

IN MY SKIN

EPISODE 205

SHOOTING SCRIPT

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* Close on BETHAN as she lies in a bed we don't recognise, staring blankly at the ceiling. Her alarm sounds. She sighs wearily, turning it off. She's already been awake for hours.

* FAST CUTS, no music, just soul draining silence: Turning the kettle on, pills being popped from a packet, bowl of porridge goes in the microwave.

* BETHAN walks in to the lounge where NANA is sat watching breakfast telly. We realise this is NANA'S house. BETHAN hands her the pills with a cup of tea, NANA knocking them back. Then gives her a bowl of porridge.

* We see them trudging along the road together.

* They wait at a bus stop, NANA content, BETHAN staring blankly ahead.

* BETHAN hoovering the ugly bingo carpet.

* BETHAN scraping gross food scraps off a plate into a bin.

* BETHAN sat in the bingo staff room having a bleak little bowl of soup, staring in to the middle distance. Then she becomes aware of someone speaking to her --

BETHAN

Sorry?

BINGO WORKER

I said how's your mum doing now?

We hold on BETHAN sat there, and then MATCH CUT TO...

TWO MONTHS EARLIER (and 4 weeks after 204).

BETHAN is sat in NURSE DIGBY'S office, exasperated.

NURSE DIGBY

It is my duty to report it --

BETHAN

Yeah but I'm trying to do my exams at school and then I start getting phone calls from some social worker.

NURSE DIGBY

Well this is a serious situation.

BETHAN

No it's not.

BETHAN glances through the glass partition to where TRINA is out in a communal room, playing cards with another PATIENT.

BETHAN (CONT'D)

I know I can't go with her to the shelter - it's not a big deal. I'm nearly 18 by the way.

NURSE DIGBY

You're still classed as a vulnerable person. But what I wanted to say was --

BETHAN

He only hits my mum. And anyway, I don't need to stay there, I can stay with my girlfriend.

NURSE DIGBY

If you'll let me finish... We held a meeting with Safe Guarding to discuss the situation. Taking in to light that your father doesn't have a history of violence towards you and you can stay with a partner, child services are happy for you to just contact them if the situation changes.

BETHAN breathes a sigh of relief, embarrassed about her rant.

BETHAN

Oh. Okay.

NURSE DIGBY opens a drawer, pulling out a stack of leaflets.

NURSE DIGBY

But I mean that - if you feel unsafe at any time, call them straight away. All the numbers are there.

She hands them over.

BETHAN

Okay, thanks. So is there anything I need to do for tomorrow?

NURSE DIGBY

No, it's all in hand. Someone from the shelter is coming to collect her at 8am. Long before visiting hours so we should avoid any crossover with your dad.

BETHAN

When will I be able see her again after they take her?

NURSE DIGBY

Once she's settled in, they can arrange for visits in neutral spaces, coffee shops, stuff like that.

BETHAN nods. Okay.

3

INT. MARI HUWS PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL - RECEPTION - DAY

3

AS BETHAN leaves she enters the reception to find DILWYN there kicking off with a NURSE --

DILWYN

Supervised visit? I'm tryna visit my wife for fuck's sake, why's it need to be supervised?

NURSE

There's no need for language like that --

Just then he spots BETHAN, going over to her.

DILWYN

Have you just had this? They're saying a nurse gotta be there, she's too unwell to be on her own with me. That's bollocks innit?

BETHAN

(Lying)

Yeah, that's what they always do if they're not sure about her meds or whatever.

DILWYN

It's a joke, this.

Turning back to the NURSE, aggro.

DILWYN (CONT'D)
Come on then, supervise me.

As BETHAN walks out a text comes through from CAM: ***"Is everything sorted with your mum? Let me know if you need anything x"***

4

INT. BETHAN'S HOUSE - TRINA'S ROOM - DAY

4

BETHAN is going through TRINA'S wardrobe.

BETHAN (V.O)
What do you pack for a woman who's
never coming home again?

She eventually locates a battered old biscuit tin in one of the drawers. She pulls the lid off revealing a stack of photographs inside: BETHAN as a baby being held in TRINA'S arms, TRINA as a baby with her own family. TRINA'S birth certificate is in there too. BETHAN puts the tin in to her rucksack.

Then BETHAN goes to TRINA'S dressing table, pulling open a drawer and retrieving two passports: hers and TRINA'S. They go in the rucksack as well. Along with a couple of bits of jewellery, old costume stuff that looks like it was probably owned by TRINA'S mum.

Then she hears a key being put into the front door. BETHAN'S heart freezes, hissing to herself.

BETHAN (CONT'D)
Fuck.

As quickly and silently as she can, she beelines out of the room.

5

INT. BETHAN'S HOUSE - LANDING / BETHAN'S ROOM - DAY

5

BETHAN darts in to her own room, pushing the door closed without fully shutting it, so as not to make a noise. We can hear footsteps on the stairs. She drops the rucksack and dives on to her bed. Flipping open a revision book, making it look like she's been there a while, her heart pounding. Her bedroom door swings open, DILWYN stepping in --

BETHAN (V.O)
Bastard never knocks.

