



EPISODE ONE

SHOOTING SCRIPT - 26.05.22

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1/1

EXT. SCHOOL ENTRANCE - DAY

1/1

Phoenix Rise. Half an hour before school starts.

Two men in sporty clothes stand in front of the main entrance, backs to us. One, hood up, is spraying the wall with an aerosol. He steps back to admire his work. The other man fist bumps him and the ARTIST heads out of school with his paints. The other man stands looking at whatever's been painted for a beat, arms folded in satisfaction.

POLLY (O.S.)

(nervous)

Do you have permission to be here?

A uniformed and super-keen POLLY (14) bustles over.

POLLY (CONT'D)

I'm an elected member of the student council. It's my job to ensure rules aren't... (broken)

JAMIE STEWART

I'm glad to see you're taking the job seriously, Polly.

The man, JAMIE STEWART (early 30s, sporty, approachable), turns to face a stunned POLLY. Behind him, a spray-painted phoenix - our school's logo - with the motto 'We Fall, We Rise' is revealed.

POLLY

Do the board of governors know about this, Sir?

JAMIE breaks into a smile.

JAMIE STEWART

I think it's time we tore up the rule book, don't you?

He starts to make his way towards the school entrance.

JAMIE STEWART (CONT'D)

Welcome to a new term!

TITLES

1/2

INT. BILLY & RIHANNA'S FLAT - KITCHEN - DAY

1/2

In the kitchen, BILLY (15) in his Phoenix Rise uniform, smooths his hair and turns on the radio.

1/2

CONTINUED:

1/2

He puts bread in the toaster, gets cereal and two bowls from a cupboard, spoons from a drawer and lays the table. He checks the time and frowns. He goes to the hallway and nears a bedroom door with 'Rihanna' painted on it. He lifts his hand up to knock when RIHANNA (11) opens it from the other side. She gestures at the school uniform she's wearing.

RIHANNA

No make-up, no massive earrings.

BILLY

Funny. Nervous?

She shrugs, trying to look like she doesn't care. He nods and, her following, goes back into the kitchen. He pours cereal into a bowl but only dust tumbles out. RIHANNA snorts a laugh.

RIHANNA

Toast is fine.

BILLY notices smoke coming from the toaster. He unplugs it and tips it up, two burnt slices of toast drop out.

BILLY

I don't believe this! You can't start a new school without breakfast.

RIHANNA

Is that one of their rules?

She sighs and drags her chair to the fridge. She climbs up and gropes the top of the fridge until she finds a chocolate bar. She jumps down and offers it to BILLY.

RIHANNA (CONT'D)

Dad's secret stash.

BILLY smiles tentatively before taking the bar. He breaks the chocolate bar in two before handing RIHANNA the other half.

1/3

EXT. BILLY & RIHANNA'S FLAT - DAY

1/3

BILLY and RIHANNA head out of their standard estate flat to find next door neighbour GEORGIE (late 60's, kind-hearted but nosy) watering her pots. They hurry past her.

GEORGIE

(at Rihanna)

First day at the big school, Ri?

BILLY waves but doesn't stop. A flash of concern from GEORGIE.

1/3

CONTINUED:

1/3

GEORGIE (CONT'D)
You look after your sister.

BILLY
(to Rihanna)
One last check. Pens?
(off her bored nod)
PE kit?

RIHANNA
Billy!

As they walk, RIHANNA breaks into a mischievous smile.

BILLY
What!?

RIHANNA
Where's your kit?

BILLY groans and heads back inside.

BILLY
You go, I'll catch you up.

She strolls on, getting her phone from her pocket.

BILLY (CONT'D)
Ri! Quicker than that!

RIHANNA
I can't run and text. It's in the rules!

Smiling, she taps out a message: *can't wait to see you!*

1/4

EXT. STREET - DAY

1/4

DARCY (15, well-off, chilled skate boy) bombs down a street on a top of the range mountain bike, whooping as he swerves to avoid a can on the ground and nearly flies off.

1/5

EXT. O/S KHALED'S HOUSE - DAY

1/5

KHALED (13) in neat, spotless uniform, walks nervously out of his front door. The screen fills with a Maps app as he tries to find the best route to his new school. He clicks on one and sets off, eyes on the map as he walks towards an alley.

He walks down the alley, past a butchers before looking down at his phone. He's lost already. He checks the time.

1/5

CONTINUED:

1/5

KHALED

Oh no.

A flustered KHALED decides to turn back on himself, but walks straight into NATHAN (14) wearing a jacket over his uniform.

NATHAN

You lost?

Scared, KHALED shoves past NATHAN and bolts, checking over his shoulder that he isn't chasing him. But NATHAN looks on, bemused. KHALED seems terrified as he runs and runs.

1/6

EXT. SCHOOL ENTRANCE - DAY

1/6

LEILA (11) dawdles behind big sister BEE (15) and her two surly-looking friends. MR EDWARDS is on playground duty whilst MISS ABEL is busy inspecting uniforms as kids pass.

BEE

You said you wouldn't follow me about.

LEILA

I'm just walking behind you.

BEE

That's literally what following is.

LEILA sighs dramatically but we can see she's hurt.

BEE (CONT'D)

You know where to go, don't you?

LEILA

Why, where are you going?

