

THE DUMPING GROUND
SERIES 5

EPISODE THIRTEEN

'Choose Your Own Adventure'
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SHOOTING SCRIPT

17th June 2016

Pink Amends: 30th June 2016

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1

INT. DG LIVING ROOM - DAY 24. 09:31
FLOSS

1

Silence. C/U a dead-eyed FLOSS staring down at something.
(All these shots of the YP should be as unflattering as possible. Double chins, mouths agape, bit of drool? Has there been a zombie apocalypse at the DG?)

CUT TO:

2

INT. DG UPSTAIRS CORRIDOR/BILLIE & TONI'S ROOM/SASHA'S ROOM 2 - DAY 24. 09:31
MIKE, BILLIE, TONI, SASHA

MIKE stalks the corridor. It's eerily quiet. He peers into a couple of rooms. Through the open doors he can see BILLIE and TONI's legs as they sit next to each other on a bed. And SASHA slouched, hunkered over something at her desk.

Series of shots: We see their faces - uniformly fish-eyed and staring (we still don't see at what). On MIKE outside. This is seriously weird.

CUT TO:

3

INT. DG LOBBY/OFFICE/KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM - DAY 24. 09:31 3
MIKE, MAY-LI, ARCHIE, JODY, TYLER, FLOSS

MIKE heads downstairs. It's still dead quiet. He sees various YP (ARCHIE, JODY, TYLER) sitting around, staring down (again, we don't see at what). On MIKE, Sergio Leone-style close-up:

MIKE

It's quiet.

SFX: Bald Eagle screech.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Too quiet.

MAY-LI looks up from her computer in the office.

MAY-LI

Sorry, what?

MIKE

It's half nine in the morning. Full house. And it's dead quiet cos they're already zombiefied.

Series of shots: We reveal all the YP are looking at various devices. We end on FLOSS, whose phone makes a cheery 'bbbrrinng' noise. She smiles lazily.

MIKE (CONT'D)

(shouting to them)

You're wasting your lives!

TYLER passes, his head in his phone - Pays no attention.

MIKE (CONT'D)
Hello? Anyone? Fire! The house is
on fire!
(getting no reaction)
Right. That's it.

He marches over to the router in the lobby and pulls the plug. Still part-zombified and not fully understanding what's going on, the YP start tapping at their screens, confused.

MIKE (CONT'D)
This house is now officially
offline. No tech of any sort for a
week. No TV, phones, music... no
internet!

The true horror of this suddenly dawns on the YP.

FLOSS
No!

CUT TO:

OPENING TITLES

CUT TO:

4

INT. DG KITCHEN - DAY 24. 09:38

4

**MIKE, MAY-LI, FLOSS, CHLOE, FINN, DEXTER, CANDI-ROSE, TYLER,
ARCHIE, RYAN, TONI**

The YP reluctantly put their devices into a cardboard box. When it's her turn, FLOSS hesitates.

FLOSS
But, I was about to evolve my
Faerie King! I had maxxed out X.P!

MIKE
I have literally no idea what you
just said.

FLOSS
Fable Scape! It's my life!

MIKE
No, it's a computer game. Life is
for living. For having new
experiences. Adventures!

The YP look unimpressed.

CANDI-ROSE
Sounds... boring.

MIKE

(re: box)

That stuff is boring. And it's
making you boring.

FLOSS

I am NOT boring...

MIKE

The new mural was finished days ago
and none you have been out there to
see it.

CANDI-ROSE

There was no need. Finn sent us a
picture.

CANDI-ROSE presents the picture of the mural on her phone to
MIKE. He shakes his head in dismay and tosses the phone into
the box.

MIKE

When I was your age we made our own
fun. Honestly, you lot wouldn't
last five minutes.

TYLER

Well yeah, cos when you were a kid
there was like, man-eating
dinosaurs...

MIKE smiles sarcastically 'funny'.

FLOSS

No, you're wrong. We don't need
tech to have fun.

ARCHIE

Yeah!

(to FLOSS; unsure)

Yeah?

FLOSS

Yeah. I ruled at Fable Scape, but I
can also rule at being... what's
the word?

JOSEPH

Analogue?

FLOSS

Yeah that. We all can.

MIKE

Great. Now's your chance to prove
it.

He heads off. The others turn to FLOSS.

TONI

Well go on then.

On FLOSS: um...

CUT TO:

5 **SCENE OMITTED**

5

6 **SCENE OMITTED**

6

7

INT. DG LIVING ROOM/LOBBY - DAY 24. 10:35

7

**FLOSS, ARCHIE, JODY, TYLER, CHLOE, CANDI-ROSE, ALEX, RYAN,
MIKE**

The unimpressed YP are reluctantly playing old board games.

FLOSS

You've never played snakes and
ladders?!

ARCHIE

No. How do you play?

FLOSS

You roll the dice. Move the
counter. Climb up ladders, slide
down snakes.

ARCHIE nods. Waits. Realises there's nothing to wait for.

ARCHIE

That's it?

A pop-up pirate pops up. The players - JODY, TYLER, CHLOE and CANDI-ROSE barely react. TYLER sighs, bored out of his brain. We go to the stairs. ALEX hurries down towards dawdling RYAN.

ALEX

Get out my way.

RYAN just smirks. ALEX just barges his way past.

RYAN

(annoyed)

Oi.

