

1 OMITTED 1

2 MOVED TO SCENE 3A 2

3 EXT. MCGREGOR HOUSE - MORNING 17 3

Dawn. A trail of red and pink spread across the sky.

Pre-lap: the sound of a ringing phone.

CUT TO:

3A INT. MCGREGOR HOUSE. BOYS BEDROOM - MORNING 17 3A

In the murky light we find Jude, passed out in a drunken stupor. On the bed beside, Callum is very much awake. His eyes boring a hole into the ceiling.

CUT TO:

3B INT. MCGREGOR HOUSE. MEGGIE & RYAN'S ROOM - MORNING 17 3B

Meggie's eyes suddenly flick open.

CUT TO:

4 INT. HADLEY HOUSE. KAMAL'S OFFICE - MORNING 17 4

Kamal, wrapped in a dressing gown, at his desk. Shocked. Phone to ear. His secure line.

KAMAL

What?! How...? Wahala... No! This must be handled *delicately*. Last thing I want is a lengthy public inquiry. Or worse.

CUT TO:

5 MOVED TO SCENE 3B 5

6

INT. MCGREGOR HOUSE. KITCHEN - MORNING 17

6

Pale sunlight spilling in through the window as Meggie, bleary-eyed, stands at the stove, sipping coffee while preparing french toast and bacon. On the radio, a political debate. But Meggie's mind is firmly elsewhere, on Ryan.

RADIO VOICE BOLAJI ROTIMI
 ...I'm not saying it's definitive. No! But given the newly appointed PM's previous hardline stance and comments, it seems plausible we'll see far stricter provisions for law and order implemented sooner rather than later.

RADIO VOICE ODODO OTEDOLA
 Oh, you're not?!
 Well, he's yet to be inaugurated!

As the radio commentators descend into an indecipherable squabble, another striking voice interrupts.

RADIO REPORT AARON SHAW
 ...more on that in a moment.
 However, some breaking news just in. We're receiving word that the terrorist Ryan McGregor, otherwise known as the 'The Detonator of Demwa', has died.

Silence as we hurtle into a close up of Meggie's iris. Time seems to slow and distort as she blinks. Now Meggie's POV as the coffee cup slips from her grip and descends to the floor. It shatters with a deafening crash.

CUT TO:

7

INT. HADLEY HOUSE. SEPHY'S BEDROOM - MORNING 17

7

Empty. A school bag on the bed as the TV plays the news.

Sephy, dressed for school, enters, apprehensively opening an email on her phone. A smile erupts across her face as she surveys the acceptance email from Okene University.

Sephy lets out a loud squeal of delight. Within moments, a female government security official enters, closely followed by a raging Minerva, face mask on.

OFFICIAL ABAHI TURAY
Everything all right in here
Ms. Persephone? MINERVA
Do you have any idea what
time it is?!

Sephy is about to speak, and then her eyes fall onto the TV...

NEWS ANCHOR OBIORA AKINTOLA
It seems McGregor's death occurred
last night at Falken maximum
security prison.

Sephy doesn't speak or take her eyes from the TV.

MINERVA
What is it? What's wrong?

CUT TO:

8 **INT. HADLEY HOUSE. KAMAL AND JASMINE'S ROOM - MORNING 17** 8

Dark inside. Jasmine, eye mask on, alone in the bed as Sephy bursts in. Stirring, Jasmine removes her eye mask.

JASMINE
This had better be good.

CUT TO:

NEWS REPORT

A police picture of Ryan McGregor. Dishevelled and brutish.

NEWS ANCHOR OBIORA AKINTOLA
We'll bring you official
confirmation and more on this story
as and when we receive it...

CUT TO:

9 **INT. HADLEY HOUSE. KAMAL'S OFFICE - MORNING 17** 9

NEWS ANCHOR OBIORA AKINTOLA
But in the meantime, in a case
where the leniency of the sentence
had been called in to question,
fate, it seems, has intervened.

Kamal, pre-work, switches off the TV. Takes a moment before straightening his tie and checking his email.

Clicks on one in particular from the Chancellor of Okene-Aprica University, Durojaiye Adekunle, congratulating Kamal on his Premiership and confirming Sephy's place: *"we are delighted and honoured your daughter will be following in your footsteps"* etc. Kamal picks up a photo of Sephy from his desk. Regards it lovingly for a moment. The solution to his problem regarding her and Callum perhaps landing in his lap.

CUT TO:

10 **INT. MCGREGOR HOUSE. KITCHEN - MORNING 17** 10

Callum, closely followed by Jude, rushing into the kitchen.

CALLUM
Mama? What is it? You okay?

But for a long moment, Meggie simply remains there. Like the porcelain strewn across the floor. Broken and still.

CUT TO:

TITLES

10A **INT. HADLEY HOUSE. LANDING/STAIRS - MORNING 17** 10A

Sephy steps out onto the landing followed by Jasmine, hurries for the stairs.

SEPHY
I have to go.

JASMINE
(knowingly)
I know.

Sephy stops. Regards her mother. *What does she know?*

JASMINE (CONT'D)
Just be careful.

Sephy, no time for questions, nods and rushes downstairs.

CUT TO:

11 **INT. MCGREGOR HOUSE. LIVING ROOM - MORNING 17** 11

Meggie, frantic, paces with the house phone and her mobile pressed against either ear. Happy, upbeat music plays on both as she waits on hold.

MEGGIE
It can't be true. No! Uh uh. Not
your baba. Not Ryan. No way.

The McGregors' TV displaying news reports as Jude, stunned, flicks through landing on one with a breaking news banner: *Ryan McGregor confirmed dead.*

The colour drains from Jude's face as he looks up at Meggie, who stops still, slowly lowering both phones.

She regards Callum, sat motionless on the sofa, unable to quite comprehend what is happening. After a moment, Meggie shakes her head, dismissively.

MEGGIE (CONT'D)
Turn it off!

Jude turns off the TV. Beat. The silence is deafening.

Meggie returns her attention to the phones. Resumes pacing as if avoiding the all consuming thoughts bombarding her.

MEGGIE (CONT'D)
Besides, someone would've told us if it were. The police... Prison service... Someone would've contacted us!

JUDE

Why?! We're nothing to them.
Absolutely *nothing*.

Meggie stops pacing. There's so much she could scream at Jude in this moment, so much blame she could lay; but she doesn't. Instead, she clings to the hope this is all one big mistake.

Callum, speechless until now, rises from the sofa and wraps an arm around Meggie, comforting her.

CALLUM

I promise you, mama, we'll find out
what's going on, okay?

Sudden knocking at the front door. Meggie stops still. They all look at one another. Gripped by a collective unease.

CALLUM (CONT'D)

I'll go.

CUT TO:

12

INT. HADLEY HOUSE. HALL - MORNING 17

12

Kamal shuts the door to his office, mobile in hand and scrolling through emails. Various congratulations emails on becoming the new PM etc. But then one from Okoro Counsel. He eyes it curiously and taps it - what's this? A bill for 20,000 pounds for the defence of Ryan McGregor... Kamal's eyes widen in shock.

CUT TO:

13

INT. MCGREGOR HOUSE. LIVING ROOM - MORNING 17

13

Callum closes the door behind Sephy. Meggie, a mixture of disappointment and relief. Jude is pure rage.

JUDE

No. Get out!

SEPHY

I just wanted to-

CALLUM

Don't talk to her like that!

JUDE

Or what?

Callum takes a step towards Jude as Meggie reaches for Sephy, holds her tight.

SEPHY
I'm so sorry, Meggie.

Callum and Jude turn to face Sephy and Meggie. The tension between them abating as their sadness descends once more.

JUDE

All your sorrys don't add up to
much.

Meggie releases hold of Sephy. Wipes her eyes.

MEGGIE

I need to see him.

Sephy, stung by the validity of Jude's remark. Trying to find some light.

SEPHY

Mama's doing all she can to contact
Segun Okoro so hopefully...

Meggie, although thankful, shakes her head.

MEGGIE

I need to see him.

Meggie starts to exit.

MEGGIE (CONT'D)

I'm going to the prison.

CALLUM

I'll come with you.

SEPHY

I can give you a lift.

JUDE

Nah! You've done enough.

CUT TO:

14 **INT. HADLEY HOUSE. KAMAL AND JASMINE'S ROOM - MORNING 17 14**

Jasmine, robed, on the phone.

JASMINE

You're an assistant, aren't you...?
So assist me... I don't care if
Segun's on a flight to Aprica.
Patch me through to the pilot then!
I'm paying your firm enough!

Suddenly a hand yanks the phone from Jasmine. Cuts the call.

JASMINE (CONT'D)

Wahala?! What are you doing?

Reveal Kamal, silently seething as he struggles to process what he's just heard.

KAMAL

Please Jasmine. Tell me you haven't funded the defence of a convicted terrorist using an account in my name?

Jasmine's expression betrays her.

JASMINE

So I helped out a friend. I helped Meggie!

Kamal can scarcely believe it.

