

WATERLOO ROAD

SERIES 11A

Episode #1101

Master Script
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OA **EXT. PLAYGROUND / MAIN ENTRANCE. PRE SCHOOL. 06:59 - DAY.** OA

The relief sculpture of William Beswick. A hand hastily shakes a can of red spray-paint, and daubs the word RACIST over the sculpture. Pull back to see SHOLA AKU looking round furtively, before scarpering.

0 **INT. CHARLES HOUSE. IZZY'S BEDROOM. PRE SCHOOL. 07:00 - DAY.**

A school uniform on the bed, a satchel on the floor - Donte's feet on the stairs - a knock -

DONTE (OOV)
Come on, Izz -

- and opens up, to find Izzy sitting on the bed in her uniform skirt, shirt only half done up - hair still a mess, face in hands, crying -

IZZY
I don't want to go. Everybody'll be older, and smarter, and belong.

She looks at her dad, fresh tears springing -

IZZY (CONT'D)
I'm scared, Dad.

Donte's heart about breaks right there, but he covers.

DONTE
So, who isn't on the first day of a new school? All part of the adventure, isn't it?

Izzy's not buying it, but Donte's only just started.

DONTE (CONT'D)
Me? I gave it all the swagger, like I was proper Mr Big-Pants- Invincible.

Open, smiling -

DONTE (CONT'D)
But I was wetting my kecks like everyone else. And you know what?

Leaning in - a secret.

DONTE (CONT'D)
Them were some of the best days of my life.

1 **EXT. MANCHESTER. PRE SCHOOL. 07:01 - DAY.**

1

MANCHESTER city scape - early morning. We follow a car as it heads along a busy commuter road.

DONTE (V.O.)

Maybe I wasn't that brilliant at some of it - lessons, homework, exams, good behaviour...but man, we had a laugh. And somewhere along the way I learned a ton of stuff.

2

INT. KIM'S CAR. PRE SCHOOL. 07:02 - DAY.

2

We see KIM CAMPBELL behind the wheel of her car, looking sharp - checking traffic lights.

Pick up shot of her face as she drives.

DONTE (V.O.)

Maybe I locked horns with a couple of teachers now and then, but there was some of 'em I won't forget. Cos they never give up on me. They knew it wasn't just about exams. It was about growing, taking responsibility, getting on with life - and enjoying it because you're part of it.

Kim continues to drive towards the school.

3A

EXT. SIDE OF SCHOOL / LOUNGE / BEDROOM / ALLEYWAY. PRE 3A
SCHOOL. 07:03 - DAY.

NB: PRESTON/TONYA AND SHOLA SECTIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN SHOT, SO WE ONLY NEED KELLY JO AND KAI SECTIONS, AND A PICK UP OF THE SAMIA SCENE.

Close on SAMIA CHOUDHRY's determined face as she marches down the street, tapping a message into her phone.

DONTE (V.O.)

You're clever, like your mum, Izzy.
 But even when school's hard, and it
 will be at times - that's what
 learns you courage, and *pride*, and
 being a *part* of something.

We pull back to see Samia's out of uniform.

The following exchanges are text messages that will appear on our screen.

SAMIA: Good 2 go?

The screen splits to share, tight on KELLY JO RAFFERTY in her bedroom - stuffing her uniform into a bag and messaging back.

KELLY JO: Got blazers

Now the screen splits into three as brother and sister, PRESTON and TONYA WALTERS, (also in civvies) stride down their street with bags of placards, both messaging the group -

TONYA: Got placards

PRESTON: Got followers

IZZY (V.O.)
 But what if I don't make friends?

DONTE (V.O.)
 Course you will. Loads of 'em.

And now a third person shares the split screen - SHOLA AKU, also in civvies, tight by the school, shaking up a can of red spray paint, as she messages the group with a grin.

SHOLA: Got ammo

We may register Samia frowning - eh?

And here's Kai taking his place with the split-screen-six in front of his bedroom mirror, moulding his hair.

DONTE (V.O.)
 If it takes a bit of time to get to
 know someone - it's likely cos
 they're interesting, so be patient.

KAI: Got style (kissing lips emoji)

SAMIA: RIP 2 sla-ve-ry

And five other messages overlap from the others:

ALL: William Beswick is history.

3B **EXT. TOWER BLOCK ENTRANCE. PRE SCHOOL. 07:04 - DAY.** 3B

Hard cut to a tower block that forms part of a large comprehensive school. A sign on the side of the block reads 'William Beswick High School'. Kim's car turns into the entrance and drives past the sign.

DONTE (V.O.)
 Cos your mates from school can be
 mates for life.

3C **INT. CHARLES HOUSE. IZZY'S BEDROOM. PRE SCHOOL. 07:05 - DAY**

Izzy begins to gather her things to get ready for school.

DONTE
 And sometimes you even marry them.

Izzy groans.

DONTE (CONT'D)
 Your mum was the best thing that
 happened to me at school. And if
 I'd bottled school on day one, I
 wouldn't of met her. And you
 wouldn't be here. And we wouldn't
 be having this conversation.

Warm smile of recognition from Izzy.

DONTE (CONT'D)
 So it's your turn, now, Iz. And I'm
 not ashamed to admit, I'm jealous.
 Cos if I could I would do it over -
 (a grin)
 And this time I'd have twice as
 much fun.

4

EXT. STAFF CAR PARK. PRE SCHOOL. 07:08 - DAY.

4

Kim pulls into the parking space marked 'Head Teacher'. She hauls a plastic container of books, files, and photo frame out of the back seat, galvanised for the new term.

The smile slips from Kim's face as she turns towards the Teacher's entrance to see the relief sculpture of William Beswick '1763 - 1854' on the wall defaced in red spray paint with 'RACIST'.

Kim takes a deep breath - her sense of optimism punctured by the reality of the ongoing task ahead.

Her PA WENDY WHITWELL comes zipping round the corner on a mobility scooter and stops in front of the relief.

WENDY

Our lovely pupils have been
practicing their art homework over
the break.

KIM

I knew something like this was
coming!

Making a decision, Kim hands her box of things to Wendy.

KIM (CONT'D)

Tell Lindon and Joe to hold the
fort until I get back. Thanks
Wendy.

WENDY

Leaving already?

KIM

I'm going to make the LEA listen
before things get worse.

Kim gets back in her car, quickly starts it and pulls out of the car park.

As she speeds past an expensive-looking car with a sun-screen blind pulled down, we see someone stir inside.

LINDON KING sits up and stretches after an uncomfy night on the back seat in a tracksuit. He looks exhausted, and it's clear he is not happy.

4A

EXT. SCHOOL. GRAFFITI WALL. PRE SCHOOL. 07:20 - DAY.

4A

Samia's berating Shola in the alley - a bag of placards over her shoulder - the can of spray-paint in Shola's hand.

SHOLA

People need to know what the issue is.

SAMIA

We said this would be a *peaceful protest!*

SHOLA

And I *peacefully* spray-painted the dude!

Exasperated Samia doesn't have to argue the point - pupils are beginning to arrive in BG.

5

INT. CHARLES HOUSE. PRE SCHOOL. 07:30 - DAY.

5

The CHARLES FAMILY bomb around getting ready for the day.

CHLO CHARLES' dressed to impress, trying to catch pages cranking out of a printer whilst simultaneously attempting to get a piece of toast down her 6 year old son TOMMY CHARLES - who's tanking around the living room trying to follow a Joe Wicks type giving it 120% on the telly. A hamster going berserk in its wheel on the sideboard beside it.

DONTE (O.S.)

CHLO!

In strides DONTE CHARLES in his overalls - exasperated -

DONTE (CONT'D)

Tool belt?

Chlo closes her eyes to try and visualise - bingo.

CHLO

Shed. Or should I say man-cave?

DONTE

I'm building it for you, love. 'Chlo's Bar': Lady-cave and kid-free zone - with cocktails.

CHLO

(as Donte exits)

I'll believe it when I see it.

Chlo wipes Marmite off her sleeve - as Tommy bangs into her doing a jumping jack.

CHLO (CONT'D)
TOMMY!

She grabs the remote and turns to something less *energetic* -

- pushes Tommy firmly onto the sofa, and then sets about gathering up pages that have spilled out of the printer - we'll glimpse photos of smiling kids with animals, nature - then sees she's smeared Marmite on one of the pages. Dammit. She presses 'print' again but nothing happens, so she presses it again, and again -

IZZY (O.S.)
Mum?

Chlo turns, her expression changing at the sight of IZZY CHARLES (yr. 9) standing in the doorway, smart as a pin in her brand new school uniform, hair shining - shoes gleaming.

Donte comes hurrying back in then stops when he sees Izzy -

DONTE
Photo time. You 'n'all, Tommo -

IZZY
We'll be late, especially if we've got to drop Tommy off first!

DONTE
Just let me get the tripod.

He sprints off just as the printer springs back into action, spitting out multiple copies of a cover page: Parent Skills Initiative - 'Chlo Charles (Izzy's mum)'.

5A

EXT. COUNCIL CAR PARK. PRE SCHOOL. 07:36 - DAY.

5A

Kim speeds into the council car park and before she has even had a chance to park. She spots a harried ERICA THORN heading toward the building.

Kim stops where she is, leaps out of her car.

KIM

Erica -

Erica turns, face falling when she sees Kim hurrying up -

ERICA

Really Kim - not now.

KIM

I've got graffiti at the front entrance, calling the school 'RACIST' in giant red letters.

ERICA

Oh god....

KIM

I told you we need to bite the bullet and get the name changed.

ERICA

(weary, they've been here before)

I'm well aware of your feelings on the matter Kim.

KIM

For me the kids are bang on the money -

ERICA

Who's money? That's one of the issues, Kim - not every parent wants to waste limited funds on a rebrand when we're already stretched so thin.

KIM

It wouldn't be wasted -

ERICA

The principle is relevant - I know that.

(MORE)

ERICA (CONT'D)

But I have to measure it against
the cost of books, resources,
uniforms - William Beswick isn't
the only school I have to consider.

KIM

(appealing to her)

But I've got to steer the ship,
Erica - and, mark my words,
graffiti's the tip of the iceberg -

5B

EXT. TOWER BLOCK ENTRANCE. PRE SCHOOL. 07:37 - DAY.

5B

Throngs of students stream into the school via the tower block entrance. Kelly Jo is amongst them and is carrying a placard.

She hides it behind her back as she sees JOE CASEY cycle into school on his bike, with his two foster sons DWAYNE and ZAYNE cycling behind in matching helmets (or whatever).

Dwayne pulls a wheelie.

JOE

I can see you Dwayne!

5C

INT. DEPUTY HEADS' OFFICE. PRE SCHOOL. 07:40 - DAY.

5C

In his office Lindon is changing out of his casual clothes and into a shirt opened from a brand new packet. Joe heads in, cycle helmet under arm.

JOE

Morning, Lindon.

(blinded by Lindon's
muscly torso)Ooh - bit early for that isn't it?
Been hitting the gym?

LINDON

Spilt coffee down my shirt on the
way in.

Joe spots the other clothes on Lindon's desk - no apparent stains - and not even a shirt. He may say more but is distracted as Wendy heads in, mobile phone in hand.

WENDY

When you've finished flashing your
biceps, might want to get to the
main entrance. Kim's offsite and
looks to me like something is going
down. Go team.

Joe does a thumbs up to Wendy and this is all the excuse Lindon needs to get out of answering any more questions as he and Joe hurry out to see what's up.

7

EXT. MAIN ENTRANCE / CAR PARK GATES. PRE SCHOOL. 07:42 - DAY.

7

MAIN ENTRANCE: Joe and Lindon have just stepped out of the doors expecting to find a minor incident but have been stopped in their tracks as they take in the sight of 50 plus students swarming every inch of the tarmac, placards held aloft: 'BUILT ON BLOOD', 'STUDENTS AGAINST SLAVERY', 'BLACK LIVES COUNT'.

