



EPISODE EIGHT

SHOOTING SCRIPT – 27.07.22

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8/1 **INT. BILLY & RIHANNA'S FLAT - DAY**

8/1

A stressed BILLY bursts out of his bedroom before checking the time on his phone. He's going to be late!

BILLY
Ri. Get a shift on.

Nothing. BILLY grabs his school bag before glancing at her closed bedroom door. He's not impressed.

BILLY (CONT'D)
You wanna wind up in detention?

BILLY opens the door but her bedroom's empty. He runs downstairs before checking the living room and kitchen. There's still no sign of her. On a concerned BILLY. *Where is she?*

TITLES8/2 **EXT. POND AREA - DAY**

8/2

KHALED's taking a moment to pay his respects to Polly's memorial from Ep 7. SUMMER walks up behind him.

SUMMER
(wry)
Puts it all into
perspective, doesn't it?

KHALED
It's a squirrel.

SUMMER
At least it gave me an excuse
to walk to school. Like we need
any more killers on the road.

KHALED turns to look at SUMMER.

KHALED
You serious? I'd live in that
car if it was my mum's.

SUMMER
It's not the car that's the problem.

This hangs in the air for a moment as they start to walk towards school. SUMMER seems distracted, agitated.

KHALED
Your mum's cool though, yeah?

8/2 CONTINUED:

8/2

SUMMER

She has her moments. But sometimes
I just need to be on my own.

On cue, SUMMER's phone starts ringing: it's her mum.

KHALED

You gonna answer it?

SUMMER

Like I have a choice.

KHALED smiles politely before hotfooting it towards the Boiler Room. SUMMER stares at her phone for a few moments before finally answering. She listens to her rant for a moment.

SUMMER (CONT'D)

If I was dead, you think I'd
still be answering my phone?

SUMMER hangs up. She's oblivious to BECKY making her way towards school. Something about SUMMER's demeanour unsettles her.

BECKY

Nuisance caller?

SUMMER

Like you wouldn't believe.

8/3 **OMITTED**

8/3

8/4 **INT. BOILER ROOM - DAY**

8/4

KHALED, RANI and SUMMER are sat in the Boiler Room when BILLY bursts in. He's trying his best to contain his growing unease.

BILLY

Any of you lot seen Ri?

RANI

Ms Benson said something about an
early rehearsal. Maybe she's there?

BILLY's relief is palpable. Of course!

LEILA (O.S.)

You need to clean out those ears.

A confused BILLY turns as LEILA barrels in.

8/4

CONTINUED:

8/4

LEILA (CONT'D)

Didn't you hear me shouting?

KHALED smirks at SUMMER. But she's in a world of her own.

RANI

Where's Darcy?

BILLY

Who cares.

SUMMER

What is your problem with him?

BILLY holds her gaze. He doesn't dare go there.

BILLY

Forget it.

The bell goes for the first lesson. Everyone springs into action - apart from SUMMER. BILLY holds back for her.

SUMMER

You don't have to wait.

A despondent BILLY nods. He knows a brush-off when he hears it. A guilty SUMMER watches as he starts to make his way out.

SUMMER (CONT'D)

Billy...

He turns back, hopeful.

SUMMER (CONT'D)

Not everything's a fight, you know.

BILLY stares at her for a moment before making his way out.

Stay on SUMMER as she listens to the flurry of activity out in the corridor until it suddenly goes QUIET. She takes in the silence for a moment. *She needs this now more than ever.*

8/5

INT. ENGLISH CLASSROOM - DAY

8/5

The classroom is filling up as BILLY scrolls to Rihanna's name on his phone. He's about to text her when he's distracted by DARCY and ETHAN falling into the classroom, mid-play fight - ETHAN has DARCY in a head lock. It's all good natured.

8/5 CONTINUED:

8/5

ETHAN

You heard about this one,
Bill? Goes to some food bank
to try and impress Summer.

DARCY

Get off me, you muppet.

A desperately uncomfortable DARCY pulls away before locking
eyes with BILLY. He reluctantly takes a seat next to him.

DARCY (CONT'D)

I never told Summer.

BILLY's fist clenches. He's trying to keep his cool.

DARCY (CONT'D)

That's your business, yeah?

MS BENSON walks into class.

MS BENSON

Could everyone get out their
copies of *Romeo and Juliet*?

ETHAN

It's rubbish, Miss.

MS BENSON

It's that kind of expert
critique that's going to see
you ace these exams, Ethan.

Back to BILLY and DARCY.

DARCY

I'm not trying to dig you out or
nothing. I just wanna help.

BILLY

Then stay out my business.

A frustrated DARCY sinks down into his chair as JAMIE walks
into class. A sudden flash of guilt in DARCY's face.

JAMIE STEWART

Sorry to interrupt, Ms Benson.
Could I borrow Billy, please?

MS BENSON

Of course.

8/5 CONTINUED: (2)

8/5

DARCY pales. BILLY's heart sinks before starting to pack up his bag. ETHAN and a few other boys start jeering.

ETHAN
(good natured)
Is he going back to the PRU, sir?

MS BENSON
You're not helping, Ethan.

ETHAN
I'm just sayin'. You bring Conor McGregor into this school, you're asking for trouble.

BILLY reluctantly makes his way over to JAMIE before noticing the football in his hand. *That can't be a good sign.*

BILLY
(aside)
Can't this wait, sir?

