting at Dane's tomorrow
morning for our *actual* first
official rehearsal for Mic of the
Manor.

Dane, Junior and Kai all wince at Kai's appointment. Kai
takes a sharp intake of breath. Dares not ask what he's been
roped into.

BAYO (CONT'D)
(patting Dane's chest)
DJ.
(patting Junior)
Manager
(patting Bishop)
The reluctant moody one! Every band
needs one of them.

DANE
We ain't a band bro.

BAYO
Alright. Crew. Whatever.... Wait...
What am I gonna be?

DANE
Backup dancer?

They all laugh.

BAYO
Firstly, there's nothing wrong with
that. Tupac started out as a backup
dancer.

Bayo thinks.

BAYO (CONT'D)
Hype man. The glue. The je ne sais
quoi.

Bayo takes a pretend mic and waves his arms side to side.

BAYO (CONT'D)
Heyyyy. Hooooo. Heyyyy. Hooooo.

He points the mic to the boys. They copy. They laugh.
Disapproving looks hush them. Dane is glad to see Junior
smile. Bayo puts his hand in the centre.

BAYO (CONT'D)
Gladiators on 3.

They all shake their heads. Laugh. Walk away.

BISHOP

You always take it too far bro.

Bayo completes the cheer on his own.

26

INT. PARKCROFT COMMUNITY CENTRE - DAY

26

Cyril turns to Dane who waits patiently beside him with a Mr Vegas vinyl ready to go. Talks him through the line up. Counts him in. And, almost flawlessly, Mr Vegas' "Under Mi Guinness", mixes into Barrington Levy and Bounty Killer's "Living Dangerously". Sounds of approval erupt.

Kai watches on. Pushes away the fear of loss that creeps up inside him. Joins Cyril and Dane with a bottle of J20 for Dane and a can of beer for Cyril. They cheers. Cyril is proud of Kai. Dane tolerates him. Kai tries his best to be ok.

KAI

(quietly, to Dane)

Listen, I don't have to come tomorrow. I know Bayo put you on the spot.

DANE

(stony)

It's fine. We need an MC.

KAI

Safe.

Kai puts a hand out to spud Dane. Dane doesn't reciprocate.

DANE

Nah. We just don't have any other choice.

26A **OMITTED**

26A

27 **OMITTED**

27

28 **EXT. OUTSIDE PARKCROFT COMMUNITY CENTRE - DAY**

28

The memorial is over. Junior steps out to look for Paul. In the distance he sees Paul arguing with a woman (**AKOSUA**). Junior can't make out what they're saying. The woman storms away. Jumps into her car. On the side "W10 Cars" is written in large letters. Junior is confused. Paul sees Junior. Quickly goes to pass him.

JUNIOR

Who was that?

PAUL

She was lost. Asking for directions.

JUNIOR

A cabby? Lost?

Paul is gone before Junior's questions fully form.

29 **OMITTED**

29

30 **OMITTED**

30

30A **EXT. BOW - NIGHT**

30A

Kai walks through Bow with a bag of Chinese takeaway. Suit still on. People are gathered around a car. Jokes and laughter are shared between them. Among them Kai spots Target, Wiley and Gifford leaning on the car's bonnet. Kai sneaks closer. Wiley spots him.

WILEY

You good?

Kai stands tall.

KAI

I was just... I'm an MC too.

WILEY

Yeah?

KAI

Yeah. Krusher K.

The older lot laugh a little. Kai shifts. Uncertain.

WILEY

Ok. Let me hear something then.

KAI

What?

WILEY

You're an MC right? Spit something.

KAI

Right now?

TARGET

No time like the present.

Kai shifts nervously.

KAI

I...

WILEY

You ain't got bars?

Kai stutters. Fights his nerves. A few people snigger. Girls walk past.

WILEY (CONT'D)

Yo pretty.

They laugh and head towards the girls. Kai eyes the notebook sitting the passenger seat.

31

INT. PARKCROFT COMMUNITY CENTRE - IT ROOM - NIGHT

31

Bishop works on his track. Chris enters.

CHRIS

Sounds good. Here.

Chris tosses a key at Bishop.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Lock up. Hold onto it. If you want to come in here early, or stay late, you're welcome to.

Bishop nods gratefully.

32 **INT. BAYO'S HOME - BAYO'S BEDROOM - NIGHT** 32

Bayo hides under his duvet with a torch. Listens to another of Aoife's cassettes: "Loaded" by Primal Scream. He nods along to the music hard. He works on his comic of Gladiator Crew centre stage at Knights Of The Realm. He puts lyrics in their mouths that reflect the deep and angsty lyrics of the rock and punk bands he is becoming familiar with.

33 **INT. DANE'S HOME - DANE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT** 33

Dane gathers the only records he can find - Nan's Jamaican Gospel music and Blues. Plugs headphones into his gifted decks. Practices loading and basic mixing.

33A **OMITTED** 33A34 **INT. KAI'S HOME - BEDROOM - NIGHT** 34

Kai's Chinese takeaway is abandoned. He scribbles lyrics furiously and unsuccessfully on scraps of paper. Kai kicks over a box in frustration. Looks over at a picture that has spilled out of the box. A younger Cyril and his crew pose. Cyril wears a brown bowler hat. Oozes confidence and charisma. Kai both admires and is jealous of this Cyril.

34A **OMITTED** 34A35 **OMITTED** 3536 **INT. DANE'S HOME - KITCHEN - DAY** 36

Dane and Bishop set the decks up on the kitchen dining table.

DANE
(pulling records out of a
bag)
(MORE)

DANE (CONT'D)

Sold some games to Mehmet, and managed to get these two this morning.

JUNIOR

Please tell me not the Gran Turismo 3.

Dane shrugs.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

I didn't even get to play it.

DANE

Imagine, he only gave me a fiver for it.

BISHOP

Mehmet's a teef man.

DANE

He could smell the desperation on me. Anyway, I'm no Slimzee, but now we got 3 decent records.

