

1 INT. KITCHEN - DAY**1**

JAKE, BEN, KAREN and **BEN'S** guest **DEION**, sit around the kitchen table.
MUM's serving up.

The children are playing insults (i.e.)

BEN
You are a smelly hippopotamus bottom.

DEION
You are Darth Vader's snot.

KAREN
You are penguin sick.

JAKE is messaging on his laptop but joins in without looking up.

JAKE
You're all stinky brain-juice from a diseased Cave Troll.

MUM joins in enjoying this.

MUM
You're a...dead warthog's burp.

BEN
You're dead elephant poo.

And it's all downhill from there...lots more of poo and wee. It goes a bit Tourettes.
MUM tries to stop them.

MUM
OK, OK, that's enough...that's enough!

She brings over dinner...burgers, potatoes, peas, corn. She gives a plate to **DEION** and **BEN**.

MUM
Here we go...nice family dinner ...all of us together
...apart from Dad...who's late.

BEN
Eugh!...it looks like poo from a cow bottom.

DEION and **KAREN** laugh. There's a brief burst of insults directed at the dinner all shouted at once.

MUM

Quiet we're not playing that game any more, let's play something else, I know 'Fortunately – Unfortunately'.
OK who wants to start?

BEN

(puts his hand up)
Unfortunately I hate burgers

MUM

You said you liked burgers.

BEN

When did I say that?

MUM

When you wouldn't eat your fish. I mean, what do you like?

BEN

Pudding.

MUM

You can't just eat pudding.

BEN

You can. If you are a vegetarianant.

MUM

Vegetarians eat up all their vegetables...the clue's in the word.

KAREN pushes her bowl away. (Her bowl is brightly coloured and different to the others)

KAREN

How many times to I have to tell you this isn't my bowl.

MUM

That is you bowl ...special bowl. Special mat. Special spoon.

DEION

Nice burgers!

MUM

Thank you Deion...Now, why can't I have children like you?

DEION

Please may I have some lager ...

(MUM laughs)

...Red stripe if you've got it?

(MUM stares)

My Dad gives it me.

BEN

Can I have red stripe too?

MUM

(evasion)

We were going to play 'Fortunately-Unfortunately', weren't we.

BEN

I'll start.

MUM

(instant)

No, it's OK, I'll start..um... 'Fortunately....the dragon who came to stay was friendly...'

The kids play this game – for real – then the phone rings. **MUM** goes to answer but can't find it.

JAKE

Mum...

He reaches under a bag on the chair and hands her the walkabout. She grabs it.

MUM

Hello...

She stares at the phone a bit perplexed.

MUM

Oh... just put it down.

JAKE

Otto's Dad kept getting that and it turned out it was Otto's Mum's boyfriend.

MUM is just a little flustered by this. **JAKE** is still on the computer.

MUM

Can you not do that at meal times...

JAKE

I'm revising.

MUM

It's only your second day at the school.

JAKE

I'm revising what we did yesterday. We got a test at the end of the week.

MUM

You're MSNing...

JAKE

Yeah, about homework.

MUM

What? 'Hi, Barney. I'm not doing my homework'
'Hi, Jake nor am I'

JAKE just gives her a look. **BEN** stands up.

BEN

(brightly)

Sarcasm!

MUM

No that's not sarcasm, just...erm...

JAKE

Abuse.

MUM

Not abuse...more like constructive criticism...Now can everyone...

But as she sits the phone rings. She groans and goes to the counter where she left the walkabout.

1A INT. KITCHEN - DAY

1A

JAKE

Mum...

MUM

It's my mobile, I know...

And now she cannot find the mobile.

MUM

Jake?

He shrugs. She searches in the back of shot while...

BEN(followed by **DEION** and **KAREN**) makes phone ringing noises. They are all laughing.

MUM

Shh! That's not funny...

MUM finds it...looks to see who it is.

MUM

Oh, Jesus

(to Phone)

Hi Veronica...

The other phone rings.

Schedule Sc. 2001? Which is just an ext. shot of DAD trudging towards his front door, pausing apprehensively for a moment before he puts his key in door.

MUM

Hang on a mo...

(She picks up the other phone).