MIKE grabs something from the office and intercepts him.

MIKE

Alex! Where are you going?

ALEX

I don't have to tell you.

MIKE

You kind of do...

ALEX

Library.

RYAN

Didn't put you down as a bookworm.

ALEX glares at him.

MIKE

(warning)

Ryan...

(MORE)

MIKE (CONT'D)

(to ALEX; handing over a
large old mobile)

Fine. Just take your phone so we
can find you.

ALEX grabs the phone and goes. MIKE shouts after:

MIKE (CONT'D)

And leave it on!

FLOSS

(shouting through the
doorway)

Hang on. You have a go at us, but
give HIM a phone?

RYAN

(heading out the back)

Didn't you know? You get
preferential treatment if you
vandalise murals... burn things...

MIKE looks at him, annoyed. We go back to the living room.

CANDI-ROSE

Does Mike really mean an ACTUAL
week without wi-fi?

CHLOE

I'm meant to be going to the save
the library group meeting. But I've
forgotten when it is. Now I can't
even look it up.

JODY

How did the world even work before
the internet?

FLOSS moves a counter. Lands on a snake. Sighs.

FLOSS

There must be something else to do.

On FLOSS, this isn't going to be as easy as she thought.

CUT TO:

Standing in front of the cleaned and re-painted mural, RYAN
checks the coast is clear and gets out his spare phone.
Seeing ALEX approach, he hides it again. Styles it out.

RYAN

(re: mural)

So how long before you trash this
one?

ALEX

I thought Mike banned phones?
Twenty quid. Or I tell him.

RYAN fumes. He's sick of ALEX.

RYAN

(derisive)

You don't want to be here. We don't
want you here. Every thing was
better before you came. So... why
don't you just run away?

Unfazed, ALEX shrugs.

ALEX

I'll go when I'm ready. Twenty
quid.

RYAN calms himself. Thinks.

RYAN

How much would it take to make you
ready. To go. And not come back.

ALEX stares back. If he's hurt by this, he covers it. He
looks at the mural.

ALEX

Call it fifty. And that phone.

RYAN

I'm not paying you anything. And
you're definitely not getting this.
As today showed, sometimes it's
good to have a spare...

ALEX

Pity Mike's about to take it off
you then...

ALEX heads away. We stay on him as:

RYAN

What if I could get you loads of
phones? Tablets. A laptop or two...

ALEX stops. RYAN smiles, here's a way to get rid of ALEX once
and for all...

CUT TO:

MAY-LI

You can't be expecting us to go
without emails...

MIKE

Course not, we'll turn the router
back on when we need it. Come on
May! It's character building...

They look over at various YP glumly playing board games or
just staring into space. ARCHIE is playing with a ball-and-
cup (he continues to do so, unsuccessfully, throughout.)

MAY-LI

(sarc)

No, you're right. They look
positively bursting with character.

MIKE gives her a look and heads through.

MIKE

Who fancies a game of charades?!

We hear the groans from the YP but stay with MAY-LI. FLOSS
slips in and shuts the door behind her.

FLOSS

May. You have to help. I can't take
any more games. There must've been
something else to do in the olden
days...

MAY-LI

Er, I wasn't around in the 'olden
days'.

FLOSS

You know what I mean. Please
May-Li.

MAY-LI smiles. Thinks. Goes to a shelf. Picks up an old book.

MAY-LI

Here. Read this. It was my
favourite when I was your age.

FLOSS looks at it. 'The Secret Gang go on an Adventure' by
Agnes Braithwaite.

FLOSS

A... book?

On FLOSS, unconvinced.

CUT TO:

9A

INT. DG LOBBY/OFFICE/KITCHEN - DAY 24. 10:47

9A

FLOSS, JODY, TONI, BILLIE, SASHA, TYLER, ARCHIE, FINN,

JOSEPH, DEXTER, CANDI-ROSE, CHLOE, MIKE, MAY-LI, RYAN, ALEX

FLOSS walks out the office, warily looking at the book. RYAN is with ALEX. He nods to the filing cabinet in the office, whispers:

RYAN
(re: office)
That cabinet. Hundreds of quid's worth. Maybe more.

ALEX
Isn't it locked?

We see MIKE and MAY-LI are both inside working.

RYAN
The key's in Mike's drawer. And tomorrow afternoon he always goes jogging, leaving May-Li to deal with the shopping delivery.

ALEX nods.

RYAN (CONT'D)
Candy from a baby. Which knowing you, you've probably actually done.

ALEX looks at him, hard. RYAN smiles.

RYAN (CONT'D)
Joke!

ALEX
You don't know me.

RYAN
Happy to keep it that way.

ALEX gives him a look and heads off. RYAN stops him.

RYAN (CONT'D)
Hand over the skateboard one to me yeah? And the one with red cover with flowers inside.

ALEX
Flowers? How many phones you got? *

RYAN
It's not mine... it's Chloe's.

ALEX
Ahhh. And you act so tough.

RYAN
No. I just have people I care about. You should try it.

We see that hurts ALEX. RYAN moves away. We cross to FLOSS sat at the kitchen table, looking at the book. JODY, SASHA and TYLER hurry past with urgency.

FLOSS

Where are youse lot going?

SASHA

Mike wants to play tiddlywinks.

TYLER

I don't care how bored I am. I aint tiddlywinking.

JODY

We're going to try and watch the Umbleby's telly through their window.