Dane tries to remember what Cyril taught him. Makes a few errors. A couple attempts almost scratch the records. Kai enters. Covers his ears at some of the unpleasant sounds coming from the speakers.

KAI

Oh good. 'Cause for a minute I thought someone was chainsawing a bag of cats in here.

Dane doesn't laugh.

DANE

Whatever. Let's hear your bars.

Bayo and Junior join them in the kitchen. Junior downs a glass of water. Splashes his face. He looks worse for wear. Kai can't help but be a little concerned. No one else seems to notice.

KAI

Aight. Cool.

Kai hesitates. Shyness creeps in.

BAYO

Introducing. Man like... Krusher K!

Bishop, Bayo and Junior whistle, "brap" and bang furniture. Dane clocks Junior's softening. Dane drops the needle. The track plays. Kai stutters through lyrics. They aren't good. The boys cringe. Try not to laugh.

KAI

That tune is dead though. Man can't even- That beat is dead.

JUNIOR

Yeah, 'cause it heard your bars and killed itself.

The others burst out laughing.

KAI

(to Junior)

Go on then.

JUNIOR

Nah G. I'm management, remember? You're the talent... well, talent? Debatable.

The others laugh harder.

BAYO

I should go. Temi charges time and a half to cover for me, when the weather's good.

KAI

Wait. Nah man. It's the-

-Kai storms out. They laugh is even louder. Kai returns Wiley's stolen notebook.

KAI (CONT'D)

I'm telling you. It's the track-drop the other one.

Dane does as requested. Kai hesitates. Clears his throat. Spits Wiley's bars as his own. The nods, screwed faces of appreciation and grunts of captivation from his Bishop and Bayo encourage him. Bishop puts on headphones. Lines up the other track. Dane takes his cue from Bishop, mixes it in. Bayo bangs a wooden spoon on a pot in celebration. Even Junior has to nod in approval. Spuds Kai. Dane decides in this moment to let things go. For the good of the group.

KAI (CONT'D)

Wait. Is Tony still about?

DANE

Yeah. Why?

KAI

Gotta dress how we wanna be addressed.

40 **EXT. ROMAN ROAD - DAY**

40

The boys are gathered around Tony's boot. Eyes wide. A selection of Moschino, Armani and Evisu before them.

41 **EXT. ROMAN ROAD - DAY**

41

Bayo wears a leather Evisu/Avirex jacket.

KAI

(to Bayo)

You can't wear a leather jacket
fam?

JUNIOR

(to Kai)

You've got the exact same jacket
on.

KAI

Yeah, but *he* has a sweat problem. *I*
do not. Can't have man up there
looking like Type 2 diabetics.

Bayo takes off the jacket.

JUNIOR

(to Bayo)

You know he's just saying that so
he can wear it.

BAYO

It's cool. It's bare hot in that,
anyway.

The boys hold t-shirts and jeans up to their bodies. Pass
clothes between them. Excited debates and disses over who
would look best in what. Kai spots a flashy pair of jeans.
Grabs them.

KAI

(to Tony)

Best price?

TONY

I'll do you 2 t-shirts for 50.
Jeans 40 each.

KAI

What?

TONY

They're twice that in central.

KAI

But you got 'em free.

TONY

My profit margin ain't none of your
business.

Tony goes to close the boot.

JUNIOR

Wait. Wait.

(quietly, to the boys)

I got a bit of money in cards
yesterday. Don't know why. It
weren't my birthday.

BISHOP

Nah bro. You're good. That's yours.

JUNIOR

Let's call it an advance.

(to Tony)

4 t-shirts for 85. Jeans 30 each
and we'll drop your name in a tune.

TONY

You'll what?

JUNIOR

Free promo.

TONY

Get out of it. 90. 35. Final offer.

Junior shakes Tony's hand. The boys do not notice Bishop's uneasiness at the pricing.

DANE

(to Junior)

Wait. 4?

JUNIOR

(grinning)

Yeah, I got something else in mind
for me.

42 **OMITTED**

42

42A **EXT. BOW - DAY**

42A

The boys head back to their estate. They spot Nan with shopping bags. They run to her. Take her bags. Dane is nervous. Unsure what state she is in. She smiles at the boys.

NAN

You all are good boys.

Nan's herself. Dane is relieved. Kai joins them nervously. Nan's smile politely lingers. Dane is uncertain. Looks from Nan to Kai.

DANE

(to Nan)

You remember Kai?

Nan assesses hr grandson. Checks his eyes to be sure he's ok. Dane subtly nods. A tiny go ahead. Nan smiles at Kai. A wary reassurance. Kai takes it. Smiles nervously back.

NAN

(to Kai)

How are you?

KAI
Fine thank you... You?

NAN
God is good.

Kai nods. Takes the last bag. Walks ahead with the others. Keen to leave the awkward moment. But relieved by Nan's kindness, albeit layered. Nan puts a comforting arm around Dane.

42B **EXT. PARKCROFT ESTATE - DAY**

42B

The boys go their separate ways. Dane and Nan walk on. Dane with Nan's bags. He looks up. Sees a nervous Genevieve sitting on a wall.

GENEVIEVE
(standing)
Hey.

DANE
Hey.

GENEVIEVE
I just came to drop off your hat.
Papa told me where you live.

Dane smiles.

NAN
Mi turn duppy or are you going to
introduce me to your lady friend.

GENEVIEVE
Sorry.

DANE
Sorry.

GENEVIEVE (CONT'D)
I'm Genevieve

DANE (CONT'D)
This is Genevieve.

Dane and Genevieve laugh. Nan shakes her head. Smiles.

GENEVIEVE (CONT'D)
I should go.

NAN
Nonsense. You'll stay to eat.

Nan walks ahead. Dane and Genevieve glance nervously at each other. Follow. Kai watches. Shakes his head.

