

SHOWTRIAL 2

Written by

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Episode 3

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Black screen.

SANDRA (O.S.)
(incredulous laughter)
But this is crazy.
(beat)
You are crazy!

We come up on her interview with DI Southgate and DS Packham. Representing her is Sam.

DI SOUTHGATE
Was the bike in the car as well?

SANDRA
I don't know anything about a bike.

DI SOUTHGATE
Did you dump the bike somewhere in the UK or take it across on the ferry.

SAM
I could swear I just heard my client say: "I don't know anything about a bike".

DI SOUTHGATE
(to Sandra)
When exactly did Justin tell you to take the car and have it fixed?

SANDRA
I was always going to take the car. He just said I should have it fixed at the same time.

DI SOUTHGATE
Why didn't you buy a ticket online for the ferry?

SANDRA
Because it is not compulsory to do so.

DS PACKHAM
Did Justin specify the work your uncle should do to the car?

SANDRA
No he just said get Ivo to fix it.

DS PACKHAM
An entire side panel and a full respray just for a little bump at the gym?

SANDRA

I don't know much about cars sorry.

DI SOUTHGATE

Has your solicitor told you the maximum sentence for assisting an offender?

SAM

I have.

DI SOUTHGATE

It's ten years.

SAM

Feel free to repeat it.

DS PACKHAM

Not saying Pancho will be dead when you're out but he'll certainly be needing some liberella for his joints.

SANDRA

Idi u picku materinu!

DS PACKHAM

I'm guessing that's not so polite.

SANDRA

No it means get back to a certain part of your mother's anatomy.

DS PACKHAM

Might prove a bit tricky given we scattered her ashes on the top of Box Hill last year.

DI SOUTHGATE

If you cooperate with us then that cooperation will definitely be taken into account. I bet you didn't even know why Justin was asking you to get rid of the evidence right?

SAM

I'm sorry do I look like it's my first day in the job? No more loaded questions.

SANDRA

He didn't ask me to get rid of any evidence. He said that I might as well get my uncle - who is top Slovenian mechanic by the way - to fix the car after I bumped it in the gym.

DI SOUTHGATE

Did you see any new damage to the vehicle after the gym collision?

SANDRA

I didn't look. But feel free to inspect my phone. You will see all my texts to Vukan about Pancho. You will see me say I am coming in car.

DI SOUTHGATE

Will we see a text to 'top Slovenian mechanic' before Justin packed you off to Serbia?

Sandra does not answer this. Shrugs I don't know.

DI SOUTHGATE (CONT'D)

Let me tell you what we see, Sandra. We see somebody who is lying to protect her partner. And we see somebody who will be prosecuted for that. We see somebody who will lose her comfortable life, her job, her house.

DS PACKHAM

And we see somebody who'll be kicked out of this country at the end of her sentence because her various passports don't include a British one.

Sam scratches his head.

SAM

Well for all that to happen, DS Packham, you will need a lot more than a sarcastic tone.

(beat)

So stop wasting our time with third-rate bullying tactics and come up with some evidence or let Ms Vodanovic go home after her long drive.

DI SOUTHGATE

Ms Vodanovic will be released under investigation subject to certain conditions including the surrender of all travel documents.

DS PACKHAM

(to Sandra)

On balance it was probably an error bringing my mum into it.

(then narrow-eyed at Sam)

(MORE)

DS PACKHAM (CONT'D)

This is a long way from over, Mr
Malik.

These two are not going to be exchanging Christmas cards any time soon.

TITLES

2 EXT. BRIGHTON - NIGHT 8 2

Establisher.

ON SCREEN: SIX WEEKS LATER

3 INT. SAM'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - NIGHT 8 3

A montage of nights of crippling insomnia.

Fumbling in the darkness. A digital clock lights up.

04.21

Sam gets up and shuffles towards the bathroom. Trips over something and exclaims in pain/irritation.

JUMP CUT TO:

4 INT. SAM'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - NIGHT 9 4

Fumbling in the darkness. A digital clock lights up.

03.19

Sam turns the mobile torch on and hunts among his medicines. As if he might find an overlooked saviour pill among the empty strips. Tosses them away in despair.

JUMP CUT TO:

5 INT. SAM'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - NIGHT 10 5

Fumbling in the darkness. A digital clock lights up.

02.41

Sam groans and turns on the light. He picks up a book which is *Small Men on the Wrong Side of History* by Ed West and starts to read.

His eyes are red with exhaustion. Puts the book down and takes up his mobile again and types in a subject heading to an e-mail.

FYI GIFT HAS STILL NOT ARRIVED.

Turns off the light.

6 EXT. CPS - DAY 11

6

Establisher building with voice over...

NEWS REPORTER 3 (V.O.)
...the Government has promised to act swiftly following a wave of attacks carried out by the splinter group Fight Climate Genocide. In the wake of the alleged murder of Marcus Calderwood, the group has abandoned a commitment to non-violent protest and vowed instead to pursue "street justice". Owners of SUVs in several cities were targeted in sudden assaults which saw them handcuffed, hooded and, in some cases, doused in noxious chemicals described as "the smell of death"...

7 INT. CPS OFFICES - DAY 11

7

Leila is with Southgate watching this news report on screen.

Now an FCG activist to camera in shaky mobile footage.

FCG ACTIVIST (ON SCREEN)
We will carry out further actions against climate-criminals who are perpetuating a genocide against both people of the global majority and other species with whom we share the planet.

Leila freezes screen on image of his masked righteous indignation.

DI SOUTHGATE
So this is the big split Marcus was trying to prevent. The new group have moved the boundaries of non-violence.

LEILA
Can't help noticing it's mainly female SUV owners targeted for the smell of death.

DI SOUTHGATE
They've made a few arrests of FCG militants in Manchester and Bristol.

(MORE)

DI SOUTHGATE (CONT'D)

Let's just hope it doesn't go
against anybody's conscience to
prosecute them.

LEILA

This is different.

Adrian Gilligan enters with a new figure. PHILLIP HOLMES the Crown barrister is a man prone to impatience and a little brusque in his manner. But he's good and not wholly without humour.

ADRIAN

Hi guys, this is Phillip Holmes our KC for the trial. You two know each other...

Leila nods oh yes.

PHILLIP

Ah, Leila.

LEILA

Ah, Phillip.

Southgate rises.

DI SOUTHGATE

I'm...

PHILLIP

Stay in your seat, DI Southgate,
I've seen you on the press
conferences.

Everybody sits as Leila shuts the lap-top with the snarling FCG activist.

PHILLIP (CONT'D)

Right boys and...
(glances at Leila)
...women...

She nods ironically.

ADRIAN

So now we have our court date.
Quicker than I expected in
fairness.

PHILLIP

Don't go opening the champagne just
yet.

They look at him.

PHILLIP (CONT'D)

Let's start with the dying declaration to the paramedic? On the plus side, people still clap for carers even if they do leave you turning blue while they're eating buns on picket lines. Downside is an obvious challenge to his cognitive condition. The car? It's a tall story but can we prove it didn't happen? Her texts show the dog was a real thing. She brought it back after all and it's the same vehicle identification number on the car. No mobile evidence. No supporting dash-cam footage.

LEILA

It is still a significant amount of circumstantial...

PHILLIP

Sadly our legal system does not work on the bouquet of evidence principle.

LEILA

After twenty years of working in it I'm quite familiar with how the legal system works.

(beat)

I was going on to add forensics from the pedal.

PHILLIP

Suggestive but not conclusive still. Mixing up the type of paint on Justin's car was nobody's finest hour.

LEILA

Some of that was down to the manufacturer...

PHILLIP

What's the latest on tests against the actual car?

DI SOUTHGATE

Still inconclusive. But we're taking a fresh sample for a lab in France that specialises...

PHILLIP

Fingers crossed there then.

(beat)

This Patrick Norris character.

DI SOUTHGATE

There is no evidence linking him to the crime.

PHILLIP

But the defence will make sure the jury are aware of him.

LEILA

The blog Indifference Kills...

PHILLIP

Well it doesn't.

LEILA

I think it can actually but...

PHILLIP

...cancer and knives kill...

She looks at him. And in that look is a clear "do not test me any further" message. So he doesn't.

LEILA

Felix Owusu has been digging into Norris's past in Colombia. And his latest narrative involves a hierarchy of guilt that only begins with Justin and probably does not end with Norris.

