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# ‘Outnumbered’

By

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(SERIES 2)

EPISODE 1

## SHOOTING SCRIPT

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PRODUCTIONS LTD

1. EXT HOUSE. (CAPTION: Outnumbered)

1

From inside the house we can hear absolute bedlam as KAREN and BEN lay into each other at full volume.

DAD (OOV)  
Now, did you hit her?

BEN (OOV)  
.....Well she called me 'Benny', and I don't like that.

KAREN (OOV)  
Oh I'm sorry, Benny.

BEN (OOV)  
Y'see?

DAD (OOV)  
Karen! Go off and finish getting ready!

2. INT HALL

2

DAD  
OK, Ben, for the last time you should never, ever, hit a person.

BEN  
What if they're attacking you with a shovel?

DAD (very thrown)  
....What?

BEN  
If someone's attacking you with a shovel, you can hit them then, surely –

2.

DAD

Well that's self-defense, obviously, in that kind of  
....shovel-related circumstance, you can hit someone but

2 cont'd

BEN

Ah, but you said 'never, ever'!

3. INT FRONT ROOM

3

JAKE is texting. MUM, dressed in her wedding finery, is turning the telly off at the wall and performing various other leaving-the-house rituals. A lot of shouting can be heard from upstairs.

MUM (shouting)

Come on people! Let's not be late for another wedding!  
And today's mystery object is.....a trowel behind the telly.  
(calls) Karen, how are you doing? D'you need help?  
(Exits)

4. INT HALL (as before)

4

NOTE: (MUM to cross on a listening shot of DAD or BEN)

DAD

Listen, Ben, you know full well what I mean, it is wrong  
to hit someone first.

BEN

What if you're a boxer?

DAD

Well -

BEN

Or what if someone's walking towards you, ...and you  
know he's a murderer.

DAD

Ben -

3.

BEN  
And he's got a shovel.

4 cont'd

DAD  
Ben, this isn't about murderers with shovels, this is about you. Because you hit Karen, and she's not a murderer, is she.

BEN  
She might be. Murderers don't tell people they're murderers, do they. That'd be stupid. (BEN cites the case of a murderer from popular culture e.g. Jack The Ripper – who did not tell people he was about to rip them)

DAD  
Well you can't hit everyone with a shovel who walks towards you just in case they're a murderer (etc).

BEN  
Why do I have to wear this rubbish?

DAD  
Because it's a wedding, everyone has to be as uncomfortable as is humanly possible. It's the law. Get your shoes on. (He packs BEN off)

5. INT LANDING

5

MUM is coming up the stairs.

MUM  
Karen, are you ready?....Oh no.

Cut to her POV

KAREN is standing on the landing in her full bridesmaid's outfit, but there is a belt-type thing – which she's holding in her hand.

MUM  
I thought we agreed you'd put the dress on at Julie's house like the other bridesmaid.

KAREN  
I wish to travel in my dress.

5 cont'd

MUM  
Yeh but –

KAREN  
You're not supposed to upset me on my big day.

MUM  
Well strictly-speaking, Karen, it's cousin Julie's big day, isn't it.

KAREN  
I wish people would stop saying that.

6. INT HALL

6

DAD is checking car keys etc.

DAD (calls)  
We need to shift, come on!

We hear the phone ring.

MUM (OOV)  
I've got it!

JAKE emerges from the Front Room.

JAKE  
Is Auntie Angela coming to the wedding?

DAD  
Well, um, she hasn't replied to the invitation, and it is a long way from America, but you never really know with Auntie Angela, so –

JAKE  
Oh God, let's hope Mum and her don't have another fight.

6 cont'd

DAD  
Well it wasn't exactly a fight, was it. No shovels were involved.

JAKE  
There was a lot of shouting. And screaming. And swearing.

DAD  
Well, sisters have little disagreements sometimes, but I'm sure if she does come, they'll both be very civilized about it.

For a moment he and JAKE look at each other.

DAD (whistling in the dark)  
...and she probably won't come...(remembers) Oh bollocks, the present (He sets off up stairs and encounters MUM on her way down)

MUM  
God!

DAD  
You OK?

MUM  
No, that was Dad, he's completely forgotten the wedding, he's still in his pyjamas, and I've got a thumping headache and.....

DAD (has spotted KAREN)  
Karen, where are you off to?

7. INT LANDING

(A)

KAREN (heading for toilet)  
I need a wee.

DAD

Do you need any help with your dress and stuff?

KAREN (entering toilet)  
I'm fine, I'm six.

DAD

Don't close the door all the way.

---

(B)

7 (b)

KAREN (door now closed)  
I need my privacy.

DAD

Alright, but don't put the bolt across, 'cos it's stiff.

KAREN

What?

DAD

I said make sure you don't put the (F/X BOLT SLIDING ACROSS).....bolt across....OK, Karen, listen, can you do me a favour, darling?....Can you just slide the bolt back across just so....I know you can.

KAREN

.....I can't ..... it's too stiff.

