

SHOWTRIAL 2

Written by

Ben Richards

Episode 5

SHOOTING SCRIPT 13.11.23

13 November, 2023

World Productions Ltd.
5th Floor, National House,
60-66 Wardour St.
W1F 0TA.
Tel. 02071566990

Black screen.

DR NESBITT (O.S.)
OK so tell me what triggered this
crisis?

We come up on Dr Nesbitt.

And then pull focus to Sam.

SAM
My son was ordering us a takeaway.
And he looked at my search history
and discovered...
(beat)
...searches relating to painless
methods of suicide.

DR NESBITT
And he left the house?

SAM
(nods)
Been four days now.

DR NESBITT
Do you know where he is?

SAM
Yes he is staying with friends.

DR NESBITT
It must have been very upsetting
for him given the family history.

SAM
Of course. A complete and shocking
betrayal.

DR NESBITT
Have you tried to contact him?

SAM
Yes but he won't answer. He has
spoken to my colleague and she's
obviously keeping an eye on me for
him.

DR NESBITT
Well at least there is a
communication channel.

SAM
At least there's that.

She studies him for a moment.

DR NESBITT

The Marcus Calderwood trial. It must be a lot of pressure.

SAM

Yes but work pressure is usually the least of my worries. There was really nothing else going on apart from, you know, the normal shit.

DR NESBITT

We're trying to move you away from the idea that this is your normal, Sam.

SAM

Hashtag grateful.

She looks at him. He catches himself.

SAM (CONT'D)

I'm sorry.

(shakes his head)

I've been keeping bad company.

DR NESBITT

So why did you suddenly decide to research ways of killing yourself.

SAM

It wasn't like I thought I was going to do it then and there.

(considers)

In some ways knowing I could made it less likely that I would.

DR NESBITT

I understand that.

SAM

In fact, it even cheered me up a bit. Then I forgot all about it until I was nearly decapitated by a flying laptop which would have been funny in the circumstances...

DR NESBITT

Well suicidal ideation is not funny. And neither is the damage to a precious relationship.

(beat)

You love your son.

SAM

I do. Very much.

He looks down suddenly to hide tears. She pushes the tissue box towards him. He takes one and snuffles into it.

DR NESBITT

(gently)

And he loves you. Remember that when you're being hard on yourself, Sam. Yes? He loves you. And you are deserving of his love.

Sam nods but cannot speak.

DR NESBITT (CONT'D)

You know that benzodiazepines can sometimes trigger these kind of episodes.

SAM

Sick of them. I want to get off them.

DR NESBITT

I think we should try a different anti-anxiety medication that might make you a wee bit drowsier at night.

He nods resignedly as she reaches for her prescription book. As she writes.

DR NESBITT (CONT'D)

So when does the trial start again?

SAM

Week after next. Battle of the Shrinks.

DR NESBITT

The jury still have to say guilty or not guilty though?

SAM

Right. The Prosecution don't accept the new plea and murder remains on the indictment.

(shrugs)

Mad or Bad.

DR NESBITT

I must confess to being obsessed with this trial. And at least there is a greater awareness of mental health these days.

SAM

Oh it's all anyone's talking about.

She smiles and holds out his prescription.

DR NESBITT

Wendy will send an invoice to your
e-mail.

He smiles back, takes it and puts it in his pocket. Looks
around for a bin for his tissue.

DR NESBITT (CONT'D)

Just leave it there.

He drops the crumpled tear-stained tissue on the table.

TITLES

2 EXT. SAM'S HOUSE - DAY 21 2

Sam leaving for work.

3 INT. SAM & CLAUDIA'S OFFICE - DAY 21 3

Sam is at his desk. On his computer is a psychiatric report
carried out by a DR WILLIAM TOWLER. We catch phrases like
SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN BEHAVIOURS, INCREASE IN HYPERAROUSAL,
GAMBLING PATTERNS. Looks up as Claudia comes into the office.

CLAUDIA

So the results are in!

SAM

Yup. Abusive and unpredictable
behaviour towards Sandra. Risky
sexual activity...

CLAUDIA

Ew gross.

SAM

Ton of other red flags.
(shrugs)
Accompanied by masking to fool his
colleagues, bosses, and ultimately
himself.

CLAUDIA

Of course the Prosecution will
say...

4 EXT. CPS OFFICE - DAY 21 4

Establisher.

PHILLIP (V.O.)

Bullshit...

5

INT. CPS OFFICE, CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY 21

5

Leila, Adrian, Southgate, Phillip.

PHILLIP

He planned it for a start and also moved the body so it was not an impulsive act.

ADRIAN

Can we prove that?

DI SOUTHGATE

We've got people looking at it.

ADRIAN

Make sure you keep the results nice and safe.

Southgate flashes him a look. Leila frowns.

LEILA

Most importantly, we have never denied that Justin was affected by the Daniella Fielding incident in fact it's critical to our case.

DI SOUTHGATE

But his behaviour, especially with regards to disposal of evidence shows that he was fully in control of his actions.

ADRIAN

What a shame he didn't dispose of evidence with the same efficiency that...(YOU LOT DID)

DI SOUTHGATE

OK, that's at least two digs from you on this topic. I didn't lose anything personally so knock it off please you're starting to irritate me.

For Southgate this is sizeable cuss.

LEILA

The pedal is useless anyway because even if we found it the Defence would argue contamination.

DI SOUTHGATE

(to Adrian)

So leave it out. And move on.

Awkward pause.

PHILLIP

I think the jury will see this for exactly what it is. A blatant attempt to move the goalposts after he was shown to have manipulated his partner to dispose of evidence. Playing the mental health card...

LEILA

...little uncomfortable with that phrase even in the context of...

PHILLIP

Sure, got it, I'm not going to say it obviously. But in the end? It's what the jury have to think.

(beat)

Get out of town, you vicious little chancer, you're not gonna reduce your sentence that easily.

ADRIAN

And in the end it also still helps that he's a cop. Because, and apologies if this upsets anybody's sensibilities...

(looks at Southgate)

...they're literally the last people to whom anybody is going to extend the benefit of the doubt.

DI SOUTHGATE

(coldly)

Certainly not going to disagree with that. Careful what you wish for though.

PHILLIP

The public are with us as will be the jury.

(beat)

There has to be punishment.

6 EXT. CYCLESACK STREET - DAY 21

6

Felix is walking. He arrives at a Cycleshack type repair shop and goes in.

7 INT. CYCLESACK - DAY 21

7

Felix goes over to the counter. It's manned by a young male assistant (CERI) who is the Platonic ideal of a certain young Sussex demographic, plenty of tats, rollie tucked behind one ear.

FELIX

Hi, I wonder if you can help me?

Ceri recognises him instantly. And he is a FAN.

CERI

No way!

FELIX

Um...

CERI

Felix motherfucking Owusu. I don't know whether to shake your hand or get down on my knees and suck you off.

FELIX

Let's go with the handshake.

Offers his hand. Ceri eschews the traditional shake for a g lock and hug of course.

CERI

So you're here for a bike, bro? Smart manoeuvres, but we already know that right, let's see what we can hook you up with. Now we're going hybrid am I right course I'm right?

FELIX

Not exactly no. I'm trying to find out about a purchase made last October.

CERI

I wasn't working here then, bro, but I can ask Big Tom.

FELIX

That would be great.

Ceri walks towards the back where through a door an extremely bike-bloke is working on a repair.

CERI

Yo, Tom, get your arse in here, it's only Felix motherfucking Owusu come to pay a visit.

Tom comes out towards the front. Ceri looks happily at Felix.

CERI (CONT'D)

I love your shit, bro, truth to power, fuck the mainstream media.

FELIX

(deadpan)

Good to hear, bro, although I do
write for the mainstream media as
well.

(politely to Tom)

Are you the manager?

8 EXT. PRISON - DAY 22

8

Sam entering the building.

9 INT. PRISON, VISITING ROOM - DAY 22

9

Sam comes over and takes a seat with Justin.

SAM

How's it going?

JUSTIN

All right.

He is slightly lacking his usual *chispa*.

SAM

(mimicking Justin)

You look like shit, mate.

JUSTIN

Turning into you. Sleep's messed up
as well which is a first for
Justin.

SAM

State of us eh.

JUSTIN

(nods)

I'm still just Premium Economy
looking at you through the curtain.

SAM

In every sense, Justin.

(beat)

So how did it go with the
Prosecution's psychiatrist?

