

WHITE GIRL

by

Abi Morgan

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1

EXT. STREET. HOUSING ESTATE. LEEDS. DAY.

1

August; rippling heat rising over Tarmac.

Just coming into view-

LEAH'S[11 yrs] POV, gangly legs furiously peddling a too small pink bike, steady on the approach.

2

INT. CHIP SHOP. NR HOUSING ESTATE. LEEDS. DAY.

2

The scoop and fold of fish and chips in paper. Several brawny MEN, salting chips, tossing fish as they serve a line of CUSTOMERS.

Through the window, LEAH pulling up, leaning her bike against the wall, handlebars tapping the glass.

And's LEAH's in, scooping up a handful of ketchup sachets, pushing past disgruntled CUSTOMERS to get to the front of the queue. Tipping LEAH a nod, a thin whippet like MAN, reaches for another piece of paper-

MAN

You're getting too big for that bike-

LEAH up on tiptoes, nose pressed close to her hands, peering over the top of the counter, watching as he piles a mountain of fish and chips.

LEAH

No vinegar...no vinegar...

The MAN smirks, mock pouring more malt vinegar all over her chips until-

He slides her the fat roll of fish and chips, in a swift exchange, as money passes hands-

MAN

Tell Stevie-

LEAH, already gone. The MAN pockets the small bag of grass LEAH has newly delivered before moving onto the next CUSTOMER.

Through the window, the distant figure of LEAH peddling away.

3

EXT. COURTYARD. ESTATE. LEEDS. DAY.

3

A small BOY in underpants running across a scrubby patch of grass, dodging a spray of water from a makeshift hose-

LEAH swerves past, grabbing the hose in passing, and squirting it at the rag bag gang of KIDS, cooling off in the sun.

BOY

(calling after)
You're dead.

The distant ring of LEAH's laughter. LEAH is already gone, racing towards a distant block of flats-

4

EXT. STREET. ESTATE. LEEDS. DAY.

4

LEAH, face into the sun, working up a sweat, turns a bend-

LEAH screeches to a halt, taking in-

Bedding dropped from a second floor window.

Across the street, SONYA [early 40's] LEAH's grandma, scoops up duvet and pillows, chucking it into the back of a beaten up hire van.

LEAH wheels her bike, steadily towards her. A manky dog loitering close by.

SONYA
Leah, get that dog.

LEAH
I'm in the middle of my homework.

From above-

DEBBIE OOV
(calling down)
Mum-

SONYA looks up to see-

DEBBIE [late 20's], LEAH's mum, hanging out of the kitchen window.

DEBBIE
He wants tea at the table.

SONYA dumps the mound of duvet on the grass, hurrying to pull a kitchen chair out of the back of the van.

SONYA
(calling back)
Fuck...fuck...fuck...

LEAH running to try and catch the dog as it jaywalks across a busy road. LEAH, lassoes her belt around the dog's neck, weaving her way back.

On LEAH disgruntled heading towards a grimy stairwell.

5

INT. HALLWAY. FLAT. ESTATE. LEEDS. DAY.

5

LEAH, the dog close by, on the belt, peering through into the living room-

Through a haze of spliff smoke-

STEVIE [30's] spread-eagled on the sofa, playing X box with LEAH's younger brother, ADAM [9 yrs] slumped on the floor, eyes glazed, barely looking up.

STEVIE
That dog needs water.

The drip of saliva as LEAH turns to lead the dog through into the kitchen. STEVIE raises his hand stopping her, LEAH slides a twenty pound note in his hand.

STEVIE (cont'd)
(hushed aside)
Good girl.

On LEAH, scooping up an exercise book and pencil case lying on the sofa close by, as she heads out.

6

INT. KITCHEN. FLAT. ESTATE. LEEDS. DAY.

6

LEAH takes in the near bare kitchen as DEBBIE heaves a kitchen chair back into place, sliding it under a peeling Formica table. LEAH looks on, quietly considering-

LEAH
He'll notice the clock.

DEBBIE eyes the dusty mark on the wall, where once a clock hung-

LEAH, unwraps the fish and chips, reaching over for a plate. Opening a drawer, she searches for the knives and forks, but they have also gone.

STEVIE
(on the approach)
Deb, you been messing with Sky
plus?

DEBBIE swings around, just as the last kitchen chair is slid into place, handing LEAH a plate, and a handfull of knives and forks as she does.

DEBBIE
I don't touch the remote.

LEAH slides the plate of fish and chips onto the plate, powerless as STEVIE swipes the whole lot, sliding it down on the table in front of him.

ADAM
(aka Donkey/Shriek)
Look at my eye twitchin'.

ADAM hanging on the door handle, swings back and forth, eyeing the kitchen, unsettled by what is going on-

STEVIE
(swiping ADAM)
Will you stop that?

STEVIE, gait swaying slightly, sinks down on a seat. DEBBIE slides him across the ketchup sachets.

STEVIE (cont'd)
You'll have the handle off.

ADAM scooping up the X box controls, clocking SONYA just visible through in the sitting room, unplugging the stereo.

ADAM
(aka Homer Simpson)
Marge, this is the darkest day in
the history of Springfield.

STEVIE cramming a chip into his mouth-

STEVIE
(eating a chip/ to LEAH)
Where's the fucking vinegar?

LEAH ignores him, focused on giving the dog a drink, from an old plastic ice cream tub.

CASEY OOV
Dad...dad-

CASEY[7yrs] enters dripping wet, teeth chattering, in her bathing costume, hopping from foot to foot with excitement-

DEBBIE
(sharp)
Give him a break, Casey.

Reaching for a six pack of beer, DEBBIE darts a look to ADAM and LEAH, urging them to ease themselves out-

CASEY
Nana's-

Flipping the ring pull, DEBBIE slides it in front of STEVIE, depositing the rest of the six pack on the counter for him.

DEBBIE
(cutting in)
...coming over next week. You're
going blue.

DEBBIE ushers CASEY out before she can speak. ADAM, following CASEY with growing fury. LEAH surreptitiously picking up a plastic school ruler as she goes, left on the kitchen counter.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
Sooner you get in that bath-

STEVIE blearily looks up from his fish and chips, eyeing the empty patch on the wall where the clock once was-

STEVIE
It's only-

The clock has gone. STEVIE's suspicion, sobering until-

STEVIE (cont'd)
(with growing realisation)
Debbie.

The empty silence.

7

INT. STAIRWELL. NR FLAT. ESTATE. LEEDS. DAY.

7

LEAH clutching her school books, running three steps at a time, after DEBBIE who is lugging the TV in her arms. CASEY and ADAM drag the dog, dog bowl and whatever they could grab on route out-

From above, the sound of STEVIE thundering after them.

8

EXT. STREET. ESTATE. LEEDS. DAY.

8

SONYA, the engine already running, shouting out of her window-

SONYA
(shouting to Debbie)
I'm not driving...

DEBBIE
Move, mother.

DEBBIE, hurling the TV into the back of the van, as ADAM and CASEY scabble into the back next to SONYA. DEBBIE and LEAH close behind, leaping into the front cab

SONYA
I'm still on me friggin' ban.

STEVIE, steady on the approach, making their minds up for them. SONYA hard down on the accelerator, the van lurching into speed.

STEVIE
(angry shouting)
It's my fucking TV-

STEVIE racing to catch up, hurling bricks and beer bottles what ever he can find at the van.

DEBBIE
(shouting after)
Yeah, and who pays off the catalogue?
(to SONYA)
Put your fucking foot down.

STEVIE, racing neck and neck with DEBBIE snatching at the door, trying to wrestle it open.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
Fuck..fuck...fuck...

STEVIE
You stupid fucking bitch...
Where you fucking going?

DEBBIE
(calling back)
As far away as fuck from here.

The van picks up speed, leaving a puce humiliated STEVIE standing in the middle of the road helpless, surrounded by a gang of dripping KIDS, cheering.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
 You've a chip wrapper stuck to your
 arse.

LEAH face pressed against the back window of the van, looking
 back at all they've left behind, clocking her bike.

LEAH resigned sinks back in her seat, looking back at-

Walkways strung with washing. A FAT WOMAN in a bikini sitting
 in a deckchair, peering over her balcony. KIDS soaking, hose
 in hand, falling back into their game.

DEBBIE, throwing a cheer of relief and delight, turns up the
 radio-

Loud pulsing music-

The rippling sun, just beginning to set-

8A

INT. VAN. ROAD. LEEDS. DAY

8A

The trawl of rush hour traffic. The van just pulling out of
 Leeds, joining the motorway.

LEAH, nose pressed to the glass, wedged up next to DEBBIE and
 SONYA, DEBBIE turns a map in her hand, clearly already lost-

LEAH
 (eyeing map)
 Do you know where we're even going
 cause you're in Cardiff?

DEBBIE drawing on the cigarette, passing it back to SONYA via
 LEAH-

SONYA
 We've not been five miles out of
 Leeds.

DEBBIE giving up, shoving the map in LEAH's lap-

DEBBIE
 That way.

SONYA
 Which lane? Which lane?

DEBBIE
 Middle...Middle..

SONYA pulls out narrowly missing an overtaking car. A screech
 of horns

DEBBIE (cont'd)
 Stevie Wonder could drive better..

SONYA
 Piss off or your on the hard
 shoulder.

DEBBIE smiles, eyeing SONYA's glasses-

DEBBIE
You've got Nanna's glasses on.

LEAH eyeing the map, their conversation white noise, eyes absently watching-

A HITCHER thumb out by the side of the road, sign for BRADFORD clutched close to his chest.

Loud pulsing music through-

9 **INT. VAN. MOTORWAY. OUTSIDE LEEDS. EVENING.**

9

SCENE 9 OMITTED

10 **INT. VAN. CITY CENTRE. BRADFORD. EVENING.**

10

LEAH's POV, navigating with the map. CASEY leant up against her, fast asleep.

SONYA dragging on a toke, passing it to LEAH.

A knock on the back of the cabin, from inside the van-

ADAM OOV
(shouting out)
Mum, Beck's crapped on the sofa.

SONYA's husky choking laugh, momentarily skewing her driving. LEAH instinctively reaching out, straightening the wheel.

CASEY
Are we there yet? It's melting in here.

DEBBIE looking out over demolished buildings-

Loud pulsing music through-

10A **EXT. VAN. HIGH STREET. BRADFORD. EVENING**

10A

The van driving along a road, the reflected neon signs and colour of a busy street in Bradford, rippling the windows and door.

LEAH OOV
Straight on...Straight on..

DEBBIE OOV
We should have gone left two streets back...

An ASIAN SHOPKEEPER standing in his window looking out. The ebb and flow of human traffic.

SONYA OOV
Am I going left?

LEAH OOV
No..

DEBBIE OOV
Yea...

LEAH
No...
(pointing)
Here..Here..

Loud pulsing music through-

10B **EXT. DESERTED MARKET. BRADFORD. EVENING**

10B

The van driving through a deserted market. DEBBIE clearly lost and late.

11 **INT. STREET. BRADFORD. EVENING**

11

Dusk; LEAH's POV, looking up from the map, peering out of the front of the van as SONYA pulls up outside a row of neat breeze block houses, wedged between rows of terraced houses in a silent empty street.

An ASIAN WOMAN pushing a wailing baby in a buggy, eyes watching the van pulsing with pop music as it passes.

A forgotten football lying in a gutter.

A row of black chadors hanging on the washing line, catching LEAH's eye, looking beyond to DEBBIE, also seeing.

DEBBIE turns the engine off, the radio goes silent-

Silence but for distant voice, almost like singing, far off-

LEAH
You ringed it.

DEBBIE
No, the div in the housing office
ringed it. No...No fucking way..

SONYA
Welcome to Ramsay street.

12 **EXT. STREET. BRADFORD. EVENING**

12

DEBBIE, the reality just landing, spilling out of the back of the van with ADAM, CASEY and SONYA close behind. LEAH not moving from the van.

DEBBIE
No..No..No..No..No...No..

A young Council HOUSING OFFICER wearing a hijab just coming out of a doorway.

HOUSING OFFICER
McNeil?

DEBBIE nods, taking in the run down BACK yard; an old fridge, its door hanging off, dumped near by.

HOUSING OFFICER (cont'd)
You were meant to be here by six.

DEBBIE takes in the street, an ELDERLY ASIAN WOMAN just visible, peeking out from behind greying nets.

DEBBIE
No fucking way, not here. I said I wanted-

The HOUSING OFFICER fumbles with a key ring, handing over keys.

HOUSING OFFICER
You'll have to call the Council, Monday.

The HOUSING OFFICER hurrying on up the road, DEBBIE tailing her-

DEBBIE
...three bedrooms. Near the city centre with a gar..

DEBBIE looks back at two old plastic window boxes, the flowers dried up and dead.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
That's not a fucking garden.

On LEAH looking up from her homework, staring out at the now silent street, all taking in the silence.

ADAM
(aka Mr Burns/Simpsons)
Release the hounds!

DEBBIE clips ADAM around the ear, catching SONYA's eye, on the verge of some comment-

DEBBIE
Don't.

SONYA
What? What?

DEBBIE
Don't fucking say it.

SONYA smiles, barely containing her dry delight as DEBBIE determinedly turns starts to unload their furniture, handing chairs, and suitcases to her waiting children.

LEAH
Where is everyone?

On LEAH her gaze looking along the deserted street.

DEBBIE
(to LEAH)
Out.

LEAH deliberately ignoring her-

DEBBIE (cont'd)
(harder)
Leah-

LEAH reluctantly gets out of the van, SONYA already dragging bedding and bags towards the front door. CASEY already heading inside.

A distant sound of an Imam, voice reverberating on a tannoy, just audible, catching on the breeze.

CASEY leans her head out of the top bedroom window-

CASEY
(shouting down)
It's got bunk beds.

Through the fence, LEAH spies a NEIGHBOUR peering out of the window, in hijab.

LEAH flicks her the finger.

12A **INT. KITCHEN/SITTING ROOM. HOUSE. BRADFORD. NIGHT.** 12A

The echo of kid's yelps from upstairs-

LEAH standing alone in an empty kitchen

SONYA and DEBBIE come through -

Leah wonders into the sitting room looking around her new home.

She reaches up, flicks the light switch back and forth. A dead strip light hums on and off.

13 **INT. DEBBIE'S BEDROOM. HOUSE. BRADFORD. NIGHT.** 13

On LEAH standing in the doorway, looking in at a scruffy bedroom, a stripped double bed mattress, boxes and black bin bags of clothes piled all around.

Just visible across the grubby hallway a second small bedroom-

CASEY bouncing up and down on a top bunkbed, ADAM trying to pull her off, throwing a swipe, as DEBBIE just visible coming up the stairs.

CASEY
Adam keeps punching me-

DEBBIE just coming up the stairs, carrying a heavy cardboard box, a light sticking out of the top.

DEBBIE
Go to bed.

ADAM
We've not had any tea.

DEBBIE
Your nanna's got some crisps.

ADAM and CASEY thundering downstairs. DEBBIE looks up, clocks LEAH in the bedroom clearing herself a space.

LEAH
There's only two bedrooms.

DEBBIE
You'll have to share with me then.

LEAH reluctantly moves in sinking down onto the mattress.

LEAH
You'll be back by the end of the week.

DEBBIE
No.

LEAH
Yeah.

DEBBIE
I mean it.

LEAH
You said that last time.

LEAH slams the duvet over her head-

DEBBIE
I'll call the council Monday. Leah?
(silence)
Get your filthy shoes off, I don't want your grit in the bed.

LEAH ignores her. DEBBIE hesitates flicks the lights off.

LEAH pulls the duvet down, the oxidised glow of streetlight, illuminating her face-

ADAM OOV
(aka Bart Simpson)
Read 'em and weep, Marge.

LEAH leans over, slamming the door shut on ADAM, standing eating a packet of crisps.

LEAH
(almost to herself)
Freak.

LEAH lies in bed, staring at the shadows dancing across the wall. LEAH half reaches a hand up, as if trying to catch a shadow. Conversation drifting up from the yard below

SONYA OOV
Adam'll need his ritalin.

DEBBIE OOV
I stopped putting it on his cereal months ago.

SONYA OOV
And you wonder why he's bouncing off the walls?

Suddenly the sound of something being spat out-

DEBBIE OOV
Jesus mother

LEAH rolls her eyes, pulling herself up out of bed, peering out of the window, to the yard below-

14

EXT. YARD. HOUSE. BRADFORD. NIGHT.

14

LEAH's POV watching SONYA in the yard below, smoking a cigarette and swigging from a can of diet coke-

SONYA
It's only vodka. I nicked you a litre.

SONYA, reaches for the bottle of vodka, resting on the windowsill, topping up her can of coke amazed as DEBBIE throws her drink in the plastic flower pot.

DEBBIE
No..No more booze. Spliff. I don't want any of it.

DEBBIE rifles in her bag, dumping the last of a bag of hash, and the bottle of vodka into the wheely bin.

SONYA
(beat)
How much money have you got?

DEBBIE
Tenner to last me to the end of the month.

SONYA
We could have jumped the leccy box before we left.