CAR PARK GATES: Several cars are trying to drive into the Staff Car Park but other pupils block the gate. Horns are honking and traffic is already building up.

WALKWAY: Samia, her boyfriend Preston, Kelly Jo and others are flanking each side of the walkway intercepting approaching pupils in uniform -

SAMIA

Shed your chains and join the picket -

Samia indicates to a pile of uniforms by the walkway gate, two NS pupils discard their blazers with a slight unease but Dwayne arrives with his brother Zayne and happily discards his.

DWAYNE

Nice one! About time!

Zayne is about to follow suit.

JOE

Dwayne!

(shoots Zayne a look)

JOE (CONT'D)

And you, don't even think about it!

Zayne heads in while Dwayne defiantly ignores him as Samia raises her voice -

SAMIA

NO MORE WAITING, NO DE-BATING -

Alarmed to see this, Joe strides over to Dwayne to try to usher him in but Dwayne is going nowhere.

SHOLA AKU (yr. 9, intense) is well in the mix, marshalling her mate TONYA WALTERS (yr. 9) to peel off her blazer -

TONYA

My mum's gonna kill me.

SHOLA

For standing up to slavery?

Shola opens a bag of paint bottles as more pupils trickle up, removing blazers with a thrill, or watching with interest. Lindon heads over to tackle Shola and Tonya.

LINDON

Okay you've made your point.

WALKWAY: Kelly Jo intercepts DEAN WEEVER (yr. 11) as he heads down the pathway.

KELLY JO

(indicates his blazer)

Get 'em off, Weever.

DEAN

Not taking off my uniform for no snowflakes.

MAIN ENTRANCE: Shola is ignoring Lindon. She opens a bag of paint bottles and starts squirting red paint on the uniform pile - having spotted this, Samia joins them.

SAMIA

Hey, what's with the paint?

Kelly Jo joins her and grabs a paint bottle.

KELLY JO

Blood of slaves, innit.

Lindon tries to reach for the uniform.

LINDON

Vandalism isn't the answer.

He gestures for them to go inside - and for some pupils, the show's over - but Shola's defiant.

SHOLA

Our uniforms, our property -

SAMIA

It's our right to protest.

7A

EXT. COUNCIL CAR PARK. PRE SCHOOL. 07:43 - DAY.

7A

Erica's edging towards the building as she reassures Kim -

ERICA

You need support, I can see that -

KIM

(frustrated)

I need the go-ahead, I'll do the rest.

ERICA

I'll call you. I promise.

KIM

That's what you said last week, and last month -

Erica disappears towards the building leaving Kim less than convinced.

9

EXT. MAIN ENTRANCE / CAR PARK GATES. PRE SCHOOL. 07:45 - DAY.

9

MAIN ENTRANCE: The protest has doubled in size - pupils chant NOT MY SCHOOL - Dean and his mate NOEL McCMANUS (yr. 11) square up to Kelly Jo and Dwayne.

DEAN

This is cancel culture.

DWAYNE

Some culture needs cancelling.

NOEL

It's history.

KELLY JO

Your history.

Joe and Lindon try to get control of the situation as more kids arrive at the entrance and the tension escalates between the opposing factions.

JOE

The school wasn't informed of any demonstration -

SHOLA

(erm)

It's spontaneous.

Lindon swipes the bottle of paint off Kelly Jo -

SAMIA
(flicking Shola a glare)
Paint wasn't part the original plan.

LINDON
A spontaneous plan? You can look up
oxymoron while you're in detention.

KELLY JO
Mr King called you a MORON, Sami!

JOE
Let's discuss it inside.

SAMIA
Absolutely. When the bell goes.

And she waves her placard proudly - rallying her troops.

SAMIA (CONT'D)
NOT MY SCHOOL, NOT MY SCHOOL -

SHOLA/KELLY JO/AD LIBBED PUPILS
NOT MY SCHOOL, NOT MY SCHOOL -

Noel grabs something out of Shola's bag with a glint in his eye- what is he up to

9A EXT/INT. SIDE STREET / KIM'S CAR. PRE SCHOOL. 07:47 - DAY. 9A

Kim is driving back to school after her showdown with Erica. Keen to get back and pass on her news, Kim takes the corner on to a side street heading towards the school but is surprised to find traffic is backed half way up the road.

Kim frowns - this is the last thing she needs.

10 EXT. STREET NEAR SCHOOL. PRE SCHOOL. 07:48 - DAY. 10

Donte's driving - Izzy in the back, Chlo in the front, her neatly bound Parent Skills proposal on her lap ('Parent Skills Scheme'), as she touches up her lippy.

DONTE
(catching her eye)
You look smoking.

CHLO
I was aiming for professional.

DONTE
(grin)
What I said.

Chlo checks Izzy in the rear view - staring out the window.

CHLO
I was always so nervous, the start of
a new term.

Izzy nods. She knows. But we can feel her apprehension.

CHLO (CONT'D)
I know it's tough joining in year nine
but you'll soon make friends.

Donte approaches a road with traffic backed up - mutters.

DONTE
What's all this, now?

He backs up, takes another route. Chlo's lost in memory.

CHLO
Obviously I had your Dad, but he was
always in the cooler.

DONTE
Oi oi - I was stitched up every time -

Donte winks at Izzy in the rear view mirror and she can't help but smile.

10A **INT/EXT. KIM'S CAR / ROAD. PRE SCHOOL. 07:50 - DAY.** 10A

Kim is stuck on the side street somewhere behind Donte.

A text flashes up on her car computer screen from Wendy:

You need to get back here. It's all kicking off.

Kim gets out of her car, locks it with her fob and begins to walk/jog back towards the school.

12 **EXT. CAR PARK GATES. PRE SCHOOL. 07:52 - DAY.** 12

MAIN ENTRANCE: The riot is growing as Lindon tries to make his voice heard.

LINDON
One more minute and I'm taking names,
Shola Aku.

No one is listening as all eyes below are on KAI SHARIF (yr. 12, styled quiff) - arriving for school in uniform.

PRESTON
Kai, man!

Kai looks momentarily aghast -

KAI
Oh no - I must of forgot -

- then whips off his (velcroed) trousers, Full Monty style - to reveal leopard print leggings -

KAI (CONT'D)
Or did I?!

- and - jacket off - a fish-net tank top. Whoops and claps and eye rolls (from Preston) as Kai RuPaul's it over to the blazer pile - uniform held aloft like a bad smell.

KAI (CONT'D)
Bye bye, Billy Bez!

LINDON
Whatever you think, those clothes cost money.

Kai drops his clothes. Slow clap from Joe -

JOE
All right, Kai - save it for drama class.

- just as a paint bomb hits the pile and explodes, splattering red emulsion. Kai covers his quiff, aghast. Shrieks and 'whoa's akimbo -

KAI
The hair -

Lindon follows the balloon's trajectory like a raptor to see Dean and Noel on the low school roof.

LINDON
I SEE YOU DEAN WEEVER!

Dean and Noel disappear from sight - but something in the atmosphere has changed as a gaggle of pupils rush at the relief statue of William Beswick on the wall and begin to pull at it.

JOE
(to Lindon)
This is getting out of hand.

15

EXT. STREET NEAR SCHOOL. PRE SCHOOL. 07:57 - DAY.

15

Donte's stuck in yet more traffic - winds his window down to see what the hold up is. Chlo's getting antsy, clutching her proposal.

CHLO

Think I'm more nervous than you,
meeting Miss Campbell after all these
years.

IZZY

(droll)

Did she deliver me on the floor of the
girls toilets by any chance?

DONTE

(droll back)

Shocker. Who told you?

CHLO

You can tease, but who knows what
might've happened if she hadn't -

IZZY

(arg!)

I knew I should've walked.

DONTE

You'll both have to walk if I'm gonna
get to this job on time.

Chlo and Izzy jump out -

- and Donte starts a three point turn - blowing a kiss.

DONTE (CONT'D)

Smash it, Iz. Make me proud.

PICK UP: Donte does a three point turn. As he does so, he double takes to see Kim running past into the tower block entrance.

Further down the road, Izzy glances round, aware of other pupils not with their mums. Chlo's sensitive to her embarrassment.

CHLO

Don't worry, you go on ahead.

Izzy doesn't need telling twice. Chlo smiles, then hesitates - is that shouting she can hear? She ups her pace -

15A

EXT. PLAYGROUND. PRE SCHOOL. 07:58 - DAY.

15A

PLAYGROUND: Laughing Dean and Noel hurl paint bombs down into the crowd of protestors and horrified students.

BY THE RELIEF: SAMIA leads a group of students who have hooked ropes through the metal loops on the outside of the William Beswick relief and are trying to pull it down.

STAFF ENTRANCE: an out of breath, Kim runs out having rushed all the way here. She takes in the chaos that has descended since she left.

KIM

Oh no - no no!

Wendy heads to her bosses' side and hands her a megaphone - it is time for Kim to take control.

15B

INT. KITCHENS. PRE SCHOOL. 08:03 - DAY.

15B

NICKY puts on her apron, ready to start the day. She hears a noise outside and looks around.

18

EXT. STREET NEAR SCHOOL. PRE SCHOOL. 08:04 - DAY.

18

As Izzy approaches the school gates a group of lads run out chucking paint bombs at each other. Izzy's eyes are on stalks - WTAF? Splat on her jacket.

PICK UP: Further down the line of static traffic, a shocked pupil - NORULLAH SAYYID (14, yr.9) films it all with his phone -

Cutaway to the view through his camera - we'll see an NS WOMAN stick her head out of her gleaming car a few cars ahead -

The traffic inches forward and pupils go running past her, shouting.

And here's AMY SPRATT (23 looks 17) - running toward her - before being obliterated by red paint splatting on Coral's car -

CORAL

What the hell?? Teacher CORAL
WALKER (late 30s), can only see so
far ahead out her car window as t

Coral jumps out of her car with a cloth - turning on Amy.

CORAL (CONT'D)

Was that you?

AMY

I was trying to stop it hitting that
kid -

Angry Coral wipes away the paint on her screen with a shammy.

CORAL

Don't give me excuses - what's your
name, what year are you in?

AMY

I'm not a pupil.

And she runs toward the school, trying to corral stray pupils, passing Chlo, who's searching for Izzy in the melee as a little surge of cars move forward.

CHLO

Izzy -

She spots Izzy standing, stricken, watching the pupils piling out of the school.

19

INT. CORAL'S CAR. PRE SCHOOL. 08:05 - DAY. CONTINUOUS.

19

Coral's back in her car, her stress levels increase as a car behind her starts beeping. She tries to ignore the noise as she starts inching forward - then she notices her wing mirror is covered with paint.

Coral clenches her teeth, and we see she is on the verge of blowing her top as the car behind her beeps again.

20

EXT. STREET NEAR SCHOOL. PRE SCHOOL. 08:05 - DAY.
CONTINUOUS.

20

A car ahead, Chlo's pulling Izzy across the road, drops her folder and bends to pick it up -

21

INT. CORAL'S CAR. PRE SCHOOL. 08:05 - DAY. CONTINUOUS.

21

- Coral is inching forward, her foot is holding the clutch on the biting point. Her stress levels are going through the roof and there is chaos all around her, kids everywhere, cars still beeping behind her. The noise just seems to get louder and louder until she can't take anymore. She snaps, whips around, and screams at the car behind in a clear moment of road rage.

CORAL

Shut up! Shut up, shut up....

As Coral is twisted round screaming she takes her foot off the clutch and the car lurches forward and shunts into the car in front.

PICK UP: Coral's bumper hits the bumper in front.

21A

EXT. STREET NEAR SCHOOL. PRE SCHOOL. 08:05 - DAY.
CONTINUOUS.

