

OUR GIRL

SERIES FOUR, EPISODE SIX

Written & Created by

Tony Grounds

11th June 2019

PINK SHOOTING SCRIPT

(Scene numbers locked)

© BBC STUDIOS DRAMA

The sending of this script does not constitute an offer of a contract for any part herein

1 **EXT. KABUL. - DAWN**

1

Dawn. We are outside a polling station. It is the day of the elections. Bunting. Posters representing the plethora of candidates, including Dr Bahil. People start to go about their morning business. Children run past with their kites swiping the screen...

 BRIGADIER (V.O.)
Today we have an opportunity to
show the world a democratic
Afghanistan that is moving
forward... this election will go
down as a significant turning point
in this country's history...

2 **EXT. KABUL BARRACKS. - DAY**

2

We see the British platoon, including 2 Section, marching across the parade ground, along with a platoon of Afghans and a platoon of Americans.

 BRIGADIER (V.O.)
It is also an important day for the
Afghan Army as another fine platoon
of soldiers pass out from the
Afghan National Army Academy...

We see the Afghan soldiers marching as best they can. The three platoons march, and are then called to attention by their respective colour sergeants.

 BRIGADIER (V.O.)
As we hand over Afghanistan to
itself, visiting dignitaries will
arrive at 15:00 hours to meet the
brigadiers and some selected
troops.

We see the British, Afghan & American Brigadiers standing proud, watching the rehearsals.

 BRIGADIER (V.O.)
There will undoubtedly be
insurgents who will be attempting
to disrupt proceedings and halt the
elections in any way they can.

We see Rabee, Poya and Zarek amongst the Afghan soldiers.

 BRIGADIER (V.O.)
We will do our darnedest to make
sure that does not happen.

We see 2 Section. Georgie focused.

BRIGADIER (V.O.)

Can we guarantee there will be no fatalities? No. But we can say, when our heads hit the pillow, we did all we could to prevent any.

3 INT. KABUL BARRACKS - OPS ROOM. - DAY

3

We see all the three platoons gathered, listening to the Brigadier standing up top with the Afghan and American Brigadiers, along with Sandy and Kingy. Dr Antonio is also present, occasionally flashing a look at Georgie which she does not return.

BRIGADIER

We shall not be found wanting.

KINGY

We have trained long and hard for today. Stay focused, stay alert. Impeccable behaviour.

Mimi and Throbber both flash a look at Cheese.

ALL

Colour.

BRIGADIER

Mr Hurst.

SANDY

(booms out)

At 15:00 hours, the Group Command Colonel... one of the highest-ranking officers in the United States Armed Forces, lands in Kabul... as part of a schedule of activity he will arrive at the barracks at 15:21...

*
*
*

BRIGADIER

(swelling with pride)

And be presented to the British, American and Afghan Brigadiers.

SANDY

Indeed... before turning and inspecting the troops. He will stop at the best student passing out, Cadet Poya.

We see Rabee smiling at Poya, the best student.

POYA

Thank you, sir.

SANDY

The dignitaries will be here for nine minutes before carrying on to meet the Governor of Kabul and the outgoing president of Afghanistan.

KINGY

The Afghan National Army will be proving a ring of steel around Kabul today... the visiting dignitaries and indeed every candidate and polling station.

BRIGADIER

The hand of history is on our shoulders today... a successful tour will see the regiment rightly lauded.

He beams, full of self importance. Georgie flashes a worried look to Prof.

3a **EXT. KABUL BARRACKS. - DAY**

3a

The platoon have been dismissed and are all filing out, including Monk, Throbber, Cheese and Mimi.

4 **INT. KABUL BARRACKS - BRIEFING ROOM. - DAY**

4

We see Kingy and Sandy studying the maps of Kabul on the wall. Prof joins him.

PROF

It's got to be an improvement on the last shit-storm elections...

KINGY

Indeed.

PROF

Ten candidates killed... attacks on voter registration centres, one of them killing 60 people in Kabul...

KINGY

Standard.

PROF

A third of the voting centres were closed with the escalating violence...

Sandy, who has been half-listening, joins them.

SANDY

Was there insufficient security?

PROF
Just the 70,000 security forces.

Prof sees Georgie as she is heading out. He hurries to join her. We are left with Sandy looking at the maps of Kabul as the Brigadier heads over.

SANDY
It's odd, isn't it?

BRIGADIER
Mr Hurst?

SANDY
As we plan for every contingency,
there will be insurgents making
plans of their own.

He stares hard at Sandy.

SANDY (CONT'D)
Right now, bandits are in a room
somewhere, studying a map of
Kabul... looking for our weakness.

BRIGADIER
There will be no weakness, correct,
2nd Lieutenant?

Sandy nods and, feeling the pressure, turns and smiles at Rabee, Poya and Zarek as they head out.

5 **EXT. KABUL BARRACKS. - DAY**

5

Georgie is drinking from a bottle of water. Prof comes and joins her.

PROF
You okay?

GEORGIE
Me? Yep.

PROF
Worried?
(sensing something is
awry)
Spit it out.

GEORGIE
I looked into Omar's eyes, Prof.
That's all.

PROF
What is it you think you've seen?

Georgie flashes him a look. She can't articulate exactly what she feels.

PROF (CONT'D)

You haven't seen anything... you've got a hunch.

GEORGIE

It's more than a hunch, Prof...

PROF

It's not more than a hunch, is it?

GEORGIE

(whispers impassioned)
I looked him in the eye and
...there was something not quite
right... he didn't seem... he
was...

PROF

Uncooperative? What were you expecting?

GEORGIE

I was expecting to... I don't know
what I was expecting... I thought
he'd be different. He wasn't the
Omar in my head... I've met
warlords... been held by the throat
by them and he wasn't...
(she shakes her head)
Should I say something to someone?

PROF

What is there to say? That we
impersonated American officers and
you've got an uneasy feeling about
Omar? Hold your counsel until you
know something concrete. That's all
I'm saying. I'm on your side.

Georgie studies him.

GEORGIE

I know why you're saying that.
Because if I blab about it now
everyone will go, "confirmed, she's
nuts!"

PROF

No one's ever thought you were
nuts.

GEORGIE

So why did they send me for a psych
assessment?

PROF

You're not nuts. The psych report
will say you're not nuts.

GEORGIE

I'm of stable enough mind for the
army... unless I shoot my gob off.

PROF

'Anyone who joins the army is
nuts'.

He nudges her and manages a little smile.

PROF (CONT'D)

Catch 22. Have you heard of catch
22?

GEORGIE

Nope.

PROF

It's from a book... they talk about
an American Air Force thing...
going on a dangerous mission, if
you applied for exemption on the
grounds of insanity, you were
clearly sane so had to go. And
those that were insane didn't apply
for exemption and went anyhow.
Catch 22.

*
*
*

GEORGIE

Heads I win, tails you lose.

PROF

You got it.

GEORGIE

The army always wins.

She looks around at all the other troops milling around...
her platoon, and over the other side of the parade ground,
the Afghans.

PROF

Want my advice... keep your head
down.

Georgie & Prof join 2 Section gathered outside and are
milling about, awaiting instruction.

THROBBER

I know how to solve all problems on
election day and guarantee there'll
be no deaths!

MONK

Does anybody have a clue about
these elections? I don't.

PROF

Enlighten us, Throbber.

THROBBER

Vote by phone. Bosh. Sorted. I mean if they can do it on X Factor you'd think they could sort it out over here.

GEORGIE

Well maybe not everyone has a smart phone.

THROBBER

I don't know anybody who doesn't. Mimi, do you know anyone who doesn't have a smart phone?

MIMI

Obviously not. Insta. Snapchat.

THROBBER

Tinder.

MONK

Even my grandma's on Tinder! She super-liked me, so not sure as she quite understood the rules.

PROF

You're not on Tinder, are you Monk?

MONK

Not now... that was then. Before. Now I'm 100% happy.

GEORGIE

Keep telling yourself that.

THROBBER

I once had four birds in one day from Tinder.

*

PROF

Like Dawn French with four Christmas Dinners.

GEORGIE

Is that how you met Monk's grandma, Throbber?

They hear a loud but distant explosion from somewhere in downtown Kabul. This pulls them up and they all look at the pall of smoke and hear sporadic gunfire.

GEORGIE (CONT'D)

Afghan elections, X Factor, Tinder, Monk's grandma, Dawn French's Christmas lunch and back to the realities of war in 18 seconds. Standard 2 Section bantz.

*

Another burst of gunfire in the distance.

THROBBER

Am I right or am I right though...
phone vote!

Cheese arrives.

CHEESE

There's gonna be carnage today
guys... least let's hope so... eh
Throbber? Then we can get out there
and sort them wrong'uns out.

He puts his arm around Throbber's shoulder. He meekly half
nods without wanting to be complicit. He sees Mimi turning
away. Monk clocks this.

Kingy heads over. He is holding a file.

KINGY

(calling)
Word in your shell like please,
Sergeant Lane.

Georgie mock salutes and heads after him.

6 **EXT. KABUL BARRACKS. - DAY**

6

Kingy and Georgie are walking across the parade ground
together.

KINGY

(tapping the file)
Let's go to my office.