DEBBIE and SONYA absently watching the street, busier now, a trail of PEOPLE returning from the mosque.

Stray laughter. A gang of ASIAN WOMEN laughing and talking as they hurry home. DEBBIE eyeing SONYA with growing concern.

A gang of ASIAN BOYS scooping up the football in the gutter, resuming a game.

A young girl, YASMIN[11 yrs] just entering the yard to the house next door. Her father ABDULLAH [mid/late 30's] a fat man, in white overall, just coming up the alleyway.

SONYA (cont'd)
I don't know why you don't just take the spare room at mine again.

DEBBIE
No..Adam always punctures the lilo and I end up in with you, your manky cat and both girls top to tail.
(seeing look)
I'm not going back to him.

The hum of DEBBIE's mobile phone, vibrating somewhere, sobering them both, DEBBIE reaches for her fags, once more letting it ring until-

The phone stops ringing. Silence.

SONYA
Elaine's just got Deal or No Deal
on her phone ring.

DEBBIE smokes her cigarette with visible relief-

DEBBIE
I need you to pick up my benefit
cheque.

DEBBIE slides a set of keys to STEVIE's flat across to her.

SONYA
Its a bus and a train and a bus to
here.

DEBBIE
Mother-
(beat)
Van has to be back by ten-

SONYA picking up her handbag concedes defeat, scooping up the keys, eyeing ABDULLAH's MOTHER sitting out in the yard.

SONYA
Neighbours look nice.

DEBBIE ignoring her, watching SONYA go, seemingly oblivious to LEAH looking out of the bedroom window above, both watching the lights coming on in NEIGHBOUR'S WINDOWS until-

DEBBIE
Leah-

LEAH pulls her head in from the window, going to sleep.

A blast of Indian music in a passing car. DEBBIE, hesitates, hovering close to the wheelie bin until-

DEBBIE slams her fag into the bin on top of the bottle of vodka and bag of hash, determinedly going inside, turning her music up.

15

INT. DEBBIE'S BEDROOM. HOUSE. BRADFORD. DAY.

15

LEAH blearily opening her eyes on DEBBIE, nose to nose with her, still half asleep-

Through the wall, the taped call for prayer, just heard-

Rowing through the wall, Abdullah shouting at FATIMA.

LEAH leans forward, sniffs DEBBIE's breath, with relief-

Looking up, CASEY stands, leaning over them, eating a bowl of coco pops-

CASEY
Adam's broke the bunk bed.

LEAH
Where did you get the milk?

DEBBIE opens one eye, blearily peering up at CASEY.

DEBBIE
What milk?

16

INT. KITCHEN/SITTING ROOM. HOUSE. BRADFORD. DAY.

16

LEAH watching DEBBIE chuck a carton of milk down the sink in the kitchen. CASEY on the step playing with her scooby doos.

DEBBIE
You don't know where it's been.

CASEY
Tesco's.

DEBBIE hesitates, clocking the label on the milk, looking up to see, ABDULLAH with FATIMA and ABDULLAH's MOTHER[60's] just visible through the window in their yard, next door.

DEBBIE scoops up the carton, sliding it back through the fence, before turning and heading back upstairs, still in her nightie-

ABDULLAH ushers the others back inside, taking the carton of milk, eyeing the family suspiciously. YASMIN hanging back, peering through the fence.

LEAH
That your dad?
(YASMIN nods)
What'd he have for breakfast, your mum?

LEAH goes through into the sitting room, looks over at ADAM, sitting on the floor in the sitting room.

LEAH (cont'd)
You had breakfast?

ADAM shrugs, LEAH goes to the fridge opens it, empty but for-

A can of diet coke and half a loaf of bread. LEAH considers it, sniffs the bread, nodding to ADAM. She goes back into the kitchen-

LEAH sliding the bread into a beaten up toaster.

CASEY reaching into a box, pulling out a plate, a couple of cups handing them to LEAH.

On LEAH, putting together the makeshift breakfast-

LEAH watching ABDULLAH with YASMIN clearly late, heading to the mosque. LEAH watches them disappearing along the alleyway, reaching for the hairbrush-

DEBBIE OOV
Leah, run a brush through your
sister's hair.

LEAH already onto it, brushing and plaiting CASEY's hair. The
sound of kids cartoons coming through from the sitting room-

The ping of the toaster.

17

EXT. STREET. BRADFORD. DAY.

17

LEAH's POV as DEBBIE pushes ADAM and CASEY ahead of her, LEAH
lagging behind passing-

CASEY
(pulling at her plaits)
You've done them all wonky.

DEBBIE
Just tug 'em a bit.

CASEY
They hurt.

DEBBIE
(sharp)
Casey-

The spill of MEN coming out of the mosque. An OLD MAN locked
in heated debate with ANOTHER. DEBBIE and the CHILDREN
weaving past them, forced to step in the gutter to pass, eyes
catching on their faces-

A gang of ASIAN YOUTHS laughing and joking, knocking fists in
good-byes, ADAM lagging behind a little.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
Adam-

A group of MOTHERS in chador, talking outside a newsagent,
gossiping and laughing, eyes grazing over DEBBIE and the
CHILDREN as they pass.

On LEAH, CASEY, ADAM and DEBBIE, suddenly clocking they are
the only white faces in a sea of brown.

LEAH's look to DEBBIE, determinedly pushing them ahead of her
towards a distant primary school.

18

INT. CLASSROOM/CORRIDOR. SCHOOL. BRADFORD. DAY

18

LEAH perched with DEBBIE on tiny kids chairs with
MARIANNE[mid 50's] the headmistress, reading the children's
school reports. LEAH's gaze straying over children's paintings
on the wall. Brown faces, families holding hands, a brightly
coloured children's painting of a mosque.

DEBBIE
(sharp/telling off)
Adam-

ADAM, two fingers dragging down his lower lids, tongue out grimacing at a gang of passing boys through the window, CASEY close by-

DEBBIE (cont'd)
He's registered dyslexic. He loves his films. Drives you crazy with his voices.

MARIANNE
(as reads)
...He's been excluded-

DEBBIE
Twice.

LEAH eyes straying over MARIANNE, quietly scrutinising her face.

MARIANNE
Their last school mentions-

DEBBIE
Mostly booze, a little weed. I don't know why that's down.

The briefest sting of embarrassment flickers across LEAH's face-

MARIANNE
Perhaps we might be better, Mrs McNeil talking about this-

DEBBIE
You're alright.
(eyeing LEAH)
Leah doesn't miss anything. Gobby so you'll have to shut her up but she likes school. Art. She had her story read out in assembly.

MARIANNE hesitates, momentarily thrown by the DEBBIE's quiet disregard.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
You've only got to take them for a few days. Just til they rehouse us.

MARIANNE
They told you we're 100% Muslim-

DEBBIE
What?

On LEAH, taking in the many brown faces just visible sitting in assembly-

MARIANNE
Not all practising but-

DEBBIE
There must be some white kids?

MARIANNE
One. He left last term.

LEAH rolling her eyes, fiddling with a lumpen home made ashtray on a windowsill, catching MARIANNE's look

LEAH
It looks like a dog shit.

19

INT. HALL. SCHOOL. BRADFORD. DAY.

19

LEAH, ADAM and CASEY watching DEBBIE through the window, disappearing across the playground. Together they take in a packed assembly, rows of CHILDREN listening to REHAN[mid 20's] a charismatic teacher standing on a stage ahead, puma trainers and indie boy haircut.

Defiantly out staring, the look of a young boy MALIK[11yrs] further down the row, LEAH leans back in her chair feigning boredom, a frustration growing, clocking YASMIN, their neighbour seated a few rows in front..

REHAN
Tarik, Malik, Zahir Miss Shakina
wants you behind after..Swimming
Thursday..

REHAN eyes TWO JOSTLING BOYS, winding up the assembly.

REHAN (cont'd)
(to KID)
Stop messing around..
(to KIDS)
..so don't forget your kit. No one
allowed in without goggles and
swimming hats. And we've got eating
healthy week so I want you all
picking up your fruit at
breaktime..That's it.

KIDS
Story...Story..

TWO JOSTLING BOYS sit up, suitably reprimanded, REHAN's eyes already moving on along the row of EAGER CHILDREN, several have hands up, enjoying the game-

REHAN
Orange and Indigo class you're
doing raffle tickets today...12
o'clock in middle hall for anyone
making salad.

CASEY
Why are they making salad.

The sound of sniggering travelling down the row, CASEY's words travelling like Chinese whispers. LEAH leans forward, clocking YASMIN, sharing in the joke.

KIDS
Sir...Sir...Story..

REHAN smiles, his gaze grazes over the faces, playfully conceding.

REHAN
 In the story of Muhammad's night
 journey and ascent to heaven-
 (quietening)
 Ssh...Sshh. The angel Gabriel acted
 as Muhammad's guide. Eventually
 Gabriel could go no further up
 through the heavens and Muhammad
 had to continue alone on his
 journey from Mecca to Jerusalem
 What does this tell us?

LEAH suddenly overwhelmed with a growing fury, stands up,
 making to go-

REHAN (cont'd)
 It tells us that the prophet, Peace
 Be Unto Him, gave us even higher
 potential than angels.
 (looking to LEAH)
 It tells us Muhammad-

LEAH suddenly caught out, hovering between sitting back down
 or running out of the room.

LEAH
 ...was soft for following Gabriel
 in the first place. Next time he
 should of taken the bus.

REHAN, caught out, stifles a smile, watching LEAH brazenly
 walking out, KIDS already craning to see.

REHAN
 (to MALIK)
 You sit down.

REHAN watching LEAH disappear out of the hall.

20

EXT. CORRIDOR. SCHOOL. BRADFORD. DAY.

20

MARIANNE opens her office door on-

LEAH standing, holding on fast to ADAM and CASEY-

MARIANNE
 Leah-

LEAH
 We're Catholic. We want our own
 assembly. And if you don't that's
 racist and I'm telling everyone.

On MARIANNE at a loss for words.

21

INT. MARIANNE OFFICE/CORRIDOR. SCHOOL. BRADFORD. DAY.

21

An empty classroom but for one WHITE FEMALE TEACHER seated in
 the corner of the room, quietly supervising-

LEAH sitting next to CASEY perched on tiny chairs. LEAH is
 reading a beaten up library book to CASEY.

LEAH
(reading)
And so God said to Noah-

ADAM standing on a bench, peering into another classroom,
bored and distracted.

ADAM
We've been to church once for
Nana's funeral.

LEAH
Twice.
(ignoring/as reads)
...collect all the animals-

ADAM
Second time you robbed the alter
plate.

LEAH
They left it by the door.

CASEY
I want to go back in. It was better
than this-

CASEY goes to speak, but LEAH's look says it all. CASEY
flicks through the book on Noah.

ADAM
This is boring.

LEAH joins ADAM, peering out of the door watching an excited
group of children running down the corridor.

LEAH
You want to end up wearing a dress
and growing a beard?

ADAM
I'm nine.

LEAH
They'll give you hormones.

On LEAH looking up, clocking a passing TEACHER. LEAH ducks.
LEAH pulls ADAM down.

ADAM
I want to go home. I hate this
place.

LEAH
Shut up and sit down.

LEAH punches him hard in the leg. ADAM softly cries.

The WHITE FEMALE TEACHER looks up, momentarily. LEAH offers
her a forced smile, waiting until her head once more falls
back to her work.

ADAM
The last pages are missing. You
don't even find out what happens.

LEAH
It rains alot.

CASEY
And then what?

LEAH
They all drown and die.

22

EXT. PLAYGROUND. SCHOOL. BRADFORD. DAY.

22

The noise and bustle of a busy playground at break. LEAH and CASEY sit together on the steps, flicking through a magazine.

Across the yard, ADAM loiters, leant up against a gate watching MALIK, knocking a ball about with his gang of MATES.

LEAH determinedly ignores YASMIN and her posse of GIRLS giggling and whispering together a few yards away until-

LEAH
(pointing to page)
He's gay.

YASMIN
No he's not.

LEAH
It said it in Heat.

YASMIN idly hums Kylie, deliberately ignoring her, marking out a dance room, joined by her posse of GIRLS as they quietly shadow one another, in what is clearly a much rehearsed routine.

CASEY
Our Auntie Maureen's lesbian.

LEAH and CASEY watch YASMIN lost in repeated dance motif, silently impressed.

YASMIN
That's a sin against Allah.

LEAH
And our dog's gay. He got done too young.

CASEY idly picks up to YASMIN's beat, shadowing her dance moves, but adding a more provocative twist as one by one YASMIN and her line of little GIRLS all, fall into CASEY's routine a la Kylie.

From across the yard-

MALIK
(in Punjabi)
Yasmin-

MALIK goes to shake YASMIN out of her dance move.

MALIK (cont'd)
(in Punjabi)
What you doing?

YASMIN
(in Punjabi)
Get off.

MALIK grabs YASMIN by the arm, pushing CASEY out of the way.

LEAH
Get lost you chocolate frog.

MALIK turns, shoves CASEY hard against the wall. Seeing this, LEAH goes on the attack, shoving MALIK from behind, in a dirty scrap, ADAM falling in, kicking MALIK close behind-

From across the yard-

REHAN
Break it up...Break it up.

REHAN wades in, shoving ADAM aside and pulling LEAH and MALIK apart by the scruffs of their necks.

REHAN (cont'd)
(to MALIK)
You're hitting a girl, man?

REHAN looks to MALIK, suddenly seeing his bloody nose, face mashed. LEAH smiles smugly, clearly the victor in the fight, pushing ADAM away as he tries to eye the cut to her lip.

23

INT. CORRIDOR. OUTSIDE MARIANNE'S OFFICE. SCHOOL. DAY.

23

LEAH, sitting on a chair, next to REHAN. The scuff and scrape of her shoes, as she swings her legs back and forth grazing the lino floor.

LEAH eyes, his long beard.

LEAH
Is it itchy?

REHAN
Sometimes-

LEAH clocks a string of beads, half hanging out of his pocket.

REHAN (cont'd)
Tazbih.

REHAN pulls out the set of beads, showing them to her.

REHAN (cont'd)
Prayer beads.
(holding them up)
Ninety nine beads plus this one.
Each bead is for a different name
for Allah, Peace be unto Him.

LEAH
Ninety nine names?
(beat)
Was he fiddling his benefit too?

REHAN laughs-

REHAN
 (touching beads)
 The Wise, the Compassionate, the
 Merciful, the Good, the Eternal.

LEAH
 That's five.

REHAN smiles, looking up to see MARIANNE waiting-

24

EXT. STREET. BRADFORD. DAY.

24

DEBBIE, laden down with coats, and schoolbags, tailed by
 LEAH, ADAM and CASEY, all three clearly in the dog house.

ADAM
 It wasn't our fault.

LEAH
 He shoved me first.

DEBBIE
 I leave you on your first day and-

LEAH
 They give you curry with your
 fishfingers. Casey-

CASEY
 ..I couldn't eat it.

DEBBIE
 You can have sandwiches.

CASEY
 I want Burger King.

DEBBIE stops in her tracks, pulling them all up sharp.

LEAH
 I want to go back to Ridgemont.

DEBBIE
 Well you can't. This is it. They're
 not rehousing us.

LEAH
 You called the council?

DEBBIE
 Yeah. This is all we get.

LEAH turns and walks on ahead.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
 (calling after)
 You like curry sauce...When you
 have your chips...You like curry
 sauce with your chips.

DEBBIE ushers ADAM and CASEY ahead of her-

A group of skull capped YOUTHS throw LEAH a look as they
 pass.

25

INT. SITTING ROOM/KITCHEN. HOUSE. BRADFORD. DAY

25

The blur of TV; Monsters Inc or the like on the screen.

LEAH doing her homework-

LEAH
Nanna Margaret went to church.

DEBBIE passing through with a box piled with old letters, cuddly toys, photos, a sense she is trying to keep herself busy-

DEBBIE
Cause she copped off once with the priest. She'd be turning in her grave if she could see us here.

LEAH
She was cremated.

LEAH fishes out a tiny monkey holding a squashy heart from the box, idly fiddling with it. The electronic jingle as the monkey repeatedly punches the air, heart in hand.

LEAH (cont'd)
Classy.

DEBBIE snatches it back, hurling it into the box-

DEBBIE's phone rings. DEBBIE tenses, STEVIE's name flashing up-

The distant sound of an ice cream van. CASEY and ADAM racing out-

The phone rings on-

LEAH (cont'd)
Change your number.

DEBBIE
You got to pay.

It rings some more. LEAH suddenly grabs it, answers it-

LEAH
(into phone)
Fuck off.

LEAH hangs up, slamming it back to DEBBIE.

DEBBIE
He is their dad-

LEAH
Pity you can't remember who mine is

LEAH, clocking a set of rosary beads, spilling out of the box. LEAH reaching a hand out, as DEBBIE clears them back into the box.

DEBBIE
You're Nana's.

LEAH makes to go-

DEBBIE (cont'd)
Leah-

DEBBIE throws her the beads, LEAH takes them, heading upstairs.

