

BBC TASTER SHORTS - THE BREAK

TYING THE KNOT

Written by

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SHOOTING SCRIPT 29/10/15

1. INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - DAY

CU of Ronnie looking into a hallway mirror while placing a cream coloured patka on his head and tying it at the back. Ronnie is being filmed "Asian wedding style". Voices from downstairs can be heard, and the sound of the dhol drum beating.

RONNIE

(shouts over his shoulder)
Bruv, save it for the reception!
I'm trying to concentrate here.

The drumming continues.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

(to camera)
I'm glad you find it funny! It's
doing my head in!

We PAN DOWN to see he's wearing full Indian bride grooms attire - dark red tight trousers, a long cream embroidered sherwani and slip on matching Indian shoes. He's really proud of the shoes and wants the camera to get a good look at them.

The drumming stops. Ronnie tightens the drawstring of his trousers. We hear Ronnie's phone ring. His ringtone is 'Stronger' by Kanye West. Ronnie picks up his phone.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

Yeah Raju... WHAT?! ... the clutch
... on the Flying Spur?! I told Dad
not to hire a wedding car from
Jassi's dodgy mate!

(to camera)
Something had to break didn't it?
(into the phone)
I need it sorted bruv!

Ronnie hangs up the phone, shakes his head in annoyance. He quickly checks his patka out in the mirror, tucking in a couple loose ends.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

Right... turban.

He squeezes past the camera and pauses outside a bedroom door which has a khanda (Sikh symbol) on the door.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

(looks at the camera)
(BEAT)
My brother sorted one out for me.

The bedroom door is closed. Ronnie opens it hesitantly. The camera follows him into the bedroom.

2. INT. BOBBY'S BEDROOM - DAY

RONNIE

So this is Bobby's room.

The camera pans off Ronnie to get a quick look around. The bedroom is fairly tidy and has some weights in it, several pairs of shoes are lined up against the wall and there are some hooded tops slung over a chair. There are some books on the side table and some Manchester United FC related items on the wall.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

Yeah, big Man U fan ... just in
case you were wondering!

The dressing table has several bottles of men's aftershave, some books, a brush and comb. He notices a pair of hideous brightly coloured trainers by the bed. Ronnie holds them up. The camera zooms in.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

Look at these!

(showing the camera)

Some limited edition. If you're gonna spend that much on trainers at least get something with a bit of class right? Something that actually goes with stuff!

Ronnie looks around the room.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

(muttering to himself)

Where is it?

Ronnie considers the en-suite bathroom door. He touches it with his fingers for a moment then decides he won't go in there. Camera holds on the bathroom door for a moment before panning over to him.

Ronnie puts the trainers down, quickly wipes his hands and picks up a bottle of aftershave, sprays it into the air, sniffs, and decides he likes it, sprays some onto his neck and carries on searching in Bobby's drawers. He finds an expensive looking watch in one of the drawers.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

What the...?! I've been looking for
this!

(addressing the camera)

Irony is, Bobby's always late. Mum said he was 8 days overdue, couldn't even be born without people waiting for him! Indian timing from the start!

He carries on searching and finds the (red) turban. It's in Bobby's drawer, right next to his Calvin Kleins.

RONNIE (CONT'D)
Dude, seriously?! I know they're
clean but YOUR arse, MY head!

Ronnie sits at the dressing table and looks into a small mirror. He takes the turban and holds one side flat against the side of his head and gets ready to wrap the other side round, then he stops. He looks up at the camera.

RONNIE (CONT'D)
Wait, how do I do this?

Ronnie's phone begins to ring. He answers the phone straight away with a hopeful look in his eyes.

RONNIE (CONT'D)
(Not wanting to be disturbed)
Raju! I'm done talking about this.
Again with the Merc - no.
Groomzilla? What -? No. Bye.

Addresses directly to camera as he prepares to put the turban on.