GEORGIE

Put me out of my misery now, Kingy.

He flashes her a look.

GEORGIE (CONT'D)

I know that's the psych report.

KINGY

Office.

GEORGIE

I'm thinking... if it's bad news
you wouldn't have tapped the file
like that... Unless you were a
heartless psychopath.

KINGY

Got me sussed already. You're good.

They pass the Afghans still being drilled by their Sergeant.

KINGY (CONT'D)
(referring to file)
'Reinstated to full duties with
immediate effect'.

Georgie beams. Kingy nods and smiles.

GEORGIE
I knew you weren't a heartless
psychopath. And I'm sorry... you
know...

KINGY
No, spit it out.

GEORGIE
That I thought you agreed with
them... that you thought I wasn't
fit for duty. I knew our
friendship...

KINGY
Errr, stop you there, Lane. If I
thought for one second you were
wobbling... I'd have done more than
just 'think' you weren't fit for
duty... I'd have called it in.

GEORGIE
Really?

KINGY
Absofuckinglutely. You have
responsibilities... other people
rely on us and it would be a
dereliction of my duty if I had
doubts about you.

GEORGIE
(tapping file)
I'm sane, it's official.

KINGY
(with a smile)
You've never been sane to be fair,
Lane.

GEORGIE
No, or I would never have enlisted.
Catch 22.

Kingy looks thrown before they disappear inside a building.

7 INT. KABUL BARRACKS. - DAY

7

Georgie and Kingy come in and walk along the corridor.

KINGY

So... now on in... task in hand and
only task in hand.

GEORGIE

Colour.

We see she is not convinced. They pass a small room and do
not see inside. Once they have gone, we see inside.

8 **INT. ROOM. KABUL BARRACKS. - DAY**

8

Rabee has gathered Poya and Zarek. They speak in Pashto.

RABEE

The **Group Command Colonel**... this
is better than the new president
himself...

*

Poya half nods. Zarek gets out two handguns, handing one to
Poya and hiding one in his own belt.

ZAREK

It's our country and they tell us
we can't be armed today.

RABEE

He comes to inspect you. Then you
open fire... point blank. No
mistakes. Zarek, you open fire on
anyone else.

Zarek nods. Poya stares at the gun.

RABEE (CONT'D)

Are you ready, Poya?

POYA

Yes.

RABEE

We've waited two years... two years
hiding amongst them for this
opportunity.

Poya hides his gun in his belt. Rabee nods.

Cut to TITLES:

9 **INT. KABUL BARRACKS. SCOFF HOUSE. - DAY**

9

The place is packed with soldiers grabbing their breakfast.
We see Cheese leaning over a table of 2 Section, holding
court. Only Georgie isn't there.

CHEESE

Shit you not... how would it make
the world any worse if we pulled
out and nuked the place?

They look at him, a tad troubled by his attitude.

CHEESE (CONT'D)

I mean, even Australia has Koala
bears... what's this gaff got? Shit
all.

A few nervous laughs.

Mimi gets up with her unfinished breakfast and is heading to
the bin to scrape.

PROF

(to Monk)

You had eyes on Georgie lately?

MONK

Not like her to miss breakfast.

Cheese comes up behind Mimi at the bin.

CHEESE

What's the matter, don't you like
foreign beans?

Mimi half glares at him.

CHEESE (CONT'D)

Ohhh, silent treatment. Still... I
reckon that's quite a good move.

MIMI

Just keep away from me... you've
done enough damage already.

CHEESE

You say nothing... and I say
nothing. We got ourselves a deal?

She half nods. Cheese smiles and heads off. Monk arrives with
his plate, having clocked a tension.

MONK

Everything alright, Mimi?

MIMI

Yeah.

MONK

What was he banging on about?

MIMI

Who?

MONK

Cheese.

MIMI

Dunno. Weren't listening. Beans, I think.

Mimi heads off, leaving Monk looking after her.

10

INT. ROLE THREE. ANTONIO'S OFFICE. - DAY

10

Antonio is behind his desk as he is briefing another doctor.

ANTONIO

So how many on your lists are needing to stay in overnight?

The doctor looks down at his lists as Antonio sees Georgie walking down the corridor and into his office. She knocks on the door and opens it.

GEORGIE

Have you got a moment, sir?

ANTONIO

Certainly have. We'd just finished. Thank you, doctor.

The doctor gets up and leaves, thrown and puzzled. He smiles to Georgie.

ANTONIO (CONT'D)

Hello stranger.

Georgie stares at him.

GEORGIE

I'm back on full duties.

ANTONIO

That's excellent. I couldn't be happier for you.

He moves to take her arm. She recoils slightly.

He looks at her, waiting for her to continue. She stares hard at him.

GEORGIE

Did you know about Pakistan?

ANTONIO

I'm sorry?

GEORGIE

Don't 'I'm sorry' me when you lied. You signed Omar off as fit to travel...

ANTONIO
I did not lie to you.

GEORGIE
Shielded me from the truth then...
that Omar was going to be whisked
off to some interrogation unit in
Pakistan never to be seen or heard
of again.

ANTONIO
Just hold on a second. There was no
lying or shielding you from the
truth. I was asked to medically
assess Aatan Omar... as a doctor I
did my duty.

*

GEORGIE
Why didn't you say anything to me?

ANTONIO
Because there was nothing to say...
I didn't know anything for
definite.

Georgie mulls this over.

ANTONIO (CONT'D)
You were seeing the psych... What
could I have told you that I didn't
actually know myself... for
certain?

He goes to take her hand. She doesn't recoil as before but
isn't warm.

ANTONIO (CONT'D)
I have only ever done what's best
for you.

There is a real, electric moment between the two of them,
eyes locked.

ANTONIO (CONT'D)
Which includes not telling anyone
you borrowed my pass.

She stares at him, surprised.

GEORGIE
I needed to look him in the eye.

ANTONIO
Well... you seem to have rattled
him.

GEORGIE
Have I?

He looks a tad conflicted - what should he say?

GEORGIE (CONT'D)

We need to be able to trust each other.

ANTONIO

We do.

GEORGIE

Then tell me what you know! Stop... censoring everything you say... I can see the cogs turning. What's happened?

ANTONIO

He's called Military Intelligence in to make a full confession...

GEORGIE

What can he confess to that we don't already know?

Antonio raises an eyebrow like 'you wouldn't believe'.

ANTONIO

You might not swallow this one...

Georgie intrigued. Antonio considers, half nods and starts to tell her but doesn't fully believe.

ANTONIO (CONT'D)

He's now saying he's not in fact Omar but rather a stooge... the seals and your special forces have been hunting a ghost across the mountains for two years... while the real Omar is somewhere else, directing operations.

Georgie stares, her mind racing.

GEORGIE

I gotta go...

She heads off. Antonio, puzzled, steps out into the corridor with her.

11 **INT. ROLE THREE HOSPITAL. CORRIDOR. - DAY**

11

Antonio takes her arm.

ANTONIO

By the way, that is extremely sensitive intel... only those on a need to know basis.

*
*

GEORGIE

So do... my guys know?

ANTONIO

Only those that need to know.

Georgie gives him a hug for trusting her enough to tell her.

GEORGIE

(whispers in his ear)

Thank you.

We see, but they don't, Prof way down the corridor, holding Georgie's breakfast. When he sees them hugging he turns and heads off alone.

Georgie breaks her hug and heads off in the other direction.

12 **EXT. KABUL. POLLING STATION/MOSQUE. - DAY**

12

We see a Mosque and hear the call to prayer.

We see the dozens and dozens of candidate images plastered onto seemingly every wall, every surface, every lamp post etc.

We see the queues of people waiting to get in to vote.

13 **INT. POLLING STATION. - DAY**

13

We see the helpers/organisers sorting the queue... the ones at the front inking their fingers ready to vote. There are two queues, one for men and one for women. We see a man with a backpack who security forces are straight onto, pulling him aside to be thoroughly searched. As he is taken away with see an old woman at the front of the queue, shuffling inside.

14 **EXT. KABUL. - DAY**

14

We see some children playing in the dusty road. They jump when they hear an almighty explosion.

15 **INT. KABUL BARRACKS. BRIGADIER'S OFFICE. - DAY**

15

The Brigadier is behind his desk. Sandy hovers in the doorway.

BRIGADIER

Whenever my kids used to hover in the doorway like that, it was either they wanted more money or were about to be expelled. Oft times, both.

SANDY

Suicide bomb gone off at a polling station...

BRIGADIER
Aware. The Americans have called
for all public transport to be
halted until...

SANDY
(faux Trump)
'Until they can work out what the
hell is going on?'

Silence. Brigadier stares at Sandy.

BRIGADIER
Is that a joke, Mr Hurst?

SANDY
Sir, if that's not Omar we have in
the cells... and he's still at
large masterminding these
attacks... surely our resources
would be better utilized in Kabul,
helping the ANA prevent any further
atrocities. Rather than the
dignitary meet and greet here at
the camp?

The Brigadier looks up, clearly vexed/horrified.

BRIGADIER
(clipped/fuming)
No. I am meeting the Colonel. Will
that be all?

*

SANDY
Yes, thank you, sir. Thank you for
listening. I'm sure you'll give it
due consideration.