On DEBBIE on her own, struggling. She goes into the kitchen, systematically opening the kitchen cabinet, then the fridge, empty on every score. DEBBIE hesitates, flicks on the kettle, takes a cup, a tea bag, wants to make a cup of tea but-

Scooping up her purse, DEBBIE heads out-

26

INT. DEBBIE'S BEDROOM. HOUSE. BRADFORD. DAY.

26

The window open, the sounds of summer outside; birds, the distant rumble of cars and yet beyond a kind of silence-

LEAH looks out at the winding trails of MEN on route to the mosque.

CASEY muscles in next to LEAH, finishing off an ice cream cone, craning to see the disappearing figure of DEBBIE in mini skirt and wedged flip flops, at odds with the long chadors and burkahs of the other WOMEN.

On LEAH, her gaze falling beyond to DEBBIE just disappearing up the road, quiet concern flickering in her eyes, rosary beads absently turning in her hand.

LEAH
She's gonna get pissed. She's got
her purse.

CASEY
Yeah but Adam nicked her last
fiver.

CASEY smirks. LEAH smirks. LEAH looking down at the rosary beads, shoving them in her pocket.

27

INT. OFF LICENCE. STREET. BRADFORD. DAY

27

DEBBIE scooping up a couple of alcopops and a packet of crisps. The ASIAN SHOP KEEPER eyes her suspiciously. Going to pay for them, DEBBIE sees her purse is empty-

DEBBIE, heart inwardly sinking, searches her pockets, nothing.

DEBBIE staring helplessly at the endless bottles of booze, sliding the alcopops and crisps back.

27A

INT. BEDROOM. HOUSE. BRADFORD. DAY.

27A

LEAH lying on ADAM's bunkbed, feet flat to the ceiling, CASEY and ADAM close by, playing top trumps or the like.

A door slam. LEAH, ADAM and CASEY listen. The sound of something being dropped. LEAH's palpable disappointment, going downstairs, followed by ADAM and CASEY-

28

INT. STAIRWELL/KITCHEN. HOUSE. BRADFORD. DAY.

28

DEBBIE rooting through a stair cupboard, pulling out a couple of old pots of paint. LEAH's coming down the stairs, clocking the rising agitation, the sense that DEBBIE is trying to stave off the feelings of some kind of craving.

LEAH
What you doing?

Turning up the radio, DEBBIE reaches for her fish slice, chucking a bar of chocolate at ADAM and a second and third to LEAH and CASEY.

CASEY
But Adam nicked your money.

DEBBIE
Lucky for you I'm your nanna's daughter.

DEBBIE looks up, sees LEAH watching her, sensing her jitters. DEBBIE hands ADAM the fish slice,

DEBBIE (cont'd)
(to ADAM)
You. This wall.

DEBBIE drags a chair across the kitchen, standing on it trying to prize off a piece of ceiling tile.

Suddenly polystyrene and plaster rain down on DEBBIE's head.

DEBBIE momentary shock, dissolving into laughter as LEAH and CASEY unable to resist any longer, join in, pulling at wallpaper and broken ceiling tiles.

ADAM
(aka Donkey/ Shrek)
I'm a donkey on the edge.

A snowstorm of paper, and laughter as DEBBIE turns the radio up. All four of them ripping at wallpaper, tearing down ceiling tiles and great strips off the wall. LEAH throws her a half smile, biting into her chocolate, reaching up and pulling at another corner of wallpaper, enjoying tearing it down, dancing to the music, letting rip, a certain joyous madness to the four.

A huge swirling paper fight, liberating, spontaneous until-

A vibrating hum. All stop, DEBBIE's phone somewhere ringing. DEBBIE determinedly trying to ignore it, aware of the kids waiting in expectation until-

DEBBIE reaches a hand into a box retrieving the phone.

DEBBIE
Fuck off..Fuck off..
(with rising joy)
And fuck off again-

LEAH smiles, hair covered in plaster and paper dust, like an electrified polar bear, turning to see through the open kitchen door-

STEVIE standing in the yard, mobile phone pressed to his ear.

STEVIE
(into phone)
But I've only just parked the car.

DEBBIE follows LEAH's gaze, freezing on seeing STEVIE standing in the yard, mobile phone pressed to his ear-

DEBBIE
Fuck..Oh my God...

Running for the door, DEBBIE slams it shut in STEVIE's face.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
Upstairs..Upstairs..Upstairs..

DEBBIE scrabbling to get CASEY, ADAM and LEAH upstairs until-

The humming vibrate of her mobile phone goading, DEBBIE hovering, unsure of her next move, physically shaking-

LEAH peers through the kitchen window, sees STEVIE nosing about the back yard, patting the dog, licking his fingers-

STEVIE looks up, smiles and waves.

The rattle of the door, LEAH watches the latch being tampered with, looking to DEBBIE until-

DEBBIE (cont'd)
Get upstairs..Leah-

The door gently lifts off the latch. STEVIE pushes it open to see-

DEBBIE pushes the kids behind her, determinedly trying to stay resolute, holding the fish slice towards STEVIE, forcing him back in the yard.

STEVIE
What you going to do? Batter me.

DEBBIE pushing him back into the yard.

29

EXT. YARD. HOUSE. BRADFORD. DAY

29

STEVIE arms up in surrender, DEBBIE forcing him stumbling back into the yard, LEAH, CASEY and ADAM close behind-

DEBBIE
Mum told you.

STEVIE
Silly bitch didn't have to.

DEBBIE turns, sees ADAM, looking sheepish behind CASEY and LEAH, standing in the kitchen doorway.

ADAM
(aka Pinocchio)
I'm not a puppet. I'm a real boy

STEVIE
Alright son?

ABDULLAH, just visible coming up the path-

ABDULLAH
OK?

DEBBIE
Fuck off.

ABDULLAH hesitates, heads inside the house.

STEVIE holds up a brown envelope, her benefit cheque. DEBBIE hesitates, nervous as STEVIE holds it out to her-

STEVIE
Take it. It's yours.

LEAH watches as STEVIE slides it on the front step, eyeing her. DEBBIE doesn't dare move, too terrified.

DEBBIE
Thanks.

STEVIE
I'm not gonna let you starve.
(eyeing LEAH)
Leah?
(ignored)
Bit far out, this?
(patting the dog)
He's not even been in quarantine.

LEAH watching unsettled as STEVIE pulls off his belt. Slipping it around the dog's neck, STEVIE pulls it tight around his neck

DEBBIE
(growing agitation)
I'm not coming back.

STEVIE suddenly slams DEBBIE hard against the wall.

STEVIE
You took the fucking loo seat.

LEAH goes to move but DEBBIE holds her back with her look-

DEBBIE
How many times have we come back
and found no food, no telly? You
sold Adam's football kit.

STEVIE slams her harder, an ugly angry scuffle, DEBBIE sent flying as STEVIE knocks her in the chin with a flaying arm.

LEAH
(shouting)
Get off her. Get off...Get off-

Suddenly LEAH is wading in, clawing at STEVIE trying to pull him off-

DEBBIE
Leah...No..

ADAM
Dad-

ADBULLAH pushes his way through, breaking up the fight, pulling LEAH off and grabbing STEVIE-

ADAM (cont'd)
(breaking down)
Please dad-

ABDULLAH easing his grip on STEVIE-

ABDULLAH
Get home, mate.

STEVIE pushes him off, clocking ADAM and CASEY held back by LEAH, DEBBIE hurt and struggling to pull herself up.

STEVIE
(with disgust)
Mate-

STEVIE half laughing, resorts to grabbing the dog and slowly leading him away.

STEVIE (cont'd)
(incredulous/laughing)
Mate? Who are you to call me..I'm
not your mate..
(to ADAM/ CASEY)
I'll see you two, soon.

STEVIE passing LEAH, looks at her.

STEVIE (cont'd)
(to LEAH)
And you.

On LEAH, watching STEVIE limp across the street, ADAM and CASEY chasing after him-

ABDULLAH looking to DEBBIE-

ABDULLAH
You alright-

But DEBBIE already gone, chasing after STEVIE-

DEBBIE
(calling after)
He's got fucking worms. And you're
not having his pills.

Fumbling with her ring, DEBBIE struggles to get it off, sucking on her finger, doing all she can to loosen it.

CASEY
(calling after dog)
Becks-

LEAH watches as STEVIE pulls away in his car, the dog, nose pressed to the glass, peering out of the back window.

CASEY (cont'd)
He's forgotten his dog bowl.

DEBBIE shouting and screaming after STEVIE, tossing her ring across the yard.

ABDULLAH shakes his head wearily, heading back into his own yard. ABDULLAH's MOTHER hovers in the door, chewing on a bag of pistachios-

ABDULLAH
(in Punjabi)
Ma...I've told you..Stop dropping
all your shells..everywhere..

The NEIGHBOUR in full chador, standing on her back step, LEAH seeing this. The NEIGHBOUR ducks back inside.

30

INT. SITTING ROOM. HOUSE. BRADFORD. NIGHT.

30

DEBBIE bruised and battered sitting on the edge of the sofa. LEAH scooping up the cheque in passing. LEAH hesitates, holding it up to the light, a thick red line drawn through it clearly cancelling it.

LEAH
It's been cancelled.

DEBBIE
What you talking about?

LEAH
(pointing to cheque)
See that red line-

DEBBIE takes it, looking at it-

LEAH (cont'd) (CONT'D)
(pointing to cheque)
Cancelled. C-a-n-

DEBBIE sinks back on the sofa with quiet devastation-

DEBBIE
Bastard.

31

EXT. YARD. HOUSE. BRADFORD. NIGHT.

31

Later. LEAH dumping bags of ripped wallpaper in the bin-

Through the fence, LEAH clocks ABDULLAH scooping something up off the yard floor-

LEAH
She's going to divorce him when
she's got some money.

ABDULLAH holds out the retrieved ring to LEAH-

ABDULLAH
 In Islam its very simple. The man
 says to his wife; I divorce you. I
 divorce you. I divorce you.

ABDULLAH sinking down on the step outside his house. YASMIN
 playing with FRIENDS in the alleyway.

ABDULLAH (cont'd)
 (with a smile)
 Now what lawyer can do it that
 cheap or quick, huh?

ABDULLAH looks up, DEBBIE just passing the kitchen door, half
 listening.

LEAH
 (considers)
 My mum's got one who can fiddle
 your electric if you like.

ABDULLAH laughs, heading off to ISAH- Midnight prayers.

ABDULLAH
 (calling after)
 You should be in bed, Laylah.

LEAH
 It's Leah.

ABDULLAH already gone, shouting back at YASMIN to get into
 the house, ushering YASMIN back in.

ABDULLAH
 (to YASMIN/in Punjabi)
 In now.

The distant murmur of praying. LEAH listens to the quiet
 city. Through the open kitchen door the sound of running
 water, LEAH looks through the fence-

ABDULLAH's MOTHER [60's] at the sink, washing her face with a
 wet flannel, cleaning her ears, touching the corners of her
 eyes and tips of ears with her fingers, making wudu.

On LEAH watching with absent curiosity, looking back to-

DEBBIE, dabbing her face at the sink, skin already bruising
 and puffy around her lip and eye-

DEBBIE seeing LEAH watching her, gaze wavering, looking away
 with growing despair.

The rumble of traffic-

A bombed out building, a pile of rubble, reflected in the
 window of the job centre opposite. DEBBIE face bruised and
 battered, LEAH, ADAM and CASEY stand peering in.

CASEY
When I grow up I'm gonna be a
kennel maid. You could be a kennel
maid.

DEBBIE
I don't like dogs.

ADAM
You like Becks.

DEBBIE
Who says?

LEAH leading the way, DEBBIE and CASEY close behind. ADAM
caught in eternal turn, going around and around the revolving
doors, never quite making it in.

33

INT. JOB CENTRE. TOWN CENTRE. BRADFORD. DAY.

33

DEBBIE sitting facing a female BENEFIT OFFICER finger poised
ready to touch type information into her computer; CASEY,
LEAH and ADAM loiter close by, pitching in from time to time.

BENEFIT OFFICER
Have you any qualifications?

DEBBIE
No.

BENEFIT OFFICER
Do you drive?

DEBBIE
Kind of- No.

BENEFIT OFFICER
You haven't worked in-

DEBBIE
Five years.

BENEFIT OFFICER
(checking paperwork)
You've been living on disability
benefit?

DEBBIE
Yeah.

The BENEFIT OFFICER eyes her up and down, clearly in search
of some kind of disability, looking suspiciously at the
bruises on DEBBIE's face-

DEBBIE (cont'd)
Metal plate in my head.

The BENEFIT OFFICER wearily slides a form across to DEBBIE-

BENEFIT OFFICER
If you'd like to fill in this form.

DEBBIE nods, looking to LEAH who hovers close by-

BENEFIT OFFICER (cont'd)
Then take it to that desk.

DEBBIE joins the queue, perching the form on a ledge, as she tries to write her name, painfully aware she is being watched, the letters betraying that DEBBIE cannot write.

ADAM and CASEY playing chase on the other side of the room. LEAH slides next to her, gently reaching out, pulling the form across.

LEAH
(close to/reading)
Address.

DEBBIE rummages in her bag, handing LEAH a letter with their new address on. LEAH takes the pen, and starts to fill in the form, copying from the letter.

LEAH (cont'd)
Dependants?

DEBBIE
I think that's you lot.

LEAH nods, slowly filling in DEBBIE's form for her in childish scrawl. DEBBIE reaches in her bag, going to light up a fag shaking in her hands. A SECURITY GUARD standing near the door, gestures for her to stop.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
(sharp)
Adam-

ADAM half stuck in the doors, DEBBIE suddenly overwhelmed, finishes lighting up her cigarette, ushering CASEY ahead of her-

DEBBIE (cont'd)
Come on.

LEAH reluctantly following the others, already outside.

34

INT. CAFE. TOWN CENTRE. BRADFORD. DAY.

34

LEAH peering out watching the ebb and flow of SHOPPERS steady traffic outside, half listening to the conversation between SONYA and DEBBIE, ADAM eating a plate of chips. SONYA eyes DEBBIE's bruised face and swelling chin-

SONYA
It'll be down end of the week.

DEBBIE wincing a little, a smile stinging-

SONYA (cont'd)
(to ADAM)
Stupid shit.

DEBBIE
Mum leave it-

SONYA
(eyeing LEAH)
You're very quite.

DEBBIE
She's pissed off cause she's
missing school.

SONYA
(on seeing CASEY)
Don't you look a poppit.

CASEY just coming out of the toilet in a peach coloured
meringue like bridesmaid dress.

CASEY
Adam's taking all the chips.

CASEY reaches over for a bottle of ketchup, squirting them
over the plate.

ADAM
She's drowning them in ketchup.

SONYA pulls the plate of chips away, already reaching for a
second dress in her bag for LEAH.

SONYA
Watch the dress...Watch the dress.

SONYA, seeing LEAH's look as she holds out the dress to LEAH-

SONYA (cont'd) (CONT'D)
I promised Elaine.
(seeing DEBBIE's look)
She is your cousin.

DEBBIE
Her wedding's not for-

SONYA
Six weeks.
(to LEAH)
Hey, Helen Keller, try it on.

LEAH holds up the peach frothy dress, in quiet disgust-

LEAH
It's the colour of puke.

LEAH slides the dress back to SONYA. SONYA eyes DEBBIE's
battered face.

SONYA
How did he look?

DEBBIE quietly stung, looking away.

DEBBIE
Like shit.

SONYA
Hasn't got you to look after him.
He'll struggle to make his own tea.

ADAM
I want a burger.

DEBBIE
You can't have a burger.

DEBBIE drawing heavily on a cigarette, still clearly shaken, concerning SONYA. SONYA roots in her bag, sliding a large pack of scratchcards, wrapped in elastic band across the table.

SONYA
There's nearly a hundred there. A
quid a pop-

DEBBIE slides them back, but SONYA is insistent, pushing them into her hands.

SONYA (cont'd) (CONT'D)
You're Auntie Maureen's already won
two bread knives and a DVD player.
Skanky bitch.

ADAM
Wicked.

ADAM reaches out for one, DEBBIE slaps him away, sliding them into her handbag.

SONYA
You're on top table.

DEBBIE
Mum, I just-

SONYA
Elaine's learnt Endless Love.
(close to)
Both parts.

DEBBIE hesitates, nods. LEAH looks to DEBBIE, exasperated as SONYA hands her the dress in quiet victory.

SONYA (cont'd)
You're going to look like little
dolls.

The ebb and flow of human traffic passing the cafe window-

35 **EXT. BUS STOP. BRADFORD. DAY.**

35

DEBBIE, LEAH, ADAM and CASEY standing by a bus stop. Two WOMEN in full chador stand in front of her, also climbing on the bus.

36 **INT. BUS STREET. NEAR SCHOOL. BRADFORD. DAY.**

36

LEAH eyes grazing passing faces, houses, leafy tree lined streets, drifting clouds above-

DEBBIE leans over, ringing the bell, shoving ADAM and CASEY ahead of LEAH

LEAH
You need a note if you're late.-

DEBBIE shoves ADAM, CASEY and LEAH out of the bus-

DEBBIE
Go, go, go. I'll do you one
tomorrow.