She looks at Southgate.

DI SOUTHGATE

We just don't have anything that actually ties him to the crime. Given that, we have to keep him out of it.

PHILLIP

You're hitting PC Jones with a charge?

LEILA

Pleading guilty; he's ancient history. Taylor's our guy.

ADRIAN

And hopefully Becky Hollis although she's on sick leave after they worked out she leaked the D4 stuff.

PHILLIP

And what about Sandra Vodanovic?

An exchange of looks.

LEILA

That remains to be seen.

Prelap

SAM (V.O)

How's it going?

8 EXT. SAM & CLAUDIA'S OFFICE - DAY 11

8

Establisher.

9 INT. SAM & CLAUDIA'S OFFICE, SAM'S OFFICE / INT. PRISON, 9
TELEPHONES - DAY 11

Phone call between Justin and Sam.

JUSTIN

(mock-thoughtfully)

How's it going.

(laughs)

Well obviously being on segregation
isn't a lot of fun. You know
there's people now demanding we
call 'em Minor-Attracted-Persons
instead of nonces?

SAM

I doubt if that will catch on in
any big way.

JUSTIN

I wouldn't bet on it.

SAM

Well there's a first!

Justin chuckles appreciatively.

JUSTIN

Say I blinded one of the fuckers
though? Might get me a pass to a
regular wing if word got to the
right ears?

SAM

But would it dispel the idea of a
violent man prone to meting out his
own understanding of justice?

JUSTIN

Good point well made. And note to
Big Brother I'm only joking.

(beat)

Seriously though I have to find a
way to get off this wing.

SAM

Hang in there for now. Sandra's just on her way into the office.

JUSTIN

Tell her to feed the fish.

SAM

And send her your love?

JUSTIN

That too.

Sam rings off as Claudia comes in on the tail-end of this. Yawns and rubs his eyes.

CLAUDIA

Go back to Doctor Nesbitt, Sam, nobody can function on two hours a night.

SAM

She'll suggest magnesium and gratitude. I'm taking measures.

CLAUDIA

Don't do that.

SAM

It's fine. It's just taking a while because I have to go via Holland.

CLAUDIA

You'll be going via the job-centre if they catch you. I really think you need to...

But she doesn't get to finish this because the buzzer rings. Sam holds up a hand.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)

Saved by the bell.

He goes to open the door to Sandra, impeccably groomed, small dog in tow. Sandra is now jaunty and cheerful.

SAM

Ms Vodanovic! How are we today?

SANDRA

Mr Malik. We are excellent thank you.

They walk into the office where Claudia and Sandra acknowledge each other and Claudia pets Pancho.

SANDRA (CONT'D)

I am teaching Pancho to sing along
to Harry Styles.

SAM

I can see how that might favour the
canine vocal range.

CLAUDIA

Which song?

SANDRA

'Love of my Life'.

CLAUDIA

Good choice. I'll get him some
water.

She exits. Sam indicates a seat for Sandra who takes it.

SANDRA

She is beautiful person. Very good
aura.

Not a topic with which Sam feels it is appropriate to engage.

SAM

So I just want to go over what you
told the police in your first
interviews as we prepare our
defence statement.

SANDRA

I like Inspector Southgate. Scorpio
which is good because I am also a
water sign.

SAM

Great...

SANDRA

Very clean and takes care of his
appearance.

(frowns)

DS Packham has dirty finger-nails
and is probably Aquarius.

SAM

Isn't that water too?

SANDRA

Air.

SAM

Oh. Well under no circumstances
underestimate either of them.

She grins and gives a little ironic military salute. Sam studies his notes.

SAM (CONT'D)

Now your uncle replaced an entire body panel on the vehicle.

SANDRA

I'm lucky to have a relative who doesn't do shoddy work. It was badly damaged.

SAM

But the other person in the gym collision has given a statement saying that he thought the damage was mainly to his car.

SANDRA

I don't know maybe he is trying to scam the insurance.

SAM

Only he's a highly-respected scientist who received an honour for services to malaria research.

SANDRA

Maybe he's one of those absent-minded scientists.

Sam contemplates her.

SAM

Do you know why they haven't charged you yet?

SANDRA

Because they don't have any evidence against me.

He shakes his head.

SAM

They're hoping that you will change your story to save your own skin.

SANDRA

(firmly)

I will never give up on Justin.

Claudia comes back in with the water.

SAM

Well I'm seeing him on Thursday. How do you feel he's doing in there?

SANDRA

It is disgusting that a police officer is put in a cell next to all those perverts.

Behind her, Claudia raises a comic eyebrow and grins suggesting that might be exactly where a police officer belongs these days.

SANDRA (CONT'D)

(firmly)

But he is a strong man.

(she touches Sam's arm lightly)

And you will free him, Sam.

10

EXT. ROMILLY HOUSE - DAY 11

10

We're at Marcus's old house. There are banners on the roof now reading SCG - MARCUS CALDERWOOD HOUSE - INDIFFERENCE KILLS! A stencilled picture of the murdered man. There are activists coming and going and also a few tents pitched outside.

Sara the SCG activist is doing her Live Stream.

SARA

Stop Climate Genocide does not support the targeting of individuals even while we deplore their consumer choices. We have nothing to do with the recent attacks which were carried out by a new group that has separated from our movement and does not share our approach to protest which remains strictly non-violent.

Felix Owusu who is watching this statement feels somebody nudge his arm. Turns and to his surprise sees Patrick Norris.

FELIX

What are you doing here?

PATRICK

Well I have just as much right to be here as this mob.

(beat)

I.e. none.

FELIX

Marcus left the property to the SCG.

PATRICK

Be fun when the new kids in town claim they are the real heirs.

(MORE)

PATRICK (CONT'D)

Purity wars are always good to
watch.

FELIX

Why are you here?

PATRICK

Thought we could have a chat since
you're writing so much about me.

(grins)

Easier than having you killed I
suppose.

FELIX

That's how it went for you in
Colombia right? Some trade unionist
or Environmentalist being a
nuisance...?

PATRICK

Your estimation of my powers is
flattering but wholly inaccurate.

(smiles at Felix)

Come on, Felix, you're a
journalist, surely you want to hear
what I have to say?

FELIX

On the record?

PATRICK

By all means.

Felix indicates a space where some chairs are set up.

FELIX

Wait there.

JUMP CUT TO:

11

EXT. ROMILLY HOUSE, GARDEN - DAY 11

11

Norris and Felix seated together. The SCG Live team including
Sara are watching and filming this.

FELIX

So I'm with Patrick Norris a man
who both threatened Marcus
Calderwood and has links to private
security companies providing
services to the oil industry.

PATRICK

Also family man, Sarries fanatic,
and organic vintner with a passion
for the Chasellas grape.

Felix's expression shows how much he thinks of that little resumé.

PATRICK (CONT'D)

As well as the recipient of much unwanted attention from your blog.

FELIX

Contrary to public perception, I don't run Indifference Kills.

PATRICK

OK no, sure...but yeah you do.

(beat)

Also contrary to public perception, I had nothing to do with Marcus's Calderwood's murder. In spite of our differences over the meaning of "good neighbour" I actually admired him.

FELIX

(skeptical)

You admired him.

PATRICK

I respect people who are true to their beliefs and principles. I myself believe strongly in safeguarding this fragile planet of ours. Which is why Chevere Wines only...

FELIX

We're not here to advertise your wines! Do you know Justin Mitchell?

PATRICK

Yes I do.

FELIX

How well?

PATRICK

Better than I know you, not as well as I know my dogs. We had some common interests. But murder was not one of them.

(beat)

I cannot believe a man like Justin would do anything that would jeopardise his home and family life.

FELIX

In your work out in Colombia were you aware of extra-judicial kidnappings and executions of trade unionists and environmentalists?

PATRICK

In the end, Felix, people can say what they like about me. But neither my character nor my past, about which you are wildly ill-informed, are on trial.

(beat)

Justin Mitchell is.

12 EXT. NIGHT/DAY TRANSITION - NIGHT 11

12

Establisher.

12A EXT. SAM'S HOUSE - DAY 12

12A

Establisher.

13 INT. SAM'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY 12

13

Sam and Mani are in the kitchen drinking an early morning coffee while Mani studies his phone.