JAMIE STEWART
I'm afraid not.

BILLY gulps before following JAMIE. *What now!?*

8/6 **OMITTED**

8/6

8/7 **INT. IT CLASSROOM - DAY**

8/7

MISS ABEL's mid-lesson when LEILA crashes into class. She observes the empty seat where RIHANNA should be sitting.

LEILA
Where's Rihanna, Miss?

MISS ABEL
Sit down, Leila.

LEILA stands firm. MISS ABEL isn't impressed.

LEILA
You might not care about your mates but I'm loyal like that.

MISS ABEL
I'm not going to tell you again.

LEILA pulls out her mobile.

8/7 CONTINUED:

8/7

LEILA
Fine. We'll see what the
police have to say, shall we?

MISS ABEL
You either pipe down or
you'll be out of the school
musical. Now which is it?

A frustrated LEILA sinks down at her desk before
surreptitiously texting RIHANNA under her desk: **wya?**

8/8 **EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - DAY**

8/8

BILLY's on red alert as he watches JAMIE attempt a few keepy-ups.

BILLY
What's with the football?

JAMIE STEWART
It helps with stressful
situations.

BILLY
What're you stressed about, Sir?

JAMIE kicks the ball to a bemused BILLY.

JAMIE STEWART
You for one.

BILLY
I'm good. You don't have to
worry about me.

JAMIE STEWART
Are you really?

BILLY deflects by kicking the ball back to JAMIE.

JAMIE STEWART (CONT'D)
I need you to tell me what's
going on at home, Billy.

Alarm bells start ringing for BILLY. He shuts down.

JAMIE STEWART (CONT'D)
I want to help.

BILLY
Then stay out of my business.

8/8 CONTINUED:

8/8

This hangs in the air. JAMIE lets it slide - *for now*.

JAMIE STEWART
When did your Dad leave?

BILLY
About eight o'clock. Like he does every day.

JAMIE STEWART
We both know that's not true.

A stubborn BILLY holds his gaze.

JAMIE STEWART (CONT'D)
Come on, Billy. I can't help you
unless you help yourself.

BILLY looks at JAMIE. Will he crumble? He really wants -
needs help. But pride gets the better of him - as always.

BILLY
We're all good, Sir.

JAMIE's frustration is palpable.

JAMIE STEWART
I really hoped it wouldn't come to this.

BILLY
What're you talking about?

JAMIE STEWART
Come with me.

A confused BILLY watches as JAMIE grabs the ball before making
his way back towards the school building. *What's going on?*

8/9 **INT. JAMIE STEWART'S OFFICE - DAY**

8/9

A confused BILLY follows JAMIE into his office only to find
RIHANNA sat waiting for them. She looks young and very vulnerable.

RIHANNA
I'm sorry, Billy.

BILLY just stares at her. RIHANNA tears up.

RIHANNA (CONT'D)
I tried calling dad but it said
his phone was disconnected. What
if he's in trouble? *Or sick...*

8/9 CONTINUED:

8/9

The colour drains from BILLY's face. His heart racing.

BILLY
(of Mr Stewart)
What did you tell him, Ri?

A guilty RIHANNA's face says it all. Drained, hungry and defeated - BILLY slumps into a seat. *It's over.*

8/10 **INT. BOILER ROOM - DAY**

8/10

SUMMER sits on her own in the Boiler Room, pulling at a loose thread on her jumper. The more she tugs, the more it starts to unravel. SUMMER's desire for perfection eats away at her as she attempts to repair the damage to her sweatshirt. It's borderline obsessive as she continues to pick at it.

She's lost in the moment until her mobile beeps with a text message. And then another. And *again*. Suddenly, a whole stream of texts from Hazel fills the screen as SUMMER grabs her bag and makes a bolt for the door. There is NO escape.

8/11 **INT. JAMIE STEWART'S OFFICE - DAY**

8/11

BILLY has his head down, kicking at his shoes whilst a heartbroken RIHANNA looks on. JAMIE tries to break the tension.

JAMIE STEWART
I'm not going to sugar-coat
this and tell you
everything's going to be
alright because - well, we
both know how this works.

BILLY can't even look at him. He's heartbroken.

JAMIE STEWART (CONT'D)
But what you've done for your
sister. The fact you kept her
clothed and fed... That takes
real guts, Billy.

BILLY
So what's the problem?

JAMIE STEWART
You're fifteen. You shouldn't be
having to use a food bank.

8/11 CONTINUED:

8/11

BILLY
(fuming)
Darcy.

JAMIE STEWART
He was trying to help, Billy.
This is too much for you to
deal with on your own.

BILLY
So I'll talk to that lawyer I met
at careers day. Get him to help me.

JAMIE STEWART
(shakes head)
You're still a child in the eyes of
law. And I have your welfare to think
about.

BILLY
We've done alright 'til now, haven't we?

JAMIE STEWART
Given the situation, yes.

BILLY sees this as a victory.

JAMIE STEWART (CONT'D)
But look at you both. You're
tired; undernourished...

BILLY
(in)
You saying I haven't been
looking after her properly?

JAMIE STEWART
Of course not. You've done your best
under very difficult circumstances.

BILLY
There you go again. Talking down to me.

JAMIE STEWART
That wasn't my intention.