He salutes, turns and heads off.

16 INT. KABUL BARRACKS. CORRIDOR. - DAY

16

Sandy emerges from the doorway where Kingy has been
listening.

The two of them walk along the corridor together.

SANDY
Did you hear any of that, Colour?

KINGY
Oh no, sir.
(beat)
You've said your piece.

Kingy nods supportively. Sandy flashes him a look as they
head out.

17 **INT. KABUL BARRACKS - UK COMMS ROOM. - DAY**

17

Sandy is briefing the platoon, British and Afghan.

SANDY

With the latest bomb blast at a polling station, the hospital is now at maximum... Dr Bahil needs round-the-clock protection. I'm moving Saunders and Poya over there to assist.

POYA

Sir... I'm meeting the dignitaries...

SANDY

Not any more.

We see Poya flash Rabee a look.

RABEE

Sir, I could go to the hospital while Poya...

SANDY

No. I need you here supervising your platoon. Questions?

Georgie holds her arm aloft... Prof looks across anxiously. Sandy nods to Georgie.

GEORGIE

Do we know who exactly is behind these bombings? The one at the polling station must...

Kingy stares at her, raises a hand to stop her.

KINGY

(clipped)

Let's all stick to the appropriate task in hand. Dismissed.

They all start to file out. Georgie holds Kingy's stare.

18 **EXT. KABUL BARRACKS - DAY**

18

Rabee and Zarek catch up with Poya, who is putting on his helmet and heading to the armoured vehicle. They speak in Pashto.

POYA

What are we going to do?

RABEE

Zarek will shoot the Colonel. I'll be his back up.

*

He holds out his hand for the gun. Poya hands it over and Rabee hides it in his belt. Rabee hands Poya a key. Poya stares at it, puzzled.

RABEE (CONT'D)
Go to the store room... find the
cupboard by the door...

Poya stares, somewhat aghast.

POYA
Cupboard?

RABEE
We can turn this situation to our
advantage.

Mimi is standing by the vehicle, already prepped. She sees Rabee, Zarek and Poya approaching... about 100 yards away... Still conspiring.

Georgie comes up to Mimi.

GEORGIE
Take care, Mimi...

MIMI
The hospital's gonna be about the
safest place!

GEORGIE
Yeah, like the polling stations!
Keep your wits about you.

MIMI
We'll be fine... I got Poya to keep
me safe...
(shouting to an
approaching Poya)
...hurry it up, we gotta go.

Mimi & Georgie see Poya acknowledging he's on his way, now parting with Rabee and Zarek.

GEORGIE
I'm not fucking about here,
Saunders. Stay focused, stay alert,
stay alive.

Mimi realises Georgie is properly serious. Georgie sees Mimi and Poya heading inside the armoured vehicle.

19 INT. ARMOURED VEHICLE/EXT. KABUL BARRACKS. - DAY

19

Mimi and Poya get into the rear. Both in full combats.

MIMI
Have you voted?

Poya looks at her.

MIMI (CONT'D)
I mean, you get to vote, don't
you... even though you're in the
army?

Poya half shakes his head.

MIMI (CONT'D)
My mate reckons you should
introduce phone voting...

The driver starts to pull away when there is a banging on the
vehicle. The door opens and Antonio, now in full combats,
gets in.

ANTONIO
Slight change of plan... post-
bombings, I'm helping Dr Bahil in
the emergency room.

The vehicle heads off through the gates. We hear the call to
prayer.

20 **INT. KABUL BARRACKS. MALE QUARTERS. - DAY**

20

The platoon are all dressing for the march, parade,
inspection. We hear a distant call to prayer.

PROF
It's haunting, isn't it... the call
to prayer?

THROBBER
Ay it though.

Cheese, in a far part of the room, scoffs unseen.

PROF
Anybody who says it's not a kind
of... beautiful sound, isn't
listening properly. Listen.

Prof nods. They all listen. Suddenly it stops.

MONK
I can't hear anything, Prof.

PROF
Silence has a sound.

They all listen. Silence. We go from face to face as they
listen... apart from Cheese, who half shakes his head.

CHEESE
(suddenly dropping a tray
onto the floor, making a
terrific crash)
Boom!

Everybody jumps as Cheese roars.

CHEESE (CONT'D)
What a bunch of pussies you lot
are! I didn't join the navy by
mistake, did I?

They all focus as they continue to get ready. Monk able to
have a private word with Throbber.

MONK
(nodding in Cheese's
direction)
Thoughts?

Throbber looks up at him blankly.

MONK (CONT'D)
One bad apple, yeah?

THROBBER
I'm just here to do my job.

Monk feels like Throbber is not engaging properly with him
for some reason.

Georgie comes in and the moment is gone. She goes to Prof,
who is putting final touches to his uniform. They are able to
talk privately. Prof curt, still hurt about Georgie and
Antonio.

GEORGIE
Prof... Prof, you might need to sit
down for what I've got to tell you.

PROF
Go on.

GEORGIE
I've heard certain intel from
American Military Intelligence.

PROF
You mean Antonio.

GEORGIE
I'm not supposed to say... the
person we have in custody is now
saying he's not Omar... but a
stooge put in place so Omar can
carry on... directing operations.
(MORE)

GEORGIE (CONT'D)

I knew something wasn't right about him... what did I tell you... I called this right from the off!

PROF

Bound to say that, isn't he? 'Are you Omar?' "Who guv, what guv, me guv?"

GEORGIE

(slightly thrown by his lack of enthusiasm)

What are we going to do, Prof?

PROF

The parade.

GEORGIE

I mean about Omar not being Omar.

PROF

Omar 'saying' he's not Omar. He's not exactly the most trustworthy dude in town.

Kingy comes in.

KINGY

Oh my days... get a shift on... need you outside two minutes ago.

Kingy goes, Prof starts to follow.

GEORGIE

Prof... what's got into you?

He gives her a look and follows Kingy out.

21 **INT/EXT. KABUL BARRACKS. - DAY**

21

The platoon of ANA are filing out. We see Rabee and Zarek at the rear, checking their weapons and hiding them discreetly in their belts, focused, preparing.

22 **INT. ARMOURED VEHICLE. - DAY**

22

Antonio, Mimi and Poya are heading towards the hospital. Antonio is going through his papers... lists of the injured that have arrived at the local hospital etc. Poya is looking out of the strong windows, but Mimi can see he's nervous.

MIMI

You worried?

POYA

I'm not worried.

MIMI
You look worried.

POYA
That is my face.

Mimi and Antonio laugh a little at that.

MIMI
That used to happened to me at school.

POYA
What?

MIMI
The teachers always used to go...
'You don't understand, do you, Mimi
Saunders..? You look puzzled'.
Apparently I like... always looked
puzzled. Hated school. Did you?

POYA
School?

ANTONIO
Was it in Kabul, were you born
round here?

POYA
(shaking his head)
Lashkar Gah.

MIMI
I bet you were a proper teacher's
pet. Did the teachers like you?

POYA
It wasn't a good time... my parents
needed me to work on the farm.

MIMI
It's like exactly the opposite of
the UK... back home none of the
kids want to go to school and their
parents make them go.

POYA
Maybe.

MIMI
Anyway, you don't need to be
worried anymore... because I'm
going to look after you.

ANTONIO
You're safe with us, Poya.

Poya stares at Antonio, unflinching.

MIMI

You're my mate... I might even
follow you on Insta when I'm back.

They carry on with their journey, looking out of the window
as they hear a helicopter.

23 **EXT. KABUL. - DAY**

23

People going about their day. Massive ANA and AP presence.

We hear the noise of the flags and banners and posters
flapping in the wind.

We see a very young child, sitting on the knee of an old man
in a wheelchair, looking up and seeing a helicopter flying
overhead.

Everything adding to the tension.

24 **INT. ARMOURED VEHICLE/EXT. KABUL HOSPITAL. - DAY**

24

Massive security outside the hospital as the armoured vehicle
pulls up and Antonio hurries inside.

Mimi and Poya have a moment before they are to be escorted
inside.

MIMI

What did you grow?

POYA

When?

MIMI

On your farm... your parents' farm?

POYA

(beat)

It used to be melons. And
pomegranates. We even had some
walnut trees.

MIMI

Walnut trees?! Walnuts grow on
trees?

POYA

Of course.

MIMI

Oh my days... never knew that.

POYA

I used to pick them with my
friends... crack them open to see
if the walnuts were ready.

(MORE)

POYA (CONT'D)

(beat)

But since the war, just poppies.

Mimi takes this in. It seems to hit her hard.

MIMI

And are your parents... they still
got the farm?

Poya gives a little shake of the head. We sense something
ominous. A man on a stretcher is hurried past them, screaming
in agony.

MIMI (CONT'D)

What happened?

POYA

There was a bombing at my brother's
funeral. Killed them all.

Mimi studies Poya before they are rushed inside the hospital.
Poya looks up at a helicopter as he heads inside.

25 **EXT. KABUL BARRACKS. - DAY**

25

The platoons are prepped and ready. All eyes on the
approaching helicopter in the sky. Rabee flashes a look to
Zarek in the Afghan ranks.

Kingy marches across to the British ranks.

KINGY

Minutes away, guys.

THROBBER

Here come the big knobs.