36A **EXT. SURBURBAN STREET. NEAR SCHOOL. BRADFORD. DAY** 36A

The bus pulls away, leaving LEAH on the curb with ADAM and CASEY. DEBBIE, hurrying on up the road, turning to see-

LEAH ushering ADAM and CASEY across the busy road, DEBBIE moving off with growing determination.

37 **EXT. STREET. BRADFORD. DAY** 37

LEAH pushing ADAM and CASEY ahead of her-

A cafe, ABDULLAH's MOTHER making sweets at a table. ABDULLAH just visible behind her, sliding a tray of food onto a counter, eyes grazing over LEAH as she passes.

LEAH hurrying ADAM and CASEY on.

37A **EXT. STREET. OUTSIDE MOSQUE. BRADFORD. DAY** 37A

LEAH and CASEY, ADAM passing the entrance to the mosque-

The flick flack of the doorway, LEAH looking up, just glimpsing-

MALIK pulling off his shoes, running to join his other FRIENDS.

LEAH briefly curious, before ushering CASEY and ADAM ahead.

37B **EXT. STREET. BRADFORD. DAY** 37B

DEBBIE a lone figure passing-

An WHITE WOMAN in her 50's walking up the road, wheeling a buggy. DEBBIE stopping her, trying to sell her scratchcards-

The WHITE WOMAN already moving on, leaving DEBBIE behind.

Ahead, the moors, just visible beyond the rows of streets. DEBBIE trugging on up the road alone.

ABDULLAH's MOTHER just passing, laden down with shopping bags, puffing and wheezing, but watching her.

38 **EXT. PLAYGROUND. SCHOOL. BRADFORD. DAY.** 38

LEAH, ADAM and CASEY ahead of her, clearly very late, tiny dots disappearing across the vast playground.

38A

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET. BRADFORD. DAY.

38A

A leafy road. DEBBIE knocking door to door with her scratchcards, increasingly disheartened.

DEBBIE takes in the large houses, wide sweeping drives, moving on-

DEBBIE hesitates, clocking a van parked up. Molly Maids Cleaning Service. A MIDDLE AGED WOMAN is packing cleaning equipment into the back. DEBBIE considers, shoving the scratchcards in her pocket.

39

EXT. YARD. HOUSE. BRADFORD. DAY.

39

ADAM slamming the ball back and forth across the yard, narrowly missing CASEY and LEAH perched on the back step, hungry and locked out.

CASEY
I'm starving.

CASEY climbs on top of the broken down fridge, looking out for DEBBIE-

ADAM
Nanna says I can live with her.

LEAH
Yeah, you go and eat runny mince
and watch Richard and Judy all day.

CASEY suddenly excited, DEBBIE just visible, a dot over the horizon coming over the brow of the street-

CASEY
She's here.

ADAM scrabbles up on top of the fridge, craning to see her-

CASEY (cont'd)
What she waving?

LEAH scrabbles up to join them, all watching in anticipation, DEBBIE hard on the approach, holding out two ten pound notes, letting ADAM and CASEY snatch one each-

CASEY (cont'd)
(snatching note)
Twenty quid.

DEBBIE snatches the money back.

DEBBIE
Forty scratchcards. Daft git in
Londis took twenty.

LEAH
We've been out here for two hours.

ADAM
Can we call dad?

DEBBIE hands ADAM back a tenner, fumbling in her bag for her keys-

DEBBIE
No. But you can get a pizza.

ADAM is already heading out, tailed by CASEY-

LEAH
You on the game?

DEBBIE
You cheeky Mare-

LEAH
You sold forty?

DEBBIE
Yeah.

LEAH
What d'you have to do for it?

DEBBIE
(laughing)
Leah-

DEBBIE tickles LEAH, blowing a raspberry kiss on her face, trying to make her laugh-

DEBBIE (cont'd)
You're so serious Leah.

LEAH brushes her off.

LEAH
It's still a skanky fiddle.

DEBBIE
You won't say that when I win two weeks in Ibiza.
(swiping away)
Catch up with them, eh? Adam'll spend the whole lot on Hula hoops...

On LEAH heading off after ADAM and CASEY-

DEBBIE (cont'd)
(calling after)
Leah....Get me a...
(rethink)
...diet coke.

LEAH hesitates, smiles. DEBBIE smiles watching LEAH heading off. DEBBIE seeing ABDULLAH's MOTHER and FATIMA [late 20's], ABDULLAH's heavily pregnant wife in their back yard. DEBBIE hesitates, considers saying hello, then heads inside.

CASEY furiously brushing her teeth. LEAH leans across, squirting toothpaste on her brush.

LEAH
(watching CASEY)
And the back.

Both vie for space, foaming at the mouth, knocking heads as they try to slurp from the same running tap.

LEAH (cont'd)
You've gotta do it a minute.

CASEY reluctantly brushes her teeth, again, spitting out, then grinning at LEAH, flashing them to her.

LEAH gives her the nod she's done. Looking up, LEAH sees ADAM just standing on the landing, DEBBIE's mobile phone in his hand, furiously tapping away at the keys-

LEAH (cont'd)
(shouting out)
Mum-

LEAH grabs his wrist, twisting it into a Chinese burn until finally he submits handing over the phone-

ADAM
Get off...get off...get off...

ADAM kicks LEAH away, slamming the door behind him.

41

INT. BEDROOM. HOUSE. BRADFORD. NIGHT.

41

LEAH jumping on top of ADAM in his bunk-

ADAM shoves her off. Disappearing under his duvet, LEAH leans over the side to see CASEY giving her row of teddies and dolls a kiss goodnight.

LEAH leans back next to ADAM-

The distant call for prayer on tape, coming through the wall-

LEAH
You want him to come back? You want
to live with all his shit again?

ADAM barely stirring under his duvet. Silence. LEAH teasing ADAM, singing along to the prayer, taking the piss-

LEAH (cont'd)
(mouthing along)
*Ashhadu al-la ilaha illa-Llahu, wa
ashhadu anna Muhammadan-rasul
Allah.*

ADAM
Mum'll kill you. And then Dad will.

LEAH
He's not here. And he's not my dad.

From the landing-

The humming vibrate, DEBBIE's mobile phone ringing on the landing-

ADAM, LEAH and CASEY listen in anticipation until-
The mobile phone rings off. ADAM's obvious disappointment.

LEAH (cont'd)
And you're the one dead if you call
him again.

ADAM
I hate it here.

LEAH goes to speak but-

ADAM pulls the duvet over his head, thumping the wall with
his fist, trying to silence next door.

LEAH slides down out of ADAM's bed, passing CASEY. LEAH leans
in, kisses CASEY-

CASEY
Leah?

LEAH
What?

CASEY holds up her favourite doll. LEAH kisses it, tucking it
in next to CASEY.

CASEY
Are we still sisters if Stevie's
not your dad?

LEAH
Yeah. Night.

CASEY
Night.

ADAM farts. CASEY giggles. LEAH throws a pillow at him.

42

INT. DEBBIE'S BEDROOM. HOUSE. BRADFORD. NIGHT.

42

DEBBIE hovers in the doorway, LEAH now in bed-

DEBBIE
Night.

DEBBIE hesitates, clocks the rosary beads, LEAH absently
turning them in her hands.

LEAH
Night.

DEBBIE
I'll do you nails tomorrow if you
want.

LEAH nods, DEBBIE smiles, already moving on, her voice
singing along to a distant radio, upbeat, her mood, lifting
the house.

42A **EXT. EMPTY MARKET. BRADFORD. DAY**

42A

LEAH walking through an empty market, CASEY hopping close by-
Rows of empty metal stalls.

ADAM lagging far behind, weaving in and out of the metal stalls. All three like birds on different flight paths, heading towards school.

42B **INT. MILL. BRADFORD. DAY**

42B

LEAH, CASEY and ADAM walking though an old mill-
ADAM talking to himself, CASEY and LEAH oblivious.

43 **INT. CORRIDOR/HALL. SCHOOL. BRADFORD. DAY.**

43

LEAH walking a few yards behind CASEY, hanging back seeing-
REHAN mid study group in the hall.

CASEY
Leah-

LEAH hesitates, shakes her head. CASEY shrugs, heading towards the lunchroom, looking back to see LEAH loitering in the corridor, listening outside the hall door.

44 **INT. HALL. SCHOOL. BRADFORD. DAY.**

44

The scrape of canteen grates being lifted-

Hot food being wheeled in trolleys as DINNER LADIES prepare to serve up lunch-

Tables and chairs set up in lines as REHAN clears up after his class, helping lay out the tables and chairs for lunch.

LEAH
Was Aladdin Muslim?

REHAN looks up, packing away a pile of books.

REHAN
And Sinbad. And Ali Baba and the forty thieves.

LEAH
I've got it on DVD. Are they all Disney?

REHAN
The Arabian Nights.

LEAH falling into the lunch queue, by MALIK close by-

LEAH
(afterthought)
Harry's Potter better.

LEAH, passing the pile of books, standing by the door.

MALIK
What you doing here?

LEAH
Free country.

MALIK moving off, joining his friends. LEAH hesitates, clocks-
A CHILDREN'S GUIDE TO ISLAM

LEAH hangs back a little, sliding a book up under her shirt.

MALIK
Tarik. You playing?

A SHORT ROUND BOY shakes his head, too busy holding his tray up for food.

TARIQ
Nah. Miss Rana's keeping us in for being naughty.

LEAH
I can play.

MALIK hesitates, ignoring the giggles of his MATES. CASEY standing with YASMIN and other GIRLS, showing off their intricate scooby doos to one another looks up-

MALIK
Ok, but not your brother. He's rubbish.

LEAH clocking ADAM sitting on his own picking at his plate of fishfingers, head hung low-

ADAM
(aka Bart Simpson)
The betrayal by a sister is worse than if you had poisoned me, Lisa.

LEAH
Maybe if you cut out the weird voices and shit, they'd want to hang out with you.

ADAM
Fuck you.

LEAH
Get lost you twitching ADD freak monster.

ADAM scrapes his chair back, LEAH sees he's stung-

LEAH (cont'd)
(calling after)
Adam.

ADAM, without looking back, gives LEAH the finger-

LEAH (cont'd)
Adam-

LEAH dumps her plate, tray and all in the waste bin, legging it after ADAM.

46 **EXT. PLAYGROUND. SCHOOL. BRADFORD. DAY.**

46

LEAH weaving through a netball team in full swing, little GIRLS in hijab jumping for the ball as ADAM pushes ahead-

LEAH
(shouting after)
Mum'll kill you.

ADAM is off, climbing over the front gates, LEAH pulling at his trousers and jumper trying to stop him mid run-

LEAH (cont'd)
You'll get chucked out again.

MISS SHAKINA refereeing the game, looks up, seeing ADAM finally scrabble away from LEAH.

ADAM disappearing down the street. LEAH shouting after him.

A sharp blow of the netball whistle.

47 **INT. CLASSROOM. SCHOOL. BRAFORD. DAY.**

47

LEAH head down doing a math's test. Suddenly she looks up, hearing DEBBIE's voice far down the corridor.

DEBBIE OOV
You're the teacher. You're meant to
look after him.

LEAH, catching YASMIN's gaze, smarting with growing embarrassment, avoiding others gaze, determinedly trying to work, focused on her math's test.

48 **INT. CORRIDOR. SCHOOL. BRAFORD. DAY.**

48

DEBBIE standing in a deserted corridor, shouting as MISS SHAKINA

DEBBIE OOV
You lock him in the loo if you have
to.

The sound of footsteps, MARIANNE on the approach-

MISS SHAKINA
They've had three detentions and
they've been here less than two
weeks.

DEBBIE
I don't fucking need this..

The ring of the bell. Class change. The swell of CHILDREN passing around DEBBIE mid argument with MISS SHAKINA and MARIANNE.

MARIANNE

Calm down.

DEBBIE

(jabbing at MISS SHAKINA)
If some dirty fucking paedophile
has got hold of that kid, or he's
got himself killed on some road-

MARIANNE

We have called the police.

DEBBIE

(jabbing at MARIANNE)
What are they going to do? Arrest
him? Anything and I'll phone News
of the fucking Screws and tell them
that you run this place like shit.
And that's only after I've sued
you.

MARIANNE

I'm going to have to ask you leave-

MISS SHAKINA moves towards her, DEBBIE holds her back with
her look.

DEBBIE

Fuck off, you stupid cow.

DEBBIE turns seeing CASEY and LEAH, a look of stinging shame
evident on LEAH's face, YASMIN and others hurrying off to her
classroom.

DEBBIE (cont'd)

You two, here.

CASEY hangs back, refusing to follow-

DEBBIE (cont'd)

You will curse the day you were
ever born if you don't come home
with me now.

CASEY looks to LEAH, reluctantly going to follow DEBBIE-

LEAH

She's got music and movement.

On DEBBIE turning clearly breaking under the strain of so
many watching going to push CASEY ahead of her until-

DEBBIE

I don't give a fuck.

LEAH

(stopping DEBBIE)
Mum, leave her.

LEAH pushing CASEY towards her class, CHILDREN already in
gymn kit getting ready for the next class.

On LEAH hurrying to catch up with DEBBIE, passing REHAN just
coming out of a classroom, looking on with concern. REHAN
going to follow, MARIANNE stopping her with his look.

49

INT. KITCHEN. HOUSE. BRADFORD. DAY.

49

DEBBIE sitting at the table, in a fug of cigarette smoke.

LEAH sits high on top of the old fridge yard, feet tapping against the door, only adding to DEBBIE's irritation.

DEBBIE
Don't do that.

LEAH stops, bored.

The distant sound of laughter, DEBBIE peers through the nets to see YASMIN's GRANDMOTHER laughing with FATIMA in the back yard as they fold washing.

50

EXT. YARD. FATIMA'S HOUSE. BRADFORD. DAY.

50

On DEBBIE coming out, sitting on the step, her agitation growing as she opens a packet of cigarettes.

Suddenly the door swings open, ADAM as he comes through, lashing out, hitting him about the head and back-

DEBBIE
Where have you been? You selfish
shit...

DEBBIE's crazed anger verging on insanity as she shoves ADAM against the fence, swiping at his head and legs. LEAH muscles in trying to pull DEBBIE off-

LEAH
(shouting)
You're hurting him.

ADAM cowering now from DEBBIE's fury, starting to cry-

DEBBIE
Anyone could have got you...Any
poxy pervert...You're nine..Your
nine years old-

ADAM
I just want to see my dad. I just
want to go home and be with my dad.

LEAH finally hauling DEBBIE off, sees ADAM cowering, he's pissed himself, the sight of this shocking them both.

DEBBIE, tries to comfort him, but he pushes her away. DEBBIE stung pulls away, hating herself, eyes smarting with tears.

DEBBIE
I've gotta go.

LEAH
Mum-

DEBBIE
I don't work today, you don't get
any fucking tea. How much have I
got in my purse? How much?

LEAH picks up her school bag, making to go.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
No.

On DEBBIE despairing, unsure what to do with them.

LEAH
We're writing stories today.

DEBBIE
I'll call Nana. She can pick up
Casey. You don't move. You hear me?

ADAM nods. LEAH reluctantly agrees. DEBBIE tears
welling, unable to even look at ADAM.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
I'm doing my best here.
(beat)
Adam-?

ADAM, ignoring

The swing of the gate. DEBBIE gone.

ADAM sinks down onto the back step. Just visible through the
fence, into YASMIN's house, a film on the TV.

FATIMA
I've just put Robin Hood on.

LEAH looks up, FATIMA just visible through the
fence, hesitating-

FATIMA (cont'd)
You want to watch?

ADAM looks to LEAH, she hesitates, nods. FATIMA watching
DEBBIE far off up the road.

51 **INT. KITCHEN. FATIMA'S HOUSE. BRADFORD. DAY.**

51

ADAM sprawled on the sofa in clean trousers, watching Robin
Hood on the DVD, slurping on Fanta. MOHAMMAD sits wedged next
to him drinking Fanta from his babies bottle.

LEAH doing her maths homework at the table, writing
equations, watching FATIMA in the kitchen, cooking, the
smells of food wafting through-

LEAH's eyes graze over the walls, a bright illuminated
photograph of a beautiful mosque swarming with pilgrims, a
school photo of YASMIN with MOHAMMAD-

LEAH's gaze falls back to the picture of the Mosque,
illuminated with tiny lights-

51A **INT. LOO. AISHA'S HOUSE. BRADFORD. DAY**

51A

DEBBIE scrubbing furiously at a toilet. Standing back to
admire her work, tiny glimpses of someone's house.

A box of tissues, resting on the shelf, arabic writing just visible decorating the ornate box.

DEBBIE moving onto the sink, clearly trying to get out some inner fury until-

DEBBIE shoulders sag, clocking her reflection in the mirror, a sense of her crumbling, coming to some kind of reluctant decision.

52

INT. KITCHEN. FATIMA'S HOUSE. BRADFORD. DAY.

52

LEAH lingering in the doorway, watching FATIMA as she cooks; chopping, peeling, tasting-

LEAH looking at washing hanging in their yard, DEBBIE's bright washing and tiny thongs strung in a line, swinging in the breeze.