DAD (hiding his fear)

OK, nothing to be alarmed about...just try pushing it again, you slide it one way so –

KAREN (panicking)

7 (b)

I'm trapped! I'm going to miss my big day. You should have warned me not to put the bolt across.

DAD (controlling himself)

Well I think I did mention it actually, sweetheart. But don't worry, you'll be fine, just give the bolt another push, hard as you can, you can do it.

8. INT KITCHEN

8

MUM is getting the Nurofen out. BEN is there amusing himself in some way.

MUM

Ben, don't do that. Shoes, come on, chop, chop (MUM picks up the childproof bottle and starts twisting the cap fruitlessly) We need to allow ourselves plenty of time because Dad doesn't trust the sat-nav anymore. Not since that visit to the Army firing range. (plonks bottle down in defeat) Bloody childproof bottles! (BEN picks it up, opens it instantly and then beetles off)  
.....cheers.

9. INT LANDING

9

We can hear KAREN getting distressed behind the door. DAD is trying to calm her down.

DAD

If you slid the bolt one way sweetheart, I'm sure you can slide it back.

BEN (arriving)

She'll never get out, she'll be in there forever.

DAD

Yeh, I -

BEN

You should have told her not to put the bolt across.

DAD  
Funnily enough, that was –

BEN  
You'll have to break the door down.

DAD  
Ben, do you mind? I'm dealing with this, alright? So –

BEN  
On 'The Bill' they have a big special door-basher.

DAD  
We don't have a big special door-basher – we probably should have, but we don't so –

BEN says KAREN could climb down the toilet (etc). He also speculates that she may end up having to drink the toilet-water which doesn't go down well. The noise attracts MUM and JAKE.

MUM  
What is going on?

DAD  
Karen's stuck in the toilet.

MUM  
Well you shouldn't have let her put the bolt across.

DAD (starting to fume)  
Right, the next person to tell me that, gets –

MUM  
OK, let's not panic.

DAD  
I'm not panicking.

We hear thumping and screaming from inside the toilet.

9 cont'd

BEN  
Karen's panicking.

DAD  
Yes, thank you, Ben, I am aware of that, I –

MUM  
There's no point getting tetchy.

DAD  
I am not getting tetchy, I –

JAKE  
If she slid the bolt one way, she ought to be able to slide it back.

DAD  
I know that and I've been –

MUM  
Everyone stay calm

DAD  
I am calm, I –

MUM  
This will make us late

KAREN (OOV, really losing it)  
We can't be late! It's my big day!

BEN  
We could set fire to the door.

DAD  
Look –

**NOTE:** We will also do a pass where BEN makes lots of suggestions such as getting a ladder and handing a beaver in through the window – or termites through the keyhole.

MUM  
There's no point in panicking

9 cont'd

They are all talking over each other, so DAD takes control.

DAD  
I am not panicking. We will not be late. Leave it with me. I will deal with this. I will deal with it in a calm and measured way.

10. EXT CHURCH

10 (a)

(A) The congregation are drifting into the church. JAKE walking next to DAD.

JAKE  
How much will it cost to replace that door?

DAD (defensive)  
Well I got us here on time, didn't I? Sometimes drastic situations require drastic measures.

JAKE  
.....How's the shoulder?

DAD (too quick)  
It's fine, thank you.

JAKE  
And the foot? And the –

DAD (snaps)  
Can we just – OK?

GRANDAD is walking behind them in a haze of benign bewilderment.

JAKE  
Are you alright, Grandad?....Grandad?

GRANDAD  
Oh yes, just admiring the bride.

10 (a)

(B)

10 (b)

We see from their POV, MUM, KAREN, the bride JULIE and the other bridesmaid, MARY gathered by the bridal car, MUM's taking her leave.

(A Cont'd)

10 (a)

GRANDAD  
Judy looks smashing doesn't she, eh?

DAD  
....Julie, Grandad

GRANDAD  
Oh....yeh.

11. EXT CHURCH - BY THE BRIDAL CAR

11

JULIE is organising the bridesmaids, KAREN and MARY, a bigger girl who's rather shy and possibly a little intimidated by Karen. The BRIDE'S DAD, is also in the vicinity. MUM is leaving the group and walking back towards the boys.

JULIE (fussing with her dress)  
Oh my gosh, do I look OK, girls?

KAREN  
You look nice.

JULIE  
Ah, thank you Karen.

MARY  
Do I look nice?

KAREN (sizes her up)  
.....you look alright.

11 cont'd

JULIE

You look gorgeous, Mary, you both look like princesses.

KAREN

Why are wedding dresses white? Mummy's always saying white's a bad colour because it shows the dirt.

JULIE

That's true, it's not the most practical colour is it? (she gives some GUESTS a little wave)

KAREN

And also, white wedding dresses are funny.

JULIE

....Funny?

KAREN

Well in the car, I asked Mummy and Daddy if you'd be wearing a white dress and Mummy said yes and then they both started to giggle.

JULIE (working it out)

.....Did they?

KAREN

Yes. They tried to pretend they weren't giggling but I could see Mummy's shoulders going up and down.....[possibly KAREN illustrates]

JULIE

....Right.

