

SHOWTRIAL 2

Written by

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Episode 4

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CAPTION: MONDAY, 6TH JANUARY 2025. TRIAL DAY 1.

A bunch of protestors with SCG placards and a LOT of noise.

They are facing a counter-demonstration with UNION FLAG placards announcing LEGITIMATE DEFENCE and STOP CLIMATE SCAM.

Insults and taunts being hurled between both groups.

Felix Owusu is doing an interview with a reporter.

FELIX

I cannot go into the specifics of the Justin Mitchell trial but what I can say is that it is imperative that any crime is fully investigated and all of those involved are brought to justice. I believe that the killing of Marcus Calderwood was a political execution...

Journalist looks alarmed and tries to interrupt.

LOCAL NEWS JOURNALIST

...but speaking generally...

Felix ignores this to drill home his point.

FELIX

...carried out to accelerate a split in Stop Climate Genocide that he might have prevented...

He is suddenly jostled and bumped by a group of mostly male middle-aged protestors shouting STOP CLIMATE SCAM and chanting JUSTIN MITCHELL HE'S ONE OF OUR OWN. Police officers hurry over to break up the scuffle which leaves him pushed roughly to the ground with punches being thrown all round.

A placard pushed in front of the camera.

LEGITIMATE DEFENCE - START THE FIGHTBACK!

TITLES

JUSTIN

Blue blue...

He is fastening a navy blue tie. The needle of his barometer has sped past fair and is climbing.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)
...but not electric blue. Or Tory
blue.
(beat)
Trustworthy blue.

SAM
You're not a Tory then?

Justin laughs.

JUSTIN
Don't vote but that's not the
point. The point is that the jury
think that I am a sober and serious
person likely to tell the truth.
Also helps that I look like me and
not like, say, you.
(holds up a hand to stall
a foreseen protest)
Woah, hold it in, I don't mean
because of that but because it is
scientifically proven that juries
favour beautiful people over
mingers, I don't make the rules.

SAM
(mildly)
I was going to agree anyway.
Looking 'like you' definitely
carries perks even for the minglers.

JUSTIN
Minger is harsh; I was only
speaking relative to Justin
Mitchell. Hope the court sketch
does me justice.

SAM
It would take Michelangelo.

Continues to rifle through some notes.

JUSTIN
You going to do any of the cross-
examinations?

SAM
Probably DI Southgate.

JUSTIN
Well I'll definitely look forward
to that.
(grins)
'At my signal: release Hell'.

SAM
(without looking up)
It's Unleash Hell.

Justin nods acknowledgement of the correction.

JUSTIN
Wish I was called Maximus and not
Justin.

SAM
It would certainly suit your volume
level.

Justin adjusts the knot of his tie slightly.

JUSTIN
How's it looking. Full Windsor
obviously.
(grins)
It's the knot for the grand
occasion, Sam.

SAM
I don't know if all this verbal
flim-flam is nerves or not...

JUSTIN
Not.

SAM
But try and avoid ambient smartarse
in the dock.

JUSTIN
Harsh.

He puts two fingers to his neck.

SAM
What are you doing now?

JUSTIN
Pulse don't lie, Shakira.
(beat)
72. Nice.

A member of custody staff comes to the door.

CUSTODY STAFF
Jury selection panel is about to go
in.

Also present is PC Taylor who is going to take the witness box. Leila and Southgate are chatting slightly away from him.

DI SOUTHGATE
(indicating Taylor)
Defence will make him out to be a turncoat saving his arse.

LEILA
How's it going with Becky Hollis?

He sighs.

DI SOUTHGATE
She still doesn't feel comfortable about it all. And without a statement, she's not compellable.

LEILA
But she's left the force now; she should be demob happy...

DI SOUTHGATE
She's anxious about reopening old wounds and unhappy with how this has become the police on trial.

LEILA
I guess one way of avoiding that scenario would be for the police not to murder people.

DI SOUTHGATE
(slightly cross)
It's possible to think that officers guilty of crimes should go to prison while also believing the vast majority are hard-working and brave.

LEILA
(drily)
Mind blown.

He looks at her reproachfully. Southgate's not a great fan of arch humour or flip responses. She holds up an apologetic hand.

LEILA (CONT'D)
OK. I get it. I'm sorry. We'll need to give her some encouragement.

He nods.

DI SOUTHGATE
We need to brief Sandra as well.
She's very...
(MORE)

DI SOUTHGATE (CONT'D)
(seeks out word)
...spontaneous and quite...

LEILA
Ingenuous?

DI SOUTHGATE
I don't know what that means.

LEILA
Innocent. Unsuspecting.

DI SOUTHGATE
Exactly that. And with no Pancho to
cling onto...

Leila laughs.

LEILA
OK. Let's talk her through it.

4 INT. COURTHOUSE, ROBING ROOM - DAY 16

4

The defence silk GRAINNE WESTWOOD is getting ready. She is a 40-plus woman with soft-Irish trace accent. The crown silk Phillip Holmes comes in and grins at her.

PHILLIP
Good morning, Grainne, I must say you could have knocked me down with a feather when I heard you were the first cab on the rank.

She looks at him as he also starts to robe up.

PHILLIP (CONT'D)
One for your bestseller? 'The day I amazed everyone, including myself, by taking on a less fashionable cause than the Wimbledon Six or the Colchester Three.'

She side-eyes him.

GRAINNE
And speaking of three, matched those pedals yet?

Beat.

GRAINNE (CONT'D)
Got any mobile evidence? Dash-cam footage? Anything in the way of forensics?

PHILLIP

Nope. And that's too bad; we'll just have to make do with an avalanche of circumstantial including a direct ID from the victim himself.

GRAINNE

I note you bottled calling Patrick Norris. Thought you might try and lance the boil.

PHILLIP

Which boil is that?

GRAINNE

Present absence. Juries don't like 'em.

PHILLIP

We have a present present though. A Sandra-shaped missile aimed right at his ludicrous cover up.

GRAINNE

Missiles can get shot down.

(beat)

You going to the CBA Diversity Gala?

He shakes his head.

PHILLIP

Nadine's booked a long weekend in Valencia.

GRAINNE

Ooh nice. Valencia's definitely having a moment. I'll give you a couple of restaurant tips. Say hi to Nadine.

They adjust their wigs and robes. This is still a day's work for them.

COURT CLERK (O.S.)

Sally Ascherson.

CUT TO:

The jury selection panel being filleted down and taking their places in the jury seats.

Everybody is now in court watching this process.

Present: Grainne and Sam sat together. Phillip with a junior barrister, and Leila close by. Judge and court clerk. Justin is in the dock with a custody officer.

In the gallery: Helen, Sara and Felix amongst other journalists and members of the public.

COURT CLERK
Zheng Junmin.

A Chinese man follows to his place.

COURT CLERK (CONT'D)
Scott Harrison.

A bald overweight guy with tats. Justin a small nod of approval.

COURT CLERK (CONT'D)
Dax Daniels.

A young woman with lilac hair and nose ring. Justin frowns.

COURT CLERK (CONT'D)
Stalin Gonzalez.

Justin blinks at this somewhat unusual name. A few sniggers and raised eyebrows. And we follow more jury members until the box is full. These twelve people are now the most important people in the trial.

Justin looks at them fully aware of this.

JUMP CUT TO:

6

INT. COURTHOUSE, COURTROOM - DAY 16

6

Present: Grainne and Sam sat together. Phillip with a junior barrister, and Leila close by. Judge and court clerk. Justin is in the dock with a custody officer. In the gallery: Helen, Sara and Felix amongst other journalists and members of the public.

All jurors in place being addressed by the judge.

JUDGE
Ladies and Gentlemen of the jury.
This is a complex case with a
number of witnesses and it may last
a little longer than other
trials...

Fade out as we pan around the court. Phillip a junior barrister and Leila, Grainne and Sam. The press gallery that includes Felix Owusu and Helen McGuire. And in the public gallery Sara the activist. Fade back into...

JUDGE (CONT'D)

...all that matters in making your decision is what you hear in this court. *Both the writing and reading of anonymous blogs that break reporting restrictions is contempt of court.* Doing so could lead to very serious consequences including a prison sentence. We will now hear from Mr Holmes for the Prosecution who will tell you what this case is about. Then we will hear from Ms Westwood for the defence...

JUMP CUT TO:

7

INT. COURTHOUSE, COURTROOM - DAY 16

7

Present: Grainne and Sam together. Phillip with a junior barrister, and Leila close by. Judge and court clerk. Justin is in the dock with a custody officer. In the gallery: Helen, Sara and Felix amongst other journalists and members of the public.