BEE taps the side of her nose - a secret. LEILA watches as BEE and her friends head over to a car parked nearby. She squints to see the driver but the car, with BEE and her friends in, quickly drives off. Despondent, LEILA goes through the school gates.

SUMMER (14, cool but not try-hard) and her mum HAZEL pull up outside Phoenix Rise in a flash looking car as kids make their way into school. The flash car gets everyone's attention. Hazel is mouthing along to a promo on the radio.

HAZEL (V.O.)

Confused? Anxious? Desperate?

There are only two more words you
need to know... 'Call Hazel'

She grins at SUMMER then frowns at her trousers.

1/6 CONTINUED:

1/6

HAZEL

Are you sure you won't change
into your skirt?

She gestures at the skirt on the back seat.

HAZEL (CONT'D)

It's your first day Summer! What do
I always say?

SUMMER

That people think we're sisters? Bye mum!

As SUMMER gets out of the car, an earphone slips out of her ear. She puts it back in. HAZEL sighs, annoyed.

HAZEL

You never get a second chance to
make a first impression.

(beat)

And this might be your last first
chance.

SUMMER rises above it and gives HAZEL an exaggerated wave as she drives off. Turning to go into school, something across the road catches her eye. It's a bus with a billboard emblazoned on the side: it's her mum's best pity-face with the slogan '*Confused? Anxious? Desperate? Call Hazel!*'

Hearing excited giggles, SUMMER turns to see a group of girls her age staring at her. One, CASSIDY (14) steps forward.

CASSIDY

Is that your mum on the bus?

SUMMER

Airbrushed but... yeah.

CASSIDY

That's so cool.

SUMMER smiles - okayy. She walks off, the girls hot on her heels.

Meanwhile, RANI (14, bright, wide-eyed) steps off the bus, flanked by her protective parents, AMARI and HASSAN.

HASSAN

Rani.

He nods at the school.

HASSAN (CONT'D)

Day one of your new life.

1/6 CONTINUED: (2)

1/6

RANI smiles cautiously.

AMARI

The only thing we require is that
you... mingle.

RANI

Mingle?

AMARI

Do not be different, do not be loud
or too quiet, do not be the worst
but do not be the best - or at
least don't show *them* you're the
best. Just try to... fit in.

RANI's heart sinks a little but she nods her agreement.

RANI

Fit in. Ok.

She inhales deeply and walks confidently towards school.

RANI (CONT'D)

(low, to herself)

How hard can it be?

She looks at the crowd and worries it might prove really hard.

Hurrying, BILLY and RIHANNA join the scrum. RIHANNA speeds up
and goes to enter without BILLY. He grabs her hood gently.

BILLY

Hey! Be careful ok?

BILLY eyes up the playground for a moment. Everyone's staring.

RIHANNA

There's Leila! Remember I told you
we met at the park in the holidays?

LEILA waves back at grinning RIHANNA and heads over. ETHAN
and a group of mates (including CASSIDY) approach BILLY.

ETHAN

Aren't you Billy Hopkins?

(to CASSIDY)

He knocked out some bus driver in
town. Or was it a postman?

BILLY ignores him. But all eyes are on him.

1/6 CONTINUED: (3)

1/6

BILLY

Rihanna, I mean it, you can't trust everyone, yeah?

DARCY whizzes towards them on his bike. He slams his brakes but it's too late - he clips RIHANNA with his wheel. She squeals.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Oi! Mind yourself!

He squares up to DARCY. Some of the students look over.

RIHANNA

I'm fine!

DARCY

Chill mate, it was an accident!

BILLY

I ain't your mate.

BILLY shoves him. DARCY shoves BILLY back. Things are about to escalate when SUMMER suddenly gets between them.

SUMMER

I'm looking for a loud, annoying alpha male. Either of you seen one?

They look at her - what!? She grins and walks off. RIHANNA and LEILA look at each other, amused at DARCY and BILLY's identical awestruck reactions to SUMMER.

1/7

EXT. SCHOOL ENTRANCE - DAY

1/7

Absorbed into the crowd, SUMMER, DARCY, BILLY, LEILA and RIHANNA head separately through the gates.

As the gates are about to close, in runs KHALED, top in hand, sweating. He's late. KHALED hates being late!

1/8

INT. JAMIE STEWART'S OFFICE - DAY

1/8

BILLY enters Jamie's office and is shocked to see DARCY, SUMMER, LEILA and RANI sat waiting as JAMIE bashes his keyboard in frustration.

BILLY

Am I late?

KHALED suddenly bursts in, sweaty and breathless.

1/8

CONTINUED:

1/8

JAMIE STEWART
Late but not last.

KHALED swallows, mortified. BILLY gives KHALED a brief nod of recognition, surprised to see him.

BILLY locks eyes with DARCY, who smirks. BILLY eyeballs him, not one to back down from confrontation. He notices SUMMER watching and gives her a friendly nod. She looks away.

LEILA
Hey Billy!
(off his blank face)
Rihanna's friend?

BILLY gives her a brief nod. She smiles, clearly a fan.

JAMIE STEWART
Now you're all here, welcome to
Phoenix Rise. We're loud, we're
proud, we're fair and we care.

SUMMER does a small eye roll. DARCY sees it and grins.