12. EXT CHURCH

12 (a)

(A)

The Congregation are slowly filing towards the side porch.

12(a) cont'd

DAD

OK, quick reminder Ben (points at ground) Gravel (produces box) Confetti, alright? Only you seemed to get the two confused at Auntie Sandra's wedding didn't you? Also, when the priest asks if anyone knows any good reason why they can't be married, no shouting out funny suggestions, OK?

BEN

What, like 'She's a man'?

DAD

Exactly like that...you're very lucky your Auntie Sandra's got such a good sense of humour.

MUM has caught up with them. DAD's phone rings. MUM straightens BEN's tie.

(B)

12 (b)

DAD

Oh no....Hi Jonty....uh-huh..... can you ring me back only...yeh, we can discuss it later (hangs up)....Well, surprise, surprise Jonty's poorly. He's always poorly, when he's teaching 5W on a Monday morning. (S AFRICAN ACCENT) " I think I'm going down with a bit of a bug" - bloody slacker.

MUM

Language, house of God. Stop texting Jake. And don't sit on that man's grave.

There's a bit of a bottleneck, so they're clustered in the porch.

GRANDAD

Here, do you remember that Italian bloke she went out with?

JAKE

Oh, what, Julie?

GRANDAD

12 (b)

Yeh, mad about him she was. When she was a teenager.  
He had a big motorbike, worked down the fairground,  
gold teeth, covered in tattoos.

MUM

No, that was me, dad.

GRANDAD

...Was it?

MUM

Yes.

DAD

...You went out with an Italian fairground worker?

MUM (mitigation)

I was sixteen

DAD (shocked)

Sixteen?

They file into the church discussing it.

13. EXT CHURCH /INT PORCH

13

JULIE, the bride is conferring with her DAD while the two bridesmaids are chatting in the foreground.

MARY

I didn't know there was such a thing as an 'Executive  
Bridesmaid'

KAREN

Oh yes.

A LATECOMER rushing into the church, gives the bride a friendly wave. She laughs and waves back.

KAREN

Who's that?

JULIE

Oh that's Sam, he and I used to go out. Come on, let's go in.

They move into the rear porch – with KAREN asking questions.

KAREN

Are there many of your boyfriends here today then?

JULIE

Well....no, a few, not that many really.

KAREN

What about the bald one, my Mum said she liked him. Is he here?

JULIE

Colin? Um, no he's not here.

KAREN

What about the one who's friends with the Queen, is he here?

JULIE (perplexed)

.....Sorry?

KAREN

The boyfriend you had, who's friends with the Queen (JULIE still perplexed) He's friends with the Queen, they said.., "He's a guest of her majesty"

JULIE (twigs...she's not pleased)  
Oh.....right...no, he's not here. (She checks the hem of her dress)

13 Cont'd

KAREN  
.....Is he at Buckingham Palace?

JULIE (instant and irritated)  
No he's not at Buckingham Palace....

There's an awkward pause.

KAREN  
My Mum didn't like him.

JULIE  
So.....your mummy and daddy were discussing my taste in boyfriends, were they?

KAREN  
Yes.

JULIE  
....Right.

A long pause.

KAREN  
.....Who's Ulrika?

The bride's jaw clenches.

14. INT CHURCH

14 (a)

(A) MUM, JAKE and GRANDAD are filing into a pew. JAKE is texting.

MUM  
You're still texting, aren't you.

JAKE (lying)  
No.

14(a)Cont'd

MUM  
You are.

JAKE (arms down between his legs)  
How can I be? I'm looking at you.

MUM  
I can feel it.

(B)

By now, DAD and BEN are arriving at the end of the pew.

14 (b)

DAD  
I don't know what I'd do if I was attacked by a polar bear,  
bleed to death, I expect, inside there next to your Mum.

To Mum's dismay, BEN files through next to her.

MUM  
Why next to me?

DAD  
Oh...There was a space there.

MUM  
No there wasn't.

An animated discussion begins between MUM and DAD about who should have the privilege of sitting next to BEN – DAD feels it's MUM's turn, as he sat next to BEN at the last wedding.

15. INT CHURCH

15

GRANDAD  
This is bringing back lots of memories of my wedding day.....a packed church, everyone in their finery,....and Jane just....so beautiful.....breathtaking she was.

18.

MUM  
....Dad.....Mum's name was Joan –

15 Cont'd

GRANDAD  
.....Yeh I know, but she had this really good-looking friend called Jane.....real stunner.

MUM  
D-ad! I can't believe that –

GRANDAD  
Well just because you're getting married doesn't mean you have to stop admiring beautiful women.

MUM (taken aback)  
Yeh, but that's – but – that's –

16. INT PORCH

16

KAREN  
So, you promise to love him forever and ever, but how can you know that?

JULIE (interrupts)  
I just know. I love Derek, that's all.....OK?

KAREN  
....So didn't you love any of those other boyfriends. The bald one, or the Queen's friend, or –

JULIE  
Well....at the time I suppose, you think you love someone but then it turns out –

KAREN  
That you were wrong all those times.