KAMAL

Do you have any idea what this could do to me - to us if it leaked?!

JASMINE

What was I supposed to do? Sit back and do nothing?! She was desperate.

Kamal despairs at her naivety for moment. Time to take back control. He softens.

KAMAL

I see.

His compassionate tone slightly wrong-foots Jasmine.

KAMAL (CONT'D)

You were trying to make amends. For firing her in the first place. Your friend.

JASMINE

I, well-

KAMAL

Wahala, I know you must've felt horrible darling. But you can't blame yourself. D'you hear? You weren't to know what Ryan's response would be.

She's momentarily stunned. He takes her hand.

KAMAL (CONT'D)
Hm. You weren't. All those lives
lost.
(MORE)

KAMAL (CONT'D)

With that level of emotion - guilt - it's easy for any of us to lose our heads a bit. And that's all this was. Wasn't it?

Beat. Jasmine, perhaps not considering her level of involvement in the whole affair until now, gently nods.

KAMAL (CONT'D)

Then this enterprise with Segun Okoro and Meggie shall end now and we'll speak no more about it.

Jasmine nods again.

KAMAL (CONT'D)

Good. Because we've a country to run. Hm? Let's not have me impeached even before my inauguration.

Kamal kisses her and smiles. But within the eyes lies a warning look.

CUT TO:

15

INT. PRISON. RECEPTION - DAY 17

15

Close on Meggie's face beginning to crumple as inwardly her whole being starts to implode. In a haze, she watches the lips of the Cross Receptionist Aremu Balogun silently moving, confirming the news she's been dreading: Ryan is dead.

Reveal Callum and Jude beside Meggie. All hope well and truly lost. Jude slams a fist against the wall. Meggie, unsteady on her feet, lets out a cry, grabs Callum's hand, clutches it tight as he leads her away from the reception desk. Jude battles tears for a moment before he engages with Aremu.

JUDE

Killed himself? How?

RECEPTIONIST AREMU BALOGUN

Pele. It doesn't say.

RECEPTIONIST AREMU BALOGUN
(CONT'D)

All I can tell you, his body was found last night in his cell and was then moved to the prison morgue.

JUDE

Why not? Why doesn't it?

JUDE (CONT'D)
So then when can we see him? His
body?

RECEPTIONIST AREMU BALOGUN
Once I'm notified you can, I'll be
sure to let you know.

JUDE

How long will that be?

RECEPTIONIST AREMU BALOGUN

I really couldn't say.

JUDE

So, what? We just have to wait?

Aremu, helpless, nods. Jude looks over at Callum consoling Meggie. It's too much. Turns back to the desk, lost over what to do or say. Dismayed, he shakes his head, and walks out. Callum looks up - what the hell?

Callum approaches the desk.

RECEPTIONIST AREMU BALOGUN

(re: Jude walking out)

Pele o. I understand how upsetting this must be.

CALLUM

No, you really don't. My father's dead. And nobody told us. My mother had to find out from the news. Now you tell us it's suicide. But can't say how or why?!

RECEPTIONIST AREMU BALOGUN

I wish I could help you more. I really do. But my hands are tied.

CALLUM

So we can't see him?

She shakes her head, genuinely sorry. Callum's face darkens with fury. He snaps, slamming his hands down onto the desk, launching trays and files of paperwork flying. Aremu steps back, shocked and fearful.

CUT TO:

15A

INT. PRISON. CORRIDOR - DAY 17

15A

Callum striding into the corridor, consumed by rage and anguish. In the b.g. Meggie follows, quiet and shaken. After a moment, Callum takes out his phone. Dials Sephy.

CUT TO:

15B **INT. SCHOOL. CANTEEN - DAY 17**

15B

Sephy sits to one side, lost in thought. Distracted. Her mind on Callum and the McGregors as her phone starts to ring. It's Callum. She picks it up.

SEPHY

Cal!

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

CALLUM

He's gone, Sephy. He's really gone.
Killed himself.

SEPHY

I... I'm so sorry.

CALLUM

How could they let this happen? Why
didn't anyone stop him? We-we can't
even see him.

SEPHY

What? Why? Where are you? I'm
coming to you.

Callum shakes his head.

CALLUM

No. I... just need some time to be
with my family.

On Sephy, saddened and feeling totally and utterly helpless.

CUT TO:

16 **INT. CABINET OFFICE - DAY 17**

16

A cabinet meeting in session. Kamal at the centre of it all. Just the way he likes it. Holding Opal's White Paper on the decriminalisation of inter-racial relationships. Concerned and bewildered expressions on the faces of some ministers.

KAMAL

Let me make myself clearer. I want
you to take it, throw it in a
dustbin, and set fire to it.

MINISTER JAMUIKE OLUYOLE
All of it? Because there are
elements in this proposed bill that-

KAMAL

Reward acts of terror? Would lead to the erosion of our very constitution? Our culture? Yes, minister, I agree. That's why our priority no longer lies in the appeasement of Noughts but in the enforcement of greater segregation laws.

(stern look to the room)
That means no more talk of an interracial bill, no more Nought cadets at Mercy Point, no more cowering. It's time we regained order.

CUT TO:

17

EXT. NOUGHT HOSPITAL - DAY 17

17

Jude stands solemnly in front of the makeshift shrine to Danny. Although some fresh flowers and idols have been laid, the large proportion have started to wither. Jude, eyes wet with tears, tries his best to tidy it up. Make it nice again.

VOICE (O.S.)
They shall not grow old...

Jude turns to find Dorn observing him. Face partially obscured by a hat pulled low. A bottle of beer in his hand.

DORN
But we will remember them.

Jude isn't sure whether he's angry or relieved to see Dorn.

JUDE
So you're back then.

DORN
There's work to be done. And little time now to do it.

JUDE
Where've you been hiding?

Dorn takes a moment, then takes Jude into his confidence.

DORN
We've set-up shop in the old warehouse off Anneke Road.

Dorn pours out some of the beer and places the bottle onto the shrine.

DORN (CONT'D)
(re: the beer)
Your father's favourite.

Jude nods and takes in the bottle as his tears finally cascade. Dorn embraces Jude.

JUDE
I'm sorry. I-

DORN
Hey, it's alright. No shame in tears. Let them out.

Close on Jude's face, tormented by sadness and guilt. After a moment he pulls away, wipes his eyes as he takes in the shrine.

JUDE
This was the start of it. Right here. Danny's death. If he hadn't've died then I don't plant the bomb, and if I don't plant the bomb then my father would still be...

DORN
Don't! Don't tear yourself up over-

JUDE
I can't help it. Keep replaying things like-like the warning and-

DORN
No point wasting energy on stuff that can't be changed. And if this here is what brought you to the cause then I'm thankful.

(off Jude's look)
The fight we're involved in is bigger than Danny, me, you or any of us. Understand? Even your father. Cos trust me, no one knew that better than him.

Dorn takes hold of Jude's shoulders.

DORN (CONT'D)
Which is probably why *they* - the government silenced him. Not you.

JUDE
What d'you mean?

Dorn looks Jude in the eyes as Jude absorbs the insinuation.

DORN

You'll figure it out. And when you do, call the number saved on here.

Dorn offers Jude a burner phone.

DORN (CONT'D)

We can't let them get away with it. With any of it.

Jude takes the phone as, slowly, a palpable level of guilt starts to be lifted.

CUT TO:

17A EXT. PARK - DAY 17

17A

The Deputy Commissioner is sat on a bench. Kamal arrives and sits next to him - regarding him expectantly.

KAMAL

Any news on Jack Dorn?

The Deputy Commissioner regretfully shakes his head.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

But he'll surface. Sooner or later.

Kamal isn't altogether pleased.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER (CONT'D)

I do, however, have the *paperwork* you requested on that other matter.

The Deputy Commissioner hands Kamal a file. Kamal opens it to find a non-disclosure agreement. He roots through it. Smiles. And heads off.

CUT TO:

18 INT. SCHOOL. CANTEEN - DAY 17

18

Everyone in the canteen is abuzz. All except Sephy. Head down. Devoid of her usual zeal. Female voices from up ahead.

STUDENT MONIFA FALANA

Eurgh. McGregor. Coward. Baba said they should've brought back burning for him.

SEPHY

Oi!

The female students turn to face Sephy, glaring at them.

SEPHY (CONT'D)

Don't talk about things you can't possibly understand.

The girls look at one another - the sheer audacity.

STUDENT ABA MUMUNI

What's it to you, *Persephone*? Just because your father's about to run the country, doesn't mean you get to run this place.

Sephy's jaw clenches.

SEPHY

I mean it. Keep his name out your mouth. Okay?!

Monifa, backed up by her friend, approaches Sephy.

STUDENT MONIFA FALANA

Or what?

Sephy, refusing to submit, takes one step closer to Monifa, snatches up a glass and chuckles water into her face. Monifa suddenly launches herself at Sephy.

