

Murdered By My Boyfriend

by
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PINK

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TEXT ON SCREEN

This drama is based on real events. Some minor characters have been created.

1 INT. ASHLEY'S ROOM - NIGHT

1

The wide open eyes of a young woman. White feathers float past in varying degrees of focus. Her eyelids flicker, suggesting movement outside the frame. The feathers gather like snow until everything is white.

ASHLEY V.O.

TBC

*

DISSOLVE TO:

The snow clears and resolves into an image of a snow globe containing a plastic bride and groom.

PULL BACK TO SEE:

A young woman ASHLEY (17, mixed-heritage white British/black Caribbean, sweet face) sits at her dressing table (where the snow globe sits). She puts the final touches to her lip gloss and looks at herself in the mirror. Satisfied, she gets up and goes out. There's the sound of the door shutting.

CUT TO:

2

EXT. SHERWOOD - NIGHT

2

A group of girls; ASHLEY, MICHAELA (17, mixed heritage, witty, pretty), LAUREN (19, white, bit of a joker), and SABRINA (18, black, kind hearted).

They're ready to party; hair done, nails done, lips glossed. They talk animatedly, turning and walking backwards to talk to each other as they click clack their way along a suburban street. They each hold a carrier bag containing a bottle of booze.

Two conversations take place simultaneously, one is between Ashley and Sabrina (which takes precedence) and the other is between Lauren and Michaela.

ASHLEY

Seriously, it works. You ask the universe for whatever is you want and if you really, really believe it then you'll get it. Karen did it and she got ten grand.

LAUREN

...oh yeah. Guess what I found in my bag when I was getting ready?

SABRINA

Yeah, 'cause her mum died! What?

MICHAELA

They laugh.

ASHLEY

Ten grand's ten grand innit?!

LAUREN

Half a kebab.

SABRINA

So what you asking for?

MICHAELA

That's disgusting!

ASHLEY

Oh you know ... love, marriage, babies, my own salon ... What would you ask for?

LAUREN

It must have been in there since Friday.

SABRINA

I dunno ... world domination.

MICHAELA

But we didn't have kebabs on Friday.

ASHLEY

Oh, I was gonna ask for that!

LAUREN

The Friday before?

(CONTINUED)

2

CONTINUED:

2

SABRINA

You'll have to fight me for
it!

MICHAELA

(laughs, disgusted)
Shut up! I feel sick!

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: (2)

2

They reach the party. The windows of the house vibrate with bass.

Ashley rings the doorbell. A young man answers the door, he's delighted to see a group of girls.

BOY AT DOOR

Alright?

THE GIRLS

Alright?

Ashley squeezes past him, her friends follow.

CUT TO:

TITLE

CUT TO:

3

INT. HOUSE PARTY - NIGHT

3

The girls head into the front room. On the way in Ashley taps Jo (19, white, loud) on the shoulder playfully. Jo turns round.

JO
Alright Ashley?! Y'allright?

ASHLEY
Aaaagh, haven't seen you for ages!

As they catch up, the girls look around, checking out the company and attracting interested glances.

Through a gap in the crowd a good looking young man Jamie (20, fit, mixed heritage) looks over at Ashley.

CUT TO:

4

INT. HOUSE PARTY - LATER

4

The party is heaving. Loads of people are dancing including the girls.

Although Ashley is with her friends, she's really dancing on her own, completely absorbed in the music, eyes closed, oblivious to everyone around her.

Jamie watches Ashley, his beer bottle poised by his lips.

One of Sabrina's false nails comes off while she's dancing. Sabrina wails in dismay. Ashley looks at the nail and pulls her towards the bathroom.

ASHLEY
S'cuse me! Emergency!

Sabrina follows. As they thread their way to the toilet Jamie watches Ashley go and finally takes a swig of his beer.

CUT TO:

5

INT. HOUSE PARTY. BEDROOM - NIGHT

5

Sabrina is sat on the bed, Ashley is kneeling down fixing her nail. Lauren shuts the door and turns to Ashley.

LAUREN

Oh my God. Did you see that? Jamie was blatantly checking you out.

ASHLEY

(excited)

Was he?

Ashley gets a tube of nail glue from her bag and tries glue Sabrina's nail back on.

LAUREN

Yeah! He was all like...

She gives Ashley a hot up and down look. Ashley laughs and spills some nail glue.

SABRINA

Don't put it on wonky!

ASHLEY

(In a mock serious voice)

Trust me, I'm a professional.

Ashley is focusing on the nail while Sabrina watches her.

SABRINA

Why don't you take your jacket off? Show some skin.

Interrupting before Ashley can answer....

LAUREN

.... No you don't look fat!

SABRINA

You look beautiful.

Ashley looks at them both puts her arms round her two friends.

ASHLEY

Aww I love my big lying friends!

They hug and laugh as they fall backwards on the bed. As they do a boy opens the door, and pops his head round....

SABRINA

OUT, OUT!!!!

(CONTINUED)

5

CONTINUED:

5

ASHLEY
(laughing)
Private party. Girls only....

The boy sheepishly closes the door and the girls laugh at him.

CUT TO:

6

INT. PARTY - KITCHEN

6

Ashley and the girls (including Michaela) push their way into the kitchen for drinks. In the reflection in the dark kitchen window Ashley sees a young man approaching behind her.

Ashley turns round but instead of Jamie it's REECE (21, mixed-heritage, tall, fit, gorgeous). Ashley looks at him, momentarily speechless, clutching her plastic cup. He smiles, reaches past her and picks up a beer. Ashley tries not to stare at him. He turns to Ashley.

REECE
Can I get you one?

Ashley's friends pretend not to look. Ashley shakes her head and holds up her squashed cup.

ASHLEY
I'm drinking white wine.

Reece looks at the table where the drinks are.

REECE
(to himself as he picks up a bottle)
White wine, wine, wine...

She looks up at him as he pours. He looks at her too. Their eyes lock for a long moment. The wine misses the cup. They both jump back as it hits the floor. They laugh. Reece looks into her eyes.

REECE
You put me off.

ASHLEY
Sorry.

He puts his hand out to hold hers steady as he fills her cup. She looks at his hand round hers then looks up at him. Their eyes connect again. They smile a little bashfully.

ASHLEY
Thanks.

REECE
You're welcome.

He picks up his beer. For a moment he lingers.

REECE
See you later.

(CONTINUED)

6

CONTINUED:

6

ASHLEY
Yeah, see you.

He turns away then remembers something.

REECE
What's your name?

ASHLEY
Ashley.

He puts his hand on his chest.

REECE
Reece.

She nods.

ASHLEY
Reece...

Reece holds her gaze a moment longer then tears himself away. Ashley watches him go, as do her friends.

ASHLEY
Oh my God. He's beautiful.

CUT TO:

7

INT. MUM SHOPPING CENTRE - DAY

7

Lauren and Sabrina lean against the wall. They look bored. Ashley fiddles with her fringe and refreshes her lip gloss.

Ashley sees a group of young men walking on the level below. A couple of them have baseball caps on.

LAUREN
Can't see him.

ASHLEY
(to the girls)
Come on.

*

Ashley Lauren and Sabrina follow them all the way to the other side of the shopping centre. Suddenly one of them turns round and she can see his face. Ashley grips Sabrina's arm. It's Reece.

ASHLEY
There he is!

Ashley's face is lit with excitement as she spies on Reece talking to his mates. She can't take her eyes off him. Sabrina grimaces as Ashley squeezes her arm with excitement.

REECE
(to his friends)
See you later.

Reece walks towards the escalator.

ASHLEY
Come on!

Ashley heads for the escalator followed by the girls who have now woken up a bit. She takes deep breaths and straightens her fringe with her hands.

ASHLEY
Right. Let's do this.

Ashley, Lauren and Sabrina hurry towards to the 'down' escalator.

Reece steps on the escalator going up. Ashley, looking casual, steps onto the 'down' escalator with Lauren and Sabrina behind her. Reece does a double take as they pass each other.

REECE
Ashley!

(CONTINUED)

7

CONTINUED:

7

She looks round. She pretends not to recognise him for a second.

ASHLEY

Oh ... hiya!

Reece walks backwards down the escalator, a huge smile on his face.

REECE

So you're making out you don't recognise me?!

Ashley laughs. Reece looks at her with appreciation.

REECE

You look really nice.

Ashley smiles.

ASHLEY

Thanks.

REECE

Where you going?

Ashley shrugs.

ASHLEY

Nowhere special.

Reece stumbles on the escalator, almost falling over, Ashley bursts out laughing. Reece pretends to be offended.

REECE

And I thought you were so sweet!

ASHLEY

What gave you that idea?

REECE

Wait down there for me. We need to have a conversation about your attitude!

He runs to the top of the escalator and back down the other side after Ashley.

CUT TO:

8

INT. DINER - DAY

8

Ashley and Reece are sitting opposite each other. There are cheeseburgers, fries and drinks on the table.

REECE
So d'you go college full time?

ASHLEY
Part-time. I work in a clothes shop on Tuesday and Thursday.

REECE
What you gonna do when you finish your course?

ASHLEY
Work for someone else for a bit
... but I want my own salon by the time I'm twenty five.

He nods, impressed. Ashley smiles, encouraged by his approval.

ASHLEY
Yeah ... I really love it... I know people probably go 'oh yeah, it's just nails' or whatever, but it's more than that.

REECE
What d'you mean?

ASHLEY
Well, you're there for your clients when they get married, have babies, get divorced... that's why it's called beauty 'therapy'.

He nods.

REECE
Yeah, that makes sense.

