

Duck Soup

LOST BOYS AND FAIRIES

EPISODE 1

"WE'RE ALL JUST CHILDREN"

by

Daf James

DEVELOPED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF BBC DRAMA

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1A

INT. GABRIEL AND ANDY'S HOUSE - DAY 1 - FEBRUARY, 2021 - 1A

Cuts in very quick succession: GABRIEL (40) tie knot tightened; ANDY (35) opens oven door; Gabe hoovers; Andy cuts Bara brith; Gabe spreads lifestyle magazine in a fan on coffee table; Andy places Bara brith plate on table; Andy and Gabe look into each others eyes, nervous, instinctively sharing a quick kiss; ding-dong; their heads shoot towards the door.

1

INT. LOUNGE - DAY 1 - FEBRUARY, 2021

1

A comfortable, open-plan lounge flushed with light. GABRIEL sits next to ANDY. They're much too close together on a two-seater sofa. Perched. Uncomfortable. Like cockatoos on a branch. Everything calculated to give an impression that they're on the right side of middle-class thank you very much. *Trust us. We have 'taste'.* Photographs of Gabe and Andy having the 'best time ever' in sunnier climates. The perfect fan of magazines. The Bara brith. All a bit mundane. It's actually - perish the thought - fucking 'straight'. And Gabriel's as surprised as anyone to find himself sitting here in this illusion of semi-suburban respectability.

JACKIE

So, boys. Tell me. Why do you want to adopt?

Opposite, across the table, JACKIE (50s, smartly dressed, A4 note-pad on lap) sits on a winged-chair. Her current formality only just masks a twinkle in her eye. She's seen it all before. Gabriel and Andy look at each other. Gabe's a frightened rabbit in the headlights; Andy over-compensates with a forced grin. His face may crack any second. Gabriel does the tiniest nod: please, dear God, you speak.

ANDY

We've been talking about it for a while now, haven't we, Gabe?

GABRIEL

Mm-hm.

He looks to Gabriel, hoping he'll take up the baton. Nothing.

ANDY

And we're really solid, been together for eight years so it feels like the natural next step, doesn't it?

GABRIEL

Mm-hm.

Jackie looks directly at Gabriel.

JACKIE
I'm sensing you're a little bit
nervous, Gabriel?

GABRIEL
I'm not nervous.

JACKIE
Good. Just answer honestly and
we'll get along fine.

But Gabriel has gone somewhere again.

JACKIE (CONT'D)
Gabriel? Are you still with us?!

Jackie looks at Gabe concerned. Andy smiles at him nervously. Puts his hand on Gabriel's knee: a comfort, and a 'what the fuck are you playing at'? Gabe's suddenly back in the room.

GABRIEL
Sorry.
(beat)
I was away with the fairies.

A piano flourish...

2 INT. NEVERLAND - NIGHT - X1 - PREVIOUS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY, 2021

Tight on Gabriel, glorious in the spotlight. More a work of art than a drag queen. A MAGNIFICENT CREATURE, not a female impersonator. More Taylor Mac than Rue Paul. She - in Neverland she's a 'she' - seems genderless to the outside world. Fluid. Her wig glistens with diamonds and pearls; her face sparkles with glitter. She could be of the heavens or the oceans. Accompanied by a PIANIST.

GABRIEL
(singing)
*You probably think I'll miss you,
but I won't...*

Gabriel smiles. Her eyes twinkle mischievously.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
*You probably think I hide my hurt
inside, but I don't...*

She plays the packed house like a virtuosic musician. This is NEVERLAND, a queer sanctuary in an old, disused maritime building down the bay. Think Cabaret/Babylon Berlin/Shortbus.

Intersex inclusive Pride Flags. A safe, inclusive space for gay men/queers/trans people/non-binary people/women - whatever your race or disability. Where the queers and marginalised of the city come to commune with the Gods.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

*So many people come and go I find
it best to let them go as soon as
they're gone...*

Gabriel bats away the ghosts of lovers past with a flick of her hand; the audience whoop and cheer their appreciation.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

*Remembering's only there to make
you sad...*

By the bar, next to Andy, FANNY AMPLE (56, huge wig, mascara, gentle giant in massive heels) sits on a stool sipping an orange juice. The HOSTESS. Like a few others in the club, she always wears a light-up armband: this means she's sober (has been for a decade) and can help anyone in need. She nods in agreement: you sing it sister.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

*They say it hurts your insides when
you miss the things you've had...*

Fanny and Gabriel's eyes lock. For a moment, no one else exists. Mutual recognition they've both been through challenging times. Andy puts his arm around Fanny and they smile at each other as Gabe sings with momentum, conviction.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

*Well I don't cry 'cause I have
nothing inside of me, I'm footloose
no memories tie me down I'm free...
(soaring)
But sometimes I wonder...*

And she looks across the sea of faces: humans of all shapes and sizes; in their midsts her NEVERLAND TRIBE (five other diverse magnificent beings); extraordinary costumes; pissed twinks laughing, arms draped over each other in their holy communion of youth.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

*What happened to those with whom I
shared adventures, those pirates
and lost boys and fairies...*

In the centre, a topless creature, cherub wings, covered in glitter, doubled over with laughter. This is CELYN (25). Celyn is gay and gender fluid. He works at the club too.

But tonight he's having the time of his life. He turns his head and inconspicuously snorts a bump of coke. No cares in the world. Apparently.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
*And sometimes those wonderings,
they give me the strangest of
feelings..*

Celyn is high. Loving life. He flies through the crowd, light as a feather. Pulling a YOUNG MAN and YOUNG WOMAN behind him: he's feeling adventurous tonight.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
*Fleeting moments in my mind
Of those once upon a times long
ago... Oh!*

Celyn blows a kiss to Gabriel. She blows one back as Celyn pulls the MAN and WOMAN behind a velvet curtain, disappears.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
*Where did all the lost boys go?
Somewhere I'll never know.*

Gabriel looks back at Andy: who is he? Who's he about to become?

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
*Those pirates, and lost boys and
fairies, where are we?*

TITLE: LOST BOYS AND FAIRIES

3 INT. LOUNGE - DAY 1 - FEBRUARY, 2021 3

We're back with:

JACKIE
I've never met a real live drag queen before.

GABRIEL
I'm not a drag queen.

JACKIE
What are you then?

ANDY
He's wonderful. People come from miles to see him. You should hear him sing. At Neverland.

JACKIE
Done.

This annoys Gabe. Jackie doesn't notice. She's scribbling.

JACKIE (CONT'D)
And what do you do, Andy?

ANDY
(apologetic)
I'm an accountant.

JACKIE
Nothing to be ashamed of.

ANDY
Not as exciting as Gabe.

JACKIE
It's stable. Kids need stability.
Will you take paternity leave then
or...

ANDY
We're gonna split it. I'll take
nine months and Gabriel'll take...

GABRIEL
Three.

ANDY
I thought you were only taking one?

GABRIEL
No. Three.

Gabe's suddenly feeling he needs to prove something.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
And we want a girl, don't we, And?

Andy nods, though it's not wholly convincing.

JACKIE
Why's that?

GABRIEL
Boys are nothing but trouble.
(beat)
I was told we could be specific?

JACKIE

But you're halving your chances
there, so I'd encourage you to keep
your options open.

GABRIEL

We'd really like a girl though,
wouldn't we, And?

Andy nods, smiles. Unconvincingly. Jackie's moved on.

JACKIE

Are you married?

ANDY

Oh. Um... no...

JACKIE

(back-tracking)

Not that it's a problem...

ANDY

Gabriel thinks it's
heteronormative.

Jackie looks questioningly.

ANDY (CONT'D)

He thinks it's what straight
couples do when they run out of
things to say.

Jackie and Andy laugh; Gabriel feels slighted.

JACKIE

Mind if I have a quick look around
the house? Just to check you're not
serial killers or something.

Jackie gets up, heads out into the hall. Gabriel scowls at
Andy. They talk in hushed tones:

ANDY

What?

GABRIEL

Why did you invite her to
Neverland?

ANDY

She might be into muff.

JACKIE (O.C.)
I wouldn't like to say. We've only
just met.

Gabriel and Andy are gobsmacked to see her standing there.

JACKIE (CONT'D)
First rule of parenting. Watch what
you say. You never know who's
listening.

4 INT. STAIRS/LANDING/GABRIEL'S CLOSET - DAY 1 - FEB, 2021 4

Andy and Gabe follow Jackie up, passing three classy colour
photos of Gabriel with Fanny, Celyn and his Neverland Tribe.

JACKIE
You may need stair gates depending
on their age - top and bottom -

She's paused at the last photo. Peers closer. Gasps.

JACKIE (CONT'D)
Is this you?

Gabriel nods.

JACKIE (CONT'D)
I see what you mean: you're a work
of art.

Gabriel loves this. Jackie points to another drag queen.

JACKIE (CONT'D)
And this ones got better tits than
I have!

This shocks Gabriel and Andy. Jackie continues up stairs.

JACKIE (CONT'D)
I'm a social worker, boys, not a
priest and... Wow!

She's peering into a room at the top of the stairs. It could
be a bedroom, but it's Gabriel closet. A theatrical,
carnivalesque space. Full to the brim with extraordinary
costumes, headdresses, sparkles, dummy heads, wigs, a
dressing table, sewing machine. The upright piano from his
childhood at the back, shut, gathering dust.

GABRIEL
It's where the magic happens!

JACKIE

Then put a lock on it, or your
magic will soon be covered in snot.
And you'll need...

5 INT. BATHROOM - DAY 1 - FEBRUARY, 2021

5

Jackie, Andy and Gabriel stand in front of a mirrored-medicine cabinet in a plush his and his bathroom.

JACKIE

A lock here...

6 INT. KITCHEN - DAY 1 - FEBRUARY, 2021

6

Jackie crouches in front of a cupboard filled with bleach and cleaning produce. Andy and Gabriel behind.

JACKIE

And here...

7 EXT. GABRIEL AND ANDY'S HOUSE - DAY 1 - FEBRUARY, 2021

7

Jackie, Andy and Gabriel stare at their two-seater car (but not too flash). Andy radiating positivity, but Gabe's overwhelmed now.