CUT TO:

19

EXT. NOUGHT NEIGHBOURHOOD - EVENING 17

19

Sunlight fading. Callum and Meggie walking silently in their own personal vacuum of grief as around them the world continues. The odd glare directed their way by passersby. But Meggie's focus switches to Callum still simmering with anger. Notices him eyeing the paramilitary graffiti of the LM strewn across the walls. His expression unsettles her.

MEGGIE

You know he'd never want this - this fury you're feeling to consume you, don't you?! Turn and lead you down a path from which there is no return.

Callum doesn't answer.

MEGGIE (CONT'D)
Don't you?! Because doing something stupid like joining the LM leads to nothing but a lifetime of misery and death.

Callum finally responds.

CALLUM
I'm not afraid of dying.

MEGGIE
You should be!

Up ahead, on a billboard, Callum spots the sign prohibiting interracial relationships. Shakes his head.

CALLUM
Not if the cause is right.

On Meggie, troubled.

CUT TO:

20

INT. HADLEY HOUSE. SEPHY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 17

20

Kamal regards Sephy disapprovingly as only a parent can. She sports a large cut above one eye and bruising underneath.

KAMAL
Fighting! Suspension! This isn't the Sephy I know. It certainly isn't the Sephy I raised.

She throws him a look. Raised? Really?

KAMAL (CONT'D)
Look at you. The day before my inauguration too. You promised you'd make an effort.

SEPHY
And you promised Callum wouldn't be hurt! Now his father's dead.

They lock eyes. Tense. Suspicious of one another's motives. Kamal takes a moment to control his rising fury.

KAMAL
Listen, I'm not responsible for the atrocious act Ryan McGregor committed, and neither are you.
(MORE)

KAMAL (CONT'D)

While it's unfortunate, the situation his family now finds itself in, *again*, it certainly isn't worth jeopardising your own future over now, is it?

Sephy takes a moment. Unsure how to respond.

SEPHY
For friendship? Love? Yeah. I'd say
so.

Kamal looks unnerved. Is this worse than he'd imagined?

KAMAL
Love?!

SEPHY
Yes... for Meggie. After all, she
helped to raise me too.

Kamal continues to simmer. Fearing his daughter's love
extends wider and deeper than just Meggie.

KAMAL
A job she was paid well for! You
don't owe her anything.

SEPHY
All she wants is to see her
husband. To say goodbye.

KAMAL
The prisons have their protocol.

Sephy decides to change tactics. Looks imploringly at him.

KAMAL (CONT'D)
You're in no position to make
demands.

SEPHY
No. But you are. As PM.

KAMAL
All the more reason for me not to
interfere.

SEPHY
Please. It's not just for Meggie.

She stops. Kamal's eyes probe. Finally, a confession?

KAMAL
No?

SEPHY
No. Then I'll be able to
concentrate on school. My future.
Baba, please?!

Kamal's disappointment is palpable.

KAMAL
Your future, huh? Heard anything
yet from Okene-Aprica University?

Sephy shakes her head.

KAMAL (CONT'D)
Really?

SEPHY
No, not yet.
(re: her request)
So will you?!

Kamal battling anger and sadness at how easy it is for his daughter to lie to him.

KAMAL
I'll see what I can do.

Sephy smiles.

SEPHY
Ese gan.

He nods. Stands. Starts to exits, mind reeling over what to do next. He stops and turns back to Sephy.

KAMAL
Perhaps it'd be best if, for the next few days or so, you were to stay in. You know, while security details are finalised. Protect you against any more *disputes*.

They regard one another, again each slightly mistrustful of the other but masking it with smiles.

SEPHY
Okay, baba. Whatever you say.

CUT TO:

JUDE (PRE-LAP)
Think about it.

CUT TO:

22

INT. MCGREGOR HOUSE. KITCHEN - NIGHT 17

22

JUDE

What's the most obvious reason why
they won't allow us to see his
body?!

Jude is sat at the table opposite Callum, who stares
aimlessly at a cup of water.

JUDE (CONT'D)

I mean, think about it!

CALLUM

I don't want to.

JUDE

Nah, course you don't. It's easier
for you to sit there and drink in
their lies. You're seriously gonna
tell me baba killed himself?

(Callum is silent)

Huh?!

He finally looks up at Jude. They lock eyes. Anger, grief and
guilt colliding. After a moment, Jude sadly shakes his head.

JUDE (CONT'D)

*They killed him. Deliberately. It's
what they do! What they've always
done!*

Jude allows a moment for this to sink in.

JUDE (CONT'D)

If you can't see that then you're
properly blind.

Callum sneers.

CALLUM

But then you would say that,
wouldn't you because it negates any
guilt you may have, guilt that you
put him there in the first place.
Guilt that you had a role in his
death, just like you did Danny's!

That lands. Jude, simmering with anger.

JUDE

That's it. Blame me and everyone
but the people who murdered him.

(MORE)

JUDE (CONT'D)
You know, since you've always
aspired to walk and talk - even
screw them-

Boom! In an instant, Callum has flipped the table and launched himself at Jude. The brothers crash to the floor, grappling. Callum, raging, pummels Jude with his fists.

CALLUM
YOU BASTARD! YOU KILLED HIM! YOU
PLANTED THE BOMB! YOU BASTARD!

Suddenly Meggie rushes in and attempts to wrestle Callum off of Jude.

MEGGIE CALLUM (CONT'D)
BOYS, STOP IT. THAT'S ENOUGH. I SHOULD KILL YOU!
CALLUM!

Managing to separate them, she stands between them, arms out.

MEGGIE
ENOUGH! YOU HEAR ME?

Callum and Jude stand panting. Adrenaline and rage coursing through their bodies, they stare at one another. Both sets of eyes now wet with tears.

JUDE
That anger you're feeling now, Cal,
hold on to it. Cos it's one of the
only things you'll soon have left.

MEGGIE
Jude shut it! Your baba's death's
not enough? Or the fact we can't
pay the rent? You wanna lay this on
me as well?!

Meggie is close to breaking. Jude hesitates a moment. Looks from Callum to Meggie back to Callum. Can't help himself.

JUDE
It's the one thing they can't strip
us of.

MEGGIE JUDE (CONT'D)
Callum, don't listen to him! Cos everything else, they can
and will.

JUDE (CONT'D)
So make the most of it. K?

MEGGIE
I SAID SHUT UP!

Whack! Meggie slaps Jude hard across his face. Silence. Callum looks at his mother, stunned. Jude holds his hand to his cheek. Lets out a sad smile. Meggie, despite her remorse, offers no apology. She's already lost Ryan and Jude to the Liberation Militia: there's no way she'll lose Callum.

CUT TO:

23 OMITTED

23

24 EXT. PARK - MORNING 18

24

Callum and Sephy sitting on a bench in a remote spot in the park. Lightly applying salve, he tries his best to tend to the cut above her eye. Sephy flinches.

CALLUM

Pele.

SEPHY

I'm fine.

CALLUM

You might need stitches.

She takes his hands.

SEPHY

I'm fine. It's you I'm worried about.

She looks him deep in the eyes. He looks away. Starts to put the top on the ointment.

CALLUM

(re: her cut)

You know, in future, it's usually advisable to walk around with your eyes open.

Sephy, covering for the clear lie she's told about how she came about her injury.

SEPHY

Oh! So that's where I've been going wrong.

They smile softly. It peters out into an awkward silence.

SEPHY (CONT'D)
Cal, you know it's cool if you want
to talk. I'm here.

CALLUM

I know.

Beat.

SEPHY

It might help is all I'm saying.

CALLUM

Why? Will it bring him back?

SEPHY

No, but-

CALLUM

So then what help is it?!

SEPHY

It's okay to be angry.

CALLUM

Don't do that. Don't give me permission!

He turns away, distraught, grief finally catching up with him, reluctant to allow Sephy to see him this way.

SEPHY

Callum? Talk to me. Jowo.

He works to compose himself. Turns back to face her.

CALLUM

What if Jude's right? What if all this time it's me who's been blind?

SEPHY

I don't understand.

He hesitates.

CALLUM

They say his death was suicide...

He laughs derisively to himself. Sephy starts to feel a little uneasy.

SEPHY

What is it you're saying, Cal?

CALLUM

What if... he was murdered.

(off her astonishment)

(MORE)

CALLUM (CONT'D)

Think about it, why else won't they let us see his body? Jude says-

SEPHY

(edging back)

Hang on, Jude says...?! Jude! Who planted the bomb that *did* murder three people, that nearly killed me, that meant your father took the rap for it?! That Jude?!

CALLUM

Yeah, that Jude! My brother, Jude! Why're you suddenly so upset?!

SEPHY

Callum! Don't you see how what you're implying affects me? My father?

He hadn't considered that. He looks at her, slightly lost.

CALLUM

But what if it's true?

SEPHY

It isn't.

CALLUM

But what if it is?

SEPHY

This world's far from perfect. But I have to believe it's better than that... I know it's better than that because... I know my father.

CALLUM

And I know mine.

The lovers are at loggerheads. Beat.

CALLUM (CONT'D)

You should go before anyone realises you're gone.

