

INSPECTOR GEORGE GENTLY 7
FILM 1

"GENTLY BETWEEN THE LINES"

by

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Company Pictures
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FADE IN ON:

1 EXT. A STREET. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - DAY 1 1645 1

AN EIGHT YEAR-OLD BOY, ROBBIE SEDDON, blue eyed freckled faced, innocent fills the screen. He's wearing a shirt that's been handed down a few times before it got to him. He's sweet to look at - and then he speaks:

ROBBIE
Hadaway with ya, you stupid
knacker.

The BOY throws a brick and we follow its trajectory to -

A LINE OF UNIFORMED POLICEMEN

No riot shields in sight. They wear their helmets and a look of alarm, bewilderment, anger and on the face of some outright fear. We focus on four Policemen in the line - all members of the same shift, all close friends: PC MICHAEL ASHTON looks astonished by the behaviour of the protestors who are slinging rocks and bottles. PC DAVID BAIRD tries to hide his concern but isn't very successful. PC CHRIS STOCKDALE and PC NEIL SIDWELL share a look of absolute amazement at what they're experiencing.

BEHIND THE POLICEMEN are bulldozers and several huge trucks ready to cart away the debris the bulldozers will create.

IN FRONT OF THE POLICEMEN are the slum houses they are intending to level. LOCAL PEOPLE are assembled. Some watching, others actively resisting the demolishing. BUT there is also a group of "agitators": Students, Anarchists, drunks. Hanging off the wall of one of the buildings are banners and bedsheets with protest slogans on them: "GIVE PEACE A CHANCE" - A FLAG flies with a "Peace Sign" on it. The image of A CLENCHED FIST and a tattered bedsheets that looks as though it predates the others with the makeshift plea - "SAVE OUR STREET".

A bullhorn announces:

BULLHORN (V.O.)
Please, will you clear the area.
For your own safety. Clear the
area.

A BULLDOZER'S ENGINE SPUTTERS to life.

THE POLICEMEN walk forward. Bricks and stones begin to rain down on them, thrown by a GROUP OF MEN and BOYS who hide their faces with NEWCASTLE UNITED scarves and standing in front of the soon to be demolished buildings.

THE POLICE LINE BREAKS

CONSTABLES rush forward intending to arrest the rock throwing protestors. The protestors flee, throwing bottles, rocks, bricks, as they retreat.

MICHAEL ASHTON

is hit in the middle of his back by a broken brick. He turns and sees his assailant - a YOUNG MAN (CHARLIE SEDDON) - whose angry epithets are muffled by the scarf he's wearing. THE YOUNG MAN darts into the part ruined terrace of slum houses.

ROBBIE

the eight year-old hurls a rock and turns and tears away. He SLIPS AND FALLS face first onto the rubble spilling into the street by the ruined houses. He's skinned his knees and elbows and it hurts.

A HAND

reaches down to help him up. Robbie grabs it and see PC DAVID BAIRD. They know each other well.

ROBBIE

Cheers, Davy.

BAIRD

Robbie, what ye doin?

ROBBIE

Protecting my street.

BAIRD

Whey aye. Me too. I'm gonna tell
your mum...

There's a panicked look in Robbie's eye before he turns and runs into the building shouting back at Baird:

ROBBIE

Get lost ya knacker!

Baird reacts with concern for the boy's well-being.

BAIRD

Robbie! No! It's not safe....

BAIRD walks forward to the entrance of the ruined building -

BAIRD (CONT'D)

Robbie! Come out of there!

He hesitates for a moment before following Robbie into -

2 INT. A RUINED BUILDING. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - DAY 1 1647 2

Baird enters the building. Moves to room inside. Doesn't feel comfortable. It is too dangerous. He shouts:

BAIRD
ROBBIE!

But nothing. He hears movement in the next room. He moves forward carefully into -

ANOTHER ROOM

Shafts of light cut across the darkness of the room from the damaged roof.

He sees A FIGURE disappear into the darkness further into the ruined building. He thinks about following but decides against it. He turns to leave and finds -

MICHAEL ASHTON

collapsed on the ground, his dark blue uniform bearing the marks of the bricks that have hit him. He's bleeding from a head wound. BAIRD shouts:

BAIRD (CONT'D)
Help! Aa need help! Help!

SIRENS approach.

3 EXT. A RUINED BUILDING. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - DAY 1 1658 3

BAIRD, STOCKDALE and SIDWELL carry ASHTON'S BODY from the building. A molotov cocktail (bottle filled with petrol; lit rag as a fuse) hits the ground and there is a flash of flames. More bottles and rocks hit the ground around them as they hurry ASHTON away to safety. STOCKDALE says quietly as they move through the riot.

STOCKDALE
Hang on, Ash. Hang on. We got ye...

They reach the waiting AMBULANCE and deliver ASHTON. BAIRD turns back and sees the fighting still going on.

4 EXT./INT. A RUINED BUILDING. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - DAY 1 1740

More POLICEMEN run past to engage in the fray. We find BAIRD, STOCKDALE, and SIDWELL, with their truncheons at the ready, as they dodge flying objects and dash into the ruined building.

STOCKDALE

grabs a fleeing suspect, (TERRY HANSON, 40s), and smacks the back of his legs with his truncheon. HANSON falls to his knees.

BAIRD

drags a Long Haired Bearded Man (SIMON THOMAS) out of his hiding place under a run of stairs.

SIDWELL

moves toward RONNY HANRATTY (50s), who waits for him with his hands in the air and a smirk on his face.

STOCKDALE, BAIRD, and SIDWELL lead their respective suspects to the waiting Black Marias and the chaos of the street becomes -

5 **INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. CHARGE ROOM - DAY 1 1810** 5

The chaos of the booking suite. The POLICE have made dozens of arrests. There are voices raised: "What did I do?" "What you arresting me for" Police shouts of "calm yourself". Suspects struggling against their handcuffs.

STOCKDALE is with a hard looking fifty year old suspect, TERRY HANSON, standing in front of STATION SERGEANT, ARCHIE DAWSON, in his shirt sleeves, and sweating heavily:

HANSON

We have a right to protest...We
have a right to assemble...

HANSON shouts to the others being arrested in the custody suite:

HANSON (CONT'D)

You are taking away our right to
democracy!

A cheer goes up from the others. DAWSON finishes filling in the form. He nods for Stockdale to move Hanson on. STOCKDALE shuts Hanson up by pulling his handcuffed arms up behind their back.

HANSON (CONT'D)

Leave it out. There's no need.

SIDWELL delivers another suspect to Dawson.

DAWSON

Name?

A hard looking fifty year-old, RONNY HANRATTY, stands in front of DAWSON.

RONNY
Hanratty, Ronald. J.

DAWSON takes out a fresh PINK CHARGE SHEET and begins to fill it in.

RONNY (CONT'D)
You've have all been bought off,
haven't ye? You can tell me. T Dan
has you lot paid for, don't he?
Tearing down our homes for a
promise... Promise he's never gonna
keep. We see what's happening to
others...moved on with nowhere to
go...We're not blind.

DAWSON begins to fill in a form.

DAWSON
Address?

RONNY
Now there's a problem -

Ronny includes the rest of the room as he tells Dawson:

RONNY (CONT'D)
- as some of us don't have an
address anymore, do we?

THERE'S an ANIMAL LIKE SCREAM which takes our attention to BAIRD who is wrestling to control a LONG HAIR ED BEARDED MAN in his twenties (SIMON THOMAS). THE LONG HAIR ED MAN thrashes trying to escape Baird's grip. DAWSON sees what is happening and moves to help BAIRD saying to the FEMALE POLICEWOMAN behind the counter, WPC RACHEL COLES:

DAWSON
Rachel?

DAWSON moves around the counter to help Baird. RACHEL looks at RONNY who starts again:

RONNY
You've have all been bought off,
haven't ye? You can tell me.

BAIRD drives THE LONG HAIR ED MAN to the ground. STOCKDALE and SIDWELL help him. DAWSON joins in. They physically subdue him by putting all of their weight on him and pressing him to the floor. They each grab a limb and carry/drag him to the holding cells. The LONG HAIR ED MAN thrashes about, crying and yelping like an animal calling out:

SIMON

Please...Mum help me...please...
Mum! Mum! They're hurting me!
Please mum...please help me...

It is distressing and terrifying and eerily the rest of the booking suite goes quiet as THE LONG HAIRRED MAN is thrown into a cell. THE POLICE come out and the door slams and all they can hear is the muffled cries of:

SIMON (CONT'D)

Please mum...please...

DAWSON, BAIRD, STOCKDALE and SIDWELL turn to move back into the custody suite where they see every face staring at them. Silent. And then the cry of the LONG HAIRRED MAN from the cell:

SIMON (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Please...mum...help me...

6 INT. A CRITICAL CARE UNIT. HOSPITAL - DAY 1 1900

6

MICHAEL ASHTON lies in bed attached to machines. A ventilator keeps him alive.

SIMON (O.S.)

Help me...please...

A NURSE is assigned to stay in the room with him. He is obviously very very ill. And then there is silence except for the ventilator's draw and hiss as it breathes for Ashton. Through the window of the door to his room we see the face of BAIRD looking in on him.

7 EXT. ST. CUTHBERT'S CONVALESCENT HOME - DAY 1 1905

7

The solitary figure of Detective Chief Inspector GEORGE GENTLY stands smoking a cigarette. He's leaning against a sign but we can't read it at the moment.

He glances at a letter that he is holding in his hand. He flicks his cigarette away. He tucks THE LETTER into his pocket.

He pushes himself away from the sign he's leaning against and begins to walk up the path toward an austere looking convalescent home. We see the concern he has about Detective Sergeant John Bacchus etched on his face. And then we see what was written on the sign he was leaning against:

St. Cuthbert's
Police
Convalescent Home

8

INT. ST. CUTHBERT'S CONVALESCENT HOME - DAY 1 1910

8

GENTLY stands at the reception desk. The place has a clinical feel. It looks like the sort of place that you might go to die in Victorian times. AN ATTRACTIVE UNIFORMED NURSE, "MARGARET" at the reception recognises Gently when he enters. She answers without being asked:

MARGARET
He's in the day room.

GENTLY
The day room. Okay.

He's nervous to ask but does anyway:

GENTLY (CONT'D)
How has he been...?

Margaret smiles weakly at him and says in a practiced apologetic way:

MARGARET
I'm not a doctor.

9

INT. CORRIDOR. ST. CUTHBERT'S CONVALESCENT HOME - DAY 1 1910

GENTLY moves down the corridor past several police officers in varying states of injury - A leg lost in a motorcycle accident, broken arm, bandaged wounds.

He arrives at a closed door. Gently opens the door with some trepidation and finds -

10

INT. THE DAY ROOM. ST. CUTHBERT'S CONVALESCENT HOME - DAY 10 1913

A cloud of cigarette smoke hangs over Five men around a table playing poker. There's a bottle of whiskey and glasses of beer dotted around the table. Bacchus is running the game with some ferocity.

BACCHUS
It's the moment ye put up or shut up.

The two players still in the game lay their cards down - two pairs, queens and fours, for the first, three nines for the second. Bacchus lays his cards down. Full house Aces over jacks. There's an equal amount of cheers, jeers and groans as JB pulls the coins and notes in the pot towards him.

JB glances up and sees GENTLY watching. He nods an acknowledgement and then begins to deal the cards for the next hand.

BACCHUS (CONT'D)
Two shillings to buy a seat...

Coins are tossed into the centre of the table. GENTLY moves to the table and throws two coins in. A CHAIR appears and JB deals Gently in.

BACCHUS (CONT'D)
Five card draw...

Gently nods. Bacchus looks at the others and indicates Gently:

BACCHUS (CONT'D)
Have you met? Gentlemen, this is
Mister Gently.

Gently goes around the table introducing the other men. These a general chorus of "Wat Cheor" from the men at the table.

BACCHUS (CONT'D)
Mister Gently this is "Roy". Car
crash. Jimmy "H" from Hexham. Fell
off a roof.

JIMMY H
I was chasing a suspect.

BACCHUS
We heard he was chasing you.

Laughter from the men as Bacchus keeps going:

BACCHUS (CONT'D)
St. Stephen, burned hisself being a
hero. "Robert Mitcham" ran into a
knife.

JIMMY H
"John Bacchus", Syphilis.

BACCHUS
Which I got from your mother.

ROY

And you Mr. Gently?

Bacchus looks at him and says with a bit of an edge:

BACCHUS

Mr. Gently's just visiting.

Gently refers to the deck of cards and says tersely:

GENTLY

Deal.

11 EXT. GROUNDS. ST. CUTHBERT'S CONVALESCENT HOME - DAY 1 1925 11

GENTLY and JB walk through the grounds. The roar of the ocean underscores their conversation.

BACCHUS

Canny lads here, all of them. They don't judge. Friendly. And they're shite at poker.

GENTLY

Handy.

BACCHUS

Keeps me in Tabs.

Gently takes out THE LETTER from his pocket.

GENTLY

What is this?

Bacchus knows it is why he came. He says with understatement:

BACCHUS

You got it.

GENTLY

I got it.

A MAN about Bacchus' age in a wheelchair is pushed toward them. He's slack-jawed, dazed, vacant - his head wound is prominent. Bacchus visibly reacts to the man as Gently continues:

GENTLY (CONT'D)

You couldn't tell me to my face?

BACCHUS

Resignation has to be in writing,
doesn't it?

GENTLY

Yes. It does.

BACCHUS

It's in writing.

The two men study each other. After a moment Bacchus says quietly:

BACCHUS (CONT'D)

Shall we go back inside?

GENTLY

Fresh air's good for you. Helps you think.

BACCHUS

They keep telling me. Can't say I'm convinced.

GENTLY

What are you doing, John?

BACCHUS

I'm leaving here end of the week and I have to make some...

Gently tries to make sense of his decision as he says:

GENTLY

You've been in here too long.

Bacchus stays resolved as he explains:

BACCHUS

...I have to make some decisions about my future.

GENTLY

Why didn't you speak to me?

BACCHUS

There's no point. I don't think I can be a policeman anymore...

GENTLY

Don't think you can or don't want to...?

BACCHUS

What difference does it make? I'm done.

GENTLY

What else will you do?

Bacchus thinks for a moment trying to answer the question honestly.

BACCHUS

There are lots of things...you
know...

Gently leaps on the lack of specifics:

GENTLY

Lots of things? There's only one
thing you want to do...only one
thing you *can* do...