They hurry out. FLOSS sighs and reluctantly opens the book. Reading, she pulls a face at first, but then slowly looks more and more interested. She turns the page.

TIME LAPSE SEQUENCE: FLOSS stays still, engrossed in the book, as we speed up time. The rest of the DG buzz around her: ARCHIE still trying the ball and cup; JOSEPH and MIKE play repeated games of chess (JOSEPH wins every time); FINN, TONI, BILLIE and DEXTER play Cowboys and Indians; CANDI-ROSE hula-hoops; CHLOE spins a ball on her finger.

TIME LAPSE ENDS. FLOSS turns over the last page. Thinks, then:

FLOSS

Library.

On FLOSS, excitedly dashing off.

CUT TO:

10	<u>SCENE OMITTED</u>	10
11	<u>SCENE OMITTED</u>	11
12	<u>INT. DG FLOSS' ROOM - NIGHT 24. 22:05</u> <u>FLOSS, MIKE (O.S.)</u>	12

Later. In bed, a thrilled FLOSS reads 'The Secret Gang go Adventuring Again' next to a stack of adventurous books by her bedside (Arthur Ransome, Willard Price, Nancy Drew etc).

MIKE (O.S.)

(from outside)

Floss! Lights out!

FLOSS

Okay!

FLOSS turns off her light... But then reappears by torchlight under her duvet. She's not ready to put the book down yet.

FADE TO:

13	<u>SCENE OMITTED</u>	13
14	<u>SCENE OMITTED</u>	14
15	<u>EXT. MORPETH CASTLE. DREAM SEQUENCE 1</u> <u>FLOSS, FINN, TONI, BILLIE, N/S SMUGGLERS</u>	15

Series of shots: Technicolour saturation and 50s period costume. FLOSS, FINN, TONI and BILLIE - accompanied by a brown mongrel dog - merrily skip along clutching a picnic basket and bottles of ginger beer. Suddenly FLOSS hears something. They duck into the bushes.

From the bushes they see two SMUGGLERS carrying sacks disappearing into the castle. Ignoring the protests of the others, brave FLOSS follows them in.

CUT TO:

16	<u>INT. MORPETH CASTLE. DREAM SEQUENCE 2</u> <u>FLOSS, N/S SMUGGLERS</u>	16
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FLOSS finds the SMUGGLERS stacking the sacks - all bearing the legend 'SMUGGLED GOODS'. FLOSS gasps.

CUT TO:

17	<u>EXT. MORPETH CASTLE. DREAM SEQUENCE 3</u> <u>FLOSS, FINN, TONI, BILLIE, N/S POLICE, N/S SMUGGLERS</u>	17
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Series of shots: FLOSS is outside the castle walls, telling two fifties-style POLICEMEN. The POLICEMEN dash in.

The POLICEMEN bring out the SMUGGLERS in hand-cuffs. FLOSS and the others watch from a picnic rug while tucking into hard-boiled eggs and fruitcake. The POLICEMEN wave cheerily at FLOSS. She waves back. The others all toast FLOSS with ginger beer. On FLOSS' grin...

FADE TO:

18	<u>INT. DG FLOSS' ROOM. DAY 25. 08:30</u> <u>FLOSS</u>	18
----	---	----

FLOSS wakes up with a start under her book and (still on) torch. She sits up, inspired.

FLOSS
That's it! I need an adventure!

CUT TO:

19

INT. DG FLOSS' ROOM - DAY 25. 09:15

19

FLOSS, MIKE, JOSEPH, FINN, ARCHIE, TONI, BILLIE, DEXTER

FLOSS talks to MIKE while assembling her adventurers kit on her bed: torch; sandwiches; rope; Jeff the Giraffe.

MIKE

(picking up the rope)

So what exactly do you expect to happen on this adventure?

FLOSS

Oh, the usual. Caves. Secret passageways. Smugglers.

ARCHIE (O.S.)

Ready?

MIKE turns to find JOSEPH, FINN, ARCHIE, TONI and DEXTER similarly dressed/equipped for adventure (safari hats, camouflage, a fish-net - BILLIE wears a scuba-diving mask)

FLOSS

Ready!

MIKE

Some of you are a little young to be going out without an adult...

FLOSS

Oh come on Mike! This is all because of you remember?

JOSEPH

Yeah. We're only going on an adventure because of the tech ban. Technically.

DEXTER

I mean, you could just give our phones back?

BILLIE

(from under the mask)

Sounds good to me.

FLOSS

Or. You put your money where your mouth is.

MIKE sighs. On FLOSS, positively brimming with derring-do.

CUT TO:

20

INT. DG KITCHEN/LOBBY/OFFICE - DAY 25. 09:20

20

ALEX, MIKE, MAY-LI, FLOSS, DEXTER, ARCHIE, SASHA, RYAN

ALEX munches a bowl of cereal and watches as the DG Famous 7 head out the door. MIKE watches from the office with MAY-LI.

FLOSS

Bye Mike!

MAY-LI

So.... you're not even going follow them in the car?

MIKE

Did you have an adult follow you round when you were a kid?

MAY-LI

No....

MIKE

Well then.

(unsure)

Money where my mouth is.

We go to ALEX absentmindedly washing-up as he watches SASHA passing DEXTER some sarnies.

DEXTER

(embarrassed)

We're going on an adventure, not a picnic.