Sephy, contemplative and reluctant before realising the time.

SEPHY

Igbe! Baba's inauguration.

CALLUM

Course. So what title do I call you
by now then?

Sephy doesn't even dignify that with a response. Still, her new position is one that greatly worries them both.

CALLUM (CONT'D)
I mean, I probably won't even be
able to contact you on the burner
soon.

Sephy looks at her burner phone, shakes her head in protest.

SEPHY
But you're right about one thing.
You should be allowed to see him.
Baba's already looking into it.

On Callum, exhibiting a mixture of scepticism and hope.

CUT TO:

24A EXT. PARLIAMENT - DAY 18

24A

A cavalcade of cars pulling up at the bottom of the steps outside parliament. Security details opening the doors for the great and the good of parliament - dressed to the nines - as they smile and wave for the media and a crowd of cheering onlookers gathered to the side, marshalled by a mixture of police officers and soldiers. Great flags align the steps along with a guard of honour made up of cadets from Mercy Point and drummers beating out an uptempo rhythm.

As the dignitaries begin to ascend the steps, we pick out Minerva, disembarking from a limo just as Sephy, smart attire, looking radiant, hurries onto the red carpet. She joins Minerva as Minerva expertly works the cameras.

MINERVA
(through a smile)
Where've you been? You're late.

SEPHY
Nowhere. And I'm actually bang on time so...

Minerva throws Sephy a look as the flashbulbs continue.

SEPHY (CONT'D)
What?!

MINERVA
You're up to something.

SEPHY
No I'm not!

MINERVA

Um-hm... It's okay, I won't tell.

One more pose from Minerva before they begin their ascent up the stairs.

SEPHY

Oluwa o. You are feeling guilty.

MINERVA

Excuse me?

SEPHY

Nothing.

Sephy turns her attention to straightening her dress.

MINERVA

No. Come on. Say.

Sephy looks up. Something on the tip of her tongue. Folds. Intends to keep things polite whilst amongst polite society.

SEPHY

Just forget it.

But Minerva can't. One big elephant in the room. She looks to the side at Lekan, looking dashing in his uniform. A small smile and wave as she passes.

MINERVA

It's Lekan, isn't it. You think I stole him from you, don't you?!

SEPHY

No I do not think you stole him from me because it was me who ended things.

MINERVA (CONT'D)

Just because you had him first. But you never appreciated him.

MINERVA (CONT'D)

Besides, baba was mine until you came along!

Sephy is stunned. Minerva, instant regret.

SEPHY

D'you have any idea how messed up that is?

Minerva, deciding to own it, tries to act nonchalant.

MINERVA

It's true. You took him from me!

Sephy hasn't got time for this.

SEPHY
You know what, do what you want.

MINERVA
Like you, you mean? Wahala, you
think I'm selfish? Try looking in a
mirror for once!

They've reached the top of the steps and stand to the side of a small, empty podium with a single microphone, behind which, the new cabinet's ministers have formed a line. At that moment, a sudden blast of drums. Sephy, Minerva, and the dignitaries turn to see the Parliament doors being opened as Kamal, ceremonial attire, exits with Jasmine.

He strides towards the podium to a cheer from the crowd, gripping Jasmine's hand and scanning the horizon, trying to hide a tangible unease, as if half-expecting to spot someone. Yaro.

JASMINE
(side-whisper)
What's the matter?

Kamal's eyes continue to dart, but to his relief, there's no sign of Yaro. He smiles.

KAMAL
Nothing. Nothing at all.

Kamal and Jasmine wave to the crowd, exchange a kiss, before Kamal kisses his girls, drinking in the sight of them.

KAMAL (CONT'D)
Simply stunning. Reminds me what
it's all for.

He leads them in a smile and wave towards the crowd. Sephy working her hardest not to show her unease. Made all the more difficult when she spots a face amongst the throng. Callum's. They hold one another's despairing stare. How is this ever possibly going to work? But Sephy must play her role. Throughout we catch glimpses of her growing unease over her father's message. Her imploring, apologetic exchanges with Callum.

Lekan spots it too. Still a bitter pill to swallow.

Kamal steps up to the podium. Flashbulbs igniting his face. The proudest moment of his life.

KAMAL (CONT'D)

His excellency, the President of Aprica has asked me to form a new government. And I have accepted. In Opal Folami, I follow in the footsteps of a great modern prime minister.

A murmuring from the crowd. Kamal hushes it down.

KAMAL (CONT'D)

I came into politics because I love this country. I think its best days still lie ahead. And I believe in public service. That's why I would be doing a great disservice to you all if I did not urge you to heed a warning. We must not, in our quest for modernity and progression, actually fall into regression. Financial security means nothing if we aren't safe in our homes, on our streets or hospitals.

Jasmine's jaw clenches. But she must stand there. Tall and straight. The dutiful wife.

KAMAL (CONT'D)

Public safety is of paramount importance. In implementing tighter security controls and checks, we will actually be providing greater freedom.

A disturbance in the crowd. People being barged aside.

KAMAL (CONT'D)

For social stability is in the very fabric of liberty and happiness. We must work to quell the unrest.

Callum turns to find out the cause of the commotion. Parting the crowd is a line of Nought demonstrators, topless, hands chained, marching in chain-gang formation with red paint smeared across their chests.

The police and soldiers are too slow in their bid to prevent the Nought protestors from reaching the front of the crowd and the view of Kamal and the media.

The sight of the protesters behind the barriers shocks Sephy, Jasmine and Minerva.

Kamal perseveres. His big moment will not be ruined.

KAMAL (CONT'D)
That will be the primary mission of
the government I lead. And
together, I assure you, we will
build a greater Albion.

In unison, looking Kamal dead in the eye, the Nought
demonstrators raise their chained hands in the air.

Perturbed, Sephy looks for Callum. He nods his head,
seemingly in agreement with the protestors' message - *yes,*
this is what your father intends on doing to us. Sephy shakes
her head. Callum turns and disappears into the crowd.

CUT TO:

24B EXT. PARLIAMENT - DAY 18

24B

The inauguration is now over. The crowds have dispersed and
teams of people are busy at work removing the flags and
platform. Sephy exits the Parliament building, in need of
some fresh air. After a moment, Lekan exits to join her. The
last person she wants to see, she makes to head back in.

LEKAN
Sephy, wait!

Dammit. She stops. Turns, reluctantly. Lekan now very close.

LEKAN (CONT'D)
I need to know... Why...? Why him?

For a moment, Sephy's never seen Lekan so lost and exposed,
so unsure about his footing in a world he was once king.

LEKAN (CONT'D)
Because I... I just don't get it.

Sephy feels almost sorry for him.

SEPHY
That's exactly the problem.

He's crushed until suddenly breaking into a smile.

LEKAN
Here she is.

Sephy turns. Minerva's there, smiling, holding two glasses of
wine. She brushes past Sephy and hands a glass to Lekan.

MINERVA
To new beginnings.

A dismissive look to Sephy, who can finally walk away, but not without Lekan's eyes following her every step.

CUT TO:

25 **EXT. RIVER THAMES - DAY 18**

25

Meggie, alone, waiting anxiously whilst watching a news segment of Kamal's inauguration speech on her mobile. A close-up of Jasmine, by his side. Suddenly-

JASMINE (O.S.)
Meggie!

Meggie turns to find Jasmine, alone, jacket pulled high.

The two old friends embrace.

CUT TO:

26 **EXT. RIVER THAMES - DAY 18**

26

Meggie and Jasmine sitting on a bench beside the river, holding hands. A melancholy hanging in the air.

JASMINE
...listen to me, with Ryan, you had
something others go their whole
lives without.

Jasmine lowers her head.

JASMINE (CONT'D)
Though they've given everything to
find it.

Meggie watches as Jasmine's eyes start to tear. Knows full well who and what Jasmine is referring to. But Jasmine, shaking it off, smiles bravely to comfort her friend.

JASMINE (CONT'D)
Not even death can stop that kind
of love.

She hugs Meggie. A slight pause before-

JASMINE (CONT'D)
Tell me, do you think it's what
Sephy and Callum have found?

Meggie looks solemnly at Jasmine.

MEGGIE
I... I think it might be.

JASMINE
Then for them I'm truly happy. And
extremely fearful.

CUT TO:

27	OMITTED	27
28	MERGED WITH SCENE 24A	28
29	MOVED TO SCENE 24B	29
30	EXT. MCGREGOR HOUSE - DAY 18	30

Meggie, tired but motivated, returning home.

CUT TO:

31	INT. MCGREGOR HOUSE. KITCHEN - DAY 18	31
----	--	----

We're close on an invoice from the State Prison Service (SPS). An extortionate amount for services rendered in the "disposal of prisoner 1/38's body".

Meggie stares at the letter, ashen faced. Defeated.

JUDE (O.S.)
Mama? What's wrong?

A hand takes the letter from her. It's Jude's. Instantly, his blood boils. Face darkening to crimson. Crunches the letter into a ball in his fist. Meggie just watches. Exhausted. Silence for a beat. Then Jude turns to her.