Ashley smiles, happy that he agrees.

ASHLEY
What about you?

He sits up.

REECE
Right now I'm breeding dogs.

(CONTINUED)

ASHLEY
What sort of dogs?

REECE
Staffordshire Bull Terriers.

ASHLEY
(Wary)
OK...

REECE
No, its not like that... they're
all Kennel Club registered.
Official. (beat) But that's just
for now though. Long-term I'm
going into property development.
You know, buying properties doing
them up then selling on.

Ashley raises her eyebrows.

ASHLEY
Wow.

Reece smiles modestly and nicks one of her chips. Ashley
pretends to be outraged and he laughs.

CUT TO:

9

INT. DRESS SHOP - DAY

9

Ashley is busy helping a customer when she becomes aware that Reece is by the shop entrance. He smiles and she becomes shy and excited. She indicates that she is going to be another five minute. Reece nods and Ashley goes back to helping the customer, only a little more smiley than before.

CUT TO:

10

INT. MUM'S HOUSE. ASHLEY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

10

Ashley, looks in a dresser drawer as she talks, smiling, on the phone. Handwritten positive affirmations like: 'I follow my dreams no matter what' and 'I am worthy of love' are tucked into the frame of the dresser mirror. On top of the dresser sits a snow globe with a bride and groom inside.

ASHLEY INTO HER MOBILE

Oh my God. He's just so sweet. He came to meet me after work.... And he's got these eyes and he just looks at me...

Ashley chooses a pair of pretty knickers and throws them onto the bed. She pulls open another drawer, takes out a bra and throws that on the bed too.

ASHLEY

Yes you cheeky cow, I know that's what eyes are for!

Her mum MUM (49) comes in, she's partially visible in the dressing table mirror. She puts a pile of clean laundry (topped by love heart pyjamas) on Ashley's bed and picks up a few bits of dirty laundry.

Ashley chuckles at whatever her friend is saying on the phone. Absentmindedly she adjusts the position of the snow globe.

MUM O.S.

Want a cheese toastie, babe?

ASHLEY

Yes please!
(into the phone)
Yeah, I am. I'm really, really happy.....

On the dresser, next to the snow globe is a dish of silver and gold confetti hearts, stars and moons.

She filters them through her hand whilst talking.

ASHLEY

Hang on, Lauren's calling, call you after... bye bye!

She glances at the screen and switches the call answering with an excited, "aaaagghggh" smile.

ASHLEY

I know! Oh my Godddddddddd!

(CONTINUED)

10

CONTINUED:

10

She falls back on her bed throwing the silver and gold confetti into the air.

It rains on her in slow motion.....

ASHLEY V.O.

TBC

CUT TO:

11

INT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

11

Ashley and Reece sit in a booth. Reece' arm rests along the back of the seat behind Ashley stroking her arm as she sings along to a song.

Michaela and her boyfriend JOSEPH (19) are chatting and smiling into each other's eyes. There are beers and lurid cocktails on the table.

Ashley notices Lauren and Sabrina looking for them. She waves over at them. They don't see her. Reece jumps up and guides them to the table.

EVERYONE

Hiya!/Alright?!

Sabrina and Lauren sit down. They exchange excited, confidential smiles with Ashley; Reece seems lovely! Ashley can't stop smiling.

REECE

What are you drinking?

SABRINA

Oh.... sparkling white wine please.

REECE

For you?

He looks at Lauren.

LAUREN

Rum and coke please.

Reece turns to go to the bar. The girls all gaze after him as he walks away.

REECE

(joking)

Don't be looking at my arse girls.

The girls laugh. Ashley sighs happily and looks around, to her the night seems lit with beauty, glamour, friendship and love.

12

INT. NIGHTCLUB - LATER

12

The group are drinking, singing and having a blast. Ashley hasn't noticed that her top has slipped sexily off one shoulder but Reece has. He tries to ignore it but he can't. He keeps glancing at it. He leans across and pulls it back up onto her shoulder.

LAUREN, SABRINA

Awwww!

SABRINA

See, he's looking after you!

Ashley looks at Reece and smiles.

ASHLEY

Thank you baby.

CUT TO:

13

INT. NIGHT CLUB - NIGHT

13

Ashley and Reece dance together, they're close, intimate. Although the club is crowded they're only really aware of each other.

CUT TO:

14

INT. REECE BEDROOM - NIGHT

14

Reece goes into the dark bedroom, he leads Ashley in by her hand. She hangs back a moment in the doorway. Reece turns. They look at each other.

REECE
(quietly)
Come here Jones.

He pulls her towards him slowly. He takes her bag out of her hand and drops it to the floor.

Reece looks down at her face. He kisses her. They break apart and Ashley shrugs her jacket off. Reece reaches down and starts slowly to slide her dress up her legs.

Ashley is shy, embarrassed as he gazes down at her, his hands moving over her waist, her back and her bum.

REECE
(under his breath to
himself)
Oh my God.

She looks at him with shining eyes, blown away that he finds her beautiful.

Reece pulls her dress up over her head so she's in her knickers and bra. He quickly takes his shirt off and unbuckles his trouser belt.

Then he sits on the edge of the bed and he pulls her between his legs where she stands arms with her arms round his neck as they kiss with growing intensity, their breathing loud in the silent room.

REECE
(almost inaudible)
You're so beautiful.

Then Reece pulls her onto the bed and she strokes his back as he climbs onto her. Ashley closes her eyes and they kiss and try to get comfortable and manoeuvre themselves under the covers and then they're having sex and Ashley's expression says it all; she's totally in love.

CUT TO:

15

EXT. REECE' BEDROOM - DAWN

15

Reece and Ashley are entwined in Reece' bed. She strokes his arm which is draped around her, holding her close. They talk sleepily.

REECE
I saw you before you know.

ASHLEY
You mean before the party?

REECE
You were in a clothes shop window.
You were dressing a dummy.

Ashley smiles with surprise.

REECE
I thought you were beautiful.

ASHLEY
What was beautiful about me?

REECE
Your face.... Your eyes and your
lips and your nose ...

ASHLEY
So why didn't you come in?

REECE
I knew I would see you again.

Ashley looks at him.

ASHLEY
I nearly didn't go to that party.

REECE
I'd still have found you.

ASHLEY
How d'you know?

REECE
Just do. It's fate.

ASHLEY
I'll tell you something, please
don't laugh. On the way to the
party I wished that love would
come into my life

He smiles, deeply touched. He kisses her very gently.

(CONTINUED)

15

CONTINUED:

15

REECE
And I heard you didn't I?

CUT TO:

16

INT. REECE' FLAT. BEDROOM - DAY

16

On the bed, Reece leans up on one elbow and watches Ashley as she gets dresses self-consciously. Ashley catches him looking at her and covers herself up, embarrassed.

ASHLEY

Do I look fat?

Reece shakes his head slowly, his look letting her know he finds her gorgeous.

Ashley hesitates, disarmed, then continues dressing a little less awkwardly than before.

CUT TO:

17

INT. REECE'S CAR - DAY

17

Reece and Ashley are parked outside Ashley's mum's house kissing goodbye.

ASHLEY
I'd better go.

They pull apart reluctantly. Ashley gets her jacket from the back seat and puts it on. She opens the door and gets out leaving her phone on the seat. The phone beeps. Reece picks it up and looks at it. Ashley reaches for the phone. He keeps looking at it.

ASHLEY
Reece!

Reece laughs. She tries to grab it. She's laughing too.

ASHLEY
Give me that!

REECE
Wanna see who my competition is! *

Ashley grabs for it again, he leans away, still scrolling. She's getting frustrated but is still laughing.

REECE
Who's Mick?

ASHLEY
Reece!

He hands her the phone. She puts it in her bag and gets out of the car sulkily. Reece gets out too and walks round to her and pulls her to him, amused.

REECE
Come on ... I was only playing.

She starts to come round.

ASHLEY
I can't believe you don't trust me.

REECE
I do trust you, it's other men I don't trust... I mean come on, look at you.

She suppresses a smile and he pulls her closer and rests his chin on the top of her head.

(CONTINUED)

17

CONTINUED:

REECE
I don't wanna lose you?

Ashley realises he's serious. She's surprised and touched. She looks at him for a long moment and smiles gently.

ASHLEY
You're not going lose me.

She smiles to herself as they hold each other.

REECE
So who is Mick?

She hits him on the arm and laughs.

ASHLEY
Michaela dickhead!

CUT TO:

18

INT. ASHLEY'S BEDROOM - DAY

18

Ashley is in her bedroom staring at herself in the mirror.

She smiles at the memories of the night before.

CUT TO:

19

INT. TOILET/SABRINA'S HOUSE - DAY

19

Sabrina is leaning against her bathroom door.

She stares for a moment.

SABRINA
What's it say? ...

Sabrina is looking at Ashley as she is sat on the toilet, staring at a pregnancy test.

Ashley is so lost in her thoughts she doesn't respond. Her eyes well up.

CUT TO:

20

INT. REECE FLAT - DAY

20

Reece walks quickly in through the front door of his flat. Ashley hurries in after him.

ASHLEY

Reece!

Ashley follows him into the front room.

ASHLEY

Please, can't we just talk?

Reece leaves the front room. She follows him back out into the hallway. Ashley grabs his sleeve.

ASHLEY

Please?

He stops and looks at her.

REECE

Talk about what? You've made your decision.

ASHLEY

I don't know what I think. I'm only seventeen ... I'm still at college.

He leans back hard against the wall. He looks at her, tries to find the words he needs.

REECE

Ashley, you tell me you're having my baby and so I've got this picture in my head of you and me and a baby. I felt all like ...