PROF

The Septics love a bit of self
importance.

GEORGIE

Getting ready to focus, Throbber.

THROBBER

I want you to be my business
partner when we leave the army,
Prof.

PROF

With your brains and my looks...

GEORGIE

Think you slightly trump him on
both.

Prof looks at her and raises an eyebrow... still hurt about
her and Antonio.

THROBBER
Seriously, Dragons' Den... we'd
clean up.

PROF
What's our business?

THROBBER
Undertakers... Kabul.

Georgie shakes her head.

GEORGIE
Not even funny, Throbber.

They are all looking at him incredulously.

PROF
At teacher training, we were always
told to encourage kids to express
themselves... I now realise just
how wrong that was.

THROBBER
Bit rude.

Kingy takes the opportunity to have a word with Georgie.

KINGY
Important day.
(raising a jocular
eyebrow)
Let's not spoil it with silly
behaviour.

She gives him a look.

KINGY (CONT'D)
Platoon.... ETA three minutes.

They all stand to attention.

26 **INT. KABUL HOSPITAL. - DAY**

26

Antonio, now dressed as a local doctor, hurries into a ward where pandemonium and chaos abound. There are a seeming multitude of ANA and AP checking everyone. Antonio heads to Dr Bahil.

DR BAHIL
(briefing him about a
patient she is standing
over)
Tertiary blast injuries... thrown
into the air and landed on his
back... no sensation in his legs,
need to get him scanned for
internal trauma and fractures...
(MORE)

DR BAHIL (CONT'D)
traumatic amputation, two fingers,
left hand. Breathing now stable.

ANTONIO
How many bombings have there been
this morning?

DR BAHIL
Most injuries from the polling
station. A few other explosions...

Dr Bahil stops talking and shakes her head.

ANTONIO
Haven't you got... election duties?

Dr BAHIL
Too late.

ANTONIO
What's too late?

Dr BAHIL
I have too much to do in this real
world to worry about... anything
else.

ANTONIO
The elections are real.

DR BAHIL
Or just a real waste of time?

ANTONIO
What are you talking about?

*

DR BAHIL
The Taliban are going to seize
control, aren't they... when you're
all gone...

Dr Bahil flashes him a look as she hurries down the corridor
to a supplies room, Antonio in pursuit.

Dr BAHIL (CONT'D)
The 'new' Taliban is all about
peace talks and solar panels...
bringing irrigation to the farms...
electricity in the rural
communities... education for all...

ANTONIO
The Taliban?! I cannot believe
you're saying that... what's going
on here?

DR BAHIL
When you've all gone and we're
alone...

(MORE)

DR BAHIL (CONT'D)
they're going to be the ones in
power... by fighting them aren't
we... delaying the inevitable?
Causing more harm?

ANTONIO
Well you try telling the boy
they're wheeling into surgery
they're the good guys.

Beat. Dr Bahil gives a small shake of the head.

DR BAHIL
I don't believe in anything
anymore.

ANTONIO
You believe in Afghanistan. That's
why you came back.

DR BAHIL
Dak never wanted to come back. He
wanted us to stay in America.

ANTONIO
Dak would be so proud of what you
are doing right now... he's **for**
sure somewhere swelling with pride!

*
*

Antonio can see Dr Bahil is tearful. He suddenly holds her.
They cling on to each other.

ANTONIO (CONT'D)
You're running a hospital... in
this middle of Kabul... people see
you and see what they can
achieve... a generation of girls
can aspire to be like you.

DR BAHIL
But maybe I don't want to be like
me anymore.

More screams and people being rushed into the hospital. They
hurry out to assist. Mimi and Poya arrive at her side.

Dr Bahil heads across to the patient who needs to be
assessed. Mimi is properly shadowing her, and quickly checks
out the patient first, searching her.

DR BAHIL (CONT'D)
Everybody's been thoroughly
searched half a dozen times before
they've arrived on the ward.

MIMI
We're all looking after you today,
Dr Bahil.

Mimi smiles. Dr Bahil starts her examination.

DR BAHIL
Let's get this lady on a saline
drip and antibiotics.

MIMI
I'll go and get some from the cool
store.

POYA
I'll go.

A somewhat determined/steely Poya heads out of the ward,
moving past the tight ANA and AP at the doorway.

27 **EXT. KABUL BARRACKS. - DAY** 27

The helicopter is approaching landing... we see the platoon
awaiting their signal to move.

BRIGADIER
Why the delay?

SANDY
Awaiting clearance. Suspected
drone.

BRIGADIER
Well... shoot the bloody thing down
and let's move on.

28 **EXT. KABUL BARRACKS. SANGAR. - DAY** 28

The ANA in the sangar, scanning everything, making sure
everything is secure.

29 **INT. KABUL HOSPITAL. SUPPLIES ROOM. - DAY** 29

We see Poya in the supplies room as he looks for the cupboard
and pulls a key from his pocket.

Shaking, he opens the cupboard and reveals a suicide vest.
Close on a sweating Poya.

30 **INT. KABUL HOSPITAL. CORRIDOR. - DAY** 30

Dr Bahil is hurrying along the corridor and into her office.
We see Poya watching from a distance before hurrying in after
her.

31 **INT. KABUL HOSPITAL. DR BAHIL'S OFFICE. - DAY** 31

Dr Bahil is sorting out a box of blast bandages and looks up
as Poya walks in.

DR BAHIL
Poya, if you can take these blast
bandages onto the ward...

She looks up at Poya who is staring intently at her. She is taken aback by this strange new Poya.

DR BAHIL (CONT'D)
What's the matter?

She sees he is shaking and, in his right hand, has his thumb on a red button/detonator switch... The wire running up his sleeve.

The penny drops and she then sees the top of his suicide vest.

Stalemate.

DR BAHIL (CONT'D)
(quietly in Pashto)
I didn't think I could be surprised
any more...

POYA
(Pashto)
You must not speak.

DR BAHIL
(Pashto)
But you've surprised me, Poya. You?

We close in on Poya as he braces himself. We see his thumb twitching on the trigger. Close on Dr Bahil, she knows he's about to detonate. Back tight on a now muttering Poya who is repeating 'Allah Akbar' over and over as he prepares to press the button.

Mimi suddenly opens the door.

MIMI
Did you find it?

They both stare at her.

MIMI (CONT'D)
What's going on? Have I interrupted
something?

POYA
Yes. Go out. Please. Go away.

MIMI
Everything alright, Poya? You look
ill. Properly... ill. Green.

She comes in and puts her hand on his forehead to feel his temperature. Poya rears back, sending shockwaves through Mimi. He seems transformed.

The two women stare at him in horror. Mimi notices the button in his hand... and now becomes aware of the vest.

32 **EXT. AIRPORT. - DAY**

32

The helicopter has landed and the dignitaries, accompanied by their security personnel, are being put into a vehicle and heading into base.

33 **EXT. KABUL BARRACKS. - DAY**

33

Kingy getting message into his headset.

KINGY
En route, sir.

Sandy and Brigadier nod.

KINGY (CONT'D)
Platoon, platoon 'shun. By the
left/right quick march.

The platoon is signaled to march, followed by the Afghans and the Americans. Georgie marches but is clearly preoccupied with other thoughts.

34 **INT. KABUL HOSPITAL. DR BAHIL'S OFFICE. - DAY**

34

Dr Bahil and Mimi are staring in horror at a sweating and desperate Poya.

MIMI
Poya... Poya... don't do anything,
please. Just stay very still.

Mimi inches towards him. She speaks calmly and seekingly, without fear.

POYA
Stay back. I only have to press
this button.

MIMI
I know that. I'm just saying... you
don't have to.

POYA
I do... for a new Afghanistan...

We become aware of people, hospital workers etc, realising what is going on as they look through the glass door and at Poya and his suicide vest.

Mimi flashes a look to the screaming people outside in the corridor.

MIMI

But... blowing up a doctor... isn't
that just the old Afghanistan?

POYA

You've come here and destroyed.

MIMI

Have I? How? I'm over here doing
the same as you. Medic.

POYA

Be quiet!

MIMI

We're friends, Poya...

Poya stares at her.

MIMI (CONT'D)

I wanna come and see your farm.

POYA

There is no farm anymore!
Everything is gone.

MIMI

You haven't... you haven't gone.
You've got your life and...

Poya stares at Mimi, not understanding.

POYA

We need to stop people like you and
this American.

DR BAHIL

I'm not American.

POYA

(shaking and sweating,
getting animated and
prepared)
This isn't America... this is our
country... we don't want you
here... any of you!

MIMI

Don't do this, Poya...

POYA

Everything's a lie... Dr Antonio
pretending to help and all the time
pointing out houses for the
Americans to destroy.

Mimi starts to slowly walk to Poya. Dr Bahil tries to grab
her arm to stop her. Mimi ignores her.

DR BAHIL
What do you mean, Poya?

POYA
They came to my house, too... the
American medics pretending to
help... but they're there to search
for targets.

DR BAHIL
(incredulous)
Antonio isn't doing that.

POYA
He tells them where the Taliban are
and then they bomb.

MIMI
Was it the Americans that struck at
your brother's funeral?

POYA
Of course!

Dr Bahil is shaken.