JAMIE STEWART (CONT'D)
I know you weren't expecting to
start at a new school this term.
(sighs)
But here we are! You're all with
us for different reasons, most
of you from different units...
But the main reason is the same.
You all deserve a clean slate.
And this is where that starts.

The computer makes a strange sound. KHALED opens his mouth nervously - is he brave enough to make a suggestion? But JAMIE calmly unplugs the computer at the wall.

JAMIE STEWART (CONT'D)
Don't worry about your past. At
Phoenix Rise, we focus on the
future.

BILLY snorts - yeah, right. JAMIE frowns.

LEILA
Why's it called Phoenix Rise sir?
My mum still calls it Manor Grove.

JAMIE STEWART
Because just like you, this
school is about rebirth.
(MORE)

1/8 CONTINUED: (2)

1/8

JAMIE STEWART (CONT'D)

A chance to shed all that baggage
from the past and rise up from
the ashes.

DARCY

Is that 'cos you're in special measures?

JAMIE covers a wry smile. Low blow!

JAMIE STEWART

I think we all deserve a second
chance, don't you?

DARCY glances at BILLY.

JAMIE STEWART (CONT'D)

You won't be treated any
differently - as long as
you stick to the rules.
Think you can do that?

RANI nods politely.

DARCY

Don't nod! Depends what they are.

RANI winces, embarrassed. So much for fitting in!

JAMIE STEWART

So glad you asked, Mr Trent. Be on
time. Be kind. Try hard. Say sorry.
Help each other.

He smiles. The kids look at him in confusion.

SUMMER

That's it?

JAMIE STEWART

I think that's more than enough
to be going on with, don't you?

DARCY

Even if they say we're unteachable?

JAMIE STEWART

One man's unteachable is *this* man's
work in progress.

A confused SUMMER looks at DARCY.

1/8 CONTINUED: (3)

1/8

JAMIE STEWART (CONT'D)
If you want specifics... no
weapons, no threats, no violence.
No bullying, no shaming, no
swearing, no phones, alcohol,
drugs, piercings or pets.

LEILA
Sounds more like it.

She and SUMMER grin at each other. There's a confident knock on the door.

JAMIE STEWART
Come in Polly!

POLLY enters with her usual enthusiasm.

POLLY
Hi guys! My name's...

LEILA
Polly?

DARCY cracks up.

POLLY
(surprised)
Yes! I'm your buddy.

BILLY JAMIE STEWART
Our what? She'll show you around,
answer any questions.

The kids all quickly jump up. Eager to get out of his office.

JAMIE STEWART (CONT'D)
The six of you are about to
experience a unique adventure.
I'd like to suggest you turn to
each other for the support you
can't get from anyone else. Ok?

The six make a point of avoiding eye contact with each other. It's the last thing they want to do. They file out behind POLLY. Last one out, KHALED, looks back at JAMIE.

KHALED
Your computer's overheated,
Sir. It might have something to
do with your steak bake.

1/8 CONTINUED: (4)

1/8

A sheepish JAMIE looks at his steaming steak bake sat resting on his computer before gesturing for KHALED to hurry after the others. He's on the back foot - again!

1/9 INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

1/9

DARCY, SUMMER, BILLY, KHALED, RANI and LEILA follow POLLY down the empty corridor. She's clearly lost.

POLLY

It always feels so naughty walking around school when everyone's in lessons, doesn't it?

She catches LEILA's eye and LEILA frowns unwelcomingly.

1/9A INT. CORRIDOR O/S BOILER ROOM - DAY

1/9A

A disorientated POLLY turns the handle of a random door.

POLLY

Oops.

All six kids peer into the room. It's a disused boiler room. We linger as each pupil's eyes widen as they take in the deserted space. We get the sense this place will be a massive part of our kids' lives. POLLY closes the door and walks on.

LEILA

What is it?

POLLY

I thought it was the Haven of Happiness.

DARCY

Huh?

POLLY

It's new. A safe space where we can talk about the things that bother us.

DARCY eye rolls at RANI, who smiles nervously then quickly looks away, embarrassed.

SUMMER

What if the Haven of Happiness *is* the thing that bothers us?

1/9A CONTINUED:

1/9A

POLLY

Oh. Then I...

(sees SUMMER's smiling)

That was a sort-of joke. Ha! Come on!

DARCY and SUMMER share a giggle, BILLY looks a little jealous.

1/10 INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR - DAY

1/10

The 6 grudgingly follow POLLY along another corridor.

POLLY

Here it is!

She points at a room with 'Haven of Happiness' above it in coloured felt.

POLLY (CONT'D)

Obvs. We'll come back to this. I should show you the canteen before break.

She leads them on down the corridor. DARCY pulls BILLY up. BILLY scowls, ready for a fight.

DARCY

Sorry about before. Running your girlfriend over.

BILLY

Say that again.

DARCY

Jokes mate! Clearly she's your little sister. I meant it. Sorry.

BILLY eyes him suspiciously then nods.

DARCY (CONT'D)

Where were you before here?

KHALED

Me and Billy were at the... (PRU)

BILLY

(to KHALED)

I can talk for myself.

KHALED is crestfallen but BILLY doesn't notice.

BILLY (CONT'D)

The Referral Unit in Earlesdon. The one they just shut down.

1/10 CONTINUED:

1/10

DARCY

Why?