He puts his hand on his chest.

REECE

I didn't even know I wanted that until you said it ... and now I can't get that picture out of my head.

Ashley looks at him, her eyes fill up. She leans back against the opposite wall. They stand there in silence for several moments. Ashley looks at the floor. She wipes a tear away with the heel of her hand. Reece looks at her, pained.

(CONTINUED)

20

CONTINUED:

20

REECE
Is it really because of college?

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED: (2)

20

Ashley nods.

ASHLEY
(faintly)
And I am only seventeen ...

REECE
I'll look after the baby while
you're at college.

She looks at him.

REECE
I'll look after you.

They look at each other for a long moment. He reaches out for her hand, watching her face as she thinks.

REECE
(quietly)
Ashley?

She blinks back tears. He pulls her towards him. She puts her head on his chest. He strokes her hair.

REECE
I love you Jones ... and I love
our baby. And I swear I'll never
leave you.

She squeezes her eyes shut and tears spill over. He closes his eyes and holds her close.

CUT TO:

21

INT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE - DAY

21

Ashley and her mum sit down with a cup of tea.

MUM

This is a big thing Ash... bigger than you think.

ASHLEY

I'm not a child mum.

MUM

I'm not saying you are, but are you ready for a baby? How will you afford it, first of all? How's he going to support you?

ASHLEY

He earns money... and he's got plans.

MUM

Hmmmm, plans don't pay the bills.

Silence.

MUM

And you haven't known him that long have you?

ASHLEY

I know, but it feels right, and it's what we want... to be a family and...(a little shy) I love him.

Ashley looks at her mum with big eyes.

ASHLEY

I don't want to fall out with you.

MUM

(softening)
Don't be daft, of course we're not going to fall out... I just want you to think about your options.
That's all.

Ashley nods.

(CONTINUED)

21

CONTINUED:

21

MUM

And I'll be right here, always.
Just as long as you keep talking
to me.

*

ASHLEY

I will mum, I promise.

*

CUT TO:

*

22

INT. MOTHERCARE - DAY

22

Ashley, who is three months pregnant, is browsing for clothes for a baby girl with Reece. Reece holds up a tiny pink cardigan.

REECE
Jones.

Ashley looks over.

ASHLEY
Ahhhh!

Ashley picks up a tiny blue onesey. As she looks at it her expression becomes serious for a moment as she contemplates the future, then the moment passes and her face clears. She looks at Reece and holds up the dress.

ASHLEY
Baby look.

Reece smiles, he is made up and excited.

CUT TO:

23

INT. REECE' CAR - DAY

23

Reece and Ashley are in mid conversation as he pulls up in his drive way.

ASHLEY

..... But I don't understand why I can't move in here with you?

Reece reaches in back for some shopping bags.

REECE

I told you, it's not that kind of flat.

ASHLEY

Why isn't it?

He looks at her, askance.

REECE

You couldn't have a baby there, not with the dogs. It's not safe.

There's a moment's silence. Ashley looks at him.

ASHLEY

What if you didn't have the dogs?

He gives her a look of incomprehension.

REECE

Ashley. My dogs are my dogs.

Ashley stares at him then turns to look out of the window.

ASHLEY

(quietly)
And your baby's your baby.

Reece gives her a sideways look but says nothing. He opens the car door and gets out.

CUT TO:

24

INT. REECE' FLAT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

24

Ashley sits on Reece' sofa with a cup of tea. She looks around at Reece' flat clean, tidy flat. She looks annoyed. She can hear Reece lifting weights in the bedroom. Reece' dog drools at her feet.

CUT TO:

25

INT. REECE' FLAT. BEDROOM - DAY

25

Ashley, walks to the bedroom door and watches Reece doing reps with a bar bell.

ASHLEY

What am I supposed to say when people ask why we're not living together?

He lifts the weight up and down.

REECE

Say it's nothing to do with them.

Reece drops the bar bell onto the floor with a crash. He puts more weights on the ends.

Ashley watches him, getting increasingly annoyed.

ASHLEY

And what about my mum?

REECE

What about her?

ASHLEY

Am I s'posed to say that to her too?

Reece hefts the bar bell up and does more reps.

Ashley waits for a response that doesn't come.

The dog can be heard barking from the other room.

Reece continues to lift the bar bell, his expression blank.

ASHLEY

So we're not even going to have a conversation about this?

Reece doesn't answer. He continues lifting the bar bell.

ASHLEY O.S.

Reece, we've got a baby on the way. You do realise that yeah? We need to make plans.

Still he doesn't respond.

ASHLEY O.S.

Reece!

(CONTINUED)

25

CONTINUED:

25

His breaths become shorter and faster as Ashley continues to talk.

The dog is still barking.

REECE
(to the dog)
Rocco!

*

The barking stops.

ASHLEY O.S.
Reece! Why can't you just be a grown up about this? You told me you were totally committed to me and "our" baby!

She stands opposite him, a foot away from his face.

ASHLEY
You're more worried about your stupid dogs and lifting that thing, what sort of commitment is tha.....

The bar bell crashes to the floor as Reece grabs Ashley's head and smashes it into the wall.

REECE
I'm tied to you for life! How much more commitment d'you fucking want?!

Ashley's eyes are wide, her mouth hangs open in total and utter shock.

He lets her go. Ashley slides down the wall, staring up at him, too stunned even to cry. Her shaking hand reaches up to feel her head.

Reece paces back and forth, himself shocked too, too shocked to say anything as he turns to her, struggling to find a place to start.

REECE
Ashley...

Ashley's mouth crumples and she begins to sob, heartbroken. Reece doesn't know what to do. He can't bear it. He crouches down to help her.

REECE
Ashley ...

She pushes him away and gets up.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: (2)

25

ASHLEY
Get off me....

Dazed, she starts looking for her jacket.

Reece hovers around her.

She picks up her bag. He takes hold of one of the straps, pleading.

REECE
(voice breaking)
I'm sorry ... I swear I'll never
do it again.

She pulls the strap out of his hand.

ASHLEY
I know you won't.

She yanks the door open and walks out.

CUT TO:

26

EXT. REECE' HOUSE - DAY

26

Reece, just in his track suit bottoms, comes out to the door and watches, devastated, as she leaves.

Ashley looks straight ahead and walks away at a fast pace. Her hand grips the strap of her bag, her eyes are filled with angry tears.

As she walks Ashley struggles to get her emotions under control.

Ashley's expression moves through a spectrum of emotions as she thinks about what just happened. Eventually, her anger begins to dissipate leaving only sadness.

She slows, thinking. Then she comes to a halt. For a long moment she just stands there, her thoughts moving across her face.

She turns and walks back in the direction of the house.

As she nears the house she sees Reece sitting on the step, utterly broken.

As she comes near and he looks up at her, his eyes puffy and wet from crying.

She looks at him for a long moment, taking in his distress, then she nods and sits down next to him on the step. She puts her arm round him and he lets her comfort him like a little boy.

ASHLEY V.O.

I could see how sorry he was, how much he loved me. This man crying like a baby at the thought of losing me. How could I leave a man who loved me like this?

CUT TO:

27

INT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE LIVING ROOM - DUSK - 2 YEARS LATER

27

Ashley, who is all dressed up (but shoeless) looks out of the window of her house impatiently, her phone pressed against her ear. Baby Jasmine (2 years old) plays on the carpet with her toys.

ASHLEY

(into phone)

Yeah so I'm wearing a sheer black top with a skinny top and vest top under it. Leggings, heels and you know that chunky silver neckla....

She cranes and looks out of the window.

ASHLEY

(into the phone)

He's here! See you in a bit.

Reece comes in through front door, dumping a holdall on the floor.

ASHLEY

Baby I thought you said you were coming at eight?

He ignores her comment and looks at a pile of neatly folded clothes.

REECE

These clean?

Ashley continues to get ready to go out and does not respond. Reece opens his holdall and dumps some dirty clothes in the armchair, then puts the pile of clean clothes in the bag.

He beams at Jasmine who squeals with delight. He gets down on the floor with her and starts to play.

Ashley puts her earrings in.

ASHLEY

I thought you weren't coming.

He looks at her, slowly he takes in her outfit.

REECE

Is that what you're wearing?

Ashley looks down at herself and back at Reece.

(CONTINUED)

27

CONTINUED:

27

ASHLEY
What's wrong with it? *

He holds her gaze. He's not going to back down. She turns, resigned, and plods upstairs.

CUT TO:

28

INT. ASHLEY'S BEDROOM - DUSK

28

Ashley looks at her outfit in the dresser mirror. Tucked into the edge of the mirror is a note saying 'When I believe in myself so do others.' She still has the little wedding snow globe.

As Ashley takes off her chosen outfit she reveals bruises over her upper body. She doesn't give them a second glance as she puts on a baggy top then folds her sheer top up until it's tiny and tucks it into her clutch bag.

CUT TO:

29

INT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE LIVING ROOM - DUSK

29

Ashley walks in to the living room. The contents of her handbag are on the floor between Reece and the baby. Reece is going through her purse examining her receipts. Ashley looks on the floor for her shoes.

ASHLEY

Can I have my purse please? *

REECE

Who d'you go Pizza Hut with?

ASHLEY

Work. I told you.

REECE

Who d'you go Costa Coffee with?

ASHLEY

Osama Bin Ladin

He looks at her, catches her gaze, holds it for a moment, then he laughs, shaking his head. Ashley laughs too.

REECE

(serious again)

Who was it though?

ASHLEY

My mum! Ask her.

Ashley finds her shoes and puts them on.

