

THE DUMPING GROUND
SERIES 5

EPISODE SEVEN

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by
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SHOOTING SCRIPT

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1 **INT. DG LOBBY. DAY 14 0900**
TYLER

1

All is still. Nothing moves. Then we hear the doorbell. A voice calls out - TYLER - laden with a laundry basket and on his way to the laundry.

TYLER
Can someone get that?

No one stirs or reacts.

TYLER (cont'd)
Anyone?

Still no reaction. The Hall remains empty. The doorbell goes again. TYLER sets the laundry basket down. Answers the door.

MOMENTS LATER - TYLER has signed for a large-ish parcel and back heels the door shut. He reads the name on the parcel - ARCHIE (etc) - and calls out.

TYLER (cont'd)
Archie?

TYLER gets no reply and sets the parcel down in the lobby, collects his laundry basket and off he goes. We stay with TYLER as he opens the laundry room and struggles in with the laundry basket.

CUT TO:

2 **INT. DG LAUNDRY ROOM. DAY 14 0901**
TYLER

2

TYLER dumps the laundry basket, picks up the box of washing powder, only to find it has a hole in it and the powder granules seep out over his shoes. TYLER sighs, kicks the powder off his shoes. He then...

CUT TO:

3 **INT. DG LOBBY. DAY 14 0901**
TYLER, SASHA

3

...heads out into the hall, ostensibly looking for a brush now. But as he does he looks back to where he left the parcel. But the PARCEL HAS GONE.

TYLER looks around, sees and hears GLIMPSES AT BEST; the quiet room door closes; a person slips out of sight; footsteps race upstairs; the front door is wide open; movement in the lounge; something gets knocked over on the kitchen table; the back door is slammed hurriedly shut.

TYLER then spots SASHA, stops her.

TYLER

Sasha, there was a parcel.

SASHA

I know. Put it in the office.

TYLER is relieved.

TYLER

For a second there I thought we had
a -

Go from TYLER's huge relief to...

CUT TO:

4 **INT. DG OFFICE. DAY 14 0902**
TYLER, SASHA

4

...TYLER - and then - SASHA's aghast faces as they... stare
at MIKE's empty desk. (No one else is in the Office).

TYLER

- thief.

CUT TO:

OPENING TITLES

CUT TO:

5 **INT. DG OFFICE/LOBBY. DAY 14 0903**
SASHA, TYLER, TONI

5

SASHA looks stunned as TYLER checks on MIKE's chair and then
under his desk.

SASHA

It was right here.

TYLER

You sure?

SASHA

Course I'm sure.

TYLER is growing extremely worried now, sees TONI walking
into the house and past the office. He nips out, collars her.

TYLER

Billie-

TONI

-Toni.

TYLER

Do us a big favour and keep Archie
occupied.

TONI

Why?

SASHA

Because someone's stolen a parcel
addressed to him.

TONI

No way, who was it?

SASHA

If we knew that we'd go get it.

TYLER

Just make sure he stays outside til
we find it.

TYLER ushers TONI off and then turns and SASHA is in the doorway, having followed him out.

SASHA

Great, we've got a runaway parcel.

CUT TO:

6

ANIMATION

6

The PARCEL sits alone and still - until suddenly it sprouts a pair of legs - and leaps off the desk and then - after the coast is clear - it runs down the hallway.

CUT TO:

7

EXT. DG BACK GARDEN DAY 14 0905

7

*

TONI finds BILLIE and she is with ARCHIE as he walks away from the vegetable patch.

*

BILLIE

Why can't I have a carrot?

ARCHIE

They're not ripe yet.

BILLIE

They look ripe.

TONI

(Intercepts)

Where are you going?

ARCHIE

Inside.

TONI

You can't.

ARCHIE
Yeah I can.

TONI
No. No you really can't. I...

ARCHIE
Yes?

TONI thinks fast.

TONI
You're coming with us.

ARCHIE
Great. Where?

TONI
We're going on a trip.

BILLIE frowns.

BILLIE
We are?

TONI glowers at BILLIE. As in, help me out here sister.

TONI
Yeah - remember. *The trip.*

BILLIE and ARCHIE look a little lost.

CUT TO:

8 **INT. DG LIVING ROOM DAY 14 0909** 8
**FINN, SASHA, RYAN, TYLER, JODY, DEXTER, CHLOE, CANDI-ROSE,
JOSEPH, KAZIMA, FLOSS**

All the gang, bar TONI, BILLIE and ARCHIE sit or slump or stand as SASHA addresses them all. They all seem suitably shocked. DEXTER is eating from a sherbert.

FINN
A thief?

RYAN
And you think it's one of us?

SASHA
No one else has been in or out of
the house.

Everyone turns and looks at one another, uneasy, the awkwardness and tension builds.

RYAN
When was it taken?

TYLER
(Checks watch)
Exactly nine minutes ago.

SASHA
So the big question is: where was
everyone nine minutes ago?

Everyone looks again from face to face. But JODY wades in, and enmity kicks off between JODY and SASHA.

JODY
Dunno why you're bothering, it's so
obvious. Who's the only person who
would do this?

People stop. They all have the same thought. They turn. They stare. At DEXTER.

SASHA is aggrieved.

SASHA
Aw c'mon-

JODY
-He's got form. Look at what he
did the other week.

SASHA
He made one mistake, that's done
with now.

JODY
So how come everyone turned and
thought of Dexter? I didn't even
have to say his name did I.

DEXTER looks worried. Everyone continues to stare.

DEXTER
Wasn't me. It wasn't.

SASHA gets in front of DEXTER, protective of him.