DR BAHIL
Antonio wouldn't...

POYA
(becoming increasingly
impassioned)
I've seen it with my own eyes. He's
not there as a doctor, he's there
as a spy... I kill you, I become a
martyr!

Dr Bahil looks at Mimi, then at Poya's thumb on the button.

35 **EXT. KABUL BARRACKS. - DAY**

35

The vehicle pulls in to the camp, the soldiers all to
attention, in position. The dignitaries start to emerge from
the vehicle.

The three Brigadiers step forward for their big moment. Our
Brigadier steps forward excitedly, salutes and offers his
hand.

They begin the inspection. We focus on Rabee and Zarek as
they exchange a look. Georgie clocks this.

36 **INT. KABUL HOSPITAL. SUPPLIES ROOM. - DAY**

36

Mimi is close to a shaking Poya, who looks on the point of
breaking down.

Outside, the corridor is being cleared by police, as Antonio bolts down it, clearly not willing to move.

POYA
You must go. Leave.

MIMI
(placating and staying
calm)
I'm not going anywhere, Poya. I'm
staying with you.

She looks at Poya and tries to smile.

POYA
Go! You must be away from me.

DR BAHIL
Go, Mimi.

MIMI
I'm staying. Let Dr Bahil go, Poya.

DR BAHIL
I'm staying, too... maybe I can
make things better by dying...
maybe, Poya, you'll be making a
martyr of me...

POYA
No...

DR BAHIL
If I'm not to be elected, maybe
this is what my destiny was... to
die for Afghanistan.

POYA
I'm dying for Afghanistan.

Dr Bahil shakes her head.

DR BAHIL
No one will care about your death.

MIMI
I will.

POYA
Go, Mimi...

MIMI
I don't have a family... my mother
gave me away as a baby... she
didn't want me. I was born addicted
to heroin... my mother was an
addict... I've never met... she
wants no contact... I don't know
who my father was...

(MORE)

MIMI (CONT'D)
maybe he was from Afghanistan... I
haven't got a clue.

Poya stares at her, stunned.

MIMI (CONT'D)
When I was about four, this couple
adopted me... they were going to be
my forever family... love me
forever. But after a year she got
pregnant and I guess that's why
they sent me back. Back to being in
care. That's me, Poya... I don't
have a family either... I'm a
looked-after kiddie.

Dr Bahil flashes a look through the open door and sees
Antonio along the corridor, watching things unfold. The
corridor cleared. Tense. Antonio focused.

MIMI (CONT'D)
I pretend now... pretend I've got a
family... pretend they love me...
pretend they're brilliant... I've
got nothing, I've got no one.

POYA
They have killed all my family... I
have nothing to live for apart from
revenge...

MIMI
You have me. We can sort this
out...

He looks into her eyes.

MIMI (CONT'D)
Take your thumb off, Poya.

Mimi gently moves Poya's thumb from the red button. A moment
of relief for Dr Bahil.

He looks into her eyes, tearful, confused.

A beat as she holds his stare.

Then a bullet to his brain is fired, unseen, by Antonio.

We stay on Poya's frightened eyes, locked with Mimi's in his
last seconds of life. He knows he's been killed, the shock
and horror as he falls to the floor, a desperate Mimi trying
to hold him up.

She looks along at Antonio who rushes into the office as Mimi
screams and Poya's body crashes to the floor.

Before Mimi can react, Antonio and other soldiers rush in,
whisking out Mimi and Dr Bahil.

MIMI (CONT'D)
Poya! Poya!

ANTONIO
(orders barked at speed)
Get them out of here and into a
safe zone. Evacuate this wing.
Alert bomb squad.

We see Mimi and Dr Bahil being taken away at speed... Mimi looking back at dead Poya, aghast.

37 **EXT. KABUL BARRACKS. - DAY**

37

The inspection continues apace as the dignitaries, led by the Brigadiers, approach the Afghan troops.

We see Rabee and Zarek awaiting them. Zarek is itching in anticipation.

We see Kingy getting information through his headset... he turns to Sandy. Noticed only by Georgie.

KINGY
Attempted suicide bombing at the
hospital... ANA soldier.

Sandy, alarmed, flashes a look at the dignitaries as the Brigadiers move them towards the ANA soldiers.

SANDY
What do we do, Kingy?

KINGY
If it was my call, I'd fucking
abort.

On Sandy as he desperately thinks.

SANDY
On me, Colour.

Sandy starts to head towards the Brigadiers. Kingy following. The section looking at each other, Georgie eyes on what's happening.

The Brigadier flashes a look to an approaching Sandy who blocks the path to the Afghans.

SANDY (CONT'D)
Sir, need the dignitaries back into
the safety zone of the vehicle
whilst the situation at the
hospital is unresolved.

BRIGADIER
(fuming)
Move back into the ranks, Mr Hurst.

SANDY
ANA attack at the hospital... sir.
(almost announcing)
Sirs, need you into the safe zone,
now.

The dignitaries and the other brigadiers realise this is the right idea. They start to shuffle and head towards the vehicle.

BRIGADIER
Exactly. Everybody in the vehicle,
now.

They all head towards the vehicle.

Rabee and Zarek exchange anxious looks. Zarek can't wait until they are safely inside the vehicle so pulls his weapon and starts to fire, hitting the two security men.

Kingy and Sandy become cover/human shields as they rush the brigadiers and dignitaries to safety.

KINGY
Contact!

GEORGIE
(running towards the scene
with her bergen)
Man down! Man down!

In the chaos we see Throbber and Monk, pulling their weapons.

MONK
Incoming from ANA!

Throbber points his weapon. Monk stops him firing.

MONK (CONT'D)
Don't engage until we know who it
fucking is.

THROBBER
It was Zarek.

MONK
You can't get a clear shot away.

We see Zarek in the throng of confused ANA. Rabee runs towards him. They speak in Pashto.

RABEE
(allowing himself to be
grabbed by Zarek)
Take me hostage... use me as your
cover to flee.

Zarek takes Rabee by the neck and, using him as his shield, flees.

RABEE (CONT'D)
(as they flee)
Don't shoot, don't shoot... he has
me hostage!

They disappear, people pursue at safe distance.

Georgie has arrived at one of the injured and is cutting away
at his clothes to check his injuries. Other medics arriving.

GEORGIE
Blast bandage, let's press the
wound.

Monk and Throbber are in hot pursuit as Zarek, holding Rabee,
fires at them as they pursue.

We see the two of them disappear inside a room, Zarek
slamming and locking the door.

37a **INT. ROOM. - DAY**

37a

Zarek lets go of Rabee and looks at him anxiously. They speak
in Pashto.

ZAREK
What are we going to do, Rabee?

RABEE
We fight our way out.

We hear the soldiers, including Monk and Throbber, outside
the door... trying to force entry.

RABEE (CONT'D)
Give me your gun... give me your
gun.

Rabee nods and holds his hand out for Zarek to give him his
gun.

Rabee turns away from the door and shoots Zarek in the head.
A bemused and dying Zarek crashes to the floor.

We hear the soldiers banging on the door.

MONK (V.O.)
Rabee... Rabee, are you okay?

Rabee moves to the door.

RABEE
Don't shoot... hold your fire.
(as he opens the door,
they take in the scene)
I had no choice... my friend... I
got his gun...

They all rush in to check on dead Zarek and look after Rabee.

37b **EXT. KABUL BARRACKS. - DAY**

37b

Screaming and pandemonium as Georgie continues to work on the two wounded/dying security as a military ambulance arrives and takes over.

Sandy, Kingy and now Prof cover the dignitaries until their vehicle speeds away.

38 **EXT. KABUL HOSPITAL. - DAY**

38

The place has been evacuated. We see the Afghan Police and ANA controlling the area.

Mimi is sitting, alone. She looks up at Antonio, lost.

ANTONIO

Well done, Saunders.

MIMI

Pardon, sir?

ANTONIO

You got him to take his thumb off the button... gave me a clear shot.

MIMI

You didn't need to do that. He wasn't going to do it... he understood... he was my friend.

But Antonio has gone.

39 **EXT. KABUL BARRACKS. - DAY**

39

Georgie and various medical personnel are with the two injured security personnel as they are placed on wheeled stretchers... she looks up as the helicopter takes off in the distance.

KINGY

(instructing the platoon)
I want everyone searched... we need to find out where that gun came from... and let's make sure there are no more weapons unaccounted for.

Rabee, having clocked all this, comes over to assist.

KINGY (CONT'D)

Are you okay, Rabee?

RABEE

I don't know what happened? Zarek just suddenly... I'll escort these to the Role Three.

GEORGIE

You sure you don't want some time out?

RABEE

(stoic)

I'm fine... we have work to do.

Georgie nods. They turn and look at a dead Zarek being unceremoniously dragged away by local Afghan forces who have no sympathy or respect for Zarek's body.

40 **INT. ROLE THREE. CORRIDOR. - DAY**

40

Rabee is assisting as the injured are rushed through the corridors towards surgery.

Up ahead, Rabee sees some Afghans being searched for weapons. Rabee goes so far and then lets the doctors and surgeons take over. He sees he is by the waste bin. He wraps his gun in a towel and drops it in.