Reece removes twenty pounds from her purse and holds it up to show her, before putting it in his pocket.

REECE

I'm taking this for her doll's house. *

ASHLEY

But that's for tonight. *

He gives her a disappointed look.

REECE

We said we'd split the cost.

ASHLEY

Do you need the money right now?

Reece takes out a fold of money and peels off a twenty and a ten.

(CONTINUED)

29

CONTINUED:

29

REECE
Pay me back Friday.

Ashley takes the money then picks up her things and puts them back in her purse.

REECE
So who else is going?

ASHLEY
Michaela and Joseph and Sabrina
and maybe Lauren.

Ashley kisses the baby and strokes her head. She looks at Reece.

ASHLEY
Right then.

REECE
Enjoy yourself.

ASHLEY
Thanks baby.

He pulls her to him and kisses her long and hard.

REECE
Leave your phone on.

CUT TO:

30

EXT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE - DUSK

30

As Ashley walks down the path she turns back and looks at Reece who stands in the doorway holding the baby. Reece waves the baby's hand.

CUT TO:

31

TEXT. NOTTINGHAM STREET - DUSK

31

Ashley walks past a brightly lit restaurant window. She looks in and notices a middle aged couple who sit in bored silence and gaze past each other. Ashley slows and stops. She looks at them, transfixed.

ASHLEY V.O.

Reece said that most people would never experience passion like we did... that most people wouldn't be able to handle it.

The couple turn their heads and look at Ashley, their expressions blank. Ashley walks away.

CUT TO:

32

INT. NIGHTCLUB TOILETS - NIGHT

32

Ashley comes out of the toilet stall wearing the top she'd stashed in her bag. Sabrina, who is tweaking her hair in the mirror, shakes her head.

SABRINA

You shouldn't have to do that you know.

Ashley half shrugs, she knows.

ASHLEY

I'm out aren't I? Come on, let's get a drink.

CUT TO:

33

INT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

33

Ashley, Lauren, Sabrina and a few others are in a crowd at the bar ordering drinks. Michaela and her boyfriend JOSEPH (22) arrive and come to the bar. Jamie is in the club with a mate. He smiles when he sees ASHLEY walk over to him.

ASHLEY
Yeah, you alright Jamie?

Ashley smiles.

JAMIE
(joking)
still crying every morning,
wishing you were with me?

ASHLEY
(laughing)
You'd be crying more if you saw
how I looked in the morning.

JAMIE
No I wouldn't. Still waiting for
you to accept my facebook
request...

.... Lauren screams. Ashley and Jamie look over.

LAUREN
Oh my God! Oh my God!

Lauren gives Michaela a congratulatory hug, then looks at her friend's engagement ring. It's Sabrina's turn to hug Michaela. Joseph is grinning. Ashley gasps and runs over, hand over her mouth.

ASHLEY
Oh my God!

She grabs Michaela's hand and stares at it, her eyes huge. Michaela has a big smile on her face. Ashley looks up at her, almost tearful.

ASHLEY
Oh my God.

MICHAELA
I know!

ASHLEY
It's so beautiful.

Ashley looks at Joseph.

(CONTINUED)

33

CONTINUED:

ASHLEY
Where'd you buy it?

JOSEPH
You know that Pound Stretcher in
Broadmarsh Centre?

Michaela whacks him on the arm laughing.

MICHAELA
Joseph!

JOSEPH
Ok, OK. The really expensive
jewellers next to that.

MICHAELA
(kissing his cheek)
Thank you!

Ashley watches as Joseph, laughing, puts his arms round Michaela. Comfortable and completely in love with each other.

Ashley's smile hides a sadness.....

CUT TO:

34

INT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

34

Reece sits at Ashley's laptop with his sleeping daughter supported in the crook of his arm. He rocks her gently as, with his free hand, he taps in Ashley's Facebook password. In contrast to the sleepy face of the baby Reece' expression is sharply vigilant as he trawls through Ashley's messages.

CUT TO:

35

INT. NIGHTCLUB - LATER

35

Ashley on the dance floor, eyes closed, is being transported to somewhere else by the music.

On the table Ashley's phone rings. It's Reece. It stops then immediately starts up again.

CUT TO:

36

INT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

36

Ashley lets herself into the dark house, trying not to make a sound. Unsteadily, she unbuckles the straps on her shoes. The light comes on. Reece stands fully dressed in the living room doorway, almost filling it. Ashley looks up, frozen, waiting for an indication of his mood.

REECE

Good night?

Ashley doesn't answer as he puts his hand out and helps her up. He slides his arms around her and cuddles her.

REECE

I missed you.

Ashley is visibly relieved.

ASHLEY

Guess what? Michaela and Joseph got engaged!

REECE

(impressed)

Yeah?!

ASHLEY

I know! And you should see the ring, it's so beautiful...

CUT TO:

37

INT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE. JASMINE'S BEDROOM - DAY

37

Ashley and Reece are putting wallpaper and wall stickers up in Jasmine's room. They are laughing with each other.

Reece takes a bit of wallpaper paste and pretends to accidentally smudge it on Ashley. This goes back and forth as they play, eventually they fall on the floor kissing and laughing.

ASHLEY V.O.

You may think we only had bad times, fights and rows. But we laughed too. That was what I clung on to, that was how it was supposed to be.

CUT TO:

38

INT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE. JASMINE'S BEDROOM - LATER

38

Ashley walks into the newly decorated bedroom with her hands covering Jasmine's eyes. Reece is behind them, with his hands covering Ashley's eyes, he guides them all in.

They all take their hands away and see the room in all its glory. Jasmine goes crazy with excitement.

Ashley turns to Reece who hands her a present.

ASHLEY

What is it?

He just stands there smiling, piquing her curiosity.

REECE

Open it.

She does and her eyes light up. She takes an iphone out of the bag. *

*

ASHLEY

Ahhh, thank you baby.

REECE

D'you like it?

ASHLEY

I love it.

They hug and kiss. Smiling at each other. *

*

CUT TO:

39

INT. SUPERMARKET. - DAY

39

There is a buzz. A text message fills the screen.

MESSAGE FROM REECE
Where r u? Send a photo x

We see a camera-phone photo of Ashley and Lauren in the supermarket aisle.

CUT TO:

39a INT. ASHLEY'S MUM'S HOUSE - DAY

39a

There's a buzz.

MESSAGE FROM REECE
Where r u?

We see photo of Ashley at her mum's kitchen table.

CUT TO:

39b EXT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE - DAY

39b

There's a buzz.

MESSAGE FROM REECE
Where r u?

A photo of Ashley and her neighbour Siobhan sitting on Ashley's doorstep.

CUT TO:

39c INT. KISS BOUTIQUE SHOP FLOOR - DAY

39c

A photo of Ashley at her job in the Kiss boutique.

CUT TO:

39d INT. TOILET - DAY

39d

A photo of Ashley in the toilet.

MESSAGE FROM REECE
Where r u?

MESSAGE FROM REECE
Where r u?

MESSAGE FROM REECE
WHERE THE FUCK ARE YOU?

CUT TO:

40

INT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE. BATHROOM - NIGHT

40

Ashley is brushing her teeth. Her mouth is full of toothpaste. Jasmine sits on the landing outside, playing with a toy.

CUT TO:

REECE
So why didn't you answer it?

ASHLEY
I told you. I didn't hear it.

REECE
Don't lie to me. You turned it off didn't you?! Why did you turn it off?!

ASHLEY
It's got a battery Reece, it runs out...

REECE
Bullshit, you turned off coz you were with someone. So who was it?

ASHLEY
You're ridiculous.....

Reece grabs her hair and pulls her back.

ASHLEY
Ow ow, okay, okay...

REECE
... Why you doing this to me! You feel good, taking the piss out of me?

ASHLEY
I'm not, I promise.
(pain)
I didn't do anything...

Pulling her out of sight.

REECE
Lying bitch.....

*

CUT TO:

41

EXT. VIEW OF ASHLEY'S HOUSE FROM OUTSIDE - NIGHT

41

Siobhan, Ashley's neighbour, walks up to her front door. She puts her key in the door and listens to the escalating row for a moment then goes into her house.

CUT TO:

42

EXT. VIEW OF ASHLEY'S HOUSE FROM OUTSIDE - NIGHT

42

Siobhan stands in her bedroom with her coat on. She listens to Ashley and Reece with her phone in her hand.

There's the sound of a physical fight. Increasingly violent crashes, thuds and screams.

Siobhan dials the police.

EMERGENCY OPERATOR
Which emergency service do you require?

SIOBHAN
Police.

CUT TO:

43 EXT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

43

Ashley, now completely calm, talks to two police officers, one male, one female, at the door.

ASHLEY

It was just an argument on the phone.

MALE POLICE OFFICER O.S.

Who were you arguing with?

ASHLEY

My boyfriend.

They look at her. There's a pause. Ashley looks back at them.

FEMALE POLICE OFFICER O.S.

How did you get that bruise on your face?

Her hand moves to a red mark on her jaw.

ASHLEY

Oh ...that's from yesterday. I was dressing my daughter and she jerked her head back.

The female police officer gives Ashley a long level look. Ashley looks uncomfortable.

MALE POLICE OFFICER O.S.

Where's your boyfriend now?

ASHLEY

I don't know. At his flat probably.

MALE POLICE OFFICER O.S.

Where's his flat?

There's a slight pause as Ashley thinks. The policewoman watches her face. Ashley avoids her eye.

ASHLEY

Radford.

FEMALE POLICE OFFICER O.S.

Miss Brittle? If you feel threatened in any way, by anyone, we can help you.