SASHA
Stop staring at him.

RYAN
So he won't mind us searching his
room then.

SASHA turns to DEXTER, hopeful, believe in him.

SASHA
Well?

DEXTER pauses - and it's a long drawn out worried pause.

TYLER and RYAN leave the room with JODY.

TYLER
We'll be right back.

JODY
(Stops; to Sasha)
Better start saying your goodbyes.
He was on his final warning.

SASHA looks worried as she turns to the hapless seeming DEXTER.

CUT TO:

9

INT. DG. DEXTER & ARCHIE'S ROOM. DAY 14 0912

9

RYAN, TYLER, JODY, SASHA

RYAN, TYLER and JODY are searching DEXTER's room.

RYAN
I'm not seeing it. There's nothing here.

JODY
There's got to be.

But the more they look and mess the room up, the more obvious there isn't a parcel.

TYLER
(Stops looking)
Ryan's right.

But JODY is convinced. She keeps searching through cupboards and drawers.

JODY
It'll be here.

But then they hear SASHA from the doorway.

SASHA
You need to come and say sorry
Jody.

JODY stops and the tension builds between JODY and SASHA.

JODY
I'm not saying sorry to a thief.

SASHA steps up to her.

SASHA
I used to think you were alright.

JODY

It's your brother that isn't
alright. Only you'll never see
that.

SASHA is not having this. Gets determined.

SASHA

That's it. I'm so going to prove
you wrong.

CUT TO:

9A

ANIMATION

9A

SASHA carrying an oversized magnifying glass and wearing a deer stalker hat begins to search for the parcel. The parcel scurries past. SASHA follows on the trail.

CUT TO:

10

INT. DG KITCHEN - DAY 14 0915

10

DEXTER, TYLER, RYAN, JODY, CHLOE, KAZIMA, FINN, FLOSS,
JOSEPH, CANDI-ROSE, SASHA

DEXTER, TYLER, RYAN, JODY, CHLOE, KAZIMA, FINN, FLOSS, JOSEPH and CANDI-ROSE sit round the table. SASHA lays a giant rough drawing of the downstairs - lobby/kitchen/lounge/back garden - on the table.

She has all manner of plastic figurines, a tiger, a soldier, *
a mermaid, a duck and a few others, that represent the gang. *
JODY is not impressed. She is still convinced that it's
DEXTER.

SASHA

There was nine minutes from the
parcel arriving and then
disappearing.

JODY

Big yawn - waste of time.

SASHA

(Perseveres)

Who can remember what they saw in
those nine minutes? And think hard.

TYLER picks up the tiger figure. *

TYLER

This is me answering the doorbell.

RYAN

Why are you a tiger? *

TYLER

Here, you can be a duck. *

Everyone laughs. RYAN glowers at TYLER. SASHA sighs and grabs the tiger. *

SASHA
This is Tyler. He answered the door.

SASHA places the tiger where the door is on her scaled to size plan. *

SASHA (cont'd)
Now where were the rest of you?

CUT TO:

11 INT. DG LOBBY/LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - DAY 14 0916 11
FLOSS, CHLOE, KAZIMA, RYAN, SASHA

THE RECENT PAST.

FLOSS (V.O.)
I saw Chloe wheeling fast towards her room.

CHLOE is wheeling fast towards her room but as she does she sees KAZIMA at the back door.

CHLOE (V.O.)
And as I did Kaz was leaving through the back door.
(Beat)
Her hands were empty.

We see KAZIMA spot CHLOE's reflection in the clock face.

KAZIMA (V.O.)
As were Chloe's.

KAZIMA (V.O.)
Hang on, I saw Floss running up the stairs.

We pan round and see FLOSS heading upstairs.

KAZIMA (V.O.)
Very, very fast.

But we catch up with FLOSS who is on the stairs, but stops when RYAN comes down the other way.

FLOSS (V.O.)
Wait! I passed Ryan!

CUT TO:

12 INT. DG KITCHEN. DAY 14 DAY 0917 12
SASHA, RYAN, TYLER, CANDI-ROSE, FLOSS

Present time as SASHA moves plastic figures around on the big scaled drawing.

SASHA
What had you been doing upstairs
Ryan?

RYAN
None of your business.

SASHA
That's not helping.

TYLER
Maybe he was hiding the parcel.

RYAN
Shut it you.

CANDI-ROSE
So where did he go after passing
you on the stairs, Floss?

CHLOE
That rules Floss out by the way.

FLOSS
It does? Yes!
(Beat)
Wait - how?

CHLOE
Ryan would have seen you with the
parcel.

FLOSS
(Smiles)
Oh yeah. Nice one Ryan.

FLOSS's comment is met with dark looks.

CANDI-ROSE
Doesn't rule out Ryan though.

Again everyone tries to remember.

CUT TO:

13

INT. DG LOBBY/LOUNGE/KITCHEN - DAY 14 0918

13

RYAN, JOSEPH, JODY, FINN, SASHA, KAZIMA (V.O), TYLER (V.O)
CANDI-ROSE (V.O)

*

THE RECENT PAST.

RYAN heads for the front door and nips out. Alone. We draw back and find we have JOSEPH's POV - as he emerges from the Quiet Room. He watches RYAN. Then glances at the clock.

JOSEPH (V.O.)

Wait! I saw him leave the house.
But it was at the start of the nine
minutes - so by my calculations he
was upstairs before the delivery
arrived.

And now the camera moves to find JODY. She's in the lounge.
Alone.

TYLER (V.O.)

Jody?

JODY is searching behind the sofa and finds a fallen earring.