21A

- knocking a crouching Chlo to the ground so she falls, banging her head on the bumper and falling backwards, landing painfully on her arm.

PICK UP: Close up on Izzy as she looks on in horror as her mum is hit by the car (we won't see any reverse shot of Chlo).

The AU PAIR DRIVER leaps out the car - but Izzy's already by dazed Chlo -

AU PAIR DRIVER
I'm so sorry - are you ok?

Amy's seen what happened to Chlo and hurries over.

AMY
What's happened?

AU PAIR DRIVER
Car behind it hit me - I didn't see
her -

CHLO
I'm all right -

Amy helps Chlo up -

PICK UP: Coral gets out of the car. Realising that Coral is the one who drove into her, the Au Pair Driver rounds on her.

AU PAIR
What were you doing? You hit me!

CORAL
(lies)
It was an accident.

AU PAIR
Weren't you looking where you were
going?

CORAL

A paint bomb hit my windscreen, I
couldn't see a thing!

The Au Pair Driver checks her car.

CORAL (CONT'D)

It wasn't my fault.

Coral gets back in her car and tries to tell herself that is the truth.

21B EXT. PLAYGROUND. PRE SCHOOL. 08:06 - DAY.

21B

Kim is still in shock at the chaos in the playground as a panicked Joe strides over.

JOE

We got local lads jumping on the
bandwagon now -

A rush of screaming, giggling kids surge through the gates as others - are they even pupils? - chase them, lobbing paint balloons - Kim's decisive.

KIM

Right - let's get the gates shut before
we do anything else.

And she hurries toward the eye of the storm, raises her LOUDHAILER -

KIM (CONT'D)

This is NOT the way - if you'd LISTEN
instead of SHOUTING -

SPLAT - a paint balloon misses her by inches - and she bins any attempt to explain -

KIM (CONT'D)

Right - if you're NOT a pupil, LEAVE
the area.

An older group of estate lads approach from the opposite end of the staff car park, bristling with testosterone - hungry for action -

The original protesters have decamped to the safety of the playground. Samia and Shola watch the chaos unfold. A bottle smashes on the William Beswick sculpture.

KIM (CONT'D)

All PUPILS - inside - and I mean NOW -

- and here's another teacher VALERIE CHAMBERS (40s, arty, ballsy) - pushing her way through the melee -

VALERIE

There's traffic backing up on the road, Kim, apparently there's been some kind of shunt as well.

She recoils as a projectile of paint hits the pile of already doused school uniforms like a rocket - and Kim sees the estate lads with paint guns advancing - these are NOT pupils - Kim turns to Joe - decisive.

KIM

Call the police.

Joe's already got his phone out as Kim strides over to Samia and Shola.

KIM (CONT'D)

What are you playing at, Samia?

SAMIA

We told you if the council wouldn't change them name, we'd make them.

KIM

And I told you I'd deal with it, and I have. Only now you're about to mess it all up.

SHOLA

We're not going in until we get what we want.

KIM

The police are on their way, and if everyone's not back in by then, I'll shut the school for the day and make sure they arrest the lot of you!

Samia and Shola share a look.

KIM (CONT'D)

Don't make me!

SAMIA

(reluctant - can she trust Kim?)

Okay, people - we've made our point now. Let's call it a day.

Nobody listens. As we hear a distant police siren, Samia takes Kim's megaphone.

SAMIA (CONT'D)
I said let's call it a day!

Samia, Shola and Kim start working together with the other teachers to get everyone inside.

22

INT. BOILER HOUSE. PRE SCHOOL. 08:07 - DAY. CONTINUOUS. 22

We hear the growing disorder below from our voyeur's POV - a glimpse of feet running past the grate - and we pull back to see a man from behind - matted hair, knackered jeans, hoodie.

He peers from the grate, shoulders hunched with...fear?

He begins stuffing his things into a tatty holdall - makeshift sleeping-bag bed, wrinkled clothes, a torch, cereal, tins of food and drink, and a few books and newspapers. Another burst of police siren from outside - and he ups his pace as his dog stands guard.

We won't see his face, just silhouette and shadow.

Last but not least, he takes a pendant from where it's been hanging on a rusty nail, and fastens it round his neck.

PICK UP: Nicky looking through the grille.

23

EXT. CAR PARK GATES. PRE SCHOOL. 08:13 - DAY. CONTINUOUS. 23

Kim's near the main entrance ushering pupils in as she looks out for the approaching sirens - when Amy rounds the corner with limping Chlo. Kim double-takes.

KIM
Chlo?

But they've disappeared into the crowd -

Teacher NEIL GUTHRIE (50s) strides, astonished, through the gates.

NEIL
Lockdown, all is forgiven.

And Kim's as grim-faced as she's ever been as a police car kerbs it with a burst of siren.

24

INT. FOYER. REGISTRATION. PRE SCHOOL. 08:35 - DAY.

24

Red paint is splashed on doors and pillars. Teachers including Valerie, Neil and Lindon are sending pupils in the right direction depending on their state of splat.

VALERIE

If you've got paint on you, wash off what you can and change into your PE kit.

Here's Coral looking shaken - Neil looks over -

NEIL

I heard someone was hurt - toppled by a shunted car?

Coral pales - but here's Lindon, gesturing for Valerie to join - quick teacher huddle.

LINDON

Kim's with the police, so I suggest we delay staff meeting, skip assembly and use first period for orientation.

They disperse, but Coral holds Neil back.

CORAL

Did you say someone was 'hurt' -

But Neil's just stepped in something - lifts his foot -

NEIL

What now - a dirty protest?

VALERIE

Dog muck. Someone's trampled it through -

And sure enough - brown, smelly footprints. Coral recoils -

VALERIE (CONT'D)

I'll call Rolf.

All eyes turn to Kim with SERGEANT MIKE RUTHERFORD and an NS UNIFORMED COP marching towards Kim's office.

Shola's with Tonya, freaking out as she watches the cops march on - glances at her phone - the messages/emojis are coming in thick and fast - on Tonya's phone too -

Your bestie's in the (poo emoji). JSJSJSJS - You owe (cash emoji) for fit , queen.

Way to flop racism, sis - Watch your back - Lindon's going for you (skull & crossbones emoji)

SHOLA
This is all my fault.

Tonya grabs Shola's phone from her -

TONYA
We need to delete your social media.

Meantime, pupils part for CAZ WILLIAMS (yr. 12), unrecognisable with her head entirely doused in slick, red, dripping paint - shocked Kai's hands fly to his mouth!

KAI
Caaaz - nooooo -

CAZ
(acting clueless)
What did I miss?

24A INT. DEPUTY HEADS' OFFICE. REGISTRATION. 08:35 - DAY. 24A

Lindon's furiously rubbing paint off his shoes as Wendy knocks - and opens the door -

WENDY

Hey, 'Dad' - looks like someone got lost in the hallway -

And she ushers in VERITY -

LINDON

Verity...

VERITY

I so wasn't lost, it's mum who said we should come to your office -

And here's a HANNAH, bright smile, 'only-me'.

HANNAH

(loaded smile)

Just thought you might want to know your daughter was here safe on her first day? We were both rather expecting you to drive her in...?

VERITY

I could of walked.

LINDON

I - er - had to leave early.

HANNAH

Yes, I gather there's been a bit of trouble.

VERITY

(disappointed)

We missed the whole thing.

HANNAH

(pretendy relief)

Just as well your father was here early to sort it all out.

Both Wendy and an embarrassed/confused Verity can sense the tension.

WENDY

Let's find your form room, eh?

And she ushers Verity out. Lindon and Hannah turn on each other - voices hushed -

LINDON

Are you here to score more points?

HANNAH

(seriously?)

You're the one who didn't come home
last night! Making such a mountain
out nothing -

LINDON

Tricking me into accepting charity
isn't nothing. I told you we'd get
a bigger house when we can afford
it, not your dad.

HANNAH

I knew you'd be pig headed -

LINDON

So you just went ahead anyway,
never mind what I -

But here's Kim - looking for Lindon -

KIM

Oh, Hi Hannah -

HANNAH

Kim - you poor thing, what
nightmare start to the term for you-

KIM

(forced smile)

Day one in the Big Brother house,
right?

LINDON

Hannah was just going.

Hannah smiles wider and brighter than ever.

HANNAH

See you at home, darling -

(eekface)

- unless there's another riot.

And off she wafts leaving Lindon quietly fuming, but Kim's
oblivious to the tension - other things on her mind.

KIM
(to Lindon)
Emergency SMT meet when Joe is
back, perhaps someone can explain
to me how I leave for ten minutes
and come back to a war zone.

24B

INT. RED CANTEEN. REGISTRATION. 09:01 - DAY.

24B

Pupils with paint on them get themselves cleaned up - Preston, Tonya and Kelly Jo among them - all trailing paint through as they come and go. Dinner ladies dart to and from with sponges as head Dinner Lady, Nicky, examines the paint-caked uniform of a contrite Tonya and Preston -

NICKY

How could you, after what I paid
for them blazers?

TONYA

(guiltily)
We said we wouldn't wear them.

NICKY

They're ruined, Tonya - ruined!

KELLY JO

Dunno what you're getting so
stressed for, Auntie Nicky

NICKY

My sister might have bought second
hand, Kelly Jo - but I wanted your
cousins to look smart -

PRESTON

We were making a point, mum -

NICKY

(rounding on him)
Make your point when you're footing
the bills!

She pulls focus to a pupil plonking an armful of paint ruined blazers on the counter - and bellows over.

NICKY (CONT'D)

Oi - I've got to serve food off of
that!

Samia enters to join them - close to tears as she heads for Preston -

SAMIA

It's a total nightmare, Pres -

NICKY

(to Samia)

Oh, Samia - tell me they didn't
drag you into it, 'n'all.

KELLY JO
(affronted)
It was Sami's idea in the first
place!

SAMIA
(gutted)
Not like this, it wasn't -

Preston reaches for her, but Nicky gets there first and pulls Samia into a hug - there, there - till she pulls focus to

But here's Neil entering wearing a pair of trainers, and gingerly holding his shitty by the cuffs. The smell hits Nicky like an electric shock and her hand flies out: halt!

NICKY
Stop - turn around - find a skip.

And, as Neil seamlessly turns on his heel without argument, we'll know Nicky rules her kitchen with a rod of iron.

25

INT. HEAD TEACHER'S CORRIDOR / MEDICAL ROOM. REGISTRATION. 208:38
- DAY.

Spilling from the tiny room into the corridor - a few NS TEACHERS clean NS PUPILS' arms/faces - treat scraped knees, bathe eyes, and Dwayne's ankle being tended to by Joe.

JOE

You'll live, but let's see how it looks when we get you home tonight. You should never have got involved.

Anxious Izzy's eyeing Amy's tattoo under her rolled up sleeve as she bandages Chlo's wrist. Joe joins them.

JOE (CONT'D)

I can get a nurse here within the hour.

IZZY

(to Amy)

I thought you were the nurse?

JOE

Miss Spratt's a teacher, Izzy.

Even Chlo looks a little surprised, and Amy flushes.

AMY

Name's Amy. Newly qualified, but I'm St John's ambulance trained.

She finishes the wrist -

AMY (CONT'D)

Pretty sure it's not broken, but I'd prefer if you got it X-rayed -

CHLO

It's fine.

She examines Chlo's temple/scalp.

AMY

Where'd you bang your head?

CHLO

(pulling away)

It's my daughter I'm worried about -

JOE

We're as shocked as you are, but the police have dealt with the troublemakers and I can assure you we'll be taking every precaution.

He flicks a look at Amy -

JOE (CONT'D)

New pupils induction on the main landing.

AMY

(to Izzy)

Come on, let's go and find out where you're supposed to be.

Izzy hugs her mum, and they head off.

JOE

(to Chlo)

I'd like to keep you here so the police can ask you a few questions, is that ok?