JUSTIN

An hour with Dr..Um..Potts would be
enough to drive anybody round the
twist; takes an hour over every
word.

(shrugs)

But as you'd expect. They're not
paid to find in my favour.

SAM

It's not supposed to work like that.

JUSTIN

Well they're not supposed to stick the ball in sideways to the scrum.

(beat)

Ever play rugby, Sam?

SAM

No.

JUSTIN

I was kidding. Don't really see you as a tight-head prop.

SAM

Careful with my dreams there.

JUSTIN

Norris is a big rugby fan.

SAM

Right.

He knows Justin never says anything without some hidden purpose even if it is hidden to him.

SAM (CONT'D)

(cautiously)

Norris is no longer really relevant now that you've admitted to being responsible for the collision.

Beat.

JUSTIN

That blog thinks different. The one saying he must be behind it all, pulling my strings.

Sam's eyes narrow.

SAM

You got access to a mobile?

JUSTIN

You know what careless talk costs, Sam?

SAM

I also know what unauthorised mobiles in jail cost. They will go after you for it.

JUSTIN

They had a picture of his bike
though from a previous
demonstration? Cyclists against
Genocide. Don't match the pedals
they found on it.

SAM

OK. I've had no suggestion that
might be entered as evidence.

(beat)

What happened with the bike?

Justin looks at him. Some kind of internal conflict going on.
Then...

JUSTIN

I didn't notice the pedals when I
picked it up.

He's choosing his words carefully. Sam spots this.

SAM

How about when you threw it in the
decoy pond?

Beat.

JUSTIN

Best keep it simple. Norris is no
help to us now that's for sure.

Sam frowns. It's as if Justin can't stay away from the topic
of Norris. His foot is tapping fast.

10

EXT. BENCH - DAY 22

10

Felix with Helen.

HELEN

(laughing)

Felix motherfucking Owusu.

FELIX

I'm getting some personalised
stationary made up.

HELEN

But Big Tom knew Norris?

FELIX

Yup they had customer details of
services carried out to his
mountain bikes.

(MORE)

FELIX (CONT'D)

And there were stock references relating to the sale of a set of pedals matching those on the bike they found in the lake. A *purchase made the day after the murder.*

HELEN

Credit card details would be too good.

FELIX

It would. Cash purchase.

HELEN

CCTV footage...

FELIX

Uh-uh. Wiped after a week.

HELEN

So you have no evidence as to who purchased these pedals.

FELIX

Well it definitely wasn't Patrick Norris.

HELEN

So then...

FELIX

It was a woman. And he remembered her as having an accent - maybe Spanish or Italian.

Helen considers. *Elena Norris.*

HELEN

The wife.

FELIX

Matched the description. He's 90% certain.

HELEN

You know your problem though?

FELIX

Apart from having an obscenity for a middle name?

HELEN

OK so number one Justin's pleading guilty to actually doing it.

FELIX

Still doesn't mean he did it alone.

HELEN

But who does this help? Defence are saying yes but yes but. An accomplice doesn't help them one bit. And the Prosecution won't want to muddy the water especially as it's still probably not strong enough to charge anybody else.

FELIX

Which is why I am going to make the blog a bit more visible and take the message outside court as soon as the trial restarts tomorrow.

She stares at him in dismay.

HELEN

(slow understatement)

I don't think that's a very good idea.

FELIX

Contempt of court contempt of court you're like a bloody parrot, Helen.

She looks at him sharply.

HELEN

You want the mainstream press to pick up on this don't you. You want the contempt of court to become the story.

He smiles.

FELIX

More than one way to skin a cat.

HELEN

But I'll get skinned as well. They already know you have inside information; it's just a matter of time.

FELIX

I'd never divulge a source.

HELEN

If you do this, they'll certainly find out. You're jeopardising a massive trial. I never intended...

FELIX

There's a bigger picture...

HELEN

Bigger picture, bigger picture,
you're like a bloody parrot, Felix.

He smiles with infuriating calm.

FELIX

That doesn't mean there isn't a
bigger picture.

HELEN

I urge you not to do this.

11 EXT. LEILA'S FLAT - NIGHT 23 11
Establisher.

12 INT. LEILA'S FLAT, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 23 12
On screen: cameras flashing as Whitley comes out of the
police station ignoring the press.

NEWS REPORTER 3 (ON SCREEN)

I'm outside East Sussex Police
station where Chief Superintendent
Whitley has just resigned after a
slew of damaging revelations in the
Marcus Calderwood trial. The most
serious of these related to
allegations that Mr Whitley knew
about and ignored warnings relating
to PC Justin Mitchell who is on
trial for the murder of Marcus
Calderwood...

Pull back to show Leila and Alex watching this.

LEILA

Good riddance, you old dinosaur.

NEWS REPORTER 3 (ON SCREEN)

Richard Kerridge KC from the
Progressive Law Society has
welcomed the resignation but says
Chief Superintendent Whitley should
have been fired for presiding over
"systemic impunity as well as
professional malfeasance..."

ALEX

What's malfeasance?

LEILA

Being shit.

ALEX

So what does the cop get if he
beats the murder charge?

LEILA

He won't.

ALEX

But if he does?

LEILA

Range is 3 to 40. But he won't get
either he'll get life because he's
a murderer.

Her phone rings. MUM. She takes it.

LEILA (CONT'D)

Hi, mum, how are you feeling?

(frowns)

When?

(beat)

No it's just the trial restarts
tomorrow so this week's kind
of...no that should be fine. OK.

Puts phone down.

LEILA (CONT'D)

She wants me to come and see her.

ALEX

Uh-oh.

Leila chews her lips slightly.

LEILA

Yeah she's got that tone. Calling
me darling...

ALEX

(nods grimly)

Take body armor.

12A EXT. NIGHT/DAY TRANSITION

12A

Establisher

13 OMITTED

13

14 OMITTED

14

14A EXT. COURTHOUSE - DAY 24

14A

ON SCREEN: THURSDAY 23rd JANUARY 2025. TRIAL RESUMES.

Sam approaching sees a ton of placards impressively displayed outside the court. The blog has been turned into a sea of placards all of which are headlined INDIFFERENCE KILLS. We see pictures of the pedals, pictures of Patrick Norris, photos of the decoy pond, all kinds of stuff that is manifestly not going to be allowed.

Felix is among the protestors. Recognises Sam and approaches him. His poster reads: WHO CHANGED THE PEDALS?

SAM

Hello there. What's all this?

FELIX

We've brought the evidence to the court.

SAM

That's actually...

FELIX

Contempt of court. I know. I'm prepared to face the consequences.

Sam looks at a picture of Patrick Norris.

FELIX (CONT'D)

You know he's involved.

SAM

He's not my client though so...

FELIX

He's at the very least an accomplice. I have evidence that his wife bought the pedals that were fitted to the bike after the collision.

SAM

Then you should certainly present that evidence to the police.

FELIX

So they can ignore it like all the other evidence?

SAM

OK well keep up the good work...

FELIX

Is that it?

(shakes his head)

Such a cynic.

SAM

I'm my own biggest critic but I'm
truly not a cynic.

Felix sees Leila approaching. She comes into earshot.

FELIX

You. The CPS. You're all the same
in the end, just two sides of the
same coin, none of you care about
the truth.

He walks away contemptuously. Sam looks at Leila.

SAM

Hear that? We are two sides of the
same coin.

LEILA

Shut up, I'm a Platinum Card.

She looks at the placards and shakes her head.

LEILA (CONT'D)

This could really mess things up.

A police van hoves into view, cops disembark.

SAM

It'll be sad when we no longer get
to chew the fat at a riot.

JUMP CUT TO:

15

EXT. COURTHOUSE - DAY 24

15

Police struggling with protestors dragging off a few. Felix
speaking to the crowd.

FELIX

We are here protesting at the
refusal of the British state to
properly investigate the death of a
martyr trying to save us from man-
made extinction and genocide...

He sees Helen approach him.

HELEN

You know what you deserve that
middle name.

One of the police tries to take Felix's banner, a struggle
ensues and Felix is forcibly detained.

FADE TO BLACK.

16

INT. COURTHOUSE, COURTROOM - DAY 24

16

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. No Southgate.

JUDGE (O.S.)
Members of the Jury...

We come back up on the court. The jury are looking at Justin who is adjusting his tie. With what eyes are they re-considering him though?