Hello...Jake just talk to Grandad for a second...Jake!

(Back to mobile)

Veronica, sorry teatime...

(**MUM's** irritated at what she hears on the phone)

Good for you... I just mean 'good for you' for still being at the office so late.

JAKE's on the phone to his Grandad.

JAKE

No, Grandad, you only have to say I live with you if anyone from my school comes around...No, I'm at big school now...No, Jake.

MUM

Ok then I'll email it later...Yeh, tonight...I'm sure you will still be there. Bye.

She ends the call.

MUM

You wouldn't need to stay at the office 'til 10, if you had friends, a life or...a chin.

JAKE

Grandad wants to know when Angela's coming back.

MUM

Don't we all

(She takes the phone).

Sorry Dad, no she hasn't seen fit to tell us when she's dropping by.

(Grandad doesn't understand).

No I don't know when she's coming back.

1B INT. KITCHEN - DAY

1B

BEN and **KAREN** start shouting at each other and pushing.

MUM

Dad look, sorry...I'll ring you back in a bit.

(She comes off the phone)

Ben, Karen!

As she walks to the table she sees **BEN** has eaten everything.

MUM

Ben, well done, you see you did like it. And well done you, Deion.

She turns to **KAREN** who hasn't eaten anything.

MUM

Karen...

DEION

Who's Angela?

BEN

That's my Auntie. She's my mum's older sister and she lives in America and every now and then she comes and visits us and Mum goes really weird.

MUM

(over near sink)

I do not go weird.

KAREN

Every time she comes her hair's a different colour and she's got a different boyfriend....this one's called Trent.

MUM

That's right 'Trent'... We're really looking forward to meeting him.

BEN

Sarcasm! saying the opposite of what you mean.

MUM

What?

BEN

Sarcasm, saying the opposite of what you mean, that's what Dad said.

MUM

Just...just tidy your plate away...and Karen eat up.

1C INT KITCHEN - DAY

1C

DAD walks wearily in.

DAD

(to MUM)

Sorry I'm late.

MUM hands him his plate, which she kept warm.

MUM

What happened?

DAD

Oh...meeting.

MUM

What about?

DAD

Boring curriculum stuff.

MUM

Right...

DAD heads robotically for the front room.

MUM

Um...Family dinner remember.

DAD

Yep, of course.

MUM

So how was school?

DAD

5 arrested, 2 pregnant, 1 shot. Not too bad.

(MUM is looking at him)

Not just today...over the summer holidays.

MUM

Shot!

DAD

Only with an air rifle... and it was Thompson, so he had it coming, he's limping round like he's scarface... signing autographs. Oh and a girl in 5J posted some bits of dead badger to the Prime Minister.

MUM

To protest at the badger cull?

DAD

Probably 'cos she was bored...I'm sure our new Head will now introduce a-not-sending-bits-of-dead-badgers-to-Prime-Ministers target.

1D

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

1D

DEION

My dad put a dead rat in my bed, cos he said I'd wet it but I hadn't.

MUM

This is Deion.

DAD

Hi Deion.

MUM

Your dad didn't really put a rat in you bed did he?

DEION

He does stuff when he's drunk. He throws bricks at me and fights policemen.

(MUM and DAD are thrown)
`Nice tea. Thank you Ben's Mum.

MUM
Er... That's alright.

BEN
We've finished. Can we get down?

(He's already down)

MUM and **DAD** speak together.

DAD
Not till everyone's finished.

MUM
Alright.

They look at each other.

MUM
Stay til...

DAD
OK.

The 3 boys get up and **MUM** and **DAD** let them go. **KAREN** gets up too.

MUM
Karen... I want you to eat that.

She has hardly eaten anything.

1E **INT. KITCHEN - DAY**

1E

DAD tries to talk to **JAKE** before he goes.

DAD
(Overbrightly)
So, how was school?

JAKE shrugs.

DAD
Make any friends?

JAKE
Second day, Dad.

DAD tries to make this sound like a joke.

DAD
Make any enemies?

MUM gives him a quick 'don't go there' look. JAKE has gone.

1F **INT. KITCHEN - DAY**

1F

MUM is cleaning up around the kitchen.