JODY (V.O.)

I was behind the sofa, looking for
the remote. But I don't think
anyone saw me though.

FINN (V.O.)

I did.

FINN walks in from the garden. Spots JODY behind the sofa.

KAZIMA (V.O.)

But you said you were outside,
going to the shed.

CANDI-ROSE (V.O.)

He didn't get there. When I went
out he passed me.

CUT TO:

14	<u>SCENE OMITTED</u>	14
15	<u>INT. DG KITCHEN - DAY 14 0919</u> <u>DEXTER, TYLER, RYAN, JODY, CHLOE, KAZIMA, FINN, FLOSS,</u> <u>JOSEPH, CANDI-ROSE, SASHA, MIKE</u>	15

Back to present time.

FINN

She's right.

CANDI-ROSE

And neither of us were carrying a
parcel.

SASHA keeps going.

SASHA

That's just about everyone then.

All the plastic figures are in place.

JODY
Almost everyone.

JODY picks up two plastic figures. One in each hand.

JODY (cont'd)
Sasha. And Dexter.

TYLER
Sasha was with me.

KAZIMA
The whole time?

TYLER thinks for a moment.

TYLER
Not quite. She said she'd been in
the office putting the parcel
there.

JODY
What if the parcel never got to the
office?

SASHA
Look, I saw it, I picked it up, I
left it on Mike's desk.

JODY
So who saw you do that?

No one says until DEXTER puts his hand in the air.

DEXTER
I did.

JODY
Convenient.

But DEXTER can't respond because MIKE appears, sees the gang
gathered.

MIKE
Good, saves me rounding you up.
Only I'm expecting a parcel,
something for Archie in fact -

The gang fall silent, quietly petrified.

MIKE (cont'd)
- should've been here by now.

The gang fall completely silent.

MIKE (cont'd)
Easy question.
(Beat)
Anyone?

TYLER
(Eventually)
Uh... No.

MIKE
Okay. Well when you do, let us
know.

MIKE turns to leave. The gang look relieved, but then he comes back a la Columbo.

MIKE (cont'd)
Just one more thing.

The gang tense up again.

MIKE (cont'd)
You all seem very quiet.
Everything okay?

SASHA
Perfect.

CHLOE
Lovely.

FINN
Amazing.

MIKE beams, pleased. Then leaves. But he has just add ten times the pressure to the gang now.

TYLER
We're all dead.

KAZIMA
He's right. If we don't get this sorted then we're all going to get punished.

CHLOE
Sounds like we need a plan.

RYAN
Anyone got any ideas?

Everyone looks at one another but nothing is offered. Until SASHA steps forward.

SASHA
How about this? We hold an amnesty.

No one has a clue what SASHA means.

CUT TO:

16 **INT. DG LOBBY. DAY 14 0921** 16
SASHA, TYLER, RYAN, JODY, KAZIMA

SASHA heads upstairs with TYLER, RYAN, JODY and KAZIMA.

SASHA (V.O.)

We all go and sit on our own
somewhere. Shut the door behind
us, look away, whatever... And
the...

*

CUT TO:

17 **INT. DG CHLOE'S ROOM - DAY 14 0922** 17
CHLOE, SASHA (V.O.)

CHLOE closes her bedroom door.

SASHA (V.O.)

...thief gets till half past to
return the parcel to the office
without anyone seeing them.

CUT TO:

18 **INT. DG LAUNDRY ROOM - DAY 14 0923** 18
FLOSS

POSSIBLE BRADY BUNCH SPLIT SCREEN FOR EACH CHARACTER:

FLOSS shuts the laundry door.

But FLOSS waits half a second before yanking open the door
again and peering out. There is no one out there, and she
pouts, and then closes the door again.

CUT TO:

19 **INT. DG FINN & JOSEPH'S ROOM - DAY 14 0923** 19
FINN

FINN sits on his bed, but he can't settle and he gets up,
gets a glass tumbler and places it against the door so he can
listen for movement.

CUT TO:

20 **INT. DG KITCHEN - DAY 14 0923** 20

The clock on the wall ticks loudly as we zoom in on it.

CUT TO:

21 INT. DG LOUNGE - DAY 14 0923
JOSEPH

21

JOSEPH slips onto the sofa and pulls a blanket over himself. He flicks a torch on and checks the countdown on his watch.

CUT TO:

22 INT. DG CHLOE'S ROOM - DAY 14 0923
CHLOE

22

CHLOE watches her alarm clock ticking down.

CUT TO:

23 INT. DG UPSTAIRS CORRIDOR - DAY 14 0923
CANDI-ROSE

23

A bedroom door creaks open. And a mirror on a stick is slid out so that - CANDI-ROSE - reflected in the mirror - can try and see if anyone is going to make a move.

CUT TO:

24 INT. DG LOBBY - DAY 14 0923
KAZIMA

24

We come in on a pair of binoculars, the eyes large and magnified as - KAZIMA, crouched down hidden trains her sights on the office.

CUT TO:

25 INT. DG SASHA'S BEDROOM - DAY 14 0923
SASHA

25

SASHA listens but the D.G. is silent.

CUT TO:

26 EXT/INT DG MAY-LI'S CAR - DAY 1 0925
TONI, ARCHIE, BILLIE

26

TONI sits with ARCHIE and BILLIE in the car. BILLIE remains puzzled.

BILLIE
Not much of a trip.

TONI is buying time - the trip is a BIG FIB. Switches on the radio.

TONI
May-Li said to wait for her, she's a bit busy. Soon be leaving though.

ARCHIE
Can't wait.