JUDGE (CONT'D)
I would like to thank you for your patience and apologise for the delay in starting this morning. I urge you once again to ignore anything you might come across outside this court; all that matters is the evidence you hear from the Defence and Prosecution and the witnesses that they see fit to call. I would also like to thank you for your patience while the necessary psychiatric reports were made in relation to the defendant. You will shortly hear that evidence presented to you by the Defence and Prosecution. The circumstances have changed but your job has not. The defendant has pleaded guilty to manslaughter but the Prosecution have not accepted this plea and therefore there remains a charge of murder for you to decide upon...

JUMP CUT TO:

17

INT. COURTHOUSE, COURTROOM - DAY 24

17

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. No Southgate.

Sandra returning to the witness box. Grainne waiting to continue her cross-examination.

JUMP CUT TO:

18

INT. COURTHOUSE, COURTROOM - DAY 24

18

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. No Southgate. Sandra in witness box.

GRAINNE

OK, Ms Vodanovic, I want to take you back to your time living with Mr Mitchell and his state of mind following the accident he attended.

SANDRA

It was very bad.

GRAINNE

I want to focus on the moment when you told him you were pregnant.

SANDRA

Yes.

GRAINNE

How did he respond.

SANDRA

He said we should go out. I thought he meant to a restaurant or something.

GRAINNE

You didn't go to a restaurant.

SANDRA

No.

GRAINNE

Where did you go?

SANDRA

He drove down the motorway.

GRAINNE

Did he stick to the speed limit?

SANDRA

No. He was doing over 100 miles an hour at some points. I begged him to slow down.

GRAINNE

How did you feel?

SANDRA

Frightened. I thought we were all going to die.

On Justin listening intently.

GRAINNE

Do you recall where you were at this point?

SANDRA

He drove to the spot where the lady had died. He showed me where it had happened.

GRAINNE

And then what?

SANDRA

And then we drove home. And he said sorry.

GRAINNE

And was this the Mr Mitchell you knew before the traffic accident he attended?

SANDRA

No. Definitely not. Everything changed with that.

We fade out of this to CU on Sam checking his mobile surreptitiously to see if Mani has answered. Nothing. Meanwhile across town...

19

EXT./INT. SAM AND CLAUDIA'S OFFICE - DAY 24

19

Claudia is opening the door to a visitor. It's Mani.

CLAUDIA

Your dad's in court.

MANI

Why do you think I came now?

She ushers him in. Mani wanders over to his dad's desk and sits down. Picks up the little Golda Meir and laughs.

MANI (CONT'D)

Mum gave him this.

CLAUDIA

Oh right.

MANI

She brought it back from Tel Aviv once. Kind of a joke for him.

CLAUDIA

Yes your dad loves that sort of thing.

Mani contemplates it sadly.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)
Wanna coffee?

He shakes his head.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)
He feels terrible you know.

MANI
I know. He's said.

He sits down and stares at his dad's screensaver.

MANI (CONT'D)
The pain of my mum will never go
away. I'll have it all my life.
Some days are nearly OK but it's
still always there.
(beat)
Always.

CLAUDIA
Oh I can imagine.

MANI
And after everything we've been
through together, after holding on,
keeping each other going...
(beat)
...he was going to do the same
thing to me again?

CLAUDIA
Not what you want to discover when
you're choosing the spice level for
a chicken wrap.

Mani chuckles.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)
But you weren't meant to ever find
it.

MANI
Pretty sloppy.

CLAUDIA
Well yeah and, you know: Sam right!
Anyway, he says it wasn't anything
other than a bit of online
curiosity.

MANI
He was searching up how to kill
himself without pain!
(shaking head)
(MORE)

MANI (CONT'D)

How about top ten yoga retreats or
a sub-stack about the gender wars?

CLAUDIA

Fair play, I'd probably make for
the exit too.

MANI

OK yes. But still...

CLAUDIA

I know. And I get it. And he gets
it too.

(gently)

Don't punish him and yourself
though. He's suffering, Mani.

20 OMITTED 20

21 OMITTED 21

21A INT. PACKHAM'S CAR / EXT. ROAD - DAY 24 21A
DI Southgate heading away from police station with DS Packham
driving.

DC PACKHAM

(skeptical)

Not exactly a cast-iron ID is it?
'She sounded a bit Italian or
Spanish.'

DI SOUTHGATE

Even so. Norris keeps coming into
the picture. We need to know what
she has to say about it.

DC PACKHAM

That Owusu geezer wants to be a
martyr.

DI SOUTHGATE

Yes let's all just break the laws
we disagree with.

Southgate literally cannot tolerate this kind of line which
is also what makes him a great cop.

DC PACKHAM

I'm gonna set fire to my boozer in
protest at the genocidal price of a
pint of stout.

Southgate smiles.

DI SOUTHGATE

The live blog at court was a clever move. Everybody's reading him now.

DC PACKHAM

Not the jury hopefully. Hope he gets a really angry old judge whose piles are giving him gyp.

DI SOUTHGATE

Being torn apart over that pedal was the worst day of my professional career.

(beat)

So I'm going to get some answers.

JUMP CUT TO:

21B INT. PACKHAM'S CAR/EXT. NORRIS'S HOUSE - DAY 24

21B

Southgate and Packham pulling up.

DI SOUTHGATE

No cars.

DS PACKHAM

Blinds are down.

DI SOUTHGATE

Maybe they saw the blog.

DS PACKHAM

Yeah but fair play, would you wanna be right next door to a cult who think you ran over their Guru?

They get out of the car. Head to the front door where somebody has spray painted SCG. A MURDERER LIVES HERE.

They get no answer to their knock. Packham looks up at the light of a security camera that has detected motion.

DS PACKHAM (CONT'D)

Ever get the feeling you're being watched?

He waves at it.

DS PACKHAM (CONT'D)

Reckon they've dipped.

They start to head back to their car.

DI SOUTHGATE

We need statements from the bike shop owner.

They walk back to their car and get in. Just as Packham is about to start the engine Southgate's phone bleeps an incoming message. He opens it. There's a photo of an Executive Jet on the tarmac. Then a photo of Patrick Norris and Elena Norris drinking champagne in an Executive Lounge.

And a kiss blowing emoji.

DI SOUTHGATE (CONT'D)
Fucking hell.

DS Packham surprised.

DS PACKHAM
Must be bad if you're swearing.

Southgate shows him the text.

22

EXT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT 24

22

Felix and a few other detainees emerging to cheers from SCG members and with plenty of reporters on hand. He addresses them.

FELIX
Comrades and Friends. We have been charged with contempt of court and will appear at a later date. The killing of my friend Marcus Calderwood was a political execution ordered by shadowy figures who serve powerful interests. I have to say that I am now prepared to break the law if that is necessary in order to bring to light the shortcomings of this trial. And if they imprison me, then so be it!

Leila watching this. A figure appears beside her. It's Helen McGuire.

LEILA
Oh hi, Helen, how's it going?

HELEN
They've taken his phone, they'll be reading his messages.

LEILA
(puzzled)
Right.

HELEN
I didn't do it for money. I did it because of Whitley and everything he represented.

Leila looks at her. Penny drops.

LEILA
You're his source.

She looks back at Felix receiving the adulation of his supporters.

23 EXT. ESTABLISHER - NIGHT/DAY TRANSITION 23

24 INT. COURTHOUSE, DEFENCE ROOM - DAY 25 24

Sam prepping Justin with Grainne watching.

SAM
Keep it short. Keep it serious.

JUSTIN
I've been in court before you know.

SAM
Don't under any circumstances be
facetious or flip.

GRAINNE
And don't overcook it. No
waterworks. Or pretending to throw
up.

JUSTIN
How about: let Justin be Justin.

SAM
Why didn't you say you wanted a
whole life tariff?

Justin mimes a rapid wheel of pistol shots.

JUSTIN
Malik Rides Again.

JUMP CUT TO:

25 INT. COURTHOUSE, COURTROOM - DAY 25 25

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

Justin is taking his oath. A MASSIVE moment.

GRAINNE
OK, Mr Mitchell.

She smiles at him.

GRAINNE (CONT'D)

On the day of 6th of October of last year, did you leave home with the intention of murdering Marcus Calderwood?

JUSTIN

No.

GRAINNE

How did you come to encounter him that day?

JUSTIN

I went to his home.

GRAINNE

Why?

JUSTIN

So I had seen another SCG protest on TV which had stopped an ambulance reaching a hospital.