BILLY
All that rubbish you said on my first
day about being on our side...

JAMIE STEWART
I meant every word.

8/11 CONTINUED: (2)

8/11

BILLY

No, you don't. Or we wouldn't be sat here.

JAMIE STEWART

Rihanna. Maybe it's best you head back to class?

BILLY

No. She stays here.

JAMIE STEWART

Let's talk about this calmly.

BILLY

You're gonna try and take her away from me, aren't you?

JAMIE STEWART

Of course not.

BILLY doesn't believe him. He races over to the window.

BILLY

You got social services waiting outside. Is that it?

JAMIE STEWART

This isn't helping anyone, Billy.

JAMIE grabs BILLY by the arm.

BILLY

Get off me!

A visibly agitated BILLY pulls away - inadvertently striking JAMIE in the process. BILLY's face immediately pales.

BILLY (CONT'D)

I didn't mean to... (DO THAT)

JAMIE STEWART

Rihanna. Back to class.

A panicked RIHANNA scurries out. JAMIE turns to BILLY.

JAMIE STEWART (CONT'D)

And you. Start counting.

BILLY holds his gaze. JAMIE's the angriest we've ever seen him.

JAMIE STEWART (CONT'D)

NOW!

8/11 CONTINUED: (3) 8/11

As a desperate BILLY starts counting backwards from 10 to 1.

8/12 **INT. YORK HOUSE - ENTRANCE - DAY** 8/12

An aimless SUMMER is walking slowly back to class when she suddenly notices a tearful RIHANNA running towards her.

SUMMER

Hey...

But RIHANNA doesn't stop. SUMMER turns before running after her. She grabs her gently by the arm before RIHANNA finally stops for breath. Her eyes are blotchy from crying.

SUMMER (CONT'D)

What is it?

But a tearful RIHANNA can't get her words out.

SUMMER (CONT'D)

Has something happened to Billy?

Before SUMMER can stop her, RIHANNA runs off. What's going on?

8/13 **INT. JAMIE STEWART'S OFFICE - DAY** 8/13

JAMIE watches a visibly agitated BILLY counting down to himself before he finally stops for breath.

JAMIE STEWART

Better?

BILLY nods, reluctantly.

JAMIE STEWART (CONT'D)

Then take a seat.

BILLY does as he's told. JAMIE knows he needs to tread carefully.

JAMIE STEWART (CONT'D)

Have you got any other family
that can help out?

BILLY

It's just me and Ri.

JAMIE STEWART

And you've no idea where your dad is?

BILLY shakes his head.

8/13 CONTINUED:

8/13

JAMIE STEWART (CONT'D)
Then we need to think of a Plan B.

BILLY
Social Services?

JAMIE STEWART
They're not the enemy. Their job is to make sure you and Rihanna have the best possible care.

BILLY
They'll try and split us up.

JAMIE STEWART
I'll make sure that doesn't happen.

BILLY
And what if they don't listen?

JAMIE STEWART
We'll cross that bridge when we come to it.

BILLY stews on this for a moment. *He needs to get out of there.*

BILLY
Can I go now?

JAMIE nods reluctantly. He watches as he makes his way out.

JAMIE STEWART
They're on your side, Billy.

BILLY
When has anyone in charge ever given a damn about us?

BILLY eyes well up. He can't hold it back any longer.

BILLY (CONT'D)
We're on our own. Always have been.

A crushed BILLY turns before making his way out of the office.

8/14 **EXT. BILLY & RIHANNA'S ESTATE - DAY**

8/14

GEORGIE is busy watering the pots outside her flat when something catches her eye in the distance. She looks around the estate for a moment before shrugging it off.

As she makes her way back into her flat, an unknown figure steps out of the shadows with a rucksack on his back.

8/14 CONTINUED:

8/14

He zips up his hoodie to conceal his face before slowly making his way towards Billy and Rihanna's flat. He peers in through the kitchen window before heading to the front door.

Is he casing the joint?

8/15 **INT. BILLY & RIHANNA'S FLAT - CONTINUOUS**

8/15

There's a sudden kick as the door bursts open.

The unknown figure steps over the pile of unopened post before taking in the empty house for a moment. Who is he?

8/16 **INT. BOILER ROOM - DAY**

8/16

A bored DARCY has his head on the floor and his legs on the back of the chair when BILLY slams into the Boiler Room.

BILLY

You told Mr Stewart, didn't you?

BILLY walks over and kicks DARCY's legs off the chair.

DARCY

I never.

BILLY

Liar.

DARCY

Alright! But it's not like you think. I was trying to help.

BILLY

You got no idea what you've done, have you?

DARCY

The school's always raising money for stuff. I just thought they could give some to your dad.

BILLY's pacing now. His mind is racing. A hapless DARCY tries to ease the tension by cracking a joke.

DARCY (CONT'D)

Then maybe he could get you some better trainers.

BILLY

You think this is funny?

8/16 CONTINUED:

8/16

BILLY squares up to DARCY.

BILLY (CONT'D)
I could lose my sister.

DARCY
Because your dad's broke?
That's not gonna happen.

BILLY
You don't understand.

DARCY
Understand what?

BILLY has no choice but to come clean.

BILLY
He's not here. Hasn't been for months.

DARCY
Shut up.

A confused DARCY watches BILLY pacing the room.