BACCHUS

No...I've been thinking...

GENTLY

It helped me getting back to work.

BACCHUS

'Course it did. That's who you are.

GENTLY

It might help you too. To come
back.

Bacchus turns on Gently - he's too harsh:

BACCHUS

I'm not coming back. I am not you,
Detective Chief Inspector. Can you
understand that? I am not you.

Silence. Gently considers what to do.

GENTLY

One month.

BACCHUS

What?

GENTLY

Your notice. You're obliged to give
one month's notice. I'll expect you
to work it out.

There's a moment of silence as the men look at each other.

12

INT. BACCHUS' ROOM. ST. CUTHBERT'S CONVALESCENT HOME - DAY 12
1935

BACCHUS looks down from his window at GENTLY as he walks away
from ST. CUTHBERT'S.

There's a knock at his door. MARGARET enters carrying a small tray with A BOTTLE OF PILLS and a glass of water on it. She joins him looking out the window.

Bacchus lets the drape go and turns to MARGARET.

MARGARET

Ready for your medicine?

She walks over to him. He takes her in his arms and they kiss passionately.

Then he turns his attention to MARGARET in earnest and begins to unbutton her uniform. She unbuttons his shirt and as she begins to unbutton his trousers we see -

THE SCARS OF HIS STOMACH WOUNDS

both where he was shot and where the surgeons had to open him up to save his life.

But he still has his eye on the window and the ghosted image, through the drape, of GENTLY'S CAR driving away.

13 **INT. A GYM - EVENING 1 2030**

13

GENTLY, alone, works a heavy bag. Hitting it with a combination of punches. Trying to stay on his toes as exhaustion arrives. Grimacing as his weak arm sends shooting pains through his body.

14 **INT. GENTLY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 1 2320**

14

GENTLY lays in his bed resisting sleep. Staring at the ceiling. The scars on his leg are visible.

15 **EXT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION - DAY 2 0600**

15

We see POLICE OFFICERS and civilians walking by the front of the station. A couple of uniformed officers enter the station house. We follow them in.

16 **INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. CHARGE ROOM - DAY 2 0602** 16

WPC RACHEL COLES checks on the prisoners still occupying the cells. She looks into each and says:

RACHEL

Morning.

She sees each of them sleeping or sitting eyes closed on the slabs in the cells.

She moves to the LONG HAIR'D MAN'S cell. Looks through the small window in the door.

17

INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. CELL - DAY 2 0602

17

THE LONG HAIR'D MAN is collapsed on the floor. RACHEL quickly moves to him and checks his vital signs.

RACHEL

Sergeant!? Sergeant!!!

DAWSON arrives at the door of the cell. Rachel looks up at him saying with bewilderment:

RACHEL (CONT'D)

I think he's dead.

18

OMITTED

18

19

INT. POLICE HQ. RECEPTION TO GENTLY'S AND BACCHUS' OFF. - DAY 2 0745

GENTLY walks through the reception area on his way to his office. TAYLOR sees him and gets up from his desk:

TAYLOR

Sir?

GENTLY

Morning, Constable...

20

INT. POLICE HQ. GENTLY'S AND BACCHUS' OFFICE - DAY 2 0745 20

GENTLY enters his office. His desk is perfectly tidy, in contrast to the desk of BACCHUS which has been used a table to store a thousand useless things that no one can be bothered to clear away.

TAYLOR

Sir? Assistant Chief Constable Hale needs to speak to you right away.

GENTLY

Why?

TAYLOR

Do you think he's going to tell me?
Sir?

Gently looks at the cluttered desk of Bacchus.

GENTLY
Could you tidy this up for me,
Constable?

Taylor moves to the cluttered desk.

TAYLOR
Is he coming back, Sir?

Taylor looks to the doorway. BACCHUS is standing in it - still quiet. Taylor erupts:

TAYLOR (CONT'D)
Sergeant Bacchus! Welcome
back...How ye feeling?

Bacchus looks over to Gently. Gently glances over at him but immediately returns his attention to looking for the ACC's phone number.

BACCHUS
Fine. I'm good.

Taylor beams at him.

TAYLOR
We've missed ye.

Bacchus nods a thank you to Taylor but he is still looking at Gently. Taylor quickly moves the clutter off the desk as he says:

TAYLOR (CONT'D)
Not having you here...like having
an arm cut off...maybe that's a
little extreme...but you get the
idea...?

Bacchus sits down behind it - looking ill at ease driving his desk.

BACCHUS
Aye. I've got it.

There's an awkward pause before Taylor goes. Bacchus continues to look at Gently as he says:

BACCHUS (CONT'D)
One month.

Gently nods his understanding. He picks up the telephone and dials. He says into the phone.

GENTLY

Detective Chief Inspector Gently
returning your call...How can I
help you, sir?

GENTLY listens. But his eyes stay on Bacchus.

21

INT. POLICE HQ. OUTER OFFICE - DAY 2 0746

21

GENTLY has his coat and is heading from his office to leave the building.

GENTLY

John?

BACCHUS arrives at the door of the office and asks him:

BACCHUS

You want me?

GENTLY

I expect you.

22

EXT. POLICE HQ. DURHAM - DAY 2 0747

22

GENTLY emerges from the building and moves briskly to his car as Bacchus follows - several steps behind. He's just going through the motions.

BACCHUS

What are we doing?

GENTLY doesn't answer. He steps into his car.

22A

EXT. TYNE BRIDGE. NEWCASTLE - DAY 2 0755

22A

GENTLY'S CAR moves along the Newcastle street with Tyne Bridge in the background as they make their way to Rye Hill.

22B

INT. GENTLY'S CAR. NEWCASTLE. APPROACH TO RYE HILL - DAY 22B 0805

GENTLY glances over. BACCHUS looks out the side window. They * don't connect.

GENTLY answers the question BACCHUS asked in Durham: *

GENTLY (O.S.)

Death in custody. They want a
thorough independent investigation
by a Senior Officer... *

*
*
*
*

23

EXT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION - DAY 2 0815

23

GENTLY and BACCHUS arrive in his car outside the police station. It's a modern building - obviously different from the station in Durham.

24 INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. CHARGE ROOM - DAY 2 0816 24 *

GENTLY, followed by BACCHUS, moves into the station. CHIEF
SUPERINTENDENT RAY LEWINGTON joins them. *

LEWINGTON
Chief Superintendent Ray Lewington. *

They shake hands. *

GENTLY
Detective Chief Inspector George
Gently. *

Gently looks to Bacchus. Bacchus does not immediately
introduce himself - Gently does it. *

GENTLY (CONT'D)
Detective Sergeant Bacchus... *

Lewington speaks to Gently as though Bacchus is not there: *

LEWINGTON
Thank you for helping us with this. *

Gently nods. Aware of the odd notion of being "thanked". *

Heads turn as they move toward the police tape near the
cells. *

SERGEANT DAWSON is standing to one side of the room with WPC
COLES. He says quietly to her with derision in his voice
after they pass:

DAWSON
Rubber Heel Mob... *

GENTLY, LEWINGTON and BACCHUS arrive at the crime scene. *

They look at the body of the LONG HAIR MAN still in the
position that Rachel Coles found him - covered by a blanket. *

Gently uncovers the body and inspects it for signs of obvious
injuries. *

GENTLY

What's the name of the deceased?

LEWINGTON

Apparently, we don't know. Might be better for everyone if we leave it that way...

Gently glances at him - unimpressed.

GENTLY

How did he die?

Lewington shrugs.

LEWINGTON

We need to get the body out of here...can't afford to stay out of business much longer.

GENTLY

Why was he arrested?

LEWINGTON

I believe he was arrested under the ways and means act.

Gently glares at him. He understands the "code".

GENTLY

You were looking for a way or means to charge him later?

Lewington continues:

LEWINGTON

A section of the hill was scheduled for clearance yesterday. It's been delayed twice because of squatters and protestors... The council wasn't having more delays. We were asked to secure the area so the bulldozers could get to work.

Gently covers the LONG HAIR MAN'S face with the blanket.

BACCHUS

Was he a squatter? A "protestor?

LEWINGTON

The Station Sergeant should be able to answer your questions.

*

25

INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. CHARGE ROOM - DAY 2 0820

25

ARCHIE DAWSON, a bear of a man, stands behind the custody desk. He sticks his paw out to shake Gently's hand.

DAWSON

Sergeant Archie Dawson.

GENTLY

Hello, Sergeant.

DAWSON smiles at him broadly.

DAWSON

I'm here to help anyway I can.

GENTLY

Thank you. Who found the body?

DAWSON turns and calls over to WPC RACHEL COLES on the other side of the custody desk.

DAWSON

Rachel? Could you come over, pet?

WPC COLES moves to join them.

DAWSON (CONT'D)

WPC Coles. Doing her rotation with me this month. Just finished her probation.

Bacchus exudes his easy charm. He makes eye contact with her:

BACCHUS

Congratulations.

RACHEL

Thank you.

Rachel looks away and continues:

RACHEL (CONT'D)

I was doing the morning check. When I saw he was...

She can't quite bring herself to say it:

GENTLY

Dead.

RACHEL

Dead. I told Sergeant Dawson immediately.

GENTLY

Do you have the pink charge sheet?

DAWSON

Aye.

Dawson produces it. He hands it to Gently.

DAWSON (CONT'D)

No name on it, of course, because
we didn't have it...

26 INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. CHARGE ROOM. - DAY 1 1810 26
(FLASHBACK)

The Long Haired Man is carried, struggling and crying out,
across the Charge Room on his way to the cells.

DAWSON (O.S.)

No ID on him. Wouldn't tell us who
he was...On drugs, I figure.

27 INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. CHARGE ROOM - DAY 2 0820 27

DAWSON

Didn't want to hurt him. Put him in
a cell to calm down.

GENTLY

That didn't happen...

DAWSON

No. What happened was a great
tragedy.

Dawson is hoping to wrap it up and end the conversation. He
starts to guide them out of the custody suite.

DAWSON (CONT'D)

If there is anything more we can
do...Any other questions you
have... I'll fill in my report and
get it over to you...

GENTLY

Personal effects?

Dawson looks to Rachel.

DAWSON

Pet? Could you bring 'em for us.

Rachel moves to get the dead man's personal effects.

GENTLY

Mug shot? Fingerprints?

DAWSON

Never got a chance to take a photo
or prints. Pathologist will do it.

BACCHUS

Much easier to handle now...

GENTLY

Did he scream all night?

DAWSON

No. No. They never do, drug
addicts. Shouldn't say "never".
Rarely.

RACHEL returns and hands GENTLY a small box with the personal effects of the Long Haired Man.

RACHEL

Here you are, sir.

Gently looks in the box - there are old knotted shoelaces, and a belt - as he continues:

GENTLY

He calmed down?

DAWSON

Aye.

Gently is moving towards the cells.

GENTLY

If he calmed down - why wasn't he
booked in? Why no mug shot?

DAWSON

He wasn't on the top of my list to
be brutally honest.

The chaos of the charge room on the day of the protestors.

DAWSON (O.S.)

We were knackered. Full up with
arrests from that lot obstructing
the clearance.

29

INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. CELLS - DAY 2 0822

29

They arrive at the cells.

DAWSON

Organised, it was. That's what I think. Set out to hurt somebody.

Gently moves to the body. He uncovers it. Rachel turns away. Bacchus notices.

DAWSON (CONT'D)

Not had any trouble with the other clearances.

Bacchus asks quietly:

BACCHUS

You okay?

Rachel waves him off - embarrassed that he's asked.

RACHEL

Aye.

Gently begins to search the body as Dawson continues:

DAWSON

I think it was agitators like him from elsewhere just looking for trouble. Not going to be local is it? I mean those people will be getting nice shiny new houses, won't they? Won't be them complaining.

Gently finds A SMALL BOOK OF POETRY in the zip pocket of his jacket.

BACCHUS

You think he was an "agitator"?

Dawson speaks as Gently opens the book...

DAWSON (O.S.)

How would I ken to that? But no one knows who he is and any one of us could tell you the name of every family living in every house on Rye Hill.

....and finds that it is from the Library of "Newcastle University" with a pocket for the lending card and the date in which the book was to be returned written on it.

DAWSON (CONT'D)

People from 'round here know each other. They don't like outsiders meddling.

He's says his last comment warmly but there is no doubt who the target is. There's a beat before:

DAWSON (CONT'D)

Can we move the body then?

Gently nods.

GENTLY

We're done for now.

DAWSON

I'll walk you out, shall I...

DAWSON walks them toward the exit. They pass an accumulation of cards and a Collection box. It catches Gently's and Bacchus' attention.

BACCHUS

What are ye collecting for?

DAWSON

"Ash" One of our boys. In hospital.
It was in all the papers.

BACCHUS picks up a local newspaper - NEWCASTLE MORNING TRIBUNE - near the collection box and shows it to them. We see a photograph of MICHAEL ASHTON in uniform next to a LARGE PHOTOGRAPH of the POLICE ARRESTING PROTESTORS with the headline:

"POLICEMAN INJURED IN DISTURBANCE"

DAWSON (CONT'D)

Everyone liked him. We thought we'd do something for his family.

Then to clarify:

DAWSON (CONT'D)

He's got a young family...

Dawson opens the door for them to leave. They nod their "goodbyes". Once they're alone Bacchus says quietly to Gently:

BACCHUS

I don't remember anyone doing a collection for me.

GENTLY

Perhaps no one liked you.

BACCHUS

They do one for you..?

We know from the look that its a "no".

30

EXT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION - DAY 2 0830

30

GENTLY and BACCHUS watch as THE BODY of the Long Haired Man - in a coffin - is wheeled out of the police station on a gurney and pushed toward the black coroner's ambulance.

GENTLY

First Dawson said he was a "drug addict" and then he was "an agitator"...can you be both?

BACCHUS

If you organise your time well.

They see DAWSON speaking privately to CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT LEWINGTON by the front of the station. Gently is trying to get his head around the situation:

GENTLY

They've already decided it's not worth bothering over. They hardly think it's worth finding out who the victim is...

BACCHUS

Is he a victim, Guv?

GENTLY

He went in the cell alive and came out dead. Either by design or neglect. That makes him a victim to me.

BACCHUS

Sounds like he brought it on himself....

Gently looks at him sharply. Bacchus continues ironically:

BACCHUS (CONT'D)

But we'll find a way to make it the fault of the police, won't we...