JACKIE

...and that'll have to go, won't it? And what about...

8 INT. LOUNGE - DAY 1A - FEBRUARY, 2021

8

CUT TO close on Jackie face:

JACKIE

Your health?

CUT TO closer on Jackie face:

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Your finances?

9 INT. LOUNGE - DAY 2 - MARCH, 2021

9

JACKIE

...your childhood?

Gabriel on the sofa, nervous and alone. No tie. Different shirt. Jackie, pad-open, on her throne.

GABRIEL
My childhood?

JACKIE
Yes. The way you were parented can have a significant impact on the parent you're likely to become.

GABRIEL
Oh, but I'll do things very differently.

JACKIE
That's what they all say. Children can push buttons you never knew you had.

GABRIEL
But I had a very happy childhood. Mam and Dad moved to be closer to Cardiff just after I was born and...

JACKIE
Tell me about your parents.

GABRIEL
Um... well, Dad was a physics teacher; Mam worked at a nursery...

JACKIE
Welsh-language schools?

GABRIEL
Um... yes. Mam was... Loving. Nurturing...

10 I/E. EMRYS'S CAR - DAY - X2 - 1986

10

Sunlight streams. Young Gabriel POV (we don't see him) in the back. YOUNGER EMRYS (40) drives. NON (30s), his wife, next to him. And they're both singing along joyfully to a song on the cassette player we cannot hear. Non gets a sandwich from a tupperware box. She turns around, smiles, offers it to the POV in the back [where V.O., film versions too for edit].

GABRIEL (V.O.)
And Dad was... Well. There was a lot of capel... (correcting)chapel.

11 INT. CHAPEL - DAY - X3 - 1986

11

Packed chapel. YOUNG GABRIEL (7) between Non (Laura Ashley dress) and Younger Emrys, singing with all his might. Gabe has one eye on Emrys and is also singing passionately. Trying to imitate his Dad. Wants to be like him. Non watches him with delight.

GABRIEL

Dad was a diacon. I mean a deacon.
His Dad was a minister so...

CONGREGATION

(singing)

*Arglwydd dyma fi, ar dy alwad di,
canna f'enaid yn y gwaed a gaed ar
Galfa-*

The singing is magnificent, joyful. A happy memory.

GABRIEL (V.O.)

And Mam helped out with Sunday
school until...

12 INT. HALLWAY/LOUNGE, EMRYS'S HOUSE - DAY - X4 - 1986

12

Young Gabriel looks through the narrow slit in the door at Non on the floor, Younger Emrys kneeling beside her, PARAMEDICS, blue flashing lights, confusion, chaos. Not realising he's there the door's shut in Gabriel face.

13 INT. LOUNGE - DAY 2 - MARCH, 2021

13

GABRIEL

She died. When I was little. Brain
hemorrhage.

Jackie looks at Gabriel with great sympathy.

JACKIE

I'm so sorry to hear that, Gabriel.

GABRIEL

Oh it's fine. It was a long time
ago now.

JACKIE

But it must have been incredibly
traumatic for you as a child....

14 INT. CHAPEL - DAY - X5 - 1986

14

Young Gabriel next to Younger Emrys at the front of the chapel. A coffin. The congregation sing powerfully. Emrys expressionless. He doesn't sing.

CONGREGATION

*Rho im yr hedd na wyr y byd amdano,
hedd nefol hedd ddaeth trwy
anfeidrol loes...*

Gabriel looks up to his father for comfort. Gets nothing. Looks to the front again, alone.

15 INT. LOUNGE - DAY 2 - MARCH, 2021

15

Gabriel ponders for a moment. Looks at Jackie directly.

GABRIEL

I don't remember much about it now,
to be honest.

Jackie looks at him curiously. Gabriel shifts uncomfortably.

JACKIE

And will you raise your child to
speak Welsh as well?

GABRIEL

No.

Gabe's curtness surprises Jackie. Gabriel backtracks.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Wouldn't be fair on Andy, would it?

16 INT. GABRIEL AND ANDY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 2 - MARCH, 2021 16

Gabriel and Andy sit up in bed.

ANDY

Why not? I'm thinking of having
lessons actually.

GABRIEL

(ignoring)

Don't you think it's like therapy
but without the actual therapy...

ANDY

I'm not the one who has a problem
with it...

GABRIEL

The way she looks at you with those
judgy-mc-judge-judge eyes.

Andy looks at Gabriel suspiciously. Gabe still ignores.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

I mean, does it need to be so
intrusive? Why does she have to
know EVERYTHING. Any arse-hole can
shoot their load and make a baby.

ANDY

Exactly. Hence the need for
adoption. And why she has to make
sure we're not going to further
damage an already traumatised
child.

(beat)

You haven't mentioned...(drugs)

GABRIEL

What do you take me for?

ANDY

I know what you're like. You over-
share.

GABRIEL

(theatrical)

Moi? Je suis tres discreet.

ANDY

Plus she told us not to lie. And
you hate lying.

GABRIEL

But I'm not lying, am I? I'm just
being frugal with the truth.

(beat)

Aren't you finding it intense?

Andy and Jackie laugh together.

ANDY

It's true! Apart from wanting to
get as far away from Dad as
possible, I swear the only reason
she chose Cardiff was because she
was hoping she'd make friends with
Shirley Bassey.

(MORE)

ANDY (CONT'D)

We didn't have a lot, but I didn't want for love. So now I want to be able to pass that on to someone. Help them thrive. Make a difference.

JACKIE

And did she ever befriend Shirley?

ANDY

Turns out she lives in Monte Carlo.

They both laugh again.

18 INT. GABRIEL AND ANDY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 2 - MARCH, 2021 18

It's Andy turn to be frugal with the truth now.

ANDY

Yeah. It is quite intense, isn't it?

Gabriel nods. Pleased.

18A I/E. GABRIEL AND ANDY'S HOUSE - DAY 3 - APRIL, 2021 18A

Cuts in very quick succession: shaving cream squirt onto hand; C/U razor against Andy's cheek; tie knot tightened; coffee cup filling with coffee; hand shutting gate; Jackie's bag set down; notepad out; pen top off.

19 INT. LOUNGE - DAY 3 - APRIL, 2021 19

JACKIE

Tell me about your hobbies when you were little?

Another session. Gabriel on sofa. Jackie on throne looking at him expectantly. Gabe considers his answer, then offers -

GABRIEL

I liked reading?

20 INT. LOUNGE, EMRYS'S HOUSE - DAY - X6 - 1987 20

Younger Emrys flicks through a copy of the *New Scientist* magazine. Young Gabriel reads in an arm-chair: the Welsh-language illustrated Bible for children open on a double page spread on his lap: *The Temptation of Christ*. A magnificent Jesus stands triumphant on a rock;

a winged Satan flies from him. Emrys watches the news as Margaret Thatcher speaks at the 1987 Conservative Party Conference on the TV.

MARGARET THATCHER

Children are being taught they have an inalienable right to be gay. All those children are being cheated of a sound start in life...

Gabe looks up. Emrys shifts uncomfortably in his chair.

21 INT. EMRYS'S BEDROOM, EMRYS'S HOUSE - DAY - X7 - 1987 21

Another evening. OS, Downstairs: *The Kenny Everett Television Show* on the TV. Young Gabriel looks through his Mam's wardrobe. He finds the floral Laura Ashley dress.

GABRIEL (V.O.)

And dressing up. I loved dressing up.

22 INT. EMRYS'S BEDROOM, EMRYS'S HOUSE - DAY - X7 - 1987 22

Downstairs, TV continues. Young Gabriel sits at his Mam's dressing table in the dress, admires a pearl necklace around his neck. He notices a bottle of Chanel no. 5. Picks it up, smells it - it's comforting - starts spraying it, liberally.

23 INT. LOUNGE/HALLWAY/YOUNG GABRIEL'S BEDROOM, EMRYS'S HOUSE 23
DAY - X7 - 1987

TV continues as Younger Emrys gets up from his seat. We follow him out of the lounge and up the stairs.

EMRYS
(always **Welsh**
pronunciation)
Gabriel...?

He pushes the door open to find angelic Young Gabriel asleep in the dress and pearls on the bed. Emrys is horrified. Triggered. Grief in the form of anger rises and...

24 INT. YOUNG GABRIEL'S BEDROOM, EMRYS'S HOUSE - DAY - X7 - 24
1987

THWACK! THWACK! THWACK! Young Gabriel, still in the dress, over Younger Emrys's knee as his hand comes crashing down on his bottom.

GABRIEL (V.O.)
But mostly I liked...

25 INT. DINING ROOM, EMRYS'S HOUSE - DAY - X8 - 1987 25

Young Gabriel plays the piano, fighting tears, singing:

GABRIEL
*Pan ddaw lleisiau'r nos i 'mhoeni,
A sibrwd gwag y gwynt im hoeri,
Ti sy'n lliwio'r blode, a mantell
gwylith y bore...*

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
*[When voices in the darkness haunt
me, And whispers on night's breezes
taunt me, With dew you paint the
flowers throughout the early
hours...]*

26 INT. LOUNGE - DAY 3 - APRIL, 2021 26

GABRIEL
Music was my happy place.

Jackie scribbles in her pad. Then looks at him directly.

JACKIE
And what kind of relationship did
you have with your Dad growing up?

27 INT. YOUNG GABRIEL'S BEDROOM, EMRYS'S HOUSE - NIGHT - X9 - 27
1987

Young Gabriel wide-awake listens to the muffled sounds of
Younger Emrys crying into his pillow. It's deeply disturbing.
Young Gabriel begins to rock his head backwards and forwards
on his pillow to self-soothe.

28 INT. LOUNGE - DAY 3 - APRIL, 2021 28

GABRIEL
Pretty good I'd say. It was just
him and me so...

JACKIE
(scribbling)
And how does he feel about the
adoption? Is he excited?

GABRIEL

Oh, um... we haven't actually told
him yet.