CHLO

Is that really necessary?

JOE

Sergeant Rutherford's a nice guy - we know him here.

CHLO

What about my pitch?

JOE

Sorry - pitch?

Chlo holds up her slightly battered, paint splattered file.

CHLO

The parent-skills initiative? The newsletter says to come in today.

JOE

I think you've maybe misunderstood -

Chlo's day is going south with every moment.

26

INT. ADMIN/WENDY'S AREA. PERIOD ONE. 09:10 - DAY.

26

A weary Wendy fields calls from parents.

WENDY

No - of course I do understand your concerns - but it was largely a couple of local idiots -

Kim sees the cops out of her office as Wendy mutes her call, pre-empts Kim's next question, as per.

WENDY (CONT'D)

The injured parent's in the medical room.

MIKE

I know the way.

They exit, passing Lindon entering, Joe on his heels. Alone for a moment, the SMT takes angry/shocked stock.

KIM

This is exactly what I feared would happen.

LINDON

(pinching an inch)

We came this close to closing.

JOE

The LEA needs to make a flaming decision.

LINDON

Their decision is obvious: weather the storm and get on with educating.

KIM

And how well do you think that's going on day one, Lindon?

LINDON

If we'd opened a Behavioural Unit, like I suggested, instead of getting caught up in politics -

KIM

(cutting in)

Most of the kids out there were just trying to be heard -

LINDON

And the rest should have been in an
on-site BU.

KIM

The stark truth? If we let morale
sink any lower, we won't have a
school, let alone a BU - and maybe
that's someone's long-term plan
anyway?

A. Very. Sobering. Thought.

JOE

So - what now?

WENDY

(puffing her cheeks)
Spliff?

Kim throws her a look.

WENDY (CONT'D)

Bad joke. Reading the room.

Kim takes a deep breath, head high.

KIM

Right now we need to restore order and
good faith on our first day of term.
So it's all hands on deck, understood?

Nods all round. Ultimately, they're a team.

27

INT. MAIN CORRIDOR. PERIOD ONE. 09:26 - DAY.

27

In the background, Rolf and cleaners are making inroads into the clean up process - mops, a cone where paint is slippy.

Freshly showered Kai and Preston are outside 'Lost & Found' rooting through boxes of used PE kit and clothing.

Here's Caz, showered, face washed though still pink - but her hair is a stiff, claggy, red nightmare.

PRESTON

You look like a crime scene, mate.

CAZ

Anyone got a pair of scissors?

KAI

I got some nail clippers?

Caz just gives him a dead eye.

KAI (CONT'D)

Maybe try the art department?

Caz salutes a thanks and goes. Preston pulls on a rugby shirt, checks himself out in the mirror, then pulls focus to Kai holding up a girl's unicorn tee-shirt.

PRESTON

Hey - that's my sister's!

KAI

Not any more.

He pulls it on - it's skin-tight and comes up to his navel.

The bell goes. Preston heads away, but Kai hangs back to rifle through a few more lost & found goodies, then he freezes - that noise again... A sniffle? A panting? Coming from the Caretaker's Cupboard -

Kai tiptoes toward the cupboard - trying hard to listen. He hears another shuffling, then a 'shhh' - and he's convinced he's right - tiptoes to a store cupboard, peers through the grille trying to see inside - then cups his mouth, calling through -

KAI (CONT'D)

Zip up, kids - you're busted -

Suddenly the man with the dog bursts out, holdall in front of him - shoves shrieking Kai to the side, dog barking - and they duck through another door -

- where they race down the corridor, dog barking wildly,
followed by the man - who pushes the cops -

28A EXT. PLAYGROUND. PERIOD ONE. 09:28 - DAY.

28A

Danny bursts out of the doors and Danny runs, bent on escaping - throwing his bag at Mike - but Mike's faster, and rugby tackles Danny to the ground, then yanks him roughly up. Kim, Joe and Kai emerge from the building just as Mike has Danny in a half-nelson -

DANNY

Let me go -

MIKE

Not till I know what's in the bag -

NS PC empties the bag - but it's just books, dog food, and toothbrush etc. Kim looks at Danny with recognition -

KIM

Danny..? Danny Lewis?

And now Kai breaks into a smile -

KAI

All right Danny? Where you been -

The bell rings for period two.

29

INT. FOYER. PERIOD TWO. 10:02 - DAY.

29

PUPILS in uniform, PE kit or civvies mill excitedly toward the main corridor - first day vibe plus added riot fallout for extra energy - but things are getting back to normal.

Pick out Shola (in PE kit) leading a GROUP OF NEW STARTERS, including Izzy and Verity, to a classroom. Noel is lurking.

SHOLA

That's English and languages - and the staff room at the far end -

But she's got one eye on the cops disappearing round a corner - her worry growing. Izzy's trying to navigate -

IZZY

Sorry - which is maths room?

VERITY

I'll show you - my dad's deputy head - so I've had the tour a few times.

NOEL

You're Mr King's kid?

VERITY

Yeah. I live with it. He can be uptight.

And on cue, here's Lindon collaring Dean Weever who's just drawn a cock & balls in some sticky red paint on the floor as Noel tries and fails to scarper.

IZZY

He does look a bit stressed.

VERITY

Put it this way - he kicks off if I smudge my handwriting.

She gestures at the smeared red paint on the floors - and Shola's stomach sinks.

30

INT. HEAD TEACHER'S OFFICE. PERIOD TWO. 10:03 - DAY.

30

Kim and Joe confer quietly.

JOE

Danny Lewis - here two years ago -
started year ten, then the pandemic
hit. Haven't seen him since.

KIM

I remember him vaguely. Wendy's
pulling his file - but I'm thinking
there's been some kind of breakdown at
home if he's sleeping rough.

31

INT. ADMIN/WENDY'S AREA. PERIOD TWO. 10:04 - DAY. CONTINUOUS.

Danny sits, watchful, suspicious - waiting for Kim and Joe to finish discussing him. Meantime Wendy's trying to fend off Angel's adoring advances to her crotch area as she winds up a call.

WENDY

Understood. I'll let her know.

(to Danny, hanging up)

Could you, maybe -

Get this mingy mutt the eff off me? Danny clicks for Angel to heel. A relieved Wendy brushes dog hairs off her slacks as Kai enters with a plastic tray of water.

KAI

What's she called?

DANNY

Angel.

Kai fusses over Angel as Danny avoids eye contact.

KAI

So - where you been?

DANNY

Here and there.

In comes Mike with Danny's holdall, and Kim emerges from her office with Joe to greet him, familiar nods - they know each other.

MIKE

He's been camping out in the boiler room for a few weeks. Maybe longer.

KIM

(aside to Mike)

I think we can take it from here.

He goes, handing Joe the holdall. Wendy hands Kim a post-it - hushed tones.

WENDY

Home contact.

DANNY

(looking up sharply)

No!

Kim and Joe exchange a look - and Danny's brow flickers.

DANNY (CONT'D)
I don't want anything off my mum.

He clams up again as JAMILAH OMAR (experienced, kind) enters, she's been briefed.

KIM
Danny - this is Jamilah Omar, our social worker.

JAMILAH
Hey Danny.

Danny remains silent as Jamilah lets Angel sniff her hand.

JOE
Why don't we go down to Pastoral Care - have a chat in private? You can leave your stuff here safe.

He hands Danny's holdall to Wendy.

DANNY
Can I bring my dog?

JAMILAH
Course you can.

And Wendy silently seconds that. Once they're gone, Wendy turns to Kim with a little grimace.

WENDY
So, you know you said you wanted to the dust to settle before you made any announcement about the rebrand?

KIM
Yeah...?

Wendy turns her screen round to show a social media banner headline - 'RACE RIOT AT FAILING COMPREHENSIVE'.

Kim is visibly worried.

Bell.

32

OMITTED

32

33

INT. MAIN CORRIDOR / ENGLISH CLASSROOM (CORAL). YEAR 11. PERIOD TWO. 10:06 - DAY.

Pupils file into Coral's class, take their seats (in various states of dress, riot depending). Preston's with Samia - arm draped round her, sipping up the golden couple vibe, as Kelly Jo checks out photos of the riot on social media. Samia's well rattled.

SAMIA

How many times did I say 'no damage'?!

KELLY JO

It was that Shola sent the shout-out for paint.

PRESTON

Which *you* then threw all over the place.

SAMIA

Wasn't her started pelting little kids with paint bombs. That was a bunch of lads turning everything into a scrap, as always.

PRESTON

I'm a lad.

SAMIA

You're different.

Preston drops a sultry kiss on Samia's neck by way of reward.

But Kelly Jo's full of other news -

KELLY JO

Hey - I heard some kid got tased by the feds..?

PRESTON

Slight exaggeration.

SAMIA

I thought Danny Lewis left in year ten.

Coral calls for attention -

CORAL

Okay, anyone not supposed to be here, get to your class - that means you, Preston.

KIM
Excuse me, Miss Walker -

A hush as Kim addresses the class - bristling with anger.

KIM (CONT'D)
Listen up - I want everyone involved
in this morning's fiasco to come
forward voluntarily.

Silence from the class.

KIM (CONT'D)
If they don't, CCTV will be checked,
and anyone found to be involved will
face punishment.
What happened resulted in a woman
being knocked down by a car.
So it'll be better for anyone involved
to own up rather than force me to come
after them.

She nods at Coral and exits. Samia's really worried now. But not
as worried as Coral.

34

INT. PASTORAL CARE. PERIOD TWO. 10:22 - DAY.

34

Joe sits in as Jamilah talks to Danny, taking it at Danny's pace. Silences and defensive shrugs punctuate the following.

JAMILAH

Is there a reason you don't want us to call your mum?

Danny chews his cheek. Works his jaw. Silence. Finally.

DANNY

No point. I only stayed cos of my Nan.

Silence. Works his jaw, mistrustful. Jamilah tries again.

JAMILAH

How long have you been sleeping rough, Danny, before here? Or did you stay with someone?

Shrugs indifferently, shame and pride fighting each other. Jamilah lets the silence hang.

DANNY

Can I go now or what?

JOE

Where are you going to go, Danny? You can't stay here -

Danny stands, defensive -

DANNY

Look, I never stole nothing -

- Joe instinctively stands, too. And Danny realises he must look threatening and sits down again, reining himself in.

DANNY (CONT'D)

I never stole nothing or broke nothing.

(staring back at his trainers,)

I even cleaned the shower when I used it.

Jamilah nods at Joe to leave them alone - and Joe makes a discreet exit. Jamilah turns back to Danny. Compassionate.

JAMILAH

You must have been very lonely.

Danny jiggles his leg - glances at Angel. Then nods.

35

INT. HEAD TEACHER'S CORRIDOR. PERIOD TWO. 11:10 - DAY.

35

Joe's come to collect Chlo from the nurse's suite having given her statement to Mike, who's filling Joe in.

MIKE

Mrs Charles doesn't want to make a complaint, and there was no serious harm done. So it'll just be a matter for the insurance companies.

JOE

(to Chlo)

I'll just see Sergeant Rutherford out then we'll get you that cab -

Joe sees the cop to the main door, give him the brief, familiar kiss on the lips of long term partners.

MIKE

You ok, hun?

JOE

Just - that Danny lad.

Shakes his head. Mike nods, feeling crap, too.

MIKE

I overreacted. I didn't know he was a pupil.

JOE

Least of his problems right now.

Mike gives Joe's hand a squeeze.

MIKE

I'm off shift at five. I'll do tea for the boys.

Kids start piling out of classrooms, and Mike heads back to the car and his waiting colleague.

Here's Coral approaching - clocks Joe and Chlo with bandaged wrist - hurries over all solicitous.

CORAL

I was there when you took a tumble. Are you alright?

CHLO

Just a sore wrist.