BILLY

Bit busy aren't you?

DARCY

Busy?

BILLY

Up in my business.

DARCY

I get it. I've been thrown out of
every school in the Midlands. I was
meant to go young offenders but I
reckon my dad paid off the magistrate.

DARCY grins. BILLY's surprised.

DARCY (CONT'D)

One more bad move and I'm...

He mimes a guillotine across his neck. There's a flicker of
understanding between them as they catch up with the group.

1/11 INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

1/11

BILLY enters his new form room, kids are bustling about, catching up on the summer holidays, playfighting etc. There's only ETHAN and a mate, who are chatting up the girls in the row in front.

BILLY walks towards the seats at the back, but ETHAN has marked his territory by using the chair for his school bag. Knowing he has to prove himself, BILLY confidently pulls out the chair in question. The boys look at each other, then at BILLY.

BILLY

(covering his nerves)

Don't make a man sit at the front
on his first day.

The boys eye him for a long second before a reluctant ETHAN removes his bag from the chair. BILLY nods thanks and sits.

DARCY strides confidently into the room. He goes to sit on the seat next to BILLY.

ETHAN

You never said nothing about your mate.

1/11 CONTINUED:

1/11

BILLY

Darcy!? He's got a massive
farting issue. Has to be near
a window at all times.

DARCY screws up his face, ready to defend himself but BILLY gives him a 'shut up' look. There's a tense beat til ETHAN smirks and eventually steps aside. DARCY plonks himself down next to BILLY, trying to hide his relief.

DARCY

You settled in quick.

BILLY shrugs. DARCY sits, reluctantly impressed by his new friend.

DARCY (CONT'D)

What do you think about that Summer?

BILLY

Seems alright.

DARCY

Think you'll make a move?

BILLY

I just wanna get my head
down. No drama.

DARCY

Mates before dates, yeah?

DARCY initiates a fist pump as the teacher enters.

As the teacher settles the class, BILLY gets out his phone and sends RIHANNA a text: 'How u getting on?'

1/12 INT. GYM - DAY

1/12

RIHANNA and the girls line up for PE. They are doing the bleep test, running between cones in the gym, trying to beat the beep. LEILA jogs into step with RIHANNA.

LEILA

Your brother is so fit.

RIHANNA makes a puking gesture.

LEILA (CONT'D)

You should invite me round.

RIHANNA

We're not allowed.

1/12 CONTINUED:

1/12

LEILA

Says who?

RIHANNA

My dad.

LEILA

I thought you said he's in France.

They just make it to the cone as the beep goes. The TEACHER motions to them to speed up. They run a bit quicker.

RIHANNA

Driving a lorry, he'll be back in a few days.

LEILA

But 'til then you've got the whole place to yourself...

RIHANNA shrugs. Guess so. LEILA checks the teacher isn't looking, then yanks the cone they're running to nearer. RIHANNA giggles.

The TEACHER frowns at LEILA and puts the cone back as a group of girls start to whisper and point. RIHANNA realises they're pointing at her. She's confused. LEILA grabs her and protectively leads her to the changing rooms.

RIHANNA

What? What are you doing?

LEILA

Could you have picked a worse time to start your period?

A confused RIHANNA checks the back of her shorts and as the kids laugh, mortified, she runs out of the gym, LEILA following.

1/13

INT. ENGLISH CLASSROOM (FIRST FLOOR) - DAY

1/13

An apprehensive SUMMER makes her way into the busy classroom. The first person she clocks is an eager POLLY who motions to the seat next to her - just as CASSIDY and her mates saunter into class like a poundshop Little Mix.

POLLY

I saved you a seat!

CASSIDY

Sit with us!

SUMMER is torn but heads towards CASSIDY and co, with a 'sorry' smile for disappointed POLLY.

1/13 CONTINUED:

1/13

CASSIDY (CONT'D)
Talk about confused, anxious
and desperate. As if you want
to be seen with her!

SUMMER looks at POLLY and feels awful.

CASSIDY (CONT'D)
So what school were you at
before Phoenix Rise?

SUMMER
I wasn't.

CASSIDY
You were home schooled? So jammy.

English teacher, MS BENSON enters.

MS BENSON
If you could all get out your
copies of Jane Eyre.

As CASSIDY and her friend snigger bitchily, POLLY's eyes well
with tears and SUMMER feels very uncomfortable.

1/14 INT. WIGGLY CORRIDOR - DAY

1/14

BILLY navigates the busy corridor as everyone heads to their
next lesson. He gets a few side-eyes and whispered comments.
He clocks a subdued RIHANNA, walking with LEILA.

BILLY
Why didn't you text me back?

RIHANNA shrugs, not in the mood to talk.

BILLY (CONT'D)
Has someone said something?

RIHANNA
Don't tell me you know!

BILLY
Know what?

Embarrassed, she scurries off.

BILLY (CONT'D)
Ri!

He looks at LEILA for help. She looks at him knowingly.

1/14 CONTINUED:

1/14

LEILA

She had an accident. In PE.

BILLY

Is she hurt?

LEILA

Not exactly.

BILLY

What are you on about?

LEILA

Speak to your mum. Or maybe google
'girl stuff.'

LEILA leaves behind a baffled BILLY as she makes a beeline for BEE who is talking to a couple of her mates.