Jackie stops scribbling.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

(quickly)

We wanted to tell him face to face.

Jackie nods.

JACKIE

I hear Andy's Mam was pleased.

29 EXT. GABRIEL AND ANDY'S HOUSE - DAY - X10

29

SANDRA (dyed red cropped hair, too much rouge) throws open
the front door and screams:

SANDRA

I'm going to be a Nanna!

30 INT. LOUNGE - DAY 3 - APRIL, 2021

30

JACKIE

How do you think your Dad will
respond?

She looks him in the eye. Another lie. Another performance.

GABRIEL

I'm sure he'll be delighted.

Jackie nods, not convinced, but thinks best not to push.

JACKIE

So. Next session we'll move on
to...

31 INT. LOUNGE - DAY 4 - MAY, 2021

31

Jackie sits opposite Gabriel.

JACKIE

...when did you have your first
inkling you might be gay?

32 INT. EMRYS'S BEDROOM, EMRYS'S HOUSE - DAY - X7 - 1987 32

Young Gabriel sits at his Mam's dressing table in the dress, admires a pearl necklace around his neck.

GABRIEL (V.O.)
(a hint of condescension)
Well, there's never one moment,
Jackie. More a series of moments...

We zoom into his eye...

33 INT. EMRYS'S LOUNGE, EMRYS'S HOUSE - DAY - X11 - 1994 33

... and out again. It's TEENAGE GABRIEL (15) now. He's watching the music video to *Take That's 'Pray'*: the second chorus. Mark, topless, Gary, topless; Jason in pants; Howard topless stroking his chest. Freeze frame. Gabe bites his bottom lip. This feels naughty. But thrilling. He checks the time on his Casio watch. Slowly slips his hand down his trousers.

GABRIEL (V.O.)
...a gradual dawning.

34 I.E SCHOOL BUS - DAY - X12 - 1994 34

Teenage Gabriel looking nonchalantly down the aisle from a seat near the back. The seats around are empty. A TALLER, OLDER BOY [who'll become significant in Series 2] next to him. Looking out of the window. We can't see his face but we can tell he's handsome by the way he wears his shirt. His coat's spread over his lap. And Teenage Gabriel's hand is beneath that coat. Wanking him off vigorously. The boy begins gasping. He's going to... THUD! His hand slams down on Gabriel's. As if killing a trampolining mouse under a carpet.

35 INT. LOUNGE - DAY 4 - MAY, 2021 35

Gabriel jolts, ever so subtly, back to the present.

JACKIE
And did you struggle with it?

36 INT. TEENAGE GABRIEL'S BEDROOM, EMRYS'S HOUSE - NIGHT - X136-1994

Eclectic posters: Welsh; subtly queer; alternative bands. Teenage Gabe on his knees praying the gay away.

TEENAGE GABRIEL

... a gwared fi rhag drwg. O
feddylie brwnt, a bechgyn golygus a
codiadau cyson a...

TEENAGE GABRIEL (CONT'D)

[... and deliver me from evil. From
my impure thoughts, and handsome
boys and constant erections and...]

From the corner of his eye he notices a detail in the patterned wall paper. And fuck - it's moving. Breathing. Growing... and now the face of SATAN reveals itself in the pattern, and he's pushing through. Like Freddy Krueger in Nancy's bedroom. And Gabe is paralysed with terror.

37 INT. LOUNGE - DAY 4 - MAY, 2021

37

GABRIEL

No, not really....

Jackie leans in.

JACKIE

How about your Dad?

GABRIEL

He struggled a bit with it I guess.
But no one's out in The Bible, are
they?

38 INT. TEENAGE GABRIEL'S BEDROOM, EMRYS'S HOUSE - NIGHT - X138-
1994

Suddenly Satan's wings explode outwards. Gabe lets out a BLOOD-CURDLING SCREAM as they envelop him. And then we lose sight of him as a red fury of horns, wings and hooves drag him at break neck speed towards the hell behind the wall.

39 INT. LOUNGE - DAY 4 - MAY, 2021

39

GABRIEL

But being a teenager is horrific,
isn't it? It's just a confusing
time. I mean, I didn't know if I
wanted to kill the boys who picked
on me, or fuck 'em instead!

Gabe finds his own joke hilarious, but Jackie doesn't laugh. He's suddenly mortified.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Oh, God. Sorry. I forgot where I
was for a moment...

JACKIE

Were you bullied then, Gabriel?

GABRIEL

God no! Nothing like that. I was
never bullied. Just the usual
stuff...

BOY (V.O.)

Bender!

40 EXT. FIELD - DAY - X14 - 1994

40

Teenage Gabriel turns suddenly and...

THUMP! A football thwacks him in the face.

41 INT. BOYS TOILETS - DAY - X15 - 1994

41

CUT TO: FLUSH! Teenage Gabriel's head is forced down the
toilet. He can't breathe it's terrifying.

CUT TO: RIIIIIIIP! A giant strip of duct tape torn.

Moments later, an unidentifiable GANG OF BOYS run from
Gabriel laughing. He's fastened - head to toe in tape - to a
door. A graffitied arrow pointing at him saying: 'FAIRY'.

42 INT. LOUNGE - DAY 4 - MAY, 2021

42

GABRIEL

(laughing)

But I was a camp geeky show-off -
you know - so I was kind of asking
for it really, wasn't I?

Jackie looks even more concerned. He moves on quickly:

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

I mean, I'm actually grateful for
it. It made me who I am today.
Being an outsider gave me an
advantage because all that time I
threw into music...

43 INT. SCHOOL HALL - DAY - X16 - 1994 43

Teenage Gabriel plays Chopin's Revolutionary Etude on the piano in a school concert, in his element.

CUT TO close on Gabe's hands playing virtuosically.

GABRIEL (V.O.)
I loved the attention.

CUT TO audience on feet applauding Gabriel. But the dramatic music continues...

44 INT. TOILET CUBICLE, PUBLIC TOILET - DAY - X17 - 1994 44

Teenage Gabriel (school uniform) sits on a toilet smoking a fag, perturbed by the heavy breathing coming from the next cubicle. Amongst the graffiti - drawings of penises ejaculating, filthy messages, phone numbers - he spots the word 'Heaven' and an arrow pointing to a gloryhole. Warily, he kneels down, looks through it...

An eye stares back at him. Gabriel lurches back, terrified. But then Gabriel leans forward and looks through again.

GABRIEL (V.O.)
And soon I was hooked...

45 INT. PUBLIC TOILET - DAY - X17 - 1994 45

Teenage Gabriel flings the door open to an ORDINARY SCRUFFY BLOKE (50s). Gabe pulls him in...

CUT TO Gabriel flings the door open to a topless HAIRY BLOKE (40s). Gabe pulls him in...

CUT TO Gabriel flings the door to a HANDSOME PRISTINE BUSINESS MAN (mustache, goatee beard, 30s) smoking a fag with a wedding ring on his finger. We don't see his face as he yanks Gabriel in and SLAMS the door shut. We hear the sound of Gabriel being shoved against the door, violently. BANG!

JACKIE (V.O.)
Your Dad must have been so proud.

46 INT. KITCHEN, EMRYS'S HOUSE - DAY - X17 - 1994 46

SILENCE. Teenage Gabriel and Younger Emrys sit eating their tea - jam sandwiches - in stifling, oppressive silence. The gulf between them ever widening. Munch, munch, munch...

47

INT. LOUNGE - DAY 4 - MAY, 2021

47

Jackie looks at him directly.

GABRIEL

I think so. He's not much of a talker.

Jackie nods quietly.

JACKIE

And would you like to teach your child to play the piano?

GABRIEL

I don't play now.

JACKIE

(surprised)

Don't you?

GABRIEL

I left music college at the end of first year so....

JACKIE

Left?

GABRIEL

Yeah. I just found it a bit... constraining you know?

A shock of LOUD music. We zoom into his eye...

48

INT. BEDSIT, LONDON - NIGHT - X19 - 1998

48

And out again.... STUDENT GABRIEL (19), half-naked hoovers a huge line of cocaine off a glass table: SNIIIIIFF! It's covered with the detritus of chaos: empty bags of powder, smashed glass, bottles. Behind him, a mass of heaving sweaty bodies. Dancing, maybe fucking. It's unclear. As the hit takes hold, Gabe tilts his head backwards to the heavens. His pupils dilate. We ACCELERATE into his eye, into his soul...

GABRIEL (V.O.)

Lost a few years to temping....

49

INT. PENTHOUSE FLAT, LONDON - DAY - X20 - 2007

49

...and out again, Gabriel (29) has aged now. Another flat. He lies back on a luxurious Queen-size bed, surrounded by other MEN, all broken from the night before.

Dibble drools from his mouth. Everyone else asleep. But he's awake. Eyes now wide from the incessant demons chattering in his head, the horror of his existence...

50 INT. LOUNGE - DAY 4 - MAY, 2021

50

GABRIEL

Until Berwyn opened Neverland and I decided to come back to Cardiff...

51 INT. NEVERLAND - NIGHT - X21 - JULY, 2008

51

Fanny leads a wide-eyed Gabe through a packed Neverland for the first time. He's never seen anything like it in his hometown. A labyrinth of public and private spaces. Rainbow Pride Flags. When the clientele travel here by public transport people often turn their heads in shock. A journey of rapture, through his own Moulin Rouge...

GABRIEL (V.O.)

And that's where I met...

A sudden feeling of accelerating through time...

52 INT. NEVERLAND - NIGHT - X22 - 2013

52

Hard on Andy. Tie, tank-top. Cute in his geekiness.

ANDY

Andy.

(nervous beat)

Would you mind if I kissed you?

Gabriel - remnants of make up from his performance [scene 109], but otherwise his own clothes - looks surprised.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Sorry. I shouldn't have...

GABRIEL

No, no. It's just... No one's ever asked my permission before.

Gabe leans forward. They kiss tenderly. He draws back. Feels it, even then. Something life-changing in that kiss.

53

INT. LOUNGE - DAY 4 - MAY, 2021

53

GABRIEL

I often say that kiss saved my life.