43 **OMITTED**

43

44 **OMITTED**

44

46

INT. BISHOP'S HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

46

Reggie, Bishop and Wayne wear aprons. Reggie paces back and forth like a sergeant. Puts on a Jamaican accent.

REGGIE

Is a big responsibility dis. Mi farda's farda's farda pass it dung to him, mi pops to 'is son. Your pops to me, and now mi 'and di baton to unnu.

Reggie hands Bishop a wooden spoon.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

Dis nuh ordinary jerk. Dis jerk recipe originate in Flagstaff, formerly known as Cudjoe's Town-Cockpit Country. We are descendants of the greatest warriors in the world. Our Maroon ancestors, met our Taino ancestors long before mi great- great- great- great- great- 'ow many dat?-E nuh matter!

Wayne bursts out laughing.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

Long time ago dis recipe was shared between dem. Legend say it was dis recipe dat fuelled di fight against di British in di mountains. Dis di most authentic recipe anybody can ever know-

BISHOP

(picking up an empty packet of jerk seasoning)
-This says made in India dad.

Reggie snatches the packet. Kisses his teeth.

REGGIE

We nuh 'ave pimento wood either.
Adaptation is the key to life boy.
Besides, jerk is more the *style* not
so much the *spice*.

Reggie does an elaborate spin.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

And you cyant pre-package *style*.

Wayne copies Reggie's moves.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

Yuh see it. In di blood mi say.

They all laugh. Bishop hears a whistle. Leans on the stack of credit card bills on the windowsill. Looks out the window.

BISHOP

One sec.

Bishop slips away.

REGGIE (O.S.)

(to Wayne, in real voice)

Ignore your brother. This is just
the base anyway. The *secret* family
ingredients, we're gonna add to it.

Reggie turns up the stereo. Desmond Dekker & The Aces'
"Israelites" plays. He and Wayne sing and dance along as they
cook.

47

INT. DONNIE'S CAR - DAY

47

Bishop gets into Donnie's car. Donnie looks strangely at
Bishop. Bishop looks down at himself. He forgot to take his
apron off. Bishop scrambles to untie it.

DONNIE

Safe for that before. You saved me
from the wrath of my sister.

BISHOP

It's cool. Oh. She told me to tell
you that your mum wants to see you
next week.

DONNIE

Shit. She's gonna kill me.

Bishop laughs a little.

DONNIE (CONT'D)

What?

Bishop's laughter quickly stops.

BISHOP
Nothing.

DONNIE
Go on?

BISHOP
(shyly)
It's just... I just wouldn't have
thought anyone could have you
shook.

DONNIE
(stony)
Shook?

Bishop immediately regrets his choice of words.

BISHOP
No- I-. No.

DONNIE
(laughing, billing a
spliff)
You're right. Only of them two
though. Trus... My barber, he
always says: "*after God, fear
woman*", and he's right fam. I've
seen a hench man get chiefed up by
his baby mum, a newborn daughter
make mandem cry and a mum have her
big son on smash. Fear them.
Witches bruv. Trust me.

Bishop laughs. Donnie hands Bishop a spliff.

BISHOP
No thanks.

Donnie assesses Bishop. Nods approval. Reaches into the back
for a Sports bag.

DONNIE
This for you. A little something to
say thanks.

Bishop hesitates.

DONNIE (CONT'D)
I ain't testing you. And, if I was,
you've already passed, anyway. So,
go on.

Bishop takes it. Opens the box. A brand new pair of Nike TNs.
Bishop's eyes light up.

DONNIE (CONT'D)

I bought them for myself, but, I forgot I already had these. You look about the same size as me.

Bishop checks the size. Nods. Smiles.

48

EXT. BISHOP'S BLOCK - DAY

48

Chris watches as Bishop spuds Donnie through the car window. The familiarity and laughter the two share make him uncomfortable. Looks at the Sports bag in Bishop's hand.

CHRIS

You know Donnie?

BISHOP

Everyone does.

CHRIS

How you know him though?

BISHOP

(almost practicing the words)

He's my older init.

Neither Chris nor Bishop is convinced by the facade. Bishop squirms. A little embarrassed. Corrects.

BISHOP (CONT'D)

Just from around.

CHRIS

Well, choose your company wisely.

Chris spuds Bishop. Walks away. Bishop watches Chris walk to his old champagne Honda Accord. Looks over to Donnie's brand new Mercedes C-Class (W203). In that moment, Bishop maybe makes a choice.

49

INT. DANE'S HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

49

Genevieve, Nan and Dane sit at the dining table. The decks have been moved to the floor. The records on the counter, beside the sink. Genevieve and Nan laugh together over emptied plates. Dane happily watches on.

GENEVIEVE

No. Honestly. She can't cook at all! And I don't have the heart to tell her.

NAN

Your dad?

GENEVIEVE

Neither can he. That's one of the many reasons they're perfect for each other... I'm suffering on my ones.

The kettle finishes boiling. Nan gets up to make tea.

NAN

(to Genevieve)

Tea?

GENEVIEVE

I'm ok. Thank you.

GENEVIEVE (CONT'D)

It's practically abuse having to eat the cooking in that house. Call the socials. Adopt me. *Please*.

Nan laughs hard. Genevieve stands. Groans a little at a pain in her knees.

NAN

You need some Cod Liver Oil.

Genevieve laughs. Begins to clear the plates.

NAN (CONT'D)

Nuh girl. You a guest.

(slapping Dane on the back)

Boy, if you don't stan' up and clear these plates.

Genevieve and Nan laugh together. Dane shakes his head. Clears the plates. From the corner of his eye, he watches Nan, with concern, as she 7 spoons of sugar to her tea.

GENEVIEVE

(nodding to the decks on the table)

When am I gonna get to hear you play then?

DANE

... One day... Maybe.

Dane grins. Enjoying this little glimpse that the power balance might be shifting in his favour... well at least towards the middle.

NAN

(to Genevieve)

I'll pack you up some food to take home.

GENEVIEVE

Thank you so much. And I'll keep a
bag packed, in case you change your
mind about that adoption.