Grainne with Justin.

GRAINNE

How did that make you feel?

JUSTIN

Upset. Angry.

GRAINNE

Just rewinding for a second, when you absented yourself from the trip to the races with your friends and posted an emoji of a giraffe, who did that refer to?

JUSTIN

Kyle Jones. Because giraffes have long dark tongues and he was a management arse-licker.

GRAINNE

Not Mr Calderwood?

JUSTIN

No. I hadn't even seen the news when I posted that.

GRAINNE

Was there anything else going on in your life at that time?

JUSTIN

My partner had just lost our baby.
I was pretty on edge about
everything.

GRAINNE

OK. Why did you decide to go to Mr
Calderwood's house?

JUSTIN

I wanted him to take responsibility
for his actions.

GRAINNE

How did you imagine that happening.

JUSTIN

I wasn't thinking clearly. I just
couldn't understand how they could
keep on doing this. Hurting
innocent people.

Somebody in the jury conspicuously nods to this.

GRAINNE

How did Mr Calderwood respond to
your visit?

26	OMITTED	26
27	OMITTED MERGED INTO SCENE 25	27
28	EXT. ROMILLY HOUSE (FLASHBACK - <u>JUSTIN'S VERSION</u>) - DAY 1	28

*Marcus Calderwood in his cycling gear heading out and coming
face to face with Justin in his vehicle.*

MARCUS

*I will be reporting you again for
this harassment, PC Mitchell.*

JUSTIN

*Tell me about the comparative
privilege of having a crank shaft
through your gut.*

MARCUS

Leave me alone.

JUSTIN

*She wouldn't have died if it hadn't
been for you.*

MARCUS

*No she wouldn't have died if she
had paid more attention to the
road.*

And he cycles off.

JUSTIN

*Come back, we're not done, you
don't get to just ride off.*

Justin gets back in his car and drives after him.

29

INT. COURTHOUSE, COURTROOM - DAY 25

29

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

Grainne with Justin.

GRAINNE

And you followed him?

JUSTIN

Yes.

GRAINNE

Why?

JUSTIN

I don't really know. I was still so
angry.

GRAINNE

What was your intention?

JUSTIN

I can't remember. I didn't want to
kill him.

(beat)

I was angry he wouldn't listen and
I wanted him to understand what I
had seen. It was so frustrating he
wouldn't listen and didn't care.

GRAINNE

So at what point exactly did you
choose to hit him with your car.

JUSTIN

I don't remember choosing. I just
remember...

SMASH CUT TO:

30

EXT. B ROAD (FLASHBACK - JUSTIN'S VERSION) - DAY 1

30

Justin in his car. He's getting closer and closer to the bike in front. He flashes him a few times.

Marcus gives him a finger over his shoulder.

JUSTIN (O.S.)

The finger was the spark really. It summed up his attitude to everything.

And in his head a bunch of fast spooling images. Daniella Fielding in the car murmuring that she does not want to die. Marcus doing his interview.

The car right up on the bike now.

JUSTIN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

I kept hearing her voice in my head. Begging me not to let her die. And his voice saying it was all her fault and something just...

And then...

BLACKOUT

JUSTIN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

...snapped. I shut my eyes and I must have jammed down on the gas and smashed into him.

Marcus on the road as the car runs into him.

31

INT. COURTHOUSE, COURTROOM - DAY 25

31

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

Grainne with Justin.

GRAINNE

Following the collision, did you move Mr Calderwood?

JUSTIN

No.

GRAINNE

Did you try and hide him from view?

JUSTIN

No. I thought he was dead and I was worried somebody would come. I picked up the bike and helmet and put them in my car. I drove off.

GRAINNE

Let me be very clear. When you were pursuing Mr Calderwood did you at any point form the intention of causing him serious harm?

JUSTIN

Not when I was going after him. I genuinely can't put into words the seconds before I hit him.

JUMP CUT TO:

32

INT. COURTHOUSE, COURTROOM - DAY 25

32

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

Justin is now being cross-examined by Phillip.

PHILLIP

Do you recall, Mr Mitchell, telling PC Becky Hollis that a hit-and-run would be the best way to murder somebody?

JUSTIN

No. But I might have done.

(smiles)

They are notoriously difficult.

Sam frowns and tries to give him a warning look.

PHILLIP

Now you say you did not move Mr Calderwood after the impact with him?

JUSTIN

I didn't.

PHILLIP

And yet we have heard that the nature of his injuries mean that it would have been quite impossible for him to move himself down the verge and out of sight.

JUSTIN

That's just one opinion though. And how am I supposed to prove it wasn't me?

PHILLIP

Are you saying it was somebody else?

JUSTIN

No I'm saying I can't prove a negative.

PHILLIP

As a police officer you know that moving or disposing of a body is an aggravating factor in a murder.

JUSTIN

Yes.

PHILLIP

Did you move Mr Calderwood because you wanted him to suffer?

JUDGE

Rephrase that please. The witness has already said that he did not move Mr Calderwood.

PHILLIP

Was it ever your intention to make Mr Calderwood suffer in the same way as Daniella Fielding?

JUSTIN

No.

PHILLIP

In spite of you having previously said that he might end up dying by the side of the road?

JUSTIN

I said I would hate for that to happen.

PHILLIP

'Nice little bike you've got there, hate for anything to happen to it'.

A couple of jurors smile at the sarcasm.

JUDGE

(warning)
Mr Holmes...

PHILLIP

So you drive to the pond where you dispose of the bike and helmet?

JUSTIN

Yes.

PHILLIP

Where is the helmet camera which was not found with the rest?

JUSTIN

As far as I knew it was in the pond as well.

PHILLIP

Why didn't they find it then?

JUSTIN

I can't explain that.

PHILLIP

There is rather a lot you can't explain isn't there?

JUSTIN

I wouldn't say a lot.

PHILLIP

What would you say?

JUSTIN

I'd say that I have seen things you can only imagine. But I am truly sorry for everything that happened.

He looks at Sandra in the gallery.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

For the people I've hurt.

PHILLIP

Well let's establish the facts before we consider your remorse.

(beat)

Now Mr Calderwood has security cameras on the front of his property. They did not pick up your encounter on the day of the collision. Can you explain that?

JUSTIN

We were probably out of range of them.

PHILLIP

Or it never took place.

Beat.

PHILLIP (CONT'D)

You have invented this encounter because you KNOW that pre-meditation of which we have ample evidence undermines your attempt to present it as a sudden mental lapse.

JUSTIN

No. It happened.

PHILLIP

You ambushed Mr Calderwood on the road knowing his movements from previous stalking of him. There was no arrogant finger that "triggered" you, he was probably terrified and fleeing for his life. You deliberately and callously concealed his body from view gambling that nobody would discover him before his death. You then put into motion a pre-prepared plan to conceal the damage to your car by manipulating a partner you had already broken through your abusive and controlling behaviour.

(beat)

That's the truth isn't it, Mr Mitchell?

JUSTIN

No.

PHILLIP

You only changed your plea when it was obvious that Ms Vodanovic's evidence had destroyed your cover-up. That's the truth isn't it?

JUSTIN

No.

33

EXT. COURTHOUSE - DAY 25

33

Late afternoon and people leaving. Lots of cops.

LOCAL NEWS JOURNALIST

As you can see behind me, there is a heavy police presence to prevent a repetition of earlier events when a blog dedicated to the case literally went live outside the court.

(MORE)

LOCAL NEWS JOURNALIST (CONT'D)

Much of the afternoon has been taken up with different expert witnesses giving evidence in relation to whether Mr Calderwood could have moved himself after the collision....

Sam is coming out of court.

He stops for a moment as he sees somebody waiting for him.

It's Mani.

He approaches his son.

SAM

Hi.

MANI

Hi, dad.

Beat.

SAM

I'm truly sorry.

MANI

I know.

Beat

MANI (CONT'D)

Fancy a beer?

SAM

That'd be nice.

MANI

Come on then.

They walk away together. Mani pats his dad semi-playfully on the head. Sam gives him a light touch on his shoulder.

34 EXT. STREET - DAY 25

34

Leila walking arrives outside her mother's house.

She takes a deep breath.

JUMP CUT TO:

35

INT. DAME HARRIET'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY 25

35

Harriet pouring tea in front of her daughter. The mug has a map of earth on it. Leila frowns at it as it appears to be changing before her eyes.