BETHAN (CONT'D)
What?

DILWYN

We need to get her out of there,
it's messing with her head now.

BETHAN

She's sectioned we can't just take
her out.

BETHAN hyper-aware of the rucksack full of TRINA'S stuff near
DILWYN'S feet. DILWYN thrumming with pent up rage --

DILWYN

She's my wife, I'll do what I
fucking want.

BETHAN

She'll be discharged soon, soon as
they level her meds.

DILWYN levels her with a look for a beat, seeing through her
like he does at the end of 202 outside the pub.

DILWYN

Have they said anything else to
you?

BETHAN

(Easy breezy)
No. This is just normal.
(Then pointed)
But it's the first time you've
visited her so, you wouldn't know
would you?

DILWYN

(Sneering)
Ah ***fuck off.***

DILWYN slams her door so hard it vibrates in the hinges. We
hear him stomping down the stairs. BETHAN stares at the
rucksack - thank God for that.

6

INT. CAM'S BEDROOM - EVENING

6

BETHAN and CAM are sat on her bed together, BETHAN trying to
coax CAM --

BETHAN

I looked, it wouldn't even cost
that much to change your flights.
You could just stay one more week.
(MORE)

BETHAN (CONT'D)

Come to the party on the last day of school... Please, I really want you there.

CAM

Nah. My exams are finished. I'm just done now, it's time to go.

BETHAN

Your exams are finished, but mine aren't. Just view it as a service - you'll be staying to give me moral support... **Pleeeeeeease.**

CAM shakes her head - no.

BETHAN (CONT'D)

But why? You cannot leave tomorrow. This is so crazy, we could have another week -

CAM cuts her off, anguished.

CAM

I can't, Beth... This is too hard. It's hurting too much.

BETHAN

I know, me too - but isn't that better than not seeing each other?

CAM

No... Being with you every day but knowing that it's ending - it's killing me.

BETHAN is adamant, in denial.

BETHAN

But it doesn't need to end. I'm gonna come to France eventually. Maybe in a year. Or maybe less, maybe 6 months. As soon as my mum is on her feet.

CAM is quiet for a while. And then.

CAM

Is that what you really want? Because it's my dream - but is it yours? In fact, I don't even know what your dream is - we've never talked about it.

BETHAN

I love you.

CAM

That's not a dream. What do you want? Without me, your mum, all the other noise - **what do you want?**

BETHAN just looks at her, she can't answer the question. Eventually CAM carries on, her voice cracking as she speaks --

CAM (CONT'D)

See you don't know - and that's the problem. You've spent so much time living for other people, pretending to be something you're not, you don't even know what you want.

(Beat)

I love you so much, Beth. And I always will, you'll always be my first love. I'm always going to want to see you, and hear from you. And know how you are. But I don't think you should follow me...

BETHAN'S face cracks, fighting back tears.

BETHAN

Why are you saying this?

CAM

Because I want good things for you.

BETHAN swipes at her eyes. Grabbing the rucksack with TRINA'S stuff in.

BETHAN

Well fuck you then. I'll just go. You won't have to look at me anymore.

BETHAN gets up and heads for the door, CAM pushing herself ahead of BETHAN blocking her way.

CAM

You know it's true.

BETHAN doesn't want to hear it, but deep down - she knows CAM is right.

BETHAN

Can I get past?

CAM
Please don't go... Please will you
stay with me?

MONTAGE: Music Over, something like *Alice Boman - Wish We Had More Time*.

We stay with them, as the clock ticks through. Holding each other. Talking. Back to silence again. Closing their eyes to go to sleep. Opening them again. Finally the sun comes up.
END MONTAGE.

BETHAN looking at the clock, 7.30am. Her heart is going to break in two.

BETHAN
I need to go.

Neither of them moves. Eventually BETHAN is quiet.

BETHAN (CONT'D)
This can't be the last time I lie
in bed with you.

They both cry as they cling to one another. Through her tears BETHAN eventually manages to say --

BETHAN (CONT'D)
Thank you, Cam. For everything.

7 **EXT. CAM'S HOUSE - DOORSTEP - MORNING**

7

BETHAN looks at her watch.

BETHAN
I'm gonna be back in an hour, I'm
gonna see you before you go.

CAM leans in and kisses her, it's full of emotion. Then she pulls her in to a tight hug. BETHAN pushes her off.

BETHAN (CONT'D)
You don't have to hug me like that -
I'm coming back.

CAM
Good luck. Send her my love okay?

8 **EXT. MARI HUWS PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL - BACK ENTRANCE - DAY**

8

They're in an area behind the hospital that's fenced in by big gates so that it's sheltered from public view.

TRINA is holding BETHAN'S hand, she has a carrier bag in the other containing the items she had with her in hospital. She's still medicated, but she's a lot calmer now, slowly returning to herself. They stand with NURSE DIGBY and TWO EMPLOYEES from the Women's Shelter.