(CONTINUED)

43

CONTINUED:

43

ASHLEY

No. Honestly, it was just a row on
the phone.

44

INT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

44

Ashley closes the door on the police. She stands on her own for a moment before Reece comes out of the kitchen. She walks over to him, he takes her into his arms.

REECE
You alright Jones?

ASHLEY
We've got to stop doing this.

He nuzzles her hair and she closes her eyes.

CUT TO:

45

INT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE . BEDROOM - DAY

45

Ashley sits at the mirror. She winces as she applies make-up to cover the bruise along her jaw.

Reece plays around with Jasmine nearby.

REECE
I'm gonna get you!

Jasmine shrieks with delight.

Ashley gazes at the now, almost invisible, bruise.

ASHLEY V.O.
TBW: The thing about a bruise is that it doesn't tell the whole twisted, confusing story; it doesn't tell how he made me feel I was responsible; that I'd provoked him, wound him up. Or afterwards, how he begged me to forgive him and told me that I was his life...and how close we could be afterwards; it was just us against the world.

CUT TO:

46

INT. JO'S HOUSE - DAY

46

Ashley is in Jo's house doing her nails. They talk as she applies the nail polish.

JO
.... Everyone has fights... It's normal.

Ashley focusses on the nail.

ASHLEY
Yeah (beat) Is he ever violent with you though?

Jo thinks.

JO
Nah, not really, I mean he doesn't drag me round by the hair or anything.

Ashley half laughs

JO
To be honest, I'm the violent one.

Ashley looks at her.

ASHLEY
Do you hit him?

Jo chuckles.

JO
He calls me Amir Khan.

They laugh...

ASHLEY
(tentative,
confiding)
Yeah but me and Reece, we do have some really crazy fights.

JO
(not getting it)
Yeah, but that's 'cause you're passionate isn't it?

Ashley thinks for a moment. Then she nods.

(CONTINUED)

46

CONTINUED:

46

ASHLEY

You're right. I couldn't go out
with someone if it was boring.
Could you?

JO

Nah. I need someone with something
about them, no time for boring.

The door bell rings. Ashley gets up, runs out to the hall
to open it.

CUT TO:

47

INT. JO'S HALL - DAY

47

Ashley lets Reece in. He's got his phone and car keys in his hand.

ASHLEY
(to Reece)
I'm nearly done. I'll be two
minutes.

Reece gives her a pissed off look. He points at the time on his phone. Ashley goes into the kitchen. Reece follows.

Ashley sits down to finish Jo's nails, trying to control her fear.

Reece leans against the counter behind Jo. Jo looks back over her shoulder at him and smiles at him.

JO
Hiya Reece. Y'alright?

REECE
Yeah, I'm good. You alright?

JO
Yeah, we've been putting the world to rights haven't we Ash?

Jo turns back to face Ashley.

ASHLEY
Yeah, the world is now officially sorted.

Ashley smiles and looks up at Reece. He's glowering dangerously at her.

REECE
(silently mouthing
the words)
Hurry up!.

JO
(to Reece)
Reece, there's a beer in the
fridge if you want it.

REECE
(light)
You're alright, thanks. I don't
drink when I'm driving...

He glares at Ashley.

(CONTINUED)

47

CONTINUED:

47

REECE
...in case I kill someone.

JO
Or kill yourself!

Reece directs a dirty look at the back of Jo's head.

JO
I tell you what Reece, she's well
talented your Mrs. Come and have a
look at these.

She turns and smiles at him. Reluctantly, Reece pulls
himself away from the counter.

JO
Are those amazing or what?!

As Reece comes near and looks down at Jo's nails Ashley
jerks nervously and knocks the bottle of nail polish. It
splashes onto Jo's nails and the table.

Reece turns away, wanting to laugh.

CASEY
Oh no!

ZOE
Shit.

ASHLEY
I've ruined it!

JO
(a little irritated)
No you haven't. It'll be fine.

ASHLEY
I'm really sorry.

Jo dabs at the spill with cotton wool. The cotton wool
sticks to Jo's nails.

ASHLEY
Careful, it's sticking to your
nails.

Jo tries to pick the fluff off and gets polish all over
the rest of her fingers.

JO
Oh no!

Reece throws his keys up into the air catches them with a
cheerful air and walks towards the door.

REECE
I'll wait in the car.

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED: (2)

47

ASHLEY

(to Jo)
Are you annoyed?

JO

(a bit annoyed)
Of course I'm not annoyed.

ASHLEY

I'm really sorry.

The door shuts.

CUT TO:

48

INT. ANN SUMMER'S PARTY. SUBURBAN LIVING ROOM- NIGHT

48

The SOUND of a woman moaning as she reaches an orgasm.

JO
Oh! Oh! Oh!

Jo finishes her (fake) orgasm to applause and laughter.

There are several young boozy women in the room (including Lauren, Sabrina, Michaela and Jo) some of them are wearing sexy outfits; french maid, army, bondage ... On the table there are near empty bottles of wine and crisps and a selection of sex toys.

The party organiser holds a vibrator towards Sabrina as if it's a microphone.

PARTY ORGANISER
Scores out of ten please?

Sabrina holds up a score card.

SABRINA
One out of ten...

JO
There's no way a bloke'd know that
were fake!

SABRINA
I thought you were having a stroke.

The girls shriek with laughter.

JO
(sarcastic)
Ha. Ha.

PARTY ORGANISER
(mock concern)
Can you move your arms love?

JO
(laughing)
Shut up!

The girls laugh.

The door opens and Ashley sticks her head round. They all look over.

(CONTINUED)

48

CONTINUED:

48

*

LAUREN
Come on, let's see.

Ashley laughs.

ASHLEY
I need a drink first.

PARTY ORGANISER
Somebody sort this woman out she's
asking for a stiff one!

Someone offers Ashley a bottle of Lambrini and someone else offers her a vibrator. Ashley grabs the Lambrini, swigs from the bottle and starts to shut the door, then she opens it again and grabs the vibrator too. Everyone laughs. They watch the door in anticipation.

They start chanting and stamping their feet.

THE GIRLS
Ashley! Ashley!

The door swings open and Ashley is revealed as a sexy cheer leader. The girls whoop and cheer.

Ashley laughs and waves her pom-poms.

ASHLEY
Gimme a D. Gimme an R. Gimme an
I.N.K!

A camera FLASHES as Becky (26) takes a photo.

Becky laughs at the picture of Ashley on her camera then runs over to her computer laughing. She plugs the camera into the USB socket.

CUT TO:

49

INT. KIM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

49

Reece is on the computer in KIM'S house. He is in a t-shirt and his boxers. Kim wears just a t-shirt. She walks up behind Reece and slides her arms around him. He looks up at her. She kisses him.

KIM

What you doing?

REECE

Nothing.

KIM

(walking off)

Doesn't look like nothing?

CUT TO:

50

INT. ANN SUMMER'S PARTY- NIGHT

50

Ashley is sitting on the arm of the sofa next to Sabrina Jo and Lauren they are smelling novelty condoms and cracking up.

ASHLEY
This one smells of cheesy Wotsits!

JO
I bet Reece's got a cheesy wotsit,
eh Ash?

ASHLEY
Shut up you nutter. His is more of
a Monster Munch!

They all laugh. Ashley stops laughing abruptly when she notices Becky is on FaceBook. She realises that she is posting the photograph of her in the cheerleader outfit. She stands up.

ASHLEY
What are you doing?!

Becky looks round, shocked at the tone of her voice. The other guests all look at Ashley.

BECKY
(bewildered)
Putting it on FaceBook.

ASHLEY
Take it off!

BECKY
Why? What's the problem...

ASHLEY
Please. Just delete it!

Ashley is almost in tears. Lauren stands up and looks at the screen.

LAUREN
You've gotta take that off right
now.

BECKY
OK, OK. I'm deleting it.

Ashley picks up her pom-poms and rushes to the bedroom watched by everyone.

CUT TO:

51

INT. BEDROOM. ANN SUMMER'S PARTY - NIGHT

51

Ashley leans on the door. Her cheerleader reflection visible in the bedroom mirror.

PARTY ORGANISER O.S.
What was that all about?

BECKY O.S.
I don't know, she just went mad...

SABRINA O.S.
Would you mind not discussing my friend behind her back?

LAUREN O.S.
Yeah, shut up!

Tears of anger and shame well in Ashley's eyes as she tugs off the stupid costume. Sabrina comes into the bedroom.

SABRINA
You alright?

Ashley nods, not looking at Sabrina. Sabrina sees bruises on Ashley's back. Sabrina stops her and holds her still for a moment so she can see properly.

SABRINA
Oh my God ... Ashley (beat) Is it that bad?

When Sabrina lets go Ashley pulls her long socks down and severe burns are revealed on the back of her legs. Sabrina's hand flies to her mouth in shock. Tears fill her eyes as she and Ashley look at each other.

There's laughter in the other room.

PARTY ORGANISER O.S.
Right then ladies, now we're gonna play a little game called 'suck and blow'!

CUT TO:

52

INT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE . LIVING ROOM - DAY

52

Sabrina has come to visit Ashley. They sit in the living room with mugs of hot chocolate.

Behind them, in the kitchen Reece and Jasmine are making fairy cakes. They are both covered in icing. Jasmine is having a great time.

REECE
(to Jasmine)
Oh my gosh. That looks so delicious.

Reece glances towards the living room to where Ashley and Sabrina are talking.

ASHLEY
(for Reece's benefit)
So she says she's gonna recommend me to her friends at work.

SABRINA
Great.