GENTLY turns on his sharply.

GENTLY

We'll find a way to find out what happened.

Bacchus deflects his anger with a dismissive despair:

BACCHUS

What kind of job is this?

GENTLY

One that has to be done.

BACCHUS

Whatever we do won't be good enough, will it?

Bacchus points at the local police constables:

BACCHUS (CONT'D)

They're going to hate us. The public resent us...

GENTLY

That must make it easier for you.

Bacchus looks at Gently as though he must be mad:

BACCHUS

How is it easier?

GENTLY

To justify your decision to resign...

BACCHUS objects talking over Gently.

BACCHUS

I'm not struggling with my decision.

Gently keeps pursuing his logic:

GENTLY

...there's no virtue in serving. It's all pointless...It's easier if you just don't care.

BACCHUS

I don't care, Guv. I don't. I had six months laying in a bed teaching myself not to care. Getting myself to a place where I can say it out loud: "I - don't - care."

Bacchus' words cut Gently. He tries not to react.

Gently hands the BOOK of POETRY he found on the dead man's body to Bacchus. Bacchus opens it and finds the lending page and the stamp of Newcastle University.

GENTLY

Let's try and find out who the victim is...Give him back his name.

31

EXT. THE LIBRARY. NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY - DAY 2 0900

31

GENTLY and BACCHUS approach the library:

LIBRARIAN (O.S.)

It is significantly overdue...

32

INT. THE LIBRARY. NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY - DAY 2 0900

32

BACCHUS and GENTLY stand at the counter as the YOUNG LIBRARIAN, who has yet to let her hair down, shuffles through the stack of lending cards until she finds the one that matches the book.

LIBRARIAN

Here it is.

She shows GENTLY the card.

LIBRARIAN (CONT'D)

Nine shillings, thrupence.

BACCHUS

Does it have a name on it?

GENTLY

"Simon Thomas".

Gently looks at the Librarian.

GENTLY (CONT'D)

You wouldn't happen to have his home address...?

The Librarian looks in a file. She takes out a student record sheet which has a small passport sized photo stapled to it. The Librarian hands the sheet to Gently.

LIBRARIAN

If you do speak with him could you ask him to return the other books please...?

Gently looks at the clean-cut, fresh-faced image of Simon Thomas at the top of the sheet.

LIBRARIAN (CONT'D)

He has eleven unreturned books.
It's irresponsible.

BACCHUS

The youth today.

He smiles at her - she glares at him, not buying the charm.
Gently and Bacchus turn to go.

LIBRARIAN

Who's going to pay the fine?

Without hesitation Gently gestures to Bacchus.

GENTLY

He will.

33

EXT. A PROSPEROUS DETACHED HOUSE. PONTELAND - DAY 2 1000 33

GENTLY and BACCHUS arrive in Gently's car in front of the gated drive to the house.

They get out of the car and look at the house and grounds.

BACCHUS

You sure this is the right place?

Gently moves toward the gates and sees an older woman, face aged by worry, KATHERINE THOMAS standing on the entry porch watching with a motherly concern.

KATHERINE THOMAS calls with a resigned certainty from the entry porch:

KATHERINE

You've come about Simon.

34

INT. A PROSPEROUS DETACHED HOUSE. SITTING ROOM - DAY 2 10054

GENTLY and BACCHUS are with KATHERINE. We see a photograph of SIMON on the mantelpiece in the sitting room.

KATHERINE

I decided, last year, that I would not intervene the next time he found himself in trouble. I don't think I'm doing him any favours. Drugs are a terrible thing. He's a bright boy one can only hope that he will eventually figure out how to live his life...

Gently nods to Bacchus to tell her. He's uncomfortable:

BACCHUS

Mrs. Thomas...

Bacchus struggles to say it. The words take too long to come out. He feels them staring at him.

BACCHUS (CONT'D)

Your son is dead.

KATHERINE THOMAS stares at him. She doesn't allow any emotion to show.

KATHERINE

How did he die? Did he die from drugs?

Bacchus sees Gently looking at him with concern but he can't do anything about it and then the world rights itself as he hears Gently:

GENTLY

We don't have a definitive cause of death. Not yet. The Coroner has ordered a full post mortem...

Katherine nods her understanding.

KATHERINE

He slipped away from me. You hold them for so long and then you have to let go and you have to hope they make good choices. You hope that they chase dreams...but with Simon...I let go and he fell...fell down... down...into nothingness... into meaninglessness. He just slipped from my hands and there was nothing I could do...I tried everything. I did. He was paranoid, disorganised, manic energy and then terrible dark moods. He couldn't be in a room. He felt the ceilings and walls closing in on him. Can you imagine the terror? Where was he when you found him? Please tell me he wasn't alone in some alleyway. Thrown out like the rubbish. Tell me he was not abandoned.

She waits fearing the worst.

GENTLY

He died in Rye Hill Police Station.

It takes her a moment to digest this. Her tenor changes:

KATHERINE

In your custody?

GENTLY

In police custody.

KATHERINE

Aren't the police meant to keep us
safe? Isn't that what they do?

35

EXT. A PROSPEROUS DETACHED HOUSE - DAY 2 1010

35

The gates open and GENTLY and BACCHUS leave the house.

BACCHUS

He was abandoned. His family
abandoned him. That's the reality
his mother can't face. You're
family's meant to keep you safe -
not the police. We've given him a
name I think that's the best we'll
do.

GENTLY

She has a right to expect us to
look after him...

BACCHUS

If they can't take care of their
own why should they expect the
police to do better?

GENTLY

Do you?

They reach the car. Bacchus is frustrated and angry.

BACCHUS

Why did you make me tell her?

GENTLY

It's your job.

They hear the wailing of KATHERINE THOMAS as she finally lets
the grief wash over her. Gently looks Bacchus in the eye:

GENTLY (CONT'D)

I don't think it is possible to tell someone their son has died and not care.

36

INT. GENTLY'S CAR. A PROSPEROUS DETACHED HOUSE - DAY 2 101B6

BACCHUS stares out the window. Gently checks on him. He thinks about how to reach out to him before:

GENTLY

Have you ever let someone "just slip away", Sergeant? It's not a good feeling to live with. You fight for them - even when you're not sure how to.

He starts the car - and then challenges Bacchus:

GENTLY (CONT'D)

I'm not going to abandon him, John. Are you?

Bacchus looks at Gently. He knows he is trying to force him to re-engage fully.

BACCHUS

I'm not changing my mind....

He looks away.

37

INT. ROYAL VICTORIA INFIRMARY. MORTUARY - DAY 2 1105

37

There are numerous bruises visible all over the upper half of Simon Thomas' body - (the bottom half is still covered). BOB ANDERTON (50s), a forensic pathologist, stands with GENTLY looking at the body of SIMON THOMAS on the slab. Bacchus remains detached - standing across the room from them.

ANDERTON

I extracted fragments of stone from an area of his scalp...and residue of what I believe to be red brick where the skin is broken here on his shoulder...

Gently looks to Anderton.

GENTLY

May I?

Anderton nods. Gently lifts to look at the underside of his arm. There are a number of marks, cuts and bruises.

ANDERTON

It looks as though he was trying to protect his head with his arms.

GENTLY

During the riot?

ANDERTON

Reasonable to presume. Recent anyway. Some of the marks are historic...he lived rough?

Gently nods.

GENTLY

Cause of death?

ANDERTON

We won't have anything definitive until I've completed a full postmortem. We had the bloods back...Analysis of the vitreous fluid revealed high levels of adrenalin - understandable for someone under stress...but he tests negative for the presence of THC. In fact, he tests negative for all narcotics...not even cough medicine. Nothing.

GENTLY

The station sergeant believed he was "on drugs". Are you sure there's no mistake?

ANDERTON

No mistake. He was not intoxicated - no drugs or alcohol.

Gently's surprise almost immediately becomes concern.

38

EXT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION - DAY 2 1120

38

GENTLY'S CAR arrives:

BACCHUS (O.S.)

"Struggling, disoriented, violent..."

BACCHUS and GENTLY get out of the car:

BACCHUS (CONT'D)

..."screamin' like a mad thing." That's what that Sergeant said.

They walk toward the station.

BACCHUS (CONT'D)
He presumed he was a drug addict.

GENTLY

His mother said he couldn't bear to be in a confined space. A cell is a confined space. He's struggling against that. The terror of being locked up kills him.

BACCHUS

He didn't scream all night...

GENTLY

Why does he calm down?

39 INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE⁹⁻
 DAY 2 1125

LEWINGTON smiles warmly at GENTLY and BACCHUS but there is something about him that suggests he can't understand why this investigation is still cluttering his life.

GENTLY

We don't have enough evidence to reach any definitive conclusion on Mr. Thomas's death...

LEWINGTON

That's disappointing. I'll let the Assistant Chief Constable know. Perhaps "misadventure" was the best we could ever expect...

GENTLY

We'd like to speak to the arresting officers.

LEWINGTON

Your investigation is about the suspect's death, not his arrest, isn't it, Detective Chief Inspector?

GENTLY

Yes.

Lewington looks at Gently steadily. He picks up his phone and dials - never taking his eye off Gently.

41

EXT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION - DAY 2 1135

41

GENTLY and BACCHUS wait by Gently's car. WPC RACHEL COLES walks from the station house to join them.

RACHEL

Detective Chief Inspector? Sergeant asked me to take you over to the shift at Rye Hill.

42

EXT. A STREET. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - DAY 2 1155

42

GENTLY, BACCHUS and RACHEL move from GENTLY'S car toward the area where the disturbance took place.

RACHEL

The staging area for the police was just here. We were called up for safety - no one expected any trouble. As the morning wore on we had to bring more shifts in. Had reports there were people occupying a building further along.

GENTLY

Where?

RACHEL

I'll show ye.

The buildings have been reduced to rubble.

GENTLY

There's not much of a community left.

BACCHUS

It wasn't a community. It was a slum.

RACHEL points to a spot where all that remains is rubble as they keep walking.

RACHEL

They're intending to put blocks of flats just over there. The vision T Dan Smith had when he ran the council...amazing really...my mother used to say that he made her proud to be from here. He made us modern. Twenty floors soaring into the sky. Imagine the views.

GENTLY

There are some who can't imagine
they'll ever see those views.

RACHEL

We're losing our faith in things,
aren't we? You can see it all
around.

RACHEL points to a row of uncleared houses sealed off by police ropes and spigots and still standing. Surrounding them is debris and building work.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

That's where the trouble was.

Gently and Bacchus look -

They continue to walk forward:

42A

EXT. A STREET. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - DAY 2 1156

42A

FURTHER ALONG THE STREET

There are A FEW LARGE SHEETS with different protest slogans hanging from the still extant side of a ruined brick building. The FLAG with a "Peace Sign" on it. The image of A CLENCHED FIST and the tattered sheet saying: "SAVE OUR STREET". From the look of the street the plea was apparently in vain.

RACHEL

We never had any trouble before - never. We grew up respecting the police. We knew they had taken an oath to serve us, to protect us. They were people you could trust. That's why I wanted to join. I wanted to be that sort of person...someone you could trust. Someone people looked up to.

UNDERNEATH THE BANNER

A crowd of a dozen or so LOCAL PEOPLE are congregated arguing with PC BAIRD, PC STOCKDALE and PC SIDWELL as STOCKDALE tries to take the banners down. A hard looking TERRY HANSON snarls at Stockdale.

HANSON

You don't have the right to take these down...

OTHERS watch from the ruined buildings a distance away. Hostility is bubbling up.

STOCKDALE

We're taking them down because
they're inciting trouble...

RONNY HANRATTY, calm as can be, as he rolls a cigarette,
calls out to him.

RONNY

It's youz who are inciting trouble
not a sheet with some words on it.

Sidwell tries to dissuade his colleague:

SIDWELL

Leave it, Chris...

We hear a YOUNG MAN'S VOICE shout from a part destroyed
building:

BOY'S VOICE (O.S.)

Kill the pigs!

ON RACHEL, GENTLY AND BACCHUS
They hear the shout as they move toward the gathering.

RACHEL

Why do they call us "pigs"?

The question hangs as -

UNDERNEATH THE BANNER

A brick pings off the wall barely missing STOCKDALE.
Stockdale, furious, turns in direction of where the brick
came from in time to see a YOUNG MAN (CHARLIE) dart behind
cover.

IRENE SEDDON, mother of Robbie and Charlie, chips in from the
crowd.

IRENE

What bother is it to you if we have
a protest sign up?

STOCKDALE

They're coming down. All of them.

RONNY

Ye won't be doing that, lad.

STOCKDALE

Shut it.

RONNY

I'm warning ye and I won't be
warnin' ye twice.

STOCKDALE starts to try and pull the sheet and rip it down. The crowd becomes agitated telling him to stop. ANOTHER brick is thrown. RONNY puts his hand on Stockdale's arm to stop him.

STOCKDALE whips around and strikes him across the face with his truncheon. RONNY goes down. IRENE moves to help RONNY.

IRENE

What was that about, Chris? What were ye thinking?

STOCKDALE

He don't listen. You don't do ye?

RONNY

And ye don't learn, lad...

Baird and Sidwell try and disperse the crowd.

BAIRD

Move along now. All of you move along.

STOCKDALE rips the sheets down and as he bundles them up under his arm he sees:

GENTLY and BACCHUS watching. The local people begin to disperse except for the kids watching from the ruined buildings. Baird calls to them:

BAIRD (CONT'D)

Hadaway from those buildings! It's dangerous...Hadaway from there!

A LAD'S voice shouts back:

ROBBIE (O.S.)

Piss off!

IRENE helps a still dazed RONNY HANRATTY.

BAIRD, STOCKDALE and SIDWELL physically prod the group to disperse them. As they reach GENTLY and BACCHUS -

BAIRD

Rachel?

RACHEL

This is Detective Chief Inspector Gently, and Detective Sergeant Bacchus.

Baird's attitude changes immediately.

BAIRD
PC Baird. Chris!? Neil!?
Detectives! Sergeant told us we
might be seeing ye.

STOCKDALE and SIDWELL arrive. Baird introduces them:

BAIRD (CONT'D)
PC Stockdale. PC Sidwell. They're
the Detectives. We was trying to
find witnesses - anyone that might
have seen what happened to "Ash".

Rachel helps explain:

RACHEL
Constable Ashton.

Gently pushes the conversation forward:

GENTLY
Any progress?