'Ain't Nobody Here But Us Chickens' by Louise Jordan starts playing. TONI and BILLIE have never heard the song before but as soon as ARCHIE hears it he starts moving and singing along to it. He knows all the words.

ARCHIE (cont'd)

This is what we heard. There ain't nobody here but us chickens. There ain't nobody here at all.

TONI and BILLIE look at ARCHIE.

TONI

Archie?

ARCHIE

Yeah?

TONI

How do you know this song?

ARCHIE stops, listens. Then shrugs.

ARCHIE

Dunno.

BILLIE

Sounds ancient.

ARCHIE

Yeah, it is.

(Sings along)

And hobble, hobble, hobble, hobble
with your chin. There ain't nobody
here but us chickens. There ain't
nobody here at all.

TONI and BILLIE look at one another - as in how is this possible he knows the lyrics?

CUT TO:

27

INT. DG ATTIC - DAY 14 0926
MIKE, MAY-LI

27

MIKE emerges into the attic where MAY-LI is doing some tidying. And not really enjoying it.

MIKE

Listen. Can you hear that?

MAY-LI

Bit busy right now.

MIKE

Put that down and take a moment.

MAY-LI does so.

MIKE (cont'd)
How about that eh?

MAY-LI falls silent. Listens.

MAY-LI
Can't hear anything.

MIKE
Precisely. I think - after about
three hundred years of trying -
I've finally got this care home
lark down to a fine art.

MAY-LI
Really? How'd you work that out?

MIKE
They're all obviously doing their
homework, or their chores.

MAY-LI
Mike. In three hundred years of
caring for children you've
forgotten one important thing.

MIKE
What's that?

MAY-LI
If they're being quiet - that
usually means they're up to
something.

MIKE is less made up and happy now as MAY-LI remains
convinced.

CUT TO:

28

INT. DG LOUNGE/KITCHEN/LOBBY - DAY 14 0927

28

We move through the stillness, feeling the quiet growing as
the clock in the kitchen continues to tick away the five
minutes. It's actually a blessed calm - until... MIKE's
office door creaks open - and all the more loudly because of
the silence.

IS THIS THE THIEF?

CUT TO:

29

INT. DG CHLOE'S BEDROOM - DAY 14 0928
CHLOE

29

CHLOE hears the creak, yanks open her door.

CUT TO:

30

INT. DG UPSTAIRS CORRIDOR - DAY 14 0928
JODY, RYAN, CANDI-ROSE, TYLER, SASHA, DEXTER

30

*

All bedroom doors are yanked open - and faces appear in unison in the doorways. No one can take it, they have to see who the culprit is.

JODY

That was the office door!

RYAN

Which means it wasn't one of us.

CANDI-ROSE

So who was it?

They hear footsteps, doors are opening, people are running to the office.

TYLER

C'mon!

SASHA

(Bewildered)

Wait! The whole point is it's anonymous...

But by the time she finishes SASHA is talking to thin air as the others charge down the stairs.

CUT TO:

31

INT. DG LOBBY/OFFICE - DAY 14 0928 31
KAZIMA, RYAN, CANDI-ROSE, JODY, TYLER, JOSEPH, DEXTER, SASHA, CHLOE, FINN, FLOSS

KAZIMA is practically trampled as she tries to get to her feet. She tries to stop them - she's seen who went to MIKE's office.

KAZIMA

Wait!

RYAN

Coming through!

KAZIMA is buffeted and bashed and only recovers in time for SASHA to come hurtling down the stairs.

As CHLOE arrives TYLER leads the gang towards the wide open - creaky - door. They all stop as EVERYONE (bar DEXTER, for his own reasons) converges on MIKE's office.

TYLER

Whoa!

CHLOE

There's someone in there.

JODY is convinced now.

JODY
Dexter, you can come out now.
We've got you trapped.

But as JODY finishes so DEXTER appears behind her.

DEXTER
You were saying?

JODY is shocked and miffed. SASHA arrives and tries one last time.

SASHA
This is not how it works.

SASHA's words fall on deaf ears as RYAN and FINN head into the office. But it's empty. DEXTER, JODY, TYLER and SASHA also walk in.

CHLOE
This is getting weird, I swear I heard something.

RYAN
We've got the world's first invisible thief.

TYLER looks around - and spots a familiar shoe - under the desk.

TYLER
Wait.

KAZIMA joins them.

KAZIMA
If you'd just listened to me. I saw her go in.
(Sighs)
Come out from under there -
(Beat)
- Floss.

Everyone tenses as FLOSS peers out from under the desk.

TYLER
Where's the parcel?

FLOSS
I wanted to see who it was. Best place to do it. So go away or they won't show up.

The others can't believe it, the amnesty has been a disaster as we take in SASHA.

RYAN
Anymore brainwaves Sasha?

SASHA looks lost.

JODY
I've got one. Sasha and Dexter
should move out.

SASHA
What is it you don't like about us?

JODY
Wherever you two are, there's
always trouble. I reckon you've got
your fingerprints all over this.

SASHA looks back at the gang and knows they are starting to believe in JODY.

CUT TO:

32 SCENE OMITTED 32

33 EXT/INT. DG MAY-LI'S CAR - DAY 14 0930 33
ARCHIE, TONI, BILLIE

ARCHIE, TONI and BILLIE are still in the car waiting. But TONI and BILLIE are growing concerned at ARCHIE. TONI checks her phone - after a Google search.

TONI
This song came out years and years ago.

TONI and BILLIE are becoming worried now.

ARCHIE
So?

TONI
How do you know all the words?

ARCHIE
Just do...