MUM
Pass me that plate, will you...and try not to worry about
the bullying...there's no reason for him to get bullied.

DAD
(Defensive)
There was no reason I got bullied.

MUM
Your Dad said it was 'cos you were a bit effeminate.

DAD
Not 'Effeminate', 'Sensitive'... And Jake's sensitive.
They'd have him for breakfast at my school.

MUM
They'd have Mike Tyson for breakfast at your school.

She picks up the dishes and heads for the sink.

1G **INT. KITCHEN - DAY**

1G

KAREN
Will I have to go to your school when I'm big.

DAD's still a bit grumpy.

DAD
No, Sweetheart, we'll commit fraud, and say you live
at Grandad's.
(Karen looks blank)
No, you won't be going to my school, you're fine.

KAREN

(to **DAD**)

Why do they make you go to your school?

DAD

You mean teach there?...well...

KAREN

Were you naughty?

DAD

No. I chose to...

KAREN

Why?

DAD

Well, it was a long time ago when Daddy was young, and he thought that he could get quite rough children to learn to love history...Daddy was wrong. Now, eat your peas.

KAREN

It's not my bowl.

DAD

Don't be silly, come on, just eat up.

DAD smells something. He looks down the back of (i.e.) a bench.

DAD

What's that?

MUM comes over to look.

MUM

Ben's dinner. (Anger plus admiration)
Ooh...he's good.

2 **INT. BEN'S ROOM - DAY**

2

BEN gets an alarm clock and puts it on a table.

BEN has a metal laundry basket and puts it over his head and shoulders. **DEION** has a large metal waste paper basket and puts it over his head. They go to opposite ends of the room. The alarm clock goes off. They run at full speed towards each other...cut to...

3 INT. KITCHEN - DAY**3**

There's a loud metallic crash from upstairs. **DAD** looks up and decides to ignore it. He cuts **KAREN's** burger in two. We're aware of **MUM** starting to embark on cleaning up **BEN's** discarded dinner.

DAD

Alright, here's the deal, you eat half your burger and these vegetables.

He makes a pile.

KAREN

You know I don't do corn.

DAD

OK...no corn, but all the peas.

KAREN

I've told you again and again that I hate broccoli.

DAD

OK... just a few of the peas, but all the potato.

KAREN

I'll do the corn.

Mix to ...

Ten minutes later. We fade up on both their voices in mid-negotiation.

DAD

OK, final offer - Five more spoonfuls.

KAREN

Two.

DAD

OK, Four

KAREN

Two.

DAD tries to make a joke.

DAD

A billion.

KAREN just looks at him. She is not amused.

DAD

Three...my final...final offer...I really mean it...you can't get down till you've eaten it.

KAREN

One and a half...

There's an even louder metallic crash from upstairs.

3A INT. KITCHEN - DAY

3A

MUM comes in looking at her watch.

MUM

Deion's Mum should be here soon.

She picks up a school book bag. **DAD** approaches.

MUM

Is she eating up?

DAD

She keeps banging on about that not being her bowl.

MUM

(whispers)

It isn't...I dropped it this morning. I had to drive all the way to IKEA to get one that's identical...but it is identical.

DAD

Well then...how does she?

MUM

I don't know...she must have ...powers.

She starts looking through the school bag.

DAD

Is that Ben's bag?

MUM

No. Deion's...

MUM starts looking through the schoolbooks from the bag.

DAD

...Right

MUM

His writing's much better than Ben's...and his drawing...and his sums...honestly, what is wrong with that school?...He's a funny kid though, isn't he. What do you make of all that stuff with the dead rat...and the bricks.

DAD over reacts.

DAD

Oh don't get involved!

MUM

But...

DAD

Kids just blow tiny things right out of proportion. They exaggerate... they lie...It's a mistake to believe everything they say.

(**MUM** is surprised by his vehemence)

MUM

Right. Maybe we could ask Ben if what Deion is saying is...

(**DAD** stares at her)

OK stupid idea.

DAD

'So Jeffrey

Archer, what do you make of Baron Munchausen?'

3B INT. KITCHEN - DAY

3B

KAREN

(shouts O.O.V.)