HARRIET

So the hot liquid causes the mug to
change reflecting rising sea
levels...

LEILA

Oh yeah look at the ice caps
melting.

HARRIET

Stops when the whole world's under
water.

LEILA

Just what you want with a nice cup
of tea.

HARRIET

Frida bought it for me, she's
thinking of doing Climate Studies
at...

The doorbell rings. Harriet holds up a hand and exits to
answer it. Leila studies the changing patterns on the globe.

Then her mother comes back in. Followed by Tamara.

LEILA

What the fuck...

Tamara is equally horrified.

TAMARA

What the actual FUCK, mum!

Harriet grimaces and touches her chest.

HARRIET

I do still have an irregular
heartbeat. So please don't shout.

JUMP CUT TO:

36

INT. DAME HARRIET'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY 25

36

Shouting.

LEILA

You're utterly PATHETIC. You
ghosted me because what?
(MORE)

LEILA (CONT'D)

Because I wouldn't look after your kids while you went to a party full of middle-aged wankers reminiscing about those crazy nights in DC10 when it all went OFF.

TAMARA

Shows how much you know, you sanctimonious fucking bitch. I wasn't angry because of THAT.

LEILA

So what were you angry about? The fact that I was a "red person" with the audacity to hold down a paying job...

TAMARA

No because you called me your half-sister. Again. To the barman. You do that all the time to put me down.

That slightly takes the wind out of Leila's sails.

HARRIET

You do, sweetheart. I've heard it.

LEILA

And threatening to destroy my career...?

TAMARA

I wasn't gonna actually do it.

LEILA

So nice to know that now after a ton of sleepless nights.

TAMARA

(mock sympathetic)
Oh noooo!

LEILA

I guess losing a job is something you've never had to worry about.

TAMARA

And there it is again.

HARRIET

I was actually quite clear with Tamara on this one. Think of that poor asylum seeker who might suffer the consequences...

LEILA

(furious)

You can fuck right off as well, Mrs Jellyby, only ever caring about the wretched of the earth and not your own children.

TAMARA

Fair.

HARRIET

It mostly certainly is not fair. Dickens, who treated his own wife quite despicably, created a caricature of women who dared to have a perspective beyond the domestic.

LEILA

(tuts bitterly)

Go and write an article about it.

TAMARA

(back at Leila)

You've always made me feel second best. At school...

LEILA

That's because you were second-best, you moron. Try finishing a book if you want to improve your standing. You had all the boys anyway...

TAMARA

Maybe because in your case they had to pass a three hour test on the overthrow of the Hashemite monarchy before they even got a fingering.

LEILA

Whereas in your case a line of MDMA got them the full enchilada...

HARRIET

Please, darlings, there's no need to be so vulgar...

TAMARA

Anyway. Had. My life's pretty screwed, Leila. I get it, I don't need you constantly reminding me.

Sullen silence.

LEILA

The half-sister thing was a joke.

TAMARA

Ho fucking ho.

LEILA

And the whole point was it was a
repeat joke.

TAMARA

Repeatedly horrible for me. I've
always been secretly proud of you.

LEILA

Oh shut up secretly proud bollocks.

But the atmosphere is changing slightly.

HARRIET

Well now look. I partly brought you
both here because I have an
announcement. I'm leaving Britain.

They both stare at her. WHAT!

HARRIET (CONT'D)

I have accepted a post overseas at
the RGD Institute in Canada...

LEILA

Race, Gender and...

HARRIET

Decolonisation. It's in British
Colombia. The Canadians are light
years ahead of us in this area and
my illness made me think I needed a
change of scenery. Now for all the
Mrs Jellyby taunts...

LEILA

...I didn't mean that I'm sorry...

HARRIET

...I do spend a lot of time
thinking about the pair of you.
With hindsight I would reconsider
my decision to send you to private
school however progressive the
teachers...

LEILA

...sleazy more like...

HARRIET

...because in your own different
ways you have both turned into
thoroughly immature, selfish, and
entitled individuals.

TAMARA

Thanks.

LEILA

Yeah cheers, mum.

The two sisters look at each other and there is a flicker of amusement between them.

HARRIET

But I love you two girls. You are deeply precious to me and I want you to be happy.

TAMARA

I love you too.

(glances at Leila)

Dunno about the Queen of Sheba here ...

LEILA

...hands in the air like I just don't care...

HARRIET

I want you to reconcile. For me. Because it breaks my heart to see you like this. There is enough pain and suffering in the world without us adding any more.

Long pause.

TAMARA

I'm bloody starving. Can we order some fish and chips?

HARRIET

I'm sure if you look in the fridge...

TAMARA

...I'll find a tube of mouldy anchovy paste and some of that disgusting seed bread
(holds up a hand)
...not today botulism.

And Leila smiles downwards because Tamara for all her nuttiness can be funny.

Sam and Mani walking through the streets also eating bags of chips.

MANI

So what's tomorrow?

SAM

Tomorrow our psychiatrist will say why in his opinion Justin's PTSD led to diminished responsibility.

MANI

And then the Prosecution go:
(fans to opposition goalie mode)
'you're shit aghhhhhh'.

SAM

Pretty much. And then their shrink will probably say: 'yeah bit of PTSD maybe but not enough to remove responsibility' and we'll go 'you're shit aghhhh'.

MANI

And so it goes.

SAM

It's a beauty contest really. Which of them is most convincing. Which do the jury trust more.

MANI

Who's gonna win?

SAM

Depends on the jury. But we've still got a fighting chance.

They pause at a corner.

SAM (CONT'D)

Where you off to now?

MANI

Back to Bex's.

SAM

Is Bex your girlfriend?

MANI

Mind your own business. I'm going to her folks for Purim though.

SAM

OK.

MANI

I just need to pick up my stuff though and then I might...

(MORE)

MANI (CONT'D)

(beat)

If that's OK?

SAM

Yeah sure.

MANI

All right. See you in an hour or so.

He heads off.

SAM

Be careful crossing the roads.

Mani holds up a weary hand without looking back.

38 EXT. TRANSITION - NIGHT 25 TO DAY 26 38

Sun rising over the sea.

39 EXT. COURTHOUSE - DAY 26 39

Establisher.

39A INT. COURTHOUSE, CELL - DAY 26 39A

Justin waits alone in his cell.

39B INT. COURTHOUSE, SECURITY - DAY 26 39B

Southgate coming through security with Leila.

DI SOUTHGATE

We have discovered that Felix Owusu's source is Helen McGuire.

LEILA

Really?

DI SOUTHGATE

She says she did it to expose Whitley.

LEILA

Do we have any reason to disbelieve her?

DI SOUTHGATE

Not but she's been suspended and a file sent to your office for Misconduct in Public Office.

LEILA
High charging bar on a MiPO. Did
Felix pay for the information?

DI SOUTHGATE
Not as far as we know.

LEILA
Hm.

Southgate looks at her.

LEILA (CONT'D)
Well it won't be down to me!

DI SOUTHGATE
No?

LEILA
Tessa Wadworth will probably be
dealing with it.
(mock-innocent)
I'll feed in my thoughts though for
what they're worth.

DI SOUTHGATE
And what are they?

LEILA
She was right about Whitley who
treated her like shit. Felix Owusu
used her and then let her fall
under the bus and I don't see why
she should be the only one carrying
the can.

DI SOUTHGATE
First Sam Malik, now Helen
McGuire...

LEILA
Firm but fair, Miles, throw back
the tiddlers. You found where
Patrick Norris is yet?

DI SOUTHGATE
No. But I will.

They head into the CPS room where Phillip is preparing.

39C

INT. COURTHOUSE, DEFENCE ROOM - DAY 26

39C

Justin pacing while Sam sits. Stops with his back to Sam

JUSTIN
So. Justin Mitchell. Mad or Bad?

SAM

You really want me to answer that?

Justin turns and looks at him.

JUSTIN

A lot riding on it.

SAM

I'm well aware of that.

JUSTIN

Are you though?

Beat. Sam knows something's coming.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

I get murder, we're looking at a lot of years piled on. Being a cop, causing suffering...

SAM

(nods)

Netting out the mitigation for acknowledged mental health issues, I'd say 25 is your best hope...if the judge is lenient.

JUSTIN

Right. And there's no light at the end of the tunnel there.

SAM

What would you consider to be light at the end of the tunnel?

JUSTIN

If I got Manslaughter? Ten. I'd still be younger than you are now.