LEAH
(eyeing next door yard)
It's dead weird seeing the house
from this side.

LEAH's face falls on seeing SONYA, entering the yard, CASEY in tow. LEAH watching them, seeing SONYA's bemusement, eyes searching the empty yard, looking for LEAH and ADAM.

LEAH hanging back, avoiding SONYA's peering eyes, not wanting to be seen.

LEAH (cont'd)
Is that what we look like?

SONYA looking up just seeing her-

SONYA
(shouting/incredulous)
Leah-

53

INT. KITCHEN. HOUSE. BRADFORD. DAY.

53

SONYA slopping mince and potatoes onto plates. LEAH eyes it suspiciously-

SONYA
Eat.

LEAH slides down next to ADAM and CASEY. SONYA pours herself a cup of tea, sitting down, watching them eat, satisfyingly.

SONYA (cont'd)
Adam use your fork. That's right,
sweetheart.

LEAH
Where's mum?

SONYA
She's at work.

LEAH
It's past seven. She's always back
by now.

SONYA reaches for her fags, eyes darting outside, with
growing agitation.

SONYA
I've got donuts for after.

Sound of a car door slam. Voices. LEAH with sudden
realisation, instinctively looks to SONYA.

CASEY
Nanna would you rather be blind or
deaf?

SONYA
Deaf and I'd miss Terry Wogan.
Blind..That fucks Deal or no
Deal....He's a cocky little knob
Noel Edmonds. Blind.

The sound of a dog barking. ADAM leaps up, running to the
window.

ADAM
Becks!

ADAM's face breaks into a smile, on seeing-

DEBBIE coming up the path, closely followed by the dog and
STEVIE.

CASEY and ADAM rush to greet DEBBIE just coming in through
the door with STEVIE, a bottle of vodka in his hand in a
plastic bag with some cokes-

LEAH looks to SONYA-

DEBBIE
(kissing CASEY/ ADAM)
Hello darlings.

ADAM and CASEY's delight as they greet the dog, bouncing up
on front paws to greet them.

SONYA
You're alright I got them tea.

ADAM
Dad-

ADAM running to greet STEVIE, as he scoops CASEY into his
arms. LEAH's look of disappointment falls on DEBBIE as STEVIE
slides the bottle of booze in the bag on the table-

STEVIE
I was gonna take you for pizza.

CASEY and ADAM leap up with excitement, runny mince
discarded. LEAH looking on with quiet resignation, scoops up
her bag and heads up to bed.

The slam of the bedroom door.

54

INT. DEBBIE'S BEDROOM. HOUSE. BRADFORD. NIGHT.

54

LEAH, lying on the bed, pulls out a worn book. A CHILDREN'S GUIDE TO ISLAM, flicking through its pages, the rosary beads in her hands.

DEBBIE
He could have taken you too.

LEAH barely looks up, DEBBIE hovering in the doorway.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
Adam needs to see his dad.

DEBBIE reaches over, turning the page of LEAH's book, bemused by the Arabic lettering, the images-

DEBBIE (cont'd)
School give you this?

LEAH reaches out for the book. DEBBIE pulls it away. The cover rips, pages falling to the floor-

DEBBIE (cont'd)
I'm sorry-

LEAH pushes her away, scrabbling to pick them up. DEBBIE looks on helpless, LEAH struggles not to cry. On DEBBIE's total wretchedness, making to go-

SONYA OOV
Deb I'm off-
(as goes)
Enders starts in thirty minutes.

55

INT. SITTING ROOM. HOUSE. BRADFORD. NIGHT.

55

DEBBIE sitting, the bottle of vodka and cokes in a plastic bag. DEBBIE trying really hard until. DEBBIE opens the bottle of coke, drinks, topping the can up with vodka and knocking it back-

The murmur of the TV.

55A

INT. DEBBIE'S BEDROOM. HOUSE. BRADFORD. NIGHT.

55A

LEAH carefully trying to sellotape the book together-

The graze of car lights outside. LEAH looking up-

55B

INT. KITCHEN. HOUSE. BRADFORD. NIGHT.

55B

A tap at the door. STEVIE, CASEY asleep in his arms. ADAM close behind carrying a box of cold pizza. DEBBIE showing STEVIE upstairs, ADAM close behind-

56

INT. DEBBIE'S BEDROOM. HOUSE. BRADFORD. NIGHT

56

LEAH watching STEVIE through an ajar door following DEBBIE across the landing, ADAM in her arms.

LEAH POV, a tension rising as she reaches under her pillow for her rosary beads, starting to desperately pray.

57 INT. BEDROOM. HOUSE. BRADFORD. NIGHT.

57

STEVIE easing CASEY into her bed. ADAM already asleep as his head hits the pillow, DEBBIE easing off his shoes.

STEVIE lingering, kissing his kids goodnight, DEBBIE watching him, for a moment moved.

58 INT. LANDING. HOUSE. BRADFORD. NIGHT.

58

STEVIE following DEBBIE out, stopping her on the landing.

 STEVIE
Kid's say you've got a job.

STEVIE holds out a fat spliff to DEBBIE, face now flushed from drinking-

 STEVIE (cont'd)
I come in peace.

LEAH's POV, watching in tense anticipation through the ajar door, the spliff held out to DEBBIE. DEBBIE tentatively takes it, STEVIE's presence overwhelming, DEBBIE struggling to resist.

 DEBBIE
I'll save it for later.

STEVIE puts a hand in his pocket pulling out a roll of notes and holding them out to DEBBIE.

 STEVIE
Just buy the kids food and stuff.
Adam needs a new tracksuit.

DEBBIE hesitates, takes the money, hands briefly grazing his, slipping the notes into her pocket, guiltily.

 DEBBIE
Thanks.

STEVIE taking in the peeling walls-

 STEVIE
Missed a bit.

DEBBIE instinctively looks up-

 DEBBIE
Where?

DEBBIE, seeing he is teasing, pushes him away, playfully. The moment lingering.

 STEVIE
I just want to see my kids, Deb

DEBBIE hesitates, STEVIE close, almost intimate until-

DEBBIE
And that's all you're getting.

STEVIE smiles, throws up his arms, in playful defeat.

STEVIE
Osama Bin Laden made our pizza.

DEBBIE laughs, inwardly struggling, STEVIE already heading out.

59

INT. DEBBIE'S BEDROOM. HOUSE. BRADFORD. NIGHT

59

LEAH's POV watching DEBBIE through the ajar door, praying to herself, as if for her life, beads turning through her fingers as she touches each one-

LEAH
Subhanallah..Glory to God...Alhamdu
llahi...God is great.

The slam of the door. LEAH with visible relief watching DEBBIE through the ajar door, sink down on the stairs. The graze of car lamps across the bedroom.

On LEAH smiling in quiet disbelief, looking at the rosary beads in hand.

Suddenly LEAH's sniffs the air, looks up sees DEBBIE smoking the spliff. A fug of smoke drifting along the landing into the bedroom.

LEAH closing her eyes again, LEAH resumes praying, hoping for one more wish.

59A

EXT. EMPTY MARKET. BRADFORD. DAY

59A

LEAH walking across the empty market, this time on her own.

60

INT. HALL. SCHOOL. BRADFORD. DAY.

60

REHAN at the end of assembly, looking up with surprise to see LEAH and CASEY taking seats at the back-

REHAN VO
The prophet, peace be unto him,
that night was very tired from the
long walk he had had that day so he
slept very soundly.

REHAN's eyes graze over LEAH listening, intently-

REHAN
Suddenly a voice called him so
insistently that he woke up and
there before him stood-

A LITTLE BOY hops from foot to foot, desperate to answer-

LITTLE BOY
Gabriel.

REHAN
 ...in full splendour, with the most
 marvellous beast, whose name was-

REHAN looks to the CHILDREN, bright eyed and listening,
 craning with anticipation, waiting for their cue-

CHILDREN
 (excited)
 Burraq...Burraq-

Giggles and squeals of excitement, the CHILDREN's laughter
 infectious, CASEY already up from her chair, joining in.

REHAN
 (nodding)
 A dazzling white mare with wings
 were like an eagle, that could
 travel even faster than light-

LEAH lost in listening, feigning disinterest on seeing REHAN
 clocking this.

61

INT. HALL. SCHOOL. BRADFORD. DAY.

61

The empty study class. LEAH pulls out the stolen book out
 from under her t-shirt, sliding it back onto the pile.
 Forgetting something, REHAN enters, reaching out and lightly
 stopping her, catching her in the act.

Taking the book from her, REHAN flicks through it, clocking
 the taped pages.

LEAH
 It got ripped.

REHAN
 You shouldn't steal.

LEAH nods, in anticipation of what comes next. REHAN hands
 the books back to LEAH.

REHAN (cont'd)
 So I give it to you.

LEAH
 I haven't got any money.

REHAN half laughs.

REHAN
 No. It's a gift.
 (seeing hesitation)
 Take it.

LEAH tentatively takes it, slipping it back under her T-
 shirt.

LEAH
 Whatever.

62

EXT. PLAYGROUND. SCHOOL. BRAFORD. DAY.

62

LEAH tailing REHAN across the empty playground, KIDS far off playing-

LEAH
It says that there are Angels that
keep lists of like all the bad
stuff you've done.

REHAN
And the good if there is some.

LEAH
And that God'll read the list and
work out if you're going to go to
hell?

REHAN
I think you'll be OK.

LEAH
What if its someone who keeps doing
bad stuff and they don't even know
they're doing it?

REHAN
What kind of bad stuff?

LEAH
Like pretending something's going
to be different and then its not.
Like saying everything's going to
be fine. That they won't drink
again. Or like when Casey burnt her
arm, not being pissed off and
shouting. Like promising it's going
to change even and then it never
does. Do you think if you pray alot,
do you think Allah would cross a
few out? Do you think if you did
that-

LEAH looks up, MARIANNE waiting by the common room door,
clocking REHAN.

REHAN
If he is The Good, The Merciful,
The Compassionate Allah will
forgive-

LEAH
I thought so.

REHAN with quiet concern, watching LEAH disappear along the
corridor.

63

EXT. STREET. OUTSIDE MOSQUE. BRADFORD. DAY

63

SCENE 63 MOVED TO SCENE 37A

LEAH sitting on the step, seemingly doing her homework, writing in her exercise book, eyes clocking a can of coke half drunk and resting on the wall, DEBBIE, a little flushed and mellow hanging out the washing swigs on it occasionally, ADAM and CASEY playing close by.

CASEY
He says we can have Becks back.

DEBBIE
He can keep him.

ADAM sits on top of the beaten up fridge, legs kicking against the door, pulling on a strawberry liquorice.

ADAM
He'll forget to feed him

DEBBIE ignores him, clocking SONYA just coming up the road
LEAH sees DEBBIE topping up her coke with vodka-

ADAM (cont'd)
If you lend us the bus fare I could
go home and change his water bowl.

DEBBIE
Adam? Read my lips. No. You'll see
him Friday. He promised he'll come
and see you then.

SONYA, holding up take away, with a smile, eyeing LEAH sitting on the back step-

SONYA
(as passes)
You'll get piles sitting on cold
stone like that.

SONYA looks over the yard, eyeing FATIMA with ABDULLAH's MOTHER cooking naans on the back step. Several RELATIVES close by, all lost in conversation. SONYA looks to DEBBIE rolling her eyes.

LEAH
It's Ramadan. They fast all day.
Then eat alot in the evening.

SONYA peering over LEAH's shoulder, a can of diet coke and vodka already in her hand.

LEAH (cont'd)
It's just my homework.

SONYA
You're getting too clever.

LEAH reaches for the can of coke, goes to swig, eyeing DEBBIE-

LEAH
What? You're drinking it.

DEBBIE takes it off her, watching LEAH going over to the fence to talk to YASMIN.

YASMIN
(hushed aside)
You got any of those scratch cards.

LEAH looks at her bemused. ABDULLAH's MOTHER mimes scratching a card, behind YASMIN. SONYA considers, eyeing her suspiciously-

SONYA
Tell her they're two quid each.

LEAH
(incredulous)
Nanna-

SONYA
One quid fifty if she buys five of them.

SONYA nods to ABDULLAH's MOTHER, beckoning her to come over-

SONYA (cont'd)
She'll have to take her shoes off.

Several of the FAMILY MEMBERS including preparing to head off to the mosque, including ABDULLAH. ABDULLAH's MOTHER's innocent smile, as ABDULLAH passes-

ABDULLAH
(nodding to LEAH)
Alright, Gori girl.

ABDULLAH's MOTHER waiting until, ABDULLAH has gone. ABDULLAH's MOTHER hurrying around, leaving LEAH and YASMIN alone in the yard.

LEAH
You've got new trainers.

YASMIN looks down at her new trainers. Taps them. A ripple of lights, making them both smile.

65

INT. KITCHEN. HOUSE. BRADFORD. EVENING

65

Through in the kitchen, DEBBIE is washing up while SONYA scrapes away at a scratch card with a ten pence piece. ABDULLAH's MOTHER sits opposite, doing the same, both are drinking cans of diet coke.

ABDULLAH'S MOTHER
(in Punjabi/aka
scratchcard)
I'm always getting the little
aliens.

DEBBIE
Huh?

ABDULLAH's MOTHER holds up her scratchcard, pointing to a row of aliens on her scratchcard.

ABDULLAH'S MOTHER
(in Punjabi)
Aliens.

SONYA
They're bugs.

DEBBIE looking out, clocking her NEIGHBOUR in full chador, gardening in the fading light. ABDULLAH's MOTHER follows her gaze.

ABDULLAH'S MOTHER
(in Punjabi)
She left her husband.

DEBBIE shrugs not understanding-

ABDULLAH
Her family won't talk to her.

DEBBIE hesitates, nods clocking LEAH, heading up YASMIN's path, into her house.

DEBBIE
Leah-

LEAH already gone, DEBBIE's gaze falling back on CASEY playing mummies and daddies with MOHAMMAD and a couple of little ASIAN KIDS, in the alleyway.

DEBBIE peers up, looking out for LEAH, seeing the lights go on in YASMIN's bedroom.

66

INT. YASMIN'S BEDROOM. HOUSE. BRADFORD. EVENING

66

LEAH peering into YASMIN's bedroom following YASMIN in. A brightly coloured Aladdin duvet, wrestles with swathes of Indian bedspread. Photos of pop stars collide with family photos, some incense sticks burnt near the bed.

A prayer mat rolled in the corner of the room. A tiny compass resting on the side. LEAH's hands graze over all of these.

LEAH sinks onto the bed, peering across at several scarves hanging up. LEAH leans forward, pulling one off the rack. Eyeing it, LEAH tries wrapping it around her head, peering at herself in the mirror, absorbed in trying to tie it-

YASMIN
You're doing it wrong.

YASMIN kneels down next to her.

YASMIN (cont'd)
(helping her)
You've got to pull it tight.

YASMIN pulls the scarf, folding it, smiling at LEAH, both girls mildly self conscious until-

LEAH turns, takes in her face in the mirror, surprised by what she sees-

LEAH
(with karate chop)
Ninja-

YASMIN starts giggling, LEAH joining in, turning back to look at herself in the mirror, looking at herself from all angles, giggling dwindling to a quiet kind of pleasure on seeing herself.

The murmur of voices. Stray laughter passing YASMIN's room.

Like a shot, LEAH takes it off, handing it back to YASMIN. YASMIN gently pushes the scarf back into LEAH's hands.

YASMIN
You can take it home.

LEAH hesitates, smiles, hurriedly stuffing it in her pocket. LEAH eyes the pile of books, resting on top of an exercise book. LEAH fingers the pages, eyes falling on the arabic writing-

LEAH
You did this at school?

YASMIN
No. Study class. It's dead good.
You should come.

LEAH spies through the window-

LEAH
Your dad's back.

YASMIN and LEAH look at one another.

67

EXT. YARD. HOUSE. BRADFORD. EVENING.

67

ABDULLAH coming up the path passed by YASMIN and LEAH, running past them-

YASMIN
(loudly)
Abba.

LEAH looks through the fence, just seeing, the scrabble of ABDULLAH's MOTHER, SONYA and DEBBIE-

68

EXT. YARD. HOUSE. BRADFORD. EVENING

68

ABDULLAH's MOTHER already fleeing the kitchen, passing LEAH coming back into the yard.

SONYA
(calling after)
Three pineapples.

SONYA stands in the kitchen doorway, waving the scratchcard-

SONYA (cont'd)
You've won a tenner. The offi near
yours'll cash it over the counter.

ADBULLAH's MOTHER squeezes CASEY's cheek in passing-

ABDULLAH'S MOTHER
(as passes/in Punjabi)
Buy the kids some sweeties.

DEBBIE with bemused gratitude, watching ABDULLAH's MOTHER heading back to her house. DEBBIE nods her hello to ABDULLAH, already being overtaken by his MOTHER.

SONYA
Debbie, wipe down that chair.
(seeing LEAH's look)
Oh pull that pickle out your arse,
Leah.

LEAH picks up her exercise books, finishing up the last of her homework.