Daddy...I've had one spoonful.

DAD

(gives up)

Yeh, alright.

KAREN

(O.O.V.)

Can someone get Pusscat from the car?

MUM

OK.

Her mobile goes off and this time she finds it.

MUM

Veronica, you...!

(She answers the phone oversweetly)

Hello...

3C INT. KITCHEN - DAY

3C

She walks out of the room. There's the sound of one of those biscuit jars with an animal noise when you open the lid. **DAD** turns to see **BEN** at the biscuit jar.

BEN

Mum said we could.

DAD

You dropped all your tea down there!

BEN

No! That was Deion. It's not fair. Why do you always say it was me?

DAD

Because you're not famous for telling the truth are you?

BEN

No. I've been doing really well....

He goes and gets a chart.

BEN

See...look...

Under 'Ben' it says – 'No Lies'. He has a star stuck on for the last five days. **DAD** is surprisedeven impressed which is long enough for **BEN** to get out of the kitchen with two biscuits.

3D INT. KITCHEN - DAY**3D**

MUM comes back in very annoyed, starts noisily tidying up.

MUM

She hates anyone who's had kids. Looks on it as slacking. She deliberately rings up at teatime, the shrivel-wombed, fake-uddered, botoxed-browed old.....pooface!

DAD

Thank you Oscar Wilde..um...Ben's been showing me his chart, he's very proud of it.

MUM looks at the chart **DAD** is holding then looks again. They look at each other.

DAD

He's been putting his own stars on again hasn't he?

MUM

But I hid them up there...

She points to the top of a very tall cupboard.

3E INT. KITCHEN - DAY**3E**

KAREN

He built a tower. And he stole all the worms from Jake's worm farm, and hid them in the hole under the bath.

DAD

It's not really nice to tell tales on your brother (A BEAT). Was it him who threw the quiche on Tim and Suki's conservatory roof?

KAREN nods.

DAD

And was...?

MUM shakes her head. No more.

KAREN

Can I have a biscuit now.

MUM and **DAD** aren't too sure about the morality of paying their very small grass, but finally....

MUM

Just one...

(calling after **KAREN** as she leaves)
but that's not a reward!

KAREN takes one and goes.

3F

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

3F

MUM

(to **DAD**)

He swore blind the quiche wasn't him. It's getting...even more out of control.

DAD

What does Doctor internet say?

MUM

Why do you immediately assume I've been on the...
OK, OK, there's this blog done by a mum in New Zealand with a kid like Ben and that's, you know, a little bit reassuring...

DAD

Because...?

MUM

Well I suppose...because her kid's slightly worse.

DAD

Oh that's alright then, we know that of the five billion people on earth at least one lies more than Ben...I think I'd rather my boy was best.

(He finds a postcard)

Oh another one from Angela.

MUM

Oh yeh, postcards are her ideal form of communication. She says she'll be 'passing through' in a couple of days, with the emphasis on the passing through...be the usual one-day royal visit...she'll show off her suntan, tell me the food I serve is full of poisons...and then piss off. And poor Dad won't even

DAD
(taking flight)
Oh it's bin night
(leaves)

MUM
Angela doesn't approve of bins.

DAD
(OOV)
Doesn't she?

4 **INT. BEN'S ROOM - DAY**

4

DEION stands there as **BEN** runs around him with a toilet roll, wrapping him up.
This is the third or fourth toilet roll and only **DEION's** eyes are showing.

MUM comes in.

BEN
Hey look Mummy, it's a Mummy!

She decides to ignore the toilet rolls and concentrate on the lying.

MUM
Yeh, Deion, I just need to talk to Ben for a moment.

The Toilet Roll Mummy shuffles out the door.

4A **INT. BEN'S ROOM - DAY**

4A

BEN
I didn't do it.

MUM
What?

BEN's caught himself out.

BEN
The broken toilet roll holder?

Mum also decides to avoid this new addition to the list.

MUM

Ben do you know a story called the Boy Who Cried Wolf?

(Then...something like...)

BEN

Yes...He says wolf and there aren't any and then there is and it eats him.

MUM

It's about what can happen to liars.