DARCY (CONT'D)
You've had a party house all this
time and you didn't say nothing?

BILLY
It's not funny.

DARCY
(desperate)
I know. But I don't what else to do.
I'm not good with this stuff.

BILLY watches him for a moment. He can see that he means it.

BILLY
How much money you got?

DARCY
I don't get my allowance 'til Friday.

BILLY's face says it all.

DARCY (CONT'D)
You want a burger. Is that it?

BILLY
I gotta get away from Cov.

8/16 CONTINUED: (2)

8/16

DARCY
You serious?

BILLY
I can't let 'em take Ri.

BILLY starts to barrel towards the door. DARCY's mind is racing.

DARCY
You're not gonna get very far
without any money, are you?

BILLY stops. DARCY knows he needs to step up.

DARCY (CONT'D)
Let me sort it.

BILLY
How?

DARCY
Look at me. You think anyone's
gonna say no to this face?

A conflicted BILLY holds his gaze. Can he trust him?

DARCY (CONT'D)
Just don't go anywhere 'til
I get back, yeah?

BILLY watches as DARCY starts to make his way out before he suddenly turns back. A flicker of sincerity in his face.

DARCY (CONT'D)
I get it now.

BILLY
What?

DARCY
Why you're so aggy all the
time. I thought you hated me.

BILLY
I do.

DARCY
Yeah? Feeling's mutual.

They both flash a reluctant smile before DARCY walks out.

8/17 **INT. SCHOOL - WIGGLY CORRIDOR - DAY**

8/17

NATHAN's chatting with some mates when DARCY hurries over.

DARCY
You boys after a phone?

NATHAN
My brother's got a lock-up full of them.

DARCY
What about this?

DARCY reaches for the necklace around his neck.

DARCY (CONT'D)
Solid silver.

NATHAN
You think I wanna look like
Harry Styles?

DARCY
I need cash. And fast.

NATHAN
Then make me a better offer.

DARCY
Like what?

A grinning NATHAN looks down at DARCY's trainers. A panicked DARCY starts to shake his head. He LOVES them more than anything.

DARCY (CONT'D)
You can have my bike. Take my dad's
car if you like. Not my trainers.

NATHAN
Suit yourself.

A desperate DARCY looks down at his feet. The biggest decision of his life. He reluctantly pulls them off his feet.

DARCY
You better take good care of them.

NATHAN pulls out twenty quid from his pocket. DARCY goes to hand them over to him but he struggles to let go. NATHAN tugs them out of his hands before sauntering off down the corridor.

8/17 CONTINUED:

8/17

NATHAN
(thrilled)
You just got **robbed!**

DARCY hovers in just his socks when a bemused SUMMER approaches.

SUMMER
Why's Nathan got your trainers?

DARCY
You need to get everyone to
the Boiler Room now.

SUMMER
Is this about Billy?

The bell goes. DARCY hotfoots it back to the Boiler Room.

SUMMER (CONT'D)
Darcy. Wait...

As SUMMER races after him.

8/18 **INT. BOILER ROOM - DAY**

8/18

DARCY crashes into the Boiler Room, only socks on his feet.

DARCY
You owe me big time, Billy boy.

DARCY takes in the empty room as SUMMER walks in.

SUMMER
Where did he go?

8/19 **EXT. SCHOOL GATES (MAIN ROAD) - DAY**

8/19

A terrified BILLY races down the street with a breathless
RIHANNA running behind him. But where are they going?

8/20 **INT. ENGLISH CLASSROOM - DAY**

8/20

KHALED takes a seat in the classroom. He's about to get out
his textbook when his phone beeps with a message from Summer:
BILLY EMERGENCY. BOILER ROOM NOW!! He quickly reads it before
looking up at his N/S TEACHER. *What now?*

8/21 **EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - DAY**

8/21

RANI's about to take a shot at netball when her phone beeps from her bag. She deliberately misses the shot before running over to check her phone. She's met by an angry whistle from her TEACHER.

8/22 **INT. YORK HOUSE - ENTRANCE - DAY**

8/22

LEILA's charging down the corridor towards the Boiler Room when KHALED bursts out of his English class.

LEILA
Diarrhoea?

KHALED nods, sheepishly. They start to make their way down the corridor as a breathless RANI approaches still in her netball kit.

RANI
Told miss my dog was sick.

LEILA
Useless! You need a Leila
masterclass.

As they start to make their way down the corridor -

BECKY (O.S.)
Not so fast.

They stop in unison to find a suspicious BECKY approaching. Gulp.

8/23 **INT. BOILER ROOM - DAY**

8/23

SUMMER and DARCY are gathered around DARCY's phone as it rings out on speakerphone. There's no answer.

SUMMER
You should've locked him in.

DARCY
Last time he thought I did that, I
wound up with a busted nose.

KHALED, RANI and LEILA burst into the Boiler Room.

KHALED
What's happened to Billy?

SUMMER
He's gone and he's not
answering his phone.

8/23 CONTINUED:

8/23

RANI

Gone where?

DARCY

If we knew that, we wouldn't
all be stood here.

LEILA

Ri must be with him. You think
they've been trafficked?

SUMMER

Let's not get ahead of ourselves.

LEILA

I saw it on the news! One girl went to
get some chicken... next thing, she
wakes up in some house with no WiFi.