LEAH
They don't gamble. She can't keep
the money.

DEBBIE sinks down next to LEAH, eyeing LEAH's open page-

DEBBIE
What else don't they do?

LEAH
Everything. Drink.

DEBBIE hesitates, knocking back the drink in her hand-

DEBBIE
It's diet coke-

LEAH holds her look silently challenging her as SONYA hands DEBBIE a spliff.

LEAH
Smoke.

DEBBIE hesitates, declining the spliff.

LEAH (cont'd)
(with smile)
Masturbate.

DEBBIE/SONYA
(wry/shocked)
Leah.

SONYA heads back into the kitchen, leaving DEBBIE behind. DEBBIE looks over LEAH's shoulder down at the drawing on LEAH's exercise book-

DEBBIE
She looks happy.

A smiling WOMAN arms around a small child, LEAH's handwriting clear below.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
What does it say?

LEAH hesitates, tracing a finger over the letters, phonetically showing her-

LEAH
'To Whom Should I show Kindness'
'Muhammad asked.' Your mother, next
your mother, next your mother.

DEBBIE
That's homework?

LEAH nods. DEBBIE considers-

DEBBIE (cont'd)
And I hope Muhammad listened.

ADBULLAH shouting at DEBBIE through the fence-

ABDULLAH
Don't sell those things to my
mother.

DEBBIE
What?

DEBBIE almost playful, ABDULLAH eyeing her, the whisper of a smile on his lips.

ABDULLAH
You're a very bad lady.

DEBBIE laughing heads up to bed leaving LEAH, finishing her work, a shaft of light from the kitchen illuminating her.

ABDULLAH (cont'd)
Alright Laylah-

LEAH nods, watching ABDULLAH head in.

69

EXT. STREET. BRADFORD DAY

69

YASMIN hurrying LEAH along, giggling and clearly hesitant-

LEAH
But I'm white.

YASMIN
Do you want to do this or what?

LEAH hesitates, nods. YASMIN holds out her hand. LEAH lets YASMIN tie on her hijab, nodding when it has finished.

CASEY
Leah-

CASEY and ADAM waiting for LEAH, looking on with quiet shock as she disappears up the road with YASMIN.

CASEY (cont'd)
We'll tell mum.

LEAH already gone. CASEY and ADAM not sure what to do.

CASEY heading off. ADAM reluctantly following her.

IQBAL
The moon and the stars are a
reminder to us, that Mohammad was
guided by Allah, like the moon and
the stars.

LEAH taking her place next to YASMIN and MALIK at a long
table with several other familiar CHILDREN from LEAH's class
at school.

IQBAL (cont'd)
And who do we have here today?

LEAH hesitates, YASMIN and MALIK turning to look at her-

LEAH
Laylah.

IQBAL hesitates, smiling, sliding a book across the table to
her-

IQBAL
Salaam Ale-Khoum.

LEAH
Walaikum-asalaam.

IQBAL's eyes graze over the face of the CHILDREN in his class-

IQBAL
For thirty days, as Muslims we
fast, we do not eat or drink during
daylight hours. It reminds us how
difficult it is to be poor, to be
hungry to be thirsty and to remind
us to thank God for his gift of the
Qur'an.

LEAH smiles, catching YASMIN's grin as they fall into work-

IQBAL (cont'd)
Today when you are feeling hungry
again, it is Allah's way of making
you think about the essentials, and
luxuries of life and so not to be
greedy. I want you to write down
what you think you need in life...

74A **INT. UTILITY ROOM. AISHA'S HOUSE. BRADORD.DAY**

74A

DEBBIE pulling out long black chadors from the washing
machine.

The distant murmur of IQBAL's voice.

DEBBIE heaving up a basket of wet washing, heading out.

75 **INT. CORRIDOR/LOO. AISHA'S HOUSE.BRADFORD. DAY**

75

ON LEAH, the hijab scarf around her shoulders, with YASMIN
giggling as they head to the loo-

LEAH walking along the corridor, suddenly stopping on seeing-

75A **EXT. GARDEN. AISHA'S HOUSE. BRADFORD. DAY.**

75A

DEBBIE hanging up long black chadors on the washing line, turning to see-

LEAH staring back at her through the window in the house.

76 **INT. CORRIDOR. AISHA'S HOUSE. BRADFORD. DAY**

76

LEAH walking along the corridor, meeting DEBBIE shoving her overalls into her bag.

DEBBIE
No...No...No...No..

DEBBIE making to go, grabbing LEAH, and trying to take her with her.

LEAH
Mum, don't embarrass me.

DEBBIE
Get that fucking thing off.

IQBAL puts his head around the classroom door-

IQBAL
Laylah-

LEAH nods turning to follow YASMIN back to her class.

DEBBIE
Who the fuck's Laylah?

DEBBIE grabbing LEAH by the wrist.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
Who's fucking Laylah.

IQBAL tries to usher the other KIDS including YASMIN and MALIK back into the study room.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
Take that off. I can't look at you.
Leah Ann Kylie Mcneil take that
off. Now...Now..

LEAH humiliated, aware of the audience along the corridor, takes it off, following DEBBIE as she scoops up her coat and bag.

77 **INT. DEBBIE'S BEDROOM. HOUSE. BRADFORD. NIGHT.**

77

The sound of footsteps. LEAH looks up, sees DEBBIE standing in the doorway. DEBBIE moving past her, with growing agitation, pulling off her clothes-

LEAH
All the other kids do it.

DEBBIE opening her cupboard, pulling out clothes, getting ready to go out.

DEBBIE
You're not all the other kids.
You look fucking ridiculous.

DEBBIE hesitates, half stripped, hovering between dresses.

LEAH
You're cleaning for them.

DEBBIE
And? And?

DEBBIE turns on LEAH, shouting at her, losing it.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
What else am I meant to do? Three
of you..I've got fucking three of
you giving me grief and pain every
minute of the day..What the fuck am
I mean to do..? Keep an eye on you
all the fucking time? I can't..I
can't-

DEBBIE lashing out, ripping the shit out of the cupboard, slamming clothes on the floor, anger and despair overwhelming her as she pulls at the cupboard, not knowing her strength until-

Exhausted, the aftermath and debris quietly shocking them both until-

LEAH
(pointing to dress)
You can see your muffin tops in
that.

DEBBIE hesitates, takes the other dress.

DEBBIE
I just can't..I just-

DEBBIE overwhelmed with fury and upset.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
..can't live off scratchcards.

The slam of the bathroom door-

LEAH
(calling after)
Who's sitting with us?

77PT

INT. BATHROOM. HOUSE. BRADFORD. NIGHT.

77PT

DEBBIE, suddenly fragile, pulling off her underwear about to step into the beaten up shower. Reaching to turn it off, DEBBIE sinks her head against the cool of the wall.

The arch of her back, spine suddenly visible, white and shaking, skin bruised and battered, marked with years of abuse.

Silent tears pour down her face.

LEAH
(tapping on door)
Mum...Mum..

DEBBIE turning the tap on-

DEBBIE
Give us a minute..Give us..

77A **EXT. BUS. LEEDS. NIGHT**

77A

DEBBIE looking out, blankly staring-
The lights of Leeds, illuminated across her face.

78 **INT. LOOS. NIGHT CLUB. LEEDS. NIGHT.**

78

SONYA stumbling out of a toilet cubicle, bunny ears and tail awry.

SONYA
You need ears..She needs ears.

DEBBIE dressed to the nines, staring at herself in the toilets as ELAINE in mini skirt and pink bunny girl costume comes out of a cubicle, waving maribou ears and tail.

DEBBIE
I'm fine.

Two more BUSTY GIRLS swarm around DEBBIE handing out bunny ears and sashes de rigueur.

SONYA
(from behind)
It won't stick.

DEBBIE eyes SONYA, spilling out of her tight lycra.

DEBBIE
Give it here.

DEBBIE fixes on SONYA's tail, reaching for a bottle of Hooch.

SONYA
Easy girl. What's got into you?

SONYA takes the bottle off her, swiping a sip.

SONYA (cont'd)
96 calories in every one of these.

DEBBIE eyes herself in the mirror, ridiculous yet somehow hot in her bunnygirl outfit, something determined in her eyes, forcing back all thoughts of LEAH and her day-

ELAINE
Ready.

DEBBIE nods, knocking back a bottle of Hooch, ELAINE, SONYA and the GIRLS already heading out.

SONYA
Abso-fucking-lutely.

The pulse of dance music through.

79 **INT. SITTING ROOM. HOUSE. BRADFORD. NIGHT.** 79

STEVIE dozing, arms around a dozing CASEY and ADAM watching TV-

Take away boxes strewn across the floor.

80 **INT. DEBBIE'S BEDROOM. BRADFORD. NIGHT.** 80

LEAH sliding into bed, pulling her exercise book out of her bag, her name clear on the exercise book-

Laylah.

LEAH contemplates, before sliding it under her bed.

Through the walls, the sound of laughter. LEAH listening.

81 **INT. BAR. NIGHTCLUB. LEEDS. NIGHT.** 81

DEBBIE clambering towards the bar, SONYA already there passing back drinks-

SONYA
He's not bad.

DEBBIE knocks back another drink, eyeing a group of OLDER UGLY BLOKES hovering near.

SONYA (cont'd)
What? What's wrong with you tonight?

DEBBIE looks at SONYA, alive and loving it-

DEBBIE
You've got a...

DEBBIE goes to touch SONYA, brush a stray lash from her cheek. SONYA uncomfortable, lightly shrugs her off.

SONYA
(calling out to bar maid)
Hey I asked for four-

SONYA leaning across the bar, her bunny tail grazing an UGLY MAN's groin.

UGLY BLOKE
Fancy a nibble on my carrot.

SONYA looking to DEBBIE, both giggling, scooping up her bottle of Hooch, handing it to DEBBIE.

SONYA
Have to catch me first.

DEBBIE knocking it back DEBBIE throws herself back into dancing with SONYA and OTHERS, drinking as if her life depended upon it.

82

INT. DEBBIE'S BEDROOM. HOUSE. BRADFORD. NIGHT.

82

Darkness.

The creak of the metal gate down below in the yard.

The sound of giggling. DEBBIE stumbling home.

The door swings open, STEVIE comes out, just catching her as she trips and stumbles-

STEVIE
You're steaming, babygirl.

DEBBIE nods, laughter still bubbling.

DEBBIE
Stevie..Stevie..Stevie..

STEVIE laughs, rocking her little in his arms.

STEVIE
You stink of kebab.

DEBBIE giggles, laughter subsiding, rocking his arms, forehead to forehead, nose to nose, a kind of sadness, and longing drawing them together..

DEBBIE
You do this thing to me. Why?..Why
do I let you...?

STEVIE and DEBBIE, the fall and rise of their breath, close, intimate.

83

INT. SITTING ROOM. HOUSE. BRADFORD. NIGHT.

83

LEAH's POV, hiding behind the stairwell bannister, looking down STEVIE and DEBBIE, dissolving into one another's arms. The sound of STEVIE's breath growing heavy-

The tread of LEAH's foot as she goes down one step, straining to see more-

DEBBIE and STEVIE locked in a stand up fuck, illuminated by the open fridge door.

Through the haze of alcohol, DEBBIE sees LEAH staring back at her.

DEBBIE goes to speak but nothing comes out of her mouth, STEVIE thrusting hard against her.

LEAH's look of quiet, weary betrayal as she turns heads back up to bed.

84 **INT. BEDROOM. HOUSE. BRADFORD. NIGHT.**

84

LEAH rooting through an old box of toys until finally-

LEAH pulls out an old Action Man, a compass embedded in his chest.

LEAH gets up heads back towards DEBBIE's bedroom.

Ignoring the curious glances of CASEY, stirring on the top bunk, LEAH stands, holding the compass, as if finding a point-

LEAH scoring a mark on the door frame.

85 **INT. BATHROOM. HOUSE. BRADFORD. NIGHT**

85

LEAH taking a wet flannel, wipes her hands, her nose, her ears, her feet, following the ritual of wudu-.

CASEY
(passing)
What you doing?

CASEY pads pass, on route to having a pee-

LEAH
Go to sleep.

LEAH reaches for her scarf, silently tying it, watched by a quietly fascinated CASEY sitting on the loo.

CASEY
Your face is too fat. You look a mong.

86 **INT. DEBBIE'S BEDROOM. HOUSE. BRADFORD. NIGHT.**

86

LEAH kneels down on the floor, checking her position with the mark on the door frame.

LEAH quietly murmurs a prayer, making salat, the hijab pulled up over her head.

CASEY stands in the doorway on route back to bed.

CASEY
(passing)
Can you ask him if I can have a new bike for Christmas?

On LEAH, lips silently moving until-

The sound of footsteps. LEAH freezes, suddenly terrified of being caught.

DEBBIE coming up the stairs, quietly singing.

LEAH determinedly returns to praying.

DEBBIE stumbling towards the bed, her singing catching under her drunken breath, quietly lulling her to sleep, oblivious to-

LEAH looking up from praying, surprised at the miracle.

The swing of the back gate. STEVIE clearly heard, leaving.

DEBBIE, almost asleep, tiny snatches of the song dissolving into slumber.

87

EXT. PLAYGROUND. SCHOOL. BRADFORD. DAY.

87

ADAM sitting on the back step, his lunchbox open, eating a sandwich. CASEY next to him, also eating something-

CASEY
Want a bite?

LEAH sits with her FRIENDS including YASMIN, giggling and mucking around together.

CASEY (cont'd)
I won't tell anyone.

LEAH shakes her head moving off with YASMIN. MALIK scores a goal, triumphant, patted on the back by his MATES. ADAM looks on resentfully.

88

INT. CORRIDOR. HALL. SCHOOL. BRADFORD. DAY.

88

Remove scene 88

89

EXT.MARKET. SCHOOL. BRADFORD. DAY.

89

REHAN walking through the busy market with MISS SHAKINA, laughing and talking. LEAH, overtakes him, YASMIN close behind-

LEAH
Sir...Sir..

LEAH tailing REHAN, moving through the ebb and flow of human traffic-

LEAH (cont'd)
Yasmin says you just have to say
There is no God but Allah; Muhammad
is the messenger of Allah.

REHAN
Declaration of faith is a start.

LEAH
There is no God but Allah; Muhammad
is the messenger of Allah.
(a beat)
I'm a Muslim then?

LEAH smiles before he can answer, running to catch up with YASMIN.

REHAN
Leah..
(calling after)
Leah.

LEAH smiling, holding hands with YASMIN, moving through the human traffic, unstoppable.

90

INT. TAXI. COURTYARD. ESTATE. LEEDS. DAY.

90

LEAH deflated wedged up in the back of a beaten up taxi, swathed in peach bridesmaid froth, DEBBIE and CASEY in same dress either side. LEAH's nose pressed to the glass, looking out over the old estate, waiting for STEVIE gone to fetch SONYA-

LEAH's eyes grazing over-

Rows and rows of washing flapping on the run down balconies.

SONYA, stumbling in heels towards the car, gets into the front seat of the car, pulling ADAM onto her lap. SONYA eyes DEBBIE, CASEY and LEAH on the back seat, through the rear view mirror.

SONYA
Put a smile on it you miserable
sods.

SONYA eyeing a FAT LADY mid argument with her HUSBAND on a walkway.

SONYA (cont'd)
Some people have no shame.

DEBBIE spying STEVIE, talking to a DISTANT TEENAGER on a bike. STEVIE knocks fists already moving on-

SONYA (cont'd)
27's painted her door. Must have
bought it.

DEBBIE absently following SONYA's gaze, admiring a flat above.

DEBBIE
Yeah.

STEVIE leaping into the passenger seat, pulling on a grubby tie and crumpled shirt.

STEVIE
(eyeing row)
Somebody's copping it.

The FAT WOMAN and her HUSBAND still rowing as the car pulls away, caught in the rear view mirror, a pathetic slice of the past.

SONYA
(to ADAM)
You stop wriggling. Boney bum.

LEAH watching as the car pulls away. DEBBIE's eyes grazing over LEAH, before fixing straight ahead-

91 EXT.RECEPTION BUILDING. LEEDS. DAY. 91

A shower of confetti. LEAH and CASEY flanking ELAINE, in a meringue dress. LEAH's mind clearly elsewhere prompted to smile for the camera by SONYA. DEBBIE looks on anxiously, pulled aside by STEVIE to meet another RELATIVE-

92 INT. RECEPTION ROOM. HOTEL. LEEDS. DAY. 92

LEAH, wedged up under a mountain of bridesmaid dress, sipping a coke watching the celebrations-

DEBBIE dancing with CASEY and ADAM. STEVIE getting pissed at the bar.

LEAH's eyes graze over the clock on the wall. 4 pm. LEAH takes herself off.

DEBBIE returning to her seat, as SONYA slides her another drink.

SONYA
We're getting them in before that
fat bastard makes a speech.

The GROOM, clearly worse for wear, heading towards the microphone.

On DEBBIE eyes looking over to LEAH heading towards the loo.