BEN

It can't happen to me because there are no wolves here.

DEION shouts from the other side of the half open door.

DEION

(OOV)

They've put them back in Scotland.

MUM

Thank you, Deion.

She shuts the door and tries the direct approach i.e...

MUM

Ben, no one will like you if you lie.

BEN

I never lie.

MUM

Well that's a lie isn't it.

BEN

No, it's sarcasm like you do.

MUM

It's not sarcasm.

BEN

Sarcasm is when you say the opposite of what you mean Dad said.

MUM

But sarcasm's not lying.

BEN

That's what I do. It's not lying.

MUM

So, for example, saying you didn't throw quiche on the conservatory roof when you did throw quiche on the conservatory roof, that was sarcasm.

BEN

Yes.

MUM

Oh brilliant...

BEN

Sarcasm?

MUM

Yes, that's sarcasm.

5 **INT. KITCHEN - DAY**

5

KAREN is joining up lots of straws to make a long super-straw which eventually she uses to drink orange juice from across the room.

6 **INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY**

6

JAKE sprawls watching T.V.

DAD comes in...so casual he's a bit weird.

DAD

Anything good?

JAKE shakes his head.

DAD

So why you watching it?

JAKE shrugs

JAKE

Because it's on.

DAD

That's like the answer a mountaineer gave when they asked why he was climbing Everest.

JAKE

'Because it's on'?

DAD

'Because it's there'.

JAKE

What?

DAD

Never mind...

(he starts again)

Tough starting secondary school eh? I remember it well...

JAKE

What happened to him?

(DAD looks blank)

the mountain climbing guy?

DAD

Oh he fell off and died, I think...or was that the other one...who didn't die...well he did die, but not from...

(JAKE is looking at him)

...No I was thinking about when I started secondary school...there were a couple of boys who picked on me.

JAKE

I know, 'cos you were effeminate.

DAD

No! Not 'cos I was...

JAKE

Dad, what's all this about you being a racist?

DAD

(Stunned)

What? Where did you...?

JAKE

Susan Bentley's brother goes to your school and reckons you're in trouble for being a racist.

DAD

Some stupid parent made some stupid complaint, but I am absolutely not a racist, OK?

JAKE

You shout at Ainsley Harriot when he's on telly.

DAD

Everyone does that. I mean I also shout at Vanessa Feltz, Trinny an Susannah...Davina McCall...Huw Edwards. I'm not a racist. If anyone's a racist it's the dad who's bringing the complaint.

6A INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

6A

MUM materialises at the door.

MUM

Jake. You need to finish your homework.

(She waits for him to go)

What racist complaint?

DAD

(reluctantly)

Well, it was that kid Kemal again.

MUM

That fat Turkish kid.

DAD

Yeh, he was stuffing his face, as per usual, during the lesson, munching this bag of crisps, so I said, y'know, purely frivolously, "You could do with Ramadan lasting all year round, couldn't you Kemal." That's all it was. But now his dad is claiming I singled him out because of his religion and traumatised him about his weight. Which is apparently down to a glandular disorder which presumably compels him to force pies down his throat...so...that's what it's about...the governors won't take him seriously.

MUM

The governors!

DAD

He's written to the LEA, so it has to go to them, but they'll kick it into the long grass.

MUM

I can't believe you were trying to keep it quiet.

DAD

I was going to tell you when it was all over.

MUM

Brilliant, now I've got two of my family lying to me.

DAD

I didn't want to worry you.

MUM

Anything else you don't want to worry me about?

Your conviction for war crimes?

DAD

No. No definitely not.

MUM

Good. Pete...we should share things like this.

DAD

No. You're right...Er...

MUM

Yes?

DAD

There was an incident that was a little bit similar last year.

MUM

How similar?

DAD

Similar in that it was a completely baseless complaint...

(MUM is still looking at him)

...that went to the governors...

MUM

Oh for...

DAD

You just can't make jokes these days...they expect you to be robots. I mean that joke had not racial aspect, it was just an unfortunate coincidence that she was pregnant.

MUM

Oh for God's –

(Her mobile rings)

Yes?...Yes....look I'm fed up with these calls, just

DAD

(alarmed)

Veronica?