JULIE  
Yes.

19.

KAREN  
...But you're right this time.

16 Cont'd

JULIE (confidence draining)  
.....Yes

KAREN  
Oh well that's good, that's nice.

JULIE  
....Yes....yes it is nice.

We stay on the bride, looking shaken.

17. INT CHURCH

17

BEN is now on the inside of the pew. MUM is doing up his tie, which is half-mast.

BEN  
Why's he got that funny expression? All sad.

MUM  
Well.....because he's... he's being crucified which is  
making him sad.

BEN  
Yeh but he's got nails in his hands, he should be going  
“Aaaaaargh”

MUM  
Sssh!

GRANDAD  
Hey look, it's Angela!

They hear the heavy church door open behind them and turn in time to see ANGELA making a trademark theatrical entrance, waving and smiling as she goes.

20.

17 Cont'd

GRANDAD (turning)  
She's made it, isn't that brilliant!

MUM  
....Oh, yes....that's just..(She's aware of JAKE and DAD giving her a look)....brilliant.

Now ANGELA has arrived, she gives GRANDAD a quick hug and then squeezes past some people in the pew in front of them, greeting as she goes.

ANGELA  
Hi Jakey, hi Pete, Sue, hi Ben.

We cut to BEN who has his arms outstretched and is mimicking Jesus's doleful expression on the cross. MUM slaps him on the shoulder.

MUM  
Ben!

ANGELA  
He hasn't changed, I see.

GRANDAD  
It's fantastic you could make it.

DAD  
Yes, it's great.

MUM  
Yeh, terrific.

ANGELA  
Thanks. It's just a whistle-stop visit, I'm afraid. My boss can't spare me for long.

MUM  
... 'Course not...no.

18. INT PORCH

18

The BRIDE'S DAD is momentarily off chatting to one of the ushers. JULIE, the bride is standing, poised, with her bridesmaids. There's a pregnant pause.

KAREN

...How long have you known, Derek?

JULIE

.....Ten months.

KAREN

...That's not very –

JULIE (cutting her off)

Oh look, isn't that a lovely staircase.

MARY's looking at the ground, forlornly.

MARY

My mummy and daddy don't live together any more.  
Mummy says on their wedding day she thought he was the  
most wonderful man on the planet. Now she just cries all  
the time.

JULIE is very shaken now – doubts are rushing in. HER DAD comes over and offers his arm. Inside, the bridal march starts up.

BRIDE'S DAD

Here we go, sweetheart. All set?

JULIE looks at her father, she looks vaguely terrified.

19. INT CHURCH

19

Many of the congregation are turning to look at THE BRIDE.

22.

19 Cont'd

JAKE (whispers to DAD)  
Julie's got tears in her eyes.

DAD  
Well....it's an emotional day.

We see THE BRIDE walking up the aisle towards them – with the air of someone walking to the gallows. Behind her KAREN gives her family a cheery wave.

20. INT RECEPTION

20

A function room, with some windows looking out on to a lawn. GRANDAD is walking around looking bewildered. MUM notices a couple giving her a cheery wave. She smiles and waves back. JAKE joins her.

JAKE  
Who's that?

MUM (still smiling)  
No idea. They ring a vague –

DAD arrives.

DAD  
OK, this is our table. They've put Karen and Ben on a children's table.

MUM  
Result!

DAD  
Well, is it? I mean Ben's on a children's table.....with other children.

MUM and DAD get trapped in a disagreement about the wisdom of this. JAKE spots a bewildered GRANDAD.

JAKE (exits)  
Are you OK, Grandad?

23.

20 Cont'd

GRANDAD (OOV)  
Where's the toilet?

21. INT RECEPTION

21

There's a peal of laughter and we see ANGELA gesturing expansively as she shows off to a group of guests.

MUM  
Op, here it comes, the attention-seeking missile.

DAD  
Sue, this is –

MUM  
Julie's day, I know

DAD  
- an awkward situation and it's important that –

MUM  
I –

DAD  
- all parties try to -

MUM  
- remember that –

DAD  
- try to -

MUM  
- remain civilised –

DAD (snaps)  
Look, just for the novelty value do you think I might get to finish one of my own sentences? Without the .....(searches)....predictive text. All I'm saying is that –

24.

21 Cont'd

MUM

- I should control myself, I know, but don't worry, because I have made a promise to myself that, no matter how provoking Angela may get, I will simply choose to rise above it.....OK?

DAD

...OK..

MUM

OK, sorted (she moves off)

JAKE and DAD look at each other.

DAD

Ah well, she seems to be on top of it, doesn't she.

JAKE

...Yeh...

DAD

...They're walking towards each other.

JAKE (moving off briskly)

I'm on it.

22. INT RECEPTION

22

MUM and ANGELA's directions of travel do look like an imminent collision, but JAKE suddenly bobs up beside ANGELA.

JAKE

Hi Auntie Angela.

ANGELA

Hi Jakey.

JAKE realizes he hasn't worked out what to say.

25.

JAKE

.....Have you seen this table display?....It's really nice.

22 Cont'd

ANGELA

Yes it is.