Nan laughs.

50

OMITTED

50

51

INT. DANE'S HOME - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

51

Nan finishes cleaning the kitchen. Genevieve can be heard laughing at the TV in the other room. Dane enters. Kisses Nan on the cheek, distracting her as he grabs a dumpling cooling on the side.

NAN
(smirking)
She's nice.

Dane smiles coyly. Then... His face drops. He rushes over to the sink.

DANE
Nan!!!!

NAN
Wh'appen?

DANE
Nan. Did you *wash* my records?

NAN
What?

Dane's panicked fingers inspect the scratches.

DANE

They're scratched! Why would you
wash them? What did you do?!

Nan becomes frazzled. Confused. Genevieve appears in the doorway. Concerned by Dane's volume.

GENEVIEVE

(attempting to diffuse)
You ok?

NAN

(to Dane)
Don't talk stupid. Mi do no
such t'ing. Why would I do
such a- Don't talk
nonsense...

DANE

I need them! We have a- I need them
tonight!

GENEVIEVE

-Dane.
(gently)
Chill.

DANE

(snapping)
What do you mean chill? I had to
sell-

GENEVIEVE

-Don't raise your voice at me.

DANE

I need them. She's ruined my-

NAN

-Mi say, mi nuh touch your blood-
And why you not at school anyway?-

DANE

(scared frustration)
-Nan. I told you. It's summer holi-

GENEVIEVE

-It's ok. It's ok.
(gently, to Nan)
Why don't we go and sit down? Do
you watch Home and Away? The repeat
should be on by now.

Genevieve takes Nan's trembling hand. Dane watches them leave. Fear in his eyes. The records forgotten.

52 **OMITTED**

52

53 **INT. DANE'S HOME - CORRIDOR - DAY**

53

Genevieve and Dane linger by the door. Look down the corridor at Nan sleeping on the living room couch.

DANE

I shouldn't have snapped.

GENEVIEVE

Whatever.

Dane sighs.

DANE

I'm trying to say I'm sorry.

GENEVIEVE

Well, your "sorrys" are starting to come like candy floss- bare sweet, but no substance.

Genevieve's words hit Dane hard. He isn't sure what to say. He can't think of anything other than "sorry".

GENEVIEVE (CONT'D)

I need to go.

DANE

Can I walk you bus stop?

Genevieve shrugs. Dane takes that as a yes. Opens the door. A chill hits Genevieve. She shivers.

DANE (CONT'D)

(surprised)

You cold?

Dane puts a scarf over Genevieve's shoulders. Genevieve suppresses a smile.

54

EXT. BOW - DAY

54

Dane and Genevieve walk.

GENEVIEVE

Tell your Nan I said thank you for dinner...

Genevieve hesitates.

GENEVIEVE (CONT'D)

I... Hope she's ok.

DANE

(with no conviction)

She's just tired.

Genevieve nods. Understands Dane knows the truth, but isn't ready to admit it yet. They walk a little more.

GENEVIEVE

Hang on.

Genevieve digs in her bag. Pulls out her disc-man. Hands Dane an earphone. Presses play. Dane is instinctively repelled by the classical strings coming through the little foam-covered speaker. Genevieve gives him a stern look that sends the earbud right back to his ear. Breathes deep. Dane copies.

GENEVIEVE (CONT'D)

I was a fussy baby. From the womb, mum said. I used to kick so hard she said she wanted to reach a foot up inside herself and kick me back. That's nasty init?

DANE
(laughing)
Proper.

GENEVIEVE
One night, another night where I didn't let her sleep, she landed on a classical station and she said from the first note, it's like I stopped to listen. And every night, that's the only thing that would get me to sleep. So she fell in love with it, 'cause it became her peace. And it kind of became our family thing. So like, whenever anyone needs to clear their head. Like, if we're stressed or mad or sad...

(intentionally for Dane)
Or, if we just need the world to pause, to give ourselves time to catch up to it... We just press play... You can borrow it, if you want.

DANE
That's wicked.

GENEVIEVE
See. I knew you'd like it.

DANE
Nah.
(taking the earphone out)
This is dead. But, it's wicked that you lot are like close like that. You're lucky.

GENEVIEVE
Yeah... Guess I am... What about your parents?

DANE
(deflecting)
Wait. So, basically... You're saying you couldn't stop thinking about me?

GENEVIEVE

What?

DANE

You got your dead piano music on you. Therefore, *in your own words*, your head needed clearing-

GENEVIEVE

-Not, necessarily-

DANE

(across)

-Ergo, man like me was in your head.

GENEVIEVE

Yeah, because a girl can have nothing else in her head, but a boy-

DANE

(across)

-In conclusion... I think you might kind of like me.

GENEVIEVE

First of all, don't "statement, evidence, analysis" me. And secondly-

DANE

-Here she goes with her lists. Just admit it.

GENEVIEVE

Admit what?

DANE

(singing, remixing Maxi Priest lyrics)

You just want to be close to me.

GENEVIEVE

You're so annoying.

Dane jumps up. Sings harder. Adds an R&B two step.

DANE

(singing)

And show me the way you feel-

-Genevieve kisses Dane. Dane is stunned. Dane playfully clutches his chest. Genevieve laughs.

DANE (CONT'D)
(shouting)
Come Mic of the Manor tonight.

GENEVIEVE
(shouting back)
I'll think about it.

Genevieve puts a hand on her chest. Steadies her heartbeat.
Excitement, with a hint of worry on her face.

55

INT. BAYO'S HOME - CORRIDOR - DAY

55

BAYO (INTO PHONE)
(whispering)
No way! Aw man. What do we do now?

TEMI (O.S.)
(to any and nobody)
I know one of you t'iefed my skirt.
Can't have nothing in this house!

Bayo plugs his ears. Listens harder.

TIMI (O.S.)
Temilehin. It's enough. Can't
somebody hear word in this place
again?

TEMI (O.S.)
Mum! Where's my skirt?