MANI

'FIGHT Climate Genocide is a new group that places no faith in the corrupt bourgeois legal system...'

(to Sam)

...that's you right?

SAM

I like to think so.

MANI

'Only street justice...'

SAM

...'cos that always ends well...

MANI

...will prevent the deliberate destruction of the planet by genocidal racist capitalism.'

SAM

Oh no, not the genocidal capitalists again! Those guys just don't know when to stop.

MANI

You think it's not happening though?

SAM

No I do, but I also think it's more complicated than the slogans...(suggest).

Doorbell rings. Neither move. Sam rolls his eyes.

SAM (CONT'D)

I'll get it then.

MANI

(mock street)

Safe.

Continues reading the blog while Sam heads...

14

INT./EXT. SAM'S HOUSE, FRONT DOOR - CONTINUOUS

14

Two figures behind pane. Sam opens door. Two police officers. One male one female.

SAM

Hello can I help you?

FEMALE PC

That depends, Sir.

Sam. Fucking cops. Warrant card shown.

MALE PC

I'm PC Nicholas and this is PC McGrath. Is there a Mr Roger Blumenthal on the premises?

Sam flickers then recomposes.

SAM

No.

MALE PC

Do you know a Mr Roger Blumenthal?

SAM

No, should I? My memory for names is...

FEMALE PC

The thing is, Sir, that Border Force have contacted us. They have intercepted a parcel from Holland marked for this address and containing controlled drugs.

Beat. Sam's mouth drops open in a reasonable impression of shock and incredulity.

SAM

There must be some mistake. I am not Roger Blumenthal. We're not Roger Blumenthal. There is actually no Roger Blumenthal. Here.

MALE PC

Do you mind if I ask your name for the report, Sir.

SAM

Sure. It's Samir Malik. People call me Sam though.

Awkward pause.

FEMALE PC

It's happening more and more. People ordering controlled drugs from the internet.

SAM

You don't need to tell me. I'm a lawyer.

MALE PC

Ah OK. Well obviously you wouldn't do anything so risky.

FEMALE PC

Something that might lead to a criminal record and being struck off.

They know of course.

SAM

Indeed I would not.

MALE PC

Well then we'll just leave it there. For now.

SAM

Thank you, officer. And I am so sorry it's been a wasted journey.

FEMALE PC

No journey is wasted, Sir.

SAM

Somebody's never been to Littlehampton!

But the levity drops like a lead balloon. No smiles.

They both stare at him. You have been warned.

SAM (CONT'D)
Right. Well. Good luck finding
Roger Blumenthal.
(beat)
Whoever he might be!

They give him a look and head away. He turns back into the hall and sees Mani watching him with a face of real concern.

15 INT. CPS, LEILA'S OFFICE / INT. POLICE STATION, SOUTHGATE'S OFFICE - DAY 12

Leila is working while eating her lunch which is an M&S cheese and celery sandwich, a pack of mini cheddars and a Sprite. Her phone rings. It's Southgate. She licks salt from her fingers and answers it.

DI SOUTHGATE
So guess what?

LEILA
What?

DI SOUTHGATE
Sam Malik is potentially in a bit of hot water.

LEILA
How hot?

DI SOUTHGATE
Depends how high you want to turn the flame under his pan.

LEILA
I'm struggling to think of a crime...(Sam might commit).

DI SOUTHGATE
Couple of weeks back we had a routine call from Border Force. They found a bunch of generic Alprazolam wrapped in sweets. From Holland predictably enough. Addressed to Mr Roger Blumenthal. At Sam's address.

LEILA
Oh Sam!

DI SOUTHGATE
Couple of uniforms went round this morning to have a word.

LEILA

And of course he denied all knowledge of Roger Blumenthal.

DI SOUTHGATE

Yup. Ball's in our court really I mean it's not one we'd normally take much further - I don't dare tell DS Packham or he'd already have his head on a stick.

She thinks.

LEILA

Leave it with me.

You're not out of the woods yet, Sam.

16 EXT. PRISON, ENTRANCE - DAY 12

16

Sam walking in to the building.

17 INT. PRISON, SECURITY - DAY 12

17

Sam going through security.

18 INT. PRISON, VISITING ROOM - DAY 12

18

Sam approaches Justin who grins up at him.

JUSTIN

There's no show without Punch!

Sam takes a seat. Justin studies him and shakes his head.

SAM

Please don't tell me I look like shit you always tell me I look like shit.

JUSTIN

How will you stay on top of things and get me out of here if you're trying to wank yourself to sleep every night?

SAM

I ask myself the same question. But enough about me...

He rifles through his papers.

SAM (CONT'D)

So I saw Sandra because now we at last have a date I need to prepare a pre-trial defence statement.

JUSTIN

I saw her last week and I'm going to ask her to marry me when you've got me out of here.

Sam looks at him.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

What? Oh I know what you're thinking.

SAM

Marry the woman tomorrow?

Justin nods picking the reference.

JUSTIN

Good film. Jean Simmons was from North London you know?

SAM

I do know that. Also wore face-paint for her role as Kanchi in The Black Narcissus.

JUSTIN

Happy Days. But you're wrong. I'm not just trying to make sure she stays onside.

SAM

We need to consider putting her in the box for the defence. What do you think?

JUSTIN

Well you've met her. She's got a warm personality. Funny. No edge. Juries will like her; the blokes definitely 'cos she's a fox but even the women won't take against her which is always a risk.

SAM

But the prosecution would go hard at her. And there are discrepancies in the evidence about the gym collision.

JUSTIN

Sandy will be fine. Unlike the still acceptable stereotypes of Eastern Europeans as gangsters or human traffickers, she's a decent, law-abiding, hardworking person. Just wants a nice house with a garden for barbecuing them fatty sausages she always brings back with her. *Cevapici*.

(beat)

Taste better than they look to be fair. They do nice chocolates as well. Serbs are very partial to sweets and cake...bit less keen on Albanians...

SAM

OK so we'll chuck all that in the completely irrelevant schedule and...

JUSTIN

Nothing I say is irrelevant, you just need to learn to pay attention.

(beat)

Sometimes going round the houses is the best way of getting to the truth.

SAM

Or you could just tell the truth.

JUSTIN

Anyway, she was pestering me about the dog which was not cheap let me tell you. Which is why I didn't go to the races with the gang.

SAM

Opting instead for the loneliness of the long-distance runner with no phone to pinpoint your location.

JUSTIN

Exactly that, Sam. Exactly that.

(smiles)

Prove me wrong.

Felix Owusu is pacing around outside on the phone to Helen McGuire who is on a street near work, keeping an eye out for any passers by.

FELIX

Did you see the Norris interview on the SCG Livestream?

HELEN

I did. It's getting tons of hits. Divides opinion as you'd expect and once again can I remind you about contempt of...

FELIX

I'm going to sail close to the wind, let them prosecute me. He's involved. And I'm going to prove it.

HELEN

There's zero interest here in taking things further because of lack of evidence.

FELIX

They'll have to if I find the evidence.

HELEN

Even so, you sail too close to the wind you might end up in a shipwreck.

FELIX

Don't worry.

HELEN

I do worry though because I don't want to end up in the sea. If I feel that you're putting me at risk...

FELIX

Bit late for that.

HELEN

I'm sorry what?

FELIX

Speak later.

And he snaps off his phone. She sighs. Some buyer regret creeping in?

21 INT. LEILA'S FLAT, LIVING ROOM - DAY 12

21

On screen, Patrick's interview with Felix:

PATRICK (ON SCREEN)
...contrary to public perception, I
had nothing to do with Marcus's
Calderwood's murder. In spite of
our differences over the meaning of
"good neighbour" I actually admired
him.

Pull back to show Leila watching this on lap-top sitting cross-legged on the sofa. Alex comes in. He silently shows her his phone.

ALEX

She sent me a text to say she's unblocked me. Presumably so I can see this.

She looks at it.

A picture of a man at his wedding. The bride has been cropped out or photoshopped in some way to obscure her identity.

Hey @Adrian.Gilligan, where's the blushing bride?

LEILA

Oh no.

22 INT. SAM'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT 12

22

Sam is sitting at the table. He's rocking slightly. He positions his feet so they are exactly level with his shoulders. He locks his finger and extends his hand between his knees to form a kind of prow. He is aiming for perfect symmetry.

MANI

Stop stimming, Roger, the cavalry's arrived.