41 **EXT. KABUL HOSPITAL. - DAY**

41

Mimi is sitting, alone. Dr Bahil comes over to her.

She hands a pill and a glass of water to Mimi.

MIMI

I don't want anything.

DR BAHIL

It's just to bring your heart rate down.

MIMI

He didn't have to kill him.

DR BAHIL

Once everything's been made safe, we can...

MIMI

We're supposed to save lives... Dr Antonio didn't need to kill him.

Dr Bahil proffers the pill to Mimi. Mimi shakes her head.

42 **EXT. KABUL BARRACKS. - DAY**

42

We see the aftermath of the abortive dignitary meet and greet. Kingy has filled in Georgie with the info from the hospital.

GEORGIE
(panicked)
What's happened? Is she okay? Is
Mimi okay?

KINGY
Sketchy info at the moment but as I
understand it, suicide bomber
thwarted, hospital in lockdown...

GEORGIE
So synchronised attacks...

KINGY
Let's wait for the facts to become
clear. Dignitaries safe and back at
Kabul Airport...

GEORGIE
They didn't hang about to find out
how their security detail were.

In the background, Rabee has returned from the Role Three and tries to be inconspicuous, but is noticed by Kingy.

PROF
You're going to get mentioned in
dispatches, Rabee.

RABEE
(faux modest)
We are all doing our duty.

GEORGIE
Two Cat A's... we could have been
looking at a blood bath.

RABEE
The transportation and security has
been organised... I can get down to
the local hospital and escort Poya
and Saunders back. I'll accompany
and work out of the hospital on the
close security of Dr Bahil...

KINGY
Get that squared away with your
O.C.

Rabee nods and starts to head off. Georgie watches him, feeling uneasy.

GEORGIE
Permission to be a part of that
detail, Colour.

Kingy looks at her.

GEORGIE (CONT'D)
Duty of care to Saunders... need to
check her out and accompany her
back. Prof in support, please
Kingy. He can drive.

KINGY
(nodding)
Full combats. Straight back...
let's leave the ANA to work out of
the hospital.

GEORGIE
Sergeant.

Georgie and Prof head off.

The Brigadier thunders across the parade ground, passing
Sandy.

BRIGADIER
Disappointed, Mr Hurst.

SANDY
Sir?

BRIGADIER
This wasn't the way things were
supposed to have panned out.

SANDY
All ANA soldiers now confined to
quarters.

Brigadier nods and goes.

43 **EXT. KABUL BARRACKS. - DAY**

43

Georgie and Prof, now in full combat, walk at speed towards
the awaiting armoured vehicle.

GEORGIE
It's just... if Zarek can go
rogue...

PROF
Thank God Rabee acted that
quickly... can you imagine the
damage he could have done?

GEORGIE
I don't know who to trust any more.

They start to get into the vehicle as Rabee approaches them.
Prof behind the wheel.

Georgie stares at him for a beat longer than normal before
they drive off with the escort vehicle.

44 **INT. KABUL HOSPITAL. CORRIDOR. - DAY**

44

Antonio is running up the packed and chaotic corridor,
desperately searching for Dr Bahil.

ANTONIO

Has anyone seen Dr Bahil... Dr
Bahil... has anyone seen her...
anyone know where she is..?

We run with him, feeling his panic. He arrives onto a ward...
he runs through the people, madly searching.

Eventually he finds her talking to a patient being treated on
the floor.

Antonio is visibly relieved.

ANTONIO (CONT'D)

You didn't answer your phone.

DR BAHIL

Out of charge.

ANTONIO

Terrific. I've just aged 20 years
looking for you. You need to stay
close.

DR BAHIL

You were close before... doesn't
make any difference.

Antonio starts to examine the shattered leg of the patient.

ANTONIO

Let's try and operate on this
leg...

DR BAHIL

Can you save it?

ANTONIO

I can try.

She stares at him. He can't work out what the stare means.

DR BAHIL

Poya.

ANTONIO

What about him?

DR BAHIL
He was talking about you.

ANTONIO
I had to shoot him. You realise
that, don't you?

DR BAHIL
Oh yes, you're a soldier first.

ANTONIO
Meaning?

She ignores him.

ANTONIO (CONT'D)
He was erratic... could have pushed
that button at any moment... would
have taken out half the hospital.

She gets up and heads down the ward. He follows her.

DR BAHIL
(stopping and turning to
face him)
You've been calling things in...
when we're on outreach medical
duties, you've been reporting
suspicious behaviour back to
Military Intelligence.

Antonio looks a tad taken aback.

ANTONIO
What are you talking about?

DR BAHIL
Don't lie to me, I know.

ANTONIO
I have been by your side as a
doctor.

DR BAHIL
By my side as a doctor... and as
soon as you're back at the base...

ANTONIO
I'm only about saving lives.

DR BAHIL
Oh really?

ANTONIO
Yes, really. If I see a cache of
weapons what do you expect me to
do?

DR BAHIL
(snapping)
You were there in a medical
capacity!

ANTONIO
(floundering)
I was there...

DR BAHIL
No wonder they won't trust us! 'The
Americans are there as spies, to
gather information...'
(walking away)
They were right all along.

ANTONIO
(following)
I see a cache of arms and you think
I shouldn't call it in? And you
purport to be about saving lives?

DR BAHIL
(fuming)
The harm you've done!

ANTONIO
Please... I'm on the side of the
good here, doing what I think is
right. I'm fed up of sending our
men home in body bags.

DR BAHIL
We need to be able to go into the
field as medics and be trusted by
the people! Or we've lost!
(beat)
I'm going to vote.

She heads off the ward, leaving Antonio to muse.

45 **EXT. KABUL BARRACKS. - DAY**

45

Throbber and Monk are on the main gates, supporting the ANA.
The gates are locked... no one in or out without authority.

THROBBER
What must we have looked like...
two proper bad boys with guns.

MONK
Batman and Robin, mate.

THROBBER
Which one am I?

MONK

I got there first which I think
you'll find makes me officially
Batman.

THROBBER

Would you have took a bullet for
them?

MONK

I'd have took one for Kingy... when
his little legs started hurrying
over there thought I'd better get
involved.

THROBBER

Ay it though.

(beat)

I'd run over to take a bullet for
you.

MONK

Your huge fucking head would have
given us all enough cover.

THROBBER

Lot of brain to keep warm.

MONK

Actually, you ain't as thick as
what I thought.

THROBBER

Thanks pal... means a lot.

MONK

Taking the piss?

THROBBER

Yep.

They see Cheese heading across the parade ground. He sees
them and calls.

CHEESE

Lads, all the Afghans are confined
to their quarters... who reckons we
should lob in a C.S. gas canister?
That'd sort them out.

Cheese laughs and disappears. Throbber and Monk do not laugh,
but rather stare after him incredulously.

MONK

To be fair... think you was the
first to suss out Cheese.

THROBBER

What about him?

MONK
Bloke's a dickhead.

Throbber nods. A beat before he decides to tell all.

THROBBER

You know when we was out on patrol
and the old fella got lamped..?
Cheese smacked him in the head with
his weapon. Nearly fucking killed
him for no reason. He's more than a
dickhead.

Monk takes this in and nods.

46 EXT. KABUL. - DAY 46

We see the two armoured vehicles heading through the streets of Kabul.

47 INT. ARMoured VEHICLE. - DAY 47

In the rear vehicle, Prof drives. Georgie, in the back, stares at Rabee. Then gets a message on her headset.

GEORGIE
(into mic)
En route.

48 INT. KABUL HOSPITAL. - DAY 48

Antonio into mic... chaos all around.

ANTONIO
It was Poya... I thought you should
know...

49 INT. ARMoured VEHICLE/EXT. KABUL. - DAY 49

GEORGIE
(into comms)
Roger that. Affirmative. Out.

Georgie clicks off her comms and stares at Rabee.

RABEE
Who was that?

GEORGIE
Kingy.

RABEE
What did he want?

GEORGIE
Checking on our ETA.

PROF
Why didn't he come straight through
on my comms?

GEORGIE
Just drive, Prof.

They drive on in awkward silence. Both staring ahead...
trying to work out what the other knows.

50 **EXT. KABUL BARRACKS. - DAY**

50

Throbber and Monk have spotted Kingy and are hurrying towards
him.

KINGY
Why aren't you on the gate?

THROBBER
Sandy just stood us down, Sergeant.

MONK
Another section of ANA have taken
over.

KINGY
The boss said it was Poya... the
suicide bomber at the hospital.

Throbber lets this sink in for half a beat.

THROBBER
But Georgie and Prof have just gone
off with Rabee. Weren't him and
Poya... I mean if Zarek and Poya
was rogue, surely Rabee would have
known?

MONK
He's like gotta be rogue an' all,
Kingy.

THROBBER
Ay it Kingy.

Kingy lets this sink in.

51 **EXT. OLD CEMENT FACTORY. - DAY**

51

We see the two armoured vehicles heading past.

GEORGIE (V.O.)
Pull right here, Prof.

52 **INT. VEHICLE/EXT. OLD CEMENT FACTORY. - DAY**

52

We see Georgie has clocked the old cement factory.

 PROF
What? Why?

 GEORGIE
Right, Prof!