BIMPE (O.S.)
In my nose.

BAYO (INTO PHONE)
Hang on. I've got an idea.

Bayo puts Dane on hold. Bimpe and Timi leave for work. Bayo
waves them off. Dials a number.

BAYO (INTO PHONE) (CONT'D)
Bish? Yeah. One sec. Doing a three
way with D.

Bayo presses a few buttons.

BAYO (CONT'D)
(to Temi)
Where you going?

TEMI
To meet my potential new manager.

BAYO
Wearing that?

TEMI

The day I take fashion advice from
you-

BAYO

-Ain't it a bit short?

TEMI

Ain't you?

BAYO

Actually, not really.

Temi leaves.

BAYO (CONT'D)

D?... Bish?... Yo. That's nang.
So... I got an idea.

56 **INT. BISHOP'S HOME - CORRIDOR - DAY**

56

Reggie and Wayne sing and dance in the kitchen. Bishop is on
the phone in the corridor.

BISHOP (INTO PHONE)

Nah man. Allow putting man on the
spot like that... Because...
Because it's not even ready. *I'm*
not-

57 **INT. DANE'S HOME - CORRIDOR - DAY**

57

DANE (INTO PHONE)

Please. I've got no money left to
buy any more records. And Kai's dad
only has old school tunes. I've
thought of everything... This is
our only hope.

58 **INT. BAYO'S HOME - CORRIDOR - DAY**

58

BAYO (INTO PHONE)
Acapella? We ain't auditioning for
Popstars. This is Mic of the Manor.
It's proper tings. And, it's £200!

Bayo waits with baited breath.

59 **INT. DANE'S HOME - CORRIDOR - DAY**

59

Dane waits with baited breath.

60 **INT. BISHOP'S HOME - CORRIDOR - DAY**

60

Bishop can feel the pressure through the phone.

BISHOP (INTO PHONE)
Arrr. Fine!

Bishop huffs at the sound of the boys cheering.

61 **INT. PARKCROFT COMMUNITY CENTRE - FRONT OFFICE - DAY**

61

Chris packs up. Bishop and Bayo rush in. Chris looks down at
Bishop's trainers.

CHRIS
Nice creps.

Bayo notices them. About to ask-

BISHOP
(deflecting,
uncomfortable)
-We're gonna enter into Mic of the
Manor.

CHRIS
That's cool man.

BISHOP
We're... We're gonna use my track.

CHRIS
(spudding Bishop)
Rah. Yes. That's wicked.

BISHOP
But... How do we get it off the
computer?

Chris grabs some blank CD-RWs from his drawer.

CHRIS

You can burn it onto this.

BISHOP

Safe. And... But, then how do we
get it onto a record?

CHRIS

I'm sure they'll have a system.
Just give them the CD.

BAYO

Nah. We gotta be a proper crew.
With a DJ and everything.

Chris pulls out a Yellow Pages. Flips to the index. Scrolls down. Flips again.

CHRIS

You gotta get it cut onto acetate.

Chris taps the page hard.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

They should be able to sort you.
Take the CD to them.

Chris hands the phone and Yellow Pages to Bayo. Bayo dials. Chris checks his watch.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

I have to go. You can stay as long
as you want. Just lock up after
yeah?

BISHOP

Thank you.

Bishop takes the key from Chris. Chris leaves

62

INT. KAI'S HOME - KAI'S BEDROOM - DAY

62

Kai paces. Tries over and over again to write his own lyrics. Each attempt more abysmal than the last. Kai returns to Wiley's book. Groans. Reluctantly stuffs it in his pocket. Goes to leave. Stops. Searches the boxes. Finds Cyril's brown bowler hat. Puts it on. Looks in the mirror. Adopts Cyril's pose from the picture. Attempts to channel the cool confidence of his dad.

63

INT. PARKCROFT COMMUNITY CENTRE - IT ROOM - DAY

63

The track slowly downloads on to the CD. Bishop looks at the time. 6.33pm. Bishop listens to the track on loop. Bayo enters. Bishop hits pause.

BISHOP

Something's missing.

BAYO

It's fine. I got through. They
close in 55 minutes... And it's
£25. I ain't got it.
(MORE)

BAYO (CONT'D)

Temi's bled me dry. Called the
mandem and everyone's already put
all their P into this.

Bayo is deflated.

BISHOP
I'll get it.

Bayo knows Bishop doesn't have the money.

BISHOP (CONT'D)
Don't worry.

Bayo listens to the track.

BAYO
... I've got an idea... Meet me by
the courts when this is done.

64

INT. JUNIOR'S HOME - JUNIOR'S BEDROOM - DAY

64

Junior finishes changing into a silver suit and hoody. Adds a memorial programme to the box of Aoife's things Grandad preserved for him. Flips through a photo album. Spots a picture of young Aoife, Paul, Akosua and Kwabs (as labelled on the back).

In another picture Paul's arm is around Akosua. Junior feels betrayed on behalf of his mum. Takes a sip from the spiked 'Lucozade' bottle on his bedside table. Assesses the connection between Akosua and Paul. They're too close for his liking.

Dane appears in the doorway. Raises an eyebrow at Junior's outfit.

JUNIOR
What?

DANE
Nothing.

JUNIOR
I got it from Cuz...
(self conscious)
Should I change?

DANE
Nah man. Look sick.

They head out.

DANE (CONT'D)
Yes Mark Morrison.

Junior turns to go back. Dane grabs him.

DANE (CONT'D)
I'm playing. I'm playing.

They head out. Dane can't help himself...

DANE (CONT'D)
(singing, from his soul!)
Ooooooh, come on, oh, yeah!

Junior stops. Dane raises his hands in surrender. They continue.

DANE (CONT'D)
(singing)
Well I tried to tell you so.

-Junior turns. Dane drags him back.

DANE (CONT'D)
I'm playing. I'm playing.

They continue.

DANE (CONT'D)
(singing, quietly)
(Yes I did)

JUNIOR
That's it.