(frowns)

Why did you choose that name anyway?

SAM

Portmanteau alias of two complete wankers.

Mani tosses him an envelope.

SAM (CONT'D)

What's this?

He opens the envelope. A strip of Alprazolam.

MANI

They're 50s so cut them in half.

SAM

Where did you get them?

MANI

Duh dad I'm a university student.

SAM

(admiringly)

Blister pack and everything.

MANI

Say "you shouldn't of".

SAM

You shouldn't have.

MANI

And you're right I shouldn't. But the whimpering at night was starting to keep me awake too and I was worried you might start stalking Claudia again.

SAM

Unkind and a bit uncalled for.

MANI

You get these to tide you over and you get back to Dr Nesbitt and you talk this shit out, dad.

Sam looks at the strips.

SAM

It's very unfair that they both work so perfectly to calm the storm and cause lesions on the brain.

MANI

Yeah highly addictive drugs often suck that way. But I mean it. You need proper help dealing with your dependency. And taper.

SAM

Thank you. I love you.

MANI

I love you too. Night.

Sam wakes up. It's dark. He checks his clock.

05.19.

That's a bit of an improvement, but still earlier than he'd like. He gets up and puts on the radio to a Mozart clarinet concerto...

24 EXT. UNIVERSITY, CAMPUS - DAY 13

24

Leila is walking through the campus where her mother occupies some kind of senior position like Executive Dean or Pro-vice-chancellor.

She arrives at an office door with her mother's name and title on it.

25 INT. UNIVERSITY, DAME HARRIET'S OFFICE - DAY 13

25

Leila goes into the office which is filled with books and papers and invitations and leaflets announcing protests and campaigns.

HARRIET

Darling how lovely. Is everything OK?

LEILA

No. You know everything isn't OK.

Harriet sighs. They take seats. Leila leans forward and shows her an image on her phone.

LEILA (CONT'D)

The bride with her face cropped out is me.

HARRIET

I don't understand. You're not married.

LEILA

Yes I am. To a friend of Alex from Guatemala.

HARRIET

(surprised)

Oh. So...

LEILA

It was just an administrative thing for this guy to get an EU passport.

HARRIET

(sadly)

And doesn't that feel like another era!

LEILA

Yeah it was a long time ago. But if it came out I could lose my job. Please use your influence to stop her.

HARRIET

I'm not sure how much power I really have.

LEILA

Says the person who wrote a book on Foucault.

(beat)

Or you're frightened of her rage like most people.

HARRIET

I've rebuilt a relationship with Tamara in what has been a slow and sometimes painful process of mutual compromise, recognition of past injuries, and reconciliation.

LEILA

Everybody's on a journey.

HARRIET

Leila, sweetheart, you are fine. You've always been fine. You did well at school, you flourished at university, you have a satisfying career, you have a lovely partner...

LEILA

And what? I'm supposed to pay some kind of tax on that because she's such a loser?

HARRIET

Isn't that tone maybe part of the problem? The fact you even think that about your sister? Have always thought it?

LEILA

Stop making her the victim! She's a thug and a bully.

HARRIET

No no, she's a vulnerable individual who unlike you had a difficult father and a horrible time at school.

Leila opens her mouth but her mother preempts her.

(MORE)

HARRIET (CONT'D)

I'm sorry to say this, Leila, but
you're not as easy as you think.
You frequently withhold contact...

LEILA

Withhold contact! I'm working most
of the time. Jesus, how come
nobody...

HARRIET

...and you haven't always shown a
huge amount of understanding of the
suffering of others.

LEILA

(quietly)

Well be fair, mum, how could I ever
compete with you on that?

She flaps the leaflet she is still holding from the bookstall. Harriet's eyes harden.

HARRIET

Well well. I could almost see you
fitting the silencer for that
bullet.

Leila is so angry now that she has abandoned all pretence at calm.

LEILA

I'd need a silver one for you.

But Harriet just laughs at this.

HARRIET

Touché. I've always loved your wit.
And was this visit to ask for my
help or to express your resentment
towards me as well as your sister?

Leila stares helplessly at her for a moment. Then..

LEILA

You do have power. You've always
had power. You had power when you
insisted we be called after iconic
female guerrillas rather than the
ordinary Arabic name dad wanted for
me. You just choose how you use
your power and deep down not only
do you not care about this
situation, you're happy when there
is conflict between us. You enjoy
it when we're suffering because it
elevates you.

HARRIET

That is both very unfair and deeply hurtful. But I guess if that's your opinion there is little I can do about it.

LEILA

No there is, mum. Show me I'm wrong. Be different.

And she slaps down the leaflet and stalks off.

26 EXT. PRISON - DAY 13

26

Establisher.

27 INT. PRISON, VISITING ROOM - DAY 13

27

Sam is back with Justin again.

JUSTIN

You had a facelift or something? I wouldn't go as far as a million, but you're definitely looking a few dollars better off.

SAM

Thank you yes I slept a little better last night.

JUSTIN

So what's happening?

SAM

Patrick Norris did an interview.

Justin frowns.

JUSTIN

Did he now?

SAM

For the SCG live channel. It's online.

Justin's fingers drum out a quick impatient rhythm on the table.

JUSTIN

What did he say?

SAM

How he loves rugby and organic wine. How he's a climate moderate who admired Marcus.

Justin snorts with derision at this.

JUSTIN
Did he mention me?

SAM
(nods)
Shared interests that didn't include murder. And doesn't believe you would do anything to jeopardise your family.

Justin's eyes narrow but he says nothing.

SAM (CONT'D)
Did you ever discuss Marcus together?

JUSTIN
A bit yeah. He got proper obsessed with the tree business even though I told him it was a lost cause. Defy a tree protection order and you're breaking rocks in the hot sun.

SAM
Actually you're paying a fine he could easily afford.

JUSTIN
Yeah obviously it wasn't the fine per se it was losing to a climate-change wanker.

(beat)
You heard of "gameness". As in fighting dogs?

SAM
It's not an activity I know an awful lot about.

JUSTIN
A game dog never stops. They can't; it's bred into them.

SAM
And Norris is game.

Justin laughs drily.

JUSTIN
Oh yeah.
(laughs)
Not as game as his missus though.

He frowns a little while Sam peruses his notes. Another finger drum on the table. Something niggling him.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Say they found the bike though.

Sam looks up a little startled at this.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Let's say Norris's involved. I don't know if he was or not obviously. But he'd need to be thinking where he would dispose of it in a hurry.

Sam's eyes narrow he knows Justin is trailing something.

SAM

And where might Norris think of disposing it? Given what you know of him.

JUSTIN

Oh I dunno.

(beat)

I'd still be dragging the lakes though. Norris is smart, knows all the diversions and decoys in the area.

He puts a *tiny* emphasis on decoys and his eyes drill into Sam who frowns. *Is Justin trying to tell him something.* Justin shrugs to change the tone.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Just running the scenarios; head's like a cinema.

Sam looks at him.

28

EXT. CITY GYM - DAY 13

28

A woman in leggings carrying a gym bag. She emerges onto the street and checks her phone messages. It's our old friend Becky Hollis.

DI SOUTHGATE (O.S.)

Enjoy your workout?

She jumps.

BECKY

Oh my God, you're lucky I didn't have your knees off there, Sir; I'm a brown belt in Krav Maga.

DI SOUTHGATE

Not in those leggings you're not and you can call me Miles.

(MORE)

DI SOUTHGATE (CONT'D)

(pointed)

How's the sick leave going?

She laughs.

BECKY

It's important to keep the muscle-fat ratio in order and not let the sciatica win.

DI SOUTHGATE

Not easy being outed as the station grass.

Tone change.

BECKY

No.

Beat.

DI SOUTHGATE

Shall we grab a coffee?

BECKY

All right.

29

EXT. SMALL PARK - DAY 13

29

Southgate and Becky with coffee cups.

BECKY

How's them tiny trees?

(shakes her head)

Sadly my mum's died.

DI SOUTHGATE

Did you give it enough light and water?

BECKY

No my actual mum. I've got the tree now and it's doing fine.

DI SOUTHGATE

Oh. Condolences.

BECKY

Thanks. It was a blessing in the end though 'cos it was no life after the stroke.

He nods slowly.

DI SOUTHGATE

You and Justin worked together sometimes.