Phillip Holmes giving his opening speech intercutting with Grainne giving hers.

PHILLIP

The defendant, Mr Justin Mitchell, using foresight, planning, and considerable malice pursued Marcus Calderwood and struck him from his bike...

INTERCUT:

GRAINNE

...the Prosecution does not have a shred of physical evidence linking the defendant to the collision. No DNA, no paint from the vehicle, nothing.

INTERCUT:

PHILLIP

Mr Calderwood named his attacker.
"It was a police officer called Justin Mitchell".

INTERCUT:

GRAINNE

...the naming of Justin Mitchell is open to serious doubt given the particular and extreme circumstances in which it was made...

INTERCUT:

PHILLIP

...Justin Mitchell then removed and disposed of evidence using his partner a Ms Sandra Vodanovic....

INTERCUT:

GRAINNE

...we will argue that this witness is motivated by factors other than the truth and that Ms Vodanovic has every reason to provide an account which favours the prosecution and damns her partner.

JUMP CUT TO:

8 OMITTEDPART INCORPORATED INTO SCENE 7

8

9 INT. COURTHOUSE, DEFENCE ROOM - DAY 16

9

Sam and Grainne sitting. Justin pacing.

JUSTIN

One of the jurors has got purple hair and a nose ring. You see that?

SAM

I did.

JUSTIN

How did she wriggle through?

GRAINNE

We don't get to chuck people off juries for their appearances fortunately.

JUSTIN

How about names? Stalin Gonzalez?

GRAINNE

It's not uncommon in Latin America for children to be given names from history.

SAM

Also Stalin wasn't entirely anti-police.

JUSTIN

Win-predictor flickered a bit.
What's the running order?

SAM

Grace Eze the paramedic. Guess they might try and squeeze PC Taylor in.

GRAINNE

(shakes head)

No time today.

JUSTIN

I'd squeeze him in all right, the miserable little turncoat.

(rhetorical beat)

To a matchbox straight after running him through a car crusher.

SAM

I think we've spoken before about expressing violent fantasies.

JUSTIN

Everybody has violent fantasies.
It's normal. Taking out that wanker on the radio for a start.

GRAINNE

I won't ask.

SAM

Best not.

JUSTIN

Fantasies. FANTASIES. That means they're not real.

(grins)

Although not gonna lie. Given a nice secluded spot, a hefty baseball bat...

Sam mock-checking watch and rising.

SAM

My Goodness is that the time already...

Justin chuckles.

JUSTIN

Fat bald geezer at the end of the row has to be a cabbie so that's a win.

JUMP CUT TO:

10 INT. COURTHOUSE, CORRIDOR - DAY 16

10

Grainne and Sam walking.

GRAINNE

Should we be letting him anywhere near the witness box?

SAM

He's a performance artist. An attention seeker. You've seen how he can shift shapes in the blink of an eye.

GRAINNE

It's a risk.

Sam pauses for a second.

SAM

He's definitely becoming more...

She looks at him.

SAM (CONT'D)

Like he's watching himself and laughing at it all.

GRAINNE

Well he won't be laughing at a thirty year tariff if the judge takes against him.

But is she right about that?

11 OMITTED

11

11A INT. COURTHOUSE, CPS ROOM - DAY 16

11A

Sandra is now with DI Southgate and Leila.

DI SOUTHGATE

How you feeling about everything, Sandra?

She nods bravely and chews her lip.

LEILA

Is there anything on your mind
about the process? Anything we can
explain to you?

SANDRA

The wigs?

LEILA

No I can't explain that.

SANDRA

They look quite scratchy.

Frowns. Sandra is not a fan of scratchy things.

SANDRA (CONT'D)

I hope I will also be able to say
the truth about Justin.

Leila glances quickly at Southgate.

LEILA

Our questions will be quite precise
and mainly about the car and the
whole timetable around that....

SANDRA

I do not think Justin would murder
somebody. It must have been some
kind of accident.

(hopefully)

I read maybe they can find people
guilty of manslaughter?

LEILA

Well that is on the indictment as
well but in the end it is up to the
jury which they decide is the
correct verdict.

SANDRA

I have to tell the truth but I want
it should be the whole truth.

Leila nods blandly.

LEILA

As I say. All you need to do is to
answer the questions put to you by
the lawyers.

(smiles)

And at least you are in the witness
box rather than the dock.

A not-so-subtle reminder of how close to the wind of
prosecution Sandra has sailed.

12 EXT. COURTHOUSE - NIGHT 16

12

A reporter speaking to camera. Protestors in the background.

LOCAL NEWS JOURNALIST

There were lively exchanges this afternoon in the trial of Justin Mitchell regarding his identification as the driver in the hit-and-run that killed climate activist Marcus Calderwood. The prosecution's first witness was the paramedic from the scene Ms Grace Eze...

SMASH CUT TO:

13 INT. COURTHOUSE, COURTROOM - DAY 16(FLASHBACK)

13

Present: Grainne and Sam sat together. Phillip and a junior barrister, and Leila close by. Judge and court clerk. Justin is in the dock with a custody officer. In the gallery: Helen, Sara and Felix amongst other journalists and members of the public.

Grace Eze in the box.

GRACE

He said to me that the driver of the vehicle was a policeman called Justin Mitchell.

PHILLIP

And what did you do with that information?

GRACE

I told a police officer at the scene.

SMASH CUT TO:

14 EXT. COURTHOUSE - NIGHT 16

14

Back to the reporter.

LOCAL NEWS JOURNALIST

Justin Mitchell's defence team meanwhile questioned the validity of this identification...

SMASH CUT TO:

15 INT. COURTHOUSE, COURTROOM - DAY 16 (FLASHBACK)

15

Present: Grainne and Sam. Phillip with a junior barrister, and Leila close by. Judge and court clerk. Justin is in the dock with a custody officer. In the gallery: Helen, Sara and Felix amongst other journalists and members of the public.

Grace Eze in the witness box.

Now Grainne cross-examining.

GRAINNE

*Would you say Mr Calderwood was in
a lot of pain?*

GRACE

Yes I would.

GRAINNE

Had you administered pain relief?

GRACE

*He had been given 20 milligrams of
morphine sulfate.*

GRAINNE

*So just to be clear. It was very
noisy, stressful, lots of adjacent
activity, people in police
uniforms, the victim had spent all
night in a ditch, was in extreme
pain, and he had received a
powerful opiate?*

SMASH CUT TO:

16 EXT. COURTHOUSE - NIGHT 16

16

Back to TV report...

LOCAL NEWS JOURNALIST

But the question that will generate
the most controversy is why the
police did not act immediately on
the information given to them by
the paramedics on the scene...

17 EXT. SAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT 16

17

Establisher.

18 INT. SAM'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 16

18

Sam and Mani watching the end of this TV report.

MANI

Online poll says 82% think he's guilty as fuck.

SAM

As opposed to mildly guilty?
Who ran this poll - Yanis Varoufakis?

MANI

Uh-oh, theme-warming in process...

SAM

I know a rigorous sampling frame is just such a horribly Western concept...

MANI

And we're off...

SAM

But luckily a jury is drawn from a cross-section of society rather than a bunch of Zoomers fighting fascism from the frontline of their keyboards.

MANI

And speaking of fascism, you seen this group Legitimate Defence attacking people outside court? They your preferred "sampling frame" then?

Sam frowns.

SAM

I hope you don't do Ket, Mani.

MANI

OK, so who ordered the non-sequitur?

SAM

(wagging finger)

It will play merry hell with your urinary tract; you'll be in a nappy at thirty.

MANI

Yeah I see your game. But Juzzer's going down.

Mani exits. Sam looks at the screen. Chews his nail.

19 EXT. STREET / ALLEY - NIGHT 16

19

Helen comes over to Felix Owusu.

HELEN

Saw you take a tumble!

FELIX

I'm fine. And it's all on camera so
they're screwed.

She nods. Good.

HELEN

Calling out Patrick Norris as a
possible informant was a big move.

FELIX

It's not a time for little ones.

HELEN

You got hard evidence for that?

FELIX

Work-in-progress but I have a few
good leads.

HELEN

Where did the information come
from?

FELIX

I don't reveal sources you'll be
pleased to hear. But I need you to
find out more about the Crawley
drugs trial and why he escaped
prosecution there as well.

HELEN

That one's a bit out of my league
I'm afraid.

FELIX

He's protected and he always has
been.

HELEN

We need to tread carefully with the
blog. Your piece about Justin as
Norris's useful idiot is clear
contempt of court.

FELIX

What are they going to do,
prosecute the internet?