RONNIE (CONT'D)
I am not showing up at my own
wedding in my Uncle's battered 2004
Mercedes. Priya's Dad's loaded. I
want him to know he's giving his
daughter to a man, not some joker.
(BEAT)
You'd think with a house full of
people this would be sorted by now.
The US massive, the Indian lot, the
Nairobi crew. It's like the
freakin' United Nations up in here,
except they couldn't organise
themselves out of a wet paper bag!

Ronnie starts tying the turban onto his head, keeping the end of the cloth in his teeth and removing it to talk now and then.

RONNIE (CONT'D)
Bobby's pagh's always on point. On
point get it? He kept his hair from
day one. I cut mine when I was
thirteen. Only person who knew was
Bob. He's always had my back. Mum
found my plait under the bed.
Started crying and shit. Dad
wouldn't even look at me. Mum kept
the plait. She wears as a hair
extension sometimes. Probably
putting it on right now!
(MORE)

RONNIE (CONT'D)

Freaks me out big time. Bobby said it's sweet.

(shakes his head with a half smile)

Always trying to talk about feelings and shit. Leave it yeah. I mean, what are we? A couple of pussies?!

Ronnie struggles to make the folds of his turban look neat. He gets frustrated and stops. He doesn't address the camera directly.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

Bobby's the one that's supposed to be tying this! He's supposed to be the friggin best man! Where the hell are you Bob?

Ronnie considers the room. There is silence. We feel the emptiness around him. The cameraman takes a respectful step back.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

(Almost spits out these words in anger)

Typical Bobby though innit. Never follows anything through. Dropped out of uni, got his on/off girlfriend pregnant, begged Dad for a job then couldn't even hold that down. I swear, sometimes it's like he's on something, dreaming up some new business venture "this time next year we'll be millionaires"

(shouts the last word)

Bullshit.

Ronnie angrily kicks Bobby's trainers at the bathroom door.

He takes a few deep breaths and tries to calm down. He looks at the time. He picks up his phone, dials and gets a busy tone.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

Cuz it's Ronnie. Call me!

Ronnie angrily hangs up the phone. He looks at the camera. He considers the room and the objects in it.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

Bobby could sort this. Always fixing things, couldn't fix himself though could he. Couldn't even get out of bed on his down days. Took him to Ayia Napa to help him chill out.

(MORE)

RONNIE (CONT'D)

Work hard, play hard, that's what life's about innit? After that he was alright for a bit....

Ronnie glances at the bathroom door with a troubled expression on his face. He breathes deeply and goes back to tying his turban.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

What was it again? Four larhs ... no five larhs? What was it Bobby?

Ronnie gets up and walks towards the bathroom door. The camera follows. He looks at the trainers. Ronnie slowly puts one hand out like he is about to touch the door, then he takes a step back.

He opens the door and there is darkness. Ronnie turns on the light and is met with an empty bathroom devoid of any belongings or life.

3. INT. BOBBY'S EN SUITE BATHROOM - DAY

Ronnie speaks quietly as he enters the bathroom.

RONNIE

Just over a year bruv. Since I came in here and found you. It wasn't really you by then though was it. I guess none of us believed you'd actually do it. What a waste!

Ronnie sits down on the edge of the bath. The cameraman hesitates outside and films Ronnie from the doorway.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

Calen's one and a half now. He's got your eyes. Got his mum's nose though thank god!

(smiles to himself)
I'm gonna be there for him you know. I'll talk to him, listen to him.

Ronnie looks at the trainers by the door.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

I'd give anything to have you here right now. Just the two of us sitting here talking ... like a couple of pussies (laughs to himself). I got you now bruv. Like you always had me.

Ronnie stands up, looks in the bathroom mirror and quietly finishes tying his turban. He manages to remember how to do the larh (folds) and makes it look neat.

Then he looks around the bathroom like he is feeling his brother's presence in there for one last time.

RONNIE (CONT'D)
(quietly)
Fly free Bob.

Ronnie walks out of the bathroom.

4. INT. BOBBY'S BEDROOM - DAY

As he exits the bedroom the camera pans down to see that instead of his wedding shoes he is wearing Bobby's trainers. We hear noises of him rejoining his family as we hold on to the empty room.

END CREDITS PLAY TO 'STRONGER' BY KANYE WEST