BECKY

Yes.

DI SOUTHGATE

How would you describe your relationship with him? Mates?

BECKY

I liked him more than some of the others. But not mates.

(shakes head)

Justin didn't really have mates.

DI SOUTHGATE

He talked about the Daniella Fielding case?

She nods. He studies her.

DI SOUTHGATE (CONT'D)

(carefully)

It was you who tried to raise a few issues about him wasn't it?

Beat

BECKY

I said I didn't want to go out with him in the car.

DI SOUTHGATE

Because...

BECKY

His driving was dangerous. I thought we might hit a member of the public. Also there were times when his conversation got a bit...

(fake casual)

He said to me once that a hit-and-run would be the best way of murdering somebody.

Beat.

DI SOUTHGATE

He said that?

She nods. Looks down at her clasped hands.

DI SOUTHGATE (CONT'D)

Becky...

BECKY

No.

DI SOUTHGATE

We need to...

BECKY

I'm not giving evidence against him. No way. For all his faults...

DI SOUTHGATE

I mean we can...

BECKY

Yeah you could compel me but you think I wouldn't know how to make myself the worst witness ever?

She puts her coffee cup down firmly.

BECKY (CONT'D)

I've done my bit.

30 EXT. SAM & CLAUDIA'S OFFICE - DAY 13

30

Claudia coming in to work.

31 INT. SAM & CLAUDIA'S OFFICE, SAM'S OFFICE - DAY 13 31

On screen: a map. Sam is zooming in on the grounds of Norris's shooting club which is called DANVER HOUSE. He goes in on an image of several ponds.

Switches to the Danver House website and reads THE DANVER HOUSE DECOY PONDS ARE STOCKED WITH RAINBOW AND BROWN TROUT.

Frowns.

Claudia comes in to the office.

CLAUDIA

How was Justin?

SAM

Yeah you know holding his own. Guiding me through fighting dogs and the food etiquette of the Balkan diaspora.

CLAUDIA

Can't say you don't get your money's worth.

SAM

Mmmm.

CLAUDIA

What?

SAM

I also think he's trying to tell me something.

CLAUDIA

What?

SAM

I think he was hinting at the location of the bike to me.

He looks at the decoy ponds info again.

SAM (CONT'D)

(musing)

If he does know it's there then he's involved.

CLAUDIA

Why though?

SAM

Why though? Few better questions than that really.

(beat)

It's almost as if he wants to drag Norris into it. His mood certainly changed when I told him about the interview.

He looks again at the words DECOY PONDS. In his head...

JUSTIN (V.O.)

Nothing I say is irrelevant, you just need to learn to pay attention.

32

EXT. SAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT 13

32

Establisher.

33

INT. SAM'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT 13

33

Sam is with Mani and they're playing Shithead. In the middle of a long run, they continue to put down cards intermittently through this conversation.

MANI

If you have a hunch isn't it your duty to tell somebody?

SAM

It's such a random thing though. He talked about lakes and decoys. There's a decoy lake on the Danver House estate where Norris shoots.

MANI

What even is a decoy lake?

SAM

They have culvert funnels and...

MANI

What's...

SAM

It doesn't matter, I don't really understand either. But it's a kind of pond for trapping wildfowl where you could hide something like a bike.

MANI

(frowning)

If he knows it's there... (he's involved in the killing).

SAM

Yup.

MANI

So why did he tell you?

SAM

I don't know.

MANI

So what are you going to do?

SAM

Nothing. It's not my job to share hunches with the police and it could just be my over-active...

Mani looks at him. This is just prevarication.

SAM (CONT'D)

What?

MANI

Somebody should tell them.

Sam tosses down a King and Mani scowls at him and picks up the pack.

34

INT. SAM & CLAUDIA'S OFFICE, MAIN AREA - NIGHT 13

34

Nearing the end of the day. Claudia on the phone to her boyfriend.

CLAUDIA

I don't know, Matt, drop in to the Co-op and pick something up. Or get yourself a takeaway.

(beat)

(MORE)

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)

I'm not going to be late I'm just having a quick drink with Nisha.

(frowns irritably)

No actually I don't say that every time. Look, I've got to go I'll text you when I'm...

Holds phone away as he's obviously rung off. Just as a bunch of figures burst into the office. They are hooded, masked, and are obviously FCG activists.

FCG ACTIVIST

Where's Sam Malik?

CLAUDIA

He's not here. Wait, what are you...

One of them takes out a claw hammer and smashes a computer. Then they start to systematically trash the office. She starts to try and dial on her mobile but one of them is too quick and knocks the mobile out of her hand. They push her into her seat and restrain her hands. She screams as they force a grinning skull mask onto her face. Behind her on the wall one of them starts to spray slogans.

The lead guy goes alongside Claudia and pours liquid over her.

FCG ACTIVIST

THIS IS THE FACE OF DEATH. THIS IS THE SMELL OF DEATH.

(beat)

If the planet burns we all burn. If the planet dies we all die.

JUMP CUT TO:

34A EXT. SAM'S OFFICE - NIGHT 13

34A

Blue light of an ambulance. Claudia being escorted out by police.

Sam arrives walking quickly.

CLAUDIA

(wails)

Sam...

SAM

I'm really sorry.

CLAUDIA

I told you not to take this bloody case.

He stares at her helplessly as she's led into the ambulance.

FADE TO BLACK.

35 OMITTED 35

36 OMITTED 36

36A EXT. NIGHT/DAY TRANSITION. 36A

Establisher.

37 EXT. POLICE STATION / INT. ROMILLY HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY 14 37

Helen McGuire coming in to work as her phone rings. It's Felix. She steps away from the building to take the call.

FELIX

An anonymous tip-off has arrived in
my DMs.

HELEN

What about?

JUMP CUT TO:

38 OMITTED 38

39 INT. POLICE CAR / EXT. ROAD - DAY 14 39

We travel with Southgate towards Danver House.

40 EXT. DANVER HOUSE, DECOY PONDS - DAY 14 40

Southgate gets out the car and heads towards the ponds, where there is lots of police activity and a boat in the water. Packham walks from the ponds to meet him.

DS PACKHAM

They've got something.

41 EXT. DANVER HOUSE, DECOY PONDS - DAY 14 41

In the pond, a diver goes under again and returns to the surface, the team on the boat help him haul a bike on board.

POLICE OFFICER ON BOAT
(into radio)
We've found it.

JUMP CUT TO:

42 EXT. DANVER HOUSE, DECOY PONDS - DAY 14 42

Southgate and Packham GET IN fist pump.

They walk over to meet the boat as it arrives at the shore.

JUMP CUT TO:

43 EXT. DANVER HOUSE, DECOY PONDS - DAY 14 43

As the bike is being lifted on to a tarpaulin at the edge of the pond, a black plastic bag is tied to its frame.

DI SOUTHGATE

Wait!

He's seen something.

DI SOUTHGATE (CONT'D)

It can't be his! It can't be
Marcus's bike!

DS PACKHAM

Why not?

DI SOUTHGATE

It's got both pedals look.

They do look. And it has. A terrible realisation begins to dawn on Southgate.

DI SOUTHGATE (CONT'D)

Unless...

The thought almost too awful to contemplate.

DI SOUTHGATE (CONT'D)

Unless that IS his bike and our
pedal isn't.

And as if to confirm this dreadful prospect a SOCO takes Marcus's helmet out of the black bag.

DI SOUTHGATE (CONT'D)

Oh no.

The bike on the shore. Water dripping from both pedals.

ADRIAN (V.O.)
And we are one hundred per cent
sure about this?

JUMP CUT TO:

44 INT. CPS OFFICE - DAY 14

44

An emergency meeting. Leila, Adrian, DI Southgate, Phillip.

DI SOUTHGATE
It is definitely Marcus's bike and
helmet. And both pedals are
present.

ADRIAN
How though?

DI SOUTHGATE
Either the pedal we found isn't the
pedal from the bike. Or the
attacker realised the pedal had
come off, didn't have time to find
it, and replaced it before
disposing of the bike.

ADRIAN
Why? If he was disposing of the
bike anyway.

Leila looks at her phone. There is a post on her sister's
social media page with a link. She clicks on it.

THREE JAILED AFTER SHAM MARRIAGE INVESTIGATION.

#Blushingbride

Tamara has put the eyes emoji on it.