BAIRD
Nowt.

STOCKDALE
No one is talking.

Referring to what he just saw.

BACCHUS
Not surprising if you're baistin
'em.

SIDWELL
They were asked politely.

BACCHUS
Before or after you hit them?

STOCKDALE
Bastards want to kill us.
They need to know we're not afraid
of them.

GENTLY
Is that how you do it?

STOCKDALE
Aye. It is.

BAIRD
Can we help you with anything
Detective Chief Inspector?

GENTLY

We're investigating Simon Thomas...

BACCHUS

The long haired fella...

SIDWELL

Oh aye. We think he's probably the one that did Ash over and put him in hospital...

STOCKDALE

Just need a witness.

GENTLY

We're looking into his death.

STOCKDALE is outraged.

STOCKDALE

We're spending time and brass on that. Why? Makes no difference to anyone.

GENTLY

Maybe that's why it should make a difference to us.

Sidwell and Stockdale walk away. Baird says quietly and forcefully to Gently and Bacchus.

BAIRD

Don't judge him...You remember what it was like with your shift when you were in uniform? Brothers. They're my brothers...like. They're my blood. People here tried to kill Ash. People he grew up with, went to school with, who knew his family.

Baird gestures to the local people watching:

BAIRD (CONT'D)

They'd kill me. They'd kill you. Because of what we do. Not who we are.

Sidwell shouts back to him.

SIDWELL

Come on, Bairdo.

GENTLY

You the one who arrested Simon Thomas?

BAIRD

Aye. I did.

GENTLY

Where? Where was he when you arrested him?

BAIRD

He was hiding. Over there...near where I found Ash...

He points to a mound of debris further along the street - bricks, wood, stone. Wherever he was hiding before is now gone.

BAIRD (CONT'D)

If I hadn't arrested him, he would have stayed hiding there. Bulldozer would have knocked it down. Killed him.

Bacchus sees this as a risible self-justification by Baird.

BACCHUS

You saved his life?

Baird shrugs.

BAIRD

I did my job.

GENTLY considers his answers as he watches Baird join Stockdale and Sidwell and the three Constables walk away.

43

EXT. A STREET. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - LATER. DAY 2 1200

43

It's an odd sight. On one side it is rubble. On the other the houses are still standing and people are going about their business. THERE are dozens of people standing in front of the houses that are still standing watching and chatting. RACHEL is talking to a group of women as GENTLY and BACCHUS move further along the street.

We hear IRENE SEDDON call out:

IRENE (O.S.)

Robbie! Robbie?! Where are ye?

She's walking through the debris and partly demolished buildings looking for her son - concerned.

IRENE (CONT'D)

Robbie!?

She sees Rachel, Gently and Bacchus.

IRENE (CONT'D)

You haven't seen my wee boy have ye?

GENTLY

What does he look like?

IRENE

He looks like the one who just threw a rock at ya or called you a name. Robbie!!?

IRENE surveys Gently and Bacchus before asking:

IRENE (CONT'D)

You from the council?

BACCHUS

Police.

IRENE

Makes a change. You here to pick up your bungs from the builders...

BACCHUS

Those are normally delivered to the office.

Irene laughs.

IRENE

'Course. They wouldn't want to get their shoes dirty.

Irene looks around at the ruins.

IRENE (CONT'D)

Nice area...they say it's on the way up. Be too good for us lot soon, won't it? Need a better class of person to live here so they'll fit in.

GENTLY

Did you know this man?

Bacchus shows Irene a photograph of Simon Thomas from the crime scene.

IRENE

Aye. "Crazy man"? It's what the kids called him. Why are you all so interested in him?

GENTLY

We're investigating his death.

RONNY HANRATTY moves to join them. RONNY looks at the photograph.

RONNY

He's dead is he?

BACCHUS

Was he "an agitator"?

Ronny doesn't know what he's on about. Bacchus elaborates:

BACCHUS (CONT'D)

A protestor? A squatter?

OTHER PEOPLE ON THE STREET begin to gather as Irene talks. TERRY HANSON joins the group:

IRENE

We had plenty of protestors who would turn up during the day and go back to their warm homes at night. We had students squatting here.

HANSON

Council pushed everyone out and then just left the buildings... Whose idea was that?

IRENE

And that lot with the drugs...

RONNY

We sorted them...

There is the rumble of agreement from those gathered.

IRENE

Used to know every soul...people that lived here...people that worked here...Good, kind people, aye. Didn't need the council to tell us what to do or how to live. They tear it all down and tell us they'll give us a new place -

HANSON

Some are going to lose out. You can
be sure.

IRENE

And they let the squatters move
in...Like "Crazy Man"...

HANSON

Folks doesn't like him.

RONNY

Aye. Lot of folks.

Ronny looks around. His friends all agree with him.

GENTLY

Why didn't they like him?

RONNY

Thought he might be a kiddie
fiddler.

Gently clocks the remark.

IRENE

He never did nothing, Ronny.

RONNY looks around and plays to the crowd.

RONNY

Used to take care of things like
that ourselves.

TERRY HANSON says angrily:

HANSON

These streets...they ran straight
down to the Tyne...They're changing
them. Look, what they've done...
ripped the heart out of us...

BACCHUS

This was a slum. It wasn't fit to
live in.

RONNY glares at Bacchus as though he might attack him.

RONNY

What are you? Twenty-nine, thirty?
You weren't in the war. When you go
away, thinking it's to die, it
changes how you feel about where
you're from.

HANSON

You don't know what it's like to
suffer, so maybe we shouldn't blame
you.

RONNY looks at Bacchus and Gently and shakes his head.

RONNY

You boys work for the council and
their cronies now...not for
us...not for the people.

RONNY reaches up to the blood trickling down his face.

RONNY (CONT'D)

Used to be, the police protected
everybody.

44

EXT. A STREET. RUINED BUILDINGS. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - DAY 42
1210

RACHEL and BACCHUS are talking as they move toward Gently's car.

GENTLY is apart from them looking at the ruins trying to understand the geography of the events. He thinks he hears a cry of "help" in the distance. He turns to look. He hears the cry again. GENTLY moves toward the cry. He shouts to BACCHUS:

GENTLY

Sergeant!?

GENTLY moves toward the entrance to a dangerous looking ruin of a building. He hears the cry of "help" again coming from inside.

BACCHUS moves to assist him. Quickly at first.

GENTLY looks into the darkness of the ruin. He hears the boy's cry. Without hesitation he enters.

BACCHUS sees GENTLY enter the building. He slows as he reaches the dark void of the doorway.

BACCHUS starts to enter the building. He looks into the darkness. He stops. He's initially bewildered by his inability to go into the building - he's surprised - and then terrified.

45

INT. RUINED TERRACE OF HOUSES. A STREET. RYE HILL - DAY 2 45
1212

GENTLY moves into the ruin and carefully moves up the treads of a decrepit staircase to get to the second floor. His foot goes through the broken tread and he nearly falls.

GENTLY arrives at the second floor. He looks over and sees broken floorboards around A BOY (ROBBIE) precariously perched on an open beam. There's no floor. The building itself looks like it is in danger of imminent collapse. It looks dangerous and ROBBIE looks terrified.

Robbie is frozen. Trembling.

GENTLY
You all right, lad?

Robbie doesn't look at him.

ROBBIE
I can't get down.

Gently edges toward him and extends his hand.

GENTLY
Grab my hand.

The boy moves to grab Gently's hand. He steps, the floorboard gives way and Robbie begins to fall through the joists.

Gently with his weak arm grabs the boy. With great effort and in great pain he pulls him up to safety.

We see for the first time that Robbie is clutching A BOOK to his body.

46

EXT. A STREET. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - DAY 2 1215

46

ROBBIE runs out of the house and scampers off as though nothing has happened.

Then GENTLY follows him out. GENTLY sees BACCHUS staring at the ground by the door. It is obvious that Bacchus is traumatized - and humiliated to feel that way. Gently starts to say something to him - Bacchus shakes his head. He doesn't want to hear it. Gently decides to try and reach him:

GENTLY
John...?

BACCHUS
(quietly)
Don't say anything.

GENTLY

John you have to...

Bacchus snaps. He can't control his anger and frustration:

BACCHUS

Don't you feel anything? Don't you suffer? We were both shot! We both bled. Or don't you bleed? Doesn't anything affect you? Maybe that's what's wrong with you! Nothing affects you.

Bacchus and Gently sense someone watching and look over to find ROBBIE watching them:

ROBBIE

You slop?

BACCHUS

Aye, but we mean you no harm.

ROBBIE

I didn't see nothing. Or hear it.

We hear Irene's voice in the distance:

IRENE (O.S.)

Robbie!? Robbie!

We see IRENE hurrying across the rubble. Robbie goes. Gently tries one more time.

GENTLY

John?

BACCHUS

Don't. Just don't talk.

They start to go as Robbie's mother IRENE arrives. She screams at her son:

IRENE (O.S.)

What were you doing in there?

Gently and Bacchus arrive to see IRENE slap him upside the head.

IRENE (CONT'D)

What were you thinking?

ROBBIE

I was looking for something.

IRENE

What were you looking for?

She whacks him again and as he tries to protect himself he drops his book.

GENTLY picks it up for him and looks at it: "Mersey Sounds". He hands it back to him.

GENTLY

You used to play in the old houses?

ROBBIE

Played "everyys" in 'em. We all liked goin' there.

Gently refers to the book Robbie's holding:

GENTLY

Where did you get the book?

Robbie reacts defensively:

ROBBIE

I didn't steal it.

GENTLY

Why would I think you'd stole it?

ROBBIE

'Cos that's how police are, aren't they? Think you've always done something.

IRENE

Tell him where you got it!

ROBBIE

Crazy Man give it me. Has poems in it by Roger McGough. Scouser, but he writes good poems.

Robbie points to the building where he was standing.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)

He used to live in there after they made everyone leave. Folks thought he was mad crazy, aye. As a hatter. We thought he was a villain at first. He weren't no villain. Crazy Man used to sit in there reading beuks...poems. Talking to hisself...I think he was a genius or a hippie or something.

GENTLY

You like poetry, Robbie?

ROBBIE

Whey aye. Not the old kind with
words nobody uses and no one knows
what they mean. But this kind, aye.

GENTLY

You have a favourite?

ROBBIE

Lots. He liked Roger McGough.

Robbie points to a poem in the book. Gently begins to read:

GENTLY

"Let me die a young man's death,
not a clean and in between
the sheets..."

Robbie begins to recite with him:

GENTLY/ROBBIE

...holywater death,
not a famous-last-words
peaceful out of breath death."

They look at each other when they stop:

ROBBIE

Don't know anymore. Crazy man
taught me it. Said it was a famous
one. That everyone knew it. Don't
think he got that right.

Robbie thinks about Crazy Man and his books for a moment.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)

He had lots of beuks. That's what I
was looking for. He had lots of
them. Now they're gone. He's gone
too. And I don't think he's coming
back. Do ye know what's happened to
'im?

GENTLY and BACCHUS stand beside the covered body of SIMON THOMAS as they listen to BOB ANDERTON.

ANDERTON

His liver function markers were very high...as though he'd had some trauma. It's what we see in car accidents. Advanced liver damage can cause Hepatic encephalopathy. Toxins in the blood normally cleared by the liver make their way into the brain.

GENTLY

If he appeared disoriented? Violent? Hallucinating? Could these be reactions to liver failure?

ANDERTON

Yes. They could be. We know he suffered some sort of trauma to the organ. Let me show you...

ANDERTON removes the sheet, exposing SIMON THOMAS' lower back. ANDERTON begins to point out the bruise on his body.

ANDERTON (CONT'D)

There is a large haematoma here above the liver. When I examined the liver in the post mortem it had suffered a serious injury.

ANDERTON shows them a photograph of a partly ruptured Liver.

ANDERTON (CONT'D)

I am confident in declaring liver failure as cause of death.

GENTLY

How did it happen?

ANDERTON

It's obviously a blunt force injury...Fists. Rocks. Bricks. The skin isn't broken so it is difficult to know with any certainty.

GENTLY

A truncheon?

GENTLY and BACCHUS walk along the corridor.

GENTLY

Someone beat him to death.

BACCHUS

In the cell? It's impossible...
Someone would have heard...

GENTLY

They would have heard.

BACCHUS

Duty officer would have reported
it.

They pass a stack of copies of the NEWCASTLE MORNING TRIBUNE.
We see the headline on the top copy:

"RYE HILL CONSTABLE REMAINS CRITICAL"

GENTLY

Unless they were part of it.

BACCHUS

Here we go.

Gently looks at Bacchus.

GENTLY

Sidwell thought Simon Thomas
assaulted Ashton...they just needed
a witness prove it.

The idea is too horrible to contemplate for Gently:

GENTLY (CONT'D)

They beat him to death in his cell
and no one says a word... They
cover it up.

BACCHUS

(finds it risible)

All of them?

Gently looks at him. He's going to make Bacchus eat his
doubting words.

49A

INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. CHARGE ROOM - DAY 2 1410 49A

DAWSON is sitting on the edge of his desk. Body language
suggests he's getting tired of their questions.

GENTLY

Was Mr. Thomas checked hourly in
his cell?

DAWSON

Whey, Aye. Of course.

GENTLY

He was agitated?

Dawson laughs derisively - he was more than agitated.

DAWSON

Aye. I'd say so!

GENTLY

You thought he was on drugs?

DAWSON

Aye. Why are we wasting so much time and effort on this? I don't understand it. It's not going to make any difference to anyone.

BACCHUS looks at him coolly before:

GENTLY

What time did you call the police surgeon?

Gently registers the fact that Bacchus has asked a question. DAWSON looks at Bacchus coldly. He sees the trap.

DAWSON

I didn't call him...

Bacchus gives him no escape.

GENTLY

If he was on drugs, shouldn't you have called the police surgeon?

DAWSON

I just wanted to get him into a cell to calm down.

BACCHUS

Aren't you meant to make sure they are safe?

Dawson raises his voice to overwhelm Bacchus...

BACCHUS (CONT'D)

Isn't that your responsibility? Don't patronise me.

DAWSON

Son, when someone's arrested, it is stressful. Puts a strain on them. People can die from that...

Bacchus doesn't back down.

BACCHUS (CONT'D)
...it's your duty. DAWSON
...doesn't take anything
else.

DAWSON
Don't you talk to me about duty...