SASHA

Okay. I'll just throw away these chicken and ketchup sarnies then...

DEXTER

Woah, I didn't say that. Hungry work this adventuring...

SASHA smiles, jovially punches him on the arm. Back to ALEX, a faint smile forming at their familial affection.

RYAN (O.S.)

Reckon you're overdoing it.

ALEX turns to see RYAN watching. His face hardens.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Washing up. I mean, I get you want to make them less suspicious but...

A little embarrassed, ALEX chuck's the washing brush in the sink and moves away past RYAN.

ALEX

Keep your mouth shut.

On ALEX, trying to tough it out. Can he go through with this?

CUT TO:

21

EXT. MORPETH CASTLE GROUNDS - DAY 25. 09:30
FLOSS, FINN, JOSEPH, TONI, BILLIE, ARCHIE, DEXTER

21

FLOSS happily leads her band of adventurers.

FINN

So where we going?

JOSEPH

Yeah. Have you a particular adventure in mind?

FLOSS

First we go to a castle or an island. And then we find a secret passageway, smugglers or hidden pirate gold!

(shouting)

Adventurers ahoy!

She charges off. The others look at each other, shrug... and charge after her.

ALL

Ahoy!

CUT TO:

22

EXT. MORPETH CASTLE - DAY 25. 09:35
FLOSS, FINN, JOSEPH, TONI, BILLIE, ARCHIE, DEXTER

22

C/U on a sign 'CASTLE CLOSED'. On FLOSS, dejected.

ARCHIE

What now? Cos I'm pretty sure there 'aint no islands near here.

FLOSS

(inspiration hits)

Maybe it's closed for smuggling!
Come on!

FLOSS dashes off, practically dragging the rest with her.

CUT TO:

23

SCENE OMITTED

23

24

EXT. MORPETH CASTLE HILL-TOP - DAY 25. 11:25
FLOSS, FINN, JOSEPH, TONI, BILLIE, ARCHIE, DEXTER, MIKE

24

In the B/G the others happily eat their lunch while FLOSS and FINN scan the horizon looking for smugglers.

FINN

There! Smuggler!

FLOSS grabs his binoculars. We see what she sees: A man looking at them through binoculars. Back to FLOSS.

FLOSS

Oh my Gosh! You're right. Wait...

MIKE realises he's been seen. Hides his binoculars.

FLOSS (CONT'D)

(sighs)

It's Mike spying on us. So much for money where his mouth is.

MIKE acts innocent, looks around. On FLOSS, aggrieved.

CUT TO:

25

EXT. MORPETH CASTLE GROUNDS RIVER - DAY 25. 12:15

25

FLOSS, FINN, JOSEPH, TONI, BILLIE, ARCHIE, DEXTER, MIKE

JOSEPH, FINN, DEXTER, TONI and BILLIE are playing on stepping stones/fishing by the river. FLOSS hurries over, annoyed.

FLOSS

Nothing. No smugglers. No pirate gold. And we can all see you Mike!

MIKE pops out of the bushes in rudimentary camouflage (a couple of branches stuck to his head).

MIKE

What? No. I was just... um...

(looking at the binoculars
in his hand)

Birdwatching. You guys carry on.
(scanning the trees)

Here birdie birdies...

He heads off into the undergrowth. FLOSS rolls her eyes.

DEXTER

You didn't actually expect to find any of that did you?

FLOSS

Well, I expected something better than... minnows.

JOSEPH

Actually these are three-spined stickle...

(he stops)

But, I... take your point.

FINN

Well, you can't say we didn't try.

FLOSS

Come on, there's still loads of
places yet.

(looking at book)

Valleys... ships...

(pathetically)

The... circus?

DEXTER

Right, well good luck with that.

TONI

Come on Floss, today's been ace.

BILLIE

Yeah. And sort of an adventure?

FLOSS

(getting angry)

Today has NOT been an adventure!
Where's the excitement? The danger?
The, flippin' secret passageways?!

The others don't really know what to say.

FLOSS (CONT'D)

We can't quit now!

JOSEPH

It is quite cold...

FLOSS

(to TONI and BILLIE)

You'll keep looking won't you?
There's a secret tunnel around here
somewhere. I know it.

BILLIE

Maybe... we could try another day?

FLOSS

You lot are RUBBISH. I don't need
any of you to have an adventure.
I'll have one by myself.

FINN

Floss...

But FLOSS doesn't stop.

DEXTER

Ah, leave her. Come on.

DEXTER heads off with the others. FINN looks after FLOSS
concerned, then reluctantly follows them.

A little way away, FLOSS stops and looks round. Expecting them to follow, she's hurt to see that they've left her. On FLOSS, wretched.

CUT TO:

26

EXT. DG BACK GARDEN - DAY 25. 12:45
FLOSS, JOSEPH, TONI, BILLIE, DEXTER, ALEX

26

JOSEPH, DEXTER, TONI and BILLIE head inside chatting happily. Hanging back, sulkily, FLOSS follows them at a distance.

ALEX (O.S.)
Found your 'adventure' then?

FLOSS turns to find ALEX sat up against the wall.

FLOSS
No. They're a bunch of quitters.

ALEX
Thought you were mates?

FLOSS
Nah. They don't care about anyone but themselves.

ALEX
Really? I thought you lot looked out for each other?

FLOSS
If you have a brother or sister, maybe. But if you're on your own no-one gives a stuff.