CORAL
(gushing)
That is *such* a relief.

Chlo smiles politely as Joe arrives back to see her upstairs,
and Coral feels a weight lift from her shoulders.

36

INT. HEAD TEACHER'S OFFICE. BREAK. 11:11 - DAY.

36

Jamilah finishes filling Kim in.

JAMILAH

Danny clashed with his mum's boyfriend apparently. Lockdown obviously heightened tensions.

KIM

I can imagine.

JAMILAH

Then the grandmother died, Covid, and things broke down altogether.

Kim tightens her jaw - what to say.

JAMILAH (CONT'D)

He has an aunt in Leeds - but they didn't want him because of the virus, so he sofa surfed until he ended up on the streets.

She sighs, looks at her notes.

JAMILAH (CONT'D)

That's the gist, anyway. He's not exactly talkative. He was trying to leg it but then everything kicked off outside.

KIM

(in his shoes)

But this was his sanctuary. This school. His safe space.

She contemplates Danny's file, brow furrowed.

KIM (CONT'D)

Back in the day he wouldn't have got near the place. Nor would we.

Saying it out loud makes it sound all the more absurd.

JAMILAH

I've managed to get him to agree to mediation with the mother if I can arrange it.

KIM

Absolutely - meantime, I'll look at what we can do this end.

Jamilah nods, and they exit - Kim's resolve growing by the moment.

37

INT. ADMIN/WENDY'S AREA. BREAK. 11:16 - DAY. CONTINUOUS. 37

Kim and Jamilah emerge from Kim's office, and there's Chlo waiting in a chair.

Jamilah exits and Kim joins Chlo.

WENDY

Mrs Charles is the parent who was hurt in the fracas. I've called her a cab.

KIM

(big smile)

I know Chlo. C'mere.

She gives her a hug.

KIM (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry about all this.

CHLO

And you reckon we were lively.

KIM

It won't be happening again - trust me. Izzy's in safe hands.

CHLO

So is the school's name changing or what?

KIM

(careful)

Nothing set in stone -

CHLO

Not any more - last I heard they were pulling him off the wall!

Kim tries to smile at Chlo's hilarious joke.

CHLO (CONT'D)

Look, since I'm here - can I just tell you about the project I was going to pitch to you?

She holds up her file, Kim winces.

KIM

Honestly, Chlo - it's not a good time.

CHLO

I took a day off for this, and all I got was a sprained wrist.

Kim checks her watch, Chlo's got a very fair point.

KIM

You always were persuasive.

Chlo brightens - gathers her thoughts -

CHLO

So, Izzy's brother, Tommy - he's six and he's got ADD, but before he was diagnosed he was running rings around us all -

Here's Lindon popping his head in -

LINDON

Everyone's waiting, Kim.

Kim shifts on her feet. Chlo knows she's got no time.

CHLO

Long and short, therapy animals really helped. They have them in prisons, hospitals, care homes...

KIM

It all sounds *really* interesting Chlo.
Let's speak another time.

Chlo presses the now-battered proposal into Kim's hand.

CHLO

Please read it, Kim. I'm passionate about this project.

KIM

(warm)

You haven't changed a bit.

Affectionate arm squeeze - and Kim exits leaving Chlo feeling frustrated, but with an idea forming...

38

INT. STAFF ROOM. BREAK. 11:20 - DAY.

38

Kettle boiled, mugs in hands, post summer greetings/bants about the riot, and a cheered Coral handing out the biscuits.

LINDON

Good summer, Neil?

NEIL

I'm starting to wish I hadn't come back. First we're greeted with gang warfare, and now some hobo creeping around?

JOE

(sharp)

He's a kid, Neil. Two years ago he was this high.

He holds his hand to his chest height.

NEIL

Ok, but if Danny Lewis left, what the hell's he doing camping out?

Kim enters on this -

KIM

He didn't leave - he fell through the net. Covid, lockdown, family chaos.

VALERIE

(moved)

I remember Danny. Quiet boy.

CORAL

Perhaps he could quietly clean up after his dog?

NEIL

It wouldn't be an issue if the school's security was adequate. I mean, seriously - Kim.

KIM

Believe me it's on the list.

NEIL

I don't know why we've got to this point. The conversation should be about historical context not cancel culture.

VALERIE
(getting heated)
You won't find no Jimmy Savile
Secondary on my bus route.

Amy bustles in - cringing at her tardiness.

AMY
Sorry, I'm still trying to find my way round.

Coral double-takes as Kim introduces Amy.

KIM
Amy Spratt - ECT for drama and -
English. Coral Walker - your Head of
Department.

Amy gives a little grimace and holds her hand out.

AMY
I think we already met.

CORAL
You're my new ECT?

JOE
And a bit of a heroine when it was all
kicking off out there!

CORAL
(to Amy, head high)
Welcome - and, erm - obviously I
wouldn't have -

AMY
Totally understandable mistake -

Coral can't help but notice the tattoos on Amy's hand and wrist as they shake. Amy may be calm, capable and gracious - but at least Coral's not a chav.

39

INT. MAIN CORRIDOR. BREAK. 11:28 - DAY.

39

Kim emerges from the staff room as Jamilah approaches, with a subdued Danny and Angel in tow.

JAMILAH

I can't get an answer from Danny's Mum - might be an old number, so I'm going to go round there myself.

KIM

Okay, good.

(to Danny)

Meantime why don't you go down to the canteen, get some food?

Wendy hurries towards them.

KIM (CONT'D)

Wendy won't mind taking Angel back to the office will you?

Wendy doesn't look impressed as she looks down at Angel. Danny gives Angel a pat before heading off with Jamilah -

WENDY

(to Kim)

Erica Thorn just rang. She's coming in. About the riot.

Kim takes a breath - course she is.

40

INT. SCIENCE LAB. PERIOD THREE. 11:45 - DAY.

40

An NS SCIENCE TEACHER patrols the room as Kai, Caz and Preston work together at a lab table. Furtive smirking and 'is she serious'ing about Caz's hair from a few pupils on a nearby table.

Year ten school photo appears in frame on Kai's phone, flick flick, he zooms in, screenshots, and shows.

CAZ

Cuteness. So how come he ended up camping out here?

KAI

Not drugs, anyway - I was there when they searched him.

PRESTON

He looks like he needs a wash.

KAI

He doesn't smell, though - boy's got deodorant.

PRESTON

Wait - you sniffed him?

KAI

Shut up. I feel bad. Me and Danny were besties back in the day - he came to my twelfth birthday.

CAZ

Aw - bless. Pirates? Superheroes?

KAI

(grinning)

Karaoke all day long.

But his smile fades as he remembers -

KAI (CONT'D)

Boy could sing, 'n'all.

Out on Kai - feeling suddenly sad and jaded.

41

INT. DEPUTY HEADS' OFFICE. PERIOD THREE. 11:58 - DAY.

41

Kim's showing Joe the now-viral social media clips from the riot - angry faces, red paint, the 'RACIST' graffiti - a banner headline - 'SCHOOL OUT OF CONTROL'.

JOE

(wishing it were funny)

'Day one in the Big Brother house...'

KIM

I'm speaking to the ringleaders at
lunchtime -

JOE

You going to read them the riot act?

A 'how hilarious' look from Kim.

JOE (CONT'D)

(apologetic)

Boom boom tish?

KIM

It's all over social media, and I'm
going to have to explain what happened
to Erica Thorn in a couple of hours -
to report back to the LEA. Which is
all I need.

JOE

But you're going ahead with the name
change, right?

KIM

Yes.

(arrugh)

In time. But I can well imagine
discipline is going to be top of
Erica's agenda after this morning.

JOE

But you were right about a holistic
approach - discipline starts with
respect - how can these kids respect
their school the way it is?

KIM

I know. Believe me I know - Joe - but
I'm getting it from all angles - and
the LEA isn't going to fund a name
change for a school they don't believe
has a future.

JOE
(morde)
When you put it like that...

A sense of gloom prevails.

42

OMITTED

42

43

INT. RED CANTEEN. LUNCH TIME. 12:35 - DAY.

43

Danny's shovelling food into his mouth as kids pour into the canteen. He puts his head down, feeling exposed.

Samia enters with Kelly Jo.

KELLY JO

Are you really showing up to
Campbell's arse kicking?

SAMIA

Yeah. I am. And so are you.

Kelly Jo sighs - then clocks Danny.

KELLY JO

Is it me, or did Danny Lewis get hot?

Samia glances over, Kelly Jo's not wrong - but -

SAMIA

Only one boy for me.

And here's Preston entering with Kai. Kai catches Danny's eye, smiles hesitantly before Danny looks away.

In come Izzy and Verity. Verity's designated herself tour guide - gesturing over at glamorous dinner lady NICKY WALTERS (late 30s - groomed to perfection), lowers her voice.

VERITY

Check her out - she used to be a
beautician before Covid. If you want
any botox or fillers -

Izzy shoots her a horrified look.

Verity nods over at Preston up ahead in the queue.

VERITY (CONT'D)

That's her son, Preston - he's, like,
an athlete as well as totally fit.
Everyone fancies him.

IZZY

How do you know?

VERITY

I told you, my dad works here. I know
lots. Like - see Mr Guthrie, there?
History teacher?

Izzy follows Verity's gaze to Neil, just entered with Coral.

VERITY (CONT'D)

His wife died but he's in denial. And Miss Walker's a nut job. Well, OCD, to be fair. Clean freak.

IZZY

(incredulous)

Your dad told you all that?

VERITY

No - like, dur - I listen in.

Izzy's well impressed.

Preston and Samia move up the queue - where Nicky's dishing out sausages. Nicky's face lights up to see Samia.

NICKY

Here she is, my future daughter in law.

PRESTON

Pack it in, Mum.

NICKY

(lashy wink at Samia)

Glad you're both in one piece after Armageddon out there. Campbell needs to get a grip, this school's going right down the plughole.

Samia and Preston exchange awkward smiles and make for a table.

Lindon nobbles Dean Weever, who's mine-sweeping chips off dead plates with Noel.

LINDON

Back to detention if you've had your lunch.

DEAN

(thinking quick)

But we're turning ourselves in - like Miss Campbell said.

LINDON

How very noble. Let me escort you.

He ushers them toward the exit, and Dean waggles his tongue at Kelly Jo as he passes. Samia recoils - appalled.

SAMIA

Ew -

KELLY JO
(a bellow at Dean)
You're a PIG BOY!!

Kai braces himself, leaves the others and takes his tray to sit with Danny - reaching for 'breezy and casual'.

KAI
You got tall, bro.

DANNY
(shrug)
You changed some, yourself.

KAI
(lofty)
Yeah, you know. I've evolved.

DANNY
(nodding...)
So, like, are you 'he', 'she' or
'they' now?

KAI
Baby, I'm all 'he'. I'm just not your
flavour.

Danny can't help but smile, and it's like the sun's come out.

KAI (CONT'D)
(concerned)
Homeless, man. That's harsh. What
happened?

DANNY
Life gets in the way, innit. I had to
split.

KAI
But sleeping on the streets, that's
another level.

DANNY
Why do you think I ended up here?

Kai shakes his head in disbelief.

KAI
What are you going to do? Where are
you gonna go?

DANNY
(shrugs)
I don't know. Things are complicated
at home.

KAI
I get you.
(fishing)
My folks are hard-core. I can't do
anything without some sort of
backlash. Know what I mean?

Sober pause as they eat.

DANNY
They let you dress like 'My Little
Pony', though.

Kai's taken aback - then bursts out laughing. And just like
that, Danny laughs too, like proper belly laughs - and for a
moment it's like old times.

44

INT. SIXTH FORM COMMON ROOM. LUNCH TIME. 12:45 - DAY.

44

A group of the original protesters have gathered for Kim, including Samia, Shola, Caz, Tonya, Kelly Jo, Dean and Noel. Kim scans their faces, her anger palpable.