Jackie raises an eyebrow.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Not that it needed saving.

She leans forward.

JACKIE

Can I ask you personally, Gabriel:
Why do you want to adopt?

This throws him. It feels like a test. But he won't be intimidated. He stands his ground...

GABRIEL

Honestly?

JACKIE

Yes. Much better you're completely honest in the long run.

Gabe considers for a moment. Jackie smiles, expectantly.

GABRIEL

OK. I want to adopt because...
because...

He takes a deep breath. Delivers this at pace, building, like a performance.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Because I see all these young people having fun like I used to, and I can't do it anymore. Because I'm utterly bored with the mundanity of life: the cycle of work and occasional hangovers. Because all the men my age in the park seem to have children now; because I love Andy so much and I know it will make him happy; but more than that, I want to adopt because I think it'll make me a much kinder, tolerant, and patient person.

(MORE)

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

I'll become less angry and bitter,
and I'll have no choice but to grow
up and care for someone other than
my self, and so I'll FINALLY have
to remove my head out of my
damaged, promiscuous, yet still
perfectly agreeable, arse-hole.

It's as if he expects applause.

54 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT 4 - MAY, 2021

54

ANDY

You didn't say that?

Andy looks at Gabriel, shocked. They're sitting up in bed.
Andy holds a Family Matching Considerations form, pen in
hand, ready to tick the boxes.

GABRIEL

Course I didn't. I just said...

55 INT. LOUNGE - DAY 4 - MAY, 2021

55

GABRIEL

I honestly think Andy and I have a
lot we can offer as parents.

And Jackie nods. And writes it down.

56 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT 4 - MAY, 2021

56

Andy midway through reading the options from the form.

ANDY

OK. Risk of special needs... [as a
result of parental drug/alcohol
abuse]

GABRIEL

(doesn't let him finish)
Wouldn't accept.

ANDY

Harsh.

GABRIEL

We both work.

Lost Boys & Fairies - Episode 1 - YELLOW AMENDS 1.6.23 -
24A.

ANDY

So? Shouldn't we at least be open
to it? Every case is different.

GABRIEL

We wouldn't have the capacity and
you know it.

(MORE)

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Jackie said dealing with their
trauma will be hard enough.

ANDY

Alright, alright. Down's Syndrome?

GABRIEL

Would not accept.

ANDY

This is horrible, can't we...

GABRIEL

Zip it, Saint Andrew.

ANDY

But what would Mother Teresa do?

GABRIEL

Nothing. She's dead.

Andy sighs. It's hard thinking about these things.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Pregnant people get scanned for
anomalies all the time.

ANDY

I know but...

(beat)

What about AIDS or HIV then?

The question catches Gabriel by surprise. He becomes
agitated, but tries to be firm:

GABRIEL

Wouldn't accept.

57

INT. EMRYS'S LOUNGE, EMRYS'S HOUSE - DAY - X23 - 1987

57

Young Gabe and Younger Emrys watch TV. An AIDS advert. Gabe
horrified as a Grim Reaper ploughs down human skittles,
including a mother and her baby. Violent. Traumatic. Gabe
paralyzed with fear; Emrys fidgets restlessly.

58

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT 4 - MAY, 2021

58

ANDY

Are you kidding me?

GABRIEL

It will complicate things.

Lost Boys & Fairies - Episode 1 - YELLOW AMENDS 1.6.23 -
25A.

ANDY
It's not complicated.

GABRIEL
Still a complication though.

ANDY
Try saying that to...

GABRIEL
I'm sure Berwyn would agree...

59 INT. DRESSING ROOM, NEVERLAND - DAY 5 59

Berwyn straddles Gabriel on a stool, applying Gabe's make-up.

FANNY AMPLE
Like fuck bo fi'n mynd i cytuno'r
cont. Mae'n rhwybeth hollol
manageable. A dwi'n iach fatha
cneuen, diolch yn fawr!

FANNY AMPLE (CONT'D)
[Like fuck I'd agree, you cunt.
It's completely manageable. And I'm
exceptionally healthy thank you
very much!]

Gabriel looks embarrassed.

59A I/E. GABRIEL AND ANDY'S HOUSE - DAY 6 - JUNE, 2021 59A

Quick cuts: C/U toothbrushes taken out of cup, Andy and Gabe
in bathroom mirror, cup of tea put down on bedside table.

60 INT. LOUNGE - DAY 6 - JUNE, 2021 60

Jackie puts their matching consideration forms in her folder.

JACKIE
Well, it's great to know you're
open to discussing most things.
Though I'd like to chat through
your resistance to meeting birth
parents?

ANDY
I was open to it but...

GABRIEL
They're hardly going to be civil if
their kids have been taken off
them?

JACKIE
Don't assume anything, Gabriel.
Keep an open mind. We all deserve a
second chance, don't we?

Lost Boys & Fairies - Episode 1 - YELLOW AMENDS 1.6.23 -
26A.

How does she get right under his skin like that? He shifts
uncomfortably.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

You'll be able to give your child a fuller picture of them; and most adopters find they have a really positive experience.

(beat)

Why don't I say you're open to it, for now?

Andy nods. Gabriel isn't on board. But Jackie moves on:

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Right. I've got a few questions about your support network. How long have you known Berwyn, Gabe?

61

INT. CLUB X - NIGHT - X24 - 1996

61

A nervous Teenage Gabriel, wearing 90s Welsh Language T Shirt, struggles to get to a busy bar. Fanny Ample (30) sits sipping a whisky. No one crowds her. She spots Gabriel.

FANNY AMPLE

Tro cynta, blodyn?

FANNY AMPLE (CONT'D)

[First time, flower?]

Gabriel nods.

FANNY AMPLE (CONT'D)

Wel gad i Mama Fanny brynu diod i chdi 'ta.

FANNY AMPLE (CONT'D)

[Then let Mama Fanny buy you a drink.]

GABRIEL

Mama beth?

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

[Mama what?]

FANNY AMPLE

Fanny. Fanny Ample.

(beat)

A cyn 'chdi ofyn. Yes I have.

FANNY AMPLE (CONT'D)
[Fanny. Fanny Ample.
(beat)
And before you ask. Yes I have.]

62 INT. LOUNGE - DAY 6 - JUNE, 2021

62

Jackie nods writing in her pad.

JACKIE
And in terms of family, you've only
put Andy's Mam down so far...

GABRIEL
Won't she do?

ANDY
Especially cause I sometimes think
she prefers Gabe to me!

63 INT. BROD CAFE, CANTON - DAY - X25

63

Sandra sits opposite Jackie maniacally stirring her tea.

SANDRA
Gabe's just wonderful, isn't he?
He's bought so much colour to
Andy's life. And's so sensible you
know? Cause he had to grow up fast.
But Gabe! Gabe brings all the
sparkle! Did he tell you he studied
at the Royal college? Not just any
college. A Royal one. Not that I'm
into Charles or anything. But it's
always nice to know he approves.

64 INT. LOUNGE - DAY 6 - JUNE, 2021

64

Jackie looks back at Gabriel, seriously.

JACKIE
But it would help your case if we
put your Dad down too; otherwise
they may want to know why we
didn't?

Fuck. He needs to bite the bullet.

65 INT. GABRIEL'S LOUNGE/EMRYS'S HALLWAY - NIGHT 6 - JUNE, 20~~23~~²⁵

Intercut as necessary: Gabriel on the phone to Emrys (75 now, in his coat). Andy smiles supportively. Gabe tries his best to be enthusiastic.

GABRIEL
I'm phoning with some good news,
actually.

EMRYS
Pam ti'n siarad Saesneg?

EMRYS (CONT'D)
[Why you speaking English?]

GABRIEL
Andy's here with me. Hang on, I can put you on loud-speaker!

EMRYS
Na. Paid neud na. Dere mla'n,
Gabriel [**Welsh pronunciation**]. 'Wi ar 'yn ffordd i bractis côr.

EMRYS (CONT'D)
[No. Don't do that. Get on with it,
Gabriel [**Welsh pronunciation**]. I'm on my way to choir practice.]

Andy nods at him, encouragingly: go on.

GABRIEL
We're going to adopt!

Awkward silence.

EMRYS
Be ti'n feddwl 'adopt'?

EMRYS (CONT'D)
[What do you mean 'adopt'?]

GABRIEL
(losing confidence)
Mabwysiadu? Plentyn? We're going to be parents.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
(losing confidence)
[Adopt? A child? We're going to be parents.]

Silence. Gabriel looks at Andy, worried.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Dad?

EMRYS (ON THE PHONE)

Chi 'di meddwl mbiti hyn?

EMRYS (ON THE PHONE) (CONT'D)

[Have you thought about this?]

GABRIEL

WRTH GWRS BOD NI 'DI...

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

[OF COURSE WE'VE...]

Andy puts his hand on Gabriel shoulder. To calm him.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

(quieter)

Of course we've thought about this.

Beth sy'n bod? On i'n gobitho set
ti'n falch.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

(quieter)

[Of course we've thought this
through. What's wrong? I was hoping
you'd be pleased.]

EMRYS (ON THE PHONE)

Wi jyst ddim yn meddwl bod e'n
syniad da, Gabriel.

EMRYS (ON THE PHONE) (CONT'D)

[I just don't think it's a good
idea, Gabriel.]

Gabriel's about to blow. But Andy raises a finger: don't.

Another session. Jackie listens intently. Andy tries to appear breezy.

ANDY

We just need to educate him. Hold
his hand. Gabe had loads of
nurture/nature anxieties at the
beginning too so...

GABRIEL

No I didn't.

ANDY

You kept talking about *The Omen*.

Uncomfortable pause.

JACKIE

Fears are perfectly normal. And we run workshops for relatives, which are very effective at putting minds at rest. And there's some good books out there too..

67 INT. BROWNS CAFE - DAY - X26

67

Sandra reads *Related by Adoption: a Handbook for Grandparents and Other Relatives*. Devouring it.

68 INT. LOUNGE - DAY 7 - JUNE, 2021

68

Jackie, Andy and a defensive Gabriel - feeling the pressure.