JAKE

.....I like a nice table display.

JAKE engages a slightly puzzled ANGELA in small talk about flower arrangements.

23. INT RECEPTION - THE CHILDREN'S TABLE

23

We find MUM as she approaches BEN at the other end of the table. BEN is about to arm-wrestling a small girl.

MUM

Ben...listen, this is important, if you're going to be on the children's table, that means no fighting, no drinking grown-up drinks, no swearing, OK? We want best behavior, we're going to trust you.

BEN

....Trust me?

MUM

Yes.

BEN (still can't take it in)

....You're going to trust me.

MUM

Yes. But don't arm-wrestle this little girl because she's only about 4.

BEN

Well that's not trusting me, is it, that's telling me what to do.(etc.)

24. INT RECEPTION - ADULTS TABLE

Cut back to DAD who is checking out the nametags on the table.

DAD sees that ANGELA is surprised to be sitting next to MUM. Furtively, he swaps it for one 3 or 4 seats away. Then he has another thought and, even more furtively, swaps it so that ANGELA's now on a completely different table.

GRANDAD appears from nowhere.

GRANDAD

Are you alright, Pete?

DAD

Yup, yup.

GRANDAD

The bride's certainly putting it away.

Across the room, they can see JULIE, bottle in hand, rapidly downing a glass of wine.

DAD

Big match nerves, I expect.

As MUM arrives at the table, she is suddenly ambushed by the couple who were smiling at her. (STEVE and PAULA, though MUM doesn't know this)

PAULA

Hiya Sue.

MUM (hiding her fear)

Oh....hiya.

PAULA

So how's things?

MUM

Ooh yeh, things are good, thanks...how's things with you?

STEVE  
Good, yeh. You still in Keely Road?

24 Cont'd

MUM  
Yeh, yeh, and are you still in...? (hoping for a clue)

STEVE  
The same place, yeh. Have you got the kids with you?

MUM  
Oh yeh.

PAULA  
What, all three?

STEVE  
Karen must be, what six?

MUM  
Yeh, six...and have you brought your....(doesn't know how many).....offspring?

PAULA  
Yeh, he's around somewhere. Is Pete with you? We'd love to meet him.

MUM  
Yeh, um....This is Pete.

STEVE  
Hi.

PAULA  
Hi, nice to meet you.

DAD waits for an introduction.

MUM

And this is.....lovely, isn't it. (they agree)...and this is my dad.....Dad, this is.....This is your seat here, where are you sitting?

STEVE

Oh this table, with you.

They move to their places.

MUM

Oh, right, great (craftily eyeballing the nametags on the table) That's great, because you always worry about who's on your table, don't you, but we're alright because we've got.....(suddenly, a little too loud) Paula and Steve! Welcome Paula and Steve. ....Paula...Steve.... (From here on, MUM overuses their names.)

DAD

Oh right....so where do you know Sue from?

PAULA ( to MUM)

Will you tell him or shall I?

MUM

Oh....you tell him, Paula.

PAULA

We know her from way back.

MUM

Yeh, way back.....Paula and Steve...prehistoric times....

They laugh. GRANDAD suddenly gets agitated.

GRANDAD

Is Angela not on our table then? Can't we do something about that?

DAD

Well it wouldn't be fair to disrupt the seating plan, a lot of work will have gone in to that. Come on, let's all sit down.

25. INT RECEPTION – THE CHILDREN'S TABLE

25

Cut to the CHILDREN'S TABLE, where the VICAR has made the mistake of dropping by, he's been buttonholed by BEN.

BEN

Can I ask you another question about the Bible?

VICAR

'Course you can, Ben.

BEN

Herod gave an order to kill the Baby Jesus.

VICAR

Yes.

BEN

So why didn't Baby Jesus zap him.

VICAR

Well, I –

BEN

Because he could have zapped him, couldn't he.

VICAR

Well, um, yes, in theory I suppose he could have....zapped him, but he –

**NOTE:** We will do a pass where BEN fires other biblical questions at the VICAR e.g. If God is kind, why did he drown everyone?

KAREN

It's because Baby Jesus was meek and mild.

VICAR  
Well that's true, yes, Karen.

25 Cont'd

KAREN  
And anyway, Baby Jesus knew that once Herod got to Hell, God would roast him until his eyeballs exploded.

They all discuss whether this is correct.

26. INT RECEPTION – ADULTS TABLE

26

DAD is dishing out some wine, making small-talk. Behind him we can see ANGELA, a little bewildered at being stuck on another table. She beetles across.

ANGELA  
Oh this is daft, look, there's been some kind of mix-up.  
I'll just swap this one over, (she does exactly what DAD did with the nametags)

DAD  
Well I'm not sure we should disrupt the seating plan, it's -

ANGELA  
Oh they won't mind, it'll be nicer if we're all together, won't it.

ANGELA plonks herself next to GRANDAD on one side and MUM on the other side.

DAD (apprehensive)  
Yes....it'll be lovely.

27. INT RECEPTION – CHILDREN'S TABLE.

27

MARY  
..and so Jesus says that you should forgive everybody.