Silence. Dawson looks at Bacchus with concern:

DAWSON (CONT'D)
You're one of *us*, aren't you lad?

BACCHUS
Aye.

Gently regards them both for a moment before -

GENTLY
No. He's one of *us*.

50 **INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. OUTSIDE CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT'S
OFFICE - DAY 2 1425**

GENTLY and BACCHUS are waiting for LEWINGTON outside the door of his office. Gently says quietly to Bacchus.

GENTLY
I like you when you're a bastard.
And you're quite good at it.

Bacchus answers deadpan.

BACCHUS
I had a good teacher.

LEWINGTON arrives. He's not happy to see them.

LEWINGTON
Gentlemen?

He glares at GENTLY.

GENTLY
We'd like to see pocket books of arresting officer Baird and the other members of his shift and I'd be grateful if you could make them available for interview.

51 **INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 2 1440 51**

WPC RACHEL COLES enters carrying a box of the CONSTABLE'S NOTEBOOKS.

She sets the box on a table. GENTLY takes each of the "pocket books" out and lays them on his desk.

GENTLY opens one of the pocket books and begins to read.

52 **INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 2 1500 52**

PC SIDWELL comes into the interview room. GENTLY greets him.

GENTLY

Sit down, Constable.

SIDWELL sits at the table across from Gently. Gently lets him sit in silence for a moment while he continues to look at his notebook.

GENTLY (CONT'D)

The day of the clearance...?
It seems like a very tough day.

Sidwell nods.

SIDWELL

Yes sir.

53 **INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 2 1505 53**

Gently is doing his best to make SIDWELL relaxed.

GENTLY

How long had there been tension?

SIDWELL

Ages. It weren't new. Some people were excited but there were others that didn't take to all the talk about being Brasilia or whatever..."Milan of the north". Most people went gladly but there were some that weren't having it. We knew about the squatters...We'd been sent down to clear them before. But we didn't expect this...

54 EXT. A STREET. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - DAY 1 1645 (FLASHBACK) 54

SIDWELL is covering his head and face with his arm as bottles and rocks and bricks rain down on him.

SIDWELL (O.S.)
Didn't have the gear for it.

He looks up and sees a kaleidoscope of angry faces and hears disjointed sounds of angry people screaming and spitting at him.

GENTLY (O.S.)
You were angry?

55 INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 2 1508 55

GENTLY watches his reaction closely:

SIDWELL
Course we were angry. I'm still angry. Look what happened to Ash.

56 EXT. A STREET. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - DAY 1 1648 (FLASHBACK) 56

The disturbance is in full swing - SIDWELL sees BAIRD come out of the building screaming:

BAIRD
I need help!

Sidwell begins to sprint toward the building.

SIDWELL (O.S.)
That could have been any of us.
That could have been me.

He stumbles picks himself up and keeps running.

57 INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 2 1508 57

Sidwell shakes his head in dismay.

SIDWELL
Of all the people...for it to happen to him...Mike actually cared about them...he wasn't just doing a job...he actually cared...

Gently nods. He's warm when he asks:

GENTLY

You liked Mike...?

SIDWELL

Top man. Proud to serve with him.

GENTLY

You thought Simon Thomas had
assaulted him?

Sidwell stops talking.

GENTLY (CONT'D)

You wanted to pay him back...for
what he did...

SIDWELL

Is that what you think? That I
would give up my career in order to
give a drug addict a kicking?
You don't know anything about me,
do you? You don't know anything
about any of us.

58 INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 2 1530 58

GENTLY and BACCHUS listen as PC CHRIS STOCKDALE relates:

STOCKDALE

The truth is - if people would just
do as they are told there wouldn't
be any trouble. Simon Thomas should
have left the buildings when he was
told...You're investigating us but
the way he was...What he did...

Stockdale shakes his head.

BACCHUS

What did he do?

STOCKDALE

You've got the whole of Newcastle
moving *this* way...all together...in
one direction...and him...going
that way. He resisted, that's what
he did.

BACCHUS

You'd told him before to leave the
building?

STOCKDALE

Told everyone. They can't knock it down if there's people inside can they? Expensive business keeping all those men and that equipment waiting.

BACCHUS

So you'd seen him before?

Stockdale considers his answer.

STOCKDALE

No. I mean - we'd catch glimpses of him. We heard he was in there - had complaints from local people who were scared of him. We'd look for him but never found him.

GENTLY

According to your notebook you visited the street seventeen times in the last six weeks. That's just your shift.

STOCKDALE

Did we?

GENTLY shows Stockdale the notebook.

GENTLY

Your call outs were almost always at the end of your shift.

STOCKDALE

It was Ash's idea...

GENTLY

What was Ash's idea? To go to the street? To look for Simon...

Stockdale cuts across him.

STOCKDALE

I know what you're trying to do but I don't know why you're trying to do it. We had nothing to do with him dying. You saw what he looked like. He spent his life trying to kill himself. Don't try to put it on us. Not on us. We were just trying to do our job...

59

INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 2 1600 59

Constable Baird thinks about the events of that night.

BAIRD

They were angry...why at us? Do they think we have power? We don't have any power. We just do what we're told to do. They are the same as us! Don't they see that?

GENTLY

Were you frightened?

BAIRD

Yes.

As BAIRD reflects we see:

60

EXT. A STREET. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - DAY 1 1645 (FLASHIMAGE)0

PC MIKE ASHTON about to confront the protestors. He's astonished.

BAIRD (O.S.)

Mike wasn't frightened.

61

INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 2 1600 61

Gently and Bacchus watch Baird closely:

BAIRD

He should have been. More amazed. None of us worried about being injured.

GENTLY

Who do you think assaulted Constable Ashton?

BAIRD

Simon Thomas.

BACCHUS

Why did he do it?

BAIRD

I can't tell you. Makes no sense. I don't think he knew what he was doing.

BACCHUS

Why do you think that?

BAIRD

Mainly because he was acting crazy.
We were asked to move people on. It
wasn't safe there. Maybe Mr. Thomas
didn't want to be moved...

BACCHUS

How did you move people on?

BAIRD

Spoke to them.

GENTLY

Did you threaten them? Hit them?

BAIRD

We did what it took.

GENTLY

You didn't mind a little violence?

Baird shrugs. What a ridiculous question:

BAIRD

This is Newcastle.

BACCHUS

All of you?

BAIRD

Aye. We gave back what we were
given. None of us shied away from
the rough stuff if we had to...to
defend ourself.

GENTLY

Always "defend yourself" at the end
of your shift?

Baird is confused.

BAIRD

Sorry?

GENTLY

Bit of sport at the end of your
shift? Go over to the hill, break
some heads. Seventeen times in six
weeks? "Ash's idea"?

Baird is wrong footed. He tries to make a lame explanation.

BAIRD

We were meant to keep the area
safe.

GENTLY

Ash enjoys mixing it up with vagrants and squatters...good fun. The rest of you get a taste for it. You didn't shy away from the rough stuff at the end of your shift and you didn't shy away from the rough stuff after you got Simon Thomas in a cell did you?

BAIRD

I don't know what you're on about.

GENTLY

You got him alone and set about to teach him a lesson. Pay him back for what he did to your friend...

BAIRD

And when was it I was doing this "pay back"?

GENTLY

The night Simon Thomas died.

BAIRD

I was at the hospital praying that Ash made it through the night. And youse two, if you had anything about you, would know that because you would have done the same. But you wouldn't know much about what it's like to see your colleague... your friend... in a hospital bed hooked up to machines that are keeping him alive. You seem to care more about that drug addict, squatter than one of your own. Does Ash need to die before you care about him? Is that what needs to happen?

GENTLY

You beat him to death in his cell! You were all part of it...

BAIRD

Go to hell. I'm not going to listen to this. Arrest me and prove it or let me go back to work.

61AA **INT. POLICE HQ. GENTLY AND BACCHUS' OFFICE/CORRIDOR - DAY 12A** *

1615

GENTLY is walking purposefully. BACCHUS, carrying a box containing the PC's notebooks, is a few steps behind him - heckling him: *

BACCHUS

They work all hours...put
themselves in danger...

GENTLY

Someone must have seen or heard
something...

Bacchus can't hide his contempt.

BACCHUS

...their friend, their "brother
officer" is in hospital and we
treat them like this...?

Gently turns on Bacchus and snarls at him.

GENTLY

Without favour or affection.

Silence.

GENTLY (CONT'D)

That's what we do. That's who we
are. There is no other way to be.

BACCHUS

I can't be the things you want me
to be. I never could.

BACCHUS dumps the NOTEBOOKS on TAYLOR and busies himself in
the outer office. TAYLOR starts to log the notebooks. *

GENTLY, at his desk, watches BACCHUS through the glass
partition. Then he turns away. *

61A **EXT. POLICE HQ. DURHAM - DAY 2 1700** 61A

BACCHUS is alone. Outside the station smoking a cigarette.
Trying to find a way to go inside but struggling.

62 **INT. POLICE HQ. GENTLY'S AND BACCHUS' OFFICE - DAY 2 1735** 62

GENTLY is searching through the notebooks on his desk. *

GENTLY
Bacchus?

No response.

GENTLY (CONT'D)
Taylor!?

PC TAYLOR enters.

TAYLOR

Sir?

Gently looks at him for a moment and can't remember why he called him.

GENTLY

I didn't want you.

Taylor nods and says phlegmatically:

TAYLOR

Not many do, sir.

Taylor turns around to go. At the door he adds:

TAYLOR (CONT'D)

Those that do, are satisfied.

Gently remembers:

GENTLY

Constable Ashton's pocket book?

TAYLOR

Haven't seen it, Sir.

GENTLY

He'll have written notes...if there was history between him and Simon Thomas it will be in his pocket book...where is it? I thought I had all of their pocket books.

Taylor offers:

TAYLOR

If the Constable was taken directly to hospital wouldn't his current notebook be with his personal effects at the hospital?

Gently looks at him and realises he's right. Taylor nods in muted celebration before:

TAYLOR (CONT'D)

I'm wasted here.

62A

EXT. POLICE HQ. DURHAM - DAY 2 1738

62A

GENTLY'S on his way to his car. He glances over at BACCHUS.

GENTLY

Bacchus!

Bacchus slowly moves to join him.

63 EXT. ROYAL VICTORIA INFIRMARY - DAY 2 1750

63

GENTLY and BACCHUS move toward the entrance of the large hospital. Silence. The wound still raw.

64 INT. CORRIDOR. ROYAL VICTORIA INFIRMARY - DAY 2 1752 64

BACCHUS and GENTLY walk down the corridor toward the Critical Care Unit. They are not speaking to each other. Gently moves with clear intention. Bacchus is reluctant - almost anxious about being in a hospital.

65 INT. CRITICAL CARE UNIT. HOSPITAL - DAY 2 1755 65

GENTLY and BACCHUS arrive in the unit. One of the NURSES moves to greet them and speaks in hushed tones.

NURSE

Can I help you?

Gently shows his warrant card.

GENTLY

We need to recover Constable Ashton's notebook from his personal belongings.

BACCHUS looks at the Police Constable sitting outside the door of Michael Ashton as the Nurse moves behind the nurses' station.

The Nurse calls to Gently:

NURSE

Detective Chief Inspector?

Gently moves to the Nurse who is standing by a small open locker. Inside are ASHTON'S UNIFORM, neatly folded, HIS HAT, his personal effects in a plastic bag, his TRUNCHEON and his NOTEBOOK.

NURSE (CONT'D)

Does this look like what you're after?

She hands him ASHTON'S NOTEBOOK. Gently checks it before:

GENTLY

Thank you.

The Nurse nods.

GENTLY (CONT'D)
Constable Ashton...? How is he? Do
you expect him to recover?

The Nurse smiles. She glances around to see if any Doctors are nearby before offering a despairing look and a shake of the head. Gently nods.

He turns to rejoin Bacchus clutching the notebook. Bacchus is nowhere to be found.

66 **INT. A ROOM. CRITICAL CARE UNIT. HOSPITAL - DAY 2 1800 66**

MICHAEL ASHTON lies in the bed. The ventilator still keeping him alive.

WE FIND -
BACCHUS standing at the end of the bed contemplating ASHTON, and feeling a kinship with a man he has never met.

67 **INT. CORRIDOR. CRITICAL CARE UNIT. HOSPITAL - DAY 2 1801 67**

GENTLY arrives at the door to ASHTON'S ROOM. He looks in and sees -

BACCHUS
standing by Ashton's bed.

Gently doesn't disturb him.

68 **INT. CORRIDOR. CRITICAL CARE UNIT. HOSPITAL - DAY 2 1805 68**

BACCHUS comes out of Ashton's room and finds GENTLY waiting for him. Nurses and Doctors go about their work. They look at each other in silence for a moment before:

GENTLY
It affected me, John. It still
affects me. But it won't change me.
I won't let them change me, John. I
won't give them that power.
(a beat)
Will you?

Bacchus looks back at the door to Ashton's hospital room.

BACCHUS
How much luck do I have left?

GENTLY looks at Bacchus intensely - piercingly:

GENTLY

You saved my life...I never told
you I was grateful.

This is awkward for Bacchus.

GENTLY (CONT'D)

I'm grateful. If you let them
change who you are, then they
killed you in the Cathedral. You're
a survivor. We're both survivors.
You're more like me now than you
ever wanted to be.

Bacchus looks back to Gently.

They walk together as they leave the hospital.

69

INT. POLICE HQ. GENTLY'S AND BACCHUS' OFFICE - DAY 2 1820 69

GENTLY is looking through Ashton's notebook.

GENTLY

Stockdale says they went to the
slums seventeen times in six
weeks...It was "Ash's" idea. But
Ash doesn't mention it.

He throws the notebook onto his desk. It doesn't make sense.

GENTLY (CONT'D)

There's nothing.

BACCHUS glances at the Newspapers. He sees the photograph of
the disturbance and people being arrested. He picks up the
newspaper and walks to Gently's desk:

BACCHUS

There were other people in the
police station that night. Sergeant
Dawson said the cells were full up.

BACCHUS hands the newspaper to GENTLY. We see a photograph of
MICHAEL ASHTON in uniform next to a LARGE PHOTOGRAPH of the
POLICE ARRESTING PROTESTORS with the headline:

"POLICEMAN INJURED IN DISTURBANCE"

BACCHUS (CONT'D)

Witnesses.

GENTLY

But you don't think they did it?

BACCHUS

And the witnesses will prove it.