HELEN

Even so.

(beat)

One thing I do know is that Whitley knew Justin had issues. He was reported by colleagues. Did nothing.

FELIX

What for?

HELEN

Excessive speed while driving.
Inappropriate language.

Felix frowns.

FELIX

Is that useful to us?

HELEN

I don't know is it?

FELIX

I'm not especially interested in the firing squad. I'm interested in the person who gave the order to shoot. Or people.

HELEN

And I'm interested in the culture that Whitley oversaw.

FELIX

It's not just about replacing an unpopular boss.

She bridles at the slight condescension.

HELEN

It's not just about quadrupling your subscribers with a sexy story about the evils of Big Oil.

His eyes narrow. Then he smiles.

FELIX

Get me more about Norris's ties to the police and I'll do a job on your Chief Superintendent...

Night to day establisher.

The protestors outside as usual. Journalists reporting.

21

INT. COURTHOUSE, COURTROOM - DAY 17

21

Present: Grainne and Sam sat together. Phillip with a junior barrister. Judge and court clerk. Justin is in the dock with a custody officer. In the gallery: Helen, Sara and Felix amongst other journalists and members of the public. No Leila. Southgate in the witness box.

On screens the jury being played the fateful gopro footage.

JUSTIN

You wouldn't want to cause another fatal accident would you?

MARCUS (O.S.)

I haven't caused any fatal accidents and you're on camera by the way, officer.

JUSTIN

Good then there's record of my concern for your welfare as well as other road-users.

(beat)

I'd hate for a car to just smash into you one day. Leave you slowly dying by the side of the road.

The fat bald dude Justin has identified as a potentially life-saving cabbie shakes his head slowly and looks at Justin with an expression that suggests that earlier confidence may have been misplaced.

DI Southgate is in the witness box being led by Phillip.

PHILLIP

So this is the culmination of a significant history of contact between Mr Calderwood and the defendant, Detective Inspector?

DI SOUTHGATE

Yes.

PHILLIP

And how does it end?

DI SOUTHGATE

With Mr Calderwood telling a paramedic that PC Justin Mitchell drove into him.

PHILLIP

Now we have heard from PC Taylor that he failed to act on this tip-off...

SMASH CUT TO:

22

INT. COURTHOUSE, COURTROOM - DAY 16 (FLASHBACK)

22

Nick Taylor in the box.

Present: Grainne and Sam sat together. Phillip with a junior barrister, Leila sat close by. Judge and court clerk. Justin is in the dock with a custody officer. In the gallery: Helen, Sara and Felix amongst other journalists and members of the public.

PC TAYLOR

I completely panicked. It was such a shock. So I phoned PC Kyle Jones and said "what should we do?" And he said leave it with me.

SMASH CUT TO:

23

INT. COURTHOUSE, COURTROOM - DAY 17

23

Present: Grainne and Sam sat together. Phillip with a junior barrister. Judge and court clerk. Justin is in the dock with a custody officer. In the gallery: Helen, Sara and Felix amongst other journalists and members of the public. No Leila. Southgate in the witness box.

Phillip questioning Southgate.

PHILLIP

What happened during the
regrettable delay to your
investigation that this caused?

DI SOUTHGATE

Sandra Vodanovic took the suspect's
car overseas.

PHILLIP

Which meant you could not test it
for forensic evidence?

DI SOUTHGATE

Correct.

PHILLIP

And did Sandra Vodanovic do
anything to the vehicle while
overseas?

DI SOUTHGATE

She carried out significant repairs
including a respray.

PHILLIP

Can I just ask you about mobile
phones.

(MORE)

PHILLIP (CONT'D)

Do you have anything placing Mr Mitchell at the scene of the collision?

DI SOUTHGATE

No.

PHILLIP

How do you explain that?

DI SOUTHGATE

He had left it at home.

PHILLIP

Was that common?

DI SOUTHGATE

No he usually tracked his exercise on a running app.

PHILLIP

As a serving police officer yourself would you say that mobile phone evidence is important in solving a crime?

DI SOUTHGATE

Yes.

PHILLIP

And would you have expected the defendant to have been equally aware of this?

DI SOUTHGATE

All police officers are aware of it.

Off the jury processing obvious implication that forgetting the phone at home was a ploy to avoid location.

JUMP CUT TO:

24

INT. COURTHOUSE, COURTROOM - DAY 17

24

Present: Grainne and Sam. Phillip sat with a junior barrister. Judge and court clerk. Justin is in the dock with a custody officer. In the gallery: Helen, Sara and Felix amongst other journalists and members of the public. No Leila. Southgate in the witness box.

DI Southgate now being cross-examined by Sam.

SAM

So as Mr Holmes most helpfully established for the jury: there is no definitive mobile or dash-cam evidence?

DI SOUTHGATE

No.

SAM

Well strategic owning up doesn't diminish its importance and it bears repeating.

(looks at jury)

No mobile or dash-cam evidence.

(back to Southgate)

So let's turn to forensics which you must have hoped would fill that gap.

(beat)

Would you agree that evidence from the vehicles involved is gold-dust in cases of road collision?

DI SOUTHGATE

I would yes.

SAM

You were brought in from another force to help find that gold-dust?

DI SOUTHGATE

I was originally brought in because of the nature of the investigation and the possible involvement of a serving officer.

SAM

The bicycle belonging to Marcus Calderwood. Where was it found?

DI SOUTHGATE

In a pond on the grounds of Danver House.

SAM

And there is a shooting club on the grounds is there not?

DI SOUTHGATE

Correct.

SAM

Did you interview any members of that shooting club during the investigation?

DI SOUTHGATE

Yes.

SAM

But you ruled them out.

DI SOUTHGATE

Yes.

SAM

Did you know that the defendant was having a sexual relationship with the wife of a member of that shooting club?

Change in atmosphere. Jury frowns. Where's this going?

DI SOUTHGATE

It transpired during our enquiries.

SAM

But you did not consider it relevant?

DI SOUTHGATE

No.

SAM

Now, I wonder if you could tell me something, DI Southgate?

(smiles benignly)

How many pedals are there on an ordinary bicycle?

Southgate swallows and momentarily closes his eyes because he knows what is coming...

25

EXT. STREET - DAY 17

25

Leila is walking. She pauses outside a row of shops that includes some vape shacks, hairdressers, cafes and a nail bar.

Goes into the nail bar.

26

INT. NAIL BAR - DAY 17

26

A client having her nails done. Leila is sitting in waiting area. Becky Hollis comes over and places a cup of tea in front of her and then takes a seat.

BECKY

Guess I must be important if you're not in court.

LEILA

Miles Southgate is giving evidence this morning. Suspect he's in for a bumpy ride.

BECKY

Couldn't bear to watch?

Leila half-laughs.

LEILA

Well after PC Taylor...

SMASH CUT TO:

27

INT. COURTHOUSE, COURTROOM - DAY 16 (FLASHBACK)

27

Present: Grainne and Sam. Phillip with a junior barrister, Leila sat close by. Judge and court clerk. Justin is in the dock with a custody officer. In the gallery: Helen, Sara and Felix amongst other journalists and members of the public.

Nick Taylor under cross-examination.

GRAINNE

Did you throw PC Jones under the bus to protect yourself?

PC TAYLOR

No.

GRAINNE

You 'left it with him' for over 24 hours knowing that every minute might be precious. Everything you are now telling us is just another attempt to stay out of prison isn't it?

PC TAYLOR

I wish I had acted in a different way.

SMASH CUT TO:

28

INT. NAIL BAR - DAY 17

28

Back to Becky shaking her head.

BECKY

You should have seen Nicky at the Christmas pub quiz: thought penguins were fish and that the Andes were in China.

LEILA
(mock frown)
Wait, penguins aren't fish?

Becky chuckles.

BECKY
Miles'll be OK. Straight as a die
that one.

LEILA
The thing is, our case is based
pretty much entirely on
circumstantial evidence. Very
strong circumstantial evidence but
you know what juries are like.

BECKY
Not any more thank God.

LEILA
We really need you to show up for
us, Becky. You know all about the
d4 stuff, what Justin was like in
the build-up to the murder, the
complaints you...

BECKY
I didn't make complaints; I raised
concerns.

LEILA
Fine but we do need a statement
with all the stuff you told Miles.

BECKY
I'm getting back on my feet...

She looks around at the nail bar.

LEILA
You did the right thing with the d4
transcripts. And they drove you out
for it. Make it worth it.

Becky inhales and releases a kind of sigh.

LEILA (CONT'D)
If you give us a statement, you can
make it exactly on your terms.