LEILA (CONT'D)

We just had PE.

BEE

Do I look like I care?

Bee's mates start sniggering.

LEILA

To be fair, you're lucky I'm even
talking to you.

BEE

Aww 'cos mommy said stay away from
big bad Bee?

LEILA

Why do you hate her so much?

BEE

'Cos I'm a terrible person Lay.
That's why they split us up,
remember? And why our lovely mommy
sent me to live with strangers.

LEILA's face falls. BEE feels bad.

BEE (CONT'D)

Best stay away, yeah? You don't
wanna end up like me.

A despondent LEILA watches BEE and her mates saunter off.
She'd give anything to be like her big sister.

1/15

INT. DINING HALL CORRIDOR - DAY

1/15

As SUMMER turns onto another busy corridor, she clocks BILLY waiting by the lockers. She smiles before continuing. A wrong-footed BILLY races after her.

BILLY

I was waiting for you.

SUMMER

Bit stalker-ish.

BILLY

I just meant... We didn't get a chance to speak before. I'm Billy.

SUMMER

I know.

BILLY hovers awkwardly. He's not good at this.

DARCY (O.S.)

Summer...

A bemused SUMMER watches as DARCY makes his way over. His face immediately drops when he clocks BILLY loitering.

DARCY (CONT'D)

I see Bill beat me to it.

SUMMER

Beat you to what?

DARCY locks eyes with BILLY. They both shift uneasily.

DARCY

Later, yeah?

DARCY initiates a reluctant fist bump with BILLY but he's raging inside. A bemused SUMMER's none the wiser.

SUMMER

So if you're not a stalker
then what are you?

A tongue-tied BILLY can barely get his words out.

BILLY

(blurts it out)

You're a girl.

SUMMER

I was last time I checked.

1/15 CONTINUED:

1/15

BILLY

Something happened to my little sister in PE... Some sort of accident. Her friend said I should speak to my mum.

SUMMER

She's probably right.

BILLY

It's just... She died. Two years ago.

SUMMER's heart melts. BILLY's face gives nothing away.

SUMMER

Oh no. That's awful.

(beat)

How old is your sister?

BILLY

Eleven. Going on sixty.

SUMMER

Then maybe you need to accept she's not so little anymore.

BILLY's still none the wiser. SUMMER gets out a scrap of paper before scribbling something down on it.

SUMMER (CONT'D)

You can get them from any supermarket. And if she wants to talk to someone, come and find me, yeah?

A beaming SUMMER hands BILLY the scrap of paper. She's about to walk off when she suddenly turns back.

SUMMER (CONT'D)

I wish I had a brother like you.

Friend-zoned! BILLY's heart sinks as SUMMER disappears into the scrum of kids on their way to lunch.

As a despondent BILLY makes his way outside, he passes RANI on her way to lunch. Something's caught her eye on the school noticeboard: it's auditions for the upcoming school production of *LADY GODIVA: THE MUSICAL*.

SAM (O.S.)

Finally someone with taste.

A startled RANI turns to find SAM (15, extrovert) approaching.

1/15 CONTINUED: (2)

1/15

SAM (CONT'D)
I'm Sam. Writer, director,
choreographer. All round triple threat.

RANI
Wow.

RANI's immediately taken by his exuberance.

SAM
My skills aren't just limited to
the stage. If you need any make-up
tips, check out my channel.
Contouring's my speciality. I
could really bring out those cheek
bones. Although looking at those
brows, maybe you need your own
segment. They're amazing.

RANI
They are?

SAM
So shall I put your name down?
We're an exclusive club, you know.
We don't just let anyone in.

BEE (O.S.)
Only the super super desperate.

A startled RANI turns to find BEE and her mates approaching.

SAM
Could you Bee any more basic? Why
don't you go back to shoplifting
your nasty eyeliners?

BEE
(to Rani)
He's my biggest customer!

BEE leans into SAM's face before shouting BOO. He covers and sneers as BEE and her mates crack up before sauntering off. SAM brushes imaginary dust from his shoulder leaving RANI more confused than ever.

RANI
I have to meet a friend for lunch. I'm sorry.

A rattled RANI hurries off. Is fitting in really this hard?

1/16

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - DAY

1/16

BILLY's still looking at Summer's note as he makes his way out into the playground. A football lands at his feet.

DARCY (O.S.)
Oi. Where do you play?

BILLY picks up the ball before making his way over to DARCY and a few of his new mates.

BILLY
Centre mid.

DARCY grins. BILLY kicks the ball back to DARCY.

BILLY (CONT'D)
Listen, yeah. About Summer...

DARCY
It's all good. I like to keep my options open.

BILLY
I don't think she's into me anyway.

DARCY
'Cos she's got taste, dude.

He ruffles BILLY's hair just as his mobile beeps with a text message. As BILLY goes to check his phone, he's suddenly aware that the entire playground are on their phones.

DARCY (CONT'D)
You're famous, Bill.

DARCY shows BILLY a meme. It's a picture of BILLY behind a set of jail bars with the caption: PRU kid. BILLY looks around the playground. Everyone's staring at him.

BILLY
Who did this?

BILLY notices ETHAN and his friends laughing at the meme. He charges over to them before showing them his phone.

BILLY (CONT'D)
Was it you?