JUDE (CONT'D)
I'll pay.

She just looks at him for a moment.

MEGGIE
With what, Jude? You don't have a job! None of us do. Nobody wants the wife of a terrorist working for them. Even if it is just cleaning toilets.

JUDE
I'll get one!

She just looks at him for a moment.

JUDE (CONT'D)
Go on. Slap me again if it helps.

It's said sincerely. Out of desperation to heal the rift.
Meggie would be ashamed if she wasn't still so tired.

MEGGIE
No. It won't. And neither will your
blood money.

Meggie exits as Callum enters. He looks at Jude, who is left utterly crushed. Slowly, he pulls out the burner from Dorn.

CUT TO:

32 INT. MCGREGOR HOUSE. BOYS BEDROOM - DAY 18

32

Callum, animated, is on his phone.

*

CALLUM
(into phone)
...so much for your father helping.

CUT TO:

33 EXT. HADLEY HOUSE. STEPS - DAY 18

33

Sephy, upset, on her burner phone, talking in a more hushed tone as workers continue their duties in the background.

SEPHY
He... he said he would.

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

CALLUM
We can't even bury him. But they're charging us a *disposal fee* - a disposal fee when we can't even pay the rent. Mama's in bits.

SEPHY
I... I don't know what to say. I'm so sorry, Callum. I'll pay!

CALLUM
That's - that's not the point, Sephy. They disposed of him like a dog! Why would they do that?!

Sephy's unsure herself as her eyes land on the new housekeeper, Meggie's replacement, making her rounds.

SEPHY
I don't know.

CALLUM
Well I need to. I need to know.

Sephy nods. So does she.

CUT TO:

34

INT. PRISON. RECEPTION - MORNING 19

34

The next morning, Sephy, dressed smartly in a suit and shoes, stands talking to Receptionist Aremu Balogun at the desk.

RECEPTIONIST AREMU BALOGUN
Pele. Not sure what more I can add.
His death was suicide. As reported.

Over the following, on the desk, Aremu's mobile starts to ring. She throws furtive glances at it as if needing to answer, but unable to because of Sephy.

SEPHY
I see. But why wasn't the body then released to the family?

RECEPTIONIST AREMU BALOGUN
(distracted)
It's common practice. Release is always at the prison's discretion after a serious incident.

The mobile stops ringing. Aremu is annoyed. Sephy's eyes fixate on her.

SEPHY
Serious incident?

RECEPTIONIST AREMU BALOGUN
(uh-oh; covering)
Um, yeah, you know, like suicide.

But Sephy's already caught the palpable unease Aremu now wears. Something strange at play. Sephy, her mind turning, smiles, leans in, almost conspiratorial.

SEPHY
You know what I heard...
(reading name badge)
Aremu. I heard he jumped from a window. That it took hours to clean up the mess.

Aremu shakes her head. Amused by the sheer absurdity.

SEPHY (CONT'D)
I know, right. Still you wouldn't
want to release a body after that,
would you?

Aremu, slowly starting to relax with Sephy, agrees.

RECEPTIONIST AREMU BALOGUN
Suppose. But that's not what
happened.

SEPHY
People and their theories, eh.

Aremu nods. What can you do? Sephy waits for the right moment to strike.

SEPHY (CONT'D)
Course there are some that say, it
wasn't suicide at all...

Bam! And there it is, in Aremu's reaction - the involuntary tension, the inability to hold Sephy's gaze. Confirmation.

Aremu's phone starts to ring again.

RECEPTIONIST AREMU BALOGUN
I, uh, really should get that.

SEPHY
Beni. Course. You've been most
helpful.

CUT TO:

34A **INT. THE SHIELD - DAY 19**

34A

Glum and alone, Jude sits in the corner nursing a can of beer as Nicola approaches, one hand behind her back.

NICOLA
Bit early for happy hour isn't it?

He looks at her. What the fuck?

NICOLA (CONT'D)
Sorry. Bad joke.

She sits next to him. Produces a bottle of vodka and two cups. Awkward silence as she starts to pour a drink each. Holds one up for Jude, waiting for him to accept the invitation.

NICOLA (CONT'D)
Might as well do it properly.

Reluctantly, Jude downs the can of beer and takes the cup of vodka. Small nods before they touch cups and take the plunge. Jude grimaces, amusing Nicola, who wipes her mouth.

NICOLA (CONT'D)
It gets easier you know. After
time. You grow used to it.

Jude examines his cup.

JUDE
Isn't that dangerous? What if you
start to forget?

NICOLA
You won't forget because they're
what led us here. They give meaning
- purpose to what we do.

Nicola absentmindedly begins to remove a piece of lint from his sleeve.

NICOLA (CONT'D)
We may've lost family but, here,
we've also gained one.

She looks up at him, suddenly vulnerable and open.

CUT TO:

36

INT. HADLEY HOUSE. KAMAL'S OFFICE - DAY 19

36

Kamal sits gravely in front of Sephy, brimming with fury.

SEPHY

I'm telling you, baba. You need to
launch an inquiry into Ryan
McGregor's death.

KAMAL

Why? Because your gut tells you
something's not quite right? The
ministers will love that.

(MORE)

KAMAL (CONT'D)
Let's splurge away public money
because my daughter has a hunch.

SEPHY
Don't treat me like a child!

KAMAL
It's hard not to when you come up
with such flights of fancy.

SEPHY
I know I'm right on this.

KAMAL
No, exactly the problem, Sephy. You
don't know.

Beat.

SEPHY
Why won't you consider it? Accept
it as plausible at least? I refuse
to believe you dislike Noughts as
much as your speeches suggest!

He doesn't answer. She scrutinizes him.

SEPHY (CONT'D)
Oluwa o! You know, don't you? The
truth. You've known all this time.

She stands. Disgusted.

SEPHY (CONT'D)
And your promise to help - KAMAL
that was just... what?! Come, Sephy. Sit. Please.

SEPHY
What was that, baba?

KAMAL
Persephone, sit down!

It isn't shouted, but said with such authority she's left
with no choice but to obey. Silence as Sephy seethes. Kamal
weighs his next move very carefully. His demeanour changes.
He's at serious risk of losing her, so he decides to stop
treating her as a child and allow her into the circle of
trust instead. She's deserving of that much.

KAMAL (CONT'D)
Yes... I knew.

SEPHY
It wasn't suicide?

Kamal gently shakes his head. Sephy cannot believe it.

SEPHY (CONT'D)
How could you?

KAMAL
Because I have a duty to my people.

SEPHY
What about the McGregors' right to
know the truth?!

Her words hit Kamal hard. He's momentarily stunned, before regaining his composure.

KAMAL
And what is that, Sephy? That he
was beaten in his cell after trying
to attack a guard?!

Sephy is shocked by this revelation.

KAMAL (CONT'D)
But you can see how that sounds.
How it would look! That's why the
news reports were altered. Tell me,
do you think knowing that would
bring the McGregors anymore peace?

Sephy remains silent.

KAMAL (CONT'D)
Or warrant the riots that would
ensue? An unrest Albion can ill
afford in the current climate.

Sephy takes a moment. Struggling to deal with it all.

SEPHY
So the ends justify the means. Is
that it? We just go on pretending?

KAMAL
You seem to be rather good at that.

Kamal retrieves an email on his smartphone. Shows it to Sephy.

KAMAL (CONT'D)
I know Okene Uni has already informed you of your place. When were you going to mention it?

Sephy steaming, takes a moment to compose herself.

SEPHY
I'm... I'm not sure I'm going to accept.

KAMAL
Why not? This is what you wanted. What you've worked for.

Sephy cannot answer. Kamal decides to bite the bullet.

KAMAL (CONT'D)
I know about you and the McGregor boy. Callum.

Sephy. Shocked. Barely able to respond.

SEPHY
I... I...

KAMAL
It's okay. I'm not angry.

SEPHY
You're not?

Kamal shakes his head.

KAMAL
I'll only ever care about your happiness, Sephy.

She allows a small smile of relief to slip.

KAMAL (CONT'D)
Which is why it's important you understand now that it can never work between you.

Sephy's face falls.

KAMAL (CONT'D)
The baba in me wishes I could tuck you in and tell you different. But, unlike Minerva, you never were a fan of fairytales.

He stands, kisses her on the forehead.

KAMAL (CONT'D)
You know the truth about Ryan
McGregor now. It's for you to
decide what you do with it. And to
live with the consequences.

As he exits, we focus on Sephy, the weight of adulthood
crushing her.

CUT TO:

37 EXT. NOUGHT MARKET - DAY 19

37

Meggie, flustered, approaching the market. Eyes scanning,
picking out a face at a table in the very far corner. A man,
hat pulled low. It's Yaro. Their eyes meet.