BECKY
If I give you a statement it's
easier to compel me to appear more
like.

LEILA

What? No I never...considered that
for a moment.

The both laugh.

LEILA (CONT'D)

Don't let them have the last laugh,
Becky. All those locker room
creeps.

(beat)

The outcome of this case is far
from certain.

She's not wrong about that...

29 EXT. COURTHOUSE - DAY 17

29

Establisher.

30 INT. COURTHOUSE, COURTROOM - DAY 17

30

Present: Grainne and Sam. Phillip with a junior barrister. Judge and court clerk. Justin is in the dock with a custody officer. In the gallery: Helen, Sara and Felix amongst other journalists and members of the public. No Leila. Southgate in the witness box.

Sam now has his foot on Southgate's throat.

SAM

Let me see if I can summarise your
evidence, DI Southgate as I suspect
the jury may be as bewildered as I
am.

JUDGE

What you do or do not suspect, Mr
Malik, is of no relevance, as you
well know.

Sam signals acknowledgement.

SAM

You found a pedal. You tested that
pedal and thought you had found
evidence of a collision with Mr
Mitchell's car?

DI SOUTHGATE

Yes.

SAM

You see some black paint and you
think: "gotcha"!

DI SOUTHGATE

Obviously we thought it was significant.

SAM

But you make a mess over the exact colour of the vehicle...

DI SOUTHGATE

A communications issue with the manufacturer...

SAM

...and then find the results are inconclusive.

DI SOUTHGATE

It was compromised by the time spent submerged in the ditch. But we were hopeful of obtaining a new sample.

SAM

Ah yes, if only the bad news had stopped there. It gets worse doesn't it, DI Southgate?

Southgate does not answer this.

SAM (CONT'D)

Because then you find a bicycle with both pedals attached in the decoy pond of a shooting club? And faced with this conundrum because, as we have established, three pedals would be considered somewhat unusual on a bicycle, you go back in desperation to the original pedal. Only to find...

A moment.

SAM (CONT'D)

Only to find you had lost it.

Some of the jurors look almost sorry for Southgate at this moment.

SAM (CONT'D)

No mobile evidence. No dash-cam footage. No forensic evidence of any value whatsoever.

(beat)

This whole investigation is about as roadworthy as a three-pedalled bicycle is it not?

JUDGE
(warning)
Mr Malik...

SAM
Is it an accurate summary, DI
Southgate?

DI SOUTHGATE
It is a highly selective summary.

SAM
Oh is there a piece of further
incompetence I've overlooked?

Laughter. Judge gives him a warning look.

SAM (CONT'D)
No further questions.

31 EXT. LEILA'S FLAT - NIGHT 17

31

Establisher.

32 INT. LEILA'S FLAT, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 17

32

Leila is with Alex half-watching a news report on the day in court.

NEWS REPORTER 2 (ON SCREEN)
The police came under serious pressure today when it transpired that a potentially significant piece of evidence had been lost during the investigation into the death of Marcus Calderwood. And this came after yesterday's evidence that members of his force had given warnings to the accused that he had been named by the victim...

ALEX
That's still the clincher for me, pedal or no pedal.

LEILA
It was brutal today.
(shakes head)
Sam's a relentless little bastard.

Her phone pings an alert and she glances at it with a changing expression. Then relaxes - it's from her bank.

LEILA (CONT'D)
I can get a £500 interest free
overdraft.

ALEX
Tamara's been a bit quiet.

LEILA
That's what's worrying me.

ALEX
Don't look.

LEILA
Look. Don't look. Not sure which is
worse.

ALEX
(firmly)
Looking.

LEILA
Then you just imagine.

ALEX
You're better off without her.

LEILA
No this is terrible. It's really
sad. Let it be terrible and sad.

Her phone rings. She looks at the Caller ID. MUM.

LEILA (CONT'D)
Shit it's mum.

ALEX
Answer it then.

LEILA
Fuck that, she doesn't get to
choose when it's over.

ALEX
Answer it. You know you'll just
wait five minutes and call her
back.

Leila answers.

LEILA
Hello? Mum? Hello?

Strange sounds. A mixture of gasping and crying. Leila jumps up.

LEILA (CONT'D)

OK I'm coming I'm coming. Have you called...OK just try and stay calm I'm coming.

Clicks off.

LEILA (CONT'D)

She's sick and it's been 45 minutes since she called the bloody ambulance. I'm going round there.

Hurries out.

33 EXT. SAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT 17

33

Sam arrives home.

34 INT. SAM'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT 17

34

Sam comes into the kitchen where Mani is reading something on an iPad. Doesn't look up or greet his dad.

SAM

And a very good evening to you.

MANI

(without looking up)
Seen this?

Sam stares at him. How can he know?

SAM

Tricky one without...

MANI

That anonymous blog Indifference Kills...

SAM

...aka Felix Owusu who really needs to watch his arse...

MANI

...has done a hatchet job on that Whitley bloke.

So Helen won that tussle.

SAM

How many "toxics" in the sweet jar?

MANI

Quite a few yes. And some systemics that you won't like either. No genocides.

SAM
Small mercies.

MANI
He's asking why the Feds ignored
concerns about serving officers.

SAM
Please don't say Feds even
ironically.

MANI
And the top brass knew all about it
as well as protecting this Norris
Geezer.

(reads)
*Patrick Norris was closely linked
to a group of businessmen from
Crawley four of whom were
prosecuted for importing drugs from
Latin America. Norris himself
curiously avoided prosecution...*

The doorbell rings.

SAM
Get that.

MANI
Why don't you get it?

SAM
Because I'm tired from working all
day to earn the money that pays
for...

MANI
OK OK. Jeez dad, let's just hope
it's not the FEDS looking for Roger
Blumenthal.

Heads to the door as Sam grabs the iPad and starts reading
the blog Indifference Kills.

MANI (CONT'D)
It's Claudia!

JUMP CUT TO:

35 INT. SAM'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT 17

35

Claudia handing Sam a new office swipe card.

CLAUDIA

New card opens upstairs and down.
The cameras are also installed and
you just need to download the
app...

SAM

You OK on your own there while
I'm...

CLAUDIA

I have to be. I'm not getting
driven out by those entitled little
fascists.

Nods as he waggles a bottle of wine at her.

SAM

It's zesty with a decent weight but
most importantly it costs £5.49.

Puts glass in front of her

CLAUDIA

Sounds like you had a fun day at
the office!

SAM

Yeah it was tough on DI Southgate
because obviously none of it was
actually his fault...

Laughs semi-maliciously. She laughs too.

CLAUDIA

Dem's de breaks.

He looks at his wine glass.

SAM

I think Justin did experience PTSD.

CLAUDIA

He also insists he didn't do it so
none of that helps us.

SAM

He's involved. Steering me to the
bike in the pond was the
confirmation for me.

CLAUDIA

He repeatedly sought Marcus out
remember. PTSD usually involves
avoidance. You know that.

Looks at him.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)

(gently)

You hate going near train stations
remember. Won't use certain routes.

He nods slowly.

SAM

It can be complex. You do sometimes
charge at the things you also want
to avoid.

(beat)

Or eliminate.

CLAUDIA

If I'm sceptical, think how a jury
would have been. Especially if he
ever gave evidence.

SAM

It's masking and he's brilliant at
it. You can use your mind against
your condition as well; we're not
entirely defenceless.

She catches his switch into first person plural.

CLAUDIA

So how are you doing in the sleep
department?

SAM

Yeah I mean...with these pills you
build tolerance you know...

CLAUDIA

That's not a quality I massively
associate with you but...

He smiles away the joke.

SAM

If the drugs don't work then I
don't really know what to do next.

CLAUDIA

Go back to your therapist, Sam. Use
your mind against it remember?

SAM

My mind is my worst enemy at night.

Mani bustles in.

MANI

Going down the pub with Rachel and
Bex.

SAM

OK.

MANI

We might go on to a party. Phone's on Airplane so you can't stalk me.

Claudia laughs and raises an eyebrow. You as well eh? Mani nods disloyally and mimes de Niro style fingers-to-eyes.

SAM

I just worry. If anybody starts any trouble just tell them who your dad is.

MANI

(nods)

Get them feeling sorry for me, good strategy.

He exits. Sam shakes his head.

SAM

When they gonna leave the nest and abandon us to infinite boredom and lonely decay?

CLAUDIA

Answered your own question there I guess. He's such a lovely boy.

SAM

He's so like Nor.

CLAUDIA

He's like you too.

The door slams shut.

JUMP CUT TO:

36

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT 17

36

Tamara hurries in.