DANE
It was right there. I had to get it out.

JUNIOR
Forget it. I'm changing.

Dane drags Junior on their way.

DANE
Come man. You look sick. We're gonna be late.

Dane's inability to stop laughing doesn't fill Junior with much confidence. Junior follows Dane anyway.

65 **OMITTED**

65

65A **OMITTED**

65A

66 **INT. OPEN MIC VENUE - DAY**

66

Dane, Kai and Junior arrive at the venue. They look good. But, nervous. Dane's sweaty palms grip his decks tightly. The venue is packed. People queue to sign up. Some of the other MCs practice nearby. Their bars are good, confident, bold. The judges table sits empty but dominant in the corner. Drinks are snuck in. Spliffs are rolled.

67

INT. BASKETBALL COURTS - DAY

67

Bishop waits. Bayo runs towards him.

BISHOP
What took so long?

BAYO
(waving one of Aoife's
tapes)
I found what we're missing.

BISHOP
(noticing the waistcoat
Bayo has added to his
outfit)
Bro. Come on.

Bayo ignores Bishop. Puts the tape in the walkman. Presses play. Puts an earbud in Bishop's ear.

BAYO
Wait for it... trust me.

Bishop waits. The chorus/bridge/drums come in. Bishop scrunches his face in approval. Bayo beams.

BISHOP
Yeah. I can do something with this.

BAYO
You get the money?

BISHOP
Obviously

Bishop waves the notes. Bayo hops on the back of Bishop's bike.

BAYO
You're such a G.

Bishop enjoys Bayo's enthusiastic hoots and whoops.

BISHOP
(checking his watch)
They close in 7 minutes.

Bishop pedals hard. The music and wind in their ears.

68

INT. JTS CUTTING HOUSE - ARCHWAY - DAY

68

The boys jump off the bike before it comes to a full stop. They are exhausted. They race to the doors. Bang hard. They're too late. There are no lights on. Bishop sighs.

BAYO

Wait. There's someone in there.

Bayo knocks again. A figure emerges from the shadows. A light switches on. **HOUSE MANAGER.**

HOUSE MANAGER
We're closed.

BAYO
(checking his watch)
We've got 1 minute left.

House Manager looks at his clock.

HOUSE MANAGER
You're a minute late by mine.

BAYO
Please please. Please.

House Manager's desire to be half way home is written all over his face.

BAYO (CONT'D)
Please. You might be about to
change our lives.

HOUSE MANAGER
Heard that before. I've locked up
now.

Bayo's face drops...

HOUSE MANAGER (CONT'D)
...So come round the back.

69

INT. OPEN MIC VENUE - DAY

69

Junior paces nervously. Dane assumes the open mic is on his mind. Junior is occupied by bigger things.

DANE
(uncertain)
They'll make it.

Dane looks at his watch.

HOST
Welcome to the 3rd annual "Mic in
the Manor" show.

The crowd erupts into stomps, cheers and claps.

HOST (CONT'D)
We have seen some of the hottest
names in radio discovered right on
this very stage.

More cheering.

HOST (CONT'D)
(shouting over excited
hollering)
Now it's time to find out if the
next DJ Luck and MC neat. Or even,
Bow's very own, Pay As U Go is in
this room.

The crowd go crazy.

HOST (CONT'D)
Ok ok ok ok. We're about to get
started. You know the rules. Every
act has 5 minutes. Longer if the
crowd demand a wheel up.

"Wheel ups" are yelled. Horns blow over the PA system.

HOST (CONT'D)
Shorter if they ain't having it.

The crowd boo and hiss.

HOST (CONT'D)
Ok. So, let's get this party
started. Act 1...

KAI
(quietly)
Shit.

Dane
Jam man. They'll be here.

HOST
Wait. We need judges.

The whole room looks to the empty judges table.

HOST (CONT'D)
So... Speaking of Bow's very own-
Bow's finest- the living legends,
let's give it up for Pay As U Go!

The crowd find new heights of excitement and energy.

KAI
(spotting Wiley)
Shit!

Kai stuffs Wiley's notebook into his back pocket.

DANE
They'll be here.

70A **INT. JTS CUTTING HOUSE - DAY**

70A

Bishop and Bayo watch in awe as their dubplate is cut. House Manager quietly enjoys their wonder.

HOUSE MANAGER
(chuckling)
It's been a while since I've seen
that look.

House Manager presses a button. Their track plays from the record. House Manager transfer's Aoife's tape to DAT. Then from DAT to dubplate. House Manager lifts the finished records. Hands them to Bayo. Bishop takes Aoife's record. Steps back and let's Bishop collect his dubplate.

70B **EXT. BOW - DAY**

70B

Bishop and Bayo cycle. Bayo looks back to make sure they are out of sight of the cutting house and manager.

BAYO
One sec.

Bishop stops. Bayo pulls a hidden "JTS" sticker out of his coat. Applies it to the record. Now similar in look to the Target record from before.

BAYO (CONT'D)
Now it's legit. Your very first
dubplate.

For a moment, Bishop sees himself clearly. He sees everything he could be. He shakes off the gush rising up in him. Spuds Bayo.

BISHOP
Safe fam. Come we go.

They cycle off in a hurry.

BAYO
(singing)
Do you feel the power of the
Gladiators?
Can you face the challenge of the
champions?
Do you have the courage of a hero?

BISHOP
Bro. How many times. It ain't that
type of Gladiators.

BAYO
(singing)
Do you have the will and the skill
(MORE)

BAYO (CONT'D)

Do you have the speed, the
strength, the heart to be your
winner
It's not for beginners.
Deep down in your soul...
Are you a Gladiator?

Bayo plays a convincing air guitar. Bishop laughs. Joins in.

71

INT. OPEN MIC VENUE - DAY

71

Shystie and Rebellious Crew wrap up. They are very good. The boys look intimidated. Shystie shines. Next to them, a drunk Tanika and her now drunk girls pour from a hidden bottle. Junior clocks. They don't recognise him. They offer him a cup. He takes it. Sips. Steadies nerves. Numbs thoughts.