ALEX nods, thoughtful.

FLOSS (CONT'D)
Once I'm old enough I'm off like a shot. I'm surprised you're still here.

ALEX nods. Gets a text from RYAN. It reads 'It's on'.

ALEX
Yeah.

FLOSS decides she can't face the others. ALEX watches her, as she heads into the copse, and slowly gets up. Here goes...

CUT TO:

27

INT. DG LOBBY - DAY 25. 12:46
MIKE, JODY, TYLER, DEXTER, MAY-LI, RYAN, ALEX

27

MIKE is heading out for a jog while JODY pounces on TYLER surreptitiously putting on in-ear headphones (he's has the buds in his palms so, once in, they're completely hidden).

JODY
Illegal tech. Tsk.

TYLER
Shh!

JODY grins and heads away. TYLER puts his headphones back in.

MIKE
Where's Floss?

DEXTER
Sulking outside cos we didn't find a real adventure.

MIKE
Tyler. Make sure she doesn't stay out there too long okay?

Not hearing, TYLER realises he's being talked to, just in time. Offers a generic reply hoping that's the answer:

TYLER
Yeah. Cool.

MIKE nods. Satisfied he evaded suspicion, TYLER slopes off. MIKE opens the door. Stops and calls back.

MIKE
May? The delivery van's just pulled up. You okay to do it?

MIKE heads out. MAY-LI tuts and heads outside, leaving the office door open. RYAN nods at ALEX. On ALEX, here goes...

CUT TO:

28 **EXT. DG BACK GARDEN COPSE HATCH - DAY 25. 12:47** 28
FLOSS

Sulky FLOSS wanders into the copse. Upset turning to anger, she kicks out, dislodging a stone. The stone flies through the air and lands with a metallic clatter. FLOSS looks after it, surprised. Heading over, she pushes a bush out the way. Underneath, she finds what looks like a metal handle on the ground. Brushing away leaves, she starts to uncover a hatch.

FLOSS
Crikey!

CUT TO:

29 **INT. DG OFFICE - DAY 25. 12:47 - CONTINUOUS** 29
ALEX

Keeping low, ALEX quickly steals into the office. He checks the coast is clear and hurries over to the cabinet. Glancing around again he stealthily opens the door revealing the box of tech...

CUT TO:

30 **EXT. DG BACK GARDEN COPSE HATCH - DAY 25. 12:47 - CONTINUOUS**
FLOSS

FLOSS has revealed the metal hatch. She tries the handle and, to her surprise, it turns. She heaves it open. Stares in.

FLOSS
(mind blown)
No. Way.

ENTER SPLIT SCREEN.

Dancing a little jig of excitement, FLOSS suddenly stops. Should she tell someone else about this? Or go down alone?

PLAYS ALONGSIDE:

31 **INT. DG OFFICE - DAY 25. 12:47 - CONTINUOUS** 31
ALEX

We mirror the shot with ALEX looking into the box of tech devices. We see this isn't easy for him. Will he do it?

CUT TO:

32 **ANIMATION** 32

FLOSS and ALEX's animations play simultaneously:

FLOSS goes down the hatch. She scares off pirates and smugglers, and finds treasure.

ALEX opens the box. A policeman jumps out, claps him in handcuffs, and leads him away.

CUT TO:

33 **EXT. DG BACK GARDEN COPSE HATCH - DAY 25. 12:47 - CONTINUOUS**
FLOSS

FLOSS quickly rummages in her bag and grabs the torch. Jeff the Giraffe falls out and she picks him up.

FLOSS
Come on Jeff. Let's do this.

Stuffing him back in the bag (his head sticking out) FLOSS shines her torch down the hole, takes a breath. Putting the torch between her teeth, she heads down the ladder...

CUT TO:

34 **INT. DG OFFICE - DAY 25. 12:47 - CONTINUOUS** 34
ALEX, MIKE, RYAN

Guilt-ridden, ALEX takes one last look inside the box... before deciding against it. He shuts the box, closes the door and turns... To find MIKE behind him.

MIKE

Alex?

ALEX looks over to the doorway and sees double-crossing RYAN smirking at him. On ALEX, busted.

CUT TO:

35 **INT. BUNKER - DAY 25. 12:48** 35
FLOSS

FLOSS steps off the ladder and shines her torch around.

FLOSS

Hello? I, um, found this hatch.
Hope that's okay?

On FLOSS, trying to contain her excitement.

CUT TO:

36 **INT. DG OFFICE - DAY 25. 12:48 - CONTINUOUS** 36
ALEX, RYAN, MIKE, MAY-LI

ALEX is on the defensive with MIKE and MAY-LI.

ALEX

I wasn't doing anything...

RYAN

Oh, what were you looking in there
for? Stationery...?

ALEX makes for RYAN. MIKE steps in the way.

MIKE
Calm down. Calm DOWN!

ALEX
This is him. He set me up.

MAY-LI
Both of you. Stop it.

RYAN
What?! That's ridiculous...

MIKE
Ryan. Get out.

ALEX

No. I'm the one who's going...

MIKE

Alex, you can't...

ALEX

You can't stop me. Go ahead. Call the police. I'll be gone before they get here. And this time I ain't coming back.

ALEX storms out, pushing RYAN out the way as he goes. On ALEX, heading out. Hurt as well as angry.