37

INT. HOSPITAL, WAITING ROOM - NIGHT 17

37

Leila is in the waiting area talking to a doctor. They finish their conversation and she takes out her phone and calls Alex.

LEILA

Hi. They think it might be a pulmonary embolism. I'm going to stay here until...

She sees Tamara coming in.

LEILA (CONT'D)
Speak later.

The two sisters look at each other.

LEILA (CONT'D)
So look I've just seen the doctor
and he says...

But Tamara won't even meet her eye.

TAMARA
(over her shoulder)
Excuse me...?

Flags down a passing nurse.

TAMARA (CONT'D)
I'm here about my mother.

LEILA
This is absurd. How old are you for
fuck sake? I have already spoken to
the doctor.

TAMARA
(to slightly bemused
nurse)
This is my half-sister who I cannot
have any contact with due to the
present and ongoing danger she
represents to my safety and mental
well-being.

LEILA
Oh God.

TAMARA
Please could I speak to a member of
the medical staff who is caring for
Dame Harriet Kenny.

NURSE
Hold on.

She looks curiously almost pityingly at the two women and departs.

Tamara walks away. Leila takes a seat and slumps. Tamara ostentatiously takes up a seat as far away from her as possible. We leave them both there for a long and lonely night.

38 EXT. COURTHOUSE - DAY 18

38

New day establisher. Sam enters.

39 INT. COURTHOUSE, DEFENCE ROOM - DAY 18

39

Sam is with Justin.

SAM

They've got a new witness.

JUSTIN

Don't tell me Pancho's turned on me as well.

SAM

Becky Hollis will give evidence today about your behaviour prior to Marcus's death.

Justin considers this and looks a bit hurt.

JUSTIN

That's a shame. I actually liked Becky never had her down as a grass.

SAM

This stuff has also been picked up in the blog Indifference Kills.

JUSTIN

Contempt of court.

SAM

It's an anonymous blog so hopefully the jury will listen to the judge's warning about them.

(beat)

Becky Hollis wasn't the only one who raised concerns about you.

JUSTIN

Yeah but what happened? Nothing.

SAM

Did nobody speak to you about it?

Beat.

JUSTIN

I mean they tried to make me go and talk to somebody.

Sam's face. What?

SAM

Somebody?

JUSTIN

Yeah you know. 'You see a tortoise
on its back in the baking sun'
kinda shit.

SAM

And?

JUSTIN

And I didn't go.

SAM

Why?

JUSTIN

We've been here before. I didn't
need it.

SAM

What made them think you might?

Justin sighs again.

JUSTIN

I mean probably Daniella Fielding
but this isn't news, Sam.

SAM

No, broken psychiatric appointments
is very much news actually. So you
didn't go. How many times did you
not go?

JUSTIN

Two. Maybe three.

SAM

And nobody followed up on that?

JUSTIN

What does it matter? I instructed
you on my defence and it isn't the
mental health card.

SAM

That's right you did.

JUSTIN

There is nothing wrong with my
head. There never has been. Do not
project Sam's weakness onto Justin.

Once again the third person detachment - a tell the tension
is rising.

SAM

It's not weakness.

JUSTIN

Yes it is. You can't sleep. Why can't you sleep? Because you're weak.

SAM

(quietly)

No it's because I keep imagining my wife being sliced in half after jumping in front of a train.

JUSTIN

So stop imagining it.

SAM

Stop imagining it...

(beat)

What do you suggest as a distraction? Sordid sex with other men's wives...

JUSTIN

Well I wouldn't knock it...

SAM

Fantasising about beating or blinding people? Gaming my own freedom in a murder trial?

Justin smiles infuriatingly.

JUSTIN

I do hope you're not making light of addiction especially in today's cultural climate, Sam.

Now Sam snaps.

SAM

Oh fuck off, Justin. Really. Just fuck off, you stupid facetious prick.

Grainne comes in.

GRAINNE

Everything OK?

JUSTIN

Can you believe he just called me a stupid facetious prick?

GRAINNE

Well I'm surprised he called you it.

Justin looks at them both mockingly.

JUSTIN
Cheeky Girls reunion is it?

SAM
From the very beginning you've
treated this like it's a big joke.
And that includes your dealings
with me.

JUSTIN
Look I'm sorry. Right. I apologise.
We always hurt the ones we love.

SAM
But most people do it inadvertently
and feel regret.

JUSTIN
Come on, Sam. I actually do know
about night terrors.
(beat)
We're not so different you and me.

SAM
No we are.

Justin looks at him curiously.

JUSTIN
You think so? You really think so?

SAM
I don't think we see the world in
the same way at all, Justin,
especially when it comes to the
value of human life.

Justin stares at him. Fully aware of the significance of this statement. Then turns to Grainne who is watching this unfold.

JUSTIN
You hear what he's saying there,
Grainne?

GRAINNE
(looking at Sam)
I do.

SAM
I'm going outside for some air.

He leaves.

40 INT. COURTHOUSE, CPS ROOM - DAY 18

40

DI Southgate is chatting with Phillip.

PHILLIP

I'd say we're maybe just under par at this stage which is fine because we've still got our best witnesses to come...

DI SOUTHGATE

Thanks.

PHILLIP

You did OK in the circumstances.
Better than Taylor.

DI SOUTHGATE

Wow can't believe I cleared a bar of that height.

BECKY (O.S.)

...the truth and nothing but the motherfucking truth.

Becky Hollis comes into the room.

DI SOUTHGATE

Hi, Becky, this is Phillip Holmes KC...

They shake hands.

BECKY

And where's the rest of the Sunshine Band?

Southgate frowns. What?

BECKY (CONT'D)

I thought Leila would be here.

DI SOUTHGATE

Right. No. Leila's mum's been taken sick actually.

BECKY

Oh. Sorry to hear that. Send her my best.

PHILLIP

OK so the critical thing in your evidence will be Justin's attitude to Marcus. We'll kick off with what you knew about the giraffe nickname...

BECKY

Sure but one thing there. I'll answer questions about Justin but don't try and get me dishing dirt on everybody else. This isn't about...

A pause.

BECKY (CONT'D)

...I'm not here to fill the papers with more rubbish about the police. Those people weren't "a cancer", they were my mates. Most of them were really brave and faced a lot of dangerous shit in their work that no journalist will ever have to put up with.

PHILLIP

Of course. Understood.

They turn in surprise as Leila comes in to the room.

BECKY

Oh hey, Leila, sorry to hear about your mum.

DI SOUTHGATE

You OK, is everything...?

LEILA

I'm fine thanks; mum's stable.
(shakes head wearily)
Just don't ask me any complicated shit like what type of animal a penguin is.

Southgate frowns.

DI SOUTHGATE

It's a bird.

Becky grins at Leila.

BECKY

Shut the fuck up a bird; it swims underwater!

LEILA

Yeah what's wrong with you; it's definitely a fish.

Southgate totally bewildered now looks at Phillip who just shrugs.

LEILA (CONT'D)
(to Becky)
You gonna be OK?

And Becky nods. But her smile is a little more thin; this still comes hard to her.

Leila squeezes her hand supportively.

LEILA (CONT'D)
Make it worth it.

BECKY
I'll try.

CUT TO:

41 INT. COURTHOUSE, COURTROOM - DAY 18

41

Present: Grainne and Sam. Phillip with a junior barrister, Leila sat close by. Judge and court clerk. Justin is in the dock with a custody officer. In the gallery: Southgate, Helen, Sara and Felix amongst other journalists and members of the public. Becky in the witness box.

PHILLIP
So, Ms Hollis, you are no longer serving with the police?

BECKY
Correct.

PHILLIP
What is your current profession?

BECKY
You mean apart from slave to a couple of lazy daughters?

Smiles in the jury.

BECKY (CONT'D)
I also help out at my sister's nail salon.

PHILLIP
Big change. Why did you leave?

BECKY
I was tired. I'd been doing it a long time. Then my mum died. I needed a change.

PHILLIP
OK.
(beat)
(MORE)

PHILLIP (CONT'D)

Now we have heard evidence about a group chat with the name d4. You are familiar with it?

BECKY

Yes. I was a member of the group.

PHILLIP

An active member?

BECKY

Oh no. I read it mainly. Some of it was pretty funny. Some of it...less so.

PHILLIP

Which bits weren't funny?

BECKY

I mean some of the bad stuff was also funny 'cos let's be honest bad stuff sometimes is. People don't understand that always too busy getting offended. But some of it was bad and not funny.

PHILLIP

I am going to refer the jury to the item in their bundle marked 2c if I may...

The jury all scrabble for their bundles.