VICAR  
That's right, yes....and you are?

KAREN  
This is Mary, my Assistant Bridesmaid.

27 Cont'd

VICAR  
Right. (starts to leave)  
Anyway –

BEN  
So, what would Jesus do if someone stole his mobile,  
would he forgive them?

VICAR  
Yes, that's absolutely right, Ben, well done (goes to leave  
again) Now I must-

BEN  
One last question.

VICAR (warily)  
....Ok

BEN  
What would Jesus do.....if he was attacked by a polar  
bear?

VICAR  
..... He'd zap him.

BEN  
But why? Jesus was indestructible. He was like the  
cheerleader in Heros.

KAREN steams in with “Jesus wouldn’t kill a polar bear, they’re endangered”. This discussion gets wildly out of hand – ‘Were there polar bears in Bethlehem?’ – ‘I didn’t say there were.’ It gets very confrontational between KAREN and BEN.

28. INT RECEPTION – ADULTS TABLE

28

STEVE  
So, have you got kids?

ANGELA

No, my lifestyle's never really left room for it, y'know, I love my globetrotting too much.

PAULA

Right.

ANGELA

No, I couldn't do what Sue does, I take my hat off to her, y'know, always looking after Pete and the kids, day in, day out, always playing second banana as it were, I couldn't do that.

MUM is beginning to fume inwardly. DAD and JAKE are watching her like hawks.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

No, I'm full of admiration for my little sister, she's this lovely Supermum and what am I, eh?

MUM puts down her glass and goes to say something – but she gets an intercepting look from DAD.

MUM (staying calm)

...Well, each to their own, eh..

DAD

Absolutely, life'd be pretty boring if –

JAKE

Dad,

DAD

- everyone led absolutely ident-

JAKE

Dad.

DAD

I'm in the middle of saying something, Jake.

33.

JAKE  
Ben and Karen are trying to bite each other.

28 Cont'd

DAD (exits)  
....Oh shit....(as he leaves we hear him call) It's OK,  
Vicar, I'll deal with it.

29. INT RECEPTION – THE CHILDREN'S TABLE.

29

It's after the speeches and most of the kids have left the table. KAREN, however, is stuck at the table in mid food-negotiation with DAD.

DAD  
Well look. Eat the rice at least.

KAREN  
The rice has got peas in it.

DAD  
What's wrong with peas?

KAREN  
I'm allergic to them.

DAD  
You're not allergic to peas, nobody's allergic to peas.  
Nobody in the whole world is -

KAREN  
I am, I've got an intolerance.

DAD  
Where did you – you – it's – look, well – just....eat round  
the peas.

KAREN  
Y'know, if you keep making this kind of fuss at  
mealtimes, you're going to give me food issues.

DAD (totally thrown)  
....What?

29 Cont'd

KAREN  
You're obsessed with food.

DAD  
I'm not obsessed, I just – (calls) Ben, you can't dip sardines in the chocolate fountain.

BEN (OOV)  
Yes you can, look

30. INT RECEPTION - ADULTS TABLE

30 (a)

(A)

ANGELA  
Dad's memory seems quite a lot worse

MUM  
Well, it's a degenerative illness, so –

JAKE  
It's the bit at the front of the brain that goes first, Joe was explaining it to me, it's the hippocampus.

ANGELA  
Oh, right. Which bit's that?

MUM  
It's the bit that remembers the way to the toilet.  
(GRANDAD is in the middle of the room looking bewildered) Through those doors in the corner, Dad!

GRANDAD gives her a thumbs up.

ANGELA  
Well, sooner or later –

JAKE's phone rings

30 Cont'd

JAKE  
Oh hiya....(he moves off to chat)

ANGELA  
Sooner or later, he'll have to move out of that house.

MUM  
I am aware of that.

---

(B)

30 (b)

ANGELA backs off for a moment. Behind them, outside the window, we see BEN run across the lawn. He's followed by a horde of chasing girls.

---

(A cont'd)

30 (a)

ANGELA  
Have you, y'know, started looking into sheltered housing and stuff?

MUM  
We will. When the time comes.

---

(B cont'd)

30 (b)

Behind them the girls run back in the opposite direction – pursued by BEN who is wielding a seriously large section of tree above his head. - **(Also do version where BEN has shovel)**

---

(A cont'd)

30 (a)

ANGELA  
There's no point going into denial about it.

MUM  
Well perhaps you'd like to come back from America and look after him. Like you once promised you would.

ANGELA  
Oh here we go. I wondered how long it -

36.

MUM (very calm)  
Look, let's not spoil the day with an argument, that would  
be a shame.

30(a) Cont'd

ANGELA  
Yes.....I suppose we have made a decent fist of keeping  
things civilised, haven't we....(takes a drink)....apart  
possibly from the seating arrangement....hiccup.

Meanwhile DAD is approaching the table and has spotted MUM and ANGELA in conversation.

MUM  
That was nothing to do with me.

ANGELA  
Oh come on, do you seriously –

MUM (still supremely calm)  
Fine, you believe what you want, but I am not getting into  
a fight.