SAM

A mere baby then.

JUSTIN

But 25 or more on segregation...

He shakes his head.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

...I think then I'd have to carefully explore my options.

(beat)

All my options.

Sam stares at him. Well aware of what Justin means by this.

SAM

Don't say that.

Heavy beat.

SAM (CONT'D)
(anguish)
Don't say it, Justin.

Justin turns around and faces the wall again. We go close on his face. His eyes. The strange impenetrability of him.

DISSOLVE TO:

40 INT. COURTHOUSE, COURTROOM - DAY 26

40

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

The Defence Psychiatrist WILLIAM TOWLER is taking his oath. Grainne about to kick things off with the mental health stuff.

GRAINNE
So, Dr Towler, you examined Mr Mitchell last week. I'd like to ask you a few things about your report?

TOWLER
By all means.

GRAINNE
So for the benefit of the jury, where do you begin your examination?

CUT TO:

41 INT. PRISON, INTERVIEW ROOM (FLASHBACK) - DAY 20

41

Justin with Towler.

TOWLER
Tell me a little about your childhood, Justin.

Pause.

JUSTIN
Yeah it was all right. You had to watch out for my dad if he was in one of his moods.

TOWLER
What brought on those moods?

Justin mimes glass to mouth drinking motion.

JUSTIN

Get on all right with him now he's dead though.

TOWLER

Do you have siblings?

JUSTIN

One. A sister.

TOWLER

What is your relationship like with her?

JUSTIN

Anita? Yeah we're close. Husband's a plank; one of them little geezers who wears a baseball cap to the gym and shouts a lot.

TOWLER

And how about school?

JUSTIN

All right I suppose. Bored mostly.

CUT TO:

42 INT. COURTHOUSE, COURTROOM - DAY 26

42

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

Towler with Grainne.

TOWLER

Mr Mitchell is at the upper end of the intelligence scale...

In the dock, Justin catches Sam's eye and gives a little SEE! expression...

CUT TO:

43 INT. PRISON, INTERVIEW ROOM (FLASHBACK) - DAY 20

43

Towler with Justin.

TOWLER

Do you like reading, Justin?

JUSTIN

A bit yeah. Mostly non-fiction.

TOWLER

What was the last book you read?

JUSTIN

They Won't Let You Live by Simon Blumenfeld. Good book my lawyer gave it to me. I prefer films though.

TOWLER

Any particular genre?

JUSTIN

No, I mean I can't stand sci-fi and I'd defund hobbits.

Towler half-smiles. He's not one for jokes really.

TOWLER

You prefer realism.

JUSTIN

Justin's top films in no particular order. Scarface. The Three Amigos. Heat. Blade Runner...

(holds up a hand)

And I know what's coming next but I don't consider Blade Runner to be sci-fi...

44

INT. COURTHOUSE, COURTROOM - DAY 26

44

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

Towler and Grainne.

TOWLER

He can appear confident and communicative. Extrovert.

GRAINNE

Can appear?

TOWLER

He has a performative tendency and a habit of illeism which means speaking of himself in the third person.

(MORE)

TOWLER (CONT'D)

I believe that Mr Mitchell uses both his intelligence and an irreverent humour to mask other more disturbing feelings.

GRAINNE

What kind of feelings?

CUT TO:

45 INT. PRISON, INTERVIEW ROOM (FLASHBACK) - DAY 20

45

Towler with Justin.

TOWLER

Let's talk about the month leading up to the crime, Justin...

JUSTIN

All right.

TOWLER

How would you describe your mood?

JUSTIN

Well. I would say it was varied.

46 INT. COURTHOUSE, COURTROOM - DAY 26

46

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

Towler continuing with his evidence.

TOWLER

I found a number of indicators that suggested complex Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

GRAINNE

Such as?

TOWLER

Psychological hyperarousal. Mood swings. Reckless sexual behaviour. Flashbacks. This was in addition to trauma experienced as a child witnessing his father's alcoholism and his own severe gambling addiction.

GRAINNE

Now did you also interview his partner Ms Sandra Vodanovic?

Track to Sandra listening intently.

TOWLER

I did.

GRAINNE

What did you conclude from that?

TOWLER

Everything she said supported my conclusions.

SMASH CUT TO:

46A INT. CLINIC, INTERVIEW ROOM (FLASHBACK) - DAY 20

46A

Towler with Sandra.

TOWLER

Tell me about the drive down the motorway.

SANDRA

He was laughing. Saying strange things.

TOWLER

Do you recall any of those things?

SANDRA

Yes. He said any of us could die at any moment. He only had to make one move of the steering wheel and it would be over for all of us and the people we smashed into who would never know why. And then there would be babies who would never be born and things that would never happen. He could change the whole world with one movement on the steering wheel.

SMASH CUT TO:

46B INT. COURTHOUSE, COURTROOM - DAY 26

46B

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

Towler back giving evidence.

TOWLER

...he descended further into a nihilistic world view. The gambling worsened, his behaviour became more erratic, he would wake up shouting in the night about needing back-up...

SMASH CUT TO:

47 INT. PRISON, INTERVIEW ROOM (FLASHBACK) - DAY 20

47

Justin with Towler.

JUSTIN

Sometimes it was like I was there. In the car with her again. I can see the metal in her intestines. I know she's going to die. And I sometimes dream about the baby. Weird stuff though. That she gives birth to it and it survives. And I'm like the midwife. Like living and dying are all mixed up.

TOWLER

And you believed that Marcus Calderwood was responsible for her death?

JUSTIN

Well he was. How can there be any doubt about that?

48 INT. COURTHOUSE, COURTROOM - DAY 26

48

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

Grainne and Towler.

GRAINNE

In your opinion, Dr Towler, do you think that the judgement of Mr Mitchell could have been so significantly impaired when he ran Mr Calderwood off the road as to prevent him from forming a rational judgement and exercising self-control.

TOWLER

Yes.

GRAINNE

And do you believe that there were sufficient warning signals that would have merited intervention by his employers.

TOWLER

Undoubtedly. I find it astonishing that there was no follow-up when he failed to attend three appraisals.

GRAINNE

Thank you, Dr Towler.

JUMP CUT TO:

49

INT. COURTHOUSE, COURTROOM - DAY 26

49

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

Now in the witness stand is DR KARL POTTS who is the psychiatrist for the prosecution and being lead by PHILLIP.

PHILLIP

Dr Potts, you also carried out an assessment of Mr Mitchell on behalf of the Crown.

DR POTTS

Yes that is correct.

PHILLIP

Now critical to the Defence case is that Mr Mitchell was suffering from complex PTSD, what is your opinion on that?

DR POTTS

Well...um...complex PTSD and its diagnosis is in itself a complex affair...you have to understand that even non-complex PTSD is not a condition like, say, um, schizophrenia.

A few frowns in the jury: this stuff is a bit dense and it's not helped by his ponderous manner and diction. He also has a habit of looking up while speaking as if addressing the ceiling.

PHILLIP

Do you agree that Mr Mitchell has PTSD?

DR POTTS

Well there will always be a legitimate difference of opinion in this area...

Leila looks at Southgate and grimaces. He circles a "speed it up" finger.

PHILLIP

So what conclusion did you reach?

DR POTTS

I would certainly not disagree with the view that Mr Mitchell experienced...um...a degree of trauma and cognitive distress from the accident he attended.

PHILLIP

But was this, in your opinion, sufficient to so alter his cognitive faculties that he would be unable to exercise self-control or to form a rational judgement.

DR POTTS

I do not believe it was.

PHILLIP

Why not?

49A INT. PRISON, INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 22

49A

Justin with Dr Potts.

DR POTTS

When you saw the SCG or Marcus Calderwood on TV how did you feel?

JUSTIN

Angry.

DR POTTS

And did you turn the TV off when they appeared?

JUSTIN

No.

DR POTTS

Was it a different type of, um, anger?

JUSTIN

Different from what?

DR POTTS

Something that made you angry before the incident. An argument with your partner perhaps. Or, um, when you lost a bet.

JUSTIN

I don't really know what you're getting at. Anger is anger.

DR POTTS

You kept on top of Mr Calderwood and the SCG in general. You checked their social media. It was something you took an active interest in?

JUSTIN

(mocking)

Um, you could say that.

DR POTTS

Do you feel you needed the anger?

Justin hesitates because it's a good question. He smiles.

JUSTIN

That's actually your first decent question, Doc. And I don't know the answer.