And they all look down at the controversial exchange that features the giraffe and the hunter emoji...

PHILLIP (CONT'D)

Who is "Kenny"?

BECKY

That's Justin.

PHILLIP

He excuses himself from an outing planned by the group on the day when, on the Crown's case, the murder occurred. Were you surprised by that?

BECKY

Very. It was the races. Justin would bet on train delays.

PHILLIP

And the giraffe and hunter emoji. What did you understand by that?

BECKY

So giraffe was a nickname he often used for Marcus Calderwood.

PHILLIP

When he put the giraffe emoji, were you in any doubt what it referred to?

BECKY

I thought it was Marcus. We all did.

PHILLIP

What did you understand by it?

BECKY

Well that he was going to yank his chain. Which he liked to do now and again.

PHILLIP

Did you ever raise any concerns about Mr Mitchell?

BECKY

Yes.

PHILLIP

For...

BECKY

Dangerous driving and some of the things he said.

PHILLIP

Can you give me an example of some of the things he said?

She hesitates.

BECKY

So he did say to me once that if he was ever going to murder somebody he would choose a hit-and-run.

A total change in the mood. In the dock Justin shakes his head.

BECKY (CONT'D)

He might have been joking.

PHILLIP

Did you think it was just a joke?

Beat.

BECKY
Well that's the thing with Justin.
(beat)
You never really knew.

JUMP CUT TO:

42 INT. COURTHOUSE, CORRIDOR - DAY 18

42

It's lunchtime and Sam walking out comes face to face with Leila who is looking a bit shattered and broken.

SAM
Blimey, Leila, you look like I feel.

LEILA
I was at the hospital. My mum's been taken sick.

Sam's tone changes at once.

SAM
Oh. I'm sorry to hear that. Is she OK?

LEILA
Not really.

She wipes an angry exhausted tear from her eye.

SAM
Here sit down a sec...

They go over to some seating.

LEILA
I was there all night with my sister who won't say a word to me.

SAM
Why not?

LEILA
Because I'm a blockage she needs to remove in order to realise her full self.

SAM
Ah.
(beat)
Sounds a lot like Shit Therapy.

Leila nods.

LEILA

It's like she's gone in and said:
"help me out I'm a mad selfish
arsehole" and somebody's said: "no
no it's cool to be a mad selfish
arsehole because that's affirming
the real you; carry on being a mad
selfish arsehole..."

SAM

"...in fact be more of one, assert
yourself, that'll be £200".

She half laughs through her sniffles.

SAM (CONT'D)

I'm sorry about your mum.

LEILA

You despise my mum.

SAM

Well that doesn't mean I wish
suffering on her. Not physical
anyway.

(frowns trying to come up
with something positive)

She's very...influential.

Leila gives him a look.

LEILA

Quite the tribute.

SAM

Best I can do.

Sees movement towards court and checks his watch.

SAM (CONT'D)

Come on pull yourself together.
Round Two.

LEILA

I still cannot believe Grainne took
this case.

SAM

We go back a long way.

(clenches fist)

I was a massive Lefty back in the
day.

LEILA

Shut the fuck up!

(comic frown)

What happened to good Sam?

SAM

He grew the fuck up. Still a bit of him in there though.

LEILA

Gee, Sam, you're just so admirably complex.

SAM

Hey, I've got my son for that. Come on....

He holds out a hand as if to haul her up which she ignores with ostentatious mock-scorn as she rises under her own volition.

43

INT. COURTHOUSE, COURTROOM - DAY 18

43

Present: Grainne and Sam. Phillip with a junior barrister, Leila sat close by. Judge and court clerk. Justin is in the dock with a custody officer. In the gallery: Southgate, Helen, Sara and Felix amongst other journalists and members of the public. Becky in the witness box.

Grainne cross-examining.

GRAINNE

Would you agree that hit-and-runs are very difficult cases?

BECKY

Yes.

GRAINNE

And Mr Mitchell's comment was not made during a conversation about Marcus Calderwood?

BECKY

No.

GRAINNE

Did Mr Mitchell ever express a desire to kill Marcus Calderwood?

BECKY

No.

GRAINNE

OK. Can we just go back to the transcripts for a second, Ms Hollis. The person who expresses incredulity at Mr Mitchell for not going to the races. Using the handle Sniffer.

BECKY
PC Kyle Jones.

GRAINNE
That's right. Just to remind the jury, this is the officer that PC Taylor has admitted to calling from the scene.

(back to Becky)
How did he get that nickname?

BECKY
Always first to the knicker drawer during a property search.

A couple of frowns but also some laughter in court.

GRAINNE
Mr Mitchell teased him a lot.

BECKY
Justin teased everybody a lot.

GRAINNE
Was it only an interest in suspicious lingerie that earned him the nickname?

BECKY
No he was also known for sniffing around a particular part of management anatomy.

GRAINNE
Yes indeed. Mr Mitchell refers to this tendency on other occasions. He makes several jokes about his long dark tongue does he not?

BECKY
I don't remember so well.

GRAINNE
Well we will return to this later.
(beat)
You raised concerns about Mr Mitchell using inappropriate language.

BECKY
Yes.

GRAINNE
You were a member of d4. You saw stuff that was misogynistic, racist, homophobic... did you raise concerns about that?

BECKY

No.

GRAINNE

Why not?

BECKY

That was different.

GRAINNE

I see.

In a tone that suggests she clearly doesn't really.

GRAINNE (CONT'D)

"The best way to murder somebody
would be a hit-and-run."

(beat)

Are you seriously telling me that's
the worst thing you've heard as a
serving police officer?

BECKY

I'm not even telling you it
unseriously. I never said it.

GRAINNE

People say things like that all the
time in your profession don't they?

BECKY

Not all the time no.

GRAINNE

Isn't it just the semi-serious
musings of somebody for whom crime
is part of their everyday...

BECKY

It was hard for me to raise it.
Because I liked Justin. But it was
important enough for me to take it
to a senior officer.

GRAINNE

And what was the outcome?

BECKY

Nothing to the best of my
knowledge.

GRAINNE

Did Mr Mitchell ever refer to it?

BECKY

He said somebody had grassed him
up.

GRAINNE

He didn't know it was you?

BECKY

I wasn't the only one. But no he
didn't think it was me.

Beat. She looks at Justin.

BECKY (CONT'D)

He made a joke about it.

(beat)

He said it would all be fine
because Chief Superintendent
Whitley was a Belieber.

In the gallery Southgate's reaction to this - mixture of
incredulity and anger.

GRAINNE

A what?

BECKY

Well because he's called Justin you
know? As in...

Penny drops.

GRAINNE

He meant Chief Superintendent
Whitley was a fan of his?

BECKY

A superfan.

In the gallery Helen McGuire. Becky may have just made it
worth it.

44

EXT. STREET NEAR COURTHOUSE - DAY 18

44

Sam is walking away from court when suddenly...

SANDRA (O.S.)

Sam!

He turns to see her.

SAM

I can't talk to you, Sandra.

SANDRA

I know that.

SAM

I could be struck off or worse face
a charge for interfering with a
witness.

SANDRA
Please read this.

She is holding an A4 envelope.

SAM
What is it?

SANDRA
I have to tell the truth.

SAM
Of course you should tell the truth.

SANDRA
The truth is hard though. It is complicated. It isn't always one thing or another.

SAM
But courts are. One thing or another. There's no middle ground.

SANDRA
I want you to know.

SAM
Know what?

SANDRA
What it was like living with Justin after the thing with the pregnant lady.

She holds out the envelope.

SAM
Why are you giving it to me?

SANDRA
Because you are a good man. And because I think you will understand. This is not whether Justin did it or not. I know that he...

SAM
Don't!

SANDRA
I know that he has much pain.
(smiles ruefully)
And some of that pain he gave to me. This is not about guilty or not guilty this is about the truth.

She offers the envelope again. And he takes it.

45 EXT. POLICE STATION - DAY 18

45

Establisher.

46 INT. POLICE STATION, MEETING ROOM - DAY 18

46

DI Southgate is looking at his laptop when Whitley comes in.

WHITLEY

You wanted to see me, Miles?

DI SOUTHGATE

Yes.

Whitley takes a seat. So what is it?

DI SOUTHGATE (CONT'D)

I think you should resign.

Beat.

DI SOUTHGATE (CONT'D)

Becky Hollis told you about Justin and you did nothing. You saw footage of Justin threatening Marcus and you did nothing. You had opportunities to prevent this tragedy but you didn't.

WHITLEY

You sanctimonious little prick.