KIM

You have no idea the position you've put us all in.

SAMIA

(the injustice!)

We campaigned for a whole year, but nothing changed -

KIM

- so you thought starting a riot would sort it?

Samia's trying to stand her ground, but she's close to tears.

SHOLA

The red paint was on me, okay? It was supposed to be symbolic. I didn't know cretins like him were going to abuse it.

Dean and Noel all 'wounded reproach'.

KIM

Don't even try, lads - I saw you hurling projectiles at pupils.

DEAN

I threw the paint to be symbolic -

KELLY JO

You don't even know what symbolic MEANS!

DEAN

(blow me)

Neither do you!

KIM

You think it's funny hurting people, Dean?

DEAN

(kinda)

No.

NOEL

Depends on the situation, to be fair.
Like if it's only a wallop in the
niknaks -

Dean chortles -

SAMIA

There is something fully wrong with
you.

KIM

Noel, are you boys going to pay for
the damage to school property?
People's clothes - Caz's hair?

Dean peers at Caz's hair, stifles a smirk. She withers him.

CAZ

I don't care about my hair, Miss
Campbell. I care that we've still got
that white supremacist's name on our
blazers. That's not okay.

A ripple of confidence at her bold clarity. Kim's careful.

KIM

I understand your frustration. But
taking matters into your own hands
like this morning not only undermines
your position, but it's made
everything worse.

She's deadly serious.

KIM (CONT'D)

Whatever your original motive, what
happened today was really dangerous.
If someone had been seriously hurt,
some of you could find yourselves
facing criminal charges.

Shola's really rattled and defensive, now -

SHOLA

Nobody listened to us, Miss Campbell.
What would you have done in our place?

Kim considers their (mostly) earnest faces as the bleak truth
hits her.

KIM

When I was at school, challenging the
William Beswicks of this world
wouldn't even have been an option.

Food for thought for all of them, not least Kim...

45

INT. CHARLES HOUSE. LUNCH TIME. 12:46 - DAY.

45

Donte rushes in - still in his work gear - to find Chlo in front of the laptop -

CHLO

I said not to come home -

He strides over, points at her bandaged wrist -

DONTE

- that's not 'nothing', Chlo -

CHLO

It's a bruise.

DONTE

You were hit by a car!

He takes her by the shoulders, examining her gently.

CHLO

I fell on my arse. I was more upset about my pitch going belly up.

Donte's still not happy.

DONTE

I'm calling Kim Campbell -

But Chlo's far from downbeat -

CHLO

Don't you dare! I'm glad it happened -
(excited grin)
- given me an even better idea.

She gestures at the laptop - open at LEA jobs page (?).

CHLO (CONT'D)

It came to me when I was waiting for them to sort my wrist. There was this new teacher, Amy, her first day - like, really young and on it - nothing like what you had to be back in the day - and it got me thinking, why not me too?

DONTE

Wait, slow down - you wanna be a teacher?

CHLO

Teaching Assistant. It's what I was
reaching for Dont -

She holds up a copy of her Parent Skills proposal.

CHLO (CONT'D)

- except better, cos I could do even
more than animal therapy - and I'd be
part of something.

DONTE

You're buzzing.

Her eyes sparkle, and it's infections - he grins - gets it.

CHLO

D'you know what - I'm glad you came
back, means I get to blab it all out
just the two of us without stealing
Izzy's big day.

Donte goes serious, holds up a palm -

DONTE

Wait - rewind - did you say 'just the
two of us'?

Chlo's puzzled - looks around - then back at Donte.

DONTE (CONT'D)

Meaning there's no one else here? No
kids? Me and the wife - all cute, and
vulnerable...?

Chlo's eyes widen with amused shock as she gets his drift -

CHLO

You - are a *bad* man.

Donte hangs his head in shame.

DONTE

I think I need punishing. Upstairs.

He peers back up at her to see how that landed. Chlo's stern.

CHLO

You're going nowhere with them filthy
boots on.

Game on. Donte scrambles to get his boots off, and Chlo's
already halfway up the stairs -

45A

INT. SIXTH FORM CORRIDOR. LUNCH TIME. 12:51 - DAY.

45A

Nicky's coming down the corridor with a trolley of plates/mugs from the staff room as Kim exits the common room.

NICKY
Miss Campbell?

Kim turns, and Nicky's determination to stand her ground reads as confrontational -

NICKY (CONT'D)
I'm hearing all sorts about new uniforms.

KIM
(all she needs)
Nothing's settled yet, Nicky-

NICKY
(clipped)
Well, obviously, that's why I'm asking - us parents need to know if we're going to have to fork out -

KIM
I do understand, and I'm sorry for the lack of clarity, but there are procedures to go through before I can give any definitive -

NICKY
So that's a yes, then - if you're talking about procedures - why don't you just come out and say it. Or are you scared you'll have another riot on your hands?

Kim's had just about enough.

KIM
D'you know what, Nicky, I get that you're a parent, but you're also a school employee - and I'm your boss, not your enemy.

Nicky's pulled up - embarrassed and contrite.

KIM (CONT'D)
I've got to look at the big picture. So bear with me, will you?
Please?

Nicky sets her jaw, and nods. What else can she do?

45B **INT. SIXTH FORM COMMON ROOM. 12:48 - DAY.**

45B

The pupils disperse after Kim's bollocking - and Shola breathes a sigh of relief.

SHOLA
Could of been worse -

SAMIA
How? We've blown it, Shola - made
ourselves look proper bad - and
it's your fault for bringing that
stupid paint -

SHOLA
It wasn't me lobbing it all over
everyone, was it -

Dean and Noel slope past on their way out -

KELLY JO
It was them two morons -
(to Dean)
You should of got the bollocking
for everyone -

Dean makes kissy lips at her -

TONYA
Gross -

KELLY JO
You're a *PIG BOY* Dean Weever -

Dean and Noel scuttle off, chortling.

46

EXT. PLAYGROUND. LUNCH TIME. 13:01 - DAY.

46

Kids doing their thang. A 'seller' surreptitiously flogs sweets, crisps and pop from his backpack.

Kelly Jo and Samia emerge from the building and head over to Kai, Preston and a couple of NS LADS playing basketball, as Danny watches, hanging back. Kai gestures him over, and - with a shrug - Danny slips his hoodie off.

The boys pause in their game as Preston jogs over to snog Samia, making sure his ripped torso is at its best.

Meantime Coral, on playground duty, has clocked the seller, who packs up his goods and scurries as she makes a beeline, leaving Dean Weever mainlining a pack of Chewits.

Danny squints at Coral.

DANNY
Is that Miss Walker?

KAI
Yeah. Don't look directly at her or
your knob'll drop off.

DANNY
I was gonna have her for GCSE English.

KAI
You were so spared.

Danny supposes - pulls focus to Samia and Preston.

DANNY
So how long have Preston and Samia
been a thing?

KAI
Dunno - year or so?

Preston comes jogging back -

KAI (CONT'D)
They're the golden couple, innit? We
bask in their light.

Preston aims the ball at Kai - who darts out the way, and Danny takes the opportunity to intercept and slam dunk.

Whoas and high fives from all - and Danny grins, glancing over at Samia who had been watching. A tiny frisson. Here's Jamilah with Kim.

DANNY
(little frown)
Is my dog ok?

KIM
Safe as houses in the office.

JAMILAH
Danny - can we have a word?

From their expressions, Danny can tell it's not good news as they head off together.

Coral and Valerie (also on playground duty), watch Danny go.

VALERIE
Poor kid, like life hasn't been crap enough, then he gets a Taser pulled on him.

CORAL
To be fair, he was running away -

VALERIE
You think that cop would have pulled a Taser on some scrawny white kid?

CORAL
(getting upset)
Honestly, Val - I feel like I can't say anything without being accused of some sort of white privilege.

VALERIE
(compassionate)
You think I'm not sick of saying it?
We've all got fatigue, Coral.

Coral still feels like she's being accused of something, and Valerie can see it. And it's depressing.

47

INT. PASTORAL CARE. LUNCH TIME. 13:10 - DAY.

47

Kim leans against the wall as Jamilah explains.

JAMILAH

They were evicted four months ago. The landlord doesn't know where they went.

Danny's trying not to look poleaxed -

DANNY

My mum didn't even leave a number? Or, like - a note - for me?

JAMILAH

There had been complaints about drug use -

Kim's phone pings a message - she checks her phone with a cringe of apology -

WENDY: Erica rang - she'll be here @ 2.

- then exits with a gesture for them to carry on without her.

Danny glances back up at Jamilah - ashamed and angry.

DANNY

My mum doesn't do drugs. Never has. That's all him. Vinny McCullen.

He touches the St. Christopher round his neck.

JAMILAH

Did your mum give you that?

Danny's like - as if.

DANNY

My nan gave it me.

His jaw tightens at the mention of her.

JAMILAH

She sounds like a good person.

DANNY

(angry grief)

It's Vinny killed her. The stress of it all - I swear.

He fights tears - trying to collect himself.

DANNY (CONT'D)
Whatever. It's cool.

JAMILAH
It's hurtful and a big shock, I can see that. But we'll keep looking for your mum -

DANNY
You know what, don't bother. If she don't wanna see me, I don't want to see her. What's the point?

Jamilah gives him time to process.

JAMILAH
What I'm going to do, Danny - is find you some temporary accommodation.

DANNY
I can look after myself.

JAMILAH
I'm sure you can, but you need somewhere safe to stay. Until we can assess your needs. Does that sound like a plan?

Danny's knee jiggles up and down as he considers his very limited options - and finally he nods, tears spilling, face in hands.

The bell goes for Period Four.

48

INT. ENGLISH CLASSROOM (AMY). YEAR NINE. PERIOD FOUR.

14:24 -

DAY.

Amy's trying to get order with a class of YEAR NINES - including Dwayne, Izzy, Tonya and Shola.

AMY

I'm Miss Spratt. And there's nothing you can say I haven't heard before, so knock yourselves out.

DWAYNE

(winks at Tonya)

Can I see your tattoo, Miss?

Amy's been here before, too.

AMY

Maybe when you've done some work.

DWAYNE

(all innocent)

Did it hurt, Miss?

AMY

Yep. A bit. But enough about my -

TONYA

You got one on your back 'n'all?
My Nan calls them slag badges.

IZZY

(frowning at Tonya)

My uncle's got a tattoo on his back.

DWAYNE

Yeah, but he's a bloke.

SHOLA

Sexist. Blokes can be slags too.

Sniggers. Amy puts her pen/marker down emphatically - punching a few keys into her laptop -

AMY

Right - so before I get onto the origins of the word 'slag' and its current usage as a pejorative - that's posh for insult, if you didn't know - let's unpack a little about the history of tattoos.

An ancient painting of a Maori warrior, full facial tattoos, appears on the screen - and she has the class in her palm.

49

INT. MAIN CORRIDOR / FOYER. PERIOD FOUR. 13:26 - DAY.

49

Coral passes in the corridor, double takes the Maori warrior with a frown - and then another image fills the screen - a Victorian tattooed circus performer. WTF is this ECT up to?

Meantime, dejected Danny heads for the foyer, noting the various postings on the message board. Extracurriculars: Science Club, Theatre, Music Society, Track and Field. Notices for upcoming events.

Everything Danny doesn't have in his life - community, structure, future.

Danny heads for the Foyer, sits on the floor against a wall, hugging his knees, brooding as he listens to the sounds of class in progress - teachers commanding voices, laughs, music somewhere - and a class of year twelves in PE kit make their way outside.

All a glimpse of what Danny used to have.

Danny's hand reaches for the pendant round his neck...

50

INT. HEAD TEACHER'S OFFICE. PERIOD FOUR. 13:35 - DAY.