ETHAN
Nice phone mate.

DARCY races over before pulling BILLY away from them.

1/16 CONTINUED:

1/16

BILLY
Get off me.

A frustrated BILLY pulls away before storming back towards school.

DARCY
(shouts after him)
We'll find out who did this,
yeah? I got your back.

1/17 INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

1/17

KHALED's in an empty classroom when BILLY comes bursting in. He takes a moment to get his head together before making his way over to KHALED's desk. He hands him his phone.

BILLY
I need to know who sent this.

KHALED
I don't do that stuff anymore.

BILLY
Come on, Khaled. We're mates, aren't we?

KHALED
You never spoke to me.

BILLY
I didn't know who I could trust in
that place. But it's different
here, isn't it?
(beat)
At least I thought it was.

KHALED
I forgot, once you asked if you
could borrow a pen.

BILLY looks at KHALED. A look of sincerity in his face.

BILLY
Mr Stewart said this is our
chance to wipe the slate
clean. But they're not gonna
let us, are they?

KHALED understands this better than anyone.

BILLY (CONT'D)
I don't want to be that kid
anymore.

(MORE)

1/17 CONTINUED:

1/17

BILLY (CONT'D)

I just want to keep my head down
and look after my sister. You can
understand that, can't you?

KHALED

I'll see what I can do.

(beat)

You never gave me the pen back.

On BILLY, as he breathes a sigh of relief.

1/18 INT. SCHOOL DINING HALL - DAY

1/18

SUMMER's eating lunch with CASSIDY and her mates. POLLY's sat with RANI on the next table, trying not to focus on the girls.

CASSIDY

I bet your mum gets invited to all
the best parties. Does she know BTS!?

SUMMER

Yeah. They always come to Coventry
when they're over from South Korea.

CASSIDY

Seriously?

A distracted SUMMER is more concerned with POLLY.

CASSIDY (CONT'D)

You know she wet her knickers in
Year Seven? She had to get a
clean pair from lost property.

POLLY looks down at her plate. She's mortified in front of RANI.

SUMMER

I've gotta be somewhere.

SUMMER quickly gets up.

CASSIDY

Tell your mum Cassidy said hi.

SUMMER rolls her eyes before passing POLLY and RANI. She smiles at a self-conscious POLLY.

RANI

She's so pretty.

1/18 CONTINUED:

1/18

POLLY

Were you two friends before
you came here?

RANI

(shakes head)

This is my first proper school. I
was in a... different, um... For...

POLLY's staring, intrigued.

RANI (CONT'D)

I had some trouble where I used
to live. The authorities decided
I was better off at a referral
unit. For my, um, safety?

POLLY

That's awful.

RANI smiles philosophically. Not a hint of self-pity.

RANI

People are scared of what they
don't understand.

As the bell goes for the end of lunch.

1/19 INT. DINING HALL CORRIDOR - DAY

1/19

SUMMER's on her way to her next lesson when MISS ABEL
approaches. She makes a point of taking her to one side.

MISS ABEL

Summer. I'm Miss Abel, deputy head.

SUMMER frowns - what does she want??

MISS ABEL (CONT'D)

I'm aware of your... I know you
have special... (requirements)

She can't bring herself to say it - this doesn't come
naturally to her. Self-conscious SUMMER clocks nosy CASSIDY
and her mates coming out of the dining hall. They loiter.

MISS ABEL (CONT'D)

Shouldn't you girls be on your
way to your next lesson?

A reluctant CASSIDY goes. MISS ABEL turns back to SUMMER.

1/19 CONTINUED:

1/19

MISS ABEL (CONT'D)
I've got your exemption card. So
you can excuse yourself from
class when you need 'time out'.

It's clear MISS ABEL is awkward with this touchy-feely chat.

MISS ABEL (CONT'D)
We have a behaviour mentor joining
very soon, you'll be under her care.

SUMMER
Like a stray cat with a poorly paw?

MISS ABEL frowns. She'd love to sanction her but instead
hands SUMMER the exemption card and walks off.

1/20 INT. IT CLASSROOM - DAY

1/20

It's the start of class. LEILA's sat on the table trying to
stick on strip lashes while RIHANNA unpacks her bag. She's
conscious of several boys laughing at her.

LEILA
Ignore them, Ri.

LEILA's oblivious to MISS ABEL walking into class.

LEILA (CONT'D)
They're just jealous 'cos they
haven't started puberty yet!

MISS ABEL
One more word from you and it'll be
straight to isolation.

LEILA grins as she takes her seat. MISS ABEL studies her.
LEILA stares back, fearless.

MISS ABEL (CONT'D)
Was it your intention to look like
a spider died on your face?

LEILA
Not my fault you came in before I finished.

Some of the kids laugh. RIHANNA winces - LEILA's SO cheeky!
MISS ABEL makes a gesture for LEILA to remove the lashes.
LEILA huffs as she picks the strip off.

MISS ABEL
You have a sister in Year 11, don't you?

1/20 CONTINUED:

1/20

LEILA
Bee, Miss.

MISS ABEL
You say that like it's
something to be proud of.

LEILA sinks down in her chair. Her card's already marked.

1/21 **EXT. SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS - DAY**

1/21

A distracted BILLY is warming up with DARCY and the rest of the Year 10 boys when PE teacher MR EDWARDS walks over.