MUM

Cold caller...So let me get this straight, the school's investigating if you're a racist.

DAD

But I am not a racist! I...

6B INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

6B

He stops. **DEION** is standing at the door listening, still wearing vestiges of toilet roll.

DAD

You alright. Deion? ... you want some juice?

7 INT. UTILITY ROOM - DAY

7

JAKE sits curled up in the corner listening to his iPod. We hear what he is listening to. **KAREN** appears in the door. She is just audible under the music.

KAREN

Do you want to play?

JAKE shakes his head. **KAREN** goes out and comes back in again a second later with a selection of fluffy animals.

KAREN

Do you want a toy?

JAKE turns off his iPod and we lose the music.

JAKE

OK...I'll have...that one.

KAREN gives it to him.

KAREN
I'm worried about bullying...

JAKE
You're being bullied?

KAREN
I pushed Maisie Warburton.

JAKE
You're worried you're a bully? How many times did you push Maisie Warburton?

KAREN
Once.

JAKE
Then what happened?

KAREN
She pushed me back. Then we played Spy Dudes.

JAKE
Spy Dudes?

KAREN
We follow Miss Patel around and try and hear what she's saying...her husband's got gout...I don't know what that is.

JAKE
Look, don't worry Karen...you're not a bully, OK.

KAREN
Can I have my toy back now?

DAD
Look, when the last complaint thing flared up, it - it was just after your Mum died and I thought you didn't need anything else on your plate.

MUM

But after that...you could have told me then.

DAD

Then you got caught up in that row with Angela...you know, when she left you to sort out the will...then wanted that second funeral which was upsetting for you...

MUM

Oh God yeah...when she was going through her Druid phase...Remember that Shamen bloke who kept asking for petrol money...I'm surprised she didn't want to dig Mum up and leave her on a mountaintop for the vultures to eat.

DAD

(puts his arms around her)

Oh...come on...She's not that bad.

They cuddle for a moment.

DAD

Still, at least we know what's been worrying Jake now... he thinks his dad is a Grand Imperial Wizard in the Ku Klux Klan... I'll talk to him... This whole complaint thing is just absurd.

MUM

Nothing'll come of it surely.

DAD

Of course not, it'll just...

MUM

Fizzle out...

DAD

Blow over.

MUM

Of course it will.

There is a beat where they both have a little voice in the back of their heads telling them that there's trouble ahead.

They hear **BEN's** voice outside.

BEN
(OOV)
Karen, look what I've found in the bin.

9 **INT HALL (BOTTOM OF STAIRS)**

9

MUM goes out into the hall followed by **DAD**. **BEN** walks up the stairs with the shattered remnants of **KAREN's** bowl wrapped in paper. **MUM** runs after him and grabs it.

BEN
It's Karen's bowl.

MUM
No it's not.

KAREN
(OOV)
What is it?

MUM
Nothing!

BEN
Its...

DAD
Don't start trouble.

9A **INT. LIVING ROOM**

9A

JAKE emerges from the Utility room.

MUM
Jake can you try not to leave light bulbs on ...you're the one worried by global warming.

JAKE
It's not lights you want to worry about, it's carbon bloom.

MUM
Carbon bloom?

JAKE

It's when the tundra melts, and all the peat releases the carbon dioxide trapped in it, and it goes into the atmosphere and then the temperature shoots up about 10 degrees in a couple of days.

MUM

Right...and what happens then?

JAKE

Everyone on earth dies
(exits)

MUM

(resigned)
In the meantime. I'll switch the light off.

10 **INT. KITCHEN**

10

DAD is in the kitchen. **DEION** enters. **MUM** follows.

DAD

Your mum should be here soon, Deion.

DEION

It won't be Mum, she's in prison.

MUM

Your mum's in prison...I saw her in the playground last week.

DEION

She's in prison for trying to kill the head master.

MUM and **DAD** exchange looks. They've relaxed now.

DAD

And how did she do that exactly?

DEION

She fired a deadly ray gun at him but he had a superhero bubble that Miss Abekela lent him.

MUM

Did she...well let's hope she'll escape from prison and pick you up soon.