50

Kim's on her computer, going over her 'RENAMING SCHOOL BUDGET' spreadsheet - absorbed in her task...

A knock and in comes Danny - Kim stops what she's doing.

KIM

Danny - have a seat -

She looks over his shoulder for Jamilah - but he's alone.

DANNY

So - I was wondering, like, if it's possible - I could - maybe - come back.

Kim's taken aback - Danny clarifies, trying to be casual.

DANNY (CONT'D)

To school. Like, as a pupil.

KIM

(carefully)

Let's get you settled somewhere, then we can look at the available options for education -

DANNY

But I could come back here, right?

Kim's wrongfooted - desperately wants not to hurt him.

KIM

It's not that simple, Danny. You missed your GCSEs. Your form's already preparing for A levels.

DANNY

Yeah, but - if I do over year 11 -

KIM

You can't repeat year eleven.

DANNY

(proud)

I can - I know what it looks like, but I'm smart - I can work hard.

KIM

- it's not possible. You're over sixteen, it's different funding -

Danny swallows, then nods - yeah, stupid idea.

KIM (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, Danny. I'll do whatever I can to help - there are outside alternatives we can explore with Jamilah -

A defeated Danny nods. He clocks the framed photo on Kim's desk: Kim nuzzling a laughing six year old boy.

DANNY

That your son, Miss Campbell?

Kim takes a moment.

KIM

Yes it is.

Danny nods. He murmurs - almost to himself.

DANNY

I hope my mum's ok.

Jamilah peers in -

JAMILAH

I've found Danny a room in a hostel - for six weeks to start.

Opening the door for Danny to follow her.

JAMILAH (CONT'D)

We can check you in at 4:30, so meantime, we should get you kitted out with things you're going to need. Toiletries, bedding -

Danny follows Jamilah out, eyes dull, leaving Kim floored.

We follow Kim's eye line to the photo on her desk, and her inner worm writhes for a moment.

Then she stands, decisive.

51

INT. DEPUTY HEADS' OFFICE. PERIOD FOUR. 14:21 - DAY.

51

Kim's with Lindon now, Danny's holdall on her desk as she takes a few things out - books on photography, graphic art, music, torch, a photo of his Nan.

KIM

He's a survivor. Living here off handouts from food banks and reading our library books to keep him sane -

LINDON

It's awful, of course - and I admire your compassion, but you're not in pastoral care any more -

KIM

Don't patronise me -

LINDON

(flaring)

I'm not patronising you - I'm trying to protect you.

Something sparks in the space between them.

KIM

It's not *me* that needs protecting.

LINDON

Are you sure? You're Head Teacher of a school that's already in trouble - our pass rate's low enough as it is -

KIM

(frosty)

I'm well aware of our stats, Lindon. And I'm well aware you would have done things differently if you'd got the job.

LINDON

Why are you making this personal?

Kim's pulled up. That spark again. He qualifies.

LINDON (CONT'D)

Danny would have to sit two GCSEs at the same time as studying for his A levels. That would be a challenge for a star pupil.

KIM

If we give up on Danny, he'll turn eighteen - lose whatever help social work can provide - no qualifications - odds stacked against him - and it's writing on the wall.

LINDON

Choose your battles, Kim. How many fronts do you want to fight?

KIM

Kids like Danny are exactly why we need to rename.

LINDON

(sigh - how to put it?)
If you let your heart rule your head, you'll lose credibility, and quite possibly take the school down with you.

And something inside Kim's mind aligns -

KIM

But if I ignore my heart altogether, Lindon, I may not have a school to take down. How will that help Danny or anyone of us?

Bell.

51A

INT. LIBRARY/IT SUITE. PERIOD FIVE. 14.28 - DAY.

51A

Izzy and Verity are getting the books out -

VERITY

And the study corals are over there, but you have to be in year nine to use them.

IZZY

I am in year nine.

VERITY

Oh yeah, I guess you seem look younger.

IZZY

And you seem older.

VERITY

(lofty)

I just know stuff cos of my dad. It helps.

IZZY

I wish I did. I feel like a total loser. I wish we hadn't had to move.

VERITY

Did your parents split up, or what?

IZZY

They're like Romeo and Juliet. We moved house is all.

Verity's a little disappointed.

VERITY

You're lucky then.

IZZY

Your parents are divorced?

VERITY

No.

(dropping the front)

Not yet, anyway.

52

INT. FOYER. PERIOD FIVE. 14:30 - DAY.

52

Kids pour out of classes on their way to the next, and here's a hatchet-faced ERICA THORN coming through the main doors - not quite as smiley as her lanyard photo.

Wendy's there to greet her - they've met before.

ERICA THORN

Cindy.

WENDY

Wendy - nice to see you again, Ms
Thorn. I'll show you in.

Erica follows Wendy, eying the red-paint footprints - she's in no mood for this nonsense.

53

INT. HEAD TEACHER'S OFFICE. PERIOD FIVE. 14:42 - DAY.

53

Kim and Erica thrash it out.

ERICA THORN

This morning just illustrates how complex any renaming would actually be. Never mind the finance.

KIM

This morning illustrates exactly what I *said* would happen if we don't take a stand. The pupils are outraged.

ERICA THORN

Some of them - and some of them are just trouble makers pure and simple.

Kim would protest, but Erica holds up a weary hand -

ERICA THORN (CONT'D)

Either way, I don't see how you can be seen to give in to intimidation.

KIM

I understand the responsibility, and the complexities - but you hired me to do a job, Erica, so while it *is* my job, I need to do it.

Erica concedes the point, to a degree - so Kim spells it out.

KIM (CONT'D)

Otherwise - I may as well hand in my resignation.

Erica meets her gaze, inscrutable.

54

INT. ADMIN/WENDY'S AREA. PERIOD FIVE. 15:05 - DAY.

54

Joe and Lindon are pretending to be checking the timetable as Wendy sneaks surreptitious glances into Kim's office.

LINDON

What's going on?

WENDY

Erica Thorn's on her phone -

JOE

Does Kim look pissed off?

WENDY

More like - livid?

Kim's door opens, and everyone suddenly acts 'natural'.

KIM

I'm calling a special assembly fifteen minutes before the bell. Let's rally the troops.

55

INT. ASSEMBLY HALL. PERIOD FIVE. 15:15 - DAY.

55

Kim's got the senior year group gathered, some teachers including Joe and Lindon are lined up - SMT flanking her, Erica watching from the back. And behind Erica, even, Danny appears. There's an expectant air. Heads about to roll?

KIM

What happened today was not acceptable. There is no place for intimidation, bullying or - above all - violence of any kind - at this school.

56

INT. ENGLISH CLASSROOM (CORAL). YEAR NINE. PERIOD FIVE. 15 515 -
DAY.

Coral stands by her TV screen where Kim's speech is being transmitted to her Year 9 form including Izzy, Tonya, Dwayne and a worried looking Shola.

KIM

(On screen)

I will *always* back this student body's right to be heard. And that means everyone, not just the loudest voices.

57

INT. ASSEMBLY HALL. PERIOD FIVE. 15:15 - DAY.

57

Back in the hall, Samia shifts in her seat.

KIM

And I will always defend our right to
exist in a school based on tolerance,
inclusivity, and respect.

Her expression is grave as she scans the auditorium.

KIM (CONT'D)

But today's shocking events displayed
none of that. Let me be very clear.
This is *not* a democracy. It's a
hierarchy. If you don't know what that
means, look it up.

58

INT. HISTORY/HUMANITIES CLASSROOM. YEAR SEVEN. PERIOD FIVE⁵⁸
15:15 - DAY.

Neil watches Kim's speech on a screen with his Year 7 class including Verity and Zayne. He is impressed at Kim's stance.

KIM

(On screen)

The bottom line is *I'm* in charge - of
governing your best interests and
looking after the greater good of this
school.

59

INT. ASSEMBLY HALL/CLASSROOMS INTERCUT. PERIOD FIVE.15915 -DAY.

Back in the hall all eyes are on Kim.

KIM

Me, the Senior Management Team and
your teachers. Are. In. Charge. I've
already spoken to those involved today

-

A defensive murmur - we'll pick out ad libbed remarks from
affronted kids who found themselves involved - ''what does
perpetrators mean?'', 'peaceful demo', 'only wanted to help' -

KIM (CONT'D)

(raising her voice)

- and they will be facing a lengthy
detention.

Shamed silence. But Kim's not finished.

KIM (CONT'D)

The lack of discipline, and flagrant,
dangerous, disregard for others has
shown why we need to fast-track an on-
site Behavioural Unit as soon as
possible. That means this term.

Outrage, groans and indignant mutters ripple - with a smattering
of spartan clapping. Kim meets Lindon's eye - rapprochement.

KIM (CONT'D)

Because by going off half cocked, you
nearly scuppered the whole thing.

She lets the 'nearly' land amongst the students...what??

KIM (CONT'D)

Yes, *nearly*. As of now, this school is
no longer William Beswick High.

- raising her voice above the ripple of noise -

KIM (CONT'D)

I've taken the first available name on
the council's list. It belonged to a
school that was demolished some ten
years ago - and I happen to remember
it well. So let's have shout out for
our new school: 'Waterloo Road'!

Applause, cheers - whoops - high fives and hugs from the protesters, and the various classrooms intercut. Dean and Noel jeer to make it clear they and a couple of their cronies aren't happy about this. Kim gestures for them to hush - waits for it -

KIM (CONT'D)

So. Day one over. A new name, a new beginning. I want you to be proud of your school. To enjoy your time here, to think, to question, to discuss, and to work hard so you can leave Waterloo Road -

(raising her voice again
above the reaction)

- as rounded, compassionate people
ready to make the world a better
place.

Taking in the noise, Kim knows that what happens next is not going to be straightforward. As she seeks out Danny in the crowd, he's gone.

60

INT. ADMIN/WENDY'S AREA. PERIOD FIVE. 15:28 - DAY.

60

Danny is clinging to Angel as Jamilah stands ready to go, with Danny's holdall, the bedding etc.

DANNY

If they don't take dogs they don't
take me.

JAMILAH

I can get her re-homed, she'll be
safe.

Kim enters.

DANNY

You don't get it, I'm all she's got.
And - and -

He doesn't need to say it: that she's all he's got too. And he buries his face in her fur.

KIM

Danny - a word.

She gestures him into her office.

61

INT. HEAD TEACHER'S OFFICE. PERIOD FIVE. 15:29 - DAY.

61

Danny's about to defend himself - assuming this is some sort of dressing down, but Kim pre-empts.

KIM

How would you feel about going straight into year twelve, and doing your GCSEs alongside?

Danny's defences melt - like - is she messing?

KIM (CONT'D)

Before I even *look into it* I need you to think hard. It would mean a ton of work - real commitment. From me too.

DANNY

(deadly serious)

I'm up for it. No doubt.

KIM

You're saying that now, but you'd need to hit the ground running.

Kim meet his gaze. He doesn't flinch.

KIM (CONT'D)

I'd be putting my neck on the line for you here, when I've got enough challenges to deal with.

DANNY

I wouldn't let you down. I swear on my nan's life.

Kim bores into his eyes - and she knows he means it.

62

EXT. MAIN ENTRANCE / CAR PARK GATES. AFTER SCHOOL. 15:30 - DAY.

School's over, phones out, end of day mucking around.

Shola, Samia, Tonya, Preston and Kelly Jo are watching footage of the protest kicking off into a riot, on Tonya's phone. Paint bombs akimbo and the bottle smashing -

SHOLA

Ohmydays - if someone was seriously hurt -

Samia reassuring.

SAMIA

Well, they weren't. And it never should have come to this.

KELLY JO

(brainwave)

Hey, maybe we should stage a protest to get the vending machine back in the foyer!

PRESTON

Sometimes don't speak, Kelly Jo?

TONYA

(nudging Preston)

Lookout, here's mum.