DI SOUTHGATE

And I suspect, although I can't prove it...yet...that you also had a relationship with Patrick Norris that went beyond what is professionally appropriate.

From Whitley's face, we know this has struck home.

WHITLEY

You need to be really careful now, there are some toes you do not want to tread on.

DI SOUTHGATE

Threat noted and ignored.

WHITLEY

We'll see.

DI SOUTHGATE

I was publicly humiliated in court because of the incompetence of others. I did not like the experience.

WHITLEY

No? Maybe it's true what they say
about you...

DI SOUTHGATE

So I'm giving you the opportunity
to avoid it.

(beat)

Resign. Or I will take you out.

And there is something in his expression that is so certain
and so convinced that we know that Whitley is doomed.

And Whitley knows it too.

47 EXT. SAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT 18

47

Mani walking in the door.

48 INT. SAM'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT 18

48

Sam is reading the letter from Sandra. Stops and puts his
chin in his hand. Takes his glasses off and chews the end of
the frame. Mani comes in.

MANI

You OK?

SAM

Yeah.

MANI

What's up?

SAM

Just, you know, life and shit.

MANI

Oh life and shit. Fair enough.

Sam puts his glasses back on.

MANI (CONT'D)

Internet's going wild about
giraffes and panties.

(grins)

Their word not mine.

SAM

It's probably due a revival.

MANI

They're already meming the giraffe.

SAM

Meming the giraffe.

MANI

Yeah. Like that stupid frog.

SAM

Bliss it was in that dawn to be
alive...

He looks back at the letter. Sighs.

FADE TO BLACK.

49 EXT. TRANSITION - NIGHT 18 TO DAY 19

49

Changing light over the sea...

50 INT. COURTHOUSE, DEFENCE ROOM - DAY 19

50

Sam comes in to see Justin waiting. He takes a seat.

SAM

So Sandra wrote me a letter.

Justin nods slowly.

SAM (CONT'D)

She told me some things.

Beat.

SAM (CONT'D)

Things you didn't tell me.

JUSTIN

Maybe they weren't relevant.
Nothing to do with the case.

SAM

Oh I think they have quite a lot to
do with the case.

JUSTIN

Such as...

SAM

It will come out in Grainne's cross-
examination.

JUSTIN

(not shouting but more
pointed)

Such as?

SAM

The problem is that in trying to
help YOU she has handed us a gun to
shoot her.

JUSTIN

Don't get fucking cryptic on me,
Sam just tell me...

SAM

We're going to take all the
terrible things you did to her.

(beat)

And use them to kill her in court.

Justin stares at him.

SAM (CONT'D)

No room for weakness, Justin, it's
our only hope.

51

INT. COURTHOUSE, COURTROOM - DAY 19

51

Present: Grainne and Sam. Phillip with a junior barrister, Leila sat close by. Judge and court clerk. Justin is in the dock with a custody officer. In the gallery: Southgate, Helen, Sara and Felix amongst other journalists and members of the public. Sandra in the witness box.

Sandra is in the witness box giving her evidence to Phillip.

PHILLIP

Why did you take the car to Serbia,
Ms Vodanovic?

SANDRA

To collect a dog.

PHILLIP

But why did you leave so suddenly
that day?

SANDRA

I was meant to go on Tuesday. But
then Justin told me I had to leave
immediately.

PHILLIP

When you took the car to be
repaired did you think it was for
the damage from your gym accident?

SANDRA

No.

PHILLIP

The damage was different?

SANDRA

Yes. I lied about that.

PHILLIP

Why did you go along with it in the first place?

SANDRA

Justin told me it was something to do with insurance.

PHILLIP

Did you believe him?

SANDRA

Yes.

PHILLIP

How would you describe Mr Mitchell's tone when he was talking about getting the car repaired?

SANDRA

He was...I don't know...he seemed kind of excited.

PHILLIP

Did anyone visit your house that morning?

SANDRA

PC Jones. He is not a good person.

PHILLIP

Why do you say that?

SANDRA

He got drunk at a barbecue and told me he wanted to have sex with me.

PHILLIP

Did you tell Mr Mitchell that?

SANDRA

Yes.

PHILLIP

And?

SANDRA

He just laughed.

PHILLIP

So to be completely clear. The damage to the car was different from that caused by your gym accident.

SANDRA

Totally.

PHILLIP

And Mr Mitchell instructed you to bring forward Poncho's collection, take the car to Slovenia and have an entire body panel replaced?

SANDRA

Yes. It's Pancho by the way.

PHILLIP

I do beg your pardon. Do you know what PC Jones said to Mr Mitchell when he visited?

SANDRA

I don't know what was said between them but Justin changed completely after that visit.

PHILLIP

In what way?

SANDRA

He told me I had to hurry up and get out of there. He practically pushed me into the car.

PHILLIP

No further questions.

JUMP CUT TO:

52

INT. COURTHOUSE, COURTROOM - DAY 19

52

Present: Grainne and Sam. Phillip with a junior barrister, Leila sat close by. Judge and court clerk. Justin is in the dock with a custody officer. In the gallery: Southgate, Helen, Sara and Felix amongst other journalists and members of the public. Sandra in the witness box.

Grainne is now cross-examining Sandra.

GRAINNE

Now, Ms Vodanovic, you have admitted to assisting Mr Mitchell to dispose of crucial evidence albeit without knowing the reason.

SANDRA

Yes.

GRAINNE

Had Mr Mitchell ever expressed his intention to harm Marcus Calderwood?

SANDRA

He hated him.

GRAINNE

That was not my question. Did he ever tell you that he thought he might drive him off the road? Use a hit-and-run to kill him?

SANDRA

No.

GRAINNE

OK.

(beat)

Did you know that Mr Mitchell was friendly with a man called Patrick Norris?

Jury frowns: this name KEEPS coming up.

SANDRA

Yes.

GRAINNE

Did Mr Mitchell ever go to the shooting range in Danver House with Mr Norris?

SANDRA

Maybe; he used to go out and not always tell me where.

GRAINNE

Just as he didn't tell you he was having sex with Elena Norris, episodes which we now know were filmed by her husband and uploaded to a porn site?

Ugh Cringe etc.

SANDRA

No he didn't say that.

GRAINNE

You know that now.

SANDRA

Yes I know that now.

GRAINNE

How did you discover that?

SANDRA

The police told me.

GRAINNE

When you were being questioned under caution for assisting an offender?

SANDRA

Yes.

GRAINNE

Did the police tell you anything else in their interview?

SANDRA

Like what?

GRAINNE

Like how they knew that you performed cleaning duties without your clothing for wealthy men.

SANDRA

(quietly)

Not often.

GRAINNE

And that this was done to clear Mr Mitchell's gambling debts.

SANDRA

Yes.

GRAINNE

So when the police told you that Mr Mitchell was having sex with his friend's wife and also belittling your sacrifice, you must have been angry?

SANDRA

Yes but I am still telling the truth.

GRAINNE

You must have wanted to get your own back.

SANDRA

Maybe yes a bit but it is all true.

GRAINNE

Did you hate him for it?

SANDRA

I loved him. I always did and I still do. He has a very sweet and gentle side to him as well.

GRAINNE

As well as what?

SANDRA

The traffic accident changed him. He stopped being sweet and gentle mostly. He was always gambling, crazy bets. Sometime he would not come home.

(beat)

And I tried to make us a nice home. I tried to make him happy. I put flowers in the hallway. I made him food that he liked. Scented candles to make the house smell nice. I wanted us to have a family together.

GRAINNE

You wanted to have a family?

SANDRA

(almost a whisper)

Yes.

GRAINNE

Could you please speak up a little?

SANDRA

Yes.

GRAINNE

And how did Mr Mitchell feel about that?

Now Sandra starts to silently weep. It is quite heart-breaking. The jury look appalled. Grainne building to the killer punch.

GRAINNE (CONT'D)

Did you become pregnant by Mr Mitchell, Ms Vodanovic?

Justin flashes a look at Sam. You bastard.

SANDRA

Yes.

GRAINNE

How did Mr Mitchell respond to the news?

SANDRA

(quietly)

Not so well.

GRAINNE

I must ask you again to speak up,
Ms Vodanovic.

SANDRA

I lost it. I lost my baby.

GRAINNE

And how did Mr Mitchell respond to
that?

SANDRA

He was cruel. He said it was better
this way.

And now SHE looks at Sam because she knows that he has used
the letter to discredit her motive. Sam remains totally
impassive. This is his job. This is what he does.

GRAINNE

Not the first time he's been cruel
to you is it?

SANDRA

No.

GRAINNE

And was this all enough to make you
want to punish him? To take
revenge?