GABRIEL

Sorry, but it's gonna take a lot more than a book and a workshop.

ANDY

You just need to talk to him again. It'll be fine...

GABRIEL

No, Andy, it won't be fine, because it's perfectly clear...

69 INT. NEVERLAND - NIGHT - X27 - PREVIOUS WEEK, JUNE 2021 69

Fanny Ample and Andy listen to Gabriel rant:

GABRIEL

...he doesn't think gay men deserve to be parents!

FANNY AMPLE

Has he actually said that?

GABRIEL

He doesn't need to.

70

INT. LOUNGE - DAY 7 - JUNE, 2021

70

ANDY

I honestly don't think it's the gay thing. It's the adoption thing.

JACKIE

Perhaps Gabriel, you're projecting your own anxieties onto your father because it's what you've grown up believing...

GABRIEL

(accelerating)

Nonsense! I don't believe that. It's Dad! Not me! Of course I deserve to have children! In fact I deserve them far more than he ever did because mine aren't going to grow up half as screwed up as I did 'cause I'll make damn sure they know whoever they are and whatever they become that they have absolutely nothing to be ashamed of!

Something has been unleashed. And there's no going back.

JACKIE

OK...?

Andy smiles at Jackie nervously. He puts his hand on Gabriel's knee: a comfort, and a 'what the fuck'?

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Gabriel. I sense there's something you're not telling me.

Close in on Gabriel. He feels trapped. He can't do this anymore. We move slowly into his eye as archival footage discussing Section 28 fades in: *A local authority "shall not promote the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship". In his pupil we see* THWACK! THWACK! THWACK! THUD! SCREAM! THUMP! FLUSH! RIIIP! SLAM! SNIIIFF! A lifetime's symphony of shame and trauma. A gradual crescendo of smacking, wanking, Satan, footballs, dunking, duct-tape, toilet cubicles, drugs, culminating in...

71

INT. PENTHOUSE FLAT, LONDON - NIGHT - X20

71

... we zoom out again as Gabriel (29) SLAMS Tina into his vein. The hit effects him immediately.

He catapults backwards. We focus on Gabriel's face, conscious but totally out of it. And we accelerate into his eye, into his soul...

72 INT. LOUNGE - DAY 7 - JUNE, 2021

72

...and out again.

JACKIE

Gabriel? Is there anything you think I should know?

Gabriel looks at Andy, then back at Jackie. Then takes a deep breath...

73 INT. LOUNGE - DAY 7 - JUNE, 2021

73

An hour later. Andy paces the room. Gabriel stands nearby.

ANDY

What the hell did you go and tell her all that for? Last time was years ago...

74 I/E. HALLWAY - DAY (7.00 AM) - 2016 - X28

74

Gabe fumbles with his key in the lock. On crystal. Totally fucked. Door opens. Andy in his pajamas, worried sick.

75 INT. LOUNGE - DAY - 2016 - X28

75

Andy cries. Gabriel sobs. Begging forgiveness.

ANDY (V.O.)

We dealt with it.

76 INT. BATHROOM - DAY - 2016 X29

76

Gabriel lies in the bath. Reading *Cruise Control: Understanding Sex Addiction in Gay Men*.

ANDY (V.O.)

You sorted it out.

77 INT. THERAPIST'S LOUNGE, FRONT ROOM OF HOUSE - DAY - X30 - 77
2016

A bright, homely space. Big window. Wooden floors. Soft chairs. Beanbags. Not institutional. Gabriel and Sharon sit by a huge piece of paper on the floor. The title 'THRESHOLDS' on the top. Beneath it a bubble flow chart: White Wine/Prosecco/Champagne -> Cigarettes -> Grindr -> Coke/Crystal -> Gabriel writes 'Sex' in the final space. Then 'with strangers'. Sharon nods, pleased he's got there.

ANDY (V.O.)
You know what your boundaries are.
You never get drunk. You never
touch white wine or Prosecco.
There's no problem anymore.

78 INT. LOUNGE - DAY 7 - JUNE, 2021

78

GABRIEL
Exactly. So it doesn't matter I
told her, does it?

ANDY
Oh grow up, Gabriel! Of course it
matters! The only reason kids get
adopted nowadays is because their
parents are too fucked to look
after them. So why on earth should
social services trust us with one
when you used to get just as fucked
up as well?

It wounds Gabriel. As soon as he says it, Andy regrets it.

ANDY (CONT'D)
Sorry...

GABRIEL
But you're right, aren't you?
What's the difference?

ANDY
(wanting to believe)
You came through it in the end...?

GABRIEL
Only because you could afford to
pay for my therapy. And that hardly
seems fair, does it?

Silence. Andy's bewildered.

ANDY

Do you actually want to adopt?
Because if you don't then...

He doesn't quite know how to end that sentence. What would Andy do? Because he does want this so much. And Gabriel knows that. And so, though he's plagued with doubts he says:

GABRIEL

Of course I want to adopt. Of course I do.
(beat)
But now I've gone and fucked everything up again, haven't I?

79

INT. LOUNGE - DAY 8 - JUNE, 2021

79

Gabriel and Andy sit anxiously. Jackie looks at them with a sympathetic smile. She shakes her head.

JACKIE

Not necessarily. I've talked to my manager and we both agree that the fact you've been honest works in your favour. I actually think that people who've conquered their addictions can make excellent adopters. They know what it is to live through trauma.

Andy gets emotional.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Look. I don't want us to get ahead of ourselves. It will depend on panel and it will depend on the child's social worker. Not everyone will necessarily think the same way I do, but -

ANDY

It's not game-over?

JACKIE

I wouldn't carry on if I didn't think I could get you both through this. I spoke to your therapist this morning and she said...

80

INT. THERAPIST'S LOUNGE - DAY 8 - JUNE, 2021

80

Sharon on the phone.

SHARON

Most gay men his generation are still dealing with the effects of decades of shame. But Gabriel's developed several strategies to manage his compulsions and in my professional view, I think he'd make an excellent parent...

81 INT. LOUNGE - DAY 8 - JUNE, 2021

81

ANDY

He never even gets drunk anymore...

GABRIEL

Two's the magic number...

JACKIE

You and me both, love. And I've no doubt you've got a lot you can offer a child, Gabe. Both of you. So I think we should just proceed as normal. If that's what you want?

Jackie and Andy look at Gabriel. It's make or break. Is there a flicker of doubt? But then, confidently:

GABRIEL

Try stopping me.

And Andy can't help but cry with the relief of it all. Gabe puts his arms around him.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

(to Jackie)

Sorry. He's such a poof.

She checks her watch.

JACKIE

God, I'm late for court.
(gathers her things)
Don't worry, I'll see myself out.
And I'll give you a ring in the
week. There's an activity day I
think you should go to...

She's gone. Gabe and Andy look at each other confused.

82. OMITTED

83

I.E. JACKIE'S CAR - DAY 8 - JUNE, 2021

83

Jackie starts the engine of her Fiesta. Gabriel taps the window sharply, scaring her. Andy by him: united.

GABRIEL
An activity what?

JACKIE
(winds down, exasperated)
An activity day. Where you meet
children waiting to be adopted.

GABRIEL
What? Like kiddy speed-dating?

JACKIE
Please don't let the other social
workers hear you call it that.

ANDY
But we haven't been approved yet.

JACKIE
It'll be after panel. And I know
you'll be sensible. You won't be
seduced by superficial factors.

ANDY
Superficial factors?

GABRIEL
How cute they are.

ANDY
But do they know that's why they're
there?

JACKIE
The older ones will.

GABRIEL
Oh, God. That's awful, isn't it?

JACKIE
I wasn't sure about it myself at
first, but they've placed over a
thousand children through them. At
least consider it?
(beat)
I'll phone you.
(driving away)
And speak to your Dad!

Gabriel and Andy look at each other: what just happened?

84 INT. EMRYS'S LOUNGE, EMRYS'S HOUSE - DAY 9 - JUNE, 2021 84

Photographs: Gabriel (7) with his Mam and Dad; his mother and father on their wedding day. Awkwardly drinking tea. A ticking clock. Gabe's nervous, Andy quietly strokes his back.

GABRIEL

And I know you don't think it's a
good idea, but our social worker
says it could really help...

Emrys sighs, puts his tea down.

EMRYS

O, er mwyn dyn, Gabriel. The way
you were behaving I thought you
were going to tell me you had
cancer or something.

EMRYS (CONT'D)

[Oh, for heaven's sake, Gabriel.
The way you were behaving I thought
you were going to tell me you had
cancer or something.]

This totally throws Gabriel. Emrys picks a club biscuit from a plate. Starts unwrapping it, carefully. Unbearable tension.

GABRIEL

Please, Dad...

EMRYS

What do you take me for? I'm hardly
going to say no, am I?

Andy smiles, relieved. Gabriel can't quite believe it.

EMRYS (CONT'D)

Nice to be asked, actually.

ANDY

Thank you, Emrys.

EMRYS

But parenting isn't easy, you know.

GABRIEL

I know that but...

EMRYS

And you could end up with anything.

GABRIEL
Thing?

EMRYS
You know what I mean.

Gabriel tries his best not to explode. A thought suddenly hits Emrys. A genuinely innocent question, curious:

EMRYS (CONT'D)
Will they speak Welsh?

GABRIEL
Would that make them more
acceptable to you, if they did?

EMRYS
Paid â bod yn ridiculous, Gabriel.

EMRYS (CONT'D)
[Don't be ridiculous, Gabriel.]

GABRIEL
Well, there's obviously a
problem...

EMRYS
Dwi jyst...

EMRYS (CONT'D)
[I just...]

GABRIEL
What, Dad?

Gabe looks him directly in the eye, goading for an answer. And Emrys has had enough; so he gives it to him:

EMRYS
I just think a child needs a
mother. That's all.

Gabriel about to fly off the handle, but Andy puts a quiet hand on his knee.

ANDY
No, Emrys. I know how tough it must
have been for you without Non; but
a child doesn't need a mother.
(beat)
A child needs love.

Somewhere in Emrys's subconscious, Andy's words resonate: and it's painful. We hear Edward H. Dafis' *Ysbryd y Nos*.