70

INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. CHARGE ROOM - DAY 2 1830

70

BACCHUS watches as RACHEL gets out the files which are in perfect order - incredibly efficient.

BACCHUS

How many arrests were made?

RACHEL

I would have to check with the Sergeant but I would guess fifteen to twenty. Some were arrested and released because we don't have the space. If the charge was serious or we thought they were a danger to others or to themselves we kept them in...

RACHEL lays the files down on the counter.

71

INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. CHARGE ROOM - DAY 2 1845

71

BACCHUS and RACHEL are going through the PINK CHARGE SHEETS.

RACHEL

Frank Connor....

BACCHUS

Charge?

RACHEL

Breach of the peace.

BACCHUS

Address?

RACHEL

Aye.

She hands it to him.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Jericho.

BACCHUS

Jericho? What's he doing over here?

RACHEL

Agitating?

DAWSON enters. He sees them going through the booking sheets.

BACCHUS

This one.

RACHEL

Terry Hanson. Breach of the peace.
He has a Rye Hill address.

BACCHUS

What cell was he in?

RACHEL

Seven.

Dawson interrupts:

DAWSON

What are you doing Constable?

RACHEL

We're matching mug shots to the
photos from the Tribune.

BACCHUS

Not everyone who was at the
disturbance was arrested...I'm
trying to categorize suspects.
Those that were in the cells...
Those that were cautioned...

Dawson nods.

DAWSON

Scientific.

BACCHUS

Not really. Just isolating who was
in the custody suite.

DAWSON

Carry on then. It seems important.

Dawson moves to his desk. Bacchus asks him.

BACCHUS

Can we have the duty roster for
that night, Sergeant?

DAWSON

Of course.

Bacchus turns his attention to Rachel.

BACCHUS

Who was in the cell next to Simon Thomas?

71A EXT. THE SEDDON'S FLAT. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - DAY 2 1900 71A

GENTLY and BACCHUS arrive at the SEDDON'S flat next to the church. BACCHUS knocks on the door. ROBBIE opens the door. He has a black eye and a swollen cheek. Behind him is his brother CHARLIE.

ROBBIE

Hiya. Mum!!

ROBBIE half smiles and nods at Gently. Gently returns the greeting.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)

Have ye come back for the rest of the beuks?

ROBBIE picks up A STACK OF BOOKS from a table just inside the door.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)

I found them. I found them all.

IRENE arrives at the door. She smiles weakly at them.

IRENE

Hiya.

GENTLY

What happened to you, lad?

ROBBIE

I fell down.

IRENE

I told him not to play in the rubble. Dangerous.

Robbie tries to give the books to Gently:

ROBBIE

You can give them back to "Crazy Man" for me.

GENTLY

"Crazy Man's" real name was Simon Thomas. He's dead Robbie.

ROBBIE

Deed?

GENTLY

We're trying to find out how he
died...

Robbie is trying to get his head around what "dead" means
when RONNY HANRATTY appears at the door.

BACCHUS

Mr. Hanratty...?

RONNY

Aye?

BACCHUS

We wondered if you could help us
with our enquiries in the death
of...

Hanratty looks at GENTLY and BACCHUS. Smiles and says
apologetically:

RONNY

I don't respect ye, so I can't help
ye...

He closes the door.

72 OMITTED

72

73 OMITTED

73

74 OMITTED

74

75 INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. CHARGE ROOM - DAY 2 1900

75

DAWSON is sitting at his desk pre-occupied - troubled. He
looks at the photograph of his family on the desk.

He looks over at RACHEL COLES filling out forms at the
counter.

He opens his drawer and pulls out A COMPLETED FORM which says
in bold letters on the top: DUTY ROSTER. He crumples the
sheet of paper into a ball.

He takes a BLANK DUTY ROSTER FORM out and threads it into his
typewriter.

76 OMITTED

76

77 OMITTED

77

78 OMITTED

78

79 INT. SECTION HOUSE. ENTRY HALL - DAY 2 1905

79

BAIRD comes down the stairs from his room and finds DAWSON.

DAWSON

Bairdo? Can we have a word?

Baird goes to them unsure what they want.

80 EXT. A FLAT NEAR RYE HILL - DAY 2 1915

80

GENTLY and BACCHUS wait at the door of the flat. The door opens. TERRY HANSON, answers.

GENTLY

Mr. Hanson, I'm Detective Chief Inspector Gently...I wondered if you could help.

HANSON

No. I don't trust you. When you start weighing in and beating people because they disagree with the government you're not fit to be trusted.

HANSON starts to close the door. BACCHUS stops him with his foot.

BACCHUS

A Man died. We're trying to solve it...

HANSON

In the cells?

BACCHUS

Aye.

GENTLY

Did you hear anything at all?

HANSON

I heard him crying. It was the worst thing I ever heard in my life... Hearing a grown man cry like that.

(MORE)

HANSON (CONT'D)

No one came to see what was wrong.
They just left him. No one helped
him.

BACCHUS

We're trying to help him now.

HANSON

You're too late. What's there to
solve? He's dead.

He closes the door on them. A beat. Bacchus sees the
information as exoneration of the Police officers.

BACCHUS

No one beat him.

Gently sees it differently:

GENTLY

No one helped him.

81

EXT. SECTION HOUSE. - NIGHT 2 2005

81

RACHEL is on her way back to the section house. BAIRD steps
out of the shadows.

BAIRD

Hiya pet.

He frightens her at first. She calms down as they kiss.
RACHEL breaks the kiss smiles and says:

RACHEL

Hiya.

They kiss again. She sees he's distracted:

RACHEL (CONT'D)

What is it?

Baird looks at her for a moment - then speaks very quietly -
this is something he doesn't know how to say:

BAIRD

Rachel...Sergeant has asked me to
have a word...

Rachel's face as she listens.

82

INT. POLICE HQ. GENTLY'S AND BACCHUS' OFFICE - NIGHT 2 2015

GENTLY looks truly disturbed. In his hand is a bottle of whiskey.

GENTLY

This is where we are. This is what we've become. The people they don't trust. We're the enemy.

(a beat)

How did this happen?

BACCHUS studies Gently and the pain he is in.

GENTLY (CONT'D)

Maybe you're right to quit.

BACCHUS

What do we know, Guv?

Gently looks at Bacchus and slowly realises that he has become fully engaged in the case.

GENTLY

We don't know when he died and we don't know why...

BACCHUS

We know that he wasn't beaten in the cells. The people we've seen...they don't trust us...but they'd be quick to shout if a policeman had beaten him. So we know more than we think.

GENTLY

Then where was he beaten? Why didn't the custody officer realise he was in jeopardy? Why didn't they check on him?

BACCHUS

We start again tomorrow?

83

INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 3 1030 83

BAIRD sits in front of GENTLY and BACCHUS. He is composed. Focused.

GENTLY

You put Simon Thomas in the cell and that was the last time you saw him?

BAIRD

Aye. That's correct.

BACCHUS

Do you remember who was on duty in
the custody suite that night?

BAIRD

No.

GENTLY

I'm right in thinking that you all
knew who Simon Thomas was?

BAIRD

Aye. By sight. Not by name.

GENTLY

You had history with him?

BAIRD

Aye. I guess...

GENTLY

So did Michael Ashton?

BAIRD

Aye.

GENTLY

He doesn't mention him in his
pocket book.

BAIRD

Doesn't he?

GENTLY

Constable Stockdale seems to
remember going *seventeen times*.
Ashton doesn't mention it at all.
Was he bent?

BAIRD

What?

GENTLY

Why all the visits?

Baird is silent.

GENTLY (CONT'D)

You don't know? You don't remember?
Stockdale called it "Ash's idea"?
Did you shake people down? Collect
money? Sell drugs?

Baird looks Gently dead in the eye:

BAIRD

That's what you think?

GENTLY

There was history between them.
Ashton didn't like Simon Thomas. No
one liked him. No one cared about
him. Ashton would come down at the
end of his shift and knock him
around - try to get him to
leave...to move on. That's why you
think Simon Thomas attacked Ashton.
He had a chance to get even during
the riot.

Baird considers what Gently has said and shakes his head in
dismay at how wrong he is.

BAIRD

Ash's idea was to leave food. Aye,
at the end of our shift. A blanket
when it was cold. He thought he
being a policemen was some sort of
social work. I didn't agree with
him. It encouraged them being
deadbeats and it was against the
rules - we were meant to move them
on not make them comfortable. If
the Chief had found out we would
have been disciplined. That's why
we didn't put it in our pocket
books.

GENTLY

(incredulous))

You gave food to Simon Thomas...

BAIRD

That's why it's so hard to get your
head around it, isn't it? Ash was
good to him. He had history...but
not like you think.

Gently is wrong footed. He's not sure where to take the
interview. Silence. Bacchus takes over for him:

BACCHUS

Where was Simon Thomas when you
arrested him?

BAIRD

He were sitting beneath a run of
stairs. Quiet, like. Looked a bit
dazed to be honest.

BACCHUS

Inside one of the houses?

BAIRD

Aye.

BACCHUS

Why did you go in the house?

BAIRD

To try and disperse the protestors.

84

EXT. A STREET. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - DAY 1 1645 (FLASHBACK) 84

The day of the disturbance.

BAIRD (O.S.)

A wee lad I know from the street...

ROBBIE is running from the advancing group of Police
Constables.

BAIRD (O.S.) (CONT'D)

A wee imp, he falls, cuts his face,
skins his knees and elbows...

BAIRD watches him slip and fall face first onto the rubble
skinning his knees and elbows.

BAIRD (O.S.) (CONT'D)

I help him up and try to warn him
off being there...

BAIRD reaches down and helps him to his feet.

ROBBIE turns and runs into the building. Baird reacts with
concern for the boy's well-being.

BAIRD (CONT'D)

Robbie! No! It's not safe....

BAIRD follows Robbie. He walks forward to the entrance of the
ruined building -

BAIRD (CONT'D)

Robbie! Come out of there!

He hesitates for a moment before following Robbie into -

BAIRD (O.S.) (CONT'D)

I was worried for him. Didn't want
him being hurt so I went after
him...

85 INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 3 1031 85

BAIRD emphasizes the point to GENTLY and BACCHUS:

BAIRD

That was the thing you see. Anyone
in them buildings when they were
knocking 'em down wouldn't survive
would they?

A beat before he continues:

BAIRD (CONT'D)

And as I go in I see someone trying
to get away...I think it's Robbie,
but maybe it's not...

86 INT. A RUINED BUILDING. RYE HILL. - DAY 1 1645 (FLASHBACK) 86

IN ANOTHER ROOM

Shafts of light cut across the darkness of the room from the damaged roof. He sees A FIGURE disappear into the darkness further into the ruined building. He thinks about following but decides against it. He turns to leave and finds -

BAIRD (O.S.)

I didn't want to follow them on my
own - I turned around to leave and
I saw him...

BAIRD sees ASHTON collapsed on the ground bleeding from a head wound.

BAIRD (O.S.) (CONT'D)

I called for help.

87 INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 3 1032 87

BAIRD smiles tightly at the perversity of the universe.

BAIRD

Robbie, the wee imp, led me to him.
I didn't see Mike go in. Nobody
did. I wouldn't have known
otherwise. Robbie saved Mike's
life...He called me a "Knacker" and
saved his life.

Baird shakes his head at the impossible perversity of it all:

BAIRD (CONT'D)
That's the world.

88 INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 3 1055 88

GENTLY and BACCHUS are alone. Gently is thinking about what Baird has said. Bacchus is looking at a sheet of paper. He sets it in front of Gently.

BACCHUS
Duty Roster.

GENTLY
Who was on duty?

Gently looks at the sheet of paper.

GENTLY (CONT'D)
I want to speak to her now.

89 INT. SECTION HOUSE. ENTRY HALL - DAY 3 1100 89

DAWSON answers the ringing pay phone.

DAWSON
Section House.

There's a pause.

DAWSON (CONT'D)
I'll let her know.

90 INT. SECTION HOUSE. STAIRCASE TO ENTRY HALL - DAY 3 1105 90

RACHEL starts down the stairs. The MALE CONSTABLES stop and watch her - lining the corridors and the staircase.

RACHEL holds her head up high as she comes down. She says nothing. She meets the gaze of SIDWELL and then STOCKDALE.

She turns on the landing to go down the last set of stairs and sees DAWSON standing by the PAY PHONE, BULLETIN BOARD and DUTY ROSTER he nods a greeting to her from the base of the staircase.

She arrives at the BULLETIN BOARD, where there are notices for the Police Benevolent Fund and St. Cuthbert's Police Convalescent Hospital, and SIGNS OUT in the LOG BOOK.

She starts to leave as BAIRD enters. They look at each other.

She goes leaving Dawson's and Baird's faces full of concern.

91

INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 3 1115 91

GENTLY and BACCHUS are still waiting. Bacchus checks his watch.

GENTLY

Get her in.

92

EXT. SECTION HOUSE. NEXT TO THE POLICE STATION - DAY 3 11202

BACCHUS moves toward the front door.

93

INT. SECTION HOUSE. NEXT TO THE POLICE STATION - DAY 3 11203

BACCHUS comes into the entry area. He glances at the pay telephone and the DUTY ROSTER on the bulletin board; the Log book. DAWSON comes down the stairs to greet him.

BACCHUS

I'm looking for WPC Coles.

DAWSON

She's not here.

Bacchus suspects he's being fobbed off:

BACCHUS

Why don't I go up and have a look?

DAWSON blocks his progress with his body.

DAWSON

Because I can't allow ye.

Dawson points at a sign further up the stairs:

"No men beyond this point"

He's a stone wall.

DAWSON (CONT'D)

Rules.

BACCHUS

Where would we be without them?

Bacchus draws himself very close to Dawson and says with a threatening hush:

BACCHUS (CONT'D)
Are you obstructing me in the
execution of my duty?

Dawson's eyes narrow. He glares at him for a moment before -

DAWSON
She's not here.

BACCHUS
Where is she?

DAWSON
She resigned.

BACCHUS is stunned.

94 **INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE** 4-
DAY 3 1330

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT LEWINGTON stands in his office with GENTLY and BACCHUS.

GENTLY
Can you tell us why she resigned?

LEWINGTON
I think she had the reputation of the police in mind.

GENTLY
We'd like to speak to her.

LEWINGTON
I don't believe that the Assistant Chief Constable and I, when we asked ye to tackle this, envisaged this sort of...