CUT TO:

37A INT. HADLEY HOUSE - SEPHY'S BEDROOM - DAY 19

37A

Sephy is on her bed. Burner phone out. Troubled. Unable to
construct a text message to Callum. Finally she settles on
"I've found out something about your father. Can we meet?xxx"
Her finger hovers over 'send', before, very slowly she starts
to delete the message. She lies back, tormented.

CUT TO:

37B INT. NOUGHT NEIGHBOURHOOD. JOB CENTRE - DAY 19

37B

Callum standing in line. Downcast. Lost in his thoughts as he
awaits his turn. Almost doesn't hear the repeated shout of-

VOICE
NEXT!

Callum steps forward, ashamed and embarrassed.

CALLUM
Yeah. Erm, I'm here to sign on...

CUT TO:

37C **EXT. NOUGHT NEIGHBOURHOOD - DAY 19**

37C

Callum walking. Head down. But becoming increasingly aware of a Cross male in a dark suit, a security personnel, following him. Callum ups his pace, weaves through pedestrians, and gives his tail the slip. Or so he thinks.

For as he turns the corner... bang! Callum slams into a different Cross male wearing an identical dark suit.

CUT TO:

38

EXT. NOUGHT MARKET - DAY 19

38

Meggie now sits with Yaro. Earnest. Voices low.

MEGGIE

I'm glad you didn't take my advice before. You know. To leave.

YARO

Actually, Meggie... I am.

She looks at him - what?!

YARO (CONT'D)

You were right. He can never be a father to me. Not how I want, anyway. But there's other ways he can be of benefit.

Meggie regards him.

MEGGIE

God. He's buying you out. Isn't he?

YARO

I like to think of it as finally receiving my dues.

MEGGIE

It's just another way for him to control you, Yaro. Cast you aside. Is that really what you want?

Beat. Yaro tries to change the topic.

YARO

I was sorry to hear about your husband. Must've placed you under a lot of strain. What he did.

MEGGIE

(maintaining focus)
Don't deflect, Yaro.

YARO

So what d'you suggest I do this time? Beg for his love? Acceptance?

MEGGIE

No. Accept yourself! Take back control! That's what I intend to do. And I'm here to offer you that chance. To be a part of something - to help those who are persecuted for simply loving. People like my son, Callum and your sister, Sephy.
(off his surprise)
People like your mama.

He glares. Don't go there! But she has to.

MEGGIE (CONT'D)

She never stopped loving him did she? Because despite everything, he never stopped loving her.

Yaro picks up a drinks menu. Anything for a distraction.

MEGGIE (CONT'D)

And no amount of money can change that. You weren't the result of curiosity or some depraved urge, Yaro. No matter what you've been made to believe. Please, know that.

YARO

Then why am I a leper to both Noughts and Crosses? A disease.

MEGGIE

You're not! You're the cure.

He flashes her his mercurial smile.

YARO

How can someone who's born a crime be the cure? Hm? Tell me?!

A quiet, reflective pause.

MEGGIE

You've been hidden and denied too long. Don't your sisters have the right to know they have a brother? The time for silence is over. For both of us. No more easy paths. Instead, we must speak out against hypocrisy and stand by truth. Only then can we bring about change.

(MORE)

MEGGIE (CONT'D)
Your father lacked the courage to
follow his heart. Don't make the
same mistake.

On Yaro, inscrutable.

MEGGIE (CONT'D)
At least meet with them - your
family - before you make up your
mind.

CUT TO:

38A EXT. GREENPOINT STADIUM - DAY 19

38A

Flanked by the two-man security detail, Callum, furious and struggling, is dragged from the tunnel into the blinding light engulfing an empty stadium, yanked up steps and shoved down into a seat next to a patiently waiting Kamal.

KAMAL
(dismissing his security)
Thank you.

The security detail nod and retreat down the steps leaving Kamal and Callum alone. The anger slips from Callum's face. Replaced now by sheer bewilderment.

KAMAL (CONT'D)
Apologies for the nature of the
invite. Or lack there of. But it's
the only way I could assure your
attendance. They weren't too rough,
were they?

CALLUM
Nothing I haven't encountered
before.

KAMAL
Yes. Right. Your testimony. Who
could forget. Had quite an effect
on me. Sephy too. In fact, you've
had quite an effect on my daughter
all round, haven't you...

On that, Kamal's eyes are now ablaze with menace. Callum inwardly begins to reel. Shit. The cat is out the bag.

CALLUM
I...I...

Callum looks around at the empty seats. How isolated and vulnerable he is. Could well be the end. Accepts his fate.

CALLUM (CONT'D)
I love her.

Kamal wasn't expecting that. It's surprisingly refreshing.

KAMAL
Thank you. Finally. Some honesty.

He smiles at Callum who looks more weary now than scared.

KAMAL (CONT'D)

Let me return the favour. I'd listen. Because when you look back on this moment, you'll realise it's perhaps the truest thing anyone ever told you.

Callum shifts uncomfortably, but doesn't say a word.

KAMAL (CONT'D)

Walk away, Callum. This thing between you and Sephy, it can never work. Putting aside the fact that there isn't a world in existence in which I would ever allow it. You have to know, she doesn't love you. Not in the same way. She may've told you otherwise. May've even convinced a part of herself she does. But the truth is, you'll only ever be an experiment. A form of teenage rebellion... against me.

Kamal pauses. Regards Callum with a pitying air.

KAMAL (CONT'D)

Do you really expect her to give up her family for you? For you to run off together? I mean, where would you go? How would you live? Now I know you're ambitious. Mercy Point proved that. So you'd probably try and make a go of it. And perhaps even she would too. Assure you endlessly that she's fine living in a one bedroom shack. That all that matters is you have one another. She may never tell you differently. Only, one day, you'll see it in the way she looks at you. The resentment in her eyes she can no longer hide. And you'll look back on this moment in despair for all those wasted years.

Kamal now looks genuinely sad. As if his words have opened up old wounds. Callum is silent. Eyes on rows of empty seats.

KAMAL (CONT'D)
Do you really want to put yourself
through that? Or Sephy? Doesn't she
deserve better?

On Callum, indeed starting to feel she perhaps does.

CUT TO:

39	SCENE MOVED TO 45A	39
40	OMITTED	40

41 **MERGED WITH SCENE 39** 41

42 **EXT. MCGREGOR HOUSE - DAY 19** 42

Callum walking. Kamal's words reverberating in his head. He takes out his phone. Dials Sephy's number. Desperate to hear her voice.

CUT TO:

42A **INT. HADLEY HOUSE - SEPHY'S BEDROOM - DAY 19** 42A

Sephy holds her burner phone. Callum's name flashing back at her, unsettling her. Should she answer? What would she say? She cancels the call. Turns her phone off.

CUT TO:

42B **EXT. MCGREGOR HOUSE - DAY 19**

42B

Callum walking as Sephy's voicemail kicks in. His level of disappointment is palpable.

CALLUM
(into phone)
Hey. It's me. Can we meet? I... I
need to see you. Let me know. I'll
be at our spot.

CUT TO:

42C **EXT. FLYOVER - DAY 19**

42C

Alone, Callum waits... and waits... and waits. Checks his phone. No messages. No missed calls. No Sephy.

CUT TO:

43 **EXT. HADLEY HOUSE. ENTRANCE - DAY 19**

43

Sephy, noticeably wearing only one earring, sits on the steps, struggling with the new predicament she's now in.

Her attention only shifts from her thoughts as a shadow sweeps across her.

LEKAN (O.S.)
Lost something?

She looks up to see Lekan holding up her other earring. Only now does she notice its been missing.

SEPHY
Oh. Where did you-

LEKAN
Always did have a keen eye.

Sephy rolls hers as Lekan hands back her earring.

SEPHY
Ese.

LEKAN
No problem. Listen. About before.

SEPHY
(really not the time)
Look, I - just forgot about it.

LEKAN

Can we? Please. 'Cause I really do
like Minerva. And it'll make things
a whole lot easier if we all could
be friends.

Sephy ponders. He may have a point. Stretches out her hand. He smiles at the formality. He opens up his arms. Despite herself, Sephy concedes and embraces him.

Lekan's POV: in the distance, at the gates, a face, glaring at him. Callum's. Lekan breaks into a smile.

With Kamal's words now seemingly vindicated, Callum's soul sinks. He turns and walks away.

At that moment, Sephy breaks the hug with Lekan, completely oblivious of what's just transpired.

CUT TO:

44 **OMITTED**

44

45 **OMITTED**

45

45A INT. MCGREGOR HOUSE. BOYS BEDROOM - DAY 19 45A

Jude is sat on his bed, quietly and carefully attempting to mend a tear in Ryan's old pork pie hat. After a few moments, Callum enters. Downcast and enveloped in uncertainty.

JUDE

Hey.

CALLUM

Hey.

It's awkward.

JUDE

Where've you been?

CALLUM

Nowhere.

Callum watches Jude for a moment.

CALLUM (CONT'D)

What're you doing?

JUDE

It was torn so...

Jude regards the hat, then Callum.

JUDE (CONT'D)

D'you remember when baba got it?

Callum does.