DARCY looks to KHALED.

DARCY

Can't you track his phone or something?

KHALED

Not on a pay-as-you-go.

RANI

Maybe we should tell Mr Stewart?

SUMMER

No one can know about this. Understood?

RANI, KHALED and LEILA all look sheepish. As it dawns on SUMMER.

SUMMER (CONT'D)

Who have you told?

KHALED

I only asked Becky if she'd seen him...

DARCY

Great. So now the teachers are onto them.

SUMMER

We need to find them before
the school does.

RANI

And then what?

8/23 CONTINUED: (2)

8/23

LEILA

Billy can stay at mine!
(an afterthought)
And Ri too.

SUMMER

We can worry about that later.

SUMMER and DARCY make a bolt for the door. The rest of the gang stay rooted to the spot. They eventually turn back.

DARCY

What're you waiting for?

RANI

This is serious. We could
end up in big trouble.

SUMMER

What is it we said on our first
day about sticking together? There
is no boiler room without Billy.

RANI looks shamefaced.

SUMMER (CONT'D)

So let's bring him home.

As the gang spring into action.

8/24 **INT. SCHOOL - YORK HOUSE CORRIDOR - DAY**

8/24

JAMIE's on his way back to his office when BECKY approaches.

BECKY

They're not on site.

JAMIE STEWART

I'm sorry?

BECKY

Billy and Rihanna. They left
just before lunch.

JAMIE struggles to mask his frustration.

BECKY (CONT'D)

What's going on, Jamie?

JAMIE STEWART

It's nothing I can't handle.

8/24 CONTINUED:

8/24

BECKY
I've known Billy since he was
in Year 6. If he's in trouble,
I need to know about it.

There's a moment where it looks like JAMIE might confide in
her before he's distracted by POLLY in the distance.

JAMIE STEWART
It's all under control.

A frustrated BECKY watches in the background as JAMIE makes a
beeline for a hapless POLLY. He pulls her out of earshot.

JAMIE STEWART (CONT'D)
Have you seen Billy today?

POLLY
No, sir.

JAMIE STEWART
Do you know where he hangs out?

POLLY
Like they'd ever tell me.

JAMIE STEWART
Come on, Polly. You know this
school better than I do.

POLLY holds his gaze. She's rubbish at lying.

JAMIE STEWART (CONT'D)
This is serious.

And finally she cracks.

POLLY
I've never been in there.

JAMIE STEWART
But you know where it is?

POLLY nods, reluctantly. JAMIE follows her down the corridor.

8/25 **INT. SCHOOL - CORRIDOR O/S BOILER ROOM - DAY**

8/25

JAMIE takes in the unfamiliar corridor for a moment as POLLY
selects the code on Darcy's padlock. She clocks his bemused look.

POLLY
I remembered it just in case...

8/25 CONTINUED:

8/25

JAMIE STEWART
In case what?

POLLY
(a hint of sadness)
I ever get asked to join.

A confused JAMIE watches as the door swings open.

8/26 **INT. BOILER ROOM - DAY**

8/26

JAMIE follows POLLY into the Boiler Room. He takes in the room for a moment. Stunned by their ingenuity.

JAMIE STEWART
How long have they been in here?

POLLY
Since the start of term.

JAMIE still can't believe what he's seeing. He walks around the room for a moment before noticing a cushion on the floor.

JAMIE STEWART
Is that my cushion?

POLLY is doing some investigating of her own. She picks up a kettle from the side. She inspects it for a moment.

POLLY
The kettle's still warm, Sir.

JAMIE STEWART
They have a kettle!?

POLLY
You might still catch them.

JAMIE doesn't need telling twice. He makes a bolt for the door.

8/27 **EXT. SCHOOL GATES - DAY**

8/27

SUMMER, RANI, KHALED and LEILA make their way towards the school mini bus. DARCY's now in a pair of manky shoes.

DARCY
Are these clown shoes?

KHALED
It's all I could find in lost property.

8/27 CONTINUED:

8/27

DARCY peers through the window of the mini bus.

DARCY

I could one hundred percent drive
this bad boy. I just need the keys.

RANI

They're on a hook in the staff room.

DARCY

I could set off the fire
alarm. Create a distraction.

KHALED

Couldn't we just get a taxi?

JAMIE STEWART (O.S.)

Leaving school without
permission? That's in direct
breach of your contracts.

The startled gang turn to find a breathless JAMIE approaching.

JAMIE STEWART (CONT'D)

Not to mention commandeering an
abandoned boiler room as your crib.

The gang are stunned. DARCY tries to front it out.

DARCY

No one says crib anymore, Sir.

JAMIE STEWART

I think you're missing the point,
Darcy. What do you know about Billy?

A wall of silence. JAMIE changes tack.

JAMIE STEWART (CONT'D)

Listen. I know you're a tight
unit and I take real pride in
that... but Billy and Rihanna
are putting themselves at risk.

Still nothing.

JAMIE STEWART (CONT'D)

If you care about your friends, you'll
do the right thing and tell me.

All eyes turn to a reluctant DARCY.

8/27 CONTINUED: (2)

8/27

DARCY

Bill said he was going to run away.

A panicked JAMIE pulls out the keys to the mini bus. He unlocks it before watching as they start to pile into the back.

JAMIE STEWART

Er. What do you think you're doing?