CUT TO:

37

INT. BUNKER - DAY 25. 12:50
FLOSS

37

FLOSS flicks a switch labelled 'GENERATOR'. With a whir and a splutter, the lights blink on. FLOSS is standing in an old WW2 Royal Observer Corps bunker, complete with bunk, shelves of supplies and radio station. A large map covers the wall.

FLOSS

Woah.

She starts picking through old manuals and radio-equipment.

FLOSS (CONT'D)

This is. So cool.

(seeing something)

No way...

She heads to the supply shelf and picks up an empty bottle.

FLOSS (CONT'D)

Ginger beer!

Hurriedly backing over to the ladder, she stumbles and falls against it. The vibration causes the hatch door to slam shut.

FLOSS (CONT'D)

Oh.

She scrambles up the ladder and hurriedly tries to re-open it. The rusted lever snaps off in her hand. FLOSS looks at it. Uh-oh.

FLOSS (CONT'D)

Um, guys?

CUT TO:

38

EXT. DG BACK GARDEN COPSE HATCH - DAY 25. 12:51 - CONTINUOUS
FLOSS (O.S.)

We're outside the closed hatch. The camera pulls away as we hear FLOSS' muffled voice.

FLOSS (O.S)
Guys? Helloooo?

But there's no one to hear...

CUT TO:

39

INT. DG LIVING ROOM/LOBBY/OFFICE - DAY 25. 12:51

39

TYLER, MAY-LI, RYAN, MIKE

C/U on TYLER, in his own little world, happily listening to music through his headphones. Behind him in the lobby, a frustrated MAY-LI is trying to get the truth from RYAN.

MAY-LI
So you're saying you had nothing to do with that?

RYAN
No! Why don't you believe me?

MAY-LI
Why do you think Ryan? Because you lie. If you want people to start believing you, maybe stop lying all the time.

RYAN scoffs and heads off, hiding his guilt in belligerence. MIKE comes out the office, putting on his coat.

MIKE
He's not answering his phone. I'll check his usual haunts.

MAY-LI nods. TYLER continues to listen to his music.

CUT TO:

40

INT. BUNKER - DAY 25. 12:55

40

FLOSS
Refusing to panic, FLOSS thinks. Decides to try yelling.

FLOSS
Help!! Heeelllp!!

Nothing. Maintaining pragmatism, she steps away from the ladder. Seeing Jeff looking at her she addresses him.

FLOSS (CONT'D)
Okay, Jeff. This is no time to panic. I mean yes, I'm trapped down here. And no-one knows where I am.

She bites her lip.

FLOSS (CONT'D)

All I have to do is figure out what
people in books would do.
(looking around)
Definitely no secret passageways
out of here...

She sees something.

FLOSS (CONT'D)

The radio! If the lights are on...

She switches the 'on' button. We hear the hum of static.

FLOSS (CONT'D)

Yes! Now how do you think it works?

She grabs the manual and gets to work.

FLOSS (CONT'D)

Best adventure ever. Best adventure
ever.

On FLOSS, keeping upbeat.

CUT TO:

41

INT. DG LIVING ROOM - DAY 25. 13:00
JOSEPH, DEXTER, BILLIE, TYLER, MAY-LI, FINN

41

JOSEPH dismantles a radio. DEXTER and BILLIE watch him,
doubtfully. TYLER still listens to music in the B/G.

JOSEPH

So that's what the inside of a
radio looks like. See? I told you
this would be fun.

BILLIE

I'm so bored.

DEXTER

Maybe we should try one of Floss'
books?

FINN

Where is Floss?

A passing MAY-LI over-hears.

MAY-LI

Tyler? Tyler.

TYLER doesn't hear MAY-LI until she's over him. She takes his
hands from his ears.

MAY-LI (CONT'D)
(seeing the headphones)
Tyler!

TYLER takes them off guilty.

MAY-LI (CONT'D)
Hand them over. And where's Floss?

TYLER
I don't know...

MAY-LI
Mike asked you to get her in from
the garden...

TYLER
Did he?
(off her look)
Alright, I'm going...

He heads out. JOSEPH looks at the pieces of radio.

JOSEPH
Now, putting it back together.
That's the tricky bit.

He bites his lip. A little out of his depth.

CUT TO:

42 **EXT. STREET - DAY 25. 13:05**
MIKE, ALEX, HOMELESS PERSON 42

MIKE approaches a HOMELESS PERSON. Shows him a photograph.

MIKE
You haven't seen him around have
you? Sixteen. Brown hair. About
this tall.

The HOMELESS PERSON shakes his head. MIKE nods sadly and
heads off. Once he's gone, ALEX steps out of the shadows.

ALEX
Cheers.

The HOMELESS PERSON asks where is he going to go?

ALEX (CONT'D)
Don't know. Away from here.

On ALEX, resolved to leave for good.

CUT TO:

43

INT. DG OFFICE - DAY 25. 13:18
MIKE, MAY-LI, TYLER

43

MIKE enters and goes to MAY-LI putting down her phone.

MAY-LI

Nothing?

MIKE

Nobody's seen him.

TYLER approaches, worried.

TYLER

Um, guys. Floss isn't out there. Or
anywhere else. She's like...
properly missing.

On their surprise.

CUT TO:

44

INT. BUNKER - DAY 25. 13:25
FLOSS

44

Nervous FLOSS presses a button and leans into the mic.