Nicky waves over, and we'll realise Tonya is Preston's sister. Preston rolls his eyes, kisses Samia.

PRESTON

I'll head her off - give you time to get away.

SAMIA

It's nice she likes me.

PRESTON

There's 'nice' and there's 'obsessed'.

And he hurries towards Nicky. Samia turns to Kelly Jo.

SAMIA

Coming to mine?

But Kelly Jo's clocked Dean nodding a 'laterz' to Noel.

KELLY JO

Na - better get back.

She slopes off joining Dean who's still lurking. Dean kicks the kerb. Kelly Jo picks a nail.

DEAN
Wanna hook up?

KELLY JO
You make me retch.

DEAN
What if I walk behind you?

Kelly Jo shrugs - it's a date - and off they go.

Tonya's caught up with Izzy before she goes -

TONYA
Some of us are going into town to get
tattoos at the weekend, wanna come?

IZZY
I don't know if I'd be allowed...

TONYA
(smirking)
Just messing - we're going to the
cinema. Come. It'll be fun.

She runs off. Izzy grins to herself - she's just made her first friend! Here's Donte, car keys in hand.

Coral's nabbled Amy on her way out - pass agg 'concern'.

CORAL
But what have tattoos got to do with
year nine syllabus?

AMY
It was just an icebreaker, get it
dealt with up front -

CORAL
A word of caution, my love. Break the
ice too often, you'll end up with
nothing but a puddle of cack.

Amy's smile slips somewhat. And having successfully punctured her bubble, Coral smiles sweetly.

CORAL (CONT'D)
Well done, though. See you tomorrow.

And off she trots.

Kai catches up with Danny who's heading off with Jamilah.

KAI
Where are you staying -

DANNY
Hostel. Sardinia House -

Kai nods - and Danny can see the pity in his eyes.

DANNY (CONT'D)
(putting on a brave face)
It's cool. Place of my own. And I
might be hanging around anyhow.

Kai's like, serious? Danny smiles, maybe, and saunters off with a little spring in his step.

Cut to the school steps where Kim watches Kai give Danny a high five. Lindon joins her.

LINDON
What about all those other kids who've
fallen through the net?

KIM
They weren't sleeping rough in my
school.

LINDON
At least you finally realised I was
right about the BU.

KIM
I did what I had to.

And Lindon nods gently.

LINDON
You know we'll be broke forevermore.

KIM
So long as there is an evermore, we'll
manage - as a team.

She eyes him hopefully - she knows his reservations.

Now here's Joe - the SMT together on the steps.

JOE
Anyone else thinking 'pub'?

LINDON

You must be joking - we've got a new
brand to organise -

Kim smiles at him gratefully -

LINDON (CONT'D)

- new uniforms, new logo - new
prospectus - new website -

JOE

I can work with a pint in my hand.

KIM

(smile)

You two go ahead. And thank you.

KIM (CONT'D)

I appreciate your support today. I'm
going to need it more than ever this
year.

LINDON

You've certainly not made it easy for
any of us.

(turning back to Joe)

But if the boss says work from the pub
- let's fetch the laptop.

And Joe slaps him on the back -

JOE

I'll make a slob of you yet.

The three of them head back into the building.

63

INT. CHARLES HOUSE. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:30 - DAY.

63

Chlo's clearing up Tommy's mess when she hears the key in the lock - and in comes Izzy followed by Donte. Chlo looks at Izzy - well? Izzy's cool.

IZZY

Yeah, it was all right.

She starts to shed bag, jacket, shoes - as per -

IZZY (CONT'D)

There's this Year 7, Verity, who's, like, dead gobby, and her dad's a teacher so she knows everything about everyone. Plus a group in my year have asked me along to a movie - and I've signed up for drama and netball - is there anything to eat?

A massively relieved Chlo counts her blessings as Izzy disappears into the kitchen.

CHLO

There's biscuits in the barrel -

Here's Donte having dumped his builders boots and jacket in the hall - gives Chlo a secret cheeky eyebrow.

DONTE

I should come home for lunch more often.

CHLO

Check the look on Izzy's face? She's made up, Donte. I'm so relieved.

DONTE

(grin)

I told you didn't I? And we're getting a takeaway to celebrate.

CHLO

(treat!)

You reckon?

DONTE

You can't cook with a spannered hand, and my baked bean surprise isn't gonna cut it.

He gives her a sloppy kiss.

DONTE (CONT'D)
Just let me jump in the shower.

Here's Izzy again - Hobnob in hand -

IZZY
Oh - and we got a new name by the way -
Waterloo Road!

Donte looks at Chlo -

DONTE
Get in!

- and he's up the stairs, two at a time.

64

EXT. HOSTEL COMPLEX. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:34 - DAY.

64

A rough area. Complex of scruffy, nondescript council buildings. Depressing.

Jamilah pulls up in her car with apprehensive Danny. She hands him a cheap mobile phone and charger.

JAMILAH

There's twenty pounds' credit on it
and my number so you can contact me
any time.

Danny nods, taking it all in - bracing himself.

JAMILAH (CONT'D)

I'll check in on you at school. And
don't worry about Angel. She'll be
fine.

DANNY

Thanks, Jamilah. For real.

Jamilah smiles warmly - she badly wants this kid to be ok.

65

INT. HOSTEL HALLWAY / HOSTEL DORM. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:37 - DAY.

Danny walks alone down the hostel corridor, carrying his bedding and basic supplies in plastic bags.

He reaches the room, which is well shabby. Danny takes in the old blue tack and pins on the wall from other temporary stays.

First things first - he takes the St Christopher from around his neck and hangs it over the hook the mirror's on.

66

INT. CHARLES HOUSE. AFTER SCHOOL. 19:03 - EVENING.

66

Upbeat family dinner - the delivery's arrived - orders dished out to the right people - wraps, burgers, chicken, chips -

TOMMY

Will I be going to Waterloo Road?

CHLO

If you eat your mushy peas.

DONTE

That would mean the whole family went to the same school.

CHLO

Not the *exact* same - but -

IZZY

Hey, Mum - what about your meeting?

CHLO

Didn't happen. But - I'm not one for letting things drop.

DONTE

And don't we all know it.

CHLO

Oh - you're funny. You're a funny,
(aims a chip at him)
funny man.

Tommy hoots and chucks a chip too

CHLO (CONT'D)

(to Donte)

You can fetch me a glass of wine for that.

Great spirits all round - happy, happy house.

67

INT. HOSTEL DORM. AFTER SCHOOL. 19:16 - EVENING.

67

In contrast, Danny sits on his bed, trying to read a GCSE maths book but distracted by the increasingly aggressive row going on in a room down the hall.

A smash makes him jump, then a noise outside his door. He creeps toward it, getting ready to defend himself, then throws it open to see Kai standing there with a backpack - all 'da da' cheeriness.

KAI

Fancy a roomie for the night?

DANNY

What are you doing here?

KAI

My parents are doing my head in. I had to get out. But look -

He opens his bag full of beers and Tupperware of posh food.

KAI (CONT'D)

I raided the fridge first, innit.

(hands Danny the bag)

My mum might be actual Medusa, but she makes a sick falafel.

He drops his backpack, takes in the room -

KAI (CONT'D)

Needs a bit of sprucing up, but I can stay if you sign me in, right?

He doesn't wait for a reply, starts making himself at home.

KAI (CONT'D)

I could kip down there. No funny business, mind.

Danny chortles - pulling a falafel apart, feeling a million miles happier than a few minutes ago.

Kai clocks the pendant on the mirror.

KAI (CONT'D)

What's this about?

DANNY

It was my nan's.

KAI

Nanna Lewis, bless.

DANNY

(a little embarrassed)

Nanna Angel. That's what they called
her at our church, anyway. Cos she
looked out for people, innit.

KAI

Ohmygod - Angel - where's your dog?

68

INT. HEAD TEACHER'S OFFICE. AFTER SCHOOL. 19:17 - EVENING. 68

Kim packs up for the day, kisses her finger and taps Dexter's photo forehead, as per routine - then looks down at her feet where Angel lies patiently - strokes her head.

KIM

Come on, chuck - let's go home.
We're going to need an early night.
(smelling her hand)
And maybe a bath?

She stands - then, afterthought, reaches for Chlo's Animal Therapy proposal - and puts it in her bag to read at home.

69

INT. CHARLES HOUSE. KITCHEN. AFTER SCHOOL. 19:23 - EVENING⁶⁹

Donte and Chlo bring the dishes, boxes and glasses through.

DONTE
I'll wash up.

CHLO
Thanks love. My head's throbbing.

DONTE
Where you smacked it?

CHLO
All over. Wine on top of excitement I expect.

Donte pulls her into a lairy smooch -

DONTE
How about a little more excitement,
take your mind off it...

CHLO
Are you on the viagra or som -?

Suddenly her expression changes, she looks startled.

DONTE
What?

Chlo's hand moves to her head - wincing with pain.

CHLO
Something just happened -

She looks at Donte - puzzled, then goes utterly limp. Donte tries to hold her deadweight -

DONTE
Whoah - whoah - Chlo -

They slump to the floor and he stares at her unconscious face, disbelieving - then bellows over his shoulder -

DONTE (CONT'D)
Izzy - call an ambulance!!!

And he starts CPR - trying to stay calm -

Cue music resonant to Angels/someone to watch over you - yada which continues over the final sequence of scenes.

70

EXT. MAIN ENTRANCE / STAFF CAR PARK. AFTER SCHOOL. 19:24 - 70
EVENING.

Kim and Angel round the school toward the car park - and someone has already spray-painted WATERLOO ROAD over the damaged William Beswick sculpture.

Kim smiles - and now the term can start. She heads for her car, Angel trotting alongside her

71

INT. HOSTEL DORM. AFTER SCHOOL. 19:48 - NIGHT.

71

Kai and Danny have been watching a movie on Kai's laptop - savaged bag of popcorn between them on the bed, and both have fallen asleep.

A smash and an incoherent ranting from somewhere in the complex causes Danny's eyes to ping open - used to being alert. Kai just turns in his sleep.

Danny carefully extracts himself from the detritus - pulls the duvet gently over Kai, and makes for the desk, where his GCSE maths book is open at the page he left it.

72

INT. CHARLES HOUSE. AFTER SCHOOL. 20:01 - NIGHT.

72

But at the Charles house everything's in slowmo tunnel vision for Izzy as she watches PARAMEDICS tend to Chlo, lying on the floor, Donte frantic, sheet white - lights flashing from outside as police arrive on through the open front door -

DONTE

She was fine - she was talking -

- and as the paramedics tell Donte the worst news ever, he puts his face in his hands.

DONTE (CONT'D)

No - no - I'm not hearing this -
you're not right, you're not -

Close in on Izzy's face - trying to blot out what she's watching - yet unable to look away.

72A

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR. AFTER SCHOOL. 21:34 - EVENING.

72A

A desperate Donte comes tearing into the hospital followed by a tearful Izzy holding hands with Tommy, who is in his pyjamas. He runs up to a nurse at a desk.

DONTE

My wife...Chlo Charles?

DOCTOR

Mr Charles....

Donte whips round and sees a Doctor waiting to talk to him -

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Perhaps we could talk in the family room?

Sound becomes echo as Donte looks at the family room, and the Doctor's face, trying to compute what he knows now is inevitable -

DONTE

I want to see my wife...

DOCTOR

I'm so sorry....

Donte grabs Tommy and Izzy, literally turning them around so they're facing away from the Doctor -

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
We took every measure available to
save her -

Donte hugs the kids to him tight, trying to cover their ears
and his own - it's pitiful.

DONTE
Don't listen to him - Don't listen -

DOCTOR
I understand how upsetting -

DONTE
No no no no no -

And now it's all just white noise as we close in on Donte -
eyes tight shut - determined to block out the truth.

END OF EPISODE