BILLIE
But you shouldn't be able to. You never play it, no one does. But you know it somehow.

TONI
Are you older than you look?

ARCHIE
Course not.

BILLIE
You must be Archie.

ARCHIE
I'm eight.

BILLIE
Then there's only one explanation.
(Ominous)
You were a grown up when you heard
the song.

ARCHIE stops, looks at the twins.

ARCHIE
That's stupid.

BILLIE
Think about it. You know adult
things. You even sound like one.
Which means...

TONI
You've been one.

The words bring awe and wonder.

TONI (cont'd)
Archie...

ARCHIE
No, don't say it.

TONI
(Beat; fearful)
You're ageing backwards.

ARCHIE looks shocked.

CUT TO:

34

INT. DG OFFICE/LOBBY - DAY 14 0945
SASHA, JODY, TYLER

34

FROM SASHA'S (PURPLE) POV we see JODY and TYLER looking weirdly at her.

JODY
I've got to get a photo of this.

JODY pulls out her phone and takes a snap shot as SASHA's POV turns the world purple, ultra violet purple.

We see JODY's photo. It's SASHA with a pair of glasses with Quality Street purple wrappers stuck to the lenses.

We then meld to the real thing as TYLER stuffs a purple Quality Street into his mouth.

TYLER

I like them. Suit you.

SASHA stands ready by MIKE's desk.

SASHA

Right. I put the box down here...

She looks down to see a right angle shaped trail of sherbet showing the outline of where the box would have been. The glittery residue sparkles off the table. SASHA scans the room, her mind whirring.

SASHA (cont'd)

There's got to be a fingerprint, or a shoe print even. Maybe a bit of clothing that snagged.

JODY is dismissive.

JODY

Bad logic.

SASHA follows the trail and we go with her magnified POV as she spots some invisible particles of glister on the door handle with a magnifying glass. She goes in closer.

JODY (cont'd)

Everyone's touched that handle, and we've all been in the office.

TYLER

Sasha?

SASHA looks, then looks again. She turns away from the handle and using her special glasses she peers down the hallway. The purple picks out more particles of glister on the floor.

TYLER (cont'd)

Say something.

SASHA looks to TYLER and JODY.

SASHA

Come with me.

JODY

For what?

SASHA

I've picked up a trail.

SASHA heads away, magnifying glass in hand. We stay with her POV as she follows the glister particles through the lobby and upstairs.

CUT TO:

35

INT. DG UPSTAIRS CORRIDOR - DAY 14 0946
SASHA, JODY, TYLER

35

SASHA arrives on the landing and then follows the glister particles to the bathroom door. JODY and TYLER stand watching.

SASHA's eyes follow the trail of glister particles continue back out of the bathroom and down the corridor into DEXTER's room. She starts to panic - she suspects who took the parcel.

TYLER

Sasha? You found anything?

SASHA has to lie. She turns to JODY and TYLER.

SASHA

Sorry, the trail's gone dead.

JODY

Big surprise.

JODY leaves and TYLER lingers, feels for SASHA.

TYLER

Least you tried.

SASHA nods mutely, then TYLER leaves. The second he does SASHA moves into the bathroom.

CUT TO:

36

INT. DG BATHROOM - DAY 14 0946
SASHA, DEXTER, KAZIMA

36

SASHA follows the trail of glister particles to the laundry basket. She takes her special glasses off. She begins lifting up clothes in the basket...

...and sitting there is the parcel. SASHA can't believe it as she slips her home made specs back on and there is sparkling glister particles all over the parcel.

She sits back, with a heavy heart. But then behind her the bathroom door opens. SASHA doesn't turn she knows who it is.

SASHA

One word. Why?

We turn with SASHA and find DEXTER standing dipping his lolly into his sherbet packet. Part of his t-shirt is decorated with spilled sherbert.

DEXTER

You found it. Great. Let's take it to Mike.

SASHA falls silent. DEXTER is all charm.

DEXTER (cont'd)
Maybe you'll get a reward.

SASHA slips her specs back on. And we see the glister particles of sherbert all over DEXTER's t-shirt. SASHA is deeply upset.

SASHA
Why did Jody have to be right? How did she know and I didn't? My own brother.

DEXTER
You believe her?

SASHA
Why did you do this?

DEXTER
Sasha, listen to me-

SASHA
-No, don't lie, I've got proof.

DEXTER realises that he isn't going to get away with this after all.

DEXTER
Look... I just saw it and grabbed it. It was in my hands before I even knew.

SASHA
You're going to get kicked out.

DEXTER
I couldn't help it. I never get parcels, or surprises. I saw Archie's name on it, I was taking it to his room I swear, but then I thought... I wonder what's in it.

SASHA grabs for any light - and hope - in this that she can find.

SASHA
Archie would've shown you.

DEXTER
I know, but he wasn't around and I wanted to know. It wasn't stealing, I swear.

SASHA
Why hide it in here then?

DEXTER

Because you saw what the others
were like? They all think I'm a
thief.

And we wonder if SASHA even does.

DEXTER (cont'd)

(Worried)

What are we going to do now?

KAZIMA knocks on the bathroom door - making DEXTER and SASHA jump.

KAZIMA (O.S.)

Anyone in there?

SASHA

Yes! Me. I'll uh be five minutes.

SASHA looks DEXTER - this is getting scary - what on earth do they do now?

CUT TO:

37

EXT/INT. MAY-LI'S CAR - DAY 14 0947
ARCHIE, TONI, BILLIE

37

ARCHIE is still sitting with TONI and BILLIE in the car.

BILLIE

Shall I go and get May-Li? See
where she's got to?