49B INT. COURTHOUSE, COURTROOM - DAY 26

49B

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

Potts back addressing the ceiling rather than Phillip or the jury.

DR POTTS

I felt that Mr Mitchell was an intelligent man with a sense of self-importance that he believed allowed him to make decisions such as the penalty Mr Calderwood should pay for Daniella Fielding's death. He did not show avoidance of the trauma, he returned to it repeatedly, he sought it out.

(MORE)

DR POTTS (CONT'D)

And, um, there were indications of planning and pre-meditation inconsistent with a sudden loss of control. His behaviour following the incident did not tally either with a man who had momentarily succumbed to a sudden collapse of rational faculties.

In spite of the ponderous diction this is a powerful statement.

DR POTTS (CONT'D)

Rather than losing self-control he was deriving satisfaction from playing judge and executioner.

50

INT. COURTHOUSE, CPS ROOM - DAY 26

50

The prosecution team are debriefing.

PHILLIP

Talk about poor presentational skills!

LEILA

But you closed it out well and got there in the end.

DI SOUTHGATE

Even the Defence guy admitted his diagnosis was dependent on the jury accepting Justin's version of what happened. If they believe he planned it and kicked him into the ditch afterwards...

PHILLIP

They might also agree that SCG caused Daniella Fielding's death. They might think Marcus got what he deserved and Justin was a righteous Avenger.

(shrugs)

Not long to go 'til we find out. See you tomorrow.

He exits and Southgate turns to Leila.

DI SOUTHGATE

I know where Patrick and Elena Norris are.

She looks at him. ?

DI SOUTHGATE (CONT'D)
Quito. In Ecuador. They flew out of Farnborough on a chartered jet which was privately rented from a high-end boutique company and paid for in cash. Stopped off in Porto and Bogota.

LEILA
Who paid for it?

DI SOUTHGATE
So the woman who chartered the plane was an associate of a Mr Eddie Peterson who also joined the flight.

LEILA
And who's he?

DI SOUTHGATE
A known cocaine smuggler but bizarrely acquitted two years ago when the rest of his accomplices went down.

She contemplates this.

LEILA
Felix Owusu suggested this connection in his blog.

Southgate nods.

DI SOUTHGATE
Ecuador is kind of the new Colombia. Rapidly turning into a narco state. Norris and his wife are deep into that whole web.
(beat)
But there's another thing. I've been told to drop it.

LEILA
Who by?

DI SOUTHGATE
A senior figure whose existence I was unaware of.

LEILA
Why?

DI SOUTHGATE
No reason. Just drop it. Going nowhere. Waste of resources.

LEILA

The ID of Elena is very tenuous I guess.

DI SOUTHGATE

Still. I'm not dropping it. But Felix Owusu has been right about quite a few things now.

Then he frowns suddenly.

DI SOUTHGATE (CONT'D)

In one of Helen McGuire's messages to Felix she described me as being about as much fun as a post office queue.

Leila laughs abruptly. Then quickly stifles her laugh.

LEILA

Sorry, I was only laughing at the... (expression)

DI SOUTHGATE

Do you think I'm boring, Leila?

LEILA

Well there are lots worse things to be. But no I don't.

(beat)

You're a brilliant police officer.

He smiles gratefully still a little bit troubled.

51 EXT. PUB - NIGHT 26

51

Sam and Claudia walking in.

52 INT. PUB - NIGHT 26

52

Sam is with Claudia in a Brighton bar. Hip young waiter comes over to take their order.

SAM

Negroni.

BARMAN

Classic or Mezcal?

SAM

Do I look like a man who'd drink a Mezcal Negroni?

CLAUDIA

You look like a man who should be ordering a soft drink.

SAM
Don't you profile me!
(to barman)
Classic.

CLAUDIA
Campari Soda.

SAM
Actually I'll have one of those
too.

BARMAN
You got it.

Exits.

SAM
We got it.

CLAUDIA
We so got it.

SAM
So is Campari Soda the new Negroni
it's hard to keep up.

She laughs and shakes her head. Don't even try.

CLAUDIA
So what was the Prosecution shrink
like?

SAM
(mimicking and blinking up
at the ceiling)
Um...well...yes that is one way of
seeing it um...but I would differ
from the defence...um...in one
fundamental respect...ah

CLAUDIA
Oh no!

SAM
Oh yes. Spoke to the roof and not
the jury. Even the judge looked
like he was going to drop off.

CLAUDIA
Good.

SAM
But he still landed a couple of
hard punches at the end.

CLAUDIA

It will all come down to whether
the jury believe Justin's account
or think it was pre-meditated.

He nods and frowns.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)

What's up?

Sam shakes his head. He's thinking about Justin's suicide
hint.

SAM

Nothing.

CLAUDIA

Sam.

SAM

Something Justin said. Doesn't
matter.

(quickly)

Thanks for the character reference
with Mani.

She mock-frowns.

CLAUDIA

I said you were an attention-
seeking div with an inflated sense
of your intellectual worth.

SAM

Well that's my better side but
thanks again.

Chuckles.

CLAUDIA

So. Closing speeches. Judge summing
up. And then we're done.

Sam nods slowly, his face serious.

SAM

And then yeah; we're done.

The barman comes back.

BARMAN

Two classic campari sodas.

SAM

(to Claudia)

Take a photo.

CLAUDIA
Inappropriate.

They clink glasses.

DISSOLVE TO:

53 OMITTED 53

54 OMITTED 54

55 OMITTED 55

56 INT. SAM'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT 27 56

We go into a montage accompanied by fragments of the closing procedure alluded to by Claudia.

PHILLIP (V.O.)
We have heard that Mr Mitchell is a gambler and this was perhaps his biggest thrill. Could he get away with it? I trust that you the jury will respond in the clearest possible way by delivering the only possible verdict. Guilty. Of murder.

Sam and Mani at their kitchen table laughing at something ridiculous.

56A INT. BAR - NIGHT 27 56A

GRAINNE (V.O.)
We have heard clear medical evidence that Mr Mitchell was suffering from complex PTSD and that the SCG protest he saw on television triggered a catastrophic chain of results...

Leila is in a bar having a drink with Helen McGuire. Clearly, nothing's going to happen to Helen.

56B INT. POLICE STATION, STAIRWELL - NIGHT 27 56B

JUDGE (V.O.)
You must also, members of the Jury, consider carefully the question of pre-meditation and the moving of the body...

DI Southgate staring at his phone and the taunt from Norris.
A determination hardening in his mind. He's not going to drop
it.

56C INT. PRISON, CELL - NIGHT 27

56C

FELIX (V.O.)
Indifference Kills. That would have
been the title of Marcus's book. We
cannot remain indifferent either to
the destruction being wrought on
our planet or any cover-up
surrounding his execution...

Justin lying in his cell staring at the ceiling, running the
numbers in his mind.

FADE TO BLACK.

ON SCREEN: 36 HOURS LATER.

57 INT. COURTHOUSE, DEFENCE ROOM - DAY 28

57

Sam with Justin as Grainne comes in.

GRAINNE
We're ready. Majority verdict.

Sam looks at Justin.

JUSTIN
Win predictor 30-70.

SAM
40-60.

GRAINNE
10-90.

They stare at her.

GRAINNE (CONT'D)
Just managing expectations. Could
go either way.

JUSTIN
(brightly)
It's the hope that kills.

Sam detects the flush of excess mental activity.

SAM
You OK?

JUSTIN
Never better, Sam. Never better.

They head out towards the courtroom.

JUMP CUT TO:

58

INT. COURTHOUSE, COURTROOM - DAY 28

58

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

Everybody is there. The tension is high. The foreman of the jury standing.

CLERK

Have you reached a verdict on which
at least ten of you agree?

FOREMAN

Yes we have.

CLERK

On the charge of murder, do you
find the defendant Justin Mitchell
guilty or not guilty?

A moment. Everybody's heart pounding.

FOREMAN

Guilty.

Gasps and murmurs. Sandra wails slightly. Justin turns
immediately to the jury and gives them two thumbs up.

JUSTIN

Yes! Good job! Thank you!

CLERK

How many of you agreed with this
verdict and how many disagreed?

FOREMAN

Ten agreed and two disagreed.

JUDGE

Members of the jury, I commend you
for your dedication. This was a
complex and distressing case and
you have clearly spent considerable
thought and time on reaching your
verdict...