Gabe looks at Andy through new eyes: grateful for his courage in defending him. Falls in love with him all over again.

85. OMITTED

86 MUSIC SEQUENCE: INT. HALLWAY - DAY 9 - JUNE, 2021 86

Andy and Gabriel kiss as they burst through the door. The release of it all. They want sex. Sex like they haven't had in a while sex. And they're melting into each other. In lust. In love. Gratitude. That they have each other. And they're going to have a child together...

CUT TO Gabriel fucks Andy on the stairs. Electric intensity, as if their lives depend on it. They want it; need it.

CUT TO Gabriel and Andy lying on the hallway floor. Sweaty. A bit disgusting really.

GABRIEL

Oh my God. We're going to be parents.

And then they both explode with laughter. At exactly the same time. And this makes them laugh harder. They need this as much as the sex. And then they just can't stop. Music ends.

87 EXT. SECONDARY SCHOOL CAR PARK - DAY 10 - OCTOBER, 2021 87

Anxious Gabriel, Andy, and Jackie stand next to their car, wearing two matching T-shirts with the 'S' Superman symbol.

GABRIEL

I feel like a dick.

JACKIE

You look great. All kids love superman.

GABRIEL

Supergirl, actually, Jackie.

JACKIE

Was that heteronormative of me?

ANDY

Ignore him. He's always a twat when he's nervous.

A mini drives passed with two women. Both early 30s, cropped hair. JULIE drives. JULIE is quite a bit shorter than Helen. They scowl moodily at Gabriel and Andy.

ANDY (CONT'D)
What's wrong with them?

GABRIEL
Sizing up the competition, aren't they, and I imagine we pose a veritable threat!

Helen and Julie get out. They can't quite look at Gabriel and Andy because: they're wearing the same t shirts.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
Shit.

They all look at each other awkwardly. Jackie suppresses a laugh. Suddenly a man (40s) dressed in full PRINCE CHARMING outfit, and his wife (40s) - an incredible FAIRY GODMOTHER costume replete with giant star-wand - practically skip passed. Andy, Gabriel, Helen and Julie look in dismay, then back at each other. The same thought: what the actual fuck?

88

INT. HOLDING AREA - DAY 10 - OCTOBER, 2021

88

10:00 am. Gabe and Andy towards the back of room filled with potential ADOPTERS, dressed in a mixture of colourful superhero costumes and accessories. Everyone has a name tag. Helen and Julie further forward. Prince Charming and Fairy Godmother in the front row standing out like sore thumbs; Fairy Godmother holds a pad and pen, poised ready. Gabe scowls at them.

GABRIEL
But it's cheating. The theme's superheroes. Prince Charming's not a superhero. Fairy godmother's not a superhero. They should be disqualified.

ANDY
It's not a competition.

GABRIEL
Of course it's a fucking competition.

DANIEL (early 30's) from Welsh Adoption Services steps forward

DANIEL
Hello everybody.

GABRIEL
Ooh, hello.

DANIEL
I'm sure you're all feeling a
mixture of excitement and nerves.
Maybe you're a little anxious...
worried...

GABRIEL
(whispering)
/Why the hell are we so horny at
the moment?/

DANIEL
And that's OK. We know what an
emotive day this can be for people.

ANDY
(whispering)
/Because our bodies think we want
to procreate?/

VOLUNTEERS in blue tabards begin to hand out brochures.

DANIEL
In these brochures, you'll find all
the children's details. Of course,
you'll have your own matching
criteria and we know people tend to
zone in on their favourites, but
try and circulate. Rule yourself
in, rather than out. Today's about
seeing if you have an emotional
connection with anyone. I'll give
you some time to look through them.

Gabriel and Andy are handed a brochure by a cheery volunteer
in a blue tabard. They hold it between them for a moment. On
the cover: Adoption Activity Day in bright colourful letters
with cartoons of happy-looking children on the front.

ANDY
Ready?

Gabriel nods. Though he's not ready at all. Andy tentatively
opens the brochure. Four titles: 'Welcome', 'Some Dos', 'Some
Don'ts', 'Afterwards.' Then to a photograph of a child. A
little girl, three years old, beaming. A headline next to it:
'Hi!'

My name is Ella.' Beneath that 'I love to play catch me.' Then: Let me tell you more about myself: 'I like bouncing on the trampoline and making mud pies!' Suddenly the photo comes alive - 'Pick me'. More children enter the frame, jostling, pushing: 'Pick me.' 'No. Pick me.' 'Pick ME!' It builds to a cacophony. Gabriel blinks. The image of Ella still again. Gabriel looks at Andy. This shit just got real.

89

INT. HOLDING AREA- DAY 10 - OCTOBER, 2021

89

The clock on the wall approaches 10:30 am. Gabriel and Andy stare at a photograph of an angelic-looking four-year-old with blonde hair. The headline: Hi! My name is Tamsin. Then: 'I love to play dress-up and sing.' Then: Let me tell you more about myself: 'My favourite films are The Jungle Book and Annie.'

GABRIEL

She'll be disappointed if she's
expecting Daddy Warbucks.

Andy playfully slaps Gabriel on the knee.

DANIEL

Okay, everybody. I'm sure you're
all keen to get going so if you're
ready, please do come on through...

Suddenly, it's carnage. To the final chorus of Dean Martin's *That's Amore*, a beautifully-choreographed slow-motion stampede. Adopters kick and scramble their way to the door. Trampling over each other, like a mismanaged scrum. Eyes are gouged, punches fly, chairs, teeth and spit soar. Helen rugby tackles Fairy Godmother to the ground. Prince Charming lifts Julie above his head, throws her out of an open window... Gabriel blinks. All the would be adopters stand and walk in an orderly fashion to the doors. Except for Fairy Godmother, who tries but fails to disguise the fact she's desperate to get in before everyone else. She regrets sitting at the front now. A quick little skip and a hop gives the game away. Gabriel stands slowly. Andy reaches out, touches his hand.

ANDY

Let's just wait, my love.

Gabriel nods. Sits back down. The room empties.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Take our time. Not feel the
pressure. Try and talk to them all.

Gabriel nods. Andy and Gabe sit in silence for a moment.

ANDY (CONT'D)
What do you think of this one
though?

Andy points at Tamsin's profile. Gabriel looks at Andy.

GABRIEL
She had me at dress-up.

90 INT. SCHOOL HALL - DAY 10 - OCTOBER, 2021

90

The hall is a riot of colour and play. A CLOWN juggles, CHILDREN race around on scooters. Other KIDS sit around various 'stations': a play-doh table, an arts and crafts table, a board games table. Hubbub, noise, joy. Gabriel and Andy enter and stop immediately, overwhelmed. They take it in. Andy scans the room. He spots TAMSIN. He nudges Gabe and points in her direction. In a far corner, Fairy Godmother sings a karaoke duet with her: 'The Bear Necessities' from *The Jungle Book*. Prince Charming applauds, over-enthusiastically. Other adopters queue, waiting their turn. Tamsin's popular.

GABRIEL
Is it wrong that I want to take her
magic wand and shove it up her
arse?

ANDY
Star end first.

Gabriel guffaws at Andy's surprise viciousness. He loves it when he joins in. They stand, unsure what to do. Jackie appears. Reading the situation, whispering encouragingly.

JACKIE
There's plenty of time, boys. Go
on. Get out there. Mingle.

She pushes them gently. Andy notices a young girl - EZMIE (6) - her back to them by the play-doh table. Her FOSTER CARER (50s) sitting with her; her SOCIAL WORKER smiles at them. Andy walks towards them.

ANDY
Hi. I'm Andy. What's your name?

Ezmie turns. She's blind. It subtly flusters Andy.

EZMIE
My name's Ezmie.

Lost Boys & Fairies - Episode 1 - YELLOW AMENDS 1.6.23 -
44A.

SOCIAL WORKER
Would you like to sit down?

ANDY

Um...

But Gabriel has arrived by his side.

GABRIEL

Of course we would.

He sits next to Ezmie, on a child's chair. Calmly beckons Andy to kneel down next to him. Andy's all nerves.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Hi Ezmie. I'm Gabriel. Andy's partner.

EZMIE

Gabriel? Like the angel? I was Mary.

GABRIEL

Were you now? I bet you were a lovely Mary.

EZMIE

I was. Wasn't I, Paula?

FOSTER CARER

You were, sweetheart.

GABRIEL

And what you making there, Ezmie?

EZMIE

Dinosaur poo.

GABRIEL

Excellent. Andy loves nothing more than making dinosaur poo as well, don't you Andy?

Andy nods. Gabriel nudges him. Nodding isn't useful here.

ANDY

Yes.

GABRIEL

In fact, many people don't know this but Andy's actually the second-best dinosaur poo maker in the whole world.

EZMIE

Who's first-best then?

GABRIEL

Duh... you, Ezmie, of course.

Ezmie giggles and claps her hands, absolutely delighted.

91 EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY 10 - OCTOBER, 2021

91

Andy next to Gabriel on a bench. Bewildered, exhausted.

ANDY

Where did that all come from?

GABRIEL

What?

ANDY

You were lush. The way you just...
I freaked out... God. This is much
harder than I thought.

GABRIEL

I know.

ANDY

But you were amazing with her. You
made it look so easy.

GABRIEL

But that's because...well...

(beat)

There was no pressure was there?

ANDY

What do you mean?

Gabriel turns to look directly at Andy.

GABRIEL

Because I knew there was no way
we'd ever take her on.

Andy looks away. Gabriel's right. He rests his head on Gabe's shoulder. Nothing more needs to be said.

92 INT. CANTEEN - DAY 10 - OCTOBER, 2021

92

Gabriel and Andy hold a plate of food each from a buffet, scanning the canteen for a place to sit. They spot Tamsin eating with her foster carer, GREG (40s).

Andy makes a beeline towards them but Fairy Godmother intercepts carrying a giant plate of sweets and cakes, which she places down in front of Tamsin. Tamsin's eyes widen. Andy rolls his eyes, retreats. But Gabe isn't having it. He walks towards her...