TONI rolls her eyes, BILLIE has forgotten the trip is a BIG FIB. TONI looks out the window at the plants outside - then turns to ARCHIE.

TONI

Archie, where did you learn about
plants? I mean you know loads.

ARCHIE

I think I gave talks about them.

TONI

To who?

ARCHIE

Students. I was very old though.
In a wheelchair.

BILLIE

You were at a university?

ARCHIE is unsure.

TONI

See... You were older then. Loads
older.

ARCHIE

This is spooky. I don't like this.

TONI

It's okay, ageing backwards makes
you special.

ARCHIE

But it also means I've only got
eight years left before I become
... well ... nothing.

ARCHIE looks doomed.

CUT TO:

38

ANIMATION

38

ARCHIE walks along in a reverse of that seven stages of man
drawing - getting smaller and younger with each steps - until
a huge BANG! - and there's nothing but baby ARCHIE's cap
floating to the ground.

CUT TO:

39

INT. DG UPSTAIRS CORRIDOR - DAY 14 0948
SASHA, DEXTER, RYAN, CANDI-ROSE, MIKE (V.O.)

39

SASHA has the wrapped parcel in her arms - now under a towel -
as the first we see of her is peering round the corner of the
bathroom to the landing to check the coast is clear. Then
DEXTER peers round over her head.

SASHA

See anyone?

DEXTER

No.

SASHA

You so owe me for this.

DEXTER retreats from view to his bedroom and SASHA goes for
it, moving as quick as she can towards the stairs.

MIKE (V.O.)

Did anyone sign for that parcel?
I've had a text saying it was
delivered.

SASHA is panicked. What does she do? But a bedroom door is
opening, its RYAN's. At the same time CANDI-ROSE appears on
the landing.

CANDI-ROSE
That's it, we're all dead.

- and SASHA has no choice but to dive into the nearest bedroom.

CUT TO:

40 **INT. DG JODY'S ROOM - DAY 14 0948**

40

SASHA, JODY, MAY-LI

SASHA is in a panic. She slides the parcel under JODY's bed and then, as JODY opens her bedroom door SASHA has no choice but to slip into the wardrobe and hide.

The door opens and JODY walks in, calling back to the others.

JODY
I know it was Dexter - I know it.

JODY closes her bedroom door and falls onto her bed, popping some music on through her phone. We find SASHA again, in the wardrobe and her day is starting to spiral out of control. But then she hears JODY approach the wardrobe and panics even more. She's about to be found out and there's no way she can explain this. The wardrobe door opens and...

...there's a knock on JODY's bedroom door.

MAY-LI (O.S.)
Jody?

SASHA breathes a sigh of relief.

We go to JODY turning off the music and opening her bedroom door. A slightly tired looking MAY-LI walks in with a basket of laundry.

MAY-LI (cont'd)
Can you do me a big favour and tell
me what's going on.

JODY
Going on?

MAY-LI
Everyone is just too quiet.

JODY
That's a...

But as JODY speaks she sees a corner of the parcel under her bed. She goes cold. MAY-LI could see it any second. MAY-LI stares at the stricken JODY.

MAY-LI
A what?

JODY

Uh?

MAY-LI

It's a what...?

JODY very slowly edges in front of MAY-LI, blocking her view of the parcel.

JODY

It's a ... good thing. The quiet.
It's good. Isn't it?

MAY-LI

You tell me, only I know that
something's up. I can sense it.

MAY-LI leaves and JODY dives under her bed and grabs the parcel. ARCHIE's name is on it etc. JODY can't believe it.

JODY stares at the parcel - she is not having this.

We then go back to SASHA in the wardrobe, trying to listen in. She hears the bedroom door open and then close. JODY must have left. SASHA opens the wardrobe door a crack, peers out.

We take her POV as she checks all around the bedroom. PHEW! JODY has definitely gone.

SASHA emerges from the wardrobe, opens the bedroom door, checks that the landing is clear and then returns to grab the parcel...

...only to find that it has gone!

[Insert Animation 40A here]

SASHA can't believe her eyes.

CUT TO:

40A

ANIMATION

40A

SASHA vainly tries to grab a skipping and taunting parcel. Every time she tries the parcel evades her further.

CUT TO:

41

EXT/INT. DG MAY-LI'S CAR - DAY 14 0950
ARCHIE, TONI, BILLIE

41

ARCHIE looks forlorn. He and TONI and BILLIE are in the middle of making a Bucket List.

ARCHIE

I had plans. To do lots of things.
But what if I've already done them?

BILLIE
You can do them again.

TONI
What would you like to do first?

ARCHIE
(Thinks)
Number one. Swim with dolphins.

TONI writes it down as Number One.

TONI
Number Two?

ARCHIE
Hang on, I can't swim. But I used to be able to, I know I did. I was always swimming.

TONI
(Writing)
Learn to swim.

BILLIE
Again.

ARCHIE is definitely not himself as we:

CUT TO:

42 **INT. DG UPSTAIRS CORRIDOR - DAY 14 0950** 42
JODY, RYAN, TYLER, CANDI-ROSE

JODY, nervously and quietly, heads down the hall with the parcel. She isn't sure what to do with it. But then a door opens and RYAN stands there.

There's a moment of recognition - of panic - and then...

RYAN
Thief!

JODY
No wait. You don't understand.

RYAN
(Calls out)
I've caught her.

JODY
Ryan, listen-

TYLER comes upstairs and sees JODY with the parcel. HE can't believe it.

TYLER
It was you?

JODY
No.... No way.

CANDI-ROSE appears.