NURSE DIGBY
You got everything from your room?

TRINA
Yeah.

NURSE DIGBY
Okay, looks like we're ready then.

BETHAN hands the rucksack over to one of the EMPLOYEES.

BETHAN
Can you keep this safe? It's got her passport and birth certificate and stuff.

EMPLOYEE
Yeah.

BETHAN looks to TRINA, the dynamic like a mother dropping her kid off for the first day of primary school.

BETHAN
You ready?

TRINA nods, then looks to the EMPLOYEE.

TRINA
Am I allowed to phone her later?

EMPLOYEE
Course. Call as often as you want.

BETHAN looks to TRINA, smiling.

BETHAN
Don't forget, I'll be waiting.

TRINA
Where you gonna go now?

BETHAN
(Lying)
I'll stay with Cam, stop worrying.

They hug.

BETHAN (CONT'D)

Right go on. I'll speak to you later.

TRINA

Okay.

An EMPLOYEE opens the car door. TRINA getting in apprehensively. The door closing. As the car pulls away, TRINA does a small wave through the window, BETHAN waving back. Then NURSE DIGBY looks to BETHAN, a reassuring smile.

NURSE DIGBY

She's safe now. They'll look after her.

BETHAN

Yeah.

9

EXT. CAM'S HOUSE - DOORSTEP - DAY

9

BETHAN is jogging as she rounds into CAM'S driveway - the car is gone. She knocks the door, no answer. BETHAN checks her watch, she was less than an hour, she's not late - **what the hell?** She pulls her phone out and dials CAM --

BETHAN

Where are you?

CAM (O.O.V)

(Through tears)

I couldn't do it, I couldn't say bye.

The wind is sucked from BETHAN. She's gone.

CAM (O.O.V) (CONT'D)

I left something for you. It's behind the bin. I'll call you when I land okay?

BETHAN

Okay. Bye.

BETHAN hangs up the call. Something like ***Do U Miss Me by Becky and the Birds plays over until the end of Sc 12.***

She walks over to the wheelie bin, there's a tote bag behind it. BETHAN pulls it out, spotting that the bag has Nigella Lawson's face printed on the side. She can't raise a smile though. She looks inside, there's a letter, a USB stick and CAM'S iPod. BETHAN just stares at it. No idea what to do. Consumed with heart break.

10 **EXT. TRAVIS' HOUSE - DAY**

10

TRAVIS opens his front door to see BETHAN stood there.

TRAVIS
What's happened?

BETHAN
(Face crumpling)
She's gone, Trav.

11 **INT. TRAVIS' HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY**

11

TRAVIS has an arm around her as they sit on his bed in silence. The tote bag beside them. After a long moment.

TRAVIS
I'm gonna make us some lunch. D'you
wanna use my laptop...?

He slides it over to her. BETHAN knows she cannot take one single other thing right now. A fresh wave of tears --

BETHAN
I can't do it, Trav.

TRAVIS
Okay, you don't have to.

TRAVIS gets the tote bag, bundles it up small and shoves it in BETHAN'S rucksack.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)
It's gone okay?

GO TO: BETHAN alone now, lying in the foetal position on TRAVIS' bed, in emotional agony.

GO TO: TRAVIS comes in carrying a tray laden with two steaming bowls.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)
I made you some stew.

BETHAN
(Quiet, hoarse)
You know how to make stew?

TRAVIS
Yep. Lamb Cawl. Come on, sit up.

12 **INT. TRAVIS' HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT**

12

BETHAN wears one of TRAVIS' t-shirts now. They lie in his bed, him spooning her.

BETHAN

Can I stay here with you? Just 'til
we finish exams?

Beat. TRAVIS knows that something must be going on at home,
but he doesn't press.

TRAVIS

Course you can.

13 **EXT. LLANFYR HIGH SCHOOL - PLAYGROUND - DAY**

13

We cut to a week later, it's the final day of term. Hubbub of excited STUDENTS all signing each other's white shirts. BETHAN, TRAVIS and LYDIA are all scrawling on LORRAINE'S shirt at the same time. LYDIA drawing on her back out of LORRAINE'S eye-line. BETHAN reads as she writes --

BETHAN

Loves u Lozzer, never change bibz.

LORRAINE

Aw that's lush. What you writing
Lyds?

BETHAN peers behind LORRAINE and sees LYDIA has drawn a cartoon sausage doing a thumbs up.

LYDIA

Just said what a legend you are.

LORRAINE

That's really touched me, thank
you.

Just then PETER passes, nose in the air.

PETER

Excuse me, can I pass please?

LYDIA

Don't be shady Pete, haven't you
got a message for us?

LYDIA hands him a marker. PETER rolling his eyes.

PETER

What a colossal waste of ink.

But he starts writing. Just then BLOCKER approaches brandishing a jumbo permanent marker.

BLOCKER
Just the miscreants I was looking
for, I've got a few choice words
for all three of you as it goes...