GABRIEL
(curtly to Fairy Godmother)
Don't mind if we join you, do you?

Gabriel doesn't wait for an answer and plops himself down. Nearby, Jackie whispers something in Daniel's ear. Daniel advances. He checks Fairy Godmother's name tag.

DANIEL
Hazel? Hi. Yes... um... I was
wondering if I might have a quick
chat with you... and your partner?

FAIRY GODMOTHER
(hint of homophobia)
Husband.

DANIEL
Husband. Of course.

Prince Charming - who has just arrived - looks confused as Fairy Godmother signals him to follow her. Daniel leads them out of the canteen. Gabriel can't help but show his delight, but Tamsin scowls as she watches them disappear.

GABRIEL
So, Tamsin. I hear you like Annie?

She pushes her plate away, leaves. Greg grins apologetically.

93 INT. ROOM LABELLED 'QUIET ROOM' - DAY 10 - OCTOBER, 2021 93

Gabriel and Andy collapse on sofa.

GABRIEL
I can't believe we're being
upstaged by a bargain basement
fairy-godmother and her closet-case
of a husband. When did we become
the beige ones?

ANDY
We're supposed to be quiet in here.

GABRIEL

She can't even apply mascara properly. She looks like a massive twat.

ANDY

Be kind. You don't know what she's been through.

GABRIEL

Oh stop being so bloody nice all of the time, would you? It's annoying.

ANDY

Shush now...

Andy leans forward to stop his rant with a kiss. Gabe yields first, then pushes him away, like a child.

GABRIEL

Don't. I have a semi now.

ANDY

Come on. Let's do one more round.

GABRIEL

It's like being back at school and no one wants to play with us.

A voice comes from beneath their sofa.

JAKE (O.C.)

That's how I feel too.

Gabriel and Andy leap up in shock.

GABRIEL

Fuck!

ANDY

Shit!

JAKE (7) pushes himself out from beneath the sofa.

JAKE

Hi.

GABRIEL

How long have you been there?

JAKE

Since lunchtime.

Gabriel and Andy are lost for words.

JAKE (CONT'D)
You two swear a lot.

ANDY
We didn't think anyone else was in
here.

JAKE
I like spying on people. Are you
gays?

GABRIEL
Sorry?

JAKE
Claire told me there might be gays
here, but I've never met a real one
before.

GABRIEL
Ta-dah!

ANDY
Um... is Claire your foster carer?
Is she... around anywhere?

JAKE
When you kissed it sounded like you
were slurping a giant ice lolly. It
was disgusting. I had to put my
fingers in my ears. Do you have any
lollies?

ANDY
Um... no.

JAKE
Sweets?

ANDY
No.

JAKE
Some of the others have sweets. You
need to bring sweets if you want us
to like you. Fairy Godmother has
sweets.

He leaves. Then stops. Smiles: fully knows what he's doing.

JAKE (CONT'D)
But she's a massive twat.

He disappears. Gabe and Andy look at each other gobsmacked.

94 INT. SCHOOL HALL - DAY 10 - OCTOBER, 2021

94

Gabriel and Andy try to look inconspicuous as they follow Jake meandering through the busy hall.

GABRIEL
(hushed tones)
What we doing?

ANDY
Following him.

GABRIEL
Why?

ANDY
I don't know. In case he says
anything and we need to explain
ourselves...

GABRIEL
Doesn't stalking a child feel a bit
paedo-y?

ANDY
No!
(he stops)
Wait. Does it?

GABRIEL
(stopping)
A bit.

ANDY
I can't believe he heard us.

GABRIEL
(fast)
I can't believe he heard me say I
had a semi. What if he says he
heard me say I had a semi and they
don't approve us because I said I
had a semi and he heard me say it?

ANDY
Wow, Gabriel. That was kind of
extraordinary.

GABRIEL

Stop it. I'm serious. I think we just about broke all the rules in the brochure.

ANDY

No more than Fairy Godmother child-catcher. We didn't bribe him, did we?

GABRIEL

But we made-out in front of him and called one of the other adopters a fucking twat.

JACKIE (O.C.)

Who's a fucking twat?

They spin to see Jackie's standing straight behind them.

GABRIEL

Oh, Jackie. I think we've done a boo-boo.

95

INT. STAFF ROOM - DAY 10 - OCTOBER, 2021

95

Jackie in hysterics. Andy and Gabe stare at her, confused.

GABRIEL

We didn't know he was there.

JACKIE

First rule of parenting...

GABRIEL

We know, we know! Shouldn't we apologise or something?

JACKIE

Don't worry, seriously. I know his social worker, Llinos. Plus his foster carer Claire's a hoot. It'll be fine. To be honest with you, that boy's heard a hell of a lot worse. Did you look at his profile?

GABRIEL

We said between one and six. He's too old.

JACKIE

He's only just turned 7.

GABRIEL
Going on 40.

JACKIE
You would be too if you'd been
through what he has.

This lingers in the air for a moment.

JACKIE (CONT'D)
Anyway, I'll speak with his family
finder and she can introduce you to
Llinos and Claire.

GABRIEL
I thought we didn't need to
apologise?

JACKIE
You don't. But you should chat to
them. About Jake.

GABRIEL
But he's a boy.

JACKIE
I know, but keep an open mind.
'Cause it sounds to me like you've
made a connection.

And Jackie leaves before Gabriel can argue.

96

INT. STAFF ROOM - DAY 10 - OCTOBER, 2021

96

Gabriel, Andy and Jackie sit opposite CLAIRE, Jake's foster carer (50s, warm, practical, a sense of mischief), social worker LLINOS (late 20s, serious looking) and IWAN (40s), the family finder.

CLAIRE
Right. Before I start. Which one of
you's the Mum and which one of
you's the Dad?

GABRIEL
Sorry?

CLAIRE
Ha! Got you! Look at their faces,
Llinos! Don't worry, boys.
(MORE)

CLAIRe (CONT'D)

My daughter's a lesbian, and when I had my first gay adopters she kept telling me off for trying to work out which one was the mum and which one was the dad. But then I realised: one was both, and the other one was lazy!

Jackie laughs. But Llinos doesn't crack a smile. Gabriel and Andy are overwhelmed, they don't know what to make of Claire.

CLAIRe (CONT'D)

So I hear you're interested in my Jakey?

GABRIEL

Well...

ANDY

Yes.

CLAIRe

So what can I tell you about Jake? He's my biggest achievement, that's what he is.

LLINOS

And you've been doing this for thirty years so that's saying something. How many is it now, Claire?

CLAIRe

I think it's 'round four hundred and counting...

GABRIEL

Sorry. Four hundred what?

CLAIRe

Children.

GABRIEL

Shit.

CLAIRe

Jake was right. You do have potty-mouths....

GABRIEL

Sorry.

CLAIRe

I'm teasing. Anyway, some people thought he was unadoptable when he first came to me. Didn't they, Llin? Said he was feral. Can you imagine that? Calling a child feral? He wasn't feral. He was terrified. Especially of men. Wouldn't come near Malcolm - my husband - first couple of weeks. So Malcs started taking him on the school run. Jake could just about manage that. Five minutes in the car with him. Belted in the back. Where he didn't have to look him in the eye. But then by the end of term Malcs had him singing along to 'Where do you go to my, lovely'.

ANDY

No way! That's the song Gabe performed the night we met!

Gabriel nods, wary. This detail throws him completely.

CLAIRe

Well, there's a sign if ever I heard one. Voice of angel, Jake has. Mind you, he can also be a right devil too sometimes. But nothing you can't handle. It's all bravado. He was under the sofa wasn't he?

Andy and Gabriel nod.

CLAIRe (CONT'D)

Yeah. That'll be right. He likes to hide in small spaces. That way he can be sure no one else is in there with him.

A casual line, but Gabriel and Andy feel its horror.

CLAIRe (CONT'D)

But what that boy needs more than anything is patience, cuddles, and love. God I'll miss his cuddles. Going to break my heart when he leaves. I'd adopt him myself but I've got six already.

ANDY

Six?!

CLAIRe

Three of my own; three adopted.
And anyway, two Dads would be
bloody fantastic for him. As long
as you can keep your hands off each
other.

ANDY

We really are very sorry about
that.

CLAIRe

Don't be. Don't ever apologise for
showing a child what real love
looks like.

97 INT. STAFF ROOM - DAY 10 - OCTOBER, 2021

97

Jackie says goodbye to Claire and Llinos at the staff-room door. Gabriel and Andy haven't moved from their seats. They sit in silence: the brochure open on Jake's photograph.

JACKIE

Want a minute, boys?

Andy and Gabriel nod solemnly. Jackie nods. Leaves. Andy and Gabe look at each other. Andy's clearly won over, but he's anxious: he half-knows what's coming. And after a moment: Gabriel shakes his head. Andy looks forward. Unable to speak.

98 EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY 10 - OCTOBER, 2021

98

Gabe and Andy walk across the playground towards the car park. On their way they pass a YOUNG COUPLE kneeling in front of Ezmie. Ezmie's laughing. They've obviously made a connection. Her Foster Carer and Social Worker nearby, smiling.

Then they pass Helen and Julie bouncing on a trampoline with Tamsin, attempting to clap perfect high-fives.

Around the corner, they pass Fairy Godmother and Prince Charming sitting on a bench. Fairy Godmother is upset. Prince Charming has his arm around her. For a moment Andy and Fairy Godmother lock eyes. Andy smiles. Fairy Godmother appreciates the moment of contact, she smiles back.

ANDY

(quiet to Gabriel)

We're all just children, aren't we?

Gabe looks, but doesn't respond. But this resonates. It hurts. They walk on: wounded soldiers through a battlefield.

99 I/E. CAR - DAY 10 - OCTOBER, 2021

99

Andy and Gabriel in contemplative silence.

ANDY

Couldn't we at least take a look at his CAR-B form?

GABRIEL

He's 7. And a boy. And it's complex. We can't just keep moving the goal posts.

ANDY

I don't see what the problem is...

GABRIEL

I don't want a boy.