93 INT. LADIES. HOTEL. LEEDS. DAY. 93

LEAH washing her hands and arms in the sink, touching her ears, cleaning out her nose-

Two YOUNG FEMALE WEDDING GUESTS mid gossip eye her with mild horror-

LEAH pulls her scarf out of her pocket. Standing in front of the mirror, LEAH carefully ties the hijab around her face, straightening it, to take in her reflection in the mirror.

94 INT. RECEPTION ROOM. HOTEL. LEEDS. DAY. 94

SONYA dancing with CASEY and ADAM. The GROOM already tapping his microphone, a sense that the speeches are about to happen.

DEBBIE surrounded by STEVIE and his drunk mates, looking over mid laugh to see-

LEAH just crossing the dance floor in a hijab. On STEVIE, mid sip-

A ripple of interest passing over the reception.

The GROOM, tapping his mike-

GROOM
1..2..1..2...This is Houston
calling..

On SONYA, open mouthed seeing LEAH as she heads into another room.

95

INT. SIDE ROOM. HOTEL. LEEDS. DAY.

95

LEAH knelt in a corner of a wide reception room, praying.

From across the room, DEBBIE on the approach-

DEBBIE

Leah-

The quiet murmur of LEAH praying, ignoring DEBBIE

DEBBIE (cont'd)

Get up.

(silence)

Leah-

From across the room, STEVIE on the approach.

DEBBIE (cont'd)

Get off that floor.

Silently finishing her praying, LEAH stands, takes a moment-

STEVIE

What's she got on?

LEAH

It's called a hijab.

STEVIE

Take it off.

DEBBIE hesitates, her eyes pleading with LEAH-

DEBBIE

Leah, just take it off OK.

LEAH

No.

STEVIE

Take it off.

LEAH

No.

Suddenly DEBBIE looks up, sees SONYA coming through, her quiet shock turning to laughing ridicule.

SONYA

Leah, love, get up, stop pissing around.

LEAH ignores her, returning to praying.

STEVIE

You get up, now. It's a fucking wedding, Leah.

(grabbing LEAH)

You don't embarrass me here.

STEVIE goes to rip off the scarf, tearing at LEAH's hair-

STEVIE (cont'd)
Take that fucking thing off. You
look like a spastic.

SONYA
Leah, love-

LEAH
No..NO..

DEBBIE
(intervening)
Don't. Please. Don't-

LEAH pulls away, eyes smarting with tears, desperately trying
to shake STEVIE off-

LEAH
(desperate)
Get off me...get off me. Get off
me..-

SONYA
I told you, Deb...I warned you of
this.

DEBBIE
Leah, take it off...Take it off..

LEAH
Mum-

STEVIE snatches the scarf at last, triumphant takes the scarf
and puts it in the bin.

STEVIE
Right lets get back to the party
shall we?

LEAH bends down, picks it out of the rubbish bin, starts to
re-tie it as STEVIE goes to rip it once more out of her
hands. LEAH jerks away-

DEBBIE
No-

DEBBIE stands between them, blocking him, holding her ground,
adrenaline pumping.

SONYA
She's embarrassing us.

LEAH defiantly finishes tying the hijab, refusing to bow down-

LEAH passing STEVIE, crossing through the reception, ignoring
the whispers and curious looks of other WEDDING GUESTS.

The thump of music through-

96

EXT. YARD. HOUSE. BRADFORD. NIGHT.

96

DEBBIE walking up the path, STEVIE carrying an exhausted CASEY. SONYA and ADAM close behind, as DEBBIE unlocks the back door.

Next door, the sound of laughter, music, the second night of Ramadan-

LEAH goes to follow inside, STEVIE bars her way-

STEVIE
Take it off.

DEBBIE goes to speak, but STEVIE holds his hand up to stop her-

SONYA
Leah, don't make trouble with your
mum and dad.

LEAH looks beyond to DEBBIE, silently imploring with quiet desperate appeal.

DEBBIE's look of quiet appalled despair as STEVIE closes the door on LEAH.

On LEAH, all resolve suddenly faded, a tear rolling down her face.

The sound of shouting, STEVIE and DEBBIE arguing inside.

97

EXT. YARD. FATIMA'S HOUSE. BRADFORD. NIGHT

97

The pump of music and laughter spilling out of the house-

YASMIN coming out into the yard to see LEAH sitting on her own on the back step.

YASMIN holds out a plate of sweets, pistachio green and pink.

LEAH
I don't eat anything green.

YASMIN smiles, seeing LEAH, her face stained with tears.

98

INT. KITCHEN. FATIMA'S HOUSE. BRADFORD. NIGHT

98

YASMIN sneaking past the FAMILY and FRIENDS, FATIMA, ABDULLAH, LEAH close behind, heading up to YASMIN's bedroom. The party oblivious.

99

INT. BATHROOM. FATIMA'S HOUSE. BRADFORD. NIGHT.

99

ABDULLAH pushing through, looking up to see-

YASMIN and LEAH in the bathroom, brushing their teeth.

ABDULLAH
Does your mother know you're here?

LEAH shakes her head, avoiding his gaze. ABDULLAH stops, holds her face, sees she has been crying-

ABDULLAH (cont'd)
I'll go and talk to her.

100 **EXT. YARD. HOUSE. BRADFORD. NIGHT.** 100

ABDULLAH knocking on the back door-

Silence. The distant murmur of the TV.

ABDULLAH knocks again, sees DEBBIE staring at him through the window-

STEVIE and SONYA in the kitchen, looking up.

DEBBIE silently shaking her head, warning him with her eyes not to come in.

ABDULLAH at a loss, resigned, turns and heads back into the house.

101 **INT. YASMIN'S BEDROOM. HOUSE. BRADFORD. NIGHT.** 101

A distant cough-

LEAH wedged in bed next to a sleeping YASMIN, presses an ear to the wall.

102 **INT. DEBBIE'S BEDROOM. HOUSE. BRADFORD. NIGHT.** 102

DEBBIE lying in bed, disturbed by STEVIE coughing in his sleep, listening to any signs of life through the wall.

103 **EXT. YARD. FATMA'S HOUSE. BRADFORD. DAY.** 103

The early morning call for prayer on the tape. ABDULLAH's MOTHER just visible praying in the kitchen-

LEAH bleary eyed. The distant sound of FATIMA and YASMIN arguing.

On the other side of the fence, CASEY sits on top of the fridge, eating a packet of crisps-

CASEY
Kitchen's a tip.

LEAH barely looks up-

LEAH
That all you having for breakfast?

CASEY
(nods)
There's no milk.

LEAH hesitates, going inside to FATIMA's house, she hands a carton of milk over the fence.

CASEY (CONT'D) (cont'd)
Are you coming home?

LEAH shrugs, ABDULLAH coming out, followed by YASMIN close behind-

ABDULLAH
You should at least talk to your mother.

ABDULLAH looks up, sees DEBBIE through the fence, carrying a pile of clothes-

DEBBIE
I've put in her toothbrush.

DEBBIE hands a pile of clothes to FATIMA over the fence.

ABDULLAH
She's your child.

DEBBIE hesitates, makes to go inside.

DEBBIE
Make sure she cleans her teeth.

DEBBIE turning heading back inside, closing the door.
ABDULLAH shakes his head, looking to LEAH-

ABDULLAH
I don't need this.

ABDULLAH heading down the path, clearly upset, YASMIN next to him.

CASEY
What about me? I don't know how to use the microwave.

LEAH
Get Adam to show you.

Pulling on her hijab, LEAH goes to follow them-

CASEY
Leah-

LEAH too far gone, CASEY's words lost on the breeze. The dog sniffs around CASEY's feet. CASEY bends down, holding up the milk carton, letting the dog lick the milky rim.

104

EXT. STREET. BRADFORD. DAY.

104

A week later. ADAM and CASEY loitering in the street, LEAH passing heading into school. ADAM is riding LEAH's bike, half sprayed with car paint, the pink paint just visible-

ADAM
Dad sprayed it.

LEAH
You can still see the butterfly.

ADAM eyes the bike, inwardly cursing, Barbie's face still visible-

ADAM
Nanna says you've been brainwashed.

LEAH
What did Stevie spray the bike for?

ADAM hesitates, avoiding LEAH's gaze.

ADAM
(aka Mr Burns)
Homer, the planets safety is in
your hands. We're on the edge of
nuclear annihilation-

LEAH walks away.

LEAH
And you ask yourself why you don't
have friends?

On ADAM, left behind, straddle across the too small bike.

105 **INT. HALL. SCHOOL. BRADFORD. DAY.**

105

REHAN mid assembly, animated, making them laugh-
LEAH at its heart, CASEY close by joining in.

106 **INT. KITCHEN. FATIMA'S HOUSE. BRADFORD. EVENING**

106

LEAH doing her homework at the kitchen table. FATIMA seated on the sofa, clearly uncomfortable, her belly swollen and heavy-

YASMIN and MOHAMMAD play on the floor.

The door open, letting in a cool breeze. LEAH's eyes falling on ADAM on route out with the dog. She regards it with quiet suspicion as STEVIE taps ADAM on the back of the head, a little too hard-

STEVIE OOV
Deb. United on yet?

LEAH listening to the familiar sounds of family life next door, audible through the wall as STEVIE knocks fists with ADAM, as he heads out with the dogs, slipping a tiny package into his back pocket.

DEBBIE OOV
Casey wants to watch her programme.

CASEY just visible stomping out into next doors yard-

DEBBIE OOV (cont'd)
It's for a project at school.

LEAH returns to working, trying to ignore the sounds of family life-

CASEY

Leah-

LEAH looks up, CASEY stands in FATIMA's doorway-

CASEY (cont'd)
(to FATIMA)
Can I watch it at yours?

LEAH hesitates, nods, her gaze still on ADAM disappearing off up the road on his bike, the dog attached by his lead to the handlebars. CASEY following LEAH's gaze-

CASEY (cont'd)
He keeps crapping in the yard.

CASEY sinking down next to FATIMA, who pats the seat next to her, flicking the remote to some nature programme, polar bears or the like-

From LEAH's POV, just visible through the fence, into next doors yard-

STEVIE goes to kiss DEBBIE. DEBBIE shrugs him off-

STEVIE
(heading inside)
Those beers still in the fridge?

LEAH watches DEBBIE hanging up the washing, leaning her head against the line, her shoulders sagging.

A ripple of laughter, CASEY, YASMIN and MOHAMMAD lost in tumbling polar bears on the TV. LEAH quietly comforted by CASEY's presence.

ABDULLAH passing, shouting at FATIMA, clearly disgruntled no room on the sofa.

107

EXT. YARD. HOUSE. BRADFORD. EVENING.

107

LEAH sitting on FATIMA's step, working, writing in a notebook, aware of DEBBIE in the next yard, clearly mid tidy, a box of rubbish in her hand, dumping stuff in the wheelie bin. Turning to head back inside, DEBBIE clocks LEAH, lingers a little-

DEBBIE
(hesitant)
What are you doing?

LEAH barely looks up from her work, silent.

LEAH
Making a list.

DEBBIE takes her chance, sinking down on the back step, only a few inches away from LEAH, only the fence dividing them-

DEBBIE
(peering over)
Of what?

LEAH hesitates, then holds out the well worn exercise book for DEBBIE to take. DEBBIE hesitantly reaches out, taking the book, clocking Laylah scrawled on the front-

DEBBIE struggles, eyes grazing over, failing to make sense of the list-

Never remembers to buy milk.

Drinks.

Smokes.

LEAH
*Does too many drugs.
 Shags shit men.
 Can't read even though she's not
 stupid. Makes promises never keeps.*

DEBBIE stops, hands it back to LEAH, a tear slowly falling down her face.

LEAH (cont'd)
 (as DEBBIE goes)
 It's to remind me why I'm not
 coming home.
 (pushing list back to her)
 It's yours.
 (beat)
 Take it.

DEBBIE reaching out taking the torn sheet, looking up to see ADAM just coming in-

DEBBIE
 You were a long time.

ADAM avoids LEAH's quiet scrutiny, going to follow DEBBIE inside-

LEAH
 (as passes)
 Where d'you go?

ADAM
 (aka Mr Burns)
 Can it be that you are talking to
 me merely a member of your
 bloodline and family?

LEAH holds his look-

LEAH
 Where d'you go?

ADAM closes the door, ignoring her question.

The electronic fight sounds of the distant X box.

LEAH and YASMIN larking around, on route.

109 **INT. WOMEN'S BALCONY. PRAYER HALL. MOSQUE. BRADFORD. DAY.** 109

LEAH bent over in prayer, touching her forehead to the carpet.

110 **EXT. OUTSIDE MOSQUE. BRADFORD. DAY.** 110

Remove scene 110.

110A **EXT BRADFORD. STREET. DAY** 110A

DEBBIE walks CASEY and ADAM to School.

111 **EXT. PLAYGROUND SCHOOL. BRADFORD. DAY** 111

DEBBIE, tailing REHAN, on route back from dropping ADAM and CASEY-

DEBBIE
Did you send her to that class?

REHAN, aware of the swell of CHILDREN and PARENTS arriving close by.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
She's got a new fucking name.
What's wrong with the name I gave her?

REHAN
I don't know..No one made her go.

DEBBIE
She's 11 years old. She does what her mates do. Silly dance, funny walk, load of fucking mumbo jumbo. She doesn't know what she's getting herself into.

REHAN
Have you talked to her?

DEBBIE
I'm her fucking mother. I talk to her all the time. What does that mean?

REHAN
Nothing.

DEBBIE
No..Say it..Say it..

REHAN
I don't know what's gone on.

DEBBIE
Fuck you.

REHAN
But she's not at home at the
moment.

DEBBIE
Fuck you.

REHAN
If she was my daughter..I see a
bright kid who needs-

DEBBIE
Fuck you..

REHAN
Fine..Fine.

DEBBIE
You know why there's no fucking
white kids in this school? You
don't fucking want them.

REHAN
I want any kid who wants to learn.
Any kid who wants something more
than she's got. That's Leah.

REHAN turning to go, leaving DEBBIE. A lone white figure,
suddenly overwhelmed in a sea of brown.

112

INT. SWEETSHOP/CAFE. STREET. BRADFORD. DAY.

112

LEAH wiping tables, coming over to the counter where YASMIN
is playing slaphands, sitting on the counter.

ABDULLAH MOTHER
(in Punjabi)
Off my counter-

ABDULLAH rolls large cans of vegetable oil and coconut milk
from the shop to the yard, through wide open doors-

LEAH
All done and I've filled up the
salt bottles.

ABDULLAH nodding to ABDULLAH's MOTHER, as she opens the till,
taking out a fiver-

ABDULLAH MOTHER
(handing money to LEAH)
Good girl.

The bell on the door goes. LEAH looks around to see STEVIE,
passing, clocking her as he loiters, the dog in tow.

STEVIE
You're mum's in the offi-

LEAH nods, hesitating-

LEAH
They do coke.

STEVIE shrugs, STEVIE coming over to join her at the counter. ABDULLAH's MOTHER nodding to YASMIN to come and help her in the kitchen.

LEAH (cont'd)
You're going grey.

STEVIE
Cheers.
(beat)
Are you coming home?

LEAH
Are you moving out?

STEVIE
Your mother's missing you.
(stopping her)
I've been a good dad to you.

LEAH snorts, rolling her eyes-

LEAH
Then be a good dad and fuck off.

STEVIE
(pointing upwards)
I don't think he'd like you saying that.

LEAH
Who's there when she's crying cause you haven't come home for a week?
Who's there when you've gone and nicked everything? Who dad?
(beat)
And I'm the kid.

STEVIE makes to go.

LEAH (cont'd)
I know what you're doing with Adam.

STEVIE
Don't get clever with me.

LEAH
Then fuck off, leave us all alone and take your shitty gear with you.

STEVIE
Or what?

LEAH hesitates-

LEAH
Ashhadu al-la ilaha illa-Llahu,
ashhadu anna Muhammadan-rasul
Allah.

The sting of PEOPLE listening. STEVIE looks at her, his humiliation growing, as LEAH determindely sings the adhan, her voice rising across the cafe.

LEAH (cont'd)
 Ashhadu al-la ilaha illa-Llah, wa
 ashhadu anna Muhammadar-rasul
 Allah.

ABDULLAH's MOTHER and OTHERS look up in quiet amazement,
 LEAH's singing almost taunting, goading a silent STEVIE.

113 **EXT. YARD. SWEETSHOP. BRADFORD. DAY.**

113

ABDULLAH, wiping off the sweat as he rolls the last barrel,
 looking up on hearing-

LEAH OOV
 Ashhadu al-la ilaha illa-Llahu,
 ashhadu anna Muhammadan-rasul
 Allah. Ashhadu al-la ilaha illa-
 Llah, ashhadu anna Muhammadar-rasul
 Allah....

ABDULLAH's amazement-

114 **INT. SWEETSHOP. STREET. BRADFORD. DAY.**

114

ABDULLAH coming through, drawn in like ABDULLAH's MOTHER and
 the ODD CUSTOMER, all listening in amazement.

LEAH
 Ashhadu al-la ilaha illa-Llau,
 ashhadu anna Muhammadan-rasul
 Allah. Ashhadu al-la ilaha illa-
 Llah, ashhadu anna Muhammadar-rasul
 Allah....