LYDIA
Is it miss? Are you gonna say how
much you love us?

BLOCKER scrawls on her sleeve, reading as she writes --

BLOCKER
Grow - up.

BETHAN
Charming.

14

EXT. LLANFYR HIGH SCHOOL - LAWN - DAY

14

A MASS of KIDS all descend upon the lawn for a class photograph, pulling school jumpers on over their signed t-shirts. A tiered stand erected there for them to stand on. BETHAN is reading from her t-shirt.

BETHAN
Oh my god look what Peter wrote,
"All best wishes for the future."

BETHAN, TRAVIS & LYDIA
ALL BEST WISHES!

They die laughing. But just then BETHAN'S eyes land on MS MORGAN and BLOCKER deep in conversation, they both cast a worried glance over to BETHAN. MS MORGAN raises a hand to beckon her over, but PRIEST suddenly appears --

PRIEST
Beth, being real now - did your dad
petrol bomb a house?

BETHAN'S stomach drops.

LYDIA
Fuck off you ugly munter.

PRIEST
Suck my dick, baggy fanny.

BETHAN looks around, most people going about their business but she spots POPPY, clearly gossiping --

POPPY

Her mum's in a mental hospital.
I've known for ages, I just didn't
wanna say.

Somewhere in the distance she hears TRAVIS saying --

TRAVIS

Get the hell away from us.

BETHAN pulls herself back together, to PRIEST.

BETHAN

What are you even on about?

PRIEST

(Laughing)

It's fucking true innit? Walter's
dad is in the police - he told him.
Hahahahaha. What a psycho! A Down's
Syndrome kid as well! Fucking hell.

BETHAN'S head is going to explode, ringing in her ears.

TRAVIS

Beth?

She turns and starts to walk away, but MS MORGAN intercepts
her. Hissing in her ear --

MS MORGAN

Listen to me. You are head girl.
And you are going to be in this
photo, with your head held high...
Ignore the lot of them.

MS MORGAN frog marches BETHAN to stand in the front row. All
sound sucked from the scene.

GO TO: BETHAN stands there sandwiched between LYDIA and
TRAVIS, utterly shell shocked. The flash goes **one, two, three**
times.

And then BETHAN walks away, not once looking back.

BETHAN (V.O)

So now they know...

MONTAGE: We return to the action from the opening scene,
showing the passage of time over the summer holiday.

BETHAN has become a pseudo TRINA, working at the bingo to save money, wearing the same uniform she was previously mortified by. **And she is utterly miserable.**

Wake up.

Breakfast with NANA in front of the telly.

Bus to work.

Hoover the bingo.

Scrape plates.

Depressing bowl of soup in the staff room.

Dinner with NANA in front of telly.

Repeat, repeat, repeat. Within the repetition we see BETHAN celebrating her 18th birthday at the bingo, a few of the OLD STAFF MEMBERS, BINGO CALLER CARL (TAKING THE SOPRANO LINE) and NANA all singing to her, an "18" badge pinned to her chest. **END MONTAGE.**

16

INT. BINGO - STAFF ROOM - DAY - AUGUST

16

Another god damn bowl of soup sits untouched in front of her. BETHAN looks at a newspaper, eying up the sudoku. She starts rooting in her rucksack for a pen, pulling bits out: purse, lip balm, a jumper etc. Then the NIGELLA LAWSON TOTE BAG, covered in crumbs and lint now. BETHAN stares at it.

GO TO: BETHAN now has a laptop in front of her that has a label on it: **"Property of the cashier desk. Mits off."** Deep breath, she puts the USB stick in. **A film begins to play that CAM has made of their time together. Photos and videos all set to music.** BETHAN watches blankly, the version of herself on the screen seeming like a stranger to her now.

GO TO: She opens the envelope, pulling out the letter: **"You're the best person I've ever met. You're going to do great things. I love you forever x"**

Just then a head pops in to the staff room.

JEANETTE

Beth, you're needed. Moira Titley's
pissed herself again.

BETHAN gets up and reaches for the mop and bucket.

17 INT. TRINA'S FLAT - LOUNGE - DAY

17

TRINA opens the door to her new flat, letting BETHAN in first. There's an armchair and a coffee table. An old framed print of some flowers in a vase on the otherwise bare walls.

TRINA

Shelter gave me the armchair. Good of 'um really.

BETHAN

Yeah.

TRINA

I'll get more bits down the charity shop, people throw out stuff in such good nick these days...

(Beat, expectant)

So what do you think?

BETHAN

It's nice. Quite big innit?

18 OMITTED

18

19 INT. TRINA'S FLAT - LANDING / BEDROOM - DAY

19

TRINA'S hand rests on the door handle, excited --

TRINA

And this is your room. Ready?

BETHAN nods. TRINA opens the door with a flourish. It's a small room, with a single bed. TRINA has bought matching curtains and bed spread. She grins at BETHAN --

TRINA (CONT'D)

I know it's not much but I wanted to get you something, get it looking homely. We can paint it as well.