Justin looks across at Sam who is staring up at the ceiling.

JUMP CUT TO:

59

EXT. COURTHOUSE - DAY 28

59

Lots of activity as verdict is reported.

NEWS REPORTER 3

The jury have just convicted Justin Mitchell of murder by a majority verdict of 10 to 2. He will return to court later this week to be sentenced by the judge...

FADE TO BLACK.

JUDGE (V.O.)

The sentence for murder is life imprisonment. I need to set the minimum term before you can be considered for release by the parole board.

FADE UP TO:

60

INT. COURTHOUSE, COURTROOM - DAY 29

60

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

We are back in court and the judge is handing out the sentence.

JUDGE

The starting point, set out in statute, for that minimum term is 15 years...

On Sam. Anguish because he knows the only way is up now.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

There are a number of features that aggravate this offence: premeditation; the suffering inflicted by you on your victim; and your removal and disposal of evidence.

On Sandra. She has tears streaming down her face.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

But above and beyond those important aggravating features is the fact that when you murdered Marcus Calderwood, you were a serving police officer.

On Justin now. Face set.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

In acting as you did, you profoundly betrayed the faith the public places in police officers - by your actions you have not only taken a life, you have reduced the trust the public will have in police officers, making it more likely that other crimes will go undetected, leaving victims of crime let down, and the guilty unpunished.

JUSTIN

Yes yes yes yes yes.

JUDGE

There are some mitigating factors including your obvious struggles coming to terms with the outcome of a terrible road accident you witnessed and the failure of your employers to help you in that regard.

(beat)

Taking all of those features into account, the minimum term you will serve before you can be considered for parole will be 35 years.

And Justin looks at Sam and in this moment we know that this is effectively a death sentence.

JUMP CUT TO:

61 INT. COURTHOUSE, CELL - DAY 29

61

Sam with Justin.

SAM

The mitigation was paltry. We can appeal the sentence...

JUSTIN

It doesn't matter.

SAM

And the amount added for being a serving police officer was way too...(high)

JUSTIN

Stop it, Sam.

SAM

The sentence is politically motivated. I reckon we can get it reduced by at least...

JUSTIN

Stop it!

Beat.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

I won't serve a single year in a cage.

SAM

Justin please...

JUSTIN

YOU STILL DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING!

That stops Sam. He stares at him.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

I want to tell you. I've always wanted to tell you.

(quietly)

The Prosecution brief was right.

SAM

About what?

JUSTIN

I gambled and I lost. It all came down to a bet.

(beat)

Just not how he thought.

Sam confused.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

The bet was with Norris.

Sam stares at him.

CUT TO:

62

INT. NORRIS'S HOUSE, GAMES ROOM - FLASHBACK (TRUTH)
- NIGHT

62

An expensive man-cave vibe. Some coke paraphernalia. Norris and Justin playing poker.

Justin lays down his hand. It's a good one.

Norris lays down his hand. It's a better one.

Norris smiles.

JUSTIN (V.O.)

We both hated Marcus Calderwood for different reasons. Norris kept going on about smashing him off his bike. I owed Norris money. If I won, it would all be written off. If I lost...

Flash cut to the car on the road bearing down on Marcus. A bike flying up into the air...

63 INT. COURTHOUSE, CELL - DAY 29

63

Justin with Sam.

JUSTIN

Felix Owusu. He's actually right about a lot of shit...

SAM

Such as...

JUSTIN

The pedal for a start.

CUT TO:

64 EXT. ROADSIDE (FLASHBACK - TRUTH) - DAY 1

64

Marcus lying stricken by the roadside, leg snapped in two practically.

JUSTIN (V.O.)

I never kicked him into the ditch; I thought he was dead or as good as. He actually must have been confused and dragged himself the wrong way.

Justin now getting to the bike which has a pedal missing.

JUSTIN (V.O.)

But I saw the pedal was gone and I knew that spelled trouble. Time was short; I was risking somebody with a dashcam going past.

Justin throws the bike into the back of his car, goes over to Marcus and wrenches the helmet from his head.

CUT TO:

65 INT. COURTHOUSE, CELL - DAY 29

65

Back with Justin and Sam.

JUSTIN

I drove home with the bike in the back.

SAM

You could have left it in the boot when Sandra took the car.

JUSTIN

(shaking head)

Too many eggs in one basket. I told Norris he had to deal with it. So he sent Elena to pick it up. Asked for the go-pro as a souvenir. And she put a new set of pedals on it just in case.

SAM

Just in case what?

JUSTIN

In case it was ever found. Confuse matters.

(grins)

Which it did although, fair play, they gave a big helping hand by losing the real one.

SAM

So Norris was behind it.

JUSTIN

He's serious stuff. Friends on both sides of the law that's also true. He got up to some wild shit in Latin America, stories that shocked me, and he knows people you really don't want to fuck with. I worried about Sandra. That Felix Owusu should watch his arse too 'cos he'll be collecting a bunch of shotgun pellets before a Pulitzer Prize.

SAM

You sent me to the decoy pond.

JUSTIN

And I nearly told you the whole thing then. I wanted to...

SAM

I could tell.

JUSTIN

But there's one thing Owusu is completely wrong about. There was no political execution;

(MORE)

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

it wasn't the Deep State or Big Oil
or the Lizard People.

SAM

What was it then?

JUSTIN

Sometimes you gotta remember the
smaller picture.

Sam guesses.

SAM

The tree.

Justin nods.

JUSTIN

The whole time. That tree. It ate
him up. He could afford to fly to
Colombia on chartered jets but
paying a grand for ignoring a TPO
because of some meddling climate
freak? Forget it.

SAM

(slowly)

All of this. Over an ash tree.

Justin smiles. Life.

Some custody officers come to the door.

JUSTIN

So then! Roll the credits on Justin
and Sam...

He holds out his hand and Sam takes it.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Do me a favour and make sure
Sandy's all right. She's a lovely
girl really and she deserved better
than some twisted asshole like me.

SAM

You did have PTSD, Justin. You saw
something nobody should have to
see. And Norris manipulated you.

JUSTIN

Too late for all that.

SAM

I am going to warn them.

JUSTIN

Warn away.

(smiles)

A day, a week, a month tops.

(beat)

Justin Mitchell sets his own
tariff.

And he smiles. Calm. Decided. Almost at peace with himself.

66

EXT. COURTHOUSE - DAY 29

66

Leila is sitting on a bench looking at her phone as Sam comes over.

LEILA

Commiserations.

He nods slowly and sits down beside her.

LEILA (CONT'D)

You put up a pretty good fight.

SAM

Thanks. Not good enough.

LEILA

It was the right verdict.

SAM

Was it though?

LEILA

The tariff was higher than we
expected. He'll be, what, 65 before
he's out on license?

Sam does not say anything to that.

LEILA (CONT'D)

DI Southgate's still going after
Norris. It's personal.

SAM

Well he and his wife have questions
to answer. Think he'll get him?

She makes a dunno shrug.

SAM (CONT'D)

Norris is a skunk. But it's hard to
prosecute a foul stench.

LEILA

Still can't think of a set of mild-
mannered teeth I'd rather not have
in my ankle.

SAM
Well Godspeed, DI Southgate.

Beat.

SAM (CONT'D)
(mock-innocent)
And how's the family?

LEILA
My crazy sister and I are just
about back on speaking terms.

SAM
That's good. Reconciliation. All
for it.

LEILA
Wouldn't go that far but yeah baby
steps...and mum's much-recovered
and off to teach in Canada.

Sam snorts happy derision.

LEILA (CONT'D)
Knew you'd enjoy that.

SAM
They'll be mad for her over there.
(frowns)
On whose uncaded First Nation lands
though?

Leila chuckles lightly.

LEILA
Sure she'll factor it into her
first lecture.
(looks at him)
Hope you're not still buying pills
on the internet.

He looks at her with a little surprise.

LEILA (CONT'D)
There was talk of running you out
of town. I told Southgate to drop
it.

SAM
Oh. Well thanks for that.

LEILA
What are enemies for.

SAM
I owe you a drink.

LEILA

Go for a drink! With you!?

Are you mad!

SAM

Planet's getting cancelled soon.

Why hold onto a grudge, Leila?

He rises and holds out a hand to pull her up just as he did in the court.

She hesitates and then just as he thinks she won't take it again she does.

And we end on their two clasped hands under the dropping sun.

Two sides of the same coin.

END OF SERIES

*
*