MR EDWARDS
Ethan and...
(points at DARCY)
Start choosing teams.

DARCY and ETHAN take their positions at the front.

ETHAN
Prepare to lose.

DARCY
I gotta go with my boy, Bill.

BILLY's chuffed with the endorsement. He's about to join DARCY when his phone beeps with a text. It's from KHALED. BILLY's face gives nothing away as he absorbs the contents.

MR EDWARDS
What are the rules about phones?

BILLY
It was you.

MR EDWARDS is shocked when a raging BILLY throws his phone on the floor before charging at DARCY. He shoves him.

DARCY
What is your problem?

BILLY
You. Running your mouth.

MR EDWARDS blows his whistle.

DARCY
He's off his head, sir. This is what happens when you let kids in from PRUs.

1/21 CONTINUED:

1/21

MR EDWARDS
Hopkins. Inside.

DARCY
You need to chill if you're going
to survive this school.

MR EDWARDS
Hopkins. I'm not going to tell you again.

BILLY
Not 'til he apologises.

DARCY
Then you got a long wait.

BILLY
I'm not the only one with a secret.

DARCY
Yeah. Difference is I don't
care what people think.

DARCY closes in on BILLY.

DARCY (CONT'D)
Look at you. Getting all worked up. Makes
me wonder what else you're hiding.

BILLY eyeballs DARCY before finally backing down. He rips off
his vest before making his way towards the changing rooms.

1/22 INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR - DAY

1/22

A raging BILLY is on his way to the changing rooms.

JAMIE STEWART
(calls)
Billy?

BILLY stops.

JAMIE STEWART (CONT'D)
Why aren't you playing football?

BILLY
That teacher sent me off.

JAMIE STEWART
Anything you want to talk about?

BILLY shakes his head. JAMIE knows not to push it further.

1/22 CONTINUED:

1/22

JAMIE STEWART (CONT'D)
Try and keep a lid on that temper, yeah?

He gestures that BILLY can go. JAMIE watches him with concern.

JAMIE STEWART (CONT'D)
I believe in you Billy!

BILLY stops, looks back at JAMIE's retreating figure then has an idea... He turns and walks off in the opposite direction.

1/23 INT. MATHS CLASSROOM - DAY

1/23

KHALED is in MR KOTHARI's maths class.

MR KOTHARI
I take it from all the noise,
you've worked out the answer to
the equation?

A sea of blank faces.

MR KOTHARI (CONT'D)
Fine. Then it's going to be a long
night. Because no one is going
home until we have an answer.

STACEY
Khaled knows the answer, Sir.

All eyes turn to KHALED. Can he summon up the courage?

KHALED
(hesitates)
It's forty eight.

MR KOTHARI
And how did you get to that?

KHALED
By subtracting the same value from
both sides.

MR KOTHARI
Very good.

STACEY starts chanting 'Khaled' under her breath until the whole class joins in. For the very first time, we see a smile creep across KHALED's face. He finally feels like he belongs.

1/23 CONTINUED:

1/23

MR KOTHARI (CONT'D)
And as for the rest of you.
Contrary to popular belief, even
influencers need maths. How else
are you going to count your likes?

The class groan as MISS ABEL walks into class.

MISS ABEL
Sorry to interrupt, Mr Kothari.
We have a latecomer for you.

MISS ABEL hands MR KOTHARI a slip with Nathan's details on
and steps aside as NATHAN walks in, still wearing the same
jacket we saw him in earlier. KHALED suddenly pales.

MISS ABEL (CONT'D)
I'll leave you to get settled, Nathan.

MISS ABEL walks out leaving NATHAN at the front of the class.
KHALED feels his eyes burning into him.

MR KOTHARI
Take a seat next to Khaled. I'll
sort you out a textbook.

A terrified KHALED watches as a grinning NATHAN pulls up a chair
next to him. The sounds of the classroom suddenly become muffled
as KHALED retreats into himself. All his good work undone.

1/23A INT. CORRIDOR O/S HAVEN OF HAPPINESS - DAY

1/23A

A frustrated BILLY has his head down as he passes the Haven
of Happiness. But where is he heading?

1/24 INT. BOILER ROOM - DAY

1/24

BILLY takes in the empty boiler room for a moment before
throwing a discarded chair across the room. He watches it
crash against the wall before taking a moment to catch his
breath. It feels as if the whole world is against him.

1/25 INT. ENGLISH CLASSROOM (FIRST FLOOR) - DAY

1/25

A distracted SUMMER's sat with CASSIDY and her mates. She has
one eye on POLLY who is trying her best to ignore them.

CASSIDY
Look at those split ends. Has she
ever heard of conditioner?

1/25 CONTINUED:

1/25

CASSIDY's mates crack up.

SUMMER

At least she's not afraid to stand out.

A concerned POLLY glances over.

SUMMER (CONT'D)

You might have your fake bags and
ombre nails, but that doesn't
give you a personality.

CASSIDY

If you don't like it here, go back
to home schooling, you freak.

SUMMER

I wasn't home schooled. I was in
hospital. And you know why? Because
I wanted to be just like you.

CASSIDY

You could never be like us.

SUMMER

Yeah. I just wish it hadn't taken
this long to figure that out.