HOST

Hol' tight Rebellious Crew
featuring Shystie. First wheel up
of the night. And next we have...
Gla-

The boys hold their breaths.

HOST (CONT'D)

Glamma Squad.

The boys exhale.

72

OMITTED

72

73

INT. OPEN MIC VENUE - DAY

73

Crowd laugh, hiss, boo. A mortified crew scramble off stage. Junior laughs. Buzzes. Downs another cup.

HOST

It's cold. But the people have
spoken. Alright alright.
(MORE)

HOST (CONT'D)

Next up, and hopefully with a lot
more luck... Gladiators.

Dane looks around. Anxiously prays for Bishop and Bayo to
come through the doors.

HOST (CONT'D)

They here?

Junior and Kai look to Dane for instruction.

HOST (CONT'D)

Ite. Moving on. Next-

DANE

-We're here.

HOST

Come den.

Dane and Kai walk slowly towards the stage. They scan the
eyes of the eager and judgmental audience. An audience daring
them to be great. And, equally wanting them to fail. They
climb the step to the stage. Kai avoids looking in the
direction of the judges table. A clatter behind them.

Bayo and Bishop arrive panting. Bayo hesitates at the sight
of the crowd.

BISHOP

(to Bayo)

Come on.

Bayo's eyes panic.

BISHOP (CONT'D)

We can do this.

Bayo reluctantly follows Bishop. Junior spuds Bayo and Bishop
as they make their way to the stage. Junior notices Bishop's
trainers. Bishop sees the questions in Junior's eyes. Steps
quickly away from his friend.

74

INT. OPEN MIC VENUE - DAY

74

Dane sees that decks are already set up. He's not sure he
knows how to use these. He puts his older decks down.

BAYO

(handing Aoife's record to
Dane)

You can mix right?

DANE

(nervously)

A bit...

Dane takes the record. He isn't sure he knows what to do.

KAI

Listen first. Find the drop. Just
like dad showed you. You got this.

Kai puts out a fist. Dane spuds it.

BISHOP

I'll tell you when to bring it in.

75

INT. OPEN MIC VENUE - DAY

75

Bishop and Dane stand behind the decks with their headphones on. Bishop helps Dane line up the track. The intro for Aoife's record plays. Dane and Kai nervously side-eye Bayo and Bishop. Bishop is zoned in.

At the sound of his mum's favourite track, Junior freezes. His buzz doused. For a moment he thinks he sees her in the corner. Looking exactly like the picture he saw earlier.

Kai misses the drop. Bayo nudges him. The crowd are growing impatient. Dane lines up the track again. Kai looks nervously at Wiley. Kai pulls out his own lyrics. Begins performing. Bayo, Bishop and Dane shoot Kai a questioning look. These aren't the bars that they heard earlier.

Kai is bombing. He knows it. Giggling girls and sneering boys in the audience challenge Kai's ego. Kai looks out into the crowd. Genevieve enters. She smiles and waves at Dane. Kai grits his teeth. Takes a deep breath.

KAI

(to Dane)

Run that back.

HOST

No redos-

-Geeneus whispers a plea to the host.

HOST (CONT'D)

Go on.

A few of the other performers murmur of the injustice. Dane restarts the record. Kai bites the bullet. Spits the stolen bars as if they were his own. The crowd love it. Wiley's ears prick up. Kai avoids Wiley's accusatory glare. Drinks in the applause from the audience. Bayo adlibs and stabs each line with growing confidence. Bishop's track bounces off the walls. This moment feels electric. The coveted words rain down...

AUDIENCE

Wheel it! Pull it up! Reload it!

HOST

Pull it! Pull it! Pull it!

Horns blow. The boys spud each other. Dane throws a thankful arm over Bishop's shoulders. Bishop basks in it all.

76

INT. OPEN MIC VENUE - DAY

76

Junior watches from the audience. Downs another drink from the generous girls with the hidden bottle. Apparitions of his mum haunting the room, with every blonde haired white woman reminding him of her.

77

INT. OPEN MIC VENUE - DAY

77

The boys and Rebellious Crew (featuring Shystie) stand on stage.

HOST

Ok. Ok. Quiet down quiet down. So, big up Rebellious Crew. Big up Gladiators. The audience have spoken. And now we turn to the judges to crown the champions. The 2001 Mic of the Manor winners, the voice of the endz... Who's it gonna be...

The audience drum tables. Stamp feet. Wiley whispers to Target. Target glances over to the Gladiators. Bayo, Dane and Bishop simmer with excitable hope. Kai avoids eye contact with Wiley and Target. He's sure they recognise him (and the bars). Kai holds his breath. Afraid to burst the boys' bubble.

WILEY

(to host)

Yo.

The Host goes to the judges table. More whispering. Host looks over to Gladiators. Bayo is sure now, they've got this. Kai shifts his weight. Wipes his sweating hands on his jeans. Scans the exit routes.

HOST

Ok ok ok. Looks like we have a decision.

A hush falls over the room.

HOST (CONT'D)

The winners are...

More drumming...

Grime Kids ep 3 DOUBLE BLUE AMENDS - clean

04.12.22 51A.

HOST (CONT'D)

Rebellious Crew featuring Shystie!!

The crowd is divided. Passion and alcohol fuelled tension. A friend of Rebellious Crew in the crowd doesn't take kindly to the "boos" he hears behind him. He jumps to his feet.

FRIEND

Don't boy it.

BOOER

(standing)

Or what?

HOST

Yo yo. You man sekkle.

Shouts continue. Offended and defending.

HOST (CONT'D)

Chill man.

KAI

(to Dane)

Let's bounce man. It's about to be on top.

Kai is hopeful for the opportunity to sneak away without being confronted. Host and security step in to the audience.

BAYO

Nah man. We came second. That's sick.