Reece looks away.

SABRINA
(quietly and kindly)
Ash... you've got to leave him.

Sabrina waits for some response.

ASHLEY
It's not as simple as that.

SABRINA
Why isn't it? He beats the crap out of you... if he did that to someone in the street, he'd go to jail.

Suddenly Reece is in the living room, smiling, helping Jasmine carry a wobbling plate of cupcakes.

REECE
Jasmine's made you princess cupcakes. Haven't you baby?

Jasmine holds the plate out to Ashley and Sabrina. Ashley takes one.

ASHLEY
Oh thank you baby, it's so beautiful!

(CONTINUED)

52

CONTINUED:

52

Sabrina takes one too and smiles, avoiding eye contact with Reece.

SABRINA

Ahhh, that's lovely Jasmine. Thank you!

He steers jasmine back to the kitchen. Ashley watches them then turns back to Sabrina.

ASHLEY

And what about Jasmine? She loves him to bits.

Sabrina looks at her with disbelief.

SABRINA

D'you really want her to grow up thinking this is normal?

Ashley looks extremely uncomfortable.

ASHLEY

She doesn't really see anything.

SABRINA

Oh Ashley, come on... she's in the house...

ASHLEY

Look, I know how it looks but a lot of the time I start it. I wind him up, I hit him too.

Sabrina gives her a level look.

SABRINA

I'm sorry but that's just bollocks. Look at the size of him; you probably couldn't hurt him if you tried!

Ashley is lost for words. Reece watches them from the kitchen, his expression anxious, vulnerable.

Sabrina reaches for Ashley's hand and looks at her with great sympathy.

SABRINA

You can come and stay with me. Whatever you want... I'll be there for you...

Sabrina looks at Ashley, waiting for a response that doesn't come. Ashley looks into her eyes, apologetic. They're both near to tears.

(CONTINUED)

52

CONTINUED: (2)

52

Sabrina gets choked up. Ashley starts to speak but her lip wobbles and she shuts her mouth.

SABRINA

I love you so much... but I won't
be able to stand it if you stay.

ASHLEY

Sab...

They look at each other. Sabrina stands up fighting tears.

SABRINA

(gutted)

I'm so sorry.

Ashley stands up too. Sabrina gives Ashley, whose arms hang limply by her side, a heartfelt hug.

SABRINA

(whispers)

Please leave him Ashley.

Sabrina goes to the kitchen and kisses Jasmine then she leaves. She doesn't say goodbye to Reece.

REECE

Bye Sabrina!

Ashley watches tearfully through the blinds as Sabrina walks away.

Ashley turns round to see Reece wiping chocolate from Jasmine's face. Reece looks up and gives her a sweet smile.

REECE

You ok Jones?

Ashley nods, half smiles. She goes into the kitchen to help clean up.

ASHLEY V.O.

It hurt so much to see her walk away... but after all, this was my family.

CUT TO:

53

INT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE . LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

53

Ashley sits on the sofa with the TV on. Reece is on the sofa asleep, his head on her lap. Ashley gazes down at him, really looking at him, and strokes his unguarded, sleeping face.

There's a buzz. Ashley looks around to see where it's coming from. She reaches between the sofa cushions and retrieves Reece' phone. She looks at it. There's a message. Ashley hesitates, then opens it and reads.

Ashley stands up suddenly, jolting Reece' head. Reece squints and looks up at her. She stares at him, his phone in her hand. He sits up. He sees the phone and her expression. With a shaking hand she holds the phone up and shows him the message.

ASHLEY

Who's Kim?

Reece sighs, rubs his forehead.

REECE

It doesn't matter.

ASHLEY

Yes it does! I want to know who she is!

REECE

She's nobody alright?

She looks at him with disbelief.

ASHLEY

If she's nobody then why are you fucking her?!

He sighs again and shakes his head.

REECE

(Cool)
You're sick d'you know that?

She looks at him open mouthed.

ASHLEY

I'm sick?!

He tugs the phone out of her hand. He doesn't look at the message.

(CONTINUED)

53

CONTINUED:

53

REECE
I'm getting so tired of this
shit...

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED: (2)

53

ASHLEY
Don't change the subject!

REECE
... I do everything for you.

ASHLEY
That's not what I'm talking about!

REECE
I baby-sit all the time so you can
go out...

ASHLEY
It's not 'baby-sitting' if it's
your own daught...

REECE
Do I look after Jasmine so you can
go out? Yes or no?!

ASHLEY
I wasn't talking about that ...

REECE
Yes or no?!

Ashley's frustrated but trapped by his question.

ASHLEY
Yes!

REECE
And do I give you money? Yes or
no?

She doesn't want to answer.

REECE
Ashley, do I give you money?!

ASHLEY
Yes!

REECE
I drive you around, I buy you
presents, treat you like a
princess.....

Ashley drops her head.

REECE
Yes or no? Don't you look away
from me. Look at me, look at me.

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED: (3)

53

The sound of Reece's steady, cool verbal pummelling continues but drops down under Ashley's voice over.

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED: (4)

53

ASHLEY V.O.

TBW: About how Reece could
confuse her and it felt like
wading through mud when arguing
with him etc. Time on.

The argument between Reece and Ashley can be heard
clearly again.

ASHLEY

Sorry. I'm sorry.....

Ashley doesn't know what to say. She's confused and no
longer knows the answer to his question.

REECE

I don't understand why you treat
me like this.

ASHLEY

(shaken)

But...

REECE

Is this about your weight? Cause
if it's making you this insecure,
you really need to do something
about it.

Reece walks out of the room leaving Ashley diminished.

CUT TO:

54

EXT. KIM'S HOUSE. DAY

54

Ashley is pushing Jasmine in the pram towards the front door of a small semi.

She gets to the front door and looks through the glass pane into the house before ringing the doorbell.

Kim opens the door.

ASHLEY

This is Reece's daughter. I WANT
YOU TO STAY AWAY!

ASHLEY pushes the pram away, trying not to cry.

KIM

I don't know wha....

ASHLEY

(without looking
back)

He's my man, get your own.

(to herself)

Get your own.....

CUT TO:

55

INT. KISS BOUTIQUE SHOP FLOOR/CUBICLE - DAY

55

Reece walks through the shop door and straight through towards the rear changing rooms. He looks around furiously for Ashley.

*
*

EMMA

What you doing? Reece...

Ashley is helping a customer in the back. Nearby, a student waits for his girlfriend.

*
*

EMMA - SHOP MANAGER

(screams)

Ashley!

Ashley looks round. Before she can react he headbutts her to the floor.

STUDENT

Mate. Take it easy...

Reece raises his fist and he and his girlfriend run out.

Reece drags Ashley to a cubicle.

REECE

Stay out of my business.

He starts punching her.

CUT TO:

56

INT. SHOP - DAY

56

As the students runs out, Emma and another girl are watching the attack on the security monitor.

EMMA

(on the phone)

It's Kiss in the Mum Centre ...

Yes, he's still here now.

Emma and the others run to the back of the shop.

CUT TO:

57

INT. CUBICLE - DAY

57

Ashley is barely conscious, her face bloody.

Reece walks out as Emma and the girl come into the
cubicle. They try to comfort her.

Mustering as much defiance as she can, she shouts after
Reece.

ASHLEY

It's over, it's
fucking over...

*
*
*
*

CUT TO:

58

EXT. ASHLEY'S GARDEN - DAY

58*

A plane leaves a vapour trail across a clear winter sky. *

There's a burst of music. Ashley, Michaela and Lauren fly into view. They are on the big trampoline in Ashley's garden. Fading bruises are still visible on Ashley's body.

There are glasses and a bottle of wine on the back doorstep. Music plays through the kitchen window. Inside, Ashley's mum is doing the washing up and chuckling at Ashley and the girls.

The girls try to co-ordinate, bouncing in time to the music, acting like kids. They keep on cracking up.

On a blanket on the grass Ashley's phone vibrates with a call from Reece.

CUT TO:

59

INT. ASHLEY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

59

Ashley and Lauren lie facing each other. They talk quietly.

LAUREN
(sleepily)
Please don't take him back this time Ash.

LAUREN
You know he's never gonna change.

Ashley sighs.

ASHLEY
Yeah ... I know... it's just sad
'cause I always wanted all my
babies to have the same daddy.
D'you know what I mean?

LAUREN
Yeah, but he's not a daddy.

ASHLEY
He's a good dad to Jasmine!

LAUREN
A good dad, doesn't treat the
mother his child like this? No,
he's not a good dad.

Ashley looks at her friend, she knows she's right.

LAUREN
You're so beautiful Ashley. You
could have someone who really,
really loved you, and Jas.

ASHLEY
D'you think so?

LAUREN
(almost asleep)
Yeah, really, really.

Ashley lies in bed thinking, smiling. When Lauren is asleep. She climbs out of bed and goes downstairs.

CUT TO:

60

INT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

60

Ashley is on FaceBook in her pyjamas. There's a friend request from Jamie. She looks at it for a long moment, thinking. Her phone buzzes with a text message from Reece. She turns it off.

She thinks about clicking 'accept' but decides against it.

CUT TO:

61

INT. ASHLEY'S BEDROOM - DAY

61

Ashley straightens her hair and talks on her mobile. She has a glamorous set of clothes laid out on the bed in the shape of a person. An overnight bag sits open on the bed too.

CASEY

(into the phone)
I've got a coral vest top
with a see-through top over
it so the colour comes
through. Short coral skirt,
thick black tights ...

CASEY V.O.

So I did it, I took my life
back; I was young, I had
great hair (even if I say
so myself!) and the world
was my oyster ... sort of.