(Sensing something's wrong)

... Do you like it?

This is what BETHAN has always wanted -- just the two of them, safe, far away from DILWYN. But now it's happening, it's making her feel claustrophobic and desperate. But she smiles.

BETHAN

Yeah, I do. And he's not here.

TRINA
No. He's not.

20

EXT. TRINA'S FLAT - COMMUNAL GARDEN - DAY

20

TRINA and BETHAN sit on a bench having a cuppa on a lawn area. BETHAN quiet, lost in her own thoughts. TRINA tries to make conversation.

TRINA
So is Doreen speaking to Roger again yet?

BETHAN
Yeah, it's all blown over at long last.

TRINA
What about Bingo Caller Carl, has he let you get up and do one of your poems yet?

BETHAN
I'm not reading a poem there.

TRINA shrugs, fair enough. After a long moment she nudges BETHAN'S leg, BETHAN looking at her.

TRINA
Everything okay?

BETHAN doesn't reply, no idea how to describe what she's going through. Worry rises up in TRINA --

TRINA (CONT'D)
What is it?

Beat. And then BETHAN looks at her.

BETHAN
I'm so unhappy mum.

TRINA falters. BETHAN'S never been unhappy. She's always fighting, always hustling, always got a plan. And suddenly the roles have been reversed. Trina fumbles for the words.

TRINA
That's not like you.
(Beat)
Has something happened?

BETHAN shakes her head.

TRINA (CONT'D)

Well it must be something?

BETHAN

I don't know what it is.

BETHAN thinks for a beat, and then she's quiet as she speaks.

BETHAN (CONT'D)

Every day I wake up and I feel like
I can't breathe. Like I've got
weights on my chest, pressing down.

TRINA nods. She knows that feeling - but she never wanted her daughter to. They sit in silence for a moment. The sun is shining, some birds singing in a tree. It should be lovely. After a moment, BETHAN glances at her watch.

BETHAN (CONT'D)

I better go to work.

TRINA

Don't go in.

BETHAN

I've got to, I'm on the tills --

TRINA

You know how much I wanted you,
don't you?

BETHAN nods. TRINA takes a beat. Deciding what to say.

TRINA (CONT'D)

I had 4 miscarriages. Then Sophie
was still born. And I thought it
was never gonna happen. Then I got
pregnant again and I was praying
every day. I kept going to the
church. I got some rosary beads as
well, and I'm not even bloody
Catholic...

(Beat)

Dad kept telling everyone he was
having a little boy, but I knew - I
could feel you. Strong. Stronger
than me even then... You came
along, right on your due date. I
went in to labour at 3am and by
dawn I was holding you in my arms.
I know that sounds like I'm making
it up but I'm not, the sun rose
just as you arrived.

(MORE)

TRINA (CONT'D)

And that's exactly what it felt like, it felt like the sun was shining on me for the first time in my life. I always wanted someone I could love, who was just mine, and I finally had you. Your dad wasn't there, he got pissed and wound up scrapping, but I was glad. Cos it was just me and you. And I remember looking down at your face, perfect little face, and promising you that I would always protect you. I'd always keep you safe. And that you'd never want for anything... But.

(Beat)

I broke my promise.

BETHAN

No you didn't.

But TRINA is calm, matter of fact.

TRINA

I did.

(She smiles)

Don't get me wrong, I tried. God knows I've tried. But... Bastard bipolar. Bastard men...

There's a silence, TRINA content with it, BETHAN trying to find the words.

BETHAN

I know how much you love me. And I know you did everything you could. I think the world of you mum, I'd do anything for you.

TRINA

I know you would, love. You already have.

Beat. TRINA takes her hand.

TRINA (CONT'D)

Now listen, I might have broken my promise, but I still want you to promise me something. I want you to promise me you'll get out of this shit hole.

BETHAN

No way, I'm not leaving you.

TRINA

Oh come on, you'll visit me won't you? I'll keep your room ready. And I'll visit you. And there's phones.

BETHAN taking her old tone, bossy, like she's the mum --

BETHAN

Mum, I said no. I wouldn't be happy without you anyway -

TRINA

Bollocks! And you're not happy now either so what's the difference?

(Beat)

For once in your life, I'm gonna be the one who tells you what to do... Get out of here. Do it for the both of us.

Her words land with BETHAN.

21

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

21

BETHAN heads in, looking around until she spots MS MORGAN, raising her hand in greeting. BETHAN goes over.

BETHAN

Hiya.

MS MORGAN

Alright?

BETHAN

Yeah.

BETHAN sits down, pulling her bag off.

MS MORGAN

I ordered you a latte - is that alright?

BETHAN

Yeah.

BETHAN looks awkward.

MS MORGAN

What?

BETHAN

It's just so weird seeing a teacher outside of school.

MS MORGAN

Yeah I've got a life, imagine that eh?

(Beat)

So what happened to you?

BETHAN

What d'you mean?

MS MORGAN

I went to your house when you ran off after the photograph but there was no one there. Then I went back when you didn't show up for results.