Lewington searches for the word:

GENTLY
Diligence?

LEWINGTON
Persecution. 'Short rede is good rede'. We were looking for this to be a simple and speedy. It was a tragic death but it's not as though Simon Thomas will be a loss to humanity.

There's a knock at the door. ARCHIE DAWSON enters. Archie nods to Lewington.

DAWSON

Sir.

LEWINGTON

As it turns out, ye seem to have uncovered an unacceptable level of neglect on our part which we will duly acknowledge and take steps to remedy. I want to thank you for the work you've done in bringing the failure of Woman Police Constable Coles to our attention.

GENTLY

WPC Coles?

LEWINGTON

The prisoners were her responsibility. She failed to check the cells hourly as instructed. I'm hoping we can keep this an internal matter. We felt that we might let her resign, with immediate effect, and see the end of it.

DAWSON

She was a good girl. It was a careless mistake.

A beat.

LEWINGTON

What you've done will highlight some of the ways we can make our training more effective.

Gently looks at Bacchus. They share a look of dismay. Lewington opens the door to his office to let them out. He looks at them - hoping the meeting is over. Gently and Bacchus don't move.

LEWINGTON (CONT'D)

I think we're done. You've got your scalp.

BACCHUS and GENTLY come out of the station. Bacchus isn't satisfied.

BACCHUS

She's not careless. He said Rachel was careless. She didn't check on Simon Thomas because she was careless. She's compulsively organised.

GENTLY

She's on the duty roster.

BACCHUS

It doesn't make sense.

GENTLY

She knew we were investigating what happened that night. She never said she was on duty...

BACCHUS

Is she a liar?

GENTLY

Apparently.

BACCHUS

Could you tell? Could you tell she was a liar?

GENTLY

The women I know don't lie.

BACCHUS

The women I know lie all the time.
And I couldn't tell...

Bacchus shakes his head and reaches a conclusion.

BACCHUS (CONT'D)

No. She's not careless and she's not a liar...

Gently regards him carefully waiting for Bacchus to decide what to do -

BACCHUS (CONT'D)

I need to get an address.

On Gently watching Bacchus go.

GENTLY and BACCHUS are standing by the car. They see RACHEL approaching carrying a basket of shopping.

GENTLY moves toward her. She seems bewildered but not concerned by their presence:

BACCHUS
WPC Coles?

RACHEL
Not anymore.

She smiles thinly. Bravado intact.

BACCHUS
Could we have a word?

RACHEL
I don't have anything to say.

She keeps moving. Gently watches her for a moment and then decides:

GENTLY
I'm arresting you in connection
with the death of Simon Thomas...

Rachel's bravado is gone. The blood drains from her face. Bacchus didn't know this was coming - he's surprised:

97

INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. CHARGE ROOM - DAY 3 1555

97

GENTLY leads RACHEL into the police station to the Station Sergeant's desk. DAWSON sees them. He doesn't know what to think. GENTLY looks DAWSON in the eye and says:

GENTLY
Could you book my suspect, please
Sergeant. Suspicion of being
involved in the death of Simon
Thomas.

DAWSON looks at RACHEL and can't hide the guilt he feels.

DAWSON
Detective Chief Inspector...

GENTLY
Please do it, Sergeant. I'd like to
interview as soon as possible.

RACHEL stares at Dawson trying to understand how he could have done this to her.

98

INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 3 1620 98

RACHEL is sitting at the table. She's anxious. Bacchus has his pocket book to write notes.

GENTLY

Did you try to comfort Simon Thomas after he was put in the cells?

RACHEL

No. Sergeant thought he was dangerous. We put him in an isolation cell and just left him to pass it out of his system.

GENTLY

Were there any indications that he was unwell?

RACHEL

Besides the fact he was kickin' and screamin' and acting like a mad thing?

GENTLY

When did he stop screaming?

RACHEL

I don't know.

GENTLY

You must have a general idea. Ten at night? Two in the morning?

Bacchus looks at her closely - reads her unease.

BACCHUS

You did check on him hourly?

Rachel hesitates. She wrestles with what to do.

BACCHUS (CONT'D)

Sergeant Dawson says you did. He says you checked him hourly. Did you?

GENTLY

Answer the question!

Rachel stays quiet.

GENTLY (CONT'D)

The coward's way out...hiding behind silence...I didn't think that's who you were.

Rachel is struggling with what to do. Gently explodes:

GENTLY (CONT'D)
Did you check him!!!

RACHEL
No.

BACCHUS
Why not?

RACHEL
I wasn't there.
I wasn't on duty.

She looks to Gently who regards her with coolly.

GENTLY
Are you a liar?

Rachel gasps a little as she is taken aback by the bluntness of the question.

RACHEL
No!

GENTLY
I have a duty roster which indicates you were on duty in the Custody suite on the night Simon Thomas died.

RACHEL
That's not true.

GENTLY
I have it here. In Black and White.

RACHEL
It's still not true. I was not on duty.

GENTLY
Why does the duty roster say you were?

RACHEL
I don't know. I wasn't there.

GENTLY
Where were you?

RACHEL
In the Section House. Because I wasn't on duty...

BACCHUS

Did anyone see you there?

RACHEL

I was with another Constable.

BACCHUS

Sleeping with 'em?

RACHEL

Consoling him. Our friend was in critical condition in hospital.

BACCHUS

Who were you with?

Rachel considers whether she should answer. She says nothing.

BACCHUS (CONT'D)

Is this another lie?

RACHEL

I've not lied. I'd prefer not to say.

GENTLY

You don't have a choice, Constable.

RACHEL

I have a choice. A Hobson's choice. I was not on duty. I won't hurt anyone else the way they have hurt me. I wanted to be a police officer so badly...

GENTLY

You don't deserve to be a Police Officer.

RACHEL

Aye. That's what they said to me. Women shouldn't be working...should be at home...only fair that a man should have the job. I had to resign or they would say it was my fault that no one checked on that poor, terrified man...Resign or be blamed. That, Chief Inspector, is when you don't have a choice. They wanted me to prove I deserved to be a police officer - just like you...These men, these lying men, have taken my dream away from me.

GENTLY

A man died in custody. He has no more dreams...

RACHEL

And if I had been on duty I would have done my best to prevent it. I was not. All you have is my word.

GENTLY

It's not enough.

RACHEL

It should be. I swore an oath.

GENTLY

It won't be.

RACHEL

Ask yourself what it means to swear it, Detective Chief Inspector. It obviously means more to me than it does to you. I gave my word, "to serve without favour or affection..."

Resignation written on her face, Rachel continues:

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Then ask them. Ask them what the truth is, as I've got no proof and you won't believe me.

99

INT. POLICE HQ. GENTLY'S AND BACCHUS' OFFICE - DAY 3 1730 99

BACCHUS is pacing as he flicks through ASHTON'S NOTEBOOK, agitated and frustrated. Suddenly he throws the notebook across the room, getting GENTLY's attention.

BACCHUS

Are you always bloody right!?

GENTLY looks at him blankly for a moment before he says:

GENTLY

Yes.

GENTLY studies the newspaper photographs of SIMON THOMAS being arrested.

BACCHUS takes a deep breath.

BACCHUS

Who was Hobson?

GENTLY

Who?

TAYLOR enters. He sets some papers down on BACCHUS' desk.

BACCHUS

"Hobson's choice." Who was Hobson?

Gently and Bacchus share a look before:

TAYLOR

Ran a stable in Cambridge. You rode
the horse you were given.

Taylor explains the documents to Bacchus:

TAYLOR (CONT'D)

From Personnel. Termination and
separation, pension..you need to go
through them and return them as
soon as possible.

GENTLY watches without comment. Taylor hands a report to
GENTLY.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)

Just came over from Dr. Anderton.

Gently opens the envelope:

GENTLY

Why do they set her up for
dereliction of duty and neglect?

BACCHUS

That's what they think they're
guilty of...

Something in Anderton's report gets Gently attention:

BACCHUS (CONT'D)

What is it?

GENTLY

According to Dawson he is out of
his mind on drugs. "Disoriented.
Hallucinating. Violent". Baird says
when he arrested him he was sitting
quietly. Anderton says that liver
failure could be gradual after the
trauma...6 to 12 hours is possible.

Gently arrives at a new possibility:

GENTLY (CONT'D)
He became disoriented and agitated
as the damage to his liver took its
toll. The injury didn't have to
happen in the cell.

He looks at Bacchus.

100

INT. SECTION HOUSE. ENTRY HALL - DAY 3 1755

100

GENTLY and BACCHUS come into the Section House. They pass the pay phone and the bulletin board. They look around.
STOCKDALE and SIDWELL come out of the DINING ROOM.

STOCKDALE
Can I help you?

GENTLY
I'd like to speak to Constable
Baird.

STOCKDALE shrugs.

STOCKDALE
I haven't seen him.

He looks to the bulletin board. BACCHUS follows his eyeline to THE DUTY ROSTER pinned on the board. STOCKDALE checks the Roster.

STOCKDALE (CONT'D)
He's not on duty. I'll check in his room.

STOCKDALE starts up the stairs calling out:

STOCKDALE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Bairdo!?

BUT BACCHUS' eyes are on the DUTY ROSTER. He moves to it and begins to dig through the pages looking for the Duty Roster on the day that Simon Thomas died in his cell.

We can tell from the way he compares the sheets there is a gap in the days.

BACCHUS
There's a gap...

SIDWELL
Sometimes the sheets fall down...
or get lost...

GENTLY looks up and sees STOCKDALE leading BAIRD down the stairs. BAIRD is cold eyed.

BAIRD

What do you want?

101 **INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 3 1825** 101

BAIRD sits. The table divides him from Gently and Bacchus. GENTLY describes what he thinks happened, punctuated by flash images of the events we've seen:

GENTLY

You saw your friend on the ground bleeding from a head wound and you were angry. You wanted to make sure someone paid.

102 **EXT./INT. A RUINED BUILDING. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - DAY 1 102 1708 (FLASHBACK)**

BAIRD truncheon at the ready going back in the building.

GENTLY (O.S.)

You went back in looking for someone to blame and you found Simon Thomas hiding.

103 **INT./EXT A RUINED BUILDING. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - DAY 1 1708 (FLASHBACK)**

SIMON THOMAS hiding under the run of stairs. BAIRD drags him out.

104 **INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 3 1826** 104

GENTLY

You dragged him out and you beat him. You didn't hit him in the head or the face - you didn't want anyone to see the marks as you dragged him out of the building. No - you hit him in the back...

BACCHUS thrusts the photograph of the bruises on SIMON THOMAS' back above his liver.

BACCHUS

Your shift, "your brothers" joined you in exacting your revenge.

105 EXT. A STREET. RUINED BUILDINGS. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - DAY 05
1710 (FLASHBACK)

THE DOORS to the POLICE PADDY WAGON open. SIMON THOMAS' FACE fills with terror.

GENTLY (O.S.)

You didn't beat him in the cells.
You did it at the scene - no one would notice. No one would ever find out.

106 INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 3 1826 106

SIMON THOMAS' FACE is replaced by - BAIRD'S FACE as he denies the accusations:

BAIRD

I never hit him. Chris and Neil...they never hit him...

GENTLY erupts.

GENTLY

Who hit him? Tell the truth, son.
Have enough self-respect to tell the truth!

BAIRD

That is the truth.

GENTLY

Who were the other prisoners?

Baird shakes his head.

BAIRD

I don't know. I don't remember.

GENTLY

You don't remember? You were trying to pay him back for Ashton. No one else was going to know.

THERE'S A KNOCK ON THE DOOR and before Gently can answer the door opens. CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT LEWINGTON enters. Gently snaps at him:

GENTLY (CONT'D)

We're in the middle of an interview.

LEWINGTON

Gentlemen.

Gently tries desperately to control his anger. His voice low, quiet, restrained:

GENTLY
We...are...in an interview.

LEWINGTON
Constable Ashton has died.

Baird visibly reacts to the news. He fights back tears.

LEWINGTON (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, David...We're all sorry.

Lewington looks to Gently and Bacchus and gestures for them to leave with him.

LEWINGTON (CONT'D)
Detective Chief Inspector Gently?
Can I speak to you please?

106A **INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT'S OFF** 106A
DAY 3 1840

GENTLY and BACCHUS follow LEWINGTON into the room as Lewington tells them:

LEWINGTON
Let's draw a line under this,
Detective Chief Inspector...

GENTLY
We need to finish the interview so
that we can complete our report.

LEWINGTON
You don't have enough to pursue
this matter further, do you? I've
spoken to the ACC. He agrees with
me.

As they speak Bacchus' eye alights on the newspaper on Lewington's desk -

A NEWCASTLE EVENING TRIBUNE HEADLINE:

"Mentally ill Vagrant linked to Attack on Constable"

GENTLY
You don't know what we have.

BACCHUS reaches out and picks up the newspaper as Lewington forcefully tells Gently:

LEWINGTON

We think it wise if your investigation is superceded by a full investigation into the death of Constable Ashton.

BACCHUS hands the newspaper to Gently:

LEWINGTON (CONT'D)

We don't want to muddy things. I'm sure you understand.

GENTLY looks at the headline and asks Lewington:

GENTLY

What is this?

LEWINGTON

A conclusion.

GENTLY

There's no evidence that Simon Thomas had anything to do with Constable...

Lewington puts his hands up.

LEWINGTON

Let me stop you there. There is evidence. We have a statement from a member of the public who saw Simon Thomas assault Constable Ashton.

GENTLY

Who?

Lewington pushes a hand written statement across his desk to Gently.

LEWINGTON

A local woman. Irene Seddon.

GENTLY looks at the statement. Lewington looks at Gently pointedly:

LEWINGTON (CONT'D)

Go home. You've done enough.

GENTLY and BACCHUS about to get into his car. BACCHUS looks at GENTLY and the thoughts flooding across his brain.

BACCHUS

They didn't really want a robust investigation, did they?

GENTLY

No. If they did I don't imagine they would have chosen Detectives who were recovering from serious injuries. Do you?

Gently offers a grim smile at Bacchus.

RACHEL comes out of the police station. DAVID BAIRD is standing outside waiting for her. They look at each other.

He reaches out to her. She moves away before he can touch her. BAIRD looks bereft as she walks away.

BACCHUS

We haven't "done enough", have we?

GENTLY and BACCHUS share a look. That they have a common cause is in no doubt.