SUMMER makes for the door.

MS BENSON

Summer. Where are you going?

SUMMER

(flashes her exemption card)
I need a break, Miss. Check my
records. You'll find
everything you need to know.

A stunned CASSIDY watches as SUMMER saunters out of class.

1/26

INT. GIRLS' TOILETS - DAY

1/26

RANI sits on the toilet with her headphones in. She has her eyes closed, lost in the music as she retreats into her fantasy world. A smile creeps across her face - she can *finally* be herself. Safe and secure in her own sanctuary. UNTIL -

A LOUD thump on the cubicle door from someone desperate to use the toilet. A startled RANI rips out her headphones as the banging intensifies on the other side of the door.

1/26 CONTINUED:

1/26

RANI suddenly retreats into herself. If she can't feel safe here - *where can she feel safe?*

1/27 INT. HISTORY CLASSROOM - DAY

1/27

DARCY makes his way into the classroom expecting to find BILLY there. But he's nowhere to be seen. DARCY sits, looking around as all other seats are filled. He glances at BILLY's empty seat - a flash of guilt in his face. ETHAN clocks this.

ETHAN

He didn't last long.

DARCY

Tell Miss I'm sick.

ETHAN

Bro, one thing you are *not* is sick.

DARCY

Just say I've got diarrhoea.

ETHAN

Out your mouth, yeah.

DARCY smiles sarcastically and rushes out of the classroom.

1/28 INT. BOILER ROOM - DAY

1/28

A tentative RANI makes her way into the boiler room only to find BILLY, SUMMER, KHALED and LEILA already waiting for her. She looks at them, surprised.

SUMMER

Funny, right? How we all ended up here and not the Haven of Happiness.

They all glance at each other. An unspoken connection.

SUMMER (CONT'D)

There's just one person missing...

SUMMER looks at the door as a sheepish DARCY finally walks in. BILLY immediately stands up, looking for a fight.

SUMMER (CONT'D)

That's exactly what they want.

BILLY

What're you talking about?

1/28 CONTINUED:

1/28

SUMMER

They don't like us because
we're different... But maybe
that's our strength.

KHALED

How is that a strength?

SUMMER

Because we've got each other.

BILLY glares at DARCY.

SUMMER (CONT'D)

Like it or not, there's a reason
why we all came here today.

BILLY

Which is?

SUMMER

We're all we've got. So we either
find a way to make this work...

LEILA

Or what?

SUMMER

...We walk out and never come
back. And maybe never get another
second chance. So what's it to be?

They all glance at each other. A moment's hesitation - until:

RANI

I'm in.

RANI puts her hand in. LEILA follows. As do SUMMER and KHALED.
BILLY watches as a tentative DARCY joins them.

SUMMER

Billy?

BILLY eyeballs DARCY before picking up his bag and walking out
without saying a word. Is he in or out?

1/29 **EXT. STREET - DAY**

1/29

A reflective BILLY's walking home with RIHANNA when he passes a
newsagents. He stops before pulling out Summer's note.

1/29 CONTINUED:

1/29

BILLY

Stay here, yeah? I gotta get something.

RIHANNA

Don't forget the cereal. Oh, and some noodles - spicy. And some of them cookies... (I LIKE)

BILLY holds his hand up - enough. She watches as he disappears into the shop.

1/30 INT. NEWSAGENTS - DAY

1/30

BILLY stares at the sanitary products. He looks across at MR SOMARSKI at the till before slipping a packet under his top.

1/31 INT. BILLY & RIHANNA'S FLAT - EVENING

1/31

BILLY and RIHANNA walk through the front door. As BILLY goes to turn on the lights, he realises that the electric's gone.

RIHANNA

Don't worry. Dad's home at the weekend.

BILLY

(hesitates)

Not anymore.

RIHANNA

Why? Has his lorry broken down?

BILLY

He got another job. Big money apparently, but he won't get paid 'til he's done.

RIHANNA nods. BILLY hates lying to her.

RIHANNA

You didn't have to get me the cookies.

BILLY

We can afford cookies. Stop worrying.

RIHANNA

So how we gonna pay the electric 'til he's back?

BILLY

I'll figure something out.

1/31 CONTINUED:

1/31

BILLY watches as RIHANNA disappears into her room. The weight of the world on his shoulders.

1/32 **INT. RIHANNA'S BEDROOM - EVENING**

1/32

RIHANNA's sat with a torch trying to do her homework when an awkward BILLY appears in the door. RIHANNA looks up expectantly. BILLY hesitates before putting the packet of sanitary towels on her desk. He's embarrassed but RIHANNA loves him for it.

RIHANNA

Thank you.

BILLY starts to make his way out, when...

RIHANNA (CONT'D)

Billy. They're not gonna try and split us up, are they?

BILLY

'Course not.

RIHANNA looks unsettled. BILLY makes his way over to her.

BILLY (CONT'D)

This is a new start for us, yeah?

As BILLY pulls her in for a cuddle.

1/33 **INT. JAMIE STEWART'S OFFICE - EVENING**

1/33

We see grainy footage of Billy in the newsagents as he slips the sanitary towels under his top. We pull out to reveal JAMIE STEWART as he looks across at a furious MR SOMARSKI.

Has Billy already blown his second chance?

END OF EPISODE