DARCY

No offence, Sir. He doesn't need a teacher. He needs his mates.

8/28 **OMITTED**

8/28

8/29 **INT. BILLY & RIHANNA'S FLAT - BILLY'S BEDROOM - DAY**

8/29

The unknown figure pokes his head into Billy's bedroom. He takes in the room for a moment before starting to sift through a pile of papers next to his bed. What is he after?

8/30 **EXT. BILLY & RIHANNA'S ESTATE - DAY**

8/30

The mini bus pulls up at Billy and Rihanna's estate. As the gang pile out, a bemused KHALED clocks LEILA filming it on her phone.

KHALED

What're you doing?

LEILA

Ri'll want it for her memory box.

SUMMER

Put it away, Leila.

LEILA

This is literally the most exciting thing to happen in Cov in years - and I can't even film it.

A frustrated LEILA finally stops her recording. As they hotfoot it towards Billy and Rihanna's.

8/31 **INT. BILLY & RIHANNA'S FLAT - RIHANNA'S BEDROOM - DAY**

8/31

The shadowy figure makes his way into Rihanna's bedroom. He looks around for a moment before sitting down on her bed.

8/31 CONTINUED:

8/31

He takes in the room before his gaze drifts to a photo of mum on the table next to her bed. He picks up the frame before thumbing the photo inside. Is he about to slip it into his bag? He's startled by a sudden thump on the front door.

8/32 **EXT. BILLY & RIHANNA'S FLAT - DAY**

8/32

JAMIE's banging on the door to Billy and Rihanna's flat. But there's no answer. A glass panel on the door has been boarded up.

KHALED

He's still not picking up.

RANI

What do we do?

JAMIE STEWART

I'm going to have to tell the police.

The gang all look despondent. LEILA's heard enough.

LEILA

I can't believe you're all
such... *amateurs*.

LEILA heads over to the front door. She takes off her shoe before using it as a hammer to bash through the boarded-up panel.

The gang stare at her in disbelief as LEILA slips her hand in through the gap before unlocking the door from inside.

LEILA (CONT'D)

Just something I learnt from Bee.

JAMIE STEWART

(to himself)

I might as well resign now.

The front door swings open. LEILA barrels inside before turning back to the rest of the stunned gang.

LEILA

You coming in or not?

8/33 **INT. BILLY & RIHANNA'S FLAT - RIHANNA'S BEDROOM - DAY**

8/33

A visibly nervous CARL hovers in the doorway to Rihanna's bedroom. It takes all the strength he can muster as he edges slowly towards the landing. It's now or never.

8/33 CONTINUED:

8/33

CARL
Is that you Bill?

As CARL peers down the stairs, he's confused to find LEILA leading JAMIE, DARCY, SUMMER, RANI and KHALED into the flat. A shrinking CARL quickly backs away before retreating to his bedroom. The fear is etched across his face.

DARCY (O.S.)
Is this all of it?

LEILA (O.S.)
We're not all posh like you.

8/34 **INT. BILLY & RIHANNA'S FLAT - DAY**

8/34

JAMIE, DARCY, SUMMER, RANI and KHALED follow LEILA into the flat. A shocked DARCY takes in the interior for a moment.

JAMIE STEWART
Right, I suggest we split up.
We don't have much time.

DARCY
I don't think there's enough rooms, Sir.

LEILA
(too keen)
I'll check Ri's room.

LEILA darts up the stairs.

KHALED
What are we looking for?

RANI
Clues. Have you never seen CSI?

8/35 **INT. BILLY & RIHANNA'S FLAT - CARL'S BEDROOM - DAY**

8/35

Through a crack in the door, CARL peers out as he watches LEILA poke her head into Rihanna's bedroom.

LEILA
She's not in her room.

RANI (O.S.)
Has anyone checked Billy's?

8/35 CONTINUED:

8/35

LEILA
(too eager)
I'll do it!

As a grinning LEILA makes a bolt for Billy's bedroom.

8/36

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

8/36

LEILA makes her way into the hallowed ground that is Billy's bedroom. She soaks it all up for a moment before snooping through various trinkets on the side: school books; football medals; a photo of his mum, dad and Rihanna in happier times. She clocks his cheap antiperspirant before spraying it in the air. She's in heaven as she smells it.

As LEILA makes her way over to Billy's bed, her face suddenly falls. From her eyeline, we see a poster of a girl on his wall. LEILA eyeballs the poster for a moment before pulling out a sharpie from her bag. She smiles before scratching out her eyes.

LEILA sits down on Billy's bed before noticing an old white t-shirt poking out from under his pillow. She quickly stuffs the prize in her bag when the door suddenly opens. It's JAMIE.

JAMIE STEWART
What're you doing, Leila?

Quick as a flash, LEILA jumps up before checking under the bed.

LEILA
He's not in here, Sir.

8/37

INT. BILLY & RIHANNA'S FLAT - CARL'S BEDROOM - DAY

8/37

CARL watches as JAMIE follows LEILA out of Billy's bedroom before passing DARCY as she makes her way downstairs.

DARCY
I don't get it, sir. What sort of
bloke walks out on his family?

Stay on CARL's face. The grief as raw as it's ever been.

JAMIE STEWART
It's not our place to speculate, Darcy.

DARCY
People like that don't
deserve to have kids.