DAD  
Well, anyone want a drink, it's a cash bar now.

(C)

30 (c)

KAREN  
The other bridesmaid has got 3 pets, can I have a pet?

DAD  
No.

ANGELA  
You made a beautiful bridesmaid, Karen?

KAREN  
Have you ever been a bridesmaid, Auntie?

ANGELA  
Yes I have. A couple of times.

KAREN  
But never a bride.

30 (c) Cont'd

ANGELA  
.....No.

KAREN  
....Why?

ANGELA  
Well I wasn't as lucky as your mummy, I didn't want to  
marry the first man who asked me.

---

(D)

30 (d)

DAD's watching MUM. Is this trouble?

MUM  
....Well I think we'd best be making tracks.

DAD  
Yup, you're right, got to allow for the A3, it's –

His phone rings. They all start the elaborate round of goodbyes as DAD moves off to take the call.

DAD  
...Yeh...uh-huh, well, the thing is, Jonty, see, is you are  
the Head of Department, you're being paid the Head of  
Department's salary and so I don't see why I should be  
expected to cover for-  
Look, now's not the time, I'll - .....look, Jonty, I feel  
permanently exhausted too, we're teachers, that's  
normal.....look I'll talk to you tomorrow and .....I'm sure  
you do feel poorly but don't worry, you'll live.... (hangs  
up)..... (JAKE hears this)

The farewells are coming to an end.

PAULA  
Bye, drive carefully.

MUM  
Lovely to see you, Paula and Steve.

30 (d) Cont'd

GRANDAD breaks from a hug with ANGELA

MUM  
Jake, can you take Karen and Grandad out to the car, and round up Ben on the way, OK? I'll just do a quick cheerio to Julie. (moves off)

ANGELA (to PAULA and STEVE)  
I'm nipping out for my nicotine fix.

31. INT RECEPTION

31

Cut to MUM who is waiting for the bride, JULIE to finish talking to someone.

MUM  
Sorry. Julie, we're heading off, but thanks for a great do, and thanks for making Karen a bridesmaid, she's –

JULIE (drunk, and with a dark edge to her)  
Well she certainly threw herself into it.

MUM  
Yes, she's that kind of –

JULIE  
Gave me the old third degree about all my boyfriends.

MUM  
Did she? Well I –

JULIE  
Mind you, she already seemed to know quite a lot about some of them.

MUM (sensing danger)  
Well, you know what girls of that age are –

31 Cont'd

JULIE  
Oh yes, full of questions, like 'who's Ulrika?'

This one catches MUM out, it hangs in the air for a moment. There's a malevolent gleam in JULIE'S eye.

MUM  
Well we should be -

JULIE  
...Nice that Angela could make it.

MUM  
It was, wasn't it.

JULIE  
Yes, she and I had a nice long chinwag,..

MUM  
Really, well that's –

JULIE  
About your kids, mostly. You know what Angela's like once she gets going.

MUM  
Yes, well –

JULIE (really stirring it now)  
Don't you want to know what she said?

MUM  
....No, I think I –

31 Cont'd

JULIE

She thinks Jake's probably gay, because he's obsessed with floral displays, she thinks Karen is spoilt and (tries to remember) manipulative, and she reckons Ben is a trainee psychotic.

MUM

.....Right, well –

JULIE

And Pete is “weaker than a nun’s piss”. That’s a funny expression, isn’t it.

MUM

.....OK, well, anyway, thanks again for ....everything.

JULIE

No, thank you.

MUM smiles sweetly and moves off.

32. INT RECEPTION – ADULTS TABLE

32

DAD is taking his leave of PAULA and STEVE, when he encounters the VICAR.

DAD

Lovely to meet you and have a great –

MUM

All set?

DAD

Yup, I-

MUM

Can you grab my handbag, won’t be a sec.

DAD  
Sure (to VICAR) Listen, I'm sorry you had to separate  
our –

32 Cont'd

VICAR  
Oh no problem, they're a lively pair, aren't they.

DAD  
Yes....yes they are.....lively.

VICAR  
Yes, I'm still pondering the question about whether Jesus  
is vulnerable to kryptonite.

Behind them, outside the window, we can see ANGELA out on the lawn, glass of wine in her hand. DAD and VICAR continue smalltalk.

We see MUM walk up behind ANGELA and kick her up the arse. The shock makes ANGELA spill her drink over herself. MUM walks briskly back. DAD and the VICAR see nothing of this.

DAD  
Anyway, thank you for a lovely service and, um, well,  
have a great year.

VICAR  
Thank you.

MUM (in and out of frame at great speed)  
OK, let's get moving.

She pulls DAD out of frame, leaving a slightly bewildered VICAR. In the background we can just hear ANGELA remonstrating – 'Did you see what she just did?' (etc)

33. EXT HOUSE NIGHT

33

BEN (OOV)  
But I found it.

DAD (OOV)  
I know, but you can't sleep with it in your bed!