PHILLIP
In case the bike was found. Or even
in case he needed to retrieve the
bike to sow exactly this type of
confusion.

Southgate indicates assent to either suggested possibility.

DI SOUTHGATE
We still don't have the camera.

ADRIAN
OK. Presumably when they found the
first pedal they matched the make
to the bike?

DI SOUTHGATE

The make of pedal and the make of bike aren't necessarily the same. You can have, say, a Raleigh bike with Shimano pedals.

PHILLIP

Both the pedals now on the bike are the same make obviously?

DI SOUTHGATE

Yes.

PHILLIP

And does that match the pedal you found?

DI SOUTHGATE

No.

An uncomfortable silence. Adrian looks at Leila who's still frowning at her phone.

ADRIAN

Leila?

LEILA

What...oh sorry...

Puts down her phone.

ADRIAN

(slightly irritably)

Anything to, you know, contribute in regards to this unexpected development?

Leila hesitates because she hasn't been paying full attention.

LEILA

Who tipped off Felix Owusu?

DI SOUTHGATE

We'll never know. It was sent from a VPN.

LEILA

I guess...yeah I guess we need to address all of this...urgently.

Adrian and Phillip stare at her: WTF kind of vague unhelpful nonsense is that? Southgate senses her discomfort and saves her.

DI SOUTHGATE

Unfortunately this brings Patrick Norris back into play.

(MORE)

DI SOUTHGATE (CONT'D)

The decoy pond is on the grounds of his shooting club. And that's also his alibi...

ADRIAN

Are you going to arrest him?

DI SOUTHGATE

No need. He's asked to see me later today for an urgent discussion. He's also lawyered up and is apparently going to sue Felix Owusu.

ADRIAN

Might save us a job. That interview he did with Norris was skating on very thin ice.

Leila rises.

LEILA

Excuse me...I just need to call...bit of an emergency at home...

She gets up and leaves the room followed by their puzzled glances.

45

EXT. TAMARA'S HOUSE - DAY 14

45

Leila is walking. She arrives at the house of her sister Tamara. Knocks on the door. It is opened by Tamara.

TAMARA

(as if to a complete stranger)

Yes?

LEILA

Yes?

Tamara makes a puzzled what-do-you-want-me-to-say face.

LEILA (CONT'D)

I want you to stop this crazy behaviour when I've done nothing wrong.

TAMARA

Classic gaslighting.

LEILA

Well it isn't really, because you actually are a mad, vindictive, freak...why are you doing this?

TAMARA

It's been years coming. But now I know and Gabriela has confirmed it.

LEILA

Who's Gabriela?

TAMARA

My life coach. We've identified the negativity in my life and agreed I have to remove all toxic influences starting with the main one...

Her stare says 'YOU basically'

TAMARA (CONT'D)

...I don't have room for red people.

LEILA

What?

TAMARA

Controlling. Dominant. Work-focused.

Leila laughs bitterly.

LEILA

Well, fair play, nobody could accuse you of that.

TAMARA

I'm yellow. Motivated by a sense of fun and sharing.

LEILA

Usually a couple of grams of coke paid for by somebody else.

TAMARA

I don't need to justify myself to you, Leila, but I've been sober for eight weeks now.

LEILA

Who's paying for all this colour scheme life coach gibberish...

(penny drops)

...oh great well done, mum.

TAMARA

I don't need you. And if you don't leave right now I shall call the police.

LEILA

You say you don't need me while at the same time threatening me with this rubbish.

TAMARA

It's not rubbish though is it? It's total hypocrisy for a crown prosecutor to be guilty of a crime herself.

LEILA

I was trying to help another human being, you stupid selfish bitch!

She stands breathless with rage and hopelessness for a moment. The door slams in her face,

46 EXT. CAFE - NIGHT 14

46

Establisher.

47 INT. CAFE - NIGHT 14

47

Claudia and Sam are sitting together with drinks.

SAM

How's your skin?

CLAUDIA

Still really sensitive. And I can still smell that repulsive...can't seem to get rid of the stench...

(shudders)

I split up with Matt.

SAM

Oh. How come?

CLAUDIA

He's a boring control freak who has a meltdown if I have a drink with a mate. "What about supper?" What about supper, you useless twat?

SAM

He calls it supper?

She nods and he grimaces.

CLAUDIA

And he said Fight Climate Genocide had a point.

SAM
Bit insensitive in the
circumstances.

CLAUDIA
He said 'it's not like they set you
on fire or anything' like I was
really lucky to have my assault
filmed and put on the internet. And
blah blah blah 'what about the
suffragettes'...

She's really upset and traumatised by it all.

SAM
The suffragettes! Lot to answer for
in my opinion. In retrospect,
giving you lot the vote...

He's being self-deprecatingly provocative to cheer her up
which she knows and rewards with a flick to the ear. He holds
his hand to it.

SAM (CONT'D)
That genuinely hurt.

CLAUDIA
Good.

SAM
I shall be reporting you to the
Patriarchy!

She chuckles softly.

SAM (CONT'D)
So Mani got me some pills.

CLAUDIA
Ah. OK.

SAM
They don't seem to be working like
they used to. Also...

CLAUDIA
Also what?

SAM
Weird dreams. Weirder than usual.
And...I don't know...just
thoughts.

CLAUDIA
They were never gonna be a long-
term solution, Sam.

SAM

Yeah well, you know what Keynes said about that.

CLAUDIA

No I don't actually.

SAM

Are you seriously telling me you haven't read A Tract on Monetary Reform?

CLAUDIA

I know would you believe it. What did he say?

SAM

In the long-run we're all dead.

CLAUDIA

OK, one way of looking at it I suppose but you need to deal better with your short term as well.

He nods dispirited agreement.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)

You told Felix Owusu about the decoy pond then.

SAM

No I didn't.

Frowns at her.

SAM (CONT'D)

Actually I thought it might have been you but I didn't want to...

CLAUDIA

Nope.

He narrows his eyes. That's weird.

48

EXT./INT. POLICE STATION, FRONT ENTRANCE - NIGHT 14

48

Patrick Norris arriving.

JUMP CUT TO:

49

INT. POLICE STATION, INTERVIEW ROOM - NIGHT 14

49

Patrick with DI Southgate and DS Packham.

PATRICK

So, just to confirm, this interview is not under caution. I don't need my lawyer present.

DI SOUTHGATE

Correct.

PATRICK

Good because I'm going to direct him at Mr Owusu for his latest blog piece which has crossed a line.

DI SOUTHGATE

You'll have to prove it's him.

PATRICK

I doubt that will be so hard for my people.

DI SOUTHGATE

In the most recent blog piece he points out that the discovery of Marcus's bike was made in the same place that you gave as your alibi.

PATRICK

Correct. If that proved anything this interview would presumably be under caution.

DI SOUTHGATE

We are still evaluating the evidence.

PATRICK

Good. Justin Mitchell had visited my club before. He knew of the lake's existence because we went fishing there.

DI SOUTHGATE

OK.

DS PACKHAM

You and Justin became friends...after he attended the dispute between you and Marcus?

DI SOUTHGATE

That's right.

DS PACKHAM

Bit odd to buddy up with somebody that way isn't it?

PATRICK

Is it? How do you normally buddy up with somebody?

DS PACKHAM

I'm not very sociable; stick to my family.

PATRICK

It turned out that we were both fond of poker and we met again at the Royal Flush poker club in Newhaven.

DI SOUTHGATE

And the relationship just grew out of that.

PATRICK

Yes.

(smiles)

Justin isn't the only police officer I've had social interactions with.

DI SOUTHGATE

Oh?

Patrick wafts this one away casually.

PATRICK

Look. There's something else I should mention. Given the level of attention Mr Owusu has focused upon me I would like to be entirely candid with you.

DS PACKHAM

Go on...

PATRICK

We do share a few other interests apart from gambling and fishing.

(beat)

More grown-up interests shall we say?

50

EXT. SAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT 14

50

Mani arrives home.

51

INT. SAM'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT 14

51

Sam is back working from home at his kitchen table. Hears the sound of the front door and Mani comes in.

MANI

Hey, dad.

SAM

Oh hi. Anything happen at college?

MANI

Nope.

He goes to the fridge. Then...

SAM

Was it you?

Mani turns.

MANI

What do you mean?

SAM

Did you tip off Felix Owusu about
searching the decoy pond?