DEION runs off, or **MUM** and **DAD** find a quiet corner.

10A **INT. KITCHEN**

10A

MUM

Ah well...it all makes sense now.

DAD

What?

MUM

Well that's obviously where Ben gets it from...isn't it...all the lying...he really looks up to Deion.

DAD

Well you do get classes where there's a real culture of lying...especially among boys.

MUM

At least we haven't raised some sociopath.

The bell rings.

MUM

(OOV)

Good, that's Deion's mum. I can't wait to get them to bed and just collapse.

11 **EXT. DOOR - DAY**

11

MUM opens the door. Standing there are two **TEENAGERS** dressed in the minimum Halloween gear.

TEENAGER ONE

Trick or treat...

MUM

What?

TEENAGER ONE

Trick or treat...

MUM

This is September. Halloween's not till October

TEENAGER ONE

I know but we're away then.

12 **INT. KITCHEN - DAY**

12

DAD has got **DEION**.

DAD

Okey dokey Deion, did you bring anything?

(DEION looks blank)

Coat? Book Bag?

(DEION looks blank)

Shoes you must have brought shoes...

BEN

How long would it take to fill an elephant?

DAD

A long time...Deion, where are our shoes?

BEN

How long?

DAD

What do you mean...with food?

BEN

Water...

DAD

If it drank water?

(to **DEION**)

They're my shoes.

BEN

If it was a bucket... if the elephant was a bucket...

DAD

What?... Deion are these yours?

DEION

I don't know.

BEN

And you were filling it up from a tap...

DAD

7 hours 22 minutes.

12A INT. KITCHEN - DAY

12A

MUM comes back in.

DAD

We've just about got Deion ready to roll.

(He looks around)

Although I don't know where he's gone.

MUM

Trick or Treaters...

DAD

Now? God, I hate all this American stuff.

MUM

Yes, it's like when Angela comes back with all that 'cookies' and 'sidewalk' crap. She's English...Oh, sorry 'citizen of the world'...

DAD

Yeah, well, that just ...

MUM

I know what's going to happen. She's going to drop by, give Dad half an hour of her valuable time then bugger off to find herself...again. I mean...

Finally he can't help it.

DAD

Can you stop going on about bloody Angela!

A moments silence. Uh Oh...

DAD

Sorry, I didn't mean to snap, but once you go off on one about Angela, that's a lot of the day gone.

The home phone rings...Saved by the bell.
They both go to pick it up...and neither can find it. **MUM** finally, mysteriously,
finds it in a shoe on the floor.

12B **INT. KITCHEN/HALL - DAY**

12B

MUM

Yep...OK, I'll bring him out...No that's OK.

(to **DEION**)

Your Mum, can't park...Probably on the run from the
police.

MUM and **DAD** usher **DEION** down the hall.

DEION

That's not true.

MUM

Really...

DEION

And the my-dad-throwing-the-bricks-thing isn't true.

MUM

Isn't it?

DEION

Ben told me to say that stuff.

MUM and **DAD** look at each other. Their get out on **BEN** has just been
demolished.

DEION

Bye bye. Thank you for having me.

KAREN

(OOV) (Shouts)

Get Pusscat!

MUM speeds him out of the hall.

12C **INT. HALL - DAY****12C**

DAD sits on the stairs momentarily defeated and bone weary. **KAREN** turns up.

KAREN
Have you been naughty?

DAD looks up.

KAREN
Has Mummy put you on the naughty step?

DAD
That's right.

KAREN
What did you do?

DAD
I told her not to go on about something.

He stands up.

KAREN
You're not allowed to get off until she tells you.

KAREN walks off.

12D **INT. HALL - DAY****12D**

MUM comes back in. **MUM** and **DAD** look at each other.

MUM
'Ben told me to say that stuff'. Oh God...

MUM checks to see **KAREN** is out of earshot.

MUM
And something else...Pusscat isn't in the car.

DAD looks like he's been told that they've all got bubonic plague.

MUM

I whipped out to Boots and Karen took Pusscat, and I think she must have dropped her.

DAD

Go to Boots. Go now.