MS MORGAN shrugs like - 'you still weren't there'.

BETHAN

Yeah I went to stay at my nan's for the summer, up the valleys.

MS MORGAN nods. And then --

MS MORGAN

So what happened to your dad in the end?

A blush creeps in to BETHAN'S face, but she presses it down.

BETHAN

He got off. Insufficient evidence.

MS MORGAN

Hmmm. Yeah. I know men like him.

BETHAN'S ears prick up, shocked at that.

BETHAN

Do you?

MS MORGAN

Oh yeah. Crawling with 'um round here.

BETHAN

Not as bad as him though.

MS MORGAN

Yeah, no, fair play. Don't get much worse.

BETHAN

Well, you know I like to excel...

MS MORGAN smiles.

MS MORGAN
So what can I do you for?

BETHAN
(Sighing. And then.)
I'm not really sure... I just
think... I might have messed things
up a bit.

MS MORGAN
You're a teenager, that's what
teenagers do.

BETHAN
I just feel like a dick. Like I had
all these plans, all this stuff I
was gonna do. Now I'm just stuck
here - no offence.

MS MORGAN
(Lightly)
Offence taken.

Beat. BETHAN looks down at her mug.

BETHAN
I just feel like I've let everyone
down.
(And then)
What do you think I should do?

MS MORGAN
(Immediate)
I think you should go to
University.

BETHAN rolls her eyes, sighing.

BETHAN
Imagine me, I would hate all the
people there.

MS MORGAN
If you think you won't find a
single person you like in a uni
full of thousands - then your
head's bigger than I thought it
was. Yeah there'll be a lot of posh
twats, but just don't speak to
them. Find the Travis'.

It's clear BETHAN'S interest is piqued, but she parrots CAM --

BETHAN

But it's so expensive. And they just get you regurgitating the exact same lessons on the exact same subjects --

MS MORGAN

(Smirking)

And you're sat here regurgitating Cam, so... Look, I'm not gonna tell you university's the be-all-and-end-all 'cos it's not. But let's be real - you're skint. No parents to fall back on, no connections, no nothing.

BETHAN

Jesus, Miss. Kick a dog when it's down.

MS MORGAN

What you've got is a big brain. A gob on you that occasionally has something interesting to say, and decent grades. Cam's right - uni isn't the Holy Grail. But it will give you student loans, probably some bursaries as well. Basically, it'll give you a way out. And fast, if we go through clearing... Pick a subject, pick a city - and we'll try and get you there.

BETHAN holds her eye contact for a moment, thinking about it.

MS MORGAN (CONT'D)

Any where you always wanted to live?

BETHAN thinks for a second and then firm --

BETHAN

London.

MS MORGAN

Okay, well that's a start.

Then MS MORGAN pulls a gift from her bag handing it over.

MS MORGAN (CONT'D)

This is what I wanted to give you on results day.

BETHAN opens it to find a journal inside.

MS MORGAN (CONT'D)
Whatever you do - keep writing.

22

EXT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

22

MS MORGAN and BETHAN exit to find BLOCKER gliding along on the pavement on her bike, doing that thing where cyclists are about to dismount and have one foot on the pedal, the other in mid-air. She comes to a stop, BETHAN shocked to see her.

BETHAN
Oh my god, Blocker.

BLOCKER
Alright? Me and Jay are going for a bike ride.

MS MORGAN
See, told you I got a life.

MS MORGAN starts unlocking her own bike, chained up outside the coffee shop. BLOCKER quiet to BETHAN, words of comfort --

BLOCKER
Eh, uh - sorry about all that, with your dad going coco-loco and that.

BETHAN
Thanks, miss.

23

INT. BINGO - DAY

23

It's BETHAN'S leaving drinks. All the OLD STAFF stood round, raising a tot of sherry.

GO TO: NANA squeezing BETHAN 'til her eyes nearly pop out.

GO TO: NANA fixes a locket around BETHAN'S neck, BETHAN opening it. A photograph of NANA on one side, TRINA on the other.

NANA
So you don't forget us. Oh and these --

She hands over a bumper pack of 30 pairs of knickers.

BETHAN
Bloody hell, you expecting me to start shitting myself every day?

24

EXT. BINGO - DAY

24

As BETHAN leaves the staff entrance with an OLD WOMAN, she finds TRAVIS stood there, looking livid. BETHAN waving to the OLD WOMAN --

BETHAN

See you soon, Sue. Take care.

She walks over to TRAVIS.

TRAVIS

What the fuck is wrong with you?

25

EXT. BENCH - DAY

25

BETHAN sits listening as TRAVIS rant.

TRAVIS

I bumped in to Ms Morgan in the village and she said you'd been working at the bingo. And I said no way, it can't be this bingo, here, cos she'd have told me... But here you are, bold as brass.