Ashley hears a car. She looks out the window and groans when she sees Reece.

ASHLEY

(into the phone)
Hold on, it's him again.

She ducks down, out of sight, under the window. Reece knocks on the door.

REECE

Ashley!

Ashley sits holding her breath.

REECE

Ashley, please! I just wanna talk!

He knocks again.

REECE

I know you're in there!

Ashley doesn't move. He kicks the door once then walks back to his car. When she hears the car pull away Ashley gets up to watch it.

ASHLEY

(into phone)
He's gone

She listens.

ASHLEY

Can you beep when you're outside.
okay.... Can't wait!

(CONTINUED)

61

CONTINUED:

61

Ashley puts the phone down, looks out of the window,
continues straightening her hair.

CUT TO:

62

INT. LEICESTER HOTEL - DAY

62

Ashley, Michaela Lauren and a couple of other girls get their room key cards from the reception desk. Sabrina is also present. There is a bit of awkwardness between her and Ashley, but they have an unspoken understanding that this moment is not about them, but their dear friend. They exchange nods.

Another group of noisy hens wearing angel wings are getting ready to party.

ASHLEYS' GROUP

Whey hey!

ANGEL HENS

Whey hey!

CUT TO:

63

INT. LEICESTER HOTEL CORRIDOR - NIGHT

63

Michaela (in a bridesmaid's veil) and the others totter along the corridor in their high heels, hen sashes and tiny sparkling top hats. They rap on Lauren and Ashley's hotel room door.

MICHAELA

Come on girls! Get yer arses out here!

Ashley and Lauren come out of the room all done up. Michaela puts sashes on them. They all cheer. Together they stride arm in arm along the hotel corridor laughing and singing.

CUT TO:

64

INT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

64

The girls are loud and full of fun, dancing to cheesy dance floor hits. Ashley and Lauren sit at a table populated with lurid cocktails.

LAUREN
(To Ashley)
You should call Jamie.

Ashley looks at her with alarm tinged with excitement.

ASHLEY
What?

LAUREN
Yeah! Why not?! He's been into you since ... forever! I bet he'd come tonight if you asked him.

Ashley thinks then shakes her head.

ASHLEY
I can't.

Lauren rolls her eyes and picks up Ashley's phone and starts texting.

ASHLEY
What are you doing?!

LAUREN
Texting him.

ASHLEY
Lauren! Wait, give it here I'll do it myself.

Ashley grabs the phone back and begins to text.

CUT TO:

65

INT. NIGHTCLUB - LATER

65

The girls are on the dance floor dancing with some drunk guys. Ashley sits nursing a drink.

CUT TO:

66

INT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

66

It's now near the end of the night and the DJ is playing slow dance numbers. Ashley stirs her straw around her cocktail and watches her friends dance drunkenly.

She looks up at the door and can't suppress a huge smile. There's Jamie. His face lights up when he sees her.

He walks over to her smiling, accidentally in time to the music, then he takes her hand and starts to dance. She looks around anxiously then decides to go with it, she laughs as she does.

JAMIE

(kidding)

I'm here ... now what are your other two wishes?

Ashley groans. So does he.

ASHLEY

Oh my God.

JAMIE

Yeah, that was bad.

He's so confident, relaxed and warm. He continues his silly dance and she joins in.

CUT TO:

67

INT. NIGHTCLUB - LATER STILL

67

Glimpsed through the dancing bodies, Jamie talks quietly into Ashley's ear then strokes a strand of her hair away from her face. They laugh and look very comfortable together.

CUT TO:

68

INT. NIGHTCLUB - LATER STILL

68

There's only one person, who's off her face, still dancing. Ashley and Jamie stand up. He picks up her bag and they walk to the exit.

Lauren and Michaela watch in amazement.

LAUREN

I might have to stay in your room
tonight.

MICHAELA

(heartfelt)
Oh God, I hope so.

CUT TO:

69

NT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

69

In the dim light of her hotel room Ashley and Jamie kiss.
They break off and they smile at each other.

JAMIE

We don't have to do anything if
you don't want.

Ashley smiles at him, shy but excited.

ASHLEY

No...but what if I want to?

He moves in to kiss her again.

CUT TO:

70 EXT. HOTEL CORRIDOR - NIGHT

70

The girls pass Ashley's room, whispering and listening.

CUT TO:

71 INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

71

Ashley and Jamie are leaning on their elbows in the dishevelled bed.

She looks at his face and smiles, relaxed and happy.

ASHLEY

When we get back shall we go out,
see a film or something?

Jamie looks uncomfortable. He sits up. It takes a long moment for him to find the right words.

JAMIE

Ashley, I really like you...

She watches his face, her smile faltering.

ASHLEY

Don't worry, it's just a film.

JAMIE

Reece, you know what he'd do.

ASHLEY

What do you mean? We're not together anymore.

JAMIE

I don't think that matters. He'd kill both of us.

Ashley looks at him, utterly gutted.

JAMIE

If we moved out of Nottingham...

Ashley struggles to hold back her tears.

ASHLEY

But it's my life. It's not up to him!

Jamie is unable to hold her gaze.

JAMIE

I'm really sorry.

CUT TO:

72

EXT. FRONT OF HOTEL. DAY

72

All the girls are in front of the hotel with their suitcases. Everyone but Ashley is chatting and having a laugh. She is in her own world.

MICHAELA

...I know, she was sick in the lift as well.

They laugh

LAUREN

She still had the full English breakfast though.

MICHAELA

Greedy sod.

Ashley's phone rings. It's Reece. She stares at and lets it ring out.

ASHLEY V.O.

TBW: The future.

CUT TO:

73

INT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE - DAY

73

Ashley is in the kitchen cooking. He phone rings. She ignores it and continues stirring. It rings again. She throws the wooden spoon down and answers it.

ASHLEY
Stop calling. I'm turning it off.

She turns the phone off, slams it on the table and returns to her cooking.

The land line rings. She keeps stirring.

CUT TO:

74

INT. KISS BOUTIQUE SHOP FLOOR - ANOTHER DAY

74

Ashley puts clothes out on the rails. The phone rings and Emma picks up.

EMMA
Kiss clothing, hello. Hello.

Ashley watches as Emma hangs up and looks at her, sympathetic.

CUT TO:

75

INT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE . LIVING ROOM - DAY

75

She sits curled up in a ball on the sofa. She picks her phone up and dials.

ASHLEY
(overly bright)
Hiya!

MUM
Hi ya. You alright?

Ashley smiles but looks like she could cry.

ASHLEY
Yeah, just wanted to talk. You alright?

ASHLEY V.O.
Why hadn't I told her? Why couldn't I tell her just how scared, tired and worn down I was? Where would I start? What would it do to her? Maybe I just didn't know how.

MUM
Yeah. What you up to?

ASHLEY
Just picked Jas up from nursery.
Gonna make dinner in a minute.

Ashley gets up and looks out of the window.

MUM
Oh yeah, I meant to tell you, I went into Next...

Ashley stares out, almost expecting someone to be there.

MUM
... and got that little pink cardigan we were looking at... age 2 -3, I'm wondering if I should've got the next size.

She walks to the front door and checks it's locked.

MUM
Hello?

Ashley pulls the phone back up to her ear.

(CONTINUED)

75

CONTINUED:

75

ASHLEY
What?

(CONTINUED)

75 CONTINUED: (2)

75

MUM
Ashley ... are you sure you're
alright?

CUT TO:

76

INT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - NIGHT

76

BANG.

Ashley in bed wakes up.

CUT TO:

77

INT. ASHLEY'S STAIRS.

77

REECE O.S.
Open the door. I want to talk to
you.

Ashley is on the phone to the police and holding Jasmine.

ASHLEY
(quietly)
No he hasn't gone, he's still
here....

REECE O.S.
You owe me money. I want my money.

Jasmine starts crying.

ASHLEY
How long? How long?
(reacting to more
banging)
Can you hear him kicking the door,
please...

REECE O.S.
Open the door! I wanna see my
daughter.
(sounds broken up)
Jasmine!

Ashley flinches at the sound of him kicking the door.
Then he kicks it again, and again. Jasmine cries.

REECE O.S.
Jas, is that you baby? Daddy wants
to come in and see you.

Police sirens can be heard.

REECE
I wanna talk... Have you called
the police? You called the police
on me, you bitch.
(walking to his car)
You're a bitch Ashley.

CUT TO:

78

INT. SIOBHANS'S HOUSE - NIGHT

78

Siobhan looks out of her window, watching Reece return to his car, barely containing his anger.

CUT TO:

79

EXT. NOTTINGHAM STREET - DUSK

79

Ashley walks past a brightly lit restaurant window. She looks in and notices a middle aged couple who are chatting, they hold hands and look very in love. Ashley slows and stops. She looks at them, transfixed.

ASHLEY V.O.

TBC

The couple turn their heads and look at Ashley. Ashley walks on.

CUT TO:

80

INT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE. LIVING ROOM - DAY

80

ASHLEY V.O.
TBC

Ashley is dressed up, ready to go to Michaela's wedding. She writes out the wedding card 'Wishing you both joy and happiness on your wedding day.' She gazes at it for a moment, lost in her thoughts.

There's a bang on the door. Ashley looks round. Reece speaks through the door.

REECE O.S.
I brought Jas some trainers.

ASHLEY
Leave them on the step.

REECE O.S.
I'm not leaving them there, they
cost sixty quid. Open the door.
I've got something to tell you...

She doesn't answer. For a minute he's silent but he's still there.