FLOSS

Hello? Can anyone hear me? Um...

She looks at the manual.

FLOSS (CONT'D)

Mayday mayday mayday. I'm... stuck
in a big hole. Near Ashdene Ridge
care home.

She pauses, unsure what to say.

FLOSS (CONT'D)

I thought it would be fun. But
turns out it's not. It's cold and a
bit smelly. And lonely.

She swallows, trying to stop herself getting upset.

FLOSS (CONT'D)

And being alone isn't even the
worse thing. The worse thing is
that since I've read the manual I
know what the flashing light means.

She looks at two flashing lights on the console.

FLOSS (CONT'D)

It means the generator is running
out of fuel.

(MORE)

FLOSS (CONT'D)

And when that goes I won't be able
to use the radio anymore. Or have
any lights.

She lets go of the button. Looks at Jeff.

FLOSS (CONT'D)

Stop looking like that Jeff. This
is not scary. It's an adventure. An
adventure. Defin-ite-ly not scary.

On FLOSS, trying to convince herself.

CUT TO:

45

INT. DG LOBBY - DAY 25. 13:26 - CONTINUOUS

45

**MIKE, MAY-LI, RYAN, TYLER, JODY, SASHA, CHLOE, CANDI-ROSE,
JOSEPH, TONI, BILLIE, ARCHIE, FINN, DEXTER, FLOSS (V.O)**

MAY-LI has brought the box from the office and hands out
phones and other devices while MIKE phones the police. In the
b/g JOSEPH slowly puts the radio together.

MIKE

(to phone)

She's skipped out before, but
not for this long and not
without telling anyone...

MAY-LI

(to the YP)

Try anyone you can think of:
friends, people from
school...

The radio crackles into life.

FLOSS (V.O)

...day mayday mayday.

Everybody freezes. Turns to look at the radio.

JOSEPH

Floss?

CUT TO:

46

INT. BUNKER - DAY 25. 13:27 - CONTINUOUS

46

FLOSS is ready to give up.

FLOSS

If any one can hear me, I'm trapped
in...

The power cuts. The lights flicker off and turn to a pale
blue back-up. FLOSS turns on her torch and flicks the radio
on and off. Taps the flashing light. It's definitely dead.

FLOSS (CONT'D)

(to Jeff; calmly)

Well, that's that then. Back to
plan B.

(MORE)

FLOSS (CONT'D)

(yells)

Help! Heeelllllp!!

CUT TO:

47

INT. DG LIVING ROOM - DAY 25. 13.28 - CONTINUOUS

47

MIKE, MAY-LI, RYAN, TYLER, JODY, SASHA, CHLOE, CANDI-ROSE,
JOSEPH, ARCHIE, FINN, DEXTER, TONI, BILLIE

All eyes on JOSEPH and radio. Beat.

CANDI-ROSE

Has it run out of battery?

JOSEPH

No. Maybe... she has.

JODY

She can't be that far away though?

MAY-LI

Yeah, if that's picking it up it'll
be. What's it called... CB radio.
Short range.

JOSEPH

Yeah. She's got to be fairly close.

MIKE and MAY-LI spring into action.

MIKE

(to the phone)
Yes, she had radio
communications but we don't
think she has anymore.

MAY-LI

Jody. Tyler. Go door to door.
Ask whether anyone has a CB
radio or somewhere she could
be trapped...

On MAY-LI's determination...

CUT TO:

48

EXT. BUS STOP/INT. DG OFFICE - DAY 25. 13.40
ALEX, MIKE

48

ALEX watches a bus marked 'MANCHESTER' pull in. His phone
rings: 'MIKE CALLING'. He thinks. Then answers.

Back in the office, MIKE - pulling his coat on to search for
FLOSS - stops, surprised ALEX answered.

MIKE

Alex? Alex don't hang up yeah?

Back to Alex. Beat.

MIKE (V.O) (CONT'D)

Alex? Are you there?

ALEX

Yeah.

Back to MIKE.

MIKE

Is Floss with you?

Back to ALEX.

ALEX

No. Why would..?

Back to MIKE.

MIKE

No-one knows where she is. I...
Never mind. Please. Let's just...

MIKE looks at his phone, realises he's hung up. He sighs, gutted.

We go back to ALEX. He looks at his phone. Turns it off. He starts toward the bus...

CUT TO:

49 SCENE OMITTED

49

49A INT. DG LIVING ROOM - DAY 25. 13:46

49A

DEXTER, TONI, BILLIE, FINN, ARCHIE, JOSEPH, ALEX, MIKE

In the living room, the remaining DG Famous 7 sit together glum. ARCHIE is still trying the cup and ball.

DEXTER

I don't see why we couldn't be out there looking for her n'all.

JOSEPH

After this I don't think Mike's ever going to let us out again.

ARCHIE finally gets the ball in the cup. Nobody notices.

ARCHIE

Ha! Look! I...

FINN

I didn't see.

ARCHIE looks around expectantly to the others. Seeing their serious faces, he stops.

JOSEPH

Maybe someone will find her.

ALEX (O.S.)

Anyone checked the garden?

They turn to see ALEX heading towards the back door. MIKE comes out of the office and follows him.

MIKE

Alex...?