BETHAN

Sorry Trav --

TRAVIS

I cannot believe you've been coming to Llanfyr every day and you didn't tell me. We missed each other's eighteenth's! We could have been hanging out. But instead I've had the worst and most boring summer of my ***entire life.***

BETHAN

I really am sorry --

TRAVIS

Do you know what I've been doing without you here?

BETHAN shakes her head, TRAVIS spits out the words with fury.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)

Sunday morning cinema club with Peter.

BETHAN takes that in for a second.

BETHAN
Who's in the club?

TRAVIS
JUST ME AND PETER!

There's a beat, and then suddenly they both laugh. Releasing all the tension. BETHAN conceding --

BETHAN
Fuck, that is bad.

Now TRAVIS has got his anger out, he softens and asks what's really been bothering him.

TRAVIS
... Do you not trust me?

BETHAN
Of course I do. More than anyone.

TRAVIS
Then why didn't you tell me?

After a moment of thinking.

BETHAN
I just wanted a different life.

TRAVIS
I blame myself... I knew things weren't right, but I also knew you didn't want to talk about it so I just let it go, I thought that was the kind thing to do. But maybe I should have made you -

BETHAN
No Trav.
(Putting an arm around him)
You're the best boy - do you know that?

He looks away embarrassed.

BETHAN (CONT'D)
It's true. If I ever have a son,
I'd want him to be just like you.

Tears prick TRAVIS' eyes. Then he jokes --

TRAVIS

Is this your way of asking for my sperm?

BETHAN

Well no pressure but I've got a beaker and a turkey baster in my bag.

They both laugh. Then BETHAN makes a squirting sound with her lips. He shoves her off.

TRAVIS

Ugh.
(And then)
I'm leaving tomorrow.

BETHAN

Me too.

TRAVIS

(Eyes going wide)
Where?

BETHAN

Goldsmith's, to do English with Creative Writing. Ms Morgan helped me get in on clearing.

TRAVIS

Well thank Christ on a bike for that, cos I can't ever look at you in that bingo uniform again babe.

BETHAN laughs.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)

You know who we need to go and see don't you?

BETHAN

Ah no she's gonna be so mad at me, she's gonna chop my head off.

TRAVIS

You deserve your head being chopped off.

He pulls BETHAN up from the bench then he worries --

TRAVIS (CONT'D)

You know I was joking about the uniform don't you?

(MORE)

TRAVIS (CONT'D)

I don't mind what you do so long as
you're happy.

BETHAN

(Groaning)

Oh my god you're such an old woman.

26

INT. PUB - EVENING

26

BETHAN, TRAVIS and LYDIA all squeezed around a little table.
Awkward silence. TRAVIS trying to get conversation going.

TRAVIS

Lydia's got a job working in her
dad's company, haven't you Lyd?
What do you make again?

She's monotone, won't look at BETHAN.

LYDIA

We fit stairlifts.

BETHAN

That's amazing.

LYDIA

(Surly, defensive)

Yeah it is actually, and you can
make loads of money doing it so...

BETHAN

I know, I'm not taking the piss.
That's really cool.

There's a long silence. Then Travis tries again.

TRAVIS

First official legal drink. Yachi
da, girls.

They all clink their glasses.

LYDIA

I prefer the park.

BETHAN

Well when you've thrown up
somewhere that much, I s'pose you
grow a soft spot for it.

LYDIA holds her eye contact, cutting --

LYDIA

Do you think you're funny?

Then she goes back to staring at her drink. BETHAN tries to catch her eye contact.

BETHAN

Lyd? Lyd? Lydia...? I love you.

LYDIA

No you don't. You wouldn't have been lying to me if you did.

(Occurring to her, angry)

Be honest now, do you even have a conservatory?

Beat. Then BETHAN shakes her head, ashamed.

LYDIA (CONT'D)

Un-fucking-believable.

LYDIA looks away, grumpily sipping her drink. Just then a WAITRESS comes and places down their food in front of them. BETHAN'S got sausage and chips.

TRAVIS

Thank you.

BETHAN

Cheers.

The moment the WAITRESS clears, BETHAN picks up one of the sausages.

BETHAN (CONT'D)

Remember when Lorraine Chapman stuck one of these up her fanny?

LYDIA spits her drink laughing. The tension has been broken.

27

EXT. PUB - EVENING

27

The three of them hold each other in a group hug.

TRAVIS

See you at Christmas.

BETHAN

Let's do drinks on Christmas Eve.

LYDIA nods, a look in her eyes like she knows they're not coming back, at least not to her.

LYDIA

Yeah, I'll check my diary.

Then she turns and walks off, throwing up a cheery hand --

LYDIA (CONT'D)

Laterz bitches.

BETHAN & TRAVIS

Ta-ra.

BETHAN and TRAVIS look at each other.

TRAVIS

Make sure you call me this time.

BETHAN

I will.

Just then LYDIA whistles from a distance. They turn to see her lifting up her top, flashing her bra. They laugh.

TRAVIS

That's our girl.

And then they walk off in separate directions. The three of them headed off on their own paths.