A stunned silence STEVIE gets up, slides money across the
 counter turning to see DEBBIE standing in the doorway,
 hearing it all.

STEVIE exits, DEBBIE slowly following him out. LEAH watching
 them go-

ABDULLAH
 You'll be making Hajj next.

ABDULLAH starts clapping, a smile spreading across the faces
 of ABDULLAH's MOTHER, YASMIN, ABDULLAH and OTHER MUSLIM
 CUSTOMERS, quietly stunned yet oddly delighted by the
 rendition, crowding around to congratulate LEAH-

LEAH looking back, DEBBIE watching LEAH, clearly hurt. DEBBIE
 turning and following STEVIE up the road.

115 **INT. KITCHEN. FATIMA'S HOUSE. BRADFORD. NIGHT**

115

The distant sound of singing, laughter-

Several CHILDREN running past-

LEAH a plate of food, by her side, barely touched-

ABDULLAH coming in, sinks down on the step next to her-

ABDULLAH
You starving?

LEAH
I had a piece of pizza at
lunchtime.

ABDULLAH half smiles-

ABDULLAH
Your mother is very unhappy.

LEAH
(sharp)
She's a stupid bitch.

ABDULLAH
*Say not unto them a contemptuous
word nor repel but address them
with respectful words.*

LEAH
I hate her.

ABDULLAH
Paradise is at the feet of the
mother-

LEAH
She's-

ABDULLAH
I don't care-
(beat)
And eat your food.

LEAH
You're not my-

ABDULLAH catches her look-

ABDULLAH
No. You only get one of those.

116 **EXT. STREET. BRADFORD. DAY.**

116

DEBBIE hurrying home, stops on seeing LEAH, legs swinging as she waits for her sitting on the wall. They barely acknowledge one another as DEBBIE passes LEAH=

LEAH
Have you got twenty minutes?

DEBBIE hesitates, nods, LEAH beckoning her to follow.

117 **EXT. OUTSIDE MOSQUE. BRADFORD. DAY.**

117

The flick flack of the door-

LEAH and DEBBIE stand hesitant, catching brief glimpses as MEN and WOMEN entering.

LEAH
The women pray upstairs.

DEBBIE resigned, makes to go inside. LEAH goes to stop her, handing her a scarf. DEBBIE looks at it non plussed, LEAH goes to put it on her, tying it for her despite DEBBIE's obvious reluctance-

DEBBIE
I'm not taking off my shoes. I've got holes in my socks.

118 **INT. ENTRANCE. MOSQUE. BRADFORD. DAY.**

118

The call for prayer, rising through the mosque-

LEAH tentatively pushing the door open, waiting for-

DEBBIE hesitantly follows her in.

LEAH nods to DEBBIE's feet; resigned, DEBBIE takes her cue from LEAH, slipping off her shoes and leaving them by the door.

ABDULLAH's MOTHER, sits on a chair, puffing and panting trying to ease off her sandals.

DEBBIE clocks LEAH helping her, unbuckling the old woman's shoes.

LEAH looks up, smiles, nods for her to follow, ABDULLAH's MOTHER upstairs.

119 **INT. WASHING ROOM. MOSQUE. BRADFORD. DAY.**

119

The call for prayer, closer now-

The ripple of laughter, several WOMEN in hushed conversation, washing faces, hands, under their arms, all gathered around long low sinks as they make Wudu.

LEAH
(showing DEBBIE)
You wash three times.

LEAH watching the other women, washes her arms, rinsing out her mouth, then her nostrils.

DEBBIE
That's disgusting.

DEBBIE's quiet horror, making LEAH laugh, as she hands DEBBIE the water scoop.

LEAH
Go on-

DEBBIE
I had a bath this morning.

LEAH unwavering as DEBBIE hesitantly washes-

LEAH
Then your finger, and then your
thumb-

DEBBIE copies LEAH, washing in and around her ears until-

DEBBIE
(hushed)
What you doing?

LEAH raises her face to the sky, pointing one index finger upwards. DEBBIE sees several other WOMEN doing the same, DEBBIE concedes following suit.

120

INT. PRAYER HALL. MOSQUE. BRADFORD.DAY.

120

The call for prayer now in the room-

DEBBIE following LEAH into the WOMEN's gallery. Rows of MEN just visible through the balustrades down below-

Ornate carvings and calligraphy curved along the walls.

DEBBIE sinks down next to LEAH, LEAH's shoulder pressed close to DEBBIE's. ABDULLAH's MOTHER lands next to DEBBIE, pressing her shoulder next to DEBBIE's.

The murmur of prayer-

DEBBIE watches LEAH, lost in salat.

Down below, the READER is reciting the Qur'an, the holy book resting on a stand in front of him. Occasionally he leans forward and kisses the cover of the book.

LEAH
(following her gaze)
The Qur'an was given to the Prophet
Muhammad Peace be upon Him over 23
years.
(pointing upwards)
They write it even on the wall.

DEBBIE takes in the beautiful calligraphy until-

ABDULLAH's MOTHER full weight pressed against DEBBIE, making LEAH laugh-

Suddenly DEBBIE is overwhelmed, by the noise, the smells, the heat of the room.

LEAH looks up from praying to see-

DEBBIE slipping out of the back.

121

EXT. STREET. BRADFORD. DAY.

121

DEBBIE, pulling off the head scarf, tailed by LEAH close behind-

LEAH
Mum-

DEBBIE
I just don't get it. I don't get
what you get from it.

LEAH
It's half an hour at the most-

DEBBIE
I'm English.

LEAH
So am I.

DEBBIE
It's not for me.

DEBBIE turns, makes to head up the road-

LEAH
It smells nice It's quiet. I pray
and... everything's not all bad or
fucked up. Like somewhere there's
this place that...I dunno...I feel
safe.

DEBBIE
You're eleven.

LEAH
You're nearly thirty and you've
never felt like that.

DEBBIE
Stevie wants us to move back to the
flat.
(avoiding gaze)
I can't do it. I've not been on my
own since-

LEAH
You never try.
(beat)
Or are you going to let him run
Adam like he did me?

On DEBBIE, slapped-

DEBBIE
(destroyed)
He promised.

LEAH, seeing that DEBBIE knows-

LEAH
(quiet incredulity)
God, you are.

LEAH in quiet despairing disgust, turning and heading back to
the mosque, leaving DEBBIE behind.

LEAH propped up in bed, telling a story to Muhammad[3yrs]-

LEAH
*Now after his long journey, the
 prophet and the Gabriel, came down
 by way of the Ladder of light-
 Down they went, Gabriel and our
 prophet by way of the Ladder of
 light and when they got down there
 they found Burraq whom they
 unfastened-*

LEAH looks down to see, MUHAMMAD already fast asleep.

123 **INT. SITTING ROOM. HOUSE. BRADFORD. EVENING.** 123

DEBBIE packing up, suddenly stops on finding, a hairslide,
 possibly LEAH's-

LEAH VO
*Back they flew to the house where
 Gabriel had found the prophet
 sleeping. Looking up our messenger
 was most surprised to see the
 morning light appearing-*

DEBBIE suddenly busies herself, packing another box.

Through in the sitting room, several boxes now packed up,
 ready to go-

124 **INT. DEBBIE'S BEDROOM. HOUSE. BRADFORD. EVENING.** 124

ADAM and CASEY ears pressed to the wall, both listening, both
 lying silently on their bunks-

LEAH VO
*His journey to Jerusalem to the
 realms of above and back again has
 almost taken no time-*

CASEY already falling asleep but ADAM listens, LEAH's voice,
 drifting through the walls-

125 **EXT. YARD. FATIMA'S HOUSE. BRADFORD. EVENING** 125

DEBBIE loading boxes outside the front door-

LEAH VO
*But what of the wine and milk? Yes
 indeed Gabriel presented to our
 messenger, two vessels one
 containing milk and one containing
 wine.*

DEBBIE looking out into the alleyway, seeing STEVIE slipping
 something to ADAM, before ADAM disappears up the road on his
 bike.

LEAH VO (cont'd)
*The prophet took the vessel of milk
 and drank from it.*

The sound of music, celebrations underway next door-

126

INT. KITCHEN. HOUSE. BRADFORD. EVENING

126

DEBBIE, eating take away with SONYA and STEVIE. SONYA tops up DEBBIE's glass, sensing an agitation growing.

The thump of music through the walls-

LEAH VO
*You have rightly chosen, for if you
 had drunk from the other, your
 people would surely have gone
 astray-*

Suddenly DEBBIE takes her glass, hurling it against the wall. The smash and spill of glass and wine, inches from STEVIE's head. SONYA quickly reaches for her glass, cupping it, worried it is next in line.

127

INT. KITCHEN. FATIMA'S HOUSE. BRADFORD. EVENING

127

Lively music. ABDULLAH dancing with YASMIN and LEAH, several other FAMILY MEMBERS clapping, celebrating the Eid-

LEAH VO
*And the words of Allah came to
 Muhammad. Beware false Gods. There
 is only one true prophet. And he
 comes in the name of peace.*

Through the walls, the sounds of fighting; ABDULLAH hears it, nodding for someone to turn the music up louder.

FATIMA shifts uncomfortably in her seat-

128

EXT. YARD. FATIMA'S HOUSE. BRADFORD. NIGHT.

128

LEAH playing with the other CHILDREN including CASEY. Flags with the Islam symbol of moons and stars, hanging across the yard.

The spill of similar celebrations, NEIGHBOURS milling about the street, clearly visiting one another.

ADAM on the approach on his bike-

Through the glass of the kitchen window-

DEBBIE sitting on the back step, watching ADAM on the approach. STEVIE loiters in the doorway, LEAH looking on-

DEBBIE
 Pockets.

ADAM hesitates. Frustrated, DEBBIE rifles through ADAM's pockets, the bike until-

DEBBIE's despair as she plucks a wadge of notes from inside one of the bike handlebars.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
 (to STEVIE)
 You promised...You bloody
 promised..

DEBBIE grabbing a broom, slapping him out of the house, until STEVIE grabs the broom off her, yanking it out of her hands, with violent force-

STEVIE
Deb-

DEBBIE
I hate you...I hate you...

On DEBBIE and STEVIE, panting and exhausted, both locked in a battle to the death-

STEVIE
Get off you silly mare..

SONYA rushing in, pulling STEVIE off DEBBIE-

SONYA
Calm down...Calm down.

Exhausted, STEVIE and DEBBIE are torn apart, SONYA wrestling DEBBIE away from him, calming DEBBIE down.

Through the fence, DEBBIE sees LEAH watching it all with CASEY and the other CHILDREN.

SONYA (cont'd)
Come inside love.

DEBBIE heads in.

From inside FATIMA's house-

A low level scream-

FATIMA going into labour next door. ABDULLAH coming out, clearly unsure what to do, ABDULLAH's MOTHER going inside to help.

Above the crack of fireworks-

129

EXT. YARD. FATIMA'S HOUSE. BRADFORD. DAWN.

129

On LEAH sitting on the back step, still in her nightie, looking out at a beautiful sunrise over Bradford, pencil and exercise book in hand-

Upstairs the sound of a baby crying. LEAH looks up, DEBBIE standing in her yard, in her nightie, listening. A sense she's barely slept

SONYA coming out shoving a smoking cigarette to DEBBIE. DEBBIE looks at the smoking cigarette, with quiet resigned weariness.

A white hire van parked in the alleyway, STEVIE's MATE just clambering out on route back into the house.

130

INT. KITCHEN. HOUSE. BRADFORD. DAY.

130

DEBBIE standing in the doorway, taking in her near empty flat, stepping back to let STEVIE's MATE's pass, carrying the kitchen table. SONYA is already back inside the kitchen, packing a box with cutlery.

DEBBIE
Mum, why didn't you send me to school?

STEVIE in the kitchen, taking down a blind, looks up-

SONYA
What?

DEBBIE
Why didn't you send me to school?

STEVIE's MATE just coming out of the house, carrying the kitchen table.

SONYA
You wouldn't go.

DEBBIE's eyes absently follow STEVIE's MATE's journey to the white hire van, parked in the alleyway.

DEBBIE
Why didn't you make me? Why didn't you march me up there every bloody day? Because maybe now I could read. Maybe I would be somewhere. Why don't you ever want more for me than what you had?

SONYA deflects, eyeing a white hire van, coming up the alleyway, STEVIE's MATE just stepping out of the driver's seat, clearly on route to the house-

SONYA
Don't be daft. Have a bath and we'll have the last of this lot cleared by the time you get down.

STEVIE passing DEBBIE, throws her a smile, heading out with another box-

DEBBIE
Don't tell me to go back to Stevie. Because it's killing me. Do you get it mum? It's killing me. I want more for my kids. I want more for me.

SONYA hesitates, quiet strained concern on her face-

SONYA
Love-

DEBBIE looking out into the yard, ABDULLAH showing off a tiny baby to his NEIGHBOURS, LEAH, YASMIN and MOHAMMAD hovering close by.

DEBBIE
We're lowlife, Stevie and me, we're
lowlife, we drag our kids down with
us-

DEBBIE sinking down onto a packing case-

SONYA
Deb-

DEBBIE
...into all this shit...When they
start out so beautiful..I don't
even make them breakfast..We don't
deserve to be parents...I don't
deserve to be..Because all my life
I've wasted it-

DEBBIE looks up, at STEVIE.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
(with realisation)
...with you.

DEBBIE slides the wedding ring across the floor to him,
looking at STEVIE.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
I divorce you. I divorce you. I
divorce you.

SONYA
Deb-

STEVIE leans across, taking the wedding ring. He turns to go,
looking for Becks, the dog. LEAH standing in the yard,
holding on tight to the dog.

STEVIE
He's got fleas.

The dog, lollops past STEVIE, licking the salt off DEBBIE's
tears.

DEBBIE
(cutting in)
Fuck off, Stevie.

DEBBIE laughing, letting the dog lick her face, STEVIE
already gone.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
Mum-

SONYA hesitates, seeing something final in DEBBIE's look. She
reaches for her bag and coat, making to go-

SONYA
I'll give you a little call later.

DEBBIE nods. SONYA nods, exiting.

SONYA (cont'd)
(absent)
7 lbs 10. That's what you weighed.

LEAH slides down next to her, holding out a piece of paper-
 DEBBIE hesitates, opens it-
 DEBBIE looks at LEAH, helpless.

LEAH
 (reading)
*Always knows which chocolate bars I
 like.
 Sings.
 Has my nose.
 Laughs at my jokes.
 Tells me she loves me in her sleep.
 Made Casey and Adam.
 Made me.*

DEBBIE eyes fill with tears. LEAH looks up to see ADAM in
 pyjamas, just waking up.

ADAM
 My bed's gone.

CASEY close behind, holding up a tube of toothpaste but no
 toothbrush-

CASEY
 (with delight)
 Are we staying?

On DEBBIE and LEAH's sudden realisation.
 Outside the screech of brakes.

131

EXT. STREET . NEAR HOUSE. BRADFORD. DAY.

131

LEAH running to keep up with DEBBIE tailing the white hire
 van, STEVIE leaning out victorious-

STEVIE
 Who's got chip paper on their arse
 now?

On DEBBIE, fury and frustration, melting into incredulous
 laughter as-

The white hire van with everything DEBBIE owns speeding off
 up the road.

DEBBIE considers, picking herself, walking away from the
 house, off down the street.

ABDULLAH's MOTHER peering over the fence. At a window another
 face, ABDULLAH just returning from the mosque.

Stung with humiliation, DEBBIE keeps walking-

On LEAH looking on with disappointment as DEBBIE just visible
 disappearing in the direction of the off licence.

132

INT. KITCHEN. HOUSE. BRADFORD. DAY.

132

LEAH sinking down on an old packing case, taking in-

The stripped house. A dusty circle where the kitchen clock once was.

From behind-

ADAM
He's taken my bike.

LEAH searches through cupboards, finding a bowl unwashed in the sink, but the cupboards bare-

LEAH
It was pink.

ADAM
Black.

LEAH
You could see the pink.

ADAM
(aka Shrek)
Thank you thank you Thank you very
much. I'm here til Thursday. Try
the veal.

LEAH looking up to see DEBBIE, in the doorway, holding up a box of cornflakes and carton of milk-

DEBBIE
I got milk.

LEAH nods, gets up, to go-

DEBBIE looking to ADAM, CASEY, momentarily disappointed.

LEAH coming back with four bowls, spoons from next door.

LEAH lays out the bowls on the kitchen top, DEBBIE pours the cornflakes, falling into making breakfast together.

DEBBIE, ADAM, CASEY and LEAH sat up against the wall, crunching on their cornflakes in silence-

The door ajar.

The distant sound of the adhan just audible-

ABUDLLAH and FATIMA already shouting next door, muffled through the wall.

The cry of a tiny newborn.

DEBBIE and LEAH listen. The sound of ABDULLAH's MOTHER singing it to sleep. DEBBIE smiles, LEAH smiles, holding one another's look, understanding.

The sounds of the world waking.

A stray laugh far off-

A breeze catching the window net.

Birdsong.

THE END