REECE O.S.
I've started anger management
classes. I want to change Ashley,
to be better for you and Jasmine.

Ashley doesn't answer. There's another long silence.

REECE O.S.
Is it because you've met someone
else?

Suddenly Ashley is furious.

ASHLEY
(screams)
Just fuck off and leave me alone!

Ashley's phone rings. It's Lauren.

ASHLEY
Lauren, he's outside! I'm sick of
it. I can't do this anymore....

Reece is sitting on the doorstep crying.

(CONTINUED)

80

CONTINUED:

80

REECE O.S.
Please...baby...I just want to
talk to you...I know I've hurt
you.

LAUREN ON THE PHONE
Don't open the door Ashley. Don't
listen to him.

REECE O.S.
Ashley!

Ashley starts to cry, it is too much for her and she
drops the phone as she sinks to the floor.

LAUREN
Casey call the police! SANCHEZ O.S.
I love you Jones ... I
can't live without you.

ASHLEY
(to herself)
Leave me alone. Leave me alone.
ALL OF YOU, LEAVE ME ALONE!!!

For a moment Reece says nothing but still at the door.

REECE O.S.
(tearfully)
I'm never gonna let you go Ashley,
you know that don't you? We belong
together. I'm never ever gonna let
you go!

Ashley puts her hands over her ears. She goes to the
stereo and turns the music on loud enough to drown Reece
out. She closes her eyes and starts to sway to it, sobs
escaping, letting herself be filled by the music.

ASHLEY V.O
To be written.

CUT TO:

81

INT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE - DAY

81

Ashley sits at the kitchen table with Reece. There's a huge bunch of flowers on the table. Reece is ebulliently happy. Ashley is spent and diminished. Reece grips her hands across the table and looks at her adoringly.

REECE

We'll never find what we've got
with anyone else. You know that
don't you babe?

She smiles but it doesn't reach her eyes.

REECE

Cause what we've got is real.
That's why it gets so crazy
sometimes.

He takes a ring box out of his pocket. He pushes it towards her. She looks at the box then at him.

She opens it. It's an engagement ring.

Her eyes fill with tears. He smiles and leans across the table and kisses her. Reece takes her hand and pushes the ring onto her finger.

REECE

I love you Jones.

ASHLEY V.O.

The only thing I knew about love,
was that this wasn't it.

CUT TO:

82

INT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE . BEDROOM - DAY

82

Reece is intense and passionate as he has sex with Ashley. Her expression, as she looks up at the ceiling, is one of deep sorrow, pain and hopelessness.

ASHLEY V.O.
I had given up on that emotion.

CUT TO:

83

INT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE - BEDROOM

83

Ashley lies on her side, facing away from Reece whose arm is draped around her holding her close.

REECE

Let's start fresh Ash. We're getting married so let's not have any secrets between us. You know about me and Kim. I'm not proud of it, but I don't want us to go forward not knowing everything about each other. Clean slate.

Fear flickers across Ashley's face.

ASHLEY

OK.

REECE

So has there been anyone?

ASHLEY

No.

REECE

(teasing tone)

Are you sure? We were on a break.

ASHLEY

Yes.

REECE

What about when you went to Leicester?

Ashley starts with shock. Reece feels it. He knows. Ashley closes her eyes. She knows he does. For a moment there's silence as they both think.

REECE

(trying to sound calm)

We were on a break so I'm not angry but I need to know so we can draw a line under it.

There's a silence.

ASHLEY

I told you. Nothing happened.

She turns round to face him. She kisses him and looks into his eyes.

(CONTINUED)

83

CONTINUED:

83

ASHLEY

Why would I want anyone else when
I've got you?

She kisses him.

ASHLEY

Why would I want anyone else?

She starts to initiate sex as a distraction

CUT TO:

84

EXT. CHINESE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

84

Ashley, Michaela and Lauren meet outside the Chinese Restaurant. Ashley looks dishevelled but happy to see her friends.

They hug each other and go inside.

CUT TO:

85

INT. NOTTINGHAM BAR - NIGHT

85

Reece is at a bar drinking alone. He watches women as they come up to the bar for drinks.

CUT TO:

86

INT. CHINESE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

86

The waiter shows them to a seat and gives them menus.

LAUREN

(To Ashley)

Alright. Lets have a look at it
then.

Ashley smiles and holds her hand out. They look at her ring for a couple of seconds. Lauren looks sad. Michaela looks away as soon as she can and examines her menu.

MICHAELA

Right, so what are we having then?

ASHLEY

I'll have a 69.

LAUREN

(playing dumb)

Alright, let me have a drink
first?

They all laugh.

CUT TO:

87

INT. NOTTINGHAM BAR - NIGHT

87

Reece, drunk, speaks to a girl in the bar. She says hello; she seems to know him.

REECE

You know Ashley? My girlfriend.

GIRL

I know her?

REECE

She fucked someone in Leicester,
who was it?

GIRL

(shaking her head)
I don't know. Idiot.

She starts to walk away before he grabs her.

REECE

Oi, I'm talking to you....

The bouncers see this and walk over

CUT TO:

88

EXT. CHINESE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

88

After their meal Lauren and Michaela say goodbye to Ashley outside. It's freezing.

LAUREN

Why didn't you bring a coat you nutter?

Ashley laughs.

ASHLEY

I dunno. I'm freezing. I wish we could stay out longer.

MICHAELA

Next time eh? You alright getting home?

ASHLEY

Course.

Ashley watches them walk away, her melancholy smile fading to outright sadness. Suddenly she runs after them.

ASHLEY

Wait! Where's my hug?

When she reaches them she throws her arms round them and holds them tight.

CUT TO:

89

INT. JASMINE'S ROOM - NIGHT

89

Jasmine is fast asleep in her bed. Ashley comes in the room.

She kneels down by the cot/bed and looks down at her lovingly. She shakes her gently to wake her up.

ASHLEY
(whispers)
Jasmine.

Jasmine wakes up squinting.

ASHLEY
Can mummy have a cuddle?

Ashley picks Jasmine up and with her sleepy head on her shoulder she holds her close.

CUT TO:

90

EXT. STREET - LATER

90

Reece walks down the street away from the nightclub.

CUT TO:

91

INT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

91

The sound of the front door being opened.

Ashley sits up sharply, her whole body alert. Ashley's heart pounds. Footsteps come up the stairs. Ashley pretends to be asleep but her heart bangs in her chest. Light slices across the room as the door swings open. Reece gets in to bed. He puts her arm around her and holds her against him in the dark.

REECE

I just want to know his name.
Did he talk to you first or did
you talk to him?

Ashley pretends to be asleep.

REECE

Answer me. Come on I know you're
awake.

A long pause.

ASHLEY

He talked to me.

REECE

What did he say?

ASHLEY

He said 'Hiya.'

REECE

What did you say?

ASHLEY

I said 'Hiya.' back.

REECE

All your mates saw this going on?

ASHLEY

There was nothing going on!

REECE

Did he touch you?

ASHLEY

No.

REECE

What did you talk about?

(CONTINUED)

91

CONTINUED:

91

ASHLEY
Reece, I don't remember!

(CONTINUED)

91 CONTINUED: (2)

91

REECE
Did you fuck him?

ASHLEY
No. No!

REECE
Did you sleep with him?

ASHLEY
No! I've just said no.

REECE
Stop lying! Just tell me the
truth! Did you fuck him?

ASHLEY
(breaking)
Yes! Yes Yes yes I did. Happy now,
yes I did.

There is a moment of silence then...

Reece, drags her out of the bed, punching her whilst he does.

She drops by the side of the bed, holding a pillow which gets ripped in the struggle.....

CUT TO:

92

INT. JASMINE'S ROOM - NIGHT

92

Jasmine gets out of bed, hearing the sound of a struggle.

CUT TO:

93

INT. ASHLEY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

93

Jasmine walks in to the room and screams. Reece stops beating Ashley and walks over to her.

REECE
(containing his fury)
It's alright baby. Let's go back
to bed.

ASHLEY is left hidden by the bed, groaning in agony.....

CUT TO:

94

INT. ASHLEY'S NEIGHBOURS BEDROOM - NIGHT

94

Siobhan is woken by a commotion next door. She looks at the clock. It's 2am. She groans and pulls the pillows over her head to block out the sound.

CUT TO:

95

INT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE. ASHLEY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

95

Grainy light creeps through the blinds of Ashley's bedroom.

On the bedroom floor the ironing board lies shattered into pieces. Clothes and bedding are strewn and tangled on the floor and stained dark with blood. There are feathers from a torn pillow everywhere.

Ashley's hand - a couple of her nails are ripped - is visible from behind the bed, which lies askew across the room.

Reece sits on the end of the bed in silence.

CUT TO:

96

INT. ASHLEY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

96

Jasmine looks down at her mother lying smashed and broken in the chaos of the wrecked bedroom. Her face surrounded by white feathers from the pillow. Jasmine sits down next to Ashley. In the distance sirens begin to sound.

ASHLEY V.O.

TBC

TEXT

As Ashley lay dying Reece called his girlfriend for an alibi. Four hours later he finally let her call for help. Amongst her many injuries, Ashley died of a cardiac arrest in the ambulance.

We see a photograph of Reece.

TEXT

Reece Williams was charged with murder and was sentenced to life imprisonment.

We see a photograph of Ashley accompanied by her name and her date of birth and death.

TEXT

In Britain, two women a week die as a result of domestic abuse. You are most likely to be a victim between the ages of 16 to 24.

We pull out to see that Ashley's photograph is one of many, a mosaic of photographs of women murdered by their partners.

THE END