28 **EXT. BETHAN'S HOUSE - STREET - DAY**

28

The next morning BETHAN walks towards her house with dread. She stops outside looking at it, deep breath --

BETHAN (V.O)

Can't put it off any longer.

29 **INT. BETHAN'S HOUSE - HALLWAY/KITCHEN - DAY**

29

She lets herself in, immediately confronted with the sight of DILWYN in the kitchen. He's moved everything in there: an armchair, the TV sat on the kitchen table, like he can't bear to exist in a bigger space alone. He looks pathetic and diminished. The place is filthy.

BETHAN

Hiya.

DILWYN

Alright?

He sits up a bit. Pushing a can of beer away from him as if the place doesn't already reek of stale booze.

BETHAN

Yeah. Just gonna get those bits.

DILWYN

Aye yeah. Everything's in your room. I haven't touched nothing.

BETHAN nods, heading up the stairs.

30

INT. BETHAN'S HOUSE - BETHAN'S ROOM - DAY

30

BETHAN walks in for the first time in months. A thick layer of dust on everything. She looks around, all her photographs on the walls.

BETHAN (V.O)

My whole life in one room.

She grabs some books, takes one last look around, and then shuts the door. She won't be back here.

31

INT. BETHAN'S HOUSE - HALLWAY / KITCHEN - DAY

31

As she goes downstairs DILWYN calls out --

DILWYN (O.O.V)

I got something in yer for you.

BETHAN goes to the kitchen doorway, hovering on the precipice. He shoves a box along the table. BETHAN shocked --

BETHAN

Is that a laptop?

DILWYN

(Grunting)

Yeah. Thought you'd need one.

BETHAN

(Bowed over)

Oh my god. Thank you.

DILWYN just nods. And then.

DILWYN

You all ready then?

BETHAN

Yeah, my bus is leaving soon actually...

DILWYN
How's your mother doing?

BETHAN
She's fine.

DILWYN
D'you know where she's living?

BETHAN (V.O.)
He'll never change.

BETHAN
No. No one's allowed to know. I
better go.

DILWYN
You need anything, money or
whatever, just call and I'll do my
best.

BETHAN
Thanks.

There's a moment where they both know they should hug, but
they don't - they never have.

DILWYN
Right, well, keep in touch.

BETHAN
Yeah I will, ta-ra.

BETHAN let's herself out of the front door.

32 **EXT. BETHAN'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - DAY**

32

The moment the door slams --

BETHAN (V.O.)
I will never be in a room with that
bastard again as long as I live.

33 **EXT. CARDIFF CITY CENTRE - DAY**

33

BETHAN walks towards the coach stop, pulling a suitcase
behind her. She spots TRINA up ahead, waiting there for her.
BETHAN throwing her a wave.

GO TO: They wait side by side in silence, neither of them
really knowing what to say. Then the Megabus trundles up,
"Llundain / London" emblazoned as the destination.

GO TO: The COACH DRIVER takes BETHAN'S suitcase and loads it up. BETHAN turns to TRINA, smiling.

BETHAN

... I'm trying to think of a joke
but I can't.

TRINA

Well that's a first.

TRINA pulls her in to a hug, wrapping her arms around BETHAN and enveloping her in the scent of home. And we hold on them like that for a long time until TRINA says --

TRINA (CONT'D)

Remember what you promised me.

BETHAN nods, fighting back tears, TRINA cups her face.

TRINA (CONT'D)

This is your time now.

Music plays over Maggie by Jeremiah Fraites.

34

INT. MEGABUS - DAY

34

BETHAN climbs on to the coach. She finds a window seat where she can see TRINA.

As the coach engine roars to life, a bubble of panic rises up in her - sitting up on her knees in the seat, not wanting to lose sight of her mum. Out on the pavement TRINA grins at her - she points at her eye, then makes a heart sign with her fingers, then points to BETHAN. BETHAN mouths back, ***"I love you too."***

The coach pulls away. TRINA starts to run along the pavement beside it, blowing kisses until she eventually falls out of view.

And just like that, she's gone.

BETHAN sits back in her seat, pulling out CAM'S iPod and putting her headphones in, the song continuing now in to her ears. And then she pulls out the journal MS MORGAN gave her and begins to write. For the first time there's no poems, there's no fantasies, it's just BETHAN speaking her truth.

BETHAN (V.O)

My name is Bethan Gwyndaf. My mum
is mentally ill and my dad is an
abusive alcoholic. I've seen things
I shouldn't have seen.

(MORE)

BETHAN (V.O) (CONT'D)

I've known fear, deep fear, that's sunk in to my bones. And I've felt shame. But I've also felt such incredible love. I've been wrapped up and saved by people's kindness and friendship. By a mum who did everything she possibly could to give me a good life. And now today - I feel proud. ***I am so proud of myself.***

BETHAN closes the journal and looks out of the window at the water below, as the coach trundles along the Severn Bridge.

And then for one last time she looks down the barrel of the lens and grins.

Life is only just beginning.

END OF EPISODE.

AND IN MY SKIN FOREVER.