MANI

What do you mean?

SAM

You know exactly...

Then from Mani's face he deduces that the repetitive stonewalling is the only admission he will ever get.

SAM (CONT'D)

OK.

MANI

How's Claudia?

SAM

Not so great. And she split up with
her boyfriend.

MANI

Vulnerable all round then. Chance
for you to slip the move when she's
confused and open to suggestion?

SAM

No I mean really not so great.

MANI

Sorry.

(beat)

Why'd she break up with him? I
thought he was Mr Perfect.

SAM

He calls tea "supper".

MANI

Oh well sure; gotta go.

Sam faint smile. Then we see his computer screen. It's not work though. He has googled PAINLESS SUICIDE. And the first search result is an immediate HELP-LINE response. HELP IS AVAILABLE. 321467. In spite - or perhaps BECAUSE - of his renewed acquaintance with benzos - Sam is in trouble.

52

INT. POLICE STATION, INCIDENT ROOM - NIGHT 14

52

Leila comes in and goes over to DI Southgate who is talking animatedly on his mobile.

DI SOUTHGATE

Absolutely not good enough, Fraser.
Totally disgraceful. I will be
carrying out a full...yeah you do
that or it'll be you explaining
this to the CPS!

Snaps off phone and turns to Leila.

LEILA

And right on cue! I'm sorry about
earlier.

DI SOUTHGATE

You seemed rather distracted.

LEILA

I was.

DI SOUTHGATE

You sort out your problem at home?

LEILA

Not really but anyway. What's
happening? Explain what to the CPS?

DI SOUTHGATE

(evasive)

Long story just...a bit of a
housekeeping problem...nothing...

LEILA

And what about Norris? The bike
being in the place of his alibi is
certainly suspicious.

DI SOUTHGATE

Justin knew about the decoy ponds
as well. Norris says he came
fishing there a couple of times.

She considers this.

DI SOUTHGATE (CONT'D)
But there is something much more
interesting.
(beat)
We have just recovered material
from a niche homemade porn site.

LEILA
I'm hoping you don't want me to
look at it.

DI SOUTHGATE
It's pretty tame compared to some
of the stuff I've had to look at.

LEILA
I find it all vile sorry. What does
it show?

DI SOUTHGATE
It shows Justin Mitchell and
Patrick Norris's wife.

LEILA
Does she have a name or is she
merely a prop?

DI SOUTHGATE
Of course she does, I was just...

LEILA
It's OK, go on.

DI SOUTHGATE
So it shows Justin Mitchell having
sex with Elena Norris. Probably
filmed by Patrick Norris himself as
this was something they apparently
all enjoyed.

LEILA
One way of adding to the sum of
human happiness I suppose.
(beat)
What about Sandra Vodanovic?

DI SOUTHGATE
Not involved.

She looks at him.

LEILA
Do you think Sandra Vodanovic is
aware of this?

DI SOUTHGATE
My thoughts exactly.

LEILA

Get her in. See how she responds and threaten her with everything we've got. Point her towards the light.

He nods.

LEILA (CONT'D)

What's happening with the pedal?

He sighs.

DI SOUTHGATE

I'm trying to get some answers from the new lab. We just need to check who's actually got it right now.

She frowns at him.

LEILA

It's imperative we clear up this muddle; there have already been enough delays and mix-ups.

DI SOUTHGATE

I know. I'm working on it.

She turns to go but then turns back.

LEILA

Oh and kill the Sam Malik thing.

DI SOUTHGATE

Really?

LEILA

Tell customs the check was made, nobody of that name etcetera, and they can destroy them.

(beat)

Which might be punishment enough.

DI SOUTHGATE

What led you to this...

LEILA

It's not in the public interest to go after somebody for Class C benzos you can get on prescription.

(beat)

And I don't think it's right to use somebody's private life to settle old scores.

She heads out. He looks up at the ceiling almost as if in supplication to a higher power.

53 INT. SAM'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT 14

53

Sam stacking the dishwasher when his phone rings. Picks it up.

SAM

Hello, Sandra, what can I...

SANDRA (O.S.)

The police have said I have to come back in again. I will be questioned under caution.

SAM

OK. No don't worry. Tomorrow morning? I'll be there and we'll have a bit of time together before the interview.

(beat)

OK.

Stares at the plate in his hand for a second and then puts it in the dishwasher. Mani comes through.

MANI

Going out; won't be back tonight.

SAM

Sure.

Watches his son depart.

54 INT. LEILA'S FLAT, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 14

54

Leila looking at her sister's social media feed. It shows a link to the Prosecutor's Code of Conduct. #blushingbride.

Alex comes in.

LEILA

She's posted again. She's going to get me fired.

ALEX

Wouldn't she have done it already?

LEILA

No she's enjoying the delay. That's obviously why she unblocked you.

Stares back at it.

LEILA (CONT'D)

She wants me to suffer first.

(beat)

I might have to tell Adrian.

ALEX
Don't do it yet. Wait.

Off Leila, her face taut with anxiety and stress.

55 EXT. POLICE STATION - DAY 15

55

Sam and Sandra coming in for interview. They bump into Leila in the entrance who is on her phone. As they pass..

LEILA
Sam?

He turns.

LEILA (CONT'D)
I was very sorry to see what they did to your office.

SAM
Yeah.

LEILA
Is your colleague OK?

SAM
Oh you know.

LEILA
Disgusting. No better than tarring and feathering really. I sincerely hope we get enough evidence to throw the book at them.

SAM
Thanks, Leila.

They head inside.

56 INT. POLICE STATION, FRONT RECEPTION - DAY 15

56

Sam and Sandra approaching the desk where DI Southgate is waiting for them.

DI SOUTHGATE
Good morning, Sandra, you are not under arrest and are free to leave at any time. The interview is still under caution.

SANDRA
OK.

SAM

I do hope we won't be covering old ground, DI Southgate, or I shall be advising my client of her right to leave.

JUMP CUT TO:

57

INT. POLICE STATION, INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 15

57

Sandra is sitting with Sam facing DI Southgate and DS Packham.

DI SOUTHGATE

OK then...new ground...

(beat)

...were you and Justin in an open relationship?

Her eyes widen.

SANDRA

What do you mean?

SAM

You do not have to answer that, Sandra.

DI SOUTHGATE

Did you know he was having sex with Elena Norris?

She stares at him.

DS PACKHAM

We have the proof if you want to see it?

Then Sandra gives a defiant little laugh.

SANDRA

So what if he did? Of course I knew. We both enjoy sex. It's 2024, Inspector and we are both free.

DI SOUTHGATE

Um, he isn't actually and you might not be for much longer.

DS PACKHAM

They do have a pretty 2024 attitude to these things in Holloway though.

SAM

Taunting my client about possible sexual assault in prison duly...

(MORE)

SAM (CONT'D)
(glances at Southgate)
...noted.

DS PACKHAM
I apologise. Call it evens for my
mum.

SANDRA
(firmly)
Then I'll have to go to prison for
something I did not do. Justin is
my man.

DI SOUTHGATE
And you're one of his women.

SANDRA
We're getting married.

DS PACKHAM
When did he propose - before or
after he needed you to lie on his
behalf?

SAM
I won't warn you again about loaded
questions.

But Sandra is silent to this.

DI SOUTHGATE
You want to get married and have
kids while he has sex with his
mates' wives, exchanges lewd
images, while joking about you on
his group chat.

DS PACKHAM
'Anybody need a naked cleaner?
Sandy's your girl.' Not very
respectful towards your future
wife.

Her eyes widen slightly. Sam looks uncomfortable because he
has also heard this.

SANDRA
No.

DS PACKHAM
No what?

SANDRA
I'm not. That's not...I'm doing an
accountancy course.

DI SOUTHGATE

I don't know that's just what he said to all his mates at the station so....

DS PACKHAM

You've never done that?

(shrugs)

He's a liar as well as a scumbag then. We can show you the group chat if you like but you might find it quite a betrayal.

A long silence. She dips her head. She is wiping a tear from her face. Then she looks up.

SANDRA

Justin is a gambler.

DI SOUTHGATE

We're aware of that.

SANDRA

He owed a lot of money at one point. To some men he said you could not owe money to.

Southgate joins the dots.

DI SOUTHGATE

You did it to help pay off his gambling debts?

SANDRA

I did it once.