SANDRA

I don't want to punish him. I
wanted him to be happy again.

GRAINNE

Nevertheless, Ms Vodanovic I put it
to you that you have ample reason
to...

JUSTIN (O.S.)

NO!

The whole court jumps and turns as he stands up.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

There is no nevertheless. Leave her
alone. No more questions.

JUDGE

Mr Mitchell, I must ask you to
refrain from such outbursts or I
will have no alternative other than
to pause the trial.

Amazement and confusion in court.

JUSTIN

(to the jury)

She's telling the truth. I treated her like shit when she was just trying to make a nice house and a nice life for both of us.

JUDGE

I must insist on no further interruptions.

JUSTIN

(ignoring him and distraught to Sandra)

I'm so sorry, darling. I'm truly sorry. You deserved far better than me. You deserved kindness.

For a moment there is a stunned silence. Tears are now flowing down Sandra's face.

GRAINNE

My Lord, I request a little time to talk with my client.

JUDGE

I think that would be very wise. Given the time now, I am going to adjourn until tomorrow morning. Please impress upon your client the need to respect this court or I will have no alternative but to conduct the trial in his absence.

GRAINNE

Of course, My Lord.

NEWS REPORTER 2 (V.O)

...there was a sensational development in the Crown Court today when the judge in the trial of Justin Mitchell halted proceedings after an outburst from the defendant during evidence given by his partner Sandra Vodanovic...

53

EXT. COURTHOUSE, ENTRANCE - DAY 19

53

Felix outside makes a beeline for Leila who is trying to phone Adrian.

FELIX

What happens now?

LEILA

I really don't know. I guess it depends on his legal team.

FELIX

You think they'll change their
plea?

She holds her hands up helplessly protesting she knows as
much as him.

FELIX (CONT'D)

A full confession would be
dangerous. Easy for something to
happen to him in prison.

LEILA

Assuming his full confession
matches your pet theory.

FELIX

Why do you add "pet" as if it's
ridiculous? Can you deny that there
is evidence of Norris's
involvement?

LEILA

Not nearly enough. Which is why
he's not in court.

FELIX

Amazed the defence haven't made
more of it.

LEILA

Perhaps because they understand a
little about the law.

(smiles)

Take it up with them, Felix.

She speed-dials Adrian.

FELIX

Maybe I will.

She turns away. Adrian answers.

LEILA

Hi yeah he's with his lawyers...

Felix walks away.

Justin is sitting hands clasped in front of him as Grainne
and Sam come in.

GRAINNE

We cannot suggest in court that she
is not telling the truth if you
have just said that she is.

JUSTIN

I know.

GRAINNE

And when you said she was telling
the truth...

JUSTIN

...everything was true.

GRAINNE

Then do you have an alternative
explanation as to why you told her
to take the car to Slovenia?

He looks at her.

GRAINNE (CONT'D)

Then my position is completely
impossible.

JUSTIN

Can I speak to Sam alone for a bit?

GRAINNE

That might be a good idea. Remember
we cannot unhear anything. And we
cannot knowingly mislead the court.

She exits. There is a long pause.

JUSTIN

Well. Now we know the real reason
you struggle to sleep at night.

Sam ignores this.

SAM

When did she lose the baby, Justin?

JUSTIN

Don't go there.

SAM

Did you see a parallel with...

JUSTIN

I SAID DON'T FUCKING GO THERE. I
SWEAR TO GOD, SAM, DO NOT FUCKING
GO THERE.

SAM

All right, OK...

JUSTIN

Fucking psychobabble. Yeah we were
gonna call her Pearl if it was a
girl were we fuck!

(MORE)

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Did it remind me of Daniella in
that car? Did it TRIGGER me?

SAM

Well did it?

JUSTIN

I didn't need reminding I couldn't
ever get it out of my head. That
horrible metal I could see jabbed
in her intestines, that arsehole
saying don't grieve for her, I'll
grieve for who the fuck I want, you
preachy little cunt!

SAM

Calm down, Justin.

JUSTIN

(stares wildly at Sam)
I did it.

Another long moment. Justin takes the deep breath of
confession.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

I ran Marcus Calderwood off the
road. You know that. You've always
known that.

(beat)

You don't know the whole story
though.

SAM

That doesn't matter so much right
now. As Grainne said, we cannot
knowingly mislead the court.

JUSTIN

So it ends here.

SAM

There is only one remaining option.
I ask the judge for you to be
arraigned and you plead guilty to
the manslaughter charge on the
indictment by reason of...

JUSTIN

I'm not doing it.

SAM

I think there is a tiny chance
given that the police failed to
respond properly to concerns about
you. And we can now use Sandra to
our benefit; she might be the key
to this still.

(MORE)

SAM (CONT'D)

I don't believe that her losing your baby had no impact given the circumstances. Also her testimony clearly shows evidence of mental disturbance following the accident. The Prosecution will certainly refuse to accept that plea and argue pre-meditation....

JUSTIN

NO SHIT.

(beat)

A cop. Playing the mental health card at the last minute. No chance. There is a whole world out there that needs a head on a plate.

SAM

The odds are against us for sure.

(beat)

But it helps that I do believe it.

(beat)

And I've believed it from the start.

Justin stares at him.

JUSTIN

Then you're as bad as all the rest, Sam. Fucking cry-babies, weaklings, and attention-seekers. If everybody's nuts then nobody's guilty. There's no crime any more, no free will, just excuses. They can't have that. There would be no prisons only therapy dogs. I did it. I knocked him off the road because I hated him so much, I hated him, Sam, because he killed a woman and her unborn baby. Nobody will ever convince me otherwise. And I'd never have to see his smug face on my TV again telling us who we were allowed to grieve for. I'll just have to take what's coming.

SAM

Well there would still be stuff coming, Justin. You're changing your plea to guilty remember. Just manslaughter instead of murder.

(beat)

Where the lower sentencing start point is seven years as opposed to a mandatory life-sentence.

Hold on Justin. Then he starts to undo his tie as if it has been slowly choking him.

SAM (CONT'D)

Even a Win Predictor of 20% is
worth it. One in Five, Justin.

He takes something from his folder.

JUSTIN

What is it?

SAM

The letter that Sandra wrote to me.
I didn't want to show it to you
before her testimony but...

He places it on the table.

SAM (CONT'D)

Maybe this will help you to
understand how other people see you
rather than how you prefer to see
yourself.

Justin places his hand on top of the letter still staring at
his solicitor-advocate.

55 INT. COURTHOUSE, CPS ROOM - DAY 19

55

Leila with Southgate as Phillip comes in.

PHILLIP

We have to see the Judge.
(beat)
He's changing his plea.

Leila and Southgate woop and high five. Get in.

PHILLIP (CONT'D)

To manslaughter by reason of
diminished responsibility.

Euphoria vanishes.

LEILA

What? No. No way. He's a murderer.

SMASH CUT TO:

56 INT. COURTHOUSE, COURTROOM - DAY 19

56

The judge listening to the lawyers. No jury present, but the
public are.

PHILLIP

This is a cynical manoeuvre by the
defendant in the face of Sandra
Vodanovic's evidence.

GRAINNE

We have new evidence. That the police knew that Justin was vulnerable and failed to act after several missed psychiatric appraisals.

The judge raises an eyebrow.

JUDGE

Well that is certainly significant...

PHILLIP

There is simply not enough time to obtain the necessary psychiatric reports without dismissing the jury and starting the whole thing again...

GRAINNE

It's possible to do if we send the jury home for two weeks.

JUDGE

That is stretching things to the very limit...

A pause. What will he decide?

JUMP CUT TO:

57

INT. SAM'S HOUSE, HALLWAY/KITCHEN - NIGHT 19

57

Sam opens the front door.

SAM

Mani? Did you order the takeaway already?

His son appears in the hall. He is holding a laptop in his hands.

SAM (CONT'D)

So massive scenes in court today and you were correct that..

Ducks in terror as the laptop flies past his head and smashes against the wall.

MANI

You bastard. You stupid, selfish, bastard.

He is crying.

Sam picks up the laptop. Screen cracked but we can see. Painless Suicide. Helpline number. (We don't know this yet but he has discovered his dad's research on the laptop search history while finding Deliveroo details).

MANI (CONT'D)

How could you? How could you? After everything. You bastard. How could you even think about doing that to me after mum?

He storms past his dad.

SAM

Mani!

But the door slams behind him and Sam is alone cradling the broken computer.

SAM (CONT'D)

(howls)

Mani! Come back, please. MANI!

But Mani has gone. And Sam is now alone.

END OF EPISODE