108 OMITTED

108

109 OMITTED

109

110 OMITTED

110

111 EXT. THE SEDDON'S FLAT. RYE HILL NEWCASTLE - NIGHT 3 2000 111

GENTLY and BACCHUS arrive at the SEDDON'S flat next to the church. BACCHUS knocks on the door.

IRENE answers the door a crack and checks to see who it is. BACCHUS presses the door open and they see that IRENE'S face is bruised as though she's been punched.

GENTLY

Mrs. Seddon? We need to ask you a few questions about the events...

She looks at Gently as though he's mad and stops him dead saying:

IRENE

He'll hurt my children...

SHE CLOSES the door.

A SMALL STONE hits the wall by the front door. GENTLY turns and sees ROBBIE across the street. Once their eyes connect, ROBBIE is on the move. Gently follows. Bacchus goes with him.

112 EXT. THE OLD CHURCH. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - NIGHT 3 2005 112

ROBBIE passes the Old Church. He looks back to make sure that Gently and Bacchus are following. He crosses the road and heads for the street and ruined buildings where the demolition is taking place.

113 EXT. A STREET. RUINED BUILDINGS. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - NIGHT 3 2010

GENTLY and BACCHUS wander through the rubble looking for Robbie. They look around the darkness of the ruined slum and can't see Robbie.

GENTLY

Robbie!

GENTLY'S VOICE drifts into the night air.

GENTLY (CONT'D)

Robbie!

They pass FLOWERS and a NOTE in a child's handwriting: RIP "Crazy Man".

BACCHUS

Robbie!

GENTLY is hit in the back by a STONE. He turns and sees -

A FIGURE at the doorway of the ruined building. THE FIGURE goes inside. GENTLY follows instinctively going into the ruined building. BACCHUS hesitates - he begins to tremble as he struggles against his fear.

114 INT. A RUINED BUILDING. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - NIGHT 3 2012 14

GENTLY continues to follow THE FIGURE as it moves through the labyrinth of corridors and broken walls. GENTLY is having trouble keeping up.

GENTLY

Robbie!

But the figure keeps moving. GENTLY moves deeper and deeper into the ruined building of the slums.

115 EXT. A RUINED BUILDING. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - NIGHT 3 2013 15

BACCHUS is overwhelmed by his fear. He tries to will himself to go forward but he can't.

116 INT. A RUINED BUILDING. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - NIGHT 3 2016 16

GENTLY climbs a section of stairs that looks like it might collapse at any moment. When he gets to the top, he sees THE FIGURE up ahead in the shadows of a section of the building whose roof has collapsed. GENTLY moves toward the figure slowly - there's something not right. The figure looks to big to be a boy.

GENTLY

Robbie??

GENTLY reaches out to touch "Robbie" when THE FIGURE turns around and we discover it is -

117 INT. A RUINED BUILDING. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - NIGHT 3 2016 17

BACCHUS turns and finds ROBBIE and his brother CHARLIE.

ROBBIE

We couldn't speak to ye at our house. If he finds out he'll hurt mum...Charlie and me saw it...

BACCHUS suddenly realises that GENTLY has followed HANRATTY into the house.

118 INT. A RUINED BUILDING. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - NIGHT 3 2017 18

THE FIGURE TURNS around GENTLY discovers RONNY HANRATTY. Hanratty is calm as can be.

RONNY

What'd the little shite, tell you?
What'd he talk to you about?

GENTLY

Poetry.

Hanratty nods.

RONNY

You expect me to believe that? You think you're funny?

HANRATTY has a lump of wood in his hand which he's holding like a club. He moves around Gently shutting off any route of escape. Gently verbally prods him.

GENTLY

You attacked Ashton?

RONNY

They say they are making this a better place...they're talking about buildings not people and you come along with your badges and your laws...

GENTLY

You lured him into the building during the riot...?

RONNY

...and you wonder why we hate you...

He lashes out at Gently, hitting him with the club and knocking Gently off balance.

GENTLY

What did Simon Thomas do to you?

Gently uses the question to buy time as he looks around for a way to escape. The dust and debris is everywhere.

RONNY

He got in the way. They let that squatter live here but not us...us lot they move on...Ashton brings that kiddie fiddler food and blankets...makes him comfortable, That's what Ashton did. Pervert was dangerous. We wanted him away!

BACCHUS shouts:

BACCHUS

Put it down!

HANRATTY turns and sees BACCHUS. He feigns to put the club down and then suddenly smashes BACCHUS across the shoulders. He loses his balance, falls forward and off the edge of a part demolished room. BACCHUS dangles in the air holding on desperately:

HANRATTY raises the lump of wood to attack GENTLY. GENTLY throws a handful of dust into HANRATTY'S EYES - blinding him. Then he steps forward and throws a vicious punch to Hanratty's face.

Pain shoots up through Gently's weak arm across his body. HANRATTY'S hands go to his face. He staggers backward and his foot and leg disappear through a broken floorboard. HANRATTY is trapped - he tries to pull himself back up.

GENTLY rushes over to BACCHUS and reaches down to grab his arms. He holds on tight preventing Bacchus from falling.

HANRATTY drags himself up to his feet. He picks up the piece of wood with vicious LONG NAILS protruding from it.

GENTLY sees him coming. If GENTLY protects himself he'll drop BACCHUS. He's got to make a decision as HANRATTY comes within range and is about to swing the club down hard on his HEAD -

A STONE smashes into the side of HANRATTY'S HEAD. He collapses and falls through a the open beams and flooring crashing into the debris below.

WE SEE who threw THE STONE - ROBBIE. SIRENS can be heard in the distance.

119 INT. A RUINED BUILDING. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - NIGHT 3 204019 *

BACCHUS - against a wall - smokes, gathering himself. In the background, GENTLY watches as HANRATTY is taken away on a stretcher in handcuffs. GENTLY approaches BACCHUS. *
*
*

GENTLY

Are you okay?

BACCHUS

I'm good.

GENTLY

You are.

GENTLY touches BACCHUS'S shoulder and moves off. ROBBIE and CHARLIE are waiting for him. GENTLY smiles at ROBBIE as he draws near. *
*
*

ROBBIE (O.S.)

He was going to get 'em... and
teach 'em a lesson...

Robbie's voice becomes -

120 EXT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION - DAY 4 1005 120

- Gently's as GENTLY and BACCHUS walk from his car toward the police station.

GENTLY (O.S.)

They lured him into the building.
Away from anyone else...

121 **INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE**¹
DAY 4 1020

LEWINGTON listens as GENTLY and BACCHUS explain:

GENTLY

He wanted to kill Ashton. He wanted
him alone and vulnerable.

122 **EXT. A STREET. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - DAY 1 1645 (FLASHBACK)**²

MICHAEL ASHTON is hit in the middle of his back by a broken
brick. He turns and sees his assailant - CHARLIE SEDDON -
whose angry epithets are muffled by the scarf he's wearing.

GENTLY (O.S.)

The boys didn't know what he
intended...they had to do their
part or he'd beat them.

CHARLIE SEDDON darts into the part ruined terrace of slum
houses. ASHTON gives chase.

123 **INT. RUINED HOUSE. RYE HILL - DAY 1 1646 (FLASHBACK)** 123

CHARLIE SEDDON runs into the ruined house and keeps going.
ASHTON follows him into the dark forbidding space. From the
darkness a brick is thrown and hits ASHTON in the head. He
drops his truncheon and sinks to his knees.

Shafts of light allowed in by the damaged roof cut through
the darkness and allow us to see ASHTON'S body as HANRATTY
stones him.

He cries out in pain but the noise of the disturbance, and
the sirens and the rumble of the bull dozers drowns it out.
ASHTON'S body collapses, prone, on the ground. The bricks and
debris continue to rain down.

ROBBIE (O.S.)

Simon didn't kill no one...he
wasn't like that...he was soft...

SUDDENLY A FIGURE appears from the darkness - SIMON THOMAS.
SIMON tries to shield ASHTON'S BODY with his own. Trying to
help him - to drag him - to safety.

ROBBIE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
I liked that about him

GENTLY (O.S.)
He tried to shield Ashton with his
body...

HANRATTY, calmly walks forward from the darkness, he picks up ASHTON'S TRUNCHEON and smashes SIMON in the back. SIMON crumples.

GENTLY (CONT'D)
Hanratty arrived...

HANRATTY hits him repeatedly in the back with the truncheon as Simon falls face forward into the debris we see what will become the fatal blow. WE HEAR BAIRD'S distant VOICE from outside:

BAIRD (O.S.)
Robbie! Come out of there!

HANRATTY turns and sees ROBBIE watching him from the doorway. HANRATTY drops the truncheon and calmly walks away into the darkness. ROBBIE moves to SIMON. He gets down with his face next to his. WE HEAR BAIRD'S VOICE getting closer:

BAIRD (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Robbie!

ROBBIE
Crazy Man...Crazy Man! Get up!

SIMON pulls himself up to his feet. ROBBIE helps him away as - BAIRD arrives in the ruined house.

GENTLY (O.S.)
Simon Thomas' liver had ruptured.
He was dying but he didn't know it.

BAIRD sees the figures of ROBBIE and SIMON moving away into the darkness. He turns and sees ASHTON'S BODY.

124

EXT. A STREET. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - DAY 1 1710 (FLASHBACK) 24

The doors to the Van open. Simon looks inside. He begins to panic.

GENTLY (O.S.)
When he was arrested he didn't
struggle.
(MORE)

GENTLY (O.S.) (CONT'D)

He was growing disoriented...he
didn't know what was happening...it
was only when the van doors opened
that he became terrified...

SIMON'S POV

RONNY HANRATTY is in the back of the wagon waiting for him.
He smiles and the smile is menacing.

125 **INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE**⁵⁻
DAY 4 1021

GENTLY is with LEWINGTON. He sets the report on Lewington's desk.

LEWINGTON

Can you prove Hanratty struck Simon Thomas?

GENTLY

We have witnesses and physical
evidence...

126 **OMITTED**

126

127 **INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE**⁷⁻
DAY 4 1022

BACCHUS explains to Lewington.

BACCHUS

Hanratty's fingerprints were found
on the murder weapon.

GENTLY

The failure to check on Simon Thomas while he was in the cells contributed to his death.

LEWINGTON

So our conclusion really doesn't change.

BACCHUS and GENTLY share a look. They know this isn't either true or just.

128

EXT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION - DAY 4 1030

128

GENTLY and BACCHUS come out of the Police Station. They discover DAVID BAIRD waiting by GENTLY'S CAR.

BAIRD

Thank you.

Gently and Bacchus don't respond.

BAIRD (CONT'D)

He was my friend. You found out who was responsible.

Baird can't look them in the eye. Gently and Bacchus say nothing. BAIRD hands BACCHUS a folded piece of paper. Bacchus unfolds it. He sees the heading: "Duty Roster"

BAIRD (CONT'D)

The original. Rachel wasn't on duty. Dawson had a drink with us. More than one. He fell asleep. He thought you would come and go. Not pay any attention. He asked us to protect him. We did. We lied. No one checked on him. We all lied about it - except her. When did I become a villain? I'll do whatever you want me to do.

GENTLY and BACCHUS look at each other.

BAIRD (CONT'D)

She's the only one who deserves to wear the uniform.

129

INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. CHARGE ROOM - DAY 4 1055 129

GENTLY and BACCHUS come into the Charge Room. DAWSON looks at them with contempt. Then CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT LEWINGTON enters. Gently and Lewington move toward Dawson.

LEWINGTON

Sergeant Dawson...?

GENTLY

I'm arresting you on suspicion of being involved in the death of Simon Thomas.

Dawson face falls as his world collapses around him.

130 OMITTED

130

131 INT. GENTLY'S CAR. RYE HILL POLICE STATION - DAY 4 1115 131

GENTLY and BACCHUS glance at each other.

BACCHUS

The letter I gave you?

Gently waits for the rest -

BACCHUS (CONT'D)

Can I have it back?

Gently nods. There's no fuss. No celebration. Gently starts the car. As drives there just the glimmer of a smile.

132 OMITTED

132

133 EXT. A HIGH RISE TOWER BLOCK - DAY 5 1005

133

GENTLY walks up the steps until he arrives at a flat near the top of the building. HE KNOCKS on a door and then turns to look out at the view across NEWCASTLE - astonished. THE DOOR OPENS revealing RACHEL COLES. She looks him up and down.

RACHEL

Lost?

Gently nods.

GENTLY

Do you remember the oath you took?

134 INT. CATHEDRAL. NEWCASTLE - DAY 5 1030

134

THE FUNERAL of MICHAEL ASHTON is in progress. STOCKDALE, SIDWELL and BAIRD act as pallbearers for ASHTON'S coffin. LEWINGTON watches on.

135

EXT. A SMALL CHURCH. NEWCASTLE - DAY 5 1255

135

ROBBIE, dressed in his best clothes, sits on a wall and watches the COFFIN of SIMON THOMAS carried into the church. GENTLY sits next to him. Robbie nods at the COFFIN:

ROBBIE

Crazy Man.

(a beat)

I gave him his name, you know.

GENTLY

Did you?

ROBBIE

Aye. He liked it.

He thinks and then explains:

ROBBIE (CONT'D)

It weren't 'cos he was a nutter.

Gently waits for the explanation:

ROBBIE (CONT'D)

Something would happen or he'd read a poem or somebody'd say somethin'...he'd think about it and he'd shake his head and he'd say: "That's crazy, man." Always said it. About everything.

ROBBIE looks at the COFFIN as it disappears into the Church. He shakes his head as Simon Thomas would have and says:

ROBBIE (CONT'D)

That's crazy, Man.

136

INT. POLICE HQ. - DAY 5 1300

136

TAYLOR is working at his DESK when WPC RACHEL COLES enters. She looks around.

TAYLOR

Can I help you?

RACHEL

Hi. I'm new.

137

INT. A SMALL CHURCH. NEWCASTLE - DAY 5 1330

137

The very small FUNERAL of SIMON THOMAS is taking place in the side chapel of the church.

A PRIEST and KATHERINE are among a handful of people. ROBBIE SEDDON sits in the back of the chapel. The Priest beckons him forward. ROBBIE walks forward to the small raised pulpit and can barely see out over the top of it.

ROBBIE

"Let me die a young man's death,
not a clean and in between
the sheets holywater death,
not a famous-last-words
peaceful out of breath death."

GENTLY stands watching from the back of the small chapel.

FADE OUT.

-END OF FILM-