KAI

There are no runner up prizes.

BAYO

Networking.

BAYO (CONT'D)

(to Bishop)

You still got the CD? We could give them man a copy. Don't try ditching us if they try bag you though. G4L init?

BISHOP

(laughing)

Course bro. But don't gas it. I'm not even-

BAYO

-You are fam. Trust.

BISHOP

Safe man.

DANE

Oi. Where's Kai?

The boys look around. Kai's gone.

77A **OMITTED**

77A

78 **INT. OPEN MIC VENUE BACKSTAGE/GREEN ROOM - NIGHT**

78

The crowds mill out. Genevieve lingers by the door. Dane heads towards her. Both of them layering on confidence and nonchalance. Both enjoying the spark firing between them.

GENEVIEVE

Not bad.

DANE

I'll take that.

GENEVIEVE

I should go. Catch up with my girls.

DANE

Thanks for coming.

Genevieve turns to leave. Stops.

GENEVIEVE

Oh. Here.

Genevieve pulls out 2 Freddo chocolate bars.

GENEVIEVE (CONT'D)

Well done.

Dane grins.

GENEVIEVE (CONT'D)

Wait.

Genevieve pulls out one more. Hands it to Dane.

DANE

I see you!

Genevieve laughs. Leaves. Pay As U Go file out.

HOST

Safe for that you man.

The Host spuds and thanks Pay As U Go. Bayo nudges Bishop. Bishop steps forward.

BISHOP

(offering the CD)

I wanted to... You can have this if you want... Our tune. I made it.

Target nods approvingly.

TARGET

Yeah? You did?

Bishop doesn't pick up on Target's doubtful/sarcastic tone.

BISHOP

It's not finished. I know it needs
work, but-

TARGET

(sensing Bishop's
sincerity)

-Nah. I rate it. Keep it up.

(MORE)

TARGET (CONT'D)

Target spuds them. Bayo and Bishop walk away. Silently celebrating the affirmation. Dane approaches Geeneus and Target.

DANE
(to Geeneus)
Yo. What did you think? That's just
a sample of-

GEENEUS
-Listen. You got a few things to
work out first. Chat to your boy
about why you didn't win.

Dane looks at Target baffled. Looks back to his boys.

GEENEUS (CONT'D)
The other one.

Wiley appears behind Target.

WILEY
(to Target)
Come we go. I'm Marvin.
(to Dane)
And tell your t'iefing bredrin to
run me back my notebook. And, if I
hear him spit my bars again it's on
sight.

Wiley and Target walk away. Revealing Junior behind them. He heard everything.

DANE
(quietly)
Don't say nothing.

Dane pulls Junior aside. A seriousness on his face.

DANE (CONT'D)
Just leave it.

JUNIOR
Are you taking the piss? Did Kai
help you bury a body or something?
Why you always taking up for him-

DANE

-It's not about him.

(looking to Bayo and
Bishop)

They're gassed. Let them have this.

79

I/E. OUTSIDE BISHOP'S BLOCK/DONNIE'S CAR - NIGHT

79

Donnie waits. Bishop bounces over excitedly. They spud.

DONNIE

How did it go?

BISHOP

Good... Really good actually.

Bishop's on cloud 9.

DONNIE

Glad I could help.

BISHOP

Thank you so much man. I swear,
I'll pay you back.

DONNIE

Minor. Keep it. I don't borrow to
friends. If it ain't a gift, I
don't give it.

Bishop likes being considered a "friend" of Donnie's.

DONNIE (CONT'D)

Listen, let me be honest with you.
I know you see my car, my Ps, my
garms all of that. That's nice.
True. But making it out the hood is
pointless if you're leaving
everyone behind. It's lonely.
That's why I always put my people
on. And, now, you're my people.
You're a good yout'. You got
dreams. I rate that. And, I know
your parents work as hard as they
can. But, they can't do it all for
us.

Donnie reaches through his car window. Brings out a Sports
bag.

DONNIE (CONT'D)

It's up to you. It's an
opportunity. You're free to take it
or leave it.

Bishop comes crashing down to earth. His head spins.

80 OMTTED 80

80A OMITTED 80A

81 INT. DANE'S HOME - DANE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 81

Dane scans the radio. Stops at the classical station. Lies back. Closes his eyes. Waits for the music to do it's thing. A moment passes. Dane sits up. Kisses his teeth. Laughs.

DANE
Dead bruv!

Dane changes the station to Rinse FM.

82 INT. BISHOP'S HOME - BISHOP'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 82

Bishop sneaks quietly into his room. Careful not to wake Wayne. Pulls a mobile phone out of the Sports Bag. Hides the bag. Closes his eyes a moment. Lets the adrenaline of the day evaporate through his skin.

83 OMITTED 83

83A INT. BAYO'S HOME - NIGHT 83A

Bayo quietly closes the door behind him. Temi steps out of the bathroom in her pyjamas. Her clothes from the memorial balled up in her hands. Temi jumps at the sight of Bayo.

BAYO
How was the meeting?

TEMI
It wasn't an audition.

BAYO
Whatever it was. How was it?

Bayo takes his sister in for a moment. Temi is uncomfortable. The skirt in her hands looks torn. The light outside illuminates a graze on the left side of Temi's face.

BAYO (CONT'D)
What happened?

Temi steels. Shakes her head. Eyes fill with water. Bayo reaches out to Temi. Temi steps away.

BAYO (CONT'D)
(sterner)
What. Happened?

Temi shakes her head.

BAYO (CONT'D)
Temilehin!

Bayo looks down at Temi's clothes balled up in her hand. Into the bathroom. The wet shower.

BAYO (CONT'D)
What-

TEMI
-He did't-....

Bayo's confusion is quickly replaced with painful realisation. He assesses the evidence again.

TEMI (CONT'D)
(broken... angry, maybe)
I just wanted something for
myself...

Temi cries silently. Bayo wants to hug Temi. Temi wants to be held. But not touched. They stand there a moment.