We see their vehicle pulls right but the first vehicle carries on straight, unaware. We see their vehicle drive up to the factory and stop.

Rabee looks quizzically at Georgie.

 RABEE
We shouldn't stop. We drive on to the hospital.

Prof turns and looks at Georgie, awaiting direction.

 GEORGIE
 (to Prof)
It was Poya. The attempted suicide bomber at the hospital.

Prof is clearly stunned. Georgie turns back to Rabee.

 RABEE
Poya!? No, that can't be right.

 GEORGIE
I've been informed.

 RABEE
Then they've got it wrong. It couldn't be Poya... he's at the hospital but he's not...

 GEORGIE
He's dead.

 PROF
Dead?

 GEORGIE
Suicide vest. Killed before he could detonate.

 RABEE
No. There's been a mistake. I won't believe that. Poya? Our friend Poya?!

 GEORGIE
When Poya was sent to the hospital, you got Zarek to take his place.

PROF
What the fuck do you mean, Georgie?

RABEE
(trying to carry on with
the facade)
We need to get to the hospital and
get your soldier back to base.
Drive on soldier.

GEORGIE
We're staying here, Prof.

RABEE
Drive on! That's an order.

GEORGIE
(pointing out)
That's where Omar killed my fiancé.
But you already know that.

Rabee stares hard at her. Prof looks from one to the other.
The penny really starting to drop for him.

53 **INT. ARMOURED VEHICLE 2. - DAY** 53

Kingy driving, Throbber, Monk and Sandy in the rear.

MONK
(on radio)
Delta one to Bravo... over.

54 **INT. ARMOURED VEHICLE. - DAY** 54

Prof looks at the radio.

MONK (V.O.)
(through radio)
Delta one to Bravo, over.

Prof looks at Georgie to see whether he should answer it. She
leans forward to talk into the radio, Rabee seizing the
opportunity to grab Georgie's weapon and get out of the
vehicle.

55 **EXT. OLD CEMENT FACTORY. - DAY** 55

Rabee heads at speed away from the vehicle. Georgie is
straight out of the vehicle, running after him.

PROF
Georgie!

Rabee has turned a corner, Georgie in hot, reckless pursuit.
Prof leaps out of the vehicle after her.

PROF (CONT'D)
(into headset)
Outside cement factory... Sergeant
Lane in pursuit of rogue bandit...
in pursuit. Wait out.

56 EXT/INT. ARMOURED VEHICLE 2. - DAY 56

Monk looks up at the others as they have heard the mayday call from Prof. They turn right towards the cement factory.

56a EXT/INT. CEMENT FACTORY TUNNEL. - DAY 56a

Rabee is running through the tunnel to escape Georgie.

56b **EXT. KABUL. - DAY** 56b

We see armoured vehicle 2 as it hurries towards the cement factory.

56C INT/EXT. OLD CEMENT FACTORY TUNNEL. - DAY 56C

Georgie is in hot pursuit of Rabee. She emerges through the tunnel into the cement factory, looks around and is frustrated she's lost him.

57 EXT. OLD CEMENT FACTORY. - DAY 57

Georgie hears a noise and looks up to see Rabee pointing a weapon at her from the walkway above. She stops in her tracks and realises her reckless approach.

[illegible]

We see Prof, slightly headless chicken, in pursuit but lost and doesn't know where Georgie is.

57b **EXT. OLD CEMENT FACTORY. - DAY** 57b

Continuous...

GEORGIE
Before you kill me... tell me the
truth. You're guilty.

RABEE
Who's guilty? And who's innocent?

GEORGIE
If you're working for Omar...
you're guilty... you are in league
with the people who killed my
fiancé.

RABEE

He was just an enemy soldier...
here to kill my people.

GEORGIE

He was a man... a man who was my
life...

RABEE

He was a soldier... we didn't ask
him to come back and rescue you.

This completely pulls Georgie up short. How does he know
this?

GEORGIE

He came back because he loved me.

RABEE

And he was a legitimate target. He
went onto the roof to kill as many
of my men as he could.

GEORGIE

Who told you this?

RABEE

He picked up the bomb and I
signalled for them to detonate.

GEORGIE

You did?

58 **EXT. CEMENT FACTORY. FLASHBACK. - DAY**

58

We see Elvis on the roof of the cement factory, looking at
the bomb. We see Georgie looking up anxiously. We see the
insurgent dialing out on his phone...

NEW MATERIAL, WE SEE RABEE (OMAR) NODDING FOR THE INSURGENT
TO DIAL OUT, THE BOMB DETONATED, AND ELVIS GETTING BLOWN OFF
THE BUILDING.

RABEE (V.O.)

And when he was blown off the
building... I rejoiced.

59 **EXT. OLD CEMENT FACTORY. - DAY**

59

Back in real time.

GEORGIE

You are Aatan Omar.

He smiles and walks away.

Georgie, seething, suddenly starts to run at Rabee, planning to tear him apart with her bare hands. Prof, who has been stealthily approaching, now realises the gravity and sprints to hold back Georgie. He gets to her just as Rabee fires at her... taking the bullet himself.

59a **EXT. OLD CEMENT FACTORY. - DAY**

59a

Armoured vehicle 2 screeches to a halt and the guys bundle out. They hear the shot and, after a beat, head towards its direction.

59b **EXT. OLD CEMENT FACTORY . - DAY**

59b

Continuous...

Georgie holds Prof in her arms as he collapses. Georgie looks aghast as she takes in the situation.

She looks up as Rabee is heading away. She takes up Prof's weapon and, aiming for Rabee's legs, fires, felling him off the walkway.

RABEE

Kill me... makes no difference...
it helps. Someone will take my
place... more committed, more
determined...

*

Georgie holds his stare. Rabee smiles.

RABEE (CONT'D)

Kill me, you lose. Let me live, I
win.

GEORGIE

Catch 22.

Kingy, Throbber, Monk and Sandy approach.

RABEE

Kill me.

GEORGIE

(Reaching a decision)
Where's the justice in that?

The guys jump on Rabee/Omar while Georgie turns all her attention to a seemingly lifeless Prof. We close on Georgie as she holds Prof in her arms and cries.

60 **EXT. KABUL. STREET. - DAY**

60

A few days later.

We see a young child with her kite, trying to get it to fly.
We realise it is Giti.

She looks up as the kite takes to the air. As she does, she
sees the face of Dr Bahil smiling down on her from an
election poster.

Giti studies her kind face, half recognising.

61 **INT. KABUL BARRACKS. SCOFF HOUSE. - DAY**

61

Monk, Throbber, Mimi and Georgie are sitting eating in
silence. Monk sees Cheese come in and head up to the counter.
Monk nods at Throbber and they both head up to him.

CHEESE

Oh shit a brick, it's Thelma and
Louise.

They glare at him, menacingly.

MONK

The old boy from the village...
he's put in a complaint against
you.

THROBBER

And I'm gonna support him as a
witness.

CHEESE

What, you'd shit on one of your
own?

THROBBER

You're not one of our own... you're
a wrong'un.

CHEESE

Lads, cut me a bit of slack here.
He come at me, didn't he, Throbber?

THROBBER

Nope.

MONK

You're out on your arse, son.

THROBBER

Head cam footage is with Lieutenant
Hurst.

CHEESE

Whose fucking head cam footage?

MONK

One of the Afghan's. Thing is, no
one likes you.

Cheese stares aghast. Sandy comes into the scoff house, looking for Cheese. He spots him.

SANDY
My office, now.

Cheese glares at Throbber and Monk.

62 **INT. ROLE THREE HOSPITAL. - DAY**

62

Georgie is sorting stock as Antonio knocks and comes in.

ANTONIO
Ahh, it's you.

GEORGIE
It is indeed.

ANTONIO
I've got some news for Mimi...
about the young girl from the
mountain village, Giti... her and
her uncle have come back to the
hospital for antibiotics.

GEORGIE
Is she alright?

ANTONIO
Much better than expected. I
haven't examined her yet but said
I'd do some follow-up physio with
her.

GEORGIE
And do they trust you?

ANTONIO
All I've ever done is... do what's
right. You must get that... as a
soldier and a medic.

Georgie looks at him for a beat.

ANTONIO (CONT'D)
You do, don't you? I reckon you'd
have made the same call.

GEORGIE
Do you?

ANTONIO
Hand on heart.

GEORGIE
You've got one, have you?

Beat. He almost winces.

ANTONIO

I'm heading back to New York... I feel I'm... damaged goods over here. And my mother doesn't want me to miss another Thanksgiving.

GEORGIE

What the hell's Thanksgiving all about?

ANTONIO

Us Americans like to give thanks for... everything.

GEORGIE

You Americans have so much to be thankful for.

ANTONIO

I'll might be in London for a conference in the fall... maybe I'll see you then?

GEORGIE

I live in Stockport.

ANTONIO

Can we at least... part friends?

GEORGIE

Colleagues.

He smiles and goes but collides with Dr Bahil on her way in.

DR BAHIL

No lives to save, Dr Antonio?

ANTONIO

Just on my way.

He goes.

GEORGIE

Congratulations, I hear.

DR BAHIL

Nothing official yet but...

GEORGIE

They couldn't hope for anyone better.

DR BAHIL

Let's hope I live long enough to make a difference.