JUDE (CONT'D)

He thought he looked proper cool.

CALLUM

Even when we refused to go out with him if he wore it.

Bittersweet smiles.

JUDE

Now... I'd do anything to see him wear it again.

Silence. They both would.

JUDE (CONT'D)
Cal, listen. I-

CALLUM
I know, man. Me too.

Jude nods his gratitude.

JUDE
Still, I'll never forgive
myself.... Never forget what baba
gave up for me.

CALLUM
(sadly)
For us.

JUDE
Right.
(beat)
But what he sacrificed will mean
nothing if we aren't truly free.

Callum absorbs this.

JUDE (CONT'D)
I thought planting a bomb would
work to achieve that. I was wrong.
You thought enrolling at Mercy
Point would... You tried to change
things from the inside, only...
maybe you were trying to change the
wrong organisation. The direction
of the LM is shifting. Dorn says-

Callum's look cuts him off. They've just made up. Don't go
there.

JUDE (CONT'D)
Cool. But you're smart, Cal. All
I'm asking is that you meet with
him. Make an informed decision. I
can tell you where he is. It seems
to me we only have two choices
left: continue to go through life
like *ghosts*, or... try to make a
difference again.
(looks to his packed bag
in the corner)
I've made my choice.

*
*
*

*
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*

CUT TO:

46

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - DAY 19

46

Dorn's eyes flicker at Callum, sat at the makeshift table opposite.

DORN

Must admit, this is quite a surprise. Always had you painted as something of a sympathiser.

CALLUM

Yeah, well, don't get me wrong. Blowing up shit and murder ain't really my style either so...

DORN

Good. Cos what happened, isn't easy to live with. It wasn't right! But neither was it wrong. This - what we're involved in is more complicated than that. The only absolute is furthering the cause.

Callum doesn't seem to agree. Dorn studies him.

DORN (CONT'D)

But you didn't come here to hear me harp on. So what did you come here for?

Callum doesn't answer.

DORN (CONT'D)

Everyone comes looking for something. So...?

Callum locks eyes with Dorn.

CALLUM

The truth.

CUT TO:

46AA **EXT. HADLEY HOUSE - DAY 19**

46AA

Sephy jogs, two female bodyguards tailing her.

CUT TO:

46A **EXT. HADLEY HOUSE. ENTRANCE - DAY 19**

46A

Daylight fading. Sephy climbing the steps on the return from her run.

CUT TO:

47 **INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - DAY 19**

47

Dorn hangs up the phone. Opposite, at the battered desk, is Callum. Dorn hands him a piece of paper. Info jotted down. Callum looks at it, apprehensive. Stands. Nods his thanks.

Dorn reaches into a desk drawer and pulls out a gun.

DORN
Unfortunately, sometimes *truth*
comes at a cost.

Dorn offers Callum the gun.

DORN (CONT'D)
Just a question if you're willing
to pay or not.

CUT TO:

48 **OMITTED** 48

50 INT. HADLEY HOUSE. MAIN ROOM - DAY 19 50

Sephy enters, amazed to find Jasmine, Minerva and Meggie sat in silence. And with them, the strange mixed-race man she's encountered before.

SEPHY

MEGGIE
Please, sit, Sephy. We haven't long
before your father returns.

CUT TO:

51 EXT. GUARD ADISA BORO'S HOUSE - EVENING 19 51

From the shadows, Callum is watching a modest home in a Cross neighbourhood. He checks the slip of paper Dorn provided. Bingo. Cautiously, Callum sets off toward the house.

CUT TO:

52 INT. HADLEY HOUSE. MAIN ROOM - EVENING 19 52

On Sephy, her face disbelieving, mind reeling, world imploding. Minerva is mid-explosion.

MINERVA

MEGGIE
Minerva, please.

MINERVA
You! Don't speak to me. I've heard enough from you. From both of you. We know what this is about. Now baba's PM, you're after some spotlight and a slice of the inheritance money, is that it?

YARO
No.

MINERVA
Yes! Don't lie to me.

YARO
I've no need to lie to you.

MEGGIE
By doing this, by coming forward and speaking out against your father, Yaro is forfeiting any money he was promised.

MINERVA
Rubbish!

Jasmine, whose eyes haven't left Yaro, finally speaks.

JASMINE
Enough, Minerva. Don't waste another word defending that coward of a hypocrite.

SEPHY
(finally to Yaro)
You look like him. Your eyes. Mouth. I can see it. See him.

He nods gently. Sephy turns her gaze to Meggie.

SEPHY (CONT'D)
You knew? All this time?!

Ashamedly, Meggie did. Her response is barely a whisper.

MEGGIE
Yes.

Sephy cannot mask her anguish at such betrayal.

MEGGIE (CONT'D)
I thought by keeping it secret - by
maintaining the lie I was
protecting you all. I was wrong.
All that does is prolong the pain.

Sephy holds Meggie's sombre stare for a moment. Can't help
but reflect on the own secret she's concealing.

SEPHY
Excuse me.

She stands and exits. Minerva follows her. Jasmine remains. Impassive. Looking deeply at Yaro's face. Finally finding the answer to a question that has plagued her for years. Why Kamal could never love her. Oddly, it sets her at peace.

JASMINE
(standing)
It's true. You do look like him.

And with that Jasmine leaves. Meggie exchanges a look with Yaro, then follows.

CUT TO:

52A **EXT. HADLEY HOUSE. POOL - EVENING 19**

52A

Sephy strides out, Minerva close on her heels.

MINERVA
Sephy, wait!

Sephy spins. Furious and disconsolate.

SEPHY
Wanted baba all to yourself,
Minerva? So, take him, he's yours.

MINERVA
No, I-

Sephy's pain is palpable as she turns and strides off.

MINERVA (CONT'D)
(calling after)
Sephy! Come back!
(sotto)
Epele o.

CUT TO:

53 **EXT. HADLEY HOUSE. MAIN ENTRANCE - EVENING 19**

53

Jasmine sits on the steps looking out into the twilight.

Meggie exits the house. Joins her. Silence.

JASMINE
You should've told me.

MEGGIE
I know. I'm sorry.

JASMINE
Guess we're both his victims.

MEGGIE
I wish I could go back. Change
things.

Jasmine clearly does too. Beat.

JASMINE
Tell me, did he love her? This
woman. Yaro's mother?

Meggie looks solemnly at Jasmine - no more lies.

MEGGIE
Yes. Very much.

Jasmine takes a moment to process. She takes Meggie's hand. Rubs it reassuringly. Thankful for the honesty. Then-

JASMINE
We can't go back, Meggie. Only
forward. Our kids deserve a better
future than our past. Do what you
need to do. You have my permission.

On Meggie, a bitter-sweet victory.

MEGGIE
Thank you, Jas.

CUT TO:

54

INT. HADLEY HOUSE. SEPHY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 19

54

Sephy is on her bed. Again with her burner phone out, struggling to compose a text message to Callum. Too many conflicting thoughts, too many possible permutations. Suddenly, her bedroom door swings open. It's Jasmine. Sephy hides the phone.

JASMINE

How are you doing?

SEPHY

As well as can be expected after finding out my father is a pathological liar.

Jasmine's taken a seat on the bed.

JASMINE

Doesn't mean he doesn't love you.

SEPHY

Thought we weren't defending him anymore?

JASMINE

(sad smile)

Force of habit.

Sad beat. Sephy reaches forward to Jasmine.

SEPHY

Mama, I'm so-

JASMINE

Persephone Hadley. There's absolutely no need for you to apologise to me. I married the man. We all fell under his spell.

Sephy forces a small smile. Jasmine observes her daughter concealing something suspiciously under a pillow.

JASMINE (CONT'D)

I've given Meggie my blessing. To proceed with this thing with Yaro.

Sephy, concerned.

SEPHY

What'll that mean for you?

Jasmine hesitates. Then straightens, defiant.

JASMINE

Don't you worry about me. You've done far too much of that lately. I'll be just fine. I'm stronger than people give me credit. I want you to focus on this-

Jasmine places her hand on Sephy's chest.

JASMINE (CONT'D)

And whatever fills it with the most joy, I want you to follow it Sephy. Whatever it might be. Do that and you can't go wrong. Well... rarely.

Jasmine and Sephy share a smile.

SEPHY

Ese gan, mama.

JASMINE

Anytime.

They hug.

Jasmine stands, straightens and brushes herself down. Then departs. Sephy, finally reaching clarity, brings her burner phone out from underneath the pillow and types a message to Callum: **I need to tell you something about your baba. Please meet me.*****. Hits send.

CUT TO:

55

INT. GUARD ADISA BORO'S HOUSE - NIGHT 19

55

Callum has almost fallen asleep in the darkness when he hears the sound of the door and someone returning.

GUARD ADISA BORO (O.S.)

No mama, it's late. I've only just finished my shift.

Callum scurries for a place to hide. The prison guard Adisa Boro from Episode 4 enters in uniform and on his mobile.