It's like a punch in the stomach for CARL.

8/37 CONTINUED:

8/37

JAMIE STEWART

Let's just focus our efforts on finding Billy and Ri, shall we?

DARCY

I swear down. If he ever shows his face, I'll take him out myself.

CARL watches JAMIE follow DARCY downstairs, passing SUMMER as she makes her way towards Rihanna's bedroom. CARL quickly steps away from his bedroom door as a suspicious SUMMER suddenly stops in her tracks. She makes her way over to his bedroom before slowly opening the door. A breathless CARL quickly backs away, inadvertently knocking into a photo frame on the side. He catches it just in time before we reveal a photo of mum, Rihanna, Billy and Carl in happier times. CARL cowers behind the door as SUMMER takes in his room for a moment. She shrugs it off before closing the door behind her.

On a broken CARL. Faced with the consequences of his actions.

8/38

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

8/38

SUMMER starts sifting through a pile of school books in Rihanna's bedroom when her phone starts buzzing. It's her mum *again*. Frustrated, SUMMER cancels the call before returning to Rihanna's books. And then her phone starts buzzing again.

SUMMER stares at the caller display for a moment before reluctantly answering the call.

SUMMER

Now isn't a good time.

SUMMER suddenly pulls the phone away from her ear as an irate Hazel starts to go off on one. We hear muffled questions being fired at her: *what did you have for lunch? When are you coming home?* An exhausted SUMMER is oblivious to KHALED poking his head into the bedroom as she calmly makes her way over to the window.

SUMMER (CONT'D)

Sorry, Mum. You're breaking up.

SUMMER promptly throws her phone from the window onto the street below. She can't take any more of her interrogation.

KHALED (O.S.)

You could just turn your phone off.

SUMMER

That wouldn't stop her.

8/38 CONTINUED:

8/38

SUMMER holds his gaze for a moment. A shared understanding.

SUMMER (CONT'D)
What did you find?

KHALED
Just an empty fridge.

SUMMER follows KHALED out onto the landing where JAMIE's waiting with DARCY.

JAMIE STEWART
Does anyone know where else they might've gone. *Think.*

An oblivious LEILA's the last to appear. Our beady eyes should notice Billy's t-shirt poking out of her school bag.

LEILA
OMG. Look at Billy with curly hair!

LEILA shows SUMMER an old photo of BILLY at football camp.

SUMMER
Who's he with?

KHALED looks over their shoulder.

KHALED
That's Caleb. He was Billy's best mate at the PRU.

JAMIE STEWART
Do you know where he lives?

KHALED
He moved to Nottingham last year.

JAMIE's mind is racing. RANI quickly checks her phone.

RANI
There's a coach leaving in twenty minutes.

JAMIE watches as the gang hotfoot it out of the flat.

8/39 **INT. COACH STATION - DAY**

8/39

The coach station is a hive of activity. BILLY and RIHANNA stand at the stop for the Nottingham service like two vulnerable kids.

A concerned RIHANNA stares at BILLY for a moment.

8/39 CONTINUED:

8/39

RIHANNA

Do you hate me?

BILLY goes down to RIHANNA's level.

BILLY

How could I ever hate you?
You're my little sister, Ri.
I'd do anything for you.

BILLY gently wipes the tears from her face.

RIHANNA

How we gonna pay for the ticket?

BILLY

Stay here. And don't talk to anyone.

Stay with RIHANNA as BILLY heads over to a group of lads. She watches as he pulls out his pay-as-you-go before handing it to them. They all crack up laughing before walking away. A humiliated BILLY catches RIHANNA's eye before smiling weakly.

She watches as he makes a beeline for an OLD LADY. He flashes his puppy-dog eyes before we see her delve into her purse. After a moment, BILLY thanks her before returning to RIHANNA.

RIHANNA

What did you get?

BILLY

Two quid.

RIHANNA's heart sinks. BILLY looks up at the clock.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Don't worry. I'll think of something.

8/40 **INT/EXT. MINI BUS / ROAD - DAY**

8/40

The gang are piled in the back of the bus as JAMIE stops at a pelican crossing. A WOMAN starts to cross with a baby in a pram. A frustrated RANI checks the time on her phone before reaching past KHALED and opening the passenger window.

RANI

Get a flipping move on!

A sheepish RANI sinks back down in her seat before noticing the rest of the amused gang staring at her. Needs must!

8/41 **INT. BILLY & RIHANNA'S FLAT - DAY**

8/41

CARL sits at the top of the stairs staring at the empty house. The crippling guilt is too much for him to handle as he suddenly gets to his feet before making his way downstairs. He grabs one of the unopened letters from the mat before taking it into the kitchen. He grabs a pen before staring at the letter for a moment. It takes all the strength he can muster as he scribbles SORRY on the back of it.

He stares at the note for a moment before realising how lame it looks. He screws it up, sticks it in his pocket before making his way into the hallway. He clocks the discarded wooden panel on the floor before carefully placing it back in the door. Despite everything, he wants to keep his kids safe.

Full of self-loathing, CARL takes one last look back at the house, grabs his bag before quietly slipping out of the door.

8/42 **INT. COACH STATION - DAY**

8/42

The coach station appears more intimidating and threatening. RIHANNA's distracted by an aggressive BEGGAR badgering passers-by for cash. BILLY follows her gaze before noticing the pile of notes and coins on the floor next to him.