CANDI-ROSE
And you tried to blame Dexter?

JODY
Listen to me, I found it... It
was...

RYAN
It was what?

JODY
(Knows how it sounds)
In my room...

JODY is in a total panic now.

CUT TO:

43 **INT. DG JODY'S ROOM - DAY 14 0951** 43
SASHA, JODY (O.S.), RYAN (O.S.), CANDI-ROSE (O.S.)

SASHA feels herself slump as she listens to the others. It's a total disaster of a day.

RYAN (O.S.)
C'mon, let's tell Mike. He's already asking questions.

JODY (O.S.)
Ryan, I didn't do this - I didn't.
I was - framed or something.

CANDI-ROSE (O.S.)
That's 'convenient'.

JODY (O.S.)
I promise.

SASHA doesn't know what to do.

CUT TO:

44 **INT. DG UPSTAIRS CORRIDOR - DAY 14 0952** 44
JODY, TYLER, CANDI-ROSE, RYAN

JODY is bang to rights but TYLER can see she's being truthful.

TYLER
Give it here.

JODY
What d'you mean?

TYLER

The parcel. Look someone's going to get punished for this, so it might as well be me. I'll take one for the team. Otherwise we're all in big trouble.

JODY is stunned.

JODY

You'd do that for me?

TYLER holds out his hands - as in give me the parcel.

CUT TO:

45 **INT. DG JODY'S ROOM - DAY 14 0953**

45

SASHA

SASHA is wide eyed with shock as she listens.

CUT TO:

46 **EXT/INT. DG MAY-LI'S CAR - DAY 14 0954**

46

ARCHIE, TONI, BILLIE, MAY-LI

ARCHIE, TONI and BILLIE are in the back as MAY-LI looks in.

MAY-LI

What's all this?

ARCHIE

Change of plan. We're going to see the Queen.

MAY-LI

The Queen as in the Queen of England?

TONI

It's on Archie's list.

BILLIE

Number Two.

MAY-LI

What list is this exactly?

BILLIE

Archie needs to do things.

TONI

Before he turns into nothing.

ARCHIE

I've only got eight years left.

MAY-LI is now concerned.

CUT TO:

47 **INT. DG ATTIC DAY 14 0955.**

47

SASHA, DEXTER

SASHA is desperate now as she tries to reach out to DEXTER.

SASHA

You've got to fess up.

DEXTER

I'm not doing it, I can't.

SASHA

Tyler's going to take the blame.

DEXTER

If I do I'll get chucked out.

SASHA

So it's better that Tyler does?

DEXTER

He'll be leaving soon anyway, he's been here ages.

SASHA

He's innocent.

DEXTER

And what do you want Sasha? For us to be split up again? For us to have no family, or never see each other?

SASHA is totally torn.

CUT TO:

48 **EXT/INT. DG MAY-LI'S CAR DAY 14 0956**

48

ARCHIE, TONI, BILLIE, MAY-LI

MAY-LI sits and listens in earnest to TONI, BILLIE and ARCHIE.

ARCHIE

I used to be an old man. There were plants that I was an expert on.

TONI

He gave talks.

BILLIE

To students.

MAY-LI studies ARCHIE in her rear view.

CUT TO:

49

INT. DG LOBBY/LIVING ROOM - DAY 14 0957

49

MIKE, TYLER, SASHA, DEXTER, KAZIMA, RYAN, CANDI-ROSE, CHLOE,
JOSEPH, FLOSS, FINN, MAY-LI, JODY

*

The parcel sits proudly in its packaging as MIKE looms over it, his face stern, his thoughts troubled. The gang, minus the twins and ARCHIE, sit quietly awaiting his pronouncement. A guilty JODY watches on. He starts to say something - the gang lean forward in expectation - but then MIKE stops. The gang lean back. MIKE takes another breath - the gang lean forward again - and finally he speaks.

MIKE

You stole this Tyler? I'm lost for words.

TYLER struggles.

TYLER

I can't explain it Mike.

MIKE is having trouble dealing with this.

MIKE

Try.

TYLER is about to speak when SASHA steps in. She glances at DEXTER as she does.

SASHA

He didn't take it Mike.

MIKE

I'm afraid the evidence is there
Sasha.

DEXTER looks scared, his sister is going to drop him in it.

DEXTER

Sasha - please-

SASHA

(To Mike)

-I did.

MIKE

(Beat)

Sorry?

SASHA

I took the parcel.

MIKE is thrown. TYLER is confused. The gang look at SASHA - see her taking the rap. DEXTER looks on - amazed.

SASHA (cont'd)
Found it by the front door and took
it. I never get parcels, never get
sent anything. Was jealous.

MIKE
(Skeptical)
So how come Tyler said it was him?

SASHA falters. She loses her way. DEXTER watches and starts to become aware of the growing brotherhood and simple humane decency in the office.

SASHA
Yeah I know that but-

KAZIMA
(Steps forward)
-Actually I took it.

MIKE
What?

All eyes turn on KAZIMA. She's seen SASHA apparently step up. SASHA is completely thrown now. DEXTER watches and starts to soak up what it is to be a good person.

KAZIMA
Because I'm the thief.

MIKE
Kaz, I know you're not.

KAZIMA
All those weeks on the street,
stealing to stay alive, it's in my
blood.

SASHA
Don't listen to her Mike, I did it,
I swear.

But the sense of defending your own kind is starting to take a hold of the gang now.

CANDI-ROSE
(Stands)
Actually it was me.

MIKE
Oh come on now.

MAY-LI looks in.

MAY-LI
Mike, you got a minute?