CUT TO:

50

EXT. DG BACK GARDEN COPSE HATCH - DAY 25. 13:46

50

MIKE, DEXTER, TONI, BILLIE, FINN, ARCHIE, JOSEPH, ALEX

MIKE and the others follow ALEX out. He makes for the copse.

BILLIE

You're wasting your time. We've already looked...

ALEX

I saw her come in here. She was upset. So she's not going to come out 'til she's ready is she?

MIKE

I don't follow...

ALEX starts looking around. The others join in.

ALEX

If you think everybody hates you, you stay away. Until you get hungry. Or, realise that running away all the time is pointless.

MIKE catches his eye, smiles supportively. ALEX quickly looks away. Sees something on the floor - it's one of FLOSS' colourful hair clips. He crouches to pick it up. From his vantage point he can see the hatch under the bush.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Or. You get trapped down a big

hole.

(yanking it open)

Floss?

Heroic ALEX leaps down...

CUT TO:

51

INT. BUNKER - DAY 25. 13:46 - CONTINUOUS.

51

ALEX, FLOSS

ALEX hits the ground... and is immediately hit by FLOSS enveloping him in a massive hug.

ALEX

Woah, um...

FLOSS

Thank you, thank you, thank you...

ALEX

It's... okay.

On ALEX, surprised to find he's touched by her gratitude.

CUT TO:

52

INT. DG LIVING ROOM - DAY 25. 14:00

52

**MIKE, MAY-LI, ALEX, TYLER, JODY, SASHA, CHLOE, CANDI-ROSE,
JOSEPH, TONI, BILLIE, ARCHIE, FINN, DEXTER, FLOSS**

*

Happily centre of attention, FLOSS is sat on the sofa wrapped in a blanket and holding a hot chocolate.

MAY-LI

So. Hurling yourself down a hole in the ground? Surprisingly, not such a great idea.

TONI

So was it like, pitch black...

FLOSS

Well, no but it was pretty scary.
(hero-worship)
Until Alex saved me.

Standing by himself, ALEX watches the others fuss over FLOSS.
MIKE approaches.

MIKE

I've had a word with Ryan. He's not admitting anything...

ALEX scoffs, that figures.

MIKE (CONT'D)

But I don't believe him so I'm putting him on report anyway.

ALEX nods, surprised.

MIKE (CONT'D)

And you're on your last chance.
(slight smile)
If I can convince you to stay.

ALEX looks at him. Looks at the others.

ALEX

'kay.

Knowing that's all he's going to get, MIKE nods, pleased. He turns to the others.

MIKE

After today I think you've earned
your tech back full-time.

FLOSS

Actually, we've decided it's quite
nice to be without it.

SASHA

Sometimes.

JOSEPH

We're proposing 'tech-free
Tuesdays'.

MIKE

(nods, chuffed)

I like it.

TYLER

But no tiddlywinks.

MIKE smiles. In the b/g ALEX drifts away. Seeing him go, FLOSS puts her mug down and hurries after him.

FLOSS

Alex...

(he doesn't stop)

Alex...

ALEX

(turning; sighs)

What?

FLOSS

I don't know if you heard, but my
best friends...

(throwing shade at TONI
and BILLIE)

...have let me down recently. So
there's a spot open for my new BFF.
And cos you saved my life...

ALEX

What?

FLOSS

I've decided it should be you.

ALEX

Um, I don't think so...

FLOSS

Oh, you're not the one who decides.
I do. And you should know, I'm
pretty persistent.

ALEX gives her a look and hurries away. On FLOSS, up for the challenge.

CUT TO:

53

INT. DG KITCHEN - DAY 25. 18:00
FLOSS, ALEX, CANDI-ROSE, CHLOE

53

FLOSS slumps herself down next to ALEX at the dinner table.

FLOSS

So. Tell me about yourself. BFF.

ALEX gives her a look.

FLOSS (CONT'D)

I'll go first then. I'm Floss. My
favourite colour is magenta. I like
dancing, hats and hot chocolate...

FADE TO:

54

INT. DG LAUNDRY - DAY 25. 18:30
ALEX, FLOSS

54

ALEX tries to ignore FLOSS as he does some laundry. FLOSS continues undaunted.

FLOSS

...I can't decide what I want to be
when I grow up. Either a ballerina,
a weight-lifter or a pirate...

FADE TO:

55

INT. DG UPSTAIRS CORRIDOR - NIGHT 25. 21:06
ALEX, FLOSS

55

Later. FLOSS sits on the floor outside the bathroom.

FLOSS

Have you ever had an adventure...?
(waits a beat; continues)
I bet you've had loads. I think I
might try the mountains next
time...

A slightly fed up ALEX comes out of the bathroom in a dressing gown.

ALEX

Floss. Seriously.

FLOSS

What?

ALEX goes into his room, shutting the door on her. Undaunted, FLOSS continues.

FLOSS (CONT'D)

Oh! I left you a present...

CUT TO:

56 **INT. DG ALEX'S ROOM - NIGHT 25. 21:06 - CONTINUOUS** 56
ALEX, FLOSS (O.S.)

ALEX turns to see Jeff the Giraffe sitting on a otherwise empty shelf.

FLOSS (O.S.)

He's called Jeff. A best friend
gave him to me once so now I'm
giving him to you. Night!

ALEX shakes his head in disbelief. Looks at Jeff. Despite himself, a smile slowly spreads across his face...

57 **SCENE OMITTED** 57

58 **SCENE OMITTED** 58

END