ANDY

But don't you feel...

GABRIEL

If it's just about 'feeling', why did we bother going through the assessment?

Andy turns away, sad. He starts the engine.

100 I/E. CAR/SCHOOL - DAY 10 - OCTOBER, 2021

100

Andy drives Gabriel out of the school. As they approach the crossing they see Claire holding Jake's hand, waiting to cross. Claire laughs at something Jake says. Andy slows the car. Claire waves her hand to thank them; doesn't notice who they are. Claire and Jake cross the road. But half-way across Jake recognises them. He gives two big thumbs up. Without thinking, Andy and Gabriel return the gesture. Claire smiles and waves before continuing across the road. Once safely over, Andy drives off slowly, leaving them behind. He stares ahead, coldly. Gabriel looks down, ashamed.

101 INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT 10 - OCTOBER, 2021

101

Gabriel and Andy brush their teeth in silence by the sinks. Deep in thought, staring at their reflections in the mirrors.

GABRIEL
(quietly)
Maybe we should have a look.

Andy turns to him, energised.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
Just a look. It doesn't mean...

ANDY
I know. I know. Just a look.

But he can barely contain his excitement.

102 INT. DINING ROOM - DAY 11 - OCTOBER, 2021

102

Andy and Gabriel at the dining room table. Pencils ready.
Both read separate parts of the CAR-B form.

LLINOS (V.O.)
Jake is an inquisitive, bright
child, with a vivid imagination...

103 INT. JAKE'S BEDROOM, CLAIRE'S HOUSE - NIGHT - X31

103

A beautiful boys' bedroom. Soft-lighting. Jake (7) curled up
in the nook of Claire's arm as she reads to him.

LLINOS (V.O.)
He's deeply affectionate but can be
extremely hyper-vigilant...

104 INT. JAKE'S BEDROOM, CLAIRE'S HOUSE - DAY - 2020 - X32 104

A year earlier. Jake's bedroom's completely trashed. The bed
flung against the wall. Books and toys thrown everywhere.
Jake (6, hair shorter) screams. No words. Just rage.

LLINOS (V.O.)
...and his behaviour can sometimes
be difficult to manage.

Claire runs in and holds him. Jake struggles, but soon gives
into her soothing voice and calm strength.

LLINOS (V.O.)
However, this has much improved
during placement and Jake's
responding well to praise and firm
boundaries. He's come a long way
since he first arrived...

105 INT. LOUNGE, CLAIRE'S HOUSE - DAY - 2019 - X33 105

Jake (5, short cropped hair) hides cowering behind the sofa. A terrified animal. Claire and MALCOLM (50s, a kind, expressive face) crouch down trying to coax him out.

LLINOS (V.O.)

He has a good relationship with both foster carers, demonstrating an ability to form a strong attachment...

Jake can't take his eyes off Malcolm. He's petrified. Claire notices this. She touches Malcolm gently on the shoulder. He understands immediately, leaves. She crouches again. 'It's alright, darling. You're safe,' she mouths.

LLINOS (V.O.)

Though he still has issues with trust due to his early years experiences...

106 INT. LOUNGE, BECKY'S FLAT - NIGHT - 2018 - X34 106

The lounge is in utter chaos. Mess everywhere. Glass on the floor. Bags of cocaine open on the table. A pool of sick in the corner. BECKY (20s) and LIAM (20s) scream at each other. Jake (4) cries hysterically between them: terrified, his face tear-stained. And we feel it - the SHOCK - as Liam throws Becky violently to the ground, narrowly missing Jake.

107 INT. DINING ROOM - DAY 11 - OCTOBER, 2021 107

Gabriel and Andy reading the last section of the CAR-B form together. Andy puts it down. A moment later, he's crying. Gabriel reaches over, holds his hand.

108 EXT. VICTORIA PARK - DAY 11 - OCTOBER, 2021 108

Andy and Gabe walk around the park in a daze. It's fairly empty except for the a few dog-walkers. They arrive at the statue of Billy, commemorating the seal who used to live in the park pond between 1912 and 1939.

GABRIEL

(quietly)

Is violence hereditary?

ANDY

No...I don't think so?

GABRIEL

Because what if he ends up hurting us? What if his Dad turns up one day and kills us?

ANDY

That's highly unlikely though, isn't it?

GABRIEL

Still. There's no way I'd meet them. They're monsters.

ANDY

(hopeful)

Does that mean you're...

GABRIEL

I don't know, And. He's SO far removed from what we originally specified. He's a boy. I don't like...

ANDY

But you're gay...

GABRIEL

So I know what they're capable of. We shouldn't be seduced just because we've met him. We just need to think about the cold hard facts.

ANDY

But he isn't a cold hard fact anymore, is he?

GABRIEL

I knew this would happen. I knew you'd get attached. He's got some really intense needs, And.

ANDY

I know. I know.

Awkward silence. Gabriel looks to Billy.

GABRIEL

What would you do, Billy?

ANDY

(puts on a deep voice)

Do it. Do it. Do it.

Gabriel can't help but laugh.

GABRIEL

Wrong gender though. Billy was
actually a girl.

ANDY

Really?

GABRIEL

They only found out after she died.

Andy strokes the statue.

ANDY

(wryly)

That's the thing: there's always
been a place for everyone in
Victoria Park; no matter what their
gender...

Gabe is about to agree when the penny drops. He scowls at Andy, playfully. That was clever. And Andy knows it. We hear the intro to Peter Sarstedt's *Where Do You Go To, My Lovely?*

ANDY (CONT'D)

(feign-innocently)

What?

GABRIEL

You're such a twat.

109

INT. NEVERLAND - NIGHT - 2013 - X22

109

Gabriel sits alone on stage singing. Stunning white dress. This is the night she meets Andy. Fanny Ample on a stool sipping orange juice. A proud mother.

GABRIEL

(singing)

*You talk like Marlene Dietrich and
you dance like Zizi Jeanmaire, your
clothes are all made by Balmain,
and there's diamonds and pearls in
your hair, yes there are...*

As if she's singing about herself, she flicks her diamond and pearl encrusted wig. The crowd whoop and applause, and now we see Andy totally bewitched by her. They catch each other's eye for a moment. And we feel it: the electricity.

110 I/E. EMRYS'S CAR - DAY - 1986 - X2

110

Sunlight streams. Young Gabriel POV (we don't see him) in the back. Younger Emrys drives. Non next to him. And they're both singing along joyfully to the cassette player. But we can hear it now (simultaneously with Gabe's voice-over):

GABRIEL (V.O.)

*You live in a fancy apartment
Off the Boulevard St. Michel...*

NON/EMRYS

*You live in a fancy apartment
Off the Boulevard St. Michel...*

Non's getting a sandwich from a tupperware box.

GABRIEL (V.O.)

*Where you keep your Rolling Stones
records and a friend of Sacha
Distel, yes you do...*

NON/EMRYS

*Where you keep your Rolling Stones
records and a friend of Sacha
Distel, yes you do...*

She turns, smiles, offers it to the POV. And we see Young Gabriel belted in the back. He grins from ear to ear, gives a giant double-thumbs up. Next to him, a bucket and spade.

111 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT 11 - OCTOBER, 2021

111

GABRIEL (V.O.)

*But where do you go to my lovely?
When you're alone in your bed?*

Present day. Gabriel lies next to Andy awake. Eyes flickering back and forth. Processing.

112 INT. PUBLIC TOILETS - NIGHT - X18

112

Teenage Gabriel walks into the toilets. But they are dark, eery. MEN loiter, apparently waiting for sex.

GABRIEL (V.O.)

*Tell me the thoughts that surround
you...*

In the first cubicle, the Ordinary Scruffy Bloke; in the second, the Hairy Bloke; and then suddenly, shockingly, in the final cubicle: Satan flashes a smile.

Lost Boys & Fairies - Episode 1 - YELLOW AMENDS 1.6.23 -
61A.

GABRIEL (V.O.)
*I want to look inside your head,
yes I do...*

113 INT. GABRIEL'S CHILDHOOD BEDROOM, EMRYS'S HOUSE - DAY - X113
1987

Young Gabriel on his knees, still in the Laura Ashley dress sobbing his heart out. Crying for his 'Mami'.

GABRIEL (V.O.)
*I remember the back streets of
Naples, two children begging in
rags.*

Younger Emrys in the corner of the room. Cowering. Shaking. Not knowing what to do next.

114 EXT. BLOCK OF FLATS - NIGHT - 2018 - X35 114

Llinos carries Jake in her arms. Police cars. Blue lights flashing. NEIGHBOURS on the street, looking. Two POLICE OFFICERS try and control Liam flailing like a rabid dogs. Becky kneels in the overgrown grass, sobbing. A horrific black eye, covered in bruises. Jake reaches towards her as he's carried to the car screaming 'Mami, mami, mami!'

GABRIEL (V.O.)
*Both touched with a burning
ambition, to shake off their
earthly-born tags, they tried...*

114.A 114.A OMITTED 114.A

115 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT 11 115

Close on Gabriel. Eyes flicker back and forth. Processing.

GABRIEL (V.O.)
*So look into my face, Marie-Claire
And remember just who you are. Then
go and forget me forever, but I
know you still bear the scar, deep
inside...*

Gabe sits up suddenly and switches on his bedside lamp. Andy sits up, surprised. Both look at each other.

GABRIEL
Let's do it.

116 INT. CAR - DAY 13 - OCTOBER, 2021

116

Malcolm drives Jake to school, belted in the back. Peter Sarstedt plays. They sing at the top of their voices (simultaneously with Gabe's voice-over). Look at each other in the rear-view mirror, beaming, delighted.

GABRIEL (V.O.)
*I know where you go to my lovely,
when you're alone in your bed, I
know the thoughts that surround
you, cause I can look inside your
head.*

MALCOLM/JAKE
*I know where you go to my lovely,
when you're alone in your bed, I
know the thoughts that surround
you, cause I can look inside your
head.*

Jake triumphant, swaying along to the end of the music, with complete and utter joy. As if he has everything to live for...

END OF EPISODE ONE

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