GEORGIE

Of course you will.

DR BAHIL
That's what Dak thought.

GEORGIE
Who knows anything... tomorrow's
tomorrow and I guess we all just
have to deal with that mean fucker
when it comes knocking at our door.

DR BAHIL
Is tomorrow always mean?

GEORGIE
No... I don't actually think that.
Right now, I'm full of hope about
tomorrow. It's just... who knows.

DR BAHIL
I'll still be working at the
hospital... just more meetings...
and more danger. But I know now
that I shall never give up
fighting... whatever the cost.

They smile, hopeful. Georgie nods and heads out.

GEORGIE
I've got to go and see someone...

63 **INT. ROLE THREE HOSPITAL. PROF'S HOSPITAL ROOM. - DAY**

63

We reveal Prof lying in bed, asleep. Georgie comes in and
starts checking on his stats etc.

Prof stirs, opens his eyes and looks at Georgie. He reaches
for his glasses. She takes them from the side and holds them.

GEORGIE
Have you updated your status to war
hero yet?

PROF
I've moved on.

Georgie looks at him, puzzled.

PROF (CONT'D)
Deleted all my social media.

GEORGIE
Thought you kind of enjoyed the
agony of her updates.

PROF
It was a kind of agony. And I
couldn't stop looking... but
then...

GEORGIE
You moved on?

Mimi comes in with a medical equipment but sorts everything a little way off so as not to intrude on the conversation, although she can hear.

PROF
You don't move on, do you... as such? You... reassess the past.

GEORGIE
Rewrite history?

PROF
No. You live your life forward and understand it backward. You don't rewrite history... you rewrite the present as you live it... convincing yourself everything is just perfect...

GEORGIE
The Instagram generation.

PROF
Exactly. We're all told to live these perfect lives... we don't, do we? We pretend. I look back now and see the cracks.

MIMI
Like me.

Georgie looks up at her.

MIMI (CONT'D)
I've been lying... all my life... I'm a looked-after kid with no one looking after me... so like it or lump it, you're my family now.

Mimi smiles and goes out into the corridor. Georgie looks at Prof. He goes to take his glasses.

GEORGIE
I never realised quite how cute you were without them.

He blushes, takes his glasses. Georgie heads off. Prof goes to put his specs on but decides not to, wondering whether he's still in the friend zone.

64 **INT. ROLE THREE. CORRIDOR. - DAY**

64

Mimi emerges. She leans on a food trolley in the corridor. Georgie comes out to join her.

GEORGIE

I didn't want to say in there
but... I'm so proud to have you as
my colleague... and sister.

MIMI

Really?

GEORGIE

Properly properly properly couldn't
be more... proud. And guess what..?

Mimi looks at her, puzzled.

GEORGIE (CONT'D)

Just spoke to my sister, Marie...
not supposed to say anything yet
cos she's only nine weeks... but...

Georgie rubs her stomach, indicating pregnancy.

MIMI

We're gonna have a baby Fingers?

Georgie indicates for her to keep it quiet and they have a
little embrace before they hear Throbber and Monk coming down
the corridor. Monk heads inside to see Prof with Georgie...
Throbber hovers by the trolley, eating anything left on it.

THROBBER

Love my food, me.

MIMI

Oh really?!

THROBBER

I'm naturally a big lad... it's in
my genes.

MIMI

What are your genes, then?

GEORGIE

I'm 25% Jamaican, 25% Chinese, 25%
Ukrainian and 25% Wolverhampton.

MIMI

(with a smile)
100% twat. But the brother I never
had.

THROBBER

You ever been to Wolverhampton?

MIMI

Not intentionally.

THROBBER
I might show you the ice rink on R
& R.

MIMI
(flatly)
Magic.

Mimi heads off with the trolley. Throbber goes to head inside to see Prof when someone grabs his arm. He turns and sees it is Kingy.

THROBBER
What have I done now, Colour?

KINGY
How do you think you've done this
tour, Throbber?

THROBBER
Colour?

KINGY
How many times have I asked myself
"why the fuck is Throbber here?"
And now I know.

Throbber looks at him, anxious.

KINGY (CONT'D)
Cos you're a bloody good soldier.

Throbber looks stunned.

THROBBER
Really, Colour?

KINGY
Really, Throbber.

Throbber looks a bit pleased.

THROBBER
I've been trying to tell you that,
Colour, but you never bloody
listen.

Kingy slaps him round the back of the head as they disappear inside Prof's room.

64a **EXT. ROLE THREE HOSPITAL. - EVENING**

64a

Early evening establisher.

65 **INT. ROLE THREE HOSPITAL. PROF'S HOSPITAL ROOM. - EVENING** 65

Prof lies in bed as everyone has come to see him. Kingy sees Georgie changing his sling.

KINGY
Have you mended him yet, medic?

GEORGIE
It was a scratch.

SANDY
Delighted to hear it.

They all gather around the bed.

THROBBER
Shitting hell, is that a bed pan or
are you just pleased to see me,
Prof!?

SANDY
Can I just say, whilst we're all
gathered...

He has everybody's immediate attention. Kingy looks at him and nods. He's earning their respect.

SANDY (CONT'D)
...a finer cluster of Tommys I
couldn't wish to lead.
(banging his heart)
You guys will never leave me.

THROBBER
You're a proper sweetheart, you
are.

SANDY
Sir.

THROBBER
Don't call me sir, I work for a
living.

MIMI
Why do they call you Throbber?

MONK
That's his actual name.

GEORGIE
He's got the coolest real name
ever.

KINGY
(shaking his head)
Kaine Wolfe. Fucking ridiculous.

PROF
I used to teach this kid called
Lone Wolfe.

THROBBER
You joking me or what, Prof...
that's my cousin from my prostitute
aunt.

Everyone laughs. Throbber can't see what they're laughing at.

Sandy studies them all together for a beat before he heads
outside.

66 **INT. BRIGADIER'S OFFICE. - EVENING**

66

Sandy and Kingy walk past the Brigadier's office. The
Brigadier calls to Sandy, making them hover in the doorway.

BRIGADIER
On the mend? Private Grant?

SANDY
Prof? Indeed. Thank goodness,
Brigadier. He'll be coming home
with us.

BRIGADIER
Special dinner in honour of my
valiant efforts on parade day.
You're my plus one.

KINGY
Your efforts, sir?

BRIGADIER
We all played our parts of course,
of course, Colour. But someone's
got to lead. 19.00 hours, Mr Hurst.

SANDY
Thank you, sir, but... I've
promised the lads... makeshift
karaoke session. Celebrate their
efforts.

KINGY
Someone's got to follow.

The Brigadier looks a tad surprised and put out.

Sandy and Kingy head off.

66a **EXT. KABUL BARRACKS. - EVENING**

66a

Sandy and Kingy are making their way across the parade
ground. Long shot.

SANDY
We're a couple of swells...

KINGY
Stop you there, sir.

They disappear.

67 **EXT. ROLE THREE HOSPITAL. - EVENING.**

67

Georgie is helping Prof along a corridor.

GEORGIE
(tapping the children's
kite she is holding)
So kite flying is... well
apparently it's a massive thing in
Afghanistan.

PROF
Like footy in the UK.

GEORGIE
Kite flying much more civilised.

PROF
Agree!

GEORGIE
This place... Afghanistan...

PROF
As a child I was... fascinated...
used to look at the maps and wonder
whether one day...

GEORGIE
But it's a mess, isn't it? We can
all wish it wasn't but it is.

PROF
We should never have gone in... you
know... after the Twin Towers...

Georgie nods.

PROF (CONT'D)
We should never have gone in but
once we had gone in... we should
never have left.

GEORGIE
Some people can never leave...
Elvis is here.

68 **EXT. ROOFTOP. - EVENING**

68

Georgie and Prof are looking up at the stars/sunset. A windy night.

PROF
Perfect conditions, I'd say.

GEORGIE
Yep.

Georgie looks at the kite she is holding.

PROF
You know when you're a kid and your mum says something that sticks...

GEORGIE
I'm not sure my mum's ever said anything that profound.

PROF
My grandma died on Christmas Eve one year... I was about ten... Mum tried to carry on and have some sort of Christmas for us kids... and we'd got all my grandma's presents under the tree... she'd got me a kite... we went over the reccy to fly it after the Queen's Speech... strong wind and the strings snapped, it flew off... we watched it flying higher and higher and my mum said... it's flying all the way to heaven.

GEORGIE
All the way to heaven.

PROF
Exactly.

A moment as she ponders that... then she takes off the ring from around her neck and attaches it to the kite.

She holds up the kite until the wind takes it up. She lets out the string as the kite flies higher and higher.

When she gets to the end of the string she lets it go... flying all the way to heaven.

We stay on the kite and the stars looking surreal and beautiful.

PROF (V.O.)
'To see a world in a grain of sand
and heaven in a wild flower, Hold
infinity in the palm of your hand
and eternity in an hour.'

GEORGIE (V.O.)
Is that some clever way of asking
me out for a drink when we get back
to Manchester?

PROF (V.O.)
Yes.

GEORGIE (V.O.)
Good.

They continue to watch the kite as it gets higher and higher
and smaller and smaller.

The End...