DI SOUTHGATE

There's no shame in that. Not for you anyway. For any man who would get a kick out of using his power to make a woman clean his house without clothes.

Southgate is trying to turn her but his disgust is genuine.

DS PACKHAM

And for Justin.

SAM

I need to advise my client that should she say anything that contradicts Justin's version of events I will have to...

SANDRA

He made jokes about it.

She shakes her head.

SANDRA (CONT'D)

I cannot believe he would do that.
I did it for him.

It is very clear this has stung her far more than the affair with Elena Norris.

DI SOUTHGATE

You have a whole life in front of you. You deserve better than him. You have to think of your future and believe me it is not a prison cell followed by deportation for a man who will only ever let you down.

She sniffs and wipes a tear from her eye. Her mascara is running. Packham fumbles in his pocket.

DS PACKHAM

Sure I've got a tissue some...

Sandra doesn't look too keen to take anything that's been in his pocket. Glances at Sam and then takes the safest option.

SANDRA

(to Southgate)

Have you got one please?

Southgate takes a pack from his pocket and hands one to her. Sam looks at his feet. He knows this is not good.

SANDRA (CONT'D)

I want to tell you something.

SAM

OK, just before you do that, Sandra I would like a break just to clarify the legal situation with regards to my continued representation of both parties.

DI Southgate smiles a victory smile.

DI SOUTHGATE

Of course, Sam. That's perfectly understandable.

Another officer comes in and signals rather urgently to him.

DI SOUTHGATE (CONT'D)

We need a break anyway.

Gets up and goes to the doorway.

DI SOUTHGATE (CONT'D)

(low voice)

Please tell me this is good news.

58 INT./EXT. LEILA'S FLAT, FRONT DOOR / LIVING ROOM - DAY 15 58

Leila is reading when there is a knock on the door. She goes to open it and it's her mother.

LEILA

Mum?

They go into the room.

HARRIET

Did you go to your sister's house yesterday?

LEILA

Yes.

HARRIET

You thought that the best way to deal with this situation was to go round and call her the B-word?

LEILA

She's just lucky I didn't go one letter up.

HARRIET

It was horrible, Leila, bigoted language.

LEILA

I really don't think it compares in any way with what's being thrown at me right now.

HARRIET

She's in pieces!

Alex comes into the room at the raised voice.

HARRIET (CONT'D)

Hi, Alex.

ALEX

Oh hi, Harriet.

HARRIET

How is the landscape gardening business?

ALEX

It's fine thank you very much.

(to Leila)

I was going to the pub but I can stay if...

HARRIET

I think you should go the pub.

ALEX

Leila?

LEILA

Go to the pub. I might join you later.

He exits.

HARRIET

I have been trying to persuade Tamara of the need for reconciliation. And now you have undone all my good work.

LEILA

(bitter sarcasm)

Oh no have you squandered your superpower?

HARRIET

I've squandered my time trying to make you a little more understanding.

LEILA

She went to war against me for no reason. It was a drink in a bar, where as usual I picked up the tab, followed by Pearl Harbour. So no, weirdly, I don't feel understanding.

HARRIET

It was just a tipping point. This goes back a long time.

(beat)

You lack compassion, Leila. You are entitled to feel indignation and I have told Tamara that too. But you must also try a little empathy.

This is too much for Leila.

LEILA

Who the hell do you think you're talking to; I'm not one of your students...

Harriet makes to leave. Then with maddening condescension...

HARRIET

Perhaps we should talk again when you've calmed down?

Leila, almost dumbfounded at this new development, watches her mother leave.

Makes to say something, perhaps an attempt to row back from the crisis but her phone rings. It's Southgate. She stares at it for a second and takes it.

LEILA

Hi, Miles.

DI SOUTHGATE (V.O.)

I'm afraid I have some rather bad news.

JUMP CUT TO:

59 INT. LEILA'S FLAT, LIVING ROOM / INT. POLICE STATION, 59
SOUTHGATE'S OFFICE - DAY 15

Leila and Southgate on the phone.

LEILA

Lost?

DI SOUTHGATE

The French don't have it. It's not in the station. Everybody is blaming everybody else.

LEILA

It's not a small piece of evidence.
It's not a digital pedal.

DI SOUTHGATE

We are investigating how it has come to happen. And I haven't given up all hope.

LEILA

We will never know if the pedal we found in the ditch belonged to Marcus's bike. Meaning no forensics of any use whatsoever.

(beat)

Is there any suggestion that it might have been...

DI SOUTHGATE

Right now it just looks like a monumental piece of carelessness.

LEILA

The conspiracy blogs are going to have a field day with this.

He sighs and runs his hand through his hair.

DI SOUTHGATE

Sandra Vodanovic is making a witness statement.

LEILA

Good. Because we are going to need her.

(beat)

My boss is going to go absolutely ballistic.

60 INT. PRISON, VISITING ROOM - NIGHT 15

60

Sam is with Justin.

JUSTIN

They've turned her against me.

SAM

I am afraid so.

JUSTIN

Why didn't you stop her?

SAM

And say what exactly? Please don't tell the truth.

JUSTIN

Has she given a witness statement?

SAM

I don't know yet. It would have been a conflict of interest for me to continue representing her.

JUSTIN

I mean she's obviously just mad because of the stuff with Norris's missus which was purely (sex)...

SAM

No. It was the idea of you belittling her for doing something degrading to save you.

JUSTIN

Degrading! It's just sex-work we're all cool with that now.

SAM

You joked about it with me once.

JUSTIN

Joked. Exactly. It's still just revenge and we can say that. You need to talk to her...

SAM

That's not ethically...

JUSTIN

Fuck ethics. She needs to know
there will be consequences if she
gives evidence against me.

SAM

I'm afraid "fuck ethics" would also
mean "goodbye Sam".

JUSTIN

Well aren't you a little saint?

And for a second his eyes glitter with ugly malevolence.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Sitting there with your chewed
fingernails and cheap suit. Face
like a dog waiting to be kicked.

Sam smiles and there is power in the smile because it says
that, in spite of all his torments, he still feels in some
way superior to Justin and this is recognised and processed
instantly by the latter. Who curiously doesn't mind.

SAM

They found the bike.

JUSTIN

Did they now?

SAM

Aren't you going to ask me where?

Justin smiles lazily.

JUSTIN

Where?

SAM

In the decoy pond at Danver House.
Do you want to talk to me about
your relationship with Patrick
Norris.

Justin laughs bitterly.

JUSTIN

Want to know who else has visited
his shooting club?

SAM

Go on.

JUSTIN

Chief Superintendent Whitley.
Norris likes to keep in with people
who matter.

(MORE)

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

And to know things about them he can use to his advantage.

SAM

And what did he know about you?

Beat

JUSTIN

He knew I was also game.

SAM

It's a quality I'm finding less and less attractive.

JUSTIN

That really doesn't matter. All that matters is we close down their angles, destroy their arguments, kick out their evidence, and walk out of court with a spring in our stride laughing like fucking hyenas because we won.

In this moment Justin's intensity is rather terrifying.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Otherwise we're just poor old Daniella Fielding. Lying in the wreckage with everything sliding away while some dumb-ass cop tries to tell us to hang on in there 'cos it's all gonna be OK.

He leans back and regards Sam.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Justin Mitchell isn't spending the rest of his life behind bars just because of some jealous woman.

Uh-oh. Ileism as well as misogyny.

SAM

Well she wept.

JUSTIN

So sack me off and go and watch Bambi together.

SAM

If she gives a different version from yours, Justin, you are in real trouble.

Justin stares back at him. Face flattened with the faintly dismissive anger of a teenager in the face of parental reproach.

DISSOLVE TO:

61 INT. LEILA'S FLAT, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 15 61

Leila, miserable, staring at her phone looking for further evidence of her sister's campaign of persecution.

62 INT. POLICE STATION, INTERVIEW ROOM - NIGHT 15 62

Sandra Vodanovic signing the witness statement that might condemn her former partner.

63 INT. ROMILLY HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT 15 63

Felix Owusu typing his blog with an entirely new development.

WAS PATRICK NORRIS A POLICE INFORMANT?

64 INT. SAM'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - NIGHT 15 64

Dark night. A hand fumbles for a digital clock.

02.17

The clock goes black as it is yanked from its power lead and hurled across the room.

END OF EPISODE