RIHANNA

I don't like it here, Billy.

BILLY

Stay with the bags.

Go with BILLY as he starts to make his way towards the BEGGAR - his eyes fixed firmly on the pile of cash on the floor. Does he dare take it? As he edges closer, two POLICE OFFICERS suddenly swoop in. Assuming they're there for him, a panicked BILLY starts to back away before they make a beeline for the BEGGAR and start to escort him out of the coach station.

A despondent BILLY turns back to where RIHANNA was standing. She's gone. He panics before looking around the busy station.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Ri...

She's nowhere to be seen. BILLY starts pushing through the crowd.

8/43 **INT. COACH STATION - DAY**

8/43

A panicked BILLY bursts through the doors of the bus station before stopping in his tracks. We follow his eyeline to a childlike RIHANNA, eating a box of chicken with JAMIE.

JAMIE STEWART

I thought you might be hungry.

JAMIE hands a crushed BILLY a box of chicken. *The game's up.*

BILLY

How did you find us?

JAMIE STEWART

I had some help.

JAMIE motions to the school mini bus parked on the other side of the street. DARCY, SUMMER, RANI, LEILA and KHALED are draped over the bonnet waiting for them. **It's an iconic tableaux.**

8/44 **EXT. MINI BUS - DAY**

8/44

A sheepish BILLY follows JAMIE and RIHANNA over to the mini bus. LEILA quickly tucks Billy's t-shirt into her bag as a brooding BILLY locks eyes with DARCY. We assume it's going to kick off -

BILLY

Nice shoes.

DARCY

Had to do something to make those trainers look better.

BILLY flashes a tentative smile. SUMMER makes a beeline for him.

SUMMER

I'm glad you didn't go to Nottingham.

BILLY

Are you?

SUMMER holds BILLY's gaze. So much is left unsaid.

JAMIE STEWART

Billy. Could I have a word in private?

BILLY looks at RIHANNA as she goes to join the rest of the gang. He has no choice but to follow JAMIE towards the van.

JAMIE STEWART (CONT'D)

You know what I've seen here today?

8/44 CONTINUED:

8/44

BILLY looks at him.

JAMIE STEWART (CONT'D)
A group of mates who have each other's
back. And I couldn't be prouder.

JAMIE tries to maintain his resolve.

JAMIE STEWART (CONT'D)
I know things are tough right now,
but you've got to remember one
thing. With friends like this,
you'll never be alone, Billy.

BILLY eyes the rest of the gang in the wing mirror.

BILLY
So what happens now?

JAMIE STEWART
My hands are tied, mate.

BILLY considers this for a moment.

BILLY
Will I have time to pack a bag or will
they be waiting at home with a cage?

JAMIE STEWART
They'll go at your pace.

BILLY
And who's going to tell Ri that
we can't stay together?

JAMIE doesn't have an answer for that.

BILLY (CONT'D)
Mum left us. Dad left us. And
now I'm leaving her too.

JAMIE STEWART
It might not come to that.

BILLY
Yeah, it will.

This hangs in the air for a moment.

JAMIE STEWART
I know you think I don't
understand... But I do.

8/44 CONTINUED: (2)

8/44

BILLY's face says it all.

BILLY

At the end of the day, Sir -
you'll still have your nice
house and your fancy holidays.
What do we matter to you?

JAMIE STEWART

You matter a lot.

He means it. BILLY opens the van door before looking back at JAMIE.

BILLY

(resigned)

Can you do something for me?

JAMIE STEWART

Of course.

BILLY

Let me tell Ri.

On JAMIE. His conscience piqued. But what can he do?

8/45 **EXT. SCHOOL GATES - DAY**

8/45

School is over for the day as the subdued gang climb out of the mini bus. JAMIE looks troubled, wrestling with his conscience.

RIHANNA's still eating her chips as she looks up at BILLY.

RIHANNA

Can we go home now?

BILLY's eyes prick with tears. He's all set to answer, when...

JAMIE STEWART

Billy.

JAMIE motions for BILLY to join him. The rest of the gang hover awkwardly until a diplomatic SUMMER intervenes.

SUMMER

We'll see you tomorrow, yeah?

BILLY looks over JAMIE's shoulder as the rest of the gang start to walk away. RIHANNA's left alone on the playground.

8/45 CONTINUED:

8/45

JAMIE STEWART

I'm not making any promises,
but maybe we can hold off on
that call to social services.

BILLY

You serious?

This isn't easy for JAMIE. He has *serious* misgivings.

JAMIE STEWART

Just until we find an alternative -
I'm talking a couple of weeks max.
And I don't want any more wild
stunts like trying to run away.

BILLY can't hide the grin from his face.

BILLY

I swear.

JAMIE STEWART

I could lose my job for this.

BILLY

So why're you doing it?

JAMIE hesitates. He doesn't want to give away too much.

JAMIE STEWART

Because we're not so
different, you and me.

A moved BILLY holds his gaze for a moment before slowly making
his way over to RIHANNA. She has a mouthful of chicken.

RIHANNA

We good?

BILLY looks back at JAMIE for a moment. He smiles tentatively.

BILLY

Yeah.

And for the first time in months, BILLY dares to believe it. He
puts his arm around RIHANNA as they make their way out of school.

END OF EPISODE