33 Cont'd

34. INT LANDING

34

DAD exits BEN's bedroom carrying an old hubcap, closing the door as BEN (OOV) continues to protest. He encounters MUM on the landing, carrying a towel.

MUM  
You haven't seen the hairbrush, have you?

DAD  
No.

MUM  
Right.

DAD  
Listen, I just wanted to say 'well done'.

MUM  
....Sorry.

DAD  
The way you handled yourself with Angela. You showed so much composure and restraint.

MUM  
...Oh...it was nothing.

DAD (kissing her on the forehead)  
I'm very proud of you.

KAREN calls from inside her bedroom.

KAREN (OOV)  
Mu-um.

43.

MUM  
Yeh, yeh OK.

34 Cont'd

She watches him go down the stairs, she's looking extremely sheepish.

35. INT FRONT ROOM

35

JAKE is watching football on the TV. DAD enters.

DAD  
What's happened?

JAKE  
Rooney's just been booked....he's not happy.

DAD (sits, eyes glued to the screen)  
Oh...yeh....so I see....it's the deaf viewers I feel sorry for.

36. INT KAREN'S BEDROOM

36

MUM is brushing KAREN's hair, with the occasional 'ow' from KAREN.

KAREN  
Mum....y'know prison?

MUM  
Yes, I know prison.

KAREN  
Is it like a very big naughty step?

MUM  
Yes that's exactly what it is.

KAREN  
Only with walls.

MUM  
Yes.

KAREN  
And dogs (etc.) And if you got sent to prison would they let you come home at bedtime?

MUM (taken aback)  
I wouldn't go to prison, what made you ask that?

KAREN  
If you walked up to someone in the street and just punched them, would you get sent to prison?

MUM  
Ooh, um, possibly, yeh.

KAREN  
And what if you kicked someone?

MUM (guarded)  
.....Kicked someone?

KAREN  
.....right up the bottom.

MUM realizes that KAREN witnessed it.

MUM  
OK, well a) I won't go to prison for kicking Auntie Angela because...she was asking for it.

KAREN  
She asked you for it?

45.

36 Cont'd

MUM

Yes, and b) we won't tell anyone, will we, because it would just upset Daddy and Grandad, wouldn't it eh? So they don't need to know, do they. Now let's talk about something else.

KAREN

OK....let's talk about....getting a pet.

37. INT FRONT ROOM

37

DAD and JAKE still watching footie.

DAD

Look at that! How can he go? (IMPERSONATES PLAYER'S 'What me, Ref FACE) He kicked the man in the head.

JAKE

Any moment now, he'll do this one (mimes the ball)...Oh there he goes (etc.)

MUM (enter, spots ansaphone indicator)  
Oop, messages....probably Dad getting anxious about something....

ANSAFONE

-You-have-two-messages.

FIRST MESSAGE

Hi Jakey, it's Jo.

MUM

Oh, so Jo's a girl, I-

JAKE

Shhh!

JO

Battery's gone on my moby. Just to say me and Danielle and Craig and Ruby are all going ice-skating tomorrow afternoon, and I was wondering if you'd like to come.....OK, laters. (JAKE is thrilled)

MUM and DAD exchange a look. DAD hears footsteps on the stairs.

DAD

Ben? (exits)

DAD exits for the kitchen, we hear him say 'Ben what are you doing down here?'

SECOND MESSAGE

Hallo....this is Mark Danby...with some sad news I'm afraid.

38. INT STAIRS.

38

BEN is halfway down the stairs.

BEN

Why can't I stay up and watch the football?

DAD

Because it's late and –

BEN

I should be allowed to, I've been on my best behaviour all day.

DAD

Ben, you were specifically told 'no fighting, no swearing and no drinking alcohol' and I caught you bashing that kid's head on the floor and shouting 'Don't touch my bloody beer'.

BEN

He disrespected me.

DAD (switching the lights out)  
Back to bed. Go on.

39. INT FRONT ROOM

39

DAD walks back into the front room. Telly's off. JAKE and MUM are quiet.

DAD  
Very quiet in here, has someone died?

MUM (turns to face him)  
...Erm....yes....it's Jonty...Heart attack.

DAD  
...Jonty....but...I spoke to him just this afternoon,  
....God....he did say he was feeling rough.

JAKE  
....And you said 'don't worry, you'll live'?

MUM gives JAKE a little look.

DAD (slumped)  
Poor Jonty....he can't be much more than 40....

JAKE  
...And he...was...your Head of Department?

MUM  
That's right, sweetheart.

DAD  
Oh my god...., oh no....that is....I can't believe it,  
he....oh....poor Jonty.

As DAD sits with his head slumped.

JAKE

Yeh,.....Still, you could apply for his job now, couldn't you.

MUM/DAD

Ja-ke!!/Now's not the time/ that's not very appropriate/ A man has just died (etc)

JAKE (genuinely sorry at misjudging it)

Sorry, didn't mean to.....(he leaves, a little embarrassed)

DAD is lost in thought, very troubled, MUM is rubbing his shoulders to comfort him.

DAD

Honestly....

MUM

Yeh, I know.....Mind you, he's got a point though.

**END OF EPISODE**