MUM

They're closed. Maybe there'll be some night security who'll let us in... No, OK I'll go there first thing. It is only a toy. I mean maybe...you know...she's outgrown that old thing...

They look at each other and know this is a huge lie.

MUM

OK, we'll have to work together on this one...Late to bed so she's really tired... rush bath time... try and put Ba Ba or Pinkbear in her arms and if she asks for Pusscat...

DAD

When she asks for Pusscat.

MUM

Ok Ok, we bluff like crazy...

DAD

'She's in the car but we've lost the car key'?

MUM

Good, and if...

The door bell rings

MUM

Oh God, Deion's left something behind.

She opens the door.

13 **INT. HALL - DAY**

13

Standing there is a **WOMAN** a couple of years older than **MUM**, with a lot of beads and bangles, an enormous ethnic holdall and a shoulder bag. It's **ANGELA**.

ANGELA

Surprise!

She hugs MUM

MUM

It's a surprise alright. Why didn't you ring.

ANGELA

Oh God here we go... so it'd be a surprise of course!

DAD

(from further up the hall)

Hello Angela...

ANGELA

(sweeping past MUM)

Hi, honey!

She gives **DAD** a very energetic hug and kiss that he joins in with a bit awkwardly. **ANGELA** shoots to the kids.

ANGELA

(moving through into Kitchen)

Guys, where are you?...it's Auntie Angela...

MUM

It's bedtime, don't get them excited...

ANGELA

And she's got presents!

Meanwhile, in the hall, **DAD** trudges **ANGELA's** bag which is on the doorstep.

14 **INT. KITCHEN - DAY**

14

ANGELA

So how are you all...?

(to children)

Who loves their Auntie Angela?

BEN

Me! Me! Me!

DAD walks in humping her bag. He puts it down and feels his sore back.

ANGELA

Bad back? I know this great Reiki guy. Friend of Trent's. I'll give you his number.

ANGELA hands DAD a bottle of sparkling wine which he starts to open.

ANGELA

There you go. Ben...you make pictures with these seeds...it's from Bulgaria...

BEN looks at it like it's a dogturd.

MUM

Say 'thank you'.

ANGELA

It's cool. You don't have to do all that stuff with me.

MUM

Well in this house you do have to do 'all that stuff'.

ANGELA looks at BEN and rolls her eyes. DAD knocks back his wine in one go. It's kicked off already.

MUM

Ben?

BEN

It's seeds.

MUM

Yes. You even have to say thank you for presents that are...seeds.

(to DAD)

Don't you?

DAD

Erm...For all presents, yes...Say 'thank you'.

BEN

(Monotone)

Thank you

ANGELA

It's cool.

(quiet to BEN)

I wasn't listening...I'm not big on rituals. Now, Jake, this is a -

JAKE

Thank you.

ANGELA

Ooh, and Karen...what have I got you, what's this?
(produces, with awe, a mobile)
it's a dream-catcher. It's native American, it catches your
dreams, and keeps them forever.

KAREN

Last night I dreamt I was being eaten by weasels...I don't
want that one again.

ANGELA

...Well, no it...it doesn't keep those dreams, it just keeps
the nice ones.

KAREN

How does it know which are the nice ones?

ANGELA tries to bluff (it's magic/got a microchip)

DAD

Say thank you, Karen.

KAREN

Thank you.

14A INT. KITCHEN - DAY

14A

DAD

Nice to see you. Good to have you back.

MUM

I'll go and make up a bed...

ANGELA

I'm not staying. I'm...

MUM

You're not staying! Dad's been ringing every day to ask
when you were coming. And you know how anxious he
gets now with his... But you're just going to drop in, say
'hello – goodbye' and run away as per usual. It's just
not...

ANGELA

I'm staying with Dad.

MUM

...What?

ANGELA

I'm going to stay with Dad. I'm moving back from the States to stay with him full time. I did a whole load of thinking on holiday and ...well you're right, it's my turn...and more than that...I mean... Dad won't live forever... and I want to spend time with him.

MUM and **DAD** stare at her...

DAD

Oh right... Well, that's great.
(lifts his glass)

MUM

...Yeh, great,
(raises her glass)
... To Angela.

- END OF EPISODE -