MIKE
(Tense)
Do I look like I have?

FINN
Wasn't them - it was me.

MIKE
Finn - no.

JODY
(stepping up to the plate)
And I helped him.

DEXTER continues to watch - in growing wonder. SASHA tries again.

SASHA
It wasn't them.

CHLOE
That's because it was me.

MIKE's head is starting to spin.

MIKE
You?

CHLOE
Yeah.

Then RYAN gets to his feet.

FLOSS
Actually...

MIKE is staggered.

MIKE
This is not helping.

JOSEPH puts his hand up.

JOSEPH
I took it Mike.

MIKE
Let's stop this right now.

DEXTER is almost open mouthed in wonder by now. KAZIMA gives FLOSS a shove. She staggers forward, and she - FLOSS reluctant - says...

FLOSS
Actually. I saw it. Stole it. The end.

FLOSS gives a little curtsey and MIKE's head keeps spinning until he grabs for some sense.

MIKE

Okay, I get what you're all doing, I understand that you're all big pals and you don't want anyone getting punished. But this doesn't make up for Archie's parcel being stolen. You might think it does, but trust me, one of you is still a thief. So have a think about what's gone on here today. Because if it ever happens again there will be no second chances. Do I make myself clear?

MIKE's anger forces nods and muted 'yeahs' from the gang.

MIKE (cont'd)

I believe there are a lot of chores to be done. And believe me - they will get done.

MIKE leaves with a smirking MAY-LI.

MAY-LI

Don't want to say I told you so...

We go back to the gang who regard one another. A sense of unity and friendship TYLER looks at them all.

TYLER

Why did you all do that?

KAZIMA

Did you steal the parcel?

TYLER

No.

RYAN

Then that's why we did it.

DEXTER listens keenly, in amazement at such a show of solidarity. Then he feels SASHA's eyes on him.

CUT TO:

50

INT. DG QUIET ROOM - DAY 14 1009
ARCHIE, TONI, BILLIE, MAY-LI, MIKE

50

ARCHIE, TONI and BILLIE are still together. MAY-LI and MIKE look in. MIKE has the parcel.

TONI

Can we go to Buckingham palace or not?

MIKE and MAY-LI tread carefully.

MIKE

Maybe another day. You need to make
an appointment anyway.

MAY-LI

She might not even be in.

ARCHIE

Will you let us know when she is?

MIKE

So Archie... I hear you're uh...
Ageing backwards.

CUT TO:

51 **EXT. DG FRONT GARDEN - DAY 14 1010** 51 *

SASHA, JODY

SASHA sits on her own. Unsettled. After a moment JODY walks
out of the house and sits down beside her.

JODY

Hey.

SASHA

Don't want to hear it thanks.

JODY

What you did, fessing up. I know
why.

SASHA

Just so you know, we're not friends
right now.

JODY

I was right wasn't I? About
Dexter. You couldn't let Tyler take
the blame, but you couldn't let
Dexter take it either.

SASHA falls silent, struggle with this.

JODY (cont'd)

Sometimes you've got to accept
things, Sasha. He did a bad thing
and covering for him means he'll
think he can always do bad things.
That because of you he'll get away
with it.

SASHA knows that JODY has a point.

SASHA

I know what you're saying, right.
But he's still my little brother -
and I want him here. Because if I'm
not around then who will help him?

JODY feels for SASHA.

CUT TO:

52

INT. DG QUIET ROOM - DAY 14 1011
ARCHIE, MIKE, BILLIE, TONI, MAY-LI

52

ARCHIE is handed the parcel by MIKE.

MIKE

This came for you today.

ARCHIE brightens. He opens the parcel - and inside are lots of old books. All of them to do with plants.

MIKE (cont'd)

Forgot to tell you they were coming. The university your dad worked at sent them.

ARCHIE

My dad?

MIKE

They were in storage.

BILLIE and TONI can see that ARCHIE is becoming upset.

BILLIE

This is good, Archie.

ARCHIE

Is it?

TONI

He must've showed them to you.

MAY-LI

You weren't in a wheelchair, you were in a pushchair. He took you to his lectures with him.

ARCHIE looks at the books, filled with awe. There is even a collection of 45s. And among them is Louis Jordan's 'Ain't Nobody Here But Us Chickens'. ARCHIE regards it as TONI smiles.

TONI

It's the song. Your dad must've played it to you.

But there is still a sadness there.

ARCHIE

But that means I'm not ageing
backwards.

MIKE

Not such a bad thing. I mean I
wouldn't mind it happening to me.

ARCHIE

Yeah but my dad's not ageing
forwards. Not anymore.

TONI

Archie he is.

ARCHIE

No...

TONI

He is because you've remembered all
the things he told you.

BILLIE

And all his favourite songs he
played you.

TONI

So when you move forward he comes
with you.

ARCHIE looks at the photos for a moment.

ARCHIE

You think?

TONI

Yeah, course he is.

BILLIE

He'll always be there with you.

ARCHIE looks at the records and then - starts to look
happier.

53

EXT. DG FRONT GARDEN - DAY 14 1100
SASHA, DEXTER

53 *

SASHA is working hard on the garden, picking things up and
popping them in a bag. It's back breaking work... Until
DEXTER appears. He silently starts helping her. SASHA is
lifted and feels hope for DEXTER. They work hard together.

SASHA

Never again, Dexter.

DEXTER

Never.

SASHA
But can I believe you?

SASHA looks at DEXTER -

DEXTER
Hundred per cent.

DEXTER gives his most charming smile and carries on helping SASHA. But SASHA stops to watch him - she knows he's trouble.

END.