GUARD ADISA BORO (CONT'D)

Don't be silly. They can't get you through the phone, mama... Well if it worries you that much just unplug it... okay. I'll be round tomorrow to check on you, okay...? Yep... Odaro mama. Odaro.

Adisa, who's slumped onto the sofa, lets out a small sigh. Click. Suddenly a gun presses against his temple.

CUT TO:

56 **INT./EXT. SEPHY'S CAR/CITY STREET - NIGHT 19** 56

Parked in her car. Sephy, alone and melancholic behind the wheel.

CUT TO:

57 **INT. GUARD ADISA BORO'S HOUSE - NIGHT 19** 57

Adisa, bound tightly on a chair, eyes flicking nervously to and fro, following the person in black wearing a bandana and brandishing a gun. Callum. Pacing. Agitated.

CALLUM

You're not telling me what I wanna hear. You're not telling me anything!

GUARD ADISA BORO

Please. Please. Please. Please.
What do you want from me?!

Callum looms over Adisa. Eyes piercing.

CALLUM

I want the truth!

Callum smashes him in the face with the gun. Blood spurts.

CUT TO:

58 **INT./EXT. SEPHY'S CAR/CITY STREET - NIGHT 19** 58

Sephy rubs her eyes, raw from crying. She takes out her phone and starts to call Callum.

CUT TO:

59 **INT. GUARD ADISA BORO'S HOUSE - NIGHT 19** 59

Callum, pacing. Oblivious to his phone vibrating in his pocket.

Blood is still trickling from the woozy Adisa's nose.

GUARD ADISA BORO
Oh God... don't kill me! I have a
son. A little boy!

Immediately, Callum stops pacing. Rocked by such a suggestion. Looks at his reflection in the mirror. Ashamed.

CALLUM
I'm... I'm not going to kill you. I just... I just needed to know what happened to my... to Ryan McGregor.

Adisa caught the slip and now looks at Callum with a scrap of hope. This isn't a member of the LM, but a son. Contemplates.

GUARD ADISA BORO
Teti, what I'm about to tell you, I was warned never to tell anyone.

Callum, curiosity spiked, moves in closer.

CALLUM
What? What is it?

GUARD ADISA BORO
I... I liked McGregor. Tried my best to help him. But there were orders. You understand?

CALLUM
Orders? What orders? By who?

GUARD ADISA BORO
Right from the top. The warden. You see, it wasn't suicide. A senior guard - one with an axe to grind - he had McGregor done.

Fuck! Callum recoils in disbelief. Mind reeling.

GUARD ADISA BORO (CONT'D)
But you didn't hear that from me, just like I didn't see you here tonight. Right? Jowo...

Adisa looks imploringly at Callum. A moment between the two men. An understanding. Callum nods and starts to untie him. Relief floods over Adisa like a wave until his eyes suddenly widen in horror. From his POV: another figure in black, balaclava on, entering the room, with a gun drawn.

A split second later, a bullet rips through the centre of Adisa's forehead. Callum recoils. Splattered in blood. Looks up at the figure in black.

Reaches for his own gun, but the figure is too quick and has the drop on him. Callum freezes. The figure rips off their balaclava. It's Dorn. Callum, stunned, looks at Dorn, then at Adisa. Dead.

CALLUM

Wahala! What've you done?

DORN

Mate! You did this. Not me. He'd clocked who you were.

CALLUM

But we'd... we had an understanding.

DORN

Understand this... Crosses will never understand us. Okay?

Understanding! You'd've been in cuffs by fucking breakfast.

Callum shakes. Shocked. Not only by the violence but his own naivety that's brought it to pass.

CUT TO:

60

INT./EXT. SEPHY'S CAR/CITY STREET - NIGHT 19

60

Sephy on the phone, only hitting Callum's voicemail.

SEPHY

(into phone)

Callum, it's me...

CUT TO:

61

EXT. WOODLAND - NIGHT 19

61

The headlamps of Dorn's car illuminating the figures of Dorn and Callum, digging a shallow grave.

SEPHY (V.O.)

I need... I need... you. That's all. No one else but you. I don't want to wait to make this work. Let's start our life together now. I love you, Callum. That's why... that's why I need to tell you the truth. Face to face.

Dorn and Callum drag a body wrapped in black bin-bags from the boot and heave it into the grave, showering it with dirt.

Callum pauses. Takes in his tainted hands. A part of him knowing they can never again be washed clean.

CUT TO:

62 MERGED WITH SCENE 63 62

63 INT. DORN'S VEHICLE - NIGHT 19 63

Callum, haunted, sits silently in the passenger seat of the moving vehicle, watching a news report on Dorn's phone.

Kamal on the screen. Outside parliament earlier in the day. Cameras flashing. General hubbub of reporters. The indent at the bottom of the screen reads: *PM's terror crack down.*

KAMAL

The threat from terrorism, the LM in particular, is one of the starker we, the people of Albion, face. We cannot - must not - allow it the safe space it needs to breed. That is why passing this new legislation affording the authorities greater powers to stop, search and detain, is so vital.

Reveal Dorn, driving, a lit cigarette, listening to Kamal's speech.

KAMAL (V.O.)

We'll no longer tolerate the Ryan McGregors of this world. It's time to seek out and wipe this scourge from existence. The hunt is on. With no stone to be left unturned.

On Dorn's eyes, hardening like flint. Exchanges a glance with Callum. A shared understanding of what this brave new world now means for their kind.

DORN

There's no turning back now, son.

CUT TO:

63A **INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - NIGHT 19**

63A

Jude, Nicola and a few other LM members, poring over a map of London. Jude's phone vibrates with a text message we don't see, but one that makes him smile. He looks at Nicola.

CUT TO:

64 **OMITTED**

64 *

65

INT. MCGREGOR HOUSE. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 19

65

Meggie exits the kitchen as Callum returns home.

MEGGIE

Oh good, you're back. Where've you been? Your dinner's going cold.

Callum can barely meet her eye. He's ashamed over what he's done. For letting her down. And for the sadness that's sure to ensue.

CALLUM

I'm so sorry, mama.

MEGGIE

It's okay, love. It's nothing fancy. I've popped it in the oven for you.

He nods his gratitude.

CALLUM

Thank you, mama. For everything.

He hugs her. It's a strange response. Meggie regards him a little more closely.

MEGGIE

Cal... is everything alright?

Of course it isn't. But Callum can't find the strength to tell her the truth and doesn't want to ruin what could be their last moment together. He nods. Meggie eyes him a little warily...

MEGGIE (CONT'D)

Ok... well I'll get you your plate.

She smiles. It's warm. Loving. He manages to smile back. She disappears into the kitchen. Callum somberly looks around the living room. He pulls out his phone. A missed call and text from Sephy: **"I need to tell you something about your baba. Please meet me.xxx"**. He hovers over it, curiously.

At that moment, another text message comes through from Sephy: **"Meet me outside yours, now"**. Callum frowns.

CUT TO:

66

EXT. MCGREGOR HOUSE - NIGHT 19

66

Moments later, Callum and Sephy standing face to face.

CALLUM
What you doing here?

SEPHY

Didn't you get my messages? I-I
Listen, Cal! From now on, you come
first. Always.

CUT TO:

67

INT. MCGREGOR HOUSE. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 19

67

Meggie exits the kitchen, looking for Callum. She crosses to the window, gazing out at the sight of Callum and Sephy standing before one another under the street lamps.

CUT TO:

68

OMITTED

68

69

EXT. MCGREGOR HOUSE - NIGHT 19

69

Back to Sephy and Callum.

SEPHY

I need to tell you something.

SEPHY (CONT'D)

It isn't easy.

CALLUM

Me too.

SEPHY

Please. Let me go first. Because...
you were right. About everything.
Your father. Mine. Everything!
(off Callum's look)
I-I just didn't know how to tell
you. Or-or whether I should. But
you don't lie to the one's you
love. Not if you want to build a
life together. And I do, Callum.
More than anything. I want to build
my life with you.

Sephy plants a tender kiss on his lips. It builds in passion until Callum suddenly breaks away. His smile gone. He shakes his head softly.

CALLUM

We've been kidding ourselves.
Thinking this - us can ever be.

Sephy looks confused.

SEPHY

What?

CALLUM

I can't love you, Sephy. Not with
who I am...

Meggie appears at the door, a quizzical look towards Callum and Sephy. Near the bottom of the street, a car pulls up, Nicola behind the wheel. Jude hops out, glares at Callum.

CALLUM (CONT'D)

...or where I'm going.

Sephy's lungs, devoid of air.

JUDE

Come on, man. We gotta go!

At that moment, Meggie comes rushing out of the building.

MEGGIE

Jude? What's going on? Callum?

Callum turns away, heads towards the car. Sephy follows him.

SEPHY

Callum, please. Don't do this. I
love you.

MEGGIE

CALLUM! NO! CALLUM! COME BACK!

Callum, one last sorrowful look as he gets in. The car drives off into the night leaving Meggie floundering in its wake. She turns and looks at Sephy, rocked in the still.

FADE OUT.